

2021-22 Furbearer Harvest Survey

PERFORMANCE REPORT STATEWIDE WILDLIFE RESEARCH AND SURVEYS

A Contribution of Pittman-Robertson Funds
Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration

Grant W-39-R-28

Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks

Brad Loveless
Secretary

Prepared by

Matt Peek
Furbearer Biologist

Jake George
Wildlife Division Director

Rich Schultheis
Wildlife Research Supervisor



June 2022

2021-22 Furbearer Harvest Survey

Prepared by Matt Peek, Furbearer Biologist

The Furbearer Harvest Survey (FHS) is conducted at the end of furharvesting season. Most years since 2001, 60-70% of the furharvester license holders from each of nine physiographic provinces in Kansas have been surveyed. Recipient names are randomly selected from an online database of all furharvester license buyers.

Survey questions are divided into 5 sections: general information, trapping activities, hunting activities, running activities, and a special section. Harvest questions were the same from 1983-2008. In 2009, changes in question structure of the trapping section were made to collect more accurate catch-per-unit-effort data (see questions 8-12 in Appendix 1).

Also beginning in 2009, the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP) began conducting web-based surveys. Not everyone is equipped for online surveys, so a traditional paper survey option has also typically been made available.

Beginning in 2018, licenses became valid for 365 days from date of purchase rather than for a calendar year. Furharvester licenses that were purchased from November 18, 2020 to March 31, 2022 would have been valid during the season. There were 7994 of these licenses sold, and from them a sample of 3197 (40%) was selected. The online database contained e-mails for 2340 (73%) of these individuals. An initial e-mail was sent on April 1, 2022 containing a link to the survey and a request for participation. A reminder e-mail was sent to nonrespondents on April 12.

A single mailing consisting of a 2-page, 8.5"x11" paper survey (Appendix 1) was sent March 31 to furharvesters without an e-mail on file (n=857), and on April 12 to those with unusable emails (n=63). A summary of the survey effort including response rates can be found in Table 1. The number of responses and the response rate of furharvesters within each physiographic province can be found in Figure 1. Respondents to the paper survey were asked to provide an e-mail address for future surveys if they had one. Respondents provided 19 new and 9 updated e-mail addresses.

Information provided by furharvesters is an estimate of their harvest and activities during the season. Results from bobcat and swift fox pelt tagging have typically been lower than the harvest estimates derived from the FHS, suggesting an overestimate by the FHS. Consequently, harvest figures obtained from this survey should be considered representative of annual harvest indices rather than parameters.

A few extreme outlier harvest responses are removed from the results most years on the basis that they are likely inaccurate (data entry errors) or unique enough that their extrapolation to the population would inordinately increase harvest estimates. Though somewhat of a judgement, for common species where responses are generally normally distributed, those approximately twice or more than the second highest harvest may be excluded. However, no responses were excluded this season.

Survey results were extrapolated to represent total harvest and activity. Fifty-eight percent of respondents indicated they participated in furharvesting activities during the season (i.e. were active). This is a bit below the 60-64% who were active over the previous six seasons but may be the result of the larger sample population resulting from the availability of the 365 license. Estimated furharvester distribution based on the county in which they conducted most of their furharvesting activities can be found in Figure 2.

Furharvesters spent an estimated 142,611 user days in pursuit of furbearers, including 72,795 days trapping, 48,821 days hunting, and 20,995 days running. These figures represent a 14% decrease in combined user days from the previous season, following a 13% decrease the season before. Average days afield by trappers, hunters, and runners declined from 32, 17 and 53 last season to 30, 15 and 50 this season, respectively. Participation in various combinations of furharvesting activities is presented in Table 2.

Harvest, participation, and activity levels for trapping, hunting and running are presented in Tables 3-5, respectively. Trappers account for the majority of harvest of most furbearer species. Coyotes are the main exception, but much of their harvest is by hunters without a furharvester license (coyotes are not a furbearer) and not estimated by this survey. The 2021 Small Game Hunter Activity Survey estimates total harvest by coyote hunters without a furharvester license. That data is not yet available, but coyote hunters far outnumber coyote trappers, and hunters accounted for about 80% of the total estimated coyote harvest during the 2020-21 season.

Historical furbearer harvest in Kansas based on the Furbearer Harvest Survey can be found in Table 6. This year, total furbearer harvest (128,259) was down 7% from last season. Estimated harvest of all species declined except for bobcat and raccoon. Most notably, the harvest of coyotes, which have been extremely important to the fur trade in recent years, decreased by 15%.

At the end of each survey, furharvesters are given the opportunity to provide comments on furharvesting in Kansas. These comments can be found in Appendix 2. All comments are read by the furbearer biologist, and an effort is made to respond to direct questions. This year, the most common comments were in reference to the night vision coyote season and furbearer overabundance (especially raccoon) or need for additional harvest. The Department’s plan for the night vision coyote season is to collect three years of data and then reevaluate all aspects of the season. Having just finished the second season, this will occur after next season. We are responding to the issue of low furbearer harvest by proposing to extend general furbearer season through the end of February. The Department does not currently support expansion of harvest season into times when young would be orphaned or when there is no fur value. Laws and regulations already allow damage take, and we are not yet willing to undermine the tradition that the legal harvest season is the time in which most furbearer management should occur. Plus, there is no reason to believe an extended season would result in a meaningful harvest increase.

Table 1. Sample size and response rate of survey methods used to conduct the Furbearer Harvest Survey.

	Number	Non-deliverables	Response Rate	
			Number	Percent
E-mail	2340	63	704	30.9
Paper survey	920 ^a	21	238	26.0
Total	3197	21	942	29.7

^a Sent to those without e-mails and e-mail nonrespondents.

