



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
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ANNUAL SUMMARY OF FUR LAWS  
NOW AVAILABLE TO TRAPPERS

The legislatures of only Kentucky, New York, and Virginia made changes in laws relating to fur-bearing animals this year, according to Farmers' Bulletin 1576-F, "Fur Laws for the Season 1928-29," the fourteenth annual summary of the fur laws just compiled by the Bureau of Biological Survey, United States Department of Agriculture. Kentucky reduced the fee for nonresident trappers. New York imposed requirements for the stamping of traps and for frequent inspection. Virginia rescinded powers heretofore conferred upon county boards with respect to game matters and vested them in a commission, and also set a State-wide trapping season. Administrative changes were made in Alaska, Arkansas, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania. In Canada changes in fur laws were effected in Ontario, Quebec, British Columbia, Northwest Territories, Saskatchewan, and Yukon.

A summary of the laws in all States and in Canada, including the prevailing requirements as to open seasons, bag limits, prohibited methods, licenses, possession and sale of animals and furs, shipment and export, propagation, and bounties imposed by the regulatory authorities, or by law, is presented in convenient form. Several pages of introductory

matter, review present tendencies and wasteful practices in the utilization of fur resources and offer suggestions for rational and profitable conservation. The substantial progress in fur farming is commented upon, but its limitations are also pointed out.

"Most of the States will hold legislative sessions in 1929," says the bulletin, and "careful attention should be given to affording adequate protection to those species that have become scarce or have diminished in numbers, or have been adversely affected by peculiar local conditions. Protection should be extended either in the form of restricted trapping seasons or by closing the season for a definite or an indefinite period on individual species whenever necessary to allow time for them to increase or for local conditions to become stabilized." The provision requiring in some States that a trapper report on his previous season's catch before his trapping license may be renewed is cited with approval. This system, it is pointed out, provides a valuable check on the need for regulation and a valuable guide as to the relative abundance of fur animals, and the information thus obtained will ultimately benefit all trappers.

Farmers' Bulletin 1576-F may be obtained free on application to the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

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