



News Release

Cooperating with Texas Department of Agriculture

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Issue No. PR-108-10

On: TEXAS JANUARY 1 CATFISH SALES DOWN
For Immediate Release: January 29, 2010

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AUSTIN . . . The value of catfish sales by Texas catfish producers decreased 4 percent from last year according to the January 1, 2010, Catfish Growers Survey. Total sales of all catfish in 2009 were 12.6 million dollars compared to 13.2 million dollars in 2008.

State Director, Doug Rundle, of the Texas Field Office reported that there were 2,900 acres of surface water used for commercial catfish production in Texas January 1, 2010, down 24 percent from January 1, 2009.

The growers' inventory of foodsize catfish totaled 12.9 million pounds on January 1, 2010, a decrease of 10 percent from the 2009 total of 14.3 million pounds. Large foodsize catfish accounted for 1.2 million pounds; medium foodsize catfish, 6.7 million pounds; and small foodsize catfish, 5.1 million pounds.

Hatchery inventory included 120,000 pounds of broodfish, down 72 percent from a year ago, 140,000 pounds of stockers and 490,000 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 catfish, 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 114,800 thousand acres, down 22 percent from January 1, 2009. The total number of operations on January 1, 2010 in the U.S. was 994, down 24 percent from January 1, 2009.

Catfish growers in the United States had sales of 372.6 million dollars during 2009, down 9 percent from last year. Nationwide there were 268.8 million foodsize fish on hand January 1, 2010, down 13 percent from last year's 308.8 million fish. Of the total number of foodsize fish, 8.6 million were large foodsize, 91.6 million were medium foodsize and 168.6 million were small foodsize. Growers had a total of 365.4 million stockers on hand, down 38 percent from last year. There were also 429.6 million fingerlings on hand, down 41 percent from last year.