

The school district, the church, and many community businesses and services are finding it difficult to continue to operate.

The tax base of community and county is deteriorating; making it difficult to operate local units of government, including provision of a quality education.

Outmigration costs us our youth—the people we have educated—just as they reach the productive age where they would benefit the State most.

Net outmigration of the 20-to-24 age group is 23.9 percent, for the 25-to-29 age group it is 25.9 percent, and for 29 to 34 years it is 19.5 percent. Total estimated outmigration from 1950 to 1960 of the overall population was 12.1 percent. This leaves South Dakota's population disproportionately heavy at the older and younger ends of the scale. Most of the young people would prefer to stay in South Dakota if employment opportunities were open to them.

The Oahe irrigation unit will generate employment so that about 37,000 additional people might live in that area. Dependable sources of good-quality water will provide job and business opportunities that presently do not exist.

The unit will make possible a dependable feed supply for dryland areas of the State and diversify agriculture into such areas as food processing and seed production. It will stabilize the economy of the farms and towns throughout the State as well as in the immediate area.

Livestock production accounts for about 70 percent of South Dakota's annual cash farm income. Over 50 percent of the beef calves are exported from the State. It is estimated that about 190,000 head of cattle will be finished in the Oahe area once feed supplies become reliable as a result of a dependable moisture supply. About 140,000 head will be purchased from dryland ranches.

The State's crop production index reflects quite faithfully the rainfall received during a particular year, although the time of precipitation and other climatic conditions also have a marked influence.

Year	Production index †	Annual inches of precipitation
1955	82	16
1956	76	17
1957	122	23
1958	120	15
1959	58	17
1960	117	18
1961	93	17
1962	111	25
1963	114	19
1964	91	18
1965	110	22
1966	105	19

† 1957-59 average = 100.

Presently, spring wheat is the principal crop grown and sold in the Oahe area. When irrigation comes, it is possible that the wheat acreage may be replaced almost completely by feed crops for livestock—unless drastic shortages should develop in the domestic or world markets.

The Oahe study estimates that in the project area about 281 percent more corn, 221 percent more silage, 76 percent more barley, and