

David Fincham Aquaculture News

Spring is on the way, and this means that the last few weeks have been spent reconfiguring the hatchery and getting the broodstock ready at the David Fincham Aquaculture farm in Johannesburg. During a recent training week - 19-22nd August the first fry and eggs were harvested. It is always a remarkable experience for the students who have never witnessed the process to see, be involved and to witness the miracle of new life. It takes between 8 and 10 days for the eggs to become viable fry, in the correct conditions in the hatchery. Whilst the breeding of Tilapia and the production of viable fingerlings is technical and costly, the industry must ensure that those who want to farm fish can access fingerlings easily at a high quality and at a reasonable price. Quality is of concern and the use of undomesticated stock and stock of unknown genetic viability is to be discouraged. In most cases across Africa the quality of stock is questionable mainly due to the following factors;

- The stock is not available at the beginning of the farming season and the shortened growing season results in farmers not attaining good harvest sizes
- Stock is interbred as there is little management of breeding stock and or the introduction of new bloodlines
- Where the natural male hormone MT is being applied to the fry feed in minute dose, either the MT hormone has expired, is not applied correctly and or not applied at the right times or for the right duration, resulting mixed sex stock getting into the ponds/production systems. The hormone levels of these tiny fry will be the same as wild fish with a week or two of them being put onto a MT free feed.

It is important to ensure that farmers are purchasing the best stock, as, if this is not possible the farmer will need to adjust the results being expected. However, as the industry really grows and develops these factors will change and more options will be available.

DFA will continue to strive and to improve and grow what we can offer our clients.

Training

The training in August was well received and there are a few more, excited, knowledgeable, enthusiastic new members to the Tilapia farming community. We wish you every success in your ventures. Keep on growing and learning and thank you for joining us on this journey. It is weeks like these that make our work worthwhile, that strengthens or belief in aquaculture and provides us with the boost and energy that we need. The sector in South Africa still requires many thousands of farmers to join. Next training is only a 3 day session 16-18 September due to the public holiday and other commitments. The cost has been reduced to R5000 for the course.

Media

Food for Mzansi has asked DFA to submit articles on Aquaculture. They hosted a very successful campaign to get the youth excited about agriculture. They toured the country visiting schools and thousands of students were exposed to the possibilities for farming. Given that the average age of farmers in South Africa is 56, the next 10 years will be crucial in drawing in the next generation of farmers.

The 2nd Agri Gauteng Expo was held on 7-9th August where 5 – 6000 youth attended. 2 students will receive training from DFA.

https://www.foodformzansi.co.za/agriculture-is-a-gateway-for-rural-and-urban-youth/?fbclid=IwAR28qN7T_Ei1Rxcljd-NWMqg42xDw5U4SmuNZDpRnrpYoLOj00_IPzdYrOg

The media is always full of stories and information on aquaculture and fisheries, some good and some worrying for the survival of fish, fisheries and the oceans and rivers.

There has recently been some great news for Lesotho as a USD\$200 million Salmon is to be implemented there. This will open up new feed plant, research facilities, awareness of the environment, create skills and jobs in the region. The company will bring other economic, social and health benefits to Lesotho.

Stock

Oreochromis mossambicus “Blou Kurper” and Tilapia coptodon “Rooibors Kurper”

For stock of indigenous species please contact us and we will source or refer you to the nearest supplier(s). These stocks would be specifically for stocking of farm dams, aquaponics systems and garden ponds. Please bear in mind that the environment must be suited to the species, especially with regards to temperature. These are all warm water species and temperatures should never go below 22 Degrees Celsius to ensure survival of your stock. Permits are required for all species. See our permit application information and email. Speak to both the National and Provincial Departments of Environmental Affairs and Fisheries.

Industry News

Food for thought

This short-animated video is what drives us to farm more fish. A little outdated in terms of how much fish is being used to farm fish. Innovation in systems, technology, feed, fishing and processing all add to reducing fish caught, waste in processing, better growth rates, lower FCR's and cleaner farmed environments and fish.

Ending overfishing

<https://app.getpocket.com/read/260960861>

Contact Us

Please contact us if you need any assistance with your fish farming projects, purchase of Aquaculture Production Units or fingerlings, or if you would like to visit the farm in Muldersdrift, Johannesburg. Please contact us if you require training.

The next training week will be from the 30th September to the 3 October 2019

Follow us on these social media platforms:

LinkedIn

- <https://www.linkedin.com/in/david-fincham-57146042/>

Facebook

- <https://www.facebook.com/AgriAquaAfrica/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/TilapiaFarmingcom>

The DFA Team

August 2019

(this email has been sent to you as at one time you engaged with Rydawi or David Fincham Aquaculture. If you no longer wish to receive our monthly newsletter let us know)

Tel: 27 82 048 3382/011 431 1237

Map Available Here too! Google Earth and Google Maps - David Fincham Aquaculture

Plot 219, Incolae Road or Ibis Drive Roodepoort, Off Beyers Naude Muldersdrift.

<http://www.tilapiafarming.co.za>

Note this is the farm location

The factory **Rydawi** is in Selby and visits are by appointment with William Kelly.

