



What Your Participation Involves

Between January 1 and February 14, 2010, 700 producers in Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi will be contacted by representatives of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). If you choose to participate in Catfish 2010, these representatives will (at your convenience) visit your operation to conduct a study questionnaire consisting of four parts: broodstock management and breeding, hatchery management, fingerling production, and foodsize fish production. You will be asked to complete only the sections of the questionnaire that relate to your operation.

How Catfish Producers Benefit

- Information from previous studies has been used to assist in guiding research, to provide baseline information for economic analyses, and to guide producer educational efforts. The information from the last study was used to benefit producers by
 - Helping attain clearance for use of copper sulfate in hatcheries
 - Helping get Federal assistance after hurricanes Katrina and Rita.
- Several reports and information sheets will be provided to you, which will allow you to compare your operation with others in the industry.

For More Information

For more information, contact

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Veterinary Services, Attention: NAHMS
NRRC Building B, Mail Stop 2E7
2150 Centre Avenue
Fort Collins, CO 80526-8117
Phone: (970) 494-7000
E-mail: NAHMS@aphis.usda.gov
Or visit NAHMS on the Web at
<http://nahms.aphis.usda.gov>

Confidentiality

Because NAHMS' studies rely on voluntary participation, APHIS protects the privacy of every participant. Only those collecting the data know the identity of the respondent. No name or address is ever recorded in any APHIS database. No data will be reported on any individual or in a manner that would allow an individual to be identified.

"The NAMHS catfish survey information provides the only "snapshot" of industry-wide culture practices that I know. Furthermore, I contend the conduct of the survey and report printing is the only dedicated information source that can tell the catfish industry where their management and metrics have been and where they are heading. Having two prior surveys, this third survey will allow us to know where the trends seen in the first two surveys are going. When doing economic analysis of catfish enterprises I often refer to the NAHMS catfish reports for knowledge on industry production practices."

*--Terrill Hanson,
Auburn University*



United States Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

National Animal Health Monitoring System

Catfish 2010 Study



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The Catfish 2010 Study

In January 2010, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) will launch its third national study of the catfish industry, Catfish 2010. Producers from four States with the Nation’s largest catfish inventory —Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi—will be asked to voluntarily participate in Catfish 2010.

Catfish 2010 is being conducted at the request of the catfish industry. To identify the most important issues facing the industry today, ideas were generated at a series of three focus group meetings held in January 2009. These focus groups were attended by producers, extension personnel, university researchers, and employees from other State and Federal agencies. The focus group input was used to develop the Catfish 2010 questionnaire. Many of these same individuals provided valuable input into the questionnaire writing and review.

A Scientific Approach

APHIS established NAHMS to collect and report accurate and valuable information on animal health and management in the United States. Since 1990, NAHMS has developed national estimates on disease prevalence and other factors related to a number of industries in addition to the catfish industry including beef cattle, dairy cattle, swine, equids, poultry, sheep, and most recently goats.

“Data gathered during the Catfish 2010 study will provide valuable information to help enhance the health and productivity of our industry. This study will also allow us to compare current information with that collected during the Catfish 2003 study, thereby identifying important trends. I strongly encourage all catfish producers to participate.”

*--Roger Barlow, Executive Vice President
Catfish Farmers of America*

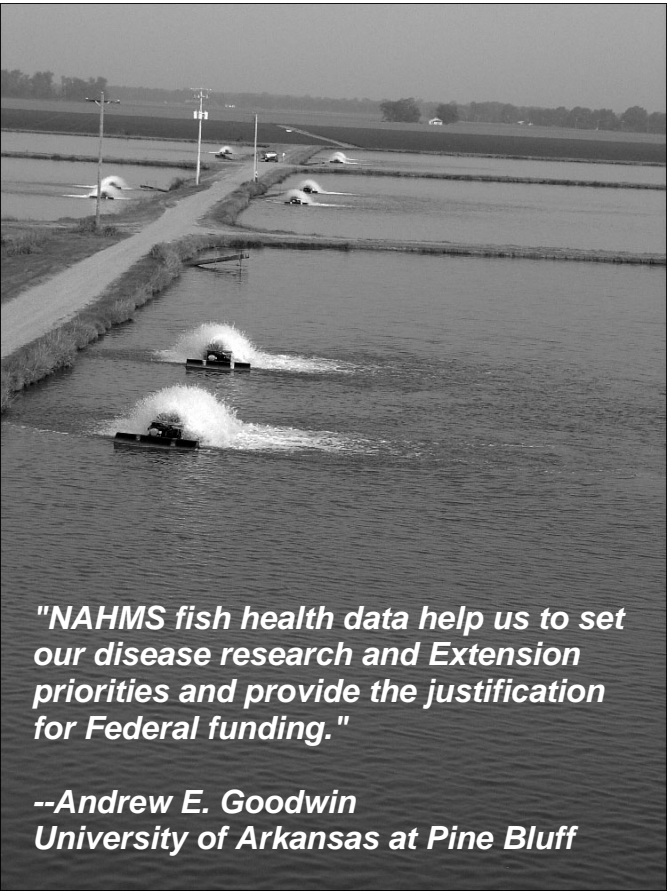
Study Focus

Catfish 2010 is a national study designed to address the priority issues of the catfish industry. The study will focus on

- **Foodsize fish production practices**
 - Stocking practices: use of stocker ponds, stocking size and rate, fish strain, stocking timing
 - Pond management: draining, pond size, pond maintenance schedule
 - General practices: aeration, oxygen and water quality monitoring, harvesting
 - Use of hybrid channel blue catfish
- **Fingerling production practices**
 - Broodstock management
 - Hatchery management
 - Fingerling pond management
 - Fingerling stocking and feeding practices
- **Fish health**
 - Diseases in foodsize and fingerling fish
 - Disease treatment and control practices
 - Vaccination practices
- **Off-flavor**
 - Annual percentage of affected ponds
 - Duration of off-flavor episodes
 - Use of pond treatments to control off-flavor

“I would encourage all producers to participate in this comprehensive NAHMS survey. This is the best snapshot we have of industry practices, and has a great influence on the direction of our research program.”

*--Les Torrans,
Agricultural Research Service*



“NAHMS fish health data help us to set our disease research and Extension priorities and provide the justification for Federal funding.”

*--Andrew E. Goodwin
University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff*

How You Can Help

By participating in Catfish 2010, you will help your industry by contributing to the development of reliable and valuable information that will be used to

- Define and evaluate current management practices and trends
- Help legislators and industry leaders make informed decisions
- Assist university researchers and private enterprise to identify and focus on the vital issues related to the health and production of your business
- Conduct economic analyses of the health and production of the catfish industry
- Assess trends in production methods