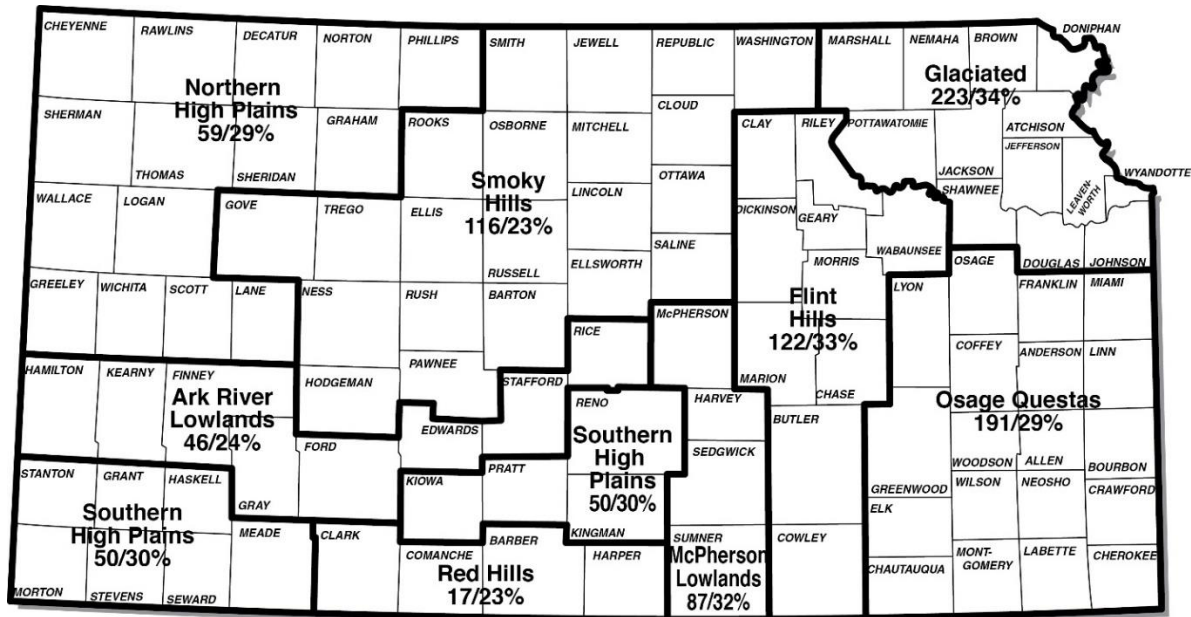


Figure 1. The number of survey respondents (number) and the response rate of furharvesters (percent) living within each physiographic province in Kansas. In addition, 32 nonresidents responded resulting in a 29% response rate that group.

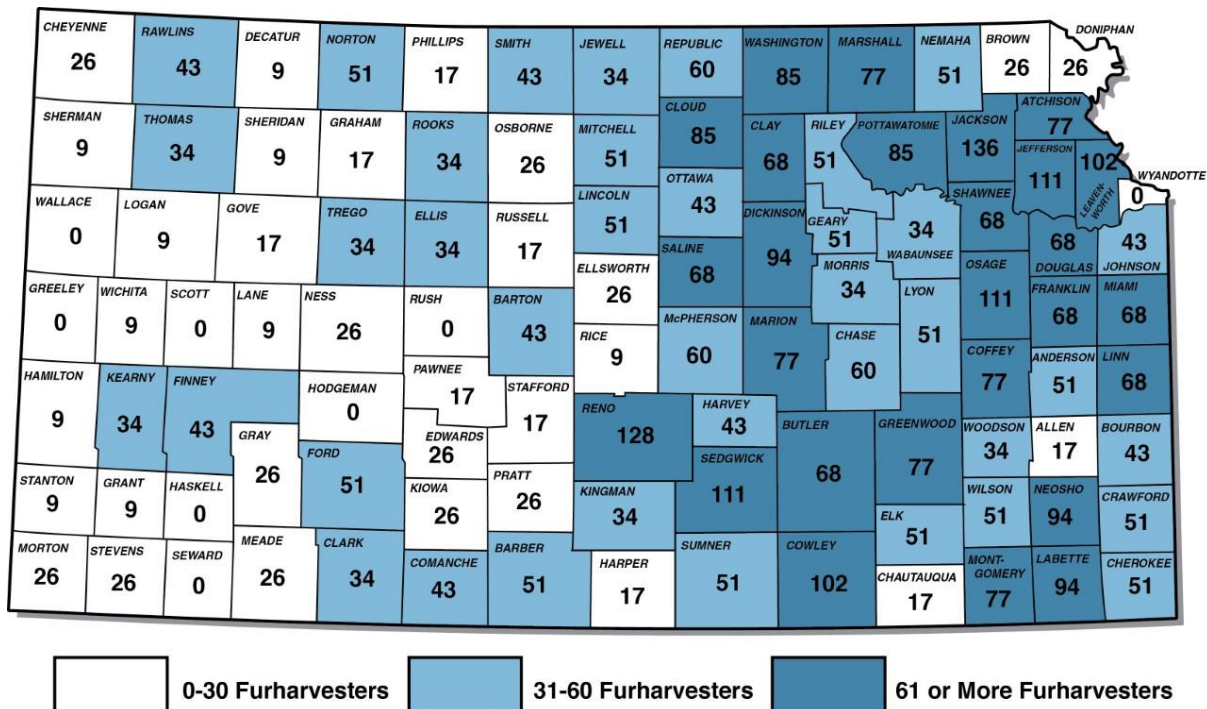


Figure 2. Estimated furharvester distribution in Kansas based on the county in which active survey respondents conducted most of their furharvesting activities.

Table 2. Estimated number and percent of 2021-22 season furharvester license holders (n=8125) who participated in various furharvesting activities.

Activity	Number of Furharvesters	Percent of Furharvesters
Inactive	3386	42.4
Trap only	1315	16.5
Hunt only	1808	22.6
Run only	25	0.3
Trap and hunt	1069	13.4
Trap and run	8	0.1
Hunt and run	322	4.0
Trap, hunt and run	7559	0.7
Total Participation		
Total trappers	2453	31
Total hunters	3259	41
Total runners	416	5

Table 3. Harvest, participation, and activity levels for trappers in Kansas during the 2021-22 harvest season.

Species	Survey Respondents Who Pursued (n)	Estimated Harvest	% of Trappers Who Pursued	Ave Traps/Day	Captures/100 Trap Days	Maximum Harvest	Ave Harvest/Trapper
Badger	54	950	19	15.1	6.9	75	2.1
Beaver	104	6,110	37	5.6	11.7	80	6.9
Bobcat	137	3,547	48	9.8	2.8	24	3.1
Coyote	197	32,901	69	24.0	5.6	434	19.7
Red Fox	20	322	7	5.2	11.5	12	1.9
Gray Fox	1	0	0	6.0	0.0	0	0
Swift Fox	3	127	1	4.0	5.8	20	5
Mink	8	25	3	8.3	0.6	31	0.4
Muskrat	44	2,987	15	7.4	9.1	363	8
Opossum	164	10,523	58	7.6	6.6	90	7.6
Otter	21	433	7	5.6	7.8	5	2.4
Raccoon	222	27,538	78	12.1	12.0	133	14.6
Skunk	107	4,600	38	11.7	2.6	94	5.1
Weasel	1	0	0	6.0	0.0	75	0

Table 4. Harvest, participation, and activity levels for hunters in Kansas during the 2021-22 harvest season.

Species	Survey Respondents Who Pursued (n)	Estimated Harvest	% of Hunters Who Pursued	Harvest/100 Days	Maximum Harvest	Ave Harvest/Hunter
Badger	12	153	3	77.6	3	1.5
Bobcat	129	1,018	34	15.6	14	0.9
Coyote	325	18,186	86	61.6	63	6.6
Red Fox	9	8	2	0.0	1	0.1
Gray Fox	2	0	1	0.0	0	0.0
Swift Fox	1	0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Opossum	27	1,315	7	127.0	24	5.7
Raccoon	141	17,278	37	153.6	150	14.4
Skunk	11	238	3	46.2	7	2.6

Table 5. Treeing success, participation, and activity levels for furharvesters in Kansas during the 2021-22 running season.

Species	Survey Respondents Who Pursued (n)	Estimated Take*	% of Runners Who Pursued	Take/100 Days*	Maximum Take*	Ave Take/Runner*
Bobcat	1	0	2	0.0	0	0.0
Opossum	9	619	18	158.3	30	8.1
Raccoon	47	21,699	96	118.8	400	54.4

*Take refers to the number of animals "seen or treed" while running.

