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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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Catfish Feed Deliveries

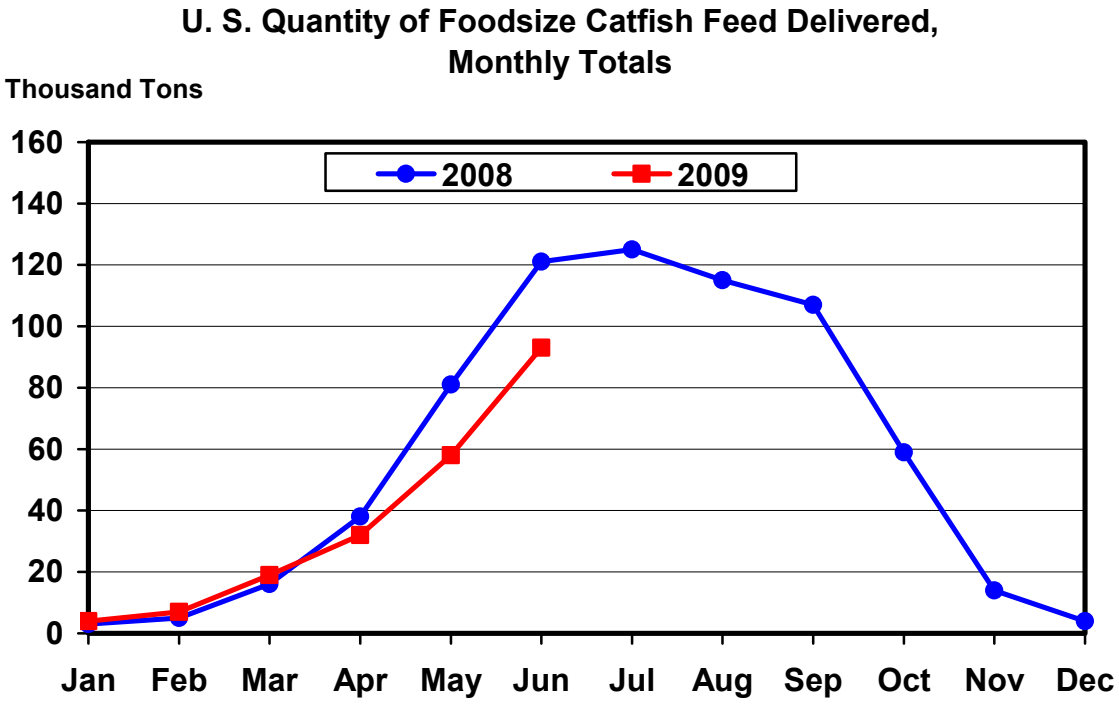
Released July 21, 2009, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, U.S. Department of Agriculture. For information on *Catfish Feed Deliveries* call Charles Butler at 601-965-4575, office hours 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. CT.

