Unit 3: Aquaculture

Lesson 7: Crazy Crawfish (Part 1)

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.

Before you begin your dive into the crawfish world, take a minute to assess what you already know. The teacher will direct you in writing down, what you know about crawfish, what you think you know about crawfish, and what you do not yet know about crawfish.

1. What technologies popularized in the 1930s resulted in the “[shifting of] crawfish markets in Louisiana… from local consumption in rural areas to metropolitan areas such as Baton Rouge and New Orleans”? What implications have these technologies had on other aspects of your daily life?

2. What events in 2005 deeply affected cultured crawfish production in Louisiana? Drawing on your knowledge of aquatic animal production, how do you think these events affected the industry?

3. How do crawfish cope “when water levels fall and natural backwater and floodplain habitats dry out”? How do these actions allow the species to survive during unfavorable conditions?

4. Currently, competition from China is hindering crawfish processors’ abilities to survive and profit. What market advantages have allowed Chinese processors to thrive in American markets? (Hint: Think about costs)

5. What are some different ways that crawfish producers can market to consumers? Which way do you think would be the most effective? Why?