



MODERN FARMER



TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox and Mink Farming

An innovation, at least in the vicinity of Charlottetown, is in vogue at Foster Pickard's ranch on the St. Peter's Road, two miles from the city where Foster and Charles Swan do the work which occupies the hours daylight on other ranches—by electric light. Even the polygamist matings are arranged that way and we understand were most successful last season. Both Mr. Pickard and Mr. Swan are enthusiastic foxmen and we predict that they will be much heard of in the years to come. By the way, their method might interest dog owners whose work in the daytime does not permit being in their ranches.

Ranchers will have seen in the newspapers recently notices from the Provincial Government requesting the owners of dogs to exercise care because of the prevalence of distemper, which easily communicates itself to foxes. The distemper epidemic which commenced here two years ago was directly attributed to a dog suffering from distemper brought down by an airman from Montreal. Its consequences have been appalling and it has also caused great expense to ranchers who have taken methods to combat it or to prevent it. For this reason the warning given by our governmental authorities should be strictly adhered to. Today we have a letter from Dr. George C. Bishop, Provincial Animal Pathologist, on the same subject from which we quote:

"I would like you to bring to the notice of fox ranchers in this Province that particular attention should be paid to the movement of foxes to and from ranches especially during the breeding season. During the past few weeks it has been brought to my attention that a large number of canine distemper cases either in their initial stages or now showing complications indicating that distemper has been existing for a period of time, are roaming at large. Last year we endeavored to reduce to a minimum the possibilities of distemper being carried over and injuring the fox industry in 1947 from the disease standpoint. Now I fear that because of careless practices by owners of ranches and dog owners these precautions will be nullified.

It is particularly to be regretted that dogs are allowed to roam at large within the city and its environs without any restrictions and without any compulsory immunizations against distemper. It was my experience a few days ago to find a dog suffering from a complication of distemper on one of the streets in Charlottetown and this dog was being contacted by several others. To me this is very bad for an industry such as the fox industry is and has been to this Province. I am sure it would be in the best interests of the fox ranchers and the people generally to protect this industry to the best of their ability. Unfortunately this does not appear to be the case and thousands of dollars are being paid out by our people in order to treat disease situations which could otherwise, in my opinion, be prevented.

Now I would like to write a few words in respect to mink ranchers and it is that the number of pelts offered from Canadian ranches compared to United States ranches is in the proportion of one to six.

Observers in the United States say that stores are finding sales

of muskrat coats improving while Mouton are weaker. Overloading the Mouton market with the cheaper variety was said to be responsible for the rapidly declining prices and the falling off of sales. Macy's New York store reduced 100 Mouton coats which carry a brand indicating top quality to \$48.75; Mouton activity in Gimbies was at \$69.00; Bloomingdale's represented the sale of some coats at \$169.00 but it is generally believed by buyers that the fast selling Mouton days are over. Strong activity was observed at Oppenheim-Gollins, New York store where black Persian lamb coats at \$398.00, formerly priced at \$506.00 was a near sell out. The Persians were described as fresh goods with cape sleeves and three or four fair backs. Silver Fox jackets at \$298.00 were in demand with only one left of a fair selection on the rack by mid-afternoon.

The Hudson's Bay Company, London, sale which was concluded last week showed American interest in white fox of which 90 percent was sold. Fresh wild mink sold reasonably well with North America taking the larger sizes. Ranch mink was off 5 percent compared with the January sale. Interesting to note was that the principal buyer of the 12,000 white fox skins purchased by United States interests was A. Pines & Co. of New York City, whose most spectacular buy was an entire string of 50 lots each consisting of 90 skins. A Pines & Co. were formerly buyers of Silver Fox and many of our ranchers will remember when they were located in Charlottetown each fall.

From Bro. Thelma, Wis., are introducing a new mutation of Silver Fox this season which they have named Burgundy Fox and they have also developed a new brownish platinum color-phase. Among the new mink mutations, From Bro. are developing are Breath of Spring, Silver Midnight and Steel Blue.

American and Canadian fox farmers are pooling their production of Pearl, Pastelina and Glacier Blue Foxes for offering in a special sale to be conducted by the Seattle Fur Exchange in Seattle, Washington, April 15th. All skins will be dressed and offered in bundles under one trade name.

We are indebted to George A. Galt, Manager Fur Marketing Department, Canadian National Silver Fox Breeders' Association for the following report of the January sale in Montreal.

The following tabulation summarizes the selling of the fox catalogue offered by Canadian Fur Auction Sales Co. (Que.) Ltd., comparison being made with the January and December 1946 sales held by the same company.

	Jan. 1947	Jan. 1946	Dec. 1946				
platinums (better quality)	2170	49%	\$38.29	59%	\$68.21	21%	\$34.64
(Inf. Plat.)	2278	30%	23.17				
(Pearl Plat.)	432	90%	35.14				
(White Mink Sil.)	2323	95%	21.38	36%	41.40	23%	21.83
1-2 to 3-4 Sil.	382	95%	20.82	98%	23.50	40%	18.33
Sel. Fells	604	70%	22.48	55%	43.94	12%	22.44
Reg. Fells	4229	42%	18.14	44%	31.37	20%	17.24
Inferiors	11924	50%	13.15	50%	22.56	4%	12.61
Low Grades	1987	48%	5.75	97%	9.04	71%	3.97
Totals	30643	46%	17.76	49%	34.77	27%	13.97

From the above it may be seen that in all types excepting low grades, considerably higher percentages of the offerings were disposed of than was the case in Sept. and December last, while the price basis was in most cases slightly higher. Compared with January 1946, the percentages sold were somewhat similar, but the price basis ranged from 40% to 50% lower on most classifications. Tentative plans are that show

Export Wiltshire Bacon Show



During the Amherst Winter Fair and Livestock Show held during the month of November last, a special feature of the occasion was the "Export Wiltshire Bacon Exhibit and Show." The idea of holding such a show was conceived early on at any rate determined early enough in the season to permit full justice being done to the occasion, but despite such a handicap, very creditable results were achieved.

