



Catfish Production

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Water Surface Acres Down 4 Percent from Last Year

The water surface area to be used for catfish production in the three major producing States (Alabama, Arkansas, and Mississippi) during July 1 through December 31, 2012, totaled 78.3 thousand acres, down 4 percent from a year ago. Acres used for foodsize fish totaled 62.4 thousand acres, down 5 percent from the same time period in 2011. Acres used for fingerling production increased 5 percent to 12.0 thousand acres, and acres for broodfish increased 5 percent to 1.67 thousand acres. Of the total acres in production, 2.41 thousand were scheduled to be renovated from July 1, 2012, to December 31, 2012, while acres taken out of production during the January 1, 2012, through June 30, 2012, period totaled 2.26 thousand acres. The number of operations on July 1, 2012, in the three major States totaled 348, down 11 percent from last year's total of 389 operations.

Foodsize Inventory Numbers Up 1 Percent from a Year Ago

Catfish operations in the three major producing States had 161 million foodsize fish on hand on July 1, 2012, up 1 percent from the July 1, 2011, total of 159 million foodsize fish. The breakouts of foodsize fish inventory numbers on July 1, 2012, with their respective percent change from the previous year were: large foodsize, 4.35 million fish, up 69 percent; medium foodsize, 37.5 million fish, up 11 percent; and small foodsize, 119 million fish, down 3 percent. The three major States also had 435 thousand broodfish on hand on July 1, 2012, up 1 percent from last year's 430 thousand broodfish.

Catfish operations in the three major producing States had 384 million stockers on hand on July 1, 2012, up 10 percent from the July 1, 2011, total of 349 million stockers. The breakouts of stocker fish inventory numbers on July 1, 2012, with their respective change from the previous year were: large stockers, 215 million fish, up 22 percent; and small stockers, 169 million, down 2 percent from last year. Producers had 686 million fingerlings and fry on hand on July 1, 2012.

**Number of Catfish Operations and Water Surface Acres Used for Production – Major States:
2011 and 2012**

| State | Number of operations on July 1 ¹ | | Water surface acres used for production July 1 - December 31 | |
|-------------------------|--|----------|---|---------|
| | 2011 | 2012 | 2011 | 2012 |
| | (number) | (number) | (acres) | (acres) |
| Alabama | (NA) | (NA) | 19,100 | 18,600 |
| Arkansas | (NA) | (NA) | 10,700 | 9,000 |
| Mississippi | (NA) | (NA) | 51,700 | 50,700 |
| Three State total | 389 | 348 | 81,500 | 78,300 |

(NA) Not available.

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

Catfish Water Surface Acres by Use – Major States: 2011 and 2012

| State and year | Acres intended for utilization during July 1 - December 31 for | | | | | Acres taken out of production during January 1 - June 30 |
|-------------------------|--|-------------|-----------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|--|
| | Foodsize | Fingerlings | Broodfish | Currently under or scheduled for | | |
| | | | | Renovation | New construction | |
| | (acres) | (acres) | (acres) | (acres) | (acres) | (acres) |
| 2011 | | | | | | |
| Alabama | 18,300 | 560 | 75 | 160 | (D) | 340 |
| Arkansas | 8,200 | 2,100 | 220 | 170 | (D) | 1,500 |
| Mississippi | 39,000 | 8,800 | 1,300 | 1,900 | (D) | 2,700 |
| Three State total | 65,500 | 11,460 | 1,595 | 2,230 | 190 | 4,540 |
| 2012 | | | | | | |
| Alabama | 18,100 | 440 | 60 | (D) | (D) | 290 |
| Arkansas | 7,000 | 1,700 | 210 | (D) | (D) | 70 |
| Mississippi | 37,300 | 9,900 | 1,400 | 2,000 | - | 1,900 |
| Three State total | 62,400 | 12,040 | 1,670 | 2,410 | 35 | 2,260 |

- Represents zero.

