



**NASS**

FACT FINDERS FOR AGRICULTURE  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Washington, D.C.

**Mink**

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### **Pelt Production Up 3 Percent**

Mink pelt production in the United States in 2005 totaled 2.63 million pelts, up 3 percent from 2004. Wisconsin, the largest mink producing State, produced 778,000 pelts. Utah the second largest producing State, produced 600,000 pelts.

The number of pelts by color class as a percent of the total U.S. production in 2005 is as follows: Black at 47.6 percent, Mahogany at 20.9 percent, Blue Iris at 11.3 percent, Demi/Wild at 6.3 percent, Sapphire at 4.0 percent, and White at 3.8 percent. The remaining color classes accounted for 6.1 percent.

### **Value of Pelt Production Up 33 Percent**

Mink pelts produced during the 2005 crop year were valued at \$160 million, up 33 percent from \$120 million a year ago. The average price per pelt for the 2005 crop year was \$60.90, up from \$47.10 in 2004.

### **Females Bred Up 2 Percent**

Female mink bred to produce kits in 2006 totaled 651,600, up 2 percent from the previous year.

Percent of total females bred to produce kits in 2006 by color class are: Black at 49.5 percent, Mahogany at 17.8 percent, Blue Iris at 11.2 percent, Demi/Wild at 6.3 percent, Sapphire at 4.1 percent and White at 4.0 percent. The remaining color classes accounted for 7.1 percent.

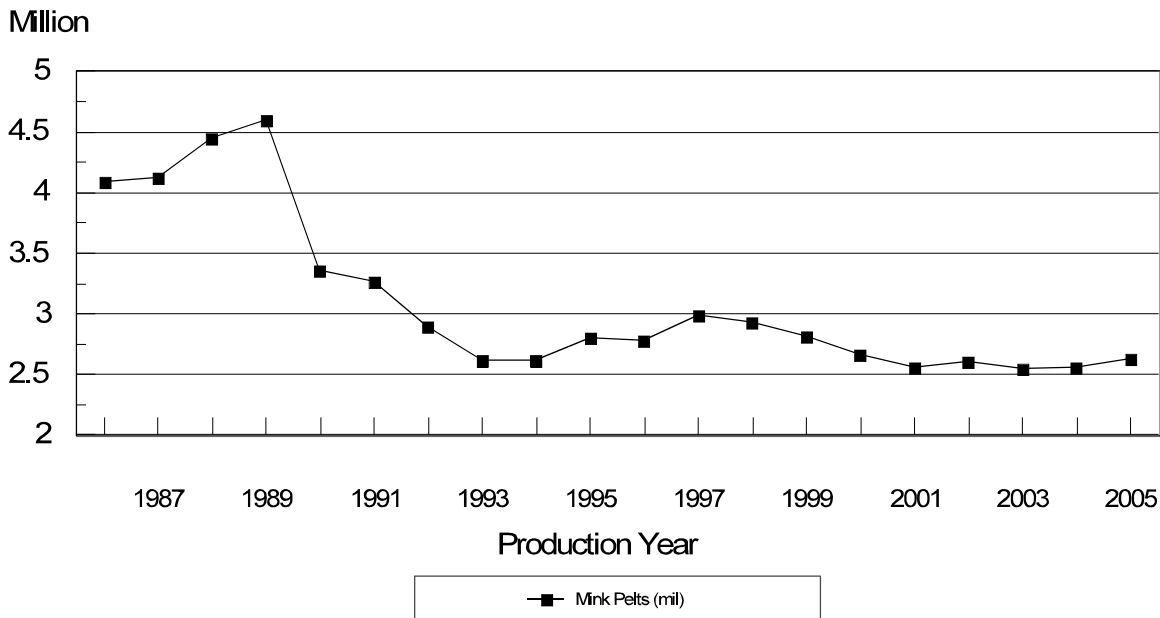
### **Number of Mink Farms Down 6 Percent**

There were 277 mink farms producing pelts in 2005, down 6 percent from a year ago. Leading States were Utah with 70 farms, Wisconsin with 67 farms and Minnesota with 24.

