



Alligator Aquaculture: Rules and Regulations

600 South Calhoun Street, Suite 217
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1300
Tallahassee Office: (850) 617-7600
Bartow Office: (863) 578-1870
Email: Aquaculture_Certificate@FDACS.gov
Website: www.FDACS.gov

Due to its valuable meat and hide the American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*) has been harvested and farmed throughout the South for well over a century. The practice of alligator farming and ranching dates back to the early 1890's when the first commercial alligator farm opened in Florida. Alligator farmers take captive-bred or wild collected eggs and hatchlings and grow them out in optimal conditions. In about 2 years alligators grow to a marketable size (approximately 4 feet in length) and can be harvested for their meat and hide. When American alligators were listed as an endangered species, alligator farming played an integral role in meeting global demand for alligator products while allowing wild populations to recover.

FARMING REQUIREMENTS

Individuals intending to farm alligators should apply for an [Aquaculture Certificate of Registration](#) with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) in addition to obtaining proper Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) farm permit. Certified aquaculturist must implement and adhere to all [Aquaculture Best Management Practices](#) (BMP) applicable to their facility and operation.

Individuals interested in operating an alligator farm should consult FWC's Alligator regulations [Rule 68A-25, Florida Administrative Code \(F.A.C.\)](#) for details on required permits and facility specifications at:

[Alligator Regulations and Associated Statutes](#)

For further information on alligator farming in Florida, visit:

[Alligator Farming](#)



Adult American Alligator

PERMITTING

Anyone conducting commercial aquaculture activities not in compliance with the [BMPs](#) and/or not certified by FDACS is required to obtain any and all permits required by the appropriate state regulatory agencies (i.e., Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), FWC), pursuant to [Sections 597.004\(2\)\(c\) & \(d\), Florida Statutes](#). The American alligator is also regulated by FWC, which is responsible for developing and enforcing wild resource regulations pertaining to alligator farming and egg collection.



American alligator eggs in nest

FACILITY SPECIFICATIONS AND PRACTICES

Farms wishing to display their alligators to the public in addition to raising them require a License to Possess Class II Wildlife for Exhibition or Public Sale from FWC. The possession and display of Class II Wildlife requires facilities to follow more advanced animal housing and containment measures for both the safety of the wildlife as well as the public ([Rule 68A-6, F.A.C.](#)).



American Alligator hatchling

