



ISSN: 1949-1549

Released July 24, 2015, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Pelt Production Up 6 Percent

Mink pelt production in the United States in 2014 totaled 3.76 million pelts, up 6 percent from 2013. Wisconsin, the largest mink producing State, produced 1,268,760 pelts. Utah, the second largest producing State, produced 958,760 pelts.

The number of pelts by color class as a percent of the total United States production in 2014 is as follows: Black at 50 percent, Mahogany at 24 percent, and Blue Iris at 8 percent. The remaining color classes accounted for 18 percent.

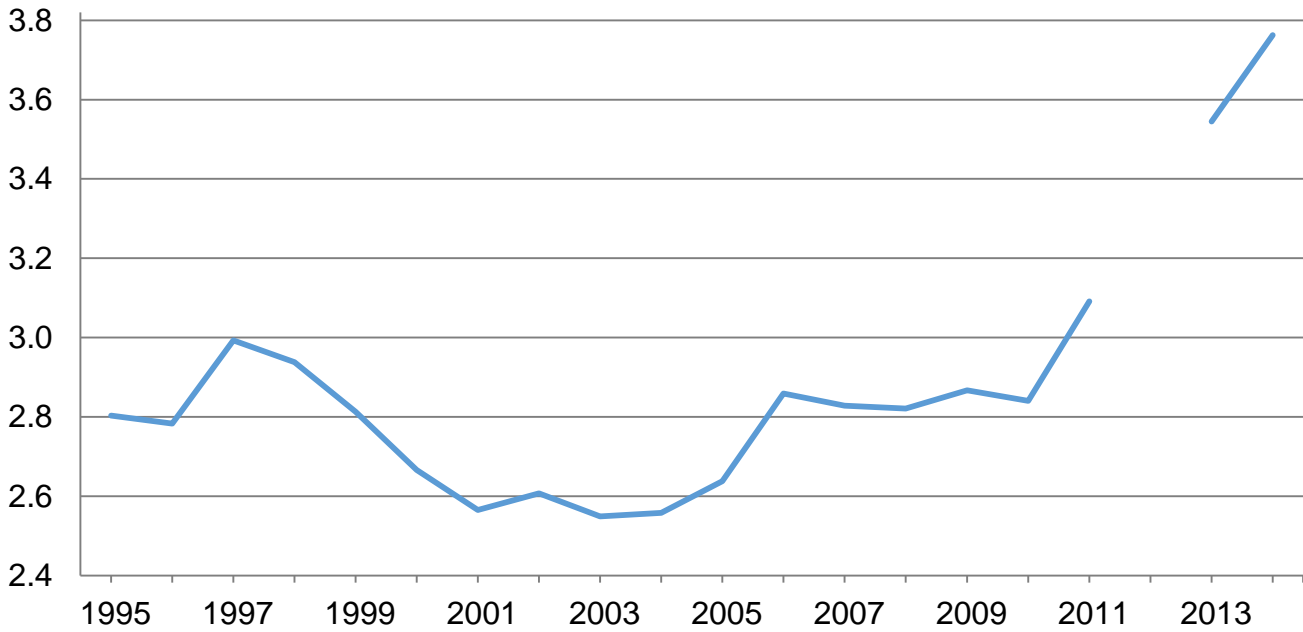
Value of pelts produced during the 2014 crop year was \$217 million, up 9 percent from \$200 million a year ago. The average price per pelt for the 2014 crop year was \$57.70, up \$1.40 from \$56.30 in 2013.

Female mink bred to produce kits in 2015 totaled 853,140, up slightly from the previous year.

Percent of total females bred to produce kits in 2015 by color class is as follows: Black at 52 percent, Mahogany at 21 percent, and Blue Iris at 8 percent. The remaining color classes accounted for 19 percent.

