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## 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](mailto: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.

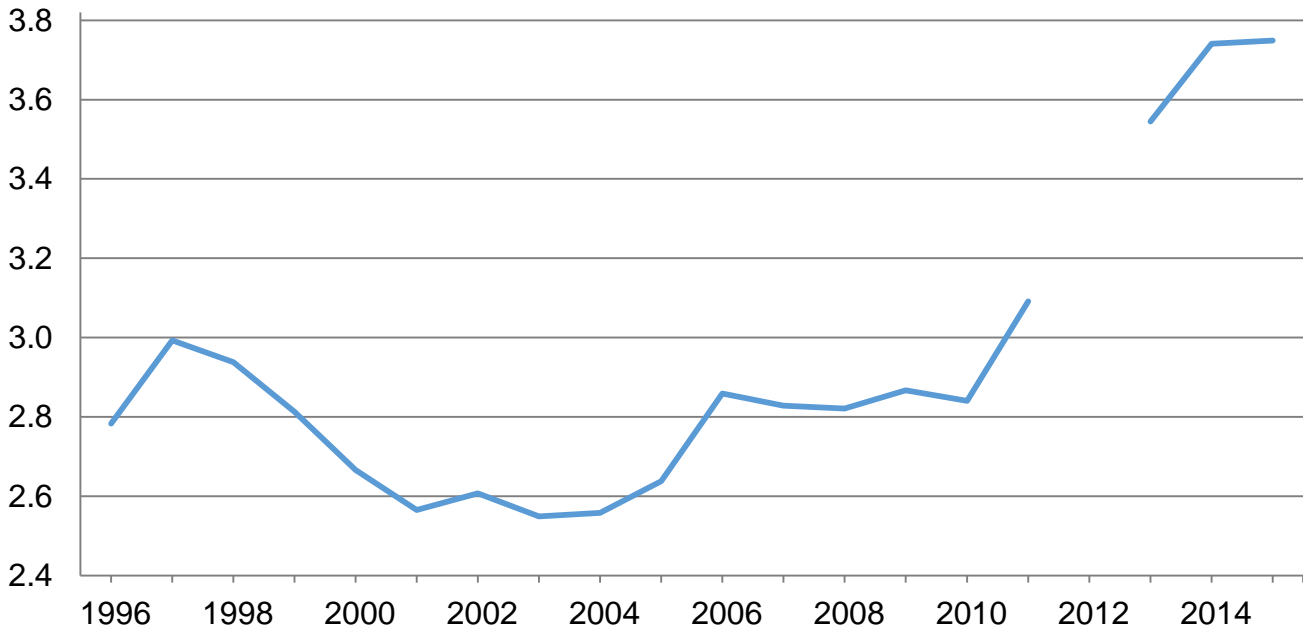
**Value of pelts produced** during the 2015 crop year was \$117 million, down 46 percent from \$216 million a year ago. The average price per pelt for the 2015 crop year was \$31.10, down \$26.60 from \$57.70 in 2014.

