
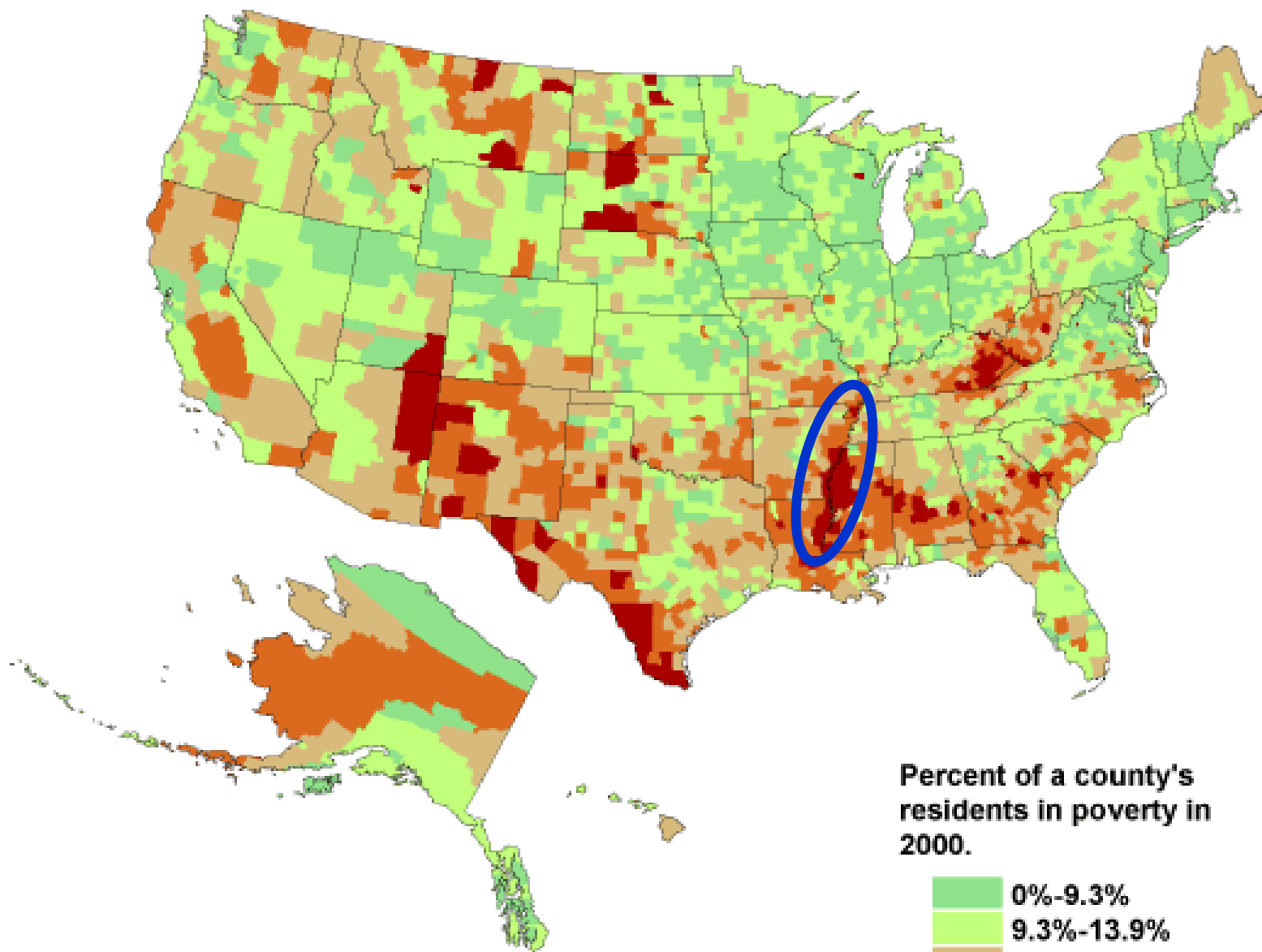


# **The Arkansas Department Of Agriculture Bait And Ornamental Fish Certification Program**

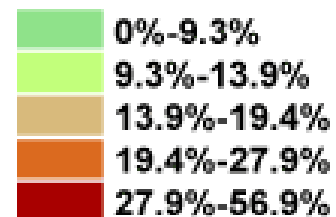


***Andy Goodwin***  
***University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff***

- 
- **AR farm gate value:  
\$167 million**
  - **Second in US**
  - **Economic impact:  
over \$1.2 billion**



