

# Catfish Feed Deliveries

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## February 2007 Catfish Feed Deliveries Up 47 Percent from Last Year

Total catfish feed delivered in the United States during February 2007 was 6,380 tons, up 47 percent from February 2006 and 34 percent above the previous month. Foodsize catfish feed delivered totaled 6,038 tons, up 52 percent from the corresponding month a year ago. Feed delivered for fingerlings and broodfish totaled 342 tons, down 7 percent from the corresponding month a year ago.

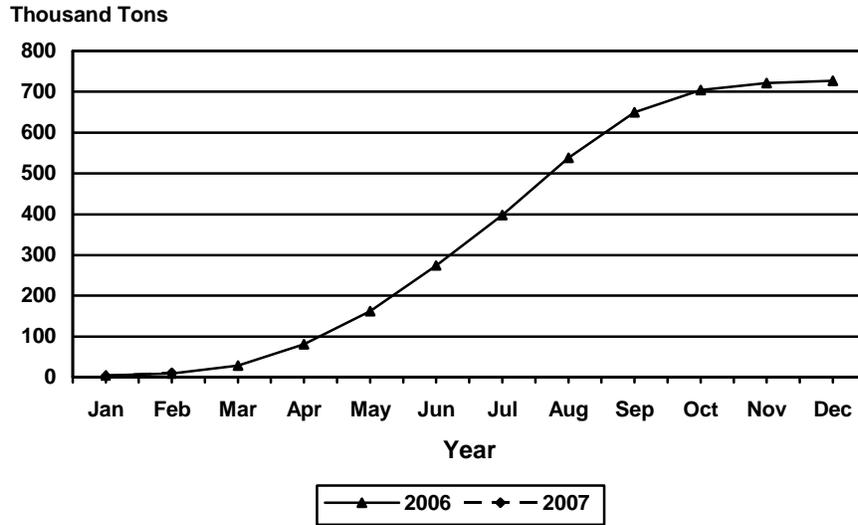
February feed delivered to Mississippi catfish growers for foodsize fish totaled 2,126 tons, up significantly from last year and accounted for 35 percent of the total foodsize catfish feed delivered to U.S. farmers.

The other major States with catfish feed deliveries for foodsize fish in February and their comparison to the previous year were: Alabama with 1,803 tons, up 18 percent; Arkansas with 529 tons, up 73 percent; and Louisiana with 410 tons, up significantly.

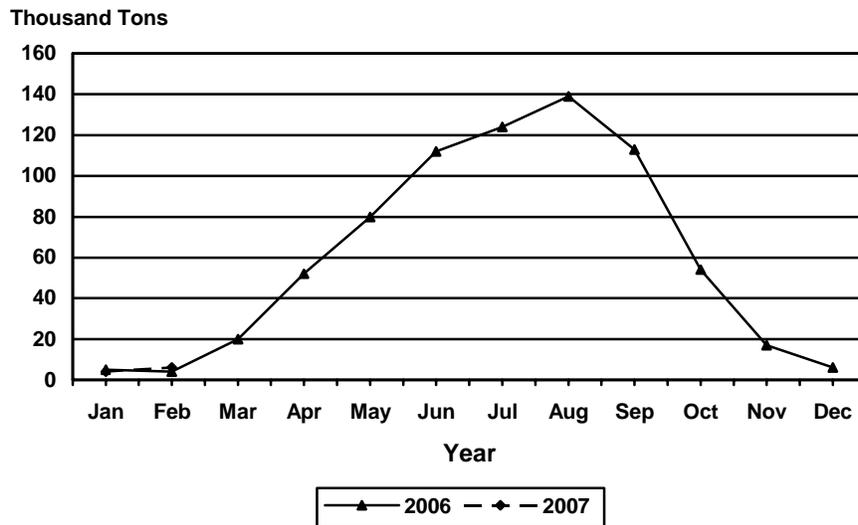
### *Special Note*

Two tables, which are included in this month's *Catfish Feed Deliveries* report, will be removed from next month's release as data can't be published to avoid disclosure of individual operations. The tables to be removed are "Tons Delivered for Fingerlings and Broodfish for Alabama" on page 4 and "Tons Delivered for Fingerlings and Broodfish for Other States East of the Mississippi River" on page 8.

