



# Catfish Feed Deliveries

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Released January 20, 2011, 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.

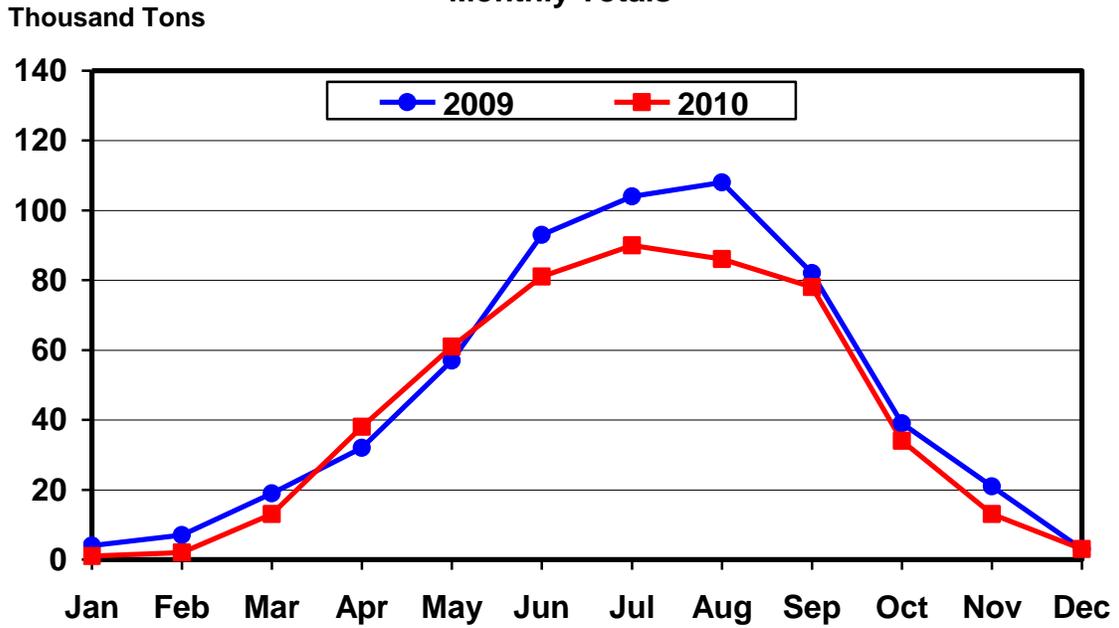
## December 2010 Catfish Feed Deliveries Down 1 Percent from Last Year

Total catfish feed delivered in the United States during December was 3,324 tons, down 1 percent from December 2009 and down 74 percent from the previous month. Foodsize catfish feed delivered totaled 3,270 tons, up 2 percent from the corresponding month a year ago. Feed delivered for fingerlings and broodfish totaled 54 tons, down 59 percent from the corresponding month a year ago.

