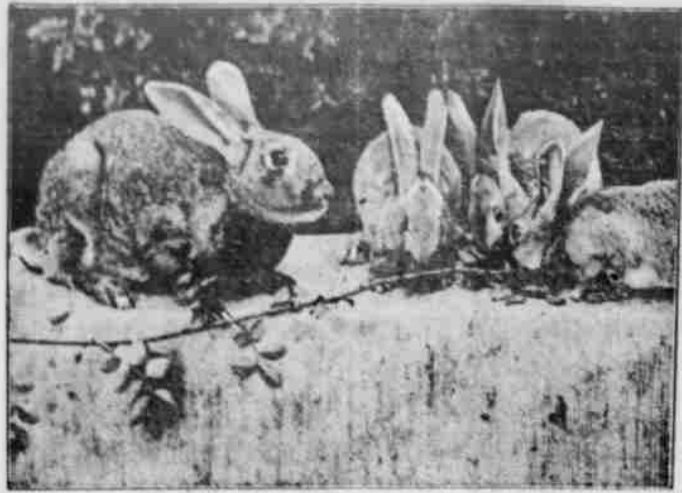


INCREASING DEMAND FOR RABBIT MEAT OFFERS OPPORTUNITY TO HELP INCOME



A Family of Belgian Hares—The Flesh of Home-Grown Rabbit is Practically Indistinguishable by Taste From Chicken.

Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.

For many years rabbits have been raised in this country as pets and as fancy stock for competitive exhibitions, but now it has become profitable for many living in the country, and even city dwellers, to raise these animals for the food market. Until war and postwar prices set everyone to thinking about the food problem, there had been no real incentive to breed rabbits for practical ends, as they were not actually needed for food, and better fur than theirs could be had for little money. However, the great change in economic conditions has materially changed their status.

The general introduction of any kind of a food product is dependent upon the public's familiarity with that product. American people in general have learned something of the value of rabbit meat through the rather general use of wild rabbits, which were hunted and trapped by farmers and sportsmen and others in almost all parts of the country. Home-grown rabbits do not have the gamey flavor

of wild rabbits, their flesh being practically indistinguishable by taste from that of chicken.

Because of the well-remembered Belgian hare boom which took place some years ago, there is considerable disinclination on the part of many to undertake rabbit raising for profit. Experiments along this line in the past should not be confused with rabbit raising as now advocated by the United States department of agriculture. The Belgian hare boom spread rapidly for a time and continued as long as there was a demand for breeding stock, but when this demand was changed to a meat basis the boom collapsed, as there was then no real need for a new source of meat.

Demand for Rabbit Meat.
Experience in more recent years has proved, however, that rabbit raising for the purpose of supplying the meat trade is profitable. City and suburban dwellers are raising rabbits in backyards. Although the total production is as yet comparatively small, it is steadily increasing. In such scattered

sections of the country as California, Washington, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, the domesticated rabbit is recognized as a regular meat animal. Rabbits are shipped alive to market in crates or are neatly dressed ready for cooking and are packed in a sanitary manner for transportation.

There are numerous instances of profitable rabbit raising. A resident in Kansas City, Kan., has raised 200 to 400 pounds of rabbit meat for use on his own table, at a cost of about half the present meat prices. A large institution in Nebraska has raised rab-



New Zealand Red.

bits instead of poultry and reports the meat more satisfactory than chicken, and also a most profitable product. On a county farm in Washington, rabbits were grown to provide for the county hospitals, furnishing a substitute for chickens.

Europeans Eat Many Rabbits.
Further evidence of the marketing possibilities in rabbit raising are to be found in the experience of France and Belgium and other European countries. In the greater part of Europe, except the most northerly portions, rabbit breeding was an industry of considerable importance before the war. About 100,000,000 rabbits were marketed annually in France, approximately 2,000,000 were raised in Belgium per year for home consumption and export. The value of rabbits annually exported from Belgium to England exceeded \$1,000,000, while, in-

cluding wild hares raised in English preserves, England itself was producing from 30,000,000 to 40,000,000 rabbits. The consumption in one year before the war in London amounted to half a million pounds daily and in Paris to 200,000 pounds.

Refund to Merchants.

Spokane, Wash.—Wholesale and manufacturing firms of Spokane, as an additional incentive to merchants from the four northwestern states to attend the convention to be held at Spokane August 4, 5, and 6, have offered a two per cent refund on all goods purchased during the conference to apply on the railroad expenses of the visitors, in addition to other regular discounts which may be granted by the individual firms. The refund is given on all orders placed on August 4-5-6-7, and covers purchases made and billed out during those days or for future delivery any time during the current year.

Merchants Assist Farmers.

Spokane, Wash.—Business firms at Moscow have adopted an interesting plan of assisting farmers during the press of harvesting. The labor situation has not clarified itself and if it proves necessary to save the crops the city firms will lend their clerks and employees generally for harvest operations. While harvesting of fall sown wheat will not begin in Latah county before the second week in August, except in a few cases, growers are getting ready for harvest. Farmers, generally, will try to conserve labor and save the heavy expense of paying harvest wages that are expected to be about \$1 a day higher than last year.

Wages Highest in 1919.

Spokane, Wash.—Farm wages were the highest in the history of the United States in 1919, according to statistics of the department of agriculture. This fact has given added interest to the machinery row at the Interstate Fair, September 6-11, and the latest models of machinery available for practical farm work will this year crowd this busy thorough-

fare. More space is being signed up for machinery exhibits than at any previous fair. Farming operations for 1919, according to the department of agriculture, produced crops that had a value at the farm of 11.2 per cent above 1918 and animals produced 9.9 above, but the gain in wages for farm labor was relatively greater. Machinery houses exhibiting at the Interstate Fair believe they can solve the problem of farm labor and on machinery row will show the latest devices toward this end.

Big Acreage Is Cultivated.

Spokane, Wash.—L. M. Holt, superintendent of the Yakima Indian reservation, in a preliminary report, says there are 72,658 acres under cultivation on the Yakima Indian reservation, an increase of 4158 acres over a year ago. A conservative estimate places the probable value of the crop at \$11,000,000. Alfalfa alone will bring more than \$3,000,000. The reservation fruit crop is figured at one-half of the 1919 production, but at \$250 return per acre will bring \$700,000. The wheat crop will bring \$635,965, while the potato crop, from present indications, will be worth at least \$950,000. A stock census of the reservation shows 286 milk cows more than a year ago, and an increase of 211 in the number of horses. There are 136 tractors in use on the reservation.

Mr. Fairbank's Path Not Always A Bed of Roses

Douglas Fairbanks was one day just about to do his most important scene of "Bound in Morocco," his new Artercraft photoplay which will be shown at the Star theater Friday, when a message was given him that a man was waiting to see him on a

most important mission and demand an immediate interview. Mr. Fairbanks asked that he be shown into the studio. Greetings were exchanged, after which the visitor said: "I have come to see you about three important things. One is that you don't want stories! Second, you don't pay for stories! And third, you steal stories! I have just written a play—"

But Mr. Fairbanks didn't allow him to finish. He ordered the man out of the studio with a suggestion that he employ more tact in the future. So, after all Mr. Fairbanks' pathway through life is not always strewn with roses.

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