THE DOMESTIC RABBIT

FOREWORD

DOMESTIC RABBITS grown under conditions that favour rapid body development are an excellent source of tender, delicately flavoured, white and nutritious meat. Domestic hutch-reared rabbit meat is in the same class as chicken and is far superior to, and quite different from, the meat of wild rabbits.

During periods of war, the meat foods obtained from cattle, swine, sheep and poultry are higher in price than during periods of peace. The meat of the domestic rabbit, if available, can very well take the place of other meats, at least on one day of each week throughout the year.

Rabbit meat can be produced on any farm or village lot, just as successfully as poultry can. A few rabbits bred on many farms or kept on many town lots will supplement the nation's food supply just as much as will the increase in other meat-producing animals. Small meat-producing animals like the rabbit can be maintained successfully by many people where large animals could not be kept.

Good rabbit skins are needed at all times in providing items of clothing needed by the human race; particularly necessary during a war period when imports are uncertain. Hutch-raised domestic rabbits are marketed or used at home when eight to ten weeks of age, at a weight of four pounds.

Domestic rabbits are used extensively in Great Britain and all other European countries as a source of meat. Those desiring to produce rabbits in a large way should locate near a large marketing centre and make arrangements with the retail meat trade to sell the production of the rabbit ranch.

The housing cost for rabbits can be somewhat less than for poultry.

RABBIT MEAT

Analyses of rabbit meat prove definitely that it contains approximately twenty per cent protein, which compares favourably with the protein content of other lean meat. The fuel value of rabbit meat is quite equal to that of other meats, averaging 850 calories per pound. Rabbits in good condition will dress fifty-five per cent or more of their live weight, and over eighty per cent of the dressed weight is edible meat. The liver, which is just as edible as calf liver, makes up five per cent of the dressed weight. It has the same high value as calf liver.

RABBIT SKINS

Rabbit skins are extensively used in garments, trimmings, linings, felt and glue. Rabbit skins that have passed through the hands of fur dressers and fur dyers are sold under suitable trade names and used in a large way to replace the more costly furs. Most of the rabbit skins used in the Ontario

fur manufacturing industry have to be imported from countries where rabbit breeding is an important part of the animal husbandry.

The sale of pelts plus the sale of meat will, under good management, yield profits comparable to any other line of animal husbandry. For those undertaking the production of rabbits beyond the needs of the family, a location near a large consuming population where surplus rabbit meat may be sold is of the utmost importance. Rabbit skins are durable, and if properly prepared can be shipped to distant markets or held for long periods if necessary. Rabbit pelts supply half the fur garment material used. With the exception of sheep the rabbit is doing more to keep humanity warm than any other animal. Rabbit skins when dressed, dyed and made up in garments are sold under any of the following "trade names":

Arctic seal	Bluerette	French sable	Nutriette
Australian seal	Coast seal	French seal	Polar seal
Baltic lion	Castorette	Fox hair	Red River seal
Baltic white fox	Chipchillas	Glo seal	Roman seal
Baltic fox	Chinchillette	Imitation ermine	Russian leopard
Baltic leopard	Cony mole	Lapin	Russian seal
Baltic tiger	Cony leopard	Meskin beaver	Sealette
Baltic seal	Cony (French)	Minkony	Sealine seal
Bay seal	Electric beaver	Moline	Sable hair
Baby beaver	Electric seal	Muskratine	Siberian seal
Baffin seal	Ermiline	Mendoza beaver	Squirrellette
Beaverette	Erminette	Northern seal	Squirreline
Belgian beaver	French beaver	Nordic seal	Super seal
Belgian lynx	French chinchilla	Near seal	Twin beaver
Black hare	French leopard	Nubian seal	Visonette

NUMBER OF BREEDERS REQUIRED

Four female rabbits and one male of any of the medium-sized or large breeds will, if properly cared for, produce enough young rabbits to supply the rabbit meat that a family of four people are likely to use. One male rabbit for each ten females is the usual ratio in the large rabbitries.

