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Catfish Feed Deliveries

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December 2005 Catfish Feed Deliveries Down 29 Percent From Last Year

Catfish feed delivered in the United States during December 2005 totaled 4,675 tons, down 29 percent from December 2004 and 78 percent below the previous month. Feed delivered for foodsize fish totaled 4,449 tons, and feed for fingerlings and broodfish totaled 226 tons in December 2005.

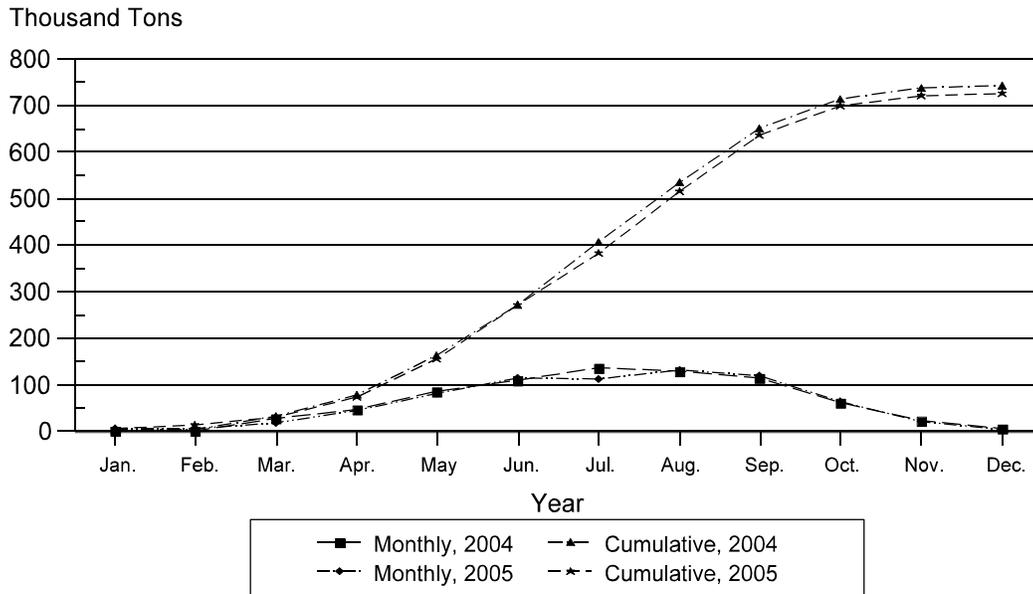
December feed delivered to Alabama catfish growers amounted to 2,939 tons, down 10 percent from last year and accounted for 63 percent of the total catfish feed delivered to U.S. farmers. Feed delivered to Alabama's farmers for foodsize fish totaled 2,928 tons, and feed delivered for fingerlings and broodfish totaled 11 tons.

The other major States with catfish feed deliveries in December include Arkansas with 152 tons, Louisiana with 59 tons, and Mississippi with 767 tons.

Cumulative Total for 2005 Down 1 Percent From Last Year

The total cumulative catfish feed delivered for the year was 762,961 tons, down 1 percent from the 770,546 tons delivered last year.

Quantity of Foodsize Catfish Feed Delivered, Monthly and Cumulative Totals, U.S., 2004-2005



**Catfish Feed: Tons Delivered For Foodsize Fish,
United States, 2004-2005**

Month	By Month		Percent of Previous Year	Cumulative		Percent of Previous Year
	2004	2005		2004	2005	
	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Jan	2,171	6,265	289	2,171	6,265	289
Feb	2,245	6,334	282	4,416	12,599	285
Mar	27,237	17,917	66	31,653	30,516	96
Apr	46,662	43,583	93	78,315	74,099	95
May	85,186	81,591	96	163,501	155,690	95
Jun	108,793	115,370	106	272,294	271,060	100
Jul	135,435	113,086	83	407,729	384,146	94
Aug	128,522	132,347	103	536,251	516,493	96
Sep	115,708	119,788	104	651,959	636,281	98
Oct	62,599	64,188	103	714,558	700,469	98
Nov	22,766	20,553	90	737,324	721,022	98
Dec	6,412	4,449	69	743,736	725,471	98

**Catfish Feed: Tons Delivered For Fingerlings and Broodfish,
United States, 2004-2005**

Month	By Month		Percent of Previous Year	Cumulative		Percent of Previous Year
	2004	2005		2004	2005	
	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Jan	142	287	202	142	287	202
Feb	73	205	281	215	492	229
Mar	993	715	72	1,208	1,207	100
Apr	1,353	1,623	120	2,561	2,830	111
May	2,377	2,796	118	4,938	5,626	114
Jun	3,537	4,787	135	8,475	10,413	123
Jul	5,246	6,797	130	13,721	17,210	125
Aug	5,712	10,569	185	19,433	27,779	143
Sep	4,495	5,148	115	23,928	32,927	138
Oct	2,122	3,148	148	26,050	36,075	138
Nov	632	1,189	188	26,682	37,264	140
Dec	128	226	177	26,810	37,490	140

