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Cultivating Makes Soil Mellow -- "You can feel it when you walk on it." That's what Harry Bureau, secretary for the West Otter Tail Soil Conservation District said when he looked over a cultivating job done by his son Tommy. The soil was mellow and springy, thanks to the care it had received since 1945 when Bureau first completed his conservation plan. Other things that helped: Adequate drainage, a rotation with the land in a legume grass mixture one-third of the time, barnyard manure every fourth year.

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Farmer Hits Top Oats Yield -- Producing 5,200 bushels of oats on 51 acres of land is good for any Minnesota farm. It's even better when it's done in northern Minnesota, away from the areas generally considered best for farming. The man who hit this yield was Walter Enzmann in St. Louis county. Enzmann, with his brothers, farms 675 acres and raises 65 head of Holstein cattle. He attributes his success to a long farm rotation with clover and alfalfa, commercial fertilizer and barnyard manure. In 1955 he was winner of the Minnesota Soil Saver award by the Minneapolis Star-Tribune and was named outstanding farmer-sportsman for St. Louis county.

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Minimum Seedbed Preparation Undergoes Test -- There's apt to be less and less plowing and disking done for farm crops in the future. Some of the "minimum seedbed preparation" techniques are now under test at the University of Minnesota's agricultural experiment station at Rosemount. Trials include "in" and "out" corn planting in freshly plowed sod. With "in" planting, the corn is planted in tractor tracks shortly after the land is plowed. Corn is planted a short distance away from the tractor track in "out" planting. Either way means less working up and less soil compaction.

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Chemicals Give Good Weed Control -- Chemical weed control looks more promising than ever, say University of Minnesota agronomists. On the Henry Leitschuh farm near Sleepy Eye, CDAA, a chemical herbicide, was a good pre-emergence spray for killing weeds in corn, soybeans and sunflowers. The chemical was applied at 2 pounds per acre after the crops were planted but before the little plants came through the soil.