

Mink, 2003

By Stephen M. Habets

Pennsylvania's mink ranchers produced 44,600 pelts in 2003, compared with 53,600 pelts in 2002. Pennsylvania ranked 12th in the nation in 2003 mink pelt production.

The number of females bred to produce kits for 2004 is estimated to be 14,900, up 5 percent from the previous year.

Thirty-five percent of the females bred to produce kits are of the Black color class.

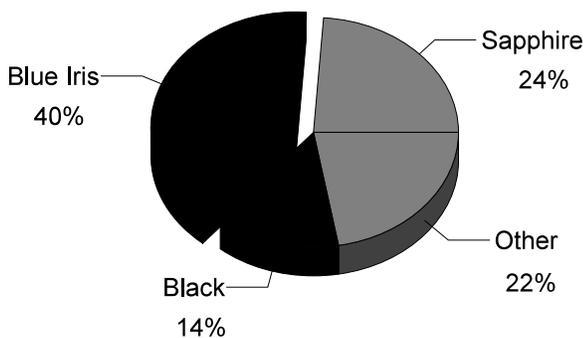
The U.S. average marketing price per pelt produced for the 2003 crop year was \$40.10, up 31 percent from the price of \$30.60 in 2002. Average prices for Pennsylvania are not available.

Pennsylvania: Mink Pelts Produced & Females Bred, By Color Class, 2001-2004

Color Class ¹	Pelts Produced			Females Bred to Produce Kits		
	2001	2002	2003	2002	2003	2004
				<i>Number</i>		
Black		6,900	6,400		1,900	5,200
Demi/Wild						
Pastel						
Sapphire	16,800	11,100	10,500	2,300	3,600	3,200
Blue Iris	19,700	14,100	17,700	5,400	5,400	2,900
Mahogany						
Pearl						
Lavender						
Violet						
White						
Misc. & Unclassified	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	74,900	53,600	44,600	14,600	14,200	14,900

¹ 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. ² Included in total to avoid disclosing individual operations.

Pennsylvania: Pelt Production, By Color Class, 2003



Pennsylvania: Mink Historical Perspective, 1970-2004

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
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	9	14,200	44,600
2004	--	14,900	--