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## **Pelt Production Up 9 Percent**

**Mink pelt production** in the United States in 2011 totaled 3.09 million pelts, up 9 percent from 2010. Wisconsin, the largest mink producing State, produced 1,050,580 pelts. Utah, the second largest producing State, produced 698,960 pelts.

The number of pelts by color class as a percent of the total United States production in 2011 is as follows: Black at 52 percent, Mahogany at 25 percent, and Blue Iris at 9 percent. The remaining color classes accounted for 14 percent.

**Value of pelts produced** during the 2011 crop year was \$292 million, up 25 percent from \$233 million a year ago. The average price per pelt for the 2011 crop year was \$94.30, up \$12.40 from \$81.90 in 2010.

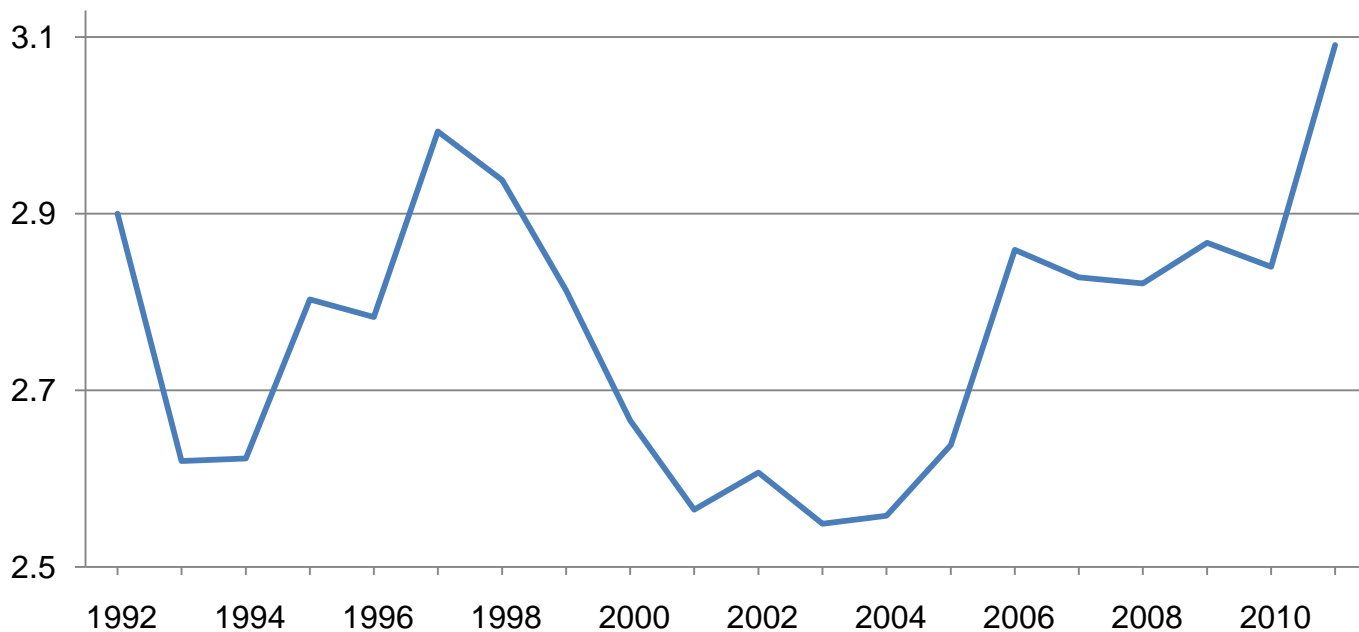
**Female mink bred** to produce kits in 2012 totaled 769,970, up 9 percent from the previous year.

Percent of total females bred to produce kits in 2012 by color class is as follows: Black at 51 percent, Mahogany at 25 percent, and Blue Iris at 9 percent. The remaining color classes accounted for 15 percent.

