

Canadian cattle in Japan

Canadian Ayrshire cattle are in Japan for the first time in a demonstration project aimed at improving the Japanese dairy industry.

Three bred heifers, donated by members of the British Columbia Ayrshire Breeders' Association in October 1980, are believed to have been the first shipment of Ayrshires to Japan.

Harry Bailey, a Chilliwack, British Columbia, dairyman and exporter, said the three animals, which have all calved since arriving in Japan, are being tested against Canadian Holsteins now popular in Japan.

"The Ayrshire breed is attracting a lot of attention in Japan," Mr. Bailey said. "Because land area is limited and most feed has to be imported, Japanese farmers are eager to see how well Ayrshires perform compared with other breeds."

The Ayrshires were part of a 42-animal shipment, including Holsteins, flown from Vancouver by the Daiwa Company of Osaka, one of Japan's largest dairy cattle importers.

The three heifers are housed on a private family farm near Kyoto, about 375 kilometres west of Tokyo.

Ross Marra, an Agriculture Canada veterinarian in Vancouver, said each animal was required to meet Japanese animal health standards before leaving Canada. Canadian animal health officials conducted tests for possible diseases and quarantined the animals for two weeks before shipment, Dr. Marra added.

Stamp commemorates Acadian convention

A commemorative 17-cent postage stamp in honour of the centenary of the first Acadian convention was recently issued by Canada Post.

Acadia originated in 1604 when 79 Frenchmen wintered on Ste-Croix Island in Passamaquoddy Bay. More than half died of scurvy, and the following summer the survivors moved to Port Royal in the region that is now Nova Scotia. The colony expanded slowly and changed hands between Britain and France 14 times in the seventeenth century alone. When Britain took over the region permanently in 1713, the Acadians tried to maintain their neutrality. In 1755 local British authorities expelled them, fearing that they posed a military threat. Deportations continued for several years, but in 1764 the Acadians were allowed to return and formed the basis of today's Acadian community. The first Acadian Convention took place at Memramcook, New Brunswick, in 1881. At this and other conventions in the 1880s, the Acadians chose a national feast day, a flag and a patron saint. The illustration for this stamp is the work of Nérée DeGrâce, a painter of Acadian origin.



Course for women executives

Simon Fraser University, in Vancouver is offering a program to help women enter the world of management.

The program aims at executive-potential women already in the work force and seeks to offer something between brief specialized courses and full-time university.

In six three-day seminars spread over 14 months and reinforced by home study, 24 women at a time are introduced to decision-making and life on the executive level.

Practice in dealing with broad policy issues, said program director Jo Lynne Hoegg, is often particularly needed by women since they frequently advance up the work ladder by specialist routes while men have more generalist backgrounds.

Can continue to work

The course is designed to allow working women to participate with minimal disruption to their jobs.

"The climate for women in business has changed tremendously," Hoegg noted. Some university business schools have classes that are over 50 per cent women, compared with 5 per cent a decade earlier, and some universities have 25 to 30 per cent women among their master of business administration graduates.

The experimental program, which is being watched by several institutions across the continent, also strives to foster women's networks.

Food aid to Nicaragua

Canada is providing Nicaragua with \$4.5 million in food aid, Secretary of State for External Affairs Mark MacGuigan has announced.

The food aid, all in the form of wheat, is in direct response to Nicaragua's critical food situation, said the minister.

"Bread is one of the main staple foods in Nicaragua and Canada's contribution of wheat, is a temporary measure to fulfill basic nutritional needs of the population of Nicaragua", he added.

The minister also announced that the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) will be financing, in conjunction with Nicaragua, a food sector study to provide the basis for the long term food security and self-sufficiency of Nicaragua.

Cancer screening method tested

A Winnipeg hospital is testing a new technique that could eliminate the need for biopsy surgery to test for breast cancer, reports the *Canadian Press*.

The technique employs a 28-watt flashlight linked to a video camera, a recorder and a small television screen. Dr. Ross Brown, head of the St. Boniface Hospital's ultra-sound department and Dr. Harvey Schipper, an assistant professor of medicine at the University of Manitoba, are conducting experiments to assess the value of light in early detection of malignant breast tumours.

Dark spots are cancerous

The method should allow doctors to identify malignant and benign tumours which both appear as dark spots on the breasts, because light is diffused differently in malignant tumours than in benign tumours.

Since the technique involves only light, the two doctors said there are no potentially dangerous radiation emissions. The light process, with the help of the video camera, illuminates everything within the breast including blood vessels, scars and tumours. The machine, developed by a California doctor, is the only one of its kind in Canada.

Drs. Brown and Schipper said they hope to examine about 3,000 women in conjunction with other screening methods such as mammography and biopsies to judge the screening effectiveness of the new technique.