



# MoAA News

Linking the Missouri Aquaculture Community

Volume 6

Issue 10

November 2006

## In This Issue

**USDA modifies VHS regulation**  
**MoAA to meet January 19-20 in Illinois**  
**USDA publishes 2006 Aquaculture Outlook Magazine features Osage Catfisheries**  
**NCRAC hires Regional Extension Specialist**  
**Asian carp and New Zealand mud snail plans open for comment**  
**NCRAC develops listserve**  
**USDA Aquatic Animal Health Plan progresses**  
**Asian carp forum presentations now online**  
**Aquaculture 2007 to be in San Antonio**  
**Aquaflor effective against two diseases**  
**Upcoming Events**

## USDA modifies VHS Federal Order

*This entire press release plus other information on VHS is available at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/aqua/>*

WASHINGTON, Nov. 14, 2006--The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service modified today an Oct. 24, 2006, emergency order prohibiting the importation of 37 species of live fish from two Canadian provinces into the United States and the interstate movement of the same species from the eight states bordering the Great Lakes.

These modifications will allow Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin to move interstate live species of fish susceptible to viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS) if they can meet certain conditions designed to prevent the spread of the disease, which isn't harmful to people but can be deadly to fish.

The original emergency order was issued in response to the rapid spread of VHS in the Great Lakes region and the potential impact of the disease on a growing number of fish species, including species of fish raised commercially in the United States. The intent of the Federal Order is to prevent the movement of wild-caught baitfish and other fish species from the Great Lakes at risk of harboring the VHS virus while APHIS gathers more information on the disease and puts in place a federal regulatory program that allows for the interstate movement of fish susceptible to VHS via testing and certification.

Following the release of the Federal Order, APHIS convened a two day meeting at its headquarters in Riverdale, Maryland, on October 31 and November 1, 2006, to discuss VHS and the development of a federal regulatory program with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, state regulators and industry representatives from the Great Lakes region and other areas of the country. During this meeting, APHIS received several recommendations from participants regarding modifications to the Federal Order that could be made to alleviate the impact of the Federal Order on industry and related businesses in the Great Lakes region while still protecting against the spread of VHS to other areas of the country.

Today's announcement acts on the recommendations presented to APHIS during the state and industry meeting. These new requirements allow fish industries in the eight Great Lake states to move susceptible species interstate while also protecting against the spread of VHS. With the exception of salmonids, the movement of susceptible species of live fish from Quebec and Ontario into the United States remain prohibited under the revised Federal Order. APHIS will be drafting an interim rule to further address the movement of fish from Canada and the Great Lakes states.

Under the revised Federal Order, conditions for the interstate movement of VHS-susceptible species vary depending on whether the live fish are being transported for slaughter, research or other purposes.

In order for VHS-susceptible species to move interstate for slaughter, the fish must be:

- Intended for human consumption.
- Transported to a state-inspected slaughter facility that discharges waste water into a municipal sewage system that includes waste water treatment. As an alternative, the facility can also dispose of waste water in a non-discharging, settling pond or a settling pond that disinfects according to federal and state requirements. Offal, including carcasses, from the slaughter facility must be either rendered or composted.
- Accompanied by the proper USDA documentation for the movement of restricted animals if not tested for VHS.

In order for VHS-susceptible species to move to research and diagnostic laboratories, the fish must be:

- Accompanied by the proper USDA documentation for the movement of restricted animals stating the fish are destined for a research or diagnostic laboratory. The laboratory must be approved by the state, tribal or federal authorities for aquatic animal health.
- Received at a facility where waste fluids and carcasses are considered medical waste and disposed of according to federal and state requirements.

In order to move VHS-susceptible species for purposes other than slaughter, research or diagnostics, the fish must be transported with documentation from appropriate state, tribal, or federal authorities for aquatic animal health stating that the fish have tested negative for the VHS virus under existing national and international standards specified in the Federal Order.

These restrictions do not apply to live species of VHS-susceptible fish originating from non-restricted states. Fish from states not included in the Federal order can transit the affected Great Lakes states without oversight.

