



Press Release

Texas Agricultural Statistics Service

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On: JANUARY 1 TEXAS CATFISH
INVENTORY UP

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AUSTIN . . . The number of Texas catfish producers were unchanged from last year, but catfish sales were down 9 percent according to the January 1, 2004, Catfish Growers Survey.

State Director, Robin Roark, of the Texas Agricultural Statistics Service reported that there were 36 commercial catfish operators in Texas January 1, 2004, the same as last year. Total surface water in production at 850 acres was the same as the previous year.

Total sales of all catfish in 2003 totaled \$3.35 million dollars, down from \$3.67 million in 2002.

The growers' inventory of food size catfish totaled 1.9 million pounds, an increase of 10 percent from 2002 total of 1.72 million pounds. Large size catfish accounted for 620,000 pounds; medium size catfish, 960,000 pounds; and small size catfish, 320,000 pounds.

The growers' inventory also included 350,000 pounds of large stockers, 20,000 pounds of small stockers and 50,000 pounds of fingerlings.

Hatchery inventory included 175,000 pounds of Broodfish, up 133 percent from a year ago.

Fingerlings are 2 to 6 inches in length and are measured in weight categories of 2 to 60 lbs. per thousand fish; stockers are over 60 lbs. to 750 lbs. per thousand fish; small food size fish, over three-fourths pound to one and one-half pounds per fish; medium food size catfish, over one and one-half to three pounds per fish; and large size catfish, over three pounds per fish.

The water surface area being used for catfish production in the 13 selected states totaled 178 thousand acres, down 5 percent from January 1, 2003. The total number of operations on January 1, 2004 in the 13 selected states was 1,117, down 4 operations from January 1, 2003.

In the 13 selected states, grower operations had sales of 425 million dollars during 2003, up 3 percent from last year. There were 357 million foodsize fish on hand January 1, 2004, down 9 percent from last year's 394 million fish. Of the total number of foodsize fish, 10.4 million were large food size, 104.9 million were medium foodsize and 241.5 million were small food size. Growers had a total of 854 million stockers on hand, up 10 percent from last year. There were also 727 million fingerlings on hand, down 27 percent from last year.