

---

Released July 11, 2008, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, U.S. Department of Agriculture. For information on *Mink* call Toby Paterson at (202) 720-0585, office hours 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. ET.

## **Pelt Production Down 1 Percent**

Mink pelt production in the United States in 2007 totaled 2.83 million pelts, down 1 percent from 2006. Wisconsin, the largest mink producing State, produced 914,100 pelts. Utah, the second largest producing State, produced 599,430 pelts.

The number of pelts by color class as a percent of the total U.S. production in 2007 is as follows: Black at 52 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 5 percent.

## **Value of Pelt Production Up 34 Percent**

Mink pelts produced during the 2007 crop year, sold in 2008, were valued at \$186 million, up 34 percent from \$139 million a year ago. The average price per pelt for the 2007 crop year was \$65.70, up \$17.30 from \$48.40 in 2006.

## **Females Bred Down 1 Percent**

Female mink bred to produce kits in 2008 totaled 691,170, down 1 percent from the previous year.

Percent of total females bred to produce kits in 2008 by color class: Black at 54 percent, Mahogany at 20 percent, Blue Iris at 9 percent, Sapphire at 4 percent, Demi/Wild at 4 percent, and White at 3 percent. The remaining color classes accounted for 6 percent.

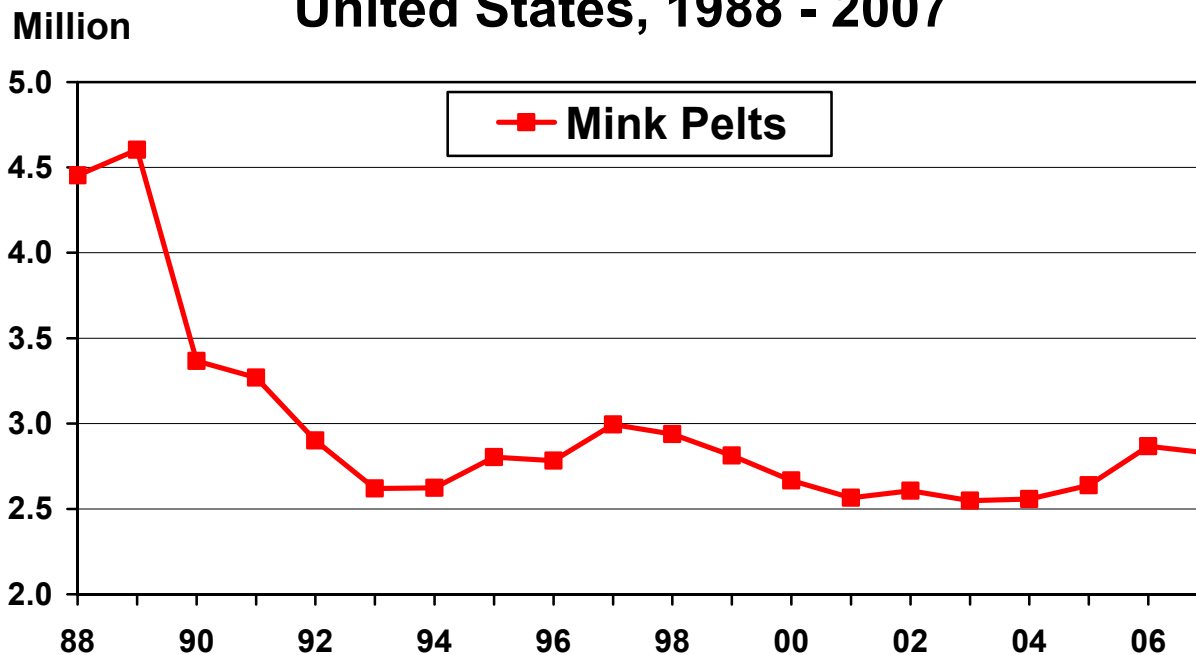
## **Number of Mink Farms Up 1 Percent**

There were 283 mink farms producing pelts in 2007, up 1 percent from a year ago. The three leading States were Wisconsin with 71 farms, Utah with 65 farms, and Idaho with 24 farms.