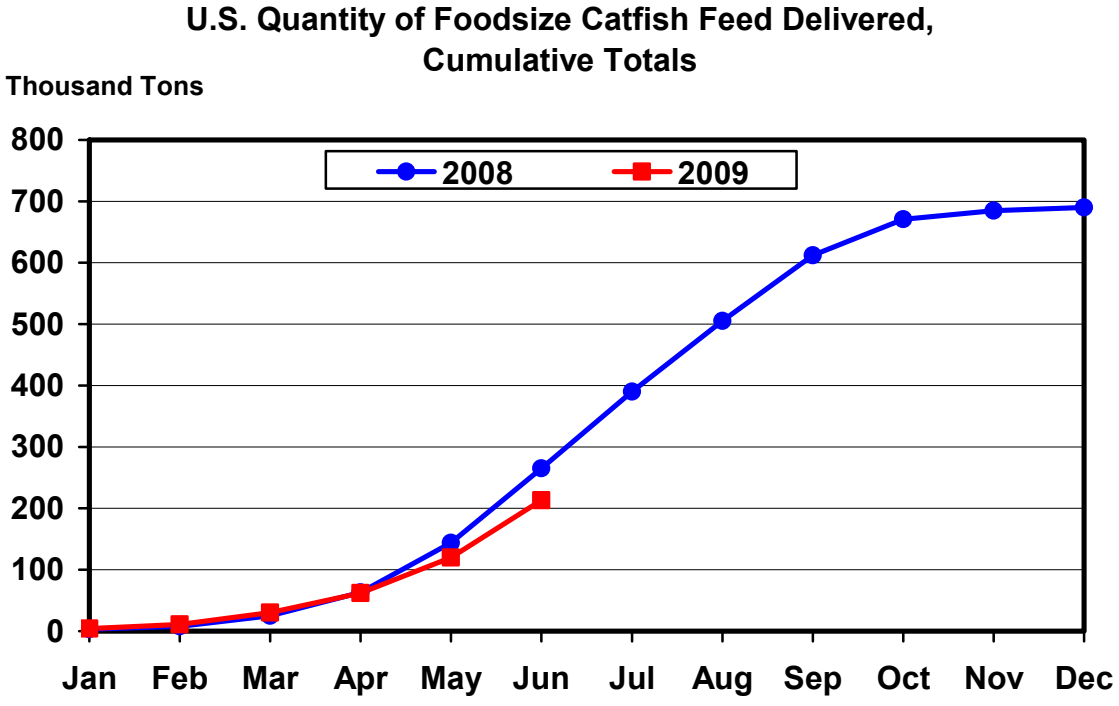
June 2009 Catfish Feed Deliveries Down 21 Percent from Last Year

Total catfish feed delivered in the United States during June was 96,580 tons, down 21 percent from June 2008, but up 62 percent from the previous month. Foodsize catfish feed delivered totaled 93,389 tons, down 23 percent from the corresponding month a year ago. Feed delivered for fingerlings and broodfish totaled 3,191 tons, up 82 percent from the corresponding month a year ago.

June feed delivered to Mississippi catfish growers for foodsize fish totaled 45,116 tons, down 29 percent from last year. Mississippi accounted for 48 percent of the total foodsize catfish feed delivered to U.S. farmers.

The other major States with catfish feed deliveries for foodsize fish in June and their comparison to the previous year were Alabama with 29,018 tons, down 16 percent; Arkansas with 10,882 tons, down 27 percent; and Louisiana with 1,822 tons, down 8 percent.


U. S. Quantity of Foodsize Catfish Feed Delivered,
Monthly Totals
Thousand Tons
160
140
120
100
80
60
40
20
0
2008
2009
Jan
Feb
Mar
Apr
May
Jun
Jul
Aug
Sep
Oct
Nov
Dec


U.S. Quantity of Foodsize Catfish Feed Delivered,
Cumulative Totals
Thousand Tons
800
700
600
500
400
300
200
100
0
2008
2009
Jan
Feb
Mar
Apr
May
Jun
Jul
Aug
Sep
Oct
Nov
Dec

Catfish Feed: Tons Delivered For Foodsize Fish, United States, 2008-2009

Month	By Month		Percent of Previous Year	Cumulative		Percent of Previous Year
	2008	2009		2008	2009	
	Tons	*Tons*	*Percent*	*Tons*	*Tons*	*Percent*
Jan	3,316	4,455	134	3,316	4,455	134
Feb	5,182	7,034	136	8,498	11,489	135
Mar	16,491	18,927	115	24,989	30,416	122
Apr	38,143	31,621	83	63,132	62,037	98
May	81,333	57,843	71	144,465	119,880	83
Jun	120,833	93,389	77	265,298	213,269	80
Jul	124,571			389,869		
Aug	114,866			504,735		
Sep	107,400			612,135		
Oct	58,811			670,946		
Nov	14,404			685,350		
Dec	4,263			689,613		

Catfish Feed: Tons Delivered For Fingerlings and Broodfish, United States, 2008-2009 [1]

