Melissa Ure

From: Hannah Rettler <hrettler@utah.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 5, 2021 4:48 PM
To: cpf1@fbac.com
Cc: Dean Taylor
Subject: Email to distribute to mink industry in Utah

Hi Chris!

Thanks so much for helping to distribute this email for us. We would like for this to go out to everyone who works in the mink industry in Utah so they all have access to this information. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns. Have a great weekend!

Thank you to everyone who was able to join the mink producer webinar this afternoon hosted by the Utah Department of Agriculture (UDAF) and the Utah Department of Health (UDOH). We hope that it was helpful and informative for you, and we strongly encourage you to reach out to either Dr. Dean Taylor with UDAF, or Hannah Rettler with UDOH, if you have any questions or concerns about what we shared or discussed this afternoon.

This link will take you to the "COVID-19 Resource Kit for Mink Producers" live document that has all of the resources Hannah reviewed on the call today. It contains links to all of the guidance documents that are currently available, COVID-19 prevention recommendations, as well as PPE recommendations, links to training documents and videos, etc, and contact information for both Hannah and Dr. Taylor. We hope that this document is helpful to keep everything in one place for you to reference, and we will add resources to this document as they become available.

View the Resource Kit here: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1r-1GhmxNcKCu8kT6fqyQ4QkbQ926kS5kQH8Lm_rLrFE/edit?usp=sharing

Thank you again for your time and participation, and please do not hesitate to reach out and let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

--

Hannah Rettler, MPH
Vectorborne/Zoonotic Disease Epidemiologist
Disease Response, Evaluation, Analysis, & Monitoring Program
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Melissa Ure

From: Hannah Rettler <hrettler@utah.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 5, 2021 4:06 PM
To: Dean Taylor
Subject: Re: COVID-19 Toolkit for Mink Producers

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1r-1GhmxNcKCu8kT6fqyQ4QkbQ926kS5kQH8Lm_rLrFE/edit?usp=sharing

On Fri, Feb 5, 2021 at 2:42 PM Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov> wrote:
I intended this to be a document to share with the producers. I would like to distribute this through the fur commission but would like to discuss this with you after the call first. Then I would like to send it out to partners as well.
I will call you after the meeting.

On Fri, Feb 5, 2021 at 2:06 PM Hannah Rettler <hrettler@utah.gov> wrote:
Thanks Dr. Taylor! I definitely could chat after the call to discuss what we can/should share with our partners.

Do you plan to go through this document with the farmers on the call this afternoon? Or is this really a resource more to share with state partners?

On Fri, Feb 5, 2021 at 1:20 PM Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov> wrote:
This again is excellent. I have sent you a document. Feel free to add to my section of it as well as add some stuff for UDOH. I love the way you organize and word things so do not hesitate to make some changes to my part. I have several states and Canada asking for guidance. After the meeting if you had an additional 10 minutes for a call to discuss what we felt we could share with our partners, I would love to share some of this information with them.
I have an outline for what I want to cover, feel free to jump in and also cover anything you feel is important in your section.
Dean

On Thu, Feb 4, 2021 at 4:32 PM Hannah Rettler <hrettler@utah.gov> wrote:
FYI - I just wanted to share this with you ahead of tomorrow: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1r-1GhmxNcKCu8kT6fqyQ4QkbQ926kS5kQH8Lm_rLrFE/edit?usp=sharing

I won't go through this entire thing in detail, but I plan to share this with all the farmers and go through our public health recommendations through this document. I hope this will serve as a handy resource!

Also, if you would like to drop in any specific UDAF recommendations, definitely feel free to add. I thought it might be nice to have everything in one place for them, and hosting it as a Google sheet makes it a living document that we can edit/update when there are any changes.

--
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100 Years of Supporting Agriculture and Food

Hannah Rettler, MPH
Vectorborne/Zoonotic Disease Epidemiologist
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100 Years of Supporting Agriculture and Food

Hannah Rettler, MPH

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COVID-19 Resource Kit for Mink Producers

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Federal Guidance Documents

USDA Interim SARS-CoV-2 Guidance and Recommendations for Farmed Mink and Other Mustelids

- → English
- → Spanish

USDA Interim Guidance for Animal Health and Public Health Officials Managing Farmed Mink and other Farmed Mustelids with SARS-CoV-2

- → English
- → Spanish

CDC COVID-19 prevention measures for people working on mink farms

- → English
- → Spanish

Utah Department of Health prevention recommendations

1. Know the symptoms of COVID-19
    a. English
    b. Spanish
2. Screen your employees for COVID-19 prior to entry onto farms
    a. How to screen and test employees
    b. Recommend use of non-contact thermometers to take temperature before work
3. Encourage your staff to stay home when sick or when they have been exposed to COVID
    a. English
    b. Spanish
4. If employees **must** work even when ill, require the use of fit-tested N95 mask to reduce risk of spread to other employees and animals
5. All staff that work directly with the mink should wear the recommended personal protective equipment (PPE) for mink farmers
6. All staff should follow recommended guidelines for safe use of PPE
7. All staff should be tested for COVID-19 if they have symptoms, or they have been in close contact with a human or animal(s) who have been sick or test positive
8. We recommend mink farmers to consider vaccination to protect themselves, their employees, and their animals against COVID-19

9. Know that reinfection is possible, so even if you, your employees, or your mink have had COVID before, we do not yet know how long antibodies provide protection, there are new variants of SARS-CoV-2 currently circulating, and it is possible to become reinfected

PPE recommended for mink farmers

- List of supplies recommended
    - Respirator/mask (in order protection effectiveness)
        - 1) NIOSH fit tested N95
            - Where can I get fit tested? (*UDOH no longer offers fit testing for the public)
                - Industrial Safety Equipment
                - Concentra
            - Consider half mask respirators to reduce cost/waste
        - 2) KN95 mask
        - 3) Cloth mask (*laundered daily*) + face shield
    - Face shields
    - Nitrile/surgical disposable gloves
    - Dedicated coveralls (*laundered daily*) or disposable surgical gowns
    - Rubber boots you can disinfect
    - Microchem disinfectant + garden sprayer
        - You can use this at the end of the shift to spray down entire body PRIOR to safely doffing PPE and placing dirty disposable items in biohazard bag
- List of PPE vendors and contact information

PPE safety

How to don (put on) PPE

- PDF Instructions
    - English
    - Spanish
- Video Instructions
    - English
    - Spanish

How to doff (take off) PPE

- PDF Instructions
    - English
    - Spanish

- Video Instructions
  - English
  - Spanish

Face mask do's and don'ts

- English
- Spanish

Putting on and taking off your respirator mask

- English
- Spanish

How to wash and reuse cloth face masks

COVID-19 vaccine information

- When can I get vaccinated in Utah?
- Where can I get a vaccine in Utah?
- Vaccine FAQs

COVID-19 Testing

- When should I get tested?
  - If you are symptomatic, or have had close contact with someone who has had symptoms or tested positive within the last 14 days, we recommend testing.
  - If your mink are showing clinical signs of illness, or you are seeing higher rates of mortality, we recommend testing.
  - If your mink have tested positive for COVID-19, we recommend testing for everyone that works in close contact with the mink.
    - ***From what we have observed so far, we know that it is possible for humans to transmit virus to mink when they are asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic, so if mink on your farm are ill, it is incredibly likely that someone on the farm is currently, or has recently been, sick and we recommend testing***

- Where can I get tested?
    - In order to continue surveillance to further understand the directionality of the virus between humans and mink, the Utah Department of Health is offering *limited quantities* of free on-site saliva testing for mink farmers who:
        - Have mink that are showing clinical signs of illness
        - Have mink that have tested positive for SARS-CoV-2
            - You may contact Hannah Rettler to coordinate testing
                - Phone: 801-538-6333
                - Email: Hrettler@utah.gov
    - If you prefer to go to a testing location on your own
        - Find a testing location near you
- Testing FAQs

Mental Health Resources

- English
- Spanish

Contact Information

Utah Department of Agriculture

To report suspected COVID-19 among your mink, or if you have any questions about animal health and/or farm management contact: **Dr. Dean Taylor, State Veterinarian**, Email: djtaylor@utah.gov Phone: 801-982-2243

Utah Department of Health

To report suspected mink-to-human COVID-19 transmission, or if you have any questions about human health and/or worker health and safety, contact: **Hannah Rettler, Zoonotic Epidemiologist,** Email: Hrettler@utah.gov Phone: 801-538-6333

Melissa Ure

From: Dean Taylor <deantaylor63@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2021 11:51 AM
To: Dean Taylor
Subject: list
Attachments: 001.jpg

face shields
TyVeK Suits
Gloves
Micro Kem
1cc syringes
Swabs
Tubes
media - VTM
Shippers
Dry ice
Submission forms
Scissors
Forcepts
Tape
Welding Gloves
Table
Tube racks
Trash Bags
Spray Bottles
Sharpies
N 95 masks
Thermometer
Alcohol
Tape - Duct
shipping

Melissa Ure

From: Rooney, Jane A - APHIS <jane.a.rooney@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 11, 2020 1:45 PM
To: Korslund, John A - APHIS; david.smith@agriculture.ny.gov; dlx9@cdc.gov; Cossaboom, Caitlin (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHCPP); Loiacono, Christina M - APHIS; Abrahamsen, Lauren M - APHIS; john easley; maggie.baldwin@state.co.us; Carpenter, Ann (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD); Wendling, Natalie (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD); Olander, Doris - APHIS; john easley; Hannah Rettler; Dean Taylor; Garvey, Ann (CDC idph.iowa.gov); Rushin, Gerald L - APHIS; Korslund, John A - APHIS; Rekant, Steven - APHIS; Holmstrom, Lindsey K - APHIS; Porter-Spalding, Barbara A - APHIS; lie0@cdc.gov
Subject: FW: Chinese paper on experimental infection of mink with SARS CoV-2 and use of subunit vaccine
Attachments: Replication, pathogenicity, and transmission of SARS CoV-2 in mink - Nat. Sci. Rev. 2020.pdf

FYI – I have not read this yet but thought this might be of interest to the group

---

From: Styles, Darrel K - APHIS <darrel.k.styles@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 11, 2020 1:35 PM
To: Lautner, Elizabeth A - APHIS <elizabeth.a.lautner@usda.gov>; Isaac, Freeda E - APHIS <freeda.e.isaac@usda.gov>; Rippke, Byron - APHIS <byron.e.rippke@usda.gov>
Cc: Rooney, Jane A - APHIS <jane.a.rooney@usda.gov>; Wainwright, Sherrilyn H - APHIS <sherrilyn.h.wainwright@usda.gov>
Subject: Chinese paper on experimental infection of mink with SARS CoV-2 and use of subunit vaccine

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Replication, pathogenicity, and transmission of SARS-CoV-2 in minks

Lei Shuai[1, 2]*, Gongxun Zhong[1, 2]*, Quan Yuan[3]*, Zhiyuan Wen[1, 2]*, Chong Wang[1]*, Xijun He[1,2]*, Renqiang Liu[1, 2], Jinliang Wang[1, 2], Qinjian Zhao[3], Yuxiu Liu[4], Ningning Huo[4], Junhua Deng[4], Jingjing Bai[4], Hongchao Wu[4], Yuntao Guan[2], Jianzhong Shi[1], Kegong Tian[4], Ningshao Xia[3], Hualan Chen[1]†, Zhigao Bu[1,2]†

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3. State Key Laboratory of Molecular Vaccinology and Molecular Diagnostics, National Institute of Diagnostics and Vaccine Development in Infectious Diseases, School of Public Health, Xiamen University, Xiamen 361102, People's Republic of China.
4. National Research Center for Veterinary Medicine, No. 3 Cuiwei Road, High-Tech District, Luoyang 471003, People's Republic of China.

*These authors contributed equally to this work.

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Zhigao Bu (E-mail: buzhigao@caas.cn), Hualan Chen (E-mail: chenhualan@caas.cn)

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Abstract

Minks are raised in many countries and have transmitted severe acute respiratory syndrome–coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) to humans. However, the biologic properties of SARS-CoV-2 in minks are largely unknown. Here, we investigated and found that SARS-CoV-2 replicates efficiently in both the upper and lower respiratory tracts, and transmits efficiently in minks via respiratory droplets; pulmonary lesions caused by SARS-CoV-2 in minks are similar to those seen in humans with COVID-19. We further found that a spike protein-based subunit vaccine largely prevented SARS-CoV-2 replication and lung damage caused by SARS-CoV-2 infection in minks. Our study indicates that minks are a useful animal model for evaluating the efficacy of drugs or vaccines against COVID-19 and that vaccination is a potential strategy to prevent minks from transmitting SARS-CoV-2.

Key words: SARS-CoV-2; mink; replication; pathogenicity; transmission; animal model

Introduction

Coronaviruses (CoV) have caused three epidemics in the 21st century, including severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) in 2003 [1], Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS) in 2012 [2], and the currently spreading COVID-19 [3, 4]. The causative pathogens for these three epidemics are SARS-CoV, MERS-CoV, and SARS-CoV-2, respectively. Unlike SARS-CoV and MERS-CoV, which each caused human infections over a limited geographic area, SARS-CoV-2 has caused a pandemic [5, 6, 7]. As of October 11, 2020, over 37 million human cases have been reported, and more than one million humans have died from the infection [8].

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The SARS-CoV-2 shares the highest homology at the nucleotide level with the coronavirus RaTG13, which was found in horseshoe bats (*Rhinolophus spp.*) in Yunnan province, China, in 2013 [9], implying that the SARS-CoV-2 and RaTG13 may have descended from a similar ancestor. Although it remains unknown which animal(s) served as intermediate hosts to transfer the virus from its original host to humans, it has been reported that multiple animal species, including ferrets, hamsters, nonhuman primates, cats, dogs, tigers, raccoon dogs, and minks are permissive for SARS-CoV-2 infection or have tested positive in the field [10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23]. Among these susceptible animals, minks are the only species farmed on a large scale in many countries that have transmitted SARS-CoV-2 to humans, suggesting their potential to become a new reservoir of SARS-CoV-2 [20, 24]. However, the biologic properties of SARS-CoV-2 in minks are largely unknown. Here, we performed a detailed study to understand the replication, pathogenicity, and transmission of SARS-CoV-2 in minks. We also explored the potential of minks to serve as model animals for the development of COVID-19 control measures.

Results

All experiments with infectious SARS-CoV-2 were performed in the biosafety level 4 and animal biosafety level 4 facilities in the Harbin Veterinary Research Institute (HVRI) of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS), which were approved for such use by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of China. Details of the biosafety and biosecurity measures taken were described previously [14]. The protocols for animal study and animal welfare were reviewed and approved by the Committee on the Ethics of Animal Experiments of the HVRI of CAAS (approval number 2020-05-01JiPi).

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SARS-CoV-2 replicates efficiently in the upper and lower respiratory tracts of minks

To investigate the replication and tissue tropism of SARS-CoV-2 in minks, three 13-month-old minks were inoculated intranasally (i.n.) with 5×10^6 plaque-forming units (PFU) in 1ml of the SARS-CoV-2 HRB25 strain, which was isolated from a patient in Harbin in February, 2020 [25]. Nasal washes, concha swabs, and rectal swabs were collected on days 2 and 4 post-inoculation (p.i.) for viral RNA and infectious virus detection. On day 4 p.i., the minks were euthanized and their nasal turbinates, soft palates, tonsils, tracheas, lungs, hearts, submaxillary lymph nodes, kidneys, spleens, livers, small intestines, and brains were collected for viral RNA and infectious virus detection.

Viral RNA was detected in the nasal washes of all three animals on days 2 and 4 p.i., and also from the ear swabs and rectal swabs of two animals on day 2 p.i. (Fig. 1A). Infectious virus was detected in the nasal washes of all three animals on days 2 and 4 p.i., but not from the concha swabs or rectal swabs of any animals at any time points (Fig. 1B). Viral RNA was detected in the nasal turbinates, soft palates, tonsils, all lung lobes, and submaxillary lymph nodes of all three minks, in the trachea of two minks, and in the ileum of one mink, but was not detected in any other organs of any animal tested (Fig. 1C). Infectious virus was detected in most of the viral RNA-positive samples (Fig. 1D). These results demonstrate that SARS-CoV-2 can replicate efficiently in the upper and lower respiratory tracts of minks.

SARS-CoV-2 causes severe pathological injury in the respiratory tracts of minks

Nasal turbinate and lung samples of the minks that were euthanized on day 4 p.i. were also collected for pathological studies. Compared to the clean nasal cavity of the naïve control mink (fig.

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S1A) [26], the nasal cavities of the virus-inoculated minks were filled with mucinous-purulent secretion, which was composed of neutrophil debris and mucus (fig. S1, B and C). Inflammatory infiltrates, epithelial degeneration, and necrosis were observed in the nasal mucosa and submucosa of the vestibular region (fig. S1D), respiratory region (fig. S1E), and olfactory region (fig. S1F). In the nasal mucinous-purulent secretion of the infected animals, numerous positive signals indicating SARS-CoV-2 nucleoprotein antigen (fig. S1H) were noted. Positive signals were also detected in the epithelium of the nasal mucosa of the vestibular region, respiratory region, and olfactory region (fig. S1I, J, K) and that of the tracheal mucosa (fig. S1L). These data suggest a major role for nasal secretion in transmission and olfactory function impairment, as has been reported in SARS-CoV-2 infected human patients [27].

The lungs of the virus-infected minks showed severe lesions with extensive and diffuse consolidation (Fig. 2B). At higher magnification, various histopathological changes were observed, including fibrinous necrosis of the blood vessels (Fig. 2C), intra-alveolar serous and fibrin exudation (Fig. 2, D and E), hemorrhage (Fig. 2E), focal multinucleated syncytial cells (Fig. 2F), intra-alveolar and interalveolar septa proliferation and infiltration of macrophages (Fig. 2G), severe lymphoplasmacytic perivasculitis and vasculitis, and fibrin formation in blood vessels (Fig. 2, H and I). A few intranuclear inclusion bodies in monocyte-like cells (Fig. 2I), degeneration of bronchiolar epithelium (Fig. 2J), peribronchiolar inflammatory infiltrates (Fig. 2, J and K), and degeneration of bronchial gland epithelium (Fig. 2L) were also noted. Viral antigen-positive cells were detected in the bronchi and lungs of all animals on day 4 p.i. (Fig. 2, M, N, and O). There was marked proliferation of macrophages, monocytes, and neutrophils in the lungs, which was confirmed by

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immunohistochemical staining with an anti-MAC387 antibody (Fig. 2P). Robust deposition of intra- and inter-alveolar mature collagen fibers was detected (Fig. 2Q); mucous-fibrin mixture deposits were detected in the bronchial lumen (red staining, Fig. 2R) and in the blood vessels (fig. 2, S and T). Importantly, most of these pathologic changes have been observed in human COVID-19 patients [28, 29, 30], as summarized in table 1, suggesting that SARS-CoV-2 causes similar damage to the respiratory systems of minks and humans.

SARS-CoV-2 easily transmits among minks via respiratory droplets

To investigate the ability of SARS-CoV-2 to transmit among minks via respiratory drops, three animals were inoculated i.n. with 5×10^6 PFU of HRB25 and each animal was placed in a separate cage within an isolator. Twenty-four hours later, three naive minks were placed in each cage adjacent to the ones that held the virus-inoculated mink without direct contact. Nasal washes, and rectal and concha swabs were collected every other day from days 2 to 18 p.i. from the inoculated animals [and from days 1 to 17 post-exposure (p.e.) from the exposed animals] for viral RNA detection and virus titration. Body weights of all six animals were recorded every other day. In the three virus-inoculated minks, viral RNA was detected in the nasal washes of all three animals on days 2, 4, 6, and 8 p.i., and in the nasal washes of two animals and one animal on days 10 and 12 p.i., respectively, but not from any animals on days 14, 16, and 18 p.i. (Fig. 3A). Viral RNA was also detected in the concha swab of one mink on days 4 and 6 p.i. and in the rectal swab of another mink on day 8 p.i., (fig. S2A). Among the exposed minks, viral RNA was started to be detected in the nasal washes of one, two, and all three animals on days 3, 5 and 9 p.e., respectively (Fig. 3A). Viral RNA was also detected from the concha swab and rectal swab of one mink on day 11 p.i. and day 13 p.i., respectively (fig. S2, A and

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C). Infectious virus was detected in the nasal washes of the infected minks from days 2 to 8 p.i., and in the nasal washes of the exposed animals from days 5 to 11 p.e. (Fig. 3B), but was not detected in the concha swabs or rectal swabs of any of the minks (fig. S2, B and D). The inoculated minks experienced 10%–20% body weight loss during the 18-day observation period (Fig. 3C); one virus-inoculated mink experienced watery nasal discharge. The exposed minks lost about 5% of their body weight (Fig. 3D). All of the inoculated and exposed minks seroconverted on day 18 p.i. (Fig. 3, E and F). These data indicate that SARS-CoV-2 easily transmits among minks via respiratory droplets.

A spike protein-based subunit vaccine protects minks against SARS-CoV-2

The above studies indicate that minks are most similar to humans in terms of replication, transmission, and lung lesions after being infected with SARS-CoV-2, making minks a potential animal model for SARS-CoV-2 study and COVID-19 control measure evaluation. In addition, since minks are raised in many countries, actions are urgently needed to prevent farmed minks from becoming a reservoir of SARS-CoV-2. We therefore evaluated the protective efficacy of a spike protein-based subunit vaccine against SARS-CoV-2 in minks. Six 13-month-old minks were immunized intramuscularly with two doses of an aluminium-adjuvanted subunit vaccine; each dose contained 25 μg of the spike protein in a 0.5-ml volume, and there was a two-week interval between immunizations. Sera were collected at different time points from the vaccinated minks for detecting antibody against SARS-CoV-2. The animals were challenged intranasally with 5×10^6 PFU of HRB25 at five weeks post the second dose vaccine inoculation.

One and four of the six vaccinated minks developed antibodies to SARS-CoV-2 one week and

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two weeks after the first vaccination, respectively, and all of the six minks developed antibodies against SARS-CoV-2 after the second dose vaccination tested by an ELISA (fig. S3A). At five weeks after the second immunization, the neutralization antibody titers of the minks ranged from 64 to 256 (6log2 to 8log2) (fig. S3B). Three vaccinated minks and three control minks were euthanized on day 4 post-challenge (p.c.). Among the three vaccinated animals, viral RNA of the challenged virus was detected in the nasal turbinate, soft palate, and tonsil of one or two of the three animals, and in one lung lobe of one mink (Fig. 4A), but infectious virus was not detected in any organs tested (Fig. 4B). In contrast, high copy numbers of viral RNA and infectious virus were detected in all of the tested organs of the control minks, except for the tonsils, in which infectious virus was not detected (Fig. 4, A and B). Histological studies of lung samples from the vaccinated minks revealed mild perivasculitis with/without slight peribronchiolitis and interstitial pneumonitis (fig. S4, A to C), but viral antigen was not detected in the lungs of any of the minks (fig. S4, D to F). Lung samples from the control minks showed acute interstitial pneumonia, severe perivasculitis, and moderate peribronchiolitis (fig. S4, G to I); the lung parenchyma contained a large amount of diffuse viral antigen (fig. S4, J to L).

Nasal washes of the three remaining minks in each group were collected for viral RNA detection and infectious virus titration. Viral RNA was detected in the nasal washes of the control minks on days 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, and 12 p.c., but was only detected in the nasal washes of the vaccinated minks on days 2, 4, and 6 p.c. with significantly low levels (Fig. 4C). Infectious virus was detected in the nasal washes of the control minks on days 2, 4, 6, and 8 p.c., but was only detected in the nasal wash of one vaccinated mink on day 2 p.c. (Fig. 4D).These studies show that the spike protein-based subunit

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vaccine largely prevented the replication of SARS-CoV-2 in the upper and lower respiratory tracts of the minks, and prevented SARS-CoV-2-induced lung damage in minks.

Discussion

In summary, we performed detailed studies to investigate the replication, transmission, and pathogenicity of SARS-CoV-2 in minks and found that SARS-CoV-2 replicates efficiently in both the upper and lower respiratory tracts and causes severe lesions in the nasal mucosa and lungs of minks. In addition, we found that SARS-CoV-2 transmits efficiently in minks via respiratory droplets. Oreshkova *et al.* reported that SARS-CoV-2 was lethal in farmed pregnant minks [20]; however, in the present study, we found that virus-inoculated minks lost 10%–20% of their body weight at around day 8 p.i., and exposed minks lost about 5% of their body weight, but none of the virus-inoculated or -exposed minks died. The exposed animals lost less body weight than the virus-inoculated animals, largely because the initial dose received by the exposed animals was much lower than that received by the inoculated animals, although the titer of the virus in the exposed animals reached a peak level similar to that of the inoculated animals. These findings suggest that pregnant minks may be more vulnerable to SARS-CoV-2 infection than non-pregnant ones. Given that minks are highly susceptible to SARS-CoV-2 and could be easily infected by this widely spreading virus, surveillance and active control measures in minks should be implemented to prevent minks from becoming reservoirs of SARS-CoV-2.

Animal models are needed for the evaluation of vaccines and antiviral drugs for COVID-19. Human angiotensin-converting enzyme 2 (hACE-2) receptor transgenic mice have been generated and proved to be susceptible to SARS-CoV-2 infection, resulting in a range of clinical signs with mild to fatal disease depending on the transgene [31, 32, 33, 34]. SARS-CoV-2 adaptation to mice has also

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been attempted through either serial passaging or reverse genetics [35, 36, 37]. Non-human primates, including rhesus macaques, African green monkeys, and marmosets, have been shown to be susceptible to SARS-CoV-2 infection [38, 39, 40, 41]. Ferrets have also been shown to be susceptible to SARS-CoV-2 infection resulting in mild disease with shedding from the upper respiratory tract [14, 17, 42, 43].

Both minks and ferrets are mustelid and are highly susceptible to SARS-CoV-2; however, the replication patterns of SARS-CoV-2 in ferrets and minks are different. Studies shown that the host factors, such as ACE2 [9, 44, 45, 46] and neuropilin-1 [47, 48], play important roles in the SARS-CoV-2 replication, it remains to be investigated if ferrets and minks have different expression levels of these critical host factors in their organs. SARS-CoV-2 efficiently replicates in the upper respiratory tract of ferrets, but its replication in the lungs of ferrets is undetectable [14]. Therefore, the ferret model can only be used to assess the efficacy of vaccines or antivirals in preventing or reducing virus replication in the upper respiratory tract; it cannot be used to evaluate whether they reduce or eliminate lung lesions. SARS-CoV-2 replicates in the upper and lower respiratory tracts of minks and causes lung lesions highly similar to those seen in human COVID-19 patients [28, 30]. Accordingly, using minks as model animals will enable us to more precisely evaluate the efficacy of antiviral drugs or vaccines for COVID-19.

Minks are raised on a large scale in many countries and are at high risk of SARS-CoV-2 infection. In fact, SARS-CoV-2 infection of minks has been reported in several countries in Europe and the Americas, and millions of minks have been culled to control the spread of the virus [24]. In the present study, we found that a spike protein-based subunit vaccine largely prevented SARS-CoV-2 replication and protected minks from SARS-CoV-2-induced lung damage. Our previous studies with H7N9

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influenza viruses have showed that vaccinated animals could be perfectly protected from exposure to virus infected animals, even though the vaccine cannot provide complete protection when the animals were challenged by direct infection [49, 50]. Given that the vaccine provided sound protection to high dose of SARS-CoV-2 challenge, it is reasonable to speculate that the vaccinated animals would be protected from infection of natural exposure. Vaccination may, therefore, be an option for preventing SARS-CoV-2 infection of minks.

Materials and Methods

The detailed descriptions of materials and methods are available as Supporting information at NSR online.

Data and materials availability

All data are available in the manuscript or the supplementary materials.

Acknowledgments

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Funding

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Author contributions: L.S., G.Z., Q.Y., Z.W., C.W, X. H., R. L., J.W., Q.Z., Y.L., N.H., J.D., J.B., H.W., and Y.G. performed the experiments; K.T., N.X., H.C., Z.B. designed the study and analyzed the data; H.C. and Z.B. wrote the manuscript.

Conflict of interest statement. None declared.

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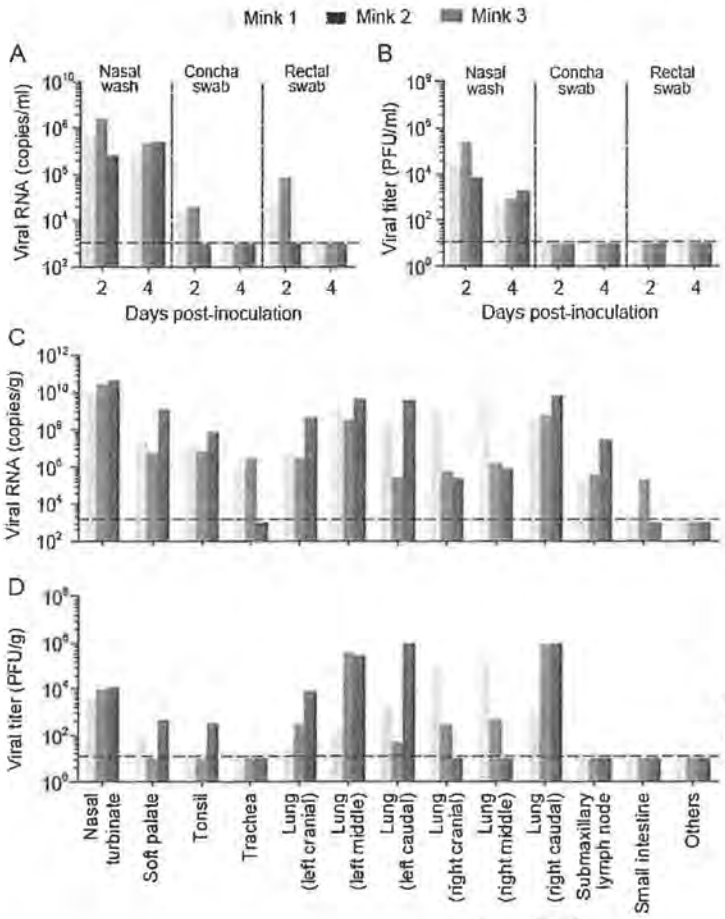


Figure 1. Replication of SARS-CoV-2 in minks. Three minks were inoculated with HRB25 virus, and their nasal washes, concha swabs, and rectal swabs were collected on days 2 and 4 post-infection (p.i.); organs were collected on day 4 p.i. for viral RNA detection and virus titration. (**A**) Viral RNA and (**B**) viral titers of nasal washes, concha swabs, and rectal swabs of minks on days 2 and 4 p.i. (**C**) Viral RNA and (**D**) viral titers of organs of minks on day 4 p.i. "Others" represents viral-negative organs, including the heart, kidneys, spleen, liver, pancreas and brain. Each color bar represents the value from an individual animal. The dashed lines indicate the lower limit of detection.

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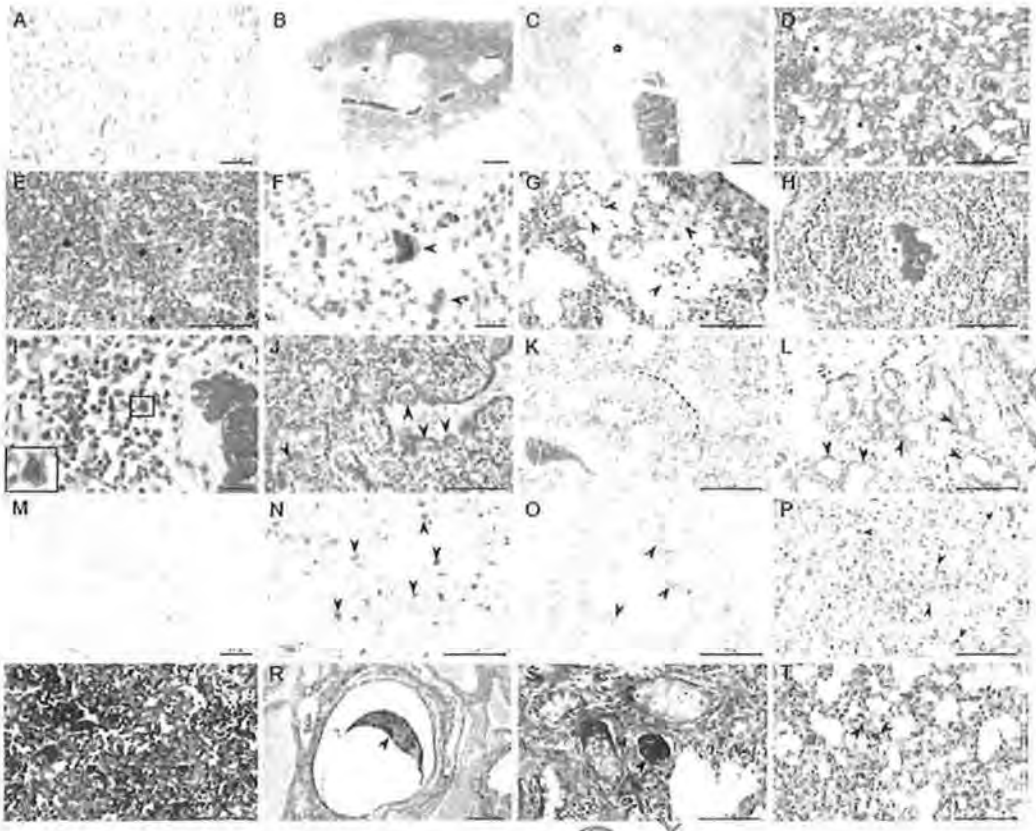


Figure2. Histopathologic, immunohistochemical, and histochemical studies. (**A**) Lung from control mink shows normal structure. (**B-T**) Lungs of minks infected with SARS-CoV-2. (**B**) Extensive and diffuse consolidation at sub-gross level. (**C**) Fibrinous necrosis of blood vessel wall (cinquefoil). (**D**) Intra-alveolar serous and fibrin exudation (asterisk). (**E**) Intra- and inter-alveolar hemorrhages (cloverleaf) and serous-fibrin exudation (asterisk). (**F**) Multinucleated syncytial cell in alveolar space (arrow). (**G**) Intra- and inter-alveolar foamy macrophage proliferation (arrow). (**H**) Severe lymphoplasmacytic perivasculitis and vasculitis (dotted line), and fibrin formation (asterisk) in a blood vessel. (I) Eosinophilic intranuclear inclusion body formation in a monocyte-like cell (□). (**J**) Degeneration of bronchiolar epithelium (arrow). (**K**) Peribronchiolar inflammatory infiltrate (dotted line). (**L**) Degeneration of bronchial gland epithelium. (**M, N**) Viral antigen-positive cells in the lung (arrow) and in (**O**) bronchi epithelium (arrow). (**P**) Marked proliferation of macrophages, monocytes, and neutrophils, confirmed by immunohistochemistry with an anti-MAC387 antibody (arrow). (**Q**) Deposition of intra- and inter-alveolar collagen confirmed by Masson trichrome (blue) staining. (**R**) Embolus of mucous-fibrin mixture in bronchial lumen confirmed by MSB staining (Red arrow). (**S**)

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Fibrin formation in a blood vessel confirmed by MSB staining (Red arrow). (T) Formation of microvascular thrombi confirmed by MSB staining (Red arrow). Scale bar in A, C, D, K, M, and O = 200 μm; in E, G, H, J, L, N, P, Q, S, and T = 100 μm; in F and I = 20 μm; and in R = 500 μm.

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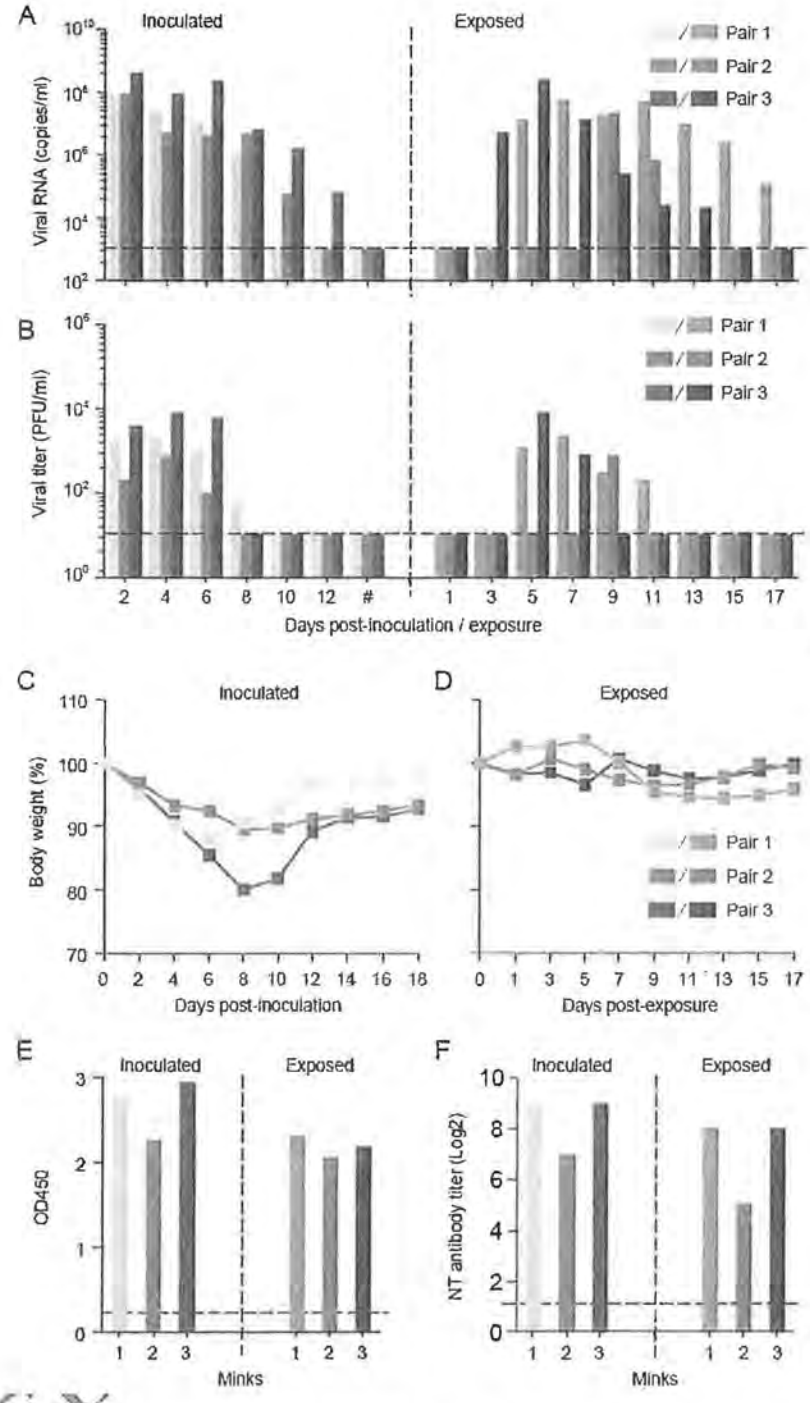


Figure 3. Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 in minks. Respiratory droplet transmission of SARS-CoV-2 HRB25 was evaluated in three pairs of minks. (**A**) Viral RNA in nasal washes of minks. (**B**) Viral titers in nasal washes of minks. (**C**) Body weight change of inoculated minks. (**D**) Body weight change of

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exposed minks. Antibodies against SARS-CoV-2 were detected by ELISA (**E**) and a neutralization assay (**F**). Hash represents the time points of days 14, 16, and 18 post-inoculation. Each color bar represents the value from an individual animal. The horizontal dashed lines indicate the lower limit of detection. OD450, optical density measured at 450 nm; NT antibody, neutralizing antibody.

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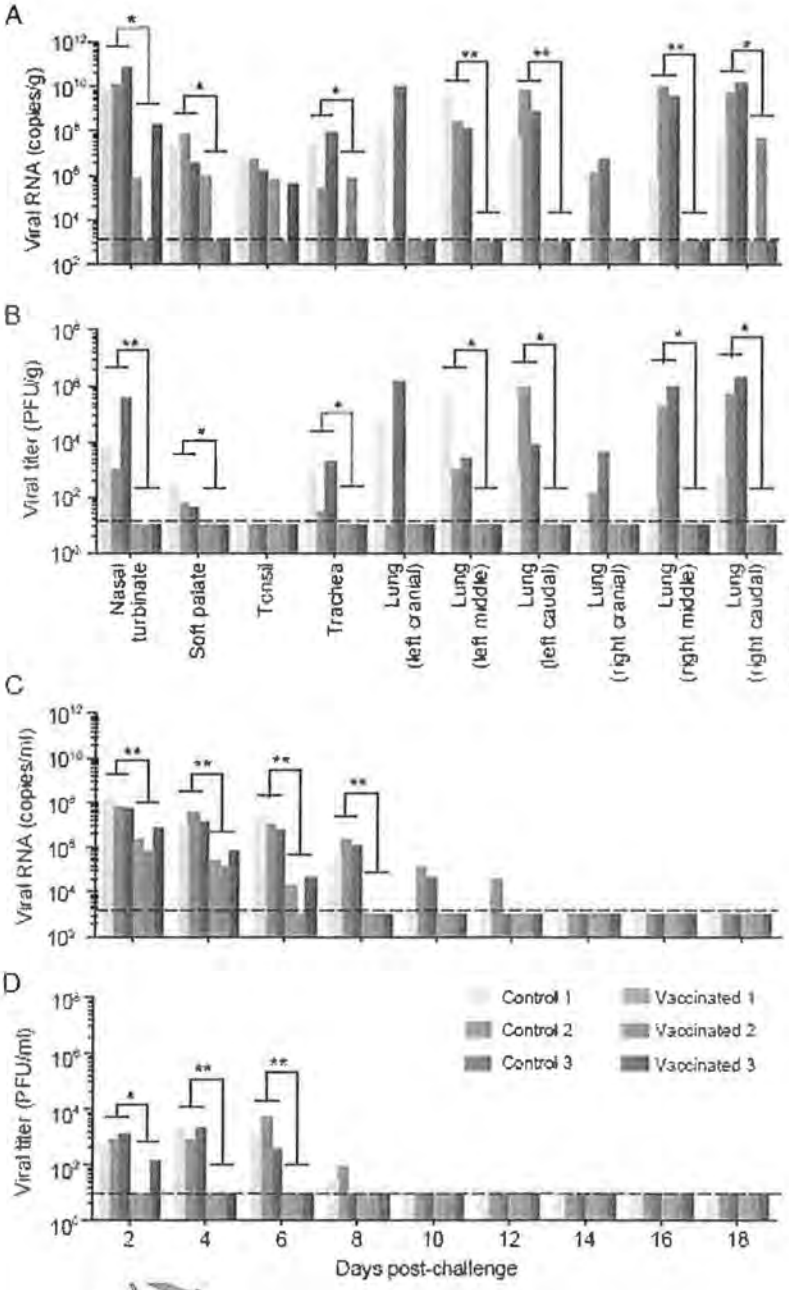


Figure 4. Protective efficacy of a spike-based subunit vaccine against SARS-CoV-2 challenge in minks. Six vaccinated or control minks were challenged with SARS-CoV-2 HRB25. Three minks from each group were euthanized on day 4 post-challenge (p.c.) and their organs were collected for viral RNA detection (**A**) and infectious virus titration (**B**); nasal washes of the three other remaining minks in each group were collected for viral RNA detection (**C**) and infectious virus titration (**D**). The

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horizontal dashed lines indicate the lower limit of detection. Viral RNA and viral titers of control and vaccinated minks were statistically analyzed by using the one-tailed unpaired t-test. Single asterisk indicates $P < 0.05$, and double asterisks indicates $P < 0.01$.

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Table 1. Pathological characteristics observed in the lungs of minks infected with SARS-CoV-2 HRB25 strain.

Lesions observed in minks		Percentage of 129 COVID-19 human patients having the lesions on autopsy as reported by Polak et al. [27]
Epithelial	Diffuse alveolar damage	75%
	Desquamation and/or reactive hyperplasia of pneumocytes	72%
	Multinucleated giant cells	20%
	Viral inclusion bodies	20%
Vascular	Capillary congestion	45%
	(Micro) thrombi	39%
	Alveolar hemorrhage	33%
	Intra-alveolar fibrinous exudates	26%
	Peri- or intravascular inflammatory infiltrates	9%
	Interstitial fibrous changes, septal collagen deposition	33%
Other	Interstitial and intra-alveolar inflammatory infiltrates	64%
	Intra-alveolar edema	46%

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Melissa Ure

From: Meckes, Doug <Doug.Meckes@ncagr.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 22, 2021 11:21 AM
To: Rod Hall; bob.gerlach@alaska.gov; tony.frazier@agi.alabama.gov; Randolph.Chick@agriculture.arkansas.gov; pmundschenk@azda.gov; annette.jones@cdfa.ca.gov; keith.roehr@state.co.us; Bruce.Sherman@ct.gov; vito.delvento@dc.gov; heather.hirst@delaware.gov; michael.short@fdacs.gov; robert.cobb@agr.georgia.gov; Isaac.M.Maeda@hawaii.gov; Jeff.Kaisand@Iowaagriculture.gov; bill.barton@isda.idaho.gov; mark.ernst@illinois.gov; bmarsh@boah.in.gov; justin.smith@ks.gov; katie.flynn@ky.gov; stateveterinarian@ldaf.state.la.us; l.oconnor@mass.gov; michael.odian@maryland.gov; michele.walsh@maine.gov; winelandn@michigan.gov; Beth.Thompson@state.mn.us; steve.strubberg@mda.mo.gov; jimw@mdac.ms.gov; mzaluski@mt.gov; skeller@nd.gov; dennis.hughes@nebraska.gov; Stephen.K.Crawford@agr.nh.gov; manoel.tamassia@ag.nj.gov; ralph.zimmerman@state.nm.us; amitchell@agri.nv.gov; david.smith@agriculture.ny.gov; Tony.Forshey@agri.ohio.gov; rscholz@oda.state.or.us; kebrightbi@pa.gov; scott.marshall@dem.ri.gov; bparr@clemson.edu; dustin.oedekoven@state.sd.us; samantha.beaty@tn.gov; andy.schwartz@tahc.texas.gov; djtaylor@utah.gov; charles.broaddus@vdacs.virginia.gov; bethany.bradford@doa.vi.gov; kristin.haas@vermont.gov; bjoseph@agr.wa.gov; darlene.konkle@wisconsin.gov; jmaxwell@wvda.us; jim.logan@wyo.gov
Subject: RE: [External] COVID Positive Pets

Rod,
Please find out joint release with DHHS regarding COVID-19 infected pets below:

DHHS did the joint release - not the vet school. Here is a link: https://www.ncdhhs.gov/news/press-releases/north-carolina-has-first-reported-sars-cov-2-positive-case-dog

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Sent: Thursday, January 21, 2021 4:41 PM
To: bob.gerlach@alaska.gov; tony.frazier@agi.alabama.gov; Randolph.Chick@agriculture.arkansas.gov;

pmundschenk@azda.gov; annette.jones@cdfa.ca.gov; keith.roehr@state.co.us; Bruce.Sherman@ct.gov; vito.delvento@dc.gov; heather.hirst@delaware.gov; michael.short@fdacs.gov; robert.cobb@agr.georgia.gov; Isaac.M.Maeda@hawaii.gov; Jeff.Kaisand@Iowaagriculture.gov; bill.barton@isda.idaho.gov; mark.ernst@illinois.gov; bmarsh@boah.in.gov; justin.smith@ks.gov; katie.flynn@ky.gov; stateveterinarian@ldaf.state.la.us; l.oconnor@mass.gov; michael.odian@maryland.gov; michele.walsh@maine.gov; winelandn@michigan.gov; Beth.Thompson@state.mn.us; steve.strubberg@mda.mo.gov; jimw@mdac.ms.gov; mzaluski@mt.gov; Meckes, Doug <Doug.Meckes@ncagr.gov>; skeller@nd.gov; dennis.hughes@nebraska.gov; Stephen.K.Crawford@agr.nh.gov; manoel.tamassia@ag.nj.gov; ralph.zimmerman@state.nm.us; amitchell@agri.nv.gov; david.smith@agriculture.ny.gov; Tony.Forshey@agri.ohio.gov; Rod Hall <Rod.Hall@ag.ok.gov>; rscholz@oda.state.or.us; kebrightbi@pa.gov; scott.marshall@dem.ri.gov; bparr@clemson.edu; dustin.oedekoven@state.sd.us; samantha.beaty@tn.gov; andy.schwartz@tahc.texas.gov; djtaylor@utah.gov; charles.broaddus@vdacs.virginia.gov; bethany.bradford@doa.vi.gov; kristin.haas@vermont.gov; bjoseph@agr.wa.gov; darlene.konkle@wisconsin.gov; jmaxwell@wvda.us; jim.logan@wyo.gov
Subject: [External] COVID Positive Pets

CAUTION: External email. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify. Send all suspicious email as an attachment to Report Spam.

Hi All,

If you have had house pets that have tested positive for COVID and you've issued press releases will you please send me a copy?

Thanks,

Rod

Rod Hall, DVM | State Veterinarian
Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry
2800 N. Lincoln Blvd. OKC, OK 73105
405.522.0270 | c. 580.257.0254
rod.hall@ag.ok.gov
www.ag.ok.gov/ais
For Interstate Movement Requirements go to https://www.interstatelivestock.com/



Melissa Ure

From: MacCannell, Duncan (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD) <fms2@cdc.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 20, 2020 6:18 PM
To: Koentges, Georgy; OAMD (CDC); mhofmann@utah.gov
Cc: Arnaud Van Wettere; Dean Taylor; NGSQuality (CDC); uphl@utah.gov
Subject: RE: Utah mink SarsCov2 SEQUENCES/WGS - IMPORTANT RESEARCH -

My apologies for the delayed response, Dr. Koentges –

I've reached out to some contacts at UPHL to see if they are aware of any mink samples, and they will hopefully be in contact soon.

Sincerely,

Duncan

Duncan R. MacCannell, Ph.D.
OAMD CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD

Office of Advanced Molecular Detection
National Center for Emerging & Zoonotic Infectious Diseases
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

1600 Clifton Road NE, MS-G38
Atlanta, Georgia, USA 30333
dmaccannell@cdc.gov
http://www.cdc.gov/amd

[t] 404.639.1949
[f] 404.235.0008
[tw] @dmaccannell



From: Koentges, Georgy <G.Koentges@warwick.ac.uk>
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2020 4:18 PM
To: OAMD (CDC) <oamd@cdc.gov>; mhofmann@utah.gov
Cc: Arnaud Van Wettere <arnaud.vanwettere@usu.edu>; Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>; NGSQuality (CDC) <NGSQuality@cdc.gov>; uphl@utah.gov
Subject: Utah mink SarsCov2 SEQUENCES/WGS - IMPORTANT RESEARCH -

Hello, I am a neuroanatomist studying SarsCov2 travelling through the mammalian brain. I am working with the Utah veterinarian Dr Arnaud Van Wettere <arnaud.vanwettere@usu.edu> and we like to investigate the current mink infection in Utah.

We are looking urgently **for whole genome sequences of SARS-Cov2 in minks that the CDC likely obtained during recent testing of the current mink outbreak in Utah.** Do you have access to these sequences? How can we get access to these sequences please for analysis? I will be happy to speak to any CDC official (in Utah or elsewhere) who can give me information about where/how we can look at the genome sequences obtained asap. We have a pretty clear hypothesis why minks might die but need their DNA sequences and the SarsCov2 variants of their carers, if possible.

Thanks for your expeditious help,
Georgy Koentges

==========

Professor Georgy Koentges, PhD

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Coventry CV4 7AL
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mobile:07837 207 066
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website: http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/sci/lifesci/people/gkoentges/
publications: http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed?term=Koentges%20G%20OR%20Kontges%20G
for data uploads: https://files.warwick.ac.uk/



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Melissa Ure

From: Rooney, Jane A - APHIS <jane.a.rooney@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2020 9:10 AM
To: Curlett, Ed C - APHIS; Cole, Lyndsay M - APHIS; Hayden, Joelle R - APHIS
Cc: Dean Taylor
Subject: RE: Dr Easley

I think we should just go with the updated talking points at this time. I will reach out to Dr. Taylor by phone as soon as I can.

Jane

Jane A. Rooney, D.V.M.
Director, One Health Coordination
Office of Interagency Coordination
Strategy and Policy
USDA:APHIS:Veterinary Services
2150 Centre Ave., Building B, MS3E13
Fort Collins, Colorado 80526

Ph: 970-494-7397
Mobile: 301-789-3064
Email: Jane.A.Rooney@usda.gov

From: Curlett, Ed C - APHIS <ed.c.curlett@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2020 9:06 AM
To: Cole, Lyndsay M - APHIS <lyndsay.m.cole@usda.gov>; Rooney, Jane A - APHIS <jane.a.rooney@usda.gov>; Hayden, Joelle R - APHIS <joelle.r.hayden@usda.gov>
Cc: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Subject: RE: Dr Easley

Thank you, Lyndsay.

USDA
ED CURLETT
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS, ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office: (301) 851-4052
CELL: (240) 401-7294

From: Cole, Lyndsay M - APHIS <lyndsay.m.cole@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2020 10:59 AM
To: Curlett, Ed C - APHIS <ed.c.curlett@usda.gov>; Rooney, Jane A - APHIS <jane.a.rooney@usda.gov>; Hayden, Joelle R - APHIS <joelle.r.hayden@usda.gov>
Cc: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Subject: RE: Dr Easley

Here is CDC's talking point on the subject.

- Currently, there is no evidence that animals play a significant role in the spread of SARS-CoV-2 to people.
  - However, reports from infected mink farms in the Netherlands suggest that in these environments there is the possibility for transmission of SARS-CoV-2 from mink to humans following infection of these animals.

I couldn't find it quickly, but I'm positive they previously had a point that went a bit further and said something like "the primary method of transmission remains from person to person".

Lyndsay Cole
Assistant Director, Public Affairs
USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Office: (970) 494-7410
Cell: (301) 538-9213
Lyndsay.M.Cole@usda.gov

From: Curlett, Ed C - APHIS <ed.c.curlett@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2020 8:44 AM
To: Rooney, Jane A - APHIS <jane.a.rooney@usda.gov>; Cole, Lyndsay M - APHIS <lyndsay.m.cole@usda.gov>; Hayden, Joelle R - APHIS <joelle.r.hayden@usda.gov>
Cc: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Subject: RE: Dr Easley

Hi Jane. Can VS or CDC verify what Dr. Easley is saying? He appears to be saying that researchers in Denmark are confident they have demonstrated that humans gave mink the virus, the virus change in the mink, the mink then gave the changed virus to humans, and then humans gave the changed virus to other humans. Right now we don't know if that is actually true or not. We would not have anything to say other than that we are aware of this narrative and are working with CDC to gather more information. We would continue to encourage biosecurity on mink farms to protect both the mink and the workers. Ed

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DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS, ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office: (301) 851-4052
CELL: (240) 401-7294

From: Rooney, Jane A - APHIS <jane.a.rooney@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2020 10:34 AM
To: Curlett, Ed C - APHIS <ed.c.curlett@usda.gov>; Cole, Lyndsay M - APHIS <lyndsay.m.cole@usda.gov>; Hayden, Joelle R - APHIS <joelle.r.hayden@usda.gov>
Cc: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Subject: FW: Dr Easley
Importance: High

I wanted to bring this to your attention – especially if we can provide Dr. Taylor any help.

I am on an important call until at least 9am MT. I will do my best to answer what I can after that.

Casey was on a call with the Netherlands early yesterday (I wasn't able to join) and is sending me the notes – however it seems on some farms in Europe mink are positive for 6 weeks (not sure if they have tested out further than that.

Jane

Jane A. Rooney, D.V.M.
Director, One Health Coordination
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Strategy and Policy
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2150 Centre Ave., Building B, MS3E13
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Ph: 970-494-7397
Mobile: 301-789-3064
Email: Jane.A.Rooney@usda.gov

From: Rooney, Jane A - APHIS
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2020 8:02 AM
To: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Subject: RE: Dr Easley
Importance: High

Don't know the interview and am on a call right now but will get back to you asap.

Jane

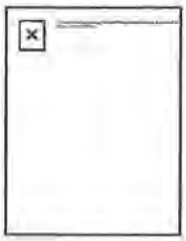
Jane A. Rooney, D.V.M.
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2150 Centre Ave., Building B, MS3E13
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Ph: 970-494-7397
Mobile: 301-789-3064
Email: Jane.A.Rooney@usda.gov

From: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2020 7:53 AM
To: Rooney, Jane A - APHIS <jane.a.rooney@usda.gov>
Subject: Dr Easley

Good morning Jane,
I am fending off calls from the media, stemming from Dr Easley's interview which I am sure that you are aware of at this point in time. How is he tied in with One Health and the USDA response on this? This has made it look like we are lying even though I have told them all we are aware of Denmark's findings.

Any suggestions?
Dean
--



Dean J Taylor, DVM | State Veterinarian
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Melissa Ure

From: Leann Hunting <leannhunting@utah.gov>
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2020 12:35 PM
To: Dean Taylor
Cc: Amanda Price; Caroline Hargraves; Hannah Rettler
Subject: Re: Fw: Covid-19 in Mink

I haven't seen the video, Dr. Taylor. So disappointing someone would do that.

On Thu, Oct 15, 2020 at 11:43 AM Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov> wrote:
This appears to be a leak. The groups discussing things have individuals with agendas at times so that is probably what happened here. I have verified all the information that we have from Utah. I am only focusing on what we know as fact here. I will put together with Caroline an updated statement for the media and may run it past the group this afternoon.

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Dean Taylor** <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Date: Thu, Oct 15, 2020 at 11:39 AM
Subject: Re: Fw: Covid-19 in Mink
To: Ryan Holt <rhinoh1301@yahoo.com>

Thanks Ryan

On Wed, Oct 14, 2020 at 9:29 PM Ryan Holt <rhinoh1301@yahoo.com> wrote:
Dr easley comment

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

----- Forwarded Message -----
From: "mw@furcommission.com" <mw@furcommission.com>
To: "john easley" <johneasleydvm@hotmail.com>, "Ryan Holt" <rhinoh1301@yahoo.com>, "Mel Blanke" <melblanke@yahoo.com>, "Bob Zimbal Jr." <bobz@zimbalmink.com>
Sent: Wed, Oct 14, 2020 at 8:38 PM
Subject: Re: Covid-19 in Mink
From what we've discovered So far, the video was leaked by someone. UARC was not on the call. Stand by

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 14, 2020, at 5:28 PM, john easley <johneasleydvm@hotmail.com> wrote:

3 rd draft

From: john easley
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2020 6:00 PM

To: Michael Whelan <mw@furcommission.com>
Subject: Covid-19 in Mink

Hello Michael,

Here is an initial draft:

I regards to the hacked video of our meeting I would like to respond as follows:

The reference I made was to some initial work done in Denmark and this was through personnel communications and has not been published to the best of my knowledge, so the accuracy of those statements may change once the complete research is published. The statements were being made to the farmers in attendance on the private call and I was trying to stress to the farmers that this disease is real and that they need to take the disease very seriously.

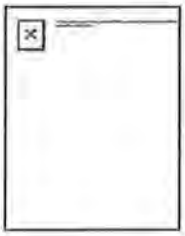
The concept that the Sars-cov-2 virus that is circulating within the human populating, that our mink are highly susceptible to and which causes disease in the mink, could be a source of infection back to people is nothing new to scientist's involved with disease outbreak. That is the main reason the US Mink Industry, the Center for Disease Control(CDC), the National Veterinary Services Laboratory, State Animal Health Organizations and other governmental agencies are working so aggressively to understand this disease. The health of the people that may come in contact with this disease is a prime concern for the industry. That is why we are working closely with our governmental agencies, private entities and all the stakeholders in industry to address any potential risk there maybe to the people involved in the industry. The US mink industry is exploring and supporting research to understand how the virus affects our livestock and how we can mitigate any potential risk it may pose. The industry is working closing with the veterinary bioceutical industry to develop a vaccine to protect the farm raised mink population. This will not only increase the welfare of the animals but also reduce any risk to the people involved with the farms.

As a result of the aggressive work and assistance our governmental agencies have provide, we have learned a great deal about this disease in mink and how it progresses in a herd of mink. Fortunately, the governmental testing has shown the mink respond very quickly, with a quality immune response. After 2 to 3 weeks, 100% of the mink tested showed antibody responses and the clinical signs progress back to normal within 7 to 10 days after the initial infection. The testing by the CDC is ongoing and we will certainly learn more as time goes on.

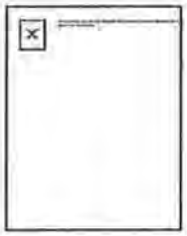
John Easley DVM



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Leann Hunting | Director: Animal Industry
| 385.290.2383 mobile
Website | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram

Melissa Ure

From: Amanda Price <amandaprice@utah.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 21, 2020 8:40 PM
To: Dean Taylor
Subject: Re: mink

Sounds fun! Just a reminder that I have the AVMA Economic Summit next week from 11-3 on Monday to Wednesday, so I am only working half days those days.

On Wed, Oct 21, 2020, 5:19 PM Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov> wrote:

Hello,
Next week I will have you on a couple of calls with me and some individuals to discuss the quarantines, results and pelting.
I will set them up when I get back on Monday.
I have not been able to get service like I have in the past with my phone. I don't know if the coverage has changed or what but I could not get service. I will get texts now and will check them once a day so if you need anything text not email, I won't spend that much time on the computer.
Dean

—



Dean J Taylor, DVM | State Veterinarian
Office 801-982-2243 Cell 385-290-9462
djtaylor@utah.gov
Website | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram

Melissa Ure

From: Barton Behravesh, Casey (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD) <dlx9@cdc.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 21, 2020 5:10 PM
To: Dean Taylor; Cossaboom, Caitlin (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHCPP)
Subject: RE: interpreting results

Thanks, Dean. We are glad to be working with you on this challenging situation. We are available whenever you are ready. We have some concerns with the lack of data and information on length of quarantine, carcass disposal, manure management, etc and hope to work with state and federal partners to have the best possible guidance available. We are currently exploring environmental data, data on feces, and wastewater treatment to see what we can learn that will be helpful.

Enjoy your time on the mountain!

Casey

From: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 21, 2020 7:07 PM
To: Cossaboom, Caitlin (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHCPP) <nrm9@cdc.gov>; Barton Behravesh, Casey (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD) <dlx9@cdc.gov>
Subject: interpreting results

Hey thank you for the input on the call just now. Putting the human and mink genomes together is what I was looking for.
I am actually on vacation and trying to ignore my phone but I will be on the mink calls. Next week when I am back in the office I would love to get a few minutes of your time on a call and put this all together in my mind. I know that Jane is getting ready to release another guidance document but I would like your opinion as well.
I will be meeting with the first farms to discuss the obstacles they are up against and some alternatives for pelting as well so that I can put together some sort of a plan going forward.
Again I appreciate very much what you have been willing to do out here. That information will be critical for forming a response plan for the mink.
I will reach out next week.
Dean

--

Dean J Taylor, DVM | State Veterinarian
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djtaylor@utah.gov
Website | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram

Melissa Ure

From:	Rooney, Jane A - APHIS <jane.a.rooney@usda.gov>
Sent:	Thursday, October 22, 2020 10:00 AM
To:	Hrettler@utah.gov; maggie.baldwin@state.co.us; david.smith@agriculture.ny.gov; Porter-Spalding, Barbara A - APHIS; Abrahamsen, Lauren M - APHIS; Loiacono, Christina M - APHIS; john easley; Dean Taylor; Garvey, Ann (CDC idph.iowa.gov); dlx9@cdc.gov; Cossaboom, Caitlin M (CDC)
Cc:	lie0@cdc.gov; Wendling, Natalie (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD); Olander, Doris - APHIS; Carpenter, Ann (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD); Remmenga, Marta D - APHIS
Subject:	COVID-19 Livestock discussion group zoom meeting
Attachments:	Mink Epi Questionnaire DRAFT 10.22.2020.docx

Updated questionnaire for finalization on our call tomorrow. As soon as I have the draft testing guidance from Lauren I will send that out also (probably this afternoon).

Agenda:

- Finalize mink epi questionnaire – 20 minutes (max)
- Review and discuss draft testing guidance from CEAH SDA – 30 minutes (max)
- Other business and wrap up – 10 minutes

Jane

Jane A. Rooney, D.V.M.
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Office of Interagency Coordination
Strategy and Policy
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Mink SARS-CoV-2 Initial Contact
Epi Questionnaire

Interview Information:

Date:

Name of person administering questionnaire, agency, and title:

Manner of interview (phone, in-person):

Name of person answering questionnaire and position:

Premises Information:

Business name:

Premises Address*:

*attach a google map with structures labeled, including: barns, kitchen/feed prep area, manure disposal area, mortality disposal area, perimeter fence, driveway, access points)

GPS Coordinates:

Premises County:

Location ID/Premises ID:

Contact Information:

Owner name:

Owner address:

Owner phone:

Owner email:

Manager name:

Manager address:

Manager phone:

Manager email:

Veterinarian name:

Veterinarian address:

Veterinarian phone:

Veterinarian email:

Production Information:

Total number of mink on the premises:

Complete the table below with information based on today, interview date.

Barn ID (ID on the map)	Number of Mink	Age of Mink	Production Stage	Color Phase	Clinical signs observed? Y/N	Increase mortality? Y/N Complete Appendix A*

Commented [1]: Drop down options:
Breeding
Gestation
Whelping
Growing
Conditioning
Furring
Pelting
Harvesting

Commented [2]: Drop down options:
Black
Mahogany
Pastel
White
Palamino
Iris
Other mutations.

*Please complete Appendix A: Mortality Tracking for the previous two weeks. Provide producer mortality tracking sheets to continue tracking mortality while investigation is ongoing.

Other animal species present on premises (including pets or neighbors pets that visit):

Species	Number	Purpose	Contact with mink or mink areas?	Domestic or feral?

Any wildlife routinely observed on premises (including birds):

Clinical History

Have clinical signs consistent with SARS-CoV-2 been observed in mink on the premises:

Date of initial clinical signs observed:

Clinical signs observed:

○ Increase in mink deaths	○ Sneezing	○ Coughing
○ Nose discharge	○ Eye discharge	○ Gasping for air or shortness of breath
○ Diarrhea	○ Lack of energy	○ Poor appetite

○ Additional signs, please describe: _____

Morbidity and mortality rates (Appendix A):

Other production factors affected (e.g., feed and water intake):

Other recent disease incidents/outbreaks on the premises (e.g., Aleutian disease):

Have necropsies been performed on deceased mink (if so, please describe findings):

attach any available reports

Diagnostic Testing:

Has diagnostic testing for SARS-CoV-2 been performed (*if yes, please complete table in Appendix B*):

Results of diagnostic tests (please attach lab reports):

Farm Management:

Describe **animal** movement on the premises (within/between barns, including replacements):

Describe **workforce** movement on the premises (within/between barns, including crews for processing/vaccination):

Is there movement of **animals** between this premises and other mink premises, if yes please describe (capture premises address/contact information):

Is there movement of **workforce** between this premises and other mink premises, if yes please describe (capture premises address/contact information):

What type of barns are on the premises (e.g., two or four row, or multi-row barns):

Describe ventilation in barns:

Describe feeding operations:

Is spreading of feed practiced (Y/N):

Feed source/supplier:

Is feed source shared with other mink operations:

Describe watering system (recirculating, troughs, dump):

Method of carcass disposal (compost, rendering, landfill, burial), including on-farm or off-farm:

How are daily mortalities picked up (by the feeder, separate individual):

Are dedicated gloves used to handle mortalities (Y/N):

How are mortalities stored daily:

If frozen, are they stored separately from where feed is stored:

Method of manure disposal (compost, rendering, landfill, other), on-farm or off-farm:

Skinning and Pelting Operations:

Is skinning done on farm or off farm:

Describe skinning operations:

Are the pelts processed on the farm or off-farm:

Describe pelting operations:

How and where are pelts stored after skinning/processing:

How and where are carcasses and by-products disposed of after skinning/pelting?

Is PPE used during skinning/pelting (if so, please describe):

Biosecurity:

Indicate what biosecurity measures are routinely implemented on the premises:

Intact perimeter fence	Yes	No
Signage for biosecure area/no trespassing	Yes	No
Protocol for deliveries to minimize contamination	Yes	No
Foot baths in place to enter farm, barns, and food prep areas	Yes	No
Routine sanitation of animal equipment	Yes	No
Routine sanitation of food handling equipment	Yes	No
Vaccination program in place*	Yes	No
Pest and wildlife control program**	Yes	No

Disease control plan in place	Yes	No
Log book of all visitors to the premises	Yes	No
Employees routinely trained on biosecurity	Yes	No
Employees wear dedicated coveralls/boots	Yes	No
Do employees live or work on other mink farms	Yes	No

*If yes, please indicate what vaccinations are administered:

**If yes, what pest and wildlife control measures are routinely used on the farm:

Have any of the following movements ONTO the farm occured in the last 21 days?

Live mink	Yes	No	Don't know
Feed trucks	Yes	No	Don't know
Fresh litter/bedding	Yes	No	Don't know
Personnel or equipment to handle manure	Yes	No	Don't know
Processing/vaccination crews	Yes	No	Don't know
Off-site rendering company	Yes	No	Don't know
Company veterinarian or service technician	Yes	No	Don't know
Non-company veterinarian/consultant	Yes	No	Don't know
Service personnel (e.g., construction, plumbing, pest control)	Yes	No	Don't know
Customer/buyer/dealer	Yes	No	Don't know
Other mink producer	Yes	No	Don't know
Any other visitor	Yes	No	Don't know
Auction Personnel	Yes	No	Don't know

Have any of the following movements OFF the farm occurred in the last 21 days?

Live mink*	Yes	No	Don't know
* if yes, please provide trace information for follow-up			
Feed trucks (that haul feed originating from your premises)	Yes	No	Don't know
Farm personnel/equipment hauling manure to other prems	Yes	No	Don't know
Processing/vaccination crews or equipment used off farm	Yes	No	Don't know
Farm personnel/equipment used for off-farm carcass disposal	Yes	No	Don't know

Public Health

Have employees been made aware of clinical signs of SARS-CoV-2 in humans and animals:

Are employees screened daily for SARS-CoV-2 prior to entering the farm (temperature and clinical signs):

Have employees been directed to stay home if displaying signs of SARS-CoV-2:

Number of employees on the farm:

Are there people living on the farm:

Number of employees that work routinely in direct contact with mink:

Do employees wear PPE when in barns, handling animals, or handling food (if yes, please describe PPE use):

Commented [3]: add a checklist for PPE types

What aerosolization practices are routinely completed by employees on the farm (i.e., power washing,):

Have any employees tested positive for COVID-19 in the previous 30 days *:

Have any employees shown symptoms of COVID-19 (check all that apply) in the previous 30 days *:

○ cough	○ runny/congested nose	○ headache	○ loss of taste	
○ loss of smell	○ myalgia	○ chills	○ nausea/vomiting	○ diarrhea
○ subjective fever	○ fever above ≥100.4		○ chills	○ wheezing
○ chest pain	○ shortness of breath		○ discomfort while breathing	

*If yes, public health will complete contact tracing questionnaires for individual employees

Appendix A: Mortality Tracking

Barn #	Date	Color Phase	Kit Female	Kit Male	Old Female	Old Male	Total mortality

Appendix B: Diagnostic Testing

Date collected	Species	Animal ID/ Barn ID	Color Phase	Samples Collected (type)	Tissues Collected (type)	Laboratory submitted to:	PCR results:	Serology results:

Melissa Ure

Subject:	COVID-19 Livestock discussion group call
Location:	Skype Meeting (I now also have a call in number if you can't use Skype +1 202-650-0123,,619924965#)
Start:	Fri 10/30/2020 9:00 AM
End:	Fri 10/30/2020 10:00 AM
Show Time As:	Tentative
Recurrence:	(none)
Organizer:	Rooney, Jane A - APHIS
Importance:	High

Please find attached the working DRAFT (**not to be shared outside the working group)** Surveillance Guidance document Marta went over on our 10/23/20 call. Please provide feedback and comments in track changes to Marta, Lauren and me (marta.d.remmenga@usda.gov; Lauren.Abrahamsen@usda.gov; jane.a.rooney@usda.gov) by **COB Wednesday Oct 28.**

Also attached, the final mink questionnaire template, including CDC updates (please check they are correct). I left in Maggie's notes as most contain information for potential drop down lists or other useful tips. This document will be shared with stakeholders as "living document".

Also please send agenda items if you have them.

Join Skype Meeting

Trouble Joining? Try Skype Web App

Join by phone

Toll number: +1 202-650-0123,,619924965# (Dial-in Number) English (United States)

Find a local number

Conference ID: 619924965

Forgot your dial-in PIN? | Help

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Melissa Ure

From: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2020 10:30 AM
To: Killian, Mary L - APHIS
Subject: Re: request to make SARS-CoV-2 isolate available to public

This is approved as per our conversation this morning.
Dean J Taylor, DVM

On Thu, Oct 29, 2020 at 9:38 AM Killian, Mary L - APHIS <mary.l.killian@usda.gov> wrote:

Good morning!

NVSL is working to make SARS-CoV-2 viruses isolated from animals available to interested partners to facilitate research objectives. We would like to include the following virus isolate in the announcement:

- SARS-CoV-2/mink/USA/Utah/20-022930-001/2020

Availability of the virus will be announced in a stakeholder notice from the Center for Veterinary Biologics – an example of the type of information provided in the notice is attached (note – sections on select agent transfer will not apply to this agreement). Please indicate your agreement to share the virus by providing answers to the following questions:

1. Do you agree to have the sequence deposited in public database (GISAID and/or GenBank)? If yes, please review the strain identification and let us know if we need to make adjustments to the unique identifier prior to deposit.
2. Do you agree to make the virus available for research purposes?
3. If yes, please let us know who to acknowledge in the announcement.

Thank you for your consideration!

Mary Lea Killian, Microbiologist

Avian Viruses Section, Diagnostic Virology Laboratory

National Veterinary Services Laboratories

1920 Dayton Avenue

Ames, IA 50010

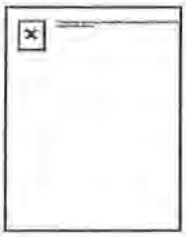
Ph: (515) 337-7551

FAX: (515) 337-7348

Mary.L.Killian@usda.gov

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djtaylor@utah.gov
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Melissa Ure

From: Cossaboom, Caitlin (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHCPP) <nrm9@cdc.gov>
Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2020 10:48 AM
To: Dean Taylor
Subject: RE: Follow up tests

That sounds like a great plan to me! Will keep you updated as I hear any new results.

Best,

Caitlin

From: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2020 12:47 PM
To: Cossaboom, Caitlin (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHCPP) <nrm9@cdc.gov>
Subject: Re: Follow up tests

For now I will just say thank you again. I think the pending test results will give us the ammunition that we need to go forward.
Thanks

On Thu, Oct 29, 2020 at 10:45 AM Cossaboom, Caitlin (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHCPP) <nrm9@cdc.gov> wrote:

Hi Dr. Taylor,

That sounds good to me. I was going to respond to him and say along the same lines that we cannot return without an invitation from the state. I can copy you and Hannah on my response to him so it's clear that we are all still in communication. If it would be helpful we will still be happy to discuss if you feel that a follow up sampling time point on the farms could be indicated and what that could look like, but we defer to you all on that.

Thank you,

Caitlin

From: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2020 12:38 PM
To: Cossaboom, Caitlin (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHCPP) <nrm9@cdc.gov>
Cc: Hannah Rettler <hrettler@utah.gov>
Subject: Re: Follow up tests

Melissa Ure

From: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2020 6:59 AM
To: john easley
Subject: Re: BioHawk Treatment to Combat Animal Coronavirus

John,
Feel no obligation to follow up on any. I don't spend any time at all looking at these requests so I would never know if any were valid or not. I have been deleting them but thought that I would have you glance at them in the event that someone had a valid product or test. I have the whole world writing to me and telling me that they know the reason that they are dying or the best test or cure. Feel free to toss them immediately if they look bogus.
Dean

On Thu, Oct 29, 2020 at 5:54 PM john easley <johneasleydvm@hotmail.com> wrote:
Hi Dean,

I just got back in and reviewed the attachments. I am not very convinced of the efficacy of this product. Most of these "wonder dust" products are not cost effective. I will follow up with them.

Thanks, and take care.

John

From: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2020 4:00 PM
To: johneasleydvm@hotmail.com <johneasleydvm@hotmail.com>
Subject: Fwd: BioHawk Treatment to Combat Animal Coronavirus

would you please take a look at this and see if this is something to get out to the breeders across the country?
Dean

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **JAVIER MATA** <javier.mata7@yahoo.com>
Date: Tue, Oct 20, 2020 at 10:19 PM
Subject: BioHawk Treatment to Combat Animal Coronavirus
To: djtaylor@utah.gov <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Cc: Peter RENNERT <peter_rennert@hotmail.com>, Lucas Amadeo <lcsamadeo@gmail.com>

Dear Dr Taylor

I am an Australian living in Mexico representing several Australian AgTech companies in the Americas. I read late last week about the challenge you are facing with coronavirus infections in mink populations in Utah.

One of the companies I represent, BioHawk, has developed enzyme products that can be used for poultry and livestock to control disease, including coronaviruses. The products allow producers to raise animals and poultry in high intensity farming situations without the use of antibiotics, while also improving animal health and increasing productivity. In 2005, the World Health Organization, while studying the efficacy of one of Biohawk's products against H5N1 and other influenzas, tested it against SARS-CoV and found it effective in inhibiting the virus.

Over the weekend, I raised the issue of coronavirus in mink with Cliff Hawkins, the Founder and Chief Scientist for BioHawk. He is a renown Australian biochemist with decades of work in the field.

Professor Hawkins confirmed that BioHawk has looked at the issue of mink and coronavirus previously and he believes that the products could be successfully deployed to control the virus in Utah's farmed mink. He also suggests that BioHawk would have additional benefits for animal health, including improving coat quality, when used as a regular treatment.

I have attached to the email an explanation of how the products target relevant viruses, including mink coronavirus, as well as information on the normal protocol for poultry. The latter is a guide to the technology only and a higher dose would be required for mink initially to control the outbreak.

If BioHawk is of interest to you, we would be happy to arrange a videoconference with Professor Hawkins to discuss this issue with you and your scientific team and/or any of the commercial operators.

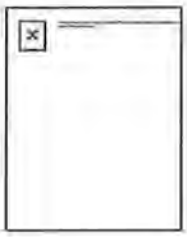
Please do not hesitate to contact me for any further information.
My contact details are: Mobile Phone +52 1 55 85310214

Regards,

Javier Mata

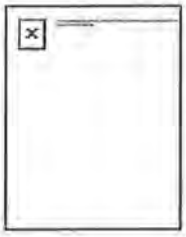
Operations Manager for North and Central American Markets, BioHawk

--



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Melissa Ure

From: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2020 7:53 AM
To: Shaylee Hook
Subject: Re: Mink COVID 19 Outbreak

I will call him this morning. I am gathering some information for them.
thank you
Dean

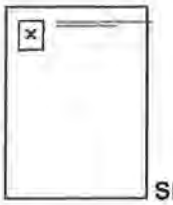
On Thu, Oct 29, 2020 at 2:18 PM Shaylee Hook <shook@utah.gov> wrote:
HI Dean,

Wisconsin now has an outbreak of COVID 19 in mink farms.
They would like a call back on how we have handled this previously?

If you are not the correct person to ask, I apologize, can you help me point him in the right direction?

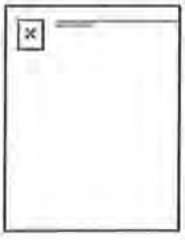
Tim Fiocchi Senator Tetrowski office in wisconsin 6082662502

--
Respectfully,



Shaylee Hook | Cannabis Office Specialist
801.982.2375
Website | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram

--



Dean J Taylor, DVM | State Veterinarian
Office 801-982-2243 Cell 385-290-9462
djtaylor@utah.gov
Website | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram

Melissa Ure

From: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, November 3, 2020 4:11 PM
To: Cossaboom, Caitlin (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHCPP)
Subject: Re: Call availability this week?

Got the one for tomorrow and I will not fill in the time on Thursday either.

On Tue, Nov 3, 2020 at 3:06 PM Cossaboom, Caitlin (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHCPP) <nrm9@cdc.gov> wrote:

Thanks so much, Dr. Taylor! I sent you the invite for the call at 8am MT tomorrow with Dr. Easley – please let me know if you didn't receive it. We are working on the invite for Thursday morning with WI and MI and will send that shortly.

Thanks!

Caitlin

From: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, November 3, 2020 5:05 PM
To: Cossaboom, Caitlin (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHCPP) <nrm9@cdc.gov>
Subject: Re: Call availability this week?

We had our discussion prior to me making it to this on the list. Just send me an invite when it is set and I will be on.

thanks

On Tue, Nov 3, 2020 at 9:24 AM Cossaboom, Caitlin (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHCPP) <nrm9@cdc.gov> wrote:

Thanks, Hannah! Dr. Taylor, if these times will also work for your schedule we will get something set up.

Thanks to both of you!

Caitlin

From: Hannah Rettler <hrettler@utah.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, November 3, 2020 10:49 AM

To: Cossaboom, Caitlin (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHCPP) <nrm9@cdc.gov>
Cc: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>; Barton Behravesh, Casey (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD) <dlx9@cdc.gov>; Wendling, Natalie (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD) <pme8@cdc.gov>
Subject: Re: Call availability this week?

Hi Caitlin,

I am happy to be a part of both of these discussions and appreciate you helping to coordinate. I am available tomorrow morning or Thursday morning for a call with Dr. Easley. I am also available for a call Thursday morning with WI and MI and can do either before 9am or between 11-1pm MT.

On Tue, Nov 3, 2020 at 7:12 AM Cossaboom, Caitlin (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHCPP) <nrm9@cdc.gov> wrote:

Hi Dr. Taylor and Hannah,

Do you both have any availability Wednesday (tomorrow) or Thursday mornings to have another call with Dr. Easley? He asked if I would have a call with him to discuss more questions he's gotten from the farmers and also resampling at a third time point and I think it would be great if you could be on.

Also, we have heard that SAHOs and public health officials in WI and MI are interested in having a call to discuss the data from our work in Utah to inform their planning in their states. Casey asked if I could help to arrange a call with both of you to discuss the findings we have so far? It sounds like Thursday would be best for this. Do you have any availability Thursday for this? I am free before 9am MT or between 11 – 1pm MT. Please let me know if you have some time and we're happy to help set something up if this sounds okay to you.

Thank you both and talk to you soon!

Caitlin

Caitlin Cossaboom, DVM, PhD, MPH

LT, U.S. Public Health Service

Veterinary Epidemiologist

Viral Special Pathogens Branch

US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Work: (404)718-6813 | Fax: (404)471-2580

E-mail: nrm9@cdc.gov

—

Hannah Rettler, MPH

Vectorborne/Zoonotic Disease Epidemiologist

Disease Response, Evaluation, Analysis, & Monitoring Program

Bureau of Epidemiology

Utah Department of Health

Email: hrettler@utah.gov

Office: (801) 538 - 6333

Mobile: (385) 285 - 5178

Secure Fax: (801) 538 - 9923

********** IMPORTANT MESSAGE **********

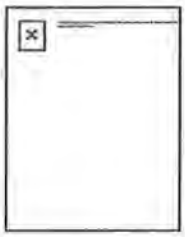
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Melissa Ure

From: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, November 3, 2020 4:09 PM
To: Tina Cannon
Subject: Re: [redacted] - Covid 19 impact to Mink Farm

Hello Tina,
We have compensated [redacted] the following:

- [redacted] adult male mink @ [redacted]
- [redacted] adult female mink @ [redacted]
- Total----------$4905

This funding was for the death losses in the mink and also came from the CARES funding. They have been clear that they cannot get double funding on the mink. Some of the other farmers were able to get some funding for other issues related to Covid-19 but not a double payment on the dead mink themselves.
I hope that this helps.
We have a total of 9 affected premises in Utah with high losses, now about 10,000 dead mink. Our focus is trying to determine a safe way to work these farms off of quarantine and allowing some return of business. We are also focused heavily on educating the producers with regards to proper PPE and good hygiene/biosecurity on the farms to try and prevent the introduction of the virus on other farms.
Dean J Taylor, DVM

On Mon, Nov 2, 2020 at 1:43 PM Tina Cannon <tcannon@morgan-county.net> wrote:

Dr. Taylor

I hope this email finds you well.

I have been working with [redacted] in Morgan County to help him qualify for Morgan County's CARES funding- we are hoping we could get something in writing from your office regarding the number of mink infected and recommended action from your office.

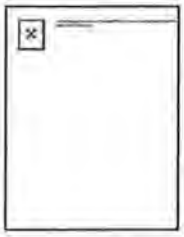
Thank you for all you do for our community!

Tina Cannon
Morgan County Council
Tcannon@morgan-county.net
801 791-5362 cell

" If Angels were to govern men, neither external nor internal controls on government would be necessary. ....the great difficulty lies in this: you must first enable the government to control the governed; and in the next place, oblige it to control itself."
--Federalist Paper 51

This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.
www.avast.com

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djtaylor@utah.gov
Website | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram

Melissa Ure

From: Ryan Holt <rhinoh1301@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 4, 2020 4:06 PM
To: John Easley; Hannah Rettler; Dean Taylor; cat@caitlinpope.com
Subject: Virus mutation won't affect potential vaccines: Study

https://www.aa.com.tr/en/asia-pacific/virus-mutation-won-t-affect-potential-vaccines-study/2001000

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

Melissa Ure

From: Anna Marie Forest <annaforest@utah.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, November 4, 2020 4:45 PM
To: Dean Taylor; Amanda Price; Robert Erickson
Subject: Denmark mink and covid cull

FYI

https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-54818615



Anna Marie Forest | Fish Health Specialist
801.870.9339 Mobile | 801.982.2246 VoIP
Website | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram

Melissa Ure

From: Amanda Price <amandaprice@utah.gov>
Sent: Thursday, November 5, 2020 2:16 PM
To: Dean Taylor
Subject: Re: DEQ Permission to bury COVID-infected mink

Got it.

On Thu, Nov 5, 2020 at 1:59 PM Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov> wrote:
Make sure he is clear that these animals are not being culled. This is for body disposal following pelting. No decision on culling has been made. Respond to him and let him know. I do not want that oversight getting out to the public.
Dean

On Thu, Nov 5, 2020 at 12:52 PM Amanda Price <amandaprice@utah.gov> wrote:
I asked Roy Van Os over at DEQ to put their approval in writing as a CYA in case we get a GRAMA request or other request for this information.

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Roy Van Os** <rvanos@utah.gov>
Date: Thu, Nov 5, 2020 at 12:46 PM
Subject: Re: DEQ Permission to bury COVID-infected mink
To: Amanda Price <amandaprice@utah.gov>
Cc: Brian Speer <bspeer@utah.gov>, Sullivan, Matt <msullivan@utah.gov>

Hi Amanda - Thanks for the phone call. Per our conversation, the issue is that mink farms will need to be culled to manage the COVID-infected animals. State regulations allow burial of animals in landfills. You indicated that you have contacted two landfills for disposal. As long as these landfills approve of accepting this waste, and their permit allows for the disposal of animals, then the State concurs that these animals are allowed to be disposed of in the landfill. You mentioned that these animals could be considered a medical waste. Landfills in Utah are allowed to accept medical waste for disposal as well. The only difference would be the requirement of immediate burial of the waste. I recommend that your producers of this waste contact the landfills ahead of time to make arrangements for burial when the waste is delivered. If you have any further questions, please let me know.

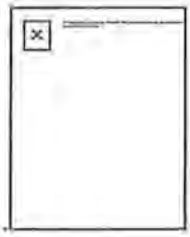
Thanks, Roy

On Thu, Nov 5, 2020 at 11:22 AM Amanda Price <amandaprice@utah.gov> wrote:
Hi Roy,

Can you send me an email stating that DEQ approves of the disposal of COVID-infected mink in landfills? (And that you recommend immediate covering of the burial pits.)

Thanks!
Amanda

--



AMANDA PRICE, DVM MS | Assistant State Veterinarian
Animal Health Program | amandaprice@utah.gov
801.982.2244 office | 801.386.4189 mobile
Website | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram

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AMANDA PRICE, DVM MS | Assistant State Veterinarian
Animal Health Program | amandaprice@utah.gov
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Melissa Ure

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Sent: Thursday, November 5, 2020 2:16 PM
To: Dean Taylor
Subject: Re: DEQ Permission to bury COVID-infected mink

Got it.

