MINUTES OF THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON EDUCATION February 9, 1983

The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Education met at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, February 9, 1983 in Room 104 of the State Capitol. With Vice Chairman Sen. Swede Hammond presiding, all members were present except Chairman Rep. Esther G. Bengtson, who was excused. The budget for the Cooperative Extension Service was heard.

Mr. Bill Sykes, LFA, gave his analysis of the Cooperative Extension Service budget. The LFA provides for current level services, with a general fund increase of 9.8 percent. The OBPP and LFA budgets differ in the areas of Supplies and Materials, Communications, and Travel. The LFA held the expenditures for the Multilith Program in Supplies and Materials constant from 1982-5. In Communications, budget-amended federal funds were removed from the AGNET Program 1982 base. Out-of-State travel was reduced by 46 percent by the LFA; the 1979 base was inflated forward to 1984-5. There were two issues presented in the LFA narrative: the AGNET Program, and weed management.

Tom Crosser, OBPP, then gave his analysis. There is a tractor request in the Equipment category which the LFA did not include but the OBPP did; other than this, the rest of the differences had been outlined by Mr. Sykes. He stated that the Co-op. Extension Service agreed with the health insurance rates that Mr. Sykes had worked up. He added that the OBPP had not included the Service's weed research modification request in the budget, nor had the weed research modified for the Agricultural Experiment Station been granted.

<u>Dr. William Tietz</u>, President of Montana State University, gave his presentation. He gave a short history of the Cooperative Extension Service, and outlined its activities.

Dr. Carl J. Hoffman, Director of the Cooperative Extension Service, spoke. He distributed to the Committee members copies of a paper entitled, "Use of funds Allocated to the Cooperative Extension Service by the 1981 Montana Legislature;" see Exhibit "A." The result of added funds to their operations was outlined in Exhibit "B," bulk testimony file. He distributed a comparative analysis the Service had done between the LFA and the Board of Regents' recommendation; see Exhibit "C."

Mr. Sykes responded to several of the points outlined in Exhibit "C." Regarding the budget amendment for AGNET, 50 percent of the support for the program was to be from user fees and 50 percent from State general fund, and ultimately the program was to be funded by 100 percent user fees. If the budget-amended federal funds had been left in the base, essentially the State general fund would be picking up the difference.

Dr. Hoffman pointed out that the original proposal in 1981 had been that the AGNET Program be funded by 100 percent State funds in 1982 and 90 percent in 1983, but this had been changed to 50/50 by a conference committee. He added that when the federal budget amendment had been approved, the importance of technical information being dessiminated to State and County Extension office had been stressed by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture; AGNET has been a primary source of information from the federal level. The reason for using the \$41,938 to supplement AGNET was due to this position held by the U.S.D.A. He pointed out that not only was AGNET useful to producers, but within the Cooperative Extension Service as well.

Discussion took place regarding AGNET and how it worked; see Exhibit "D," bulk testimony file. Dr. Hoffman passed around a copy of the users' manual for AGNET which described the programs, gave instructions as to how to log on, provided worksheets, etc. In response to Rep. Peck, Dr. Hoffman said that microcomputers were compatable with the AGNET system. He distributed a statement from Dr. LeRoy Luft, who helped establish the AGNET system; see Exhibit "E." He distributed a listing of the number of times various AGNET programs had been accessed in 1982; see Exhibit "F." Another paper was passed out outlining the Adoption of new innovations; see Exhibit "G." A summary of the AGNET program was distributed: Exhibit "H."

Dr. Tietz wanted to know why the LFA had used the 1979 out-of-State travel figures as their base instead of 1981. Mr. Sykes submitted that he felt the 1981 adjustment had been made not to increase out-of-State travel but to increase in-State travel and to accommodate communications cost increases. There had been no mention of out-of-State travel increases in the LFA records.

<u>Dr. Tietz</u> also expressed concern about the Multilith Department appropriation. He said the institution had a policy regarding designated accounts whereby they were used to replace equipment as a policy: the account was built up to replace equipment. If the money is used elsewhere, then the original intent of the policy is defeated. He wanted to know what the Legislature's intent was regarding the use of designated accounts.

Dr. Hoffman concluded his review of the contents of Exhibit "D."

Dr. Hoffman then addressed the Weed Management Program modified request. See Exhibit "I," bulk testimony file. He pointed out that the modified request didn't include funding for a tractor. He stated that the tractor requested in their equipment list was for a variety of uses, only one of which was connected with the modification.

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Mr. Sykes said that in their original AGNET request, the Service had requested funding for FTE currently being paid out of the unrestricted budget. He removed those personal services amounts from the unrestricted budget and then inflated the (reduced) 1982 base, and funded it with 50/50 user fees/general fund. (See p. 695, LFA narrative.) He pointed out that when the budget amendment for \$41,938 had been submitted for AGNET, the Service had certified that no future commitment for general fund would be made. If the budget amendment had been left in the base, general fund would have had to pick it up, because no Smith-Lever funds had been projected for the future. He submitted that if user fees did not fund 50 percent of the program, general fund would have to pick up the amount of the federal funds.

Lois Tonne, Montana Women Involved in Farm Economics (WIFE), spoke; see written testimony Exhibit "J." She called the Committee's attention to an issue of the magazine, "Successful Farming," which had been devoted to weed control and management; see Exhibit "K," bulk testimony file.

Rep. Bob Thoft, District 92, stressed that the Committee study the Weed Management Program modified.

<u>Chuck Jarecki</u>, a range cattle rancher from Polson, and representing the Montana Knapweed Action Committee, spoke; see written testimony Exhibit "L."

Mack Quinn, President of the Montana Farm Bureau, rose in support of the Extension Service; see written testimony Exhibit "M."

Forest Farris, Master of the Montana State Grange, spoke; see written testimony Exhibit "N."

Mons Teigen, Montana Stockgrowers, Montana Woolgrowers, and the Montana Cowbells, spoke. He stressed that the weed situation was serious and a response was needed from society as a whole and not just the farm community to solve the problem. He was in support of the Weed Management modified request.

Steve Meyer, Executive Vice President of the Montana Association of Conservation Districts spoke; see written testimony Exhibit "O."

Joe Hamm, Montana Irrigation Association, spoke. He submitted that 25 cents per day had been added to food prices in Montana because of the weed problem. He pointed out that he had found a leafy spurge plant, and almation toadflax, and a knapweed in front of the Capitol the summer before.

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Dennis Wagner, representing the Associated Students of
Montana State University, spoke; see Exhibit "P."

Chuck Merja, a Sun River farmer, spoke; see Exhibit "Q."
He stressed that there was a lot of interest in the AGNET system, and this would be a continuing trend.

Rick Rominger, Floweree, MT, urged the Committee's full support of the Extension Service's budget and budget amendments. He stressed the importance of AGNET. He submitted that there had to be economical ways for farmers to control weed problems.