Table 6. Historical harvest of furbearers in Kansas based on furbearer harvest survey.

Seasons	Badger	Beaver	Bobcat Tagging *	Bobcat	Coyote	Gray Fox	Red Fox	Swift Fox Tagging *	Swift Fox	Mink	Muskrat	Opossum	Otter Tagging*	Otter	Raccoon	Striped Skunk	Weasel
1969-70	311	8583		373	9758	81	193		closed	2189	43773	10452			63004	2466	28
1970-71									closed								
1971-72									closed								
1972-73	305	5178		458	13385	102	508		closed	1508	27828	11421			46101	3174	10
1973-74									closed								
1974-75									closed								
1975-76	1202	6484		1454	30150	539	638		closed	1875	51083	45994			102760	8703	25
1976-77									closed								
1977-78	4054	5826		1705	35138	141	703		closed	1764	38167	45625			74731	9824	
1978-79	4530	5315	825	1705	50195	193	533		closed	2192	36639	51156			101450	15184	
1979-80	5882	19140	1050	1955	51380	245	888		closed	3378	75962	56937			133311	23297	
1980-81	2501	14939	1027	1966	35238	274	645		closed	3304	59063	49741			94754	16495	
1981-82	2673	5440	882	1730	32310	171	672		closed	2342	30703	59916			93823	15917	
1982-83	3708	7653	1014	1686	36526	247	795		1163	3583	49528	58138			87425	11453	
1983-84	1754	8908	1334	2471	31466	93	1193		740	1600	21791	19347			67042	4985	
1984-85	1774	11814	1869	3212	33066	122	876		426	1937	24863	31142			108694	6806	
1985-86	1348	15543	1916	2837	34418	117	487		314	1507	15241	30955			96708	6909	
1986-87	3009	14732	2720	4522	40999	107	961		1161	2571	25561	59190			119488	10460	21
1987-88	2402	12474	3192	4805	41460	123	1113		650	2619	33814	54714			118878	8847	23
1988-89	1417	13989	2878	4492	25387	235	672		442	1545	22822	24117			72028	4233	5
1989-90	476	9607	1560	2482	15314	30	462		264	630	7114	9775			38274	2043	4
1990-91	442	5214	1409	1694	11968	34	242		76	423	4083	5493			27137	1258	0
1991-92	571	5429	2043	2453	15941	77	509		93	713	3043	12427			43977	3576	0
1992-93	687	3044	1618	2307	16076	59	328		64	252	2115	8101			33710	3125	2
1993-94	649	5288	2413	2900	16595	55	731		73	368	2571	12727			48203	2610	146
1994-95	781	12123	3590	5352	17022	204	1003	48	34	746	6215	19692			64951	4131	9
1995-96	522	8089	3020	3932	14009	99	753	33	45	291	3598	16120			58600	2877	2
1996-97	874	10653	4296	7041	19794	179	1232	33	144	473	5451	29980			93190	8065	40
1997-98	876	13337	3347	6233	14398	71	823	17	25	718	9679	49437			108727	9323	101
1998-99	958	8606	2385	3938	12125	152	490	7	15	419	7445	26512			71709	6375	107
1999-00	451	8845	2121	3578	11920	191	455	5	0	257	7252	13051			51307	3887	11
2000-01	1094	9388	2731	4018	15054	97	559	6	24	164	3964	14294			56143	5460	0
2001-02	434	9617	3597	5286	15329	35	584	32	0	180	3348	17080			72918	5559	0
2002-03	910	7716	5054	6521	18577	62	578	86	203	246	4596	32595			79538	10255	0
2003-04	1760	7250	5963	9654	25407	64	625	178	470	303	2823	42125			94506	10952	40
2004-05	1469	7737	5353	7062	23322	140	783	86	129	230	4845	43356			84132	10910	0
2005-06	1312	7186	6021	7458	21861	89	459	58	135	206	5733	38909			66458	12730	3
2006-07	1882	11028	7234	9998	32494	179	774	70	309	439	8150	46965			87241	15583	0
2007-08	2020	6658	5668	9381	29305	84	976	65	136	209	5120	51138			93687	17669	4
2008-09	1619	6855	4080	5944	27100	84	707	98	27	177	5767	46113			85061	16748	0
2009-10	1109	4572	1944	3210	21554	67	426	39	130	179	5681	18763			41355	7384	0
2010-11	1898	9774	4809	8098	39152	43	988	43	126	371	15193	48296			97858	12755	5
2011-12	1591	9191	5918	7412	36460	54	732	113	325	210	8282	43758	127	139	101924	14060	8
2012-13	2017	9535	5926	8164	52681	90	898	246	620	225	5396	43844	128	196	121514	17553	0
2013-14	1661	8063	4990	7431	41694	51	838	239	252	154	5590	46584	158	175	117069	16101	5
2014-15	1794	7146	3044	4353	48444	18	801	151	349	235	9129	43138	169	216	93437	13022	0
2015-16	1602	6262	2319	3882	44124	55	427	75	100	226	5228	24538	115	186	51250	9994	0
2016-17	1014	3987	2563	3500	36269	0	391	35	105	100	6094	19836	132	187	39708	5929	0
2017-18	1122	4459	3900	4935	47499	12	512	93	142	98	5411	18442	167	197	38746	5187	0
2018-19	1406	6776	3065	4955	53657	5	507	62	65	293	7530	19359	128	284	39370	5588	5
2019-20	1619	5627	2933	4598	63441	12	571	149	410	39	3586	15477	179	296	49649	6553	0
2020-21	2328	6944	2454	3755	60043	7	649	144	409	307	5039	12611	179	437	39758	5735	0
2021-22	1103	6110	2384	4565	51087	0	330	37	127	25	2987	11838	202	433	44816	4838	0

Special Section

The “Special Section” of the Furbearer Harvest Survey changes annually and is used to collect information and opinions from furharvesters on a diversity of topics that relate to furharvesting or furbearers. Past surveys have addressed subjects such as rare furbearer status, furharvester recruitment, and trap ownership and use. This year’s special section attempted to assess furharvester ownership of fur garments and other items, and their marketing and sale of non-fur items.

Respondents were first asked how they personally use furbearer pelts (Figure 3). Just 8% of furharvesters had their own fur clothing, and only 14% had a fur clothing item, a family member with a fur clothing item, or a fur non-clothing item such as a pillow or blanket. However, over 1/3 of furharvesters indicated they had tanned fur or furbearer mounts on display in their house. Most furharvesters (52%) had none of these things.

