
Released July 10, 2009, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, U.S. Department of Agriculture. For information on *Mink* call Chris Hawthorn at (202) 720-0585, office hours 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET.

Pelt Production Down 1 Percent

Mink pelt production in the United States in 2008 totaled 2.79 million pelts, down 1 percent from 2007. Wisconsin, the largest mink producing State, produced 910,100 pelts. Utah, the second largest producing State, produced 549,700 pelts.

The number of pelts by color class as a percent of the total U.S. production in 2008 is as follows: Black at 54 percent, Mahogany at 22 percent, Blue Iris at 10 percent, Demi/Wild at 4 percent, and Sapphire at 3 percent. The remaining color classes accounted for 7 percent.

Value of Pelt Production Down 38 Percent

Mink pelts produced during the 2008 crop year, sold in 2009, were valued at \$116 million, down 38 percent from \$186 million a year ago. The average price per pelt for the 2008 crop year was \$41.50, down \$24.20 from \$65.70 in 2007.

Females Bred Down 5 Percent

Female mink bred to produce kits in 2009 totaled 659,400, down 5 percent from the previous year.

Percent of total females bred to produce kits in 2009 by color class: Black at 52 percent, Mahogany at 22 percent, Blue Iris at 10 percent, Sapphire at 4 percent, and Demi/Wild at 4 percent. The remaining color classes accounted for 8 percent.

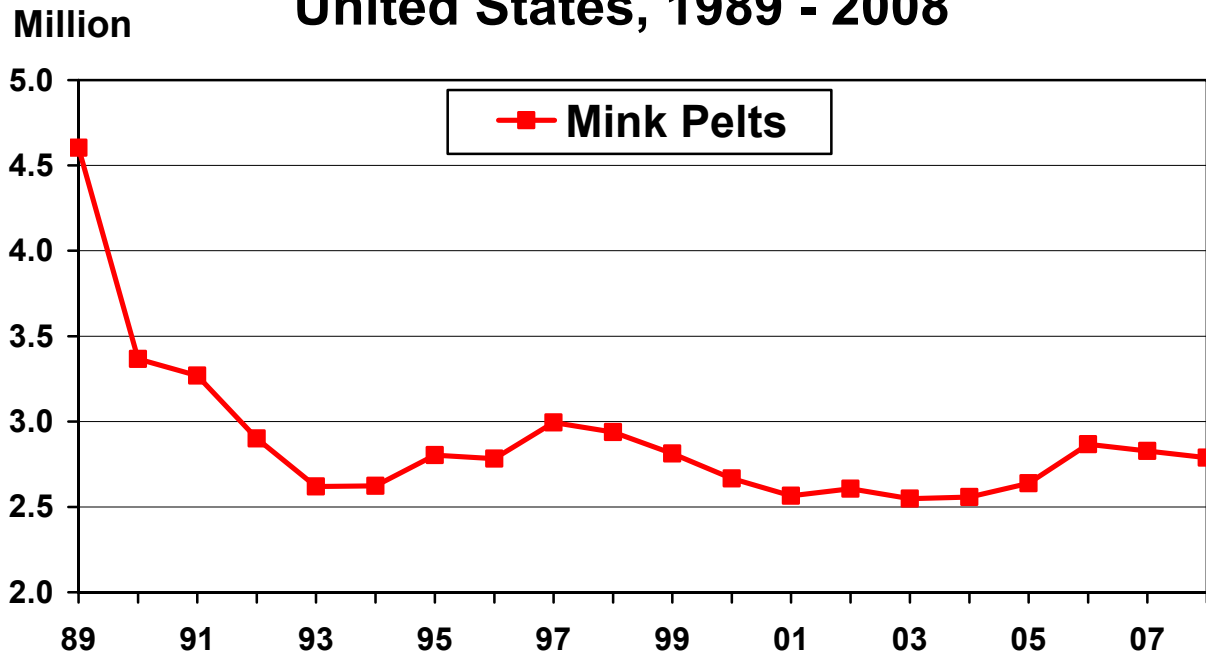
Number of Mink Farms Down 3 Percent

There were 274 mink farms producing pelts in 2008, down 3 percent from a year ago.

