

Fact Sheet
2003 Catfish Feed Assistance Program**Overview**

The Agricultural Assistance Act of 2003 authorized an expanded version of the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP), which also included catfish as eligible livestock for LCP. The Emergency Wartime Supplemental Appropriations Act (P.L. 108-11) amended the section of the Agricultural Assistance Act applicable to catfish to require that the Secretary of Agriculture provide grants to State Departments of Agriculture that agreed to provide assistance to eligible applicants.

USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) made available to State Departments of Agriculture a total of \$34 million in grants for the Catfish Feed Assistance Program (CFAP). These grants went to states with a commercial catfish feed processor physically located within their boundaries. The applicable State Departments of Agriculture distributed assistance to eligible catfish producers based on their calendar year 2002 catfish feed purchases from processors within that state.

The CCC distributed grants to the states according to the number of tons of feed submitted by feed processors located within the states. Upon receipt of the grants, the states provided feed credits to eligible applicants who redeemed

the feed credits with eligible feed processors.

Eligible Processors

Sign-up for the 2003 Catfish Program began August 4, 2003, with applications made available from the State Departments of Agriculture. Eligible catfish feed processors were located in the following states: Alabama, Arkansas, California, Georgia, Idaho, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Texas, Utah and Virginia. Producers whose catfish operations were physically located in other states, but purchased the feed from an eligible catfish feed processor, were also eligible.

Application Process

Catfish producers certified on the Form CFAP-03, the processor or processors from whom they purchased feed and the number of tons of feed purchased for catfish during calendar year 2002. Producers were also required by the CCC to certify compliance with Sodbuster/Swampbuster provisions and the Adjusted Gross Income provisions set forth in the 2002 Farm Bill.

Feed Credits

Applications were submitted to applicable State Departments of Agriculture for review and approval.

Upon approval, the amount of a catfish producer's feed credit was determined by multiplying \$34 per ton times the number of tons of catfish feed purchased in calendar year 2002. This feed credit was disbursed to the catfish feed processor or processors named by the producer on the CFAP-03, which was later redeemed by the catfish producer from the processor.

Additional Information

For further details, catfish producers contacted the State Department of Agriculture where their catfish feed processor was physically located.

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