



# Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks Furharvester Activity Summary, 2009-10



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**Licenses:** A total of 6069 adult and 177 junior resident furharvesting licenses were sold in 2009. This is a 5% decrease in license sales from last season, but is just the 3<sup>rd</sup> time in the last 21 years that over 6,000 licenses were sold.

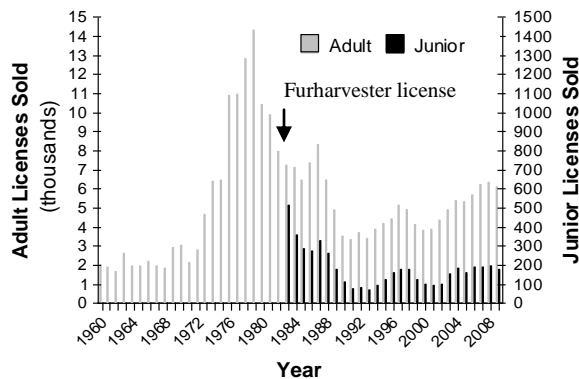


Figure 1. Resident furharvester license sales in KS, 1960-2009.

Nonresident furharvester licenses have been available in Kansas since 1983. Forty-seven were sold in 2009. This is down from 64 in 2008, and is the first time in nine years that nonresident license sales have declined from the previous year's sales.

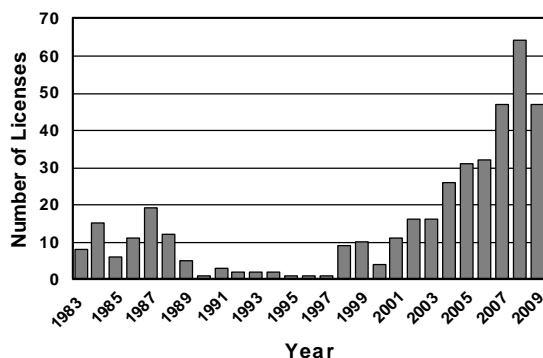


Figure 2. Nonresident furharvester license sales in Kansas, 1983-2009.

**Seasons:** Furbearer hunting and trapping seasons open statewide the Wednesday following the second Saturday in November. The season ends February 15th for badger,

bobcat, red fox, gray fox, swift fox, mink, muskrat, opossum, raccoon, striped skunk and weasel. Beaver may only be trapped, and their season runs through March 31.

Historically, the raccoon has been the most important furbearer species in Kansas in terms of total harvest and pelt value, 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. Over 100,000 user days are spent annually hunting and trapping furbearers in Kansas.

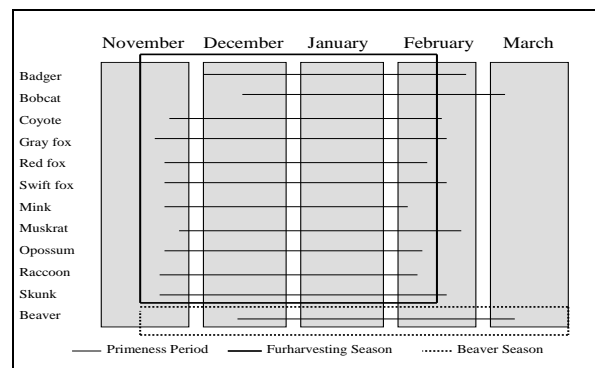


Figure 3. Pelt primeness dates for Kansas furbearers as indicated by Kansas furdealers.

### **Harvest and Furdealer Purchases:**

Total harvest and the number of furbearers purchased by furdealers is provided in Table 1. Harvest decreased from 20-60% for most species in 2009 from the previous season. Only mink and muskrat held steady from last season, with plus and minus 1% changes in harvest, respectively. Muskrat experienced a mid to late season surge in

pelt prices, and mink harvest, which is largely dependent upon muskrat trapping efforts, responded accordingly as well.

**Table 1. Furbearer Harvest and Furdealer Purchases of Kansas Furbearers, 2009-10.**

Species	Total Harvest**	Total Purchases***	% Change in harvest from previous year
Badger	1,109	166	-32%
Beaver	4,572	1,094	-33%
Bobcat	1,944	670	-52%
Coyote	21,554	1,598	-20%
Grey Fox	67	6	-20%
Red Fox	426	73	-40%
Swift Fox	39	0	-60%
Mink	179	36	1%
Muskrat	5,681	1,895	-1%
Opossum	18,763	1,522	-59%
Raccoon	41,355	11,014	-51%
Skunk	7,384	392	-56%

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

**Table 2. Pelt Values of Kansas Furbearers, 2009-10**

Species	Average Pelt Price*	Average KFHA Auction Pelt Price **	% Change from previous season*
Badger	\$8.78	\$8.58	-11%
Beaver	\$8.20	\$11.45	-13%
Bobcat	\$36.90	\$51.22	-10%
Coyote	\$4.64	\$9.90	-33%
Gray Fox	\$9.33	-	-28%
Red Fox	\$8.21	-	-30%
Swift Fox	\$8.00	-	-11%
Mink	\$9.25	\$12.00	5%
Muskrat	\$3.98	\$7.00	57%
Opossum	\$0.71	\$0.76	-24%
Raccoon	\$6.66	\$9.48	-16%
Striped Skunk	\$1.34	\$1.43	-45%

\*From annual Furdealer Pelt Price and Primeness Survey.  
 \*\*From Kansas Fur Harvesters Assoc. Auction (Feb 19, 2010).

**Pelt Values:** Furbearer pelt values decreased for every species in 2009-10 except muskrat and mink. Muskrat increased by almost a

dollar and half per pelt, and mink increased by almost 50 cents. The most notable decline in pelt values occurred with coyote, which had been our third most valuable furbearer in recent years. Coyotes decreased by \$2.31 per pelt, or 33% from their value the previous year. This is the second consecutive year pelt prices have declined for most furbearer species.

Down from over a million dollars just two year agos, Kansas furdealers purchased an estimated \$126,000 worth of pelts from furbearers harvested in Kansas in 2009-10. (This estimate does not include the value of pelts harvested in Kansas but sold out-of-state, kept for personal use, or discarded.) Raccoon remains by far the most important furbearer in terms of total pelt value, accounting for about 58% (\$73,000) of the total value of pelts harvested in Kansas. Bobcat remained second most important, but declined in significance for the third straight year to 20% (\$25,000). Beaver (7%; 9,000), muskrat (6%; \$7,500) and Coyote (6%; \$7,400) were the only other species that accounted for more than 2% of the total value of pelts. As indicated in figure 4, our market today differs from a predominantly beaver/mink/muskrat market of the pre-1970's.

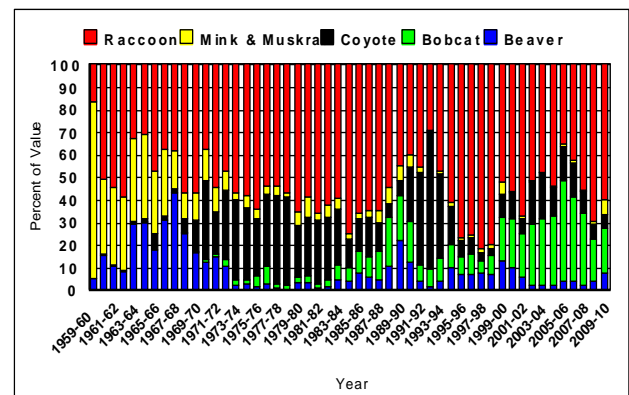


Figure 4. Relative cumulative value of select furbearers purchased by Kansas furdealers, 1959-2009.