SAGA

Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

Division of Animal Health, P.O. Box 8911, Madison, WI 53708-8911
Phone: 608-224-4872 Fax: 608-224-4871

OFFICE USE ONLY
Permit Number [redacted]
Date Issued: January 19, 2021
Date Expired: Thirty days after issued
Signature: [signature]

Receiving Facility: *E-mail, Mail or FAX a copy of this permit within 7 days of animal shipment to:*
Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, Division of Animal Health
datcptb2018@wi.gov or P.O. Box 8911, Madison, WI 53708-8911 or FAX 608-224-4871

Mink Pelt Shipping Record for Restricted Facilities

OWNER INFORMATION			RECEIVING FACILITY INFORMATION		
NAME [redacted]			NAME OF FACILITY Saga Furs North America		
PHONE NUMBER [redacted]			PHONE NUMBER 646 662-6519		
ADDRESS [redacted]			ADDRESS 205 Industrial Circle		
CITY Medford	STATE WI	ZIP CODE 54451	CITY Stoughton	STATE WI	ZIP CODE 53589
PREMISES CODE [redacted]			FACILITY LICENSE NUMBER ~~NIA~~ 986048668		

	Description of items contained in shipment (including number of boxes and contents)	14
1	[redacted] 12 boxes. See attached inventory list	12
2	[redacted] 2 boxes. See attached inventory list	2

Bagging and Disinfection (Pelts must be placed in plastic bags, bags must be disinfected using EPA approved product for elimination of SARS-CO-V-2. https://cfpub.epa.gov/giwiz/disinfectants/index.cfm)

BAGGED	DATE DISINFECTED	DISINFECTANT PRODUCT	AMBIENT TEMPRATURE	LENGTH TIME
Yes	1/19/2021	Lysol Disinfec Spray	55*F	>3 minutes

OWNER CERTIFICATION.

I hereby certify that all conditions of this permit have been adhered to and information included is true and correct.

OWNER SIGNATURE: [redacted] DATE: 1-20-2021

NOTICE TO SHIPPER: PELTS MUST BE DELIVERED TO ABOVE IDENTIFIED RECEIVING FACILITY ONLY.

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: [signature] DATE OF SHIPMENT: 1-20-2021

NOTE: Owner must retain a copy of this form signed by shipper until any order restricting movement is released by the DATCP.

THIS SECTION FOR RECEIVING FACILITY USE ONLY

I hereby certify that the pelts identified on this document were received at the facility identified above. Further, the receiving facility acknowledges these pelts are from a facility that has been infected with SARS CoV2 and should be handled in accordance with the recommendations provided in the attached USDA guidance document: Safe Mink Pelt Movements from SARS-CoV-2-Quarantined Production Sites. As such, pelts will be stored least 20°C for 15 days at ambient humidity levels, prior to handling.

NAME AND TITLE *(AUTHORIZED AGENT)*		SIGNATURE	
BRIAN BALAAM PRODUCTION MANAGER		[signature]	
DATE OF RECEIPT: 1/20/21	PRODUCTS RECIEVED: HARD DRIED MINK PELTS		DATE 1/20/21

RECEIVING FACILITY INFORMATION *(MUST BE SAME AS ABOVE)*

NAME OF FACILITY Saga Furs North America Inc.			
ADDRESS 205 Industrial Circle	CITY Stoughton	STATE WI	ZIP 53589

SAGAfurs North America
205 Industrial Circle
Stoughton, WI 53589

Name: [redacted]
Ranch N
Address

Shipping Date: 1 / 20 / 2021
Acct # [redacted] CAN: | | | | | | |
Total Cartons: 12 Ticketed: Yes ☐ No ☒
Desired Auction: Dixon- Braun Group

Carton #	Sex	Black	Maho-gany	Demi Brown	Pastel	Palo-mino	Pearl	White	Violet	Lave-nder	Peach	Blue Iris	Sapp-hire	Silver Blue	Cross	Other Misc.	Carton Total	SAGA Count
1	m	500															500	
2	F	1000															1000	
3	m	500															500	
4	m	500															500	
5	F	1000															1000	
6	m	500															500	
7	m	500															500	
8	F	1000															1000	
9	F	1000															1000	
10	m	500															500	
11	m	487															487	
12	F	333															333	
TOTAL		3487m 4333F															7820	

12 pallets
1-28-21
1-20-21

Special Selling Instructions:

KEEP BACK COPY FOR YOUR RECORDS.

SAGAfurs North America
205 Industrial Circle
Stoughton, WI 53589

Name: [redacted]
Ranch N
Address

Shipping Date: 1/20/2021
Acct # [redacted] CAN: | | | | | | | |
Total Cartons: 2 Ticketed: Yes ☐ No ☒
Desired Auction: Dixon- Brown group

Carton #	Sex	Black	Maho-gany	Demi Brown	Pastel	Palo-mino	Pearl	White	Violet	Lave-nder	Peach	Blue Iris	Sapp-hire	Silver Blue	Cross	Other Misc.	Carton Total	SAGA Count
1	M	399															399	
2	F	537															537	
TOTAL		936															936	

2 pallets

1-20-2021

1-20-21

Special Selling Instructions:

KEEP BACK COPY FOR YOUR RECORDS.

State of Wisconsin
Governor Tony Evers

Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

Summary Prepared by:
Rebecca Podgorski 11/11/20

[redacted] Fur Farms Composting Update:
[redacted]

The compost site is located on the owner's property, outside the fenced area where the mink are housed. The owner, [redacted] has been regularly providing pictures and temperature measurements for the monitoring of the piles. Under difficult circumstances, he has provided all information requested on a regular basis and in a timely manner.

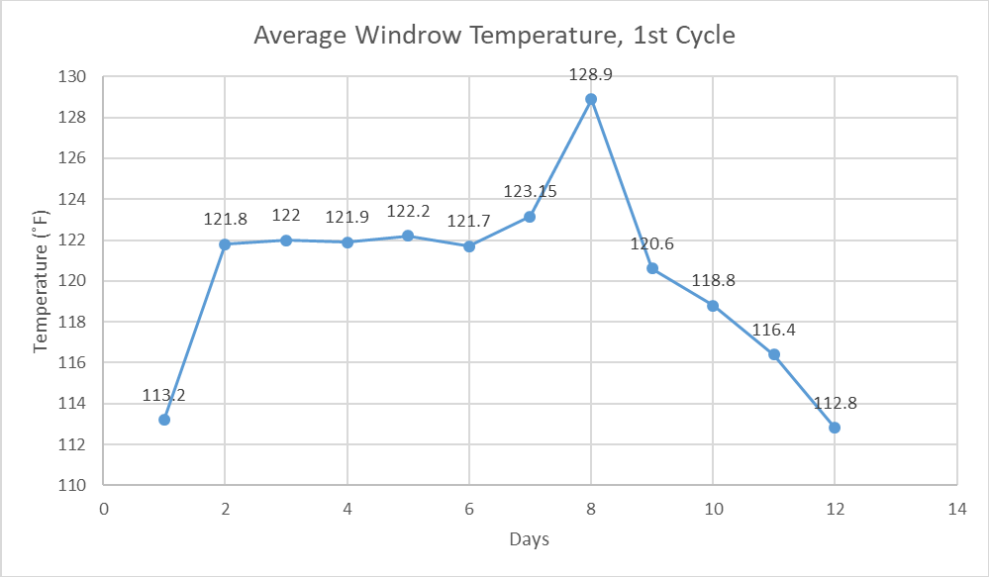
Pile 1
[redacted] began building the pile on 10/3/20 using a mixture of sawdust and leaves. [redacted] was able to procure shredded wood and continued adding mortalities to the pile. The final pile consisted of four layers of mink/manure and carbon. It was capped and completed on 10/11/20.

[redacted] Pile 1



Pile 1 temperatures at 10 locations were taken at 18” and 36” depth beginning on 10/13/20. The average pile temperatures reached a minimum of 120˚F for 9 consecutive days**.**

Average windrow temperatures 10/13/20 – 10/29/20



10/30/20:

Dr. Novitch (WI DATCP site manager) and I (Podgorski) visited the ranch for sampling and compost assessment. There are 15 sheds with two rows of mink caging on either side. The manure stacks are below each cage and are 4” – 12” high. Currently [redacted] is incorporating manure into the compost as piles are built. However due to the large amount of manure, its complete disposal is still of concern.

<u>Recommendation</u>: Reassess manure disposal plan in January 2021 when only the breeder animals remain.

I assessed three locations in the pile manually by digging into the core area where the carcasses had been incorporated during the build. Two locations were on either side in the main body of the pile and one at the end. Upon visual examination the cap was intact and undisturbed. In the main body only small pieces of pelt remained (see below). Next, the end cap area, where temperatures are typically slightly cooler, was evaluated. The only remaining tissue found was a single skull and a leg. Overall the pile and the temperature trend is consistent with a mortality composting pile that is performing well.

Pile 1, Dig site 1:
Pelt from mortality layer, no flesh or bone visible.

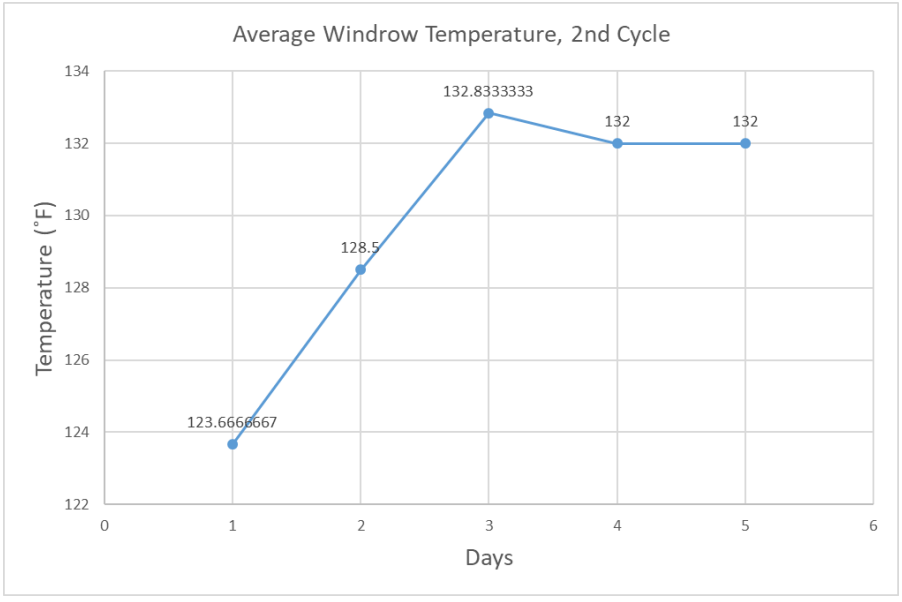


Following the inspection of Pile 1, [redacted] and I inspected the carbon that he had obtained from a local source. The carbon was wood-based and very fine with larger chunks in it. We discussed the need to acquire additional carbon (~ 2-3") for the base, and using the finer saw dust in the layers. The method for turning Pile 1 was reviewed and Mr. Blasel was to complete the turn over the weekend while ambient temperatures were favorable.

10/31/20:

[redacted] turned Pile 1, and applied cover. In the first week following the turn, Pile 1 exceeded 131˚F for 3 consecutive days. Pile 1 will continue in cycle 2.

Pile 1, Cycle 2
11/1/20 – 11/5/20



<u>Recommendation</u>: Repeat inspection and evaluation week of 11/16/20.

Pile 2

10/23/20:

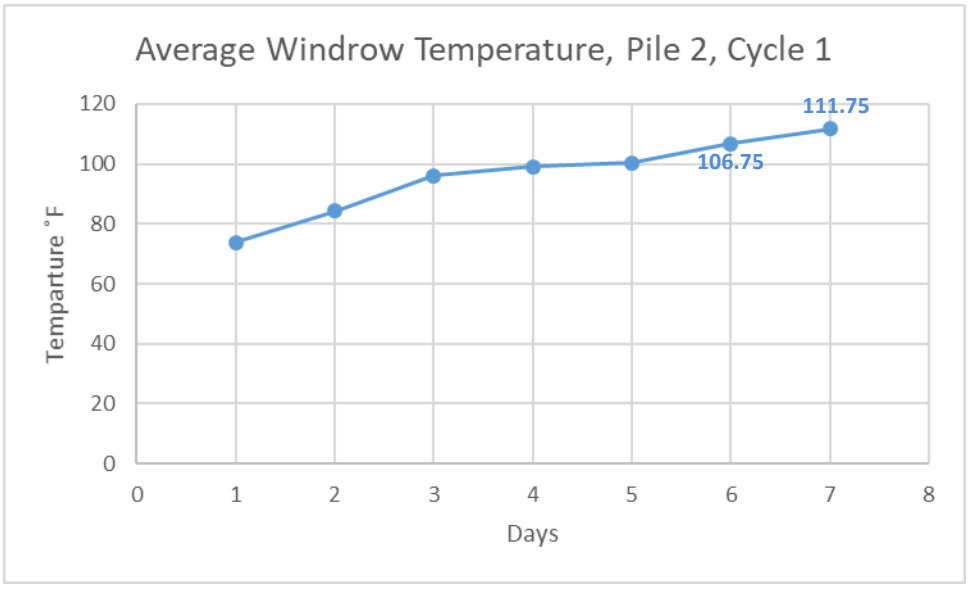
[redacted] and I discussed managing the next group of carcasses. Pelting scheduled for 10/26/20 and the number of carcasses would result in a small pile (approximately 1/3 the size of Pile 1). I advised [redacted] how to build onto Pile 1 to capitalize on the existing heat in Pile 1 to begin heating Pile 2.

