



Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks Furharvester Activity Summary, 2018-19



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Licenses: A total of 6110 adult and 124 junior resident furharvesting licenses were sold in 2018. This is a .4% increase from 2017, and ends four consecutive years of decreasing license sales.

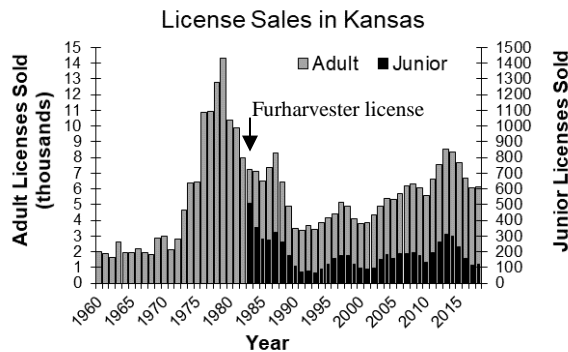


Figure 1. Resident furharvester license sales in KS, 1960-2018.

Unlimited nonresident furharvester licenses have been available in Kansas since 1983. In 2018, 112 were sold. This is the 2nd most nonresident license sales on record but represents just 1.8% of all furharvester license sales.

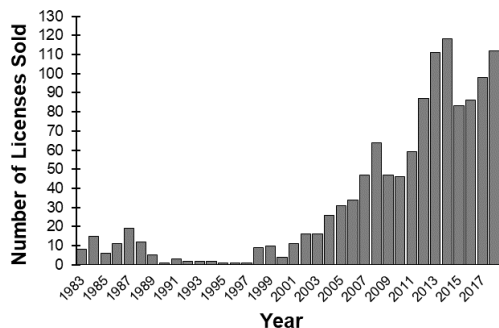


Figure 2. Nonresident furharvester license sales in Kansas, 1983-2018.

Seasons: 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. Last season, an estimated 146,814 user days were spent hunting and trapping furbearers in Kansas.

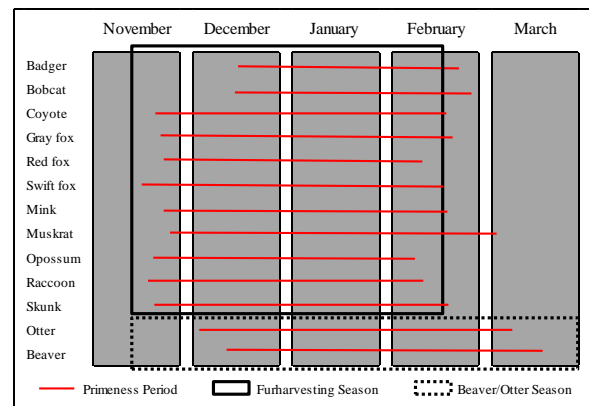


Figure 3. Pelt primeness dates for Kansas furbearers as indicated by Kansas furdealers.

Harvest and Furdealer Purchases: Total harvest and the number of furbearers purchased by Kansas furdealers are provided in Table 1. Total harvest was up 9% from last season. Coyote was the strong point of the fur market this season. Their harvest increased by 13% despite tough weather conditions for trapping. Raccoon harvest increased slightly from last season (2%) but remains very low compared to long term averages.

Pelt Values: Kansas furdealers purchased an estimated \$309,042 worth of pelts from furbearers harvested in Kansas in 2018-19, which was a 9% decrease from last season. (Figure 4).

According to the annual Furdealer Pelt Survey, pelt values increased for most species compared to last season (Table 2) but remain well below longer term averages. Of particular note, coyote pelt values increased

Table 1. Furbearer Harvest and Furdealer Purchases of Kansas Furbearers, 2018-19.

