

**Fisheries Bulletin
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**A Survey of Private Farm Pond Owners in Kentucky
Opinions, Attitudes and Uses**

**by
Don Bunnell, Kerry Prather and Dave Dreves**

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Abstract

A farm pond owner survey was conducted in summer of 2003 to evaluate opinions and attitudes regarding the Farm Pond Stocking and the Technical Guidance Programs administered by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. A total of 1,921 returns was received with a return rate of over 70%. In general, respondents were satisfied with both programs and over 95% considered them a valuable service. Most people valued their ponds for their scenic beauty, fishing and for attracting wildlife. Roughly half of the people in the survey regularly purchased fishing licenses. The department was the major source of management information and fish for pond owners in the survey. An overwhelming majority of people were not willing to lease fishing rights to their pond to the department to provide fishing opportunities to the public.

Introduction

The Fisheries Division of the Department of Fish and Wildlife has a mandate to give the people of Kentucky a voice in determining the future direction of the division. In order to determine public perception of department policies and actions, three separate and distinct mail surveys were conducted. The first survey, which was implemented in the spring of 2003, was a trout angler attitude survey. We also conducted a pond-owner opinion survey in the summer of 2003 and a general angler survey in the fall of 2003.

The Farm Pond Stocking Program is administered by the department and is designed to provide fish at a very low cost for stocking new or renovated private ponds. For a \$25 fee the department provides channel catfish and bluegill in the fall and largemouth bass in the following spring. Fish are stocked at a rate of 400 bluegill, 120 bass and 75 catfish per acre. Fish are delivered to a specified location in each county for pickup by the pond owner.

The Technical Guidance Program is administered by the individual fisheries districts and is free to the public. Department biologists visit the pond, conduct an electrofishing survey and query the landowner regarding problems, expectations, etc. The biologist then makes recommendations as to stocking, harvest rates, vegetation control and other management strategies.

Methods

The Private Pond and Lake Management Survey was conducted during the summer of 2003. The sample was comprised of individuals who had participated in the preceding four years of the Farm Pond Stocking Program or the Farm Pond Technical Guidance Program.

All persons requesting fish for pond stocking or requesting technical guidance in the last four years were included in the mailing list for the survey. Contemporary literature was reviewed and brain-storming sessions held in order to come up with the best and most vital questions laid out in an unbiased survey questionnaire format. We used a methodology that prescribes multiple contacts with each potential respondent to maximize response rate. Each person on the mailing list was first sent a notification letter by first class mail that they would soon be receiving the survey. All undelivered mail returned was checked off in the database as a "bad address". One week after mailing the notification letter, each person was sent a packet that included a personalized cover letter, a pond survey questionnaire, and a postage paid return envelope. Each pond survey questionnaire had an identification number printed on the back that allowed us to check off each record from the mailing list as it was received. After another week, each person was sent a reminder / thank you postcard. Then, after an additional two weeks, any person from the original mailing list who hadn't already returned a survey (or been checked off as a bad address) was mailed another packet that included a different personalized cover letter, another trout survey and another postage paid return envelope.

The date surveys were returned was recorded in the database to allow an examination of return patterns. Subsequent to the first questionnaire mail out, it was obvious that each time a contact was made that the returns would jump up for a time, indicating the importance of the multiple contact method. All survey questionnaires received were sent to Kentucky Correctional Industries to be keypunched into electronic files. Kentucky Correctional Industries uses a double-entry system where each survey questionnaire is keypunched twice and then the two versions compared to eliminate any keypunching errors. The data was analyzed using SPSS software and reported in the annual report for F-40, segment 26.