Elliot Merja, also a farmer from Sun River, testified; see Exhibit "R." He said he made use of AGNET almost every day.

Louis Smith, a Powell County rancher, rose in support of AGNET, which saved him \$1,700.

Gordon McOmber, a former State Senator and Chairman of the State-wide Care Program testified. He pointed out that with the abandonment of the railroads and the trucking industry problems, farmers now had to travel a long way to get to a grain terminal. If the truckers don't keep their trucks cleaned out, there is another weed problem.

Pat Iman, a member of the Montana Extension Advisory Council, spoke. She expressed support for the Weed Control and AGNET modifications. Regarding out-of-State travel for the Cooperative Extension Service, she submitted that specialists in the State needed to keep in contact with those in other States or they would lose their value to the State. She stressed the importance of the Extension Service and research staff making use of AGNET as well as other users.

Peter Jackson, Harrison, MT, spoke. He pointed out the important role the County Extension Agents played in educating the public about weeds, and farmers about computers.

Ross Fitzgerald, Montana Grain Gowers, spoke up in support of the Extension Service, its efforts, and its budget, as well as the AGNET Program.

Perry Anderson, Melville, MT, and a past Montana 4-H Council President, spoke. He expressed gratitude for what the 1981 Legislature did for them. One of their major concerns in 1981 was travel, and if the 1979 level is re-adopted, they will be back where they started.

Bill Pruitt, Big Timber, and a member of the County Care Committee, rose in 100 percent support of the Extension Budget as presented. He was also in support of the modified requests. The leafy spurge problem is in a critical state because it hasn't been addressed sooner. The responsibility for speeding up the control of weed infestation lies with the Legislature.

Frank Lock, Dutton, spoke. He rose in support of the Extension Service budget. He urged support of agriculture, to see that it be kept healthy and maintained. Soil and land management and efficient production are important areas. He rose in support of 4-H as being the "program for youth for building a better tomorrow." He stressed the importance of AGNET as a useful tool for all the people of Montana.

Karin Ludeman, Bozeman, spoke. She was a local 4-H leader and went on record in support of the Extension budget. She submitted that the Extension Service had something to offer all age groups.

Jene Hendrickson, Park County Extension Homemakers Council, Wilsall, MT, spoke; see Exhibit "S."

Donna Lee Kleman, a 4-H leader for over 17 years from Deer Lodge County, spoke. There aren't too many active 4-H members behind prison bars, she pointed out.

Pat Kraus, one of 670 Cascade County homemakers, urged the Committee's support of the budget.

Vivian Benando, Yellowstone County 4-H Council, rose in support of the Committee's funding of the Extension Service and thus indirectly, 4-H.

Gail Kline, National Extension Homemaker Council Chairman of an educational committee, spoke. She rose in support of the Extension Service budget and the cooperation between the Extension Service and the Extension Homemakers. Each individual extension homemaker annually contributes an average of 56 hours in volunteer service; a wage level of \$4.50 per hour will bring the volunteer time donated to a value of more than \$135,000,000. Extension homemakers each year donate \$13 million in contributions for community and educational programs.

Ole Billquist, Anaconda, spoke. The 4-H program provides the State with a multi-million dollar volunteer bonus.

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Mr. Billquist submitted that the State should put its priorities on agriculture, without which the State would have nothing.

The  $\underline{\text{hearing on the Cooperative Extension Service budget was}}$  closed.

The meeting was adjourned at 10 a.m.

Rep. Esther G. Bengtson - Chairman

### HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS - EDMONDON SUB COMMITTEE

Budget:	Co-op Extension Service	Date 2/9/83
SPONSOR		

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1 0	Big Jimber, Melville	4-H & Youth	yes	
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James W. Bauder	Bozeman	Mantana Carp Ext. Ser	yes	
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CHUCK MERJA	SUN RIVER, M+	MERJA FARMS	YES!	

IF YOU CARE TO WRITE COMMENTS, ASK SECRETARY FOR LONGER FORM.

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### WITNESS STATEMENT

Name Los Tonne	Committee On
Address Box 182 Geraldine	Date 2/9/83
Representing Rural Area Dovelament Executive Committee	Support
Bill No. Executive Committee	Oppose
Ziveridio) Daugei	Amend
AFTER TESTIFYING, PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATE	EMENT WITH SECRETARY.
Comments: 1.	
2.	

4.

Itemize the main argument or points of your testimony. This will assist the committee secretary with her minutes.

LUUC. OUDCU!!!. 2/9/83 EXINBIT "A"

Use of Funds
Allocated to the Cooperative Extension Service
by the 1981 Montana Legislature

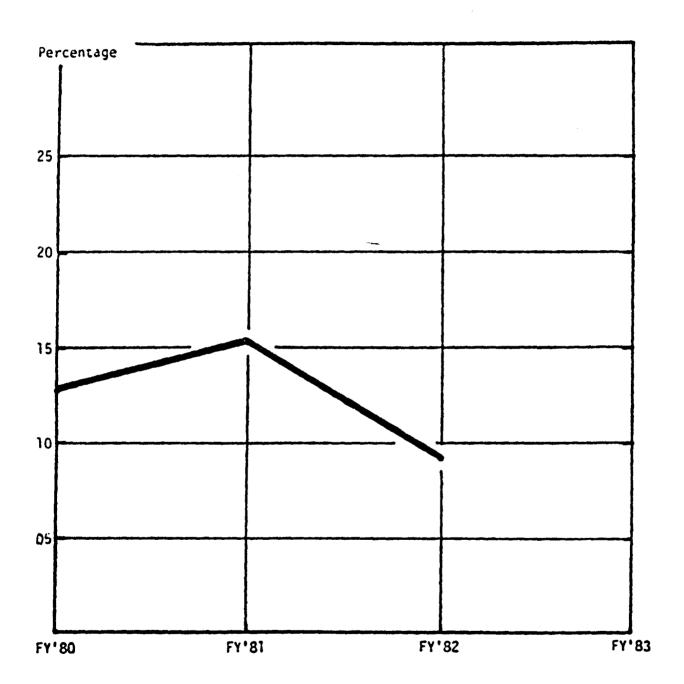
### Situation in 1981 and Action Taken by Legislature

- Extension was losing many of its outstanding staff members to neighboring states and could not fill a number of key positions because of its low, uncompetitive salary structure. To correct the situation, a base adjustment was made in the personal services budget of Extension to bring the salaries of professional staff members up to the average of the other western states.
- 2. Services to clientele were being reduced because of inadequate operational funds. Thus, a base adjustment was made in operations to enable Extension to provide the services demanded of it.
- 3. Funding of the AGNET computer system by the Old West Regional Commission was drawing to a close and Montana was\_about to lost AGNET at a time when other states were developing similar systems to help their agricultural producers make sounder management decisions and become more competitive than other states. Funding was provided by the Legislature so that the Extension Service could continue developing programs and assist clientele in using AGNET as a management tool.

