United States Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
National Animal Health Monitoring System
Catfish 2010 Study

For More Information

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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

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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

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

"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

“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