**Percent of a county's residents in poverty in 2000.**







# 80% of US Baitfish Production



**30,000 acres of golden shiners**  
**3,500 on this farm**



# Certification



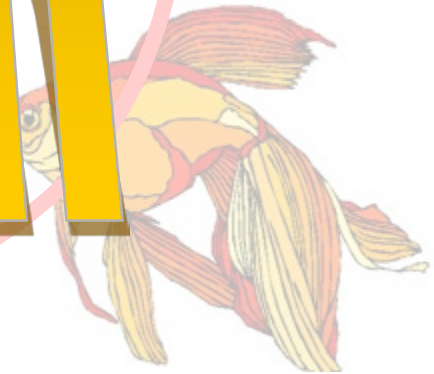
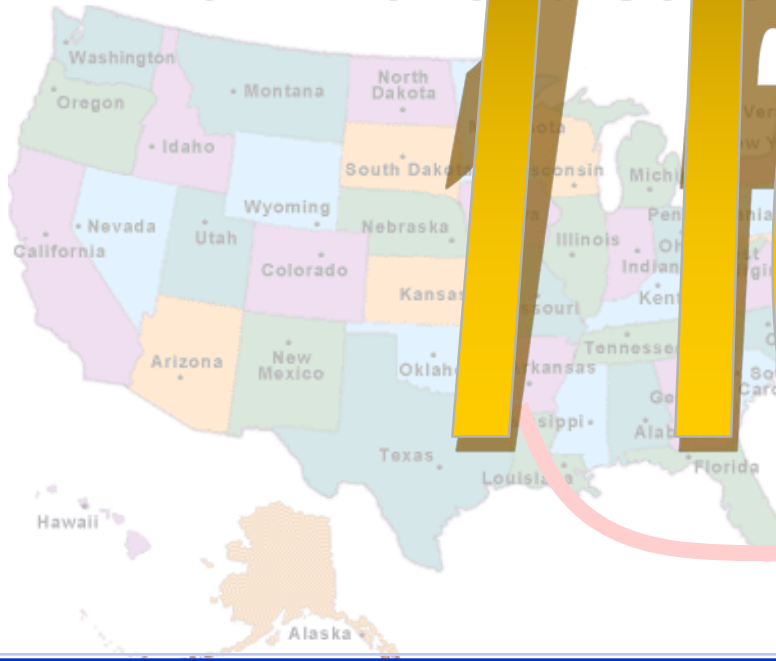
# History



# 1995

- Export to the UK
- Required
  - USDA paperwork
  - Farm level disease inspections