### Outcome

- 1. The salaries of field agents and state specialists have been adjusted and brought in line with those of other western states. The result has been a drop in annual staff turnover from 15.3% down to 9.2% (see Exhibit A); and for the first time in years, Extension has been able to staff vacant positions with individuals who are sharp, aggressive, and innovative.
- With the added funds provided for operations, the Extension Service has successfully addressed a number of high-priority program areas and has made a significant contribution to the quality of life in Montana. Summarized in Exhibit B ("In Service to the People") are some of the programs under way that are providing help to Montanans in all walks of life.
- 3. Funds provided by the Legislature have made it possible for numerous individuals, organizations and groups to have the value and use of AGNET demonstrated to them. The demonstrations have increased general awareness of the possible uses of computers in Montana.

### MONTANA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE STAFF TURNOVER



Fiscal Year

2/9/85 EXHIBIT - 6"

### BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS Submitted By BOARD OF REGENTS AND LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ANALYST For COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

			Recommended			
		Appropriated	FY	1984	FY :	1985
		Fiscal 1983 2/	Regents	LFA	Regents	LFA
FTE		132.86	$135.08\frac{1}{}$	$132.86\frac{1}{}$	$135.08\frac{1}{}$	$132.86\frac{1}{}$
Fund Source						
General Fund Other Funds	1,755,623	2,111,760 <del>1,670,477</del>	2,433,895 1,860,960	2,150,822 1,860,960	2,443,704 1,916,789	2,134,578 1,916,789
Total Funds	3,867,383	<del>3,782,237</del>	4,294,855	4,011,782	4,360,493	4,051,367
Expenditures by	<u>Object</u>		· magage			
Personal Service Operating Expens Capital <u>5</u> / Non-Operating Ex	ses <sup>±/</sup> 739,2 30,9°		3,363,050 742,535 74,570 -0-	3,320,029 662,084 26,424 3,245	3,363,903 794,249 79,045 -0-	3,321,109 696,650 30,169 3,439
Sub-Total	3,847,383	<del>3,782,237</del>	4,180,155	4,011,782	4,237,197	4,051,367
Modifications 6/		0	EE 000	0	E0 400	0
Weed Managemer	nt Program	b/ -0- -0-	55,000 59,700	-0- -0-	59,400 63,896	-0- -0-
Total	3,867,383	3,782,237	4,294,855	4,011,782	4,360,493	4,051,367

### Analysis of Differences Between the Two Budgets

### 1. FTE

The difference in FTE between the Regents and the Fiscal Analyst is due to the Regents recommending that the Weed Management Program be funded. The Fiscal Analyst questions the value of the weed plan without the participation of the State Department of Agriculture as specified in the plan. The Analyst also questions the appropriateness of Extension having a weed technician to work with cooperator farmers in establishing and monitoring demonstration plots.

### 2. "Appropriated Fiscal 1983" Column

The Appropriations figure for "Other Funds" in HB 500 is \$1,755,623 and not \$1,670,477 as indicated by the Fiscal Analyst. The Analyst's reasoning is that the \$85,146 difference (which relates to AGNET) should have been derived from "Designated Sources" and should not have been included in HB 500 under "Other Sources." The \$85,146 reduction is reflected in the figures listed by the Analyst for "Operating Expenses," "Capital," and "Non-Operating Expenses."

### 3. Personal Services

a,

No pay plan is built into the Regents' budget. All it contains is the added amount required to offset the 3.5 percent vacancy savings rate that exists in the current (FY 1983) base, plus the amount that would be needed to bring benefit payments of professional Extension personnel up to the same level as other university employees.

There also is no pay plan built into the LFA budget. But, like the Regents' budget, it contains funding to offset the 3.5 percent vacancy savings rate that exists in the FY 1983 base. However, a 3 percent vacancy savings factor is recommended for fiscal years 1984 and 1985. The LFA has not considered the need to provide benefit payments for professional Extension personnel at the levels being proposed by Congress. Rather, the assumption is that benefit payments will remain unchanged in fiscal years 1984 and 1985. Benefit costs could increase \$48,500 to \$53,500 during 1984 and 1985.

### 4. Operating Expenses

The major differences between the Regents' and the Fiscal Analyst's figures for operating expenses are due to the way in which they were computed. The Regents used actual FY 1982 expenditures as a base. To these were applied a set of inflation factors to establish expense bases for fiscal years 1984 and 1985. The Analyst used the same base year and set of inflation factors as the Regents. However, before applying the factors, several adjustments were made by the Analyst in the fiscal 1982 base figures.

First, the 1982 actual expenditures base was lowered by \$41,938 to offset a budget amendment approved by the Board of Regents for the AGNET program, even though Extension's actual expenditures at the end of the fiscal year totaled \$37,958 less than the amount authorized in the Appropriations Bill (HB 500). The amendment allowed Extension to spend Federal Smith-Lever funds in place of General Fund money. Extension simply carried out the intent of HB 500; that is, it used other funds to cover the operational expenses of AGNET that exceeded the amount appropriated in the General Fund. As a matter of fact, it is estimated that by the end of this fiscal year, approximately \$44,000 will be reverted from FY 1982 to the General Fund. Thus, the bottom line is that Extension will have spent \$2,062 less in FY 1982 than was authorized (\$44,000 -\$41,938 = \$2,062).

Second, actual out-of-state travel was reduced by 46 percent because, according to the Analyst, "this level of expenditure represents what the 1979 Legislature authorized for fiscal 1980 after allowing for inflation." This would be inappropriate because the 1981 Legislature made a base adjustment in Extension's operations budget to correct a serious deficiency in the funding of in-state and out-of-state travel and the printing of publications required for Extension education programs.

Third, the operating expenses from the Multilith Department for Extension publications totaled \$109,899 in fiscal 1982, and they are being held constant into fiscal 1984 and 1985 because Multilith has developed a large fund balance. Since the Multilith Department is a designated account, the only way it can replace or purchase equipment is to generate a fund balance. If this is not allowed, then Extension's current operating budget must be provided with additional capital for the necessary equipment purchases.

### 5. Capital

It should be noted that an error exists in the Regents' capital figures. For FY 1984 the amount should be \$42,247, and in FY 1985 it should be \$33,539. The Analyst recommends \$26,424 and \$30,169 for FY 1984 and FY 1985 respectively. The differences between the Regents' and Analyst's budgets are due to certain capital items not being recommended by the LFA.

### Modifications

### a. AGNET

The Regents recognize that in addition to assisting farmers, ranchers, homemakers, and others in making management decisions, AGNET has become an important tool in carrying out Extension programs and in delivering pertinent information on a more timely basis to county agents and specialists. That is why they are recommending that \$55,000 be added to the existing AGNET base in FY 1984 and \$59,000 in FY 1985.

