



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
Arkansas Catfish Production Report
Released July 22, 2016



Cooperating with the University of Arkansas – Division of Agriculture
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This report contains the results from the **2016 July Catfish Growers Survey**. The data are posted on our Web site at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/ar> and in a more detailed report at the Internet address above. Thanks to all who responded to the questionnaire or interview for this survey.

July 1 Fingerlings and Fry Inventory Up from 2015

Commercial catfish operations in Arkansas had 6.44 million foodsize fish on hand on July 1, 2016. The breakouts of foodsize fish inventory with their respective percent change from January 1, 2016 are: large foodsize, 195,000, down 35 percent; medium foodsize, 1.6 million, down 40 percent; and small foodsize, 4.64 million, up 6 percent.

Arkansas was ranked third in the nation, behind Mississippi and Alabama, in total foodsize catfish inventory on July 1, 2016. Broodfish on hand totaled 70,000, up 27 percent from the January 1, 2016 number; total stockers, at 18 million, were down 46 percent; and fingerlings and fry, at 74.4 million, were up 202 percent from earlier this year.

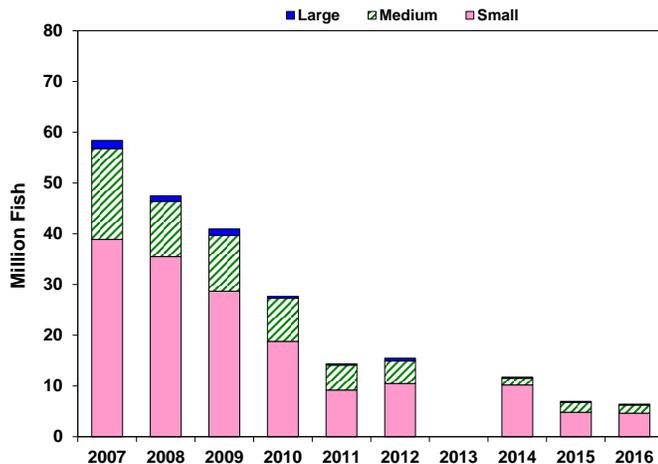
Catfish: Inventory and Live Weight by Type and Size, Arkansas, January 1, 2016 and July 1, 2015-2016

Type & Size	Number			Total Live Weight			Average Live Weight	
	July 2015	Jan. 2016	July 2016	July 2015	Jan. 2016	July 2016	January 1	July 1
	1,000 Fish			1,000 Pounds			Pounds per Fish	
Broodfish	50	55	70	252	232	291	5.0	4.2
All Foodsize	6,970	7,340	6,435	9,075	10,150	8,545	-	-
Large	190	300	195	675	1,000	645	3.6	3.3
Medium	1,960	2,660	1,600	3,500	4,850	2,900	1.8	1.8
Small	4,820	4,380	4,640	4,900	4,300	5,000	1.0	1.1
							Pounds per 1,000 Fish	
All Stockers	23,390	33,300	18,000	4,130	5,100	5,369	-	-
Large	9,290	7,500	12,500	2,900	2,400	4,750	312	380
Small	14,100	25,800	5,500	1,230	2,700	619	87	113.0
Fingerlings and fry	46,000	24,600	74,400	1,080	741	1,190	23.5	16.0

Definitions Used for Catfish Production

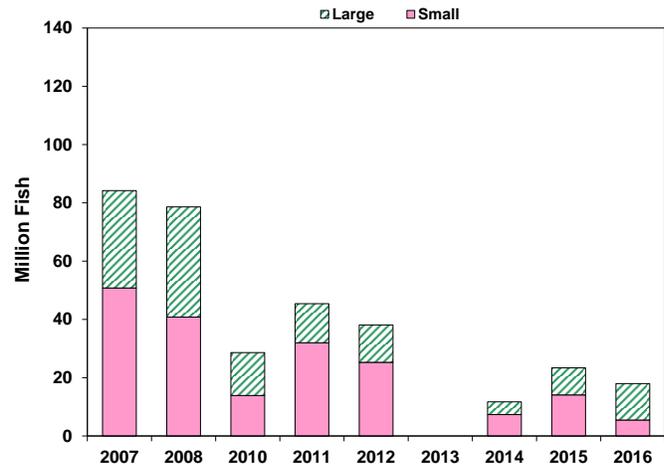
- Broodfish: Fish kept for egg production, including males, 3 to 10 lbs., or 4 to 6 years of age.
- Large foodsize: Over 3 lbs. per fish.
- Medium foodsize: 1 ½ to 3 lbs. per fish.
- Small foodsize: ¾ to 1 ½ lbs. per fish.
- Large Stockers: 180 to 750 lbs. per 1,000 fish.
- Small Stockers: 60 to 180 lbs. per 1,000 fish or over 6" in length.
- Fingerlings: 2 to 60 lbs. per 1,000 fish or 2" to 6" in length.

Arkansas Foodsize Catfish Inventory by Size, July 1, 2007-2016*



* 2013 not published due to sequestration.

Arkansas Stocker Inventory by Size, July 1, 2007-2016*

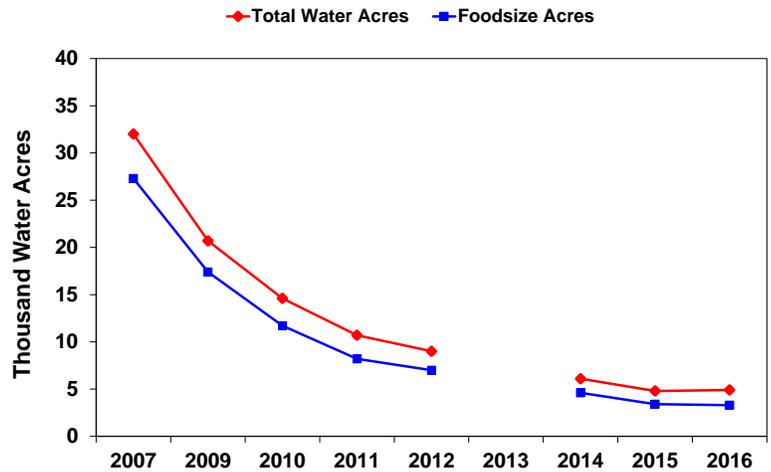


* 2013 not published due to sequestration.

Arkansas Water Surface Area Set at 4,900 Acres

The water surface area to be used for catfish production in Arkansas during July 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016, totaled 4,900 acres. During July 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016, water surface acres intended for foodsize catfish production is expected to total 3,300 acres. A total of 35 acres were taken out of production during the January 1, 2016 through June 30, 2016 period.

Arkansas Total Water and Foodsize Acreage, July 1, 2007-2016*



* 2013 not published due to sequestration.

Water Surface Acre Usage by State, 2015-2016

State	Acres Intended for Utilization During July 1 - December 31										Acres Taken Out of Production Jan. 1 - Jun. 30	
	For Foodsize		For Fingerlings		For Broodfish		Currently Under or Scheduled for:					
							Renovation		New Construction			
	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016
<i>Acres</i>												
AR	3,400	3,300	1,200	1,300	180	230	*	180	*	*	570	35
AL	14,600	14,500	380	75	55	45	*	290	*	*	200	660
MS	26,800	25,700	6,600	6,300	1,400	1,300	2,700	1,700	*	*	1,500	1,400
Total	44,800	43,500	8,180	7,675	1,635	1,575	2,930	2,170	25	430	2,270	2,095

*Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.