

University Farm and
Home News

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Contour Strips Boost Yields -- Jerome Jereczek, operator of the Nick Brost farm in Dakota county, says that by contour farming, he produces as much corn on sloping land as he did before on good level fields. "I filled our 14' x 40' silo this year with six acres of corn--as good or better than from level land last year," he says. Fred Tripp, soil conservationist in Dakota county, says "Nick Brost has had fences, trees and rocks removed from old fence lines and is ready to have the entire farm, except a field of level land, laid out in contour strips."

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Conservation Workers Save Pheasants -- Clay county pheasants should have a better chance to survive this winter, thanks to combined efforts of local farmers, the Clay County Soil Conservation District, and the Glyndon Rod and Gun Club. During the past four years, the club and Soil Conservation District gave the District's technical staff 200 sacks of sunflower seeds to distribute to farmers. Most of the seeds were planted in rows along the edge of corn fields or along windbreaks. Les Pulkrabek, work unit conservationist, says "When they're properly planted and cared for, the seeds will be available to pheasants during the winter when other foods are covered by snow."

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Fall Fertilizing Has Advantages -- On fields that are fall-plowed, fertilizer plowed down may be in moist soil and be more available next year than if the fertilizer is broadcast in the spring on dry soil. A. C. Caldwell, soils scientist at the University of Minnesota, adds that fertilizer dealers often give a discount for fertilizer purchased in the fall.

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Crop Rotation Pays Off -- Neil Saxton, a Martin County farmer told Ivan Burnison, Martin County Soil Conservationist, that a good crop rotation with brome and alfalfa is paying off on his farm. Saxton is starting on the second round of his rotation. His corn yields have increased and his drainage is improved as a result of growing deep rooted legumes.

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