



News Release

Cooperating with Texas Department of Agriculture

Texas Field Office · Post Office Box 70 · Austin, Texas 78767 512-916-5581 www.nass.usda.gov/tx

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On: TEXAS JANUARY 1 CATFISH SALES UP

For Information Contact:
Chris Lindborg
Charles Drain

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AUSTIN . . . The value of catfish sales by Texas catfish producers increased 9 percent from last year according to the January 1, 2009, Catfish Growers Survey. Total sales of all catfish in 2008 was 13.21 million dollars compared to 12.15 million dollars in 2007.

State Director, Doug Rundle, of the Texas Field Office reported that there were 3,800 Acres of surface water used for commercial catfish production in Texas January 1, 2009, the same as last year.

The growers' inventory of foodsize catfish totaled 14.31 million pounds on January 1, 2009, a decrease of 16 percent from the 2008 total of 16.98 million pounds. Large foodsize catfish accounted for 1.76 million pounds; medium foodsize catfish, 8.05 million pounds; and small foodsize catfish, 4.50 million pounds.

Hatchery inventory included 424,000 pounds of broodfish, up 581 percent from a year ago, 12,000 pounds of stockers and 1.19 million pounds of fingerlings.

Fingerlings are 2 to 6 inches in length and weigh 2 to 60 lbs. per thousand fish; stockers are over 60 lbs. to 750 lbs. per thousand fish; small foodsize 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 foodsize catfish, over three pounds per fish.

The water surface area being used for catfish production in the United States totaled 147 thousand acres, down 10 percent from January 1, 2008. The total number of operations on January 1, 2009 in the U.S. was 1306, down 19 percent from January 1, 2008.

Catfish growers in the United States had sales of 410 million dollars during 2008, down 10 percent from last year. Nationwide there were 308.8 million foodsize fish on hand January 1, 2009, down 4 percent from last year's 321.8 million fish. Of the total number of foodsize fish, 9.32 million were large foodsize, 105.6 million were medium foodsize and 193.9 million were small foodsize. Growers had a total of 586 million stockers on hand, down 15 percent from last year. There were also 728 million fingerlings on hand, down 23 percent from last year.