

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

May 26 1955



Prepared and distributed
by the Minnesota Agricultural
Extension Service.

For use during week of
June 6 1955

Same Old Story--Conservation Pays in Dollars -- G. L. Revier, a farmer near Waubun, reports an ever more familiar story--that farming the conservation way brings higher income. Here are some of the things he's done: A rotation using red clover has been followed and all the cropland has had legumes in the rotation at least once. Crops are yielding a lot higher, of course. A hog pasture rotation system using new alfalfa pasture each year has cut feed costs and raised hog profits. Steep eroded fields and sandy areas were seeded to permanent grass in a plan that "services" each acre according to its needs and abilities. A small gully that was washing soil down the slope has been filled in, packed down, fertilized and made into a grassed waterway. Mr. Revier also put on some level terraces on certain areas to help rain soak in. Future plans: pasture improvement and a shelterbelt.

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Special Fertilizer Tests near St. Paul -- Two special fertilizer trial areas are operating near Langdon, Cottage Grove Township, Washington County. Oat fields and new alfalfa-brome seedings are on the Frank Smallidge and George Fewell farms. Extension Soil Conservation Agent Clifton Halsey of Stillwater says there are reports of "minor element" shortages in the Langdon area. So special fertilizers containing copper, zinc, boron, manganese, magnesium, molybdenum and iron are being tried. These elements are the "minor" elements. Harvest in July will tell many of the answers.

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Game Birds Hardy if Given Chance -- Upland gamebirds--pheasants, in particular, seem able to stand heavy cropping systems on "their land" if they can get food, cover and water. Good windbreaks and wildlife areas provide all-year protection and help reduce death losses during January, February and March. Farm windbreaks provide good nesting area and escape cover during summer. They also protect birds in the winter when other cover is hard to come by. This tip comes from Lawrence Streif, an SCS man with the Mower County Soil Conservation District.

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Beautifully Colored State Soils Map -- You'll want a free copy of "Soils of Minnesota," the colorful new University of Minnesota Agricultural Extension Service Bulletin 278. It will help you identify the types of soil you have and handle them for top production. The Bulletin has a colored soils map showing all 24 different soil areas of the state--and each in a different color. County agents have supplies.