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## Special Note

NASS is in the process of modifying report layouts in order to improve readability. This is the first issue produced using the new layout. This report issue is published using both layouts but future issues will only be produced using this layout. The previous layout is available on the NASS website: <http://www.nass.usda.gov>.

## Pelt Production Up 1 Percent

**Mink pelt production** in the United States in 2009 totaled 2.86 million pelts, up 1 percent from 2008. Wisconsin, the largest mink producing State, produced 886,100 pelts. Utah, the second largest producing State, produced 613,500 pelts.

The number of pelts by color class as a percent of the total U.S. production in 2009 is as follows: Black at 52 percent, Mahogany at 23 percent, Blue Iris at 10 percent, Demi/Wild at 4 percent, and Sapphire at 4 percent. The remaining color classes accounted for 7 percent.

**Value of pelts produced** during the 2009 crop year was \$186 million, up 58 percent from \$117 million a year ago. The average price per pelt for the 2009 crop year was \$65.10, up \$23.50 from \$41.60 in 2008.

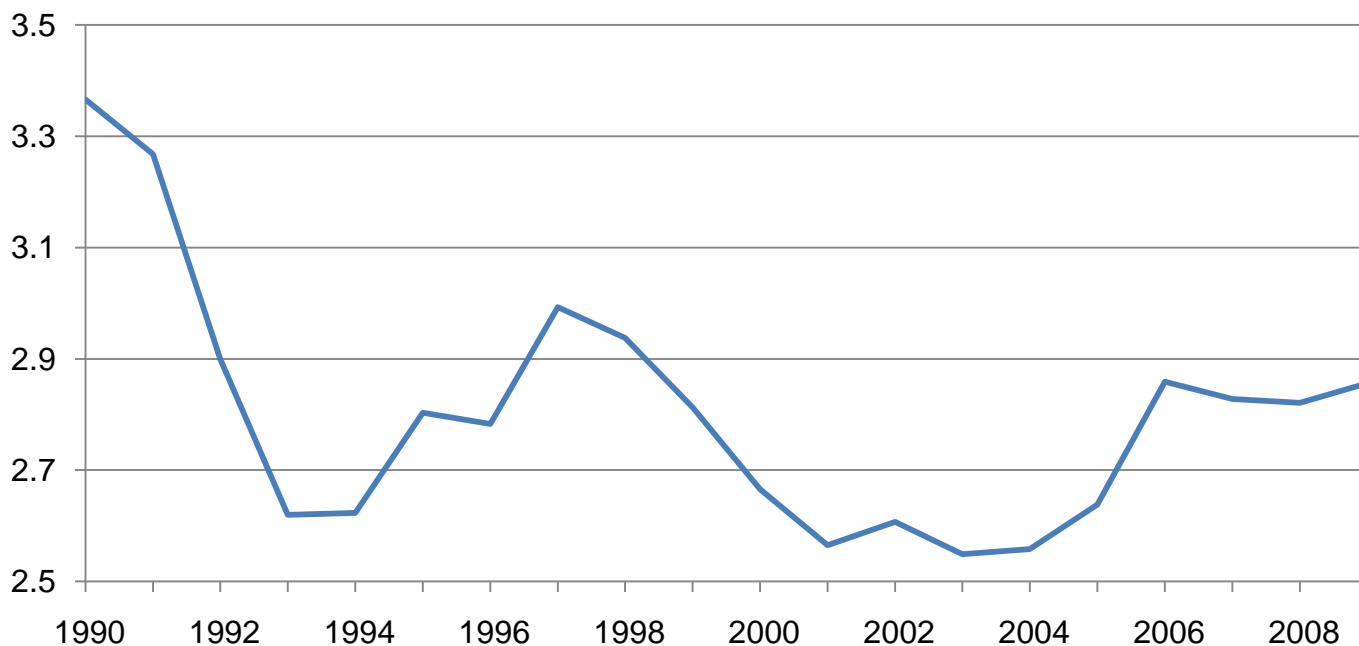
**Female mink bred** to produce kits in 2010 totaled 670,200, down 1 percent from the previous year.

Percent of total females bred to produce kits in 2010 by color class is as follows: Black at 50 percent, Mahogany at 24 percent, Blue Iris at 9 percent, Sapphire at 5 percent, and Demi/Wild at 4 percent. The remaining color classes accounted for 8 percent.

