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Pelt Production Up 1 Percent

Mink pelt production in the United States in 2002 totaled 2.60 million pelts, up 1 percent from 2001. Wisconsin, the largest mink producing State, produced 685,000 pelts.

Color class definitions have changed for 2002 pelt production. By color class, the number of pelts as a percent of the total U.S. production in 2002 follows: Black - 37.1 percent; Mahogany - 21.7 percent; Blue Iris - 19.8 percent; Sapphire - 7.0 percent; Demi/Wild - 5.8 percent. The remaining color classes accounted for 8.6 percent.

Value of Pelt Production Down 7 Percent

Mink pelts produced during the 2002 crop year were valued at \$79.6 million dollars, down 7 percent from \$85.9 million a year ago. The average price per pelt for the 2002 crop year was \$30.60, down from \$33.50 in 2001.

Females Bred Down 4 Percent

Female mink bred to produce kits in 2003 totaled 601,000, down 4 percent from the previous year.

Percent of total females bred to produce kits in 2003 by color class are: Black - 42.4 percent; Mahogany - 19.7 percent; Blue Iris - 16.8 percent; Sapphire - 6.4 percent; Demi/Wild - 5.2 percent. The remaining color classes accounted for 9.5 percent.

Number of Mink Farms Down 3 Percent

There were 318 mink farms producing pelts in 2002, down 3 percent from a year ago. Leading States were Utah with 80 farms, Wisconsin with 69 farms and Minnesota with 33.

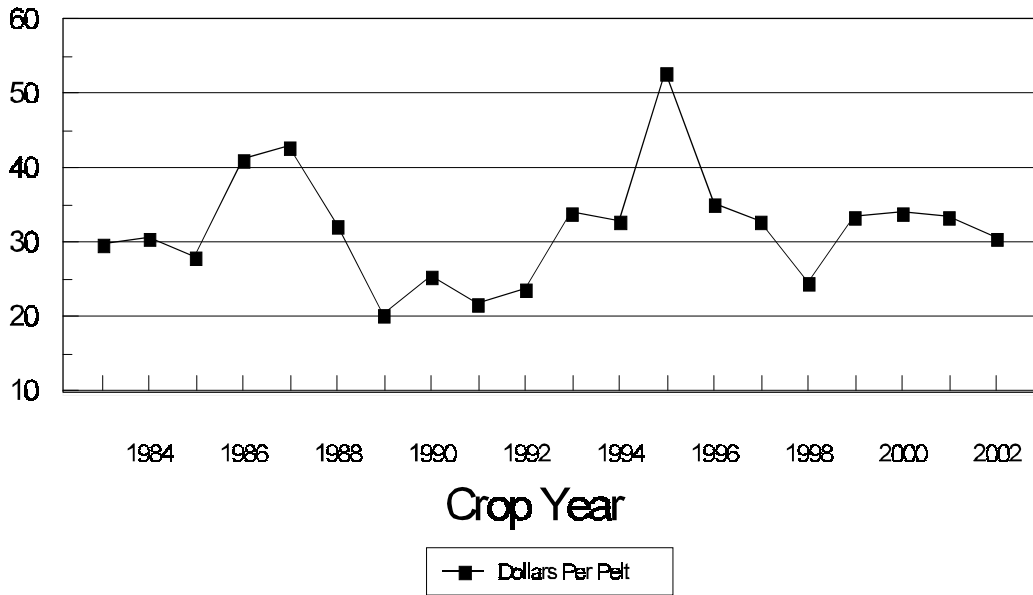
Fox

There were 20 mink farms which also raised fox in 2002, down from 21 the previous year.

**Mink: Pelts Produced and Females Bred, by Color Class,
United States, 2002-03**

Color Class	Pelts Produced	Females Bred to Produce Kits
	2002	2003
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>
Black	965.1	255.0
Demi/Wild	149.6	31.3
Pastel	32.5	8.2
Sapphire	182.0	38.4
Blue Iris	514.8	100.8
Mahogany	563.5	118.1
Pearl	88.0	20.1
Lavender	9.8	1.1
Violet	11.5	7.1
White	75.1	19.3
Misc. & Unclassified	8.5	1.6
US	2,600.4	601.0

