

NASDA Survey Training

Catfish Production Survey – January 1, 2023

(CATFISH PDI)



**United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service**

Workforce Performance and Staff Development Section
December 2022



General Survey Information

- Project Code: **170 - Aquaculture Survey**
- States: AL, AR, CA, GA, LA, MS, MO, NC, TX
- Questionnaires:
 - Mailed out around December 20
 - Web reporting available
- Release:
 - *Catfish Production*, February 10, 3PM ET



Who uses the Data?

- **Government agencies:** To determine sustainability, size, and structure of the industry for planning, policy-making, research and market analysis.
- **Growers:** Decisions about the future of their operations (expand/reduce production or compare production volumes/pricing points with state and U.S. averages).
- **Businesses/Suppliers:** Determine location of facilities for producers, plan for production/marketing of new products.
- **Extension/University:** Research needs and justify research funding and programs for new or improved production methods.

Interviewer's Manual

- Chapter 1 – General Information
- Chapter 2 – Terms and Definitions
- Chapter 3 – Survey Procedures
- Chapter 4 – Screening
- Chapter 5 – Completing the Questionnaire
 - Some good clarifying information for questions
- Appendix 1 – Catfish Length/Weight Table

Terminology

- **Broodfish:** Fish kept for egg production (also includes males), typically above 3 pounds.
- **Fry:** Fish under 2 inches in length weighing less than 2 pounds per 1,000 fish.
- **Fingerling:** Fish 2-6 inches in length weighing 2-60 pounds per 1,000 fish.
- **Stocker:** Fish over 6 inches in length weighing 60-750 pounds per 1,000 fish.
- **Foodsize:** Fish weighing over $\frac{3}{4}$ pound (excluding broodfish).

Survey Questions: Identification

- Any water area used to produce catfish in 2023?
 - YES: Survey
 - NO: next screening/identification question
- Any hatchery or foodsize production inventory on the operation during 2023?
 - YES: Survey
 - NO: next screening/identification question
- Any catfish sold during 2022?
 - YES: Survey
 - NO: next screening/identification question
- Any catfish on the operation in the future?
 - Has operation been sold, rented or turned over to someone else?
 - Leave notes on what happened/status of operation

Survey Questions: Water Area

- Total water area used and to be used during period of January 1 – June 30, 2023? Of that:
 - How many acres are or will be renovated?
 - How many acres used for broodfish?
 - How many acres used for foodsize?
 - How many acres used for fingerlings?
- Water area of **new facilities** during period of January 1 – June 30, 2023?
- Water area **taken out of production** during period of July 1 – December 31, 2022?

Recording Quantity and Weight Inventory

Catfish Inventory - size by category:

- Broodfish, Large/Med/Small Foodsize:
 - Report in Total Number OR Total Pounds and Average lb/fish
- Large/Small Stockers, Fingerlings:
 - Report in Total Number OR Total Pounds and Average lb/1,000 fish

Survey Questions: 2022 Total Sales

- **Broodfish:**
 - All used or to be used for breeding
 - All previously used for breeding
- **Foodsize:** All over $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. per fish
- **Stockers:** Over 6 inches or 60 -750 lbs./1,000 fish
- **Fingerlings:** 2-6 inches or 2-60 lbs./1,000 fish
- **Fry:** Under 2 inches or less than 2 lbs./1,000 fish

Survey Questions: 2022 Total Sales

- Report for each of those 6 categories:
 - Total number sold
 - Total live weight lbs.
 - Total Sales in dollars
 - Exclude cleaning charges
- Point of First Sale Outlet. Report percent of Foodsize and Stocker sales to:
 - Live haulers/brokers
 - Recreational stocking
 - Wholesale to other producers
 - Government agencies
 - Direct to consumer
 - Processors
 - Retail Outlets
 - Export
 - Other

Info From Last Year's Survey



Catfish Production

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Catfish Value of Sales Up 12 Percent from 2020

Catfish growers in the United States had sales of 421 million dollars during 2021, up 12 percent from 377 million dollars the previous year. The top four States (Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas, and Texas) accounted for 97 percent of the United States total sales. The United States total Foodsize sales of 398 million dollars increased 13 percent from the previous year. Sales of Stockers totaled 6.59 million dollars in 2021, compared to 6.70 million dollars in 2020. Fingerling and fry sales totaled 13.6 million dollars, down 11 percent from 2020.

By point of first sale, direct sales to processors accounted for 92.6 percent of total Foodsize fish sales, down 1.8 percent from the previous year. Wholesale to other producers accounted for 81.8 percent of Stocker sales compared to 70.2 percent in 2020.

Water Surface Acres Down 3 Percent from January 1, 2021

The water surface acres being used for catfish production as of January 1, 2022, totaled 58,310 acres, down 3 percent from the 60,105 acres used a year earlier. Of the total acres, 2,240 are to be renovated during the period of January 1 to June 30, 2022. An additional 270 acres are under construction or expected to be constructed and in use by July 1, 2022. During the period of July 1 through December 31, 2021, the area taken out of production totaled 1,695 acres. As of January 1, 2022, Foodsize fish were produced on 46,860 acres, Fingerling producing acres totaled 7,725, and 2,035 acres were being used for Broodfish production.



Watch Out For:

- Weight per fish is more/less than expected for that size category
- Percentage of sales by outlet must equal 100%
- High or Low Price per pound
- Large changes in total water acreage

In Conclusion

- Leave comments for any unusual circumstances. Especially important on these specialty livestock surveys.
 - If large losses are reported, leave a comment
- If you have any questions refer to your Interviewer's Manual or contact your supervisor/local field office.
- Have a good survey!