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

Catfish Inventory by Size Category – Major States: July 1, 2011 and 2012

| Size category and State | Number of fish | | Live weight | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| | 2011 (1,000) | 2012 (1,000) | Total | | Average | |
| | | | 2011 (1,000 pounds) | 2012 (1,000 pounds) | 2011 (pounds per fish) | 2012 (pounds per fish) |
| Large foodsize | | | | | | |
| Alabama | 1,080 | 1,630 | 4,000 | 5,700 | 3.7 | 3.5 |
| Arkansas | 260 | 550 | 912 | 2,000 | 3.5 | 3.6 |
| Mississippi | 1,230 | 2,170 | 4,600 | 7,700 | 3.7 | 3.5 |
| Three State total | 2,570 | 4,350 | 9,512 | 15,400 | 3.7 | 3.5 |
| Medium foodsize | | | | | | |
| Alabama | 15,900 | 14,400 | 29,600 | 27,900 | 1.9 | 1.9 |
| Arkansas | 4,900 | 4,420 | 9,400 | 8,000 | 1.9 | 1.8 |
| Mississippi | 13,000 | 18,700 | 22,500 | 34,400 | 1.7 | 1.8 |
| Three State total | 33,800 | 37,520 | 61,500 | 70,300 | 1.8 | 1.9 |
| Small foodsize | | | | | | |
| Alabama | 53,700 | 47,200 | 51,500 | 46,300 | 1.0 | 1.0 |
| Arkansas | 9,200 | 10,500 | 8,750 | 10,300 | 1.0 | 1.0 |
| Mississippi | 59,500 | 61,000 | 58,300 | 60,500 | 1.0 | 1.0 |
| Three State total | 122,400 | 118,700 | 118,550 | 117,100 | 1.0 | 1.0 |
| All foodsize | | | | | | |
| Alabama | 70,680 | 63,230 | 85,100 | 79,900 | (X) | (X) |
| Arkansas | 14,360 | 15,470 | 19,062 | 20,300 | (X) | (X) |
| Mississippi | 73,730 | 81,870 | 85,400 | 102,600 | (X) | (X) |
| Three State total | 158,770 | 160,570 | 189,562 | 202,800 | (X) | (X) |
| Broodfish | | | | | | |
| Alabama | 40 | 15 | 144 | 70 | 3.6 | 4.7 |
| Arkansas | 50 | 50 | 200 | 204 | 4.0 | 4.1 |
| Mississippi | 340 | 370 | 1,650 | 1,990 | 4.9 | 5.4 |
| Three State total | 430 | 435 | 1,994 | 2,264 | 4.6 | 5.2 |

See footnote(s) at end of table.

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Catfish Inventory by Size Category – Major States: July 1, 2011 and 2012 (continued)

| Size category and State | Number of fish | | Live weight | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | | | Total | | Average | |
| | 2011 (1,000) | 2012 (1,000) | 2011 (1,000 pounds) | 2012 (1,000 pounds) | 2011 (pounds per 1,000 fish) | 2012 (pounds per 1,000 fish) |
| Large stockers | | | | | | |
| Alabama | 45,000 | 42,500 | 17,400 | 16,400 | 387 | 386 |
| Arkansas | 13,400 | 12,800 | 5,750 | 4,900 | 429 | 383 |
| Mississippi | 118,000 | 160,000 | 47,600 | 57,600 | 403 | 360 |
| Three State total | 176,400 | 215,300 | 70,750 | 78,900 | 401 | 366 |
| Small stockers | | | | | | |
| Alabama | 44,200 | 37,400 | 5,200 | 3,750 | 118.0 | 100.0 |
| Arkansas | 32,000 | 25,300 | 3,050 | 2,500 | 95.3 | 98.8 |
| Mississippi | 96,600 | 106,000 | 9,500 | 10,500 | 98.3 | 99.1 |
| Three State total | 172,800 | 168,700 | 17,750 | 16,750 | 102.7 | 99.3 |
| Total stockers | | | | | | |
| Alabama | 89,200 | 79,900 | 22,600 | 20,150 | (X) | (X) |
| Arkansas | 45,400 | 38,100 | 8,800 | 7,400 | (X) | (X) |
| Mississippi | 214,600 | 266,000 | 57,100 | 68,100 | (X) | (X) |
| Three State total | 349,200 | 384,000 | 88,500 | 95,650 | (X) | (X) |
| Fingerlings and fry | | | | | | |
| Alabama | 47,900 | 38,100 | 784 | 932 | 16.4 | 24.5 |
| Arkansas | 99,700 | 72,600 | 2,100 | 1,080 | 21.1 | 14.9 |
| Mississippi | 584,000 | 575,000 | 8,550 | 10,200 | 14.6 | 17.7 |
| Three State total | 731,600 | 685,700 | 11,434 | 12,212 | 15.6 | 17.8 |

(X) Not applicable.

Statistical Methodology

Survey Procedures: All known catfish producers in the three published states are surveyed to collect production data. 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 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. Missing data for large operations are estimated based on similar operations or historical data. Summary expansions account for the remaining non-response operations. 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. E-mail inquiries may be sent to nass@nass.usda.gov

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|--|----------------|
| Dan Kerestes, Chief, Livestock Branch | (202) 720-3570 |
| Bruce Boess, Head, Poultry and Specialty Commodities Section | (202) 720-4447 |
| Cody Brokmeyer – Poultry Slaughter, Turkey Hatchery, Turkeys Raised | (202) 690-3237 |
| David Colwell – Cold Storage | (202) 720-8784 |
| LaKeya Jones – Catfish Processing, Catfish Production, Trout Production, Census of Aquaculture, Honey, Egg Products, Mink | (202) 720-0585 |
| Kim Linonis – Layers, Eggs | (202) 690-8632 |
| Miste Salmon – Broiler Hatchery, Chicken Hatchery | (202) 720-3244 |

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