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More Proof Soil Conservation Pays -- Palmer and Bert Hansen of Hayward have an
of
emphatic "yes!" to questions about the benefits/soil conservation practices. Speaking of a certain corn field, Palmer will tell you that they used to pick eight rows out of it for one load. Now they get a load of corn from only four rows--they're averaging 100 bushels to the acre. Says Palmer: "When you have a good soil conservation program, you know just where you are--just where to spread manure and how to figure ahead on the seed you'll need."

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Neighbor Group Planning Saves Manpower -- A good example of planning for soil conservation by neighborhood groups is the Belina Planning Group, named for Charles Belina, a leading Steele county farmer. According to Frank Martin, SCS area conservationist, you'll often find farmers of the group haying or harvesting together as well as tiling or helping to build one another's buildings.

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Soil Conditioners Get Pitch Now -- With spring just around the corner, you'll hear a lot about soil conditioners. Wallace W. Nelson, agronomist at the University of Minnesota northeast experiment station, Duluth, says at present prices they are limited to specialized situations in small areas--greenhouses, flower beds, gardens and erosion control jobs on newly-seeded lawns and roadsides. Their benefit comes in altering a soil's structure so it more readily takes in water. For example, average time for two inches of water to filter down into a plot of untreated soil was a little over seven minutes. But conditioner-treated soil took less than two minutes to absorb its two inches of water.

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Get Soil Samples in Early -- Get soil samples in early so University of Minnesota soils specialists can evaluate them for you. If you get your sample in soon, they can have an analysis back to you in time for you to use it in your fertilizer buying plan.

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