

Fw: FYI-Bell Aquaculture of Indiana Expanding Largest in Nation Operation
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Cc: David Webster

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Subject: FYI-Bell Aquaculture of Indiana Expanding Largest in Nation Operation

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Hoosier Ag Today - News

Bell Aquaculture of Indiana Expanding Largest in Nation Operation

06/06/2011

by Andy Eubank



June has already been a significant month for Indiana based Bell Aquaculture. The Delaware County yellow perch fish farm, the largest in the nation, is getting even larger with the Friday groundbreaking of a \$5 million expansion of the growing operation.

Company president Norman McCowan says the grow building being constructed in Albany is

38,000 square feet.

"It will actually house about 3 million gallons of water," he told HAT. "This is all indoors and we will produce an additional 3 million yellow perch for the food market each year. Currently we're producing about 1.8 million for the food market and we have a lot of customers and not enough product, so we're looking at this being the first phase of an expansion. We hope that expansion will be done by late October, with the fish going in the system starting in September this year."

Bell sells their yellow perch to several distributors who provide the product to restaurants in the great lakes region of the Midwest. And McCowan explains from their start in 2005, they knew this expansion would be needed.

The demand from the onset of selling our product was very strong. From day one of cutting our fish we have always had more orders than we have product, so we knew that expansion was much needed at a very early stage, and the timing was right and the financing available. So we moved in that direction.

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They would like to see a phase two expansion in 2012 to add more capacity to their product line.

Several organizations, including the one representing Indiana soybean farmers, have been able to assist Bell since its inception. Purdue University, Indiana Soybean Alliance, The Conservation Fund, and also the Great Lakes Water Institute, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee have been strategic partners that have really furthered us in many different fashions to be able to expand our operation.

Also this month Bell Aquaculture announced a new product, Fish Rich Organic Fertilizer, a natural plant fertilizer. The remains of the days fish processing are ground up to create a liquid fertilizer for the home garden and organic markets. Fish Rich is available for purchase at the [company website](#).

Fish Rich is made from toxin and mercury-free fish, has a very mild fish odor and is good for any soil. Fish Rich contains these three major nutrients: nitrogen, which promotes green leaves, and quicker growth response; phosphorous, which is good for root growth, disease resistance, promoting seed and fruit growth, and for blooming and flowering; and potassium, which increases root growth, and offers disease and drought resistance.

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"No other occupation opens so wide a field for the profitable & agreeable combination of labor with cultivated thought as agriculture." Abraham Lincoln