**Mink farms producing pelts** in 2011 totaled 268, up 1 percent from a year ago.

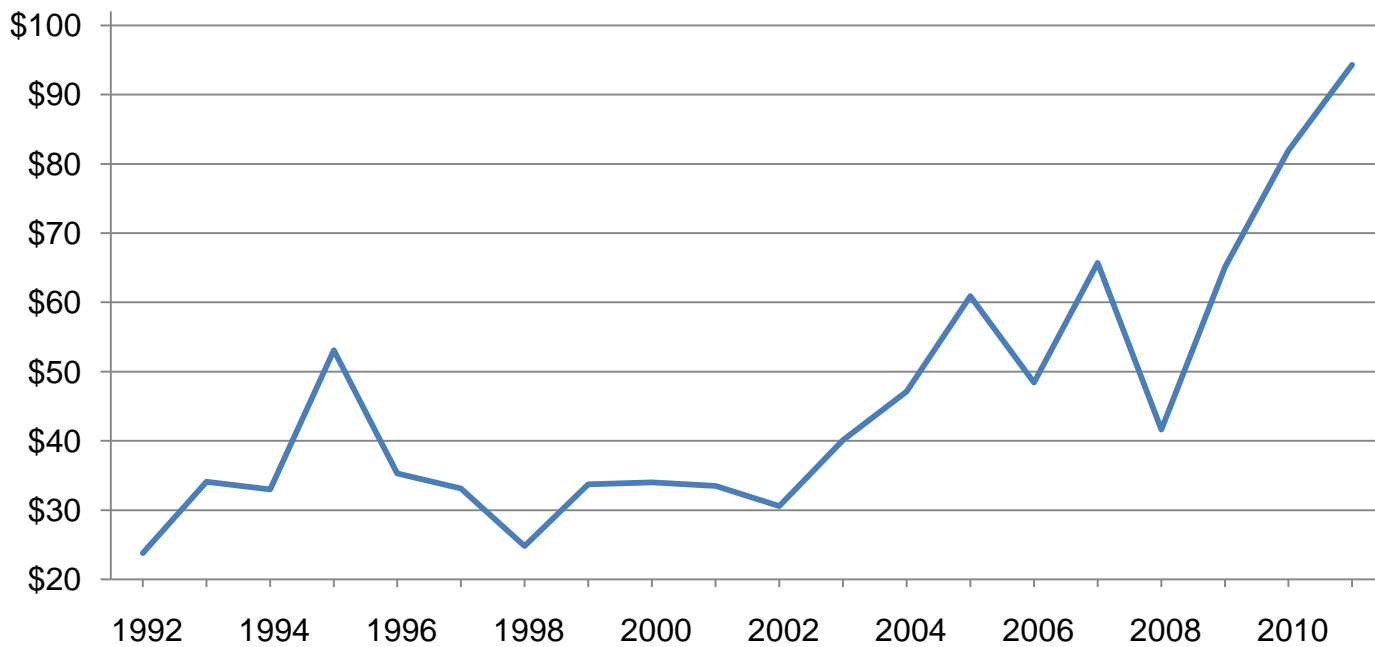
## Mink Pelts Produced – United States

Million



## Mink Average Price Per Pelt – United States

Dollars



### Mink Pelts Produced and Females Bred by Color Class – United States: 2010-2012

Color class	Pelts produced		Females bred to produce kits	
	2010 (number)	2011 (number)	2011 (number)	2012 (number)
Black .....	1,455,600	1,592,300	370,500	392,900
Demi/Wild .....	101,200	95,070	23,120	24,960
Pastel .....	66,820	73,730	17,200	19,740
Sapphire .....	82,480	80,170	20,380	22,280
Blue Iris .....	263,620	291,820	59,000	70,670
Mahogany .....	725,900	786,500	171,860	192,450
Pearl .....	74,900	81,510	18,600	16,150
Lavender .....	6,030	8,700	2,410	3,100
Violet .....	9,440	15,060	3,550	4,110
White .....	46,800	61,170	17,780	22,170
Other .....	7,410	5,440	1,600	1,440
Total .....	2,840,200	3,091,470	706,000	769,970

### Mink Farms, Pelts Produced, Average Price, and Value – United States: 1992-2011

Year	Mink farms (number)	Pelts produced (number)	Average marketing price (dollars)	Value of mink pelts (dollars)
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	2,858,800	48.40	138,365,920
2007 .....	283	2,828,200	65.70	185,812,740
2008 .....	274	2,820,700	41.60	117,341,120
2009 .....	278	2,866,700	65.10	186,622,170
2010 .....	265	2,840,200	81.90	232,612,380
2011 .....	268	3,091,470	94.30	291,525,621