On Thu, Nov 5, 2020 at 1:59 PM Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov> wrote:
Make sure he is clear that these animals are not being culled. This is for body disposal following pelting. No decision on culling has been made. Respond to him and let him know. I do not want that oversight getting out to the public.
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On Thu, Nov 5, 2020 at 12:52 PM Amanda Price <amandaprice@utah.gov> wrote:
I asked Roy Van Os over at DEQ to put their approval in writing as a CYA in case we get a GRAMA request or other request for this information.

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Roy Van Os** <rvanos@utah.gov>
Date: Thu, Nov 5, 2020 at 12:46 PM
Subject: Re: DEQ Permission to bury COVID-infected mink
To: Amanda Price <amandaprice@utah.gov>
Cc: Brian Speer <bspeer@utah.gov>, Sullivan, Matt <msullivan@utah.gov>

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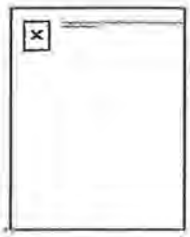
Thanks, Roy

On Thu, Nov 5, 2020 at 11:22 AM Amanda Price <amandaprice@utah.gov> wrote:
Hi Roy,

Can you send me an email stating that DEQ approves of the disposal of COVID-infected mink in landfills? (And that you recommend immediate covering of the burial pits.)

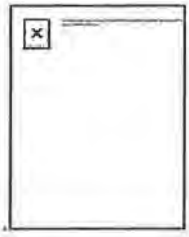
Thanks!
Amanda

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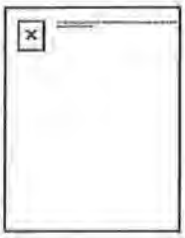
AMANDA PRICE, DVM MS | Assistant State Veterinarian
Animal Health Program | amandaprice@utah.gov
801.982.2244 office | 801.386.4189 mobile
Website | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram

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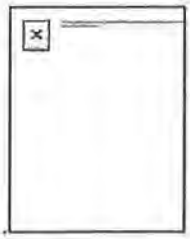
AMANDA PRICE, DVM MS | Assistant State Veterinarian
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Dean J Taylor, DVM | State Veterinarian
Office 801-982-2243 Cell 385-290-9462
djtaylor@utah.gov
Website | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram

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AMANDA PRICE, DVM MS | Assistant State Veterinarian
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Website | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram

Melissa Ure

From: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2020 10:52 AM
To: [redacted]
Subject: Re: Deactivation of corona-19 virus in animals like minks and even human beings with the use of serotonin levels +enzymes -- interested in research as a team member.

How could he get your email?

On Thu, Oct 29, 2020 at 6:52 AM Denise Taylor [redacted] wrote:

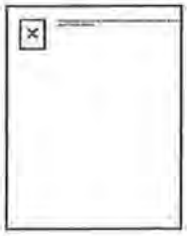
---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Dr. A. S. Patil** <ashoksitarampatil@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Oct 29, 2020 at 12:58 AM
Subject: Deactivation of corona-19 virus in animals like minks and even human beings with the use of serotonin levels +enzymes -- interested in research as a team member.
To: [redacted]

Respected Dr. Dean Taylor, State Veterinarian, Utah, USA.
Please accept my best wishes t your work. I read the news in theguardian. com on 11-10-2020 that nearly 10,000 mink dead from covid -19 outbreak at Utah fur farms. Mink may be a carry over source of covid-19 and other viruses. You are aware that the covid-19 is related to nervous system. I am interested to work in a research work as a team member , under your guidance to generate effective solution to deactivate virus with the use of serotonin + tryptophan + some enzymes in animals / human beings. I am sure this will help for deactivation of virus .
I am interested to submit you my opinions about covid - 19 deactivation and related views. Therefore, it is requested to permit me to submit my opinions. I am interested to work.
THANKS.

--
Best Regards,

Dr. A. S. Patil
GSM- +91 97300 07151
E-mail-ashoksitarampatil@gmail.com

[redacted]



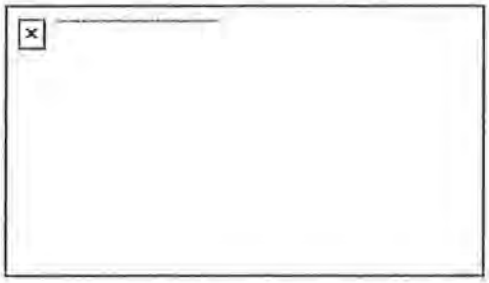
Dean J Taylor, DVM | State Veterinarian
Office 801-982-2243 Cell 385-290-9462
djtaylor@utah.gov
Website | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram

Melissa Ure

From: Ryan Holt <rhinoh1301@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 5, 2020 8:09 PM
To: Dean Taylor
Subject: Fw: Interesting article

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

----- Forwarded Message -----
From: "john easley" <johneasleydvm@hotmail.com>
To: "Ryan Holt" <rhinoh1301@yahoo.com>, "Bob Zimbal Jr." <bobz@zimbalmink.com>
Sent: Thu, Nov 5, 2020 at 7:57 PM
Subject: Interesting article
https://www.statnews.com/2020/11/05/spread-of-mutated-coronavirus-in-danish-mink-hits-all-the-scary-buttons-but-fears-may-be-overblown/



Spread of coronavirus in mink hits 'scary buttons' but experts urge calm

Denmark set off alarm bells this week with its announcement that it is culling the nation's entire mink herd — the largest in the world — to stop spread of the SARS-CoV-2 virus in the prized ...

www.statnews.com

Melissa Ure

From: Amanda Price <amandaprice@utah.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2020 4:22 PM
To: Dean Taylor
Subject: Re: GRAMA from UARC re COVID-19 on Utah mink farms

Our last response to them was August 28. Thanks!

On Wed, Oct 14, 2020 at 4:05 PM Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov> wrote:
What was the date of the prior one. I will send some to you first thing in the morning or tonight. I am headed out for the day right now.

On Wed, Oct 14, 2020 at 1:23 PM Amanda Price <amandaprice@utah.gov> wrote:
We got another GRAMA request from UARC. Is it ok if I work with Melissa again?

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Jeremy Beckham** <jeremy@uarc.io>
Date: Wed, Oct 14, 2020, 12:50 PM
Subject: GRAMA from UARC re COVID-19 on Utah mink farms
To: Amanda Price <amandaprice@utah.gov>, <udaf-commissioner@utah.gov>, <kwpehrson@utah.gov>, <agriculture@utah.gov>

October 14, 2020

Amanda Price, Records Officer
Utah Department of Agriculture and Food
350 North Redwood Road
PO Box 146500
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-6500

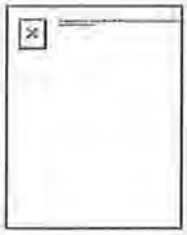
Sent via e-mail: udaf-commissioner@utah.gov, kwpehrson@utah.gov, agriculture@utah.gov, amandaprice@utah.gov

Dear Amanda Price:

On behalf of Utah Animal Rights Coalition (UARC), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, attached to this email please find a GRAMA request. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Beckham, MPA, MPH
Executive Director
Utah Animal Rights Coalition
385-401-4301
385-227-7034
jeremy@uarc.io



Dean J Taylor, DVM | State Veterinarian
Office 801-982-2243 Cell 385-290-9462
djtaylor@utah.gov
Website | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram



AMANDA PRICE, DVM MS | Assistant State Veterinarian
Animal Health Program | amandaprice@utah.gov
801.982.2244 office | 801.386.4189 mobile
Website | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram

Melissa Ure

From: Cossaboom, Caitlin (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHCPP) <nrm9@cdc.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2020 3:08 PM
To: Dean Taylor
Subject: RE: ATT: Dr Taylor: Mink Deaths from Covid-19

Hi Dr. Taylor,

My apologies for my delayed response! After reviewing the information below, it seems that this product is an antigen detection test, so it would detect presence of viral antigen (vs antibody detection which would indicate exposure). I would probably want to see data regarding the sensitivity and specificity of the assay, across animal species and compared to confirmatory testing by PCR. I think that rapid diagnostic tests are very useful as screening tools in some scenarios, however, I think confirmatory testing by PCR will still be important for decision making. We have also seen from our data to-date that rectal swabs have the lowest sensitivity across diagnostic specimen types, and I would expect feces to likely be less so, so I think that is just another consideration. Also, just so it is on your radar, Dr. John Easley also mentioned to me on one call we had that the industry is working on a rapid diagnostic test to aid in surveillance for this species in particular.

These are just my initial thoughts! Happy to chat through anything else that may be helpful!
Warm regards,

Caitlin

From: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2020 11:18 AM
To: Cossaboom, Caitlin (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHCPP) <nrm9@cdc.gov>
Subject: Fwd: ATT: Dr Taylor: Mink Deaths from Covid-19

Caitlin,
Can you give me your thoughts on this when you have a moment? This will just tell exposure, correct? So may not be the test to see if there is still circulating virus for quarantine release.
Dean
---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Dean Taylor** <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Date: Tue, Oct 13, 2020 at 11:16 AM
Subject: Re: ATT: Dr Taylor: Mink Deaths from Covid-19
To: Utah Department of Agriculture and Food <agriculture@utah.gov>

Mr Berger,
Send me some more information if you would. I would certainly be interested in looking at the test.

On Tue, Oct 13, 2020 at 8:15 AM Utah Department of Agriculture and Food <agriculture@utah.gov> wrote:

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Michael R. Berger, President** <apollobiomedicalusa@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Oct 12, 2020 at 2:16 PM
Subject: ATT: Dr Taylor: Mink Deaths from Covid-19
To: <agriculture@utah.gov>

Dear Dr Taylor;

I am representing Apollo Biomedical LLC here in SLC. Recently I read of the news of thousands of mink deaths due to the COVID-19 virus. My company has an animal COVID-19 test that is a very reliable SARS-CoV-2 S Protein-ACE2 Receptor rapid Antigen test, with US PATENT PENDING. It is a rapid 15 minute test that uses a feces sample and requires no machinery, as results are seen by the naked eye on a rapid test strip in 15 minutes. It can also be used to test other animals. The USDA has to date found a number of other cases of animal transmission, as I am sure that you are aware.

The sensitivity is the highest of any antigen test in the world, and the specificity is 100% . I will have some sample tests available from our manufacturer in just a few days, and would be happy to help you and the mink farmers by providing you with some complimentary samples. If you would like further data or have any questions, please do not hesitate to reply or to call me at your convenience. I look forward to hearing from you and to helping in any way possible. Best Regards, Michael Berger, President - Apollo Biomedical

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djtaylor@utah.gov
Website | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram



Dean J Taylor, DVM | State Veterinarian
Office 801-982-2243 Cell 385-290-9462
djtaylor@utah.gov
Website | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram

Melissa Ure

From: Hannah Rettler <hrettler@utah.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2020 4:41 PM
To: Dean Taylor; Cossaboom, Caitlin (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHCPP)
Subject: Fwd: 2020-10-13 UARC Letter to Governor Herbert (1)-1.pdf
Attachments: 2020-10-13 UARC Letter to Governor Herbert (1)-1.pdf

FYI

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Ryan Holt** <rhinoh1301@yahoo.com>
Date: Wed, Oct 14, 2020 at 4:30 PM
Subject: 2020-10-13 UARC Letter to Governor Herbert (1)-1.pdf
To: Hannah Rettler <hrettler@utah.gov>, Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>

Letter from uarc . The photos are not from any farm in North America let alone utah. Please set up a call? Ryan Holt

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

—
Hannah Rettler, MPH
Vectorborne/Zoonotic Disease Epidemiologist
Disease Response, Evaluation, Analysis, & Monitoring Program
Bureau of Epidemiology
Utah Department of Health
Email: hrettler@utah.gov
Office: (801) 538 - 6333
Mobile: (385) 285 - 5178
Secure Fax: (801) 538 - 9923

********** IMPORTANT MESSAGE **********
This message, including any attachments, may contain confidential information intended for a specific individual and purpose, and is protected by law. If you are not the intended recipient, delete this message, including from trash, and notify me by telephone or email.

If you are not the intended recipient, any distributions or copying of this message, or the taking of any action based on its content is strictly prohibited.

UTAH ANIMAL RIGHTS COALITION

P.O Box 3451
Salt Lake City, UT 84110
385-401-4301
uarc.io
@uarc

October 13, 2020

The Office of Governor Gary R. Herbert
350 North State Street, Suite 200
PO Box 142220
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-2220

Sent via U.S. Mail and Via E-Mail

Dear Governor Herbert:

I am writing on behalf of Utah Animal Rights Coalition (UARC) and our thousands of members and supporters in the state of Utah to again ask that your office take more decisive action to curb the serious and growing public health threat posed by the zoonotic transmission of coronavirus that is occurring on Utah mink farms.

In light of new emerging evidence that severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), the virus that causes COVID-19, is transmissible from mink to humans, and that outbreaks are continuing to occur on Utah mink farms, we urge you to exercise the authority under your March 6, 2020 Executive Order 2020-1 (extended under Executive Order 2020-63) and Utah Code § 53-2a-209(1) to issue new updated orders to (1) immediately suspend all breeding operations on mink farms, (2) mandate COVID-19 testing protocols for both animals and workers, and (3) facilitate greater public transparency about this public health threat.

Transmissibility of COVID-19 in mink

On August 19, 2020, we wrote to your office urging you to take action to address emerging COVID-19 outbreaks on Utah fur farms. In the eight weeks since our last letter, the matter has only worsened, with industry sources and premiere scientific institutions confirming that transmission is not only occurring between mink, but it is also crossing the species barrier to humans (known as the "spillover effect") and then spreading further via human-to-human transmission. This is an incredibly dangerous situation that must be immediately addressed.

The Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy (CIDRAP) at the University of Minnesota is recognized as a global authoritative source of scientific information about emerging infectious diseases. CIDRAP recently published a new update about emerging research about the transmission of SARS-CoV-2 among human and nonhuman animals.[1] It describes how COVID-19 infections were monitored by

[1] Beusekom MV. COVID-19 likely spreading from people to animals—and vice versa. *Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy (CIDRAP) at the University of Minnesota*. 18 Sep 2020. Available at https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2020/09/covid-19-likely-spreading-people-animals-and-vice-versa.

researchers "at 16 mink farms with more than 720,000 animals in the Netherlands." This type of systematic surveillance was possible only because in May 2020, Dutch authorities ordered all farms regularly test mink for COVID-19 antibodies.[2] Mink can be silent, asymptomatic carriers of COVID-19, which means the only way to proactively identify disease clusters is through proactive testing. This system of proactive surveillance is a much more robust animal health monitoring system than we currently have in Utah.

After analyzing case patterns and employing genetic tracing techniques, the researchers found that "the virus was introduced from humans and has evolved on mink farms." Alarmingly, the genetic tracing also confirmed that "at least two people on the farms were infected by mink," demonstrating bidirectional zoonotic transmission. A manuscript documenting this study titled "Jumping back and forth" is in preprint publication.[3] This alarming finding completely contradicts recent public statements by Dr. Dean Taylor, Utah's state veterinarian, that there is "no sign" that mink are spreading COVID-19 to humans and that transmission appears to be a "unidirectional path."[4,5]

Privately, sources within the fur industry have admitted that transmission can occur from mink to humans. At the September 28, 2020 annual convention of Fur Commission USA, Dr. John Easley, DVM, Director of Research, stated:

> [Researchers are] extremely confident that they've been able to demonstrate that [COVID-19] was brought on to farms by humans, the virus changed in the mink, and that changed virus was then transmitted back to people, and the people that got infected, transmitted that virus to other people. This is new information that is out now, so that is extremely important to the industry. It shows that mink can potentially be a reservoir for the virus, for the human population.[6]

---

[2] Krever M. Dutch authorities believe minks may have infected human with Covid-19. *CNN*. 20 May 2020. Available at https://www.cnn.com/world/live-news/coronavirus-pandemic-05-20-20-intl/h_a41e960bbcbd8f2b9f8b9201c153b5bc.

[3] Oude Munnink BB *et al.* Jumping back and forth: anthropozoonotic and zoonotic transmission of SARS-CoV-2 on mink farms [Internet]. Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory; 1 Sep 2020. Available from: http://dx.doi.org/10.1101/2020.09.01.277152.

[4] Aleccia J. Thousands of mink dead in COVID outbreak on Utah farms. *Jackson Hole News & Guide*. 7 Oct 2020. Available at https://www.jhnewsandguide.com/jackson_hole_daily/state_and_regional/thousands-of-minks-dead-in-covid-outbreak-on-utah-farms/article_03faf907-1f49-5c2b-96fd-6896824e827b.html

[5] Mossburg, C. At least 8,000 mink dead in Utah after contracting COVID-19. *CNN*. 8 Oct 2020. Available at https://www.cnn.com/world/live-news/coronavirus-pandemic-10-08-20-intl/h_b1b17737445ac5cb60f54df4b0467c5d.

[6] Video excerpted from his statement to the Fur Commission USA 2020 Annual Meeting is available at https://youtu.be/o9dvnHcP2n0,.

This is an extremely alarming development that must be immediately responded to with policy changes in the state of Utah.

Utah's ongoing COVID-19 outbreak on mink farms

It is already well-established that outbreaks of COVID-19 are occurring on Utah mink farms. When UARC last wrote in August, public reporting was that two farms were reported to have positive COVID-19 cases, although industry sources seem to indicate that at least five farms were experiencing deadly outbreaks at that time.[7,8] According to recent reports in the Associated Press and elsewhere, there are now at least "nine [fur farms] in three counties" that have experienced outbreaks of COVID-19, killing thousands of mink.[9] At each of these facilities, mink are likely acting as significant reservoirs for not only viral transmission, but each infected mink also represents a biological factory for amplification and possible mutation. This could result in new serotypes of SARS-CoV-2 that could prove to be even more dangerous, should they cross the species barrier and infect humans. New serotypes could also thwart immunity in individuals who have already experienced COVID-19, resulting in possible re-infection or undercutting the effectiveness of potential future vaccination efforts. This threat is very real.

Privately, sources from within the fur industry are also admitting that Utah fur farms are not taking common sense precautions to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and that outbreaks are running rampant. An October 8, 2020 communication from Fur Commission USA states that prior to outbreaks on Utah fur farms, "[t]here was a history of mink farm employees with signs of illness"[10]. Public reports also indicated that these confirmed COVID-19 positive individuals "came in contact with the mink".[11] It is inexcusable that these employees were not prohibited by any state law or regulation from having contact with mink, which are known disease vectors.

Utah is no longer the only state experiencing COVID-19 outbreaks on mink farms. On October 8, 2020, a joint press release from state agencies in Wisconsin announced that SARS-CoV-2 had been identified on a mink farm there, and on

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[7] Stephenson, Kathy. Utah mink test positive for the virus that causes COVID-19 in humans. *The Salt Lake Tribune.* 17 Aug 2020. Available at https://www.sltrib.com/news/2020/08/17/utah-mink-test-positive.

[8] Fur Commission USA. Email communication regarding Mink Farm COVID Outbreaks. 8 Oct 2020. Available at https://uarc.io/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/2020-10-08-Update-from-FCUSA-on-Mink-Farms.pdf.

[9] Aleccia JoNEL. Thousands of minks Dead in COVID outbreak on Utah Farms. *Associated Press.* 5 Oct 2020. Available at https://apnews.com/article/virus-outbreak-utah-animals-archive-286334516 1adeebb318a3276e35e9501.

[10] Fur Commission USA. Email communication regarding Mink Farm COVID Outbreaks. 8 Oct 2020. Available at https://uarc.io/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/2020-10-08-Update-from-FCUSA-on-Mink-Farms.pdf.

[11] Cahan, Eli. COVID-19 hits U.S. mink farms after ripping through Europe. *Science.* 18 Aug 2020. Available at https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2020/08/covid-19-hits-us-mink-farms-after-ripping-through-europe

October 9, Michigan followed suit.[12,13] Wisconsin and Utah represent the states with the largest mink farming industry in the United States. Notably, these states are all currently experiencing sharp spikes of COVID-19 cases among their citizens, as well. Clearly, matters are not improving on their own. Utah must immediately take action to address this problem.

Plan of Action

As you have made clear at several public briefings, Utah statutes and our current state of emergency declaration give the Governor's Office broad authority to combat the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. It's long past time that this authority is exercised to curb the threat of COVID-19 transmission emanating from Utah fur farms, an industry that is not only unspeakably cruel to animals, but now poses a significant public health risk to the community at large, all so that a handful of people can profit off selling pelts, primarily to consumers in China.

UARC is calling on your office to take the following immediate steps, many of which have already been taken in European nations which previously had significant fur farming industries:

- **End what's left of the dying fur farming industry in Utah.** You can do this by issuing an order that immediately halts all breeding on mink farms, which would facilitate a shut down of the industry after the upcoming pelting season is finished. This measure has already been implemented in the Netherlands, which had raised about 2.5 million mink per year.[14]

- **Immediately implement stringent COVID-19 testing protocols for both workers and animals on mink farms.** Just as Dutch authorities ordered in May 2020,[15] Utah should require COVID-19 testing of both animals and workers on all mink farms to facilitate the quick identification of emerging outbreaks so that infected facilities and people can be immediately quarantined. Requiring testing would be no more burdensome than what Utahns in other sectors already experience, including those who work in slaughterhouses and long-term care facilities. Proactive is the only way to

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[12]News release. Taylor County mink test positive for coronavirus. Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP). 8 Oct 2020. Available at https://datcp.wi.gov/Documents2/20201008TaylorMinkFarmCoronavirus.pdf.

[13] News release. Mink farm tests positive with SARS-CoV-2. Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development (MDA). 9 Oct 2020. Available at https://www.michigan.gov/mdard/0,4610,7-125--541996--,00.html.

[14] *The Economist*. Covid-19 ends Dutch mink farming. 5 Sep 2020. Available at https://uarc.io/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/2020-09-05-The-Economist-Fur-Farming.pdf.

[15] Krever M. Dutch authorities believe minks may have infected human with Covid-19. *CNN*. 20 May 2020. Available at https://www.cnn.com/world/live-news/coronavirus-pandemic-05-20-20-intl/h_a41e960bbcbd8f2b9f8b9201c153b5bc.

identify presymptomatic and asymptomatic cases, an important measure in light of the fact that mink themselves can be silent carriers.

- **Require transparency.** In August 2020, UARC submitted a records request to the Utah Department of Agriculture of Food to learn more about where COVID outbreaks are occurring on Utah mink farms and what measures are being implemented to contain this public health threat.[16] The agency denied the vast majority of the information UARC sought. Issues relating to COVID-19 are of significant concern to the local media and public. The information UARC sought will shine a light on the conduct of state officials in responding to COVID-19 outbreaks in our state, promoting transparency and preserving accountability. Today, UARC is submitting a renewed request, and we intend to exercise our legal rights to appeal any denial. We urge your office to order state agencies to release this information without delay to avoid unnecessary legal disputes.

Ending fur farming in Utah not only makes sense for public health, it is also the humane thing to do. Mink are isolated in shoebox-sized wire cages on disgusting mink farms, where they suffer severe psychological distress and spin endlessly in circles due to the cruel conditions of confinement. We have attached some photographs to this letter which represent standard operating conditions on mink farms. It must be stressed that growing concerns about the treatment of animals have resulted in sluggish retail sales of fur products, which means that even before COVID-19, mink farming was a dying industry in Utah. Half of all mink farms in Utah have already shut down for good this year. There is no reason not to facilitate the total end of this archaic and cruel industry that is now posing a serious public health threat to Utahns.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I can be reached at jeremy@uarc.io or 385-401-4301. I look forward to hearing from you or your representative soon.

Sincerely,



Jeremy Beckham, MPA, MPH
Executive Director
Utah Animal Rights Coalition (UARC)

[16] UARC's August 2020 GRAMA and UDAF's response can be viewed on our website, https://uarc.io/uarc-to-governor-herbert-shut-down-mink-farms-now/. UARC still has a pending federal Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request with relevant federal health authorities.









Melissa Ure

From: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 1:21 PM
To: Melissa Ure
Subject: Fwd: Utah mink SarsCov2 SEQUENCES/WGS - IMPORTANT RESEARCH -

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **MacCannell, Duncan (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD)** <fms2@cdc.gov>
Date: Tue, Oct 20, 2020 at 6:18 PM
Subject: RE: Utah mink SarsCov2 SEQUENCES/WGS - IMPORTANT RESEARCH -
To: Koentges, Georgy <G.Koentges@warwick.ac.uk>, OAMD (CDC) <oamd@cdc.gov>, mhofmann@utah.gov <mhofmann@utah.gov>
Cc: Arnaud Van Wettere <arnaud.vanwettere@usu.edu>, Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>, NGSQuality (CDC) <NGSQuality@cdc.gov>, uphl@utah.gov <uphl@utah.gov>

My apologies for the delayed response, Dr. Koentges –

I've reached out to some contacts at UPHL to see if they are aware of any mink samples, and they will hopefully be in contact soon.

Sincerely,

Duncan

Duncan R. MacCannell, Ph.D.

OAMD CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD

Office of Advanced Molecular Detection

National Center for Emerging & Zoonotic Infectious Diseases

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

1600 Clifton Road NE, MS-G38 [t] 404.639.1949

Atlanta, Georgia, USA 30333 [f] 404.235.0008

dmaccannell@cdc.gov [tw] @dmaccannell

http://www.cdc.gov/amd



From: Koentges, Georgy <G.Koentges@warwick.ac.uk>
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2020 4:18 PM
To: OAMD (CDC) <oamd@cdc.gov>; mhofmann@utah.gov
Cc: Arnaud Van Wettere <arnaud.vanwettere@usu.edu>; Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>; NGSQuality (CDC) <NGSQuality@cdc.gov>; uphl@utah.gov
Subject: Utah mink SarsCov2 SEQUENCES/WGS - IMPORTANT RESEARCH -

Hello, I am a neuroanatomist studying SarsCov2 travelling through the mammalian brain. I am working with the Utah veterinarian Dr Arnaud Van Wettere <arnaud.vanwettere@usu.edu> and we like to investigate the current mink infection in Utah.

We are looking urgently **for whole genome sequences of SARS-Cov2 in minks that the CDC likely obtained during recent testing of the current mink outbreak in Utah.** Do you have access to these sequences? How can we get access to these sequences please for analysis? I will be happy to speak to any CDC official (in Utah or elsewhere) who can give me information about where/how we can look at the genome sequences obtained asap. We have a pretty clear hypothesis why minks might die but need their DNA sequences and the SarsCov2 variants of their carers, if possible.

Thanks for your expeditious help,

Georgy Koentges

==========

Professor Georgy Koentges, PhD

Laboratory of Systems Biomedicine, Neuroanatomy and Evolution

School of Life Sciences, D028

University of Warwick

Coventry CV4 7AL

UK

mobile:07837 207 066

skype:daidalos1969

website: http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/sci/lifesci/people/gkoentges/

publications: http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed?term=Koentges%20G%20OR%20Kontges%20G

for data uploads: https://files.warwick.ac.uk/



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DEAN J TAYLOR | State Veterinarian
801.982.2243 office | 385.290.9462 mobile
Website | Facebook | Instagram | Twitter

100 Years of Supporting Agriculture and Food

Melissa Ure

From: Hannah Rettler <hrettler@utah.gov>
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2020 12:26 PM
To: Dean Taylor
Subject: Re: Zip code for new farms

Thank you!

On Fri, Nov 20, 2020 at 12:19 PM Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov> wrote:
[redacted] in [redacted] and [redacted] is [redacted]

On Fri, Nov 20, 2020 at 8:54 AM Hannah Rettler <hrettler@utah.gov> wrote:
Also curious if you have the zip code for Farm 5 in [redacted] Juab County

On Fri, Nov 20, 2020 at 8:43 AM Hannah Rettler <hrettler@utah.gov> wrote:
Hi both,

Do you have the zip code(s) for the new farm premises? We are trying to obtain some community samples from the area, and if we can narrow down to zip code that would be great. Thank you!

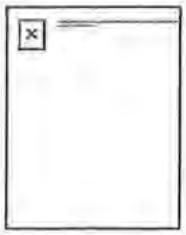
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Hannah Rettler, MPH
Vectorborne/Zoonotic Disease Epidemiologist
Disease Response, Evaluation, Analysis, & Monitoring Program
Bureau of Epidemiology
Utah Department of Health
Email: hrettler@utah.gov
Office: (801) 538 - 6333
Mobile: (385) 285 - 5178
Secure Fax: (801) 538 - 9923

--
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Dean J Taylor, DVM | State Veterinarian
Office 801-982-2243 Cell 385-290-9462
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Website | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram

--

Hannah Rettler, MPH
Vectorborne/Zoonotic Disease Epidemiologist
Disease Response, Evaluation, Analysis, & Monitoring Program
Bureau of Epidemiology
Utah Department of Health
Email: hrettler@utah.gov
Office: (801) 538 - 6333
Mobile: (385) 285 - 5178
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If you are not the intended recipient, any distributions or copying of this message, or the taking of any action based on its content is strictly prohibited.

Melissa Ure

From: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, November 24, 2020 10:05 AM
To: Robert Erickson
Subject: Re: Fit testing for Dr. Erickson

Excellent, I will have you be the person for screening. You can enlist the others but mostly it will be you.
Thanks
Dean

On Tue, Nov 24, 2020 at 10:02 AM Robert Erickson <rerickson@utah.gov> wrote:
I have an appointment for fit testing tomorrow at 2

On Mon, Nov 23, 2020 at 1:29 PM Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov> wrote:
sounds good

On Mon, Nov 23, 2020 at 1:17 PM Robert Erickson <rerickson@utah.gov> wrote:
Hannah is working on setting this up for me

On Mon, Nov 23, 2020 at 8:10 AM Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov> wrote:
Good morning Bob. When Caitlin comes out to do the final round of testing, I am going to have you go and see how they are doing the sampling. Can you reach out to Hannah and get fit for a respirator. She is planning on coming out on the 4th. Please feel free to reach out to her for any questions. Have Amanda and Dustin cover dispositions during that time if you would. That way as we go forward and need to do some screening testing in the future you will know how they have been doing it. Caitlin will also need some help this time so I offered you up.
Thanks
Dean

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Cossaboom, Caitlin (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHCPP)** <nrm9@cdc.gov>
Date: Mon, Nov 23, 2020 at 7:55 AM
Subject: Fit testing for Dr. Erickson
To: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>

Hi Dr. Taylor,

One thing that I thought of that might be good to consider if Dr. Erickson will join us for resampling on farm – would it be possible to have him fit tested for an N95 respirator if he isn't already? Hannah can probably help provide information on how to coordinate this.

Thank you and I hope that your week is off to a good start!

Warm regards,

Caitlin

Caitlin Cossaboom, DVM, PhD, MPH

LT, U.S. Public Health Service

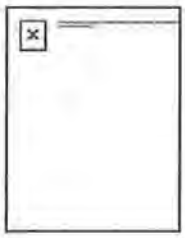
Veterinary Epidemiologist

Viral Special Pathogens Branch

US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Work: (404)718-6813 | Fax: (404)471-2580

E-mail: nrm9@cdc.gov



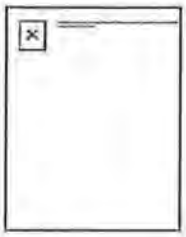
Dean J Taylor, DVM | State Veterinarian
Office 801-982-2243 Cell 385-290-9462
djtaylor@utah.gov
Website | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram



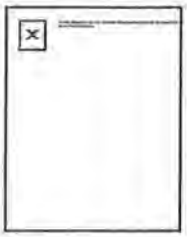
Robert Erickson | Field Veterinarian
Animal Health Program | rerickson@utah.gov
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Dean J Taylor, DVM | State Veterinarian
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djtaylor@utah.gov
Website | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram

Melissa Ure

From: Wineland, Nora (MDARD) <WinelandN@michigan.gov>
Sent: Monday, November 23, 2020 7:55 PM
To: Robbe Austerman, Suelee - APHIS; Wendling, Natalie (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD); darlene.konkle@wisconsin.gov; Cossaboom, Caitlin (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHCPP); Hannah Rettler; djtaylor@utah.gov; Rooney, Jane A - APHIS; dlx9@cdc.gov; Carpenter, Ann (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD); Tansey, Cassandra (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DSR)
Cc: Harvey, Reid (CDC/NIOSH/RHD/FSB); rebecca.slater@wisconsin.gov; Klos, Rachel (CDC wi.gov); elisabeth.patton@wisconsin.gov; Yvonne.Bellay@wisconsin.gov; Stobierski, Mary Grace (DHHS); Signs, Kimberly (DHHS); Straka, Kelly (DNR); Barr, Nancy (MDARD); Goodrich, Jarold (MDARD); Dorland, Lauren (MDARD); Calogero, Jennifer (MDARD); Deacon, Brad (MDARD); Schalow, Michele (MDARD); Blievernicht, Melissa (MDARD); Tell, Rachel M - APHIS; Straily, Anne (CDC/DDPHSIS/CGH/DPDM); Klos, Rachel F - DHS; Collins, Cheryl (MDARD); Mason, Jordan L - DHS; bbarbeau@utah.gov; Wallace, Ryan (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHCPP); Torchetti, Mia Kim - APHIS; Lindsey.Long@wisconsin.gov; Keith.Poulsen@WVDL.wisc.edu; Ray, Jean S - APHIS; Suzanne.gibbonsburgener@dhs.wi.gov; Tamara.Ryan@wisconsin.gov; Olander, Doris - APHIS; Kunde, Paul W - APHIS; Duffiney, Anthony G - APHIS; Zierenberg, Jared R - APHIS; Ghai, Ria (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD); Whitehill, Florence (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHCPP)
Subject: RE: Utah, Wisconsin, and Michigan Mink Farm Update

Thanks … so does the same apply to our positive dog as well?

Thanks

Nora

From: Robbe Austerman, Suelee - APHIS <suelee.robbe-austerman@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, November 23, 2020 9:27 PM
To: Wendling, Natalie (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD) <pme8@cdc.gov>; darlene.konkle@wisconsin.gov; Wineland, Nora (MDARD) <WinelandN@michigan.gov>; Cossaboom, Caitlin (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHCPP) <nrm9@cdc.gov>; Hannah Rettler <hrettler@utah.gov>; djtaylor@utah.gov; Rooney, Jane A - APHIS <jane.a.rooney@usda.gov>; dlx9@cdc.gov; Carpenter, Ann (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD) <pzy4@cdc.gov>; Tansey, Cassandra (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DSR) <kuo2@cdc.gov>
Cc: Harvey, Reid (CDC/NIOSH/RHD/FSB) <iez1@cdc.gov>; rebecca.slater@wisconsin.gov; Klos, Rachel (CDC wi.gov) <rachel.klos@wi.gov>; elisabeth.patton@wisconsin.gov; Yvonne.Bellay@wisconsin.gov; Stobierski, Mary Grace (DHHS) <stobierskim@michigan.gov>; Signs, Kimberly (DHHS) <signsk@michigan.gov>; Straka, Kelly (DNR) <StrakaK1@michigan.gov>; Barr, Nancy (MDARD) <barrn@michigan.gov>; Goodrich, Jarold (MDARD) <goodrichj@michigan.gov>; Dorland, Lauren (MDARD) <DorlandL@michigan.gov>; Calogero, Jennifer (MDARD) <CalogeroJ@michigan.gov>; Deacon, Brad (MDARD) <deaconb9@michigan.gov>; Schalow, Michele (MDARD) <SchalowM@michigan.gov>; Blievernicht, Melissa (MDARD) <BlievernichtM@michigan.gov>; Tell, Rachel M - APHIS <rachel.m.tell@usda.gov>; Straily, Anne (CDC/DDPHSIS/CGH/DPDM) <yzv2@cdc.gov>; Klos, Rachel F - DHS <Rachel.Klos@dhs.wisconsin.gov>; Collins, Cheryl (MDARD) <CollinsC3@michigan.gov>; Mason, Jordan L - DHS <Jordan.Mason@dhs.wisconsin.gov>; bbarbeau@utah.gov; Wallace, Ryan (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHCPP) <euk5@cdc.gov>; Torchetti, Mia Kim - APHIS <mia.kim.torchetti@usda.gov>; Lindsey.Long@wisconsin.gov;

Keith.Poulsen@WVDL.wisc.edu; Ray, Jean S - APHIS <jean.s.ray@usda.gov>; Suzanne.gibbonsburgener@dhs.wi.gov; Tamara.Ryan@wisconsin.gov; Olander, Doris - APHIS <doris.olander@usda.gov>; Kunde, Paul W - APHIS <paul.w.kunde@usda.gov>; Duffiney, Anthony G - APHIS <anthony.g.duffiney@usda.gov>; Zierenberg, Jared R - APHIS <jared.r.zierenberg@usda.gov>; Ghai, Ria (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD) <ofu9@cdc.gov>; Whitehill, Florence (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHCPP) <ofp9@cdc.gov>
Subject: RE: Utah, Wisconsin, and Michigan Mink Farm Update

CAUTION: This is an External email. Please send suspicious emails to abuse@michigan.gov

Hello everyone, I just want to update you on the cattle testing that was mentioned on the call today. To recap, the swabs from the cattle tested negative by PCR, but the sera tested non-negative by a serological test developed for humans and has not been validated for use in bovine species. The CDC team plan to forward the samples to NVSL for testing by virus neutralization (understand they were not able to get them out today, we plan to proceed as soon as they are received but recall is at least a 3-day test). The PCR results help rule out active viral shedding, and interpretation of the findings from the developmental serologic assay is pending the outcome of virus neutralization at NVSL.

Thanks!

Suelee

Suelee Robbe-Austerman, DVM, PhD
USDA/APHIS/VS/D&B/NVSL

-----Original Appointment-----
From: Wendling, Natalie (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD) <pme8@cdc.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, November 11, 2020 10:43 AM
To: Wendling, Natalie (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD); Konkle, Darlene M - DATCP; winelandn@michigan.gov; Cossaboom, Caitlin (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHCPP); Hannah Rettler; djtaylor@utah.gov; Rooney, Jane A - APHIS; Barton Behravesh, Casey (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD); Carpenter, Ann (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD); Tansey, Cassandra (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DSR)
Cc: Harvey, Reid (CDC/NIOSH/RHD/FSB); Rebecca.Slater@wisconsin.gov; Klos, Rachel (CDC wi.gov); Patton, Elisabeth A - DATCP; Bellay, Yvonne M - DATCP; Stobierski, Mary Grace (CDC michigan.gov); Signs, Kimberly (DHHS); strakak1@michigan.gov; barrn@michigan.gov; goodrichj@michigan.gov; DorlandL@michigan.gov; CalogeroJ@michigan.gov; deaconb9@michigan.gov; SchalowM@michigan.gov; BlievernichtM@michigan.gov; Tell, Rachel M - APHIS; Robbe Austerman, Suelee - APHIS; Straily, Anne (CDC/DDPHSIS/CGH/DPDM); Klos, Rachel F - DHS; Collins, Cheryl (MDARD); Mason, Jordan L - DHS; bbarbeau@utah.gov; Wallace, Ryan (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHCPP); Torchetti, Mia Kim - APHIS; Long, Lindsey J - DNR; Keith Poulsen; Ray, Jean S - APHIS; Suzanne.gibbonsburgener@dhs.wi.gov; Ryan, Tamara M - DNR; Doris.olander@usda.gov; Paul.w.kunde@usda.gov; anthony.g.duffiney@usda.gov; jared.r.zierenberg@usda.gov; Ghai, Ria (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD); Whitehill, Florence (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHCPP)
Subject: Utah, Wisconsin, and Michigan Mink Farm Update
When: Monday, November 23, 2020 11:00 AM-12:00 PM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada).
Where: https://cdc.zoomgov.com/j/1600683934?pwd=bTZvWVplZndDdG1jYkY2SUFOL0JnQT09

All,

This meeting intended for state health and animal officials from Utah, Wisconsin, and Michigan and federal partners to discuss updates on farm investigations, testing results, and plans for managing mink farms that have been confirmed with SARS-Cov-2. This meeting will occur each Monday at 11 am ET/ 10 am CT/ 9 am MT.

Please see agenda and Zoom invite information below.

Agenda

- Updates from State One Health partners (Dept of Agriculture, Dept of Health, DNR/Wildlife, others)
    - Utah- Dr. Dean Taylor and representatives
    - Wisconsin- Dr. Darlene Konkle and representatives
    - Michigan- Dr. Nora Wineland and representatives
- CDC Updates- Dr. Casey Barton Behravesh, others
- USDA Updates- Dr. Jane Rooney, State-based staff, NVSL
- Sequencing Updates in People and Animals – CDC and NVSL
- Media and talking points
- New Business or other discussion
- Confirm date/time of next call

Thank you.

Casey Barton Behravesh is inviting you to a scheduled ZoomGov meeting.

Topic: Utah, Wisconsin, and Michigan Mink Farm Update

Time: Nov 23, 2020 11:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Every week on Mon, until Jan 4, 2021, 7 occurrence(s)

Nov 23, 2020 11:00 AM

Nov 30, 2020 11:00 AM

Dec 7, 2020 11:00 AM

Dec 14, 2020 11:00 AM

Dec 21, 2020 11:00 AM

Dec 28, 2020 11:00 AM

Jan 4, 2021 11:00 AM

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Weekly: https://cdc.zoomgov.com/meeting/vJItd--grTIpHuWzwEQ4l2e7NMoSnJado-I/ics?icsToken=98tyKuiurjssEtecsx3Bel89EsGgeenVq2Fmv5RHizrUVywBZ1TYG-1xPJh-FNed

Join ZoomGov Meeting

https://cdc.zoomgov.com/j/1600683934?pwd=bTZvWVplZndDdG1jYkY2SUFOL0JnQT09

Meeting ID: 160 068 3934

Passcode: #x#Gj80p

One tap mobile

+16692545252,,1600683934#,,,,,,0#,,19633251# US (San Jose)

+16468287666,,1600683934#,,,,,,0#,,19633251# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 669 254 5252 US (San Jose)

+1 646 828 7666 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 160 068 3934

Passcode: 19633251

Find your local number: https://cdc.zoomgov.com/u/afjfCNFGa

Join by SIP

1600683934@sip.zoomgov.com

Join by H.323

161.199.138.10 (US West)

161.199.136.10 (US East)

Meeting ID: 160 068 3934

Passcode: 19633251

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Melissa Ure

From: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, November 24, 2020 1:32 PM
To: Zhenglong Gu
Subject: Re: treatment for mink corona virus

Good afternoon,
The mink producers are pretty averse to too much traffic on their facilities and a bit suspicious of things. Please run your thoughts by Dr John Easley johneasleydvm@hotmail.com
I think that this is the best starting point for you. He will have greater pull with the producers than I will have. He and I will talk after.
Thanks
Dean J Taylor, DVM

On Fri, Nov 20, 2020 at 6:49 PM Zhenglong Gu <zg27@cornell.edu> wrote:
Dear Dr. Taylor,

Hope everything is well with you!

Me again regarding Covid treatment in mink. Is it possible to get connected through you with some mink farm folks and help them treat the animals?

Thanks a lot and you have a nice weekend,

Zhenglong

From: Zhenglong Gu <zg27@cornell.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, November 18, 2020 5:46 PM
To: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Subject: Re: treatment for mink corona virus

Dear Dr. Taylor,

Thanks for your email, and sorry to reply you late.

Actually two members in Chinese Academy of Sciences are leading this project. They have tested the drug (much lower concentration than the one used for cancer treatment) in mouse and dogs, and the data is amazing. They are currently doing the feeding scheme test in minks. It will be nice to Zoom with you and discuss how to get connected with mink farm people and help save the animals.

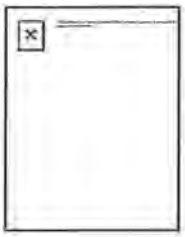
You have a nice day!

Zhenglong

From: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Sent: Monday, November 9, 2020 7:19 PM
To: Zhenglong Gu <zg27@cornell.edu>
Subject: treatment for mink corona virus

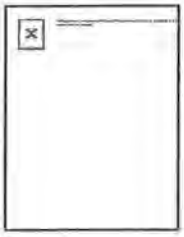
Zhenglong GU,
I have many requests such as yours. Can you provide me a bit more information on this? Not your method but what types of samples you would want, any involvement you would need from our department and any impact on our mink producers.
thank you
Dean J Taylor, DVM

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Office 801-982-2243 Cell 385-290-9462
djtaylor@utah.gov
Website | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram

--



Dean J Taylor, DVM | State Veterinarian
Office 801-982-2243 Cell 385-290-9462
djtaylor@utah.gov
Website | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram

Melissa Ure

From: Zhenglong Gu <zg27@cornell.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, November 24, 2020 5:03 PM
To: john easley
Cc: Dean Taylor
Subject: Re: Covid in mink

Dear John,

Thanks a lot for your email! Maybe we can setup a Zoom call? This way I can show you several slides. I am available 10-12 ETS tomorrow. Please let me know when it works for you so I can send a link. Thanks,

Zhenglong

From: john easley <johneasleydvm@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 24, 2020 6:52 PM
To: Zhenglong Gu <zg27@cornell.edu>
Cc: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Subject: Re: Covid in mink

Hello Zhenglong,

I would be interested in speaking with you and understanding the product you are testing.
Give me a call whenever you have a chance.

Take care,
John

John Easley DVM
Director of Research,
Farm Services Veterinarian
Fur Commission USA
+1 920 980 9660
johneasleydvm@hotmail.com

From: Zhenglong Gu <zg27@cornell.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, November 24, 2020 2:39 PM
To: johneasleydvm@hotmail.com <johneasleydvm@hotmail.com>
Cc: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Subject: Covid in mink

Dear Dr. Easley,

I emailing you regarding Covid infection in minks and Dr. Taylor suggested me email you on this.

I am a professor at Cornell University and this is my website.

. https://www.human.cornell.edu/people/zg27

I have two collaborators working on treatment for Covid. They are testing a drug on market for cancer treatment, and discovered very effective results (at much lower concentration than the one used for human cancer treatment). They have data in mouse, and they are currently doing the feeding scheme test in minks. It will be nice to get connected through you with some mink farms , and help save the animals.

I just presented the data to the State Vet and several of her supervisors in Wisconsin yesterday and they are very interested, so we are moving on this project with them as well. I would love to talk to you more about this and present some data when you have time!

Best Regards,
Zhenglong

Melissa Ure

From: Robert Erickson <rerickson@utah.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, November 25, 2020 1:05 PM
To: Dean Taylor
Subject: Re: mink

10-4

On Wed, Nov 25, 2020 at 12:11 PM Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov> wrote:

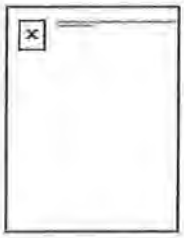
Hey Bob,
Caitlin will be flying in on Tuesday Dec 1 and starting the work on Dec 2. Would you please stay in contact with her for scheduling. This is your priority that week so if something comes up then pass it off to Dustin or Amanda. It may require working through the weekend a bit so if you need to after talking with Caitlin then take Monday +/- Tuesday off so that you have some time free. I will let you schedule everything with her if that is OK.
Have a nice Thanksgiving
Dean

--



Dean J Taylor, DVM | State Veterinarian
Office 801-982-2243 Cell 385-290-9462
djtaylor@utah.gov
Website | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram

--



Robert Erickson | Field Veterinarian
Animal Health Program | rerickson@utah.gov
801.538.7025 office | 801.520.4311 mobile
Website | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram

Melissa Ure

From: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Sent: Monday, November 30, 2020 12:03 PM
To: Wineland, Nora (MDARD)
Subject: Re: Pelt release

I believe 4:00 pm would be best if not Dr Sholz would need to be on at 6am. Either works for me though and if you send me an invite, I will share it with Dr Sholz.
Thank you.
Dean

On Mon, Nov 30, 2020 at 8:50 AM Wineland, Nora (MDARD) <WinelandN@michigan.gov> wrote:

4 pm central works best for us here in MI

From: Patton, Elisabeth A - DATCP <Elisabeth.Patton@wisconsin.gov>
Sent: Monday, November 30, 2020 10:46 AM
To: 'Dean Taylor' <djtaylor@utah.gov>; Wineland, Nora (MDARD) <WinelandN@michigan.gov>
Cc: Bellay, Yvonne M - DATCP <Yvonne.Bellay@wisconsin.gov>; Konkle, Darlene M - DATCP <Darlene.Konkle@wisconsin.gov>
Subject: RE: Pelt release

CAUTION: This is an External email. Please send suspicious emails to abuse@michigan.gov

That sounds good.

Right now looks like between our schedules here, there is 8 am or 4 pm CST on December 1 that is currently available on our calendars. Would those times work for you? Once we have a time, we can send out a meeting invite.

Dr. Taylor, If you would like to add Dr. Sholz to the email string, that would be great.

Elisabeth

Elisabeth Patton, DVM, PhD, Diplomate ACVIM

Assistant State Veterinarian

Division of Animal Health

Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

608-224-4891

608-212-9571 cell

608-224-4871 fax

elisabeth.patton@wisconsin.gov

Please complete this brief survey to help us improve our customer service. Thank you for your feedback!

From: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Sent: Monday, November 30, 2020 8:33 AM
To: Wineland, Nora (MDARD) <WinelandN@michigan.gov>
Cc: Patton, Elisabeth A - DATCP <Elisabeth.Patton@wisconsin.gov>; Bellay, Yvonne M - DATCP <Yvonne.Bellay@wisconsin.gov>; Konkle, Darlene M - DATCP <Darlene.Konkle@wisconsin.gov>
Subject: Re: Pelt release

Good morning. Tomorrow would be much better for me than today. Dr Sholz from Oregon would like to be on this particular call since they now have a positive farm. His farm is very different from what we are experiencing. NO increase in mortalities he said. Just tested a sick mink. This makes me worry about the other facilities in Utah.I am free all day tomorrow and could do it any time the rest of you were available.

Dean

On Mon, Nov 30, 2020 at 7:27 AM Wineland, Nora (MDARD) <WinelandN@michigan.gov> wrote:

Elisabeth – I think the call is a good idea. I don't think we can realistically hold a call today before the tri-state call today … But maybe we can see what other things come up and if Cassandra is able to share any data on what CDC has so far on both pooling and the serial fur swabs. Then maybe set a call for this afternoon or tomorrow?

Thanks

Nora

From: Patton, Elisabeth A - DATCP <Elisabeth.Patton@wisconsin.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, November 25, 2020 3:44 PM
To: Wineland, Nora (MDARD) <WinelandN@michigan.gov>; 'djtaylor@utah.gov' <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Cc: Bellay, Yvonne M - DATCP <Yvonne.Bellay@wisconsin.gov>; Konkle, Darlene M - DATCP <Darlene.Konkle@wisconsin.gov>
Subject: Pelt release

CAUTION: This is an External email. Please send suspicious emails to abuse@michigan.gov

Hello,

We are reaching out to see what your state plans are for pelt release. The USDA draft guidance document references animal (live or dead) testing within 7 days of product release for criteria to be used for releasing pelts for processing.

Based on an estimated $50/PCR assay x 62 samples = >$3000 each time they want to release product.

Based on this, WI is interested in evaluating other mechanisms that could be used considered for product release for farms that are processing pelts on site and for farms that are looking to ship pelts to other locations for processing.

I spoke with Cassandra Tansey today to discuss some of the concerns about cost, funding mechanism, and concerns that PCR could be positive on pelts even if virus is no longer active.

She was going to check on a few options including the possibility of pooled testing of carcasses, and time and temperature data and whether that could be used to determine when processed pelts could be released.

We are assuming that we all have similar concerns and questions with regards to this and hoping that we might be able to get a number of these questions brought up for discussion on the tri-state call on Monday. We would be happy to schedule a smaller meeting with SAHOs from three states if that would be useful to run through ideas and concerns prior to the larger meeting.

Look forward to hearing from you all and hope you have a safe and happy holiday.

Best regards,

Elisabeth

Elisabeth Patton, DVM, PhD, Diplomate ACVIM

Assistant State Veterinarian

Division of Animal Health

Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

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elisabeth.patton@wisconsin.gov

Please complete this brief survey to help us improve our customer service. Thank you for your feedback!

--

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Melissa Ure

From: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Sent: Monday, November 30, 2020 12:50 PM
To: Olander, Doris - APHIS
Subject: Re: epi curve WI Taylor county 2

Thank you Doris. That is what we have done here in Utah. I am sitting on the manure until I find out more about the viability in manure. This researcher at USU should be able to give me an idea if there is still shedding or if there is virus in the manure and environment (air, biofilm, water)
Thanks for the input.
Dean

On Mon, Nov 30, 2020 at 12:46 PM Olander, Doris - APHIS <doris.olander@usda.gov> wrote:

> Hi Dr. Taylor. I just talked with Amanda. We worked through the general situation. Going to landfill with all carcasses, including from the mortality events, seems to be the best option. The disposal of the manure and bedding may be more customized based on the physical set up of each farm and their normal management practices.
>
> Let me know if I can be of any further help at all.
>
> Best Regards,

Doris Olander, DVM

USDA VETERINARY SERVICES –Wisconsin

Veterinary Epidemiologist

608 444 5237

doris.olander@usda.gov

From: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, November 25, 2020 12:16 PM
To: Olander, Doris - APHIS <doris.olander@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: epi curve WI Taylor county 2

That would be very helpful. She won't be in until Monday. She is taking a much needed camping trip with her family for the holiday. Her contact informations is 801-386-4189 and amandaprice@utah.gov

Have a nice Thanksgiving

Dean

On Wed, Nov 25, 2020 at 7:10 AM Olander, Doris - APHIS <doris.olander@usda.gov> wrote:

That would be fine. I can contact Dr. Price too. Regards, Doris

From: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, November 24, 2020 2:43 PM
To: Olander, Doris - APHIS <doris.olander@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: epi curve WI Taylor county 2

Thank you for the information. I am having Dr Amanda Price reach out to you on the waste disposal options that I was going to discuss with you last week, so you can be expecting a call from her.

Have a nice Thanksgiving.

Dean

On Tue, Nov 24, 2020 at 11:15 AM Olander, Doris - APHIS <doris.olander@usda.gov> wrote:

Thank you Dr. Taylor. It sounds consistent so far. I am doing the same for our other herd and can send if you wish.

Best regards,

Doris

USDA VETERINARY SERVICES –Wisconsin

Veterinary Epidemiologist

608 444 5237

doris.olander@usda.gov

From: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, November 24, 2020 10:51 AM
To: Olander, Doris - APHIS <doris.olander@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: epi curve WI Taylor county 2

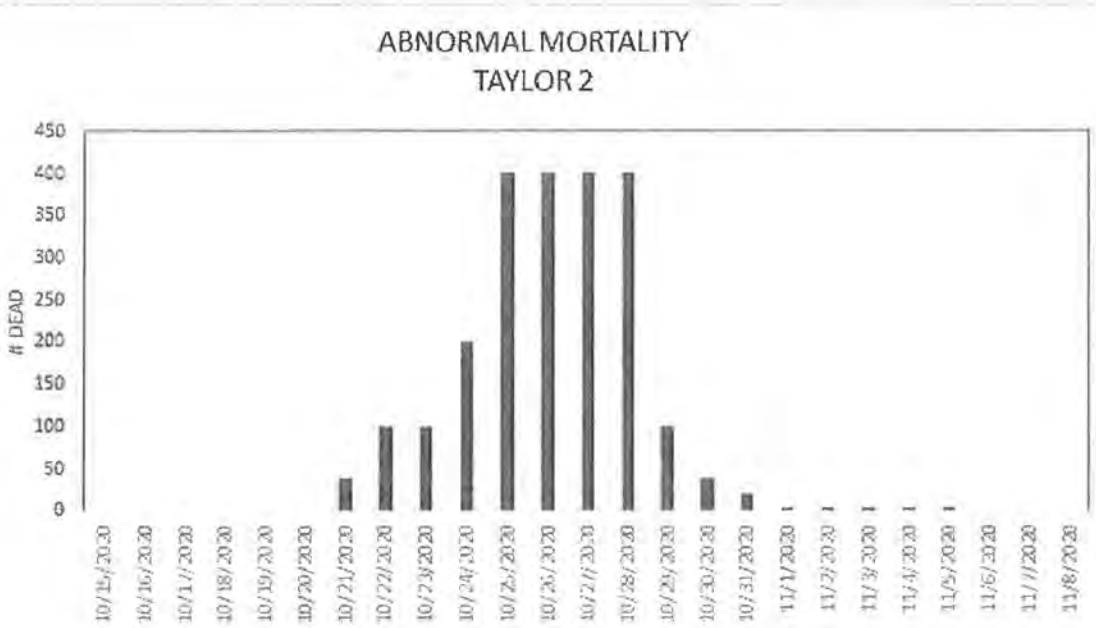
Doris,

Caitlin may have exact numbers on this but I can tell you that it was not longer. Some peaked and were back down in 7 days. Average across all 12 farms would be 7-10 days.

Dean

On Tue, Nov 24, 2020 at 8:18 AM Olander, Doris - APHIS <doris.olander@usda.gov> wrote:

Hi Dr. Taylor. Do you have epi curves/daily mortality counts for your positive farms? The morbidity and mortality on the two WI farms took about 9-10 days. Was the same observed in UT? Regards, Doris Olander.



Regards, Doris

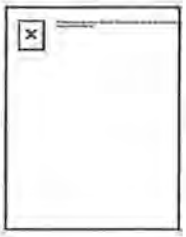
USDA VETERINARY SERVICES –Wisconsin

Veterinary Epidemiologist

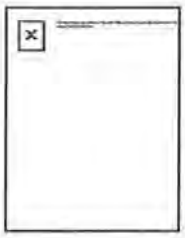
608 444 5237

doris.olander@usda.gov

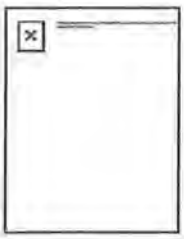
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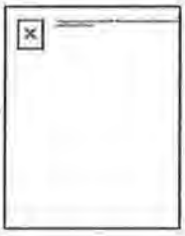
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Melissa Ure

From: Amanda Price <amandaprice@utah.gov>
Sent: Monday, November 30, 2020 1:15 PM
To: Dean Taylor
Subject: Re: [Dec 1 reminder] REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: State-level SARS-CoV-2 Animal Input Form

Not until we get another farm.

On Mon, Nov 30, 2020 at 11:45 AM Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov> wrote:
No so do we need to do anything with this?

On Mon, Nov 30, 2020 at 11:30 AM Amanda Price <amandaprice@utah.gov> wrote:
I don't think we have any new farms since the last one I submitted. No dogs/cats/other species that you know of?

On Mon, Nov 30, 2020 at 11:29 AM Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov> wrote:
These seem to roll around so often. Will you fill out whatever is needed. Nothing is really changed.

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **One Health (CDC)** <onehealth@cdc.gov>
Date: Mon, Nov 30, 2020 at 11:20 AM
Subject: [Dec 1 reminder] REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: State-level SARS-CoV-2 Animal Input Form
To:
Cc: Barton Behravesh, Casey (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD) <dlx9@cdc.gov>, Rooney, Jane A - APHIS <jane.a.rooney@usda.gov>

Dear State and local Public Health Veterinarians, State Animal Health Officials, State Wildlife Officials, and other relevant health experts at the state and local levels,

Many thanks for your continued collaboration on this surveillance initiative. We would like to remind everyone to please submit their surveillance spreadsheets **for the December 1st reporting deadline** if you have consulted on animals suspected of being infected with SARS-CoV-2, or know of animals that have been tested for SARS-CoV-2 within your jurisdiction.

If this is your first time reporting data to us:

Please complete the form attached and return it to this e-mail (onehealth@cdc.gov) without modifying this subject line. It has been attached in two formats; an Excel file and a zip file, for those who are having troubles receiving attachments through agency firewalls.

If you have previously submitted data to us:

Please continue entering new consults and cases onto the most recent version of your Excel form- additional cases can be added below your previously reported animals, and updates can be made to existing cases if you have additional information. If you aren't sure you have the most recent version of your form, please do not hesitate to reach out to us – we are happy to send it back to you.

If you do not have any additional consultations or testing to report:

Please feel free to send us a direct e-mail reply with "No additional consultations or testing performed at this time" in the text.

****Additional note**: If you know of any active surveillance activities that have occurred in your jurisdiction (e.g., household transmission studies, shelter animal studies), we'd love to have these included in the data.

We will continue to report out nation-wide results on this initiative on the State:Federal One Health calls, occurring on Thursdays at 3pm EST.

Thank you again!

If you have feedback on the State-level Animal Questionnaire, we welcome you to submit your feedback by **clicking this link to complete a 2 minute survey.**

From: Ghai, Ria (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD) <ofu9@cdc.gov>
Sent: Monday, June 1, 2020 7:31 AM
To: One Health (CDC) <onehealth@cdc.gov>
Cc: Barton Behravesh, Casey (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD) <dlx9@cdc.gov>; Rooney, Jane A - APHIS <jane.a.rooney@usda.gov>
Subject: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: State-level SARS-CoV-2 Animal Input Form
Importance: High

Dear State and local Public Health Veterinarians, State Animal Health Officials, State Wildlife Officials, and other relevant health experts at the state and local levels,

We are writing to **request your voluntary participation and collaboration in gathering data on animals under investigation for SARS-CoV-2** to help us better understand the possible role of animals in the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

As you are aware, a small number of animals worldwide have been naturally infected with SARS-CoV-2, mostly after close contact with a person with COVID-19. As governmental entities responsible for public health, animal health, and the environment continue to collaborate using a One Health approach to better understand the possible role of animals in the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, we anticipate new animal cases will be identified. CDC, USDA, and multiple states have posted guidance recommending State Public Health Veterinarians, State Animal Health Officials, and State Wildlife Veterinarians be involved in the determination for animal testing within their jurisdictions.

There are multiple federal, state, academic, and private laboratories currently conducting SARS-CoV-2 testing on animal samples. SARS-CoV-2 is considered to be an emerging disease by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE). Cases of SARS-CoV-2 in animals should be confirmed by USDA's National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) and USDA must report confirmed animal infections in the United States to the OIE.

Information is currently **lacking on the total number of suspect animal cases and the number of animals recommended for SARS-CoV-2 testing**. However, these data are critical to understanding the significance of positive test results in pets and other animals and examining their possible role in COVID-19 dynamics. The CDC COVID-19 One Health Working Group in collaboration with USDA-APHIS and other federal and state partners developed the attached spreadsheet to be able to gather and analyze these data with your assistance and collaboration.

We have considered the time burden of completing this form and have selected questions carefully. We ask officials completing this form for the first time to provide data for all animal consultations conducted to date since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Subsequent submissions would only require data entry for new cases or consultations that have occurred since your last submission. For this reason, this form may be helpful for your records, as it would ideally compile all consultations and cases to-date that your jurisdiction has addressed. Additionally, **CDC will report collected aggregate data from these forms on the weekly State-Federal One Health COVID-19 Update Calls** which are held on Thursdays at 3pm ET. If you would like to join the weekly State-Federal One Health Update Call, please email onehealth@cdc.gov stating that you are participating in this collaboration and request an invite for the call.

INSTRUCTIONS:

We request your voluntary participation in completing the attached Excel form on a twice monthly basis so we can improve our understanding nationally on numbers of tests being sought, the proportion of animals being recommend for testing, and a limited amount of epidemiologic data. **We request submission of completed forms by replying to this email (onehealth@cdc.gov) on the 1st and 15th of each month. Please REPLY to the email with your attachment – please do not modify the subject line.**

Thank you for your assistance and collaboration as we improve One Health surveillance and research strategies for SARS-CoV-2 in animals.

Kindest Regards,

Casey Barton Behravesh MS, DVM, DrPH, DACVPM

Captain, U.S. Public Health Service

Director, One Health Office

CDC COVID-19 One Health Working Group Lead

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

e-mail: CBartonBehravesh@cdc.gov

Jane A. Rooney, D.V.M.

Director, One Health Coordination

Office of Interagency Coordination

Strategy and Policy

National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases

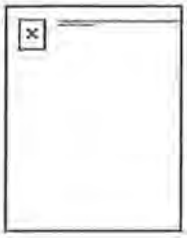
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services

Veterinary Services

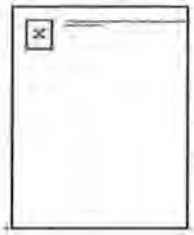
United States Department of Agriculture

Email: Jane.A.Rooney@usda.gov

ONE HEALTH



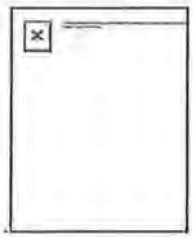
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Website | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram

Melissa Ure

From: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 1, 2020 9:00 PM
To: Patton, Elisabeth A - DATCP
Subject: Re: meeting

I did not even pay attention to your name when you were speaking but immediately thought that you looked a lot like YOURSELF and then saw your name and figured it had to be you. Nice to have a familiar face helping to deal with this. I have been here less than a year and it has been an eventful year to say the least. Several other issues nearly as time consuming as this one. I was in private practice and owned an equine clinic for 25 years. It was very hard to leave my clients after that long but some old injuries from horses were catching up with me so I retired from private practice and this position came open coincidentally at the same time. Life in a nutshell. Glad you are doing well.
Dean

On Tue, Dec 1, 2020 at 7:37 PM Patton, Elisabeth A - DATCP <Elisabeth.Patton@wisconsin.gov> wrote:

Hi Dean,

That is so funny! Yes, that was my maiden name; we were classmates! I knew the name was familiar, but did not make the connection. Not sure how on earth you did?

Great to hear from you and hope you are doing well, aside from the current mink issues.

Hoping you all can get some movement with some of these issues.

Talk soon,

Elisabeth

Elisabeth Patton, DVM, PhD, Diplomate ACVIM

Assistant State Veterinarian

Division of Animal Health

Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

608-224-4891

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elisabeth.patton@wisconsin.gov

Please complete this brief survey to help us improve our customer service. Thank you for your feedback!

From: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 1, 2020 4:52 PM
To: Patton, Elisabeth A - DATCP <Elisabeth.Patton@wisconsin.gov>
Subject: meeting

Thank you for setting up the meeting and heading it up. I need to ask if your maiden name was Triplett? If so we were classmates.

Thanks again

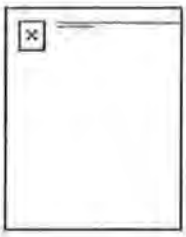
Dean

—



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Melissa Ure

From: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 3, 2020 9:02 AM
To: Amanda Price
Subject: Fwd: Thank you for presenting during the latest ZOHU Call

Looks like 670 attendees . Forwarding so you can put in the outreach report.
Dean

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Barton Behravesh, Casey (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD)** <dlx9@cdc.gov>
Date: Wed, Dec 2, 2020 at 4:04 PM
Subject: RE: Thank you for presenting during the latest ZOHU Call
To: Talley-McRae, Helen (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD) <ytz7@cdc.gov>, Cossaboom, Caitlin (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHCPP) <nrm9@cdc.gov>, Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>

Thank you both for a stellar presentation! I've already received lots of positive feedback about it from partners. We really appreciate it!

Casey

Casey Barton Behravesh MS, DVM, DrPH, DACVPM

Captain, U.S. Public Health Service

Lead, CDC COVID-19 One Health Working Group

Functional Box: OneHealth@cdc.gov

Director, One Health Office

National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

e-mail: CBartonBehravesh@cdc.gov and OneHealth@cdc.gov

Mobile (Text): 404 729 4107

For more information on our work, please visit:

www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/animals/pets-other-animals.html

www.cdc.gov/onehealth

ONE HEALTH

From: Talley-McRae, Helen (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD) <ytz7@cdc.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, December 2, 2020 4:00 PM
To: Cossaboom, Caitlin (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHCPP) <nrm9@cdc.gov>; Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Cc: Barton Behravesh, Casey (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD) <dlx9@cdc.gov>
Subject: Thank you for presenting during the latest ZOHU Call

Dear Dr. Cossaboom and Dr. Taylor,

On behalf of CDC's One Health Office, thank you for presenting "One Health Investigation of SARS-CoV-2 on Multiple Mink Farms in Utah" during our December 2, 2020 Zoonoses and One Health Updates (ZOHU) Call webinar. We sincerely appreciate you taking the time out of your busy schedule to develop this presentation.

This live webinar reached **670** unique viewers, including veterinarians, physicians, nurses, epidemiologists, and others who work on One Health issues at the human-animal-environment interface. Additionally, the call was recorded for Continuing Education and will be available on our website for two years, giving your presentation a much larger potential audience. The captioned video will be posted by January 11, 2021.

Please help us promote our call to your colleagues by sharing this link to the ZOHU Call website. This call is only successful when we have excellent, timely presentations, and your talk was a great example! Please let us know if you or a colleague have any topics you would like to present on future ZOHU calls, by sending an email to ZOHUcall@cdc.gov.

Sincerely,

Helen Talley-McRae

Health Communication Specialist

NCEZID Office of the Director
ZOHU Call Coordinator

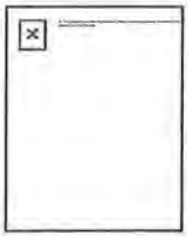


ytz7@cdc.gov

telework - cell 404-539-3760

TOD 7:30 am – 5 pm; RDO alternate Mondays

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Office 801-982-2243 Cell 385-290-9462
djtaylor@utah.gov
Website | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram

Melissa Ure

From: Rooney, Jane A - APHIS <jane.a.rooney@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 4, 2020 12:15 PM
To: Dean Taylor
Subject: RE: questions

I really appreciate that and look forward to working with you in my new capacity!

Jane

Jane A. Rooney, D.V.M.
Director, One Health Coordination
Office of Interagency Coordination
Strategy and Policy
USDA:APHIS:Veterinary Services
2150 Centre Ave., Building B, MS3E13
Fort Collins, Colorado 80526

Ph: 970-494-7397
Mobile: 301-789-3064
Email: Jane.A.Rooney@usda.gov

From: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 4, 2020 12:13 PM
To: Rooney, Jane A - APHIS <jane.a.rooney@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: questions

Jane,
Best of luck in the new job. I am happy for you.
Dean

On Fri, Dec 4, 2020 at 12:10 PM Rooney, Jane A - APHIS <jane.a.rooney@usda.gov> wrote:

Thanks Dean, these are excellent.

I had hoped to have a follow-up meeting of the livestock sub group today but had another emergency meeting scheduled at our usual time that precluded it. I sent out an updated meeting invitation for next week – but now see that somehow you and Hannah were not included (totally unintentional); but sounds like you will be taking well deserved leave. I will resend and include you both as I also see I didn't expand it to 1 hour ☹!

I am really looking forward to moving on to my new position and the 2 week vacation that is between now and then! I hope you have excellent time off too.

Best,

Jane

Jane A. Rooney, D.V.M.

Director, One Health Coordination

Office of Interagency Coordination

Strategy and Policy

USDA:APHIS:Veterinary Services

2150 Centre Ave., Building B, MS3E13

Fort Collins, Colorado 80526

Ph: 970-494-7397

Mobile: 301-789-3064

Email: Jane.A.Rooney@usda.gov

From: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 4, 2020 12:01 PM
To: Rooney, Jane A - APHIS <jane.a.rooney@usda.gov>
Subject: questions

Jane,

I never did see another meeting scheduled to give these to you in. Here are a few of my thoughts on the questions. I hope that this is what you are looking for. SAHO questions

1. Are mink livestock in your state?
2. Do you have regulatory authority over mink?
3. How many mink farms are in your state?
4. How many total mink are there in the state?
5. Where are the mink geographically located, are the farms in close proximity?
6. How is the workforce on the mink farms staffed?
7. Do the different producers share employees or feed kitchens?
8. Is there a processing plant for mink pelts within your state?
9. Do most producers ship the pelts for processing or do it on the farm?
10. Are there regulations on the facilities with regards to such things as perimeter fences or enclosures?
11. Who controls feral mink populations in your state? Who has authority to do so? Wildlife or Agriculture?
12. Do farms employ seasonal workers?
13. Have farms been provided with any of the USDA guidance documents approved for release?

I hope that you are doing well. If you have any other questions then please let me know. Again I thought I would see a meeting scheduled this week but wanted to get these off to you anyway. I will be out on leave next week but will check my phone periodically as well.

Dean

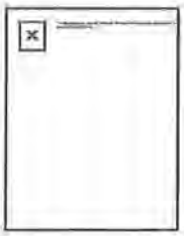
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Melissa Ure

From: Ryan Holt <rhinoh1301@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 10, 2020 2:30 AM
To: Dean Taylor; Hannah Rettler; cat@caitlinpope.com
Subject: FW: Denmark stops mass cull of mink

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

----- Forwarded Message -----
From: "Challis Hobbs" <challis.hobbs@sagafurs.com>
To:
Cc: "George Vongas" <george.vongas@sagafurs.com>
Sent: Mon, Nov 9, 2020 at 8:49 PM
Subject: FW: Denmark stops mass cull of mink

Good evening,

My colleague has collected some interesting articles and info surrounding the recent news that Demark will now stop culling mink now. With the info we have now it seems many farms have already done the culling and burning of the skins. We will continue to update as the situation continues.

Best,

Challis Hobbs

Account Representative North American Ranchers

challis.hobbs@sagafurs.com

208-851-1855

sagafurs.

www.sagafurs.com

From: George Vongas <george.vongas@sagafurs.com>
Sent: Monday, November 9, 2020 3:49 PM
Subject: Denmark stops mass cull of mink

Hi all, fyi

I'm sure most of you have heard already, the Danish Parliament stopped the PM's order to kill all mink, but it might be too late for most. I heard up to ¾ of farms have already killed their mink, which could mean up to 10 Million (that # is not confirmed yet).

The Danish parliament considers his order illegal, and there is also some science appearing against the PM's decision (I'll copy some of those links further below as well).

I translated some of the foreign articles through Google Translate below, and we'll keep you posted as things develop quickly. Thank you,

George

1. https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/nov/09/denmark-drops-plans-for-mass-mink-cull-after-covid-mutation-fears

Denmark drops plans for mass mink cull after Covid mutation fears

2. https://www.berlingske.dk/virksomheder/professor-kalder-myndighedernes-besked-til-minkavlere-ulovlig

Professor calls authorities' message to mink breeders' illegal ': Mink breeders outside risk zones can stop killing

Monday, November 9, 2020, at 13.55

Share this article

Last week, Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen (S) said that all mink in Denmark must be shut down to slow down the spread of covid-19 among mink in North Jutland. That announcement was later followed up by the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration, which asked all of the country's mink breeders to kill their mink.

However, it has since emerged that the **authorities had no authority at all to ask all mink breeders to kill their animals** , as an order requires that either infection has been found among the animals or that the mink farm is located in an area with disease outbreaks. This means that the government cannot demand that healthy herds outside risk areas be killed.

This now makes law professor at the University of Southern Denmark Frederik Waage call Friday's message from the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration illegal. Here, the agency asked all of the country's mink breeders - including those with healthy mink herds outside risk zones - to kill their mink.

'It's an illegal order. All mink breeders have thus been asked to start immediately, so there is no doubt that the order was illegal, "says the professor to Berlingske.

The message to the mink breeders with "healthy mink farms outside North Jutland" read that "the killing of all mink (including breeding animals) must be over by 16 November 2020. You must therefore start killing the herd as soon as possible."

Frederik Waage reads it as an "unambiguous" order that all mink - including those outside the risk zones - must be killed, and the government has no authority to do so, he says.
'There is not much to discuss. The government and the authorities have no authority to ask the mink breeders outside the zones to slaughter their mink. So the mink breeders can postpone the killing, as the legal situation is now, "says the law professor.

The government is currently working to pass a law to ensure that the government can also ask mink breeders outside risk zones to kill their mink. But that legal basis should have been in place for the government before it asked the mink breeders to healthy herds to kill their mink, says Frederik Waage.

"The problem is that the government is asking the mink breeders to kill their animals without it having the authority to do so, and as far as I can see, the government has not informed the mink breeders that they lacked a legal basis. So, of course, it is not unproblematic for the authorities, «assesses the law professor.

Frederik Waage further says that the government could have invoked a so-called state of emergency, because with it the government could have asked all mink breeders to slaughter their animals. But the government has not done so, and therefore he describes the government's action as 'problematic'.

Minister: The 'urgent'

The responsible minister, Minister of Food, Mogens Jensen (S), explained to Ritzau on Sunday evening that the government had to speed up the killing of Denmark's mink herd because it was "urgent".
"The government has decided that it is urgent, given the seriousness of the situation. Therefore, it has been assessed that it was not possible to wait for new legislation before announcing this, "said Mogens Jensen on Sunday evening in a written comment to Ritzau.
In addition to the government working on a new law to provide a broader legal basis for killing mink, the parties' food and business rapporteurs have also been summoned to a meeting on compensation for the mink industry today, Monday afternoon.

3. https://landbrugsavisen.dk/regeringen-opgiver-hastelov-om-mink

The government is giving up urgent laws on mink

The government is dropping plans to put forward a draft law on mink on Tuesday due to a lack of support.

The government will not submit a proposal for an urgent law to kill mink throughout Denmark on Tuesday.

Ritzau experiences this from several sources.

This happens after there is not the necessary support in the Folketing to deal with the law as a matter of urgency. It requires a majority of three quarters of the Folketing to deal with the law as a matter of urgency.

A united blue bloc has refused to vote for an urgent treatment of the law.

The government decided last week that all mink in all of Denmark should be killed.

However, there is no legal basis for slaughtering healthy mink outside the infection zone in North Jutland.

Therefore, the government needs new legislation to enforce its decision.

/ ritzau /

4. **Some science surfacing against the PM's decision**

Virus Mutation Won't Affect Potential Vaccines: Study

- https://www.aa.com.tr/en/asia-pacific/virus-mutation-won-t-affect-potential-vaccines-study/2001000?fbclid=IwAR3XeTcLOZrz0Ph0-F69aYaYJPyE7MfyFgtoVmd0Usd2FRxKeqraC0dkLS8#

Coronavirus mutations not expected to influence vaccine efficacy, WHO chief scientist says

- https://edition.cnn.com/world/live-news/coronavirus-pandemic-06-12-20-intl/h_ba93bdf9d0c40ffa87d3d1f71e0314d8

All viruses mutate — including the novel coronavirus. But as the world now races to develop a Covid-19 vaccine, the coronavirus mutations are not expected to alter vaccine efficacy during this race, said World Health Organization chief scientist Dr. Soumya Swaminathan.

"The mutations have not been shown to be in those regions of the virus — the spike protein, the receptor binding domain — that are going to alter the efficacy of a vaccine so far," Swaminathan said on Friday during a live Q&A broadcast on WHO's social media pages.

Russia says it is developing a Covid-19 vaccine for mink and CATS after boasting it has made first treatment for humans

- https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8635009/Russia-says-developing-Covid-19-vaccine-mink-CATS-boasting-human-treatment.html?ito=native_share_article-masthead

Best Regards,

George Vongas

Account Representative, Canadian Farmers

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sagafurs

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www.sagaservices.com

Melissa Ure

From: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, November 10, 2020 9:16 AM
To: Caroline Hargraves
Subject: Re: Link to story on Denmark

This came out in a USAHA news story this morning so it is confirmed. I would like to send Denmark my personal thanks for creating so much drama!!!

On Tue, Nov 10, 2020 at 9:11 AM Caroline Hargraves <carolinehargraves@utah.gov> wrote:
Thank you for sharing this.

-Caroline

On Mon, Nov 9, 2020 at 5:00 PM Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov> wrote:
FYI about the mink cull in Denmark. It has been stopped according to this report Ryan Holt sent me. I have not tried to verify this yet.

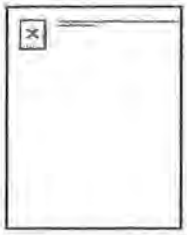
---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Ryan Holt** <rhinoh1301@yahoo.com>
Date: Mon, Nov 9, 2020 at 3:57 PM
Subject: Link to story on Denmark
To: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>, Hannah Rettler <hrettler@utah.gov>

https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/nov/09/denmark-drops-plans-for-mass-mink-cull-after-covid-mutation-fears
Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

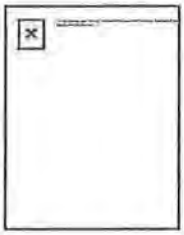
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Melissa Ure

From: Hannah Rettler <hrettler@utah.gov>
Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2020 12:17 PM
To: Wendling, Natalie (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD)
Cc: Barton Behravesh, Casey (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD); Dean Taylor; One Health (CDC)
Subject: Re: Utah Wildlife

Thanks Natalie!

On Thu, Nov 12, 2020 at 12:12 PM Wendling, Natalie (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD) <pme8@cdc.gov> wrote:

Hi Hannah,

I sent an invite to Jared yesterday and happy to include anyone else that he feels needs to be added.

Thank you for letting us know!

Natalie

From: Hannah Rettler <hrettler@utah.gov>
Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2020 2:09 PM
To: Barton Behravesh, Casey (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD) <dlx9@cdc.gov>
Cc: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>; Wendling, Natalie (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD) <pme8@cdc.gov>; One Health (CDC) <onehealth@cdc.gov>
Subject: Re: Utah Wildlife

Thanks Casey. I think it would be good to invite Jared, and then he may have others with wildlife services that should be on the call.

On Wed, Nov 11, 2020 at 6:39 PM Barton Behravesh, Casey (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD) <dlx9@cdc.gov> wrote:

We are happy to include any relevant state partners in Utah. Just let us know who to include.

From: Hannah Rettler <hrettler@utah.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, November 10, 2020 10:40 AM

To: Barton Behravesh, Casey (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD) <dlx9@cdc.gov>; Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Subject: Utah Wildlife

Hi Casey,

I have not reached out to Utah Wildlife to be a part of this call, I apologize if that was something we should have done. I believe Jared Zierenberg (jared.r.zierenberg@usda.gov) is our Utah Wildlife Resources contact that would be appropriate to join these calls. Dr. Taylor, do you think we should also include someone like Annette Roug as well?

--

Hannah Rettler, MPH

Vectorborne/Zoonotic Disease Epidemiologist

Disease Response, Evaluation, Analysis, & Monitoring Program

Bureau of Epidemiology

Utah Department of Health

Email: hrettler@utah.gov

Office: (801) 538 - 6333

Mobile: (385) 285 - 5178

Secure Fax: (801) 538 - 9923

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Hannah Rettler, MPH

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--

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Melissa Ure

From: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2020 10:51 AM
To: JoNel Aleccia
Subject: Re: Are mink considered livestock?

Good morning JoNel. They are not classified as livestock by USDA is my understanding. In Utah they are considered livestock *title 4-1-109 (6) "Livestock" means cattle, sheep, goats, swine, horses, mules, poultry, domesticated elk as defined in Section 4-39-102, or any other domestic animal or domestic furbearer raised or kept for profit.* No producer would be required to allow access to their farm or business to conduct research. In Utah, I had to get acquainted with the producers and demonstrate genuine concern for them and then they have been extremely helpful in the studies. Their cooperation has aided research tremendously.
Have a nice day.
Dean

On Sat, Nov 14, 2020 at 11:17 AM JoNel Aleccia <JoNelA@kff.org> wrote:

Hi Dr. Taylor,

Just an update. I was able to speak with Capt. Casey Barton Behravesh at CDC about the investigations in the U.S. into SARS-CoV-2 spread in minks. It was quite helpful.

One point Casey made was that mink farmers are not required to allow CDC or other investigators access to their farms and that a few have denied that access. Is that what you've seen as well?

I understand that part of that is because of regulations that don't classify mink as livestock subject to disease investigations.

I asked the APHIS public relations people to clarify and they advised me to ask the state veterinarians in UT, MI and WI about how mink are classified.

Can you tell me, are they regarded as livestock in Utah? And how many farmers have declined to allow you or federal officials access to conduct investigations?

Thanks,

JoNel

From: Dean Taylor [mailto:djtaylor@utah.gov]
Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2020 10:27 AM
To: JoNel Aleccia <JoNelA@kff.org>
Subject: Re: Utah mink investigation?

They don't have that information yet. I just got off the call a few minutes ago and that is not complete. That is a very intensive work. When they have that information, I have asked them to provide their exact talking points as I will not

be interpreting that data to pass on. As you can imagine there are lots of folks waiting on that information to be completed.

Regards

Dean J Taylor, DVM

On Wed, Nov 11, 2020 at 2:17 PM JoNel Aleccia <JoNelA@kff.org> wrote:

> Hi Dr. Taylor,
>
> It's JoNel with KHN. I'm just checking to see whether you have any results from your investigation into mink-human transmission. You said you thought you might by later this week.
>
> Best,
>
> JoNel

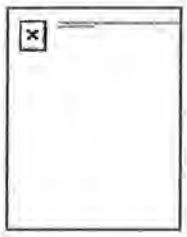
JoNel Aleccia / Senior Correspondent
Kaiser Health News / Washington, DC
JoNelA@kff.org / @JoNel_Aleccia / 202 654 1366

KHN

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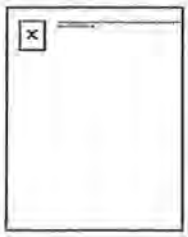


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Melissa Ure

From: James Burton <jhburton@utah.gov>
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2020 11:04 AM
To: Dean Taylor
Cc: Burton, James - FSIS; Price, Amanda - FSIS; Leann Hunting
Subject: Re: Covid in Mink

Thanks, you answered my question.



Jim Burton
Assistant Manager Meat Inspection Program
801.982 2236 Desk I 801.927.7365 Mobile
Website | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram

On Mon, Nov 16, 2020 at 10:36 AM Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov> wrote:
CDC has asked for their data to compare with ours. They will be monitoring our cases for that as well. No indication that it has happened here in Utah yet.

On Mon, Nov 16, 2020 at 10:31 AM Burton, James - FSIS <james.burton@usda.gov> wrote:

> Dr. Taylor is probable tired of this information, but I read about the Netherlands about a week or two ago, I was going to ask Dr. Taylor about it this morning and found this article.
>
> In case anyone wasn't aware of the mink problem.
>
> https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2020/11/mutant-coronaviruses-found-mink-spark-massive-culls-and-doom-danish-group-s-research
>
> Have a good day,
>
> Jim Burton

Assistant Manager

Meat / Poultry Inspection

State of Utah

350 North Redwood Road

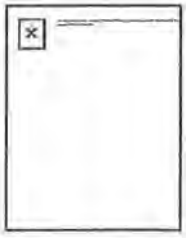
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Melissa Ure

From: Barton Behravesh, Casey (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD) <dlx9@cdc.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, November 17, 2020 8:04 AM
To: Dean Taylor; Hannah Rettler; Cossaboom, Caitlin (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHCPP)
Subject: Fur Commission Fact Sheet

http://furcommission.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/FCUSA-Covid-White-Paper-Nov-11.pdf

See paragraph 3 and the last section. The document won't let me paste the info here.

Casey

Casey Barton Behravesh MS, DVM, DrPH, DACVPM
Captain, U.S. Public Health Service
Lead, CDC COVID-19 One Health Working Group
Functional Box: OneHealth@cdc.gov

Director, One Health Office
National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
e-mail: CBartonBehravesh@cdc.gov and OneHealth@cdc.gov

Mobile (Text): 404 729 4107

For more information on our work, please visit:
www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/animals/pets-other-animals.html

www.cdc.gov/onehealth

ONE HEALTH

Melissa Ure

From: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, November 17, 2020 1:35 PM
To: Hannah Rettler
Subject: Re: Fur commission notice

Thanks for sending this. I read it after our meeting. When they put out incorrect or premature information it creates mistrust with the public. I know they are trying to protect their industry but they should have these things reviewed. Dean

On Tue, Nov 17, 2020 at 7:54 AM Hannah Rettler <hrettler@utah.gov> wrote:
Caitlin sent this to me last night...I am not sure if you've seen this or were a part of it.

http://furcommission.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/FCUSA-Covid-White-Paper-Nov-11.pdf

--
Hannah Rettler, MPH
Vectorborne/Zoonotic Disease Epidemiologist
Disease Response, Evaluation, Analysis, & Monitoring Program
Bureau of Epidemiology
Utah Department of Health
Email: hrettler@utah.gov
Office: (801) 538 - 6333
Mobile: (385) 285 - 5178
Secure Fax: (801) 538 - 9923

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djtaylor@utah.gov
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Melissa Ure

From: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, November 18, 2020 12:54 PM
To: Deliberto, Thomas J - APHIS
Subject: Re: UT Mink

Yes
385-290-9462

On Wed, Nov 18, 2020 at 11:50 AM Deliberto, Thomas J - APHIS <thomas.j.deliberto@usda.gov> wrote:

Hi Dean,

Do you have a few minutes to discuss some additional findings on the mink investigation? If so, what number can I reach you at?

