

KANGAROO FARM

Over the past few years a number of people have suggested, or proposed, the establishment of Kangaroo farms in Western Australia.

Indeed, it is not really a new idea, but one that is being given more serious thought as time passes. With the inroads being made into the grey kangaroo population and with the farming development, resulting in vast clearing operations, it is inevitable that the Kangaroo will become a rare sight in the closer farming areas.

Even now, farmers, who in the past have been outspoken against the kangaroo, are beginning to realise that they are, in fact, becoming a rare sight in some parts of the South West. Only recently one family drove 800 miles through the South West on all types of roads, to see only one kangaroo.

As the kangaroo becomes less plentiful a number of people can see some economic possibilities in farming them.

Fauna Officer, Harry Shugg, recently investigated one such proposal and has reported favourably on it.

The man involved, who has had some veterinary experience has available 1000 acres of largely virgin country in the Jarrah forest area. He proposes to fence it to keep the kangaroo in, and other animals out, and with proper animal husbandry and pasture improvement hopes to be able to build up a stock over an initial period of several years.

Quite apart from the economic benefits that may arise from the farming of the 'roos, I have no doubt that the farm, provided it is in striking distance of Perth, would become a unique tourist attraction enabling visitors, and local people, to have a good look at a large number of these animals, in near natural conditions.

