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Eloquent Commercials -- Here are some striking comments about the Carver County

District: "Our soil conservation program is the finest thing that ever happened to us -- our net income is up 15 or 20 per cent." "Soil conservation is no longer a side issue. Applications to join have increased three times over since we organized the district." "The district program has made money for me and it can do the same for others." "The plan is ours and it's not compulsory." "My soil conservation farm plan has doubled our wheat yields and boosted my corn yields a good half."

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Conservation Doubles Corn Yields -- Willey H. Brown and Son farm 140 acres near Stewartville. They say a complete conservation plan has helped increase the size of their operation by half. They now raise 1,500 to 1,600 bushels of corn from 25 acres in comparison to 1,000 bushels from 30 acres. Oats and hay respond just as strikingly. And the Browns doubled livestock numbers. The farm now has 40 cattle, 100 pigs, plus a flock of layers. How did they achieve this new efficiency? They contour strip-cropped and set up a crop rotation that fits. They tilled out wet spots, limed and fertilized after accurate soil tests to find soil needs, seeded legumes and grasses, renovated permanent pastures, built one grassed waterway and planted an odd area to evergreens for woodland and wildlife cover." Says Brown: "It gives us a good feeling to know that our soil is growing healthier and not going down the Mississippi -- and, at the same time, giving us far better yields."

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Good Time For Field Layout Coming Up -- Early spring, before the crops are planted, is a good time to do all the field layout in planned soil conservation practices. Once the contour strips or terraces are established, soil sampling is simple. The land within a terrace or contour strip usually is uniform texture and erosion's effects are much the same if the strips are just a few rods or a half mile long. Strip-cropping or terracing backed by soil testing are three steps that add little to production costs, yet protect the land and improve efficiency -- and, incidentally, income. This tip comes from Arnold Wiebusch, Extension Soil Conservation Agent at Red Wing.

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Balance Essential in Fertilizing -- In fertilizer use, as in tight-rope walking, balance is essential. Says University Soils Specialist Harold Jones: "Don't use one element and expect results if the soil needs two or three. A soil test will help you find out your soil's hungers."