Mink Pelt Average Price 1983 - 2002



**Mink: Pelts Produced and Females Bred, by Color Class,
United States, 2001-2002**

Color Class	Pelts Produced	Females Bred to Produce Kits	
	2001 ¹	2001	2002 ¹
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>
Standard	947.4	245.2	237.0
Ranch Wild	100.7	22.8	25.5
Demi-buff	129.0	18.2	15.0
Pastel	41.8	11.3	8.8
Pale Brown	1.9	2.6	0.6
Sapphire	108.3	35.1	38.5
Gunmetal	472.0	111.0	120.5
Mahogany	580.0	141.9	125.3
Pearl	73.9	13.0	18.1
Lavender-hope	3.5	1.5	2.0
Pink	0.8	0.9	0.2
Violet-type	21.4	3.2	8.8
White	73.7	22.5	17.4
Misc. & Unclassified	10.9	0.3	5.2
US ²	2,565.3	629.5	622.9

**Mink: Farms, Pelts Produced, Price, and Value,
United States, 1983-02**

Year	Mink Farms	Pelts Produced	Average Marketing Price	Value of Mink Pelts
	<i>Number</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Million Dollars</i>
1983	1,098	4,137	29.90	123.7
1984	1,084	4,220	30.80	130.0
1985	1,042	4,171	28.00	116.8
1986	989	4,096	41.30	170.0
1987	1,027	4,122	43.00	177.2
1988	1,027	4,453	32.30	143.8
1989	940	4,604	20.40	93.9
1990	771	3,366	25.50	85.8
1991	683	3,268	21.90	71.6
1992	571	2,900	23.80	69.0
1993	523	2,620	34.10	89.3
1994	484	2,623	33.00	86.6
1995	478	2,803	53.10	148.8
1996	449	2,783	35.30	98.2
1997	452	2,993	33.10	99.1
1998	438	2,938	24.80	72.9
1999	398	2,813	33.70	94.8
2000	350	2,666	34.00	90.6
2001 ¹	329	2,565	33.50	85.9
2002	318	2,600	30.60	79.6

¹ Revised based on additional information.

² Sum of color class may not add to U.S. total due to rounding.

**Mink: Pelts Produced by Color Class and Number of Farms,
Major States and United States, 2001**

States	Standard	Ranch Wild	Demi-Buff ¹	Pastel	Pale Brown	Sapphire	Gun Metal	Mahogany
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>
ID	41,000					14,000	22,100	46,600
IL	41,100							3,300
IA	55,000						10,300	9,300
MI								
MN	49,900	26,800	60,700	2,500		2,000	56,100	79,300
NY								
OH	29,500					5,600		18,400
OR	79,400					16,900	145,100	
PA						16,800	19,700	
SD								
UT	205,000		60,000			15,500	40,000	233,500
WA	35,500						63,100	
WI	327,000			10,600		25,600	108,500	123,000
Oth Sts ²	84,000	73,900	8,300	28,700	1,900	11,900	7,100	66,600
US	947,400	100,700	129,000	41,800	1,900	108,300	472,000	580,000
	Pearl	Lavender Hope	Pink	Violet Type	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>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>
ID							151,200	28
IL	2,700				4,000		51,600	7
IA							105,900	13
MI							54,000	11
MN							286,500	36
NY							5,500	7
OH							56,500	8
OR							251,000	26
PA							74,900	9
SD							78,100	4
UT							610,000	80
WA							113,100	15
WI					52,600		672,000	69
Oth Sts ²	71,200	3,500	800	21,400	17,100	10,900	55,000	16
US	73,900	3,500	800	21,400	73,700	10,900	2,565,300	329

¹ Demi-buff includes crossed of dark brown, violet, pastel, standard, pearl or others.

² "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, 2002**

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	68,100			47,400	28,200	52,300	
IL	41,900						
IA	60,500			13,200	8,300	12,400	
MI							
MN	41,900	46,100	1,500	3,300	80,200	80,600	
NY							
OH	30,300			10,900		16,500	
OR	83,400			25,400	143,300		
PA	6,900			11,100	14,100		
SD							
UT	200,000			24,000	39,000	231,000	
WA	42,600	18,500			48,900		
WI	341,000	17,500	14,200	37,300	141,000	97,900	
Oth Sts ¹	48,500	67,500	16,800	9,400	11,800	72,800	88,000
US ²	965,100	149,600	32,500	182,000	514,800	563,500	88,000
	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					228,900	25	
IL					53,500	7	
IA					111,600	16	
MI					57,000	9	
MN					267,000	33	
NY					4,800	5	
OH					63,300	8	
OR					270,200	25	
PA					53,600	8	
SD					78,200	4	
UT	4,000				575,000	80	
WA					110,000	15	
WI			32,100		685,000	69	
Oth Sts ¹	5,800	11,500	43,000	8,500	42,300	14	
US ²	9,800	11,500	75,100	8,500	2,600,400	318	

¹ "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.