CHOOSING A BREED OF RABBITS

All breeds of domestic rabbits, if properly kept, are capable of producing satisfactory meat for home use. The New Zealand White, the Chinchilla and the Flemish Giant are the varieties most commonly kept in Ontario. These are suitable to the production of a satisfactory carcass and pelt. Other varieties such as the French Silver and Beveren are also quite popular. White pelts will as a rule sell better than coloured pelts.

SELECTING BREEDING STOCK

Time can be saved by purchasing pregnant female rabbits. A non-related male can be secured when needed. If a start is made with young rabbits, it is necessary to wait until such are seven or eight months old before any increase

can be expected. The following facts should be kept in mind when selecting breeding stock: (1) Rabbits must be healthy, vigorous and of early maturing strain. (2) Rabbits must produce a good quality of white, fine-grained and delicately flavoured meat. (3) Rabbit carcasses should be compact and well covered. (4) Rabbits should belong to a breed that produces a type of pelt most desired by the fur markets. (5) Female rabbits must be good enough to produce and rear six or more, true-to-type, vigorous young three times a year. (6) Rabbits that are deficient in vitality, poor feeders, or have poor teeth cannot produce profitably.

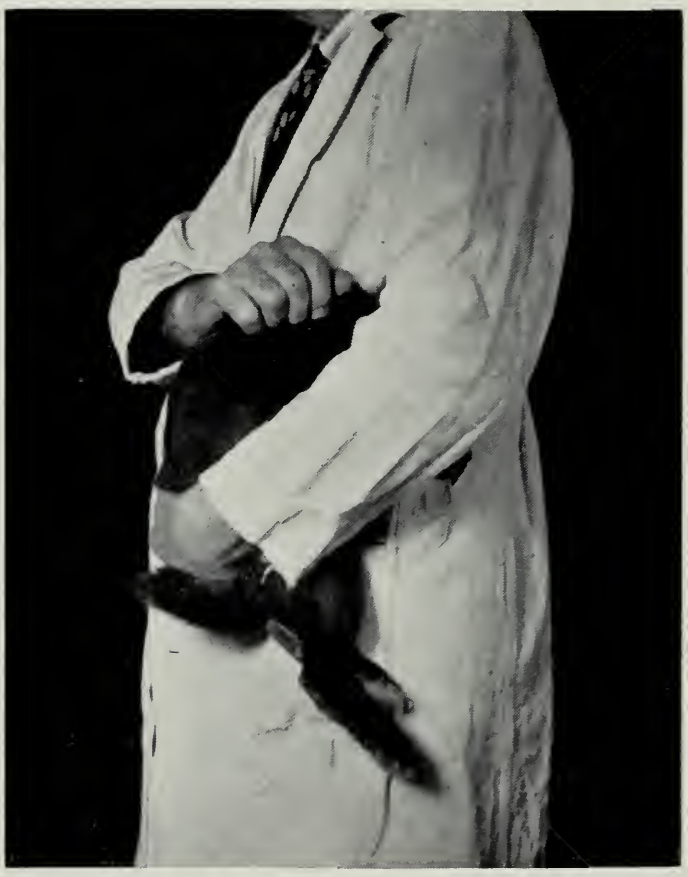
RABBIT BREEDING

The small breeds of rabbits will, if well developed, be ready to mate when five to six months of age. The medium-sized breeds should be ready to mate when seven months old. The large or giant breeds require from nine to twelve months to reach mating maturity. Under ideal conditions, it is possible for the female rabbit to produce four litters of young in a twelve-month period. The pregnancy period is but thirty-one or thirty-two days, and the nursing period fifty to fifty-six days. To attain four litters a year, it is necessary to remate the female as soon as the young are weaned. Breeding females should be in proper physical condition before mating. Thin females are not likely to do very well, so should be given a rest. Many thin females do not conceive. Some individuals reproduce well until five or six years of age, but as a rule three years is the breeding age limit for many female rabbits. Spring matings are usually the most productive. Factors such as sore hocks, disease, injuries, moulting, poor physical condition, old age, and ranch disturbances, presence of dogs and children interfere seriously with reproduction.

