

# DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

## INFORMATION SERVICE



### FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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As a result of a relentless war against predators in the West, tens of thousands of lambs, calves, and turkeys went to market this year instead of into the maws of hungry coyotes and bobcats.

Reporting on its predator control work during the past fiscal year, the Fish and Wildlife Service today reported to Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes that 112,451 predatory animals were taken in Federal-cooperative control operations in spite of wartime handicaps caused by a shortage of trained hunters, automotive equipment, and various ingredients of predator control baits.

Broken down by species, the total take consisted of 102,979 coyotes, 7,325 bobcats and lynx, 1,365 wolves, 619 stock-killing bears, and 163 mountain lions, it was announced.

Texas, as the largest state, ranked first with the largest number of predators--19,220. Oregon was second with 10,318, followed by Wyoming with 10,301; Colorado, 10,211; California, 9,160; Idaho, 8,552; Nevada, 8,312; and Montana, 8,133. By method of taking, trapping netted 61,653 animals, with the humane "coyote-getter" accounting for 20,212.

Control operations supervised by the Service from July 1, 1915, through June 30, 1945, have resulted in the destruction of 1,884,114 predators, of which 1,672,604 were coyotes.

To protect crops and range forage from destruction by field rodents, 11,478,899 acres of rodent-infested lands were treated. To rid homes and business places of the common house rat, 596,635 premises were treated. From the Service's supply depot at Pocatello, Idaho, 465,620 pounds of rodent bait materials were processed and issued for use in cooperative projects.

During the year the Service gave direct aid in conducting rat control operations on Army and Navy areas to protect food stores and other valuable supplies. This aid gave protection to military personnel from rodent-borne diseases, especially typhus fever.

The importance of the Service's predatory and rodent control work, conducted in cooperation with other Federal agencies, states, counties, municipalities, and livestock and farm associations, was brought into sharp focus by the increased wartime demand for food.

The protection of livestock from destruction by predators meant more beef, lamb, pork, and poultry for the Armed Forces and civilians; systematic control of crop-destroying field rodents and food-despoiling house rats saved other needed

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food products for human use. Without such control a considerable portion of the Nation's food resources would never have been harvested and much of the finished product would have been ruined by rats in food-processing plants and warehouses, the Service's report pointed out.

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