The Analyst indicates that to continue AGNET at the current level will require \$163,758 in fiscal 1984 and \$176,174 in fiscal 1985. Two options are presented for legislative consideration: Option (a) would require \$111,626 from the General Fund plus \$52,132 in user fees in FY 1984. In FY 1985 the General Fund would total \$118,829 and user fees would be increased to \$57,345. Option (b) would discontinue General Fund support of AGNET.

### b. Weed Management Program

For this program, the Regents are recommending General Fund support totaling \$59,700 in fiscal 1984 and \$63,896 in fiscal 1985. As stated earlier, the Analyst questions the value of the weed plan without the participation of the State Department of Agriculture. The Analyst also questions the need for an Extension weed technician.

219183 EXHIBIT



### **AGRICULTURAL MANAGEMENT** AND ECONOMIC CONSULTING

315 Haggerty Lane, Bozeman, Montana 59715 (406) 586-0548

February 8, 1983

Dr. Carl J. Hoffman Vice-President for Extension Montana Extension Service Montana State University Bozeman, MT 59717

Dear Dr. Hoffman:

This letter is in support of the continuation of funding for the AGNET system in Montana. Having been closely involved with AGNET as an Extension Economist for three years, prior to my resignation from the university, I fully understand the benefits and capabilities of the program.

Our firm is currently engaged in the sale of micro computers. While a micro can do many of the things AGNET provides, we still recommend that micro owners purchase a telephone modem so that AGNET can be accessed. In fact, many people we visit with about micros ask if they would be able to access AGNET. We encourage it.

Even with the increased interest in micro computers, AGNET should be maintained for the many producers that are not interested in or inclined to have their own computer. But, more importantly, the additional programs that are available on AGNET continue to make it a useful tool for all producers. The market reports are exceptional.

I receive frequent comments from producers about the usefulness of AGNET and how it has helped them in their decision making process. While it is difficult to document, I feel confident that the benefits derived by producers exceeds the costs to Montana taxpayers.

In these difficult times for producers, assistance of the type provided by AGNET can be very valuable. encourage the continued funding of AGNET.

Sincerely,

EXH/BIT "F" Education Subcomm. 2/9/83

### NUMBER OF TIMES AGNET PROGRAMS WERE ACCESSED BY MONTANA USERS IN 1981

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
BASIS BEEP BEEPADVISORY	7 14 1	66		29 3		1	6	: 6 2 2 1	4 1 2	3 18 1	1 15	3 28 1	115 96 5 143
BESTCROP	5	6		5	`3			•	î	4	1	•	20
BUSPAK CALFWINTER CARCASS	63 25	38 12		52 1 1	47 25	63 8	47 2 1	9 <b>9</b> 11	93 16	86 51	65 85 1	2 34	655 270 3
CARCOST CASHPLOT	13 4	3		9 1	13 6	2	13	38 2	21 1	<b>6</b> 7		14	136 23
CONFERENCE CONFINEMENT	27 1	24 1		41	38	48	25	39	12	11	17	5	287
CONSUMPT COWCOST COWCULL	6	7 21		4	15 3 3	75 5	136 6 1	198 3 3	58 4	14	18	16	521 100 7
COWGAME CROPHUDGET CROSSBREED	20 36	3 27		1 4 1	61 4	2 11	10 1	2	8	13 10 7	22 4 4	65 18	140 182 20
DAIRYCOST DIETCHECK	75	3 40		43	7 49	11 16	4	5 14	1 54	i 18	16	1 10	41 339
DIETSUMMARY DRY	3 13	2		1		1			1		1	1	7 16
ECON EDPAK EWECOST	4 3 13	3 2		10	18 5	3 1	24 12	3		12 3	2 5 13	11 1	11 921 58
ewesale Fair	3	2		8	2	2	-	3	4	4	2	2	32 4
Pan Pas Peedmix	1 91	84		20 98	7 38	5 11	9	17 14	10 56	17 108	29 108	59 172	1 173 780
PERTILIZER FINANCE	10	7		10	11				5	76	3 102	2 24	48 202
FIREWOOD FLEXCROP FOODPRESERVE	5	5 11 2		9	6	2 2 1	1 3	3		2 5	2	4 2 4	17 44 10
FUELALCOHOL GARDEN	2	2 2		81	65	9	4	2	1	1 1 7	.6	1	5 175
GRASSFAT GUIDES HAYLIST	7 2 81	32 36		18 1 70	41 21	6 19	9 1 30	4 17	5 34	1 29	14 2 49	1 60	144 7 446
HELP HOUSE	58 2	66 1		<b>42</b> 1	52 2	44	12 6	5 1	8 1	22 1	18 4	21	348 20
INPUTFORMS IRRIGATE JOBSEARCH	35 5 4	10 3 4		13 1 3	7 2 59	7 1 3	19 2	17 2 3	2 1 17	27 1 6	9 2 6	2	148 18 107
LANDPAK	16	15		17	17	16	19 1	5	6	5	18	24	158 19
LIFESTYLE MACHINE PAK MACHINESIZE	1 21	6 42 10		1 21 16	33	21	14	17 2	32	15	12 1	25 1	253 33
MAILBOX	1071	1087		956	875	697	621	555	540	1369	1655	1601	11027
MARKETCHART MARKETS	42 531	29 444		75 341	28 275	33 275	31 228	49 325	23 302	97 487	122 625	110 632	639 4465
MICROPROGRAM MONEYCHECK NEWSRELEASE	16 8 332	17 32 386		56 438	6 7 502	3 384	18 5 392	6 264	1 4 267	40 12 220	47 5 300	38 15 416	187 153 3901
NURSERY PATTERN	11 5 1	12 5		3	1 4			3	1			4	24 29 2
Pipesize Plantax Pricedata	3	5 5			1			4	•		1 2	12 1	131 16
PUMP RANCHADVISORY	53 5	4 2		10	4	1		1		15 2	5	_	92 16
RANGECOND SCHEDULE SEEDLIST	1 8	5 6		1 3 8	1 26 14	129 2	89	15 4	2 3 5	3 1 2	3 12 3	3 10	16 283 62
SOILSALT SOYBEANPROD	1	-			46	3		1	1	2			53 1
SPRINKLER STAINS STOREGRAIN	10 5 5	5 1 7		10 5	2 17	7	2 7	1 8 8	2 2 3	3 1 9	3	1 11	27 40 77
SWINE SWINEADVISORY		2		1	4 3	3	3 2	3	-	3	. 3	3	24
TESTPLOT TIMBER TRACTORSELECT	112 6	23 1 5		11 2 3	21 2 6	28 1	•	13 3	13 1	63		54 1 2	338 11 22
TREE WATERQUALITY WEAN	5	4 2		5	1	1	7			23	17	7	1 4 67 5
YEARLING	2939	3 2697		2588	2518	1972	1830	1806	1638	1 2949	3484	3542	27954

EXHIBIT G"
Education Subcomm.
2/9/83

### The Adoption of New Innovations

The results of agricultural research are of little value unless put to benefical use by farmers and ranchers. Demonstrating the practical application of such research is one of the most effective ways of getting them to adopt new, recommended practices. A number of research studies clearly point this out. The classic example is the adoption of hybrid seed corn in Iowa. Figure 1 shows that many of the early adopters learned about hybrid seed corn from reading an article in a farm magazine. This is called the "Awareness Stage." After learning about it and discussing it with some of their peers, they planted a bushel of hybrid seed to see how it would perform. This is called the "Trial Stage." When they observed the results on their own farms, they decided to plant hybrid seed on their total acreage. This is called the "Adoption Stage." Incidentally, it took 11 years to convince all Iowa farmers they should switch totally to hybrid seed corn. While the length of the adoption period varies, the same pattern holds true.



