



---

Released July 20, 2018, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

## **Pelt Production Down 4 Percent**

**Mink pelt production** in the United States in 2017 totaled 3.31 million pelts, down 4 percent from 2016. Wisconsin, the largest mink producing State, produced 1.09 million pelts. Utah, the second largest producing State, produced 734 thousand pelts.

The number of pelts by color class as a percent of the total United States production in 2017 is as follows: Black at 50 percent, Mahogany at 19 percent, White at 7 percent, and Blue Iris and Sapphire at 6 percent. The remaining color classes accounted for 12 percent.

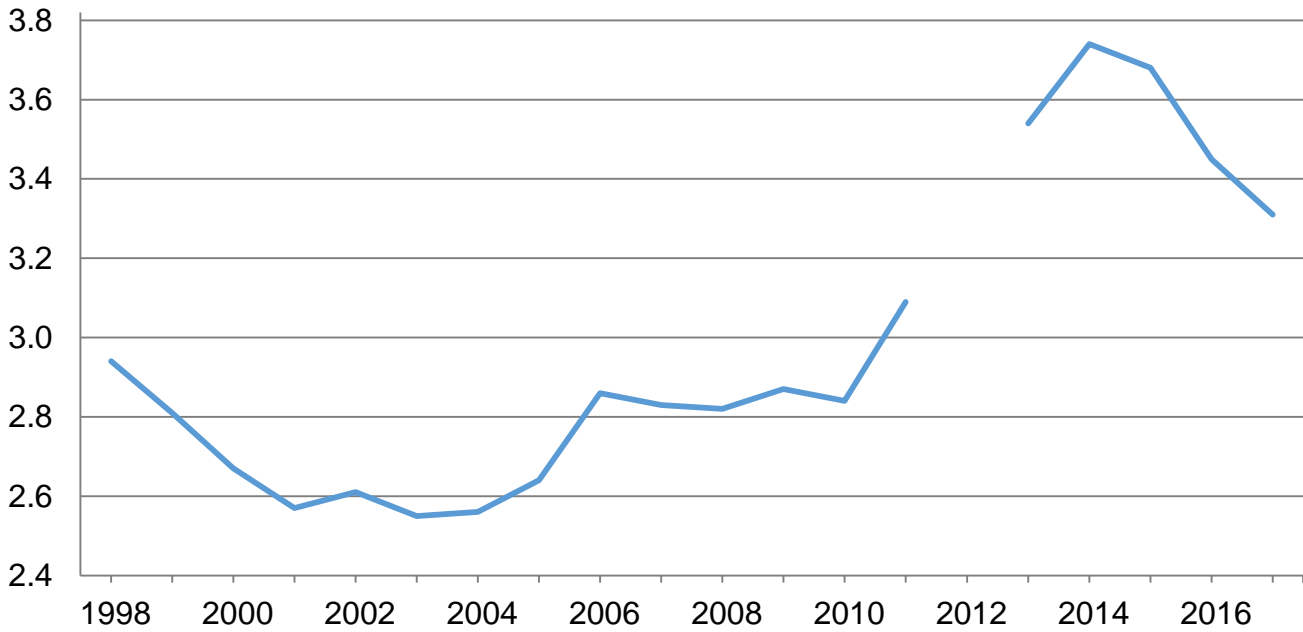
**Value of pelts produced** during the 2017 crop year was \$120 million, slightly above a year ago. The average price per pelt for the 2017 crop year was \$36.30, up \$1.60 from \$34.70 in 2016.

**Female mink bred** to produce kits in 2018 totaled 731 thousand, down 5 percent from the previous year.

Percent of total females bred to produce kits in 2018 by color class as is follows: Black at 50 percent, Mahogany at 18 percent, White at 7 percent, and Blue Iris and Sapphire at 6 percent. The remaining classes accounted for 13 percent.

