
Handbook provides food facts

The average Canadian consumed about 40 kilograms of beef, 13 kilograms of eggs and more than 40 kilograms of refined sugar in 1979, according to the latest federal government *Handbook on Food Expenditures, Prices and Consumption*.

Prepared by Agriculture Canada, the handbook is a comprehensive and convenient source of data for researchers and the public. It contains statistical information on Canada's population and personal income trends, personal expenditures on consumer goods and services, retail food prices and supply and disappearance quantities for more than 160 food commodities.

Also included are selected tables from recent family expenditure surveys across Canada and selected tables for the United States, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, and developing countries.

Copies of the handbook are available from Andre Trempe, Marketing and Economics Branch, Agriculture Canada, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0C5.

Trilateral farming agreement signed

Canada and Israel have signed an agreement to help the Dominican Republic build a major dairy farm settlement during the next five years.

Under the trilateral agreement the Dominican Republic will underwrite \$3.5 million of the total cost, Canada's share will be \$3.4 million and Israel's \$300,000.

Bill McWhinney, acting president of the Canadian International Development Agency, signed on behalf of Canada while Israel's Minister Counsellor Moshe Ofer and Rahamin Timor, Director of MASHAV, Israel's development co-operation agency, represented their country.

Canada's contribution to the five-year project will be spent largely on dairy equipment and Holstein cattle. The Dominican Republic's share will cover engineering, construction, equipment and other infrastructure, and the cost of Israeli experts. Israel, with years of agricultural experience in arid zones, will provide most of the expertise.

The dairy farm project is an extension of a successful Israeli settlement program which began nine years ago in an arid area

of the Dominican Republic, as a blend of private and co-operative activities. The Israelis helped settle about 500 Dominican families in the area and taught them how to irrigate their land and make use of appropriate farming techniques for this type of desert agriculture.

The objective of the dairy farm community is to establish 170 additional families in the Azua Valley who would be involved in milk production and processing for themselves and other farmers in the region.

The project will create employment opportunities, optimize the use of arable irrigated land by developing fodder production, establish a marketing system and help integrate the people of the Azua Valley into the social and economic development of the Dominican Republic, which is now deficient in milk production.

Computer speeds up transplants

For the first time in Canada, a Toronto hospital is using a computer to match kidney donors with patients requiring transplants. The computer has reduced the waiting time for transplants to months from years in some cases.

The computer, located at Toronto General Hospital, is a crucial link between transplant centres across the country and kidneys available through a program run by the hospital.

The computer stores medical information on about 1,000 patients in Canada who are on dialysis waiting for a kidney and matches their profiles with those of donors.

Dr. Michael Robinette, the surgeon in charge of the program, said that before the computer was installed his staff matched recipients and donors by manually sorting through patient descriptions mailed by other transplant centres.

Although information on patients must be fed into the computer manually, the computer saves crucial time at the stage of matching up donors and recipients.

Kidneys, after they are removed from the donors, must be used within three days. They are taken by van to Toronto General Hospital, where they are kept in special machines and supplied with nutrients while it is decided who will be the recipient.

Then, a member of Dr. Robinette's team accompanies the portable machine containing the kidney while it is trans-

ported to the appropriate transplant centre.

"The matching process is critically important with kidneys," Dr. Robinette said.

Although most kidneys supplied by the hospital are from Ontario residents and destined for local use, about 20 per cent are sent by air to patients in Halifax, Quebec City, Montreal, Winnipeg, Edmonton and Calgary.

Tips for Arctic travellers

The federal government is providing advice for travellers to the Arctic Islands or the North Pole.

The tips are included in a new brochure called *Guide for Expeditions to the Canadian Arctic Islands* published by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada. For example, scientists who want to study a northern community or its people must be licensed by the government of the Northwest Territories and community approval must be obtained. The prudent Arctic traveller also lets the local Royal Canadian Mounted Police post know his route and expected arrival times.

The booklet does not spell out all the regulations for such things as hunting, environmental protection, the use of radio transmitters or visits to National Defence or weather stations, but it alerts would-be travellers to existing requirements and advisable precautions and tells them where to get more detailed information. The booklet may be obtained from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H4.

Podborski leads downhill

Canadian Steve Podborski is tied for first place following his third consecutive win and two third-place finishes on the World Cup downhill ski circuit.

Podborski is tied with Harti Weirather of Austria with 105 points. Podborski won his third consecutive downhill race on the 3,510-metre Hahnenkamm event in Kitzbuhel, Austria with a time of 2:03.76. He followed his win with third-place finishes on courses in Wengen, and St. Anton, Austria. In Wengen, Podborski completed the 4,296-metre Lauberhorn course in a time of 2:28.46. He finished the 3,550-metre track in St. Anton with a time of 2:00.15.