



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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TRAPPING REGULATIONS MADE PUBLIC.

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A summary of laws relating to fur-bearing animals, which will be useful to all trappers and others engaged in any phase of the fur industry, has just been issued by the United States Department of Agriculture. Laws of the various States, Provinces of Canada, Newfoundland, and parts of Mexico are included in the new bulletin, and the different provisions are conveniently grouped for ready reference under such headings as open seasons, prohibited methods, bag limits, license provisions, possession and sale, shipment and export, propagation, and bounties.

The changes in the laws resulting from new legislation of the year 1923 are shown. Among the new enactments of the legislatures of 31 States, Alaska, and 6 Canadian Provinces were provisions prohibiting the taking of unprime peltries, safeguarding and breeding supply of fur animals in the wild, shortening the trapping season, and restricting trapping of certain species to a time far shorter than the period of prime fur. Bounties on predatory species have been discontinued in some States in favor of cooperative campaigns with the Biological Survey, in which salaried hunters are employed.

Trappers in Massachusetts and Pennsylvania are required by new laws to make yearly reports of their fur catch, and in West Virginia the game commission is collecting similar information by listing the game, birds, and fur animals of the State on the hunting licenses issued, and requesting hunters

and trappers to make necessary reports at the end of the year. In this way it is hoped to learn whether the supply of fur animals and game species is endangered by too much hunting or trapping, in order that necessary safeguards may be taken before too late.

The new laws affect muskrats probably more than other fur animals, and seasons were rather generally restricted. Montana closed all trapping of muskrats for an indefinite period. Utah protected these animals until 1925. The muskrat seasons were shortened in Maine, New Jersey, Illinois, Minnesota, North Dakota, Idaho, and Alaska.

The greatest restrictions on trapping were adopted in Idaho, where martens, fishers, and foxes are now protected throughout the State indefinitely, and similar action was taken for parts of the State to protect muskrats, otters, minks, and raccoons, further local exceptions being made in the case of muskrats.

Full details, together with a list of officials from whom copies of the State laws may be obtained, are given in the new publication, which is known as Farmers' Bulletin 1387, "Laws Relating to Fur Animals for the Season 1923-24." Trappers and others engaged in the fur industry will do well to consult the bulletin before starting on the season's operations. Copies may be had free of charge from congressmen or from the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C., as long as the supply lasts.