



# Catfish Feed Deliveries

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## January 2013 Catfish Feed Deliveries Down 50 Percent from Last Year

Total catfish feed delivered in the United States during January 2013 was 2,928 tons, down 50 percent from January 2012, and down 48 percent from the previous month. Foodsize catfish feed delivered totaled 2,804 tons, down 50 percent from the corresponding month a year ago. Feed delivered for fingerlings and broodfish totaled 124 tons, down 30 percent from the corresponding month a year ago.

January feed delivered to Alabama catfish growers for foodsize fish totaled 1,488 tons, down 45 percent from last year. Alabama accounted for 53 percent of the total foodsize catfish feed delivered to United States farmers.

The other major States with catfish feed deliveries for foodsize fish in January and their comparison to the previous year were Arkansas with 87 tons, down 68 percent; Louisiana with 81 tons, up significantly; and Mississippi with 390 tons, down 77 percent.

## Foodsize Catfish Feed Delivered – United States

Thousand tons



## Foodsize Catfish Feed Delivered – United States: 2012-2013

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

Month	By month		2013 as percent of 2012	Cumulative		2013 as percent of 2012
	2012	2013		2012	2013	
	(tons)	(tons)	(percent)	(tons)	(tons)	(percent)
January .....	5,658	2,804	50	5,658	2,804	50
February .....	7,298			12,956		
March .....	25,500			38,456		
April .....	35,452			73,908		
May .....	60,871			134,779		
June .....	69,170			203,949		
July .....	68,983			272,932		
August .....	73,592			346,524		
September .....	53,594			400,118		
October .....	35,393			435,511		
November .....	10,589			446,100		
December .....	5,376			451,476		

## Fingerlings and Broodfish Catfish Feed Delivered – United States: 2012-2013

[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		2013 as percent of 2012	Cumulative		2013 as percent of 2012
	2012	2013		2012	2013	
	(tons)	(tons)	(percent)	(tons)	(tons)	(percent)
January .....	176	124	70	176	124	70
February .....	314			490		
March .....	1,260			1,750		
April .....	1,608			3,358		
May .....	2,702			6,060		
June .....	4,155			10,215		
July .....	5,693			15,908		
August .....	4,735			20,643		
September .....	2,990			23,633		
October .....	1,855			25,488		
November .....	541			26,029		
December .....	257			26,286		

### Foodsize Catfish Feed Delivered – Alabama: 2012-2013

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

Month	By month		2013 as percent of 2012	Cumulative		2013 as percent of 2012
	2012	2013		2012	2013	
	(tons)	(tons)	(percent)	(tons)	(tons)	(percent)
January .....	2,718	1,488	55	2,718	1,488	55
February .....	3,142			5,860		
March .....	8,287			14,147		
April .....	11,469			25,616		
May .....	20,613			46,229		
June .....	22,218			68,447		
July .....	23,155			91,602		
August .....	26,594			118,196		
September .....	15,120			133,316		
October .....	11,372			144,688		
November .....	3,872			148,560		
December .....	2,280			150,840		

### Foodsize Catfish Feed Delivered – Arkansas: 2012-2013

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

Month	By month		2013 as percent of 2012	Cumulative		2013 as percent of 2012
	2012	2013		2012	2013	
	(tons)	(tons)	(percent)	(tons)	(tons)	(percent)
January .....	269	87	32	269	87	32
February .....	485			754		
March .....	2,471			3,225		
April .....	3,155			6,380		
May .....	5,417			11,797		
June .....	5,741			17,538		
July .....	4,981			22,519		
August .....	4,888			27,407		
September .....	4,096			31,503		
October .....	2,710			34,213		
November .....	498			34,711		
December .....	186			34,897		

### Fingerlings and Broodfish Catfish Feed Delivered – Arkansas: 2012-2013

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

Month	By month		2013 as percent of 2012	Cumulative		2013 as percent of 2012
	2012	2013		2012	2013	
	(tons)	(tons)	(percent)	(tons)	(tons)	(percent)
January .....	4	21	525	4	21	525
February .....	50			54		
March .....	298			352		
April .....	197			549		
May .....	239			788		
June .....	351			1,139		
July .....	595			1,734		
August .....	758			2,492		
September .....	731			3,223		
October .....	603			3,826		
November .....	64			3,890		
December .....	57			3,947		

