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Fall 2003

The NCRAC Newsletter

from the North Central Regional Aquaculture Center (NCRAC)

From the Director's Office

Welcome to the Fall 2003 issue of the North Central Regional Aquaculture Center's (NCRAC) Newsletter. We hope that all of you engaged in aquaculture-related activities have found 2003 to be a good year.

On February 7-9, 2003, NCRAC held its annual program planning meeting in East Lansing, Michigan. At this meeting, the Industry Advisory Council (IAC), with input from the Technical Committee (TC), developed a prioritized list of selected topics based on the Center's white papers. This prioritized list was presented to the NCRAC Board of Directors, who after careful deliberation, approved development of two new project areas. One was on nutrition and the other on aquaculture drugs. The nutrition project is to be a 2-year undertaking with up to \$200,000 in funding. The project will be looking at cost-effective fish meal-free diets for hybrid striped bass and yellow perch. If approved by USDA, work will begin September 1, 2004.

The Board also allocated up to \$235,000 for the studies and documentation that would be required by FDA's Center for Veterinary Medicine for the approval of at least one new aquaculture drug. The top priority drug, as suggested by the IAC, was 17 α -methyltestosterone and the second was Aqvi-S. All of the drug-related activities are to be coordinated and overseen by Roz Schnick, the National Coordinator for Aquaculture New Animal Drug Applications. The funds will be "fast-tracked" so that efforts may start as soon as possible pending USDA approval.

I also have a great piece of news, and that is that the Regional Aquaculture Center (RAC) program received an increase in this year's funding from the federal government. What an

accomplishment under these tight budgetary times. For the last 10 years, the RAC program has been funded at \$4 million per year. Those funds are equally divided by USDA among the five regional centers. This year the RAC program has received \$4.5 million, a 12.5% increase! That increase is due to the efforts of a number of people, but I especially want to thank Fred Binkowski, who played an important role in obtaining this increase. Thanks Fred, and thanks also to Mike Blizek, Curtis Harrison, and Bob Calala who have supported the RAC program either through written testimony or direct contacts with federal legislators.

As always, please feel free to contact either myself or Joe Morris, the Associate Director at Iowa State University, if you need assistance, wish to make comments, or voice your concerns. You can find our phone and fax numbers as well as our e-mail addresses on the inside back cover of this newsletter.

I'd also like to encourage you to visit our Web site at <http://ag.ansc.purdue/aquanic/ncrac> for additional information about the Center and on-line access to almost all of our publications including annual progress reports, fact sheets, technical bulletins, newsletters, and white papers.

Sincerely,

Ted Batterson, Director

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National News

STATUS OF DRUG APPROVAL FOR 17 α -METHYLTESTOSTERONE

Prepared by Roz Schnick, National Coordinator for Aquaculture New Animal Drug Applications

BACKGROUND

The drug, 17 α -methyltestosterone (MT), is needed to manipulate the gender of a variety of fish (e.g., tilapia, percids, sunfish, salmonids, esocids, ornamental fish, etc.) used in aquaculture. In 1995, Auburn University gained an Investigational New Animal Drug (INAD) exemption for generating data on MT for tilapia. Rangen, Inc. became the manufacturer and potential New Animal Drug Application (NADA) sponsor of MT medicated feed. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM) must accept as complete a set of six technical sections to obtain a NADA approval. These include (1) Product Chemistry, (2) Mammalian Safety, (3) Environmental Safety, (4) Human Food Safety, (5) Target Animal Safety, and (6) Efficacy. Under the INAD, Auburn University (1) collected the efficacy data generated on tilapia, (2) wrote and submitted reports on efficacy and target animal safety on MT for tilapia, and (3) wrote and submitted an environmental assessment for tilapia in regard to environmental safety. Rangen, Inc. prepared and submitted a Product Chemistry Technical Section (PCTS). After reviewing the submitted technical sections, CVM requested (1) a final report and Freedom of Information summary on the efficacy and target animal safety data on MT for tilapia, (2) a series of stability studies under the PCTS and a more accurate analytical method in feed, and (3) a biodegradation study under the Environmental Safety Technical Section and a more accurate analytical method in water. CVM also stated that the requested analytical methods needed to be developed and approved before any of the stability or biodegradation studies were undertaken.

Previously, NCRAC had authorized (1) \$5,000 for Auburn University to help complete the environmental assessment on MT for use in tilapia and (2) \$27,000 for Southern Illinois University-Carbondale and the University of Wisconsin-Madison to complete target animal safety and efficacy studies on percids, respectively. It became apparent to NCRAC, Auburn University, Rangen, Inc., and U.S. producers of the various fish species, which need MT for commercial aquaculture production, that more funding was needed to complete an original NADA.

