



Genuine Mackenzie Valley Fur Market Forecast for 2026

Market Overview

- Fur sales continued their upward trend, with NWT trappers harvesting over \$580,000 in auction sales. Lynx, Wolves, Wolverines and Marten were the top four furbearers sold at auction.
- There has been a huge increase in buyers from China who are expanding their market by purchasing luxury species.

2025-2026 Outlook

- Targets remain profitable for the 2026 auctions at Fur Harvesters Auction (FHA) in North Bay, Ontario.
- The (FHA) 2026 auction dates are tentatively scheduled for March 14-16 and June 2-4, 2026 (*dates are subject to change*).
- FHA has said that they would like to see a big increase in marten pelts for their March 2026 auction.

Trapping Tips

- Trap a wide variety of species during peak times for the best results.
- For foxes, harvest before January to ensure pelts retain their quality.
- For wolves, wolverine and bears, taxidermy skinning maximizes profits.

Species to Watch

Marten

- Sales hit triple digits, averaging \$108 in 2025.
- Accounted for 60% of the total sales in 2025.
- Demand outweighs the quantities available.

Lynx

- Prices still averaging nearly \$200 in 2025.
- Strong demand expected in 2026.

Wolverines

- Well-handled pelts sold for around an average of \$570 in 2025.
- Continued high demand expected in 2026.

Wolves

- Average price in 2025 was over \$400, with a high of over \$1000.
- High demand still expected for 2026.

Ermine

- Saw a good return in 2025 averaging \$10.71
- Demand has been steadily increasing since 2022.

Foxes (Red, Cross and Silver)

- Red fox market is improving, heavier sections will sell the best in 2026.
- All other colour phases of wild fox will be strong

Bears

- Top price for a grizzly in June was almost \$6,000.
- Best method to maximize your profit is taxidermy skinning.
- High demand still expected for 2026.

Mink & Muskrat

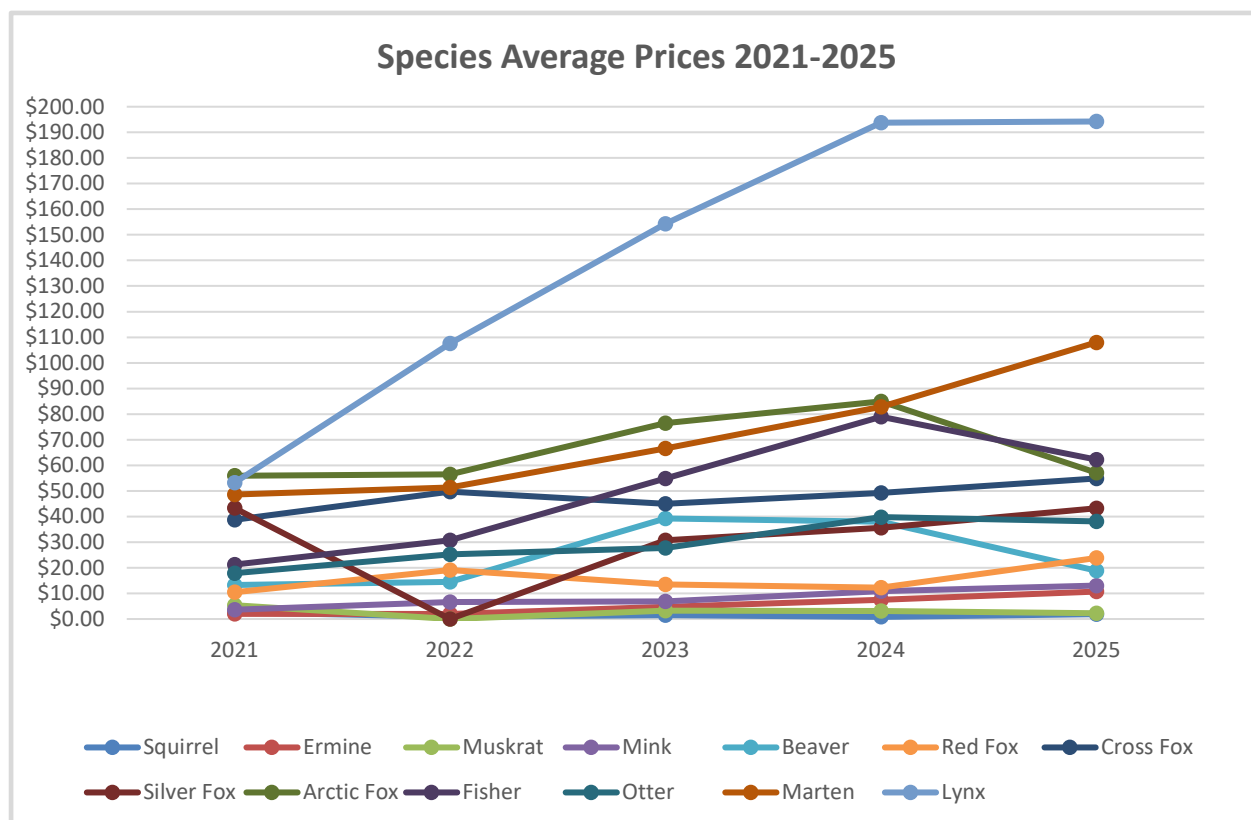
- Mink saw a 56% price increase in 2024; 18% of mink sold above the advanced price in 2024.
- Muskrat prices remain stable for top lots, with a new buyer found for all muskrats.





