

News Article
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Grow Your Own Catfish

To me there are not many things that taste as good as fresh fried or grilled catfish. And while you can go out to a restaurant and spend eight bucks or more for a couple little dried up fillets, why not raise your own. After all, the only thing better than two catfish fillets are three catfish fillets and if you grow your own, you can literally have “all you can eat”.

As part of our Coosa County Extension “Grow Your Own” short course, this month we will be covering “Raising Catfish in Ponds and in Cages”. The program will be held on Monday, March 16th at the 4-H Club House in Hanover. The program will run from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. There is a \$5 registration fee and we ask that participants please register by calling 256-377-4713 so we can prepare the correct number of handouts.

Catfish can be raised in the open pond or in cages and each has its’ advantages. I have personally raised catfish in cages in my bass and bream pond. This makes a nice compliment since the feed provided to the catfish also fertilizes the pond which improves the bass and bream growth. On top of that you can dip or catch fish out of the cage whenever you want for a nice tasty meal. You can also sell the catfish raised in the cages to individuals or wholesale haulers.

The other nice thing about raising catfish is that unlike most other livestock that you must feed every day, with catfish if you go off for the weekend, don’t worry, they won’t starve to death. Also, raising fish does not require a lot of equipment or fencing like other livestock – of course it does help to have a pond. So come learn about this enjoyable and fun home enterprise.