

SEVENTY-FOURTH YEAR

SALEM, OREGON, SUNDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 12, 1924

PRICE FIVE CENTS

SILVER BLACK FOX FARMING

RAINBOW SILVER BLACK FOX FARM FILES ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION AT SALEM, C. R. GREGG & SONS, BEING THE INCORPORATORS

Four Pair of Fine Peace River Silver Black Foxes Purchased as Foundation Stock—Modern Kennels and Runs

(By W. C. Conner)

Fox farming is attracting wide attention, chiefly because of the quick and remunerative profits derived from the pelts and breeding stock. As a fur animal bred in captivity the silver black fox has no rival, and both live foxes and their pelts are in demand. Probably no other livestock enterprise pays larger returns for the money invested, approximately 90 per cent of the silver fox pelts sold on the fur market today being from ranch-bred foxes. We quote from H. J. Morrison, an experienced and practical fox man, as follows:

What is a Real Silver Fox?
"The furrier would say that a real silver fox was one showing no red or rusty tinge; that is, a fox showing pure blue black hairs

changing into a mouse color as the hairs approach the skin.

"In extra pale silver foxes, some times the silvery hairs are silvery all over, except at the root of the hair; that is, where the hair penetrates the under-fur. This is particularly true of silver foxes bred up from cross foxes, and these pelts are not as valuable as those with the silver banded hairs.

"Silver Fox" is the trade name of the pelt, though it may be all black in color. Silver fox pelts are graded, as a rule, according to the following specifications:

"A great many large fur houses have their own method of grading silver fox skins. The following method is in use by one of the largest firms in the United States, and is a very good one.

them, so that it pays to hold your foxes over until they are two years of age before pelting them."

Why Are Silvers so Valuable?

There are a number of reasons why silver foxes are so valuable, and first among these reasons is the fact that a silver fox cannot be successfully imitated on account of the markings of the hairs which give the silvery appearance. An all black fox can be imitated, because it is possible to dye a red fox skin black, but it is absolutely impossible to imitate the silvery specimens because as stated above—the hairs which give the silvery appearance are black on the ends, then the silvery bands, then black again, gradually changing into a mouse color as the hairs approach the skin.

The market in the United States alone has not even been scratched yet as far as silver black fox pelts are concerned and with proper publicity, it is estimated that 100,000 silver black fox pelts could be marketed annually at the same prices that prevail today.

Outside of New York or Chicago and one or two other large cities, silver black foxes are practically unknown to the fur shops. The reason for this is that there are not enough produced to enable dealers to advertise and feature these beautiful furs.

When the time comes that there will be sufficient quantity to warrant this publicity, we can expect to receive equally as high prices, as we are receiving today, if not a little higher. The same condition holds true in Canada and Europe. When the time comes that the number of pelts are increased largely over what there is today, prices will be maintained and perhaps exceeded.

A case of financial loss in the silver fox industry where correct principles of financing and breeding were followed, is unknown, and this is no doubt, the safest and most profitable branch of industrial enterprise in the world today, there being a constantly increasing popularity and always an unsatisfied demand for silver pelts on the fur market, which is as old as the human race.

The dream of every member of the fair sex is to own a silver fox fur, and considering the unsatisfied demand for silvers of quality for breeding purposes, makes of the industry an indisputable and unquestionable gilt edged investment. Regarding best types of fox, H. J. Morrison, who resides at 406 Mill street, Portland, says:

Best Type of Silver Fox

"The best type of silver foxes with which to start breeding operations is the type of fox showing from one-quarter to one-half silver in the males, and the same in the females. The reason for this is that pelts produced from matings of this kind, as a rule, bring the highest prices.

"The tendency in breeding is toward silver in color, and if a man is starting with a large number of pairs of foxes, it would be advisable for him to purchase at least one pair of all-black foxes and to mate these foxes together so that he would have all-black pups from them, or at least extra dark silvers. The reason for this is that in cases where foxes become too silvery, it is necessary to mate the silvery specimens to an extra dark or a black fox, in order to bring back the

color markings to the desirable type of pelt.

