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PRELIMINARY REPORT  
on the  
FUR FARMS  
of  
CANADA  
1925

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Fur Branch

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PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE FUR FARMS OF CANADA, 1925.

The preliminary report on the fur farms of Canada for the year 1925 indicates continued expansion of the industry. During the five-year period, 1921 to 1925, the number of fur farms rose from 806 to 2,268, while the value of property increased from \$7,566,845 in 1921 to \$13,076,048 in 1925 - increases of 181 p.c. in number of farms and 73 p.c. in value of property.

Number of Fur Farms.- The number of fur farms in operation in 1925 comprised 2,117 fox farms, 59 mink farms, 50 raccoon farms, 5 skunk farms, 4 marten farms, 3 fisher farms, 7 coyote farms, 1 badger farm, 14 chinchilla rabbit farms, 6 rabbit farms, n.e.s., 1 Siberian hare farm, and 1 Karakul sheep farm - a total of 2,268 farms. There were in addition to the above, 52 muskrat farms and 7 beaver farms, data regarding which are omitted from the statistics of the present report, as the operators of the farms are unable to furnish full particulars of the numbers of animals. Certain details regarding muskrat and beaver farms will, however, be given in a special table to be included in the final report on fur farms. The following table shows the number of fox farms and of miscellaneous fur-bearing animal farms, by provinces, for the years 1924 and 1925.

1. Number of Fur Farms, by Provinces, 1924 and 1925.

Province	1924			1925		
	Fox Farms	Miscellaneous fur-bearing animal farms 1/	Total fur farms	Fox Farms	Miscellaneous fur-bearing animal farms 1/	Total fur farms
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Prince Edward Island	458	-	458	569	-	569
New Scotia	152	6	158	184	8	192
New Brunswick	106	-	106	206	-	206
Quebec	277	18	295	432	24	456
Ontario	291	23	314	436	50	486
Manitoba	32	2	34	41	12	53
Saskatchewan	14	11	25	22	18	40
Alberta	62	8	70	115	5	120
British Columbia	54	17	71	95	34	129
Yukon	20	-	20	17	-	17
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,466</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>1,551</b>	<b>2,117</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>2,268</b>

1/ Exclusive of muskrat and beaver farms

Value of Property.- The value of property of the fox farms in 1925 was \$12,047,625 and of miscellaneous fur-bearing animal farms, \$128,423. These totals comprise for fox farms, \$9,727,146 as the value of the fur-bearing animals, and \$3,220,479 as the value of land and buildings; and for miscellaneous fur farms, \$66,231 as the value of fur-bearing animals, and \$62,192 as the value of other property. The total value of property of all fur farms in 1925 was \$13,076,048, compared with \$10,966,310 in 1924. Table 2 gives value of property, by provinces.

2. Value of Property, by provinces, 1924 and 1925.

Province	1924			1925		
	Value of Land and buildings	Value of fur-bearing animals	Total value of property	Value of land and buildings	Value of fur-bearing animals	Total value of property
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
P. E. I.	309,593	3,149,400	3,958,993	949,263	3,276,185	4,225,448
N. S.	143,065	479,035	622,100	180,260	558,740	739,000
N. B.	192,542	809,821	1,002,363	269,631	968,765	1,229,396
Que.	332,798	937,581	1,270,379	460,349	1,212,347	1,672,696
Ont.	400,377	1,384,389	1,784,766	552,240	1,749,517	2,301,757
Man.	250,578	572,496	823,074	258,605	645,888	904,493
Sask. x	80,180	150,358	230,538	63,865	139,623	203,488
Alta.	173,130	579,877	753,007	249,302	716,442	965,744
B. C.	144,695	227,115	371,810	270,644	442,370	713,014
Yukon	49,965	99,315	149,280	37,512	83,500	121,012
Total	2,576,923	8,389,387	10,966,310	3,282,671	9,793,377	13,076,048

Number of Fur-bearing Animals Born, Died and Killed for Pelts.- The total number of fur-bearing animals born on the farms during the year was 39,749. This number represents the proportion of young raised. Silver fox is of chief importance with 31,763 or 80 per cent of the total number. Siberian hare, chinchilla rabbit, rabbit, n.e.s. and Karakul sheep, total 4,003, or 10 per cent of the number of fur-bearing animals born. The number of animals which died during the year was 8,272. This number comprises 6,664 silver foxes, 741 other foxes, and 867 miscellaneous fur-bearing animals. The number of animals killed for pelts was 14,106, the number of silver foxes killed representing 81 per cent of the total. In the following table statistics are given by kinds, for the years 1924 and 1925.

3. Number of Fur-bearing Animals Born on Fur Farms, Number which Died and Number killed for Pelts, Canada, 1924 and 1925.

Kind	1924			1925		
	Born	Died	Killed for pelts	Born	Died	Killed for pelts
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Fox, silver	23,476	3,891	6,504	31,763	6,664	11,444
Fox, patch	1,313	338	715	1,451	449	928
Fox, red	587	136	604	1,151	227	1,013
Fox, blue	27	7	-	342	65	-
Fox, white	-	-	-	-	-	1
Mink	410	74	86	674	185	124
Raccoon	119	23	23	244	85	51
Skunk	185	52	51	109	39	16
Marten	-	2	-	4	8	-
Fisher	-	1	-	-	2	-
Coyote	-	-	-	8	-	2
Siberian hare	50	12	25	147	-	52
Chinchilla rabbit	498	24	11	1,698	201	59
Rabbit, n.e.s.	1,320	181	185	1,557	234	416
Karakul sheep	728	27	100	601	113	-
Total	28,713	4,768	8,304	39,749	8,272	14,106

x Returns for Saskatchewan and Yukon Territory for the year 1925 are incomplete.

