



Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks Furharvester Activity Summary, 2005-06



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Licenses: A total of 5314 adult and 159 junior resident furharvesting licenses were sold in 2005. While this is a slight decrease from the previous season's sales, it represents a 19% increase in resident license sales over the five-year average.

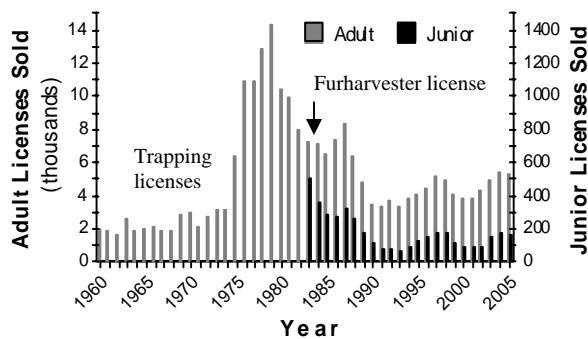


Figure 1. Resident furharvester license sales in KS, 1960-2005.

Nonresident furharvester licenses have been available in Kansas since 1983. Thirty-one were sold in 2005. Demand for these licenses is limited, but there is nonresident interest in Kansas' swift fox and especially bobcat populations.

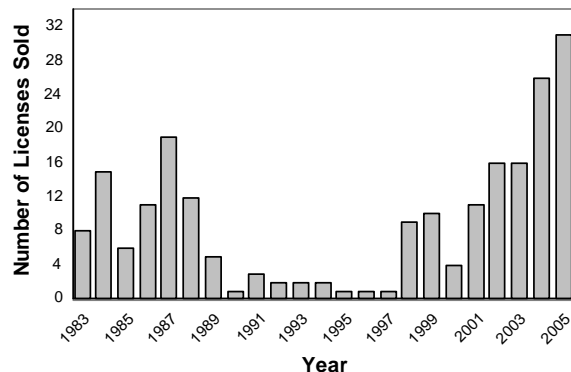


Figure 2. Nonresident furharvester license sales in Kansas, 1983-2005.

Seasons: Furbearer hunting and trapping seasons open statewide the Wednesday following the second Saturday in November. Badger, bobcat, gray fox, swift fox, opossum,

raccoon, striped skunk and weasel may be hunted or trapped, and mink and muskrat may be trapped - through February 15. Beaver may only be trapped, and their season runs through March 31. Over 100,000 user days are spent annually hunting and trapping furbearers.

Harvest and Furdealer Purchases:

Trends in harvest and furdealer purchases were mixed in 2005 relative to previous seasons. Of particular importance, since harvest of other species is often reflective of raccoon harvest effort, raccoon harvest decreased by almost 18,000 and furdealer purchases of raccoon decreased by 27%. However, the bobcat harvest continues to increase, and pursuit of this species seems to have offset the normal decline in harvest activities usually associated with falling raccoon prices. Muskrat and beaver harvest and sales are also on the increase, reflecting a strengthening pelt market for these species.

Table 1. Furbearer Harvest and Furdealer Purchases of Kansas Furbearers, 2005-06.

Species	Total Harvest**	Total Purchases***	% Change in purchases from previous year
Badger	1,312	617	-15.1%
Beaver	7,186	2,255	16.5%
Bobcat	6021*	4,226	14.5%
Coyote	21,861	9,244	13.5%
Grey Fox	89	28	33.3%
Red Fox	459	281	-2.4%
Swift Fox	58*	33	-53.5%
Mink	206	77	-34.7%
Muskrat	5,733	2,320	41.1%
Opossum	38,909	3,828	-39.5%
Raccoon	66,458	32,422	-27.0%
Skunk	12,730	1,425	11.4%

*From pelt tagging records rather than Furbearer Harvest Survey

**From annual Furbearer Harvest Survey

***From furdealer record books

Pelt Values: Furbearer pelt values showed an increasing trend for most species in 2005-06. Increases for short-haired furbearer pelts, particularly muskrat, were among the most significant. Bobcat pelt values also remained strong, and likely resulted in an important incentive to get furharvesters into the field this season. For the second consecutive year, raccoon pelt values declined by over 15%, and averaged over \$3 less per pelt than they had just two years ago.

