

2006 Aquaculture Assistance Program Guidelines

Grants to Small Producers of Non-Catfish Species

- All aquaculture producers of non-catfish species are statutorily required to be licensed by the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce (except for turtles and alligators which are licensed by the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks). The vast majority of non-catfish species producers in Mississippi are located in coastal counties. Most suffered both production and structural losses to varying degrees.
- By using the license databases, applications are delivered to each producer through certified mail.
- In completing the application, producers are required to certify they meet the following conditions:
 - In production on August 29, 2005.
 - Raise aquaculture species in a controlled environment as part of a farming operation that has a risk in the production of such species.
 - Suffered a loss due to 2005 hurricanes.
 - Received no other assistance for the same aquaculture loss.
- Producers claim amount of losses in the application and are required to attach supporting documents. Application is signed by the producer and notarized.
- MDAC reviews applications.
- Maximum payment is not to exceed \$80,000 per farming operation.

Grants to Catfish Producers

- Catfish producers are primarily located in the Mississippi Delta and in East Central Mississippi. Catfish producers throughout Mississippi experienced more uniform losses due primarily, but not limited to, wind erosion and loss of production.
- Applications for assistance to catfish producers due to damage from 2005 hurricanes are distributed to feed providers, USDA – Farm Service Agency offices, and are made available online on the MDAC website.
- In completing the application, producers are required to certify that they meet the following conditions:
 - In production on and before August 29, 2005.
 - Raise aquaculture species in a controlled environment as part of a farming operation that has a risk in the production of such species.
 - Suffered a loss due to 2005 hurricanes.
 - Suffered an aquaculture loss and submits documentation to verify the loss and will keep records for up to 3 years.
 - Received no other assistance for the same aquaculture loss.
- Producer enters the amount of feed purchased in 2005, and the feed provider certifies feed purchases. Application is signed by the producer and notarized.
- Applications are mailed to MDAC for review.
- MDAC reviews applications and calculates payment rate based on per ton of feed purchased.
- Each farming operation that meets the above conditions, purchased feed in 2005, and experienced losses due to 2005 hurricanes is eligible for payment up to the amount of losses sustained, not to exceed \$80,000.