

South Dakota State University

Open PRAIRIE: Open Public Research Access Institutional Repository and Information Exchange

SDSU Extension Circulars

SDSU Extension

6-1946

Water Spreading

South Dakota State University Cooperative Extension

Follow this and additional works at: https://openprairie.sdstate.edu/extension_circ

Recommended Citation

Cooperative Extension, South Dakota State University, "Water Spreading" (1946). *SDSU Extension Circulars*. 850.

https://openprairie.sdstate.edu/extension_circ/850

This Circular is brought to you for free and open access by the SDSU Extension at Open PRAIRIE: Open Public Research Access Institutional Repository and Information Exchange. It has been accepted for inclusion in SDSU Extension Circulars by an authorized administrator of Open PRAIRIE: Open Public Research Access Institutional Repository and Information Exchange. For more information, please contact michael.biondo@sdstate.edu.

Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



For current policies and practices, contact SDSU Extension

Website: extension.sdstate.edu

Phone: 605-688-4792

Email: sdsu.extension@sdstate.edu

SDSU Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer in accordance with the nondiscrimination policies of South Dakota State University, the South Dakota Board of Regents and the United States Department of Agriculture.

630.732
S087.26
No. 8

Water Spreading

Diverting runoff water and spreading it over flat lands is important in the areas of limited rainfall.

What to do

Build an earth dam to store runoff water. The water can then be released into diversion ditches or behind dikes and spread over flat lands below, where it is used to flood irrigate alfalfa or grassland.

Build a small dike across the water course and lead the water through a ditch or dike to where it can spread over the flat lands below.

The area to be flooded should be fairly smooth and with a uniform slope of 2 to 3 percent. Water can be spread on slopes up to 5 or 6 percent with more carefully constructed systems. The soil should be such as will absorb water readily.

Build a small earth fill across a draw and connect it with a diversion ditch which will carry the water to the area where it is to be spread. The diversion ditch can be converted into a spreader ditch by reducing the fall and putting the excavated earth on the uphill side.

Ranchers report that flooding alfalfa and grass lands with runoff water increases the vegetative growth from 50 to 100 percent.



A dike to lead the water



Water spreading over pasture land



EXTRA WATER MEANS MORE GRASS

For specifications and details of construction, consult your Soil Conservation District Supervisors, an SCS Technician or an engineer.

THIS BOOK DOES
NOT CIRCULATE

AGRICULTURE EXTENSION SERVICE

South Dakota State College - Soil Conservation Service
United States Department of Agriculture, Cooperating

Ext. Offset Circular 8

June, 1946

630.732
S087.26
No. 8