



Catfish Feed Deliveries

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August 2012 Catfish Feed Deliveries Down 27 Percent from Last Year

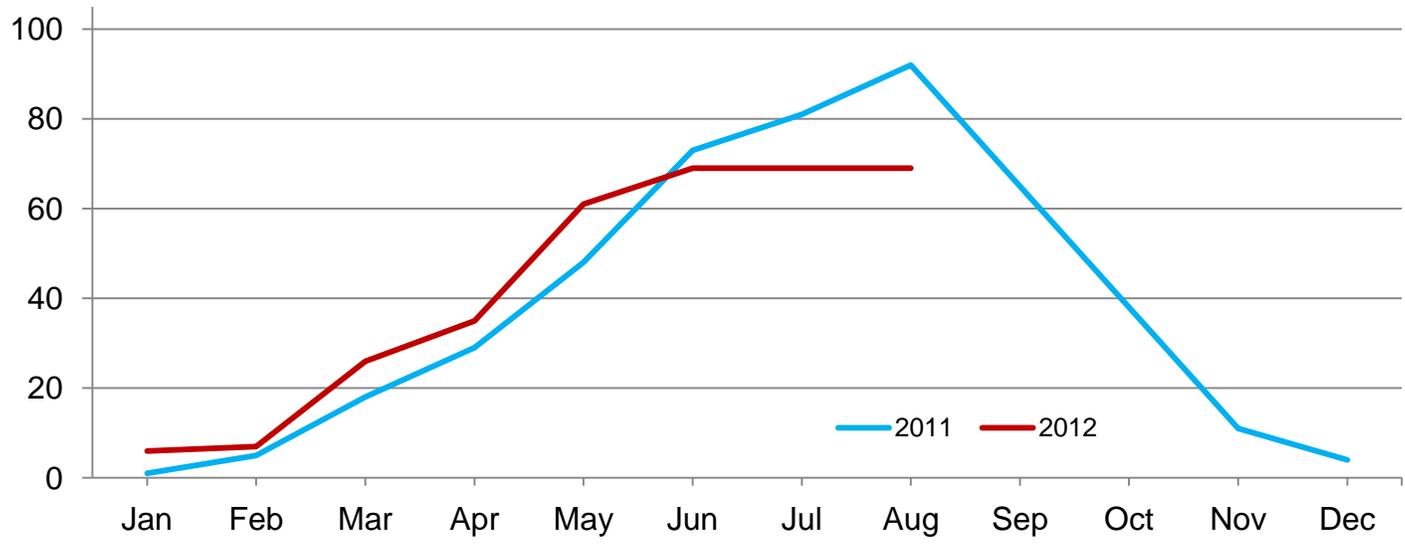
Total catfish feed delivered in the United States during August 2012 was 73,483 tons, down 27 percent from August 2011, and down 2 percent from the previous month. Foodsize catfish feed delivered totaled 68,772 tons, down 25 percent from the corresponding month a year ago. Feed delivered for fingerlings and broodfish totaled 4,711 tons, down 43 percent from the corresponding month a year ago.

August feed delivered to Mississippi catfish growers for foodsize fish totaled 34,001 tons, down 27 percent from last year. Mississippi accounted for 49 percent of the total foodsize catfish feed delivered to United States farmers.

The other major States with catfish feed deliveries for foodsize fish in August and their comparison to the previous year were Alabama with 23,695, down 26 percent; Arkansas with 4,888 tons, down 31 percent; and Louisiana with 318 tons, down 37 percent.

Foodsize Catfish Feed Delivered – United States

Thousand tons



Foodsize Catfish Feed Delivered – United States: 2011-2012

[Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Month	By month		2012 as percent of 2011	Cumulative		2012 as percent of 2011
	2011	2012		2011	2012	
	(tons)	(tons)	(percent)	(tons)	(tons)	(percent)
January	1,045	5,658	541	1,045	5,658	541
February	4,631	7,298	158	5,676	12,956	228
March	17,797	25,500	143	23,473	38,456	164
April	29,131	35,452	122	52,604	73,908	140
May	47,896	60,871	127	100,500	134,779	134
June	73,483	69,170	94	173,983	203,949	117
July	80,905	68,983	85	254,888	272,932	107
August	92,282	68,772	75	347,170	341,704	98
September	65,023			412,193		
October	37,703			449,896		
November	11,407			461,303		
December	3,930			465,233		