## MoAA winter meeting to be in Illinois



The 2007 American Heartland Aquaculture Conference will be held Friday and Saturday, January 19-20 at Rend Lake Resort and Conference Center near Whittington, Illinois. This will be the second time Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, and Missouri join forces to deliver a regional meeting. The first combined conference held in 2004 attracted over 120 aquaculture educators, producers, and vendors.

The two-day meeting will begin with a farm tour Friday afternoon followed by a banquet that evening. After the banquet, fish producers from the four states will divide to discuss business for their respective state associations. Saturday will include 13 presentations from 10 speakers. The morning sessions include biosecurity, marketing options, decreasing energy costs, aeration options, live hauling, and disease issues. After lunch, breakout sessions will cover indoor sunfish production, pond management, marketing to restaurants and taxidermists, aquaculture for beginners, producing and marketing freshwater prawn, and fee fishing.

Registration is \$55.00 for members of state associations and \$65.00 for nonmembers and includes the banquet, two meals, and the conference. The cost of exhibiting is \$250.00 and includes one registration. Hotel rooms and cabins are \$60.00. Complete information on the rooms and facility is available on the Rend Lake Resort and Conference Center web site at <http://rendlakeresort.net/> Registration forms, directions, and more details are available at <http://www.moaa.pond.org/ahac/2007ahac.htm> or from Bart Hawcroft at [bart.hawcroft@mda.mo.gov](mailto:bart.hawcroft@mda.mo.gov) or 866-466-8283.

## Final Aquaculture Outlook published by USDA

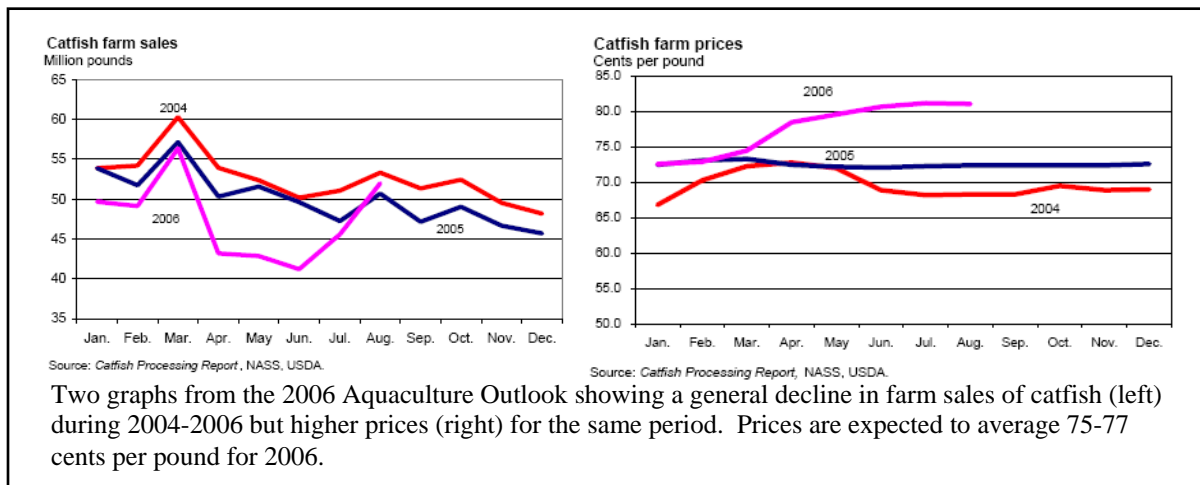
*USDA has released the last issue of Aquaculture Outlook. Following this report, all aquaculture material will be included, when timely information is available, in the monthly Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry Outlook. A monthly report will give readers a more current analysis of changing situations in the aquaculture industry. To subscribe to Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry Outlook (which includes Aquaculture Outlook) go to <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/MannUsda/homepage.do>*

*The following items are only brief portions of the 2006 Aquaculture Outlook. The full report, as well as previous editions, is at <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/MannUsda/viewDocumentInfo.do?documentID=1375>*

U.S. beef, pork, and poultry industries are all forecast to have increased production and lower prices in 2006 and 2007. These forecasts of increasing production and lower prices for the major livestock and poultry protein sources mean strong competition for domestic and imported aquaculture products.

