



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of Information
Press Service



WASHINGTON, D. C.

Distribution: To ITF

RELEASE FOR DECEMBER
NUMBERS OF FUR MAGAZINES

October 18, 1934.

Note to Editors: This is the second of a series of monthly articles being prepared by the Bureau of Biological Survey for interested magazines for fur farmers, fur tradesmen, and rabbit farmers. The third release will deal with conservation of fur resources.

FACTS FOR FUR FARMERS

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Experimenting with Rabbits

How much food does a rabbit doe need in one year? How many litters a year can she produce? How many young are kindled? How many are weaned? What is the feed cost of producing rabbits to weaning age? To six pounds? How do these feed requirements and costs compare with other classes of livestock? How can rabbits best be developed as fur animals?

Answers to these and many other questions are being sought at the United States Rabbit Experiment Station through intelligently planned and carefully conducted experiments. Many answers have been obtained. Such information is of value to those engaged in or considering the production of rabbits for meat and fur. Many rabbit breeders have been quick to realize this, and have benefited by the work the U. S. Department of Agriculture is doing to guide and develop this new

agricultural enterprise along safe and sane lines.

Progressive breeders, who see in the rabbit business the possibilities of developing an agricultural enterprise of much greater magnitude, have given splendid cooperation and support. They have corresponded freely with the Bureau of Biological Survey and have visited the rabbit experiment station to see the work and to obtain first-hand information in solving their problems. This kind of cooperative relationship has been of great value to the Federal workers in this field. Constructive criticism and suggestions are always welcome and helpful.

George S. Templeton, director of the United States Rabbit Experiment Station, at Fontana, Calif., has been in charge since May 1, 1934. A graduate of the University of Missouri, with the degree of B.S. in Agriculture, Mr. Templeton was an instructor and assistant professor of animal husbandry at the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas from 1911 to 1913. From then until 1920 he was the head of the animal husbandry department at the Alabama Polytechnic Institute and Experiment Station. For the three following years Mr. Templeton was again at Texas Agricultural and Mechanical College, as head of the animal husbandry department, and from 1923 to 1929 he was in charge of corresponding work at the Mississippi Agricultural and Mechanical College and Experiment Station and was assistant director of the station. He was later assistant director of the educational service of the National Cottonseed Products Association. He is the author of four bulletins on animal husbandry, published by Alabama, and of four published by Mississippi.

When rabbit raising was considered primarily a pet-stock enterprise Mr. Templeton was raising them not only as a hobby but also as a means of reducing his meat bill. Now his efforts are being directed toward determining the value of the various protein feeds for rabbits, such as peanut, soybean, sesame, and linseed-oil meals as supplements to the grain feed. As a result of his practical experience

with rabbits and other livestock he believes that meat rabbits can be developed by a self-feeding method similar to that used with hogs and cattle. The form in which concentrates are fed to rabbits is of importance, and Mr. Templeton is experimenting with whole, crushed, and rolled grains, as well as "pellets", to determine their relative value. Moist and dry rations are being compared to determine the most desirable form in which to feed them.

Other experiments of equal importance are being carried on under Mr. Templeton's supervision that will, it is hoped, produce results of considerable benefit to rabbit breeders.

The prime object of the U. S. Rabbit Experiment Station is to determine the best methods of producing rabbits for food and fur. The farm is not run for commercial profit through the sale of either breeding stock or of meat or fur, all energies being directed to developing the best methods for producing meat and fur of fine quality, insuring sanitary surroundings, and preventing diseases and parasites.

Kill and Pelt Inferior Foxes

As the breeding season approaches, fox farmers should bear in mind that their success is directly dependent upon a careful and intelligent selection of breeding stock. Old foxes that have served their usefulness, non-producers, individuals with inferior fur, and those that have been injured or otherwise incapacitated should be killed and pelted.