Month	By Month		Percent of Previous Year	Cumulative		Percent of Previous Year
	2008	2009		2008	2009	
	Tons	*Tons*	*Percent*	*Tons*	*Tons*	*Percent*
Jan	293	254	87	293	254	87
Feb	238	268	113	531	522	98
Mar	482	927	192	1,013	1,449	143
Apr	986	1,116	113	1,999	2,565	128
May	1,392	1,774	127	3,391	4,339	128
Jun	1,755	3,191	182	5,146	7,530	146
Jul	3,078			8,224		
Aug	2,857			11,081		
Sep	1,935			13,016		
Oct	749			13,765		
Nov	360			14,125		
Dec	43			14,168		

[1] 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, 2008-2009

Month	By Month		Percent of Previous Year	Cumulative		Percent of Previous Year
	2008	2009		2008	2009	
	Tons	*Tons*	*Percent*	*Tons*	*Tons*	*Percent*
Jan	1,617	1,992	123	1,617	1,992	123
Feb	2,103	2,490	118	3,720	4,482	120
Mar	5,224	7,290	140	8,944	11,772	132
Apr	9,435	10,891	115	18,379	22,663	123
May	19,235	17,599	91	37,614	40,262	107
Jun	34,461	29,018	84	72,075	69,280	96
Jul	34,535			106,610		
Aug	32,978			139,588		
Sep	28,119			167,707		
Oct	16,740			184,447		
Nov	5,314			189,761		
Dec	2,023			191,784		

Catfish Feed: Tons Delivered For Foodsize Fish, Arkansas, 2008-2009

Month	By Month		Percent of Previous Year	Cumulative		Percent of Previous Year
	2008	2009		2008	2009	
	Tons	*Tons*	*Percent*	*Tons*	*Tons*	*Percent*
Jan	160	165	103	160	165	103
Feb	163	509	312	323	674	209
Mar	1,302	2,084	160	1,625	2,758	170
Apr	4,770	3,922	82	6,395	6,680	104
May	12,094	7,437	61	18,489	14,117	76
Jun	14,971	10,882	73	33,460	24,999	75
Jul	16,137			49,597		
Aug	14,912			64,509		
Sep	14,726			79,235		
Oct	7,971			87,206		
Nov	1,721			88,927		
Dec	202			89,129		

Catfish Feed: Tons Delivered For Fingerlings and Broodfish, Arkansas, 2008-2009

Month	By Month		Percent of Previous Year	Cumulative		Percent of Previous Year
	2008	2009		2008	2009	
	Tons	*Tons*	*Percent*	*Tons*	*Tons*	*Percent*
Jan	198	50	25	198	50	25
Feb	126	156	124	324	206	64
Mar	164	314	191	488	520	107
Apr	326	144	44	814	664	82
May	494	173	35	1,308	837	64
Jun	461	283	61	1,769	1,120	63
Jul	528			2,297		
Aug	676			2,973		
Sep	589			3,562		
Oct	47			3,609		
Nov	154			3,763		
Dec				3,763		

Catfish Feed: Tons Delivered For Foodsize Fish, Louisiana, 2008-2009

Month	By Month		Percent of Previous Year	Cumulative		Percent of Previous Year
	2008	2009		2008	2009	
	Tons	*Tons*	*Percent*	*Tons*	*Tons*	*Percent*
Jan	30	168	560	30	168	560
Feb	104	122	117	134	290	216
Mar	359	518	144	493	808	164
Apr	1,532	1,312	86	2,025	2,120	105
May	2,741	1,897	69	4,766	4,017	84
Jun	1,983	1,822	92	6,749	5,839	87
Jul	2,861			9,610		
Aug	2,260			11,870		
Sep	2,674			14,544		
Oct	1,971			16,515		
Nov	359			16,874		
Dec	60			16,934		

Catfish Feed: Tons Delivered For Foodsize Fish, Mississippi, 2008-2009

Month	By Month		Percent of Previous Year	Cumulative		Percent of Previous Year
	2008	2009		2008	2009	
	Tons	*Tons*	*Percent*	*Tons*	*Tons*	*Percent*
Jan	825	782	95	825	782	95
Feb	1,462	2,147	147	2,287	2,929	128
Mar	6,590	6,336	96	8,877	9,265	104
Apr	18,222	12,628	69	27,099	21,893	81
May	42,292	26,165	62	69,391	48,058	69
Jun	63,735	45,116	71	133,126	93,174	70
Jul	65,177			198,303		
Aug	58,766			257,069		
Sep	54,664			311,733		
Oct	26,948			338,681		
Nov	4,566			343,247		
Dec	419			343,666		

