

Although the fox was the first fur-bearing animal to be raised in captivity, many other kinds are now being bred—mink, raccoon, skunk, marten, fisher and rabbit. Mink are the most numerous and the most valuable of such farm-raised animals. From 1920 to 1939 there was a rapid expansion of fur farming in Canada and during that period there was a marked change in the type of furs that 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 a system of fur-grading 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, 1942-44**

Province or Territory	Fur Farms			Values of Land and Buildings			Values of Fur-Bearing Animals		
	1942	1943	1944	1942	1943	1944	1942	1943	1944
	No.	No.	No.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
P. E. Island.....	1,034	840	619	701,383	708,711	673,496	586,638	879,326	825,268
Nova Scotia.....	543	474	406	187,312	185,451	210,690	208,105	325,061	324,151
New Brunswick....	726	610	494	341,141	313,715	290,422	428,369	627,385	635,250
Quebec.....	2,341	2,129	2,071	1,361,087	1,368,939	1,471,621	1,658,501	2,375,384	2,685,027
Ontario.....	1,101	1,046	988	1,306,091	1,439,056	1,547,082	1,364,707	2,190,642	2,447,177
Manitoba.....	548	505	485	1,088,036	1,129,235	1,190,080	776,207	1,126,959	1,346,652
Saskatchewan.....	522	474	457	484,624	533,607	603,903	454,565	700,097	942,571
Alberta.....	716	643	637	1,228,101	1,222,966	1,355,258	1,010,986	1,404,140	1,841,522
British Columbia...	298	247	239	451,555	437,691	498,317	263,422	411,669	501,296
Yukon.....	6	5	Nil	9,650	18,975	—	2,355	4,240	—
<b>Totals.....</b>	<b>7,835</b>	<b>6,973</b>	<b>6,396</b>	<b>7,158,980</b>	<b>7,358,346</b>	<b>7,840,869</b>	<b>6,753,855</b>	<b>10,044,903</b>	<b>11,548,914</b>