

**Voluntary Report** – Voluntary - Public Distribution

**Date:** September 03,2020

**Report Number:** DA2020-0008

**Report Name:** Sixth Danish Mink Farm Infected by Coronavirus

**Country:** Denmark

**Post:** The Hague

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

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**Report Highlights:**

Denmark is the world's largest producer of mink skins. Since July 2020, the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration (DVFA) has monitored Denmark's 1,200 mink farms for the presence of the coronavirus (COVID-19). As of this report, Danish authorities have identified six mink farms where COVID-19 has been detected. With a monitoring strategy and the stricter restrictions for infected mink farms, the DVFA and the Danish health authorities assess that it is justifiable to let infected herds live because the risk of spreading infection to humans is minimal. Henceforth, the DVFA will no longer issue press releases on individual findings of COVID-19 on Danish mink farms. Instead, herds with confirmed infections will be identified on the DVFA's website: <https://www.foedevarestyrelsen.dk>.

## Background

After the [Danish Patient Safety Authority](#) identified a patient in June 2020 with coronavirus (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](#). The Danish government subsequently confirmed the presence of the virus among the farm's mink population. For additional information, see [DA2020-004: Government to Cull Mink on COVID-19 Infected Farm in North Jutland](#).

## Government Continues to Identify Infected Farms

Since the initial finding, the Danes have identified five additional mink farms with the presence of COVID-19 (bringing the total number of infected mink farms since the summer of 2020 to six).

- An infection on a farm in North Jutland identified on June 17, 2020 (as reported above);
- An infection on a farm in North Jutland identified on June 29, 2020;<sup>1</sup>
- An infection on a farm in Hjørring municipality identified on July 1, 2020;<sup>2</sup>
- An infection on a farm in Hjørring Municipality identified on August 14, 2020;<sup>3</sup>
- An infection on a farm in North Jutland identified on August 26, 2020;<sup>4</sup> and,
- An infection on a farm in Hirtshals Municipality identified on September 2, 2020.<sup>5</sup>

Nikolas Hove, Emergency Manager at the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration (DVFA), stated, with respect to the most recent detection, “{t}o avoid infection outside the mink farm, we have, as with the other infected farms, put an iron ring around it. We did this already when we suspected the infection. The farm is now subject to strict restrictions. For example, visitors must wear special protective equipment, as well as take a shower and wash their clothes after they have been inside the farm.”<sup>6</sup> Danish authorities have also evaluated enclosures to minimize the risk of escape, and the farmer is required to count his mink daily to ensure all are accounted for. Meanwhile, everyone who moves among mink herds in Demark must wear protective equipment and Danish herd owners have been required to draw up a detailed plan for infection protection.

Since July 2020, the DVFA has monitored Denmark's 1,200 mink farms for COVID-19 as part of the government's strategy to ensure close COVID-19 monitoring of the farms. Unlike in the nearby Netherlands,<sup>7</sup> with the monitoring strategy and the stricter restrictions for infected mink farms, the

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.foedevarestyrelsen.dk/Nyheder/Aktuelt/Sider/Nyheder%202020/Nye-pr%C3%B8ver-i-nordjysk-minkbes%C3%A6tning-viste-fund-af-COVID-19-i-mange-mink-.aspx> (in Danish)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.foedevarestyrelsen.dk/Nyheder/Aktuelt/Sider/Nyheder%202020/F%C3%B8devarestyrelsen-finder-COVID-19-i-en-3--nordjysk-mink-bes%C3%A6tning.aspx> (in Danish)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.foedevarestyrelsen.dk/Nyheder/Aktuelt/Sider/Pressemeddelelser%202020/Fjerde-minkfarm-smittet-med-COVID19.aspx> (in Danish)

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.foedevarestyrelsen.dk/Nyheder/Aktuelt/Sider/Pressemeddelelser%202020/Nyt-fund-af-COVID-19-i-mink.aspx> (in Danish)

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.foedevarestyrelsen.dk/Nyheder/Aktuelt/Sider/Pressemeddelelser%202020/Sjette-minkfarm-smittet-med-COVID-19.aspx> (in Danish)

<sup>6</sup> *Id.*

<sup>7</sup> See, e.g., [NL2020-0025: Government to Cull Mink on COVID-19 Infected Farms](#).

DVFA and the Danish health authorities assess that it is justifiable to let infected herds live because the risk of spreading infection to humans is minimal.

### **Future Reporting of Detections**

The DVFA has announced that it will no longer issue press releases on individual findings of COVID-19 on Danish mink farms. Instead, herds with confirmed infections will be identified on the DVFA's website at: <https://www.foedevarestyrelsen.dk>.

### **Attachments:**

No Attachments.