

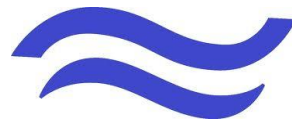


**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**

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COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

**Aquaculture Boot Camp  
Platoon 2013  
Ben Harmony Fish Farms**



# Who am I?

I'm the husband of one father of two, since I was a little guy I have wanted to be a farmer. The problem was I wasn't born in to a farming family. So I turned to the family business of engineering. It's been rewarding but I love the outdoors and working with my hands. I'm really not much of a behind the desk kind of guy. While still in collage I had an opportunity to work on a farm one summer this family was in the beginning stages of a perch grow out facility. I realized that this could be my chance to do something in Agriculture. Many years later I see that this is an industry that is an up and comer. My hope is that I can use this income to build the farm and have something that maybe one of the Boys would like to take over.



# Why Boot Camp?

I am lucky enough that my wife works at OSU in Ag Science and found out about the Boot camp. I was a bit let down when I didn't make the first round of recruits but as luck would have it some dropped out and I was able to jump at the opportunity. I have to say that I really didn't know a lot about what we were going to learn. But having an open mind and willingness for new ideas I figured how could I go wrong and it was free.



# What I learned?

- It's not so much learning what to do it's more of what not to do as far as raising fish.
- When I first came to boot camp I was mostly set on the idea of one species of fish. I have seen that you have to be more diverse with what the market is looking for.
- Also where can cost be cut, fingerlings, feed, power,



# What am I doing now?

- We are currently looking in to grant opportunities for parcel funding on a nutrition project we would like to work on.
- Site development of 4 acres that will consist of two 1 acre ponds that we will stock with largemouth bass. Planed to have the first pond finished by summer 2014.
- Small back yard pilot project that consist of two 550 gal round tanks for Tilapia grow out



# My Future Plans

- Have a total of 3 ponds one that we would span fry and keep out breed stock the other two we would use for grow out.
- A small indoor facility that can support a monthly harvest of 500 pounds for local stores and restaurants.
- Processing building



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**Thank you**

Any questions?

