

# Survey of Midwest Aquaculture Buildings

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Recently, the North Central Regional Aquaculture Center (NCRAC) awarded a grant to Purdue University for a one year study of aquaculture building here in the Midwest. Titled “Field Assessment of Design and Operation on Midwestern Aquaculture Buildings”, this study is the start of what we hope will ultimately be recommendations/designs for future construction or rehabilitation. For this study, Dr. Al Heber (Purdue University Ag and Biological Engineering) and I will be visiting five (5) existing aquaculture operation here in the Midwest to collect data about the operation in both summer and winter conditions. We intend to research existing aquaculture buildings environmental controls. Research results will be compared with standard engineering principles to determine some Best Management Practices (BMP’s) for building designed for aquaculture operations.

In order to select the five best operations to study, we are surveying as many as possible in the NCRAC region. Information such as species and production level, to building parameters such as insulation level, construction materials and heating/ventilation type will be used in the selection process. If you would be interested in participating in this study, please contact Al Heber ([heber@purdue.edu](mailto:heber@purdue.edu)) or myself ([rrode@purdue.edu](mailto:rrode@purdue.edu)) for a copy of the initial survey to be selected. We would like to receive these in December 2016 so that we can start visits in January 2017. Not only will you be helping the future of the industry here in the Midwest but your farm would be the beneficiary of valuable information to help improve your own operation (or someone you know).

Article submitted on December 2, 2016