

# THE FINAL NAIL

DESTROYING THE FUR INDUSTRY

NUMBER FOUR

SUMMER 2013



COMPLETE GUIDE TO LIBERATING FUR FARM PRISONERS

# And now, let's finish them off...



This represents the most comprehensive collection of fur industry addresses and tactical guidance on destroying the fur industry to date.

This is our attempt to bring accountability to those who shed the blood of the innocent every day.

Most importantly, this is for their victims.

## ENDGAME: BACK TO DRIVE IN THE FINAL NAIL

In 1996, *The Final Nail #1: Destroying the Fur Industry* circulated rapidly through the grassroots animal liberation movement. It offered the first comprehensive list of mink, fox, and lynx farms to date, revealing for the first time the exact physical location of fur farms across North America. Prior to its release, there had been five fur farm liberations. In the 2.5 years that followed, there were nearly 50.

The following year, *The Final Nail #2* was released with updated info on many new farms. The ALF's fur farm campaign continued to accelerate, with larger and more frequent raids. Despite *The Final Nail's* massive impact, and the ALF continuing to raid dozens of farms, *The Final Nail* remained dormant for the next 11 years.

In the summer of 2008, *The Final Nail* was resurrected with the release of #3. The list had been massively updated, with over 100 previously unknown farms, and over 10 years of accumulated data on liberating fur farm prisoners. Fearing another surge in fur farm raids, the fur industry moved swiftly to have copies removed from the internet anywhere it appeared. Its circulation shifted to be largely limited to hard copy editions which were distributed person-to-person and anonymously at conferences and gatherings.

Despite its limited circulation, *The Final Nail's* impact continued. Within 3 months of its release, 3 farms whose addresses were first revealed in its pages were raided

and nearly 9,000 mink released. *The Final Nail* was back.

The updated *Final Nail #4* comes 5 years later, in the summer of 2013, in what is perhaps the period of lowest activity since the ALF began its fur farm campaign. The past year saw only a single release (13 foxes from a farm in Elkton, Virginia).

*The Final Nail #4* offers these updates:

- Over 100 new fur farms since #3
- Specific details on fur farm layout (gathered from on-site investigations)
- Analysis of weak links in the industry

The spirit and function of *The Final Nail* is needed now more than ever. In a time when the climate in the movement has shifted from offensive to defensive, from a conversation on what we're going to do to stop them to what they're doing to stop us, from a time of ALF actions at a rate of one every two weeks to one of movement-wide paralysis inspired by rampant fear-mongering, *The Final Nail* represents a return to the essence of the ALF and the warrior model: the where, the how, and purpose that transcends all obstacles and fears.

To the rebirth of *The Final Nail*, and swift death of the fur industry.

The (anonymous) editors

## From 2008 Until Today

*A recent history of the ALF's fur farm campaign*



Fur farm raids have seen a sharp decline since the last *Final Nail*, with just 13 fur farm actions occurring in the past 5 years.

Within two months of the release of *The Final Nail #3* in July 2008, 114 mink were released in an unreported raid of the Hunter Groves Mink Farm in South Jordan, Utah. This action was only made public in court documents after the arrest of two people for the raid that happened next...

On August 19th, 600 mink were liberated from the McMullin fur farm, also in South Jordan. The raid resulted in two arrests, after evidence such as cell phone records and a car key left at the scene linked two Utah activists to the raid.

Less than a month later, 150-200 mink were released from the S&N mink and fox farm in Scio, Oregon. The following year, the farm was reported to be empty, and is believed to be closed. The timing strongly indicates the ALF raid shut down this farm.

Less than two weeks later, the largest mink release since 2003 took place in Kayesville, Utah; with the liberation of 7,000 mink from the Lodder fur farm north of Salt Lake City.

The following month, another address first made public in *The Final Nail* was hit, with 1,500 mink liberated from the Ylipelto Fur Farm near Astoria, Oregon. A year later the farm was

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# Complete list of U.S. fur farm raids: 1986 to 2013



93 raids.  
Over 130,000 animals freed.

1986  
Unnamed farm  
Near Portland, Oregon  
66 silver foxes liberated

August 13th, 1995  
Davidson Fur Farm  
Annendale, Minnesota  
One coyote liberated

November 16th, 1995  
Jordan Mink Ranch  
Olympia, Washington  
400 mink liberated  
CLOSED

November 16th, 1995  
Ma Ellis Fox Farm  
Pleasant View, Tennessee  
30 foxes liberated  
CLOSED

January 15th, 1996  
Zimbal Mink Ranch  
Sheboygan, Wisconsin  
400 mink liberated

April 4th, 1996  
W. Bennet Fur Farm  
Victor, New York  
1,700 mink liberated

June, 1996  
Brainard Fur Farm  
Snohomish, Washington  
80 mink liberated  
CLOSED

June 7th, 1996  
Fur Breeder's Agricultural  
Cooperative  
Sandy, Utah  
75 mink liberated

June 21st, 1996  
Unknown fur farm  
Riverton, Utah  
1,000 mink liberated

July 4th, 1996  
Latzig Mink Ranch  
Howard Lake, Minnesota  
1,000 mink liberated  
NOW A FERRET FARM

July 17th, 1996  
Holt Mink Ranch  
South Jordan, Utah  
3,000 mink liberated

August 9th, 1996  
Carmel Mink Ranch  
Hinsdale, Massachusetts  
1,000 mink liberated  
CLOSED

August 12th, 1996  
Jorney Mink Ranch  
Alliance, Ohio  
2,500 mink liberated

September 28th, 1996  
Jorney Mink Ranch  
Alliance, Ohio  
8,000 mink liberated

October 2nd, 1996  
Paul Westwood Fur Farm  
Salem, Utah  
1,500 mink liberated

October 5th, 1996  
Gauthier Fur Farm  
Lindboro, New Hampshire  
35 fox and 10 mink liberated

October 11th, 1996  
Carmel Mink Ranch  
Hinsdale, Massachusetts  
75 mink liberated  
CLOSED

October 23rd, 1996  
Arnold Krohl Fur Farm  
Lebaon, Oregon  
2,000 mink liberated

October 25th, 1996  
Reese Fur Farm  
Coalville, Utah  
2,000 mink and 200 fox liber-  
ated

October 29th, 1996  
Bennett Fur Farm  
Victor, New York  
46 fox liberated

December 14th, 1996  
Brainard Fur Farm  
Snohomish, Washington  
50 mink liberated  
CLOSED

December 25th, 1996  
Jack Brower Fur Farm  
Bath, Michigan  
150 mink liberated

April 9th, 1997  
Kelly Fur Farm  
DeBerry, Texas  
10 chinchillas liberated

May 11th, 1997  
Parson's Mink Ranch  
Salisbury, Maryland  
500 mink liberated  
CLOSED

May 28th, 1997  
Lou Masog Mink Farm  
Lebanon, Oregon  
80 mink liberated

May 30th, 1997  
Arritola Mink Ranch  
Mount Angel, Oregon  
10,000 mink liberated

July 4th, 1997  
David Smith Mink Farm  
Cle Elum, Washington  
4,000 mink liberated  
CLOSED

July 8th, 1997  
Tom Mohoric Mink Farm  
Medina, Ohio  
41 mink liberated

July, 1997  
Jorney Mink Ranch  
Alliance, Ohio  
500 mink liberated

September 1st, 1997  
Ides Mink Farm  
Downers Grove, Illinois  
3500 mink liberated  
CLOSED

September 2nd, 1997  
Adams Fox Farm  
Anerson, Indiana  
200 fox liberated

October 5th, 1997  
Frye Mink Farm  
Crystal Lake, Illinois  
5,000 mink liberated

October 6th, 1997  
Palmer Mink Farm  
Preston, Idaho  
5,000 mink liberated

October 17th, 1997  
Turbak Mink Ranch  
Watertown, South Dakota  
3,000 mink liberated  
CLOSED

October 19th, 1997  
Circle K Farm  
Sioux City, Iowa  
5,000 mink, 100 fox liberated

October 21st, 1997  
Fassett Fur Farm  
Webster City, Iowa  
1 mink liberated

October 24th, 1997 Smeija Fur Farm Independence, Wisconsin 800 mink liberated	August 21st, 2008 Isebrand Fur Farm Jewell, Iowa 3,000 mink liberated	August 14th, 1999 Frank Parsons Mink Ranch Salisbury, Maryland 20 mink liberated CLOSED	October 20th, 2001 Scott Nelson Mink Ranch Ellsworth, Iowa 1,600 mink liberated CLOSED
October 24th, 1997 Ott Mink Ranch Tomohawk, Wisconsin 300 mink liberated	August 27th, 1998 Brown Mink Farm Beloit, Wisconsin 3,000 mink liberated	September 12th, 1999 Calvin Gunnink Fur Farm Chandler, Minnesota 100 fox liberated	May, 2002 Minkdek Brothers Harborcreek, Pennsylvania 200 mink liberated
October 25th, 1997 Jack Dittrich Minkery Medford, Wisconsin 3,000 mink liberated CLOSED	August 28th, 1998 Zumbro River Fur Farm Rochester, MN 3000 mink liberated	October 1st, 1999 Owl Creek Fox Farm Montpelier, Indiana 30 fox painted with henna dye	June, 2002 Lawrence Dana Fox Farm Erie, Pennsylvania All foxes liberated, breeding cards taken
November 5th, 1997 Blaine Leffers Fox Farm Fort Wayne, Indiana 125 fox liberated	October 26th, 1998 Pipkorn Inc Powers, MI 5000 mink liberated	October 25th, 1999 Calvin Gunnink Fur Farm Chandler, Minnesota 5 lynx liberated	August 18th, 2002 Misty Moonlight Mink Ranch Waverly, Iowa 3,000 mink liberated
November 28th, 1997 Carmel Mink Ranch Hinsdale, Massachusetts 6 mink liberated CLOSED	November 26th, 1998 Volo, Illinois Empty fur farm sabotaged	November 13th, 1999 Beckstead Mink Ranch South Jordan, Utah Hundreds of mink liberated	September, 2002 Minkdek Brothers Harborcreek, Pennsylvania 50 minks liberated
July 3rd, 1998 United Vaccines Research Ranch Middleton, Wisconsin 310 mink liberated CLOSED	December 2nd, 1998 Adams Fox Farm Anderson, Indiana 150 fox liberated	January 29th, 2000 Brainerd Fur Farm Snohomish, Washington 60 mink liberated CLOSED	September, 2002 Main Mink Ranch Gerry, New York Mink liberated and breeding cards taken CLOSED
July 29th, 1998 Fur Breeder's Agricultural Co-op Sandy, Utah 6 mink liberated	February 13, 1999 Davidson Fur Farm Annendale, Minnesota 6 fox liberated	June 14th, 2000 Richard Gauthier Fur Farm Lyndeborough, New Hampshire 500 mink liberated	November 26th, 2002 Minkdek Brothers Harborcreek, Pennsylvania Fur feed storage building burned down
July 30th, 1998 Fur Breeder's Agricultural Co-op Sandy, Utah 2 mink liberated	February 17th, 1999 Nivison Mink Ranch Richmond, Utah 9 mink liberated	September 7th, 2000 Drewelow & Sons Fur Farm New Hampton, Iowa 14,000 mink liberated	August 25th, 2003 Roessler Brother's Mink Farm Sultan, Washington 10,000 mink liberated
August 18th, 1998 Mueller fur farm Kimball, Minnesota 4,000 mink liberated CLOSED	February 23rd, 1999 Brainerd Fur Farm Snohomish, Washington 150 mink liberated CLOSED	October 1st, 2000 Indiana 30 fox painted with henna	April 1st, 2005 Kerry Littig's fox farm Bluffs, Illinois Dozens of fox liberated
August 20th, 1998 Hidden Valley Fur Farm Guttenburg, Iowa 330 foxes liberated CLOSED. (the farmer mentions two ac- tions have occurred, only one action is known)	August 3rd, 1999 Krieger Fur Farm Bristol, Wisconsin 3000 mink liberated	April 19th, 2001 Brainerd's Fur Farm Snohomish, Washington 200 mink liberated CLOSED	August 14th, 2007 Carmel Mink Ranch Hinsdale, Massachusetts 500 mink liberated CLOSED
	August 8th, 1999 Gene Meyer Mink Farm Plymouth, Wisconsin 2,500 mink liberated (nearby United Feeds fur feed supplier burned down the same night) CLOSED	October 16th, 2001 Scott Nelson Mink Ranch Ellsworth, Iowa 2,000 mink liberated CLOSED	



November 6th, 2008  
Dale Marr's Mink Ranch  
Deming, Washington  
150-200 mink liberated

April 21st, 2008  
Jefferson Fur Farm  
Jefferson, Oregon  
40 mink liberated

August, 2008 ("days before" mink  
release at McMullin Mink Farm)  
Hunter Groves Mink Farm  
South Jordan, Utah  
114 mink liberated

August 19th, 2008  
McMullin Mink Farm  
South Jordan, Utah  
600 mink liberated

September 8th, 2008  
S&N Fur Farm  
Scio, Oregon  
150-200 mink liberated  
REPORTED EMPTY 2009,  
MAY REOPEN

September 21st, 2008  
Lodder's Mink Farm  
Kaysville, Utah  
7,000 mink liberated

October 17th, 2008  
Ylipelto Fur Farm  
Svensen, Oregon  
1,500 mink liberated  
CLOSED

October 4th, 2009  
Ylipelto Fur Farm  
Svensen, Oregon  
300 mink liberated  
CLOSED

November 18th, 2009  
Lang's Mink Farm  
Richmond, Minnesota  
50 mink liberated

July 13th, 2010  
Unnamed mink farm  
Franklin, Idaho  
30 mink liberated

July 27th, 2010  
Ylipelto Fur Farm  
Svensen, Oregon  
Eight incendiary devices  
planted, buildings & vehicle  
burned  
CLOSED

September 10th, 2010  
Harvey Beck Mink Ranch  
Granite Falls, Washington  
400 mink liberated

September 24th, 2011  
Western Star Fur Farm  
Svensen, Oregon  
300 mink liberated

October 10th, 2011  
Palmer Erickson Mink Farm  
Jewell, Iowa  
1,200 mink liberated

October 12th, 2011  
Miller's Mink Ranch  
Gifford, Washington  
1,000 mink liberated.

August 5th, 2012  
D & S Fox Farm  
Elkton, Virginia  
13 foxes liberated

## A Recent History of Fur Farm Raids (Cont'd...)

hit again (300 mink released). By the time the farm was visited a third time in 2010, with several vehicles and a building set on fire, the farm was believed to be closed. Again, the timing strongly indicates the ALF raids shut this farm down forever.

Two small, unreported mink releases occurred over the next year. The first took place in November 2009, where 50 mink were released from Lang's Mink Farm in Richmond, Minnesota. The next took place in July 2010, where 30 mink were released from an unnamed farm in Franklin, Idaho.

The Harvey Beck Mink Ranch near Seattle was next, with 400 mink released in September 2010. Activity remained non-existent for a year, until the Western Star Fur Farm in Astoria, Oregon was visited by the ALF and 300 mink released in 2011.

The next month saw three actions in just over 2 weeks. Rocky Mountain Fur and Fireworks, located on Interstate 80 in Heyburn, Idaho was set on fire. Damage was reported to be light. Soon after, 1,200 mink were released from the Palmer Erickson fur farm in Jewell, Iowa; and two days later 1,000 mink were released from Miller's Mink Ranch in Gifford, Washington.

The period between The Final Nail #3 and #4 closed out with the sole liberation in 2012: The release of 13 foxes from the D&S Fox Farm in Elkton, Virginia.

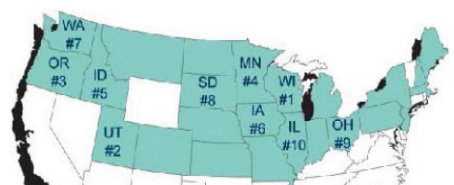
The fur industry is a weak link in the animal exploitation chain. The determined work of a caring few can finish it off forever.

Until victory.



Top 10 mink producing states as of 2007 (the latest year for which statistics are available), with the number of reported farms:

- Wisconsin (71)
- Utah (65)
- Oregon (18)
- Minnesota (23)
- Idaho (24)
- Iowa (17)
- Washington (9)
- South Dakota (3)
- Ohio (9)
- Illinois (7)



# Weak Links

## THE FASTEST WAY TO DESTROY THE FUR INDUSTRY

*"Fight smarter, not harder."*

Like any industry, fur has many layers, each feeding the one above it. At the top are the individual consumers. Below them, retail outlets the sell fur. Then wholesalers and manufacturers, and on downward. This article asks the question: What are the weakest links? What facets can be targeted by a few individuals that will weaken the entire industry and hasten it's collapse? And are there a few pillars that, if removed, would bring it down altogether?

### Feed suppliers

Feed is the single biggest expense in raising mink. Even a small increase in feed costs would destroy many – if not most – fur farms. As an example, when the Fur Breeder's Agricultural Cooperative stopped delivering to a small town in Utah (forcing them to use another supplier or make their own), at least two fur farms there were forced to close.

### Mink research

The Fur Commission USA spends a full 25% of its budget on mink farming research. Through research into feed, disease, pelt quality, and more, the US fur industry maintains a competitive edge over international markets.

### Vaccine production

According to a Fur Commission USA poll, a disease outbreak is their second biggest fear as fur farmers (after attacks by animal rights activists). An aluetian disease outbreak can wipe out a mink farm in a matter of weeks. There are two companies producing vaccines: Merck (doing mink research at their suburban Omaha research farm) and United Vaccines (three locations around Madison, WI).

### Processing plants

Right now there is a severe shortage of facilities able to process raw animal skins. Currently, the only large-scale operation is the North American Fur Auctions processing plant in Stoughton, Wisconsin (near Madison). This plant has trouble handling current volume, and is an extremely significant lynchpin.

### Melatonin implants

These implants can shorten the time it take to bring a pelt to market by six weeks. This brings the cost per pelt down significantly, and gives farms that use them a huge advantage. Currently there is one supplier of melatonin implants in the US: Neo-Dynamics, in Middleton, WI.

### Auction Houses

Currently the Seattle Fur Exchange is the only auction house in the US for ranch-raised mink. Over 70% of all animals from US fur farms pass through this one building near Seattle.



**UNITED FEEDS  
BURNED DOWN BY THE ALF, 1999**



**OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY  
FUR LAB AFTER ALF RAID, 1991**



**SEATTLE FUR EXCHANGE  
UNTOUCHED BY THE ALF... SO FAR**

# Industry Trends

The trend in the fur industry continues towards consolidation. The year of the first Animal Liberation Front mink release, 1995, there were 478 mink farms. In 2011, there were 268. Yet the number of animals killed has not decreased significantly (and is on the increase). Smaller farms are declining, while large farms are getting larger. The average mink farm in 1995 killed 5,864 mink (not including the breeders). In 2011, the average farm killed 11,529 mink. This means the average mink farm has doubled in size.



## Prisoners of War: A Brief History

### Chatham Three

**Action:** ALF liberation of 1,542 mink from the Eberts Fur Farm in Blenheim, Ontario.

**Arrested:** Pat Dodson, 48; Hilma Ruby, 59; Gary Yourofsky, 26; Robyn Weiner, 25; Alan Hoffman, 47. All residents of Michigan.

**Charges:** Each charged with Breaking and Entering and Criminal Mischief. Dodson also was charged with Possession of Break-in Tools; Weiner and Hoffman were charged with Possession of Stolen Property Over \$5,000. All were freed on \$10,000 cash bail.

**Outcome:** Allan Hoffman and Robyn Weiner inform against the others, also implicating one person in release of 1,500 mink at the farm the week previous. Sentence: 6 months in jail.

### Mass Four

**Action:** Release of 25 mink from Carmel Mink Ranch, Hindsdale MA on 11-28-96. Can of gasoline found near scene. Third mink release at the farm in three months.

**Arrested:** Alex Smolak, Warren Upson, Jamie Roth, Grant Upson

**Charges:** Breaking and entering in the night time with intent to commit a felony, trespass, larceny of property over \$250 and malicious destruction of property over \$250.

**Outcome:** \$3,100 fine, three days jail, one year probation.

### Seattle Five

**Action:** Daylight raid of 150 mink from Brainerd's Fur Farm, Snohomish WA; 2-12-99.

**Arrested:** Lindsey Parme, Kyle Salisbury, Geoff Kerns, Kim Berardi and Nicole Dawn Briggs.

**Charges:** Second-degree burglary and first-degree theft.  
**Outcome:** Charges against all defendants were dropped when the prosecution was unwilling to reveal their informant in the case.

### Utah case

**Action:** Release of 3,000 mink at Holt's mink ranch, South Jordan UT

**Arrested:** Clinton Colby Ellerman, Sean Gautschy, Brandon Mitchener, Trev Poulson, Alex Slack. Colby turned informant.

**Outcome:** Two years in prison.

### Ohio Three

**Action:** Release of 100 mink from Jorney Mink Ranch, Alliance OH; 7-97

**Arrested:** Jesse V. Parsh, 19, Stephanie A. MacDougall, 18, and unknown third person.

**Charges:** Two counts of Vandalism, two counts of Breaking and Entering and one count of Possession of Criminal Tools. All felonies.

**Outcome:** Each plead guilty to five felonies.

### Justin Samuel and Peter Young

**Actions:** Release of 3,000 mink from Turbak Mink Ranch, Watertown, SD; release of 5,000 minks and 100 fox from Circle K Farm, Sioux City, IA; release of one mink and destruction of breeding records from Fassett Fur Farm, Webster City, IA; release of 800 mink from Smeija Fur Farm, Independence, WI; release of 300 mink from Ott's Mink Ranch, Tomohawk, WI; release of 2,500 mink from Dittrich Minkery, Medford, WI.

**Charges:** Four counts of Disruption of Interstate Commerce Through Threats of Violence or Extortion, two counts of Animal Enterprise Terrorism.

**Outcome:** Justin Samuel turned states evidence and testified against Young. Both sentenced to two years

### Bj Viehl & Alex Hall

**Action:** Release of 600 mink from McMullin & Sons fur farm, August 2010. Claimed by the ALF.

**Charges:** Animal Enterprise Terrorism.

**Outcome:** Sentenced to two years and two and a half years, respectively.

### Victor VanOrden & Kellie Mashall

**Action:** Attempted raid of Circle K Fur Farm, Sioux City, IA, October 10th 2010.

**Charges:** Possession of burglar's tools (misdemeanor), second-degree criminal mischief.

**Outcome:** Served two months and one month, respectively.





# Most Wanted List

## National Feeds

Believed to be the largest feed supplier. Operates a production mill in New Holstein. For many years, operated a “research ranch” in Oshkosh, WI; yet the experimental fur farm is no longer at that location. It is possible the farm relocated, and if identified would be a significant target.

## North American Fur Auctions plant

Currently a significant bottleneck point as the only large-scale pelt processor in the country, unable to handle current demand. Handles a large percentage of the raw pelts from US fur farms. In Stoughton, Wisconsin.

## American Legend (Seattle Fur Exchange)

The only auction house in the US for ranch-raised mink. Over 70% of all pelts from US fur farms pass through one warehouse south of Seattle. Holds two auctions annually, where fur dealers and brokers from around the world converge to bid on the 3 million skins sold there each year. Also a pelt processor. This is the industry’s most crucial choke-point.

## Fraser Fur Farm

Largest and one of the only known wildcat farms in the country. There is evidence the farm no longer imprisons lynx, but does hold bobcats and other species. Located north of Missoula, Montana.

## United Vaccines

Creates pharmaceuticals for fur farms. Operates a production facility in Fitchburg, WI (next to Madison), and there is evidence they operate a research facility in neighboring Verona.

## Neo-Dynamics

The only manufacturer of melatonin implants in the US. Gives many farms an edge, without which they would go under. Located near United Vaccines in Middleton, WI.

## University research

Three universities are believed to be actively doing research to benefit the fur industry: Washington State University, Idaho State University, and Michigan State University. Currently the US fur industry is only competitive on the global market through superior pelt quality made possibly be the industry’s research apparatus’.

## Strategy Sidebar Feed Suppliers: The Weakest Link

In a letter to the to the FDA from Dale Lawson of Northwest Farm Food, he states that without inexpensive and specialized feed ensuring top pelt quality, the U.S. fur industry would collapse.

“The additional costs associated with [FDA proposal leading to increase in feed costs] would, in my opinion, totally eliminate the mink industry in the United States.”

A farmer speaking this candidly about the critical role of feed is not uncommon. I have viewed other industry literature laying bare this reality of fur farming in the U.S.: With other countries now able to produce fur more cheaply than the U.S., the only way U.S. farmers can compete and the only edge they have in the global market is superior pelt quality. And along with breeding stock, the most crucial factor in pelt quality is specialized feed. In Utah, when the Fur Breeder’s Agricultural Co-op stopped delivering to their town, several farms were forced to close.

Feed cost is the largest cost incurred by fur farms, representing 50-60 percent of the total cost of producing a pelt.

The current breakdown of known U.S. feed suppliers:

Central Fur Food (WI)  
Medford Fur Food (WI)  
Wisco Feed (unconfirmed if this company still manufactures feed) (WI)  
United Feeds (WI)  
National Fur Foods (WI)  
Northwest Farm Food-Burlington (WA)  
Northwest Farm Food-Astoria (OR)  
Fur Breeder’s Agricultural Co-op: Logan (UT)  
Fur Breeder’s Agricultural Co-op: Sandy (UT)  
Rancher’s Choice (NE)  
Hawkeye Mink Cooperative  
Heger Company (MN)

These are either uninvestigated, or believed to be smaller in size:

Alpine Clean Food (ID)  
Midwest Ingredients (IL)  
North Central Companies (MN)  
Whalen Foods Inc. (MN)  
Bob’s Mink Ranch (MN)  
Mazuri / Purina Mills (fox feed) (MO)  
John & Peggy Smeal (NE)  
Ormink, Mount Angel (OR)  
Western Pennsylvania Fur Farmers Co-op (PA)  
Shoreline Feeds, Lake Shore (UT)  
LaBudde Group, Inc (WI)



# How to Raid a Fur Farm

## Animal Liberation in Eight Steps

### Choose a Target

With this list as a starting point, use satellite images (from a public computer) to examine layout and parking options, then identify an appetizing target.

### Gather equipment

Disposable dark clothing, facial coverings, wire cutters (come prepared with large and small pairs), gloves, and Maglight / small flashlights with red screen (less visible from a distance) and hands-free head strap (or headlamp).

Optional items include a digital camera (to document conditions and the raid itself), video camera (same), and radios (strongly recommended).

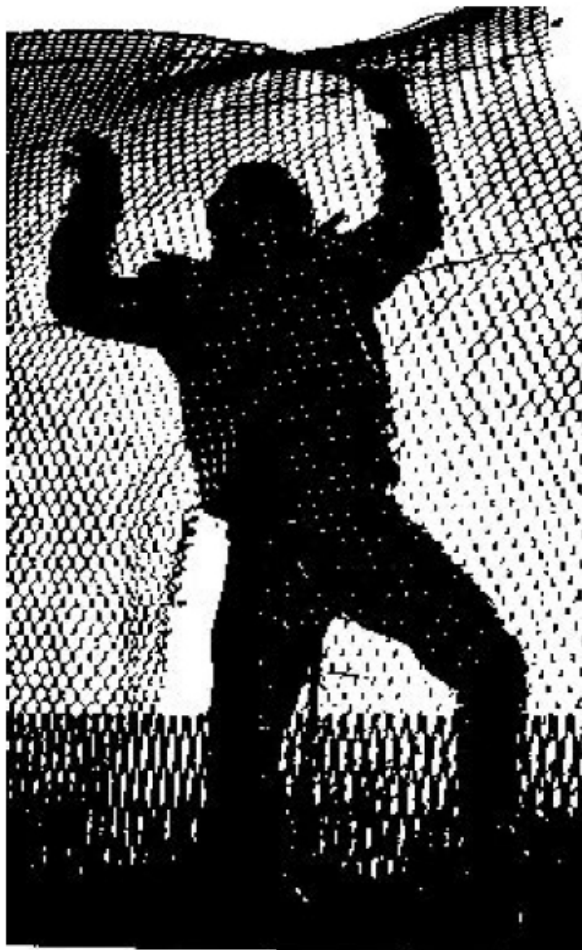
### Park

Ideally, a parking spot will have been identified during daytime reconnaissance. However this is not required. Parking options included vacant lots, dirt paths that access corn fields / farms, nearby businesses such as grain elevators or unmanned animal farms, or just the side of the road. Use satellite images and pay special attention to parking options at neighboring properties behind the farm, which may be miles by road, but can offer quick access when used to approach on foot from the rear. Farms along rail road tracks allow for convenient parking, as tracks allow a path along which one can travel long distances unobstructed without encountering people or cars. Its possible to park a mile or more away, and use railroad tracks for

a direct route to the farm.

