

2009-10 Furbearer Harvest Survey

PERFORMANCE REPORT STATEWIDE WILDLIFE RESEARCH AND SURVEYS

A Contribution of Pittman-Robertson Funds
Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration

Grant W-39-R-16

Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks

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July 2010

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2009-10 Furbearer Harvest Survey

Prepared by Matt Peek, Furbearer Biologist

The Furbearer Harvest Survey (FHS) is mailed to furharvesters at the end of the trapping season. Since 2001, 70% of the furharvester license holders from each of nine physiographic provinces in Kansas have been surveyed. Recipient names are randomly selected from an online database of all furharvester license buyers.

Survey questions are divided into 5 sections: general information, trapping activities, hunting activities, running activities, and a special section. Questions had been the same since 1983. However, a change in question structure in the trapping section was made this year in an attempt to collect more accurate catch-per-unit-effort data (see questions 8-11 in Appendix 3).

Also new this year, the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP) contracted with SurveyMonkey™ to facilitate our web-based surveys. Online surveys are cheaper and more efficient than paper. They save on paper, printing, postage, and data entry fees, plus they reduce human error associated with bulk data entry. However, online surveys are not convenient for everyone, and more research is needed before an entirely online survey design is considered. Consequently, our survey design included both online and paper options in an attempt to maximize response rate and minimize non-response bias. We also offered a grand prize drawing and 10 KDWP magazine subscriptions to respondents as an incentive for completing the survey in a timely manner (see Appendices 2 and 3). Drawing winners are provided in Appendix 1.

There were a total of 6293 furharvester licenses sold in 2009, including 6069 resident licenses, 177 junior residents, and 47 nonresidents. From these, a sample of 4403 license holders (70%) was selected. The online database contained e-mails for 1347 of these individuals. An initial e-mail was sent to these individuals on March 26, 2010 containing a request for participation and a link to the survey. A reminder e-mail was sent out on May 5, 2010.

An initial mailing consisting of a 4.25"x5.5" folded (4-sided) postcard (Appendix 2) was sent out on April 20, 2010 to the 3138 licensees without a deliverable e-mail on file and to the nonrespondents of our e-mail request (658). The postcard directed recipients online to the survey link, but could also be returned postage paid to either request a paper survey or report no furharvesting activity during the 2009-10 season – which completed these individuals' response to the survey. A second postcard mailing was sent out on May 20, 2010 to 3000 nonrespondents, and paper surveys (Appendix 3) were mailed out as survey requests were received via postcard. A summary of the survey effort including response rates can be found in Table 1. The number of responses and the response rate of furharvesters within each physiographic province can be found in Figure 1.

E-mailing a survey request and a direct link to the survey proved to be a very efficient and economic way to conduct the survey. There is minimal expense in this technique, plus the response rate was higher than by paper. The main issue with this technique is that most license holders do not have an e-mail associated with their contact information. Consequently, e-mail addresses were requested (for future surveys and to notify participants of results) in the online survey to which post card recipients were directed (212 new e-mails were received). It will still be necessary to offer paper surveys until questions about the biases between furharvesters with

and without e-mails can be answered, but the e-mail option represents an efficient alternative to be used in conjunction to paper for now.

Information provided by furharvesters is an estimate of their harvest and activities during the season. Results from bobcat and swift fox pelt tagging have always been lower than the harvest estimates derived from the FHS, suggesting an overestimate by the FHS. Consequently, harvest figures obtained from this survey should be considered representative of annual harvest indices rather than parameters.

Survey results were extrapolated to represent total harvest and activity. Just 59% of the respondents indicated they participated in furharvesting activities during the 2009-10 season (i.e. were active). This is down from about 80% in most recent seasons. Estimated furharvester distribution based on the county in which they conducted most of their furharvesting activities can be found in Figure 2.

Furharvesters spent an estimated 119,970 user days in pursuit of furbearers, including 56,798 days trapping, 43,327 days hunting, and 19,845 days running. These figures represent a 40% decrease in combined user days from the previous season. Average days afield by trappers decreased from 42 to 31 days. Hunter days afield decreased from 17 to 15 days, and runner days afield increased from 38 to 39. Participation in various combinations of furharvesting activities is presented in Table 2. In most years, hunter and trapper numbers are similar, so it appears the high percent of inactive furharvesters mostly consisted of inactive trappers. Hunters consist of a diverse group including houndsmen, predator callers, stalkers or stillhunters, and opportunistic shooters, and were probably less impacted by the depressed fur market.

Harvest, participation, and activity levels for trapping, hunting and running are presented in Tables 3-5, respectively. Even this season when trapping activity was down, trappers still accounted for the majority of harvest of most furbearer species. Though far more coyotes are taken by hunters than trappers, most hunters who take coyotes do so with a hunting rather than furharvesting license, and take by these individuals isn't represented in this survey.

Historical furbearer harvest in Kansas based on the Furbearer Harvest Survey can be found in Table 6. A combination of low pelt prices and unfavorable weather lead to harvest levels well below the 5-year averages. Bobcat and raccoon, our two most important furbearers in terms of total pelt value in recent years, both experienced harvest declines of over 50%. Muskrat experienced the slightest decline, likely reflecting the late season surge in muskrat pelt values.

Table 1. Sample size and response rate of survey methods used to conduct the Furbearer Harvest Survey.

	Number	Non-deliverables	Response Rate	
			Number	Percent
E-mail	1347	82	627	49.6
Postcard	3796 ^a	82	1163 ^b	31.3 ^c
Total	4403	82	1790	41.4

^aPostcards were sent to those without e-mails (3138 including 82 e-mail non-deliverables) and e-mail nonrespondents (658).

^bIncluded 593 online responses, 188 paper surveys (of 228 requests – 82%), and 382 “did not furharvest” responses by postcard.

^cResponse rate excluding 658 e-mail non-respondents was 38.1% (1163 of 3056).

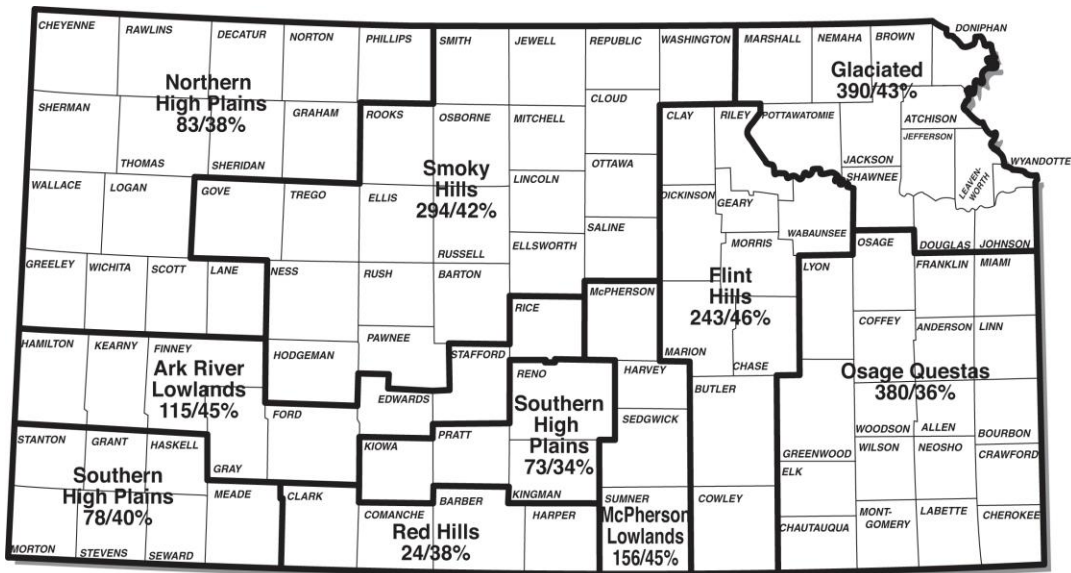


Figure 1. The number of survey respondents (number) and the response rate of furharvesters (percent) within each physiographic province in Kansas.

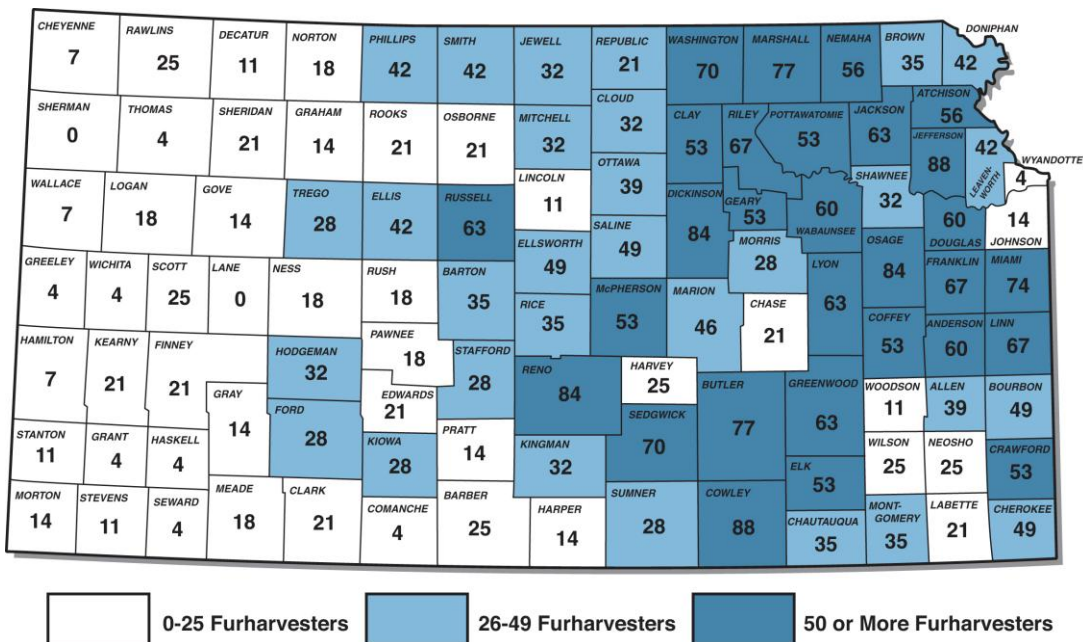


Figure 2. Estimated furharvester distribution in Kansas based on the county in which active survey respondents conducted most of their furharvesting activities.

