



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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CENSUS SHOWS 2,836 MINK FARMS IN UNITED STATES

There are 2,836 mink farms now in operation in 42 States, according to a joint statement released today by the Bureau of the Census and the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior.

The operators of 2,754 of these farms had 161,457 female minks, over three months old, on hand as of April 1, 1940, while 2,027 farms reported the pelting of 291,324 minks, of both sexes, in 1939.

Wisconsin headed the list of mink farming States with 565 mink farms, of which 559 reported 44,437 females on hand at the time of enumeration, and 419 had taken 93,500 pelts in 1939. Minnesota was second with 299 mink farms, of which 288 reported 16,805 females, and 211 had pelted 28,952 minks. New York, with 274 mink farms and 26,069 pelts taken, and Oregon, with 239 mink farms and 24,450 pelts taken, ranked third and fourth, respectively.

Figures are based on the 1940 Census, the first ever taken of the fur-farming industry in the United States. This survey of the extent of mink farming was a cooperative effort on the part of the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of the Census, and the fur farmers of the United States.

"Because of the increasing importance of furs during wartime, the resulting information is of considerable interest to fur farmers, dealers, and retailers," according to Frank G. Ashbrook, in charge, Section of Fur Resources, Fish and Wildlife Service. Lack of statistical background, he pointed out, has frequently made financial and governmental support for the industry uncertain and inadequate.

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Following is a list of the States where mink farms are operating, the number of farms reporting females on hand, with the number of mink pelts taken. The States are ranked according to the number of pelts taken during the year.

Rank	State	Farms reporting females and/or pelts	Females over 3 months old on hand, April 1, 1940		Pelts taken (both sexes) in 1939	
			Farms reporting	Number	Farms reporting	Number
1.	Wisconsin	565	559	44,437	419	93,500
2.	Minnesota	299	288	16,805	211	28,952
3.	New York	274	263	15,109	202	26,069
4.	Oregon	239	232	12,831	170	24,450
5.	Vermont	134	132	10,330	118	21,715
6.	Washington	223	216	9,516	143	13,916
7.	Massachusetts	103	102	6,396	79	11,606
8.	Illinois	72	68	6,015	50	9,377
9.	Michigan	123	118	5,369	86	9,141
10.	Utah	115	115	5,313	70	8,721
11.	Iowa	73	70	4,861	56	8,161
12.	Maine	58	56	2,293	46	5,549
13.	Ohio	80	78	3,619	61	4,879
14.	Pennsylvania	72	67	2,298	52	4,781
15.	Idaho	46	43	1,482	35	2,510
16.	South Dakota	26	26	1,426	19	2,293
17.	Connecticut	23	23	1,214	19	2,203
18.	Colorado	31	31	1,270	20	2,165
19.	Montana	50	49	1,450	30	2,006
20.	California	32	32	1,777	18	1,912
21.	New Hampshire	29	29	1,327	19	1,630
22.	Wyoming	20	20	991	12	1,314
23.	New Jersey	16	16	1,956	11	1,056
24.	Rhode Island	5	5	599	4	1,006
25.	North Dakota	24	22	519	15	476
26.	Indiana	23	22	509	11	472
27.	Nebraska	13	13	306	6	301
28.	Kentucky	4	4	597	4	280
29.	Virginia	6	6	202	6	132
30.	West Virginia	5	5	111	4	128
31.	Missouri	12	11	173	7	117
32.	North Carolina	18	14	62	11	89
	Other States	23	19	294	13	417
	TOTAL	2,836	2,754	161,457	2,027	291,324

"Other States" include Arizona, Georgia, Kansas, Maryland, Mississippi, Nevada, New Mexico, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas. None of these States had as many as 3 farms reporting pelts taken in 1939. No mink farms were reported in Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Louisiana, and Oklahoma.