**Quantity of Foodsize Catfish Feed Delivered,  
Cumulative Totals, U.S., 2006-2007**



**Quantity of Foodsize Catfish Feed Delivered,  
Monthly Totals, U.S., 2006-2007**



**Catfish Feed: Tons Delivered For Foodsize Fish,  
United States, 2006-2007**

Month	By Month		Percent of Previous Year	Cumulative		Percent of Previous Year
	2006	2007		2006	2007	
	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Jan	5,103	4,488	88	5,103	4,488	88
Feb	3,970	6,038	152	9,073	10,526	116
Mar	20,048			29,121		
Apr	52,246			81,367		
May	80,433			161,800		
Jun	112,326			274,126		
Jul	124,208			398,334		
Aug	139,191			537,525		
Sep	112,525			650,050		
Oct	54,011			704,061		
Nov	16,948			721,009		
Dec	5,829			726,838		

**Catfish Feed: Tons Delivered For Fingerlings and Broodfish,  
United States, 2006-2007**

Month	By Month		Percent of Previous Year	Cumulative		Percent of Previous Year
	2006	2007		2006	2007	
	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Jan	469	260	55	469	260	55
Feb	367	342	93	836	602	72
Mar	1,381			2,217		
Apr	2,200			4,417		
May	3,181			7,598		
Jun	6,265			13,863		
Jul	9,754			23,617		
Aug	11,611			35,228		
Sep	8,483			43,711		
Oct	3,642			47,353		
Nov	829			48,182		
Dec	172			48,354		

**Catfish Feed: Tons Delivered For Foodsize Fish,  
Alabama, 2006-2007**

Month	By Month		Percent of Previous Year	Cumulative		Percent of Previous Year
	2006	2007		2006	2007	
	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Jan	1,809	2,023	112	1,809	2,023	112
Feb	1,529	1,803	118	3,338	3,826	115
Mar	5,732			9,070		
Apr	12,758			21,828		
May	20,506			42,334		
Jun	29,580			71,914		
Jul	33,360			105,274		
Aug	36,392			141,666		
Sep	25,588			167,254		
Oct	12,181			179,435		
Nov	5,438			184,873		
Dec	2,085			186,958		

**Catfish Feed: Tons Delivered For Fingerlings and Broodfish,  
Alabama, 2006-2007**

Month	By Month		Percent of Previous Year	Cumulative		Percent of Previous Year
	2006	2007		2006	2007	
	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Jan	*	*	*	*	*	*
Feb	*	*	*	*	*	*
Mar	*			*		
Apr	*			*		
May	*			*		
Jun	*			*		
Jul	*			*		
Aug	*			*		
Sep	*			*		
Oct	*			*		
Nov	*			*		
Dec	*			*		

\* Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

**Catfish Feed: Tons Delivered For Foodsize Fish,  
Arkansas, 2006-2007**

Month	By Month		Percent of Previous Year	Cumulative		Percent of Previous Year
	2006	2007		2006	2007	
	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Jan	422	199	47	422	199	47
Feb	306	529	173	728	728	100
Mar	2,794			3,522		
Apr	9,861			13,383		
May	14,552			27,935		
Jun	18,654			46,589		
Jul	20,193			66,782		
Aug	22,879			89,661		
Sep	20,138			109,799		
Oct	8,994			118,793		
Nov	1,233			120,026		
Dec	596			120,622		

**Catfish Feed: Tons Delivered For Fingerlings and Broodfish,  
Arkansas, 2006-2007**

Month	By Month		Percent of Previous Year	Cumulative		Percent of Previous Year
	2006	2007		2006	2007	
	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Jan	192	88	46	192	88	46
Feb	172	89	52	364	177	49
Mar	678			1,042		
Apr	821			1,863		
May	616			2,479		
Jun	715			3,194		
Jul	1,116			4,310		
Aug	1,503			5,813		
Sep	2,667			8,480		
Oct	680			9,160		
Nov	175			9,335		
Dec	102			9,437		

**Catfish Feed: Tons Delivered For Foodsize Fish,  
Louisiana, 2006-2007**

Month	By Month		Percent of Previous Year	Cumulative		Percent of Previous Year
	2006	2007		2006	2007	
	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Jan	283	11	4	283	11	4
Feb	146	410	281	429	421	98
Mar	929			1,358		
Apr	1,936			3,294		
May	2,821			6,115		
Jun	3,600			9,715		
Jul	3,652			13,367		
Aug	4,379			17,746		
Sep	3,918			21,664		
Oct	1,689			23,353		
Nov	633			23,986		
Dec	216			24,202		

