



Arkansas Recovery Hotline: 1-877-682-1515

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Ted McNulty, Director of Aquaculture, (870) 692-1698 or e-mail tmcnulty@uaex.edu

Aquaculture Grant Checks Have Been Issued

LITTLE ROCK – Reimbursement checks have been issued to eligible catfish farmers, hybrid striped bass farmers, bait fish farmers, tilapia farmers and goldfish farmers throughout Arkansas. The Arkansas Agriculture Department-Aquaculture Division received \$7.8 million of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Funds from the US Department of Agriculture Commodity, Farm Service Agency, Commodity Credit Corporation to reimburse eligible aquaculture producers for high feed costs in 2008.

Aquaculture producers experienced a large increase in feed costs in 2008 — by more than 25 percent of the five-year average — due to a sharp rise in grain prices. The increased cost of feed resulted in significant losses for many fish farming businesses in the state.

The deadline to apply for reimbursement is July 31, 2009. For more information or to download a grant application, visit www.recovery.arkansas.gov and type in keyword “aquaculture,” or call Ted McNulty, Director of Aquaculture, at (870) 575-8111.

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The Arkansas Agriculture Department-Aquaculture Division offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability; and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.