Species	Total Harvest**	Total Purchases***	% Change from previous season**
Badger	1406	258	25%
Beaver	6776	510	52%
Bobcat*	3064	1218	-21%
Coyote	53,657	11,337	13%
Gray Fox	5	1	-58%
Red Fox	507	87	-1%
Swift Fox*	62	13	-33%
Mink	293	8	199%
Muskrat	7530	422	39%
Opossum	19,359	750	5%
Otter*	128	38	-23%
Raccoon	39,370	5041	2%
Skunk	5588	295	8%

*From pelt tagging records rather than Furbearer Harvest Survey

**From annual Furbearer Harvest Survey

***From furdealer record books

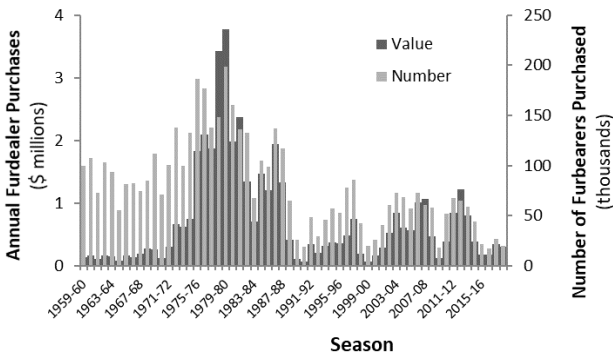


Figure 4. Value and number of furbearers harvested in Kansas & purchased by Kansas furdealers, 1959-2018.

by another 11% following a 28% increase last season. However, raccoon decreased by another 4% from last year's average value, which was already the lowest since 1970. This was the 4th year in a row average raccoon pelt value was below \$2.75. The KFHA fur auction was also very small this year, with just five species being sold (Table 2).

For the 4th year in a row and just the 5th time since records have been kept, coyote accounted for most of the total value of pelts sold to Kansas furdealers (75%; Figure 5). In

addition, the total pelt value (\$236,427) was the second highest for coyote since the 1986-87 season.

Table 2. Pelt Values of Kansas Furbearers, 2018-19

Species	Average Pelt Price*	Average KFHA auction pelt price**	% Change from previous season*
Badger	\$8.64	\$12.83	19%
Beaver	\$5.60	-	16%
Bobcat	\$44.79	\$39.59	6%
Coyote	\$20.51	\$32.16	11%
Gray Fox	\$9.25	-	45%
Red Fox	\$8.21	-	-21%
Swift Fox	\$7.55	-	-
Mink	\$6.36	-	-13%
Muskrat	\$2.13	\$1.83	17%
Opossum	\$0.55	-	8%
Otter	\$22.64	-	-3%
Raccoon	\$2.63	\$4.25	-4%
Striped Skunk	\$2.04	-	24%

*From annual Furdealer Pelt Price and Primeness Survey

**From Kansas Fur Harvester Assoc (KFHA) auction

On the down side, raccoon's total estimated pelt value fell to just \$13,264, which is the lowest value on record (since 1959). In addition, raccoon's contribution to total pelt value continued to decline to another record low of just 4%, falling 3% from last year's value.

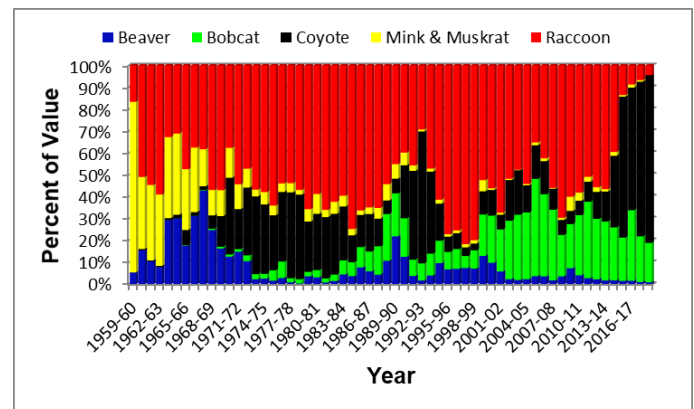


Figure 5. Relative cumulative value of select furbearers purchased by Kansas furdealers, 1959-2018.