



Pond Grow-out of Freshwater Prawn with Different Feed Protein Levels

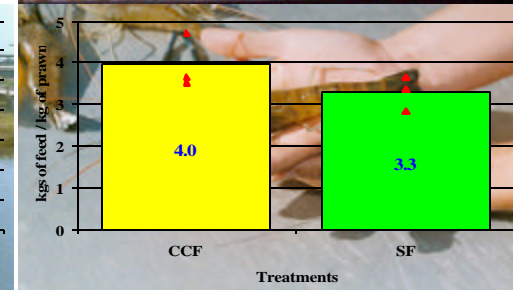
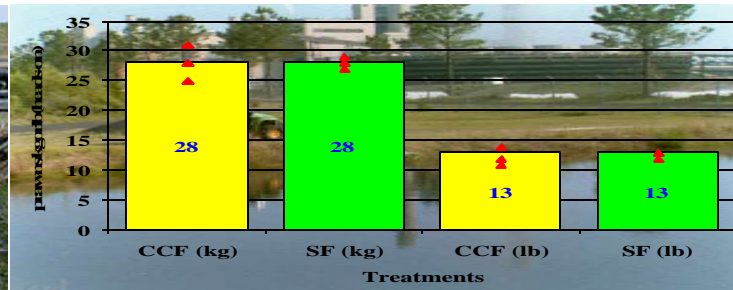
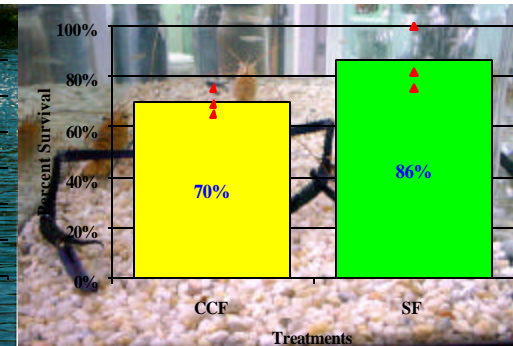
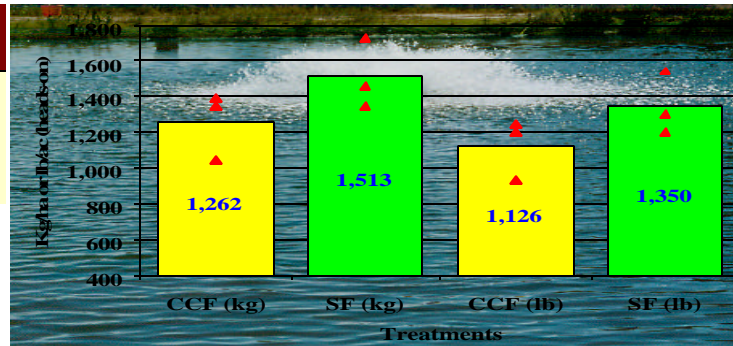
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Six ponds consisting of 3 control ponds and 3 treatment ponds were used in the experiment. Each pond was stocked in June 16, 2001 with 5,000 30-day-old juveniles weighing 0.15 g each and harvested after 120 culture days. For the control ponds, prawns were fed with 32% protein sinking pelletized catfish feed (CCF32) from day 31 until harvest time. The 3 treatment ponds were fed with 35% protein sinking pelletized shrimp feed (SF35) from day 31 until harvest time. Feeding schedules were prepared for 3 feeding periods: first 30 days, second 30 days and last 60 days. A daily ration of cottonseed meal was provided during the first 30 days at a rate of 20 lb/acre. Feed was broadcast along 4 sides of each of each pond 2 times daily, around 8-9 A.M. and 4-5 P.M. Dissolved oxygen and temperature were monitored daily while salinity, pH, ammonia and nitrite were measured on a biweekly basis. The use of higher feed protein levels in experimental prawn pond grow-out production led to significantly higher prawn yields. Prawn yield in ponds fed with CCF32 averaged 1,126 lb/ac or 1,262 kg/ha while ponds provided with SF35 produced 1,350 lb/ac or 1,513 kg/ha. Although prawn count was similar in both treatments, survival rates were higher in ponds fed with the experimental shrimp diet. Using these experimental results in a hypothetical single-enterprise commercial freshwater prawn farm consisting of 50, 2-acre ponds, the average cost of production is about \$2.80/lb or \$6.20/kg, if prawns are fed with CCF32. Despite the higher cost of SF35, the average cost of production if prawns are fed with this feed is about \$2.65/lb or \$5.80/kg.

TREATMENT	DAYS 1-30	DAYS 31-60	DAYS 61-120
A	CSM	CCF 32	CCF 32
B	CSM	SF 35	SF 35

CSM - COTTON SEED MEAL
 CCF - CHANNEL CATFISH FEED, SINKING, PELLET
 SF - SHRIMP FEED, SINKING, PELLET
 Both diets were manufactured by the Land O'Lakes Farmland Feed



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