## Recommendations (fish/acre)

Bluegill: 400

Largemouth Bass: 200

Crappie: 100

Catfish: 100-200

Triploid Grass Carp: 12-18

Hybrid Bluegill: 100-200

Fathead Minnows: at least 5lbs/100 bass

(Customized recommendations can be given according to the needs of a personal pond.)

### THE TRADITION CONTINUES

Clear Creek Fisheries was established in 1934 by George and Paul Hess. The fisheries was 75 acres of swamp land before the natural springs were taken advantage of and developed into ponds. George and Paul began digging the ponds with a horse and slip scoop, along with a wheel barrel and shovel. George was the first of now five generations of the Hess family to be involved with the fisheries. Once George passed away, Paul Hess, then took over the fisheries. At that time, the fisheries raised mainly goldfish. Once Paul became ill and unable to properly care for the fisheries, Larry Hess, Paul's son, and also the current owner took over. Larry then decided to specialize in game fish rather than to continue farming goldfish. There are currently 88 ponds being farmed at the fishery. Now, Larry's son and grandson, Eric and Levi Hess, are a large part of operations at the fisheries. In addition. Clear Creek Fisheries has employed 9 of Larry's 16 grandchildren. These grandchildren make up the 5th generation in the family business.

# CLEAR CREEK FISHERIES

EST 1934



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After 5 generations, Clear Creek Fisheries is honored to be the oldest game fish hatchery in the midwest. Clear Creek Fisheries takes pride in operating a family business that annually produces quality, farm raised fish.

#### TRIPLOID GRASS CARP

Triploid Grass Carp are introduced into a pond to control or eliminate vegetation growth. The diet of a triploid grass carp is strictly vegetation. Under Indiana State law, any triploid grass carp in the state must be sterile. Therefore, these fish will not reproduce.

#### **FATHEAD MINNOWS**

Fathead minnows are introduced into a pond as a forge fish for larger, predator fish. They rarely get larger than 3 inches and will reproduce every 3 weeks.

#### **BLACK CRAPPIE**

Black Crappie are a predator fish. They need live fish to feed on. Crappie are not known to do exceptionally well in ponds less than 5 acres due to competition for live forge. If you plan on introducing crappie into your pond, you should also introduce additional bluegill to the pond to support the nutritional needs of the crappie. Crappie will spawn once a year.

#### REDEAR SUNFISH

Redear Sunfish live on a diet that consist mainly of snails, worms, and insects.

They will spawn once a year.

#### BLUEGILL

Bluegill spawn 3 times a year. Therefore, the offspring from the bluegill serve as a forge for predator fish of the pond. We recommend a ratio of 2 bluegill to every 1 bass in order to sufficiently support the nutritional needs of predator fish, unless the pond owner is regularly adding bait fish for the predators.

#### LARGEMOUTH BASS

Largemouth Bass are the main predator in most midwest ponds. They will feed on any live fish and reproduce once a year.

#### CHANNEL CATFISH

Channel Catfish are a scavenger fish and they will eat anything from live fish, to crayfish and commercial fish food. They will rarely reproduce in small ponds, unless provided with the appropriate structures.

#### HYBRID BLUEGILL

Hybrid Bluegill are the product of a female sunfish and a male bluegill. Hybrid get larger and are more aggressive than a bluegill. Hybrid rarely reproduce due to their hybridization and the fact that most are males.