### Dismantle the fence

There is much variety among fences, and there are even those farms that have no fence at all. Every fence will be unique, and often that at first appears to be an impenetrable fence will have flaws which become apparent upon scrutiny. Very heavy fences are often kept in place only through attachment to fence posts. An entire fence can often be felled through a small number of calculated cuts at those points where the fence connects to the posts. If the entire fence cannot be brought down, many large holes should be cut giving the animals as many escape routes as possible. The fate to the compound should also be opened. Every bit of fence cut away can translate into more lives saved. Effectively dismantling the fence should be among the highest priorities.



### Inspect for alarms

Although rare, do a quick sweep for photoelectric sensors in the corners of the compound and inside sheds, particularly at entrance points.

### Destroy breeding records

While optional, this can be devastating to a fur farm and have tremendous economic impact. If there is time, a team should identify the sheds housing the breeders and destroy the records. These usually take the form of index cards on or above the cages. Maintaining a high-quality pelt though methodical breeding practices is essential to the operation of a fur farm. Time permitting, this should be the first stop in any fur farm action.

### Open the cages

There are a wide range of cages and

latches, and this will often vary even within the same farm. In addition to simple latches, many cages will only be opened, or opened most effectively, through the removal of nesting boxes. These are large wooden boxes hooked to the front of the cages that can generally be lifted and set to the ground, allowing the animals to escape. Some cages may be individually wired shut, particularly for the breeding stock. Most often these are kept shut with a small o-ring that can be removed with one cut.

Fox cages can be found inside sheds or in outdoor pens, and vary greatly in latching mechanism and structure.

#### **Post-raid work**

Discard all tools and clothing far from the scene. See section on "Media Work" for guidance on disseminating the communique.

## **Alternate Actions**

### **Releasing animals within the compound**

in the rare cases where a fence proves unfellable, or weather conditions do not permit a release into the wild, the breeders and non-breeders can be released from their cages within the compound. The breeders and non-breeders will then mix, and the farmer will be unable to tell which is which. The farmer will be forced to pelt out his entire stock and start from scratch. This can be absolutely devastating to a fur farm. Breeding stock is most valuable aspect to an operation. In one recorded instance, the release of 800 breeding mink cost a fur farmer \$240,000 (\$3,000 per animal).

### **Dropping over the fence**

An inefficient but in some cases necessary method of rescue.

Animals can be placed over the fence manually. This can be use-

**PRIVATE PROPERTY**

**NO TRESPASSING**

**A course of conduct involving criminal trespass is punishable under the ANIMAL ENTERPRISE TERRORISM ACT (PUBLIC LAW 109-347; 18 USC 43) with a fine and up to five years in prison**

**VIOLATORS WILL BE PROSECUTED UNDER THIS AND ALL OTHER APPLICABLE LOCAL AND FEDERAL STATUTES**

ful in cases where dismantling the fence proves problematic, or the cages are too close to a house to risk the noise that follows a large mink release. There are no known cases of this tactic being employed in the US, yet a likely method would be to place animals individually in sacks and deliver them off site. Mink are very aggressive and heavy gloves are necessary when handling.

### **Dyes**

Destroying the value of an animal's pelt can be accomplished with henna-based dye.

## **Small Farm List**

These farms are believed to imprison less than 5,000 mink, and are the smallest mink farms known.

Up to six micro-farms in downtown Franklin, ID  
Bob Rodeghero, Morris, IL  
North Star Fur Farm, Ollie, IA  
Misty Moonlight Mink Ranch, Waverly, IA  
Pelton Fur Farm, Rome, NY  
Willes Fur Farm, Lehi, UT  
D&B Fur Farm, Peoa, UT  
Van Dyke Mink Farm, Springville, UT  
North 40, Richmond, UT  
Seth Dawson, Morgan, UT  
J & G Mink Ranch, Highland, UT  
Ovard Mink Farm, Wanship, UT  
McMullin Fur Farm, South Jordan, UT  
Samuel Schrock, Wautoma, WI

### **Fingerprints**

Wear gloves at all times. Never handle equipment that will be taken to the site – radio, flashlight, etc. – without wearing gloves. Be mindful of details such as prints on batteries inside flashlights.

### **Cameras**

Video cameras at farms are not unheard of. Wear facial coverings at all times.

### **Cell phone tracking**

BJ Viehl and Alex Hall were arrested for an ALF action at a Utah farm after being traced to the crime scene through cell phone records. Every cell phone is a tracking device. Turning a phone off is not sufficient, and time will tell whether removing the battery is in fact 100% effective. The safest practice is to leave cell phones at home.

Police agencies also have the ability to turn any cell phone into a microphone remotely, and monitor all conversations within earshot – even when the phone is turned off. Cell phones are a major liability in any clandestine activity and should be kept far away from the



planning and execution of an action.

### **Tool marks.**

Tool mark analysis linking wire cutters to fences at farms was the main evidence used against Justin Samuel and Peter Young. Tools should never be used at more than one location, and should be discarded a safe distance from the scene after use.

### **Clothing**

Clothes will retain forensic evidence such as mink hair and organic matter after an action, and should be discarded. Shoes will leave unique prints, and should also be thrown away. Studying shoe tread patterns unique to each person is another investigative tactic, and new shoes should be used for each action. Covering shoes with socks is a second option. Keep nothing after an action – no tools, clothing, maps, or notes.

### **Other forensics**

Humans leave a trail of hair everywhere they go. Masks must be worn to prevent against leaving hair containing DNA that can link someone to a crime scene. In Finland, saliva found at the scene of a fur farm raid was used to implicate an activist. Leave no DNA traces.

Clean the car thoroughly after an action.

### **Other traces**

- Empty pockets of all debris before carrying out an action.
- Clean car thoroughly prior to an action to insure against miscellaneous debris falling out when exiting.
- Purchase nothing with a credit card. Purchase nothing used for an action anywhere nearby, even with cash.
- In a small town, stop nowhere unless absolutely necessary. Small town residents are often very aware of outsiders.
- Be mindful of soft ground at the parking location that will leave tire tracks.
- Do not bring a GPS device or use a vehicle with one embedded.
- Do not park your vehicle in view of a surveillance camera, if parking in an area where cameras are a possibility.

### **Communiques**

## WITHOUT A TRACE A Security Primer

Great care should be given to post-raid media work. Only use a public computer where you can download TOR, which effectively anonymizes internet activity. Do all computer work, such as setting up email accounts and sending the communique, through the TOR network.

If the postal service is used for a communique or photograph/video distribution, assemble the package in a clean room with adequate gloves (single-layer latex gloves are not sufficient), and seal it with a sponge (not saliva). Tape is a magnet for traces of skin and hair – use cautiously. No handwriting. Burn all communique drafts, including the several layers of paper under the draft that will contain an imprint. Scrutinize any photo or video to be released for the visibility of revealing features such as tattoos or eyes. The FBI has measured the distance between eyes and pupils to match suspects to photos.

### **No one talks, everyone walks**

We see through history the greatest threat to evading capture is the threat of talk. Ensure everyone in the cell is schooled in security culture. Never work with a braggart, drug addict, and person untested under pressure, or one who exhibits unstable behavior or heavily emotion-driven decision making. Never discuss an action after the fact – on the phone, over the computer, or in person. The Green Scare case has shown that allies can become enemies, and talking even in private can have disastrous consequences. Enact a strict code of silence.



# Past the setting of the sun

AN INTERVIEW  
REPRINTED FROM *WAR MACHINE*

A confessed mink liberator speaks about liberating fur farm prisoners: finding farms, bypassing security, and getting the animals out.

## **How many Midwest farms did you surveil during the fall of 1997?**

Between 35 and 50. We traveled eastward across Montana, South Dakota, Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. We spent the daytime driving past farms and the nighttime on them. We walked the sheds of every manner of farm, from single sheds to farms imprisoning 80,000 mink. We walked the Fraser Fur Farm compound and stared in the eyes what may have been more lynx than existed in the wild in the entire state of Montana. We encountered masked scarecrows with signs reading "A.L.F. Stay Away". We were chased from farms on foot on more than one occasion, and by cars from several more. We looked at a lot of farms, many of which have been hit in the years since. It brings me immeasurable pleasure to read of farms I visited, whose captives I had to leave behind, being raided years later. I hope I'm alive to see the day one or both of the Zimbal mink farm (WI) has every cage opened.

## **What was your intention with this campaign?**

To get as many animals out of those cages as we could before pelting season. The fact that some of the farms shut down was an unanticipated yet welcome side effect.

## **Describe this period (1996 to 1998) of underground activism against the fur industry.**

An anecdote to illustrate the pace at which farms were getting raided from 1996 to 1998: We had discussed surveilling farms in Idaho, including one in Preston ID. We decided against it, and did not visit any farms until Montana. We would later read that literally the night we were to have visited that farm, every one of its 5,000 mink were released by individu-

als unknown. Later, when we received the various police reports from that period it was revealed there were others surveilling farms in the same three-state area, sometimes visiting the same farms we had only a day apart. That three groups were out simultaneously seeking farms to raid illustrates the momentum at the time. Had we sustained this pace, there would be no U.S. fur industry today.

## **Talk about how you located fur farms. Were all farms you visited listed in The Final Nail? Did you draw from other sources?**

The Final Nail was a starting point. To this day it is the best resource for fur farm addresses, although it has many gaps. To locate unknown farms, and find street addresses for those where only a "rural route" address was listed, we had to call on our creativity. This pre-dated the internet as we know it, and hard-copy material was our sole resource. The sources from which we drew the most info: local phone directories, business directories at the library, and agricultural survey maps at university libraries. Above them all, fur industry trade publications like *Fur Rancher* provided the most leads. And then there were those farms we found by turning down "Fur Farm Road". Sometimes they hide in plain sight.

## **What did you look for in choosing one farm to raid over another?**

We looked at many farms, and couldn't hit them all. There were features we looked for which disqualified some farms and beckoned us to others, which I will leave unmentioned to avoid giving the fur industry insight into the workings of those working to rid them from this earth. We should be reminded there have been farms raided with everything from perimeter security to guard dogs. Activists should take from this that "security" is only a deterrent if

you let it be. Farmers should take from this that when animal liberators have you in their sights, cash in your chips because you're getting raided either way.

## **What did you do with the car while you were surveilling or raiding farms? Did you have a driver, or did you park?**

Parking is an exercise in creativity.

Cornfields, farm service roads, nearby non-residential buildings, and any place that will not arouse suspicion are all options. Having a driver would be sensible in an extreme case where parking was an impossibility. There are too many variables that could necessitate quick and premature flight from the premises to chance having to wait for pickup from a circling driver. We parked every time.

## **Talk about removing fencing. How did you remove the fences surrounding a farm to allow the mink an escape route?**

There is no correlation between the apparent fortitude of a fence and the ease with which it can be dismantled. Often the most intricately constructed fences are held together by only a few pieces of wire affixed to posts. When the wire is cut, the entire fence falls. Generally a small pair of wire cutters is sufficient, with larger bolt cutters sometimes being necessary. We took down 400 feet of fence in Medford in less than 20 minutes with fewer than 50 cuts.

## **What equipment did you bring to the farms?**

Dark clothes, facial covering, gloves, headlamp with red screen (making it barely visible at a distance), bolt cutters, and wire cutters. That's it.

## **Is there anything you wish you had used which would have made the action safer or more effective?**

With all actions, as in life, I believe



low-tech and streamlined is best. Trust your senses and work with the absolute minimum needed to accomplish the goal. That said, the complications that came from our policy to always be in eyeshot of each other on the farm could have been avoided with radio contact. For that reason, I would see no good argument against using radios during an action. We never procured radios for the simple reason that we were short on money and the animals were short on time.

#### **Describe a mink shed.**

One to four rows, partially walled, with a very crude saloon-style door, if any. There is not much to it. When you've made it that far, the hardest part is behind you.

#### **Are there any security precautions you encountered at the farms (security guards, cameras, alarms, etc)?**

In the 35 to 50 farms we visited during the fall of 1997, I saw one video camera and no alarms. In the farms I've visited in the Northwest, I've seen over 10 farms with perimeter security and several with video cameras. Thus there are serious regional differences in security. The perimeter alarms I've encountered are invisible beams, which, most of the time, can be rolled under. I would suspect there is close to zero chance cameras on a farm are monitored overnight, and would not consider them a deterrent.

#### **Is the opening of the cages self-explanatory?**

It's always self-explanatory but never consistent. Latch styles are numerous. In addition to simple latches, there are nesting boxes which are most often removable and provide the best option for mink to escape. Occasionally cages are wired shut individually, easily remedied with wirecutters.

#### **In light of the numbers you give, that 2 people can release 1000 animals in 15 minutes, what do you feel are the reasons behind the abundance of small mink releases in which only 1 to 200 mink are freed?**

I know exactly what this is because I almost fell victim to it. None of the available literature forewarned of the decibel level created by even a few dozen mink given their first taste of freedom. When you're in someone's backyard at 1am, and being detected means going to prison, if you're not

prepared the wall of noise it can be an immediate cause for flight. The fear dissipated the first time I left a farm and became aware that what is deafening inside a shed is almost inaudible just 25 yards away.

There are certainly other reasons for aborted raids, such as discovery by farmers, which has been known to happen. Relative to just 20 years ago, there are only a handful of farms left and I would hope animal liberators would invest the preparation time to ensure they release 10,000 animals over finding themselves unprepared and leaving after releasing only 10.

#### **What lessons can we learn from the past 10+ years of fur farm liberations? What have been our mistakes?**

Mistakes: Not maintaining the momentum of the mid-to-late-90s that would have brought the end of the U.S. fur industry. And squandering risk-exposure on periphery targets (such as fur stores) in areas where farms or infrastructure targets are within a day's drive. A mink release on the right farm will be a much less risky endeavor than breaking the windows of a fur store. This is less a criticism than a call to cater every action for maximum impact.

#### **Did you issue communiqués for your actions?**

We issued no communiqués. There are pros and cons to issuing communiqués, and for live liberations, I see more pros than cons. Generally I think communiqués are a necessary element to any large-scale, successful action. Whatever our reasons at the time, we did not make any claims of responsibility and were focused solely on getting to the next farm. There was a plan to issue a communiqué after leaving the Midwest, making public all the intelligence gathered during our investigation of farms - from unknown addresses to farm layout and more. These notes were confiscated by the FBI during the seizure of our vehicle, and this information was never made public.

#### **Among fur industry actions you were not a part of, which stand out as most impressive, and what can we learn from them?**

The examples of multiple raids taking place back-to-back, such as the 5 raids that took place in 10 days during

August of 1998. Anyone who thinks fur farmers are on too high alert now to successfully empty their farms should take note there is no farmer on higher alert than one within 3 hours drive of a farm that had been raided the night before. Yet still liberators have still slipped in, released animals, and slipped out undetected. We should have an evidentiary basis for our fears, not vague assumptions rooted in a default-bias towards the path of least resistance.

#### **Offer your analysis of the direction mink and fox releases should take in the future.**

Bigger raids and more of them. There's nothing more to say.



#### **A.L.F. COMMUNIQUE ROESSLERBROS. FUR FARM RAID AUGUST 25TH, 2003**

"The Animal Liberation Front is claiming responsibility for the liberation of 10,000 mink from a Sultan fur farm (339th Ave SE - dirt road east of landing strip). Fencing was removed and nearly every cage opened. It has been shown through such efforts as the Mink Rehabilitation Project that farm raised mink can survive and flourish in the wild. All industry responses stating the contrary are lies. All institutions of animal exploitation - regardless of any attempts to conceal their bloody operations - will be located and the animals liberated.

-A.L.F.

We would also like to express our utter contempt for those who cooperate with the authorities in their hunt for animal liberators - especially snitch Justin Samuel of San Diego currently attempting to re-assimilate into the animal liberation movement. May you forever live in guilt, shame, and scorn."

On October 23, 1995 the Animal Liberation Front (A.L.F.) opened the cages on the Dargatz Mink Farm in British Columbia, Canada freeing 2,400 mink into the surrounding countryside. The liberation from the Dargatz Mink Farm was the first in what now has become 12 liberation raids by the A.L.F. of fur farms in North America in less than a year. The result has been the release of approximately 11,000 mink, 30 fox and one coyote from the intensive confinement that would have lead to death for all prisoners.

The release of animals from fur farms is nothing new. In the former Soviet Union, Iceland, mainland Scandinavia, Western Europe, Britain and Newfoundland, Animal Liberation raids as well as accidental and intentional escapes from fur farms have resulted in mink and some fox being introduced successfully into the natural environment.

In Britain, the ecological impact of these releases has been measured, and as liberated mink conveniently fill the ecological niche left by Britain's now extinct otter population, the negative impact has been minimal. In Iceland's island ecosystem, and in parts of Scandinavia, mink has been slightly more destructive to the ecological balance. Never has the question of formerly captive minks survivability been questioned by those in the know, only the level of impact these beautiful fierce predators have as they successfully readapt to a wild life.

#### NORTH AMERICAN MINK

In North America, its a whole different story. Although there is a Eurasian species, mink are believed to be native to North America with the theory that the Eurasian species originated from North American ancestors who crossed the ice bridge between this continent and Asia. Previous to the "discovery" of the "New World", mink were one of the many aquatic animals that flourished in virtually every lake and waterway in North America except the desert regions.

The war against the mink nation that continues today, began when the first Europeans invaded their homeland. When the Mayflower first rounded Cape Cod, Massachusetts in 1620, already Jamestown, Virginia was the hub of an extensive fur trade. A price list from 1621 records mink among other animals fetching up to ten shillings apiece on the market to which modern day fur farmers can claim as their bloody lineage.

The fur trade can also accept responsibility for causing the extinction of the native minks salt water cousin, the sea-mink. Nearly twice the size of their freshwater relations, and recorded as inhabiting the whole Northeastern North American Seaboard, and all that remains of this being are two skins and a pile of bones. That and of course the memory of one furrier who before the American Revolution recalls the pelt of the sea-mink selling for five guineas. And so it is, by the end of the 19th century, fresh-water mink were severely depleted from their former range in all of North America by a fur industry thirsty for the blood of this continents fur animals.

#### BEGINNINGS OF MINK CAPTIVITY

Unlike their European and Scandinavian counterparts, mink farmers in the United States and Canada began the attempted domestication and economic exploitation of mink often from live

captured wild mink populations. In the 1920's this new element to the fur trade began.

In 1925 Kent Vernon's family in Northern Utah (now president of the Utah fur-breeders Co-Op) live-trapped chicken-killing mink from the wild and began breeding them in captivity. In 1927 the U.S. Government opened its Experimental Furbearer Research Station in Corvallis, Oregon (shutdown by an A.L.F. raid in 1991) and began experimentation in different techniques to breed wild mink in captivity. With overexploited mink populations unable to satisfy the demands of an increasing demand for fur, trappers across North America began to captive-raise wild mink, and in the 1930's discovered fur mutations that altered the minks fur color. Now just 70 short years later, mink farmers are still battling the still dominant wild DNA of captive mink that causes these normally free-roaming solitary animals to contract diseases from close confinement, self-mutilate and even cannibalize their own kind. All for the price of a fur coat.

#### MINK INDUSTRY RESEARCH

Beginning in 1990, I researched mink farms by visiting over 25 in Oregon, Washington, Utah, Idaho, Montana, and Michigan. What began as a quest to document conditions and killing techniques on fur farms quickly turned into the study of the first ever attempted domestication of a North American predator. What I

learned both by my research and by the rescue rehabilitation, and release of sixty mink from a Montana farm leads me to conclude that all captive mink should be released, in one way or another, from their prisons we call fur farms.

Highly intelligent, fierce and very adaptive, mink are anything but successfully domesticated. Arguments by the fur industry that mink are domesticated are ludicrous. Like all wild animals held in captivity, some mink when released from their cages will fare better than others. Many factors will contribute to successful mink reintroduction as does the impact they will have on their surrounding eco-system. These are issues that I will address in this article.

#### INFILTRATION

In 1990-91, I spoke with many mink farmers and researchers who, believing I was a mink farmer, instructed me in ways to avoid my mink

from losing their recessive genetic structures that gave them the fur quality and color variation that separated them from their wild relations. Captive

mink are genetically 95% similar to their wild counterparts. The only difference besides behavior being fur color and quality which is solely maintained by a scientifically controlled diet, which is key to maintaining their genetic differences from wild mink. Black and dark mink being the closest genetically to wild mink.

Jim Leischow, a second generation mink farmer from Kenosha, Wisconsin described to me in a discussion at the 1991 Seattle Fur Exchange auctions how without a scientifically controlled diet, mink on any fur farm would lose their recessive genes, and over-powered by their dominant wild genetic structure, return to their wild roots in just a few generations. Leischow also detailed how a mink escapee that breeds with a wild mink would produce offspring that in one more generation would have lost all traces of any altered genetic structure.

#### IMPRISONED MINK STILL WILD

The difference between mink and other animals raised in intensive confinement is totally incomparable. Not only are all other domesticated livestock ungulated and herbivorous but they have also been domesticated for well over a thousand years. The closest comparison, which is hardly applicable, but for the sake of argument will be used, is the domestication of the common house cat. Originating in ancient Egypt, the cat has had over two thousand years of domestication,

# Open the Cages

From the 1996 essay by Rod Coronado

## Open the Cages

yet still this feline predator is proven capable of surviving in the wild as feral populations in the U.S. and Britain will attest to.

Once again, survivability is not the issue but impact on their native species. Captive mink are so far away from successful domestication that they are rarely caged together unless with their own off-spring, and then only until they reach sexual maturity. Self-mutilation and cannibalism, which is not uncommon on mink farms, is yet further proof of a wild animals' behavior as it attempts to deal with the neurosis caused by intensive confinement. Anyone who has ever been on a mink farm has heard the incessant scratching mink will make as they attempt to escape or attack their captive neighbors, separated only by a plastic or metal divider. This also is common behavior of a wild predator unfamiliar with close proximity to others of its own species. The psychological as well as physical torture associated with the confinement of mink naturally accustomed to solitary wandering is beyond our comprehension.

Genetically speaking mink are predominately still wild. Separated from their wild ancestors only by a controlled diet. Physiologically they are identical. What remains as the greatest division between wild and captive mink is predatory instincts and natural behavior which dictates how they hunt, find shelter, build nests and forage. Fear of other animals is minimal as mink are renowned for their fearlessness.

### MINK REHABILITATION PROJECT

These separations were the basis of personal research into the potential for rehabilitation and release of the 60 mink I had purchased in Montana in 1990. The Coalition Against Fur Farms (CAFF) began as a rehabilitation project, the objective being to determine the feasibility to reintroduce native mink from fur farms back into their natural habitat. In January of 1991 the trials began as CAFF volunteers placed mink in cages four times as large as their previous enclosures and introduced natural objects such as logs, rocks, plants, and gallon baths.

Fur farmers had assured me that escaped captive mink had at least a 50% chance of survival, and CAFF hoped to increase that figure as much as possible. The introduction of a 12"x6" bathtubs allowed the mink their first opportunity to acquaint themselves with water besides that which came from a small water nozzle or dish. Their response was to fully submerge themselves and spin in a cycle that quickly splashed all water out of their baths. This would be followed by grooming sessions in which the mink dried themselves and maintained utmost cleanliness, yet another sign of a healthy wild animal.

Once the mink had built up muscular strength after their time in a fur farms cramped conditions, we began to nurture hunting instincts. Though morally opposed to the killing of animals, CAFF felt that the survival of our captive mink could not be guaranteed without a minimal amount of live-animal feeding. We knew that our project would later be used by others to determine the potential for successful reintroduction of fur farm prisoners, and so chose to do everything possible to ensure not only their survival but also their survival without human dependency. This also meant live-feeding which would teach them how to hunt rather than scrounge near or where humans were. This would ensure greater independence and less likelihood of human/mink interactions.

The mink in our project dug into their instinctual memory to remind themselves how to first seize the prey with one bite, then without releasing it, crush down until the skull or neck was broken. Then the mink would scour the logs and rocks for others that may have gone unnoticed. Once assured of no other present prey, the mink would return to the kill and eat everything or place the remainder in its nest just like wild mink. Once the mink had learned to kill and had tasted live food, they refused to eat the scientific diet we had been supplied by National Fur Feeds.

### THE RELEASE

Finally, we released the mink to natural waterways across the Northwest's many forest lands. Always far from human habitations. And never within a 5-mile radius of another captive released mink of the opposite sex. We wanted to ensure the breeding only with wild mink. We also waited until the natural breeding season had passed so as not to burden the mink with the upbringing of offspring in their first season of freedom.

Our mink releases were filled with encouraging signs that the mink would survive. On one release a mink quickly found an abandoned animal burrow, and as we left we could see its head peeking out watching our departure. Another release had a young female mink burrowing under a log, gathering twigs and grass building a nest. Still another mink found a mouse hole, and burying its nose in it began to dig frantically. On many releases near streams the mink were quick to explore the shore of the water, eventually plunging in and swimming completely submerged playing with pebbles and rocks with their forepaws. Returning to one release site weeks later I quickly found mink droppings and tracks near the creek and the dropping contained hair from a preyed upon animal. Most of the behavior exhibited by our mink was not learned, but simply returned to them as they

found themselves in their natural element.

### THOUGHTS ON LIBERATIONS

It is my belief that the liberator becomes responsible for the lives of the liberated when she/he endeavors to free them. Ideally, the liberated will become truly independent of human needs and achieve complete liberation. But until then, there are a number of factors that liberators can influence to increase the possibilities of a liberated mink's survival.

The time of year the liberations take place is the highest priority. The best time being May and January, the worst being during the breeding and kit-bearing season. Releasing an impregnated mink increases the needs of the liberated mink for food and shelter, female mink naturally raise their kits alone. Releasing mink once they have given birth to a litter will also mean abandonment of kits, although some might be foster-raised by another mink mother.

Of course, it cannot be over-looked that all captive minks are destined for death, and there is room for debate as to which kind of death is more desirable, a mink being the only one to surely know. Still I have hesitated to release mink from fur farms near heavily traveled roads knowing a large number would become road kills. This is yet another moral dilemma the liberator must face when they decide to open the cages. Personally, I have seen mink watching as the gas-chambers are wheeled down the rows of cage, and seen them screech frantically and attempt all manner of last minute escape as it becomes painfully evident that they will die.

There is also the very compelling argument for liberation that even with the recapture of 100% of all released mink from a targeted farm, that the breeding has still been completely disrupted as farmers have no way of separately identifying their breeder mink from their pelted mink. A mink raised to be pelted will often be in a much smaller cage than a breeder mink. For this reason, liberators would do best by releasing mink from both large and small mink cages so as to confuse the two. As of yet mink farmers have not devised methods of tagging, branding or tattooing individual animals except for labeling on the cage. For this reason it is always advantageous to remove all record-keeping cards from cages when releasing mink.

Transportation of mink either a short distance from cage to guard fence or a larger distance is best achieved by securing the mink individually in its nestbox. A small flat piece of sheet metal is often used to divide and block the hole leading from the nestbox to cage at which point the nestbox can then be removed and the hold blocked with a gloved hand or more permanent



means for long transportation. Despite the average liberators aversion to leather, nothing protects human skin better than a thick pair of leather welding gloves which usually can be found lying around a mink farm. With criminal DNA testing liberators should take every precaution not to leave a blood trail of their own. Remember, you are dealing with a wild predator unfamiliar to kind human hands.

Often given the choice, a mink will leave the immediate area once outside of the guard fence, which usually is a 5-6 foot fence lined with sheet metal to prevent escape should mink get out of their cage. If left inside the guard fence often a mink will linger simply because of the smell of food or other mink cages, and also because of the familiarity of its own nestbox which is all it has ever known.

