

# tools of the trade

## **Comparing Remote Access Systems**

*A Comparison of Remote Access Systems. Eddie L. LaDue. Ithaca, New York: Cornell University, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Department of Agricultural Economics, July, 1976. 40 pp. No charge.*

This publication presents the results of a study conducted during 1974 and 1975 that was designed to assess the costs and value of remote access computer systems for Extension programs. It provides a backdrop for sound decisions relative to remote access systems by the Cooperative Extension Service.

The study provides three types of information: (1) physical information on the costs and operating characteristics of remote access systems; (2) comparative information on the three different remote access systems—printing terminal, touch-tone terminal, and mail-in; and (3) information on the usefulness of remote access systems in Extension education programs.

LaDue's staff paper is well-written and can be understood by the layman. It contains an excellent bibliography of early Extension staff papers and bulletins related to remote systems and their features, feasibility, and use.