

Information system gives farmers a green thumb

Continued from page 1

which receives information from the master computer at the UK College of Agriculture in Lexington.

Within minutes, a farmer can learn what the weather will be, what the market is for a certain commodity, whether plant diseases or insects have hit his area, or when local meetings will be held. The information is provided by computerized weather or marketing systems, or by UK specialists or county Extension agents.

Much of the information Green Thumb offers to the 300 farmers in the pilot program concerns the weather. The system automatically pulls national and regional agricultural advisories, crop and moisture reports,

international crop summaries or severe weather alerts from the National Weather Service wire, and updates all reports continuously.

Farmers can also view national, state and county radar maps, three-to-five day state and county forecasts, and 12 and 36-hour surface forecasts, and ag advisers, all provided by UK meteorologists from the ag weather center in Lexington.

"The maps show warm fronts, cold fronts, and any precipitation, so the farmer can see what the weather is now and what it likely will be tomorrow or three days from now," said Bill Thom, UK agronomist. "Such timely information helps farmers make more accurate decisions about when to till,

plant, use herbicides, irrigate fields, harvest and the like."

Giltner, who farms 1,200 acres in Shelby County, agrees that Green Thumb aids decision-making. He frequently uses the system for weather information.

"Green Thumb has been very helpful in that it has told me how many good days I have for planting," Giltner said. "I can watch for rain and figure how many acres I can get planted or if I'm going to get rained out."

Last spring, Giltner was able to plant his corn 20 days earlier than usual because Green Thumb indicated the soil temperatures were high enough.

Farmers with the Green Thumb system not only receive weather information, but supply it as well. Each day 10 farmers from each county — equipped with temperature and soil thermometers and rain gauges — key into the computer system the maximum and minimum temperatures, the precipitation total, the maximum and minimum soil temperatures, and the farming operations they performed that day.

The specific, local information helps UK weather specialists make their advisories, Thom said. "That way, the specialists in Lexington know how much it rained out in Shelby or Todd County, and what the farmers there could do in spite of the rain, or how rapidly they could get back in the fields," he added.

Green Thumb also delivers a wealth of marketing information. Farmers can view regional market reports from the Chicago Board of Trade and the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, futures prices from American Quotation Systems, or market reports geared to Kentucky from the USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service.

The system receives data automatically from those established marketing sources, from every 15 minutes to several times a day, so the latest information is available to participating farmers.

"The information must be timely for the farmers to use the system and benefit from it," said Thom.

Response has shown farmers are doing both. Bill Giltner, for example, was able to profit \$2,000 in May by using Green Thumb to make corn futures market transaction decisions. Although he could have received the information he needed elsewhere, he said it was easier to use Green Thumb.

"I watch the futures market daily for trends," Giltner said, "and when things look right, I start monitoring the market hourly. I could get my broker every hour, but with Green Thumb, my wife can watch the market while I do other things."

Giltner and the other 199 Kentucky farmers setting Green Thumb will help evaluate the system next March, after a one-year test. USDA and Cooperative Extension Service planners hope to expand the project to five states, each with 10 counties participating.

Green Thumb has great potential for a variety of uses, according to John Ragland, associate director of Kentucky's Cooperative Extension Service.

"The system is used now to deliver information," he said. "But with some modifications, it could become a data processing system for farmers to use in formulating least-cost ration for live stock or planning crop allocation."

"Green Thumb is the technology of the future. It is the first logical step for farmers — and other consumers — toward using computers for decision-making."


Farmers like Bill Giltner are pleased with the first step Green Thumb has taken. As he summed it up, "Getting information I need fast at a lot easier, and more valuable with the computer."



It's a NEW YEAR


In a time of fresh beginnings and bright prospects, may you enjoy all the opportunities that 1981 has to offer!

Wells Produce



This one's sure to be the liveliest one yet! Thanks for your continuing patronage.

Eastern Ky. P.C.A.



HAPPY NEW YEAR

Let's make 1981 a time to taste the good things in life. Live it up!

Duncan Electric Shop



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Let's hear it for 1981!

CARLISLE MANUFACTURING



STAMLER

THE W. R. STAMLER CORPORATION


MILLERSBURG

MANUFACTURERS OF MINING AND MATERIALS HANDLING MACHINERY



That this will be a banner year of health, happiness and prosperity for all.

