

within the Commonwealth. Aquaculture production in the U.S. increased 84.6 percent between 1985 and 1996, and value increased 155 percent.

Since Kentucky is located within a day's drive of many major metropolitan centers, it is ideal for marketing fresh and even live

product, a rapidly increasing product form. Seven potential species have been identified as currently holding the best production possibilities for Kentucky. These species are freshwater shrimp, trout, catfish, largemouth bass, paddlefish, hybrid striped bass, and baitfish.

BRINGING THE JOYS OF AGRICULTURE TO THE PEOPLE

KDA finances record number of county fairs

Agriculture and county fairs have been synonymous in Kentucky since 1816, when Fayette County held the first-ever livestock exposition west of the Allegheny Mountains.

The number of county fairs in the Commonwealth is up to 109 this year. That has come about with the enthusiasm of the people in those communities and financial support to counties from the Department of Agriculture's Division of Show and Fair Promotion.

Grant monies in three different areas are awarded through the division. It grants dollar-for-dollar matching funds to applicant communities in the areas of agriculture, horse shows and building/grounds programs. Counties looking to apply for premium monies need to target specific areas for which the monies will be spent.

Each area has a cap: agriculture, \$4,500; horse show, \$2,000; and building/grounds, \$3,000.

Agriculture monies are spent for shows under umbrellas such as livestock and



YOUR COUNTY FAIR likely receives support from the Kentucky Department of Agriculture in a partnership that goes back more than a century. KDA sees county fairs as not only summertime fun, but also a great agriculture education opportunity for participating youth as well as the general public.

The number of KDA-assisted county fairs in the Commonwealth is up to 109 out of 120 under the grant support program.

youth events. Horse show monies are dispensed in similar fashion. Building/grounds grants may be used for any construction, upkeep or maintenance of buildings or grounds used by the counties for their fairs.

The Division of Show and Fair Promotion also sponsors regional, state and national livestock shows/sales for both youth and adults.

A mainstay event for a decade now has been the Kentucky Junior Livestock Expo in Bowling Green. In 2001, the show exhibited 483 animals. As participation increases, this key event continues to be a rewarding experience for cattle exhibitors and judges.

In cooperation with other agencies, the division sponsored the eastern Kentucky version of the Expo in Morehead for the second year. Exhibitors showed 452 beef, dairy, sheep, hogs and goats.

Goats are a hot new livestock commodity in the Commonwealth, and the division responded by holding its first-ever series of district goat shows in 2001. The premiere event was the Bluegrass District Market Goat Show July 17 in Winchester. The four-show series continued in Crittenden, Hopkinsville and Jackson. The shows were open to Kentucky 4-H and FFA members engaged in approved goat projects.

For more information on livestock shows or other projects of the Division of Show and Fair Promotion, phone (502) 564-4983.