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National Agricultural Statistics Service



News Release

Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
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Results of a recent survey are contained in this release. You can also find it on our site at www.nass.usda.gov/pa/ and click on the Pennsylvania Publications link.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pennsylvania's 2006 Trout Production Valued at \$4.79 Million

HARRISBURG, PA, Feb 28, 2007 --- Pennsylvania's 51 commercial trout growers sold 1.61 million pounds of trout, valued at \$4.79 million during 2006, ranking fourth nationally behind Idaho, North Carolina, and California, according to the Pennsylvania office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). This production was up from the 1.52 million pounds valued at \$4.81 million sold in 2005.

Pennsylvania ranks first in the nation for the value of trout distributed for conservation and recreational purposes. With an estimated value of \$13.0 million, Pennsylvania accounts for 16.4 percent of the value of the nation's distributed trout. This includes trout released by state hatcheries, cooperative nurseries, and private fishing clubs. Distributed fish were released by 18 operations in Pennsylvania, but this count excludes cooperative nurseries under contract to state hatcheries. NASS-PA, a joint operation of the National Agricultural Statistics Service and the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, compiles data on Pennsylvania food and fiber production as part of a nationwide effort.

Sales of trout 12 inches or longer by the state's growers totaled 1.40 million pounds, or 87 percent of the total production sold during the period. Averaging \$2.67 per pound, compared to \$3.00 last year and \$1.10 nationally, the 12 inch and larger trout were valued at \$3.74 million. Fee fishing and recreational sales accounted for 53 percent of the production, and sales to processors accounted for another 15 percent.

Sales of trout 6 to 12 inches long by Pennsylvania growers totaled 610,000 fish, or 200,000 pounds live weight during the period. This was up 10,000 lbs. or 5 percent from the same period a year ago. At an average of \$4.65 a pound, up \$.65/lb from last year, and \$2.59 nationally, sales of 6 to 12 inch trout were valued at \$930,000, with 77 percent of the volume sold to fee fishing and recreational establishments.

Sales of trout 1 to 6 inches long by Pennsylvania growers totaled 390,000 fish, or 10,000 pounds live weight during the period. This was 5,000 lbs or 200 percent from the same period a year ago. At an average of \$313.00 per thousand fish, compared to \$300.00 last year and \$183.00 nationally, sales of 1 to 6 inch trout were valued at \$122 thousand.

Trout distributed for restoration or conservation purposes, primarily by the state fish commission and its cooperative nurseries, but also by private fishing clubs, included 410,000 fish 12" or longer, and 5.1 million 6-12" fish, compared to 5.5 million 6-12" fish a year ago.

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Total losses of all Pennsylvania trout intended for sale were 714,000 fish during 2006, with 36 percent being lost to predators, 28 percent to flood, and 36 percent to various other causes such as equipment malfunctions.

The National Agricultural Statistics Service surveyed commercial trout growers in Pennsylvania and 19 other states: Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Idaho, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. Information was collected by mail, telephone and personal interview.

For the 20 selected states, the total value of all sales, both fish and eggs, received by trout growers during 2006 totaled \$74.9 million, an increase of 8.0 percent from 2005. Nationally, sales of fish totaled \$74.9 million for 2006. The state of Idaho accounted for 55 percent of the total value of fish sold.

The number of trout 12 inches and longer sold during 2006 totaled 49.2 million fish, down 11 percent from the previous year. The value of sales of trout 12 inches and longer for the 2006 marketing year was 67.7 million dollars, up 8 percent from 2005. Based on dollar value, 71 percent were sold to processors and 17 percent were sold to fee and recreational fishing establishments.

The number of 6-12 inch trout sold during 2006 totaled 5.52 million fish, an increase of 15 percent from 2005. The average price per pound was \$2.59 during 2006, down 24 cents from the 2005 price. The total value of sales was 5.65 million dollars during 2006, up 9 percent from the previous year. The major sales outlet for 6-12 inch trout was to fee and recreational establishments with 50 percent of the total sales, followed by other producers with 15 percent.

The number of 1-6 inch trout sold during 2006 totaled 7.96 million, a 13 percent increase from the previous year. The average value per 1,000 fish was \$183.00 during 2006, a \$4 decrease from 2005. The total value of sales was 1.46 million dollars, up 11 percent from last year's total.

Trout distributed in the U.S. for restoration, conservation, and recreation purposes, primarily by state and federal hatcheries, included 6.25 million 12 inch or longer fish, 57.9 million 6-12 inch fish, and 83.2 million fingerlings. The estimated value of fish and eggs distributed totaled 81.1 million dollars, up 6 percent from 2005.

Total losses of all trout intended for sale were 30.9 million fish during 2006, with 90 percent being lost to disease, 4 percent lost predators, and 2 percent to other causes.

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