

January Catfish Production Survey – Extra Info

Overview:

- The survey reference date for the survey is the 1st of the month for inventory and water acre questions. Sales and loss questions refer to the 12-month period from January 1 to December 31 of the previous year.
- The identification section is used to determine if the operation has the item of interest, or if they screen out of the survey.
- The catfish operation may also produce other fish species. We are only looking for the catfish operation ONLY. If the respondent is unable to separate the species, obtain an estimate of what percent of the total fish on the operation are catfish.
- **Section 2 Water Area:**
 - If they report having catfish inventory, then they must have water acreage.
 - Acres being/to be renovated, if the acreage will be out of production for the entire 6 month reference period, the acreage should only be included in water area taken out of production.
 - Acres used for broodfish/foodsize production may have both fish in the same acres, if both types are kept in the same pond, acreage should be prorated for each type.
 - Acres for fingerlings should only have fingerlings and no other size of fish, even fry, should be in the ponds for the acreage to be included in this category.
 - Water area of new facilities are acres that will come into production during the next 6 months. Acreage that will not be in production during the next 6 months should be excluded.
 - Acres out of production is acreage that was taken out during the last 6 months and are not expected to be brought back into production during the next 6 months. Acreage that will be brought back into production during the next 6 months should be reported in the total water area used and to be used to produce catfish for commercial production.
- **Section 3 Inventory:**
 - Two of the three reporting units must be present for each inventory category present on the operation.
- **Section 4 Sales:**
 - There are two parts to the sales question. The first part asks for the number of fish sold, pounds sold and total value of production for all of the production categories. The second part asks the respondent to break it out by point of first sale outlet.
 - If an operation is raising catfish under a production contract please try and get a true market value for the catfish raised, and not one that includes a contract fee.
 - Total sales for the entire year are asked, all three items for a line of data are needed. If the number is NOT available, probe to get a measure of size so that the total number may be derived.
 - Point of sales should be reported to the nearest whole percent.
 - If a State or Federal hatchery buys fish for releasing into public water, the value should be recorded as sales to government agencies.
 - Export sales should be listed under “Other” and if you are unsure where to put sales, list in “Other” with notes explaining the situation.
 - Fish raised by the operator and then processed through their own processing plant, should be included in “Processors”.

- Recreational stocking, only include fish sold TO individuals or private enterprises for the sole purpose of stocking recreational waters.
 - Fish that are sold for the purpose of stocking another producer's commercial ponds should be reported as sold "Wholesale to Other Producers."
 - Fish sold by fee-fishing or U-fish operations should be listed as being sold "Direct to Consumers."

Terms:

Broodfish – Fish kept for egg production, including males. Broodfish produce the fertilized eggs which go to hatcheries. Typically broodfish are above three pounds.

Fry – Fish under 2 inches in length weighing less than 2 pounds per 1,000 fish.

Fingerlings – Fish 2-6 inches in length weighing 2 pounds to 60 pounds per 1,000 fish.

Foodsize – Fish weighing over $\frac{3}{4}$ pound, excluding broodfish. Typically eat 2% of their body weight in feed per day during active feeding months of May – October.

Stockers – Fish over 6 inches in length weighing 60 pounds to 750 pounds per 1,000 fish. These fish are placed in ponds to be grown into foodsize fish.

Point of First Sale Outlet – The first point at which money changes hands. Delivery to the processing plant is considered to be a point of first sale. Most foodsize fish are sold to processing plants, while most stockers sales are to other producers.

Value of Sales – Gross value of live weight sales a producer receives before marketing and production costs are deducted.

Total Water Area – All surface areas of water used for the production of catfish.

Acres Being Renovated or Acre to Be Renovated – Surface area of water that is being or will be renovated during the next 6 months.

Acres for Broodfish Production – Acres of water in which broodfish are currently being kept. Production fish may also be kept in these acres.

Acres for Foodsize Production – Acres of water in which foodsize fish are currently being raised. Broodfish may also be kept in these acres.

Acres Used Exclusively for Fingerlings – This is the water area that is used exclusively for raising fingerlings.

Water Area of New Facilities – Acres of water in new facilities that will come into production.

Acres Out of Production – Acres that were taken out of production and are not expected to be brought back into production.

Direct to Consumers – Sales of fish directly to the consumer for human consumption.

Export – Fish moved outside of US Borders.

Government Agencies – Sales to Federal, State or local government hatcheries or other groups involved in purchasing fish used to stock Federal, publicly owned, or regulated waters and recreational areas.

Live Hauler/Broker – Individual or company that generally purchases live fish from a producer and transports them in an oxygenated tank truck to other outlets, including processing plants, pay lakes, recreational lakes, or retail outlets.

Other – Outlets not meeting the above definitions are recorded here. Export sales should be list here.

Processors – Fish that the operator sells/delivers directly to a plant for processing.

Retail Outlets – Individuals, grocers, restaurants, or companies who buy fish to resell to consumers.

Wholesale to Other Producers – These are other farmers who buy live fish to raise for future sale.

Things to Remember:

- Be aware of the difference between numbers of fish versus pounds of fish.
- We are looking for ALL acres that are being used or will be used for catfish, regardless of ownership.
- There are some places that have hybrids between blue and channel catfish that allows for more densely populated ponds, so there is the potential that some operations may have higher stocking rates than normal. If they mention having any hybrids please leave a note with the information.
- In regards to “Pay Lake Operations” only report fish they raise themselves or purchased them at a younger age and grew them out further.
- If the operation had any fish during any part of the year at all, complete the survey.
- Operations that catch wild fish do not qualify for the survey.
- Fish raised on contract for someone else, document how much they produce for their own operation as well as how much they raise on a production contract.
 - Include total numbers produced for their operation and total numbers raised for the contractor.
 - Include total pounds produced for their operation and the total pounds for the contractor.
 - Include total sales for how much the operation sold their fish and how much he received for the fish he raised on contract.