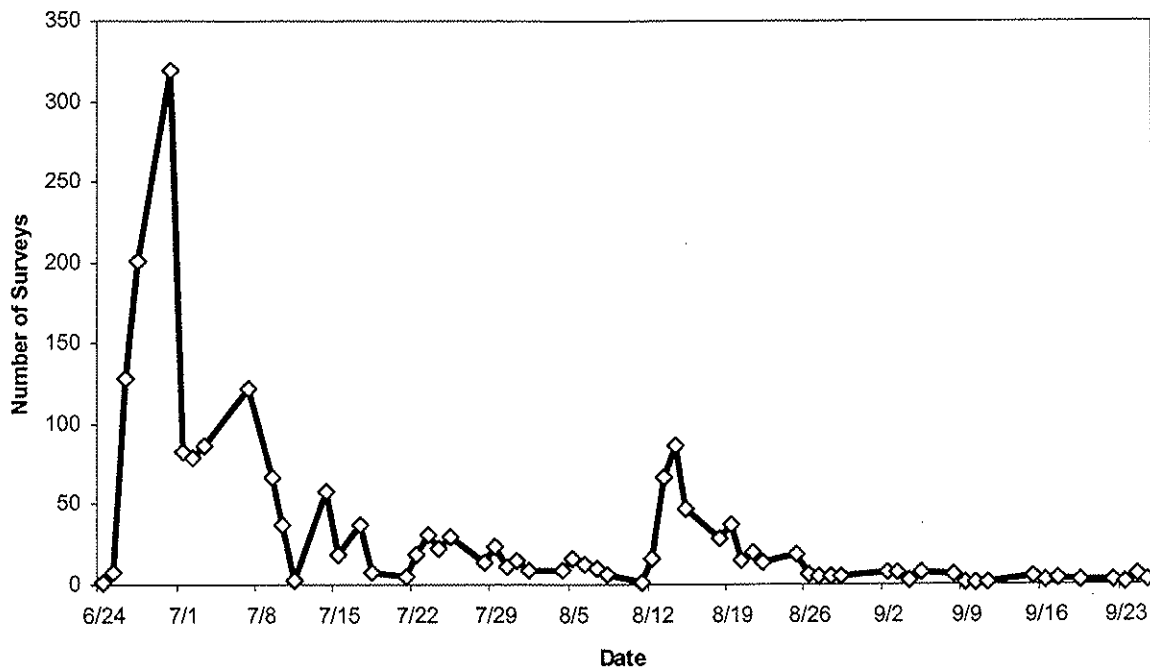
Survey Results

Initial contact letters were mailed out on June 15, 2003 and we immediately began receiving undeliverable mail. Surveys were mailed out a week later and we began receiving surveys on June 24, 2003. The final survey was received on September 25, 2003.

The mail survey resulted in 1,921 total returns for an effective return rate of 72.3%. This is far beyond what we expected and provided an excellent sample size for determining pond owner's preferences.

A graph of the distribution of returns over time is shown below. We had an immediate spike of returns with a rapid reduction after the initial week. We had a small secondary peak of returns after the second letter and questionnaire was sent out. This emphasizes the importance of sending out a second survey with reminder letters.

Temporal Distribution of Survey Returns



The survey results will be presented and discussed on a question by question basis. The results have been simplified for presentation by eliminating uncommon responses, invalid entries, etc. For complete results please refer to Appendix 1 which includes more detail. In order to view the questions in context, these results are also available in the attached survey questionnaire results booklet (Appendix 2)

1. Do you personally fish in your pond?

	No.	Percent
Yes	1,616	85.8%
No	267	14.2%

2a. Do you allow people other than your spouse or dependent children to fish in your pond?

	No.	Percent
Yes	1,490	79.4%
No	386	20.6%

- 2b. If YES, how many different people (other than your spouse or dependent children) fish your pond during the average year?

	No.	Percent
5 or Less	671	45.4%
6 to 10	487	32.9%
11 to 20	163	11.0%
More than 20	158	10.7%

A large majority of the people involved in the Farm Pond and Technical guidance programs (85.8%) use their ponds personally for fishing and almost 80% allow other people besides their immediate family to fish. Of the 267 people that didn't fish their pond, only a little over 56% (150) allowed others to fish. This leaves 115 of the pond owners that didn't fish themselves and didn't allow others to fish. As will be the case throughout the rest of the survey, several respondents answered incorrectly or failed to answer. In retrospect, the wording of the first question probably should have included "your spouse and dependant children", as this may have lead respondents to consider only themselves in answering the first question.

3. Please rate how important or unimportant the following pond uses are to you.

Fishing	No.	Percent
Very Important	1,147	60.8%
Somewhat Important	543	28.8%
Neutral	149	7.9%
Somewhat Unimportant	21	1.1%
Very Unimportant	27	1.4%

Livestock Watering	No.	Percent
Very Important	525	30.3%
Somewhat Important	186	10.7%
Neutral	184	10.6%
Somewhat Unimportant	107	6.2%
Very Unimportant	731	42.2%

Irrigation	No.	Percent
Very Important	153	9.3%
Somewhat Important	180	10.9%
Neutral	300	18.2%
Somewhat Unimportant	174	10.6%
Very Unimportant	842	51.1%

