



# Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks Furharvester Activity Summary, 2007-08



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**Licenses:** A total of 6207 adult and 191 junior resident furharvesting licenses were sold in 2007. This is the most licenses sold in 19 years (since 1988), and represents a 19% increase in resident license sales over the five-year average.

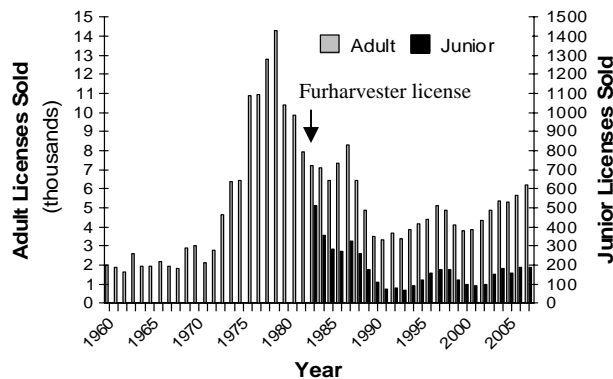


Figure 1. Resident furharvester license sales in KS, 1960-2007.

Nonresident furharvester licenses have been available in Kansas since 1983. Forty-seven were sold in 2007. Demand for these licenses has increased dramatically the last few years, perhaps reflecting the value and availability of bobcats in Kansas.

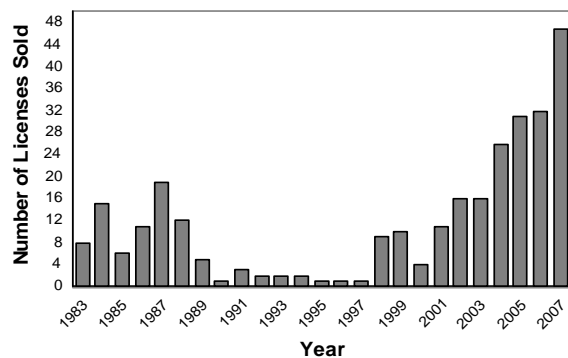


Figure 2. Nonresident furharvester license sales in Kansas, 1983-2007.

**Seasons:** Furbearer hunting and trapping seasons open statewide the Wednesday following the second Saturday in November. Badger, bobcat, red fox, 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 through 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 can be kept, and a raccoon taken incidentally in February by a bobcat trapper can be kept. Over 100,000 user days are spent annually hunting and trapping furbearers in Kansas.

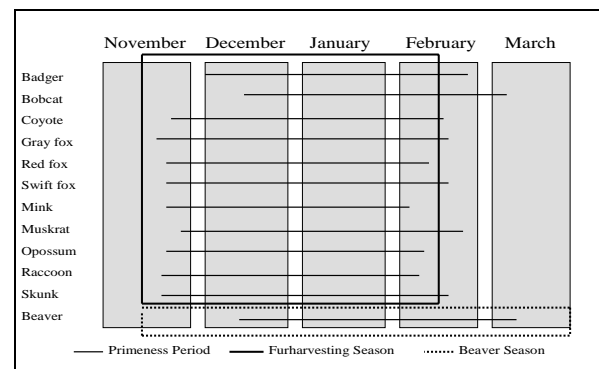


Figure 3. Pelt primeness dates for Kansas furbearers as indicated by Kansas furdealers.

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

The number of furbearers purchased by furdealers decreased for every species in 2007 from the previous season with one exception (Table 1). Opossum was the one species for which purchases increased (by 7.8%), but this was likely because many opossums were unsellable the previous year

rather than the result of an increase in harvest. Beaver and muskrat saw the greatest declines, likely reflecting trapper interest in more valuable terrestrial species.

**Table 1. Furbearer Harvest and Furdealer Purchases of Kansas Furbearers, 2007-08.**

Species	Total Harvest**	Total Purchases***	% Change in purchases from previous year
Badger	2,020	660	-27.8%
Beaver	6,658	1,608	-47.9%
Bobcat	5,668	3,918	-23.7%
Coyote	29,305	7,963	-28.9%
Grey Fox	84	35	-22.2%
Red Fox	976	231	-24.5%
Swift Fox	65	40	-16.7%
Mink	209	91	-26.0%
Muskrat	5,120	1,149	-55.8%
Opossum	51,138	5,355	+7.8%
Raccoon	93,687	37,478	-10.8%
Skunk	17,669	1,762	-11.7%

\*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, 2007-08**

Species	Average Pelt Price*	Average KFHA Auction Pelt Price **	% Change from previous season*
Badger	\$12.70	\$19.23	-2.0%
Beaver	\$11.69	\$12.69	+0.8%
Bobcat	\$85.26	\$103.68	+18.0%
Coyote	\$12.49	\$15.18	-6.4%
Gray Fox	\$32.43	\$35.29	+24.2%
Red Fox	\$16.75	\$19.88	+6.2%
Swift Fox	\$15.25	-	-16.7%
Mink	\$12.21	\$10.57	-11.8%
Muskrat	\$2.33	\$3.11	-47.4%
Opossum	\$1.09	\$1.18	+8.1%
Raccoon	\$14.83	\$18.99	+48.8%
Striped Skunk	\$4.75	\$5.68	+41.5%

\*From annual Furdealer Pelt Price and Primeness Survey.

\*\*From Kansas Fur Harvesters Assoc. Auctions (Jan 19 & Feb 23, 2008).

**Pelt Values:** Furbearer pelt values showed an increasing trend for over half the species in 2007-08. Most importantly, raccoon prices increased from last season by nearly 50%, and bobcat pelt prices continued to climb by 18%. The strong market for these two species has likely resulted in the current 19 year highs in furharvester license sales, and with early market predictions being optimistic for the upcoming season, strong license sales and participation rates are expected.

Kansas furdealers purchased an estimated \$1,040,000 of pelts from furbearers harvested in Kansas in 2007-08. (This estimate does not include the value of pelts harvested in Kansas but sold out-of-state, kept for personal use, or discarded.) Raccoon maintained the most important furbearer status in terms of total pelt value, accounting for about 53% (\$556,000) of the total value of pelts harvested in Kansas, while bobcat decreased slightly in significance from 36% last year to 32% (\$334,000). Coyote (10%; \$99,000) was 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.

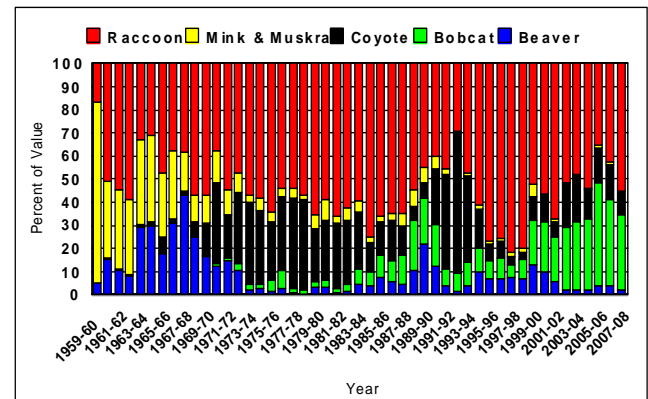


Figure 4. Relative cumulative value of select furbearers purchased by Kansas furdealers, 1959-2007.