We also wanted to inquire about the sale and use of non-fur items. We limit reporting on this question to those who put up their own fur because the furdealers who buy animals on-the-carcass typically collect parts of value or use rather than the furharvester. So we first asked whether furharvesters had skinned any of their own furbearers within the past three years. Forty-five percent indicated they had. Of these individuals, almost all (>99%) market or use parts from furbearers besides the fur. Their marketing or use of various furbearer products can be found in Figure 4. It may also be informative to group similar categories. Doing indicates 52% of respondents market or use skulls, claws and/or bones, 60% market or use beaver castor and/or other furbearer glands, and 73% use meat for one or more of the reasons given. In sum, nearly all furharvesters who put up their own fur use or market a variety of other furbearer parts beside just the fur. ***

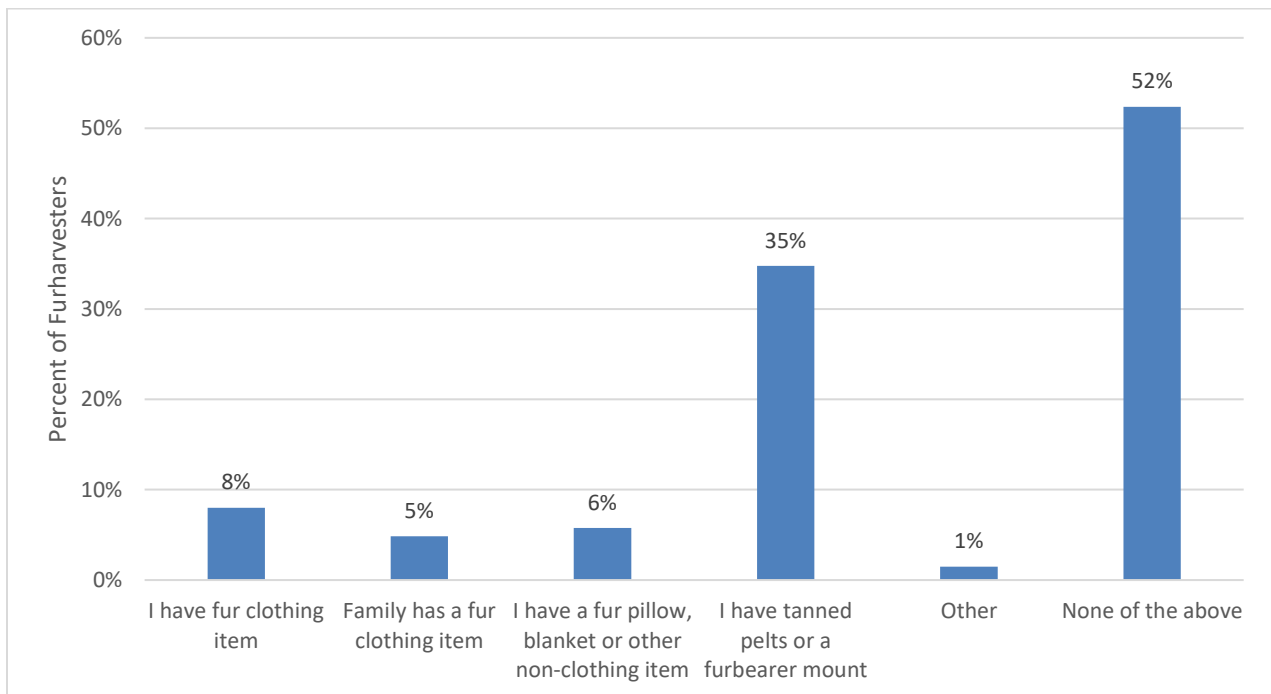


Figure 3. Personal use of furbearer pelts by Kansas furharvesters (n=886).

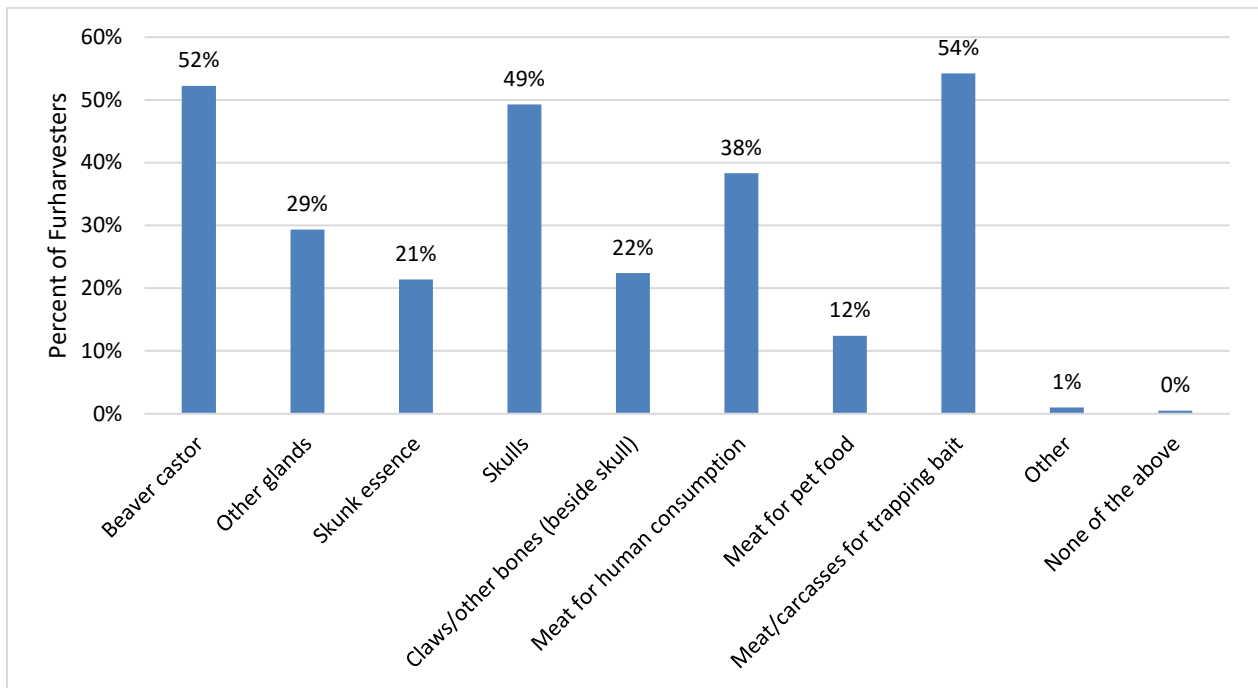


Figure 4. Percent of Kansas furharvesters who have marketed or used various non-fur, furbearer parts within the past 3 years (includes only those furharvesters who have skinned any of their own furbearers within the past 3 years; n=201).

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY STATEMENT -This program receives Federal financial assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the U.S. Department of the Interior and its bureaus prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability or sex (in educational programs). If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility, or if you desire further information, please write to: **The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Diversity and Civil Rights Programs- External Programs, 4040 North Fairfax Drive, Suite 130, Arlington, VA 22203**

Appendix 1.

Paper Version of the
2021-22 Furbearer Harvest Survey



Emporia Research and Survey Office
1830 Merchant, PO Box 1525
Emporia, KS 66801

Phone: (620) 342-0658
Fax: (620) 342-6248
www.ksoutdoors.com

Brad Loveless, Secretary

Laura Kelly, Governor

2021-22 Furbearer Harvest Survey

Your ID: [KDWP Number]

Dear [Customer Name]
[Address]
[City, State Zip]

You have been selected to participate in the Kansas Furbearer Harvest Survey. Your name was randomly chosen from the list of furharvesters who purchased a license in the last year. This survey provides our best estimate of furharvester activity and is used to guide furbearer management decisions in Kansas.

