



Catfish Feed Deliveries

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December 2011 Catfish Feed Deliveries Up 19 Percent from Last Year

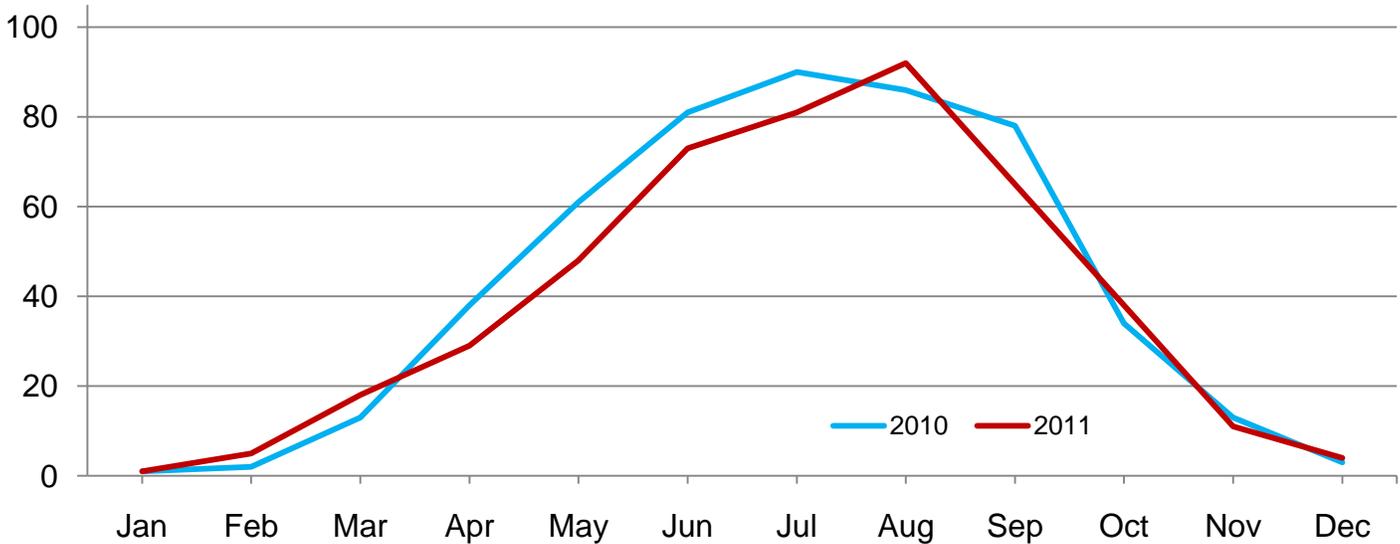
Total catfish feed delivered in the United States during December 2011 was 3,960 tons, up 19 percent from December 2010, but down 69 percent from the previous month. Foodsize catfish feed delivered totaled 3,930 tons, up 20 percent from the corresponding month a year ago. Feed delivered for fingerlings and broodfish totaled 30 tons, down 44 percent from the corresponding month a year ago.

December feed delivered to Alabama catfish growers for foodsize fish totaled 1,841 tons, up 21 percent from last year. Alabama accounted for 47 percent of the total foodsize catfish feed delivered to United States farmers.

The other major States with catfish feed deliveries for foodsize fish in December and their comparison to the previous year were Arkansas with 129 tons, up 21 percent; Louisiana with 30 tons, up 11 percent; and Mississippi with 758 tons, up 97 percent.

Foodsize Catfish Feed Delivered – United States

Thousand tons



Foodsize Catfish Feed Delivered – United States: 2010-2011

Month	By month		2011 as percent of 2010	Cumulative		2011 as percent of 2010
	2010	2011		2010	2011	
	(tons)	(tons)	(percent)	(tons)	(tons)	(percent)
January	1,433	1,045	73	1,433	1,045	73
February	1,528	4,631	303	2,961	5,676	192
March	12,680	17,797	140	15,641	23,473	150
April	38,080	29,131	76	53,721	52,604	98
May	60,913	47,896	79	114,634	100,500	88
June	80,769	73,483	91	195,403	173,983	89
July	89,734	80,905	90	285,137	254,888	89
August	86,024	92,282	107	371,161	347,170	94
September	77,963	65,023	83	449,124	412,193	92
October ¹	33,567	37,703	112	482,691	449,896	93
November	12,525	11,407	91	495,216	461,303	93
December	3,270	3,930	120	498,486	465,233	93

¹ Revised 2011 data only.

