

2017-18 Furbearer Harvest Survey

PERFORMANCE REPORT STATEWIDE WILDLIFE RESEARCH AND SURVEYS

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Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism

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2017-18 Furbearer Harvest Survey

Prepared by Matt Peek, Furbearer Biologist

The Furbearer Harvest Survey (FHS) is conducted at the end of trapping season. Most years since 2001, 60-70% of the furharvester license holders from each of nine physiographic provinces in Kansas have been surveyed. This year, we surveyed 67% from each physiographic province. Recipient names were 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. Harvest questions were the same from 1983-2008. In 2009, changes in question structure of the trapping section were made in an attempt to collect more accurate catch-per-unit-effort data (see questions 8-12 in Appendix 1).

Also beginning in 2009, the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWP) began using SurveyMonkey™ to conduct web-based surveys. Not everyone is equipped for online surveys, so a traditional paper survey option has also been made available.

A preliminary count of 6297 furharvester licenses were sold in 2017, including 6084 general resident licenses, 115 junior resident licenses, and 98 nonresident licenses. A sample of 4220 license holders (67%) was selected. The online database contained e-mails for 1868 (44%) of these individuals, but 94 (5%) had opted out of SurveyMonkey™ surveys and 86 (5%) were invalid. An initial e-mail was sent to the remaining 1688 on March 29, 2018 containing a request for participation and a link to the survey. A reminder e-mail was sent to nonrespondents on April 2.

A single mailing consisting of a 2-page, 8.5"x11" paper survey (Appendix 1) was sent out on April 12, 2018 to e-mail nonrespondents and furharvesters without a deliverable e-mail on file (n=3609). The survey directed recipients online to a survey link, but could also be completed and returned in an enclosed postage paid envelope. 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. Respondents to the paper survey were asked to provide an e-mail address for future surveys if they have one. Respondents provided 54 new and 38 updated e-mail addresses.

Information provided by furharvesters is an estimate of their harvest and activities during the season. Results from bobcat and swift fox pelt tagging have typically 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. Sixty-four percent of respondents indicated they participated in furharvesting activities during the 2017-18 season (i.e. were active). This is similar to 61% and 60% which were reported for the last two 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 159,050 user days in pursuit of furbearers, including 88,792 days trapping, 53,898 days hunting, and 16,360 days running. These figures represent a 2.0% decrease in combined user days from the previous season. Average days afield by trappers, hunters, and runners was similar to last season, changing from 34, 18 and 50 last season to 38, 19 and 48 this season, respectively. Participation in various combinations of furharvesting activities is presented in Table 2.

Harvest, participation, and activity levels for trapping, hunting and running are presented in Tables 3-5, respectively. Trappers account for the majority of harvest of most furbearer species. Coyotes are the main exception, but much of their harvest is by hunters without a furharvester license (coyotes are not a furbearer) and not estimated by this survey. The 2017 Small Game Hunter Activity Survey estimated harvest by these individuals at 58,887 coyotes. Combined with the harvest estimates from this survey, total coyote harvest in the state was 106,386. Hunters accounted for 72% of the total estimated coyote harvest (n=76,424).

Historical furbearer harvest in Kansas based on the Furbearer Harvest Survey can be found in Table 6. This year's total harvest (126,762) was up 8% from last season but still the fourth lowest since 2000. Most notably, raccoon harvest was down almost another thousand from last season and was the lowest since 1992.

At the end of each survey, furharvesters are given the opportunity to provide comments on furharvesting in Kansas. These comments can be found in Appendix 2. All comments are read by the furbearer biologist, and an effort is made to respond to direct questions. At times, common themes from this questionnaire are addressed in some broadly distributed form such as the annual regulations summary (i.e. why are bobcats tagged, why these season dates, etc.). Opposing viewpoints are commonly expressed in this section by furharvesters, and it's certainly worth noting that there is opposition and support for nearly any regulatory change the Department could ever consider. In recent years, the most common comment is a request for the Department to legalize some form of lights or night vision for hunting coyotes at night.

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	1868	180	611	32.7
Paper survey	3609 ^a	0	989	27.4
Total	4220	0	1600	38.5

^a Sent to those without e-mails and e-mail nonrespondents.

