

University Farm and
Home News
Institute of Agriculture
University of Minnesota
St. Paul 1 Minnesota

September 28 1956



Appearing in newspapers of the Minnesota Editorial Association through the cooperation of the U.S. Soil Conservation service and conservation authorities at University Farm.

Prepared and distributed
by the Minnesota Agricultural
Extension Service

For use during week of
October 29 1956

Sibley Farmer Sees Conservation Results -- Contour farming and good crop management brought a field back to good production after it had been seeded down and abandoned ten years earlier on the Marvin Ostermann farm in Sibley county. Ostermann said yields had been so poor that the field wasn't worth using, until it was contour stripped later on. Last year he put the field into soybeans and got a good yield. And it took a lot less power and gas to farm on the level than it did to go up and down hill, Ostermann says.

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Soils Need More Than Nitrogen, Phosphate and Potash -- For good crop growth, soils need calcium, magnesium, sulfur, iron, manganese, boron, copper, zinc and molybdenum, in addition to nitrogen, phosphate and potash, say University of Minnesota soils scientists. But most Minnesota soils have these elements available so there's no need for adding them as commercial fertilizers unless tests show they are needed. Sulfur, for example, is deficient for some crops in some soils of north central and northeastern Minnesota, but that can usually be corrected by putting some gypsum on the soil.

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Terraces Protect Grain Field -- After a five-inch rain, terraces were holding runoff water and a grain field on a flat field below the terraces wasn't damaged a bit on the Alton Hanson farm near Clarkfield this summer, Hanson told Toni Marini, U. S. Soil Conservation Service agent who works with him. Before putting in the terraces, Hanson said the flat was always covered with water when it rained. Now, the terraces hold the water up on the slope, where it soaks into the ground and does some good.

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Pruning Aids Trees -- Richard R. Johnson, 19, Cloquet, tells this story about how he learned the value of pruning trees: He worked for a local paper company during the summer of 1955. "One day the cruiser showed me the trees he had planted 17 years ago," Johnson says. "Those trees had been pruned while the lower branches were not needed, and now the straight 10-inch butts gave proof that growth had occurred during the 17 years."