

ADDRESS ON BREEDING OF FOXES

"STREET SCENE"

Some Timely Hints Offered Ranchers By Superintendent G. Ennis Smith.

The following address was recently broadcast by Mr. G. Ennis Smith, Superintendent Experimental Fox Ranch, Summerside:

A yield of the maximum number of pups has become the determining point of the paying possibilities of silver fox ranching. Numbers count, the wide difference that existed in the prices of high class and low grade pelts has been brought down to a narrow margin by the recent world wide depression, the margin is so narrow that from a financial standpoint number at the present time has become a more important factor than quality. If fox breeders are going to stay in the business, they must raise a large crop of pups. Fox breeders who can not raise two pups to the pair have very serious thoughts for consideration. They must make radical changes either in the management of their ranch or in their breeding stock else they will go to the wall. On the other hand, fox breeders who can raise three pups to the pair should be on "easy street" even with the present low prices of pelts, so that the production of the maximum number of pups is the most important phase in silver fox ranching. It always has been and it always will be.

Increased demand. If fox breeders were to spend their money educating the public instead of on such advertisements that do more harm than good, for when the public can recognize what is a poor silver fox fur, and what is a good silver fox fur, then it is absolutely certain that the women will demand high class furs. Educate the ladies so that they become authorities on the outstanding desirable characteristics of silver fox furs, then fashion will demand quality in silver fox furs and fox breeders will obtain more abundant returns for their efficiency in raising high class foxes. Efficiency must be the watchword for the success of any industry, and any industry is doomed where efficiency fails to get its proper reward, and the silver fox industry in many respects has failed to come to that business basis.

Quality counts, and while it may not be in demand at the present time, it still is an important factor and will be more so, the older the industry, not only for the direct financial returns, but from a breeding standpoint, a point that I wish to dwell upon tonight, as fur and breeding qualities go hand in hand and those factors that tend to produce normal and continuous reproduction, also tend to induce the development of the outstanding qualities of the fur.

Important Factors

What are the factors that a fox breeder must take into consideration with regard to breeding. In the first place I would like to re-emphasize the most outstanding fact in connection with our work. Foxes for breeding purposes must be as fat as possible at this time of the year and the only qualification I would make in that statement is that foxes should come down to their normal weight at the end of August. Foxes that are overweight at the beginning of September, whether they are males or females, will not be of much value for breeding purposes the coming season, if ever. Either they have not been properly fed or there is something radically wrong with them. The weight of a fox cannot be judged by its appearance and fox breeders who are attempting to do this are working in the dark and deceiving themselves. It would repay every fox breeder to weigh his foxes the first of September. With foxes that are much overweight at that time, it is just as well to decide then and there that it would be the best thing to pellet them that year, as there is very little question that they will be a financial burden to the ranch in the long-run if kept for breeding purposes. Foxes should be weighed again between this time and the end of the year.

All light weight foxes should be pelleted. If fox breeders would make a practice of pelting foxes that were overweight at the beginning of September and from the remainder of their foxes only keep those foxes that were well furred and fat at the end of the year, they would not have so much to worry about during the breeding season, and ninety percent of their breeding troubles would be eliminated. With regard to the pups, at this time of the year, fat pups will be good breeders. All light weight and poorly developed pups should be pelleted the first year and fox breeders should get what money they can out of them immediately. The blasted hopes of keeping underweight and poorly developed pups has undermined the confidence and bred more dissatisfaction in silver fox ranching than probably any other single factor. It may not be an impossibility to get some of them to breed in future years, but only a very small percentage of them ever will and ninety-nine out of every hundred of those that do breed will not be a paying proposition. Raising a crop of healthy and vigorous pups is the great keystone to success in silver fox ranching. Keep only the best developed and fat pups for breeding purposes and don't bother with the others.

