



# Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks Furharvester Activity Summary, 2020-21



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**Licenses:** A total of 6217 adult and 133 junior resident furharvesting licenses were sold in 2020. This is a 7% increase from 2019, and a 1% decrease in license sales from the 5-year average.

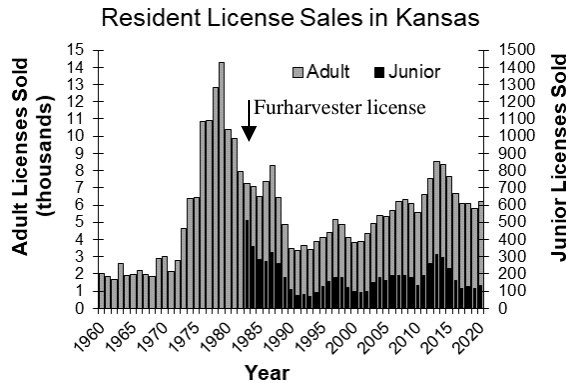


Figure 1. Resident furharvester license sales in KS, 1960-2020.

Unlimited nonresident furharvester licenses have been available in Kansas since 1983. In 2020, 150 were sold. This is up 48 from last season, and surpasses the previous high of 118 in 2014. Nonresidents accounted for 2.3% of all furharvester license sales.

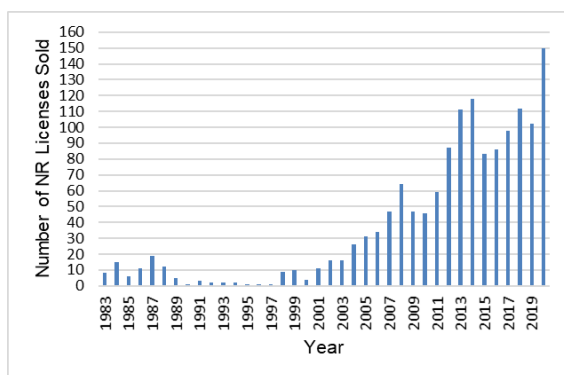


Figure 2. Nonresident furharvester license sales in Kansas, 1983-2020.

**Seasons:** Historically, the raccoon has been the most important furbearer species in Kansas in terms of total harvest and pelt value (see Fig 5), and season dates are set to roughly correspond with the time when raccoons are prime (Figure 3). In addition to ensuring the different species are conserved, emphasis is

placed on having season open for all species at the same time – so a bobcat taken incidentally by a raccoon trapper in November can be kept, and a raccoon taken incidentally by a bobcat trapper in February can be kept. Last season, an estimated 148,974 user days were spent hunting and trapping furbearers in Kansas.

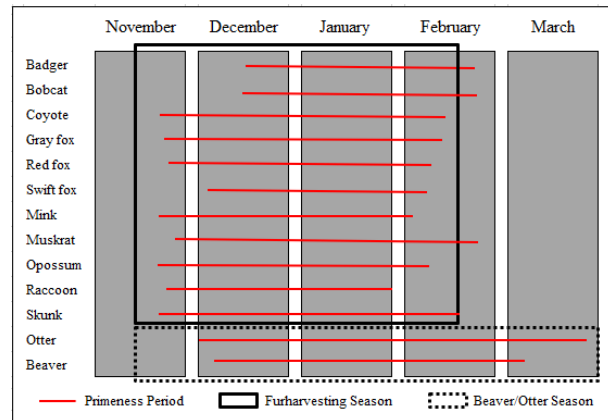


Figure 3. Pelt primeness dates for Kansas furbearers as indicated by Kansas furdealers.

**Harvest and Furdealer Purchases:** Total harvest and the number of furbearers purchased by Kansas furdealers are provided in Table 1. Total harvest was down 9% from last season. Coyote was the strong point of the fur market again this season. Their harvest declined by 5%, but furharvester harvest again exceeded 60,000 for just the second time ever. Beaver harvest increased by 23%, probably reflecting the increase in castor prices to all-time highs of \$70 or more per pound. Raccoon harvest declined by 19% and fell below 40,000 again for the 4<sup>th</sup> time in the last 5 years. In 5 years prior to that, harvest had averaged over 97,000. Anecdotally, raccoon damage incidents seem to have increased in recent years, and the need for additional harvest from a management perspective appears high.

**Pelt Values:** Kansas furdealers purchased an estimated \$271,555 worth of pelts from furbearers harvested in Kansas in 2020-21,

which was a 25% decrease from last season. (Figure 4). According to the annual Furdealer Pelt Survey, pelt values decreased for 7 of 13 species compared to last season (Table 2) and remain well below longer term averages. Notably, coyote pelt values decreased by 34%. Some of the larger fluctuations both up and down are the result of pelt values being so low that changes of even a small amount represent in a large percentage of the actual pelt value.

