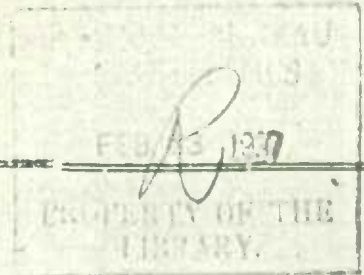


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CANADA

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE

DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

FUR STATISTICS BRANCH

ADVANCE REPORT

on the

FUR FARMS OF CANADA, 1935

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DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE
DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS
OTTAWA - CANADA
Fur Statistics Branch

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ADVANCE REPORT ON THE FUR FARMS OF CANADA, 1935

The fur farming industry had its origin in the custom of trappers, in the early days of the fur trade, of keeping foxes, caught out of season, alive until the fur was prime. The interest of the pioneer fur farmers was centred on the silver fox, a colour phase of the common red fox, and breeders endeavoured to fix this silver strain. Success came in the year 1894 when a litter of silver foxes was raised to maturity on a farm near Alberton, Prince Edward Island, and thus was the silver fox industry established.

In the half century that fox farming has been in existence, the industry has spread throughout the whole of Canada. Statistics for the year 1935 show 7,495 fur farms, of which 6,632 are classified as fox farms, 636 as mink farms, and the remaining 227 as raccoon farms, marten farms, fisher farms, etc. The value of property in 1935 was \$15,972,650, the value of the fur-bearing animals accounting for \$9,381,825, and the value of the land and buildings for \$6,590,825. The total value shows an increase over 1934 of \$1,335,295, or 9 per cent, and an increase over 1933 of \$2,197,882, or 16 per cent. The relation which each province bears to the total value of property is shown by the following statement of percentages: Ontario, 20 p.c.; Quebec, 19 p.c.; Prince Edward Island, 13 p.c.; Alberta, 13 p.c.; Manitoba, 10 p.c.; New Brunswick, 9 p.c.; Saskatchewan, 6 p.c.; Nova Scotia, 5 p.c.; and British Columbia, 5 p.c. The value of property in Yukon represents less than one-half of one per cent of the total.

The number of silver foxes born during the year was 184,988, the largest number ever recorded. Mink is next in importance with a total of 48,961. The total for all fur-bearing animals born in captivity during the year was 245,528, compared with 203,491 in 1934.

The value of pelts sold in 1935 was \$4,870,945, this value establishing a high record for sales of farm pelts. The principal items are silver fox, 129,001 at \$4,437,301, and mink, 30,558 at \$323,263. The value of the silver fox pelts sold exceeded that of the year 1934 by over seven hundred thousand dollars.

There were 202,363 fur-bearing animals on the farms at the end of the year 1935, compared with 196,970 at the close of the preceding year. Increases over 1934 are shown in the numbers of silver fox, mink, nutria, beaver and ferret, with decreases for all other kinds.

The following tables give summaries of the principal statistics of the industry for the years 1934 and 1935. The final report, to be issued at a later date, will contain statistics in greater detail and by county and district divisions. The volume will include also a list of the operators of the farms. (a)

(a) Annual Report on the Fur Farms of Canada, 1935, Price 25 cents.

1. Number of Fur Farms, by Provinces, 1934 and 1935

Province	1934			1935		
	Fox Farms	Miscellaneous fur farms	Total fur farms	Fox Farms	Miscellaneous fur farms	Total fur farms
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Prince Edward Island	645	1	646	770	1	771
Nova Scotia	612	78	690	773	80	853
New Brunswick	977	14	991	971	12	983
Quebec	2,087	192	2,279	2,256	152	2,408
Ontario	776	250	1,026	807	222	1,029
Manitoba	241	111	352	270	130	400
Saskatchewan	171	54	225	251	57	308
Alberta	407	103	510	380	83	463
British Columbia	162	131	293	149	123	272
Yukon	5	2	7	5	3	8
Total	6,083	936	7,019	6,632	863	7,495

