



STATE OF IDAHO



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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IDAHO AQUACULTURE PRODUCERS ELIGIBLE FOR STIMULUS FUNDING

Boise - The Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) is distributing funds to eligible aquaculture producers that suffered losses associated with high feed costs during the 2008 calendar year, as part of Section 102(d) of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act). The Recovery Act provided \$50 million for a 2008 Aquaculture Grant Program. Idaho's share to distribute to industry is \$1,252,541.

Eligible aquaculture producers must complete a grant application and submit it to ISDA along with required documentation by July 31, 2009. Grant applications have been mailed directly to licensed aquaculture farms and are also available on the ISDA website at www.agri.idaho.gov

Producers must meet a number of criteria. Eligible producers must have, in 2008, raised an aquaculture species in a controlled environment as part of a farming operation with a financial risk in the production of the species and must currently be raising the aquaculture species in July, 2009. Further, they must have experienced at least a 25% increase in feed costs in 2008 over the previous five-year average and feed costs must exceed 25% of their total operating costs. The grant amounts will be based on the producer's total feed deliveries in 2008.

For questions about the aquaculture grant program, contact Laura Johnson at 208-332-8533 or Laura.Johnson@agri.idaho.gov.

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