

University Farm News
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Wilkin County Plants 65,000 Trees -- More than 65,000 trees were planted in the Wilkin Soil Conservation District this spring, according to Frank Ballinger, chairman of the district's supervisors. This makes a total of 815,000 trees planted in the district since it was organized in 1946. Of trees planted this spring, 15,000 went into field windbreaks and the rest into farmstead shelterbelts. District tree planting machines helped 85 Wilkin county farmers with tree planting this spring, Ballinger reports.

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Pastures Need A Hair Cut? -- Your pastures look shaggy? Give them a haircut. Now's the time. Pastures should be clipped for weeds and tall, mature grass two or three times during grazing season. This tip comes from Wallace W. Nelson, agronomist at the University's Northeast Experiment Station in Duluth. In rotational grazing, clip after you move cattle off, he says. At the same time spread droppings. This will help prevent tall tufts of unpalatable grass from growing around droppings. The droppings, Nelson explains, are high in nitrogen but low in phosphorus--thus the grass is heavy but untasty. The whole "haircut" operation will give you more pasture, fewer weeds, and more nutritious grass.

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Plant Tree Crops for Profit -- Land unsuited to agricultural crops can wisely and profitably be put into trees. Barren hills that erode easily can be converted into profitable tree cropland. According to Parker Anderson, extension forester at the University of Minnesota, you can make even the poorest, hilliest acres beautiful and productive with trees. County agents have free information to help you bring your land to its most efficient production, whether in trees, animals, grass, crops, or a combination.

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Only High-Quality Tile Qualifies You for ACP -- Before Minnesota farmers can become eligible for ACP drainage payments, the tile they install must meet quality standards as follows--both concrete and clay tile up to 12 inches in diameter must have a supporting strength of not less than 800 pounds per linear foot tested by the three-edge method, or 1,200 pounds per linear foot by the sand-bearing method. Also absorption of concrete tile shouldn't be over 10 per cent--clay tile, 13 per cent. For complete details, ask your county agent or ASC committeeman. A program of stock testing is being set up to help assure farmers getting only high quality tile.