

universities and colleges of extensive research on diseases of mink, studies of mink nutrition, genetics and general ranching practices. Funds for these undertakings are obtained by a deduction at the auction level (currently 1.5 p.c. of the sales price) made from all members' pelts sold. The better quality portion of Canada Mink Breeders' pelt crop is marketed under the name Canada Majestic, followed by the generic name of the mink type; thus, Canada Majestic Sapphire or Canada Majestic Pastel. The Canada Department of Agriculture works closely with the Association in many phases of the mink farming industry, including the dissemination of information concerning results of research on mink diseases and nutrition, undertaken at the Experimental Fur Farm, Summerside, P.E.I.

The quantities offered and average prices realized in auctions sponsored by Canada Mink Breeders' Association during the 1961-62 season were as follows:—

<u>Type</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Average Price</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Average Price</u>
	No.	\$		No.	\$
Dark.....	181,969	17.15	Violet.....	4,290	24.65
White.....	54,537	13.26	Lavender.....	3,858	22.74
Pastel.....	346,270	14.80	Taupe.....	3,991	15.43
Gunmetal.....	54,834	17.02	Hope.....	2,384	23.36
Pearl.....	56,873	21.17	Sapphire.....	147,870	18.34
Palomino.....	17,711	15.36	Miscellaneous mutations.	16,747	14.20
Silverblu.....	25,668	15.45			
Topaz.....	1,753	14.83	ALL MINK PELTS.....	918,755	16.26

Fox Farming.—In 1961 there were 1,815 fox pelts produced on Canadian farms, the average realization being estimated at \$10. No improvement in the demand for ranched fox pelts has been evidenced recently, and although the fur trimmings industry is currently using large numbers of fox pelts for dyeing and trimming purposes, there has been no indication of a revival of interest in the use of fox furs for capes or garments. Prices now being realized for ranch-raised fox pelts do not cover the cost of production and those breeders who remain in the industry doubtless do so with the hope that some day a reversal of fashion will once more bring their product into demand.

Chinchilla Farming.—The production of chinchilla pelts in Canada in 1961 totalled 10,559, an increase of some 16 p.c. over the 1960 output. In addition to the animals pelted, substantial numbers of live animals for breeding purposes were exported to various European countries where chinchilla raising is becoming increasingly popular. Currently, the bulk of the Canadian chinchilla pelt crop is "lotted" together with the United States production and sold in New York, the larger quantities resulting from this combination making it possible to produce attractive, well-matched bundles.

This luxury fur has met with an excellent market recently and an outstanding feature has been the demand from Europe, especially Italy, for finest quality chinchilla pelts. In the earlier stages of the industry, efforts of the many beginners were hampered by the low quality of much of the breeding stock that was available. However, the emphasis placed by marketing outlets on quality, together with the obvious benefits accruing to a producer marketing better grade pelts, has encouraged breeders to concentrate on herd improvement and a noticeable upgrading of much of the breeding stock has taken place.

Nutria, the only other fur bearing animal reported on Canadian farms, is raised in limited numbers.

Fur Marketing.—Up to the end of World War I, most of Canada's fur production was marketed in London, England, and in New York. In 1920, the first Canadian fur auction was held in Montreal, and shortly afterwards fur auction houses were established in Winnipeg, Edmonton and Vancouver. Today, the bulk of Canadian furs is sold through eight fur auction houses located in Montreal, North Bay, Winnipeg, Regina, Edmonton and Vancouver. At the auction sales, furs are purchased through competitive bidding by buyers who may be purchasing for their own accounts or who may represent major