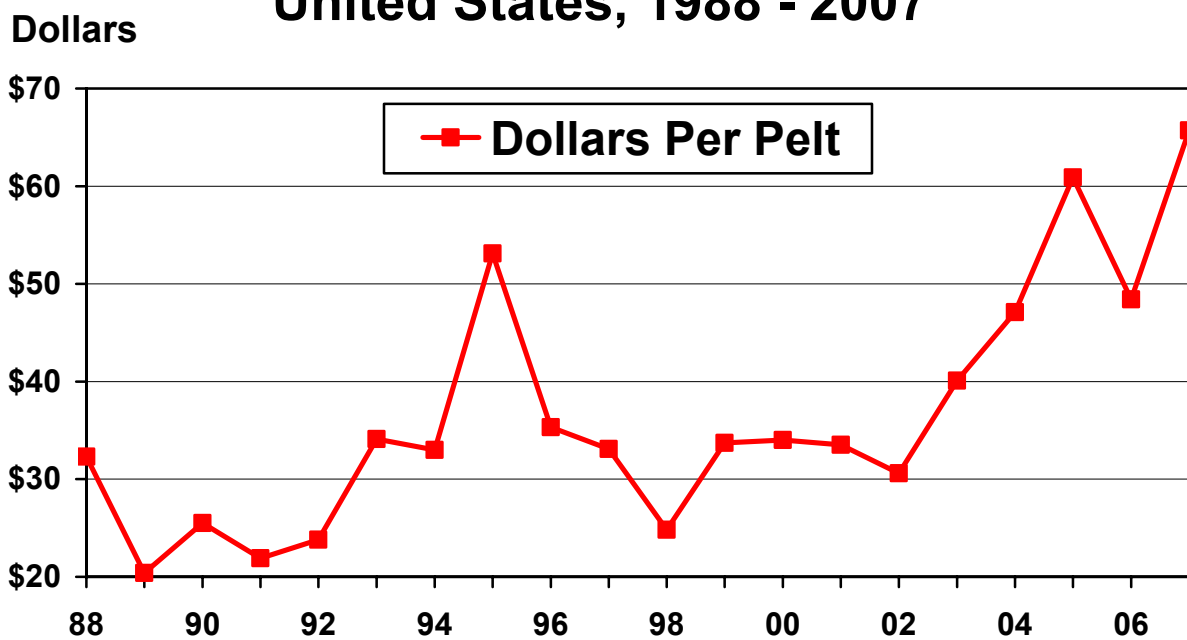
### *Special Note*

The number of mink farms also raising fox will no longer be published.

## Mink Pelts Produced United States, 1988 - 2007



## Mink Pelt Average Price United States, 1988 - 2007



**Mink: Pelts Produced and Females Bred, by Color Class,  
United States, 2006-2008**

Color Class	Pelts Produced		Females Bred to Produce Kits	
	2006 <sup>1</sup>	2007	2007 <sup>1</sup>	2008
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>
Black	1,395,700	1,461,200	357,700	370,600
Demi/Wild	175,600	145,030	31,930	29,610
Pastel	61,550	65,250	16,680	14,950
Sapphire	110,400	103,080	29,110	29,040
Blue Iris	300,710	276,920	69,130	65,030
Mahogany	591,400	565,380	137,350	135,430
Pearl	66,030	59,540	15,280	13,240
Lavender	7,760	10,450	2,650	1,690
Violet	20,560	21,580	5,730	6,230
White	125,500	104,480	27,520	23,550
Misc. & Unclassified	11,440	14,990	3,008	1,800
US	2,866,650	2,827,900	696,088	691,170

<sup>1</sup> Revised.

**Mink: Farms, Pelts Produced, Price, and Value,  
United States, 1988-2007**

Year	Mink Farms	Pelts Produced	Average Marketing Price	Value of Mink Pelts
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>
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	275	2,637,800	60.90	160,642,020
2006 <sup>1</sup>	279	2,866,650	48.40	138,745,860
2007	283	2,827,900	65.70	185,793,030

<sup>1</sup> Revised.

