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Good Land Use Brings Astounding Yield -- Erling Burtness, Caledonia, Houston County, won the X-Tra Yield corn contest sponsored by the University's Agricultural Extension Service and The Farmer magazine of St. Paul with a yield increase of 93 bushels over an unfertilized, ordinarily-treated check plot. His X-Tra yield plot gave 161 bushels, his check only 68 bushels. Proof that high yields and good land use go hand in hand.

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Build Up Rundown Farm -- Oscar and Elmer Skogen bought a hilly, rundown farm at Mantorville township in 1947. They began contour strip cropping, gully control, pasture renovation and tree planting. They limed and fertilized and put on large amounts of barnyard manure. This spring, a tour was held on the "new" Skogen farm and one man who knew the farm 10 years ago, was astonished. Said he, "Ten years ago, so-and-so went broke on this place. I remember cutting grain here when you had to go around gullies. Then, this place wouldn't put out 40 bushel corn." The Skogens now get 90 to 100 bushel corn and their pasture renovation has really paid. The year after renovating an old blue grass slope that wouldn't support one animal per three acres, the land grew "strong enough" to feed an average of over one animal per acre. This pasture returned \$100 an acre this year. A spring which dried up many years ago began running again and is going strong. A flourishing grove of new trees protects the buildings now, too.

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A Good Public Relations Practice -- The Mahanomen County Soil Conservation District plans to print its 1954 annual report and distribute it to county farmers and businessmen. They also sponsor a soil conservation jingle contest in all county schools with cash prizes and certificates to winners. The district's annual cooperators' meeting will be held in February. Leo Kirsch, a county farmer and winner of the Minneapolis Star and Tribune Soil Conservation Contest, will be honored at the meeting.

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Game Bird Shelter -- Four rows of corn back of the grove will give food and shelter to game birds on the Clarence Thorston farm in Sundown, Redwood County, this winter. The considerate idea was reported by 12-year old Clarence Thorston and is relayed to Our Land by Redwood County Agent J. I. Swedberg of Redwood Falls.

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