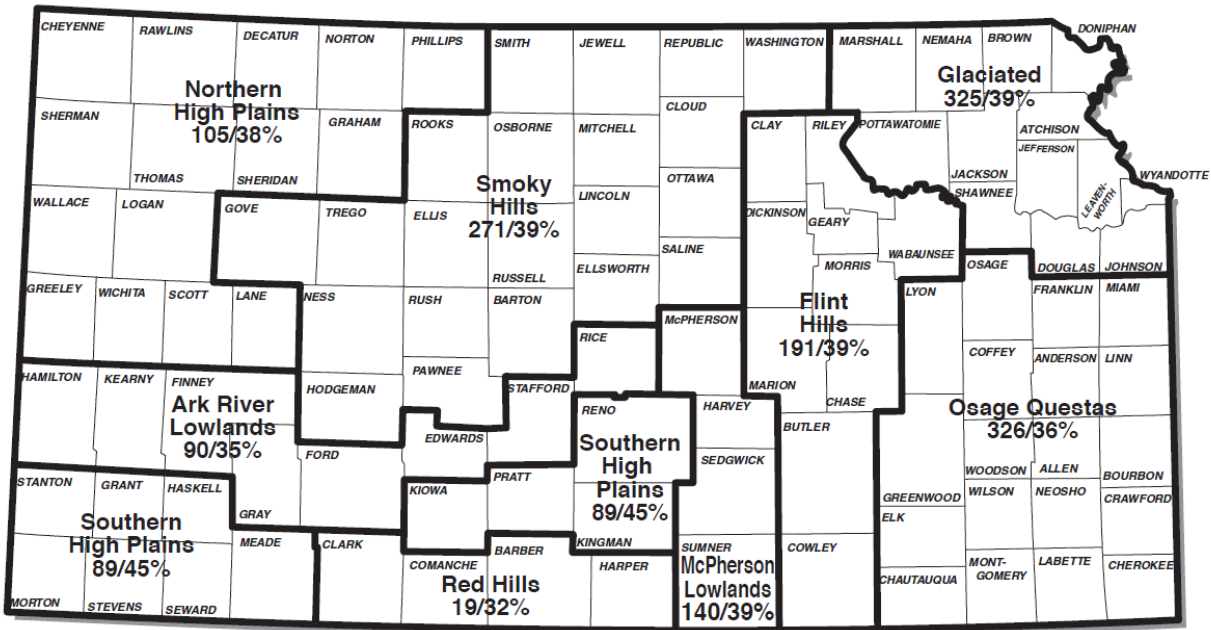


Figure 1. The number of survey respondents (number) and the response rate of furharvesters (percent) living within each physiographic province in Kansas. In addition, 44 nonresidents responded resulting in a 57% response rate for nonresidents.

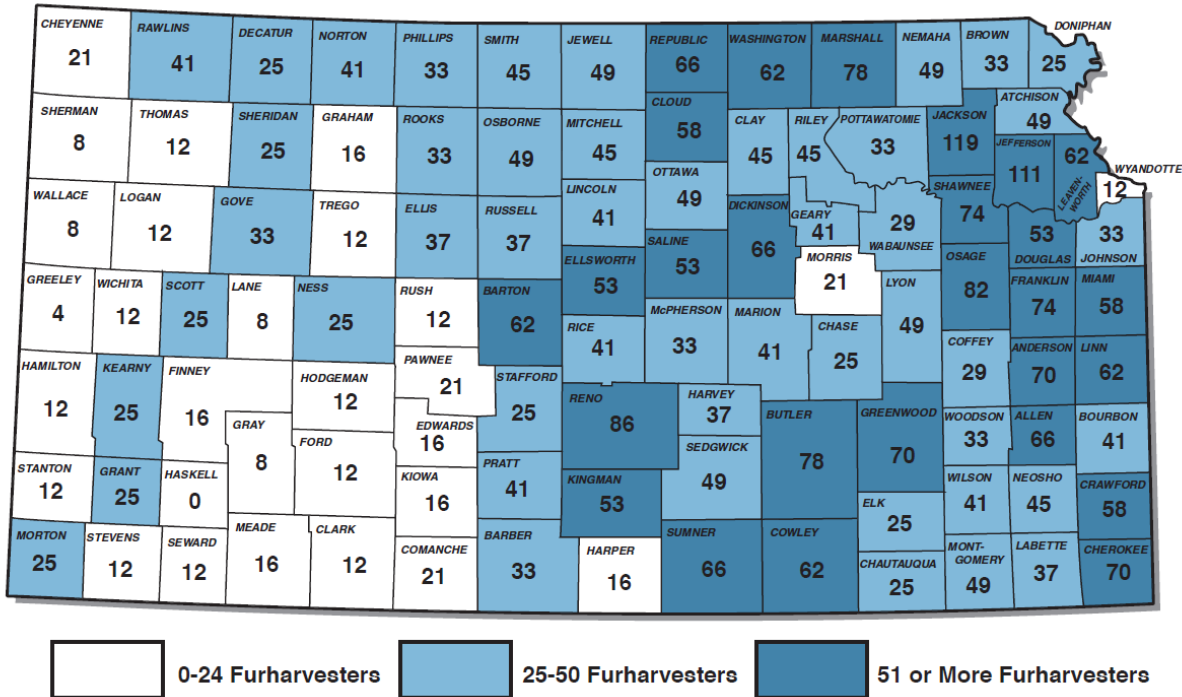


Figure 2. Estimated furharvester distribution in Kansas based on the county in which active survey respondents conducted most of their furharvesting activities.

Table 2. Estimated number and percent of 2017 furharvester license holders who participated in various furharvesting activities, during the 2017-18 season.

Activity	Number of Furharvesters	Percent of Furharvesters
Inactive	2264	36.0
Trap only	1087	17.3
Hunt only	1398	22.2
Run only	20	0.3
Trap and hunt	1177	18.7
Trap and run	16	0.3
Hunt and run	268	4.3
Trap, hunt and run	67	1.1
Total Participation		
Total trappers	2347	37.3
Total hunters	2910	46.2
Total runners	370	5.9

Table 3. Harvest, participation, and activity levels for trappers in Kansas during the 2017-18 harvest season.

Species	Survey Respondents Who Pursued (n)	Estimated Harvest	% of Trappers Who Pursued	Ave Traps/Day	Captures/100 Trap Days	Maximum Harvest	Ave Harvest/Trapper
Badger	141	1,031	24	16	4.3	15	1.9
Beaver	183	4,428	31	5	14.3	54	6.1
Bobcat	322	4,199	54	13	1.7	28	3.3
Coyote	430	29,962	72	16	4.2	354	17.7
Red Fox	71	390	12	5	4.1	8	1.4
Gray Fox	10	8	2	7	0.0	1	0.2
Swift Fox	9	138	2	9	0.8	22	2.9
Mink	25	98	4	8	1.1	5	1
Muskrat	88	5,411	15	8	24.5	365	15.6
Opossum	356	17,462	60	12	6.4	175	12.5
Otter	36	197	6	4	6.7	5	1.4
Raccoon	476	28,148	80	13	9.2	107	15
Skunk	222	5,034	37	14	3.7	80	5.8
Weasel	1	0	0	3	0.0	0	0

Table 4. Harvest, participation, and activity levels for hunters in Kansas during the 2017-18 harvest season.