Mink Pelts Produced – United States

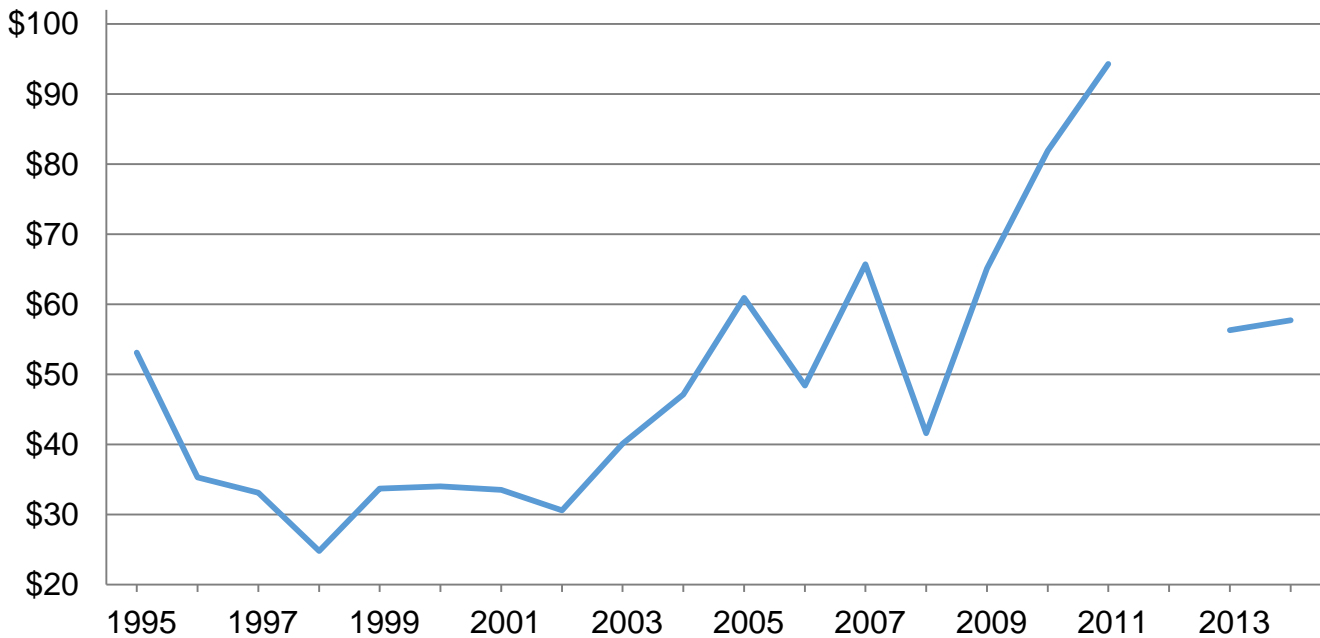
Million



Due to sequestration the *Mink* report was suspended in 2012.

Mink Average Price Per Pelt – United States

Dollars



Due to sequestration the *Mink* report was suspended in 2012.

Mink Pelts Produced and Females Bred by Color Class – United States: 2013-2015

| Color class | Pelts produced | | Females bred to produce kits | |
|-----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| | 2013 (number) | 2014 (number) | 2014 (number) | 2015 (number) |
| Black | 1,794,900 | 1,897,600 | 431,350 | 439,600 |
| Demi/Wild | 93,230 | 80,460 | 19,430 | 20,920 |
| Pastel | 111,700 | 113,750 | 26,310 | 24,990 |
| Sapphire | 105,100 | 121,330 | 29,480 | 32,380 |
| Blue Iris | 265,300 | 305,240 | 63,210 | 69,680 |
| Mahogany | 866,620 | 909,650 | 205,240 | 179,940 |
| Pearl | 101,480 | 103,970 | 18,250 | 16,980 |
| Lavender | 13,600 | 13,590 | 4,610 | 6,640 |
| Violet | 38,260 | 43,100 | 9,910 | 10,780 |
| White | 132,750 | 155,180 | 39,040 | 46,770 |
| Other | 21,670 | 19,380 | 4,700 | 4,460 |
| Total | 3,544,610 | 3,763,250 | 851,530 | 853,140 |

Mink Pelts Produced, Average Price, and Value – United States: 1995-2014

| Year | Pelts produced (number) | Average marketing price (dollars) | Value of mink pelts (dollars) |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1995 | 2,803,100 | 53.10 | 148,844,610 |
| 1996 | 2,783,200 | 35.30 | 98,246,960 |
| 1997 | 2,993,300 | 33.10 | 99,078,230 |
| 1998 | 2,938,100 | 24.80 | 72,864,880 |
| 1999 | 2,812,500 | 33.70 | 94,781,250 |
| 2000 | 2,666,100 | 34.00 | 90,647,400 |
| 2001 | 2,565,300 | 33.50 | 85,937,550 |
| 2002 | 2,607,300 | 30.60 | 79,783,380 |
| 2003 | 2,549,000 | 40.10 | 102,214,900 |
| 2004 | 2,558,100 | 47.10 | 120,486,510 |
| 2005 | 2,637,800 | 60.90 | 160,642,020 |
| 2006 | 2,858,800 | 48.40 | 138,365,920 |
| 2007 | 2,828,200 | 65.70 | 185,812,740 |
| 2008 | 2,820,700 | 41.60 | 117,341,120 |
| 2009 | 2,866,700 | 65.10 | 186,622,170 |
| 2010 | 2,840,200 | 81.90 | 232,612,380 |
| 2011 | 3,091,470 | 94.30 | 291,525,621 |
| 2012 ¹ | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) |
| 2013 | 3,544,610 | 56.30 | 199,561,543 |
| 2014 | 3,763,250 | 57.70 | 217,139,525 |

(NA) Not available.