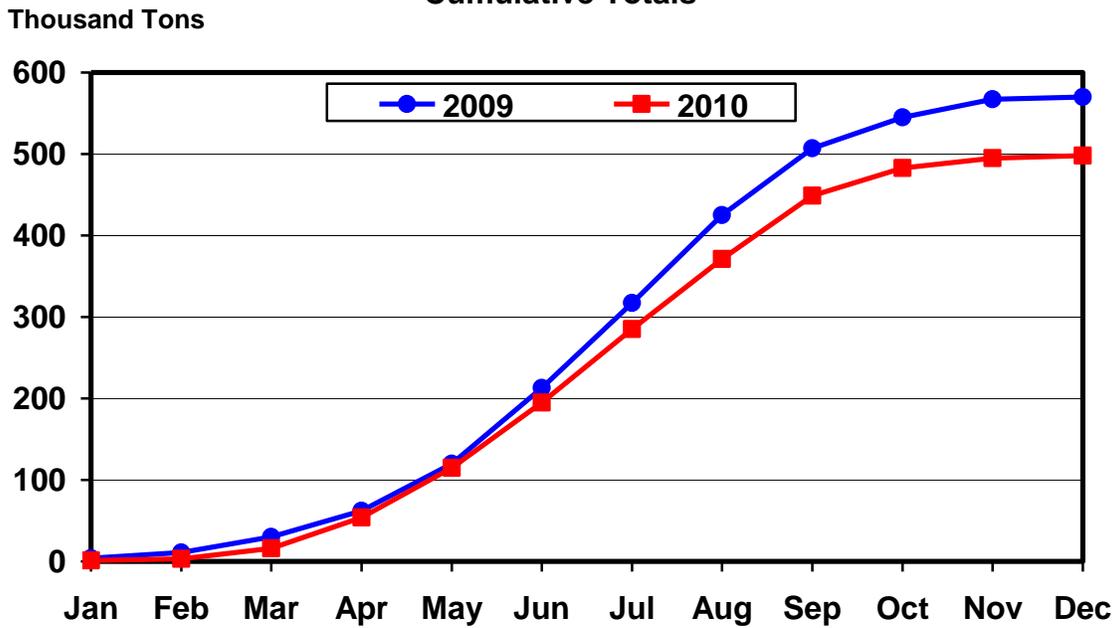
December feed delivered to Alabama catfish growers for foodsize fish totaled 1,524 tons, down 37 percent from last year. Alabama accounted for 47 percent of the total foodsize catfish feed delivered to U.S. farmers.

The other major States with catfish feed deliveries for foodsize fish in December and their comparison to the previous year were Arkansas with 107 tons, up 10 percent; Louisiana with 27 tons, up 125 percent; and Mississippi with 385 tons, up 73 percent.

### U. S. Quantity of Foodsize Catfish Feed Delivered, Monthly Totals



### U.S. Quantity of Foodsize Catfish Feed Delivered, Cumulative Totals



**Catfish Feed: Tons Delivered For Foodsize Fish,  
United States, 2009-2010**

Month	By Month		Percent of Previous Year	Cumulative		Percent of Previous Year
	2009	2010		2009	2010	
	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Jan	4,455	1,433	32	4,455	1,433	32
Feb	7,034	1,528	22	11,489	2,961	26
Mar	18,927	12,680	67	30,416	15,641	51
Apr	31,621	38,080	120	62,037	53,721	87
May	57,466	60,913	106	119,503	114,634	96
Jun	93,123	80,769	87	212,626	195,403	92
Jul	104,060	89,734	86	316,686	285,137	90
Aug	107,840	86,024	80	424,526	371,161	87
Sep	82,125	77,963	95	506,651	449,124	89
Oct	38,828	33,567	86	545,479	482,691	88
Nov <sup>1</sup>	21,280	12,525	59	566,759	495,216	87
Dec	3,221	3,270	102	569,980	498,486	87

<sup>1</sup> Revised 2010 data only.

**Catfish Feed: Tons Delivered For Fingerlings and Broodfish,  
United States, 2009-2010<sup>1</sup>**

Month	By Month		Percent of Previous Year	Cumulative		Percent of Previous Year
	2009	2010		2009	2010	
	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Jan	254	59	23	254	59	23
Feb	268	142	53	522	201	39
Mar	927	900	97	1,449	1,101	76
Apr	1,116	2,065	185	2,565	3,166	123
May	1,774	3,198	180	4,339	6,364	147
Jun	3,191	4,917	154	7,530	11,281	150
Jul	4,209	6,579	156	11,739	17,860	152
Aug	5,453	7,004	128	17,192	24,864	145
Sep	3,513	4,949	141	20,705	29,813	144
Oct	1,358	2,198	162	22,063	32,011	145
Nov	1,314	346	26	23,377	32,357	138
Dec	133	54	41	23,510	32,411	138

<sup>1</sup> The sum of the published States may not equal the total to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

