

From Animal Liberation Frontline(.com)

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# INTERNAL FUR INDUSTRY SECURITY ALERTS, 2009-2013

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A compilation of leaked “security alerts” from the  
Fur Commission USA

Over 40 internal fur industry documents, covering their attempt to capture the  
Animal Liberation Front and stop the siege of their industry



# “ALL FARMERS ARE URGED TO BE ON HIGH ALERT”

- *Fur Commission USA security alert*

Approaching the pelting season of 2013, fur farmers faced a (nearly) unprecedented “security crisis” with 10 raids in 4 months. In the midst of this, I began posting over 30 leaked internal fur industry security bulletins going back to 2011, revealing the internal communications of fur farmers as they attempt to defend against a siege by animal liberators.

Every one of these internal memos is published here.

## Background

Over the 4+ years of *Animal Liberation Frontline*, the site has taken on one role not originally intended: Serving, at times, as an informal “animal rights Wikileaks.” I’ve had the good fortune of being provided dozens and dozens of interesting documents and leaked emails over the years, and it’s this material that I consider the highlight of the site.

Because the work of the Animal Liberation Front has leaned heavily towards fur, most of these documents have pertained that industry. These have included a leaked letter from a fur farmer describing the aftermath of a raid by the Animal Liberation Front, the much-rumored-of-but-never-seen Fur Commission security manual for fur farmers, and even the meeting minutes for the Fur Commission’s annual gathering in Park City, Utah.

These documents have also included quite a few of the Fur Commission’s “security alerts,” sent by email and fax to fur farmer’s every time there is a security-related matter. This can run the range from news of an ALF action, to warning mink farmers to be on alert because of “radical” speaking events at colleges near fur farms (seriously).

## 42 security alerts published

Animal Liberation Frontline has been provided with over 40 of these bulletins, intended only to be seen by fur farmers. They are collected here in full, in the interest of documenting a rare glimpse into the how an industry under siege responds to the work of animal rights activists.

Many of them are of little value beyond a voyeuristic look into the “private” communications of the opposition. And many of them are quite interesting, documenting incidents such as attempted (and unclaimed) raids, fur farmers chasing trespassers, and more.

## More details: What are Fur Commission “Security Alerts”?

These bulletins are sent to fur farmers via email and fax by the Fur Commission USA, a trade group for the “farming” side of the fur industry. They represent over 400 mink and fox farms in North America.

The bulletins mostly aim to warn fur farmers of an impending security issue, such as suspicious vehicles seen near farms, the presence of legal animal rights activity (i.e. protests, conferences, etc) occurring in fur farming areas, and more.

Their intended audience is extremely limited. They are only sent to the 400 or so fur farmers on the the Fur Commission’s email list, and possibly a handful of other potential ALF targets (such as feed suppliers).

The audience that was never intended was an audience they have now: a public one.

-Peter Young

## **Fur Commission bulletin declares hunt for suspicious vehicle.**

In this bulletin, the Fur Commission USA claims to have identified a vehicle of interest in the recent wave of mink releases. I have redacted all identifying information from the bulletin, which is posted below.

The bulletin does not identify why the car is considered to be of interest, but does give the license plate number, make and model of the car, and the genders of its occupants. The car was last seen in Glasgow Montana, and “may be headed west.”

### **Fur industry getting desperate**

As a symptom of just how scared the industry is over the surge in animal liberations, the Fur Commission attempted to post their reward offer on anarchist and Indymedia sites; presumably to bait an audience they believe might have information about the releases. Again, a feeble gesture given ALF protocol (and that of all wise criminals) that no one not directly involved in an action should know about the action.

#### **Fur Commission USA**

**FCUSA Security Alert – Reward increased, more...**

**October 11, 2013**

**Fur Commission USA has increased the reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible in the recent farm raids. We are now offering, with generous support from American Legend and NAFA, an award of up to \$50,000. A hotline is in place at [redacted] and is monitored hourly.**

**New information that we have obtained permission to release, has identified the “[redacted] of interest” as a [redacted], with a back window sticker that says “[redacted]”. The license plate is [redacted]. It was last seen in Glasgow MT yesterday and may be heading west. Border agents have been alerted, as have US and CAN law enforcement officers. The suspects are [redacted]. If anyone sees this vehicle call your local Sheriff’s or Constable’s office and the FBI/RCMP immediately.**

**Distributed by,  
Michael Whelan  
Fur Commission USA  
541-595-8568**

## **Details on Utah mink release**

This alert offers details on the release of 20 mink from the Ovard mink farm in Wanship, Utah. It expands slightly on the possibility the raid was interrupted by a feed delivery truck, as referenced in media reports.

This alert also offers the unreported detail that 8 of the 20 mink (40%) were uncaptured.

It also notes that at least three recent fur farm raids have taken place at farms that didn't have fences, and astutely points out the Animal Liberation Front is focusing on "soft targets."

### **Fur Commission USA**

**Security Alert – Mink Farm Attacked in UT last night  
September 13, 2013**

A mink farm just south of Coalville UT was attacked last night. The farmer was alerted to activity in the yard in the early morning hours (around 3:00 AM) as a feed truck was arriving. At that time it was discovered that 2 sheds had been entered and about 20 mink released. A number of breeding cards were also damaged. It is assumed that the raid was discovered in progress and the perpetrators fled before being identified and/or captured. At this time all but about 8 have been returned to their pens.

As every farmer knows, this is the time of year that most mink farm attacks occur. This action is the fourth against the US producers since July. In this case, we believe alert farmers and support personnel were able to interrupt the attack and limit the damage. The mink farmer had not yet erected fencing, and one of the sheds targeted was the only one without doors. The last two attacks have targeted farms that have no fencing.

Please take proper security precautions over the next few weeks as we know extremists are out there looking for, and focusing on 'softer' targets.

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Michael Whelan  
Fur Commission USA  
541-595-8568

## **Two activists arrested in Illinois with “burglary tools.”**

This is the bulletin sent to fur farmers after the arrest of Kevin Olliff and Tyler Lang, when they were pulled over in rural Illinois. The two were charged with “Possession of Burglary Tools” after a (non-consensual) police search allegedly turned up items such as muriatic acid and cammo clothing.

While the two were not arrested on or near any fur farm, the Fur Commission apparently finds their arrest significant because of a mink release that occurred elsewhere in Illinois either that night or the night before.

**Fur Commission USA  
Security Alert – Arrests made in IL  
September 3, 2013**

**Two California-based animal rights extremists were arrested in rural Roanoke Illinois on August 14, the same night of the mink farm attack in Morris IL.**

**Kevin Olliff and Taylor Lang were pulled over on a traffic violation late on the night of the 14th, and after a search, bolt-cutters, wire-cutters, ski masks, cammo clothing and muriatic acid were found in the vehicle. Mr. Olliff served 18 months in prison in 2009 on felony animal rights charges (stalking).**

**Presently they are being charged with “Possession of Burglary Tools” but bail has been set significantly higher than warranted for this crime, leading us to believe there are more serious charges pending. A preliminary hearing is set for September 9.**

**Fur Commission will keep the farm community up-to-date as more information becomes available.**

**Distributed by,  
Michael Whelan  
Fur Commission USA  
541-595-8568**

**400 mink freed in Iowa**

This bulletin was sent to farmers after the unclaimed raid of the Iowa mink farm owned by Don Conrad. There are a few interesting items here:

- The media reported only 100 mink were released, while this alert reveals the number (as reported by the Fur Commission) is 396. Because this was never intended to be made public, it is further proof the fur industry under-reports the numbers of animals released to the media. Presumably, this is done to downplay the perceived impact of these raids, and mitigate any empowering effect among activists who may be inspired to carry out raids of their own.
- The official line in the media was that this was being investigated as a “prank”. However we see here that in private it is clearly looked at as the work of animal liberators.
- Oddly, even in private fur farmers lie about mink dying of heat exposure. Anyone who has been to (or operates) a mink farm knows the sheds are never climate controlled, and if anything the inside of a shed is hotter than outside.
- The people named as helping in the roundup effort are Tom Gibson (former fur farmer, now with NAFA), the Underwood family (Fredericksburg, Iowa mink farmers), and John and Rose Lang (Minnesota fur farmers).