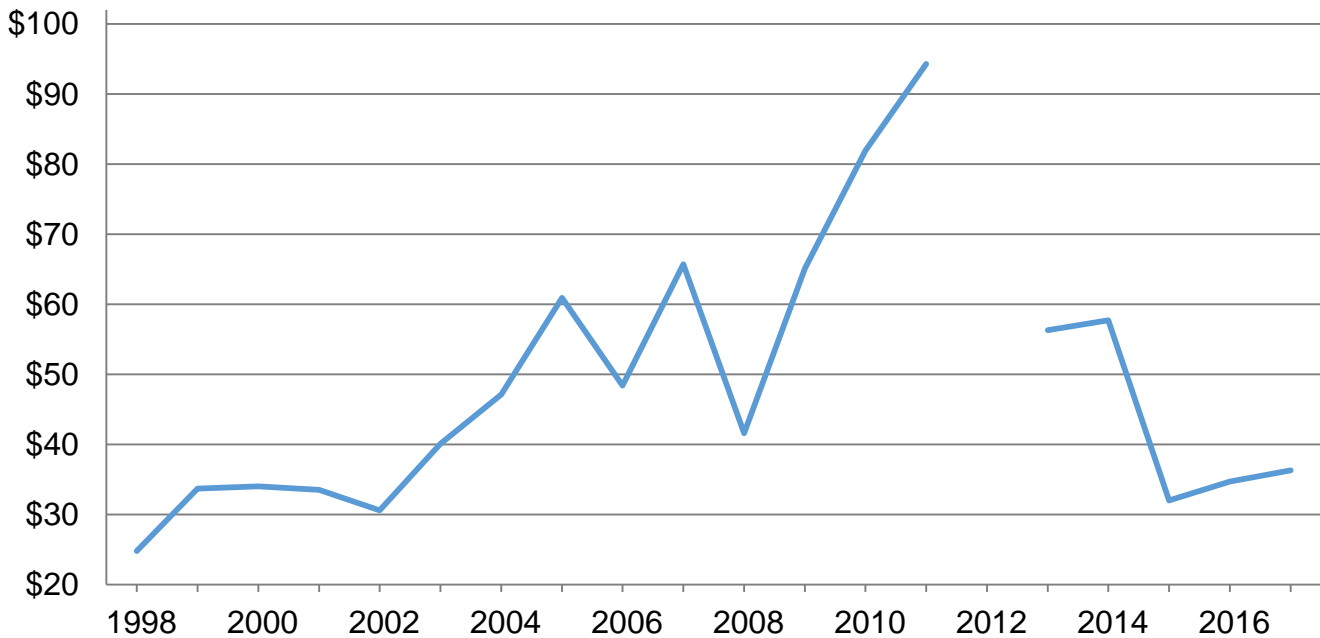
## Mink Pelts Produced – United States

Million



## Mink Average Price Per Pelt – United States

Dollars



### Mink Pelts Produced and Females Bred by Color Class – United States: 2016-2018

Color class	Pelts produced		Females bred to produce kits	
	2016 (number)	2017 (number)	2017 (number)	2018 (number)
Black .....	1,681,450	1,639,150	370,580	368,530
Demi/Wild .....	108,110	110,010	22,050	24,430
Pastel .....	99,600	97,810	26,710	22,220
Sapphire .....	209,080	198,900	48,900	44,310
Blue Iris .....	225,730	184,120	46,910	40,730
Mahogany .....	698,320	629,400	152,080	127,980
Pearl .....	116,640	115,510	25,200	25,600
Lavender .....	32,640	34,130	9,420	8,000
Violet .....	43,950	42,730	10,090	14,690
White .....	223,570	242,230	55,060	52,590
Other .....	15,320	11,450	3,400	2,350
Total .....	3,454,410	3,305,440	770,400	731,430

### Mink Pelts Produced, Average Price, and Value – United States: 1998-2017

Year	Pelts produced (number)	Average marketing price (dollars)	Value of mink pelts (dollars)
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 <sup>1</sup> .....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
2013 .....	3,544,610	56.30	199,561,543
2014 .....	3,741,150	57.70	215,864,355
2015 .....	3,682,960	32.00	117,854,720
2016 .....	3,454,410	34.70	119,868,027
2017 .....	3,305,440	36.30	119,987,472

(NA) Not available.

<sup>1</sup> Due to sequestration the *Mink* report was suspended.

**Pelts Produced by Color Class – Selected States and United States: 2016**

States	Black	Demi/Wild	Pastel	Sapphire	Blue Iris	Mahogany
	(number)	(number)	(number)	(number)	(number)	(number)
Idaho .....	112,000	(D)	14,000	12,500	(D)	181,000
Illinois .....	48,000	-	-	(D)	-	(D)
Iowa .....	45,000	-	(D)	2,300	(D)	35,000
Michigan .....	49,000	-	1,000	-	(D)	1,000
Minnesota .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	61,000
Montana .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	-	-	(D)
Ohio .....	(D)	(D)	-	(D)	(D)	(D)
Oregon .....	215,000	-	(D)	6,500	56,000	(D)
Pennsylvania .....	28,000	(D)	(D)	8,500	11,500	(D)
Utah .....	275,000	(D)	32,000	50,000	(D)	290,000
Washington .....	39,000	-	-	(D)	(D)	(D)
Wisconsin .....	710,000	(D)	34,000	44,000	101,000	77,000
Other States <sup>1</sup> .....	160,450	108,110	18,600	85,280	57,230	53,320
United States .....	1,681,450	108,110	99,600	209,080	225,730	698,320
States	Pearl	Lavender	Violet	White	Other	Total <sup>2</sup>
	(number)	(number)	(number)	(number)	(number)	(number)
Idaho .....	-	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	349,500
Illinois .....	(D)	-	-	(D)	-	81,100
Iowa .....	-	-	-	(D)	-	88,070
Michigan .....	-	1,500	(D)	6,500	-	64,500
Minnesota .....	-	-	(D)	27,000	(D)	210,580
Montana .....	-	-	-	(D)	(D)	11,900
Ohio .....	(D)	(D)	-	(D)	(D)	(D)
Oregon .....	-	(D)	(D)	-	-	306,170
Pennsylvania .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	67,540
Utah .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	731,660
Washington .....	-	-	-	-	-	55,080
Wisconsin .....	-	21,000	(D)	133,000	5,000	1,147,310
Other States <sup>1</sup> .....	116,640	10,140	43,950	57,070	10,320	341,000
United States .....	116,640	32,640	43,950	223,570	15,320	3,454,410