Tom

Stay Healthy - Stay Home - Stay Connected

USDA
Thomas DeLiberto, PhD, DVM
Assistant Director
APHIS Wildlife Services (WS)
WS National Wildlife Research Center
4101 LaPorte Ave
Fort Collins, CO 80526
P: 970-266-6088
C: 970-988-1204
Thomas.J.DeLiberto@usda.gov

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Website | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram

Melissa Ure

From: Hannah Rettler <hrettler@utah.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, November 18, 2020 4:02 PM
To: Cossaboom, Caitlin (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHCPP); Dean Taylor
Subject: Fwd: Latest Expedited Articles - Emerging Infectious Diseases Journal - November 18, 2020

Denmark published their findings so far

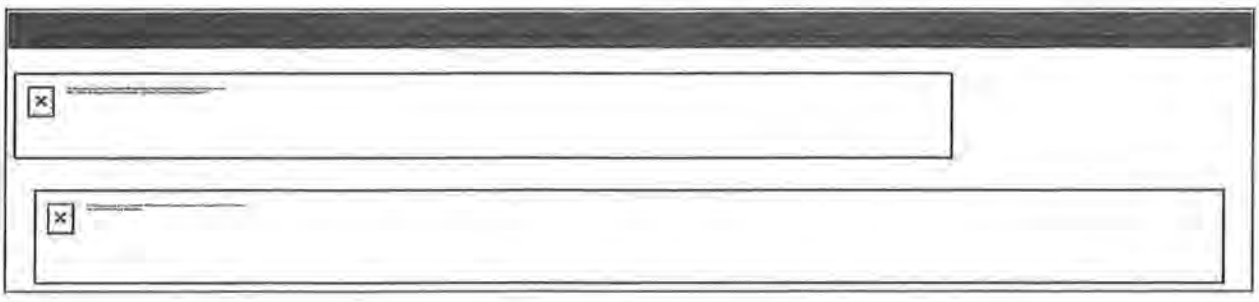
---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Cindy Burnett** <cburnett@utah.gov>
Date: Wed, Nov 18, 2020 at 3:57 PM
Subject: Fwd: Latest Expedited Articles - Emerging Infectious Diseases Journal - November 18, 2020
To: Hannah Rettler <hrettler@utah.gov>

FYI

Cindy Burnett, MPH
Program Manager - Disease Response, Evaluation, Analysis, and Monitoring Program
Bureau of Epidemiology, Division of Disease Control and Prevention
Utah Department of Health
288 N 1460 W
Salt Lake City, UT 84116

Work: (801) 538-6692
Cell: (385) 249-0195
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cburnett@utah.gov

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** <no-reply@emailupdates.cdc.gov>
Date: Wed, Nov 18, 2020 at 3:53 PM
Subject: Latest Expedited Articles - Emerging Infectious Diseases Journal - November 18, 2020
To: <cburnett@utah.gov>



EXPEDITED EARLY RELEASE ARTICLES — November 18, 2020

Dispatch
SARS-CoV-2 Transmission between Mink (*Neovison vison*) and Humans, Denmark

Anne Sofie Hammer, Michelle Lauge Quaade, Thomas Bruun Rasmussen, Jannik Fonager, Morten Rasmussen, Karin Mundbjerg, Louise Lohse, Bertel Strandbygaard, Charlotte Sværke Jørgensen, Alonzo Alfaro-Núñez, Maiken Worsøe Rosenstierne, Anette Boklund, Tariq Halasa, Anders Fomsgaard, Graham J. Belsham, and Anette Bøtner

Abstract
Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 has caused a pandemic in humans. Farmed mink (*Neovison vison*) are also susceptible. In Denmark, this virus has spread rapidly among farmed mink, resulting in some respiratory disease. Full-length virus genome sequencing revealed novel virus variants in mink. These variants subsequently appeared within the local human community.

Volume 27, Number 2 - February 2021

Conclusions, findings, and opinions expressed by authors contributing to EID do not necessarily reflect the official position of CDC or authors' affiliated institutions. Most articles that EID publishes represent work from researchers who are not affiliated with CDC. Members of the press should clarify who conducted a story (suggested language is available here).

Preheader is a great place to more information that is relevant to the newsletter.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

1600 Clifton Rd Atlanta, GA 30329 1-800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636) TTY: 888-232-6348

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Hannah Rettler, MPH
Vectorborne/Zoonotic Disease Epidemiologist
Disease Response, Evaluation, Analysis, & Monitoring Program

Bureau of Epidemiology
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Melissa Ure

From: Rooney, Jane A - APHIS <jane.a.rooney@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2020 11:14 AM
To: Hannah Rettler; Cossaboom, Caitlin (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHCPP); dlx9@cdc.gov; Wendling, Natalie (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD)
Cc: Dean Taylor; Robbe Austerman, Suelee - APHIS
Subject: RE: Sequencing talking points

I think it will be extremely important to ensure all talking points on the sequencing results have gone through review and clearance at CDC and USDA before any information is shared...as we know there is no way to totally protect information once it is spoken.

Thanks,

Jane

Jane A. Rooney, D.V.M.
Director, One Health Coordination
Office of Interagency Coordination
Strategy and Policy
USDA:APHIS:Veterinary Services
2150 Centre Ave., Building B, MS3E13
Fort Collins, Colorado 80526

Ph: 970-494-7397
Mobile: 301-789-3064
Email: Jane.A.Rooney@usda.gov

From: Hannah Rettler <hrettler@utah.gov>
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2020 10:56 AM
To: Rooney, Jane A - APHIS <jane.a.rooney@usda.gov>; Cossaboom, Caitlin (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHCPP) <nrm9@cdc.gov>; dlx9@cdc.gov; Wendling, Natalie (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD) <pme8@cdc.gov>
Cc: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Subject: Sequencing talking points

Hello all,

I am wondering if it may be possible to share a few sequencing talking points as early as this afternoon, or first thing tomorrow morning? I know this is asking for a very quick turnaround. I have been asked to present on the mink investigation for a UDOH meeting tomorrow at 10am MT, and this group will contain both internal folks, as well as external stakeholders, though it is not open to media, and information shared on the call is not to be distributed. I will also make a statement that what I share is not to be distributed.

I have shared a few updates since the investigation started in August, and they know that mink, cats, dogs, humans, and wildlife samples were collected in both August and October and that we sent samples to be sequenced, and though I do not plan to cover it in detail tomorrow, I certainly anticipate there will be questions about the status of the results and

what we can determine at this point. I know the directionality question will also come up. I also know that the Denmark situation will be of interest and will want to know our perspective on it compared to what is happening here in Utah. If there was anything this group feels it would be appropriate for me to share at this time aside from the 'sequencing analysis is on-going', that would be much appreciated as I do anticipate many questions.

I have attached our most recent talking points document for your reference, as well as the working draft of the presentation I plan to give tomorrow morning to UDOH. I am working with our PIO to make updates to ensure our TPs match the most recent TPs that Natalie shared on 11/7, update our current affected farm count in UT to 12, and if there are additional sequencing notes we can add, that would be excellent.

Thank you!

—
Hannah Rettler, MPH
Vectorborne/Zoonotic Disease Epidemiologist
Disease Response, Evaluation, Analysis, & Monitoring Program
Bureau of Epidemiology
Utah Department of Health
Email: hrettler@utah.gov
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Melissa Ure

From: American Mink Exchange <info@amminkexchange.com>
Sent: Friday, March 12, 2021 8:52 AM
To: Pieracci, Emily (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DGMQ)
Cc: Dean Taylor
Subject: Re: New import guidelines for mink pelts

Dear Dr. Pieracci,

I just wanted to give you a heads up on the 2 boat shipments of mink pelts coming back from Denmark. Due to a major logistics logjam at the Oakland port, there are significant delays binging in container freighters, including the one ours are loaded on. Our First shipment is now scheduled to arrive the port of Oakland March 27th, but the situation is fluid, and I would not be surprised if there are further delays. I will keep you informed of further news regarding this situation when I receive it from my shipping agent.

Thank you and best regards,

Richie Tax

From: Pieracci, Emily (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DGMQ) <ydi7@cdc.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 12:41 PM
To: American Mink Exchange <info@amminkexchange.com>
Cc: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Subject: RE: New import guidelines for mink pelts

Dear Mr. Tax:

Once you have obtained your USF&W permits there is nothing additional that needs to be done.

Thanks,

Emily Pieracci, DVM, MPH, DACVPM
Zoonoses Team Lead
Quarantine and Border Health Services Branch
Division of Global Migration and Quarantine
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

From: American Mink Exchange <info@amminkexchange.com>
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 12:18 PM
To: Pieracci, Emily (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DGMQ) <ydi7@cdc.gov>
Cc: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Subject: Re: New import guidelines for mink pelts

Dear Dr. Pieracci,

Thank you for the good news. Do we need to do anything differently than normal besides speaking with Dr. Taylor when we clear USF&W on these shipments?

Thank you for your help and best regards,

Richard Tax

From: Pieracci, Emily (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DGMQ) <ydi7@cdc.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 8:02 AM
To: American Mink Exchange <info@amminkexchange.com>
Cc: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Subject: RE: New import guidelines for mink pelts

Dear Mr. Tax:

CDC has reviewed your case and determined that since these mink were harvested in 2019, prior to the COVID pandemic, they are low risk for importing SARS-CoV-2 into the United States.

Therefore, you are not required to produce any additional documentation to import the pelts.

Please note, the final state of destination may have additional requirements. Please contact Dr. Taylor for additional state requirements that may be required.

Kind Regards,

Emily Pieracci, DVM, MPH, DACVPM
Zoonoses Team Lead
Quarantine and Border Health Services Branch
Division of Global Migration and Quarantine
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

From: American Mink Exchange <info@amminkexchange.com>
Sent: Friday, February 19, 2021 2:30 PM
To: Pieracci, Emily (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DGMQ) <ydi7@cdc.gov>
Subject: Re: New import guidelines for mink pelts

Dear Dr. Peracci,

Thank you for your prompt response.

I will contact Denmark and try to get you as much as the documentation as we can. Note on the export certificate it will not mention about these minks being from the 2019 harvest and what temperature at which they were stored. This is not something that is normally in my experience included in an export certificate for mink pelts, so we did not ask for it at the time of export. However, we will do whatever we possibly can to make you satisfied that these were indeed from the 2019 harvest and provide you with information about the temperature at which they have been stored. I hope to have some information form you on Monday.

Thank you and have a nice weekend,

Richie Tax

From: Pieracci, Emily (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DGMQ) <ydi7@cdc.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 19, 2021 11:05 AM
To: American Mink Exchange <info@amminkexchange.com>
Subject: RE: New import guidelines for mink pelts

Dear Mr. Tax:

Thank you for your inquiry. CDC has not issued any formal guidance yet, and each importation is currently being addressed on a case-by-case basis.

To determine entry eligibility it would help if you could send me some additional information.

You mention these mink were harvested in 2019, prior to the COVID pandemic. How have they been stored over the past year? Can you provide temperature and humidity information? Were these processed mink held at a facility where SARS-CoV-2 was diagnosed in either mink or humans?

Do you have any documentation from Denmark officials (export certificate, etc) documenting that these mink were from the 2019 harvest and verifying what temperature they were stored at prior to shipment?

Kind Regards,

Emily Pieracci, DVM, MPH, DACVPM
Zoonoses Team Lead
Quarantine and Border Health Services Branch
Division of Global Migration and Quarantine
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

From: American Mink Exchange <info@amminkexchange.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2021 6:13 PM
To: Pieracci, Emily (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DGMQ) <ydi7@cdc.gov>
Subject: New import guidelines for mink pelts

Dear Dr. Pieracci,

Dr. Taylor kindly provided me with your contact information, I am writing you from American Mink Exchange regarding changes in the regulations regarding importation of processed and dried mink skins. We understand that there have been new changes implemented to import this product into the United States.

1. Our normal course of business is to import processed fur pelts from Canada, usually form the Providences of British Columbia, Ontario and Nova Scotia. It would be great If you could provide me with them new guidelines and documents that I must provide in order to import our product from these Providences. I am assuming these documents will have to be given to the U.S. fish and Wildlife service? Since this is new to us, any information that you can give to us so we can insure this goes smoothly will be greatly appreciated.

2. Re: two shipments on the way from Denmark of processed mink,
shipment 1, HBL: CPH31121289

shipment 2, HBL: CPH35132860

Dr. Taylor informed me he spoke to you about these shipments. We currently have two shipments of mink pelts being returned from Denmark. These pelts are from the 2019 crop and are currently on sea freight containers and expected to land in San Francisco March 12th.

Dr. Taylor mentioned to me that you informed him that we will be able to import these pelts without the new documentation that is being required on the Canadian shipments. Dr. Taylor also mentioned that we must follow certain protocols when these goods arrive in our warehouse in Utah. These protocols will include such things as not handling the pelts for 15 days after receipt, keeping them at specified temperature and humidity, and disinfecting them per guidelines that will be provided to us. Is there anything I am missing?

Is there anything I need to do in advance? Should we just proceed with the normal fish and wildlife clearance/customs procedures? Dr. Taylor Informed me that he would issue a permit for transport to my warehouse.

I greatly appreciate your kind help in this matter.

Thank you and Best Regards Alan tax
American Mink Exchange
Mobile: 917 744 8127

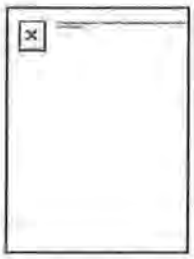
On Feb 18, 2021, at 11:54 AM, Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov> wrote:

Alan,
The veterinarian that you should talk to about this and that can provide you with the contact numbers that you will need is Dr Emily Pieracci, her email is ydi7@cdc.gov

When the pelts get close to San Francisco from Denmark then give me a call and I will issue you a permit for transport to your facility in Logan.

I'm glad to have been able to help
Dean

–



DEAN J TAYLOR | State Veterinarian
801.982.2243 office | 385.290.9462 mobile
Website | Facebook | Instagram | Twitter

100 Years of Supporting Agriculture and Food

Melissa Ure

From: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 4, 2020 4:39 PM
To: [redacted]
Subject: guidance
Attachments: Response and Containment.pdf

Hello Cody,
Thank you for getting back to me. I simply wanted to just reach out to you and provide you with some guidance to be used in processing the mink safely. I would like to explain that all of our testing has shown a human to mink transmission and not the opposite. In Spite of this, we are asking that everyone take the utmost precautions when handling mink due to reports elsewhere. This is a new virus that is not fully understood so one can't be overly cautious even when we have no evidence of it going from mink to people. There are now some mink in other states that are not showing signs but are testing positive so it is wise to use the same caution with all mink. Because of little data on the risk of byproducts I am asking that they all be disposed of in sanitary landfills and not sent to rendering. This eliminates one potential source of spread in the current situation. As time progresses we will certainly have good guidance and clear plans in place. Thank you for helping out. Please feel free to call if you have any further questions.
Regards,
Dean J Taylor, DVM

--

Dean J Taylor, DVM | State Veterinarian
Office 801-982-2243 Cell 385-290-9462
djtaylor@utah.gov
Website | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram

Response & Containment Guidelines

Interim Guidance for Animal Health and Public Health Officials Managing Farmed Mink and other Farmed Mustelids with SARS-CoV-2

9-11-2020

Managing SARS-CoV-2 in Farmed Mink and Farmed Mustelids:

Responder's Interim Guidance

2020

Background

Strategy Components for Dealing with SARS-CoV-2

This document is for animal health and public health officials responding to SARS-CoV-2 outbreaks in farmed mink, and other farmed mustelids.

We are still learning about the SARS-CoV-2 virus, but it appears that it can spread from people to animals in some situations. There is no evidence that animals play a significant role in spreading the virus that causes COVID-19 to people, and the risk of animals spreading COVID-19 to people is considered to be low. More studies are needed to understand if and how different animals could be affected by COVID-19. In dealing with SARS-CoV-2 in animals in the United States, different strategies are being developed and implemented for different animal species. Strategies for dealing with SARS-CoV-2 in mink and other farmed mustelids may be designed with one of three outcomes in mind: 1) prevent the introduction of SARS-CoV-2 into animal agriculture facilities; 2) control losses by minimizing the negative economic and health impact of SARS-CoV-2 when present; or 3) total elimination of SARS-CoV-2 (eradication). Because the virus efficiently replicates in people and multiple animal species, total elimination may not be a realistic goal.

Strategies include:

- Education for farm workers to keep people and animals safe and healthy
- Biosecurity management procedures to prevent introduction or further spread of the SARS-CoV-2 virus
- Diagnostics and surveillance (detection of SARS-CoV-2 infections) in animals
- Elimination of SARS-CoV-2 infected animals

The success of any strategy is dependent on industry–government cooperation and collaboration. The zoonotic nature of SARS-CoV-2 requires One Health coordination among animal health officials, public health authorities, medical professionals, industry, and others to best protect the health of people and animals. This plan outlines procedures for prevention in both workers and mink, handling presumptive and confirmed cases in animals, monitoring infected premises, virus containment, and harvesting/pelting animals from farms that have been infected. This plan also discusses virus elimination on infected premises.

1. Public Awareness and Education Programs Regarding SARS-CoV-2

Education is an essential component of any SARS-CoV-2 prevention, control, or eradication strategy. This involves providing up-to-date information to the industry on what is currently known about SARS-CoV-2 in animals and people; how the virus can be introduced and spread on farms; application of methods and practices in biosecurity to prevent introduction of SARS-COV-2 onto a farm; and biosecurity practices to prevent the SARS-COV-2 virus from spreading between animals and between animals and farm workers.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has developed guidance for agriculture workers and employers.

Education and outreach should be continuous and focused on the following people or groups:

- Mink producers
- Mink farm workers
- Veterinarians and veterinary staff working with mink farms
- Fur industry partners
- General public

2. Minimum Biosecurity Plan

Before an outbreak, animal health officials and public health officials should consider offering the following guidance on prevention to mink and farmed mustelid operations in their jurisdictions. All mink farms and other mustelid operations are strongly encouraged to develop farm-specific biosecurity plans that contain elements such as those listed below.

Farm Operators Should Screen Themselves, Workers, and Visitors for COVID-19
Recognizing that human-to-animal transmission is the most likely way that SARS-CoV-2 will enter a mink farm, everyone, including owners, should monitor themselves for signs of infection before entering the farm. People who operate, work on, or visit mink farms and who have symptoms of SARS-CoV-2 when they arrive at work or become sick during the day should immediately be separated from other workers, animals, and other people and be sent home. Everyone who develops symptoms outside of work should avoid contact with animals and other farm personnel and stay home.

Help Farm Workers Follow Prevention Practices for COVID-19
Farms should consult with their state, tribal, local, or territorial health department to devise practices to minimize the risk of SARS-CoV-2 transmission between employees, visitors, other people, and animals. For example, farms should implement strategies and practices in work areas and common areas for people to maintain physical distances of at least 6 feet from other people and animals, where possible. Cloth masks should be worn when maintaining a physical distance of 6 feet from others is not feasible.

Link to practices designed to protect workers from CDC.

Farms Should Practice Good Hygiene and Sanitation
Close attention should be paid to employee facilities such as restrooms, break rooms, and other common areas to ensure appropriate hygiene and sanitation practices are in place. Implement proper

handwashing procedures and sanitation protocols for daily cleaning and disinfection of work and common areas. Configure communal areas so that workers, approved visitors, and others are spaced at least 6 feet apart, if possible. Provide hand washing facilities with soap, potable water, and clean, single-use towels.

Practice strict hygiene in areas where animal feed is prepared and clean and disinfect feeding equipment daily using an EPA-approved disinfectant. Prevent excessive accumulation of animal waste.

Work with Farm Operators to Prevent the Introduction of SARS-CoV-2 into their Animal Facilities
Wherever feasible, consider requiring people who work with or near farmed mink to wear cloth masks and use personal protective equipment (PPE) such as dedicated footwear that can be cleaned and disinfected, dedicated farm clothing such as coveralls, gloves, and eye protection such as face shields or goggles. Work clothing should be laundered on-site and not taken home. Provide training in the proper care and use of PPE.

Information about PPE requirements for high-risk activities is found in Section 10 of this document and additional guidance is provided under the appendix titled "Worker Safety and Monitoring".

Urge Producers to Practice Enhanced Biosecurity
Access to farms should be limited to essential personnel and visitors. Exclude all domestic animals (dogs, cats, etc.), as well as rodents, birds, and other wildlife from farm buildings. Farm operators should restrict access to their property and their animal housing areas. They should use signage to provide guidance to visitors regarding their farm's biosecurity requirements.

At a minimum:

- Use fences, gates, and other barriers to control access to animal housing.
- Require visitors to park their vehicles in designated areas away from animal housing.
- Use signage to advise visitors to remain in their vehicles until farm personnel assist them and provide a phone number visitors can call for entry instructions.
- Maintain a log of all personnel who enter the property (family, workers, visitors, etc.) including the date, contact information, and nature of their visit.
- Provide and wear appropriate PPE depending on the activity being performed. For example, increased PPE for working closely with animals.

Teach Producers Not to Haul Disease Home
Car and truck tires, caging, and equipment can harbor viruses and other germs. Farm personnel traveling to locations where other animals are present should clean and disinfect these items before returning to their own farms. Sharing equipment, tools, or supplies with neighbors or other farms should be discouraged.

Producers Should Use Extreme Caution when Introducing New Mink to the Herd
New animals may introduce disease problems into a mink farm, including SARS-CoV-2. Producers should consult with their veterinarian to design an appropriate isolation plan for new arrivals to protect the rest of their herd. The following precautions are recommended:

- All mink destined to be brought into the herd should come from farms that are historically negative for SARS-CoV-2 and which have no signs of SARS-CoV-2 infection in people or animals involved with that farm.
- All mink in the shipment should be separated from the main herd and be managed separately at least 21 days before the shipment and tested for SARS-CoV-2 at the time of separation.
- All mink mortalities that occur during isolation should be tested for SARS-CoV-2.
- All the separated mink in the shipment should be tested a second time for SARS-CoV-2, at least 21 days after the first testing.
- All the mink in the shipment should test negative for SARS-CoV-2, for the shipment to move forward.
- Upon arrival, the destination farm should isolate the shipped mink from the main herd for at least 21 days.
- During the isolation period the mink should be observed for clinical signs of disease and then retested for SARS-CoV-2 at least 21 days after arrival.
- If all the mink are found to test negative for SARS-CoV-2, the shipment may be introduced into the main herd.

Educate Farm Operators to Report Sick Mink

Early detection is important to prevent the spread of disease. The farm operator and workers should be alert for signs of disease, recognizing that such signs may be subtle changes in animal health, feed consumption, or behavior.

The following signs are common but are not consistently seen in all cases of SARS-CoV-2 in mink.

- Increase in mink deaths
- Sneezing
- Coughing
- Nose discharge
- Eye discharge
- Gasping for air or shortness of breath
- Diarrhea
- Lack of energy
- Poor appetite

If there is suspicion of SARS-CoV-2 in animals, operators should call their State Animal Health Official (SAHO) or United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Inspection Service (APHIS) Veterinary Services (VS) office. Farm operators and their veterinarians should save suspicious mortalities for necropsy and testing. Biosecurity training resources should be made available for farm operators and employees in their preferred languages.

Diagnostic Resources

Veterinarians, animal health officials, and farm operators can consult with their state veterinary diagnostic laboratory or one of several private laboratories that are presently providing SARS-CoV-2 PCR and serology testing. North Dakota State University, the Utah State Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, the Washington Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory, and the Wisconsin Veterinary

Diagnostic Laboratory are recognized for their expertise in diseases of mink. USDA APHIS VS has helpful FAQs on Animal Coronavirus Testing.

3. Procedures for initial handling and investigation of suspected animal cases of SARS-COV-2

- Animal health officials should quarantine affected farms, preventing animals or animal product movement on or off the farm. Using advice from your diagnostic lab, collect samples from suspected animals. In most cases, preferred samples will include oral-pharyngeal swabs or rectal swabs. Unless instructed otherwise by the receiving lab, the swabs should be Dacron-tipped, **not** cotton, and should be transported to the lab in tubes containing viral transport media (VTM), e.g. universal VTM or Brain-Heart Infusion broth (BHI). The mink industry is currently collaborating with diagnostic laboratories to develop effective ELISA serology, so serum samples should also be considered. Consult with your laboratory for advice.
- Start preliminary epidemiologic investigation.
- Quarantine may be instituted at trace-back or trace-forward sites at the discretion of the SAHO.
- Farm operators/managers and animal health officials should collaborate to decide how to manage the buildings housing mink on the farm and whether any should be managed as separate units.
- Determine surveillance sampling strategy for the affected farm, nearby farms, and any farms that appear to be connected epidemiologically.

4. Procedures for reporting animal test results to USDA-APHIS

SARS-CoV-2 is a reportable disease when found in animals. Positive test results should be reported immediately to the SAHO or USDA APHIS VS. All samples that test as *presumptive positive* at state or private laboratories will be forwarded to and confirmed by the USDA APHIS National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL).

5. Quarantine Measures for Presumptive and Confirmed Infected Farms

A mink premises is the location at which the animals are kept. It is a physical address and it will be assigned a premises identification number if it does not already have one.
Key elements for quarantine and monitoring of animals on infected farms include:

- Quarantine infected premises (IP) for all mink and mink products. Maintain the quarantine until the IP is clear of virus. The IP producer should notify the SAHO if morbidity or mortality increases. The IP is required to maintain maximum biosecurity.
- State animal health officials may choose to establish a control zone around an IP, but it is probably more useful to direct surveillance activities to farms found to be epidemiologically linked to an infected farm.
- Monitor surrounding farms, service providers such as renderers or feed suppliers, and movement of animals, equipment, and materials.

6. Provisions for Developing Farm Plans for Infected and Exposed Mink Farms

Three overarching goals should be kept in mind when handling SARS-CoV-2 on an infected or exposed farm:

i. Contain the virus on the farm, preventing spread between animal housing units and to other farms.

ii. Protect workers and visitors from exposure to the virus.

iii. Develop a **farm plan.**

A **farm plan** is a written management agreement between the affected farm operator, USDA APHIS VS, SAHO, and public health authorities. A farm plan sets out the steps to be taken to protect farm workers and public health, prevent introduction of SARS-CoV-2 into other farms, and control SARS-COV-2 on the positive farm. A farm plan should include, but is not limited to, controls on mink and mink product movement, safe handling of conveyances, containers, and other associated materials that could serve as fomites, details plans for increased monitoring, detailed plans for disposal of dead animals, and detailed plans for cleaning and disinfection. Worker protection is crucial, and farms should consult with their state, tribal, local, or territorial health department to implement practices to minimize the risk of SARS-CoV-2 transmission between farm operators, workers, visitors, and others.

7. Disposal Methods for Dead Animals

Always consult local and state authorities prior to disposal activities to assure compliance.

Possible methods include:

- Burial
- Trench burial (where water table is high)
- Incineration
- Composting
- Landfill
- Rendering
- Combination of above methods

Disposal options are discussed and described in depth by USDA APHIS VS at these sites:

- https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/emergency_management/downloads/nahems_guidelines/disposal_nahems.pdf
- https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/emergency-management/carcass-management/carcass

8. Cleaning and Disinfection

All premises, conveyances, and materials that come into contact with mink infected with or exposed to SARS-CoV-2 should undergo virus elimination procedures before restocking with new animals. The majority of manure and bedding removal can be done before and during pelting. As weather allows, wet cleaning and disinfection may be considered but should be weighed against the possibility that weather conditions could make wet cleaning impractical e.g., freezing temperatures. Dry cleaning combined with a fallow period and the use of sentinel animals prior to full restocking may need to be considered. To accomplish cleaning and disinfection, complete the following procedures:

- **Disposal of manure, debris, and feed**. Clean up all manure, debris, and feed. Compost by windrowing on site if possible. If this is not possible, set up a system for hauling, in covered vehicles, to an approved site for burial, piling, or composting. Clean out the house or move or spread litter. After use, equipment should be cleaned, disinfected, and inspected at the site to which the manure and litter was transported. In the case of inclement weather, the

equipment may be cleaned, disinfected, and inspected at off-site wash stations at the discretion of the SAHO and APHIS.

- **Cleaning of premises and materials.** Cleaning and disinfection should be thorough to ensure that all materials or substances contaminated with SARS-CoV-2 virus, especially feces, dried blood, and other organic materials, are removed from all surfaces. Link to CDC guidance on disinfecting facilities.

9. Provisions for Appropriate Monitoring and Movement Restrictions

Additional surveillance may be conducted at farms or facilities that are found to be epidemiologically linked to the infected premises. The SAHO may impose quarantine and movement restrictions for movement of live and dead animals, and equipment to and from affected facilities. Farm owners and animal health officials should work with public health authorities to provide SARS-CoV-2 health and safety guidance to farms and their workers. The SAHO should inform the state's wildlife agency about the infected farm, so wildlife officials can be alert for disease spread to surrounding wild animal populations. Provide cleaning and disinfection guidelines for people and equipment working with mink in the area.

Minimize the risk of virus spread into uncontaminated areas. Movement, biosecurity, and surveillance in the contaminated area may be modified by the SAHO as needed to contain a SARS-CoV-2 threat.

10. Worker Safety During High Risk Activities on Infected or Suspect Farms

Because mink processing procedures have the potential to spread SARS-CoV-2 and other zoonotic diseases to workers, the following PPE precautions should always be taken when handling carcasses or during pelting:

- CDC resources on PPE
- USDA in-depth discussion of PPE use in animal disease incidents
- Use eye protection (e.g., goggles or face shield) and a National Institute for Occupational Health and Safety (NIOSH)-approved N95 respirator, or higher level of NIOSH-approved respirator whenever splashes or sprays are likely to occur.
- For all PPE, follow manufacturer's directions on use, cleaning, storage, and disposal.
- Avoid aerosol-generating procedures when possible. When there is no alternative to participating in aerosol-generating procedures (e.g., whelping, pelting, rendering), wear a face shield or goggles, gloves, protective outerwear, and respiratory protection that is at least as protective as a fit-tested NIOSH-certified disposable N95 respirator.
    - If an N95 respirator is not available, either use a higher level of respiratory protection or a combination of a properly worn cloth mask or medical mask and a face shield that covers the entire front (that extends below the chin) and sides of the face.
    - Respirator use should be in the context of a complete respiratory protection program in accordance with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Respiratory Protection standard (29 CFR 1910.134), which includes medical evaluations, training, and fit testing.
- When inside a structure, open as many doors, windows, etc. as possible to maximize natural ventilation.

- Wear gloves and other protective outerwear as needed to avoid bare-skinned contact with animal carcasses, organs, bodily fluids, and pelts.
- Always immediately wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds after:
  - Direct contact with animal carcasses, organs, or pelts;
  - Cleaning up after animals, including any body fluids or waste;
  - Removing PPE or cloth mask .
- Wearing PPE and certain clothing can often increase your risk for heat-related illnesses. Review CDC information for heat stress prevention for employers and employees.
- Clean tools using an appropriate disinfectant. To disinfect, use products that meet EPA's criteria for use against SARS-CoV-2, diluted household bleach solutions prepared according to the manufacturer's label for disinfection, or alcohol solutions with at least 60% alcohol, and are appropriate for the surface. Follow manufacturer's directions for use.
- PPE such as gloves, face and eye protection, and other types of PPE may be needed when cleaning and disinfecting tools, surfaces, and equipment.
- On farms where there has been a possible SARS-CoV-2 exposure or SARs-CoV-2 has been detected, all animals should be closely observed for signs of the disease, with the understanding that clinical signs are sometimes subtle.
- If possible, pelting should be delayed at least 14 days after the last signs of disease in the affected housing unit. This is particularly important if mink need to be transported off-site for pelting.

11. Surveillance and Monitoring

- All farms, whether pelting occurs on or off-site, should have mink mortalities sampled and tested, at an approved laboratory, by reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) to detect SARS-CoV-2. RT-PCR tests need to be negative in the 14 days prior to the start of pelting or movement off-site.
- Mink mortalities should be sampled for testing with a minimum of 5 dead mink collected over more than one day if necessary.
- If there are more than 20 mink mortalities, they can be tested in batches of 20 to minimize costs. If SARS-CoV-2 is found in a batch and confirmed, the testing of the remaining mortalities is not necessary.
- If the minimum of 5 mink mortalities are tested, this sampling scheme provides 95% confidence in detecting at least 1 infected mink when there is a 50% SARS-CoV-2 infection prevalence amongst the dead. Higher mink mortality numbers and testing can detect a lower infection prevalence among the dead mink (Cannon, 2001. Sense and Sensitivity.)
- The actual type and number of specimens to be collected should be determined in collaboration with the testing laboratory and state animal health authority. Sample pooling may be considered if the laboratory and animal health authorities concur it is appropriate, with a minimum of 2 pooled samples to statistically meet 95% confidence in detections. An off-site pelting facility should only accept animals from an infected farm with permission from the state animal health authority.
- Off-site pelting facilities planning to accept animals from known positive farms must have adequate safeguards in place to protect their workers and to prevent the dissemination of SARS-CoV-2 virus from asymptomatic animals to neighboring farms and other farms served by the pelting facility.

Appendix: Worker Safety and Monitoring

CDC has a Coronavirus Self-Checker available online to help people make decisions on when to seek testing and appropriate medical care.

Self-screening: Farmers and farm workers, and family members of people who work on farms should self-screen for COVID-19, a relatively simple and inexpensive way to protect people and animals on the farm. People who work on the farm should do this each time before they come to the farm.

People should not attempt to enter the farm if they have any of the following:

- Symptoms of COVID-19
- Temperature equal to or higher than 100.4°F*
- Are under evaluation for COVID-19 (for example, waiting for the results of a SARS-CoV-2 test)
- Have been diagnosed with COVID-19 and not yet cleared to discontinue isolation

Screening and health checks are not a replacement for other protective measures such as social distancing, hand hygiene, and wearing a mask. Other prevention measures to protect people from COVID-19 should be followed as well.

Regular Monitoring: If the employee doesn't have a fever or symptoms, they should self-monitor under the supervision of their employer's occupational health program.

Wear a Mask: The employee should wear a mask at all times while in the workplace for 14 days after last exposure. Employers can issue masks or can approve employee-supplied masks in the event of shortages. Ensure that masks are always worn properly by following information at this site: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html

Social Distance: The employee should maintain 6 feet and practice social distancing as work duties permit in the workplace.

Hand hygiene: Perform frequent hand hygiene using soap and water for at least 20 seconds. In addition, to increasing the frequency of hand washing, if hands aren't visibly soiled or dirty, workers can use hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol, rubbing hands until they are dry. Ensure that access to handwashing and/or hand sanitizing is readily available.

Disinfect and Clean work spaces: Clean and disinfect all areas such as offices, bathrooms, common areas, shared electronic equipment at least daily. Clean and disinfect shared tools, equipment, and vehicles between employee use, if possible. Conduct targeted and more frequent cleaning and disinfecting of high-touch areas of shared spaces such as time clocks, bathroom fixtures, and door handles.

Return to work: If a farmer or farm worker develops a fever or symptoms of COVID-19 or is diagnosed with COVID-19, they should isolate and only return to work or enter the farm when it is safe to do so. For a farmer or farm worker with symptoms of COVID-19, they should not return to work for at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared, at least 24 hours with no fever, and symptoms have improved. For a farmer or farm worker who tested positive but had no symptoms, they should not return to work for 10 days since the date of the positive test.

Acronyms Used in Interim Guidance and Linked Websites:

APHIS: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

AVIC: Area Veterinarian in Charge

BHI: Brain-Heart Infusion broth

CDC: Centers for Control and Prevention

FAQ: Frequently Asked Question

IP: infected premises

NAHLN: National Animal Health Laboratory Network

NIOSH: National Institute for Occupational Health and Safety

NVSL: National Veterinary Services Laboratories

OSHA: Occupational Safety and Health Administration

PPE: Personal Protective Equipment

RT-PCR: reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction

SAHO: State Animal Health Official

SPHV: State Public Health Veterinarian

VS: Veterinary Services

VTM: Viral Transport Media

USDA: United States Department of Agriculture

Acknowledgements:

Chair: Dr. David Smith, Director, Division of Animal Industry, NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets.

Members of the One Health Federal Interagency COVID-19 Coordination Group, Livestock subgroup.

USDA-APHIS-VS, CDC, Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection and USA Fur Commission subject matter experts.

Reference Materials

Interim SARS-CoV-2 Guidance and Recommendations for Farmed Mink and Other Mustelids: https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/one_health/downloads/sars-cov-2-guidance-for-farmed-mink.pdf

CDC COVID-19 and Animals: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/animals.html

CDC COVID-19 and Animals Frequently Asked Questions: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html#Pets-and-Animals

CDC Evaluation for SARS-CoV-2 Testing in Animals: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/animals/animal-testing.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fphp%2Fanimal-testing.html

CDC COVID 19 Symptoms: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html

Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19: https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3990.pdf

CDC/DOL Interim Guidance for Agriculture Workers and Employers https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-agricultural-workers.htmlUSDA FAQ for State Animal and Public Health Officials on Animal Coronavirus Testing: https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/one_health/downloads/faq-public-on-companion-animal-testing.pdf

USDA FAQ on Animal Coronavirus Testing: https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/one_health/downloads/faq-public-on-companion-animal-testing.pdf

FDA SARS-CoV-2 Necropsy Resources: https://www.fda.gov/animal-veterinary/science-research/vet-lirn-sars-cov-2-supplemental-necropsy-sample-inventory-checklist

Cannon, R.M. (2001). Sense and Sensitivity - designing surveys based on an imperfect test. *Preventative Veterinary Medicine, 49,* 141-163.

Molinari, R. J., Vreman, S., Hakze-van der Honing, R. W., Zwart, R., de Rond, J., Weesendorp, E., ... & van der Poel, W. H. (2020). Clinical and Pathological Findings in SARS-CoV-2 Disease Outbreaks in Farmed Mink (Neovison vison). *Veterinary Pathology*, 1 – 5. https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/0300985820943535

Oreshkova, N., Molenaar, R. J., Vreman, S., Harders, F., Munnink, B. B. O., Honing, R. W. H. V., ... & Tacken, M. (2020). SARS-CoV2 infection in farmed mink, Netherlands, April 2020. *bioRxiv*: https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.05.18.101493v1.full.pdf

Melissa Ure

From:	Rooney, Jane A - APHIS <jane.a.rooney@usda.gov>
Sent:	Monday, December 7, 2020 9:22 AM
To:	Wendling, Natalie (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD); winelandn@michigan.gov; Cossaboom, Caitlin (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHCPP); Hannah Rettler; djtaylor@utah.gov; dlx9@cdc.gov; Carpenter, Ann (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD); Tansey, Cassandra (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DSR); darlene.konkle@wisconsin.gov
Cc:	Harvey, Reid (CDC/NIOSH/RHD/FSB); rebecca.slater@wisconsin.gov; Klos, Rachel (CDC wi.gov); elisabeth.patton@wisconsin.gov; Yvonne.Bellay@wisconsin.gov; Stobierski, Mary Grace (CDC michigan.gov); Signs, Kimberly (DHHS); StrakaK1@michigan.gov; barrn@michigan.gov; goodrichj@michigan.gov; DorlandL@michigan.gov; CalogeroJ@michigan.gov; deaconb9@michigan.gov; SchalowM@michigan.gov; BlievernichtM@michigan.gov; Tell, Rachel M - APHIS; Straily, Anne (CDC/DDPHSIS/CGH/DPDM); Klos, Rachel F - DHS; collinsc3@michigan.gov; Mason, Jordan L - DHS; bbarbeau@utah.gov; Wallace, Ryan (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHCPP); Torchetti, Mia Kim - APHIS; Lindsey.Long@wisconsin.gov; Keith.Poulsen@WVDL.wisc.edu; Ray, Jean S - APHIS; Suzanne.gibbonsburgener@dhs.wi.gov; Tamara.Ryan@wisconsin.gov; Olander, Doris - APHIS; Kunde, Paul W - APHIS; Duffiney, Anthony G - APHIS; Zierenberg, Jared R - APHIS; Ghai, Ria (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD); Whitehill, Florence (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHCPP); Hirchert, Daniel L - APHIS; DEBESS Emilio E; rscholz@oda.state.or.us; Basler, Colin A. (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DFWED); Murrell, Laura (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD); Robbe Austerman, Suelee - APHIS
Subject:	RE: Utah, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Oregon Mink Farm Updates
Attachments:	Surveillance and Release Testing Options for SAHOs SARS-CoV-2 Positive Mink Premises Nov 2020.pdf

As promised please find the surveillance and testing guidance. This is not a public document so please only share with fed/state officials.

Thanks,

Jane

Jane A. Rooney, D.V.M.
Director, One Health Coordination
Office of Interagency Coordination
Strategy and Policy
USDA:APHIS:Veterinary Services
2150 Centre Ave., Building B, MS3E13
Fort Collins, Colorado 80526

Ph: 970-494-7397
Mobile: 301-789-3064
Email: Jane.A.Rooney@usda.gov

-----Original Appointment-----
From: Wendling, Natalie (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD) <pme8@cdc.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, November 11, 2020 9:43 AM
To: Wendling, Natalie (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD); winelandn@michigan.gov; Cossaboom, Caitlin (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHCPP); Hannah Rettler; djtaylor@utah.gov; Rooney, Jane A - APHIS; Barton Behravesh, Casey (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD); Carpenter, Ann (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD); Tansey, Cassandra (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DSR); Konkle, Darlene M - DATCP
Cc: Harvey, Reid (CDC/NIOSH/RHD/FSB); Rebecca.Slater@wisconsin.gov; Klos, Rachel (CDC wi.gov); Patton, Elisabeth A - DATCP; Bellay, Yvonne M - DATCP; Stobierski, Mary Grace (CDC michigan.gov); Signs, Kimberly (DHHS); strakak1@michigan.gov; barrn@michigan.gov; goodrichj@michigan.gov; DorlandL@michigan.gov; CalogeroJ@michigan.gov; deaconb9@michigan.gov; SchalowM@michigan.gov; BlievernichtM@michigan.gov; Tell, Rachel M - APHIS; Straily, Anne (CDC/DDPHSIS/CGH/DPDM); Klos, Rachel F - DHS; Collins, Cheryl (MDARD); Mason, Jordan L - DHS; bbarbeau@utah.gov; Wallace, Ryan (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHCPP); Torchetti, Mia Kim - APHIS; Long, Lindsey J - DNR; Keith Poulsen; Ray, Jean S - APHIS; Suzanne.gibbonsburgener@dhs.wi.gov; Ryan, Tamara M - DNR; Doris.olander@usda.gov; Paul.w.kunde@usda.gov; anthony.g.duffiney@usda.gov; jared.r.zierenberg@usda.gov; Ghai, Ria (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD); Whitehill, Florence (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHCPP); Hirchert, Daniel L - APHIS; DEBESS Emilio E; rscholz@oda.state.or.us; Basler, Colin A. (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DFWED); Murrell, Laura (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD); Robbe Austerman, Suelee - APHIS
Subject: Utah, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Oregon Mink Farm Updates
When: Monday, December 7, 2020 11:00 AM-12:00 PM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada).
Where: https://cdc.zoomgov.com/j/1600683934?pwd=bTZvWVplZndDdG1jYkY2SUFOL0JnQT09

All,

This meeting intended for state health and animal officials from Utah, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Oregon and federal partners to discuss updates on farm investigations, testing results, and plans for managing mink farms that have been confirmed with SARS-CoV-2. This meeting will occur each Monday at 11 am ET/ 10 am CT/ 9 am MT.

Please see agenda and Zoom invite information below.

Agenda

- Updates from State One Health partners (Dept of Agriculture, Dept of Health, DNR/Wildlife, others)
    - Utah- Dr. Dean Taylor and representatives
    - Wisconsin- Dr. Darlene Konkle and representatives
    - Michigan- Dr. Nora Wineland and representatives
    - Oregon- Dr. Ryan Scholz and representatives
- CDC Updates- Dr. Casey Barton Behravesh, others
- USDA Updates- Dr. Jane Rooney, State-based staff, NVSL
- Sequencing Updates in People and Animals – CDC and NVSL
- Media and talking points
- New Business or other discussion
- Confirm date/time of next call

Thank you.

Casey Barton Behravesh is inviting you to a scheduled ZoomGov meeting.

Topic: Utah, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Oregon Mink Farm Updates

Time: Nov 23, 2020 11:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Every week on Mon, until Jan 4, 2021, 7 occurrence(s)

Nov 23, 2020 11:00 AM

Nov 30, 2020 11:00 AM

Dec 7, 2020 11:00 AM

Dec 14, 2020 11:00 AM

Dec 21, 2020 11:00 AM

Dec 28, 2020 11:00 AM

Jan 4, 2021 11:00 AM

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Weekly: https://cdc.zoomgov.com/meeting/vJItd--grTIpHuWzwEQ4I2e7NMoSnJado-I/ics?icsToken=98tyKuiurjssEtecsx3BeI89EsGgeenVq2Fmv5RHizrUVywBZ1TYG-1xPJh-FNed

Join ZoomGov Meeting

https://cdc.zoomgov.com/j/1600683934?pwd=bTZvWVplZndDdG1jYkY2SUFOL0JnQT09

Meeting ID: 160 068 3934

Passcode: #x#Gj80p

One tap mobile

+16692545252,,1600683934#,,,,,,0#,,19633251# US (San Jose)

+16468287666,,1600683934#,,,,,,0#,,19633251# US (New York)

Dial by your location

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+1 646 828 7666 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 160 068 3934

Passcode: 19633251

Find your local number: https://cdc.zoomgov.com/u/afjfCNFGa

Join by SIP

1600683934@sip.zoomgov.com

Join by H.323

161.199.138.10 (US West)

161.199.136.10 (US East)

Meeting ID: 160 068 3934

Passcode: 19633251

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Melissa Ure

From: Mike Farber <mike.farber@mountainvalleymd.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 8, 2020 11:49 AM
To: djtaylor@utah.gov
Subject: Patented Completely Solubilized Injectable Form of Complexed Ivermectin

Dear Sir,

We realize that there is ongoing outbreak of COVID-19 in the mink farms in your area. We have recently developed and patented a completely water-soluble injectable form of complexed Ivermectin that has been successfully administered intramuscularly to Beagle dogs, utilizing a 30 gauge needle, without any pain or adverse events. We would like to know if you would be interested in administering approximately 100 mink infected with COVID-19 with our Ivermectin solution intramuscularly as we believe given the pharmacokinetics of this solution (15 mins to Cmax – Cmax extended out to at least 12 hours). This injection might prove effective in clearing COVID-19 from mink with 1 or 2 injections over a period of 7 days. We also believe that an injection of 100 to 300 micrograms per kg will achieve extremely high cmax and therefore be effective in this application.

We are standing by to donate the 100 doses, should you consider utilizing this in determining whether the outbreak can be controlled in the mink without the necessity to cull all animals affected.

Sincerely,

MIKE FARBER,
Director of Life Sciences
O: 647.725.9755 ext. 710
M: 973.943.0665

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Melissa Ure

From:	Rooney, Jane A - APHIS <jane.a.rooney@usda.gov>
Sent:	Friday, December 11, 2020 8:31 AM
To:	Abrahamsen, Lauren M - APHIS; dlx9@cdc.gov; Cossaboom, Caitlin (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHCPP); Porter-Spalding, Barbara A - APHIS; Loiacono, Christina M - APHIS; lie0@cdc.gov; david.smith@agriculture.ny.gov; maggie.baldwin@state.co.us; lie0@cdc.gov
Cc:	Carpenter, Ann (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD); Wendling, Natalie (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD); Olander, Doris - APHIS; john easley; Hannah Rettler; Dean Taylor; Garvey, Ann (CDC idph.iowa.gov); Rushin, Gerald L - APHIS; Korslund, John A - APHIS; Rekant, Steven - APHIS
Subject:	RE: Update on next meeting date for the COVID-19 Livestock discussion group (again)
Attachments:	questions; More on pelts from Dr Easly

We are going to have a long agenda today and I am providing another couple of e-mails with information to share with the group. The second attachment is shared discussion between Doris and Dr. Easley on pelting and processing.

Agenda:

- Introduction – John Korslund and the VS Coordinating Cell for COVID in mink and livestock
- Outstanding questions related to mink response and mitigation measures
- Questions for survey of SAHOs in states with mink production (see Dr. Taylor's e-mail attached)
- Updates needed to previously developed guidance

Thanks,

Jane

Jane A. Rooney, D.V.M.
Director, One Health Coordination
Office of Interagency Coordination
Strategy and Policy
USDA:APHIS:Veterinary Services
2150 Centre Ave., Building B, MS3E13
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Email: Jane.A.Rooney@usda.gov

-----Original Appointment-----
From: Rooney, Jane A - APHIS

Sent: Friday, December 4, 2020 12:33 PM
To: Rooney, Jane A - APHIS; Abrahamsen, Lauren M - APHIS; Barton Behravesh, Casey (CDC/OID/NCEZID) (dlx9@cdc.gov); Cossaboom, Caitlin (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHCPP); Porter-Spalding, Barbara A - APHIS; Loiacono, Christina M - APHIS; lie0@cdc.gov; david.smith; maggie.baldwin; Goryoka, Grace (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD) (CTR)
Cc: Carpenter, Ann (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD); Wendling, Natalie (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD); Olander, Doris - APHIS; john easley; Hannah Rettler; Dean Taylor; Garvey, Ann (CDC idph.iowa.gov); Rushin, Gerald L - APHIS; Korslund, John A - APHIS; Rekant, Steven - APHIS
Subject: Update on next meeting date for the COVID-19 Livestock discussion group (again)
When: Friday, December 11, 2020 9:00 AM-10:00 AM (UTC-07:00) Mountain Time (US & Canada).
Where: Microsoft Teams Meeting with call in +1 202-650-0123,,6533766#

Resending to update to 1 hour, making a Teams meeting, and adding others who fell off the original update.

I apologize for not letting everyone know sooner but I have another meeting that conflicts with the meeting we had talked about having this Friday – so am asking to postpone until 12/11 for our next call.

Please be ready to identify any updates that are needed on any of our previously developed guidance (also feel free to provide those in writing before the meeting if possible) – all can be found on the APHIS OH website
https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/SA_One_Health

---

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer or mobile app
Click here to join the meeting

Or call in (audio only)
+1 970-812-0909,,793042546# United States, Grand Junction
Phone Conference ID: 793 042 546#
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subject the violator to civil or criminal penalties. If you believe you have received this message in error, please notify the sender and delete the email immediately.

Melissa Ure

From: Konkle, Darlene M - DATCP <Darlene.Konkle@wisconsin.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 11, 2020 3:15 PM
To: Wineland, Nora (MDARD); Dean Taylor; Ryan Scholz
Cc: Patton, Elisabeth A - DATCP; Bellay, Yvonne M - DATCP
Subject: FW: mink request

Greetings All
Dr. Smith has reviewed the request for assistance in addressing SARS CoV 2 in mink. He's shared the letter with the COVID Livestock workgroup, and now with USDA and CDC (see below).
So, our request is moving along, which is good news.
I think we could bring this up on Monday's call, if there are no objections from this group. It may be helpful to discuss the request with the group and provide additional details, if needed.
Thank you, and have a good weekend.
Darlene

Darlene M. Konkle, DVM, MS, DACVIM
State Veterinarian
Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
Office Phone (608) 224-4884
Cell Phone (608) 516-9121
darlene.konkle@wisconsin.gov

Please complete this brief survey to help us improve our customer service. Thank you for your feedback!

From: Smith, David (AGRICULTURE) <David.Smith@agriculture.ny.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 11, 2020 10:28 AM
To: Konkle, Darlene M - DATCP <Darlene.Konkle@wisconsin.gov>
Subject: mink request

Darlene
On the working group call now. Just discussed the 5 points. Favorable response.
Can I share document with USDA One Health group and CDC members of working group?

David Smith, DVM
Director, Division of Animal Industry

New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets
10B Airline Drive, Albany, NY 12235
(518) 457-3502 I David.Smith@agriculture.ny.gov
http://www.agriculture.ny.gov

Need Requirements for Interstate Livestock Movements? Check this out:
https://www.interstatelivestock.com/

Melissa Ure

From: Cossaboom, Caitlin (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHCPP) <nrm9@cdc.gov>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 2:07 PM
To: Dean Taylor
Subject: FW: PRO/AH/EDR> COVID-19 update (536): animal, USA (UT) wild mink, 1st case

From: promed@promedmail.org
Date: December 13, 2020 at 10:21:24 PM EST
To: promed-post@promedmail.org, promed-edr-post@promedmail.org, promed-ahead-post@promedmail.org
Subject: PRO/AH/EDR> COVID-19 update (536): animal, USA (UT) wild mink, 1st case
Reply-To: promedNOREPLY@promedmail.org

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 UPDATE (536): ANIMAL, USA (UTAH) WILD MINK, FIRST CASE
****

A ProMED-mail post
<http://www.promedmail.org>
ProMED-mail is a program of the
International Society for Infectious Diseases
<http://www.isid.org>

Date: Fri 11 Dec 2020
From: Thomas DeLiberto <Thomas.J.DeLiberto@usda.gov> [edited]

The USDA National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) has confirmed SARS-CoV-2 by real time RT-PCR and sequencing of a nasal swab collected from a free-ranging, wild mink sampled in Utah. To our knowledge, this is the 1st free-ranging, native wild animal confirmed with SARS-CoV-2.

APHIS has notified the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) of this detection in a wild mink as part of the epidemiological study in the surrounding area of the infected farm.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service conducted wildlife surveillance for SARS-CoV-2 in meso-carnivores and other species around infected mink farms in Utah, Michigan, and Wisconsin, USA between 24 Aug-30 Oct 2020. Surveillance was conducted as part of One Health investigations involving the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the United States Geological Survey, and State Departments of Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Health.

There is currently no evidence that SARS-CoV-2 is circulating or has been established in wild populations surrounding the infected mink farms. Several animals from different wildlife species were sampled, but all others tested negative.

The sequence of the viral genome obtained from the wild mink sample at NVSL was indistinguishable from those obtained from the farmed mink.

--
Thomas DeLiberto & Susan Shriner
USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
<Thomas.J.DeLiberto@usda.gov>

[The American mink (_Neovison vison_) is a semiaquatic species of mustelid native to North America; certain selected strains of this species have been bred for mink farms, which have been established, during the 20th century, mainly in Europe, North and South America, and Asia (predominantly China) for the fur industry.

The high susceptibility of this mustelid species to SARS-CoV-2 has become apparent in mink farming countries; most outbreaks reported so far are from Denmark, Netherlands, and USA. This susceptibility has also been demonstrated experimentally (http://promedmail.org/post/20201210.8009205).

Though escapees from fur farms are known to have become self-sustaining in some countries, so far, no COVID-19 cases have been reported from such animals.

To prevent the potential establishment of a virus reservoir, efforts to prevent SARS-CoV-2 introduction into and spread within the large North American wild mink population, as well as elsewhere, are warranted. - Mod.AS

HealthMap/ProMED map:
Utah, United States: <http://healthmap.org/promed/p/246>]

[See Also:
COVID-19 update (535): Denmark, animal, mink, zoonotic, cat, RFI http://promedmail.org/post/20201213.8015149
COVID-19 update (530): animal, mink, research, experimental infection, vaccine http://promedmail.org/post/20201210.8009205
COVID-19 update (527): animal, Greece (WM) mink, spread, genome analysis http://promedmail.org/post/20201208.8002636
COVID-19 update (520): Denmark, Netherlands, mink, human-animal interface, WHO http://promedmail.org/post/20201204.7994061
COVID-19 update (516): China (Hong Kong) animal, dog, Lithuania, mink, OIE http://promedmail.org/post/20201203.7986508
COVID-19 update (510): animal, mink, Lithuania, Poland, 1st reports, France, OIE http://promedmail.org/post/20201127.7976927
COVID-19 update (507): animal, mink, Netherlands spread, Italy control http://promedmail.org/post/20201125.7972425
COVID-19 update (503): animal, France, mink, 1st rep http://promedmail.org/post/20201123.7965554
COVID-19 update (501): Denmark, Netherlands, mink, human-animal interface http://promedmail.org/post/20201122.7963766

COVID-19 update (498): Denmark, animal, mink, zoonotic
http://promedmail.org/post/20201120.7959431
COVID-19 update (490): animal, Greece (EM) mink, 1st report, OIE, assessment http://promedmail.org/post/20201115.7944705
COVID-19 update (487): Denmark, animal, mink, zoonotic, risk assessment ECDC http://promedmail.org/post/20201112.7939110
COVID-19 update (482): animal, Denmark, mink, zoonotic, eradication, discussed http://promedmail.org/post/20201109.7929573
COVID-19 update (475): animal, Denmark, mink, spike protein sequences
http://promedmail.org/post/20201106.7922587
COVID-19 update (473): animal, Denmark, mink, mutation, eradication, RFI http://promedmail.org/post/20201105.7918210
COVID-19 update (471): animal, Denmark, mink, zoonotic, eradication
http://promedmail.org/post/20201104.7916300
COVID-19 update (464): animal, Denmark, mink, control, One Health
http://promedmail.org/post/20201101.7906484
COVID-19 update (458): animal, Italy, mink, RFI
http://promedmail.org/post/20201028.7897986
COVID-19 update (445): animal, Netherlands, Denmark, mink, spread, epidemiology http://promedmail.org/post/20201019.7873326
COVID-19 update (439): animal, Denmark, mink, spread, control
http://promedmail.org/post/20201014.7861560
COVID-19 update (414): animal, Netherlands (LI), Denmark (ND), farm mink, spread http://promedmail.org/post/20200925.7813579
COVID-19 update (406): animal, Netherlands (LI), Denmark (ND), farm mink, spread http://promedmail.org/post/20200918.7794239
COVID-19 update (401): Netherlands (NB), Denmark, farmed mink, spread
http://promedmail.org/post/20200914.7777661
COVID-19 update (394): Netherlands (NB) animal, farmed mink, spread
http://promedmail.org/post/20200908.7759382
COVID-19 update (387): Netherlands, mink, animal & public health, research http://promedmail.org/post/20200902.7740793
COVID-19 update (382): Netherlands, animal, farmed mink, spread, control http://promedmail.org/post/20200830.7730463
COVID-19 update (376): animal, ferret, mink, comment
http://promedmail.org/post/20200827.7721923
COVID-19 update (366): animal, USA (UT) mink
http://promedmail.org/post/20200818.7692815
COVID-19 update (363): animal, Denmark (ND) Netherlands (NB,LI) mink, spread http://promedmail.org/post/20200817.7687830
COVID-19 update (340): animal, China, envir monitoring, Netherlands (NB), mink http://promedmail.org/post/20200801.7635820
COVID-19 update (334): animal, Netherlands, mink, spread, UK, cat, 1st rep, OIE http://promedmail.org/post/20200727.7617582
COVID-19 update (324): Netherlands (NB) animal, farmed mink, spread
http://promedmail.org/post/20200719.7591013
COVID-19 update (317): Netherlands (NB) animal, farmed mink, spread
http://promedmail.org/post/20200716.7578453
COVID-19 update (307): Netherlands (NB), Denmark (ND) farmed mink, spread, control http://promedmail.org/post/20200708.7553067
COVID-19 update (301): Denmark (ND) Netherlands (NB) farmed mink, spread, control http://promedmail.org/post/20200703.7536980

COVID-19 update (284): Denmark (ND) animal, farmed mink, spread, dog
http://promedmail.org/post/20200624.7506728
COVID-19 update (281): Netherlands (NB, LI) farmed mink, spread,
animal, global http://promedmail.org/post/20200623.7502849
COVID-19 update (266): Denmark (ND) animal, farmed mink, 1st rep
http://promedmail.org/post/20200617.7479510
COVID-19 update (251): Netherlands (NB, LI) animal, farmed mink,
spread, culling http://promedmail.org/post/20200610.7453845
COVID-19 update (248): Netherlands (NB, LI) animal, mink, spread,
culling, cat http://promedmail.org/post/20200609.7446478
COVID-19 update (236): Netherlands (NB, LI) animal, farmed mink,
spread, culling http://promedmail.org/post/20200604.7427849
COVID-19 update (230): Netherlands (NB, LI) animal, farmed mink,
spread, control http://promedmail.org/post/20200602.7420433
COVID-19 update (215): Netherlands (NB) animal, mink-to-human,
epidem., control http://promedmail.org/post/20200527.7385049
COVID-19 update (209): Netherlands (NB) farmed mink, animal-to-human,
cat, epid http://promedmail.org/post/20200525.7375359
COVID-19 update (198): Netherlands (NB) farmed mink, animal-to-human
infect susp http://promedmail.org/post/20200520.7359976
COVID-19 update (189): Netherlands (NB) animal, farmed mink, research,
cat, dog http://promedmail.org/post/20200517.7344274
COVID-19 update (177): Netherlands (NB) animal, farmed mink, Spain
(CT) cat susp http://promedmail.org/post/20200512.7328587
COVID-19 update (174): Netherlands (NB) animal, farmed mink, comment
http://promedmail.org/post/20200511.7323845
COVID-19 update (169): Netherlands (NB) animal, farmed mink, spread,
rabbit susp http://promedmail.org/post/20200509.7316646
COVID-19 update (154): Netherlands (NB) animal, farmed mink, research
http://promedmail.org/post/20200503.7294846
COVID-19 update (146): Netherlands (NB) animal, farmed mink,
epidemiology http://promedmail.org/post/20200501.7286113
COVID-19 update (135): Netherlands (NB) animal, farmed mink
http://promedmail.org/post/20200427.7272289]
.....arn/msp/ml

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##
##

Melissa Ure

From: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 17, 2020 11:18 AM
To: Amanda Price
Subject: Re: Zoom meeting with you?

You could set something up for tomorrow if you wanted.

On Thu, Dec 17, 2020 at 10:50 AM Amanda Price <amandaprice@utah.gov> wrote:

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Yeong, Siu-Kae [BCCDC]** <Siu-Kae.Yeong@bccdc.ca>
Date: Thu, Dec 17, 2020, 10:49 AM
Subject: Zoom meeting with you?
To: Amanda Price <amandaprice@utah.gov>

Hi Dr Price,

Our British Columbia veterinarian contacts were wondering if it would be possible to have a meeting with you to ask you some questions about the mink farm COVID management that you and your team have been doing. Might you have some availabilities next week that our team can meet you via zoom?

Best wishes,

Siu-Kae

—

Siu-Kae Yeong, MD, MPH

UBC Public Health Resident Physician PGY4

From: Amanda Price [mailto:amandaprice@utah.gov]
Sent: Monday, December 07, 2020 1:45 PM
To: Yeong, Siu-Kae [BCCDC]
Subject: Re: Mink Farm COVID outbreak materials

EXTERNAL SENDER. If you suspect this message is malicious, please forward to spam@phsa.ca and **do not** open attachments or click on links.

Hi, Siu-Kae,

Here's some links to the guidance:

Response & Containment Guidelines: Interim Guidance for Animal Health and Public Health Officials Managing Farmed Mink and other Farmed Mustelids with SARS-CoV-2 (available at: https://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/animal_health/sars-cov-2-mink-guidance.pdf)

Interim SARS-CoV-2 guidance and recommendations for farmed mink and other mustelids: https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/one_health/downloads/sars-cov-2-guidance-for-farmed-mink.pdf

USDA is working on surveillance and release testing options, but I don't think I can release that document. You might want to ask Jane Rooney at USDA. Her contact information is jane.a.rooney@usda.gov or (970) 494-7397. She is the Director of One Health Coordination for USDA-APHIS-VS.

If your farms are thinking about composting carcasses or manure, use the Avian Influenza composting document (they are both enveloped RNA viruses and seem to have similar inactivation times/temperatures): https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/emergency_management/downloads/hpai/mortalitycompostingprotocol.pdf. We don't have any mortality composting experts here in Utah, so we are requiring that all carcasses go to the landfill.

I hope that helps!

Amanda

On Mon, Dec 7, 2020 at 1:29 PM Yeong, Siu-Kae [BCCDC] <Siu-Kae.Yeong@bccdc.ca> wrote:

> Dear Dr Price,
>
> Thank you for talking on the phone today.

If you had any information or guidance on handling mink farm outbreaks, numbers recommended for testing and surveillance, and guidelines for clearing quarantine as well as recommendations for pelting, please kindly share with us.

Any help you can provide would be greatly appreciated.

Best wishes,

Siu-Kae

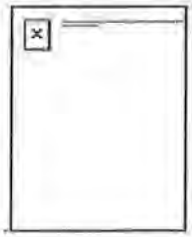
—

Siu-Kae Yeong, MD, MPH

UBC Public Health Resident Physician

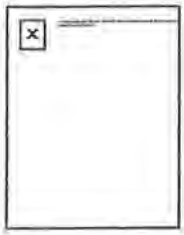
778.861.2170

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Animal Health Program | amandaprice@utah.gov
801.982.2244 office | 801.386.4189 mobile
Website | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram

—



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djtaylor@utah.gov
Website | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram

Melissa Ure

From: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 17, 2020 1:33 PM
To: Mike Farber
Subject: Re: Treatment for Mink with COVID-19

annette.jones@cdfa.ca.gov

On Thu, Dec 17, 2020 at 12:08 PM Mike Farber <mike.farber@mountainvalleymd.com> wrote:
Dear Dr. Taylor,

First, I'd like to thank you for your reply. We would appreciate receiving the contact information for Annette Jones if you have it available.

Again, we wish you a very happy holiday and prosperous and healthy new year.

Best Regards,

MIKE FARBER,
Director of Life Sciences
O: 647.725.9755 ext. 710
M: 973.943.0665

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On Dec 16, 2020, at 10:44 PM, Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov> wrote:

You are welcome to ask to share this information with the National Assembly. Annette Jones with California is acting president. I am aware of these claims but would need more information and input from colleagues here in the US to approve its use here on the Utah mink farms. You are welcome to send it out for comment though and I will certainly pay attention to the feedback.
Dean

On Thu, Dec 10, 2020 at 11:14 AM Mike Farber <mike.farber@mountainvalleymd.com> wrote:
Good Afternoon Dr. Taylor,

As you might be aware, Ivermectin has gained international notoriety as a potential cure for COVID-19 in humans. The clinical data brought forth to date utilizing an orally available tablet has been compelling. It should also be noted that oral dosing with Ivermectin is fraught with limitations due to its inherent lack of solubility and high variability of absorption.

As per the attached, MVMD has developed a completely water-soluble form of Ivermectin that is easily injectable and has proven safe in the highly sensitive species, the Beagle.

We would therefore like to suggest that the current outbreak of COVID-19 on Mink farms in the state of Utah might be advantageously treated by "mass inoculation" with our injectable form of Ivermectin. Towards this end, we are willing to offer an acushot needleless injector along with enough sterilized soluble Ivermectin doses to treat the one farm currently experiencing an outbreak of COVID-19 among its mink. The acushot injector has previously been used and qualified for its application in IM injections in mink. The sterilized soluble Ivermectin solution as we mentioned previously has shown to be completely safe with IM injection into the beagle.

We would sincerely appreciate the opportunity to discuss this with yourself and the state veterinarian society.

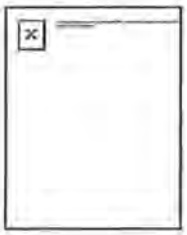
Please find attached the relevant press releases with respect to the above.

Best Regards,

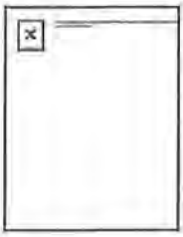
MIKE FARBER,
Director of Life Sciences
O: 647.725.9755 ext. 710
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Website | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram



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djtaylor@utah.gov
Website | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram

Melissa Ure

From: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 17, 2020 2:14 PM
To: Hannah Rettler
Subject: Re: Wildlife sampling results

I will find out. I have been through all the emails I have and can't find anything.

On Thu, Dec 17, 2020 at 9:18 AM Hannah Rettler <hrettler@utah.gov> wrote:
Hi Dr. Taylor,

Did you ever receive any kind of formal report from the Wildlife team about what animals they sampled, where, and their results? I know that there was only 1 positive animal in all of their sampling, but I think it would be important for us to have a report for our state to understand what has been sampled and where.

Our SLC local health department was asked by the mayor of Salt Lake if they knew where the positive wild mink was and I do not know which farm/county that was found.

--
Hannah Rettler, MPH
Vectorborne/Zoonotic Disease Epidemiologist
Disease Response, Evaluation, Analysis, & Monitoring Program
Bureau of Epidemiology
Utah Department of Health
Email: hrettler@utah.gov
Office: (801) 538 - 6333
Mobile: (385) 285 - 5178
Secure Fax: (801) 538 - 9923

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Website | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram

Melissa Ure

From: Ryan Holt <rhinoh1301@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 23, 2020 12:42 AM
To: Dean Taylor
Subject: Fw: Fwd: Mink at Oregon farm negative for SARS-CoV-2, wildlife surveillance continues

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

----- Forwarded Message -----
From: "mw@furcommission.com" <mw@furcommission.com>
To: "Mike Brown" <mbrown@iftf.com>, "Ryan Holt" <rhinoh1301@yahoo.com>, "Bob Zimbal Jr." <bobz@zimbalmink.com>
Sent: Tue, Dec 22, 2020 at 8:58 PM
Subject: Fwd: Mink at Oregon farm negative for SARS-CoV-2, wildlife surveillance continues

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Oregon Department of Agriculture <ODA@public.govdelivery.com>
Date: December 22, 2020 at 5:02:07 PM PST
To: mw@furcommission.com
Subject: Mink at Oregon farm negative for SARS-CoV-2, wildlife surveillance continues
Reply-To: ODA@public.govdelivery.com

Having trouble viewing this email? View it as a Web page.

News Release: December 22, 2020

Mink at affected Oregon farm negative for SARS-CoV-2, wildlife surveillance continues

Recent tests confirm mink that tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 at an Oregon farm in late November are now clear of the virus. The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) conducted two rounds of follow-up tests, 14 days apart, documenting the animals' recovery.

The first round of follow-up testing on Dec. 7 showed barely detectable levels of the virus in only one of the 62 animals tested. The second round of ODA testing on Dec. 21 confirmed no sign of SARS-CoV-2 among the 62 tested, indicating the mink population on the farm are recovered. Based on guidance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Centers for Disease Control (CDC), one more round of testing will be conducted prior to releasing the quarantine.

USDA Wildlife Services, under the direction of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), is continuing trapping surveillance near the farm. Since Dec. 7, biologists have captured and tested nine animals, including five wild opossums, three cats, and one mink believed to have escaped the quarantined facility. On Dec. 22, the USDA National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) confirmed the trapped mink (captured Dec. 13) tested positive for low levels of SARS-CoV-2. The cats and opossums all tested negative. Based on the location of capture, condition of the animal, and necropsy findings, USDA Wildlife Services and ODFW believe the captured mink had very recently escaped confinement. ODA has requested continued surveillance, trapping, and testing as a precaution.

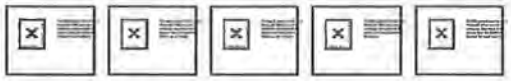
"There is no evidence that SARS-CoV-2 is circulating or has been established in the wild," said Dr. Ryan Scholz, ODA state veterinarian. "Several animals from different species were sampled, and all others were negative. Still, we are taking this situation very seriously and continuing to survey and trap near the farm. Also, we have asked USDA to run additional tests on the trapped mink, including sequencing the viral genome and a DNA test to ensure we know exactly where this mink came from."

On Nov. 27, the NVSL confirmed mink samples submitted by ODA tested positive for SARS-CoV-2, the animal virus linked to COVID-19 in humans. The mink are believed to have contracted the virus from humans. In this case, the facility is small and therefore disclosing any individually identifiable information could reasonably result in disclosure of an individual's medical information, specifically an individual's COVID-19 status. The ODA believes that the COVID status of an identified person is considered personal information that should not be disclosed to the public and would be an unreasonable invasion of privacy under ORS 192.355(2). Therefore, ODA is declining to release this information. According to the USDA, controlling the virus in people is ultimately the best way to mitigate the virus from spreading to animals.

ODA News Blog

Contact

Andrea Cantu-Schomus, acantuschomus@oda.state.or.us, 503-881-9049



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Melissa Ure

From: john easley <johneasleydvm@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 23, 2020 1:19 PM
To: Dean Taylor
Subject: Re: Vaccine support letter

Hi Dean,

Presently, I am working with three companies in the US, two groups in Canada and a group on Finland. I have had to sign NDA's with the companies here in the US, so I am not able to reveal the names. One is large multi-national; we are starting the field safety trials tomorrow. The hope is the vaccine can be ready by May of 2021. The other two are individuals that have private bioceutical/molecular genetic companies that have been designing vaccine models for various other companies and organizations. In Canada, one is same type of private high-tech company; the other is a group of scientists associated with different governmental agencies.

So, I think we are pretty good shape with vaccine development possibilities. I put that letter together because the actual funding of the manufacture and distribution may be difficult for the industry to cover.

Thanks for all your assistance; let know if I can help in any other way.

If you haven't heard, the Oregon farm tested negative(62 animals-pcr) on Monday. Positive news!

Take care,

Merry Christmas! John

From: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, December 23, 2020 11:07 AM
To: john easley <johneasleydvm@hotmail.com>
Subject: Re: Vaccine support letter

John,
Thank you for sending me this. What companies are currently in the process of trying to develop a vaccine for mink? Do you know? Also I believe that the Fur Commission or you are involved in the testing of the post processed pelts. Can you tell me what stage of the process they are in? I might be able to encourage vaccine development with some of the pharmaceutical companies if I knew who was currently working on it.
Hope that you have a Merry Christmas.
Dean

On Tue, Dec 22, 2020 at 3:10 PM john easley <johneasleydvm@hotmail.com> wrote:
Hello Dean,

I put together this letter with help from Michael Whelan of the Fur Commission USA. I thought it would be appropriate for the letter to come from the FCUSA as they are the representative non-profit trade organization. Please use it as you see fit.

Have a Merry Christmas and enjoy the Holidays,

John

--



Dean J Taylor, DVM | State Veterinarian
Office 801-982-2243 Cell 385-290-9462
djtaylor@utah.gov
Website | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram

Melissa Ure

From: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Sent: Saturday, December 26, 2020 2:38 PM
To: Ryan Holt
Subject: Re: Fw: Oregon mink farm clears of virus....

Yes I think that this and the findings that we are seeing here in Utah both support a cautious and reasonable approach to this. Both show that a hasty decision would not have been necessary.
Dean

On Wed, Dec 23, 2020 at 6:59 PM Ryan Holt <rhinoh1301@yahoo.com> wrote:

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

----- Forwarded Message -----
From: "Galvin, Joan" <JGalvin@KelleyDrye.com>
To: "Michael Whelan" <mw@furcommission.com>, "Lasoff, Laurence" <LLasoff@KelleyDrye.com>
Cc: "Mike Brown" <mbrown@iftf.com>, "Ryan Holt" <rhinoh1301@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wed, Dec 23, 2020 at 1:11 PM
Subject: Re: Oregon mink farm clears of virus....

I think we go pro active. This could be the silver bullet to block any OR (or other state) farm ban legislation. I can share with our Congressional delegations. Also with the USDA/APHIS team.

Probably when the new congress convenes. No one in DC wants to hear from anyone right now!

Joan

Joan Galvin | Government Relations & Public Policy
Kelley Drye & Warren LLP
Washington Harbour, Suite 400
3050 K Street, NW, Washington, DC 20007-5108

202.342.8638 | jgalvin@kelleydrye.com
www.kelleydrye.com

From: Michael Whelan <mw@furcommission.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 23, 2020 12:57:20 PM
To: Lasoff, Laurence
Cc: Mike Brown; Galvin, Joan; Ryan Holt
Subject: Re: Oregon mink farm clears of virus....

CAUTION: This message originated outside of Kelley Drye and was sent by: mw@furcommission.com

---

IMO, we should at least inform the policymakers, so when the antis approach them with their end-of-the-world scenarios, they can see through the claims and may question the rest of their arguments. Thoughts?
MW

On Wed, Dec 23, 2020 at 9:47 AM Lasoff, Laurence <LLasoff@kelleydrye.com> wrote:

Great news! Too bad the USG couldn't manage the people side of this as well as your farmers.

The issue is whether we use it offensively – and start publicizing it (releases/news articles) – or hold it defensively for potential legislative initiatives. Joan?

Larry

LAURENCE LASOFF

Partner

Kelley Drye & Warren LLP
Tel: (202) 342-8530
Cell: (202) 674-0357
llasoff@kelleydrye.com

From: Michael Whelan <mw@furcommission.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 23, 2020 12:41 PM
To: Mike Brown <mbrown@iftf.com>; Galvin, Joan <JGalvin@KelleyDrye.com>; Lasoff, Laurence <LLasoff@KelleyDrye.com>; Ryan Holt <rhinoh1301@yahoo.com>
Subject: Oregon mink farm clears of virus....

OR Dept. of Ag news release. According to the state vet, this could be a game-changer and could offer scientists valuable information on the virus. Talking to him yesterday he was excited that not a single animal died, nor did any suffer ill effects from the virus. Additionally the virus cleared the farm entirely in less than 3 week. He said his "scientific nerd" side" would love to study the genomics of the less potent/fatal version of the virus. Those of you addressing media or policy makers; this is a good story (that of course is being ignored so far)

MW.

https://odanews.wpengine.com/mink-at-affected-oregon-farm-negative-for-sars-cov-2-wildlife-surveillance-continues/

Mink at affected Oregon farm negative for SARS-CoV-2, wildlife surveillance continues

NEWS RELEASE DECEMBER 23RD, 2020

Recent tests confirm mink that tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 at an Oregon farm in late November are now clear of the virus. The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) conducted two rounds of follow-up tests, 14 days apart, documenting the animals' recovery. The first round of follow-up testing on Dec. 7 showed barely detectable levels of the virus in only one of the 62 animals tested. The second round of ODA testing on Dec. 21 confirmed no sign of SARS-CoV-2 among the 62 tested, indicating the mink population on the farm are recovered. Based on guidance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Centers for Disease Control (CDC), one more round of testing will be conducted prior to releasing the quarantine.

MW

--

Michael Whelan

Executive Director,
Fur Commission USA
541.595.8568
www.furcommission.com

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KDW-Disclaimer

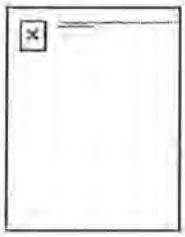
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Michael Whelan

Executive Director,
Fur Commission USA
541.595.8568
www.furcommission.com

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—



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Melissa Ure

From: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 4, 2021 10:07 AM
To: Dean Taylor
Subject: Resized_Screenshot_20201215-075229_Yahoo_Mail.jpeg
Attachments: Resized_Screenshot_20201215-075229_Yahoo_Mail.jpeg; ATT00001.txt



From Mark Oaten 11/18/20

Coronavirus, "Cluster 5", and mink — evidenc...

Star Forward Download Delete Share

Sent from my iPhone

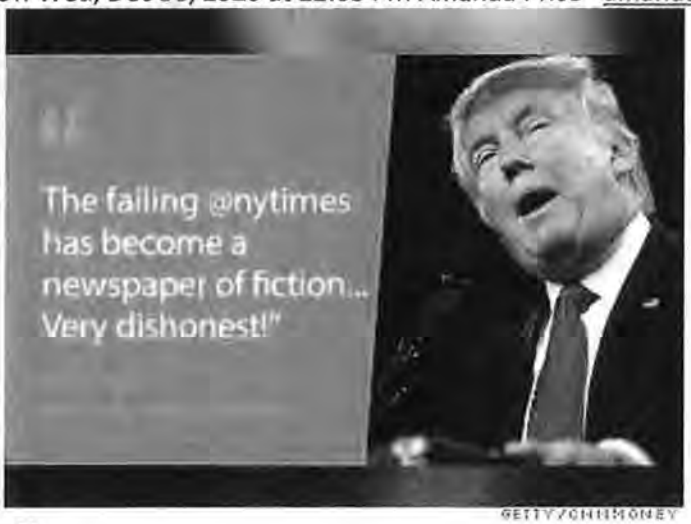
Melissa Ure

From: Amanda Price <amandaprice@utah.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 4, 2021 3:30 PM
To: Dean Taylor
Subject: Re: COVID-19 effects on mink farms in Denmark

From your lips (fingers?) to God's ears....

On Mon, Jan 4, 2021 at 1:57 PM Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov> wrote:
I'm concerned. He is open mouth breathing like the mink did just before they died! Just look at that picture. 😳

On Wed, Dec 30, 2020 at 12:05 PM Amanda Price <amandaprice@utah.gov> wrote:



😉

On Wed, Dec 30, 2020 at 11:55 AM Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov> wrote:
I want this over!!!!!! Can we jump to 2022 please?

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Conger, Terry H - APHIS** <terry.h.conger@usda.gov>
Date: Tue, Dec 29, 2020 at 3:15 PM
Subject: COVID-19 effects on mink farms in Denmark
To: djtaylor@utah.gov <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Cc: De Carolis, Robert A - APHIS <robert.a.decarolis@usda.gov>

Dr. Taylor,

COVID-19 effects on mink farms in Utah? You ain't seen nothin' yet:

https://www.nytimes.com/2020/12/23/science/covid-mink-animals.html?referringSource=articleShare

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Terry H. Conger, DVM, PhD

Veterinary Medical Officer,

Benton & Washington Counties

Poultry Health Specialist/Epidemiologist

Field Operations District 4

(Mississippi, Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, Nebraska, Kansas & Louisiana)

USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services

1200 Cherry Brook Drive, STE 300

Little Rock, AR 72211

Office: (501) 224-9515

FAX: (501) 225-5823

Local Mailing Address: P.O. Box 826, Pea Ridge, AR 72751

Cell: (501) 804-9560

E-Mail: Terry.H.Conger@aphis.usda.gov

From: Laura Rothfeldt, DVM <Laura.Rothfeldt@arkansas.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 29, 2020 3:38 PM
To: Laura.Rothfeldt@arkansas.gov
Subject: FW: [AAFSPHV] AAFSPHV member Will Sander, Univ of Illinoid is quoted in New York Times article on COVID in mink

FYI AR One Health Team: NYT article on the COVID-19 outbreak and mink farming

How Mink, Like Humans, Were Slammed by the Coronavirus
https://www.nytimes.com/2020/12/23/science/covid-mink-animals.html?referringSource=articleShare

Laura K. Rothfeldt, DVM, DACVPM

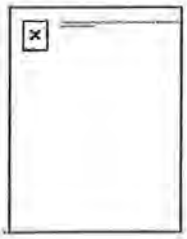
Arkansas Dept. of Health

Remember the three W's: Wear a mask, wash your hands, and watch your distance!

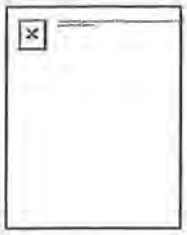
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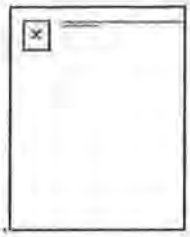
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AMANDA PRICE, DVM MS | Assistant State Veterinarian
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801.982.2244 office | 801.386.4189 mobile
Website | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram

Melissa Ure

From: Towner, Jonathan (Jon) (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHCPP) <jit8@cdc.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 5, 2021 5:52 PM
To: Hannah Rettler; Cossaboom, Caitlin (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHCPP)
Cc: Barton Behravesh, Casey (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD); Harvey, Reid (CDC/NIOSH/RHD/FSB); Wendling, Natalie (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD); Amman, Brian R. (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHCPP); Dean Taylor; Nathaniel Lewis
Subject: RE: Utah CSTE abstract re: farm investigation

Happy to help!
Jon

From: Hannah Rettler <hrettler@utah.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 5, 2021 2:11 PM
To: Cossaboom, Caitlin (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHCPP) <nrm9@cdc.gov>
Cc: Barton Behravesh, Casey (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD) <dlx9@cdc.gov>; Harvey, Reid (CDC/NIOSH/RHD/FSB) <iez1@cdc.gov>; Wendling, Natalie (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD) <pme8@cdc.gov>; Towner, Jonathan (Jon) (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHCPP) <jit8@cdc.gov>; Amman, Brian R. (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHCPP) <cxx1@cdc.gov>; Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>; Nathaniel Lewis <cdceisnml@utah.gov>
Subject: Re: Utah CSTE abstract re: farm investigation

Thank you so much for this feedback, everyone. I have accepted the suggested edits. I appreciate the way you helped to clarify reporting out the PCR and serology results - while we definitely plan to share the caveats of testing within the presentation, it was difficult to determine how to share all the details of those results in the abstract within the text limit!

I will keep you updated on the status once it has been submitted!

On Tue, Jan 5, 2021 at 9:21 AM Cossaboom, Caitlin (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHCPP) <nrm9@cdc.gov> wrote:

Hi Hannah,

The compiled CDC suggested edits/comments and author list are the attached. Please let us know if you have any questions! Thanks for including us and for your continued collaboration!

Caitlin

From: Hannah Rettler <hrettler@utah.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 4, 2021 5:37 PM
To: Cossaboom, Caitlin (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHCPP) <nrm9@cdc.gov>
Cc: Barton Behravesh, Casey (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD) <dlx9@cdc.gov>; Harvey, Reid (CDC/NIOSH/RHD/FSB) <iez1@cdc.gov>; Wendling, Natalie (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD) <pme8@cdc.gov>; Towner, Jonathan (Jon)

(CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHCPP) <jit8@cdc.gov>; Amman, Brian R. (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHCPP) <cxx1@cdc.gov>; Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>; Nathaniel Lewis <cdceisnml@utah.gov>
Subject: Re: Utah CSTE abstract re: farm investigation

Thank you so much, Caitlin! (I apologize for this very short notice)

On Mon, Jan 4, 2021 at 3:28 PM Cossaboom, Caitlin (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHCPP) <nrm9@cdc.gov> wrote:

Thanks Hannah! **CDC folks:** if you can please send your feedback to me, I'm happy to compile all of our feedback and proposed author list to make it easier on Hannah. **Please send any feedback to me by noon tomorrow so we have time to get it to her by the deadline.**

Thanks!

Caitlin

From: Hannah Rettler <hrettler@utah.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 4, 2021 4:45 PM
To: Cossaboom, Caitlin (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHCPP) <nrm9@cdc.gov>; Barton Behravesh, Casey (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD) <dlx9@cdc.gov>; Harvey, Reid (CDC/NIOSH/RHD/FSB) <iez1@cdc.gov>; Wendling, Natalie (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD) <pme8@cdc.gov>; Towner, Jonathan (Jon) (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHCPP) <jit8@cdc.gov>; Amman, Brian R. (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHCPP) <cxx1@cdc.gov>; Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Cc: Nathaniel Lewis <cdceisnml@utah.gov>
Subject: Utah CSTE abstract re: farm investigation

Hi everyone!

I hope you all were able to take some time to rest and recharge over these last few weeks and had an enjoyable holiday. Nathaniel and I have been working on developing an abstract to submit for CSTE, and wanted to loop you in for awareness. This is due to submit on Wednesday 1/6. Per the abstract instructions:

> *Co-authors who are not presenting but contributed substantially to the study design, statistical analysis or interpretation may be listed as a non-presenting author. Up to fifteen (15) co-authors may be included.*

Please let me know if you would like to be included as a co-author on this abstract, and if you have any comments or concerns about the content of the abstract. Thanks so much!

--

Hannah Rettler, MPH

Vectorborne/Zoonotic Disease Epidemiologist

Disease Response, Evaluation, Analysis, & Monitoring Program

Bureau of Epidemiology

Utah Department of Health

Email: hrettler@utah.gov

Office: (801) 538 - 6333

Mobile: (385) 285 - 5178

Secure Fax: (801) 538 - 9923

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Hannah Rettler, MPH

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—

Hannah Rettler, MPH
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Melissa Ure

From: Ryan Holt <rhinoh1301@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 14, 2021 6:20 AM
To: Dean Taylor
Subject: KSL Classifieds: Working Cats Seeking F/T Job and Lodging

Working Cats Seeking F/T Job and Lodging https://classifieds.ksl.com/listing/59169095

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

Melissa Ure

From: Hannah Rettler <hrettler@utah.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 21, 2021 9:27 AM
To: Dean Taylor
Subject: Re: Regulating mink farms

Ok that sounds good!

On Thu, Jan 21, 2021 at 9:12 AM Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov> wrote:
Everyone is having trouble finding time. Lets just discuss it on the Monday call already scheduled. I have things that i cannot move either

On Thu, Jan 21, 2021 at 8:15 AM Hannah Rettler <hrettler@utah.gov> wrote:
Sounds good! And I'm so sorry for the change again but my 4-5pm just booked up for today. I still have 2:30-3:30 free.

On Thu, Jan 21, 2021 at 8:12 AM Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov> wrote:
Checking with Mia to see if she is available. Then I will send out an invite.

