












Production costs	DKK/pelt
Feed (43 kg per pelt)	54.0
Wages (excl. pelting)	31.3
Veterinary	1.0
Purchase of breed animals	3.5
Maintenance, hall/machines	6.3
Insurance	1.5
Heating, etc.	0.8
Pelting	20.0
Other costs, incl. sales costs	11.5
Interest	11.0
Depreciation	10.0
Total	151.0



Benefits of mink breeding on Iceland

-  Large amounts of good raw materials for feed production
-  Large areas for buildings and/or removal of waste
-  Cheap water – hot and cold – for cleaning and heating facilities
-  Mild climate all year, very suitable for mink breeding
-  There is disease, but it poses no problem
-  Direct air links to the most important European destinations – only 3 hours to Copenhagen and 3 1/2 hours to Amsterdam
-  Only 18% corporation tax
-  Good location for children to grow up in – safe and family-friendly surroundings
-  Low production costs

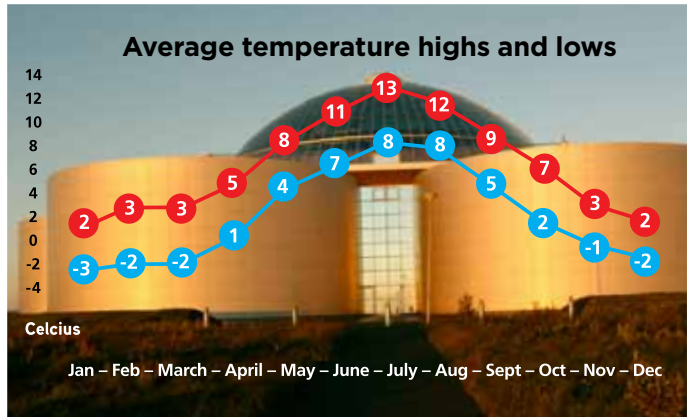
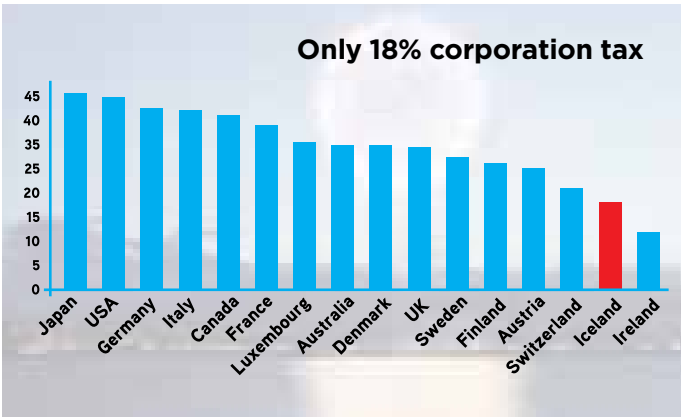




Only 3 hours to Copenhagen

Danish culture and Icelandic culture are very compatible. Lots of fresh air. Fantastic nature. Iceland has a higher consumer price index, but on the other hand also lower taxation. All that remains is to learn the language – but what the heck. Emphasise the first syllable – that helps understanding! Pootatoes or Cuuuucumbers.

See you soon!
Merete Rabølle
 Farmer at Hraun á Skaga





WHY
ICELAND?
CHILD AND
FAMILY-FRIENDLY
COMMUNITY

Iceland – a good choice for mink production



INVEST IN ICELAND
INVEST.IS



Iceland - a good choice for mink production

Iceland currently has 22 mink farms with an average of around 1,600 females. There are 17 farms in the north and south of the country, 4 in the east and 1 in the west.

There is an annual production of around 6,000 tonnes of mink feed. This production can, if necessary and without any problems, be increased hugely, as the raw materials are present.

Nearly all of the Icelandic mink farms are constructed in the same way as the Danish ones, with the same type of cages and nesting boxes, although primarily in closed halls. The same applies to the machinery used in the farms' daily operations. The Icelandic fur farmers' knowledge of mink is also gained from abroad. There is extensive collaboration with fur farmers in the other Nordic

countries. Despite the knowledge gained from outside Iceland, production has, of course, had to be adapted to Icelandic conditions. Over the years, the majority of the production was sold through Copenhagen Fur, although it is only since 2009 that all Icelandic pelts have been sold solely through the Danish company.

The Icelandic climate can be described as a mixture of the climates in Denmark, Sweden, Norway and Finland. The result is perfect for mink breeding, as there are never problems with excessively high summer temperatures. Frost cannot be avoided in the winter period, but is no greater a problem for Icelandic breeders than for breeders in the other Nordic countries. The climate varies from region to region, but is normally dry.



WHY ICELAND?
ADVANCED INFRASTRUCTURE

WHY ICELAND?
EUROPEAN LEGISLATIVE BASIS



Price trends for pelts

If you look at the price trends for Icelandic pelts compared with pelts from other countries, it is clear that the price differences have become less and less over the last few years. The price difference between Icelandic and Danish pelts has become significantly less. Over the last two years there has been a price difference of DKK 13-15 per pelt, compared with a difference in previous years of DKK 23-25 per pelt. This improvement is due to greater commitment from the breeders, better feed production and, last but not least, more importing of breed males from Denmark.





Building costs

There are very large differences in the costs of building mink halls in Iceland. Several conditions play a part, including the material that the hall is built from, and if it is a new build or a conversion. If you looked at the mink halls that have been built most recently, you would fix an approximate price per sq. metre of DKK 650–700/m² for an empty steel frame hall. Cages, water systems, breeding boxes, etc. must be imported individually from Denmark, and the price varies by quality and volume, as in other countries. Import costs are a large part of the budget, but good planning by the vendor and purchaser can maintain these at an acceptable level. The total start-up costs will unavoidably be higher in Iceland than in Denmark, for example.

In order to get the full picture, you must also include the costs of purchasing the land and the area for disposal of waste. Here is where Iceland has a great advantage, because land prices are significantly lower in Iceland than they are in Denmark, and there are no requirements for a specific land area in relation to the stock size for the disposal of waste, because there is land enough to dispose it on, and there are many farmers who would like to use it for fertiliser or land reclamation. There are no provisions concerning manure gulleys in the halls, even if many farmers in Iceland do use them, thereby obtaining better air quality in the buildings and the possibility of automatic mucking out. Although they are not mandatory, it is also possible to build a cheaper summer hall by the side of the main hall.



Diseases and precautions

Hardpad and virus enteritis are unknown on Iceland. Plasmacytosis came to Iceland in connection with import nearly 40 years ago, and is currently present among wild mink. There have been outbreaks of plasmacytosis on four farms since 1983. In all of the cases, the stock has been pelted, everything has been washed and disinfected, and tests of the new stock have been carried out annually. Pneumonia is known and has been seen several times over the years. Stock are not vaccinated against this disease. Those breeders who wish to, can now vaccinate.

There are strict rules governing import of new animals. When minks come to Iceland, they are placed in quarantine for six months, before being released to breeders. This, of course, incurs a great deal of expense, but the return is high. It is possible to turn a normal mink farm into a quarantine station, but it would involve special requirements regarding access limitations and veterinary supervision.