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Fertilizer Payoff Shown in Unique Way -- Arnold Stanley, a farmer near Grygla, found by a simple demonstration that fertilizer pays in barley growing, too. He made a square out of a six-foot folding ruler, placed it in both the fertilized and unfertilized portions of the field and counted the plants lying within the square. After several comparisons, he found that on the average, he had 40 per cent more stalks in the fertilized than in the unfertilized areas. The barley's quality was much better on fertilized land, too.

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Gullies Can Be Checked -- Gullies can be controlled and you can get help to do the job. John Urban of near St. James installed a drop inlet type structure in a troublesome gully with the help of the Watonwan Soil Conservation District and the County ACP Office. The district drew up the design for the structure and helped with engineering while the ACP incentive payment helped in paying for a share of the materials. The structure looks like a chimney, Urban says, except that water goes in instead of smoke coming out. Most of the gully scar is healing nicely.

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Christmas Tree Raising Tips -- Christmas tree growing is a hot topic right now-- it's a good way to use land that shouldn't or couldn't be used for anything else. But you will want to consider such factors as market outlets, location of the tree farm with respect to good roads, how near markets are, cost of investment and how wild tree cuttings may compete with your output. University of Minnesota Extension Forestry Agents can help you evaluate your land to see how well a Christmas tree venture might do.

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Sportsman's Club Plants Trees -- The Cokato Club, a sportsmen's group will plant five acres of trees along the North Fork of the Crow River this year. This is one of several examples of how sportsmen's groups do good things in conservation efforts.

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