**Catfish Feed: Tons Delivered For Foodsize Fish,  
Alabama, 2009-2010**

Month	By Month		Percent of Previous Year	Cumulative		Percent of Previous Year
	2009	2010		2009	2010	
	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Jan	1,992	392	20	1,992	392	20
Feb	2,490	599	24	4,482	991	22
Mar	7,290	3,472	48	11,772	4,463	38
Apr	10,891	12,416	114	22,663	16,879	74
May	17,599	19,589	111	40,262	36,468	91
Jun	29,018	27,165	94	69,280	63,633	92
Jul	36,818	30,783	84	106,098	94,416	89
Aug	32,334	30,537	94	138,432	124,953	90
Sep	24,546	25,700	105	162,978	150,653	92
Oct	14,442	10,298	71	177,420	160,951	91
Nov <sup>1</sup>	8,762	5,619	64	186,182	166,570	89
Dec	2,404	1,524	63	188,586	168,094	89

<sup>1</sup> Revised 2010 data only.

**Catfish Feed: Tons Delivered For Foodsize Fish,  
Arkansas, 2009-2010**

Month	By Month		Percent of Previous Year	Cumulative		Percent of Previous Year
	2009	2010		2009	2010	
	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Jan	165	76	46	165	76	46
Feb	509	75	15	674	151	22
Mar	2,084	1,406	67	2,758	1,557	56
Apr	3,922	4,087	104	6,680	5,644	84
May	7,437	6,336	85	14,117	11,980	85
Jun	10,882	7,102	65	24,999	19,082	76
Jul	10,429	8,802	84	35,428	27,884	79
Aug	14,450	8,559	59	49,878	36,443	73
Sep	9,502	7,740	81	59,380	44,183	74
Oct	2,916	3,132	107	62,296	47,315	76
Nov	1,310	643	49	63,606	47,958	75
Dec	97	107	110	63,703	48,065	75

**Catfish Feed: Tons Delivered For Fingerlings and Broodfish,  
Arkansas, 2009-2010**

Month	By Month		Percent of Previous Year	Cumulative		Percent of Previous Year
	2009	2010		2009	2010	
	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Jan	50	27	54	50	27	54
Feb	156	122	78	206	149	72
Mar	314	552	176	520	701	135
Apr	144	718	499	664	1,419	214
May	173	789	456	837	2,208	264
Jun	283	474	167	1,120	2,682	239
Jul	637	902	142	1,757	3,584	204
Aug	820	976	119	2,577	4,560	177
Sep	389	1,086	279	2,966	5,646	190
Oct	310	516	166	3,276	6,162	188
Nov	255	82	32	3,531	6,244	177
Dec	117	30	26	3,648	6,274	172

**Catfish Feed: Tons Delivered For Foodsize Fish,  
Louisiana, 2009-2010**

Month	By Month		Percent of Previous Year	Cumulative		Percent of Previous Year
	2009	2010		2009	2010	
	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Jan	168	7	4	168	7	4
Feb	122	4	3	290	11	4
Mar	518	286	55	808	297	37
Apr	1,312	565	43	2,120	862	41
May	1,520	678	45	3,640	1,540	42
Jun	1,556	735	47	5,196	2,275	44
Jul	1,411	679	48	6,607	2,954	45
Aug	1,601	601	38	8,208	3,555	43
Sep	1,180	500	42	9,388	4,055	43
Oct	116	136	117	9,504	4,191	44
Nov	1,435	67	5	10,939	4,258	39
Dec	12	27	225	10,951	4,285	39

**Catfish Feed: Tons Delivered For Foodsize Fish,  
Mississippi, 2009-2010**

Month	By Month		Percent of Previous Year	Cumulative		Percent of Previous Year
	2009	2010		2009	2010	
	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Jan	782	224	29	782	224	29
Feb	2,147	193	9	2,929	417	14
Mar	6,336	4,536	72	9,265	4,953	53
Apr	12,628	17,203	136	21,893	22,156	101
May	26,165	29,285	112	48,058	51,441	107
Jun	45,116	39,337	87	93,174	90,778	97
Jul	49,001	43,676	89	142,175	134,454	95
Aug	53,148	40,022	75	195,323	174,476	89
Sep	41,091	37,849	92	236,414	212,325	90
Oct	17,762	15,488	87	254,176	227,813	90
Nov <sup>1</sup>	7,523	3,900	52	261,699	231,713	89
Dec	222	385	173	261,921	232,098	89

<sup>1</sup> Revised 2010 data only.

