

Introduction to Crawfish Economics

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Assumptions

- Land is already owned
- Fixed costs NOT included
- Initial stocking density of 75 lbs crawfish/acre
- Harvest of 650 lbs/acre
- Zero sales first year
- Sales price of \$2.50/lb
- Each pond is 10 acres
- 20 traps/acre
- * All numbers presented are estimates and will vary in your specific situation

Initial Investment

	10 Acres	20 Acres	30 Acres	40 Acres
Pond Construction	\$19,750	\$39,500	\$59,250	\$79,000
Water Supply	\$4,300	\$4,800	\$9,100	\$9,600
Equipment	\$9,775	\$15,350	\$20,925	\$26,500
Total	\$33,825	\$59,650	\$89,275	\$115,100
Investment per acre	\$3,383	\$2,983	\$2,976	\$2,878

First Year of Operation

	10 Acres	20 Acres	30 Acres	40 Acres
Sales	0	0	0	0
Forage	\$400	\$800	\$1,200	\$1,600
Fertilizer / Herbicide	\$125	\$250	\$375	\$500
Other	\$771	\$1290	\$1,809	\$2,327
Total Variable Cost	\$1,296	\$2,340	\$3,384	\$4,427
Returns Above VC	\$1,296	\$2,340	\$3,384	\$4,427

Years 2 and Beyond

	10 Acres	20 Acres	30 Acres	40 Acres
Sales	\$16,250	\$32,500	\$48,750	\$65,000
Forage	\$400	\$800	\$1,200	\$1,600
Bait	\$1,280	\$2,560	\$3,840	\$5,120
Other	\$1,530	\$2,641	\$3,751	\$4,861
Total Variable Cost	\$3,210	\$6,001	\$8,791	\$11,581
Returns Above VC	\$13,040	\$26,500	\$39,959	\$53,419

Years 2 and Beyond

	10 Acres	20 Acres	30 Acres	40 Acres
Sales	\$16,250	\$32,500	\$48,750	\$65,000
Total Variable Cost	\$3,210	\$6,001	\$8,791	\$11,581
Return above VC	\$13,040	\$26,500	\$39,959	\$53,419
Break Even Price above VC	\$0.49/lb	\$0.46/lb	\$0.45/lb	\$0.45/lb

Crawfish Summary

- Economies of scale
- Larger farms are more profitable
- Need to have enough money to operate the first year with zero income from crawfish
- Can be very profitable as supplemental income
- Where are you going to sell them?
- Fixed cost can triple production costs

Further Assistance and Information

- NCDA & CS Publications and Staff
 - <http://www.ncagr.com/aquacult/pubs.html>
 - Matt Parker
- NC Cooperative Extension Service
 - Mike Frinsko and Steve Gabel
- Other Farmers
- Aquanic
 - <http://www.aquanic.org>