

## USDA grant funds open to aquaculture

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

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The Colorado Department of Agriculture invites licensed aquaculture facilities in Colorado to apply for the 2009 Aquaculture Grant Program.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has announced availability of up to \$20 million in assistance to administer a 2009 Aquaculture Grant Program (AGP) which will provide compensation to aquaculture producers for losses associated with high feed input costs during the 2009 calendar year.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency will provide block grants to State Departments of Agriculture that agree to provide assistance to eligible aquaculture producers.

“CDA received word that our 2009 Aquaculture Grant Program Work Plan has been approved by the USDA Farm Service Agency,” said CDA’s State Aquaculture Coordinator, Scott Leach. “We will send out the applications to all of our licensed aquaculture producers this week. The deadline for returning the application and all supporting documentation will be Dec. 3.”

CDA will be dispersing up to \$53,985 in AGP funds to a possible 50 licensed aquaculture facilities; a prescribed formula will be used to decide how much each eligible producer receives.

Additional information on the Aquaculture Grant Program, including applications and eligibility stipulations, can be found at [www.colorado.gov/ag/animals](http://www.colorado.gov/ag/animals) . Look for the Aquaculture Grant Program links.

CDA’s Aquaculture program, in cooperation with the Colorado Division of Wildlife, issues operating permits to private fish facilities, many of which assist in stocking state waters.

For more information, visit [www.colorado.gov/ag/animals](http://www.colorado.gov/ag/animals) and click on “Aquaculture Program.”