

Although the fox was the first to be raised in captivity many other kinds of fur-bearing animals are now being raised—mink, raccoon, skunk, marten, fisher and rabbit. Mink farms are the most numerous of the miscellaneous class, raccoon farms coming next. From 1920 to 1939 there was a rapid expansion of fur farming in Canada and during that period there was a marked change in type of furs which were most acceptable to the market. Black fox was popular 25 years ago. A few years later the highest prices were being paid for quarter and half silvers and during recent years the full silver and new types have been setting the upper price limit. The development of a new-type fox and mink has proven to be a new incentive to the fur-farming industry. New-type fox such as platinum, platinum-silver, pearl-platinum and white-marked are meeting a ready market as are the new-type mink including silver-sable, platinum silver-blue, snow-white and a number of other colour phases. In 1939 the Dominion Government introduced the grading of furs under the Department of Agriculture. One of the Department's main objectives in grading is to secure uniformity. By accomplishing uniformity it offers an opportunity of buying by grade without the necessity of buyers from foreign countries personally examining the pelts.

Grading offers many benefits to the producer as well as to the trade in general: (1) it educates the rancher as to the proper value of his pelts, and creates an incentive to improve the quality of his product; (2) it furnishes much needed guidance in the planning of future matings; (3) it raises the standard of quality of the entire crop of pelts; and (4) it raises the level of prices for the higher quality pelts.

Statistics of Fur Farming.—The following tables give the numbers and values of the fur farms and animals, for recent years.

1.—Fur Farms, Land and Buildings, and Fur-Bearing Animals, by Provinces, 1940-42

Province or Territory	Fur Farms			Values of Land and Buildings			Values of Fur-Bearing Animals		
	1940	1941	1942	1940	1941	1942	1940	1941	1942
	No.	No.	No.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
P.E. Island.....	734	635	1,034	607,801	567,308	701,383	429,474	467,295	586,638
Nova Scotia.....	773	673	543	248,726	212,991	187,312	245,066	275,657	208,105
New Brunswick....	648	581	726	293,486	299,993	341,141	307,102	394,658	428,369
Quebec.....	2,863	2,637	2,341	1,260,088	1,276,550	1,361,087	1,343,268	1,672,160	1,658,501
Ontario.....	1,408	1,298	1,101	1,323,142	1,373,265	1,306,091	1,567,602	1,736,099	1,364,707
Manitoba.....	798	701	548	1,166,164	1,122,333	1,088,036	1,019,056	1,012,535	776,207
Saskatchewan.....	628	628	522	678,755	709,463	484,624	588,271	616,698	454,565
Alberta.....	846	858	716	1,151,919	1,185,757	1,228,101	1,177,892	1,335,170	1,010,986
British Columbia...	457	419	298	502,098	483,114	451,555	410,596	412,942	263,422
Yukon.....	9	10	6	18,850	12,100	9,650	6,030	5,757	2,355
Totals.....	9,164	8,440	7,835	7,251,029	7,242,874	7,158,980	7,094,357	7,928,971	6,753,865