Once a large number of mink have method of natural distribution is the irate mink farmers attempting to will not overcrowd themselves in the travel 5 miles in one night (they are of mink released in one area will not they establish a territory all their own,



left the guard fence area the quickest waterways. Without interference from recapture his furry investments, mink wild. It is not uncommon for a mink to mostly nocturnal) and a large number stay concentrated but will travel until searching out other mink only to breed.

**ECOLOGICAL IMPACT**

This leads us to the issue of ecological on their new environment. There populations, and for this reason, guarantee that the sensitive habitat not nearby. Mink will attack almost dogs and heard a story of one seen of a large heron, the mink unwilling

impact caused by mass mink liberations will be noticeable impact on local prey liberators should research target areas to of a vulnerable endangered species is anything, I've seen mink chasing large flying through the air attached to the leg to release its targeted prey.

Mink will kill beyond their need, taken when releasing mink near large ferocious. Long persecuted at the hands of man, native predators are continually routinely killed by ranchers and other gun-toting humans. Much like the coyote has filled the ecological niche the wolf has left behind and by doing so extended its own historical range, so also do mink have the potential to fit nicely into the niche otters and other predators have left as their numbers are continually reduced by humans. Native mink populations are still drastically reduced, and given large-scale mink liberations, individual mink are sure to redistribute themselves to their former habitat with a little help from their two-legged friends.

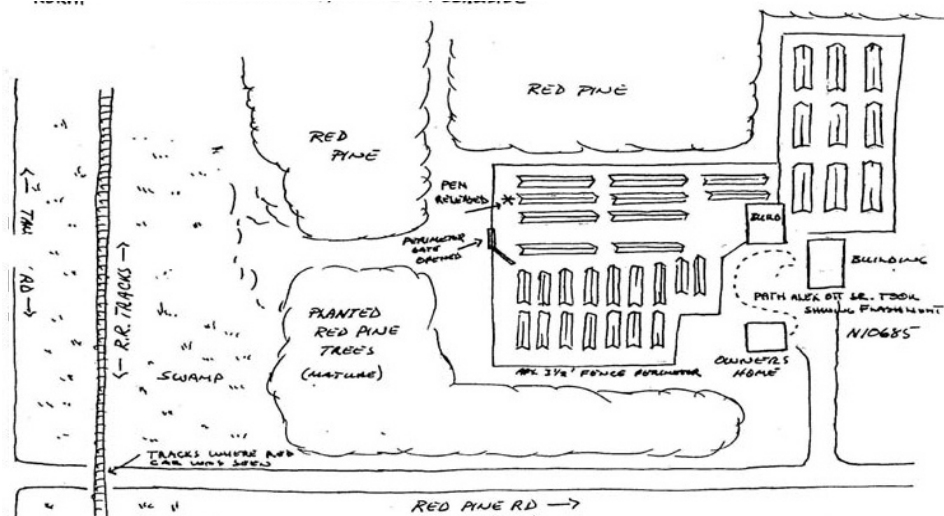
and for this reason caution should be concentrations of small animals. Mink are

There should not be hesitation to reintroduce captive mink into their native habitat. The ideal environment being underdeveloped areas with a nearby water source and infrequently used roads. As A.L.F. liberators open the cages, they not only liberate an individual animal but the whole species. Mink, fox, bobcat, and lynx farm liberations are not only a blow to a fur farmers' profits, but also a boost to North America's ravaged environment. With an absence of natural predators, prey populations often explode causing undue harm to their environment. By releasing fur farm prisoners, liberators are guardians of healthy eco-systems.

Before one single animal abuser can argue the merits of a captive fur animal's impact on the natural environment, they must first address the overall impact the whole domestic livestock industry has had on the earth. It is no coincidence that the number one reason behind predator eradication is the protection of politically powerful livestock interests. Still it remains that for the mink nations of North America the shortest path on the road to animal liberation lies from the opened cage to the outlying guard fence.

Now it is time for liberators across the continent to follow the lead of the A.L.F. in British Columbia, Washington, Utah, Wisconsin, Tennessee, New York, and Minnesota and take action to liberate the four-legged prisoners from the war on nature.

Until all fur farm prisoners are free.... Open the Cages!!!



**Sketch of Ott's Mink Ranch in Tomahawk, Wisconsin**



# Fur Farm Liberations: Myth Vs. Fact

**Myth:** Liberated mink will cause irreparable harm to the ecosystem.

**Fact:** This argument is usually preceded by the claim that the mink will starve to death because they haven't been taught to kill. If they don't know how to hunt, then they cannot kill wildlife. The truth is that mink kill out of instinct, much as does the domestic cat. No training or rehabilitation is necessary.

So do liberated mink kill wildlife? Of course they hunt wildlife. They are predators, and they help maintain the balance of nature by killing and eating prey animals. Yet they do not pose a threat to any particular species as a whole. Mink are not specialized predators. Certain predators, like lynx, will have a principal prey that they rely on. Lynx will usually only eat snowshoe hare, otter normally eat fish, etc. On the other hand, the mink will eat anything. Examination of mink scat shows they will eat mammals, fish, birds, reptiles and amphibians. They do not specialize, but rather eat whatever is most readily available. If liberated mink ate too many field mice, then it would be easier for them to then hunt nesting birds, fish, or even snakes. When the population of one food source grows low, mink will instinctively hunt what is more abundant, and therefore easier to find.

Furthermore, the mink is a solitary animal. The only time one will see mink together is when they are mating, or in the weeks immediately following their birth, when the mother is still caring for her kits. When released, mink go in search of their own habitat and will not tolerate the presence of other mink. Mink

normally have a range of just under 3 square kilometers. Being so spaced apart, it is unrealistic to assume that the mink could have enough of an impact on any particular species to make a noticeable difference.

This doesn't have to be a hypothetical argument based on interpretations of scientific literature. Mink have been released in large numbers, so where is the damage? The fact is, there isn't any. We know they have survived. But yet we aren't seeing this ecological damage the fur trade has predicted. In fact, the A.L.F. has done the earth a favor by raiding these farms. In addition to stopping the mass accumulation of animal wastes by shutting these places down, they have re-introduced mink to areas where they had been nearly wiped out. For example, the A.L.F. freed 400 mink from a fur farm in Sheboygan, WI. At roughly the same time there was concern about the lack of mink along the Sheboygan River. The A.L.F. was the only relief that river has gotten, in regards to that particular problem. It is estimated that as few as 150 lynx may still exist in Montana, yet the state still allows a trapping season.

Montana is the home of several lynx fur farms, and there is likely more lynx in captivity than in the wild. The lynx is only a few short generations out of the wild and even the Forest Service has considered using ranch lynx for reintroduction. Imagine what direct action groups could do without all of the red tape and bureaucracy.

Until the last cage is empty.....

## Five Questions: Lightning Round

### Why fur farms?

While no worse than any other factory farm, fur farms offer the Animal Liberation Front what is perhaps the greatest effort-to-yield ratio of any possible action, allowing a small number of people to save thousands of animals in very short time. Rescuing irreversibly domesticated animals brings the burden of having to home them, greatly limiting the number that can be saved. With the revelation in the 1990s that fur farmed animals can survive in the wild, the ALF had for the first time an option to save thousands of animals in one night. When combined with most people being within day's drive of a fur farm, and the industry's overall fragility, a fur farm raid is among the most high-impact options for the Animal Liberation Front.

### How long does releasing mink take?

One source stated that in his experience, two people can release 1,000 mink every 15 minutes, or 4,000 mink an hour. By this formula, four people can release 2,000 mink every 15 minutes, or 8,000 an hour.

### What does a fur farm look like?

The makeup is generally crude, with rows of sheds surrounded by a fence. A small processing and storage building is usually present. They are nearly always visible from the road. Generally a farmer's house will be on-site, but not always.

### Are sheds ever locked? How do I get in?

Sheds are the most common structure used to house mink. Other structures include outdoor cages, and large canopy-style barns. Whatever the case, they are nearly always easily accessible. Because of the biology of mink, sheds usually must be porous and allow outside air to come in. In the rare event a shed door is locked (or even has a door), they can usually be accessed from the sides, which are generally only partially walled-off to allow outside air in.

### What if I get caught?

The animals don't need excuses. And almost no one gets caught.

# Fur Commission USA

225 East Sixth Street  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101  
(612) 222-1080  
(612) 293-0532 fax

## URGENT—SECURITY ALERT

November 5, 1997

TO: U.S. FUR FARMERS  
FROM: FUR COMMISSION USA  
RE: ALF INCIDENT - INDIANA

Lair Fox Ranch, owned by Blaine Leffers in Ft. Wayne, Indiana, was attacked last night (Tuesday) by animal rights criminals. The guard fence was cut in two places with holes approximately 2' x 8'. All pens in the fox shed were opened, and 35 fox were removed out of a total of 99 housed on the farm. With the help of neighbors, Mr. Leffers has recovered most of the fox, but at least one was killed by an automobile. Local law enforcement authorities and the FBI have been notified and an investigation has begun.

This incident continues a pattern of animal rights violence in the Midwest during the last two months. Recently, there have been numerous reports by farmers of suspicious activity, including sightings of strange vehicles, with license numbers, and any aircraft flying over your farm. In the case of aircraft, look for identifying numbers on the tail or wings.

Please treat seriously any and all suspicious activity near your farm, and report it immediately to law enforcement authorities, your local FBI office and Fur Commission USA. Note descriptions of any strange vehicles, with license numbers, and any aircraft flying over your farm. In the case of aircraft, look for identifying numbers on the tail or wings.

Sheriff Breneman, Chief Deputy Bruce Daniels, District Attorney number representing 14 different ranches of fur farms. Attached hereto is a list of the individuals and telephone numbers owning the various fur ranches.

The purpose of this meeting was believed to have been a successful exchange of information both ways between law enforcement and concerns of the ranchers. It was readily detected of the animosity and frustration exemplified by many of the ranchers and efforts were made to explain as much as possible law enforcement efforts conducted thus far in attempting to gain evidence and conduct investigations in order to determine who the responsible individuals are.

Questions were raised by the ranchers regarding the carrying of firearms if they encounter individuals on their property. It was explained as best as possible the ramifications of why carrying of firearms or any other weapons should not be accomplished. It was explained that to the best of law enforcement's knowledge thus far, that the individuals were not believed to be armed and/or dangerous and therefore having or carrying a weapon if a confrontation were to occur would likely result in heightened action for which if conducted any individual would have to account for his or her actions as any other any other law enforcement officer would.

In addition to discussing other concerns, it was recommended that certain things could be accomplished in order to improve security and awareness during this time of year when it appears that the illegal release of animals are occurring just prior to the harvest of the same.

# LEAKED DOCUMENTS AN EXCLUSIVE

It was also discussed that certain measures could be considered to help improve security and/or obtain evidence should anyone else become victims of such illegal releases of animals. One area that was discussed concerned the temporary hiring of security personnel which was felt to be beneficial in that live patrols during the nighttime hours should readily detect if entrance was made into the mink sheds and thereby hopefully minimizing the loss to the rancher. In addition individuals could contact various alarm-type security companies as it was suggested modifications could be made to perimeter guard fences to detect when and if the fence were to be cut affording an egress for the released mink. Additionally, SA BRUNER advised checking into hidden cameras activated with infrared devices utilizing infrared film in order to obtain photographs of unknown subject(s) engaged in the process of releasing the mink illegally. It was further advised that the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in no way is sponsoring or making the recommendation for any particular brand or type of equipment but merely that these types of items exist and are readily available in supporting catalogs such as CABELLO's which are utilized by hunters to take nighttime photographs of wild game.

Ranchers also expressed concerns as to ultimate prosecution and types of charges which were partly answered by District Attorney Mutter and explained that potential State charges could also be duplicated by Federal charges of potentially higher significant penalties but no specific Federal violations of law were cited.

On October 29, 1997, writer received by United Parcel Service (UPS) a package of numerous documents and material from ROBERT BUCKLER, FUR COMMISSION USA, 225 East Sixth Street, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55101, telephone number (612) 222-1080. The information received also includes lists of militant animal rights activists by name and general criminal advice and techniques for followers of ALF (Animal Liberation Front) in targeting fur ranchers across the United States.

Writer was advised by BUCKLER during a telephone conversation of other individuals across the country that could be helpful in identification of ALF members from various law enforcement communities conducting extensive research on this subject. BUCKLER advised one of these individuals is Sergeant Bill Galvin, Syracuse Police Department, Syracuse, New York, telephone number (315) 425-1034, as well as Officer Mike Larson, Portland, Washington, Police Department, telephone number (503) 823-0983. BUCKLER further advised that he has

BROMM, stated she and her husband were doing business at one time as the TWILIGHT MINK FARM. Mrs. BROMM stated, however, that she and her husband went out of business in 1990, basically because of the animal rights movement when a lot of customers stopped buying fur coats. BROMM reported that RONALD JACOBSON, formerly doing business as the L AND R MINK RANCH of rural Story City, Iowa, is also out of business, as is also CHRIS HILLPIPRE,

JIM LANGER, Norman Road, Norman, Wisconsin, was contacted and he advised that he and his brother own a mink farm at that location. LANGER stated that his farm has approximately 20,000 animals and a total loss could be as much as \$1,000,000.

GARY YAUGER, 2902 Highway 310, Two Rivers, Wisconsin, advised that he is the owner of a mink farm at that location. YAUGER has approximately 13,000 animals which he values at between \$250,000 to \$300,000.



**WITH THE FEW FUR INDUSTRY TARGETS REMAINING, AIM FOR ACTIONS OF GREATEST IMPACT. SPRAY PAINTING A FEED SUPPLIER WILL BE OF LITTLE EFFECT, AND LEAVE THOSE WHO MAY ONE DAY ATTEMPT A SIGNIFICANT ACTION TO DEAL WITH INCREASED SECURITY.**

**THINK BIG.  
ACT BIG.**

*All actions against animal abuse industries are motivated by one goal: To save lives. Whether in the short term (mink liberation) or the long term (destruction of a feed supplier),*

*A look at the most commonly imprisoned animals on US fur farms:*

## Mink

By far the most common. Over 90% of the addresses here are for farms that only imprison mink. Over 3 million mink are killed on US fur farms annually (with the number rising due to a surge in demand from China).

Released mink will make a lot of noise in large numbers, and will fight each other. They will attack fingers / gloves through the cages, however seem to grow more “friendly” when released, and there have been no reports of mink attacking the feet / ankles of their liberators during a raid.

## Fox

Because the industry is so small, there are no USDA statistics or other reliable figures on the number of foxes killed for fur. What is known is that fox farms are few and far between. Most fox farms are small backyard operations, with the largest known fox farm having close to 1,000 foxes (compared to the large mink farm, with over 120,000).

This niche of the fur industry is more difficult to track than mink, and it is possible only a small percentage of the actual number of fox farms is currently known.

# *Those we fight for* **FUR FARM PRISONERS: A SPECIES OVERVIEW**

Unlike mink, foxes are extremely timid and may not leave their cages immediately when released - if at all. Every effort should be made to coax them out, or physically remove them from the property if possible. The primary advantage to raiding a fox farm over a mink farm is that foxes are silent, and can be released without concern for awakening a fur farmer.

## Miscellaneous species

Other species can be raised for fur, including coyotes, bobcats, and lynx. Information on lynx farms is very sparse. It was previously believed the largest (and one of the only) lynx farms in the country was the Fraser Fur Farm in Ronan, MT. New information indicates the farm may only imprison bobcats (which are nearly identical in appearance). The only farm confirmed to imprison lynx presently is the Schultz Fur Farm in Arnegard, North Dakota. Information on bobcat farms is nearly as scarce. Coalition Against Fur Farms has posted the addresses of dozens of bobcat farms, however the purpose of individual farms (fur or otherwise) isn't known.

One reason for the low number of lynx and bobcat fur farms, despite the high value of their pelts, is that they sell for a much higher amount when bred as pets. There are many large cat breeders across the country who breed domesticated bobcat and lynx, and some such farms that have been investigated have been found to be pet breeders.





# EVASION AND CIRCUMVENTION

## FUR FARM SECURITY: A SYNOPSIS

Since the tidal wave of mink releases in the 1990s, which saw dozens of farms raided and many farms shut down forever, fur farms have taken steps to increase security. But not as much as would be expected. With approximately 90 raids and 270 mink farms remaining, every farm that's left faces a very real threat of being hit by the ALF eventually. Yet one puzzling reality remains: Almost no fur farms have security. Why?

The reality is, fur farms operate on such a razor-thin profit margin that most simply cannot afford it. The rest arrogantly believe the ALF will never come to their farm, despite statistics that don't offer them the best odds.

Most fur farms are small family operations, and are either unaware of the threats or unable to afford to effectively prevent them. What this amounts to is that only a very small fraction of farms in the US utilize electronic or human security.

And when they do, the ALF has shown themselves to be capable of effectively circumventing it. Rick Aritolla of the Aritolla Mink Ranch reported his farm had a sophisticated motion-sensor security system in place before raiders released 10,000 mink there in 1997.

The best overview of fur farm security from the farmers perspective comes from a leaked document called "*Site Security and Protocols*", published by the Fur Commission USA. This document was intended for distribution to fur farmers only, and reveals exactly what the largest fur farm trade group recommends farmers use to protect against the ALF (though almost none seem to heed their advice).

### Fences

The most common deterrent, present at over 95% of all fur farms (yet there remain farms that do not even take this minimal precaution).

Each fence is unique, and a close look at the design should reveal the best approach to stripping it away. Remember the number of animals that escape is directly proportionate to the amount of fencing that is removed.

Fences charged with electricity are not uncommon. Generally only one or a small number of wires are charged and can be avoided.



### Fencing alarms

There are no known reports of these being used, however the Fur Commission recommends them. These involve use of a wire which, if cut, activates the alarm system.



Photoelectric motion sensors. Advertising literature reads: "Create a fence you can't even see."

### Photoelectric Sensors

These are invisible beams projected from small black boxes, usually positioned in the corners of the farm (inside the fence). These are extremely rare, however they have been reported at farms in the Northwest and at at least one farm in the Midwest. Some have reported success dropping to the ground and rolling under the beam. However other alarms appear to have a fan-shaped scope of coverage, where this would not be effective. As with any invisible-yet-potential threat, one can carry out the action that would trigger the alarm, then retreat to await a response. If there is no response, it can be presumed the alarm was bypassed.

### Dogs

The occasional farm will have a dog loose among the sheds. Effective approaches for managing loud or threatening animals will vary by situation. Optimally, dogs can be tethered to the fence using an animal control-style emergency leash used for dangerous animals.

### Cameras

Occasionally farms have video cameras. Farmers have also been advised by police to install still or video cameras triggers by motion. Note that the Fur Commission also advises the use of fake cameras for farms that can't afford real ones.

### Security Guards

Another extremely rare form of security. There is evidence some larger farms have hired overnight security guards, particularly during pelting season. This is cost-prohibitive for all but the largest farms, yet sufficient reconnaissance should be employed before advancing on a larger farm to ensure no one is on site. Remember there is nothing that can't be circumvented with enough finesse.



## A NOTE ON BREEDING SCHEDULES

ATTENTION MUST BE GIVEN TO BREEDING CYCLES IN THE LIBERATION OF FUR FARM PRISONERS. MINK AND FOX ARE KILLED IN NOVEMBER OR DECEMBER, AND ARE NOT WEANED UNTIL MAY OR JUNE. IT IS IMPORTANT TO BE MINDFUL THAT ANIMALS ARE NOT FIT TO BE RELEASED UNTIL THEY HAVE BEEN WEANED. THE MINK MUST BE AT A POINT WHERE THEY CAN BE SELF-SUFFICIENT IN THE WILD. THE WINDOW OF TIME ADVISABLE FOR FUR FARM LIBERATIONS IS JUNE TO OCTOBER. EARLIER AND THE ANIMALS MAY NOT BE IN A POSITION TO FEND FOR THEMSELVES, LATER AND IT MAY BE TOO LATE TO SAVE THEM.

	MINK	FOX	LYNX
<b>Breeding</b>	Feb./ March	Feb.- April	March
<b>Gestation (in days)</b>	40-75	52-53	
<b>Birth</b>	April	April/ May	May/ June
<b>Weaned</b>	May	June	April
<b>Killed</b>	Nov./Dec.		varying



# GOING FOR THE THROAT

*Highlights From The Frontlines*

**Drewelow & Sons Farm Raid**  
New Hampton, Iowa  
September 7th, 2000  
14,000 mink released

Largest animal release in North America to date.  
Days after the raid, the farmer reported 7,000 mink were still free.

**Simultaneous Actions in Wisconsin**  
**United Feeds arson**  
and  
Release of 3,000 mink  
Plymouth, WI  
August 8th, 1999

As fire destroyed the cooperatively owned United Feeds mink feed operation, 3,000 mink were released from the nearby Gene Meyer Fur Farm. The simultaneous action saw the total destruction of the feed operation, jointly owned by over 20 mink farmers in a region with one of the highest concentrations of fur farms in the country. Addition-

ally, Gene Meyer announced in the wake of the action he could not survive the loss of profits and would be closing.

**Scott Nelson fur farm double raid**  
Ellsworth, IA  
October 16th, 2001  
October 20th, 2001  
Release of 2,000 mink  
Subsequent release of 1,600 mink

The Animal Liberation Front took credit for the overnight release of every animal at the Scott Nelson mink farm. In the media the following day, Nelson announced most of the animals had been recaptured. The ALF returned 4 days later and re-liberated every animal. The following day, Scott Nelson announced the farm would be closing.

**Operation Bite Back**  
Nationwide  
June 1991 to October 1992

- Oregon State University Experimental Fur Farm
- Northwest Farm Foods
- Washington State University
- Malecky Mink Ranch
- Michigan State University
- USDA Predator Research Station
- Utah Fur Breeder's Cooperative
- Rocky Mountain Fur Company

Operation Bite Back was a campaign to destroy the fur industry, brought to five states over 16 months. Using arson, liberations, and theft and destruction of documents; 7 key points in the fur industry were targeted in an attempt to completely eradicate the fur industry's research apparatus. Rodney Coronado was indicted for his role in this campaign, and sentenced to 57 months in prison.



## A CALL OF THE WILD

Written on the eve of the raid on Oregon State University's Experimental Fur Farm.

Let it be recognized that the Earth, and all life upon it, is under massive attack by human forces that would destroy all of nature for the sake of economic, and personal gain. We are at the most critical stage of ecological destruction in human history, with every form of indigenous non-human, and human life threatened with continued exploitation, and biological extinction.

If the animal nations, and the land they live in to survive, then we must act now.

Hundreds are murdered every minute, thousands every hour, and millions of animals are slaughtered everyday. All for the meat we eat, the leather and fur we wear, and the countless other by-products fed to our society by the earth-destroying industries involved in animal abuse. The reasons behind predator control, and over-grazing, are to protect the interest of the livestock industry. We know the facts, and even who is doing it, now is the time when direct action speaks louder than words.

Over the last fifteen years, the Animal Liberation Front has maintained an active role in covertly challenging the institutions of animal abuse, and also environmental destruction. The Animal Liberation Front has rescued thousands of animals from vivisection laboratories and suppliers, factory-farms, fur-farms, and other places where they were being imprisoned, and tortured. The Animal Liberation Front has also caused tens of millions of dollars of damage to property being used to destroy life, by continuing an effective campaign of "economic sabotage". But this is not enough!

In order to topple the infrastructure of animal exploitation it is necessary to launch a full-scale guerilla war against animal, and earth abuse industries. Unlike any other war, the war fought by the Animal Liberation Front in the last fifteen years, has been one where life is the highest value, not real estate, or political power. It is a struggle where we retain a moral high ground above our enemies because we attack only the machines and property of destruction, and not those that operate them. To justify the destruction of life, is to forfeit our call for respect of all life. The defense of nature and animals can be attained without more killing. The full benefits of economic sabotage have yet to be tapped by the animal, and environmental movements.

It is time to continue the re-revolutionary process that will spare natural diversity, and non-human beings from the remorseless path of modern society. It is time to be acknowledged as a part of the solution, not a part of the problem. There is no more middle of the road, or fence to sit on any longer. It is time to abandon our biological prejudice, and speciesism that prevents us from risking our own freedom to obtain that of an imprisoned sister or brother.

If we truly believe in an affinity with all life on Earth, then let us now defend it by all means necessary.

There can be no true freedom as long as one of our non-human family members is imprisoned by the power of human-kind. The destiny of the Earth is in our own hands. We can choose to spend our precious time and energy on mild reforms, and temporary victories, or we can strive for total liberation of the animal nations by refusing to accept the ineffective avenues of change that governments offer us. We must never expect the power-structure to release its stranglehold on nature and animal-kind voluntarily. Nor can we expect to liberate the animal nations through the sanctioned methods of the very institutions that oppress them.

It has been one-hundred and twenty years since human tribes aggressively challenged the United States Government to defend animal life. Unfortunately for Western North America, and all that lived upon her, that battle was lost. But the struggle has just begun again. In the spirit of the buffalo, prairie wolf, and laboratory rat, we must organize an effective underground movement that can maintain a relentless campaign of economic sabotage against the anti-life corporations that mutilate animals, and ravage their homelands. We must continue our attacks, and strike repeatedly until the anti-nature forces are beaten down from their dominating platform of oppression.

For too long we have tried to reach the hearts of the heartless, while our sisters, and brothers have continued to fall. We have appealed for peace on every level governments have offered us. Always with the same disappointing results. We can no longer compromise the lives of those we have no right to represent at the bargaining table of anthropocentric society. There is no more time to wrestle with philosophies that place animal life below that of property. To disregard the sanctity of life is a moral crime, as well as a breaking from the laws of nature. There is no longer a use for passive resistance, such tactics are only effective against an opposition that respects life. There is only time for aggressive self-defense of the innocent victims of human greed, and patriarchy.

The genocidal war being waged against the Earth, and all that live upon her, is unjustifiable, and unacceptable to human beings that still embrace compassion, and freedom as higher values than material wealth, and power. It is very important to recognize in our struggle, that the forces that exploit the Earth, and animals, have amassed too much power, and authority, in order to fight them overtly. We must not offer our own lives as fodder for the police. They have all the guns, and money, but we have the spirit of nature on our side and sabotage must be the Earth's revenge.



This is only one human voice from the front-lines of the war to protect animals, and defend the Earth. There are few of us, and many of them. We are tired, and grow weary. We desperately need others to fight the struggle, or the Animal Liberation Front will exist only as a memory, like the native riders of the Great Plains.

As is the case with many other members of the Animal Liberation Front, I am ready to die for the defense of our Mother Earth. We will not escape the clutches of the government forever. For this reason, we must recruit new members if we are to turn the tide of animal exploitation. This is a call to those who can no more turn away from the cries for freedom emitting from every research laboratory, factory-farm, fur-farm, circus, and wilderness. A call to individuals who can no longer tolerate the screams of pain from our non-human sisters, and brothers. You are the Animal Liberation Front and the animal nations need you.

Do not send money to ease your conscience, do not attend more police monitored demonstrations, and do not write letters to political waste-paper baskets.

Instead organize, stratagize, and act now. Locate friends that you trust that feel the same way you do, then keep your mouth shut. Remember, one individual can make a difference, and a group of people can change the world. Do not look for romantic adventure, or self-gratification in this struggle. In autonomy is the birth of true personal liberation. There will be rewards, and they will be beyond your wildest imaginations. They will come as you fight for freedom with others in the night. They will come everytime a fur shop you strike goes out of business, everytime an animal you liberate runs free, and everytime an animal concentration camp you torch burns to the ground.

There will come a time when we ourselves begin to fall, when we are the imprisoned animal behind bars. It will not be the first time someone is imprisoned because of their adherence to the laws of nature. Then is when we must remember that whatever happens to us in a jail cell, is little compared to the torture inflicted upon animals by industry, and government. With good security, and common sense, we can deny the opposition a victory over us, and the Earth. We can remain free. It has been seven years since my first Animal Liberation Front action. Governments cannot imprison ideas, and spirit, neither can they squash the voice for freedom, and struggle for justice for all. To government, nothing is more dangerous than a people that rise above their control, and empower themselves with the self-confidence to act against state-sponsored terrorism.



