

November 2020

Megan Haywood

## **Trapping**

Beaver and Otter trapping has finally opened up, 11/18/2020 – 3/31/2021 as well as furbearer hunting and trapping season effective 11/18/2020 through 2/15/2021. Furbearers species include badger, bobcat, mink, muskrat, opossum, raccoon, swift fox, red fox, gray fox striped skunk and the weasel. With an abundance of the furbearer species population throughout most of Kansas, opportunity for furharvesting is plentiful. According to Kansas Department Wildlife and Parks, furbearers are probably one of the most under-utilized natural resources. During the legal seasons, fur harvesting serves as the primary source of the furbearer population and damage control. It also provides the harvesters with fur, meat and income in a natural manner. Furharvesting can sometimes be considered recreational however, “recreation” does not sufficiently describe the culture and significance of furharvesting in the lifestyles of the many participants. Most importantly, harvesting furbearers helps proliferate an appreciation and respect for a group of species that are associated by people only with the problems they can sometimes cause.

As part of an effort to ensure the best traps are being used in trapping and furbearer’s management programs trapping BMPs (Best Management Practices) have been developed. The goals are to improve regulated trapping by evaluating trapping devices and techniques to capture the furbearers as well as to educate trappers, researchers, wildlife managers and the public about the humane, safe, efficient, and practical trapping devices. To learn more about the Importance of trapping and BMPs, and recommended trap types, visit [furbearermanagement.com](http://furbearermanagement.com).

If you are interested in becoming a furharvester, the Kansas Furharvester Education is offered online and is free of cost. Lesson discussion and quiz questions are presented throughout the course. You must achieve a score of 84% or better to receive certification. The online course can be found at the [ksoutdoors.com](http://ksoutdoors.com) website.

For more information about trapping please contact Cherokee County K-State Research and Extension at 620-429-3849.

Source:

<https://ksoutdoors.com/Hunting/Furharvesting>,

<http://furbearermanagement.com/>