

# Mink, 2002

By Daris J. Beitzel

Pennsylvania's mink ranchers produced 53,600 pelts in 2002, compared with 74,900 pelts in 2001. Pennsylvania ranked 9th in the nation in 2002 mink pelt production.

The number of females bred to produce kits for 2003 is estimated to be 14,200, down 3 percent from the previous year.

Thirty-eight percent of the females bred to produce kits are of the Blue Iris color class.

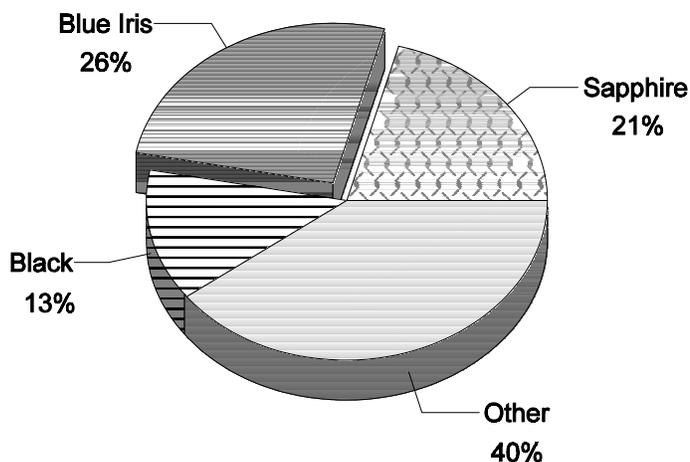
The U.S. average marketing price per pelt produced for the 2002 crop year was \$30.60, down 9 percent from the price of \$33.50 in 2001. Average prices for Pennsylvania are not available.

Pennsylvania: Mink Pelts Produced & Females Bred, By Color Class, 2000-2003

Color Class <sup>1</sup>	Pelts Produced			Females Bred to Produce Kits		
	2000	2001	2002	2001	2002	2003
				<i>Number</i>		
Black	2	2	2	2	2	1,900
Demi/Wild	2	2	2	2	2	2
Pastel	2	2	2	2	2	2
Sapphire	10,600	16,800	11,100	3,100	2,300	3,600
Blue Iris	22,200	19,700	14,100	5,400	5,400	5,400
Mahogany	2	2	2	2	2	2
Pearl	2	2	2	2	2	2
Lavender	2	2	2	2	2	2
Violet	2	2	2	2	2	2
White	2	2	2	2	2	2
Misc. & Unclassified	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>68,100</b>	<b>74,900</b>	<b>53,600</b>	<b>18,500</b>	<b>14,600</b>	<b>14,200</b>

<sup>1</sup> Several mink color classes changed beginning with pelt production in 2002, and female bred in 2003: Black - formerly Standard, includes Pure Dark; Demi/Wild - includes Dark Brown, Ranch Wild, Demi-buff; Pastel - includes Dawn, Orchid; Sapphire - includes Pale Brown; Blue Iris - formerly Gunmetal, includes Aleutian; Lavender - formerly Lavender Hope; Violet - includes Violet type, Cameo, Winterblue, Glacial; Miscellaneous - includes Pink. <sup>2</sup> Included in total to avoid disclosing individual operations.

Pennsylvania: Pelt Production, By Color Class, 2002



Pennsylvania: Mink Historical Perspective, 1970-2003

Year	Ranches Producing Pelts	Females Bred	Pelts Produced
		<i>Number</i>	
1970	106	58,000	159,000
1975	54	38,600	121,000
1980	47	44,500	156,600
1985	47	42,400	137,500
1990	24	27,100	95,400
1995	13	19,000	63,200
1996	13	19,200	65,700
1997	12	19,100	70,300
1998	11	18,300	67,500
1999	11	18,900	74,000
2000	10	18,300	68,100
2001	9	18,500	74,900
2002	8	14,600	53,600
2003	--	14,200	--