

ARKANSAS FARM REPORT

CATFISH PRODUCTION



ARKANSAS
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE

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NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE (NASS)
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

This report contains the results of the July 1 Catfish Growers Survey conducted during the first half of July 2005. The catfish estimates are based on a census of all known active operators in the four major catfish production states (Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi). This report and the data for the past 10 years are also posted on our home page at the Internet address above, and more detailed national report is available on the NASS website at <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>. Thanks to all who responded to the questionnaire and interview for the survey.

JULY 1 FOODSIZE CATFISH INVENTORY DOWN 17 PERCENT

ARKANSAS: Commercial catfish operations had 52.4 million **foodsize fish** on hand on July 1, 2005, down 17 percent from July 1, 2004. The breakouts of foodsize fish inventory with their respective percent change from a year ago are: large foodsize, 1.4 million, up 12 percent; medium foodsize, 15.6 million, down 5 percent; and small foodsize, 35.4 million, down 23 percent.

Arkansas was the third in the nation following Mississippi and Alabama in total foodsize inventory on July 1, 2005, down from the second on July 1 last year. Broodfish on hand totaled 120,000 fish, up 9 percent; total stockers at 67.3 million, were down 34 percent; and fingerlings, at 342 million, were up 55 percent from a year earlier.

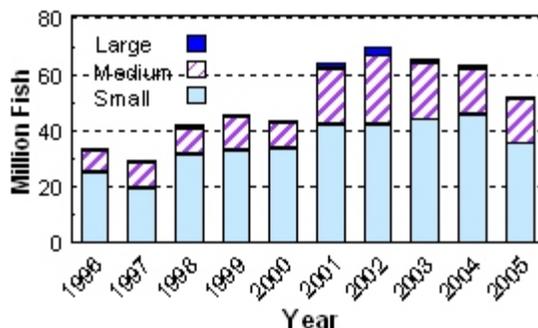
Arkansas Catfish Inventory and Live Weight by Type and Size, July 1, 2004-2005

Type/Size	Inventory Number			Total Live Weight		Average Live Weight per Fish	
	2004	2005	% Chg.	2004	2005	2004	2005
	<i>1,000</i>		<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>		<i>Pounds</i>	
Broodfish	110	120	+9	590	580	5.4	4.8
Foodsize Total	63,310	52,360	-17	80,200	70,700	-	-
Large	1,210	1,360	+12	4,100	5,000	3.4	3.7
Medium	16,400	15,600	-5	30,500	29,800	1.9	1.9
Small	45,700	35,400	+23	45,600	35,900	1.0	1.0
						<i>Pounds per 1,000 Fish</i>	
Stockers Total	102,400	67,300	-34	22,350	17,440	-	-
Large	47,400	32,400	+32	16,800	13,900	354	429
Small	55,000	34,900	-37	5,550	3,540	101	101
Fingerlings	220,000	342,000	+55	3,000	3,610	13.6	10.6

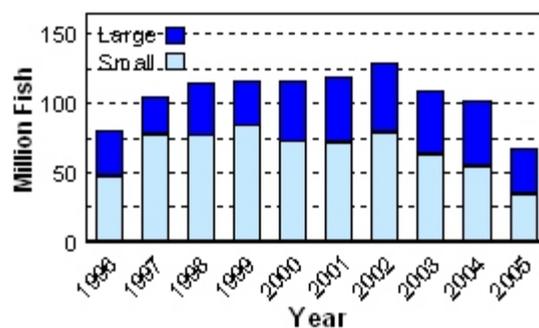
Definitions Used for Catfish Production

- Broodfish: Fish kept for egg production, including males, 3 to 10 lbs., or 4-6 years of age.
- Large foodsize: Over 3 lbs. per fish.
- Medium foodsize: Over 1 ½ to 3 lbs. per fish.
- Small foodsize: Over ¾ to 1 ½ lbs. per fish.
- Large Stockers: Over 180 to 750 lbs. per 1,000 fish.
- Small Stockers: Over 60 to 180 lbs. per 1,000 fish.
- Fingerlings: 60 lbs. and less per 1,000 fish.

Foodsize Catfish Inventory by Size
Arkansas, July 1, 1996-2005



Stocker Inventory by Size
Arkansas, July 1, 1996-2005



WATER ACRES DOWN 12 PERCENT

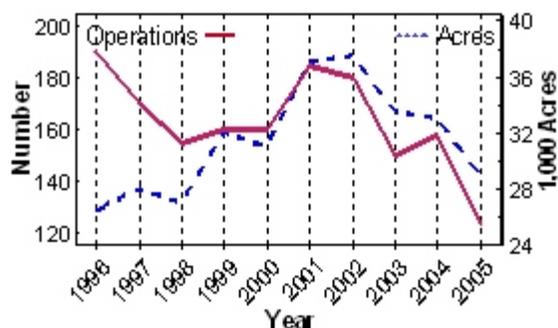
ARKANSAS: The water surface area to be used for catfish production in Arkansas during July 1 through December 31, 2005, totaled 29,000 acres, down 4,000 acres, or 12 percent, from a year ago. The total number of **catfish operations** on July 1, 2005 was 124, an decrease of 34 from the 158 last year.

During July 1 through December 31, 2005, water surface acres intended for **foodsize fish production** totaled 23,500 acres, while 560 acres of the total in catfish production were scheduled to be renovated. A total of 670 acres were taken out of production during the January 1 through June 30, 2005 period.

**Catfish Operations and Water Surface Acres
Four Major Production States, 2004-2005**

State	Number of Operations July 1		Water Surface Acres During July 1 - Dec. 31	
	2004	2005	2004	2005
	<i>Number</i>		<i>Acres</i>	
AL	250	210	25,700	23,700
AR	158	124	33,000	29,000
LA	48	32	8,400	7,400
MS	430	400	103,000	98,000
Total	886	766	170,100	158,100

**Arkansas Operations and Water Acres
July 1, 1996-2005**



Water Surface Acre Usage by Four Major Production States, 2004-2005

State	Acres Intended for Utilization During July 1-December 31										Acres Taken out of Production During Jan. 1 - Jun. 30	
	For Foodsize		For Fingerlings		For Broodfish		Currently Under or Scheduled for					
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	Renovation		New Construction		2004	2005
	<i>Acres</i>											
AL	23,200	21,600	1,400	1,100	420	330	580	660	100	95	1,000	450
AR	28,600	23,500	3,500	4,500	550	570	750	560	0	330	4,800	670
LA	7,400	6,100	820	1,100	120	125	210	670	0	*	540	420
MS	82,000	76,300	15,000	16,000	2,300	2,800	2,400	3,600	700	400	6,400	4,400
Total	141,200	127,500	20,720	22,700	3,390	3,825	3,940	5,490	800	-	12,740	5,940

* Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.