**Fur Commission USA****Update on IA mink release**

**September 3, 2013**

As I prepare to pack a lunch bag and roust a surly teenager (It's 5 AM here), I hope that everyone had a nice Labor Day, and I hope others are as excited about the upcoming fall season as I am.

**Update on Mink Farm attack in Keota IA:** After speaking with the son (and ranch manager) of the farm owner that had his facility attacked Friday, I would like to provide a quick update. The final count was 396 mink released. About 300 were rescued in the first several hours and about 50 were recovered dead of exposure and/or killed on the roadway. The rest died of exposure or heat related injuries over the weekend. Temperatures were topping 100 degrees each day, and the mink that were not rescued within the first 6-12 hours never really stood a chance.

The farm owners would like to thank all their friends and neighbors who came to help with the animals (close to 50 people!!), and would like to express special thanks to solicitor Tom Gibson, who spent countless hours in the heat helping out, the Underwood family, who brought needed and welcome hands, and John and Rose Lang who drove over 400 miles to come and help. Many more are also well-deserving of gratitude and commendation. We truly are a caring community.

In the case of a release on your property, God forbid, its important to remember to 1) Call 911 or your local sheriff immediately. 2) seal the fencing and check the cages (many mink may not have left the pens despite open cages) 3) call the people on your phone tree and Fur Commission USA. We will make sure the Federal authorities respond to the attack, will warn other ranchers, and will prepare statements for the press/public in case of inquiry (the farmer is often way too busy to speak). We will also provide law enforcement with info on farmer-reported suspicious vehicles/persons, related incidents, and background on mink farm attacks.

All farmers should take appropriate security precautions over the next several weeks, as extremists are actively and aggressively looking for soft targets at this time. Please report any suspicious activity around your property to law enforcement and FCUSA.

**Number of released mink in Iowa climbs to 500.**

Media reports on the 2013 mink release in Keota, Iowa state that around 100 animals were liberated. However according to this alert, the number is closer to 500.

The number of mink quoted is a discrepancy of 500% from numbers given to the media. This is yet another example of the actual number of animals released to be very different than numbers given to the media. Based on information obtained in court cases and other sources, the figures made public can be both more and less than the true figure. While insurance fraud is a potential motive for overstating the number of animals released, the motive for under-reporting is left to speculation.

**More discrepancies**

While the official line in the media has been that this mink release was a “prank” and not the work of those with an animal liberation motive, behind the scenes the fur industry is saying otherwise.. In this alert, the Fur Commission clearly presupposes the action is the work of “animal rights terrorists.”

According to the alert, the mink farm targeted did not even have a fence.

**Fur Commission USA  
Security Alert – Farm Attack in Iowa  
August 30, 2013**

Early this morning a farm was attacked outside the town of Keota in western Iowa. An estimated 500 mink have been released. Law enforcement is on site, and the family is in the process of trying to rescue the animals. The farmer did not have any fencing around the mink yard.

This is the third mink farm attack in the US since late July. All farmers are urged to be especially alert as animal rights terrorists are actively searching for, and attacking soft targets. Please arrange nightly patrols if you do not already have them. Updates will be circulated as they become available.

**Distributed by,  
Michael Whelan  
Fur Commission USA  
541-595-8568**



## **FBI claims “promising” evidence in Illinois mink release**

On August 14th, 2,000 mink were released from a small mink farm in Illinois. The raid went unclaimed, and received little media coverage.

These two alerts reveal new details about this raid that were not made public. A few of the more interesting details:

Every animal was released in the raid. This detail was not previously made public.

One-third of the fencing was removed.

Vehicles were sprayed with “aviation stripper,” and “Love is liberation” was painted on a barn.

The FBI visited the farm twice.

Security cameras on a neighboring property were said to pick up “promising images.”

Also included is a note to fur farmers to be suspicious of anyone approaching them offering security services.

### **Fur Commission USA**

#### **Security Alert – Update on IL farm attack**

**August 15, 2013**

The mink rancher who suffered the farm attack Wednesday morning has, at this point, collected over 2/3 of the mink released. The perpetrators released all of the 2,000 mink on the property, as well as tearing down about 1/3 of the chicken-wire perimeter fence. Animals continue to return to the ranch as they become hungry, thirsty and frightened.

In addition to the release and the destruction of fencing, 2 vehicles were sprayed with aviation paint stripper, and “Love is Liberation” was painted on the barn/processing shed.

The FBI has had agents at the farm twice since yesterday, and have stated there are some leads. A surveillance camera on a neighbor’s property has caught some promising images.

All farmers should check and secure their perimeter fencing, and be on the lookout for any suspicious vehicles or persons near their facility. Any chicken-wire should be replaced with corrugated metal or other solid materials when possible. Alarm systems and/or cameras should also be installed.

In related news, several farms are reporting being approached by individual “security professionals”. When meeting with these people, please do it off-site, and be sure to check all references carefully. Fur Commission can also help with checking references.

For more information on farm security protocols, please contact Fur Commission USA.

Distributed by,  
Michael Whelan  
Fur Commission USA  
[mw@furcommission.com](mailto:mw@furcommission.com)



**Fur Commission USA  
Security Alert – Farm Attack in Illinois  
August 14, 2013**

Early this morning, a mink farm near Morris Illinois was attacked by animal rights extremists. At this time, it is unknown exactly how many animals were released. In addition to the release, fences were torn down, vehicles were damaged and a structure was painted with “Liberation is Love”.

This is the second farm attack in 4 weeks, so ranchers are strongly urged to take serious security precautions. Fencing should be strengthened, employees and family members should be briefed, and law enforcement should be made aware of your location and the recent attacks. Nightwatchman should alter routines as to not be predictable. Any unusual lights or noises at night need to be immediately investigated.

Report any suspicious vehicles or persons to law enforcement and Fur Commission USA. More details will be made available as they become known.

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Michael Whelan  
Fur Commission USA  
541-595-8568

## **Two cars seen scouting Oregon fur farm.**

On July 28th, the Animal Liberation Front kicked off “fur farm raiding season” by releasing between 2,400 and 5,000 mink from the Moyle mink farm in Burley, Idaho. 10 days later, the Fur Commission sent out this alert about two suspicious cars seen outside a Sublimity, Oregon mink farm.

One interesting note about this alert: The only known fur farm in or near Sublimity is the Gardner Fur Farm (3701 Drift Creek Rd SE), which is reported to raise fox, not mink. Therefore this alert may be referring to a mink farm that is not yet discovered.

**Fur Commission USA  
Security Alert – Oregon  
August 7, 2013**

Tuesday afternoon two vehicles were seen scouting a mink farm outside Sublimity Oregon. One vehicle was a [vehicle description redacted] with [redacted] license plates [plate # redacted]. The second vehicle was a [description redacted]. The two vehicles were parked together down the road from the farm, then moved to the farm driveway. After about 5 minutes, the suspects were approached, and fled.

In light of the recent mink farm attack in Idaho, any suspicious behavior near your farm needs to be reported to police and Fur Commission USA. If either of these vehicles is spotted near your farm, make it clear to the occupants that you are aware of their presence, and call FCUSA.

**Distributed by,  
Michael Whelan  
Fur Commission USA  
541-595-8568**

## New security advice for fur farms

This is the second alert sent out about the 2013 Idaho release. And it is the second time any keen observer is forced to notice the irony and hypocrisy of these alerts: Here the Fur Commission is admonishing farmers to install alarms after a raid on the farm of one of its board members – whose farm didn't have alarms.