¹ Due to sequestration the *Mink* report was suspended.

Pelts Produced by Color Class – Selected States and United States: 2013

| States | Black (number) | Demi/Wild (number) | Pastel (number) | Sapphire (number) | Blue Iris (number) | Mahogany (number) |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Idaho | 143,000 | 7,000 | 3,200 | 12,500 | 3,300 | 164,000 |
| Illinois | 63,000 | - | - | (D) | - | (D) |
| Iowa | 67,000 | (D) | (D) | (D) | (D) | 36,000 |
| Michigan | 39,000 | - | (D) | (D) | (D) | 2,700 |
| Minnesota | 71,000 | 29,000 | (D) | (D) | 34,000 | 86,000 |
| Montana | 4,200 | (D) | (D) | - | (D) | (D) |
| Ohio | 66,000 | (D) | - | (D) | (D) | 30,000 |
| Oregon | 197,000 | (D) | - | (D) | 76,000 | (D) |
| Pennsylvania | 33,000 | (D) | 11,000 | 6,500 | 18,500 | (D) |
| South Dakota | (D) | (D) | (D) | - | - | (D) |
| Utah | 295,000 | 31,000 | (D) | 35,000 | 2,300 | 365,000 |
| Washington | 67,000 | - | (D) | - | (D) | (D) |
| Wisconsin | 730,000 | (D) | 27,000 | 37,000 | 108,000 | 101,000 |
| Other States ¹ | 19,700 | 26,230 | 70,500 | 14,100 | 23,200 | 81,920 |
| United States | 1,794,900 | 93,230 | 111,700 | 105,100 | 265,300 | 866,620 |
| States | Pearl (number) | Lavender (number) | Violet (number) | White (number) | Other (number) | Total ² (number) |
| Idaho | - | (D) | 760 | - | (D) | 345,590 |
| Illinois | (D) | - | - | (D) | - | 97,180 |
| Iowa | - | - | - | (D) | - | 109,640 |
| Michigan | - | - | (D) | 6,000 | - | 56,500 |
| Minnesota | - | - | - | (D) | - | 244,520 |
| Montana | - | - | - | (D) | - | 18,330 |
| Ohio | - | - | - | (D) | - | 104,900 |
| Oregon | - | - | (D) | - | - | 309,350 |
| Pennsylvania | (D) | (D) | (D) | (D) | (D) | 79,530 |
| South Dakota | (D) | - | - | - | - | (D) |
| Utah | (D) | (D) | (D) | (D) | (D) | 855,380 |
| Washington | - | - | - | - | - | 95,000 |
| Wisconsin | (D) | 11,500 | (D) | 93,000 | 7,500 | 1,129,960 |
| Other States ¹ | 101,480 | 2,100 | 37,500 | 33,750 | 14,170 | 98,730 |
| United States | 101,480 | 13,600 | 38,260 | 132,750 | 21,670 | 3,544,610 |

- Represents zero.

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

¹ Other States include Indiana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Virginia, and some pelts from the above listed States that were not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

