



Catfish Feed Deliveries

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March 2012 Catfish Feed Deliveries Up 39 Percent from Last Year

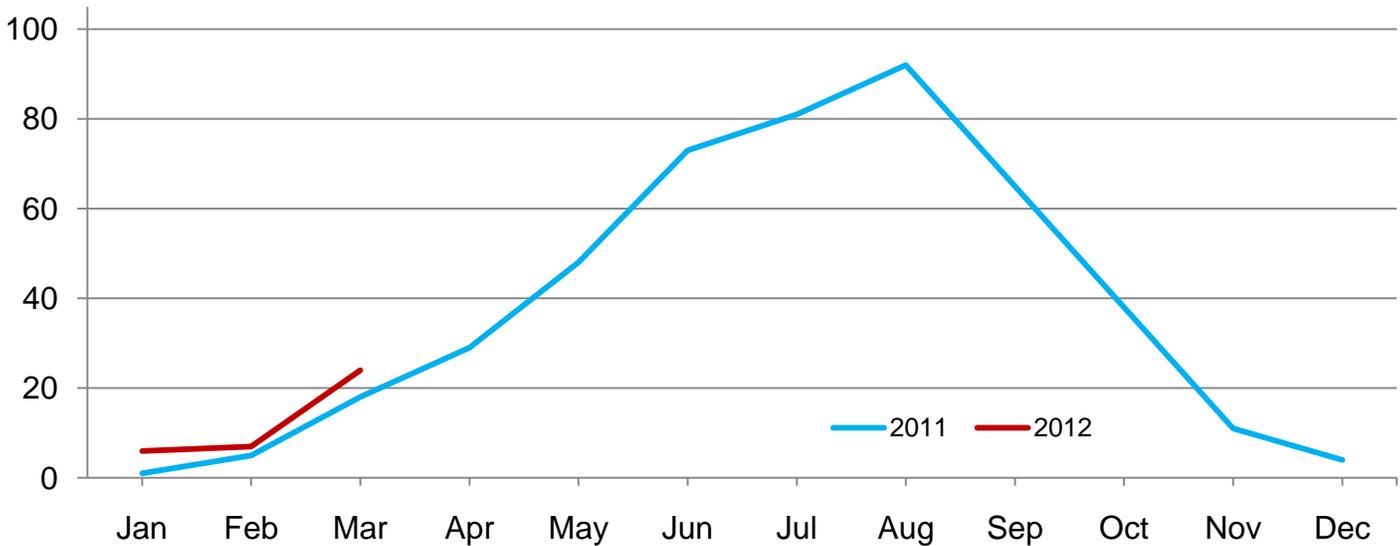
Total catfish feed delivered in the United States during March 2012 was 25,457 tons, up 39 percent from March 2011, and up 234 percent from the previous month. Foodsize catfish feed delivered totaled 24,197 tons, up 36 percent from the corresponding month a year ago. Feed delivered for fingerlings and broodfish totaled 1,260 tons, up 122 percent from the corresponding month a year ago.

March feed delivered to Mississippi catfish growers for foodsize fish totaled 10,802 tons, up 88 percent from last year. Mississippi accounted for 45 percent of the total foodsize catfish feed delivered to United States farmers.

The other major States with catfish feed deliveries for foodsize fish in March and their comparison to the previous year were Alabama with 7,459, down 2 percent; Arkansas with 2,471 tons, up 73 percent; and Louisiana with 124 tons, down 58 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	24,197	136	23,473	37,153	158
April	29,131			52,604		
May	47,896			100,500		
June	73,483			173,983		
July	80,905			254,888		
August	92,282			347,170		
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			2,149		
May	2,172			4,321		
June	4,038			8,359		
July	5,831			14,190		
August	8,210			22,400		
September	3,734			26,134		
October	2,311			28,445		
November	1,176			29,621		
December	30			29,651		

Foodsize Catfish 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	7,459	98	9,456	13,319	141
April	10,192			19,648		
May	18,168			37,816		
June	27,706			65,522		
July	27,527			93,049		
August	32,038			125,087		
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			4,493		
May	3,924			8,417		
June	5,970			14,387		
July	6,792			21,179		
August	7,042			28,221		
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			370		
May	403			773		
June	658			1,431		
July	676			2,107		
August	1,361			3,468		
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			747		
May	493			1,240		
June	537			1,777		
July	339			2,116		
August	503			2,619		
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	10,802	188	7,411	14,754	199
April	12,757			20,168		
May	21,465			41,633		
June	33,344			74,977		
July	40,684			115,661		
August	46,342			162,003		
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			1,616		
May	1,657			3,273		
June	3,277			6,550		
July	5,036			11,586		
August	6,642			18,228		
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			3,259		
May	1,338			4,597		
June	1,914			6,511		
July	1,914			8,425		
August	2,113			10,538		
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	2,340	172	2,508	4,283	171
April	1,781			4,289		
May	2,508			6,797		
June	4,012			10,809		
July	3,649			14,458		
August	4,244			18,702		
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			24		
May	5			29		
June	18			47		
July	4			51		
August	95			146		
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 10 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 Feed Mill LLC	*Land O Lakes
Carolina Fish Feeds	Rangen Inc.
Delta Western	SouthFresh Feeds
Fishbelt Feeds Inc.	Star Milling Co.
Flint River Mills Inc.	Topwater Feed Mill

*Estimated

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

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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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- Printed reports may be purchased from the National Technical Information Service (NTIS) by calling toll-free (800) 999-6779, or (703) 605-6220 if calling from outside the United States or Canada. Accepted methods of payment are Visa, MasterCard, check, or money order.

For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Agricultural Statistics Hotline at (800) 727-9540, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET, or e-mail: nass@nass.usda.gov.

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