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Functions of Selected Agencies and Organizations Contributing to Rural Development in Western South Dakota

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Functions of Selected
Agencies and Organizations
Contributing to Rural Development
in Western South Dakota

South Dakota State University
Agricultural Experiment Station
Brookings, South Dakota

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Functions of Selected Agencies and Organizations Contributing to Rural Development in Western South Dakota

By Arnold J. Bateman, Area Rural Development Agent

Introduction

This material is directed primarily to the large number of people engaged in Rural Development activities in the eleven western counties of South Dakota. It provides information to help local governments and concerned individuals better understand the objectives, functions and kinds of professional and technical services being provided by Federal government agencies, multi-county agencies and organizations working in rural development.

Local leaders involved in developmental projects should be encouraged to make use of the programs of government and non-government organizations that can make worthwhile contributions to achieve local goals.

The involvement of local people is basic to rural development. Local leadership must be motivated to evaluate local situations and determine what they wish accomplished.

The government agencies and rural development groups in the eleven western counties of South Dakota have a responsibility to encourage local leadership, to offer sound counsel and make available each individual agency's capabilities at the proper time and in an appropriate manner.

Each agency and organization discussed in this material has been given the opportunity to review their section.

Sixth District Council of Local Governments

The Sixth District Council of Local Governments' operation became a reality on November 23, 1971. On January 3, 1972, the Sixth District Office commenced planning and development activities.

On December 4, 1970, the State of South Dakota was divided into six multi-county areas by an Executive Order of the Governor of South Dakota. The boundaries were determined through a study of similar social, economic and population characteristics of the multi-county areas.

The Sixth District Council of Local Governments is not a state agency, therefore, it does not have regulatory enforcement power. It is a multi-county organ-

ization designed to provide planning expertise and technical assistance to units of local government at their request. It also serves as the regional planning and development organization through which towns, cities and counties can obtain professional help in communicating and working with state and federal agencies.

For example if a county desires help in developing a solid waste disposal system, they can request it from the Sixth District Council of Local Governments' staff. The planning staff will then work with the county commissioners in preparing a plan that will provide for the needs of the county and be in compliance with state and federal regulations.

The Sixth District Council of Local Governments is comprised of the eleven most western counties in South Dakota: Bennett, Butte, Custer, Fall River, Harding, Jackson, Lawrence, Meade, Pennington, Shannon and Washabaugh, see Figure 1. There are thirty-four municipalities located in District Six, and eleven of them have a population of 1,000 or greater.

District Six contains 20,425 square miles of land area, which is 27 percent of the total land area in the state of South Dakota. Approximately 13 percent of this area is under Federal or State ownership with the majority being contained in the Black Hills National Forest. According to the 1970 census, District Six has a population of 129,911 people, 19.5 percent of the state's populations.

OBJECTIVES

The Sixth District Council of Local Governments' concept consists of two major objectives:

1. To provide comprehensive planning for the eleven county district through a professional staff on a continuing basis.
2. To provide technical assistance to local government officials on state and federal grant-in-aids programs and services.

LEGAL AUTHORITY

The Sixth District Council of Local Governments is to function as the official regional planning and development agency in the eleven western counties of South Dakota. The Council has no legislative or taxing authority.

By virtue of the authority granted in the Joint Cooperative Agreement dated June, 1972, and in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 1-24 of the South Dakota compiled laws of 1967, the Sixth District Council of Local Governments has authority to do the following:

1. They may receive grants-in-aid or enter into reasonable agreements and/or contracts with any department or agency of the Government of the United States or the State of South Dakota, and they're to arrange for the receipt of federal or state funds in the interest of furthering the planning and development activities for the member counties and cities.

2. The Council has the authority to accept and expend funds received from city, county and private sources.

3. The Council has the authority to employ a District Director and other staff, obtain professional services, establish an office, acquire the necessary equipment for the Council's operation and undertake any other activities required to promote the Council's objectives.

ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTION

The activities of the Sixth District are directed by the Sixth District Council of Local Governments which consists of locally elected officials and citizens. Membership on this Council, as explained in the by-laws, consists of: one commissioner from the board of each member county, one representative from each incorporated city of 1,000 or more, one representative for each 10,000 population in a city over a base of 10,000, and three representatives from Ellsworth Air Force Base. The Council consists of twenty-six members.

Through the creation of the Council of Local Governments in the district, the program helps to guarantee local control of the District's activities. The Council meets monthly to review the activities of the planning staff and to supervise the development of the multi-county comprehensive plan.

The plan communicates to the staff goals and objectives for the multi-county district and coordinates program activities among local units of government in the district. The comprehensive

plan serves as a road map to give direction to future growth and development of the area. Once the plan is developed it should be updated every few years. It is the responsibility of the Council members to represent the needs and desires of the citizens living in the individual's cities and counties. It is not intended that the Sixth District Council of Local Governments assume the authority which now resides with local government.

