

## **Department of Agriculture Stimulus Action Plan**

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 provides \$50 million for states to administer the 2008 Aquaculture Grant Program to assist aquaculture producers for losses associated with high feed input costs during the 2008 calendar year. To provide assistance to eligible producers, the Community Credit Corporation will provide block grants through Georgia Department of Agriculture (GDA) to administer assistance to Georgia's eligible aquaculture producers.

Grants to states will be on a pro rata basis, based on the amount of aquaculture feed used in each State during the 2007 calendar year. The State's 2007 aquaculture feed deliveries includes feed for **all** aquaculture species in Georgia that was delivered to an individual or entity that is still in operation in 2009. Feed delivered to Federal or State owned hatcheries are excluded.

The grant amount to Georgia has not been determined at this time. Once funds become available, there will be a formal application process administered by Georgia Department of Agriculture. Assistance will be provided to eligible aquaculture producers that:

1. Produced aquaculture species for which 2008 feed costs represented at least 25 percent of the producer's total input costs for the aquaculture operation, as certified by the producer.
2. Experienced at least a 25 percent price increase of 2008 feed costs above the previous 5 year average (2003-2007), as certified by the producer.

The amount of assistance provided to an eligible aquaculture producer shall not exceed the amount of losses suffered by the producer as a result of high feed input costs during the 2008 calendar year. The total assistance that a person may receive from the State shall not exceed \$80,000, except for general partnerships and joint ventures in which assistance shall not exceed \$80,000 times the number of members that constitute the general partnership or joint venture.

Assistance shall be provided to eligible aquaculture producers who certify to the State or agree that:

1. The producer will not apply for or receive any assistance covered by the Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance Programs established under section 531 of the Federal Crop Insurance Act and section 90 of the Trade Act of 1974 for any losses in 2008 relating to the same species of aquaculture.
2. Funds received by the producer under this program will be used for costs associated with their current aquaculture farming operation.
3. Records on file for the producer at the applicable Farm Service Agency county office indicate:
  - a) The average adjustable gross income does not exceed \$2.5 million for the three preceding tax years(2005-2007), as calculated under regulations in 7 CFR Part 1400; and
  - b) Compliance with the conservation compliance eligibility provisions for other programs found at 7 CFR Part 12.
4. The producer will provide program and financial record access as needed to assure compliance with the program.

(Producer payment is subject to the availability of funds and the producer's compliance to the grant requirements.)

The Georgia Department of Agriculture will notify the public and aquaculture producers through the print media, mail service and GDA's Website.