

Real Estate Exchange

OF WILFREED & MITCHELL

Exchange Bank Birmingham Michigan

The following is a partial list of Farms, City and Village Lots, and Real Estate generally which we have for sale. As our list is constantly changing we request that parties who wish to see what we have in this list.

DEER IN THE UNITED STATES

BY DE LAUNZ
U.S. BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

That the rising prices of beef and mutton in the United States can be partially overcome by raising deer for venison, is maintained by Dr. C. Hart Merriam, chief of the United States Biological Survey. According to Dr. Merriam elk meat can be produced cheaper than beef or mutton in many sections of the United States, and with comparatively little effort it is possible to make raising deer for venison as profitable as any other live-stock industry. Everyone who has seen the large numbers of deer browsing on private estates in England are particularly anxious to know why American enterprise has not long since developed breeding deer for food in this country.

Several species of deer are raised in the United States, but the ones in greatest demand for venison are the European, the Japanese and the Virginia deer. The European deer, which is the most common in this country, is the one that is most profitable to raise. It is a large animal, and its venison is of high quality. The Japanese deer is also a large animal, and its venison is of high quality. The Virginia deer is a smaller animal, but its venison is also of high quality.

The flavor of venison is distinctive, though it suggests mutton rather than beef. In chemical composition it is very similar to beef. A lean venison roast before cooking has been found to contain on an average 75 per cent. of water, 20 per cent. of protein or nitrogenous material and 2 per cent. of fat; a lean beef roast, on the other hand, contains on an average 75 per cent. of water, 20 per cent. of protein or nitrogenous material and 2 per cent. of fat.

The general popularity of venison is so great and the demand for it so widespread that overproduction is improbable. The deer are abundant and especially where large herds are kept in semi-domestication, the commerce in both is very extensive.

The wapiti, known generally in America as the elk, is next to the moose, the largest of our deer. It was once abundant in the mountainous regions of the United States, whence its range extended northward to about latitude 50 degrees in the Peace River region of the interior of Canada. In the United States the little mountain deer were the Adirondacks, western New Jersey and eastern Pennsylvania; southward it reached the southern Alleghenies, northern North Carolina, New Mexico and Arizona; and westward the Pacific ocean.

At the present time the elk are found only in a few scattered localities outside of the Yellowstone National park and the mountainous country surrounding it, where large herds remain. Smaller herds still occur in Colorado, western Montana, Idaho, eastern Oregon, Manitoba, Alberta, British Columbia and the coast mountains of Washington, Oregon and northwestern California. A band of the small California valley elk still inhabits the southern part of the San Joaquin valley.

The herds that summer in the Yellowstone National park and in winter spread southward and eastward in Wyoming are said to number about 30,000 head and consist of great bands of this noble game animal that are left, although protected in their summer ranges and especially safeguarded from destruction in winter by the state of Wyoming, their manager that these herds may perish from lack of food in a succession of severe winters. Partial protection for winter has been made within the national park, but the supply is inadequate for the large numbers of animals. Further safeguards are needed to place the Wyoming elk herds beyond the reach of winter starvation.

In addition to the wild herds there is a considerable number of elk in private game preserves and parks, as well as in nearly all the public zoological parks and gardens of this country. The herds in captivity form the nucleus from which, under wise management, some of the former ranges of this animal may be restocked and the profitable business of growing elk venison which a profit may be developed. At the present time this species affords a most promising field for ventures in breeding and raising.

The elk is both a browsing and a grazing animal. While it eats grasses freely and is well known to sustain entirely upon pasture, it seems to prefer a mixture of grass and browse. The elk is extremely tame, and the adult bulls shed their antlers annually in March or April and new ones attain their full size in about 90 days. The "velvet" adheres until about August. While the horns are growing the bulls usually lead solitary lives; but early in September, when the horns are fully matured, the mating season begins. Fights for supremacy then take place and the victor of the fight may have as many as can be run upon and control.

Although the elk is less prolific than the common deer and some other species that have been bred in parks, it increases in number and becomes common red deer of Europe. Moreover, it makes up for any lack of fecundity by its superior hardiness and ease of management. It has been acclimated in many parts of the world and is the same vigor and hardiness wherever it has been transplanted. In Europe it has been successfully crossed with the Alpine wapiti and only bulls are killed, it follows that hunters often obtain the venison when it is poorest. The meat

is the same pasture with sheep and goats. An elk in the natural environment does and waxes. We suffered great losses to our flocks until we learned this fact; since then we have had no loss from that cause. A few elk in a thousand-acre pasture will absolutely protect the flocks there. Our own dogs are so well aware of the danger in our stock park that they cannot be induced to enter it.

Elk thrive best in a dry, open country with a variety of food plants—grasses, bushes and trees. Rough lands, well watered with clear streams and having some forested areas, are well adapted to their needs. About as many elk can be kept on such a small area of fair pasture as can be kept on a larger area of rich pasture. There should be thickets enough to furnish winter browse, but this should be supplemented by a supply of winter forage.

Except when deep snows cover the ground, elk will keep in good condition on ordinary pasture and browse, but a system of management that provides other food regularly will be found more satisfactory. Hay and corn fodder are excellent winter forage, but alfalfa hay has proved to be the best dry food for both elk and deer.

There are several reasons why an ordinary deer and less disposed to jump fences. When they escape from an enclosure they usually return of their own accord. If tame, they may be driven into a pen. A nearly a five-foot fence of any kind will confine elk.

The cost of stocking an elk preserve is not great. Usually surplus stock from zoological parks and game reserves may be obtained at low cost, varying with the immediate demand for the animals.

The Virginia or whitetail deer is the common deer of the United States. Including the half-dozen geographic races that occur within our borders, it is distributed over most of the country, except the mountainous regions of the North, Arizona, Washington, Oregon and California. It is extinct in Delaware and practically so in a number of states in the middle west. South of our borders a number of closely related species occur. In view of the wild natural range of the Virginia deer, its adaptability to nearly all sections of the United States cannot be doubted. Testimony as to its hardiness in parks and on game reserves is so unanimous as to convince the elk; but the general experience of breeders is that with suitable range, plenty of good water and reasonable care in winter, raising the deer for stocking preserves or for venison may be made as profitable as any other live-stock industry. Not only do deer thrive on land unsuitable for cattle or horses, but, like elk, they may be raised to great advantage on rocky or timbered pastures fully stocked with cattle or horses, as the food of deer rarely includes grass.

Virginia deer have often been bred in parks for the purpose of stocking preserves for sport, but pleasure or in large preserves for sport, but economic possibilities in raising them have received little attention. Recently breeders have recognized the fact that the deer, when properly managed, may be raised to great advantage under conditions for marketing live animals and venison more favorable.

The chief obstacle to profitable preparation of deer in the United States is the restrictive character of state laws governing the killing, sale and transportation of game. Many of the states, following the lead of Pennsylvania, have prohibited the sale of game animals in interstate or migratory, are the property of the state. A few states except game animals that are "under private contract" before the season for killing and the sale of deer are often equally embarrassing to those who would produce venison for profit.

The number of domesticated deer cannot legally kill in the United States is not restrictive. It is believed that with favorable legislation much overtable waste land in the United States may be brought into profitable use and become a yield profitable streams and an excellent and nutritious meat. Instead of being denied to 99 per cent. of the population of the country may become a source of profit to the individual and to the state.

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