### **Fox**

There were 21 mink farms which also raised fox in 2005, up from 17 the previous year.

# Mink Pelts Produced 1986-2005



# Mink Pelt Average Price 1986-2005



**Mink: Pelts Produced and Females Bred, by Color Class,  
United States, 2004-2006**

| Color Class          | Pelts Produced    |               | Females Bred to Produce Kits |               |
|----------------------|-------------------|---------------|------------------------------|---------------|
|                      | 2004 <sup>1</sup> | 2005          | 2005 <sup>1</sup>            | 2006          |
|                      | <i>Number</i>     | <i>Number</i> | <i>Number</i>                | <i>Number</i> |
| Black                | 1,155,500         | 1,251,000     | 300,700                      | 322,400       |
| Demi-Wild            | 154,900           | 165,700       | 38,500                       | 41,200        |
| Pastel               | 39,100            | 41,600        | 14,200                       | 11,600        |
| Sapphire             | 131,500           | 105,900       | 36,500                       | 26,700        |
| Blue Iris            | 300,900           | 297,800       | 69,500                       | 72,700        |
| Mahogany             | 567,000           | 548,900       | 128,500                      | 115,900       |
| Pearl                | 65,500            | 80,500        | 16,900                       | 20,000        |
| Lavender             | 4,600             | 5,000         | 1,600                        | 2,200         |
| Violet               | 22,300            | 23,400        | 6,600                        | 9,800         |
| White                | 106,200           | 99,000        | 26,900                       | 26,100        |
| Misc. & Unclassified | 10,600            | 9,000         | 1,500                        | 3,000         |
| US                   | 2,558,100         | 2,627,800     | 641,400                      | 651,600       |

<sup>1</sup> Revised.

**Mink: Farms, Pelts Produced, Price, and Value,  
United States, 1986-2005**

| Year              | Mink Farms    | Pelts Produced | Average Marketing Price | Value of Mink Pelts |
|-------------------|---------------|----------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
|                   | <i>Number</i> | <i>Number</i>  | <i>Dollars</i>          | <i>Dollars</i>      |
| 1986              | 989           | 4,096,200      | 41.30                   | 169,173,060         |
| 1987              | 1,027         | 4,122,000      | 43.00                   | 177,246,000         |
| 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 <sup>1</sup> | 296           | 2,558,100      | 47.10                   | 120,486,510         |
| 2005              | 277           | 2,627,800      | 60.90                   | 160,033,020         |

<sup>1</sup> Revised.

