

A Brighter Outlook for Tomorrow in Indian Country

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The Fort Berthold Indian Reservation encompasses close to a million acres and consists of the Mandan, Arikara and Hidatsa tribes. These tribes are formed into one governing body called the Three Affiliated Tribes (TAT). The presentation will begin with a brief history of the Native American people living in this area and address the problems associated with relocation from the river bottoms due to the construction of the Garrison Dam on the Missouri River. The geographical limitations and distances encountered in reaching small farmers consist of poor roads and great distances (220 miles from the SE corner to the NE corner of the Reservation).

The presentation will focus on the college programs, with the main thrust on adult education of small farmers and the outreach work on the reservation and surrounding counties. Problems and questions confronting client producers in our area entail transportation, availability of markets, marketing skills, credit for capital needs and operating, new animal husbandry and crop production techniques, and USDA program participation. The reservation encompasses parts of six different counties,

which creates problems for producers trying to utilize services from USDA. Lastly, we will look at problems associated with the commodities raised in our area and the farm crisis, which is not unique to the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation.