Inmate Gardeners Provide 7 Tons of Food to Local Organizations
November 1, 1999

(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

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