**Catfish**

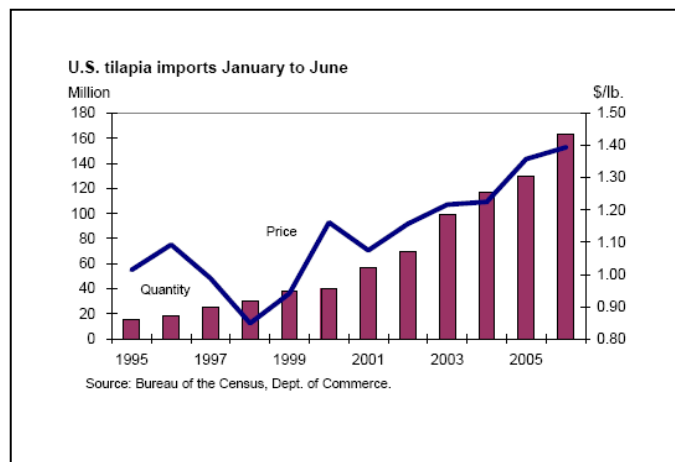
Catfish sales have declined for the third consecutive year, but have again been partially offset by higher prices. In 2006, sales by growers to processors are expected to be down from 2005 by 6 to 8 percent. Sales over the first 8 months of 2006 have been down 7.8 percent from the same period in 2005. Catfish processor sales through August 2006 were also down 3 percent from the same period in 2005. Unlike in previous years, the lower sales at the processing level have resulted in a decrease in the inventory held by catfish processors. As of the end of August 2006, processor-held inventories were about 1.8 million pounds (14 percent) lower than a year earlier.



In 2006, the farm price for catfish is expected to average between 75 and 77 cents per pound, up about 5 cents from the previous year and one of the highest nominal yearly average prices in recent years. Farm prices have been higher in 2006, but for the fourth consecutive year catfish growers have reported plans to reduce acreage.

**Tilapia**

U.S. tilapia imports during the first 6 months of 2006, were up over 25 percent from the same period in 2005. This increase continues the pattern for tilapia imports since they were first separately reported in 1995. The higher import quantity and average price in the first half of 2006 marks the fifth consecutive year that both the import quantity and the average price have increased. Between 2001 and 2006, the quantity of tilapia imports to the United States during the first half of the year has risen from 57 million pounds to 163.1 million. Over the same time period, the average price of all tilapia imports has gone from \$1.07 to \$1.39 per pound.



**Ornamental Fish**

Exports of ornamental fish in the first half of 2006 were down 4 percent from the same period in 2005, but 39 percent lower than in the first 6 months of 2004. The decline in exports in 2006 is chiefly due to smaller shipments to Canada. This decline was partially offset by larger exports to both Hong Kong and Taiwan. Shipments were also lower to most European countries, even though the euro has been relatively strong compared with the U.S. dollar, a situation that normally would favor increased shipments to this market. Over the first 6 months of 2006, the value of U.S. ornamental fish imports increased almost 10 percent to \$26.3 million. The value of these imports has risen in 5 of the last 6 years, with the bulk of the imports continuing to be from Asian countries.

## Fortune Small Business Magazine features Osage Catfisheries

Osage Catfisheries was featured in the October issue of Fortune Small Business Magazine. The story, "Making millions on budget caviar", was written after the magazine visited the Kahrs last March and watched them harvest paddlefish. The article summarized the history of the business since it began as Turkey Bend Minnow Hatchery in 1953 to Jim Kahrs goal of producing \$1,000,000 worth of L'Osage caviar in 2008. It contains several photos of Osage Catfisheries and the paddlefish harvesting process.

Within the story is a link to a second article in the same issue, "High-grade caviar, low-grade price tag". This article compared four types of caviar and rated paddlefish very favorably. Both articles and the photos are available online at [http://money.cnn.com/magazines/fsb/fsb\\_archive/2006/10/01/8387305/index.htm](http://money.cnn.com/magazines/fsb/fsb_archive/2006/10/01/8387305/index.htm).



