

## CHANNEL CATFISH

Channel Catfish are spawned at the Pratt Hatchery, and usually 500,000 of these fry are stocked into ponds at Farlington. At stocking, the fish are so small it takes 10,000 - 12,000 fish to weigh a pound. The small fish are fed an artificial diet throughout summer and harvested either in the fall or the following spring. During the time the channel catfish are here, they are checked for parasites and diseases at two-week intervals. The water in the ponds is also tested to ensure the fish have a proper environment. Farlington produces about 350,000 channel catfish fingerlings each year. That equates to between 17,000 - 20,000 pounds of 4 to 7-inch fish. In addition to Farlington, the hatcheries at Pratt and Milford raise channel catfish fingerlings.

Most of the fingerlings produced are held over winter for a second year of growth. Once they have reached a 1/4 - 1/3 of a pound during their second year, the channel catfish are stocked into lakes all over the state of Kansas. Farlington does not produce any of the larger fish.



## BLUE CATFISH

Blue catfish fry are obtained from the state of Arkansas for production of fingerlings. Sometime in May, the fry are picked up and brought into the fish house, where they are placed in a small raceway. The fry are kept indoors for seven to 10 days until they develop a good feeding response to the artificial diet. The fry are then stocked into production ponds and fed the remainder of the summer. Production numbers vary due to changing requests and availability of the fry from Arkansas. Past production has been as high as 160,000 fish weighing more than 17,000 thousand pounds.



## COME VISIT US

The Farlington Fish Hatchery is open year-round. Tours are available upon request.

**TO SCHEDULE A VISIT  
CONTACT THE HATCHERY AT**

(620) 362-4166

or email [randy.nelson@ksoutdoors.com](mailto:randy.nelson@ksoutdoors.com)

or write Farlington Fish Hatchery

101 Hatchery Rd.

Farlington, KS 66734

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# FARLINGTON FISH HATCHERY



***Serving Kansas  
Anglers For More  
Than 40 Years***

**Kansas**  
Department of Wildlife, Parks  
and Tourism





## HATCHERY HISTORY

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service built the Farlington Fish Hatchery, starting in 1939. World War II delayed construction, and the hatchery was completed in the late 1940s. The Service operated the hatchery until 1969. The hatchery was turned over to the state of Kansas in 1971.

The Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism has operated the hatchery since 1973. The department has three other fish hatcheries located at Meade, Milford, Pratt, and operates a rearing pond at Woodson State Fishing Lake.



## THE HATCHERY TODAY

Several buildings are located on the hatchery, the most important being the fish house. This is where fish are held for various reasons. Some may be held for treatment of diseases, while others are held until they are ready to be transferred into the spawning ponds. The fish house also holds the hatching and training areas and water filter. Three permanent employees staff the hatchery.

There are currently 30 individual culture ponds at the hatchery. Each pond is drained and filled independently. Water is supplied from Crawford State Fishing Lake through a 14-inch siphon line. There are approximately 3 miles of underground water supply lines supporting the needs of the hatchery. When the ponds are drained, water is released into the West Fork of Drywood Creek.

There are essentially three production seasons at the hatchery: spring, summer, and winter. The species of fish produced in the spring months (April – June) are fingerling (1 – 1.5-inch fish) walleye, saugeye, sauger, striped bass, wiper, and largemouth bass. Also, late March and early April is when we are hatching eggs of walleye, sauger, and saugeye. In the summer (July-October), hybrid sunfish, redear sunfish, wiper, channel catfish and blue catfish are produced.

Farlington uses grass carp to control vegetation in some of the production ponds. From time to time, Farlington will produce fathead minnows, or Koi, as forage for other fish in the state hatchery system. During the winter months (November – March), we hold adult and fingerling sunfish, grass carp and channel catfish fingerlings for second-year production.



## WIPERS

Also known as hybrid striped bass a wiper is an artificially-produced hybrid from striped bass females and white bass males. Production of this hybrid begins with pond filling and fertilization in the spring, usually late April. Ponds are fertilized with organic materials such as alfalfa pellets and occasionally old fish food or soybean meal. The organic fertilizers promote the production of tiny aquatic animals called zooplankton, which the young fish feed on.

Wiper fry are produced at the Milford Hatchery to be stocked into our ponds and grown to fingerling size. The wiper fry are about four days old when they arrive in late April to early May, and are immediately released into the ponds. They feed on zooplankton and are harvested approximately 35 days after stocking. At harvest, the fingerling fish are 1 to 1.5 inches long. Most of the fish are stocked directly into lakes and reservoirs across the state.

Some fingerling wipers are kept in the fish house at the facility and are trained to accept an artificial diet. Once training is complete, they are moved back out to ponds where they are fed an artificial diet. At harvest in September, the fish are 7 to 10 inches long and are released into lakes across the state.

The Farlington Fish Hatchery produces 200,000 - 300,000 wiper fingerlings and 6,000 - 8,000 advanced fish each year.