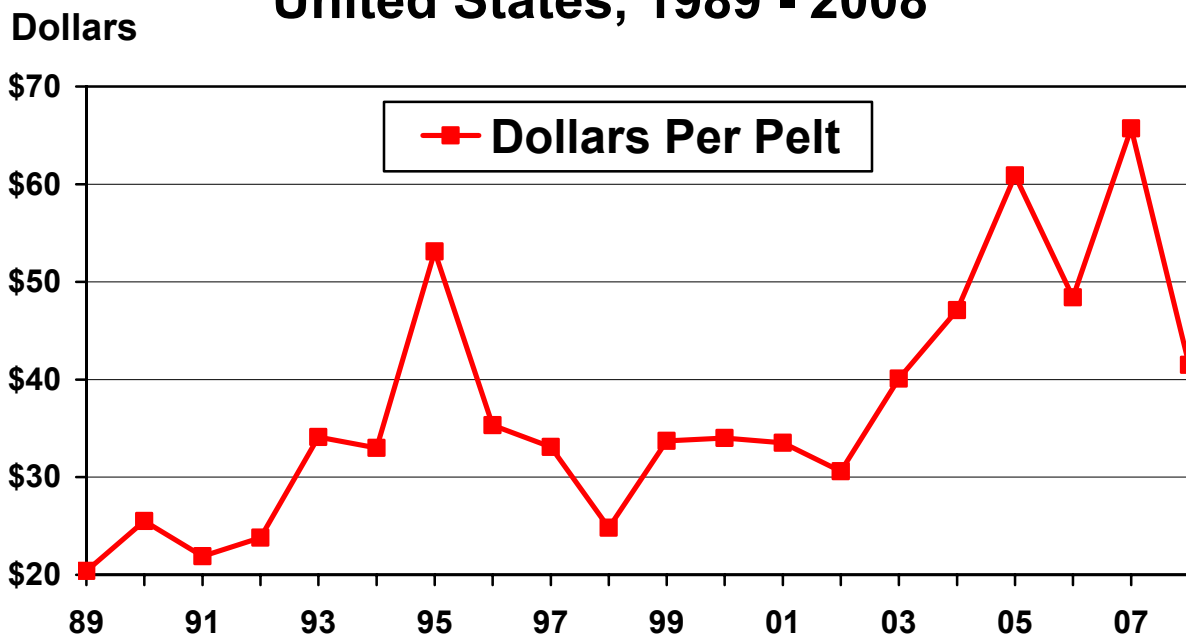
Special Note

The number of operations by State will no longer be published on an annual basis. State level numbers will only be published in conjunction with the Census of Agriculture every five years. The number of operations at the U.S. level will continue to be published on an annual basis.

Mink Pelts Produced United States, 1989 - 2008



Mink Pelt Average Price United States, 1989 - 2008



**Mink: Pelts Produced and Females Bred, by Color Class,
United States, 2007-2009**

| Color Class | Pelts Produced | | Females Bred to Produce Kits | |
|----------------------|-------------------|---------------|------------------------------|---------------|
| | 2007 ¹ | 2008 | 2008 ¹ | 2009 |
| | <i>Number</i> | <i>Number</i> | <i>Number</i> | <i>Number</i> |
| Black | 1,461,200 | 1,497,800 | 370,600 | 343,100 |
| Demi/Wild | 145,000 | 114,800 | 29,700 | 25,300 |
| Pastel | 65,300 | 61,400 | 15,000 | 19,800 |
| Sapphire | 103,100 | 94,900 | 29,000 | 28,500 |
| Blue Iris | 276,900 | 268,100 | 65,000 | 65,100 |
| Mahogany | 565,400 | 604,200 | 135,500 | 143,900 |
| Pearl | 59,500 | 42,700 | 13,200 | 12,400 |
| Lavender | 10,500 | 3,700 | 1,700 | 1,600 |
| Violet | 21,700 | 36,800 | 6,200 | 5,300 |
| White | 104,500 | 50,100 | 23,600 | 11,700 |
| Misc. & Unclassified | 15,100 | 12,200 | 1,800 | 2,700 |
| US | 2,828,200 | 2,786,700 | 691,300 | 659,400 |

¹ Revised.