To put it another way: Here, a Fur Commission exec is issuing stern advice that Fur Commission execs *don't follow at their own farms*.

What's most useful about this alert are the specific recommendations for fence alarms. While I would not expect many (if any) farms to heed this advice, it's worth noting that this alert advises the installation of...

"...contact wire alarms along the length at about a 6-inch height... If the fencing is removed or cut, the wire will sever and sound an alarm in the house, on your phone, in a guard shed, or even in the sheriff's office."

This is not to be taken as anything more than a pointer imparted for the sake of instilling confidence in the Fur Commission's leadership. All indicators are that almost no fur farms have implemented the security precautions advised by the Fur Commission's secretive security manual, and they are unlikely to take the advice of this alert.

### Fur Commission USA

#### Security Alert – More on ID farm raid

July 30, 2013

As most of you know by now, an Idaho mink ranch was raided by animal rights extremists early Sunday morning July 28. An anonymous claim of guilt has been posted on the Bite Back website and numerous news outlets are now reporting on the attack. There are links to these items at the bottom of this post.

What is apparent is that the US mink ranchers need to implement the recommended security precautions, especially perimeter fencing and alarm systems, as soon as possible. Like many of the farms in ID and UT we have visited, the perimeter fencing on this ranch had 3-foot corrugated tin with a 10-12 inch gap at the bottom covered by chicken wire. In this case, the chicken wire was quickly and easily opened in 8 different locations. Chain link is similarly vulnerable.

We strongly urge all ranchers with this same fencing to extend corrugated tin panels into the ground (ASAP). Additionally, contact wire alarms along the length at about a 6-inch height, should be installed. If the fencing is removed or cut, the wire will sever and sound an alarm in the house, on your phone, in a guard shed, or even in the sheriff's office. Corrugated tin roofing is readily available at building supply stores and/or scrap yards.

#### Other items to consider:

- 1) Walk the perimeter regularly, Look for anything out of the ordinary (i.e. personal items such as, clothing, tools, backpacks; unusual litter; any signs your fencing has been tampered with)
- 2) Nighttime presence. Either a watchman or feeding personnel (mix up the routine as to not be predictable on patrol routes or times).
- 3) Locking the sheds. Install doors with locking mechanisms and alarms.

If you do not have the Fur Commission Security Guide, please email [mw@furcommission.com](mailto:mw@furcommission.com) for a copy.

We also will gladly visit ranches, upon request, to give detailed security assessments and recommendations. Please remember, the harder you make the target, the less likely you will be successfully targeted.

Links to reports;

Bite Back anonymous claim

[http://www.directaction.info/news\\_july30\\_13.htm](http://www.directaction.info/news_july30_13.htm)

KMVT Twin Falls (with Fur Commission USA Press Release)

[http://magicvalley.com/news/local/crime-and-courts/mini-cassia-mink-farm-raided-activists-claim-responsibility-sheriff-s/article\\_202f5cd0-f95a-11e2-aadf-0019bb2963f4.html](http://magicvalley.com/news/local/crime-and-courts/mini-cassia-mink-farm-raided-activists-claim-responsibility-sheriff-s/article_202f5cd0-f95a-11e2-aadf-0019bb2963f4.html)

Twin Falls Times News

[http://magicvalley.com/news/local/crime-and-courts/mini-cassia-mink-farm-raided-activists-claim-responsibility-sheriff-s/article\\_202f5cd0-f95a-11e2-aadf-0019bb2963f4.html](http://magicvalley.com/news/local/crime-and-courts/mini-cassia-mink-farm-raided-activists-claim-responsibility-sheriff-s/article_202f5cd0-f95a-11e2-aadf-0019bb2963f4.html)

Distributed by Michael Whelan

Fur Commission USA

541-595-8568

## **Thousands of mink released from Idaho mink farm**

This was the alert sent out after the Animal Liberation Front kicked off “fur farm raiding season” on July 28th by freeing 2,400 to 5,000 mink from a fur farm in Burley, Idaho.

The irony of this alert (and the raid) was that the farm raided was owned by Cindy Moyle – who is on the board of the Fur Commission. The alert makes no mention of this detail.

This raid demonstrated that even board of the Fur Commission doesn't follow their own security protocols, and that even those tasked with promoting farm security don't secure their own farms.

The entire industry is weak from top to bottom, and the July 28th raid demonstrated this powerfully.

**Fur Commission USA  
Security Alert – Mink Release in ID  
July 29, 2013**

Farmers are urged to be on alert as a mink farm in Burley ID was attacked last night. Neighbors and other ranchers are helping the farmer collect the animals now, but at least 3 sheds were emptied and breeding cards removed. Most of the animals have remained in the yard and should be returned to pens over the next several hours. It is unclear how many animals are missing.

Farmers throughout the country are urged to be on alert, as these incidents will usually occur in bunches. Make sure all fences and gates are secure and detection systems are set. Inform your local law enforcement agencies of the recent attack, and the potential for actions targeting your facility. Tell employees and neighbors to be especially aware of any suspicious vehicles, especially parked nearby at night, and to report it to law enforcement and Fur Commission USA.

**Distributed by,  
Michael Whelan  
Fur Commission USA**

## **Fur farmers upset over being ignored by police**

Here, the Fur Commission sends out a note to fur farmers concerned about the lack of “follow-up” by police after reports of suspicious activity.

Like many of these, this alert displays fur farmers’ bizarre sense of entitlement to being personally coddled by police. To any human being with perspective, being appraised of developments over a call about “suspicious cars” near a property would be looked at as a bizarre and unreasonable request.

The alert contains this line to reassure fur farmers their reports are of value:

“If there was trespassing involved, law enforcement will generally contact the registered owner of a reported vehicle and inform them that they have been identified trespassing on private property.”

This is almost an explicit admission that, while illegal, based on the experience of the Fur Commission police don’t often treat trespassing as an arrestable offense. (*This is not legal advice, but an observation on the subtext of this alert*).

### **Fur Commission USA**

#### **Security Information: Reporting suspicious activity**

**July 25, 2013**

Various ranchers have inquired why there is rarely any follow-up information from law enforcement after suspicious vehicles or persons are reported near a farm. There are several factors to consider.

After a farmer reports activity on or near their property to law enforcement, depending on the officer investigating, the farmer may need to make repeated contact themselves for any follow-up information. In most cases, the farmer has every right to receive updates and police reports. We encourage farmers to keep an open dialog with their local law enforcement agencies and any investigating officers.

Fur Commission has been working closely with law enforcement for many years, and the information we pass along is given without expecting any inclusion in the case. For legal reasons, law enforcement will not always give Fur Commission information regarding an open investigation.

If the activity reported did not break any laws, it is still important to log the incident (with law enforcement and Fur Commission). Extremists will scout locations before attacking, and if we can identify them early (and they know they have been identified) they are unlikely to act. Our security alerts are designed not only to alert farmers, but to alert various law enforcement officials of the potential for an attack. If there was trespassing involved, law enforcement will generally contact the registered owner of a reported vehicle and inform them that they have been identified trespassing on private property. Depending on the situation, the perpetrators may or may not be cited.

It is important to remember that our level of alertness is recorded by the would-be attacker. If a scout is confronted or engaged, they know they will be the first person questioned in the event of a crime. They will also know that the farmer takes his security seriously. So keep up the good work!

Distributed by  
Michael Whelan  
Fur Commission USA

## **Car drives onto Utah fur farm**

A car was reportedly seen driving on to a Utah fur farm last June. The farm in question is likely to be:

Dixon Mink  
15028 Pony Express Road  
Bluffdale, UT 84065

This is another alert where the Fur Commission hints at anticipating the storm that was to soon befall the industry: Mentioning that the publication of The Final Nail #4 may spark raids on fur farms.

