



Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks Furharvester Activity Summary, 2012-13



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Licenses: A total of 7524 adult and 263 junior resident furharvesting licenses were sold in 2012. This is a 14% increase from 2011, and a 22% increase from the 5-year average. It is also the most licenses sold since 1987.

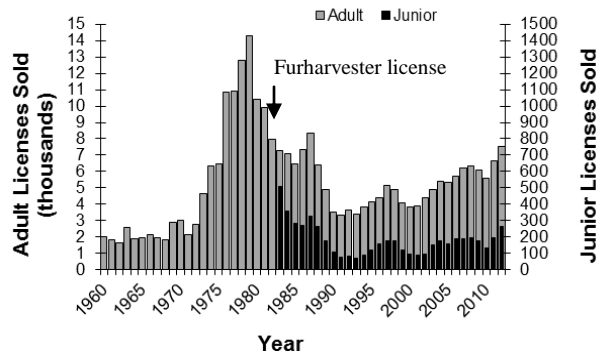


Figure 1. Resident furharvester license sales in KS, 1960-2012.

Nonresident furharvester licenses have been available in Kansas since 1983. Eighty-seven were sold in 2012. The 2nd most nonresident license sales on record was 64 in 2008.

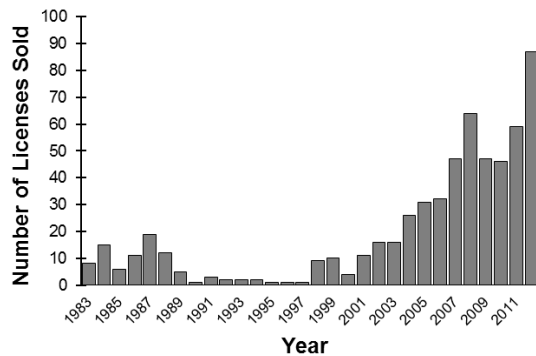


Figure 2. Nonresident furharvester license sales in Kansas, 1983-2012.

Seasons: Furbearer hunting and trapping seasons open statewide the Wednesday following the second Saturday in November. The season ends February 15th for badger, bobcat, red fox, gray fox, swift fox, mink, muskrat, opossum, raccoon, striped skunk and weasel. Beaver and otter may only be trapped, and their season runs through March

31, or in the case of otter, when the 100 otter quota is reached.

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, over 236,000 user days were spent hunting and trapping furbearers in Kansas.

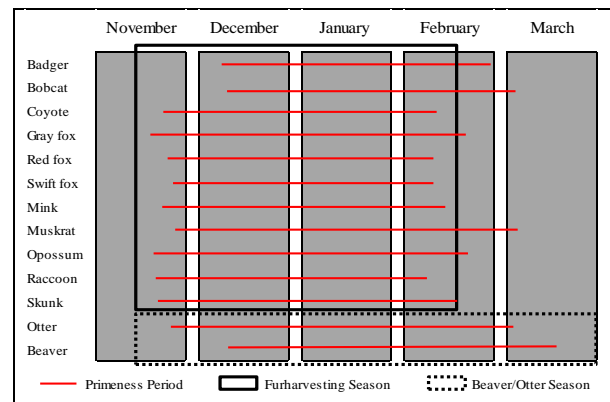


Figure 3. Pelt primeness dates for Kansas furbearers as indicated by Kansas furdealers.

Harvest and Furdealer Purchases:

Total harvest and the number of furbearers purchased by furdealers are provided in Table 1. Change in harvest from last season was variable by species. Bobcat harvest increased by nearly a quarter reflecting a substantial increase in pelt value, raccoon harvest was similar despite reports of major distemper die-offs in some areas, and muskrat (and incidentally mink) harvest fell

by almost half likely due to drought in many areas. Additionally, the unusually mild and dry winter in most of the state allowed furharvesters to keep dryland sets operational throughout much of the season, and likely influenced the species they pursued.

Table 1. Furbearer Harvest and Furdealer Purchases of Kansas Furbearers, 2012-13.

Species	Total Harvest**	Total Purchases***	% Change in harvest from previous year
Badger	2017	612	12%
Beaver	9535	2448	23%
Bobcat	5926*	2917	32%
Coyote	52681	9359	35%
Grey Fox	90	22	200%
Red Fox	898	280	15%
Swift Fox	246*	99	32%
Mink	225	52	34%
Muskrat	5396	2184	-6%
Opossum	43844	2952	-15%
Otter	128*	39	0%
Raccoon	121232	43117	38%
Skunk	17504	717	-20%

*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, 2012-13

Species	Average Pelt Price*	% Change from previous season*	% Change from 5-year average*
Badger	10.76	-9%	3%
Beaver	11.32	13%	22%
Bobcat	114.27	40%	88%
Coyote	15.80	41%	89%
Gray Fox	22.17	8%	23%
Red Fox	22.87	31%	74%
Swift Fox	14.40	37%	39%
Mink	13.37	-1%	25%
Muskrat	11.34	95%	196%
Opossum	0.77	-4%	-7%
Otter	77.46	12%	12%
Raccoon	15.54	56%	61%
Striped Skunk	1.85	-9%	3%

*From annual Furdealer Pelt Price and Primeness Survey.

Pelt Values: For the second consecutive year, pelt values increased substantially for many furbearer species (Table 2). In fact, most species saw increases of over 30%. Notably, bobcat, which has been a major influence on furbearer harvest levels in recent years, increased by 39%, and coyote, which is usually our 3rd most important species in total pelt value, increased by 72%. Raccoon saw the smallest change, but still increased by 12%.

Kansas furdealers purchased an estimated \$842,000 worth of pelts from furbearers harvested in Kansas in 2011-12. (This estimate does not include the value of pelts harvested in Kansas but sold out-of-state, including at fur auctions, or those kept for personal use.) Raccoon is by far the most important furbearer in terms of total pelt value, accounting for about 50% (\$418,700) of the total value of pelts harvested in Kansas. Bobcat remained second most important, accounting for 34% of the value (\$287,900). Coyote (9%; \$75,500), beaver (3%; \$23,000) and muskrat (2%; \$17,500) were the only other species that accounted for more than 1% of the total value of pelts. As indicated in figure 4, our market today differs from a predominantly beaver/mink/muskrat market of the pre-1970's.

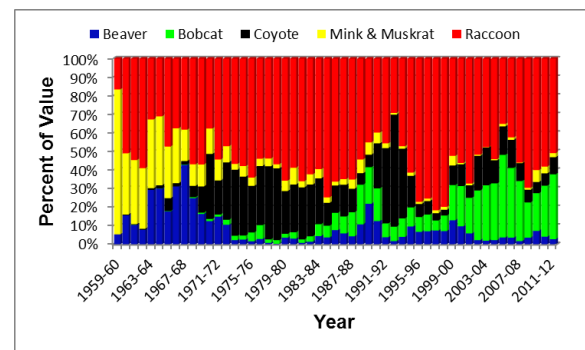


Figure 4. Relative cumulative value of select furbearers purchased by Kansas furdealers, 1959-2011.