10/29/20:

Pile 2 was built 18 days after Pile 1 was completed, and is off the west end of Pile 1. It contains more recently pelted mink and manure. Temperatures in Pile 2 are taking longer to heat up due to the smaller size than Pile 1, and cooler ambient temperatures.



Pile 2, Cycle 1
10/30/20 – 11/5/20



Composting Plan

[redacted] is pelting a group of mink this week, and then will do a final group of mink in December. He plans to use corn stover for the base and sawdust mix for the layers this week. We plan to utilize Pile 1 and corn stover as the base for the final group.

Potential Future Obstacles

- The piles that will be built in December will likely take longer to heat up due to colder ambient temperatures and potentially frozen amendment. If required time and temperatures are not achieved, this can be addressed by an extra turn in spring 2021.
- Delayed incorporation of carcasses and manure into the build may hinder temperature increases and pile performance. The piles should be built as soon as possible within 24 hours or sooner.
- There may be difficulty maneuvering equipment in the compost area if there is a lot of snow. If possible, clear snow prior to pelting so that the build can happen as quickly as possible.

From: Podgorski, Rebecca - DATCP
To: Patton, Elisabeth A - DATCP; Konkle, Darlene M - DATCP; Bellay, Yvonne M - DATCP; Slater, Rebecca A - DATCP
Cc: Mace, Melissa A - DATCP; Ondercin, Christopher J - DATCP; Olander, Doris - APHIS
Subject: Compost update
Date: Friday, October 16, 2020 10:22:59 AM

Greetings,

Compost update from yesterday:

CDC is finishing up on the farm today. They are doing more swabs on the frozen mink and he would like samples taken of the mink feed.

Only 6 mortalities on Thursday 10/15. He is storing the mortalities in a 16x20 freezer. He spoke to his insurance adjuster regarding the mink in the freezer. I asked [redacted] if he is intending to pelt those that are frozen and he said "no". He doesn't want to get fitted for a N95. I will have [redacted] follow-up with his insurance adjuster about the frozen mink. He wasn't sure if he needs to keep them until the claim is through. That may be problematic with composting.

I explained the new composting expectations:
He will need to compost mortalities until we receive a negative result and manure. [redacted] had questions about when and who will be testing. He would like to see it done soon, because the quarantine will need to be lifted to release the pelts. I told him I did not have specifics, and it is still being determined.
[redacted] has concerns about the manure, there is a lot. He couldn't give me an estimate of how much there is. He has a tandem axle spreader and single axel spreader, and gets about a load out of each shed. He empties twice a year. He has asked the CDC if it would be acceptable to leave it over winter and he's waiting to hear back. In the meantime, we will plan on incorporating it into piles as we build.

We discussed the plan moving forward for now. He should take temperatures/monitor daily, and try to do it at the same time each day. I reviewed the temp requirements and process with him (131F for 72 hours, 2 cycles of at least 14 days with a turn). I told him that when we reach the 14 day mark, pending temperature data, I would visit and look at the piles and work the turn with him. He suggested the visit be scheduled late the week of 10/26 because they are pelting the implants on 10/26 and it will likely only be his wife, son and himself. He does have a tractor with a bucket that we can use for the turn. There was concern about using the skidsteer, and then taking it into the mink area. I told him at the time of the turn, we can build a new pile to incorporate the implants, manure and hopefully frozen carcasses in the middle of the pile. I will remind him to send temperatures 2x/week to me and I will track the data.

He has used one quad axle gravel truck load of carbon so far. He will need to get more. Cost is a concern, if he has to pay for all of the carbon it will be expensive. We will be incorporating leaves in the middle of the pile to help alleviate some of that.

Best,

Becky Podgorski
(608) 290-0157
Rebecca.Podgorski@wisconsin.gov

Please complete this brief survey to help us improve our customer service.

AH-IC-52 (3/2016)

Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
Division of Animal Health PO Box 8911, Madison, WI 53708-8911
Telephone: 608-224-4872 Fax: 608-224-4871

ORDER OF QUARANTINE

Issued under the provisions of sections 93.07 (10), 95.20 and 95.23, Wis. Stats. and chapter ATCP 10, Wis. Admin. Code.

DATE ISSUED: November 30, 2020	**QUARANTINE NUMBER:** [redacted]
Quarantine Property Address: [redacted]	**Legal Name of Owner:** [redacted]
Quarantine Property City / State / Zip [redacted]	**Business Name (if other than above):** [redacted]
Quarantine Property County / Town / Section **County:** Taylor	**Mailing Address / City / State / Zip (if different than property address)**
Premises Registration Number: / **Latitude / Longitude**	**Legal Name of Custodian (if applicable):**
BREED/SPECIES/FAMILY: Mustelid Canine Feline Any other animals on the premises	**REASON FOR QUARANTINE:** Exposure COVID-19

You are hereby notified that the following described animals or products are quarantined and may not be removed from the premises where now located without written permission of the State Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection.

Identification of Animal(s) or Products:

Live mink, mink carcass, mink pelt or any other animal parts, manure or bedding.

Any dogs, cats, or other animals currently on the premises.

[redacted] OB 3-20-20 Male Intact Australian Shepherd **Quarantine released 11-30-20**
[redacted] B 9-5-19 Female Intact Australian Shepherd **Quarantine released 11-30-20**
[redacted] B 5-7-17 Female Intact Australian Shepherd
[redacted] OB 12/25/15 Male Intact Australian Shepherd
[redacted] DOB 10-1-13 Male Intact English Setter
[redacted] DOB ? old Female Spayed English Springer Spaniel
[redacted] DOB 9-5-19 Female Intact Australian Shepherd
[redacted] DOB 10-9-13 Female Intact Australian Shepherd

Terms of Quarantine:

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department. The department may inspect to ensure the animals or products quarantined under this quarantine order are being held in compliance with the terms of the order.

Identified dogs on the premises. Dogs that have been quarantined to the home residence, away from mink and the mink yard, for a minimum of two weeks from the last exposure to mink and the mink yard are eligible for quarantine release.

Equipment on the premises. This quarantine prohibits the movement from the premises of any materials or articles used in the care and management of the above-identified animals without the prior written permission of the State Veterinarian.

By order of the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection and the Wisconsin State Veterinarian.

State Veterinarian/Designee Signature	Printed Name
Yvonne Bellay, DVM	Yvonne Bellay, DVM

By order of the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection and the Wisconsin State Veterinarian, this **Quarantine is released**.

State Veterinarian/Designee Signature	Date of Release

Any person affected by an order of quarantine may petition the Department for review within 30 days of service of the quarantine. An informal hearing shall be granted within 10 days following the filing of such a petition. See sec. ATCP 10.89(6) and ch. ATCP 1.

cc: [redacted]

AH-IC-52 (3/2016)

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ORDER OF QUARANTINE

Issued under the provisions of sections 93.07 (10), 95.20 and 95.23, Wis. Stats. and chapter ATCP 10, Wis. Admin. Code.

DATE ISSUED: December 7, 2020	**QUARANTINE NUMBER:** [redacted]
Quarantine Property Address: [redacted].	**Legal Name of Owner:** [redacted]
Quarantine Property City / State / Zip [redacted]	**Business Name (if other than above):** [redacted]
Quarantine Property County / Town / Section **County:** Taylor	**Mailing Address / City / State / Zip (if different than property address)**
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[redacted]OB 10-9-13 Female Intact Australian Shepherd

Belted Galloway Cattle **Quarantine released 12/4/20**

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State Veterinarian/Designee Signature	Printed Name
Yvonne Bellay, DVM	Yvonne Bellay, DVM

By order of the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection and the Wisconsin State Veterinarian, this **Quarantine is released**.

State Veterinarian/Designee Signature	Date of Release

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cc: [redacted]

AH-IC-52 (3/2016)

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ORDER OF QUARANTINE

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DATE ISSUED: January 7, 2021	**QUARANTINE NUMBER:** [redacted]
Quarantine Property Address: [redacted]	**Legal Name of Owner:** [redacted]
Quarantine Property City / State / Zip [redacted]	**Business Name (if other than above):** [redacted]
Quarantine Property County / Town / Section **County:** Taylor	**Mailing Address / City / State / Zip (if different than property address)**
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State Veterinarian/Designee Signature	Printed Name
Yvonne Bellay, DVM	Yvonne Bellay, DVM

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State Veterinarian/Designee Signature	Date of Release

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cc: [redacted]

AH-IC-52 (3/2016)

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ORDER OF QUARANTINE

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DATE ISSUED: October 5, 2020	**QUARANTINE NUMBER:** [redacted]
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Quarantine Property City / State / Zip [redacted]	**Business Name (if other than above):** [redacted]
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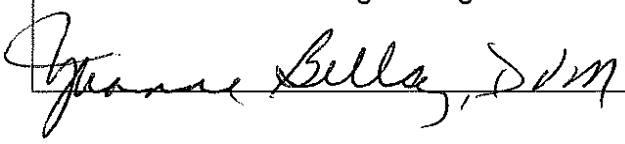
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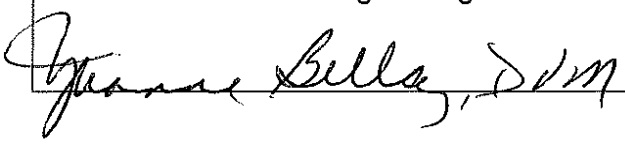
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By order of the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection and the Wisconsin State Veterinarian.

State Veterinarian/Designee Signature	Printed Name
	Yvonne Bellay, DVM

By order of the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection and the Wisconsin State Veterinarian, this **Quarantine is released**.

State Veterinarian/Designee Signature	Date of Release

Any person affected by an order of quarantine may petition the Department for review within 30 days of service of the quarantine. An informal hearing shall be granted within 10 days following the filing of such a petition. See sec. ATCP 10.89(6) and ch. ATCP 1.

cc: [redacted]

From: Novitch, Daniel A - DATCP
To: Molina, Shelby L - DATCP
Subject: FW: WI SARS COV-2 Mink Farm 1
Date: Friday, November 20, 2020 8:28:29 AM

Daniel A. Novitch, DVM
District Veterinarian - Division of Animal Health
Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection
715 218-2620
daniel.novitch@wisconsin.gov

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From: Patton, Elisabeth A - DATCP <Elisabeth.Patton@wisconsin.gov>
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2020 7:40 PM
To: Novitch, Daniel A - DATCP <Daniel.Novitch@wisconsin.gov>
Cc: Konkle, Darlene M - DATCP <Darlene.Konkle@wisconsin.gov>; Bellay, Yvonne M - DATCP <Yvonne.Bellay@wisconsin.gov>
Subject: Re: WI SARS COV-2 Mink Farm 1

Hi Dan,
Thank you for the update and work with the farm. I have been off this week but didn't see anything set up in emails for an update from cdc but still catching up.
I would be ok with having a call with them but would include Dr. Bellay. I think some of the questions on release of pelts were supposed to be included in Usda updated guidance. I do not see an issue with them having their veterinarian submit samples on the treated pelts. I have not heard anything from cdc about testing treated pelts but thought there were questions about whether the fur commission was looking at this- but I might be off on that.
I'll get through some more emails and see if there is stuff On this that I have not seen yet.
As far as the cattle go, we have discussed this, they should plan on taking the cattle on their scheduled slaughter date. Even if the results happened to be positive on the cattle with as much time that has passed from collection and the fact that cattle do not seem to be A susceptible species, we will amend the quarantine to release the cattle. We were just waiting for the results since pending.
Hope that helps to at least alleviate one concern of theirs.

Elisabeth Patton, DVM, PhD, Diplomate ACVIM
Veterinary Program Manager - Division of Animal Health
Wisconsin Department of Agriculture,
Trade and Consumer Protection
608-224-4891
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!

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 19, 2020, at 7:08 PM, Novitch, Daniel A - DATCP <Daniel.Novitch@wisconsin.gov> wrote:

Hello Drs. Konkle and Patton:

Today when I was at WI Mink Farm 1, the owners, [redacted], were showing notable signs of stress and were understandably very frustrated by the lack of test results and information about a path forward for their mink ranch's quarantine. They had numerous well thought out questions regarding how the quarantine might be amended in the future and also what future sampling DATCP is planning to do to gather the information necessary to make decisions regarding the quarantine. They also wanted to know if they could work with their veterinarian to do their own testing. If they are unable to market their pelts this year and receive no compensation or indemnity for the pelts and their lost animals, they will likely lose their mink ranch and their life's work. Because I am not directly involved in decisions regarding the terms of the quarantine, I was not able to answer most of their questions. However, I think their questions were very reasonable and deserving of answers. Would it be possible to arrange a conference call with the [redacted], myself, and one or both of you in the very near future so that they are able to share their questions with you directly? I think that honest answers about what we know, what we don't know, and what we are doing to get answers for the things we don't know would help them very much.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Dan

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IMT Mink Update 12/1/2020

Patton – IC - meeting w/states, usda & cdc. Pelt release concerns, not covered by funding mechanisms, sample for release around $3000, looking at pooling methods more meetings to try to work that out.