Species	Survey Respondents Who Pursued (n)	Estimated Harvest	% of Hunters Who Pursued	Harvest/100 Days	Maximum Harvest	Ave Harvest/Hunter
Badger	35	91	5	13.8	2	0.66
Bobcat	310	728	42	10.1	7	0.6
Coyote	637	17,537	86	48.7	100	6.99
Red Fox	44	122	6	10.3	20	0.7
Gray Fox	19	4	3	0.2	1	0.05
Swift Fox	11	4	1	1.5	1	0.09
Opossum	55	980	7	32.4	40	4.49
Raccoon	218	10,378	29	109.8	100	12.09
Skunk	22	153	3	60.6	6	1.77

Table 5. Treering success, participation, and activity levels for furharvesters in Kansas during the 2017-18 running season.

Species	Survey Respondents Who Pursued (n)	Estimated Take*	% of Runners Who Pursued	Take/100 Days*	Maximum Take*	Ave Take/Runner*
Bobcat	5	8	6	1.667	1	0.4
Red Fox	1	0	1	0	0	0
Gray Fox	1	0	1	0	0	0
Opossum	12	350	13	33.333	20	7.42
Raccoon	87	15,262	97	128.472	400	44.57

*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	Sw ift Fox Tagging *	Sw ift Fox	Mink	Muskrat	Opossum	Otter Tagging*	Otter	Raccoon	Striped Skunk	Weasel
1969-70	311	8583		373	9758	81	193			2189	43773	10452			63004	2466	28
1970-71																	
1971-72																	
1972-73	305	5178		458	13385	102	508			1508	27828	11421			46101	3174	
1973-74																	
1974-75																	
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
2010-11	1898	9774	4809	8098	39152	43	988	43	126	371	15193	48296			97858	12755	5
2011-12	1591	9191	5918	7412	36460	54	732	113	325	210	8282	43758	127	139	101924	14060	8
2012-13	2017	9535	5926	8164	52681	90	898	246	620	225	5396	43844	128	196	121514	17553	0
2013-14	1661	8063	4990	7431	41694	51	838	239	252	154	5590	46584	158	175	117069	16101	5
2014-15	1794	7146	3044	4353	48444	18	801	151	349	235	9129	43138	169	216	93437	13022	0
2015-16	1602	6262	2319	3882	44124	55	427	75	100	226	5228	24538	115	186	51250	9994	0
2016-17	1014	3987	2563	3500	36269	0	391	35	105	100	6094	19836	132	187	39708	5929	0
2017-18	1122	4459	3900	4935	47499	12	512	93	142	98	5411	18442	167	197	38746	5187	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 rare furbearer status, furharvester recruitment, and trap ownership and use. This year’s special section inquired about fur handling and sales.

The condition in which furharvesters sold most of their furbearer pelts last season is provided in Figure 3. Respondents could only select one option. The most commonly selected option was selling on-the-carcass (unskinned). Most of the “Other” category consisted of individuals who didn’t sell any fur, so the values provided in Figure 3 below could be adjusted to only those who sold fur as 41, 28, and 31% for carcass, skinned and fully finished, respectively.

The second question of the Special Section inquired as to where furharvesters market their harvest (Figure 4). Over 50% indicated they sell at least some furs to Kansas furdealers, and almost 40% kept some furs for personal use. International auction houses such as Fur Harvesters Auction (FHA) or North American Fur Auctions (NAFA) were the third most common selection.

Furharvesters were also asked where they marketed most of the furbearers they harvested last season (Figure 5). The results of this question are similar to the previous question, with the main difference being 8% fewer furharvesters indicated they kept most of their fur for personal use as their most important marketing option. Kansas furdealers were the single most important marketing option for almost half of all furharvesters. Particularly for the over one-third of furharvesters who primarily sell their fur on-the-carcass, a dealer is one of their only options, and considering the results of these questions combined, the importance of the Kansas furdealer to the fur trade in Kansas is evident.

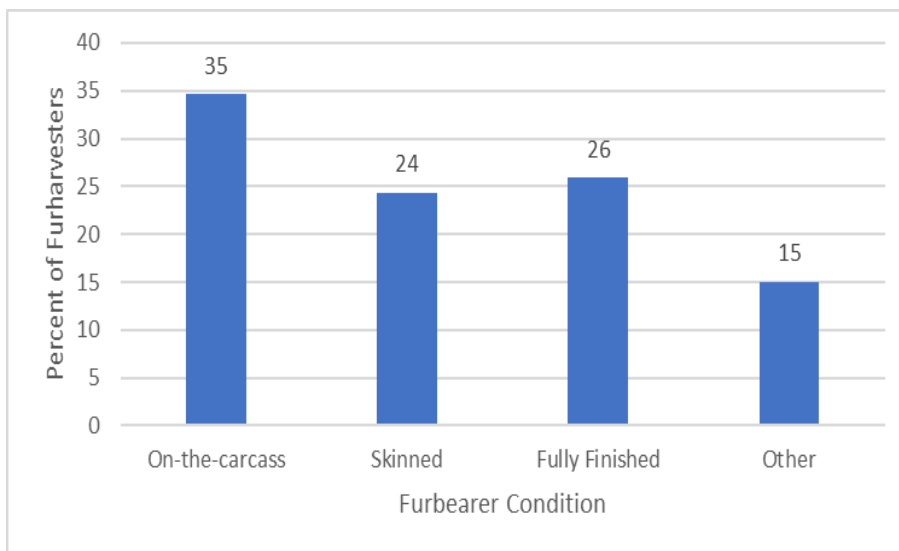


Figure 3. Condition in which furharvesters sold most of their furbearer pelts last season. Most of the “Other” category included those who didn’t take any sellable fur, gave their fur away, or had their fur tanned or taxidermied.

