

Our LAND



Appearing in newspapers of the Minnesota Editorial Association through the cooperation of the U.S. Soil Conservation service and conservation authorities at University Farm.

Prepared and distributed
by the Minnesota Agricultural Extension Service.

For use during week of
June 23, 1952

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

June 11, 1952

Don't Overdo -- Don't cultivate yourself out of a corn crop. Cultivating corn deep and close to the row after the first cultivation can easily result in 5-10 bushels less yield, says Harold E. Jones, extension specialist in soils. This cultivation prunes corn roots and reduces the amount of food and water the corn plant can take from the soil. If large weeds haven't been destroyed during the seedbed preparation or by first cultivation, trying to kill them with a cultivator will do more harm than good. If it's necessary to cultivate the second or third time to kill small weeds and grass or to loosen the soil, this cultivation should be no more than 2 or 3 inches deep and several inches away from the row.

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Mow Weeds -- Livestock don't get any good from ragweed or other weeds which are the most conspicuous part of many permanent pastures in mid-summer. Moisture and soil nutrients go into the weeds instead of into feed for livestock. E. F. Ferrin, chief of the animal husbandry division at the University of Minnesota, calls attention to the fact that mowing pasture at the critical time to check the worst weed pests will be a big help.

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Mix It Up -- Speaking at Hay Days at Rosemount and Morris recently, A. R. Schmid, associate professor of agronomy at the University of Minnesota, cited the advantages of growing grass-legume mixtures. He pointed out that the roots of grass are better for improving the soil than those of legumes-- they don't decompose as rapidly and therefore maintain good soil structure for a longer time. Grass also provides superior soil erosion control, and mixed grass-legume hay cures more easily than straight legume hay. In order to help to prevent bloat, Schmid suggested planting about 8 pounds per acre of grass seed in pasture mixtures instead of the 5 pounds recommended for hay mixtures.

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