

SERVICE OF

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#### TO DEMONSTRATE NOT TELL

Spokane, Wash.- The Government will not attempt to tell Columbia Basin Project settlers what crops they can grow on project lands, a Bureau of Reclamation spokesman told the Soil Conservation section of the Northwest Scientific Association at its 20th annual meeting in Spokane.

J. L. Toevs, chief of the project's land development section at Ephrata, said that several development farms are to be established in the project area in advance of settlement. Through these farms, the government hopes to assist settlers by demonstrating what crops are best suited to project soils and weather conditions, and what irrigation farming methods can be followed for best results.

The demonstration farms also will be of great value to business men who already are showing interest in establishing agricultural processing plants in the project area for sugar beets, potatoes, frozen foods, certified seeds, and grape juices, Mr. Toevs pointed out.

He said development farms will be established near Moses Lake and Pasco, Washington, and possibly in the Quincy and Winchester districts. The 80-acre Mosos Lake farm is scheduled for operation in 1947. The land has been leveled, a well is being drilled, and construction of farm buildings will begin soon.

The Columbia Basin Project development farm program is necessary because soils and lengths of growing seasons vary greatly throughout the project area extending more than 100 miles north and south, and up to 68 miles east and west.

The yearly frost-free period has varied from 208 to 123 days at the 26 temperature recording stations established by the Bureau in the project in 1940.

These weather and soil variations indicate that a great variety of crops may be grown in the project.

Washington State College, through its agricultural experiment stations and the Bureau of Plant Industry are assisting the Bureau of Reclamation in its development program for the million-acre Columbia Basin project and much of the technical and fundamental research will be done at Prosser, Washington.

"The Bureau of Reclamation will develop the farms, furnish water and farm equipment, and operate the farms. Washington State College and the Bureau of Plant Industry will be principally responsible for the research program."

Experiments will include testing water and fertilizer requirements of the various soils in the project area; methods of applying water, including sprinkler irrigation; means of preventing wind and water erosion; and the adaptability of crops grown in other sections of the country as well as outstanding varieties common to the Pacific Northwest.