

Timely Notes On Fur Farming

When delegates from the American Fox Breeders Association attended the annual meeting of the Canadian National Silver Fox Breeders Association in Montreal a couple of years ago they were so anxious for co-operation and help that they said they would use all their endeavors to have the duty on silver fox entering the United States removed. They were men of their word and have made representations to the U. S. Government to the above effect. Now we note a despatch from Washington dated March 31st, as follows: "While fox fur stoles, fox-trimmed garments and small fox fur pieces are once again fashionable, any further reduction in tariffs on fox furs or skins will destroy the domestic fur raising industry, the Tariff Commission will be told here tomorrow. Arnold W. Mulhern, Milwaukee, Wis., executive secretary of the National Board of Fur Farm Organization, and Roy D. Harman, Christiansburg, Va., fur farmer and NBFO executive committee member, are scheduled to testify before the Committee for Reciprocity Information as well as the Tariff Commission, in opposition to proposed fox fur tariff cuts.

Fox fur or skins, dressed or undressed, have been put on a supplemental "bargaining list" for the reciprocal trade agreement negotiations now under way in Geneva, Switzerland, and the present import duty of 37 1/2 per cent ad valorem may be reduced for the benefit of Canada or other foreign nations. Both Mr. Mulhern and Mr. Harman will recommend that the fox fur tariff be boosted to the original (1930) level of 50 per cent, and will ask that United States quotas be set by the Government on each type of fox fur to permit imports in greater volume than domestic production "in the next preceding year."

From 1932 to 1939, United States fox fur farmers did very well, expanding production and earning fair profits, according to Mr. Mulhern. He will state that fur farmers worked quality pelts and developed better quality pelts and to develop mutations. Starting in 1939, foreign producers dumped inferior fox furs on the United States market; then came OPA ceiling prices and, in 1944, an increase in the Federal fur excise tax from 10 to 20 per cent at retail, he will state. This tax increase, coupled with the fact that fox fur pelts could be sold tax free, brought about what Mr. Mulhern calls an "unwarranted style change" and the use of cheaper priced furs which broke the back of the domestic fox market.

"Recent New York sales," he will state, "give an indication of renewed interest in fur, after an absence of many years. If the 153 fur farmers who are still in business producing fox in the United States, are to survive and benefit from the latest fashion developments, Mr. Mulhern will say, an increase in the fox fur tariffs and the importation of fox furs are necessary. Mr. Harman will not be able to finance the necessary advertising and promotions unless the tariff is hiked, rather than reduced, as a result of the current Geneva negotiations.

A despatch from Ottawa states that January fur sales in Canadian department stores were 17.2 per cent higher than in 1954. January sales stood at \$2,012,000 as against the previous year's \$1,717,000. The January fur sales showed the largest percentage gains of any of the ten sections of ladies apparel and accessories reporting from Canadian department stores.

The following is from Twenty-Five Years Ago, a column which appeared in The Black Fox Magazine for March, 1955. "A female silver fox named Morgana escaped from the ranch of John J. Werth, Madison, Wis., and eight days later was found and identified by earmarks on Bruno Delsman's ranch at Hartland, Wis. It had travelled about 75 miles between the two ranches. The McLure and MacKinnon Silver Fox Farms, Ltd. announces that the herd of silver foxes on their Prince Edward Island ranch is about 50 per cent larger than ever before. Young men from five different countries — Germany, Australia, Finland, England and Argentina are studying fur farming on the ranch through a course of lectures and practical work.

"Two thieves have been sentenced from seven to ten years in prison for robbing fur farms in the East. Norwegian ranchers are complaining about the poor quality of breeding mink they bought in the United States and Canada

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Farm Prices And Products

The following market report has been prepared by the P. E. I. Department of Agriculture, Mr. S. C. Wright, the Deputy Minister, states that it is still not too late to treat cattle for warbles. A prominent beef cattle buyer in this Province was deploring the damage caused to the beef animals by the warble fly. Treatment is not expensive, and does not take very long to apply, and the results are well worth the effort in increased value for beef, and increased milk production in dairy herds.

DAIRYING

The price of butter on the Halifax and Saint John markets continues unchanged from that of previous weeks. The wholesale price on both markets is quoted at 63 cents delivered, with local jobbing to retail stores in one half pound prints at 65 cents. The local jobbing price in this Province is 65 cents, and the wholesale price is that of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick less freight and handling charges.

Montreal current receipts are quoted at 61 cents, and the wholesale price at 61 1/2 cents — 61 1/2 cents. There is a slight tendency toward the lowering in price on

EMBA announces new trade marks for the three that were recently invalidated by the Federal Court. The new trade marks are "Argenta", to replace Silverblu, "Autumn Haze" to replace Royal Pastel, and "Desert Gold" to replace Topaz.