Table 2. Estimated number and percent of furharvesters who participated in various furharvesting activities, and total estimated participation in trapping, hunting and running by 6293 furharvesters in Kansas in 2009-10.

Activity	Number of Furharvesters	Percent of Furharvesters
Inactive	2609	41.5
Trap only	745	11.8
Hunt only	1459	23.2
Run only	21	0.3
Trap and hunt	946	15.0
Trap and run	11	0.2
Hunt and run	320	5.1
Trap, hunt and run	179	2.8
Total Participation		
Total trappers	1881	29.9
Total hunters	2904	46.1
Total runners	531	8.4

Table 3. Harvest, participation, and activity levels for trappers in Kansas during the 2009-10 harvest season.

Species	Number of Trappers Who Pursued (n)	Estimated Harvest	Total Days Traps Set	Ave Traps/Day	Captures/100 Trap Days	Maximum Harvest	Ave Harvest/Trapper
Badger	124	711	2,655	10.8	6.4	29	1.6
Beaver	195	4,572	3,543	5.4	12.4	75	6.7
Bobcat	267	2,471	7,859	11.8	2.3	40	2.6
Coyote	290	7,592	7,605	10.4	6.5	170	7.4
Red Fox	57	317	1,061	7.4	6.3	9	1.6
Gray Fox	10	14	186	9.6	0.1	4	0.4
Swift Fox	6	63	84	8.8	12.8	10	3.0
Mink	35	179	654	7.3	1.4	11	1.5
Muskrat	117	5,681	1,426	9.1	20.7	342	13.8
Opossum	363	16,514	8,571	12.1	8.5	104	12.9
Raccoon	459	26,291	12,585	13.2	11.4	220	16.3
Skunk	265	6,497	8,814	12.9	6.2	124	7.0
Weasel	3	0	72	10.0	0.0	0	0.0

Table 4. Harvest, participation, and activity levels for hunters in Kansas during the 2009-10 harvest season.

Species	Number of Hunters Who Pursued (n)	Estimated Harvest	Harvest/100 Days	Maximum Harvest	Ave Harvest/Hunter
Badger	66	398	37.0	25	1.7
Bobcat	376	739	10.7	12	0.6
Coyote	714	13,962	52.7	170	5.6
Red Fox	53	109	15.9	12	0.6
Gray Fox	19	53	5.8	12	0.8
Swift Fox	23	67	19.0	12	0.8
Opossum	117	2,249	.	53	5.5
Raccoon	327	15,064	102.4	150	13.1
Skunk	74	887	71.2	30	3.4

Table 5. Treering success, participation, and activity levels for furharvesters in Kansas during the 2009-10 running season.

Species	Number of Runners Who Pursued (n)	Estimated Take*	Take/100 Days*	Maximum Take*	Ave Take/Runner*
Bobcat	14	46	1.7	3	0.9
Red Fox	1	0	0.0	0	0.0
Gray Fox	0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Opossum	35	591	100.0	15	4.8
Raccoon	146	17,425	125.9	300	33.9

*Take refers to the number of animals "seen or treed" while running.

Table 6. Historical harvest of furbearers in Kansas based on furbearer harvest survey.

Seasons	Badger	Beaver	Bobcat Tagging *	Bobcat	Coyote	Gray Fox	Red Fox	Swift Fox Tagging *	Swift Fox	Mink	Muskrat	Opossum	Raccoon	Striped Skunk	Weasel
1969-70	311	8583		373	9758	81	193			2189	43773	10452	63004	2466	28
1970-72															
1972-73	305	5178		458	13385	102	508			1508	27828	11421	46101	3174	
1973-75															
1975-76	1202	6484		1454	30150	539	638			1875	51083	45994	102760	8703	
1976-77															
1977-78	4054	5826		1705	35138	141	703			1764	38167	45625	74731	9824	
1978-79	4530	5315	825	1705	50195	193	533			2192	36639	51156	101450	15184	
1979-80	5882	19140	1050	1955	51380	245	888			3378	75962	56937	133311	23297	
1980-81	2501	14939	1027	1966	35238	274	645			3304	59063	49741	94754	16495	
1981-82	2673	5440	882	1730	32310	171	672			2342	30703	59916	93823	15917	
1982-83	3708	7653	1014	1686	36526	247	795		1000	3583	49528	58138	87425	11453	
1983-84	1754	8908	1334	2471	31466	93	1193		740	1600	21791	19347	67042	4985	
1984-85	1774	11814	1869	3212	33066	122	876		426	1937	24863	31142	108694	6806	
1985-86	1348	15543	1916	2837	34418	117	487		314	1507	15241	30955	96708	6909	
1986-87	3009	14732	2720	4522	40999	107	961		1161	2571	25561	59190	119488	10460	21
1987-88	2402	12474	3192	4805	41460	123	1113		650	2619	33814	54714	118878	8847	23
1988-89	1417	13989	2878	4492	25387	235	672		442	1545	22822	24117	72028	4233	5
1989-90	476	9607	1560	2482	15314	30	462		264	630	7114	9775	38274	2043	4
1990-91	442	5214	1409	1694	11968	34	242		76	423	4083	5493	27137	1258	0
1991-92	571	5429	2043	2453	15941	77	509		93	713	3043	12427	43977	3576	0
1992-93	687	3044	1618	2307	16076	59	328		64	252	2115	8101	33710	3125	2
1993-94	649	5288	2413	2900	16595	55	731		73	368	2571	12727	48203	2610	146
1994-95	781	12123	3590	5352	17022	204	1003	48	34	746	6215	19692	64951	4131	9
1995-96	522	8089	3020	3932	14009	99	753	33	45	291	3598	16120	58600	2877	2
1996-97	874	10653	4296	7041	19794	179	1232	33	144	473	5451	29980	93190	8065	40
1997-98	876	13337	3347	6233	14398	71	823	17	25	718	9679	49437	108727	9323	101
1998-99	958	8606	2385	3938	12125	152	490	7	15	419	7445	26512	71709	6375	107
1999-00	451	8845	2121	3578	11920	191	455	5	0	257	7252	13051	51307	3887	11
2000-01	1094	9388	2731	4018	15054	97	559	6	24	164	3964	14294	56143	5460	0
2001-02	434	9617	3597	5286	15329	35	584	32	0	180	3348	17080	72918	5559	0
2002-03	910	7716	5054	6521	18577	62	578	86	203	246	4596	32595	79538	10255	0
2003-04	1760	7250	5963	9654	25407	64	625	178	470	303	2823	42125	94506	10952	40
2004-05	1469	7737	5353	7062	23322	140	783	86	129	230	4845	43356	84132	10910	0
2005-06	1312	7186	6021	7458	21861	89	459	58	135	206	5733	38909	66458	12730	3
2006-07	1882	11028	7234	9998	32494	179	774	70	309	439	8150	46965	87241	15583	0
2007-08	2020	6658	5668	9381	29305	84	976	65	136	209	5120	51138	93687	17669	4
2008-09	1619	6855	4080	5944	27100	84	707	98	27	177	5767	46113	85061	16748	0
2009-10	1109	4572	1944	3210	21554	67	426	39	130	179	5681	18763	41355	7384	0
5 yr trend	-33.2%	-42.1%	-65.7%	-59.7%	-19.6%	-41.8%	-42.4%	-48.3%	-11.7%	-29.0%	-4.1%	-58.6%	-50.4%	-49.9%	-100.0%

Special Section

The “Special Section” of the Furbearer Harvest Survey changes annually and is used to collect information and opinions from furharvesters on a diversity of topics that relate to furharvesting or furbearers. Past surveys have addressed subjects such as wildlife diseases, trap ownership and use, and regulatory preferences. Last year, the use of snares and body-gripping (conibear) traps on public lands in Kansas was addressed. This year, in the interest of keeping the online survey as short as possible, the special section consisted only of a place for comments. A space for comments was also provided on the paper survey.

Furharvester comments are provided in Appendix 4, and are roughly grouped based on comment subject. Approximately 325 comments were received. Comments such as these are rarely used by the Department as the primary basis for regulatory change, but rather the Department uses these comments to generally gauge furharvester satisfaction and interests, and to identify subjects that need further consideration. Typically, a statistically valid survey would then be conducted, usually within this section of this survey, to make a quantified assessment of furharvester opinions on the subject. For example, comments might tend to imply furharvesters may wish for certain season dates. A survey specifically addressing season dates could then be conducted, and recommended season dates are then determined by the results of the survey along with furbearer population status, pelt primeness periods, and a variety of other social and biological factors.

In the paragraphs below, I’ll address some of the most common issues presented by furharvesters in the comments section. Most of these issues have been considered by the Department in the past in one form or another. I hope furharvesters find this information informative, and also take note that there are conflicting viewpoints for nearly every subject in which more than just a few people weighed in.