## NCRAC Hires Regional Extension Specialist

Prompted by industry requests, the North Central Regional Aquaculture Center (NCRAC) has recently hired a new extension specialist to supplement the region's current aquaculture extension ranks. As the new "Regional Aquaculture Extension Specialist", JJ Newman Rode will be working in all 12 NCRAC states, bringing the region's full-time equivalents (FTEs) in aquaculture extension to 4.35.

Newman Rode comes to the North Central Region from University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension, where she worked on statewide aquaculture development for the past nine years. Some years prior to that, from 1990-1993, she worked on a Michigan aquaculture feasibility study for the MSU Agricultural Experiment Station. She has been involved with aquaculture - as an extension specialist, researcher and student - since 1983.

Newman Rode is spending her time initially getting up-to-speed with the aquaculture situation throughout the region. "When I worked in Michigan before, I was housed in the same building as NCRAC, and I was lucky enough to become familiar with the aquaculture situation and some of the growers in many North Central states. So, while I am familiar with aquaculture in the region, I am seriously out of date and need to get caught up. I also want to find out what kinds of additional extension efforts are needed in this region, and how I can best support the existing extension specialists. I want to talk with as many industry people as possible, state association members, extension folks and state agency people. I need to read the NCRAC white papers, state aquaculture plans, legislation and regulations in the different states. I also want to visit as many farms across the region as I can in the next 6 months or so. I have a lot to do!", she laughs.

Newman Rode was hired through a 3-year NCRAC grant to Ohio State University, and is housed at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana. You can reach her by email at [jjrode@purdue.edu](mailto:jjrode@purdue.edu).

## Comments sought on Asian carp and New Zealand mud snail management plans

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service posted for public comment two draft national management plans: New Zealand Mud Snail and Asian Carps. The plans can be accessed at the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force web site, <http://www.anstaskforce.gov/control.php> Deadline to provide comments on the draft National Control and Management Plan for New Zealand Mud Snail is **December 4, 2006**. Deadline to provide comments on the draft National Control and Management Plan for Asian Carps is **December 23, 2006**. Comments for both plans are to be submitted to Executive Secretary, Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA 22203, fax 703-358-1800 or [NZmudsnailPlan@fws.gov](mailto:NZmudsnailPlan@fws.gov) or [AsianCarpPlan@fws.gov](mailto:AsianCarpPlan@fws.gov).

## NCRAC listserv developed

*Following is a note from JJ Newman Rode, the new Regional Extension Specialist. The NCRAC web site shares more about her role at <http://www.ncrac.org/News/New+NCRAC+Regional+Extension+Hire.htm>*

I want to invite you to join a new listserv called "NCRAC-all". I realize that many of the states, such as Ohio, Indiana-Illinois, Michigan, etc., have their own e-mail lists, but until now, we haven't had a list that serves the entire 12-state North Central region. The new "NCRAC-all" listserv is intended to only carry important information, of interest to the majority of the aquaculture community in our region. No one needs, or wants, another whole set of messages to read every day! Many of you know that I recently came here from the Northeast region, where NRAC has a similar list. Members of that list are very respectful of everyone's time, and I received only about one message per month on average. I am happy to say that almost all of those messages were both pertinent and interesting and I was glad to have received them.

To sum it all up, I believe that this listserv will greatly aid communication around the North Central region, and I invite you to give it a try. (Besides, if you end up deciding that it is just a big pain in the backside, you can always unsubscribe!). This list is NOT just for people with an official connection to NCRAC, so please spread the word to everyone who might be interested. The more people who subscribe, the better our communication will be. To join the list, just go to <https://lists.purdue.edu/mailman/listinfo/ncrac-all>. I look forward to your participation!

