



Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks Furharvester Activity Summary, 2006-07



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Licenses: A total of 5688 adult and 188 junior resident furharvesting licenses were sold in 2006. This is the most licenses sold in 18 years (since 1988), and represents a 19% increase in resident license sales over the five-year average.

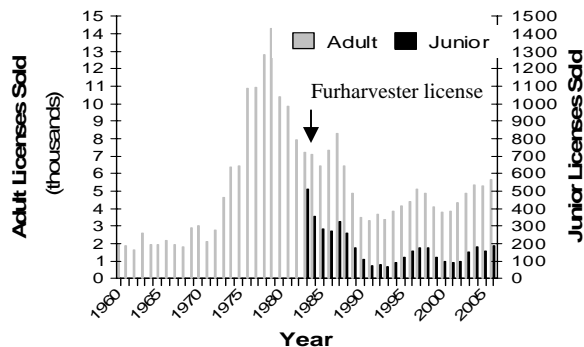


Figure 1. Resident furharvester license sales in KS, 1960-2006.

Nonresident furharvester licenses have been available in Kansas since 1983. Thirty-two were sold in 2006. Demand for these licenses is limited, but there is nonresident interest in Kansas' bobcat and occasionally swift fox populations.

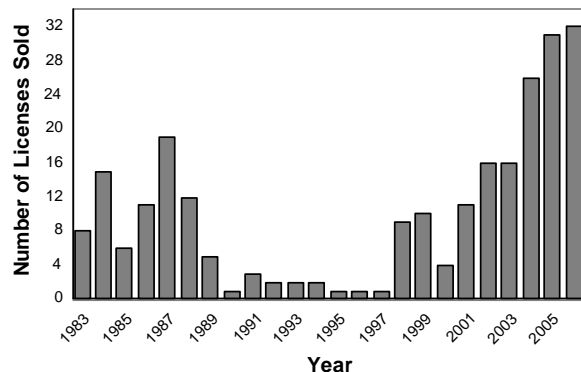


Figure 2. Nonresident furharvester license sales in Kansas, 1983-2006.

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 though March 31 (Figure 3).

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 also placed on having season open for all species at the same time – so a bobcat taken incidentally by a raccoon trapper in November could be kept, and a raccoon taken incidentally in February by a bobcat trapper could be kept. Over 100,000 user days are spent annually hunting and trapping furbearers in Kansas.

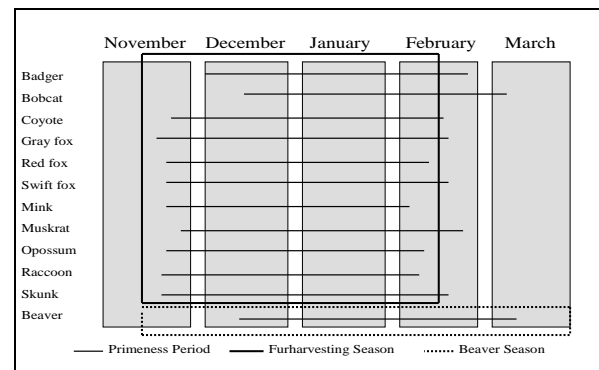


Figure 3. Pelt primeness dates for Kansas furbearers as indicated by Kansas furdealers.

Harvest and Furdealer Purchases:

Trends in both harvest and furdealer purchases increased for every species in 2006 from the previous season (Table 1). The greatest increases in purchases by percentage were for gray fox and mink (60.7% and 59.7%, respectively), whereas red fox and muskrat saw the smallest increases (8.9% and 12.1%, respectively). Numerically, raccoon purchases showed the

greatest change, increasing by nearly 9,600. This increase is significant because harvest levels of several of the other species are primarily dependent upon raccoon and more recently bobcat harvest efforts.

Table 1. Furbearer Harvest and Furdealer Purchases of Kansas Furbearers, 2006-07.

Species	Total Harvest**	Total Purchases***	% Change in purchases from previous year
Badger	1,882	914	+48.1%
Beaver	11,028	3,089	+37.0%
Bobcat	7,234	5,138	+21.6%
Coyote	32,494	11,198	+21.1%
Grey Fox	179	45	+60.7%
Red Fox	774	306	+8.9%
Swift Fox	70	48	+45.5%
Mink	439	123	+59.7%
Muskrat	8,150	2,600	+12.1%
Opossum	46,965	4,969	+29.8%
Raccoon	87,241	42,011	+29.6%
Skunk	15,583	1,996	+40.1%

*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, 2006-07

Species	Average Pelt Price*	Average KFHA Auction Pelt Price **	% Change from previous season*
Badger	\$12.96	\$12.85	+12.2%
Beaver	\$11.59	\$14.02	+27.9%
Bobcat	\$72.28	\$89.52	+25.4%
Coyote	\$13.34	\$19.63	+46.8%
Gray Fox	\$26.10	\$32.60	+87.1%
Red Fox	\$15.78	\$22.63	+21.5%
Swift Fox	\$18.30	-	+83.0%
Mink	\$13.85	\$17.25	+19.6%
Muskrat	\$4.43	\$5.94	+62.2%
Opossum	\$1.01	\$1.32	+62.7%
Raccoon	\$9.96	\$11.11	+68.0%
Striped Skunk	\$3.36	\$5.53	+28.2%

*From annual Furdealer Pelt Price and Primeness Survey.

**From Kansas Fur Harvesters Assoc. Auctions (Dec 16, 2006; Jan 20 & Feb 19, 2007).

Pelt Values: Furbearer pelt values showed an increasing trend for every species in 2006-07. In fact, after decreased pelt values last season, furdealers reported increased values by over 60% for 5 species (gray fox, swift fox, muskrat, opossum, and raccoon). This reported increase for raccoon occurred after 2 consecutive years of greater than 15% decreases, and combined primarily with bobcat pelt values, has likely resulted in the current 18 year highs in furharvester license sales.

Kansas furdealers purchased an estimated \$1,019,000 of pelts from furbearers harvested in Kansas in 2006-07. (This estimate does not include the value of pelts harvested in Kansas but sold out-of-state, kept for personal use, or discarded.) Raccoon regained the most important furbearer status in terms of total pelt value, accounting for about 41% (\$419,000) of the total value of pelts harvested in Kansas, while bobcat which was the most important species for the first time last year accounted for another 36% (\$371,000). Coyote (15%; \$149,000) and beaver (4%; \$36,000) were the only other species that accounted for more than 2% of the total value of pelts. As indicated in figure 4, this is in contrast with a predominantly beaver/mink/muskrat market of the pre-1970's.

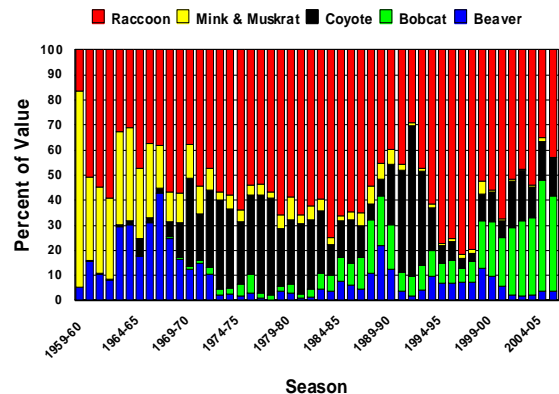


Figure 4. Relative cumulative value of select furbearers purchased by Kansas furdealers, 1959-2006.