**Table 1. Furbearer Harvest and Furdealer Purchases of Kansas Furbearers, 2020-21.**

Species	Total Harvest**	Total Purchases***	% Change from previous season**
Badger	2328	224	44%
Beaver	6944	884	23%
Bobcat*	2454	970	-16%
Coyote	60,043	13,748	-5%
Gray Fox	7	2	-42%
Red Fox	649	66	14%
Swift Fox*	144	16	-3%
Mink	307	4	687%
Muskrat	5039	715	41%
Opossum	12,611	357	-19%
Otter*	179	53	0%
Raccoon	39,758	5060	-20%
Skunk	5735	380	-12%

\*From pelt tagging records rather than Furbearer Harvest Survey  
 \*\*From annual Furbearer Harvest Survey  
 \*\*\*From furdealer record books

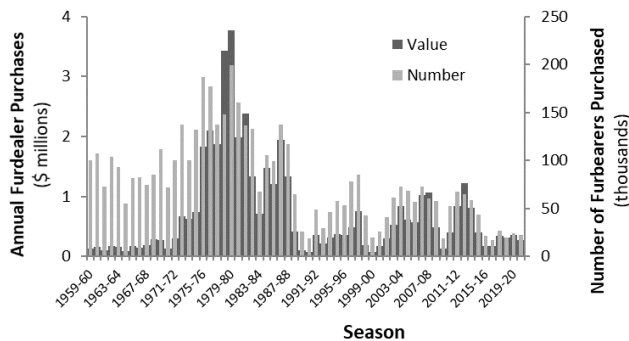


Figure 4. Value and number of furbearers harvested in Kansas & purchased by Kansas furdealers, 1959-2020.

Coyotes largely carried the fur market again this year. They accounted for 81% of the total value of furbearer pelts sold to Kansas furdealers this season (Figure 5), which is the second highest percent ever accounted for by a single species. (Coyote was 82% last season.) While the coyote market has been good, this is

species being poor to very poor. With so much riding on coyote values right now, the decline in their value this season is a troubling development. For a historical perspective on coyote, Fig 6 shows their long-term harvest and pelt price in Kansas.

**Table 2. Pelt Values of Kansas Furbearers, 2020-21**

Species	Average Pelt Price*	Average KFHA auction pelt price**	% Change from previous season*
Badger	\$6.15	-	-22%
Beaver	\$6.00	\$4.66	1%
Bobcat	\$29.83	\$42.77	-13%
Coyote	\$16.01	\$24.83	-34%
Gray Fox	\$7.00	-	-7%
Red Fox	\$6.00	\$8.73	-17%
Swift Fox	\$9.27	-	209%
Mink	\$3.75	-	-29%
Muskrat	\$2.11	\$3.07	14%
Opossum	\$0.61	\$0.83	32%
Otter	\$14.84	-	10%
Raccoon	\$2.29	\$2.56	-24%
Striped Skunk	\$3.01	\$3.53	44%

\*From annual Furdealer Pelt Price and Primeness Survey  
 \*\*From Kansas Fur Harvester Assoc (KFHA) auction

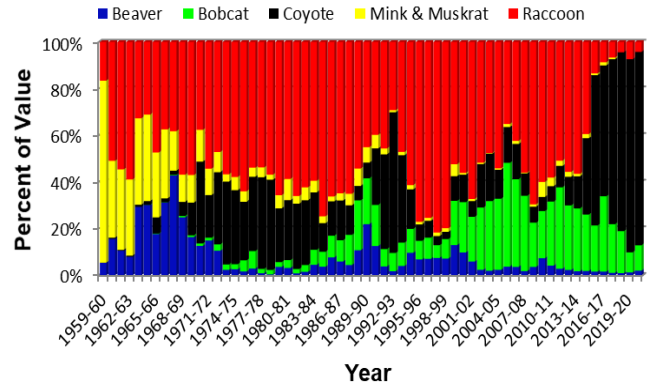


Figure 5. Relative cumulative value of select furbearers purchased by Kansas furdealers, 1959-2020.

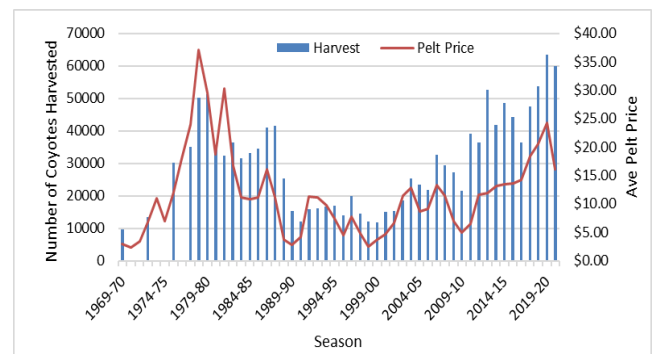


Figure 6. Annual coyote harvest and average pelt price