# ITAM



# Summer 2002

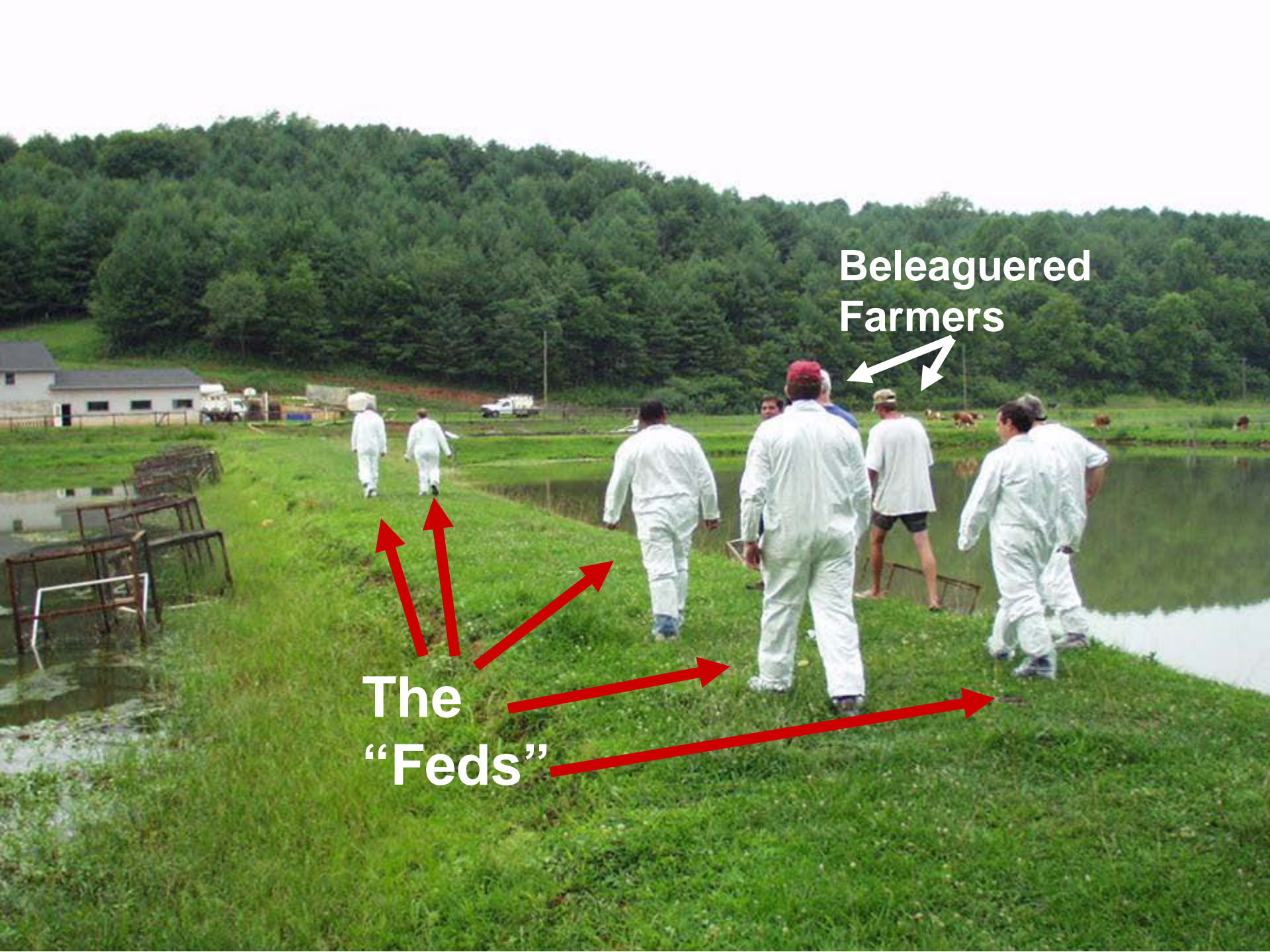
## East Coast







svcv



Beleaguered  
Farmers



The  
“Feds”









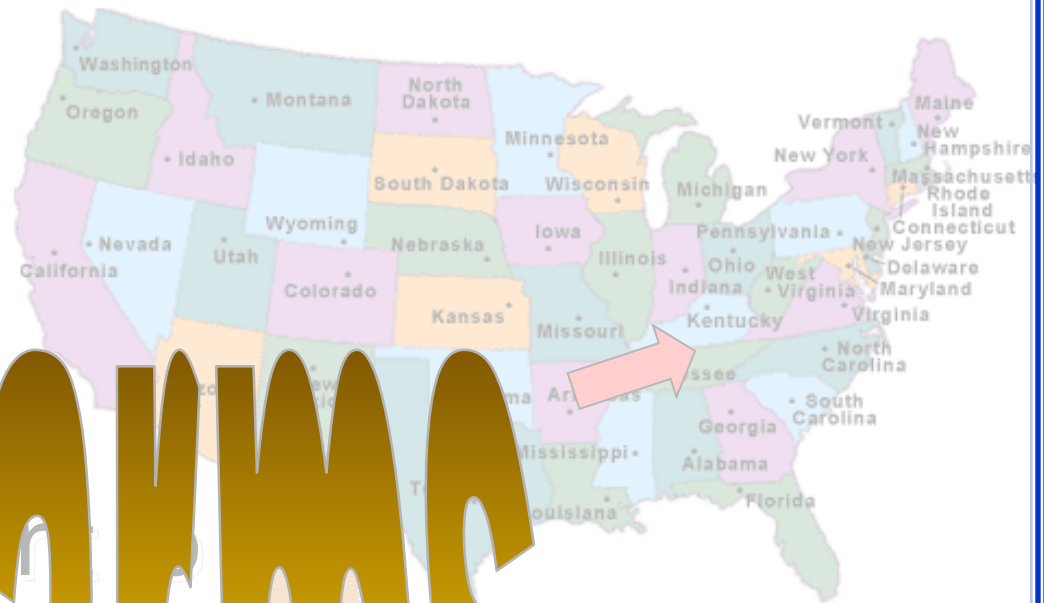
- 250 ponds in 2 states
- Millions in expenses and indemnity
- Two + years of quarantine