**Mink farms producing pelts** in 2009 totaled 278, up 1 percent from a year ago.

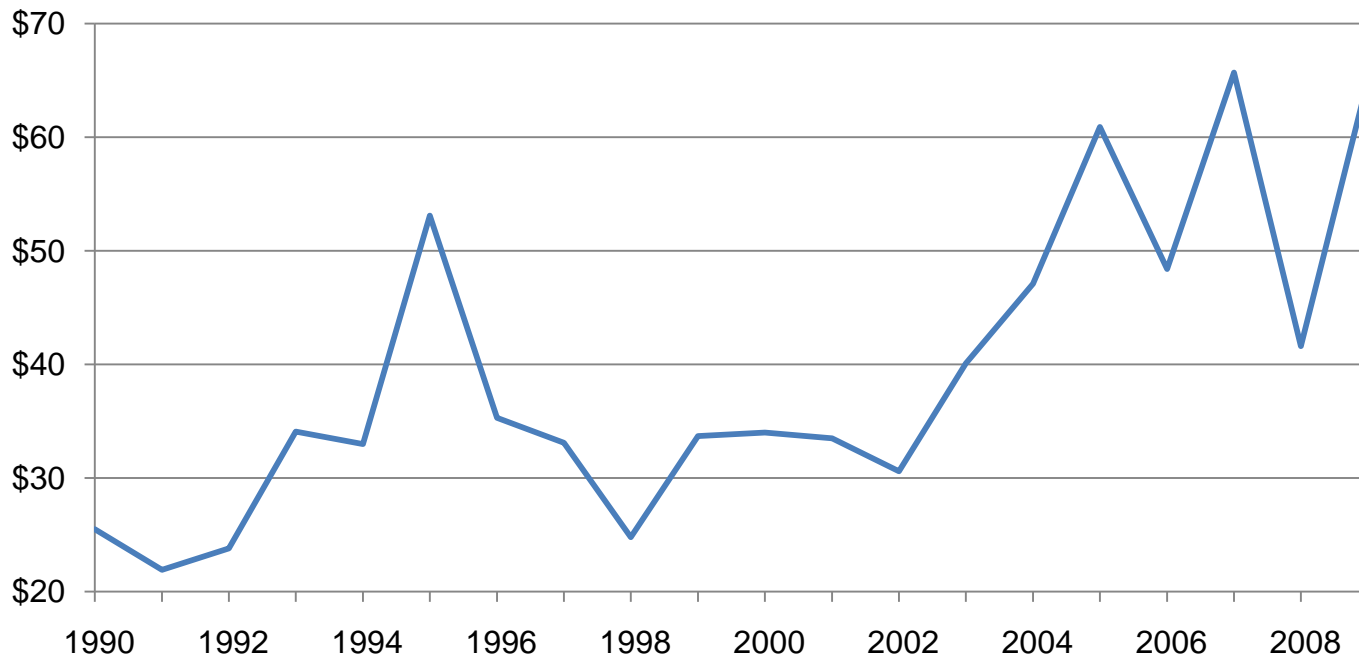
## Mink Pelts Produced - United States

Million



## Mink Average Price Per Pelt - United States

Dollars



### Mink Pelts Produced and Females Bred by Color Class - United States: 2008-2010

Color class	Pelts produced		Females bred to produce kits	
	2008 (number)	2009 (number)	2009 (number)	2010 (number)
Black .....	1,515,300	1,494,500	348,600	338,400
Demi/Wild .....	114,600	123,900	26,200	27,600
Pastel .....	61,100	56,200	19,800	18,300
Sapphire .....	93,600	104,400	28,400	35,900
Blue Iris .....	288,000	282,400	68,100	58,600
Mahogany .....	602,600	663,500	149,200	159,700
Pearl .....	42,700	57,100	12,800	12,600
Lavender .....	3,700	4,400	1,600	1,700
Violet .....	36,800	14,500	5,200	4,000
White .....	50,100	48,800	11,600	11,800
Other .....	12,200	6,000	2,700	1,600
United States .....	2,820,700	2,855,700	674,200	670,200

### Mink Farms, Pelts Produced, Average Price, and Value - United States: 1990-2009

Year	Mink farms (number)	Pelts produced (number)	Average marketing price (dollars)	Value of mink pelts (dollars)
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 .....	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	2,855,700	65.10	185,906,070

