Unit 3: Aquaculture

**Lesson 3: Cool Catfish**

**Directions:** Access the commodities and products tab on the AgMRC website (http://www.agmrc.org) and find the link to Aquaculture. Utilize information located here to answer the questions below.

1. Why are “special diets” used to commercially raise catfish? How do these diets assist with meat taste and quality?

2. According to the AgMRC, many catfish producers have left the industry in recent years. Why do you think this is so? What implications could this trend have for consumers?

3. What are the top catfish-producing states? What factors make these areas suitable for catfish production?

4. The AgMRC website lists four main reasons why many new catfish processing centers may fail during their early years of business. What are these reasons? What could this mean for new catfish producers as well?

5. What is the outlook (in terms of business climate) for new and current catfish producers? Do you think these possibilities could spell trouble for consumers as well? Explain.