

# IFAS Software Covers Pest Control, Greenhouses

**A**S agricultural use of computers continues to increase, so does the demand for software and training.

Growers want software tailored specifically to their needs and many agricultural software companies, along with the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS), are working to meet these needs.

In fact, the newest IFAS software catalog is just off the press. It's free and offers 58 software packages. They are quite a bargain, too—generally \$20 each, just enough to cover materials, postage and handling. For catalog or program, contact your county extension agent or the IFAS Software Support Office, University of Florida, Bldg. 120 Room 203, Gainesville, FL 32611. Phone: (904)

392-7853.

In the catalog are three new programs:

- With the need to maintain current pest control information, IFAS is offering the Florida Pest Control Guides on floppy disk. Plans are underway to allow users to update the data disks on a regular basis, thus providing more up-to-date information than can be provided with annual printed control guides.

- Chemical Movement in Layer Soil (CMLS) is a program which estimates the movement of chemicals through soil. Growers who are concerned about contaminating ground water sources use CMLS to choose a chemical which is slow to move through the soil and growers who

are concerned about runoff use CMLS to choose a chemical which is quicker to move through the soil.


- Greenhouse owners use the Estimation of Greenhouse Heat Losses to estimate the amount of heat loss from their greenhouse. If heat loss is high, they use the program to experiment with different combinations of wall and roof coverings, to find the best combination for their building.

For those who want training, one alternative is to set aside a regular time each week for a few weeks to attend a class sponsored by a community college, continuing education program or dealer. Books, tutorial programs and VCR tapes are great for self-paced study. Users groups are clubs of computer users who meet regularly and often have informal training sessions. Agribusiness computer consultants are also available to come to your home or business and give you personalized training.

The great value in training is the Florida Agribusiness Computer Short Course and Trade Show, organized each year by IFAS. Plan now for the 1989 program Jan. 18-19 at Broward Community College North Campus in Pompano Beach. Over 100 talk sessions and hands-on workshops will be presented during the two days. General business applications include spreadsheets, word processing and databases. The agricultural applications include ornamentals, turf, citrus, beef, dairy and vegetables. A Wednesday seminar series is planned specifically for those who are planning to buy a computer. A Thursday series covers advanced topics for experienced computer users. A youth program will also be offered Thursday. ■

#### About the author:

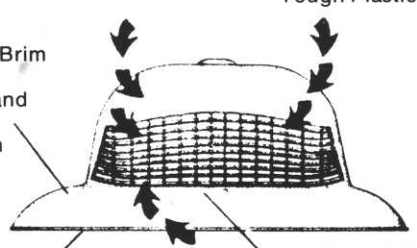
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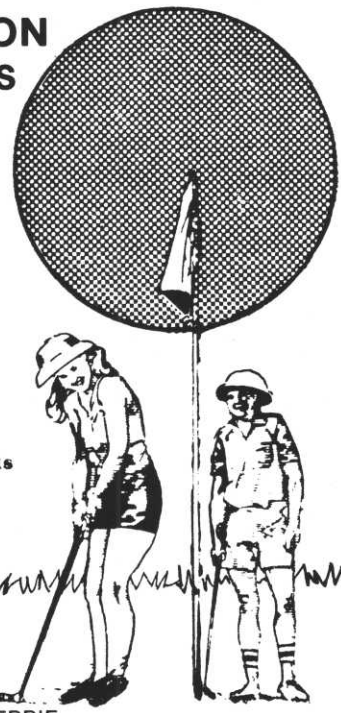
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