

Computer Practice Tips

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E-Mail: Easy Access

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E-mail (Electronic Mail) use has exploded in the last year or two, as millions of people gain access to the worldwide computer network called "The Internet." Even practitioners in rural practices (like ours) can cheaply and easily use E-mail to send and receive messages from almost any computer using their existing phone lines. The AABP has made a major commitment to the use of E-mail by setting up a group account scheme with MCI Mail, open to any AABP member, and by providing accounts for AABP offices in Rome and for each of our Directors. Already, much AABP business that would be conducted at much greater effort and expense by phone or in-person, is being conducted "over the wire."

An immediate benefit of Internet E-mail is that you may join (for free) the Internet "discussion groups" AABP-L, Dairy-L, Beef-L, or literally thousands of others covering interests from camels to Star Trek. When you join one of these groups, you automatically receive all messages sent to the group's mailbox. The atmosphere is informal, and an excellent way to keep abreast

of news and events in our profession. Each group tends to have a distinctive flavor - Dairy-L and Beef-L have over 1,000 members between them, including animal scientists, Extension personnel, nutritionists, farmers, and many veterinarians. AABP-L is restricted to AABP members, and a place you can let your hair down a little more.

An important reason that AABP is promoting use of MCI Mail over other services like Compuserve and America Online is that MCI does not charge to receive messages from the Internet. After the annual fee of \$35, there are no further charges to receive unlimited messages (by modem using a toll-free phone number). The free software (for IBM compatible computers) provided by MCI makes it easy to send, receive, and file messages.

You can have MCI fax you details and an enrollment form by calling 800-395-9972 and asking for document 30162, or speak to a representative by calling 800-759-3294. See you on the 'Net!

Getting the Most Out of Listserv

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Introduction

The listserv software package was developed in France during the late 1980's by Eric Thomas. It was developed for IBM mainframe computers on the Bitnet

computer network. The software has been modified for other types of computers and now utilizes Internet addressing systems. The software has undergone incremental improvements since its inception, and improvements are likely to continue. The listserv commands below all