

Catfish Production

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Special Note

NASS is in the process of modifying report layouts in order to improve readability. This report issue is published using both layouts but all future issues will only be produced with the new layout, which is available on the NASS website: <http://www.nass.usda.gov>. This is the last issue using this layout.

Foodfish Inventory Numbers Down 13 Percent from a Year Ago

Catfish operations in the three major producing States (Alabama, Arkansas, and Mississippi) had 212 million foodsize fish on hand on July 1, 2010, down 13 percent from the July 1, 2009 total of 243 million foodsize fish. The breakouts of foodsize fish inventory numbers on July 1, 2010, with their respective percent change from the previous year were: large foodsize, 6.40 million fish, down 3 percent; medium foodsize, 61.3 million fish, down 6 percent; and small foodsize, 144 million fish, down 16 percent.

The three major States also had 466 thousand broodfish on hand on July 1, 2010, down 12 percent from last year's 530 thousand broodfish.

The number of large stockers on hand on July 1, 2010, totaled 166 million fish, down 28 percent from the 231 million fish on hand a year ago. There were 169 million small stockers, down 22 percent from last year. Producers had 805 million fingerlings and fry on hand on July 1, 2010.

Water Acres Down 15 Percent

The water surface area to be used for catfish production during July 1 through December 31, 2010, totaled 95 thousand acres, down 15 percent from a year ago. Acres used for foodsize fish totaled 79.2 thousand acres, down 15 percent from the same time period in 2009. Acres for broodfish decreased 16 percent to 1.85 thousand acres, and acres used for fingerling production decreased 15 percent to 12.5 thousand acres. Acres taken out of production during the January 1, 2010 through June 30, 2010 period totaled 6.58 thousand acres, while 1.55 thousand acres of the total in production were scheduled to be renovated from July 1, 2010 to December 31, 2010. The number of operations on July 1, 2010 in the three major States totaled 459, down 25 percent from last year's total of 613 operations.

**Catfish: Number of Operations and Water Surface Acres, Used for
Production, 2009-2010, by State and United States**

| State | Number of Operations on July 1 ¹ | | Water Surface Acres Used for Production During July 1 - December 31 | |
|-------|--|---------------|---|--------------|
| | 2009 | 2010 | 2009 ² | 2010 |
| | <i>Number</i> | <i>Number</i> | <i>Acres</i> | <i>Acres</i> |
| AL | | | 21,700 | 20,600 |
| AR | | | 20,700 | 14,600 |
| MS | | | 70,000 | 60,000 |
| Total | 613 | 459 | 112,400 | 95,200 |

¹ State level number of operations will only be published every five years in conjunction with the Census of Agriculture.

² Revised.

**Catfish Production: Water Surface Acre Usage,
by State and United States, 2009-2010**

| State | Acres Intended for Utilization During Jul 1-Dec 31 for- | | | | | Acres Taken Out of Production During Jan 1-Jun 30 |
|-------------------|---|--------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------|---|
| | Foodsize | Fingerlings | Broodfish | Currently Under or Scheduled for - | | |
| | | | | Renovation | New Construction | |
| | <i>Acres</i> | <i>Acres</i> | <i>Acres</i> | <i>Acres</i> | <i>Acres</i> | <i>Acres</i> |
| 2009 ¹ | | | | | | |
| AL | 20,400 | 900 | 340 | 290 | 70 | 300 |
| AR | 17,400 | 2,700 | 250 | 1,300 | | 2,800 |
| MS | 55,000 | 11,000 | 1,600 | 1,500 | | 8,300 |
| Total | 92,800 | 14,600 | 2,190 | 3,090 | 70 | 11,400 |
| 2010 | | | | | | |
| AL | 19,500 | 880 | 120 | * | * | 280 |
| AR | 11,700 | 2,300 | 330 | * | * | 3,300 |
| MS | 48,000 | 9,300 | 1,400 | 900 | | 3,000 |
| Total | 79,200 | 12,480 | 1,850 | 1,550 | 45 | 6,580 |

¹ Revised.

* Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

**Catfish: Inventory by Size Category, by State
and United States, July 1, 2009-2010**

| Size Category and State | Number of Fish | | Live Weight | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|--------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| | 2009 ¹ | 2010 | Total | | Average | |
| | | | 2009 ¹ | 2010 | 2009 ¹ | 2010 |
| | <i>1,000</i> | <i>1,000</i> | <i>1,000 Pounds</i> | <i>1,000 Pounds</i> | <i>Pounds per Fish</i> | <i>Pounds per Fish</i> |
| Large Foodsize | | | | | | |
| AL | 2,100 | 2,200 | 8,350 | 8,000 | 4.0 | 3.6 |
| AR | 1,260 | 400 | 4,250 | 1,300 | 3.4 | 3.3 |
| MS | 3,220 | 3,800 | 11,700 | 13,000 | 3.6 | 3.4 |
| Total | 6,580 | 6,400 | 24,300 | 22,300 | 3.7 | 3.5 |
| Medium Foodsize | | | | | | |
| AL | 21,300 | 27,300 | 42,600 | 52,300 | 2.0 | 1.9 |
| AR | 11,000 | 8,470 | 20,800 | 15,900 | 1.9 | 1.9 |
| MS | 32,900 | 25,500 | 60,900 | 47,200 | 1.9 | 1.9 |
| Total | 65,200 | 61,270 | 124,300 | 115,400 | 1.9 | 1.9 |
| Small Foodsize | | | | | | |
| AL | 39,200 | 38,000 | 43,000 | 37,200 | 1.1 | 1.0 |
| AR | 28,700 | 18,800 | 29,000 | 17,700 | 1.0 | 0.9 |
| MS | 103,000 | 87,500 | 98,400 | 86,400 | 1.0 | 1.0 |
| Total | 170,900 | 144,300 | 170,400 | 141,300 | 1.0 | 1.0 |
| Total Foodsize | | | | | | |
| AL | 62,600 | 67,500 | 93,950 | 97,500 | | |
| AR | 40,960 | 27,670 | 54,050 | 34,900 | | |
| MS | 139,120 | 116,800 | 171,000 | 146,600 | | |
| Total | 242,680 | 211,970 | 319,000 | 279,000 | | |
| Broodfish | | | | | | |
| AL | 59 | 21 | 266 | 99 | 4.5 | 4.7 |
| AR | 41 | 65 | 194 | 264 | 4.7 | 4.1 |
| MS | 430 | 380 | 2,000 | 1,800 | 4.7 | 4.7 |
| Total | 530 | 466 | 2,460 | 2,163 | 4.6 | 4.6 |

¹ Revised.

**Catfish: Inventory by Size Category, by State
and United States, July 1, 2009-2010**

| Size Category and State | Number of Fish | | Live Weight | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|--------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | 2009 ¹ | 2010 | Total | | Average | |
| | | | 2009 ¹ | 2010 | 2009 ¹ | 2010 |
| | <i>1,000</i> | <i>1,000</i> | <i>1,000 Pounds</i> | <i>1,000 Pounds</i> | <i>Pounds per 1,000 Fish</i> | <i>Pounds per 1,000 Fish</i> |
| Large Stockers | | | | | | |
| AL | 53,000 | 38,400 | 18,900 | 14,300 | 357 | 372 |
| AR | 20,100 | 14,700 | 7,600 | 6,150 | 378 | 418 |
| MS | 158,000 | 113,000 | 63,800 | 45,000 | 404 | 398 |
| Total | 231,100 | 166,100 | 90,300 | 65,450 | 391 | 394 |
| Small Stockers | | | | | | |
| AL | 34,100 | 41,200 | 3,550 | 3,900 | 104.0 | 94.7 |
| AR | 21,800 | 13,900 | 2,400 | 1,540 | 110.0 | 111.0 |
| MS | 160,000 | 114,000 | 15,200 | 10,800 | 95.0 | 94.7 |
| Total | 215,900 | 169,100 | 21,150 | 16,240 | 98.0 | 96.0 |
| Total Stockers | | | | | | |
| AL | 87,100 | 79,600 | 22,450 | 18,200 | | |
| AR | 41,900 | 28,600 | 10,000 | 7,690 | | |
| MS | 318,000 | 227,000 | 79,000 | 55,800 | | |
| Total | 447,000 | 335,200 | 111,450 | 81,690 | | |
| Fingerlings and Fry | | | | | | |
| AL | 54,000 | 40,200 | 960 | 1,200 | 17.8 | 29.9 |
| AR | 87,600 | 104,000 | 1,570 | 1,700 | 17.9 | 16.3 |
| MS | 741,000 | 661,000 | 12,000 | 8,000 | 16.2 | 12.1 |
| Total | 882,600 | 805,200 | 14,530 | 10,900 | 16.5 | 13.5 |