**Fur Commission USA  
Security Alert – Utah  
June 14, 2013**

Early yesterday morning (3:00 AM), a vehicle with two men drove onto a mink farm in Bluffdale Utah. It fled when approached by the night watchman. The vehicle was a [*plate and description redacted*]. If you see this vehicle in the vicinity of your property please contact law enforcement.

In light of the recent news reports regarding the recent release of the ALF publication “The Final Nail”, animal rights extremists may be scouting farms, preparing for an attack. Be aware of any suspicious persons or vehicles near your property and please check to make sure your security systems are operational.

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Michael Whelan  
Fur Commission USA  
541-595-8568



## Tresspassers seen scouting Wisconsin fur farm

This report came in just days before the first mink farm raid of the season in Burley, Idaho. It covers “suspects” seen taking pictures of a mink farm outside Medford, Wisconsin.

Most likely, when these alerts refer to “farm security” or “security personnel,” they aren’t referring to anything but a farm owner or employee.

The alert states:

“All mink ranchers and other resource providers are urged to take increased precautions over the next few months, as this time of year is the traditional season of farm attacks”

They had no idea what was to come, as the next 4 months would see 10 fur farm raids.

### Fur Commission USA

#### Security Alert – Trespassers in Taylor County WI

July 21, 2013

Three individuals (2 males, 1 female), driving a [car description redacted] trespassed on a mink farm outside Medford WI at approximately 8:00 PM last night (Sunday, July 21). Farm security personnel spotted two of the suspects leaning against the perimeter fence taking pictures of the mink yard, while one individual stayed in the car. The vehicle license plates are [redacted]. When approached they fled.

All mink ranchers and other resource providers are urged to take increased precautions over the next few months, as this time of year is the traditional season of farm attacks. If any suspicious persons or vehicles are seen on or near your property, please alert your local sheriffs and Fur Commission USA.

Distributed by,  
Michael Whelan  
Fur Commission USA  
541-595-8568

## **Oregon fur farm reports trespassers**

A standard alert warning farmers of people seen taking photos of a fur farm in Oregon.

**Fur Commission USA  
Security Alert – Oregon  
July 10, 2013**

Two individuals were seen taking photos outside a mink farm in Marion County Oregon yesterday afternoon. When approached by the farmer, they flashed an obscene gesture and fled. The vehicle was a *[description and plate# redacted]*. It was driven by a *[description redacted]*. The passenger, who was taking the photos, was a *[detailed description redacted]*.

If this vehicle is seen in the vicinity of your farm, be sure the occupants are aware they have been spotted, then call your local sheriff and Fur Commission USA.

**Distributed by,  
Michael Whelan  
Fur Commission USA  
541-595-8568**

## **600 mink go missing from Idaho fur farm**

In the spring of 2013, Wisconsin media picked up the story of mink reportedly stolen from a mink farm. All indicators are that it was a theft for profit, and not the work of animal liberators.

This alert reveals another, similar theft from an Idaho farm that was not reported in the media. In this “theft,” 600 mink went missing from cages. The alert states this about the disappearance:

“It is possible, but unlikely to be animal rights related.”

Taking the mink (vs. releasing them) does not fit the usual model of a raid by activists. However it cannot be ruled out this was a well-orchestrated raid in which animals were taken off-site and released to prevent against the usual high percentage of recaptured animals.

### **Fur Commission USA**

#### **Security Alert – Mink kits being stolen**

**June 7, 2013**

As many farmers are aware, a ranch in Wisconsin claimed that over 300 mink kits were stolen from the pens. All were reportedly blue iris and had not yet been weaned. Thursday night a rancher in Idaho reported over 600 black mink missing from the farm. These mink were weaned and able to walk to a food plate. The perpetrators were familiar with mink farming as the kits were taken only from certain rows in certain sheds and were chosen because of their individual characteristics. Both ranches are AD-free

Law enforcement is investigating both cases, but Fur Commission USA urges all ranchers to take extra security measures and to take special care in making accurate kit counts. The perpetrators may be other ranchers stocking with AD clean mink, or may be acting as agents for foreign breeders. It is possible, but unlikely to be animal rights related. Please report any suspicions to Fur Commission USA, which will pass all information to law enforcement agents. There is a \$5,000 reward for information leading to the arrest of those involved in the Idaho robbery.

Distributed by,  
Michael Whelan  
Fur Commission USA

## **“Suspicious activity” alert after ag-gag charges dropped against Utah activist**

The Fur Commission commits more fear mongering by “alerting” farmers to a benign protest occurring at a slaughterhouse outside of Salt Lake City, scheduled after ag-gag charges were dropped against an activists arrested for filming there.

This slaughterhouse is very close to (and on the same street as) the Dixon mink farm, also in Draper / Bluffdale.

**Fur Commission USA  
Security Alert – Utah  
May 16, 2013**

Recently, criminal charges were dropped against a well-known Utah animal rights activist, Amy Meyer, for violating Utah’s Farm Protection Act (making illicit video of farm practices). In support of her there is a protest, “200 Cameras, 200 Activists”, scheduled for Saturday, May 18th at 2:00 PM. Reports indicate that the protest will be held at the Smith & Sons Meatpacking plant (12450 S. Pony Express Road in Draper, Utah). The participants are meeting to carpool from the South Jordan Walmart parking lot at 1:30 PM.

Fur Commission urges all mink ranchers in the area to be on alert this weekend for any suspicious activity near their facility, and to alert local law enforcement agents of the potential for actions targeting your property.

Any additional information discovered will be broadcast as it becomes available.

**Distributed by,  
Michael Whelan  
Fur Commission USA**

## Mystery notetaker seen outside Oregon mink farm

Oregon seems to top the list of most reports of suspicious activity. In this alert, a man is seen taking notes outside a Mt. Angel mink farm

Fur Commission USA  
Security Alert – Oregon  
March 2, 2013

Wednesday afternoon a [*plate and description redacted*], was seen parked outside a mink farm in Mt. Angel Oregon. The single occupant, a male in his late twenties or early 30s with [*description redacted*], seemed to be entering something in a notebook. The rancher approached the vehicle and the subject quickly fled before being questioned. Law enforcement has been contacted, but if this individual or vehicle is seen in the vicinity of your property, please report it to your local law enforcement agents and Fur Commission USA.

Distributed by,  
Michael Whelan  
Fur Commission USA

## **Fur farmers follow suspicious car in Idaho**

This is a rather detailed account of another “suspicious” car seen scouting a Franklin, Idaho mink farm. Franklin is located on the Idaho-Utah border, and is home to at least six mink farms. This alert alleges the occupants used stolen (or borrowed) plates on the car, which was followed into Utah.

This also reminds farmers of the Fur Commission’s pathetic \$5,000 reward for tipsters providing information that results in a conviction.

**Fur Commission USA  
Security Alert – Idaho, N. Utah  
October 12, 2012**

A [car make, model, and license redacted], has been seen scouting several farms today in the Franklin ID area. Occupants are, so far, described as a [description redacted], and a [description redacted], with a long-lens camera. The license plate number is reportedly registered to a [car make and model redacted], so the drivers are making concerted and illegal efforts to mask their identities. A rancher followed the vehicle into Logan UT.

Also, three nights ago at around 2:00 AM, two vehicles fled when discovered on the back perimeter of a Franklin ID farm.

Please contact your local law enforcement agents, informing them of the events taking place, and politely request extra patrols. Make sure to take extra precautions on your property over the coming days. If you see the above vehicle, or any other suspicious vehicles near your facility, call law enforcement immediately.

Remember, Fur Commission USA offers a reward of up to \$5,000 for any information leading to the arrest and conviction of an individual attempting a release on a U.S. mink farm.

