

Section 1. General Information

On September 15, 2010, the U.S. Department of Agriculture authorized up to \$20 million in assistance to administer a 2009 Aquaculture Grant Program (the 2009 AGP). Through the 2009 AGP, FSA will provide grants to State governments to assist eligible aquaculture producers that suffered losses associated with high feed input costs during the 2009 calendar year. The Ohio Department of Agriculture will administer the Aquaculture Grant Program (AGP), a fish feed reimbursement program which will provide assistance to eligible aquaculture producers in the state.

Assistance will be provided to eligible aquaculture producers in Ohio by check. Failure to comply with the terms and conditions of this program will subject the producer to refund any amounts received, plus interest, in addition to any other penalties under civil and/or criminal law.

Section 2. Definitions

Substantial Price Increase of Feed describes an increase in the average price of feed sold to the producer of eligible aquaculture species that is 25 percent above the 2007-2003 average, as defined by the Ohio Department of Agriculture. (See the AGP Protein & Feed Cost Chart)

Eligible Aquaculture Producers means an individual or entity to be eligible to receive aquaculture payments under the 2009 AGP the following provisions must apply:

During the 2009 calendar year, an aquaculture producer must have:

- 1.) Raised an aquaculture species in a controlled environment.
- 2.) Maintained the aquaculture species as part of a farming operation.
- 3.) Incurred financial risk in the production of such species.
- 4.) Experienced at least a twenty-five percent increase in feed costs purchased in 2009 compared to the 2003-2007 average cost of feed.
- 5.) Will certify that the funds received by the producer under this program will be used for expenditures associated with their current aquaculture operation.
- 6.) Produced an aquaculture species for which 2009 feed costs represented at least 25 percent of the producer's total input costs for the aquaculture operation.

In addition, assistance can only be provided to aquaculture producers that certify that:

- 7.) Funds received by the producer under this program will be used for costs associated with their current aquaculture operation.

- 8.) Records on file for the producers at an applicable Farm Service Agency county office show:
- a. That their average adjusted gross non-farm income does not exceed \$500,000 for the three preceding tax years (2007-2005), as calculated under regulations in 7 CFR Part 1400, and
 - b. Compliance with the conservation compliance eligibility provisions for other programs found at 7 CFR Part 12, available at http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=ecfr&tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title07/7cfr12_main_02.tpl

Section 3. Eligible Aquaculture Species

The following aquaculture species are eligible to participate in the program:

Carnivorous

Sunfish - Bluegill, Hybrids
Yellow Perch
Largemouth/Striped Bass
Trout
Salmon

Omnivorous

Catfish
Tilapia
Carp/Goldfish/Koi/Amurs
Baitfish – Minnows/Shiners

Crustaceans

Freshwater Shrimp
Crayfish

Section 4. Records and Audits

Eligible Aquaculture Producers that participate in the AGP shall:

1. Maintain for a period up to three years all records pertaining to the aquaculture operation.
2. Forward to the Ohio Department of Agriculture copies of records that support the receipt of assistance under the AGP.
3. Make the records available at all reasonable times for an audit or inspection by authorized representatives of the Ohio Department or the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Failure to keep or make available such records will result in a termination of eligibility under the program and any funds received under the program will be refunded to the Ohio Department of Agriculture plus any interest accrued.

To view the complete agreement and detailed rules and guidelines, see the *Agreement between the FSA & Ohio to Establish the AGP* (Grant # USDA-FSA-2009 AGP-35) located on ODA's Web site, www.agri.ohio.gov, under "Promotional Programs" click on the "Aquaculture Grants Program."