**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.

## Mink Pelts Produced – United States

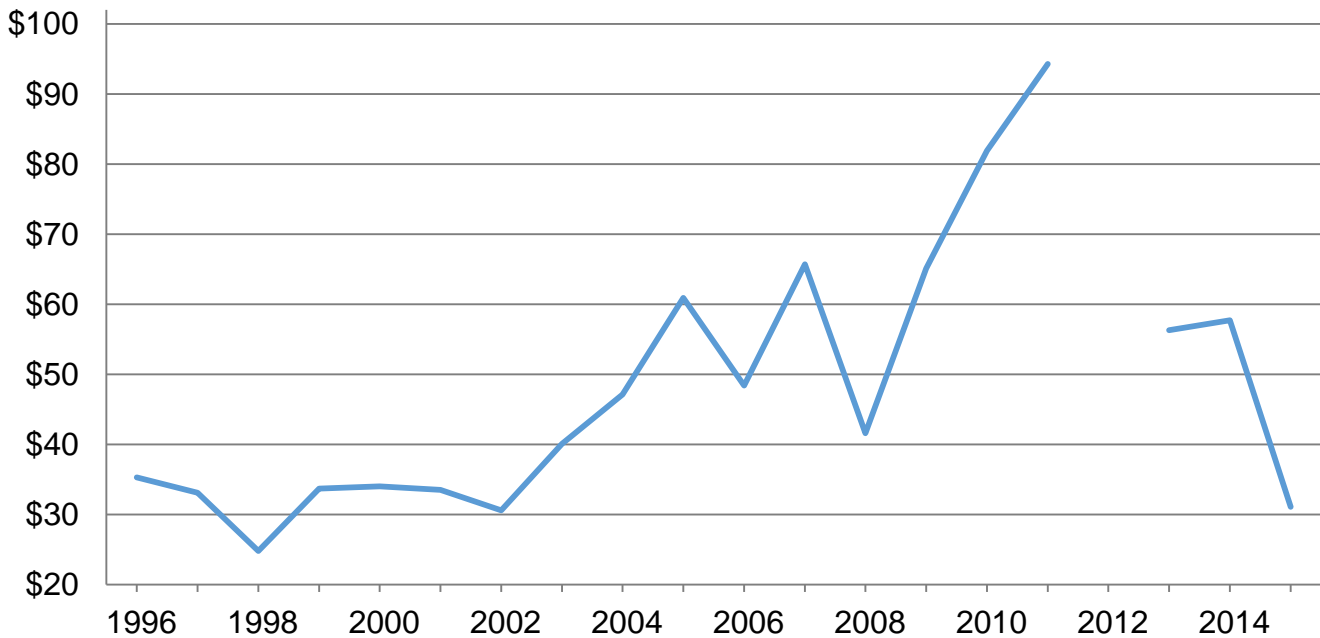
Million



Due to sequestration the *Mink* report was suspended in 2012.

## Mink Average Price Per Pelt – United States

Dollars



Due to sequestration the *Mink* report was suspended in 2012.

## Mink Pelts Produced and Females Bred by Color Class – United States: 2014-2016

Color class	Pelts produced		Females bred to produce kits	
	2014 (number)	2015 (number)	2015 (number)	2016 (number)
Black .....	1,882,600	1,863,700	435,600	385,900
Demi/Wild .....	80,460	79,280	20,920	19,420
Pastel .....	112,650	110,900	24,550	28,120
Sapphire .....	121,330	115,480	32,380	29,870
Blue Iris .....	305,240	278,420	69,680	53,470
Mahogany .....	903,650	896,840	179,940	167,300
Pearl .....	103,970	95,700	16,980	16,640
Lavender .....	13,590	22,460	6,640	7,750
Violet .....	43,100	59,250	10,780	14,100
White .....	155,180	205,910	46,770	43,210
Other .....	19,380	21,510	4,460	3,280
Total .....	3,741,150	3,749,450	848,700	769,060

## Mink Pelts Produced, Average Price, and Value – United States: 1996-2015

Year	Pelts produced (number)	Average marketing price (dollars)	Value of mink pelts (dollars)
1996 .....	2,783,200	35.30	98,246,960
1997 .....	2,993,300	33.10	99,078,230
1998 .....	2,938,100	24.80	72,864,880
1999 .....	2,812,500	33.70	94,781,250
2000 .....	2,666,100	34.00	90,647,400
2001 .....	2,565,300	33.50	85,937,550
2002 .....	2,607,300	30.60	79,783,380
2003 .....	2,549,000	40.10	102,214,900
2004 .....	2,558,100	47.10	120,486,510
2005 .....	2,637,800	60.90	160,642,020
2006 .....	2,858,800	48.40	138,365,920
2007 .....	2,828,200	65.70	185,812,740
2008 .....	2,820,700	41.60	117,341,120
2009 .....	2,866,700	65.10	186,622,170
2010 .....	2,840,200	81.90	232,612,380
2011 .....	3,091,470	94.30	291,525,621
2012 <sup>1</sup> .....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
2013 .....	3,544,610	56.30	199,561,543
2014 .....	3,741,150	57.70	215,864,355
2015 .....	3,749,450	31.10	116,607,895

(NA) Not available.

<sup>1</sup> Due to sequestration the *Mink* report was suspended.

