

## RANCH CHINCHILLAS

Let me colour your thinking

# GREEN

## THE SHADE OF £ OR DOLLAR NOTES

SEBERT SWEENEY

GREEN IS my colour theme this month . . . nothing to do with shamrocks . . . or Robin Hood . . . or the name Sweeney . . . just a little 'cold' talk about the hard green stuff (dollars or pounds notes).

With all the election talk we have heard recently about immense savings and surpluses on the one hand and the gross waste and deficits on the other (depending upon what point they are trying to prove) I shall write my news without comment . . . hoping you will find talking points among yourselves.

Back in the 1950's we were all familiar with the advertisements about the prospects of making a fortune with those little furry friends of ours who were often advertised as 'being worth their weight in gold'.

In this year of 1970, I now find some chinchillas that were worth more than their weight in gold to their owners. I refer to the prize money won recently by some of the top winners in the first Annual International Chinchilla Show, sponsored by the Orange County Chinchilla Club, and held on February 13, 14 and 15, 1970, at Anaheim Convention Centre, Anaheim, California, USA.

The following were the published winners at the show with their respective winning cash awards, at the conversion rate of \$2.40 per pound sterling:

Grand Show Champion Male: \$25,000.00 (£10,410), Louise Nunn.  
Reserve Grand Show Champion Male: \$2,500.00 (£1,041), A E Shelyski.  
Grand Show Champion Female: \$2,500.00 (£1,041), A E Shelyski.  
Reserve Grand Show Female: \$800.00 (£333), Somovia Ranch.  
First Breeders Award: \$1,500.00 (£625), A E Shelyski.  
Second Breeders Award: \$800.00 (£333), Mid-America.  
Third Breeders Award: \$500.00 (£208), Louise Nunn.

If you add up all the prize money, you will find a total of \$33,600 (£14,000) . . . yes, I double checked my figures, and in words that is thirty-three thousand, six hundred dollars, just to be clear.

The top four animals earned \$30,800 for their owners. Worked out on the hoof per pound chinchilla weight, I think you can see where I said earlier that some chinchillas are worth more than their weight in gold.

Males and females did not compete against each other at this show: females were judged on one day, males on the following day. Entry fee was \$25.00 (£10 8s) per animal. There were seven colour phases and the animals were divided into four classes, young and old males, young and old females.

Identification was concealed with tabs in the ears of animals and cage cards were in sealed envelopes with only the classification, age, and sex visible during the judging.

The Grand Show Champion Male was to be fertility tested and be average or above to qualify for the ward. If not qualifying, the Reserve Grand Show Male would win. A third male was also lined up for checking. After the awarding of the \$25,000.00, ownership of the winning male would be transferred to the Club. Cost of breedings by artificial insemination was to be \$150.00 (£62) per female for the organising club members—the plan being to upgrade their herds by use of this Champion Male.

Trade stands were available at the show at a cost of \$200.00 (£83 6s) per booth.

I have just touched on some highlights of the show. There are many more detailed sidelines to this large venture. As I said, I give this without comment.

I read in 'Time Magazine' that in Russia 45 prime pelts were sold for just under \$90.00 each (£37 10s) for a sum total of \$4,000.00. They were sable pelts!! Again, no comment.

I think I had better straighten out my unfinished story of last week and this time I will repeat it in full in case any reader missed the last issue.

### LAST WEEK'S UNFINISHED STORY

1st Lady: They say they have the softest fur in the world.

2nd Lady: The one in the run is the male and those are his three wives in those three cages. I can see the letters ATS in their ears.

3rd Lady: I knew they were expensive but look at their cards . . . 540 gns for the male . . . 530 gns for this female . . . 480 gns for this one . . . and the end one, 580 gns. Well, my goodness!

1st Lady, again: And I thought the schools were short of cash for their educational projects.

Teacher (hastening over to the parents who were visiting their children's animal corner): 'Please, don't misunderstand . . . Mrs Sweeney wrote in the weights of the animals for the children. Those are gms not gns—that is, grammes, NOT guineas'.

Again, I say, rather wistfully, no comment!

## THE EXHIBITION MOUSE

### SOME FACTS ABOUT FEEDING . . .

THE ration for mice and all small animals—if they are to be 10 per cent fit—must be balanced and contain all the essential vitamins to give good coat, bone, size and good extremities—feet, tail and ears.

Health is governed in all animals by the standard of nutrition. Faulty diet is at the bottom of most bad-coated animals. Bone also suffers from lack of correct feeding.

A ration which lacks the essential minerals, lime and phosphorus, promotes bad bone growth and ruins type.