"When a pure black fox is mated with a pale silver fox, the offspring, as a rule, are very desirable pelts; take these offspring and mate them with foxes showing about one-third silver and you can generally be assured that you will produce a very fine clear colored pelt and will bring your foxes back to the proper color markings.

"The above is the reason why a certain number of all-black foxes are necessary, from a breeding standpoint, even though their pelts do not bring very much money on the fur market.

"It has generally been found that the size of the female fox does not make a great deal of difference from a breeding standpoint, and, in fact, a great many of the best breeders have only ordinary sized females. It is never advisable to mate a runt fox, either male or female.

"We have found that, as a rule, the male pups in a litter resemble the sire, and the female pups take after the dam, although there are some exceptions to this rule. In building up your herd of foxes, it is advisable to consider whether the mother and grand-mothers of the foxes have been good milkers, as this is one of the most important points in fox raising.

A \$10,000 Female Fox

In June, 1913, when many of the present large fox ranches were securing their breeding stock at high prices, a rumor reached Prince Edward Island that an unusually beautiful young silver female had been dug out of the forest by trappers in the Peace River district of Northern Alberta, and was being taken east for sale. This resulted in a hurried race for possession on the part of several ranchers, and the owners were met in Montreal by the promoters of the Pure Canadian Silver Black Fox company, who purchased this female on sight for the sum of \$10,000, the largest price ever paid for a fox pup. This female was placed on the company's ranch and mated with a fine black male of the original pure Dalton strain. This mating was continued for some years, until twenty-five young foxes of a phenomically large, heavy-boned well furred type, not equalled at that time among ranch bred silvers, had been produced. In 1919, when pelts were generally low in price, three skins of this strain sold at \$1,000 each and all adverse criticism of this cross or strain of silvers were silenced.

Rainbow Silver Black Fox Farm

Now, coming down to local fox farming, we find many engaging in the business here in the Willamette valley, especially within the Salem and Portland districts, and of all the fox ranches visited, on none of them have we found finer foundation stock and better constructed runs and kennels as well as more ideal conditions than on the Rainbow Silver



Silver Black Fox and Runs on Rainbow Silver Black Fox Farm

and clear colored silver banded hairs. The hairs that give the silvery appearance are not black the entire length, but are black on the ends, then the silvery band, then black again, gradually

On account of the very fine difference between the different color phases, it is very hard to adopt a hard and fast rule for the grading of silver fox pelts, and each man must use his own individual judgment to the best of his ability:

	Amt. Silver	1,2,3,4
Black	10% to 15%	1,2,3,4
Extra Dark	15% to 25%	1,2,3,4
Dark	25% to 35%	1,2,3,4
Medium	35% to 60%	1,2,3,4
Pale	60% to 90%	1,2,3,4
Extra Pale	90% to All	1,2,3,4

"In explanation to the above: The figures 1, 2, 3, 4, refer to the grading fur quality. A No. 1 skin is a perfectly furred, good, average size pelt, without any defects in it; a No. 2 skin is a well furred skin, showing, perhaps, some rubbed spot, or, perhaps, a spot where the fur has been pulled out; a No. 3 skin shows still further defects, and is called a weak skin. It may be rather short furred, or rubbed on the hips. A No. 4 skin is practically a cull.

"The above grading is for the quality of the fur. Then, when the pelts are graded for quality they are again sorted for clearness of color, and clearness of color is, next to length and thickness of fur, the most important point. In fact, a great many fur dealers are paying more money for a clear, bright blue black and clear colored silvery skin which would grade for fur as a No. 2 or No. 3 than they would pay for a No. 1 skin, with a bad brownish cast, or faded appearance.