**Mink: Farms, Pelts Produced, Price, and Value,
United States, 1989-2008**

| Year | Mink Farms | Pelts Produced | Average Marketing Price | Value of Mink Pelts |
|-------------------|---------------|----------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| | <i>Number</i> | <i>Number</i> | <i>Dollars</i> | <i>Dollars</i> |
| 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 | 275 | 2,637,800 | 60.90 | 160,642,020 |
| 2006 | 279 | 2,866,650 | 48.40 | 138,745,860 |
| 2007 ¹ | 283 | 2,828,200 | 65.70 | 185,812,740 |
| 2008 | 274 | 2,786,700 | 41.50 | 115,648,050 |

¹ Revised.

**Mink: Pelts Produced by Color Class and Number of Farms,
Major States and United States, 2007 ¹**

| States | Black | Demi/Wild | Pastel | Sapphire | Blue Iris | Mahogany | |
|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| | <i>Number</i> | <i>Number</i> | <i>Number</i> | <i>Number</i> | <i>Number</i> | <i>Number</i> | |
| ID | 95,000 | | | | 12,500 | 78,000 | |
| IL | 47,000 | | | | | | |
| IA | 80,000 | | | | 8,500 | | |
| MI | | | | | | | |
| MN | 53,000 | 42,000 | | | 31,000 | 70,000 | |
| MT | 9,000 | | | | | | |
| OH | 43,000 | | | | | 21,000 | |
| OR | 158,000 | | | 11,500 | 88,000 | | |
| PA | 27,000 | | | 9,500 | 12,000 | | |
| SD | | | | | | | |
| UT | 260,000 | | | 7,000 | 10,500 | 220,000 | |
| WA | 62,000 | | | | 15,000 | | |
| WI | 590,000 | | 10,500 | 38,000 | 91,000 | 98,000 | |
| Oth Sts ² | 37,200 | 103,000 | 54,800 | 37,100 | 8,400 | 78,400 | |
| US | 1,461,200 | 145,000 | 65,300 | 103,100 | 276,900 | 565,400 | |
| | Pearl | Lavender | Violet | White | Misc. & Unclassified | Total Pelts ³ | Number of Farms |
| | <i>Number</i> | <i>Number</i> | <i>Number</i> | <i>Number</i> | <i>Number</i> | <i>Number</i> | <i>Number</i> |
| ID | | | | | | 221,000 | 24 |
| IL | | | | | | 59,100 | 7 |
| IA | | | | | | 135,900 | 17 |
| MI | | | | 10,000 | | 52,600 | 9 |
| MN | | | | 17,000 | | 218,500 | 23 |
| MT | | | | | | 25,900 | 8 |
| OH | | | | | | 73,500 | 9 |
| OR | | | | | | 278,500 | 18 |
| PA | | | | | 9,000 | 70,300 | 11 |
| SD | | | | | | 73,000 | 3 |
| UT | | | | 1,900 | | 599,500 | 65 |
| WA | | | | | | 95,000 | 9 |
| WI | | 1,600 | | 50,000 | 4,400 | 914,100 | 71 |
| Oth Sts ² | 59,500 | 8,900 | 21,700 | 25,600 | 1,700 | 11,300 | 9 |
| US | 59,500 | 10,500 | 21,700 | 104,500 | 15,100 | 2,828,200 | 283 |

¹ Revised.

