

F.B.A.C.

A RANCHER OWNED FEED COOPERATIVE

8700 South 700 West
Sandy, Utah 84070
Phone (801) 255-4228



August 25, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

It is a well-documented fact that many mammals' reproduction cycles are controlled by light and photoperiod. This involves sexual development both in the male and the female. Mammals enter their reproductive cycle as the amount of daylight increases or decreases. This is evident in the spring and fall of each year. Mammals begin their reproductive periods as daylight increases. Mink will begin to breed beginning late February and early March and will continue through the month of March. Mammals respond to the various amounts of light and darkness by producing a chemical known as melatonin. As the days get longer and the periods of darkness get shorter, melatonin production is decreased and this initiates a reproduction cycle.

There are several ways that light can affect a mink's reproduction cycle. Some of the adverse effects that we see from improper lighting, whether it be from natural or artificial events, range from multiple cycles, inappropriate cycles, altered gestation periods, and decreased ability of the mink to properly maintain the developing embryo. Other affects we have seen have been delayed or no testicular development in the male or altered follicular development in the female. These abnormalities frequently result in the lack of sex drive in behalf of the male or refusal of the male on the part of the female.

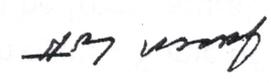
Recent research in this field has shown that mink are responsive to the length of DARKNESS. Any interval of light, no matter how short, can be translated by the animal as a decreased period of darkness. This research has shown that even short intervals of light during a period of darkness can interrupt a heat cycle. It has been subsequently shown that the repetitive nature or frequency of the transmission of light can be equally devastating.

There are many documented cases of significant, adverse effects from improper lighting in recent history. Yard lights, large barn light, support court lights and even head lights on mink feeding machines have been implicated in reduced reproduction in mink. Many of these cases have resulted in litigation and were resolved in favor of the long established family farms.

Noise also is a big factor in the reproduction cycle of mink. Construction nearby with loud and unfamiliar noises can affect how a mink will gestate and raise her kits. There has been several instances with road and new home construction that have been documented where these types of noises have affected mink production. In Summary, any kind of unusual light and or noise near a mink farm during this critical reproduction time can be devastating economically to the individual mink rancher. All of this should be carefully considered and discussed with those farmers involved when planning development or construction activities.

Any questions or concerns please feel free to Call Dr. Jason Lott at FBAC (Fur Breeders Agricultural Cooperative) 801-255-4228.

Thank you,



Dr. Jason Lott, DVM

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A RANCHER OWNED FEED COOPERATIVE



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Sandy, Utah 84070
Phone (801) 255-4228



August 25, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Dr. Jason Lott. I am a veterinarian in Morgan Utah, and I am the Veterinarian for FBAC-Fur Breeders Agricultural Cooperative located in Sandy, Utah. I also serve on the committee for the Fur Commission USA. I have been asked to provide a brief letter describing the possible effects of noise and stress on the reproductive and furring cycle of mink.

Mink become very anxious and easily distressed if disturbed by strange or unfamiliar sounds. This is especially true during the whelping period. It is well known that storms, thunder, strong winds, and loud rains can upset the females enough to interfere with their reproduction. Road noise, traffic, and construction have also been documented to have been responsible for massive reproductive losses in breeding mink populations and has been responsible for heavy losses in mink herds in the final stages of furring. The stress and anxiety result in abortions, premature births, low birth weights, decreased survivability, reduced lactation potential, and often the refusal of feed. This ultimately results in mink that are nutritionally compromised and may become ill or succumb to any number of infectious diseases. The final result is the complete loss of a marketable pelt or one of reduced economic value to the farmer.

In my professional opinion, the noise, commotion and stress resulting from the operation of a business or activity described to me by a rancher may cause ample stress and noise to adversely affect mink and their production cycle. Other considerations you may want to consider are lights and evening illumination. Headlights from motorcycles or park or arena light if they are to be used after daylight hours would without question damage the farm's operation. Previous cases of litigation concerning light and noise are well documented. Our legal counsel is Mr. Scott Rawlings. He can be reached by contacting the Cooperative offices.

Fur Breeders Agricultural Cooperative -FBAC
8700 S 700 W
Sandy, Utah 84070
801-255-4228

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jason Lott".

Dr. Jason Lott, DVM

Fur Breeders Agricultural Cooperative

SPECIAL MINK AND FOX FEEDS • QUALITY PELTS

8700 SOUTH 700 WEST
SANDY, UTAH
84070
PHONE (801) 255-4228



June 3, 1999

To whom it may concern:

Your immediate attention to an important matter would be appreciated. Mink ranches can be adversely impacted by loud noise, lighting, construction work, vibration, etc. during certain times of the year. You can help by assuring that any development and businesses are fully aware of the potential impact their development and lighting can have on a mink ranch.

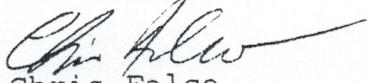
First, mink are very light sensitive. Light will impact the mink reproductive and furring cycles. Thus, it is very important that proper fencing and light requirements are observed. There are companies which provide reflectors and other material to assure only necessary areas receive light while neighbors do not. We can find those companies for you if you need us too. I am also sure that you are aware the Utah Attorney General's office has recognized the impact of light on mink.

Second, noise, vibration, smoke, and other unfamiliar activities can be a factor during the reproduction time of a mink. For example, Construction nearby in March through May with loud and unfamiliar noise can affect how mink will gestate. Any developer, I am sure, does not want to be responsible for a bunch of abortions.

Responsible cities, businesses, and developers have been able to work around these concerns with little extra effort. You may be fully aware of these concerns and have already addressed them. We do appreciate your effort in this area.

If you have any questions, you can contact our office at 255-4228 or our legal council, Mr. Scott Rawlings at 359-2093. Thank-you for your concern.

Sincerely,


Chris Falco,
General Manager

CPF:se

