OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD, AND FORESTRY

2800 N. Lincoln Boulevard, Oklahoma City, OK 73105-4912

PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Aquaculture Workshop set for Feb. 27

Is fish farming for you?

The Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry (ODAFF) will explain its aquaculture regulations at the Aquaculture Workshop hosted by Langston University in room 105 of the Allied Health Center on the main campus in Langston, Oklahoma. The workshop will be Saturday, Feb. 27, with registration at 8 a.m. and the first session beginning at 9 a.m.

The workshop will focus on increasing interest in aquaponics production, processing and marketing. Presentations on aquaculture and aquaponics will highlight business opportunities in this popular and unusual type of farming. Aquaculture is believed to be the fastest growing sector of global food production.

Experts at Langston University receive thousands of calls about fish farming, with the most popular question being, "Are there profits to be made in aquaculture?" Experts at the Aquaculture Workshop will address that topic and many others in the all-day conference. The right natural resources, management techniques and capital needed for investment in the enterprise will be discussed.

Dr. Alicia Gorczyca-Southerland supervises ODAFF's aquaculture program. Her presentation will cover the process of applying for a license to operate an aquaculture facility including which species are permitted and appropriate. She will also provide resources to educate attendees on nuisance species and restricted fish rules.

"ODAFF regulates aquaculture operations to ensure restricted fish species do not enter native Oklahoma water ways and to provide assurance to the consumer that the fish they are purchasing are free of reportable diseases," according to Dr. Gorczyca-Southerland.

For more information about the Oklahoma Aquaculture Program, please see http://www.ag.ok.gov/ais/aquaculture.htm.

Langston University is located 12 miles east of Guthrie on OK Highway 33. Attendees will be directed to the meeting site with Aquaculture Workshop signs. Registration and attendance is free. A catfish lunch will be available for $10 with advanced registration or you may bring your lunch. Register by contacting George Luker, Aquaculture Specialist, at gluker@langston.edu, or (405) 466-3077.

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Suggested Photo Caption:
Employees sort catfish by size in a study conducted by Langston University's Aquaculture Program.