Season Dates – As with other harvest seasons, there has always been some debate over the appropriate opening and closing dates for various furbearer species. Season dates in Kansas have traditionally been set primarily to coincide with the pelt primeness period of our most important furbearer in terms of total harvest and pelt value – the raccoon. Though season dates have been discussed in the past, there has always been opposition to extending the season on either end due to concern about the harvest of unprimed raccoons. However, as bobcat pelt prices increased through the early 2000’s, furharvester interest in extending the end of season emerged (bobcat, of course, is still fully prime when the current season closes). In 2007, the Department surveyed furharvesters on this subject. Less than 40% of furharvesters supported an earlier open season, but almost 65% supported a later closing date. The Department has resisted an earlier opener due, in addition to primeness issues, to an interest in having furharvesting (trapping) season begin after the upland game season opener, but was more open to the concept of extending the end of season at that time. However, bobcat harvest had increased to all-time highs for several years in a row, and bobcat population indices began to reflect a declining population. In the interest of sustaining harvest numbers, no change in season dates was recommended. Currently, bobcat pelt prices and harvest effort towards bobcats have declined, and it now seems reasonable to reconsider extending the season beyond February 15. As more furharvesters report being denied access to property until after deer or upland game seasons, this

concept becomes more favorable, and when the Department reevaluates furharvesting regulations, season dates will be an item of discussion. However, furharvesters should realize that the harvest pressures of a few years ago appeared to reduce the bobcat population in some areas, and should these pressures arise again, the season may have to be shortened in the midst of good pelt prices if we wish to achieve maximum sustained harvest.

Season opens at noon – We’ve had a noon opener since 1983. This was a compromise between trappers and houndsmen when competition for the furbearer resource between the two groups was much greater than it is today. The concept was that a dawn or dusk opener would have given one user group the advantage of a full day (trappers) or night (houndsmen) head start over the other group. A midnight or noon opener would give either group only a half day advantage, which was more preferable. The midnight opener was considered problematic for houndsmen who would have been asked to set in their trucks and wait until midnight to turn dogs out, so the noon opener was agreed upon. This issue has been discussed at Department Commission Meetings as recently as 2002, and our recommendation has been to honor the compromise the groups made in the past.

Muskrat take during beaver season - One of the primary guiding principles in establishing furharvesting season dates in Kansas has been an emphasis on providing unified harvest dates for all furbearer species - 1) for simplicity (i.e. no confusion about which species may be legally harvested at a given time), 2) for the convenience of the furharvester (i.e. don’t have to release a species that may be harvestable earlier or later in the season), 3) and to avoid situations where an animal whose season is currently closed is incidentally captured and cannot be released (due to injury or death), creating a potential law enforcement violation or an ethical dilemma of what to do with the animal. This is why bobcat season opens in November along with everything else, and why raccoon season doesn’t close until Feb. 15 along with everything else. Of course the exception here is beaver. Because of its late primeness period, its ability to cause damage, and because its size and aquatic nature generally allow it to be more selectively trapped than terrestrial furbearers, season dates for this species extend well beyond that for other furbearers. Of course muskrats are occasionally caught in beaver sets, so some either want to keep incidentally caught muskrat or want the muskrat season extended. We need to consider, is the muskrat population such that we want to extend muskrat season through the end of March, when research has shown that late Spring muskrat harvest can be “additive” (i.e. depletes the population for the coming year), and muskrat pelt quality declines later in the Spring? And if yes, what about incidental mink and raccoons, which trappers will catch if they’re targeting muskrats? By the same argument, shouldn’t their season be open also? We are interested in this subject, but haven’t come up with an enforceable way to allow for incidentally caught muskrats to be kept, and aren’t convinced that the take of a few incidental rats should result in an extra month and half of fully open muskrat season.

Coyote hunting season – The KDWP Commission requested the Department to review coyote hunting regulations during their public meeting in March 2009. No change was adopted at that time. In response to comments implying violations by coyote hunters, any person observing or having information on illegal activities should be report them to the local Natural Resources Officer, the County Sheriff’s Department, or Operation Game Thief at (877) 426-3843.

Otter season – Otter populations are most abundant along the eastern edge of Kansas. In fact, they've been abundant in several eastern counties for years. However, it has taken them time to expand into other parts of the state. Though still expanding, damage complaints seem to be on the rise in eastern Kansas, and we believe the population is sufficient to warrant harvest. When furbearer regulations are next reviewed by the Commission, the Department will ask them to consider a limited otter harvest.

Pelt tagging – Bobcats are listed under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) in Appendix II, which classifies them as a “look-alike” species. They are pelt tagged not because they are thought to be scarce (they are not), but because they look like other species of spotted cats that are scarce. By controlling the international bobcat trade, the concept is that the trade in endangered cat species that could be laundered as bobcats (because they look like them) is prevented. A lengthy effort by the United States to delist bobcat from CITES Appendix II recently failed, so some type of tagging process will remain indefinitely into the future. However, tagging by states is not required by CITES, but rather the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (the Service) requires this as part of its obligation to uphold CITES. The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) representing the states has pressured the Service to change the process so it is done by the Service at the point of export from the country, rather than by the states. In Spring 2009, the Service indicated they were going to do this, but then retracted in order to pursue delisting through CITES this last time. When the CITES effort failed, AFWA contacted the Service and requested they adopt the process as they had previously indicated they would. To my knowledge, the Service hasn't responded. Until the Service agrees to implement this program differently, we will continue to tag cats as we currently do. Swift foxes are pelt tagged as per state regulation because their status is of particular interest in Kansas. Fewer than 100 swift foxes are usually harvested, and we plan to continue tagging them. **Questions about Kansas pelt tagging regulations should be directed to law enforcement in Pratt (620-672-5911). If efforts to contact nearby Department employees or offices to get pelts tagged during the season are unsuccessful, contact 620-342-0658 x202 for additional assistance.**

Furbearer diseases/parasites – Canine distemper is a widespread disease most commonly found in raccoons. As the comments imply, when an outbreak occurs in a given area, numerous raccoons may die from it. Because it spreads by contact with infected animals or their excretions or secretions, it is often considered density dependent (i.e. the more dense the population, the greater the potential for a substantial outbreak). However, it can appear within a fairly dense population in rather isolated cases as well. Raccoon populations usually seem to recover rapidly from local distemper outbreaks. Gray foxes are also highly susceptible to canine distemper, and distemper may be the major factor limiting gray fox populations in Kansas. Mange occurs in coyotes and red foxes in Kansas, and is caused by a parasitic mite (*Sarcoptes scabiei*). Research on coyotes in South Texas followed a mange outbreak and decline that occurred over a 14 year period. In the 10 years prior to the outbreak, mange occurred only in an occasional coyote. Mange prevalence peaked three to seven years into the outbreak at nearly 70%, then declined back to sporadic (<5%) by the 14th year. The authors suggested the outbreak was initiated by the appearance (either evolved or introduced) of a virulent strain of the mange mite. Recovery from mange occurred in few coyotes, but over time, selection for coyotes that were resistant to mange led to the decline in mange prevalence within the population. Specifically, coyotes without

mange were more successful at establishing territories and reproducing than those with mange, resulting in a rapid shift in the population towards mange-resistant coyotes. In this study, the presence of mange even at high prevalence did not lead to a population decline in coyotes, but coyotes also did not die as a result of mange from cold weather. This cycle of fairly rapid increase followed by a several year period of high prevalence, then decline and sporadic persistence seems consistent with mange in eastern Kansas, and should probably be expected in parts of western Kansas that have experienced fairly recent mange outbreaks as well.

Locating less common species – The Kansas Mammal Atlas, maintained by Fort Hays State University, is a resource that can be used to identify locations, at least to the county, where Kansas mammals, including less common furbearers such as weasels and gray foxes, have been documented. Locations of museum specimens and other documented cases are provided. The Atlas is located on the web at <http://webcat.fhsu.edu/ksfauna/mammals/index.asp>

Extending WIHA leases for furbearer/coyote hunting – Fall WIHA properties are open to furbearer and coyote hunting through January 31. If we assume it would cost the Department an extra 20 cents an acre to lease 1 million acres of WIHA for an extra two weeks, the lease cost alone would be \$200,000 a year excluding other expenses such as changing signs or renegotiating contracts. The total value from furharvester license sales in 2009 was \$123,000, plus it is questionable how much demand there really is for additional late season hunting access to furbearers or coyotes. Extending WIHA for predator hunting doesn't seem logical at this time.

“The questions are terrible.” Many traps and sets target many animals at the same time – We realize trappers may set for multiple species, and we tried to account for this in the instructions (“*Count any day you had sets out that were likely to catch that species. For example, if you caught opossums in your raccoon sets, record your raccoon trapping days for opossum also.*”). We ask how many days one trapped and the number of traps set per day for each species in hopes of obtaining an ESTIMATE of harvest effort. When combined with harvest estimates, this information is used to provide an index to furbearer abundance called “catch per unit effort.” For example, if the bobcat catch changes from 1 cat per 20 trap nights to 1 cat per 25 trap nights over time, we can assume the population has declined. Nocturnal and secretive furbearers are hard to monitor, and this is an important measure to us. Harvest alone is dependent upon pelt values, weather, and other factors, and cannot be used in this manner. By providing estimates of your trapping effort, you not only allow us to estimate harvest, but you're also telling us more about furbearer populations than you might have imagined. This translates into better-managed furbearer populations and sometimes even more opportunity for you.

Appendix 1.

2009-10 Furbearer Harvest Survey
Drawing Contest Winners

Contest Winners

NAME	CITY	STATE	
EARL UNDERWOOD	HUTCHINSON	KS	grand prize winner
ERIC WINTER	PALMER	KS	magazine subscription winner
ROBERT PAYEUR	OTTAWA	KS	magazine subscription winner
JAN MARR	COYVILLE	KS	magazine subscription winner
CHRISTIE R JOHNSON	VALLEY CENTER	KS	magazine subscription winner
GARY JOHNSON	HUTCHINSON	KS	magazine subscription winner
HERSCHEL RUNYON	HUTCHINSON	KS	magazine subscription winner
SCOTT SCHUH	BLUE RAPIDS	KS	magazine subscription winner
TRAVIS REITH	CLIFTON	KS	magazine subscription winner
WILLIAM NOLL	WINCHESTER	KS	magazine subscription winner
JAMES DROUILLARD	OLSBURG	KS	magazine subscription winner

Appendix 2.

