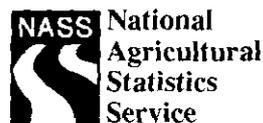


Mink



USDA
Washington, D.C.

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Pelt Production Down 1 Percent

Mink pelt production in the United States in 1996 totaled 2.65 million pelts, down 1 percent from 1995. Wisconsin, the major mink producing State, produced 718,000 pelts.

By color class, the number of pelts as a percent of the total U.S. production follows: Standard - 46.7 percent; Mahogany - 21.1 percent; Gunmetal - 12.8 percent; Ranch Wild - 7.4 percent; Demi-buff - 4.1 percent. The remaining color classes accounted for 7.9 percent.

Value of Pelt Production Down 35 Percent

Mink pelts produced during the 1996 crop year were valued at \$93.5 million dollars, down 35 percent from \$142.8 million a year ago. The average price per pelt for the 1996 crop year was \$35.30, down from the record high price of \$53.10 in 1995.

Females Bred Up 5 Percent

Female mink bred to produce kits in 1997 totaled 710,800, up 5 percent from the previous year.

Percent of total females bred to produce kits in 1997 by color class are: Standard - 46.5 percent; Mahogany - 19.5 percent; Gunmetal - 12.8 percent; Ranch Wild - 6.7 percent; Sapphire - 4.5 percent. The remaining color classes accounted for 10.0 percent.

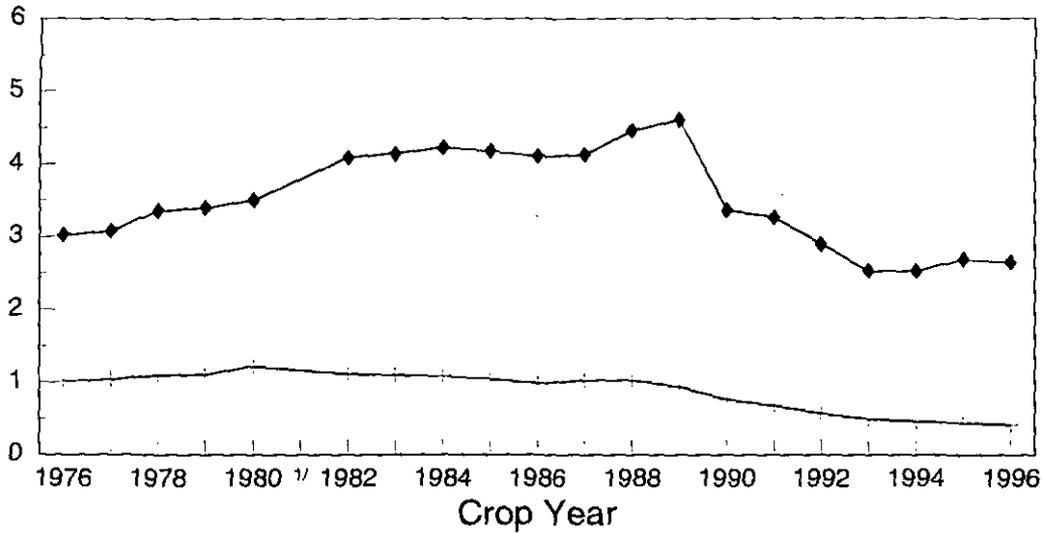
Number Of Mink Farms Down 7 Percent

There were 415 mink farms producing pelts in 1996, down 7 percent from a year ago. Leading States were Utah with 130 farms, Wisconsin with 74 farms and Minnesota with 40.

Fox

There were 40 mink farms which also raised fox in 1996, compared to 49 for the previous year.