The functions of the Sixth District Council of Local Governments are:

1. The development of a district-wide comprehensive plan is composed of two major elements: base studies and functional areas. The base studies include population, economic base and land use. The functional section is

composed of the following areas: housing, utilities, manpower, transportation, health, education, natural resources, tourism, recreation, governmental services, agriculture, bicentennial activities, criminal justice, juvenile delinquency, public safety, poverty and special services, and economic and industrial development. A district-wide plan will be developed for each function and then combined to make up the district's comprehensive plan. The data from this plan will be made available to individual counties and cities to use in fulfilling the planning requirements for any grant-in-aid programs.

2. To provide needed technical assistance to local governments in the form of planning, programming and meeting special requests.

3. To coordinate state and federal efforts in assisting communities.

4. To review and coordinate local development proposals.

STAFF

The Sixth District staff is responsible to the Sixth District Council of Local Governments. The basic function of the staff is to advise and assist this council in the development of the District's comprehensive plan and provide professional planning and technical assistance to all cities and counties within the Sixth District.

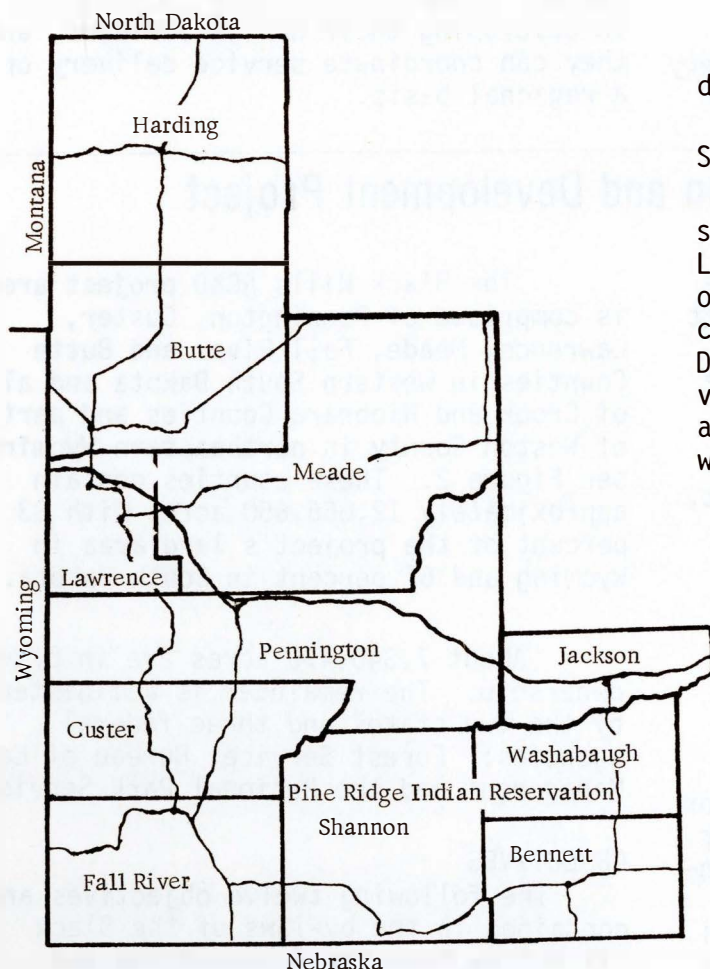


Figure 1
Sixth District Council of Local Governments

Western Health Systems Inc.

Western Health Systems, Inc., is a non-profit community corporation. Any individual, institution, or governmental unit in the Sixth District area with a legitimate concern about health can solicit for membership in the corporation.

A Board of Directors is elected from the membership with representation from political groups, paying clientele, providers of medical services and public that carry on day-to-day activities of the corporation.

Western Health Systems, Inc., is funded as a project site for the Experimental Health Services Delivery System program in the United States Department of Health, Education and Welfare. Western Health Systems is one of nineteen project sites in the country.

Their goal is to improve the delivery of health care services in western South

Dakota by performing the following functions in a planning and development capacity:

1. Data collection for assistance in the management of health care delivery;
2. Planning to facilitate the coordination and integration of health services delivery;
3. Development of innovative approaches to the delivery of health services.

To assist the board of directors, they have hired an Executive Director and staff to lend expertise to research and evaluation of programs and proposals. Other committees are formed for special projects as needed.

Western Health Systems, Inc., does not provide health services in any manner. They assist local communities in developing their health services, and they can coordinate service delivery on a regional basis.

Black Hills Resource Conservation and Development Project

The Black Hills Area Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) project began functioning in October 1968. It is sponsored by 21 organizations in the Black Hills area of South Dakota and Wyoming.