**Mink: Pelts Produced by Color Class and Number of Farms,  
Major States and United States, 2004 <sup>1</sup>**

| States               | Black         | Demi-Wild     | Pastel        | Sapphire             | Blue Iris     | Mahogany        | Pearl         |
|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
|                      | <i>Number</i> | <i>Number</i> | <i>Number</i> | <i>Number</i>        | <i>Number</i> | <i>Number</i>   | <i>Number</i> |
| ID                   | 62,900        |               |               | 12,100               | 12,400        | 61,200          |               |
| IL                   | 46,900        |               |               |                      |               |                 |               |
| IA                   | 74,900        |               |               |                      | 7,300         |                 |               |
| MI                   |               |               |               |                      |               |                 |               |
| MN                   | 36,600        | 47,800        |               | 2,600                | 32,300        | 81,700          |               |
| OH                   | 40,900        |               |               | 6,300                |               | 18,000          |               |
| OR                   | 102,200       |               |               | 13,700               | 97,500        | 32,000          |               |
| PA                   | 18,200        |               |               | 11,700               | 13,000        |                 |               |
| SD                   |               |               |               |                      |               |                 |               |
| UT                   | 245,000       | 37,000        |               |                      | 7,500         | 210,000         |               |
| WA                   | 42,000        |               |               |                      | 40,000        |                 |               |
| WI                   | 450,000       |               | 7,000         | 55,300               | 81,800        | 94,000          |               |
| Oth Sts <sup>2</sup> | 35,900        | 70,100        | 32,100        | 29,800               | 9,100         | 70,100          | 65,500        |
| US                   | 1,155,500     | 154,900       | 39,100        | 131,500              | 300,900       | 567,000         | 65,500        |
|                      | 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>   |               |
| ID                   |               |               |               |                      | 168,900       | 24              |               |
| IL                   |               |               |               |                      | 59,700        | 7               |               |
| IA                   |               |               |               |                      | 132,700       | 15              |               |
| MI                   |               |               |               |                      | 50,500        | 7               |               |
| MN                   |               | 700           | 14,900        |                      | 220,600       | 28              |               |
| OH                   |               |               |               |                      | 70,400        | 9               |               |
| OR                   |               |               |               |                      | 247,100       | 22              |               |
| PA                   |               |               |               |                      | 55,900        | 9               |               |
| SD                   |               |               |               |                      | 67,200        | 3               |               |
| UT                   |               |               | 500           |                      | 580,000       | 80              |               |
| WA                   |               |               |               |                      | 97,500        | 10              |               |
| WI                   |               |               | 52,600        |                      | 768,000       | 67              |               |
| Oth Sts <sup>2</sup> | 4,600         | 21,600        | 38,200        | 10,600               | 39,600        | 15              |               |
| US                   | 4,600         | 22,300        | 106,200       | 10,600               | 2,558,100     | 296             |               |

<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, 2005**

| States               | Black         | Demi-Wild     | Pastel        | Sap-phire              | Blue Iris     | Mahog- any      | Pearl         |
|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
|                      | <i>Number</i> | <i>Number</i> | <i>Number</i> | <i>Number</i>          | <i>Number</i> | <i>Number</i>   | <i>Number</i> |
| ID                   | 69,000        | 15,900        |               |                        | 11,500        | 61,700          |               |
| IL                   | 49,800        |               |               |                        |               |                 |               |
| IA                   | 74,600        |               |               |                        | 9,000         |                 |               |
| MI                   |               |               |               |                        |               |                 |               |
| MN                   | 38,000        | 40,800        |               | 1,700                  | 31,000        | 79,300          |               |
| OH                   | 37,600        |               |               | 2,700                  |               | 19,900          |               |
| OR                   | 116,300       |               |               | 11,600                 | 93,500        | 31,700          |               |
| PA                   | 22,700        |               |               | 12,200                 | 13,400        |                 |               |
| SD                   |               |               |               |                        |               |                 |               |
| UT                   | 271,000       | 42,600        |               |                        | 9,700         | 191,900         |               |
| WA                   | 56,300        |               |               |                        | 34,300        |                 |               |
| WI                   | 475,000       |               | 10,500        | 35,000                 | 85,000        | 100,000         |               |
| Oth Sts <sup>1</sup> | 40,700        | 66,400        | 31,100        | 42,700                 | 10,400        | 64,400          | 80,500        |
| US                   | 1,251,000     | 165,700       | 41,600        | 105,900                | 297,800       | 548,900         | 80,500        |
|                      | Lavender      | Violet        | White         | Misc. & Unclas- sified | Total Pelts   | Number of Farms |               |
|                      | <i>Number</i> | <i>Number</i> | <i>Number</i> | <i>Number</i>          | <i>Number</i> | <i>Number</i>   |               |
| ID                   |               |               |               |                        | 173,700       | 23              |               |
| IL                   |               |               |               |                        | 61,700        | 7               |               |
| IA                   |               |               |               |                        | 130,800       | 14              |               |
| MI                   |               |               | 11,500        |                        | 55,500        | 7               |               |
| MN                   |               |               |               | 100                    | 214,200       | 24              |               |
| OH                   |               |               |               |                        | 66,000        | 8               |               |
| OR                   |               |               |               |                        | 254,400       | 22              |               |
| PA                   |               |               |               |                        | 61,000        | 9               |               |
| SD                   |               |               |               |                        | 78,200        | 3               |               |
| UT                   |               |               |               |                        | 600,000       | 70              |               |
| WA                   |               |               |               |                        | 109,600       | 10              |               |
| WI                   |               |               | 44,500        | 3,300                  | 778,000       | 67              |               |
| Oth Sts <sup>1</sup> | 5,000         | 23,400        | 43,000        | 5,600                  | 44,700        | 13              |               |
| US                   | 5,000         | 23,400        | 99,000        | 9,000                  | 2,627,800     | 277             |               |