Please complete the survey within 7 days and return in the postage paid envelope. Or if you have internet access, you can complete online at: https://ksoutdoors.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9GpROpflErbW6Y6. Please complete the survey even if you did not furharvest this year. Thank you for your participation!

Matt Peek, KDWP furbearer biologist

Instructions:

- Estimate your harvest activities even if you can't remember the exact numbers.
- Include your harvest information only. Do not include a hunting/trapping partner's take.

1. Did you hunt or trap furbearers in Kansas during the 2021-22 season, or did you run furbearers with dogs during the running season in 2021?

Yes No (If no, skip to question 21.)

2. In which county did you do most of your furharvesting in 2021-22? _____

3. Did you **TRAP** for furbearers in Kansas during the 2021-22 season? (Questions about HUNTING & RUNNING furbearers will follow. This question is asking only if you TRAPPED.)

Yes No (If no, skip to question 13.)

4. How many of each did you harvest by **TRAPPING** in Kansas during the 2021-22 season? (Enter "0" for those you tried to harvest but didn't catch any.)

Badger: _____	Coyote: _____	Swift Fox: _____	Otter: _____
Beaver: _____	Gray Fox: _____	Mink: _____	Raccoon: _____
Bobcat: _____	Red Fox: _____	Muskrat: _____	Striped Skunk: _____
	Opossum: _____	Weasel: _____	

5. How many total calendar days did you TRAP furbearers or coyotes in Kansas during the 2021-22 season? *The trapping season was 92 days (Nov 17-Feb 15) for all furbearers except beaver and otter, which were 136 days (Nov 17-Mar 31).*

Total days: _____

6. How many calendar DAYS did you trap for each species? (Enter "0" if none.) *Count any day you had sets out that were intended or likely to catch that species. For example, if you caught opossums in your raccoon sets, record your raccoon trapping days for opossum also.*

Badger: _____ days	Opossum: _____ days
Bobcat: _____ days	Raccoon: _____ days
Coyote: _____ days	Striped Skunk: _____ days

7. During the time you trapped, how many TRAPS did you have set per day on average for each species? *Count any trap that was intended or likely to catch that species. For example, if you caught opossums in your raccoon sets, record your raccoon trap numbers for opossum also.*

Badger: _____ traps	Opossum: _____ traps
Bobcat: _____ traps	Raccoon: _____ traps
Coyote: _____ traps	Striped Skunk: _____ traps

8. Did you set traps specifically for BEAVER?

Yes No (If no, skip to question 9.)

- How many DAYS did you trap for BEAVER? _____ days
- During this time, how many BEAVER TRAPS did you have set per day on average? _____ traps

9. Did you set traps specifically for OTTER?

Yes No (If no, skip to question 10.)

- How many DAYS did you trap for OTTER? _____ days
- During this time, how many OTTER TRAPS did you have set per day on average? _____ traps

10. Did you set traps specifically for RED FOX, GRAY FOX, or SWIFT FOX?

Yes No (If no, skip to question 11.)

a. How many DAYS did you trap for each FOX species? (Enter "0" if none.) *Count any day you had sets out that were intended or likely to catch that species.*

Red fox: _____ days
Gray fox: _____ days
Swift fox: _____ days

b. During the time you trapped each species, how many TRAPS did you have set per day on average? *Count any trap that was intended or likely to catch that species.*

Red fox: _____ traps
Gray fox: _____ traps
Swift fox: _____ traps

11. Did you set traps specifically for MUSKRAT or MINK?

Yes No (If no, skip to question 12.)

a. How many DAYS did you trap for MUSKRAT or MINK? (Enter "0" if none.) *Count any day you had sets out that were intended or likely to catch that species.*

Muskrat: _____ days

Mink: _____ days

b. During the time you trapped MUSKRAT or MINK, how many TRAPS did you have set per day on average? *Count any trap that was intended or likely to catch that species.*

Muskrat: _____ traps

Mink: _____ traps

12. Did you set traps specifically for WEASEL?

Yes No (If no, skip to question 13.)

a. How many DAYS did you trap for WEASEL? _____ days

b. During this time, how many WEASEL TRAPS did you have set per day on average? _____ traps

13. Did you HUNT for furbearers or coyotes in Kansas during the 2021-22 season?

Yes No (If no, skip to question 17.)

14. How many of each did you harvest by HUNTING in Kansas during the 2021-22 season? (Enter "0" for those you hunted but didn't harvest.)

Badger: _____ Gray Fox: _____ Opossum: _____

Bobcat: _____ Red Fox: _____ Raccoon: _____

Coyote: _____ Swift Fox: _____ Striped Skunk: _____

15. How many total calendar days did you HUNT furbearers or coyotes in Kansas during the 2021-22 season? (*maximum 92 days; Nov 17-Feb 15*).

Total days: _____

16. How many calendar DAYS did you HUNT for each species? (Enter "0" if none.)

Badger: _____ days Gray Fox: _____ days Opossum: _____ days

Bobcat: _____ days Red Fox: _____ days Raccoon: _____ days

Coyote: _____ days Swift Fox: _____ days Striped Skunk: _____ days

17. Did you RUN furbearers in Kansas during the 2021 running season (Mar 1-Nov 8, 2021)?

Yes No (If no, skip to question 21.)

18. How many of each did you "tree" during the 2021 running season in Kansas? (Enter "0" for those you hunted but didn't tree.)

Bobcat: _____ Red Fox: _____ Raccoon: _____

Gray Fox: _____ Opossum: _____

19. How many total calendar days did you RUN furbearers in Kansas during the 2021 season? (*maximum 253 days; Mar1-Nov8*).

Total days: _____

20. How many calendar DAYS did you RUN each species? (Enter "0" if none.)

Bobcat: _____ days Red Fox: _____ days Raccoon: _____ days

Gray Fox: _____ days Opossum: _____ days

Special Section – Use of Furbearer Pelts & Parts

21. How do you personally use furbearer pelts? (check all that apply)

- I have fur clothes (coat, vest, hat, gloves, earmuffs, etc.) that I've worn within the past 3 years.
- A family member in my household has fur clothes they've worn within the past 3 years.
- I have a fur pillow, blanket or other non-clothing item in my household (excluding tanned pelts and furbearer mounts).
- I have tanned pelts or furbearer mounts on display in my household.
- Other. Specify: _____
- None of the above

22. Have you skinned any of your own furbearers within the past 3 years?

- Yes
- No (If no, skip to question 24.)

23. Within the past 3 years, which of the following products have you marketed or collected for your own use from furbearers you harvested? DO NOT include parts sold "on the carcass;" include only those you specifically collected for the purpose of sale or use.

- Beaver castor
- Glands (like coyote, bobcat, mink or muskrat)
- Skunk essence
- Skulls
- Claws or other bones beside the skull
- Meat for human consumption
- Meat for pet food
- Meat/carcasses for trapping bait
- Other. Specify: _____
- None of the above

24. If you have an e-mail address and are willing to receive a direct link to surveys such as this in the future, should your name be selected, please include it here: _____

25. If you have any comments or suggestions on furbearer management in KS, you can provide them here:

Thank you for your time and interest in Kansas furharvesting.

