

University Farm News
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Our LAND



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Get soil samples collected in fields you want to fertilize next year before the soil freezes this fall. They can be sent to the University of Minnesota soil testing laboratory later for testing.

Make a composite sample by taking soil from 10 to 12 different places in each field. In each place, cut a V shaped hole to plow depth. Take a 1 inch slice off one side. Put all the slices together in a clean pail. Mix them thoroughly. Use about a pint of this composite for the sample. Your county agent has forms to fill out to send with the samples.

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LEST YOU THINK IT'S ALL A BED OF ROSES FOR FARMERS DOWNSTREAM WHO GET DEPOSITS OF SOIL FROM THE UPPER PART OF THE WATERSHED, REMEMBER THAT SOMETIMES THEY GET SAND OR WORTHLESS SUBSOIL. IN EITHER CASE, BOTH FARMERS LOSE. THE BOTTOMLAND FARMER DOESN'T NEED OUR SOIL --- WE CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE IT.

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Here's what Woodrow Titrud, Cokato, Minn., thinks of strip farming: It saves power on the tractor. It makes lengthwise fields with longer rows. It is more work, but gets more crops. Yields are increased. The strips hold a lot of moisture and there is less erosion. Titrud has tried strip farming and he says he won't ever go back to square fields and up-and-down hill farming.

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Q: What is a soil conservation district?

A: It's an organization of land owners and operators working together to check soil erosion, to increase soil fertility, and to encourage better use of the land. Minnesota now has 38 districts organized under the Minnesota Soil Conservation Districts law. The districts are administered by a board of five farmer supervisors, three of whom are elected and two of whom are appointed by the state conservation committee.

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