



# MINK RETURN TO FILE DISEASES



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## GRUBS OF RODENT BOTFLIES

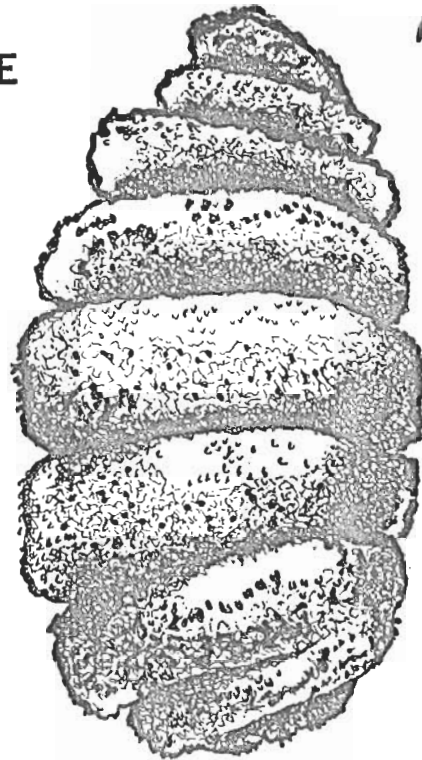
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The grubs of rodent botflies (*Cuterebra* sp.), which frequently infest rabbits, squirrels, field mice, deer mice, several other rodents, and domestic kittens, occasionally infest dogs and mink.

The adult fly is large, bumble-bee like and bluish-black in color. The female prefers to lay her eggs in dark surroundings. Little is known as to how the grubs that hatch from the eggs enter the skin of the host animal. Once under the skin, they grow to be three-quarters of an inch in diameter. The grubs are larger than flesh-fly larvae. When full grown, the grubs leave the skin, drop to the ground, and later become adult flies.

For control of the rodent botfly, both grubs and adult flies must be destroyed. Adult flies may be controlled by certain insecticides and by screening the sheds. Grubs may be



removed by enlarging the opening in the center of the swelling and removing the grubs with forceps. The grubs should not be squeezed out.

## MINK RANCHER'S ALMANAC



### OCTOBER

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EMIL WIESMAN/CAROLINE/WISCONSIN

As we tear September off the calendar we face October with thoughts of the new fur progressing. There are chores that we must do so we may realize all the profit that the mink with inheritability can grow for us.

We try to follow a uniform schedule so that there is enough time in each day to concentrate on keeping the pen bottoms clean. This is accomplished by securing a wire brush to a 4-ft. handle; with this all the places of the pen can be reached. We also use a 3/4" wood dowel, 4 ft. long to reach through the wire if necessary to help clean the pen.

October seems to be the last month in which we distribute fly flakes. If we keep the flies down it will help to keep the pedigree cards clean.

We also arrange our breeding herd

in October. We eliminate all breeder females of triple and quad breeding type that have had two litters. This is also for the males. My reason for this is that the mortality rate is too high on these mink after they are more than 2 years old. Then next we drop all females and males that have a low production. On the males this is calculated on the number of females bred and the average realized. In our Dark, Pastel and Pearl we keep the males and females, if they are top producers and of high quality, for 3 and 4 years and sometimes even longer. The females that are now considered good enough to keep for another year are placed in breeder sheds. From this we can add to fill the balance at grading time.

At this time of the season we check

over our pelting equipment, most of all the boards and wedges. This happens to be our year for doing a thorough job on boards. We will make enough boards and wedges so there needs be no time delay at pelting and fleshing time. I will go into detail on how we do this.

We have our Basswood trees on our timberland and therefore cut and have same sawed into 1" rough boards, which has to be handled carefully, because Basswood will deteriorate rapidly if not piled on dry cross-piling. After a year of drying (inside a shed) the boards are resawed on a band saw and then dressed to 5/16" for thickness. We find a 5/16" board will stay straight better than 1/4". Many times the thinner lumber for larger male boards may curl, which is undesirable in every respect.

The next step is cutting the boards for length and then we use a tapering device to cut the board into size for finishing 1/4" larger than the board will finish out to. The drop-off we use for wedges which are sawed 1 1/4" wide. In an ordinary run of width from the mill there are usually enough pieces to make plenty of wedges.

The wedges are run through a shaper to finish both sides and rounded on opposite ends. Now we take this finished piece of board 1" x 32" and saw it diagonally with a finishing saw to as to leave the wedge smooth, this when done gives two wedges. The following sketch shows how it is done.