Appendix 2.

Furharvester Comments from the
2021-22 Furbearer Harvest Survey

Comments
2020-2021 SEASON I WAS LIMITED ON GETTING OUT CAUSE OF COVID. DID HARVEST SOME RACCOONS. 2021-2022 MY WORK SCHEDULE WAS HEAVY PLUS LAND OWNERS DIDN'T REALLY WANT ANYONE OUT DURING DEER SEASON. MY BEAVER & OTHER LAND OWNER DECIDED TO LET A FELLOW CHURCH MEMBER TRAP HIS PROPERTY. I BASICLY GAVE UP FOR THIS SEASON,JUST COULDN'T OBTAIN PERMISSION ANYWHERE.
A bounty should be paid for coyotes and other predators that are overpopulated
All my trapping is with cage traps
Allow a longer coon season for calling and hunting. Far too many mesopredators that need to be controlled in some way. As an avid turkey, upland hunter and farmer I've seen a steady decline in birds and increase in coon population. Also the use for artificial light during the coyote season for coons would be beneficial to help harvest coon.
Allow night hunting with lights for bobcats
Allow night time raccoon calling. Raccoon population seems to be growing. Thanks
Allowing a longer thermal/nv season. I keep in good contact with my local warden and send him my onx pins before season so that he is aware of where I hunt and we check in with each other through the season to see how things are going. Allowing raccoons to be taken with thermal as well. There isn't nearly the guys running dogs for raccoons because of the cost anymore. Pelts have little to no value and I hope that changes but don't particularly see it changing anytime soon. There were some nights hunting with thermal that I saw 2X as many cats as dogs, not totally against making cats legal after dark I would be more on the neutral side.
Appreciate the work you guys do.
As of right now I don't have any changes I can think of. I hope to get out more next season. Thank you!
Beaver and raccoons are going to continue to plague the state with no value of pelts. A bounty I believe would be incentive enough for existing trappers to take the extra time along the line to help manage these critters. Thanks for all you do.
Between prices being so low and land owners leasing land to out of state trophy deer hunters its become hard to participate.
Bobcat needs to run longer season.
COYOTE HUNTING WITH DOGS. TRESPASSING ON LANDOWNERS DRIVING IN POSTED CRP. SEEMS NO INTEREST IN CATCHING THEM
Coyotes are extremely thick in Kansas and need to open the night vision/ thermal hunting of coyotes to year round.
Did not do as much as I wanted to
Did not have the opportunity to hunt or trap fur bearers
Do something to make using dogs to hunt raccoon more friendly to land owners.
Enjoying the ability to now hunt coyotes at night with thermal and IR night scopes. Provides a new hunting experience that previously was not attainable.
Extend night hunting for coyotes, bobcats, raccoons to longer season.
First thing that needs done is get rid of the deer leases so access to private ground can be gained to reduce predator and nest raider numbers. Second tell all the cry baby upland hunters that trappers have the same right to trap as they do to run their dogs and quit stealing traps.
First year learning to trap and it was a great experience.
Fur prices are just too low. In the 80's a large coon got you 30 gallons of gas. That would mean a coon today would need to be worth about \$120, not \$3-\$5. It's pretty sad because it's such a renewable resource they just rot on the highways now year round.
FUR PRICES NEED TO GO UP THERE IS ALOT OF COONS AND COYOTES IN DICKINSON COUNTY
get the price up they are out of control
hate conibear traps on state land.
Hopefully the number of trappers and trapping will increase in our state, to help conversation efforts. I don't have as much time to trap as I used to, but I still try to do my part.
I also have a Nuisance Control Permit that there was no animals harvested during trapping season.
I also night hunted with thermal optics during night season. I would like to see the season be longer and include species such as bobcat and raccoon.
I am 70 yrs old & have had both knees replaced so can't walk like I used to but I hunt with (name withheld) & he has good feet but his eyes & ears are not that good, so between the two of us, we manage ok. I drive mostly & he walks. I love listening to a coon hound.
I am also a avid bird and turkey hunter and my three sons are avid bird, turkey and duck hunters. There is no market for fur anymore and most "hide" hunters have stopped killing raccoons and coyotes. We are concerned about nest predation by raccoons and possums. We can see it now with the turkey population declining and the struggles of upland birds to get restored to their former populations. Seasons on furbearers must be liberalized and opened up to more harvesting of furbearers. Follow the science and let coon hunter take an animal at night in the running season. Increase the days of actual season like they have done in most of our neighboring states. I have a degree in Environmental Biology, emphasis in Fisheries and Wildlife Biology, so I am not just speaking from a hunters perspective. Kansas has always been good about following the science in the past and I'd like to see that continue.
I am in favor of year round coon hunting
I am interested in maybe get a license to remove nuisance animals and do animal damage control. If you could point me in the right direction it would be helpful call or text.
I believe the land trapping season should be extended. I feel that some pelts are just starting to come into their prime when land season is expiring. I believe it should be extended to at least the end of the month, if not just follow the season for water trapping.
I believe the season should be a bit longer. It should start at the beginning of November and all furbearers should run until the end of January. Beaver should be the exception and should start November 1st and run until end of march.
I BELIEVE THE TOTAL NUMBER OF RACCOONS IS TOO HIGH AND THERE SHOULD BE A BOUNTY ON THEM.
I BOUGHT THE LICENSE TO GO WITH A FRIEND, BUT DIDN'T GET TO GO
I buy my license to support kdwp plus to get a cat. I have trapped in years past. Too many furbearers, hawks, owls, chemicals in the water, septic tanks and moo cows for most wildlife to survive. Kdwp should do more to educate landowners (including farmers and ranchers not just hunters) to support clean water and controlled burns in this area.
I did not harvest any fur bearers this season. I obtained the permit to be capable of minimizing risk to my poultry and pets on our rural property if needed. But have not had problems as of yet.
I DIDN'T GET OUT MUCH DUE TO ILLNESS THROUGHOUT THE SEASON

