UBC researchers win award

Two researchers at the University of British Columbia have been named 1979 co-winners of the George M. Darrow Award by the American Society for Horticultural Science.

George W. Eaton, a horticultural professor at UBC, and his research assistant Tina Kyte received the award, August 2, at the society's annual meeting, at Ohio State University. The award is presented for "excellence in viticulture and small fruits research".

Dr. Eaton and Mrs. Kyte developed a numerical technique for breaking down yield into various components, such as flowers *per* bush, or length of stems, and then measuring the relative importance of each factor.

"This provides a rational basis for deciding what research to pursue or what management practices to adopt," said Dr. Eaton.

He said that although he and Mrs. Kyte had used the cranberry for their research, the analytical system they had developed could be applied to interpretation of yields of many other crops.

Computers simulate oil recovery

A Calgary group has become one of the largest in the field of using computers to simulate the effect of various methods of drawing oil from reservoirs.

The Computer Modelling Group, begun two years ago and sponsored by the University of Calgary and the Alberta and federal governments, has already outgrown local computer capacity in its development of computer programs to aid oil recovery.

It has been relying upon long-distance connections to Toronto computers. However, those have become inadequate, and the group has been preparing links to a giant computer in Kansas City, U.S.A.

International interest

In addition, scientists from the group will present a paper in September to the World Petroleum Congress in Romania and will present four papers later that month, to the annual meeting of United States petroleum engineers in Las Vegas.

The group's manager Khalid Aziz, a professor of chemical engineering at the university, said the Calgary group was believed to be the only non-profit organization in the world doing such work.

"We are a small company, a non-profit company, but we constitute a very large – in relative terms – reservoir simulation group," he said.

The value of computer simulation lies in ensuring that the method of enhancing recovery is the best one, said Mr. Aziz.

Among the complex programs developed by the group are ones that simulate the effect of injecting carbon dioxide, nitrogen, polymers or steam into various types of reservoir.

Just starting operation is a computer program that simulates *in-situ* combustion, a technique where part of a heavy oil reservoir is burned to heat the reservoir and make the rest of the oil flow up freely.

Mr. Aziz said that while running such a computer simulation might cost $100,000, it was a small price compared with the wealth of information obtained or the $40-million-plus cost of pilot recovery projects.

About a dozen firms have used the group's services in the past year as it moved from the program-development stage into implementing the programs. One U.S.-based company has used the group's programs to test various methods of recovering oil from Oklahoma fields.

Mr. Aziz said the group would be able to rely less on governments for its annual budget of $620,000 with more income from member fees for services.

Preschoolers' health circus

The annual "health circus" at Port Coquitlam, 15 miles east of Vancouver, British Columbia, which combines clowns, balloons and puppet shows with clinical tests for very young children, is so successful that from a small beginning a few years ago, it is an event eagerly awaited each year by hundreds of participants.

At the fifth annual circus last summer, more than 330 children of preschool age and nearly as many adults, took part in the activities. While the youngsters enjoyed the fun, the parents and nurses had the satisfaction of knowing that each child left, not just happy, but a little better equipped to stay healthy because of the health assessment and teaching procedures that were a hidden but important part of the day's agenda.

Fun, games and, above all, noise, are easily recognized features of the program. Wide-eyed children venture from one screening procedure to the next. For the youngster who is jumping off a springboard, or tumbling on the mats in the activity corner, what he is doing is just fun. But for the trained physiotherapist observer, standing by watching with the parent, it is an opportunity to discuss growth, development, and gross motor control, and if necessary, offer suggestions for other exercises to help develop lagging motor skills.

Most activities and screening procedures are designed to involve the parent and child, so each event becomes a positive step in health education.

Having your eyes checked by the ophthalmologist can be fun when you're sitting on the lap of public health nurse/clown, Jan Sutton, during vision screening at the health circus.

Speech assessment is actually done by the parent, while the expert offers guidelines.

Dental examination and brushing methods are performed with the child's head on the parents' lap, with the hygienist showing procedures to be followed in the home.

Experiential learning is emphasized in everything from mental health to nutrition, with the exception of immunization, which is provided for children who will be entering school.

About 35 groups and agencies participate in this effort to maintain a healthy environment and community.

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