

PRODUCTION GUIDELINES FOR SMALL-SCALE AND HOME-USE CATFISH FARMING

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The following provides some information to consider for potential producers who are thinking about becoming involved in low-input channel catfish farming.

First Stocking

- 1,500 fingerlings/acre (April or October)
- fingerling size = 45-g fish

Single, Annual Stocking

- Initial stocking – mid-April or late September to mid-October
- 1500, 45-g fingerlings/acre/year, re-stock at the beginning of each October
- Projected annual biomass = 2,000 lb/ac
- Harvest before re-stocking

Multiple, Annual Stockings – “Expert” Small-Scale Catfish Production

- Stock 2 times per year
- stock 1,000 (45-g) fingerlings/acre, twice -- once in October and again in April (maximum of 2,000 fingerlings/acre/year total)
- Projected annual biomass = 2,400-2,600 lb/ac (possibly 3,000 lb/ac with precision, size-selective and multiple harvests).
- Harvest before each re-stocking

Desired Timing for Multiple Harvests

- Double, size-selective harvest: once in October and once in April
- Multiple, size-selective harvests: October through June

Anticipated Annual Mean Harvest Weights (Individual)

- April to late September grow-out (same year) = 1.25- to 1.3-lb fish
- October to late September grow-out (one year) = 1.5-lb fish
- Harvest pond when fish have consumed 30 lb feed/acre/day for 2 weeks

Maximum Daily Feed for both Single and Multiple Stocking Practices

- 30 lb/acre/day