**Catfish Feed: Tons Delivered For Foodsize Fish,
Alabama, 2004-2005**

Month	By Month		Percent of Previous Year	Cumulative		Percent of Previous Year
	2004	2005		2004	2005	
	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Jan	814	2,030	249	814	2,030	249
Feb	684	2,694	394	1,498	4,724	315
Mar	8,056	6,548	81	9,554	11,272	118
Apr	10,438	11,242	108	19,992	22,514	113
May	22,041	21,219	96	42,033	43,733	104
Jun	32,360	32,942	102	74,393	76,675	103
Jul	35,690	32,182	90	110,083	108,857	99
Aug	32,738	36,549	112	142,821	145,406	102
Sep	27,147	32,111	118	169,968	177,517	104
Oct	19,770	16,750	85	189,738	194,267	102
Nov	10,768	7,346	68	200,506	201,613	101
Dec	3,243	2,928	90	203,749	204,541	100

**Catfish Feed: Tons Delivered For Fingerlings and Broodfish,
Alabama, 2004-2005**

Month	By Month		Percent of Previous Year	Cumulative		Percent of Previous Year
	2004	2005		2004	2005	
	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Jan	15	10	67	15	10	67
Feb	1	4	400	16	14	88
Mar	42	51	121	58	65	112
Apr	6	31	517	64	96	150
May	15	46	307	79	142	180
Jun	31	59	190	110	201	183
Jul	31	145	468	141	346	245
Aug	158	245	155	299	591	198
Sep	42	94	224	341	685	201
Oct	16	58	363	357	743	208
Nov	13	20	154	370	763	206
Dec	10	11	110	380	774	204

**Catfish Feed: Tons Delivered For Foodsize Fish,
Arkansas, 2004-2005**

Month	By Month		Percent of Previous Year	Cumulative		Percent of Previous Year
	2004	2005		2004	2005	
	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Jan	72	453	629	72	453	629
Feb	166	521	314	238	974	409
Mar	4,631	2,415	52	4,869	3,389	70
Apr	8,299	7,741	93	13,168	11,130	85
May	13,869	15,118	109	27,037	26,248	97
Jun	16,050	18,453	115	43,087	44,701	104
Jul	20,213	17,642	87	63,300	62,343	98
Aug	21,507	22,048	103	84,807	84,391	100
Sep	21,779	20,220	93	106,586	104,611	98
Oct	9,934	10,768	108	116,520	115,379	99
Nov	849	1,855	218	117,369	117,234	100
Dec	256	130	51	117,625	117,364	100

**Catfish Feed: Tons Delivered For Fingerlings and Broodfish,
Arkansas, 2004-2005**

Month	By Month		Percent of Previous Year	Cumulative		Percent of Previous Year
	2004	2005		2004	2005	
	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Jan	32	44	138	32	44	138
Feb	11	16	145	43	60	140
Mar	138	138	100	181	198	109
Apr	220	294	134	401	492	123
May	209	600	287	610	1,092	179
Jun	627	923	147	1,237	2,015	163
Jul	564	976	173	1,801	2,991	166
Aug	835	1,496	179	2,636	4,487	170
Sep	926	345	37	3,562	4,832	136
Oct	280	811	290	3,842	5,643	147
Nov	51	249	488	3,893	5,892	151
Dec	47	22	47	3,940	5,914	150

**Catfish Feed: Tons Delivered For Foodsize Fish,
Louisiana, 2004-2005**

Month	By Month		Percent of Previous Year	Cumulative		Percent of Previous Year
	2004	2005		2004	2005	
	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Jan	220	560	255	220	560	255
Feb	401	568	142	621	1,128	182
Mar	1,435	937	65	2,056	2,065	100
Apr	2,661	2,848	107	4,717	4,913	104
May	4,429	3,264	74	9,146	8,177	89
Jun	4,376	3,342	76	13,522	11,519	85
Jul	6,451	4,375	68	19,973	15,894	80
Aug	6,216	4,975	80	26,189	20,869	80
Sep	6,867	3,102	45	33,056	23,971	73
Oct	3,588	3,140	88	36,644	27,111	74
Nov	1,734	727	42	38,378	27,838	73
Dec	380	59	16	38,758	27,897	72

**Catfish Feed: Tons Delivered For Fingerlings and Broodfish,
Louisiana, 2004-2005**

Month	By Month		Percent of Previous Year	Cumulative		Percent of Previous Year
	2004	2005		2004	2005	
	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Jan						
Feb						
Mar						
Apr		22			22	
May	40	54	135	40	76	190
Jun	22	24	109	62	100	161
Jul		7		62	107	173
Aug	10	198	1,980	72	305	424
Sep		10		72	315	438
Oct	10			82	315	384
Nov				82	315	384
Dec				82	315	384