**Distributed by,  
Michael Whelan  
Fur Commission USA  
541-595-8568**

## **Fox farm raided during animal rights conference**

This alert was sent out following the only fur farm raid of 2012: the release of 13 foxes from a farm in Elkton, Virginia. Here the Fur Commission attempts to link the raid to the Animal Rights 2012 Conference taking place elsewhere in Virginia at the time.

**Fur Commission USA  
Security Alert OH, PA, IN, IL  
August 6, 2012**

Early yesterday morning animal rights extremists broke into D&S Fox Farm near Elkton Virginia, and released all 13 silver foxes on the farm. They also claim to have destroyed farm equipment during the raid.

At the time, the National Animal Rights Convention in Alexandria VA was coming to a close, where known “liberationist” and convicted felon Peter Young, among others, were speaking. Young, naive activists likely were incited at the conference to commit crimes against family farms.

On July 16, Coalition Against Fur Farms listed the address and owner of D&S Fox Farm as a “new discovery” on their website. It is generally agreed that the website is owned by [*name redacted*].

The attackers may be heading west on the road home from the Conference, so resource providers in OH, IN, IL and possibly Southern PA are urged to be on high alert over the next few days. Please report any unknown vehicles or persons near your facility to Fur Commission USA and your local law enforcement agency.

Distributed by,  
Michael Whelan  
Fur Commission USA  
[www.furcommission.com](http://www.furcommission.com)  
541-595-8568



## **Farmers told to call police if their address is on the internet**

This is one of the more absurd security alerts. Here, fur farmers are told to call the police and report that fur farm addresses are posted on the new Coalition Against Fur Farms website, and FinalNail.com.

Its not clear what exactly fur farmers are supposed to “report” once they get a dispatcher on the phone, what laws are being broken, or why the police should care.

One thing is made even more evident by this alert: Fur farmers are hopelessly, pathetically, bizarrely out of touch.



**Fur Commission USA**

**Security Alert – New Farm Postings**

**June 25th, 2012**

Our opponents have been listing fur farm addresses for years, and for the recent past, most farmers have been left alone. A website ([www.coalitionagainstfurfarms.com](http://www.coalitionagainstfurfarms.com)) has been postings “newly discovered” addresses of fur farms, in addition to other industry information since the beginning of May.

We believe that the farm information is gathered through business filings, in addition to satellite and on-the-ground reconnaissance (they do not appear to be sure of the operational status of many of the ranches.) Please be aware that no US fur farm is entirely safe from attack, but proper security precautions can “harden the target” and send a would-be attacker elsewhere. We urge all ranchers to check their security and be aware of any suspicious vehicles and/or persons near the property. Remember, Fur Commission USA is available to perform a security assesement on your facility, free of charge.

Please inform your local law enforcement agency of the list at [www.finalnail.com](http://www.finalnail.com) and the postings that appear on [www.coalitionagainstfurfarms.com](http://www.coalitionagainstfurfarms.com)

**Distributed by**

**Michael Whelan**

**Fur Commission USA**

## **Farmers fear daylight raid during “fur farm tour”**

This bulletin was sent to fur farmers to warn them of a planned “fur farm tour” by the Seattle Animal Defense League. It alludes heavily to the threat of protesters carrying out a daylight raid (as happened at a mink farm in Snohomish, WA in 1999).

**Fur Commission USA  
Security Alert – State of Washington  
May 14, 2012**

**Animal rights protestors have planned a “Fur Farm Tour” in Washington for the afternoon of Sunday May 20. They are scheduled to meet at 2:00 PM at the Park & Ride on 8th Ave. in downtown Seattle, then take a charter bus to local farms. It is unknown how many protestors will attend.**

**Please make sure your security system is visible and operational. Inform your immediate neighbors that this may occur. Fur Commission will be monitoring the situation, and will try and alert you ahead of time if they are headed to your farm. If protestors show up at your facility:**

**Call your local police or sheriff’s department immediately,  
Have fencing and clear signage delineating private property.  
Do not engage them in debate or conversation.  
Video tape everything.**

**Protesters will attempt to create a confrontation. Do not take the bait. They are well versed in the law, and will do their best to incite you to violate their civil rights in order to file a lawsuit. Do not engage them in any way.**

**Also be aware that they will likely scout a facility a day or two before their arrival. If signs are removed replace them as soon as possible. Report any suspicious activity, including descriptions and/or license plates, to law enforcement and Fur Commission USA.**

**If you have any additional questions or concerns, please call Fur Commission at 541-595-868**

**Distributed by,  
Michael Whelan  
Fur Commission USA  
[www.furcommission.com](http://www.furcommission.com)**

## **Aspiring fur farmer outed**

This bulletin covers what is apparently an aspiring fur farmer looking to purchase breeding stock. Her inquiries with Utah mink farmers made them uneasy, and prompted this alert. If this woman successfully opened a mink farm, its address is not yet known.

The second portion covers a suspicious vehicle seen near a Hyrum, Utah mink farm.

**Fur Commission USA  
Security Alert – Utah  
May 8, 2012**

A young woman from Mt. Pleasant UT named Amy Lamb has called several mink ranches asking to buy breeding stock. The number she is calling from is 435-851-3538 and is registered in Manti, UT. After speaking with her and doing some research, I believe she is legitimate, though naive about our industry. She is 21 years old and the daughter of Art and Molly Lamb of Mt. Pleasant. She has experience in raising sheep and cattle, and has been involved in the Mt. Pleasant Rodeo.

If you receive a call from her, please ask that she get in touch with Fur Commission for more information on mink farming. I have asked her to please stop calling ranches.

---

At approximately 11:30 PM on April 23rd, a [car description redacted] with [license plate redacted] was seen outside a mink ranch near Hyrum UT. If you see this vehicle near your property please call your local law enforcement agency and Fur Commission USA.

**Distributed by,  
Michael Whelan  
Fur Commission USA  
541-595-8568**

## Suspicious photographer in Iowa

This security alert covers a person deemed suspicious taking photos of an Iowa mink farm.

Fur Commission USA  
Security Alert: Iowa  
April 19, 2012

A vehicle pulled into the driveway of an Iowa mink rancher yesterday near Osage IA, whereas the occupant [*body type redacted*] got out and took pictures of the property.

The farm owner spotted him and followed him as he fled. The vehicle was a [*car description redacted*] [*license plate redacted*] The individual has been seen taking photos near the property on several other occasions (See Security Alert dated March 19, 2012).

Farmers in the area are urged to be on the lookout, and report to Fur Commission USA and their local law enforcement agency, any sightings of this vehicle in the vicinity of their property.

Distributed by  
Michael Whelan  
Fur Commission USA  
541-595-8568

## **“Convicted felon” urges attacks on farms**

This is one of several security alerts I’ve had the good fortune of being the subject of.

From “ag-gag” laws to the Animal Enterprise Terrorist Act, it’s no secret animal abusers are contemptuous of the First Amendment. This security alert urges fur farmers to protest my 2012 talk at Utah Valley University by sending letters to school and government officials.

Also no secret: animal abusers are contemptuous of using facts to advance their arguments – Had I “explicitly” (sic) told the audience to attack mink farms, as the alert states, I’m fairly certain I would be in prison.

Fur farmers were particularly offended by this talk because it took place in Utah County, home to what is probably more mink farms than any other county in the US.

Note: This was also the same talk where a suspicious note was left behind by a possible FBI informant, warning me: “You are being watched by the FBI.” (See “*Possible FBI Informant Leaves Behind a Message*”).

**Fur Commission USA  
Action Alert – Utah  
April 13, 2012**

As you are probably aware, convicted felon and long-time adversary of the mink producers Peter Young, spoke at Utah Valley University (UVU) last week. In his speech he explicitly told audience members to attack mink farms in the area.

