

RHW



# NORTH DAKOTA Farm Research

Bimonthly  
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...This land is your land,  
this land is my land...



# Guest Column



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of Horticulture

As North Dakota citizens, we desire to keep our state alive and progressive. In order to do this, our first concern must be for the people who live, work and socialize in our state.

What will the future hold for North Dakota by 2076? One hundred years ago, our state was virtually an unscarred prairie. Today, 618,000 people live within its boundaries. In the future we can expect developments and increases in agricultural crop production, livestock management and coal development and our irrigation potential. How will this increased technology affect the population in the future? Crops and minerals can be produced today in greater quantities, with fewer people needed to manage operations than in the past. Will this be the eventual fate of North Dakota?

Where do people fit living in the present economy? Twenty-four per cent of our people live on farms and are directly responsible for agricultural production. Thirty per cent are rural non-farm (towns under 2,500 population) and 46 per cent are urban. The question then arises, since the state has shown a decline in population, what area of agricultural research, extension or teaching may aid in stabilizing the total population?

Results of research on potatoes and garden vegetables, fruits and woody and herbaceous ornamentals can be applied and used by North Dakotans. Such information will directly benefit all segments of the population. An appreciation of horticulture, whether as a business or as an enjoyable hobby, can be an important tool in helping to stabilize our population.

Aesthetics means "relation to the beautiful as distinguished from the pleasing, the moral, the financial and the useful." It is a needed area of life that is difficult to measure financially. Every civilization as it matures has emphasized horticultural

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**On The Cover:** Extension Visuals Specialist Matt Lanz graphically expresses some of the land use alternatives facing North Dakotans.

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