



# NASS

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Washington, D.C.

# Mink

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## **Pelt Production Up 8 Percent**

Mink pelt production in the United States in 2006 totaled 2.86 million pelts, up 8 percent from 2005. Wisconsin, the largest mink producing State, produced 885,100 pelts. Utah, the second largest producing State, produced 622,840 pelts.

The number of pelts by color class as a percent of the total U.S. production in 2006 is as follows: Black at 49 percent, Mahogany at 21 percent, Blue Iris at 10 percent, Demi/Wild at 6 percent, White at 4 percent, and Sapphire at 4 percent. The remaining color classes accounted for 6 percent.

## **Value of Pelt Production Down 15 Percent**

Mink pelts produced during the 2006 crop year were valued at \$136 million, down 15 percent from \$161 million a year ago. The average price per pelt for the 2006 crop year was \$47.50, down from \$60.90 in 2005.

## **Females Bred Up 5 Percent**

Female mink bred to produce kits in 2007 totaled 684,640, up 5 percent from the previous year.

Percent of total females bred to produce kits in 2007 by color class are: Black at 51 percent, Mahogany at 20 percent, Blue Iris at 10 percent, Demi/Wild at 5 percent, White at 4 percent and Sapphire at 4 percent. The remaining color classes accounted for 6 percent.

## **Number of Mink Farms Down 1 Percent**

There were 271 mink farms producing pelts in 2006, down 1 percent from a year ago. Leading States were Wisconsin with 68 farms, Utah with 66 farms, and Idaho with 27.

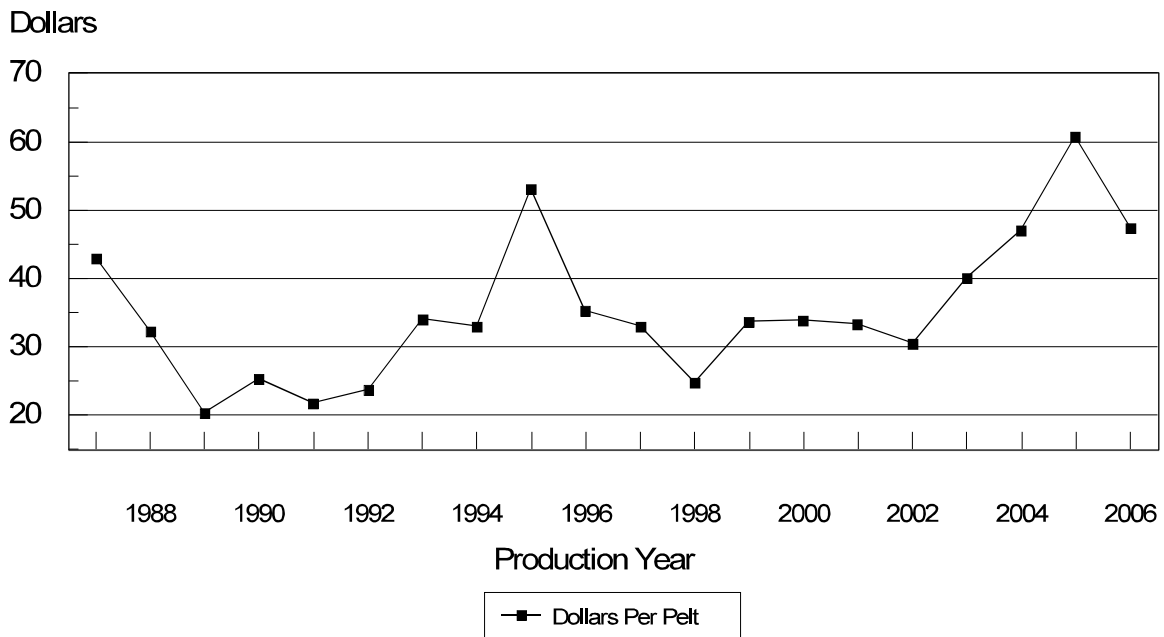
## **Fox**

There were 16 mink farms which also raised fox in 2006, down from 19 the previous year.

# Mink Pelts Produced 1987-2006



# Mink Pelt Average Price 1987-2006



**Mink: Pelts Produced and Females Bred, by Color Class,  
United States, 2005-2007**

Color Class	Pelts Produced		Females Bred to Produce Kits	
	2005 <sup>1</sup>	2006	2006 <sup>1</sup>	2007
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>
Black	1,255,000	1,394,700	323,600	350,010
Demi-Wild	165,800	174,100	41,570	33,930
Pastel	41,800	61,550	13,800	16,680
Sapphire	106,300	105,400	27,200	25,940
Blue Iris	297,800	300,680	72,800	68,580
Mahogany	554,200	591,400	118,000	136,310
Pearl	80,500	66,030	18,800	15,280
Lavender	5,000	7,200	2,200	2,500
Violet	23,400	20,410	5,800	5,510
White	99,000	125,500	27,300	27,020
Misc. & Unclassified	9,000	11,190	3,000	2,880
US	2,637,800	2,858,160	654,070	684,640

<sup>1</sup> Revised.

