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Governor Hutchinson Declares August Arkansas Catfish Month

LITTLE ROCK, AR – Governor Hutchinson was joined by Arkansas catfish farmers, and leaders and educators in the Arkansas aquaculture and catfish industries yesterday at the State Capitol for presentation of the Arkansas Catfish Month proclamation. See the signed proclamation, [here](#).

"Arkansas consistently ranks in the top three states in the nation in the production of foodsize, farm-raised catfish," said Governor Hutchinson. "Thank you for your contribution to our state's largest industry. Keep on growing them, and together let's find ways to keep on selling them," he told producers.

Arkansas catfish farmers contributed \$18.1 million to Arkansas's agricultural economy in foodsize fish sales last year. Across the state, 4,800 water surface acres are used for catfish production. As of January, 2018, Arkansas producers had 10.3 million foodsize fish in inventory. Arkansas is also home to The [Aquaculture/Fisheries Center of Excellence](#) at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, recognized as a leader in aquaculture/fisheries teaching, research and extension programs. Learn more about the Arkansas catfish industry and U.S. farm-raised catfish via the [Catfish Farmers of Arkansas](#), and via [U.S. Farm-Raised Catfish](#).

August was designated as National Catfish Month by Congress more than thirty years ago. The majority of U.S. Farm-Raised Catfish is produced on family-owned farms in the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi and Texas. "U.S. Farm-Raised Catfish is embraced across the country not only because of its healthfulness, quality and environmental friendliness, but also because it is 100-percent American-grown," says Roger Barlow, president of The Catfish Institute.

The AAD is dedicated to the development and implementation of policies and programs for Arkansas agriculture and forestry to keep its farmers and ranchers competitive in national and international markets while ensuring safe food, fiber, and forest products for the citizens of the state and nation. Visit www.agriculture.arkansas.gov.

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