- OR most recent addition – sick person no increase in mortality but animals tested positive. Cattle results due this week
- Hoping to extrapolate information about residual virus on product from pig study

Konkle – Q release re-pulled swabs if pcr found we deal with that if positive we continue quarantine. PCR's as early as today thanks to Dan to get samples submitted

Bellay – Epi – trying to work with farm 1 to get pcs of Q released on dogs & cattle.

- Some don't understand how composting works

Novitch - site manager/ops chief – sampling went well, owners worked well together with assistance from Dr. Johnson and Ashley Clement, FedEx delivery by 8:30 this am.

- Results from CDC were a summary with no id, Konkle rcvd id's and will forward to team. Id's appear to be the naming convention from CDC but should be NEUS tags
- All 12 animals sampled
- Both farms not having any increased mortality and asymptomatic
- Pelting is starting again except for the breeding animals
- Both wondering about pelt quarantine release
- Serial swabs during the pelting process but farms won't delay pelting process
- How well does the guidance correspond to the quarantines on the pelts
- What is the risk if pelts are released and there is still some virus on them?
- Farm 1 looking to compost, Farm 2 looking to landfill
- Both looking to landfill fat rather than to Sanimax

Podgorski – disposal – Updated temp logs being updated – pile 2 has reached temp for release, pile 3 taking longer to reach target. Compost assessment next week may need to sit through the winter.

- Composting this week using pile 1 to start building pile 4
- Incorporating as much manure into the piles as possible and may need to scrape out

Hoffman – PIO – steady requests most from National stand point as to what is happening.

- Build up of gases causes them to rise from grave

Torvell – documentation – nothing new
Broderick – safety – nothing new
Boyd – logistics – nothing new
Fisher - finance and admin – nothing new

Is obtaining a carbon source still an issue? Think we are past this with the piles going through 2 cycles and can use that to help with composting

During pelting for workers are they in contact with local public health for worker safety? Novitch spoke to local health care nurse and indicated surgical masks were being provided and discussed face shields as well

Poland and Lithuania appears to have similar cases like Oregon – people sick and animals positive but asymptomatic found during surveilance

IMT Mink Update 12/7/2020

Patton – IC – Not on call

Konkle – already covered by others

Bellay – Epi – Quarantine of cattle released on farm 1

- A lot of organizations are discussing developing protocol for pelt testing but no definitive plans yet

Novitch - site manager/ops chief –

- No new clinical signs/symptoms at Farm 1
- Farm 1 has pelted all black male mink last week, will start pelting of black female mink this week
- Farm 1 will be shipping cattle to slaughter now that Q is released and will be selling heifers later this month.
- Will be on Farm 1 with Podgorski on 12/8/20

Podgorski – disposal –

- Farm 1 – compost piles 1 & 2 have met time and temp and have been released and will now be used to help get the temps up on pile 3. Pile 3 has not reached 110 degrees and will probably remain static until spring.
- Dr. Olander has had conversations with SaniMax he stated if pelts can be released and transported safely, he can render the fat.
- Receiving temps and pictures of compost piles weekly from Farm 1

Hoffman – PIO – Nothing to add

Torvell – documentation – Make sure you are putting information in the documentation folders so that information can be pulled to create sitreps and any other forms that need to be filled out under Incident Command Standards.

Broderick – safety – nothing to add

Boyd – logistics – nothing to add

Fisher - finance and admin – Meeting with Brenda on 12/8 to do a funding cost analyses to look at possible funding for reimbursement

IMT Mink Update 12/14/2020

Patton – IC – Catching up from being off last week

- 4 states meeting today and a USDA team that includes Dr. Bellay will be meeting to discuss next steps and it is believed the top priority will be pelt movement

Konkle – Question re: sending samples to NVSL for genetic testing

- Dan indicated last samples sent around week 5. He and Dr. Bellay did send request to CDC to see if samples and first swabs still needed. CDC response that 1st swabs no longer needed but didn't specify about additional monitoring for continued presence.
- Dr. Novitch, Dr. Patton and Dr. Bellay will meet to discuss following up with CDC for clearer guidance

Bellay – Epi –

- Nothing to add, Dan and Becky will cover

Novitch - site manager/ops chief –

- Did not speak to Farm 1 today – waiting on call back
- Testing is being done on dry pelts in Utah at a pelt processing center by a fur industry group.
- [redacted] – vet for both farms, indicated that a researcher at the UW contacted him to arrange for samples to be collected for testing at the UW lab from Farm 2. Results are still pending and the researcher will let [redacted] and the owner at Farm 2 know the results when they are ready.
- Farm 2 is done pelting and will start processing the end of this week or early next week. Takes about 6 weeks to complete. Normal year they would be done around 1/20. Shipping of pelts is usually done by the buyer using a central carrier who will pick up from multiple locations. Last year pelts were then taken to Utah then to auction in Canada.
- Dumpster is filled to the line and covered by a tarp
- Owner/son and two farm hands had serology testing done – 1 they were unable to draw blood, 1 is waiting for results and 2 are positive. One of the two positive had not felt well a day or two before the outbreak, called in sick and back to work after testing negative a few days later.

Podgorski – disposal

- Checked compost piles last week. Pile 4 – from recent pelting looks good and is already producing steam. Pile 3 – had deflated and the temp was dropping so they added carcasses and manure to bring it back up

Hoffman – PIO – Only one request in past week for update and if quarantine still in place

Torvell – documentation –

- Added new folders to house meeting notes and standards and protocol documents

Broderick – safety – Nothing to add

Boyd – logistics – Nothing to add

Fisher - finance and admin –

- Cost estimates created for draft USDA funding request
- Thanks to Dr. Novitch for helping with staff and supply needs
- Draft sent to Dr. Patton and Melissa Mace for review

COVID-19 Mink

Initial Contact Epidemiological (Epi) Report

I. Premises Information

Premises Identification Number:

Name of Premises: Redacted to: WI Farm 1
4-5 Acre facility
12,000 mink

Owner of Premises:

Redacted

Address of Premises:

Redacted

County of Premises:
Taylor

Premises Owner Phone:
redacted

Premises Owner Email:

Premises Entrance Latitude:

Premises Entrance Longitude:

Description of barn design on farm:

Conventional barn open to sides /10 2 row sheds

A map and/ or schematic of facility is very helpful in understanding the situation.

II. Owner Information

Owner of Animals: RD

Address of Animal Owner:

RD

Animal Owner Phone: RD

Animal Owner Email:

III. Interview Contact Information

Name of person administering questionnaire

Name of person answering questionnaire: REDACTED

Phone:

Position (e.g., owner, manager, veterinarian, etc.):

Veterinarian

Date of interview:

10/2/20

Herd Information

Clinical signs (*brief* description)	200-300 animals lost previous week from seasonal diseases This week respiratory signs began/100 dead past 24 hours
Baseline daily mortality rate: (insert rate from farm records)	1 death/day

Daily mortality rate (# of dead mink population on date of initial sampling)	
Date first clinical signs were noted	Respiratory signs approximately 10/1/20
Date initial samples were collected	10/2/20
Laboratory to which initial samples were submitted	WVDL
Results of any COVID tests in past 21 days	
Date premises quarantine or hold order was issued	10/3/20

Do you have a veterinarian who regularly advises you on disease prevention?

☒☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, name of veterinarian:

REDACTED

Describe the biosecurity measures employed at the facility:

Shower in/shower out?_no_____

Mandatory mask usage? Variable_____

Dedicated crew per barn/group of animals? 3 person family operation

Dedicated boots/clothing for each barn/group of animals?__Yes

Describe the type and amount of direct animal contact by workers daily__Feeding is automatic_ Only handled if being treated

_____

How are animals exhibiting signs of illness dealt with?_Feeder marks cage of sick/dead animal
Later evaluate
Further action determined by established SOPs_____

Describe any movement of animals within the facility such as the introduction and removal of males for breeding, movement of dams and kits at weening, movement to grow-out pens, etc._____ Females are brought to males for breeding
Breeding complete first 3 weeks in March
Males moved to separate shed or euthanized
Whelp April-May
4-6 kits/litter
Kits moved to rearing pens/2 per cage
Pelting done in November on site
CO Euthanasia cage side

Are individual litters kept together or mixed with others in grow-out pens?_
Littermates kept together 2/pen

Is pelting done on
site?_Yes

When is new stock brought in to the barn?_Unknown

Do other types of animals have access to the barns or mink (dogs, cats)?___Dogs, occasionally a cat

Do you have a pre-arranged depopulation plan for this herd ☐ Yes x☐ No

If yes, briefly describe the pre-arranged depopulation method: _

Have you exercised or used this method previously? ☐ Yes ☐ No

IV. Trace-in and Trace-Out Questionnaire

Name of person administering questionnaire: _

Name of person answering questionnaire: _

Phone: _

Position (e.g., owner, manager, veterinarian, etc.): _

1. How are dead mink (daily mortality) disposed of on this farm (please circle one or more)? Also specify if disposal occurs on or off this premises.

    a. Composting
    b. Burial
    c. Incineration
    d. Rendering
    e. Landfill

    Other (specify): _Dead animals are put into barrels and frozen until pelting
    May be rendered depending upon market price or biodesiesel price

    If disposal occurs at another premises:

2. List any locations that **accept manure/litter** from this premises during the last 21 days. Manure and litter are cleaned constantly and collected until spread on fields. The other collects and piles until spread.

3. Was manure or animal material from another premises brought **onto** this premises during the last 21 days?

   ☐ Yes x☐ No If yes:

4. Have you or any of your employees (including any contractors or volunteers) visited any other premises with mink during the last 21 days (e.g., farm, slaughter, processing, market, residence with mink)?

   ☐ Yes x☐ No If yes:

5. Is there a community living situation where farm workers from this premises interact with workers from other mink facilities?

   ☐ Yes x☐ No

   If Yes, describe

6. Did any crews enter the premises during the last 21 days?

   ☐ Yes x☐ No If yes:

7. Did any others visit the premises during the last 21 days? If Yes, give date and name or company information.
8. Specify if any equipment was shared with another premises during the last 21 days, whether you received or loaned the equipment, and the location and name of the companies or premises the equipment was shared with:

9. Were any mink introduced onto the premises during the last 21 days?

   ☐ Yes x☐ No If yes:

Mink are rarely brought onto the premises from outside

10. Have any mink moved off the premises during the last 21 days?

☐ Yes x☐ No If yes: Movement of animals as described above

11. Were any mink moved within the premises during the last 21 days? (e.g., from one barn to another on the same premises)

☐ Yes x☐ No Movement of animals as described above

If Yes,

a. Was a contract crew used?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If Yes, specify company/crew name: _____

b. Was farm specific equipment used?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If No, describe: _____

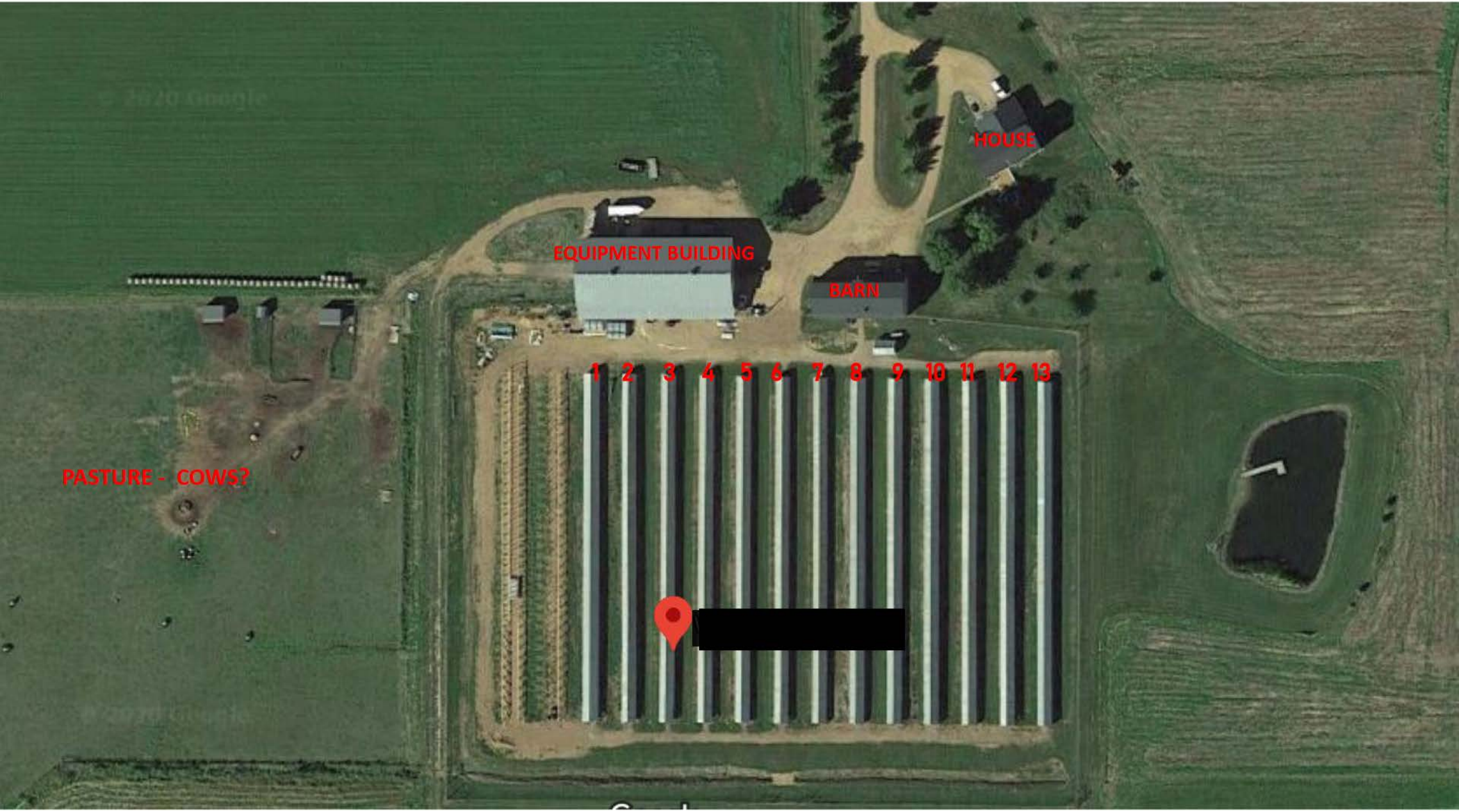
12. Is there any additional or important information that we need to know at this time regarding the disease on your farm?

