RDM Aquaculture LLC
Shrimp Division

Raising Clean Shrimp 600 Miles from the Ocean!

Karlanea Brown
2014 North Central Aquaculture Conference

RDM Aquaculture Farm
Founders of RDM Aquaculture LLC

Russell Brown
1930-2009

Darryl Brown
1964 -

600 Miles from Saltwater
Located Between Soybeans & Corn

Soybeans

Corn

Why?

- Moved to raise hogs. Prices dropped so we got out of the hog business.
- Wanted to raise livestock.
- Aquaculture looked interesting.
- Looked at raising tilapia but thought shrimp looked more interesting and it was more cost effective.
- First thought of raising shrimp is they are easier to clean than a fish and taste much better.
- The system we chose is very eco friendly with virtually no waste.
Our System

- We use a zero exchange aerobic heterotrophic system (ZEAH)
- Heterotrophic means there is a bacteria that takes care of our waste.
- This water is as close to their natural environment without contaminants.
- We were the 3rd out of 6 heterotrophic salt water shrimp farms in the United States. (3 of these are universities)
- There are now 18 indoor shrimp facilities in the US
- 8 shrimp farms in Indiana

First Stage

- We start with PLS (Post Larval) that are 11 days old.
- They are shipped from a hatchery in Florida.
- The PLS come in are about the size of your eyelash and the only thing you see is feed in their bellies.
- We do 9 tests daily in the nursery.
Nursery for the PLs

I Tanks

From Nursery into I tanks
I Tanks

* 100,000 pls (post larval) every 25 days
* From nursery we move them to I barn for 2 weeks
* 7 I tanks
* When 50 days old we move them to other shrimp farms to get them started. (feeder pig operation)
* At 50 days old we move our percentage of shrimp to our grow out tanks.

Grower Tanks
Grower Tanks

- 3 tanks holding 4400 gallons of salt water.
- 4 tanks holding 2200 gallons of salt water.
- Larger tanks produce 250 # every 3 months.
- Smaller tanks produce 150# every 3 months
- Tank temperature is constant 86 degrees.
- Room temperature is 82 degrees
- Nets are put on tanks for shrimp protection and ours.
- We use automatic feeders.
- We heat tanks using radiant heat through the floor.

Harvesting

- Old fashion way. Netting
- Sort according to size. Throw smaller ones back in tank and haul larger ones for sale.
- Harvest only when customer order shrimps.
- Sell them live (niche market)
- Guaranteed a fresh product
Visitors

- As far away as Chengdu China, Egypt, India, Taiwan, Vietnam, Switzerland and Ontario Canada
- From Michigan, Oregon, Iowa, California, Kentucky, Texas, Minnesota, North Carolina, Virginia, Ohio and Illinois.
- There are new farms just like ours in Oregon, Minnesota, Ohio, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, New York, Mass. and Iowa. Hopefully by the end of this year there will be 9 shrimp farms in Indiana
- Would like to see Indiana become the shrimp capital of the world. (No Harm in dreaming)

Little known facts about Shrimp

- 2% of seafood is inspected that comes into the US.
- 60% of it is rejected.
- Taiwan Shrimp and Thailand shrimp have no regulations as to how they are grown.
- There shrimp are grown outdoors in ponds. Anything and everything can run off into these waters. Shrimp absorb their environment.
- 97% of all shrimp is imported into this country.
- This has got to change.
- Why not us do the changing.
- It wont happen over night.
Why Shrimp?

- Favorite Seafood
- Party favorite
- Health benefits
- Many ways to prepare

Fun Facts

Shrimp have 18g of protein and 1g of fat. (Good fat)
Shrimp has only 80 calories for 4 oz
Indiana produces roughly 1.5 million pounds of fish per year from about 40 farmers estimated at a value of $15 million.

Shrimp Farming is it for you?

- You have to have a commitment to it.
- 7 days a week 365 days a year
- 3 hours a day
- Dedication to water quality
- No aquaculture skills needed to start a farm.
- Must have attention to detail.
Start Small

- Start small
- Expand after one year
- Smaller investment
- Apple & Google started small.

Marketing

- Sell Live
- Locally Grown
- High End Restaurants
- Distributors
- Retail Sales
- Caterers
- Grocery Stores
- Live Markets
Financing?

- Start up
- Not needing as much

Questions??

THANK YOU,
KARLANEA BROWN
CO-OWNER RDM AQUACULTURE LLC