



COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE  
SCHOOL OF FISHERIES, AQUACULTURE AND  
AQUATIC SCIENCES

(NOTE: DO NOT AGREE TO PARTICIPATE UNLESS IRB APPROVAL  
INFORMATION WITH CURRENT DATES HAS BEEN ADDED TO THIS  
DOCUMENT.)

**INFORMATION LETTER**  
**for a Research Study entitled**  
***“A Survey of Aquaponic Stakeholder Groups”***

**You are invited to participate in a research study** to define the current state of the aquaponics industry and inform support groups on the needs of the industry. This will help aquaponics support group identify industry needs and improve their services. The study is being conducted by D. Allen Pattillo, Ph.D. Student, under the direction of Terry R. Hanson, Professor and Co-Director of the Aquaculture and Fisheries Business Institute in the Auburn University School of Fisheries, Aquaculture, and Aquatic Sciences. You are invited to participate because you are an aquaponic industry stakeholder and are age 18 or older.

**What will be involved if you participate?** Your participation is completely voluntary. If you decide to participate in this research study, you will be asked to fill out an online survey about your involvement with the aquaponics industry. Your total time commitment will be approximately 20 minutes.

**Are there any risks or discomforts?** The risks associated with participating in this study are disclosure of your opinions, facility location, and some economic production data. To minimize these risks, we will keep your responses confidential and will only be reported in aggregate form.

**Are there any benefits to yourself or others?** If you participate in this study, you will be helping to facilitate the growth of the aquaponics industry. We/I cannot promise you that you will receive any direct benefits. Benefits to others may include better information for decision making, more training opportunities, and enhanced industry awareness.

**Will you receive compensation for participating?** There is no compensation for your participation, only our sincere appreciation.

**Are there any costs?** If you decide to participate, there is no cost to you.

INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR  
AQUACULTURE AND AQUATIC  
ENVIRONMENTS

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[auburn.edu/](http://auburn.edu/)  
[www.auburn.edu/fish](http://www.auburn.edu/fish)

The Auburn University Institutional  
Review Board has approved this  
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12/10/2019 to -----  
Protocol # 19-544 EX 1912



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**If you change your mind about participating**, you can withdraw at any time by closing your browser window. If you choose to withdraw, your data can be withdrawn as long as it is identifiable. Once you've submitted anonymous data, it cannot be withdrawn since it will be unidentifiable. Your decision about whether or not to participate or to stop participating will not jeopardize your future relations with Auburn University or the School of Fisheries, Aquaculture, and Aquatic Sciences.

**Any data obtained in connection with this study will remain anonymous.** We will protect your privacy and the data you provide by using the secured Qualtrics software database, which prevents sharing outside of those conducting the survey. Information collected through your participation may be used to fulfill my Ph.D. dissertation requirements, published in a professional journal, and/or presented at a professional meeting.

**The investigator reserves the right to terminate the survey depending on participation**

**If you have questions about this study**, please contact Allen Pattillo at [dap0005@auburn.edu](mailto:dap0005@auburn.edu) or Terry Hanson at [trh0008@auburn.edu](mailto:trh0008@auburn.edu).

**If you have questions about your rights as a research participant**, you may contact the Auburn University Office of Research Compliance or the Institutional Review Board by phone (334) 844-5966 or e-mail at [IRBadmin@auburn.edu](mailto:IRBadmin@auburn.edu) or [IRBChair@auburn.edu](mailto:IRBChair@auburn.edu).

HAVING READ THE INFORMATION ABOVE, YOU MUST DECIDE IF YOU WANT TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS RESEARCH PROJECT. IF YOU DECIDE TO PARTICIPATE, PLEASE CLICK ON THE LINK BELOW. YOU MAY PRINT A COPY OF THIS LETTER TO KEEP.

December 5, 2019

Investigator

Date

December 5, 2019

Co-Investigator

Date

*The Auburn University Institutional Review Board has approved this document for use from December 10, 2019 to -----.* Protocol #19-544 EX 1912, Pattillo

**Survey Link:** [https://auburn.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_OriUVSI68QHL40d](https://auburn.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_OriUVSI68QHL40d)

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