

## Wisconsin Remains Number 1 in Mink Pelt Production and Females Bred

Wisconsin continues to be a leader in the United States for mink pelt production and females bred. The state's mink pelt production in 2008 totaled 910,100, a slight decrease from 2007. Wisconsin accounted for 33 percent of the nation's total pelt production compared to 32 percent the previous year.

The percents of pelts produced in Wisconsin by color class were Black - 66 percent; Mahogany - 13 percent; Blue Iris - 10 percent; Sapphire - 4 percent; White - 2 percent; Pastel - 1 percent; and Lavender and Miscellaneous colors less than 1 percent each. The remaining percents fall into color classes that were not published to avoid disclosure of individual information.

Females bred in Wisconsin to produce kits in 2009 decreased 9 percent to 199,200. This accounted for 30 percent of the U.S. total compared with 32 percent a year ago.

Nationwide, mink pelt production during 2008 totaled 2.79 million pelts, down 1 percent from 2007. After Wisconsin's production of 910,100 pelts, Utah came in second with 549,700 pelts.

Females bred in the United States to produce kits in 2009 totaled 659,400, a decrease of 5 percent from the previous year.

Mink pelts produced during the 2008 crop year and sold in 2009 were valued at \$116 million, down 38 percent from \$186 million a year earlier. The average price per pelt for the 2008 crop year was \$41.50, down \$24.20 from the 2007 price of \$65.70.

In 2008 there were 274 mink farms producing pelts, down 3 percent from a year ago.

## MINK: Number of Ranches, Females Bred, Pelts Produced, and Value, Wisconsin, 2004-2008

Year	Mink ranches	Females bred	Pelts produced	Average price 1/	Value of pelts
	Number	1,000		Dollars	Million dollars
2004	67	168.9	768.0	47.10	36.2
2005	67	190.4	778.0	60.90	47.4
2006	69	188.0	890.2	48.40	43.1
2007	71	217.8	914.1	65.70	60.1
2008	2/	199.2	910.1	41.50	37.8

1/Average market price, U.S. 2/Number of operations by state will no longer be published annually. State level numbers will only be published in the Census of Agriculture every 5 years. Source: USDA, NASS, WI FO