**Catfish Feed: Tons Delivered For Foodsize Fish,
Mississippi, 2004-2005**

Month	By Month		Percent of Previous Year	Cumulative		Percent of Previous Year
	2004	2005		2004	2005	
	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Jan	547	2,622	479	547	2,622	479
Feb	389	1,895	487	936	4,517	483
Mar	11,065	6,604	60	12,001	11,121	93
Apr	23,264	19,759	85	35,265	30,880	88
May	41,996	39,046	93	77,261	69,926	91
Jun	52,027	55,981	108	129,288	125,907	97
Jul	68,869	55,039	80	198,157	180,946	91
Aug	63,691	63,637	100	261,848	244,583	93
Sep	56,025	59,346	106	317,873	303,929	96
Oct	26,343	29,813	113	344,216	333,742	97
Nov	7,167	7,809	109	351,383	341,551	97
Dec	1,451	687	47	352,834	342,238	97

**Catfish Feed: Tons Delivered For Fingerlings and Broodfish,
Mississippi, 2004-2005**

Month	By Month		Percent of Previous Year	Cumulative		Percent of Previous Year
	2004	2005		2004	2005	
	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Jan	87	196	225	87	196	225
Feb	56	153	273	143	349	244
Mar	734	405	55	877	754	86
Apr	1,001	1,136	113	1,878	1,890	101
May	1,960	1,864	95	3,838	3,754	98
Jun	2,774	3,639	131	6,612	7,393	112
Jul	4,513	5,444	121	11,125	12,837	115
Aug	4,512	8,297	184	15,637	21,134	135
Sep	3,342	4,382	131	18,979	25,516	134
Oct	1,700	2,022	119	20,679	27,538	133
Nov	507	669	132	21,186	28,207	133
Dec	55	80	145	21,241	28,287	133

**Catfish Feed: Tons Delivered For Foodsize Fish,
Other States East of the Mississippi River, 2004-2005**

Month	By Month		Percent of Previous Year	Cumulative		Percent of Previous Year
	2004	2005		2004	2005	
	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Jan	33	137	415	33	137	415
Feb	108	52	48	141	189	134
Mar	829	513	62	970	702	72
Apr	755	914	121	1,725	1,616	94
May	1,291	1,485	115	3,016	3,101	103
Jun	1,944	2,193	113	4,960	5,294	107
Jul	2,162	1,903	88	7,122	7,197	101
Aug	2,303	2,166	94	9,425	9,363	99
Sep	1,774	2,213	125	11,199	11,576	103
Oct	1,165	1,373	118	12,364	12,949	105
Nov	1,139	1,153	101	13,503	14,102	104
Dec	124	52	42	13,627	14,154	104

**Catfish Feed: Tons Delivered For Fingerlings and Broodfish,
Other States East of the Mississippi River, 2004-2005**

Month	By Month		Percent of Previous Year	Cumulative		Percent of Previous Year
	2004	2005		2004	2005	
	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Jan						
Feb	1	2	200	1	2	200
Mar	35	23	66	36	25	69
Apr	50	46	92	86	71	83
May	72	71	99	158	142	90
Jun	10	1	10	168	143	85
Jul	49	57	116	217	200	92
Aug	57	51	89	274	251	92
Sep	78	86	110	352	337	96
Oct	58	67	116	410	404	99
Nov	46	48	104	456	452	99
Dec	15	5	33	471	457	97

**Catfish Feed: Tons Delivered For Foodsize Fish,
Other States West of the Mississippi River, 2004-2005**

Month	By Month		Percent of Previous Year	Cumulative		Percent of Previous Year
	2004	2005		2004	2005	
	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Jan	485	463	95	485	463	95
Feb	497	604	122	982	1,067	109
Mar	1,221	900	74	2,203	1,967	89
Apr	1,245	1,079	87	3,448	3,046	88
May	1,560	1,459	94	5,008	4,505	90
Jun	2,036	2,459	121	7,044	6,964	99
Jul	2,050	1,945	95	9,094	8,909	98
Aug	2,067	2,972	144	11,161	11,881	106
Sep	2,116	2,796	132	13,277	14,677	111
Oct	1,799	2,344	130	15,076	17,021	113
Nov	1,109	1,663	150	16,185	18,684	115
Dec	958	593	62	17,143	19,277	112

**Catfish Feed: Tons Delivered For Fingerlings and Broodfish,
Other States West of the Mississippi River, 2004-2005**

Month	By Month		Percent of Previous Year	Cumulative		Percent of Previous Year
	2004	2005		2004	2005	
	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Jan	8	37	463	8	37	463
Feb	4	30	750	12	67	558
Mar	44	98	223	56	165	295
Apr	76	94	124	132	259	196
May	81	161	199	213	420	197
Jun	73	141	193	286	561	196
Jul	89	168	189	375	729	194
Aug	140	282	201	515	1,011	196
Sep	107	231	216	622	1,242	200
Oct	58	190	328	680	1,432	211
Nov	15	203	1,353	695	1,635	235
Dec	1	108	10,800	696	1,743	250

Catfish Feed Deliveries

Survey Procedures: 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 mail, telephone, Fax, or Internet. All cooperating feed mills have allowed NASS to publish data at the State, Region, and National level.

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 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.

Reliability: Catfish Feed estimates are based on a census of all known active and 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.

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 each month when current estimates are made. 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 made.

Definitions Used for Catfish Feed Sales

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 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:

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

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