**Pelts Produced by Color Class – Selected States and United States: 2014**

States	Black	Demi/Wild	Pastel	Sapphire	Blue Iris	Mahogany
	(number)	(number)	(number)	(number)	(number)	(number)
Idaho .....	139,000	7,500	4,300	17,500	(D)	164,000
Illinois .....	68,000	-	-	(D)	-	(D)
Iowa .....	45,000	-	(D)	(D)	(D)	34,000
Michigan .....	36,000	-	(D)	(D)	(D)	2,300
Minnesota .....	84,000	27,000	(D)	(D)	40,000	82,000
Montana .....	9,000	(D)	(D)	-	(D)	9,500
Ohio .....	68,000	(D)	-	(D)	(D)	18,500
Oregon .....	215,000	-	(D)	(D)	80,000	(D)
Pennsylvania .....	36,000	(D)	8,000	9,000	19,000	(D)
Utah .....	320,000	37,000	(D)	40,000	1,500	425,000
Washington .....	58,000	-	-	-	(D)	(D)
Wisconsin .....	800,000	1,100	31,000	39,000	138,000	117,000
Other States <sup>1</sup> .....	4,600	7,860	69,350	15,830	26,740	51,350
United States .....	1,882,600	80,460	112,650	121,330	305,240	903,650
States	Pearl	Lavender	Violet	White	Other	Total <sup>2</sup>
	(number)	(number)	(number)	(number)	(number)	(number)
Idaho .....	-	(D)	(D)	-	(D)	357,970
Illinois .....	(D)	-	(D)	(D)	-	97,740
Iowa .....	-	-	-	(D)	-	85,700
Michigan .....	-	-	-	8,000	-	53,200
Minnesota .....	(D)	-	(D)	(D)	-	255,930
Montana .....	-	-	-	(D)	(D)	25,730
Ohio .....	-	-	-	(D)	-	95,800
Oregon .....	-	-	(D)	-	-	333,050
Pennsylvania .....	(D)	-	(D)	(D)	(D)	87,430
Utah .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	958,760
Washington .....	-	-	-	-	-	82,000
Wisconsin .....	(D)	7,500	(D)	115,000	3,900	1,268,760
Other States <sup>1</sup> .....	103,970	6,090	43,100	32,180	15,480	39,080
United States .....	103,970	13,590	43,100	155,180	19,380	3,741,150

- Represents zero.

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

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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**

States	Black	Demi/Wild	Pastel	Sapphire	Blue Iris	Mahogany
	(number)	(number)	(number)	(number)	(number)	(number)
Idaho .....	129,000	10,000	8,000	14,500	(D)	193,000
Illinois .....	68,000	-	-	(D)	-	(D)
Iowa .....	50,000	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	37,000
Michigan .....	44,000	-	(D)	-	(D)	(D)
Minnesota .....	100,000	27,000	(D)	(D)	(D)	78,000
Montana .....	3,700	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Ohio .....	57,000	(D)	-	(D)	(D)	(D)
Oregon .....	220,000	-	(D)	(D)	77,000	(D)
Pennsylvania .....	35,000	(D)	(D)	9,000	17,000	(D)
Utah .....	310,000	34,000	(D)	41,000	2,200	395,000
Washington .....	58,000	-	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Wisconsin .....	780,000	(D)	34,000	33,000	129,000	135,000
Other States <sup>1</sup> .....	9,000	8,280	68,900	17,980	53,220	58,840
United States .....	1,863,700	79,280	110,900	115,480	278,420	896,840
States	Pearl	Lavender	Violet	White	Other	Total <sup>2</sup>
	(number)	(number)	(number)	(number)	(number)	(number)
Idaho .....	-	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	372,700
Illinois .....	(D)	-	-	(D)	-	98,700
Iowa .....	-	-	-	(D)	-	96,300
Michigan .....	-	(D)	(D)	8,000	-	60,250
Minnesota .....	-	-	-	11,500	-	265,520
Montana .....	-	-	-	(D)	(D)	14,900
Ohio .....	-	-	-	(D)	-	77,800
Oregon .....	-	-	(D)	-	-	332,900
Pennsylvania .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	86,770
Utah .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	933,880
Washington .....	-	-	-	-	-	71,800
Wisconsin .....	(D)	14,500	26,000	158,000	6,000	1,316,610
Other States <sup>1</sup> .....	95,700	7,960	33,250	28,410	15,510	21,320
United States .....	95,700	22,460	59,250	205,910	21,510	3,749,450

- Represents zero.