# Arkansas Connections

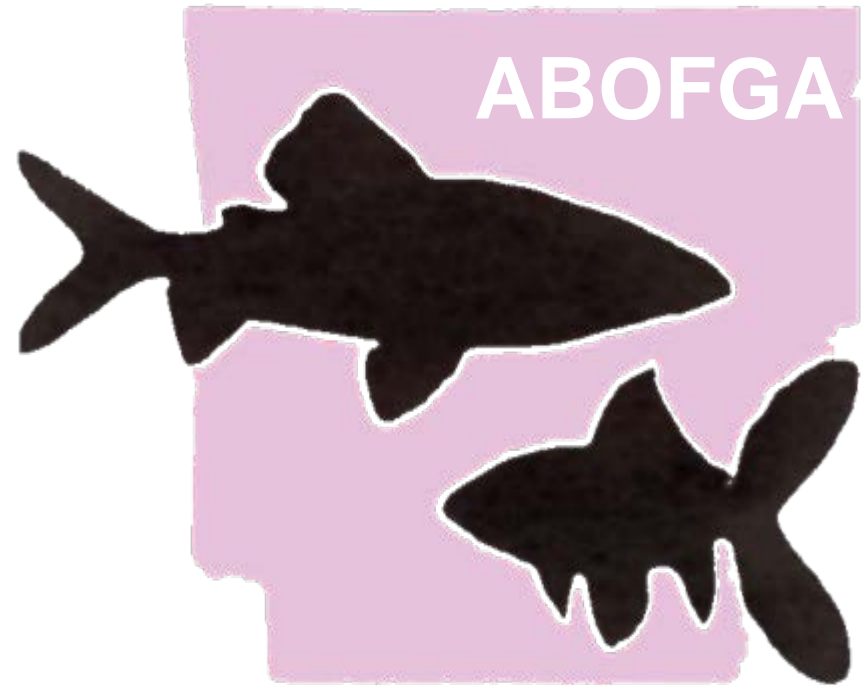
?



# Claims

- Arkansas has a lot of people who visit the farm every week
- **USDA:** “Did Arkansas send the virus?”
- **Farm:** No, we met the most rigorous international standards for being free of SVCV
- Result: **No Arkansas problems!**

# **Arkansas Bait and Ornamental Fish Growers Association**



**“A farm certification program can protect our farms from a fish health, economic, and public relations disaster!”**

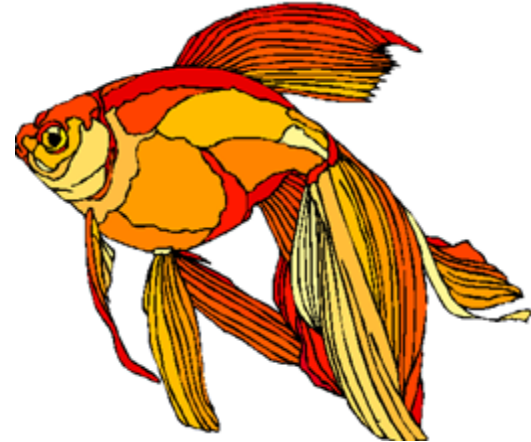


*Certified Bait*



*From Arkansas*

# **Certification Program: Industry Goals**



- To prevent fish health and regulatory impacts from ANS introductions
- To formally demonstrate the safety of their product
- To make it easier for regulators to allow movements of farm raised baitfish



State of Arkansas  
85th General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2005

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2797

By: Representative L. Evans

## For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A COMMERCIAL BAIT AND  
ORNAMENTAL FISH PROGRAM UNDER THE STATE PLANT  
BOARD; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

TO ESTABLISH A COMMERCIAL BAIT AND  
ORNAMENTAL FISH PROGRAM UNDER THE STATE  
PLANT BOARD.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. The purpose of this act is to establish a commercial bait  
and ornamental fish program under the State Plant Board.



# *Progress*



# *New Motivation*

March 14, 2006: Gizzard Shad Mortalities

**VHS**





# Program



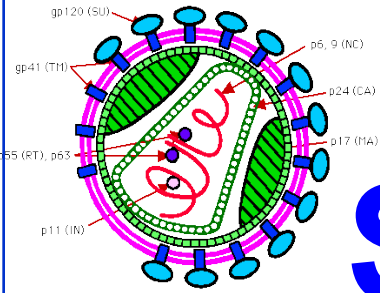
# Components





- **True 3<sup>rd</sup> party certification by a competent authority (AR State Dept of Ag)**
- **On-site inspections**
- **Voluntary**
- **Costs paid by farmers**
  - 1\$/acre/year
  - Collection \$100/hour
  - \$1000/yr in lab fees
- **Three major claims**



