



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

Arkansas Catfish Production

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Delta Region – Arkansas Field Office

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Cooperating with the University of Arkansas – Division of Agriculture

This report contains the results from the **2020 July Catfish Production Survey**. These data are also posted on our web site at <https://www.nass.usda.gov/ar> and in a more detailed report at <https://www.nass.usda.gov>. Thanks to all who responded to this survey.

July 1 All Foodsize Inventory down 4 Percent

Commercial catfish operations in Arkansas had 6.44 million foodsize fish on hand on July 1, 2020. The breakouts of foodsize fish inventory numbers on July 1, 2020, with their respective percent change from the previous year were: large foodsize, 300,000, up 43 percent; medium foodsize, 2.23 million, up 12 percent and small foodsize, 3.91 million, down 13 percent.

Arkansas was ranked third in the nation, behind Mississippi and Alabama, in total foodsize catfish inventory on July 1, 2020. Total stockers, at 9.33 million, were down 43 percent from a year ago.

Catfish Inventory and Live Weight by Type and Size - Arkansas: January 1, 2020, July 1, 2019 and 2020

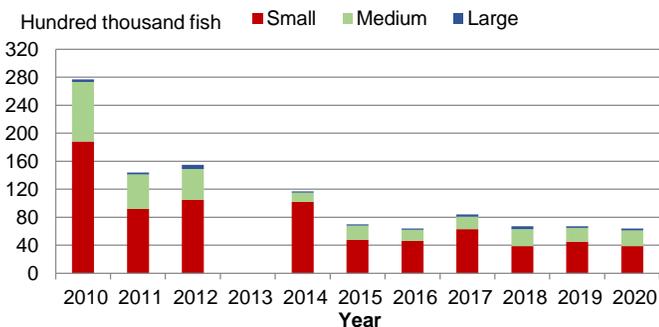
Size category	Number			Total Live Weight			Average Live Weight	
	July 2019	January 2020	July 2020	July 2019	January 2020	July 2020	January 2020	July 2020
	(1,000 fish)	(1,000 fish)	(1,000 fish)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds per fish)	(pounds per fish)
Broodfish	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
All foodsize	6,730	7,030	6,440	9,056	10,208	9,390	(NA)	(NA)
Large	210	230	300	756	808	1,090	3.5	3.6
Medium	2,000	2,840	2,230	3,800	5,450	4,350	1.9	2.0
Small	4,520	3,960	3,910	4,500	3,950	3,950	1.0	1.0
All stockers	16,240	30,590	9,330	3,445	3,990	1,788	(NA)	(NA)
Large	10,600	(D)	4,780	2,950	(D)	1,320	(D)	276.0
Small	5,640	(D)	4,550	495	(D)	468	(D)	103.0
Fingerlings and fry	(D)	19,300	(D)	(D)	712	(D)	36.9	(D)

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.
(NA) Not available.

Definitions Used for Catfish Production

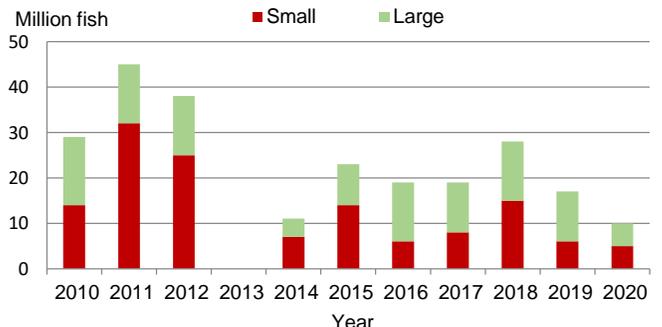
- Broodfish: Fish kept for egg production, including males, 3 to 10 lbs., or 4 to 6 years of age.
- Large foodsize: Over 3 lbs. per fish.
- Medium foodsize: 1 ½ to 3 lbs. per fish.
- Small foodsize: ¾ to 1 ½ lbs. per fish.
- Large stockers: 180 to 750 lbs. per 1,000 fish.
- Small stockers: 60 to 180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

Catfish Foodsize Inventory by Size Category - Arkansas: July 1, 2010 - 2020



* 2013 not published due to sequestration.

Catfish Stocker Inventory by Size Category - Arkansas: July 1, 2010 - 2020



* 2013 not published due to sequestration.

Arkansas Water Surface Area Set at 3,900 Acres

The water surface area to be used for catfish production in Arkansas during July 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020, totaled 3,900 acres. During July 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020, water surface acres intended for foodsize catfish production is expected to total 2,600 acres.

Water Surface Acres Used for Production - Major States: 2019 and 2020

State	Water surface acres used for production July 1 - December 31	
	2019	2020
	(acres)	(acres)
AL	16,900	15,800
AR	4,700	3,900
MS	36,300	35,100
Total	57,900	54,800

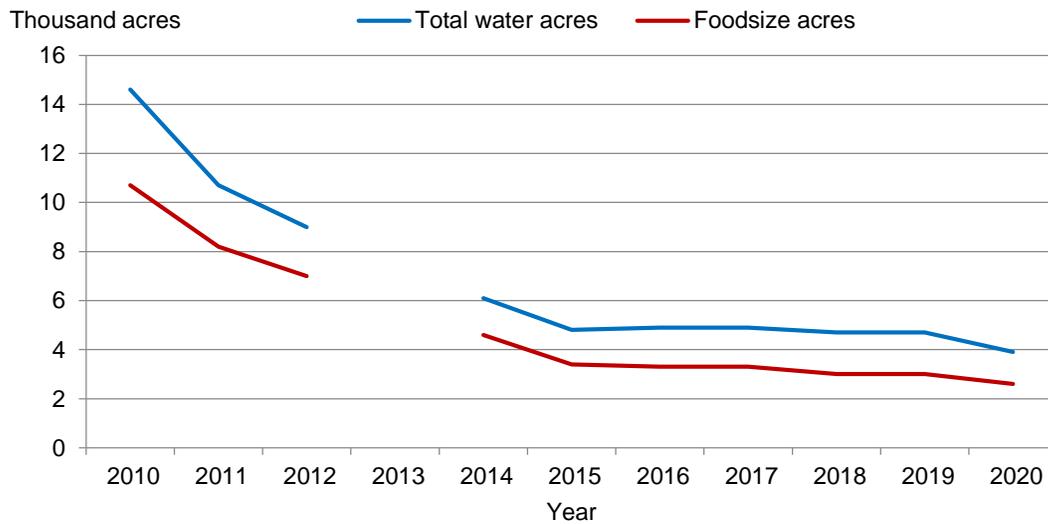
Catfish Water Surface Acres by Use – Major States: 2019 and 2020

State	Acres intended for utilization during July 1 - December 31 for										Acres taken out of production January 1 - June 30		
	Foodsize		Fingerlings		Broodfish		Currently under or scheduled for						
	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	Renovation		New construction		2019	2020	
	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)
AL	16,400	15,300	210	320	(D)	(D)	300	280	(D)	(D)	680	(D)	
AR	3,000	2,600	1,200	1,000	(D)	(D)	155	180	(D)	(D)	-	(D)	
MS	26,900	25,600	6,000	5,300	1,500	1,400	1,100	1,600	500	330	430	890	
Total	46,300	43,500	7,410	6,620	1,740	1,525	1,555	2,060	820	380	1,110	1,595	

- Represents zero.

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

Water Surface Acres and Foodsize Acres - Arkansas: July 1, 2010 - 2020



* 2013 not published due to sequestration.