**Pelts Produced by Color Class – Selected States and United States: 2010**

States	Black (number)	Demi/Wild (number)	Pastel (number)	Sapphire (number)	Blue Iris (number)	Mahogany (number)
Idaho .....	111,000	(D)	5,500	8,500	(D)	120,000
Illinois .....	42,000	(D)	-	(D)	(D)	(D)
Iowa .....	83,000	-	(D)	(D)	6,500	(D)
Michigan .....	28,000	-	(D)	(D)	(D)	3,000
Minnesota .....	47,000	37,000	(D)	(D)	22,000	85,000
Montana .....	5,500	(D)	-	-	(D)	13,000
Ohio .....	57,000	(D)	-	(D)	(D)	25,000
Oregon .....	159,000	(D)	-	12,000	69,000	(D)
Pennsylvania .....	27,000	(D)	6,000	4,900	12,500	(D)
South Dakota .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	-	-	(D)
Utah .....	245,000	(D)	(D)	12,000	(D)	300,000
Washington .....	62,000	(D)	-	(D)	(D)	(D)
Wisconsin .....	570,000	(D)	13,500	35,000	115,000	103,000
Other States <sup>1</sup> .....	19,100	64,200	41,820	10,080	38,620	76,900
United States .....	1,455,600	101,200	66,820	82,480	263,620	725,900
States	Pearl (number)	Lavender (number)	Violet (number)	White (number)	Other (number)	Total <sup>2</sup> (number)
Idaho .....	(D)	-	-	-	(D)	259,300
Illinois .....	(D)	-	(D)	(D)	(D)	55,260
Iowa .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	-	111,140
Michigan .....	-	-	-	4,500	-	40,500
Minnesota .....	-	-	-	3,900	-	199,730
Montana .....	-	-	-	-	-	21,900
Ohio .....	-	-	-	-	-	92,000
Oregon .....	-	-	(D)	-	-	261,300
Pennsylvania .....	(D)	-	(D)	(D)	(D)	64,520
South Dakota .....	(D)	-	-	-	-	80,000
Utah .....	(D)	-	-	(D)	-	677,900
Washington .....	-	-	-	-	-	86,200
Wisconsin .....	-	6,000	(D)	28,000	4,200	883,430
Other States <sup>1</sup> .....	74,900	30	9,440	10,400	3,210	7,020
United States .....	74,900	6,030	9,440	46,800	7,410	2,840,200

- Represents zero.

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

<sup>1</sup> Other States also includes some pelts from the above listed States that were not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

<sup>2</sup> Published color classes may not add to the State total to avoid disclosing individual operations.

**Pelts Produced by Color Class – Selected States and United States: 2011**

States	Black (number)	Demi/Wild (number)	Pastel (number)	Sapphire (number)	Blue Iris (number)	Mahogany (number)
Idaho .....	138,000	(D)	(D)	9,000	(D)	141,000
Illinois .....	58,000	(D)	-	(D)	(D)	(D)
Iowa .....	68,000	-	(D)	(D)	(D)	13,500
Michigan .....	27,000	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Minnesota .....	63,000	34,000	(D)	(D)	25,000	85,000
Montana .....	4,700	(D)	-	-	(D)	13,500
Ohio .....	55,000	(D)	-	(D)	(D)	27,000
Oregon .....	157,000	(D)	-	(D)	72,000	(D)
Pennsylvania .....	30,000	(D)	8,000	6,000	17,000	(D)
South Dakota .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	-	-	(D)
Utah .....	245,000	(D)	(D)	13,500	3,600	325,000
Washington .....	57,000	-	-	-	13,500	(D)
Wisconsin .....	670,000	(D)	(D)	39,000	139,000	115,000
Other States <sup>1</sup> .....	19,600	61,070	65,730	12,670	21,720	66,500
United States .....	1,592,300	95,070	73,730	80,170	291,820	786,500
States	Pearl (number)	Lavender (number)	Violet (number)	White (number)	Other (number)	Total <sup>2</sup> (number)
Idaho .....	-	(D)	(D)	-	-	308,260
Illinois .....	(D)	-	-	(D)	-	75,810
Iowa .....	-	-	-	(D)	-	87,030
Michigan .....	-	-	-	6,000	-	43,200
Minnesota .....	(D)	-	-	(D)	-	214,060
Montana .....	-	-	-	-	-	20,960
Ohio .....	-	-	-	-	-	92,200
Oregon .....	-	-	(D)	-	-	262,900
Pennsylvania .....	(D)	-	-	(D)	(D)	70,700
South Dakota .....	(D)	-	-	-	-	76,000
Utah .....	(D)	(D)	-	(D)	(D)	698,960
Washington .....	-	-	-	-	-	82,500
Wisconsin .....	-	8,500	(D)	46,000	4,300	1,050,580
Other States <sup>1</sup> .....	81,510	200	15,060	9,170	1,140	8,310
United States .....	81,510	8,700	15,060	61,170	5,440	3,091,470

