

Fact Sheet: Catfish



- Alabama ranks second nationally for total catfish production.
- Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas and Texas account for 96 percent of U.S. catfish production.
- In 2016, Alabama had over 17,000 water surface acres dedicated to catfish production.



- Alabama farmers produced 33 percent of all catfish in the U.S. with 120 million pounds on 85 farms in 2016.
- Average Alabama catfish production is 6,135 pounds per acre per year.
- Total Alabama producer income in 2016 was \$130 million.
- Approximately 1,500 Alabamians are directly engaged in catfish production or processing.
- Alabama catfish production primarily occurs in counties located in the western Blackbelt.
- Top catfish counties by pond acreage include Hale, Greene, Dallas and Perry.
- Auburn University is home to the No. 1 freshwater fisheries program in the world, and much of their research is on catfish production.
- The Alabama Catfish Producers works with other state and nonprofit organizations to promote catfish consumption, improve aquaculture standards and support animal health research.
- There are two catfish processing plants in west Alabama in Uniontown and Eutaw, and two catfish feedmills in Uniontown and Demopolis.
- The top ingredients in catfish feed are corn and soybean meal, which provide a nutritious combination of protein, fat, fiber and micronutrients.
- Alabama law requires food service establishments disclose the country of origin of catfish if imported from outside the U.S.
- U.S. farm-raised catfish is a lean fish and an excellent source of protein. It is low in saturated (bad) fat and is a moderate source of polyunsaturated (good) fat and omega-3 fatty acids.
- On average, each American consumes 0.56 pounds of U.S. farm-raised catfish annually.

Sources:
ACES.edu
USCatfish.com