



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Office of Information

Press Service



Release - Immediate.

October 27, 1927.

BEAVER FARMING IN CUT-OVER LANDS  
PROMISES PROFIT AND INTERESTING WORK

In a report on the possibility of raising beavers profitably, the Biological Survey of the United States Department of Agriculture says that there are many localities where these fur bearers could be reintroduced without harm and where, through storing water in the reservoirs along mountain streams, they would do much good by helping prevent floods and extensive erosion, by increasing the stream flow in dry weather, and by improving the fishing resources of streams and lakes. In such places they would not only enrich forests and parks with a unique and intensely interesting form of wild life, but also would add much to the decreasing supply of valuable fur.

Beavers, the Survey has found, can be kept readily in a fully controlled if not a fully domesticated state. Because the animals are comparatively clumsy and slow walkers, they rarely go more than 20 or 30 rods from their home stream. To confine them to a narrow strip along a certain stream, therefore, it is only necessary to fence across the stream a short distance above and below their colony, running the fences at right angles to the stream about 30 rods on each side.

The best location for beaver farms is believed to be in the tier of States along the Canadian border. A rough guide to desirable range for beavers is the presence of the aspen or poplar tree. These trees are their favorite food and are of little value commercially. Much of the best beaver country is in localities where, after the original timber has been lumbered off and the ground burned over, thickets of aspen and pin cherry have sprung up as second growth. Such land is generally considered almost worthless, but it might support a large beaver population and could be successfully handled either on a large or a small scale. A small fur farm, where detailed attention can be given to the animals, is likely to prove more successful at first, and can be extended when management practices are fully mastered.

Anyone interested in the possibilities of beaver farming may obtain a booklet giving much additional information by writing to the United States Department of Agriculture at Washington, D. C., asking for Technical Bulletin No. 21-T.

\* \* \*

300-28