On Wed, Jan 20, 2021 at 4:02 PM Hannah Rettler <hrettler@utah.gov> wrote:
My 2:30-3:30 meeting actually just got cancelled for tomorrow so I have that time open now too!

On Wed, Jan 20, 2021 at 3:47 PM Hannah Rettler <hrettler@utah.gov> wrote:
Sounds good! My day tomorrow is pretty booked up - I've got a window between 10:30-11 or 4-5pm. My Friday has a lot more flexibility.

On Wed, Jan 20, 2021 at 3:39 PM Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov> wrote:
I need to get a meeting set up with the other states to let them know of our testing results. I was thinking about 10:00 am tomorrow and Mia could go over the results. We could ask him at that time. Would that time work for you?

On Wed, Jan 20, 2021 at 3:15 PM Hannah Rettler <hrettler@utah.gov> wrote:
Hi Dr. Taylor,

I chatted with Washington state a little while ago and they brought up the fact that Oregon currently regulates their mink farms. Have you had any discussions with their state vet since their confirmed farm? I am curious to understand how they regulate their farms, and if that is something we might want to consider moving forward in Utah. I'd be interested to understand their experience, and if you would be too, maybe we could set up a call with them. This could also be a topic of discuss on one of the CDC "mink sync" calls with WI, MI, and OR.

Just wanted to pass this thought along to you in case it's of interest for us to pursue.

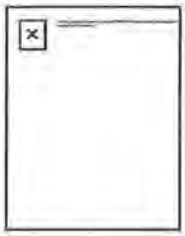
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Hannah Rettler, MPH
Vectorborne/Zoonotic Disease Epidemiologist
Disease Response, Evaluation, Analysis, & Monitoring Program
Bureau of Epidemiology
Utah Department of Health
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djtaylor@utah.gov
Website | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram

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Hannah Rettler, MPH
Vectorborne/Zoonotic Disease Epidemiologist
Disease Response, Evaluation, Analysis, & Monitoring Program
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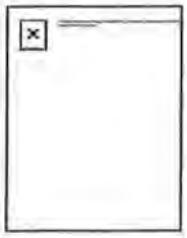
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Hannah Rettler, MPH
Vectorborne/Zoonotic Disease Epidemiologist
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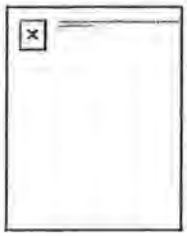
Hannah Rettler, MPH

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Disease Response, Evaluation, Analysis, & Monitoring Program
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–

Hannah Rettler, MPH
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Melissa Ure

From: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 18, 2021 2:18 PM
To: Laura Dudley Plimpton
Subject: Re: ZOHU December Call

Hi Laura,
In the second outbreak, there was initially no history of human infection with COVID 19. The farms were in very close proximity so we were worried that the cats may have been responsible for the spread to the other farms from the one with a known positive human. As the further investigation and testing proceeded, it was found that there were human cases preceding those in mink on those farms as well. CDC could better answer thoughts on continued transmission amongst mink and cats. We saw high infectivity among the feral cat populations surrounding the farms. The good news is that the data suggests the virus is clearing in them as well as the mink on the farms.
Thanks
Dean

On Tue, Jan 12, 2021 at 1:12 PM Laura Dudley Plimpton <ldp2131@columbia.edu> wrote:
Hi Dr. Taylor,

My name is Laura Plimpton and I am a PhD student in Maria Diuk-Wasser's Eco-Epidemiology lab in the Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Environmental Biology at Columbia University in NYC. I've been working on a project to explore the potential for SARS-CoV-2 to be introduced into the feral cat population in NYC (we have an estimated population of 500,000-1 million feral cats many of which live in high density colonies) and the risk of transmission among cats as well as from cats to the wildlife that frequently feed around the same human-provided food sources. We don't have any known occurrences of SARS-CoV-2 in the feral cat population (although there hasn't been any substantial testing done) so we are also planning to focus on other coronaviruses as part of our investigation as well.

I recently watched your talk from the December ZOHU call and I have a quick follow up question about your presentation. I noticed that during the second outbreak, you initially suspected that feral cats or feral mink might be spreading the virus. Did you end up investigating that any further? Did your team test any of the cats? And what prompted you to think that cats might be the source?

Thank you so much!

Laura Plimpton

Dean J Taylor, DVM | State Veterinarian
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People Working on Mink Farms: Prevent the Spread of COVID-19

SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, can spread between people and animals, including mink. Mink are very easily infected with SARS-CoV-2.

Anyone on the farm can spread SARS-CoV-2 to other workers and animals. Take precautions to prevent the spread of SARS-CoV-2 among people and animals on mink farms.

- When interacting with healthy mink or other animals:
  - » Wear a face mask or fit-tested N-95 if available, eye protection, dedicated outerwear, and gloves, and
  - » Minimize the amount of time spent in close contact with mink and other workers.
- If you are sick, exposed to COVID-19, or have been diagnosed with COVID-19, do not work with mink to prevent spreading the virus to the animals.

Protect mink from SARS-CoV-2

- Stay home if sick.
- Screen workers and visitors for COVID-19. Ask about symptoms and take temperatures at the beginning of each shift or when people arrive at the farm.
- Separate workers who arrive at work sick or become sick during the workday from other people and animals, and send them home.
- Require masks and personal protective equipment (PPE) when interacting with all animals, even if workers don't feel sick. Wearing a mask does **NOT** replace the need to practice social distancing.
- Encourage proper hand hygiene, such as hand washing for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, then dry thoroughly with a paper towel, or the use of hand sanitizer when soap is not available. Wash hands after handling animals, animal feed, and animal waste.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces regularly. Pay close attention to areas where animal feed is prepared and stored. Disinfect feeding equipment as often as possible. Do not reuse leftover feed.
- Limit access to farm and farm buildings to essential personnel. Do not allow cats, dogs, wildlife, and birds in farm buildings.
- Discourage the sharing of equipment, tools, or supplies to reduce spread of SARS-CoV-2 from farms to other locations.
- Use extreme caution when introducing new mink to the herd to avoid introducing SARS-CoV-2 to the farm. New mink should be tested for SARS-CoV-2 and separated for at least 21 days before joining the main herd.
- People working on mink farms should be alert for signs of disease in mink and should alert a supervisor if they suspect illness in mink. If there is suspicion of SARS-CoV-2 in mink, call your State Animal Health Official or USDA Animal and Plant Inspection Service Veterinary Services office. Signs of illness in mink may include:
  - » Poor appetite
  - » Sneezing
  - » Coughing
  - » Nose discharge
  - » Eye discharge
  - » Gasping for air or shortness of breath
  - » Diarrhea
  - » Lack of energy
  - » Increase in mink deaths



CDC USDA

cdc.gov/coronavirus

CS 321893-A 12/28/2020

Protect yourself around sick mink

- **Minimize contact with sick or dead animals.** If animals appear to be sick, wear gloves, face mask, and goggles or face shield when working with or near the animals.
  - » Reduce the number of people interacting with any animal that is suspected to have or tests positive for SARS-CoV-2. Staff who have contact with these animals should wear respiratory protection (N95 or higher) instead of a facemask. Staff at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19 should not work with these animals.
- **Practice good hand hygiene.** Always immediately wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds after:
  - » Direct contact with animals, their food, supplies, or waste/feces.
  - » Cleaning up after animals, including any body fluids or waste.
  - » After handling animal carcasses or pelts.
  - » After using equipment for pelting and processing.
  - » Leaving areas where animals are housed, even if you did not touch an animal.
  - » Removing PPE and masks.
- **Use a mask and eye protection** (e.g. goggles or face shield) when splashes or sprays are likely to occur.
- **Avoid activities that might aerosolize (spray into the air) infectious material** such as using compressed air and/or water under pressure for cleaning.
  - » If participating in aerosol-generating procedures (e.g., cleaning, whelping, pelting, rendering), wear respiratory protection that is at least as protective as a fit-tested NIOSH-certified disposable N95 filtering face piece respirator, a face shield or goggles, gloves, protective outerwear.
  - » If an N95 respirator is not available, use a combination of a surgical mask and a face shield that covers the entire front (that extends to the chin or below) and sides of the face.
- **Use PPE** when cleaning or disinfecting an area potentially contaminated with SARS-CoV-2. Follow the cleaning or disinfectant product manufacturer's instructions for use. Follow recommendations for safe practices for how to put on and take off PPE.
- **If there is accidental direct contact with a sick animal or its urine, feces, blood, saliva, or vomit on exposed skin**, workers should immediately wash the exposed area with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds and notify a supervisor. If exposure occurs to eyes, inside of nose, or mouth, flush the area with only water.
- **If a farm worker receives a bite, scratch or, abrasion** from an animal, animal product, or an object contaminated by an animal, wash the exposed area of skin immediately with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds, immediately alert a supervisor, and contact a health-care provider.
- **If someone is exposed to sick animals or a sick person**, they should self-monitor for temperature or symptoms for a period of 14 days after the incident and not interact with mink during this period.

For more information:

Interim SARS-CoV-2 Guidance and Recommendations for Farmed Mink and Other Mustelids (https://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/animal_health/sars-cov-2-mink-guidance.pdf)

Interim Guidance for Animal Health and Public Health Officials Managing Farmed Mink and Other Farmed Mustelids with SARS-CoV-2 (https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/one_health/downloads/sars-cov-2-guidance-for-farmed-mink.pdf)

CDC COVID-19 and Animals (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/animals.html)

Personas que trabajan en criaderos de visones: Prevengan la propagación del COVID-19

El SARS-CoV-2, el virus que causa el COVID-19, puede propagarse entre las personas y los animales, incluso los visones. Los visones se infectan muy fácilmente con el SARS-CoV-2.

Cualquier persona en el criadero puede propagar el SARS-CoV-2 a otros trabajadores y animales. Tomen precauciones para prevenir la propagación del SARS-CoV-2 entre las personas y los animales en los criaderos de visones.

- Cuando interactúen con visones u otros animales sanos:
  - » pónganse una mascarilla o un respirador N-95 al que se le haya hecho una prueba de ajuste, si hay uno disponible, protección para los ojos, prendas exteriores de uso exclusivo para el trabajo, guantes, y
  - » minimicen la cantidad de tiempo que pasen en contacto cercano con los visones y otros trabajadores.
- Si están enfermos, han estado expuestos al COVID-19 o han recibido un diagnóstico de COVID-19, no trabajen con los visones a fin de prevenir la propagación del virus a los animales.

Protejan a los visones del SARS-CoV-2

- Quédense en casa si están enfermos.
- Evalúen a los trabajadores y visitantes para ver si tienen COVID-19. Pregúntenles sobre los síntomas y tómenles la temperatura al comienzo de cada turno o cuando las personas lleguen al criadero.
- Separen de las demás personas y de los animales a los trabajadores que lleguen enfermos al criadero o que se enfermen durante la jornada de trabajo, y envíenlos a su casa.
- Exijan el uso de mascarillas y equipo de protección personal (EPP) cuando los trabajadores interactúen con todos los animales, incluso si no se sienten enfermos. Usar una mascarilla **NO** remplaza la necesidad de practicar el distanciamiento social.
- Fomenten la higiene de las manos adecuada, como lavárselas por al menos 20 segundos con agua y jabón, y luego secárselas completamente con una toalla de papel, o el uso de desinfectante de manos cuando no haya jabón. Lávense las manos después de tocar a los animales, su comida o sus desechos.
- Limpien y desinfecten con regularidad las superficies que se tocan frecuentemente. Presten mucha atención a las áreas donde se prepara y almacena la comida de los animales. Desinfecten el equipo que se usa para alimentar a los animales lo más seguido posible. No vuelvan a usar la comida que sobre.
- Permitan que solo el personal esencial tenga acceso al criadero y a las instalaciones. No permitan gatos, perros, animales silvestres y aves en las instalaciones del criadero.
- Traten de evitar que se compartan equipos, herramientas o suministros a fin de reducir la propagación del SARS-CoV-2 de los criaderos a otros lugares.
- Tomen medidas extremas de precaución cuando introduzcan un nuevo visón a la manada a fin de evitar la introducción del SARS-CoV-2 al criadero. Al nuevo visón se le deben hacer pruebas de detección del SARS-CoV-2 y el animal debe estar separado del resto por al menos 21 días antes de reunirse con la manada principal.
- Las personas que trabajan en criaderos de visones deben estar atentas a la aparición de signos de enfermedad en esos animales y deben avisarle al supervisor si sospechan que un visón está enfermo. Si se sospecha la presencia del SARS-CoV-2 en los visones, llamen al funcionario de salud animal estatal o a la Oficina de Servicios Veterinarios del Servicio de Inspección Sanitaria de Animales y Plantas del Departamento de Agricultura de los Estados Unidos (USDA). Los signos de la enfermedad en los visones pueden incluir:
  - » Poco apetito
  - » Estornudos
  - » Tos
  - » Secreción de la nariz
  - » Secreción de los ojos
  - » Falta de aire o dificultad para respirar
  - » Diarrea
  - » Falta de energía
  - » Aumento en la cantidad de muertes de visones



CDC USDA

cdc.gov/coronavirus-es

CS 321893-A 01/12/2021 MLS-322075

Protéjanse cuando estén cerca de visones enfermos

- **Minimicen el contacto con animales enfermos o muertos.** Si los animales parecen estar enfermos, usen guantes, mascarilla y gafas protectoras o protector facial cuando trabajen con ellos o estén cerca de ellos.
  - » Reduzcan la cantidad de personas que interactúen con cualquier animal que se sospeche que tenga el SARS-CoV-2 o que tenga un resultado positivo en la prueba de detección de ese virus. El personal que tenga contacto con estos animales debe usar protección respiratoria (respirador N95 o superior) en vez de una mascarilla. El personal que tenga mayor riesgo de enfermarse gravemente de COVID-19 no debería trabajar con estos animales.
- **Practiquen buena higiene de las manos.** Siempre lávense las manos de inmediato con agua y jabón por al menos 20 segundos después de hacer lo siguiente:
  - » Tener contacto directo con animales, sus alimentos, suministros o desechos/heces.
  - » Limpiar los desechos de los animales, incluidos sus líquidos corporales o excrementos.
  - » Tocar cadáveres o pieles de animales.
  - » Usar equipo para desollar a los animales y procesarlos.
  - » Salir de las áreas donde se alberga a los animales, aunque no hayan tocado ninguno.
  - » Quitarse el EPP y las mascarillas.
- **Usen una mascarilla y protección para los ojos** (p. ej., gafas protectoras o protector facial) cuando se puedan producir salpicaduras o rocíos.
- **Eviten las actividades que podrían aerosolizar (rociar al aire) material infeccioso** como usar aire comprimido o agua a presión para limpiar.
  - » Si van a participar en procedimientos que generen aerosoles (p. ej., limpieza, partos, desolladura, procesamiento de subproductos), usen protección respiratoria que proteja al menos como un respirador con pieza facial filtrante N95, desechable, certificado por NIOSH y al que se le haya hecho una prueba de ajuste; un protector facial o gafas protectoras, guantes, prendas exteriores protectoras.
  - » Si no hay respiradores N95 disponibles, usen una mascarilla quirúrgica junto con un protector facial que cubra el frente completo (que se extienda hasta el mentón o más abajo) y los costados de la cara.
- **Usen EPP** cuando limpien o desinfecten un área potencialmente contaminada con SARS-CoV-2. Sigan las instrucciones del fabricante para el uso de los productos de limpieza o desinfección. Sigan las recomendaciones sobre cómo ponerse y quitarse el EPP de manera segura.
- **Si la piel expuesta de un trabajador entra en contacto directo, de manera accidental, con un animal enfermo o su orina, heces, sangre, saliva o vómito**, el trabajador debe lavar el área expuesta de inmediato con agua tibia y jabón, por al menos 20 segundos, y notificar a un supervisor. Si la exposición fue a través de los ojos, el interior de la nariz, o la boca, hay que enjuagar el área solamente con agua.
- **Si un trabajador del criadero es mordido, rasguñado o presenta una abrasión** por un animal, producto animal o un objeto contaminado por un animal, hay que lavar el área de la piel expuesta de inmediato con agua tibia y jabón por al menos 20 segundos, avisarle enseguida a un supervisor y contactar a un proveedor de atención médica.
- **Si alguien ha estado expuesto a animales enfermos o a una persona enferma**, debería automonitorearse la temperatura y ver si presenta síntomas por 14 días después del incidente, y no interactuar con los visones durante ese periodo.

Para obtener más información:

Guía y recomendaciones interinas sobre el SARS-CoV-2 para visones y otros mustélidos de criadero (https://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/animal_health/sars-cov-2-mink-guidance.pdf)

Guía interina para funcionarios de salud animal y salud pública a cargo del manejo de visones y otros mustélidos de criadero con SARS-CoV-2 (https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/one_health/downloads/sars-cov-2-guidance-for-farmed-mink.pdf)

CDC: El COVID-19 y los animales (https://espanol.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/animals.html)

Melissa Ure

From: Yeong, Siu-Kae [BCCDC] <Siu-Kae.Yeong@bccdc.ca>
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2021 12:48 PM
To: 'Dean Taylor'
Subject: RE: Question re: pelt storing

Thanks so much Dr Taylor.

Siu-Kae

From: Dean Taylor [mailto:djtaylor@utah.gov]
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2021 11:47 AM
To: Yeong, Siu-Kae [BCCDC]
Subject: Re: Question re: pelt storing

EXTERNAL SENDER. If you suspect this message is malicious, please forward to spam@phsa.ca and **do not** open attachments or click on links.

You could get the information from Casey Barton-Behravesh at onehealth@cdc.gov or dlx9@cdc.gov. The USDA has put together a document that uses some of this information from Finland and we are using it in our plans. I will be finishing up some documentation, mostly borrowed by other states that I will send along with the document from USDA when it passes final approval.
Thanks
Dean

On Mon, Jan 25, 2021 at 10:36 AM Yeong, Siu-Kae [BCCDC] <Siu-Kae.Yeong@bccdc.ca> wrote:

Hi Dr Price and Dr Taylor,

Our Ministry of Agriculture colleagues have heard from some sources about an unpublished Finnish study that determined storing processed pelts for 20 C for 10 days kills all remaining viable virus on intentionally infected pelts. Do you know anything about this? We'd appreciate any information you may be willing to share on the results of this study, and more importantly the material and methods of the study (which could inform our process of testing the pelts from our infected premises). Any written material and contact info for the Finnish researcher would be great so we could connect with them directly.

Please let us know if you may have heard about this.

Siu-Kae

778.861.2170

—



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Melissa Ure

From: Wineland, Nora (MDARD) <WinelandN@michigan.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2021 3:13 PM
To: john easley; Lombard, Jason E - APHIS; Korslund, John A - APHIS; Beemer, Oriana M - APHIS; Jones, Jodie - APHIS; Miles, Laura A - MRP-APHIS, Ft. Collins, CO; elisabeth.patton@wisconsin.gov; bleamaster@oda.state.or.us; djtaylor@utah.gov
Subject: RE: Mink Surveillance Testing discussion

I can only do Wednesday, and it could be either of the times suggested.

Thanks

Nora

From: john easley <johneasleydvm@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2021 5:00 PM
To: Lombard, Jason E - APHIS <jason.e.lombard@usda.gov>; Korslund, John A - APHIS <john.a.korslund@usda.gov>; Beemer, Oriana M - APHIS <oriana.m.beemer@usda.gov>; Jones, Jodie - APHIS <jodie.m.jones@usda.gov>; Miles, Laura A - MRP-APHIS, Ft. Collins, CO <laura.a.miles@usda.gov>; elisabeth.patton@wisconsin.gov; Wineland, Nora (MDARD) <WinelandN@michigan.gov>; bleamaster@oda.state.or.us; djtaylor@utah.gov
Subject: Re: Mink Surveillance Testing discussion

CAUTION: This is an External email. Please send suspicious emails to abuse@michigan.gov

I could be available Wednesday or Friday.

John Easley

From: Lombard, Jason E - APHIS <jason.e.lombard@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2021 2:14 PM
To: Korslund, John A - APHIS <john.a.korslund@usda.gov>; Beemer, Oriana M - APHIS <oriana.m.beemer@usda.gov>; Jones, Jodie - APHIS <jodie.m.jones@usda.gov>; Miles, Laura A - MRP-APHIS, Ft. Collins, CO <laura.a.miles@usda.gov>; elisabeth.patton@wisconsin.gov <elisabeth.patton@wisconsin.gov>; winelandn@michigan.gov <winelandn@michigan.gov>; bleamaster@oda.state.or.us <bleamaster@oda.state.or.us>; djtaylor@utah.gov <djtaylor@utah.gov>; john easley <johneasleydvm@hotmail.com>
Subject: Mink Surveillance Testing discussion

Hello,

APHIS would like to schedule a meeting to discuss possible surveillance options for mink farms. There is increasing pressure from public health and probably from the new administration to conduct additional surveillance on mink farms in addition to the those already detected as infected. We have real concerns about producers wanting to voluntarily participate. Some of the discussions we have had from a VS perspective was trying to include tests, such as Aleutian disease, and others as a reward/carrot for producers. We will be looking for more input from State folks and industry.

I know everyone's schedule is busy. Would folks have an open time slot between at 3-4 or 4-5MT Tuesday through Friday this week? This is likely going to be difficult to schedule and I can send out a doodle poll if that is the best option.

Thanks!
Jason

Jason E. Lombard, DVM, MS
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Melissa Ure

From: Ryan Holt <rhinoh1301@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2021 4:48 AM
To: Dean Taylor
Subject: FW: Danish compensation scheme

Received this yesterday. Amounts are in Danish Kroner. Exchange rate runs about 5/1 usd

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

----- Forwarded Message -----
From: "Ryan Holt" <rhinoh1301@yahoo.com>
To: "John Easley" <johneasleydvm@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thu, Jan 28, 2021 at 4:46 AM
Subject: FW: Danish compensation scheme

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

----- Forwarded Message -----
From: "Mike Brown" <mbrown@iftf.com>
To: "Michael J Whelan" <MW@furcommission.com>, "Ryan holt" <rhinoh1301@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wed, Jan 27, 2021 at 12:36 PM
Subject: FW: Danish compensation scheme
FYI

On 1/27/21, 9:30 AM, "Mette Lykke Nielsen" <Mette@lykkeadvice.eu> wrote:

Dear Mike

The Danish expropriation has been granted in Denmark - the frame is between 15 and 18 billion DKK (both for farmers and industry related to farms e.g. auction house, feed kitchens etc). All farms will be evaluated on an individual basis over the next months (maybe years).

Compensation for breeders based on a calculation on loss of income from 2022-2030: 8,9 billion DKK
Compensation in 2021 for killed animals where you could not use the fur: 1,8-2,8 billion DKK
Compensation for those farmers that do not accept expropriation but want to start again: 60 million DKK
Costs of closing farms: 80 million DKK
Work in an organization (very Danish thing) that is to help farmers that are going bankrupt- 30 million DKK

For the follow industries:
Compensation for industries servicing the farmers: 3-4 billion DKK
Replacement support: 100 million DKK

Other:
Taking down production facilities: 1,5-2,7 billion DKK
Mink taxation committee (those going to the farms to make audits) 100 million DKK

The most important politically is that this is based on expropriation. If you want to close a business you need to pay it accordingly. But it really depends on the national laws.

Best
Mette

Melissa Ure

From: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 10:01 PM
To: Flory, Gary
Subject: Re: Mink depopulation expertise

Gary sorry for the slow response. Let us know what we can do to help. I think Dr Price and I could provide some input. She has been helping with most of the disposal issues. I would be happy to provide whatever assistance you need. We have a couple issues we are trying to wrap up currently but can assist as available.
Dean

On Thu, Jan 28, 2021 at 8:49 AM Flory, Gary <gary.flory@deq.virginia.gov> wrote:

Thanks, Mike for connecting us! I feel like we have met from the COVID calls but an introduction is always helpful.

Drs. Konkle and Taylor,

For a little background, I have supported FAO and OIE with some training programs in the past. Most recently, I helped with an FAO online ASF training last year. I got an email earlier this week from FAO looking for some help with a virtual stamping out training. Here is an excerpt from the email:

> "We have decided to develop a set of online training materials on stamping out procedures, covering culling, disposal, valuation, cleaning and disinfection and restocking. It will be a bit like the online ASF course, but with shorter online modules and longer reference materials, exercises, quizzes, etc.
>
> Would you be available to contribute, particularly on the disposal aspects? Due to funding availability, we need to conduct the bulk of the work by the end of March. So the first thing we wanted to know if you're interested and available over the next two months. We're currently preparing the terms of reference for the different experts needed.
>
> In the meantime, I was also hoping you could help us to identify some of the other experts. Since we want to cull a range of animals, I was wondering if through your circle, you could recommend experts on culling of poultry, but also some less common species like horses and minks."

A colleague of mine is helping with the culling of poultry and horses. Where FAO would need additional expertise is in culling mink. Notice the tight timeframe. Is this something that you might be able to help with?

Thanks!

Gary A. Flory

Agricultural Program Manager
Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 3000, 4411 Early Road, Harrisonburg, VA 22801
Cell ☎: 804-212-7018 | ✉: gary.flory@deq.virginia.gov
Collaborating on Foreign Animal Diseases, Agroterrorism, Emerging Infectious Diseases, One Health and other initiatives!

On Thu, Jan 28, 2021 at 4:59 AM Neault, Mike J <mike.neault@ncagr.gov> wrote:

Good morning Drs. Konkle and Taylor.

Gary Flory with the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality is helping the OIE develop a course that includes discussion on depopulating mink. Based on the Covid-19 experiences I've heard you or your staff share on the National Assembly and Multi-State Partnership calls about how your states responded to mink farms diagnosed with Covid-19, I was hoping you might be able to share that expertise with Gary as he develops this course.

Thanks for any assistance you can offer.

Mike

Michael Neault, DVM, Director of Livestock Programs, Veterinary Division

N.C. Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services

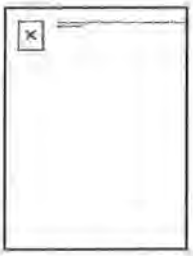
Physical Address: 2 W. Edenton Street, Raleigh, NC 27601

Mailing Address: 1030 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1030

Phone: 919-707-3250

Fax: 919-733-2277

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100 Years of Supporting Agriculture and Food

Melissa Ure

From: Natalie Wendling <no-reply@zoomgov.com>
Sent: Friday, February 12, 2021 1:37 PM
To: Dean Taylor
Subject: Addressing SARS-CoV-2 Outbreaks in People and Multiple Animal Species on Mink Farms: The Role of Public Health in a One Health Approach Confirmation

Hi Dean Taylor,

Thank you for registering for "Addressing SARS-CoV-2 Outbreaks in People and Multiple Animal Species on Mink Farms: The Role of Public Health in a One Health Approach".

Please submit any questions to: pme8@cdc.gov

Date Time: Feb 19, 2021 03:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: Click Here to Join
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Or iPhone one-tap
US: +16692545252,,1616957301# or +16692161590,,1616957301#
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Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):
US: +1 669 254 5252 or +1 669 216 1590 or +1 646 828 7666 or +1 551 285 1373
Meeting ID: 161 695 7301
Passcode: 49575900
International numbers available: https://cdc.zoomgov.com/u/ad7ZTYDTxH

Or an H.323/SIP room system:
H.323: 161.199.138.10 (US West) or 161.199.136.10 (US East)
Meeting ID: 161 695 7301
Passcode: 49575900

SIP: 1616957301@sip.zoomgov.com
Passcode: 49575900

You can cancel your registration at any time.

Melissa Ure

From: Delahay, Richard <Dez.Delahay@apha.gov.uk>
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 2:21 AM
To: Dean Taylor
Subject: RE: SARS-CoV-2 in mink

Many thanks Dean – I will contact Tom.

Cheers
Dez

****

Professor Richard (Dez) Delahay
Wildlife Biologist

National Wildlife Management Centre
Animal & Plant Health Agency (APHA)
Honorary Visiting Professor, Exeter University

Email: dez.delahay@apha.gov.uk
Phone: +44 (0)1453 861400
Direct line: +44 (0)20802 62377

Please note that I work part-time: Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday usually

---

From: Dean Taylor [mailto:djtaylor@utah.gov]
Sent: 12 February 2021 21:13
To: Delahay, Richard <Dez.Delahay@apha.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: SARS-CoV-2 in mink

Richard,
The person to talk to about this would be Tom Deliberto with Wildlife Services. He is a great guy and could provide you with the information that led to that determination. He can be reached at thomas.j.deliberto@usda.gov
Regards,
Dean

On Fri, Feb 12, 2021 at 10:09 AM Delahay, Richard <Dez.Delahay@apha.gov.uk> wrote:

Hello Dean,

You will remember I was in touch late last year about your positive mink in Utah. I hope you are well? I just thought I would ask whether you had published this finding yet as I would like to cite it in our revised paper (which has been languishing in review for far too long!). I also wondered what you thought about the provenance of the mink in

question – was it a truly wild mink or an escapee from the nearby farm? I imagine that could be difficult to determine, but I would be interested in your thoughts.

Cheers

Dez

****

Professor Richard (Dez) Delahay

Wildlife Biologist

National Wildlife Management Centre

Animal & Plant Health Agency (APHA)

Honorary Visiting Professor, Exeter University

Email: dez.delahay@apha.gov.uk

Phone: +44 (0)1453 861400

Direct line: +44 (0)20802 62377

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---

From: Delahay, Richard
Sent: 17 December 2020 16:35
To: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Subject: RE: SARS-CoV-2 in mink

Hi Dean,

Thanks for getting back to me – as you say, events have rather overtaken my enquiry! It was bound to happen that infection would spill back into wildlife and mink seemed a very likely target. Of course whether infection could become established in the wild population is a different matter – I suspect that their relatively solitary lifestyle and low density could prevent that, but you never know. Im particularly interested in this area as I am part of a UK team working on risks of infection in wildlife. If you fancy some light reading on the topic we have just posted a preprint of a review paper on this very subject – I think we got it online two days before the infected wild mink news broke, so I guess you could say we predicted it!! But it also means our paper is already out of date! A revised version will be posted soon but you can take a look at the original via this link if you are interested,

https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.preprints.org%2Fmanuscript%2F202012.0283%2Fv1&data=04%7C01%7CDez.Delahay%40apha.gov.uk%7C370d52bc8e7f485b042c08d8a0c89c17%7C770a245002274c6290c74e38537f1102%7C1%7C0%7C637436131301894946%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000&sdata=7ugJigQCoZNuYv9NKzlR4sWOeL%2BQnh%2B4ZHKts2Gnk04%3D&reserved=0

I would be very interested to hear if you turn anything else up in Utah.

All the best

Dez

****

Professor Richard (Dez) Delahay

Wildlife Biologist

National Wildlife Management Centre

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Honorary Visiting Professor, Exeter University

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Phone: +44 (0)1453 861400

Direct line: +44 (0)20802 62377

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From: Dean Taylor [mailto:djtaylor@utah.gov]
Sent: 17 December 2020 03:39
To: Delahay, Richard <Dez.Delahay@apha.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: SARS-CoV-2 in mink

Sorry for the slow reply. I was out of the office for a week and trying to catch up this week. They trapped skunks, raccoons, squirrels and some mice. They also trapped a couple of wild mink that were near the facilities. One wild mink has now as of this week been confirmed positive. They do not feel like it has set up in the wild population as none of the other species were positive. Feral cats on the farms have mostly tested positive. The relationship between them and the mink is still not known fully.

Thanks

Dean

On Wed, Dec 9, 2020 at 3:46 AM Delahay, Richard <Dez.Delahay@apha.gov.uk> wrote:

> Hello Dean,
>
> I enjoyed your CDC ZOHU presentation last week, particularly since I am involved in work in the UK on the potential for SARS-CoV-2 to spillback into free-living wildlife. I wanted to ask you if you could expand a little more on which wild mammals had been investigated in the vicinity of affected mink farms and what you had found. I know that onward transmission to 'stray' cats from mink farms was suggested from work in the Netherlands, and wondered what you guys might have turned up?

Cheers

Dez

****

Professor Richard (Dez) Delahay

Wildlife Biologist

National Wildlife Management Centre

Animal & Plant Health Agency (APHA)

Honorary Visiting Professor, Exeter University

Email: dez.delahay@apha.gov.uk

Phone: +44 (0)1453 861400

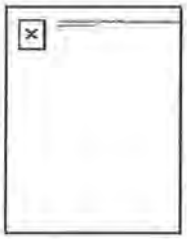
Direct line: +44 (0)20802 62377

Please note that I work part-time: Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday usually

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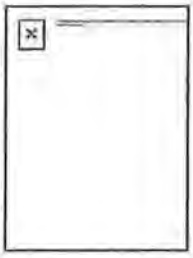
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Dean J Taylor, DVM | State Veterinarian
Office 801-982-2243 Cell 385-290-9462
djtaylor@utah.gov
Website | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram

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Melissa Ure

From: Klondike International <klondikeinternational@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 9:25 AM
To: djtaylor@utah.gov
Subject: Re: pelt movement

hello, dr. taylor,

could you please call me. looking for some adice.

thanks alan tax
917 744 8127

-----Original Message-----
From: Richard Tax <klondikeinternational@aol.com>
To: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Sent: Mon, Feb 1, 2021 2:59 pm
Subject: Re: pelt movement

Thanks for clarification and all your help!

Regards Alan tax

Sent from my iPhone

> On Feb 1, 2021, at 5:54 PM, Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov> wrote:
>
> That will be the owner or the processor. If a processor then they can write in the owner's information up top and then sign themselves under the owner statement like this: John Doe/ Name of Processing Facility. This way the processing facility will verify that the shipments were wrapped and sanitized before shipping to you. I will forward this email to Cody so that he understands as well and will also call him. Thank you for the great input. Sometimes you look at something until you can't see the flaws.
> Dean
>
> On Mon, Feb 1, 2021 at 12:50 PM Richard Tax <klondikeinternational@aol.com> wrote:
> Hello Dr.Taylor,
>
> Thanks for getting this out ASAP.
> Very helpful as we are in our peak season.
>
> My only question is on form from processors
> To me(grading facility). It mentions owner.
>
> Should this be from owner or pelting facility(western states). Who fills out that box
> Rancher or western states?
>
> Thanks , I will start to arrange deliveries
> From all except western states until you clarify.
>
> Thank you for your help.

Alan tax
American mink exchange.

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 1, 2021, at 2:13 PM, Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov> wrote:

Mink producers and plants,
I got some feedback that was valuable and have put out two forms. One if you are sending your raw pelts to be processed and another to accompany pelts that have been processed and are being sent straight to the grading facility.
You can fill this form (either one) out online as it is fillable and then you will send the completed form to me for a permit number and we will send it back to you with a permit number. Then you will have it with the shipment as it travels and after the remainder is appropriately filled out you can scan and send it to me via email or you can mail it to me.
YOU CAN BEGIN USING THESE IMMEDIATELY. I WILL WATCH FOR THEM AND GET THEM BACK QUICKLY.
I will be calling each of you individually throughout the remainder of the day to discuss this and the first round of testing on the mink for quarantine release.
Thanks
Dean

–

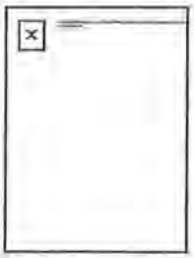


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<Mink Pelt Shipping Grading Facility.pdf>
<Mink Pelt Shipping Processing Facility.pdf>

–



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Melissa Ure

From: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 12:31 PM
To: Deliberto, Thomas J - APHIS
Subject: Re: Wildlife summary of SARS CoV 2 surveillance in UT

Thank you Tom.

On Wed, Feb 17, 2021 at 11:27 AM Deliberto, Thomas J - APHIS <thomas.j.deliberto@usda.gov> wrote:

Hi Dean and Annette,

Our summary of the wildlife surveillance associated with the first 5 positive mink farms has been published (preprint) in Emerging Infectious Diseases and the link is: https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/27/3/20-4444_article

We have already had a media inquiry associated with the posting of this article. Just wanted to give you a heads up. If you have any questions, please let us know.

Tom

Stay Healthy - Stay Home - Stay Connected

USDA
Thomas DeLiberto, PhD, DVM
Assistant Director
APHIS Wildlife Services (WS)
WS National Wildlife Research Center
4101 LaPorte Ave
Fort Collins, CO 80526
P: 970-266-6088
C: 970-988-1204
Thomas.J.DeLiberto@usda.gov

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Melissa Ure

From: Ryan Holt <rhinoh1301@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 7:32 AM
To: djtaylor@utah.gov
Subject: Re: Fw: KF Feb21 Auction - Pearls Beige | White Males

I was approached by representatives from saga furs about shipping dried skins in from canada

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

On Mon, Feb 22, 2021 at 7:24 AM, Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov> wrote:

Ryan that is excellent news. Thanks for sharing.

On Sat, Feb 20, 2021 at 2:33 PM Ryan Holt <rhinoh1301@yahoo.com> wrote:

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

----- Forwarded Message -----
From: "Challis Hobbs" <challis.hobbs@sagafurs.com>
To:
Cc: "Chris Vaughan" <chris.vaughan@sagafurs.com>, "George Vongas" <george.vongas@sagafurs.com>
Sent: Sat, Feb 20, 2021 at 9:23 AM
Subject: KF Feb21 Auction - Pearls Beige | White Males

Good Morning,

I wanted to give an update on todays KF auction as the positive trend set at our SAGA Dec auction continues. KF Prices up 60-75% **compared to their** previous KF sale in September.

- White Males: Sales percentage: 100. Average: USD 42. Top price: USD 62. Deviation: +64%, February 2021
- Pearl Beige Velvet Females: Sales percentage: 100. Average: USD 37. Top price: USD 51. Deviation: +75%, February 2021
- Pearl Beige Females: Sales percentage: 100. Average: USD 31. Top price: USD 36. Deviation: +86%, February 2021
- Pearl Beige Velvet Males: Sales percentage: 100. Average: USD 64. Top price: USD 73. Deviation: +73%, February 2021
- Pearl Beige Males: Sales percentage: 100. Average: USD 42. Top price: USD 51. Deviation: +59%, February 2021

Snap shots of today's KF prices

Currency: USD (613,68)

All Qualities		Size	Colour	Platinum Avg	Burgundy Avg	Qual. A Avg	Qual. I Avg
Offered	215		White		61,9	58,7	
Sold	215						
Sales %	100	60					
Average	**61,2**						
Top price	**61,92**						
Offered	482		White			55,4	
Sold	482						
Sales %	100	50					
Average	**50,4**						
Top price	**55,40**						
Offered	4.744		White	53,6	49,3	49,0	44,8
Sold	4.744						
Sales %	100	40					
Average	**49,8**						
Top price	**53,77**						
Offered	4.152		White	50,1	46,2	45,8	40,3
Sold	4.152						
Sales %	100	30					
Average	**45,8**						
Top price	**50,51**						
Offered	6.223		White	42,6	41,6	39,9	33,9
Sold	6.223						
Sales %	100	00					
Average	**39,2**						
Top price	**44,00**						
Offered	4.545		White	35,7	34,1	30,7	29,3
Sold	4.545						
Sales %	100	0					
Average	**33,3**						
Top price	**35,85**						
Offered	20.361			4.774	8.753	2.949	2.198
Sold	20.361			4.774	8.753	2.949	2.198
Sales %	100	**All Sizes**		100	100	100	100
Average	**42,2**			**44,0**	**44,0**	**42,2**	**34,8**
Top price	**61,92**			**53,8**	**61,9**	**58,7**	**44,8**

Currency: USD (613,68)

All Qualities		Size	Colour	>>> All naps <<< Purple Avg	Platinum Avg	Burgundy Avg	Qual. A Avg
Offered	5.851		Medium	39,7			
Sold	5.851		Pale	42,6			41,6
Sales %	100	00	XXPale		50,5		
Average	**45,9**		XXXPale		48,9		45,6
Top price	**51,33**						
Offered	11.484		Medium	36,7			
Sold	11.484		Pale	39,3	39,1		36,1
Sales %	100	0	XXPale	42,8	39,6	41,6	37,4
Average	**39,6**		XXXPale	41,6	37,5	40,6	
Top price	**43,18**						
Offered	20.219		Pale		31,5		28,2
Sold	20.219		XPale		33,4	31,3	30,6
Sales %	100	1	XXPale		41,6	33,0	31,0
Average	**32,3**		XXXPale	35,3	37,0	32,8	29,3
Top price	**41,55**						
Offered	37.554			7.785	13.352	3.674	12.743
Sold	37.554	All Sizes		7.785	13.352	3.674	12.743
Sales %	100			100	100	100	100
Average	**36,6**			**38,9**	**38,8**	**36,0**	**33,1**
Top price	**51,33**			**43,2**	**51,3**	**41,6**	**45,6**

Currency: USD (613,68)

All Qualities		Size	Colour	>>> All naps <<< Purple Avg	Platinum Avg	Burgundy Avg	Qual. A Avg
Offered	1.317		Pale		68,4	68,4	
Sold	1.317		XPale			71,7	
Sales %	100	60	XXPale			73,3	
Average	**71,8**						
Top price	**73,33**						
Offered	1.204		Medium		63,1		
Sold	1.204		Pale		65,2		
Sales %	100	50	XPale	71,7			65,2
Average	**65,9**		XXPale			66,8	
Top price	**71,70**						
Offered	24.949		Pale	61,9	59,1		
Sold	24.949		XPale	65,8	62,9	57,7	57,0
Sales %	100	40	XXPale	68,5	64,6	61,9	63,6
Average	**64,9**		XXXPale	67,8	66,6		53,8
Top price	**70,07**						
Offered	8.338		XDark			57,9	
Sold	8.338		Dark			54,1	
Sales %	100		Medium	55,7			
Average	**61,8**		Pale			55,4	
Top price	**66,81**	30	XPale	63,6	63,6	54,6	54,6
			XXPale	66,3	65,2	58,7	60,3
			XXXPale	63,6	61,2	57,4	58,1
Offered	769		Dark		34,2		
Sold	769		Medium		38,3		
Sales %	100	00	Pale		46,4		
Average	**43,5**		XXXPale		46,2		
Top price	**46,44**						
Offered	347		XPale				37,5
Sold	347						
Sales %	100	0					
Average	**37,0**						
Top price	**37,48**						
Offered	36.924			11.328	18.525	3.886	3.185
Sold	36.924	All Sizes		11.328	18.525	3.886	3.185
Sales %	100			100	100	100	100
Average	**63,8**			**66,9**	**63,2**	**62,8**	**57,4**
Top price	**73,33**			**71,7**	**68,4**	**73,3**	**65,2**

Pearl Beige Males — *February 2021* — *Kopenhag*

Currency: USD (613,68)

All Qualities		Size	Colour	Platinum Avg	Burgundy Avg	Qual. A Avg	Qual. I Avg
Offered	83		Medium				
Sold	83						
Sales %	100	50					
Average	**42,0**						
Top price	**41,55**						
Offered	979		Medium		39,1		
Sold	979		Pale		42,4		
Sales %	100		XPale			44,0	
Average	**42,5**	40	XXPale			44,0	
Top price	**44,81**		XXXPale			43,2	
Offered	7.281		Medium				30,1
Sold	7.281		Pale				32,6
Sales %	100		XPale			41,6	32,2
Average	**43,7**	30	XXPale	48,7	44,0	43,9	35,3
Top price	**50,51**		XXXPale	49,6	43,7	44,5	36,7
Offered	5.626		XPale		39,1		
Sold	5.626		XXPale		40,9	39,1	34,0
Sales %	100	00	XXXPale	38,3	39,3	38,1	33,4
Average	**38,9**						
Top price	**42,37**						
Offered	13.969			1.930	7.437	2.669	1.098
Sold	13.969	All Sizes		1.930	7.437	2.669	1.098
Sales %	100			100	100	100	100
Average	**41,7**			**49,1**	**41,3**	**42,6**	**34,2**
Top price	**50,51**			**50,5**	**46,4**	**45,6**	**39,1**

Pearl Beige Females — *February 2021* — *Kopenhag*

Currency: USD (613,68)

All Qualities		Size	Colour	Platinum Avg	Burgundy Avg	Qual. A Avg	Ivory Avg
Offered	875		Pale	32,6			
Sold	875		XPale		30,0		
Sales %	100	0	XXPale				28,5
Average	**30,6**						
Top price	**32,59**						
Offered	2.126		Pale		26,8		
Sold	2.126		XXPale	35,8	29,3	29,3	
Sales %	100	1	XXXPale	35,0	31,0	29,3	
Average	**31,0**						
Top price	**35,85**						
Offered	3.001			1.040	1.306	375	280
Sold	3.001	All Sizes		1.040	1.306	375	280
Sales %	100			100	100	100	100
Average	**30,8**			**34,7**	**28,7**	**29,0**	**29,0**
Top price	**35,85**			**35,9**	**31,0**	**29,3**	**28,5**

Best Regards,

Challis Hobbs

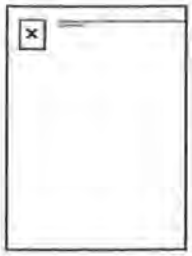
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challis.hobbs@sagafurs.com

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Melissa Ure

From: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 3:19 PM
To: Hannah Rettler
Subject: Re: Publication - SARS-CoV-2 Exposure in Escaped Mink, Utah, USA

Thanks Tom sent this to me. I will let him answer all the questions. He said he is already getting them.

On Wed, Feb 17, 2021 at 3:17 PM Hannah Rettler <hrettler@utah.gov> wrote:
FYI: https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/27/3/20-4444_article

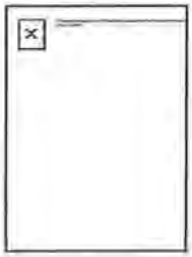
Were you looped into this at all?

--
Hannah Rettler, MPH
Vectorborne/Zoonotic Disease Epidemiologist
Disease Response, Evaluation, Analysis, & Monitoring Program
Bureau of Epidemiology
Utah Department of Health
Email: hrettler@utah.gov
Office: (801) 538 - 6333
Mobile: (385) 285 - 5178
Secure Fax: (801) 538 - 9923

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Melissa Ure

From: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 12:03 PM
To: Robert Erickson DVM
Subject: Fwd: Concern about mink

Find out if there is something we can do to stop this. Not sure if that is with Animal Control and if they prohibit species or if wildlife does. Please check into this for me.
Dean

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Amanda Price** <amandaprice@utah.gov>
Date: Fri, Feb 19, 2021 at 12:49 PM
Subject: Re: Concern about mink
To: Jane Kelly <jane.kelly@usu.edu>
Cc: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>

Well, that seems like a really bad idea. However, I'm not sure if there is much we can do because we don't license mink owners and I don't think they qualify for a COR under DWR rules. We may be able to require them to test the mink for COVID prior to adopting them out, using the rationale that they could have potentially escaped from a quarantined facility, but we would have to run that by our legal team. Probably all we can do is send them some educational materials to give to adoptive families.

I wonder if animal control would have anything to say about it?

On Fri, Feb 19, 2021 at 12:39 PM Jane Kelly <jane.kelly@usu.edu> wrote:

Hi Dean and Amanda:
The last thing you both want on a Friday afternoon is to hear from me, but.....
Just had Debbie Pappas from Second Chance wildlife in here dropping a hawk off for necropsy. She tells me there is an animal rescue organization called Friends In Need in Eagle Mountain. They are apparently adopting out mink to families which brings up huge public health concerns: not only COVID, but the fact that mink are very likely to bite young children that might be offering them food and then you have injured children and the mink have to be euthanized.
Debbie says that her organization and Best Friends in Kanab will rehabilitate any mink safely. She says she has tried to talk to the owner of Friends In Need to no avail.
Any thoughts or ideas?
Jane

E. Jane Kelly DVM, MS, MPH, DACVPM, DACVM
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100 Years of Supporting Agriculture and Food

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Melissa Ure

From: Charles Ross <charles.ross@sagafurs.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2021 1:45 PM
To: Dean Taylor
Subject: RE: contact information

Thank you for the contact.
Charlie

From: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2021 3:25 PM
To: Charles Ross <charles.ross@sagafurs.com>
Subject: contact information

Charlie,
Here is the contact information for you. Emily Pieracci DVM, ydi7@cdc.gov
Email her and she is very helpful.
Best Regards,
Dean

--



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100 Years of Supporting Agriculture and Food

Melissa Ure

From: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 8, 2021 12:36 PM
To: Hannah Rettler
Subject: Re: missed meeting this morning

Thank you very much.

On Mon, Mar 8, 2021 at 10:08 AM Hannah Rettler <hrettler@utah.gov> wrote:
Hi Dr. Taylor,

You didn't miss much - it was over in 15 minutes today! The only notable discussion item was CDC mentioning the published article coming out of Europe highlighting both passive and active surveillance for mink farms: https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.2903/j.efsa.2021.6459. Dr. Korsland also mentioned that USDA is working on developing recommendations for on-going surveillance on mink farms. Someone also let us know that there is a conference for wildlife management folks where there will be discussions about COVID-19 surveillance in wildlife: https://wildlifemanagement.institute/conference/wmi-special-sessions-current-approaches-sars-cov-2-covid-19-and-wildlife-health. I don't think I can justify the cost for the registration since this goes a bit beyond my purview, but wanted you to be aware that was going on this week.

On Mon, Mar 8, 2021 at 9:53 AM Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov> wrote:
Hannah,
I could not get my new computer to link up to zoom this morning. It is a new machine and everything else is working much better but I could not get it to allow me to join a zoom meeting this morning. Did I miss anything important this morning?
Dean

--

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--

Hannah Rettler, MPH
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100 Years of Supporting Agriculture and Food

Melissa Ure

Subject:	Livestock WG call
Location:	Skype Meeting
Start:	Fri 11/20/2020 9:00 AM
End:	Fri 11/20/2020 10:00 AM
Show Time As:	Tentative
Recurrence:	(none)
Organizer:	Rooney, Jane A - APHIS
Importance:	High

Action:

1. Please review the two original interim mink guidance document and provided updates needed due to changes in recommendations and new information about SARS-CoV-2 in mink. Please send updates/edits to me by noon MT Thursday November 19 so I can combine and share on our call.

As and FYI - Also find attached the final draft of rabbit guidance and surveillance guidance document that are going through USDA/APHIS clearance.

Thanks,
Jane

---

https://meet.lync.com/usda.gov/jane.a.rooney/L72166KM
Trouble Joining? https://meet.lync.com/usda.gov/jane.a.rooney/L72166KM?sl=1
Join by phone

Toll number: +1 202-650-0123,,651786430# (Dial-in Number) English (United States)

https://dialin.lync.com/51464f95-f774-44ee-8bbc-6dd420ce7951?id=651786430

Conference ID: 651786430
https://mysettings.lync.com/pstnconferencing |http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=389737

[!OC([1033])!]

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Response & Containment Guidelines

Interim Guidance for Animal Health and Public Health Officials Managing Farmed Mink and other Farmed Mustelids with SARS-CoV-2

9-11-2020

Managing SARS-CoV-2 in Farmed Mink and Farmed Mustelids:

Responder's Interim Guidance

2020

Background

Strategy Components for Dealing with SARS-CoV-2

This document is for animal health and public health officials responding to SARS-CoV-2 outbreaks in farmed mink, and other farmed mustelids.

We are still learning about the SARS-CoV-2 virus, but it appears that it can spread from people to animals in some situations. There is no evidence that animals play a significant role in spreading the virus that causes COVID-19 to people, and the risk of animals spreading COVID-19 to people is considered to be low. More studies are needed to understand if and how different animals could be affected by COVID-19. In dealing with SARS-CoV-2 in animals in the United States, different strategies are being developed and implemented for different animal species. Strategies for dealing with SARS-CoV-2 in mink and other farmed mustelids may be designed with one of three outcomes in mind: 1) prevent the introduction of SARS-CoV-2 into animal agriculture facilities; 2) control losses by minimizing the negative economic and health impact of SARS-CoV-2 when present; or 3) total elimination of SARS-CoV-2 (eradication). Because the virus efficiently replicates in people and multiple animal species, total elimination may not be a realistic goal.

Strategies include:

- Education for farm workers to keep people and animals safe and healthy
- Biosecurity management procedures to prevent introduction or further spread of the SARS-CoV-2 virus
- Diagnostics and surveillance (detection of SARS-CoV-2 infections) in animals
- Elimination of SARS-CoV-2 infected animals

The success of any strategy is dependent on industry–government cooperation and collaboration. The zoonotic nature of SARS-CoV-2 requires One Health coordination among animal health officials, public health authorities, medical professionals, industry, and others to best protect the health of people and animals. This plan outlines procedures for prevention in both workers and mink, handling presumptive and confirmed cases in animals, monitoring infected premises, virus containment, and harvesting/pelting animals from farms that have been infected. This plan also discusses virus elimination on infected premises.

1. Public Awareness and Education Programs Regarding SARS-CoV-2

Education is an essential component of any SARS-CoV-2 prevention, control, or eradication strategy. This involves providing up-to-date information to the industry on what is currently known about SARS-CoV-2 in animals and people; how the virus can be introduced and spread on farms; application of methods and practices in biosecurity to prevent introduction of SARS-COV-2 onto a farm; and biosecurity practices to prevent the SARS-COV-2 virus from spreading between animals and between animals and farm workers.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has developed guidance for agriculture workers and employers.

Education and outreach should be continuous and focused on the following people or groups:

- Mink producers
- Mink farm workers
- Veterinarians and veterinary staff working with mink farms
- Fur industry partners
- General public

2. Minimum Biosecurity Plan

Before an outbreak, animal health officials and public health officials should consider offering the following guidance on prevention to mink and farmed mustelid operations in their jurisdictions. All mink farms and other mustelid operations are strongly encouraged to develop farm-specific biosecurity plans that contain elements such as those listed below.

Farm Operators Should Screen Themselves, Workers, and Visitors for COVID-19
Recognizing that human-to-animal transmission is the most likely way that SARS-CoV-2 will enter a mink farm, everyone, including owners, should monitor themselves for signs of infection before entering the farm. People who operate, work on, or visit mink farms and who have symptoms of SARS-CoV-2 when they arrive at work or become sick during the day should immediately be separated from other workers, animals, and other people and be sent home. Everyone who develops symptoms outside of work should avoid contact with animals and other farm personnel and stay home.

Help Farm Workers Follow Prevention Practices for COVID-19
Farms should consult with their state, tribal, local, or territorial health department to devise practices to minimize the risk of SARS-CoV-2 transmission between employees, visitors, other people, and animals. For example, farms should implement strategies and practices in work areas and common areas for people to maintain physical distances of at least 6 feet from other people and animals, where possible. Cloth masks should be worn when maintaining a physical distance of 6 feet from others is not feasible.

Link to practices designed to protect workers from CDC.

Farms Should Practice Good Hygiene and Sanitation
Close attention should be paid to employee facilities such as restrooms, break rooms, and other common areas to ensure appropriate hygiene and sanitation practices are in place. Implement proper

handwashing procedures and sanitation protocols for daily cleaning and disinfection of work and common areas. Configure communal areas so that workers, approved visitors, and others are spaced at least 6 feet apart, if possible. Provide hand washing facilities with soap, potable water, and clean, single-use towels.

Practice strict hygiene in areas where animal feed is prepared and clean and disinfect feeding equipment daily using an EPA-approved disinfectant. Prevent excessive accumulation of animal waste.

Work with Farm Operators to Prevent the Introduction of SARS-CoV-2 into their Animal Facilities
Wherever feasible, consider requiring people who work with or near farmed mink to wear cloth masks and use personal protective equipment (PPE) such as dedicated footwear that can be cleaned and disinfected, dedicated farm clothing such as coveralls, gloves, and eye protection such as face shields or goggles. Work clothing should be laundered on-site and not taken home. Provide training in the proper care and use of PPE.

Information about PPE requirements for high-risk activities is found in Section 10 of this document and additional guidance is provided under the appendix titled "Worker Safety and Monitoring".

Urge Producers to Practice Enhanced Biosecurity
Access to farms should be limited to essential personnel and visitors. Exclude all domestic animals (dogs, cats, etc.), as well as rodents, birds, and other wildlife from farm buildings. Farm operators should restrict access to their property and their animal housing areas. They should use signage to provide guidance to visitors regarding their farm's biosecurity requirements.

At a minimum:

- Use fences, gates, and other barriers to control access to animal housing.
- Require visitors to park their vehicles in designated areas away from animal housing.
- Use signage to advise visitors to remain in their vehicles until farm personnel assist them and provide a phone number visitors can call for entry instructions.
- Maintain a log of all personnel who enter the property (family, workers, visitors, etc.) including the date, contact information, and nature of their visit.
- Provide and wear appropriate PPE depending on the activity being performed. Forexample, increased PPE for working closely with animals.

Teach Producers Not to Haul Disease Home
Car and truck tires, caging, and equipment can harbor viruses and other germs. Farm personnel traveling to locations where other animals are present should clean and disinfect these items before returning to their own farms. Sharing equipment, tools, or supplies with neighbors or other farms should be discouraged.

Producers Should Use Extreme Caution when Introducing New Mink to the Herd
New animals may introduce disease problems into a mink farm, including SARS-CoV-2. Producers should consult with their veterinarian to design an appropriate isolation plan for new arrivals to protect the rest of their herd. The following precautions are recommended:

- All mink destined to be brought into the herd should come from farms that are historically negative for SARS-CoV-2 and which have no signs of SARS-CoV-2 infection in people or animals involved with that farm.
- All mink in the shipment should be separated from the main herd and be managed separately at least 21 days before the shipment and tested for SARS-CoV-2 at the time of separation.
- All mink mortalities that occur during isolation should be tested for SARS-CoV-2.
- All the separated mink in the shipment should be tested a second time for SARS-CoV-2, at least 21 days after the first testing.
- All the mink in the shipment should test negative for SARS-CoV-2, for the shipment to move forward.
- Upon arrival, the destination farm should isolate the shipped mink from the main herd for at least 21 days.
- During the isolation period the mink should be observed for clinical signs of disease and then retested for SARS-CoV-2 at least 21 days after arrival.
- If all the mink are found to test negative for SARS-CoV-2, the shipment may be introduced into the main herd.

Educate Farm Operators to Report Sick Mink

Early detection is important to prevent the spread of disease. The farm operator and workers should be alert for signs of disease, recognizing that such signs may be subtle changes in animal health, feed consumption, or behavior.

The following signs are common but are not consistently seen in all cases of SARS-CoV-2 in mink.

- Increase in mink deaths
- Sneezing
- Coughing
- Nose discharge
- Eye discharge
- Gasping for air or shortness of breath
- Diarrhea
- Lack of energy
- Poor appetite

If there is suspicion of SARS-CoV-2 in animals, operators should call their State Animal Health Official (SAHO) or United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Inspection Service (APHIS) Veterinary Services (VS) office. Farm operators and their veterinarians should save suspicious mortalities for necropsy and testing. Biosecurity training resources should be made available for farm operators and employees in their preferred languages.

Diagnostic Resources

Veterinarians, animal health officials, and farm operators can consult with their state veterinary diagnostic laboratory or one of several private laboratories that are presently providing SARS-CoV-2 PCR and serology testing. North Dakota State University, the Utah State Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, the Washington Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory, and the Wisconsin Veterinary

Diagnostic Laboratory are recognized for their expertise in diseases of mink. USDA APHIS VS has helpful FAQs on Animal Coronavirus Testing.

3. Procedures for initial handling and investigation of suspected animal cases of SARS-COV-2

- Animal health officials should quarantine affected farms, preventing animals or animal product movement on or off the farm. Using advice from your diagnostic lab, collect samples from suspected animals. In most cases, preferred samples will include oral-pharyngeal swabs or rectal swabs. Unless instructed otherwise by the receiving lab, the swabs should be Dacron-tipped, **not** cotton, and should be transported to the lab in tubes containing viral transport media (VTM), e.g. universal VTM or Brain-Heart Infusion broth (BHI). The mink industry is currently collaborating with diagnostic laboratories to develop effective ELISA serology, so serum samples should also be considered. Consult with your laboratory for advice.
- Start preliminary epidemiologic investigation.
- Quarantine may be instituted at trace-back or trace-forward sites at the discretion of the SAHO.
- Farm operators/managers and animal health officials should collaborate to decide how to manage the buildings housing mink on the farm and whether any should be managed as separate units.
- Determine surveillance sampling strategy for the affected farm, nearby farms, and any farms that appear to be connected epidemiologically.

4. Procedures for reporting animal test results to USDA-APHIS

SARS-CoV-2 is a reportable disease when found in animals. Positive test results should be reported immediately to the SAHO or USDA APHIS VS. All samples that test as *presumptive positive* at state or private laboratories will be forwarded to and confirmed by the USDA APHIS National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL).

5. Quarantine Measures for Presumptive and Confirmed Infected Farms

A mink premises is the location at which the animals are kept. It is a physical address and it will be assigned a premises identification number if it does not already have one.
Key elements for quarantine and monitoring of animals on infected farms include:

- Quarantine infected premises (IP) for all mink and mink products. Maintain the quarantine until the IP is clear of virus. The IP producer should notify the SAHO if morbidity or mortality increases. The IP is required to maintain maximum biosecurity.
- State animal health officials may choose to establish a control zone around an IP, but it is probably more useful to direct surveillance activities to farms found to be epidemiologically linked to an infected farm.
- Monitor surrounding farms, service providers such as renderers or feed suppliers, and movement of animals, equipment, and materials.

6. Provisions for Developing Farm Plans for Infected and Exposed Mink Farms

Three overarching goals should be kept in mind when handling SARS-CoV-2 on an infected or exposed farm:

i. Contain the virus on the farm, preventing spread between animal housing units and to other farms.

ii. Protect workers and visitors from exposure to the virus.

iii. Develop a **farm plan.**

A **farm plan** is a written management agreement between the affected farm operator, USDA APHIS VS, SAHO, and public health authorities. A farm plan sets out the steps to be taken to protect farm workers and public health, prevent introduction of SARS-CoV-2 into other farms, and control SARS-COV-2 on the positive farm. A farm plan should include, but is not limited to, controls on mink and mink product movement, safe handling of conveyances, containers, and other associated materials that could serve as fomites, details plans for increased monitoring, detailed plans for disposal of dead animals, and detailed plans for cleaning and disinfection. Worker protection is crucial, and farms should consult with their state, tribal, local, or territorial health department to implement practices to minimize the risk of SARS-CoV-2 transmission between farm operators, workers, visitors, and others.

7. Disposal Methods for Dead Animals

Always consult local and state authorities prior to disposal activities to assure compliance.

Possible methods include:

- Burial
- Trench burial (where water table is high)
- Incineration
- Composting
- Landfill
- Rendering
- Combination of above methods

Disposal options are discussed and described in depth by USDA APHIS VS at these sites:

- https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/emergency_management/downloads/nahems_guidelines/disposal_nahems.pdf
- https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/emergency-management/carcass-management/carcass

8. Cleaning and Disinfection

All premises, conveyances, and materials that come into contact with mink infected with or exposed to SARS-CoV-2 should undergo virus elimination procedures before restocking with new animals. The majority of manure and bedding removal can be done before and during pelting. As weather allows, wet cleaning and disinfection may be considered but should be weighed against the possibility that weather conditions could make wet cleaning impractical e.g., freezing temperatures. Dry cleaning combined with a fallow period and the use of sentinel animals prior to full restocking may need to be considered. To accomplish cleaning and disinfection, complete the following procedures:

- **Disposal of manure, debris, and feed**. Clean up all manure, debris, and feed. Compost by windrowing on site if possible. If this is not possible, set up a system for hauling, in covered vehicles, to an approved site for burial, piling, or composting. Clean out the house or move or spread litter. After use, equipment should be cleaned, disinfected, and inspected at the site to which the manure and litter was transported. In the case of inclement weather, the

equipment may be cleaned, disinfected, and inspected at off-site wash stations at the discretion of the SAHO and APHIS.

- **Cleaning of premises and materials.** Cleaning and disinfection should be thorough to ensure that all materials or substances contaminated with SARS-CoV-2 virus, especially feces, dried blood, and other organic materials, are removed from all surfaces. Link to CDC guidance on disinfecting facilities.

9. Provisions for Appropriate Monitoring and Movement Restrictions

Additional surveillance may be conducted at farms or facilities that are found to be epidemiologically linked to the infected premises. The SAHO may impose quarantine and movement restrictions for movement of live and dead animals, and equipment to and from affected facilities. Farm owners and animal health officials should work with public health authorities to provide SARS-CoV-2 health and safety guidance to farms and their workers. The SAHO should inform the state's wildlife agency about the infected farm, so wildlife officials can be alert for disease spread to surrounding wild animal populations. Provide cleaning and disinfection guidelines for people and equipment working with mink in the area.

Minimize the risk of virus spread into uncontaminated areas. Movement, biosecurity, and surveillance in the contaminated area may be modified by the SAHO as needed to contain a SARS-CoV-2 threat.

10. Worker Safety During High Risk Activities on Infected or Suspect Farms

Because mink processing procedures have the potential to spread SARS-CoV-2 and other zoonotic diseases to workers, the following PPE precautions should always be taken when handling carcasses or during pelting:

- CDC resources on PPE
- USDA in-depth discussion of PPE use in animal disease incidents
- Use eye protection (e.g., goggles or face shield) and a National Institute for Occupational Health and Safety (NIOSH)-approved N95 respirator, or higher level of NIOSH-approved respirator whenever splashes or sprays are likely to occur.
- For all PPE, follow manufacturer's directions on use, cleaning, storage, and disposal.
- Avoid aerosol-generating procedures when possible. When there is no alternative to participating in aerosol-generating procedures (e.g., whelping, pelting, rendering), wear a face shield or goggles, gloves, protective outerwear, and respiratory protection that is at least as protective as a fit-tested NIOSH-certified disposable N95 respirator.
    - If an N95 respirator is not available, either use a higher level of respiratory protection or a combination of a properly worn cloth mask or medical mask and a face shield that covers the entire front (that extends below the chin) and sides of the face.
    - Respirator use should be in the context of a complete respiratory protection program in accordance with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Respiratory Protection standard (29 CFR 1910.134), which includes medical evaluations, training, and fit testing.
- When inside a structure, open as many doors, windows, etc. as possible to maximize natural ventilation.

- Wear gloves and other protective outerwear as needed to avoid bare-skinned contact with animal carcasses, organs, bodily fluids, and pelts.
- Always immediately wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds after:
  - Direct contact with animal carcasses, organs, or pelts;
  - Cleaning up after animals, including any body fluids or waste;
  - Removing PPE or cloth mask .
- Wearing PPE and certain clothing can often increase your risk for heat-related illnesses. Review CDC information for heat stress prevention for employers and employees.
- Clean tools using an appropriate disinfectant. To disinfect, use products that meet EPA's criteria for use against SARS-CoV-2, diluted household bleach solutions prepared according to the manufacturer's label for disinfection, or alcohol solutions with at least 60% alcohol, and are appropriate for the surface. Follow manufacturer's directions for use.
- PPE such as gloves, face and eye protection, and other types of PPE may be needed when cleaning and disinfecting tools, surfaces, and equipment.
- On farms where there has been a possible SARS-CoV-2 exposure or SARs-CoV-2 has been detected, all animals should be closely observed for signs of the disease, with the understanding that clinical signs are sometimes subtle.
- If possible, pelting should be delayed at least 14 days after the last signs of disease in the affected housing unit. This is particularly important if mink need to be transported off-site for pelting.

11. Surveillance and Monitoring

- All farms, whether pelting occurs on or off-site, should have mink mortalities sampled and tested, at an approved laboratory, by reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) to detect SARS-CoV-2. RT-PCR tests need to be negative in the 14 days prior to the start of pelting or movement off-site.
- Mink mortalities should be sampled for testing with a minimum of 5 dead mink collected over more than one day if necessary.
- If there are more than 20 mink mortalities, they can be tested in batches of 20 to minimize costs. If SARS-CoV-2 is found in a batch and confirmed, the testing of the remaining mortalities is not necessary.
- If the minimum of 5 mink mortalities are tested, this sampling scheme provides 95% confidence in detecting at least 1 infected mink when there is a 50% SARS-CoV-2 infection prevalence amongst the dead. Higher mink mortality numbers and testing can detect a lower infection prevalence among the dead mink (Cannon, 2001. Sense and Sensitivity.)
- The actual type and number of specimens to be collected should be determined in collaboration with the testing laboratory and state animal health authority. Sample pooling may be considered if the laboratory and animal health authorities concur it is appropriate, with a minimum of 2 pooled samples to statistically meet 95% confidence in detections. An off-site pelting facility should only accept animals from an infected farm with permission from the state animal health authority.
- Off-site pelting facilities planning to accept animals from known positive farms must have adequate safeguards in place to protect their workers and to prevent the dissemination of SARS-CoV-2 virus from asymptomatic animals to neighboring farms and other farms served by the pelting facility.

Appendix: Worker Safety and Monitoring

CDC has a Coronavirus Self-Checker available online to help people make decisions on when to seek testing and appropriate medical care.

Self-screening: Farmers and farm workers, and family members of people who work on farms should self-screen for COVID-19, a relatively simple and inexpensive way to protect people and animals on the farm. People who work on the farm should do this each time before they come to the farm.

People should not attempt to enter the farm if they have any of the following:

- Symptoms of COVID-19
- Temperature equal to or higher than 100.4°F*
- Are under evaluation for COVID-19 (for example, waiting for the results of a SARS-CoV-2 test)
- Have been diagnosed with COVID-19 and not yet cleared to discontinue isolation

Screening and health checks are not a replacement for other protective measures such as social distancing, hand hygiene, and wearing a mask. Other prevention measures to protect people from COVID-19 should be followed as well.

Regular Monitoring: If the employee doesn't have a fever or symptoms, they should self-monitor under the supervision of their employer's occupational health program.

Wear a Mask: The employee should wear a mask at all times while in the workplace for 14 days after last exposure. Employers can issue masks or can approve employee-supplied masks in the event of shortages. Ensure that masks are always worn properly by following information at this site: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html

Social Distance: The employee should maintain 6 feet and practice social distancing as work duties permit in the workplace.

Hand hygiene: Perform frequent hand hygiene using soap and water for at least 20 seconds. In addition, to increasing the frequency of hand washing, if hands aren't visibly soiled or dirty, workers can use hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol, rubbing hands until they are dry. Ensure that access to handwashing and/or hand sanitizing is readily available.

Disinfect and Clean work spaces: Clean and disinfect all areas such as offices, bathrooms, common areas, shared electronic equipment at least daily. Clean and disinfect shared tools, equipment, and vehicles between employee use, if possible. Conduct targeted and more frequent cleaning and disinfecting of high-touch areas of shared spaces such as time clocks, bathroom fixtures, and door handles.

Return to work: If a farmer or farm worker develops a fever or symptoms of COVID-19 or is diagnosed with COVID-19, they should isolate and only return to work or enter the farm when it is safe to do so. For a farmer or farm worker with symptoms of COVID-19, they should not return to work for at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared, at least 24 hours with no fever, and symptoms have improved. For a farmer or farm worker who tested positive but had no symptoms, they should not return to work for 10 days since the date of the positive test.

Acronyms Used in Interim Guidance and Linked Websites:

APHIS: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

AVIC: Area Veterinarian in Charge

BHI: Brain-Heart Infusion broth

CDC: Centers for Control and Prevention

FAQ: Frequently Asked Question

IP: infected premises

NAHLN: National Animal Health Laboratory Network

NIOSH: National Institute for Occupational Health and Safety

NVSL: National Veterinary Services Laboratories

OSHA: Occupational Safety and Health Administration

PPE: Personal Protective Equipment

RT-PCR: reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction

SAHO: State Animal Health Official

SPHV: State Public Health Veterinarian

VS: Veterinary Services

VTM: Viral Transport Media

USDA: United States Department of Agriculture

Acknowledgements:

Chair: Dr. David Smith, Director, Division of Animal Industry, NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets.

Members of the One Health Federal Interagency COVID-19 Coordination Group, Livestock subgroup.

USDA-APHIS-VS, CDC, Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection and USA Fur Commission subject matter experts.

Reference Materials

Interim SARS-CoV-2 Guidance and Recommendations for Farmed Mink and Other Mustelids: https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/one_health/downloads/sars-cov-2-guidance-for-farmed-mink.pdf

CDC COVID-19 and Animals: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/animals.html

CDC COVID-19 and Animals Frequently Asked Questions: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html#Pets-and-Animals

CDC Evaluation for SARS-CoV-2 Testing in Animals: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/animals/animal-testing.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fphp%2Fanimal-testing.html

CDC COVID 19 Symptoms: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html

Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19: https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3990.pdf

CDC/DOL Interim Guidance for Agriculture Workers and Employers https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-agricultural-workers.htmlUSDA FAQ for State Animal and Public Health Officials on Animal Coronavirus Testing: https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/one_health/downloads/faq-public-on-companion-animal-testing.pdf

USDA FAQ on Animal Coronavirus Testing: https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/one_health/downloads/faq-public-on-companion-animal-testing.pdf

FDA SARS-CoV-2 Necropsy Resources: https://www.fda.gov/animal-veterinary/science-research/vet-lirn-sars-cov-2-supplemental-necropsy-sample-inventory-checklist

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Interim SARS-CoV-2 Guidance for Rabbit Farm Owners and Operators

This guidance was developed collaboratively by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and state animal and public health partners using a One Health approach. This document is intended to provide the most up-to-date information related to SARS-CoV-2 and farmed rabbits and guidance related to SARS-CoV-2 prevention and control strategies for public and animal health officials and partners in the rabbit farming industry.

Q: What do we currently know about rabbits and SARS-CoV-2?

A: A recent pre-print study, awaiting peer review, has shown that rabbits can become infected with SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, under experimental conditions. None of the rabbits showed clinical signs of infection after being inoculated with SARS-CoV-2; however, viral RNA was found in the nose, throat, and rectum of rabbits for up to twenty-one, fourteen, and nine days, respectively. The presence of viral RNA does not necessarily mean that the individual can transmit the virus. Live, infectious virus was cultured from the nose for a much shorter period of time, only seven days. Infectious virus was detected in the throat the day after inoculation in a single animal and was never detected in the rectum.

Q: How does COVID-19 spread?

The primary route of transmission of SARS-CoV-2 is from person to person: between people who are in close contact with one another (within six feet), mainly through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks. Current data do not support long range aerosol transmission of SARS-CoV-2, such as seen with measles or tuberculosis. It may also be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a contaminated surface or object that has the virus on it, and then touching their own mouth, nose, or eyes. However, this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads. People can spread the virus to other people, as well as animals, before they show symptoms, or even if they do not have any symptoms.

Further studies are needed to understand if and how different animals could be affected by the virus that causes COVID-19 and the role animals may play in the spread of the virus.

Q: Do animals spread the SARS-CoV-2 virus to people?

Although we are still learning about SARS-CoV-2, a novel zoonotic virus, there is no evidence that animals play a significant role in spreading this virus to people. Based on the limited information available to date, the risk of animals spreading SARS-CoV-2 to people is considered to be low. However, reports from infected mink farms in the Netherlands suggest that in those environments there is the possibility for spread of SARS-CoV-2 from mink to humans. . There have been a small number of reports worldwide of cats, dogs, farmed mink, tigers, lions, and a puma that have been naturally infected with SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, usually after having close contact with people with COVID-19.

Q: What do we know about SARS-CoV-2 infection in animals?

It is unknown if other domestic animals such as horses, cows, pigs, sheep, or goats could get infected with SARS-CoV-2. Birds, reptiles, fish, and insects do not appear to be susceptible to SARS-CoV-2 infection. Further studies are needed to understand if and how different animals

could be affected by the virus that causes COVID-19 and the role animals may play in the spread of the virus among people. For more information on animals that can be affected by SARS-CoV-2, see CDC's COVID-19 and Animals.

Q: What are the clinical signs of SARS-CoV-2 infection in rabbits?

A: The clinical signs of SARS-CoV-2 in rabbits are unknown. Other species with SARS-CoV-2 infection have shown respiratory symptoms. A recent study demonstrated that rabbits are susceptible to SARS-CoV-2 infection; none of the inoculated animals showed clinical signs of infection. SARS-CoV-2 infection may be suspected in the absence of clinical signs if there is known exposure to SARS-CoV-2 or COVID-19. An animal's exposure in this context refers to the following conditions within the previous 14 days:

- Being within approximately 6 feet (2 meters) of a person with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 starting from 2 days before the person's illness onset (or, for asymptomatic human patients, 2 days before positive specimen collection) until the time the person is isolated.

- Having direct contact with infectious secretions from a person with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 starting from 2 days before the person's illness onset (or, for asymptomatic human patients, 2 days before positive specimen collection) until the time the person is isolated. Direct contact could include an animal being coughed, sneezed, or spit on by an infected person or sharing food or consuming something that was recently contaminated with an infected person's mucous or saliva.

Q: What should I do if I suspect rabbits on my farm are infected with the SARS-CoV-2 virus?

A: Any producer or veterinarian who suspects rabbits (or other animals residing on the premises) to be infected with SARS-CoV-2 virus should contact their State Animal Health Official (SAHO) immediately. The SAHO will engage the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Area Veterinarian in Charge (AVIC), State Public Health Veterinarian (SPHV), and/or national animal health and public health officials to decide whether testing is warranted.

Q. If testing is warranted, how will animal samples be collected and tested?

A: The SAHO and USDA AVIC will initiate the animal health investigation, specimen collection, and animal testing. State animal health laboratories can conduct animal testing, but any positive samples need to be confirmed through additional testing by USDA's National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL).

Q: What will happen if rabbits test positive for SARS-CoV-2 virus?

A: The SAHO and USDA AVIC will initiate animal disease response activities. Animal health and public health officials (including the State Public Health Veterinarian) should collaborate using a One Health approach to conduct epidemiological investigations into animal and human infections with SARS-CoV-2 to protect animal and human health.

Q: How can I protect people and animals on my farm from becoming infected with the SARS-CoV-2 virus?

A: To ensure the health and safety of animals and people on your farm, follow state and industry biosecurity and safety guidance.

Biosecurity is a series of management practices designed to reduce the risk of disease agents being introduced and spread on the farm. In broad terms, it refers to anything designed to prevent the transfer of disease-causing pathogens. Biosecurity is crucial to control and contain a disease such as COVID-19, as well as in the daily management practices protecting the health of farm workers and animals. To be effective, biosecurity measures need to be disease-specific, as well as farm-specific.

Steps you can take to reduce the risk of SARS-CoV-2 transmission include:

- **Restrict access to the premises and buildings where production animals are kept.**
  - Limit access to essential personnel only.
  - Limit non-production animal access, and implement measures to exclude domestic pets, rodents, birds, and other wildlife from buildings.
- **Do not work if you are sick and have workers stay home if they are sick.** Encourage farm workers and supervisors not to come to work if they are experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19 and to take steps to help prevent the spread of the virus.
  - Employees who have symptoms upon arrival at work or who become sick during the day should immediately be separated from other employees and animals, customers, and visitors, and sent home. Employees should not return to work until after talking with their doctor and the criteria to discontinue home isolation are met.
  - Implement sick leave policies that are flexible, nonpunitive, and consistent with public health guidance, allowing employees to stay home if they have symptoms of respiratory infection.
  - Develop a general plan of action to maintain basic animal care operations to ensure animal welfare in the event that multiple workers must stay home due to illness.
- **Limit duration of close contact among coworkers.** Continued close contact within 6 feet of potentially infected individuals for at least 15 minutes increases the risk of SARS-CoV-2 spread. Whenever possible, workers should maintain 6 feet of distance between each other. Adjustments should be made to allow for social distancing and avoid groups of workers when clocking in or out, during breaks, or in locker/changing rooms, or other shared spaces.
- **Minimize potential exposures.** Institute engineering controls (e.g., physical partitions or barriers between workers within 6 feet of each other) and administrative controls (e.g., stagger workers' arrival and departure times to avoid clusters of workers in parking areas, locker rooms, and near time clocks) to separate and distance employees as a top priority and main way to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- **Encourage all workers to use cloth masks.** Wearing a cloth mask does NOT replace the need to practice social distancing.
  - Cloth masks may prevent people, including those who are unaware they have the virus, from spreading it to others, but they may not protect the wearer from exposure to the virus. Cloth masks do not function the same way as personal protective equipment (PPE) such as a N95 or other respirator.
  - Workers can wear a cloth mask when their employer has determined in their

hazard assessment that a respirator worn to protect the worker is not required.
    - If cloth masks are worn in these facilities, employers should provide readily available clean cloth masks (or disposable facemask options) for workers to use when the masks become wet, soiled, or otherwise visibly contaminated.
- **Encourage proper hand hygiene and provide employees with what they need to clean their hands.** This is an important infection control measure. Encourage employees to wash their hands regularly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. An alcohol-based hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol can also be used if soap and water are not available. If hands are visibly dirty, always wash hands with soap and water before using alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- **Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces** such as tools, workstations, and shared spaces such as break room tables, locker rooms, and entrances/exits to the facility on a routine basis. Put in place practical biosecurity practices on the farm, including having dedicated boot disinfecting stations between farm areas. To disinfect, use products that meet EPA's criteria for use against SARS-CoV-2, diluted household bleach solutions prepared according to the manufacturer's label for disinfection, or alcohol solutions with at least 70% alcohol, and are appropriate for the surface. Follow manufacturer's directions for proper use and recommended PPE.
- Encourage workers to avoid carpooling to and from the farm, if possible.

Additional recommendations are described in the U.S. Department of Labor and U.S. Department of Health and Human Service's booklet Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19, as well as CDC's Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers to Plan and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

Q: Should I screen workers on my farm?

A: Workplaces, particularly in areas where community transmission of COVID-19 is ongoing, can consider developing and implementing a comprehensive screening and monitoring strategy aimed at preventing the introduction of COVID-19 onto the farm. Consider a strategy that includes:

1) Conducting daily health checks (e.g., symptom and/or temperature screening) of employees before arriving at the farm or before they enter the facility, following the guidance of the state and local public health authorities and your occupational health services. Employees who have symptoms should immediately be sent home.
    - If doing health checks, conduct them safely and respectfully (employers may use the "Should we be screening employees for COVID-19 symptoms" section of General Business Frequently Asked Questions as a guide).
    - Complete the health checks in a way that avoids employees being together in large crowds; consider providing multiple screening entry points into the building.
    - To prevent stigma and discrimination in the workplace, do not assume risk based on race or country of origin and be sure to maintain the confidentiality of people with confirmed COVID-19.
2) Following the criteria for return to work of exposed and recovered persons, for those who had signs or symptoms of COVID-19 but have recovered. Employees should not

return to work until they meet the criteria to discontinue home isolation and have consulted with a healthcare provider.

CDC's Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers to Plan and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) provides detailed recommendations for each of these points and can be adapted for your rabbit farm setting. Refer specifically to the subsections: *"Prevent and Reduce Transmission among Employees."*

Q: How can I educate myself and train workers and supervisors about ways that they can help reduce the spread of COVID-19?

A: Supplement workers' normal job training required by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards, with additional training and information about COVID-19 including recognizing signs and symptoms of infection, and ways to prevent exposure to the virus. Training should include information about how to put in place the various infection prevention and control measures recommended here, and training should be included in any infection prevention and control or COVID-19 response plan that an employer develops. OSHA provides additional information about training on its COVID-19 webpage.

All communication and training should be easy to understand and should (1) be provided in languages appropriate to the preferred languages spoken or read by the workers, if possible; (2) be at the appropriate literacy level; and (3) include accurate and timely information about:

- Signs and symptoms of COVID-19, how it spreads, risks for workplace exposures, and how workers can protect themselves;
- Proper handwashing practices and use of hand sanitizer stations;
- Cough and sneeze etiquette;
- Other routine infection control precautions (e.g., safe practices for how to put on (don) and take off (doff) PPE, cloth face coverings, and social distancing).

Employers should place simple posters in appropriate languages for their employees that encourage staying home when sick, cough and sneeze etiquette, and proper hand hygiene practices. They should place these posters at the entrance to the workplace and in break areas, locker rooms, and other workplace areas where they are likely to be seen.

Other guidance provides additional details for recommendations in the subsection *"Educate workers about steps they can take to protect themselves at work and at home."*

Q: What precautions should rabbit farm workers take around sick animals?

A: Based on the limited information available to date, the risk of animals spreading SARS-CoV-2 to people is thought to be low. However, reports from infected mink farms in the Netherlands suggest that in those environments there is the possibility for spread of SARS-CoV-2 from mink to humans. Since we do not know a lot about COVID-19 and rabbits and other animals, the PPE guidelines use a cautious approach. Recommendations may change over time, as new information becomes available.

- **Minimize contact with sick or dead animals.** Wear gloves, face mask, and goggles or face shield when working with or near sick animals.
    - If an animal is suspected to have or tests positive for SARS-CoV-2, the animal should be immediately isolated from other animals. The number of people interacting with these animals should be kept to a minimum. Staff that must have contact with these animals should wear respiratory protection (e.g., N95

respirator) instead of a facemask. Staff at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19 should not work with animals suspected or confirmed to be infected with SARS-CoV-2.

- **Always immediately** wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds after:
  - Directly contacting animals, their food, supplies, or waste/feces.
  - Cleaning up after animals, including any body fluids or waste.
  - Leaving areas where animals are housed, even if you did not touch an animal.
  - Removing PPE or mask.
- **Use a surgical mask and eye protection** (e.g., goggles or a face shield) whenever splashes or sprays are likely to occur. Do not use compressed air and/or water under pressure for cleaning, or any other methods that might aerosolize (spray into the air) infectious material. PPE may be needed when cleaning or disinfecting a potentially SARS-CoV-2 contaminated area; follow the cleaning or disinfectant product manufacturer's instructions for use. Follow recommendations for safe practices for how to put on (don) and take off (doff) PPE.
- **If there is a breach in PPE or other direct contact with a sick animal or its urine, feces, blood, saliva, or vomit on exposed skin**, a supervisor should be immediately notified, and the exposed area should be immediately washed with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not immediately available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol content) on skin. If hands are visibly dirty, always wash hands with soap and water before using alcohol-based hand sanitizer. If an employee has an exposure to their mucous membranes (e.g. eyes, inside of nose, or mouth), the area that was exposed should be flushed with only water. Do not use soap or hand sanitizer to wash the eyes, inside of nose, or mouth.
- **If a farm worker receives a bite, scratch, or abrasion** from an animal, animal product, or an object contaminated by an animal: wash the exposed area of skin immediately with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds, immediately alert the supervisor, and contact a health care provider.
- **If there are people exposed to sick animals or sick people**, the exposed person may need to self-monitor for fever or symptoms for a period of 14 days post-incident. See CDC Coronavirus Self-Checker for additional guidance on symptom monitoring.

Q: What precautions should rabbit farm workers take around healthy animals?

A: When interacting with healthy rabbits or other animals, use the same precautions as you would when interacting with other people: maintain social distance (6 feet, or 2 meters) when possible, minimize any close contact, and wear masks when feasible.

Q: Where can I get more information on carcass disposal?

A: First consult the SAHO to ensure carcasses are not required for investigative and/or testing purposes. Carcasses from COVID-19 positive, suspected, or exposed animals should be disposed of in compliance with all Federal, State, and local regulations. Additional information about State requirements for carcass disposal is available on the Veterinary Compliance Assistance website. APHIS, upon request, can provide technical support and guidance to assist in identifying and implementing a local disposal plan.

- Carcasses must be carefully transported to the approved disposal site to prevent contaminated material from escaping the transport vehicles. All vehicles should be

cleaned and disinfected after each use.

- Onsite composting, onsite burial, incineration, landfill, and rendering, or a combination of these methods, are generally the most suitable options.
- For more information, visit the APHIS Carcass Management Dashboard.

Q: What precautions should I take during processing of rabbit meat products or carcasses?

A: Because rabbit processing procedures have the potential to spread several zoonotic diseases to the worker, the following precautions should always be taken when handling meat products or carcasses:

- Use face shield or a facemask and eye protection (e.g., goggles or face shield) whenever splashes or sprays are likely to occur.
- If participating in aerosol-generating procedures (e.g., whelping, pelting, rendering), wear a face shield or goggles, gloves, protective outerwear, and respiratory protection that is at least as protective as a fit-tested NIOSH-certified disposable N95 filtering face piece respirator.
    - If an N95 respirator is not available, use a combination of a surgical mask and a face shield that covers the entire front (that extends to the chin or below) and sides of the face
    - Respirator use should be in the context of a complete respiratory protection program in accordance with OSHA Respiratory Protection standard (29 CFR 1910.134), which includes medical evaluations, training, and fit testing.
- Wear gloves and other protective outerwear as needed to avoid bare-skinned contact with animal carcasses, organs, bodily fluids, and pelts.
- Always immediately wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds after:
- Having direct contact with animal carcasses, organs, or pelts;
- Cleaning up after animals, including any body fluids or waste;
- Removing PPE or cloth masks.
- Clean tools with reusable gloves and appropriate disinfectant. To disinfect, use products that meet EPA's criteria for use against SARS-CoV-2, diluted household bleach solutions prepared according to the manufacturer's label for disinfection, or alcohol solutions with at least 70% alcohol, and are appropriate for the surface. Follow manufacturer's directions for use.