☐ Yes x☐ No

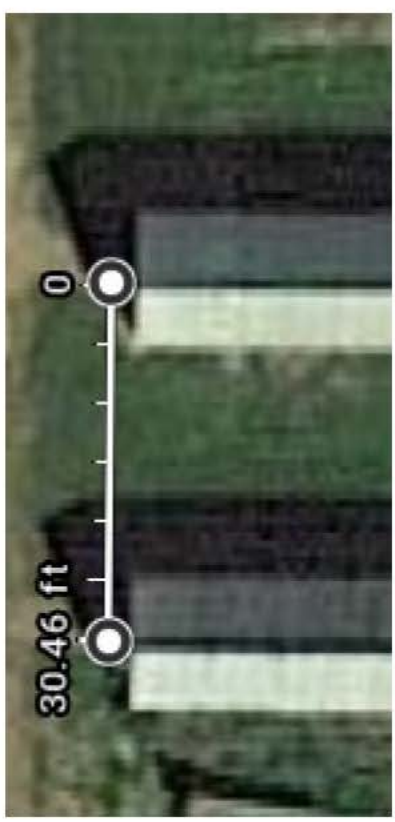
If Yes, describe: _____


[redacted]
[redacted]
Google




HOUSE
EQUIPMENT BUILDING
BARN
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13
PASTURE - COWS?


278.82 ft
200.00 ft
0


0
30.46 ft


[redacted]
[redacted]
500’
NEIGHBOR

From: Novitch, Daniel A - DATCP
To: Konkle, Darlene M - DATCP; Patton, Elisabeth A - DATCP; Bellay, Yvonne M - DATCP; Molina, Shelby L - DATCP; Olander, Doris - APHIS; Slater, Rebecca A - DATCP; Podgorski, Rebecca - DATCP
Subject: Mink Farm 1 Animal Health
Date: Thursday, November 19, 2020 5:57:43 PM

PS: The health of the mink at Mink Farm 1 has been normal for several weeks. Since November 3rd, they have lost 5 mink. None of these showed any signs of SARS COV-2 infection and they considered these "normal death loss."

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From:	Novitch, Daniel A - DATCP
To:	Konkle, Darlene M - DATCP; Patton, Elisabeth A - DATCP; Bellay, Yvonne M - DATCP; Molina, Shelby L - DATCP; Slater, Rebecca A - DATCP; Podgorski, Rebecca - DATCP; Olander, Doris - APHIS
Subject:	Mink Farm 1 Update
Date:	Thursday, November 19, 2020 5:45:59 PM

Hello Everyone:

I was at Mink Farm 1 with Becky Podgorski today to collect fur swabs from the frozen mink samples. There were two recently dead carcasses, and oropharyngeal and rectal swabs were collected from those 2 carcasses as CDC has requested. CDC initially requested that fur swab samples be collected from the frozen carcasses for 5 weeks. Next week will be week five, and I am planning to collect fur swab samples and also samples from any recently dead carcasses next week Friday. We will need to find out if CDC or WI DATCP is going to be collecting any samples after next week.

Becky Podgorski evaluated the 3 compost piles and is pleased with the history and current status of all of them. The farm is going to be composting all carcasses from the December pelting.

They will begin processing pelts next week from the melatonin implant mink that were pelted in October and November. This will generate fat that is removed from the pelt (subcutaneous fat) which is normally sold to Sanimax. At this point Sanimax has told them that it is undetermined if Sanimax will accept this fat for rendering. If Sanimax does not take this fat, then it will likely need to be landfilled.

The owners of Farm 1 have been dealing with a tremendous amount of emotional and financial stress as a result of the SARS COV-2 outbreak at their farm. Today that stress and the burden they are carrying was especially evident. They expressed their frustration at the lack of test results to date and the lack of any guidance or plan from the state to move forward. They had numerous questions and talking points today, all of which were relevant, reasonable, and understandable. One question was when will they be able to sell/move the 4 steers and 4 heifers (December 10th slaughter date reserved for 5 of the animals and no feed (or money to buy feed) for the remaining 3) and how will that decision be made. They also would like to know how the decision regarding sale of their pelts will be made. They feel this is especially timely because they are processing their first batch of pelts next week. They are wondering if there are any plans to swab/sample these pelts for the presence of virus. If there are no plans to sample the pelts, they would like to work with their veterinarian to take their own samples from the finished pelts. Their thinking is that if virus is found on this initial batch of finished pelts, they would then be able to attempt to treat them to kill any virus that is present and would also be able to alter their processing for the majority of their pelts which will be processed in December.

I hope we will be able to get answers for these questions and share a plan with them for various options moving forward.

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SARS-CoV-2 Mink Pelt Sampling Protocol

Personal Protective Equipment

- ☐ N95 or ½ face reusable respirator (respirators can be spray disinfected)
- ☐ Tyvek suit
- ☐ Water-proof boots/shoes you can easily clean and disinfect
- ☐ Nitrile gloves (double-glove and use 1 clean outer set per animal), extended cuff if available
- ☐ Face shield or goggles

Specimen collection and storage needs for pelt sampling:

Labels for each specimen →	Sampling tools for each specimen →	Containers for each specimen:
☐ Pelt swab	☐ Plastic handle polyester swab	☐ 2ml tube w/ O-ring w/ VTM

See page 3 for table with details on specimen collection, storage, and transport

Other sampling tools:

- ☐ Metal scissors (to cut swabs)
- ☐ Large Kimwipes (Kaydrys)
- ☐ Biohazard or heavy-duty garbage bags
- ☐ Tube rack

Solutions for disinfection / specimen storage

- ☐ Spray bottles with disinfectant (5% micro-chem plus)
- ☐ VTM media
- ☐ Cold packs
- ☐ Cooler

Shipping materials:

- ☐ Small Ziploc bags
- ☐ Large Ziploc bags (+/- UN3733 bags)
- ☐ Adsorbent material (WypAlls or other material)
- ☐ Packing padding (e.g., puppy pads)
- ☐ Dry ice or cold packs for shipping (up to 20 lbs for a larger box)
- ☐ Cardboard shipping boxes with Styrofoam coolers
- ☐ Shipping labels
- ☐ UN3733 Biological Specimen Category B labels (2 per box; one on top, one on the side)
- ☐ Dry ice labels
- ☐ Tape gun

Notes:

- **Spray suit/gown and gloves with disinfectant between animals.**
- **Spray sample containers with disinfectant after collection, prior to labelling/storage.**
- **Place unique-ID and date on every specimen container label.**
- **Avoid placing tubes directly onto ice pack (for example, place a puppy pad or something between tube and ice pack).**

Shipping

***Note: when shipping UN3733 specimens and/or boxes with dry ice, only certain facilities can receive these packages. Call ahead to confirm their open days/times and ability to receive these packages.*

- ☐ Place samples in a Ziploc bag.
- ☐ Samples should be packaged and shipped as Category B and all requirements for proper packaging and shipping should be observed.
    - Samples stored refrigerated should be shipped to CDC on an ice pack.
    - Frozen samples should be shipped overnight to CDC on dry ice.
- ☐ Complete line list and place form in a ziplock bag on top of the cooler (not inside).
- ☐ Seal boxes and ship immediately. Dry ice will last up to 72 hours. Use block dry ice if possible.

  Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
  TRL LAB
  ATTN: Jennifer Folster, Patricia Shewmaker TRL (Unit 66)
  1600 Clifton Road NE
  Atlanta, GA 30329
  404-639-3931
- ☐ Send line list, tracking numbers, and copies of specimen submission forms to CDC and other state/local partners.
    - One row per specimen
    - Sample needs to have matching specimen ID included physically on sample and on GFAT
    - Event ID 1626
    - Appropriate individuals to notify when samples are shipped and forms are submitted with specified subject line (Project Name-Event ID (1626))- for this project:
        - DSRSTAT (dsrstat@cdc.gov)
        - Marla Petway (vtw6@cdc.gov)
        - Jennifer Folster (apz5@cdc.gov) or Patricia Shewmaker (paw3@cdc.gov)
        - Dennis Bagarozzi (zbg7@cdc.gov)
        - Katherine Butler, LTF Coordinator (jno7@cdc.gov)
        - Sean Toney, LTF Co-Coordinator (slt9@cdc.gov)
        - Robyn Stoddard (frd8@cdc.gov)
        - One Health (oneheatlh@cdc.gov)

Sample type/order	Description of Collection	Vial	Medium	Immediate cold storage during collection	Interim cold storage prior to shipping	Transportation
Pelt swab	Rub swab across the dorsal and ventral surfaces to collect virus/viral particles, being careful not to touch surrounding animals	Sterile 2ml Sarstedt tube with O-ring	in 0.5 mls VTM	Cooler with ice*	Liquid Nitrogen or dry ice	Dry ice

*Move to dry ice or liquid Nitrogen as soon as possible.

Mink SARS-COV2 Wisconsin Farm 1 (Taylor County) Investigation update 10/12/2020 CORRECTED

10/11/2020 – CDC veterinarians Cassandra Tansey and Emily Curren arrived in Madison and DATCP veterinarian Shelby Molina met them at WVDL to help transport equipment and supplies to Taylor county. One trunk of supplies was not in the baggage from Atlanta. The airline promised to deliver the trunk to the hotel in Medford. CDC veterinarian Kate Varela, worker safety specialist, arrived separately and drove up separately to Medford.

10/12/2020

9:30 am – Meeting with Taylor County Public Health Nurse Patty Krug, who provided some details of the farm management and onset of symptoms were discussed.

1:00 pm – Meeting with Farm 1 family at farm (Dad, Mom and Son). Attended by Patty Krug, Cassandra Tansey, Emily Curren, Kate Varela, and Shelby Molina.

Update on Other farms provided by Taylor Co. Public Health (information from Friday, Oct. 9 test results): Owners, workers, or significant others with positive tests or close contacts with people who have tested positive. At least two of those mink farms are very large with many outside workers and those each have two locations. Workers on large mink farms are mainly Hispanic and there is usually a bilingual foreman on each farm to supervise and train the workers.

Farm Management:

Wisconsin Farm 1 is a small family-owned mink farm with no outside workers. Dad, mom and son do all of the work. This farm has 15 sheds and two varieties of mink, Iris (grey) and black (dark) mink. Normal mink population when fully stocked is about 12,000 (800-1200 per shed depending on cage set-up and if the cages are for pairs or singles.)

The mink shed area is high-fenced and also has a metal barrier at the bottom to prevent ingress of raccoons, skunks, wild mink and other animals. It also allows them to capture any mink that escape. They also have box traps that the mink will tend to hide in if they escape their cages. They don't often have mink that escape and they usually catch them. Grass is kept short around the sheds to discourage vermin and to make it easier to see any escapees. One skunk was recently found in the mink yard, killed and is frozen on the farm.

Feed (raw meat diet) is obtained from the Central Mink Foods, Inc., owned and used by Farm 1 plus two other farms. Mink feed is produced daily and picked up by each farm in their own mixer wagons.

Farm 1 Dad picks up the feed in the morning. Mom and Son each feed their own sheds each morning. They are each responsible for half of the farm. They each have a cart to dispense the feed onto the cages. Feeding is done by first pushing up and spreading/redistributing any leftover feed above the feeding boards, then new feed is added. Feed is again spread out in the afternoon to encourage the mink to finish it and to redistribute uneaten feed to mink that will eat it.

