

Fish Health Management

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Review Your Operations

- Farm Design
- Marketing Schedules
- Source of Fingerlings
- Nutrition Plan
- Trained Personnel
- Sanitation
- Records

Farm Design For Fish Health

■ Good Water Source

- Free of wild fish and disease
- Adequate volume to keep ponds full

■ Adequate Aeration

- 1 to 4 HP per acre
- Effective monitoring system

Marketing to Reduce Disease

- Carrying Time as Short as Possible
 - 10% of fish lost every 6 months
 - large fish carried over carry disease
- Sell Fish as they are Handled
 - Handle gently
 - Move fish that have been crowded
 - Increase harvest frequency

Healthy Fingerlings

- Learn all you can about your supplier
 - Take time to visit
 - Inspect shipments
- Stock in late winter if possible
 - Winter adds 5-6 months to cycle
 - Multiple batch production costs 8-35% more than single batch production
 - Stock large fingerlings

Nutrition and Fish Health

- Use a Complete Feed
 - 12 to 13 vitamins
 - Easily digested
- Monitor Feed Quality
 - Check for fines, mold, moisture
- Avoid Over Feeding
 - Use moderate stocking densities
 - Feed according to projected fish weight

Trained Personnel

- Take time to learn about your fish
 - Read
 - Watch your fish for several minutes at each pond visit
- Teach at least one other person about feeding and monitoring your fish
 - Take them with you
 - Discuss each development

Sanitation and Fish Health

- Start with a clean pond
 - Lime, chlorine, dry
 - Use water from a good well
- Sanitize equipment
 - Dry or dip seines
- Remove dead fish
 - Fish carcasses spread bacterial disease

Record Keeping

- Keep water quality, stocking, harvest records
- Review records frequently
- Records are needed to determine the cause of disease

Summary

- Think in terms of the whole operation
- Manage your marketing, fingerling purchase, and nutrition
- Keep up to date and trained
- Keep good records

Single vs. Multiple Batch Catfish Production, lb/A