Melissa Ure

From: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Sent: Monday, November 9, 2020 12:44 PM
To: Leann Hunting
Cc: Logan Wilde; Kelly Pehrson
Subject: Re: Fw: Covid -19 update

Tuesday would be great. Would you like me to schedule that or would you like to. I don't have any access to the Commissioner or Kelly's calendars.

On Mon, Nov 9, 2020 at 12:42 PM Leann Hunting <leannhunting@utah.gov> wrote:
Dr. Taylor,

Thank you. It looks like Tuesday of next week is open. Will that work for you to meet with us? We should set it up virtually. If we need to meet sooner, let me know and I can rearrange my schedule.

On Mon, Nov 9, 2020 at 12:40 PM Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov> wrote:
Fyi with regards to the Denmark decision. I should have my final information from the CDC this week and then I would like to meet and discuss my thoughts on a management plan for this year and present what may change in the future. The document that is attached came from the CDC and was presented to the mink producers in Utah last week.

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Dean Taylor** <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Date: Mon, Nov 9, 2020 at 12:37 PM
Subject: Re: Fw: Covid -19 update
To: Ryan Holt <rhinoh1301@yahoo.com>

Thank you Ryan for sending me a copy of Dr Easely's letter.
Dean

On Thu, Nov 5, 2020 at 7:05 PM Ryan Holt <rhinoh1301@yahoo.com> wrote:

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

----- Forwarded Message -----
From: "john easley" <johneasleydvm@hotmail.com>
To: "Michael Whelan" <mw@furcommission.com>
Cc: "Bob Zimbal Jr." <bobz@zimbalmink.com>, "Ryan Holt" <rhinoh1301@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thu, Nov 5, 2020 at 5:51 PM
Subject: Covid -19 update
Michael,

I wrote up the following, use as you see fit. Any additions?

As everyone is aware, the Danish government has decided to cull all the mink farms in their country. This is in response to the discovery of a mutated form of the Covid-19 virus that is genetically different enough

that the Danish government feels it has the potential to cause disease in people that may not be controlled with some of the vaccines under development. Viral genetic mutations are usually random events that occur as the virus reproduces; the more the virus reproduces, more chances there are for mutations to occur. Mutation of the virus can occur is all species(people, dogs, cats, mink...) that are susceptible to infection by this virus. There can be some external factors that can influence the occurrence of these mutations. At the present time there are many unanswered questions about how this decision was made.

The situation in Danish mink industry is not comparable to the mink industry here in the US. Denmark produces almost 10x's the number of mink that we do in the US and in the surface area about 1/2 the size of Wisconsin. They have over 1200 farms in an area, where we have 19 farms. This high density, increases the risk factors that influence the spread of the virus. Presently, about 1/4 of the farms in Denmark are known to be or suspected to be, infected. This unfortunate level of infection, the high density of farms, the way they manage their herds and the different genetic make up their mink; all very different from the US mink industry; may have influenced the development of more viral mutations in their mink population.

The lesson here is that it is imperative that we take this disease very seriously and we need to do everything possible to keep it off our mink farms. This starts with being as careful as possible in reducing YOUR risk of exposure. People bring to virus to the farms, so you and your employees need to practice the highest level of social distancing, the wearing of quality masks and hand sanitizing/washing when you are out in public. It is extremely important to not allow anyone that is feeling sick or potentially exposed to a sick person, to enter the farm. Consider using a temporal thermometer to check body temps as people enter the farm. Encourage your employees to get tested if they fell sick or have family members that are sick.(some farms are paying their employees a week's salary if they stayed home and tested positive). If you can keep from getting infected, you will keep your mink from being infected! Once on the farm, please follow all the biosecurity and PPE recommendation that you have been provided; wearing quality masks, gloves, hand sanitizing and dedicated outerwear. Keeping your farm free of this disease will not only allow you to continue in this industry but also, allow the US mink industry to thrive. Our governmental agencies have been very supportive of our battle with this disease, but we have to support them by doing our part.

We are aggressively working on developing a vaccine for the mink and supporting research to understand more about this virus and how we can deal with it.

Attached is the CDC slide presentation. There are a lot of links to very useful information.

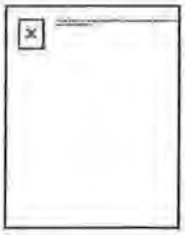
We live in a constantly changing world and the "mink world" is certainly changing now. If we can manage ourselves and our farms correctly and get through this drastic situation; I believe there will be a bright light at the end of tunnel.

Take care, be careful and safe; your individual livelihood and that of the entire US industry maybe at stake!

Please contact myself, Dr. Hildebrandt or Dr. Lott with any questions.

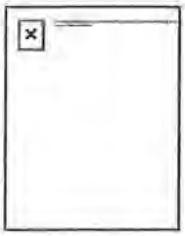
Dr. John Easley
920 980 9660

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Dean J Taylor, DVM | State Veterinarian
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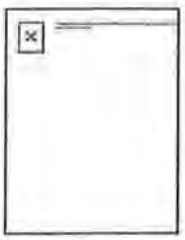
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Melissa Ure

From:	Rooney, Jane A - APHIS <jane.a.rooney@usda.gov>
Sent:	Monday, November 16, 2020 9:03 AM
To:	winelandn@michigan.gov; darlene.konkle@wisconsin.gov; Dean Taylor
Cc:	dlx9@cdc.gov; Torchetti, Mia Kim - APHIS
Subject:	DRAFT Surveillance and Release Testing option guidance - close hold
Attachments:	Final Draft Surveillance and Release Testing Options for SAHOs SARS-CoV-2 Positive Mink Premises 20201109_AD_LA_MR_clean.docx
Importance:	High

As mentioned on our call this morning; this is a draft document that is still going through clearance at USDA. It is not intended for public release or posting – but will be shared with SAHOs directly once cleared. Please keep close hold and only share on a need to know basis at this point.

Don't hesitate to let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Thanks,

Jane

Jane A. Rooney, D.V.M.
Director, One Health Coordination
Office of Interagency Coordination
Strategy and Policy
USDA:APHIS:Veterinary Services
2150 Centre Ave., Building B, MS3E13
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Melissa Ure

From: Jason Lott <jason.rivervalleyvet@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 30, 2020 4:54 PM
To: Dean Taylor
Subject: Fwd:

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** Hugh <hhhdvm@tds.net>
> **Date:** November 17, 2020 at 7:19:30 PM MST
> **To:** jason.rivervalleyvet@gmail.com
>
> https://www.dhs.gov/science-and-technology/sars-calculator
>
> https://www.dhs.gov/science-and-technology/sars-airborne-calculator

Melissa Ure

From: Keith Poulsen <Keith.Poulsen@WVDL.wisc.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, December 1, 2020 2:58 PM
To: pme8@cdc.gov; Konkle, Darlene M - DATCP; winelandn@michigan.gov; Cossaboom, Caitlin (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHCPP); Hannah Rettler; djtaylor@utah.gov; Rooney, Jane A - APHIS; Barton Behravesh, Casey (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD); Carpenter, Ann (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD); Tansey, Cassandra (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DSR); Harvey, Reid (CDC/NIOSH/RHD/FSB); Rebecca.Slater@wisconsin.gov; Klos, Rachel (CDC wi.gov); Patton, Elisabeth A - DATCP; Bellay, Yvonne M - DATCP; Stobierski, Mary Grace (CDC michigan.gov); Signs, Kimberly (DHHS); strakak1@michigan.gov; barrn@michigan.gov; goodrichj@michigan.gov; DorlandL@michigan.gov; CalogeroJ@michigan.gov; deaconb9@michigan.gov; SchalowM@michigan.gov; BlievernichtM@michigan.gov; Tell, Rachel M - APHIS; Robbe Austerman, Suelee - APHIS; Straily, Anne (CDC/DDPHSIS/CGH/DPDM); Klos, Rachel F - DHS; Collins, Cheryl (MDARD); Mason, Jordan L - DHS; bbarbeau@utah.gov; Wallace, Ryan (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHCPP); Torchetti, Mia Kim - APHIS; Long, Lindsey J - DNR; Ray, Jean S - APHIS; Suzanne.gibbonsburgener@dhs.wi.gov; Ryan, Tamara M - DNR; Doris.olander@usda.gov; Paul.w.kunde@usda.gov; anthony.g.duffiney@usda.gov; jared.r.zierenberg@usda.gov; Ghai, Ria (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD); Whitehill, Florence (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHCPP)
Cc: Donald Sockett
Subject: Re: Utah, Wisconsin, and Michigan Mink Farm Update
Attachments: Mink Clean and Disinfect_DSockett 2020.pdf

Afternoon,

After speaking with Dr. Sockett today, he has modified his cleaning and sanitation protocol to potentially better fit a mink ranch where not all surfaces will be amenable to removal of organic debris. Removal of some soil or aeration of soil should probably also be part of the conversation. I attached the protocol here and cc'd Dr. Sockett. Thanks for your help, Don.

Keith

Keith Poulsen, DVM PhD, DACVIM
Director
keith.poulsen@wvdl.wisc.edu
608-262-5432 ext. 2227
www.wvdl.wisc.edu
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From: pme8@cdc.gov
When: 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM November 30, 2020
Subject: Utah, Wisconsin, and Michigan Mink Farm Update
Location: https://cdc.zoomgov.com/j/1600683934?pwd=bTZvWVplZndDdG1jYkY2SUFOL0JnQT09

All,

This meeting intended for state health and animal officials from Utah, Wisconsin, and Michigan and federal partners to discuss updates on farm investigations, testing results, and plans for managing mink farms that have been confirmed with SARS-Cov-2. This meeting will occur each Monday at 11 am ET/ 10 am CT/ 9 am MT.

Please see agenda and Zoom invite information below.

Agenda

- Updates from State One Health partners (Dept of Agriculture, Dept of Health, DNR/Wildlife, others)
    - Utah- Dr. Dean Taylor and representatives
    - Wisconsin- Dr. Darlene Konkle and representatives
    - Michigan- Dr. Nora Wineland and representatives
- CDC Updates- Dr. Casey Barton Behravesh, others
- USDA Updates- Dr. Jane Rooney, State-based staff, NVSL
- Sequencing Updates in People and Animals – CDC and NVSL
- Media and talking points
- New Business or other discussion
- Confirm date/time of next call

Thank you.

Casey Barton Behravesh is inviting you to a scheduled ZoomGov meeting.

Topic: Utah, Wisconsin, and Michigan Mink Farm Update

Time: Nov 23, 2020 11:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Every week on Mon, until Jan 4, 2021, 7 occurrence(s)

Nov 23, 2020 11:00 AM

Nov 30, 2020 11:00 AM

Dec 7, 2020 11:00 AM

Dec 14, 2020 11:00 AM

Dec 21, 2020 11:00 AM

Dec 28, 2020 11:00 AM

Jan 4, 2021 11:00 AM

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Weekly: https://cdc.zoomgov.com/meeting/vJltd--grTlpHuWzwEQ4l2e7NMoSnJado-I/ics?icsToken=98tyKuiurjssEtecsx3Bel89EsGgeenVq2Fmv5RHizrUVywBZ1TYG-1xPJh-FNed

Join ZoomGov Meeting

https://cdc.zoomgov.com/j/1600683934?pwd=bTZvWVplZndDdG1jYkY2SUFOL0JnQT09

Meeting ID: 160 068 3934

Passcode: #x#Gj80p

One tap mobile

+16692545252,,1600683934#,,,,,,0#,,19633251# US (San Jose)

+16468287666,,1600683934#,,,,,,0#,,19633251# US (New York)

Dial by your location

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Passcode: 19633251

Find your local number: https://cdc.zoomgov.com/u/afjfCNFGa

Join by SIP

1600683934@sip.zoomgov.com

Join by H.323

161.199.138.10 (US West)

161.199.136.10 (US East)

Meeting ID: 160 068 3934

Passcode: 19633251

Wisconsin Veterinary
Diagnostic Laboratory
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Cleaning and Disinfection of Livestock Pens and Buildings

High Pressure Washer: Utilized

Donald C. Sockett DVM, MS PhD

Diplomate ACVIM

12-01-20

It is important that livestock barns be properly cleaned **before** the disinfectant is applied. If the barn is not properly cleaned; the disinfection step is much less effective at killing disease causing microorganisms. Whenever possible, high pressure washing **should not** be used because of the risk of cross-contamination of the environment. However, when surfaces are heavily soiled with organic material it may be necessary to do both high and low pressure washing. Livestock owners and managers should understand that while high pressure washers do remove gross soils such as dried fecal material it **does not** consistently and efficiently remove the biofilm layer. Biofilm disruption and removal is an essential and vital component of proper cleaning because greater than 90% of disease causing organisms are housed in the biofilm layer.

1. **Remove all the bedding material**
   After the bedding material has been removed, a barn broom should be used to sweep up the remaining feed, dust and organic debris.

2. **Soak with water for 1-2 minutes: Warm water (≥ 90 -100 °F is preferred but not obligatory)**
   Thoroughly wet all the surfaces using a garden hose. The water should be applied from high to low starting at the highest point in the building and ending at the lowest point such as the floor drain.

3. **Alkaline foam cleaning: Hot water (≥ 135 °F is preferred but not obligatory)**
   This procedure is obligatory for biofilm disruption and removal. It is the **most important step** in the cleaning and disinfection process. Apply an alkaline (pH 11-12) foaming detergent (Total Alkaline Presoak™, Triton Chemical, Lakeville, MN) to the building using a hand-held airless foamer (Lafferty Compact Model 25 Airless Foamer, Lafferty® Equipment Manufacturing Inc., Little Rock, AR). Fill the 32 ounce bottle with the concentrated alkaline foaming detergent and insert the Burgundy colored metering tip (10 ounces of detergent/gallon) in the lid of the foamer. Start at the lowest point of the barn and finish at the highest point. Apply the alkaline foaming detergent evenly.

4. **Soak** ≥ 5-10 minutes
   Do not allow the foaming detergent to dry.

5. **Rinse**
   Rinse thoroughly with cold water using a garden hose going from the highest point to the lowest point of the barn.

6. **Disinfection**
   Fill the 32 ounce bottle for the hand held sprayer (Compact model 20 or 50 airless sprayer, Lafferty® Equipment and Manufacturing) with a 3,000 ppm concentrated solution of chlorine dioxide. Insert the dark purple metering tip in the lid of the sprayer. The working solution of chlorine dioxide will be approximately 400 ppm. Prior to use, it is obligatory that the working concentration of chlorine dioxide is verified with plastic test strips (Insta-Test®, high range chlorine dioxide, La Motte, Chestertown, MD). Disinfect the livestock barn going from the highest to lowest point. There should be a **minimum** of 3-5 minutes of contact time. When using chlorine dioxide at concentrations of ≥ 200 ppm, operators should wear protective eyewear and an R95 approved particulate respirator mask that is carbon lined (grey color).

7. **Dry**
   Allow the surfaces to dry.

8. **Power wash with cold water.** Go from high to low making sure the organic material is removed.

9. **Dry**
   Allow the building to completely dry out.

10. **Disinfection**
    Twelve to 24 hours prior to filling the barn, disinfect with cold water. Fill the 32 ounce hand sprayer bottle (Compact model 20 or 50 airless sprayer, Lafferty® Equipment and Manufacturing) with a 3,000 ppm concentrated solution of chlorine dioxide. Insert the pale pink metering tip in the lid of the sprayer. This will yield a working solution concentration of 250 ppm. Verify that the working concentration of chlorine dioxide is correct using plastic test strips (Insta-Test®, high range chlorine dioxide, La Motte, Chestertown, MD) prior to use. Disinfect the barn going from the highest to lowest point in the barn. When using chlorine dioxide at concentrations of ≥ 200 ppm, operators should wear protective eyewear and an R95 approved particulate respirator mask that is carbon lined (grey color).

Melissa Ure

From: One Health (CDC) <onehealth@cdc.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 17, 2020 3:31 PM
To: Barton Behravesh, Casey (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD); One Health (CDC)
Subject: Follow up Links to One Health State-Federal COVID-19 Weekly Update Call
Attachments: 15Dec Partners Webinar_for_distribution.pdf

Hello state partners,

Thanks to all who were able to attend the call earlier.

Please find links to materials that were discussed during the call below.

- WHO SARS-CoV-2 mink-associated variant strain – Denmark (December 3)
  - https://www.who.int/csr/don/03-december-2020-mink-associated-sars-cov2-denmark/en/

- FAQs on SARS-CoV-2 in wildlife, bats, game meat, and others:
  - https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html#Pets-and-Animals

- OIE reports and letters on companion animals testing positive for SARS-CoV-2 in:
  - Germany: https://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/MM/Germany_1_December.pdf
  - Switzerland: https://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/MM/Switzerland_03.12.2020_Research_on_SARS-CoV-2_-_confirmation_in_a_cat_in_the_Canton_of_Zurich.pdf
  - Hong Kong: https://www.oie.int/wahis_2/public/wahid.php/Reviewreport/Review?page_refer=MapFullEventReport&reportid=36893
  - Mexico: https://www.oie.int/wahis_2/public/wahid.php/Reviewreport/Review?page_refer=MapFullEventReport&reportid=37117

- USDA bulletin on a snow leopard testing positive for SARS-CoV-2:
  - https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAAPHIS/bulletins/2b0a86f

- OIE reports and letters on new mink farms with animals testing positive for SARS-CoV-2 in:
  - Sweden: https://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/MM/Sweden_1.12.2020.pdf
  - Greece: https://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/MM/Greece_04.12.2020.pdf
  - Canada: https://www.oie.int/wahis_2/public/wahid.php/Reviewreport/Review?page_refer=MapFullEventReport&reportid=36946

As a reminder, the below guidance (and more) is available on the CDC website:

- COVID-19: Pets and Other Animals Landing Page
- Toolkit: One Health Approach to Address Companion Animals with SARS-CoV-2
- Evaluation for SARS-CoV-2 Testing in Animals
- Interim Guidance for Public Health Professionals Managing People With COVID-19 in Home Care and Isolation Who Have Pets or Other Animals
- Handout for Pet Owners

If you or other colleagues are interested in receiving the One Health COVID-19 Publication Tracker that is available for public use, please sign up using this link:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScqGzx1Dxp9S2Rkigv1Pze_NbG6e3UTjS2LOslsDGBcyHawNg/viewform

A PDF of slides from the One Health Partners Monthly COVID-19 webinar on Tuesday is also attached.

Our next call is scheduled for **Thursday, January 14th at 3pm ET**. In the interim, we are reachable to onehealth@cdc.gov, or by calling the EOC at **770-488-7100** for urgent matters.

Please let us know if you have any questions, and have a wonderful holiday!

Sincerely,

Ann Carpenter

Ann Carpenter, DVM, MPH
Domestic One Health Coordination Unit Lead
CDC COVID-19 One Health Working Group
Functional Box: OneHealth@cdc.gov
Email: pzy4@cdc.gov
Phone: 404-718-5022
703-994-8453 (cell)
For more information on our work, please visit:
www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/animals/pets-other-animals.html

Melissa Ure

From: Konkle, Darlene M - DATCP <Darlene.Konkle@wisconsin.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 3:50 PM
To: Burke.L.Healey@aphis.usda.gov
Cc: suelee.robbe-austerman@usda.gov; Rooney, Jane A - APHIS; Kunde, Paul - USDA; Wineland, Nora (MDARD); Dean Taylor; Ryan Scholz; Smith, David (AGRICULTURE); Annette Jones
Subject: Request for USDA APHIS assistance in addressing SARS COV 2 in mink
Attachments: Request for Assistance from USDA APHIS VS to address SARS CoV 2.docx

Good Afternoon Dr. Healey
State Animal Health Officials from the four states currently managing SARS-CoV-2 affected mink farms have been meeting regularly to share information and discuss management of affected farms. We've been reviewing the guidance document developed by the COVID-19 Livestock working group. We want to thank the working group, and USDA APHIS VS, for drafting the document; the information has been very helpful in determining what is needed for release of quarantines on affected farms.
Lately during our discussions, the four affected states have identified an urgent need for science-based information in order to release pelts from affected premises. Pelt release is the major concern of our affected producers. They can survive a bit longer without moving live animals, but the income from pelts is crucial to their continued operation.
We've prepared the attached request for USDA APHIS VS to assist in efforts to manage SARS-CoV-2 affected mink farms, with particular emphasis on pelts. We'd be happy to discuss further at your convenience.
Thank you for your consideration, and please don't hesitate to contact any of us with questions.

Regards,
Darlene

Darlene M. Konkle, DVM, MS, DACVIM
State Veterinarian
Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
Office Phone (608) 224-4884
Cell Phone (608) 516-9121
darlene.konkle@wisconsin.gov

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Request for Assistance from USDA APHIS VS to address SARS CoV-2 Infections in US Mink Farms

State Animal Health Officials from Wisconsin, Utah, Michigan and Oregon would like to thank USDA for the work done to develop Surveillance and Release Testing Options for State Animal Health Officials Managing SARS-CoV-2 Positive Mink Premises.

Background:

SARS CoV-2 infections in mink farms in the United States have resulted in devastating animal and production losses to individual producers. To date, four states (Utah, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Oregon) have had mink farms diagnosed with SARS CoV-2. Animal mortality on most affected farms in the US have ranged from 25-50% in the mink population. A lack of state and federal funding to offset the costs related to the animal losses, disposal, and quarantine release testing has further complicated state responses to addressing this disease in the mink population. The US mink industry is currently facing economic hardship. The estimated cost to the producer to produce a single pelt is over $40 per animal. Average mink pelt sale prices in 2019 were less than $22/pelt. This is lower than prices were 20 years ago. This disease outbreak has added significantly to the financial crisis for mink producers. Critical areas of concern for affected farms in all states are the restrictions placed on infected premises and a lack of certainty regarding the cost, timing and specific requirements for release of restrictions on farms and products.

Mink producers and Fur Commission USA are currently testing pelts at harvest for SARS CoV-2. Although as state animal health officials, we support these efforts, we are responsible for release of animals and products from quarantine and want to ensure that testing protocols have been validated and can be used for release of restricted premises and products.

The testing strategies in the USDA guidance document recommend testing 62 samples for each round of testing. Using the current PCR testing methods at NVSL and NAHLN laboratories, this testing strategy will cost over $3,000 for EACH round of testing in laboratory costs alone. The guidance document recommends negative testing within 7 days of each product movement and 2 rounds of negative tests, 2 weeks apart for quarantine release on a premises. Follow up testing on several infected farms indicates tests may remain positive for more than 2 months following onset of infection. It is likely that multiple rounds of testing over an extended period of time will be needed to meet standards recommended for quarantine release.

Many of the SARS CoV-2 affected mink farms in the US are currently harvesting and processing pelts to sell at auction after the first of the year. Although the USDA guidance document provides guidance on testing to release pelts from quarantine to move to a processor, many of our farms are processing pelts on-site. The guidance document does not provide product release recommendations for processed pelts.

Biosecurity practices in most mink farms are in place to prevent movement of other animal diseases between farms. Although the quarantines on affected farms in the US have been placed by state animal health officials, these are largely in place to ensure public health and safety as we learn more about SARS CoV-2 in mink.

Requests for Assistance:

1. Funding to provide testing needed to release restrictions and products from infected farms
2. USDA coordination of sampling and testing of pelts by PCR during the processing steps to demonstrate whether pelt processing eliminates virus and viral particles
    a. Farms are currently pelting and there is an opportunity to conduct this evaluation now
3. USDA evaluation of known information about SARS CoV-2 biology and stability in the environment to create recommendations for release of processed pelts
    a. Evaluate studies that demonstrate virus survival on various surfaces
        i. Eg. Survival times on pig skin at room temperature
4. USDA NVSL validation of a protocol for pooling of samples used to release restrictions on infected mink premises or products
    a. Maximum number of samples to be pooled
5. USDA APHIS VS
    a. Provide an update of discussions with OIE on potential certifications or requirements for mink products exported from US.

Melissa Ure

From: Jones, Annette@CDFA <annette.jones@cdfa.ca.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 3:23 PM
To: Konkle, Darlene M - DATCP; Smith, David (AGRICULTURE); Ryan Scholz
Cc: Wineland, Nora (MDARD); Dean Taylor
Subject: RE: Request for USDA APHIS assistance in addressing SARS COV 2 in mink

BTW – His comment was VS does not have any COVID funding and the research request should go to ARS. You may want to address one to ARS also.

Annette Jones, DVM
Director and State Veterinarian
AHFSS, CDFA
(916) 900-5000

From: Konkle, Darlene M - DATCP <Darlene.Konkle@wisconsin.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 2:21 PM
To: Smith, David (AGRICULTURE) <David.Smith@agriculture.ny.gov>; Ryan Scholz <rscholz@oda.state.or.us>
Cc: Wineland, Nora (MDARD) <WinelandN@michigan.gov>; Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>; Jones, Annette@CDFA <annette.jones@cdfa.ca.gov>
Subject: RE: Request for USDA APHIS assistance in addressing SARS COV 2 in mink

CAUTION : **[External Email]** - This email originated from outside of our CDFA organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is expected and is safe.

Great, thanks for your input. I will send the document today to Dr. Healey; I'll also give Dr. Jones a heads-up so she's aware.
Darlene

Darlene M. Konkle, DVM, MS, DACVIM
State Veterinarian
Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
Office Phone (608) 224-4884
Cell Phone (608) 516-9121
darlene.konkle@wisconsin.gov

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From: Smith, David (AGRICULTURE) <David.Smith@agriculture.ny.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 3:22 PM
To: Ryan Scholz <rscholz@oda.state.or.us>; Konkle, Darlene M - DATCP <Darlene.Konkle@wisconsin.gov>
Cc: Wineland, Nora (MDARD) <WinelandN@michigan.gov>; Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>; Annette Jones

<annette.Jones@cdfa.ca.gov>
Subject: RE: Request for USDA APHIS assistance in addressing SARS COV 2 in mink

We did raise the issue with Dr. Healey yesterday on the call we use to plan for the monthly NASAHO/VS call, so he knows what to expect. We agree that having the four states submit the request directly will be the quickest way to get an answer.

David Smith, DVM
Director, Division of Animal Industry
NYS Dept. of Agriculture and Markets

From: Ryan Scholz <rscholz@oda.state.or.us>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 2:22 PM
To: Konkle, Darlene M - DATCP <Darlene.Konkle@wisconsin.gov>
Cc: Smith, David (AGRICULTURE) <David.Smith@agriculture.ny.gov>; Wineland, Nora (MDARD) <WinelandN@michigan.gov>; Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Subject: Re: Request for USDA APHIS assistance in addressing SARS COV 2 in mink

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I would suggest that we probably want to move forward with something from the 4 of us in the interest of timeliness. It would be great if NASAHO would also back us up on this, and I don't think there is anything wrong with following both paths, but ultimately the four of us are the ones that it really impacts the most. It may just be my newness to all of this, but I'm a little concerned about the length of time that may be necessary to get this through NASAHO when the majority of states are not really impacted.

Ryan P. Scholz, DVM MPH, State Veterinarian
Oregon Department of Agriculture – Animal Health Program
635 Capitol St NE, Salem, OR 97301-2532
PH: 503.986.4680 | CELL: 503.580.4986 | WEB: Oregon.gov/ODA

> On Dec 15, 2020, at 11:18 AM, Konkle, Darlene M - DATCP <Darlene.Konkle@wisconsin.gov> wrote:
>
> Good Afternoon All
> On the mink coordination call yesterday, Dr. Rooney mentioned that USDA is awaiting the 'official' version of our request. I'm wondering your thoughts on the best way to present to USDA:
> Should we forward the attached document from our four states, adding that we've shared with the COVID – Livestock working group?
> Should we now forward to Annette Jones, and ask that the document be presented to USDA APHIS VS from the National Assembly, under NASAHO letterhead?
>
> I'm interested in your thoughts. With pelt processing ongoing now, and Jane Rooney's departure from the One Health group, it will be important to keep this process moving.
>
> Thank you,
> Darlene
>
> Darlene M. Konkle, DVM, MS, DACVIM
> State Veterinarian

Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
Office Phone (608) 224-4884
Cell Phone (608) 516-9121
darlene.konkle@wisconsin.gov

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From: Konkle, Darlene M - DATCP
Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2020 10:11 AM
To: david.smith@agriculture.ny.gov
Cc: Wineland, Nora (MDARD) <WinelandN@michigan.gov>; Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>; Ryan Scholz <rscholz@oda.state.or.us>
Subject: Request for USDA APHIS assistance in addressing SARS COV 2 in mink

Good Morning Dr. Smith

State Animal Health Officials from the four states currently managing SARS-CoV-2 affected mink farms have been meeting regularly to share information and discuss management of affected farms. We've been reviewing the guidance document developed by the COVID-19 Livestock working group. As you are chair of that group, we want to thank you and the group for your work in drafting the document; the information has been very helpful in determining what is needed for release of quarantines on affected farms.
Lately during our discussions, the four affected states have identified an urgent need for science-based information in order to release pelts from affected premises. Pelt release is the major concern of our affected producers. They can survive a bit longer without moving live animals, but the income from pelts is crucial to their continued operation.
We're preparing a request for USDA APHIS to assist in efforts to manage SARS-CoV-2 affected mink farms, with particular emphasis on pelts, and I've attached a draft for your review.
We'd like to request your input and potential support of this effort.
Please let us know your thoughts, and don't hesitate to contact any of us if we can provide more information.
We would like to submit this request to Dr. Healey soon, so we would appreciate it if you could reply by the end of the week.

Thank you,
Darlene

Darlene M. Konkle, DVM, MS, DACVIM
State Veterinarian
Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
Office Phone (608) 224-4884
Cell Phone (608) 516-9121
darlene.konkle@wisconsin.gov

Please complete this brief survey to help us improve our customer service. Thank you for your feedback!

<Request for Assistance from USDA APHIS VS to address SARS CoV 2.docx>

Melissa Ure

From: Smith, David (AGRICULTURE) <David.Smith@agriculture.ny.gov>
Sent: Monday, December 21, 2020 2:35 PM
To: Brightbill, Kevin; Jones, Annette@CDFA; Peter Mundschenk; Amy Mitchell; andy.schwartz@tahc.texas.gov; Beth.Thompson@state.mn.us; bethany.bradford@doa.vi.gov; bill.barton@isda.idaho.gov; bjoseph@agr.wa.gov; bmarsh@boah.in.gov; bob.gerlach@alaska.gov; bparr@clemson.edu; Charlie Broaddus; darlene.konkle@wisconsin.gov; djtaylor@utah.gov; dmyrick@ldaf.state.la.us; doug.meckes@ncagr.gov; dustin.oedekoven@state.sd.us; heather.hirst@delaware.gov; Isaac.M.Maeda@hawaii.gov; Jeff.Kaisand@Iowaagriculture.gov; jim.logan@wyo.gov; jimw@mdac.ms.gov; jmaxwell@wvda.us; Nebraska-Dr. Dennis A. Hughes; Paul Ryan (enviropablo@sbcglobal.net); ralph.zimmerman@state.nm.us; Randolph.Chick@agriculture.arkansas.gov; robert.cobb@agr.georgia.gov; robert.stout@ky.gov; rod.hall@ag.ok.gov; Ryan Scholz (rscholz@oda.state.or.us); Samantha Beaty; scott.marshall@dem.ri.gov; skeller@nd.gov; stateveterinarian@ldaf.state.la.us; Steve Crawford; steve.strubberg@mda.mo.gov; Tony Forshey; tony.frazier@agi.alabama.gov; vastatevet@vdacs.virginia.gov; vito.delvento@dc.gov; winelandn@michigan.gov; Zaluski, Martin; justin.smith@ks.gov; Keith Roehr; kristin.haas@vermont.gov; maggie.baldwin@state.co.us; lorraine.o'connor@state.ma.us; manoel.tamassia@ag.nj.gov; mark.ernst@illinois.gov; mary.lis@ct.gov; michael.odian@maryland.gov; michael.short@fdacs.gov; michele.walsh@maine.gov
Cc: Mercado, Samuel@CDFA; Joanne J. Kenyon; Scott Ross
Subject: Guidance Documents for SARS-CoV-2 response on Mink Farms *Not SPAM*

Dear Colleagues,
The Livestock One Health Working Group drafted up guidance documents to help SAHOs as we respond to SARS-CoV-2 on mink farms. We thought it was best for the documents to be posted where SAHOs could access them, while not posting them on a public website. Our NAHLN lab at Cornell University agreed to host the documents and you should have received an email from Joanne Kenyon at the lab with instructions for access and a password. It's not SPAM or a phishing attack. Please let me know if you have any trouble accessing the documents.

David Smith, DVM
Director, Division of Animal Industry
NYS Dept. of Agriculture and Markets

Melissa Ure

From:	Wendling, Natalie (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD) <pme8@cdc.gov>
Sent:	Monday, December 28, 2020 6:15 AM
To:	Stobierski, Mary Grace (CDC michigan.gov); winelandn@michigan.gov; Klos, Rachel (CDC wi.gov); Konkle, Darlene M - DATCP; emilio.e.debess@state.or.us; rscholz@oda.state.or.us; CalogeroJ@michigan.gov; Bellay, Yvonne M - DATCP; Patton, Elisabeth A - DATCP; djtaylor@utah.gov; Hannah Rettler
Cc:	Cossaboom, Caitlin (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHCPP); Spengler, Jessica R. (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHCPP); One Health (CDC); Barton Behravesh, Casey (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD); Carpenter, Ann (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD); Korslund, John A - APHIS; Tansey, Cassandra (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DSR)
Subject:	Pelt Processing Presentation

Hello state colleagues,

We would like to set up a meeting with a small group of state partners for an informal presentation/discussion on pelt processing for those of you that are interested. I've included SAHO's and SPHV's in this email along with a few others that have expressed interest. Please send me the name and email address of anyone else in your state that you would like to include.

We are available the following dates/times:
Tuesday, December 29, at 1 pm or 2 pm EST
Wednesday, December 30, at 2 pm or 3 pm EST

Please confirm if any of these times work for you.

Also, please be aware that photos and screenshots of the presentation will be strictly prohibited due to confidentiality and sensitivity of the contents.

Thank you! We look forward to discussing this further.

Kind regards,
Natalie

Natalie M. Wendling, DVM, MPH, DACVPM
Lead, One Health Response Unit
CDC COVID-19 One Health Working Group
Functional Box: OneHealth@cdc.gov

Veterinary Medical Officer, One Health Office
National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
email: nwendling@cdc.gov
mobile (text): 843-814-0706

For more information on our work, please visit:
www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/animals/pets-other-animals.html

www.cdc.gov/onehealth

ONE HEALTH

Melissa Ure

From: Wendling, Natalie (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD) <pme8@cdc.gov>
Sent: Monday, December 21, 2020 3:00 PM
To: Konkle, Darlene M - DATCP; winelandn@michigan.gov; Hannah Rettler; djtaylor@utah.gov; Rebecca.Slater@wisconsin.gov; Klos, Rachel (CDC wi.gov); Patton, Elisabeth A - DATCP; Bellay, Yvonne M - DATCP; Stobierski, Mary Grace (CDC michigan.gov); Signs, Kimberly (DHHS); strakak1@michigan.gov; barrn@michigan.gov; goodrichj@michigan.gov; DorlandL@michigan.gov; CalogeroJ@michigan.gov; deaconb9@michigan.gov; SchalowM@michigan.gov; BlievernichtM@michigan.gov; Klos, Rachel F - DHS; Collins, Cheryl (MDARD); Mason, Jordan L - DHS; bbarbeau@utah.gov; Long, Lindsey J - DNR; Keith Poulsen; Ray, Jean S - APHIS; Suzanne.gibbonsburgener@dhs.wi.gov; Ryan, Tamara M - DNR; Doris.olander@usda.gov; jared.r.zierenberg@usda.gov; Hirchert, Daniel L - APHIS; DEBESS Emilio E; rscholz@oda.state.or.us
Cc: Basler, Colin A. (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DFWED); Tansey, Cassandra (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DSR); Barton Behravesh, Casey (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD); Carpenter, Ann (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD); One Health (CDC); Korslund, John A - APHIS
Subject: CDC's OHWG Holiday Contact Information

Dear state colleagues,

During the Holiday break for urgent matters, state officials can reach the CDC COVID-19 One Health Working Group by calling CDC's Emergency Operations Center (24/7) at 770-488-7100. Please identify yourself as a state public health veterinarian or state animal health official and ask to speak to the on-call member of the CDC COVID-19 One Health Working Group.

For non-urgent matters please email or 'cc' our functional box, onehealth@cdc.gov, and we will respond within 24 hours.

Please don't hesitate to reach out if you need anything.

Happy Holidays!

Thank you.

Warmest regards,
Natalie

Natalie M. Wendling, DVM, MPH, DACVPM
Lead, One Health Response Unit
CDC COVID-19 One Health Working Group
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For more information on our work, please visit:
www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/animals/pets-other-animals.html

www.cdc.gov/onehealth

ONE HEALTH

Melissa Ure

From: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Sent: Monday, December 28, 2020 12:15 PM
To: Amanda Price
Subject: Re: Monthly report for disposal

This looks good to me. This will be a good document to provide them when we go out to do the testing for quarantine release.

On Thu, Dec 17, 2020 at 8:29 AM Amanda Price <amandaprice@utah.gov> wrote:
Hi Doris,

I put together this document on manure cooking based on the information you provided in the phone call and email. Can you look it over and let me know if there is anything you would add or change?

Thank you so much for all your help!!

Amanda

On Fri, Dec 4, 2020 at 1:30 PM Olander, Doris - APHIS <doris.olander@usda.gov> wrote:

Hi Drs. I typically have regular written disposal update for every farm that has disposal activities. I have attached a redacted one for you. These reports continue until everything on a farm that needs to be disposed of is accounted for. How frequent these reports are varies. For the mink in WI, the reports are being done monthly by a DATCP inspector who is an SME mortality composter. In this case she is supporting the producer and VMO case manager so she keeps track of all disposal activities, not just the composting. The producer does all the work and in this case incurs the cost, but is applying for reimbursement from NRCS (?).

The purpose of all of this effort is to create a trail that documents that the pathogen has been dealt with in a safe and effective manner. On a big outbreak it can be a lot of work, but the reports can come in handy when there are information requests, financial audits etc..

I hope you find this helpful. Have a great weekend.

Regards, Doris

USDA VETERINARY SERVICES –Wisconsin

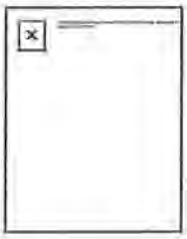
Veterinary Epidemiologist

608 444 5237

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Melissa Ure

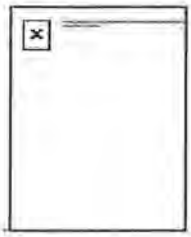
From: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 29, 2020 8:49 AM
To: Amanda Price
Subject: Re: Composting guidance take 2

Amanda,
This looks great. Now resurrect your first document and change it to this type of format for the producers for future use in composting bodies if needed. Most will render the carcasses so we do not need that document immediately. When we go out to do the testing for quarantine release we can explain the cooking and composting to the producers at that time. Both of these documents look great and will work perfectly for the producers.
Thanks
Dean

On Wed, Dec 2, 2020 at 3:08 PM Amanda Price <amandaprice@utah.gov> wrote:
Based on our previous "kerfuffle" and the conversation with Doris Olander, I revised the composting guidance for mink farmers. I got it down to a 9th grade reading level according to Word, so hopefully you like this version better. :)

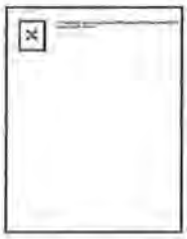
I'll put together something similar for cooking the manure. (It'll have the same time/temperature requirements as the composting.)

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Melissa Ure

From: john easley <johneasleydvm@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 30, 2020 6:25 AM
To: Dean Taylor
Subject: Re: mink processing

Hi Dean,
I will get back with you on this. I am traveling working with farms with our vaccine development. In general having a standard protocol for processing should work as long as it is set up as a minimum set of criteria that needs to be met to meet the standard and the processors are free to do "extra" for each criteria, so they can keep doing their "special secret" steps. I will speak with the processor to get their take. I just had a call with some CDC people about developing a policy for processing, which may include some type of fumigation of the pelts, post drying.
Have good New Year. I sure hope 2021 is a lot better than 2020.
John

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From: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 29, 2020 3:50:04 PM
To: john easley <johneasleydvm@hotmail.com>
Subject: mink processing

Hi John,
I know that you have been on some of the calls that we have had concerning processing. Some of us feel that it would be good for the industry over the next months to develop a standard processing procedure where they follow the same steps and use the same detergents, disinfectants and same drying times etc.
Then you could do post processing testing of the pelts and have an industry standard with some data to back it up.
For this year, we realize that this cannot happen overnight and that the protocol must be established first and then the testing, so we are going to try and get a risk assessment statement put together to help get these pelts marketed this year. Ryan invited me to go to the processing plant with him so that I can see the entire process from start to finish. I am going to ask him and see if he thinks the auction houses where they grade the pelts would be open to me and Hannah from UDOH seeing that operation as well.
Just wanting to reach out on this so that we are all going forward together. This is a tricky situation. USDA views this really as a commodity at the point it is pelted but these pelts are under quarantine by the state so the waters are gray for sure.
Thanks and let me know if you have ideas or concerns.
Dean

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Melissa Ure

From:	Tansey, Cassandra (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DSR) <kuo2@cdc.gov>
Sent:	Wednesday, December 30, 2020 7:48 AM
To:	Wendling, Natalie (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD); Konkle, Darlene M - DATCP; winelandn@michigan.gov; Cossaboom, Caitlin (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHCPP); Hannah Rettler; djtaylor@utah.gov; Rooney, Jane A - APHIS; Barton Behravesh, Casey (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD); Carpenter, Ann (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD)
Cc:	Harvey, Reid (CDC/NIOSH/RHD/FSB); Rebecca.Slater@wisconsin.gov; Klos, Rachel (CDC wi.gov); Patton, Elisabeth A - DATCP; Bellay, Yvonne M - DATCP; Stobierski, Mary Grace (CDC michigan.gov); Signs, Kimberly (DHHS); strakak1@michigan.gov; barrn@michigan.gov; goodrichj@michigan.gov; DorlandL@michigan.gov; CalogeroJ@michigan.gov; deaconb9@michigan.gov; SchalowM@michigan.gov; BlievernichtM@michigan.gov; Tell, Rachel M - APHIS; Robbe Austerman, Suelee - APHIS; Straily, Anne (CDC/DDPHSIS/CGH/DPDM); Klos, Rachel F - DHS; Collins, Cheryl (MDARD); Mason, Jordan L - DHS; bbarbeau@utah.gov; Wallace, Ryan (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHCPP); Torchetti, Mia Kim - APHIS; Long, Lindsey J - DNR; Keith Poulsen; Ray, Jean S - APHIS; Suzanne.gibbonsburgener@dhs.wi.gov; Ryan, Tamara M - DNR; Doris.olander@usda.gov; Paul.w.kunde@usda.gov; anthony.g.duffiney@usda.gov; jared.r.zierenberg@usda.gov; Ghai, Ria (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD); Whitehill, Florence (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHCPP); Hirchert, Daniel L - APHIS; DEBESS Emilio E; rscholz@oda.state.or.us; Basler, Colin A. (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DFWED); Murrell, Laura (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD); Doty, Jeffrey B. (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHCPP)
Subject:	SARS-CoV-2 Surface Stability
Attachments:	SARS-CoV-2 persistence on surfaces.xlsx

Good morning all,

Attached, please find a spreadsheet summarizing the results from publications studying the stability of SARS-CoV-2 on different surfaces, as briefly discussed during our phone call on Monday. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Cheers,

Cassandra Tansey, DVM, DACLAM
Deputy
One Health Working Group, CDC COVID-19
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Cell (404) 259-8887

Study Type	Persistence	Surface	Temperature	Humidity	Testing_Type
Experimental	>3 hours	Printing paper	22 C	65%	Virus isolation
Experimental	>3 hours	Tissue paper	22 C	65%	Virus isolation
Experimental	< 2 days	Wood	22 C	65%	Virus isolation
Experimental	< 2 days	Cloth	22 C	65%	Virus isolation
Experimental	< 4 days	Glass	22 C	65%	Virus isolation
Experimental	< 4 days	Banknote	22 C	65%	Virus isolation
Experimental	< 7 days	Stainless Steel	22 C	65%	Virus isolation
Experimental	< 7 days	Plastic	22 C	65%	Virus isolation
Experimental	> 7 days	Surgical mask	22 C	65%	Virus isolation
Experimental	14 days	Pig skin	4 C	40-50%	Virus isolation
Experimental	4 days	Pig skin	22 C	40-50%	Virus isolation
Experimental	11.56 hours (half life)	Nitrile gloves	21 C	60%	Virus isolation
Experimental	4.42 hours (half life)	Nitrile gloves	25 C	70%	Virus isolation
Experimental	22.94 hours (half life)	Nitrile gloves	13 C	66%	Virus isolation

Experimental	9.36 (half life)	Tyvek	21 C	60%	Virus isolation
Experimental	4.57 hours (half life)	Tyvek	25 C	70%	Virus isolation
Experimental	31.82 hours (half life)	Tyvek	13 C	66%	Virus isolation
Experimental	9.01 hours (half life)	N95 mask	21 C	60%	Virus isolation
Experimental	4.4 hours (half life)	N95 mask	25 C	70%	Virus isolation
Experimental	27.7 hours (half life)	N95 mask	13 C	66%	Virus isolation
Experimental	3.5 hours (half life)	Cloth	21 C	60%	Virus isolation
Experimental	2.99 hours (half life)	Cloth	25 C	70%	Virus isolation
Experimental	19.94 hours (half life)	Cloth	13 C	66%	Virus isolation
Experimental	9.62 hours (half life)	Styrofoam	21 C	60%	Virus isolation
Experimental	4.75 hours (half life)	Styrofoam	25 C	70%	Virus isolation

Experimental	24.67 hours (half life)	Styrofoam	13 C	66%	Virus isolation
Experimental	12.86 hours (half life)	Cardboard	21 C	60%	Virus isolation
Experimental	5.03 hours (half life)	Cardboard	25 C	70%	Virus isolation
Experimental	26.93 hours (half life)	Cardboard	13 C	66%	Virus isolation
Experimental	7.96 hours (half life)	Concrete	21 C	60%	Virus isolation
Experimental	2.54 hours (half life)	Concrete	25 C	70%	Virus isolation
Experimental	17.11 hours (half life)	Concrete	13 C	66%	Virus isolation
Experimental	11.33 hours (half life)	Rubber	21 C	60%	Virus isolation
Experimental	3.63 hours (half life)	Rubber	25 C	70%	Virus isolation
Experimental	28.27 hours (half life)	Rubber	13 C	66%	Virus isolation
Experimental	9.6 hours (half life)	Glass	21 C	60%	Virus isolation

Experimental	5.58 hours (half life)	Glass	25 C	70%	Virus isolation
Experimental	27.34 hours (half life)	Glass	13 C	66%	Virus isolation
Experimental	9.02 hours (half life)	Polypropylene	21 C	60%	Virus isolation
Experimental	4.51 hours (half life)	Polypropylene	25 C	70%	Virus isolation
Experimental	28.75 hours (half life)	Polypropylene	13 C	66%	Virus isolation
Experimental	>1 day	Hardback book cover	18-27 C	30 – 50%	Virus isolation
Experimental	>1 day	Paperback book cover	18-27 C	30 – 50%	Virus isolation
Experimental	>1 day	DVD case	18-27 C	30 – 50%	Virus isolation
Experimental	> 3 days	Plastic protective cover	18-27 C	30 – 50%	Virus isolation
Experimental	> 3 days	Closed paper pages	18-27 C	40 – 60%	Virus isolation
Experimental	< 4 days	Leather book cover	18-27 C	40 – 60%	Virus isolation
Experimental	< 8 days	Synthetic book cover	18-27 C	40 – 60%	Virus isolation
Experimental	< 2 days	Polyolefin fabric	18-27 C	40 – 60%	Virus isolation
Experimental	0 -2 days	Cotton fabric	18-27 C	40 – 60%	Virus isolation
Experimental	< 2 days	Nylon webbing	18-27 C	40 – 60%	Virus isolation
Experimental	> 3 days	Plastic	21-23 C	40%	Virus isolation
Experimental	> 3 days	Stainless steel	21-23 C	40%	Virus isolation
Experimental	> 4 hours	Copper	21-23 C	40%	Virus isolation
Experimental	> 24 hours	Cardboard	21-23 C	40%	Virus isolation

Experimental	>7 days	Stainless steel	25-27 C	35%	Virus isolation
Experimental	> 7 days	Plastic protective cover	25-27 C	35%	Virus isolation
Experimental	> 7 days	Glass	25-27 C	35%	Virus isolation
Experimental	> 7 days	Ceramics	25-27 C	35%	Virus isolation
Experimental	< 5 days	Paper	25-27 C	35%	Virus isolation
Experimental	< 4 days	Cotton clothes	25-27 C	35%	Virus isolation
Experimental	>7 days	Wood	25-27 C	35%	Virus isolation
Experimental	> 7 days	Latex gloves	25-27 C	35%	Virus isolation
Experimental	> 7 days	Surgical mask	25-27 C	35%	Virus isolation
Experimental	< 6 hours	Adult human feces	25-27 C	35%	Virus isolation
Experimental	2 days	Child human feces	25-27 C	35%	Virus isolation
Experimental	3 days	Adult human urine	25-27 C	35%	Virus isolation
Experimental	4 days	Child human urine	25-27 C	35%	Virus isolation
Natural	Detected	sludge water	Unknown	Unknown	PCR
Natural	Not detected	efferent water	Unknown	Unknown	PCR
Experimental	9.1h (half life)	metal	Room Temperature	30–40%	Virus isolation

Experimental	12.9h (half life)	metal	4 C	30–40%	Virus isolation
Experimental	17.9h (half life)	metal	30 C	30–40%	Virus isolation
Natural	median days 17	Human Feces	Unknown	Unknown	PCR
Natural	Unknown	Dust (inhalable at mink farms)	Unknown	Unknown	PCR
Natural	25 days (viral shed duration)	Human Feces	Unknown	Unknown	PCR

Citation	Article
Chin et al. 2020	Stability of SARS-CoV-2 in different environmental conditions
Chin et al. 2020	Stability of SARS-CoV-2 in different environmental conditions
Chin et al. 2020	Stability of SARS-CoV-2 in different environmental conditions
Chin et al. 2020	Stability of SARS-CoV-2 in different environmental conditions
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Chin et al. 2020	Stability of SARS-CoV-2 in different environmental conditions
Chin et al. 2020	Stability of SARS-CoV-2 in different environmental conditions
Harbourt et al. 2020	Modeling the stability of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-1 2) on skin, currency, and clothing
Harbourt et al. 2020	Modeling the stability of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-1 2) on skin, currency, and clothing
Kwon et al. 2020	Environmental stability of SARS-CoV-2 on different types of surfaces under indoor and seasonal climate conditions
Kwon et al. 2020	Environmental stability of SARS-CoV-2 on different types of surfaces under indoor and seasonal climate conditions
Kwon et al. 2020	Environmental stability of SARS-CoV-2 on different types of surfaces under indoor and seasonal climate conditions

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REALM Project	https://www.oclc.org/realm/research.html#test5
van Doremalen et al. 2020a	Aerosol and surface stability of SARS-CoV-2 as compared with SARS-CoV-1
van Doremalen et al. 2020a	Aerosol and surface stability of SARS-CoV-2 as compared with SARS-CoV-1
van Doremalen et al. 2020a	Aerosol and surface stability of SARS-CoV-2 as compared with SARS-CoV-1
van Doremalen et al. 2020a	Aerosol and surface stability of SARS-CoV-2 as compared with SARS-CoV-1

Liu et al. 2020	Stability of SARS-CoV-2 on environmental surfaces and in human excreta
Liu et al. 2020	Stability of SARS-CoV-2 on environmental surfaces and in human excreta
Liu et al. 2020	Stability of SARS-CoV-2 on environmental surfaces and in human excreta
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Liu et al. 2020	Stability of SARS-CoV-2 on environmental surfaces and in human excreta
Liu et al. 2020	Stability of SARS-CoV-2 on environmental surfaces and in human excreta
Balboa et al.2020	The fate of SARS-CoV-2 in wastewater treatment plants points out the sludge line as a suitable spot for incidence monitoring
Balboa et al.2020	The fate of SARS-CoV-2 in wastewater treatment plants points out the sludge line as a suitable spot for incidence monitoring
Katzel et al. 2020	Temperature-dependent surface stability of SARS-CoV-2

Katzel et al. 2020	Temperature-dependent surface stability of SARS-CoV-2
Katzel et al. 2020	Temperature-dependent surface stability of SARS-CoV-2
Jones et al. 2020	Shedding of SARS-CoV-2 in feces and urine and its potential role in person-to-person transmission and the environment-based spread of COVID-19
Oreshkova et al. 2020	SARS-CoV-2 infection in farmed minks, the Netherlands, April and May 2020
Wang et al. 2020	Fecal viral shedding in COVID-19 patients: Clinical significance, viral load dynamics and survival analysis

Melissa Ure

From: Hannah Rettler <hrettler@utah.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 4, 2021 3:46 PM
To: Dean Taylor
Subject: Re: People Working on Mink Farms: Prevent the Spread of COVID-19 Handout

Ok that sounds good. As soon as I get the Spanish version I will send that out to you as well!

On Mon, Jan 4, 2021 at 1:43 PM Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov> wrote:
I did not get this but remember them talking about it this morning on the call. I think that the best way to get it out is to send it to Dr Lott so that I can trust it is making it to them. Ryan has sent some stuff out for me in the past as well. I will send it to both of them and see if they will distribute it to everyone that has a mink.
Thanks

On Wed, Dec 30, 2020 at 3:02 PM Hannah Rettler <hrettler@utah.gov> wrote:
Hi Dr. Taylor,

Did you receive this as well? Natalie said they are also working on translating into Spanish. Do we have a good way to send this out to all the farmers in the state? Is the fur commission a good organization to have this sent?

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Wendling, Natalie (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD)** <pme8@cdc.gov>
Date: Wed, Dec 30, 2020 at 2:05 PM
Subject: People Working on Mink Farms: Prevent the Spread of COVID-19 Handout
To: One Health (CDC) <onehealth@cdc.gov>
Cc: Barton Behravesh, Casey (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD) <dlx9@cdc.gov>, Korslund, John A - APHIS <john.a.korslund@usda.gov>, Tansey, Cassandra (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DSR) <kuo2@cdc.gov>, Carpenter, Ann (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD) <pzy4@cdc.gov>, Murrell, Laura (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD) <wjl9@cdc.gov>, Basler, Colin A. (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DFWED) <wjq3@cdc.gov>

Dear state colleagues,

Attached is a new handout for producers and people working on mink farms in your state. This handout details the steps recommended to prevent the spread of SARS-CoV-2 among people and animals on these farms.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Thank you!

Kind regards,

Natalie

Natalie M. Wendling, DVM, MPH, DACVPM

Lead, One Health Response Unit

CDC COVID-19 One Health Working Group

Functional Box: OneHealth@cdc.gov

Veterinary Medical Officer, One Health Office

National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

email: nwendling@cdc.gov

mobile (text): 843-814-0706

For more information on our work, please visit:

www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/animals/pets-other-animals.html

www.cdc.gov/onehealth

ONE HEALTH

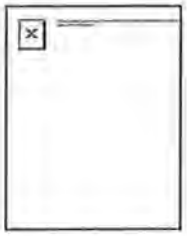
Hannah Rettler, MPH
Vectorborne/Zoonotic Disease Epidemiologist

Disease Response, Evaluation, Analysis, & Monitoring Program
Bureau of Epidemiology
Utah Department of Health
Email: hrettler@utah.gov
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Secure Fax: (801) 538 - 9923

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Melissa Ure

From: Olander, Doris - APHIS <doris.olander@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 5, 2021 8:49 AM
To: Dean Taylor
Subject: RE: Next wed meeting

Great!

From: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 5, 2021 9:44 AM
To: Olander, Doris - APHIS <doris.olander@usda.gov>
Cc: amandaprice@utah.gov
Subject: Re: Next wed meeting

Absolutely.

On Tue, Jan 5, 2021 at 8:42 AM Olander, Doris - APHIS <doris.olander@usda.gov> wrote:

Good morning.

Can I forward the invite to Lori Miller the USDA APHIS staff officer lead. Lori, myself, a WI DATCP state field disposal specialist and a Maine Extension soil scientist and compost expert had a long call yesterday discussing the concept viral inactivation of SARS-CoV-2in mink manure. It would be helpful to have her input because she is the person who works with national staff Utah will be the first state to formally do this (as you know manure has been stacked routinely for centuries) but our goal is to carry out and demonstrate good practices.

Regards, Doris

USDA VETERINARY SERVICES –Wisconsin

Veterinary Epidemiologist

608 444 5237



Lori P. Miller

Senior Staff Officer/Environmental Engineer

United States Department of Agriculture

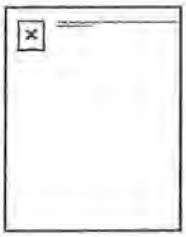
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

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Melissa Ure

From: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2021 7:48 AM
To: Kimberly Christensen
Cc: Amanda Price; Hannah Rettler
Subject: Re: Fit testing for UDAF

1:00 will be great. Thank you for working around our schedules.
Dean

On Fri, Jan 8, 2021 at 6:11 PM Kimberly Christensen <kchriste@utah.gov> wrote:
Also for Dr. Taylor, please make sure that you do not have any facial hair that would disrupt a good seal of your mask. When wearing an N95, faces must be clean shaven.

Thanks,
Kim

On Fri, Jan 8, 2021 at 6:05 PM Kimberly Christensen <kchriste@utah.gov> wrote:
I will put you both down at 1:00 on Monday with Annette.

Please come to the laboratory. The security guard should let you in as our doors are locked. Ask the front desk for Annette, although I'm sure she will be down there to meet you.

Please email Annette aatkinson@utah.gov or give her a call 801-965-2561 if you have any questions.

Thanks,
Kim

On Fri, Jan 8, 2021 at 5:58 PM Amanda Price <amandaprice@utah.gov> wrote:
1 pm works for me, and I don't see anything on Dean's schedule at that time.

On Fri, Jan 8, 2021, 5:18 PM Kimberly Christensen <kchriste@utah.gov> wrote:
If that time doesn't work, I would go with the Concentra option. We could supply you with a couple of different masks to take with you to Concentra if that is the option you choose. If you do need some masks, I can have Bryan or Annette get a few ready for you on Monday.

Thanks,
Kim

On Fri, Jan 8, 2021 at 5:17 PM Kimberly Christensen <kchriste@utah.gov> wrote:
Hi Hannah,

I just spoke with Annette Atkinson here at UPHL. She has done the fit testing with me once and feels comfortable doing it and is willing to do it Monday afternoon. She has a meeting at 4:00 so it would have to be somewhere in the timeframe of 1:00 or 2:00 to make sure she is done in time for her meeting.

Please let me know if 1:00 or 2:00 on Monday 1/11 will work.

Thanks,
Kim

On Fri, Jan 8, 2021 at 5:10 PM Hannah Rettler <hrettler@utah.gov> wrote:
Hi all,

For the kind of field work we will be doing, PAPRs will be quite unwieldy to work with, so N95s, or half mask respirators, would be highly preferred. I also am not sure if PAPRs can be deconned and reused safely? We will be going to multiple mink farms to sample, and can't bring anything between farms that cannot be deconned. That being said, if we aren't able to get fit testing secured for everyone who is going to be on farm, PAPRs will be a better option than nothing.

The other back-up option is to work with Concentra to get fit tested. There is a Concentra on Redwood Road and I called them this afternoon to ask what they can offer, and they can do it walk-in fit testing for $70, but you have to bring your own masks, so if the kind we have does not fit, I'm not sure what to do then....

On Fri, Jan 8, 2021 at 4:53 PM Kimberly Christensen <kchriste@utah.gov> wrote:
I won't be at the lab on Monday at all. I have appointments all afternoon on Monday. I'm sorry.

The only other option I can think of is if UDOH/Epi might have some PAPRs that you could use until you are able to get fit tested. If UDOH/EPI doesn't have any, you may be able to borrow a few from our lab on Monday. I could have someone get a couple of them ready for you if that would work.

Let me know and I will have Bryan Burk get them ready for you to pick up on Monday.

Thanks,
Kim

On Fri, Jan 8, 2021 at 3:44 PM Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov> wrote:
Hi Kimberly,
Do you by any chance have some time on Monday afternoon to do any fit testing? I have two critical meetings that will take up the time slot on Tuesday and Dr Erickson would like to go on Tuesday morning as well and take staff from our office to assist. They hoped to start real early there. Please let me know what you think, if this is the only time we could send some over and I would arrange another time.
Thank you. We appreciate you doing this for us.
Dean Taylor, DVM

On Fri, Jan 8, 2021 at 10:59 AM Kimberly Christensen <kchriste@utah.gov> wrote:
I could either do 9:00 or 12:00. I have other meetings starting at 1:00 for the rest of the day.

Kim

On Fri, Jan 8, 2021 at 10:52 AM Amanda Price <amandaprice@utah.gov> wrote:

I have to do a short presentation (virtual) at the SERT meeting, which is from 10-12, but I am available before or after that. Depending on what time the presentation is, I might be available earlier than 12.

Amanda

On Fri, Jan 8, 2021, 10:21 AM Hannah Rettler <hrettler@utah.gov> wrote:
Hi all,

I am connecting you three to coordinate what time might work best for you to get fit tested for your N95s. Next week Tuesday morning works best for Kim. Please let me know if I can help in any way!

--
Hannah Rettler, MPH
Vectorborne/Zoonotic Disease Epidemiologist
Disease Response, Evaluation, Analysis, & Monitoring Program
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Utah Department of Health
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Bioterrorism Response Laboratory Coordinator
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Fax: 801-536-0154
Main line: 801-965-2400
kchriste@utah.gov

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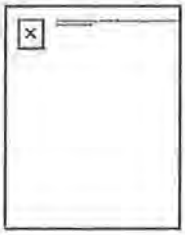
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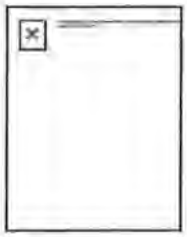
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djtaylor@utah.gov
Website | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram

Melissa Ure

From: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2021 8:37 AM
To: Hannah Rettler
Subject: Re: ? on testing

Will do.

On Mon, Jan 25, 2021 at 8:36 AM Hannah Rettler <hrettler@utah.gov> wrote:
Thanks Dr. Taylor - I will reach out to Tom today.

I did not get a response from Jason - would you please forward what he sent you?

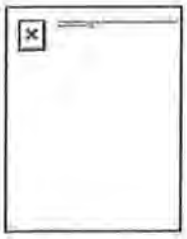
On Mon, Jan 25, 2021 at 7:33 AM Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov> wrote:
I do not know if they were just helping with the overflow at the university. It seems so but I don't know for sure. I know that they had to make some changes to be able to do it when they were asked just like the other labs across the country. Tom Baldwin is the head of the lab. 435-797-1883. I will let him know you will be calling.I was curious since I see labs all over the country now doing this, if this is a permanent change or not. I assume that you saw the response from Jason Lott. If not I can forward it to you.
Thanks and have a nice day.
Dean

On Fri, Jan 22, 2021 at 4:25 PM Hannah Rettler <hrettler@utah.gov> wrote:
Hi Dr. Taylor,

Can you let us know who is overseeing human testing at UVDL? I am curious to know how many human samples have been tested at UVDL, when samples started getting sent there (I think you said they have been testing human samples for about 3 or 4 months?) and where the samples are all coming from (are these samples an overflow re-route from UPHL? Or does UVDL get samples sent straight there from ordering providers?). Also curious how the reporting is set up once UVDL has the results. I am thinking we should connect whoever oversees human testing at UVDL with someone at UPHL to help with transferring over those samples so that UPHL can take over.

On Thu, Jan 21, 2021 at 2:40 PM Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov> wrote:
Hannah,

Can you tell me what the position from UDOH is on UVDL running human samples. I know lots of labs across the country are doing human samples now. I am trying to get a feel of UDOH's position if this is something that they will want to pull back at some point or if they are comfortable having that done at UVDL longer term.
If you have any feel for this it would help me plan.
Dean
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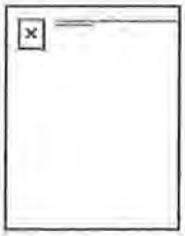
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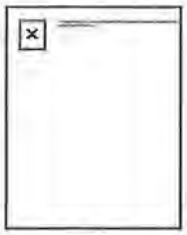
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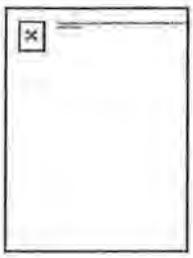
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Office 801-982-2243 Cell 385-290-9462
ditaylor@utah.gov
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Melissa Ure

From: Amanda Price <amandaprice@utah.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 1, 2021 8:50 AM
To: Dean Taylor
Subject: Grading and Processing shipping forms
Attachments: Mink Pelt Shipping Grading Facility.pdf; Mink Pelt Shipping Processing Facility.pdf

Please make sure that all of the fillable fields that you want are there.

--



AMANDA PRICE | Assistant State Veterinarian
801.982.2244 office | 801.386.4189 mobile
Website | Facebook | Instagram | Twitter

100 Years of Supporting Agriculture and Food

Mink Pelt Shipping Record To A Grading Facility for Restricted Facilities

State Veterinarian's Office
Utah Department of Agriculture and Food
350 N Redwood Rd
Salt Lake City, UT 84114

Phone: (801) 982-2235
Fax: (385) 465-6026
E-mail: djtaylor@utah.gov

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DATE EXPIRED: 30 days after issued
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ADDRESS			ADDRESS		
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DESCRIPTION OF ITEMS CONTAINED IN SHIPMENT		**NUMBER OF BOXES**
1		
2		
3		

BAGGING AND DISINFECTION

Pelts must be boxed and shrink-wrapped. The wrapping must be disinfected using chlorhexidine, 70% alcohol, or another EPA-approved disinfectant for SARS-CoV-2 (https://cfpub.epa.gov/giwiz/disinfectants/index.cfm)

DATE BOXED	DATE DISINFECTED	DISINFECTANT USED	TEMPERATURE	CONTACT TIME

OWNER STATEMENT

I hereby certify that all conditions of this permit have been adhered to and information included is true and correct.

OWNER SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

SHIPPER STATEMENT

I hereby certify that the items identified on this document are to be delivered to the above named receiving facility. I acknowledge that this permit is to accompany the shipment of pelts to the receiving facility and be signed by an authorized agent at the receiving facility prior to release of these products.

SHIPPER SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

NOTE: Owner must retain a copy of this form signed by shipper until any order restricting movement is released by the Utah State Veterinarian.

RECEIVING FACILITY STATEMENT

I hereby certify that the pelts identified on this document were received at the facility identified above. Further, the receiving facility acknowledges that these pelts are from a facility that has been infected with SARS-CoV-2 and should be handled in accordance with the recommendations provided in the USDA Guidance Document "Safe Mink Pelt Movements from SARS-CoV-2-Quarantined Production Sites. As such, the pelts will be stored at this grading facility at a minimum temperature of 20°C for 15 days at ambient humidity levels prior to handling.

NAME OF AUTHORIZED AGENT	**TITLE**	**SIGNATURE**

DATE OF RECEIPT:	**PRODUCTS RECEIVED**

RECEIVING FACILITY: E-mail, mail, or fax a copy of this permit within 7 days of pelt shipment using the contact information at the top of this form.

Mink Pelt Shipping Record To A Processing Facility for Restricted Facilities

State Veterinarian's Office
Utah Department of Agriculture and Food
350 N Redwood Rd
Salt Lake City, UT 84114

Phone: (801) 982-2235
Fax: (385) 465-6026
E-mail: djtaylor@utah.gov

OFFICE USE ONLY
PERMIT #:
DATE ISSUED:
DATE EXPIRED: 30 days after issued
SIGNATURE:

OWNER INFORMATION			**RECEIVING FACILITY INFORMATION**		
NAME			NAME OF FACILITY		
PHONE NUMBER			PHONE NUMBER		
ADDRESS			ADDRESS		
CITY	STATE	ZIP	CITY	STATE	ZIP

DESCRIPTION OF ITEMS CONTAINED IN SHIPMENT		**NUMBER OF BOXES**
1		
2		
3		

BAGGING AND DISINFECTION

Pelts must be placed in plastic bags and the plastic bags must be disinfected using chlorhexidine, 70% alcohol, or another EPA-approved disinfectant for SARS-CoV-2 (https://cfpub.epa.gov/giwiz/disinfectants/index.cfm)

DATE BAGGED	DATE DISINFECTED	DISINFECTANT USED	TEMPERATURE	CONTACT TIME

OWNER STATEMENT

I hereby certify that all conditions of this permit have been adhered to and information included is true and correct.

OWNER SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

SHIPPER STATEMENT

I hereby certify that the items identified on this document are to be delivered to the above named receiving facility. I acknowledge that this permit is to accompany the shipment of pelts to the receiving facility and be signed by an authorized agent at the receiving facility prior to release of these products.

SHIPPER SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

NOTE: Owner must retain a copy of this form signed by shipper until any order restricting movement is released by the Utah State Veterinarian.

RECEIVING FACILITY STATEMENT

I hereby certify that the pelts identified on this document were received at the facility identified above. Further, the receiving facility acknowledges that these pelts are from a facility that has been infected with SARS-CoV-2 and should be handled in accordance with the recommendations provided in the USDA Guidance Document "Safe Mink Pelt Movements from SARS-CoV-2-Quarantined Production Sites. As such, the pelts will be stored at a minimum temperature of 20°C for 15 days at ambient humidity levels prior to handling.

NAME OF AUTHORIZED AGENT	**TITLE**	**SIGNATURE**
DATE OF RECEIPT:	**PRODUCTS RECEIVED**	

RECEIVING FACILITY: E-mail, mail, or fax a copy of this permit within 7 days of pelt shipment using the contact information at the top of this form.

Melissa Ure

From: Lombard, Jason E - APHIS <jason.e.lombard@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 4:10 PM
To: john easley; rscholz@oda.state.or.us; Korslund, John A - APHIS; Beemer, Oriana M - APHIS; Jones, Jodie - APHIS; Miles, Laura A - MRP-APHIS, Ft. Collins, CO; elisabeth.patton@wisconsin.gov; winelandn@michigan.gov; djtaylor@utah.gov; statevet@oda.state.or.us
Subject: RE: Updated version of the Pelt Movement Guidance

Thanks John. We will leave the statement regarding this practice in the guidance.

Thanks!
Jason

From: john easley <johneasleydvm@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 2:09 PM
To: Lombard, Jason E - APHIS <jason.e.lombard@usda.gov>; rscholz@oda.state.or.us; Korslund, John A - APHIS <john.a.korslund@usda.gov>; Beemer, Oriana M - APHIS <oriana.m.beemer@usda.gov>; Jones, Jodie - APHIS <jodie.m.jones@usda.gov>; Miles, Laura A - MRP-APHIS, Ft. Collins, CO <laura.a.miles@usda.gov>; elisabeth.patton@wisconsin.gov; winelandn@michigan.gov; djtaylor@utah.gov; statevet@oda.state.or.us
Subject: Re: Updated version of the Pelt Movement Guidance

Hello Jason,

Carcasses moving off farm for pelting does occur but is very uncommon. I would say less than 5%. The carcasses would be frozen before any movement would occur.

John

From: Lombard, Jason E - APHIS <jason.e.lombard@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2021 11:29 PM
To: rscholz@oda.state.or.us <rscholz@oda.state.or.us>; Korslund, John A - APHIS <john.a.korslund@usda.gov>; Beemer, Oriana M - APHIS <oriana.m.beemer@usda.gov>; Jones, Jodie - APHIS <jodie.m.jones@usda.gov>; Miles, Laura A - MRP-APHIS, Ft. Collins, CO <laura.a.miles@usda.gov>; elisabeth.patton@wisconsin.gov <elisabeth.patton@wisconsin.gov>; winelandn@michigan.gov <winelandn@michigan.gov>; djtaylor@utah.gov <djtaylor@utah.gov>; John Easley <johneasleydvm@hotmail.com>; statevet@oda.state.or.us <statevet@oda.state.or.us>
Subject: Updated version of the Pelt Movement Guidance

Hello,

I have attached an updated version of the pelt movement guidance.

The main change is that pelts can undergo the "specified holding period" (14 days at 20°C at ambient humidity levels) at any facility (e.g. farm, off-farm processing, etc) but must be permitted to move prior to completing the specified holding period. My understanding is that all pelts will still undergo the specified holding period at the marketing companies as part of their normal process even if it has been completed prior to the pelts arriving at the companies.

Dr. Easley – there is a specific question/comment in the document about mink moving off-farm for pelting. Does that practice occur in the US?

Please review and provide comments back to us by COB Thursday, Jan 28. If we need to have more discussion about the guidance, we will schedule a call.

Thanks!
Jason

This electronic message contains information generated by the USDA solely for the intended recipients. Any unauthorized interception of this message or the use or disclosure of the information it contains may violate the law and subject the violator to civil or criminal penalties. If you believe you have received this message in error, please notify the sender and delete the email immediately.

Safe Mink Pelt Movement from SARS-CoV-2-Quarantined Production Sites

(Final version, 2/5/2021)

Background

To date, SARS-CoV-2 has been detected on 16 mink farms in the United States. Passive surveillance has identified most infected farms after they experienced increased mortality and morbidity in the mink population; however, one infected farm saw little evidence of disease in mink. Human cases have been identified as likely sources of infection for all affected U.S. mink farms. Investigations suggest that infected workers introduced SARS-CoV-2 to mink on the farms and then spread mink to mink as well as mink to other animals including dogs, cats, and one wild mink. The virus has also been identified in at least 2 escaped-farmed mink on a single infected operation. The U.S. is not currently performing active surveillance on mink farms for SARS-CoV-2 and the infection status of every farm is unknown.

Pelts are typically harvested in November and December of each year. Immediately after skinning and before any processing, the pelts are referred to as *raw unprocessed skin or **skins***. Once processing is completed, which can occur on- or off-farm, the pelts are referred to as *raw processed pelts or **pelts***. Tanning of pelts is conducted after they are sold by the marketing companies. Pelts originating from mink farms quarantined due to SARS-CoV-2 infection that have not undergone viral mitigation must have approval from the quarantine official prior to movement.

Since the status of every mink farm is not known, clinical signs are not always present, and it is not known if pelts from affected animals may be contaminated with viable virus, all pelts should undergo a mitigation process to minimize potential viral loads, regardless of the source. For these reasons, it is out of an abundance of caution the following recommendations are made.

Recommended Holding Period of Mink Pelts for Risk Mitigation of Viable SARS-Cov-2 Virus

Research has shown that the SARS-CoV-2 virus survives on some non-porous surfaces for up to 28 days at 20°C and on a porous surface, cotton cloth, for less than 14 days at 20°C (Riddell et al., 2020). At present, there is only one report describing SARS-CoV-2 survival on raw processed mink pelts. European researchers have recently reported (personal communication) that viable SARS-CoV-2 virus could not be detected on experimentally contaminated raw processed pelts after storage at 20°Celsius (68°Fahrenheit) for 10 days or longer at relative humidity levels of 40-70%. Raw unprocessed skins can't be held at these temperatures for this time period without degradation of the pelt. Holding raw processed pelts for at least 10 days at 20°C, and sometimes for much longer periods, is already routinely performed in U.S. pelt marketing processes, providing an efficacious mitigation step for inactivation of SARS-CoV-2 virus.

USDA recommends the following holding period for raw processed mink pelts:

- **At least 14 days at a minimum of 20° C (68°F) and relative humidity levels of 40-70%**

Raw processed pelts can undergo the recommended holding period at:

1. The pelt processing facility (e.g. mink farm, pelt processing company) and prior to delivery of processed pelts for marketing, and/or
2. The marketing companies – where all pelts routinely undergo the recommended holding period.

Any mink pelts (i.e., raw unprocessed skin or raw processed pelts) originating from a quarantined farm which have not completed the recommended holding period are considered contaminated and require authorization for movement through a permitted agreement with the State Animal Health Officials (SAHO) .

State Permitted Movement of Pelts from Quarantined Mink Farms

Movement of pelts from quarantined mink farms will require awareness and coordination between the mink farmer, transportation company, pelting or processing facility (if pelting or processing is performed off-site from the mink farm), and State animal and public health officials. Permitted movement must be based on firm operational and health oversight to eliminate viral release off-farm or from off-farm processing sites and prevent reintroduction of viable virus to live mink or humans. The permit, written by SAHOs or other quarantine authority, allows the movement of raw unprocessed skins or raw processed pelts from storage and transport off the farm. Individual permits should be developed and include specific transportation, processing, and holding periods for each lot of skins/pelts being marketed from each farm to account for situational variations. A permit must also be used when pelts are moved from an off-farm processing facility and have not undergone the recommended time and temperature holding period and are, therefore, still considered restricted for movement. *Permission must be granted by quarantining authority in the state of origin and the state of destination (for interstate movements) before pelts can be moved from quarantined facilities.*

Off-farm companies processing skins/pelts from a quarantined farm:

1. Must keep the skins/pelts from quarantined and non-quarantined farms separated throughout the entire pelting process, or
2. All raw processed pelts must complete the recommended holding period prior to movement.

Documentation of the following steps in the existing pelt marketing process demonstrate that raw processed mink pelts pose negligible risk for carriage and transmission of viable SARS-CoV-2 virus after the recommended holding period:

1. Raw unprocessed skins from known infected farms that are not processed on site, should be placed in sealed plastic bags in an enclosed conveyance, and hauled under an official state animal health movement permit to an approved pelt processing site.
2. Before leaving known infected farms, the exterior of all plastic bags containing skins must be sprayed with an approved disinfectant. Since the bags are sprayed before being put onto the trucks, there is no need for cleaning and disinfection of trucks. The EPA has a list of disinfectants that are approved to kill the coronavirus: List N Tool: COVID-19 Disinfectants | US EPA
3. Current holding practices will greatly reduce or eliminate SARS-CoV-2 virus from pelts through a recommended post-processing holding period. The recommended holding period may begin when the last pelts in the facility have completed the pelting process. This recommendation is based on recent unpublished research and may be refined as more information becomes available.
4. The recommended holding period may be conducted where pelts are processed, at the marketing companies, or accrue at multiple sites, if approved by the consignee and the SAHO. If skins/pelts must be transferred to another facility *prior* to completion of the holding period, they must be sealed in plastic bags and the exterior disinfected (steps 1 and 2 above). These skins/pelts should be transported under permit to the next stop to complete the recommended holding period prior to release from quarantine.

Raw processed pelts originating from quarantined farms that complete the recommended holding period can move intra- and interstate without restriction. Any issues related to recontamination of pelts via grading or marketing processes are outside the scope of farm-based quarantine release provisions and will be dealt with based on state-specific situations.

Additional Provisions - Controlled Pelt Segregation and Movement Agreement

A multi-faceted approach is necessary to reduce the likelihood of SARS-CoV-2 transmission among humans, animals, and animal products, with the following:

- The farm should remain in compliance with any quarantine orders in place, and employee and equipment traffic should be controlled. Farm workers should adhere to recommended personal protection equipment (PPE) guidance. PPE resources:
    - CDC resources on PPE
    - USDA PPE use in animal disease incidents
- Care should be taken to maintain strict separation between pelt storage and live mink production areas (a "clean-dirty line" approach) to prevent/minimize chances of further contamination of pelt product.
- Proper management of animal waste products, including manure and carcasses, is being followed, with adequate separation from pelt processing and storage areas.

- Off-farm processing company employees handling pelts should adhere to PPE guidance. See above for additional PPE information.

Off-farm processing companies should isolate and handle pelts from quarantined facilities separately from pelts originating from non-quarantined facilities.

Reference

Riddell, S., Goldie, S., Hill, A. *et al.* The effect of temperature on persistence of SARS-CoV-2 on common surfaces. *Virol J* **17,** 145 (2020). https://doi.org/10.1186/s12985-020-01418-7

Worker Safety Protections

The highest risk for exposure to COVID-19 in people working on mink farms is from community transmission and contact with other farm workers with COVID-19. People that work on farms with SARS-CoV-2 infected mink and those that remove and process pelts from infected mink are also at an increased risk for COVID-19 infection than people who are not working with infected animals or animal products. Mink can be infected with SARS-CoV-2 but appear healthy (subclinical infections) and these infections may go undetected in the absence of active surveillance; therefore, steps should be taken to reduce SARS-CoV-2 transmission by implemented the hierarchy of controls outline below.

Standard pelt processing methods may help reduce viral loads that might be present on pelts but data to confirm this is not currently available. Therefore, ***any person handling live mink, carcasses, or mink pelts during pelting or pelt processing should follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) PPE guidance outlined below and employers should ensure that recommended engineering and administrative controls are followed in accordance with the CDC and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)*** ***COVID-19 Control and Prevention guidance***

Implement the Hierarchy of Controls

Employers' COVID-19 response plans should utilize the hierarchy of controls, which generally labels and prioritizes controls in the following order from most to least effective: elimination/substitution, engineering controls, administrative controls and safe work practices, and PPE.

Efforts to exclude potentially infectious individuals from the workplace are consistent with the aim of **eliminating** the hazard.

Engineering controls typically require a physical change to the workplace to isolate workers from a hazard. Examples of engineering controls that employers may find useful for protecting workers from SARS-CoV-2 include:

- Installing plexiglass, stainless steel, or other barriers between workers, such as on assembly lines, or between workers and customers, such as at points of sale.

- Using rope and stanchion systems to keep customers/visitors from queueing within 6 feet of work areas.
- Adjusting ventilation systems to introduce additional outside air and/or increase air exchange to introduce fresh air. Consult a qualified technician if necessary.
- Modifying physical workspaces to increase the distance between employees.

Administrative controls and safe work practices change policies and procedures for how workers perform job duties to ensure work activities are conducted safely. Examples of administrative controls that employers may find useful for protecting workers from SARS-CoV-2 include:

- Limiting the number of workers assigned to a particular shift in a facility and ensuring workstations are spaced at least 6 feet apart.
- Posting signage, in languages the workers understand, to remind workers, customers, and visitors to maintain a distance of at least 6 feet between one another and to practice regular hand hygiene.
- Providing training and information in languages the workers understand.
- Increasing the frequency of cleaning and disinfection within the work site.
- Encouraging or permitting workers to wear cloth face coverings, if appropriate, to help contain potentially infectious respiratory droplets.
- Clean tools to remove organic material. To disinfect, use products that meet EPA's criteria for use against SARS-CoV-2, diluted household bleach solutions prepared according to the manufacturer's label for disinfection, or alcohol solutions with at least 60% alcohol, and are appropriate for the surface. Follow manufacturer directions for use.

PPE protects workers from hazards when engineering and administrative controls are insufficient on their own. The types of PPE that workers may need for protection from exposures to SARS-CoV-2 in areas with community transmission will vary based on work activities, exposure risks, and the results of the employer's hazard assessment. The Additional Considerations for PPE section provides additional details about PPE selection and use for all employers whose workers have increased risk of exposure to SARS-CoV-2 during the pandemic.

- Mink pelting and processing procedures pose a risk of exposure to SARS-CoV-2 and other zoonotic diseases to workers; the following precautions should always be taken when handling carcasses and mink pelts during pelting or processing:
    - Use eye protection (e.g., goggles or face shield) and a fit-tested National Institute for Occupational Health and Safety (NIOSH)-approved N95 respirator, or higher level of NIOSH-approved respirator whenever splashes or sprays are likely to occur.
        - For all PPE, follow the manufacturer directions on use, cleaning, storage, and disposal.
        - PPE such as gloves, face and eye protection, and other types of PPE are needed when cleaning and disinfecting tools, surfaces, and equipment as splashing may occur.
- When participating in aerosol-generating procedures is necessary (e.g., whelping, pelting, processing, rendering), wear a face shield or goggles, gloves, protective outerwear, and respiratory protection that is at least as protective as a fit-tested NIOSH-certified disposable

N95 filtering face piece respirator.
    - If an N95 respirator is not available, either use a higher level of respiratory protection or a combination of a properly worn cloth mask or medical mask and a face shield that covers the entire front (that extends below the chin) and sides of the face.
    - Respirator use should be in the context of a complete respiratory protection program in accordance with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Respiratory Protection standard (29 CFR 1910.134), which includes medical evaluations, training, and fit testing.
- Wear gloves and other protective outerwear as needed to avoid bare-skinned contact with animal carcasses, organs, bodily fluids, and pelts.
- Always immediately wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds after:
    - Direct contact with animal carcasses, organs, or pelts;
    - Cleaning up after animals, including any body fluids or waste;
    - Removing PPE or cloth mask.
- Wearing PPE and certain clothing can often increase your risk for heat-related illnesses. Review CDC information for heat stress prevention for employers and employees

If possible, pelting should be delayed at least 14 days after the last clinical signs of disease in the affected housing unit. This delay particularly important if mink need to be transported off-site for pelting. This would require authorization for movement by a SAHO through a permitted agreement as described above.

Additional information is available:

- Using Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) | CDC
- USDA in-depth discussion of PPE use in animal disease incidents
- Prevent Introduction of SARS-CoV-2 on Mink Farms: *Interim SARS-CoV-2 Guidance and Recommendations for Farmed Mink and Other Mustelids*
- Response and Containment Guidelines: Interim Guidance for Animal Health and Public Health Officials Managing Farmed Mink and other Farmed Mustelids with SARS-CoV-2
- CDC COVID-19 and Animals

Melissa Ure

From: Lombard, Jason E - APHIS <jason.e.lombard@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 5, 2021 11:16 AM
To: Wendling, Natalie (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD); Korslund, John A - APHIS; darlene.konkle@wisconsin.gov; elisabeth.patton@wisconsin.gov; winelandn@michigan.gov; rscholz@oda.state.or.us; djtaylor@utah.gov; john easley
Cc: dlx9@cdc.gov; Carpenter, Ann (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD); Basler, Colin A. (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DFWED); One Health (CDC); SARS.Animal.Health.Coordinating.Cell
Subject: RE: Pelt Guidance - Final Version

Hello,

For clarification, VS will plan to submit for clearance next Friday, February 12.

Please provide us with any corrections by COB Wednesday, February 10.

Thanks!
Jason

Jason E. Lombard, DVM, MS
Epidemiology Officer - Field Epi Investigation Services (FEIS)
2150 Centre Avenue, Bldg. B MS-E13
Fort Collins, CO 80526-8117
Jason.E.Lombard@usda.gov
phone 970.494.7245
cell 970.589.0286

From: Lombard, Jason E - APHIS
Sent: Friday, February 5, 2021 11:00 AM
To: Wendling, Natalie (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD) <pme8@cdc.gov>; Korslund, John A - APHIS <john.a.korslund@usda.gov>; darlene.konkle@wisconsin.gov; elisabeth.patton@wisconsin.gov; winelandn@michigan.gov; rscholz@oda.state.or.us; djtaylor@utah.gov; john easley <johneasleydvm@hotmail.com>
Cc: dlx9@cdc.gov; Carpenter, Ann (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD) <pzy4@cdc.gov>; Basler, Colin A. (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DFWED) <wjq3@cdc.gov>; One Health (CDC) <onehealth@cdc.gov>; SARS.Animal.Health.Coordinating.Cell <SARS.Animal.Health.Coordinating.Cell@usda.gov>
Subject: Pelt Guidance - Final Version

Hello,

VS would like to thank all of our state and federal partners for assisting us in developing the attached guidance document - **Safe Mink Pelt Movement from SARS-CoV-2-Quarantined Production Sites**. After multiple rounds of reviews, we would like to consider this the final version. There were quite a few grammatical changes from the last version you reviewed, but the intent hasn't changed. Please review and let me know if there are errors in the document. Otherwise, we are moving the document forward for agency approval.

Thanks again for all your assistance!
Jason

Jason E. Lombard, DVM, MS
Epidemiology Officer - Field Epi Investigation Services (FEIS)
2150 Centre Avenue, Bldg. B MS-E13
Fort Collins, CO 80526-8117
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Melissa Ure

From: Leann Hunting <leannhunting@utah.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 1, 2020 1:16 PM
To: Caroline Hargraves
Cc: Dean Taylor
Subject: Re: mink

Thanks, Caroline. Dr. Taylor, I have reviewed the content and it looks good. I do not think it is too blunt, it's the appropriate amount. It is also a good idea to send out a letter like this. Thank you for taking the time to address the industry in this manner.