² "Other States" include some pelts from the above listed States which were not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

³ 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, 2008**

| States | Black | Demi/Wild | Pastel | Sapphire | Blue Iris | Mahogany | |
|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| | <i>Number</i> | <i>Number</i> | <i>Number</i> | <i>Number</i> | <i>Number</i> | <i>Number</i> | |
| ID | 98,000 | 11,000 | 2,800 | 8,500 | 12,500 | 95,000 | |
| IL | 51,000 | | | | | | |
| IA | 108,000 | | | | 9,000 | | |
| MI | 26,000 | | | | | | |
| MN | 55,000 | 31,000 | 1,700 | | 26,000 | 73,000 | |
| MT | 14,000 | | | | | | |
| OH | 46,000 | | | | | 24,000 | |
| OR | 158,000 | | | 12,000 | 85,000 | | |
| PA | 30,000 | | | 10,700 | 11,500 | 500 | |
| SD | | | | | | | |
| UT | 235,000 | | | 8,500 | 6,000 | 205,000 | |
| WA | 57,000 | | | | 17,000 | | |
| WI | 600,000 | | 10,000 | 39,000 | 93,000 | 117,000 | |
| Oth Sts ¹ | 19,800 | 72,800 | 46,900 | 16,200 | 8,100 | 89,700 | |
| US | 1,497,800 | 114,800 | 61,400 | 94,900 | 268,100 | 604,200 | |
| | Pearl | Lavender | Violet | White | Misc. & Unclassified | Total Pelts ² | Number of Farms ³ |
| | <i>Number</i> | <i>Number</i> | <i>Number</i> | <i>Number</i> | <i>Number</i> | <i>Number</i> | <i>Number</i> |
| ID | | | | | | 228,100 | |
| IL | | | | | | 64,700 | |
| IA | | | | | | 154,600 | |
| MI | | | | 6,000 | | 45,500 | |
| MN | | | | 7,000 | | 196,400 | |
| MT | | | | | | 24,400 | |
| OH | | | | | | 79,200 | |
| OR | | | 2,900 | | | 287,600 | |
| PA | | | | | 2,400 | 65,100 | |
| SD | | | | | | 76,200 | |
| UT | | | | | | 549,700 | |
| WA | | | | | | 92,500 | |
| WI | | 3,500 | | 19,000 | 3,500 | 910,100 | |
| Oth Sts ¹ | 42,700 | 200 | 33,900 | 18,100 | 6,300 | 12,600 | |
| US | 42,700 | 3,700 | 36,800 | 50,100 | 12,200 | 2,786,700 | 274 |

¹ "Other States" include some pelts from the above listed States which were not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

² Published color classes may not add to the State total.

³ State level number of operations will only be published every five years in conjunction with the Census of Agriculture.

**Female Mink Bred to Produce Kits: Number by Color Class,
Major States and United States, 2008¹**

| States | Black | Demi/Wild | Pastel | Sapphire | Blue Iris | Mahogany |
|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| | <i>Number</i> | <i>Number</i> | <i>Number</i> | <i>Number</i> | <i>Number</i> | <i>Number</i> |
| ID | 26,000 | | 1,100 | 2,200 | 2,700 | 18,000 |
| IL | 14,500 | | | | | |
| IA | 25,000 | | | | | |
| MI | 6,000 | | | | | |
| MN | 15,500 | 8,000 | | | 8,500 | 16,500 |
| MT | 4,000 | | | | | |
| OH | 11,500 | | | | | 6,000 |
| OR | 32,000 | | | 2,500 | 19,500 | |
| PA | 6,500 | | | 3,500 | 3,300 | |
| SD | | 3,700 | | | | |
| UT | 67,000 | 10,000 | | | 1,600 | 57,000 |
| WA | 15,000 | | | | 4,500 | |
| WI | 142,000 | | 2,600 | 11,500 | 21,000 | 22,000 |
| Oth Sts ² | 5,600 | 8,000 | 11,300 | 9,300 | 3,900 | 16,000 |
| US | 370,600 | 29,700 | 15,000 | 29,000 | 65,000 | 135,500 |
| | Pearl | Lavender | Violet | White | Misc. & Unclassified | Total ³ |
| | <i>Number</i> | <i>Number</i> | <i>Number</i> | <i>Number</i> | <i>Number</i> | <i>Number</i> |
| ID | | | | | | 51,800 |
| IL | | | | | | 18,000 |
| IA | | | | | | 38,400 |
| MI | | | | 1,200 | | 10,300 |
| MN | | | | 3,900 | | 54,100 |
| MT | | | | | | 6,700 |
| OH | | | | | | 20,100 |
| OR | | | | | | 57,200 |
| PA | | | | | | 16,500 |
| SD | | | | | | 17,700 |
| UT | | | | 300 | | 155,900 |
| WA | | | | | | 22,700 |
| WI | | 500 | 3,200 | 14,000 | 800 | 217,800 |
| Oth Sts ² | 13,200 | 1,200 | 3,000 | 4,200 | 1,000 | 4,100 |
| US | 13,200 | 1,700 | 6,200 | 23,600 | 1,800 | 691,300 |

¹ Revised.

