



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
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LAWS RELATING TO FUR ANIMALS  
ARE MEANT TO CONSERVE SUPPLY

"Taking an unprime pelt is a deliberate waste of one of nature's most valuable and beautiful gifts, and not until trappers and raw-fur men learn to look upon it as such will the best use of our valuable resources in fur be realized." Speaking on the subject of necessity for careful fur conservation, Frank G. Ashbrook, in Farmers' Bulletin 1469, Laws Relating to Fur Animals for the Season 1925-26, points out that if the unprime animals now killed every year were left for breeding stock, the annual catch would probably not be decreased more than 5 per cent, while the supply of wild fur animals would without doubt be increased 50 per cent in five years.

Fur is in prime condition for harvesting at one brief season only. An open season of more than three months' duration is not justifiable anywhere in the United States. The average quality of pelts would be much higher if laws made seasons shorter and uniform for areas having the same climatic conditions. If the fur business is to maintain its position among the great industries of the country the continued source of supply must be assured.

The maintenance of the fur supply is primarily the business of the States. The United States Department of Agriculture administers the Lacey Act, regulating interstate commerce in wild animals, and supplements State legislation in efforts for conservation of fur animals. The attitude of the department is one of cooperation and not of Federal control.

This bulletin contains a complete list of all the laws in the various States and Canada relating to fur animals and effective for the coming year. Regulations affecting the interstate shipment of pelts are explained, and the legislation enacted during the year is reviewed, with all important changes noted. A recommendation is made that trappers be required to turn in an annual report of furs of each species taken, from which an estimate could be made of the total number and value of the furs taken annually. The status of fur-farming in this country and Alaska is steadily improving, and is discussed in another section.

The bulletin may be obtained while the supply lasts by addressing the United States Department of Agriculture, at Washington, D. C.

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