

I.—AVERAGE PRICES OF SILVER- AND BLACK-FOX PELTS REALIZED DURING SEASON 1940-41

Grade	Size	Average Prices of—					Description
		Dark Pelts	One-Half Silver Pelts	Three-Quarters Silver Pelts	Silvery Pelts	Full Silver Pelts	
Canada Specials.	Large....	\$ 30	\$ 40	\$ 46	\$ 60	\$ 70	Prime pelts, evenly furred throughout, clear, densely silvered (having regard to colour phase) with under fur and guard hair blending in colour. Character, finish volume and silver bar should be given proper consideration.
	Medium...	26	36	42	52	60	
	Small...	24	32	38	44	50	
Canada Selects..	Large....	25	28	34	42	48	Pelts of good quality, evenly furred, densely silvered (having regard to colour phase) of reasonably good colour and character and with only minor weaknesses permitted.
	Medium...	22	26	30	38	42	
	Small...	20	24	28	34	38	
Canada Grade A.	Large....	18	26	30	35	40	Pelts of good average quality and character, and of fair colour.
	Medium...	16	24	28	32	36	
	Small...	14	22	24	28	32	
Canada Grade B.	Large....	15	20	26	28	30	Pelts of fair quality and character. They may be slightly off colour but rustiness and brownness throughout the pelt is not allowed.
	Medium...	14	18	23	24	26	
	Small...	12	16	20	21	22	
Canada Grade C.	Large....	13	16	18	22	24	Pelts of low quality, open, weak-furred and definitely lacking in character.
	Medium...	12	14	16	20	22	
	Small...	11	12	14	18	20	
Rejects.....		1.00 to 10.00					Pelts of extremely low quality throughout.

During the season 1938-39 approximately 320,000 pelts were marketed in Canada; this was the largest quantity on record. With the outbreak of hostilities and the loss of London and European markets prices declined. The producer then realized that if he wanted to remain in the fur-farming business he would have to take drastic measures and do considerable culling, keeping only the very best stock for breeding purposes. A considerable number went out of production. As a result the volume of pelts produced in the season 1941-42 is estimated at 145,000—less than half the production of 1938-39. It is expected that a large proportion of the pelts produced in 1941-42 will be higher in quality than in previous years, although actual figures are not yet available.

During the past few years considerable interest has been shown in the development of the new type foxes which were derived from various mutations that have occurred on silver-fox farms. A few years ago there appeared a puppy of unusual colour markings among a litter of silver-fox pups on a farm in Norway. This fox was brought to the notice of some of the leading Norwegian breeders of high-class silver foxes who had specialized in the production of very pale full-silver animals.