



MoAA News

Linking the Missouri Aquaculture Community

Volume 9, Issue 3

February 23, 2009

In This Issue

Missouri Exchange as a marketing tool
Updating Missouri aquaculture directories
NCRAC coming to Kansas City
Feed assistance for aquaculture producers
MAC election complete
Farmers eligible for disaster assistance
Indiana hosts co-op workshop
Upcoming events

Missouri Exchange may help sell fish

The Missouri Exchange <http://missouriexchange.com> is a possible place for Missouri fish farmers to sell their products. The web site is designed to be a place to buy and sell Missouri-produced products and a source of information for market participants. The University of Missouri Center for Agroforestry, in cooperation with the Grow Native! Program, initiated the online marketplace in January 2007 to increase business opportunities for native plants materials and Missouri alternative products. The site covers a broad range but of special interest to Missouri fish producers is the “fish/shrimp” category that can be found under the “livestock/meat” heading. It is easy to sign up to sell and it is free so why not give it a try?

Missouri aquaculture directories being updated

Two Missouri aquaculture directories are in the process of being revised. The MoAA Member Directory found on the MoAA web site at <http://www.moaa.pond.org/members/moaadirectory.htm> is a printed publication that was first published in 2006 and is going to be reprinted this spring. It is for members only and all information needs to be received by March 16 in order to have the publication printed in time for the spring stocking season.

The Missouri Department of Agriculture online listing (http://www.mda.mo.gov/cgi-bin/aqua_directory.cgi) is undergoing some software changes and now is a good time to be sure the information listed there is accurate. All Missouri producers should soon receive a letter from the Department regarding their specific information. Please call Bart Hawcroft at 573-5426-6666 if you have questions.

NCRAC annual planning set for Kansas City

The North Central Regional Aquaculture Center (NCRAC) annual planning meeting will be in Kansas City Friday, February 27 – Sunday, March 1, 2009 at the Hilton Kansas City Airport (8801 NW 112th Street, 816-891-8900). This meeting rotates around the twelve state region so this is a great opportunity for Missouri fish producers. Paula Moore and Chuck Hicks will attend as official Industry Advisory Council representatives but all fish producers are welcome to attend. The Saturday morning sessions would be most likely to be of most interest to those not on one of the committees. Call Dr. Bob Pierce at 573-882-4337 for more information on the meeting.

Feed assistance coming for fish producers

Fish producers will see some relief to rising feed costs because of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 or “stimulus” bill signed last week by President Obama. From Section 102(d) titled “2008 Aquaculture Assistance” http://www.cq.com/flatfiles/editorialFiles/temporaryItems/2009/hr1_legtext_cr1.pdf (pages 23-26), we know that-

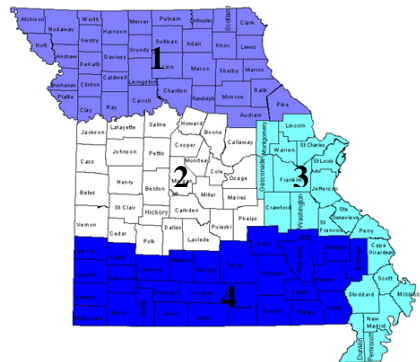
1. \$50,000,000 of Commodity Credit Corporation funds will be available until September 30, 2010;
2. USDA will disburse the funds through the state departments of agriculture;
3. The amount to each state will be based on the amount of feed used within that state during 2007;
4. USDA has 60 days from the date the legislation was signed to notify the states of the details; and
5. Grants will be made to the states within 120 days of the signing of the stimulus bill.

This legislation applies to all aquaculture producers who during the 2008 calendar year “(i) produced an aquaculture species for which feed costs represented a substantial percentage of the input costs of the aquaculture operation; and (ii) experienced a substantial price increase of feed costs above the previous 5-year average.”

It is important to note what was not specified as there has been some speculation. First, there is no mention of how the payment will be issued: as a check from the state to the producer or as a credit with the feed mill. Second, we don't know from the legislation how many dollars (likely per ton) each fish producer will receive. The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) is developing program policy at this time; however, the Missouri Department of Agriculture will inform fish producers when the details become available. If you have any questions before then, contact Bart Hawcroft at 573-526-6666 or bart.hawcroft@mda.mo.gov.

MAC election complete

The Missouri Department of Agriculture held an election in January to fill the expired terms of District 1 and 4 Missouri Aquaculture Council representatives. In this election, Wayne Lucke was re-elected to represent District 1 and Marvin Emerson was re-elected to represent District 4. Those elected to the five-member Council which administers the Missouri Aquaculture Marketing Development Fund serve a three-year term. For more information on the Missouri Aquaculture Council, go to http://www.moaa.pond.org/mac/mac_districts.htm.



Farmers in 11 Missouri counties eligible for assistance

This week, the Missouri Department of Agriculture was notified of a Presidential disaster declaration by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for 11 Missouri counties. This declaration designates them as natural disasters and eligible for physical and/or production loss loan assistance. The counties included in the declaration are Barry, Butler, Dunklin, Howell, McDonald, Oregon, Ozark, Pemiscot, Ripley, Stone and Taney.

Notification of the loan assistance came from USDA's Farm Service Agency's (FSA) State Executive Director Tim Kelley. His letter informed the state Department of Agriculture that FSA emergency loan assistance was now available due the severe winter storm which occurred Jan. 26, 2009 and continuing. This advisement was part of the Presidential disaster designation M1819 in Arkansas. For more information, contact your local FSA office or call the Missouri State FSA office at 573-876-0980.

Indiana hosts aquaculture co-op workshop

There will be a free Aquaculture Cooperative Workshop on March 27, 2009 at the Boone County Fairgrounds in Lebanon, Indiana. This workshop will focus on the benefits of the cooperative business model and will take you through all the steps to start an Indiana aquaculture cooperative. The program includes a panel of cooperative representatives, from within aquaculture and agriculture, as well as other business ventures. Listen to them talk about their experiences setting up and running a cooperative. Interact with them during a discussion period. Plus hear from an Indiana business that wants to start the first Indiana Aquaculture Cooperative. Register online at <http://indianafishfarming.com/workshop/> or call 800-735-0195. Here is the agenda:

- 8:30-9:00 Registration
- 9:00-10:00 The Cooperative Model - *Debbie Trocha, Indiana Cooperative Development Center*
- 10:00-12:00 Cooperative Panel - *Listen and interact with representatives from a variety of cooperatives*
- 12:00-1:00 Lunch
- 1:00-2:00 Is a Cooperative Right for You? - *Mark Stewart, Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick, LLP*
- 2:00-2:15 Break
- 2:15-3:15 Indiana Aquaculture Cooperative Proposal - *Bill Mancini, Fisheries Technology Associates*
- 3:15-4:15 Financing a Co-op - *Mark Beckman, USDA*

Upcoming Events

February 27-28

NCRAC annual meeting
Hilton Kansas City Airport
Kansas City, MO
573-882-4337 for information

March 27

Aquaculture Coop Workshop
Lebanon, IN
<http://indianafishfarming.com/workshop/> or
800-735-0195

April 4

High school field day
Lincoln University Carver Farm
Jefferson City, MO

April 16-17

State FFA Convention
Hearnes Center
Columbia, MO
<http://dese.mo.gov/divcareered/>