Table 2. Pelt Values of Kansas Furbearers, 2005-06

Species	Average Pelt Price*	Average KFHA Auction Pelt Price **	% Change from previous season*
Badger	\$11.55	\$9.25	+14.4
Beaver	\$9.06	\$11.53	+25.5
Bobcat	\$57.63	\$70.10	+16.8
Coyote	\$9.09	\$13.47	-0.4
Gray Fox	\$13.95	\$18.58	-23.6
Red Fox	\$12.99	\$18.27	-5.5
Swift Fox	\$10.00	n/a	+31.6
Mink	\$11.58	\$17.94	+21.9
Muskrat	\$2.73	\$3.90	+84.5
Opossum	\$0.62	\$0.57	+8.8
Raccoon	\$5.93	\$7.73	-18.5
Striped Skunk	\$2.62	\$2.60	+28.4

*From annual Furdealer Pelt Price and Primeness Survey.

**From Kansas Fur Harvesters Assoc. Auctions (Dec 17, 2005; Jan 21 & Feb 18, 2006).

Kansas furdealers purchased an estimated \$565,000 of pelts from furbearers harvested in Kansas in 2005-06. (This estimate does not include the value of pelts harvested in Kansas but sold out-of-state, kept for personal use, or discarded.) The bobcat, for the first time ever, was the most important species in terms of total pelt value. This was only the second time since 1960 that the raccoon was not the most important species (coyote surpassed raccoon in 1992). The bobcat accounted for about 43% (\$244,000) of the total value of pelts harvested in Kansas, while raccoon accounted for another

34% (\$192,000). Coyote (15%; \$84,000) and beaver (4%; \$20,000) were the only other species that accounted for more than 2% of the total value of pelts. As indicated in figure 3, this is in contrast with a predominantly beaver/mink/muskrat market of the pre-1970's.

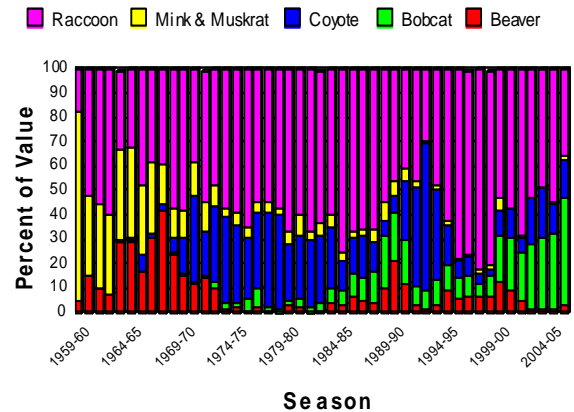


Figure 3. Relative cumulative value of select furbearers purchased by Kansas furdealers, 1959-2005.

Total value and harvest figures have declined for each of the past two seasons, but participation, harvest, and pelt values have rebounded from the lows of the early and late 90's. Total value of harvested furbearers from 2005-06 was the 4th highest in the last 18 years, and the number of furbearers harvested was the 8th highest during that time period.

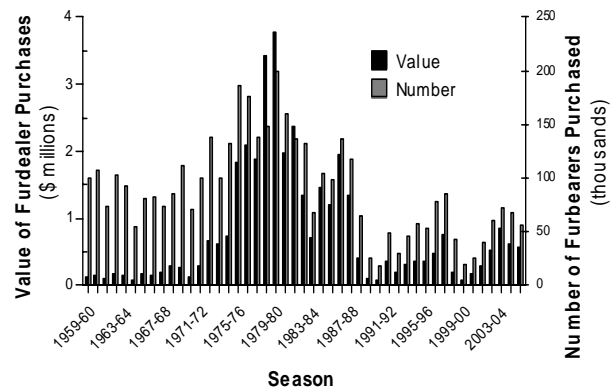


Figure 4. Number and value of furbearers purchased by Kansas furdealers, 1959-2005.