



Economics of Aquaculture in West Virginia

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What?

To provide industry with aquaculture-related economic and financial information ...



Why?



To better understand the economics underlying various aspects of aquaculture in hill country:

- Production
- Processing
- Waste disposal
- Alternative species
- Alternative production systems
- Alternative water sources
- Economic development



How?

- ◆ Surveys
- ◆ Case studies
- ◆ Basic economic and financial models
(data: primary and secondary sources)



Whom?

- Producers
- Processors
- Policy Makers

What did we find out?

- ◆ Trout production is risky, but can be profitable (production system, FCR, & size → key variables)
- ◆ Low-volume trout processing can be profitable (product mix → key variable)
- ◆ Economies of size → in production & in processing
- ◆ Specialization: high return -- but high risk
- ◆ Diversification (selling to a variety of outlets) → useful risk-reducing strategy

So What & What Next???

- ◆ Is aquaculture profitable in hill country?
- ◆ Key factors affecting profitability?
- ◆ Conditions under which:
 - production is profitable;
 - processing is profitable; &
 - sustainable growth & economic development can result
- ◆ Tradeoffs between risk and profitability.
- ◆ Expand to other species, water sources, etc.
- ◆ Address info needs of industry
- ◆ Address info needs of policy makers