READ ABOUT
IN A MAGAZINE -

PLANTED ONE BUSHEL
OF HYBRID SEED

PLANTED TOTAL CORN ACREAGE WITH HYBRID SEED

Figure 1.--Adoption of Hybrid Seed Corn in Iowa.

More recent research on the adoption process indicates there are at least five stages involved (refer to Figure 2). In addition to understanding the stages that are involved in the "Adoption Process," we need to recognize that not all individuals adopt new innovations or practices at the same time. Rogers found it possible to divide people into five adopter groups, based on certain behavior patterns and when they actually adopt a new innovation or recommended practice (refer to Figure 3).

- a. <u>Innovators</u>—Tend to be eager to try new ideas, have substantial financial resources to absorb the loss of an unprofitable innovation or practice, and the ability to understand and apply complex technical knowledge.
- b. Early Adopters--Are considered by many as the persons to check with before using a new idea. They are generally sought by change agents as local leaders for speeding up the diffusion process. They are respected by their peers.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Everett M. Rogers, <u>Diffusion of Innovations</u>, The Free Press of Glencoe, New York, 1962.

### STAGES OF THE ADOPTION PROCESS

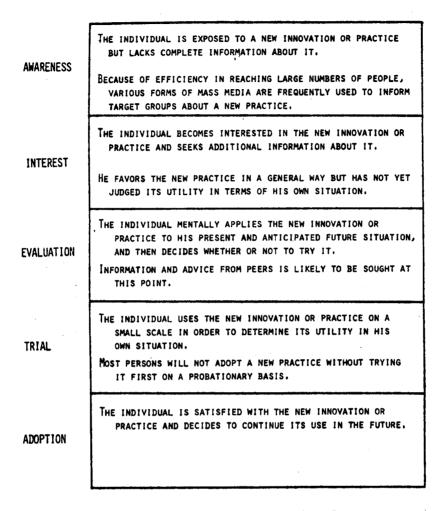


Figure 2.--Stages of the Adoption Process.

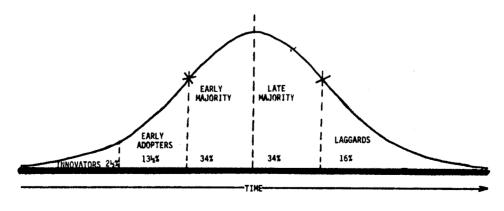


Figure 3.--Adopter Categorization on the Basis of Relative Time of Adoption of Innovations

- c. Early Majority -- Generally deliberate for some time before completely adopting a new idea. "Be not the last to lay the old aside nor the first by which the new is tried," might be their motto. They follow with deliberate willingness in adopting innovations, but seldom lead.
- d. <u>Late Majority</u>--Tend to approach new innovations with a cautious air and do not adopt until a majority of others in their social system have done so. The weight of public opinion must definitely favor the innovation before they are convinced. They can be convinced of the utility of new ideas, but the pressure of peers is necessary to motivate adoption.
- e. <u>Laggards</u>—Their point of reference is in the past. The individual interacts primarily with others who hold similar values. Laggards tend to be suspicious of innovations, innovators, and change agents.

Figure 4, showing the length of time from the "Awareness-to-Trial" and the "Trial-to-Adoption" period for hybrid seed corn, reveals innovators and early adopters require less total time to move from "awareness" to "adoption" than do the other adopter groups. However, they take longer to move from the "trial" to the "adoption" stage.

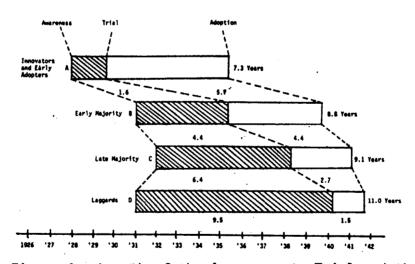


Figure 4.--Length of the Awareness-to-Trial and the Trial-to-Adoption Period for Hybrid Seed Corn by Adopter Category

Figure 5 shows the rate of adoption varies with the complex nature of the innovation. Because AGNET is a very complex innovation, it obviously will take a longer period of time to achieve adoption. In summary, it faces the same problems of acceptance as other innovations. Only through state funding of an intensive Extension education/demonstration program will AGNET become generally accepted and widely used as the valuable management tool it is.

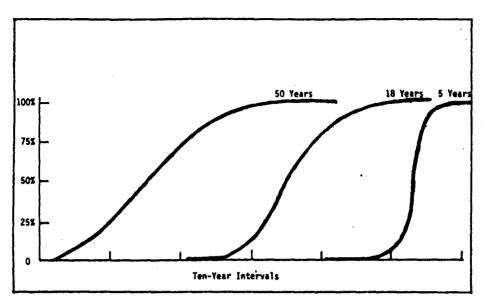


Figure 5.--Rate of adoption of three different innovations.

of performance testing of 11 vestock, soil testing; and the use of commercial fertilizers.

Of particular significance in a montana has been the adoption of a strict the Adricular Experiment Station documented the economic value of performance testing, the initiated an education and demonstration program with ranchers throughout the state. The program was launched in 1936; yet it wasn't until the mid-50's that beef performance testing gained wide acceptance in Montana.

The rest is history, Joday...
Montana commands the highest average sale price in the United States for purebred Hereford and Angus, breeding stock. And its feeder, cattle enjoy a national reputation for their outstanding performance in the feedlot.

Obviously, the state has realized a significant economic return on the dollars it invested in the state dollars it invested in the state beef producers to adopt performance testing. What's more, when it became evident that beef producers were "sold" on the program. Extension helped them organize the Montana Beef Performance Association and turned the testing program over to them in 1956.

Starting with a membership of 37 producers, the Association grew to 839 members by 1968. Today, in addition to the Montana Beef

Performance Association, testing is conducted by the various beef breed associations. The net result is that nearly 100 percent of all purebred beef producers in Montana are now performance testing their herds.