**Mink: Farms, Pelts Produced, Price, and Value,  
United States, 1987-2006**

Year	Mink Farms	Pelts Produced	Average Marketing Price	Value of Mink Pelts
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>
1987	1,027	4,122,000	43.00	177,246,000
1988	1,027	4,453,100	32.30	143,835,130
1989	940	4,603,600	20.40	93,913,440
1990	771	3,365,700	25.50	85,825,350
1991	683	3,268,200	21.90	71,573,580
1992	571	2,900,000	23.80	69,020,000
1993	523	2,620,300	34.10	89,352,230
1994	484	2,623,200	33.00	86,565,600
1995	478	2,803,100	53.10	148,844,610
1996	449	2,783,200	35.30	98,246,960
1997	452	2,993,300	33.10	99,078,230
1998	438	2,938,100	24.80	72,864,880
1999	398	2,812,500	33.70	94,781,250
2000	350	2,666,100	34.00	90,647,400
2001	329	2,565,300	33.50	85,937,550
2002	324	2,607,300	30.60	79,783,380
2003	305	2,549,000	40.10	102,214,900
2004	296	2,558,100	47.10	120,486,510
2005 <sup>1</sup>	275	2,637,800	60.90	160,642,020
2006	271	2,858,160	47.50	135,762,600

<sup>1</sup> Revised.

**Mink: Pelts Produced by Color Class and Number of Farms,  
Major States and United States, 2005 <sup>1</sup>**

States	Black	Demi-Wild	Pastel	Sapphire	Blue Iris	Mahogany	Pearl
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>
ID	73,000	16,000			11,500	67,000	
IL	49,800						
IA	74,600				9,000		
MI							
MN	38,000	40,800		1,700	31,000	79,300	
OH	37,600			2,700		19,900	
OR	116,300			11,600	93,500	31,700	
PA	22,700			12,200	13,400		
SD							
UT	271,000	42,600			9,700	191,900	
WA	56,300				34,300		
WI	475,000		10,500	35,000	85,000	100,000	
Oth Sts <sup>2</sup>	40,700	66,400	31,300	43,100	10,400	64,400	80,500
US	1,255,000	165,800	41,800	106,300	297,800	554,200	80,500
	Lavender	Violet	White	Misc. & Unclassified	Total Pelts	Number of Farms	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	
ID					183,700	26	
IL					61,700	7	
IA					130,800	14	
MI			11,500		55,500	7	
MN				100	214,200	24	
OH					66,000	7	
OR					254,400	18	
PA					61,000	9	
SD					78,200	3	
UT					600,000	70	
WA					109,600	10	
WI			44,500	3,300	778,000	67	
Oth Sts <sup>2</sup>	5,000	23,400	43,000	5,600	44,700	13	
US	5,000	23,400	99,000	9,000	2,637,800	275	

<sup>1</sup> Revised.

<sup>2</sup> "Other States" include some pelts from the above listed States which were not published to avoid disclosing individual operations. Published color classes may not add to the State total.

**Mink: Pelts Produced by Color Class and Number of Farms,  
Major States and United States, 2006**

States	Black	Demi-Wild	Pastel	Sap-phire	Blue Iris	Mahog-any	Pearl
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>
ID	79,000	13,000			11,500	74,000	
IL	52,000						
IA	87,000				8,500		
MI							
MN	56,000	40,000			40,000	76,000	
OH	45,000			2,800		23,000	
OR	147,000			11,000	84,000		
PA	24,000			12,000	14,000		
SD							
UT	275,000	54,000		7,000	7,000	220,000	
WA	36,000				27,000		
WI	550,000		11,000	35,000	97,000	102,000	
Oth Sts <sup>1</sup>	43,700	67,100	50,550	37,600	11,680	96,400	66,030
US	1,394,700	174,100	61,550	105,400	300,680	591,400	66,030
	Lavender	Violet	White	Misc. & Unclass-ified	Total Pelts	Number of Farms	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	
ID					203,000	27	
IL					65,520	7	
IA					141,250	14	
MI			9,500		54,000	7	
MN		800			242,950	23	
OH					78,300	7	
OR					283,900	18	
PA				2,000	65,000	9	
SD					82,500	3	
UT			1,500		622,840	66	
WA					92,000	9	
WI	700		57,000	5,500	885,100	68	
Oth Sts <sup>1</sup>	6,500	19,610	57,500	3,690	41,800	13	
US	7,200	20,410	125,500	11,190	2,858,160	271	

<sup>1</sup> "Other States" include some pelts from the above listed States which were not published to avoid disclosing individual operations. Published color classes may not add to the State total.

