

Farmers Can Save Moisture b

Farmers can help hold snow on summer fallow by growing their own snow "fences," tests at the Central Great Plains Field Station near Akron have shown.

The technique involves planting narrow double rows of sorghums spaced from 40 to 50 feet apart in the fallowed field.

The Akron tests, conducted over a period of three years and still in progress, show that much of the snow that might otherwise blow off a summer fallow field can be retained if three major requirements are met.

The sorghum stubble should be from 18 to 24 inches tall, should have at least 400 stalks per 100 feet of double row, and should be made up of stalks resistant to lodging, the tests showed.

Reducing snow losses increases soil moisture efficiency from total



Efficiency of sorghum stubble barrier rows in holding snow is illustrated in this test plot on the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Central Great Plains Field Station near Akron. Note the result of skips in the stubble.

precipitation received, researchers pointed out.

The tests have been conducted by B. W. Greb, soil scientist with

the USDA's Agricultural Research Service, in cooperation with the CSU Agricultural Experiment Station.

Colorado Farm & Home Research, Vol. 13, No. 3 Nov., Dec. 1962 ⁵