

Our LAND



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Contouring Tip -- Planting corn around the hill on the contour may mean several bushels more per acre at harvest -- if rainfall is short this summer. Now's the time to ask your SCS farm planner to lay out a contour system for you. This suggestion comes from Harold E. Jones, Extension soils specialist at the University of Minnesota

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Shelterbelts Help On Sandy Soils -- A Wright County vegetable grower, Daryl Johnston, reports tremendous benefits from shelterbelts on his sandy soils. He claims they increase his vegetable yields and improve their quality. The tree belts apparently prevent hot south winds from searing the tender plants and drawing their "drinking water" out of the soil. Buds and blossoms seem to develop better under such protection.

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Winner's Statement -- The winner of the Minneapolis Star and Tribune's conservation contest, Wilton Bunke, Winona County, is a member of the Whitewater Soil Conservation District. He recalls that when his father was operating the farm they once met difficulty in providing feed for 50 head of livestock. Today, however, after 10 years of conservation farming and the soil improvement that follows along, Bunke now has over 100 head of cattle and is feeding 300 sheep. Last year he sold 200 hogs. All this stock is fed home-grown feed. He figures his crop production increase about three times higher than the old way.

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Ponds Give Flood Control Value -- Here's an interesting story of farm flood control. Last June, Arnold Putzier of Lewiston, Winona County, built three ponds above one of his corn fields. Their purpose -- to prevent water cutting down through the corn fields in the bottomland and tearing out both crop and soil. In July and August, two heavy rains filled two of the three ponds. Putzier believes the flood control and crop-saving value of these ponds paid their cost that summer. Corn on the bottomland was not damaged in anyway and yielded very well.

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