

## NASS Survey Training

# Mink Survey – May 2021 (MINK PROD)



**United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service**

NOD-Training Group  
April 2021



# Mink Survey Overview

- Collecting information on 2020 pelts and 2021 live mink production
- Survey is the *only* source of industry information
- All respondent data is confidential AND cannot be released to the public



# Survey Details

- Project Code: **197-Mink Survey**
- Questionnaires:
  - Mailed out around April 24<sup>th</sup>
  - Online reporting option available
- Release:
  - *Mink*
  - July 22<sup>nd</sup> 3PM (EST)



# Mink Production (2019)

- Produced 2.7 million pelts
  - WI largest producer with over 1/3 of pelts
- Average value of \$21.90
  - \$59.2 million total value of production
- Pelts classified by color:
  - Black (52%), Mahogany (20%), White (6%), Sapphire (5%)
- 359,850 breeding females for 2020
  - Babies are called “kits”



# Survey Questions

- Screening question:
  - During 2020 did this operation own or raise mink?
    - **Yes:** Continue with survey.
    - **No:** “Do you plan to own or raise mink in the future?”
      - **Yes/No/Don’t Know:** “Has the operation been sold?”
        - » **Yes:** Record new operator’s information
        - » **No:** Please list the name and address of any person or farm in your area that started raising mink in 2020 or 2021.



# Pelts and Breeding by Color Class

- How many **2020** pelts in each color class:
  - Black, Demi/Wild, Pastel, Sapphire, Blue Iris, Mahogany, Pearl, Lavender, Violet, White, Palomino, Other
- How many females bred (and to be bred) to produce **2021** kits in each color class:
  - Black, Demi/Wild, Pastel, Sapphire, Blue Iris, Mahogany, Pearl, Lavender, Violet, White, Palomino, Other



# Survey Questions, Cont'd.

- Total number of pelts from **2020** crop
- Females bred (or to be bred) to produce kits in **2021**

Mink Production Timeline:

JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APR.
	BREEDING		
			WHELPING
MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.
		WEANING & SEPARATING	
WHELPING			GROWTH & FURRING
SEPT.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.
		GRADING	
GROWTH & FURRING			PELTING



# Watch for:

- Current pelts high/low compared to previous
- Current females bred high/low compared to previous
- Current pelts to previous females bred high/low
- 2020 total pelts compared to 2021 females bred
  - Average litter size is 4-6 kits per female
  - Does this relationship seem reasonable?
    - Leave notes for any large differences
- Large changes in pelts/females bred by color class
  - Current pelts and females
  - AND any previous data
- Sum of pelts and females by color class do not equal total



# Reluctant Response

“It’s none of the government’s business about my mink production/this information will be used against me.”

- You’re right to be concerned about your privacy. That’s why facts about your operation are strictly confidential and are used only in combination with similar reports from other producers like yourself. No one outside of this office has access to the individual reports, and information is never shared with other agencies.



## In conclusion:

- Very important source of data for the fur industry
  - Which strongly supports *your* efforts  
(Example: Fur Commission USA)
- Watch out for the different color classes
  - Subclasses, trade/alternative names, etc. can be tricky
  - Work with the respondent, leave notes
- May be hesitant to discuss production
  - Stress confidentiality, statistical purposes only, you are who you say you are, etc
- Work through some practices on your iPad

