

HUMANE CARE AWARD

CERTIFY YOUR MINK FARM TODAY!



Fur farming methods worldwide are coming under increased scrutiny, and governments are imposing stiffer regulations on farmers. In large parts of Europe, fur farmers must now certify their farms to be able to market their pelts, and producers are having limited input on those standards. In numerous countries, evidence of animal abuse has prompted serious calls to ban fur farming. In Nova Scotia, mink farmers are reeling from newly introduced government restrictions.

US mink farmers can proudly say they established the Humane Care Award Program in 1985, one of the first formalized humane care certification programs in US agriculture. Today, the overwhelming majority of US mink production comes from farms certified under this program.

Are you certified? Can FCUSA feel confident coming to your aid if you are attacked, knowing you are a responsible farmer? Can the auction houses proudly claim you as a clean, responsible, certified farm? If you're not yet certified, please complete the application form and submit it ASAP!

The Humane Care Award seal is given to farms meeting the criteria set forth by our Animal Welfare Committee in its *Standard Guidelines for the Operation of Mink Farms in the US*. These rigorous standards for the humane production of farmed mink were developed by the industry in close consultation

with veterinarians and animal scientists. Farms are certified only after a comprehensive inspection by an independent, licensed veterinarian verifies compliance with FCUSA standards. Certified

farms are authorized to use the Humane Care Award seal until the next mandatory inspection (3 years after a first-time certification, every 5 years thereafter). The seal honors commitment to humane care in all aspects of mink farming, including:

- Vigilant attention to nutritional needs.
- Clean, safe and appropriate housing.
- Prompt veterinary care.
- Consideration for the animals' disposition and reproductive needs.
- Elimination of outside stress.
- Sound environmental management of all operations and facilities.

American farms produce the world's finest mink, drawing international buyers to auctions in the US and Canada. Producing the best mink is a reward for years of conscientious attention to providing the best possible animal care.

DETAILS GIVEN IN YOUR "APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION" ARE CONFIDENTIAL. YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THIS PROGRAM IS VITAL TO THE FUTURE OF FUR FARMING IN THE U.S.

HOW IT WORKS ...

STEP 1: Download the *Standard Guidelines for the Operation of Mink Farms in the United States* from the Members section of our website, or contact the FCUSA office for a copy.

STEP 2: Complete the application form overleaf, and fax it, mail it, or scan and email it to FCUSA.

STEP 3: FCUSA sends the form "Animal Welfare Committee Veterinary Inspection Report" to your vet, along with a cover letter and a copy of the *Standard Guidelines*.

STEP 4: Now is the time for you to make an appointment with your vet to visit your farm.

STEP 5: Your vet completes the Inspection Report, and

he or she (*not* the farmer) returns it to FCUSA.

STEP 6: If your farm passes the inspection, FCUSA sends you your Humane Care Award certificate, plus an invitation to submit a copy of the vet's bill for the inspection. On receipt of this copy, we will send you a \$75 rebate.

If your farm fails the inspection, FCUSA will work with you to bring your farm up to the Humane Care standards.

RENEWALS

Your certificate will have a date on it. If it is your first certificate, it is valid for three years. Every certificate thereafter will be valid for five years.

Start your renewal application a few months before your certification expires.

**CONTACT: FUR COMMISSION USA, PO Box 1532, MEDFORD, OR 97501. TEL: (541) 595-8568;
FAX: (541) 566-7489; MW@FURCOMMISSION.COM; WWW.FURCOMMISSION.COM**

(REVISED: AUGUST 27, 2011)

APPLICATION for CERTIFICATION

NOTE: Please submit this form *before* your vet's inspection. FCUSA will then provide your vet directly with the inspection form and instructions.

I hereby apply for certification by the Animal Welfare Committee of Fur Commission USA that my mink farm meets the humane care standards set by the Committee. If certified, I agree to maintain my farm and the animal care provided at the highest level throughout the certification term (3 years for the first certification, 5 years for renewals). I understand that my certification may be revoked if it is determined that my farm no longer complies with all applicable industry standards.

Please mail, fax or scan this form to:

Fur Commission USA

PO Box 1532

Medford, OR 97501

Tel: (541) 595-8568

Fax: (541) 566-7489

mw@furcommission.com

(Please print or type)

Name of farmer:

Name of farm:

Address of farm:

City: State: Zip:

Telephone: Fax: E-mail:

Name of inspecting veterinarian:

Address of veterinarian: City:

State: Zip: Telephone:

Fax: E-mail:

Signature of farmer: Date:

Comments or questions (optional):

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