- Represents zero.

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

<sup>1</sup> Other States also includes some pelts from the above listed States that were not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

<sup>2</sup> Published color classes may not add to the State total to avoid disclosing individual operations.

**Female Mink Bred to Produce Kits by Color Class – Selected States and United States: 2011**

States	Black (number)	Demi/Wild (number)	Pastel (number)	Sapphire (number)	Blue Iris (number)	Mahogany (number)
Idaho .....	30,000	(D)	1,300	1,800	(D)	29,000
Illinois .....	17,000	-	-	(D)	(D)	(D)
Iowa .....	19,000	-	(D)	(D)	1,900	3,500
Michigan .....	8,500	-	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Minnesota .....	17,000	(D)	(D)	(D)	5,500	20,000
Montana .....	1,600	(D)	-	-	(D)	(D)
Ohio .....	13,000	(D)	-	(D)	(D)	7,000
Oregon .....	32,000	-	-	(D)	14,500	(D)
Pennsylvania .....	7,000	(D)	2,000	2,000	3,900	(D)
South Dakota .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	-	-	(D)
Utah .....	62,000	7,500	(D)	4,500	(D)	73,000
Washington .....	14,500	-	-	-	(D)	(D)
Wisconsin .....	144,000	(D)	4,200	9,000	24,000	21,000
Other States <sup>1</sup> .....	4,900	15,620	9,700	3,080	9,200	18,360
United States .....	370,500	23,120	17,200	20,380	59,000	171,860
States	Pearl (number)	Lavender (number)	Violet (number)	White (number)	Other (number)	Total <sup>2</sup> (number)
Idaho .....	(D)	-	-	-	(D)	65,800
Illinois .....	(D)	-	(D)	(D)	-	20,530
Iowa .....	(D)	-	-	(D)	-	26,210
Michigan .....	-	-	-	(D)	-	11,750
Minnesota .....	-	-	-	1,300	-	53,220
Montana .....	-	-	-	-	-	7,040
Ohio .....	-	-	-	-	-	22,600
Oregon .....	-	-	(D)	-	-	54,180
Pennsylvania .....	(D)	-	(D)	(D)	(D)	16,520
South Dakota .....	(D)	-	-	-	-	15,800
Utah .....	(D)	-	-	(D)	-	168,600
Washington .....	-	-	-	-	-	20,000
Wisconsin .....	-	2,400	(D)	12,500	1,300	221,260
Other States <sup>1</sup> .....	18,600	10	3,550	3,980	300	2,490
United States .....	18,600	2,410	3,550	17,780	1,600	706,000

- Represents zero.

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

<sup>1</sup> Other States also includes some females bred from the above listed States that were not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

<sup>2</sup> Published color classes may not add to the State total to avoid disclosing individual operations.

