

Industry Overview:

# Non-Ruminant



**Our Food. Our Future.**  
Growing Opportunities in Agriculture

 Newfoundland  
Labrador

## Fur-bearers

Newfoundland and Labrador is leading by example when it comes to the fur industry. The province was the first to create and implement a fur farm inspection program based on the National Farm Animal Care Council's Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Farmed Mink. All fur farms must pass this inspection in order to obtain a licence to operate. Newfoundland and Labrador's fur farms are strictly regulated under the Animal Health and Protection Act to ensure that animal welfare is the number one priority for farmers.

The fur industry employs about 250 people across 12 farms in the province. In 2016, the value of fur pelts was \$7.1 million. The two main furbearing species that are farmed in the province are mink and fox. Approximately 300,000 mink and 600 foxes are raised and harvested each year in Newfoundland and Labrador to produce a product that is natural, long-lasting, and biodegradable – fur. Additionally, the fat can be rendered to produce mink oil, which can be used as a lubricant or to preserve leathers.

Animals are bred in late winter/early spring and will give birth mid-spring. The average size of a mink litter is four to five kits and the average size of a fox litter is three pups. Pelts are harvested from late fall to early winter and are sold at an auction house or directly to buyers.

Fur farming completes the nutrient cycle by making use of animal by-products from other industries, including the fishing and poultry industries, which would otherwise go to a landfill. Manure, spoiled

bedding, and other by-products of the fur industry are composted to create a fertilizer that is rich in nutrients and can be spread on agricultural land. Old pelts and fur products can also be composted. Nothing goes to waste in the fur industry.

## Swine

The swine industry in Newfoundland and Labrador is relatively small-scale when compared to other Canadian provinces. Currently, there are approximately 100 commercial breeding sows in the province. There are also small-scale swine operations, many of which produce weaner pigs to sell to others who wish to raise their own hogs to supply their family with fresh pork products.

The most popular swine breeds raised for commercial production in Newfoundland and Labrador are purebred and crossbred Landrace, Yorkshire and Duroc. These are the most common breeds used in commercial production in Canada due to their superior breeding and meat quality traits. A number of other breeds have also been raised in the province which include Berkshire, Hampshire, Large Black and Tamworth. Each breed has unique characteristics which include litter size, growth rate, feed conversion rate and carcass structures and composition.

Aside from fresh pork, the meat from a pig can also be processed to make several products, including ham, bacon, sausages and other deli meats. The organs, fat, bones, and blood can also be used to make various products, including leather, animal feed, insulin, gelatin, violin strings and footballs.

There are several programs available to help farmers achieve good animal welfare and a safe food product. In Newfoundland and Labrador, swine operations are required to participate in PigTrace, the national swine traceability program, and to adhere to the National Farm Animal Care Council's Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Pigs.

