



Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks Furharvester Activity Summary, 2019-20



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Licenses: A total of 5799 adult and 114 junior resident furharvesting licenses were sold in 2019. This is a 5% decrease from 2018, and an 11% decrease in license sales from the 5-year average.

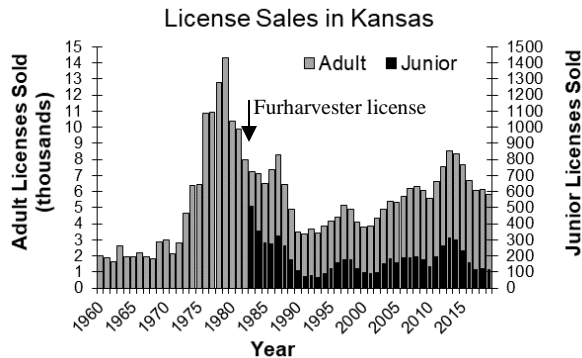


Figure 1. Resident furharvester license sales in KS, 1960-2019.

Unlimited nonresident furharvester licenses have been available in Kansas since 1983. In 2019, 102 were sold. This is down 10 from last season, but the 4th highest total. Nonresidents represents just 1.7% of all furharvester license sales.

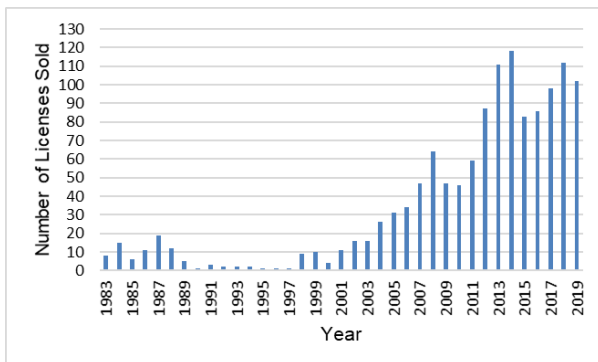


Figure 2. Nonresident furharvester license sales in Kansas, 1983-2019.

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 171,121 user days were spent hunting and trapping furbearers in Kansas.

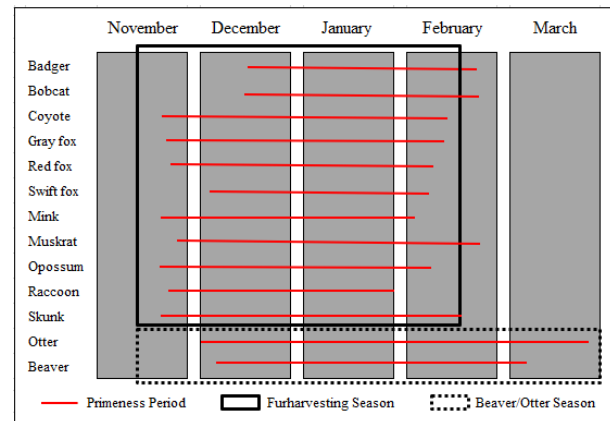


Figure 3. Pelt primeness dates for Kansas furbearers as indicated by Kansas furdealers.

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 again this season. Their harvest increased by 18% to an all-time high (since the first harvest survey in 1969). Raccoon harvest increased by over 10,000 (26%) but remains well below long term averages. In the past 4 years, average raccoon harvest has been over 45,000 per year fewer than the previous 10-year average. Anecdotally, raccoon damage complaints seem to have increased dramatically this year, and the need for additional harvest from a management perspective is very high.

Pelt Values: Kansas furdealers purchased an estimated \$360,577 worth of pelts from furbearers harvested in Kansas in 2019-20, which was a 17% increase from last season. (Figure 4).

According to the annual Furdealer Pelt Survey, pelt values decreased for most species compared to last season (Table 2) and remain well below longer term averages. However, coyote pelt values increased by 18% following increases of 28 and 11% the two years prior. Raccoon also increased by 14%, but their pelt values were already so low that the increase amounted to just \$0.38 of actual value per pelt.