² "Other States" include some pelts from the above listed States which were not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

³ 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, 2009**

| States | Black | Demi/Wild | Pastel | Sapphire | Blue Iris | Mahogany |
|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| | <i>Number</i> | <i>Number</i> | <i>Number</i> | <i>Number</i> | <i>Number</i> | <i>Number</i> |
| ID | 27,000 | 2,300 | 1,000 | 2,600 | | 22,000 |
| IL | 16,000 | | | | | |
| IA | 17,500 | | | | 2,500 | |
| MI | 7,500 | | | | | |
| MN | 14,500 | 7,500 | | | 8,000 | 19,000 |
| MT | | | | | | |
| OH | 11,500 | | | | | 6,000 |
| OR | 34,000 | | | 2,400 | 16,500 | |
| PA | 6,500 | | | 2,800 | 2,900 | |
| SD | | | | | | |
| UT | 59,000 | | | | 1,800 | 58,000 |
| WA | 14,500 | | | | 2,900 | |
| WI | 126,000 | | 3,100 | 11,500 | 26,000 | 23,000 |
| Oth Sts ¹ | 9,100 | 15,500 | 15,700 | 9,200 | 4,500 | 15,900 |
| US | 343,100 | 25,300 | 19,800 | 28,500 | 65,100 | 143,900 |
| | Pearl | Lavender | Violet | White | Misc. & Unclassified | Total ² |
| | <i>Number</i> | <i>Number</i> | <i>Number</i> | <i>Number</i> | <i>Number</i> | <i>Number</i> |
| ID | | | | | | 57,800 |
| IL | | | | | 100 | 19,000 |
| IA | | | | | | 28,300 |
| MI | | | | 1,200 | | 10,900 |
| MN | | | | | | 52,300 |
| MT | | | | | | 6,000 |
| OH | | | | | | 20,400 |
| OR | | | 500 | | | 58,400 |
| PA | | | | | | 16,000 |
| SD | | | | | | 18,200 |
| UT | | | | | | 148,800 |
| WA | | | | | | 19,900 |
| WI | | 1,200 | | 4,400 | 1,100 | 199,200 |
| Oth Sts ¹ | 12,400 | 400 | 4,800 | 6,100 | 1,500 | 4,200 |
| US | 12,400 | 1,600 | 5,300 | 11,700 | 2,700 | 659,400 |

¹ "Other States" include some pelts from the above listed States which were not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

² Published color classes may not add to the State total.

Reliability Statement

Survey Procedures: Mink production data 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 account for all operations. Major auction houses, which handle producer sales, provide mink pelt price data in July. Prices are collected at the point of first sale, 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 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: Previous year estimates are subject to revision when current year 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, 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 0.2 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 2.79 million pelts by more than 0.2 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 0.3 percent.

Reliability of Mink Estimates ¹

| 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 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 9 | 3 | 0 | 10 | 3 | 4 |
| Females Bred | 0.9 | 1.6 | 10 | 4 | 0 | 13 | 2 | 7 |

¹ 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.

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Bruce Boess, Head, Poultry and Specialty Commodities Section (202) 720-4447

David Colwell - Cold Storage (202) 720-8784

Chris Hawthorn - Catfish Processing, Catfish Production, Trout Production,
Census of Aquaculture, Egg Products, Mink (202) 720-0585

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

Kim Linonis - Layers, Eggs (202) 690-8632

Troy Marshall - Poultry Slaughter, Turkey Hatchery, Turkeys Raised (202) 690-3237

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