

Wisconsin Fur Buyers Report 2009-2010

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Abstract

The average price paid for furbearer pelts rose for 8 of the 13 species on the 2009-10 fur buyer survey. The total pelt value for 2009-10 was estimated at 2.6 million dollars, this was up five hundred thousand from the 2008-09 value. Over 383,000 furs were purchased from Wisconsin fur harvesters this season. Sixty-five percent of all furs purchased were from out of state.

Methods

In order to document harvest totals, interstate fur sales, and total pelt value of the 2009-10 furbearer harvest season, survey forms were mailed to all licensed Wisconsin fur buyers. Fur buyers were asked to report the number of furs purchased from Wisconsin hunters, trappers, other fur dealers, and the number purchased from outside the state. Fur buyers were also questioned on the average prices paid to Wisconsin fur harvesters for furbearer pelts. Lastly, fur buyers were asked to estimate the percentage of furs purchased from Wisconsin fur hunters. A second and third mailing were sent to all non-respondents. Data from all returned questionnaires were entered into the DNR UNIX computer and summarized using the Statistical Analysis System (SAS).

Results

Responses were received from 48 of the 53 (91%) licensed fur buyers that were surveyed. Since some of the returned surveys covered more than one buyer the corrected response rate was 98% (52 of 53). Sixty-three percent of the respondents purchased furs during the 2009-10 season.

Of the 1,219,420 furs purchased by licensed Wisconsin fur buyers during the 2009-10 season, 31% were purchased from Wisconsin fur harvesters, 4% were purchased from Wisconsin dealers, and 65% were purchased from outside Wisconsin (Table 1).

The 383,414 furs purchased from licensed Wisconsin hunters and trappers yielded a total pelt value of \$2,590,639. This was higher than the 2008-09 season total of \$2,101,065. This is the ninth highest total pelt value in the last twenty-one years, and the fifth in the last ten.

The mean price paid to Wisconsin hunters/trappers in 2009-10 increased for 8 of the 13 species surveyed. The lowest price paid for a furbearer pelt in the 2009-10 season was \$0.65, opossum. The highest price paid for a furbearer pelt in the 2009-10 season was \$150.00, bobcat. The mean percentage of coyote, gray fox, raccoon, and red fox pelts purchase that were taken via hunting during the 2009-10 season is 66%, 35%, 56%, and 42% respectively.

Table 1. *Fur harvest data as reported by licensed Wisconsin fur buyers, 2009-10 trapping season.*

Species	# Purchased from Wisconsin Fur Harvesters	Average Price (\$)	Low Price (\$)	High Price (\$)	# Purchased from Wisconsin Dealers	# Purchased from Outside Wisconsin	Total Pelt Value (\$)
Muskrat	246,118	\$4.99	\$2.71	\$6.50	23,864	334,375	\$1,228,128.82
Raccoon	94,403	\$8.71	\$6.11	\$18.00	12,467	305,205	\$822,250.13
Mink	8,142	\$8.76	\$4.63	\$12.40	622	30,917	\$71,323.92
Red Fox	2,632	\$13.27	\$8.00	\$19.00	506	14,361	\$34,926.64
Beaver	20,393	\$14.51	\$5.00	\$17.41	4,358	70,570	\$295,902.43
Gray Fox	846	\$13.46	\$8.90	\$20.00	314	3,253	\$11,387.16
Otter	524	\$34.70	\$10.00	\$43.75	159	5,031	\$18,182.80
Coyote	5,300	\$10.61	\$6.46	\$25.00	1,378	15,237	\$56,233.00
Bobcat	27	\$45.58	\$15.00	\$150.00	39	1,549	\$1,230.66
Fisher	1,025	\$36.16	\$25.00	\$40.00	344	1,245	\$37,064.00
Opossum	1,319	\$1.58	\$0.65	\$12.00	77	7,493	\$2,084.02
Skunk	1,305	\$6.23	\$1.00	\$9.50	80	1,453	\$8,130.15
Weasel	1,380	\$2.75	\$1.05	\$5.41	247	862	\$3,795.00
Total	383,414				44,455	791,551	\$2,590,638.73

**Report of Furs Purchased
2009-2010**

Form 2300-173 (R 7/10)

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Species	Furs Purchased From WISCONSIN HUNTERS AND TRAPPERS	Average Price Per Pelt	Furs Purchased From WISCONSIN FUR DEALERS	Furs Purchased From OUTSIDE OF WISCONSIN	Percent of Furs Purchased From Wisconsin Fur Hunters (<i>Best Estimate</i>)
		\$ \$. ¢ ¢			
Muskrat	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
Raccoon	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	% of raccoons hunted <input type="text"/>
Mink	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
Red Fox	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	% of red fox hunted <input type="text"/>
Beaver	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
Gray Fox	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	% of gray fox hunted <input type="text"/>
Otter	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
Coyote	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	% of coyote hunted <input type="text"/>
Bobcat	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
Fisher	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
Opossum	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
Skunk	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
Weasel	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	

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Figure 1. The 2009-10 furbuyer questionnaire.