

A Greek fur farmer says:
“Fur-farming in Greece is an excellent example
of a sustainable activity for the country.”



Bill Dimzas, a fur farmer in Kastoria, says: “On my fur farm, I provide six full-time jobs all year round and I employ an additional person in the spring and winter”.

In this time of economical difficulties in Greece and all around the world, fur-farming is a very good example of a sustainable activity that provides jobs and supports local communities in rural areas where jobs are hard to find. Greek fur-farming is mainly located in Kastoria and Siatista, and is one of the main sources of income for these two regions.

Some 50,000 people live in Kastoria and Siatista, and up to 80% work in the fur sector: 31 fur farms, 850 manufacturers, 350 fur-shops... Fur-farming production in Greece has increased by more than 450% over the last ten years to reach an annual mink-fur output of 450,000 pelts in 2009. This evolution follows the trend for the global production of fur which has grown by more than 45% in the past ten years. This is the result of an excellent and globally-recognised quality production. The Hellenic Fur Breeders’ Association is a member of the European Fur Breeders’ Association and respects its code of conduct which guarantees the best practices in European fur-farming. Indeed, good feeding, and excellent animal health and welfare, as well as experienced and trained farmers, are the keys to Greek and European success.

The fur sector has existed in Kastoria and Siatista for over 400 years and fur-farming started more than 60 years ago. Greek fur farmers are proud to perpetuate this long heritage which has passed down through the generations. **“I love to work with nature and animals. I give them the best care as it impacts directly on the quality of the fur and thus the results of my job. Fur is a very fashionable and sustainable industry,”** says Bill Dimzas, a fur farmer in Kastoria.

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