

BSE has never been found in American cattle, and the United States has been free of foot-and-mouth disease since 1929, when the last of nine U.S. outbreaks was eradicated. Still, State Veterinarian Dr. Don Notter and the Division of Animal Health remain prepared.

Brucellosis, equine viral arteritis, equine infectious anemia, and contagious equine metritis were once major concerns in Kentucky. Today, the division is working more on monitoring and surveillance. Kentucky was declared brucellosis-free in 1997.

The division has many responsibilities, including:

- enforcing federal and state animal health regulations on interstate livestock movement;
- maintaining vaccination and inspection histories, permits, livestock dealer licenses and other required records;
- coordinating the state branding program, and licensing garbage feeders and rendering plants;

BRIGHT FUTURE IN KENTUCKY FOR A FAST-GROWING MARKET

New catfish plant will boost Ky. aquaculture

Aquaculture is one of the fastest growing food production activities in the world, and since much of Kentucky is well suited for production, many are taking advantage of the opportunity.

Kentucky's suitable climate, soil and water resources, along with the increased demand for seafood products, has helped Kentucky farmers successfully diversify into the world of aquaculture.

The Kentucky Department of Agriculture is assisting farmers interested in aquaculture by helping with market research, infrastructure development, and promotional assistance, publishing an annual Aquaculture Directory and sponsoring an annual Aquaculture Conference.

In August 2000, state and local officials broke ground for a catfish processing plant in Tri City in southern Graves County. The plant was completed and a grand opening was held in June 2001. Grants totaling \$350,000 from KDA to the Purchase Area Aquaculture Cooperative helped make the facility a reality.

At the grand opening, Agriculture Commissioner Billy Ray Smith and other officials praised the processing plant as a

Brucellosis, EVA, and other diseases had their days as major concerns in Kentucky, but these maladies have been contained and today require only surveillance.

- supervising and inspecting livestock dealers, cattle assembly points, and livestock service providers.

Transportation of animals presents the division with one of its greatest challenges. Drivers transporting livestock into or through Kentucky must present proof of their animals' health records. These health certificates are valid for 30 days on out-of-state livestock entries. Health certificates for the exhibition of in-state livestock are valid for 150 days; however, a certificate for change of ownership is valid for only 30 days. When an animal is found to be in violation of these health standards or is identified with an infectious disease, the owners must remove it from a show even if they have valid health certificates.

KDA is making possible some big steps forward in value-added marketing. One of these is the new catfish processing plant which should dramatically increase in-state processing of this aquaculture crop.

model cooperative effort and a successful idea generated by a need and an opportunity.

Kentuckians consume more than 60 million pounds of seafood per year, worth an estimated \$568 million annually, but less than 4 percent of that seafood is produced



THE RIGHT PROCESSING FACILITY plays a vital role in the success of agricultural marketing. The new catfish processing plant in Tri City, Ky., a boost to Kentucky aquaculture, will make it easier and more financially attractive to market Kentucky-produced aquaculture products.