**Pelts Produced by Color Class - Selected States and United States: 2008**

States	Black	Demi/Wild	Pastel	Sapphire	Blue Iris	Mahogany
	(number)	(number)	(number)	(number)	(number)	(number)
Idaho .....	98,000	11,000	2,800	8,500	12,500	95,000
Illinois .....	51,000	(D)	-	-	(D)	(D)
Iowa .....	108,000	(D)	(D)	(D)	9,000	(D)
Michigan .....	25,000	-	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Minnesota .....	75,000	31,000	1,700	(D)	46,000	73,000
Montana .....	13,500	(D)	-	-	(D)	(D)
Ohio .....	46,000	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	24,000
Oregon .....	158,000	(D)	-	12,000	85,000	(D)
Pennsylvania .....	29,000	(D)	(D)	10,500	11,500	500
South Dakota .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	-	-	(D)
Utah .....	235,000	(D)	(D)	8,500	6,000	205,000
Washington .....	57,000	(D)	-	(D)	17,000	-
Wisconsin .....	600,000	(D)	10,000	38,000	93,000	116,000
Other States <sup>1</sup> .....	19,800	72,600	46,600	16,100	8,000	89,100
United States .....	1,515,300	114,600	61,100	93,600	288,000	602,600
	Pearl	Lavender	Violet	White	Other	Total <sup>2</sup>
	(number)	(number)	(number)	(number)	(number)	(number)
Idaho .....	-	(D)	-	-	(D)	228,100
Illinois .....	-	-	(D)	(D)	-	64,700
Iowa .....	(D)	-	(D)	(D)	-	154,600
Michigan .....	-	-	-	6,000	-	44,100
Minnesota .....	(D)	-	(D)	7,000	-	236,400
Montana .....	-	-	-	-	-	23,400
Ohio .....	-	-	-	-	-	79,200
Oregon .....	-	-	2,900	-	-	287,600
Pennsylvania .....	(D)	-	(D)	(D)	2,400	63,900
South Dakota .....	(D)	-	-	-	-	76,000
Utah .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	549,700
Washington .....	-	-	-	-	-	92,500
Wisconsin .....	(D)	3,500	(D)	19,000	3,500	908,100
Other States <sup>1</sup> .....	42,700	200	33,900	18,100	6,300	12,400
United States .....	42,700	3,700	36,800	50,100	12,200	2,820,700

- 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.

**Pelts Produced by Color Class - Selected States and United States: 2009**

States	Black	Demi/Wild	Pastel	Sapphire	Blue Iris	Mahogany
	(number)	(number)	(number)	(number)	(number)	(number)
Idaho .....	107,000	13,500	3,400	9,500	(D)	108,000
Illinois .....	56,000	(D)	-	-	(D)	(D)
Iowa .....	79,000	(D)	(D)	(D)	6,500	(D)
Michigan .....	29,000	-	(D)	(D)	(D)	3,400
Minnesota .....	88,000	35,000	(D)	(D)	55,000	80,000
Montana .....	(D)	(D)	-	-	(D)	(D)
Ohio .....	36,000	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	21,000
Oregon .....	158,000	(D)	-	11,000	79,000	(D)
Pennsylvania .....	28,000	(D)	(D)	5,500	11,000	(D)
South Dakota .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	-	-	(D)
Utah .....	225,000	37,000	(D)	(D)	7,500	285,000
Washington .....	69,000	(D)	-	(D)	(D)	-
Wisconsin .....	585,000	(D)	(D)	55,000	97,000	97,000
Other States <sup>1</sup> .....	34,500	38,400	52,800	23,400	26,400	69,100
United States .....	1,494,500	123,900	56,200	104,400	282,400	663,500
	Pearl	Lavender	Violet	White	Other	Total <sup>2</sup>
	(number)	(number)	(number)	(number)	(number)	(number)
Idaho .....	-	(D)	-	-	(D)	251,500
Illinois .....	(D)	-	(D)	(D)	(D)	71,100
Iowa .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	-	114,800
Michigan .....	-	-	-	5,500	-	45,300
Minnesota .....	-	-	-	6,000	-	267,200
Montana .....	-	-	-	-	-	22,500
Ohio .....	-	-	-	-	-	67,900
Oregon .....	-	-	(D)	-	-	270,100
Pennsylvania .....	(D)	-	-	(D)	(D)	57,300
South Dakota .....	(D)	-	-	-	-	81,500
Utah .....	(D)	-	-	(D)	-	613,500
Washington .....	-	-	-	-	-	93,500
Wisconsin .....	(D)	3,300	(D)	24,000	4,100	886,100
Other States <sup>1</sup> .....	57,100	1,100	14,500	13,300	1,900	13,400
United States .....	57,100	4,400	14,500	48,800	6,000	2,855,700

- 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.