Dead mink are removed daily. Cages are pressure washed 1-2 times per week to knock the manure off the cages to keep the mink fur clean and unmatted. Sheds are open on the sides, but had some shade cloth on the windward side to help block the winds. Some shade cloth has been removed because the owner felt that

maybe the sheds without the wind barrier were having less death loss. In winter, they are wrapped in plastic to keep it warmer in the sheds. There are wooden dividers between the mink cages, but they do have small holes in them for air circulation.

Manure is spread on the farm's field and neighboring fields once in spring and usually twice in fall. They are currently storing some manure on the farm because of inability to spread on neighbors fields.

When cages are emptied, such as after pelting, the cages are cleaned and sprayed with Oxine (chlorine dioxide) disinfectant.

CDC will be completing a detailed questionnaire with the Farm 1 family this evening to get more management information as well as detailed stocking and death loss information.

Other animals on farm:
None of the other animals on the farm have had clinical signs of illness.
Dogs (3 of which live with Son, but come to work every day) – Kenneled and also let out to run in mink shed area, They do eat dropped mink feed if they get the chance. One springer, one English setter, and about 6 Australian Shepherds, some of which are taken to shows.
One cat – free-roaming but tame, does hunt
Belted Galloway cattle = 8 cows, 1 bull, 4 steers born 2019 that are scheduled for slaughter Dec. 2020, 4 heifers born 2019 that need to be sold, 2 heifer calves and 6 bull calves born May-July 2020. The herd is rotationally grazed on pastures on the rest of the farm. No direct contact with the mink shed area, which is fenced. No mink manure is spread on pastures. No runoff from the mink area to the cattle pastures. Cattle haven't been handled by the owners since the start of this outbreak.

Farm 1 Human illness:
Wisconsin Farm 1 Mom had initial onset of symptoms on Sept. 28 (fatigue and body aches).
She didn't think anything of it and continued to work on the farm on Sept. 28 and 29. She took off on Sept. 30th due to severe fatigue and body aches. According to CDC, people are usually contagious for up to 48 hours before symptoms (potential onset of transmission Sept. 26-28). Mom had attended a dog show (shows Australian Shepherds) about 15 days prior to onset of symptoms. She has asked her dog show contacts if anyone else became sick after the show, and no one else has reported symptoms that she knows about.

Wisconsin Farm 1 Dad had initial symptoms starting Sept. 29

Wisconsin Farm 1 Son was asymptomatic but positive on test on Oct. 3rd, but developed symptoms on Oct. 4.

Mink illness history:
Normal death loss on this farm is less than one mortality per day according to the owner.

September 30th, owner noticed many mink off feed.
Owner reports that on Sept. 30th there were 8 mink that appeared to have died of pneumonia. He contacted his veterinarian, [redacted], who suspected pseudomonas. [redacted] necropsied one of the mink – then called WVDL due to findings.
One unusual clinical sign not previously mentioned was the dark coffee-colored urine in the black mink that had died Sept. 30. Dead mink were driven to WVDL for further testing. Due to clinical signs and necropsy

finding on one mink, one of the first tests done at WVDL was for corona virus. The remaining mink carcasses are still frozen at WVDL.

Death loss kept increasing from September 30 on, averaging mostly 200 per day. The worst day was October 5th with 625 mortalities.

The most evident clinical signs during this outbreak in the mink were anorexia and respiratory difficulty. The owner reported you could hear the mink raspy breathing when entering the shed area. They tried to treat with enrofloxin, which didn't help at all. They tried Tribrissen in feed, but the mink weren't eating. They tried Resflor (florfenicol and flunixin meglumine), which they at first thought helped decrease symptoms, but didn't slow down the death loss.

Illness (first sign was mink not eating their feed) and death losses started first on the end of the farm that Mom feeds and then moved all the way across the parallel rows of sheds to the final sheds on the end where Son feeds. These final sheds are the ones still experiencing some death loss. The mink that survived in the sheds that were originally sick in late September and early October have now recovered their appetites, about 10 days after the initial mortalities.

Yesterday 10/11/20 there were 84 dead. Today 10/12/20 there were about 20 dead. The vast majority of deaths have been in adult mink over one year old. Some younger mink have died, but they are unsure if the cause is the same. They haven't done the analysis yet to determine if one color had more losses than the other color or not. CDC will gather detailed mortality information in their questionnaire.

Mink carcasses are being composted on site, using wood chips as the carbon source.

<u>Owner concerns</u>:

1) Is there any financial assistance available for their COVID-related losses? Are CARES Act funds available for this? They do have inventory and loss records to show their losses. Their insurance company states that the insurance will not pay for any of the losses. Is there either agriculture or small business funding that they might be eligible for them? (Patty Krug had already given them the Farm Center contact information. Dr. Molina also let them know that the Farm Center can help with mental health counseling, financial counseling, and farm succession planning.) They had not yet contacted the Farm Center for assistance. They would like more specific information on any financial assistance that they may be eligible for since this loss will likely mean the end of their farm unless they can get some help.

2) When can pelts be released from the quarantine for sale? Pelting season is coming up, which is the only income generating activity for the farm. Implanted mink will be pelted starting in late October. Iris mink staring November 10th and dark mink in December. This farm processes pelts on site and stores them until January when they can be trucked to the auction/grading firm (currently in Stoughton, WI). After grading, auctions usually happen once or twice a year.

3) Can the cattle be released from quarantine? Cattle sales are coming up. The 4 steers from 2019 have a custom slaughter appointment in December. The 4 heifers born in 2019 need to be sold for breeding or slaughter before winter so that they don't have to be fed over winter.

4) How can the dogs be released from quarantine? They do show their dogs and would like to know if/when they might be able to show again.

5) They experienced a feed problem in early September and wonder if the virus was introduced then. September 8th the feed contained meat from one of the pork slaughter facilities that had to shut down due to COVID cases. They also get meat products from a couple of slaughter plants in the region that have had a lot of COVID cases in employees. Mink food is not cooked. They wonder if the virus might have been brought in on feed (Mom feeds mink and was the first to get sick, but maybe the mink and Mom both got it from the exposure to the food.) The September 8th incident with the feed happened after hams from Smithfield were used in the feed that day. On September 8th all l of the mink were off feed. The feed was removed and then they had 3 days of enteritis signs that started in the 6th shed and spread through the ranch. The other two farms that got the same feed from Central Mink Foods that day didn't report that the mink were off feed. The 3 day enteritis usually happens in winter or closer to winter. This year it happened unusually early and also with more intensity than normal. The last sheds to recover from the enteritis were the first ones with pneumonia signs and death loss on September 30th. The owner saved some of this batch of food from September 8th frozen just in case he wanted to do any testing because he was alarmed that the mink didn't eat it, and because he had so much left.

6) Can starling spread this? There is another mink farm about 3 to 4 miles away. If the mink don't eat all of their food, the starlings will come in and eat it. Can birds become infected and spread SARS COV2? Can they spread in on their feet or in their feces even if they don't become infected themselves?

Upcoming events:
10/13/2020 – on-farm sampling of dogs, cat (if available), possibly cattle, and some mink. CDC is determining the sampling plan to be used based on the history and research needs.
CDC also plans to talk with [redacted] about history and management on the area mink farms.

10/17/2020 – Mink farm owner information session and train-the-trainer biosecurity and PPE session at the county courthouse. Limited space, invitation-only.

Continual updates with Taylor County public health on the status of mink farm workers and on any reported mink mortality increases.

PPE recommendations:
Non-animal areas: boots or boot-covers, face cover
Animal handling: N95 mask or respirator, gloves, boots, Tyvek coveralls, hair cover, face shield or goggles

Mink Documentation Standards

Last update: 10/26/2020

In an effort to keep things consistent and organized use the following standards.

E-mail:

Anyone that receives or sends an email in relation to the disease should create a folder for each premises in their e-mail. These e-mail communications should be moved to the correct premises folder to aid in open record request in the future.

Each email should only pertain to one premises when possible. **The subject line should be as follows:** Farm name followed by a brief description of the e-mail content (example: WisconsinFarm1_LabSubmission).

If an email does not fit in a specific category but contains valuable summaries germane to the case they can be saved to the email folder using the same naming convention as above.

Digital Files:

Non-email files are to be placed in the following location:

I:\dah\DAHshare\Disease Investigations\Mink**(Farm Name Folder, and then in the appropriate folder)**

Place the files in the correct associated folder, **using the following the naming convention--**

FarmName_FormName_yyyymmdd-or permit/quarantine number

Example: WisconsinFarm1_Quarantine_35JLM20181031.

If you are not sure what folder the file goes in, please see someone in the document unit.

Hard Copies

TBD—If documents are received in the Madison Office, scan documents and send to the appropriate staff. Once staff have reviewed and used for their needs it should be saved to the appropriate folder as a digital file. If needed we will also create a place for the paper files to be kept.

Per RDA's once the document has been scanned the hard copy can be destroyed – VERIFY WITH RDA/LEGAL

From: Bellay, Yvonne M - DATCP
To: Patton, Elisabeth A - DATCP; Novitch, Daniel A - DATCP
Cc: Molina, Shelby L - DATCP; Konkle, Darlene M - DATCP
Subject: RE: CDC contact - sample tube labels
Date: Thursday, October 29, 2020 3:12:49 PM
Attachments: image001.jpg

Dan,

I think this is what you need.

The samples can be batched and sent weekly. They do not have to go to the lab. They should be sent by FedEx overnight on cold packs. Best for CDC to get within 72 hours after sampling if no -80 freezer available.

The VTM and swabs have been sent. Should be enough for 5 samplings. Put animal ID from metal tags on tube as well as date drawn.

Details in protocol as well as mailing address.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
TRL LAB
ATTN: Jennifer Folster, Patricia Shewmaker TRL (Unit 66)
1600 Clifton Road NE
Atlanta, GA 30329
404-639-3931

Yvonne M Bellay, DVM, MS
Animal Welfare Programs Manager/Epidemiologist- Bureau of Animal Disease Control/Division of Animal Health
Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
Phone: (608)-224-4888
Fax: (608) 224-4871
Yvonne.bellay@Wisconsin.gov

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

From: Bellay, Yvonne M - DATCP
Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2020 2:42 PM
To: Patton, Elisabeth A - DATCP <Elisabeth.Patton@wisconsin.gov>; Novitch, Daniel A - DATCP <Daniel.Novitch@wisconsin.gov>
Cc: Molina, Shelby L - DATCP <Shelby.Molina@wisconsin.gov>; Konkle, Darlene M - DATCP <Darlene.Konkle@wisconsin.gov>
Subject: RE: CDC contact - sample tube labels

Waiting for responses.

Yvonne M Bellay, DVM, MS
Animal Welfare Programs Manager/Epidemiologist- Bureau of Animal Disease Control/Division of Animal Health
Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
Phone: (608)-224-4888
Fax: (608) 224-4871
Yvonne.bellay@Wisconsin.gov

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

From: Patton, Elisabeth A - DATCP <Elisabeth.Patton@wisconsin.gov>
Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2020 12:03 PM
To: Novitch, Daniel A - DATCP <Daniel.Novitch@wisconsin.gov>; Bellay, Yvonne M - DATCP <Yvonne.Bellay@wisconsin.gov>
Cc: Molina, Shelby L - DATCP <Shelby.Molina@wisconsin.gov>; Konkle, Darlene M - DATCP <Darlene.Konkle@wisconsin.gov>
Subject: RE: CDC contact - sample tube labels

Dr. Bellay,
If you have not, can you please check in with CDC on how they want to get these samples? Batched on weekly after collection and how they need to be shipped- all WVDL will have is ice packs to ship them on.

Dr. Novitch,
I'll check back with WVDL on what form they want completed for these and will leave the CDC piece with Dr. Bellay.
Usually 4:30 is the latest they have someone there. Is that possible for Becky to make it back to Madison by 4:30 after your visit? If not, may be another question for CDC on whether to collect or not.

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: Novitch, Daniel A - DATCP <Daniel.Novitch@wisconsin.gov>
Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2020 11:52 AM
To: Bellay, Yvonne M - DATCP <Yvonne.Bellay@wisconsin.gov>
Cc: Patton, Elisabeth A - DATCP <Elisabeth.Patton@wisconsin.gov>; Molina, Shelby L - DATCP <Shelby.Molina@wisconsin.gov>; Konkle, Darlene M - DATCP <Darlene.Konkle@wisconsin.gov>
Subject: Re: CDC contact - sample tube labels

Is the plan still to have Becky Podgorski deliver samples to WVDL for -80 storage over the weekend? If so, who is her drop off contact and what is the latest she can deliver the samples? Will WVDL then take care of shipping to CDC on Monday?

Thanks,

Dan

Daniel A. Novitch, DVM
District Veterinarian - Division of Animal Health
Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection
715 218-2620
daniel.novitch@wisconsin.gov

> On Oct 28, 2020, at 5:02 PM, Bellay, Yvonne M - DATCP <Yvonne.Bellay@wisconsin.gov> wrote:
>
> Dan,
>
> The box will arrive by noon tomorrow. The VTM should be kept between 2-8C, so they will arrive on cold packs.

