

University Farm News
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Thinking About Birdsfoot Trefoil? -- University of Minnesota agronomists tested seven birdsfoot trefoils at Rosemount and St. Paul last winter. Empire and Viking came through very well but French, Italian, Granger, Cascade and Oregon Narrowleaf winter-killed from 53 to 98 per cent. Remembering that birdsfoot must last in a pasture to pay off, only Empire can fill the bill right now and it is high priced. There is little Viking seed available. University agronomists A. R. Schmid and H. L. Thomas suggest you try birdsfoot first on a small plot, using Empire along with brome grass and timothy, inoculating the seed and using the best seeding method.

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Timber Crops Help You Escape Cost-Price Squeeze -- Good timber crops on usually unprofitable land can help ease the cost-price squeeze and do a conservation job at the same time. Parker Anderson, University Extension Forester, points out that over the years timber crop prices have fluctuated far less than other farm crops. Demand for good quality timber is high. Minnesota now has four assistant county agents in forestry -- in Grand Rapids, Hinckley, Virginia and Bemidji -- and they are trained to help you find better ways of growing and marketing trees. Call on them -- their help is free. All four are graduate foresters of the University of Minnesota.

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Here's A Soil Saver -- Farmers up in far-northern Kittson County have some of the roughest wind-erosion problems in Minnesota, according to SCS Technician Clarence Treumer. Heavy Fargo soils in the west and light soils in the east "fly" easily. Large ditches have been completely closed with "blow dirt" in one season. But a few farmers found a good erosion preventer -- plugging every other spout on the grain drill and seeding a quarter bushel of barley per acre over the entire summer-fallowed field. It's easy and costs little. One farmer says "not a teaspoon of soil flew away" on land he treated. His field and outlet ditches remained open so he could start spring work earlier. The idea is also good on fields other than summer-fallowed. Where fields are plowed and no stubble mulch left, erosion is serious and can be controlled by seeding down.

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Takes More Power to Get Rolling -- It takes more grunting and horsepower to get a load started than to pull it after it begins moving. The nation's conservation train is now "on the road." Let's keep it rolling and picking up speed.