Fingerlings and Broodfish Catfish Feed Delivered – United States: 2011-2012

[Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun. To avoid disclosure of individual operations, State sums may not equal the total]

Month	By month		2012 as percent of 2011	Cumulative		2012 as percent of 2011
	2011	2012		2011	2012	
	(tons)	(tons)	(percent)	(tons)	(tons)	(percent)
January	76	176	232	76	176	232
February	328	314	96	404	490	121
March	568	1,260	222	972	1,750	180
April	1,177	1,608	137	2,149	3,358	156
May	2,172	2,702	124	4,321	6,060	140
June	4,038	4,155	103	8,359	10,215	122
July	5,831	5,693	98	14,190	15,908	112
August	8,210	4,711	57	22,400	20,619	92
September	3,734			26,134		
October	2,311			28,445		
November	1,176			29,621		
December	30			29,651		

Foodsize Catfish Feed Delivered – Alabama: 2011-2012

[Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Month	By month		2012 as percent of 2011	Cumulative		2012 as percent of 2011
	2011	2012		2011	2012	
	(tons)	(tons)	(percent)	(tons)	(tons)	(percent)
January	212	2,718	1,282	212	2,718	1,282
February	1,647	3,142	191	1,859	5,860	315
March	7,597	8,287	109	9,456	14,147	150
April	10,192	11,469	113	19,648	25,616	130
May	18,168	20,613	113	37,816	46,229	122
June	27,706	22,218	80	65,522	68,447	104
July	27,527	23,155	84	93,049	91,602	98
August	32,038	23,695	74	125,087	115,297	92
September	21,310			146,397		
October	12,706			159,103		
November	4,924			164,027		
December	1,841			165,868		

Foodsize Catfish Feed Delivered – Arkansas: 2011-2012

[Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Month	By month		2012 as percent of 2011	Cumulative		2012 as percent of 2011
	2011	2012		2011	2012	
	(tons)	(tons)	(percent)	(tons)	(tons)	(percent)
January	52	269	517	52	269	517
February	462	485	105	514	754	147
March	1,431	2,471	173	1,945	3,225	166
April	2,548	3,155	124	4,493	6,380	142
May	3,924	5,417	138	8,417	11,797	140
June	5,970	5,741	96	14,387	17,538	122
July	6,792	4,981	73	21,179	22,519	106
August	7,042	4,888	69	28,221	27,407	97
September	5,766			33,987		
October	3,097			37,084		
November	603			37,687		
December	129			37,816		

Fingerlings and Broodfish Catfish Feed Delivered – Arkansas: 2011-2012

[Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Month	By month		2012 as percent of 2011	Cumulative		2012 as percent of 2011
	2011	2012		2011	2012	
	(tons)	(tons)	(percent)	(tons)	(tons)	(percent)
January	10	4	40	10	4	40
February	96	50	52	106	54	51
March	133	298	224	239	352	147
April	131	197	150	370	549	148
May	403	239	59	773	788	102
June	658	351	53	1,431	1,139	80
July	676	595	88	2,107	1,734	82
August	1,361	758	56	3,468	2,492	72
September	912			4,380		
October	605			4,985		
November	125			5,110		
December	-			5,110		

- Represents zero.

Foodsize Catfish Feed Delivered – Louisiana: 2011-2012

[Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Month	By month		2012 as percent of 2011	Cumulative		2012 as percent of 2011
	2011	2012		2011	2012	
	(tons)	(tons)	(percent)	(tons)	(tons)	(percent)
January	18	8	44	18	8	44
February	83	30	36	101	38	38
March	298	124	42	399	162	41
April	348	367	105	747	529	71
May	493	459	93	1,240	988	80
June	537	416	77	1,777	1,404	79
July	339	318	94	2,116	1,722	81
August	503	318	63	2,619	2,040	78
September	272			2,891		
October	154			3,045		
November	48			3,093		
December	30			3,123		

