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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.

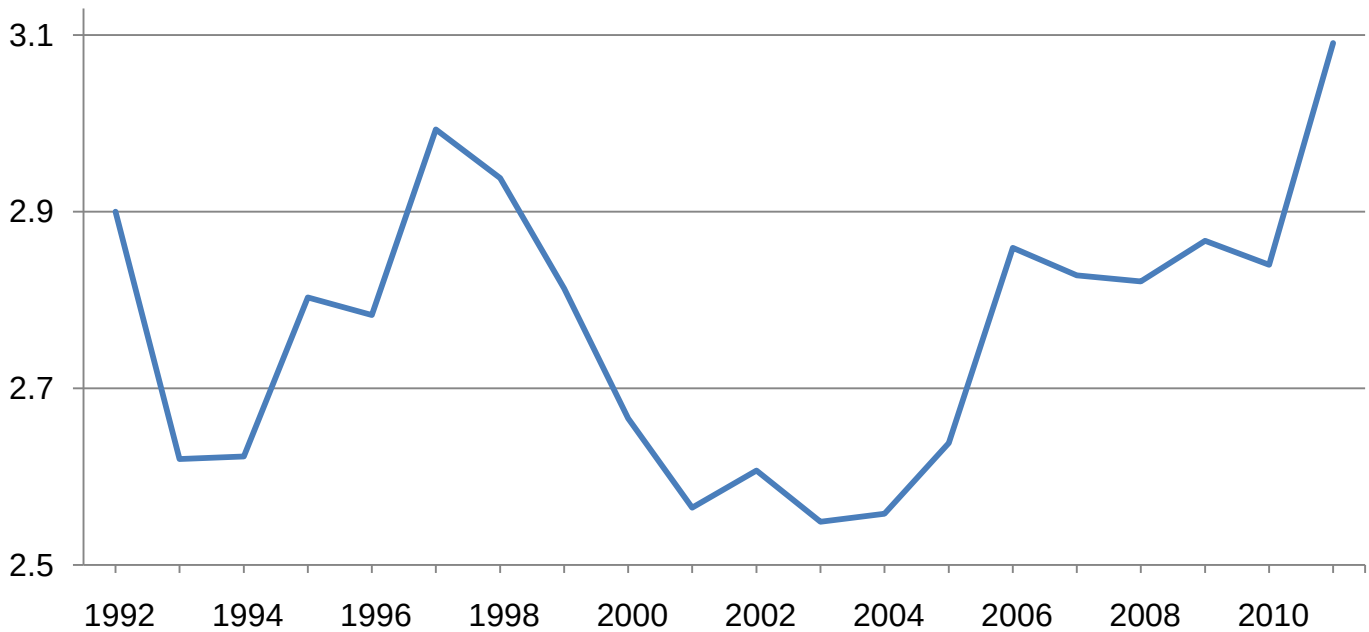
**Female mink bred** to produce kits in 2012 totaled 769,970, up 9 percent from the previous year.

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.

