

USDA Trade Adjustment Assistance Program for Catfish Producers - in brief.

Kentucky catfish farmers, and those from 17 other producing states, may be eligible for adjustment payments and technical assistance due to competition from the increased importation of lower priced Asian catfish. The program is based upon the determination that the 2002 national average price for catfish was less than 80% of the preceding average 5 year marketing price. The Trade Adjustment Assistance Program is authorized for less than \$90 million per fiscal year from 2003 -2007. Imported product must significantly contribute to a price decline for the program to take effect.

Growers that produced fish during the 2002 calendar year may be eligible for trade assistance up to \$10,000 per year **if non-adjusted, net farm income has been reduced from the preceding year (2001), and if their average adjusted gross income for the 3 preceding tax years was \$2.5 million, or less.**

The program will be administered through your county Farm Services Agency (FSA) office. A FSA 229 form must be filled out and returned to the FSA office by February 17, 2004. Graves County growers can pick up a copy of the FSA 229 form at the PAAC processing plant. Documentation supporting the loss of net income such as tax reports, financial statements and balance sheets must accompany the application. This information must come from a Certified Public Accountant, attorney, or a report to or from the Internal Revenue Service, or other government agency.

Technical assistance will be provided by the State Specialist for Aquaculture at the Graves County Extension Office, and other locations as needed, before May, 2004. **A certificate declaring applicants have received technical assistance training will be required to receive payment. However, make sure your applications are returned to the FSA office by February 17, 2004.** A certificate of technical training can be submitted to FSA at a later date. I will have access to Trade Adjustment Technical Training Information during winter 2004. Training sessions will be offered shortly thereafter.

Visit the Farm Service Agency Online website for more details:

<http://www.fas.usda.gov/pas/publications/facts/html/TAA03.htm>

PAAC personnel and I will keep you informed as this program progresses.

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