² New color classes starting for 2002 pelts. Reference page 8.

**Female Mink Bred to Produce Kits: Number by Color Class,
Major States and United States, 2002**

States	Standard	Ranch Wild	Demi-Buff ¹	Pastel	Pale Brown	Sapphire	Gun Metal	Mahogany
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>
ID	15,200					9,700	7,800	12,300
IL	11,400							
IA	16,000						4,300	1,500
MI								
MN	10,400	8,000		800		600	13,800	15,300
NY								
OH	8,500							5,500
OR	17,000					5,000	30,400	
PA						2,300	5,400	
SD								
UT	56,200		6,900			5,500	10,000	57,200
WA	9,300						14,500	
WI	79,100			4,000		8,700	32,000	17,000
Oth Sts ²	13,900	17,500	8,100	4,000	600	6,700	2,300	16,500
US	237,000	25,500	15,000	8,800	600	38,500	120,500	125,300
	Pearl	Lavender Hope	Pink	Violet Type	White	Misc. & Unclassified	Total	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	
ID							52,200	
IL							13,800	
IA							30,900	
MI							12,700	
MN				700			59,600	
NY							1,500	
OH							18,600	
OR							54,000	
PA							14,600	
SD							17,700	
UT							149,000	
WA							28,900	
WI				1,500	10,400		158,000	
Oth Sts ²	18,100	2,000	200	6,600	7,000	5,200	11,400	
US	18,100	2,000	200	8,800	17,400	5,200	622,900	

¹ Demi-buff includes crossed of dark brown, violet, pastel, standard, pearl or others.

² "Other States" include some females 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 Produced Kits: Number by Color Class,
Major States and United States, 2003**

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	15,200			5,500	4,000	12,000
IL	11,800					
IA	18,400			4,000	2,800	600
MI						
MN	9,600	8,900	300	800	14,500	15,300
NY						
OH	8,100			1,900		5,500
OR	19,800			5,200	27,600	
PA	1,900			3,600	5,400	
SD						
UT	56,200			6,100	6,000	48,300
WA	7,700	4,300			10,700	200
WI	94,700	5,400	3,200	9,000	26,500	21,000
Oth Sts ¹	11,600	12,700	4,700	2,300	3,300	15,200
US ²	255,000	31,300	8,200	38,400	100,800	118,100
	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						41,100
IL						14,300
IA						32,400
MI						11,600
MN				4,300		54,600
NY						1,300
OH						17,400
OR						56,500
PA						14,200
SD						18,100
UT						135,000
WA						22,900
WI				8,500		170,000
Oth Sts ¹	20,100	1,100	7,100	6,500	1,600	11,600
US ²	20,100	1,100	7,100	19,300	1,600	601,000

¹ "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.

² New color classes starting for female mink bred in 2003. Reference page 8.

Mink Color Classes, beginning with pelt production in 2002 and female mink bred in 2003:

Black - formerly Standard, includes Pure Dark.

Demi/Wild - includes Dark Brown, Ranch Wild, Demi-buff.

Pastel - includes Dawn, Orchid.

Sapphire - includes Pale Brown.

Blue Iris - formerly Gunmetal, includes Aleutian.

Mahogany

Pearl

Lavender - formerly Lavender Hope.

Violet - includes Violet type, Cameo, Winterblue, Glacial.

White

Miscellaneous - Includes Pink.

Survey Procedures: Data for mink production are collected from all known producers. State Statistical Offices 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.

Reliability: 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 inaccessible operations are accounted for through the expansion of the reported data or by imputation based on individual historical data. Survey data are subject to non-sampling errors such as omissions and mistakes in reporting and in processing the data. While these errors cannot be measured directly, they are minimized by carefully reviewing all reported data for consistency and reasonableness.

The next "*Mink*" report will be released in July 2004.

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