We must also discover that liberation is a process that begins with ourselves. It must be your first Animal Liberation action. It will come as you question, and reject the guidelines and laws of our society forced on us since birth. Values and beliefs that have only served to breed apathy, and insensitivity to the crimes being committed daily around us. Rules of society that have allowed so much death and destruction to continue against the Earth, animals, and ultimately, ourselves. We must instead strive to live with one another in a non-oppressive, life-respecting way that allows for us to rediscover all that the Earth offers us if we only choose to listen. Listen to the language that others have forgotten, and what others have attempted to destroy.

I do not speak for myself only, but try to also speak on behalf of those without a voice. Through the years I have seen their eyes behind the wire, and have witnessed their agony in death. It is a very real tragedy, what we do to our fellow beings on Earth. Rather than hate ourselves because of what our species has done, we must show the animal nations that all of human-kind is not evil. We must make our own lives an example of how peaceful coexistence can become a reality. It all starts with you. The strength of a small group of people is limitless when we start to break free.

As we raid Oregon State University's Experimental Fur Farm tonight we will see hundreds of animals in cramped cages that will be killed this November. We will try to save some of them. For the rest, I will beg of you to throw down your petitions, and pick-up your pry-bars. Membership in the Animal Liberation Front begins with your first "illegal" direct action on behalf of animals.

Animal liberation is literally only a stone's throw away, it must spread to your local butcher shop, fur salon, and chicken farm. May the flames of animal liberation engulf every structure representing animal and Earth abuse. The Animal Liberation Front must never die, for if it does, the hopes of freedom for billions of animals will be forever drowned in the business as usual attitude of the animal abuse industries.

For the women, and men of the Animal Liberation Front, I call on you to join us as warriors of a new society, one that will include all species in our global community. A place where the cry of the coyote, and song of the whale mean as much as the voice of any human. May we rescue natural diversity and all animals that belong in it, from ecological genocide at the hands of patriarchal domination. Be driven not by anger, or frustration, but by love and desire to be free in a world where all are equal.

Western Wildlife Cell Member  
ANIMAL LIBERATION FRONT

# Media Work

Media coordination adds impact to an action. Releasing 5,000 animals brings immediate relief to those animals. National media attention brings to animal liberation message to millions, deals a public-relations blow to the fur industry, deters animal flesh or skin consumption among the public, and keeps the plight of animals a part of the public dialogue. This has the potential to indirectly save thousands or millions of more animals.

The following can be incorporated into an action to ensure maximum impact:

## Photos

Documenting the conditions on a fur farm with photographs, and documenting the raid itself, can inspire activists and educate the public when the documentation is distributed to supportive above-ground groups and the media.

## Video

When clandestine raiders released 2,000 mink from the Scott Nelson mink farm in Ellsworth, Iowa; they took video of the raid, released it to the media, and gave millions of people their first glimpse inside a fur farm. Video is only reasonable at farms so small that one person working a camera will not directly translate to few cages that will be opened - i.e. those farms guaranteed to be

emptied even with one fewer hand.

## Communiques

Issuing a communique detailing an action and the intentions behind it serve several functions. One, it gives those behind anonymous actions a voice.

The media can and does broadcast content from commu-

niques and incorporates them into their coverage, making your motivations clear, and countering the industry's inaccurate assertions of the ALF's motives being anything other than compassion. Two, they serve as an inspiration for others. Three, working information into communiques can be effective to disseminate valuable info to the activist community - info such as farm addresses and closures. (Anyone with new updates for our fur farm list is encouraged to distribute the info widely, preferably in the form of a communique claiming an action.)

Communiques can be distributed via email using the anonymizing service TOR, or by mail. (See the Without a Trace section for a list of precautions.) These can be sent to the media directly, or the Animal Liberation Press Office (who will take it from there).

Due to the research of a handful of dedicated individuals, we are closer to a complete list of US fur farms now than any point in history. However, there are farms that have so far flown under the radar.

# DIY Research

A few tactics to discover new farms and supplement this list:

## Follow feed supply trucks.

We are including a list of the known feed suppliers, whose trucks must regularly visit the majority of fur farms in the US - those farms known and unknown.

## Media reports.

Recently, a new fur farm was learned of when an empty shed caught fire and the media made public it's location. Check news reports regularly.

## Business entity searches.

Every state has a means by which individuals can review lists of licensed businesses in the state. Often these are available online.

## Social engineering.

Sometimes the best way to learn something is to ask.

## Satellite images.

Farms often cluster together. If you think there may be undiscovered mink farms in a particular area. Google satellite images should reveal their location. Mink sheds have a very telltale appearance which is generally obvious from above. One can aerially scan a large area for sheds in only a few minutes.

## Ingenuity

Ask yourself who has the information you seek, and how you can get it. The best intelligence often comes out of the greatest ingenuity.



**Hawkeye Mink Feed Cooperative, Jewel IA Broken into, fur farm addresses taken 2002**



# THE FUR FARM LIST

## A History

Hidden from public view is the secret (and rich) history of the fur farm list. Unlike other industries, whose addresses are compiled by industry and governments and readily available, fur farm addresses are heavily guarded. Fur farmers are instructed to never post their address online, to be weary of phone calls from anyone asking their address, and never reveal their locations even in insider trade journals. The industry is so small and decentralized, there may be less than a half dozen people – if any - who have the “master list.”

Then how did activists obtain these addresses? From what little we know, it wasn't easy.

The first known lists of fur farms began to circulate in the early-1990s, released by Rod Coronado and his group **Coalition Against Fur Farms (CAFF)**. They enjoyed limited circulation, yet represented the first times addresses of fur farms and infrastructure targets had been made public. **The Coalition to Abolish the Fur Trade (CAFT)** and other groups distributed these lists over the next several years.

Then, in 1996, came *The Final Nail #1*. It was the first fur farm list distributed on a large scale, compiling the address of every known fur farm, feed supplier, fur industry researcher, and more. The results were instant and historic: in the 2.5 years that followed, there were over 50 raids of fur farms across the US. But where did the addresses come from?

It is widely speculated that the addresses in the original *Final Nail* (which form the foundation for the lists we have today), were derived from documents removed from fur industry research labs during Operation Bite Back (see *Going for the Throat – Highlights From the Frontlines*).

This is what we do know: *The Final Nail #1* and *#2* (released in 1997) were compiled by Darren Thurston, a former

ALF prisoner from Canada. After another arrest for ALF actions in 20005, he admitted to the FBI that he created *The Final Nail*. Thurston turned informant and implicated others. After his release from prison he appears to have vanished from the animal liberation movement.

*The Final Nail #3* was released in the summer of 2008. It offered the first (and largest) fur farm list update since 1996, with over 100 new fur farms. It is believed this windfall of new information



came from two sources: The combined notes of several ALF operatives over the previous 12 years of fur farm raids (the introduction stated “this information was pooled from... numerous individuals, none of whom will be revealed to protect those guilty of transgressing unjust laws”), and documents obtained from the break-in at the Hawkeye Mink Cooperative in Jewel, Iowa (2003).

Around this time, a new website, FinalNail.com (unrelated to the print version) launched, and continues to this day. The site is frequently updated with new fur farm addresses as they become known. The majority of new fur farm

addresses from 2008 to 2013 have debuted on this site. One recent update included over 60 previously unknown mink farms.

In 2009, the **Fur Farm Intelligence Project** was launched, which sought to close the intelligence gaps and offer the largest and most detailed fur farm list ever compiled. The project added a road trip component, where over 200 fur farms were visited in person to confirm their “open” or “closed” status. This cleaned up the list significantly, with many farms that had lingered for years without having been confirmed were found to have been empty for years. Dozens of new farms were also uncovered, and hundreds of photos taken.

An anonymous group calling itself **The Fur Farm Intelligence Unit** issued communiques with new fur farm addresses, starting in 2009. In one from 2012, they released the addresses of over 90 (unconfirmed) fox farms. Within weeks, one of the farms that debuted on the list – the Scott Dean fox farm in Elkton, VA – was raided, with 13 foxes released.

In 2012, the publisher of the first fur farm lists, **Coalition Against Fur Farms**, was resurrected by all new volunteers. The groups continues where the previous incarnation left off, tracking the fur industry and regularly publishing new addresses on its website as they become known.

The editors of *The Final Nail #4* have brought together the work of everyone above to bring the most comprehensive and detailed fur farm list to date. Much of the how-to material from *#3* was borrowed, with many updates added.

We release this volume in honor of the work, sacrifices, triumphs and losses of those who have at times risked everything to bring us the addresses contained herein. This is for them, and the animals we all fight for.

## Arkansas

Elmore Farm  
1400 Hwy. 96 W  
Mansfield, AR 72944  
Contact: Lesley O. Elmore  
Notes: Mink farm. Farm may be closed (investigation needed)

## California

Fur Information Council of America  
8424-A Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 860  
West Hollywood, CA 90069  
Phone: (323) 782-1700 or (323) 848-7940  
Fax: (323) 651-1417  
Contact: Keith Kaplan, Executive Director  
Notes: FICA describes its mission as, "to perform the following: a) protect and improve the public and internal image of the fur industry; b) promote public understanding of the principles of wildlife management and conservation as they relate to the fur industry; c) protect furriers from harassment and illegal activity by anti-fur protestors, demonstrators and activists; and d) develop and coordinate cooperation within the fur industry."

## Georgia

Branson W. Ritchie  
University of Georgia  
College of Veterinary Medicine  
Department of Small Animal Medicine and Surgery  
501 D.W. Brooks Drive, Room H316  
Athens, GA 30602  
Phone: (706) 542-6316  
E-mail: britchie@uga.edu  
Notes: Fur industry researcher. Dr. Ritchie is involved in a research project studying the Aleutian mink disease virus. New fur industry researcher, according to the Fur Farm Intelligence Unit: "Richie has volunteered his research skills to the mink industry as part of the proposed Mink Genome Project. This project aims to alleviate the industry of one of its biggest threats: aleutian disease. He has offered cell mediated research to isolate mink genes that are resistant to AD. This research will be done in partnership with Dr. John Easley of Plymouth, Wisconsin, who is also a leading expert in mink disease. Ritchie is awaiting funding from the Fur Commission USA's research commit-

tee before the Mink Genome Project is launched."

## Idaho

Jack Rose, Professor of Physiology  
Department of Biological Sciences  
Idaho State University  
Gale Life Sciences Bldg., Room 306/307  
650 Memorial Drive  
Pocatello, ID 83209  
Phone: (208) 282-4261  
Notes: Fur industry researcher. Received \$6,000 grant from Fur Commission USA in 2010. Dr. Rose has received funding from the fur industry for many years to study reproduction in mink. Obtains research mink from Moyle Minkery.

**Note about Franklin, Idaho:**  
**This small town on the Utah border has 11 known mink farms, many of them small, micro-operations scattered around downtown. Police reports document a release of 30 mink from an unspecified Franklin fur farm on July 13th, 2010.**

Rock Ridge Farms  
312 Parkinson Road  
Franklin, ID 83237  
Phone: (208) 646-2559  
Contact: Todd M. Hansen  
Notes: Mink farm.

Hobbs Fur Farm  
331 Parkinson Road  
Franklin, ID 83237  
Phone: (208) 646-2418  
Fax: (208) 646-2688  
Contact: Boyd T. Hobbs  
Notes: Mink and fox farm. Located on east side of Parkinson & Little Mountain Roads. Confirmed open (summer 2009).

Kevin Hobbs Fur Farm  
4175 S. Parkinson Road  
Franklin, ID 83237  
Contact: Kevin Hobbs  
Notes: Mink farm. Confirmed open (summer 2009).

Hobbs Furs  
24 North 1st East  
Franklin, ID 83237  
Phone: (208) 646-2401  
Contact: Jeffrey T. Hobbs  
Notes: Mink farm. Also, "pick your own" pumpkins and squash.

Newbold Fur Farm  
30 North 1st East  
Franklin, ID 83237  
Phone: (208) 646-2439  
Contact: Eva Gene Newbold, Don Newbold, Jr.  
Notes: Mink farm.

Brets Mink Ranch  
2904 South 2800 East  
Franklin, ID 83237  
Phone: (208) 646-2513 or (208) 646-2634  
Contact: Bret D. & Annette Hansen  
Notes: Located just south of E. Cub River Road.

Roger Griffeth  
38 W. Main  
Franklin, ID 83237  
Phone: (208) 646-2245  
Notes: Mink farm.

Kingsford & Son  
250 South 1st East  
Franklin, ID 83237  
Phone: (208) 646-2323  
Contact: Larry & Marlene Kingsford  
Notes: Mink farm.

Whitehead Mink Ranch  
205 South 2nd East  
Franklin, ID 83237  
Phone: (208) 646-2489  
Contact: Jerry Whitehead

Scot Hansen  
244 South 2nd East  
Franklin, ID 83237  
Phone: (208) 760-0213  
Notes: Mink farm.

Hawkes Fur Ranch  
3647 East Maple Creek Road  
Franklin, ID 83237  
Phone: (208) 646-2423  
Contact: Jerry Hawkes, David Hawkes  
Notes: Mink farm.

Ch Farm & Fur  
1917 One Mile Road  
Grace, ID 83241  
Phone: (208) 705-7068 or (208) 425-9157  
Contact: Corry Hatch  
Notes: Mink farm. Wild fur buyer; receiving depot for North American Fur Auctions

## FUR FARM LIST

Mathews Brothers  
670 Mingo Road  
Grace, ID 83241  
Phone: (208) 425-3351  
Fax: (208) 425-3214  
Contact: Mark D. Mathews, Dean  
M. Mathews, Blair Mathews, Richard  
Mathews  
Notes: Mink farm.

Bill & David Ball  
2726 North 5600 West  
Malad City, ID 83252  
Notes: Large farm with 20,000 mink.  
Very remote location. Approximately 24  
sheds. No house on site.. The Ball broth-  
ers also operate a fur farm in Morgan,  
Utah (B & D Fur Farm). Confirmed  
open (summer 2009).

Lew Palmer Mink Ranch  
1768 South 600 West  
Preston, ID 83263  
Phone: (208) 852-1375  
Fax: (208) 852-0814  
Contact: Lewis J. & Staci Palmer  
Notes: Sheds close to road. Located  
across the street from Lew Palmer Mink  
Farm. Confirmed open (summer 2009).  
**5,000 mink liberated, 10-6-97**

Palmer Mink Ranch  
1988 South 600 West  
Preston, ID 83263  
Contact: James R. & Linda Palmer  
Notes: Confirmed open (summer 2009).

Kent Griffeth Fur Farm  
2214 S 1600 E  
Preston, ID 83263  
Phone: (208) 852-3118  
Fax: (208) 852-3175  
Contact: Kent B. & Debbie Griffeth  
Notes: Mink farm. Located at southwest  
corner of S 1600 E and E 2200 S.

Doney's Mink Ranch  
753 E 3200 N  
Preston, ID 83263  
Phone: (208) 852-2178  
Fax: (208) 852-0274  
Contact: Kay Doney  
Notes: Mink farm.

Sandy Hill Mink Ranch  
2951 West Hwy. 36  
Weston, ID 83286  
Phone: (208) 852-2307  
Contact: Dwain L. & Sandra Weeks

Notes: Reported closed (summer 2009).

Sunny B Farms  
2665 W 4400 S  
Weston, ID 83286  
Phone: (208) 747-3137  
Fax: (208) 747-3213  
Contact: Kent W. & Suzanne R. Beck-  
stead  
Notes: Mink farm.

Geary Fur Farm  
425 S 400 W  
Burley, ID 83318  
Phone: (208) 678-3327  
Fax: (208) 678-6098  
Contact: Jed & Treena Geary  
Notes: Mink farm. Located at southeast  
intersection of 400 S and S 400 W. 22  
sheds. House at a distance from the  
sheds.  
Confirmed open (summer 2009).

Warner & Sons  
125 S 350 E  
Burley, ID 83318  
Phone: (208) 678-8642  
Contact: Gary Warner  
Notes: Located southeast corner of S  
350 E and E. Highway 81. Farm may be  
closed (investigation needed).

Moyle Mink Ranch  
571 E. Highway 81  
Burley, ID 83318  
Contact: Don Moyle, Cindy Moyle  
Phone: (208) 654-2033  
Fax: (208) 654-2446  
Notes: Located off Highway 81, south on  
S 600 E to end of road. Confirmed open  
(summer 2009). Cindy Moyle is a Board  
Member, Fur Commission USA (as of  
2012).

Raft River Mink Ranch  
1175 S. Highway 81  
Declo, ID 83323  
Phone: (208) 645-3201  
Contact: Nate S. Carson  
Notes: New mink farm (incorporated  
January 2010). No  
house on site.

Moyle & Sons Fur Farm  
(Rock Creek Canyon Ranch)  
4052 North 2600 East  
Filer, ID 83328  
Phone: (208) 733-4440  
Fax: (208) 734-5432

Contact: Jay & Barbara Moyle, Dean  
Moyle  
Notes: Mink farm. Set back from road at  
end of driveway. On  
a river. Furthest sheds are at a distance  
from the house. Two houses on the prop-  
erty. Confirmed open (summer 2009).

Alpine Clean Food  
374 South 600 West  
Heyburn, ID 83336  
Contact: Lee & Martha Moyle, Shannon  
Wood  
Notes: Fur farm feed supplier. At same  
address, Moyle Mink & Tannery

Moyle Mink Farm  
390 South 600 West  
Heyburn, ID 83336  
Phone: (208) 678-8481  
Fax: (208) 678-3385  
Contact: Lee & Martha Moyle, Ryan  
Moyle  
Notes: Very large mink farm. Associated  
with Moyle Mink & Tannery. Visible  
from I-84. Confirmed open (summer  
2009).

fur farm  
460 South 850 West  
Heyburn, ID 83336  
Notes: Mink farm.

Smith Furs  
155 2nd Street West  
Malta, ID 83342  
Phone: (208) 645-2316  
Fax: (208) 645-2230  
Contact: Cregg W. Smith, Carma Smith,  
Osmer Smith  
Notes: Located at end of service road  
running W off of 2nd St, after bend. 11  
sheds. Most sheds  
found empty. This farm is very isolated  
and set back from any traveled road. No  
house on site. Confirmed open (summer  
2009).

A-K Moyle Ranch  
3539 South 1500 East  
Wendell, ID 83355  
Phone: (208) 536-6739  
Fax: (208) 536-6670  
Contact: Allen & Karla Moyle  
Notes: Mink farm. Trail to the north of  
the sheds, along fence. Confirmed open  
(summer 2009).



# FUR FARM LIST

Harris Mink Farms  
15258 Green Road  
Caldwell, ID 83607  
Phone: (208) 459-6015 or (208) 459-9359  
Fax: (208) 459-1922  
Contact: Donald B. Harris, Scott L. Harris, Brent Harris

Notes: Very large mink farm. Scott Harris is Treasurer of Fur Commission USA (as of 2012). Sheds at a distance from the house. Confirmed open (summer 2009).

## Illinois

Avery Brabender  
27383 W Wilmot Road  
Antioch, IL 60002

Phone: (847) 395-2782  
Notes: Mink and fox farm. Located south side of road (farm not visible from road).

Frye's Fur Farm  
2224 Behan Road  
Crystal Lake, IL 60014

Phone: (815) 455-4862 or (815) 459-0823  
Fax: (815) 459-3021  
Contact: Larry Frye, Steve Frye, Robert J. Frye  
Notes: Large mink farm.

**5,000 mink liberated, 10-5-97**

Jan Wolanin  
18113 Illinois Route 173  
Harvard, IL 60033  
Phone: (773) 497-5150  
Fax: (847) 233-9255  
Contact: Jan & Maria Wolanin  
Notes: Mink farm.

Gengel Mink Farm  
38614 N. Fairfield Road  
Lake Villa, IL 60046  
Phone: (847) 356-5661  
Fax: (847) 356-1617  
Contact: Ronald & Joanne Gengel  
Notes: Mink farm and pelting/processing facility. Ron Gengel is President of Fur Commission USA (as of 2012). The Gengel family also operates a Christmas tree farm (Gengel Tree Farm, in Lake Villa).

Illinois Mink Wire Company  
38614 N. Fairfield Road  
Lake Villa, IL 60046  
Phone: (800) 408-5661 or (847) 356-5661  
Fax: (847) 356-1617

Contact: Ron Gengel, Gerry Gengel  
Notes: Sells Minkomatic feeders, fleshing/skinning machines, wire for cages

and other equipment for mink and fox farmers. Illinois Mink Wire Co. is the U.S. representative for foreign fur farm suppliers, such as Dansk Mink Papir. Hedensted Gruppen, Morsø Mink. and Norcar.

Montelone Mink Ranch  
43W891 Plato Road  
Elgin, IL 60124  
Phone: (847) 464-5118  
Fax: (847) 464-5167  
Contact: Frank & Bernice Montelone  
Notes: Very large mink farm. Plato Road in Elgin is also known as County Road 32.

Virgil Mink Ranch  
48W310 Welter Road  
Maple Park, IL 60151  
Phone: (847) 365-6057  
Contact: F.E. Geisen  
Notes: Mink farm.

Robert J. Diehl  
46W500 Welter Road  
Maple Park, IL 60151  
Phone: (630) 365-6728  
Notes: Mink farm.

Sorensen Mink Farm  
19014 Kishwaukee Valley Road  
Marengo, IL 60152  
Contact: Hans Sorensen  
Note: Mink farm.

Bob Rodeghero  
1875 Nelson Road  
Morris, IL 60450  
Phone: (815) 942-1747  
Notes: Small mink farm.

Tim & Kim Allaman  
southeast corner of Illinois State Route 164 and Illinois State Route 94  
Rozetta, IL 61469  
Notes: Fox farm.

Midwest Ingredients  
103 West Main Street  
Princeville, IL 61559  
Phone: (309) 385-1035  
Fax: (309) 385-1036  
Contact: Ruthi Coats  
Notes: Fur farm feed supplier.

Aeschleman Fur Company  
1574 County Road 1600 East  
Roanoke, IL 61561

Phone: (877) 266-6331  
Contact: Daniel K. Aeschleman, Soni G. Aeschleman  
Notes: Fox farm. Also sells fox urine to trappers. May be the largest fox farm in the country.

David Draves Fur & Archery  
5758 N. 2200th Street  
Dieterich, IL 62424  
Contact: David W. Draves, Jessy Draves, Victoria Draves  
Notes: Fox farm. Farm may be closed (investigation needed).

Littig Fox Farm  
1774 Eagle Run Road  
Bluffs, IL 62621  
Phone: (217) 899-9142  
Contact: Kerry Littig, Terry Littig  
Notes: Fox farm. Terry Littig is President of the U.S. Fox Shipper's Council  
**Dozens of foxes liberated, 4-1-05**

Price Fox Farm  
4850 Highway 141  
Norris City, IL 62869  
Phone: (618) 962-3284 or (618) 313-2050  
Fax: (618) 842-5380  
Contact: Clinton Price, Jr.  
Notes: Mink and fox farm.

## Indiana

Adams Fox & Mink Ranch  
2814 East 150 South  
Anderson, IN 46017  
Notes: Approximately 150 to 200 outdoor pens, with 4 or 5 short sheds housing the silvers. Mink reportedly no longer held here. E 150 S is also known as 25th Street Road. Farm is located west of Markleville Road/S 300 East.  
**200 fox liberated, 9-2-97**  
**150 foxes liberated, 12-2-98**

Lion Farms Indiana  
9555 S 250 E  
Nottingham, IN 46759  
Notes: Mink farm (formerly a dairy farm).

K & K Fur Producers  
6739 N. Mayne Road  
Roanoke, IN 46783  
Contact: James L. Kahn, Thomas K. Kyle  
Notes: Fox farm. Farm may be closed (investigation needed).

# FUR FARM LIST

Flory Fur Farms  
5440 State Road 110  
Rochester, IN 46975  
Contact: Doyle Flory  
Notes: Fox farm. Farm may be closed (investigation needed).

## Iowa

Best Veterinary Solutions, Inc.  
1716 Detroit Street  
Ellsworth, IA 50075  
Phone: (888) 378-4045 or (515) 836-4001  
Fax: (515) 836-4464

Contact: Wes Thoreson, President  
Notes: Supplies vaccines to fur farmers.  
Best Veterinary Solutions has distribution centers in Willmar, MN, Washington, IN, Dagsboro, DE and Manheim, PA.

Erickson Mink Ranch  
3374 Saratoga Avenue  
Jewell, IA 50130  
Phone: (515) 827-5516  
Contact: Marilyn Erickson  
Notes: Located south of 330th Street/ Highway 175. West side of road. Approximately 100 fox pens at rear / west end of property. Numerous mink pens with black & white mink. Train tracks run along W side. Jewell lagoon sits directly west of farm. Confirmed open (fall 2011).

**1,200 mink liberated, 10-10-11**

Hawkeye Mink Cooperative  
1324 Main Street  
Jewell, IA 50130  
Phone: (515) 827-5458  
Notes: Unclear if this facility is still in business.

Isebrands Fur Farm  
3221 Queens Avenue  
Jewell, IA 50130  
Phone: (515) 827-5562  
Fax: (515) 827-5208  
Contact: Mark Isebrands, Floyd L. & Shirley Isebrands  
Notes: Located between 320th and 330th Streets. Open. Dirt road. Many sheds directly on the road.  
House at a significant distance from many of the sheds. Confirmed open (summer 2009).

**3,000 mink liberated, 8-21-98**

Ruby Fur Farm  
2564 200th Street  
New Sharon, IA 50207  
Phone: (641) 672-2067  
Fax: (641) 672-0262  
Contact: Randy Ruby, Mae Ruby  
Notes: Fox farm. "We specialize in breeding and raising ferrets, raccoons, and skunks and we offer them wholesale to pet stores." Dirt road. Two houses on property. Corn fields on all sides of sheds. Numerous species audible from inside farm. Confirmed open (summer 2009).

Morgan Valley Fox Farm  
12420 S. 128th Avenue W.  
Runnells, IA 50237  
Phone: (515) 966-2028  
Contact: Frank E. & Judy P. Rains  
Notes: Located north side of road, just east of W. 125th Street S.

Andrews & Sons Fur Farm  
32786 County Road D67  
Union, IA 50258  
Contact: Curt Andrews  
Notes: Fox farm. Single, very small animal shed with cages seen in fenced-off yard beside house. Contents undetermined / not visible.

Silver Fox Farms  
2596 370th Street  
Osage, IA 50461  
Contact: Brian J. Huffman  
Notes: Small fox farm. Dirt road. Outdoor fox pens directly behind house.

Freeman's Fur and Feather  
1381 380th Street  
Osage, IA 50461  
Phone: (641) 330-7864  
Contact: Jeffrey J. Freeman  
Notes: Fox farm.

Roger Harms  
3201 200th Avenue  
Titonka, IA 50480  
Phone: (519) 928-2751  
Notes: Mink farm. Farm may be closed (investigation needed).

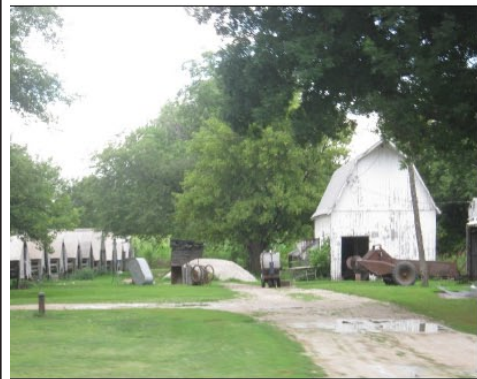
T & A Mink Farm  
3209 240th Avenue  
Titonka, IA 50480  
Phone: (515) 928-2360  
Contact: Tom & Amy Higgins



David Temel's mink farm  
Woodbine, IA



Circle K Fur Farm  
Sioux City, IA



Fassett Fur Farm  
Webster City, IA



Misty Moonlight Mink Ranch  
Waverly, IA

## FUR FARM LIST

Lyle Karels  
3201 130th Avenue  
Burt, IA 50522  
Phone: (515) 924-3707  
Notes: Mink farm.

