



# Mink

---

Released July 15, 2004, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, U.S. Department of Agriculture. For information on *Mink* call Tom Kruchten at (202) 690-4870, office hours 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET.

## **Pelt Production Down 2 Percent**

Mink pelt production in the United States in 2003 totaled 2.55 million pelts, down 2 percent from 2002. Wisconsin, the largest mink producing State, produced 706,000 pelts.

By color class, the number of pelts as a percent of the total U.S. production in 2003 follows: Black at 40.2 percent; Mahogany at 21.5 percent; Blue Iris at 16.1 percent; Demi/Wild at 6.4 percent; Sapphire at 5.8 percent. The remaining color classes accounted for 10.0 percent.

## **Value of Pelt Production Up 28 Percent**

Mink pelts produced during the 2003 crop year were valued at \$102 million dollars, up 28 percent from \$79.8 million a year ago. The average price per pelt for the 2003 crop year was \$40.10, up from \$30.60 in 2002.

## **Females Bred Up Slightly**

Female mink bred to produce kits in 2004 totaled 604,800, up slightly from the previous year.

Percent of total females bred to produce kits in 2004 by color class are: Black at 45.9 percent; Mahogany at 21.0 percent; Blue Iris at 11.9 percent; Demi/Wild at 5.8 percent; Sapphire at 5.0 percent. The remaining color classes accounted for 10.4 percent.

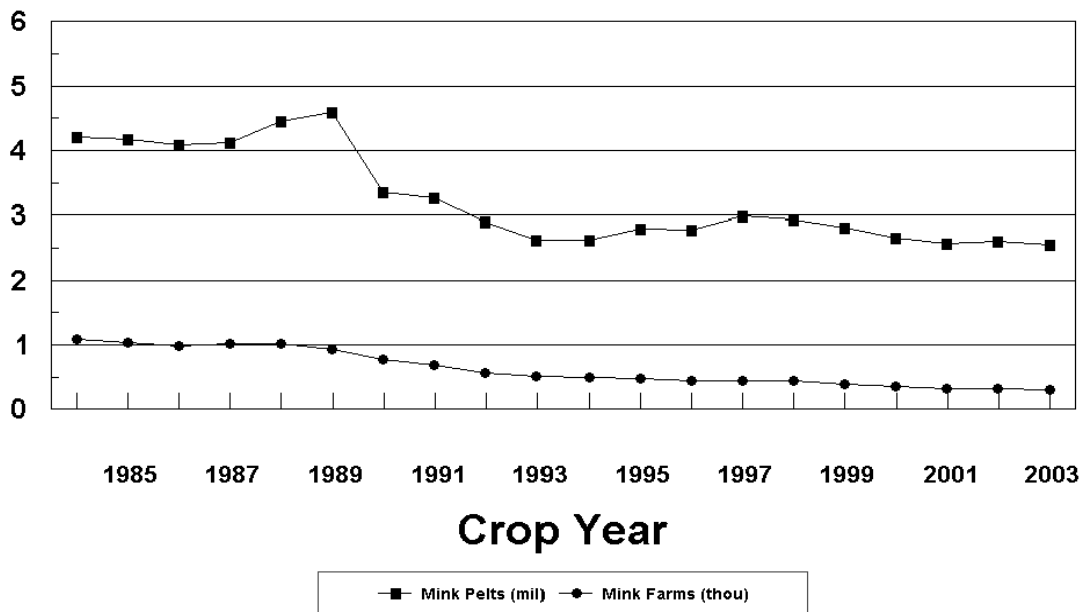
## **Number of Mink Farms Down 5 Percent**

There were 307 mink farms producing pelts in 2003, down 5 percent from a year ago. Leading States were Utah with 80 farms, Wisconsin with 69 farms and Minnesota with 31.

