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Don't Blame Manure for Weedy Fields -- Manure gets blamed for a lot of things, but it should no be feared as a possible weed spreader. This word comes from Robert G. Robinson, University agronomist. He says that samples from the University cattle barns' manure pile did not contain enough living weed seeds to boost seed population in the soil. Most soils already contain hundreds--in some cases, thousands--of living weed seeds per square foot. An eight-ton per acre application of the manure tested would add only one living weed seed to each two square feet of soil. Fresh manure contains more living weed seeds than manure stored in a pile over winter--but not enough more to worry about. So, except in unusual circumstances, don't let fear of weeds prevent you from spreading fresh manure.

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Lime, Inoculate Best Legume Stands -- A good job of liming and inoculation is essential for healthy legume stands -- especially when you change over from red clover to alfalfa and sweet clover. This tip comes from Arnold Wiebusch, Soil Conservation Agent at Red Wing. He points out that red clover nitrogen bacteria will live in a somewhat acid soil. But alfalfa and sweet clover nitrogen bacteria prefer a soil limed until it's slightly acid or neutral. And don't expect too much from alfalfa the first year or two after you seed under these conditions. It will take several years for the lime to mix thoroughly and then more time for the alfalfa nitrogen bacteria to build up.

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Water Control Interests Barnesville -- Barnsville, up in Clay County, is doing something about water. Three upland streams meet nearby and pour water from 125,000 acres of melting snow onto the fertile, flat farming area so important to the town. In 1951, flood damage nearly ruined farmers and business firms. The Clay County Soil Conservation District checked into the upper watershed problem some months ago. They found that much possible future disaster can be avoided by good upper watershed control. This winter, Barnsville civic groups will explore developing strong local sponsorship for federally-aided upper watershed control.

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Annual Convention Dates Set -- Dates for the annual convention of the Minnesota Association of Soil Conservation Districts are January 20 and 31, at the Kahler Hotel, Rochester.