A study of foods containing a high percentage of essential minerals and the blending of these foods in the animal's ration will give good coat, size and bone. It matters not as to the variety of animal in which one is interested, but applies equally to cattle, poultry, birds and all small livestock. The leading livestock food blenders realize this and blend their foods accordingly.

Roughage must be fed along with high vitamin foods to strike a balance. It is money well spent to purchase a book giving the composition, mineral contents and nutritive values of common feeding stuffs in which vitamin occurrence and

symptoms of their deficiency is explained. A few high essential vitamin and mineral foods easy to obtain:

Fish Meal contains a very high percentage of necessary minerals such as lime and phosphorus for bone forming and a high percentage of proteins. Is good for growing stock.

Dried Milk contains 30 per cent protein. Eggs are a source of growth vitamins. Oats, wheat, barley and all seeds provide the bulk food—the filling food.

Again I emphasise a study of protective vitamins. Feed foods containing A, B, C and D essential vitamins and minerals and remember the functions of:

Vitamin A—For the health of the mucous membranes and eyes.

Vitamin B—For nerves, digestion, good skin and coat.

Vitamin C—For healing.

Vitamin D—For strong healthy bones, good frame, which means good type, and good teeth, which promote health.

Don't forget the minerals, Iron, Manganese, Iodine for good blood, strength, strong bone and teeth.

### . . . AND SOME ABOUT THE MICE

Do you know that house mice living in cold storage plants where the temperature never rises above 10 deg C are always much larger than mice of the same species inhabiting houses or grain stacks? A mouse has been taken in the cold habitat which weighed a third more than mice taken outside.

Species of mice from cold regions show a tendency toward short tails, ears and feet.

Do you know that factors influencing birth rate are (a) age of dam; (b) maternal diet and season of the year? Many old females remain fertile but in a lesser degree. Diet has a predominant influence on fecundity of females.

Hemp seed increases fertility.

Sprouted oats stimulate reproduction.

The house mouse lives only where man exists. Since 1930 and the evacuation by

man of St Kilda, the house mouse has become extinct.

In my opinion the main success of livestock breeding depends on good quality, near-the-standard, healthy females.

I read with pleasure the articles on feeding as put forward by the leading breeders of the chinchilla. Mouse breeders could, with advantage, apply the knowledge accrued in conjunction with the feeding of the exhibition mouse. Feeding of the chinchilla is primarily for quality of coat. We in the mouse Fancy require good coat and this is where another section of the Fancy can give us great help.

Every method of feeding plays an important factor in the production of the perfect animal. The feeding of all animals entails far more research than the average fancier realizes. The results given by the scientists are interesting and fascinating.

## London and Southern Counties awards

The London and Southern Counties Mouse Club held very successful table shows on April 18 and May 23. I apologise for the delay in the appearance of these notes due to matters 'outside my control', so I will give only a brief account.

On April 18 the total entry was 271, a considerable improvement on the two previous months, and there were many new faces. I hope they found plenty to interest them. There are some new names in the results so some of these new members must also be exhibitors which is even better. We welcome any visitors interested in mice at the club but we naturally prefer those who are able to take an active interest.

PEW Ad: 1 2 L Holland 3 Miss Crowe 4 Miss Harris 8 wk: 1 2 Cooke 3 Jukes BLACK/BLUE Ad: 1 2 Jukes 8 wk: 1 3 4 Jukes 2 Pugsley CHAM/FAWN Ad: 1 T Holland 8 wk: 1 T Holland SILVER/CREAM Ad: 1 2 Heath AOC SELF Ad: 1 Heath SELF Chall ad: 1 T Holland 2 4 Jukes 3 Heath 8 wk: 1 Cooke 2 3 Jukes 4 T Holland TAN BLACK/CHOC Ad: 1 Davis 2 T Holland 3 4 Robb 8 wk: 1 2 Heath 3 T Holland 4 Robb CHAM Ad: 1 2 3 T Holland 8 wk: 1 2 Davis 3 4 T Holland AOC Ad: 1 2 3 4 Robb 8 wk: 1 T Holland 2 Davis AC Chall ad: 1 Davis 2 3 T Holland 4 Robb 8 wk: 1 4 Davis 2 3 T Holland DUTCH Ad: 1 2 3 Cooke 4 Jukes 8 wk: 1 2 4 Cooke 3 Coe AOV MARKED Ad: 1 2 L Holland 3 Crudgington 4 Cooke 8 wk: 1 3 L Holland 2 4 Cooke AV MARKED Chall ad: 1 2 L Holland 3 4 Cooke 8 wk: 1 2 Cooke 3 L Holland 4 Coe AGOUTI/CINN Ad: 1 D Holland 2 Miss Crowe CHIN/FOX Ad: 1 Robb 2 Cooke 3 T Holland 4 Pugsley CHIN/FOX 8 wk: 1 T Holland 2 3 Robb 4 Cooke LONGHAIRD: 1 2 Jukes 3 4 Miss Harris AOV Ad: 1 2 D Holland 3 Miss Harris 8wk: 1 Jukes Chall ad: 1 Robb 2 Cooke 3 T Holland 4 Jukes 8 wk: 1 Jukes 2 T Holland 3 4 Robb AV Stud buck: 1 Robb 2 T Holland 3 Heath 4 Cooke Brood doe: 1 T Holland 2 Robb 3 Heath 4 Miss Harris Nov: 1 2 3 Davis 4 Miss Crowe Supporters: 1 Holland 2 3 Cooke 4 Miss Robb Grand chall ad: 1 Robb 2 3 4 T Holland 8 wk: 1 2 3 Jukes 4 T Holland.

