



State of Wisconsin
Jim Doyle, Governor

Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
Randy Romanski, Secretary

October 8, 2010

Dear Aquaculture Producer:

The 2009 Aquaculture Grant Program (AGP) provides \$20 million to assist aquaculture producers for losses associated with high feed input costs during the 2009 calendar year. The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (WI DATCP) has been designated to administer the program within Wisconsin. The USDA allocated **\$38,539** to the State of Wisconsin.

If you experienced losses due to the increased cost of aquaculture feed, please review the program materials and consider applying for these federal funds.

Application materials and additional program information are available on the Wisconsin Aquaculture Association website at: <http://www.wisconsinaquaculture.com>

If you have any questions, please contact:

Mike Bandli, Wisconsin DATCP (608)224-5136 or mike.bandli@wisconsin.gov

Or Ron Johnson, UW-SP NADF Aquaculture Extension Outreach Specialist, (715)779-3189 or ron.johnson@uwsp.edu

The **general requirements** producers will need to meet in order to qualify for funding include:

- (1) During the 2009 calendar year:
 - (a) Raised an aquaculture species in a controlled environment,
 - (b) Maintained the aquaculture species as part of a farming operation, and
 - (c) Had a risk in the production of the aquaculture species;
- (2) Is in operation in 2010, as of the date of their AGP application with the State;
- (3) Produced an aquaculture species for which 2009 feed costs represented at least 25 percent of their total input costs for the aquaculture operation;
- (4) Experienced at least a 25 percent price increase of 2009 feed costs above the 5-year average (2003-2007) feed cost.
- (5) Submit records to an applicable Farm Service Agency County office that indicate:
 - (1) the average producer adjusted gross income does not exceed \$500,000 for each of the three preceding tax years (2005-2007), and
 - (2) the producer is in compliance with the conservation compliance eligibility provisions.
- (6) Will use funds received from this program for the current aquaculture operation.

Agriculture generates \$59 billion for Wisconsin

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Because of USDA requirements, there is a significant amount of documentation and there is a very short turn around for aquaculture producers to submit applications. Producers will have until **12:00 noon, November 15, 2010**, to submit applications and will have an additional 10 days to correct any deficiencies.

The application form and supporting materials will include certifications and materials required to determine eligibility, feed loss and calculate payment rates. A **completed application** includes:

- The completed application form
- A W-9 (Taxpayer Identification Number Verification)
- A Statement or Ledger of Input Expenses used for farm business (fish farm) recordkeeping to certify 2009 feed costs as a percentage of total input costs or a copy of 2009 Schedule F or Schedule C (Form 1040).
- A Statement or letter from your feed supplier(s) confirming 2009 feed purchases and average feed prices; or copies of feed invoices for 2009. (Only documented 2009 feed purchases will be considered eligible for grant payments.)
- A Statement or letter from your feed supplier(s) confirming 2010 feed purchases and/or copies of feed invoices for 2010. (Minimum of months May – August, 2010)
- A copy of Form CCC-526 - Average Adjusted Gross Income Statement
- A copy of Form AD-1026 - Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELIC) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification.

All application materials must be received by 12:00 noon, November 15, 2010. Please send completed applications to:

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Wisconsin DATCP
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Madison, WI 53708
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Fax: (608)224-5110.