

## THERE IS MONEY IN FOX FARMING

Industry Is Rapidly Gaining Favor in Several of Northern States of Country.

### MANY ANIMALS IN CAPTIVITY

Best Location for Farm Is Where Winters Are Cold and Opportunity Offered to Develop Fur—Big Price for Pelts.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Fox farming is fast gaining favor in the United States. The industry, barely known a decade ago, is fairly common in some states of the northern tier, is represented in all states in this tier and in that next to it, and is growing rapidly. There is money in it for the raiser who starts modestly, learns the business, and then expands his holdings. There are losses in store for the type who starts with a big ranch, no knowledge of the business, and only a desire for quick profits. At the present time the industry is undergoing a process of stabilization. Most fox farmers raise animals for breeding purposes, and comparatively few have adjusted the business to a pelt basis. All told, there are between 10,000 and 15,000 silver foxes being grown in captivity on American fox farms at this time.

#### Many Animals in Canada.

Such are some of the conclusions of a representative of the biological survey, United States Department of Agriculture, who has just returned to Washington after an extensive investigation of American fox farms and



A Silver Fox.

the methods of their operation. In Canada, where the industry originated, and especially on Prince Edward Island, where there are approximately 15,000 foxes in captivity, fox farming is conducted on a much more extensive scale than in the United States. Its promise of good financial returns to those willing to master its problems, give indication that within a comparatively short time in this country it will rival in proportions the industry in Canada.

The best location for a fox farm is where the winters are cold and the fox may have opportunity to develop fur in keeping with the needs of the climate. The industry is thus confined by climatic conditions to the northern states. There the raising of foxes for breeding and for the fur markets flourishes. Most of the foxes raised in captivity are on farms, or "ranches," with pens for from 25 to 50 pairs, although in occasional instances the ranches are much larger, containing pens for as many as 150 pairs.

The foxes generally breed in January and February and the young are born within 52 days. A pair of foxes raises one family a year, the number of young varying from one to ten, though rarely exceeding five or six. Most of the fox raiser's troubles come when the young are a few weeks old and are peculiarly susceptible to attacks from worms. Great care is necessary to carry the young foxes through this period.

#### Most Foxes Sold for Breeding.

It is not advisable to kill a fox for the pelt before 18 months of age for at that time its fur is more valuable than at a younger age. Comparatively few of the foxes raised on American ranches are sold at the present time, however, for their pelts. Most of the ranchmen obtain higher values than the worth of the pelt by selling the live animals for breeding purposes. A good pelt may fetch as much as \$600, though the average is much lower, approximating \$250 to \$350. The furs are comparatively little known because of their rarity. Silver foxes vary from those in which the color is entirely silver to those in which it is entirely black except for some white-banded hairs on the back and rump. In the black fox the white is absent from all parts except the tip of the tail, which is generally white in all phases of the animal.

### PROVIDE DUCKS WITH WATER

Where Supply Is Lacking Fowls Gum Up About Eyes, Become Listless and Die.

A duck must have water about its head and eyes daily or it will not thrive. However, if a tank of sufficient depth is provided for the ducks to sink their heads in the water clear out of sight when they drink, then they can do without a pond or stream of running water. When they have no water at all, ducks often gum up about the eyes, become listless, sit about, don't eat and soon die.

## SECRETARY WALLACE ON FARM PROSPECTS

Year 1922 Should Be Better One for the Farmer.

Money Conditions Are Improving and Reduced Freight Rates Lighten Transportation Burden—Prices Hit Bottom.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

When asked for a statement on the prospects of the farmer in 1922 Secretary of Agriculture Wallace said that no man whose opinion is worth considering would care to make any hard and fast prophecies. He added, however, that there are signs which indicate that the coming year should be a better one for the farmer and for those who deal with him than was 1921. Among these hopeful signs he mentioned the following:

Credit conditions are better both through regular channels and through the special agencies created to meet the farmer's needs. Interest rates also are softening.

Reductions already made in freight rates on farm products lighten by that much the transportation burden which the farmer has been carrying.

Cost of producing farm crops will be lower relatively in 1922 than in 1921.

Very likely there will be a reduction in the acreage of some of the grain of which we now have such a large surplus, and this should tend toward better prices.

The paralyzing effect of the sudden drop in prices last year is wearing off, and farmers will enter the new year more hopefully, believing that the worst is over.

Congress has indicated a willingness to enact such legislation as promises to be helpful.

Farmers are coming to see more clearly that the task of putting farming on sound business basis is really up to them and that through organization they can reduce marketing costs. In this they will have increasing help from the Department of Agriculture and the various state agricultural colleges which now see better than before that they must give the farmer the same sort of help in the marketing of his crops that they have been giving him in the production.