Species	Total Harvest**	Total Purchases***	% Change from previous season**
Badger	1619	212	15%
Beaver	5627	747	-17%
Bobcat*	2933	898	-4%
Coyote	63,441	12,159	18%
Gray Fox	12	2	140%
Red Fox	571	74	13%
Swift Fox*	149	2	140%
Mink	39	2	-87%
Muskrat	3586	320	-52%
Opossum	15477	482	-20%
Otter*	179	35	40%
Raccoon	49649	8714	26%
Skunk	6553	400	17%

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

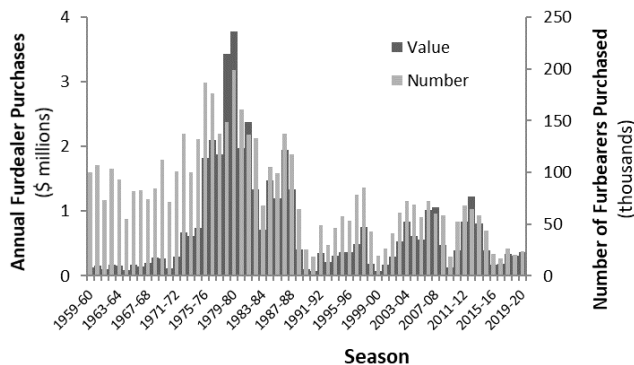


Figure 4. Value and number of furbearers harvested in Kansas & purchased by Kansas furdealers, 1959-2019.

The coyote largely carried the fur market again this year. In fact, they accounted for 82% of the total value of furbearer pelts sold to Kansas furdealers this season (Figure 5), which is the highest percent ever accounted for by a single species. While this is a product of the coyote market being legitimately good, it is also a product of the market for nearly all other

species being poor to very poor. For a historical perspective on coyote, figure 6 shows their long-term harvest and average pelt price in Kansas.

Species	Average Pelt Price*	Average KFHA auction pelt price**	% Change from previous season*
Badger	\$7.90	\$11.00	-9%
Beaver	\$5.93	\$6.00	6%
Bobcat	\$34.25	\$40.25	-24%
Coyote	\$24.25	\$25.00	18%
Gray Fox	\$7.50	-	-19%
Red Fox	\$7.21	\$4.00	-12%
Swift Fox	\$3.00	-	-60%
Mink	\$5.25	-	-17%
Muskrat	\$1.85	\$2.41	-13%
Opossum	\$0.46	-	-15%
Otter	\$13.50	-	-40%
Raccoon	\$3.01	\$3.00	14%
Striped Skunk	\$2.09	\$2.50	2%

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

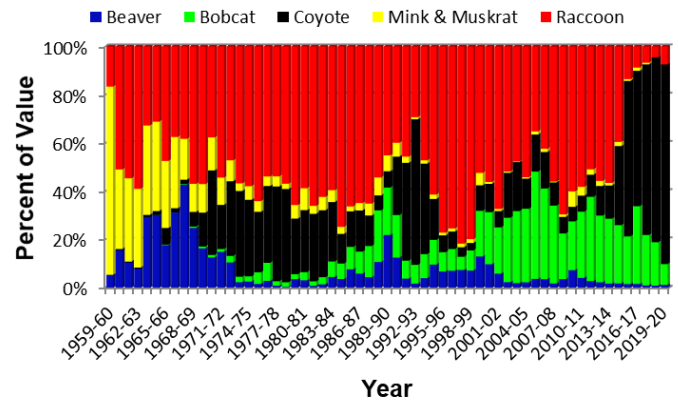


Figure 5. Relative cumulative value of select furbearers purchased by Kansas furdealers, 1959-2019.

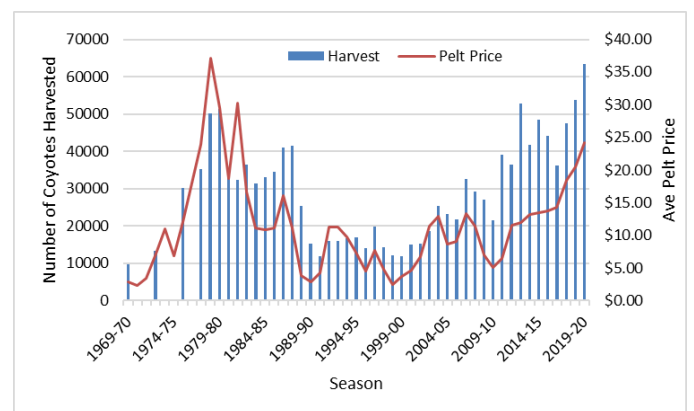


Figure 6. Annual coyote harvest and average pelt price in Kansas from 1969-2019.