

IMPORTANT NOTICE: DISEASE INSPECTIONS

In light of concerns regarding the growing presence of diseases in Great Lakes fisheries, I.F. Anderson Farms, Inc. is taking comprehensive measures to insure that baitfish raised and shipped by the 55-year-old facility are free of viruses, infections and undesirable plant and animal species.

Says Neal Anderson, owner of I.F. Anderson Farms, "The fish produced by I.F. Anderson Farms are raised under a strict biosecurity program, and through the most rigorous standards available are regularly inspected for diseases. The farm has participated in a formal, structured inspection program for five years."

Through this program, the veteran fish farmer explains, farm biosecurity is inspected by the USDA-APHIS. "Fish from throughout the farm are then sampled semi-annually under the supervision of a USDA-certified veterinarian and are submitted to a testing lab where the fish are inspected under USDA-APHIS approved protocols," Anderson says. "Results from the testing go directly to the USDA."

Through participation in this program, he notes, I.F. Anderson Farms meets the strictest export standards for freedom from the viruses VHS, IHN, SVCV, and IPN and qualifies internationally (by OIE guidelines) as a zone free of these diseases.

I.F. Anderson Farms also conducts other farm-level inspections designed to meet interstate regulations. The most rigorous of those inspections entails annual sampling and testing of all fish for VHS, Furunculosis, Enteric Red Mouth, Infectious Pancreatic Necrosis Virus, Spring Viremia of Carp Virus and Heterosporis.

Beginning with the start of the program in 2007, I.F. Anderson Farms is certified under the Arkansas Bait and Ornamental Fish Certification Program. This program combines the farm's current rigorous disease inspection program with an aquatic nuisance species inspection program (fish, plants, and mollusks) and strict biosecurity monitored and inspected by the Arkansas Department of Agriculture.

"These programs insure that fish produced and shipped by I.F. Anderson Farms are free of important diseases," Anderson concludes. "Furthermore, they assure that they are not contaminated by undesirable plant and animal species."

Long a leader in the production and shipping of shiner minnows, goldfish and other fish species, I.F. Anderson Farms, Inc. is located in Lonoke, Arkansas. For more information on the facility and its products and services, call 1-800-20-MINNO (1-800-206-4666). Or, contact Anderson via email at ifanderson@aol.com.