

120 percent more alfalfa will be produced under irrigation than is now being produced.

It is reasonable that South Dakota should first develop its agriculture and agriculturally related resources. Later it should be possible to gradually incorporate other industries that fit the State's climate, market conditions, transportation, and other factors.

There is another consideration that merits attention—the probable expansion of the influence of the Oahe project to areas far removed from the project itself. A student of economic growth has termed such phenomena “islands of excellence.”

He advocates commitment of all available resources to these islands of excellence, contending that such islands would spawn satellite islands that would spawn still more islands. This process of excellence feeding upon excellence would result in broadly based economic growth.

South Dakota needs an agricultural island of excellence.

South Dakota State University will commit all possible resources to this Oahe island. Extensive plans are being prepared to do this. Many already underway will provide a base for sound use and management.

In 1964, the Water Resources Institute was established at South Dakota State University. To give you an idea of the type of work being done, here are examples of research projects being conducted cooperatively by the agricultural experiment station and the institute.

1. Investigations using new methods, to determine if tile spacings in the Oahe irrigation unit can be safely increased beyond present unit design.

2. Correlating soil moisture conditions and microclimate with evaporation losses and water requirements of plants in the Oahe area.

3. Correlating different irrigation water management practices and soil moisture movement.

The Cooperative Extension Service has conducted extensive educational programs the past 7 years which led to the formation of the Oahe conservancy subdistrict (as well as four other subdistricts) and three irrigation districts within the Oahe subdistrict.

In 1966 the Extension Service assumed the leadership of an educational program helping the people of the Oahe subdistrict understand the “Contracting Authority” and the need for giving the Oahe subdistrict board that power. The people responded by granting the board this power.

The Cooperative Extension Service has prepared, published and distributed 27 different publications relating to various phases of educational work undertaken. Thousands of news stories have been published as well as hundreds of meetings conducted to provide people with information.

To further expedite the educational work among the potential irrigators and people of the Oahe irrigation unit, the Cooperative Extension Service recently employed an area irrigation management agent.

The Oahe irrigation unit as it pertains to the national interest should come in for very serious consideration.

The unit's repayment capacity and the very substantial returns it will make to the Federal Treasury in the form of taxes are documented in the unit report.