

Mink, 1998

By J. Scott Lemmons

Pennsylvania's 11 mink ranchers produced 67,500 pelts in 1998, compared with 70,300 pelts in 1997. Pennsylvania ranked 10th in the nation in 1998 mink pelt production.

The number of females bred to produce kits for 1999 is estimated to be 18,900, up 3 percent from 1998.

Thirty-two percent of the females bred to produce kits are of the gunmetal color class.

The U.S. average marketing price per pelt produced for the 1998 crop year was \$24.80, down 25 percent from the price of \$33.10 in 1997. Average prices for Pennsylvania are not available.

Pennsylvania: Mink Pelts Produced & Females Bred, By Color Class, 1996-1999

Color Class	Pelts Produced			Females Bred to Produce Kits		
	1996	1997	1998	1997	1998	1999
Standard	2	2	2	2	2	2
Ranch Wild	-	2	2	-	2	2
Demi-Buff ¹	1,600 ₂	2	2	900 ₂	2	2
Pastel	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pale Brown	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sapphire	9,300	10,800	12,400	2,900	3,100	3,700
Gun Metal	22,100 ₂	24,200	22,900 ₂	5,900 ₂	5,700 ₂	6,000 ₂
Mahogany	2	4,200 ₂	2	2	2	2
Pearl	2	2	2	2	2	2
Pink	2	2	2	2	2	2
Violet Type	2	900 ₂	2	2	300 ₂	2
White	2	-	2	2	-	2
Misc. &	2	-	-	-	-	-
Total	65,700	70,300	67,500	19,100	18,300	18,900

¹ This color class includes demi-buff, dark brown, violet, pastel, standard and pearl crosses and others.

² Included in total to avoid disclosing individual operations.

Pennsylvania: Mink Historical Perspective, 1977-1999¹

Year	Ranches Producing Pelts	Females Bred	Pelts Produced
1977	48	40,300	129,000
1978	46	40,800	138,000
1979	45	42,200	151,900
1980	47 ₁	44,500	156,600 ₁
1981	-	45,600 ₁	-
1982	46	-	156,000
1983	49	44,400	174,700
1984	48	44,000	158,600
1985	47	42,400	137,500
1986	41	39,100	140,700
1987	44	40,100	146,900
1988	43	42,000	162,700
1989	43	41,900	169,000
1990	24	27,100	95,400
1991	24	23,500	77,300
1992	21	20,200	73,200
1993	17	18,700	61,400
1994	17	19,800	68,800
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	-	18,900	-

¹ Survey was discontinued for the 1981 crop, reinstated for the 1982 crop.