

## TRANSATLANTIC TRIPLET PIGLETS

Three healthy pigs have been born in Britain, although their parents were in Canada at the time.

The event, which was the culmination of a transatlantic transfer of fertilized eggs from pigs in Canada to a sow in England, began at the Canada Department of Agriculture's Animal Diseases Research Institute at Hull, Quebec on March 16, when, at the same time, mother pigs over 3,000 miles away in Weybridge, England, were prepared as recipients.

On March 16, three donor pigs were bred at the ADRI. On March 19, their fertilized eggs were removed, placed in a liquid medium, flown by jet to a sow at the Central Veterinary Laboratory, run by the British Ministry of Agriculture at Weybridge. The time lapse for transportation was about 16 hours.

The British veterinarians recently reported the birth of three, healthy, full-term piglets following the transfer of 34 fertilized eggs to the foster mother.



Ministry of Agriculture, Britain.

*British "foster mother" sow and the three Canadian-bred piglets born in Weybridge, England.*

## POTENTIAL FOR INDUSTRY

The success of this egg-transfer marks the beginning of what could grow into a large and important international industry.

The most likely practical application of the technique would be the transfer of fertilized eggs from European breeds of cattle to North American animals. Canadian farmers are currently paying thousands of dollars for live animals in Europe, then paying more thousands of dollars and waiting for almost a year to bring them through the strict quarantine necessary to prevent the spread of disease to Canada.

This was the second attempt at a transfer of pig eggs from Canada to England. The first had been unsuccessful, and an England-to-Japan attempt was also unsuccessful.

Successful transfers in both pigs and cattle have been conducted at several research centres

round the world, including one — also involving a single sow — from the University of Illinois to Macdonald College in Quebec.

Researchers on both sides of the Atlantic say that the use of egg transfers compared to the importation of live animals would undoubtedly reduce the risk of introducing exotic diseases. Extensive research, however, on the transmission of disease by eggs will have to be conducted before the present strict quarantine regulations could be modified for the importation of eggs.

Another advantage of this technique lies in the opportunity of obtaining from genetically superior stock a much larger number of progeny than would be the case where a normal gestation period occurred.

## CANADIAN BAND AT EDINBURGH

A 56-piece composite pipe and drum band is representing Canada at this year's annual military tattoo in Edinburgh.

The band, composed of pipers and drummers from the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, Hamilton, Ontario, the Highland Fusiliers of Canada, Kitchener, Ontario, the Lorne Scots, Brampton, Ontario, and The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders, Winnipeg, performs a special composition which is a "Salute to Canada", by Warrant Officer John B. Kerr of CFB Rockliffe, Ontario.

Leading the band, which returns to Canada on September 13, are Pipe Major Archie Cairns of Ottawa and drum major G.C. Walford of CFB Petawawa, Ontario.

## FOREIGN TRADE

The surplus of \$1,246 million in Canada's merchandise trade in the first half of 1970 was almost double that for the whole of 1969 and equalled that for the entire previous year. Exports for the first six months of 1970 totalled \$8,443 million, 16 per cent higher than the figure for 1969, while imports rose only 2 per cent to \$7,196 million. The United States' share of Canadian exports declined from 71 per cent to 67 per cent, more in line with the average for the first half of the four most recent years, while the U.S. share of Canada's imports narrowed marginally to 73 per cent.

Among the commodities that contributed to the higher exports were wheat, barley, meat, rapeseed, iron ores, pulp, newsprint, fertilizers, chemicals,