**Mink: Pelts Produced by Color Class and Number of Farms,  
Major States and United States, 2006<sup>1</sup>**

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	79,000	14,500			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	25,000			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	40,000	97,000	102,000	
Oth Sts <sup>2</sup>	43,700	67,100	50,550	37,600	11,710	96,400	
US	1,395,700	175,600	61,550	110,400	300,710	591,400	
	<b>Pearl</b>	<b>Lavender</b>	<b>Violet</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>Misc. &amp; Unclassified</b>	<b>Total Pelts</b>	<b>Number of Farms</b>
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>
ID						204,500	25
IL						65,520	7
IA						141,250	17
MI				9,500		54,550	9
MN			800			242,950	23
OH						78,300	7
OR						283,900	18
PA					2,000	66,000	10
SD						82,500	3
UT				1,500		622,890	66
WA						92,000	9
WI		800		57,000	5,500	890,200	69
Oth Sts <sup>2</sup>	66,030	6,960	19,760	57,500	3,940	42,090	16
US	66,030	7,760	20,560	125,500	11,440	2,866,650	279

<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, 2007<sup>1</sup>**

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 <sup>2</sup>	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 <sup>3</sup>	37,200	103,030	54,750	37,080	8,420	78,380	
US	1,461,200	145,030	65,250	103,080	276,920	565,380	
	Pearl	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>	<i>Number</i>
ID						221,000	24
IL						59,060	7
IA						135,850	17
MI				10,000		52,580	9
MN				17,000		218,500	23
MT <sup>2</sup>						25,930	8
OH						73,500	9
OR						278,500	18
PA					9,000	70,240	11
SD						73,000	3
UT				1,900		599,430	65
WA						95,000	9
WI		1,600		50,000	4,400	914,100	71
Oth Sts <sup>3</sup>	59,540	8,850	21,580	25,580	1,590	11,210	9
US	59,540	10,450	21,580	104,480	14,990	2,827,900	283

<sup>1</sup> Revised.

<sup>2</sup> Montana previously published in "Other States" category.

<sup>3</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<sup>1</sup>**

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	23,000		990		3,000	17,500
IL	14,500					
IA	26,000				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	7,000			3,800	4,000	
SD						
UT	70,000	8,500		2,200	2,000	57,000
WA	15,000				6,000	
WI	132,000		3,400	11,000	24,000	20,000
Oth Sts <sup>2</sup>	12,700	13,930	12,290	9,910	2,130	17,350
US	357,700	31,930	16,680	29,110	69,130	137,350
	Pearl	Lavender	Violet	White	Misc. & Unclassified	Total
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>
ID						51,690
IL						17,920
IA						38,500
MI				2,300		12,330
MN			350	4,400		58,140
OH						18,900
OR						57,810
PA						18,930
SD						17,300
UT				470		155,418
WA						24,750
WI		500		15,000	1,800	214,900
Oth Sts <sup>2</sup>	15,280	2,150	5,380	5,350	1,208	9,500
US	15,280	2,650	5,730	27,520	3,008	696,088

<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, 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	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 <sup>1</sup>	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 <sup>2</sup>	5,600	7,910	11,250	9,340	3,930	15,930
US	370,600	29,610	14,950	29,040	65,030	135,430
	Pearl	Lavender	Violet	White	Misc. & Unclassified	Total
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>
ID						51,770
IL						17,960
IA						38,400
MI				1,200		10,300
MN				3,900		54,100
MT <sup>1</sup>						6,690
OH						20,100
OR						57,210
PA						16,450
SD						17,700
UT				290		155,910
WA						22,700
WI		500	3,200	14,000	790	217,830
Oth Sts <sup>2</sup>	13,240	1,190	3,030	4,160	1,010	4,050
US	13,240	1,690	6,230	23,550	1,800	691,170

<sup>1</sup> Montana previously published in "Other States" category.

<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.

## 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. Point of first sales prices, before marketing costs are deducted, are collected by producers.

**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 1.6 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 2.83 million pelts by more than 1.6 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 2.9 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	1.6	2.9	82	18	0	149	1	4
Females Bred	1.5	2.7	19	7	0	28	1	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

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

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

    Fleming Gibson - Poultry Slaughter, Turkey Hatchery, Turkeys Raised ..... (202) 690-3237

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

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

    Toby Paterson - Catfish Processing, Catfish Production, Trout Production,  
        Census of Aquaculture, Egg Products, Mink ..... (202) 720-0585

## 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.nass.usda.gov**.

### 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.nass.usda.gov**, under the right navigation, *Receive reports by Email*, click on **National** or **State**. Follow the instructions on the screen.

-----

### 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**.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (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 USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.