I was unfortunately unable to attend the table show held at Worcester Park on May 23. I have no doubt that somebody else

adequately wielded the teapot in my absence, and I am indebted to our show secretary Tony Cooke for the following resume of what took place.

Mr Knapp was unfortunately unable to get to the show and Dan Holland stepped into the breach and judged his classes. The juvenile class is beginning to fill up nicely and provide some worthwhile competition for our younger members. The results are given below, also the points cup position up to the end of May.

PEW Ad: 1 2 Cooke 3 L Holland 4 Miss Greenaway 8 wk: 1 Jukes BLACK/BLUE Ad: 1 Heath 2 Jukes 3 4 Pugsley 8 wk: 1 2 Heath CHAM/FAWN Ad: 1 T Holland 8 wk: 1 T Holland AOC SELF 8 wk: 1 Maynard 2 Cooke AC SELF Chall ad: 1 4 Cooke 2 T Holland 3 Heath 8 wk: 1 T Holland 2 Heath 3 Jukes 4 Maynard TAN BLACK/CHOC Ad: 1 4 T Holland 2 Heath 3 Davis 8 wk: 1 2 3 T Holland 4 Davis CHAM/TAN Ad: 1 3 Davis 2 4 T Holland 8 wk: 1 2 3 T Holland AOC Ad: 1 T Holland 2 Jukes 3 4 Heath 8 wk: 1 T Holland 2 Jukes AC Chall ad: 1 4 T Holland 2 Davis 3 Heath 8 wk: 1 2 3 4 T Holland DUTCH Ad: 1 2 3 Cooke 4 Maynard 8 wk: 1 Maynard 2 3 4 Cooke AOV MARKED Ad: 1 3 4 Cooke 2 L Holland 8 wk: 1 Maynard 2 3 L Holland 4 Cooke AV MARKED Chall ad: 1 2 3 4 Cooke 8 wk: 1 4 Maynard 2 3 Cooke AOV Ad: 1 2 Skipper 3 Miss Crowe 8 wk: 1 Skipper 2 Pugsley CHIN/FOX Ad: 1 Pugsley 2 T Holland 3 4 R Holland 8 wk: 1 Pugsley LONGHAIRD 1 2 Jukes 3 Pugsley AOV Ad: 1 2 Heath 3 4 D Holland 8 wk: 1 2 D Holland Chall ad: 1 Pugsley 2 3 Heath 4 Skipper 8 wk: 1 Skipper 2 3 D Holland 4 Pugsley AV Stud buck: 1 T Holland 2 Skipper 3 Maynard 4 Cooke Brood doe: 1 2 Cooke 3 4 Davis Juvenile: 1 R Holland 2 3 L Holland 4 Miss Crowe Novice: 1 2 3 Davis 4 R Holland Supporters: 1 3 Cooke 2 Maynard 4 T Holland Grand chall ad: 1 Pugsley 2 4 Cooke 3 Heath 8 wk: 1 4 T Holland 2 Maynard 3 Heath.

Points Cup position at May 1970: T Holland 357, T and J Cooke 279, E Jukes 240, T Heath 144, T Jones 136, S Davis 108, S Robb 94, L Holland 88, D Holland 75, J Robb 68, S Pugsley 65 S Maynard 27, D Skipper 19, Miss D Crowe 9, R Holland 8, Miss Harris 7, A Coe 3, P Crudgington 2, Miss Greenaway 1. MARY DOBSON, Press representative