

# FOX FARMING IN EUROPE

“ We are proud of what we do.  
Our long-term sustainability and reliable  
perspectives of our future are key  
priorities for our young farmers.”



# A PROUD HERITAGE

Fox farming is a part of the agricultural sector with long traditions. Farms are family-operated businesses which are usually handed down from generation to generation, guaranteeing a good transfer of skills and experience.

Two species of fox are farmed in Europe: the Vulpes and Alopex families (**Silverfox** and **Bluefox** families). Silverfox breeding began in 1892 in Canada and counted some hundred farms in North America in 1910. The first European farms emerged in Norway in 1914. Bluefox farming began off the coast of Alaska in the 1880s and took off on farms in Nordic Countries in the late 1920s. The two fox species have adapted to their farmed environment over the generations and nowadays such fox breeding has spread to many European countries.

## KEY FIGURES 2008

- Europe is the largest producer in the world with **2.3 million pelts**.
- European production represents **52%** of the worldwide total, with China being the biggest competitor.
- Finland is the European leader with **1.9 million pelts** and is the world's largest producer of bluefox pelts.
- Norway is the second biggest breeder in Europe and the world's largest for silverfox pelts.
- Fox is also farmed in Poland, the Baltic States, Ireland, Iceland and Denmark.
- Farmed foxes are produced on over **1,800 farms** in Europe.
- Production is worth **130 million euro**.
- Skins can be traced all the way back to the farms where they originate.

# A LABEL OF QUALITY PRODUCTION

- **Regulation:** fox farming is well regulated under EU directives and national laws applicable to the agricultural sector as well as by industry codes of conduct. There is a Council of Europe Recommendation specifically dedicated to the protection of the health and welfare of fur-farmed animals that is based on scientific research. It has been incorporated into national law in most European countries and is reflected in the European fur-farmers' own code of conduct. This legislation is the strictest in the world.
- **Certification:** since 2005, fox-producing countries have started to introduce a unique certification programme by farm, going above existing EU animal-welfare legislation. Finland and Norway are the leaders in this area, followed by Poland, with the objective of having 100% of fox production certified by 2011.
- **Consumer information:** responding to increasing consumer demand for information about product origin, the industry has introduced the Origin Assured (OA) scheme in co-operation with the auction houses Finnish Fur Sales and Copenhagen Fur. This OA label guarantees that the fur comes from a country where national or local regulations or standards governing fur production are in force and ensures the traceability of the product all the way back to the farm where it originates.

## A DYNAMIC SUPPORT TO RURAL ZONES

Fox farming strongly helps the countryside to remain viable in areas where climatic conditions limit the options open to farmers in terms of what they can produce. It represents a significant source of employment and revenue to many people in these rural areas. In Finland, 90% of the fox-farming production is concentrated in the Ostrobothnia province in the western part of the country. In Norway, 70% of fox farmers live in rural areas.



# DON'T FORGET

- Europe represents 52% (2.3 million pelts) of the world-wide production with Finland, Norway and Poland being the biggest producers.
- Farmed foxes are produced on 1,800 farms in Europe, creating up to 18,000 jobs, mainly in rural zones.
- Fox farming in Europe is a label of quality production with the highest welfare standards in the world.

## MORE INFORMATION

- **Finnish Fur Breeders' Association** — [www.stkl-fpf.fi](http://www.stkl-fpf.fi)
- **Norwegian Fur Breeders' Association** — [www.norpels.no](http://www.norpels.no)
- **Finnish Fur Sales** — [www.ffi.fi](http://www.ffi.fi)
- **Kopenhagen Fur** — [www.kopenhagenfur.com](http://www.kopenhagenfur.com)



[WWW.EFBA-EU.COM](http://WWW.EFBA-EU.COM)