

University Farm News  
University of Minnesota  
Institute of Agriculture  
St. Paul 1 Minnesota

December 30 1954



Prepared and distributed  
by the Minnesota Agricultural  
Extension Service.

For use during week of  
January 3 1955

Ditch System Effective -- Glen Sutton, a farmer at Saum, Beltrami County, finds a parallel ditch system removes surface water well. He is farming 80 acres in a wet sand area. Before, he was at the mercy of the weather. In 1952, with help of the Beltrami County Soil Conservation District, Sutton built an outlet ditch through a low area. He plowed deep dead furrows -- parallel and spaced about 300 feet apart -- leading into the ditch. The system worked so well that in 1953 Sutton had the District's 'dozer in to deepen two of the dead furrows and shaped them out to 4 to 1 side slopes for easier working. He plans the same with two more dead furrows as the land is broken out of a hay crop. This year, the ditches and the outlet were fertilized and seeded to a grass-legume mixture. Says Sutton: "I got a beautiful catch -- I don't have ditches, but permanent hay strips."

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Farm Protects Birds -- Nothing cheers the heart of a wildlife lover like plenty of protection for birds. Here's what they do about it at the Bitker farm in Milroy, Redwood County. Says 11-year-old Clarence, "We never burn grass around lakes. The ducks and geese don't like to be burned out -- would you?" This story comes to us from J. I. "Jap" Swedberg, Redwood County Agent at Redwood Falls.

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Prefers Trench Silo to Old Type -- Fred Lau, Farmington, Dakota County, likes his new trench silo better than the old type. He built it in 1953 with help of a neighbor. The trench stretches 130 feet into a hill, is eight feet deep and 16 feet wide. He used cement blocks for the walls with glass blocks for windows near the top. It has no roof but he plans one this summer. Lau says: "Put the trench where feeding and filling will be the most convenient. Slope it to keep water out. Slope side walls one or two inches for each foot of depth. My side walls need more slope, I find. This year, Fred filled much of the silo with pea silage from the vinery where he sold his peas. He put corn in the rest.

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Happy New Year -- May 1955 bring us all an ever-increasing awareness of the value of saving our soil and water resources for a future America.