Postcard Request for Participation in the
2009-10 Furbearer Harvest Survey
(excludes outgoing and return address portions)

Dear Kansas Furharvester:

You have been selected to participate in the Kansas Furbearer Harvest Survey. Your name was randomly chosen from the list of furharvesters who purchased a license in 2009. To complete the survey, please log on to <http://surveykansas.org> and enter the ID number printed above your name on the other side of this postcard.

If you do not have internet access, or if you did not participate in any furharvesting activities during the 2009-10 season, please check the appropriate box below, fold this postage-paid card to show our address, tape or staple, and drop it in the mail.

- Please send me a paper survey by mail.
- I did not hunt or trap furbearers during the 2009-10 season, or run furbearers in 2009.

If you have trouble logging onto the survey site, contact us at 620-672-0797. **The survey must be completed before May 31, 2010 to be entered into the drawing.**

Research and Survey Section
Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks

By completing this survey by May 31, your name will be entered into a prize drawing. The grand prize winner will win choice of the three items shown below. An additional 10 respondents will receive a one-year subscription to the KDWP magazine. If the winners already receive the magazine, they will be able to extend their subscription by one year or give the magazine to someone else as a gift.

All Call predator decoy

Nite Lite coon hunters vest

2 Sterling MJ600 traps



We are offering this drawing as an incentive to increase the response rate to our survey. This survey is used to guide furbearer management decisions in Kansas. Your participation is important to us, and we thank you in advance.

Appendix 3.

2009-10 Paper Version of the
Furbearer Harvest Survey

2009-10 Furbearer Harvest Survey

Dear Kansas Furharvester:

You have been selected to participate in the Kansas Furbearer Harvest Survey. Your name was randomly chosen from the list of furharvesters who purchased a license in 2009. This survey provides our best estimate of furharvester activity, and is used to guide furbearer management decisions in Kansas.

By completing the survey by May 31, your name will be entered into a prize drawing. The grand prize winner will win choice of the three items shown below. An additional 10 respondents will receive a one-year subscription to the KDWP magazine. If the winners already receive the magazine, they will be able to extend their subscription by one year or give the magazine to someone else as a gift. Thank you for your participation in this important survey.

All Call predator decoy



Nite Lite coon hunters vest



2 Sterling MJ600 traps



1. Did you hunt or trap furbearers during the 2009-10 season, or did you pursue furbearers with dogs during the running season in 2009?

Yes No (If no, skip to question 20.)

2. In which county did you do most of your furharvesting in 2009-10? _____

3. Did you **TRAP** for furbearers in Kansas during the 2009-10 season?

Yes No (If no, skip to question 12.)

4. How many of each did you harvest by TRAPPING in Kansas during the 2009-10 season? (Enter "0" if none were harvested.)

Badger: _____ Gray Fox: _____ Beaver: _____ Opossum: _____
 Bobcat: _____ Red Fox: _____ Muskrat: _____ Raccoon: _____
 Coyote: _____ Swift Fox: _____ Mink: _____ Striped Skunk: _____
 Weasel: _____

5. How many total calendar days did you TRAP furbearers or coyotes in Kansas during the 2009-10 season? *The trapping season was 90 days (Nov 18-Feb 15) for all furbearers except beaver, which was 134 days (Nov 18-Mar 31).*

Total days: _____

6. How many calendar DAYS did you trap for each species? (Enter "0" if none.) *Count any day you had sets out that were likely to catch that species. For example, if you caught opossums in your raccoon sets, record your raccoon trapping days for opossum also.*

Badger: _____ days Opossum: _____ days
 Bobcat: _____ days Raccoon: _____ days
 Coyote: _____ days Striped Skunk: _____ days

7. During the time you trapped each species, how many TRAPS did you have set per day on average? *Count any trap that was likely to catch that species. For example, if you caught opossums in your raccoon sets, record your raccoon trap numbers for opossum also.*

Badger: _____ days Opossum: _____ days
 Bobcat: _____ days Raccoon: _____ days
 Coyote: _____ days Striped Skunk: _____ days

8. Did you set traps specifically for BEAVER?

Yes No (If no, skip to question 9.)

a. How many DAYS did you trap for BEAVER? _____ days

b. During this time, how many BEAVER TRAPS did you have set per day on average? _____ traps

9. Did you set traps specifically for RED FOX, GRAY FOX, or SWIFT FOX?

Yes No (If no, skip to question 10.)

a. How many DAYS did you trap for each FOX species? (Enter "0" if none.) *Count any day you had sets out that were intended or likely to catch that species.*

Red fox: _____ days
 Gray fox: _____ days
 Swift fox: _____ days

b. During the time you trapped each species, how many TRAPS did you have set per day on average? *Count any trap that was intended or likely to catch that species.*

Red fox: _____ traps
 Gray fox: _____ traps
 Swift fox: _____ traps

10. Did you set traps specifically for MUSKRAT or MINK?

Yes No (If no, skip to question 11.)

a. How many DAYS did you trap for MUSKRAT or MINK? (Enter "0" if none.) *Count any day you had sets out that were intended or likely to catch that species.*

Muskrat: _____ days

Mink: _____ days

b. During the time you trapped MUSKRAT and MINK, how many TRAPS did you have set per day on average? *Count any trap that was intended or likely to catch that species.*

Muskrat: _____ traps

Mink: _____ traps

11. Did you set traps specifically for WEASEL?

Yes No (If no, skip to question 12.)

a. How many DAYS did you trap for WEASEL? _____ days

b. During this time, how many WEASEL TRAPS did you have set per day on average? _____ traps

12. Did you **HUNT** for furbearers or coyotes in Kansas during the 2009-10 season?

Yes No (If no, skip to question 16.)

13. How many of each did you harvest by HUNTING in Kansas during the 2009-10 season? (Enter "0" if none were harvested.)

Badger: _____ Gray Fox: _____ Opossum: _____

Bobcat: _____ Red Fox: _____ Raccoon: _____

Coyote: _____ Swift Fox: _____ Striped Skunk: _____

14. How many total calendar days did you HUNT furbearers or coyotes in Kansas during the 2009-10 season? *The furbearer hunting season was 90 days (Nov 18-Feb 15).*

Total days: _____

15. How many calendar DAYS did you HUNT for each species? (Enter "0" if none.)

Badger: _____ days Gray Fox: _____ days Opossum: _____ days

Bobcat: _____ days Red Fox: _____ days Raccoon: _____ days

Coyote: _____ days Swift Fox: _____ days Striped Skunk: _____ days

16. Did you **RUN** furbearers in Kansas during the 2009 running season (Mar1-Oct31, 2009)?

Yes No (If no, skip to question 20.)

17. How many of each did you "tree" during the 2009 running season in Kansas? (Enter "0" if none were treed.)

Bobcat: _____ Red Fox: _____ Raccoon: _____

Gray Fox: _____ Opossum: _____

18. How many total calendar days did you RUN furbearers in Kansas during the 2009 season? *The furbearer running season was 245 days (Mar1-Oct31).*

Total days: _____

19. How many calendar DAYS did you RUN each species? (Enter "0" if none.)

Bobcat: _____ days Red Fox: _____ days Raccoon: _____ days

Gray Fox: _____ days Opossum: _____ days

20. If you have any comments or suggestions on furbearer management in Kansas, please provide them here:

The results of this survey will be posted on the KDWP website once the report has been completed. Last year's Furbearer Harvest Survey report and several other furbearer-related reports are currently posted on the site. From the "Furharvesting" page, just click on the "Furbearer Reports" link. Thank you for your time.

Appendix 4.

Comments Submitted by Furharvesters Who Completed
the 2009-10 Furbearer Harvest Survey

Open Seasons, Dates, & Times

Bobcat and Badger are just getting to their prime when the season ends, would like to look into the chance of season running till the end of february
Allow bobcat trapping until the end of february. Allow muskrat trapping through the end of beaver season. Rats caught in beaver traps are wasted.
Why do we need to tag bobcats?

Extend season to end of Feb, start season later to accommodate this if necessary

extend the raccoon season. the furs prime up in the late season not the beginning. should be able to hunt with green or red scope this would decrease the population of coyotes to be able to control them easier. other states are able to use these scopes and i feel this would be fair to kansas hunters as well as out of state hunters.

Extend the season until the end of february.

Run the trapping season 2-3 weeks longer.

season should be removed on coons

please don't close running season

Raccoon Season should be a month longer. Especially years like last year when the weather was so crappy.

short the trapping season and monitor more trappers more often and find out where they trap so game ward can check them more.

Close Quail & Pheasant season at end of year that gives about 45 days for the trapper that uses snares & conibear traps a better chance not to catch dogs & less trap theft. But you won't it's a money thing.

furbeaver season for hunting with dogs should start second week in november. weather for man and hounds is more conducive to locating traveling racoons about their food sources. most houndmen hunt to better train their dogs early in season' not to pile up harvest number.

have ending day stop at noon.

Here in KS we probably need to trap beaver through April this year wouldn't make any difference. The weather was too bad for me, but normally late in March I can get a few sets made for beaver. I am 90 years young the weather has to cooperate or I can't get out there plus it's just too much work.

How about a longer season, such as Nebraska or Arkansas. What is the purpose of the no hunting for 17 days before season or 14 days after season. Season opens at noon, open it at midnight like it used to be. Biggest mistake coonhunters ever made was to petition KDWP for a season. Need more rules on traps to protect dogs from being killed, conibears and snares mostly..

How about opening bobcat season earlier for bowhunters. I always see bobcats in archery deer season but can't hunt them

I am overall satisfied with the seasons for furbearers. could extend till Feb. 15th with little trouble and fur would still be prime, especially for bobcat

I have noticed over the years that usually by the time Bobcat season is over and thick season is over. I think that bobcats should have a separate season or at least a longer season than the normal furbearer

I personally like the way our seasons and season dates are set up. It is good to be able to train our dogs the way it is set up, thanks for all the effort the KDWP puts into our management effort.