**Female Mink Bred to Produce Kits by Color Class - Selected States and United States: 2009**

States	Black	Demi/Wild	Pastel	Sapphire	Blue Iris	Mahogany
	(number)	(number)	(number)	(number)	(number)	(number)
Idaho .....	27,000	2,300	1,000	2,600	(D)	22,000
Illinois .....	16,000	(D)	-	-	(D)	(D)
Iowa .....	17,500	(D)	(D)	(D)	2,500	(D)
Michigan .....	7,500	-	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Minnesota .....	18,500	7,500	(D)	(D)	12,000	19,000
Montana .....	(D)	(D)	-	-	(D)	(D)
Ohio .....	11,500	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	6,000
Oregon .....	34,000	(D)	-	2,400	16,500	(D)
Pennsylvania .....	6,000	(D)	(D)	2,800	2,900	(D)
South Dakota .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	-	-	(D)
Utah .....	61,000	(D)	(D)	(D)	1,800	63,000
Washington .....	14,500	(D)	-	(D)	2,900	-
Wisconsin .....	126,000	(D)	3,100	11,500	25,000	23,000
Other States <sup>1</sup> .....	9,100	16,400	15,700	9,100	4,500	16,200
United States .....	348,600	26,200	19,800	28,400	68,100	149,200
	Pearl	Lavender	Violet	White	Other	Total <sup>2</sup>
	(number)	(number)	(number)	(number)	(number)	(number)
Idaho .....	-	(D)	-	-	(D)	57,800
Illinois .....	-	-	(D)	(D)	100	19,500
Iowa .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	-	28,300
Michigan .....	-	-	-	1,200	-	10,900
Minnesota .....	-	-	(D)	(D)	(D)	60,300
Montana .....	-	-	-	-	-	6,000
Ohio .....	-	-	-	-	-	20,400
Oregon .....	-	-	500	-	-	58,400
Pennsylvania .....	(D)	-	(D)	(D)	(D)	15,300
South Dakota .....	(D)	-	-	-	-	18,200
Utah .....	(D)	-	(D)	(D)	(D)	157,300
Washington .....	-	-	-	-	-	19,900
Wisconsin .....	-	1,200	(D)	4,400	1,100	198,200
Other States <sup>1</sup> .....	12,800	400	4,700	6,000	1,500	3,700
United States .....	12,800	1,600	5,200	11,600	2,700	674,200

- Represents zero.

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

**Female Mink Bred to Produce Kits 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 .....	28,000	2,400	800	2,200	(D)	25,000
Illinois .....	15,000	(D)	-	-	(D)	(D)
Iowa .....	17,500	-	(D)	(D)	1,700	(D)
Michigan .....	7,500	-	(D)	(D)	(D)	900
Minnesota .....	11,000	7,500	(D)	100	4,800	20,000
Montana .....	1,400	(D)	-	-	(D)	(D)
Ohio .....	8,500	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	7,500
Oregon .....	32,000	(D)	-	2,600	17,000	(D)
Pennsylvania .....	6,500	(D)	(D)	2,600	3,700	(D)
South Dakota .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	-	-	(D)
Utah .....	65,000	11,000	(D)	(D)	4,100	70,000
Washington .....	16,000	-	-	(D)	(D)	(D)
Wisconsin .....	125,000	(D)	3,600	22,000	20,000	16,500
Other States <sup>1</sup> .....	5,000	6,700	13,900	6,400	7,300	19,800
United States .....	338,400	27,600	18,300	35,900	58,600	159,700
	Pearl	Lavender	Violet	White	Other	Total <sup>2</sup>
	(number)	(number)	(number)	(number)	(number)	(number)
Idaho .....	-	(D)	-	-	(D)	61,000
Illinois .....	(D)	-	(D)	(D)	-	18,400
Iowa .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	-	23,500
Michigan .....	-	-	-	1,100	-	11,100
Minnesota .....	-	-	-	(D)	-	45,800
Montana .....	-	-	-	-	-	5,800
Ohio .....	-	-	-	-	-	19,300
Oregon .....	-	-	(D)	-	-	57,500
Pennsylvania .....	(D)	-	-	(D)	-	15,900
South Dakota .....	(D)	-	-	-	-	18,200
Utah .....	(D)	-	-	(D)	(D)	170,600
Washington .....	-	-	-	-	-	21,400
Wisconsin .....	-	1,400	(D)	6,500	1,100	199,000
Other States <sup>1</sup> .....	12,600	300	4,000	4,200	500	2,700
United States .....	12,600	1,700	4,000	11,800	1,600	670,200

- 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.

## Statistical Methodology

**Survey Procedures:** Mink production data are collected from late March through early April 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 July. 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 0.4 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 2.86 million pelts by more than 0.4 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 0.8 percent.

### Reliability of Mink Estimates

[Based on data for the past 10 years]

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 .....	0.4	0.8	22	6	0	34	2	5
Females bred .....	0.9	1.7	11	4	0	15	2	7



## 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
Doug Bounds – Poultry Slaughter, Turkey Hatchery, Turkeys Raised .....	(202) 690-3237
David Colwell – Cold Storage .....	(202) 720-8784
Chris Hawthorn – Catfish Processing, Catfish Production, Trout Production, Census of Aquaculture, Egg Products, Mink .....	(202) 720-0585
Kim Linonis – Layers, Eggs .....	(202) 690-8632
Troy Marshall – Broiler Hatchery, Chicken Hatchery, Honey .....	(202) 720-3244

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- Printed reports may be purchased from the National Technical Information Service (NTIS) by calling toll-free (800) 999-6779, or (703) 605-6220 if calling from outside the United States or Canada. Accepted methods of payment are Visa, MasterCard, check, or money order.

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).

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