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**MINNESOTA PELT PRODUCTION DOWN 3 PERCENT FROM PREVIOUS YEAR**

**PELT PRODUCTION:** Minnesota, one of the nation's leading mink producing states, placed fourth in 2005 pelt production behind Wisconsin, Utah, and Oregon, according to the USDA, NASS, Minnesota Field Office. Total state production for 2005 amounted to 214,200 mink pelts, down 3 percent from 220,600 in 2004. By color class, Mahogany accounted for 37.0 percent of the total 2005 production; Demi/Wild, 19.0 percent; Black, 17.7 percent; Blue Iris, 14.5 percent; and Sapphire, 0.8 percent. The remaining color classes accounted for 11.0 percent.

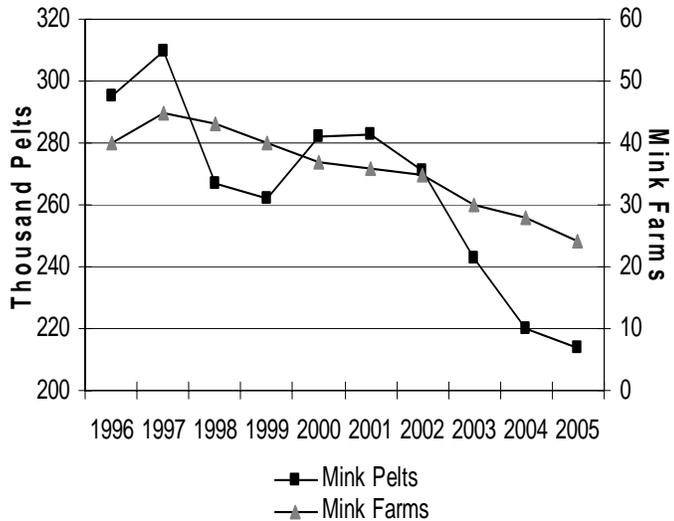
Total United States production for 2005 was 2.63 million pelts, up 3 percent from 2.56 million in 2004. Wisconsin, the leading mink producing state, produced 778,000 pelts in 2005, 29.6 percent of the nation's total. Utah, the second ranked mink producing state, produced a 22.8 percent share with 600,000 pelts. Oregon came in third with a production of 254,400 pelts in 2005.

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

**BRED FEMALES:** Minnesota was fourth in the nation in the total number of females bred to produce kits in 2006, behind Wisconsin, Utah, and Oregon. Minnesota females bred for 2006 at 54,400 were up 7 percent from 2005. Of these females, Mahogany color class claimed 29.8 percent; Black, 22.1 percent; Demi/Wild, 18.6 percent; Blue Iris, 17.3 percent; and White, 9.7 percent. The remaining color classes accounted for 2.5 percent.

The number of mink females in the U.S. bred to produce kits in 2006 totaled 651,600, up 2 percent from the previous year. Females bred in the leading states and the changes from the previous year are: Wisconsin-188,000, down 1 percent; Utah-155,000, up 3 percent; Oregon-56,300, down slightly; and Minnesota- 54,400, up 7 percent.

**Minnesota Mink Pelts and Number of Farms 1996-2005**



**FARM NUMBERS:** In the U.S., there were 277 mink farms producing pelts in 2005, down 6 percent from a year ago. The leading states were Utah, with 70 farms, Wisconsin, with 67 farms, and Minnesota, with 24 farms.

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