I think that we should be able to run coon dogs year round like Oklahoma as I hunt their too.

I think there should be a longer season like Nov. 1 to March 31

I think there should be a youth trapping season about a week long for beginners to practice a little before the regular season starts

I wish kill season ran from Dec 1 to Feb 15th instead of late Nov to Feb 15th More fur will be prime in Dec

I wish you would start Bobcat season around DEC 15. Many cats are shot while fur is still thin in NOV. by deer hunters that don't have fur license. Out of state deer hunters have driven the "price" to hunt out of most people's reach, now they can shoot our Bobcats too. Fur is not prime during deer season.

I would like to see KS have open kill season like Nebraska has 2 months open hound season before we have to worry about killer traps I would hunt lots more but don't want to take the chance of getting my dog killed

I would like to see the furbearer season open until the last day of february.

I would like to see trapping season start a week or to later and finish the end in March 1. Limit out of state trappers who trap Bobcat. Have an eastern otter season in KS. Personally think all coyote, cat traps should be off set and laminated.

I'd like to see the season start a week later, and end a week later. Early raccoon are not very prime, bobcat, beaver and badger aren't really prime at all on Nov. 15th. Yet several of these furbearers are prime in Feb. when the season ends. One week would make a difference in improving the quality of the catch.

If possible please extend the bobcat season to March 31.

In my opinion racoon populations could be better managed by opening the season 1 or 2 wks earlier instead of the later season that was imposed a few years ago.

It would be nice if the furbearer season was open till the end of February. There are too many bird and deer leases that don't want any trapping till after bird season is over.

It would be nice if an early deer hunter could take a bobcat for trophy during his or her deer hunting. It is tough when one is under your stand. All licenses apply and all tagging must be met.

keeping hunting seasons open thru most of the furbearer season only means lots of stolen traps and no enjoyment for me. I quit trapping and only called and had many setups ruined by hunters. Some came on purpose only to ruin my hunt.... getting to not like bird season lasting for months and deer hunters of some kind most of my fur season. Thank you.

Longer season. Either start sooner or go later in the year. Low number of trappers this may increase the number of catches. I can only trap on the weekend due to family. Thank you.

Longer seasons.

make season longer

make the hunting and trapping season just a bit longer.

nice job, need to have a longer season on shooting, 'coons, though. They're a real nuisance to many landowners. We should have a say in how long they can be hunted, not a trapper's association and biologist's who are biased for furharvesting instead of controlling populations.

Possibly open the season earlier
Put more time on front of season and take off end of season when racoon are breeding
Should do away with noon opener. Just have an opening date.
start season end of november and go til march 1st
The present season seems to be working well. The running season is set up about right
would like to see trapping season last till the end of february

Beaver/Muskrat Season

Extend the muskrat season with the beaver season!

Have muskrat season run the same as beaver. Other than that KS is probably the best state to trap in considering the trapping laws and available furbearing animals.

I think it would be a good idea to keep muskrat season open during the beaver season. If not that, at least allow us to keep incidental muskrats caught in beaver sets.

I think that muskrat season should go as long as beaver does so that accidentals can be kept and utilized.

I would like to see beaver and muskrat season open and close the same time OR extend muskrat season untill the end of beaver season. It would make more sense to me to harvest fur when it is somewhat valuable versus everbody catching what they can before season is over instead of waiting a little longer to harvest animals with better fur. If the season was lengthened or started a little later, these animals wouldn't be wasted. I would like to see bobcat season started later also. Maybe the second week of December and run through the end of February. Bobcats don't get prime until the middle to the end of December it seems like, as a Biologist would already know. I love to trap but a Bobcat caught in November or early December might bring \$30 versus one caught a month later would fetch \$100. I guess what I am trying to say is I hate to see people plan vacation time and so forth for the opening two weeks of an "early" season and catch animals that are of little value. I know it is also a management issue from the States' stand point but I guess that is my suggestion. (name provided)

I would like to suggest that the spring beaver season also includes and open muskrat season through the end of March.

Make the beaver and muskrat season coincide in length. Often times muskrats are caught on accident in the same sets as beaver (bank or den sets).

muskrat season should run as long as beaver season.

Why can't you trap muskrat during the extended beaver season?

Coyote Season/Hunting

*****CLOSE COYOTE HUNTING SEASON DURING THE RIFLE DEER SEASON*****

Had some friends that went out on snowmobiles after one storm I believe in Wallace county and came home with close to 30 coyotes. I have not trapped coyotes personally in Logan County for the last two years due to mange. I have selectively shot sick coyotes and left the good ones. I was sickened to see that many coyotes come in. I know the sick ones need culled out but I believe the good ones need left for seed. I believe coyotes should not be trapped or hunted to give them a chance to come back in numbers. Thanks

take coyote hunting out during rifle deer season to try to stop people from hunting deer out of there vehicles please

Outlaw running coyote dogs!!!!!!

Please do something about the coyote dog hunters!

Open coyotes up for aerial gunning.

stop running dogs for cyotes in november during bow deer season, or stop them all together. i had my deerhunt screwed up 11 times due to the circleville cyote hunters ASS. all i want is the month of nov. please.

I am strongly opposed to running and killing coyotes out of vehicles.

i beleive that coyotes should be afforded the same protection as any other furbearer or game animal. i'm refering the pracrice of running them down with pick-ups and shotguns. running them in deep snow with snomobiles then simply running over them or shooting them when they are too exhausted to move. i really despise the people that do this or support the practice. (name provided)

I beleive that grey hounds should be banned from running down and killing coyotes. Coyotes have been wiped out of this area fraom this practice

I do not think someone riding with me coyote hunting should have to have a license when its my truck and dogs. I am a teacher who tries to get kids to know about hunting, and not be a anti-hunter. When I coon hunted a bunch, I could not let kids participate without a license. If we who have to buy three licenses each year can not get our youth exposed to hunting without them paying, then our youth may never get exposed. thanks

I would like to see the use of motor vehicles suspended during the DEER firearms season. It seems that many people are using that for an excuse to run deer during the furbearer season.

I'm glad that we can still use autos to hunt coyotes..shoot from a moving truck..shoot out the window from the road and such..I don't think many other states..if any allow such freedoms as Kansas..please keep it that way...Best regards (Name provided)

My sugesstion is not to change any regulations to make it more difficult to hunt coyotes. The population is growing rapidly and hunting with dogs and 2 way radio's is effettive in this area.

Please tell your wildlife biologists that coyote hunters spend \$K's of dollars every year in this state. Why do they look upon us as some sort of criminal? The game warden in (withheld) County harrasses us constantly. We are law-abiding citizens enjoying our hobby. He threatens us with legal actions continually. We simply don't understand. Game wardens have a tough job, but if there weren't any hunters/fishermen; they wouldn't have a job.

Otter Season

I saw a pair of otters this year and I'm looking forward to the time when the numbers are significant enough to trap them. I think you are doing a great job!

i think there should be a season on otters because in every little stream in eastern kansas there every where. at least in anderson county there everywhere.

I would like to keep 2 otters or 2. Give 4 otters per person. open otters 4 the trappers. Thanks

It's time for a limited take season on Otters. KDWP has had 17 years to collect the data it says is needed to determine if we have a population that is viable and can sustain trapping. Limit the take and require tags, but get it done. This has dragged on long enough.

Open Otter season

open otters trapping up. at least 2 otters per person

Opening season for otters in Linn County

Please open otter season in the eastern two tiers of counties soon.

Need to open the otter season, with a trapping season. They do a lot of damage to the fish population in all lakes they have access to.

should be a otter season seen lot of sign

The otter population appears to be going up specifically on rivers near by such as the cottonwood and Neosho Rivers and marshes near by them. I know of one guy that has caught two in beaver traps (name withheld) and I have seen lots of sign. Is there anyway KS could get a season on otters?

We should be able to keep the otters that we catch from now on even if there is a limit you can catch

Would appreciate it if you would open an "otter" season & eliminate the tagging of bobcats!

Night Hunting

Allow hunting at night with handheld lights.

Coyotes should be hunted at night with lights as other states do.

I Call coyotes that farmers are having problems with so I'd Like to see some new on being able to call at night with a red light.

I would like to be able to hunt bobcat's and coyote's at night with a red lensed light, other states do and I don't understand why we as Kansas sportsmen don't get the opportunity to also enjoy this way of calling/hunting furbearers?????

I would like to be able to spotlight predators at night. Many states allow this with landowner permission. Maybe a special permit or permission could be required. I realise the reasoning with deer poaching always a concern, but there should be some way to make it work. I would be happy to add any input or suggestions. Thank you. Sincerely (name provided)

I would like to see the state pass a law to make it legal to hunt predators at night with the use of artificial light. The coyote population is getting out of control. Growing up in Iowa and being stationed all around the U.S. in the service, I was surprised to see Kansas does not allow like most other states. Over the last 3-4 years my observation of Linn, Bourbon and Miami counties where I deer hunt, I've seen alot less deer. The large herds in the fields after dark are not there like they used to be either. Most of the deer I've seen are very skidish and I believe they are being constantly pursued by coyotes 24/7. I used to see 1-2 coyotes every now and then but now come across packs of 4-5 or more and have seen on a couple of occasions coyotes chasing full grown shooter size bucks with racks across fields nipping at their back legs. If they will take on a buck they most definitely made meals of does dropping fawns and fawns after birth. Thank you for your time

I would like to see Kansas change the rule on the use of artificial light to take Coyotes at night. With snow on the ground and a full moon, you can be pretty sure your target is a coyote and not a domestic dog, however those conditions do not happen often. I believe it would enhance safety as well as increase a Coyote hunter's ability at taking these nocturnal predators. Many other states that have deer poaching issues, allow it. Why not Kansas?