Mink Pelts and Number of Farms 1976-1996

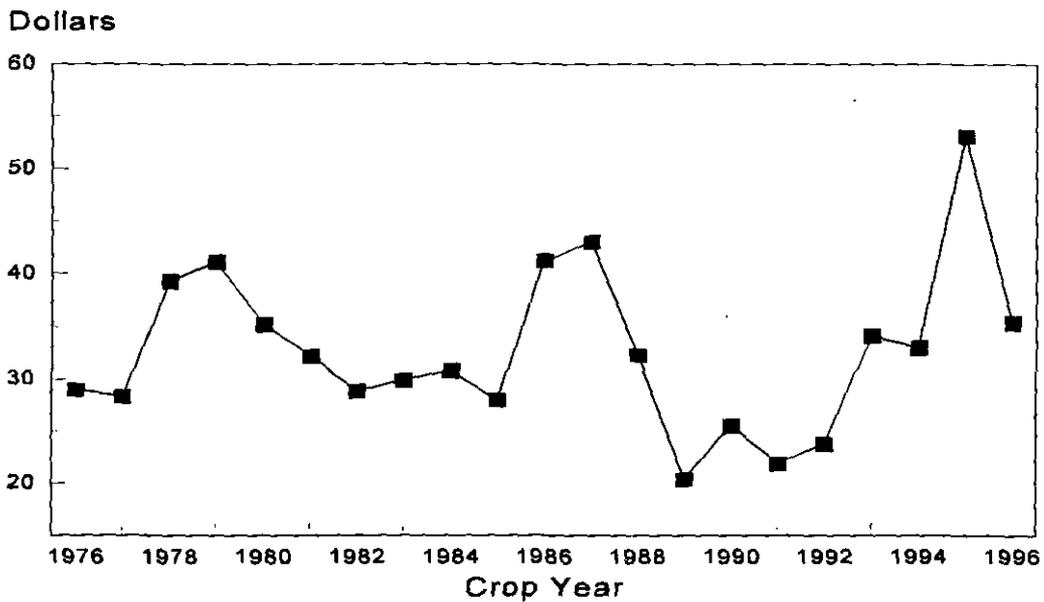


Mink Pelts (000,000) Mink Farms (000)

—◆— —■—

1/Data Not Available

Mink Pelt Average Price 1976-1996



Mink: Pelts Produced and Females Bred, By Color Class,
United States, 1995-1997 1/

Color Class	Pelts Produced		Females Bred To Produce Kits		
	1995 2/	1996	1995	1996 2/	1997
	Thousands		Thousands		
Standard	1,216	1,238	351.8	336.3	330.8
Ranch Wild	264	195	57.8	43.7	47.5
Demi-buff	159	109	41.8	29.0	29.8
Pastel	35	32	10.1	9.3	13.4
Pale Brown	1	1	0.1	0.4	0.2
Sapphire	66	86	21.9	25.8	32.0
Gunmetal	284	339	75.0	90.8	90.7
Mahogany	569	560	123.6	119.0	138.8
Pearl	33	25	8.0	6.7	5.7
Lavender-hope	6	9	2.7	2.6	2.1
Pink	10	3	3.0	0.8	1.4
Violet-type	13	19	4.1	4.3	8.5
White	33	30	8.7	7.4	9.2
Misc. & Unclassified	1	3	0.9	2.1	0.7
US Total	2,689	2,649	709.5	678.2	710.8

Mink: Farms, Pelts Produced, Price, and Value,
United States, 1976-96

Year	Mink Farms	Pelts Produced	Average Marketing Price	Value of Mink Pelts
	Number	1,000	Dollars	Million Dollars
1976	1,015	3,026	29.00	87.8
1977	1,040	3,076	28.30	87.1
1978	1,095	3,358	39.30	132.0
1979	1,105	3,394	41.10	139.5
1980	1,122	3,501	35.30	123.6
1981	3/	3/	32.20	3/
1982	1,116	4,085	28.90	118.1
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	498	2,527	34.10	86.2
1994	458	2,525	33.00	83.3
1995 2/	445	2,689	53.10	142.8
1996 4/	415	2,649	35.30	93.5

- 1/ Sum of color class may not add to U.S. total due to rounding.
2/ Revised based on additional information.
3/ Data not available for 1981.
4/ Data are Preliminary.

