

**Voluntary Report** – Voluntary - Public Distribution

**Date:** June 18,2020

**Report Number:** DA2020-0004

**Report Name:** Government to Cull Mink on COVID-19 Infected Farm in North Jutland

**Country:** Denmark

**Post:** The Hague

**Report Category:** Livestock and Products, Agriculture in the News, Agricultural Situation

**Prepared By:** FAS/The Hague Staff

**Approved By:** Christopher Riker

**Report Highlights:**

The Danish Veterinary and Food Administration has confirmed that coronavirus (COVID-19) has been detected in mink on a farm in North Jutland, after an individual associated with the farm was found to have the virus. Out of an abundance of caution, the infected mink herd will be culled in order to minimize the risk of possible spread of the virus.

## Background

Despite tightening global supplies, 1,500 Danish fur farmers produce approximately 19 million mink skins each year making Denmark the world's largest producer.<sup>1</sup>



Source: <https://www.kopenhagenfur.com/en/news/2018/june/2019-mink-production-projection/>

After the [Danish Patient Safety Authority](#) identified a patient with COVID-19 who was associated with a mink farm in North Jutland, samples were taken from 34 mink on the farm. Analysis of the samples was conducted by the [Danish State Serum Institute](#) and the Danish government subsequently confirmed the presence of the virus among the farm's mink population. Accordingly, the government will cull the 11,000 mink on the farm in order to minimize the risk of possible spread of the virus.<sup>2</sup> This is the first mink farm in Denmark to have COVID-19 identified among its mink population.

Nikolas Kühn Hove, the Head of Crises Management at the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration (known in Danish as the Fødevarestyrelsen), commented that as soon as there were suspicions that mink may have been infected, the government placed immediate restrictions on the farm.<sup>3</sup> The government is now developing a testing program to determine if there are other mink farms in the area that may have been infected, as well as a response program to address any future outbreaks.

The Danish authorities added they have been in regular contact about this development with their Dutch colleagues who have been addressing the same issue in the Netherlands. See, e.g., [NL2020-0025:](#)

<sup>1</sup> <https://agricultureandfood.dk/danish-agriculture-and-food/mink-and-fur>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-denmark-mink/mink-at-danish-farm-to-be-culled-after-catching-coronavirus-idUSKBN23O1PH>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.foedevarestyrelsen.dk/Nyheder/Aktuelt/Sider/Pressemeddelelser%202020/Covid-19-i-nordjysk-minkbes%C3%A6tning.aspx>

[Government to Cull Mink on COVID-19 Infected Farms](#). To date, more than 570,000 mink have been culled in the Netherlands due to COVID-19.<sup>4</sup>

The Fødevarestyrelsen has encouraged Danish mink farms to continue to follow the requisite hygiene rules (e.g., frequent washing of hands and changing clothes both before and after visits with the animals).

**Attachments:**

No Attachments.

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.omroepbrabant.nl/nieuws/3218157/ruim-570000-nertsen-geruimd-op-alle-met-corona-besmette-fokkerijen>