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Inmate Gardeners Provide 7 Tons of Food to Local Organizations

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(Pierre) – A garden tended by inmates at the Yankton Trusty Unit has provided almost 7 tons of fresh vegetables to a number of charitable organizations in the Yankton area this year.

Governor Bill Janklow said, "This is something the inmates wanted to do. They volunteered to tend the garden, plant it, weed it, and irrigate it by hand. They worked on it in the evenings and on the weekend after they'd done their other trusty jobs."

The 200' x 300' garden produced cucumbers, green peppers, potatoes, carrots, tomatoes, squash, beets, melons, onions, garlic, rutabaga, zucchini, kohlrabi, and decorative gourds.

The plants are started by inmates in a horticulture program at the Durfee State Prison in Springfield and transferred to the garden at the minimum security Yankton Trusty Unit.

Janklow said the inmates provided 13,946 pounds of fresh vegetables from the garden to organizations in Yankton and Springfield.

The produce was donated to: Yankton Senior Citizen Center, Yankton Area Adjustment Training Center, Springfield Senior Citizen Center, Yankton Care Center, Lewis and Clark Behavioral Center, Yankton Contact Center, Yankton Community Banquet, the food service for the Human Services Center, and the inmates working on a community service project at Marne Creek.

"The inmates and their garden have been very productive, and they've helped a lot of people in the community," Janklow said. "They take a lot of pride in their garden, and rightfully so."

Total produced, in pounds:

cucumbers: 1,802

green peppers: 212

potatoes: 1,461

carrots: 247

tomatoes: 2,152

squash: 3,618

beets: 1,120

melons: 770

onions: 383

garlic: 7

rutabaga: 117

zucchini: 1,869

kohlrabi: 88

decorative gourds: 100

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Total donations, in pounds:

Yankton Senior Center: 3,638

Yankton Area Adjustment Training Center: 2,627

Springfield Senior Citizens Center: 161

Yankton Care Center: 1,848

Lewis & Clark Behavioral Health Center: 643

Yankton Contact Center: 838

Yankton Community Banquet: 2,786

Human Services Center: 1,204

Marne Creek Community Service: 201