I have sent a letter (attached here) to the President of the University, the University Board of Trustees, the state legislators that represent the district where UVU is located, Utah Senators Orrin Hatch and Mike Lee, and Congressman Jason Chaffetz.

If you feel so inclined, I urge you to also contact University representatives and/or your legislators regarding the event. Here are some points you may want to cover:

Peter Young is a convicted felon who has targeted the mink industry for years.

Peter Young explicitly told members of the audience to commit crimes against area mink farmers.

Utah has the largest number of mink ranches in the country, and contributes tens of millions of dollars to the state economy.

The fur industry supports thousands of jobs in the state.

Utah Valley University is a taxpayer funded institution, and by sponsoring an event where criminal actions were encouraged, is implicitly endorsing such actions.

Also attached is the contact information for various parties that can affect University policy.

Regards,  
Michael

Michael Whelan  
Fur Commission USA

## **Unreported fur farm raid attempt in Idaho**

This was distributed to mink farmers nationwide in March of 2012. It covers what the Fur Commission describes as an “attempted break-in” at a mink farm in southern Idaho. This (attempted) action was previously unreported. No animals were released.

Franklin, Idaho is home to at least five active mink farms, and several others that are unconfirmed.

**Fur Commission USA  
Security Alert  
Idaho, Utah  
March 16, 2012**

**Wednesday night there was an attempted break-in at a mink farm in Franklin ID. The perpetrators were unable to release any animals.**

**In Hyrum UT last night, trespassers were detected at a feed packing plant. It is unknown if the two incidents are related.**

**Two individuals, traveling in a [redacted] car were seen near the feed plant. We will keep you informed as more information becomes available.**

**Animal rights activists may be protesting the Rocky Mountain Professional Rodeo Association event in Ogden UT this weekend, so please report any suspicious activity near your ranch, and take appropriate security precautions over the next several days.**

**Thank you,**

**Distributed by  
Michael Whelan  
Fur Commission USA**

## **Fur farmers look into lawsuit against Animal Liberation Frontline**

Two months after anonymous liberators freed over 1,000 mink from his farm, fur farmer Palmer Erickson died of cancer. After decades of murdering hundreds of thousands of mink and fox, activists finally found Palmer Erickson in his final days and delivered a little bit of justice to 5% of the estimated 20,000 mink and fox imprisoned at the farm.

In this security alert, the Fur Commission rails against a “disturbing article” on my site in which I cover Erickson’s death. The memo suggests they are looking into filing a lawsuit for criminal or civil offenses unspecified. (The lawsuit never materialized.)

The passing of a fur farmer is especially significant because many (if not most) of their children do not wish to carry on the family business. Over the years, many farms have shut down when the present owner dies. The operational status of the Palmer Erickson fur farm has not been verified since his death.

**Fur Commission USA**

**January 16, 2012**

**Erickson Family Targeted in Hate Campaign**

If you haven’t heard, longtime fur farmer Palmer Erickson recently passed away after a long illness, in Jewell IA. Last Fall, the Erickson family farm was raided and over 1,100 mink were released. The animal rights extremists are calling that raid, and his passing a victory for the ALF and the animal rights movement.

Appearing on convicted felon Peter Young’s website, is a disturbing article that describes Palmer and his family in horrible terms. Fur Commission USA has been monitoring the site, and in the last few days several people have posted defending the Erickson’s and condemning the hate speech that appears in the comments section.

We urge you not to engage these naive and intolerant individuals. The animal rights extremists that post there do not care about the truth, and will never deliberate logically or compassionately. Attempting to appeal to their humanity is a waste of your precious time. Challenging their world-view only enflames (sic-ed) them, and may motivate them to commit further acts of violence against the industry.

Be assured that Fur Commission USA is addressing the situation, and looking into legal avenues against the website and its contributors.

If you wish to read the posting, though I do not recommend it, it can be found at: <http://www.animalliberationfrontline.com/founder-of-alf-raided-fur-farm-in-iowa-dies/>

Our deepest condolences go to the Erickson family for their loss.

**Michael Whelan**

**Fur Commission USA**

**541-595-8568**



## **Warning about “Ghosts in Our Machine” filmmaker**

The acclaimed documentary “The Ghosts in Our Machine” debuted in the fall of 2013. And in 2012, the Fur Commission sent out this bulletin warning fur farmers not to speak to its filmmaker, Liz Marshall, who at the time was seeking interviews for the film.

**Fur Commission USA  
Security Alert  
January 13, 2012**

### **Documentary filmmaker seeking farm footage**

Liz Marshall, a pro animal rights activist and filmmaker, may be approaching fur farmers asking them to participate in the production of her film “The Ghosts in Our Machine”. Regardless of what she or her crew might say, the film is a hit-piece on animal agriculture.

Do not be deceived by false claims that she “wants you to tell your story” or that you can “tell the public the truth about your business”. Flattery and claiming to “make you a star” are tactics often used by these people to gain inside access.

If approached, politely decline to be interviewed and do not allow them to enter your property. If they are filming you, quietly walk away and call Fur Commission and your local sheriff’s office. Do not allow a confrontation to be filmed.

For more information on the movie, and photos of the crew members go to: <http://www.theghostsinourmachine.com/>

**Distributed by,  
Michael Whelan  
Fur Commission USA  
541-595-8568**

## **Fur farmer confronts trespasser at Idaho farm**

This bulletin alerts fur farmers to suspicious persons who approached an Idaho fur farm attempting to sell aerial photos. The fur industry is under such an assault, any unknown person on or near a fur farm is deemed to be suspicious, and farmers are advised to report any unknown visitors to the police.

In an almost comedic example of a backwoods, “frontier justice” attitude, fur farmers are actually urged to *forcefully detain trespassers* and call police.

Our sources indicate that in most or all instances any attempt has been made to capture and detain trespassers, it has been a colossal failure.

**Fur Commission USA  
Security Alert  
Idaho, Utah  
January 9, 2012**

Last week a couple entered the Hawkes Fur Farm in Franklin ID, claiming to be professional photographers, and attempting to sell aerial photographs of the farm to the owners. The male was approximately [description redacted]; the female was approximately [description redacted]. They were driving a [car description redacted]. The license plates were not identified. They carried a laptop computer and a video camera, and became increasingly nervous upon questioning.

If you are approached by these or any other individuals, be sure to obtain identification and/or record any identifying features. Do not allow anyone to photograph/video on your property under any circumstances. If someone is caught on your farm without your permission, attempt to detain them without risking injury to yourself, and call your local sheriff's office.

In order for animal rights activists to garner attention, they need to collect photographs or video of alleged animal abuse or irresponsible farm management. Please be aware of any unknown persons or vehicles in the vicinity of your property. If you have seen this vehicle recently, please call Fur Commission USA as soon as possible.

**Distributed by,  
Michael Whelan  
Fur Commission USA  
541-595-8568**

## **Farmers warned of “undervover activist threat”**

In 2011, the Fur Commission believed HSUS was seeking to obtain employment on a Wisconsin fur farm. The alarm indicated by this alert would seem to be a tacit admission that any employees would witness incriminating activity and conditions.

**Fur Commission USA  
SECURITY ALERT – WISCONSIN  
December 19, 2011**

### **Undercover Activist Threat**

Fur Commission USA recently received a notice informing us that Marianne Krist, an attorney for the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) has made inquiries to the Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources regarding fur farm regulations in the state. She has a history of infiltrating and attacking animal agriculture in Wisconsin. In 2009 she entered a dog breeding facility under the guise of a local inspection, then wrote a scathing and misleading report on the conditions of the facility and the treatment of the animals.