This Genuine Mackenzie Valley Fur (GMVF) Market Forecast highlights what species are in demand (globally) based on key indicators such as past auction sales results and stakeholder's observations. This forecast aims to help Northwest Territories (NWT) harvesters target the most profitable furs for the 2026 auctions at Fur Harvesters Auction (FHA) in North Bay, Ontario.

In 2025, fur sales continued their upward trend, with NWT trappers harvesting over \$580,000 in total sales. With marten sales accounting for almost 60% (\$348,638.38) of that total. Wolves (\$68,332.84), Wolverines (\$50,134.40), and Lynx (\$47,587) rounding out the top four furbearers that brought in the most money at auction for NWT trappers during last year's trapping season. FHA 2026 auction dates, tentatively scheduled for March 14-16 and June 2-4, 2025 (*dates are subject to change*).



Fur Harvesters Auction News

In 2026, FHA will be once again attending international fur fairs, one in Hong Kong in February and one in Kastoria (Greece) in March to solicit buyers to attend FHA's auctions in 2026.

FHA has noticed that there has been a huge increase in Chinese buyers who are expanding their market by purchasing luxury species which have limited numbers causing prices to increase significantly. It has increased the demand for the limited number of pelts that are available, fisher and lynx prices have benefited from Chinese buyers entering the luxury species market.



Species in Demand for 2026

Marten

Marten prices hit triple digits for NWT trappers, averaging \$108 in 2025, FHA has stated that the demand for marten is extremely strong, and the demand far outweighs the quantities that they have. The marten market is currently very deep with China, Korea, Italy, Greece, and Turkey all in competition with each other to obtain the quantity of pelts they need. FHA has said that they would like to see a big increase in marten pelts for their March 2026 auction.

Lynx

In 2025, NWT trappers continue to average around \$200 for a lynx pelt. FHA expects strong demand in 2026. Properly set snares and well-handled pelts should continue to get good returns.

Wolves, Wolverines, and Bears (Grizzly)

FHA also stated that demand will remain intense for wolves, wolverines, and bears (grizzly) as FHA sold out completely at historical high price levels. These three furbearers are taxidermy skinned and why NWT trappers are receiving these historically high prices for their pelts

In 2025, NWT trappers saw a slight increase for all three species: Wolverines, were averaging \$570.71 with a high of \$945 in 2025. Wolves had an average of \$416.66 and saw a high of \$1,190 in 2025. Grizzly bears averaged over \$2,500 with a high of \$5,940 in 2025.

Fisher

Although sparse in the NWT, fisher pelts are worth the catch. NWT trappers sent a total of 16 fishers to auction in 2025, averaging \$62 a pelt. China has taken a keen interest in fisher pelts for their luxury fashion garments, why, because fisher is only found in North America. If you happen to catch a fisher, the work putting one up for auction will pay off.

Red Fox

Red fox average price doubled in 2025, \$23,83, up from \$12.22 in 2024. FHA predicts high demand in 2026, for all coloured foxes. Heavier red foxes are expected to do well in 2026, heavier means, harvested in late November to the end of January, before they start losing their guard hairs. Cross, Arctic, and Silver foxes remain in demand as demand outweighs the availability, trappers must make sure they are putting up clean, prime, and well-handled foxes.

Mink and muskrat

Despite historically lower prices, mink prices continue to increase year after year since 2020, in 2025, mink prices hit \$13.05. For 2026, FHA wants more trappers starting to target wild mink as demand is firming up for their pelts. Muskrat prices remained consistent for the top lots, and FHA believes they have found a buyer for all muskrats.

Remember to let someone know where you're going and when you'll be back. Be safe, be respectful and enjoy your time on the land. Wishing you all a successful harvesting season!

For more information regarding this sale, please contact: Sustainable Livelihoods Unit, Environment and Climate Change, GNWT at ontheland@gov.nt.ca or call 1-866-611-FURS (3877)