Thirty-one "Wiltshires" were classed into three groups according to quality, these groups being selections from one hundred and thirty entries sent forward from shipping groups in the Maritimes, eleven of these entries were forwarded on behalf of Island shippers by the Livestock Marketing Board. Prizes to the extent of two hundred and fifty dollars were awarded, with each entry within a group receiving the same amount of prize money.

All entries were noted alive, and then, on the rail, those carcasses weighing closest to 150 lbs. were selected for further examination. Back fat measurement, length of side, balance, type and fleshing were the points on which selection

Thirty-one carcasses out of the original one hundred and thirty selected got into the final contest, eleven being from P. E. Island, eighteen from New Brunswick and two from Nova Scotia. First prize

in group one was won by Stanley Peterson, Oak Point, N. B., with second choice, and a very strong contender for first place, going to Lewis Harris, E. I. Third, fourth and fifth placings in this group were also to Island exhibitors being won by Earl Arling, Bedford, Ernest Johnstone, Kensington, and Albert Court, Bedford, respectively.

In Group 2 Ernest Foster, Marshfield, got first position, while Leonard Court, Bedford, led in Group 3, followed by Albert Cavendish, Albany, and Chesley Clark, Cavendish, in close succession.

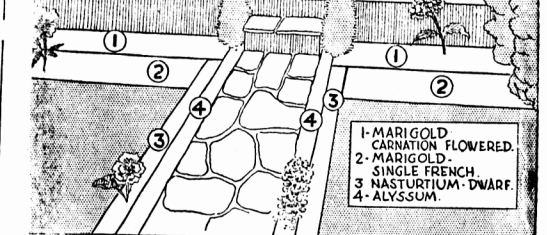
All exhibits in the three groups were about of equal quality. All were choice Wiltshires and the product of top grade hogs. Skillful breeding and careful management were evident in the product exhibited and reflects the pride and

care taken by Maritime producers and processors in developing this export product to such a high degree of perfection.

It is planned to repeat this Export Wiltshire Show at the 1947 Winter Fair and producers, club officials and processors will again be invited to co-operate in this educational feature. The product will be on exhibit in the newly constructed, temperature controlled "Walk In" Show Case and will be alternated throughout the Fair with other educational exhibits.

It is to be hoped that our Island hog producers will again take part in this Show and acquaint themselves early with particulars and plan on having exhibits ready for shipment from October 20th on towards the end of the month. Full details can be obtained from our office. —Livestock Marketing Board.

More Sunshine in Gardens Is Trend Taught by War



A Sunny Garden Near a Terrace

Annual flowers require sunshine, and so do you. Gardeners by the million who during the war devoted their attentions to food production learned the value of sunshine both to gardens and to themselves, and came to the conclusion that over most of the country both gardens and homes had been too much shaded.

They are making changes which open their homes and gardens to the sun, with shade only in carefully planned places, where it will serve a definite purpose, either of design, or function. There is nothing to equal the shade of a tree, which once is removed after pleasant exercise in the sun; but this cannot be appreciated where there are so many trees no sunshine can penetrate their canopy.

Even about the house, sunshine is needed. To reduce the number of trees and shrubs and to introduce color into front yard plantings, annual flowers may be planted to follow.

This experience is making a change in many gardens, whose owners are determined no longer to be "forest people" inquiring about every attractive flower which they wish to grow, whether it is one of the few subjects that "do well in the shade."

FARMERS' MEETINGS

TO BE HELD AT Charlottetown, Feb. 18 - 20

The Legion Hall

GRAFTON STREET

TUESDAY NIGHT—7:30 o'clock—General meeting Hog Producers. Open discussion—Demonstrations.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND SHEEP BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION—10 o'clock Wednesday forenoon, February 19th. Reports of year's work, wool and lamb marketing and production.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND DAIRYMEN'S ASSOCIATION—Wednesday, Feb. 19th—Afternoon meeting at 1:30 o'clock and night meeting at 7:30. Full discussion on vital problems in the Dairy Industry. Large attendance of patrons requested.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND FARMERS' INSTITUTES—Thursday, February 20th—9 o'clock forenoon. Discussion on Institute problems.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE—2 o'clock—February 20th, also 7:30 o'clock in evening. Full opportunity to discuss resolutions arising from this and other meetings, also general problems and policies affecting Agriculture.

Rural citizens and all others interested in Rural Life are given a cordial invitation to attend these meetings.



Eighteen tomatoes on one fruit-bearing stem may not be a record but Hilary J. de Jersey, of Montreal, thinks it comes pretty close to it. An enthusiastic spare-time gardener for some 20 years, Mr. de Jersey utilizes his small yet complete back yard plot to provide fresh vegetables for his family table.

low spring bulbs, which provide the first flowers of spring, if bulbs are planted deeply, they need not be lifted each year; and seeds of annuals may be sown above them as soon as the ground warms up. The plan which accompanies this article shows how to arrange an attractive planting of marigolds, nasturtiums and alyssum in front of a terrace, and as a border to a walk. One of the tall, carnation-alyssum.

Fox Ranchers Attention

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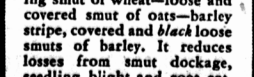
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Announcement

We have taken over the Forano Seed Cleaning Equipment from Mr. Gordon MacMillan, and we will be doing custom cleaning in the very near future.

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