**Female Mink Bred to Produce Kits by Color Class – Selected States and United States: 2012**

States	Black (number)	Demi/Wild (number)	Pastel (number)	Sapphire (number)	Blue Iris (number)	Mahogany (number)
Idaho .....	33,000	(D)	1,500	2,700	(D)	38,000
Illinois .....	17,000	(D)	-	(D)	(D)	(D)
Iowa .....	22,000	-	(D)	(D)	(D)	7,500
Michigan .....	9,500	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Minnesota .....	18,000	(D)	(D)	(D)	6,500	23,000
Montana .....	1,400	(D)	(D)	-	(D)	4,500
Ohio .....	13,000	(D)	-	(D)	(D)	5,500
Oregon .....	35,000	(D)	(D)	2,600	14,500	(D)
Pennsylvania .....	6,000	(D)	1,800	2,200	5,000	(D)
South Dakota .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	-	-	(D)
Utah .....	68,000	(D)	(D)	4,100	(D)	77,000
Washington .....	15,000	(D)	-	-	(D)	(D)
Wisconsin .....	150,000	(D)	3,900	9,500	33,000	23,000
Other States <sup>1</sup> .....	5,000	24,960	12,540	1,180	11,670	13,950
United States .....	392,900	24,960	19,740	22,280	70,670	192,450
States	Pearl (number)	Lavender (number)	Violet (number)	White (number)	Other (number)	Total <sup>2</sup> (number)
Idaho .....	-	(D)	(D)	-	-	78,900
Illinois .....	(D)	-	-	(D)	-	23,190
Iowa .....	-	-	-	(D)	-	31,420
Michigan .....	-	-	-	1,100	-	13,400
Minnesota .....	-	-	-	(D)	-	59,420
Montana .....	-	-	-	(D)	-	6,910
Ohio .....	-	-	-	-	-	21,400
Oregon .....	-	-	(D)	-	-	58,550
Pennsylvania .....	(D)	-	-	(D)	-	16,920
South Dakota .....	(D)	-	-	-	-	15,700
Utah .....	(D)	-	(D)	(D)	(D)	178,750
Washington .....	-	-	-	-	-	20,600
Wisconsin .....	-	3,000	(D)	15,500	1,400	242,390
Other States <sup>1</sup> .....	16,150	100	4,110	5,570	40	2,420
United States .....	16,150	3,100	4,110	22,170	1,440	769,970

- Represents zero.

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

<sup>1</sup> Other States also includes some females bred from the above listed States that were not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

<sup>2</sup> Published color classes may not add to the State total to avoid disclosing individual operations.

## Statistical Methodology

**Survey Procedures:** Mink production data are collected from early May through late May 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 who do not respond by mail are telephoned or enumerated in person. Care is exercised to account for all operations. Major auction houses, which handle producer sales, provide mink pelt price data in June. Prices are collected at the point of first sale, before marketing costs are deducted.

**Estimation Procedures:** 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:** Revisions to previous estimates are made to improve year-to-year and item-to-item relationships. Estimates for the previous year are subject to revision when current estimates are made. Estimates will also be reviewed after data from the five-year Census of Agriculture are available. No revisions will be made after that date.

**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 0.5 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 3.09 million pelts by more than 0.5 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 0.9 percent.

### Reliability of Mink Estimates

[Based on data for the past ten years]

Item	Root mean square error	90 percent confidence level	Difference between first and latest estimate				
			Average	Smallest	Largest	Years	
						Below latest	Above latest
	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(number)	(number)
Pelts produced .....	0.5	0.9	9	0	34	7	1
Females bred .....	0.9	1.7	4	0	15	7	1



## Information Contacts

Listed below are the commodity specialists in the Livestock Branch of the National Agricultural Statistics Service to contact for additional information. E-mail inquiries may be sent to [nass@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass@nass.usda.gov)

Dan Kerestes, Chief, Livestock Branch .....	(202) 720-3570
Bruce Boess, Head, Poultry and Specialty Commodities Section .....	(202) 720-4447
Cody Brokmeyer – Poultry Slaughter, Turkey Hatchery, Turkeys Raised .....	(202) 690-3237
David Colwell – Cold Storage .....	(202) 720-8784
LaKeya Jones – Catfish Processing, Catfish Production, Trout Production, Census of Aquaculture, Honey, Egg Products, Mink .....	(202) 720-0585
Kim Linonis – Layers, Eggs .....	(202) 690-8632
Miste Salmon – Broiler Hatchery, Chicken Hatchery .....	(202) 720-3244

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