The RC&D project is an independent, non-profit, non-partisan group. Its primary concern is the accelerated development of all natural and human resources in the Black Hills area, consistent with sound conservation and economic principles and in accordance with public laws and statutes.

The major objective is to assist people in helping themselves maintain or improve their standard of living, their communities, the quality of the environment and their over-all economy. The project emphasizes the wise use of available natural resources and capitalizing on available human skills and talents.

The Black Hills RC&D project area is comprised of Pennington, Custer, Lawrence, Meade, Fall River and Butte Counties in western South Dakota and all of Crook and Niobrara Counties and part of Weston County in northeastern Wyoming, see Figure 2. These counties contain approximately 12,066,650 acres with 33 percent of the project's land area in Wyoming and 67 percent in South Dakota.

About 7,340,470 acres are in private ownership. The remainder is administered by the two states and three federal agencies: Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service.

OBJECTIVES

The following twelve objectives are contained in the by-laws of the Black Hills Area Resource Conservation and Development Project, March 17, 1970.

1. Develop land and water resources for agriculture, municipal or industrial use and for recreation and wildlife.

2. Provide soil and water resource information for a variety of land and water uses including farming, ranching, recreation, housing, industry and transportation.

3. Provide conservation measures for watershed protection and flood prevention.

4. Accelerate the soil survey where it complements project measures.

5. Reduce pollution of air and water.

6. Speed up conservation work on individual farms, ranches, and other private holdings and on public land.

7. Make needed adjustments in land use by converting surplus or poorly suited cropland to a more beneficial use -- grass, trees, wildlife, recreation.

8. Improve and expand recreational facilities; promote historical and scenic attractions.

9. Encourage existing industries to expand and new ones to locate in the area and thus create jobs; encourage industries to process products of the area.

10. Improve markets for crop, livestock and forest products.

11. Improve or bring to the area needed community facilities such as hospitals, schools, sewage treatment plants and roads.

12. Encourage training and retraining programs to improve job skills.

LEGAL AUTHORITY

The RC&D project is sponsored by local public bodies that have the legal authority to undertake resource development activities. Soil and water conservation districts, county governing groups, municipalities, towns, state agencies, irrigation districts, public development corporations and similar groups are usually eligible.

After the project application is approved by the Governor, it is forwarded through the Soil Conservation Service to the United States Department of Agriculture for review and consideration for authorization of planning assistance. After USDA authorization for planning assistance is granted, the state conservationist for the Soil Conservation Service appoints a project coordinator.

When the project plan is completed, it is submitted to the Governor and/or other state and federal agencies for approval. Upon approval the Secretary of Agriculture authorizes USDA agencies to assist the sponsors in carrying out those phases of the plan for which each agency has authority.

The Soil and Water Conservation Districts have an important role in RC&D project operations because of the authority given them under state laws to carry out broad land use programs.

SPONSORS

The Black Hills RC&D project area is sponsored by 21 organizations in the Black Hills area of Wyoming and South Dakota. The sponsors include the following: The Black Hills Conservancy Sub-District, The Boards of County Commissioners of Butte, Custer, Fall River, Lawrence, Meade and Pennington Counties in South Dakota, and Crook, Niobrara and Weston Counties in Wyoming; eleven Soil and Water Conservation Districts -- Butte, Custer, East Pennington, Lawrence, Pennington, Elk Creek, Fall River, and Tri-County in South Dakota, and Beaver Skull, Devils Tower and Niobrara Conservation Districts in Wyoming.

ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTION

The RC&D Council is composed of one representative from each of the sponsors. This Council is charged with the responsibility of guiding the efforts of the entire project. They set the objectives and are responsible for making the final determination of priorities, compiling a work plan, taking official action as necessary and seeing that the work plan is carried out.

The Executive Committee, composed of the Chairman, 1st Vice-Chairman, 2nd Vice-Chairman and four committeemen, are responsible to do such work as designated by the RC&D Council.

A Secretary-Treasurer is appointed by the RC&D Council to keep the records of the Council and handle the necessary correspondence.

Sub-Committees have been designated to receive and evaluate project proposals. These committees include: Agriculture, Land and Water, Tourism and Recreation, Wildlife, Transportation, Forestry, Industry and Mineral and Human Resources, and Community Development. The sub-committees receive all project proposals

and suggest priorities when submitting the project proposals to the RC&D Council and whoever they invite to meet with them.

LOCAL RESOURCE PANEL

At least one local Resource Panel is to be organized in each county. RC&D Council members from each local area are to assist in organizing the Local Resource Panel. These panels are to be composed of interested citizens who represent their communities, businesses and/or organizations within their area. Their function is to give local representation to the RC&D project.