² 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: 2014

| States | Black (number) | Demi/Wild (number) | Pastel (number) | Sapphire (number) | Blue Iris (number) | Mahogany (number) |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Idaho | 139,000 | 7,500 | 4,300 | 17,500 | (D) | 164,000 |
| Illinois | 68,000 | - | - | (D) | - | (D) |
| Iowa | 45,000 | - | (D) | (D) | (D) | 34,000 |
| Michigan | 36,000 | - | (D) | (D) | (D) | 2,300 |
| Minnesota | 84,000 | 27,000 | (D) | (D) | 40,000 | 82,000 |
| Montana | 9,000 | (D) | (D) | - | (D) | 9,500 |
| Ohio | 68,000 | (D) | - | (D) | (D) | 18,500 |
| Oregon | 215,000 | - | (D) | (D) | 80,000 | (D) |
| Pennsylvania | 36,000 | (D) | 8,000 | 9,000 | 19,000 | (D) |
| South Dakota | (D) | (D) | (D) | - | (D) | (D) |
| Utah | 320,000 | 37,000 | (D) | 40,000 | 1,500 | 425,000 |
| Washington | 73,000 | - | (D) | - | (D) | (D) |
| Wisconsin | 800,000 | 1,100 | 31,000 | 39,000 | 138,000 | 117,000 |
| Other States ¹ | 4,600 | 7,860 | 70,450 | 15,830 | 26,740 | 57,350 |
| United States | 1,897,600 | 80,460 | 113,750 | 121,330 | 305,240 | 909,650 |
| States | Pearl (number) | Lavender (number) | Violet (number) | White (number) | Other (number) | Total ² (number) |
| Idaho | - | (D) | (D) | - | (D) | 357,970 |
| Illinois | (D) | - | (D) | (D) | - | 97,740 |
| Iowa | - | - | - | (D) | - | 85,700 |
| Michigan | - | - | - | 8,000 | - | 53,200 |
| Minnesota | (D) | - | (D) | (D) | - | 255,930 |
| Montana | - | - | - | (D) | (D) | 25,730 |
| Ohio | - | - | - | (D) | - | 95,800 |
| Oregon | - | - | (D) | - | - | 333,050 |
| Pennsylvania | (D) | - | (D) | (D) | (D) | 87,430 |
| South Dakota | (D) | - | - | - | - | (D) |
| Utah | (D) | (D) | (D) | (D) | (D) | 958,760 |
| Washington | - | - | - | - | - | 104,100 |
| Wisconsin | (D) | 7,500 | (D) | 115,000 | 3,900 | 1,268,760 |
| Other States ¹ | 103,970 | 6,090 | 43,100 | 32,180 | 15,480 | 39,080 |
| United States | 103,970 | 13,590 | 43,100 | 155,180 | 19,380 | 3,763,250 |

- Represents zero.

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

¹ Other States include New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Virginia, and some pelts from the above listed States that were not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

² 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: 2014

| States | Black (number) | Demi/Wild (number) | Pastel (number) | Sapphire (number) | Blue Iris (number) | Mahogany (number) |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Idaho | 35,000 | 1,700 | 1,100 | 4,100 | (D) | 40,000 |
| Illinois | 19,500 | - | - | (D) | - | (D) |
| Iowa | 18,500 | (D) | (D) | (D) | (D) | 11,000 |
| Michigan | 12,000 | - | (D) | (D) | (D) | 1,100 |
| Minnesota | 17,000 | 6,000 | (D) | (D) | 8,500 | 24,000 |
| Montana | 1,600 | (D) | (D) | - | (D) | 2,700 |
| Ohio | 15,000 | (D) | - | (D) | (D) | 7,000 |
| Oregon | 42,000 | (D) | - | 2,700 | 16,000 | (D) |
| Pennsylvania | 7,000 | (D) | 1,900 | 2,400 | 4,700 | (D) |
| South Dakota | (D) | (D) | (D) | - | - | (D) |
| Utah | 77,000 | (D) | (D) | 9,000 | 750 | 80,000 |
| Washington | 17,500 | - | (D) | - | (D) | (D) |
| Wisconsin | 168,000 | (D) | 7,000 | 10,000 | 27,000 | 27,000 |
| Other States ¹ | 1,250 | 11,730 | 16,310 | 1,280 | 6,260 | 12,440 |
| United States | 431,350 | 19,430 | 26,310 | 29,480 | 63,210 | 205,240 |

| States | Pearl (number) | Lavender (number) | Violet (number) | White (number) | Other (number) | Total ² (number) |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| Idaho | - | (D) | (D) | - | (D) | 85,660 |
| Illinois | (D) | - | - | (D) | - | 27,590 |
| Iowa | - | - | - | (D) | - | 31,290 |
| Michigan | - | - | (D) | 1,700 | - | 17,500 |
| Minnesota | - | - | - | 3,500 | - | 62,910 |
| Montana | - | - | - | (D) | - | 6,410 |
| Ohio | - | - | - | (D) | - | 24,260 |
| Oregon | - | - | (D) | - | - | 67,900 |
| Pennsylvania | (D) | (D) | (D) | (D) | (D) | 18,700 |
| South Dakota | (D) | - | - | - | - | (D) |
| Utah | (D) | (D) | (D) | 230 | (D) | 200,680 |
| Washington | - | - | - | - | - | 23,900 |
| Wisconsin | - | 3,700 | (D) | 28,000 | 2,000 | 276,990 |
| Other States ¹ | 18,250 | 910 | 9,910 | 5,610 | 2,700 | 7,740 |
| United States | 18,250 | 4,610 | 9,910 | 39,040 | 4,700 | 851,530 |

- Represents zero.

