



Catfish Production

ISSN: 1948-271X

Released July 20, 2022, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Water Surface Acres Down 3 Percent

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, 2022, totaled 51,800 acres, down 3 percent from a year ago. Acres used for Foodsize fish totaled 40,900, down 2 percent from the same time period in 2021. Acres used for Fingerling production at 7,150 acres, are up 5 percent, and acres for Broodfish at 1,830 acres, are up 14 percent. Of the total acres in production, 2,005 acres were scheduled to be renovated from July 1 to December 31, 2022 compared with 1,190 acres taken out of production during the period of January 1 through June 30, 2022.

Foodsize Inventory Up 3 Percent

Catfish operations in the three major producing States had 114 million Foodsize fish on hand on July 1, 2022, up 3 percent from July 1, 2021. The breakouts of Foodsize fish inventory numbers on July 1, 2022, with their respective percent change from the previous year were: Large foodsize at 3.08 million fish, down slightly; Medium foodsize at 39.2 million fish, up 40 percent; and Small foodsize at 71.8 million fish, down 9 percent. The three major Catfish producing States also had 725,000 Broodfish on hand on July 1, 2022, up 18 percent from last year's 615,000 Broodfish.

Catfish operations in the three major producing States had 296 million Stockers on hand on July 1, 2022, down 6 percent from the July 1, 2021 total of 314 million Stockers. The breakouts of Stocker fish inventory numbers on July 1, 2022, with their respective change from the previous year were: Large stockers at 120 million fish, down 17 percent from the previous year and Small stockers at 175 million fish, up 4 percent from last year. Producers had 453 million Fingerlings and fry on hand on July 1, 2022, down 2 percent from July 1, 2021.

Water Surface Acres Used for Production - Major States: 2021 and 2022

State	Water surface acres used for production July 1 - December 31	
	2021 (acres)	2022 (acres)
Alabama	15,600	14,900
Arkansas	3,700	3,600
Mississippi	33,900	33,300
3 State total	53,200	51,800

Catfish Water Surface Acres by Use – Major States: 2021 and 2022

Year and State	Acres intended for utilization during July 1 - December 31 for					Acres taken out of production during January 1 - June 30
	Foodsize (acres)	Fingerlings (acres)	Broodfish (acres)	Currently under or scheduled for		
				Renovation (acres)	New construction (acres)	
2021						
Alabama	15,200	340	10	(D)	160	105
Arkansas	2,500	1,000	95	(D)	-	-
Mississippi	24,000	5,500	1,500	2,000	270	580
3 State total	41,700	6,840	1,605	2,705	430	685
2022						
Alabama	14,400	(D)	20	(D)	125	(D)
Arkansas	2,300	(D)	110	(D)	-	-
Mississippi	24,200	6,000	1,700	1,500	380	(D)
3 State total	40,900	7,150	1,830	2,005	505	1,190

- Represents zero.

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

Catfish Inventory by Size Category – Major States: July 1, 2021 and 2022

Size category and State	Fish		Live weight			
			Total		Average	
	2021 (1,000)	2022 (1,000)	2021 (1,000 pounds)	2022 (1,000 pounds)	2021 (pounds per fish)	2022 (pounds per fish)
Large foodsize						
Alabama	1,670	1,240	6,300	4,900	3.8	4.0
Arkansas	230	185	816	653	3.5	3.5
Mississippi	1,190	1,650	3,900	5,600	3.3	3.4
3 State total	3,090	3,075	11,016	11,153	3.6	3.6
Medium foodsize						
Alabama	11,800	10,600	23,600	21,300	2.0	2.0
Arkansas	2,360	1,920	4,450	3,700	1.9	1.9
Mississippi	13,900	26,700	26,900	47,200	1.9	1.8
3 State total	28,060	39,220	54,950	72,200	2.0	1.8
Small foodsize						
Alabama	28,900	29,100	28,300	29,400	1.0	1.0
Arkansas	3,650	3,360	3,900	3,400	1.1	1.0
Mississippi	46,500	39,300	46,800	39,800	1.0	1.0
3 State total	79,050	71,760	79,000	72,600	1.0	1.0
Total foodsize						
Alabama	42,370	40,940	58,200	55,600	(X)	(X)
Arkansas	6,240	5,465	9,166	7,753	(X)	(X)
Mississippi	61,590	67,650	77,600	92,600	(X)	(X)
3 State total	110,200	114,055	144,966	155,953	(X)	(X)
Broodfish						
Alabama	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Arkansas	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Mississippi	580	690	2,950	3,350	5.1	4.9
3 State total	615	725	3,112	3,504	5.1	4.8

See footnote(s) at end of table.

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Catfish Inventory by Size Category – Major States: July 1, 2021 and 2022 (continued)

Size category and State	Fish		Live weight			
			Total		Average	
	2021 (1,000)	2022 (1,000)	2021 (1,000 pounds)	2022 (1,000 pounds)	2021 (pounds per 1,000 fish)	2022 (pounds per 1,000 fish)
Large stockers						
Alabama	55,900	(D)	20,900	(D)	374	(D)
Arkansas	8,000	(D)	2,950	(D)	369	(D)
Mississippi	81,500	60,700	26,200	23,700	321	390
3 State total	145,400	120,220	50,050	45,400	344	378
Small stockers						
Alabama	43,600	(D)	4,500	(D)	103.0	(D)
Arkansas	4,100	(D)	401	(D)	97.8	(D)
Mississippi	121,000	110,000	14,000	11,400	116.0	104.0
3 State total	168,700	175,480	18,901	18,465	112.0	105.0
Total stockers						
Alabama	99,500	113,300	25,400	25,400	(X)	(X)
Arkansas	12,100	11,700	3,351	3,365	(X)	(X)
Mississippi	202,500	170,700	40,200	35,100	(X)	(X)
3 State total	314,100	295,700	68,951	63,865	(X)	(X)
Fingerlings and fry						
Alabama	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Arkansas	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Mississippi	415,000	400,000	5,700	6,150	13.7	15.4
3 State total	460,010	452,950	6,479	7,423	14.1	16.4

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

(X) Not applicable.

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.

Statistical Methodology

Survey Procedures: All known catfish producers in the three published States are surveyed to collect production data. Individual NASS regional 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 regional 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. Due to sequestration, NASS did not produce July catfish production estimates in 2013.

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.

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@usda.gov

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- Cornell’s Mann Library has launched a new website housing NASS’s and other agency’s archived reports. The new website, <https://usda.library.cornell.edu>. All email subscriptions containing reports will be sent from the new website, <https://usda.library.cornell.edu>. To continue receiving the reports via e-mail, you will have to go to the new website, create a new account and re-subscribe to the reports. If you need instructions to set up an account or subscribe, they are located at: <https://usda.library.cornell.edu/help>. You should whitelist notifications@usda-esmis.library.cornell.edu in your email client to avoid the emails going into spam/junk folders.

For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Agricultural Statistics Hotline at (800) 727-9540, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET, or e-mail: nass@usda.gov.

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