Special Note

Annual Mink Production data is now available on Quick Stats. Please contact the Livestock Branch at (202) 720-3570 or email at hq_sd_lb@nass.usda.gov with any questions or concerns.

Pelt Production Up Slightly

**Mink pelt production** in the United States in 2015 totaled 3.75 million pelts, up slightly from 2014. Wisconsin, the largest mink producing State, produced 1.32 million pelts. Utah, the second largest producing State, produced 934 thousand pelts.

The number of pelts by color class as a percent of the total United States production in 2015 is as follows: Black at 50 percent, Mahogany at 24 percent, and Blue Iris at 7 percent. The remaining color classes accounted for 19 percent.

**Value of pelts produced** during the 2015 crop year was $117 million, down 46 percent from $216 million a year ago. The average price per pelt for the 2015 crop year was $31.10, down $26.60 from $57.70 in 2014.

**Female mink bred** to produce kits in 2016 totaled 769 thousand, down 9 percent from the previous year.

Percent of total females bred to produce kits in 2016 by color class is as follows: Black at 50 percent, Mahogany at 22 percent, and Blue Iris at 7 percent. The remaining color classes accounted for 21 percent.
Due to sequestration the *Mink* report was suspended in 2012.
### Mink Pelts Produced and Females Bred by Color Class – United States: 2014-2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Color class</th>
<th>Pelts produced (number)</th>
<th>Females bred to produce kits (number)</th>
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<td>78,280</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pastel</td>
<td>112,650</td>
<td>110,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sapphire</td>
<td>121,330</td>
<td>115,480</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blue Iris</td>
<td>305,240</td>
<td>278,420</td>
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<td>Mahogany</td>
<td>903,650</td>
<td>896,840</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pearl</td>
<td>103,970</td>
<td>95,700</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lavender</td>
<td>13,590</td>
<td>22,460</td>
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<tr>
<td>Violet</td>
<td>43,100</td>
<td>59,250</td>
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<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>155,180</td>
<td>205,910</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
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<td>21,510</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Pelts produced (number)</th>
<th>Average marketing price (dollars)</th>
<th>Value of mink pelts (dollars)</th>
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(NA) Not available.

† Due to sequestration the Mink report was suspended.
### Pelts Produced by Color Class – Selected States and United States: 2014

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<th>Sapphire</th>
<th>Blue Iris</th>
<th>Mahogany</th>
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<td>903,650</td>
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<th>Violet</th>
<th>White</th>
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<td>43,100</td>
<td>155,180</td>
<td>19,380</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

- Represents zero.

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

1 Other States include Indiana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, South Dakota, Virginia, and some pelts from the above listed States that were not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

2 Published color classes may not add to the State total to avoid disclosing individual operations.
### Pelts Produced by Color Class – Selected States and United States: 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>States</th>
<th>Black (number)</th>
<th>Demi/Wild (number)</th>
<th>Pastel (number)</th>
<th>Sapphire (number)</th>
<th>Blue Iris (number)</th>
<th>Mahogany (number)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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- Represents zero.

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

1 Other States include New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, South Dakota, Virginia, and some pelts from the above listed States that were not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

2 Published color classes may not add to the State total to avoid disclosing individual operations.
Female Mink Bred to Produce Kits by Color Class – Selected States and United States: 2015

<table>
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<th>States</th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>Demi/Wild</th>
<th>Pastel</th>
<th>Sapphire</th>
<th>Blue Iris</th>
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</table>

- Represents zero.

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

1 Other States include Indiana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, South Dakota, Virginia, and some females bred from the above listed States that were not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

2 Published color classes may not add to the State total to avoid disclosing individual operations.
Female Mink Bred to Produce Kits by Color Class – Selected States and United States: 2016

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<th>Black (number)</th>
<th>Demi/Wild (D)</th>
<th>Pastel (number)</th>
<th>Sapphire (number)</th>
<th>Blue Iris (number)</th>
<th>Mahogany (number)</th>
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<td>(D)</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<th>White (D)</th>
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<td>Other States ¹</td>
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</table>

- Represents zero.