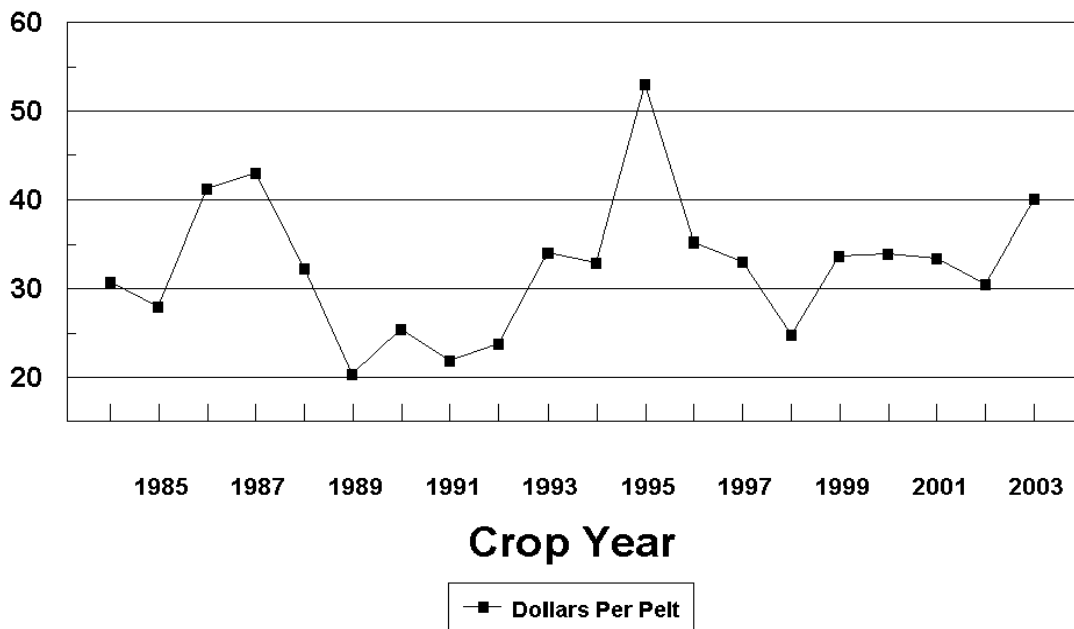
## **Fox**

There were 18 mink farms which also raised fox in 2003, down from 20 the previous year.

## Mink Pelts and Number of Farms 1984-2003



## Mink Pelt Average Price 1984-2003



**Mink: Pelts Produced and Females Bred, by Color Class,  
United States, 2002-2004**

Color Class	Pelts Produced		Females Bred to Produce Kits	
	2002	2003	2003	2004
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>
Black	966.8	1,025.7	255.4	277.5
Demi-Wild	150.3	164.4	31.4	34.8
Pastel	32.5	29.5	8.3	9.3
Sapphire	182.2	146.7	38.4	30.2
Blue Iris	516.4	409.5	101.4	71.7
Mahogany	566.2	548.3	118.9	127.1
Pearl	88.0	74.9	20.1	16.8
Lavender	9.8	4.2	1.3	1.5
Violet	11.5	18.7	7.1	6.1
White	75.1	117.0	19.4	26.3
Misc. & Unclassified	8.5	10.1	1.7	3.5
US <sup>1</sup>	2,607.3	2,549.0	603.4	604.8

**Mink: Farms, Pelts Produced, Price, and Value,  
United States, 1984-03**

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>
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	329	2,565	33.50	85.9
2002	324	2,607	30.60	79.8
2003	307	2,549	40.10	102.2

<sup>1</sup> 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, 2002**

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	68,100			47,400	28,200	52,300	
IL	41,900						
IA	60,500			13,200	8,300	12,400	
MI							
MN	43,700	46,300	1,500	3,500	80,800	81,400	
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 <sup>1</sup>	48,400	68,000	16,800	9,400	12,800	74,700	88,000
US <sup>2</sup>	966,800	150,300	32,500	182,200	516,400	566,200	88,000
	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					228,900	28	
IL					53,500	7	
IA					111,600	16	
MI					57,000	9	
MN					270,600	36	
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 <sup>1</sup>	5,800	11,500	43,000	8,500	50,400	19	
US <sup>2</sup>	9,800	11,500	75,100	8,500	2,607,300	324	

<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.

<sup>2</sup> New color classes started in 2002. Reference page 8.