¹ Revised.

Reliability of Catfish Production Estimates

Survey Procedures: Data for catfish production are collected from all known producers in the three published states. Individual NASS field offices maintain a list of all known catfish producers and use known sources of producers to update their lists. Operators are mailed a questionnaire as close as possible to July 1 and given adequate time to respond by mail. Those that do not respond by mail are telephoned or possibly enumerated in person during the middle of July.

Estimating Procedures: Sound statistical methodology is employed to derive the estimates from reported data. All data are analyzed for unusual values. Data from each operation are compared to their own past operating profile and to trends from similar operations. Data for missing operations were estimated based on similar operations or historical data. NASS field offices prepare these estimates by using a combination of survey indications and historic trends. Individual State estimates are reviewed by the Agricultural Statistics Board for reasonableness.

Revision policy: Estimates for the previous year are subject to revision when current estimates are made. Revisions are the result of late or corrected data.

Reliability: In the three published states, catfish production estimates are based on a census of all known active producers and therefore, have no sampling variability. However, estimates are subject to errors such as omissions, duplication, and mistakes in reporting, recording, and processing the data. While these errors cannot be measured directly, they are minimized through strict quality controls in the data collection process and a careful review of all reported data for consistency and reasonableness.

Terms and Definitions Used for Catfish Production Estimates

Broodfish - Fish kept for egg production, including males. Broodfish produce the fertilized eggs, which go to hatcheries. The most desirable size is 3 to 10 pounds or 4 to 6 years of age.

Fingerlings - Fish weighing 2 to 60 pounds per 1,000 fish or 2 to 6 inches in length.

Foodsize (large) - Fish weighing over 3 pounds.

Foodsize (medium) - Fish weighing over one and one-half pounds to 3 pounds.

Foodsize (small) - Fish weighing over three-fourths of a pound to one and one-half pounds.

Fry - Fish weighing less than 2 pounds per 1,000 fish or less than 2 inches in length.

Stockers (large) - Fish weighing over 180 pounds to 750 pounds per 1,000 fish.

Stockers (small) - Fish weighing over 60 pounds to 180 pounds per 1,000 fish or over 6 inches in length.

Information Contacts

Listed below are the commodity specialists in the Livestock Branch of the National Agricultural Statistics Service to contact for additional information.

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Bruce Boess, Head, Poultry and Specialty Commodities Section (202) 720-4447

 Doug Bounds – Poultry Slaughter, Turkey Hatchery, Turkeys Raised (202) 690-3237

 David Colwell – Cold Storage..... (202) 720-8784

 Chris Hawthorn – Catfish Processing, Catfish Production, Trout Production,
 Census of Aquaculture, Egg Products, Mink..... (202) 720-0585

 Kim Linonis – Layers, Eggs..... (202) 690-8632

 Troy Marshall – Broiler Hatchery, Chicken Hatchery, Honey (202) 720-3244

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