The female rabbit has no regularly recurring oestrus period, but shows by behaviour when mating is possible. Female rabbits that show restlessness or nervousness as indicated by their trying to escape from the pen and join other rabbits, or acting in any other unusual manner, such as rubbing the chin on feed manger or water device, should be taken to the hutch of the male for attention. If mating takes place, the female should be returned to her hutch at once. Careful watch should be kept while rabbits are together, otherwise a serious fight may occur. Assistance is sometimes necessary to bring about a successful mating act. Test matings should be tried to determine if conception has taken place. The test matings are made eighteen to twenty-two days after the known mating. When the female proves to be pregnant, a nest box with suitable bedding material should be placed in the hutch twenty-seven days following the known mating date. The female rabbit nearing the parturition date will make her own nest, so should not be disturbed, but left quiet and as comfortable as possible. She will as a rule go through the parturition act without needing any assistance. When the young are two days old, it is well to examine them and remove any surplus or weaklings. Too frequent disturbance of the nest or newborn will result in loss, so leave them alone until they are large enough to leave the nest. Keep strangers, other rabbits, dogs and cats away.

Young rabbits can be lifted by the flank without causing injury or pain.

This is a comfortable position, leave the ears alone, as lifting by the ears is painful and injurious.



A large rabbit can be carried comfortably if held as illustrated.

HANDLING RABBITS

If it is necessary to handle a rabbit, do not lift it by the ears or legs as such may cause injury. Try having someone lift you by the ears, and see how you like it. Very small rabbits may be lifted without injury or pain by carefully grasping the loin region with the thumb of your right hand on the left flank of the rabbit and your fingers on the right flank. Rabbits of medium weight may be lifted and carried by grasping with your right hand the fold of skin over the shoulders, the back of the rabbit being toward your body; your left hand is placed under the rabbit in a position to support its weight. Heavy rabbits are best carried under your left arm, being supported by your left hand.

Rabbits should be given special attention during unseasonable weather, as they suffer from heat and also from exposure during cold weather. Provide shade and cooling factors, if possible, when needed. Protect rabbits from drafts during cold weather. The more comfortable a rabbit is kept, the better the weight increase and welfare.

THE RABBITRY

When rabbit keeping is planned to supply meat for one family only, not very much equipment is required, as four female rabbits and one male rabbit will produce enough young rabbits to supply all the rabbit meat that an average-size family will use. This small number of rabbits can usually be housed in buildings already available on most village and country premises. An unused one or two-car garage, a poultry house, a colony house, a small barn or shed can be used if available. When it is planned to produce rabbit meat and fur for sale, adequate buildings with equipment are required of a size and design to suit the numbers. Such buildings, which are usually small structures, should be so planned that the animals can be handled with a minimum of labour. Animals must be fed, kept clean and comfortable, so provision should be made for light, ventilation, easy cleaning, freedom from draft or extreme temperature changes. The doors should be amply wide to permit the carrying of hutches in or out, as during the mild part of the year the hutches can be placed under trees or in open sheds.

Breeder rabbits must be provided with individual hutches of a size to suit. Breeder rabbits of the small breeds require a floor space of not less than 7½ square feet and head room of at least 2 feet. This is obtained in a hutch 2½ feet deep, 2 feet high and 3 feet long, inside measurements. Medium-weight breeds of rabbits require 10 square feet of floor space, or a hutch 2½ feet deep, 2 feet high and 4 feet long. Giant breeds of rabbits require 15 square feet of floor space per rabbit. Hutches should be well built of good materials, in one, two, or three-tier units, if many rabbits are kept. When only a few rabbits are kept, makeshift hutches constructed from packing cases or scrap materials may be satisfactory, but it is generally advised that well-designed and constructed hutches be used, as such can be kept more sanitary and are easier to work with.

The most satisfactory type of hutch for Ontario climate is the semi-closed hutch, constructed with the ends, top and back of wood; the front of inch-mesh wire; the roof made so as to project for protection. When shed or house space is available, all-metal hutches can be used to advantage if obtainable. Galvanized sheet metal, wire grids (muskrat wire) and mesh wire when obtainable make excellent rabbit hutches, feed racks and self-feed hoppers. The wooden frame wire hutches are not as durable as the all-metal hutch, but if well constructed with the wood frame protected by the wire will give good satisfaction, as they are more sanitary than the nearly all-wood hutch.