CURRENT ACTION

As noted on Page 1 NCRAC's Board authorized up to \$235,000 for activities that would lead to the approval efforts for aquaculture drugs of high priority to producers in the North Central Region. The National Coordinator for Aquaculture New Animal Drug Applications (National NADA Coordinator), with members of NCRAC's IAC and TC, identified the remaining data requirements that are impeding approval of MT for an original NADA approval in tilapia. The NCRAC Board also indicated that if the requirements for an original approval on tilapia were completed, then other studies could be conducted that would gain supplemental NADA approvals of MT for sunfish and other species of interest to the NCR (i.e., hybrid striped bass, trout, percids, and esocids). The National NADA Coordinator and the NCRAC Director were charged by the NCRAC Board to develop a Call for Statements of Interest for the needed studies and proceed with selecting one or more participants to complete the objectives as soon as possible. A Call for Statements of Interest has been produced and distributed throughout the aquaculture industry; deadline for submission was September 26, 2003. Individuals who would like more information on these objectives or have questions on technical issues are directed to contact Rosalie (Roz) Schnick, National Coordinator for Aquaculture New Animal Drug Applications, Michigan State University, 3039 Edgewater Lane, La Crosse, Wisconsin 54603-1088; phone: (608) 781-2205; fax: (608) 783-3507; e-mail: RozSchnick@centurytel.net.

New Fact Sheets on Yellow Perch Diseases

The Virginia Cooperative Extension Service now has two fact sheets available that assist aquaculturists in identifying and treating various diseases in yellow perch. The first fact sheet provides a general overview of common signs and causes of disease in yellow perch. This document also includes some general information on disease prevention and control.

Continued on page 3

The second fact sheet deals specifically with *Trichodina* and associated diseases that are common parasites of yellow perch. In addition to identification, control and prevention are presented.

Both of these fact sheets are available at www.cfast.vt.edu (go to the Publication section, archived News subsection).

(source: *CFAST Newsletter*, volume 6, Issue 3, December 2002)

News Fact Sheet on Herbicide Applications

A new fact sheet that focuses on herbicide safety, technology, and application techniques has been produced by the Southern Regional Aquaculture Center (SRAC). The information in this fact sheet is important to aquaculturists because only six of 200 registered herbicides are labeled for use in U.S. aquaculture. This fact sheet as well as many others can be found at the SRAC Web site. <http://www.msstate.edu/dept/srac/>

Regional News

New Sunfish Culture Guide

A recent addition to the NCRAC Culture Series has now been completed. The Sunfish Culture Guide is a 102-page manual that was edited and written by Joe Morris and Chuck Mischke, Iowa State University, and Don Garling, Michigan State University. The 12 chapters in this text cover various aspects of sunfish culture including, in part, culture methods, hybridization, fish health, and fee-fishing.

This publication is available as a 3-hole punch insert (EDC-0263) for \$25.85 (\$19 plus \$6.85 shipping and handling) from ISU University Extension Distribution. The cost for international shipment is \$34 (\$19 plus \$15 shipping and handling). To purchase this publication contact:

ISU Extension Distribution
119 Printing and Publications Office
Ames, IA, 5011-3171
Telephone: (515) 294-5247 / Fax: (515) 294-2945
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Web site: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/pages/pubs/order.html>

Ohio Aquaculture Status Report (2002)

A status report of the Ohio Aquaculture Industry is now available at <http://southcenters.osu.edu/aqua/pubs.htm>. The Ohio Cooperative Development Center, with assistance from the Aquaculture Program at the OSU South Centers, and the Ohio Aquaculture Association, conducted a mail survey to assess the aquaculture industry in Ohio. According to this study, Ohio's aquaculture industry, estimated to be total annual net profit of \$1,340,000, is comprised of mostly small family operations across the state.

In addition to the above publication, various fact sheets, slide sets, as well as links to various aquaculture sites are listed.

Culture Series CD Availability

In an effort to better serve our industry, the NCRAC Publications Office has made available CD versions of either the Walleye Culture Manual or the Sunfish Culture Guide. The cost for either CD is \$15, which includes shipping and handling costs.

To purchase these CDs contact:

Iowa State University
NCRAC Publications Office
Department of Natural Resource Ecology and Management
253 Bessey
Ames, Iowa 50011-1021
Telephone: (515) 294-5280 / Fax: (515) 294-2995
E-mail: ncrac@iastate.edu

2004 American Heartland Aquaculture Conference

A 2-day conference is being planned by Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky and Missouri Aquaculture Associations for January 9 and 10, 2004 in Whittington, Illinois. This conference will include tours, presentations as well as networking opportunities with other aquaculturists. Registration will be either \$50 (membership in one of these four state associations) or \$65 (non-members); pre-registration deadline is December 19, 2003. For more details on this conference, contact one of the following: Dan Selock - Illinois (618-536-4451), Bob Lyons - Indiana (219-275-4775), Dan Bonk - Kentucky(270-382-3100) or Bart Hawcroft - Missouri (866-466-8283).

Editor's Corner

Please contact my office if there is anything that you would like to see covered, or if you have any stories or pictures that you would like to share with the NCRAC community.

Talk to Us

NCRAC wants to hear from you. Tell us who you are and what you would like to see in the NCRAC Newsletter. If you are a new reader and want to be added to our mailing list, complete the form below and mail to:

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