Foodsize Catfish Feed Delivered – Mississippi: 2011-2012

[Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Month	By month		2012 as percent of 2011	Cumulative		2012 as percent of 2011
	2011	2012		2011	2012	
	(tons)	(tons)	(percent)	(tons)	(tons)	(percent)
January	209	1,706	816	209	1,706	816
February	1,456	2,246	154	1,665	3,952	237
March	5,746	11,317	197	7,411	15,269	206
April	12,757	16,571	130	20,168	31,840	158
May	21,465	29,818	139	41,633	61,658	148
June	33,344	35,308	106	74,977	96,966	129
July	40,684	34,891	86	115,661	131,857	114
August	46,342	34,001	73	162,003	165,858	102
September	32,582			194,585		
October	16,991			211,576		
November	3,155			214,731		
December	758			215,489		

Fingerlings and Broodfish Catfish Feed Delivered – Mississippi: 2011-2012

[Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Month	By month		2012 as percent of 2011	Cumulative		2012 as percent of 2011
	2011	2012		2011	2012	
	(tons)	(tons)	(percent)	(tons)	(tons)	(percent)
January	47	149	317	47	149	317
February	204	155	76	251	304	121
March	365	740	203	616	1,044	169
April	1,000	1,251	125	1,616	2,295	142
May	1,657	2,277	137	3,273	4,572	140
June	3,277	3,693	113	6,550	8,265	126
July	5,036	4,992	99	11,586	13,257	114
August	6,642	3,818	57	18,228	17,075	94
September	2,526			20,754		
October	1,590			22,344		
November	1,029			23,373		
December	13			23,386		

Foodsize Catfish Feed Delivered – Other States East of the Mississippi River: 2011-2012

[Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Month	By month		2012 as percent of 2011	Cumulative		2012 as percent of 2011
	2011	2012		2011	2012	
	(tons)	(tons)	(percent)	(tons)	(tons)	(percent)
January	88	89	101	88	89	101
February	304	320	105	392	409	104
March	1,362	1,001	73	1,754	1,410	80
April	1,505	1,275	85	3,259	2,685	82
May	1,338	1,525	114	4,597	4,210	92
June	1,914	1,678	88	6,511	5,888	90
July	1,914	2,138	112	8,425	8,026	95
August	2,113	1,744	83	10,538	9,770	93
September	1,667			12,205		
October	1,932			14,137		
November	728			14,865		
December	181			15,046		

Foodsize Catfish Feed Delivered – Other States West of the Mississippi River: 2011-2012

[Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Month	By month		2012 as percent of 2011	Cumulative		2012 as percent of 2011
	2011	2012		2011	2012	
	(tons)	(tons)	(percent)	(tons)	(tons)	(percent)
January	466	868	186	466	868	186
February	679	1,075	158	1,145	1,943	170
March	1,363	2,300	169	2,508	4,243	169
April	1,781	2,615	147	4,289	6,858	160
May	2,508	3,039	121	6,797	9,897	146
June	4,012	3,809	95	10,809	13,706	127
July	3,649	3,500	96	14,458	17,206	119
August	4,244	4,126	97	18,702	21,332	114
September	3,426			22,128		
October	2,823			24,951		
November	1,949			26,900		
December	991			27,891		

Fingerlings and Broodfish Catfish Feed Delivered – Other States West of the Mississippi River: 2011-2012

[Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Month	By month		2012 as percent of 2011	Cumulative		2012 as percent of 2011
	2011	2012		2011	2012	
	(tons)	(tons)	(percent)	(tons)	(tons)	(percent)
January	-	16	(X)	-	16	(X)
February	-	73	(X)	-	89	(X)
March	18	109	606	18	198	1,100
April	6	28	467	24	226	942
May	5	26	520	29	252	869
June	18	29	161	47	281	598
July	4	35	875	51	316	620
August	95	55	58	146	371	254
September	97			243		
October	14			257		
November	4			261		
December	2			263		

- Represents zero.

(X) Not applicable.

Statistical Methodology

Survey Procedures: All participating catfish feed mills are feed mills that produce and deliver catfish feed to bonafide catfish producers. Survey data for catfish feed are collected from feed mills by the USDA-NASS Mississippi Field Office, which is responsible for ensuring survey coverage is as complete as possible. Mills are contacted by mail, telephone, fax, or internet. Diligent effort is made to ensure that all operations are accounted for in the estimate.

