

Computers

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION EXPLORING FARM COMPUTER APPLICATIONS

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The Arizona Cooperative Extension Service now has microcomputers in all county offices and campus departmental offices. Computer software that has been developed by College of Agriculture faculty and by commercial vendors is being evaluated for application by farmers on a pilot basis. It is planned that University of Arizona Extension and research faculty will be working with individual farmers to test and develop applications in areas such as water management, pest management and financial management.

In addition, the Maricopa Agricultural Center demonstration farm has a microcomputer and a programmer who has been hired to develop microcomputer programs for the farm's use. A major effort has begun to develop a field record-keeping system that will support a farm accounting system.

The university faculty also is working with producer groups such as the Arizona Cotton Growers Association, Cotton Incorporated and the Arizona Farm Bureau to explore approaches to introducing more producers to microcomputer applications.