On Tue, Dec 1, 2020 at 1:13 PM Caroline Hargraves <carolinehargraves@utah.gov> wrote:
Hi Leann and Dr. Taylor,

Attached is an updated version of the letter Leann asked me to review. I made only a few slight adjustments with punctuation and a word here or there - nothing I feel would alter the content of the letter.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Warmly,
-Caroline

On Tue, Dec 1, 2020 at 1:00 PM Leann Hunting <leannhunting@utah.gov> wrote:

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Dean Taylor** <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Date: Tue, Dec 1, 2020 at 12:14 PM
Subject: mink
To: Leann Hunting <leannhunting@utah.gov>

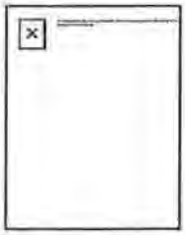
Leann,
Some of the mink farmers are becoming reclusive and non-cooperative again. I wanted to send them a "state of the state" letter. Would you please glance at this and see if I need to remove, add to or be less blunt. See attached
Thanks
Dean

--

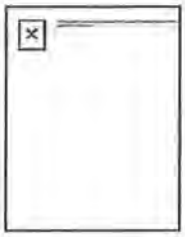
Dean J Taylor, DVM | State Veterinarian
Office 801-982-2243 Cell 385-290-9462
djtaylor@utah.gov
Website | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram



Leann Hunting | Director: Animal Industry
| 385.290.2383 mobile
Website | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram



CAROLINE HARGRAVES | Communications and Public Information Specialist
carolinehargraves@utah.gov | 801.982.2353 office
Website | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram



Leann Hunting | Director: Animal Industry
| 385.290.2383 mobile
Website | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram

I hope that this finds you all well and that you were able to find some time to enjoy Thanksgiving amid the disruption and losses this pandemic has caused, especially for you. I appreciated all of you getting on the call last week to discuss ways to properly get through the pelting season. In that meeting I offered some guidance set forth by USDA and in that was a link to EPA disinfectants to consider for your farms; I shared that prior to reading that list and found that it would require a couple of masters and doctorate degrees to make sense of it. As a result I brought up the topic of cleaning and disinfecting at our last joint meeting with USDA, CDC and the other partners. Use of *any detergent* to clean your facilities will inhibit binding of the virus and neutralize it as well. It will also be cheaper and not create unhealthy fumes or damage your pens. I am including a link to an article that stresses the value of simple soap and water. A detergent in the processing brine will help to disinfect the pelts as well.

https://www.uchealth.org/today/why-soap-and-water-work-better-than-hand-sanitizer-to-remove-the-coronavirus/

I am receiving some feedback that there is still a feeling that the state is not supporting the industry enough, or worse yet is interested in shutting it down. I understand the anxiety and concern especially in light of what has happened in Europe. I would like to be transparent and let you know what we are doing and what we need from you.

All farms are currently under a full quarantine. What does this mean? It means that nothing can enter or leave the farm without the approval of the state veterinarian. This includes: animals, products, waste, etc. We are in a situation where a complete cessation of business cannot occur without devastating the livelihoods of all involved. USDA has provided some guidance that I am trying to incorporate where I can, but following it strictly would prevent any farm with active virus from pelting. This is not reasonable in our situation and there is insufficient data yet to deem it necessary. What I am asking is that during any handling processes that the people involved use the highest level of care and protection and that all waste products that usually would be rendered be buried at the landfill this year until more is known.

The next hurdle is shipping the pelts to auction houses. There are issues that must be addressed now to ensure that they make it to market. These pelts will be shipped interstate and internationally and this brings potential problems that we need to address, such as approvals from USDA and foreign countries that receive them. Few of us feel the pelts are a risk after processing, but there are some studies underway that can give us reassurance that this is the case and put at ease the governments controlling the import of the pelts. All state vets involved in this process have deemed this to be our most pressing answer to study and test. I am confident that an answer will come in time to not delay any marketing of the pelts.

This virus is challenging to understand completely. Each outbreak in the different states has slight differences in its presentation. The ongoing research will help us to understand and manage this virus now and in the future for your farms. I'd like to explain what the research is and ask for your cooperation in the process.

1. CDC will be doing a final study this week on a farm to help determine the length of time animals can carry the virus and whether there are persistent carriers or if the virus tends to recycle. This is likely their last trip to Utah.
2. A researcher at the U of U is looking at deer mice around the farms to see if the virus has set up in them and will present a reservoir that could reinfect farms repeatedly. I have reached out already to the farms with high concentrations of deer mice surrounding them and hopefully it won't be found or present a risk to those farms going forward.
3. NVSL is asking for fresh dead mink from all farms be swabbed and submitted for testing so that they can simply follow the virus for any changes that may occur. I don't know how long they would consider doing this, but if the swabs are negative repeatedly they will not continue. There will be no cost to the producer. We would ask producers to swab the nasal passages and rectum of each dead mink and then we would ship off the samples. I am still working out the logistics of this.
4. Also, a researcher at USU is looking at sampling air in the shed rows and manure for viable virus. This could be useful to help determine if a spike was about to occur or if the circulating virus was dropping. I have not found a way to fund this and it is a bit more intrusive so I have not reached out to anyone on this currently, but if any of you were interested in this on your farms please reach out to me.
5. Lastly, this pertains to human health as well as mink, we would like to scale back responses when new farms break, but because this is a zoonotic (transmissible between humans and animals) disease, it involves both the department of health and the department of agriculture. We would like to continue to verify through testing if there is a human case of COVID that preceded illness on the farm. This will alert us if a new threat to the mink has arisen. Currently where testing has been done it has suggested that the virus has gone from humans to mink in every case. Nothing found in Utah supports what has happened in Europe. We ask for your cooperation to make sure that this is the case by getting anyone working with the mink or on the farms tested.

I know that you are being bombarded with information from around the world and everyone seems to have the next cure. If you have questions on any of this, I may be able to provide some clarification. We will be basing our decisions on the data we personally collect and not that of Europe. We do not discount what they are reporting, but our data is different here so that will not change our management plans here.

Please don't hesitate to call me if you have concerns of any kind. I know this is a very unsettling time for each of you.

Best Regards,

Dean J Taylor, DVM

Melissa Ure

From: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 1:56 PM
To: Klondike International
Subject: Re: Attached Image

Alan,
So the difference here from what we are doing is that they are denying pelts from a positive facility but then also reference the safe handling guidelines that we have put in place for pelt movement. I will reach out to John and then if we all feel OK about it I will speak to CDC to see why the difference in imports vs interstate movement. I will see if we can get an answer and perhaps the port is not fully aware of the issues we have dealt with.
Dean

On Wed, Feb 17, 2021 at 1:32 PM Klondike International <klondikeinternational@aol.com> wrote:

hi dr. taylor,

attached doc i recieved . this is for one shipment entering into michiganc.

the other shipment that was turned away at boarder was from british columbia thru bliane ,washignton.
i have not recieved an explantion why this was turned away.

both shipments were cleared with fish and wildlife in advance.

please give me a call after you have a chance to review.

thanks alan

--

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Reply all Delete Junk Block ...

FW: mink pelts at border

HE Harton, Elizabeth (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DGMQ) <enh8@cdc.gov>
Tue 2/16/2021 4:39 PM
To: MONTGOMERY, SCOTT W

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of DHS. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you recognize and/or trust the sender. Contact the CBP Security Operations Center with questions or concerns.

From: Pieracci, Emily (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DGMQ) <ydi7@cdc.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 4:14 PM
To: Harton, Elizabeth (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DGMQ) <enh8@cdc.gov>
Subject: mink pelts at border

Hi Liz,

CDC is going to deny entry due to the lack of documentation that these mink came from SARS-CoV-2-free farms.

CDC will permit the entry of raw processed mink pelts that have been held for 14 days at 20°C (68°F) and 40-70% humidity or processed pelts that have undergone tanning or other CDC-approved methods that would render them noninfectious. Raw processed mink pelts must be accompanied by documentation from an official government agency verifying that the raw processed pelts have been held for the above-mentioned time and temperature requirements. Processed pelts must be accompanied by a taxidermy or processing certificate with an official government stamp documenting the item(s) has been rendered noninfectious.

Raw processed skins (which these are) or frozen mink carcasses will be denied entry without further documentation that they originated on a SARS-CoV-2-free farm and were not held at any other facility prior to importation.

Kind Regards,

Emily
Emily Pieracci, DVM, MPH, DACVPM
Zoonoses Team Lead
Quarantine and Border Health Services Branch

Scanned with CamScanner

Melissa Ure

From: Hannah Rettler <hrettler@utah.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 1:39 PM
To: Dean Taylor
Subject: Re: Statewide call with producers

Is it safe to assume we likely won't be doing this call/presentation tomorrow? Perhaps more likely on Friday or sometime next week?

On Mon, Feb 1, 2021 at 12:52 PM Hannah Rettler <hrettler@utah.gov> wrote:
Sounds great!

On Mon, Feb 1, 2021 at 12:29 PM Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov> wrote:
I will reach out to Dr Lott and see if he has a preference and then get it scheduled. I do think we should discuss the outline fo the meeting. I will call you after I speak with Mia.
Dean

On Mon, Feb 1, 2021 at 12:01 PM Hannah Rettler <hrettler@utah.gov> wrote:
I would be able to make Wednesday 2/3 or Friday 2/5 work - I have fairly flexible schedules both days. Once you have the results from Mia, perhaps we could have a quick call to discuss what the findings were, and then talk about how to run this call in the best way?

On Mon, Feb 1, 2021 at 11:33 AM Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov> wrote:
I have the test results and Dr Price said that the sequencing is done so I will call Mia for that and then we will know if there was a second introduction or whether the virus has lingered. Would Friday be a possibility for you or possibly Wednesday. Friday would be the best for me but I wonder if Friday is a bad night to get all the producers onboard? Thoughts? I do think that Dr Lott is the best to help us with this.
Give me your thoughts on time. I would love to get this done and wrapped up a bit.
Thanks
Dean

On Mon, Feb 1, 2021 at 11:19 AM Hannah Rettler <hrettler@utah.gov> wrote:
Hi Dr. Taylor,

Have you been able to get all of the results so far from NVSL? I am curious when you think it might be appropriate for us to schedule a state-wide call with all of the mink producers to discuss the results and offer education/training about PPE use, biosecurity, etc.

I think it would be great if we could invite all farmers (affected and unaffected farms), it would be nice to have Dr. Lott on the call, plus anyone who works at the processing and grading facilities, too. Do you think Dr. Lott would be the one who would be most helpful to coordinate getting this group together?

--
Hannah Rettler, MPH
Vectorborne/Zoonotic Disease Epidemiologist
Disease Response, Evaluation, Analysis, & Monitoring Program
Bureau of Epidemiology
Utah Department of Health
Email: hrettler@utah.gov
Office: (801) 538 - 6333
Mobile: (385) 285 - 5178

Secure Fax: (801) 538 - 9923

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Melissa Ure

From: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 9:13 PM
To: Amanda Price
Subject: Re: Invitation: mink producer webinar @ Fri Feb 5, 2021 3pm - 4pm (MST) (amandaprice@utah.gov)

Just attending if you want. Not critical. Just want to talk to them about safety again. We will do the composting in the spring.

On Tue, Feb 2, 2021 at 5:50 PM Amanda Price <amandaprice@utah.gov> wrote:
Am I presenting anything at this meeting or just attending?

On Tue, Feb 2, 2021 at 5:18 PM Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov> wrote:

You have been invited to the following event.

mink producer webinar

When Fri Feb 5, 2021 3pm – 4pm Mountain Time - Denver

Joining info Join with Google Meet
meet.google.com/vec-iohv-asq

Join by phone
(US) +1 385-352-0712 (PIN: 116429263)

More phone numbers

Calendar amandaprice@utah.gov

Who
- djtaylor@utah.gov - organizer
- amandaprice@utah.gov
- Cody Matthews
- Ryan Holt
- Ben Keyes
- rerickson@utah.gov
- jason.rivervalleyvet@gmail.com
- leannhunting@utah.gov
- Kurt Essman
- April Ovard
- Chad Fenn
- Mitch Francis
- hrettler@utah.gov
- Larry Carson
- Kam Sargent
- Dennis Rees
- Tyler Ovard
- Ben Peterson

- Stan Stuart

more details »
Going (amandaprice@utah.gov)? **Yes** - **Maybe** - **No** more options »

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You are receiving this email at the account amandaprice@utah.gov because you are subscribed for invitations on calendar amandaprice@utah.gov.

To stop receiving these emails, please log in to https://calendar.google.com/calendar/ and change your notification settings for this calendar.

Forwarding this invitation could allow any recipient to send a response to the organizer and be added to the guest list, or invite others regardless of their own invitation status, or to modify your RSVP. Learn More.

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Melissa Ure

From: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 4:04 PM
To: Hannah Rettler
Subject: Re: 4 state meeting

Thanks. I will keep this as a reference for people when they call. I assumed not since I had not received any notification that they were receiving the vaccine. Didn't want to mislead him though so I thought that I would ask.
Dean

On Tue, Feb 16, 2021 at 3:54 PM Hannah Rettler <hrettler@utah.gov> wrote:
So I just found out per our vaccination prioritization team that unfortunately, veterinarians should not be included in the vaccine prioritization list at this time. I am not sure when they will become eligible, but from the call this afternoon, it was confirmed that they are not included in the healthcare provider group....this website is updated frequently to share who is eligible and who you should contact to schedule an appointment: https://coronavirus.utah.gov/vaccine-distribution/

On Tue, Feb 16, 2021 at 3:17 PM Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov> wrote:
Sounds good. That is what I recommended he do earlier today. Thanks

On Tue, Feb 16, 2021 at 2:50 PM Hannah Rettler <hrettler@utah.gov> wrote:
Ok, I would recommend they call the Salt Lake Health Department to find out if they are vaccinating veterinarians right now. I will also ask in our meeting this afternoon at 3:30 to see if this is statewide or just per local health jurisdiction.

On Tue, Feb 16, 2021 at 1:50 PM Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov> wrote:
He is in West Valley City when I look him up.

On Tue, Feb 16, 2021 at 11:42 AM Hannah Rettler <hrettler@utah.gov> wrote:
I also received a call about this a few weeks ago - I asked the local health department where the vet I spoke to was calling from and they said that they were offering them to veterinarians and that they could just call their local health department to coordinate an appointment. Do you know what county this vet lives in? I can also ask this evening on our statewide local health department call to confirm that all veterinarians are eligible.

On Tue, Feb 16, 2021 at 11:31 AM Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov> wrote:
Do you know if veterinarians are considered for vaccination as health care workers? I have a vet that called me last week enquiring.
Dean

On Tue, Feb 16, 2021 at 8:32 AM Hannah Rettler <hrettler@utah.gov> wrote:
Sure, I can give this update

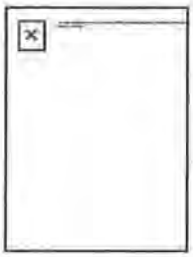
On Tue, Feb 16, 2021 at 8:11 AM Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov> wrote:
I have a conflicting meeting that I really need to be on. Can you give an update for me? *All second round testing is now complete. Most farms have moved their pelts on permit at this time. I am waiting for all the results since we have some farms that will remain on quarantine due to positive tests. We will not do more testing on those farms until spring, when the kits are old enough to not be affected. Also since there is not time prior to breeding to get that done.* Just for you to know I don't get the results from NVSL well. They have worked on it

unsuccessfully but it may be my computer instead since this one is dying. I get emails days late or not at all. I sent myself a test email and I have never received it yet and it has been over a week. So I think the results for Chad Fenn were old results that finally came through and not the ones from the second testing. I may have been happy too early. They are getting me a new phone and computer to start fresh so this doesn't keep happening but I need to get Mia to send me all the results from the second round of testing in Utah and Morgan counties. Thanks for taking the call today.
Dean

On Tue, Feb 16, 2021 at 7:54 AM Hannah Rettler <hrettler@utah.gov> wrote:
Yes, I plan to.

On Tue, Feb 16, 2021 at 7:49 AM Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov> wrote:
Will you be jumping on the call with the other states this morning?

--



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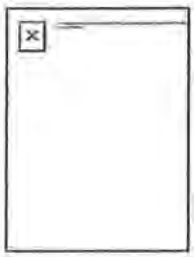
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Melissa Ure

From: Hannah Rettler <hrettler@utah.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, November 4, 2020 9:09 AM
To: Cossaboom, Caitlin (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHCPP); Dean Taylor
Subject: Questions from last night's presentation

Here are the list of questions I was asked last night that I think may be worth putting together some answers to distribute to them:

- How long do the mink remain positive?
- Are the mink infectious?
- What temperature kills the virus?
- What should I do with my pelts?
- What should I do with my carcasses?
- If my farm has not been affected, can I send my pelts for processing?
- Can I sell my coats in the spring?
- How does this affect other animals? Cats? Dogs? Racoons? Skunks?
- What will you do about the feral cats?
- What is the benefit to me to report this to you?
- How can we trust these test results are accurate?

Hannah Rettler, MPH
Vectorborne/Zoonotic Disease Epidemiologist
Disease Response, Evaluation, Analysis, & Monitoring Program
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Melissa Ure

From: Miller, Lori P - APHIS <lori.p.miller@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, November 5, 2020 11:50 AM
To: Rooney, Jane A - APHIS; Dean Taylor; Hannah Rettler
Subject: RE: SME contact for UT to work with on disposal methods for Mink

All,

I look forward to meeting with you this evening.

Lori

PS: not doctor, I'm an engineer. 😊

Lori P. Miller
Senior Staff Officer/Environmental Engineer

United States Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Veterinary Services
Strategy and Policy

4700 River Road, Unit 41, Room 5D-03.2
Riverdale, MD 20737

Desk Phone: 301 851 3512
Cell Phone: 240-508-9894
FAX: 301 734 7817
E-mail: lori.p.miller@usda.gov

<image002.jpg><https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAAPHIS/subscriber/topics?qsp=USDAAPHIS_1>Click here to subscribe to the VS Animal Health Stakeholder Registry<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAAPHIS/subscriber/topics?qsp=USDAAPHIS_1>

From: Rooney, Jane A - APHIS <jane.a.rooney@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, November 5, 2020 1:31 PM
To: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>; Hannah Rettler <hrettler@utah.gov>; Miller, Lori P - APHIS <lori.p.miller@usda.gov>
Subject: SME contact for UT to work with on disposal methods for Mink

Hi Dean and Hannah,

I have spoken to Dr. Lori Miller, our USDA disposal SME, and she is available to help UT with your disposal questions and if needed give you a local point of contact also. I also sent tonight's call invitation to her and she will join.

I have included her on this message and her full contact info is:

Lori P. Miller
Senior Staff Officer/Environmental Engineer

United States Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Veterinary Services
Strategy and Policy

4700 River Road, Unit 41, Room 5D-03.2
Riverdale, MD 20737

Desk Phone: 301 851 3512
Cell Phone: 240-508-9894
FAX: 301 734 7817
E-mail: lori.p.miller@usda.gov

Best,
Jane

Jane A. Rooney, D.V.M.
Director, One Health Coordination
Office of Interagency Coordination
Strategy and Policy
USDA:APHIS:Veterinary Services
2150 Centre Ave., Building B, MS3E13
Fort Collins, Colorado 80526

Ph: 970-494-7397
Mobile: 301-789-3064
Email: Jane.A.Rooney@usda.gov

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Melissa Ure

From: Olander, Doris - APHIS <doris.olander@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2020 8:55 AM
To: dlx9@cdc.gov; Rooney, Jane A - APHIS; maggie.baldwin@state.co.us; david.smith@agriculture.ny.gov; Porter-Spalding, Barbara A - APHIS; Abrahamsen, Lauren M - APHIS; Loiacono, Christina M - APHIS; john easley; Cossaboom, Caitlin (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHCPP); Wendling, Natalie (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD); Remmenga, Marta D - APHIS
Cc: Dean Taylor; Garvey, Ann (CDC idph.iowa.gov); Hannah Rettler; Carpenter, Ann (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD)
Subject: RE: COVID-19 Livestock discussion group call

Just back from leave..

Page 3
First PP This guidance is directed at SAHOs
Lower on page the word "your" is used twice under general guidance

Page 4 – escapes
Even though this may be unpopular, I think that escapes should be caught, euthanized and tested to see if exposure to wildlife is a risk

From: Barton Behravesh, Casey (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD) <dlx9@cdc.gov>
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2020 9:37 AM
To: Rooney, Jane A - APHIS <jane.a.rooney@usda.gov>; maggie.baldwin@state.co.us; david.smith@agriculture.ny.gov; Porter-Spalding, Barbara A - APHIS <barbara.a.porter-spalding@usda.gov>; Abrahamsen, Lauren M - APHIS <Lauren.Abrahamsen@usda.gov>; Loiacono, Christina M - APHIS <christina.m.loiacono@usda.gov>; john easley <johneasleydvm@hotmail.com>; Cossaboom, Caitlin (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHCPP) <nrm9@cdc.gov>; Wendling, Natalie (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD) <pme8@cdc.gov>; Remmenga, Marta D - APHIS <marta.d.remmenga@usda.gov>
Cc: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>; Garvey, Ann (CDC idph.iowa.gov) <Ann.Garvey@idph.iowa.gov>; Hannah Rettler <hrettler@utah.gov>; Olander, Doris - APHIS <doris.olander@usda.gov>; Carpenter, Ann (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD) <pzy4@cdc.gov>
Subject: RE: COVID-19 Livestock discussion group call

Jane,
Here are my comments. The CDC team sent additional comments in a separate document yesterday. Apologies for being a bit behind the deadline in my submission.

Talk to you soon.

Casey

Casey Barton Behravesh MS, DVM, DrPH, DACVPM
Captain, U.S. Public Health Service
Director, One Health Office
CDC COVID-19 One Health Working Group Lead
National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
e-mail: CBartonBehravesh@cdc.gov

www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/animals/pets-other-animals.html
www.cdc.gov/onehealth
Cell: 404 729 4107

ONE HEALTH

From: Rooney, Jane A - APHIS <jane.a.rooney@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2020 10:56 PM
To: maggie.baldwin@state.co.us; david.smith@agriculture.ny.gov; Porter-Spalding, Barbara A - APHIS <barbara.a.porter-spalding@usda.gov>; Abrahamsen, Lauren M - APHIS <Lauren.Abrahamsen@usda.gov>; Loiacono, Christina M - APHIS <christina.m.loiacono@usda.gov>; john easley <johneasleydvm@hotmail.com>; Barton Behravesh, Casey (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD) <dlx9@cdc.gov>; Cossaboom, Caitlin (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHCPP) <nrm9@cdc.gov>; Wendling, Natalie (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD) <pme8@cdc.gov>; Remmenga, Marta D - APHIS <marta.d.remmenga@usda.gov>
Cc: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>; Garvey, Ann (CDC idph.iowa.gov) <Ann.Garvey@idph.iowa.gov>; Hannah Rettler <hrettler@utah.gov>; Olander, Doris - APHIS <doris.olander@usda.gov>; Carpenter, Ann (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD) <pzy4@cdc.gov>
Subject: RE: COVID-19 Livestock discussion group call

Please find attached an updated version of the working draft of the guidance for quarantine release for discussion tomorrow. This only includes internally discussed updates, as other suggestions were not received in time to be included; however will be discussed tomorrow also.

Thanks,

Jane

Jane A. Rooney, D.V.M.
Director, One Health Coordination
Office of Interagency Coordination
Strategy and Policy
USDA:APHIS:Veterinary Services
2150 Centre Ave., Building B, MS3E13
Fort Collins, Colorado 80526

Ph: 970-494-7397
Mobile: 301-789-3064
Email: Jane.A.Rooney@usda.gov

-----Original Appointment-----
From: Rooney, Jane A - APHIS
Sent: Friday, October 23, 2020 1:25 PM
To: Rooney, Jane A - APHIS; Baldwin - CDA, Maggie; david.smith@agriculture.ny.gov; Porter-Spalding, Barbara A - APHIS; Abrahamsen, Lauren M - APHIS; Loiacono, Christina M - APHIS; john easley; Barton Behravesh, Casey (CDC/OID/NCEZID)

(dlx9@cdc.gov); Cossaboom, Caitlin M (CDC); Wendling, Natalie (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD); Remmenga, Marta D - APHIS
Cc: Dean Taylor; Garvey, Ann (CDC idph.iowa.gov); Hannah Rettler; Olander, Doris - APHIS; Carpenter, Ann (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD)
Subject: COVID-19 Livestock discussion group call
When: Friday, October 30, 2020 9:00 AM-10:00 AM (UTC-07:00) Mountain Time (US & Canada).
Where: Skype Meeting (I now also have a call in number if you can't use Skype +1 202-650-0123,,619924965#)
Importance: High

Please find attached the working DRAFT (**not to be shared outside the working group)** Surveillance Guidance document Marta went over on our 10/23/20 call. Please provide feedback and comments in track changes to Marta, Lauren and me (marta.d.remmenga@usda.gov; Lauren.Abrahamsen@usda.gov; jane.a.rooney@usda.gov) by **COB Wednesday Oct 28**.

Also attached, the final mink questionnaire template, including CDC updates (please check they are correct). I left in Maggie's notes as most contain information for potential drop down lists or other useful tips. This document will be shared with stakeholders as "living document".

Also please send agenda items if you have them.

Join Skype Meeting

Trouble Joining? Try Skype Web App

Join by phone

Toll number: +1 202-650-0123,,619924965# (Dial-in Number) English (United States)

Find a local number

Conference ID: 619924965
Forgot your dial-in PIN? | Help

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Melissa Ure

From: Amanda Price <amandaprice@utah.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2020 10:43 AM
To: Dean Taylor
Subject: Summary of USAHA Emergency Management Committee Meeting

I joined a few USAHA committees, and the Emergency Management Committee had 2 speakers this morning.

The North American Renderers Association has a list of independent rendering plants participating in rendering depopulated animals. We can get that list from dmeeker@nara.org.

Iowa Pork did a webinar on composting and above-ground burial, and we can get that webinar at jeggers@iowapork.org.

Above-Ground Carcass Burial
Drs Bob Thaler and John McMaine at South Dakota State University did a study on above-ground burial of pigs. They dug 24 inch pits, filled with 18-20" of carbonaceous material (wood chips or corn stalks), then carcasses, then 2' of fill dirt, and then allowed vegetation to grow on the top.

The pits were 8' wide, 60' long, and 22" deep. They could have fit around 50 carcasses in each pit, but only did 44. They placed well pipes at 6, 18, and 36 inches deep to test leaching of Seneca Valley Virus (SVV), E coli, and nitrates. They used DOA carcasses from slaughterhouses, and they were sliced open because they were required to be denatured prior to leaving the plant. They also added some feeder pigs that they challenged with Seneca Valley Virus and then euthanized when their titers hit a certain level. They placed a game camera to check for scavengers, but none stopped and tried to get in. There was no fly or odor issue.

Findings:
- Less carcass breakdown on wood chips than corn stalks. The corn stalks felt like particle board.
- Not as much temperature rise as they expected, but it was a really wet summer.
- On wood chips they found SVV in the water samples for the first 5 months, but only on the 6" and 18" wells, never on the 36" well. On corn stalks, they only found SVV in one of the 18" wells the first month and never detected it again.
- They collected samples from the tonsil area and abdomen of the feeder pigs (they dug up 1 set each month). The PCR cycle counts went up, which is apparently a good thing, because it means it was harder to find the virus, and at the levels they were seeing, it is unlikely that there was any active virus remaining. They plan to do a bioassay in June to see if they can find any virus that is still infective.
- The temperature was slightly higher in intact pigs than sliced open pigs for the first month, but then they were equal.
- They estimate that 9.6 sq ft/pig is needed, so a 2400 pig barn would require 48 pits of the size they used. You can go wider or longer. However, 2400 pigs would require roughly 0.53 acres of pits. Pits need to be far enough apart for equipment to get in there to cover them with fill dirt.
- They recommended grinding cornstalks prior to burial and adding some on top to increase composting.
- The pits can go deeper, but it depends on the height of the water table.

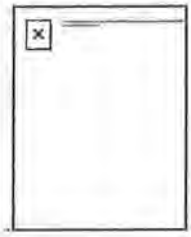
Anyway, an interesting option in case we have to deal with an FAD or depopulate pigs at Circle 4. It does require a lot of land, so I wonder if we could use government land for depopulated animals if needed (since they aren't diseased, so transport would not be a risk). I'm not sure if this is a better option than composting, especially since the temperature doesn't seem to rise as high as it does for composting. I'll add "research swine/cattle composting" to my work plan. :-)

North American Meat Institute Q&A

Tiffany Lee, a veterinarian with the North American Meat Institute had a Q&A session with committee members. Unfortunately I missed some of the stuff about the executive order because I was calling Bob and fending off feral children. The NAMI is a packer and processor trade association that mostly deals with red meat, but has some turkey and chicken members.

- The executive order should make it easier for plants that were shut down by local or state governments to reopen
- There are a few sources that have lists of plant closures. The best one is on the Meating Place, but you have to subscribe to access it. She was going to send some links to other sources to the Committee chair, who will send them along to us.
- Guidance has been coming out to plants from USDA, CDC, and OSHA - mostly CDC and OSHA have been working with the plants to implement safety measures for their workers.
- HR departments have the tough job of convincing employees to go to work, and they have been working on getting materials in different languages to their workers to assure them that the plants are safe.
- USDA FSIS has a coronavirus page with resources.
- The Meat Institute has a coronavirus page at meatinstitute.org. Some links only work if you are a member.
- Before coronavirus, the NAMI was working with USDA on having an exercise about readiness for African Swine Fever. That has been postponed. They are hoping to do a tabletop discussion on policy this fall - basically defining roles and responsibilities in an outbreak. Then Dr. Lee would like to see how that policy fits in with their everyday activities, and then she would like to see a real-time exercise. All of that is on hold until things reopen.

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AMANDA PRICE | Assistant State Veterinarian
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Melissa Ure

From: Yeong, Siu-Kae [BCCDC] <Siu-Kae.Yeong@bccdc.ca>
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2021 12:48 PM
To: 'Dean Taylor'
Subject: RE: Question re: pelt storing

Thanks so much Dr Taylor.

Siu-Kae

From: Dean Taylor [mailto:djtaylor@utah.gov]
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2021 11:47 AM
To: Yeong, Siu-Kae [BCCDC]
Subject: Re: Question re: pelt storing

EXTERNAL SENDER. If you suspect this message is malicious, please forward to spam@phsa.ca and **do not** open attachments or click on links.

You could get the information from Casey Barton-Behravesh at onehealth@cdc.gov or dlx9@cdc.gov. The USDA has put together a document that uses some of this information from Finland and we are using it in our plans. I will be finishing up some documentation, mostly borrowed by other states that I will send along with the document from USDA when it passes final approval.
Thanks
Dean

On Mon, Jan 25, 2021 at 10:36 AM Yeong, Siu-Kae [BCCDC] <Siu-Kae.Yeong@bccdc.ca> wrote:

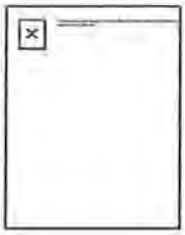
Hi Dr Price and Dr Taylor,

Our Ministry of Agriculture colleagues have heard from some sources about an unpublished Finnish study that determined storing processed pelts for 20 C for 10 days kills all remaining viable virus on intentionally infected pelts. Do you know anything about this? We'd appreciate any information you may be willing to share on the results of this study, and more importantly the material and methods of the study (which could inform our process of testing the pelts from our infected premises). Any written material and contact info for the Finnish researcher would be great so we could connect with them directly.

Please let us know if you may have heard about this.

Siu-Kae

778.861.2170



Dean J Taylor, DVM | State Veterinarian
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Melissa Ure

From: Olander, Doris - APHIS <doris.olander@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 5, 2021 8:49 AM
To: Dean Taylor
Subject: RE: Next wed meeting

Great!

From: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 5, 2021 9:44 AM
To: Olander, Doris - APHIS <doris.olander@usda.gov>
Cc: amandaprice@utah.gov
Subject: Re: Next wed meeting

Absolutely.

On Tue, Jan 5, 2021 at 8:42 AM Olander, Doris - APHIS <doris.olander@usda.gov> wrote:

Good morning.

Can I forward the invite to Lori Miller the USDA APHIS staff officer lead. Lori, myself, a WI DATCP state field disposal specialist and a Maine Extension soil scientist and compost expert had a long call yesterday discussing the concept viral inactivation of SARS-CoV-2in mink manure. It would be helpful to have her input because she is the person who works with national staff Utah will be the first state to formally do this (as you know manure has been stacked routinely for centuries) but our goal is to carry out and demonstrate good practices.

Regards, Doris

USDA VETERINARY SERVICES –Wisconsin

Veterinary Epidemiologist

608 444 5237



Lori P. Miller

Senior Staff Officer/Environmental Engineer

United States Department of Agriculture

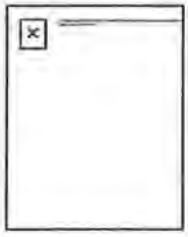
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Veterinary Services

Strategy and Policy

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—



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Melissa Ure

From: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2020 6:02 PM
To: Robert Erickson
Subject: Re: Mink with confirmed COVID outbreaks

Thanks Bob

On Fri, Nov 13, 2020 at 3:33 PM Robert Erickson <rerickson@utah.gov> wrote:

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Tom Fisher** <tfisher@summitcounty.org>
Date: Fri, Nov 13, 2020 at 2:55 PM
Subject: RE: Mink with confirmed COVID outbreaks
To: Robert Erickson <rerickson@utah.gov>
Cc: Tim Loveday <tloveday@summitcounty.org>

Dr. Erickson,

Thank you for contacting me regarding a waiver of the Out-of- County fee for disposing of mink carcasses exposed to COVID-19.

Please consider this email, that I have copied to Mr. Loveday, my authorization that the fee will be waived (the charges for this disposal will be the standard in-county rate of $33 per ton at Henefer or $36 per ton at Three Mile).

As a matter of procedure, Mr. Loveday will communicate to you or a representative of your choosing on how he would expect that the mink be brought to facility, how the coordination with Summit County will take place to ensure proper disposal and to protect the personnel or other public on site. We expect that these procedures be adhered to exactly. Surprises or improper disposal should be avoided.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Tom

Tom Fisher

970-640-1757

summitcounty.org

Summit County Manager



www.VisitParkCity.com

From: Robert Erickson <rerickson@utah.gov>
Sent: Friday, November 13, 2020 1:20 PM
To: Tom Fisher <tfisher@summitcounty.org>
Subject: Mink with confirmed COVID outbreaks

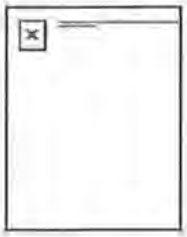
This is Dr Robert Erickson with the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food. I have been asked by the State Veterinarian to inquire about the possibility of having mink carcasses possibly exposed with COVID from a neighboring county (4 farms in Morgan) being exempted from the Out-Of-County additional fee at the Summit County Landfill for this pelting season. These producers would prefer to bury the pelted mink carcasses on site but with the news that virus has been detected in wastewater there is much concern about their close proximity to the river and the possibility of contaminating live waters in the area.

These are recovered mink but landfill would still be our preferred carcass disposal option and wondered if the In-County-Fee could be an option for these producers during this current outbreak?

Sincerely,

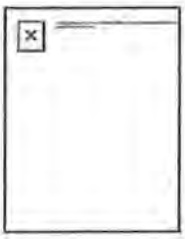
Robert Erickson

--



Robert Erickson | Field Veterinarian
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801.538.7025 office | 801.520.4311 mobile
Website | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram

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djtaylor@utah.gov
Website | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram

Melissa Ure

From: Amanda Price <amandaprice@utah.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 3:49 PM
To: Fife, Emily - NRCS, Salt Lake City, UT
Cc: Smart, Bronson - NRCS, Salt Lake City, UT; Brian Speer; Schmitz, Clayton - NRCS, Salt Lake City, UT; Dean Taylor; Roper, Jason - NRCS, Salt Lake City, UT; Mark Hutchinson; Matt Sullivan; Roy Van Os
Subject: Re: Mink Manure Composting/Cooking producer documents
Attachments: Manure Cooking Guidance for SARS v2.docx

I apologize. I updated the manure cooking document before I sent it, but it sent an old version. This one should say that the manure needs to be covered with hydrated lime, not poly sheeting.

Amanda

On Tue, Jan 12, 2021 at 11:41 AM Fife, Emily - NRCS, Salt Lake City, UT <emily.fife@usda.gov> wrote:

Thank you Amanda for providing these in advance. My team will review so they can provide input tomorrow.

Emily Fife

Utah State Conservationist

125 S State Street, Room 4010 Salt Lake City, UT 84138 | Direct: (801) 524-4550 | Cell: (801) 718-8828 |

As precautionary health measures are put in effect nationwide to reduce the spread of coronavirus, the USDA is taking steps to ensure the safety of its employees and customers. USDA Service Centers are open for business by phone appointment only. While our program delivery staff will continue to come into to the office, they will be working with our agriculture producers by phone and using email and online tools whenever possible. Producers should contact their local service center by phone to schedule time for program or loan services needed. For the latest information on Service Center operations, visit farmers.gov/coronavirus.

From: Amanda Price <amandaprice@utah.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 9:44 AM
To: Smart, Bronson - NRCS, Salt Lake City, UT <bronson.smart@usda.gov>; Brian Speer <bspeer@utah.gov>; Schmitz, Clayton - NRCS, Salt Lake City, UT <clayton.schmitz@usda.gov>; Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>; Fife, Emily - NRCS, Salt Lake City, UT <emily.fife@usda.gov>; Roper, Jason - NRCS, Salt Lake City, UT <jason.roper@usda.gov>; Mark Hutchinson <mhutch@maine.edu>; Matt Sullivan <msullivan@utah.gov>; Roy Van Os <rvanos@utah.gov>
Subject: Mink Manure Composting/Cooking producer documents

Hi all,

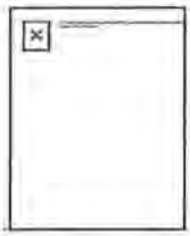
I'm looking forward to our meeting tomorrow. I have attached our draft manure cooking and manure composting guidance that we have put together for producers based on recommendations from USDA. I would love your input on these documents tomorrow.

Thanks!

Amanda

AMANDA PRICE, DVM MS | Assistant State Veterinarian
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Website | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram

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Animal Health Program | amandaprice@utah.gov
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Website | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram

Manure "Cooking" Guidance for SARS-CoV-2 Infected Mink Farms

The goal of manure "cooking" is similar to that for composting: getting the manure hot enough for a long enough period of time to kill the virus. Cooking is a much shorter process than composting, but does not result in the same rich compost at the end, so you may still have to pay to dispose of the manure if you do not have a market for it.

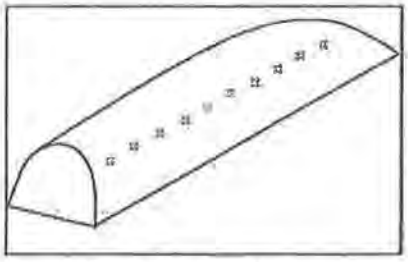
To "cook" mink manure, you need to make a pile of manure. Start with a one foot base of wood chips or other materials that will allow moisture to drain and some airflow. Then pile the manure on the top. Don't make the pile too thin/short, because it will be hard to measure temperatures. If the manure is very dry and crumbly, you will need to spray some water on it. After the pile is built, cover it with hydrated lime so that no manure is showing. The lime will destroy any virus on the surface of the pile and reduces scavenging. A larger pile will take longer to heat up than a small pile, but should stay hot longer.

Possible Base Layer Materials

- Corn cobs
- Chopped corn stalks or silage
- Rice Hulls
- Chopped straw or hay (not recommended)
- Wood chips
- Wood shavings
- Horse manure (if mixed with shavings)

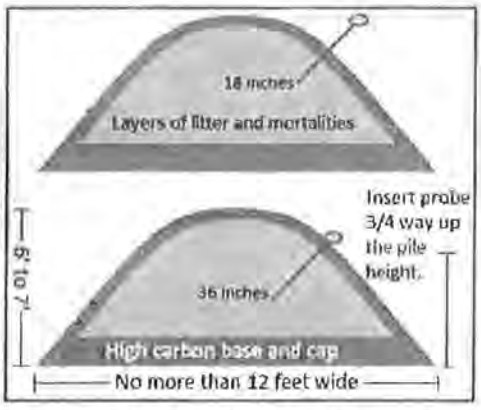
When building manure piles:

- Workers should wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
- Do not drive on the piles
- All equipment (including buckets, tracks, and tires) used to build the pile should be cleaned and disinfected after the pile is built.
- Manure piles should be protected from cats, rodents, and other animals.
- Build the pile downwind from any houses and at least 200 feet from wells, groundwater, and houses.
- Do not build the piles up against a building or close to one.
- Rain may wash away the lime, so you may want to cover the pile with a tarp or plastic.



Example temperature monitoring locations

Once the pile is built, a UDAF employee will work with you to flag the locations where temperatures should be taken using a composting thermometer. Temperature should be taken 2-3 times per week during the hottest part of the day. Take the temperature at two different depths at each location; larger piles should have temperatures taken at 18 inches and 36 inches. Leave the thermometer at each depth and point for at least 60 seconds. Disinfect the thermometer after each use.



Images taken from "Mortality Composting Protocol for Avian Influenza Flocks"

Temperatures should be recorded on a Temperature Log until the pile has an average of at least 130°F on at least 3 separate days. A printable log is available at the end of this document, and a computer spreadsheet that will do the calculations for you is available from the State Veterinarian's Office. The Temperature Log should be submitted to the State Veterinarian once the proper temperature has been reached.

If the pile never reaches 130°F, contact the State Veterinarian's office. Lower temperatures for longer periods of time may also be effective in killing the virus, and calculations can be done to determine if the manure pile is safe to uncover and use. It may be difficult for a pile to reach 130 F during the winter, but it should be able to reach those temperatures once the weather warms up in spring and summer.

36 inch composting thermometers can be purchased at a number of websites. Here are a few links to composting thermometers on Amazon:

- REOTEMP Backyard Pro Compost Thermometer, 36 Inch Stem, with PDF Composting Guide (0-200 Fahrenheit)
- General Tools T300-36 Analog Soil Thermometer, Long Stem 36 Inch Probe, 0° to 220° Fahrenheit
- VeeGee Dial Compost Thermometer, with Glass Face, 36" Stem, 3" Dial, 0 to 200 Degrees F

After approval from the State Veterinarian, the manure may be uncovered and used. If your farm is still under quarantine, the manure can only be moved off-farm with written approval from the State Veterinarian's office.

COMPOSTING TEMPERATURE LOG

County:		Site Number:	
Street address, city, state:			
Farm Name:			
House/Windrow Number:	Date Started:	Date Finished:	Date Turned:

Use the cells below to record the temperatures each day at 18 inches and at 36 inches.

Date	Depth	Flag #1	Flag #2	Flag #3	Flag #4	Flag #5	Flag #6	Flag #7	Flag #8	Flag #9	Flag#10	Avg
	18"											
	36"											
	18"											
	36"											
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Log from "Mortality Composting Protocol for Avian Influenza Flocks"

Melissa Ure

From: Mark Hutchinson <mhutch@maine.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 11:40 AM
To: Miller, Lori P - APHIS
Cc: amandaprice@utah.gov; Olander, Doris - APHIS; Dean Taylor
Subject: Re: Covid Mink Manure Management info

I agree with Lori that the base needs to allow airflow and be absorbent. Typically this means some form of carbon material because N sources are usually wet and dense. The only manure I might consider would be horse manure from barns if they have been well bedded with shavings and is dry. Even though the particle size is not ideal for a base, the manure already has a lot of biological activity which helps in the overall compost process and doesn't seem to restrict airflow. Being from the East, I think of other manures as being wet and sloppy. However, dry pack manure may be workable as both a cover and base. If the material is absorbent you might be able to blend with wood chips (would chips are not absorbent) to have the porosity and absorption required. I realize this adds a step to the process.

I would also remove any paper or cardboard products. These products when they get wet collapse and form a soggy stinky base with no airflow. These products are extremely difficult to manage and often create additional problems.

Because of the size and density of mink you could add wood shavings to the list. These could be used both as a base and cover material as could the horse manure bedding.

I look forward to our conversation tomorrow.

Mark

Mark Hutchinson
Extension Professor
Sustainable Agriculture/Compost
University of Maine Cooperative Extension
mhutch@maine.edu

On Tue, Jan 12, 2021 at 11:02 AM Miller, Lori P - APHIS <lori.p.miller@usda.gov> wrote:

In my opinion, if you're going to procure base material, you might as well procure cap material, as well, and just do composting. I that case, you don't need tarp or lime.

If you are going to use a base material for any purpose, it needs to have a fairly large particle size to allow airflow, and should not be green. Materials such as stalks should be chopped. Chopped leaves won't provide adequate airflow.

I suggest removing:

Manure

Leaves

Shrub trimmings

I will verify with Mark Hutchinson by way of copy to this email.

Thanks.

Lori P. Miller

Senior Staff Officer/Environmental Engineer

United States Department of Agriculture

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Veterinary Services

Strategy and Policy

4700 River Road, Unit 41, Room 5D-03.2

Riverdale, MD 20737

Desk Phone: 301 851 3512

Cell Phone: 240-508-9894

FAX: 301 734 7817

E-mail: lori.p.miller@usda.gov

<image002.jpg><https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAAPHIS/subscriber/topics?qsp=USDAAPHIS_1>Click here to subscribe to the VS Animal Health Stakeholder Registry<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAAPHIS/subscriber/topics?qsp=USDAAPHIS_1>

From: Amanda Price <amandaprice@utah.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 10:53 AM
To: Olander, Doris - APHIS <doris.olander@usda.gov>
Cc: Miller, Lori P - APHIS <lori.p.miller@usda.gov>; Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Subject: Re: Covid Mink Manure Management info

Right. But we had talked about having a one-foot base of wood chips or corn stover for the "stack n' cook". I just couldn't remember if it needed to be a carbon-rich base or just something that would absorb some of the liquid and allow airflow.

On Tue, Jan 12, 2021 at 8:35 AM Olander, Doris - APHIS <doris.olander@usda.gov> wrote:

> Just to clarify, this is for composting not for "stack 'n cook".
>
> **From:** Amanda Price <amandaprice@utah.gov>
> **Sent:** Tuesday, January 12, 2021 9:15 AM
> **To:** Miller, Lori P - APHIS <lori.p.miller@usda.gov>
> **Cc:** Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>; Olander, Doris - APHIS <doris.olander@usda.gov>
> **Subject:** Re: Covid Mink Manure Management info
>
> Thank you for all that information, Lori. As I was looking through the list of raw materials, some of them had rather low C:N ratios. Is it important that the base be high-carbon on the manure cooking?
>
> I basically narrowed that list down to the following options for the base layer. Are there any I should remove?
>
> **High-Carbon Materials**
>
> - Corn cobs
> - Corn stalks or silage
> - Rice Hulls

- Manure (cattle or horse)
- Recycled paper or corrugated cardboard
- Straw (not recommended)
- Wood chips
- Leaves
- Shrub trimmings

On Wed, Jan 6, 2021 at 9:40 AM Miller, Lori P - APHIS <lori.p.miller@usda.gov> wrote:

Hi, All.

It was good speaking with you today. Here are the items we discussed.

1. Link to Poultry Composting Protocol https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/emergency_management/downloads/hpai/mortalitycompostingprotocol.pdf
2. Composting Process 2-page fact sheet for producers attached
3. Carbon source Characteristics of Raw Material attached
4. Mark Hutchinson email address mhutch@maine.edu
5. NRCS Ogden contact

Ogden AO & FO	2871 South Commerce Way Ogden, UT 84401	(801) 629-0580

Please let me know if you have any questions, and good luck with this difficult challenge.

Lori P. Miller

Senior Staff Officer/Environmental Engineer

United States Department of Agriculture

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

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E-mail: lori.p.miller@usda.gov

<image002.jpg><https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAAPHIS/subscriber/topics?qsp=USDAAPHIS_1>Click here to subscribe to the VS Animal Health Stakeholder Registry<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAAPHIS/subscriber/topics?qsp=USDAAPHIS_1>

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Melissa Ure

From: Amanda Price <amandaprice@utah.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 1:36 PM
To: Dean Taylor
Subject: Summary of Composting Call

Here is a summary of my notes on the call:

DEQ considers manure and carcasses to be solid waste
- DEQ has requirements for composting facilities including operations plans and recording requirements.
  - DEQ has a checklist for operations plans
  - We can collect temperature data and operations plans and forward them to DEQ; we would have oversight
  - They require clay soil, a liner, or a hard surface like concrete or asphalt
- There are some siting requirements and follow-up with inspections.
- No permit is required unless they are burying the carcasses.
- Their composting rules can be found at R315-312-3. However, the time/temperature requirements in that rule are not sufficient to inactivate COVID

NCRS provides assistance to site piles and design storage facilities, as well as financial assistance and advising about the rate, timing, and spreading of manure.
- They follow practice standards, which can be found by Googling EFOTG.
- There are currently limitations as to how much they can be on site because of the risk of COVID.
- In Wisconsin, they provided money for transportation to landfills; the State Vet is the one monitoring the composting but they are providing guidance and some financial assistance
- There are several hoops to jump through to get financial assistance. Liners may be required depending on water table
- They can provide soil and water table information without visiting the farm to assist with siting.

COVID inactivation time/temp requirements = 131 F for 4 days or 110 F for 10 days

Additional materials:
- Straw is commonly used. Typically 2-3' base and 2x as much straw as manure
  - Animals can easily burrow into straw; not recommended for top
  - Straw does not absorb leachate or odors
- Hydrated lime - causes an exothermic reaction on the surface
  - Restricts airflow and reduces bacterial activity
  - Could only be used on low pH fields
  - Inactivation is often due to biological competition, not heat, so reducing biological activity is not a good thing.
- Wood chips/shavings
  - Sawdust - no airflow but absorbs leachate
  - Wood chips - more airflow but less absorption
  - Shavings - best of both for small animals and manure (not as good for large animals). Shavings with horse manure are even better because they provide extra biological activity.
- Moisture
  - If the pile is too dry, it will heat up and not cool down - no biological activity
  - If the pile is too wet, there is no airflow
  - Too dry is more common here in Utah. May want to add water/liquid dairy manure

The compost pile - Bronson Smart seemed to think that most of them were using static piles of manure. However, composting for pathogen reduction requires turning at 14 days with temperature recording after the pile is first built and again after it is turned.

Where we left it:
1. We need to talk to the mink producers, make sure they understand that NCRS is willing to help financially and with advice/siting requirements. They also need to know that to properly compost manure or carcasses according to state law, they need to have an operations plan and may need to have a liner or concrete.

2. NCRS is willing to do a webinar and help with the guidance document for the producers. Mark Hutchinson (Maine) is willing to help with the webinar as well. I thought this might be a good way for them to get their questions answered by experts without the experts having to step onto the farms. They need to understand that throwing carcasses into the manure pile is not "composting" and doesn't meet DEQ requirements.

3. We need to have a site-specific plan for each facility and make sure that the pile meets DEQ requirements, NCRS practice standards, and pathogen reduction standards. If they can't commit to doing the composting properly in the future, I imagine that there might be consequences from DEQ now that they know about it.

--

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Melissa Ure

From: Amanda Price <amandaprice@utah.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 14, 2021 3:42 PM
To: Olander, Doris - APHIS
Cc: Dean Taylor
Subject: Re: learned something new today

We definitely saw some males today.

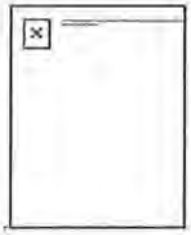
On Thu, Jan 14, 2021 at 3:11 PM Olander, Doris - APHIS <doris.olander@usda.gov> wrote:

> You may already know this, but some (all??) farms euthanized their breeder males after breeding season. So it appears that in some cases there are some additional carcasses and pelts to account for. Let me know if this holds true for UT as well. Thanks
>
> *Regards, Doris*
>
> USDA VETERINARY SERVICES –Wisconsin
>
> Veterinary Epidemiologist
>
> 608 444 5237



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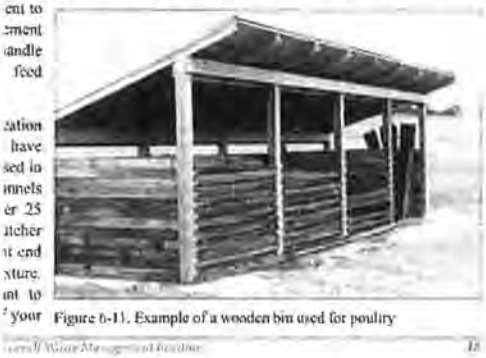
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Melissa Ure

From: Olander, Doris - APHIS <doris.olander@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 12:01 PM
To: Dean Taylor; amandaprice@utah.gov
Subject: Routine mortality composting

A system can be very simple. It is best to set up on a concrete pad, a good distance from animal housing. Talk with Mark Hutchison about systems. I would think that there would be 10-15# of carcasses/day.

http://cwmi.css.cornell.edu/Composting_Animal_Mortalities.pdf


Figure 6-11. Example of a wooden bin used for poultry

Regards, Doris

USDA VETERINARY SERVICES –Wisconsin
Veterinary Epidemiologist
608 444 5237

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Melissa Ure

From: Olander, Doris - APHIS <doris.olander@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 3:02 PM
To: Dean Taylor
Subject: RE: Rushed this morning

Perfect. My number is 608 444 5237.

From: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 3:37 PM
To: Olander, Doris - APHIS <doris.olander@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Rushed this morning

I would be happy to chat at 3:30 MDT if that works for you

On Tue, Jan 19, 2021 at 1:58 PM Olander, Doris - APHIS <doris.olander@usda.gov> wrote:

Hi Dr. Taylor. I am sorry that I had to jump off the call this morning. I had a previously scheduled call with the ink field VMO and the renderer that may take carcasses and fats. If they do I would consider it a "win"!

If you have time, I would like to hear what the follow up to the disposal discussion that was ongoing when I left the call this morning. Do you have time later today?

Regards, Doris

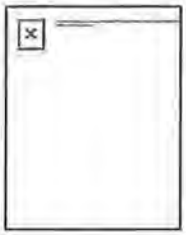
USDA VETERINARY SERVICES –Wisconsin

Veterinary Epidemiologist

608 444 5237



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djtaylor@utah.gov
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Melissa Ure

From: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, November 3, 2020 5:25 PM
To: Logan Wilde; Kelly Pehrson; Leann Hunting; Thayne Mickelson
Subject: Fwd: FW: New information about potential mechanism for SARS-CoV-2 compensation for mink producers

Here is another source for funding. Not sure if anything there will work or not and I am not sure if this is also tied to the same funding we have already been going after but I thought that I would pass this along to you.
Dean
--------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Rooney, Jane A - APHIS** <jane.a.rooney@usda.gov>
Date: Thu, Oct 22, 2020 at 6:33 AM
Subject: FW: New information about potential mechanism for SARS-CoV-2 compensation for mink producers
To: De Carolis, Robert A - APHIS <robert.a.decarolis@usda.gov>
Cc: Herriott, Donald E - APHIS <don.e.herriott@usda.gov>, Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>

Hi Bob,

Apologies, I meant to include you and Don on my e-mail to Dr. Taylor.

Best,

Jane

Jane A. Rooney, D.V.M.

Director, One Health Coordination

Office of Interagency Coordination

Strategy and Policy

USDA:APHIS:Veterinary Services

2150 Centre Ave., Building B, MS3E13

Fort Collins, Colorado 80526

Ph: 970-494-7397

Mobile: 301-789-3064

Email: Jane.A.Rooney@usda.gov

From: Rooney, Jane A - APHIS
Sent: Thursday, October 22, 2020 6:30 AM
To: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Subject: New information about potential mechanism for SARS-CoV-2 compensation for mink producers

Hi Dean,

I received information yesterday evening about a possible mechanism for SARS CoV-2 compensation for mink producers:

Farmers and ranchers may apply to USDA for direct assistance for losses incurred due to SARS-CoV-2. Mink, including pelts, are eligible sales commodities. More information, including how to apply, is available in USDA's September 18, 2020, press release.

I don't have any details but plan on trying to get a better understanding today.

Best,

Jane

Jane A. Rooney, D.V.M.

Director, One Health Coordination

Office of Interagency Coordination

Strategy and Policy

USDA:APHIS:Veterinary Services

2150 Centre Ave., Building B, MS3E13

Fort Collins, Colorado 80526

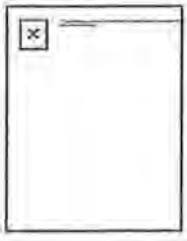
Ph: 970-494-7397

Mobile: 301-789-3064

Email: Jane.A.Rooney@usda.gov

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Melissa Ure

From: Leann Hunting <leannhunting@utah.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 1, 2020 1:16 PM
To: Caroline Hargraves
Cc: Dean Taylor
Subject: Re: mink

Thanks, Caroline. Dr. Taylor, I have reviewed the content and it looks good. I do not think it is too blunt, it's the appropriate amount. It is also a good idea to send out a letter like this. Thank you for taking the time to address the industry in this manner.

On Tue, Dec 1, 2020 at 1:13 PM Caroline Hargraves <carolinehargraves@utah.gov> wrote:
Hi Leann and Dr. Taylor,

Attached is an updated version of the letter Leann asked me to review. I made only a few slight adjustments with punctuation and a word here or there - nothing I feel would alter the content of the letter.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Warmly,
-Caroline

On Tue, Dec 1, 2020 at 1:00 PM Leann Hunting <leannhunting@utah.gov> wrote:

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Dean Taylor** <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Date: Tue, Dec 1, 2020 at 12:14 PM
Subject: mink
To: Leann Hunting <leannhunting@utah.gov>

Leann,
Some of the mink farmers are becoming reclusive and non-cooperative again. I wanted to send them a "state of the state" letter. Would you please glance at this and see if I need to remove, add to or be less blunt. See attached
Thanks
Dean

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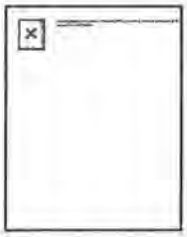
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CAROLINE HARGRAVES | Communications and Public Information Specialist
carolinehargraves@utah.gov | 801.982.2353 office
Website | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram



Leann Hunting | Director: Animal Industry
| 385.290.2383 mobile
Website | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram

Melissa Ure

From: Jason Lott <jason.rivervalleyvet@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 30, 2020 5:03 PM
To: Dean Taylor
Subject: Fwd: Covid relief deadline

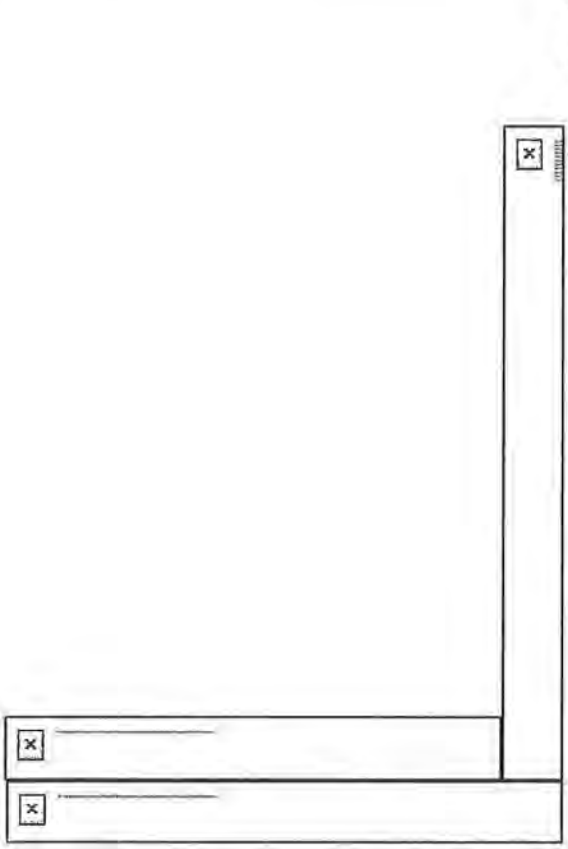
Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** American Mink Exchange <info@amminkexchange.com>
> **Date:** November 21, 2020 at 9:22:35 AM MST
> **To:** klondikeinternational@aol.com
> **Subject: Covid relief deadline**
>
> Dear ranchers,
>
> It has come to our attention that a few ranchers are unaware of the USDA program that is available for for covid relief for farmers from the United States. The deadline for applying for funds is December 11th. Please click on the below link for information on how to apply if you have not already done so:
>
> www.farmers.gov/cfap
>
> Thank you for your continuing support,
>
> American Mink Exchange
>
> Link to website:
>
> https://www.americanminkexchange.com/

Melissa Ure

From: Dean Taylor <echosign@echosign.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 1, 2020 4:24 PM
To: Dean Taylor
Subject: Dean Taylor has shared the signed Final letter to mink producers with you
Attachments: Final letter to mink producers - signed.pdf



Attached is your copy of the **Final letter to mink producers**

Dean Taylor (State of Utah) says:
"I am sending you this agreement"

Attached is your copy of the **Final letter to mink producers**, from: Dean Taylor (djtaylor@utah.gov) for your records.

Click here to view this document online in your Adobe Sign account.

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To ensure that you continue receiving our emails, please add echosign@echosign.com to your address book or safe list.

I hope that this finds you all well and that you were able to find some time to enjoy Thanksgiving amid the disruption and losses this pandemic has caused, especially for you. I appreciated all of you getting on the call last week to discuss ways to safely get through the pelting season. In that meeting, I offered up some guidance set forth by USDA, and in that guidance was a link to EPA disinfectants to consider for your farms. I shared that resource with you all prior to reading the list, and I later discovered that it would require a couple masters and doctorate degrees to make sense of it all. As a result, I brought up the topic of cleaning and disinfecting at our last joint meeting with USDA, CDC and the other partners. In that meeting, it was determined that the use of *any detergent* to clean your facilities will neutralize and inhibit binding of the virus. Detergent will also be cheaper option for you, and not create unhealthy fumes or damage to your pens. Using a detergent in the processing brine will also help to disinfect the pelts. I am including a link to an article that stresses the value of simple soap and water as well:

https://www.uchealth.org/today/why-soap-and-water-work-better-than-hand-sanitizer-to-remove-the-coronavirus/

I am receiving some feedback that there is still a sense the state is not supporting the industry enough, or worse yet, is interested in shutting it down. I understand the anxiety and concern, especially in light of what has happened in Europe. In response to these concerns, I would like to be transparent and let you know what we are doing and what we need from you for all of us to move forward together

As you know, all affected farms are currently under a full quarantine. What does this mean? It means that nothing (animals, products, waste, etc) can enter or leave the farm without the approval of the state veterinarian. This is new territory for all us of us to navigate with this novel virus, and we understand how challenging these requests have been for you all. USDA has provided some guidance for state agriculture departments on biosecurity and testing prior to pelting and I am incorporating them where I can, but following it strictly would prevent any farm with active virus from pelting. This is not reasonable in our situation, and there is insufficient data at this time to deem it necessary, so I have allowed you to continue pelting. My priority is your health, your workers health, and the health of your herds, and in order for us to move forward in the meantime in the safest way possible, I ask that everyone involved in any handling processes use the utmost care and use personal protective equipment to reduce the risk of spread of the virus. I also ask that all waste products that would usually be rendered to be buried at the landfill this year until more is known.

The next hurdle is how to safely ship the pelts to auction houses. There are issues that must be addressed now to ensure that they make it to market. These pelts will be going interstate and internationally, and this movement of pelts has potential problems that we need to address, such as approvals from USDA and foreign countries that receive them. Few of us feel like the pelts are a risk after processing, but there are some studies underway that can give us the reassurance that this is the case, and put at ease the governments controlling the import of the pelts. All state vets involved in this process have deemed this to be our most pressing issue to study and test. I am confident that answer will come in time to not delay any marketing of the pelts.

This virus is challenging to understand. Each outbreak both here in the US and in Europe presented differently. Ongoing research will help us to understand and manage this virus now and in the future for your farms. I'd like to explain what the research is and ask for your cooperation in the process.

1. CDC will be doing a final study this week on a farm to help determine the length of time animals can carry the virus, whether there are persistent carriers of the virus, and/or if the virus tends to recirculate. This is likely their last trip to Utah.
2. A researcher at the U of U is looking at deer mice around a few of the farms to see if the virus has established in this species and if they would possibly serve as a reservoir that could re-infect farms repeatedly. We know from previous sampling performed by CDC and USDA wildlife teams that the deer mice sampled on a few of the farms were not found to be positive for the virus, but this additional sampling will be able to confidently rule out this species as a potential risk. We will share the findings of this study with you when they are ready. .
3. The National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) is requesting new surveillance measures to begin taking place on all affected mink farms, including the collection and testing of nasal and rectal swabs from all fresh dead mink to be submitted for testing at their lab. These swabs will assist them with monitoring for any virus changes or mutations of concern. I do not know how long they will consider doing this surveillance, but if the swabs are negative repeatedly, they will not continue. There will be no cost to the producer, but we would ask you to swab the nasal passages and rectum of each dead mink and then we would ship off the samples to NVSL. I am still working out the logistics of this and will keep you updated
4. A researcher at USU is interested in sampling manure as well as air in the shed rows to test for viable virus. This could be useful information to help determine preemptively if an outbreak was about to occur, or potentially useful in monitoring to see if the presence of the circulating virus was dropping. I have not found a way to fund this project, and since it is a bit more intrusive, I have not yet reached out to anyone about participation in this sampling. If any of you were interested in this type of sampling on your farms, please reach out to me and we can discuss this.
5. Finally, as you know, this virus Zoonotic (transmissible between animals and humans) and affects both human health as well as animal health, so our response to any outbreak on these farms involves both the Department of Health and the Department of Agriculture. Currently, from the testing performed as a part of the CDC investigation, it has suggested that the virus has gone from humans to mink in every case. It is strongly suggested that if there is SARS-CoV-2 spreading among your mink andit is incredibly likely that there is an ill human who works on farm, or is a household contact of a farmer, and we strongly encourage everyone to be tested. Anyone with symptoms and/or a positive test should quarantine to stop the spread of the virus. To protect human health, and to prevent any further loss in your farms, we also strongly encourage you to support your employees in staying home when they are sick, or if they have a known exposure to a positive case, so that you, your employees, and your mink are not exposed.
6. Our federal partners are interested in continued monitoring of both human samples and animal samples on each farm that has confirmed SARS-Cov-2 in their mink herds to monitor for any

concerning mutations in the virus. In order to assist with this surveillance, the Health Department may be requesting to collect human specimens from everyone on farm when there is a confirmed outbreak. The logistics of this is still underway, but we wanted you to be aware that we are receiving this request, and your participation would greatly assist in monitoring this virus to ensure we can continue to move forward in the safest way possible. Please reach out to Hannah Rettler (hrettler@utah.gov) with any questions about human health, worker safety, testing, etc.

I know that you are being bombarded with information from around the world and everyone seems to have the next cure. If you have questions on any of this, I may be able to provide some clarification. We will be basing our decisions on the data we personally collect and not that of Europe. We do not discount what they are reporting, but our data is different here, and we will manage our way forward based on the data we collect ourselves.

Please don't hesitate to call me if you have concerns of any kind. I know this is a very unsettling time for each of you.

Best Regards,

Dean J Taylor, DVM

Melissa Ure

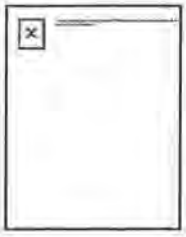
From: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 1, 2020 4:20 PM
To: Amanda Price
Subject: Re: mink

Thanks I incorporated some of the changes and some of Hannah's.

On Tue, Dec 1, 2020 at 1:43 PM Amanda Price <amandaprice@utah.gov> wrote:
I really like the conversational tone in the letter. I made some comments and changes - feel free to ignore, although I don't know what you have against the Oxford comma.

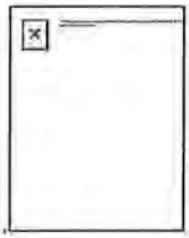
On Tue, Dec 1, 2020 at 12:18 PM Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov> wrote:

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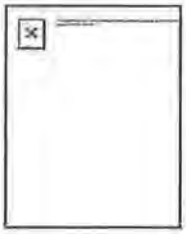
Dean J Taylor, DVM | State Veterinarian
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AMANDA PRICE, DVM MS | Assistant State Veterinarian
Animal Health Program | amandaprice@utah.gov
801.982.2244 office | 801.386.4189 mobile
Website | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram

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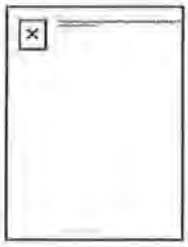
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ditaylor@utah.gov
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Melissa Ure

From: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 12:48 PM
To: Thayne Mickelson
Subject: Re: mink

So I can address them for you. These are mink specific vaccines that are currently under development and due for release in the near future. Probably for June vaccination schedules. We are trying to cover the entire mink population and that is why the initial figure may not be totally accurate. As far as ongoing infections in mink and associate losses, we still have some mink testing positive on 4 of 12 farms. One since August. We are working to determine why but have no concrete answers.We know from the outbreak in Oregon that farms can be infected without death losses and we suspect that some of the farms may be asymptomatic but still infected. We would be most comfortable if all of the farms were vaccinated. Thayne my phone is being switched over to a new phone now, so I can't call you back for a bit.
Thanks
Dean

On Mon, Mar 15, 2021 at 10:39 AM Thayne Mickelson <tmickelson@utah.gov> wrote:
CAn you respond to any of these questions



Thayne Mickelson | Homeland Security/ Risk Management/RRT
801.608.7668 mobile
Website | Facebook | Instagram | Twitter

100 Years of Supporting Agriculture and Food

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Kris Hamlet** <krishamlet@utah.gov>
Date: Mon, Mar 15, 2021 at 10:12 AM
Subject: Re: mink
To: Thayne Mickelson <tmickelson@utah.gov>

Thayne,

Just wanted to update you that this has been brought up with the Unified Command and will be further discussed tomorrow during the weekly budget meeting. Some questions that they have raised already:

1 - Will these vaccines take away from human vaccinations?

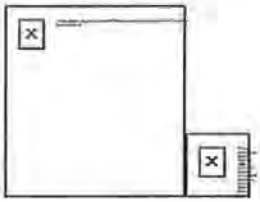
2 - Does this cover the entire mink population in Utah?

3 - Have there continued to be losses in the mink population due to COVID?

Thanks!

Kris

Kris J. Hamlet, MBA, UCEM
Director
Utah Department of Public Safety
Division of Emergency Management
Office: 801-538-9553
Cell: 801-243-0147
Fax: 801-538-3773



On Wed, Mar 10, 2021 at 2:16 PM Thayne Mickelson <tmickelson@utah.gov> wrote:

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
> **Date:** March 10, 2021 at 1:09:53 PM MST
> **To:** Thayne Mickelson <tmickelson@utah.gov>
> **Subject: mink**
>
> Thayne,
> Good afternoon, I was speaking with one of the mink producers and they were asking if there was any funding left in the CARES act that could be applied to assist with vaccinations. Initial estimates are about 200,000 kits born and the vaccine is about 37cents/dose with a requirement of 2 doses for immunity. This is just shy of $150,000 in total relief if the estimates are accurate. I believe that is for the entire state's mink population of kits born this year on estimate.
> I have made *absolutely no promise* to them at all on this. I simply told them I would check to see if there were additional CARES money marked for impacts from this disease. I would have a hard time subsidizing one industry on vaccines and not the others. If there is money then this is a new expense for them due to COVID.
> Can you tell me if this is a dead end or what your opinion is.
> Thanks
> Dean
>
> --



DEAN J TAYLOR | State Veterinarian
801.982.2243 office | 385.290.9462 mobile
Website | Facebook | Instagram | Twitter

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Website | Facebook | Instagram | Twitter

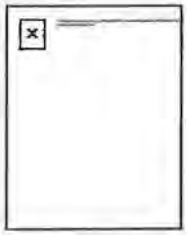
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Melissa Ure

From: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 27, 2020 6:28 PM
To: Thayne Mickelson
Subject: mink compensation

Thayne,
The health dept reached out to me about some funding for the mink farmers through the Governor's Office of Economic Development. Is this the same place where we got the funding already given. They are doing it because the disease may not be clearing up and depopulation may become a reality. I don't think so but if this is the same place they already received funding then I don't even want to ask or have them ask.
Can you let me know?
Thanks
Dean

--



Dean J Taylor, DVM | State Veterinarian
Office 801-982-2243 Cell 385-290-9462
djtaylor@utah.gov
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Melissa Ure

From: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 28, 2020 7:46 AM
To: Debbie Lyberger
Subject: Re: mink funding

Thank you.

On Tue, Oct 27, 2020 at 7:56 PM Debbie Lyberger <dlyberger@utah.gov> wrote:

I should have a final answer tomorrow. RJ indicated that he had been told that it was a go today. I'll let you know as soon as I hear tomorrow.

On Tue, Oct 27, 2020 at 10:57 AM Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov> wrote:

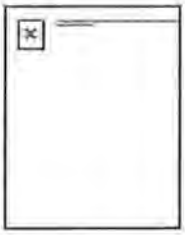
Good morning Debbie,
Would you be able to give me a status update on the funding for the mink producers up in Morgan County? Some of them are asking to see when that might arrive. They have also indicated that the postal system is a little bit lax and that sometimes they do not receive mail timely. They would like to know when the checks are mailed out so that they can watch for them.
Thanks
Dean

--

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--

DEBBIE LYBERGER | Financial Manager II
801.982.2214 office dlyberger@utah.gov
Website | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram



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djtaylor@utah.gov
Website | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram

Melissa Ure

From: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2020 2:44 PM
To: RJ Spencer
Subject: Re: Phone number for [redacted]

RJ I was out of town last week and came back to several hundred emails. I will help here any way I can. The new spreadsheet reflects the numbers that he gave me. There was an error in the original spreadsheet that I missed initially. If he has questions then I would be happy to go through them with you and him. I could pull up both spreadsheets and share my screen with you both. I'm not sure if this is worked out now or not since this email is 10 days old.
Let me know
Dean

On Tue, Oct 20, 2020 at 11:40 AM RJ Spencer <rjspencer@utah.gov> wrote:
We called [redacted] he asked us to email him the number difference. He wants us to work throug his spouse, not him.
Amanda is emailing him the number difference and providing the address where the check needs to be sent, with the amount and justification.

I still need the updated letter, we do not know who wrote the letter. Does anyone know, if not, I will just recreate it with the corrent information. I just figured someone had it and could update it quickly, no big deal if not.

I think we are good.

Dr. Taylor, if [redacted] pushes back on these numbers can we include you? He wasn't mean on the phone, but kept questioning where 'our' numbers came from and that his aren't any different. We are just preparing in case it goes bigger.

Thanks,
RJ

On Tue, Oct 20, 2020 at 11:35 AM Thayne Mickelson <tmickelson@utah.gov> wrote:
Dr Taylor has been the one that has talked to the producers directly. You will need to get that information from him. Did you get what you needed for the update on the letter? Call me if you need anything. We can talk through details. 801-608-7668

Thanks,

Thayne Mickelson
Utah Department of Agriculture and Food
Homeland Security and Risk Management
Phone (801) 538-7119
Cell (801) 608-7668

On Tue, Oct 20, 2020 at 11:01 AM RJ Spencer <rjspencer@utah.gov> wrote:
Dr. Taylor or Thayne,

The number provided for [redacted] does not work, we are trying to reach out to him and get the grant funding back from the overpayment.

Do you have any contact information for [redacted], we would like to get this done ASAP.

We have the numbers you turned in, we are processing the other payments.

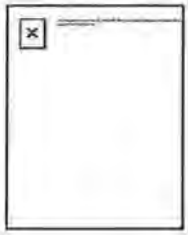
Thanks,
RJ

--



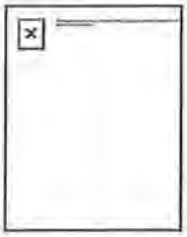
R.J. Spencer | Director, Conservation Division
801.541.2306 Mobile
801-982-2223 Office
Website | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram

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R.J. Spencer | Director, Conservation Division
801.541.2306 Mobile
801-982-2223 Office
Website | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram

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Melissa Ure

From: Hannah Rettler <hrettler@utah.gov>
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2020 3:50 PM
To: Dean Taylor
Subject: Re: FAS Coronavirus Food Assistances Program 2

Do you think this is something I could print and bring to their attention when I meet with them next Tuesday? I would love to be able to direct them to this if we think it's a good idea for them to pursue.

On Fri, Oct 30, 2020 at 3:23 PM Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov> wrote:

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Rooney, Jane A - APHIS** <jane.a.rooney@usda.gov>
Date: Mon, Oct 26, 2020 at 3:07 PM
Subject: FAS Coronavirus Food Assistances Program 2
To: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>

Hi Dean,

I thought I would send you the direct links below and a copy of the information on this program

Link for CFAP main page:

https://www.farmers.gov/cfap

Links to guidance for mink:

https://www.farmers.gov/cfap/specialty-livestock (pdf copy of this information attached)

Hope this does help some of your UT producers.

Jane

Jane A. Rooney, D.V.M.

Director, One Health Coordination

Office of Interagency Coordination

Strategy and Policy

USDA:APHIS:Veterinary Services

2150 Centre Ave., Building B, MS3E13

Fort Collins, Colorado 80526

Ph: 970-494-7397

Mobile: 301-789-3064

Email: Jane.A.Rooney@usda.gov

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Hannah Rettler, MPH
Vectorborne/Zoonotic Disease Epidemiologist
Disease Response, Evaluation, Analysis, & Monitoring Program
Bureau of Epidemiology

Utah Department of Health
Email: hretller@utah.gov
Office: (801) 538 - 6333
Mobile: (385) 285 - 5178
Secure Fax: (801) 538 - 9923

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Melissa Ure

From: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, November 3, 2020 5:25 PM
To: Logan Wilde; Kelly Pehrson; Leann Hunting; Thayne Mickelson
Subject: Fwd: FW: New information about potential mechanism for SARS-CoV-2 compensation for mink producers

Here is another source for funding. Not sure if anything there will work or not and I am not sure if this is also tied to the same funding we have already been going after but I thought that I would pass this along to you.
Dean
---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Rooney, Jane A - APHIS** <jane.a.rooney@usda.gov>
Date: Thu, Oct 22, 2020 at 6:33 AM
Subject: FW: New information about potential mechanism for SARS-CoV-2 compensation for mink producers
To: De Carolis, Robert A - APHIS <robert.a.decarolis@usda.gov>
Cc: Herriott, Donald E - APHIS <don.e.herriott@usda.gov>, Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>

Hi Bob,

Apologies, I meant to include you and Don on my e-mail to Dr. Taylor.

Best,

Jane

Jane A. Rooney, D.V.M.

Director, One Health Coordination

Office of Interagency Coordination

Strategy and Policy

USDA:APHIS:Veterinary Services

2150 Centre Ave., Building B, MS3E13

Fort Collins, Colorado 80526

Ph: 970-494-7397

Mobile: 301-789-3064

Email: Jane.A.Rooney@usda.gov

From: Rooney, Jane A - APHIS
Sent: Thursday, October 22, 2020 6:30 AM
To: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Subject: New information about potential mechanism for SARS-CoV-2 compensation for mink producers

Hi Dean,

I received information yesterday evening about a possible mechanism for SARS CoV-2 compensation for mink producers:

Farmers and ranchers may apply to USDA for direct assistance for losses incurred due to SARS-CoV-2. Mink, including pelts, are eligible sales commodities. More information, including how to apply, is available in USDA's September 18, 2020, press release.

I don't have any details but plan on trying to get a better understanding today.

Best,

Jane

Jane A. Rooney, D.V.M.

Director, One Health Coordination

Office of Interagency Coordination

Strategy and Policy

USDA:APHIS:Veterinary Services

2150 Centre Ave., Building B, MS3E13

Fort Collins, Colorado 80526

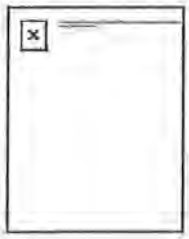
Ph: 970-494-7397

Mobile: 301-789-3064

Email: Jane.A.Rooney@usda.gov

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Melissa Ure

From: Jason Lott <jason.rivervalleyvet@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 30, 2020 5:03 PM
To: Dean Taylor
Subject: Fwd: Covid relief deadline

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** American Mink Exchange <info@amminkexchange.com>
> **Date:** November 21, 2020 at 9:22:35 AM MST
> **To:** klondikeinternational@aol.com
> **Subject: Covid relief deadline**
>
> Dear ranchers,
>
> It has come to our attention that a few ranchers are unaware of the USDA program that is available for for covid relief for farmers from the United States. The deadline for applying for funds is December 11th. Please click on the below link for information on how to apply if you have not already done so:
>
> www.farmers.gov/cfap
>
> Thank you for your continuing support,
>
> American Mink Exchange
>
> Link to website:
>
> https://www.americanminkexchange.com/

Melissa Ure

From: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 18, 2021 2:04 PM
To: Wendling, Natalie (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD)
Subject: Re: CFAP Funds: New and Modified Applications Accepted- January 19 - February 26, 2021

Thank you.

On Fri, Jan 15, 2021 at 11:17 AM Wendling, Natalie (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD) <pme8@cdc.gov> wrote:

Hello state colleagues,

Secretary Perdue announced today that USDA's Farm Service Agency is accepting new or modified applications for CFAP funds from January 19 through February 26, 2021.

Website for applications:

Coronavirus Food Assistance Program – Additional Assistance | Farmers.gov: Resources for Farmers and Producers

Announcement link:

USDA Offers Additional Assistance for Certain Producers Through Coronavirus Food Assistance Program | USDA

I spoke with a USDA representative at the FSA call center (877-508-8364) to confirm that all previously eligible producers (including mink farmers) qualify for new applications or modifications to previous applications during this time period.

Thank you!

Warmest regards,

Natalie

Natalie M. Wendling, DVM, MPH, DACVPM

Lead, One Health Response Unit

CDC COVID-19 One Health Working Group

Functional Box: OneHealth@cdc.gov

Veterinary Medical Officer, One Health Office

National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

email: nwendling@cdc.gov

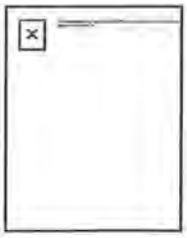
mobile (text): 843-814-0706

For more information on our work, please visit:

www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/animals/pets-other-animals.html

www.cdc.gov/onehealth

ONE HEALTH



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djtaylor@utah.gov
Website | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram

UTAH CONSERVATION COMMISSION EMERGENCY COVID-19 RELIEF GRANT TRACKING

	GRANT STATUS	APPLICANT INFORMATION	
	TOTAL FINAL GRANT $$ AWARDED	BUSINESS NAME	OPERATION TYPE
15	$ 3,280	MCMULLIN FARM INC	MINK
182	$ 39,550	AUBREYS MINK RANCH	MINK
210	$ 41,136	GLAYDES MINK RANCH	MINK
408	$ 3,744	MOUNTAIN VALLEY FUR	MINK
414	$ 23,581	DAN WARDELL FUR FARM	MINK
417	$ 14,632	PETERSON MINK FARM	MINK
424	$ 33,120	WESS J WARDELL FUR FARM	MINK
426	$ 25,671	MCMULLIN FUR FARM	MINK
427	$ 9,690	DARIN DAWSON MINK	MINK
435	$ 14,014	DAWSON MINK FARM	MINK
439	$ 15,626	CJ MARGETTS FARMS INC	MINK
442	$ 17,926	MITCH FRANCIS MINK	MINK
446	$ 31,914	RIHOLT INC	MINK
450	$ 29,419	SOFT MINK	MINK
453	$ 98,654	JAY WARDELL FUR FARM	MINK
457	$ 28,643	SPENCER FUR FARM	MINK
471	$ 25,730	SARGENT, KADE DENNIS	MINK
472	$ 26,158	SARGENT, JACE	MINK
473	$ 54,909	BLACK AURA MINK	MINK
477	$ 30,400	HASLAM BROTHERS FUR	MINK
484	$ 38,656	DON DURRENT FUR FARM	MINK
486	$ 39,441	THURSTON MINK FARMS	MINK
496	$ 41,632	TRAVIS THURSTON MINK FARM	MINK
502	$ 40,000	SARGENT MINK	MINK
563	$ 2,885	WILLES, SHANE	MINK
570	$ 4,578	WOODN STAR RANCH	MINK
571	$ 14,296	BECKSTEAD, TREVOR	MINK
576	$ 7,370	BLUE RIDGE MINK RANCH	MINK
580	$ 26,020	REES, CHASE	MINK
583	$ 33,737	ZT FARMS, LLC	MINK
584	$ 33,737	ALEX BECKSTEAD FARMS	MINK
594	$ 46,887	B6 FARMS	MINK
595	$ 55,599	KJ FUR FARMS	MINK
596	$ 95,147	REES FUR FARM	MINK
597	$ 30,116	TIMPANOGOS FARMS	MINK
600	$ 20,000	LS CARSON MINK	MINK
604	$ 32,852	KEYES, JAMES EDWARD	MINK
610	$ 31,619	CT FENN FARMS LLC	MINK
612	$ 27,082	SHORELINE FARMS LLC	MINK

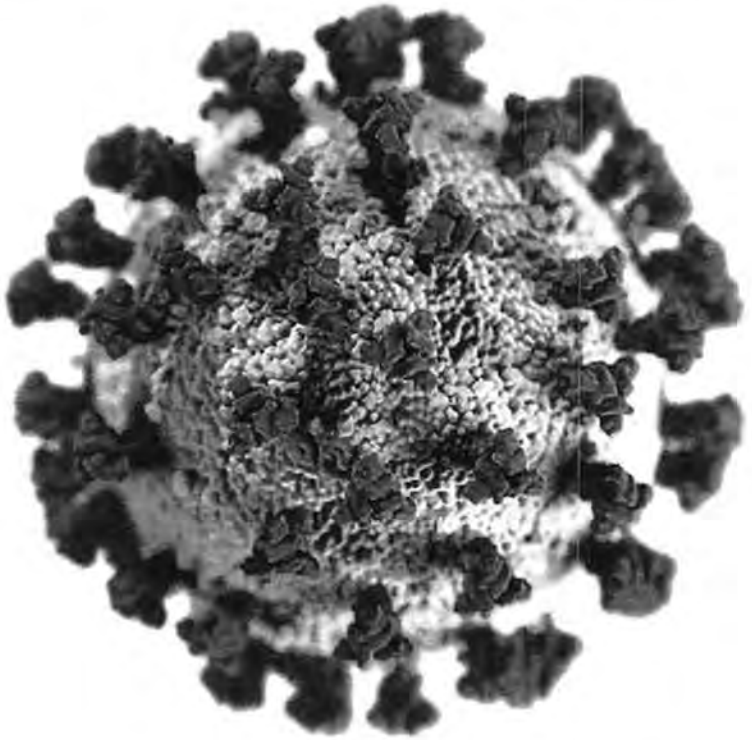
623	$ 34,434	DANE DIXON MINK RANCH	MINK
625	$ 33,354	C & H MINK	MINK
1370	$ 13,998	PASKETT 3P LLC	MINK
585	$ 33,737	C BECKSTEAD ENTERPRISES	MINK
413	$ 6,000	OEM MINK DEATH GRANT	MINK DEATH
402	$ 2,480	OEM MINK DEATH GRANT	MINK DEATH
411	$ 4,905	OEM MINK DEATH GRANT	MINK DEATH
425	$ 9,070	OEM MINK DEATH GRANT	MINK DEATH
440	$ 16,255	OEM MINK DEATH GRANT	MINK DEATH
504	$ 53,205	OEM MINK DEATH GRANT	MINK DEATH
505	$ 57,375	OEM MINK DEATH GRANT	MINK DEATH
559	$ (42,181)	OEM MINK DEATH GRANT	MINK DEATH
561	$ 2,306	OEM MINK DEATH GRANT	MINK DEATH
582	$ 11,810	OEM MINK DEATH GRANT	MINK DEATH
587	$ 13,610	OEM MINK DEATH GRANT	MINK DEATH
614	$ 20,754	OEM MINK DEATH GRANT	MINK DEATH
615	$ 20,760	OEM MINK DEATH GRANT	MINK DEATH
626	$ 38,640	OEM MINK DEATH GRANT	MINK DEATH
640	$ 50,335	OEM MINK DEATH GRANT	MINK DEATH
641	$ 183,600	OEM MINK DEATH GRANT	MINK DEATH
592	$ 38,467	KEYES, BENJAMIN	MINK/CATTLE/SHEEP
	$ 1,792,365		

One Health Partners Monthly COVID-19 Webinar

Coordinated by the CDC COVID-19 One Health Working Group, in partnership with the One Health Federal Interagency COVID-19 Coordination (OH-FICC) Group

OneHealth@cdc.gov

December 15, 2020



cdc.gov/coronavirus

Purpose
One Health Partners Monthly COVID-19 Webinar

- Share news and key updates, guidance, and resources on One Health aspects of COVID-19
- Summarize animal cases of SARS-CoV-2 infection in US and globally
- Provide updates on ongoing coordination around One Health aspects of COVID-19 in US

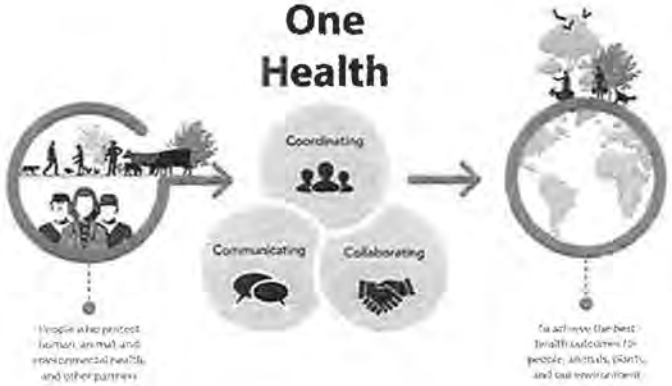


CDC

ONE HEALTH

One Health Partner Collaborations during COVID-19 Response

- State, local, tribal, and territorial officials
  - State and local Public Health Veterinarians, State Animal Health Officials, State Wildlife Officials
- Federal officials
- Non-governmental organizations
- Academia
- Industry
- International organizations (WHO, FAO, OIE)
- And more.....