<sup>1</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 Produced Kits: Number by Color Class,  
Major States and United States, 2005 <sup>1</sup>**

| States               | Black         | Demi-Wild     | Pastel        | Sap-phire     | Blue Iris             | Mahog-any     |
|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------------|---------------|
|                      | <i>Number</i> | <i>Number</i> | <i>Number</i> | <i>Number</i> | <i>Number</i>         | <i>Number</i> |
| ID                   | 17,500        |               |               | 2,600         | 2,500                 | 15,500        |
| IL                   | 13,100        |               |               |               |                       |               |
| IA                   | 21,100        |               |               |               | 2,300                 |               |
| MI                   |               |               |               |               |                       |               |
| MN                   | 10,200        | 10,200        |               | 600           | 7,500                 | 16,700        |
| OH                   | 10,200        |               |               | 1,400         |                       | 5,300         |
| OR                   | 25,000        |               |               | 2,500         | 19,600                | 8,900         |
| PA                   | 4,900         |               |               | 3,400         | 3,300                 |               |
| SD                   |               |               |               |               |                       |               |
| UT                   | 63,100        | 10,400        |               |               | 2,800                 | 50,800        |
| WA                   | 12,400        |               |               |               | 9,300                 |               |
| WI                   | 112,300       |               | 3,700         | 14,800        | 19,700                | 19,100        |
| Oth Sts <sup>2</sup> | 10,900        | 17,900        | 10,500        | 11,200        | 2,500                 | 12,200        |
| US                   | 300,700       | 38,500        | 14,200        | 36,500        | 69,500                | 128,500       |
|                      | Pearl         | Lavender      | Violet        | White         | Misc. & Unclass-ified | Total         |
|                      | <i>Number</i> | <i>Number</i> | <i>Number</i> | <i>Number</i> | <i>Number</i>         | <i>Number</i> |
| ID                   |               |               |               |               |                       | 43,600        |
| IL                   |               |               |               |               |                       | 16,000        |
| IA                   |               |               |               |               |                       | 35,400        |
| MI                   |               |               |               |               |                       | 11,500        |
| MN                   |               |               |               | 4,300         |                       | 50,800        |
| OH                   |               |               |               |               |                       | 18,600        |
| OR                   |               |               |               |               |                       | 56,500        |
| PA                   |               |               |               |               |                       | 15,000        |
| SD                   |               |               |               |               |                       | 17,100        |
| UT                   |               |               |               |               |                       | 150,000       |
| WA                   |               |               |               |               |                       | 25,100        |
| WI                   |               | 300           |               | 13,700        | 600                   | 190,400       |
| Oth Sts <sup>2</sup> | 16,900        | 1,300         | 6,600         | 8,900         | 900                   | 11,400        |
| US                   | 16,900        | 1,600         | 6,600         | 26,900        | 1,500                 | 641,400       |