## USDA developing National Aquatic Animal Health Plan

*To see the draft of the plan, work group reports, information on how it was developed, or to submit comments go to [http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/aqua/naah\\_plan.html](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/aqua/naah_plan.html)*

Under the auspices of the Joint Subcommittee on Aquaculture (JSA), the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is developing the National Aquatic Animal Health Plan (NAAHP) in partnership with the two other Federal agencies that have primary authority for U.S. aquatic-animal health: the Department of Commerce's U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Department of the Interior's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). The purpose of the JSA is to ensure communication, cooperation, and collaboration among Federal agencies on matters related to aquaculture. In 2001, the JSA directed APHIS, NOAA Fisheries, and FWS to establish a National Aquatic Animal Health Task Force on Aquaculture. The task force would be responsible for drafting the NAAHP. The purpose of the NAAHP is to foster and support effective and efficient aquaculture, to protect the health of wild and cultured aquatic resources in the United States, and to meet U.S. national and international trade obligations. The NAAHP is being developed in partnership and cooperation with industry; regional organizations; State, local, and tribal governments; and other stakeholders. In April 2003, the outline and development process of the NAAHP was approved by the Federal Executive Committee of the task force. The task force has continued its work in developing the NAAHP by convening a series of task-force associated working groups. Each working group focuses on a specific element of the NAAHP, such as the roles and responsibilities of health professionals, laboratory methodologies, and species-specific issues. Several working groups have met and provided recommendations for the NAAHP.

The first complete draft of the NAAHP is expected in spring 2007 with refining and implementation to follow. The NAAHP in itself will not be codified into regulation; however, implementation of certain elements, such as import requirements, may require revisions to existing laws, regulations, or policies.

## Presentations from August Asian carp meeting available online

"The invasive Asian carps in North America: a forum to understand the biology and manage the problem" was held August 22-23, 2006 in Peoria, Illinois. Almost 200 people attended the meeting. The crowd consisted mostly of individuals from federal and state conservation agencies. The meeting included 28 presentations on a variety of carp topics. The presentations are available online at <http://www.ifishillinois.org/asiancarp/>

## Aquaculture 2007 early registration deadline January 5

Anyone planning to attend Aquaculture 2007 in San Antonio, Texas February 26 – March 2 needs to note that registration before January 5 is \$335.00 and before February 1 is \$435.00.

The Triennial is the largest aquaculture conference and tradeshow (over 200 booths) held in the world with nearly 4000 people from over 70 countries attending in 2004. The Triennial combines the annual meetings of the National Shellfisheries Association, Fish Culture Section of the American Fisheries Society and the World Aquaculture Society. In addition to the annual meetings of the main sponsors, it also includes:

- AQUACULTURE AMERICA - The Annual Meeting of the U.S. Chapter of World Aquaculture Society, the National Aquaculture Association, and the U.S. Aquaculture Suppliers Association.
- The Annual Meeting of the American Tilapia Association
- Annual Meeting of the Striped Bass Growers Association
- The Annual Meeting of the U.S. Trout Farmers Association
- Special sessions organized by Aquacultural Engineering Society and
- International Association of Aquaculture Economics and Management
- Many other meetings of work groups, government agencies and related aquaculture activities
- Program with technical sessions and producers seminars covering virtually all species involved with aquaculture



## Catfish antibiotic could combat two diseases

The full MSU press release on Aquaflor is at <http://msucare.com/news/print/agnews/an06/061109.html>

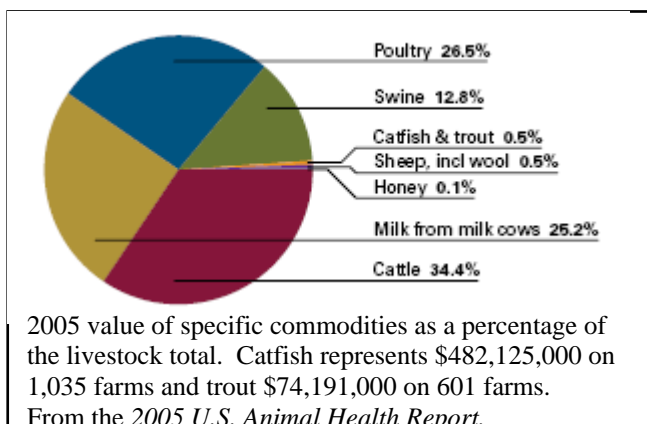
STONEVILLE -- A new antibiotic for aquaculture may become twice as useful against deadly bacterial infections plaguing farm-raised catfish if it receives proposed additional labeling. Stoneville scientists and government officials are now reviewing Aquaflor, an antibiotic made by Schering-Plough Animal Health Corp., for use in the treatment of columnaris disease in catfish. The antibiotic is already labeled for use against enteric septicemia, or ESC, another major bacterial disease of catfish.