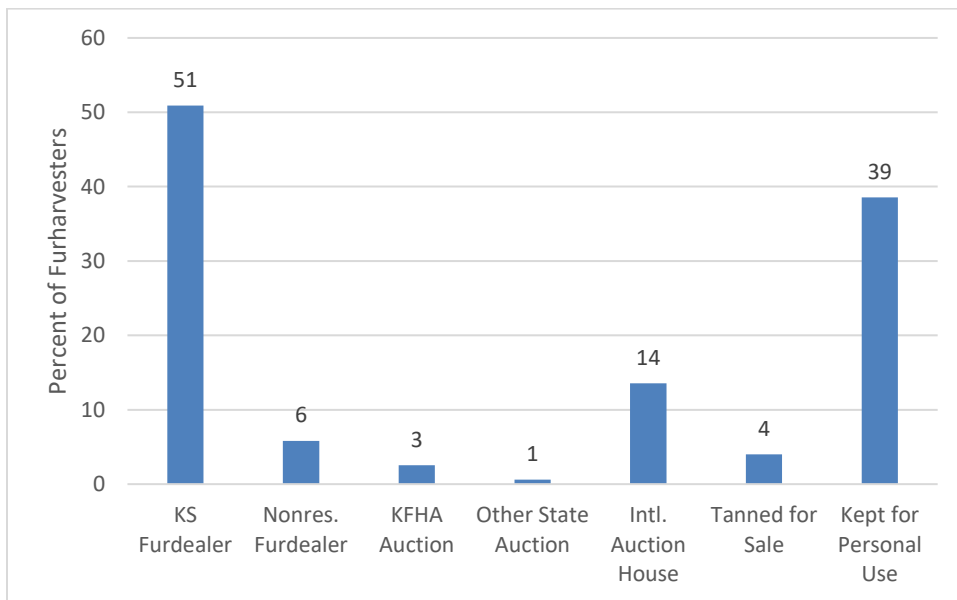


Figure 4. Methods of marketing furbearer pelts by Kansas furharvesters. (Multiple options could be selected by each furharvester.)

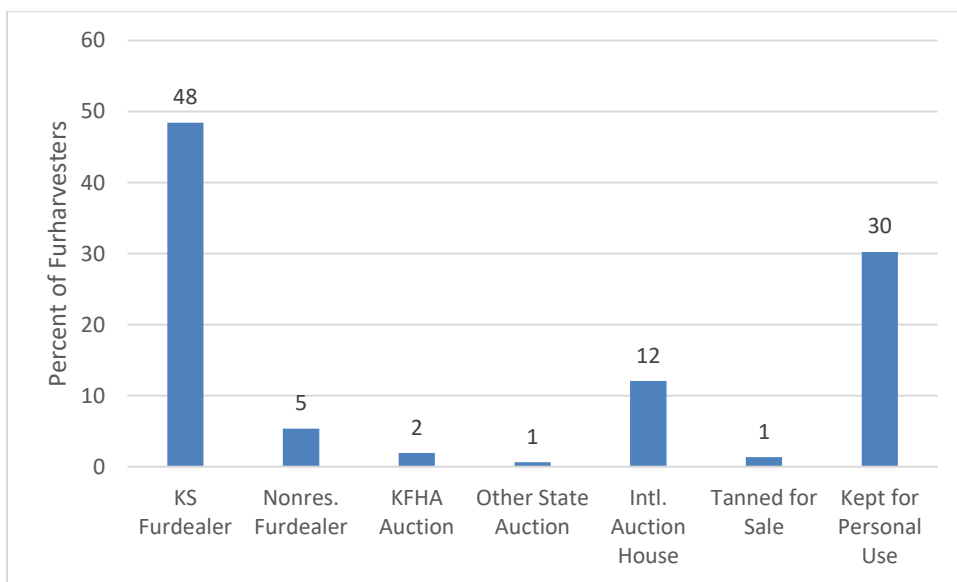


Figure 5. The single most important method of marketing furbearer pelts by Kansas furharvesters.

Appendix 1.

Paper Version of the
2017-18 Furbearer Harvest Survey

STATE OF KANSAS



DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, PARKS AND TOURISM
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1830 MERCHANT, PO BOX 1525
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GOVERNOR JEFF COLYER, M.D.
ROBIN JENNISON, SECRETARY

2017-18 Furbearer Harvest Survey

Your ID: «TXNL_CUST_ID»

Dear «CUST_NAME»
«CUST_STREET»
«CUST_CITY», «CUST_ST_CNTRY» «CUST_POSTAL_CODE»

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 2017 or 2018. This survey provides our best estimate of furharvester activity, and is used to guide furbearer management decisions in Kansas.

Please complete the survey within 7 days and return in the postage paid envelope. Or if you have internet access, we would prefer you completed this survey online at: <https://www.research.net/r/Fur17>.

Please complete the survey even if you did not furharvest this year. Thank you for your participation!