Fassett Fur Farm  
939 N. White Fox Road  
Webster City, IA 50595  
Phone: (515) 832-2094 or (515) 832-5058  
Contact: Jim F. Fassett, Tom Fassett  
Notes: Mink farm. White Fox Road is also known as R33. Sheds very close to house. Confirmed open (summer 2009).  
**1 mink liberated, 10-21-97**

Hillpipe Mink Farm  
136 Parkview Drive  
Webster City, IA 50595  
Contact: Chris Hillpipe

Woodring Fur Farm  
3020 250th Street  
Fredericksburg, IA 50630  
Phone: (563) 237-6523  
Fax: (563) 237-6900  
Contact: Jean Woodring  
Notes: Large mink farm. Located just west of Union Avenue/County Road V56. Dirt road.

Underwood Farm  
2260 Quinlan Avenue  
Fredericksburg, IA 50630  
Contact: Justin Underwood, Mary J. Underwood  
Notes: Located south of 220th Street, west of Roanoke Avenue. Undergoing major construction / deconstruction, 2009. Many sheds visible on satellite images have been dismantled. No animals smelled or seen. Farm is either being heavily renovated, or dismantled.

Drewelow & Sons  
2477 239th Street  
New Hampton, IA 50659  
Contact: Lennie Drewelow  
Notes: Mink farm. 239th St. is off Odessa Avenue, north of 240th Street/County Road B54. Earl Drewelow died February 2007; survived by his son Harvey. Best viewed from 240th St.  
Numeous small sheds and one large mink barn. Sheds at a great distance from the house.  
**14,000 mink liberated (largest mink release on record), 9-7-00**

Misty Moonlight Mink Ranch  
1842 140th Street  
Waverly, IA 50677  
Phone: (319) 276-3350  
Contact: Nick & Becky Demuth  
Notes: Small farm. Sheds close to road, on S side. House at a distance from sheds.  
**3,000 mink liberated, 9-18-02**

Perrin & Sons Fur Farm  
1637 600th Street  
Cherokee, IA 51012  
Phone: (712) 225-5348  
Fax: (712) 225-4484  
Contact: Kelly J. & Teri Perrin  
Notes: Large mink and fox farm. Located west of Highway 59. N side of the road. Sheds directly on the road. Sheds & fox pens are at a great distance from the house. Dirt road. "Perrin Farm" sign posted. Confirmed open (summer 2009).

Klingbeil Mink Farm  
22487 Tamarack Avenue  
Remsen, IA 51050  
Phone: (712) 786-3361  
Contact: Donald Klingbeil  
Notes: Large mink farm. Located between 220th and 230th Streets. Farm is for sale (as of June 2012).

Circle K Fur Farm  
3701 Memorial Drive  
Sioux City, IA 51104  
Phone: (712) 252-2202  
Contact: Steven Krage  
Notes: Mink farm. Approximately 5,000 mink & 100 fox. Located north side of road. Sheds at a great distance from the house. Gate to rear of farm on Talbot, along farm's W side. Pair apprehended here in 2010 after reportedly setting off photoelectric sensors. Confirmed open (summer 2009).  
**5,000 mink, 100 foxes liberated, 10-19-97**

The Snare Shop  
330 S. Main Street  
Lidderdale, IA 51452  
Phone: (712) 822-5780  
Fax: (712) 822-5781  
Notes: Trap manufacturer, distributor of trapping supplies.

David Tremel  
2017 Troy Trail  
Woodbine, IA 51579

Phone: (712) 647-2191  
Notes: Mink farm. Located west side of road, approx. 1/2 mile south of 194th Street. Confirmed open (summer 2009).

Robert Roman  
23778 Fairview Road  
Anamosa, IA 52205  
Phone: (319) 462-4107  
Notes: Fox farm.

Schmuecker Fox Farm  
1545 79th Street Trail  
Belle Plaine, IA 52208  
Phone: (319) 444-2219  
Contact: Danny & Nancy Schmuecker  
Notes: Farm reported closed (investigation needed).

Don Conrad  
1109 190th Street  
Keota, IA 52248  
Phone: (641) 636-3858  
Notes: Mink farm. Located at southeast corner of 190th Street and Birch Avenue.

Paul Durkop  
1429 185th Avenue  
Lost Nation, IA 52254  
Phone: (563) 678-2895 or (563) 219-2835  
Notes: Fox farm. Located south of 140th Street.

Marak Fur Farm  
1297 Marak Road NW  
Swisher, IA 52338  
Phone: (319) 857-4331  
Contact: Darrel L. & Carolyn Marak  
Notes: Mink and fox farm. Darrel Marak also sells animal urine.

James M. Roberston  
3794 Toddville Road  
Toddville, IA 52341  
Phone: (319) 393-4454  
Contact: James M. & Florence Roberston  
Notes: Fox farm. Farm may be closed (investigation needed).

Diamond V Mills  
838 1st Street NW  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52407  
Phone: (800) 373-7234 or (319) 366-0745  
Fax: (319) 366-6333  
Contact: John C. Bloomhall, President & CEO  
Notes: Fur feed ingredient supplier.





**Ames Mink Farm  
Tomahawk, WI**



**Mildbrand Mink Ranch  
Medford, WI**



**Pagel Mink Ranch  
Cambellsport, WI**



**Wiesman Mink Ranch  
Caroline, WI**



**Geiger Mink Farm  
Mosinee, WI**



**Gesslers Pine Ridge Mink Ranch  
Tomahawk, WI**





**United Feeds  
Plymouth, WI**



**National Feeds  
New Holstein, WI**



**Central Mink Food  
Medford, WI**



**Medford Fur Food  
Medford, WI**



**Patrick Fur Farm  
Westboro, WI**



**Albers Mink Ranch  
Medford, WI**

## FUR FARM LIST

Mark McGrann  
19075 County Road T14  
Mystic, IA 52574  
Phone: (641) 437-4028  
Notes: Mink farm. Wide shed (4+ rows) behind house. Address previously published as 19013 Highway T14. Mailboxes at end of driveway read "19093" & "19075" (two houses on driveway). Farm may be closed (investigation needed).

North Star Fur Farm  
26614 280th Street  
Ollie, IA 52576  
Phone: (641) 622-1001  
Contact: Roger Warren  
Notes: Mink farm. Confirmed open (summer 2009).

Conger Farm  
26381 295th Street  
Ollie, IA 52576  
Contact: Dean Conger  
Notes: Mink and fox farm. Farm may be closed (investigation needed).

### Michigan

Jack Brower Fur Farm  
15011 Chandler Road  
Bath, MI 48808  
Notes: Mink farm. Farm may be closed (investigation needed).  
**150 mink liberated, 12-25-96**

Steven J. Bursian, Ph.D.  
Michigan State University  
Department of Animal Science  
2209C Anthony Hall  
East Lansing, MI 48824  
Phone: (517) 355-8415  
Fax: (517) 353-1699  
Web: [www.ans.msu.edu/community/people/bursian\\_steve.html](http://www.ans.msu.edu/community/people/bursian_steve.html)  
Notes: Fur industry researcher. Received \$20,000 grant from Fur Commission USA in 2010. Dr. Bursian has received funding from the fur industry for many years. Dr. Bursian used to work with now-retired fur industry researcher Richard Aulerich. MSU operates a mink research farm on campus (the only experimental mink farm in the U.S.).

Daniel Miller  
23809 Truckenmiller Road  
Centerville, MI 49032  
Notes: Mink farm. Farm may be closed (investigation needed).

Dale Hiatt  
31765 M-66 or 30985 Covey Road  
Leonidas, MI 49066  
Notes: Fox farm. Farm may be closed (investigation needed).

Natural Fibers  
17519 L Drive South  
Marshall, MI 49068  
Contact: Joe & Marie McFadden  
Notes: Fox farm. Farm may be closed (investigation needed).

Geri Van Elderen  
1540 6th Street  
Martin, MI 49070  
Phone: (269) 672-2115  
Contact: Geri & Sheri Van Elderen  
Notes: Mink farm. Farm may be closed (investigation needed).

Fox Haven  
1806 E. Hinchman Road  
Berrien Springs, MI 49103  
Contact: James E. & Judith Brown  
Notes: Fox farm.

Lemon Creek Fox Ranch  
2224 E. Lemon Creek Road  
Berrien Springs, MI 49103  
Phone: (616) 471-4961  
Contact: William V. & Norma Kechkaylo  
Notes: At same address, Wicklewood Kennels.

Fisk Fox Farm  
11576 Sprague  
Sand Lake, MI 49343  
Phone: (616) 984-5564  
Contact: Douglas R. and Diane Fisk

Van Elderen Brothers  
2345 6th Street  
Shelbyville, MI 49344  
Phone: (269) 672-5123 or (616) 672-7390  
Fax: (269) 672-9000  
Contact: Michael & Hermina Vaneldereren  
Notes: Mink farm. Van Elderen also operates a feed mill in the nearby village of Martin (892 E. Allegan Street).

LeFebre's Mink Farm  
1260 146th Avenue  
Wayland, MI 49348  
Contact: Randall J. LeFebre  
Notes: Farm may be closed (investigation needed).

Scholten Fur Farm (Scholten Feeds)  
260 139th Avenue  
Wayland, MI 49348  
Phone: (269) 792-7747  
Fax: (269) 792-8483  
Contact: John Scholten  
Notes: Large mink farm.

fur farm  
2495 Phaneuf  
Traverse City, MI 49686  
Contact: Brian Fisher  
Notes: Mink farm. Farm may be closed (investigation needed).

Jander Fur Farm  
N17725 County Road 551  
Harris Township (Bark River), MI 49807  
Phone: (906) 466-2909  
Contact: Gregory Jander  
Notes: Mink farm. Located at northwest corner of 551 and Dump Road Number 44.

Robert Roell & Sons  
N11218 State Highway 95  
Channing, MI 49815  
Contact: Robert Roell, Kenneth Roell, David Roell  
Notes: Mink farm. There are two large farms south of Channing on State Highway 95; east side of road.

Sturdy Mink  
5218 18.9 Lane  
Gladstone, MI 49837  
Phone: (906) 786-7835  
Contact: Robert & Rita Sturdy  
Notes: Large mink farm. Entrance located off of 19th Lane, about 1/2 mile west of County Road 426/Michigan 5/G38.

JET Mink Ranch  
N2119 Bay De Noc Drive  
Menominee, MI 49858  
Phone: (906) 863-3113  
Contact: John Kellogg  
Notes: Large mink farm. Bay De Noc Drive is also known as Old US 41. Farm is located at southwest corner of Bay De Noc and 5.25 Lane, west of US 41.

Pipkorn, Inc.  
W4503 US Highway 2  
Powers, MI 49874  
Phone: (906) 497-5725 or (906) 497-5803  
Contact: Thomas D. Pipkorn, Steve Pipkorn  
Notes: Mink farm. Located between



# FUR FARM LIST

Kluba Lane and Quarry Road K.5; south side of highway. Two clusters of sheds, 1/2 block apart.

**5000 mink liberated, 10-26-98**

Roger Tourangeau III  
N15072 D-1 Road  
Wilson, MI 49896

Phone: (906) 466-2840

Notes: Mink farm. Farm may be closed (investigation needed).

## Minnesota

Gary Klein Fur Farm  
17827 Carnie Road

Hinckley, MN 55037

Phone: (320) 384-6688

Contact: Gary E. & Ann Klein

Notes: Mink farm. Located north side of road. Farm may be closed (investigation needed).

Kroschel Mink & Stock Farm

2937 330 Avenue

Hinckley, MN 55037

Phone: (320) 384-6976

Contact: Hugo & Fran Kroschel

North Star Fur & Trading

12515 Morris Trail

Marine on Saint Croix, MN 55047

Phone: (651) 433-2803

Fax: (651) 433-2804

Contact: Jim Rosenwald, Jon-Paul Rosenwald

Notes: Wild fur buyer. Manufactures "ranch mink handling gloves"; advertises in fur industry publications.

North Branch Fur Farm

County Road 15

North Branch, MN 55056

Phone: (651) 674-4721

Fax: (651) 257-8792

Contact: Gerald & Joyce Strenger; Gene & Kadine Rabel

Notes: Mink farm. Located at NW corner of Lincoln Road and County Road 15.

Cumberland's Northwest Trappers Supply

4707 Cedar Avenue North

Owatanna, MN 55060

Phone: (507) 451-7607

Fax: (507) 451-5869

Contact: Russell C. Cumberland

Notes: Large distributor of traps and trapping supplies.

Anderson Mink Farm

4515 292nd Street E.

Randolph, MN 55065

Phone: (507) 263-2219

Contact: Gary Anderson

Notes: Located north side of road, east of Divers Path/railroad tracks.

Heger Company

2536 E. Seventh Avenue

North St. Paul, MN 55109

Phone: (800) 467-6465 or (651) 777-3701

Fax: (651) 777-3806

Contact: Dean A. Armstrong, CEO

Notes: Fur farm feed supplier.

Davidson Fur Farm

10739 30th Street NW

Annandale, MN 55302

Phone: (320) 274-8837

Contact: Henry Davidson

Notes: Fox farm.

North Central Companies

601 Carlson Parkway, Suite 400

Minnetonka, MN 55305

Phone: (952) 449-0885

Fax: (952) 807-7450 or (952) 449-0785

Contact: Larry Zilverberg

Notes: Fur farm feed supplier.

Petersen Fur Farm

10587 Tagus Avenue

Brownton, MN 55312

Phone: (320) 328-5369 or (320) 328-4005

Contact: Sheridan & Barbara Petersen

Notes: Mink farm. Located just south of 108th Street; west side of road. Farm may be closed (investigation needed).

Whalen Foods Inc.

584 Bavaria Lane, Suite 200

Chaska, MN 55318

Phone: (866) 547-6510 or (952) 368-6077

Fax: (866) 432-3189 or (952) 368-6046

Notes: Supplies ingredients for mink and fox feed; advertises in fur industry publications.

Randall Knudsen

52655 780th Avenue

Buffalo Lake, MN 55324

Phone: (320) 833-2240

Notes: Mink farm.

Latzig Mink Ranch (Lakeside Ferrets)

809 County Road 7 SW

Howard Lake, MN 55349

Phone: (320) 963-3594

Notes: Farm reported closed in 2011. Located just north of 10th Street SW.

Mueller Bros. Mink Ranch (Mueller  
Fleshing & Supply)

19086 County Road 141

Kimball, MN 55353

Phone: (320) 398-7787

Contact: James Mueller, Gregory Mueller

Notes: Large mink farm. Entrance located on northwest shore of Pearl Lake.

Warner's Westside Fur Farm

59483 Cсах 11

Litchfield, MN 55355

Phone: (320) 693-6547

Contact: Steve & Linda Warner

Notes: Fox farm.

de Rosier, Inc.

412 South 4th Street, Suite 1153

Minneapolis, MN 55415

Phone: (612) 339-3566 or (612) 339-3599

Fax: (612) 339-3568

Contact: John M. de Rosier

Notes: Supplies ingredients for mink feed; advertises in fur industry publications.

Louis Baumel

21596 County Road 447

Bovey, MN 55709

Notes: Fox farm. Located on south side of road.

Zumbro River Fur Farm

4625 West River Road NW

Rochester, MN 55901

Phone: (507) 529-8164 or (507) 282-9665

Fax: (507) 316-0709

Contact: Scott A. Stevens, Marian C.

Stevens, Larry N. Stevens.

Notes: Mink farm. West River Road NW is also known as County Road 133.

**3000 mink liberated, 8-28-98**

Byron Fur Farm

7009 110th Avenue NW

Byron, MN 55920

Phone: (507) 775-6465

Contact: Alan W. Hovey

Notes: Mink farm. Farm may be closed (investigation needed).

Myhre Mink Ranch

75562 State Highway 16

Grand Meadow, MN 55936

Phone: (507) 754-5334

Contact: Einar Myhre

Notes: Mink farm.

## FUR FARM LIST

Jeffrey Williams  
10202 421st Avenue  
Mabel, MN 55954  
Phone: (507) 493-5049  
Notes: Mink farm.

Ryan Fur Farm  
21341 County 19  
Spring Grove, MN 55974  
Phone: (507) 498-3770 or (507) 429-0070  
Contact: Erin Ryan  
Notes: Mink farm.

Gimble Mink Ranch  
19104 Mink Drive  
Spring Grove, MN 55974  
Phone: (507) 498-5314  
Fax: (507) 498-5723  
Contact: Gary Gimble  
Notes: Mink farm. Farm may be closed (investigation needed).

Schmitt Enterprises  
16482 State Highway 15  
Hanska, MN 56041  
Phone: (507) 359-4149  
Fax: (507) 359-2472  
Contact: Gerald & Doreen Schmitt  
Notes: Large distributor of traps and trapping supplies.

Vogt Fur Farm  
210 W. Elm Street  
Kasota, MN 56050  
Phone: (507) 931-3952  
Notes: Mink farm. Located in NW corner of town, between railroad tracks and Minnesota River, at end of Elm Street.

Kavan Ranch  
22802 Lexington Road  
Le Center, MN 56057  
Phone: (507) 357-4918  
Contact: Tom Kavan, Jerry Kavan  
Notes: Mink and fox farm. Located north side of road, just east of 229th Avenue.

Terry Kimmet  
21618 320th Street  
Le Center, MN 56057  
Notes: Mink farm. Farm may be closed (investigation needed).

Wayne A. Sieverding  
36414 130th Street  
Dundee, MN 56131  
Phone: (507) 425-3205  
Contact: Wayne & MaryAnn Sieverding

Notes: Fox farm. Located at the end of 130th Street, on West Graham Lake.

Ehde Brothers Fur Farm  
County Road 8  
Luverne, MN 56156  
Phone: (507) 283-9747 or (507) 283-4771  
Contact: Arthur Ehde, Elmer Ehde  
Notes: Mink farm. Located at southeast corner of County Road 8 and Township 124, northeast of Luverne.

Schmidt Mink Ranch  
37110 800th Street/County Road 12  
Okabena, MN 56161  
Phone: (507) 853-4572  
Contact: Leonard Schmidt, Mike Schmidt  
Notes: Located just east of 370th Avenue.

Pomme De Terre Fur Farm  
County Road 70  
Morris, MN 56267  
Phone: (320) 795-2729  
Fax : (320) 795-2835  
Contact: Robert L. Jergenson  
Notes: Mink farm. Located on County Road 70, approx. 1 mile east of US Highway 59, on the Pomme de Terre River.

Minnesota Trapline Products  
7444 County Road 27 NW  
Pennock, MN 56279  
Phone: (320) 599-4176  
Fax: (320) 599-4314  
Contact: Tim & Nancy Caven  
Notes: Large distributor of traps and trapping supplies, trap manufacturer (Bridger Traps, Minnesota Brand).

Jergenson Mink Ranch  
14747 380th Avenue  
Cyrus, MN 56323  
Phone: (320) 795-2487 or (320) 760-0275  
Contact: Duane & Wendy Jergenson  
Notes: Located north of 150th Street/ Township Road 144. West side of road.

Litke Mink Ranch  
13472 Airport Road  
Little Falls, MN 56345  
Phone: (320) 632-6367  
Contact: Gerald Litke  
Notes: Mink farm. Located north of the Little Falls-Morrison County Airport; east side of road.

Lang's Mink Farm  
19013 225th Street  
Richmond, MN 56368

Phone: (320) 597-3400  
Fax: (320) 597-3235  
Contact: John & Rosanne Lang  
**50 mink liberated, 11-18-09**

Royal Oak Mink Ranch  
20452 County Road 2  
Sauk Centre, MN 56378  
Phone: (320) 352-6866 or (320) 352-6002  
Fax: (320) 352-3310  
Contact: Steve Thang, Colleen Thang, Jeff Thang  
Notes: Located on north side of road, at 205th Avenue.

Bob's Mink Ranch  
28603 State Highway 34  
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501  
Phone: (218) 847-8407 or (218) 846-0933  
Fax: (218) 847-3366  
Contact: Robert R. Sonnenberg  
Notes: Large mink farm. Located east of Detroit Lakes city center, north of highway. At same address: Minnesota Fur Breeders, and S & S Feed Company.

Hillcrest Mink Ranch  
28774 State Highway 34  
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501  
Phone: (218) 847-5813  
Fax: (218) 847-8786  
Contact: Kent Disse, Glen & Debbie Disse  
Notes: Located across street from Bob's Mink Ranch.

Keith Sonnenberg  
30786 State Highway 34  
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501  
Phone: (218) 847-5490  
Notes: Mink farm. Located on north side of road.

fur farm  
320 Avenue  
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501  
Notes: Mink farm. Located at end of road, entrance off of State Highway 34.

Gill Gigstead  
17296 County Road 29  
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501  
Phone: (218) 847-8059 or (218) 847-7068  
Contact: Gill Gigstead  
Notes: Mink farm. Farm may be closed (investigation needed).

# FUR FARM LIST

Thompson Farm  
14283 160th Street South  
Barneville, MN 56514  
Phone: (612) 493-4460  
Contact: Mike Thompson  
Notes: Mink farm.

Urbach Farm  
35693 State Highway 228  
Frazee, MN 56544  
Contact: Larry Urbach  
Notes: Mink farm.

Richard Dorow Mink Farm (Custom  
Fleshing Inc.)  
31727 State Highway 108  
Ottertail, MN 56571  
Phone: (218) 367-2870  
Contact: Richard & Gloria Dorow  
Notes: Located on south side of road.

Soland Farm  
31247 County Highway 130  
Vergas, MN 56587  
Phone: (218) 342-2545  
Contact: Wenzel & Florence Soland  
Notes: Mink farm. Located north side of  
road, just west of 315th Avenue.

Schultz Fur Farm  
31829 County Road 130  
Vergas, MN 56587  
Phone: (218) 342-2501  
Contact: Arland & Karrie Schultz  
Notes: Mink farm. Located north side of  
road, east of 315th Avenue.

Big Falls Mink Ranch  
8624 Highway 6  
Big Falls, MN 56627  
Phone: (218) 276-2467 or (218) 276-2357  
or (218) 276-2429  
Fax: (218) 276-2000  
Contact: Carl Larsen, Jeff Larsen, James  
Larsen  
Notes: Located approx. 5 miles south  
of downtown Big Falls, on the Big Fork  
River.

Gene Mosbeck  
18284 110th Street NW  
Thief River Falls, MN 56701  
Phone: (218) 964-5360  
Contact: Gene & Susan Mosbeck  
Notes: Fox farm.

Heinen Mink Ranch  
33091 620th Street  
Warroad, MN 56763

Phone: (218) 386-1194  
Contact: George Heinen, Jr.  
Notes: Located north of State Road 11.

## Missouri

Mazuri / Purina Mills  
100 Danforth Drive  
Gray Summit, MO 63039  
Phone: (800) 227-8941  
Notes: Fox farm feed supplier. Mazuri is  
the exotic animal brand of Purina Mills.

Mid-Missouri Fox Farm  
12640 Derstler Road  
Richmond, MO 64085  
Notes: Located on west side of road,  
north of railroad tracks.

## Montana

Luke Jergenson  
227 Pine Creek Road  
Livingston, MT 59047  
Phone: (406) 224-0729  
Notes: Mink farm.

Sky Halsey  
6913 US Highway 12 East  
Martinsdale, MT 59053  
Phone: (406) 572-3358  
Notes: Fox farm. Entrance on north side  
of road. Confirmed open (summer 2009).

Henke Mink Ranch  
167 Antelope Creek Road  
Hobson, MT 59452  
Phone: (406) 423-5542  
Contact: Richard & Darlene Henke  
Notes: Located SW of town, approx. 2  
miles SW of Ackley Lake. Owners also  
breed Akita dogs and operate trout fish-  
ing ponds (Trophy Trout Springs Ranch).

Behling Fox Farm  
3523 McIntosh Lane  
Darby, MT 59829  
Phone: (406) 821-4410  
Contact: Gerald A. Behling

Rocky Mountain Fur Company  
1477 US Hwy 93 South  
Hamilton, MT 59840  
Phone: (406) 363-6789  
Contact: Dan J. Huggans, Jason Huggans  
Notes: Located on west side of road.  
Farm also raises sheep. Confirmed open  
(summer 2009).

Frazier Fur Farm  
661 Highway 200 West  
Plains, MT 59859  
Phone: (406) 826-3151 or (406) 544-1487  
Contact: Shelli Frazier  
Notes: Bobcat farm; Shelli Frazier also  
sells horses ([http://lazy3quarterhorses.  
homestead.com](http://lazy3quarterhorses.homestead.com))

Fraser Fur Farm  
1348 Terrace Lake Road  
Ronan, MT 59864  
Phone: (406) 676-3177  
Contact: Corey & Kathy Richwine  
Notes: Fox and bobcat farm Formerly  
imprisoned lynx, unclear if this is still  
the case. Farm also sells animal urine.  
Located east of downtown Ronan, south  
side of road. Confirmed open (summer  
2009). The Richwine family operate the  
Burgerville restaurant in Polson, MT.

Campbell's Mink Ranch  
845 Southside Road  
Superior, MT 59872  
Phone: (406) 822-4448  
Contact: David Campbell, Buddy Camp-  
bell, Dale Campbell  
Notes: South side of road, just west of  
I-90. Confirmed open (summer 2009).

Pipe Creek Mink Ranch  
5131 Pipe Creek Road  
Libby, MT 59923  
Phone: (406) 293-7582  
Fax: (406) 293-8115  
Contact: Gary W. & Mary Ann Grenfell,  
Nick Grenfell  
Notes: Located west side of road, just  
north of Lodge Pole Way, approx. 6  
miles north of city center.

## Nebraska

Merck Animal Health  
Elkhorn Biotechnology Excellence Center  
21401 W. Center Road  
Elkhorn, NE 68022  
Contact: Richard R. DeLuca Jr., President  
Notes: Supplies vaccines to fur farmers in  
North America; mink research and vac-  
cine production facility.

John & Peggy Smeal  
963 County Road F  
Scribner, NE 68057  
Phone: (402) 664-3362  
Notes: Fox farm. Located between CR-9  
and CR-10. Fox housed in indoor sheds.



Dirt road runs from CR-F to the sheds. At same address, Heartland Blends (fur farm feed supplier). Confirmed open, 2009.

BHJ USA  
2510 Ed Babe Gomez Avenue  
Omaha, NE 68107  
Phone: (402) 734-8030  
Fax: (402) 734-8025  
Web: www.bhj.us  
Notes: Fur farm feed supplier.

## New York

Phillips Fur Farm  
59 Biddlecum Road  
Pennelville, NY 13132  
Phone: (315) 695-2401  
Contact: Joseph & Releen Phillips  
Notes: Mink farm. Farm may be closed (investigation needed).

Pelton Fur Farm  
5046 Rome Taberg Road (State Route 69)  
Rome, NY 13440  
Phone: (315) 336-2619  
Contact: Douglas & Joanne Pelton  
Notes: Small mink farm located about 1/4 mile south of Humaston Road, on the southwest side of the road.

Butternut Creek Mink Ranch  
1428 East Side Road  
Morris, NY 13808  
Phone: (607) 263-2094  
Contact: Robert Przekop  
Notes: Mink farm. Farm located at southwest corner of East Side/River Road and County Road 51.

McKean Farm  
291 State Route 79  
Windsor, NY 13865  
Contact: Clinton McKean  
Notes: Mink farm. Located at northwest corner of State Route 79 and Saxby Road. Farm may be closed (investigation needed).

Pachucinski Farm  
2733 Lenox Road  
Collins, NY 14034  
Phone: (716) 276-2311  
Contact: Alfred J. Pachucinski, Jr.  
Notes: Fox farm.

Marr's Fur & Game Farm  
4964 E Swamp Road

Stanley, NY 14561  
Phone: (585) 526-4496  
Fax: (585) 526-5984  
Contact: Dave Marr  
Notes: Mink and fox farm. Farm may be closed (investigation needed).

## North Dakota

Schultz Fur Farm  
13392 29th Street NW  
Arnegard, ND 58835  
Phone: (701) 586-3583  
Contact: Larry Schultz  
Notes: Bobcat and lynx farm. According to the North Dakota Game & Fish Department (March 2010), the Schultz fur farm is the only fur farm in the state. Address may be incorrect (investigation needed).

## Ohio

PDK Snares  
8631 Hirst Road  
Newark, OH 43055  
Phone: (740) 323-4541  
Contact: Doug Wilson, Ken Stewart  
Notes: Trap manufacturer.

