

University Farm News
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Manure Must Be Balanced -- Is the manure from your barns a balanced fertilizer?

Not quite, says Wallace Nelson. He's agronomist at the Northeast Experiment Station in Duluth. Average manure is low in phosphorus. In order to make balanced crop feeder, we must add 40 to 50 pounds of superphosphate to each ton. This makes a balanced fertilizer and prevents loss of precious nitrogen as ammonia gas. Ammonia gas is what you smell when you smell manure. Superphosphate works equally well spread in the gutters and on the aisle, in a built-up manure pack or in the stock-pile. Try it. You'll have a better-smelling barn and a balanced fertilizer that keeps its valuable nitrogen for good work to come.

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Soil Maps Have Many Uses -- Soil capability maps have a good use other than just as plans for better land use. Marion Bouton, a farmer in the Becker County Soil Conservation District, used his to get a Federal Land Bank loan to help him finance drainage improvements. Jerry McCarthy, secretary of the Federal Land Bank, knows capability classes. On seeing only Class II and a little Class III land on Marion's 320 acres, he determined to grant him a loan. The drainage plan was followed. Now, Marion's goal is a farm plan with a good rotation and a field arrangement that will save travel to and from fields.

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No Surpluses in 1980 -- In these days of surplus worries a look into the future is heartening--even if a little terrifying. Here's how William P. Martin, head of the University's Soils Department, looks at it: The U. S. has half a billion acres of land producing crops. At present production rates, in 1980 we will need another 200,000,000 acres to feed our population--by that time it may have reached 200,000,000 people. New land just isn't there. The answer: building and saving our soil--making it more productive with better crops, better animals, better farming practices.

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Certified Seed Your Best Bet -- Buying only certified seed of grass and legume varieties proven and recommended for Minnesota is the way many wise farmers save money and get superior stands.