

INFORMATION FOR THE PRESS

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MORE WILDLIFE IS OBJECT OF NEW RESEARCH UNIT AT UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI

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Establishment of a wildlife research unit at the University of Missouri at Columbia under a cooperative agreement between the university, the State Conservation Commission, and the U. S. Biological Survey has been approved by Secretary of Agriculture H. A. Wallace. Wildlife investigations at the new unit will be planned by an advisory committee consisting of representatives of the three cooperating agencies.

Missouri is the 10th State to enter into an agreement with the Survey for cooperating in investigations for increasing, maintaining, and using wildlife resources, and for showing on trial areas how to apply in a practical manner the methods developed by research. The first cooperative unit was set up in Virginia two years ago. Since then other units have been established in Alabama, Connecticut, Iowa, Maine, Ohio, Oregon, Texas, and Utah. These States were selected with a view to carrying on research on a regional basis with as little duplication as practicable. Each State program is arranged so that the practical information obtained may be applied on a large area.

Dr. Paul D. Dalke, leader of the Connecticut unit, is being transferred to take charge of the new work in Missouri. His work in Connecticut will be continued for the Survey by John Pearce, forest biologist, stationed at the Northeastern Forest Experiment Station at New Haven, Conn. Doctor Dalke has been in charge of the Connecticut unit since its establishment in October 1935, and has set up a number of wildlife-management areas for demonstration and observation. Prior to

joining the Survey he was connected with the Connecticut State Board of Fisheries and Game, the University of Michigan, and the U.S. Forest Service. He received his B.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Michigan.

Although the Missouri research unit is not far from the unit located at Ames, Iowa, it is pointed out that the environment for wildlife in these States and nearby regions differs considerably. A large number of the research projects at the new unit will deal with wildlife-management problems in the Ozark region covering southern Missouri, northern Arkansas, and eastern Oklahoma.

Funds for administering and operating the work in Missouri are being provided by the University, the Conservation Commission, and the Biological Survey, each contributing \$6,000 annually. In other States cooperative funds also have been supplied in part by the American Wildlife Institute for use in establishing graduate fellowships, providing assistants, and meeting administrative expenses. Advisory committees administer the work and funds, and the project leaders selected by the Bureau and the States direct the active work at the colleges.

"Each year the money paid to trappers, and that spent by sportsmen and others directly interested in wildlife runs into large sums," says Dr. W. B. Bell, Chief of the Survey's Division of Wildlife Research. "If this income from wildlife is to be continued, the production of wild birds and mammals", he adds, "must be systematized through careful management. It is the ultimate aim of the cooperative research programs to find out not only what can be done to produce more wildlife, but how it can be done on a practical land-use basis."

One or more trial demonstration areas have been set up at each research unit in order to work out a complete life history and management practice for one or more important fur, game, or other wildlife species. Most of these areas are established on land of private owners, who cooperate with the research projects, and on State and national forests.