Silver Gates Fur Farm  
17822 Township Road 104  
Kenton, OH 43326  
Contact: Kim Auger  
Notes: Mink farm. Farm may be closed (investigation needed).

Jones-Hamilton Co.  
30354 Tracy Road  
Walbridge, OH 43465  
Phone: (888) 858-4425  
Notes: Produces Sodium Bisulfate acidifier for use in mink feed; advertises in fur industry publications.

Browns Fox Ranch  
9477 Hicksville Edgerton  
Hicksville, OH 43526  
Phone: (419) 542-8238  
Contact: Kenton & Sandi Brown  
Notes: Fox and mink farm. Farm may be closed (investigation needed).

BMI Traps (Butera Manufacturing Industries)  
1068 East 134th Street  
Cleveland, OH 44110  
Phone: (216) 761-8800  
Fax: (216) 761-8809

Web: <http://bmi-traps.com>  
Contact: Richard E. Butera  
Notes: Trap manufacturer.

Oneida Victor  
1068 East 134th Street  
Cleveland, OH 44110  
Phone: (216) 761-9010  
Fax: (216) 761-8809  
Contact: Bryan K. Butera  
Notes: Trap manufacturer (a.k.a. Butera Manufacturing).

Haska Fur Farm  
6991 Hughes Road  
Ravenna, OH 44266  
Phone: (330) 296-3954 or (330) 296-7576  
Fax: (330) 296-3344  
Contact: David & Maureen Haska  
Notes: Very large mink farm. Located on the north side of the road, just east of Rock Spring Road.

Bekaert Corporation  
3200 West-Market Street, Suite 303  
Akron, Ohio 44333  
Phone: (330) 867-3325  
Fax: (330) 873-3424  
Notes: Among this company's many steel-wire products, Bekaert manufacturers Weldmesh wire for mink cages. Bekaert has offices and manufacturing plants in many states across the country.

Jorney Mink Ranch  
22199 Center Road  
Alliance, OH 44601  
Phone: (330) 525-7655  
Contact: George & Violet Journey, Justine Journey  
Notes: Located on the south side of road, between S. Mahoning Avenue and Homeworth Road/401.  
**2,500 mink liberated, 8-12-96**  
**8,000 mink liberated, 9-28-96**  
**500 mink liberated, 7-97**

Mark Hofacre  
5661 Massillon Road  
Dalton, OH 44618  
Phone: (330) 837-2037  
Notes: Mink farm. Farm is located on a dirt road off of/to the southeast of Massillon Road/State Route 241.

Tonn's Mink Farm  
3270 Pigeon Run Road SW  
Massillon, OH 44647  
Phone: (330) 833-4972

# FUR FARM LIST

Contact: Dennis & Wanda Tonn  
Notes: Located on the east side of road, just north of State Road 30.

B.J. Hoffman  
3198 Crater  
Wooster, OH 44691  
Phone: (330) 345-7837  
Fax: (330) 345-5899  
Notes: Mink farm.

Circle R Fox Ranch  
1895 Riggle Road  
Bellville, OH 44813  
Contact: William B. Ridenour  
Notes: Located just east of CR-379.

Buschur Feeds  
14417 Johnson Road  
New Weston, OH 45348  
Phone: (419) 925-5050 or (419) 305-8277  
Fax: (419) 925-5026  
Contact: Edward Buschur, President  
Notes: Owns National Fur Foods (fur farm feed supplier); see National Feeds (New Holstein, WI).

Darrell Robbins  
Rural Route 1  
(alternate address: 3262 Road 204)  
Antwerp, OH 45813  
Phone: (419) 258-6792  
Notes: Fox farm. Farm may be closed (investigation needed).

Schmitt Fur Farm  
1038 State Route 119  
Fort Recovery, OH 45846  
Phone: (419) 375-4192  
Fax: (419) 375-4193  
Contact: David Schmitt  
Notes: Very large mink farm. Located just east of downtown Fort Recovery, on the south/east side of road. Said to be one of the oldest mink farms still operating in the U.S.

## Oregon

Weisdorfer Fur Farm  
11330 SE 272 Avenue  
Boring, OR 97009  
Phone: (503) 663-3070  
Fax: (503) 663-6465  
Contact: Leo D. & Dawn Y. Weisdorfer  
Notes: Very large mink farm. Located at corner of SE 272nd Avenue and SE Haley Road. Farm can be seen (smelled) from the Springwater Corridor trail.

Oregon Territorial Council on Furs  
3317 North Holly Street  
Canby, OR 97013  
Phone: (503) 266-5540  
Contact: Don Nichols, Manager  
Notes: Wild fur auction.

Glade Wilkinson  
36089 Binder Slough Lane  
Astoria, OR 97103  
Phone: (503) 338-6848  
Fax: (503) 338-6850  
Notes: Mink farm. Located east of Youngs River Road, on the water. Mink farm and fur feed supplier. This address is listed as the Oregon feed production site for Northwest Farm Feed (2002). Located east of Youngs River Road, on the water. House at a distance from the sheds. Confirmed open (summer 2009).

Western Star Fur Farm  
40801 Savola Lane  
Astoria, OR 97103  
Contact: Carl Salo  
Phone: (503) 522-7805 or (503) 458-5167  
Notes: Mink farm.  
**300 mink liberated, 9-24-11**

Stunkard Farm  
41653 Old Hwy. 30  
Astoria, OR 97103  
Phone: (503) 458-6332  
Fax: (503) 458-7064  
Contact: Marvin W. & Susan E. Stunkard, Matthew Stunkard  
Notes: Mink farm.

Garten Services  
3334 Industrial Way NE  
Salem, OR 97301  
Phone: (503) 581-4472  
Fax: (503) 581-4497  
Contact: Steven Elmore  
Notes: Manufactures bedding material for mink farms; advertises in fur industry publications.

Jefferson Fur Farm  
1477 Talbot Road SE  
Jefferson, OR 97352  
Phone: (541) 327-2275 or (541) 327-2420  
Contact: Joseph E. Posch, Michael P. Posch, Daniel S. Posch  
Notes: Mink farm. Small farm. Located on east side of road, north of Miller Road SE. Best vantage point from White Lane. White mink.

Confirmed open (summer 2009).  
**40 mink liberated, 4-21-08**

E.H. Webster  
1000 N. 2nd Street  
Jefferson, OR 97352  
Notes: Fox farm. Located on east side of road. Another entrance off of Jefferson-Marion Road (2750 Jefferson-Marion Road SE). Street numbers are approximate.

Masog Mink Ranch  
36232 W. Oak Street  
Lebanon, OR 97355  
Phone: (541) 619-3665 or (541) 259-3751  
Fax: (541) 258-3768  
Contact: Lou & Kimberly Masog, Duane Masog  
Notes: Mink farm. Located at corner of W. Oak Street & Fur Road; west of the Lebanon State Airport. Same property as Slack Farms. Confirmed open (summer 2009).  
**80 mink liberated, 5-28-97**

Slack Farms  
32600 Fur Road  
Lebanon, OR 97355  
Phone: (541) 258-2495  
Fax: (541) 451-1002  
Contact: Richard & Dannette Slack, Dale Slack, Leroy Slack  
Notes: Mink farm. Same property as Masog Ranch. Confirmed open (summer 2009).

Richard Graham  
34481 Cottonwood Lane  
Lebanon, OR 97355  
Phone: (541) 258-5749  
Notes: Mink farm.

Arritola Mink Ranch  
12303 Mt Angel Gervais Road  
Mount Angel, OR 97362  
Phone: (503) 845-6272  
Fax: (503) 845-6287  
Contact: Richard E. & Charlene L. Arritola, Lance C. & Jodi L. Arritola  
Notes: Heavily fortified farm. Tall razor wire fence, spotlights, and second fence inside first. Set far back from road. On railroad tracks. Sheds NE of farm are greenhouses.  
**10,000 mink liberated, 5-30-97**

Clem Ruef & Sons (also known as Oregon Mink / Ormink)  
11658 Baron Road NE  
Mount Angel, OR 97362  
Phone: (503) 845-2800  
Fax: (503) 845-9334  
Contact: Clement J. Ruef, Robert W. Ruef, Donald F. Ruef  
Notes: Mink farm and fur farm feed supplier. Located just north of Arritola Mink Ranch. Also heavily fortified. Best viewed via railroad tracks on E side.

Ruef's Fur Ranch  
12305 Ruef Lane  
Mount Angel, OR 97362  
Phone: (503) 845-2589 or (503) 845-6565 or (503) 845-6180  
Fax: (503) 845-2326  
Contact: Max J. & Marlene Ruef, Joe & Darcy Ruef  
Notes: Mink farm. Located off of W. Church Road NE. Sheds are controlled-environment sheds walled off on all sides. Cornfield service road runs along south of farm, from near the golf course. Farm is barely visible from the road.

S&N Fur Farms  
40499 Oupor Drive  
Scio, OR 97374  
Ed Sandberg  
Notes: Mink, fox farm. Located east side of road.

**150-200 mink liberated, 9-8-08**  
Victory?

Every shed partially inspected, found empty, 2009. Additional info submitted stated the sheds appear to be dismantled as of Oct. 2009, with construction equipment on the property. However this farm renewed its Oregon Confined Animal Feeding Operation license in 2009 and may restock. Requires future inspection.

Delany's Fur Ranch  
21318 Hazelnut Ridge Road  
Scotts Mills, OR 97375  
Phone: (503) 873-2005  
Contact: David Delany, Judy Kandi  
Notes: Mink farm.

Black & Blue Farms  
17621 Fern Ridge Road SE  
Stayton, OR 97383  
Phone: (503) 769-2575 or (503) 769-1481  
Contact: Terry W. & Lyndia J. Basl  
Notes: Mink farm.

Gardner Fur Farm  
3701 Drift Creek Rd SE  
Sublimity, OR 97385  
Phone: (503) 873-8405 or (503) 767-2845  
Contact: Tim & Katie Gardner, Larry Gardner  
Notes: Fox farm. Located on west side of road, set far back from road. House is at a great distance from the sheds.

Cascade Farms of Oregon  
7582 Hunsaker Road SE  
Turner, OR 97392  
Phone: (503) 743-4295  
Contact: John Lucas, Donna Lucas, Randy Lucas  
Notes: Mink farm.

Fur Commission USA  
PO Box 1532  
Medford, OR 97501  
Phone: (541) 595-8568  
Fax: (541) 566-7489  
Web: [www.furcommission.com](http://www.furcommission.com), [furresearch.org](http://furresearch.org)  
Contact: Michael Whelan, Executive Director; Barbara Whelan, Executive Assistant

Notes: Fur Commission USA is a trade association representing American mink farmers. The majority of its funding comes from pelt assessments collected at North American auction houses (North American Fur Auctions, American Legend Cooperative) and grants by the International Fur Trade Federation.

– Board of Directors (2010/11): Ron Gengel - President, Kolby Stembridge - Vice President, Scott Harris - Treasurer, Kate Roesler - Secretary, Ryan Holt, Cindy Moyle, Robert Zimbal.

– Research Committee (Mink Farmers' Research Foundation) 2010/11 grants:  
\$25,000 grant to Dr. Bernhard Benkel, Canadian Mink Breeders Association  
\$9,000 grant to Dr. Austin E. Larsen, Fur Breeders Agricultural Co-op (Sandy, UT)

\$10,000 grant to Dr. Kristi Rouvinen-Watt, Nova Scotia Agricultural College (Truro, NS)

\$6,000 grant to Dr. Jack Rose, Idaho State University (Pocatello, ID)

\$20,000 grant to Dr. Steve Bursian, Michigan State University (East Lansing, MI)

\$10,000 grant to Dr. Robert L. Stephon, Scintilla Development Company (Bath,

PA)  
\$10,000 grant to Dr. John Gorham, Washington State University (Pullman, WA)  
\$1,500 grant to Dr. Hugh Hildebrandt, Medford Veterinary Clinic (Medford, WI)

## Pennsylvania

Bogus Fur Farm  
360 Theatre Road  
Carrolltown, PA 15722  
Phone: (814) 344-6651  
Fax: (814) 344-2097  
Contact: James & Rosalie Bogus  
Notes: Mink farm.

Kuzar  
109 Mink Farm Lane  
Nicktown, PA 15762  
Phone: (814) 948-5614  
Contact: Steve & Doris Kuzar  
Notes: Mink farm.

George Rykola  
557 Colver Road  
Ebensburg, PA 15931  
Phone: (814) 472-8447  
Notes: Mink farm.

Western Pennsylvania Fur Farmers Co-op  
1401 Lemon Drop Road  
Ebensburg, PA 15931  
Jim Bogus, President/General Manager  
814-886-8948  
Notes: Fur farm feed supplier. Uninvestigated.

Oakwood Mink Farm  
108 Oakwood Road  
Boyers, PA 16020  
Phone: (724) 735-2175  
Contact: Robert & Kim DeMatteis

Preston Fur Farm  
383 S. Good Hope Road  
Greenville, PA 16125  
Phone: (724) 588-5374 or (724) 588-7973  
Fax: (724) 588-2861  
Contact: James L. Preston, Gary Preston, Gail & Lorri Preston  
Notes: Mink farm.

Mindek Brothers Fur Farm  
4940 Shannon Road, 4937 Shannon Road  
Erie, PA 16510  
Phone: (814) 825-5047 or (814) 825-5310  
Fax: (814) 455-6336  
Contact: Forrest J. Mindek, Nick O.



Mindek, Hunter L. Mindek

Notes: Mink farm.

**200 mink liberated, 5-02**

**50 minks liberated, 9-02**

**Fur feed storage building burned down, 11-26-02**

Lawrence Dana Fox Ranch

9129 Station Road

Erie, PA 16510

Phone: (814) 725-1669

**All foxes liberated, breeding cards taken, 6-02**

Richard H. Stahl & Sons Fur Farm

275 Fegley Road

Sunbury, PA 17801

Phone: (570) 286-2157 or (570) 286-2262

Fax: (570) 286-8011

Contact: Mark Stahl, Rick Stahl, Alma Stahl

Notes: Mink farm. Fegley Road runs parallel to State Route 890, southeast of the City of Sunbury. Farm located east side of road (309 Fegley).

George Holtzapple

6206 New Columbia Road

New Columbia, PA 17856

Phone: (717) 524-2079

Notes: Mink farm. Farm may be closed (investigation needed).

Scintilla Development Company / Ave-

con Diagnostics

501 Grouse Drive

Bath, PA 18014

Contact: Robert L. Stephon

Notes: Provides disease testing for mink farmers. Scintilla Development Company received a \$10,000 grant from Fur Commission USA in 2010 to study aleutian disease.

Fluharty Furs

526 Schultz Road

Perkiomenville, PA 18074

Phone: (610) 754-6781 or (610) 754-6162

Fax: (610) 754-0032

Contact: Scott Fluharty

Notes: Mink farm. Farm is located to the east of Schultz Road, hidden in trees.

Goose Hill Fur Farm

Goose Hill Road

Wyalusing, PA 18853

Notes: Mink farm. Located on east side of road (set far back), south of Jennings Road.

## South Dakota

Dakota Line

1000 E. 5th Street

Canton, SD 57013

Phone: (605) 764-8850

Contact: Mark Steck

Notes: Trap manufacturer.

W. Brown Farm

45622 207th Street

Arlington, SD 57212

Phone: (605) 983-5456

Fax: (605) 983-4622

Contact: Walter P. & Christine Brown

Notes: Mink farm. Located on north side of road, between 456th Ave. and 457th Ave.

Mark Neilson

20464 446th Avenue

Lake Preston, SD 57249

Phone: (605) 983-5933

Notes: Fox farm. Located north of 205th Street.

Don Dargatz

13367 446th Avenue

Waubay, SD 57273

Phone: (605) 947-4372

Notes: Mink farm.

Kingswood Mink Ranch

39231 281st Street

Armour, SD 57313

Phone: (605) 724-2696 or (605) 724-2660

Fax: (605) 724-2314

Contact: Chuck Larson

Notes: Large mink farm. Located east of US Highway 281.

Milo Pfeiffer

12998 392nd Ave

Aberdeen, SD 57401

Phone: (605) 229-0072

Notes: Fox farm. Located at intersection of 130th Street and 392nd Avenue.

Jo Meserve

13940 375th Avenue

Mina, SD 57451

Contact: Stephen R Meserve, Jo A

Meserve

Notes: Fox farm.



**Arritola Mink Ranch  
Mount Angel, OR**



**Jefferson Fur Farm  
Jefferson, OR**



**Krull, Masog, Slack  
Lebanon, OR**



# FUR FARM LIST

## Utah

J & G Mink Ranch  
10320 N 6400 W  
Highland, UT 84003  
Phone: (801) 756-5477  
Fax: (801) 768-7007

Contact: Junior & Lyn Degelbeck  
Notes: Located east of N 6400 W, south of W 10400 N, on the Murdock Canal Trail. Six sheds. Very residential neighborhood. Best viewed via dirt road / bike path on N side of property. Stream to the N of dirt road, parallel. House to the S of sheds. Large neighborhood park across street. Confirmed open (summer 2009).

J & G Mink Ranch  
11240 N 6000 W  
Highland, UT 84003  
Phone: (801) 756-6276  
Contact: Gordon Williams

Notes: Located north of Highland Highway/Highway 92. 11 sheds. Dense residential neighborhood directly E of sheds. Backyards of subdivision homes connect with the farm fence. Confirmed open (summer 2009).

Willow Valley  
7145 N 6720 W  
American Fork, UT 84003  
Phone: (801) 756-4956  
Contact: Brent Willard

Notes: Mink farm. Located south of Highway 15, west of N 6500 W. 13 long sheds. Very close to the northern shore of Utah Lake. House is at a distance from the sheds.  
Confirmed open (summer 2009).

Black Willow Mink  
340 N. Main Street  
Coalville, UT 84017  
Phone: (435) 336-5513  
Fax: (435) 336-5564

Contact: John Adkins III  
Notes: One of the oldest mink farms in the country, founded in 1927. Confirmed open (summer 2009).

Kenneth Dawson  
430 N. Main St.  
Coalville, UT 84017  
Phone: (435) 336-5675  
Notes: Mink farm.

Don, Lori & Jason Winters  
470 N. Main Street  
Coalville, UT 84017  
Phone: (435) 336-2326  
Notes: Mink farm.

Blonquist-Black Mink Farm  
2 N 200 E  
Coalville, UT 84017  
Phone: (435) 336-5595  
Contact: Afton W. Blonquist, Gena & Glen Black

Notes: Mink farm. Located at west edge of Summit County Fairgrounds. Fence around sheds. Shallow creek around south and east of property on Park Rd. Most visible from Park Rd. Sheds directly adjoin creek on west side of fairgrounds parking lot. Confirmed open (summer 2009).

Keyes fur farm  
551 S. Main Street  
Coalville, UT 84017  
Phone: (435) 336-2746  
Contact: Edward Keyes

Notes: Mink farm. Located south of Old Farm Lane, east side of road. Confirmed open (summer 2009).

Rees Fur Farm  
934 S. Hoytsville Road  
Coalville UT 84017  
Phone: (435) 336-3416  
Fax: (435) 336-3361  
Contact: Dennis Rees, Ward Rees  
Notes: Mink farm. Located on west side of road. Confirmed open (summer 2009). Dennis Rees is a Board Member of the American Legend Cooperative (as of 2012). Approximately 54,000 mink.  
**2,000 mink and 200 fox liberated, 10-25-96**

Vernon Mink Farm  
820 S. Hoytsville Road  
Coalville, UT 84017  
Phone: (435) 336-5982  
Contact: Kent & NaVee Vernon  
Notes: Located on west side of road.

Dean Vernon & Sons  
391 E. Chalk Creek Road  
Coalville, UT 84017  
Phone: (435) 336-2376  
Contact: Dean Vernon  
Notes: Mink farm. Located on north side of road. Chalk Creek Road is also known as Highway 133. Confirmed open (summer 2009).

Ovard Mink Farm  
1715 SW Hoytsville Road  
Wanship, UT 84017  
Phone: (435) 336-5820  
Contact: Harold G. Ovvard  
Notes: Small farm. Approximately 1,200 mink. No fence. On dirt driveway E of Hoytsville Rd. Fields to N and S of property. At least one shed empty. Confirmed open (summer 2009).

Lodder's Mink Farm  
Kaysville/Farmington, UT 84025  
Contact: Chuck & Shelly Lodder  
Notes: Located west of intersection of Sharpshooter Drive and Fox Hunter Drive, south of the Central Davis Sewer District Wastewater Treatment Plant (2200 South Sunset Drive, Kaysville, UT 84037). No house on site.  
**7,000 mink released, 9-21-08**

River Jordan Mink Ranch  
9330 N 10400 W  
Lehi, UT 84043  
Phone: (801) 766-1305 or (801) 768-4491  
Fax: (801) 768-4494  
Contact: Scott Cooper McLachlan  
Notes: Once the largest mink farm in teh country with over 100,000 mink. W and W 9600 N, just west of the Jordan River. 100+ sheds. House directly N of farm. Large empty gated lot on SW side. Close to shopping center on UT-73/Main St. Two clusters of sheds. Operational center / processing & storage buildings in southern cluster of sheds, house at north. Three complexes located at corner of N 10400 W and W 9600 N. Confirmed open (summer 2009).

K & J Fur Farm  
1440 West Main Street  
Lehi, UT 84043  
Phone: (801) 768-8544  
Contact: Kim D. Beckstead  
Notes: Mink farm. Moat on W side. Very busy street. West Main Street is also known as W 8570 N (approximate address of farm: 8918 W 8570 N). Confirmed open (summer 2009).

Dane Dixon Mink Ranch  
10725 N 8200 W  
Lehi, UT 84043  
Phone: (801) 768-8721  
Fax: (801) 766-1472  
Contact: Dane L. & Nadine Dixon



# FUR FARM LIST

Notes: Many streets in Lehi have more than one name, and alternate address is: intersection of W 3200 N and N 300 W (SW corner). "Mink Operation" sign posted. House directly E of sheds. Solid metal wall fence surrounding sheds. Large field directly W of property. Adjacent to subdivision and church. Confirmed open (summer 2009).

Jonsson & Sons Mink Ranch / Cedar Valley Fur Farm  
9250 W 8170 N  
Lehi, UT 84043  
Phone: (801) 768-8075  
Fax: (801) 768-0829  
Contact: Keith & Laurel Jonsson  
Notes: W 8170 N is also known as W 700 S. "Mink Operation" sign. Tall wooden wall around property. Across street from park / parking lot. Confirmed open (summer 2009).

fur farm  
Lehi/Saratoga Springs, UT 84043  
Notes: Mink farm. No house on site. Well hidden, at end of small, unmarked dirt road. There is a long dirt construction road along S of farm (1300 or 7750 N) (as of 2009). Road is new and not reflected on maps or satellite images. Very close to new residential neighborhood. Large. Accessible via hidden dirt road on N from residential neighborhood. 20 Long sheds. Confirmed open (summer 2009).

K&S Furs  
7814 N 8730 W  
Lehi, UT 84043  
Phone: (801) 768-8573  
Fax: (801) 785-1545  
Contact: Kenny Jensen  
Notes: Mink farm. Confirmed open (summer 2009).

Dell Willes  
600 S 400 W  
Lehi, UT 84043  
Phone: (801) 768-9120 or (801) 768-8171  
Contact: Dell & J'Lene Willes  
Notes: Mink farm. "Mink Operation" sign posted. 12 sheds long. Trailer on site. Very busy street. Heavy fence on street side, absent on other sides. Across the street from a church. Located just north of W 700 S, across street from church. Confirmed open (summer 2009).

Willes Fur Farm  
7878 W 8170 N  
Lehi, UT 84043  
Phone: (801) 768-0402  
Contact: Mike & June Willes  
Notes: Mink farm. Small farm. Four long sheds. "Mink Operation" sign posted. Partially wooden/partially metal fence surrounding property. Wooden fence in front. Residential neighborhood.  
Very busy street. Four farms on 8170 N. Located at southwest corner of W 8170 N and S 300 E. Confirmed open (summer 2009).

Wardell Fur Farm  
2425 W. Old Highway Road  
Enterprise, UT 84050  
Contact: Gail Wardell, Jay Wardell, Wess Wardell  
Phone: (801) 876-3418 or (801) 876-3216 or (801) 876-3344  
Fax: (801) 829-3293  
Notes: Large mink farm. West side of road. Visible from I-84. 30 Sheds. Short barbed wire fence around portion of property. Appears to be mostly unfenced. Confirmed open (summer 2009). Enterprise is north of Morgan.

Dillree Fur Farm  
1835 W. Stoddard Lane  
Morgan, UT 84050  
Phone: (801) 829-6368  
Contact: Lewis (Smokey) & Barbara Dillree  
Notes: Mink farm. South side of road. Mailbox adorned with a wooden mink sculpture. Two other clusters of sheds nearby, one of which may be part of Dillree farm.  
Possibly three farms on this road.

Largent Fur Farm  
2001 W. Stoddard Lane  
Morgan, UT 84050  
Contact: Theodore Largent  
Notes: Mink farm.

Thurston Fur Farm / Circle Bar Investments  
1340 Island Road  
Morgan, UT 84050  
Phone: (801) 829-6327  
Contact: Fred N. & Jean Thurston  
Notes: Mink farm. At end of Island Road.



**Blackridge Farms  
Hyrum, UT**



**J&G Mink Ranch  
Highland, UT**



**Dane Dixon Mink Ranch  
Lehi, UT**



**Mink Farm  
Lehi, UT**



## FUR FARM LIST

Boyce Brothers Fur Farm  
860 E 525 N  
Morgan, UT 84050  
Phone: (801) 829-6024  
Contact: Bryan P. Boyce, Charles P. Boyce  
Notes: Mink farm. 15 sheds. S side of 525 road. Barely visible from road. Confirmed open (summer 2009).

American Mink Council  
PO Box 548  
Morgan, UT 84050  
Phone: (801) 540-6530  
Fax: (801) 829-6753  
Contact: Bryan Boyce, President  
Notes: Marketing cooperative of mink farmers.

D J Mink  
800 N Morgan Valley Drive  
Morgan, UT 84050  
Phone: (801) 829-3813  
Contact: Douglas C. and Julie M. Brown  
Notes: Street address is approximate.

L & S Fur Farm  
220 N Morgan Valley Drive  
Morgan, UT 84050  
Phone: (801) 829-3748  
Fax: (801) 829-4004  
Contact: Larry Peterson  
Notes: Large mink farm. Street address is approximate. Corporate address: 75 N Morgan Valley Drive.

fur farm (Francis Fur Farm?)  
707 W Young Street  
Morgan, UT 84050  
Contact: Scott L. Francis, Jeff S. Francis  
Notes: Mink farm. Located south side of road, west of Valarie Street.

fur farm (Sargent Mink Ranch?)  
707 E 100 S  
Morgan, UT 84050  
Notes: Mink farm. North side of street. Barbed wire fence surrounding property. Large farm. Street address is approximate. Confirmed open (summer 2009).

Stan Stuart fur farm  
750 E 100 S  
Morgan, UT 84050  
Phone: (801) 829-3347  
Fax: (801) 829-4063  
Contact: Stan A. Stuart  
Notes: Mink farm. South side of street. Located next to Morgan Valley Polaris/

Wilkinson Construction. Large field west of sheds. Confirmed open (summer 2009).

Tony Jones Fur Farm  
1016 South Highway 66/State Street  
Morgan, UT 84050  
Phone: (801) 829-6351  
Fax: (801) 829-3161  
Contact: Tony & Tresa Jones  
Notes: Mink farm. Located east of the highway on unmarked dirt road, at end.

Ken A. Durrant  
210 S. Morgan Valley Drive  
Morgan, UT 84050  
Phone: (801) 829-6539  
Notes: Mink farm. Street address is approximate. Located north of Richville Lane W, east side of road.

Dawson Mink Farm  
50 Kippen West 2750 Lane S (alt. 50 W 2750 S)  
Morgan, UT 84050  
Phone: (801) 829-0623  
Contact: Darin Dawson  
Notes: Located south of the city, off of Highway 66/East Canyon Road. Confirmed open (summer 2009).

fur farm  
2085 S Morgan Valley Drive  
Morgan, UT 84050  
Notes: Mink farm. Street address is approximate.

