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To: [Aquaculture2018 - ARS](#)
Subject: USDA Priorities for Aquaculture
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Attachments: [image003.png](#)

I wish to provide input regarding priorities for salmonid aquaculture; specifically, for trout aquaculture.

1. There is a need to combine inventorying and grading via automation to improve accuracy of fish numbers and biomass and reduce labor. Currently most all trout farms conduct regular inventory sampling by hand, which is labor intensive and not very accurate. Grading fish is also done by hand, usually with a grader bar. An automated device that can determine fish count, average or total weight, and grade fish would significantly improve efficiency on the farm through reduced labor and increased accuracy of fish inventory, which is used for production/marketing forecasting and feed rations.
2. Analysis of the spawning and selection data derived from the development of the ARS-UI trout strain over 8 or 9 generations at the Hagerman Fish Culture Experiment Station. There is a wealth of information that can positively impact the U.S. trout industry beyond molecular genetic markers, such as heritability data, fecundity, percent hatch, etc.

Regards,
Gary

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