

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 new colour phases in foxes 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 so that furs may be bought 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, 1941-43**

Province or Territory	Fur Farms			Values of Land and Buildings			Values of Fur-Bearing Animals		
	1941	1942	1943	1941	1942	1943	1941	1942	1943
	No.	No.	No.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
P.E. Island.....	635	1,034	840	567,308	701,383	708,711	467,295	586,638	879,326
Nova Scotia.....	673	543	474	212,991	187,312	185,451	275,657	208,105	325,061
New Brunswick....	581	726	610	299,993	341,141	313,715	394,658	428,369	627,385
Quebec.....	2,637	2,341	2,129	1,276,550	1,361,087	1,368,939	1,672,160	1,658,501	2,375,384
Ontario.....	1,298	1,101	1,046	1,373,265	1,306,091	1,439,056	1,736,099	1,364,707	2,190,642
Manitoba.....	701	548	505	1,122,333	1,088,036	1,129,235	1,012,535	776,207	1,126,959
Saskatchewan.....	628	522	474	709,463	484,624	533,607	616,698	454,565	700,097
Alberta.....	858	716	643	1,185,757	1,228,101	1,222,966	1,335,170	1,010,986	1,404,140
British Columbia..	419	298	247	483,114	451,555	437,691	412,942	263,422	411,669
Yukon.....	10	6	5	12,100	9,650	18,975	5,757	2,355	4,240
<b>Totals.....</b>	<b>8,440</b>	<b>7,835</b>	<b>6,973</b>	<b>7,242,874</b>	<b>7,158,980</b>	<b>7,358,346</b>	<b>7,928,971</b>	<b>6,753,855</b>	<b>10,044,903</b>