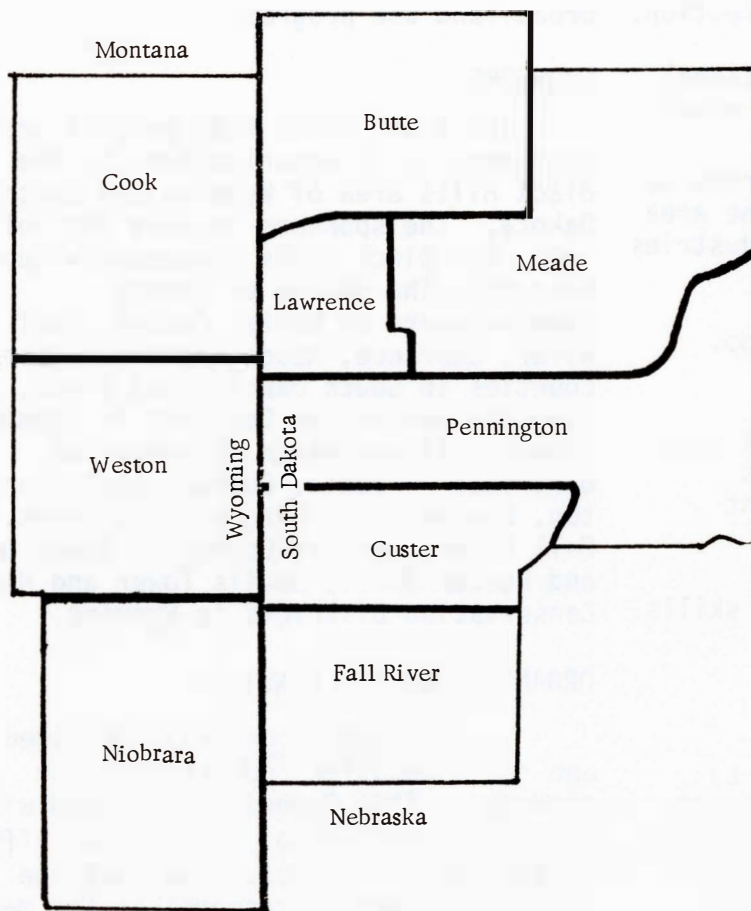


Figure 2
Black Hills Area Resource Conservation
and Development Project Area

Black Hills Conservancy Sub-District

Six Conservancy Sub-Districts have been organized in the State of South Dakota, which includes over 90 percent of the state in terms of area and population. The remaining 10 percent voted not to participate in the Conservancy Sub-Districts. The activities of the Sub-Districts are coordinated through the South Dakota Department of Natural Resources.

The Black Hills Conservancy Sub-District was created in 1964 after approval by the people in the general election of that year.

It is composed of Lawrence, Meade, Custer and Pennington counties with the exception of the towns of Quinn and Pringle, see Figure 3. The voting public of Quinn and Pringle elected not to participate in the Black Hills Conservancy Sub-District.

OBJECTIVES

The Sub-Districts were created in order that construction of water resource facilities for the conservation, storage, distribution and utilization of water for multiple purpose may proceed in order:

(a) "to provide for the future economic welfare and prosperity of people of this state;

(b) "to provide for the irrigation of lands within the sections of such Districts periodically afflicted with drought, and to stabilize the production of crops thereon;

(c) "to replenish and restore the depleted waters of lakes, rivers, streams, and underground waters in such District, and to stabilize the flow of said streams, levels of lakes, and levels and pressures of underground waters;

(d) "to reserve within the District for present or future beneficial uses, all waters within the boundaries of the state;

(e) "to provide flood protection, navigation, erosion control and in all other ways to conserve, regulate and control the waters in the state."¹

LEGAL AUTHORITY ²

1. The Black Hills Conservancy Sub-District Board of Directors has the power to levy taxes, not to exceed one-tenth of one mill on each dollar of taxable property (one-tenth of one mill is equal to .0001 of a dollar) in the Sub-District, for the accomplishment of their objectives.

2. Enter into contract or contracts with federal, state or local government and private corporations and individuals on an annual basis.

3. Sue and be sued in the name of the Sub-District.

4. Buy, sell, lease, hold and dispose of property.

5. Exercise the power of eminent domain when necessary. Eminent domain can be defined as the power of government that is used from time to time to facilitate the acquisition of particular sites for desired public purposes.

6. Accept funds, property and services or other assistance, financial or otherwise, from federal, state and other public or private sources for the purpose of aiding and promoting the construction, maintenance and operation of any or all water resource projects.

7. Equip, maintain and operate an office as the principal place of business for the Sub-District.

1. South Dakota Water Conservancy District, Chapter 61.42, Number 61.1401.

2. Ibid, Number 61.1422.

8. Enter into a contract or contracts for a supply of water, including facilities to distribute and control such water supply from the United States, or a department or agency thereof, or other parties; and to contract to furnish water for beneficial use to irrigation districts, persons, public or private corporations, state and federal agencies or any other entity, and to obtain water rights for such water supply for such beneficial uses.

