

1950

How to Make It: Rabbit Trap is Easy to Build

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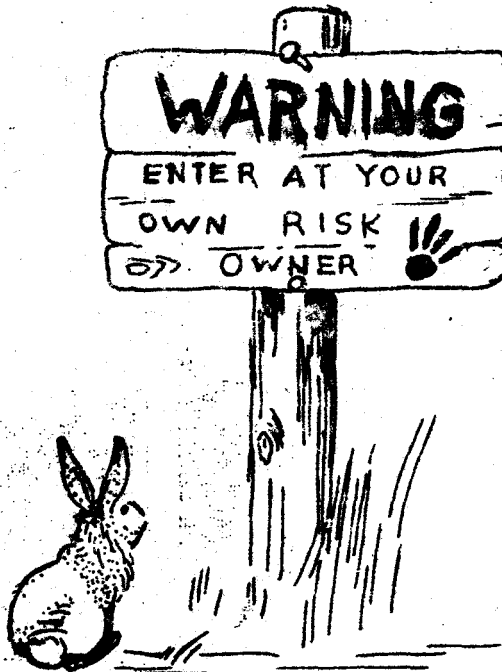
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[c. 1950 ?]

HOW TO MAKE IT.

RABBIT TRAP IS
EASY TO BUILD.



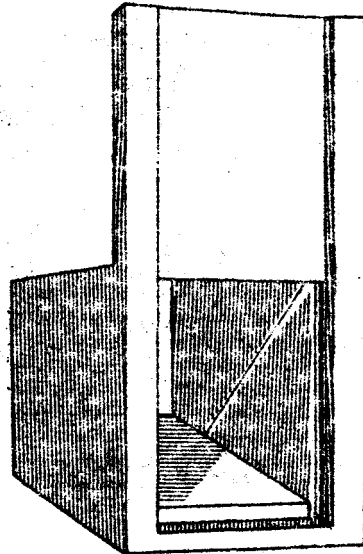
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Soil Conservation Service
Region 5
Lincoln, Nebraska

HOW TO MAKE A RABBIT TRAP.

The rabbit trap described in this leaflet has proved satisfactory and is easy to build. It consists of a box with a drop door, held up by a projecting wire, one end of which is attached to a false floor or treadle. The weight of the rabbit on the treadle beyond the fulcrum pulls back the wire and releases the door.

Any small box can be used, but to build longer-lasting traps the following materials are needed, in these dimensions if it must be purchased:

- 1 12-inch board 14 feet long.
- 1 $1\frac{1}{2}$ -inch strip 7 feet long.
- 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch strip 2 feet long.
- 20 inches of No. 3 gauge wire
- 2 small screw eyes.



The 12-inch board will make:

- 1 bottom board 30 inches long.
- 1 top board $28\frac{1}{2}$ inches long.
- 2 side boards $29\frac{1}{2}$ inches long.
- 1 treadle board 27 inches long.
- 1 drop door $13\frac{1}{4}$ inches long.
- 1 end board $10\frac{1}{2}$ inches long.

The $1\frac{1}{2}$ -inch strip will make:

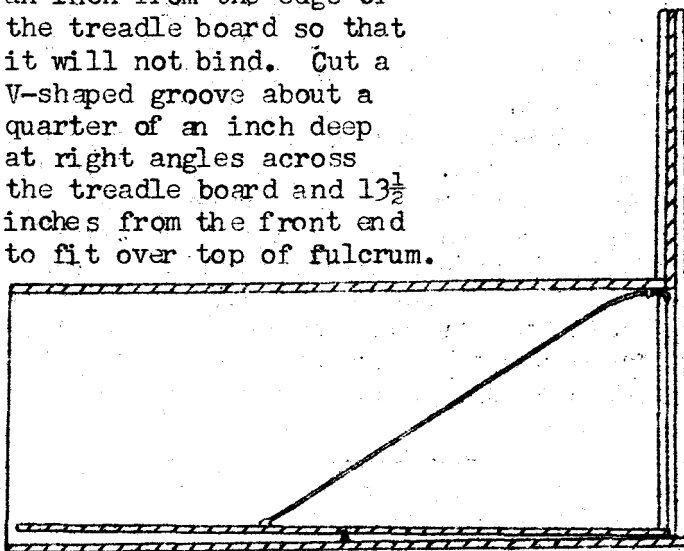
2 drop door guides 24 inches long.

2 drop door guides $11\frac{1}{4}$ inches long.

1 fulcrum piece for treadle, $10\frac{1}{2}$ inches long.

Cut the $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch strip to make 2 center guide strips 1 foot long.

Cut or plane a quarter of an inch from the edge of the treadle board so that it will not bind. Cut a V-shaped groove about a quarter of an inch deep at right angles across the treadle board and $13\frac{1}{2}$ inches from the front end to fit over top of fulcrum.



Cut or plane the fulcrum piece to a ridge, 1 inch high, to fit the treadle groove. Cut or plane edges of the drop door so that it will slide freely in the guides. With brace and bit make 3 holes in the trap door and one in the back to provide ventilation. A 4 to 6-inch square may be removed from the top board and mesh wire netting tacked over it. This opening would enable the trapper to see the animal before opening the trap, which would be very convenient because skunks are trapped occasionally. When setting the trap, this opening should be covered by laying something over it to

darken the interior.

Nail the bottom, sides, top, and end in position to form the box. Fasten the fulcrum at right angles across the bottom board, 15 inches from the front end. Nail the drop-door guides to front of trap to form grooves for the drop door, as illustrated in figure . Screw one screw eye into the top side of the treadle half an inch from the right side and $17\frac{1}{2}$ inches from the front end. Screw the second screw eye into the under side of the top board one-half inch from the right side and 1 inch from the front end. Fasten one end of the trigger wire to the screw eye on the treadle by bending to form a loop through the eye. Set the treadle in place so that its groove fits over the fulcrum. Pass the loose end of the trigger wire through the upper screw eye and bend the end back sharply at a length that will allow it to project just enough to hold up the door when the trap is set and to release it when the rear end of the treadle is pushed down (figure). The trap should be given two coats of good paint inside and out, to prevent warping.