Mink ranchers everywhere are waiting for the results of feed tests at Iowa State College and at the University of Wisconsin, to determine the next move in the Stibestrol question. The use of this potent hormone in right combination at trace levels in the diet of feeder cattle was approved by the Food and Drug Administration of the U. S. A. in December, 1954. It produces faster gains at less feed costs, according to research conducted at the Iowa State College. The serious losses in production experienced by some mink ranchers as a result of feeding chickens waste containing pellet residues of Stibestrol, makes mink ranchers aware of the dangers of misuses of this chemical.

A special group of steers has been fed Stibestrol at Iowa State College for slaughter. The steers were slaughtered on February 11th and tripe from these animals was flown to Madison, Wis. for experiments on mink feeding. A sample of the material including tripe from each steer will be subjected to the very sensitive biochemical tests for Stibestrol at Iowa State College. The results of these experiments will be awaited with great interest by ranchers in the United States. We do not know if Stibestrol is used in any of the feeds made up for cattle in Canada.

TOO OLD TO SPANK

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Singer Patti Taylor, 29, thinks that's too old to be spanked. She told a divorce court Thursday that her husband, trombonist Robert E. Pring, 30, would turn her over his knee and spank her when she protested about his playing records too loudly in the early morning hours. She got a divorce decree on cruelty grounds.

Our Boarding House Major Hoopie



NEWSY NOTES

FLORIDA LIVE STOCK

Florida is said to have 35 million acres of land, of this about 25 million acres are suitable for pasture and for growing crops for feeding live stock. The past year has seen a record number of silos erected both upright and trench type. There have also been many drylots as they are known established. These usually have an average of 500 cattle in each on full feed for well over 100 days.

BEEF CATTLE

The greatest development in live stock in Florida has been in beef cattle, which number about 1,300,000 on Jan. 1st, 1954, notwithstanding that in 1953 some 566,000 cattle were slaughtered and about 87,000 shipped out of the state. This increase, however, is overshadowed by the more improvement in the quality of the beef cattle on the ranches. Many hundreds of purebred bulls of the leading beef types have been brought into the state and used by the ranchers, not only to improve their purebred herds, but to upgrade the quality of commercial cattle.

EGGS AND POULTRY

The egg market is somewhat weaker. Demand not so good, some of the receipts are moving out to other Atlantic Provinces. Surplus may have to be shipped to Montreal to relieve situation. Production gradually increasing, general quality good.

POTATOES

This has been a very difficult day to get anything definite to report on the potato market. The range to-day is from \$2.70 to \$2.85 per 75 lbs. bulk delivered, and there may even be more difference than this in some certain localities. Prices have been high previously this week, but to-day the market seems to be very unsettled, and the trade finds it difficult to quote any set price. The demand has been exceedingly good, but to-day seems to be a bit easier. Since reporting last week 63,900 bushels of seed potatoes have left the Province. Turnips are quoted to-day at 55 cents per bushel at the car, and the demand is fair.

LIVESTOCK

Cattle trading on the Montreal market was rather slow. There were a few Mixed Good and Choice Steers at 20.00 to 21.00, with Medium 17.50 to 19.50. Good Beef Type Cows were 13.50 to 14.50, with a few at 15.00. Good Dairy Type Cows 12.50 to 13.50. Good Bulls were quoted at 13.50 to 15.00.

ALAMAS B C

Ungraded	36	34	22	15
Graded pack	42	40	29	21
To Retailers	46	44	32	25
Montague — Ungraded	37	34	22	15
Hunter River — Ungraded	36	34	22	15
St. Peters — Ungraded	38	36	24	16
	36	34	22	15

DAIRY CATTLE

The dairy industry in Florida has made the most progress as indicated by the increase in the number of dairy cattle from 114,000 in 1920 to 155,000 in 1930 to 196,000 in 1940 to 283,000 on January 1st, 1954.

In recent years the demand for fluid milk has increased enormously, due not only to the increase in population, but to the large number of tourists who benefit from its winter vacation attractions. This is shown in a summary taken from the annual report of the Florida State Marketing Bureau. These facts indicate the trend: "In 1951 Florida's farmers were milking 137,000 cows an increase of 35.6 per cent over the number of cows milked in 1940.

COLLEGE STUDENTS

An estimated 67,500 full-time students are enrolled in Canada's universities and colleges.

Out Our Way By J. R. Williams



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Workshop Patterns



With the exceptions of the American cuckoo which lays its eggs in any honey nest, birds generally demand a special style in architecture. Wrens, for example, prefer small boxes with an entrance no larger than one inch. This set of three houses meets the needs of those mentioned in the sketch. Each design has that quaint look that gives a good bird house its special charm. They are made from 3/4-inch scrap and flexible roofing material or linoleum. Tracing diagrams for sawing the three houses in the sketch are complete on pattern 341, price 35c. This pattern is included in the Bird House Packet which contains full size patterns for making a variety of interesting houses and feeding stations. The price of the packet is \$1.50 postpaid.

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