

University Farm News
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Here's a Nitrogen Saver - Spreading barnyard manure fresh from the barn onto fields this winter will save more of its nitrogen for use as a fertilizer than will piling it in the barnyard or on the edge of the field. The manure in the piles will heat, or ferment, and considerable nitrogen will be lost, says Harold Jones, extension soils specialist at University Farm.

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14-year-old Conservationist - Even youngsters are conservation minded these days. Take 14-year-old 4-H club member Randolph Wetzel of Stillwater. He enrolled in the 4-H conservation project because his home farm was rocky and rolling. On one sandy field he strip cropped to avoid wind erosion. A few years ago his folks had trouble getting alfalfa seedings started. He applied lime, and now the fields look healthy and yield good hay. A soil test from the U Farm Soils Lab showed that certain fields were low in phosphate and potash so he applied commercial fertilizer. Other conservation jobs he carried out included contour plowing, establishing grassed waterways, and planting windbreaks.

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Vets Save Soil - Clarence Treumer, SCS farm planner for the Mahnomen Soil Conservation district, is conducting a series of meetings on soil conservation problems for the Waubun veterans' agriculture class. The meetings are intended to help the veterans with soil conservation problems which they will encounter on their own farms. The class is conducted somewhat like neighbor group meetings with farmers. The first problems studied dealt with soil formation, differences in soils, and why they must be treated individually. Other meetings will cover soil conservation practices and special management problems.

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Cut - Don't Pull - Alfalfa Roots - Plow alfalfa with a sharp plow-share - cut the roots off, don't pull them out. The dead root in place remains as a drainage hole for two or three years; the hole left after a root was pulled out soon fills with dirt.

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