



STATE OF IDAHO



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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IDAHO AQUACULTURE PRODUCERS ELIGIBLE FOR GRANT FUNDING

Boise - As part of a USDA 2009 Disaster Assistance program, the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) is distributing funds to eligible aquaculture producers that suffered losses associated with high feed costs during 2009. The USDA Farm Service Agency is providing \$20 million in the form of grants to states where farm-raised aquaculture producers need assistance as a result of high feed costs. Funding was allocated to states on a pro rata basis. Idaho's share of the funds is \$408,980.

Idaho distributed \$944,838.95 through a similar program in September 2009, authorized under Section 102(d) of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act). The Recovery Act provided \$50 million for a 2008 Aquaculture Grant Program.

"Aquaculture is a significant part of Idaho agriculture," ISDA Director Celia Gould said. "We were pleased to be able to assist producers with financial benefits to offset high feed costs."

Eligible aquaculture producers must complete a grant application and submit it to ISDA along with required documentation by January 7, 2011. Grant applications have been mailed directly to licensed aquaculture farms and also are available on the ISDA website at www.agri.idaho.gov

Producers must meet a number of criteria. Eligible producers must have raised an aquaculture species in a controlled environment in 2009 as part of a farming operation with a financial risk in the production of the species, and they must be raising the aquaculture species in 2010 at the time of application. Further, they must have experienced at least a 25-percent increase in feed costs in 2009 over the five-year average for 2002-2007 as established by the state, and feed costs must exceed 25 percent of their total operating costs. The grant amounts will be based on the producer's total feed deliveries in 2009.

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

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