A yolk sac remains attached to the sac fry for about 10 days, depending on water temperature. When its nutrients have been absorbed, it will dissipate, and the trout begin to swim up for available food. Hatchery staff then move the fry to hatch house tanks, where they are fed a high protein, commercial feed hourly for three months. The frequent feedings ensure maximum growth and a high adaptability to artificial feed. Feeding times are reduced to three times a day as the fish mature. At 3½ months, or 3 inches long, the fish are moved to outdoor raceways. Each raceway is 60 to 80 feet long, 3 feet deep and holds up to 25,000 trout.

Arkansas Trout Species

**Brook Trout**
- Light wormlike markings on dark green upper body
- White-and-black edges on front of lower fins
- Crimson spots with blue halos and yellow spots

**Brown Trout**
- Sides usually have orange or red spots with halos
- Tail slightly forked with faint or no spots
- Abdomen usually yellow
- Golden brown to silver

**Cutthroat Trout**
- Black spotting heavier toward tail
- Tail spotted, forked
- Fin never white-tipped
- Red-orange slash marks on the underside of the jaw

**Rainbow Trout**
- Tail spotted, forked
- Fins often white-tipped
- Pink streaked sides
- Black spots over entire body

How We Produce Trout

Hatchery staff artificially spawns the eggs by applying pressure to the abdomen of the fish and mixing the eggs from females with the milt from males. Incubation times in the wild vary depending on water temperature. However, eggs at the hatchery are placed in incubation jars that are maintained at 53 degrees Fahrenheit. The eggs hatch in about 28 days. Newly hatched trout, called “sac fry,” have yolk sacs which provide nutrients directly to the intestines.

At 11 inches, the trout are harvested and loaded into distribution trucks for stocking around the state. Hatchery trout will grow from a sac-fry to an 11-inch trout in 12-14 months. More than 90 percent of the fish stocked by the hatchery are 11-inch rainbow trout.

Map provided by Arkansas State Parks
Information is intended for reference purposes only. Always consult the AGFC Guidebook and adhere to boundary signs and other on-site indicators.