2. Value of Property, by Provinces, 1934 and 1935.

Province	1934			1935		
	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
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Prince Edward Island	879,083	1,168,683	2,047,766	884,895	1,192,410	2,077,305
Nova Scotia	254,739	431,098	685,837	314,687	557,447	872,134
New Brunswick	563,009	941,746	1,504,755	508,221	949,101	1,457,322
Quebec	1,035,942	1,627,874	2,663,816	1,173,107	1,910,659	3,083,766
Ontario	1,215,022	1,606,592	2,821,614	1,321,913	1,848,343	3,170,256
Manitoba	592,400	760,546	1,352,946	700,403	913,072	1,613,475
Saskatchewan	404,707	490,828	895,535	413,752	545,552	959,304
Alberta	852,449	1,077,110	1,929,559	905,913	1,085,050	1,990,963
British Columbia	397,887	314,725	712,612	356,184	373,916	730,100
Yukon	14,550	8,365	22,915	11,750	6,275	18,025
Total	6,209,788	8,427,567	14,637,355	6,590,825	9,381,825	15,972,650

3. Number of Fur-bearing Animals Born on Fur Farms, 1934 and 1935 (a)

Kind	1934	1935	Kind	1934	1935
	No.	No.		No.	No.
Silver fox	155,043	164,988	Coyote	34	24
Patch or Cross fox	4,242	4,023	Badger	14	16
Red fox	2,425	2,095	Fitch	3,635	3,094
Blue fox	917	871	Weasel	30	46
Mink	35,375	48,961	Nutria	50	67
Raccoon	1,439	1,125	Chinchilla rabbit	60	-
Skunk	-	4	Rabbit, n.e.s.	76	57
Marten	26	30	Karakul sheep	90	94
Fisher	35	34			
			Total	203,491	245,528

(a) Exclusive of muskrat and beaver for which information is not available.

4. Number and Value of Fur-bearing Animals Sold from Fur Farms, 1934 and 1935.

Kind	1934		1935	
	No.	Value	No.	Value
Silver fox	8,762	488,847	9,901	562,480
Patch or cross fox	128	3,291	132	3,280
Red fox	262	2,729	208	2,110
Blue fox	31	825	8	335
Mink	3,625	68,708	3,574	73,402
Raccoon	228	1,294	118	779
Marten	6	155	16	800
Fisher	16	1,825	31	3,255
Coyote	15	230	-	-
Badger	-	-	8	320
Fitch	614	2,436	471	2,377
Ferret	3	6	-	-
Nutria	39	1,040	7	115
Rabbit, n.e.s.	60	120	2	4
Karakul sheep	14	212	16	160
Muskrat	3	8	34	15
Beaver	33	1,325	-	-
Total	13,839	573,051	14,526	649,432

5. Number and Value of Pelts Sold from Fur Farms, 1934 and 1935.

Kind	1934		1935	
	No.	Value	No.	Value
Silver fox	104,051	3,690,431	129,001	4,437,301
Patch or cross fox	3,593	84,503	3,150	75,273
Red fox	2,326	17,788	2,137	14,301
Blue fox	740	12,250	633	9,179
White fox	2	50	5	75
Mink	17,622	145,680	30,558	323,263
Raccoon	1,277	5,248	990	4,410
Skunk	-	-	8	6
Marten	17	175	15	194
Fisher	27	963	21	626
Coyote	102	530	67	322
Badger	37	408	32	296
Fitch	2,478	3,184	2,015	2,010
Weasel	30	23	46	25
Karakul sheep	130	638	67	338
Muskrat	4,844	4,034	4,018	3,213
Beaver	12	105	12	113
Total	137,288	3,966,010	172,775	4,870,945

6. Number and Value of Fur-bearing Animals on Fur Farms, December 31, 1934 and 1935.

Kind	1934		1935	
	No.	Value	No.	Value
Silver fox	125,577	7,742,294	141,509	8,495,851
Patch or cross fox	2,472	81,292	1,931	65,684
Red fox	2,031	23,583	1,548	16,149
Blue fox	691	22,865	669	20,750
White fox	5	800	-	-
Mink	25,435	451,499	31,946	695,492
Raccoon	1,867	15,844	1,334	10,658
Skunk	19	14	-	-
Marten	154	8,125	113	6,460
Fisher	164	14,745	163	16,425
Coyote	22	138	18	132
Badger	45	1,040	22	434
Fitch	1,558	6,604	1,144	4,598
Ferret	1	2	6	30
Weasel	9	10	8	4
Nutria	46	945	72	1,065
Chinchilla rabbit	79	36	2	5
Rabbit, n.e.s.	118	234	57	109
Karakul sheep	111	917	102	540
Muskrat (a)	35,556	31,625	20,539	20,852
Beaver (a)	1,010	24,955	1,180	26,587
Total	196,970	8,427,567	202,363	9,381,825

(a) Based on estimates furnished by the operators of the farms.

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