Is it legal to have a lighted reticule in your scope if hunting for predators at night.

It would be nice to be able to call & harvest furbearers

It should be legal to hunt coyotes at night with a light.

Let us spotlight at night for coyotes.

WISH LAW WOULD PASS TO HUNT COYOTES AND BOBCATS WITH ARTIFICIAL LIGHT USING RED OR BLUE LENSES

Would like to see predator calling at night with a light.

You're doing a good job! I would like to see more consideration given to a late season for hunting coyotes at night with art. light to help with depredation control, even if it took a nuisance license to do it.

Regulations

36 hours between checking of each set instead of 24, get alot more people followin that rule

48hour check law on all one way slide wire drowning sets and under water conibears and the right to trap road rightaway ditches without premission

change tag dates start tag in fall and run for winter and spring I don't like buying a new tag in middle of season

Change the reg to tag traps with name and KDWP number instead of address

Did not liked that I purchased the license and expired in December 31st, it should be for the season instead

Don't let theifs dicktate the making rules for trapping if they set traps in a legal manner they should'nt make the rest of us pay. May muskrats were all taken in last week of season and my first fully prime brought 8.00 at KFH auction

Nothing to add. Good, concise and clearly laid out in Kansas. Thanks.

reinstate the possession period

Restate the possession period on fur animals. No possession period can lead to abuse.

Reverse the law of allowing furs to be kept without a permit. This opens the furbearer season to tremendous misuse.

Dropping the possession period for furbearers was an excellent idea, this allows a trapper/hunter to hold pelts and wait for the fur market to improve.

Glad to see that we as furharvesters can keep our pelts after seasons close. Somewhat takes away some of the leverage furbuyers have as to whether or not pelts have to be sold by end of season. Thanks for all you do as a Department to ensure future generations have the chance to enjoy the outdoors experience if so desired. God Bless, name provided..

For the most part I feel that the rules and regulations in Kansas are good when it comes to trapping, hunting furbearing animals. However, I hope this doesn't change as government changes. The land owner has the right to operate (protect) his land as they need to and not be over regulated by the kdwp. Example, if they have a badger problem on their property, they should be able to control the population however it is feasible to the land owner. By use of traps, poison, night hunting, ect. I wish the state of Kansas would allow night hunting with spotlight year around except during rifle buck deer season. Night hunting is about the most effective way to control some over populated critters (jack rabbits, badgers, coyotes, skunks, & raccoons). I thank God for the opportunity to (hunt, trap) the way we can and pray in His Name that the government does NOT get any more involved in regulations than they are. Thankyou for hearing my concerns and suggestions.

I am very pleased with Kansas dept of wildlife rules and regulations.

I believe it should not be unlawful to carry a firearm (side arm) while hunting. I am out at night a lot during the hunting season and would like to be able to protect myself if need be

I enjoy trapping very much. Most of what I do is control to help farmers. All of my traps have laminated jaws. I think this should be mandatory on all foothold traps for the sake of the animal and the future of trapping. I believe this would not only help in the public eye but there are a lot of people that trap that have no idea of what they are doing and catch someone's pet which makes all trappers look like cruel animal haters.

I don't know if this is the right place to comment, but I have concern about trapping in public hunting areas. Is that permitted? I bird hunt much more than furbear hunting, and I'm always concerned about my dogs getting caught in a trap on public hunting areas or WIHA.

I like the current rules on trapping, I have heard that there is a lot of people that would like to outlaw conibears and I hope this does not happen.

I like the new regulation of being able to hold pelts as long as I want. Before, a trapper/hunter had to get written approval from local game warden and most of the time the game warden just gave word of mouth of approval, which is fine, but now I don't have to worry about that. Thanks!! My field observations lead me to believe coyote populations are increasing, especially in the northcentral area of Kansas. The only thing bad about this is the corresponding increase in coyote hunters who hunt with dogs and drive all over your property without permission. The dog coyote hunter may be the lowest form of hunter there is. If it weren't for USDA and state ag agencies, we could possibly do away with a lot of this nonsense and get back to real hunting.

I realize that trappers have their own agendas - just like hunters - but I believe there should be some regulation of numbers of individual species taken during trapping. I know some trappers that have taken more animals in one season than most hunters do in a lifetime. Some areas I try to hunt have simply been trapped out.

I was glad to see the rule change on being able to hold furs over.

I wish I didn't need to get a furbearer's license just in case I call in a bobcat.

I wish you would be allowed to hunt raccoons and coyotes in the National Refuge designated hunting areas at Marias De Cyne. It seems like you can hunt anything else there but those animals. Thanks.

I would like to buy a season permit, not an annual permit

I would like to see a 48 hour trap check time for coniber beaver and rat trapping.

I would like to see the KDWP # a legal way to tag traps and snares rather than the name and home address.

It would be an idea to sell a 2-5 day out of state fur harvesting license.

It would be nice to see the State look into the number of bobcats that are shot by hunters without furharvesting licenses during pheasant season. Maybe making it unlawful to shoot a bobcat with a shotgun.

Kansas Regulations are fine. Prices just to low.

Limit on traps. Limit on Raccoon that can be harvested.

Legalize harvesting one coon per day during training/ also legalize using laser beam for shooting coon.

Please, please, please, please, please, please, please outlaw the use of 220 conibears on land. Had the best dog I ever owned killed by one 3 yrs ago, and another dog caught again this year. Thank God I got to her before she was killed. My best friend also had a dog caught this year as well. With so many options in traps, why in the hell do we still allow these 220 conibears to be set on land!

The commissioners need to listen to the public input at the KDWP public meetings. We tell you what ought to happen but it never does.

the law for setting snares or for not setting snares 15 feet from the road should be abolished.

There are too many restrictions/regulations and bureaucracy in trapping, hunting and fishing.

There should be a provision to trap road right of ways in Kansas. Only to the extent that you do not trespass onto adjoining landowners. Minnesota does just a thought otherwise the management is great.

wood like to see a 48 hour trap check.

Pelt Tagging

do not understand why bobcats have to be tagged, hard to find the time to get that done

Although trapping information is critical to recording information on species, I feel that the tagging of bobcats is an inconvenience, they seem to be everywhere in the area I trap and I do not feel that tagging them is a necessity.

I had to drive to pratt to get my cats tagged, where I was given the third degree by a warden with a chip on his shoulder, it appeared to me. i.e. who did I trap on, did I buy the cats etc type questions, asked with an attitude. I had previously called (NRO) to come tag my cats at the end of trapping, which he always did before. this year he said no, wasn't his district. I then asked if (NRO) from (location) could come, as he had done so last year. he said no not his district either. I asked who has my district that could tag cats and was told no one and my only choice was drive round trip to pratt to get my cats tagged, which I did and wasted a whole day and much mileage. I don't know what problem there is in enforcement as I have bragged on their friendliness and professionalism in the past, but for reasons unknown to me apparently there has been a change of some sort. as far as laws and seasons, I like them the way they are and appreciate the opportunity to trap in Kansas. populations seemed similar to always. about 30 of my coyotes were manged to the point they had no fur value at all and had to be discarded. the mange problem is a real bummer, but don't know anything anyone can do about it. there were some micro areas of distemper die off of raccoons, and conversly other areas way over populated, as to be expected. the land owners seemed most anxious to have the coyotes, beavers, bobcats and raccoons and badgers and skunks trapped. bobcat populations in my area appeared to be higher than the previous year. my only suggestion would be somehow make tagging cats more trapper friendly.

I see no need to tag swift fox

It sure would be nice if bobcats didn't have to be tagged!!!!!! I know the Feds are the ones requiring this but bobcats are just a glorified raccoon.

Stamping bobcats is tough. Make it ok to get tag from license dealer upon presentation of valid license.

Stop making bobcats be tagged. there are a lot of them. It is not a big deal anymore.

the cites requirement for cats needs to be stopped as all it does is use up the officers time as bobcats are not endangered i believe it sends a negative message to the non trapping public

The regulations regarding the harvest of bobcats are very dangerous and confusing, mostly confusing. Too complicated, obtuse, and too many different locations in the booklet, are some of the ways I would describe these rules. I called several friends to get their interpretation of the rules before I called the game warden to have it tagged.

Wildlife Populations

a lot of complaints from farmers&ranchers.to many turkeys,BEAVERS,muskrats.

Ability to kill more opossums cause there ae way to many

All 4 coyotes I called in and shot were mangy!

coons are reproducing really well. me and my dogs did pretty good this season

Coyotes in Harvey county appear to have recovered from mange. I only saw one that appeared to be infected.

I have seen several sick coon in the daytime in eastern edwards and western stafford counties- Distemper?

noticed an increase in the muskrat pop the past two years altho the the increase was not as sificant this year. also spotted otter sign this year fish kill and scat. do not want to see restriction on trap size or types changed. what we have is working.

During hunting and running season I observed a large number of raccons that had died for no appreant reason. They were found in holes or laying on the ground. These animals were not by roads and had no marks on them that looked like injuries. During one nights hunt we saw 8 or 9 within a quarter mile.

everything seems to be going well with all the furbearers in Kansas. There seems to be agood population of what I choose to hunt.

Didn't go out much considering price. Seen quite of few coyotes though. Some with pretty bad mange. And one raccoon during the day that seemed really out of it. It couldn't walk and looked really sick.