Mink: Pelts Produced by color Class and Number of Farms,
Major States and United States, 1995

States:	Stan- dard	Ranch Wild	Demi- Buff 1/	Pas- tel	Pale Brown	Sap- phire	Gun Metal	Mahog- any
Number of Pelts								
ID	68,400	36,100	*	*		*		40,000
IL	43,500		*					*
IA	42,900	2,100	*	*		*	10,900	*
MI	32,100	*	3,400	1,600		1,500	1,300	6,000
MN	115,000	74,000	3,800	*		*	28,000	71,500
NY	12,700	*		300		*	600	3,100
OH	*	6,000	2,100	100		2,900	800	*
OR	73,000	*		1,100		*	101,000	5,500
PA	*	*	*	*		8,900	21,600	2,500
SD	*	*	*	*				29,000
UT	267,000	13,000	68,000	4,000		16,000	22,000	168,000
WA	67,100	*					25,500	*
WI	376,100	26,900	9,700	10,600		15,300	64,800	140,300
Oth Sts	118,400	106,100	72,000	16,800	500	21,400	7,900	103,100
US	1,216,200	264,200	159,000	34,500	500	66,000	284,400	569,000

	Pearl	Lavender Hope	Pink	Violet Type	White	Misc. & Unclass- ified	Total Pelts	Number of Farms
Number of Pelts								
ID	*	*					170,500	22
IL	*				*		48,400	10
IA	*			3,900	*		91,300	21
MI	2,100		*	1,400	2,500		52,100	12
MN	*		*		3,300		306,000	52
NY	200		1,000	1,000		*	20,800	11
OH				100			68,000	12
OR				*			198,000	27
PA	*	*	*	*	*		63,200	13
SD	*						80,700	4
UT	11,000			1,000			570,000	130
WA							105,000	20
WI	1,500	3,800	2,500	2,100	19,600	400	673,600	76
Oth Sts	18,400	2,100	6,400	3,600	7,300	300	241,700	35
US	33,200	5,900	9,900	13,100	32,700	700	2,689,300	445

1/ Demi-buff includes crossed of dark brown, violet, pastel, standard, pearl or others. * Included in other States in each respective color class to avoid disclosing individual operations.

Mink: Pelts Produced by Color Class and Number of Farms,
Major States and United States, 1996

States:	Stan- dard	Ranch Wild	Demi- Buff 1/	Pas- tel	Pale Brown	Sap- phire	Gun Metal	Mahog- any
Number of Pelts								
ID	52,900	32,800	19,100	*	*	*		45,700
IL	50,900							*
IA	45,100	*	*	11,500		5,200	14,700	3,900
MI	30,000		400	1,600		3,400	1,600	12,700
MN	111,300	65,300	11,200	1,800		*	27,300	71,900
NY	9,100	*	500	1,100	*	*	800	4,100
OH	*	5,500				4,700	2,000	*
OR	78,000	*		*		8,400	110,000	*
PA	*		1,600	*		9,300	22,100	*
SD	*	31,000	*	*				37,500
UT	286,000	11,000	50,000	3,000		18,000	28,000	183,000
WA	68,000	*	*			*	33,000	*
WI	394,800	25,000	5,200	7,200		18,900	88,400	148,400
Oth Sts	111,500	24,500	21,400	6,100	1,200	17,600	10,800	52,900
US	1,237,600	195,100	109,400	32,300	1,200	85,500	338,700	560,100

	Pearl	Lavender: Hope	Pink	Violet Type	White	Misc. & Unclass- ified	Total Pelts	Number of Farms
Number of Pelts								
ID	*	*		*			170,000	22
IL	*				*	*	56,700	9
IA	*			*	*		97,000	20
MI	1,700			1,200	3,800	600	57,000	9
MN	*			*	*		293,300	40
NY	200		200	400		1,600	20,100	11
OH							73,800	12
OR				*			208,000	23
PA	*		*	*	*		65,700	13
SD	*						94,100	4
UT	5,000			1,000			585,000	130
WA							117,000	19
WI	*	4,100	*	4,200	18,300	800	718,100	74
Oth Sts	18,500	5,300	2,800	11,700	7,400	400	93,300	29
US	25,400	9,400	3,000	18,500	29,500	3,400	2,649,100	415

1/ Demi-buff includes crossed of dark brown, violet, pastel, standard, pearl or others. * Included in other States in each respective color class to avoid disclosing individual operations.

