

NORTH DAKOTA INSTITUTE FOR REGIONAL STUDIES

Faculty members of the North Dakota Agricultural College School of Arts and Sciences have established the North Dakota Institute for Regional Studies. A cooperative project, it has three purposes:

- * to stimulate research into the history, natural resources, and cultures of the northern plains and prairies;
- * to develop a collection of printed materials and scientific specimens essential for such research;
- * to facilitate the publication of significant findings.

Because combined effort intelligently organized is more effective than the best efforts of isolated individuals, the institute is conceived as a community of scholars having a common purpose and with a common faith in the region and its people.

As its name implies, the institute is concerned with both North Dakota and the great region of which it is a part, for man-made boundaries do not demarcate the sources of knowledge. And emphasizing the interdependence of all knowledge, the institute intends to create an environment where the student, whatever his special interest, will find men well versed in various aspects of the region and the technical facilities equal to his needs.

Imminent developments of great promise make imperative the careful study of the region's resources and characteristics, for stable growth depends upon substantial knowledge. The institute desires to encourage studies which contribute significantly to the knowledge of the region and the cultures which it has produced.

In the sixty years since the founding of North Dakota Agricultural College a good start was made toward assembling the materials out of which the story of this great region may be told. The appreciable holdings of the college library are being increased systematically. Books, periodicals, and newspaper files having connection with the region are of the utmost significance.

Likewise collections of letters, memoirs, and other records of the early days, not yet so distant as to outspan the memory of living men, are the indispensable raw material of which reliable knowledge is forged. The institute is ready to assist in the preservation of these valuable materials which are disappearing with each passing day—an irreplaceable loss.

The institute is also building a scientific collection of specimens pertaining to the natural resources of the region and the plant, animal, and human life it has supported. A significant step has been taken with the acquisition of two extensive collections. One includes some 30,000 catalogued plants and the other approximately 1000 birds and mammals found in the region, as well as geological and archaeological specimens.

Finally, the institute will encourage the publication of significant writings. While its first is a valuable scientific study of the plants of North Dakota, it is not intended to limit support to works having interest only for the specialist. Meritorious creative work is of equal value, and is often in greater need of encouragement.

Correspondence should be addressed to the director, North Dakota Institute for Regional Studies, North Dakota Agricultural College, Fargo.

HOLDING ON TO VITAMIN C

Recent work shows that vitamin C content of many fresh vegetables is maintained in cellophane packages as well as or better than when the produce is exposed to the air. Tomatoes lose this elusive quality under all conditions of storage, but they lose less at cool temperatures than at 70° or above. If held beyond full ripe stage they continue to lose it. A water spray of a growth regulator (p-chloro-phenoxyacetic acid) applied to snap beans and lima beans 4 days before harvesting had little effect on vitamin C content at harvest, but a few days later the treated beans had lost much less than those not treated. The same treatment gave opposite results with kale, and had no effect on spinach. The treated beans also lost less moisture under storage, which means they look better to the housewife by the time they reach the corner grocery.—USDA Agricultural Research Administration.