Enjoy your magazine. I'm 71 so don't hunt like I used to but still enjoy it, have a broken eardrum so can't difrection the dogs so have to have some one to point to the dogs. Also our area was hit bad with distemper

Field officers have always been very helpful and courteous in my experience. The areas that I trapped had a very substantial food prey base. Pack rats and rabbits particularly.Bobcat populations were relative to cover and when that was found cats were present as a rule as were coyotes and raccoon. From what I have seen in the last few years the KDWP has done and is doing an outstanding job in wildlife management. Mangy coyotes are always a product typically of high populations and mange mite transfer.Encouraging trapping and hunting of coyotes would be a benefit to all. Unfortunatly fur prices affect the interest of these predators greatly thus hampering the interest in pursuing them with great vigor.Not sure if anyone has an answer for aggressively managing this adaptable predator besides hiring a few full time predator control trappers. Overall a job well done by the KDWP.... (name provided)

Figure out why the racoons are having such a tough time with distemper around here.

furbearer population is high but with low prices and a tough winter it was hard to get out and get after them.

I am interested in trapping Mink and Weasel in KS

I did see numerous coyotes during the pheasant and deer hunting seasons.

I have coonhunted since I was pottytrained and almost all of it has been done in the Courtland area. I really enjoy it but this last year(2009) my dogs treed on five trees where there were two or more coons dead from distemper! I also shot 10 coons in braud daylight that walked like they were drunk and wouldnt run from a human they only walked. It has me worried and the other thing is my dad and I are the only ones that hunt in this county it seems like with dogs! I wish fur prices would go up just a little not too much so others(kids) might get involved we take kids as much as we can. Its really fun to listen to them the next day talking about the hunt the night before. Thanks, (name provided) Redbones all the way!!!

I only saw one coyote with the mange this year.

i ran hounds 300 days out of the year and dont see as many coons as i would like My personal opinion is the floods have killed a lot of kittens while in the den

I think Kansas has a well managed furbearer resource. Keep up the good work! I didn't realize there were as many bobcats around as there appears to be. I am truly impressed with their numbers.

I used to be a very avid trapper in Kansas but have spent the last few seasons bird hunting instead. The two coyotes I did harvest were taken as incidentals while bird hunting. I have not seen many coyotes in my area for the past several years. The mange has about wiped them out.

I was hunting for bobcat & coyotes with bow mostly while I was deer hunting. Saw plenty of coyotes, raccoons, opossums, & skunks but very few bobcats. I think we have way to many coyotes!

I would like to see a more area specific guide to esp. certain animals that are lower in number. For instance I am interested in catching grey fox. I am having alot of trouble locating this animal as it isn't just everywhere in Kansas. A sections guide would help improve harvest and studies, that show areas of denser populations, and areas of lighter populations so sportsmen would know more where to look for them at even if it isn't pinpointing them, but gives a good general area.

I would say furbearer management in kansas is good. It seems there are good populations of about everything in the area I live in. I feel conibear traps are a good tool and should NOT be outlawed.

id like to see a market for furs. in the future i could see an increase in the number of animals and the damage they do to other species. i have had coyotes kill calves and seen where coons have damaged nests.

It really seems the coyote population is down here in central Kansas. Of the coyotes I do see it seems that a lot of them have mange.

los of bobcats in our area very few coyotes

my numbers were lower than normal because of prices for fur. I set no bobcat sets because of prices.I've seen a lot of sick and dead racoons this spring.

Seen a lot of raccoons this season. I mainly hunted and called coyotes this winter. Would love some tips on trapping and getting rid of beaver. Seem to damage all the good trees and leave the not so popular ones. Thanks

The coyote numbers in Ford County are really really down. The calling was tougher this year than it has been in the past. The majority of hides taken this year were surprisingly much better this year than last. Meade County seems strong, Clark seems moderate, but the further North you get, the thinner they are. I didn't see many bobcats this year, but still managed to take a really really nice 23lb (no less) bobcat on walk in hunting just into Hodgman County. I would like to see the furbearer season run up to the 1st of March here in KS. (For bobcat calling only, I don't trap anymore). Even more so than that, I would like to see walk in hunting extended through the first of March for calling purposes. Access is extremely limited even for gaining access for coyote calling. Thank you, (name provided)

The management must be good I saw 7 bobcats while bow hunting. You would think I could call some of those rascals in

The program seems to be working just fine. In the prior season 2008-2009I hunted coyotes on a friends property in Montgomery county. My success rate was related purely to my ability to call predators: but I noted that there was no an abundance of predators, where in the past, the coyotes had been a problem to area ranchers.

There are plenty of cats and coyotes in the cloud clay and ottowa areas.

there dont seem to be as many big coon as there used to be . i ran in to a lot small coon . i enjoy coon hunting but when you only get a couple of dollars or less for one & you got to pay \$ 3.00 gal. for gas i wont hunt for to much longer !

There is a lot of competition in my area for the fur even with the low price of fur this year. However there was a good number of coons early that we saw on fall forage fields near the creeks and rivers and the coyotes were scattered through the hills and pastures in good cover. I have also seen several red fox close to and around the farm yard as well. I believe the coyote population has increased significantly here even with the constant pursuit of the hunting pressure.

threr seems to be soooooo many skunks, opossums, raccoons and armadillos in southeast kansas, i dont see how there are any quial left.

Unfortunately just did not have the time to trap or call. What I did observe while bird hunting, it appears the coyote population is good and quality of the animals is much better (less mange). Will look forward to the 2010-2011 season.

Land Access

Special year-round Walk In program land for coyotes would be nice.

Hunting access is still the biggest problem for hunters. Lack of places to even sight in a rifle is a problem for most. Kansas has done a good job with the walkin hunting program but access ends too early in the year, thus leaving nowhere for many to hunt as well.

I would like to see the walk in hunting ground stay open so that we as fur hunters could hunt that ground until the end of the bobcat season. would also like to be able to hunt coyotes at night as they have become a lot more nocturnal due to added hunting pressure in the last 5-10 years.

I said this in the other survey I filled out but I wish that the walk in hunting didn't shut down with bird season. Other than that I think you guys do a great job. Thanks

I wish more people would trap so we could get the bird populations back up like they were a few years ago. Trapping is probably the easiest sport to gain permission from land owners for. It is a losing battle profit wise, but it is still rewarding to know that I am helping a little by taking a few predators out of the mix. I wish there was a way more kids could get into trapping with out spending a small fortune.

Love the WIHA program, will try to hunt next year, didn't have time this year.

more and larger public hunting areas

need to find more opportunity or property to let you run and trap

We must have some quality state hunting grounds for running dogs. The "outfitters" are driving this sport to extinction.

We need more land closer to the Metro area

WELL DEER SEASON SURE LIMIT OUR COON HUNTING WITH DOGS.

well, only have couple places to run my walker hounds. Both places are private property. I was going to try and hunt some walk in hunting areas, but never got a chance. My grandson sure enjoyed coon hunting. If I win the drawing, I hope it's the nitelite jacket, I will give it to my Grandson. If I win the other items, such as traps or the predator caller, please draw another persons name.

would like to see a program where trappers can trap wiha type land for a week or two when bird hunters are not running their dogs, to help control predation on upland birds and waterfowl.

Enforcement

I think that there should be more game wardens out patrolling and checking for written permission and checking someone for stolen gear because i had several traps stolen and i was the only one on the property with written permission.

Seems like there is a tremendous amount of snares set out in Requiblic Co. and that can be encountered "still set" after season ends. I doubt anyone ever checks this out.

I think the state is doing a good job as far as management. I do think more should be done as far as the law enforcement aspect. My son and I had to leave Osage state fishing lake while hunting rabbits. The reason we left was there were two men hunting with scoped rifles. I think more time and effort should be spent in the smaller state hunting area. This would help cut down on law violations and make it safer to take our kids to these areas. Overall your doing a good job.

Have wardens in testify numbers of pickups running animals a week before rifle season for deer.

General Comments

a hunting or furbearer annual license would be a good drawing prize for completing the survey

A live coon is worth more than a dead one. ie:I prefer to leave them to run again.

All is well for me. Thanks

All trapping was done on 90 acres we own all animals taken was for control, especially racoons.

I have no comments on management, the price of furs will dictate how much trapping is done.

I have no complaints with the trapping program that Kansas has. Very easy to obtain a license and very easy to get started. Now only if I had more time to trap!

No comment, nothing to add, none, etc (35 responses of this nature)

Over-all I was pleased with the trapping season. I did not trap as hard as I normally do because fur prices were so low.

Really enjoy our now annual trip to Kansas to trap bobcats. I have nothing but respect for the job that Kansas is doing in managing wildlife, and opportunities for sportsmen to enjoy the outdoors. Thanks for all your hard work.

thank you

Thank you for your efforts!

Thanks for letting out of state trappers enjoy your state. This was my fourth year to trap in Kansas. I love it.

Thanks for the opportunity to hunt and trap in Kansas.

Call predators using hand calls only! Good year. Thanks

Caught an armadillo in a #220 conibear accidentally

Change turkey tags to 1 for 3 and charge 5\$ more. Open Turkey to small caliber rifle. .17 or .22. last season was horrible for trapping, too many frigid days, no money for pelts, fuel cost too high.

doing a wonderful job

Don't change anything because of this year. Prices were no good and I only did it for enjoyment and to help somebody.

DI call Raccoon and coyotes. Need more information on these subjects Calling coons in den trees calling coyotes with callers, etc. Thanks

did not hunt was deployed out of the country

due to the amount of percipitation we have had, I was unable to trap for beaver. I would have liked to remove some from the creek. They are doing a lot of damage

Due to the dismal fur market for this year my trapping efforts were minimal. All furbearers taken by me this year was mainly for predator control around my farm.

Enjoyed getting out in the field...

Even though I didn't trap this year but plan to next year, I don't trap during firearms deer season. Its just to dangerous to be in the brush while deer hunters are out. I would suggest that if someone wants to harvest a doe allow them to do so during the December season and stop the January season. Its hard to get a trap line set up then stop and then start again.

didn't participate due to injury, weather/didn't have much time, etc. (6 responses of this nature)

First year trapping in Kansas. Trapped in Missouri when I lived there back in the late 80's. Haven't trapped since then. I have a ten year old grandson that tagged along, and this is the reason I'm getting back into trapping. This year was more-or-less a relearning year. Didn't do so good, he will learn it is good just to be out there not necessarily taking game. We can't wait for next year.