Yvonne M Bellay, DVM, MS
Animal Welfare Programs Manager/Epidemiologist- Bureau of Animal Disease Control/Division of Animal Health
Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
Phone: (608)-224-4888
Fax: (608) 224-4871
Yvonne.bellay@Wisconsin.gov

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

From: Patton, Elisabeth A - DATCP <Elisabeth.Patton@wisconsin.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 28, 2020 3:26 PM
To: Molina, Shelby L - DATCP <Shelby.Molina@wisconsin.gov>; Bellay, Yvonne M - DATCP <Yvonne.Bellay@wisconsin.gov>; Konkle, Darlene M - DATCP <Darlene.Konkle@wisconsin.gov>; Novitch, Daniel A - DATCP <Daniel.Novitch@wisconsin.gov>
Subject: RE: CDC contact - sample tube labels

We can send samples to WVDL to store. Keith suggested sending it in with a submission form so that an accession could be assigned to it.
Ill see which forms they want and how they want them completed, but sounds like they can store them until they are shipped to CDC.

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
<image001.jpg>
Please complete this brief survey to help us improve our customer service. Thank you for your feedback!

From: Molina, Shelby L - DATCP <Shelby.Molina@wisconsin.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 28, 2020 2:55 PM

To: Patton, Elisabeth A - DATCP <Elisabeth.Patton@wisconsin.gov>; Bellay, Yvonne M - DATCP <Yvonne.Bellay@wisconsin.gov>; Konkle, Darlene M - DATCP <Darlene.Konkle@wisconsin.gov>; Novitch, Daniel A - DATCP <Daniel.Novitch@wisconsin.gov>
Subject: RE: CDC contact - sample tube labels

They used pre-generated labels with bar codes on the tubes and sample submission paperwork. I don't know what type of submission form was used.

Shelby Molina, DVM
Field Veterinary Supervisor – Division of Animal Health
Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
608-516-9125
shelby.molina@wisconsin.gov

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

From: Molina, Shelby L - DATCP
Sent: Wednesday, October 28, 2020 2:52 PM
To: Patton, Elisabeth A - DATCP <Elisabeth.Patton@wisconsin.gov>; Bellay, Yvonne M - DATCP <Yvonne.Bellay@wisconsin.gov>; Konkle, Darlene M - DATCP <Darlene.Konkle@wisconsin.gov>; Novitch, Daniel A - DATCP <Daniel.Novitch@wisconsin.gov>
Subject: RE: CDC contact

As far as the protocol for fur swabs, when I observed all they did was run the swab through the fur along the back a few times and put in the Viral Transport Media.

Shelby Molina, DVM
Field Veterinary Supervisor – Division of Animal Health
Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
608-516-9125
shelby.molina@wisconsin.gov

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

From: Patton, Elisabeth A - DATCP <Elisabeth.Patton@wisconsin.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, October 28, 2020 1:47 PM
To: Bellay, Yvonne M - DATCP <Yvonne.Bellay@wisconsin.gov>; Konkle, Darlene M - DATCP <Darlene.Konkle@wisconsin.gov>; Novitch, Daniel A - DATCP <Daniel.Novitch@wisconsin.gov>; Molina, Shelby L - DATCP <Shelby.Molina@wisconsin.gov>
Subject: RE: CDC contact

Awesome. Thanks Dr. Bellay!
Dr. Bellay for the other questions, I assume we will proceed with composting at this time.
If we get additional information from CDC/DPH discussions, we can amend.
Do you have other thoughts on that?

Elisabeth

Elisabeth Patton, DVM, PhD, Diplomate ACVIM
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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
<image001.jpg>
Please complete this brief survey to help us improve our customer service. Thank you for your feedback!

From: Bellay, Yvonne M - DATCP <Yvonne.Bellay@wisconsin.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 28, 2020 1:24 PM
To: Patton, Elisabeth A - DATCP <Elisabeth.Patton@wisconsin.gov>; Konkle, Darlene M - DATCP <Darlene.Konkle@wisconsin.gov>; Novitch, Daniel A - DATCP <Daniel.Novitch@wisconsin.gov>; Molina, Shelby L - DATCP <Shelby.Molina@wisconsin.gov>
Subject: RE: CDC contact

Here is the protocol from CDC. I requested VTM and swabs be sent. No problem with Friday sampling.

Issue of rendering will have to be part of a larger discussion to ensure worker safety.

Yvonne M Bellay, DVM, MS
Animal Welfare Programs Manager/Epidemiologist- Bureau of Animal Disease

Control/Division of Animal Health
Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
Phone: (608)-224-4888
Fax: (608) 224-4871
Yvonne.bellay@Wisconsin.gov

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

From: Patton, Elisabeth A - DATCP <Elisabeth.Patton@wisconsin.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 28, 2020 1:06 PM
To: Bellay, Yvonne M - DATCP <Yvonne.Bellay@wisconsin.gov>; Konkle, Darlene M - DATCP <Darlene.Konkle@wisconsin.gov>; Novitch, Daniel A - DATCP <Daniel.Novitch@wisconsin.gov>; Molina, Shelby L - DATCP <Shelby.Molina@wisconsin.gov>
Subject: RE: CDC contact

Probably Dr. Bellay. Depends on what is being used an whether or not he/we have it. Protocol would help determine that.

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
<image001.jpg>
Please complete this brief survey to help us improve our customer service. Thank you for your feedback!

From: Bellay, Yvonne M - DATCP <Yvonne.Bellay@wisconsin.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 28, 2020 12:34 PM
To: Patton, Elisabeth A - DATCP <Elisabeth.Patton@wisconsin.gov>; Konkle, Darlene M - DATCP <Darlene.Konkle@wisconsin.gov>; Novitch, Daniel A - DATCP <Daniel.Novitch@wisconsin.gov>; Molina, Shelby L - DATCP <Shelby.Molina@wisconsin.gov>

Subject: RE: CDC contact

I was asked if Dan needs transport media and swabs. Will those need to come from CDC? If so, they will send them out.

Yvonne M Bellay, DVM, MS
Animal Welfare Programs Manager/Epidemiologist- Bureau of Animal Disease Control/Division of Animal Health
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Phone: (608)-224-4888
Fax: (608) 224-4871
Yvonne.bellay@Wisconsin.gov

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

From: Patton, Elisabeth A - DATCP <Elisabeth.Patton@wisconsin.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 28, 2020 10:08 AM
To: Bellay, Yvonne M - DATCP <Yvonne.Bellay@wisconsin.gov>; Konkle, Darlene M - DATCP <Darlene.Konkle@wisconsin.gov>; Novitch, Daniel A - DATCP <Daniel.Novitch@wisconsin.gov>; Molina, Shelby L - DATCP <Shelby.Molina@wisconsin.gov>
Subject: RE: CDC contact

Dr. Novitch,
I would plan on doing the fur swabs on Friday as we discussed on our call this week.
Do you need a protocol for fur swabbing?
Hopefully Dr. Bellay will be able to contact someone at CDC before then.
I'll contact WVDL to confirm that they will hold samples in -80 freezer, pending info from CDC.

Elisabeth

Elisabeth Patton, DVM, PhD, Diplomate ACVIM
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Division of Animal Health
Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
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608-212-9571 cell
608-224-4871 fax
elisabeth.patton@wisconsin.gov

<image001.jpg>
Please complete this brief survey to help us improve our customer service. Thank you for your feedback!

From: Bellay, Yvonne M - DATCP <Yvonne.Bellay@wisconsin.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 28, 2020 9:17 AM
To: Patton, Elisabeth A - DATCP <Elisabeth.Patton@wisconsin.gov>; Konkle, Darlene M - DATCP <Darlene.Konkle@wisconsin.gov>; Novitch, Daniel A - DATCP <Daniel.Novitch@wisconsin.gov>; Molina, Shelby L - DATCP <Shelby.Molina@wisconsin.gov>
Subject: RE: CDC contact

I sent the request directly to both Casandra and Casey. Casandra sent the response that the plan is being reviewed, but should be back to me by yesterday. I left a voice mail and email asking if there was any update, got no response.

Yvonne M Bellay, DVM, MS
Animal Welfare Programs Manager/Epidemiologist- Bureau of Animal Disease Control/Division of Animal Health
Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
Phone: (608)-224-4888
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Yvonne.bellay@Wisconsin.gov

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

From: Patton, Elisabeth A - DATCP <Elisabeth.Patton@wisconsin.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 28, 2020 9:10 AM
To: Bellay, Yvonne M - DATCP <Yvonne.Bellay@wisconsin.gov>; Konkle, Darlene M - DATCP <Darlene.Konkle@wisconsin.gov>; Novitch, Daniel A - DATCP <Daniel.Novitch@wisconsin.gov>; Molina, Shelby L - DATCP <Shelby.Molina@wisconsin.gov>
Subject: RE: CDC contact

Thanks for the update Dr. Bellay. Who is your contact at CDC? Anyone else that you could try reaching out to? Casey?

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
<image001.jpg>
Please complete this brief survey to help us improve our customer service. Thank you for your feedback!

From: Bellay, Yvonne M - DATCP <Yvonne.Bellay@wisconsin.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 27, 2020 9:19 PM
To: Konkle, Darlene M - DATCP <Darlene.Konkle@wisconsin.gov>; Patton, Elisabeth A - DATCP <Elisabeth.Patton@wisconsin.gov>; Novitch, Daniel A - DATCP <Daniel.Novitch@wisconsin.gov>; Molina, Shelby L - DATCP <Shelby.Molina@wisconsin.gov>
Subject: CDC contact

Just an FYI. I have not heard anything from CDC regarding a testing plan, or whether or not testing can be done on Friday vs. Wednesday. I sent an email and left a voice mail message but have heard nothing.

Yvonne M Bellay, DVM, MS
Animal Welfare Programs Manager/Epidemiologist- Bureau of Animal Disease Control/Division of Animal Health
Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
Phone: (608)-224-4888
Fax: (608) 224-4871
Yvonne.bellay@Wisconsin.gov

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

SAGAfurs North America
205 Industrial Circle
Stoughton, WI 53589

Name [redacted]
Ranch
Addre

Shipping Date: 1 / 20 / 2021
Acct #: [redacted] CAN: | | | | | | |
Total Cartons: 12 Ticketed: Yes ☐ No ☒
Desired Auction: Dixon- Braun Group

Carton #	Sex	Black	Maho-gany	Demi Brown	Pastel	Palo-mino	Pearl	White	Violet	Lave-nder	Peach	Blue Iris	Sapp-hire	Silver Blue	Cross	Other Misc.	Carton Total	SAGA Count
1	m	500															500	
2	F	1000															1000	
3	m	500															500	
4	m	500															500	
5	F	1000															1000	
6	m	500															500	
7	m	500															500	
8	F	1000															1000	
9	F	1000															1000	
10	m	500															500	
11	m	487															487	
12	F	333															333	
TOTAL		3487m 4333F															7820	

Special Selling Instructions:

KEEP BACK COPY FOR YOUR RECORDS.

SAGAfurs North America
205 Industrial Circle
Stoughton, WI 53589

Name: [redacted]
Ranch N
Address:

Shipping Date: 1/20/2021
Acct # [redacted] CAN: | | | | | | |
Total Cartons: 2 Ticketed: Yes ☐ No ☒
Desired Auction: Dixon- Brown group

Carton #	Sex	Black	Maho-gany	Demi Brown	Pastel	Palo-mino	Pearl	White	Violet	Lave-nder	Peach	Blue Iris	Sapp-hire	Silver Blue	Cross	Other Misc.	Carton Total	SAGA Count
1	M	399															399	
2	F	537															537	
TOTAL		936															936	

Special Selling Instructions:

KEEP BACK COPY FOR YOUR RECORDS.

SAGAfurs North America
205 Industrial Circle
Stoughton, WI 53589

Name: [redacted]
Ranch N[redacted]
Address [redacted]

Shipping Date: 1 / 20 / 2021
Acct # [redacted] CAN: | | | | | | |
Total Cartons: 12 Ticketed: Yes ☐ No ☒
Desired Auction: Dixon- Braun Group

Carton #	Sex	Black	Mahogany	Demi Brown	Pastel	Palomino	Pearl	White	Violet	Lavender	Peach	Blue Iris	Sapphire	Silver Blue	Cross	Other Misc.	Carton Total	SAGA Count
1	m	500															500	
2	F	1000															1000	
3	m	500															500	
4	m	500															500	
5	F	1000															1000	
6	m	500															500	
7	m	500															500	
8	F	1000															1000	
9	F	1000															1000	
10	m	500															500	
11	m	487															487	
12	F	333															333	
TOTAL		3487m 4333F															7820	

Special Selling Instructions:

KEEP BACK COPY FOR YOUR RECORDS.

SAGAfurs North America
205 Industrial Circle
Stoughton, WI 53589

Name: [redacted]
Ranch N
Address

Shipping Date: 1/20/2021
Acct #: [redacted] CAN: | | | | | | |
Total Cartons: 2 Ticketed: Yes ☐ No ☒
Desired Auction: Dixon- Brown group

Carton #	Sex	Black	Maho-gany	Demi Brown	Pastel	Palo-mino	Pearl	White	Violet	Lave-nder	Peach	Blue Iris	Sapp-hire	Silver Blue	Cross	Other Misc.	Carton Total	SAGA Count
1	M	399															399	
2	F	537															537	
TOTAL		936															936	

Special Selling Instructions:

KEEP BACK COPY FOR YOUR RECORDS.