9. The Sub-District Board doesn't have the authority to generate, transmit, distribute or sell electrical power.

If the Black Hills Conservancy Sub-District is at some future date granted contracting authority by the eligible voters of the four county Sub-District area, it will then have the power to enter into long-term contracts and levy up to one mill on real and personal property as provided in Chapter 61.1427 S.D. Compiled Laws, 1960.

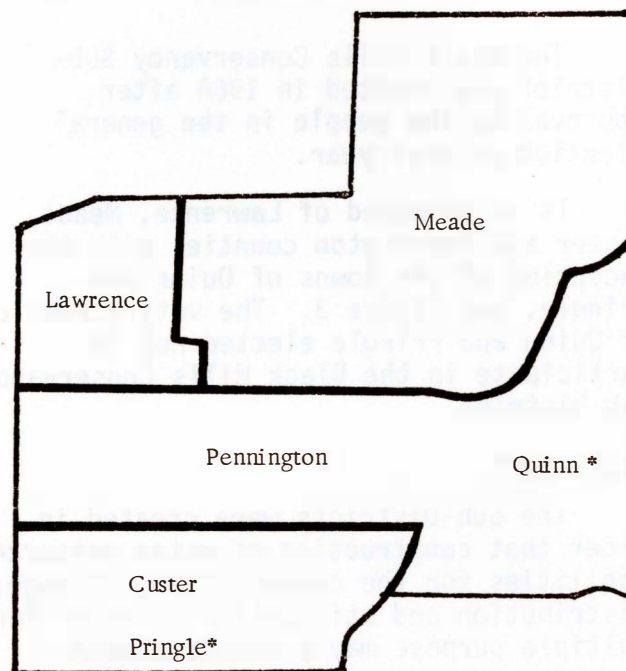
ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTION

According to the Sub-District by-laws, the Sub-District shall be governed by a Board of Directors elected by the people during the general election. In each county two directors are elected, one representing rural areas and one the municipalities. In addition, one director is elected at large to represent

the rural areas of the entire sub-district.

Each director must be an owner of real property in the area he is representing. At the first meeting in January of each year, the Sub-District Board of Directors elect a chairman, vice-chairman, and secretary from among their membership. The directors appoint a treasurer who may or may not be a director.

Figure 3
Black Hills Conservancy Sub-District Area



*These areas not included in
the Black Hills Conservancy Sub-District

District USDA Committee for Rural Development

The District USDA Committee for Rural Development was created by action of the State USDA Committee for Rural Development. This committee is to serve the same geographic area as the Black Hills Area RC&D Project and the remaining counties in the Sixth District Council of local Governments.

Representation from each of the USDA Agencies (district and area personnel) is selected by respective State USDA Committee Chairman.

The following functions for the District USDA Committee for Rural Development have been identified by the State USDA Committee and are taken from the manual "USDA Guidelines for Rural Development in South Dakota, October 1972."

1. Serve in a technical advisory capacity to the Sixth District Council of Local Governments and Sixth District Council of Local Governments Staff.

2. Attend as regularly as possible the monthly meetings of the Sixth District Council of Local Governments.

3. Provide data and technical information available through USDA Agencies to the Sixth District Council of Local Governments Staff.

4. Encourage the active functioning of the County USDA Rural Development committees and help them to identify their program roles.

5. Identify the field staff training needs in Rural Development and recommend conferences and workshops as needed.

6. Develop and maintain a system of communications that will keep the state committee informed of new rural development activities and the progress of current and on-going Rural Development projects in the District.

7. Serve in a liaison capacity between the State Committee and local government agencies and rural development organizations within the District.

8. Evaluate proposed and on-going Rural Development activities in the District which will assist the State Committee in making judgements for programs support.

9. Help to identify Rural Development program needs in the District which are not currently being met.

10. Encourage the formation and operation of county inter-agency rural development committees to enhance effective working relationships and liaison with other government agencies for comprehensive planning, development and combined services.

County USDA Rural Development Committee

The following information is taken from "USDA Guidelines for Rural Development in South Dakota, October 1972."

The membership of the County USDA Rural Development Committee is composed of representatives from the local offices of the USDA agencies. Officials of other federal, state and county government agencies serving the county are invited to be members of/or participate in activities of County USDA Rural Development committees.

The County Rural Development committee functions are to:

1. Keep abreast of state and district USDA rural development committee policies and guidelines.

2. Serve in a technical advisory capacity to the county planning committee and other local planning organizations.

3. Provide data and technical information through their respective USDA agencies to the county planning

committee and other planning organizations.

4. Cooperate with county planning and zoning commissions, county development committees where they are organized and county RC&D panels or committees to aid in providing direction; provide resource data or referral service that will strengthen multi-county economic, social or cultural growth.