Pen Accommodation is also an important factor. When foxes are not properly penned the breeding possibilities will be greatly jeopardized. Males at this time of the year should be in large pens so that they can take the maximum amount of exercise. Fat and indolent males at the beginning of the breeding season will be a burden to any fox rancher. The more active the males throughout the breeding season, the better the breeding results can be expected. It may not

hurt males to keep them in small pens during the summer and fall months, but certainly before the end of December they should be placed in large pens so that they have the opportunity of taking the maximum amount of exercise. The point that I wish to emphasize is that while the males like the females should put on a maximum amount of weight in the fall months they should lose their weight early in the season, much earlier than the females, more especially with males that are required for polygamous mating. Males that are overweight at the beginning of the breeding season will be of very little use for polygamous mating. The majority of females do not require much exercise during the fall months. There are many females that if given the opportunity will run themselves to death during the fall months. Those females should be kept in small pens and taking the females as a whole it would probably repay to keep all females during the summer and fall months in small pens, but there is a time of the year that the female does require a maximum amount of exercise and that is at the time they come in heat and mate and for a short time previous to that, also when carrying their young. It has been the unfortunate practice of many fox breeders to place their females in large pens during the fall months or at least during November and December, but to keep their males confined to very small pens until they are actually needed for breeding purposes. Fox breeders would be well advised to reverse this practice. Keep the females confined in small pens until the actual breeding season and while it will not hurt to keep the males confined in small pens during the summer and early fall months, before the end of December they should be placed in large pens, where they can have an opportunity of taking the maximum amount of exercise, so that they will be in condition at the beginning of the breeding season. Condition with the males only counts at the beginning of the breeding season. With the females it is entirely a different question. They should be placed in small pens during the fall months and with the majority of the females it is not advisable to place them in large pens until the breeding season. On the other hand, it would be a fatal policy to keep females in small pens during the breeding season and during the time that they are carrying their young. The great majority of abortions are directly due to the fact that the females have been confined to small pens and if by chance females should raise their young when confined to small pens, they will not produce vigorous and healthy offspring.

Feeding With regard to the all-important question of feeding, it will only be possible for me tonight to dwell on one aspect of this phase, the meat content of the diet. At this time of the year foxes should be fed larger amounts of meat than at any other time. Excessive quantities of meat will not hurt the foxes at this time as long as the fur is growing, but as soon as the fur has become prime and stopped growing, to a marked extent excessive quantities of meat should be avoided or else the breed-

ing qualities of the foxes will be seriously undermined. A high meat ration during the early part of the season would force the females to come in heat earlier than the normal period and the majority of them would be sterile. While facts would indicate that the diet during the early part of the breeding season, that is before the mating has taken place, should consist mostly of meat, yet it should only be fed in relatively small quantities. More so is this the case with females that are on the border line between light and heavy weight foxes, that is to say the lighter the weight of the fox, more precautions should be taken to avoid feeding a high meat ration. On the other hand, females that are fat require a meat ration and not a diet that is rich in other food besides meat. The point that I wish to emphasize is this, a high meat ration will force the females to come in heat, that the females that are relatively thin readily come in heat and mate, but the majority of them do not become pregnant. On the other hand, the difficulty with fat foxes is they may not come in heat,

and that is the only difficulty with fat foxes, but if they do come in heat and mate, they will invariably become pregnant and will raise their litters. Fat foxes can be fed a meat diet consisting mostly of red meat such as horse meat, beef and beef hearts. Foxes that are relatively light in weight should not have excessive amounts of horse meat, two or three times each week at the most, and it is necessary that they should be fed a wide variety of other meat, the wider the variety, the better.

Division of Foxes I believe that it would well repay fox ranchers to divide their foxes both males and females into two classes, the relatively fat foxes and the border line foxes. The question of a complete ration for breeding foxes cannot be discussed this evening, but it is intended to take up the different phases in subsequent talks.

times each week until they have mated, then the horse meat should not be fed more than once or twice each week and it would probably be just as well to eliminate horse meat entirely from the rations to those foxes and feed it to those foxes that have not mated. Beef or beef hearts can be fed the remainder of the week. The border line foxes should not be fed horse meat more than three times each week but it is advisable that they should have as wide a variety of meat as possible, preferably offal meat. Special steps also should be taken to insure those foxes eating a certain amount of biscuits, cereal and other substances besides meat and while similar steps should be taken with the fat foxes, it is not so imperative as with the border line foxes. The question of a complete ration for breeding foxes cannot be discussed this evening, but it is intended to take up the different phases in subsequent talks.



