

# INFORMATION FOR THE PRESS



## U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE OFFICE OF INFORMATION PRESS SERVICE



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### SUMMARY OF CURRENT FUR LAWS ISSUED -----

The fur-law bulletin issued annually by the Bureau of Biological Survey, U. S. Department of Agriculture, has been published and is now available for distribution.

Like the preceding publications, "Fur Laws for the Season 1931-32," by H. P. Sheldon and Frank G. Grimes, reviews the legislation enacted within the last year and summarizes the existing Federal, State, and Provincial laws. For each State or Province the bulletin specifies open seasons, license fees, bag limits, prohibited methods, and other restrictions and regulations regarding the hunting and trapping of fur-bearing animals.

In an introductory section, Frank G. Ashbrook, in charge of the Biological Survey's division of fur resources, calls attention to the steadily declining fur catch. This year, as never before, he says, all concerned have realized that the number of skins reaching the fur markets is steadily on the decline. The chief cause, Mr. Ashbrook says, is, of course, overtrapping over many years in the face of reduced breeding areas. Other causes he finds in the floods of 1927, the drought of 1930, and the lower prices offered in 1929-30 and 1930-31. Conservation officials, fur tradesmen, and fur farmers, he recommends, should work out their problems together and present a united front in urging conservation legislation. It is emphasized that trappers plying their trade out of season not only in the long run lessen the annual catch but also reduce the species below the point where commercial trapping is possible and profitable.

"Fur Laws for the Season 1931-32," Farmers' Bulletin 1685-F, may be obtained on request to the Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

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