

Computers becoming a part of farm management

COLUMBIA, Mo. — Those few farmers operating their own computers are just the beginning of a trend toward

computerized agriculture, says a University of Missouri-Columbia agricultural economist.

"Computers are becoming more usable, practical and specialized and should play a major part in farm management of the future," says Norlin Hein.

UMC has launched a pilot project to show how portable computer terminals can be used by Extension specialists to help farmers make better decisions. The specialists and farmers use the terminals, which look like portable typewriters with a telephone attached, to "talk" directly to computers.

UMC has already developed programs on investment analysis, four-

year financial planning, feeder pig finishing budgets, profit comparisons among different crops, and least-cost livestock rations.

Basically, it's Extension specialists who are using the terminals, but there are a few farmers and agribusinessmen who have installed their own computers and some who have terminals to tie into computer programs like the University of Nebraska's "AGNET," Michigan State's "Telplan," the Virginia Polytechnic Institute's Computerized Management Network (CMN).

This summer, four UMC

Extension specialists and about 10 Missouri farmers were using computer terminals and AGNET to determine their irrigation schedules.

"These farmers and specialists in the Chillicothe, Columbia, Mexico and Warrenton areas plug temperature and moisture data into the terminals and get a print-out telling when and if they should turn on their irrigation systems," says Hein.

With companies now producing mini or micro computers about the size of a portable typewriter, Hein sees more versatile computers for agricultural uses.

"An important use of computers will be for in-

formation retrieval," he says.

"In the future, farmers will use terminals to get pesticide recommendations, pricing information, weather forecasts, etc.

"But they will also be used for farm management analysis. For example, farmers can simply ask a computer to help them determine which crop to plant, what to feed, and whether or not an investment will likely be profitable.

"Computers would have a terrific advantage over printed publications, because such things as pesticide recommendations could be kept much more up to date."

Grain reserve worries Grant

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The leader of the nation's largest farm organization has personally urged the Secretary of Agriculture to take immediate, definite steps to deal with grain surpluses.

Allan Grant, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, met here with Agriculture Secretary Bob Bergland, recently.

Grant called for a September announcement on provisions of a 1979 feed grains program, designed to produce a crop of 5.5 billion bushels. The Secretary is mandated to make an announcement before November 15.

The 1978 crop is expected

to reach a record 6.8 billion bushels according to USDA crop forecast released last week.

Grant told the Secretary that a 5.5 billion bushel crop, coupled with an estimated 1979 carryover of about 1.5 billion bushels, will be more than enough to meet domestic and export needs.

To insure participation in the program, the Secretary was asked to announce per acre performance payments for set-aside acres.

Grant supported efforts by the Secretary to maintain favorable farm prices, but said he is "gravely concerned that the Secretary of Agriculture is but one voice raised among the many cheap food advocates in the Administration and Congress."

Champion goats named

YORK — Eighty-two dairy goats were entered into the York Fair's goat show, held earlier this month. It was sanctioned by the American Dairy Goat Association, (ADGA) and judged by Teresa Wagle of Keymar, Md., who is officially licensed by the ADGA.

Exhibitors who won champion distinction were Timothy Humphreys of

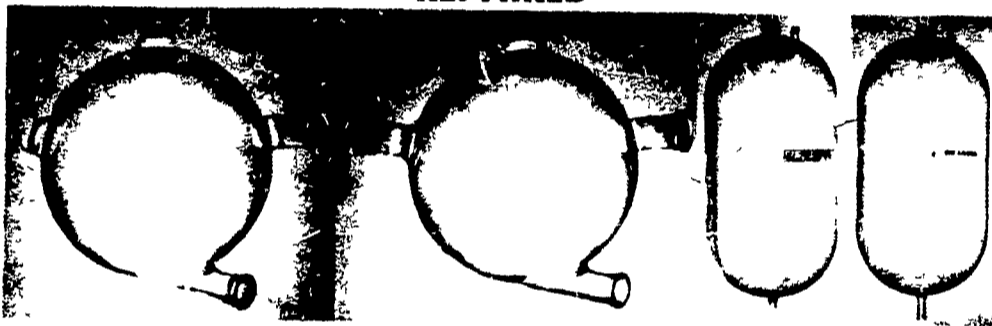
Millers, Md., with High View Heidi, an Alpine; Brandt A. Kampa, Fallstown, Md., with Abraxas Coris Getta, a Nubian; Bernard R. Bosley, Glen Rock, Pa., with Collegheny Hills Marcie, a Toggenburg, and Chenango Hills Lisa, a Saanen; and Nancy Sentman, Fawn Grove, Pa., with Nevada Desert's Champagne, a LaMancha.

