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Successful farmstead shelterbelts must be planned well in advance of actual tree planting, according to Marvin E. Smith, extension forestry specialist. Best results are obtained by plowing and fallowing the ground a year prior to planting. But on land where sod is not too heavy or where grain or new crops are harvested this year, the ground may be plowed this fall.

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Duane Diercks, a farmer in East Goodhue Soil Conservation District, recently told the SCS farm planner, Julius E. Kubier: "Before my dad started strip cropping, I couldn't pull a five-section harrow over that field. Now I pull one around it in high. It took a while to convince me that strip cropping is O.K. It is."

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If you want high crop yields you may have to feed the soil so that it can feed the growing crops, counsels C. O. Rost, soils division chief at University Farm. Best way to tell what your soil needs is to study the land, its management history and past performance and to have soil tests made. Soil tests will tell what plant foods are needed in the form of fertilizer and what to add to get a balanced plant food supply.

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Carl Roeder, farmer in Upper Zumbro district, unearthed a large rock on his father's farm in 1915. He put a metal stake in the bottom--11 inches down--and covered it. In 1925, while plowing 6 inches deep, he struck the top of the stake. The farm had lost 5 inches of topsoil in 10 years. Now Roeder is a district co-operator, has a complete farm conservation plan worked out with Soil Conservation Service help which includes more grasses and legumes and contour strip cropping.

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