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Our LAND



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Forty Per Cent Boost Possible -- Minnesota farmers can boost their production 30 to 40 per cent over present levels and keep their soil healthy and productive--if not healthier. So said William P. Martin, head of the University of Minnesota's soils department at Rochester a few days ago at a banquet of the Minnesota Association of Soil Conservation District Supervisors. Said he: to feed the 30 million more people we will have in 1975, we will need new farm production equal to that of Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois and Minnesota--combined. Thus, we have little choice--we must produce more efficiently and at the same time save our soil.

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New Shakopee Creek Watershed Set Up -- Plans for Shakopee Creek Watershed, part of Chippewa River watershed, are almost complete, says Bill Brune, chief of SCS watershed work planning for Minnesota and Wisconsin. First contract will be let by June 30, starting Minnesota's second watershed project. Local and federal governments share costs. The Shakopee watershed, some 204,000 acres, is in Swift, Chippewa and Kandiyohi counties. When the planned measures are in, they'll add over 9,000 acres of cropland, 8,000 acres for wildlife development.

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Wind? -- Does your stock have to wade through barnyard snowdrifts? If so, now's the time to start planning a better windbreak to cut down wind velocity, keep snow out of the yard, reduce fuel costs and boost flesh production on your animals. It's nicer, too, to work in a protected location with an attractive windbreak balancing your farm's appearance. According to Wallace W. Nelson, agronomist at the University's Northeast Experiment Station in Duluth, a windbreak they planted in 1929 has been effective several years. They can let the dairy herd out every day for exercise.

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Plenty Room for Fertilizer -- University of Minnesota soils specialists say we could profitably use ten times as much fertilizer in yield-hiking and soil-improvement as now. That new total would be one and a half million tons.