CDC

ONE HEALTH

One Health and COVID-19 in the News

Denmark

Culled mink rise from the dead to Denmark's horror

Carcasses rose to surface at improvised mass grave owing to gases from decomposition

PETS & ANIMALS

Tiger at zoo in Knoxville tests positive CoV-2, two others possibly infected

A veterinary team from the University of Tennessee College Medicine is taking care of the three tigers.

Dog in Georgia Tests Positive for Virus that Causes COVID-19

JULY 01, 2020

Animals

Nearly 10,000 mink dead from Covid-19 outbreak at Utah fur farms

At least one Zoo Knoxville tiger has the virus causing COVID-19. What happens now?

Ryan Wilusz, Knoxville News Sentinel

Thousands of mink dead from COVID-19 outbreaks in Utah and Wisconsin

Here's why Denmark culled 17 million minks and now plans to dig up their buried bodies. The Covid mink crisis,

EDITORS' PICK | Dec 7, 2020, 08:54am EST

Pets Combat Loneliness And Stress For Those Isolated During The Covid-19 Pandemic

Denmark Will Kill All Farmed Mink, Citing Coronavirus Infections



ANIMALS WILDLIFE WATCH

Coronavirus is killing the Dutch mink industry

SARS-CoV-2 mink-associated variant strain – Denmark

Disease Outbreak News
6 November 2020

COVID-19 and the Environment: Is There a Relationship?

— Pollution and habitat destruction seen as laying groundwork for pandemics -- and not just this one

CDC

Denmark mink Covid crisis worsens. Here's what it means

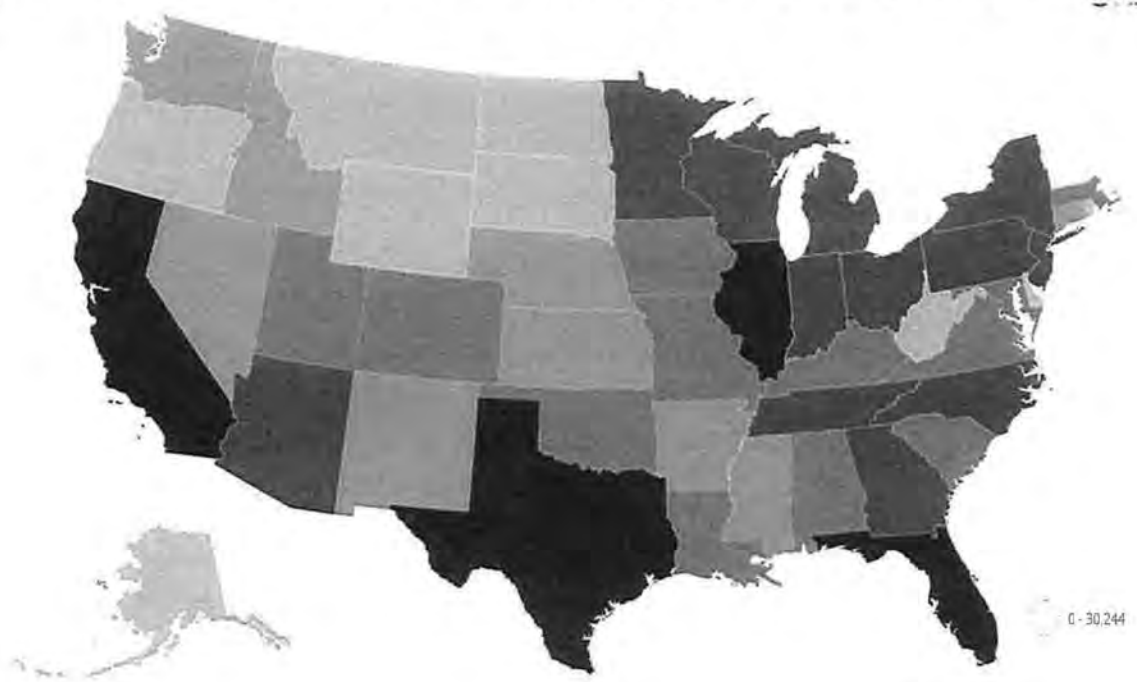
By Luke McGee and Vasco Cotovio, CNN
Updated 11:06 AM ET, Sat November 7, 2020

CORONAVIRUS

The first dog in North Carolina confirmed with the coronavirus has died

ONE HEALTH

Total Number of COVID-19 Cases in People in the US Reported to CDC, by State/Territory



Territories

AS | FSM | GU | MP | PR | PW | RMI | VI

Total Cases

38,907 - 92,839 | 118,358 - 199,735 | 220,660 - 342,347 | 361,520 - 553,461 | 841,688 - 1,521,432

Data as of December 13, 2020
https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/?utm_source=morning_brew#cases

TOTAL CASES	CASES PER 100,000 PEOPLE	TOTAL DEATHS
15,932,116	4,870	296,818
+213,305 New Cases		+2,283 New Deaths

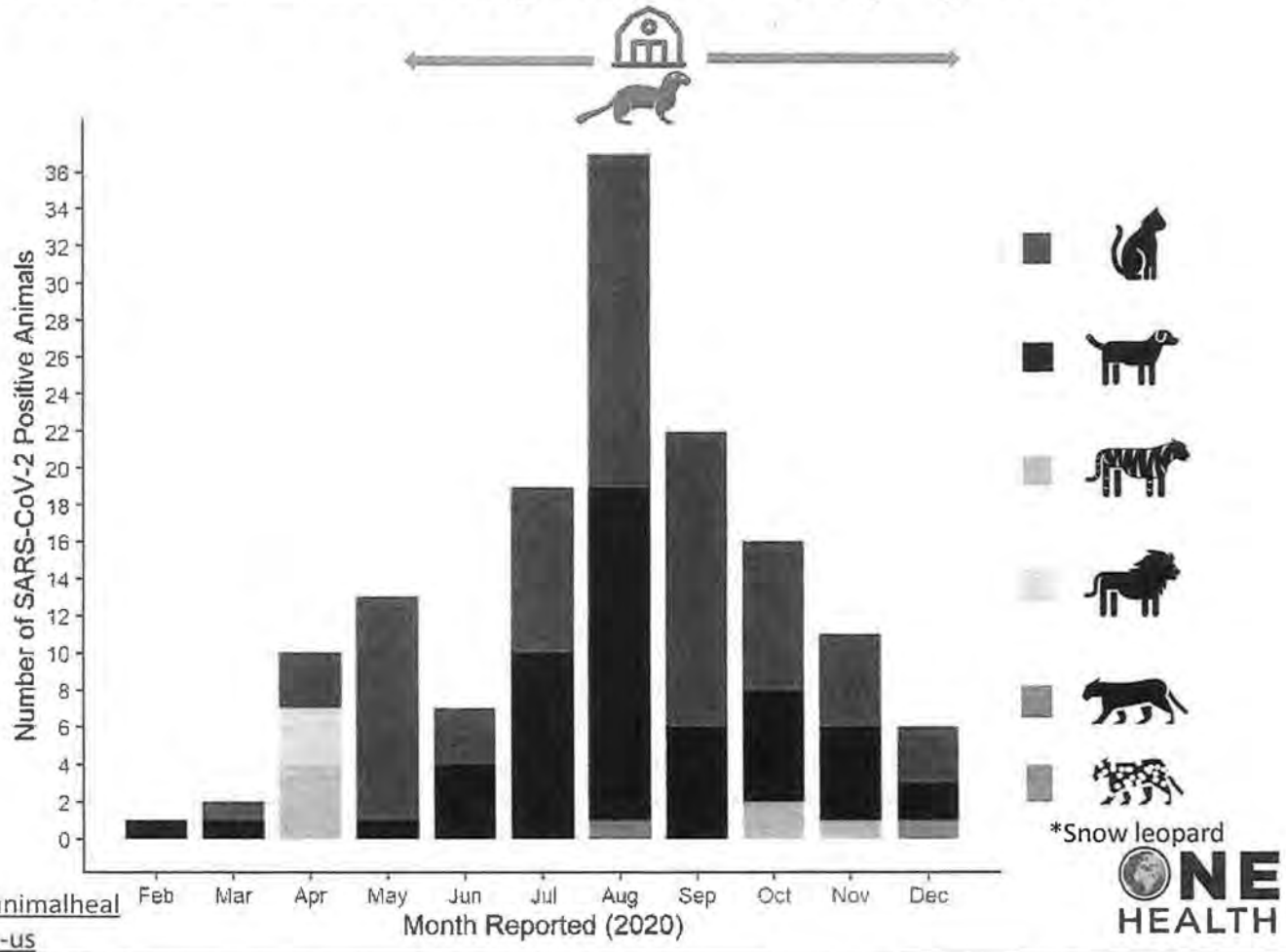
CDC | Updated: Dec 13 2020 12:17PM

Animals Positive for SARS-CoV-2 Globally Reported by Species

144 animals from 17 countries

- **Cats: 78**
- **Dogs: 54**
- **Tigers: 7**
- **Lions: 3**
- **Puma: 1**
- **Snow leopard: 1**

405 mink farms in 10 countries



Data as of December 14, 2020

www.oie.int

www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/SA_One_Health/sars-cov-2-animals-us

ONE HEALTH

Animals Positive for SARS-CoV-2 Globally Reported



Created with mapchart.net

Data as of December 14, 2020

www.oie.int

www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/SA_One_Health/sars-cov-2-animals-us

ONE HEALTH

Animals Positive for SARS-CoV-2 Globally Reported by Species

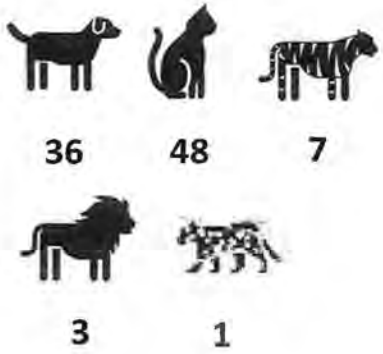
- Sweden: 13 mink farms
- Belgium: 1 cat
- Denmark: 1 dog, 289 mink farms
- France: 2 cats, 1 mink farm
- Germany: 2 cats, 2 dogs
- Hong Kong: 7 cats, 5 dogs
- Japan: 4 dogs
- Netherlands: 7 cats, 1 dog, 70 mink farms
- Russia: 1 cat
- Spain: 2 cats, 1 mink farm
- Switzerland: 1 cat
- South Africa: 1 puma
- United Kingdom: 1 cat
- United States: 48 cats, 36 dogs, 3 lions, 7 tigers, 1 snow leopard, 16 mink farms
- Canada: 1 dog, 1 mink farm
- Italy: 1 mink farm
- Chile: 3 cats
- Greece: 12 mink farms
- Lithuania: 1 mink farm
- Brazil: 1 cat
- Argentina: 2 cats, 4 dogs

Data as of December 14, 2020
www.oie.int
www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/SA_One_Health/sars-cov-2-animals-us

ONE HEALTH

Confirmed SARS-CoV-2 Cases in Animals in the US

95 confirmed positive animals (66% of global total) from United States



36 48 7

3 1



†12 cases in UT, 2 cases in WI, 1 case in MI, and 1 case in OR represent mink farms



*Some or all animal cases detected through planned and targeted active surveillance investigations where animals had known or suspected exposures to SARS-CoV-2 through infected people or animals.

https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/sa_one_health/sars-cov-2-animals-us

CDC

USDA ONE HEALTH

SARS-CoV-2 Infection in a Snow Leopard at Kentucky Zoo

- Snow Leopard with respiratory illness at a Kentucky Zoo
  - New species
- Confirmatory testing ongoing for two other snow leopards at zoo
- All three snow leopards expected to fully recover
- Suspected that these cats acquired infection from asymptomatic staff member despite precautions taken by the zoo



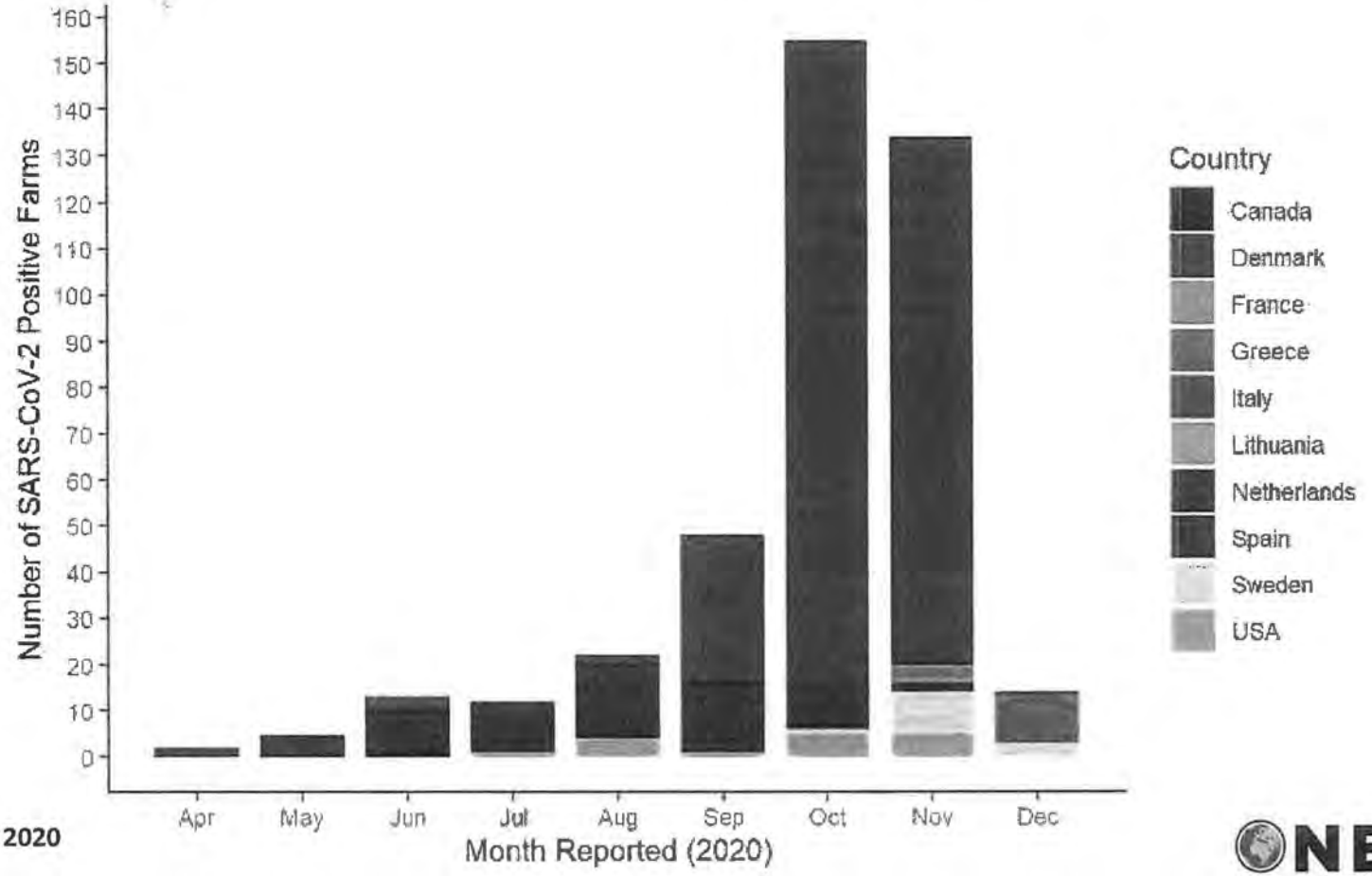
Louisville Zoo Female Snow Leopard Tests Positive for SARS-CoV-2 (MEDIA RELEASE) | Louisville Zoo

www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/newsroom/stakeholder-info/sa_by_date/sa-2020/sa-12/ky-snow-leopard-covid

Number of Mink Farms Confirmed with SARS-CoV-2 Globally

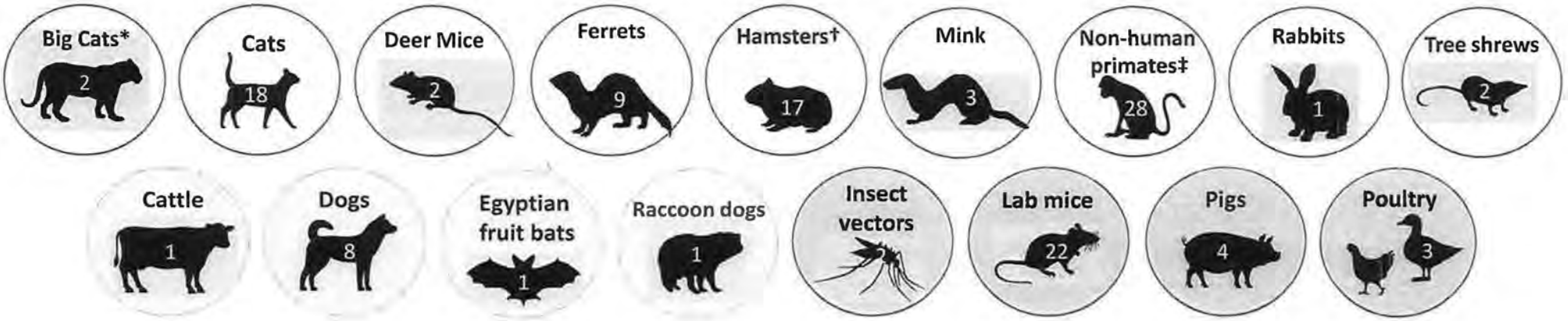
405 mink farms in 10 countries

- **Denmark: 289**
- **Netherlands: 70**
- **United States: 16**
- **Sweden: 13**
- **Greece: 12**
- **Spain: 1**
- **Italy: 1**
- **France: 1**
- **Lithuania: 1**
- **Canada: 1**



Data as of December 14, 2020
www.oie.int
www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/SA_One_Health/sars-cov-2-animals-us

Published or pre-print articles – SARS-CoV-2 experimental or natural infection in animals



◯ = Highly susceptible to SARS-CoV-2 infection

◯ = Moderately susceptible to SARS-CoV-2 infection

◯ = Not susceptible to SARS-CoV-2 infection

*Big cats include: lions, tigers and puma

†Hamster species include: Chinese hamsters and golden Syrian hamsters

‡Non-human primate species include: African green monkeys, baboons, common marmosets, cynomolgus macaques, pigtail macaques, rhesus macaques, and savanna monkeys

CDC

As of: December 14, 2020

ONE HEALTH

Studies associated with the susceptibility slide

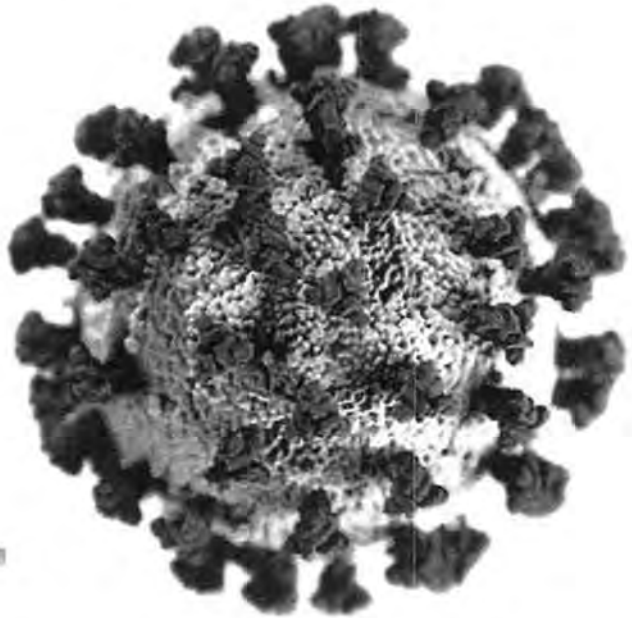
- Big Cats – Bartlett et al. 2020, McAloose et al. 2020
- Cats – Barrs et al. 2020, Bosco-Lauth et al. 2020, Chiocchetti et al. 2020, Cui et al. 2020, Farnia et al. 2020, Fritz et al. 2020, Garigliany et al. 2020, Gaudreault et al. 2020, Halfmann et al. 2020, Hosie et al 2020, Newman et al. 2020, Patterson et al. 2020, Ruiz-Arrondo et al. 2020, Sailleau et al. 2020, Segalés et al. 2020, Shi et al. 2020, Temmam et al. 2020, Zhang et al. 2020b
- Deer Mice – Fagre et al. 2020, Griffin et al. 2020
- Ferrets– Blanco-Melo et al. 2020, Kim et al. 2020, Kutter et al. 2020, Park et al. 2020, Richard et al. 2020, Schlottau et al. 2020, Shi et al. 2020, Sawatzki et al. 2020, Wu et al. 2020
- Hamsters – Bertzbach et al. 2020, Boudewijns et al. 2020, Brocato et al. 2020, Bryche et al. 2020, Chan et al. 2020b, Chan et al. 2020c, Driouich et al. 2020, Gu et al. 2020b, Imai et al. 2020, Kaptein et al. 2020, Lau et al. 2020b, Osterrieder et al. 2020, Rogers et al. 2020, Rosenke et al. 2020, Sia et al. 2020, Wong et al. 2020, Yahalom-Ronen et al. 2020
- Mink - Molenaar et al. 2020, Munnink et al. 2020, Oreshkova et al. 2020
- Rabbit – Mykytyn et al. 2020
- Tree Shrews - Xu et al. 2020b, Zhao et al. 2020a
- NHP - Bao et al. 2020b, Blair et al. 2020, Chandrashekar et al. 2020, Cross et al. 2020, Deng et al. 2020b, Deng et al. 2020c, Elizaldi et al. 2020, Fahlberg et al. 2020, Finch et al. 2020, Gao et al. 2020, Gu et al. 2020b, Hartman et al. 2020, Ishigaki et al. 2020, Koo et al. 2020, Lu et al. 2020b, Munster et al. 2020, Ricks et al. 2020, Rockx et al. 2020, Rosenke et al. 2020, Shan et al. 2020, Singh et al. 2020, Song et al. 2020, Speranza et al. 2020, van Doremalen et al. 2020b, Williamson et al. 2020, Woolsey et al. 2020, Yu et al. 2020a, Yu et al. 2020b
- Cattle – Ulrich et al. 2020
- Dog – Bosco-Lauth et al. 2020, Cui et al., 2020, Farnia et al. 2020, Fritz et al. 2020, Patterson et al. 2020, Perisé-Barrios et al. 2020, Shi et al. 2020, Sit et al. 2020
- Egyptian Fruit Bat – Schlottau et al. 2020
- Raccoon Dog – Freuling et al. 2020
- Insect Vectors – Balarman et al. 2020, Huang et al. 2020
- Mice - Alsoussi et al. 2020, Bao et al. 2020a, Bao et al. 2020c, Boudewijns et al. 2020, Brumeanu et al. 2020, Dinnon et al. 2020, Gu et al. 2020a, Hassan et al. 2020a, Hassert et al. 2020, Israelow et al. 2020, Jiang et al. 2020, Moreau et al. 2020, Oladunni et al. 2020, Pruijssers et al. 2020, Rathnasinghe et al. 2020, Seo and Jang 2020, Sun et al. 2020c, Sun et al. 2020d, Winkler et al. 2020, Wu et al. 2020, Yinda et al. 2020, Zheng et al. 2020
- Pig - Meekins et al. 2020, Pickering et al. 2020, Schlottau et al. 2020, Shi et al. 2020
- Poultry - Schlottau et al. 2020, Shi et al. 2020, Suarez et al. 2020

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Highlighted Species Susceptibility Studies





Species Susceptibility: Cattle

- Ulrich et al.
- Inoculated 6 dairy cattle intranasally
- Demonstrated viral replication in 2 animals
  - Positive only on nasal swab samples
- Slight, but detectable, serologic reaction in the applied ELISA
- No transmission to in-contact cattle



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Species Susceptibility: Pigs

- **Shi et al.**: intranasal inoculation
  - No viral DNA detected, all seronegative
- **Schlottau et al. :** intranasal inoculation
  - No viral DNA detected, all seronegative
- **Meekins et al.:** oral, intranasal, intratracheal inoculation
  - No clinical signs, viral replication, or immune response detected
- **Vergara-Alert et al.**: Intranasal, intratracheal, intramuscular, intravenous inoculation
  - No viral RNA detected
  - Seroconversion detected in IM and IV inoculated pigs
- **Pickering et al.**: Oronasal inoculation
  - Ocular discharge noted
  - No viral shedding
  - 1 lymph node contained viral RNA
  - Antibodies detected
  - 3/19 pigs: viral RNA in oronasal secretions



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Species Susceptibility: Dogs

- **Bosco-Lauth et al.:** 3 dogs experimentally challenged
  - Intranasal inoculation
  - No clinical signs or viral shedding
  - Neutralizing antibodies detected
- **Shi et al.:** Low susceptibility when experimentally challenged
  - Viral RNA in rectal swabs, not in organs or tissues
  - No infectious virus detected
  - Seroconversion in 2/5 inoculated
  - dogs



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Species Susceptibility: Rabbits

- **Mykytyn et al.**
- Inoculated three rabbits
- No clinical signs
- All seropositive
- Virus shedding
  - RNA: > 21 days
  - Infectious virus: up to 7 days

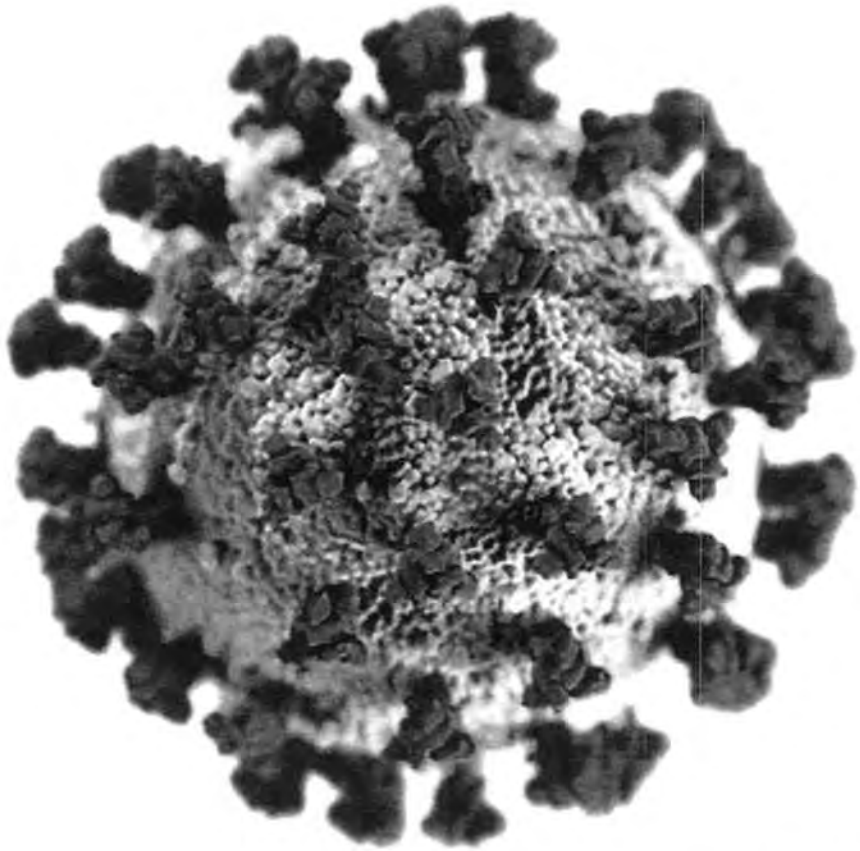


CDC

ONE HEALTH

SARS-CoV-2 and Mink





CDC

ONE HEALTH

What We Know about SARS-CoV-2 in Mink

- Mink are **highly susceptible** to SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.
- Extra precautions must be taken to **protect mink and workers** on farms.



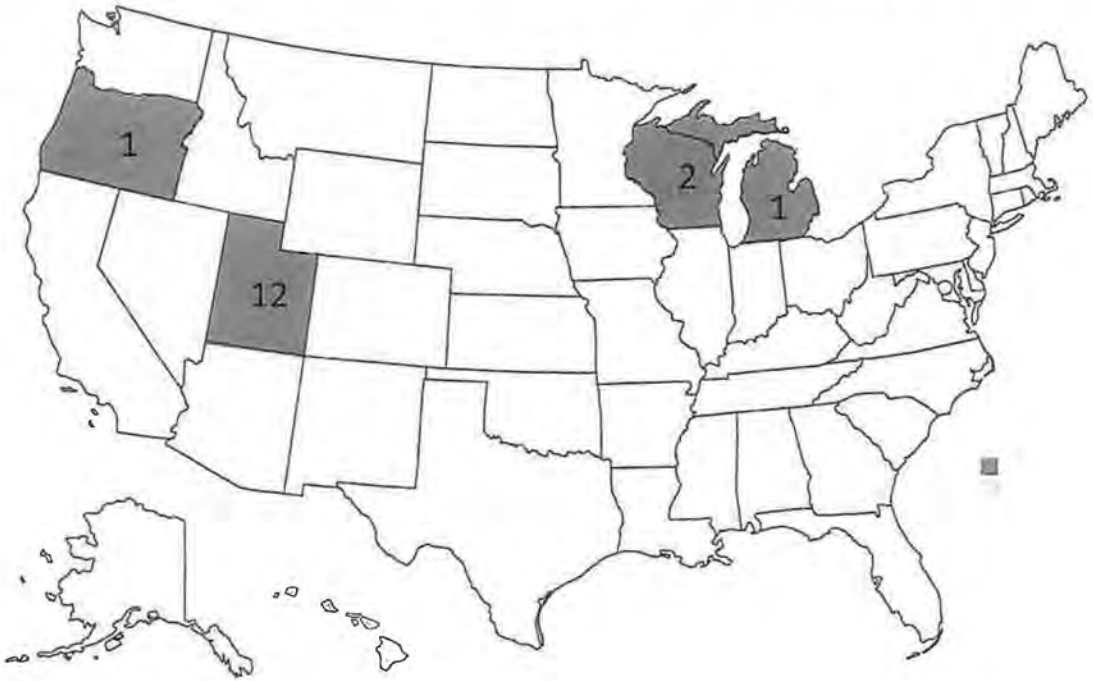


CDC

ONE HEALTH

Confirmed Cases of SARS-CoV-2 on Mink Farms in the US

16 mink farms in 4 states with confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection



https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/sa_one_health/sars-cov-2-animals-us

SARS-CoV-2 in Mink Farms in the United States

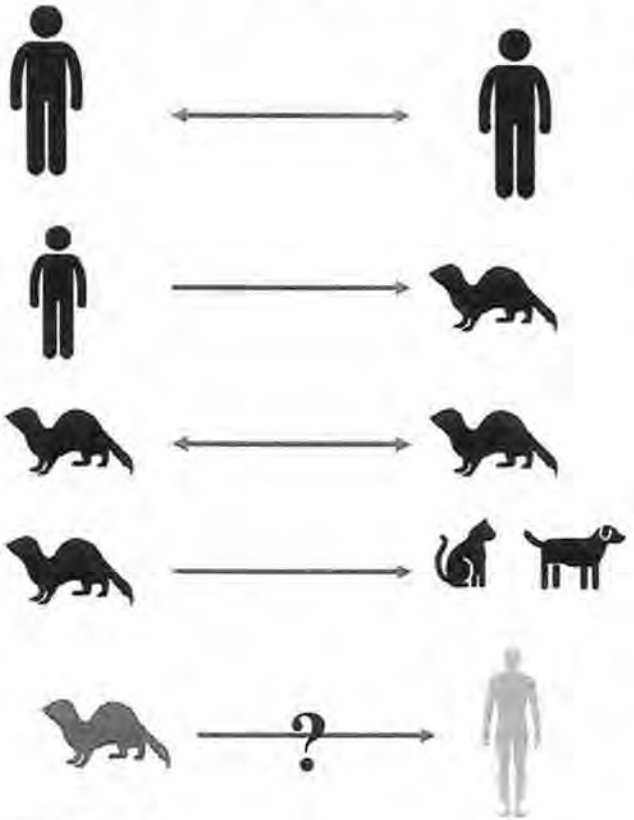
- **One Health investigations are ongoing**
  - One Health collaborators include local and state health departments, state department of agriculture, state department of natural resources, CDC, USDA, National Wildlife Health Center, and others
  - ZOHU call recording available: www.cdc.gov/onehealth/zohu/2020/december.html



CDC

ONE HEALTH

US Farm Investigations: Initial Findings



We know that SARS-CoV-2 infection spreads most commonly from **person to person**

Infected **people** introduce SARS-CoV-2 **to mink farms**

Infected **mink** spread SARS-CoV-2 **to other mink**

Infected **mink** spread SARS-CoV-2 **to cats and dogs**

Mink to human spread not identified in US to date, but was identified in Europe

SARS-CoV-2 Mink-Associated Variant Strain - Denmark

- Situation in Denmark:
  - 214 cases of COVID-19 from mink farm-associated variant strains
    - 12 human cases with unique "cluster 5" variant; 8 had link to mink farms
- As of November 20, **no new human cases of the Cluster 5 strain** have been detected by genetic sequencing, and authorities assessed that the **Cluster 5 variant is no longer circulating in humans**
- Further research needed
- Recommendations from international organizations
  - WHO | SARS-CoV-2 mink-associated variant strain – Denmark
  - OIE statement on COVID-19 and mink: OIE - World Organisation for Animal Health

CDC

ONE HEALTH

What Are One Health Partners Doing?



- Conducting on-farm investigations to address SARS-CoV-2 in people and multiple animal species on mink farms (including mink, cats, dogs, and wildlife) - Investigations ongoing
- CDC and USDA collaborating on comparative analysis of sequences from positive mink, other animals, and people associated with affected mink farms and surrounding communities
- Addressing gaps in active surveillance for SARS-CoV-2 positive US mink farms
- Generating guidance and recommendations for states and mink farmers in collaboration with partners in the US and globally
- Conducted nationwide training webinar for mink farmers and state public health and animal health officials on preventing SARS-CoV-2 introduction on mink farms

CDC

ONE HEALTH

SARS-CoV-2 in Mink Farms in the United States

- Guidance available for farmers
- Created through the OH-FICC Livestock Subgroup in collaboration with CDC, USDA, SAHOs, and state public health officials

Interim SARS-CoV-2 Guidance and Recommendations for Farmed Mink and Other Mustelids[1]:

This guidance was developed collaboratively by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and state animal and public health partners using a One Health approach. This document is intended to provide the most up to date information related to SARS-CoV-2 and farmed mink and other mustelids and guidance related to SARS-CoV-2 prevention and control strategies for public and animal health officials and partners in the mink industry.

www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/one_health/downloads/sars-cov-2-guidance-for-farmed-mink.pdf

Response & Containment Guidelines

Interim Guidance for Animal Health and Public Health Officials Managing Farmed Mink and other Farmed Mustelids with SARS-CoV-2

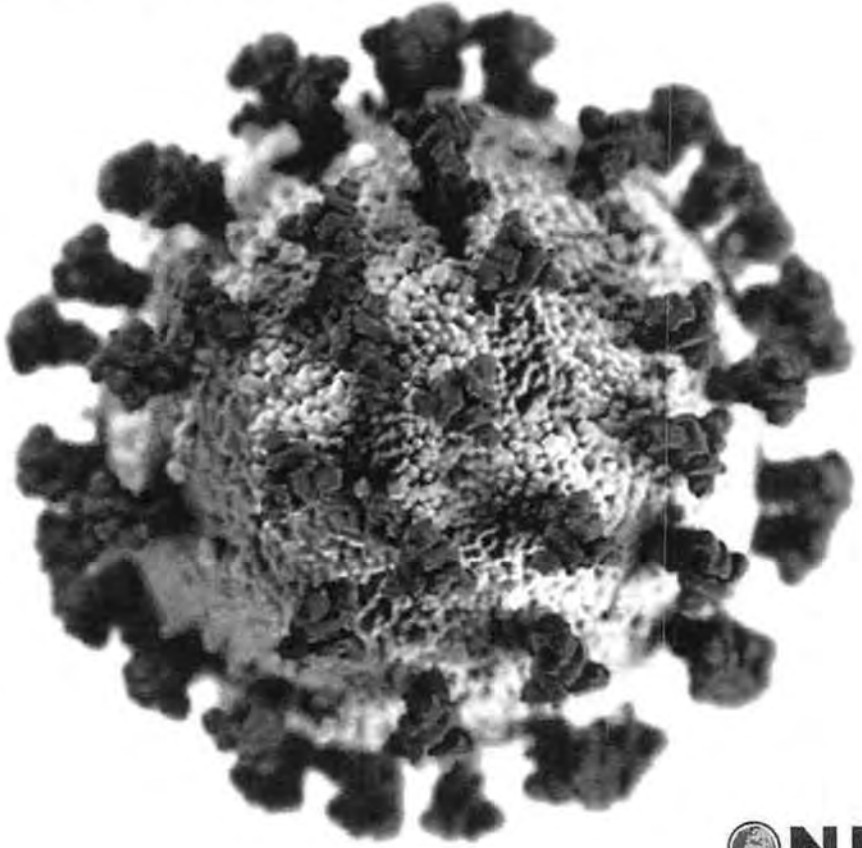
www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/animal_health/sars-cov-2-mink-guidance.pdf

CDC

USDA ONE HEALTH

Animal and SARS-CoV-2 in the United States

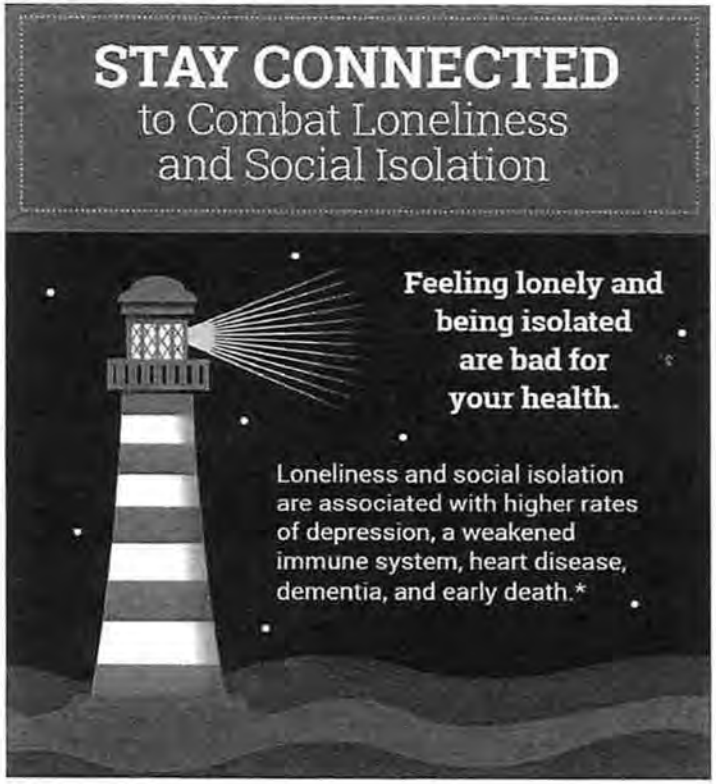




CDC

ONE HEALTH

The Human-Animal Bond and COVID-19



Consider adopting a pet. Animals can be a source of comfort and may also lower stress and blood pressure.



For more information about preventing loneliness and social isolation, visit https://www.nia.nih.gov/health/participating-activities-you-enjoy

NIH National Institute on Aging

*Cacioppo JT, Hawkley LC. Perceived social isolation and cognition. *Trends Cogn Sci.* 2009;13(10):447-54.

CDC

Stay Connected to Combat Loneliness and Social Isolation | National Institute on Aging (nih.gov)

ONE HEALTH

Human-Animal Bond and COVID-19

- The emotional bond and interaction with pets provides significant support to owners, especially when owner has more impaired quality of life
  - The effects of the Spanish COVID-19 lockdown on people, their pets, and the human-animal bond – Bowen et al., *Journal of Veterinary Behavior)*

EDITORS' PICK | Dec 7, 2020, 08:34am EST

Pets Combat Loneliness And Stress For Those Isolated During The Covid-19 Pandemic



Jackie Rocheleau Contributor ⓘ
Healthcare
I write about the brain, public health, or both at the same time.



ONE HEALTH

Role of Companion Animals During Pandemic

- The most commonly cited way that being a pet owner affected the experience of the COVID-19 lockdown in Australia was that pets *made the isolation easier, reduced loneliness and/or increased companionship*
  - Pets reported to protect against loneliness
  - Puppy love in the time of Corona: Dog ownership protects against loneliness for those living alone during the COVID-19 lockdown – Oliva & Johnston, *International Journal of Social Psychiatry*



Animal Ownership and Loneliness

- Animal ownership (compared to non-ownership) associated with smaller declines in mental health decreases and smaller increases in loneliness
- No significant species difference in strength of human-animal bond
  - Human-animal relationships and interactions during the Covid-19 lockdown phase in the UK: Investigating links with mental health and loneliness – Ratschen et al. 2020, *PLOS ONE*



ONE HEALTH

More Information

Stay Connected to Combat Loneliness and Social Isolation | National Institute on Aging (nih.gov)

Links to popular media publications highlighting the positive impact of animals/pets on mental/behavioral health during the pandemic:

5 Benefits of Pets During the COVID-19 Pandemic – San Diego – Sharp Health News

Pets, touch and COVID-19: Why our furry friends are lifesavers (medicalxpress.com)

Do Pets Improve Mental Health During COVID Lockdowns? | Psychology Today

Pets linked to maintaining better mental health and reducing loneliness during lockdown, new research shows -- ScienceDaily

Pets could help boost mental health and reduce loneliness during the COVID-19 pandemic (consumeraffairs.com)

Pet owners cope better with COVID-19 lockdowns – and any species will do (newatlas.com)

How Animals Help Us During the COVID-19 Pandemic | Tufts Now

5 Ways to Guard Your Mental Health During the COVID-19 Outbreak (webmd.com)

Pets have helped people cope during COVID-19 lockdowns, study says - UPI.com

Links to journal articles highlighting the positive impact of animals on mental/behavioral health during the pandemic:

Human-animal relationships and interactions during the Covid-19 lockdown phase in the UK: Investigating links with mental health and loneliness (plos.org)

Links for animals relieving social isolation and loneliness:

Pets may protect against suicide in older people (medicalxpress.com)

New Effort Highlights Potential Impact of Pets on Social Isolation and Loneliness | HABRI

Pets against loneliness summit

Friends with Benefits: Pets Make Us Happier, Healthier | Psychology Today

Alleviating Anxiety, Stress and Depression with the Pet Effect | Anxiety and Depression Association of America, ADAA

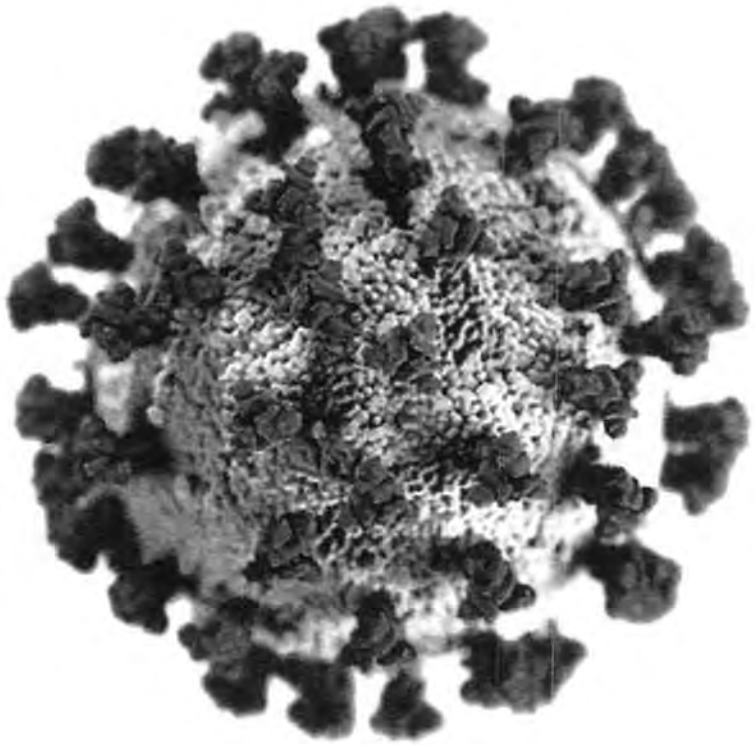
Pets reduce loneliness, social isolation in people (veterinarypracticenews.com)

CDC

ONE HEALTH

Investigations into Animals With Confirmed SARS-CoV-2 Infection with Severe Outcomes



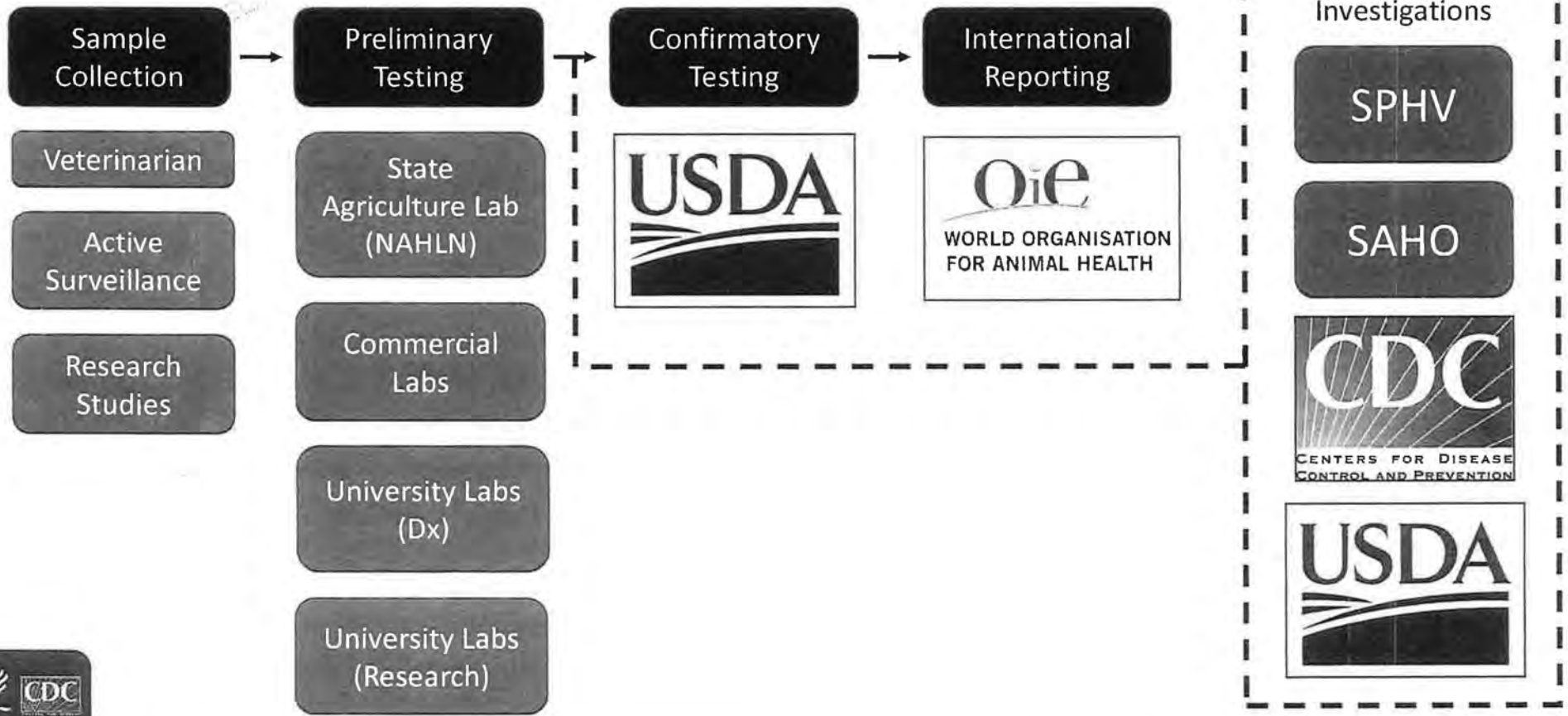


CDC

ONE HEALTH

Animal Case Investigations

Testing and case confirmation



Investigations into Animals with SARS-CoV-2 Infection

- Infected pets might get sick or they might not have any symptoms
- Of the pets that have gotten sick, most only had mild illness and fully recovered
- In rare cases, animals died or were euthanized and tested positive for SARS-CoV-2



CDC

ONE HEALTH

Investigations into Animals with Severe Outcomes

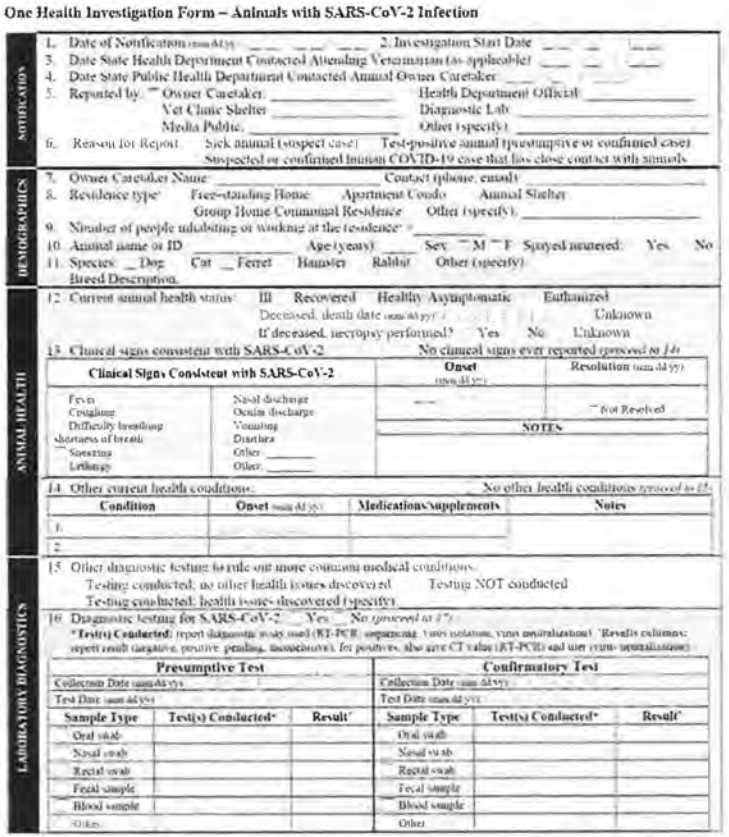
- 84 companion animals in United States have tested positive for SARS-CoV-2
  - 8 died or were euthanized
- Robust investigations have taken place to identify spectrum of disease, comorbidities, and underlying conditions



PRELIMINARY DATA: SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Investigations into Animals with Severe Outcomes

- **One Health support of investigations:**
  - Providing case investigation forms to support an epidemiological investigation
  - Collaborating with FDA Vet-LIRN laboratories to facilitate necropsies
  - Sending animal specimens with the CDC Infectious Disease Pathology Branch for evaluation



One Health Investigation Form – Animals with SARS-CoV-2 Infection

NOTIFICATION

1. Date of Notification (mm/dd/yy) ___ ___ ___ 2. Investigation Start Date ___ ___ ___
3. Date State Health Department Contacted Attending Veterinarian (as applicable) ___ ___ ___
4. Date State Public Health Department Contacted Animal Owner Caretaker ___ ___ ___
5. Reported by: ☐ Owner Caretaker _____ Health Department Official _____
   Vet Clinic Shelter _____ Diagnostic Lab _____
   Media Public _____ Other (specify) _____
6. Reason for Report: Sick animal (suspect case) Test-positive animal (presumptive or confirmed case)
   Suspected or confirmed human COVID-19 case that has close contact with animals

DEMOGRAPHICS

7. Owner Caretaker Name: _____ Contact (phone, email): _____
8. Residence type: Free-standing Home Apartment/Condo Animal Shelter
   Group Home/Communal Residence Other (specify): _____
9. Number of people inhabiting or working at the residence: _____
10. Animal name or ID _____ Age (years) ____ Sex ☐ M ☐ F Spayed/neutered: Yes No
11. Species: _Dog _Cat _Ferret Hamster Rabbit Other (specify)
    Breed Description:

ANIMAL HEALTH

12. Current animal health status: Ill Recovered Healthy/Asymptomatic Euthanized
    Deceased, death date (mm/dd/yy) / / Unknown
    If deceased, necropsy performed? Yes No Unknown
13. Clinical signs consistent with SARS-CoV-2 No clinical signs ever reported *(proceed to 14)*

Clinical Signs Consistent with SARS-CoV-2		Onset (mm/dd/yy)	Resolution (mm/dd/yy)
Fever Coughing Difficulty breathing/shortness of breath ☐ Sneezing Lethargy	Nasal discharge Ocular discharge Vomiting Diarrhea Other _____ Other: _____	___	☐ Not Resolved
		NOTES	

14. Other current health conditions: No other health conditions *(proceed to 15)*

Condition	Onset (mm/dd/yy)	Medications/supplements	Notes
1.			
2.			

LABORATORY DIAGNOSTICS

15. Other diagnostic testing to rule out more common medical conditions:
    Testing conducted; no other health issues discovered Testing NOT conducted
    Testing conducted; health issues discovered (specify): _____
16. Diagnostic testing for SARS-CoV-2: ☐ Yes ☐ No *(proceed to 17)*
    *Test(s) Conducted: report diagnostic assay used (RT-PCR, sequencing, virus isolation, virus neutralization). *Result: columns: report result (negative, positive, pending, inconclusive); for positives, also give CT value (RT-PCR) and titer (virus neutralization)

Presumptive Test			Confirmatory Test		
Collection Date (mm/dd/yy)			Collection Date (mm/dd/yy)		
Test Date (mm/dd/yy)			Test Date (mm/dd/yy)		
Sample Type	Test(s) Conducted*	Result*	Sample Type	Test(s) Conducted*	Result*
Oral swab			Oral swab		
Nasal swab			Nasal swab		
Rectal swab			Rectal swab		
Fecal sample			Fecal sample		
Blood sample			Blood sample		
Other:			Other		

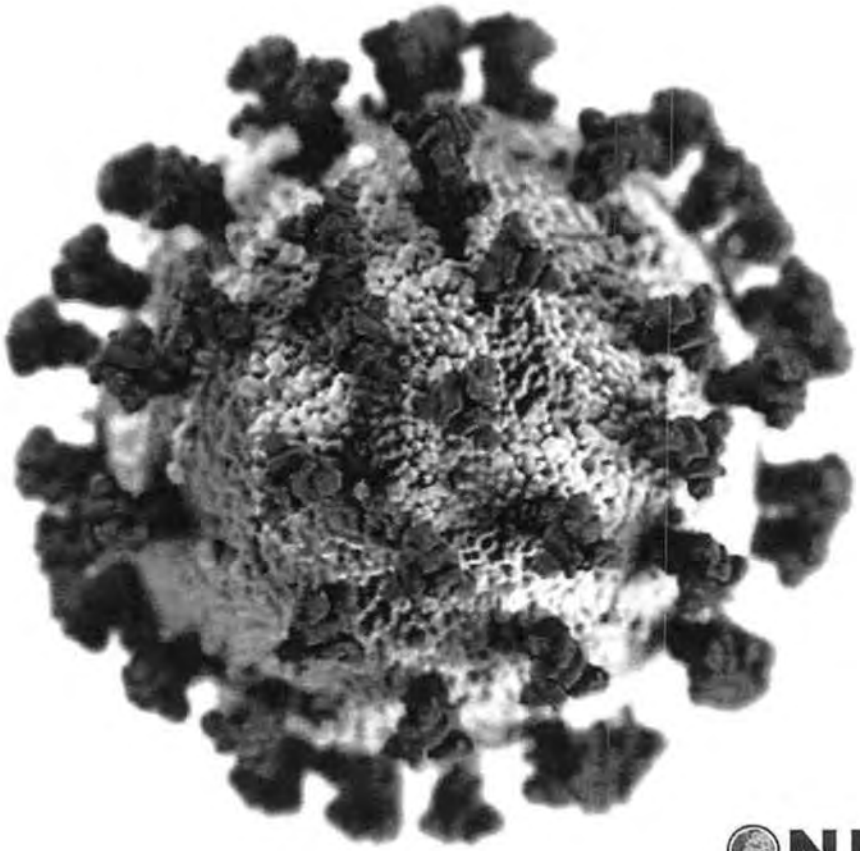
Investigations into Animals with Severe Outcomes

- These investigations required collaboration between many federal, state, and laboratory partners, and illustrate the importance of taking a **One Health approach**



Guidance and Resources





CDC

ONE HEALTH

Evaluation for SARS-CoV-2 Testing in Animals

Routine testing of animals for SARS-CoV-2 is not recommended

Table 1: Criteria to Guide Evaluation and Laboratory Testing for SARS-CoV-2 in Animals

Criteria	Epidemiological Risk		Clinical Features
A	Animal with history of close contact[4] with a person or animal suspected or confirmed to be infected with SARS-CoV-2.	AND	Animal has clinical signs suspicious of SARS-CoV-2 infection[3].
B	Animal with exposure to a known high-risk environment (i.e., where human cases or animals cases have occurred), such as a residence, facility, or vessel (e.g. nursing home, prison, cruise ship).		
C	Threatened, endangered or otherwise imperiled/rare animal[5] in a rehabilitation or zoological facility with possible exposure to SARS-CoV-2 through an infected person or animal.	AND	Animal is asymptomatic; OR Animal has clinical signs suspicious of SARS-CoV-2 infection[3].
D	Animals in a mass care or group setting (e.g., farm, animal feeding operation, animal shelter, boarding facility, zoo, or other animal holding) including companion animals, livestock, and other species, where their exposure history to people with COVID-19 is unknown.	AND	A cluster of animals show clinical signs suspicious of SARS-CoV-2 infection[3].



cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/animals/animal-testing.html

ONE HEALTH

COVID-19 Recommendations for Pet Stores, Pet Distributors, and Pet Breeding Facilities

- How to protect people and animals in the store
- Precautions workers and visitors should take around animals in the store
- What to do if SARS-CoV-2 infection is suspected in animals in the store
- Testing guidance









https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/animals/pet-store.html

ONE HEALTH

Handout for Veterinary Clinics

- Downloadable PDF
- Free
- Answers commonly asked questions

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/pdf/covid-19-and-pets.pdf

What You Need to Know About COVID-19 and Pets

Animals, including pets, can be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19

We are still learning about SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, but it appears that it can spread from people to animals in some situations. A small number of pets worldwide have been reported to be infected with SARS-CoV-2, mostly after close contact with people with COVID-19. **Based on the limited information available to date, the risk of pets spreading COVID-19 to people is considered to be low.**

There is no vaccine for SARS-CoV-2

There is currently no vaccine to protect pets or people from SARS-CoV-2. There are vaccines for other coronaviruses in animals, but these do not protect against this virus.

Protect your pet from SARS-CoV-2

Because there is a risk that people with COVID-19 could spread the virus to some animals, including pets, CDC recommends that pet owners limit their pet's interaction with people outside their household and people known or suspected to have COVID-19.

- Keep cats indoors when possible and do not let them roam freely outside.
- Walk dogs on a leash at least 6 feet (2 meters) away from others.
- Avoid public places where a large number of people gather.
- Do not put masks on pets. Covering a pet's face could harm them.
- Do not wipe or bathe your pet with chemical disinfectants, alcohol, hydrogen peroxide, or other products, such as hand sanitizer, counter-cleaning wipes, or other industrial or surface cleaners.

If you get sick with COVID-19, avoid contact with pets and other animals during your illness.

- When possible, have another member of your household care for your pets while you are sick.
- Avoid contact with your pet including petting, snuggling, being kissed or licked, sharing food, and sleeping in the same bed.
- If you must care for your pet or be around animals while you are sick, wear a mask and wash your hands before and after you interact with them.

Symptoms of SARS-CoV-2 infection in pets

Infected pets might get sick or they might not have any symptoms. Most pets who have gotten sick only had mild illness and fully recovered. Some signs of illness in pets may include fever, coughing, difficulty breathing or shortness of breath, lethargy, sneezing, nose or eye discharge, vomiting, or diarrhea.

Testing pets is usually not necessary

At this time, routine testing of pets for SARS-CoV-2 is not recommended. If you're concerned about your pet's health, work with your veterinarian to ensure that your pet receives appropriate care. If you are concerned your pet is sick after being around a person with COVID-19, talk to your veterinarian. Your veterinarian may want to rule out other more common causes of respiratory illnesses in pets first.

If you think your pet has SARS-CoV-2

If your pet gets sick after contact with a person with COVID-19, call your veterinarian first and let them know the pet was around a person with COVID-19. Some veterinarians may offer telemedicine consultations or other plans for seeing sick pets. Your veterinarian can evaluate your pet and determine the next steps for your pet's treatment and care.

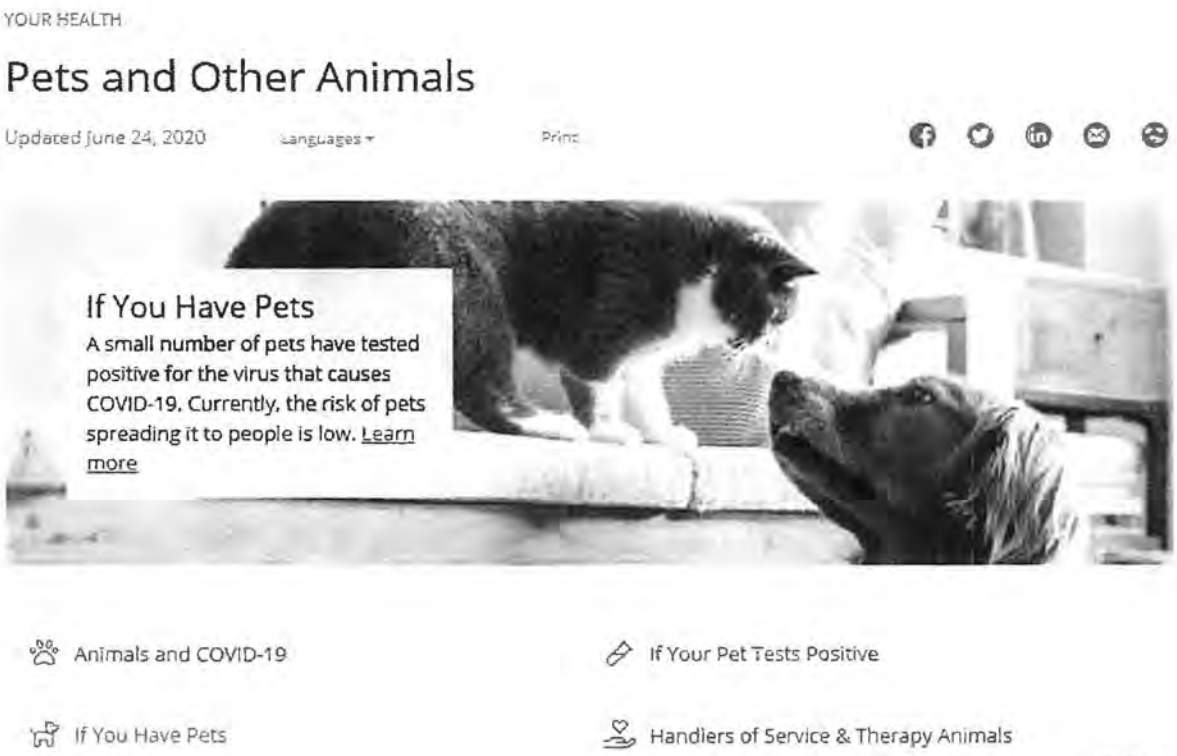
Do not surrender, euthanize, or abandon pets because of SARS-CoV-2

At this time, there is no evidence that animals play a significant role in spreading SARS-CoV-2 to people. COVID-19 is mainly spreading from person to person through close contact. **There is no reason to give up or euthanize pets because of SARS-CoV-2.**



CDC Guidance: Pets and Other Animals Landing Page

- General Information on Animals and COVID-19
- Information for Pet Owners
  - If You Have Pets
  - If Your Pet Tests Positive
- Handlers of Service and Therapy Animals



www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/animals/pets-other-animals.html

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Guidance Available

- Veterinary Clinics
- Handlers of Service and Therapy Animals
- Animal Activities at Fairs, Shows, and other Events
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Public Health Professionals Managing People With and Isolation Who Have Pets or Other Animals
- Interim Guidance for SARS-CoV-2 Testing in North American Wildlife
- COVID-19 Recommendations for Pet Stores, Pet Distributors, and Pet Breeding Facilities
- Evaluation for SARS-CoV-2 Testing in Animals



Key Messages on Animals and COVID-19

- No evidence animals are playing significant role in spread of COVID-19 to people
- Based on limited information available to date, risk of animals, including pets, spreading COVID-19 to people is considered to be low
- We are still learning about this virus, but it appears it can spread from people to animals in some situations
- If you are sick with COVID-19 (either suspected or confirmed by a test), you should restrict contact with your pets and other animals, just as you would with people
- Talk to your veterinarian if your pet gets sick or if you have any concerns about your pet's health



ONE HEALTH

Stay Up-to-Date with Trusted Resources

COVID-19 and Animals

- Pets and Other Animals
- FAQs: COVID-19 and Animals
- COVID-19 and Animals
- If You Have Pets
- What to Do if Your Pet Tests Positive for the Virus that Causes COVID-19
- Guidance for Handlers of Service and Therapy Animals
- Interim Infection Prevention and Control Guidance for Veterinary Clinics Treating Companion Animals During the COVID-19 Response
- Interim Guidance for Public Health Professionals Managing People With COVID-19 in Home Care and Isolation Who Have Pets or Other Animals
- Toolkit: One Health Approach to Address Companion Animals with SARS-CoV-2
- COVID-19 Recommendations for Pet Stores, Pet Distributors, and Pet Breeding Facilities
- COVID-19 Considerations for Animal Activities at Fairs, Shows, and Other Events
- Evaluation for SARS-CoV-2 Testing in Animals
- Interim Guidance for SARS-CoV-2 Testing in North American Wildlife
- Interim recommendations for intake of companion animals from households where humans with COVID-19 are present
- Recommendations for Disaster Sheltering of Household Pets, Service Animals, and Support Animals during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Federal COVID-19 Websites

- USA.gov
- Coronavirus.gov
- US Department of Agriculture
  - USDA Confirmed Cases of SARS-CoV-2 in Animals in the US
- US Food and Drug Administration
  - https://www.fda.gov/media/139430/download
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- US Environmental Protection Agency

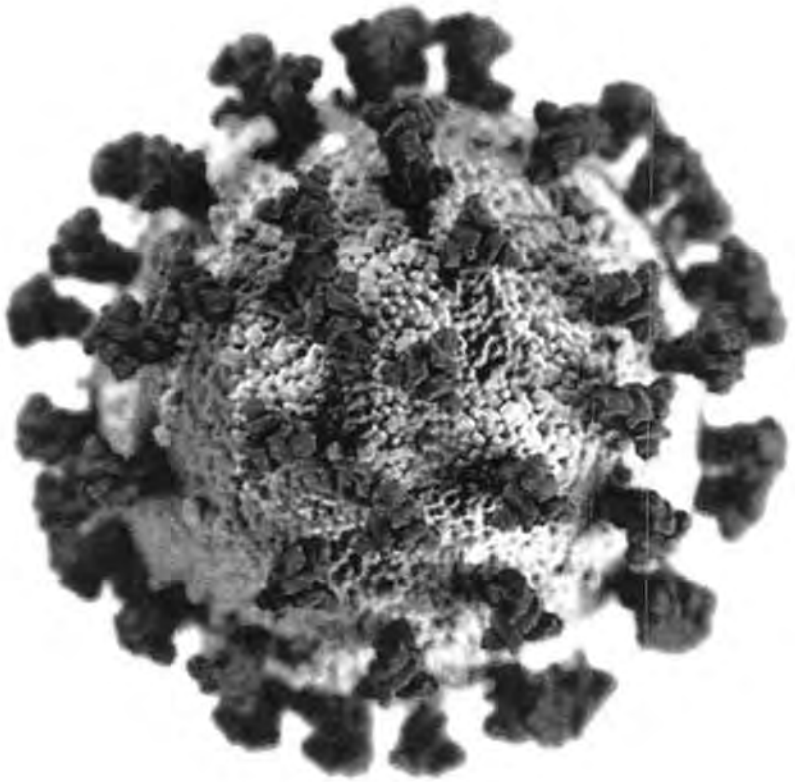
Partner COVID-19 Websites

- World Health Organization (WHO)
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
- American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)

One Health

- CDC One Health
- CDC Healthy Pets, Healthy People
- CDC Pet Emergency Preparedness
- CDC Pet Disaster Kit
- CDC Pets in Evacuation Centers
- Zoonoses and One Health Updates Call
- USDA One Health

One Health Federal Interagency COVID-19 Coordination (OH-FICC) Subgroup Updates



CDC

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One Health Federal Interagency COVID-19 Coordination Group (OH-FICC)

18 Federal Agencies Representing Multiple Departments

Chaired by CDC

Coordination with **>130** USG partners

Purpose: Bring together representatives from key federal agencies representing multiple departments to collaborate to address One Health technical aspects of COVID-19

Five OH-FICC Subgroups

Companion Animal

CDC



Animal Diagnostics and Testing

FDA-CVM, USDA-NVSL



Wildlife and Zoo Animals

DOI USGS



Livestock

USDA-APHIS



Environmental Health

ATSDR, CDC



Convened > **150** calls with more than > **150** state and > **130** federal partners since February

Coordinate with partners such as **AVMA**, **pet industry**, **USA Fur Commission**, and **private diagnostic labs**

Companion Animals Subgroup

- Led by CDC One Health Office
- Attendees: CDC, USDA, FDA, DHS, DoD, ASPR







Companion Animals and SARS-CoV-2 Infection

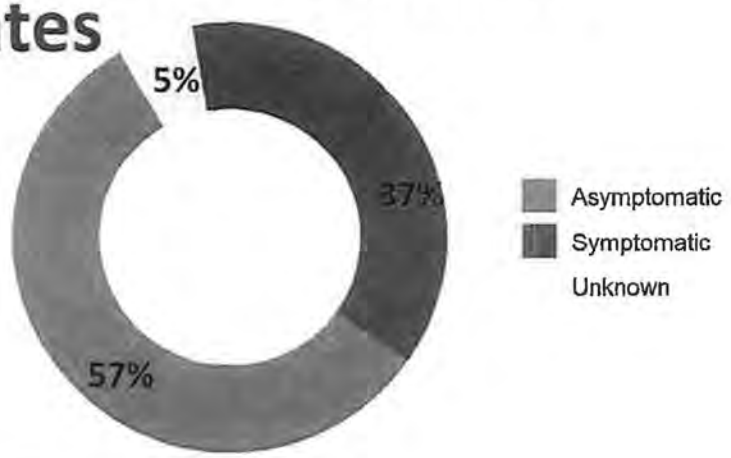
- Seroprevalence in animals in households with human COVID-19 infections varies
  - Dogs: 11.0% (1/9) (Chen et al, 2020)- 20.0% (5/20) (Perisé-Barrios et al, 2020).
  - Cats: 4.5% (1/22) (Patterson et al, 2020)- 47% (Hamer et al, 2020)

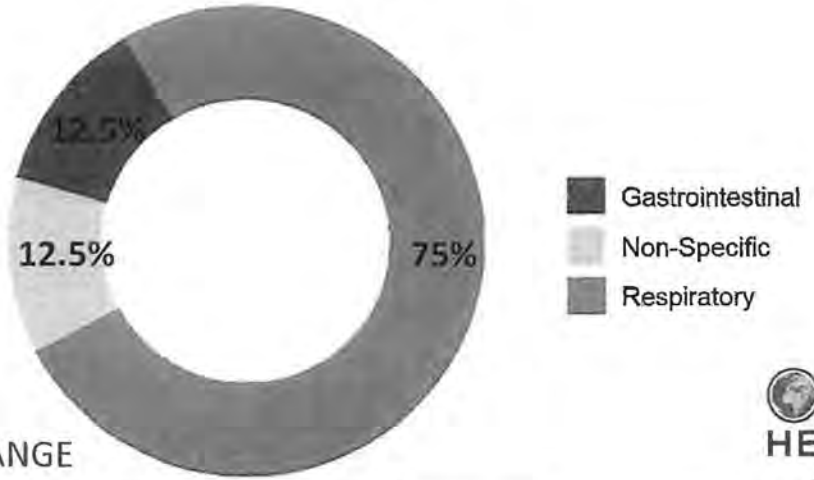
- **Natural SARS-CoV-2 infections, including virus isolation, among serially tested cats and dogs in households with confirmed human COVID-19 cases in Texas, USA**
  - 47% of 17 cats and 15% of 59 dogs from 26% of 39 households were positive for SARS-CoV-2 via RT-PCR and genome sequencing or neutralizing antibodies
  - ZOHU call recording available: www.cdc.gov/onehealth/zohu/2020/december.html



Clinical Signs of Companion Animals with Confirmed SARS-CoV-2 Infection in United States

- **84 cases of companion animal SARS-CoV-2 infection in the US**
  - 48 cats, 36 dogs
- **57% of pets did not show clinical signs**
  - Pets with signs, illness is mild
  - Continuing to investigate animal cases with severe outcomes
- **Common clinical signs reported in pets**
  - Respiratory: coughing, sneezing, nasal or ocular discharge
  - Non-specific: fever, lethargy, inappetence
  - Gastrointestinal: vomiting, diarrhea



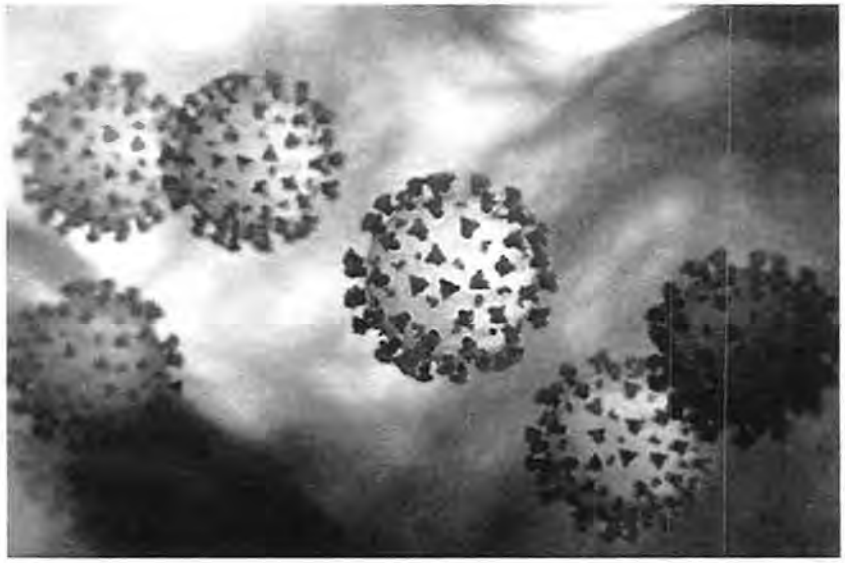


PRELIMINARY DATA: SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Animal Diagnostics and Testing Subgroup

- Co-chaired by FDA-CVM and USDA-NAHLN
- Attendees: FDA, USDA, CDC, DoD, USGS, DHS





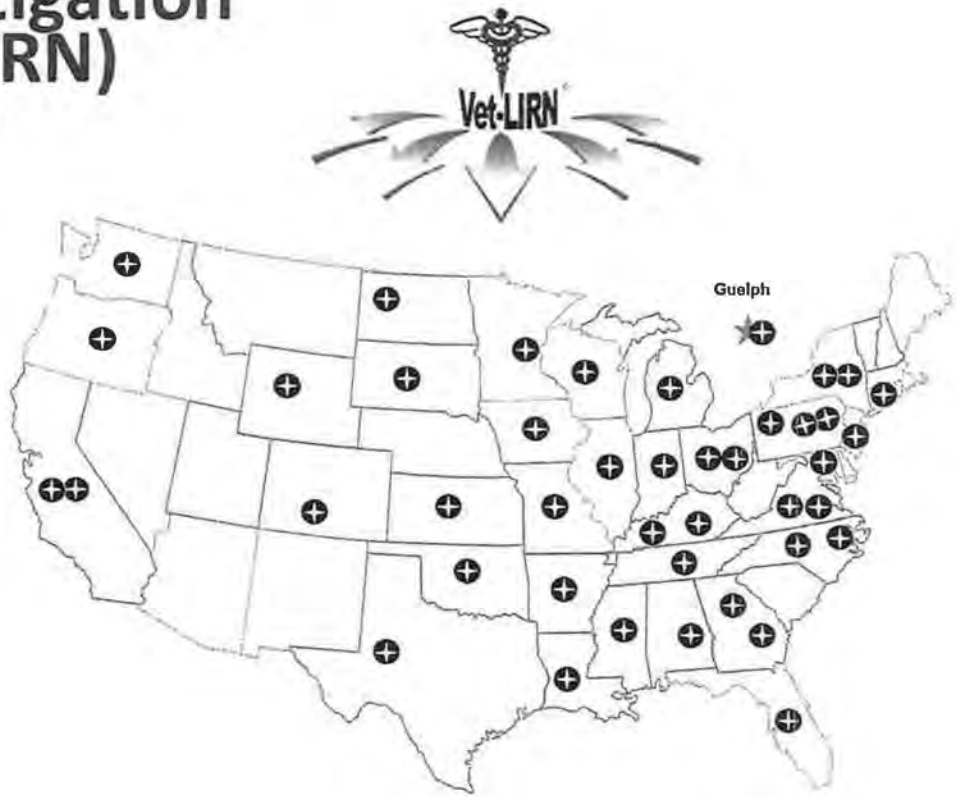
CDC FDA U.S. FOOD & DRUG ADMINISTRATION USDA

FDA CVM COVID-19 Response

- **One Health Federal Interagency COVID-19 Coordination Group (OHFICC) and Subgroup representation**
  - Providing subject matter experts (SMEs)
  - Co-lead Animal Diagnostics/Testing Subgroup
  - Vet-LIRN Support
- Drug Shortages
- Fraudulent Products
  - FDA has not approved any drugs for the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment, or prevention of COVID-19 in animals
- Animal Health & Safety and COVID-19
  - fda.gov/animal-veterinary/outbreaks-and-advisories/animal-health-safety-and-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19

Veterinary Laboratory Investigation & Response Network (Vet-LIRN)

- Necropsy Resources
  - www.fda.gov/media/139430/download
- Interlaboratory Comparison Exercise (ICE)



>40 State/University Laboratories

Wildlife and Zoo Animals Subgroup Updates







Current COVID-19 and Wildlife Messages and Guidance

One Health Federal Interagency COVID-19 Coordination (OH-FICC) Group

Coronavirus (COVID-19) frequently asked questions | CDC

Jonathan Sleeman

Chair

OH-FICC Zoo and Wildlife Subgroup

FAQ: Can wild animals spread the virus to people and animals?

- Currently, there is no evidence to suggest the virus that causes COVID-19 is circulating in free-living wildlife in the United States, or that wildlife might be a source of infection for people in the United States.
- If a wild animal were to become infected with the virus, we don't know whether the infection could then spread among wildlife or if it could spread to other animals, including pets. Further studies are needed to understand if and how different animals, including wildlife, could be affected by COVID-19. Because wildlife can carry other diseases, even without looking sick, it is always important to enjoy wildlife from a distance.

FAQ: Can wild animals spread the virus to people and animals?

- Take steps to prevent getting sick from wildlife in the United States:
- Keep your family, including pets, a safe distance away from wildlife.
- Do not feed wildlife or touch wildlife droppings.
- Always wash your hands and supervise children washing their hands after working or playing outside.
- Leave orphaned animals alone. Often, the parents are close by and will return for their young.
- Consult your state wildlife agency's guidance if you are preparing or consuming legally harvested game meat.
- Do not approach or touch a sick or dead animal – contact your state wildlife agency instead.

FAQ: Is hunter harvested game meat safe to eat during the COVID-19 pandemic?

- Currently, there is no evidence that you can get infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 by eating food, including wild hunted game meat. However, hunters can get infected with other diseases when processing or eating game. Hunters should always practice good hygiene when processing animals by following these food safety recommendations:
- Do not harvest animals that appear sick or are found dead.
- Keep game meat clean and cool the meat down as soon as possible after harvesting the animal.
- Avoid cutting through the backbone and spinal tissues and do not eat the brains of any wild animal.
- When handling and cleaning game:
  - Wear rubber or disposable gloves.
  - Do not eat, drink, or smoke.

FAQ: Is hunter harvested game meat safe to eat during the COVID-19 pandemic?

- When finished handling and cleaning game:
- Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water.
- Clean knives, equipment, and surfaces that were in contact with game meat with soap and water and then disinfect them. While these recommendations apply to general food safety practices, if you are concerned about COVID-19, you may use a product on the EPA list of disinfectants for use against the COVID-19 virus.
- Cook all game meat thoroughly (to an internal temperature of 165°F or higher).
- Check with your state wildlife agency regarding any testing requirements for other diseases and for any specific instructions regarding preparing, transporting, and consuming game meat.

Sign up to Receive the Scientific Publication Tracker



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One Health Scientific Publications Tracker Distribution List

The Scientific Publications Tracker is an effort implemented by the CDC'S COVID-19 One Health Working Group as a method of capturing up-to-date scientific literature on the human-animal-environmental health interface in the COVID-19 pandemic. This tracker is updated weekly and distributed monthly to anyone who has signed up using this form. Please direct all questions to onehealth@cdc.gov.

* Required

First Name *

Your answer

Last Name *

Your answer

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScqGzx1Dxp9S2Rkigv1Pze_NbG6e3UTjS2LOslsDGBcyHawNg/viewform

Stay Connected for Future Updates!

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ONE HEALTH

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Subscribe to the Healthy Pets, Healthy People Newsletter

ZOHU Call
Zoonoses & One Health Updates

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Follow @CDC_NCEZID on Twitter

Contact us!

onehealth@cdc.gov

www.cdc.gov/onehealth

For ZOHU inquiries:

zohucall@cdc.gov

CDC

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Future One Health Partners Monthly COVID-19 Update Webinars

- Third Tuesday of each month
- Next call:

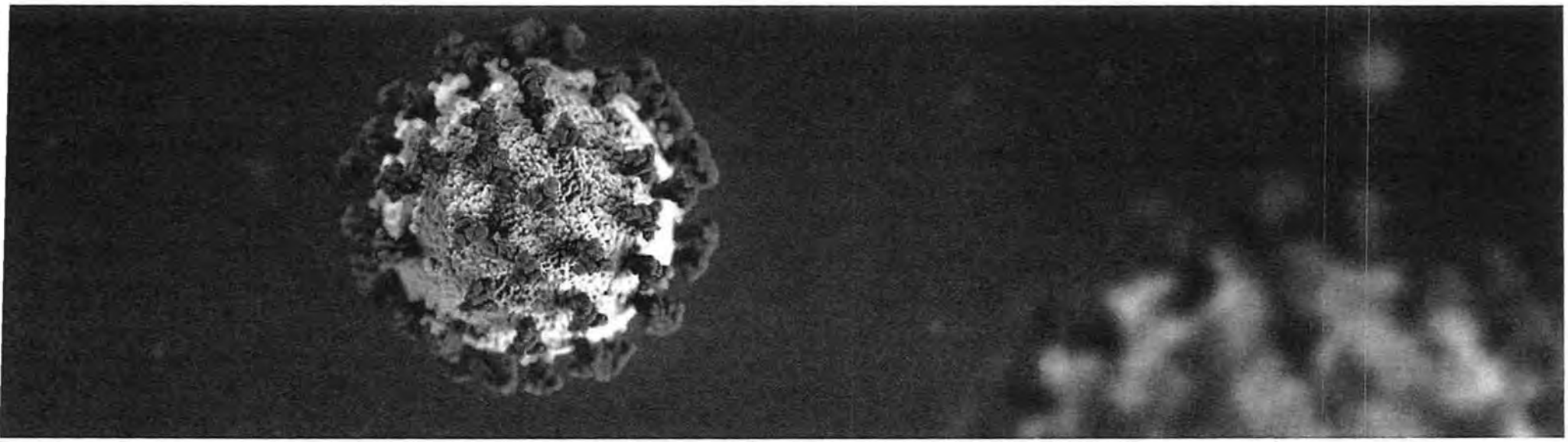
  Tuesday, January 19th, 2020 at 2pm ET

  If others are interested in being invited to this recurring call, please email onehealth@cdc.gov



CDC

ONE HEALTH



For more information, contact CDC
1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)
TTY: 1-888-232-6348 www.cdc.gov

OneHealth@cdc.gov

The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Mink Farm SARS-CoV-2 Quarantine Release

State Veterinarian's Office
Utah Department of Agriculture and Food
350 N Redwood Rd
Salt Lake City, UT 84114

Phone: (801) 982-2235
Fax: (385) 465-6026
E-mail: djtaylor@utah.gov

Mink farms quarantined for SARS-CoV-2 will be released in a series of steps due to the unique nature of the industry, the ongoing investigation, and guidance from USDA. These steps are outlined below. Quarantines restrict movement of animals, products, and waste on or off of the affected facilities to prevent the spread of disease. Due to the zoonotic (transmissible to humans) nature of SARS-CoV-2, human traffic on the facilities was limited to essential personnel on the farms. The determination of which personnel were essential was left to the discretion of the producer.

Because mink farms have a unique management system, each step of quarantine release may be performed at different times and may require permitting.

Quarantine Release Step	Requirements for Release	State Veterinarian Initials	Date
Carcasses	All carcasses have been disposed of in approved sanitary landfills after transportation in lined trucks or trailers. Vehicles have been properly disinfected after transport.		
Pelts	All pelts have been moved under permit using UDAF forms for shipment to processing or grading.		
Live Mink	Two successive tests using oral swabs of 62 live mink conducted at least two weeks apart show no evidence of active virus on the farm.		
Manure	All manure has been composted at the correct temperatures according to UDAF and Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) guidelines. Manure being spread on premises other than the original farm is moved under DEQ permit.		
Facility	All pens have been disinfected with an EPA-approved disinfectant or left open for a minimum of 2 weeks with external temperatures in the 70's.		

We express our appreciation to the producers who have been so cooperative throughout this period of time. This is new territory and we are doing our best to safeguard your farms and the people who work there.

Please feel free to call with any questions.

Sincerely,

Dean J Taylor, DVM
State Veterinarian
djtaylor@utah.gov
385-290-9462 (cell)

Interim SARS-CoV-2 Guidance and Recommendations for Farmed Mink and Other Mustelids[1]:

This guidance was developed collaboratively by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and state animal and public health partners using a One Health approach. This document is intended to provide the most up to date information related to SARS-CoV-2 and farmed mink and other mustelids and guidance related to SARS-CoV-2 prevention and control strategies for public and animal health officials and partners in the mink industry.

Q: What is a mink?