We have reason to believe that animal rights operatives will attempt to gain access to a fur farm through either employment, or under the guise of an official inspector. Farm managers should thoroughly screen all new hires – contacting each reference listed on applications. If approached by an apparent gov’t agent, **DO NOT** let them on the farm without first confirming their identity and the purpose of their visit with state or local authorities. A genuine official will not dispute this course of action. Do not let any cameras or video equipment on the farm under any circumstances, as activists will obtain and carefully edit images to disparage your operations.

Although we have heard only of this inquiry made in Wisconsin, it is entirely possible that the HSUS is making similar requests in other states. If you hear of any contacts being made in your area, please inform FCUSA as soon as possible.

Please do not post this information to your website or social media such as Facebook, but we encourage you to forward this to other industry support businesses or organizations.

Check your security, and alert your employees and neighbors to be aware of any suspicious persons or vehicles in the area. Report any unusual activity to law enforcement and Fur Commission USA

Distributed by,  
Michael Whelan  
Fur Commission USA  
541-595-8568

## **Meeting puts Oregon fur farms on alert**

Fur farmers are put on alert after “animal rights extremists” are expected to attend a public hearing in Astoria, Oregon.

**FCUSA Security Alert  
Astoria, Oregon  
November 29, 2011**

### **Public Hearing on Mink Farm Permit this Thursday**

The Portland Animal Defense League solicited enough comments to the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) to trigger a public hearing on the proposal to issue a Confined Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) permit to the Stunkard Fur Farm in Astoria.

The hearing will be in the meeting room of the Judge Guy Boyington Building located at 857 Commercial Street, Astoria, OR, 97103 from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM on December 1, 2011.

Though we have been assured that the ODA will only be considering comments on the management of manure, litter, and process waste water, the event will surely attract a substantial number of animal rights extremists, so farmers in NW Oregon should be alert to any suspicious activity in their area.

Please record license numbers of unknown vehicles and descriptions of persons near your farm, and report them to Fur Commission USA and the Clatsop County Sheriffs Dept. Check your security precautions and inform your neighbors to be aware of any unusual activity.

**Michael Whelan  
Fur Commission USA  
541-595-8568**

## **Farmers warned of raids after talk by “extremist” felon**

This one speaks for itself: An alert warning fur farmers of a talk I gave at the University of Wisconsin in 2011.

While I am flattered the Fur Commission believes “activists tend to be energized after (my) appearance,” I am unaware of any evidence for this, nor of any Animal Liberation Front activity that has directly proceeded any talk I’ve given. Therefore this is among the more pointlessly alarmist security alerts of the collection.

**FCUSA Security Alert**  
**Wisconsin, N. Illinois**  
**November 28, 2011**

**Peter Young Speaking in Milwaukee**

**Convicted felon and anti-fur extremist is bringing his message of crime and violence to the U. of WI-Milwaukee tonight. Farmers and other resource providers are encouraged to be aware of any suspicious activity around their farms in the coming days, as activists tend to be energized after his appearance. University police have been informed and will be monitoring the event.**

**Fur Commission USA**  
**541-595-8568**

## **Update on Washington state mink release**

In this memo, the Fur Commission gives an update and reveals that 100 mink remain free the day after the liberation at Miller Mink Farm.

While the Fur Commission generally claim fur farm raids are the work of one cell traveling the country, after two raids in two days over a thousand miles apart, they are forced to state: *"It has become apparent that more than one cell is at work in these attacks."*

**Fur Commission USA  
Security Update  
October 13, 2011**

### **Status of Farm Raids, Investigations**

An anonymous claim of guilt has been posted on the internet regarding the attack on the Miller Mink Farm in Gifford WA. It can be found on [www.directaction.info](http://www.directaction.info). In light of this we will be posting a press release outlining the recent actions targeting US farms, that will be posted on [www.furcommission.com](http://www.furcommission.com) within the next hour. If you are contacted by a reporter, please do not comment, and forward any requests for comment to Fur Commission at 541-595-8568 or [mw@furcommission.com](mailto:mw@furcommission.com). Also, do not let anyone but law enforcement onto your farm.

As of last night, the Millers had recaptured all but about 100 of the 1,100 released mink, and had set traps to try and collect the remaining animals. Agents from the FBI Spokane office were on the scene within hours of the attack

Also as of last night, the two people arrested in the attack on Steve Krege's farm are still in custody and are being questioned by the FBI. I will send out updates as they become available.

It has become apparent that more than one cell is at work in these attacks. Please be extremely vigilant concerning strangers around your farm. Take photos of vehicles, or persons of interest. Record license plates and physical descriptions. Make sure your neighbors are aware of the recent raids, and that they too are alert to suspicious activity. Contact your local Sheriff's Dept or PD and let them know what is happening around the country. Sometimes the smallest bit of information from Minnesota can result in the arrest of extremists in Utah.

Activists use satellite imagery (Google Maps) to research entry and exit points on the farms, as well as routes to and from your immediate area. Be aware of any nearby parking areas that are in walking distance to the back of your farm. If possible, hire a night watchman for a couple weeks.

Hopefully, as we harden the targets these attacks will subside and/or the perpetrators will be caught. Please contact Fur Commission with any information you obtain that can help law enforcement keep our farms safe.

**Michael Whelan  
Fur Commission USA  
541-595-8568**

## Over 1,000 mink released from Washington mink farm

In this bulletin, the Fur Commission announces the release of 1,100 mink from a farm in northeastern Washington state, and alludes to a connection to a suspicious vehicle seen (presumably) near the Roessler Brothers mink farm near Startup, WA.

Fur Commission USA  
Security Alert –Iowa, Pacific Northwest  
October 12, 2011

Early this morning Gina and Mike Miller arose to find that animal rights extremists had broke into their farm in Gifford WA, and released approximately 1,100 mink. The Miller family, with help from their friends and neighbors, are presently re-capturing the animals and the FBI in both Seattle and Spokane have been alerted. More information will be sent as it becomes available.

On Saturday, an [redacted] was seen outside an abandoned pelting shed near Startup WA. A [description and age redacted] old was spotted taking photos of the shed with a high powered lens. The vehicle was occupied by several other persons. When approached the car sped away. No other information is available.

Distributed by,  
Michael Whelan  
Fur Commission USA



## **“Incriminating” evidence found at site of Iowa mink farm raid**

The Fur Commission states here that the fur farm raiders left behind several “incriminating” pieces of evidence, which was collected by the FBI.

This memo also reveals that the raid was discovered in the pre-dawn hours because of a barking dog.

**Fur Commission USA  
SECURITY ALERT – Midwest US  
October 7, 2011**

### **Mink Release in Iowa**

Early this morning animal rights extremists broke into Palmer Erickson’s fur farm in Jewell IA and released approximately 1,600 mink. The attack was discovered when the family dogs started barking in the pre-dawn hours. The assailants opened pens in 4 sheds on the perimeter of the farm. Local sheriffs and the Des Moines FBI have gathered promising evidence, as the perpetrators left behind several incriminating items.

Neighbors and friends immediately came to the Erickson’s aide, and have recaptured most of the mink. The farm is adjacent to several large corn fields, so they expect to continue collecting the remaining animals for several days.

No claims of responsibility have surfaced yet. Farmers and resource providers in adjacent counties and states are urged to check their security systems and be extra vigilant in the coming weeks. This is the third attack related to fur production in the past 10 days, and more incidents may occur. Any suspicious activity should be immediately reported to law enforcement and Fur Commission USA.

**Michael Whelan  
Fur Commission USA**

## **How two attempted fur farm raiders were caught**

This alert was sent to farmers the day after the arrest of Kellie Marshall and Victor VanOrden at the Circle K fur farm in Sioux City, Iowa.

According to the bulletin, the pair unknowingly tripped alarms at the farm that night. Police were subsequently called and made the arrests.

Both served less than four months and have been released.

