

University Farm News
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Something for Nothing... It isn't often the farmer has the chance to get something for nothing. He can do just that, however, by planting the proper stand of corn for the soil he farms and the fertilizer he applies, according to Harold Jones, University of Minnesota extension soils specialist. Experiments by the soils division at the University of Minnesota show that on sandy soils three stalks per hill instead of two stalks will give from 10 to 12 bushels more corn most years. When fertilizer is used, an additional 4 to 6 bushel advantage may be obtained from the heavier stand. On heavier soils, a four-stalk stand, especially if fertilizer is used, increases yields over a three-stalk stand. See your county agent for details.

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Air Tours Planned... Preliminary plans are already being made for soil conservation air tours next summer, announces M. A. Thorfinnson, extension soil conservation specialist at University Farm. On these tours, farmers and others may observe from the air the effects of soil conservation measures taken on farms. All soil conservation districts that had air tours last year are repeating this year. Several other districts are planning or considering tours this year.

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Cows Prefer Grass Silage... Cows prefer grass silage over corn silage, according to Harold Meyer who farms in the Pope County Soil Conservation District. When the district supervisors and the county agent conducted a grass silage tour, Meyer made a demonstration for the group. First he offered the cattle corn silage, but they were not interested. But when he threw grass silage in the manger they ate it readily. Meyer says his cattle have shown this preference throughout this feeding season.

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Highest Rates Best... Do not be afraid to apply the amount of plant food to your crops which is recommended by the fertilizer grader as determined by tests of your soil, urges Paul Burson, University of Minnesota soils professor. Higher rates of application have given the greatest crop returns. In most cases, the last or extra 100 pounds of fertilizer applied may be the amount that makes the total amount application pay for itself several times over, according to Burson.

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