

Our LAND



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Tree Planter Population Growing -- More than half of Minnesota's 87 counties now have one or more tree planting machines available for tree planting projects anywhere in the county. Marvin Smith, University Extension Forester, says the planters put in more trees and do it faster and more uniformly than hand planting. One machine can plant a three-row field windbreak one-half mile long in a few hours. Hand-planting takes two days. This equipment gives farmers a better chance to quickly establish larger tree plantings for soil, crop and farmstead protection.

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East Willow Creek Project Begun -- First government contract for structures in the East Willow Creek watershed in southeastern Minnesota is nearly done. Contract Number Two is being studied. According to W. M. Roberts, area conservationist at Rochester, the work is the "A-Measures" built with Federal assistance. The farmer contributes his share by other practices and soil conserving methods to protect the "A-Measures."

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Terracing Grows in Fillmore County -- Terracing, almost a forgotten practice by farmers in the West Fillmore Soil Conservation District, is on the upswing down there. About four miles of terraces were built this year in the new East Willow Creek Watershed alone, which covers only about one-twelfth of the district. As a start toward over 200 miles of terraces in Willow Creek, farmers hired a big motor patrol. Discs and moldboard plows also are used in terrace-building. In the East and West Fillmore districts, some farmers have built a mile or more of terraces on their farms.

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Contour Strip Proves Value as Meadow-Improver -- An outstanding soil conservation farmer in Carver County, Clarence Helzer, is a booster for contour strip cropping for checking erosion and letting valuable rain into the ground. He tells of a low meadow at the base of a slope. After contour strip cropping; much less water in the meadow and mowing is easy. Before, the meadow was wet and tough to mow.