Matt Peek, KDWP furbearer biologist

Instructions:

- Estimate your harvest activities even if you can't remember the exact numbers.
- Include your harvest information only. Do not include a hunting/trapping partner's catch.

1. Did you hunt or trap furbearers during the 2017-18 season, or did you run furbearers with dogs during the running season in 2017?

Yes No (If no, skip to question 24.)

2. In which county did you do most of your furharvesting in 2017-18? _____

3. Did you **TRAP** for furbearers in Kansas during the 2017-18 season? (Questions about HUNTING & RUNNING furbearers will follow. This question is asking only if you TRAPPED.)

Yes No (If no, skip to question 13.)

4. How many of each did you harvest by **TRAPPING** in Kansas during the 2017-18 season? (Enter "0" for those you trapped for but didn't harvest.)

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

5. How many total calendar days did you TRAP furbearers or coyotes in Kansas during the 2017-18 season? *The trapping season was 93 days (Nov 15-Feb 15) for all furbearers except beaver and otter, which were 137 days (Nov 15-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 intended or 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 intended or likely to catch that species. For example, if you caught opossums in your raccoon sets, record your raccoon trap numbers for opossum also.*

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

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 OTTER?

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

- a. How many DAYS did you trap for OTTER? _____ days
b. During this time, how many OTTER TRAPS did you have set per day on average? _____ traps

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

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

- 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

11. Did you set traps specifically for MUSKRAT or MINK?
O Yes O No (If no, skip to question 12.)

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 or 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

12. Did you set traps specifically for WEASEL?
O Yes O No (If no, skip to question 13.)

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

13. Did you HUNT for furbearers or coyotes in Kansas during the 2017-18 season?
O Yes O No (If no, skip to question 17.)

14. How many of each did you harvest by HUNTING in Kansas during the 2017-18 season? (Enter "0" for those you hunted but didn't harvest.)

Badger: ____ Gray Fox: ____ Opossum: ____

Bobcat: ____ Red Fox: ____ Raccoon: ____

Coyote: ____ Swift Fox: ____ Striped Skunk: ____

15. How many total calendar days did you HUNT furbearers or coyotes in Kansas during the 2017-18 season? *The furbearer hunting season was 93 days (Nov 15-Feb 15).*

Total days: _____

16. 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

17. Did you RUN furbearers in Kansas during the 2017 running season (Mar 1-Nov 8, 2017)?
O Yes O No (If no, skip to question 21.)

18. How many of each did you "tree" during the 2017 running season in Kansas? (Enter "0" for those you hunted but didn't tree.)

Bobcat: ____ Red Fox: ____ Raccoon: ____

Gray Fox: ____ Opossum: ____

19. How many total calendar days did you RUN furbearers in Kansas during the 2017 season? *The furbearer running season was 253 days (Mar 1-Nov 8).*

Total days: _____

20. 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

Special Section – Fur handling and sales

21. How did you handle most of your furbearer pelts last season? (check one box)

- I sold most of the furbearers I harvested on the carcass (unskinned).
- I skinned most of the furbearers I harvested, but did not flesh or dry them.
- I fully finished most of the furbearers I harvested (i.e. skinned, fleshed and dried).

22. Where did you market the furbearers you harvested? (check ALL that apply.)

- I sold to a furdealer in Kansas (fur buyer).
- I sold to a furdealer at some location outside of Kansas.
- I sold at the Kansas Fur Harvesters Assoc. (KFHA) auction in Abilene.
- I sold at some other state trapper assoc. auction (MO, OK, CO, etc.).
- I shipped my fur to a major North American auction house such as NAFA or FHA.
- I have pelts tanned for sale.
- I kept my pelts for personal use.

23. Please go back up to question 22 and circle the one box where you sold MOST of the fur you harvested in 2017-18.

24. If you have an e-mail address and are willing to receive a direct link to surveys such as this in the future, should your name be selected, please include it here: _____

25. If you have any comments or suggestions on furbearer management in KS, you can provide them here:

|

Thank you for your time and interest in Kansas furharvesting.

Appendix 2.

