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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Washington, D.C.

Catfish Feed Deliveries

Released October 23, 2006, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, U.S. Department of Agriculture. For information on *Catfish Feed Deliveries* call Charles Butler at 601-965-4575, office hours 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. CT.

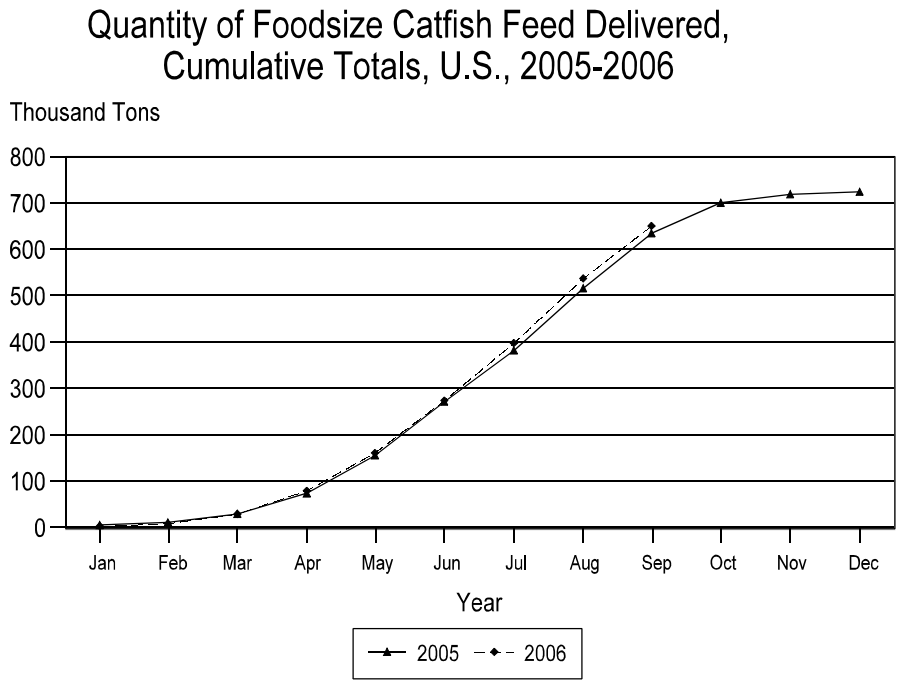
September 2006 Catfish Feed Deliveries Down 3 Percent From Last Year

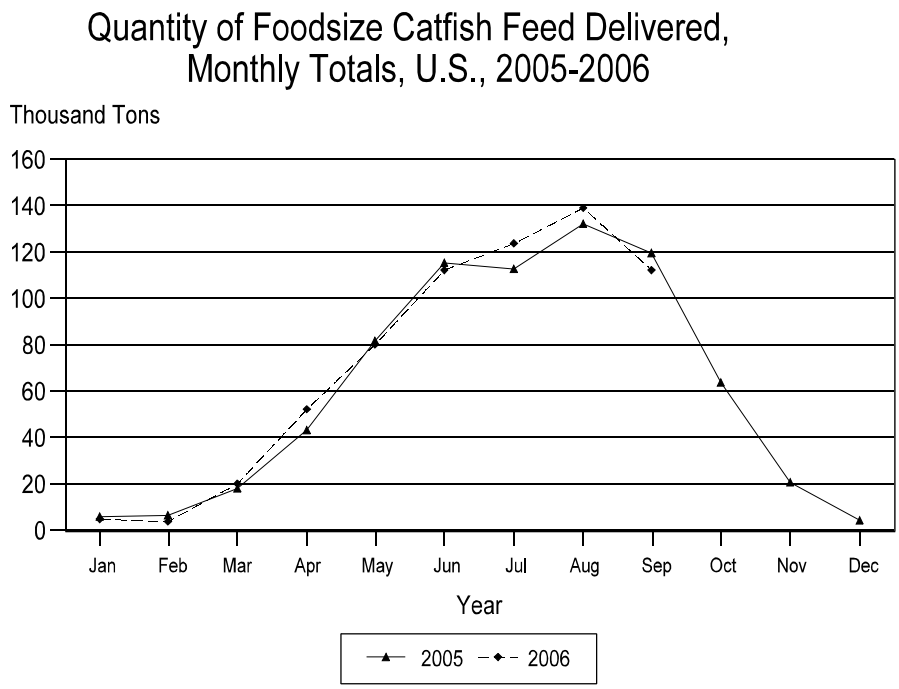
Total catfish feed delivered in the United States during September 2006 was 121,008 tons, down 3 percent from September 2005 and 20 percent below the previous month. Foodsize fish feed delivered totaled 112,525 tons, down 6 percent for the corresponding month a year ago. Feed delivered for fingerlings and broodfish totaled 8,483 tons, up 65 percent for the corresponding month a year ago.