**Female Mink Bred to Produce Kits: Number by Color Class,  
Major States and United States, 2006 <sup>1</sup>**

States	Black	Demi-Wild	Pastel	Sap-phire	Blue Iris	Mahog-any
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>
ID	21,000	8,300			3,400	11,500
IL	13,600					
IA	18,900				2,600	
MI						
MN	12,000	10,100		500	9,400	16,200
OH	9,800			700		5,800
OR	27,800			2,500	18,300	7,100
PA	4,800			3,100	3,700	
SD						
UT	78,300	11,000		1,500	2,100	45,400
WA	12,500				8,000	
WI	114,100		3,000	9,500	22,000	20,000
Oth Sts <sup>2</sup>	10,800	12,170	10,800	9,400	3,300	12,000
US	323,600	41,570	13,800	27,200	72,800	118,000
	Pearl	Lavender	Violet	White	Misc. & Unclass-ified	Total
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>
ID						50,600
IL						17,000
IA						34,500
MI				2,400		12,100
MN				5,300		54,400
OH						18,300
OR						56,300
PA						15,200
SD						17,600
UT						155,000
WA						23,900
WI		400		11,200	1,200	188,000
Oth Sts <sup>2</sup>	18,800	1,800	5,800	8,400	1,800	11,170
US	18,800	2,200	5,800	27,300	3,000	654,070

<sup>1</sup> Revised.

<sup>2</sup> "Other States" include some pelts from the above listed States which were not published to avoid disclosing individual operations. Published color classes may not add to the State total.

**Female Mink Bred to Produce Kits: Number by Color Class,  
Major States and United States, 2007**

States	Black	Demi-Wild	Pastel	Sap-phire	Blue Iris	Mahog-any
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>
ID	23,000		990		3,000	17,000
IL	14,500					
IA	22,000				2,000	
MI						
MN	14,000	9,500			8,000	19,500
OH	10,500					6,000
OR	33,000			2,200	18,000	
PA	5,500			3,500	3,500	
SD						
UT	70,000	8,500		2,200	2,000	57,000
WA	15,000				6,000	
WI	130,000		3,400	8,500	24,000	20,000
Oth Sts <sup>1</sup>	12,510	15,930	12,290	9,540	2,080	16,810
US	350,010	33,930	16,680	25,940	68,580	136,310
	Pearl	Lavender	Violet	White	Misc. & Unclass-ified	Total
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>
ID						52,890
IL						17,920
IA						34,500
MI				2,300		12,200
MN			350	4,400		58,140
OH						18,900
OR						57,810
PA						16,000
SD						17,300
UT				470		155,390
WA						24,750
WI		400		14,500	1,800	209,800
Oth Sts <sup>1</sup>	15,280	2,100	5,160	5,350	1,080	9,040
US	15,280	2,500	5,510	27,020	2,880	684,640

<sup>1</sup> "Other States" include some pelts from the above listed States which were not published to avoid disclosing individual operations. Published color classes may not add to the State total.

## Reliability Statement

**Survey Procedures:** Data for mink production are collected 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 that do not respond by mail are telephoned or possibly enumerated in person. Care is exercised to ensure that all operations are accounted for. Major auction houses which handle producer sales provide mink pelt price data in July. Prices are collected at the point of first sale by producers, before marketing costs are deducted.

**Estimation Procedures:** Sound statistical methodology is employed to derive the estimates from reported data. 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 were estimated based on similar operations or historical data. State 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:** The previous year's estimates are subject to revision when current year's estimates are made. Revisions are the result of late reports or corrected data.

**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, and mistakes in reporting, recording, and processing the data. While these errors cannot be measured directly, they are minimized through strict quality controls 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 2.2 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 2.86 million pelts by more than 2.2 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 4.0 percent.

**Reliability of Mink Estimates <sup>1</sup>**

Item	Root Mean Square Error	90 Percent Confidence Level		Difference Between First and Latest Estimates			Number of Years	
				Average	Smallest	Largest	First Above Latest	First Below Latest
				<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>
Pelts Produced	2.2	4.0	106	31	0	150	3	4
Females Bred	2.4	4.4	29	12	0	39	2	7

<sup>1</sup> Based on data for the past 10 years.



## Information Contacts

Listed below are the commodity specialists in the Livestock Branch of the National Agricultural Statistics Service to contact for additional information.

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

Darin Jantzi, Head, Poultry and Specialty Commodities Section ..... (202) 720-3570

    David Colwell - Cold Storage ..... (202) 720-8784

    Fleming Gibson - Egg Products, Poultry Slaughter, Catfish Processing, Mink .. (202) 690-3237

    Darin Jantzi - Layers, Eggs ..... (202) 720-3570

    Sharyn Lavender - Broiler Hatchery, Chicken Hatchery, Honey ..... (202) 720-3244

    Toby Paterson - Catfish Production, Trout Production, Census of Aquaculture,  
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