**Mink: Pelts Produced by Color Class and Number of Farms,  
Major States and United States, 2003**

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	60,200			22,600	13,400	49,600	
IL	41,800						
IA	65,100				10,200	2,100	
MI							
MN	37,700	49,600	1,100	2,900	48,900	84,000	
OH	32,100			9,400		9,800	
OR	96,500			25,000	131,000	18,400	
PA	6,400			10,500	17,700		
SD							
UT	235,000			26,500	23,000	226,000	
WA	28,800	13,400			52,400		
WI	381,000		6,200	35,300	97,700	95,000	
Oth Sts <sup>1</sup>	41,100	101,400	22,200	14,500	15,200	63,400	74,900
US <sup>2</sup>	1,025,700	164,400	29,500	146,700	409,500	548,300	74,900
	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					168,700	24	
IL					52,300	7	
IA			16,700		129,100	15	
MI					51,000	8	
MN		700	16,300		245,200	31	
OH					63,000	9	
OR					273,000	25	
PA					44,600	9	
SD					78,700	3	
UT					590,000	80	
WA					94,600	10	
WI			63,400	2,100	706,300	69	
Oth Sts <sup>1</sup>	4,200	18,000	20,600	8,000	52,500	17	
US <sup>2</sup>	4,200	18,700	117,000	10,100	2,549,000	307	

<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.

<sup>2</sup> New color classes started in 2002. Reference page 8.

**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	10,000	9,000	300	800	14,700	15,500
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 <sup>1</sup>	11,600	12,700	4,800	2,300	3,700	15,800
US <sup>2</sup>	255,400	31,400	8,300	38,400	101,400	118,900
	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		55,500
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 <sup>1</sup>	20,100	1,300	7,100	6,600	1,700	14,400
US <sup>2</sup>	20,100	1,300	7,100	19,400	1,700	603,400

<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.

<sup>2</sup> New color classes started for female mink bred in 2003. Reference page 8.

**Female Mink Bred to Produced Kits: Number by Color Class,  
Major States and United States, 2004**

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	15,600			3,400	2,800	14,600
IL	11,900					
IA	18,900				2,600	600
MI						
MN	9,500	10,600	400	700	7,400	18,400
OH	9,400			2,000		3,600
OR	25,600			3,100	17,900	6,200
PA	5,200			3,200	2,900	
SD						
UT	61,000			5,000	5,400	51,900
WA	10,500	2,900			10,900	
WI	100,200		2,000	8,400	18,500	19,300
Oth Sts <sup>1</sup>	9,700	21,300	6,900	4,400	3,300	12,500
US <sup>2</sup>	277,500	34,800	9,300	30,200	71,700	127,100
	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						41,400
IL						14,800
IA				3,500		34,000
MI						11,700
MN				3,100		51,300
OH						18,400
OR						53,300
PA						14,900
SD						17,800
UT						143,000
WA						24,300
WI						168,900
Oth Sts <sup>1</sup>	16,800	1,500	6,100	19,700	3,500	11,000
US <sup>2</sup>	16,800	1,500	6,100	26,300	3,500	604,800

<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.

<sup>2</sup> New color classes started 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.



## ACCESS TO REPORTS!!

---

For your convenience, there are several ways to obtain NASS reports, data products, and services:

### INTERNET ACCESS

All NASS reports are available free of charge on the worldwide Internet. For access, connect to the Internet and go to the NASS Home Page at: [www.usda.gov/nass/](http://www.usda.gov/nass/). Select "Today's Reports" or Publications and then Reports Calendar or Publications and then Search, by Title or Subject.

### E-MAIL SUBSCRIPTION

All NASS reports are available by subscription free of charge direct to your e-mail address. Starting with the NASS Home Page at [www.usda.gov/nass/](http://www.usda.gov/nass/), click on **Publications**, then click on the **Subscribe by E-mail** button which takes you to the page describing e-mail delivery of reports. Finally, click on **Go to the Subscription Page** and follow the instructions.

-----

### PRINTED REPORTS OR DATA PRODUCTS

**CALL OUR TOLL-FREE ORDER DESK: 800-999-6779 (U.S. and Canada)**  
**Other areas, please call 703-605-6220      FAX: 703-605-6900**  
**(Visa, MasterCard, check, or money order acceptable for payment.)**

-----

### ASSISTANCE

For **assistance** with general agricultural statistics or further information about NASS or its products or services, contact the **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).

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C., 20250-9410, or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.