



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

Texas Catfish

Issue No.: PR-107-12, January 27, 2012



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The value of catfish sales by Texas catfish producers increased 55 percent from last year according to the January 1, 2012, Catfish Growers Survey. Total sales of all catfish in 2011 were 20.1 million dollars compared to 13.0 million dollars in 2010.

State Director, Doug Rundle, of the Texas Field Office reported that there were 2,800 acres of surface water used for commercial catfish production in Texas January 1, 2012, down 100 acres from January 1, 2011.

The growers' inventory of foodsize catfish totaled 13.3 million pounds on January 1, 2012, an increase of 36 percent from the 2011 total of 9.8 million pounds. Large foodsize catfish accounted for 993 thousand pounds; medium foodsize catfish, 11.0 million pounds; and small foodsize catfish, 1.3 million pounds.

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 89.4 thousand acres, down 10 percent from January 1, 2011. The total number of operations on January 1, 2012 in the U.S. was 718, down 21 percent from January 1, 2011.

Catfish growers in the United States had sales of 423 million dollars during 2011, up 5 percent from last year. Nationwide there were 181 million foodsize fish on hand January 1, 2012, up 3 percent from last year's 176 million fish. Of the total number of foodsize fish, 3.6 million were large foodsize, 64.7 million were medium foodsize and 113 million were small foodsize. Growers had a total of 463 million stockers on hand, up 22 percent from last year. There were also 451 million fingerlings on hand, down 21 percent from last year.

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