Make this a Slipper Christmas

Don't WORRY About Sizes. Plentiful Stocks, Large Variety, Moderate Prices at **The WRIGHT SHOE COMPANY** FORMERLY ALLEY'S

BE GENEROUS! BE THRIFTY!

Lowered Prices Meet 1931's Smaller Christmas Budgets

You can give as freely as ever, and have every gift as fine as ever, at much less than a year ago, when you choose Men's gifts at Bruce's Store. We've prepared abundantly to meet your wish (and his preference) for practical gifts, smartly styled.

Rich Christmas Neckwear

These are the kind of ties that a man would choose for himself. They're rich in patterns, in colors, and in quality—ties you can safely give to the most particular man.

In Gift Boxes 50c, 75c, \$1.00, \$1.25, \$1.50.

Gloves Are Always Liked

Deerskin, English Cape, Mocha, in unlined or lined. A fine gift.

\$1.00, \$2.00, \$2.50, \$3.00 to \$4.50

Pajamas

There's no gift can hold a candle to Pajamas when it comes to wishing him hours of refreshing rest. Broadcloth or Flannelette.

Boxed at \$2.00, \$2.50, \$3.00, \$3.50

Sweater Coats

A fine, warm gift that is sure to please any man. Heavy Jumbo, medium weight or light weight, in a fine range of patterns and colors.

Prices range from \$2.25 to \$7.00

Mufflers

Silk Squares or Reefers; Cashmere Reefers, a wonderful lot of patterns and shades to choose from.

Boxed \$1.00, \$1.50 up to \$5.00

Other Suggestions

Fine Hose — Bathrobes — Shirts — Leather Coats — Hats — Caps.

—Open Every Evening—

D. A. BRUCE

MEN'S WEAR

The Chew for You

HICKEY & NICHOLSON'S

BLACK TWIST CHEWING

Pelting and Cleaning FOX FURS

We are now busy at work, but we can do more and do it well at prices lower than usual.

Cleaning pelts 25c, Stretching and drying \$1.00.

W. B. Prowse & Sons and Oliver Gallant

122 Fitzroy Street, Charlottetown, P. E. I.

10663-12-4-tts-tf

SUNGLO Products

Lead in quality and economy. We are in harmony with the present depression. Compare our prices with others.

For Foxes:

- Sunglo Flea Powder.
- Sunglo Ear Mite Solutions.
- Sunglo Fox Ration. (Fall Furring).
- Vitamineral.
- Mealblend.
- Sunglo Worm Expeller.
- Sunglo Disinfectant.

Poultry:

- Sunglo Growing Mash.
- Sunglo Lay Mash.
- Sunglo Scratch Feed.

Dairy Cattle:

- Sunglo Calf Meal.
- Sunglo Dairy Supplement (35 per cent.)
- Sunglo Dairy Ration (24%)

Hogs:

- Sunglo Hog Supplement.
- Vitamin for all Livestock.
- Sunglo Stock Tonic for all the Farm Animals.

"The Most of the Best for the Least."

Ask your nearest Dealer for Sunglo Products.

International Fox and Animal Foods Ltd.

Summerside, P. E. I.

Charlottetown Dealers:
E. C. BURHOE,
CARTER & CO., LTD.
REDDIN BROS.
HUGHES DRUG CO.

10668-11-4-Sun-tts-tf

Imperial Fox Food

Promotes Health

Healthy animals produce larger litters, better pelts and bigger profits.

Therefore feed "IMPERIALS" regularly and liberally.

For Sale by Distributors in Leading Business Centres and Direct from Factory.

IMPERIAL BISCUIT CO. LTD.

CHARLOTTETOWN P. E. I.