In the industrial and financial centers there is coming to be a better understanding of the important part the farmer plays in our general economic scheme, and consequently a decidedly more intelligent and sympathetic attitude toward him and his problems.

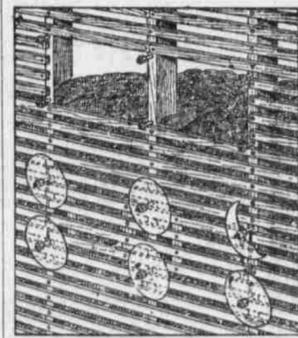
With prices of farm products falling and the future very uncertain, even those farmers who had money laid by—and there are a large number of such—have been restricting their buying to what they had to have. Now with the growing belief that prices have hit bottom, buying will be resumed and should increase in volume, and manufacturers and retailers who make or sell things that farmers need or want should have better business this coming year.

Everything considered, therefore, we can enter the new year in a spirit of hopefulness and good cheer. I see nothing which indicates boom times for the farmer in the near future, but there does seem to be promise of better times both for the farmer and for those whose business is largely dependent upon him.

### HOLD CORNCRIB DOORS SHUT

Disks From an Old Harrow Placed Over Corners of Sections Will Prove Efficient.

Most corncribs are built with detachable sections that are removed to provide a low opening, through which the corn is scooped until the crib is nearly filled. A satisfactory method



Disks Hold Corncrib Doors in Place.

of holding these sections in place is to put disks from an old harrow over the corners of the sections and secure them with bolts. This method is simple, as but little time is required to remove or replace the sections, and they are held firmly and without injury to the lumber.—S. E. Gibbs, Ames, Ia., in Popular Mechanics Magazine.

### ADVERTISING FARM PRODUCTS

Where Automobiles Pass Farms It Is Good Idea to Post Bulletin Offering Produce.

Do the autos pass your door? Why not put up a bulletin at the front gate and let folks know that you have some fresh butter, honey, eggs, chickens, fresh pork, potatoes or other things for sale? The auto folks will pay better than retail prices for high class goods.

## DAIRY

### DAIRY CATTLE ON DRY FARM

Government Begins Study of Dairying and Crop Possibilities in Southwest.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

In order to study the possibilities of dairying and to develop better methods of crop utilization in the dry-farming regions of the Southwest, the bureau of animal industry of the United States Department of Agriculture has established a herd of purebred dairy cattle on a farm in the semi-arid district of northwestern Oklahoma. The bureau of plant industry has had a farm here near the town of Woodward for many years, and has studied such crops as grain sorghums, broom corn, forage sorghums, cowpeas, alfalfa, rye for the prevention of soil



Weighing Out the Proper Rations Requires But Little Time.

blowing, and winter wheat for pasture. From now on the farm will be used co-operatively by the bureau of plant industry and the bureau of animal industry. This is considered a necessary combination, as most of the feeds grown there are of the kind that must be fed largely to live stock.

The dairy division hopes to determine whether or not it is desirable to produce live stock under those dry-land conditions, and to grow the crops which will give the largest returns per acre in terms of milk or cream. The question is not one of crop tonnage, but of the amount of finished dairy products that can be turned out. The work here is not designed to discover the best practices for any particular state, but to study practices that will be desirable in the large dry-land regions where only certain crops can be grown.

The people of this little Oklahoma town have shown great enthusiasm in regard to the investigations that the department of agriculture contemplates. The town purchased 160 acres adjoining the old government farm, and turned it over free to the government for a period of 99 years. The voters of the town were almost unanimous in favor of this donation.

The cattle that are being used on this farm are also in the country-wide breeding project being conducted by the dairy division and bulls have been sent from the government farm at Beltsville, Md. In this breeding project, which now includes more than 300 cows and 50 bulls, it is hoped to determine what are the best methods of breeding for the improvement of cattle. The large scale of this investigation should make the results particularly valuable.

### CLEAN ALL DAIRY UTENSILS

Where Several Cows Are Kept Water May Be Heated by Means of Small Boiler.

One of the greatest conveniences on the farm where cows are kept is some means for heating an abundance of water for washing the milk vessels. Where a considerable number of cows is kept, heating water by means of steam from a small, low-pressure, upright boiler is desirable, but on the small farm a stove with a basin fitted into the top (or it may be separate from the top) can be purchased cheaply and will serve the purpose, provided the water is properly heated. Water can be pumped from the well directly into the basin. In order to avoid heating the milk room and to do away with smoke and ashes, the water heater should be placed immediately outside of the milk room; and, if elevated, the water from it can be run into the washing vat.

