



FUR COMMISSION USA

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Mink Farming in the U.S.

Economics

- Almost 3 million mink are commercially raised in 22 US states. In 2019, mink farming created over \$85 million in taxable revenue in the U.S and supported thousands of jobs in our rural communities. U.S. mink farms are 100% family owned and operated businesses, often with 3 generations working on the farm.

Animal Care & Welfare

- Animal health and welfare is the first priority of American mink farmers. Mink farmers have strict operating guidelines governing the humane care of animals. Farmers follow comprehensive animal husbandry practices developed with scientists, veterinarians, and welfare experts, with rigorous standards for nutrition, housing, biosecurity, veterinary care and humane harvesting. The mink farming standards in the U.S. have been certified by the Professional Animal Auditors Certification Organization (PAACO) and farms are independently inspected by Validus Verification Services.
- Like in all animal agriculture, mink farmers are subject to state and federal laws. Mink on U.S. farms are harvested according to humane practices and methods as recommended by the AVMA. Mink farms must also abide by all environmental regulations. Less than ¼ of 1 percent of all animals harvested in agriculture are taken for fur products.

Sustainability

- Farmed mink consume food industry by-products not fit for human consumption, keeping it out of our landfills. Each animal will consume more than 20-times their body weight per year of human food production by-product, translating to over 300 million pounds of waste recycled. After harvesting, mink remains are used in organic composts, artisanal pet foods and rendered into oils for conditioners, cosmetic products, and even tire-care products. Mink manure is an extremely effective crop fertilizer, rich in nutrients and in high demand. In Canada the manure has been used as biomass for electricity.
- Fur garments can last for generations. When discarded, they naturally decompose. Chemically produced synthetics are petroleum-based fabrics, and while only lasting a year or two as a garment, will remain in landfills for hundreds of years. Synthetic fabrics are a leading cause of micro-fiber pollutants that are devastating ocean and marine ecosystems.

Biosecurity

- Mink farmers have long known that mink are susceptible to various wildlife-borne and human-borne diseases, and have developed and instituted robust Biosecurity protocols to protect the animals. These protocols have been strengthened since the pandemic, using recommendations from the CDC, the National Veterinary Diagnostics Lab and the USDA.

COVID & Mink

- As of March 22, 2021, no mink have tested positive on any US farm since early February. Quarantines are lifted on 14 of the 16 U.S. mink farms that suffered a COVID outbreak. No other species of wildlife trapped in proximity to those farms have tested positive. 2 million doses of a vaccine for mink will be distributed in May 2021, with another 2 million by early July.