

# Catfish Production

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Released January 29, 2010, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, U.S. Department of Agriculture. For information on *Catfish Production* call Chris Hawthorn at (202) 720-0585, office hours 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET.

## Catfish Value of Sales Down 9 Percent from 2008

Catfish growers in the U.S. had sales of 373 million dollars during 2009, down 9 percent from 410 million dollars the previous year. The top four States (Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas, and Texas) accounted for 93 percent of the U.S. total sales. The U.S. sales total of all foodsize fish decreased by 10 percent from 2008 to 352 million dollars in 2009. Fingerling and fry sales totaled 13 million dollars, an increase of 7 percent from 2008. Sales of stockers totaled 7 million dollars in 2009, compared to 8 million dollars in 2008.

By point of first sale, direct sales to processors accounted for 94 percent of total foodsize fish sales compared with 95 percent from the previous year. Direct sales to other producers accounted for 87 percent of stocker sales compared with 89 percent in 2008.

## Water Surface Acres Down 22 Percent from January 1, 2009

The water surface acres being used for catfish production as of January 1, 2010 totaled 115 thousand acres, down 22 percent from the 147 thousand acres used a year earlier. Of the total acres, 3 thousand are to be renovated during the period of January 1 to June 30, 2010. An additional 140 acres are under construction or expected to be constructed and in use by July 1, 2010. During the period of July 1 through December 31, 2009, the area taken out of production totaled 10 thousand acres. As of January 1, 2010, foodsize fish were produced on 97 thousand acres, fingerling-producing acres totaled 14 thousand, and 2 thousand acres were being used for broodfish production.

## Inventory Numbers

Catfish producers had 544 thousand **broodfish** on hand January 1, 2010, down 23 percent from January 1, 2009. **Large foodsize** fish on hand totaled 9 million on January 1, 2010, an 8 percent decrease from a year ago. The number of **medium foodsize** fish decreased 13 percent to 92 million, while **small foodsize** fish numbers decreased 13 percent to 169 million. **Large stockers** on hand January 1, 2010, at 152 million fish, were down 41 percent from the previous year. **Small stocker** numbers decreased 35 percent to 213 million. There were 430 million **fingerlings** on hand January 1, 2010, down 41 percent from January 1, 2009.

**Catfish: Number of Operations and Water Surface Acres Used for Production, 2009-2010, and Total Sales, 2008-2009, by State and United States**

State	Number of Operations on Jan 1		Water Surface Acres Used for Production During Jan 1 - Jun 30		Total Sales	
	2009 <sup>1</sup>	2010 <sup>1</sup>	2009	2010	2008	2009
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>
AL			22,100	19,800	93,254	90,688
AR			25,000	19,200	64,263	44,914
CA			2,400	1,500	7,913	8,074
LA			6,300	1,800	11,883	8,395
MS			80,200	64,000	206,288	196,787
NC			2,200	1,900	7,221	5,495
TX			3,800	2,900	13,212	12,644
Oth Sts <sup>2</sup>			4,900	3,700	5,964	5,570
US	1,306	994	146,900	114,800	409,998	372,567

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

<sup>2</sup> Other States include State estimates not shown and States suppressed due to disclosure.

**Catfish: Water Surface Acre Usage, by State and United States, 2008-2010**

State	Acres Intended for Utilization During January 1- June 30										Acres Taken Out of Production During July 1- December 31	
	Foodsize		Fingerlings		Broodfish		Currently Under or Scheduled for:					
							Renovation		New Construction			
	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2008	2009
	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>
AL	21,100	19,200	480	380	320	120	180	120	85	30	1,000	370
AR	21,300	16,600	2,800	2,200	250	250	700	570			2,500	2,200
CA	1,700	1,100	290	190	100	80	140	70	320	*	*	*
LA	4,900	1,700	480	50			640	10			1,300	2,800
MS	64,000	52,000	12,100	9,700	1,400	1,300	2,800	2,100		50	6,700	3,500
NC	2,000	1,600	160	200	70	50	150	90	*	*	55	40
TX	3,100	2,600	420	190	220	70	205	85	75	50	550	135
Oth Sts <sup>1</sup>	2,500	1,900	1,700	1,300	340	370	200	65	40	10	660	840
US	120,600	96,700	18,430	14,210	2,700	2,240	5,015	3,110	520	140	12,765	9,885

\* Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

<sup>1</sup> Other States include State estimates not shown and States suppressed due to disclosure.