Round Valley Mink Ranch / Softmink  
2000 E. Rees Lane  
Morgan, UT 84050  
Phone: (801) 829-3358  
Fax: (801) 829-6965  
Contact: Stan J. Rees

Notes: Directly off the exit, visible from Interstate 84 (exit 106).. Stan Rees is Chairman of American Legend Cooperative (Renton, WA). Sign reads "Rees Bros Hereforts". Large farm.

Seth Dawson  
84 W 200 N  
Morgan, UT 84050  
Phone: (801) 829-6680  
Notes: Vert small mink farm. Empty field to the north. Located behind Goldenwest Credit Union. Confirmed open (summer 2009).

Fur Farm  
Franson Lane  
"South Summit" (county?), UT  
(Possibly Oakley, UT)  
Status: Uninvestigated.  
Species: Mink  
Notes: Farmer reported suspicious vehicle at mink farm on Franson Lane in "South Summit", UT, late-2009. The only known "Franson Lane" is in Oakley, UT 84055. 46,000 mink pelts were produced in Summit County, 2008. No sheds seen on this road via satellite images.

Fort Creek Mink Ranch  
3078 W. State Road 32  
Peoa, UT 84061  
Phone: (435) 783-5266  
Contact: Dale Williams  
Notes: Farm may be closed (investigation needed). The mink sheds likely to be associated with this address are above SR-32 on hill, east side, NW of this address. Single empty mink shed in front of house.

Marchant's fur farm  
5739 N. State Road 32  
Peoa, UT 84061  
Phone: (435) 783-5671  
Contact: Norval S. Marchant  
Notes: Mink farm. Located on west side of road.

Rocky Top Fur Farm  
5626 N State Road 32  
Peoa, UT 84061  
Contact: Gregory & Susan White  
Notes: Mink farm. Located on hill above road.

Mont B Williams  
5515 N. State Road 32  
Peoa, UT 84061  
Phone: (435) 783-5296  
Notes: Mink farm.

G.W. Fur Farm  
4811 N. Woodenshoe Lane  
Peoa, UT 84061  
Phone: (435) 783-5295  
Contact: Wendell J. & Ila Stembridge  
Notes: Mink farm. Located just south of the Peoa Rodeo Grounds. 23 sheds. Confirmed open (summer 2011).

D&B Fur Farm  
5434 N. Woodenshoe Lane  
Peoa, UT 84061

# FUR FARM LIST

Contact: David Nielsen  
Notes: Mink farm. 5 sheds. Small farm. Confirmed open (summer 2009).

JM Bell, Inc.  
345 S. Main Street  
Randolph, UT 84064  
Contact: John & Joann Bell  
Notes: Mink farm. Located at SW corner of S. Main and Duck Street. Farm may be closed (investigation needed).

Dixon Mink  
15028 Pony Express Road  
Bluffdale, UT 84065  
Phone: (801) 495-0791  
Fax: (801) 571-0229  
Contact: Loran D. Dixon  
Notes: Between a storage complex and office park. Farm is very close to I-15, just south of Utah State Prison. Very tall (10+ feet) metal wall surrounding sheds. Trailer and house directly east of sheds. Empty land to the west. All sheds were completely enclosed and walled-in. Joins the Arritolla Mink Ranch as being among the most fortified farms reported. Confirmed open (summer 2009).

Fur Breeders Agriculture Cooperative  
8700 S 7th Street W.  
Sandy, UT 84070  
Phone: (801) 255-4228  
Fax: (801) 255-4678  
Contact: Christopher Falco, CEO/General Manager  
Notes: Former major fur farm feed supplier and mink farm, possibly closed after 2011 fire. "Fur Breeders operates two production plants located in Sandy and Logan, Utah; these plants mix raw ingredients to make feed." At same address: Utah Fur Breeders Association. 7th Street is also known as S 700 W. Located on west side of street, on the Jordan River. Mink sheds located north of main building. The complex was heavily damaged in an accidental December 2011 fire; and the plant was scheduled for demolition shortly thereafter. Unknown if it has been rebuilt.

**Attempted arson, 8-28-91**

**75 mink liberated, 6-7-96**

**Arson attack 3-11-97 Damages exceeded \$1 million.**

**6 mink liberated 7-29-98**

**2 mink liberated 7-30-98**

Lake Shore Mink Ranch (Russell Mink Ranch)  
90 W Church Road  
Toole, UT 84074  
Phone: (435) 882-0687  
Contact: Cloyd R. Russell  
Notes: Located on south side of road, west of Liddell Lane.

Margetts Mink Ranch  
1975 Canal Road (1975 W 6670 S)  
West Jordan, UT 84084  
Phone: (801) 969-7555  
Fax: (801) 964-0118  
Contact: Cory & Christy Margetts  
Notes: Located on south side of road. House in front/directly N of sheds. Chain link fence surrounding sheds. On dead end road. Confirmed open (summer 2009).

Mark Klotovich  
1546 W 8600 S  
West Jordan, UT 84084  
Phone: (801) 255-0084  
Notes: Mink farm.

Holt Mink Ranch  
10291 S 1230 W  
South Jordan, UT 84095  
Phone: (801) 254-4819  
Fax: (801) 446-7005  
Contact: Ryan & Cindy Holt  
Notes: Located east of S 1300 W, off of Mabey Lane. Undeveloped residential neighborhood under construction along south of farm, 2009. Brick wall along south of property. Ryan Holt is a Board Member, Fur Commission USA (as of 2012). Confirmed open (summer 2009).  
**3,000 mink liberated, 4-17-96**

McMullin & Sons Fur Farm  
10471 S 1540 W  
South Jordan, UT 84095  
Phone: (801) 254-2817  
Contact: Lindsey K. McMullin, Brett McMullin  
Notes: Mink farm. Located south of Highway 151/W. South Jordan Parkway. Mink. Small farm with 4,000 mink. 8 sheds. Dense residential neighborhood. Close to strip malls & a busy road. Confirmed open (summer 2009).  
**600 mink liberated, 8-19-08**



**Dawson Mink Farm  
Morgan, UT**



**Dillree Fur Farm  
Stoddard, UT**



**Seth Dawson's farm  
Morgan, UT**



**Sargent Mink Ranch  
Morgan, UT**

## FUR FARM LIST

Lyle Allen Groves  
(town unknown)  
Utah  
Contact: Lyle & Debra Groves  
Notes: Former mink farm in South Jordan, Utah may have relocated. Property caretaker indicated in April 2010 that the farm may have moved to a property in or near Benjamin, UT. Unconfirmed.

**114 mink liberated, early-August, 2008**  
(former South Jordan location)

Blackridge Farms  
181 E 6400 S  
Hyrum, UT 84319  
Phone: (435) 245-6467 or (435) 245-6143  
Contact: Lynn & Tama Mathews  
Contact: Lynn R. Mathews  
Notes: Mink farm. Located south of the city, east of Highway 165, north of E 6600 S. Farm is next to Rosehill Dairy. Confirmed open (summer 2009).

Mitchell Olsen  
350 W 6800 S  
Hyrum, UT 84319  
Phone: (435) 245-4739 or (801) 245-4384  
Fax: (435) 245-6629  
Notes: Mink farm.

Bytheway Mink Ranch  
2011 S 1600 W  
Lewiston, UT 84320  
Phone: (435) 258-5162  
Contact: Ethan Bytheway  
Notes: Farm may be closed (investigation needed).

Egbert Mink / Northern Prairie Farms  
1725 W 2000 S  
Lewiston, UT 84320  
Phone: (435) 258-5264  
Fax: (435) 258-0444  
Contact: Gary R. Egbert  
Notes: Sheds located on east and west sides of S 1600 W, south of W 2000 S (located just north of large egg farm). Confirmed open (summer 2009).

King George Furrrier  
1160 N. Main Street  
Lewiston, UT 84320  
Phone: (435) 258-2653  
Contact: George Sialaris  
Notes: Mink farm. Farm reported closed (investigation needed).

Kevin Petersen Ranch  
1560 S Main Street  
Lewiston, UT 84320  
Phone: (801) 258-5373  
Contact: Kevin L. & Kris Petersen  
Notes: Mink farm. Farm may be closed (investigation needed). Located at corner of W 1600 S.

fur farm  
S 3800 W  
Logan, UT 84321  
Notes: Mink farm. Located north of Mendon Road, west of S 3600 W.

Jenson Fur Farm  
715 S 1000 W  
Logan, UT 84321  
Phone: (435) 752-0184  
Fax: (435) 792-8022  
Contact: Cordell O. Jenson, Bruce Jenson  
Notes: Mink farm. Located south of Mendon Road. Confirmed open (summer 2009).

Fur Breeders Agriculture Cooperative  
1000 W 200 N  
Logan, UT 84321  
Phone: (435) 752-5441  
Contact: Chad Womack, Manager  
Notes: Fur farm feed supplier. Operates another production plant in Sandy, UT. Sandy location may be closed after fire, and all production may be handled by Logan plant. Significant feed production plant. Delivers to all farms north of Morgan, as far north as Grace, ID. On SE corner of intersection, across from Texaco. One large (2 to 3 story) building at N end of property. One short and long (1 story) building S of property (garages).

Bohm Mink Farm  
3490 (or 3819) W 600 S  
Logan, UT 84321  
Lance W. Bohm  
Notes: Mink farm. Four sheds seen behind house number 3819 on N side of road. Sheds directly behind house. Streams on both sides of house/sheds.

fur farm  
592 N Main Street  
Providence, UT 84332  
Notes: Mink farm. Located east side of road, between E 550 N and E 650 N. Newly constructed residential neighborhood E of sheds. Barbed wire fence sur-

rounding sheds/property. Neighborhood cul-de-sac points right at eastern-most shed @ 500 N and 140 E. Confirmed open (summer 2009).

North Forty Mink Ranch  
11611 N Hwy. 91  
Richmond, UT 84333  
Phone: (435) 258-2751 or (435) 258-2101  
Contact: Howard Nivison  
Notes: Mink farm. At corner of 11600 and Hwy 91. Narrow, possibly half-row sheds. House SE of sheds. Train tracks run directly behind farm. Across from Pepperidge Farms factory. Small farm. Confirmed open (summer 2009).

**9 mink liberated in daylight raid, 2-17-99**

McMullin Farm  
1350 W 5000 N  
Smithfield, UT 84335  
Phone: (435) 563-9336  
Fax: (435) 563-5145  
Contact: Don & Corey McMullin  
Notes: Mink farm. Located between N 1600 W and N 1200 W, south side of road. Horses share lot with mink. Narrow stretch of trees and thick brush line property to the N. House is at a great distance from the sheds. Confirmed open (summer 2009).

Gilbert McLachlan  
14321 S. Goshen Bay Road  
Goshen, UT 84633  
Phone: (801) 667-9935  
Notes: Mink farm.

Red Rock Farms (Choice Farms)  
7528 S 5600 W  
Payson, UT 84651  
Phone: (801) 756-0106 or (801) 756-2047  
Fax: (801) 756-0113 or (801) 756-4639  
Contact: Dixie & Chad Fenn  
Notes: Mink farm. Farm entrance located off of W 7300 S?

fur farm  
8860 S 5600 W  
West Mountain, UT 84651  
Notes: Mink farm. Street address is approximate. Farm located on west side of S 5600 W, just south of W 8800 S.

Westwood Mink  
8137 S 1800 W  
Spanish Fork, UT 84660  
Phone: (801) 798-1786



Fax: (801) 798-1482  
 Contact: Paul Westwood  
 Notes: Located south of W 8000 S/Highway 164. Confirmed open (summer 2009).

**1,500 mink liberated, 10-2-96**

Blue Star Ranch  
 2329 W 7300 S  
 Spanish Fork, UT 84660  
 Phone: (801) 798-9631  
 Fax: (801) 465-9019  
 Contact: David Davis  
 Notes: Mink farm.

LS Carson Mink Ranch  
 6199 S 2800 W  
 Spanish Fork, UT 84660  
 Phone: (801) 735-7161  
 Contact: Larry S. Carson

Shoreline Feeds  
 6245 S 2800 West  
 Lake Shore (Spanish Fork), UT 84660  
 Phone: (801) 735-7161  
 Fax: (801) 756-0113  
 Contact: Larry Carson  
 Notes: Fur farm feed supplier.

MinkMod  
 1196 South Mill Road  
 Spanish Fork, UT 84660  
 Phone: (801) 369-7692  
 Web: <http://minkmod.com>  
 Contact: Daniel Davis  
 Notes: Manufacturer of "carcass tumbler" and other processing equipment for mink farmers.

Van Dyke Mink Farm  
 2700 Canyon Road  
 Springville, UT 84663  
 Phone: (801) 489-6029  
 Contact: Robert Van Dyke  
 Notes: 5 sheds. Small farm. Located south side of road. Shallow stream behind sheds. Large undeveloped residential neighborhood in rear of farm. Bike path runs along back, feet from sheds. Sheds at great distance from the house. Confirmed open (summer 2009).

LS Carson Mink Ranch  
 1553 N 950 East  
 Richfield, UT 84701  
 Phone: (801) 735-7161  
 Contact: Larry S. Carson

## Virginia

D & S Fox Farm  
 16671 Fox Farm Lane  
 Elkton, VA 22827  
 Phone: (540) 298-9927  
 Contact: Scott Dean  
**13 foxes liberated, 8-15-12**

## Washington

Erwin G. Joedicke  
 919 288th St NW  
 Arlington, WA 98223-9181  
 (360) 629-4895  
 Status: Uninvestigated.  
 Notes: Possible mink farm. Satellite images show mink sheds. Needs investigation.

Brick Road Fur Farm  
 19780 NE 55th Place (alt. 5616 196th Avenue NE)  
 Redmond, WA 98053  
 Phone: (425) 868-4192  
 Contact: Blair & Mary Hudson  
 Notes: Mink farm. Mary Hudson is Vice President, Olympic Fur Breeders Association (as of 2012).

American Legend Cooperative / Seattle Fur Exchange  
 200 SW 34th Street  
 Renton, WA 98055  
 Phone: (425) 251-3200 or (800) 551-3906  
 Fax: (425) 251-3222  
 Contact: Joseph E. Morelli, President & CEO  
 Notes: "An agricultural marketing cooperative, owned and governed by family fur farmers. American Legend has more than 200 member-owners, approximately one-third in Canada and the rest in the United States." Seattle Fur Exchange: "North America's largest fur auction house, selling over 70% of the North American mink crop annually." Acts as U.S. agent for Fur Harvesters Auction.

New Age Processors  
 200 SW 34th Street  
 Renton, WA 98055  
 Phone: (425) 656-0174  
 Fax: (425) 656-0175  
 Notes: Mink pelting/processing facility. At same address as American Legend Cooperative.



**Marchant's  
Peoa, UT**



**Margett's Mink Ranch  
West Jordan, UT**



**Signs posted at Utah mink farms**



**D&B Fur Farm  
Peoa, UT**

## FUR FARM LIST

Northwest Farm Food Co-op  
1370 S. Anacortes Street  
Burlington, WA 98233  
Phone: (360) 757-4225  
Fax: (360) 757-8206  
Contact: Jim Rowe, General Manager;  
Harvey Beck, President  
Notes: Fur farm feed supplier. As of 2003, also operated plant in Astoria, Oregon.

Marr Mink Farm  
9580 Mount Baker Highway  
-and-  
9471 Cornell Creek Road  
Deming, WA 98244  
Phone: (360) 599-2881  
Fax: (360) 599-3182  
Contact: Dale & Dawn Marr, Dutch Marr, Ron Marr  
Notes: Mt. Baker Highway is also known as State Route 542; Cornell Creek Road is just south of Mt. Baker Highway.  
**150-200 mink liberated, 11-6-08**

Beck's Mink Farm  
17903 Engebretsen Road  
Granite Falls, WA 98252  
Phone: (360) 691-6308  
Fax: (360) 691-5414  
Contact: Harvey & Gincy Beck  
Notes: No house on site. At same address, Olympic Fur Breeders Association. Harvey Beck is President, Northwest Farm Food Co-op (as of 2012).  
**400 mink liberated, 9-10-10**

Blue Granite Fur Farm  
7715 Robe Menzel Road  
Granite Falls, WA 98252  
Phone: (360) 691-5026  
Contact: Harold B. & Mary Craggs, Jeff & Allison Craggs  
Notes: Mink farm. Located on east side of road. House at a great distance from sheds. Farm reported closed (investigation needed).

Brainard Mink Ranch  
19127 Welch Road  
Snohomish, WA 98290  
Contact: Raymond & Dianne Brainard  
Phone: (360) 668-2991 or (360) 668-8763  
Notes: Located south of State Route 522, west of the Snohomish River. Reported closed (summer 2011).

Roesler Brothers Fur Farm  
33425 138th Street SE  
Sultan, WA 98294  
Phone: (360) 793-0429  
Fax: (360) 793-7523  
Contact: Brad & Kate Roesler, Jeff Roesler  
Notes: Mink farm. Located west of 339th Avenue SE, north of US Hwy. 2. Located at the end of a dirt road west of 339th Avenue SE, north of the McDonalds on US Hwy. 2. Sheds surrounded by dense forest. No house on site. Brad Roesler is President, Olympic Fur Breeders Association (as of 2012) and Vice President, Northwest Farm Food Co-op (as of 2012). Kate Roesler is Secretary, Fur Commission USA (as of 2012).  
**10,000 mink liberated, 9-25-03**

Olsen Mink Ranch  
4695 Reese Hill Road  
Sumas, WA 98295  
Notes: Farm reported closed (investigation needed).

United Farms  
23212 86th Avenue E  
Graham, WA 98338  
Phone: (253) 847-4230  
Fax: (253) 847-2345  
Contact: John Annon, Dale Pedersen  
Notes: Large farm. Not visible from road. Located west of 86th Ave. Near very residential neighborhoods. Under-construction, uninhabited neighborhood along farm's south side (2009). Several fences around sheds. Sheds at a distance from the house. Reportedly the farm also imprisons a single wolf in an outdoor pen. Confirmed open (summer 2009).

Miller's Mink Ranch  
2823 Addy Gifford Road  
Gifford, WA 99131  
Phone: (509) 722-6334  
Contact: Mike & Gina Miller  
Notes: Confirmed open (fall 2011).  
**1,000 mink liberated, 10-12-11**

Washington State University  
Experimental fur farm  
3055 Antelope Trail  
Pullman WA 99164  
Phone: (509) 335-7321  
Notes: Experimental fur farm. Reports place the likely location for the experimental fur farm at the above address, which is an unmarked dirt road extend-

ing east from Airport Rd, on the eastern edge of the WSU campus. Antelope Trail is reached via dirt road going east from intersection of Airport Road & Wilson Rd. The suspected site of the farm is on the south side of the narrow dirt road, not visible from Airport Rd. This facility also houses deer "...and other wildlife species" (from W.S.U literature). WSU fur industry researcher John R. Gorham died in October 2011. Dr. Gorham received funding from the fur industry for many years, including a \$10,000 grant from Fur Commission USA in 2010, to study diseases in mink. David J. Prieur, also at WSU, has also received funding from Fur Commission USA.

**Six mink, seven coyotes, and ten mice liberated; 8-13-91. Two offices had extensive damage done, slogans spray-painted, and equipment and computers damaged. \$150,000 in damages.**

## Wisconsin

Pagel Mink Ranch  
W1095 County Road B  
Campbellsport, WI 53010  
Phone: (920) 477-4794 or (920) 477-4792  
Contact: John W. & Carole Pagel  
Notes: Confirmed open (summer 2009).

Burg Bros. Mink Ranch  
W5450 Ecker Lakeland  
Chilton, WI 53014  
Phone: (920) 439-1737  
Contact: Bennett & June Burg  
Notes: Mink farm. Farm may be closed (investigation needed).

Bartel & Winkel  
W976 County Road HHH  
Chilton, WI 53014  
Phone: (920) 898-5911  
Contact: Andy Bartel  
Notes: Mink farm. Farm may be closed (investigation needed).

T & T Mink  
W1300 Sheboygan Road  
Elkhart Lake, WI 53020  
Phone: (920) 894-7688  
Fax: (920) 894-7806  
Contact: Thomas Winkel  
Notes: Street address is approximate. Located at southeast corner of Sexton Road and Sheboygan Road. Directly east of Dean Foods Dairy. Dilapidated barn on site. Barn may be a house, but it is likely

# FUR FARM LIST

there is no house on site. Confirmed open (summer 2009).

LaBudde Group, Inc.  
1239 12th Avenue  
Grafton, WI 53024  
Phone: (262) 375-9111  
Fax: (262) 375-9058  
Contact: Richard T. Erickson  
Notes: Fur farm feed supplier.

Autumn River Farms  
W5379 Eagle Road  
Juneau, WI 53039  
Phone: (920) 204-8346  
Contact: Mike & Marion Mclay, David McLay  
Notes: Mink farm. Located 1/2 mile west of State Hwy. 115, south side of road.

Hidden Acres Fur Farm  
17930 Church Road  
Kiel, WI 53042  
Phone: (920) 773-2524  
Contact: Phillip Endries, Pete Endries  
Notes: Fox farm. Farm may be closed; may only operate as a rendering business (investigation needed). Located southwest of the village of St. Nazianz.

fur farm (Oak Grove Fur Farm?)  
W2359 County Road WH  
Mount Calvary, WI 53057  
Notes: Mink farm. Located at junction of County Road WH and County Road W, north side of road. Confirmed open (summer 2009).

National Feeds (National Fur Foods)  
1310 Milwaukee Drive  
New Holstein, WI 53061  
Phone: (800) 558-5803  
Fax: (920) 898-5424  
Contact: Dré Sanders, Director, National Fur Foods  
Notes: Fur farm feed supplier; producers of fox and mink feed. Owned by Buschur Feeds (New Weston, OH).

Preissner Fur Farm  
New Holstein, WI  
Owner: Dennis Preissner, "Third generation fur farmer"  
Status: Uninvestigated.  
Notes: Unlocated farm. Information points to this farm being open as of 2005. Address unknown. "Having to constantly watch my property making sure someone is not breaking in really takes

its toll". (farmer quote, 2005)

Associated Fur Farms  
N1326 County Road J  
(alternate address/same location: W846 Fur Farm Road)  
New Holstein, WI 53061  
Contact: R. Todd Langenfeld, Shaw C. Langenfeld, Maxwell T. Langenfeld  
Notes: Large mink farm. Located at corner of County Road J and Fur Farm Road. Confirmed open (summer 2009).

B & P Thelen Ranch  
W830 Fur Farm Road  
New Holstein, WI 53061  
Phone: (920) 286-0929 or (920) 898-5929  
Contact: Brad & Paula Thelen  
Notes: Located next to Associated Fur Farms.

fur farm  
Foundry Road  
New Holstein, WI 53061  
Notes: Mink farm. Located at southeast corner of Foundry Road and County Road A.

D & N Mink / Halbach Mink Ranch  
W1314 Foundry Road  
New Holstein, WI 53061  
Phone: (920) 898-9195  
Contact: Donald & Nancy Halbach, Scott Halbach  
Notes: Located at corner of Foundry Road & Plymouth Trail. Confirmed open (summer 2009).

Bonlander Mink Ranch  
W1597 Foundry Road  
New Holstein, WI 53061  
Phone: (920) 898-5607  
Contact: Gary & Virginia Bonlander  
Notes: Mink farm.

Smies Fur Farm  
W1618 Smies Road  
Oostburg, WI 53070  
Phone: (920) 668-6075 or (920) 668-6053  
Contact: Abram Smies, Steve Smies  
Notes: Located on the west shore of Lake Michigan. Sign posted announcing a \$500 reward from the Farm Bureau for information leading to the conviction of animal liberators. House close to sheds. Confirmed open (summer 2009).

Voskull Mink Ranch  
N2141 State Road 32  
Oostburg, WI 53070  
Contact: Martin Voskull  
Notes: Located just north of Demaster Road. Farm may be closed (investigation needed).

Zimbal Minkery  
9632 Sauk Trail Road  
Oostburg, WI 53070  
Phone: (920) 207-1533  
Contact: Jim & Laura Zimbal  
Notes: Large mink farm. Confirmed open (summer 2009).

Zimbal Minkery  
6020 Wilson Lima Road  
Oostburg, WI 53070  
Phone: (920) 564-2118 or (920) 467-8125  
Fax: (920) 564-2788  
Contact: Robert Jr. & Linda Zimbal  
Notes: The two Zimbal farms are said to form the largest mink farm in North America. 40,000 breeding females producing up to 5 kits a year (up to 240,000 mink imprisoned). Farm is located at the end of Abraham Court, off of County Trunk A. Railroad tracks and convenient railroad service road run along east side of farm.

### **400 mink liberated, 1-15-96**

Blanke's Hilltop Fur Farm  
W6343 State Road 67  
Plymouth, WI 53073  
Phone: (920) 254-1526 or (920) 892-4287  
Fax: (920) 893-0368  
Contact: Melvin O. Blanke  
Notes: Mink farm. Located east of Oak Road, southwest of the town of Plymouth. Confirmed open (summer 2009).

Mel H. Blanke  
114 E. Mill Street  
Plymouth, WI 53073  
Notes: Legal Counsel for Fur Commission USA.

United Feeds, Inc.  
W8414 State Road 67  
Plymouth, WI 53073  
Phone: (920) 526-3211  
Fax: (920) 526-3213  
Contact: Melvin O. Blanke, President  
Notes: Fur farm feed supplier. Large complex. Three buildings. Several semi trucks with "United Feeds" logo. Collectively owned among approx. 26 fur



## FUR FARM LIST

farmers. Located west of the town of Plymouth.

Kettle Moraine Mink Breeders Association  
N5350 Country Aire Road  
Plymouth, WI 53073

John S. Easley, DVM  
Kettle Moraine Large Animal Clinic  
1020 S. Pleasant View Road  
Plymouth, WI 53073  
Phone: (920) 892-4696  
Fax: (888) 256-1050  
Notes: Easley is Director of Research, Fur Commission USA (Mink Farmers Research Foundation).

Zimbal Minkery  
2111 Washington Avenue  
Sheboygan, WI 53081  
Phone: (920) 452-7380 or (920) 467-8125  
Fax: (920) 803-0662  
Contact: Robert H. Zimbal  
Notes: Located south of Washington Avenue at a distance, across railroad tracks. Very close to busy road and shopping centers. Second location of the Zimbal Minkery. As many as 240,000 mink imprisoned between the two locations.

TMR Furs  
N3481 County Road A  
Sheboygan Falls, WI 53085  
Phone: (920) 918-6764 or (920) 564-3115  
Fax: (920) 467-3372  
Contact: Nick Trimberger, Gerard Trimberger  
Notes: Mink farm. Located at corner of County Road A and Kurscheid Court. Confirmed open (summer 2009).

Thomas F. Hawe  
N2594 Blueberry Lane  
Waldo, WI 53093  
Phone: (920) 528-8388  
Notes: Mink farm. Tom Hawe died in July 2012. Farm may be closed (investigation needed).

Krieger Fur Farm  
17320 93rd Street  
Bristol, WI 53104  
Phone: (262) 857-2079 or (262) 857-4060  
Contact: Gerald R. Krieger  
Notes: Mink farm. 10+ foot wall of cages constructed around portions of farm. 93rd Street is also

known as County Road C. Gerald Krieger is Chairman of the Board of the American Legend Cooperative (as of 2011). Confirmed open (summer 2009).  
**3000 mink liberated, 8-3-99**

Kurhajec Fur Farm  
9602 West 3 Mile Road  
Franksville, WI 53126  
Phone: (262) 835-2866 or (262) 835-4066  
Fax: (262) 835-1623  
Contact: Jim & Shelly Kurhajec  
Notes: Mink farm. Farm not visible from street; entrance just west of 96th Street.

Bill & Sandy Peterson  
6682 Hospital Road  
Burlington, WI 53105  
Phone: (262) 763-5623  
Notes: Fox farm.

Fur Harvesters Auction  
400 England Street  
Cambridge, WI 53523  
Phone: (608) 423-4814 or (608) 225-9153  
Fax: (608) 423-4804  
Contact: Greg Schroeder  
Notes: Fur receiving and grading facility. Fur Harvesters Auction's corporate headquarters is located in Ontario, Canada.