Catfish feed delivered to catfish growers during the January-September period totaled 693,761 tons, up 4 percent from the corresponding period in 2005. For this period 94 percent of the total feed delivered to catfish growers was for foodsize catfish.

September feed delivered to Mississippi catfish growers for foodsize fish totaled 55,565 tons, down 6 percent from last year and accounted for 49 percent of the total foodsize catfish feed delivered to U.S. farmers.

The other major States with catfish feed deliveries for foodsize fish in September and their comparison to the previous year were: Alabama with 25,588 tons, down 20 percent; Arkansas with 20,138 tons, down slightly from last year; and Louisiana with 3,918 tons, up 26 percent.


Quantity of Foodsize Catfish Feed Delivered,
Cumulative Totals, U.S., 2005-2006
Thousand Tons
800
700
600
500
400
300
200
100
0
Jan
Feb
Mar
Apr
May
Jun
Jul
Aug
Sep
Oct
Nov
Dec
Year
2005
2006


Quantity of Foodsize Catfish Feed Delivered,
Monthly Totals, U.S., 2005-2006
Thousand Tons
160
140
120
100
80
60
40
20
0
Jan
Feb
Mar
Apr
May
Jun
Jul
Aug
Sep
Oct
Nov
Dec
Year
2005
2006

Catfish Feed: Tons Delivered For Foodsize Fish,
United States, 2005-2006

Month	By Month		Percent of Previous Year	Cumulative		Percent of Previous Year
	2005	2006		2005	2006	
	Tons	*Tons*	*Percent*	*Tons*	*Tons*	*Percent*
Jan	6,265	5,103	81	6,265	5,103	81
Feb	6,334	3,970	63	12,599	9,073	72
Mar	17,917	20,048	112	30,516	29,121	95
Apr	43,583	52,246	120	74,099	81,367	110
May	81,591	80,433	99	155,690	161,800	104
Jun	115,370	112,326	97	271,060	274,126	101
Jul	113,086	124,208	110	384,146	398,334	104
Aug	132,347	139,191	105	516,493	537,525	104
Sep	119,788	112,525	94	636,281	650,050	102
Oct	64,188			700,469		
Nov	20,553			721,022		
Dec	4,449			725,471		

Catfish Feed: Tons Delivered For Fingerlings and Broodfish,
United States, 2005-2006

Month	By Month		Percent of Previous Year	Cumulative		Percent of Previous Year
	2005	2006		2005	2006	
	Tons	*Tons*	*Percent*	*Tons*	*Tons*	*Percent*
Jan	287	469	163	287	469	163
Feb	205	367	179	492	836	170
Mar	715	1,381	193	1,207	2,217	184
Apr	1,623	2,200	136	2,830	4,417	156
May	2,796	3,181	114	5,626	7,598	135
Jun	4,787	6,265	131	10,413	13,863	133
Jul	6,797	9,754	144	17,210	23,617	137
Aug	10,569	11,611	110	27,779	35,228	127
Sep	5,148	8,483	165	32,927	43,711	133
Oct	3,148			36,075		
Nov	1,189			37,264		
Dec	226			37,490		

Catfish Feed: Tons Delivered For Foodsize Fish, Alabama, 2005-2006

Month	By Month		Percent of Previous Year	Cumulative		Percent of Previous Year
	2005	2006		2005	2006	
	Tons	*Tons*	*Percent*	*Tons*	*Tons*	*Percent*
Jan	2,030	1,809	89	2,030	1,809	89
Feb	2,694	1,529	57	4,724	3,338	71
Mar	6,548	5,732	88	11,272	9,070	80
Apr	11,242	12,758	113	22,514	21,828	97
May	21,219	20,506	97	43,733	42,334	97
Jun	32,942	29,580	90	76,675	71,914	94
Jul	32,182	33,360	104	108,857	105,274	97
Aug	36,549	36,392	100	145,406	141,666	97
Sep	32,111	25,588	80	177,517	167,254	94
Oct	16,750			194,267		
Nov	7,346			201,613		
Dec	2,928			204,541		

Catfish Feed: Tons Delivered For Fingerlings and Broodfish, Alabama, 2005-2006

Month	By Month		Percent of Previous Year	Cumulative		Percent of Previous Year
	2005	2006		2005	2006	
	Tons	*Tons*	*Percent*	*Tons*	*Tons*	*Percent*
Jan	10	*	*	10	*	*
Feb	4	*	*	14	*	*
Mar	51	*	*	65	*	*
Apr	31	*	*	96	*	*
May	46	*	*	142	*	*
Jun	59	*	*	201	*	*
Jul	145	*	*	346	*	*
Aug	245	*	*	591	*	*
Sep	94	*	*	685	*	*
Oct	58	*	*	743	*	*
Nov	20			763		
Dec	11			774		

* Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

Catfish Feed: Tons Delivered For Foodsize Fish, Arkansas, 2005-2006

Month	By Month		Percent of Previous Year	Cumulative		Percent of Previous Year
	2005	2006		2005	2006	
	Tons	*Tons*	*Percent*	*Tons*	*Tons*	*Percent*
Jan	453	422	93	453	422	93
Feb	521	306	59	974	728	75
Mar	2,415	2,794	116	3,389	3,522	104
Apr	7,741	9,861	127	11,130	13,383	120
May	15,118	14,552	96	26,248	27,935	106
Jun	18,453	18,654	101	44,701	46,589	104
Jul	17,642	20,193	114	62,343	66,782	107
Aug	22,048	22,879	104	84,391	89,661	106
Sep	20,220	20,138	100	104,611	109,799	105
Oct	10,768			115,379		
Nov	1,855			117,234		
Dec	130			117,364		

Catfish Feed: Tons Delivered For Fingerlings and Broodfish, Arkansas, 2005-2006

Month	By Month		Percent of Previous Year	Cumulative		Percent of Previous Year
	2005	2006		2005	2006	
	Tons	*Tons*	*Percent*	*Tons*	*Tons*	*Percent*
Jan	44	192	436	44	192	436
Feb	16	172	1,075	60	364	607
Mar	138	678	491	198	1,042	526
Apr	294	821	279	492	1,863	379
May	600	616	103	1,092	2,479	227
Jun	923	715	77	2,015	3,194	159
Jul	976	1,116	114	2,991	4,310	144
Aug	1,496	1,503	100	4,487	5,813	130
Sep	345	2,667	773	4,832	8,480	175
Oct	811			5,643		
Nov	249			5,892		
Dec	22			5,914		

Catfish Feed: Tons Delivered For Foodsize Fish, Louisiana, 2005-2006

Month	By Month		Percent of Previous Year	Cumulative		Percent of Previous Year
	2005	2006		2005	2006	
	Tons	*Tons*	*Percent*	*Tons*	*Tons*	*Percent*
Jan	560	283	51	560	283	51
Feb	568	146	26	1,128	429	38
Mar	937	929	99	2,065	1,358	66
Apr	2,848	1,936	68	4,913	3,294	67
May	3,264	2,821	86	8,177	6,115	75
Jun	3,342	3,600	108	11,519	9,715	84
Jul	4,375	3,652	83	15,894	13,367	84
Aug	4,975	4,379	88	20,869	17,746	85
Sep	3,102	3,918	126	23,971	21,664	90
Oct	3,140			27,111		
Nov	727			27,838		
Dec	59			27,897		

Catfish Feed: Tons Delivered For Fingerlings and Broodfish, Louisiana, 2005-2006

Month	By Month		Percent of Previous Year	Cumulative		Percent of Previous Year
	2005	2006		2005	2006	
	Tons	*Tons*	*Percent*	*Tons*	*Tons*	*Percent*
Jan						
Feb						
Mar						
Apr	22	2	9	22	2	9
May	54			76	2	3
Jun	24	17	71	100	19	19
Jul	7	3	43	107	22	21
Aug	198			305	22	7
Sep	10	12	120	315	34	11
Oct				315		
Nov				315		
Dec				315		

Catfish Feed: Tons Delivered For Foodsize Fish, Mississippi, 2005-2006

Month	By Month		Percent of Previous Year	Cumulative		Percent of Previous Year
	2005	2006		2005	2006	
	Tons	*Tons*	*Percent*	*Tons*	*Tons*	*Percent*
Jan	2,622	1,169	45	2,622	1,169	45
Feb	1,895	773	41	4,517	1,942	43
Mar	6,604	7,980	121	11,121	9,922	89
Apr	19,759	24,335	123	30,880	34,257	111
May	39,046	37,972	97	69,926	72,229	103
Jun	55,981	54,484	97	125,907	126,713	101
Jul	55,039	61,063	111	180,946	187,776	104
Aug	63,637	67,741	106	244,583	255,517	104
Sep	59,346	55,565	94	303,929	311,082	102
Oct	29,813			333,742		
Nov	7,809			341,551		
Dec	687			342,238		

Catfish Feed: Tons Delivered For Fingerlings and Broodfish, Mississippi, 2005-2006