Having visited many fur farms, the few alarms I've seen take the form of (silent) photoelectric sensors which are tripped when they detect motion. They are noticeable as small boxes most often placed in the corner of (usually larger) fur farms. They can be easy to miss for anyone not looking for them, and this bulletin shows that is likely what led to Victor and Kellie's arrest that night.

Another detail revealed in the bulletin is that after cutting holes in the fence, the pair (allegedly) made it as far as opening a single cage. Media reports on whether any animals had been released were conflicting.

5,000 mink and 100 foxes were released from this farm in 1997.

**Fur Commission USA**  
**SECURITY ALERT – Midwest US**  
**October 7, 2011**

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**Michael Whelan**  
**Fur Commission USA**

## **Suspicious cars seen at farms in Wisconsin and Utah**

Two suspicious vehicles are seen acting suspiciously near mink farms in Utah and Wisconsin.

The first farm mentioned, owned by Ryan Holt in South Jordan, Utah, had 3,000 mink released by the Animal Liberation Front in 1996.

### **Unclaimed action?**

Interestingly, the security alert references four fur farm “attacks” in the month preceding the memo. However, only three are known. If there was a fourth raid, it was not claimed or reported by the media.

The memo could be referring to the arson at Rocky Mountain Firework Fur & Company in Caldwell, Idaho; however that business is not believed to be a wild pelt buyer and not a fur farm, as the memo states.

**Fur Commission USA  
SECURITY ALERT – Midwest US  
October 7, 2011**

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**Michael Whelan  
Fur Commission USA**

**Suspicious persons seen scouting Utah mink farm**

This is a typical Fur Commission security alert, warning fur farmers of “suspicious” persons seen near a Utah fur farm. With over 100 fur farm raids since 1995, farmers consider any activity around their farm suspicious, and report this activity to the Fur Commission as part of their “Neighborhood Watch” program which is subsequently distributed nationwide via these alerts.

**Fur Commission USA**  
**SECURITY ALERT – Midwest US**  
**October 7, 2011**

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**Michael Whelan**  
**Fur Commission USA**

## **Arson at Rocky Mountain Fireworks & Fur**

The damage is described as “minimal”, yet the Fur Commission believes the fire “marks a significant escalation of tactics by violent animal rights extremists against the US fur industry.”

**Fur Commission USA  
Security Alert  
September 27, 2011**

### **Arson Attack on Idaho Fur Store**

Early Monday morning animal rights terrorists attacked Rocky Mountain Fireworks & Fur in Caldwell Idaho, using multiple incendiary devices. Firefighters from six different agencies battled the blaze that closed down Idaho Highway 30. An anonymous communiqué delivered to the Bite Back website claimed the crime was committed by “The Arson Unit” and marks a significant escalation of tactics by violent animal rights extremists against the US fur industry. Federal agents from the ATF in Boise, as well as the FBI in Salt Lake City and Seattle are investigating the attack.

There were no injuries and the fire was contained without significant damage to the fireworks or fur articles, said fire official Marty Ogan. “It was stopped relatively quickly, overall, there was a minimal amount of damage.” In addition to selling fireworks, the business buys wild fur pelts and sells trapping supplies.

Resource providers in Southern Idaho and Northern Utah should review their security precautions and immediately report any suspicious persons, vehicles or activity to law enforcement and Fur Commission USA.

**Distributed by  
Fur Commission USA  
[www.furcommission.com](http://www.furcommission.com)**

**300 mink freed from Astoria mink farm**

According to this memo, 40 of the 300 animals released had not been recaptured at the time it was distributed.

**Pacific Northwest  
SECURITY ALERT  
September 25, 2011**

**Mink farm attacked in Oregon**

At approximately 1:30 AM this morning, unknown animal rights terrorists broke into a mink farm near Astoria Oregon, releasing approximately 300 animals. The farmer, with help from his friends and neighbors successfully recaptured all but about 40 of the animals within the first few hours. They continue to search for the remaining mink.

On Thursday a suspicious woman, about [redacted] yrs old, [redacted] lbs was seen near the Roesler Bros. farm. When approached she covered her face and drove away in a late model [redacted].

All farmers and other resource providers are urged to take extra security precautions and report any unknown persons near their animal facilities.

Please contact the FBI, your local police and Fur Commission USA if you suspect you may be targeted for attack.

**Michael Whelan  
Fur Commission USA  
541-595-8568**

## **Unclaimed mink release in Minnesota**

This offers new details on an unclaimed mink release from 2009. This incident had been previously reported, but very few details were available until now.

According to this report, mink were released within the fence, and presumably all were recaptured.

### **FCUSA Security Alert**

**September 8, 2009**

#### **Attempted Attack on Mink Farm**

**Sunday, 9:30 pm, September 6, 2009, Richmond Minnesota - The Lang Farm reported spotting trespassers on the farm, police chased them and heard them jump the fence, moving through the brush around the farm (wearing night vision goggles?). No holes cut in fence but mink lose in and out of the mink yard (less than 50).**

**Farmers urged to remain alert as this was obviously an attempt to release the mink and often such events happen to several farms within a week, all within driving distance of each other.**

## **Fur farmers on alert over release of new Earth Crisis record**

When they think they're only talking amongst themselves, animal abusers feel free to wear their naivete on their sleeve a little more. For example, in this series I've posted internal fur industry communications in which they display confusion over not being coddled by police and suggestions to call the police if their address is on the internet, among other rather bizarre and out-of-touch examples. This is another one for that list.

In this alert, among the usual mentions of ALF prisoners and documentary filmmakers seeking footage, the FCUSA thought it necessary to mention that vegan band Earth Crisis has a new album out. Lock your doors.

### **FCUSA Security Alert**

**July 21, 2009**

#### **Farmers Urged to Be Alert**

In Utah, the trials of William "BJ" Viehl and Alex Hall, which were scheduled for July 27, 28, 29 in Salt Lake City, have been postponed until late August or early September. Bail was revoked for Viehl and Hall for violating the terms of their pre-trial conditions. Viehl, it is alleged, communicated with ALF / ELF criminals in violation of his bail terms. Both will remain in the Davis County Jail in Farmington, Utah until their court dates.

Again, in Utah, Jordan Halliday, jailed for refusing to cooperate with a grand jury, was indicted with felony contempt of court. He has been released on bail.

Convicted criminal Peter Daniel Young, who served time for over million dollars in damages to farms in multiple states, has been spotted in Oregon and Idaho doing surveillance and filming farms. He was traveling in a rental car with [name redacted].

A new book on Rodney Coronado, Operation Bite Back, has just been released.

Earth Crisis has released its To The Death album.

Skin Trade, a film attacking the natural fiber fur clothing business, is in production.

Several suspicious people have approached farmers seeking work. Farmers are being targeted with cameras, sometimes hidden (in shirt buttons, glasses, hats, bandanas, purses, etc). Assume there may be a camera rolling when approached by strangers.

Do not hesitate to contact local law enforcement about anything or anyone appearing out of place in your neighborhood. Please pass over any license plates, description or suspicious people and vehicles to Fur Commission USA and we can check names of anyone considered for employment.

Fur Commission USA maintains a detailed Neighborhood Watch Report that is available for you and law enforcement. Ask us for it.

Distributed by Teresa Platt,  
Fur Commission USA,  
furfarmers@aol.com



### **“Animal rights felon” pulled over by police in Idaho**

While usually prone to hyperbole and inaccuracies, this particular alert - although not terribly interesting - is 100% true.

#### **FCUSA Security Alert**

**July 3, 2009**

#### **Farmers Urged to Be Alert**

Franklin, Idaho law enforcement pulled over convicted animal rights felon Peter Daniel Young today. Young, who served time for over million dollars in damages on farms in multiple states, was traveling with a female redhead in her early 20s and driving a rented white Toyota Yaris. They were filming farms.

Utah farmers reported suspicious people on their farms and trespassers with video cameras were seen in Oregon earlier this year.