

Quarterly Report to the Legislature

Mar. 20, 2017

Aquaculture and Fisheries Program

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Overview: The Department and Center are engaging in multiple academic, research and extension activities to address Center goals. Our three newest faculty are involved in current activities and initiating new projects in their areas of specialization with mentoring from more experienced faculty.

Research activities: Faculty, staff and students attended numerous producer and scientific meetings in January and February where they made presentations, moderated special sessions, and participated in student activities. We continue to write grant proposals and produce publications. Our new fish health professor is setting up the Pine Bluff lab to facilitate research and fish diagnostics work. Research priorities from stakeholder groups within the areas of Aquaculture and Natural Fisheries are sought through various means including personal communication, webinars and conferences.

Extension activities: the APHIS-approved fish health lab in Lonoke continues to meet industry needs for Extension. There is still a need to identify resources to enhance the research capacity at the Lonoke lab. Applications for a new Extension aquaculture specialist in baitfish and sportfish production (to be located in Pine Bluff) and two additional Extension positions for Lonoke are being screened. UAPB Aquaculture Extension Specialists throughout Arkansas continue to conduct farm visits, conduct applied research, and provide information to producers and the public.

Professional Development: Faculty, staff and students served on Boards of producer and professional organizations. The Interim Director and Associate Director continue to pursue leadership development activities. In conjunction with new positions and responsibilities, faculty and staff are pursuing opportunities to develop additional leadership capabilities. Faculty are being approached by other Universities both within Arkansas and outside of the state to engage in collaborative research and training through exchange of international graduate students during the summer.

Personnel: We are also advertizing for a professor of aquatic habitat management and restoration, and have begun screening applications for a professor of natural resource economics. An MS-level program coordinator was hired to oversee the collection of data, compilation of major reports, and to assist faculty with training in new programs to enhance academic and research output.

Further Information:

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