AGNET can have an even greater economic impact on Montana. However, it faces the same problems of acceptance and adoption as did beef performance testing. Only through state funding of an intensive Extension education/demonstration program will AGNET become generally accepted and widely used as the valuable management tool it is.



# The Network

The programs of the Montana Cooperative Extension Service are available to

Issued in furtherance of cooperative extension work in agriculture and home economics, acts of May B and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Carl J. Hoffman, Director, Cooperative Extension Service, Montana State University, Bozeman, Montana 9917.

Cooperative Catenaton Service
Montana State University Bozeman

1

# AGNET

## The Network

### WHAT IS IT?

AGNET is a unique computerized system that assists an individual in making management decisions which in the past were either based on little more than a sophisticated guess or required many hours of laborious mathematical computations. Teams of specialists use current research findings to develop programs capable of analyzing complex management decisions in minutes.

### AVAILABLE PROGRAMS

Over 60 AGNET programs are presently available. They deal with a wide range of problems in agriculture, home economics, and consumer education, and answer questions such as: What improvements might I make to cut my home heating costs? Would it be cheaper to purchase or lease that new tractor? Will it pay me to install that sprinkler irrigation system on my land? How about my factor arion at a lower cost? What is the cheapest way to buy beef for my table?

These are just a few of the management questions AGNET can help answer.

## HOW ONE USES AGNET

Access to AGNET is through type-writer-like devices called terminals that "talk" to a central computer over a telephone line. These lightweight portable terminals can be used wherever there is an electrical outlet and a phone (office, kitchen, sale barn, etc.)

Use of any AGNET program is achieved by simply typing in a few numbers to get connected with the computer and then typing in the name of the program to be run. The computer leads the user through each program with questions, descriptions, and examples. Results are available to the user in a matter of minutes.

## LOCATION OF TERMINALS

AGNET programs are available through any local county Extension office. Grant funds from the Old West Regional Commission provide toll-free WATS lines and cover computer costs. The grant runs out in June 1981

# WHAT ARE OTHER STATES DOING?

There are three regional computer networks currently operating in the United States. The first two (CMN and TELPLAN) were established in 1969 and 1970. The CMN system, (Computerized Management Network) is located in Virginia and primarily serves the southeastern area of the

United States. TELPLAN is located in Michigan and serves the upper great lakes and corn belt states. Today there are over 20 states cooperating with Michigan as TELPLAN users.

AGNET is the third major computer network to be developed in the United States. As of July 1, 1980, there will be six partner states, (Montana, Wyoming, Nebraska, North and South Dakota, and Washington) using AGNET on a full-time basis. Additional AGNET users are located in 21 other states.

Scalected states, such as Indiana, Oklahoma, Missouri, Kentucky, and Minnesota have developed libraries of computer programs on an individual basis. Other states such as Utah, are planning to use micro-computers as an integral part of their extension programs.

## WHY CONTINUE FUNDING AGNET

AGNET was introduced in Montana in late 1977, yet its use is still limited. The reason has to dorwith the acceptance and adoption of new practices. The following examples clearly illustrate this fact.

When hybrid seed corn was first introduced in this country, many agricultural leaders and farmers were skeptical about its value. Only after years of intensive education and demonstration work by the Cooperative Extension. Service was acceptance and adoption achieved. The same thing occurred in the case

EXHIBIT J"
Education Subcomm.
2/9/83

MS. CHAIRMAN...COMMITTEE MEMBERS....MY NAME IS LOIS TONNE AND I'M REPRESENTING MONTANA WOMEN INVOLVED IN FARM ECONOMICS.

WIFE SUPPORTS THE STATEWIDE WEED MANAGEMENT PLAN IN IT'S ENTIRETY BECAUSE:

- #1. It will coordinate through the Dept. of Agriculture; All entities of weed research and education into one consentrated attempt to bring under control the mounting problem of noxious weeds.
- #2. Noxious weeds have been <u>designated</u> by the grassroot people of Montana through
  Project 80, the Montana Agricultural Stabilization & Conservation Service, the
  Extension Advisory Councils and other such organizations & groups, as a <u>major</u>
  problem that is very rapidly infesting thousands of additional acres each year.
- # 3. It is estimated that Montana's economy is loosing from 80 to 100 million dollars each year to noxious weeds. This loss will continue to grow unless new methods of control are found. It is becomming financially & geographically impossible to control noxious weeds through chemical application alone. It is also of importance to note the growing concern with the use of herbicides.

THE EXTENSION SERVICE'S NEEDS FOR A WEED SPECIALIST AND A TECHNICIAN ARE
EXTREMELY IMPORTANT. FOR WITHOUT A MEANS OF PREPARING AND DISSEMINATING
THE NEWEST WEED CONTROL INFORMATION, ALL THE RESEARCH IN THE WORLD WILL NOT
HELP US. WE MUST HAVE A MEANS OF BRINGING ANY NEW TECHNOLOGY TO THE PEOPLE
AND EDUCATING THEM IN IT'S PROPER USE. AGNET IS THAT TOOL THAT BRINGS THIS
MEANS OF EDUCATION AND TECHNICAL INFORMATION TO THE PEOPLE. THIS TOOL CANNOT BE ACCURATELY MEASURED WITHOUT TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION IT'S INCLUSIVE
ADVANTAGES. AGNET IS INTRODUCING A NEW CONCEPT IN FARMING PRACTICES AND
MANAGEMENT THAT MUST BRIDGE THE GENERATION GAP. BENEFITS OF SUCH A PROGRAM
ARE NOT QUICKLY APPARENT AND OVERALL EFFECTS. AFTER IT'S INITIAL ACCEPTANCE.
WILL BECOME INCREASINGLY VISIBLE IN THE FUTURE ECONOMY OF MONTANA.

THE ROLE OF EXTENSION WILL BE A DECIDING FACTOR IF WE ARE TO GAIN CONTINUE THE CURRENT WEED SITUATION: NOXIOUS WEEDS MUSICED DEALTH SHE HOW BEFORE THE PROBLEM BECOMES RIVANCIALLS PROBLEMING AND FALS CROWN BEFORE VALUE OF THE PROBLEM BECOMES RIVANCIALLS PROBLEMING AND FALS CROWN BEFORE VALUE OF THE PROBLEM BECOMES RIVANCIALLS PROBLEMING AND FALS CROWN BEFORE VALUE OF THE PROBLEM BECOMES RIVANCIALLS PROBLEMING AND FALS CROWN BEFORE VALUE OF THE PROBLEM BETORDS OF THE PROBLEM BETO

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### WITNESS STATEMENT

Name LOIS S. TONNE	Committee On
Address Box 182 Geraldine Mt	Date <u>1/9/83</u>
Representing W.J.F.E.	Support X
Bill No. Extension Service Budget	Oppose
	Amend
AFTER TESTIFYING, PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATE	EMENT WITH SECRETARY.
Comments: 1.	

2.