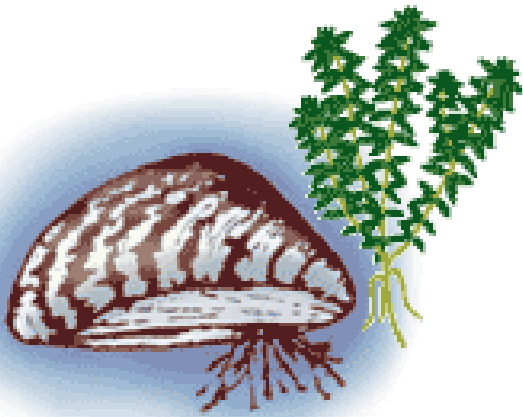


# 1. Freedom From Specific Diseases

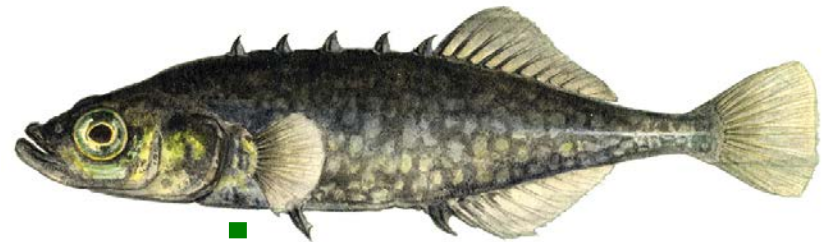
- **Testing to international standards**
  - Semi-annual farm level inspection
  - 150 fish collected by an APHIS accredited DVM
  - Testing in a lab using APHIS-approved protocols
  - Verification by USDA and State Department of Agriculture



## 2. Freedom from Exotic Aquatic Species

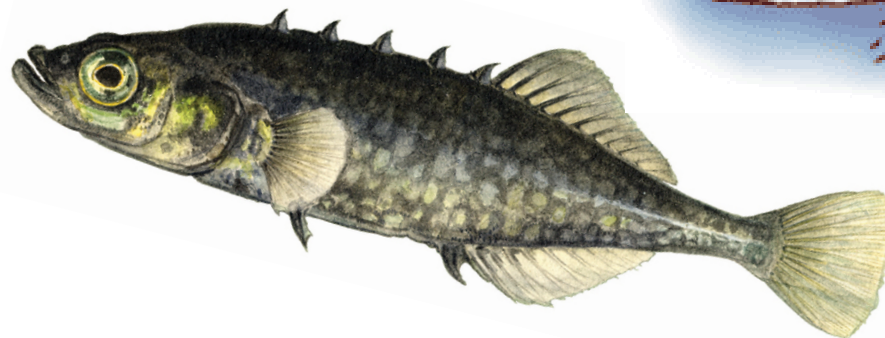
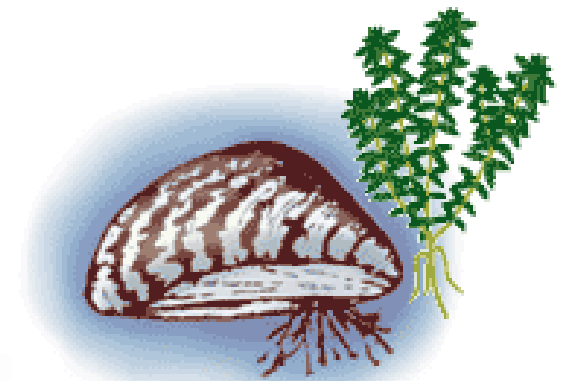
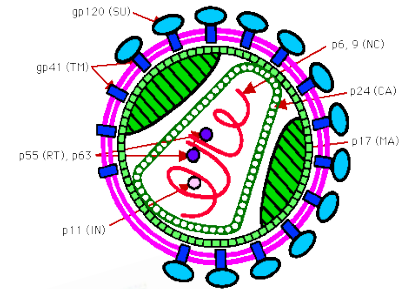


- Annual inspection for listed ANS
- State inspectors view records and check ponds





- **Spring Viremia of carp**
- **Infectious Pancreatic Necrosis**
- **Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia**
- **Infectious Hematopoietic Necrosis**
- **Eurasian Watermilfoil**
- **Giant Salvinia**
- **Hydrilla**
- **Zebra Mussel**
- **New Zealand Mud Snail**
- **Red-Rimmed Melana**
- **Quagga mussels**
- **Sticklebacks**
- **Rudd**
- **Orfe**
- **Silver carp**
- **Bighead Carp**
- **Snakeheads**



