

Real Fur & the Environment

THROUGHOUT HISTORY, fur garments have been enjoyed for their warmth, beauty, durability and practicality. Today's consumers appreciate furs for other reasons as well. In a world where lifestyle decisions have far-reaching implications for the environment, it's important to know that real fur is among nature's most ecologically sound products.

- **Fur sold in the U.S. comes only from plentiful species**, either raised on farms or trapped under the strict regulation of state governments. In fact, thanks to the efforts of skilled farmers, trappers and dedicated wildlife professionals, America's furbearer populations are more numerous today than at any time in our history.

- From start to finish, **fur production involves virtually no waste**, an important element of the conservation ethic. Farm-raised furbearers consume farm byproducts not suitable for human consumption, and that otherwise would require costly landfill disposal. In turn, the byproducts of fur farming are used to produce animal feed, pet foods and fine hypoallergenic soaps and cosmetics.

- **Fur products can last a lifetime** if well cared for, but when the time finally comes to dispose of them, it is reassuring to know that they are biodegradable. Think of that the next time you throw away an item of synthetic clothing made from petroleum. Unlike oil, fur is also a renewable natural resource.

- Last but by no means least, **America's fur farmers are committed to providing their animals with humane care**. This is not just because they have strong ethics. It is also good business sense. Furbearers need quality care if they are to produce quality fur, and American mink have become a standard for excellence world-wide.

Teresa Platt
Executive Director, FCUSA



Images courtesy of Jesper Clausen / CFC, Fur Council



Fur Commission USA

FUR COMMISSION USA is a non-profit association representing 420 mink-farming families on 330 farms in 28 states. Our volunteer board and committees work to educate the public about responsible fur farming, to ensure the best care for our animals, and to celebrate and secure fur-farming families.

FCUSA administers a certification program establishing superior animal husbandry techniques as our farms recycle over a billion pounds of society's food by-products annually, turning waste into clothing.

The efforts of our fur-farming families result in an exquisite natural insulator, a fabric that is used in some of the world's most beautiful garments, protecting people around the globe against the harshest elements. Through FCUSA, the people of the fur industry are making a positive difference.

To learn more about America's fur farmers contact:

Fur Commission USA, PMB 506, 826 Orange Avenue, Coronado, CA 92118-2698 USA.
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AS REPRESENTATIVE OF AMERICA'S mink-farming families, FCUSA makes available a wide range of materials of interest to everyone from journalists, government officials and conservationists to school teachers and children. For a comprehensive listing visit our web site at: www.furcommission.com

RESOURCES

For reading on-line or printing out, we offer the following introductory materials:

Fur Facts: One-stop look at all aspects of the industry.

Mink Farming in the US

Also on-line:

Perspectives: Key documents on the sustainable use of natural resources.

Suggested reading: Recommended papers and books. Go shopping through our direct tie-up with Amazon.com

Links: A comprehensive list of fur industry websites and the best on sustainable use and conservation.

CYBERCASTING

“Excellence Through Humane Care”

Go behind the scenes on a family fur farm to learn what it takes to raise healthy mink.

“What Can I Say?” A fur-clad lady shopper is accosted by a man opposed to fur, but brings him around by explaining how fur is actually produced.

“Chow Time” Learn how fur farmers recycle waste from human food production and transform it into nature's finest and most beautiful insulator.

CAREERS

Are you motivated to produce nature's finest clothing material? FCUSA will be glad to help you build a career in fur farming. Visit our website's FAQ page to plan your first move.



EDUCATION

Contact FCUSA or visit our web site for a comprehensive list of our classroom materials, including:



Animals and Our Clothing

Worksheets promote understanding about animal fibers, the species that produce them, and the contributions they make to our lives. Materials integrate easily into language, arts, social studies, geography and math. Grades 4-6.

Animals & Us Coloring Book

Hours of fun for kids as they learn about the important role Farmer Bob and his animals play in feeding and clothing us.



NEWS

FCUSA brings you all the latest news affecting the fur industry, plus perspectives on the broader issues of sustainable use and conservation of renewable natural resources.

“Fur Farm Letter”

We also produce a quarterly newsletter, *Fur Farm Letter*, directed primarily at mink farmers but of interest to anyone who cares about the future of America's animal-caretakers. Subscription is free, so drop us a line and we'll add you to our mailing list.

HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT FCUSA?

Much of our work is done by active fur farmers volunteering their services. However our programs still cost money - for administration, specialist staff, travel, office equipment, consultancy fees, and so on. If you value a healthy future for the American fur industry, please consider making a donation. Contact us or visit www.furcommission.com/donation.htm to learn more