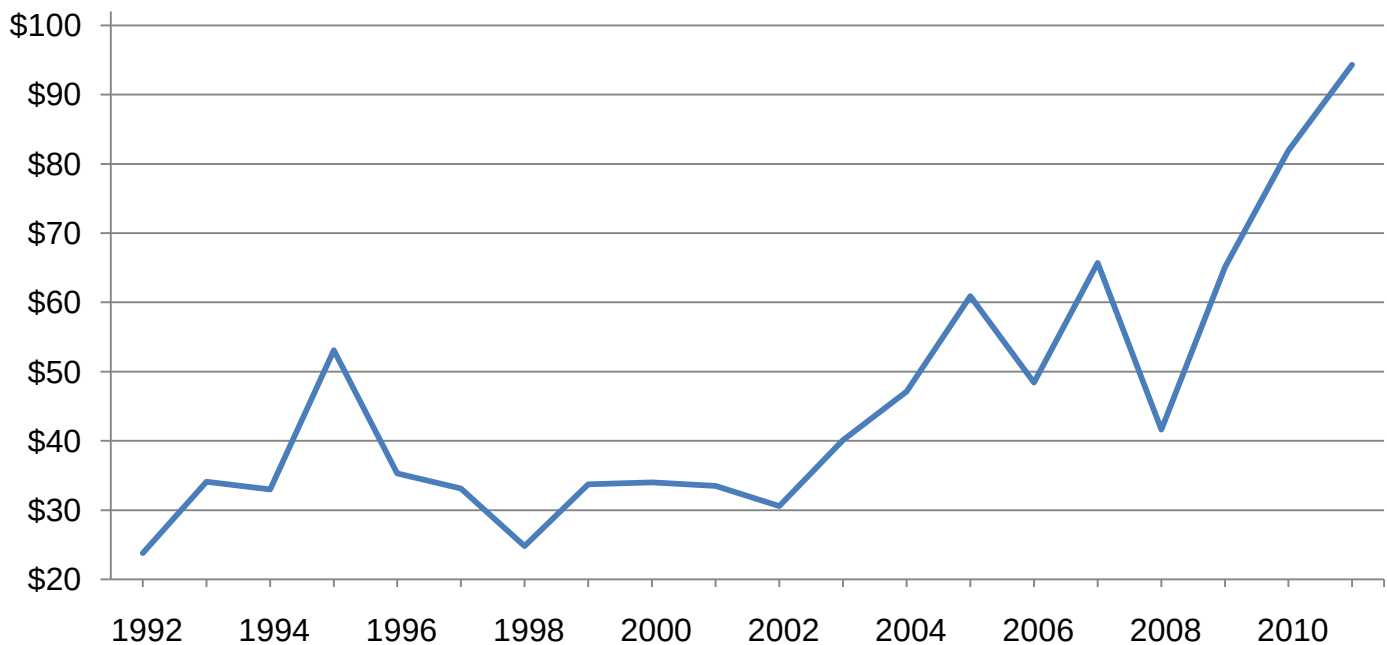
## Mink Pelts Produced – United States

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           | 2011      | 2011                         | 2012     |
|                 | (number)       | (number)  | (number)                     | (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 | Pelts produced | Average marketing price | Value of mink pelts |
|------------|------------|----------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
|            | (number)   | (number)       | (dollars)               | (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     | Demi/Wild | Pastel   | Sapphire | Blue Iris | Mahogany           |
|---------------------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|--------------------|
|                                 | (number)  | (number)  | (number) | (number) | (number)  | (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     | Lavender  | Violet   | White    | Other     | Total <sup>2</sup> |
|                                 | (number)  | (number)  | (number) | (number) | (number)  | (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     | Demi/Wild | Pastel   | Sapphire | Blue Iris | Mahogany           |
|---------------------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|--------------------|
|                                 | (number)  | (number)  | (number) | (number) | (number)  | (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     | Lavender  | Violet   | White    | Other     | Total <sup>2</sup> |
|                                 | (number)  | (number)  | (number) | (number) | (number)  | (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    | Demi/Wild | Pastel   | Sapphire | Blue Iris | Mahogany           |
|---------------------------------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|--------------------|
|                                 | (number) | (number)  | (number) | (number) | (number)  | (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    | Lavender  | Violet   | White    | Other     | Total <sup>2</sup> |
|                                 | (number) | (number)  | (number) | (number) | (number)  | (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    | Demi/Wild | Pastel   | Sapphire | Blue Iris | Mahogany           |
|---------------------------------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|--------------------|
|                                 | (number) | (number)  | (number) | (number) | (number)  | (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    | Lavender  | Violet   | White    | Other     | Total <sup>2</sup> |
|                                 | (number) | (number)  | (number) | (number) | (number)  | (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,<br>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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