Found out I didn't have the time to run traps like I normally do, due to a change in duty station. Appreciate the opportunity to trap when I did.

fur prices were nothing this year, thanks to our president. Since prices were nothing and fur buyers were not buying, I did not even finish the season. Something needs to be done to make this an enjoyable time for a father and sons to do something like this in the outdoors.

Fur prices were so low I really didn't try calling much this year. Gas price to high. My economy way down.

Fur prices were to low for me to consider a trap line. Bobcat was an item of intrest however becaus of work schedule was unable to pursue a trap line for them.

furbearer management is good.

Good idea for the survey - I just didn't have time this year to go out

Good job KDWP, good program, etc. (5 responses of this nature)

had trouble finding a furbearer buyer.

Help get the price of furs up and then I would go back to trapping coons as there are way to many. I hate to kill them just to control them. Thanks Don.

Help get the prices up.

i am 57 years old and have trapped since i was a kid. this was one of my worst years for production in a long time, strictly because of the weather. i see no reason to mess with any of the laws or seasons . i like them the way they are, and i think they are being managed well. thank you

i am not a very good trapper, but i sure do have fun trying.

I am satisfied with the way furbearer management is in Kansas.

I appreciate KDWP's support of furbearer harvest and management. I hope the you will continue to be supportive of Kansas furharvester.

I call racoon and coyotes. need more information on these subjects. calling coons in den trees calling coyotes with callers thanks

I did not trap in finney or kearney counties because fish&game employees have been trapping alot in these areas along the river and I fear that they and (name withheld) would overly harras me (additional comment withheld)

I didn't get to do much hunting due to severe winter weather in my area this year.

I didn't hunt for furbearers any days soloely for that purpose, I did carry a rifle during all hunting days in the field in case I seen something. Thank you!

i dont think you should have to pay for a doe tag in your a resident especially if your harvesting for meat

I enjoy trapping but the prices are down and gas is high

I feel more people would do this if there were more money offered for the pelts. Its really not worth putting all that time in on such little money.

I get a fur harvest license just in case I see a huge Bobcat to have mounted, I do not trap at all. I did see four Bobcats this year during Deer season.

I get furbearer license only to be legal when I kill pesky possum other furbearing animals around my property.

I had a great season, just wish I had more time!

I lost a fine hound that was caught in a leg trap, March 13th. He spent 8 long days and nights suffering and had nearly chewed his leg off, he died the first night at the vets.

I purchase a furbearer tag #1 to support KDWP and its programs, and #2 that if by chance while hunting other game I can legally take a fur if the opportunity arises.... Thank You! Now for the honesty I should win all three grand prizes!!!!!!!!!!!! RIGHT?????????

I purchase a furharvester every year just in case a Bobcat crosses my path while Deer hunting!! No luck yet!!

i really don't. Had such a busy year, I didn't have time to hunt furbearers

I think it would have been a great coon season if the weather had cooperated.

I think Kansas is a great place to hunt & trap. You can start hunting in Sep. for doves clear through May for turkey. Plus you can hunt Praire Dogs all summer & trap Nov. - Feb. GOOD JOB THANKS, Lee

I think they need to put a very limited season on jackrabbits.

i think you are doing a good job. but i would like to know if im the only one in your "RANDOM POOL" i have received this for the past several yrs in a row !!!! thanks

I think you're doing fine.

I trapped around my chicken coop because I had a problem with predation on my flock. My neighbor shot coyotes. I think my major predators were opossums and coyotes. My losses were approximately 35 chickens but they are free ranging.

I trapped with a partner also from Pa.while in Kansas.We caught 13 Bobcats between the two of us. (additional comment withheld)

I usually buy a furharvester tag in the chance that I get a shot at a bobcat during season.

I was hurt and unable to trap after three days.

I was unable to trap the full season 2009-10. Normally I harvest 30-40 racoon 4-6 Bobcat 2-4 badger 1-6 coyote 1-10 muskrat 1-12 opossum 1-12 skunk 1-6 mink 1-10 beaver. Would like to see more programs to get youth involved by KDWP. Thanks

I wish I would have had the time and money to have gone out more!

I would have liked to got out there more but the weather was just to bad. I usually trap coons, beaver, and muskrat. And i hunt alot of coyotes but, but the weather held me back.

I would normally have trapped more but had other obligations and the weather didn't cooperate with my schedule. I am stating this to explain my not taking advantage of the wildlife this year. We are blessed here in Kansas, both for the native wildlife and KDWP. Thank you!

Include a catagory for (other) on your survey.

include more instruction/information on furbearer activity in basic hunter safety course. Traps too often are disturbed by hunters when we should be sharing the bounty.

It has been a "just in case" tag, in the event something special is encountered while hunting other game.

It was a very bad year for trapping cause of the weather

It would be fun to be able to take a turkey while calling coyotes. Turkey numbers are really up.

Ive noticed that there are alot of goose eggs in highly doungerous places like "on the ground, were pedators can access them very easly". I suggest more goose nest's that doents really have to do with furbears, but ive been noticing this alot in the past month.

just did not do much trapping because of fuel prices and fur prices

Kansas is already perfect. That is why I travel there to trap.

Kansas is doing a good job. I have trapped since I was 10 years old. That makes 63 years of Kansas trapping. So I think I know what I'm taliking about Keep up the good work you are doing.

Keep up the good work, hope to see more bobcats in rawlins county in the future. Thanks!!

keep up the good work.

more classes for our youth such as furhavesting

More people need to do it.

are you going to mail the Sterlings to me or do I need to come pick them up?

No offense intended but these questions are terrible- unless i am the odd man out - it might be a good idea to ask someone to participate before the season- many traps and sets can and do target many animals at the same time- another taxpayer waste of \$ with no thought whatsoever involved

Not at kdwp but fur prices are not good and not really any reason to keep taking animals. Other than just trying to control pop.

Non-Resident license is to high!--Will not purchase or hunt them next year, if that remains and not lowered a great deal! To much hassle and not enough game nor places to hunt that game!

Please don't give into this administrations way of doing things. They won't try and stop trapping because that is to hard to do. They will tax traps, snares everything you need to trap with to a point it is not affordable to trap. Trapping is a big part of the kansas heritage and you take that away, and you will be loosing a lot of Funds that come into Kansas.

price is to low!!!!!!!!!!

Price was so bad, did not go.

Prices were so low that even though I planned on trapping I did not. Only tarpped muskrat and beaver because they are destructive and requested by a farmer. Hope the prices come back!

seems ok I haven't been trapping too long.

Tag prices are too high.

The KDWP does a great job in providing resources to hunters to facilitate good hunting programs. When I talk to hunters from other states, it seems they want to come to Kansas due to the countless opportunities to hunt the various species we have available for harvest. My biggest reason for being a furbearer harvester is that we occasionally get a situation on our farm that requires the management and / or harvest of certain furbearers, namely coyote, skunk, opossum and beaver. The only suggestion I would make doesn't necessarily relate to furbearers but concerns the printed permit and carcass tag forms that are purchased online. Would it be possible to allow these documents to be stored in a vehicle? I carry my store purchased license on my person as well as any permits but it seems that the printed forms are always getting ruined from being exposed to weather. I would appreciate the possibility of keeping the printed forms on the dashboard in plain and proper view just so I wouldn't have to worry so much about them becoming illegible as quickly once they are put on a harvested animal. Thank you for this opportunity.

The reason we did not hunt much is because the hides were not worth anything hardly. Couldn't find a hide buyer anyways around here. We have coondogs that never were off the chain this last hunting season. I'll probably be getting rid of my dogs, they cost too much to feed for nothing. They are good dogs too, just with the gas as much as it is, and the dog food, the price of hides and the economy the way it is, they take the fun out of it for us hunters and dogs.

The weather was nasty & the fur could not be sold in our area. Maybe this year will be better. Please mail the results to me of the survey.

There was too much snow to trap this year.

This comment is not about furbearer season, but a comment I feel strongly about. I think the January deer season should be discontinued, because too many bucks have lost their racks and get shot as doe's. If the purpose of the season is to harvest doe's then have the season so bucks don't get shot in place of doe's.

This was my 2nd year trapping and I still have a lot to learn. I enjoy hunting fishing and trapping and will pass it on to my children someday.

This was my first year so I am still learning...

This was the one of the few years that I did not trap or go with someone with dogs. I plan to do both in the coming season. thanks Troy

Too much snow this year prevented me from trapping

Unfortunately, aside from deer hunting and bird hunting, I don't do much more so I'm read up on it.

Used box traps primarily, had 12 leg holds set for about 2 weeks.

usually do some coyote hunting but not this year!

very happy/satisfied with current system (3 responses of this nature)

We usually trap coons, but we didn't have time this year

what are plans for the mountain lions if they become more populated?

Where can I see the results of this survey?

would have hunted and trapped most everyday had furs been worth much

Would like to be able to get my Furharvester's Certificate # printed on my KS Lifetime Hunting Card.

You could probably count the 15 days I deer hunted as furbearer days to I would not pass up a bobcat or Coyote while deer hunting. Although I had pictures of both coming by my stands they didn't while I was there. But weather bow hunting or gun hunting in the evenings heard coyotes howl in multiple directions every night. But they really seemed to stay out of site during daylight hours. They ate one of my January deer I had to leave over night and a 300 pound calf of my dad's so they are out there. Have a good one (name provided)

You sell a trophy bobcat to Nonres. for 10% of the nonres furharvest permit. why not sell me a trophy res. bobcat for 10%? Sell it to all res deer hunters that want it. you would make a lot more money on that than the few nonres.

You should have the most liberal of season at the lowest cost. I know that there may be treaty restrictions, but there are no shortages of fur bearers. Most are a pest.

Your doing a good job!