

Farm in a computer

Research economists are experimenting with building model farms in a computer used by Agriculture Canada's Economics Branch.

The branch's research economists are gathering data about the various types of farm in Canada. Information is gleaned from special surveys, census and survey information from Statistics Canada, experiments carried out by Agriculture Canada research stations, publications and studies by universities and provinces.

The data include information on investment, costs and returns and physical inputs and outputs of farms. With this material, research economists can program models of farms that are fairly true to life, says Dr. Varge Gilchrist, director of Agriculture Canada's Economics Research Division. One result is a testing ground for possible agriculture policies, he says.

The policy proposals can be fed into the various model farms set up in the computer which projects the impact of the proposals on these farms.

"With these models of different kinds of farm, we can simulate a wide variety of effects in response to policies and possible effects on incomes," Dr. Gilchrist explains.

The research economists will be able to test the effects of all policy proposals on all farms only when every type of farm has been programmed into the computers. It will be some time before such models are available for extensive use.

The impact of proposed government policies isn't all that will be evaluated by computer.

Research for example, might turn up a new breed of cattle with improved feeding efficiency. Data concerning the new breed's performance would be fed into the computer which would

measure the impact on various types of farm operation. The new breed might prove more efficient experimentally, but the computer would give much more comprehensive information — and it just might be too expensive for cattlemen to make the switch.

"The effects of innovations could be quickly simulated under a variety of price conditions, crop yields and labour requirements," Dr. Gilchrist says.

Women in the news

Gabrielle Vallée, a specialist in civil law, is the first women president of a bar association in North America. A graduate of Laval University, Quebec, Gabrielle Vallée was admitted to the Quebec Bar in 1954. She was named a Queen's Counsel in 1971 and a member of the province's Legal Aid Services Commission.

Medical Association president

A Willowdale, Ontario family physician, Dr. Bette Stephenson, has been named president-elect of the Canadian Medical Association. A former president of the Ontario Medical Association, Dr. Stephenson is the first woman to be named to the top post in the national association. She will take office in 1974.

Legislative clerk

Linda Adams has been appointed as clerk of council for the Yukon territorial government. She is the first woman clerk of a regional legislature in Canada.

Holidays becoming more popular — especially in Canada

More Canadians are taking vacation trips, according to the 1972 survey made by Traveldata Limited for the Canadian Government Travel Bureau.

The findings, based on more than 6,000 responses to questionnaires, indicate 58 per cent of Canadian adults took a vacation trip last year, compared to 54 per cent in 1971 and 49 per cent in 1969. In 1966 the percentage was only 46.

The survey shows that 61 per cent of adult Canadians took a holiday in 1972,

compared to 52 per cent in 1966.

The 1972 survey indicates 6.7 million vacation trips were taken that year, of which 5.2 million included at least one night spent in Canada. Vacation travel is more common among residents of Ontario and British Columbia, where 61 per cent of adults took vacations.

Residents of Ontario increased travel in Canada and decreased travel to the United States last year. The number of vacationers travelling to Canadian destinations rose from 73 per cent in 1971 to 79 per cent in 1972. Trips to the U.S. decreased from 22 per cent in 1971 to 18 per cent in 1972.

The main purpose of the vacation trip for 47 per cent of tourists was visiting friends and relatives.

Who's head of house?

Recently a Federal Court judge ruled that the husband is not necessarily the head of the household when it comes to eligibility for unemployment insurance benefits. A teacher was refused three weeks benefits when he left his job in Alberta so that his wife could take a better position in Ontario.

Following established policy that the man is head of the house and therefore not eligible for those benefits paid to a woman who leaves a job to move with her husband, the Commission ruled that he had left his job without good and sufficient cause. Mr. Justice Darrell Heald reversed that ruling, and the teacher was awarded the three weeks' benefits. Under the present policy, there is no defined head of the household and individual cases are assessed on that basis.

Ottawa and Edmonton play for Grey Cup

As a result of semi-finals played on November 18, the Ottawa Roughriders in the East and the Edmonton Eskimos in the West will battle for the coveted Grey Cup in Toronto on November 25.

Ottawa beat Montreal 23-14 at their game in Ottawa, while Edmonton won over Saskatchewan by a score of 25-23 at Edmonton.

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