NEST BOXES

The nest box, used in the hutch to accommodate the female and her litter at any season and to accommodate breeding rabbits during cold weather, can be made of wood, in box form, 12 inches by 16 inches by 9 inches, or a nail keg can be used. The box type of nest box is made to facilitate easy cleaning; the top and bottom can be removed. Ordinary nail kegs with metal end hoops will make a very satisfactory nest box for small or medium-weight breeds. The nail keg nest box must be provided with a front board 4 inches high to keep it in place and prevent its rolling; also to keep the nest material in place.

FEED HOLDERS

The hay manger should be large enough to hold a twenty-four-hour supply, and be of such a design and structure as will prevent waste. The hay manger and grain trough can be combined equipment when dry mash or grain is used, but not when the mash is dampened. If dampened foods are used a stone crock or cement basin of suitable design can be used to advantage. Wooden mangers and feed boxes are likely to be damaged, so if possible all such structures should be made of substances that the rabbit cannot gnaw.

SELF-FEEDERS

The self-feeding system is not recommended for the feeding of breeding stock, other than the breeding doe and her litter. It is well adapted to the feeding of butcher stock where high condition is required. When a mixed ration is used in a self-feeder, waste may follow, due to the rabbits picking out the parts most palatable to them. Rations made up into the pellet or cube form are best suited to self-feeders. When used in feeding butcher rabbits the self-feeder system has a number of advantages—as saving of feed and labour—quicker gains are made, and better finish. A very good self-feeder can be made from a five-gallon light metal oil or gasoline can and some light box lumber by any man handy with tools.

FEEDS AND FEEDING

The rabbit is made from the food substances that it eats. Proper body development, health and reproduction are founded on the use of suitable, abundant and wholesome feeds being supplied to rabbits under conditions suited to their well-being. The rabbit is a very clean feeder and must not be

forced to eat such unwholesome feeds as mildewed, mouldy or dusty vegetation or grain of any kind. The cleanest of feeds for the rabbits should be the aim of the rabbit breeder. Some variety in feed is appreciated by the rabbit, but any change in ration used should be made gradually unless it is known that injurious substances are being included.

HAY FOR RABBITS

Well-cured, fine-quality alfalfa, red clover or clean, fine, mixed grass and clover hay is preferred for rabbits. Reject coarse stems, old crop, weather-damaged, poor-coloured or mouldy fodder of any kind. Bright, green-coloured, fine-stemmed third cutting of alfalfa that is harvested during dry, bright weather is most desirable. The feeding of long hay has objections in dust, contamination and waste, so it is desirable that all hay be cut into lengths of two to four inches before being placed in the hay rack. A hand saw or a hand axe or a hay knife can be used in preparing hay for feeding.

GREEN FEEDS AND ROOTS FOR RABBITS

Rabbits that have a chance to pick their own feed in the wild will eat a great variety of green plants, but show preference for field or lawn grasses, young clover, lettuce, young peas, turnip and mangle tops, young carrots, young cabbage, and young soy beans, peas or corn. All these plants can be supplied in moderate quantity to hutch-raised rabbits. With the advance of the season apples, cabbage, turnips, carrots and mangles are taken, along with the dry grasses or clovers. With the coming of winter, dry grasses, young autumn-sown wheat and the bark of various shrubs and trees form the greater part of the feed taken by the free rabbits. All of such feeds may be used by domestic hutch-raised rabbits to supplement the basic hay and grain ration. Green or succulent plants and roots are usually the best source of necessary vitamins and mineral required by the rabbit, so should be used throughout the year. Hutch-raised rabbits that have to depend entirely on dry feeds do not do as well as those receiving a basic hay and grain ration that is supplemented by green vegetation or clean, juicy roots to a reasonable extent (best not to exceed forty per cent). There is danger in feeding roots showing dry rot or mould of any type. Hand pick, clean and wash all roots used for rabbits.