5. Serve as inventory sources of federal and local assistance available for social and economic development in rural areas and as the focal point for rural development groups in their contacts with agencies of federal, state and county governments serving the county.

6. Advise groups on the type of organization needed to carry out projects and obtain agency assistance.

7. Help rural individuals and groups identify problems, determine priorities of projects and activities, and develop solutions.

Farmers Home Administration ³

The Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) of the United States Department of Agriculture channels credit to farmers, rural residents and communities. They have a responsibility to help borrowers gain maximum benefit from a loan through counseling and technical assistance.

The FmHA has several credit programs that farmers and rural people can call upon to help purchase or operate farms, provide new employment and business opportunities, enhance environment, acquire homes and upgrade the standard of living for those who wish to live in small towns or open country.

The agencies' loan authorities provide a supplemental source of credit, augmenting the private lenders rather than competing with them. Under most FmHA programs the borrower is required to "graduate" to commercial credit when able to do so.

The major purposes of FmHA's rural credit programs can be grouped into the following:

(1) To assist in building the family farm system, which is the economic and social base of many rural communities.

(2) To help expand business and industry, increase income and employment and control or abate pollution.

(3) To promote economic growth and development by helping rural areas upgrade their quality of living by installing water and waste disposal systems and other needed community facilities.

(4) To provide or improve modest homes in suitable rural environment at prices and on terms that families of low or moderate income can afford.

While all applications are considered regardless of sex, race, color, creed or national origin of the applicant the following general rules of eligibility do apply:

Farmer Credit: Borrower must be a family-size operator, living on and operating his farm, at least on a part-time basis.

Housing Credit: Families of low or moderate income may obtain loans to buy, build or repair homes for their own use, or rental units may be built for occupancy by persons 62 years of age or older, or for low or moderate income families. Housing is for open country or towns that are rural in character with population of not more than 10,000.

Community Credit: Rural towns of 10,000 population or less and rural areas may borrow to improve or develop community facilities, including waste and water systems.

Business and Industrial Credit: Loans to promote development of business and industry, or for small business enterprises, may be made for projects in cities and towns below 50,000 population, but not in larger cities or in areas adjacent to them where population density is more than 100 persons per square mile. Preference is given to applications for projects in open country, rural communities, and towns of 25,000 and smaller.

3. All information in this section was taken from USDA FmHA Fact Sheet, December, 1973.

Additional information on loans and services available can be obtained at your local FmHA office.

Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service⁴

In the United States Department of Agriculture, the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service is the agency that administers specified commodity and related land use programs designed for voluntary production adjustment, resource protection, and price, market and income stabilization.

"Personnel and facilities of the agency are utilized also for various functions of the commodity credit corporation, which is the governmental unit charged with financing agricultural price support, commodity set-aside programs, and related activities including commodity acquisition, handling, storage and disposal operation."⁵

The agency's primary responsibilities are to:

Improve the economic stability of agriculture by aiding farmers to achieve supply and demand balances that result in an equitable share of both domestic and export markets, and an equitable return on those markets.

Maintain an even flow of quality products to market at reasonable prices to

4. Information Source: ASCS Background Information, U.S. Dept. of Agri., BI No. 1, November 1973, and USDA Guidelines for Rural Development in South Dakota, March, 1973.

5. Ibid, p. 1.

both producer and consumer through production adjustment programs.

Improve and protect soil and water resources by aiding farmers to carry out conservation and land use practices.

All programs that are administered by ASCS that deal directly with farmers are carried out through state, county and community committees. Each ASCS county committee employs a county executive director who in turn hires for the committee the necessary employees for office work and field work and sees that the day-to-day office and field operations are carried out.

The county ASCS committee is comprised of three farmers with the county agricultural Extension agent serving as an ex-officio member of the committee or serving as committee secretary. However, he does not have committee voting rights.

To assist the county committee in carrying out their program, community committees of three farmers each are elected annually by other farmers in each of several local communities within the county.

The state committee consists of three members appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture. In addition, the Director of the Agricultural Extension Service serves as an ex-officio member but without committee voting rights.

Soil Conservation Service⁶

The Soil Conservation Service provides technical assistance to individuals, groups, organizations, cities and towns, and county and state governments in reducing the costly waste of land and water resources to provide more efficient use of these national assets. "The objective is use and conservation treatment of the land in harmony with its capability and needs."⁷

The functions of the Soil Conservation Service's technical staff is to diagnose resource problems and prescribe safe use and treatment. The technical staff includes agricultural, irrigation, hydraulic, drainage, and cartographic engineers; soil scientist, economist and specialists in agronomy, biology, forestry, plant materials, range management, geology and sedimentation. Land

users can avail themselves of these technologies through the onsite assistance they receive from their county SCS soil conservationist.

Under state law conservation districts are organized by local people. It is through these districts that individuals and groups receive help from the SCS. The districts are managed by an elected and unsalaried board made up of local citizens.