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

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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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WI Farm 1 Contacts

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Minkys Vet

[redacted]

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ID Number	Species	Color	Age	Sex	Swab Date
WI-F1-067	Musteline	black	Juvenile	male	10/30/20
WI-F1-068	Musteline	black	Juvenile	female	10/30/20
WI-F1-069	Musteline	black	Adult	female	10/30/20
WI-F1-119	Musteline	blue iris	Juvenile	female	10/30/20
WI-F1-118	Musteline	black	Juvenile	male	10/30/20
WI-F1-117	Musteline	blue iris	Juvenile	male	10/30/20
WI-F1-116	Musteline	black	Juvenile	male	10/30/20
WI-F1-115	Musteline	blue iris	Juvenile	male	10/30/20
WI-F1-114	Musteline	blue iris	Juvenile	female	10/30/20
WI-F1-113	Musteline	blue iris	Juvenile	female	10/30/20

Restricted Use/Any User (No encryption)

[redacted] Fur Farms Composting Protocol:

Initial Site Assessment (via phone on 10/3/20):

- There are 14,500 mink (kits and old). Average weight of the males: 4.5-5lb. Average weight of females: 2.5-3lb.
- There are 15 sheds. 12' wide x 270' long. Two rows of mink under 1 roof. There are 5' between the two rows and 20' between each shed. There is a door at each end of the shed approximately 5 ½' wide.
- There is a guard fence around the perimeter with metal on the bottom to keep animals from climbing the fence.
- Currently [redacted] does not plan to euthanize all mink. East side of ranch is the worst, on the west side starting to notice disease. Received medicine, hoping it will minimize losses.
- Given shed dimensions, and the intent not to euthanize all mink, outdoor composting is necessary.



Siting:

- [redacted] has identified an area on the south side of the mink ranch that should work.
- Siting considerations:
  - Be located such that the prevailing wind directions do not travel to nearby residences and uninfected farms and communities (whenever possible);
  - Be located at the top of the slope of the field, on moderately-well to well drained soils (usually land that is used for crop production);
  - Have a gentle 2% to 4% slope to encourage on-site drainage;
  - Contain on-site soil depths or be modified, such as create a thicker base layer, to achieve at least 24-inches to seasonal high-water tables;

- Contain on-site soil depths in excess of 36-inches to bedrock;
- Not be located on a flood plain;
- Have (or construct) diversion ditches, terraces, or berms to direct surface water flows and storm water away from active compost piles. (Note that if piles are located between production houses, then roof and surface drainage should be directed away from the compost area); and
- Meet state-specific setback requirements, which should be no less than (Shown in Figure 7):
    - 200-feet from a water supply well used for drinking;
    - 200-feet from water bodies, including: ponds, lakes, streams, rivers;
    - 200-feet from a nearby residence (not owned by the premises);
    - 50-feet from a drainage swale that leads to a water body (see above); and
    - 25-feet from a drainage swale that does not lead to a water body

Carbon Sources and Protocol:

[redacted] has composted in the past. He used corn stover and layered the carcasses. We discussed using a similar strategy. He can build the base of the windrow and add to it as needed to manage deadstock. He has saw dust, it's preferable to incorporate chunkier carbon into the base such as woodchips or corn stover with the saw dust. Using only saw dust may lead to anaerobic activity (rot vs. decomposition). As the carcasses decompose and release fluids, the saw dust will absorb, compact, and limit air flow into the pile if chunkier carbon is not incorporated.

[redacted] will reach out to his brother and inquire if corn stover is available. I recommended local municipalities that may have compost sites with woodchips for community use. DNR should be advised and may have contacts. There may be restrictions to moving woodchips across county lines.

We discussed incorporating manure in the compost. [redacted] will ask [redacted] if he is comfortable with this.

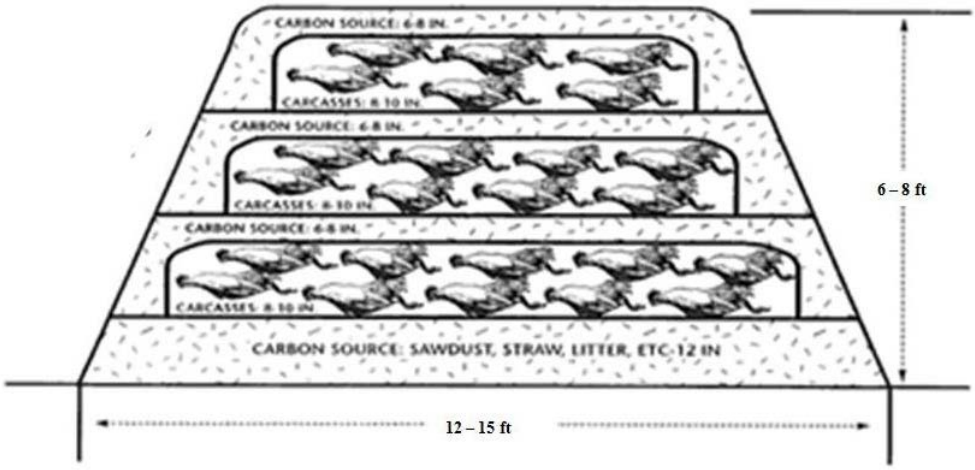
Layering Protocol:

- Lay down a base of carbon (e.g. woodchips, stover or chunky carbon mixed with sawdust) ~12' wide x 12"- 15" high.
- Add a 12"-15" layer of mink carcasses (may add 2" of manure if acceptable), then cover with 10"-12" of carbon.
- Add another layer of mink/manure, then carbon until the windrow is two or three layers high and as long as needed.
- Cover the windrow with an 8–12 inch layer of wood chips or other carbon source. The finished pile should be 6 to 8 feet high.
- May prepare the base of the windrow to add on as needed.

Extended base:



Cross Section of Pile:



CARCASSES COMPOSTING WINDROW X-SECTION

Compost Monitoring:

Temperature is an important part of pile monitoring. Generally for pathogen destruction the goal is to reach an average temperature of 131F for a minimum of 72 hours, however, this varies based on the pathogen. Temperatures should be taken at 10 different locations on the windrow daily (recommend using survey flags to mark temperature sites) using a thermometer with a probe measuring 18”- 36”. Temperatures may be taken at varying heights across the windrow e.g. 3’ and 4’.

Estimate of Carbon Needs:
~13 cu yds for 500 mink with ave. wt of 3.5lbs
~46 cu yds for 2500 mink with ave. wt of 3.5lbs
See attached

Contacts:

WI-DATCP-DAH Compost SME
Rebecca Podgorski
Cell: 608-290-0157
Email: Rebecca.Podgorski@wi.gov

WI-DNR Waste Specialist
Bob Germer
Cell: 715-419-0080
Email: Robert.Germer@wisconsin.gov

Resources:
USDA – APHIS HPAI Compost Protocol:
https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/emergency_management/downloads/hpai/mortalitycompostingprotocol.pdf

Cornell Waste Management Institute, Compost Mortality How-To Poster:
https://ecommons.cornell.edu/bitstream/handle/1813/45866/compostingmortalityhowto.pdf?sequence=2&isAllowed=y

Carbon Calculators:
https://www.iowapork.org/producer-resources/resources-and-information/covid-19/composting-toolbox/

State of Wisconsin
Governor Tony Evers

Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

Summary Prepared by:
Rebecca Podgorski 01/27/21

Taylor 1 Compost Update:

The compost piles are located on the owner's property, outside the fenced area where the mink are housed. There are three compost piles that contain mink carcasses and manure. The owner has continued to regularly provide compost build updates, photos, and temperature measurements for monitoring the piles.

On 12/8/20 and 12/19/20 Dr. Novitch and I visited the premises for a compost assessment. Findings are included in the report below.

Pile Summary

Pile 1: Has met all time/temperature requirements for release on 11/18/20.
Pile 2: Has met all time/temperature requirements for release on 12/3/20.
Pile 3: Has been combined with Pile 4 – Closed on 12/13/20.
Pile 4: Holding until spring thaw – re-evaluation

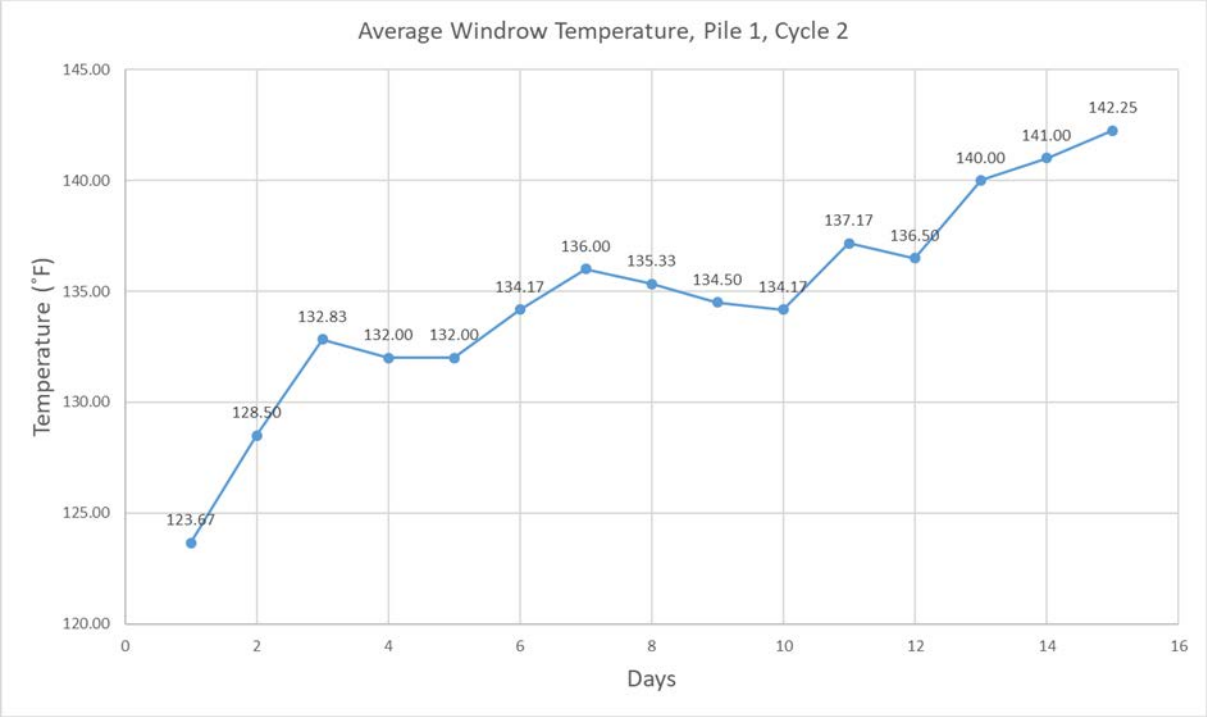
Individual Pile Summaries

<u>Pile 1</u>	Finished
10/12/20:	Construction completed using leaves, saw dust, shredded wood, mortality, and manure.
10/30/20:	Cycle 1 completed.
10/31/20:	Pile was turned and recapped with clean carbon.
11/18/20:	Cycle 2 completed and released.
<u>Pile 2</u>	Finished
10/30/20:	Construction completed using woodchips, pelted carcasses, and manure.
11/18/20:	Cycle 1 completed.
11/19/20:	Pile was turned and recapped with clean carbon.
12/3/20:	Cycle 2 completed and released.
<u>Pile 3</u>	Combined with Pile 4 – no longer exists
11/20/20:	Construction completed using corn stover, pelted carcasses, thawed mortalities, and manure.
12/3/20:	Cycle 1 incomplete – pile did not reach adequate temperatures.
12/8/20:	Pile slumped, temperatures still lower than expected.
12/9/20:	Pile combined with Pile 4.

Pile 4 Finish in spring
12/13/20: Construction completed using pelted carcasses, manure and Pile 1 as carbon.
12/26/20: Cycle 1 completed.
Spring 2021: Cycle 1 may be repeated if new material is added, or Cycle 2 will commence.