GRAINS FOR RABBITS

Rabbits prefer whole grain. Clean oats and wheat are the most desirable cereals. Barley, buckwheat, flax and corn can be used in rations if made into meal. Feeds in the form of meal should be fresh, as all grains lose their natural flavour and decrease somewhat in nutritive value if stored in the meal form. Clean, bright whole wheat and oats, free from all evidence of smut, fungus or mould are available in all districts, and should be sought for by the rabbit feeder. Use your nose and eyes on all grain samples before purchasing. Loose smut, stinking smut, blue, pink, green and black mould or fungus growth can generally be detected by appearance or odour. Mixed grain meals of doubtful

quality can be stirred up in a glass of water as an aid to detecting the make-up of a mixture. The following rations do very well in Ontario:

For Breeding Rabbits

Grain:	2 parts clean, plump whole wheat.
	2 parts clean, plump whole oats.
	1 part linseed or soy bean meal (parts by weight).
Roughage:	Clean, fine clover or alfalfa hay.
	Green feed in season.
	Roots in season.

Feed the grain portion of this ration once a day in quantity that the rabbits will clean up in one-half hour. Hay should be available at all times in a quantity that is cleaned up daily. Green feeds and roots should be removed if uneaten within an hour.

For Females Nursing Young

Grain:	2 parts clean, plump whole wheat.
	2 parts clean, plump whole oats.
	2 parts linseed or soy bean meal (parts by weight).
Roughage:	Clean, fine clover or alfalfa hay.
	Green feed in season.
	Roots in season.

Feed all the grain portion of the above ration that the mother and her young will clean up without waste each twenty-four hours. Hay should be available at all times. Any green feed or roots not eaten within one-half hour should be removed.

If the ration is used in meal form it should be dampened slightly before being placed before the rabbits.

Iodized white salt may be fed in the form of a "salt block" that is always available in a corner of the feed rack.

A supply of clean drinking water must be kept in reach of the rabbits at all times. After a litter is weaned it can be carried on the same ration that it is used to. The female, after the weaning of her litter, must be built up in preparation for her next pregnancy period, so requires attention in keeping with her condition.

Complete rations that are finely ground up and pressed into small pellets are giving satisfactory results and are desirable in many ways. Pelleted feeds can be used in self-feeders with economy of time and feed cost. The self-feeder is of great value in feeding the doe and her litter, and also the litter after the doe is removed. Special types of pellet holders are available.

ANGORA WOOL RABBITS

The hair of Angora rabbit, usually spoken of as Angora wool, has been in use in garment making for over two hundred years. It is only recently that the value of Angora wool in warmth and lightness in garment making

has been appreciated by a worth-while percentage of our citizens. Formerly Angora wool was used principally for infants' garments, but at the beginning of World War II we find Angora wool in great demand for army and airmen's garments. Germany and Japan learned to appreciate the value of Angora wool in airmen's garments long before the opening of World War II. People living in districts where low winter temperatures are common now generally recognize Angora wool garments as being the warmest and lightest winter garments obtainable. This spread in the knowledge of the value of Angora rabbit wool should result in an ever increasing demand that can be supplied only by profitable production.

The pioneer Angora rabbit breeders passed through rather trying times of low profits and indifferent markets, but from 1940 the outlook for the Angora rabbit breeder has greatly improved. Canadian spinners now are using (1943) more Angora wool that Canadian Angora breeders can provide at a very satisfactory price. Disruption in the usual commercial activities of France and other European countries since 1939 has cut off European supplies of Angora yarns to Canada. This has created the large demand for Angora wool production in Canada and the United States. If and when France returns to the production and export of Angora yarns some interference may be expected in the excellent Canadian and United States markets now existing in 1943.

Angora rabbits, of which there are many colours, are not considered as hardy and prolific as the short-hair, meat-producing rabbits. The Angora rabbits are special-purpose rabbits, developed to grow an abundant crop of fine wool suitable for use in garment making. These rabbits can also be used for meat and pelt production. The amount of wool produced by the Angora will vary with age, size and living conditions. Young rabbits, ten to sixteen weeks old, will produce but little wool at the time of the first plucking. The increase will be attained as the rabbit reaches maturity, when the yield will average twelve ounces per year. The hair on rabbits over four months of age is best removed by plucking. Shearing can be practised, but the advantage of a higher price for plucked wool indicates its desirability. Careful people that are gentle by nature can pluck the hair from a rabbit's body without any apparent discomfort to the rabbit. Rough, careless people should not keep Angora or other rabbits. As the hair is removed from the rabbit body, it should be placed in separate receptacles in accordance with its quality. Any mixing in of inferior hair (as shorts, cots, matts or soiled) will result in a low price for all. There are five grades, with prices ranging from 50c. to $7.70 per pound (1943) for plucked wool. Plucking or shearing is undertaken when the hair is "ripe" or comes out easily, usually once every three or four months.

