



Ideal crawfish ponds are shallow. Most are 12 to 30 inches deep. Often they are constructed by pushing up low levees in poorly drained soil. The pond size, design and access should be compatible with farm equipment required to manage the forage crop

Aquaculture

By
Johnny Foster
UNC Sea Grant

Crayfish, crawfish, mudbugs or crawdads. Regardless of what you call them, they are not just for the Louisiana Cajuns anymore. Crawfish farms are springing up in Texas, California and South Carolina. And several people in North Carolina are looking into crawfish culture.

Crawfish are not fish at all. They are freshwater crustaceans related to crabs, lobster and shrimp. Crawfish look like small lobsters but their flavor resembles shrimp. Only the crawfish tail is eaten.

Louisiana is undoubtedly the crawfish capital of the world. They have over 55,000 acres of crawfish culture ponds. Additionally, commercial fishermen catch 30 to 60 million pounds of crawfish per year from natural waters.

Demand for crawfish greatly exceeds supply and is continuing to grow. In 1980 Texas has about 3,000 acres of crawfish ponds. California had just begun culturing crawfish and now sells specially bred brood stock. South Carolina had about 40 acres in production and that is expanding.

I talked to Jack Whetstone, the Sea Grant advisory service agent in Georgetown, S.C. He provides information to aquaculturists. He has been overwhelmed with requests for crawfish farming information this summer.

According to Whetstone people are doing more cropping rice and corn. Some people are retrofitting existing ponds to produce crawfish. He says producers in his area are planting rice and brotup millet on the pond bottoms as food for the crawfish.

planted on the pond bottom. Adult brood crawfish are purchased and stocked in the flooded ponds in May or June. Usually about 40 to 50 pounds of adult crawfish are stocked per acre. Once stocked, the animals burrow into the mud. Then the water should be gradually drained about the first of July. The crawfish reproduce in the burrows over the summer.

Weeds and grass can be allowed to grow on the pond bottom. But a planted crop like rice, clover or millet increases production dramatically. The young crawfish will feed on the decaying plants after the pond is reflooded. Catfish feed, spoiled hay or grain by-products can be used for supplemental food.

The pond should be gradually refilled throughout the month of September. Well water is best for filling the ponds. But surface water can be used if it is free of pesticides and pollution. The water should be filtered through a small mesh bag to exclude fish, eggs and predators.

After refilling, the baby crawfish emerge from the burrows and begin feeding. They will be ready to harvest during the winter and early spring. Baited traps made from chickenware usually are used for harvesting. Ponds can be expected to produce up to 800 pounds of crawfish per acre each year without having to stock or brood animals. About 40 to 50 pounds of harvested crawfish are packed tightly into a mesh onion sack and delivered to the processing plant.

For processing at home, simply boil a gallon of water for each two pounds of crawfish. You may add

seasonings and vegetables to the water. Add the live crawfish. Once water boils, cook for five to ten minutes. Remove the pot from the heat and let it sit for ten to fifteen minutes. Refrigerate those crawfish that will not be eaten immediately.

To eat the crawfish, gently break the tail from the rest of the animal. Plan to cook about four pounds of live crawfish per person.

I have mentioned the highlights of crawfish farming. It remains to be seen if our growing season is long enough to produce edible size crawfish. Certainly we can produce bait size crawfish. But first, the potential markets must be investigated thoroughly.

NEWS OF STAMPS

Roses Bloom On Israeli Postage

Some of the hundreds of varieties of roses that bloom in profusion in the land of Israel also decorate the country's postage stamps.



Just three varieties of the many roses that bloom in profusion in Israel are seen on these three issues of the country's postage stamps.

Health Department Schedule

- October 6 - Eye Clinic A.M. — Family Planning P.M.
- October 7 - Multiphasic Clinic all day.
- October 8 - General Clinic P.M. — WIC all day.
- October 11 - Child Health all day.
- October 12 - Prenatal Clinic P.M.
- October 13 - Family Planning Clinic P.M.
- October 15 - General Clinic P.M.
- October 19 - Pediatric Clinic - Child Health P.M.
- October 22 General P.M. — WIC all day.
- October 25 - Child Health All day.
- October 26 - Orthopedic Clinic A.M. — Prenatal P.M.
- October 27 - Family Planning all day.
- October 29 - General Clinic P.M.

First Congressional District Democratic Party, Oct. 15

The First Congressional District Democratic Party Rally will be held October 15, 1982, Bill Hodges announced today. Hodges is the chairman of the First Democratic district.

The rally, to be held at King's Restaurant, Highway 70 East, Kinston, at 7 P.M., will feature Gov. James B. Hunt, Jr., and Rep. Walter B. Jones as the speakers.

"Gov. Hunt is coming to the First district to remind all of us just how important it is for Democrats to be elected this fall," Hodges said. "The people we elect to Congress will be deciding the fate of Social Security in January. They will be facing votes that will make the difference in whether or not the employment rate in this area will get back to something reasonable," Hodges said.

In addition to the speaker, the rally will include a \$6 a person dinner. Tickets for the dinner may be purchased from Chowan, Mrs. Lueta C. Sellers County Democratic Party Chairman.

The "ears" of a cricket are on its legs. Each front leg has a drumlike membrane that vibrates when sound waves strike it.

North Carolina State Receives \$250,000 Grant

By Mary N. Yionoulis
North Carolina State University's School of Engineering has received a \$250,000 grant from the Structural Dynamics Research Corporation (SDRC). The funds will purchase computer software that will be used in developing a pilot computer graphics system for evaluating and analyzing structures, systems and machines in the design state.

The software, which has rapid analysis and testing capabilities, will be acquired over the next five years and will enhance the school's efforts in computer-aided engineering (CAE) teaching and research.

The project is under the direction of Dr. Thomas H. Hodgson, director of the Center for Sound and Vibration in the Department of Mechanical and

Aerospace Engineering, and Dr. Allen C. Eberhardt, director of the department's Undergraduate Design Laboratory. The project co-directors have begun work with the staff of the NCSU Computing Center to get the pilot system operational on the university's computer system.

The five-year grant has been made under SDRC's University Program, established to encourage development of computer-aided engineering curricula and facilities at major universities.

"We are pleased to have been accepted as part of this program supported by SDRC, a world leader in the field of structural analysis," Hodgson said. "This gift will help us to enhance our CAE teaching and research programs, giving our students an opportunity to become familiar with new

and powerful computer techniques." Eberhardt explained that by using computer models to evaluate the soundness of a new design prior to building a prototype for testing, engineers can speed up the design stage, saving time and costs in the product development process.

"The explosion in computer-aided engineering for structural analysis can be compared with the impact the invention of the transistor had for the electronics industry," Hodgson said. "It is vital that N.C. State be in the fore-front of this growing technology."

Historians say the word "Yankee," meaning an American, comes from the Dutch word for "pirate," which the settler's in New Amsterdam (now New York) applied to their shrewd New England neighbors.

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