"As a rule, pelts from foxes more than one year of age bring more money than pelts taken from foxes born in the spring and pelted in December of the year born. When foxes are kept over for another year for pelting purposes, they can be mated up and generally a litter is secured from

Peace River Foxes have the fur qualities, are vigorous and large, the only fox that will successfully cross in with Standard Bred's, and give you the rugged progeny. Eventually you will have them in order to build up a strong herd. These foxes are Silvers, not black, furs that bring the prices. I have five pairs Dalton-Baynor, Oulton, government registered, tattooed standard bred certificates, similar to those sold for \$1500. I can sell these f. o. b. here \$875 per pair. Peace Rivers \$1250 per pair with number limited.
H. J. MORRISON, 406 MILL ST., PORTLAND

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Black Fox Farm, recently established by C. R. Gregg & Sons, on their 20-acre fruit and berry farm, a few miles south of Salem.

Their kennels are of the most approved barrel type and their runs are of uniform size, seeded down to grass and have excellent natural drainage.

Their foundation stock consists of four pairs of fine Peace River, Alberta, Canada, silver black foxes of good size, great vigor, and of wonderful color. These foxes are mated to bring the best results as to type and color in their offspring. This breeding stock will weigh on an average of from 19 to 20 pounds each at eight months of age and is known to be of a very prolific strain of robust, rugged stock. This is the only fox ever known to cross in with standard bred Prince Edward Island stock and breed true to color. This strain of foxes are very limited in numbers, there being only two ranches in Canada that breed this type of animal. These foxes do not run to the all black in fur colors, but breed the silver in light, medium and dark silver as may be required. In seven years breeding the Peace River

foxes have never been known to throw off colors, always breeding true to type and color.

Mr. H. J. Morrison, of whom these foxes were purchased by Messrs. Gregg & Sons, has bred and ranched foxes for twelve years and is a fur grader and classifier of twenty-five years experience. He has also selected many foxes for purchasers and done much fox judging at the shows.

The idea of introducing the Peace River foxes here is to improve the fox industry as to vitality and vigorous foundation stock by the infusion of new blood. Men of knowledge and experience in fox breeding know that it is only new blood that will save the fox industry.

Mr. Morrison stated that although too many weak and inbred foxes are being sold to innocent buyers and it is absolutely necessary to mate such animals with foxes similar to those on the ranch of Gregg & Sons to get good and profitable returns.

Fox ranchers starting into fur farming in a small way will do well to visit Gregg & Sons fox farm and inspect their foundation

stock which is inclosed in most modern pens, and kennels.

The highest score ever made on a fox was on a female owned by P. G. Clark of Pure Canadian Fox Co., Prince Edward Island, the points being 97 1/4 and this fox is the progeny of a Peace River female mated to a Prince Edward Island standard bred male.

Gregg & Sons are well and favorably known in the Salem district. The elder Gregg is a successful fruit grower and farmer. The sons, Glenn, Earl and Lloyd, are well known young business men of Salem. The two former conducting the Mistland Bakery of Salem, and the latter being connected with the Oregon Growers plant. They have filed articles of incorporation and have already elected officers, as follows: C. R. Gregg, president and manager; Lloyd Gregg, secretary; Earl Gregg, treasurer; Glenn Gregg, vice president. The address of the Rainbow Silver Black Fox Farm is Route 2, Box 55C, Turner, Oregon.

At times one suspects that spontaneous wit is nine parts good memory.

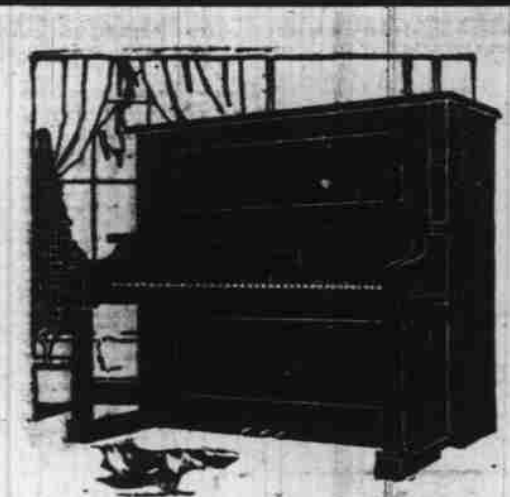


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