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

¹ Other States include New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, South Dakota, Virginia, and some females bred from the above listed States that were not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

² Published color classes may not add to the State total to avoid disclosing individual operations.
Statistical Methodology

Survey Procedures: Mink production data are collected from early May through late May from all known producers. Individual NASS Field Offices maintain a list of all known mink producers and use known sources of producers to update their lists. All known mink producers are mailed a questionnaire and given adequate time to respond by mail. Those who do not respond by mail are telephoned or enumerated in person. Care is exercised to account for all operations. Major auction houses, which handle producer sales, provide mink pelt price data in June. Prices are collected at the point of first sale, before marketing costs are deducted.

Estimation Procedures: All data are analyzed for unusual values. Data from each operation are compared to their own past operating profile and to trends from similar operations. Data for missing operations are estimated based on similar operations or historical data. Field offices prepare these estimates by using a combination of survey indications and historic trends. Individual State estimates are reviewed by the Agricultural Statistics Board for reasonableness.

Revision Policy: Revisions to previous estimates are made to improve year-to-year and item-to-item relationships. Estimates for the previous year are subject to revision when current estimates are made. Estimates will also be reviewed after data from the five-year Census of Agriculture are available. No revisions will be made after that date.

Reliability: Mink production estimates are based on a census of all known active producers and therefore, have no sampling variability. However, estimates are subject to errors such as omissions, duplication, mistakes in reporting, recording, and processing data. While these errors cannot be measured directly, they are minimized through strict quality control in the data collection process and a careful review of all reported data for consistency and reasonableness.

To assist in evaluating the reliability of the estimates in this report, the “Root Mean Square Error” is shown for selected items in the following table. The “Root Mean Square Error” is a statistical measure based on past performance and is computed using the differences between first and final estimates. The “Root Mean Square Error” for mink pelts produced over the past 10 years is 0.5 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 3.75 million pelts by more than 0.5 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 0.9 percent.

Reliability of Mink Estimates
[[Based on data for the past ten years]]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Root mean square error</th>
<th>90 percent confidence level</th>
<th>Difference between first and latest estimate</th>
<th>90 percent confidence level</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Smallest</th>
<th>Largest</th>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Below latest</th>
<th>Above latest</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(percent)</td>
<td>(percent)</td>
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<td>(1,000)</td>
<td>(1,000)</td>
<td>(number)</td>
<td>(number)</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Information Contacts

Listed below are the commodity specialists in the Livestock Branch of the National Agricultural Statistics Service to contact for additional information. E-mail inquiries may be sent to nass@nass.usda.gov

Dan Kerestes, Chief, Livestock Branch .......................................................... (202) 720-3570

Bruce Boess, Head, Poultry and Specialty Commodities Section ............................................... (202) 720-4447
  Aaron Cosgrove – Egg Products, Poultry Slaughter, Trout Production .................................. (202) 690-3237
  Alissa Cowell-Mytar – Cold Storage ................................................................................. (202) 720-4751
  Heidi Gleich – Broiler Hatchery, Chicken Hatchery ............................................................ (202) 720-0585
  Tom Kruchten – Census of Aquaculture .............................................................................. (202) 690-4870
  Kim Linonis – Layers, Eggs ................................................................................................. (202) 690-8632
  Sammy Neal – Catfish Production, Mink, Turkey Hatchery, Turkeys Raised .................. (202) 720-3244
  Joshua O’Rear – Honey, Honey Bee Colonies .................................................................. (202) 690-3676
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- All reports are available electronically, at no cost, on the NASS web site: [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov)

- Both national and state specific reports are available via a free e-mail subscription. To set-up this free subscription, visit [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov) and click on “National” or “State” in upper right corner above “search” box to create an account and select the reports you would like to receive.

For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Agricultural Statistics Hotline at (800) 727-9540, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET, or e-mail: nass@nass.usda.gov.

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