TVA TEST DEMONSTRATION FARMS - Eighteen farmers in Wood county have cooperated with the Tennessee Valley Authority, the University of Wisconsin and the County Extension Service to further prove the value of fertilizer to crop production. Until 1946 there were only 14 of these farms. Four new ones were added in the past year.

Farmers cooperating in this program received 42,700 pounds of phosphate fertilizer and 8,100 pounds of ammonium nitrate through TVA, which was applied to grain fields and pastures. Unfertilized check strips were left in all grain fields to compare yields on the fertilized plots with those of the unfertilized fields. In the past year you will note from the accompanying reports that the phosphate and potash has greatly increased the yields on small grain and hay. It must be remembered that the increased yields of hay are obtained too because of the residual value of the fertilizer which remains in the soil from year to year. The potash fertilizer which TVA cooperators use is purchased by them, while the phosphate is furnished by TVA.

In addition to proving the benefits of fertilizer on their farms, these TVA cooperators have also carried out other good sound farm management practices. All of them are keeping farm accounts which enable them to improve the farm balance. Many of them have constructed milk houses to improve the quality of milk and most of them are now receiving the herd testing service provided by the Central Wisconsin Breeders Cooperative.

On one of the TVA farms the new variety of oats known as Forvic was raised this year. This new oats yielded 35 bushels per acre and by common agreement will be distributed to other TVA cooperators, each of them receiving 1/18th of the yield. Each farmer who will receive this new Forvic oats has agreed that next year's yield will again be used as seed.