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

Size Category and State	Number of Fish		Live Weight			
			Total		Average	
	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	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	2,200	2,400	7,750	8,500	3.5	3.5
AR	1,290	1,190	4,550	4,300	3.5	3.6
CA	*	100	*	340	*	3.4
LA	430	380	1,490	1,300	3.5	3.4
MS	4,290	3,800	15,200	12,900	3.5	3.4
NC	260	230	825	740	3.2	3.2
TX	530	340	1,760	1,190	3.3	3.5
Oth Sts <sup>1</sup>	316	130	1,121	442	3.5	3.4
US	9,316	8,570	32,696	29,712	3.5	3.5
Medium Foodsize						
AL	23,500	30,400	50,000	56,400	2.1	1.9
AR	14,300	11,300	28,100	21,700	2.0	1.9
CA	*	270	*	540	*	2.0
LA	3,210	830	7,000	1,670	2.2	2.0
MS	57,100	42,700	111,300	82,800	1.9	1.9
NC	1,570	1,900	3,050	4,000	1.9	2.1
TX	4,140	3,440	8,050	6,700	1.9	1.9
Oth Sts <sup>1</sup>	1,790	750	3,380	1,440	1.9	1.9
US	105,610	91,590	210,880	175,250	2.0	1.9
Small Foodsize						
AL	37,400	42,500	39,300	44,800	1.1	1.1
AR	29,300	19,400	30,900	19,700	1.1	1.0
CA	890	1,980	943	1,790	1.1	0.9
LA	2,820	1,300	2,800	1,220	1.0	0.9
MS	114,000	94,000	119,500	93,500	1.0	1.0
NC	2,540	3,040	2,850	3,850	1.1	1.3
TX	5,170	5,190	4,500	5,050	0.9	1.0
Oth Sts <sup>1</sup>	1,750	1,210	1,630	1,010	0.9	0.8
US	193,870	168,620	202,423	170,920	1.0	1.0
Total Foodsize						
AL	63,100	75,300	97,050	109,700		
AR	44,890	31,890	63,550	45,700		
CA	1,624	2,350	2,593	2,670		
LA	6,460	2,510	11,290	4,190		
MS	175,390	140,500	246,000	189,200		
NC	4,370	5,170	6,725	8,590		
TX	9,840	8,970	14,310	12,940		
Oth Sts <sup>1</sup>	3,122	2,090	4,481	2,892		
US	308,796	268,780	445,999	375,882		

\* Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

<sup>1</sup> Other States include State estimates not shown and States suppressed due to disclosure.

