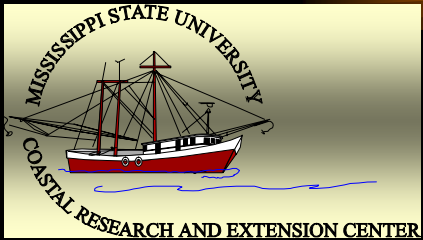


*Cost of Producing Freshwater Prawns  
Macrobrachium rosenbergii  
in Mississippi Ponds*



**Benedict C. Posadas, Assistant Economist, MSU-CREC**  
(<http://www.msstate.edu/dept/crec/fwpres.html>)

*Objectives:*

- **Develop hypothetical farms:**
  - single-enterprise
  - single stocking
  - single harvesting
- **Compare costs**
  - stocking densities
  - yields



## *Data Sources*

- **3-year pond grow-out experiments:**
  - **MSU-Coastal Aquaculture Unit**  
(<http://www.msstate.edu/dept/crec/caumain.html>)
- **Pond design, construction & operation:**
  - **Mississippi Delta, Black Belt Area, Coastal Area**

## *Single-enterprise Farm*



- **25 two-water-acre ponds**
- **harvesting sumps**
- **aeration equipment**
- **feeding equipment**
- **well & pump**
- **weed control equipment**
- **truck & storage building**

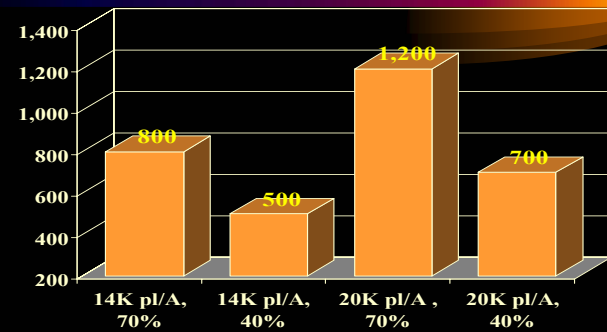
## Pond Construction Cost



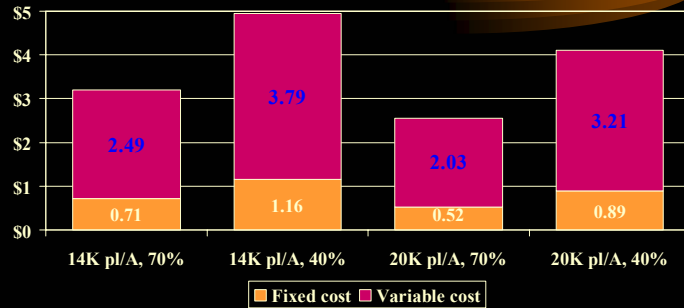
- Earth moving (adjacent ponds)
- Drainage structure
- Gravel
- Vegetative cover

**\$57,084 per farm,  
\$2,283 per pond or  
\$1,142 per water acre**

## Freshwater Prawn Yields (Pounds, heads-on per water acre)



## Average Production Costs (Per pound, heads-on)

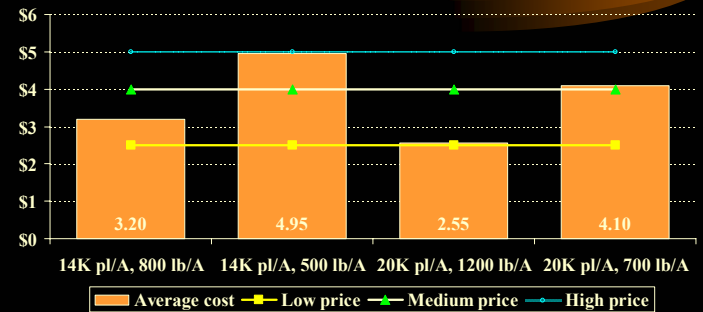


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## Farm-Gate Prices (Per pound, heads-on)



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## *Conclusions*



- The cost of PL's ranged from \$0.75 to \$1.25 per pound, about 1/3 of total variable costs.
- What is the optimal stocking density?
- What is the limit to a pond's holding capacity?