**Catfish Feed: Tons Delivered For Fingerlings and Broodfish,  
Louisiana, 2006-2007**

Month	By Month		Percent of Previous Year	Cumulative		Percent of Previous Year
	2006	2007		2006	2007	
	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Jan						
Feb						
Mar						
Apr	2			2		
May				2		
Jun	17			19		
Jul	3			22		
Aug				22		
Sep	12			34		
Oct				34		
Nov				34		
Dec				34		

**Catfish Feed: Tons Delivered For Foodsize Fish,  
Mississippi, 2006-2007**

Month	By Month		Percent of Previous Year	Cumulative		Percent of Previous Year
	2006	2007		2006	2007	
	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Jan	1,169	1,033	88	1,169	1,033	88
Feb	773	2,126	275	1,942	3,159	163
Mar	7,980			9,922		
Apr	24,335			34,257		
May	37,972			72,229		
Jun	54,484			126,713		
Jul	61,063			187,776		
Aug	67,741			255,517		
Sep	55,565			311,082		
Oct	25,533			336,615		
Nov	5,824			342,439		
Dec	1,177			343,616		

**Catfish Feed: Tons Delivered For Fingerlings and Broodfish,  
Mississippi, 2006-2007**

Month	By Month		Percent of Previous Year	Cumulative		Percent of Previous Year
	2006	2007		2006	2007	
	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Jan	191	66	35	191	66	35
Feb	134	207	154	325	273	84
Mar	505			830		
Apr	1,084			1,914		
May	2,305			4,219		
Jun	5,265			9,484		
Jul	8,319			17,803		
Aug	9,676			27,479		
Sep	5,442			32,921		
Oct	2,733			35,654		
Nov	612			36,266		
Dec	20			36,286		

**Catfish Feed: Tons Delivered For Foodsize Fish,  
Other States East of the Mississippi River, 2006-2007**

Month	By Month		Percent of Previous Year	Cumulative		Percent of Previous Year
	2006	2007		2006	2007	
	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Jan	554	568	103	554	568	103
Feb	220	308	140	774	876	113
Mar	776			1,550		
Apr	1,174			2,724		
May	1,878			4,602		
Jun	2,243			6,845		
Jul	2,564			9,409		
Aug	3,275			12,684		
Sep	2,929			15,613		
Oct	1,789			17,402		
Nov	893			18,295		
Dec	455			18,750		

**Catfish Feed: Tons Delivered For Fingerlings and Broodfish,  
Other States East of the Mississippi River, 2006-2007**

Month	By Month		Percent of Previous Year	Cumulative		Percent of Previous Year
	2006	2007		2006	2007	
	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Jan	*	*	*	*	*	*
Feb	*	*	*	*	*	*
Mar	*			*		
Apr	*			*		
May	*			*		
Jun	*			*		
Jul	*			*		
Aug	*			*		
Sep	*			*		
Oct	*			*		
Nov	*			*		
Dec	*			*		

\* Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

**Catfish Feed: Tons Delivered For Foodsize Fish,  
Other States West of the Mississippi River, 2006-2007**

Month	By Month		Percent of Previous Year	Cumulative		Percent of Previous Year
	2006	2007		2006	2007	
	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Jan	866	654	76	866	654	76
Feb	996	862	87	1,862	1,516	81
Mar	1,837			3,699		
Apr	2,182			5,881		
May	2,704			8,585		
Jun	3,765			12,350		
Jul	3,376			15,726		
Aug	4,525			20,251		
Sep	4,387			24,638		
Oct	3,825			28,463		
Nov	2,927			31,390		
Dec	1,300			32,690		

**Catfish Feed: Tons Delivered For Fingerlings and Broodfish,  
Other States West of the Mississippi River, 2006-2007**

Month	By Month		Percent of Previous Year	Cumulative		Percent of Previous Year
	2006	2007		2006	2007	
	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Jan	72	43	60	72	43	60
Feb	27	20	74	99	63	64
Mar	55			154		
Apr	130			284		
May	57			341		
Jun	163			504		
Jul	176			680		
Aug	232			912		
Sep	167			1,079		
Oct	136			1,215		
Nov	24			1,239		
Dec	31			1,270		

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

### 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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