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♦ **A Farm Sanctuary** survey of 24 stockyards in Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Colorado found downed animals at 17%; dead animals at 33%; animals with injuries or obvious tumors at 58%; animals with cancerous eyes at 67%; and animals with impaired mobility at 71%.

♦ **Bananas have replaced beef** as Costa Rica's leading export crop—but expanding banana plantations are destroying rainforest as rapidly as the beef industry did, warned *The Tico Times* recently. The leading English-language newspaper in Costa Rica, and the leading voice of environmental concern, *The Tico Times* blames the banana industry for extensive soil erosion and pesticide pollution of water resources. This could be avoided, editor Bob Carlson suggested, if government policies encouraged efficient use of land rather than just growth.

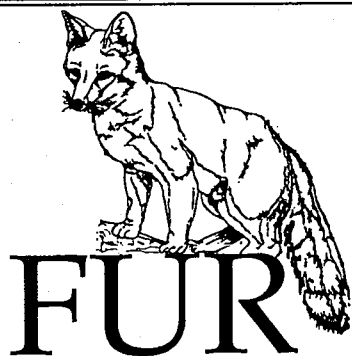
♦ **The USDA on Jan. 16** opened a new livestock inspection station at Santa Teresa, N.M., to expedite imports of Mexican cattle. The new station is expected to spare the cattle waits of up to 10 hours aboard trucks before going through a mandatory insecticide dip. The long waits were reportedly commonplace at the old inspection station in Juarez.

♦ **The FDA may be approving** drugs for poultry and livestock on the basis of "invalid, inaccurate, or fraudulent data" supplied by private laboratories, the General Accounting Office told Congress on Feb. 10. Data on more than half the drugs for animals that the FDA approved between Oct. 1985 and Nov. 1990 was accepted without independent verification, the GAO said. "The GAO findings are profoundly disturbing because the FDA appears virtually incapable of preventing

animal drug data fraud," commented Rep. Ted Weiss (D.-N.Y.)

♦ **Agriculture Canada**, the Canadian Cattlemen's Assn., and the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies have published a voluntary code of practice for Canadian cattle ranchers.

♦ **The Science Council** of British Columbia has invested \$140,000 in developing pearl-producing abalone sea snails who may be able to survive in northern waters. Like all pearls, says researcher Peter Fankboner, the Canadian pearls come from "larva from a parasitic flatworm. People who are wearing natural pearls are wearing an entombment of a parasitic worm." Full-scale pearl production has been held up because the Canadian Dept. of Fisheries and Oceans is reluctant to allow the parasite into proximity to the native pinto abalone.



♦ **The Natl. Trappers Assn.** is urging members to oppose any and all legislation that seeks to preserve biodiversity, the full variety of species integral to the health of ecosystems, because, according to the NTA alert, "Biodiversity, as it is presently being defined, promotes the philosophy of the radical protectionists, who do not distinguish values between living things." In other words, NTA members want to be allowed to trap furbearers to extinction, regardless of the harm trapping does to food chains and habitat.

♦ **Canadian fur exports** to Europe fell from \$97 million worth in 1986 to \$50 million worth in 1990, with 1991 figures, when complete, likely to show yet another big drop.

♦ **The number of trappers** in Quebec dropped 35% from 1988-1989 to 1990-1991, to just 11,161, who sold 159,775 pelts in 1990-1991, worth barely \$1 million. The number and value of pelts fell 23% and 26%, respectively, from 1989-1990.

♦ **One of the big losers** when the Macy's department store chain went bankrupt on Jan. 28 was the Mohl Fur Co., owed \$232,182 for consignment sales through I. Magnin, a Macy's subsidiary.

♦ **Among the furriers** who went out of business or at least the fur business during

the winter were Mirrow Furs, of Oxford Circle, Pa.; the Jindo Fur outlet on Third Ave. in New York, directly across the street from Bloomingdale's (the scene of major antifur protests coordinated by Friends of Animals); The Fur Vault, which closed stores in Philadelphia and Shrewsbury, Pa., Scarsdale, N.Y., Stamford, Conn., and on Third Ave., New York City; Schiffman Furs, of New York City; Bon Marche, of Seattle; Alaska Arctic Furs, of Seattle; and Benson Furs, of Seattle.

♦ **Evans Inc.**, the largest U.S. retail fur chain, posted losses in excess of \$2 million during 1991, the fifth year in a row that the firm lost money. Sales were down 19% from 1990. Evans closed over 30 unprofitable locations during the year.

♦ **Two Dutch clothing store chains** have cancelled sales of garments made from raccoon and dog pelts, at request of the Dutch antifur group Bont voor Dieren.

♦ **Volunteers with Friends of Tacony Creek Park** found an illegal trapline in the Philadelphia-area park during a Jan. 11 litter clean-up. One of the traps contained a raccoon's paw.

♦ **Correction:** the leghold trapping footage shown on the Dec. 8, 1991 edition of *60 Minutes* was taken by a trapper, but not in connection with the Canadian government effort to convince the public that leghold trapping is humane, as reported here in March. According to George Clements of the Assn. for the Protection of Fur-Bearing Animals, located in Vancouver, his group bore the full production cost, and the purpose "was to show the Canadian government how bad the situation was, and is." Copies of the group's video *America's Shame!* are \$25, c/o 2235 Commercial Dr., Vancouver, B.C. V5N 4B6, Canada; or Box 188950, Sacramento, CA 95818.