I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY I HAVE TO BUY A LICENSE TO TRAP PESTS THAT KILL MY LIVESTOCK
I feel that In State hunter are very limited on places to hunt due to Out of State Deer hunting on public and private land. The in-state hunters are being pushed out by deer leases and hunter. The in state local hunter are becoming less and less every year.
"I firmly believe that raccoon season should be open all year, just as the coyote season is. The open season on coyotes have had no impact on them in terms of numbers. I believe the same will be true for the racoons.
The raccoon hound hunter wants this animal to live and thrive, if we do not control their numbers mother nature will control the numbers herself with sickness and a slow death that will have a more profound reaction on numbers than any raccoon hunter could do. Raccoon season should be open all year."
I have been trapping coyotes for 7 years in your state. hope to do it for many more. The resource (coyotes) is plentiful, almost too plentiful as I've trapped many coyotes with the mange. Keep up the good work you do in managing your wildlife. Trapping is the best method, but night vision is a very good thing you have added to controlling the coyote. Thank you for sharing your great renewable resources with non-residents.
I have heard of other states offering a bounty on ground nest raiding predators to kids in a effort to help turkey and quail, pheasant populations rebound. One of the Dakotas I think. Would help get kids involved revive trapping a little.
I never made it out this due season. Was getting permission from landowners. Going to hit it hard next year.
I only get a furbearer lic so I can shoot a bobcat. You sale a nonres trophy bobcat lic for 1/2 ? the normal nonres price. Why not a 1/2 price res. trophy bobcat tag for res. hunters ?
I planned to participate in a coyote tourney but covid changed my availability. I don't trap.
I really don't hunt them, I have it in case I need it while I hunt deer and have encounters
I really enjoyed trapping in KS. I trapped each day with my son-in-law who shared in the setting and catching with me.
I started last year with two young dogs and did not hunt much. I personally feel like there are a lot of furbearers out there and not much hunting or trapping. Would like to see a little longer kill season in Kansas.
I think hunting coyotes with trucks chasing them is bad. Also think allowing to shoot coyotes from vehicle windows should be changed and not allowed. People use it for a cover up for doing other things
I think it would be valuable for the state to research the population of bobcats in western Kansas (Regions 1 and 2) as there seems to be a rise a population and/or migration into new areas. Also, there is a rather large poaching problem of deer and antelope in that area. If you care to look at these things in the future feel free to contact me.
I think (the furbearer biologist) and Kansas do a nice job managing furbearers. Long seasons, relaxed regulations, etc., make it nice to pick and choose days to trap. I wish I had more time, and a younger back, shoulder and knees to do more!! Keep up the good work!
I think that running furbearers with dogs should be illegal. I see more trucks with trespassers in them running dogs. They cut fences and tear up landowners land. And when confronted they say "I had to retrieve my dog". Whether they have permission to be on land or not. This is not right and they bring a bad name to furbearer hunting in general. They have no regard for property lines since they have no control over where their dogs run.
I think that the night vision season should be longer because the coyotes are over populated.
I think they should open up kill season for coon longer to get the number back down to where they needs to be.
"I think you are doing a good job, we saw more bobcats this year than ever before.
I bow hunt deer and would take a furbearer if the opportunity was there, but this year although seeing some I didn't have any shot opportunities."
I trap and hunt coons to control predation on game birds and their eggs. There is no money in it any longer and I am OK with that. I enjoy upland bird hunting and something needs to be done in Kansas about the predators. Hawks and owls are decimating our bird population. How long until a control method is put into place on the Raptors? State needs to address this situation SOONER THAN LATER!!!!
I WANTED TO HUNT AND TRAP BUT COVID 19 BECAME AN ISSUE AND DIDN'T HAVE THE TIME WITH GAS PRICES ETC.
I was busy with work and did not have time to trap this last season
I was ill most of the season and did not participate.
I WAS NOT ABLE TO HUNT OR TRAP THIS SEASON DO TO HEALTH REASONS.
I was put in contact with a local Game Warden because I had some questions about regulations and he was extremely helpful and supportive of me getting into trapping. This was our first year and my kids loved our Saturday morning checks. Thank you for making Kansas a trapper-friendly state. I know that you all receive plenty of complaints about this or that, but I wanted to make sure you receive my family's thanks for your hard work.
I was wondering if the State might provide maps of troubled areas or high population areas to target. I don't enjoy furharvesting if I think it will hurt the population. Maybe maps or contacts of farmers/ranchers wanting help? Just a thought.
I WENT HUNTING FOR RACCOON 1 DAY WITH DOGS. I SHOT IT IN THE BACK SO I COULD NOT KEEP THE PELT.
I wish I had more time to dedicate to hunting coyotes, etc., . Coyote, Raccoon, Skunk, to name a few appear to be way over populated in our area and are having a negative impact on all of our game and non game species ...
i wish the thermal season would last longer so that we can try to contain the growing number of coyotes. and the raccoon population is getting out of control, so i hope that they would be allowed to be harvested with thermal also.
I would like to see a bounty on raccoons. The bounty could only be paid to people under 18. This would be a great way for kids to earn a little money and get rid of nest raiding predators.
I WOULD PERSONALY LIKE TO SEE YEAR AROUND SEASON TO HARVEST FURBEARER'S IN KANSAS. THERE IS WAY TO MANY COON. I'VE HAD SEVERAL FARMERS TELL ME THEY FOUND DEAD COON & I'VE FOUND SOME MYSELF. I'M GUESSING DISTEMER.
I would prefer a year open season on trapping coyotes and incidental raccoon catches at the same time. It would be easy and no issue for me to release bobcats and other animals with a catch pole from foothold traps. Yote populations are the highest I've seen and they pack chase deer and have learned to ambush strutting toms. My guess is a mange or other outbreak with occur in the next few years
I'm pleased with the current regulations but there's too many deer
I'm really hoping to see the night season for coyotes start a little sooner in the fall or even winter instead of the 3 months it is. Is there any chance of this happening in the up coming future?
If you can prove trappers raccoons you should get a turkey tag
I'm retired from Spirit Aerosystems and started trapping when we moved to (withheld) in October 2019. The 1st year I trapped, I caught 2 Coyotes, 2 Bobcats, 10 Possums, 8 Raccoons, 28 Beaver, 1 Muskrat, and 4 Otter. I gave 2 of those Otter to the Wildlife and Parks Biologist, (withheld), near Climax Ks. Last Season I caught 4 Beaver and 2 Skunks. This Season, I told about in Survey. 3 Raccoons and 1 Possum.

