"Computers On Farm" Program Taught At Annual Meeting Jan. 9-10

COLUMBIA, MO.

Farmers will share their technical tips on how to use computers to learn more and farm better at the annual Computers on the Farm Conference and Vendor Show, Jan. 9-10, at Osage Beach, Mo.

The conference will be at Tan-Tar-A Resort on the Lake of the Ozarks. A $115 registration feed covers all materials and meals. Participants can register at the door. The program opens at 1 p.m., Jan. 9, and runs through noon, Jan. 10.

"Topics range from the most basic to those topics for the advanced computer users," said John Travlos, director of the University of Missouri AgEBB (Agricultural Electronic Bulletin Board).

While farm uses are the main theme, uses by the whole family are included. "We will have special computer sessions for kids of all ages," Travlos said. "There will be an open MU Extension 4-H computer lab all day Saturday for hands-on experience and teaching sessions. No registration fee is required for this lab."

"Farmer-developed software is always popular with other farmers," Travlos said. "But, farmers also share their evaluation of commercial software as well."

Since the first computer conference, the experience level of farmers has risen amazingly, Travlos said. Now, topics range beyond computers to other electronic devices, including multiple variations of the cell phone. Farmers also have learned to market their products online, including auctions and niche markets for specialty agricultural crops.

Vendors will be on hand to show new hardware and software.

"No matter what we add to the program, it is the farmer-to-farmer talk that remains most popular," Travlos said.

Conference details can be obtained from Travlos by e-mail, travlosj@missouri.edu, or the AgEBB Web site, http://agebb.missouri.edu/cotf/details.htm.

Tan-Tar-A Resort offers special room rates for participants. Call 800-826-8272 for details. ∆