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Realizing Your Potential as an Agricultural Economist in Extension

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WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT SIMULATOR: AN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

presented by

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Growth in our nation's population and affluence is placing an increasing demand on this often limited and variable resource. Management of water resources is being hampered by public unawareness of the major variables and limitations of the resource system. The public and our elected officials must be informed if we are to manage water resources responsibly.

The WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT SIMULATOR enables participants to focus on the major factors involved in the intelligent management of our water resources. The water management simulator can be used in workshops for community and school groups to provide basic knowledge on water resources. The simulator is designed to help people develop and evaluate water management strategies. Participants are given an opportunity to make decisions about storage of surface and ground water, rate of water use, sources of water, technology of water use, and return flows through the use of control consoles connected to the simulator.

The simulator places people in decision-making situations involving real variables and alternatives. A strategy is devised, controls are set, and the simulator turned on. After observing the result of a given simulation, participants can discuss the strong and weak points of their water management policy, modify their strategy, press the reset button, and try again.