Fingerlings and Broodfish Catfish Feed Delivered – United States: 2010-2011

Month	By month		2011 as percent of 2010	Cumulative		2011 as percent of 2010
	2010	2011		2010	2011	
	(tons)	(tons)	(percent)	(tons)	(tons)	(percent)
January	59	76	129	59	76	129
February	142	328	231	201	404	201
March	900	568	63	1,101	972	88
April	2,065	1,177	57	3,166	2,149	68
May	3,198	2,172	68	6,364	4,321	68
June	4,917	4,038	82	11,281	8,359	74
July	6,579	5,831	89	17,860	14,190	79
August	7,004	8,210	117	24,864	22,400	90
September	4,949	3,734	75	29,813	26,134	88
October	2,198	2,311	105	32,011	28,445	89
November	346	1,176	340	32,357	29,621	92
December	54	30	56	32,411	29,651	91

Foodsize Catfish Delivered – Alabama: 2010-2011

Month	By month		2011 as percent of 2010	Cumulative		2011 as percent of 2010
	2010	2011		2010	2011	
	(tons)	(tons)	(percent)	(tons)	(tons)	(percent)
January	392	212	54	392	212	54
February	599	1,647	275	991	1,859	188
March	3,472	7,597	219	4,463	9,456	212
April	12,416	10,192	82	16,879	19,648	116
May	19,589	18,168	93	36,468	37,816	104
June	27,165	27,706	102	63,633	65,522	103
July	30,783	27,527	89	94,416	93,049	99
August	30,537	32,038	105	124,953	125,087	100
September	25,700	21,310	83	150,653	146,397	97
October	10,298	12,706	123	160,951	159,103	99
November	5,619	4,924	88	166,570	164,027	98
December	1,524	1,841	121	168,094	165,868	99

Foodsize Catfish Feed Delivered – Arkansas: 2010-2011

Month	By month		2011 as percent of 2010	Cumulative		2011 as percent of 2010
	2010	2011		2010	2011	
	(tons)	(tons)	(percent)	(tons)	(tons)	(percent)
January	76	52	68	76	52	68
February	75	462	616	151	514	340
March	1,406	1,431	102	1,557	1,945	125
April	4,087	2,548	62	5,644	4,493	80
May	6,336	3,924	62	11,980	8,417	70
June	7,102	5,970	84	19,082	14,387	75
July	8,802	6,792	77	27,884	21,179	76
August	8,559	7,042	82	36,443	28,221	77
September	7,740	5,766	74	44,183	33,987	77
October	3,132	3,097	99	47,315	37,084	78
November	643	603	94	47,958	37,687	79
December	107	129	121	48,065	37,816	79

Fingerlings and Broodfish Catfish Feed Delivered – Arkansas: 2010-2011

Month	By month		2011 as percent of 2010	Cumulative		2011 as percent of 2010
	2010	2011		2010	2011	
	(tons)	(tons)	(percent)	(tons)	(tons)	(percent)
January	27	10	37	27	10	37
February	122	96	79	149	106	71
March	552	133	24	701	239	34
April	718	131	18	1,419	370	26
May	789	403	51	2,208	773	35
June	474	658	139	2,682	1,431	53
July	902	676	75	3,584	2,107	59
August	976	1,361	139	4,560	3,468	76
September	1,086	912	84	5,646	4,380	78
October	516	605	117	6,162	4,985	81
November	82	125	152	6,244	5,110	82
December	30	-	(X)	6,274	5,110	81

- Represents zero.
(X) Not applicable.

Foodsize Catfish Feed Delivered – Louisiana: 2010-2011

Month	By month		2011 as percent of 2010	Cumulative		2011 as percent of 2010
	2010	2011		2010	2011	
	(tons)	(tons)	(percent)	(tons)	(tons)	(percent)
January	7	18	257	7	18	257
February	4	83	2,075	11	101	918
March	286	298	104	297	399	134
April	565	348	62	862	747	87
May	678	493	73	1,540	1,240	81
June	735	537	73	2,275	1,777	78
July	679	339	50	2,954	2,116	72
August	601	503	84	3,555	2,619	74
September	500	272	54	4,055	2,891	71
October	136	154	113	4,191	3,045	73
November	67	48	72	4,258	3,093	73
December	27	30	111	4,285	3,123	73

Foodsize Catfish Feed Delivered – Mississippi: 2010-2011

Month	By month		2011 as percent of 2010	Cumulative		2011 as percent of 2010
	2010	2011		2010	2011	
	(tons)	(tons)	(percent)	(tons)	(tons)	(percent)
January	224	209	93	224	209	93
February	193	1,456	754	417	1,665	399
March	4,536	5,746	127	4,953	7,411	150
April	17,203	12,757	74	22,156	20,168	91
May	29,285	21,465	73	51,441	41,633	81
June	39,337	33,344	85	90,778	74,977	83
July	43,676	40,684	93	134,454	115,661	86
August	40,022	46,342	116	174,476	162,003	93
September	37,849	32,582	86	212,325	194,585	92
October	15,488	16,991	110	227,813	211,576	93
November	3,900	3,155	81	231,713	214,731	93
December	385	758	197	232,098	215,489	93