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

¹ Other States include Indiana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Virginia, and some females bred from the above listed States that were not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

² 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: 2015

| States | Black (number) | Demi/Wild (number) | Pastel (number) | Sapphire (number) | Blue Iris (number) | Mahogany (number) |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Idaho | 58,000 | 1,700 | 2,100 | 5,000 | (D) | 40,000 |
| Illinois | 18,000 | - | - | (D) | - | (D) |
| Iowa | 13,000 | - | (D) | (D) | (D) | 11,500 |
| Michigan | 12,000 | - | (D) | (D) | (D) | 850 |
| Minnesota | 17,000 | 5,000 | (D) | (D) | (D) | 14,500 |
| Montana | 970 | (D) | (D) | - | - | 1,500 |
| Ohio | 13,500 | (D) | - | (D) | (D) | 4,600 |
| Oregon | 43,000 | - | (D) | 2,700 | 14,000 | (D) |
| Pennsylvania | 7,000 | (D) | (D) | 2,800 | 4,400 | (D) |
| South Dakota | (D) | (D) | - | (D) | (D) | - |
| Utah | 80,000 | 11,500 | (D) | 10,000 | (D) | 76,000 |
| Washington | 16,500 | - | (D) | - | (D) | (D) |
| Wisconsin | 158,000 | (D) | 6,500 | 10,000 | 29,000 | 21,000 |
| Other States ¹ | 2,630 | 2,720 | 16,390 | 1,880 | 22,280 | 9,990 |
| United States | 439,600 | 20,920 | 24,990 | 32,380 | 69,680 | 179,940 |

| States | Pearl (number) | Lavender (number) | Violet (number) | White (number) | Other (number) | Total ² (number) |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| Idaho | - | (D) | (D) | (D) | (D) | 113,500 |
| Illinois | (D) | - | (D) | (D) | - | 25,670 |
| Iowa | - | - | - | (D) | - | 26,180 |
| Michigan | - | (D) | (D) | 1,800 | - | 17,550 |
| Minnesota | - | - | - | 4,200 | - | 51,210 |
| Montana | - | - | - | (D) | (D) | 3,990 |
| Ohio | - | (D) | - | (D) | - | 20,250 |
| Oregon | - | - | 1,600 | - | - | 66,910 |
| Pennsylvania | (D) | - | (D) | (D) | (D) | 19,320 |
| South Dakota | (D) | - | - | (D) | - | (D) |
| Utah | (D) | (D) | (D) | (D) | (D) | 211,810 |
| Washington | - | - | - | - | - | 21,040 |
| Wisconsin | - | 4,400 | (D) | 34,000 | 1,600 | 268,690 |
| Other States ¹ | 16,980 | 2,240 | 9,180 | 6,770 | 2,860 | 7,020 |
| United States | 16,980 | 6,640 | 10,780 | 46,770 | 4,460 | 853,140 |

- Represents zero.

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

¹ Other States include New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Virginia, and some females bred from the above listed States that were not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

² 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 3.76 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 | 8 | 0 | 34 | 6 | 1 |
| Females bred | 0.9 | 1.7 | 3 | 0 | 15 | 5 | 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

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Dan Kerestes, Chief, Livestock Branch | (202) 720-3570 |
| Bruce Boess, Head, Poultry and Specialty Commodities Section | (202) 720-4447 |
| Alissa Cowell-Mytar – Cold Storage | (202) 720-4751 |
| Heidi Gleich – Broiler Hatchery, Chicken Hatchery | (202) 720-0585 |
| Michael Klamm – Poultry Slaughter, Turkey Hatchery, Turkeys Raised | (202) 690-3237 |
| Tom Kruchten – Census of Aquaculture | (202) 690-4870 |
| Kim Linonis – Layers, Eggs | (202) 690-8632 |
| Sammy Neal – Catfish Production, Egg Products, Mink, Trout Production | (202) 720-3244 |
| Joshua O’Rear – Honey | (202) 690-3676 |

Access to NASS Reports

For your convenience, you may access NASS reports and products the following ways:

- All reports are available electronically, at no cost, on the NASS web site: <http://www.nass.usda.gov>
- Both national and state specific reports are available via a free e-mail subscription. To set-up this free subscription, visit <http://www.nass.usda.gov> and in the “Follow NASS” box under “Receive reports by Email,” click on “National” or “State” to select the reports you would like to receive.

For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS 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 against its customers, employees, and applicants for employment on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. (Not all prohibited bases will apply to all programs and/or employment activities.)

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](#) (PDF), found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.