Klubertanz Equipment Company  
1165 State Road 73  
Edgerton, WI 53534  
Phone: (800) 237-3899 or (608) 884-9481  
Fax: (608) 884-7509  
Contact: Richard Klubertanz, President  
Notes: Supplier of wire, cages and equipment to mink and fox farmers.

Wyndway Mink Ranch  
N5512 County Road S  
Lake Mills, WI 53551  
Phone: (920) 648-5742  
Fax: (920) 648-8805  
Contact: Kurt Siegel  
Notes: Mink farm. Confirmed open (summer 2012). Located at corner of County Road S and County Road A.

Neo-Dynamics  
4738 Bergamot Way, Suite 200  
Middleton, WI 53562  
Phone: (800) 206-7227  
Fax: (608) 831-4669  
Contact: Tim J. Cairns  
Notes: Manufacturer of melatonin implants (used by mink farmers to speed fur growth). Neo-Dynamics is a related

company to Melatek, a manufacturer of melatonin implants for ferrets and dogs.

North American Fur Auctions  
205 Industrial Circle  
Stoughton, WI 53589  
Phone: (800) 872-3877 or (608) 205-9200  
Fax: (608) 205-9210  
Contact: Gregg Dolinsky, Senior Vice President, North American Operations  
Notes: U.S. head office, fur grading facility (NAFA's corporate office and auction facility is located in Toronto, Canada). NAFA is the largest fur auction house in North America and is a major seller of mink and fox from fur farms, as well as wild fur.

Gary Anzia  
960 Lake Drive  
Port Washington, WI 53704  
Phone: (920) 689-4018 or (920) 284-6018  
Contact: Gary & Sharon Anzia  
Notes: Mink farm.

United Vaccines, Inc.  
2919 Commerce Park Drive  
Fitchburg, WI 53719  
Phone: (800) 283-6465 or (608) 276-5501  
Fax: (608) 276-5545  
Contact: Wim Verhagen, CEO; Rebecca Kerns, Managing Director  
Notes: Supplies vaccines to fur farmers in North America and Europe.  
Notes: Evidence mink research is conducted at unknown facility in neighboring Verona, WI.

**310 mink liberated from former research ranch location in Middleton, WI; 7-4-98**

Mark Hansen  
N7243 N. Crystal Lake  
Beaver Dam, WI 53916  
Notes: Mink farm. Farm may be closed (investigation needed).

Hillside Fox Ranch  
W6779 Milligan Road  
Waupun, WI 53963  
Phone: (920) 324-3176  
Contact: Lyle & Helen Bronkhorst  
Notes: Fox farm. Located at corner of Milligan Road and Business Highway 151/County Road M.  
Pens set back from road, barely visible. Very close to railroad tracks, which run along the E. Confirmed open (summer 2009).

## FUR FARM LIST

David Mink Ranch  
N2172 South 27th Road  
Coleman, WI 54112  
Contact: Judith J. David  
Notes: Farm may be closed (investigation needed).

West Bay Fur  
N2795 Shore Drive  
Marinette, WI 54143  
Phone: (715) 735-3732 or (715) 732-4894  
Fax: (715) 735-9175  
Contact: Charles & Sharon LaCourt  
Notes: Mink farm. Located north of Rader Road. Entrance to farm is just south of the Shore Crest bar.

Langer Farms  
N921 Norman Road / E3285 Fur Lane  
Kewaunee, WI 54216  
Phone: (920) 776-1207  
Contact: James W. Langer, Kenneth J. Langer  
Notes: Mink farm. "Fur Lane" is the name given to the farm's driveway. Houses 20,000 mink as of 1997. Located just north of Sandy Bay Road. Confirmed open (summer 2009).

Sandy Bay Mink Ranch  
2228 Cherney Road  
Mishicot, WI 54228  
Phone: (920) 755-2834 or (800) 999-2834  
Fax: (920) 755-4707  
Contact: Brad L. Wiebensohn, Kurt Wiebensohn  
Notes: Mink and other unknown species. Large farm, with 30,000 animals as of 1997. Animals valued at 2.5 to 3 million dollars (1997). Farmer reports he raises mink "among other things" (1997). Located at corner of Cherney Road and W.

Samz Road.  
Roger Schroeder  
5200 N 89th Street  
Wausau, WI 54403  
Phone: (715) 842-3681  
Notes: Mink farm. Farm may be closed (investigation needed).

Wisco Feeds (Wisco Milling)  
114 S. First Street  
Abbotsford, WI 54405  
Phone: (715) 223-4596, (715) 223-4211  
Contact: Alwyn K. Pedersen  
Notes: Fur farm feed supplier.

Ewan Fur Farm  
1846 County Road A  
Athens, WI 54411  
Phone: (715) 257-7333  
Contact: Donald Ewan, Richard Ewan  
Notes: Mink farm. Confirmed open (summer 2012).

Tony Pavek  
W6220 Hwy. 64  
Bryant, WI 54418  
Phone: (715) 627-7721  
Notes: Mink farm. Located on north side of road, just west of 5th Avenue Road (east of the town of Polar).

Fur Farm  
3424 5th Ave  
Polar, WI  
Status: Confirmed open, 2009.  
Species: Mink.  
Notes: Undergoing expansion, 2009. Sheds at great distance from house. W side of road, before Hattes St.

Omega Mink Ranch  
N3510 5th Avenue Road  
Polar, WI 54418  
Phone: (715) 627-4842 or (715) 623-3586  
Contact: Guy & Mary Pavek  
Notes: Mink farm. Located at southeast corner of 5th Avenue Road and Hwy. 64, east of the town of Polar.

Deerbrook Mink Ranch / Pavek Mink and Fox Farm  
6081 Hwy 64  
Polar, WI 54418  
Roberty T. Pavek  
Status: Evidence points to active, 2009.  
Source: Internal fur industry documents, on-site investigation.  
Notes: Row of sheds S of house, slightly downhill. Visible from the beginning of 5th Ave, E side. Paperwork obtained lists this address as open, and as housing mink and fox. First name is from Secretary of State records, second from fur industry documents.

Kevin & Lisa Pavek  
W6124 Hattes Lane  
Polar, WI 54418  
Phone: (715) 627-1280  
Notes: Mink farm. Located off of 5th Avenue Road, approx. 1 mile south of Hwy. 64.

Pavek Mink & Fox Ranch  
N5209 Rosedale Road  
Deerbrook, WI 54424  
Contact: Robert T. Pavek  
Notes: Mink farm. Farm may be closed (investigation needed).

Brecke Farms  
5986 Reynolds Avenue  
Dorchester, WI 54425  
Phone: (715) 654-5678  
Contact: Gerald & Pat Brecke  
Notes: Mink farm. Located at end of Reynolds Ave., just south of County Line Road. Sheds best visible from County Line Rd (Reynolds Ave is a dead end/driveway to farm). House N of sheds, in close proximity. Confirmed open (summer 2009).

Jon Hackel  
W983 Huckleberry Street  
Edgar, WI 54426  
Phone: (715) 352-3267  
Notes: Mink farm. Located at intersection with Short Road.

Evergreen Mink Ranch  
W4970 Harmon Road  
Elton, WI 54430  
Phone: (715) 882-1100  
Contact: Dale Christensen  
Notes: Mink farm.

Larson Mink Ranch  
W4471 Buckner Road  
Elton, WI 54430  
Phone: (715) 882-2741  
Contact: Dave Larson  
Notes: Mink farm.

Chelf's Mink Ranch  
N7498 County Road H  
Irma, WI 54442  
Phone: (715) 453-8847  
Fax: (715) 453-9057  
Contact: Michael J. & Diane Chelf  
Notes: Confirmed open (summer 2009). House at distance from sheds. Located just south of Leach Road. County Road H is also known as County Road V.

Blasel Fur Farm  
W3923 Apple Avenue  
Medford, WI 54451  
Phone: (715) 678-2501  
Fax: (715) 678-2783  
Contact: Dennis & Amy Blasel  
Notes: Mink farm.

## FUR FARM LIST

Henry & Patricia Deml, Inc.  
N2375 Hemlock Drive  
Medford, WI 54451  
Phone: (715) 748-2151  
Contact: Henry G. Deml  
Notes: Mink farm. Confirmed open (summer 2009). Located west of Hemlock Drive, off of County Road O. Sheds set back far from road, visible from County Road O. Mailbox reads "Bigley-Deml" off CR-O. Thick treeline between CR-O and sheds. Cornfield service road, S on Hemlock, runs along S side of sheds.

Romie Deml Mink Ranch  
N3641 County Road E  
Medford, WI 54451  
Contact: Romie Deml  
Notes: Located south of Center Avenue; next to Kalmon's Fur Farm. No farm behind 3641 address. Farm is on the SE corner of the CR-E and Center Ave intersection, across the street from this address. 3641 mailbox reads "Deml". Confirmed open (summer 2009).

Kalmon's Fur Farm  
N3647 County Road E  
Medford, WI 54451  
Phone: (715) 748-5506  
Fax: (715) 748-0719  
Contact: George & Rita Kalmon  
Notes: Mink farm. Located north of Center Avenue; next to Romie Deml Mink Ranch. Visible from Center Ave and CR-E. Long sheds W of house, in close proximity to farmer and neighbor's houses. "Kalmon" on mailbox. Confirmed open (summer 2009).

Medford Fur Food  
N3528 State Highway 13  
Medford, WI 54451  
Phone: (715) 748-2255  
Fax: (715) 748-4548  
Contact: Tony Kleifgen, Manager  
Notes: Fur farm feed supplier. Five semi trucks and other vehicles seen on the property.

Mildbrand Mink Ranch  
W5339 Whittlesey Avenue  
Medford, WI 54451  
Phone: (877) 519-8933 or (715) 748-3988  
Fax: (715) 748-9007  
Contact: Scott & Gail Mildbrand  
Notes: Confirmed open (summer 2009).

Located just west of Highway 13. S side of road. House is barely visible from, but close to, road. Two dirt driveways on property. Sheds are S of house and barn, not visible from road. Mildbrand's also operate a Christmas tree farm ([www.sws-wis.com/mildbrandchristmastrees](http://www.sws-wis.com/mildbrandchristmastrees)).

Albers Mink Ranch  
W5299 Pleasant Avenue  
Medford, WI 54451  
Phone: (715) 748-5783  
Contact: Mike & Lynn Albers  
Notes: Confirmed open (summer 2009). Located between Highway 13 and Crane Drive. Sheds are very close to street on dirt road. Apparently vacant lot with access road E of property and across street. Black and white mink. House set SE from sheds, down long driveway.

Central Mink Foods  
651 S. Whelan Avenue  
Medford, WI 54451  
Phone: (715) 748-3188  
Contact: Bruce Jentzsch  
Notes: Fur farm feed supplier. On west side of road. Single building. One small delivery truck in rear with "Central Mink Foods" logo. Confirmed open (Winter 2009).

A&M Dittrich Mink Farm  
N3472 Grahl Drive  
Medford, WI 54451  
Phone: (715) 785-8000 or (715) 748-9839  
Fax: (715) 785-8001  
Contact: Jorn Mogensen, Manager  
Notes: Very large fur farm. Located just south of Center Avenue. Visible from Grahl Dr. and Center Ave. Watchtower NE of sheds.

Ed Dittrich Mink Ranch  
879 E Perkins Street  
Medford, WI 54451  
Phone: (715) 748-4359  
Fax: (715) 748-2092  
Contact: Edward Dittrich  
Notes: Located near downtown Medford. One of the oldest farms in the country, founded 1928. Confirmed open (summer 2009).

Hugh Hildebrandt, DVM  
Medford Veterinary Clinic  
898 S. Gibson Street  
Medford, WI 54451  
Phone: (715) 748-2341

Fax: (715) 748-6674  
Web: <http://medfordvet.com>  
Notes: Fur industry researcher (received \$1,500 grant from Fur Commission USA in 2010; received \$7,000 grant in 2006). Hildebrandt is editor of "Fur Animal Research Letter," a quarterly newsletter published by the Fur Commission USA.

Jentzsch Mink Ranch  
1195 S. 8th Street  
Medford, WI 54451  
Phone: (715) 748-4587 or (715) 748-5937 or (715) 748-3036  
Fax: (715) 748-4861  
Contact: Brad Jentzsch, Brian Jentzsch  
Notes: Confirmed open (summer 2009). Large farm. Located just south of downtown Medford. Located just east of Central Mink Foods and south of Ed Dittrich Mink Ranch.

Ken Holmes Mink Ranch  
W8956 County Road M  
Medford, WI 54451  
Phone: (715) 785-7825  
Fax: (715) 785-7185  
Contact: Kenneth & Mary Holmes  
Notes: Located on north side of road.

Geiger Mink Farm  
1000 Gardner Park Road  
Mosinee, WI 54455  
Phone: (715) 359-7839  
Fax: (715) 843-3353  
Contact: Thomas & Barbara Geiger  
Notes: Located at corner of Gardner Park Road and River Forest Lane; just east of the Wisconsin River. Open- M. Gardner Park Rd is unmarked road just south of Weston Power Plant. Best view of farm is from footpath at end of Blueberry Lane (dead end road off Russell St), which leads directly to farm's rear. In a dense residential neighborhood. Confirmed open (summer 2009).

Magnuson Fur Farm  
W2166 Forest Drive  
Ogema, WI 54459  
Phone: (715) 767-5480 or (715) 767-5734  
Contact: Herb Magnuson, Frank Magnuson  
Notes: Mink farm. Confirmed open (summer 2009). Located at corner of Forest Drive and Springdale Drive, off of County Road C.



# Anonymous Report

Washington State University  
Department of veterinary medicine experi-  
mental fur farm  
Pullman, WA

Anonymous report.

*(Note: This anonymous 2009 report has two items of outdated information: It is believed this lab is no longer a USDA facility, and Dr. Gorham has died. His work is believed to be continued by David J. Prieur.)*

“When the call went out soliciting the location of the USDA Fur Bearer Research Facility in Pullman, WA; we made the drive to locate the research farm ourselves.

It’s been speculated the better part of the fur farm addresses we have to-day were confiscated from fur industry research labs raided during Operation Bite Back. One address that never surfaced was for one of the facilities raided, the USDA Fur Bearer Research Facility at Washington State University. To this day, John Gorham remains the second largest recipient of research grants from the Fur Commission USA, and holds the title of one of the world’s foremost mink researchers. Gorham is still very much in business, and still a key figure in keeping the U.S. fur industry alive.

The A.L.F.-authored publication *Memories of Freedom* – an anonymous account of every (claimed) action in Operation Bite Back – offers the only published information giving clues on the research farm’s whereabouts. Extracted from Chapter Four, we had only these crumbs of info to aid in our search:

- The farm was surrounded by barbed wire
- On the “outskirts” of campus
- Surrounded by grassland
- “...on a road to the local airport”

With little information to work with, we made the long drive to Pullman, WA to find the farm. We quickly narrowed the area that could potentially house the research farm to the various ag-research animal pens along Airport Road, on WSU’s eastern edge. As described in M.O.F., along Airport Road we found pens of grizzly bears, sheep, goats, cows, and numerous other exotic and non-exotic species confined to small pens by WSU’s expansive animal research machine.

At night, we explored the small labyrinth of dirt roads and paths along Airport Road on foot. In four hours, after inspecting numerous sheds, pens, and barns, we had narrowed potential sites for the farm to two locations:

- Two sheds of empty cages behind 1040 NE Airport Road.
- A fenced outdoor facility off a dirt

road adjacent to Wilson Rd, housing various sheds and pens.

Evidence pointing to the former was its location close to the only known address associated with WSU mink research: “1040 NE Airport Rd”. The sheds approximated the design of mink sheds, if bisected lengthwise. However the feeding devices on the cages appeared to more closely resemble those for birds than mink. And there was no grassy hill above the sheds, as described in M.O.F. Nothing else found near this address was likely to house mink. We took numerous photos of the two sheds for future review.

Our strongest suspicions fell on a heavily secured facility tucked a quarter mile from Airport Road. Binoculars failed to reveal what was inside, but certain large animal pens were visible, along with a large shed and barn. We left to do more research and return the following night for a closer look – and final answer.

The next morning we reviewed old campus maps in the library, and older archived satellite images. One thing stood out: images from the early-1990s show two long sheds in an area inspected the night before, where there was now a vacant field. Their long and narrow form would make it unlikely they housed anything other than mink.

Comparing new and old images revealed something further: While the sheds had been demolished, the fenced area under suspicion from the night before had been greatly expanded. Had the WSU consolidated its wildlife research into one secured facility after the 1992 A.L.F. raid?

The next night we made the hike back to this location. The site is hidden off a dark, unmarked dirt road (later learned to be called “Antelope Trail”) branching east off Airport Road. Unlike every other animal facility off Airport Rd, this one was heavily secure, with a high barbed-wire fence, motionsensor spotlights, several video cameras, and heavy lighting. At the rear of the facility, we found numerous animal pens. When our eyes adjusted to the darkness, we found ourselves face to face with numerous deer, confined to small pens. We spent many minutes sharing the silence of the night with these animals, staring at us from behind two layers of fencing.

Beyond the deer pens, a large shed in the center had its contents mostly obscured, and any animals that may be inside were not visible. On the north, elevated just above the compound and outside its fence, were three outdoor animal pens that were found empty. Inside the pens were red lights indicating alarms (or merely the appearance of them to serve as a deterrent).

We moved towards the most suspicious portion of the site: the low-lying sheds in the NE corner, where we suspected the mink were housed. The obscured siding told us whatever was inside was not domesticated enough to live in a totally enclosed structure, but was something the animals’ captors wanted shielded from public view. We were within 20 feet of the pens when, from inside, a red flashlight began moving towards us. We vanished into the grasslands, just short of an answer as to what lay inside the sheds at 3055 Antelope Trail.

The following day we returned in daylight for photos, which are being submitted with this report.

Although inconclusive, evidence indicates that 3055 Antelope Trail is the most likely location for the mink imprisoned at W.S.U. A review of the evidence:

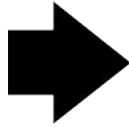
- Its level of security is commensurate with a facility fearing a (nother) break-in, and inconsistent with security at all other animal pens at WSU (where security is absent).
- A WSU building list puts the address as a “Wildlife Bio Animal Holding Facility”
- Allowing for the possibility this facility housed mink at the time of the A.L.F. raid; there are several animal pens (large enough for coyotes) on a hill just above this facility, consistent with the M.O.F. description (coyotes were released during the A.L.F. action from a “hill above the fur farm”).
- WSU describes this address as housing deer “...and other wildlife species”.
- The low-lying sheds in back are consistent with the general height of mink sheds, a height unique to structures housing mink (among commonly raised livestock).
- Barring the possibility the research farm has been moved to an entirely different part of campus since the A.L.F. raid, our extensive survey of the “road to the local airport” found these to be the only pens whose captives we could not confirm, and the only location found with the potential to house mink.

The combined evidence and photos make a strong but inconclusive case for 3055 Antelope Trail as being the location of the experimental fur farm.

Anonymous”

## Possible location of Washington State University experimental fur farm Pullman, WA

Six mink, seven coyotes, ten mice rescued, 8-13-91



### ALF communique

Malecky Mink Ranch, Yamhill, OR

Processing plant is set on fire. \$125,000 in damages.

The farm closes.

**VICTORY**

“December 21 1991 – Western Wildlife Cell members of the Animal Liberation Front (A.L.F.) raided Malecky Mink Ranch in Yamhill, Oregon, and set an incendiary device that destroyed the processing plant of this farm near Salem.

Intelligence sources revealed that the fur farm was to be sold, with intentions to continue exploitation of fur animals. Malecky Mink Ranch was a recipient of information from Oregon State University’s Experimental Fur Farm and had developed innovative methods of commercial exploitation of mink for the fur trade.

No mink or humans were injured in the A.L.F.’s fourth action against the United States Fur Farm industry. Fleshing machines, drying drums, skinning racks, feed mixers, freezers, and a workshop were all effectively destroyed in this economic attack against the tools of death and destruction.

This action was taken to avenge the lives of mink murdered on the ranch in the past and to prevent the further imprisonment of native wildlife in the future. 750,000 mink are slaughtered every winter in the Northwest for trade and four million nationwide on over (illegible -ed.) fur farms.

The Animal Liberation Front also announces a new campaign against the fur trade, one that directly targets the insensitive humans who wear fur garments. We will fight the fur-wearers in the streets. No longer shall the ecological arrogance of the public supporters of the fur trade go unchallenged. A.L.F. members shall arm themselves with battery acid and dye, and will inflict damage on the furs worn by humans. Fur is for four-leggeds, not two. The lives of fur animals will be avenged.

The fur industry is responsible for the demise of not only native north american wildlife, but the destruction of Native peoples’ cultures as well. Over the last four hundred years this barbaric industry has waged a genocidal war against animals and humans. Through the introduction of social and physical disease, the fur trade has forced native people to participate in their bloody practice, or perish like so many animals in traps and cages.

It is time to eliminate this anthropocentric profit-centered beast before the last howl is heard. A.L.F. calls on all peoples to join in the battle against this ecologically destructive regime, and to defend the defenseless from the oppression of our own species.

We must destroy that which destroys the animals, earth, and ourselves. On behalf of the mink, fox, bobcat, lynx, and coyote nations.

A.L.F. shall wage non-violent war against the fur trade. Until the last fur farm is burned to the ground.

Animal Liberation Front, Western Wildlife Cell”





## FUR FARM LIST

Patrick Fur Farm  
W3746 W Rib Road  
Rib Lake, WI 54470  
Phone: (715) 427-5260  
Fax: (715) 427-3300  
Contact: Michael Patrick, Kyle Patrick  
Notes: Mink farm. Large farm. Located off of State Hwy. 102, south of the town center. N side of road. Sheds directly on road. Large property with several buildings and trucks. "Patrick Fur Farm Inc" on semi truck door. One or two sheds at far SE of property are under possible construction for expansion (saw small tractors with stacked cages and planks of wood for building, 2009) Breeding records visible from road. Sign on building reads "Patrick Fur Farm, Fine Darks". Confirmed open (summer 2009).

Brecke Mink Ranch  
N246 Oriole Drive  
Stetsonville, WI 54480  
Phone: (715) 678-2282  
Fax: (715) 678-2976  
Contact: Edward & Ann Brecke  
Notes: Very large fur farm. Very large fur farm. E side of road. A few sheds directly on Oriole Drive. Rest set farm back from road. Sheds on Oriole are S of mailbox number 206. Many sheds set at quite a distance from the house. Confirmed open (summer 2009).

Ames Mink Farm  
9879 Siemering Drive  
Tomahawk, WI 54487  
Phone: (715) 453-8828  
Fax: (715) 453-6125  
Contact: Arvid Ames  
Notes: Large fur farm. Siemering Drive is off/west of US Business Highway 51. House N of sheds. Large field to E of sheds. Most sheds are at a great distance from the house. Deer farm found just N of Ames property, located at 9948 Siemering Drive. Confirmed open (summer 2009).

Ott's Mink Ranch  
N10685 Red Pine Road  
Tomahawk, WI 54487  
Contact: Alex & Jennifer Ott  
Phone: (715) 453-8845  
Fax: (715) 453-7606  
Notes: Located off/east of Tannery Road. Farm is close to train tracks.  
**300 mink liberated, 10-24-97**

Gessler's Pine Ridge Mink Ranch  
N11856 Heafford Road  
Tomahawk, WI 54487  
Phone: (715) 453-5591  
Contact: David Gessler  
Notes: Located north of Beach Road. House on Heafford, sheds directly on Beach Rd (road for public beach access). Half block from a public park on one side, beachfront park on the other. Confirmed open (summer 2009).

Zuleger Fur Farm  
N7975 Zimmerman Road  
Westboro, WI 54490  
Phone: (715) 427-1002  
Contact: Eric & Rebecca Zuleger  
Notes: Fox farm. Located at southwest corner of Zimmerman Road (NF-101) and Rindt Road (NF-564).

Zwickey Fur Farm  
6775 Ole Lake Road  
Rhineland, WI 54501  
Phone: (715) 369-8986 or (715) 369-2308  
Contact: Terry Berndt, Douglas Zwickey  
Notes: Mink farm.

Sherfield Farm  
2947 N County Road Ff  
Butternut, WI 54514  
Phone: (715) 476-2808  
Contact: Dale & Cathy Sherfield  
Notes: Mink farm. Located at corner of County Road Ff and Miller Road, west side of road. Farm is located behind a bar called "Camp 1." Property was for sale as of September 2010.

Chartier Fur Farm  
13901 Moss Lake Drive  
Lac Du Flambeau, WI 54538  
Contact: Francis & Anna Maria Chartier  
Notes: Mink farm. Farm may be closed (investigation needed).

George Valiga Sr.  
Pine Lane  
Phillips, WI 54555  
Notes: Mink farm.

Somo Fur Ranch  
W12081 Barneys Drive  
Tripoli, WI 54564  
Phone: (715) 564-2595  
Contact: Bob Findler  
Notes: Mink farm. Farm may be closed (in-

vestigation needed). Located at SE corner of Barneys Drive and County Road Yy.

Breezy Point Mink Ranch  
W14152 Garden Valley Lane  
Blair, WI 54616  
Phone: (608) 989-2995  
Contact: Judy Peters

Joseph Schrock  
S11481 Stinson Road  
Augusta, WI 54722  
Notes: Mink farm. Farm may be closed (investigation needed).

Roger Woodford  
S 101 S 150th Avenue  
Fall Creek, WI 54742  
Phone: (715) 877-3308  
Notes: Mink farm.

Gamroth Mink Ranch  
W22577 State Road 121  
Independence, WI 54747  
Phone: (715) 985-3530 or (715) 985-3462  
Fax: (715) 985-5217  
Contact: Scott & Allan Gamroth  
Notes: Mink farm. Confirmed open (summer 2009). Located next door to Smieja Fur Farm. State Road 121 is also known as Whitehall Road. Busy street.

Twin Pine Fur Farm (Smieja Fur Farm)  
W22875 State Road 121  
Independence, WI 54747  
Phone: (715) 985-3020 or (715) 985-3713  
Contact: Tom & Jan Olson  
Notes: Mink farm. Confirmed open (summer 2009).

**800 mink liberated, 10-24-97**

Northwest Mink Ranch  
N4533 Zebro Road  
Bruce, WI 54819  
Phone: (715) 868-3581  
Fax: (715) 868-3582  
Contact: Hans Haugen, Ami Shotton-Heil  
Notes: Large farm. "Northwest Mink Ranches Inc" sign on Hwy 8 and Zebro Rd. Thick forest N of sheds. Dirt road on N that runs directly to rear of sheds. Sheds on W side of Zebro Rd. Sheds visible from Zebro Rd and Hwy 8. House/office on property, SE of sheds. Several trailer homes E and NE of sheds. Processing / misc. buildings on opposite side of sheds, E side of Zebro Rd. Confirmed open (summer 2009). Located just north of Highway 8.



## FUR FARM LIST

Wiesman Mink Ranch  
W13311 Buss Road  
Caroline, WI 54928  
Phone: (715) 754-5645  
Contact: Emil (Bud) & Karen Wiesman  
Notes: Confirmed open (summer 2009).  
Large fur farm. Buss Road dead-ends  
at the farm. Also a hunting preserve /  
deer farm (Southbranch Preserve, www.  
southbranch.com)

Dillenberg Farm  
N2544 Hickory Lane  
Clintonville, WI 54929  
Phone: (715) 853-7002 or (715) 823-3694  
Contact: Leo & Karen Dillenberg  
Notes: Mink and fox farm.

Muthig Industries  
33 East Larsen Drive  
Fond du Lac, WI 54937  
Phone: (920) 922-9814  
Fax: (920) 922-8088  
Contact: Bruce W. Muthig, President  
Notes: Manufacturer of pellet feeders for  
mink farms.

Samuel Schrock  
W10181 Cumberland Road  
Wautoma, WI 54982  
Contact: Samuel & Carolyn Schrock  
Notes: Small mink farm, located just west  
of County Road II.

Golden Sands Ranch  
N5183 17th Drive  
Wild Rose, WI 54984  
Phone: (920) 622-3338  
Fax: (920) 622-4382  
Contact: Harry H. Erickson, Robert  
Erickson  
Notes: Very large mink farm. Located  
between County Road A and County  
Road O.

*Dedicated to those left behind.*