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

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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**

States	Black (number)	Demi/Wild (number)	Pastel (number)	Sapphire (number)	Blue Iris (number)	Mahogany (number)
Idaho .....	58,000	1,700	2,100	5,000	(D)	40,000
Illinois .....	18,000	-	-	(D)	-	(D)
Iowa .....	13,000	-	(D)	(D)	(D)	11,500
Michigan .....	12,000	-	(D)	(D)	(D)	850
Minnesota .....	17,000	5,000	(D)	(D)	(D)	14,500
Montana .....	970	(D)	(D)	-	-	1,500
Ohio .....	13,500	(D)	-	(D)	(D)	4,600
Oregon .....	43,000	-	(D)	2,700	14,000	(D)
Pennsylvania .....	7,000	(D)	(D)	2,800	4,400	(D)
Utah .....	81,000	11,500	(D)	10,000	(D)	77,000
Washington .....	11,500	-	-	-	(D)	(D)
Wisconsin .....	158,000	(D)	6,500	10,000	29,000	21,000
Other States <sup>1</sup> .....	2,630	2,720	15,950	1,880	22,280	8,990
United States .....	435,600	20,920	24,550	32,380	69,680	179,940
States	Pearl (number)	Lavender (number)	Violet (number)	White (number)	Other (number)	Total <sup>2</sup> (number)
Idaho .....	-	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	113,500
Illinois .....	(D)	-	(D)	(D)	-	25,670
Iowa .....	-	-	-	(D)	-	26,180
Michigan .....	-	(D)	(D)	1,800	-	17,550
Minnesota .....	-	-	-	4,200	-	51,210
Montana .....	-	-	-	(D)	(D)	3,990
Ohio .....	-	(D)	-	(D)	-	20,250
Oregon .....	-	-	1,600	-	-	66,910
Pennsylvania .....	(D)	-	(D)	(D)	(D)	19,320
Utah .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	213,810
Washington .....	-	-	-	-	-	14,600
Wisconsin .....	-	4,400	(D)	34,000	1,600	268,690
Other States <sup>1</sup> .....	16,980	2,240	9,180	6,770	2,860	7,020
United States .....	16,980	6,640	10,780	46,770	4,460	848,700

- Represents zero.

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

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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**

States	Black (number)	Demi/Wild (number)	Pastel (number)	Sapphire (number)	Blue Iris (number)	Mahogany (number)
Idaho .....	28,000	1,600	3,000	3,300	-	41,000
Illinois .....	14,000	-	-	-	-	(D)
Iowa .....	13,500	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	10,000
Michigan .....	12,500	-	(D)	-	(D)	(D)
Minnesota .....	(D)	3,500	3,600	(D)	(D)	13,500
Montana .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	-	(D)
Ohio .....	12,000	(D)	-	(D)	(D)	2,900
Oregon .....	42,000	-	(D)	2,300	13,000	(D)
Pennsylvania .....	5,500	(D)	(D)	2,700	3,400	(D)
Utah .....	74,000	(D)	(D)	10,500	710	74,000
Washington .....	8,000	-	-	(D)	(D)	(D)
Wisconsin .....	156,000	(D)	9,000	8,500	25,000	15,500
Other States <sup>1</sup> .....	20,400	14,320	12,520	2,570	11,360	10,400
United States .....	385,900	19,420	28,120	29,870	53,470	167,300

States	Pearl (number)	Lavender (number)	Violet (number)	White (number)	Other (number)	Total <sup>2</sup> (number)
Idaho .....	-	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	81,220
Illinois .....	(D)	-	-	(D)	-	22,700
Iowa .....	-	-	-	(D)	-	26,760
Michigan .....	-	(D)	(D)	2,200	-	17,640
Minnesota .....	-	-	-	5,000	-	45,610
Montana .....	-	-	-	(D)	(D)	3,780
Ohio .....	-	(D)	-	(D)	-	17,640
Oregon .....	-	-	(D)	-	-	63,500
Pennsylvania .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	16,070
Utah .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	196,190
Washington .....	-	-	-	-	-	12,120
Wisconsin .....	-	5,000	7,500	27,000	(D)	254,190
Other States <sup>1</sup> .....	16,640	2,750	6,600	9,010	3,280	11,640
United States .....	16,640	7,750	14,100	43,210	3,280	769,060

- Represents zero.

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

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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]]

Item	Root mean square error	90 percent confidence level	Difference between first and latest estimate				
			Average	Smallest	Largest	Years	
						Below latest	Above latest
	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(number)	(number)
Pelts produced .....	0.5	0.9	10	0	34	6	2
Females bred .....	0.9	1.7	4	0	15	5	2



## 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](mailto: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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- 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](mailto:nass@nass.usda.gov).

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