The feed rack and the feed used should be such as will reduce the amount of dust and chaff to a minimum, as it is necessary to keep the hair clean. Brushing or blowing the hair is practised frequently to keep the hair free from dirt, cotts and tags. High grade, clean wool alone commands a market at good prices. The breeding, feeding, general care and records for Angora rabbits are practically the same as with the short-hair, meat-producing rabbits.

Bibliography on Angora Rabbits

Angora Wool Production, by J. B. McDougall, M.D.
Angora Wool Ranching, by W. E. Otto.
The Angora Rabbit, by R. E. Hodgson.

RABBIT SANITATION

Equipment, shelters, houses and their surroundings must be kept in a highly sanitary condition if health is to be maintained and satisfactory reproduction secured. Caged animals cannot get away from their own faecal matter as can an animal in the wild. Faeces, soiled bedding and unused feed and water should be removed daily a sufficient distance from the hutches that gases and odours cannot contaminate the air surrounding the rabbits. Rabbits that are forced to breathe foul air coming from faecal matter will sooner or later go into the unprofitable class. Feed troughs and water bowls should be examined daily and changed or cleaned at once if necessary. It is a good practice to scald and disinfect equipment every week. Feed troughs and water bowls can easily carry a load of disease germs, so the utmost care should be exercised in keeping equipment in a satisfactory, sanitary condition. The distribution of possible disease carriers about the rabbit premises by careless or ignorant people must be watched for by the management. Hands contaminated while handling sick rabbits are a frequent means of carrying trouble to the other rabbits. Soiled footwear, dirty, contaminated clothing, contaminated ranch equipment, fungus spores on the feed or bedding are common sources from which trouble may start. Dogs and cats are best kept away from the premises occupied by rabbits. Rats and mice are carriers of trouble and must be fully controlled. Rats can and do sometimes steal baby rabbits from the nest of a placid mother rabbit. Flies are filthy in their habits, always loaded with bacteria and fungus spores which they can deposit on water bowls or in feed mangers. All hutches and nest boxes should be cleaned and disinfected frequently if the health of the rabbits is to be maintained. Tools used for cleaning, as hoes, scrapers, shovels and brooms, are likely to carry disease germs about a ranch unless great care is exercised in keeping them clean.

KILLING AND SKINNING

A humane way to kill a rabbit is by the dislocation of its neck. This is done by holding the hind legs with the left hand, and with the right hand grasp the head with the thumb, pressing on the neck vertebrae. Give the head a pull and a quick upward snap. When the vertebrae is snapped, suspend the carcass on hook by a hind leg and then cut off the head to permit immediate bleeding out. A short, stout stick such as a piece of broom handle can be used to stun rabbits if the operator cannot bring about neck dislocation. The head is removed at once following stunning. The skin is opened with the point of a sharp knife, just below the hock of the suspended leg, and a cut made to the base of the tail and on along the inside of the other leg. When this cut from hock to hock has been made the skin can be broken free from its attachment and pulled down over the carcass, the knife being used very little or not at all.

When the pelt is off, the carcass should be rinsed in cold, clean water to remove any blood or hair. The rinsing process is quickly done. The carcass is then hung up and the viscera removed. The heart, liver and kidneys are good food and should be saved. When the carcass has cooled out, it can be cut up into sections of a size suitable to the roasting pan. Rabbit carcasses that are intended for the market should be cut into eight pieces, placed in a suitable wax-paper-lined (9″ x 4″ x 2½″) box or on a cardboard picnic plate, and then wrapped in cellophane for protection. Such wrapping can be made very attractive; a sprig of parsley or other green leaf adds to the appearance, and will help make sales to prospective customers who have not yet learned to appreciate rabbit meat. Do not expose the entire rabbit carcass for sale. They are unattractive to most people and unsaleable. Cut up the carcass ready for the pan and display in an attractive manner if you desire quick sale.

