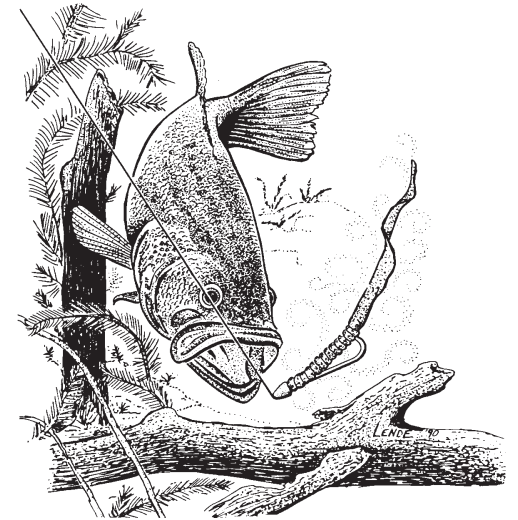


MEADE FISH HATCHERY



***Serving Kansas
Anglers For More
Than 75 Years***

Kansas
Department of Wildlife, Parks
and Tourism



LARGEMOUTH BASS

In Kansas, whether fishing in a reservoir, state fishing lake, or farm pond, the most preferred sport fish sought by anglers is the largemouth bass. The Meade Fish Hatchery is the only state operated facility that produces largemouth bass fry in the State of Kansas.

Starting in January, the brood fish are brought into the Bass Propagation Facility and held in large 40' raceways, during which time the environment is being manipulated artificially by adjusting day length and water temperature. These manipulations adjust the internal clock of the fish allowing largemouth bass fry to be produced a month or so ahead of natural reproduction. These fry are then stocked into water bodies ahead of natural prey spawning so they can make better utilization of forage fish and grow bigger in their first year of life. The fry produced are used to fill stocking requests throughout Kansas, or used in grow out production ponds to fingerling sizes to fill different stocking requests.

COME VISIT US

The Meade Fish Hatchery is open year-round. Tours are available upon request during the year except while largemouth bass spawning is occurring. The peak of fish propagation activities occurs from late March through early May.

**TO SCHEDULE A VISIT
CONTACT THE HATCHERY AT**

(620) 873-2701

or email jason.vajnar@ksoutdoors.com

or write Meade Fish Hatchery

12027 V Rd.

Meade, KS 67864

Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs described herein is available to all individuals without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, political affiliation, and military or veteran status. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to Office of the Secretary, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism, 1020 S Kansas Ave., Topeka, KS 66612-1327. 02/12



LOCATION

Meade Fish Hatchery is located 8 miles south and 5 miles west of Meade in Meade County Kansas. This department owned site of 1,244 acres encompasses Meade State Park and Fishing Lake, Meade Wildlife Area and Meade Fish Hatchery. The Meade Hatchery is the only hatchery in southwest Kansas.



from 1942 until 1964. American Bison and Elk were also grazed on the west side of the property for public exhibition for several years. The tall fence that once held these herds still stand around the pasture where these animals were kept.

THE HATCHERY TODAY

The hatchery consists of fifteen ESS-13 lined ponds covering 19.5 surface acres holding a volume of 44.6 acre feet of water. The term ESS-13 relates to a soil sealant that has been applied to the soil to prevent seepage. Meade Fish Hatchery is the first hatchery in the nation to

use this technique to seal ponds. Water for the hatchery ponds is pumped from the Ogallala aquifer using a 10-inch well that is capable of delivering 1,500 gallons a minute for fish production.

HISTORY

Meade Fish Hatchery was constructed on land purchased from the Turkey Track Ranch by the Forestry, Fish and Game Commission in 1926. Numerous artesian springs flowing several thousand gallons of water per minute coursed through the property, making it in ideal place for fish culture.

In the 1930's the adobe office/workshop complex was built as well as additional adobe buildings at the hatchery and the state park, along with the state fishing lake. This undertaking was done by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), during the Great Depression.

Over the life of the facility the hatchery has been used to hatch bird eggs as well as fish eggs. Initially, the adobe complex was used along with two other large adobe structures to serve as the state's pheasant hatchery. Pheasants were raised



In 2009, a new 3,960 square foot building was constructed for the early intensive spawning of largemouth bass. This building is referred to as the Bass Propagation Facility. The hatchery also has a cinder block fish house that contains four 700 gallon holding tanks. The water for the Bass Propagation Facility and the older fish house is supplied from a second well that pumps 45 gallons per minute. This well also supplies the two-story manager's residence constructed in 1918 and an adobe office/workshop/auxiliary living quarters that was constructed in 1933. In 1983, a combination shop/fish feed storage metal building was constructed. Located within the hatchery grounds is a primitive artesian campground that is maintained by the hatchery staff and a shelter house that is available by reservation.

Fish species cultured at the Meade facility in the spring include; largemouth bass, grass carp, and fat-head minnows. In the summer months, intermediate channel catfish, bluegill, and koi carp are also produced. During the winter months some of the culture ponds are used for largemouth bass brood fish, fathead minnows and grass carp.



Largemouth Bass Fry