Happy New Year to you!



time to say THANK YOU

At the birth of a brand new year, our thoughts turn to those who've been so loyal in the past. May your year be filled with happy moments, peaceful hours, joyful days.

Carlisle Drug Co.

THE 2200-2230 BLDG. CARLISLE, KY.

George Girl Beauty Shop



Christmas Dinner

Some of the nearly 80 persons who attended a Christmas dinner at the Nicholas County Senior Citizen's Center last Monday are pictured above enjoying their traditional Christmas meal. The meal was followed by a Christmas program and a visit from Santa. — Mercury photo.



So Where's Santa?

Approximately 80 persons were on hand for a Christmas dinner and program at the center last week. Santa finally made it too! — Mercury photo.

Will federal deregulation change savings and loan institutions?

Will local Savings and Loan Institutions be taking on the look of a bank beginning January 2, 1981?

This was a primary question last week during legislative hearings in Lexington. One central Kentucky S & L executive thinks the answer is yes.

Jack Rohrer, president of Capital Federal Savings and Loan in Frankfort, told a state legislative panel that a new federal deregulation act "has tried to make banks out of us, when none of us wanted to be banks."

Ford told the subcommittee, "We need to guarantee that people in Kentucky can build homes. The market must be served."

But the new federal law broadens the scope of services offered by S & L's without adding to the institutions' primary purpose. In January, S & L's will start providing low interest checking, call NOW accounts, short term consumer loans and credit card services.

"The basic task of the Savings and Loan is to lend money to build homes," according to Jerry Mahoney, executive vice president of the Kentucky Savings and Loan League.

"For the past 150 years, S & L's have provided the bulk of the money for home building throughout the United States," Mahoney told the committee.

He said S & L's will now be allowed to apply a portion of their funds toward consumer loans. S & L representatives are concerned that these short term loans will tie up money normally available for home construction.

The new services will not be that important to his customers, Harold Sisson told the subcommittee. But the First Lancaster Federal Savings and Loan President said he would "let demands of customers set the trend there."

Bill Woodward, president of Lexington Federal Savings and Loan, cited tax inequities between Kentucky's S & L's and the state's commercial banks as a management problem for eventual resolution. He suggested that taxes be based on profits rather than the 100% of one percent on savings accounts now mandated by state law.

Another Lexington S & L President agreed. "If we make money we don't mind paying taxes," First Federal's Roger McGee stressed. "We need to keep S & L's alive to keep the American dream of owning your own home alive," he added.

The subcommittee agreed to hold the next round of hearings in northern Kentucky shortly after the first of the year.

Ford represents the state's 30th Senatorial District, which includes Nicholas County.

The average age for Vietnam Era veterans is now 31 1/2, a recently published statistical profile of the nine million men and women in service at that time reports.

A readjustment program and other benefits for this youngest group of veterans has amounted to more than \$3 billion with \$3.2 billion going for educational benefits.

Issue in hearings throughout Kentucky.




A Harmonious New Year!

A special chorus of thanks for your support.

Goodyear Carlisle Tire & Service Center

Peace in the New Year!

As the New Year dawns, we hope it brings you life's bountiful blessings. May your share in the glory of this tranquil time.



Abraham's Ladies Shop



Photo Processing Special

Color Print Film Developed and Printed

With these Coupons

\$2.39 12 EXPOSURE ROLL Color Print Film DEVELOPED AND PRINTED

L-01 Coupon Valid Thru 1-10-81

\$3.59 20 EXPOSURE ROLL Color Print Film DEVELOPED AND PRINTED

L-01 Coupon Valid Thru 1-10-81

\$3.99 24 EXPOSURE ROLL Color Print Film DEVELOPED AND PRINTED


L-01 Coupon Valid Thru 1-10-81

\$5.49 36 EXPOSURE ROLL Color Print Film DEVELOPED AND PRINTED

L-01 Coupon Valid Thru 1-10-81

Redeemable only at...

Carlisle Drug Co. CARLISLE, KY.



PEACE IN THE NEW YEAR

First National Bank

Carlisle, Downtown: Main Street • Moorefield: Highway 36

Member F.D.I.C.