### PRUNE APPLE TREE PROPERLY

Orchardists Should Take Care Not to Cut a Hole in Top—Too Much Wood Taken Out.

In working on apple trees be careful not to cut a hole in the treetop. Many people read about opening up the center of the tree in order to let sunlight in and then make the mistake of cutting out too much wood. A tree properly pruned should never show where the limbs come from when viewed at a distance of 25 feet.

Sherlock Holmes tells in one of his stories of the Red-headed league—the device by which one of his villains got a clerk temporarily out of the way in order to carry out his schemes against a bank. At Baltimore, a red-headed league has just been founded without any sinister purpose. The students of Goucher (women's) college in that city have organized a society of which any man, woman, or child in the United States is eligible who can certify that he or she has genuine red hair. The membership fees—\$1 for women and \$2 for men—will go towards the erection of a building of red brick on a new site that the college has obtained in a Baltimore suburb.

The Titan Tints—whose president is Miss Ruth Wallace, the daughter of the secretary of agriculture in Mr. Harding's cabinet—have issued a clever and witty leaflet extolling the virtues of red hair.

#### It Get's 'Em All.

Judge—This court sentences you to imprisonment for one year and ten days.

Criminal—What is the ten days for, your honor?

Judge—War tax!—Chesapeake and Ohio Magazine.

#### Knew His Lesson.

"Tell us something about Esau," directed the catechism teacher. Vincent, after clearing his throat, explained that "Esau was a man who wrote fables and sold the copyright to a publisher for a bottle of potash."—Detroit Varsity News.

#### Task Before America.

America, too, will have to strain its energies, crack its sinews and all but break its heart, as the best of us have had to do, before it can become a habitation for the gods.—Thomas Carlyle.

A soft answer turneth away wrath and a short answer turneth away impertinence.

### MOTHER! CLEAN

#### CHILD'S BOWELS WITH CALIFORNIA FIG SYRUP

Even a sick child loves the "fruity" taste of "California Fig Syrup." If the little tongue is coated, or if your child is listless, cross, feverish, full of cold, or has colic, give a teaspoonful to cleanse the liver and bowels. In a few hours you can see for yourself how thoroughly it works all the constipation poison, sour bile and waste out of the bowels, and you have a well, playful child again.

Millions of mothers keep "California Fig Syrup" handy. They know a teaspoonful today saves a sick child tomorrow. Ask your druggist for genuine "California Fig Syrup" which has directions for babies and children of all ages printed on bottle. Mother! You must say "California" or you may get an imitation fig syrup.—Advertisement.

#### All He Asked.

Old Crusty—You ask for my daughter? Why, young man, at your present salary you could not even dress her.

Suitor—Oh, yes, sir! I could keep her in gloves.

Old Crusty—Gloves! Do you mean to insinuate that my daughter would wear only gloves?

Suitor—Pardon me, sir; I asked only for her hand.

#### But Now—

Rummy Robinson—Yes, lady, once for a whole year I turned me back on beer.

Kind Lady—Ah, my noble man, what were you doing at the time?

Rummy Robinson—Driving a brewery truck, mum.

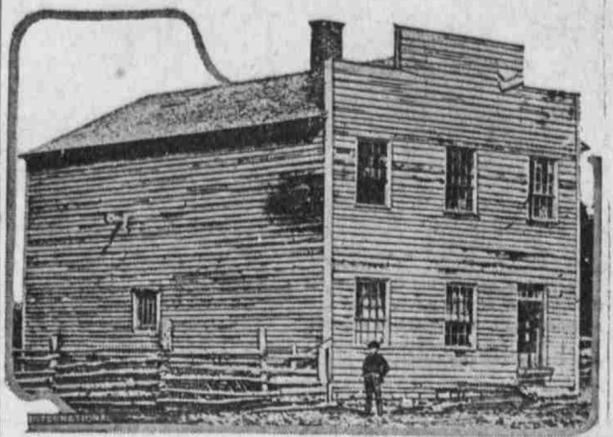
#### Nothing Serious.

"Flindub has joined the great majority."

"Eh?"

"Got a car at last."

## Was Once a Legislative Hall



This white pine structure, erected in 1836, once housed the legislature of the old Wisconsin territory, now the states of Iowa, Michigan and Wisconsin. It is located at Belmont, Wis., and is being preserved by a special act of the present Wisconsin legislature.

## WORTH KNOWING

The Alpheus river in Arcadia repeatedly disappears under ground and rises again.

Thirteen million people each day attend moving picture plays in the United States.