Fur-bearing Animals Sold and Pelts Sold.- The revenue derived by the fur farmers from the sale of live fur-bearing animals and of pelts totalled \$3,661,616, an increase over the preceding year of \$443,566, or 14 per cent. Increases are shown in the sales of both live animals and pelts. The number of live fur-bearing animals sold in 1925 was 15,906, with a total value of \$2,885,710, an increase of 2,865 in number and of \$332,280 in value. The number of pelts sold was 11,227, valued at \$775,906, compared with 7,339 pelts, valued at \$664,620 in 1924. Silver fox has the high record of 12,004 live animals sold with a total value of \$2,744,143, and 8,922 pelts sold, valued at \$730,812. The highest average value shown by any one farm for live silver foxes sold was \$989, while the highest average for pelts was \$400. The general average for the whole of Canada for live silver foxes sold was \$229 and for pelts, \$82. Next in importance is blue fox, with 297 live animals sold, valued at \$65,620. Table 4 gives number and value of the different kinds of animals and pelts sold.

4. Number and Value of Fur-bearing Animals Sold and Pelts Sold, Canada, 1924 and 1925.

Kind	1924				1925			
	Animals Sold		Pelts Sold		Animals Sold		Pelts Sold	
	No.	Value \$	No.	Value \$	No.	Value \$	No.	Value \$
Fox, silver	11,193	2,484,166	5,714	620,810	12,004	2,744,143	8,922	730,812
Fox, patch	380	27,423	749	33,120	398	28,672	732	27,830
Fox, red	144	3,116	611	8,817	184	2,828	997	14,585
Fox, blue	96	19,100	-	-	297	65,620	-	-
Fox, white	2	100	-	-	-	-	1	40
Mink	319	8,353	38	329	439	15,654	132	1,888
Raccoon	54	867	24	97	130	3,683	47	242
Skunk	14	150	34	71	22	242	16	65
Marten	-	-	-	-	4	400	-	-
Fisher	2	100	-	-	2	500	1	72
Coyote	-	-	-	-	2	26	2	30
Siberian hare	12	120	25	200	40	252	52	97
Chinchilla rabbit	376	4,540	18	85	1,417	16,364	-	-
Rabbit, n.e.s.	340	1,595	26	91	478	2,574	325	195
Karakul sheep	109	3,800	100	1,000	489	4,752	-	-
Total	13,041	2,553,430	7,339	664,620	15,906	2,885,710	11,227	775,906

Number and Value of Fur-bearing Animals on Fur Farms.- The total value of fur-bearing animals on the farms at the end of the year 1925 was \$9,793,377, to which the fox farms contributed \$9,727,146 and the miscellaneous fur-bearing animal farms, \$66,231. The silver fox branch of the industry is of chief importance, the value of these animals in 1925 representing 96 per cent of the total value of all fur-bearing animals on the farms. The number of silver foxes was 41,787, with a total value of \$9,432,097, compared with 31,204, valued at \$8,095,181 in 1924. The blue fox industry shows considerable progress, the number of this kind increasing from 216 in 1924 to 871 in 1925, and the value from \$39,166 to \$127,565. The mink in captivity numbered 988, valued at \$36,961; and the raccoon, 441, valued at \$6,437. The Chinchilla and other kinds of rabbit on the farms totalled 2,033, with a value of \$16,747. On a number of the fox farms, other kinds of fur-bearing animals are raised as well as foxes. A classification of fox farms has been made which groups the farms according to the number of foxes on each farm. This classification shows 524 farms with less than 5 foxes each; 541 farms with from 5 to 9 foxes; 518 with from 10 to 19 foxes; 204 with from 20 to 29 foxes; and 330 farms with 30 or more foxes. The following table gives statistics of the number and value of fur-bearing animals on the farms at the end of the year.

5. Number and Value of Fur-bearing Animals on Fur Farms at the end of the year, Canada, 1924 and 1925.

Kind	1924		1925	
	Number	Value \$	Number	Value \$
Fox, silver	31,204	8,095,181	41,787	9,432,097
Fox, patch	1,596	114,524	1,732	110,993
Fox, red	720	14,609	1,196	23,305
Fox, blue	216	39,166	871	127,565
Fox, white	3	150	-	-
Mink	663	20,042	988	36,961
Raccoon	245	2,758	441	6,437
Skunk	133	857	129	877
Marten	13	1,200	35	2,805
Fisher	9	1,240	15	2,035
Lynx	4	140	3	150
Badger	-	-	3	60
Coyote	22	650	59	715
Siberian hare	25	100	35	220
Chinchilla rabbit	351	3,705	1,066	11,413
Rabbit, n.e.s.	353	2,065	967	5,374
Karakul sheep	1,545	93,000	1,209	32,410
<b>Total</b>	<b>37,102</b>	<b>8,389,387</b>	<b>50,536</b>	<b>9,793,377</b>

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