

University Farm News  
University of Minnesota  
Institute of Agriculture  
St. Paul 1 Minnesota

May 28 1953



Prepared and distributed  
by the Minnesota Agricultural Extension Service.

For use during week of  
June 8 1953

Contouring Makes Difference -- In a dry season contouring often means the difference between a profitable or an unprofitable crop, according to Arnold Claasen, assistant agent in soil conservation for Rock County. This applies particularly to areas like this county where the rainfall is barely sufficient for productive agriculture. He reports that 20 to 25 new farmers start contouring in the county each year as they start their soil conservation program in cooperation with the Rock Soil Conservation District.

\* \* \* \* \*

Champ Conservationist -- James Marcomb, 17, of Houston, a member of the Winona FFA chapter, was named winner of the 1953 Soil and Water Management award at the annual state convention of Future Farmers of America on the St. Paul campus at the University of Minnesota in May. He received a \$100 Establishment in Farming award from the National FFA Foundation, to be used for purchase of equipment, material or supplies needed to assist him in becoming established in farming.

His conservation practices included filling gullies, setting up a contour system on the entire farm and planting trees on hillsides. He has used commercial fertilizer, has applied 2,4-D for weed control. And he has raised and released 300 pheasants and given demonstrations and talks on wildlife preservation. James has also attended the state 4-H Conservation Camp. His farming program consists of steers and corn.

Another outstanding young conservationist at the convention was Duane Baringer, 17, of Red Wing, who placed second in competition for the Soil and Water Management award. Duane was elected state FFA president on the last day of the convention.

-rr-