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

Size Category and State	Number of Fish		Live Weight			
			Total		Average	
	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009 <sup>1</sup>	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>
<b>Large Stockers</b>						
AL	40,700	21,000	16,900	10,200	415	486
AR	27,500	19,100	11,400	7,550	415	395
CA	*	*	*	*	*	*
LA	2,820	*	1,120	*	397	*
MS	179,000	103,000	67,900	44,200	379	429
NC	4,870	5,070	2,800	3,150	575	621
TX	*	*	*	*	*	*
Oth Sts <sup>2</sup>	3,750	4,020	1,216	1,395	324	347
US	258,640	152,190	101,336	66,495	392	437
<b>Small Stockers</b>						
AL	32,600	25,700	3,200	2,900	98.2	112.8
AR	38,100	33,100	4,650	3,250	122.0	98.2
CA	*	890	*	120	*	134.8
LA	4,580	*	475	*	103.7	*
MS	234,000	144,000	24,600	14,100	105.1	97.9
NC	11,400	350	1,640	38	143.9	108.6
TX	*	*	*	*	*	*
Oth Sts <sup>2</sup>	6,749	9,140	670	808	99.3	88.4
US	327,429	213,180	35,235	21,216	107.6	99.5
<b>Total Stockers</b>						
AL	73,300	46,700	20,100	13,100		
AR	65,600	52,200	16,050	10,800		
CA	5,030	1,490	1,084	450		
LA	7,400	*	1,595	*		
MS	413,000	247,000	92,500	58,300		
NC	16,270	5,420	4,440	3,188		
TX	99	980	12	140		
Oth Sts <sup>2</sup>	5,370	11,580	790	1,733		
US	586,069	365,370	136,571	87,711		
<b>Fingerlings</b>						
AL	78,800	23,400	3,150	1,250	40.0	53.4
AR	74,700	44,200	3,000	1,700	40.2	38.5
CA	4,500	5,160	129	190	28.7	36.8
LA	7,710	*	289	*	37.5	*
MS	511,000	323,000	14,100	10,500	27.6	32.5
NC	5,530	8,000	139	230	25.1	28.8
TX	25,100	10,300	1,190	490	47.4	47.6
Oth Sts <sup>2</sup>	21,000	15,530	683	685	32.5	44.1
US	728,340	429,590	22,680	15,045	31.1	35.0

\* Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

<sup>1</sup> Revised.

<sup>2</sup> Other States include State estimates not shown and States suppressed due to disclosure.

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

Size Category and State	Number of Fish		Live Weight			
			Total		Average	
	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	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>
Broodfish						
AL	39	10	197	73	5.1	7.3
AR	70	50	352	212	5.0	4.2
CA	19	17	89	90	4.7	5.3
LA		*		*		*
MS	420	350	2,150	1,900	5.1	5.4
NC	10	11	63	75	6.3	6.8
TX	86	20	424	120	4.9	6.0
Oth Sts <sup>1</sup>	60	86	265	478	4.4	5.6
US	704	544	3,540	2,948	5.0	5.4

\* Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

<sup>1</sup> Other States include State estimates not shown and States suppressed due to disclosure.

**Catfish: Sales by Size Category, by State  
and United States, 2008-2009**

Size Category and State	Number of Fish		Live Weight				Sales			
			Total		Average		Total		Average price per pound	
	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009
	<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>	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>
<b>Foodsize</b>										
AL	82,600	66,600	131,600	128,900	1.6	1.9	92,120	90,230	0.70	0.70
AR	51,100	31,200	83,700	58,100	1.6	1.9	62,775	42,994	0.75	0.74
CA	2,220	2,550	3,150	3,400	1.4	1.3	7,592	7,820	2.41	2.30
LA	7,420	4,660	15,400	11,500	2.1	2.5	11,827	8,395	0.77	0.73
MS	143,000	146,000	252,370	249,000	1.8	1.7	191,801	181,770	0.76	0.73
NC	4,040	3,120	8,050	6,150	2.0	2.0	6,843	5,166	0.85	0.84
TX	11,100	10,500	16,900	16,100	1.5	1.5	12,844	12,558	0.76	0.78
Oth Sts <sup>1</sup>	2,530	1,680	3,750	2,800	1.5	1.7	3,488	3,080	0.93	1.10
US	304,010	266,310	514,920	475,950	1.7	1.8	389,290	352,013	0.76	0.74
	<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>	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>
<b>Stockers</b>										
AL	3,700	500	262	280	71	560	472	202	1.80	0.72
AR	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
CA	135		76		563		219		2.88	
LA										
MS	60,200	40,000	6,000	4,500	100	113	6,060	4,635	1.01	1.03
NC	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
TX	*	130	*	20	*	154	*	22	*	1.08
Oth Sts <sup>1</sup>	10,440	17,790	1,574	2,657	151	149	1,587	2,626	1.01	0.99
US	74,475	58,420	7,912	7,457	106	128	8,338	7,485	1.05	1.00
<b>Fingerlings &amp; Fry</b>										
AL	11,100	3,800	210	95	18.9	25.0	582	253	2.77	2.66
AR	52,300	29,100	453	272	8.7	9.3	761	541	1.68	1.99
CA	370	1,300	16	73	43.2	56.2	65	222	4.08	3.04
LA	1,540		31		20.1		56		1.80	
MS	207,000	202,000	5,800	7,100	28.0	35.1	8,352	10,295	1.44	1.45
NC	3,540	3,200	200	190	56.5	59.4	356	329	1.78	1.73
TX	3,170	1,270	167	65	52.7	51.2	212	62	1.27	0.96
Oth Sts <sup>1</sup>	20,900	14,700	544	481	26.0	32.7	1,692	1,193	3.11	2.48
US	299,920	255,370	7,421	8,276	24.7	32.4	12,076	12,895	1.63	1.56

\* Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

<sup>1</sup> Other States include State estimates not shown and States suppressed due to disclosure.

**Catfish: Sales by Size Category, by State  
and United States, 2008-2009**

Size Category and State	Number of Fish		Live Weight				Sales			
			Total		Average		Total		Average price per pound	
	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009
	<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>	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>
Broodfish										
AL	7	*	36	*	5.1	*	80	*	2.21	*
AR	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
CA	*	2	*	13	*	6.5	*	32	*	2.46
LA	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
MS	39	25	112	100	2.9	4.0	75	87	0.67	0.87
NC	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
TX	*	1	*	2	*	2.0	*	2	*	1.17
Oth Sts <sup>1</sup>	29	15	138	69	4.8	4.6	139	53	1.01	0.77
US	75	43	286	184	3.8	4.3	294	174	1.03	0.95

\* Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

<sup>1</sup> Other States include State estimates not shown and States suppressed due to disclosure.

**Catfish: Foodsize and Stockers Percent Sold by Point of First Sale,  
by State and United States, 2008-2009**

Size Category and State	Processor		Fee-Fishing and Recreational Use		Live Haulers		Retail		Other	
	2008 <sup>1</sup>	2009	2008 <sup>1</sup>	2009	2008	2009	2008 <sup>1</sup>	2009	2008	2009
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
<b>Foodsize</b>										
AL	97	95	*	1	1	1	*	1	2	2
AR	96	95	*	*	3	5	*	*	*	*
CA			10	13	11	22	73	53	6	12
LA	98	95	1	5			*			
MS	100	99	*		*		*		*	1
NC	96	95	*	*	*	*	*	*	1	3
TX	83	83	1	1	10	15			6	1
Oth Sts <sup>2</sup>	20	21	33	43	30	24	12	4	6	8
US <sup>3</sup>	95.3	93.9	0.6	1.1	1.6	2.1	1.6	1.5	0.9	1.4
	Other Producers		Fee-Fishing and Recreational Use		Live Haulers		Government		Other	
	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
<b>Stocker</b>										
AL	96	97	1	1	2	1			1	1
AR	62	89			*	11	*			
CA	*		*		7		*		*	
LA										
MS	100	99	*						*	1
NC	*	*	*	*						
TX	95	88	5	*		*				
Oth Sts <sup>2</sup>	29	40	4	1	58	57	4	1	4	1
US <sup>3</sup>	89.0	86.9	0.8	0.2	8.9	11.9	0.6	0.2	0.7	0.8

\* Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations or data are less than 0.5 percent.

<sup>1</sup> Revised.

<sup>2</sup> Other States include State estimates not shown and States suppressed due to disclosure.

<sup>3</sup> Sum of US Point of First Sale by outlet may not add to 100 percent.

**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.

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

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



## Reliability of Catfish Production Estimates

**Survey Procedures:** Data for catfish production are collected from all known producers in the seven published states and a sample of producers from the remaining 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 January 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 January.

**Estimation 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 seven published states, Catfish production estimates are based on a census of all known active producers and therefore, have no sampling variability. However, since all operations in the other states category are not included in the sample, survey estimates are subject to sampling variability. Survey results are also 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.

## Information Contacts

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

Dan Kerestes, Chief, Livestock Branch ..... (202) 720-3570

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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