Itemize the main argument or points of your testimony. This will assist the committee secretary with her minutes.

• FORM CS-34 1-83

EXHIBIT "L"
Education Subcomm.
2/9/83

MONTANA EXTENSION SERVICE BUDGET REQUEST

### HEARING FEBRUARY 9, 1983

My name is Chuck Jarecki. I am a range cattle rancher from Polson.

I am representing the Montana Knapweed Action Committee, comprised of Ranchers and agri-business people in the Western part of Montana.

AS A COMMITTEE, WE ARE VERY CONCERNED NOT ONLY WITH THE RAPID SPREAD OF KNAPWEED AND OTHER NOXIOUS WEEDS, BUT WITH THE LACK OF AWARENESS OF MANY AGRICULTURALISTS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC. IT APPEARS THAT MOST PEOPLE DO NOT EVEN RECOGNIZE MOST WEED SPECIES, LET ALONE UNDERSTAND THE ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES OF ALLOWING THESE UNDESIRABLE PLANTS TO DESTROY THE LARGEST NATURAL RENEWABLE RESOURCE IN MONTANA, ITS RANGELANDS. IT HAS BEEN MY EXPERIENCE IN TALKING TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT ONCE THEY LEARN THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE WEED PROBLEM IN MONTANA, AND ESPECIALLY KNAPWEED, THEY ARE CONCERNED AND SUPPORT INCREASED EFFORTS IN WEED CONTROL.

THE MONTANA KNAPWEED ACTION COMMITTEE SUPPORTS THE BUDGET REQUESTS OF THE MONTANA EXTENSION SERVICE, AND STRONGLY ENDORSES THE FUNDING OF AN EXTENSION WEED MANAGEMENT PROGRAM. ONLY THROUGH A STRONG EXTENSION PROGRAM CAN THE WEED PROBLEM ON MONTANA'S RANGELAND BE EXPOSED TO THE PUBLIC, AND NEW AND INNOVATIVE CONTROL MEASURES BE ADOPTED BY THE LAND OWNERS.

Education Sulcomm. 2/9/83

NAME: M. (Mack) Quinn	DATE:	2//9/83
ADDRESS: Box 353 Big Sandy, MT 59520		
PHONE: 378 2337		
REPRESENTING WHOM? Montana Farm Bureau		
APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: EXTENSION	SERVICE	
DO YOU: SUPPORT? XXXX AMEND?	OPPOSE?	
COMMENTS: Montana Farm Bureau has always		
of the Cooperative Extension Service. N	eed for its s	ervices have
never been greater than today.		
The computer age is just dawning.	Profitability	of our farm
and ranch operations will depend on very	advanced tech	nology and
improved management abilities. Agnet h	as a vital ro	le in this age.
We have not kept up with our weed p	roblem. We a	re now at a
crisis point and can no longer afford to	ignore this	problem.
We support a State Wide Weed Management		
We should not lose sigh of the fact	that Agricul	ture is
Montana's No I industry. The economic h	ealth of Mont	ana will
continue to be established by Agricultur	e.	

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.



### Montana State Grange

FOREST E. FARRIS
550 — 3 MILE DRIVE
KALISPELL, MT 59901
PHONE 257-3636

Lebuary 9, 1983

The Chairman and Committee Members:

My name is Facet Farris, Master of Montana State Drange. Lam representing the Grange members of Montana.

the Trange was instrumental in helping bromote The Ettension Sewice at the Talional level and has been actively engaged in ewarking with the Estimain Texular since its inception.

There is necessary for the good of agriculture and 4. H programs in fromting and teaching educationed mathete to consist better economics and Community awareness of agriculture.

The Montana State Thange at their annual session in October of 1982, went on record favoring full funding of Research and Extension budgett for the next biennium. The feel these minies are necessary to promise grade word manage-ment and the Popper program for a more seconomical and production agriculture in Montana.

He of the Grange hope you see Sit to act fareably on the Estension budget as requested.

The do not see this as a hand and beagan, but rather, an investment in Trontana's future.

Forest Hazris

Torest Tarris Master Montana State Grange



### Montana State Grange

FOREST E. FARRIS 550 — 3 MILE DRIVE KALISPELL, MT 59901 PHONE 257-3636

February 8, 1983

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members:

My name is Forest Farris, Master of Montana State Grange representing the Grange membership.

We are in full support of the proposed University budget for construction of a new greenhouse facility at Montana State University.

It is our sincere belief that a unit of this type is necessary to help make a workable and effective weed control program in Montana. Also, we are needing a better facility-to carry out research for new crop varieties and disease control in our grain and forage crops.

I hope, Mr. Chairman, your committee will act favorable on this budget request.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Forest Farris, Master

Montana State Grange

Education Sub wimm. 219/83 FRHIBIT "O"

Association Of Conservation District

7 Edwards Helena, Montana 59601 Ph. 406-443-5711

Madame Chairman, Members of the Subcommittee:

I am Steve Meyer representing the Montana Association of Conservation Districts.

We would like to go on record as supporting the budget request of the Cooperative Extension Service. Agriculture has always strived to stay abreast with technological advances. With the strides being made in recent years, there is always the threat that useful knowledge may be missed because of the overwhelming amount of new information. The Extension Service, through its specialists and field agents, provide a vital link in the information chain. They are constantly providing innovative ideas to agriculturalists on methods of improving resource use efficiency while protecting those resources for future use.

I would also like to address Extension's role in the proposed statewide weed management plan. Without having an outlet for information on new weed control measures, this knowledge would be left without easy accessibility to the people who would use these practices. The Conservation District supervisors passed a resolution at our annual convention supporting the management plan and have consistently listed noxious weeds as a growing threat to the agricultural producer.

Again, we would ask that you grant the budget request of the Extension Service.

Thank you.

Steven R. Meyer

Executive Vice President

Steven R. Mun

Enclosure (MACD Range Resolution #9)

### MONTANA ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Range,	Forestry	&	Public	Lands	Committee
--------	----------	---	--------	-------	-----------

Resolution	No.	9
and the second s		

WHEREAS noxious weeds are a problem that is becoming the number one resource problem on agricultural land, and

WHEREAS there is presently very little coordination among state, federal, county and private weed control programs, and

WHEREAS, this coordination is essential to bring Montana's weed problems under control.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that MACD support the proposed state wide weed management plan submitted by the Agricultural Experiment Station, Cooperative Extension Service and the Montana Department of Agriculture.

Resolution from: In Committee Committee Resolution # 9

Adopted: 11/10/82

EXITIBIT "P" Education Subcomm 2/9/83



OFFICE OF THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS

**9505U** 

02/09/83

TO: The Appropriations Subcommittee for Education

Madam Chairman, Committee members,

My name is Dennis Wagner, I represent the Associated Students of Montana State
University. We would like to go on record as supporters of the budget and modification requests as proposed by the Cooperative Extension Service.

