

# Washington joins UNL ag computer service network

By John Hopgood

Washington state has joined the UNL AG-NET computer network as the newest member of the agriculture computer network.

AG-NET instantly dispatches the most up-to-date production and marketing data from specialists in all areas of agriculture.

Developed five years ago by the NU Agriculture In-

stitute, the AG-NET system has grown to include six states: Montana, Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota, Washington and Wyoming. These partner states each have AG-NET staff people coordinating the program in their state and developing new computer programs to add to the more than 200 programs now available.

In addition to the six-state regional project, farmers, ranchers, agri-businessmen, private consultants and students in 30 states and Canada regularly use the AG-NET computer program library. Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland also had an AG-NET terminal installed in his

Washington office earlier this year.

Pat Ebmier, AG-NET services supervisor, predicts that the number of subscribers in the state will grow from the present 230 as more people learn about the system.

"We think we're going to be growing. The number of programs tends to be growing all the time," Ebmier said, adding, "AG-NET gives the advantage of computers to people who in the past thought they never could afford a computer or handle the complexities involved."

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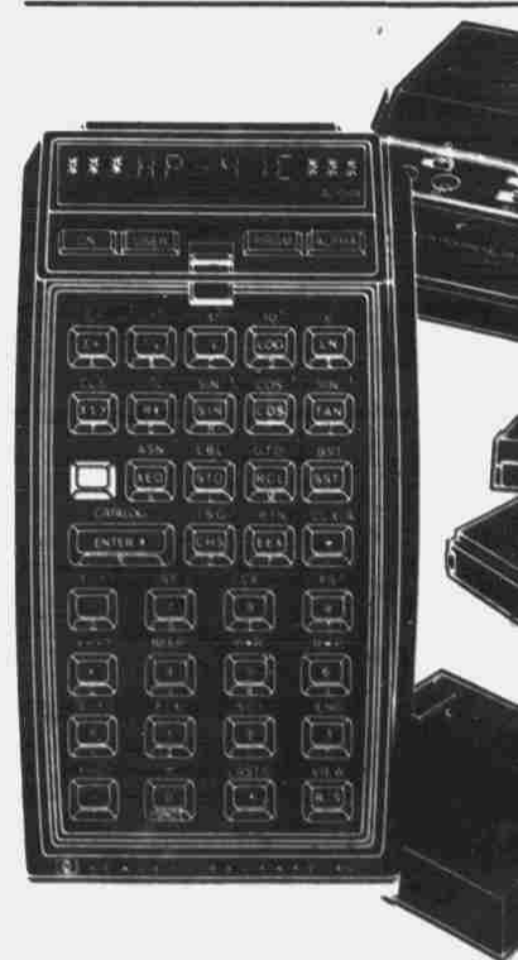


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