Livestock shows, county fairs

One of the most frequently visible faces of KDA is also one of the most heartwarming: the excited grin of a young 4-H participant or FFA member as he or she takes the ring at a youth livestock show.

KDA sponsors and staffs these shows because Kentucky agriculture needs its young people nurtured and developed as the leaders of tomorrow.

In 2003, KDA began a new junior livestock exposition at Murray, complementing similar events in Bowling Green and Morehead. The new **Western Rivers Junior Livestock Expo** featured 125 participants in the judging skills contest and 200 animals exhibited in the show.

The Morehead show has a five-year history, and the Bowling Green show has logged its twelfth year. In 2003, both of these set records for exhibitor and livestock participation.

KDA launched a new **goat show in Elizabethtown** in 2003. Participation in all KDA goat shows during the third year that were offered have tripled original levels; 268 participating students exhibited 431 tagged goats during 2003.

Again in 2003, KDA awarded four **scholarships** each to young exhibitors of beef cattle, dairy cattle, goat, horse, sheep, and swine.

The program of financial assistance to **county fairs** continues strong throughout the state in 2003. KDA helped sponsor local county fairs and livestock shows in 107 of Kentucky's 120 counties.

The first in a planned series of **educational CDs**, “Livestock Math” and a companion disk on showmanship skills, was developed by the Division of Show & Fair Promotion. The interactive program quizzes elementary and junior high children on basic math and livestock production.

Also, the division created a page for action photos and show results on the KDA Web site.