

For immediate release

Farmers from Around the Region Gather in Pewaukee for 16th Annual Wisconsin Aquaculture Conference

Pewaukee, WI - Fish Farmers from around the state and Midwest will be attending the 16th Wisconsin Aquaculture Conference, set for March 11 & 12 at the Country Springs Hotel in Pewaukee, WI. Each year the WAA puts on the Wisconsin Aquaculture Conference, the largest in the 8 states area, in order to bring local and national experts together to share their knowledge with fish farmers and others in the aquaculture field. Sessions at this year's conference will cover topics including marketing, aquaponics, feeding, culture methods, and propagation of the wide variety of fish species that are raised in the region. In addition to the speakers, there will also be a Trade Show with vendors representing companies from across the country who offer products including equipment, feeds, and other resources valuable to raising fish. According to recent reports, commercially raised fish is set to become a larger part of the world's economy and this conference will help fish farmers become part of this growing trend.

This 2-day event will highlight several out of state speakers, including Dr. Gary Jensen ("USDA and US Aquaculture - A Look Back and Glimpse Forward"), Dan Deisenroth ("Economic Impact of Private Recreational Aquaculture Industry"), Dr. Robert Kim ("Current Status of VHS in the US") and Henry Clifford ("Genetically Modified Salmon: Facts & Myths"). Additionally, information on the new "Consumer Guide to Wisconsin Fish", a collaborative effort between UW-Ex and DATCP, will be presented. This guide is meant to help consumers make good healthy choices in selecting fish for their meals. Included in the lineup are several Wisconsin farmers presenting firsthand knowledge about their farms and experiences.

The registration fee of \$130 (\$100 for Association members) also includes a filleting demo, followed by the ever popular and delicious Fish Cooking Demonstration presented by Dani Klontz of Idaho, using Wisconsin Fresh and Local Farm Raised Fish. Christine Lindner, the 63rd Alice in Dairyland, will be on hand to talk about the importance of Aquaculture in Wisconsin; and announce the annual Wisconsin Schools Poster Contest Winners. Preregistration is strongly encouraged.

Location: Country Springs Hotel and Waterpark, 2810 Golf Road, Pewaukee, WI, 262-547-0201, mention Wisconsin Aquaculture Conference when making reservations. Special conference rates are available...

Contacts: To register for the conference and for a conference brochure with lodging information, contact Cindy Johnson, Wisconsin Aquaculture Association, 715-373-2990 or email Cindy@WisconsinAquaculture.com. You may also register online at www.WisconsinAquaculture.com, and click on "Shop Now". For additional conference information contact Ron Johnson, UW-Ex, Aquaculture Outreach Specialist at 715-779-3189.

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Interviews: There will be photo opportunities and time available for an interview with Christine Lindner, the 63rd Alice in Dairyland, following her talk on Friday, March 11. Interviews with WAA officers and industry leaders can be arranged.