Long wins Ayrshire show

YORK — Howard Long of Thurmont, Md. exhibited the grand champion Ayrshire cow here last week during the York Fair. The Maryland exhibitor also had the reserve grand champion and nearly a dozen first-place entries.

The honor of junior champion exhibitor went to Mark Jenkins. Joey Welsh captured the reserve slot. Also showing a first place animal was Barry Lehman.

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60th ANNUAL EPHRATA FAIR

SEPT. 26-27-28-29-30

All Agriculture Activities and Exhibits including farm machinery, livestock, and crops will be in "Tent City" at the Ephrata Community Park

★ FARM EQUIPMENT EXHIBITORS ★

- Penn-Jersey Harvestore Systems, Box 91, New Holland, Pa. 17557, Phone 354-4051
- A.B.C. Groff, Inc., 110 S Railroad Ave., New Holland, Pa. 17557, Phone 354-4191
- Roy H. Buch, Inc., R-2, Ephrata, Pa. 17522, Phone 859-2441
- Heritage International, Inc., 1054 S. State St. Ephrata, Pa. 17522, Phone 733-2288
- Stauffer Diesel, Inc., 312 West Main St., New Holland, Pa. 17557, Phone 354-4181.
- Wes Stauffer Small Engines, R-3, Pleasant Valley Rd., Ephrata, Pa. 17522, Phone 733-9174
- Lancaster Ford Tractor, Inc., 1655 Rohrerstown Rd., Lancaster, Pa. 17601, Phone 569-7063
- Ag-Tech Industries, 325 West Main St., New Holland, Pa. 17557, Phone 354-8721
- Show-Ease Stall Co., 573 Willow Rd., Lancaster, Pa. 17601, Phone 299-2536
- Hollinger's Power Equipment, 1755 West Main St., Ephrata, Pa. 17522, Phone 733-4151
- Levi High, Representative, O's Gold Seed Corn, Soil Conditioner, & Agri-Spon, R-1 Schoeneck Rd., Ephrata, Pa. 17522, Phone 733-7213

FARM CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Tuesday, September 26**
- Machinery Exhibits Open (Ephrata Com Park) 4:30 PM
 - Barbecued Pork Chop Dinner (YF Refresh St.) 5:30 PM
 - Adult Tractor Driving Contest (LBD) 5:00 PM
 - Jr Market Hog Judging (UBD) 5:30 PM
 - Crop Exhibits Received (Grain Tent) 5:30 PM
 - Pig Chase (UBD) 8:00 PM
- Wednesday, September 27**
- Poultry Judging (Playhouse Basement) 10:00 AM
 - Cloister FFA Tractor Driving Contest (LBD) 1:00 PM
 - Jr Market Lambs Judging (UBD) 4:30 PM
 - Street Fair Parade 7:00 PM
- Thursday, September 28**
- Jr Market Hog Sale (UBD) 6:00 PM
 - Pork Cook out Contest 6:00 PM
 - Garden Tractor Pulling Contest (LBD) 7:00 PM
 - FFA & 4-H Baby Beef Judging (UBD) 7:30 PM
- Friday, September 29**
- Area FFA Tractor Driving Contest (LBD) 1:30 PM
 - Carcass Lamb Auction (UBD) 6:30 PM
 - Cow Milking Contest (UBD) 7:00 PM
 - Junior Dairy Cattle Judging (UBD) 7:30 PM
- Saturday, September 30**
- Exhibits Close (Ephrata Community Park) Noon
 - Visit the FFA and EAYFA Refreshment & Food Stands
 - Crop, livestock, and farm machinery on display all day, with special emphasis 4-9 PM at the Ephrata Community Park. This schedule applies ONLY to the "Tent City" portion of the Ephrata Fair
 - UBD - Upper Ball Diamond at Eph Com Park
 - LBD - Lower Ball Diamond at Eph. Com Park