



FUR COMMISSION USA

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March 7, 2017

Dear Rancher:

Enclosed please find the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) annual survey on mink farming. Fur Commission USA encourages all mink farmers to take the time to complete and return this important document.

The USDA survey is the only official source of statistical information on the US mink farming industry. Fur Commission USA uses the results of this survey to educate legislators throughout the country on the impact of mink production to their states and districts. The survey is also used to promote and defend the industry through the media. A complete statistical profile provides accurate counts on farms, establishes pelt price averages, and enables us to identify industry trends. The fact that it is authored by the USDA gives it weight that we cannot provide from within the industry.

The survey data is **STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL**. Farm names, addresses, and other personal information are considered private and are exempt from release under the Freedom of Information Act. Data on individual farms cannot be released to the public under any circumstances!

Your response to the survey is voluntary, but the cooperation of mink farmers is important in developing accurate estimates on the economic impact of our business, both regionally and nationally. Please take a few minutes to respond to the survey and if you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me at the Fur Commission USA office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Whelan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "M".

Michael Whelan
Executive Director
Fur Commission USA
541-595-8568