The fact that the central office of the Cooperative Extension Service is located at MSU, combined with the role that the Extension Service performs in disseminating research information from MSU and the Ag Experiment Station - makes it very visible to students. Because of its high degree of visibility, students who graduate and go out to work in Montana tend to utilize the services of the agency - because they understand its purpose. Thus, the professional growth of students and former students is very much enhanced by the presence of the Cooperative Extension Service.

Thank-you

Donnes Wagner

EXMIBIT DA Education Subcomm. 2/9/83

WITNESS STATEMENT	COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
Name CHUCK MERTA	Committee On BUDGET.
Address SUN RIVER, MONTANA	Date 2/9/83
Representing MERJA FARMS	Support AGNET & WEED PRUGRAM.
BILL NO. BUDGET REC. FOR COOPERATIVE	Oppose
Extension Service	Amend
AFTER TESTIFYING, PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STAT	EMENT WITH SECRETARY.
1. THE DESCENSION OF INFORMATION.	IN A TIMELY MANNER TO BE AN
MONTANA, THAT INCLUDES RESEARCH OTHERS PLUS MANAGEMENT PROGRAM 2. ESSENTIAL DECISION AIDS. USE OF MICROCOMPUTERS AND OF ELECTRO	PODUCER HERE IN THE STATE OF IS AN NOUNCEMENTS FROM IS THAT ARE HELP FUL - RATHER
SUBSTANTIACLY IN THE NEAR FUTURE  3. WITH FINANCIAL CONDITIONS TIGHT  TO THE STANTIAL TO	•
GANANCIAL ALTERNATIVES THAT AR	RE AVAILABLE.

GIVE TO AGNET & WEED BUDGET AS REQUIRED BY REGENTS

le weed budget - County by county weed management is ridiculous since river chainages & the wind, & other weed transport systems know no boundaries. I support the weed budget request.

Itemize the main argument or points of your testimony. This will assist the committee secretary with her minutes.

EXITIBIT "R"
Education Suscomm.
249183

### WITNESS STATEMENT

Name Elliot Meria Committee On	
Address Sun River MT Date 3/9/83	
Representing Menia from Stra Support 103	
Bill No. Budget Rec Cooperative Extensignpose	
Amend	
AFTER TESTIFYING, PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.	
1. AGNet is useful to all Farmer of Ranchers, and can help everyone in the U.S.	
2. computors are in a minority now But what will happen if the programs to uso on the computer are not there whom the Aeople get computers or the use at them.  3. Until	
3. It reople get computers or the use at them.	
Until you we Agret you will not realize the true	
Until you use Agnet you will not realize the true value of it to the public. It it is not financed the other than By uses feel no one will have a chance To learn to use it	
To learn to use it	

Itemize the main argument or points of your testimony. This will assist the committee secretary with her minutes.

Joint Appropriations Subcommittee capitol Building Helena, Montana

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee:

I am representing the Park County Extension Homemakers Council in the request for your committee to comfirm the Budget that the State Cooperative Extension Service has presented to you.

As Extension Homemaker clubs, the Extension Service means a great deal to all of us, for Cooperative Extension is always there with answers to most any problems or information to better our home, family health and management, leadership, community and citizenship. Extension never sits still. They have access to material-from home life through various Agricultural business update; from knowledge of the Experiment station reports to guiding youngsters to live better lives through the advantage of learning-by-doing and record keeping.

Some things that have touched many of our lives though Extension efforts are:

Energy conservation: Agents offer energy conservation seminars and How-to-do-it workshops and run it on radio programs. Improvements of insulation, weather-strip and caulking; saved people many dollars in heating costs. Some agents arranged tours of Solar energy homes to show possibilities in our own homes. Seeing is more apt to cause believing and understanding. Others provided resourse on Safety in wood heating in homes and on conversion of fireplaces for more effectency.

Extension works with several cities and counties to solve goowing waste disposal problems-using it for heating facilities (energy saving) and in other ways helping the farmer with free fertilizer as the residue. New liquid waste disposal systems are being promoted which reduce ground water contamination.

montana winters, being severe, brought requests for education of survival if detained outside for extended time. Extension programs are set up to teach how to prepare for and cope with; from frostbite to hypothermia and what to do.

4-H is such a good source to build upright conscientious citizens who will help guide our state and countrys future. They have a goal and something to work on from their training coming through Extension. They are busy, not out looking for something to do that can wind up to be distructive to the community. They work to build a better community! Nothing teaches like learning-by-doing. As Mr. Raymond Firestone of Firestone lire and Rubber Company says, - his corooration is interested in 4-H work "because I believe what youth thinks and does will determine the future of the nation."

There is much more to homemaking than sewing and cooking, though we realze these are high priority to family living. But we can learn through extension:

- 1. What economic contribution the farm and ranch wife makes in Ag. business.
- 2. -The stratagles to get the most from the decreasing dollar value.
- 3. About Estate planning. A home study course through Extension.
- 4. About getting household papers organized. A 3 lesson home study course is available through Extension.
- 5. Many families have used a home study lesson called "Education for successful Parenting." covering early, middle childhood and adolescent. The success of this course in the U.S. prompted Canada to request permission to use the same Montana material for their family education programming.
- 6. -Microwave ovens are checked through Extension. Findings showed testing of 19 different brand name ovens, 210 out of 255 ovens tested showed no leakage. Of the 45 left, two ovens had leakage in excess of the Federal standards.

AGNET is one of the big answers to a wide variety of Agriculture, home economics and consumer problems. These computers, usable at County Extension offices, can be used to make critical decisions in peoples own type of management. More than 120 different programs are available in Montana. Data is continuously updated so consumers can depend on the latest information for calculations.

I understand the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Agriculture Appropriations are concerned enough about our country loosing its competitive edge that they have asked the Dept. of Agriculture "to place high priority on computer technology in desseminating technical information to State and County Extension offices."

Even Russia is now subscribing to AGNET to obtain the wide variety of information our states have. MONTANA CANNOT AFFORD TO LOOSE AGNET!!

There is a project coming up through Extension and 4-H for adults to learn first hand how our legislature here in Helena works and how bills progress through the chambers. This can give the regular citizen knowledge on how to help inform you how we feel about many issues and YOU represent us so I hope you DO listen.

We appreciated Extension Funding last session to allow State Specialists, field agents and area supervisors to have salaries raised to comparable average with neighboring states. With your help again this year, we can hold or bring in high quality calaber people and NOT loose them to higher pay areas. Without them it causes our agriculture to suffer the availibility to raise our yields to feed the nation our livestock and grains, when Agriculture is the highest income industry of our state.

Thank you for sonsidering our plea.

Sincerely, Jene Henduckson

Jene Hendrickson

Immediate past president Park County Extension

Homemakers council

Kte I

Wilsall, Montana 59086

Committee On Pr.Co Ext. advisory