

TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox and Mink Farming

Mink breeders of Canada have organized their ranks and are launching a publicity campaign more ambitious than ever before... The pelting season in western Canada commenced on Nov. 20th and will be completed about ten days earlier than other years...

President of the Western Canada Fur Auction Sales. He states that Sapphires in mink have priced up much earlier than other types.

Strictly mink conscious—Thieves broke through the brick wall of the 7th Avenue New York premises of Frishman and Gintell, fur manufacturers, and made off with 40 mink garments.

December offerings of the Scandinavian auction houses have been reported to London, England, as follows: Copenhagen, December 15th, 50,000 Standard Mink, 6,000 mutations; 4,000 Silver Fox and mutations; 8,000 Nutria, Oslo, Norway, Dec. 5th to 10th, 10,000 Silver Fox, 10,000 blue fox, 15,000 mink including mutations.

A despatch from London to Women's Wear Daily, N.Y., has the following:—Scandinavian mink prices promise to average between \$13 and \$14, according to a survey of the mink and fox markets in those countries.

The pelting season in western Canada commenced on Nov. 20th and will be completed about ten days earlier than other years, according to a report of T. Pappas.

NEWSY NOTES

By J. A. Clark, D.Sc.

RINDERPEST

Areas Affected

The Director General of the food and agriculture organization of the United Nations in his 1951 report, refers to rinderpest as the most destructive cattle disease in the world. He mentions rinderpest as being enzootic, (i.e. it is prevalent) among cattle in Burma, Pakistan, India, Afghanistan and Ethiopia.

In 1949, a plague broke out in England among the cattle. The diseased cattle were slaughtered, and the infected herds and herds were isolated.

The incubation period of rinderpest is from three to four days, followed by a rise of temperature, two days later the mucous membrane assumes a salmon colour, and are covered with an eruption. Four days after the temperature rise, the signs of illness are as follows: A drooping head, hanging ears, a distressed look, twitching and rigors of the muscles, falling pulse, fetid breath, oppressed breathing, hemorrhagic diarrhoea, discharge from the eyes, nose and mouth and a constant moan.

The water it costs anywhere from \$30 to \$40 to produce a silver fox or mutation pelt if proper cost system is kept. The Norwegians, Danes, Finns and Swedes appear to be able to produce them for less than half of that.

At an international conference at Nairobi, British East Africa in 1948, FAO was asked to function as a centre for collecting and distributing the latest information concerning control measures and vaccines, etc., for the extermination of rinderpest.

The members of the field teams who vaccinate the cattle are all Ethiopians. The FAO veterinarians travel from team to team supervising the work. The farmers pay for the vaccinations at 50 centime, or about twenty cents per animal.

The outstanding example of the successful eradication of rinderpest is Thailand. In that country the government had been working on a control program for several years, but rinderpest remained as the most serious animal disease in the country.

years, but rinderpest remained as the most serious animal disease in the country. FAO started a program of new techniques and equipment that speeded up the work, so that, early in 1949, it had vaccinated all the animals in the country.

Eradication Benefits A move was made by FAO to coordinate all the programs for the eradication of rinderpest by bringing together veterinarians from all the affected regions, to a meeting for consultation in the Far East early this year.

It is believed that if all the governments concerned will continue their active interest and cooperation, rinderpest can be wiped out before many years. This would be of untold benefit to the millions of small-scale farmers in eastern lands and Africa, to whom the loss of a draft bullock, their only source of power to cultivate their land, or market their produce, is almost as serious as the loss of one of their legs or arms.

Rinderpest is one of the most serious reasons why the annual production of meat in underdeveloped countries is only eight per cent of their total livestock, compared with thirty per cent in America. It is true that breeding, feeding and management are important, and that there are other diseases, but where rinderpest outbreaks kill up to ninety per cent of the animals, other efforts are about nullified; as even crop production is greatly reduced with the loss of their only source of power for cultivating the land.

A start was made in 1949, and 20,000 animals were vaccinated. The farmers were very suspicious of the crews of field workers, and these suffered from violence on several occasions. Work was continued in 1950, when over 150,000 head were vaccinated.

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