

University Farm News
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Thorfinnson to Iceland -- One of Minnesota's soil conservation leaders is back in the land of his ancestors for six months. M. A. Thorfinnson, extension soil conservationist at the University of Minnesota and executive secretary of the state soil conservation committee, is in Iceland as an advisor to the Icelandic government. He left the U. S. late in April and will return in November. Thorfinnson will help begin 4-H club work and develop programs to increase Iceland's agricultural production.

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Cloudier Water Down There -- Minnesota's delegates to the recent national conference of soil conservation districts in New Orleans took along eloquent proof of the nation's need for soil conservation. The proof was in a jug of water perfectly clear, from the headwaters of the Mississippi in Lake Itasca in northern Minnesota. At New Orleans, they drew another jug from the river. Pictures of the two jugs--one crystal clear, the other cloudy and almost impossible to see through--appeared in many newspapers and on TV throughout the country. Allowed to set for a few hours, the New Orleans jug had a silt-covered bottom. Minnesota delegates left the clean jug from the river's birthplace with their Louisiana hosts.

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Grass and Legumes More Valuable than Grass Alone -- University of Wyoming range management specialists tested grass alone against grass-legume mixtures for three years and found the mixtures more dependable pasture than the grass alone.

Intermediate wheatgrass and alfalfa gave 49 sheep days of grazing per acre with an average gain of 12 pounds per animal. Average hay production was 750 pounds an acre. Native range--grass only--gave 27 grazing days and 1.4 pounds per head gain. Wheatgrass alone provided 44 sheep days grazing with eight pounds average gain per animal and 55 pounds an acre of hay.

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Dates to Circle -- University of Minnesota agricultural experiment station field days: Rosemount, Wednesday, July 7; Morris, Thursday, July 8; Waseca, Tuesday, July 13; Crookston, Thursday, July 22.