Dislocating the vertebrae before bleeding.

The rabbit skin when freshly removed should be placed on a wire stretcher or a wood stretching board. All surplus fat and other loose tissue should be removed; and the pelt, on its stretcher of suitable size, flesh side out, is hung up in a cool room to dry. A piece of No. 9 galvanized wire, five feet long, bent in the form of a bow, makes a very good stretcher on which to place a rabbit skin. The hide should not be stretched to a size any larger than it was when on the living rabbit. The back fur is most valuable, so arrange the pelt on the stretcher so that all legs are on the same side. Examine the pelts at

the end of twenty-four hours and straighten the edges or any part such as the front legs requiring attention. Rabbit skins should not be dried in a warm room or out in the sun. Hang in a cool room where there is good circulation of air. Do not use salt on rabbit skins.

When pelts are thoroughly dry, and free from all grease, dirt or fat, they can be packed for shipment. Flaked naphthalene should be sprinkled on each layer of pelts during packing for the purpose of keeping out insects. Each bale of rabbit skins should be wrapped in heavy paper and burlap, well tied and properly marked as to ownership, number of skins, colour and destination. Where a large number of skins are to be offered, such should be carefully sorted over and graded for quality, colour and size. Poor quality, unprime skins of various colours and sizes should not be mixed when offered for sale. Every class, grade, colour and size of skin should be kept separate, otherwise low prices can be expected. Fur buyers want prime, full-furred pelts, as such alone can be sold to manufacturers. The poorer grades of rabbit skins provide the hair required in the manufacture of felt hats. First-grade pelts are large, full furred and free from fat, dark spots, streaks or cuts. The denser the under fur the more valuable the pelt. First-grade pelts are dry, clean, and in good shape. Second-grade pelts are somewhat lacking in the foregoing qualities. Third-grade pelts include those with short hair, thin under fur, poorly stretched and dried. The first two grades can be used by the furrier and the third grade by the felt manufacturer.

GOOD PRACTICES FOR THE RABBIT BREEDER

1. Purchase stock from breeders that are known to be reliable.
2. A beginner in rabbit breeding should confine his efforts to one breed.
3. Locate hutches where such will be free from drafts, easy to keep dry and clean.
4. Take advantage of sun's rays when locating hutches.
5. Let young rabbits reach maturity before mating. Do not breed until seven to ten months old.
6. Plan to have adult females produce three or four litters a year.
7. Cull out all rabbits that do not reach a desired standard. Breed for the best.
8. Be regular in feeding, cleaning, and other work about the rabbitry.
9. Use a complete and well-balanced, economical ration. Grow as much rabbit feed as you can on your own land.
10. Market surplus breeding stock, meat, rabbits and pelts in a business-like way. Produce to supply your customers each week.
11. Keep records of the breeding stock.
12. Keep records of operation costs, including overhead equipment, feed and labour.
13. Avoid sudden changes in rations.
14. Do not use musty hay or smutty grain.
15. Study the disease section of this bulletin.

References on Meat and Fur-Producing Rabbits

Rabbit Raising. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, Conservation Bulletin 25.

Rabbit Parasites and Diseases. U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Farmers' Bulletin 1568.

Rabbit Recipes—U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Leaflet No. 66.

Home Tanning of Leather and Small Skins. U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Farmers' Bulletin No. 1334.

The above listed publications may be obtained only by purchase (priced at 10c. each) from the Supt. of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., U.S.A.

Rabbits in Colonies.
The Chinchilla and Chinrex Rabbits.
The Rex Rabbit.
Fur Producing Rabbits.
Marketing Rabbit Flesh.
How to Feed Rabbits.
Raising Fur Rabbits.
Green Foods for Rabbits.
Stud Register and Account Book.

The above listed publications may be obtained by purchase from the Fur Trade Journal, Box 31, Toronto 2, or other publishers dealing in publications relating to fur animal breeding.