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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Inmate Garden Produces Nearly 19 Tons of Food

Yankton, S.D.- Community organizations in southeastern South Dakota received nearly 19 tons of fresh produce this year, courtesy of state prison inmates at the Yankton Minimum Unit and the Mike Durfee State Prison in Springfield.

Inmates harvested a total of 37,825 pounds of beets, cabbage, cantaloupe, carrots, cucumbers, dill, kohlrabi, okra, onion, peppers, potatoes, pumpkins, rutabaga, squash, tomatoes, turnips, watermelons and zucchini this year.

Inmates in the horticulture program at Mike Durfee State Prison start growing the tomatoes and peppers before the plants are transferred to a two acre garden at the Yankton Minimum Unit on the grounds of the Human Services Center. The other vegetables are grown from seed at the Yankton facility.

The produce is donated to the Yankton Senior Citizens Center; Yankton Banquet; Yankton Area Adjustment Training Center; Human Services Center Dietary; Yankton Monastery; Yankton, Bon Homme County, Scotland and Gayville-Volin schools; Springfield Senior Citizens Center; Scotland Good Samaritan Center; Cedar Village Assisted Living; and the Freeman Bethany Food Pantry.

Total produced, in pounds:

<u>Beets</u>	<u>Broccoli/Cauliflower</u>	<u>Cabbage</u>	<u>Cantaloupe</u>	<u>Carrots</u>	<u>Cucumbers</u>	<u>Dill</u>	<u>Kohlrabi</u>	<u>Okra</u>	<u>Onion</u>
705	228	182	345	70	1,260	15	310	100	454
<u>Peppers</u>	<u>Potatoes</u>	<u>Pumpkins</u>	<u>Rutabaga</u>	<u>Squash</u>	<u>Tomatoes</u>	<u>Turnips</u>	<u>Watermelon</u>	<u>Zucchini</u>	<u>Total</u>
201	2,275	22,233	571	4,040	1,610	532	900	1,794	37,825

The pumpkins grown in the garden are distributed each fall to students in Yankton and surrounding communities. A total of 1,188 pumpkins were handed out this fall.