

The total number of pelts taken during 1959-60 was 6,000,298, 12 p.c. more than in the previous year. The value of pelts taken increased even more markedly to \$31,203,451, which is an increase of 21 p.c. The ten principal kinds of pelts taken according to their value were: 1,054,741 ranch mink pelts valued at \$18,715,582; 344,766 beaver pelts at \$4,732,573; 169,631 wild mink pelts at \$2,948,404; 1,562,617 muskrat pelts at \$1,303,661; 2,241,771 squirrel pelts at \$1,032,937; 40,408 lynx pelts at \$704,613; 15,296 otter pelts at \$384,953; 14,457 white fox pelts at \$353,366; 276,111 ermine pelts at \$268,612 and 29,226 marten pelts at \$194,374. These types accounted for 98.2 p.c. of the total value of pelts produced.

3.—Pelts of Fur Bearing Animals Taken, by Kind, Years Ended June 30, 1959 and 1960

Kind	1959			1960 ^a		
	Pelts	Total Value	Average Value	Pelts	Total Value	Average Value
	No.	\$	\$	No.	\$	\$
Badger.....	348	1,002	2.88	1,466	7,819	5.33
Bear, white.....	413	28,350	68.64	544	30,077	55.29
Bear, other.....	493	3,276	6.65	411	2,944	7.16
Beaver.....	328,584	3,353,031	10.20	344,766	4,732,573	13.73
Coyote or prairie wolf.....	2,533	7,813	3.08	6,948	34,121	4.91
Ermine (weasel).....	255,139	246,982	0.97	276,111	268,612	0.97
Fisher.....	4,850	84,038	17.33	6,462	117,876	18.24
Fox, blue.....	213	1,687	7.92	175	1,474	8.42
Fox, cross and red.....	15,578	27,796	1.78	17,616	57,414	3.26
Fox, silver.....	266	1,546	5.81	383	2,035	5.31
Fox, white.....	26,539	529,886	19.97	14,457	353,366	24.44
Fox, not specified.....	24	24	1.00	34	66	1.94
Lynx.....	14,165	198,350	14.00	40,408	704,613	17.44
Marten.....	18,047	109,788	6.08	29,226	194,374	6.65
Mink, standard.....	270,054	4,453,357	16.49	341,239	6,116,704	17.92
Mink, mutation.....	859,182	13,826,366	16.09	883,133	15,547,282	17.60
Muskrat.....	2,171,739	1,846,277	0.85	1,562,617	1,303,661	0.83
Otter.....	15,120	348,477	23.05	15,296	384,953	25.17
Rabbit.....	96,720	50,858	0.53	175,731	109,149	0.62
Raccoon.....	14,081	26,698	1.90	25,015	53,158	2.13
Skunk.....	1,744	1,422	0.82	2,148	1,875	0.87
Squirrel.....	1,262,006	499,238	0.40	2,241,771	1,032,937	0.46
Wildcat.....	778	2,915	3.75	1,336	3,820	2.86
Wolf.....	1,112	18,230	16.39	538	7,199	13.38
Wolverine.....	453	7,761	17.13	503	7,955	15.82
Other.....	10,350 ^b	125,387 ^c	...	11,964	127,394	...
Totals.....	5,370,531^d	25,800,555^e	...	6,000,298	31,203,451	...

Fur Farm Production.—Fur bearing animals were first raised in Canada on farms in Prince Edward Island about 1887 and in Quebec in 1898; today fur farming is carried on in all the provinces. In 1959 mink accounted for 92 p.c. of the total fur bearing animals on farms and chinchilla for 6 p.c. Small numbers of raccoon, marten, fisher, fitch, nutria and others are also reared.

There was a slow and steady increase in the number of farms until 1920 when 587 were reported, followed by a period of more rapid growth to 1938 when the number reached 10,454 with a production value of \$6,500,000. During the war years many fur farms went out of production and although prices rose considerably after the War, operating costs increased and the number of fur farms, particularly those conducted in conjunction with other farming operations, continued to decrease. By 1959 only 2,458 farms reported but the value of their production was \$18,843,000. Although there were 114 fewer farms in 1959 than in 1958, the number of animals on such farms increased from 500,774 to 538,826 and the number of pelts taken from 993,133 to 1,066,705. Fox pelts continued to decline but there were 71,958 more mink pelts sold in 1959 than in 1958. Chinchilla also showed an increase from 8,336 to 8,558.