Catfish Feed: Tons Delivered For Fingerlings and Broodfish, Mississippi, 2008-2009

Month	By Month		Percent of Previous Year	Cumulative		Percent of Previous Year
	2008	2009		2008	2009	
	Tons	*Tons*	*Percent*	*Tons*	*Tons*	*Percent*
Jan	41	41	100	41	41	100
Feb	49	73	149	90	114	127
Mar	212	460	217	302	574	190
Apr	488	855	175	790	1,429	181
May	699	1,477	211	1,489	2,906	195
Jun	1,169	2,688	230	2,658	5,594	210
Jul	2,425			5,083		
Aug	1,923			7,006		
Sep	1,109			8,115		
Oct	575			8,690		
Nov	120			8,810		
Dec				8,810		

Catfish Feed: Tons Delivered For Foodsize Fish,
Other States East of the Mississippi River, 2008-2009

Month	By Month		Percent of Previous Year	Cumulative		Percent of Previous Year
	2008	2009		2008	2009	
	Tons	*Tons*	*Percent*	*Tons*	*Tons*	*Percent*
Jan	159	357	225	159	357	225
Feb	262	426	163	421	783	186
Mar	771	967	125	1,192	1,750	147
Apr	1,361	1,019	75	2,553	2,769	108
May	1,960	1,504	77	4,513	4,273	95
Jun	1,739	2,023	116	6,252	6,296	101
Jul	2,488			8,740		
Aug	2,473			11,213		
Sep	2,808			14,021		
Oct	1,366			15,387		
Nov	601			15,988		
Dec	238			16,226		

Catfish Feed: Tons Delivered For Foodsize Fish,
Other States West of the Mississippi River, 2008-2009

Month	By Month		Percent of Previous Year	Cumulative		Percent of Previous Year
	2008	2009		2008	2009	
	Tons	*Tons*	*Percent*	*Tons*	*Tons*	*Percent*
Jan	525	991	189	525	991	189
Feb	1,088	1,340	123	1,613	2,331	145
Mar	2,245	1,732	77	3,858	4,063	105
Apr	2,823	1,849	65	6,681	5,912	88
May	3,011	3,241	108	9,692	9,153	94
Jun	3,944	4,528	115	13,636	13,681	100
Jul	3,373			17,009		
Aug	3,477			20,486		
Sep	4,409			24,895		
Oct	3,815			28,710		
Nov	1,843			30,553		
Dec	1,321			31,874		

Catfish Feed: Tons Delivered For Fingerlings and Broodfish,
Other States West of the Mississippi River, 2008-2009

Month	By Month		Percent of Previous Year	Cumulative		Percent of Previous Year
	2008	2009		2008	2009	
	Tons	*Tons*	*Percent*	*Tons*	*Tons*	*Percent*
Jan	11	143	1,300	11	143	1,300
Feb	6	7	117	17	150	882
Mar	70	58	83	87	208	239
Apr	52	37	71	139	245	176
May	63	72	114	202	317	157
Jun	33	98	297	235	415	177
Jul	60			295		
Aug	190			485		
Sep	103			588		
Oct	82			670		
Nov	56			726		
Dec	25			751		

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

*Estimated

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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- Chris Hawthorn - Catfish Processing, Catfish Production, Trout Production, Census of Aquaculture, Egg Products, Mink .....(202) 720-0585
- Sharyn Lavender - Broiler Hatchery, Chicken Hatchery, Honey.....(202) 720-3244
- Kim Linonis - Layers, Eggs .....(202) 690-8632
- Troy Marshall - Poultry Slaughter, Turkey Hatchery, Turkeys Raised .....(202) 690-3237

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