

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

February 8, 1950

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 the week
of March 6, 1950.

OUR LAND

Farmers in 38 Minnesota soil conservation districts during the year ending July 1, 1949, hired 194 private contractors to build soil and water conservation structures. Work included dams, drainage, diversion dikes and other measures which are part of complete farm conservation plans developed by farmers. Contractors operated 714 pieces of equipment in doing the work.

Plan to seed a legume-grass mixture, rather than grass alone. Ralph Crim, University Farm Extension agronomist, says well-inoculated legumes obtain much of their nitrogen from the air, part of which helps the grass make a more vigorous growth. The mixture is also more palatable and less likely to cause bloat than pure stands of legumes.

A tenant who shares the cost of alfalfa seed and then doesn't stay on the farm for three years isn't getting the full benefit from his investment. If he moves before a crop is cut, J. B. McNulty, University Farm Extension economist, feels he should receive a full refund on his seed investment. If he cuts one crop, he should get two-thirds back. Where commercial fertilizers are used, the tenant should get a refund from that investment, if he leaves before he can take advantage of the increased crop yields.

Q: Does organization of a soil conservation district change drainage laws in a county?

A: No. Legal ditches are still under the authority of the county board or district judge. A Soil Conservation Service engineer may help on surveys of legal ditches, if assistance is requested. He can also assist individual farmers, or groups plan and construct non-legal ditches.