

Stewardship in Canada's Mink Industry

Environmental Regulations

Federal, provincial and municipal governments have strict environmental regulations in place. Regulations include the distance farms must maintain from waterways, the handling of manure and compost, bio-security and pest management. Regular application/assessment processes and inspections are often a part of these systems. Environmental regulations may vary from province to province.

Use of Animal By-Products

By-products from food processed for human consumption are used to formulate healthy, balanced diets for farmed mink. In many cases, these ingredients would otherwise be discarded in landfills. Mink farms thus take materials that have very little value and transform them into products of much greater value.



Waste Materials

Similar to other agricultural industries, the main waste materials associated with mink farming are manure, wood shavings (or other types of bedding material) and mink remains after pelting. All of these materials are very quickly and easily composted into a very usable and highly desired fertilizer. This fertilizer is often spread on hay fields or on vegetable farms or gardens, or used for landscaping. This material, when composted properly, is free of pathogens, and is high in nitrogen which is necessary for plant protein development and cellular reproduction.

In addition to the fur, valuable mink oil (from the fat) can be preserved during the pelting process. This oil is used for waterproofing and protecting leather shoes or garments. Mink oil is also prized for the making of fine soaps and lotions.

Fur - Recyclable and Biodegradable

Today fur remains one of the most eco-friendly of fabrics. Not only is its warmth and luxury unequalled, but it is completely recyclable and reusable. Environmentalists demand that products need to be durable and functional, making fur even more appealing. Fur garments can, with proper care and fashion savvy be used for decades. A fur garment can morph from coat to jacket to vest, to liner. In the past they were even handed down from generation to generation! While that may not be in your future, fur coats, jackets and vests can be reinvented as fashion and home accessories, collars, linings, hand bags, pillows even the ultimate luxury a fur bedspread, making them good financial and fashion investments; the ultimate in eco-friendly fashion. (www.nafa.ca)



furisgreen.com 

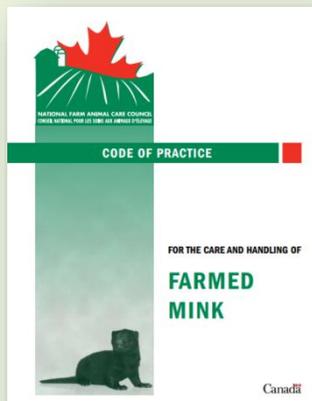
Real fur is an organic material. Faux fur and most synthetics are made from petrochemicals. Like other plastics, these materials do not break down easily and will remain in landfills for centuries. The "dressing" process (tanning) helps to preserve the pelts for some time, but after many years of use they will eventually dry out and begin to deteriorate (i.e., biodegrade), returning to nature. Old fur apparel can even be composted for your garden! (Visit FurisGreen.com for more information)



Animal Welfare in Canada's Mink Industry

Canada Mink Breeders Association Position

The Canada Mink Breeders Association (national association of Canadian mink farmers) believes in the responsible and sustainable use of animals to meet our intrinsic needs as human beings. This responsibility includes incorporating good animal welfare practices into the farm operations of its members. This is important from a moral perspective and also makes good business sense, as a contented animal (whether cows producing milk or mink producing fur) will produce a better product than an animal under stress.



National Code of Practice

In Canada, farmers abide by the industry standards outlined in the [National Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Mink](#), to ensure that animals are well cared for and harvested humanely.

This Code was developed under the auspices of Agriculture Canada with the collaboration of veterinarians, animal welfare authorities, animal scientists, government representatives and producers. The Code is based on scientific research and is peer reviewed. The Code addresses animal health and welfare concerns, namely; accommodation, food and water, care and supervision, health care, hygiene and sanitation, transportation of live mink, and euthanasia.

Mink Care Assessment Program Audit

The Mink Care Assessment Program (MCAP) is an audit program developed under the auspices of Agriculture Canada, based on the [National Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Mink](#). The MCAP was developed with the collaboration of veterinarians, animal welfare authorities, animal scientists, government representatives and producers. This program requires farms to participate in an independent third-party audit on an annual basis to verify compliance with the Code requirements. The MCAP provides assurances to buyers and consumers that animal care standards are being met.

FURMARK

FURMARK is the certification program that provides designers and manufacturers with the reassurances they need to use fur, and consumers with the reassurance they need to confidently buy and wear fur.

It's a world class, comprehensive certification and traceability program that verify the animal welfare of the animals raised on farms or trapped in the wild, as well as the environmental sustainability of the dressing and dyeing processes used in preserving the furs.

When it comes to purchasing a FURMARK certified product, you can be assured that the furs have met national and international environmental and welfare standards. The FURMARK program currently includes European and North American animal welfare certification programs, as well as wild fur and dresser and dyer programs.



FURMARK