- Represents zero.

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

<sup>1</sup> Other States include New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, South Dakota, Virginia, and 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: 2017**

States	Black (number)	Demi/Wild (number)	Pastel (number)	Sapphire (number)	Blue Iris (number)	Mahogany (number)
Idaho .....	94,000	(D)	14,000	11,500	(D)	165,000
Illinois .....	51,000	-	-	(D)	-	(D)
Iowa .....	44,000	-	(D)	2,900	(D)	36,000
Michigan .....	59,000	-	500	200	(D)	1,200
Minnesota .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	37,000
Montana .....	(D)	(D)	-	-	-	-
Ohio .....	(D)	(D)	-	(D)	-	(D)
Oregon .....	210,000	-	-	(D)	44,000	(D)
Pennsylvania .....	33,000	(D)	5,500	11,500	(D)	(D)
Utah .....	280,000	24,000	33,000	45,000	(D)	285,000
Washington .....	27,000	-	-	-	(D)	(D)
Wisconsin .....	690,000	(D)	33,000	39,000	86,000	49,000
Other States <sup>1</sup> .....	151,150	86,010	11,810	88,800	54,120	56,200
United States .....	1,639,150	110,010	97,810	198,900	184,120	629,400
States	Pearl (number)	Lavender (number)	Violet (number)	White (number)	Other (number)	Total <sup>2</sup> (number)
Idaho .....	-	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	313,500
Illinois .....	(D)	-	-	(D)	-	81,100
Iowa .....	-	-	-	(D)	-	88,210
Michigan .....	-	3,500	(D)	7,500	-	77,700
Minnesota .....	-	-	(D)	31,000	(D)	180,580
Montana .....	-	-	-	-	-	(D)
Ohio .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	-	(D)
Oregon .....	-	(D)	(D)	-	-	283,670
Pennsylvania .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	68,130
Utah .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	734,260
Washington .....	-	-	-	-	-	44,000
Wisconsin .....	-	20,000	(D)	151,000	(D)	1,091,180
Other States <sup>1</sup> .....	115,510	10,630	42,730	52,730	11,450	343,110
United States .....	115,510	34,130	42,730	242,230	11,450	3,305,440

- Represents zero.

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

<sup>1</sup> Other States include New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, South Dakota, and 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: 2017**

States	Black (number)	Demi/Wild (number)	Pastel (number)	Sapphire (number)	Blue Iris (number)	Mahogany (number)
Idaho .....	24,000	(D)	2,900	3,100	(D)	39,000
Illinois .....	15,000	-	-	(D)	-	(D)
Iowa .....	12,500	-	(D)	(D)	(D)	11,500
Michigan .....	14,500	-	-	-	(D)	300
Minnesota .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	15,500
Montana .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	-	(D)	-
Ohio .....	(D)	(D)	-	(D)	-	(D)
Oregon .....	42,000	-	(D)	1,700	13,500	(D)
Pennsylvania .....	5,500	(D)	(D)	3,600	1,600	(D)
Utah .....	69,000	(D)	8,000	10,500	(D)	64,000
Washington .....	6,000	-	-	-	(D)	(D)
Wisconsin .....	151,000	(D)	9,500	10,500	19,500	10,000
Other States <sup>1</sup> .....	31,080	22,050	6,310	19,500	12,310	11,780
United States .....	370,580	22,050	26,710	48,900	46,910	152,080

States	Pearl (number)	Lavender (number)	Violet (number)	White (number)	Other (number)	Total <sup>2</sup> (number)
Idaho .....	-	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	75,350
Illinois .....	(D)	-	-	(D)	-	23,900
Iowa .....	-	-	-	(D)	(D)	26,730
Michigan .....	-	900	(D)	2,100	-	19,900
Minnesota .....	-	-	(D)	7,000	(D)	50,520
Montana .....	-	-	-	-	-	2,870
Ohio .....	(D)	(D)	-	(D)	(D)	(D)
Oregon .....	-	(D)	(D)	-	-	63,210
Pennsylvania .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	15,340
Utah .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	172,980
Washington .....	-	-	-	-	-	10,100
Wisconsin .....	-	5,500	(D)	35,000	640	246,620
Other States <sup>1</sup> .....	25,200	3,020	10,090	10,960	2,760	62,880
United States .....	25,200	9,420	10,090	55,060	3,400	770,400

- Represents zero.

