**Meadow Vole** (*Microtus pennsylvanicus*)

**Taxonomy:**
Family Cricetidae. There are 28 recognized subspecies, including *Microtus pennsylvanicus pullatus* which occurs locally.

**Description:**
Generally a dull brown dorsally and gray ventrally. In the winter, they have a thicker, finer winter pelage and a sparse, coarse coat in the summer. Juvenile individuals have a darker coloration than adults. They have a short tail and compressed muzzle.

Total length: 140-195 mm; Length of tail: 33-64 mm; Weight: 33-65 g

**Distribution:**
Widely distributed in the eastern and north-central US north through most of Canada and into Alaska. Limited distribution in the intermountain region, and found locally at scattered locations in the valleys along the Wasatch Front.

**Ecology and Diet:**
Meadow voles live in grassy fields and meadows, preferably ones that are wetter rather than drier. They can be active 24 hours a day, and throughout the year. They are primarily herbivorous; they eat most grass species, as well as sedges and herbaceous plants. They will occasionally eat insects and animal remains.

**Life History:**
The meadow vole is known to be the most prolific mammal on earth. They can breed about a month after being born; there is a 3 week gestation period and the young are weaned after 2 weeks of being born. Litter size usually ranges anywhere from 3 to ten pups.

**Reference:** Tamarin 1999.