A: A mink belongs to the taxonomic order Carnivora, which means it is carnivorous – a meat-eater. The order, Carnivora, includes other meat-eaters, such as lions, tigers, hyenas, coyotes, and wolves. Within the order, Carnivora, the mink belongs to the family Mustelid, commonly known as the weasel family. This family includes ferrets, skunks, otters, fishers, martens, and wolverines.

Q: What do we currently know about mink and COVID-19?

A: SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, was recently detected in mink on multiple farms in the Netherlands. The mink showed various respiratory (lung) and gastrointestinal signs (gut); the farms also experienced increased death loss[2]. Investigations have been launched to find out the source of the infections. Because some employees had symptoms of COVID-19, it is assumed that the farm workers were also infected and likely the source of the mink infections.

Recent research shows that ferrets (which are closely related to mink) can be experimentally infected with SARS-CoV-2 and can spread the virus to other ferrets in laboratory settings. The study did not investigate whether animals can spread infection to people.

Q: What are the clinical signs of SARS-CoV-2 infection in mink or other mustelids?

A: Dutch officials reported respiratory and gastrointestinal signs in the sick mink. Recent research also showed that in a laboratory setting, ferrets that were experimentally infected with SARS-CoV-2 exhibited fever, mild respiratory, and gastrointestinal signs.

Q: What should I do if I suspect mink or other mustelids on my farm are infected with the SARS-CoV-2 virus?

A: Any producer or veterinarian who suspects mink or mustelids (or other animals residing on the premises) to be infected with SARS-CoV-2 virus[3] should contact their State Animal Health Official (SAHO) immediately. The SAHO will engage the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Area Veterinarian in Charge (AVIC), State Public Health Veterinarian (SPHV), and/or national animal health and public health officials to decide whether testing is warranted.

Q. How will animal samples be collected and tested?

A: The SAHO and USDA AVIC will initiate the investigation, specimen collection and testing. State animal health laboratories can conduct animal testing, but any positive samples need to be confirmed through additional testing by USDA's National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL).

[1]Note: Additional guidance on ferrets and other small non-traditional companion animals is forthcoming
[2]Increased death loss means losses above those expected during production
[3]Other common causes of respiratory and/or gastrointestinal disease and increased death loss should be ruled out first

Q: What will happen if mink or mustelids test positive for SARS-CoV-2 virus?

A: The SAHO and USDA AVIC will initiate animal disease response activities. Animal health and public health officials (including the State Public Health Veterinarian) should collaborate using a One Health approach to conduct epidemiological investigations into animal and human infections with SARS-CoV-2 to protect animal and human health.

Q: Can people get COVID-19 from mink or other mustelids?

A: We are still learning about SARS-CoV-2 in animals, but there is currently no evidence that animals, including mink or other mustelids, play a significant role in spreading the virus to humans. Based on the limited information available to date, the risk of animals spreading SARS-CoV-2 to people is considered to be low.

The primary route of transmission of SARS-CoV-2 is from person to person: between people who are in close contact with one another (within six feet) or through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks. Airborne transmission over long distances is unlikely. It may also be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a contaminated surface or object that has the virus on it, and then touching their own mouth, nose, or eyes. This is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads. People can spread the virus to other people, as well as animals, before they show symptoms, or even if they do not have any symptoms.

Further studies are needed to understand if and how different animals could be affected by the virus that causes COVID-19 and the role animals may play in the spread of the virus.

Q: How can I protect people and animals on my farm from becoming infected with the SARS-CoV-2 virus?

A: To ensure the health and safety of animals and people on your farm, follow state and industry biosecurity and safety guidance.

Biosecurity is a series of management practices designed to reduce the risk of disease agents being introduced and spread on the farm. In broad terms, it refers to anything designed to prevent the transfer of disease-causing pathogens. Biosecurity is crucial to control and contain a disease such as COVID-19, as well as in the daily management practices protecting the health of farm workers and animals. To be effective, biosecurity measures need to be disease-specific, as well as site-specific.

Steps you can take to reduce the risk of SARS-CoV-2 transmission include:

- **Restricted access to the premises and buildings where production animals are kept.**
  - Limit access to essential personnel only.
  - Limit non-production animal access, and implement measures to exclude domestic pets, rodents, birds, and other wildlife from buildings.
- **All employees should stay home if they are sick.** Encouraging farm workers and supervisors not to come to work if they are experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19 and to take steps to help prevent the spread of the virus.
  - Employees who have symptoms upon arrival at work or who become sick during the day should immediately be separated from other employees, customers, and visitors, and sent home.

    - Employees should not return to work until the criteria to discontinue home isolation are met, after talking with their doctor.
    - Implement sick leave policies that are flexible, nonpunitive, and consistent with public health guidance, allowing employees to stay home if they have symptoms of respiratory infection.
- **Increase distance between workers.** Whenever possible, mink farm workers should maintain 6 feet of distance between each other. Adjustments should be made to allow for social distancing and avoid groups of workers when clocking in or out, during breaks, or in locker/changing rooms, or other shared spaces.
- Mink farm employers should put in place engineering controls (e.g., physical partitions or barriers between workers within 6 feet of each other) and administrative controls (e.g., stagger workers' arrival and departure times to avoid clusters of workers in parking areas, locker rooms, and near time clocks) to separate and distance employees as a top priority and main way to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- **Encourage employees to use cloth face coverings.** Wearing a cloth face covering does NOT replace the need to practice social distancing.
    - Cloth face coverings may prevent people, including those who are unaware they have the virus, from spreading it to others, but they may not protect the wearer from exposure to the virus. Cloth face coverings do not function the same way as personal protective equipment (PPE) such as a respirator.
    - Workers can wear a cloth face covering when their employer has determined in their hazard assessment that a respirator or disposable medical facemask (such as a surgical mask) worn to protect the worker is not required.
    - If cloth face coverings are worn in these facilities, employers should provide readily available clean cloth face coverings (or disposable facemask options) for workers to use when the coverings become wet, soiled, or otherwise visibly contaminated.
- **Limit duration of contact among coworkers.** Continued close contact with potentially infectious individuals increases the risk of SARS-CoV-2 spread.
- **Encourage proper hand hygiene and provide employees with what they need to clean their hands.** This is an important infection control measure. Encourage employees to wash their hands regularly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. An alcohol-based hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol can be used, but not as a substitute for cleaning hands with soap and water. If hands are visibly dirty, always wash hands with soap and water before using alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- **Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces** such as tools, workstations, and shared spaces such as break room tables, locker rooms, and entrances/exits to the facility on a routine basis. Put in place practical biosecurity practices on the farm, including having dedicated boot disinfecting stations between farm areas. To disinfect, use products that meet EPA's criteria for use against SARS-CoV-2, diluted household bleach solutions prepared according to the manufacturer's label for disinfection, or alcohol solutions with at least 60% alcohol, and are appropriate for the surface. Follow manufacturer's directions for proper use and recommended PPE.
- Additional recommendations are described in the U.S. Department of Labor and U.S. Department of Health and Human Service's booklet Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for

COVID-19, as well as CDC's Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers to Plan and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

Q: Should I screen workers on my farm?

A: Workplaces, particularly in areas where community transmission of COVID-19 is ongoing, can consider developing and implementing a comprehensive screening and monitoring strategy aimed at preventing the introduction of COVID-19 into the worksite. Consider a strategy that includes:

1) **Conducting daily health checks** (e.g., symptom and/or temperature screening) of employees before they enter the facility, following the guidance of the state and local public health authorities and your occupational health services.
   - If doing health checks, conduct them safely and respectfully (employers may use the "Should we be screening employees for COVID-19 symptoms" section of General Business Frequently Asked Questions as a guide).
   - Complete the health checks in a way that avoids employees being together in large crowds; consider providing multiple screening entry points into the building.
   - To prevent stigma and discrimination in the workplace, do not assume risk based on race or country of origin and be sure to maintain the confidentiality of people with confirmed COVID-19.
2) **Follow the** criteria for return to work of exposed and recovered persons, for those who had signs or symptoms of COVID-19 but have recovered.
   a. Employees should not return to work until they meet the criteria to discontinue home isolation and have consulted with a healthcare provider.
3) **Criteria for exclusion of sick workers.**

CDC's Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers to Plan and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) provides detailed recommendations for each of these three points and can be adapted for your mink farm setting. Refer specifically to the subsections: *"Prevent and Reduce Transmission among Employees."*

Q: How can I educate and train workers and supervisors about ways that they can reduce the spread of COVID-19?

A: Supplement workers' normal and required job training the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards, with additional training and information about COVID-19, recognizing signs and symptoms of infection, and ways to prevent exposure to the virus. Training should include information about how to put in place the various infection prevention and control measures recommended here, and they should be included in any infection prevention and control or COVID-19 response plan that an employer develops. OSHA provides additional information about training on its COVID-19 webpage.

All communication and training should be easy to understand and should (1) be provided in languages appropriate to the preferred languages spoken or read by the workers, if possible; (2) be at the appropriate literacy level; and (3) include accurate and timely information about:

- Signs and symptoms of COVID-19, how it spreads, risks for workplace exposures, and how workers can protect themselves;
- Proper handwashing practices and use of hand sanitizer stations;

- Cough and sneeze etiquette;
- Other routine infection control precautions (e.g., safe practices for how to put on (don) and take off (doff) PPE, cloth face coverings, and social distancing).

Employers should place simple posters in appropriate languages for their employees that encourage staying home when sick, cough and sneeze etiquette, and proper hand hygiene practices. They should place these posters at the entrance to the workplace and in break areas, locker rooms, and other workplace areas where they are likely to be seen.

Other guidance provides additional details for recommendations in the subsection *"Educate workers about steps they can take to protect themselves at work and at home."*

Q: What precautions should mink farm workers take around sick animals?

A: Based on the limited information available to date, the risk of animals spreading SARS-CoV-2 to people is thought to be low. However, because we do not know a lot about COVID-19 and animals, the PPE guidelines use a cautious approach. Recommendations may change over time, as new information becomes available.

- Minimize contact with sick or dead animals. If animals appear to be sick, wear gloves, face mask, and goggles or face shield when working with or near sick animals.
    - If an animal is suspected to have or tests positive for SARS-CoV-2, the animal should be immediately isolated from other animals. The number of people interacting with these animals should be kept to a minimum. Staff that must have contact with these animals should wear respiratory protection (e.g. N95) instead of a facemask. Staff at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19 should not work with animals suspected or confirmed to be infected with SARS-CoV-2.
- Always immediately wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds after:
    - You have direct contact with animals, their food, or supplies, waste/feces.
    - Cleaning up after animals, including any body fluids or waste.
    - Leaving areas where animals are housed, even if you did not touch an animal.
    - Removing PPE or cloth face covering.
- Use a surgical mask and eye protection (e.g., goggles or a face shield) whenever splashes, or sprays are likely to occur. Do not use compressed air and/or water under pressure for cleaning, or any other methods that might aerosolize (spray into the air) infectious material. PPE may be needed when cleaning or disinfecting a potentially SARS-CoV-2 contaminated area; follow the cleaning or disinfectant product manufacturer's instructions for use. Follow recommendations for safe practices for how to put on (don) and take off (doff) PPE.
- **If there is a breach in PPE or other accidental direct contact with a sick animal or its urine, feces, blood, saliva, or vomit on exposed skin**, a supervisor should be immediately notified, and the exposed area should be immediately washed with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not immediately available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol content) on skin. If hands are visibly dirty, always wash hands with soap and water before using alcohol-based hand sanitizer. If an employee has an exposure to their mucous membranes (e.g. eyes, inside of nose, or mouth), the area that was exposed should be flushed with only water. Do not use soap or hand sanitizer to wash the eyes, inside of nose, or mouth.

- **If a farm worker receives a bite, scratch or, abrasion** from an animal, animal product, or an object contaminated by an animal: wash the exposed area of skin immediately with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds, immediately alert the supervisor, and contact a health care provider.
- **If there are people exposed to sick animals or sick people,** the exposed person may need to self-monitor for temperature or symptoms for a period of 14 days post-incident. See CDC Coronavirus Self-Checker for additional guidance on symptom monitoring.

Q: What precautions should mink farm workers take around healthy animals?

A: When interacting with healthy mink or other animals, use the same precautions as you would when interacting with other people: maintain social distance (6 feet, or 2 meters) when possible, minimize any close contact, and wear cloth face coverings when feasible.

Q: Where can I get more information on carcass disposal?

A: Carcasses from COVID-19 positive, suspected, or exposed animals should be disposed of in compliance with all Federal, State, and local regulations. Additional information about State requirements for carcass disposal is available on the Veterinary Compliance Assistance Web site. APHIS, upon request, can provide technical support and guidance to assist in identifying and implementing a local disposal plan.

- Carcasses must be carefully transported to the approved disposal site to prevent contaminated material from escaping the transport vehicles. All vehicles should be cleaned and disinfected after each use.
- Onsite composting, onsite burial, incineration, landfill, and rendering, or a combination of these methods, are generally the most suitable options.
- For more information, visit the APHIS Carcass Management Dashboard at https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/emergency-management/carcass-management/carcass

Q: What precautions should I take around animal carcasses or pelts?

A: Because mink processing procedures have the potential to spread other zoonotic diseases to the worker, the following precautions should always be taken when handling carcasses or during pelting:

- Use face shield or a facemask and eye protection (e.g. goggles or face shield) whenever splashes or sprays are likely to occur.
- If participating in aerosol-generating procedures (e.g., whelping, pelting, rendering), consider wearing a face shield or goggles, gloves, protective outerwear, and respiratory protection that is at least as protective as a fit-tested NIOSH-certified disposable N95 filtering face piece respirator.
    - If an N95 respirator is not available, use a combination of a surgical mask and a face shield that covers the entire front (that extends to the chin or below) and sides of the face
    - Respirator use should be in the context of a complete respiratory protection program in accordance with OSHA Respiratory Protection standard (29 CFR 1910.134), which includes medical evaluations, training, and fit testing.

- Wear gloves and other protective outerwear as needed to avoid bare-skinned contact with animal carcasses, organs, bodily fluids, and pelts.
- Always immediately wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds after:
    - Experiencing inadvertent direct contact with animal carcasses, organs, and pelts;
    - Cleaning up after animals, including any body fluids or waste;
    - Removing PPE or cloth face covering.
- Clean tools with reusable gloves and appropriate disinfectant. To disinfect, use products that meet EPA's criteria for use against SARS-CoV-2, diluted household bleach solutions prepared according to the manufacturer's label for disinfection, or alcohol solutions with at least 60% alcohol, and are appropriate for the surface. Follow manufacturer's directions for use.

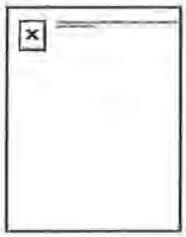
Melissa Ure

From: Amanda Price <amandaprice@utah.gov>
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2020 1:17 PM
To: Dean Taylor
Subject: Re: farm numbers

Thank you!!

On Thu, Oct 15, 2020, 1:15 PM Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov> wrote:

1. [redacted]
2. [redacted]
3. [redacted]
4. [redacted]
5. [redacted]
6. [redacted]
7. [redacted]
8. [redacted]
9. [redacted]



Dean J Taylor, DVM | State Veterinarian
Office 801-982-2243 Cell 385-290-9462
djtaylor@utah.gov
Website | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram

Melissa Ure

From: [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2020 11:17 AM
To: nrm9@cdc.gov; Cossaboom, Caitlin (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHCPP)
Cc: Dean Taylor; Hannah Rettler
Subject: RE: Follow up

Ok great. I have a call with him today just peaking your interest!

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

On Thu, Oct 29, 2020 at 10:55 AM, Cossaboom, Caitlin (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHCPP) <nrm9@cdc.gov> wrote:

[redacted]

I hope that you're doing well. CDC has to be invited by the state in order to support a field investigation, so we could not return for resampling without an invitation from the Department of Health and/or Department of Agriculture. We're in close communication with Dr. Taylor and Hannah regarding the ongoing testing and results as we receive them and will defer to Dr. Taylor to make any decisions regarding the need for resampling.

Thank you,

Caitlin

Caitlin Cossaboom, DVM, PhD, MPH

Veterinary Epidemiologist

CDC COVID-19 One Health Working Group

US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

From: [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2020 10:46 AM
To: Cossaboom, Caitlin (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHCPP) <nrm9@cdc.gov>
Subject: Follow up

Hi based on the conflicts of the tests would you be interested in doing one more round of tests around the [redacted]? Dr easley is going to reach out to you and I am reaching out to Hanna. What do you think? [redacted]

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

Melissa Ure

From: Hannah Rettler <hrettler@utah.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 27, 2020 8:07 PM
To: Cossaboom, Caitlin (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHCPP)
Cc: Dean Taylor; Barton Behravesh, Casey (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD)
Subject: Re: FW: Farm testing results

Hi Caitlin,

I am OK with a chat with Dr. Easley to discuss results, and will defer to Dr. Taylor if he has any concerns. If we have a call tomorrow, I am available to chat in the morning anytime - just let me know what time works best.

On Tue, Oct 27, 2020 at 5:33 PM Cossaboom, Caitlin (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHCPP) <nrm9@cdc.gov> wrote:

> Hi Dr. Taylor and all,
>
> I just wanted to share this email I received from Dr. Easley. I'm inclined to schedule a call with him to discuss the data, but I wanted to be sure that this is okay with you all. Would you be able to join for the call with him? If so, do you have any availability tomorrow morning? I am free tomorrow until 11am ET, but unfortunately am not free for the rest of the day tomorrow.
>
> Thank you and just let me know your thoughts.
>
> Caitlin
>
> **From:** john easley <johneasleydvm@hotmail.com>
> **Sent:** Tuesday, October 27, 2020 7:24 PM
> **To:** Cossaboom, Caitlin (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHCPP) <nrm9@cdc.gov>
> **Subject:** Farm testing results
>
> Hi Caitlin,
>
> Would it possible for to send me the test data form the acute and convalescent testing from the Utah farms(mainly the [redacted] ? or have a quick conversation Wednesday morning? I am getting a lot of questions and also, some conflicting reports. We only have a short time to utilize these farms as an experimental model, we should try to take advantage of it.

Thanks,

John

920 980 9660

--

Hannah Rettler, MPH
Vectorborne/Zoonotic Disease Epidemiologist
Disease Response, Evaluation, Analysis, & Monitoring Program
Bureau of Epidemiology
Utah Department of Health
Email: hrettler@utah.gov
Office: (801) 538 - 6333
Mobile: (385) 285 - 5178
Secure Fax: (801) 538 - 9923

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Caitlin,

I told Hannah that I would run interference here and let him know that I need to approve other agencies coming into the state and don't feel the need here. That will keep you from him trying to work you constantly. If you do feel there is value I would obviously approve you coming back but him not wanting to accept the findings is not reason to do it. Thanks for staying on the call and providing the information yesterday.

Dean

On Thu, Oct 29, 2020 at 10:34 AM Cossaboom, Caitlin (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHCPP) <nrm9@cdc.gov> wrote:

> Happy to chat about this. I also received a similar email. I am free at 3pm ET after the sequencing call if that might work for you all.
>
> Caitlin
>
> **From:** Hannah Rettler <hrettler@utah.gov>
> **Sent:** Thursday, October 29, 2020 11:33 AM
> **To:** Cossaboom, Caitlin (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHCPP) <nrm9@cdc.gov>; Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
> **Subject:** Fwd: Follow up tests
>
> Can we have a brief call about this today?
>
> ---------- Forwarded message ---------
> From: [redacted]
> Date: Thu, Oct 29, 2020 at 8:49 AM
> Subject: Follow up tests
> To: Hannah Rettler <hrettler@utah.gov>
>
> Hi Hanna , Based on the conflicts in testing results would you be in support of doing one more round of tests on the same set of mink say around [redacted]? Also would give us a good foundation for pelt work and testing of those pelts. What do you think? [redacted]
>
> Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android
>
> --

Hannah Rettler, MPH

Vectorborne/Zoonotic Disease Epidemiologist

Disease Response, Evaluation, Analysis, & Monitoring Program

Bureau of Epidemiology

Utah Department of Health

Email: hrettler@utah.gov

Office: (801) 538 - 6333

Mobile: (385) 285 - 5178

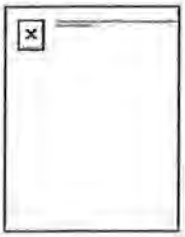
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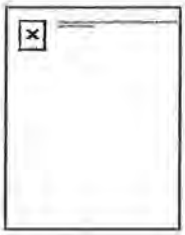
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--



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Melissa Ure

From: [redacted]>
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2020 8:22 AM
To: Dean Taylor
Subject: Re: Bayview Landfill

Ok thx

Sent from my iPhone

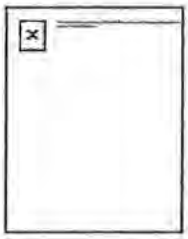
On Oct 29, 2020, at 12:38 PM, Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov> wrote:

After our discussion and the inconvenience, work and risk associated with trying to compost everything on site I would prefer to have the carcasses taken to a landfill. This landfill will take them. Please reach out to them and let them know when you will be bringing the carcasses and they can be prepared. The contact information is provided. Please keep all pelts, waste etc on site until we have this worked out a bit better.
Thank you
Dean

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Robert Erickson** <rerickson@utah.gov>
Date: Wed, Oct 28, 2020 at 4:47 PM
Subject: Bayview Landfill
To: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>

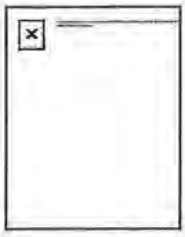
It is located 7 miles North of Elberta on the west side of Redwood Road. They are open to receiving the mink carcasses. Manager is Mark Lamero Cell 801-885-4233 He said just call when headed that way.

--



Robert Erickson | Field Veterinarian
Animal Health Program | rerickson@utah.gov
801.538.7025 office | 801.520.4311 mobile
Website | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram

--



Dean J Taylor, DVM | State Veterinarian
Office 801-982-2243 Cell 385-290-9462
ditaylor@utah.gov
Website | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram

Melissa Ure

From: Leann Hunting <leannhunting@utah.gov>
Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2020 5:10 PM
To: Dean Taylor
Cc: Logan Wilde; Kelly Pehrson; Thayne Mickelson
Subject: Re: mink

Dr. Taylor,

Thank you for keeping us in the loop. Let us know how we can help you or Mr. Holt.

On Thu, Oct 29, 2020 at 2:38 PM Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov> wrote:

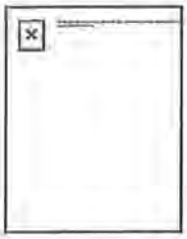
> Hello,
> I just spoke a few minutes ago with Ryan Holt, the head of the fur breeders here in Utah. He indicated that we likely now have an outbreak in [redacted] in the mink. I have asked them to get mink to the lab today. I will see what the results are and if another large farm is now infected, I will then ask Ryan what the total number of mink in the state are that are at risk here. I am hesitant to ask him that unless absolutely necessary. I will keep you posted.
> Dean

--



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djtaylor@utah.gov
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--



Leann Hunting | Director: Animal Industry
| 385.290.2383 mobile
Website | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram

Melissa Ure

From: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2020 7:40 PM
To: Ryan Holt
Subject: Re: Fw: Fwd: Extremely active buying in China

Very interesting.Thanks for forwarding.

On Thu, Oct 29, 2020 at 7:27 PM Ryan Holt <rhinoh1301@yahoo.com> wrote:

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

----- Forwarded Message -----
From: '[redacted]
To: [redacted]
Sent: Thu, Oct 29, 2020 at 5:57 PM
Subject: Fwd: Extremely active buying in China

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** American Mink Exchange <info@amminkexchange.com>
> **Date:** October 29, 2020 at 3:35:00 PM PDT
> **To:** "klondikeinternational@aol.com" <klondikeinternational@aol.com>
> **Subject: Extremely active buying in China**
>
> Dear mink producers:
>
> We are extremely happy to report some great news: sales of mink skins and garments in China over the past 3+ weeks have been extremely strong. Skin dealers, wholesalers and retailers are moving goods

at a rate that has not been seen in many years. Most of the retail sales are being generated through online sales, but the brick and mortar stores are also showing a vast increase in sales. Even some new stores are being opened! We hope and feel this will continue as the entire consumer economy in China is showing very strong demand for many products. Also, the Nov. 11th "Singles Day" sales are coming up, and this day has become a huge day for fur sales, which we believe will further spur the sales of large quantity of mink coats at the retail level. Chinese New Year is February 12th in 2021, so we have a full 3.5 months of the best fur retail months ahead of us.

On a more somber note, there is a huge problem with mink production being decreased in Europe. As it stands now:

Holland, the 3rd largest producer of mink in the world was producing approximately 3.5 million mink. They are no longer breeding fur due to government shutdowns. We estimate at least half of the 3.5 million mink born this year were culled and burned. The other half we do not believe will be offered in 2021, as the ranchers were paid a premium on their entire crop by the government to force them out of business.

Poland, the second largest mink producer, with roughly 5 million skins, is in a period of uncertainty. The government is currently trying to shut down mink breeding in Poland for anti-fur reasons, but there has been a backlash. Right now, no one knows anything 100%, but the feeling is they will be given 2 or 3 seasons of breeding before being shut down. Given this assumption, and the uncertainty, we believe they will breed much less this season.

Denmark, the world's leading mink producer of mink, is currently producing approximately 10 million mink. The government is in the midst of killing 100,000 animals a day for Covid prevention measures. It is estimated that 4.5 million mink will be culled and burned from this season's crop, but that number is in flux. There is a possibility that in the future Danish farms affected by this Covid culling will be able to restock.

What does that all of this mean for the 2021 selling season and beyond?

We estimate that there will be between 13-14 million fresh mink that will pelted in 2020 and sold in 2021(assuming Holland does not sell this season). On top of this, there is a carryover of approximately 5 million mink from this season. Therefore, approximately 18-19 million mink will be offered in 2021, contrasted to the 29 million that were offered during the 2020 selling season. We do not feel like this is enough mink for the world's needs, especially given that China is moving large quantities on a daily business.

How many kits will be born worldwide in 2021, which will be on sale in 2022? At this moment it is hard to say because of the uncertainty in Poland and Denmark. But we estimate production will be down another 15% at minimum, possibly more due to the situation in Poland and Denmark. Plus, the assumption is there will be very little carryover from 2021 to 2022, so the actual number of skins to be offered in 2022 should be much, much less than in 2021

These lower numbers in conjunction with demand from China--in our opinion--will raise the prices significantly in 2021, and even more in 2022 and beyond.

We are in a unique and uncharted situation, as currently and going forward the normal market factors of price, supply and demand will not be the major influence on production. Normally, if prices go up high enough, production will increase as producers will breed more mink. However, currently and for the next few years this likely is not be the case. It is highly likely prices will go up dramatically, but production will still go down, as governments will--for Covid or Anti-Fur reasons(Poland)--continue to force pelt outs. We hope this is not the case, but we have to live with the reality of the situation.

Please contact us at:

klondikeinternational@aol.com

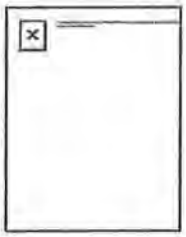
info@amminkexchange.com

please visit our website at:

www.americanminkexchange.com

Thank you for your continuing support

American Mink Exchange



Dean J Taylor, DVM | State Veterinarian
Office 801-982-2243 Cell 385-290-9462
djtaylor@utah.gov
Website | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram

Melissa Ure

From: Leann Hunting <leannhunting@utah.gov>
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2020 8:08 AM
To: Dean Taylor
Cc: Logan Wilde; Kelly Pehrson; Caroline Hargraves
Subject: Re: Fw: Memo

Thanks for the heads up, Dr. Taylor.

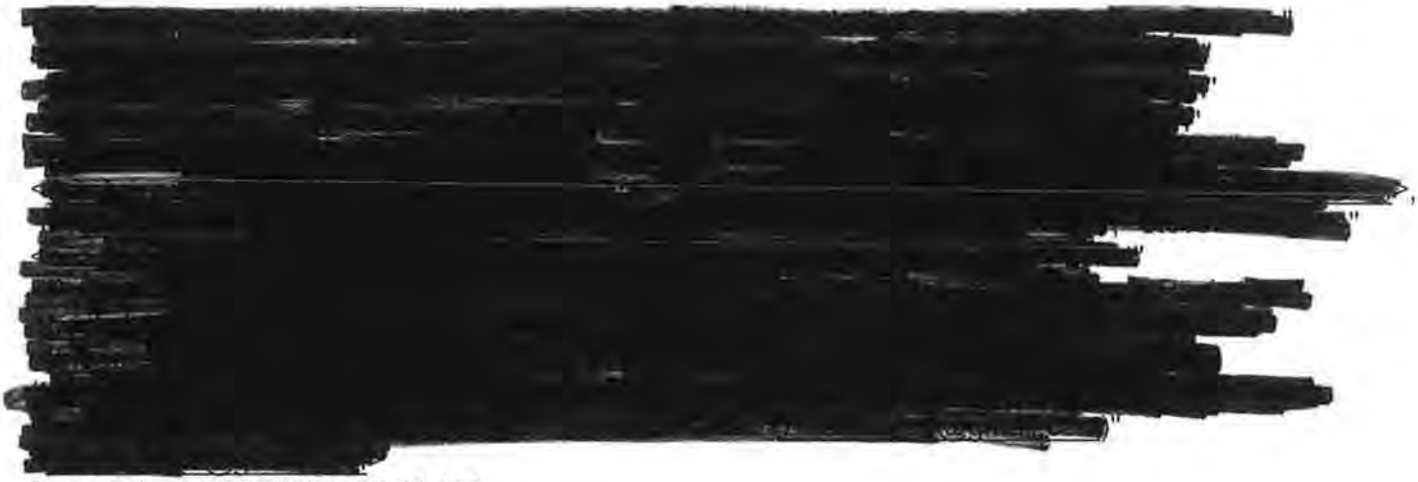
On Fri, Oct 30, 2020 at 7:59 AM Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov> wrote:

See the last paragraph of the email that I just received from Ryan Holt.
Dean
---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Ryan Holt** <rhinoh1301@yahoo.com>
Date: Fri, Oct 30, 2020 at 7:57 AM
Subject: Fw: Memo
To: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>

Just received this . Note the last paragraph

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

----- Forwarded Message -----
From: "Chris Falco" <CPF1@fbac.com>
To: '[redacted]



Sent: Fri, Oct 30, 2020 at 6:41 AM
Subject: Memo

Memorandum

Date: 30 October 2020

To: FBAC Ranchers

From: The Coop Office (sent email)

Board and Feed Meeting– The next Board and Feed meeting will be November 3rd **Tuesday** at 2:00 p.m. with the feed meeting scheduled for 4:00 p.m. Please note the change in the date.

Board/Feed Meeting – A state health official will be coming to our meeting at 3:45 pm on November 3rd to discuss PPE with mink ranchers. If you are interested in attending, please call the office so we can get an idea of the number for dinner and to make sure we have room to social distance for the meeting. Call the main office 800-289-4228.

Breeder Survey – We are in the process of planning next year and we appreciate ranchers best estimate on the number of breeders they will have next year before the next feed meeting.

Animal Rights – The animal rights movement is falsely stating mink are causing the spread of COVID-19. They are planning a protest on Friday, October 30, 2020 at 11 am to 12:30 pm. Meeting at Sommerset North Park, 1500 W. 50 So. St., Lehi, Utah. Please be aware that this group is out there and trying to get attention

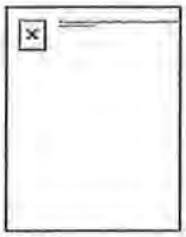
Mink feed – Do not feed to cattle or other ruminants! Make sure tanks are marked! FBAC uses raw inedible products; all feed is sold on an "as is basis" no warranties or guarantees.

F.B.A.C.

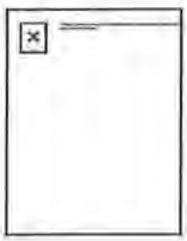
A Rancher Owned

Feed Cooperative

Serving Ranchers since 1939!



Dean J Taylor, DVM | State Veterinarian
Office 801-982-2243 Cell 385-290-9462
djtaylor@utah.gov
Website | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram



Leann Hunting | Director: Animal Industry
| 385.290.2383 mobile
Website | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram

Melissa Ure

From: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 8, 2020 9:14 AM
To: [redacted]
Subject: Re: pelt release

[redacted] I would be interested in coming down to see the process. This would help me tremendously for the current issues on the plate, that is the release of these pelts. I think that USDA understands how urgent our (the 4 state vets) request is on this. We really need them to step in with a statement to move forward, especially with international shipping of these pelts. I am out of the office on leave but will call you to find out a time and location. I will not have my phone with me or be by my computer.
Thanks
Dean

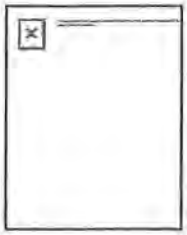
On Mon, Dec 7, 2020 at 7:52 PM [redacted] wrote:
Dr. Taylor thank you for your time and efforts in our behalf. We [redacted] will start the process of fleshing and drying our pelts next week probably mid week , you are welcome to come and see the process if you would like. ? Please let me know if you would like too. ??

Sent from my iPhone

> On Dec 7, 2020, at 6:14 PM, Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov> wrote:
>
> Good evening,
> I have been getting requests for letters to be given to the auction houses with regards to the release of the quarantine. The quarantine is still in place and can't be lifted yet. I met early last week with the state vets that have outbreaks in their states. We put together a formal letter to USDA requesting some guidance on the release of the PROCESSED pelts. We are trying to work through the hoops that may trip us up where the majority of the pelts will be going internationally. The success of this will be more likely with a statement from USDA that some kind of formal testing has yielded negative results for viable virus. Knowing this we asked them to redirect their efforts to this end. All states are under this strict timeline and we have provided that to USDA. Few feel like the pelts pose a risk but we are needing something based in science and hope to have that soon. I am out this week but will be checking email periodically so please reach out with any questions. Please be patient and realize that we are working on this as quickly as possible and respect the quarantine and avoid the issues of breaking it.
> Thank you
> Dean
>
> --



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Melissa Ure

From: Yeong, Siu-Kae [BCCDC] <Siu-Kae.Yeong@bccdc.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, December 22, 2020 3:31 PM
To: 'Dean Taylor'
Subject: RE: Mink farms COVID outbreak stats

Thanks so much for this Dr Taylor.
Siu-Kae

From: Dean Taylor [mailto:djtaylor@utah.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, December 22, 2020 2:28 PM
To: Yeong, Siu-Kae [BCCDC]
Subject: Re: Mink farms COVID outbreak stats

EXTERNAL SENDER. If you suspect this message is malicious, please forward to spam@phsa.ca and **do not** open attachments or click on links.

The smallest farm was about [redacted] mink and the largest was about [redacted]. Average size would likely be [redacted] The first case was confirmed on Aug 17 and we likely still have some virus so I am waiting until the first of the year to start the testing for quarantine release.
Dean

On Tue, Dec 22, 2020 at 3:04 PM Yeong, Siu-Kae [BCCDC] <Siu-Kae.Yeong@bccdc.ca> wrote:

> Hi Dr Taylor and Dr Price,
>
> We're just trying to do a risk assessment on our outbreak as we may potentially have more farms affected. Just wondering, what is the size of the herd of the smallest farm, largest farm, and average farm that you have in Utah that is affected by COVID and how long have you been affected?
>
> Siu-Kae
>
> ---
>
> Siu-Kae Yeong, MD, MPH
>
> UBC Public Health Resident Physician PGY4

—

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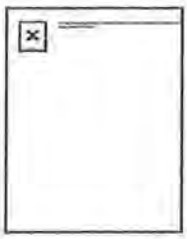
Melissa Ure

From: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 5, 2021 8:40 AM
To: [redacted]
Subject: Re: Mink

I'll be calling you with a plan. You are OK sending them to [redacted].

On Mon, Jan 4, 2021 at 2:40 PM [redacted] wrote:
Hi Dr Taylor.
This is [redacted].
I was unable to get linked into the meetings. My pelts have been sent to [redacted] on a truck to [redacted] facility. Am I ok or do I need to do something. My farm has been very healthy since September and my losses have been more minimal than ever.
Let me know what the future plan is. Thanks for all your work and effort.
[redacted]

Sent from my iPhone



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Melissa Ure

From: Hannah Rettler <hrettler@utah.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 3:26 PM
To: Dean Taylor
Subject: Re: Spanish Translation- People Working on Mink Farms: Prevent the Spread of COVID-19 Handout

That is fantastic news.

On Wed, Jan 20, 2021 at 3:23 PM Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov> wrote:
2 more days and then [redacted]. Between us until the report comes out tomorrow, the first 4 are negative. We will have a meeting to discuss them and on very high CT that Mia says is surely not viable virus.

On Wed, Jan 20, 2021 at 3:11 PM Hannah Rettler <hrettler@utah.gov> wrote:
Awesome! Sent both English and Spanish?

And that is fantastic news. How many more farms do you guys have left?

On Wed, Jan 20, 2021 at 3:07 PM Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov> wrote:
I sent this to him yesterday. Testing went well in Summit County today.

On Wed, Jan 20, 2021 at 2:59 PM Hannah Rettler <hrettler@utah.gov> wrote:
Here are the Spanish and English versions of the CDC guidance. Did you already send this out to Dr. Lott to distribute? If not, I'm happy to reach out to him to ask if he could distribute these to the producers.

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Wendling, Natalie (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD)** <pme8@cdc.gov>
Date: Tue, Jan 12, 2021 at 5:33 PM
Subject: Spanish Translation- People Working on Mink Farms: Prevent the Spread of COVID-19 Handout
To: One Health (CDC) <onehealth@cdc.gov>
CC: Barton Behravesh, Casey (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD) <dlx9@cdc.gov>, Korslund, John A - APHIS <john.a.korslund@usda.gov>, Carpenter, Ann (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD) <pzy4@cdc.gov>, Murrell, Laura (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD) <wjl9@cdc.gov>, One Health (CDC) <onehealth@cdc.gov>

Dear state colleagues,

Attached is the Spanish translated version of the handout previously distributed for mink producers and people working on mink farms in your state. This handout details the steps recommended to prevent the spread of SARS-CoV-2 among people and animals on these farms.

I've also re-attached the English version for your convenience. Please feel free to distribute these widely.

Let us know if you have any questions.

Thank you!

Kind regards,

Natalie

Natalie M. Wendling, DVM, MPH, DACVPM

Lead, One Health Response Unit

CDC COVID-19 One Health Working Group

Functional Box: OneHealth@cdc.gov

Veterinary Medical Officer, One Health Office

National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

email: nwendling@cdc.gov

mobile (text): 843-814-0706

For more information on our work, please visit:

www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/animals/pets-other-animals.html

www.cdc.gov/onehealth

ONE HEALTH

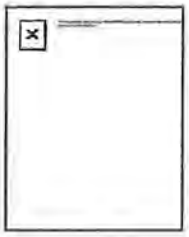
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Hannah Rettler, MPH
Vectorborne/Zoonotic Disease Epidemiologist
Disease Response, Evaluation, Analysis, & Monitoring Program
Bureau of Epidemiology
Utah Department of Health
Email: hrettler@utah.gov
Office: (801) 538 - 6333
Mobile: (385) 285 - 5178
Secure Fax: (801) 538 - 9923

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--

Hannah Rettler, MPH
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Melissa Ure

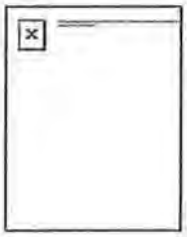
From: Robert Erickson <rerickson@utah.gov>
Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2020 2:28 PM
To: Dean Taylor
Subject: Re: landfills

I left a message with Summit County Landfill and have not heard back from them yet, but Box Elder County landfill where we took the elk is willing to take them at $29.00 / ton. They have asked that we coordinate an approximate number and date that they are coming to prepare the hole. I will let you know what I can arrange with Summit County as soon as I hear from them. Bayview landfill west of Utah Lake normally charges 10.50 / ton and if it is under a ton he hasn't been charging.

On Thu, Nov 12, 2020 at 12:54 PM Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov> wrote:

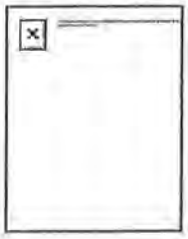
Hey Bob,
Would you call the landfill in Summit county and see if they would be willing to accept carcasses from Morgan County at the same rate as Summit. I understand that they don't have to but I am simply asking for a favor. If they say yes then call [redacted] and let him know and if not then check with Box Elder where we took the elk from [redacted] and see if they will also take the mink. Ca[redacted] either way and let him know.
Dean

--



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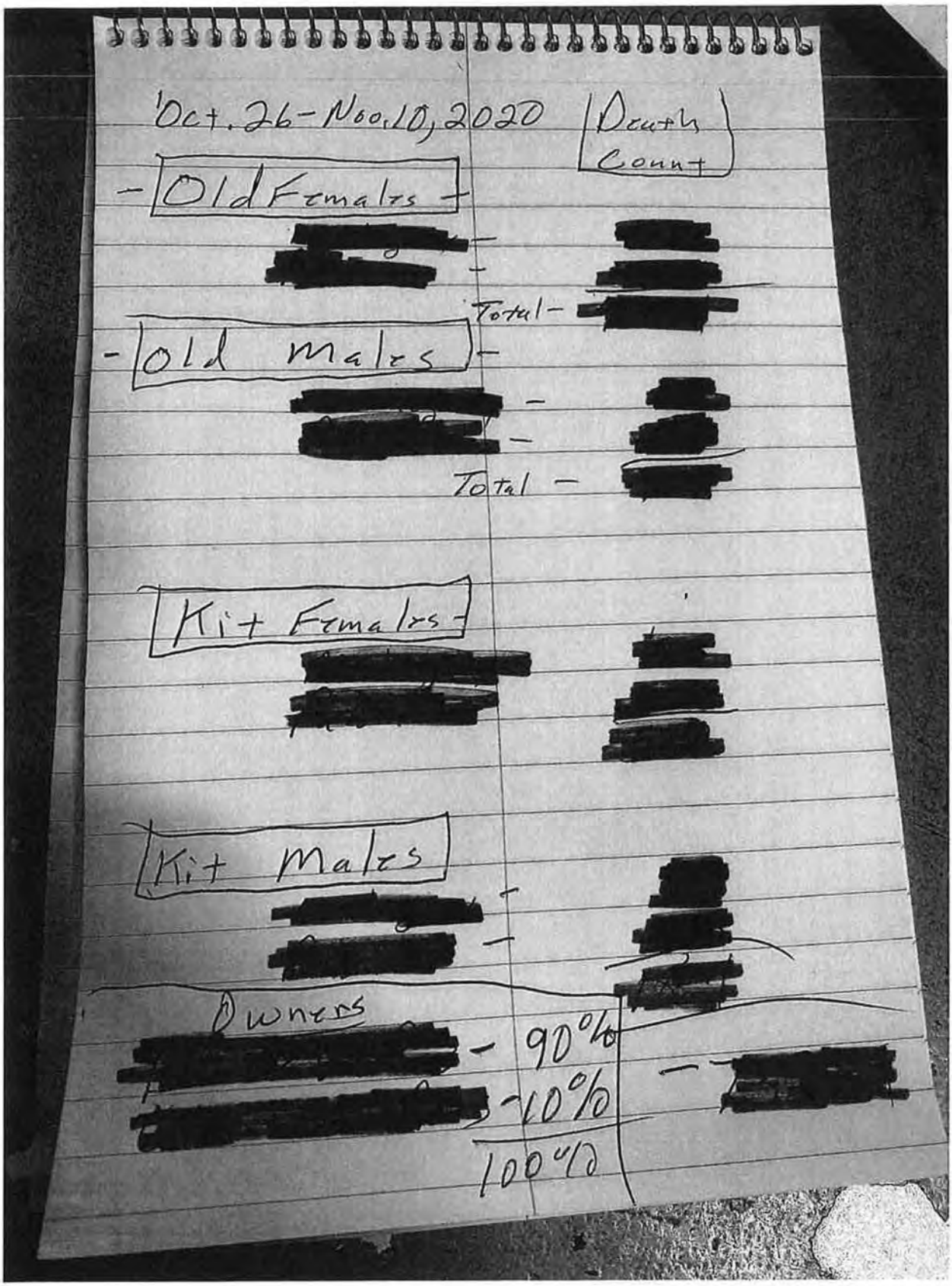
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Robert Erickson | Field Veterinarian
Animal Health Program | rerickson@utah.gov
801.538.7025 office | 801.520.4311 mobile
Website | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram

Melissa Ure

From: [redacted]>
Sent: Tuesday, November 10, 2020 11:01 AM
To: djtaylor@utah.gov
Subject: [redacted]nink loss


Oct. 26 - Nov. 10, 2020 [Death Count]

- [Old Females] -

[redacted]

Total - [redacted]

- [Old Males] -

[redacted]

Total - [redacted]

[Kit Females]

[redacted]

[Kit Males]

[redacted]

Owners

[redacted] - 90%

[redacted] - 10%

100%

Sent from my iPhone

Melissa Ure

From: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Sent: Thursday, November 5, 2020 4:26 PM
To: Amanda Price
Subject: Re: contact information for mink farms

So the processing has to be postponed until I have a bit more information unless they choose to do it on farm. Most are freezing the pelts until I can release them to go to processing. All by products need to go to the landfill currently. That will include even manure pits if they have been dumping the carcasses there. They all need to keep track of the numbers of mink lost. They need to keep track of the adult males, adult females and kits lost.

On Thu, Nov 5, 2020 at 12:30 PM Amanda Price <amandaprice@utah.gov> wrote:
I talked to or left messages for everyone except [redacted] (it wouldn't let me leave a message).

[redacted] said that they send their mink off-site for processing, so [redacted] will have to figure out how to do it on-site.

[redacted] said that someone named [redacted] sends his mink to [redacted] for processing. I don't see a [redacted] on the list, so I'm not sure who he is referring to. (Maybe an unaffected premises?)

Also, [redacted] wants to know how to dispose of the fat after fleshing. Usually [redacted] freezes it for Kuhni's. It sounds like it is pretty liquid at room temperature, so it is hard to transport. Does that need to go to the landfill as well? (I told him I would double check with you on that one.)

On Thu, Nov 5, 2020 at 11:10 AM Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov> wrote:
Utah County

1. [redacted]
2. [redacted]
3. [redacted]
4. [redacted]

Morgan County

1. [redacted]
2. [redacted]
3. [redacted]
4. [redacted]

Summit county (not confirmed yet so just provide guidance for reference)

1. [redacted]
2. [redacted]
3. [redacted]

Thanks
Dean
--

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AMANDA PRICE, DVM MS | Assistant State Veterinarian
Animal Health Program | amandaprice@utah.gov
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Melissa Ure

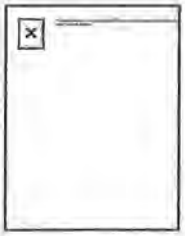
From: RJ Spencer <rjspencer@utah.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, November 10, 2020 8:34 PM
To: Dean Taylor
Cc: Logan Wilde; Thayne Mickelson; Debbie Lyberger
Subject: Re: Carson overpayment

This is great news! Thank you Dr. Taylor!
As we close out the grant, we will add this to our total. It does affect our final grant amount.

Appreciate you efforts with a [redacted].

R.J. Spencer

> On Nov 10, 2020, at 5:22 PM, Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov> wrote:
>
> I spoke with [redacted] tonight in a google meets call and shared my screen to show him where the discrepancy was. We spent enough time for [redacted] to understand that the error is accurate.
> He indicated that he would now send back the difference due.
> Dean
>
> --



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Melissa Ure

From: [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, November 10, 2020 12:55 PM
To: djtaylor@utah.gov
Subject: [redacted] mink farm death loss

Dr. Taylor,

Our loss from covid is
[redacted] adult breeder males
[redacted] kit males
[redacted] adult breeder females
[redacted] kit females

I would like to talk to you about the value placed on the kits, $20 dollars for kits doesn't pay the feed for them, in talking to other ranchers they stated that they were paid the same for kits as they were for adults I am just wondering if you could give me some clarification on why they were paid more than me?

Thanks for your time
[redacted]

Melissa Ure

From: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, November 17, 2020 12:49 PM
To: RJ Spencer
Subject: Fwd: contact information

Here are the addresses for the producers in [redacted].
Dean

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Robert Erickson** <rerickson@utah.gov>
Date: Tue, Nov 17, 2020 at 12:45 PM
Subject: Re: contact information
To: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>

[redacted]

On Mon, Nov 16, 2020 at 9:52 AM Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov> wrote:

> Hey Bob,
> Hope that you had a nice weekend. Can you please get me full contact information for the Summit County farms.
> Name, address and phone number. I need this for the compensation payments.
> Thanks
>
> Dean

--

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Robert Erickson | Field Veterinarian
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djtaylor@utah.gov
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Melissa Ure

From: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, November 25, 2020 10:41 AM
To: Debbie Lyberger
Subject: Re: Voicemail follow up

Thank you for letting me know. What a relief. I appreciate it.
Have a nice Thanksgiving
Dean

On Tue, Nov 24, 2020 at 6:53 PM Debbie Lyberger <dlyberger@utah.gov> wrote:
Just to let you know, we did finally receive the check back from [redacted]

On Fri, Nov 13, 2020 at 9:45 AM Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov> wrote:

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: [redacted]
Date: Fri, Nov 13, 2020 at 9:42 AM
Subject: Re: Voicemail follow up
To: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>

Dean,
I didn't add correctly.. The total is [redacted]
Thanks,
[redacted]

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 13, 2020, at 9:15 AM, Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov> wrote:

[redacted]
Your total should be [redacted] not [redacted] if I am adding up the numbers correctly. Is that true?
Dr Taylor

On Wed, Nov 11, 2020 at 10:59 AM [redacted] wrote:
Hi Deen, I am [redacted]
I tried calling you a couple times regarding the disposal protocol and landfill directions.

Also in your voicemail you had asked for the number of dead mink..

We ended up loosing [redacted]
[redacted] Breeder males
[redacted] Breeder females
[redacted] kit mink

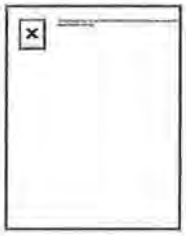
[redacted]

Thanks

[redacted]

Sent from my iPhone

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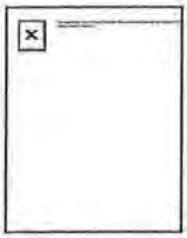
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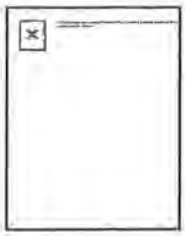
Dean J Taylor, DVM | State Veterinarian
Office 801-982-2243 Cell 385-290-9462
djtaylor@utah.gov
Website | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram

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DEBBIE LYBERGER | Financial Manager II
801.982.2214 office dlyberger@utah.gov
Website | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram

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Melissa Ure

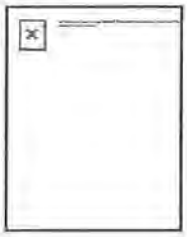
From: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Sent: Monday, December 7, 2020 10:45 AM
To: Leann Hunting
Subject: Re: [redacted]check

[redacted] finally got it cashed and in the bank.

On Mon, Dec 7, 2020 at 10:31 AM Leann Hunting <leannhunting@utah.gov> wrote:
Did you ever get an answer to this?

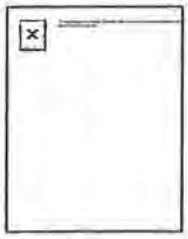
On Tue, Dec 1, 2020 at 12:10 PM Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov> wrote:
Debbie,
I just got an email from [redacted] saying that the check they sent back has not been cashed yet. Do you know the status of this check? I know that there is a bit of a backlog in processing right now but this is a substantial amount on this check. Do you think you could expedite this for her?
Dean

--



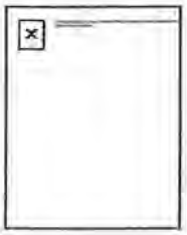
Dean J Taylor, DVM | State Veterinarian
Office 801-982-2243 Cell 385-290-9462
djtaylor@utah.gov
Website | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram

--



Leann Hunting | Director: Animal Industry
| 385.290.2383 mobile
Website | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram

--



Dean J Taylor, DVM | State Veterinarian
Office 801-982-2243 Cell 385-290-9462
djtaylor@utah.gov
Website | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram

Melissa Ure

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, December 23, 2020 12:19 PM
To: Dean Taylor
Subject: Re: check

Dean,
No one has gotten a check from my family. I also talked to [redacted] yesterday and he said that he hadn't received a check yet either.

Thanks for your help
[redacted]

On Wed, Dec 23, 2020, 9:46 AM Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov> wrote:
Hey [redacted] is there any chance someone else in your family received that check and cashed it?
Dean

—

Dean J Taylor, DVM | State Veterinarian
Office 801-982-2243 Cell 385-290-9462
djtaylor@utah.gov
Website | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram

Melissa Ure

From: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 3, 2020 4:42 PM
To: [redacted]
Subject: Re: COVID Mink count/[redacted]

You are welcome. That was a hard check to write :(

On Thu, Dec 3, 2020 at 4:40 PM [redacted] wrote:
. Seriously thanks for all your help!
Sandee

Sent from my iPhone

> On Dec 3, 2020, at 4:28 PM, Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov> wrote:
>
> The check was deposited today.
>
> On Tue, Dec 1, 2020 at 3:36 PM [redacted] wrote:
> Well, I was hoping they changed their minds:)
>
> > On Dec 1, 2020, at 1:42 PM, Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov> wrote:
> >
> > [redacted]
> > Apparently the person who processes the payment has been out sick for about 2 weeks so it has sat. Debbie is looking into it to see what the status is.
> > Thank you for checking.
> > Dean
> >
> > On Tue, Dec 1, 2020 at 12:07 PM Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov> wrote:
> > [redacted] thank you for reaching out. I know that they received it so let me see why it has not been processed. Hope all is well with you.
> > Dean
> >
> > On Tue, Dec 1, 2020 at 11:49 AM [redacted] wrote:
> > Dean,
> >
> > I sent the check a few days after our last conversation, but it still hasn't cleared the bank. I sent it to Debbie Lyberger's attention. I am just wondering if it was received?
> > Thanks,
> >
> > [redacted]
> >
> > > On Oct 5, 2020, at 8:36 AM, Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov> wrote:
> > >
> > > This is perfect. Thank you. The last columns were missing.
> > > I appreciate it.

Dean Taylor

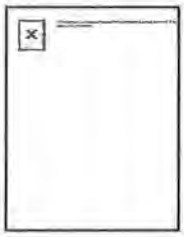
On Mon, Oct 5, 2020 at 8:12 AM [redacted] <[redacted]> wrote:

Dean,

Does this work or do you need the entire letter? I just changed the chart to landscape.
Thank you so much for all of your help. [redacted] told me you are one of the kindest people he has ever met.
Sincerely,

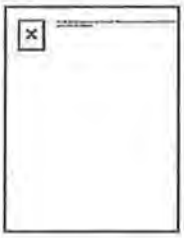
[redacted]

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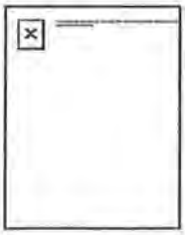
Dean J Taylor, DVM | State Veterinarian
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djtaylor@utah.gov
Website | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram

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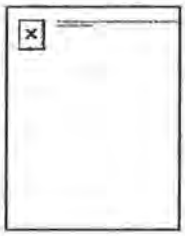


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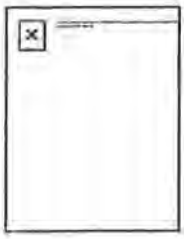
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djtaylor@utah.gov
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Melissa Ure

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, December 23, 2020 1:11 PM
To: Dean Taylor
Subject: Re: mink compensation

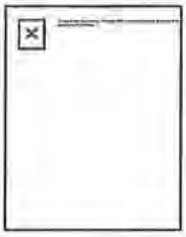
No Dean, we have not.

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 23, 2020, at 10:20 AM, Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov> wrote:

[redacted]
Did you guys get the check fo the mink losses?
Dean

--



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djtaylor@utah.gov
Website | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram

Melissa Ure

From: [redacted]>
Sent: Sunday, December 27, 2020 8:46 PM
To: Dean Taylor
Subject: Re: mink compensation

Thank you have a happy new

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 26, 2020, at 2:29 PM, Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov> wrote:

I got your message. The funds were combined. I have asked for a breakdown so that you know and so that I can verify the mink loss compensation.
Hope you had a great Christmas.
Dean

On Wed, Dec 23, 2020 at 10:03 PM [redacted] wrote:
We received another check for grant money but I was not aware it was for mink we lost I will send you amount of check tomorrow dennis

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 23, 2020, at 4:30 PM, Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov> wrote:

So I have asked for some clarification on the numbers. Apparently the Covid grant money and the mink compensation was combined into one check. I am hoping that you received some sort of a check, if not notify me immediately please. I will send you a full explanation and then would ask that you verify with deposit records that you received the correct amount.
Merry Christmas
Dean

On Wed, Dec 23, 2020 at 3:52 PM [redacted] wrote:
No I asked [redacted] if he had he said know

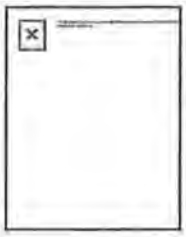
Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 23, 2020, at 10:21 AM, Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov> wrote:

[redacted] did you and [redacted] get the checks for the mink loss compensation?

Dean

--



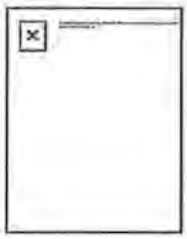
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--



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djtaylor@utah.gov
Website | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram

Melissa Ure

From: [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 11:28 AM
To: Dean Taylor
Subject: Re: additional funding

Thank you!

[redacted]

On Mon, Jan 18, 2021 at 2:11 PM Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov> wrote:
Please see the email that I received or *the verbiage from it* with the links. Please pass this on to others in your industry. You are the only ones that I have contact information for. I will be reaching out with herd plans to line out the process for getting pelts marketed and other things for quarantine release starting this week.
Thanks
Dean Taylor

"Hello state colleagues,

Secretary Perdue announced today that USDA's Farm Service Agency is accepting new or modified applications for CFAP funds from January 19 through February 26, 2021.

Website for applications:

Coronavirus Food Assistance Program – Additional Assistance | Farmers.gov: Resources for Farmers and Producers

Announcement link:

USDA Offers Additional Assistance for Certain Producers Through Coronavirus Food Assistance Program | USDA

I spoke with a USDA representative at the FSA call center (877-508-8364) to confirm that all previously eligible producers (including mink farmers) qualify for new applications or modifications to previous applications during this time period.

Thank you!"

--



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Melissa Ure

From: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 18, 2021 2:04 PM
To: Wendling, Natalie (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD)
Subject: Re: CFAP Funds: New and Modified Applications Accepted- January 19 - February 26, 2021

Thank you.

On Fri, Jan 15, 2021 at 11:17 AM Wendling, Natalie (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD) <pme8@cdc.gov> wrote:

Hello state colleagues,

Secretary Perdue announced today that USDA's Farm Service Agency is accepting new or modified applications for CFAP funds from January 19 through February 26, 2021.

Website for applications:

Coronavirus Food Assistance Program – Additional Assistance | Farmers.gov: Resources for Farmers and Producers

Announcement link:

USDA Offers Additional Assistance for Certain Producers Through Coronavirus Food Assistance Program | USDA

I spoke with a USDA representative at the FSA call center (877-508-8364) to confirm that all previously eligible producers (including mink farmers) qualify for new applications or modifications to previous applications during this time period.

Thank you!

Warmest regards,

Natalie

Natalie M. Wendling, DVM, MPH, DACVPM

Lead, One Health Response Unit

CDC COVID-19 One Health Working Group

Functional Box: OneHealth@cdc.gov

Veterinary Medical Officer, One Health Office

National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

email: nwendling@cdc.gov

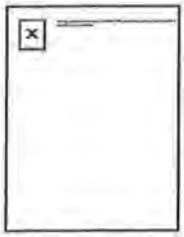
mobile (text): 843-814-0706

For more information on our work, please visit:

www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/animals/pets-other-animals.html

www.cdc.gov/onehealth

ONE HEALTH



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Website | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram

Melissa Ure

From: Debbie Lyberger <dlyberger@utah.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 5:45 PM
To: Dean Taylor
Subject: Fwd: Please provide copy of
Attachments: 13016110.pdf

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Check Copy** <checkcopy@utah.gov>
Date: Wed, Jan 20, 2021 at 4:21 PM
Subject: Re: Please provide copy of
To: Debbie Lyberger <dlyberger@utah.gov>

Hello Debbie:

Here is the copy of the check.

Have a great day!!

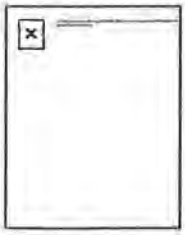
Claudia Duque

On Wed, Jan 20, 2021 at 4:16 PM Debbie Lyberger <dlyberger@utah.gov> wrote:

13016110

Thanks.

DEBBIE LYBERGER | Financial Manager II
801.982.2214 office dlyberger@utah.gov
Website | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram



DEBBIE LYBERGER | Financial Manager II
801.982.2214 office dlyberger@utah.gov
Website | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram

Print Close

Account #: [redacted] MICR Acct. #: [redacted] Check No.: 13016110
Transaction Type: Check Amount: $19,436.00 Date: 07/08/2020
Sequence Number: 8652880812

Front:

THIS IS WATERMARKED PAPER - HOLD TO LIGHT TO VERIFY - DO NOT ACCEPT WITHOUT NOTING WATERMARK - DOCUMENT HAS COLORED BACKGROUND ON WHITE PAPER.

STATE OF UTAH
DIVISION OF FINANCE - 2110 STATE OFFICE BUILDING
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84114
STATE VENDORS

DAVID C. DAMSCHEN
UTAH STATE TREASURER

Warrant Number
F 13016110

31-283
1240

PAY Nineteen Thousand Four Hundred Thirty Six And 00/100 Dollars

VOID 180 DAYS FROM DATE
07-01-2020

PAY THIS AMOUNT
$19436.00**

TO THE ORDER OF:
[redacted]

DIVISION OF FINANCE

⑈00130161 10⑈ ⑆124002890⑆ 153100367736⑈

Back:

The security features listed below, as well as those not listed, exceed industry guidelines.

Security Features:

Void Pantograph: Retains of document alteration.

Microscript Ink: - Void hidden word appears difficult to photocopy.

Chemical Sensitivity: - Printing grain is blue and difficult to photocopy.

Fluorescent Fibers: - Shields will appear if bleach or chemical alteration is attempted.

- Multi colored fibers embedded in paper are visible under UV light.

201620099 20200707>5454000[redacted]ZEM

ENDORSE HERE:

Melissa Ure

From: Hannah Rettler <hrettler@utah.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 5:09 PM
To: Dean Taylor; jason.rivervalleyvet@gmail.com
Subject: Re: Farmer vaccination prioritization
Attachments: People-Working-on-Mink-Farms-Handout (2).pdf; People Working on Mink Farms_Spanish (1).pdf

Thank you Dr. Lott. I wanted to let you know that I have discussed this with our vaccine prioritization team, and it was determined that we will continue moving forward with the current plan to prioritize vaccine distribution. Right now, vaccines are available for: healthcare workers, long-term care facility staff and residents, first responders, ages 70 and older, and K-12 teachers and school staff. By March 1, Utahns between the ages of 65-69 AND anyone 18 or older with certain medical conditions will become eligible. If any of the farmers fall within these groups, or they have family members/household contacts that do, we highly encourage that they contact their local health department to coordinate vaccination.

The current timeline would support that the farmers should be eligible sometime between March - July. In the meantime, it will be critical that they are following the recommendations we have shared with them about using proper PPE, screening employees, increasing biosecurity, etc. This will be especially important for the new kits that will be susceptible to the virus in the coming months. For reference, I have attached the current recommendations we have provided to the farmers: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1r-1GhmxNcKCu8kT6fqyQ4QkbQ926kS5kQH8Lm_rLrFE/edit?usp=sharing.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

On Mon, Jan 25, 2021 at 2:38 PM Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov> wrote:

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Jason Lott** <jason.rivervalleyvet@gmail.com>
Date: Sun, Jan 24, 2021 at 6:26 AM
Subject: Re: Farmer vaccination prioritization
To: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>

Hi Dean and Hanna

62 active feed accounts
27 delivery stops
[redacted]So Jordan
[redacted]lehi/Spanish fork
[redacted]Morgan/peoa
[redacted]logan
[redacted]reported on breeder survey for Utah ranchers
With average family size and full time employees per farm our best figure on total people working on farms is about 10 per farm. There will be some farms that have more people and some that have less but based on 27 farms we think 270 people just on farms and then I don't know if you have any thoughts on the processing facility and the grading facility

Jason

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 21, 2021, at 2:26 PM, Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov> wrote:

Jason,
Who can I call to get this information? I have some of the producers asking about vaccination and Hannah cannot go forward without this information. Is there someone that will provide this to me?
Thanks
Dean
---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Hannah Rettler** <hrettler@utah.gov>
Date: Thu, Jan 21, 2021 at 9:34 AM
Subject: Fwd: Farmer vaccination prioritization
To: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>

Hi Dr. Taylor,

I sent this to Jason about a week ago and haven't heard back yet. Do you happen to have this information? In order to pursue this vaccination prioritization, I would need the total number of farms, total number of workers who work directly with the mink, as well as the counties where these are all located so we know where/how to distribute.

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Hannah Rettler** <hrettler@utah.gov>
Date: Fri, Jan 15, 2021 at 4:26 PM
Subject: Farmer vaccination prioritization
To: jason.rivervalleyvet@gmail.com <jason.rivervalleyvet@gmail.com>

Hi Jason,

It was great to meet you in person on Wednesday, thank you again for helping to facilitate those processing facility visits.

I wanted to follow up with you to see if you could help me with some information we would need in order to request the prioritization of mink farmers to get the COVID vaccine.

We need to know total number of farms in the state, the counties where the farms are located, and the total number of people associated with each farm who work directly with the mink. Ryan told me the estimate was about 150-200, and wanted to confirm that with you. I understand this is sensitive information, so if you prefer to discuss this over the phone please call me when you are able 385-285-5178. We would need to supply this information to the vaccine distribution team.

If you are not the best person to obtain this information, would you please advise who would be a good contact?

—

Hannah Rettler, MPH
Vectorborne/Zoonotic Disease Epidemiologist
Disease Response, Evaluation, Analysis, & Monitoring Program
Bureau of Epidemiology
Utah Department of Health
Email: hrettler@utah.gov
Office: (801) 538 - 6333
Mobile: (385) 285 - 5178
Secure Fax: (801) 538 - 9923

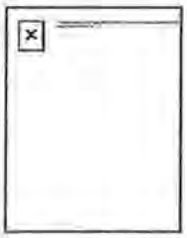
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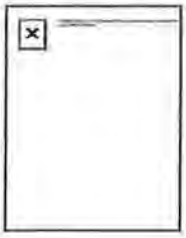
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—



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—



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--

Hannah Rettler, MPH
Vectorborne/Zoonotic Disease Epidemiologist
Disease Response, Evaluation, Analysis, & Monitoring Program
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Utah Department of Health
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If you are not the intended recipient, any distributions or copying of this message, or the taking of any action based on its content is strictly prohibited.

Melissa Ure

From: Debbie Lyberger <dlyberger@utah.gov>
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2020 3:48 PM
To: Dean Taylor
Subject: Re: funding for mink

Thank you!

On Fri, Oct 30, 2020 at 3:25 PM Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov> wrote:
Here are the correct addresses:

[redacted]

Thanks
Dean

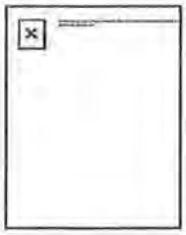
On Thu, Oct 29, 2020 at 7:39 PM Debbie Lyberger <dlyberger@utah.gov> wrote:
I know the grant agreements are all in place for the second round. All have been processed for payment except [redacted] There is an issue with the address.

UC is not funding any of the mink loss payments. They are all coming out of the Ag Business grant CARES funding.

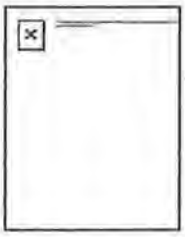
On Thu, Oct 29, 2020, 5:04 PM Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov> wrote:
Good morning Debbie,
Any news on whether the funding went out to the farmers.

--

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Website | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram



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Website | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram



DEBBIE LYBERGER | Financial Manager II
801.982.2214 office dlyberger@utah.gov
Website | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram

Melissa Ure

From: Robert Erickson <rerickson@utah.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, November 4, 2020 12:53 PM
To: Dean Taylor
Subject: Re: Mink Farms with comparable COVID 19 lesions

I left one with [redacted] but it seemed so ominous he said we would need to take him to lunch to get him to fill it out.

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 3, 2020, at 4:10 PM, Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov> wrote:

Bob,
Did you fill out one of the questionnaires while there? If so can you please send me and Hannah a copy of that.
Thanks
Dean

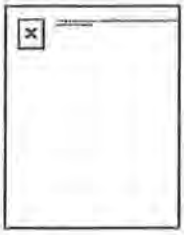
On Fri, Oct 30, 2020 at 3:44 PM Hannah Rettler <hrettler@utah.gov> wrote:
Thank you Dr. Erickson.

I just did a quick search and it does not appear any of them have been tested for COVID.

Dr. Erickson, when you have completed your visits to these farms today, would you please let me know if you think they would be open to a phone call from me to gather some preliminary information either tonight or tomorrow?

On Fri, Oct 30, 2020 at 3:26 PM Robert Erickson <rerickson@utah.gov> wrote:

[redacted]



Robert Erickson | Field Veterinarian
Animal Health Program | rerickson@utah.gov
801.538.7025 office | 801.520.4311 mobile
Website | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram

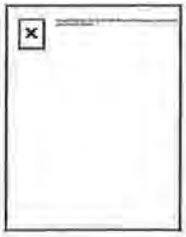
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Hannah Rettler, MPH
Vectorborne/Zoonotic Disease Epidemiologist
Disease Response, Evaluation, Analysis, & Monitoring Program
Bureau of Epidemiology
Utah Department of Health
Email: hrettler@utah.gov
Office: (801) 538 - 6333
Mobile: (385) 285 - 5178
Secure Fax: (801) 538 - 9923

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Dean J Taylor, DVM | State Veterinarian
Office 801-982-2243 Cell 385-290-9462
djtaylor@utah.gov
Website | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram

Melissa Ure

From: RJ Spencer <rjspencer@utah.gov>
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2020 2:55 PM
To: Dean Taylor
Subject: Re: Scanned image from St of Ut Dept. of Agriculture & Food

Thanks

R.J. Spencer

On Oct 30, 2020, at 2:35 PM, Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov> wrote:

R.J.,
So potentially 3 more farms today. One is quite large. I will reach out to [redacted] and make sure that he understands. I can show him the erroneous spreadsheet and the corrected one along with his documentation that he sent me and explain the error.
Dean

On Fri, Oct 30, 2020 at 8:46 AM RJ Spencer <rjspencer@utah.gov> wrote:
We figured it all out. Kind of!

I heard that more mink are in the works. So we are holding off on our side. Do you have any updates.

We paid the [redacted] too much, because the numbers were different, will you call him, we tried but he isn't sending us back the overage. Any help would be appreciated!

Let me know if we can help w anything!

R.J. Spencer

On Oct 29, 2020, at 2:54 PM, Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov> wrote:

Where do we stand on this? This was a joint effort from Thayne and me. He put the wording together I believe. I am back in town and can assist anywhere needed with this funding.
Dean

On Mon, Oct 19, 2020 at 12:59 PM RJ Spencer <rjspencer@utah.gov> wrote:
Did either of you create this letter. We need to get it updated and correct.

Let me know if so, we can get writing these checks.
RJ

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **RJ Spencer** <rjspencer@utah.gov>

Date: Mon, Oct 19, 2020 at 9:41 AM
Subject: Fwd: Scanned image from St of Ut Dept. of Agriculture & Food
To: Debbie Lyberger <dlyberger@utah.gov>
Cc: Amanda Petersen <amandapetersen@utah.gov>

Who wrote this? I need to get one updated to the new amounts so we can send them to be paid to the 5 new checks that need to be written.

Should we just do this next week when you are back?

Sorry so sorry to bug.... TELL ME what to do on this! I can wait until next week! Not a big deal.

RJ

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Scanner@utah.gov** <Scanner@utah.gov>
Date: Mon, Oct 19, 2020 at 9:40 AM
Subject: Scanned image from St of Ut Dept. of Agriculture & Food
To: <rjspencer@utah.gov>

Reply to: Scanner@utah.gov <Scanner@utah.gov>
Device Name: St of Ut Dept. of Agriculture & Food
Device Model: MX-6070N
Location: Not Set

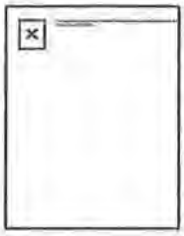
File Format: PDF (Medium)
Resolution: 600dpi x 600dpi

Attached file is scanned image in PDF format.
Use Acrobat(R)Reader(R) or Adobe(R)Reader(R) of Adobe Systems Incorporated to view the document.
Adobe(R)Reader(R) can be downloaded from the following URL:
Adobe, the Adobe logo, Acrobat, the Adobe PDF logo, and Reader are registered trademarks or trademarks of Adobe Systems Incorporated in the United States and other countries.

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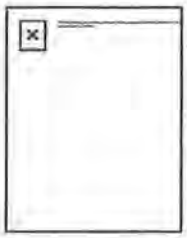
R.J. Spencer | Director, Conservation Division
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Website | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram



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Melissa Ure

From: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 28, 2020 7:45 AM
To: Hannah Rettler
Subject: Re: compensation already received

Will do.

On Tue, Oct 27, 2020 at 8:14 PM Hannah Rettler <hrettler@utah.gov> wrote:
Thank you. When you find out if the *Governor's Office of Economic Development* is where you received the first round of money or not, let me know and I can work on sending a summary to them to consider what funding might be available.

On Tue, Oct 27, 2020 at 6:26 PM Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov> wrote:
Here is the spreadsheet.
Dean

--

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Office 801-982-2243 Cell 385-290-9462
djtaylor@utah.gov
Website | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram

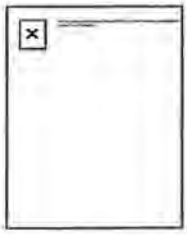
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Hannah Rettler, MPH
Vectorborne/Zoonotic Disease Epidemiologist
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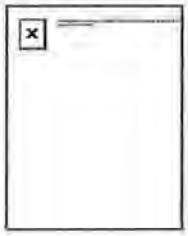
Melissa Ure

From: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2020 5:20 PM
To: RJ Spencer
Subject: Re: Confirm numbers for [redacted]

My spreadsheet is accurate. I will send you a copy of his response.

On Mon, Nov 16, 2020 at 3:26 PM RJ Spencer <rjspencer@utah.gov> wrote:
We are ready to send grant agreement to [redacted] please confirm number, if he read it as a 7 or a 1.
RJ

–



R.J. Spencer | Director, Conservation Division
801.541.2306 Mobile
801-982-2223 Office
Website | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram

–



Dean J Taylor, DVM | State Veterinarian
Office 801-982-2243 Cell 385-290-9462
djtaylor@utah.gov
Website | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram

Melissa Ure

From: Thayne Mickelson <tmickelson@utah.gov>
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2020 10:01 AM
To: RJ Spencer
Cc: Dean Taylor; Debbie Lyberger
Subject: Re: Summit county mink losses

These numbers look good. If we need to coordinate a call to confirm or talk through any issues let me know.

Thanks,

Thayne Mickelson
Utah Department of Agriculture and Food
Homeland Security and Risk Management
Phone (801) 538-7119
Cell (801) 608-7668

On Mon, Nov 16, 2020 at 9:24 AM RJ Spencer <rjspencer@utah.gov> wrote:

Do you have contact information for each of them, we will work on them, probably on Thursday or Friday of this week.

We are finalizing our grant amendments this week.

RJ

On Fri, Nov 13, 2020 at 9:44 AM Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov> wrote:

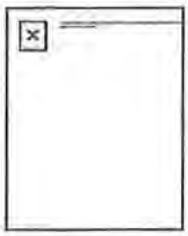
Here is the spreadsheet with the summit county numbers now added in. That outbreak has subsided so these are what they provided. I am having [redacted] confirm his. I think [redacted] read a 7 as a 1 in the total [redacted] reported. I added up [redacted] numbers and think these are accurate. [redacted] is going to recount them for me just to be safe. I wanted to get these off since I will be away from the computer for most of the day. Check my adding if you would please. I will send contact information in a separate email. [redacted] That is why it is written that way.
Thanks
Dean

--



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--



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801-982-2223 Office
Website | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram

Melissa Ure

From: Amanda Petersen <amandapetersen@utah.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 20, 2020 12:02 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc: Dean Taylor; RJ Spencer
Subject: COVID RELIEF FUNDS

Hello [redacted]
Thank you for speaking with me today.

As discussed on the phone, the numbers that were reported for your COVID mink losses were recently updated through Dr. Taylor and Dr. Lott for COVID assistance. Below are the numbers that were reported to UDAF for payment of the emergency assistance funds that we spoke about. Again, if you have questions about the actual numbers reported, you will need to be in contact with Dr Taylor (copied on this email).

Originally, it was reported that at one location you had [redacted] Breeder Male losses and [redacted] Breeder Female losses. At the [redacted] location, there were additional Breeder Female losses of [redacted]

This resulted in an assistance check of $222,240 issued to [redacted] Processed 10/6/2020.

An updated report was received from Dr Taylor this week which needs to be addressed. As we discussed on the phone, you stated that you were aware from the vet that there was a change in the mink loss numbers reported, but were also questioning the amounts as you did not report a difference.

As requested, those numbers changed as follows:
There were [redacted] Breeder Male losses ([redacted]) and [redacted] Breeder Female losses ([redacted]). There was [redacted] additional Breeder Female loss at the [redacted] location, resulting in a change there to [redacted].
This results in an over payment of $42,181 that needs to be returned to the state.

You will need to send a check and mail it to:
Utah Department of Agriculture and Food
Attention: Debbie Lyberger
PO Box 147500
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-6500

Thank you for your attention to this.
Kindest regards,
—

Amanda Petersen
Utah Conservation Commission, Financial Analyst
801.982.2228 office
amandapetersen@utah.gov
Website | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram

Melissa Ure

From: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 1, 2021 11:44 AM
To: Debbie Lyberger
Subject: Fwd: Dump fees

Debbie,
Can you tell me if there is any additional funding for these types of expenses on these mink farms. (disposal fees at the dumps since I am requiring them to dispose of the carcasses instead of rendering them and also the freezer fees since the pelts have been held until now)
Thanks and sorry to keep sending you these questions.
Dean
---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Dean Taylor** <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Date: Mon, Feb 1, 2021 at 11:42 AM
Subject: Re: Dump fees
To: [redacted]>

I will be sending out the pelt movement permits and calling you a little later to discuss this document and how to use it. I will ask Debbie about the funding for the dump fees and that. My understanding is that the funding has lapsed and that there is no additional available.
Dean

On Mon, Feb 1, 2021 at 7:49 AM [redacted]> wrote:
Yes. Also it's costing me $500 a month to store the pelts here as well if you remember

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

On Mon, Feb 1, 2021 at 7:45 AM, Dean Taylor
<djtaylor@utah.gov> wrote:

I have been told it is gone. I will ask though. These are the fee incurred since you could not send them to rendering, correct?
Dean

On Mon, Feb 1, 2021 at 7:32 AM [redacted]> wrote:
Pelting. Window was Feb 26?

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

On Mon, Feb 1, 2021 at 7:31 AM, Dean Taylor
<djtaylor@utah.gov> wrote:

[redacted]
I believe the funding is now gone but I can ask for you. Is this for the carcasses from pelting or from the deads during the disease outbreak?
Dean

On Mon, Feb 1, 2021 at 7:09 AM [redacted]> wrote:

Any way to recover this charge? [redacted]

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android



DEAN J TAYLOR | State Veterinarian
801.982.2243 office | 385.290.9462 mobile
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100 Years of Supporting Agriculture and Food



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Melissa Ure

From: Debbie Lyberger <dlyberger@utah.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 4, 2021 10:17 AM
To: [redacted]
Cc: Dean Taylor
Subject: Re: [redacted]

Thank you.

On Thu, Feb 4, 2021 at 9:48 AM Ryan Holt <rhinoh1301@yahoo.com> wrote:

Form **W-9**

(Rev. October 2018)
Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Ident

▶ **Go to www**

Print or type.
See Specific Instructions on page 3.

1 Name (as shown on your income tax return). Na

[redacted]

2 Business name/disregarded entity name, if diffe

R.Holt inc

3 Check appropriate box for federal tax classificat following seven boxes.

☐ Individual/sole proprietor or single-member LLC

☐ C Corpo

☐ Limited liability company. Enter the tax classi

Note: Check the appropriate box in the line a LLC if the LLC is classified as a single-memb another LLC that is not disregarded from the is disregarded from the owner should check t

☐ Other (see instructions) ▶

5 Address (number, street, and apt. or suite no.) Se

[redacted]

6 City, state, and ZIP code

[redacted]

7 List account number(s) here (optional)

On Wednesday, January 27, 2021, 07:33:41 PM MST, Debbie Lyberger <dlyberger@utah.gov> wrote:

[redacted]

I finally have an answer for you regarding the 1099 issue. The state is required to issue a 1099 to anyone that we pay more than $600. It is up to you and your tax advisor to determine if the money received should be claimed on your tax return. If you would, please return the completed form back as quickly as possible so this process can be finalized, I would appreciate it. I have attached the form again in case you need it.

Thanks.

On Fri, Jan 22, 2021 at 9:39 AM [redacted] wrote:
We were told the money would help restocking of the farms?

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

On Fri, Jan 22, 2021 at 9:34 AM, [redacted] wrote:

It was not lost earnings it was for dead animals

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

On Fri, Jan 22, 2021 at 9:28 AM, Debbie Lyberger <dlyberger@utah.gov> wrote:

It is CARES Act money that was issued through the State. Because it was to replace lost earning or lost earning potential it is considered income, even though it was from the CARES Act.

On Fri, Jan 22, 2021 at 9:23 AM [redacted] wrote:
The question is where the money came from. According to what was explained the money came for cares act money not from the state money so it was not taxable we were told. Can you verify the path that the money took? Thanks
[redacted]

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

On Fri, Jan 22, 2021 at 8:36 AM, Debbie Lyberger <dlyberger@utah.gov> wrote:

[redacted]

Dr Taylor indicated that you were questioning whether the COVID grant funding you received for the loss of your mink was taxable. I confirmed with the CPA at the State's Finance Office who coordinates the State's activities with the IRS that these funds are taxable. This was to replace lost revenue or loss of earning potential, therefore does need to be claimed as earnings on your tax return.

Please complete the form sent yesterday by Dr Taylor and return to the Department of Agriculture as soon as possible so we can facilitate the issuance of your 1099 for these earnings.

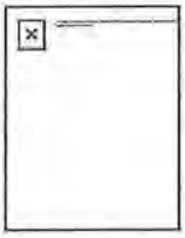
Thank you.

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Dean Taylor** <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Date: Thu, Jan 21, 2021 at 6:34 PM
Subject: [redacted]
To: Debbie Lyberger <dlyberger@utah.gov>

[redacted] responded that the Cares money is non-taxable. I'll let you talk to him directly.
[redacted]

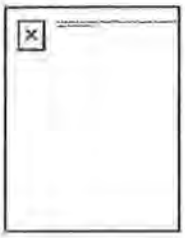
Thanks
Dean

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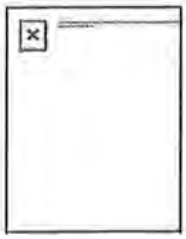
Dean J Taylor, DVM | State Veterinarian
Office 801-982-2243 Cell 385-290-9462
djtaylor@utah.gov
Website | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram

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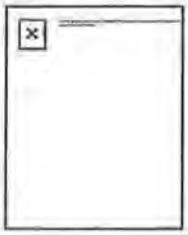


DEBBIE LYBERGER | Financial Manager II
801.982.2214 office dlyberger@utah.gov
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Melissa Ure

From: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 21, 2021 2:44 PM
To: [redacted]
Subject: Fwd: compensation

Here is the breakdown again.

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Dean Taylor** <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Date: Tue, Jan 19, 2021 at 8:49 PM
Subject: compensation
To: [redacted]

[redacted]
Here is your compensation breakdown.

$20760 for the mink losses and this is accurate with what I submitted from your numbers. It is as follows.
[redacted]

[redacted]

Total=$20,760 [redacted]

COVID -$19,436 [redacted]

COVID SUPPLEMENTAL- $19,031 [redacted]

Your total compensation would have been $59,227

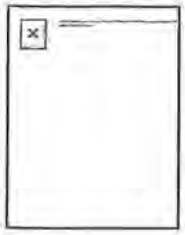
Let me know if you still think there are discrepancies.
I am coming to help test the farms in Summit tomorrow so if you are one of those scheduled I will see you then.

Dean

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--



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Melissa Ure

From: Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, December 23, 2020 4:56 PM
To: Debbie Lyberger
Subject: Re: mink compensation

I think a breakdown of the checks of how much for Covid grant and how much is for mink losses and the check numbers already provided will be enough.
Thanks

On Wed, Dec 23, 2020 at 4:40 PM Debbie Lyberger <dlyberger@utah.gov> wrote:
Do you want me to get copies of the checks with endorsements?

On Wed, Dec 23, 2020 at 4:00 PM Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov> wrote:
Hi Debbie,
So I emailed all of them to see if they received a check and so far the response was no. However, I called [redacted] and when I spoke with him about it the check said covid grant so he did not know that the mink compensation was in the check he cashed. I do have a question on [redacted] based on the numbers above that you provided. The mink compensation of [redacted] plus the COVID Ag grant of [redacted] adds up to [redacted] not [redacted] Is that just a typo? Can you please send me the numbers for each producer with the breakdown of the two different payments so that I can verify the payment with them and explain to them that both payments were combined and show them how we determined the mink compensation.
Thank you
Dean

On Wed, Dec 23, 2020 at 3:27 PM Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov> wrote:
Thank you Debbie. I don't know what is going on here but I will look into it. I appreciate your help. Have a Merry Christmas.
Dean

On Tue, Dec 22, 2020 at 4:58 PM Debbie Lyberger <dlyberger@utah.gov> wrote:
Yes, this was [redacted] info.

[redacted] check number [redacted] cleared the bank on 12/3/2020
[redacted] check number [redacted] cleared the bank on 11/27/2020
[redacted] check number [redacted] cleared the bank on 11/24/2020

On Tue, Dec 22, 2020 at 9:37 AM Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov> wrote:
I am assuming that was for [redacted] do you have information on the others?
Thanks
Dean

On Tue, Dec 22, 2020 at 9:36 AM Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov> wrote:
Which producer was this for? There were 4 in Summit county. [redacted]?

On Mon, Dec 21, 2020 at 6:23 PM Debbie Lyberger <dlyberger@utah.gov> wrote:
[redacted] received a check [redacted] for [redacted], which was for [redacted] mink loss and [redacted] COVID Ag grant. This check cleared the bank on 11/25/2020.

On Mon, Dec 21, 2020 at 6:11 PM Dean Taylor <djtaylor@utah.gov> wrote:

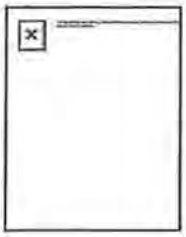
Debbie,

I spoke to a mink producer from Summit County this evening [redacted] and he indicated that the compensation for the dead mink has not arrived yet. Are you able to provide me a timeframe for when they might receive that?

Thanks

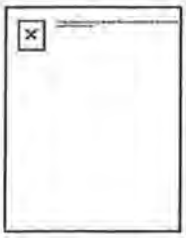
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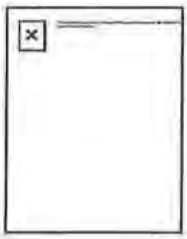
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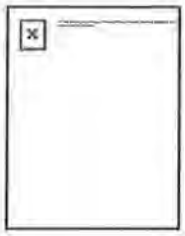
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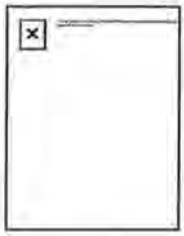
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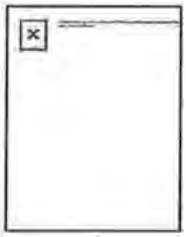
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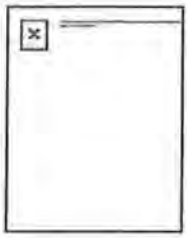
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