During the last ten years New York city gained 854,268 in population. More people live within her boundaries than in any state except Pennsylvania, Illinois and, of course, New York state.

#### Taking the Fun Out of It.

He—"I see this hotel has adopted a rule permitting women to smoke." She—"I suppose now I'll have to quit."

Every department of housekeeping needs Red Cross Ball Blue. Equally good for kitchen towels, table linen, sheets and pillowcases, etc.—Advertisement.

#### One Stumbling Block.

"So long as dar's cheatin' in a crap game," said Uncle Eben, "its gineter be hard to put a complete stop to fightin'."

#### History in Sculpture.

Quite a remarkable example of the use of sculpture to illustrate scientific facts is the frieze on the exterior of the New Institute of Human Palaeontology, in Paris, carved by Constant Roux. It depicts scenes from the life of primitive humanity; some of the subjects being reconstructions of prehistoric periods while others represent contemporary life among uncivilized people.

#### Men and Marriage.

"One woman in a hundred marries the man she wants," said Galsford; "the other ninety-nine look for some one they can at least tolerate." One man ripens the peach, and another always eats it."

"Marriage is always an adventure, a blind leap. You don't begin to know anything about a woman until you're married to her."—From "The Secret Victory," by Stephen McKenna.

#### Not Really Remarkable.

"Do you know anything about palmistry, Herbert?" she asked. "Oh, not much," he answered, "although I had an experience last night which might be considered a remarkable example of palmistry. I happened to glance at the hand of a friend, and I immediately predicted he would presently become the possessor of a considerable amount of money. Before he left the room he had a nice little sum handed to him." "And you foretold that from his hand?" "Yes, it had four aces in it."

Nearly 200 alphabets, ancient and modern, are known, of which 50 are now in use.

Tea was wholly unknown to the western nations until the beginning of the Seventeenth century.

A new safety device indicates the amount of salt in water that enters boilers and lights a lamp as a warning when it threatens to damage the boiler tubes.

Neglect the "beg pardons" and presently you will hear cuss words.

### A COLD TODAY—DON'T DELAY



### Cuticura Soap

—Is Ideal for—  
The Complexion

Soap 25c, Ointment 25 and 50c, Talcum 25c.

#### Its Own Place.

Mr. Brown was until recently a deacon in the Methodist church in his town. But recently he not only withdrew from his honored position, but ceased to be as regular an attendant at church as formerly. The minister, who came to call at the Brown home, demanded the reason for this failure.

"My rheumatism is much worse than it has been for years," Mr. Brown began, "and I cannot walk so far."

"Tut, tut!" laughed the minister, "I believe it is a lack of religion."

"Sir," Mr. Brown drew himself up firmly, "my religion is in my heart—not in my legs."—Indianapolis News.

#### Up to the Neck.

A bachelor who is forever putting his foot in it recently visited the proud parents of a new boy.

The mother held up the bundle for inspection by the bachelor and asked gaily: "Tell us now, frankly, which of us do you think he is like?"

After a careful scrutiny the bachelor replied "Well, of course, it isn't very intelligent looking yet, but he's wonderfully like both of you."

#### As She Am Spoke.

"Liza, I hears 'at yoh daughtah's church weddin' was some sho' nuff skrumphus function."

"I'll say 'twas. 'At 'ere gah 'ah mine flang a wicked nuptial, ef I does say it myself."

## One third of your life is allotted to sleep. Do you get your share?

The most important period in the process of applying nutrition to the repair of the body is while you are asleep. For the most favorable transformation of digested food into nerve and cell tissue, so doctors tell us, sleep is absolutely essential.

Is it any wonder that those who suffer from lack of proper sleep are weak, pale and lacking in energy or ambition?

One of the causes of insomnia is nerve-irritation, from tea and coffee drinking. Tea and coffee both contain caffeine, which has a tendency to cause undue stimulation. The irritating effect of caffeine often

results in insomnia, depression, and a weakened nervous system.

You can easily overcome these troubles by drinking Postum instead of tea or coffee. Postum is a delicious, satisfying cereal beverage, and it is absolutely free from caffeine, or any other harmful substance.

Ask your grocer for Postum. Drink this delicious, refreshing beverage for ten days. Then see if you do not feel better and more clear headed, and if you do not sleep better at night—as so many other people have proved for themselves.

Postum comes in two forms: Instant Postum (in tins) made instantly in the cup by the addition of boiling water. Postum Cereal (in packages of larger bulk, for those who prefer to make the drink while the meal is being prepared) made by boiling for 20 minutes.



## Postum for Health

"There's a Reason"

Made by Postum Cereal Co., Inc., Battle Creek, Mich.