### Foodsize Catfish Feed Delivered – Louisiana: 2012-2013

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

Month	By month		2013 as percent of 2012	Cumulative		2013 as percent of 2012
	2012	2013		2012	2013	
	(tons)	(tons)	(percent)	(tons)	(tons)	(percent)
January .....	8	81	1,013	8	81	1,013
February .....	30			38		
March .....	124			162		
April .....	367			529		
May .....	459			988		
June .....	416			1,404		
July .....	318			1,722		
August .....	318			2,040		
September .....	210			2,250		
October .....	145			2,395		
November .....	55			2,450		
December .....	83			2,533		

### Foodsize Catfish Feed Delivered – Mississippi: 2012-2013

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

Month	By month		2013 as percent of 2012	Cumulative		2013 as percent of 2012
	2012	2013		2012	2013	
	(tons)	(tons)	(percent)	(tons)	(tons)	(percent)
January .....	1,706	390	23	1,706	390	23
February .....	2,246			3,952		
March .....	11,317			15,269		
April .....	16,571			31,840		
May .....	29,818			61,658		
June .....	35,308			96,966		
July .....	34,891			131,857		
August .....	35,941			167,798		
September .....	28,455			196,253		
October .....	16,918			213,171		
November .....	3,946			217,117		
December .....	1,027			218,144		

### Fingerlings and Broodfish Catfish Feed Delivered – Mississippi: 2012-2013

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

Month	By month		2013 as percent of 2012	Cumulative		2013 as percent of 2012
	2012	2013		2012	2013	
	(tons)	(tons)	(percent)	(tons)	(tons)	(percent)
January .....	149	42	28	149	42	28
February .....	155			304		
March .....	740			1,044		
April .....	1,251			2,295		
May .....	2,277			4,572		
June .....	3,693			8,265		
July .....	4,992			13,257		
August .....	3,814			17,071		
September .....	2,053			19,124		
October .....	1,049			20,173		
November .....	393			20,566		
December .....	125			20,691		

### Foodsize Catfish Feed Delivered – Other States East of the Mississippi River: 2012-2013

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

Month	By month		2013 as percent of 2012	Cumulative		2013 as percent of 2012
	2012	2013		2012	2013	
	(tons)	(tons)	(percent)	(tons)	(tons)	(percent)
January .....	89	106	119	89	106	119
February .....	320			409		
March .....	1,001			1,410		
April .....	1,275			2,685		
May .....	1,525			4,210		
June .....	1,678			5,888		
July .....	2,138			8,026		
August .....	1,725			9,751		
September .....	1,732			11,483		
October .....	1,113			12,596		
November .....	262			12,858		
December .....	102			12,960		

### Foodsize Catfish Feed Delivered – Other States West of the Mississippi River: 2012-2013

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

Month	By month		2013 as percent of 2012	Cumulative		2013 as percent of 2012
	2012	2013		2012	2013	
	(tons)	(tons)	(percent)	(tons)	(tons)	(percent)
January .....	868	652	75	868	652	75
February .....	1,075			1,943		
March .....	2,300			4,243		
April .....	2,615			6,858		
May .....	3,039			9,897		
June .....	3,809			13,706		
July .....	3,500			17,206		
August .....	4,126			21,332		
September .....	3,981			25,313		
October .....	3,135			28,448		
November .....	1,956			30,404		
December .....	1,698			32,102		

### Fingerlings and Broodfish Catfish Feed Delivered – Other States West of the Mississippi River: 2012-2013

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

Month	By month		2013 as percent of 2012	Cumulative		2013 as percent of 2012
	2012	2013		2012	2013	
	(tons)	(tons)	(percent)	(tons)	(tons)	(percent)
January .....	16	22	138	16	22	138
February .....	73			89		
March .....	109			198		
April .....	28			226		
May .....	26			252		
June .....	29			281		
July .....	35			316		
August .....	55			371		
September .....	70			441		
October .....	129			570		
November .....	58			628		
December .....	64			692		

## 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	Rangen, Inc.
Carolina Fish Feeds	SouthFresh Feeds
Delta Western	Star Milling Co.
Fishbelt Feeds, Inc.	Topwater Feed Mill
Flint River Mills, Inc.	

## 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](mailto:nass@nass.usda.gov)

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