

## Farm energy needs studied

Agriculture Canada, Energy, Mines and Resources Canada, and Statistics Canada have announced a survey that will help determine the need for fuel substitution and conservation programs for agriculture.

The \$1-million survey, to be conducted in July 1982, will be funded under the National Energy Program and is expected to fill a major information gap in Canadian energy use.

The survey, which will cover 7,000 Canadian farms, will contribute to the work of a voluntary task force for the farm sector on energy concentration and complement an energy research and development program announced recently by Energy, Mines and Resources Canada.

The federal government will also provide an additional \$100,000 a year for ongoing monitoring of energy use in agriculture and for keeping the 1982 survey up to date.

The government already assists in programs designed to encourage more effective use of energy in agriculture through a number of federal-provincial agreements and federal programs.

## Kidney registry to aid treatments

A Canadian Renal Failure Registry is being established to aid the treatment and care of kidney patients.

The registry will collect and analyze reports from hospital nephrology units and doctors who treat irreversible kidney disease. Hospital units across Canada will report annually the number of cases they handled, the method of treatment (dialysis or kidney transplant) and the patient's progress and results.

## New treatments

Approximately 5,000 Canadians suffer from serious kidney ailments and many of them depend on an artificial kidney machine to stay alive. A number of new forms of treatment, such as continuous ambulatory peritoneal dialysis, an artificial kidney that works continuously as the patient goes about his daily life, are being used more generally. Improvements have also been made in the success rate for kidney transplantation.

Information on these and other developments will be available from the new registry and will assist physicians, hospitals, governments, patients and their families, and the general public in choos-

ing and providing the most effective treatments for kidney failure.

The method of reporting is to be compatible with that developed by the European Dialysis and Transplant Association (EDTA) now in use in Europe, Australia and elsewhere. This approach will allow the success rate of Canadian treatment to be compared with those abroad.

A field representative of the Kidney Foundation of Canada will work full time on the project, including giving advice to nephrologists and hospitals on the use of the new reporting procedures. The project will be managed by a joint steering committee, and Dr. G.A. Posen, head of the department of nephrology, Ottawa Civic Hospital has been appointed project director.

The Department of Health and Welfare and Statistics Canada will share the expenses for collecting, processing and analyzing the reports from doctors and hospitals, and in reporting on the statistical results by the fall of the following year.

## U.S. grant to school for the deaf

Sir James Whitney School, one of Ontario's three schools for the deaf, is the first Canadian school to receive a grant from an American foundation.

The school in Belleville, Ontario will receive a total of \$250,000 during the next three years from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation of Battle Creek, Michigan, as part of a project to make schools for the deaf better resource centres.

The project is administered by Gallaudet College in Washington, D.C., the world's only university for the deaf.

The Belleville school, which serves about 330 children from northern and eastern Ontario and five from the United States, will work during the three-year period to develop "the special school of the future", said Catherine Michalski, superintendent of Sir James Whitney.

Such a school, she said will act as a resource centre for the deaf in all areas: for public school children, pre-schoolers and adults and the professional and general community.

The grant will be used to stage workshops for the school's staff and those of other schools associated with Sir James Whitney. It will also be used to hire experts to conduct study workshops on problems of dealing with the deaf.

The objectives of the program include educating parents of deaf students

through workshops and seminars, developing and revising a curriculum for the deaf and providing workshops for deaf adults in the areas of politics, consumerism and community interaction.

The program is also intended to increase awareness and understanding of problems faced by the deaf by public school administrators, teachers and specialists and to develop a network of affiliated schools for the deaf.

## Geneticist honoured

David Suzuki, host of CBC's *The Nature of Things* and an internationally known geneticist, has been chosen as the first recipient of the Sanford Fleming Medal by the Royal Canadian Institute.



David Suzuki

The award committee said that Suzuki was chosen for "his outstanding achievements in promoting knowledge and the understanding of science among Canadians".

Suzuki recently produced a children's record album about outer space featuring Canadian rock musicians.

The medal was presented to Suzuki at a ceremony at the University of Toronto's Medical Science Department. It will be awarded annually.

The Royal Canadian Institute, a 133-year-old organization, sponsors lectures to keep the public informed of advances in science and technology. The original proposal for Standard Time was made by Sanford Fleming in a lecture to the organization in 1878.

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