In Dickinson County it was warm for way too long. Very bad season for trapping.
INCLUDE BOBCAT, COON AND BADGER IN NIGHT HUNTING WITH LIGHT!
Just make coon season year round not worth anything anyways and populations are climbing.
Keep the night hunting on private property and Coyotes only.
Low water in March. Beavers all gone somewhere else. So no luck this season.
Make it legal to spot light raccoons with hand held device. With take method of rim fire only from January 1st to close of season. Have a bounty on raccoons, opossum and skunks. If we don't do something about nest raiders we won't have no birds to hunt. Other states have a bounty of \$10 per tail for limited time or \$10,000 is reached after close of furbearer season. With low prices on fur nobody wants to loose lots of money trapping. Need to control nest raiders!!
MAKE SEASON LONGER
Make this a free to retrieve your dog State.
Many of us would like to trap/eradicate more coyotes, but there isn't much incentive given the low price of fur during 2020-2022. A bounty program would be beneficial and welcomed.
Maybe implement a bounty system again to help reduce the number of furbearers causing damage, or help out with the bird numbers. With the prices so low for furbearers, the number of hunters/trappers in the field are down, and thus the increase in damage to the bird population and animal damage throughout.
MORE PUBLIC LAND
My main concerns are to over abundance of coons & possums in and around our buildings. I'd like to be able to kill them out of season to protect my fowl rather than move them to an overlooked habitat several miles off.
The 2nd concern is our otter numbers here in Garnett area (Anderson county) are so high our creeks & small ponds are getting wiped out of fish. The smaller shallower ones we can hardly catch any fish anymore. please take this into consideration. groups of 5 & 6 are common. otherwise you guys do great! keep it up - (name withheld)"
Need more areas to trap. Too many traps stolen on Kansas public lands.
Need to be able to hunt Opossums, Skunks & Raccoons at night along with Coyotes. I think a bounty would be even better like they do in South Dakota. Besides that you guys do a great job
Need to increase number of furbearers harvested, especially raccoons. There is no incentive for anyone to hunt them anymore and their numbers are out of control and I think it has something to do with our turkey population being so low.
Night hunting needs to be extended for the full season of fur harvest.
No comments on management. I only trapped as a favor for a friend who had beaver damaging his pond dam.
Numbers of coyotes were way down last season.
One suggestion - on the final day of the trapping season end the season at noon on the last day instead of midnight. That way trappers get one full night of trapping and who goes out at midnight to collect their traps!
Open up raccoon year round. We need every tool to get best predators knocked back.
Our bird populations are going down. In my opinion I attribute some of this to the decrease of people trapping. I would like to see individuals be able to hunt all furbearers like coyotes are hunted.
Pay a bounty for furs so people will trap again.
pay a bounty on furbearers so more people will trap
Personally I would like to see an extended trapping season for nest raiding predators that ran closer to nesting seasons. I would personally target coon, possum, and skunk on my hunting properties in an effort to reduce these predators during the incubation period.
Please note: I trapped 3 bobcats...but 2 of them were yearlings and I let them go. Only one was killed.
Raccoon populations r exploded since no market. The deer hunters lock up our best Timbers from September to mid January making it extremely difficult to control populations. Please consider year round harvest similar to OK
RACCOON, BEAVER AND COYOTE ACTIVITY IS EXTREMELY IN TENSE AROUND (location withheld) IN SUMNER CO
Raccoons and other small furbearers are extremely overpopulated and hunter/trapper participation is very low. There should not be a closed season. This would help bird populations.
Running season was not included on the mandatory check in site? made confusing ,only option was small game hunting, but I was only running my dog?
Save our turkey population! Our nest raiders are serious problem!
Should KS consider a bounty on raccoons to help the ground nesting birds?? Might be a good idea.
Spring muskrat season would be nice
Thank you for gathering this data.
Thank you for opening up the night hunting option for Coyote.
THANK YOU FOR WHAT YOU DO, I'M SURE IT IS A THANK LESS JOB !
I AM 75 YEARS OLD WAS NOT ABLE AS IN PAST YEARS , BUT HOPE TO
GET BACK INTO TRAPPING NEXT SEASON !"
THANK YOU FOR YOUR EFFORTS AS WE HAVE BEEN DEALING WITH THE ISSUES I WILL STILL BRING UP THE COONS NEEDING AN INCREASED HARVEST. CONTINUES PRESSURE FROM LANDOWNERS IS EVIDENCE IT IS TIME TO DO IT IS GONE FASHION. MISSOURI AT MY LAST CHECK IS GOING FOR 1 PER NIGHT UNLESS ON PRIVATE GROUND WHERE LANDOWNER REQUESTS, THEN IT IS UNLIMITED TO THE NUMBER THAT CAN BE TAKEN. OKLAHOMA STILL AT 1 PER MIGHT PER LICENSE IN HUNTING PARTY. NEBRASKA IS TAKING COON WITH HOUNDS ONLY STARTING SEPT 1ST. THE LASER IS GOING TO BE A GREAT TOOL THAT WILL CATCH ON QUICK. THE SEASON RUNNING TO THE LAST OF FEB WILL BE GREAT BUT DEFINATELY NEED TO CARRY RIGHT INTO RUNNING SEASON WITH A TALEE OF SOME KIND. THANKS
Thanks for legalizing lights for night hunting. Makes it easier for identification of prey and gives me more opportunities to hunt do to my busy day work schedule
The "water sets" regulations are a bit inconvenient, i.e. it's hard to catch (ethically) some furbearers with the size of traps required. I caught 3 otters in my county. 1 more than the limit. I saw several more, I feel the population should be reevaluated to maybe increase the limit in Coffey county. Thank you!
The night season changes are a fantastic addition to the management and conservation of the coyote population in my area. Local stock growers are thrilled with the results.

The raccoon numbers are extremely high! I'm just not a good trapper. I have pictures to prove the numbers from game cameras. Please remove them from the furbearer season and allow hunting or trapping year round for them. Thank you and please feel free to contact me at this email address to communicate more about the issues that I see on the land that I spend more time then normal people.
The use of artificial light to hunt raccoons without dogs should be looked into. There is an over abundance of them and for proper conservation of there species to not get distempered would be to allow another way to hunt them.
There should be no limit on otter in Kansas. I also believe Beaver, otter, muskrat seasons should open and close at the same time. I would also like to see the rule changed where you can only tag your bobcats a week after season closes because we have a lot of things in the freezer and we don't get them all out until middle of April.
There's no market for coon hides anymore. There r coons everywhere.
This is the 4th random survey this year and I think the 5th year in a row. How about a magazine subscription or something for taking time to fill these out. Apparently you get randomly picked if you actually return them. I appreciate your time to collect the information and keep our seasons open!
THIS WAS MY FIRST YEAR AS A FURBEARER LICENSE
Unfortunately I did not get out this year. Also understand coyote trading wasn't very profitable.
Unfortunately I was out of state taking care of a family matter and did not do any fur harvesting during this time.
walk in hunting areas are the best thing since electricity was invented!
WAS TOO BUSY WITH FARMING 21-22 DID NOT TRAP OR RUN DOGS. TRAP BADGERS ON GRAVEL ROAD THAT MAKE HOLES IN THE MIDDLE OF ROAD. ONLY USE SNARES AND ONLY TRAP TILL COLD. MARK WITH VISABLE TAPE OR MARKER PAINT (ORANGE) SO DOGS LIKE BIRD DOGS DO NOT GET HANGED.
We need a longer season for fur-bearers
we need the right to retrieve. Just want our dog's back. fish and game need to help the sportsman.
We need to be controlling the raccoon population more. Ive seen more coons in the past few years than all my life put together.
With 2 young boys keeping me active with other events I just haven't had time to get out. Thanks for including me on the survey. I plan to get out more in the future. The night hunting coyotes has taken priority for me!!
With no one buying pelts of raccoons or opossum and the like maybe they should be delisted from fur bearer classifications and an open season installed. Numbers are very high with the decreased pressure.
With the current low price market, and no fur routes in my area, I did no trapping this year. It was disappointing.
Would have trapped longer but life happens. Thoroughly enjoyed what time I had.
Would like to see coon season open up earlier in the year. Like September.
Would like to see the Night hunting for coyotes extended a little bit but definitely nowhere near deer seasons as I think that would create a huge problem for poaching our deer population. The night season needs to be longer but definitely not all year long as the coyotes will get pressure too much at night and will be harder to call in like they are during the day.
Yea something needs to be done about the raccoon population. With the market being down the raccoon population has jumped tremendously. Allow us to trap coon year round.
You begin the season to early, the fur is not prime. I would suggest move opening to around Dec. 1st.
You have a great state for wildlife, birds, game birds an furbearers.
You need to start fur bearing season in dec and end it at the end of feb the fur is rarely prime and alot of trappers have to wait until after pheasant season is over to trap on some landowners ground to avoid their hunting dogs.