

Aquatic Research Facility Update

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In the spring of 2007, adult golden shiners
Notemigonus crysoleucas were stocked in the
six ponds.

The objectives of the project at the Aquatic
Research Facility (ARF) this year were: 1) to
evaluate growth of fry in ponds using two
fertilization regimes, combination of organic
and inorganic vs. only organic, and 2) to
evaluate diet selection of fry in ponds using
these two fertilization regimes organic.

To accomplish these objectives, 360 broodstock
fish, total weight per pond of 4.2 kg, were
stocked in each pond (25.2 kg total weight for
all fish). The fish were then allowed to spawn
naturally on spawning mats that were staked on
the edge of the pond slightly below the water
surface.

After the spawning activity concluded, the
broodstock were left in the pond with the
resulting fry. All fish in the six ponds were then
cultured for 210 days from the beginning of
May until the end of November.

The ponds were then harvested at the end of
November and all fish were weighed, counted,
and measured. A total of 260 kg (106,125 fish)
were harvested from this experiment,
approximately 10-fold increase in fish biomass.

As a final note, the bentonite application last
year has seemed to fix the leaking ponds. The
application was applied to pond 1 through 5;
pond 6 did not leak. This year it was noted that
pond 6 developed a leak. In the spring of 2008,
bentonite will be applied to pond 6.

The next research project will be initiated in
spring of 2008 with additional research being
conducted on a new year class of golden
shiners.

You can find more information about the
facility at <http://www.nrem.iastate.edu/arf/>.