



Released: July 15, 2005

# MINK PRODUCTION

## MINNESOTA PELT PRODUCTION DOWN 10 PERCENT FROM PREVIOUS YEAR

**PELT PRODUCTION:** Minnesota, one of the nation's leading mink producing states, placed fourth in 2004 pelt production behind Wisconsin, Utah, and Oregon, according to the USDA-NASS Minnesota Field Office. Total state production for 2004 amounted to 220,600 mink pelts, down 10 percent from 245,200 in 2003. By color class, Mahogany accounted for 37.1 percent of the total 2004 production; Demi/Wild, 22.2 percent; Blue Iris, 14.1 percent; Black, 17.1 percent; White, 6.3 percent, Sapphire 1.1 percent and Violet 0.3 percent. The remaining color classes accounted for 1.8 percent.

Total United States production for 2004 was 2.56 million pelts, up less than 1 percent from 2.55 million in 2003. Wisconsin, the leading mink producing state, produced 768,000 pelts in 2004, 30.0 percent of the nation's total. Utah, the second ranked mink producing state, produced a 22.6 percent share with 580,000 pelts. Oregon came in third with a production of 247,100 pelts in 2004.

By color class, the number of pelts as a percent of the total U.S. production for 2004 was: Black, 45.1 percent; Mahogany, 22.2 percent; Blue Iris, 11.7 percent; Demi/Wild, 6.1 percent; Sapphire, 5.3 percent; and White, 4.1 percent. The remaining color classes accounted for 5.5 percent. The total U.S. mink pelts produced during the 2004 crop year were valued at \$124 million, up 21 percent from \$102 million a year ago. The average price per pelt for the 2004 crop year was \$48.40, up from \$40.10 in 2003.

**BRED FEMALES:** Minnesota was fourth in the nation in the total number of females bred to produce kits in 2005, behind Wisconsin, Utah, and Oregon. Minnesota females bred for 2005 at 49,900 were down 3 percent from 2004. Of these females, Mahogany color class claimed 33.3 percent; Demi/Wild, 20.4 percent; Black, 20.4 percent; Blue Iris, 13.4 percent; and White, 8.6 percent. The remaining color classes accounted for 3.9 percent.

The number of mink females in the U.S. bred to produce kits in 2005 totaled 642,100, up 6 percent from the previous year. Females bred in the leading states and the changes from the previous year are: Wisconsin - 190,400, up 13 percent; Utah - 150,000, up 5 percent; Oregon - 56,500, up 6 percent; and Minnesota - 49,900, down 3 percent.

**FARM NUMBERS:** In the U.S., there were 296 mink farms producing pelts in 2004, down 3 percent from a year ago. The leading states were Utah with 80 farms, Wisconsin with 67 farms, and Minnesota with 28 farms.

Robert Purvis  
 Agricultural Statistician

Douglas Hartwig  
 Director