**Catfish Feed: Tons Delivered For Fingerlings and Broodfish,  
Mississippi, 2009-2010**

Month	By Month		Percent of Previous Year	Cumulative		Percent of Previous Year
	2009	2010		2009	2010	
	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Jan	41	8	20	41	8	20
Feb	73	2	3	114	10	9
Mar	460	280	61	574	290	51
Apr	855	1,134	133	1,429	1,424	100
May	1,477	2,294	155	2,906	3,718	128
Jun	2,688	4,287	159	5,594	8,005	143
Jul	3,445	5,579	162	9,039	13,584	150
Aug	4,479	5,900	132	13,518	19,484	144
Sep	2,796	3,723	133	16,314	23,207	142
Oct	952	1,593	167	17,266	24,800	144
Nov	1,006	230	23	18,272	25,030	137
Dec	1	1	100	18,273	25,031	137

**Catfish Feed: Tons Delivered For Foodsize Fish,  
Other States East of the Mississippi River, 2009-2010**

Month	By Month		Percent of Previous Year	Cumulative		Percent of Previous Year
	2009	2010		2009	2010	
	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Jan	357	90	25	357	90	25
Feb	426	123	29	783	213	27
Mar	967	715	74	1,750	928	53
Apr	1,019	1,563	153	2,769	2,491	90
May	1,504	1,540	102	4,273	4,031	94
Jun	2,023	2,009	99	6,296	6,040	96
Jul	2,272	1,647	72	8,568	7,687	90
Aug	2,449	1,923	79	11,017	9,610	87
Sep	2,453	2,266	92	13,470	11,876	88
Oct	1,255	1,149	92	14,725	13,025	88
Nov <sup>1</sup>	425	604	142	15,150	13,629	90
Dec	128	103	80	15,278	13,732	90

<sup>1</sup> Revised 2010 data only.

**Catfish Feed: Tons Delivered For Foodsize Fish,  
Other States West of the Mississippi River, 2009-2010**

Month	By Month		Percent of Previous Year	Cumulative		Percent of Previous Year
	2009	2010		2009	2010	
	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Jan	991	644	65	991	644	65
Feb	1,340	534	40	2,331	1,178	51
Mar	1,732	2,265	131	4,063	3,443	85
Apr	1,849	2,246	121	5,912	5,689	96
May	3,241	3,485	108	9,153	9,174	100
Jun	4,528	4,421	98	13,681	13,595	99
Jul	4,129	4,147	100	17,810	17,742	100
Aug	3,858	4,382	114	21,668	22,124	102
Sep	3,353	3,908	117	25,021	26,032	104
Oct	2,337	3,364	144	27,358	29,396	107
Nov	1,825	1,692	93	29,183	31,088	107
Dec	358	1,124	314	29,541	32,212	109

**Catfish Feed: Tons Delivered For Fingerlings and Broodfish,  
Other States West of the Mississippi River, 2009-2010**

Month	By Month		Percent of Previous Year	Cumulative		Percent of Previous Year
	2009	2010		2009	2010	
	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Jan	143	2	1	143	2	1
Feb	7	2	29	150	4	3
Mar	58	42	72	208	46	22
Apr	37	102	276	245	148	60
May	72	31	43	317	179	56
Jun	98	69	70	415	248	60
Jul	62	62	100	477	310	65
Aug	68	48	71	545	358	66
Sep	255	78	31	800	436	55
Oct	28	46	164	828	482	58
Nov	27	6	22	855	488	57
Dec	9	1	11	864	489	57

## 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, 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 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:** 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.

## 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.

### Data were compiled in cooperation with the following feed mills:

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

### Information Contacts

Listed below are the commodity specialists in the Livestock Branch of the National Agricultural Statistics Service to contact for additional information.

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