# 3. Biosecurity →

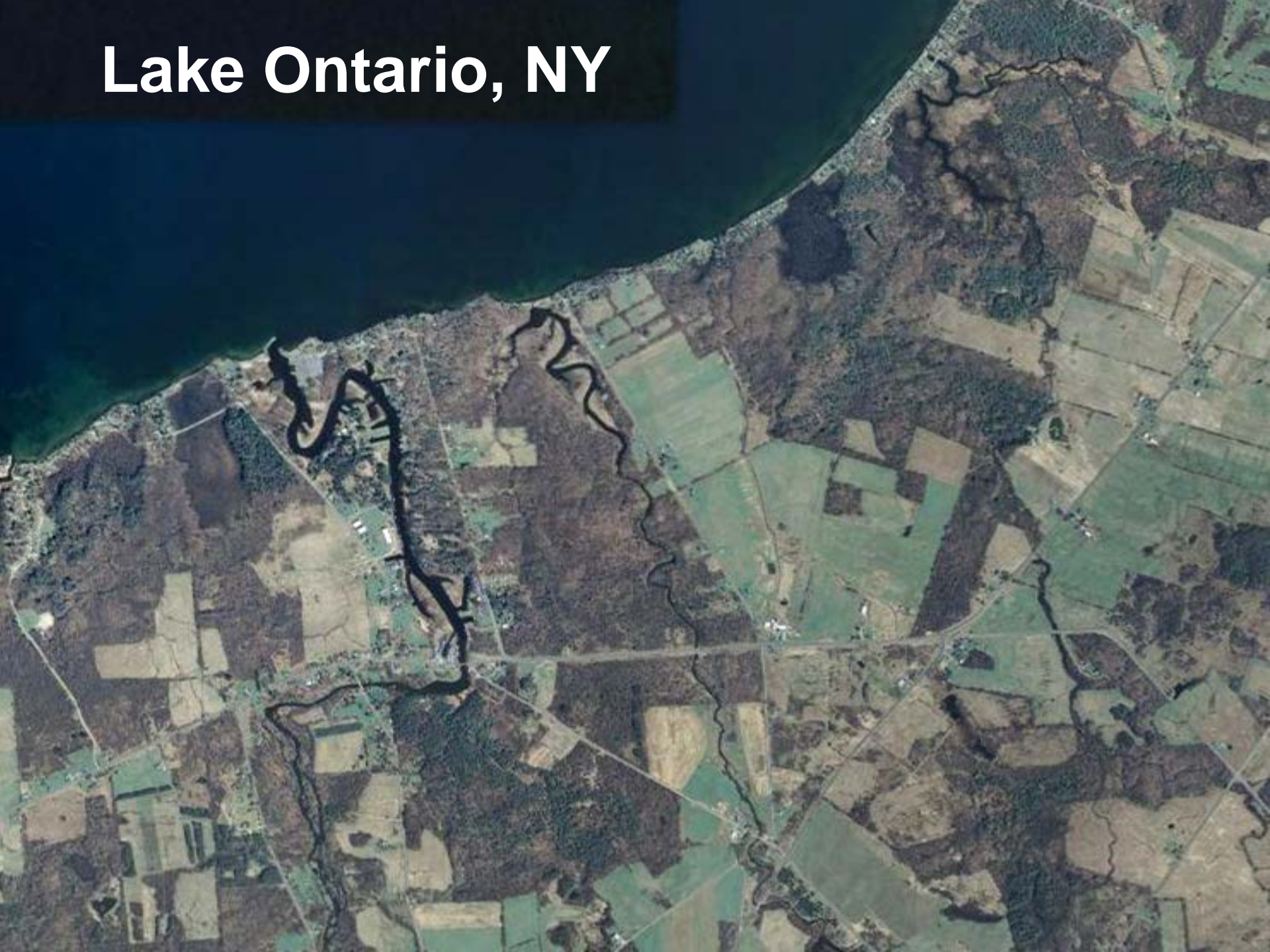


- Levee ponds and well water





# Lake Ontario, NY



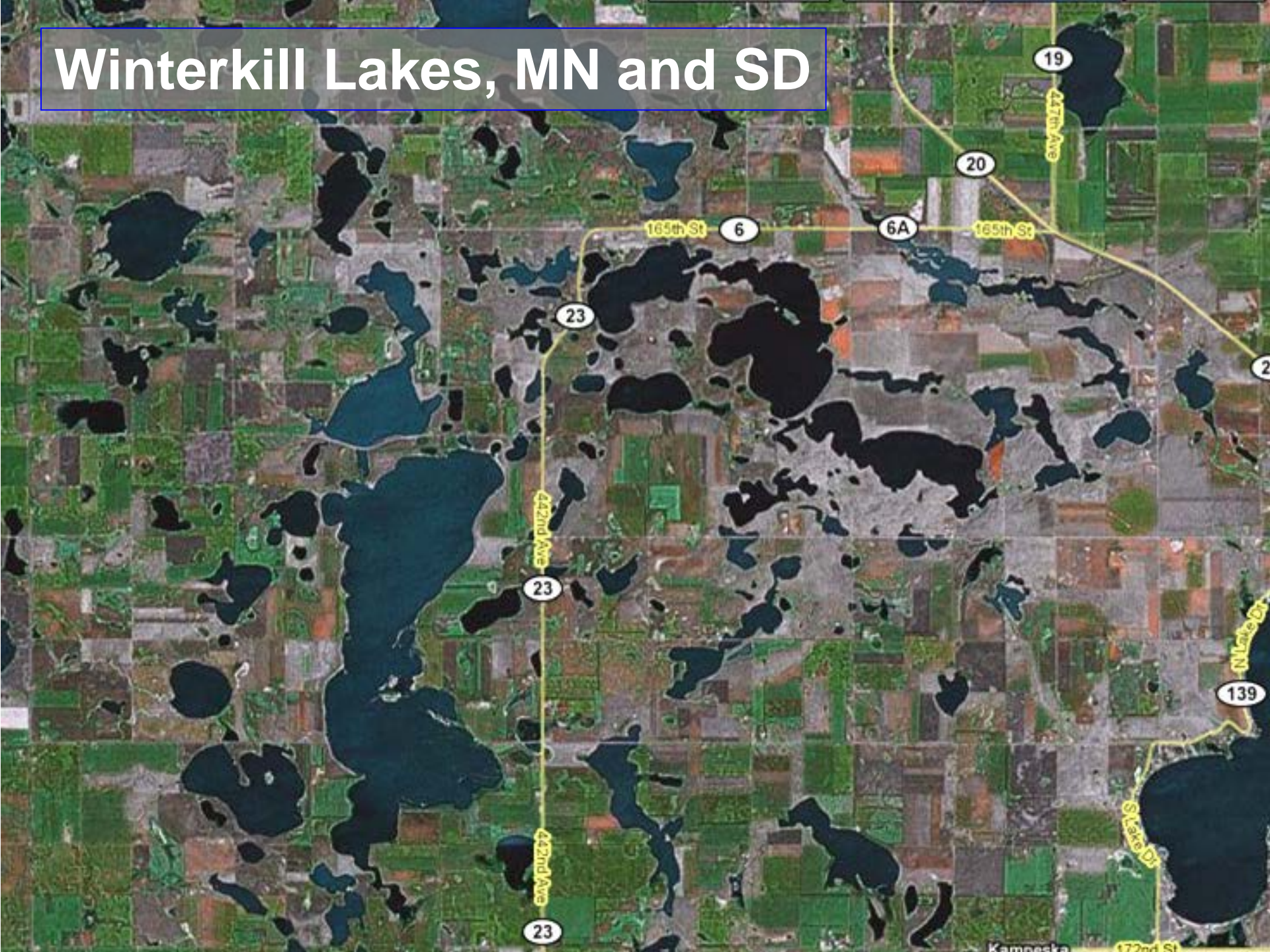


# Winterkill Lakes, MN and SD





# Winterkill Lakes, MN and SD





# 3. Biosecurity →



- Levee ponds and well water



# Levee Ponds, AR





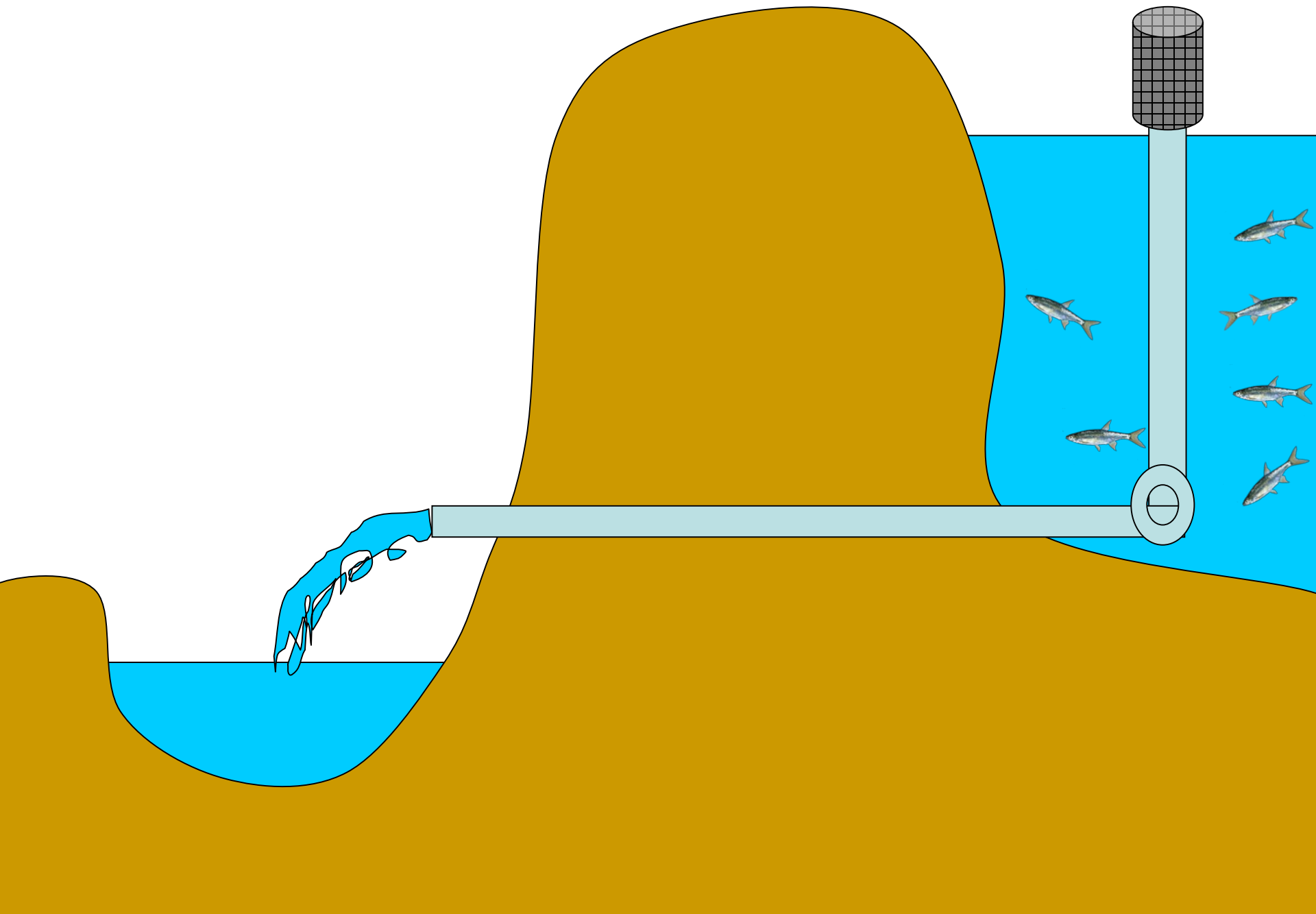














# 3. Biosecurity →



- Levee ponds and well water
- Captive broodstock, egg disinfection, indoor hatcheries





# 3. Biosecurity →



- Levee ponds and well water
- Captive broodstock, egg disinfection, indoor hatcheries
- Disinfection of people and equipment entering the farm







# Certification



# Documentation



- 

**Arkansas  
Agriculture  
Department  
Bait and Ornamental  
Fish Certification**

*Certification Serial Number* \_\_\_\_\_

The Arkansas Agriculture Department certifies that the fish in this shipment meet the *Official Standards for the Certification of Bait and Ornamental