Furharvester Comments from the
2017-18 Furbearer Harvest Survey

Comments
24 hour check should be required it's not the days of mountain men who walk to check traps
A lot of coyotes had the mange, worst I've seen it in 12 years.
Add a question for giving pelts to a trapper/harvester
Again I will add the numbers of raccoon and beaver will continue to grow along with the problems that cone along with it. We need a bounty on beaver at least if ks won't get some sort of wildlife services controlling our issues.hogs are all ks is interested in controlling which I agree with but beaver and coon problems are statewide
All CRP land should be public hunting! Open pheasant season and furbearers Dec. 1st.
All my Coyotes were caught within 1 mile of my house I don't think I even put a dent in them
All walk in hunting areas should be extended to March 31 allow more coyote calling time.
Allow muskrat and beaver season to run together till the end.
Allow night hunting for coyotes
allow night hunting for predators ,especially coyotes, with thermal, night vision and suppressors. these are valuable tools and we should be using them to manage predators. coyotes aren't going to become extinct but we could use some time saving and useful tools to help with coyote control especially.
Am tired of being randomly picked every year.
Approx 1\3 of coyotes are mangy
Being only 7 years old I am proud to fill this survey out. I love to hunt and trap just like my dad. Thank you for picking me to fill it out.
Better get more youth interest or it could be a dying sport. Extend trapping season to help ground nesting bird populations. Otherwise Im very satisfied with KDWPT seasons, limits and management for furbearers. keep up the good work.
BETTER METHOD FOR DIRECT CONTACT WITH LANDOWNERS DEALING WITH PROBLEM COYOTES
bobcat season should run later into February as the pelts prime up better
Bought Furharvester license this year in case I called in a bobcat.
Cheaper non resident tag
Could not get on website.
Could you put a season on coyotes for the reson being to many people shooting them when there fur is not prime and when there carring there unborn baby
Coyote numbers seem to be going up and the number of coyotes with mange.
Coyotes are taking over our Deer herd is suffering and our turkey population is as well. Its a terrible problem that must be addressed.
Didn't get to hunt specificy for predators only as an oportunity while bowhunting
Didn't have time to trap this year. But did try for a large bobcat we had in the area. Once it got real cold, never saw him again. Thanks
Didn't trap because of low fur prices
Do anything to promote price increase for fur to make trapping worth while.
Do away with bobcat tagging system
Dont charge as much for a license!
Encourage people to wear fur. Making trapping worth while again.
end upland bird season at the end of year
Extend Muskrat and mink season, along with beaver and otter. Start paying bounties on coyote. legalize beaver shooting.
Extend Running Season
Found it hard to find property to hunt other than WIHA land, which is available only Sept.-Jan. As a non-resident it is not cost effective.
Fur prices are down. Hunter harvest is down. Coyotes and coons are over populated. Coon disease like distemper will probably be common.
Fur prices are low, Populations of coon, skunk, and opossum have greatly increased. Trapped mostly to control populations and nuisance animals on farm.
Fur prices are so low I didn't bother skinning anything. When prices were up 3 or 4 years ago I skinned 6 coons and only got \$41 for my efforts. I do enjoy calling for predators even though I'm obviously not very good at it.
fur prices very low.
Fur was terrible this year all around but coyotes was good.
Fur was too cheap to trap.
Furharvester's License was reversed. Did not intend to purchase a Furharvester's license.
Furharvesting training through extension
Gave raccoon meat away for eating. Hides worthless. You need to allow raccoons to be killed all year, they have grown to be problems. By overpopulation disease will kill if we don't and you know nature.
Good year with plenty of healthy coyote. Glassed one with mange but the remaining coyote we saw were healthy with heavy coats. No luck shooting any as I was teaching one of my son's the basics of calling.
Great state to trap in. Game Warden was very good, the guy that checked me.
Have trapped and snared 16 coyotes since end of season.
Haven't seen any foxes around for awhile.
Hi (furb bio), Sure wish we could have a early kill season for raccoons. They are dying like flies up here from parvo and distemper!
Hope to do some trapping in 2018-2019 season.
Hope to next year.

how many otters do trappers harvest every year
Hunt coyotes and badger as part of ranching operation. We calve in the fall most pelts are not prime when killed.
I believe access to cotes tags for bobcats should be more improved. I hunted mainly over the holidays around Christmas and New Year and your offices were closed when I was off work. And the game wardens were hard to catch.
I believe the otter limit could be raised (not removed)
I bought a furharvester to do some calling but got sick this past year. I plan on trapping and calling next season.
I caught 17 coyotes and 13 of them were females.
I did not hunt this year due to health issues. But I do plan to hunt in 2018 with hounds.
I did not hunt, trap or run this year.
I did not trap this year for prices of furs is to low
I didn't have the time this past year to trap.
I do not kill many coons. I like to have seed to run with dogs.
I dont feel right killing furbearers for the current prices.
I dont hunt anymore.
I enjoy hunting and trapping the reason I have not done any is because of price of furs.
I feel that The pressure put on the raccoon population was much less than it has been in the past, I am curious to see the impact of that in future wild life populations. I would also like to see otter make it into Central Kansas Waterways but, that is just my opinion, as I Recognize all may not be for that idea. I personally would be for a reintroduction program. Our Fur-Harvesting regulations are well written and I like the Job our KDWP is doing. Thank You.
I had good intentions but old age kept me out of the woods. I hope to be able to call coyotes next year.
I have a racoon infestation. Would like to see Kansas legalize artificial lights to hunt coons and coyotes. Thank you. You guys/gals do a great job.
I have noticed a sharp incline of opossum, raccoons, and skunks in the last couple years. Has had a severe detriment to the upland birds (game and non game species).
I noticed a large kill off of raccoons in Osage County during late season. I'm assuming from distemper.
I only trapped with one live animal trap on my land.
I own 9,000 acres in barber county and I killed 46 coyotes. I know of another 6-8 killed on my property. There are too many coyotes and I think it affects the # of deer here. Deer are short #'s here.
I purchased the furbearer license in order to be able to take a furbearing animal while bird hunting.
I ran across a couple game wardens several times in Morton County. They were extremely pleasant and very good to work with. As a non-resident sometimes you dont get that welcoming. So thank you for a good, fun season.
I really feel with the over population of coon that we should have an open season on them similar to coyotes. Sickness will take care of the over population if we dont.
I released both bobcats due to age. They were kittens.
I think 330s should be legal to set anywhere as long as they are touching the water. This would make catching beavers a little bit easier. They seem pretty sneaky this year.
I think allowing shooting of coyotes from a car or truck ATV should end. Also the use of dogs to run them down should end as well.
I think bobcat season should be extended until the end of February.
I think that you should be able to take coyotes at night with artificial light or themral/nightvision scopes. It would greatly help the population.
I think the program is running good. I just got to busy to hunt & trap furbearers.
I was planning on trapping with my son but had to have last minute knee problems.
I wasn't able to trap much this year and had no success. Hopefully next year will be better!
I would extend furbearer season through the month of feb.
I would greatly appreciate you doing something about the otter limit in southeast Kansas. The otters are eating too damn many fish out of our farm ponds and creeks, let alone your state owned strip pits that you sell thousands of fishing license per year for people to enjoy. Sells of fishing license could take a major dive if otter populations are left to skyrocket. And furthermore, I find it very odd how I can get "RANDOMLY" selected 4+ years in a row for this survey. That being said, this will be the last survey I fill out for you unless I see some changes in otter regulations around here.
I would like to attempt to harvest coyotes at night with night light or amplified light. It would help take some of the trap or snare shy coyotes that are problem canines for sheep farmers.
I would like to call predators at night with lights or red lights. Even if we had to purchase a permit. With this permit it should exclude poachers or whom ever else that has been in trouble with the game wardens.
I would like to hunt raccoons year round due to over population and a nuisance to farmers and deer hunters.
I would like to see a season for coyotes, Oct. 1st to Feb. 30. Lots of coyotes are shot and left to rot. I don't like to see killing just to kill. The numbers are not like they used to be.
I would like to see bobcat season run through spring beaver season because their fur is still usually prime.
I would like to see extended check times for conibear and live traps, especially beaver traps when they are iced in!
I would like to see hunting for furbearers legal with artificial light. I am aware it is not legal in Kansas, but it is in Virginia. It is more fun hunting predators when they are actually hunting their prey. (at night)
I would like to see the state allow night hunting for furbearers with lights.
I would like to see the state allow night hunting for furbearers with lights.
I would like to see the use of gun mounted artificial light/night vision allowed for coyotes and raccoons.
I would like to see you extend the racoon trapping season until the end of Feb.

