

Norfolk

National Fish Hatchery



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Station Facts

- Established: 1957.
- Number of staff: nine permanent.
- Geographic area covered: Mitigation in eastern Oklahoma and the White River Basin in Northern Arkansas.

Economic Impact

- Norfolk NFH has a significant economic impact. For every dollar spent by the hatchery, \$5.86 is generated in tax revenue. The total economic effect for trout production at the hatchery (1999 dollars) is \$91,162,000.

Station Goals

- Provide statutory mitigation fish for Eastern Oklahoma and the White River Basin in Northern Arkansas.
- Provide environmental education and outreach.

Fish Species and Capability

- Rainbow trout, cutthroat trout and brown trout.
- Present production is 500,000 lbs. annually.

Public Use

- 280,000 visitors annually.
- Hours of operation: 7:00 am - 3:30 pm including weekends.
- Hatchery tours.
- Off-site presentations.
- Fishing for the disabled and for ages 15 and under in Dry Run Creek.

Calendar of Events

June: National Fishing Week, Annual Fishing Derby.

Questions and Answers

What do you feed the fish?

We feed a commercially prepared diet produced specifically for trout. It contains all the essential elements necessary for growth and development.

Where do you get the eggs?

Norfolk NFH does not have any adult trout for breeding purposes. The hatchery receives fertilized eggs from other Federal hatcheries, called broodstock hatcheries. Currently, these eggs are shipped from Ennis National Fish Hatchery in Montana, Erwin National Fish Hatchery in Tennessee, White Sulphur Springs National Fish Hatchery in West Virginia, and Saratoga National Fish Hatchery in Wyoming.

How many fish are in a raceway?

15,000-100,000 fish are in a raceway, depending on the size of the fish.

What kinds of fish do you raise?

Rainbow trout, brown trout and cutthroat trout.

What size are the fish when they are stocked?

Most of the fish are stocked when they are 11 inches long.

How often do you stock fish?

Weekly, year-round.

How long does it take to grow the fish to stocking size?

It takes about 22 months to grow the fish from egg to 11 inches.