Each district is legally responsible under state law for soil and water conservation work within its boundaries. Districts operate under the guidance of a state conservation commission whose members are appointed by the Governor.

6. Information Source: Assistance Available from the Soil Conservation Service, Bulletin No. 345, Oct., 1970.
7. Ibid, p. 1.
8. USDA Guidelines for Rural Development in South Dakota, March, 1973.

At the request of the conservation district boards the Soil Conservation Service under written agreement, provides professional soil conservationists to help plan and carry out the district's conservation program.

"The Soil Conservation Service provides natural resource information, technical assistance, cost sharing and coordination of federal, state and local groups for the purpose of resource conservation planning and development. Assistance is provided through programs including assistance to Conservation Districts, Resource Conservation and Development Projects, Great Plains Conservation Programs, Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention, River Basin Planning, the National Cooperative Soil Survey and other activities and programs."⁸

For more information about rural and urban programs available through the SCS Agency contact your local soil conservationists or a member of your district conservation board.

Forest Service

Forest Service personnel work with the South Dakota State Foresters and other organizations to support state and local efforts to develop new jobs and economic opportunities and to improve living and cultural conditions in rural areas. Communities located near the National Forests and grasslands area can obtain professional assistance from Forest Service personnel and the State Forester's staff. All other areas of the state requesting forestry assistance can obtain it from the State Forester's staff.

State and Federal Foresters possess the expertise and resources to assist communities in finding new opportunities in the following areas:

1. Protection and management of natural resources including scenic, wildlife and other special values of forest and range environments.

2. Technological improvements to protect and improve the quality of the environment and to extend supplies of natural resources.

3. Expanded public understanding of environmental conservation.

The Forest Service and its cooperating State Forestry Agency engage in numerous rural development efforts. Accelerated management of the state's forests and rangelands would add impetus to rural development efforts by making available additional resources.

Areas of emphasis are:

1. Providing forestry inputs to regional and multi-county planning programs to ensure orderly development of forest resources and maximum use compatible with multiple use objectives.

2. Provide technical advice to protect natural resources during development activities such as housing, roads and recreation enterprise development; and to protect developments from wild-fire, flood and other damage.
3. Locating and strengthening markets for under-utilized forest products; i.e., rangeland, all timber products, recreation potential and water resources.
4. Improving yields of timber through planting of superior stock, timber stand improvement, fertilization and other practices.
5. Reducing costs and increasing values of wood products through improvements in harvesting, processing and distribution.
6. Developing ways to use wood more efficiently as a construction material and extending its service life with particular emphasis on low-cost housing needs.
7. Mechanizing forestry operations to recover wood residues and to reduce costs.
8. Providing training and jobs for rural people through various cooperative manpower programs.
9. Operating the Box Elder Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center. Operating a Youth Conservation Corps camp each summer to work with youth of all economic, social and ethnic groups in doing projects beneficial to the forest while teaching environmental awareness. Providing jobs, training, environmental education and outdoor experiences for youth and minority groups.
10. Providing technology for forest-based recreation enterprises.
11. Helping to equip and train rural fire departments.
12. Helping to protect and improve shelterbelts.
13. Designing land-use management programs that produce more high quality water for domestic use, irrigation, industry and water-oriented recreation.
14. Developing criteria to guide forest planning and allocating for recreational use to guide selection of recreation sites and to restore depleted sites.
15. Providing technology for reducing air and water pollution from forestry related operations.
16. Assisting educational institutions to provide environmental education at elementary, high school and college levels.

Cooperative Extension Service

The Cooperative Extension Service is the off-campus educational arm, responsible for carrying out the informal teaching program of the South Dakota State University College of Agriculture.

Its purpose is to provide to the people of South Dakota information pertaining to agriculture, home economics, community development and related subjects that will help them in finding solutions to their problems. In turn

the Extension Service is to bring back to the University problems in agriculture, home economics and community development that need study and research by the staff in the College of Agriculture and Home Economics.

The Cooperative Extension Service was established in the early 1900's as a cooperative undertaking by the United States Department of Agriculture, South Dakota State University and the counties.

"The South Dakota law governing county Extension work was enacted by the South Dakota Legislature in 1915. It authorized Extension work to be carried on in the counties in cooperation with South Dakota State University and the United States Department of Agriculture. It establishes the basics of the educational programs, organizations for tax support, limitation of appropriation and provides for report of the work."⁹

Because the Cooperative Extension Service is also part of the USDA it has two principal responsibilities.

1. To develop educational programs to meet the specific needs within the various counties and state.
2. To provide leadership in and coordination of all educational programs of USDA.

While the USDA Extension Service has the primary responsibility for leading educational programs under the jurisdiction of the Department, it is largely through cooperation with the Cooperative Extension Service of land-grant colleges and universities that the educational responsibility is accomplished.¹⁰

Extension's job is not to sell a program but to present the facts in an unbiased manner for people to use in their decision-making.

