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# Our LAND



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Danger To Trees -- Increase in the number of field mice reported this year in some parts of the state warns of the danger of damage to young trees. A common method of combating mice is the placing of poisoned baits, usually wheat soaked in water in which the poison is dissolved and then dried again, in small containers which permit the mice to get at it but keep out pheasants and other game birds. Mice do most of their damage under the snow. Fear of natural enemies keeps them mostly beneath the snow. Where practical, shoveling or blading the snow away from the trees will greatly reduce the damage.

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Cobs Good for Bedding -- Harvesting small grains with combines sometimes leaves a community short of straw for bedding livestock during the winter. E.F. Ferrin, animal husbandry chief at the University of Minnesota, suggests that ground corn cobs are as good as straw for many of the places where bedding is used and will do a good job of absorption and saving plant nutrients in manure. Coarse grinding is much cheaper than fine grinding for cobs and is just as satisfactory.

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Not Thick Enough -- Minnesota farmers are not planting corn thick enough, says Harold E. Jones, extension specialist in soils at University Farm. This past year's experience throughout Minnesota indicates that, despite a very fine corn yield in most places, more corn could have been produced if farmers had increased their stand. Recommendations from the University of Minnesota department of soils are that farmers should have about a 3-stalk stand on sandy lands and a 4-stalk stand per hill on heavier lands for highest production.

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Annual Conference -- The annual conference of Minnesota soil conservation district supervisors will be held in St. Cloud January 7 and 8. Alfred Wiger, president of the Minnesota Association of Soil Conservation Districts, reports that plans are being made to accommodate a crowd of 500 or more. All district supervisors are invited to bring their wives. Extension Service and Soil Conservation Service personnel are invited.

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