Detailed Pile Reports and Images

Pile 1

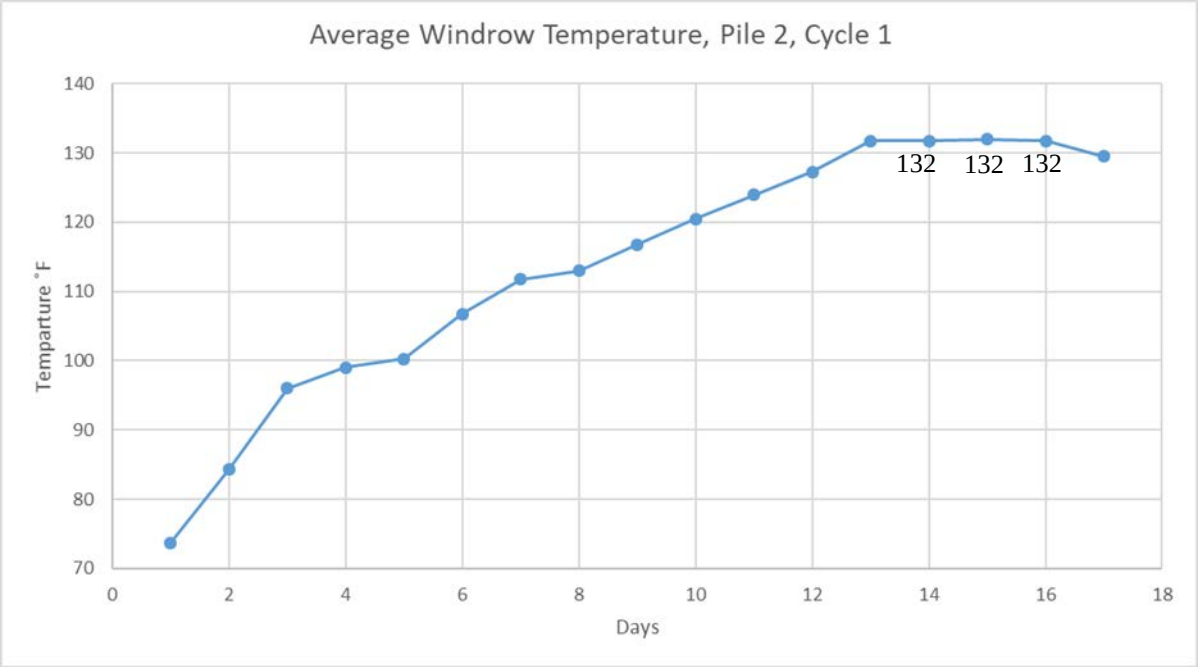


11/1/20 – 11/18/20

The owner turned Pile 1 on 10/31/20, recapped with clean carbon, and began taking Cycle 2 temperatures at 6 locations (18” and 36” depth) on 11/1/20. The average pile temperatures exceeded 131℉ for more than 3 consecutive days.
After the pile completed 14 days of composting, it was considered released.

Pile 2

Pile 2 completed the first cycle (17 days) on 11/18/20. The Pile reached the target temperature of >131℉ for 3 consecutive days within the last 5 days of the cycle.



10/30/20 – 11/18/20

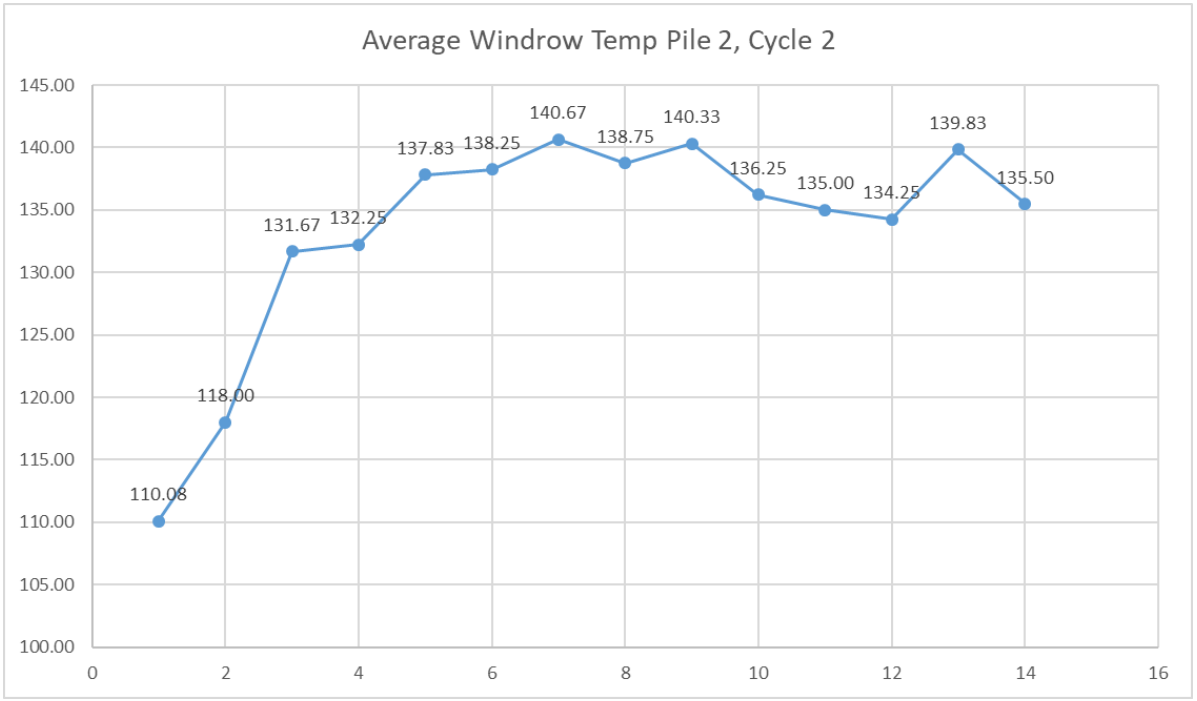
11/19/20:

I assessed two locations in the pile manually by digging into the core area where the carcasses were contained on either side of the pile. Upon visual examination the cap was intact and undisturbed, and no flesh was found. The pile was releasing steam as the core was exposed. I told the owner that he could turn the pile as it had reached time/temperature requirements.

Pile 2: Dig site 1,
No flesh observed



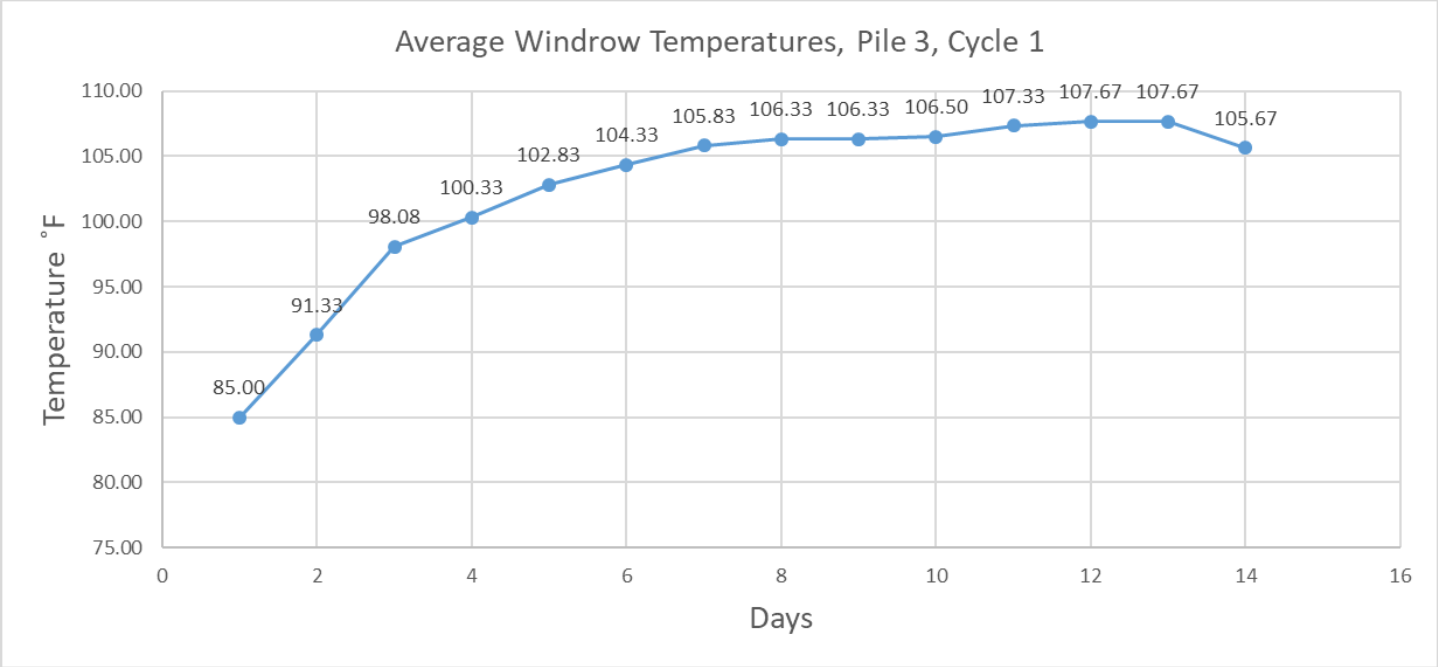
Pile 2 completed the second cycle (14 days) on 12/3/20. The Pile reached the target temperature of >131℉ for 3 consecutive days within the first 7 days of the cycle.



11/20/20 – 12/3/20

Pile 3

Pile 3 composting began on 11/20/20. The pile consists of corn stover, pelted carcasses, thawed mortalities, and manure. The owner began taking temperatures at 6 locations (18" and 36" depth). This pile completed 14 days of composting on 12/3/20, however, target temperatures were not reached. The highest average windrow temperature was 107° F for 3 consecutive days.



11/20/20 – 12/3/20

Pile 3 had shrunk considerably and was approximately 3.5' – 4' high on 12/8/20. Internal (and ambient) temperatures were also dropping. I assessed two locations in the pile by digging into the core area where the carcasses were contained on either side of the pile. Upon visual examination the cap was intact and undisturbed, and no leachate was found near the base. Flesh was found in the pile on both sides.

Pile 3:
Dig site 2, flesh

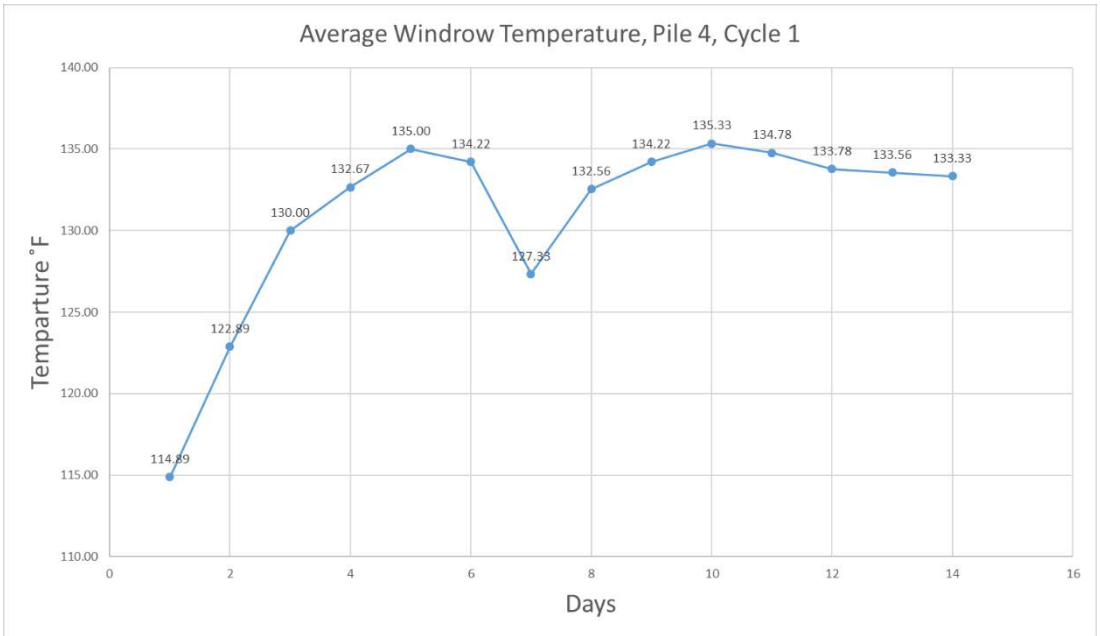


Recommendation for Pile 3: Pile 4 was currently in construction on the end of Pile 3, and already releasing steam from the top. Recommended adding volume to Pile 3: Level out the cap, add approximately 5" of Pile 1, a layer of carcasses, approximately 5" of manure and cap with 12" of carbon.

Pile 4

On 12/8/20, Dr. Novitch and I observed half of Pile 4 while pelting was still in process. Pile 4 was emitting steam through the top and temperatures were taken at 18" / 36" and the core temperatures were lower. This is likely because oxygen levels were greater at the 18" depth early in the process.

Location	Temperature: 18" depth	Temperature: 36" depth
North East	111° F	102° F
North	118° F	102° F
South West	107° F	89° F
West	124° F	114° F



12/13/20 – 12/26/20

Pile 4 has completed Cycle 1 and achieved target time and temperature. The Pile is now under snow and the temperatures have plateaued.

Composting Plan

The owner has nearly completed pelting for the year. All mortalities have been incorporated into compost piles along with the routine pelted carcasses. Pile 1 has been used as a carbon source for Pile 4, and about 1/3 of Pile 2 was also used. Approximately half of the large manure pile has been used, and there is a smaller manure pile that has not been used.

After consulting with Jean Bonhotal with Cornell Waste Management Institute, Pile 4 will be managed in the springtime after ambient temperatures begin to rise. It is not advisable to turn the pile when it is covered in snow, and the ambient temperatures are below freezing.

In spring 2021 manure will be incorporated into a pile using carbon from Pile 2 and into Pile 4 if needed to heat again.

<u>Potential Future Obstacles</u>

- Timing of manure disposal; it will be necessary to know what manure should be moved from the ranch to the compost area for disposal by spring. This will depend on viral shedding of breeders left on the ranch.
- The spring reheat of the piles may take additional time. The second cycle of Pile 4 may not be released until mid-late April.