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

<sup>1</sup> Other States include New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, South Dakota, Virginia, and 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: 2018

States	Black (number)	Demi/Wild (number)	Pastel (number)	Sapphire (number)	Blue Iris (number)	Mahogany (number)
Idaho .....	21,000	(D)	3,500	3,000	(D)	34,000
Illinois .....	16,000	-	-	-	-	(D)
Iowa .....	15,000	-	(D)	(D)	(D)	12,000
Michigan .....	12,500	-	100	1,000	-	-
Minnesota .....	(D)	3,300	1,500	(D)	(D)	10,000
Montana .....	(D)	(D)	-	-	-	-
Ohio .....	(D)	(D)	-	(D)	-	(D)
Oregon .....	36,000	-	-	(D)	11,500	(D)
Pennsylvania .....	9,000	(D)	(D)	480	1,600	(D)
Utah .....	63,000	6,500	(D)	11,500	710	56,000
Washington .....	(D)	-	-	-	-	(D)
Wisconsin .....	157,000	(D)	(D)	11,000	22,000	8,500
Other States <sup>1</sup> .....	39,030	14,630	17,120	17,330	4,920	7,480
United States .....	368,530	24,430	22,220	44,310	40,730	127,980

States	Pearl (number)	Lavender (number)	Violet (number)	White (number)	Other (number)	Total <sup>2</sup> (number)
Idaho .....	-	(D)	2,800	-	(D)	67,580
Illinois .....	(D)	-	-	(D)	-	24,300
Iowa .....	-	-	-	(D)	(D)	30,770
Michigan .....	-	500	(D)	730	-	15,530
Minnesota .....	-	-	(D)	7,000	(D)	43,820
Montana .....	-	-	-	-	-	(D)
Ohio .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Oregon .....	-	(D)	(D)	-	-	50,060
Pennsylvania .....	-	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	14,250
Utah .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	161,900
Washington .....	-	-	-	-	-	10,100
Wisconsin .....	-	5,500	(D)	35,000	520	252,120
Other States <sup>1</sup> .....	25,600	2,000	11,890	9,860	1,830	61,000
United States .....	25,600	8,000	14,690	52,590	2,350	731,430

- Represents zero.

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

<sup>1</sup> Other States include New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, South Dakota, and 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.

## Statistical Methodology

**Survey Procedures:** Mink production data are collected from early May through late May from all known producers. Individual NASS Regional 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. Pelt market price data is obtained 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. NASS headquarters prepare these estimates by using a combination of survey indications and historic trends. Individual State and US 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.

**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 1.5 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 3.31 million pelts by more than 1.5 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 2.7 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 .....	1.5	2.7	29	0	137	6	2
Females bred .....	1.5	2.8	7	0	30	5	2



## 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)

Travis Averill, Chief, Livestock Branch .....	(202) 720-3570
Tony Dorn, Head, Poultry and Specialty Commodities Section .....	(202) 690-3223
Holly Brenize – Poultry Slaughter.....	(202) 720-0585
Aaron Cosgrove – Turkey Hatchery, Turkeys Raised .....	(202) 690-3237
Alissa Cowell-Mytar – Cold Storage, Capacity of Refrigerated Warehouses .....	(202) 720-4751
Liana Cuffman – Catfish Production, Trout Production, Egg Products, Mink .....	(202) 720-8784
Fatema Haque – Broiler Hatchery, Chicken Hatchery .....	(202) 720-3244
Kim Linonis – Layers, Eggs .....	(202) 690-3676
Miste Salmon – Census of Agriculture, Census of Aquaculture .....	(202) 690-8632
Erica Sadler – Cost of Pollination, Honey, Honey Bee Colonies .....	(202) 720-6147

## 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: [www.nass.usda.gov](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 [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov) and click on “National” or “State” in upper right corner above “search” box to create an account and 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](mailto: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 [www.ascr.usda.gov/filing-program-discrimination-complaint-usda-customer](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/filing-program-discrimination-complaint-usda-customer), 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](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).