I would love to see a longer hunting season. There needs to be a choice to buy a lifetime hunt/fish/furharvest liscense.
I would love to see a season after deer season that would allow u to hunt coyote and bobcat at night using artificial lighting.
I'd like to see the noon start go away. It would be nice to set all day the first day.
If the farmers or so called "conservationist" keep taking out trees, waterways, fencelines and other fringe habitats theres not going to be much left to manage.
If you send this again by US Mail I wont fill it out.
In our supprest county Higher fur prices will get people interested. Lighten up on getting the young to attend so many classes before being able to hunt. Computer games are really hurting our young.
It does not matter what us hunters say. It's all about money for ks. You are going to do whatever you want anyways.
It would be nice to extend the trapping season by a week.
It would be nice to have a list of all the fur buyers in the state. A lot of people did not trap regardless of fur price because lack of buyers or where to find them.
It would be nice to run the dogs without traps on the ground. That is hunt a coon without money hungry people with leg holds set out for a \$3 coon.
Just didnt have time to do anything this year.
Kansas has lost 90% of my hunting support. Just bought my lifetime license at 65 and now that we are older Kansas changes the game.
Kansas needs to legalize the use of artificial light so I can call coons & coyotes at night without dogs
Kansas should allow the hunting of coyotes at night using lights, night vision and thermal imaging. It could be done outside of deer season to decrease poaching.
Keep the animals grinning and the trappers busy...
Keep up the great work!!
leave me alone
LEGALIZE LIGHTS FOR NIGHT TIME PREDATOR CALLING
Let us hunt at night!
Let us older coon hunters use a laser sight for more efficient harvest.
License too high.
Lights for night hunting or thermal and nightvision
limit bobcat to 15-20/year.
Longer bobcat season
longer season
Longer season on bobcat to extend into March. Get rid of noon of start date.
Lots of coons out there and seems to be some disease.
Love the long running season
Make better license material. Bought my 2018 license and the ink is already off. I'm not the only one having this problem.
Make it legal to hunt coyotes at night using spot lights.
Make the nonresident license more reasonable(maybe tie the cost to fur prices somehow).
Your doing a fine job.
More than 24 hours to run your traps.
Most of my hunting is calling for coyotes. During bobcat season I took one large male bobcat. I do not take foxes if they respond to my calls. It was a really tough year for getting coyotes respond. I saw/took only one with mange. As usual, I shot mostly males.
My only issue is where I trap, I have to wait until Duck season is over. So I dont get to trap as much as I would like.
Need longer season to March 15th
Need to be a year round season with a one a day limit except a few days in fall winter
Need to regulate river traffic. (4wheelers, razors, etc.) They destroy beaver dams. They also trespass and set fires, drink, etc. I propose anyone running river should be required to buy a license and vehicle pass. Law abiding might begin to police trouble makers. Why doesnt pawnee county have a game warden?
Need to take the limit off of otters the water way's are over run with them thank you
Never go to get any, but like to buy and support hunting conservation. Seems like I get picked every year for the survey, maybe oughta buy a lottery ticket!
Night hunting coyotes with lights would be good.
Night hunting of coyotes need to be legalized in KS. using calls and spotlights.
Night vision for predator hunting with landowners consent for predator control in livestock should be allowed.
No comments at this time
No incentive to trap. No fur market. My only reason to trap is to rid quail nest predators.
Nobody buying coons, therefore didnt trap them.
Not worth the time or effort, with prices being so low! PUT A BOUNTY ON COYOTES!
Open a training season on coon June-Oct. to keep population down and avoid conflicts with deer leases. Coon are just congregating on deer feeders and dying from distemper.
Open Kansas up to use artificial light on coyote.
Open up kill season longer. Most coon hunters don't kill every coon they tree.
Open up otters. I do not appreciate check-ins on state land in KS. I do not use a computer/smart phone; feel like being discriminated against for distaste of technology.
Outfitters tying up all the land is the biggest concern. Theres only so many section of land.
Pay wardens more. Ive never had a bad experience or rude warden at fall river in 27 years hunting/fishing on public land. need more public land.

