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Manure Good Potato Yield Booster -- Nils Grimsbo, horticulturist at the University of Minnesota's North Central School and Experiment Station, reports that 30 tons of manure balanced with 150 pounds per acre of starter fertilizer -- 8-16-16 -- gave the highest yields of Russet Burbank potatoes in recent tests. Russet Burbank is a variety that is sometimes very difficult to grow in Minnesota--and it produced over 500 bushels per acre when the right kind of plant food was put on. Charles A. Simkins, University extension soils specialist, told us of this interesting bit of research.

Seed Good Rotation Pasture Mixture -- If you've worked up or plowed an old piece of permanent pasture for fertilization and reseeding next spring, seed a mixture that has high production ability. A mixture such as alfalfa --six to eight pounds per acre -- plus six pounds of southern brome grass, two pounds of timothy and a half pound of Ladino clover would be very desirable. A. R. Schmid, University of Minnesota agronomist, suggests that if you mix the brome with grain and drill it in, cultipack ahead of the drill to prevent seeding the brome too deep. This mixture is a flexible all-purpose type that can be used for pasture, hay or silage. If used for hog and poultry pasture increase, seed the Ladino clover to two or three pounds per acre, Schmid suggests.

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Small Grains Produce With Small Seeding Rate -- Small grain crops, unlike corn, can "stool" and produce high yields with only moderate seeding rates. But, they must be planted on time and have plenty of plant food available to them. Charles A. Simkins, University of Minnesota extension soils specialist, says in a contrast of a one-bushel, a two-bushel, and a three-bushel seeding rate, the two-bushel rate on a properly fertilized field gave the highest yields -- 73 bushels per acre, nearly 30 bushels over a two-bushel per acre seeded field that had no fertilizer. That "ideal" fertilizer was 60-20-20. Even at the one-bushel per acre seeding, it produced 67 bushels of oats per acre. In the unfertilized field, of course, the three-bushel per acre rate gave the highest yield--48 bushels per acre, five bushels over the one-bushel seeding.

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Our Land Needs Help -- Do you have stories you would like to see in this Our Land column? Then, give the details to the SCS representative in your area -- or to the county agent -- suggesting they send them in for use in Our Land.

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