Female Mink Bred to Produce Kits: Number By Color Class,
Major States and United States, 1996

States:	Stan- dard	Ranch Wild	Demi- buff 1/	Pas- tel	Pale Brown	Sap- phire	Gun Metal	Mahog- any
	Number							
ID	13,000	7,300	2,800	*	*	*		9,000
IL	13,200							*
IA	13,000	*	*	*		1,400	4,700	3,600
MI	7,700			300		700	600	2,100
MN	31,000	13,000	*	*		*	6,500	15,500
NY	4,100	*		300		*	100	500
OH	*	1,100	800	100		1,300	400	*
OR	18,000	*		400		3,000	27,000	1,100
PA	*	*	*	*		2,700	6,000	1,100
SD	*	*	*	*				6,700
UT	86,400	3,300	14,000	700	100	6,200	8,200	45,900
WA	16,400	*				*	8,200	*
WI	100,400	4,900	1,900	2,300	*	5,400	25,200	23,000
Oth Sts	33,100	14,100	9,500	5,200	300	5,100	3,900	10,500
US	336,300	43,700	29,000	9,300	400	25,800	90,800	119,000

	Pearl	Lavender Hope	Pink	Violet Type	White	Misc. & Unclass- ified	Total
	Number						
ID	*	*		*			37,400
IL	*				*		14,300
IA	*			1,300	*		29,600
MI	800			500	700		13,400
MN				*	*		68,500
NY						*	7,200
OH				100			20,500
OR				*			51,000
PA	*		*	*	*		19,200
SD	*						22,800
UT	2,000			200			167,000
WA							27,500
WI	200	1,100	400	800	4,500	*	170,400
Oth Sts	3,700	1,500	400	1,400	2,200	2,100	29,400
US	6,700	2,600	800	4,300	7,400	2,100	678,200

1/ Demi-buff includes crossed of dark brown, violet, pastel, standard, pearl or others. * Included in other States in each respective color class to avoid disclosing individual operations.

Female Mink Bred to Produce Kits: Number By Color Class,
Major States and United States, 1997

States:	Stan- dard	Ranch Wild	Demi- Buff 1/2	Pas- tel	Pale Brown	Sap- phire	Gun Metal	Mahog- any
Number								
ID	12,900	8,100	*	*		6,200		12,800
IL	13,300		*					*
IA	13,700	*	2,200	6,000		2,400	5,300	3,600
MI	7,300		100	300		600	600	3,300
MN	26,100	16,600	*	600		*	6,300	16,800
NY	3,600	*		800	*	*	600	300
OH	*	1,300				2,000	500	*
OR	19,000	*		*		3,400	27,000	*
PA	*		900	*		2,900	5,900	*
SD	*	*	*	*				7,600
UT	91,900	2,400	15,000	900		6,100	9,300	56,300
WA	17,000	*	*				10,400	*
WI	95,000	6,900	1,100	2,500		6,900	20,400	24,400
Oth Sts	31,000	12,200	10,500	2,300	200	1,500	4,400	13,700
US	330,800	47,500	29,800	13,400	200	32,000	90,700	138,800

	Pearl	Lavender Hope	Pink	Violet Type	White	Misc. & Unclass- ified	Total
Number							
ID		*		*			46,500
IL	*				*		14,700
IA	*			2,700	*		36,600
MI	500			300	800	200	14,000
MN	*			*	*		68,500
NY			400	400			6,800
OH							19,700
OR				*			52,000
PA	*		*	*	*		19,100
SD	*						23,000
UT	200			2,000	900		185,000
WA							30,900
WI	*	*	*	1,200	4,800	500	165,000
Oth Sts	5,000	2,100	1,000	1,900	2,700		29,000
US	5,700	2,100	1,400	8,500	9,200	700	710,800

1/ Demi-buff includes crossed of dark brown, violet, pastel, standard, pearl or others. * Included in other States in each respective color class to avoid disclosing individual operations.

Survey Procedures: Data for mink production are collected from all known producers. State Statistical Offices use all known sources of producers to ensure that their lists are as complete as possible. 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. Great care is exercised to ensure that all operations are accounted for. Major auction houses which handle virtually all producer sales provide mink pelt price data in June. 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.

Revision policy: Estimates for the previous year are subject to revision when current estimates are made. Revisions are the result of late or corrected data and are generally within one-half percent.

The next "Mink" report will be released in July 1998.

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