



Press Release

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Texas Agricultural Statistics Service

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On: JANUARY 1 TEXAS CATFISH INVENTORY UP

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AUSTIN . . . The number of Texas catfish producers increased from last year, and catfish sales were up 3 percent according to the January 1, 2005, Catfish Growers Survey.

State Director, Robin Roark, of the Texas Agricultural Statistics Service reported that there were 62 commercial catfish operators in Texas January 1, 2005. Total surface water in production in production was 1,030 acres, up 180 acres from the previous year.

Total sales of all catfish in 2004 totaled \$3.45 million dollars, up 3 percent from \$335 million in 2003.

The growers' inventory of food size catfish totaled 3.5 million pounds, an increase of 84 percent from 2004 total of 1.9 million pounds. Large size catfish accounted for 500,000 pounds; medium size catfish, 1.65 million pounds; and small size catfish, 1.39 million pounds.

The growers' inventory also included 280,000 pounds of large stockers, 40,000 pounds of small stockers and 150,000 pounds of fingerlings.

Hatchery inventory included 130,000 pounds of Broodfish, up 325 percent from a year ago.

Fingerlings are 2 to 6 inches in length and are measured in weight categories of 2 to 60 lbs. per thousand fish; stockers are over 60 lbs. to 750 lbs. per thousand fish; small food size 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 size catfish, over three pounds per fish.

The water surface area being used for catfish production in the United States totaled 174 thousand acres, down 2 percent from January 1, 2004. The total number of operations on January 1, 2005 in the U.S. was 1,158 up 1 percent from January 1, 2004.

In the 11 selected states, catfish growers had sales of 480 million dollars during 2004, up 13 percent from last year. There were 344 million foodsize fish on hand January 1, 2005, down 4 percent from last year's 357 million fish. Of the total number of foodsize fish, 10.4 million were large foodsize, 93.7 million were medium foodsize and 240 million were small foodsize. Growers had a total of 655 million stockers on hand, down 23 percent from last year. There were also 704 million fingerlings on hand, down 3 percent from last year.