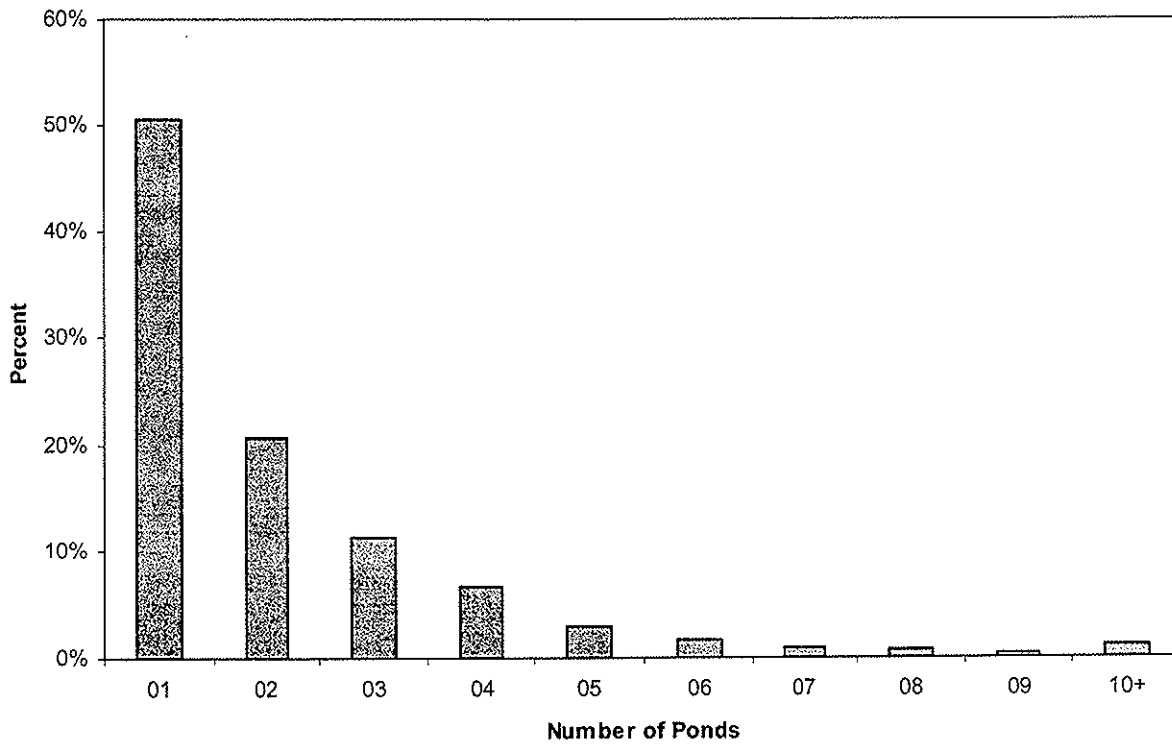
Waterfowl Hunting	No.	Percent
Very Important	84	5.1%
Somewhat Important	158	9.6%
Neutral	351	21.4%
Somewhat Unimportant	152	9.3%
Very Unimportant	895	54.6%

Attracting Wildlife	No.	Percent
Very Important	897	49.6%
Somewhat Important	558	30.9%
Neutral	187	10.3%
Somewhat Unimportant	49	2.7%
Very Unimportant	116	6.4%

Scenic Beauty	No.	Percent
Very Important	1,277	69.6%
Somewhat Important	430	23.4%
Neutral	88	4.8%
Somewhat Unimportant	16	0.9%
Very Unimportant	23	1.3%