Please allow hunting of coyotes at night the coyotes in this area have become a significant problem and are very hard to hunt during the daytime.
Please allow night vision and thermal for hunting predators at night.
Please consider doing away with the two week period between running season and killing season for raccoons.
Please institute night hunting for coyotes and bobcats.
please join Kansas Fur Harvesters association !
Please just keep letting us trap every year. There are so many uneducated people against trapping. I would love to be able to pass my knowledge to my sons or daughters on day. I believe we are what keeps the population controlled and healthy. Thank you.
Please make the Check in easier by identifying Reading with a location
Questions #21 assume that everyone who hunts is successful. I hunted for coyotes but was not successful. Add the option of not successful to question #21.
Quit sending me surveys
quit tagging cats
Raise the limit on Otter, they are eating all the fish in the creeks and ponds.
Really wish we had a longer season to trap raccoons! So many places closed until after bird/duck season.
Should have better access for gov agencies to carry out wildlife manager ment for human health is airport wildlife
Since bobcats have such a late priming fur it would be good to have the season run to the end of Feb. to take advantage of this. Thank you.
Since the decline of fur prices it seems some populations could get out of control. I think raccoons could be trapped all year long.
Sorry Ive been remodeling a farm house this last year. I didnt get much hunting done.
Still a lot of mange in the hillsdale ks area. slowly improving but a lot of bad animals.
Take the limit off otter
The fur is not worth catching. Price is too low, 2 dollars is not worth doing. Don't even pay for license.
The fur market is horrible which in turn affects the harvest. Lots of raccoons and fox in my county are going to die from distemper etc.
The only reason I buy fur harvest lic. is so i can shoot a bobcat during bow season. Why not sell a bobcat tag for 40% or \$10?
The only thing is to legalize the use of artificial light hunting coyotes
The prices the last few years are way too low, not worth time and gas.
There are many of us who would love to take fur bearers at night with lights and or other options like thermal or night vision. please.
There are too many coyotes and bobcats in Kansas. They are depleting the quail and pheasant numbers.
There is no market for fur.
There needs to be a law change. We should be able to hunt at night with lights on ground we have permission on!!
Things are working good how they are managed now. Thank you
Think KDWP is doing a great job with fur harvesting program
Too many raccoons
TRAPPED 260 COYOTES IN FINNEY & HODGMAN COUNTY WITH 2 OTHER GUYS. THEN CAME HOMA DN CAUGHT 100 HERE MYSELF. CALL ME AT (number withheld)
TRAPPED TO HELP TURKEY AND QUAIL NUMBERS.
Up limit on otters.
Use artificial light while calling furbearers at night
Very few furs were accepted. Many did not make grade and were of poor quality. Many coons were trapped in quail nesting areas and were targeted for that reason.
Very glad that Kansas is still a state that you can not use artificial light
Wanted to hunt coyotes, but ran out of time
Was out of sorts physically a could not trap
Was sick most of Oct. and most of Nov. So I wasn't able to get out and trap. I'll try again this year.
We have very good trapping regulations.
We need night hunting permits and a beaver hunting season. Just follow the Colorado example!
We need to be able to coyote hunt at night
We need to be able to hunt coyotes at nights, legally. With artificial illumination.
We need to be able to use electronic devices at night to help control predators
We need to get rid of more coons, skunks and opossums. They are destroying nest. Also need to relocate hawks, way too many.
We need to limit folks hunting or pursuing coyotes after furbearer season comes to a close. I know many ranchers would disagree, but I respect coyotes enough that I hate that they are just shot & killed in spring/summer/early fall & left to rot.
We shouldn't need a furharvester license to be able to shoot a bobcat during deer season. We need to change the rules.
We were after coyotes mostly and have a lot of coyotes on my property.
WEATHER WAS CRAP THIS YEAR
We're forced to stop trapping bobcats right when they are reaching their peak primness & fur quality.
Why can't people call in coyotes at night it wouldn't hurt the population at all we clearly have an abundance of coyotes in Kansas as it is.
With the current fur economy and the disease increasing in coon I feel it would be beneficial to open the coon season to year round. I also feel that there is a strong possibility for gain in the economy for the state by doing this. More Sales in sporting sales.
With the lack of individuals hunting and trapping why don't they extend the season to help control the populations

work at making organisations like PETA go away. They are suppressing future generations of fur harvesters. Telling my grandchildren that it is cruel and inhumane.
Would like to be able to hunt predators at night
Would like to be able to night hunt coyotes. Call and then spotlight or night vision.
Would like to see bobcats moved to the general furbearer so that additional tag does not need to be purchased.
Would like to see the tagging of otters halt & limit. Some people want me to trap otters out of their ponds but when you accidentally catch them you are done. Although I do know you do this for a reason. Thanks for all you do!!!
Would love to see our coon prices go up. At this time is does not even pay to trap or run them. Our local buyer did not even want them.
Ya'll do a great job
You dont have a tab for mountain lions harvested.
You have great conservation officers. Nothing but helpful.
You have my email and I do both every year!
you need to start trapping season later the fur does not prime up here until mid-december
You people are doing a good job
You should loosen up on letting us kill coon year round. There are so many people that are complaining about them. Need to look at letting us use a laser to target coon treed with dogs.
Your bobcat report is the best I've seen.
Youth season needs to be later in the year. This would keep to make a more productive harvest for the young hunters.

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