

# 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 <sup>1</sup>		Water Surface Acres Used for Production During July 1 - December 31	
	2009	2010	2009 <sup>2</sup>	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

<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> 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 <sup>1</sup>						
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

<sup>1</sup> 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 <sup>1</sup>	2010	Total		Average	
			2009 <sup>1</sup>	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 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

<sup>1</sup> Revised.

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

Size Category and State	Number of Fish		Live Weight			
			Total		Average	
	2009 <sup>1</sup>	2010	2009 <sup>1</sup>	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>
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

<sup>1</sup> 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.

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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