

# Fur Animal Research

One of the main tasks assigned for Finnish Fur Breeders Association when it was founded in 1928 was to do research in fur animals. At that time there was an enormous need for information, especially on feedstuffs. During the first years experiments were carried out on private farms but later FFBA bought its own research farm. Public financing was applied only for special, larger projects. During the recent years government's portion to finance fur animal research has increased. At the same time, some new fields of animal research such as etology has become important as well. However, feeding is still one of the main research areas. In addition to the government's fur animal research station, a few universities have also fur animal programs and research facilities. Unfortunately, FFBA's own research programs were ceased in the late 1980's. However, FFBA still coordinates research projects and arranges seminars where current research topics and needs are discussed.

Fur animal research has produced practical information about farming and feeding fur animals and basic knowledge about these species, which have not been studied extensively anywhere else. Due to feeding experiments farmers have been able to avoid many harms which would have resulted in considerable economic losses.

## International Co-operation

### SAGA and SCANBOARD

SAGA (Saga Furs of Scandinavia), known from the label SAGA, is an inter-Scandinavian organization for advertising and sales promotion of Scandinavian furs. It is financed by the Scandinavian auction houses whose headquarters is in Copenhagen. One important aspect of SAGA's work is Saga International Design Centre. It holds courses for leading design school students from all over the world. Students receive instruction in fur design, cutting and making up, resulting in a large number of untraditional models: models that provide the inspiration for Saga Design Collection each year.

SCANBOARD (Board of the Scandinavian fur farm organizations) is an organization for co-operation between the Scandinavian fur breeders organizations. It discusses questions concerning breeding, farming, production, research, marketing policy etc.

### NJF and IFASA

NJF (Scandinavian Association of Agricultural Scientists) represents scientific co-operation between Nordic countries. Its Fur Animal Division is in closely connected to the Scandinavian fur breeders organizations. Fur Animal Division's annual scientific meetings are financed by the associations.

IFASA (International Fur Animal Scientific Association) corresponds to NJF's Fur Animal Division on the broader international level. IFASA was established in 1989, following a proposal made by the Fur Animal Division of the NJF at the IVth International Scientific Congress in Fur Animal Production in Canada in 1988.

The objective of IFASA is to promote knowledge of all aspects of fur animal science and the fur industry by encouraging the exchange of information among scientists with an interest in fur animals.