

Furs have for centuries been used for clothing and adornment and the demands of fashion, encouraging the development of new colour phases in fox and mink, have been an important incentive to the fur farming industry. There have always been mink mutations in the wild state but these unusual animals stood little chance of survival and such pelts were exceedingly rare. Starting with wild-caught mink, breeders have, by cross-breeding, produced mink furs in a variety of colours. Among the earliest mutations to appear was an attractive bluish-gray mink which became known as Platinum mink. Then mutations were crossbred and a still greater profusion of colour combinations appeared, notably the Sapphire mink, a cross of the steel blue Aleutian with the blue gray Platinum. Other unusual colour patterns are the Royal Pastel, a beautiful brown mink with a bluish cast, and an exquisite snow white mink.

In 1937 some chinchillas were imported into Saskatchewan and later into other provinces. These valuable little animals have a rich, soft fur. Although the original cost of chinchillas is high the outlay for raising them is small. There has been a steady increase in the number of farms on which chinchillas are raised; in 1953 there were 423 and the number of these animals reported was 15,889 with a value of \$2,580,961.

Section 4.—Statistics of Fur Production*

Total Fur Production Statistics.—Early records of raw fur production were confined to the decennial censuses when account was taken of the number and value of pelts obtained by trappers. In 1920 the Dominion Bureau of Statistics commenced and continued for some years an annual survey of raw fur production, basing the statistics on information supplied by the licensed fur trappers. More recently annual statements based on royalties, export tax, etc., have been made available by the provincial game departments (except Prince Edward Island), and these statements are used in the preparation of the statistics issued annually by the Bureau. Figures for Prince Edward Island are based on returns supplied to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics by fur trappers in that Province.

1.—Pelts of Fur Bearing Animals Produced and Percentage Sold from Fur Farms, Years Ended June 30, 1935-54

Year	Pelts		Percentage of Value Sold from Fur Farms ¹	Year	Pelts		Percentage of Value Sold from Fur Farms ¹
	Number	Value			Number	Value	
		\$				\$	
1935.....	4,926,413	12,843,341	31	1945.....	6,994,686	31,001,456	31
1936.....	4,596,713	15,464,883	40	1946.....	7,593,416	43,870,541	30
1937.....	6,237,640	17,526,365	40	1947.....	7,486,914	26,349,997	37
1938.....	4,745,927	13,196,354	43	1948.....	7,952,146	32,232,992	37
1939.....	6,492,222	14,286,937	40	1949.....	9,902,790	22,899,882	33
1940.....	9,620,695	16,668,348	31	1950.....	7,377,491	23,184,033	34
1941.....	7,257,337	21,123,161	26	1951.....	7,479,272	31,134,400	36
1942.....	19,561,024	24,859,869	19	1952 ²	7,931,742	24,215,061	43
1943.....	7,418,971	28,505,033	24	1953.....	7,568,865	23,349,680	43
1944.....	6,324,240	33,147,392	28	1954.....	6,274,727	19,287,522	49

¹ Approximate.

² Newfoundland included from 1952.

Ontario leads the provinces in value of fur production, accounting for 24 p.c. of the total in the 1953-54 season. The number of pelts taken in Alberta was greater than in Ontario but squirrel pelts, which are lower priced furs, made up 51 p.c. of the total. In Ontario the more valuable mink and beaver pelts brought the total value to a higher level.

* Revised in the Agriculture Division, Dominion Bureau of Statistics.