

University Farm News
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How About That Pasture? -- Would you like to pasture your bluegrass permanent pasture a week to 10 days earlier this spring and be sure of enough good grass to prevent a drop in milk production? If your bluegrass sod is good and not too weedy, the application of 100 pounds per acre of ammonium nitrate or 200 pounds per acre of 10-10-10 broadcast just after most of the snow has melted from the pasture will greatly hasten growth of the grass. Harold E. Jones, extension soils specialist at University Farm, advises that a part of the pasture might be treated in this manner to permit good grazing a week or 10 days before it would normally be practicable.

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Soil Building Helps -- The average size of American farms grew from 174 acres in 1940 to 210½ acres in 1950. At the end of the same ten-year period there were 713,000 fewer farms, and about 870,000 fewer persons worked on them. But even with fewer people working the land, production of major crops increased because of mechanization, greater use of fertilizer, new crop varieties, and a greater awareness by farmers of the need of building and maintaining soil fertility.

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Land Appreciation -- Anyone interested in Land Appreciation schools such as have been conducted in Minnesota during the past year may wish to get a copy of Form S-27, "Plan a Land Appreciation School," by Roger Harris and Harold Jones, soils men at University Farm. Copies may be obtained from county agents or the Bulletin Room, University Farm, St. Paul.

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Worse than Fire -- The three principal hazards of the forest are fire, insects and fungus diseases. But on farm woodlands heavy pasturing has proved even more destructive than fire, according to Parker Anderson, extension forester at the University of Minnesota.

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