Fingerlings and Broodfish Catfish Feed Delivered – Mississippi: 2010-2011

Month	By month		2011 as percent of 2010	Cumulative		2011 as percent of 2010
	2010	2011		2010	2011	
	(tons)	(tons)	(percent)	(tons)	(tons)	(percent)
January	8	47	588	8	47	588
February	2	204	10,200	10	251	2,510
March	280	365	130	290	616	212
April	1,134	1,000	88	1,424	1,616	113
May	2,294	1,657	72	3,718	3,273	88
June	4,287	3,277	76	8,005	6,550	82
July	5,579	5,036	90	13,584	11,586	85
August	5,900	6,642	113	19,484	18,228	94
September	3,723	2,526	68	23,207	20,754	89
October	1,593	1,590	100	24,800	22,344	90
November	230	1,029	447	25,030	23,373	93
December	1	13	1,300	25,031	23,386	93

Foodsize Catfish Feed Delivered – Other States East of the Mississippi River: 2010-2011

Month	By month		2011 as percent of 2010	Cumulative		2011 as percent of 2010
	2010	2011		2010	2011	
	(tons)	(tons)	(percent)	(tons)	(tons)	(percent)
January	90	88	98	90	88	98
February	123	304	247	213	392	184
March	715	1,362	190	928	1,754	189
April	1,563	1,505	96	2,491	3,259	131
May	1,540	1,338	87	4,031	4,597	114
June	2,009	1,914	95	6,040	6,511	108
July	1,647	1,914	116	7,687	8,425	110
August	1,923	2,113	110	9,610	10,538	110
September	2,266	1,667	74	11,876	12,205	103
October ¹	1,149	1,932	168	13,025	14,137	109
November	604	728	121	13,629	14,865	109
December	103	181	176	13,732	15,046	110

¹ Revised 2011 data only.

Foodsize Catfish Feed Delivered – Other States West of the Mississippi River: 2010-2011

Month	By month		2011 as percent of 2010	Cumulative		2011 as percent of 2010
	2010	2011		2010	2011	
	(tons)	(tons)	(percent)	(tons)	(tons)	(percent)
January	644	466	72	644	466	72
February	534	679	127	1,178	1,145	97
March	2,265	1,363	60	3,443	2,508	73
April	2,246	1,781	79	5,689	4,289	75
May	3,485	2,508	72	9,174	6,797	74
June	4,421	4,012	91	13,595	10,809	80
July	4,147	3,649	88	17,742	14,458	81
August	4,382	4,244	97	22,124	18,702	85
September	3,908	3,426	88	26,032	22,128	85
October	3,364	2,823	84	29,396	24,951	85
November	1,692	1,949	115	31,088	26,900	87
December	1,124	991	88	32,212	27,891	87

Fingerlings and Broodfish Catfish Feed Delivered – Other States West of the Mississippi River: 2010-2011

Month	By month		2011 as percent of 2010	Cumulative		2011 as percent of 2010
	2010	2011		2010	2011	
	(tons)	(tons)	(percent)	(tons)	(tons)	(percent)
January	2	-	(X)	2	-	(X)
February	2	-	(X)	4	-	(X)
March	42	18	43	46	18	39
April	102	6	6	148	24	16
May	31	5	16	179	29	16
June	69	18	26	248	47	19
July	62	4	6	310	51	16
August	48	95	198	358	146	41
September	78	97	124	436	243	56
October	46	14	30	482	257	53
November	6	4	67	488	261	53
December	1	2	200	489	263	54

- 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
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

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

Dan Kerestes, Chief, Livestock Branch	(202) 720-3570
Bruce Boess, Head, Poultry and Specialty Commodities Section	(202) 720-4447
Cody Brokmeyer – Honey, Poultry Slaughter, Turkey Hatchery, Turkeys Raised	(202) 690-3237
Charles Butler – Catfish Feed Deliveries	(601) 965-4575
David Colwell – Cold Storage	(202) 720-8784
Kim Linonis – Layers, Eggs	(202) 690-8632
Miste Salmon – Broiler Hatchery, Chicken Hatchery, Catfish Processing, Catfish Production, Trout Production, Census of Aquaculture, Egg Products, Mink	(202) 720-3244

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