“Columnaris and ESC are the two important bacterial infections of channel catfish,” said Pat Gaunt, interim director of Mississippi State University’s aquatic diagnostic lab at the Delta Research and Extension Center in Stoneville. “According to our 2005 diagnostic lab report, columnaris is the No. 1 cause of deaths that are sent into the diagnostic lab by the catfish farmers.” Gaunt is testing the efficacy of Aquaflor in the treatment of columnaris as part of a proposed labeling package she will send to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Her earlier in vitro studies show the bacteria that causes columnaris is sensitive to the antibiotic.

Additionally, Schering-Plough Animal Health is negotiating FDA’s conditional approval of Aquaflor for the treatment of columnaris, Gaunt said. “We’re attacking this on both ends,” she said. “We’ve got the efficacy work started and Schering-Plough Animal Health is talking to the FDA about getting conditional approval under the Minor Use and Minor Species, or MUMS, Health Act of 2004 so farmers can start using Aquaflor legally in the field against columnaris.” The Stoneville researcher said she expects labeling of Aquaflor for treating columnaris will come through the MUMS Act first. “After the experimental study is completed, we have to submit the data for an audit, write a report, and send both the data and the report to the FDA for approval,” Gaunt said. “The entire process will take many months, maybe a year before it’s completed.”

Aquaflor became the first FDA licensed in-feed antibiotic for U.S. aquaculture in more than 20 years when it was approved for use against ESC in channel catfish in October 2005. Commercial use of the product began in the spring of 2006. Lab tests showed Aquaflor to be very effective against ESC and highly palatable to catfish. Jimmy Avery, an MSU Extension catfish specialist also based in Stoneville, said farmers have been rather optimistic about the product’s potential on their farms, and many have tried the antibiotic. “I think in most cases where they’ve been able to get feed to the fish before the ESC infection is too advanced, they’ve been pleased with the effects,” Avery said.

For farmers to use Aquaflor, a veterinarian must diagnose their fish with ESC and write a veterinarian feed directive, or VFD, order for the product. VFD status of Aquaflor protects human health, the environment and the effectiveness of the drug, Gaunt said. “The feedback we’re getting from the farmers in the field is that it works,” Gaunt said. “And that is where it all matters.”



## Upcoming Events

### December 1-2

Livestock Symposium  
Kirksville Middle School  
Kirksville, MO  
<http://missourilivestock.com/>

### December 8-9

US Freshwater Prawn & Shrimp Growers Association  
Radisson Hotel at Opryland  
Nashville, TN  
[usprawn growers@yahoo.com](mailto:usprawn growers@yahoo.com) or  
662-390-3528

### December 9, 2006

Recirculating Aquaculture Introductory Workshop  
Bowling Green Aquaculture Center  
<http://limacenter-cms.ag.ohio-state.edu/recirculating-aquaculture-workshop>  
419-823-1807 or [mcwhorter.31@osu.edu](mailto:mcwhorter.31@osu.edu)

### December 10-12

Governor’s Conference on Agriculture  
Tan-Tar-A Resort  
Osage Beach, MO

### January 19-20

American Heartland Aquaculture Conference  
Whittington, IL  
[www.moaa.pond.org](http://www.moaa.pond.org)

### January 26-28

Arkansas Aquaculture 2006  
Hot Springs, AR  
501-673-4059

### January 31 – February 2

2007 Missouri Natural Resources Conference  
Tan-Tar-A Resort  
Osage Beach, MO  
[www.mnrc.org/index.html](http://www.mnrc.org/index.html)