Month	By Month		Percent of Previous Year	Cumulative		Percent of Previous Year
	2005	2006		2005	2006	
	Tons	*Tons*	*Percent*	*Tons*	*Tons*	*Percent*
Jan	196	191	97	196	191	97
Feb	153	134	88	349	325	93
Mar	405	505	125	754	830	110
Apr	1,136	1,084	95	1,890	1,914	101
May	1,864	2,305	124	3,754	4,219	112
Jun	3,639	5,265	145	7,393	9,484	128
Jul	5,444	8,319	153	12,837	17,803	139
Aug	8,297	9,676	117	21,134	27,479	130
Sep	4,382	5,442	124	25,516	32,921	129
Oct	2,022			27,538		
Nov	669			28,207		
Dec	80			28,287		

Catfish Feed: Tons Delivered For Foodsize Fish,
Other States East of the Mississippi River, 2005-2006

Month	By Month		Percent of Previous Year	Cumulative		Percent of Previous Year
	2005	2006		2005	2006	
	Tons	*Tons*	*Percent*	*Tons*	*Tons*	*Percent*
Jan	137	554	404	137	554	404
Feb	52	220	423	189	774	410
Mar	513	776	151	702	1,550	221
Apr	914	1,174	128	1,616	2,724	169
May	1,485	1,878	126	3,101	4,602	148
Jun	2,193	2,243	102	5,294	6,845	129
Jul	1,903	2,564	135	7,197	9,409	131
Aug	2,166	3,275	151	9,363	12,684	135
Sep	2,213	2,929	132	11,576	15,613	135
Oct	1,373			12,949		
Nov	1,153			14,102		
Dec	52			14,154		

Catfish Feed: Tons Delivered For Fingerlings and Broodfish,
Other States East of the Mississippi River, 2005-2006

Month	By Month		Percent of Previous Year	Cumulative		Percent of Previous Year
	2005	2006		2005	2006	
	Tons	*Tons*	*Percent*	*Tons*	*Tons*	*Percent*
Jan		*	*		*	*
Feb	2	*	*	2	*	*
Mar	23	*	*	25	*	*
Apr	46	*	*	71	*	*
May	71	*	*	142	*	*
Jun	1	*	*	143	*	*
Jul	57	*	*	200	*	*
Aug	51	*	*	251	*	*
Sep	86	*	*	337	*	*
Oct	67	*	*	404	*	*
Nov	48			452		
Dec	5			457		

* Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

Catfish Feed: Tons Delivered For Foodsize Fish,
Other States West of the Mississippi River, 2005-2006

Month	By Month		Percent of Previous Year	Cumulative		Percent of Previous Year
	2005	2006		2005	2006	
	Tons	*Tons*	*Percent*	*Tons*	*Tons*	*Percent*
Jan	463	866	187	463	866	187
Feb	604	996	165	1,067	1,862	175
Mar	900	1,837	204	1,967	3,699	188
Apr	1,079	2,182	202	3,046	5,881	193
May	1,459	2,704	185	4,505	8,585	191
Jun	2,459	3,765	153	6,964	12,350	177
Jul	1,945	3,376	174	8,909	15,726	177
Aug	2,972	4,525	152	11,881	20,251	170
Sep	2,796	4,387	157	14,677	24,638	168
Oct	2,344			17,021		
Nov	1,663			18,684		
Dec	593			19,277		

Catfish Feed: Tons Delivered For Fingerlings and Broodfish,
Other States West of the Mississippi River, 2005-2006

Month	By Month		Percent of Previous Year	Cumulative		Percent of Previous Year
	2005	2006		2005	2006	
	Tons	*Tons*	*Percent*	*Tons*	*Tons*	*Percent*
Jan	37	72	195	37	72	195
Feb	30	27	90	67	99	148
Mar	98	55	56	165	154	93
Apr	94	130	138	259	284	110
May	161	57	35	420	341	81
Jun	141	163	116	561	504	90
Jul	168	176	105	729	680	93
Aug	282	232	82	1,011	912	90
Sep	231	167	72	1,242	1,079	87
Oct	190			1,432		
Nov	203			1,635		
Dec	108			1,743		

Reliability of Catfish Feed Deliveries Estimates

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, who is responsible for ensuring survey coverage is as complete as possible. Mills are contacted by either 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 plants are identified by an asterisk on page 11 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: Catfish Feed Deliveries estimates are based on a census of all known active and cooperating catfish feed mills, and therefore have no sampling variability. However, estimates may be subject to errors such as omissions, duplication, and mistakes in reporting, recording, and processing of the 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.

Terms and Definitions Used for Catfish Feed Deliveries Estimates

Broodfish - Fish kept for egg production, including males.

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 - Smaller fish about 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.

Data were compiled in cooperation with the following feed mills:

Alabama Feed Mill LLC
Arkat Feeds
Cargill Animal Nutrition
Carolina Fish Feeds
Delta Western
Fishbelt Feeds Inc
Flint River Mills Inc
Land O Lakes
Rangen Inc.
Silver Cup
Southfresh Feeds
Star Milling Co.
Topwater Feed Mill

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