<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 Produced Kits: Number by Color Class,  
Major States and United States, 2006**

| States               | Black         | Demi-Wild     | Pastel        | Sap-phire     | Blue Iris             | Mahog-any     |
|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------------|---------------|
|                      | <i>Number</i> | <i>Number</i> | <i>Number</i> | <i>Number</i> | <i>Number</i>         | <i>Number</i> |
| ID                   | 19,800        | 8,300         |               |               | 3,400                 | 10,400        |
| IL                   | 13,600        |               |               |               |                       |               |
| IA                   | 18,900        |               |               |               | 2,600                 |               |
| MI                   |               |               |               |               |                       |               |
| MN                   | 12,000        | 10,100        |               | 500           | 9,400                 | 16,200        |
| OH                   | 9,800         |               |               | 700           |                       | 5,800         |
| OR                   | 27,800        |               |               | 2,500         | 18,300                | 7,100         |
| PA                   | 4,800         |               |               | 3,100         | 3,700                 |               |
| SD                   |               |               |               |               |                       |               |
| UT                   | 78,300        | 9,600         |               | 1,000         | 2,100                 | 45,400        |
| WA                   | 12,500        |               |               |               | 8,000                 |               |
| WI                   | 114,100       |               | 3,000         | 9,500         | 22,000                | 20,000        |
| Oth Sts <sup>1</sup> | 10,800        | 13,200        | 8,600         | 9,400         | 3,200                 | 11,000        |
| US                   | 322,400       | 41,200        | 11,600        | 26,700        | 72,700                | 115,900       |
|                      | Pearl         | Lavender      | Violet        | White         | Misc. & Unclass-ified | Total         |
|                      | <i>Number</i> | <i>Number</i> | <i>Number</i> | <i>Number</i> | <i>Number</i>         | <i>Number</i> |
| ID                   |               |               |               |               |                       | 48,100        |
| IL                   |               |               |               |               |                       | 17,000        |
| IA                   |               |               |               |               |                       | 34,500        |
| MI                   |               |               |               | 2,400         |                       | 12,100        |
| MN                   |               |               |               | 5,300         |                       | 54,400        |
| OH                   |               |               |               |               |                       | 18,300        |
| OR                   |               |               |               |               |                       | 56,300        |
| PA                   |               |               |               |               |                       | 15,200        |
| SD                   |               |               |               |               |                       | 17,600        |
| UT                   |               |               |               |               |                       | 155,000       |
| WA                   |               |               |               |               |                       | 23,900        |
| WI                   |               | 400           |               | 11,200        | 1,200                 | 188,000       |
| Oth Sts <sup>1</sup> | 20,000        | 1,800         | 9,800         | 7,200         | 1,800                 | 11,200        |
| US                   | 20,000        | 2,200         | 9,800         | 26,100        | 3,000                 | 651,600       |

<sup>1</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:** Data for mink production 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 ensure that all operations are accounted for. Major auction houses which handle producer sales provide mink pelt price data in July. Prices are collected at the point of first sale by producers, before marketing costs are deducted.

**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 were estimated based on similar operations or historical data. State 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:** The previous year's estimates are subject to revision when current year's 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, and mistakes in reporting, recording, and processing the data. While these errors cannot be measured directly, they are minimized through strict quality controls 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 2.5 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 2.63 million pelts by more than 2.5 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 4.6 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 |
|                |                        |                             |     |   |          |         |                    |                    |
| Pelts Produced | 2.5                    | 4.6                         | 122 | 41  | 0        | 150     | 4                  | 3                  |
| Females Bred   | 2.6                    | 4.7                         | 30  | 13  | 0        | 39      | 2                  | 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 |
| Darin Jantzi, Head, Poultry and Specialty Commodities Section .....  | (202) 720-3570 |
| David Colwell - Cold Storage .....   | (202) 720-8784 |
| Fleming Gibson - Egg Products, Poultry Slaughter, Catfish Processing,<br>Mink .....                                | (202) 690-3237 |
| John Lange - Turkeys Raised, Turkey Hatchery, Catfish Production,<br>Trout Production, Census of Aquaculture ..... | (202) 720-0585 |
| Sharyn Lavender - Chickens, Eggs .....   | (202) 720-3244 |
| Jody Roberts - Broiler Hatchery, Chicken Hatchery, Honey .....   | (202) 690-8632 |

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