

MANITOBA, CANADA

Construction begins on model trout farm

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– Grant Vandenberg
*Inter-Provincial Partnership for Sustainable
Freshwater Aquaculture Development*



L-R Daniel Stechey (Canadian Aquaculture Systems Inc), Greg Beckman (Water Management Technologies Inc.), Rudy Reimer and Jeff Eastman (MB Agriculture Food and Rural Initiatives) oversee construction of the first Canadian Model Aqua-Farm at the Reimer’s farm in Warren, Manitoba.

Construction has begun on Canada’s first model fish farm in Warren, Manitoba, at the farm of Rudy and Leslie Reimer.

The Canadian Model Aqua-Farm (CMAF) is a simple yet intensive recirculating aquaculture system that is intended to introduce a uniform approach to aquaculture development and to generate established norms and baseline standards pertaining to the biological, technological, financial and environmental sustainability of land-based, freshwater aquaculture.

The operation has been specifically designed to fit into conventional agriculture buildings (e.g. hog barns) to capitalize on the availability of latent infrastructure. A fundamental component of success is the agreed-upon participation of provincial and federal regulatory officials in the environmental assessment of the model farm, thus developing regulatory confidence in the operation. By incorporating a production and financial benchmarking program, the CMAF will also establish economic standards that will enhance investor confidence.

The Model Farm project is a major initiative of the Inter-Provincial Partnership for Sustainable Freshwater Aquaculture Development (IPSFAD), a national not-for-profit organization representing the interests of the freshwater aquaculture sector. According to Grant Vandenberg, President of IPSFAD, “it is envisaged that the model farm project will lead to the establishment of aquaculture clusters in various regions of the country, stimulating a second wave of freshwater aquaculture development in Canada.”

The concept has been developed by Canadian Aquaculture Systems Inc. of Cobourg ON and Water Management Technologies Inc. of Baton Rouge LA. Construction on the 980 cubic meter concrete production tank commenced in December 2009 and the first fish will be introduced in March 2010.