



CERTIFICATION IS
A GUARANTEE OF RESPONSIBILITY
IN FINNISH FUR PRODUCTION



WELCOME TO A CERTIFIED FINNISH FUR FARM



Finland is an important fur producer. It is a pioneer in fur animal welfare as well as in developing certified and traceable fur farming.

There are close to 900 fur farms, which breed mainly foxes, finnraccoons and minks.

Finnish fur producers comply with responsibility and they ensure the welfare of their fur animals.

In Finland, the law sets requirements on fur farming, and these provisions are further complemented by certification, a self-imposed control system. This quality system aims at maintaining and improving animal welfare, production quality and farmers' professional skill on the fur farms in Finland.

In order to obtain the certificate, the farm operations must meet certain criteria and its production must be carefully documented and transparent. If the auditor detects any shortcomings, the producer is obliged to take action and remedy the situation by a certain deadline. The certificate is granted only to the farms which meet all the criteria. Certified farms are audited once a year. In consecutive years, the auditing is performed in different seasons with the farm certification criteria and WelFur criteria for the production season in question.

In the certification system Fur Europe's WelFur programme forms the essential part covering animal welfare. WelFur is a scientific animal welfare assessment programme by which fur animal welfare is measured methodologically and in a variety of ways. The welfare assessment protocols for farmed species (mink and fox) have been developed by independent scientists at seven European universities. The assessments are carried out by external auditing company with competent and professional auditors.

The Finnish Fur Breeders' Association ProFur is responsible for the quality system and its development. DNV GL Business Assurance, a global provider of accredited certification, has granted ProFur's operations ISO 9001 certification. DNV GL audits the association's quality system and all processes as to their compliance with the ISO 9001 standard.

The Finnish fur farmers are very committed to the quality system and developing it further: most of the farms are certified. They understand the importance of the certification to the buyers, fashion houses and fur garment users. Therefore they are happy to welcome customers interested in the production to their farms.





THE FINNISH CERTIFICATION CRITERIA

The certification criteria are based on legislation and proven good practices and development needs in the fur industry. The criteria cover a wide range of the different farm activities. The criteria were drawn up in cooperation between ProFur and its interest groups.



▼ **Animal Health and Welfare**

Animal health and welfare are an absolute prerequisite for high-quality animal breeding. On certified fur farms, animal welfare is promoted with immediate and preventive measures.

▼ **Conditions for Rearing Animals**

Safe and stimulating housing, adjusted to the various cycles in the animal's life, is the fur animal's most important immediate environment.

▼ **Farm Hygiene**

A neat and tidy farm environment promotes welfare and comfort for both the animals and the farmer. Proactive measures prevent many ensuing problems.

▼ **Breeding**

Healthy and trusting animals form the basis for high-quality breeding. Certified farms do not sell or deliver fur animals to countries which do not meet the requirements set in the Finnish Animal Welfare Act.

▼ **Environmental Management**

A certified fur farm minimizes its impact on the surrounding nature. Detailed provisions for environmental protection are specified in each farm's environmental permit. In addition, special attention is paid to the correct handling of manure, waste management and the watering system.

▼ **Feed Management**

The animals are given regularly analyzed feed that fulfils their nutritional needs in each production phase. Domestic raw materials are favoured in the feed production, and the entire feed chain is documented.

▼ **Training and Preparing for Exceptional Situations**

Fur farming is a profession which requires solid hands-on competence as well as ongoing professional development on an annual basis. A certified farm is well equipped to act also in exceptional situations deviating from day-to-day routines.



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