The following functions for county Extension boards and county and state extension personnel have been identified by the Extension administrators and are taken from the manual "Handbook for County Extension Board Members," 1973.

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9. Handbook for County Extension Board Members, p. 1.
 10. Ibid., p. 4.
 11. Chapter, 4.0503 SDCL, 1915.

The Board of County Commissioners appoints five to seven members to serve on the County Extension Board. At least two of these members shall be farmers and one a member of the Board of County Commissioners. The county commissioner may be one of the farmer representatives.¹¹

This Board represents the people of the county in administrative aspects of personnel employment, program planning and conducting the county programs. It deals directly with the County Extension staff and the District Extension Supervisor.

The District Extension Supervisor in District Six represents the Director of Extension. He is responsible for coordinating policies, programs, schedules, agent training, county office management, progress reports and public relations in all phases of the Extension program. He also represents the Director in matters of financing, personnel relationships and personnel placements.

The Home Economics State Leader for District Six has responsibility for the coordination of county Extension home economics programs. She is to help the Extension Home Economists plan, evaluate and report the success of the programs. She and the District Supervisor work together on all phases of programs, schedules, agent training, reports, personnel and public relations.

The county or area Extension agent (agriculture or home economist) is responsible for developing and executing the programs in the county or area assigned.

The Extension Specialist is responsible for in-service training of county Extension agents in subject matter areas. He is to assist in developing and carrying out Extension programs, interprets research data and gives area or statewide publicity to programs in his field. The specialist cooperates with state and regional organizations and coordinates area or statewide informational activities in his field.

In District Six about 22¼ percent of County Extension staff time is employed in improving farm income, 41 percent in 4-H and youth programs, 18 3/4 percent in family living, 7 percent in community development and 11 percent in Extension organization and leadership.

West River Agricultural Research and Extension Center

The staff of the West River Agricultural Research and Extension Center provide technical support for county Extension programs in western South Dakota.

The center was formed October 1, 1969, by the consolidation of South Dakota State University research and Extension personnel working in western South Dakota.

Primary reasons for staff consolidation and formation of the West River Center were: (1) to enable a better exchange of ideas between Departments and between Extension and Research personnel regarding their programs of work and the needs of clientele in the area, (2) to give the staff a firmer base of operation and develop a sense of belonging to a team, and (3) to allow for more effective use of staff, equipment and facilities.

The Center represents all areas of the College of Agriculture and Biological Sciences in terms of subject matter the staff covers now or might eventually handle. Its purpose is to permit us to concentrate staff efforts on a broad range of agricultural research and Extension programs to better serve all the people of South Dakota.

Although separated geographically from the University campus, it is an integral part of the College of Agricultural and Biological Sciences at South Dakota State University, with programs presently funded and coordinated through three Departments and the Cooperative Extension Service.

Most Extension programs of the Research and Extension Center are primarily conducted in counties west of the Missouri River; however, some are conducted statewide. Research staff have project responsibilities at the Antelope Range Field Station near Buffalo, South Dakota; Cottonwood Field Station at Cottonwood, Fort Meade near Sturgis, South Dakota and with numerous land owners as well as other public agencies.

Research programs at the West River Center are concerned with:

1. Livestock research aimed at increasing the productivity of western South Dakota's livestock enterprises.
2. Range Management research directed at --
 - a. improving and maintaining rangeland productivity.
 - b. studying the problem of encroachment of woody plants into grasslands in the foothill region of the Black Hills.
3. Rural Development research designed to improve the environmental and economic well-being of both rural and urban residents.
4. Plant Science research with emphasis on --
 - a. evaluation of agronomy practices useful in improving range condition.
 - b. soil-plant relationships with particular emphasis on fertility practices.

The Extension staff of the West River Center provide technical subject matter support for west river county Extension programs in:

1. Animal Science -- nutrition, breeding and management of beef cattle and sheep.
2. Rural Development -- improve the environmental and economic well-being of all residents through educational programs directed specifically toward decision-making groups.

3. 4-H Club Work -- in agriculture, home economics and youth development.

4. Plant Science -- educational programs on grasslands management, soils, soil fertility and the principal crops grown in western South Dakota.

The West River Center presently has a staff of 10 professional and 2 clerical employees.

Conclusion

Each of these agencies and organizations have specific functions to perform which can benefit the people living in the eleven western counties of South Dakota, by improving the standard of living, the communities, the quality of environment and the over-all economy. Their success in helping bring about this change is determined by the willingness of local leaders to become involved in community development activities.

In order to efficiently utilize the expertise and resources provided through these agencies and groups, better communication between agencies and rural development groups is needed. This can bring about better coordination between agencies and organizations, thus helping to prevent unnecessary overlapping of functions and duplication of effort.