

University Farm and
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Contour Strips Take Less Gas -- Allen Anderson, Ivanhoe, Minn. says that farming on the contour takes less gasoline for the tractor than up-and-down-hill farming. He found that his tractor used one gallon less per acre to prepare and seed grain on the contour than on fields where he continued "straight" farming. Anderson is a co-operator in the Lincoln County soil conservation district.

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Grass Waterways Prevent Gullies -- Cultivated drainageways in fields quickly develop gullies, and if you "plow in" those gullies, they soon get too deep to cross. Grass waterways will remove runoff moisture without letting gullies form. It's usually best to seed or sod the waterways at the same time that you make other seedings, but they can be prepared and seeded separately. If a bad gully has already formed, you may need to level it a little before preparing the seed bed. A hay or straw mulch will protect the seeding until the grass is growing well, says Charles Simkins, extension soils specialist at the University of Minnesota.

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Reforestation Featured on Rochester Farm -- Paul Bandel, who operates a 200-acre farm 4 miles northwest of Rochester, made part of his farm look like it did 100 years ago, and for good reason. He has planted nearly 20,000 trees and shrubs since 1943. Many of the trees went into a 40-acre solid tract of timber culling. Now the area isn't grazed or burned, and the undergrowth is made up of wild flowers, just like in natural forests years ago.

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Conservation Gives Farm a "New Look" -- Donald Darcy's farm in Wabasha County has taken on a profitable new look, conservation-wise, since he moved onto the place two years ago. After years of being rented, the land was run-down and badly eroded. Now, Darcy has put in contour strips, a complete set of terraces on some 30 acres of slope and seeded grassed waterways. In addition, he's building a farm pond that will hold runoff water from some 50 acres of cropland. The pond features a stock watering tank filled with overflow water, and kept full by an automatic faucet. Darcy's farm was one of five used as a site for Flowville, '56.