

Wisconsin Fur Buyers Report 2012-2013

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Abstract

The average price paid for furbearer pelts rose for 12 of the 13 species on the 2012-13 fur buyer survey. The total pelt value for 2012-13 was estimated at 4.5 million dollars, this was down 1.3 million dollars from the 2011-12 value. Over 349,703 furs were purchased from Wisconsin fur harvesters this season. Seventy-six 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 2012-13 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 production server and summarized using the Statistical Analysis System (SAS).

Results

Responses were received from 52 of the 58 (90%) licensed fur buyers that were surveyed. Since some of the returned surveys covered more than one buyer's activities, the corrected response rate was 93% (54 of 58). Seventy-one percent of the respondents purchased furs during the 2012-13 season.

Of the 1,478,320 furs purchased by licensed Wisconsin fur buyers during the 2012-13 season, 24% were purchased from Wisconsin fur harvesters, 3% were purchased from Wisconsin dealers, and 73% were purchased from outside Wisconsin (Table 1).

The 349,703 furs purchased from licensed Wisconsin hunters and trappers yielded a total pelt value of \$4,505,909. This was lower than the 2011-12 season total of \$5,805,598. This is the 4th highest total pelt value in the last twenty-four years, and the 2nd highest in the last ten.

The mean price paid to Wisconsin hunters/trappers in 2012-13 increased for 12 of the 13 species surveyed while the number purchased from Wisconsin fur harvesters fell for 10 of the 13. The lowest price paid for a furbearer pelt in the 2012-13 season was \$0.47, opossum. The highest price paid for a furbearer pelt in the 2012-13 season was \$165.00, bobcat. The mean percentage of coyote, gray fox, raccoon, and red fox pelts purchase that were taken via hunting during the 2012-13 season is 71%, 21%, 59%, and 33% respectively.

Table 1. *Fur harvest data as reported by licensed Wisconsin fur buyers, 2012-13 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	194,942	\$9.08	\$4.00	\$12.80	29,467	400,977	\$1,770,073.36
Raccoon	108,634	\$15.46	\$6.00	\$30.00	11,809	534,455	\$1,679,481.64
Mink	9,749	\$19.57	\$8.00	\$24.95	1,474	15,569	\$190,787.93
Red Fox	2,895	\$34.73	\$15.00	\$51.00	497	18,036	\$100,543.35
Beaver	15,541	\$22.17	\$17.67	\$31.50	3,604	32,227	\$344,543.97
Gray Fox	937	\$21.90	\$16.00	\$36.00	291	8,870	\$20,520.30
Otter	910	\$85.18	\$50.00	\$104.00	222	9,436	\$77,513.80
Coyote	9,784	\$24.24	\$1.00	\$55.50	1,992	39,350	\$237,164.16
Bobcat	224	\$126.60	\$80.00	\$165.00	95	4,368	\$28,358.40
Fisher	635	\$64.41	\$40.00	\$100.00	86	523	\$40,900.35
Opossum	2,568	\$1.83	\$0.47	\$3.00	86	12,328	\$4,699.44
Skunk	1,064	\$5.51	\$2.00	\$8.50	6	1,745	\$5,862.64
Weasel	1,820	\$3.00	\$1.00	\$3.98	13	1,091	\$5,460.00
Total	349,703				49,642	1,078,975	\$4,505,909.34

**Report of Furs Purchased
2012-2013**

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 2012-13 furbuyer questionnaire.