Estimation Procedures: The *Catfish Feed Deliveries* report refers strictly to catfish feed *delivered* to bonafide catfish producers and excludes catfish feed delivered to producers of other species. The totals include both bagged and bulk feed. Prior to summarization, questionnaires are compared to previous reports for comparability. Estimates are made for feed mills whose reports are not available in time to be included in the release. Those mills are identified by an asterisk on page 6 of this release. Estimates are based on the mill's previous reports and current conditions. Published totals are a straight summation of the individual reports and estimated data.

If a mill uses a fiscal accounting system, proration is used to convert reported data to a calendar month basis.

Two unusual features of this report are worthy of note: (1) cooperating feed mills are listed by name, and (2) it is impossible for the public to infer the amount of catfish feed *produced* in each State. Since many mills *deliver* feed to more than one State and to growers of other species, any inferences about overall production per State or per mill are not valid.

Revision Policy: Revisions may be necessary in the following month's publication pending a review of late reports received from mills. Revisions to previous estimates are made to improve month-to-month relationships. Estimates for the previous month are subject to revision in all States and regions monthly totals. In February, all monthly estimates for the previous year are reviewed and subject to revisions. The review is primarily based on data that may have been received after the original estimates were published.

Reliability: Estimates are based on data from cooperating catfish feed mills, and therefore have no sampling variability. However, estimates may be subject to errors such as omissions, duplication, mistakes in reporting, recording, and processing of data. These errors are minimized through strict quality controls in the edit and summarization process and a careful review of all reported data for consistency and reasonableness.

Data were compiled in cooperation with the following feed mills:

Alabama Catfish Feed Mill, LLC	Land O' Lakes Purina Feed, LLC
Carolina Fish Feeds	Rangen, Inc.
Delta Western	SouthFresh Feeds
Fishbelt Feeds, Inc.	Star Milling Co.
Flint River Mills, Inc.	Topwater Feed Mill

Terms and Definitions Used for Catfish Feed Deliveries Estimates

Broodfish - Fish kept for egg production, including males. Broodfish produce the fertilized eggs that go to hatcheries. The most desirable size is 3 to 10 pounds or 4 to 6 years of age.

Catfish Feed - For the purposes of this report catfish feed is defined as feed *delivered* to bonafide catfish producers. Thus, it is not the absolute total amount of feed produced or even sold by a mill. (Some catfish feed is sold to producers of other species of fish.) The definition includes medicated feed. Catfish feed is designed to float on the surface of the water. Catfish are fed this way from the moment they hatch. Therefore, they learn to go to the surface for feed. The result is a clean nutritious diet for American farm raised catfish.

Catfish Feed for Foodsize Fish - Feed containing pellets larger than 1/8 of an inch.

Catfish Feed for Fingerlings/Broodfish - Feed containing pellets 1/8 of an inch or smaller.

Fingerlings – Fish weighing 2 to 60 pounds per 1,000 fish or 2 to 6 inches in length.

Foodsize Fish - Fish being grown commercially for human consumption. Optimum sizes at harvest depend on the market but are generally no lower than 3/4 pound but near one pound.

Information Contacts

Listed below are the commodity specialists in the Livestock Branch of the National Agricultural Statistics Service to contact for additional information. E-mail inquiries may be sent to nass@nass.usda.gov

Dan Kerestes, Chief, Livestock Branch	(202) 720-3570
Bruce Boess, Head, Poultry and Specialty Commodities Section	(202) 720-4447
Cody Brokmeyer – Poultry Slaughter, Turkey Hatchery, Turkeys Raised	(202) 690-3237
Charles Butler – Catfish Feed Deliveries	(601) 965-4575
David Colwell – Cold Storage	(202) 720-8784
LaKeya Jones – Catfish Processing, Catfish Production, Trout Production, Census of Aquaculture, Honey, Egg Products, Mink	(202) 720-0585
Kim Linonis – Layers, Eggs	(202) 690-8632
Miste Salmon – Broiler Hatchery, Chicken Hatchery	(202) 720-3244

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