

# INFORMATION FOR THE PRESS



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### TELLS HOW TO TRAP BOBCATS

When bobcats become a menace to livestock, it is easy to catch them in common double-spring steel traps, sizes 2 and 3, says Stanley P. Young, of the Bureau of Biological Survey, in Leaflet 78-L, Hints on Bobcat Trapping, recently published by the U. S. Department of Agriculture. "Such traps," explains Mr. Young, "have been used by many generations of trappers, and although deemed inhumane by some persons, no better or more practical device has yet been invented to take their place."

Since human encroachment on the bobcat's natural haunts, where it is accustomed to prey on rabbits, other injurious rodents, and such valuable forms of wild life as antelope, deer, wild turkey, and quail, this predator has found the young of the domestic flocks and herds very satisfactory substitutes, says the leaflet. Where this new provender is more easily obtained than is food in the wild, the bobcat becomes a serious menace, the leaflet points out, as in Arkansas, where locally it has become a threat to the hog-raising industry. Urged on also by a lust for killing, the animal's depredations sometimes become exceedingly heavy; in one case, cited in the leaflet, a single bobcat killed 38 lambs in one night.

Field experiences of Federal and cooperative trappers applying methods developed by the Bureau of Biological Survey, on which Mr. Young bas<sup>o</sup>s his hints, have demonstrated that the bobcat can be caught in traps placed in holes dug directly in the trail of the animal and concealed with dirt. Fetid and natural scents and such lures as catnip oil, it is also explained, may be used to attract the animals to traps set on either side of the trail, near stubble, a bunch of weeds, an exposed root, or any object known as a scent post.

"Hints on Bobcat Trapping" furnishes further directions for making the various sets, preparing scents, and caring for traps. It also calls attention to the importance of such details as avoiding human scent near the sets, deodorizing traps, and caring for traps in frozen ground. This publication, Leaflet 78-L, may be obtained free on request to the Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

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