Fish* [Circular 21] and are free of specific pathogens and aquatic nuisance species. This certification is based on a two-year farm inspection history that includes semi-annual disease sample collection by USDA accredited veterinarians, testing by diagnostic laboratories using APHIS-approved protocols, and onsite inspections of biosecurity and aquatic nuisance species status by Arkansas Agriculture Department staff.

**Issue date**

Valid through

**Signature of Fish Farmer:**

Joey Kellow

### Issuing Farm Load Description

**Farm Name:** Coldstream Fisheries Inc.

Arkansas Permit #: ~~AA0012~~

**Address:** 2800 E. Kings Highway

Paragould, AR 72450

**Phone:** 1-870-236-2517

**Fax:** 1-870-236-8829

**E-mail:** [coldist@grnco.net](mailto:coldist@grnco.net)

[illegible]

This certificate is provided with each load of **Arkansas Certified Bait and Ornamental Fish** and is invalid if not completed in full and signed by the participating fish farmer or their designee. Misuse is subject to enforcement action. Copies of the *Official Standards for the Certification of Bait and Ornamental Fish* can be obtained by contacting the program administrator at (501) 225-1598 or at [www.aad.ar.gov](http://www.aad.ar.gov).

# Program



# Summary





- **Stringent**
- **Internationally recognized standards**
- **True 3<sup>rd</sup> party verification**



# FAQ





**How do I know  
that the farmers  
are really following  
program requirements?**



# **How do I know that the farmers are really following program requirements?**

## **–Third Party Oversight**



- **Ag Dept inspection - On Farm**

## **–Self-protection**



- **No way to fake disease inspection**
- **Malfeasance = positive = end of the world**
- **First AR fish health import reg**



*Certified Bait*



*From Arkansas*

# VHS Virus

- Exotic, high mortality, many species
- Where is it now?
- Is it still killing fish?
- Where will it go?
- What's happening with regs?