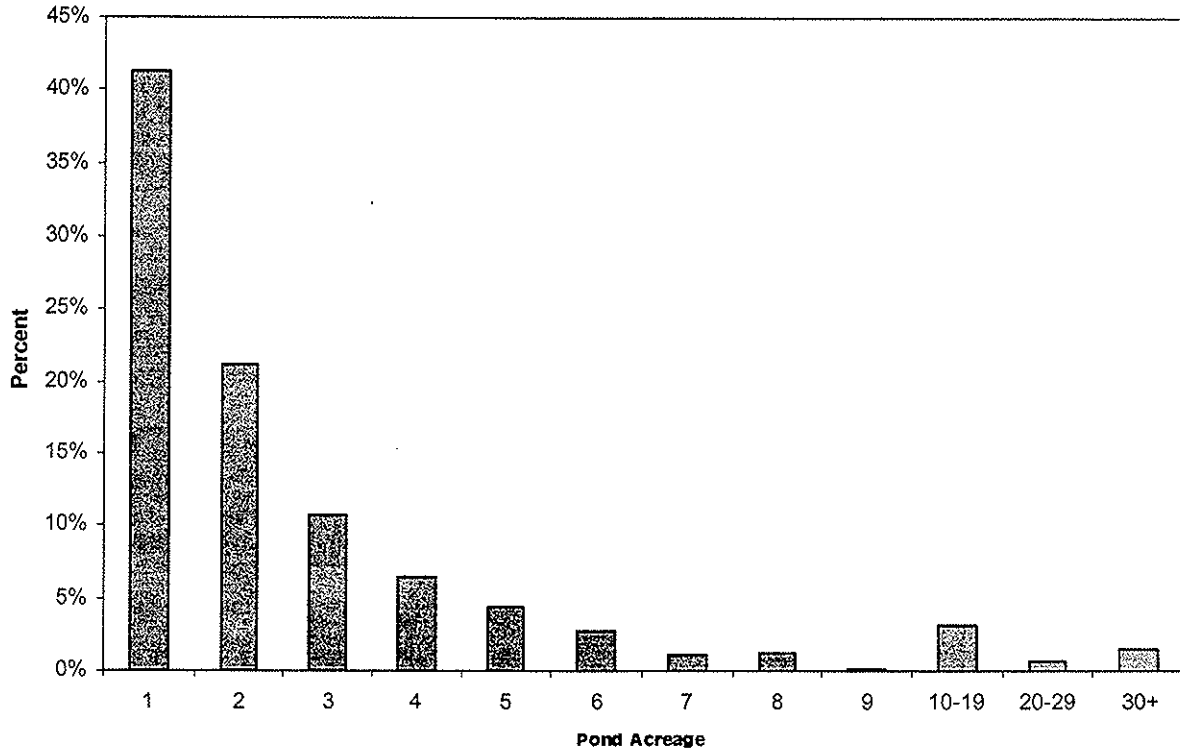
The majority of the individuals surveyed selected three uses as most important, Scenic Beauty, Fishing, and Attracting Wildlife. Scenic Beauty was selected by 93% of the respondents as somewhat important or very important. Traditional agricultural uses, such as livestock watering and irrigation were considered to be relatively unimportant by most of the respondents. Waterfowl Hunting was also in this category.

4a. How many ponds do you have?



The majority of respondents (85.1%) had 3 ponds or less. The highest number of ponds indicated was 30. The average number of ponds reported by respondents was 2.15 ponds.

4b. What is the total surface acreage of your ponds?



Almost 90% of individuals surveyed indicated that they had a pond acreage of 5 or less. Several individuals reported that they had over 100 acres of ponds and one respondent reported 300 acres. The average acreage reported by pond owners was 3.79 acres. If you remove the respondents who reported over 100 acres, the average drops to 3.35 acres.

5a. Have you stocked any of your ponds with fish since you have owned them?

	No.	Percent
Yes	1,777	93.1%
No	132	6.9%

Stocking of fish did not appear to be correlated with fishing activity or importance of fishing.

5b. If YES, where did you obtain the fish? (check all sources)

	No.	Percent
KDFWR	1,477	76.9%
Private Hatchery/Dealer	823	42.8%
Other Private Ponds	217	11.3%
Caught from Public Waters	206	10.7%

5c. If you checked more than one box in Question 5b, what was your main source of fish?

	No.	Percent
KDFWR	525	71.1%
Private Hatchery/Dealer	174	23.6%
Other Private Ponds	25	3.4%
Caught from Public Waters	14	1.9%

The majority of respondents had received fish from the Kentucky Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Resources, but a large number also obtained fish from others sources such as dealers and other private waters. Over 10% indicated that they had obtained fish caught from public waters. The main source of fish for most respondents was the Kentucky Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Resources.

6. Do you personally fish in any other bodies of water in Kentucky other than your pond(s)?

	No.	Percent
Yes	1,069	56.1%
No	835	43.9%

7a. Did you purchase a fishing license in 2002?

	No.	Percent
Yes	959	51.0%
No	923	49.0%

7b. Have you purchased or will you purchase a fishing license in 2003?

	No.	Percent
Yes	1,046	56.2%
No	814	43.8%

There was almost an even split between respondents regarding the preceding three questions. Nearly half of the people indicated that they only fished on their own pond. These numbers were mirrored by the responses to questions involving license purchases. Nearly 50% of the people that participate in the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources Farm Pond Stocking and Technical guidance programs do not purchase fishing licenses.

Farm Pond Stocking Program

This next set of questions deals primarily with participation in the Farm Pond Stocking program. The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources wished to obtain some feedback regarding use of the program and its importance to the participants.

- 8. Have you received fish to stock your pond from the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources Pond Stocking Program?

	No.	Percent
Yes	1,491	79.5%
No	384	20.5%

- 9a. If you had not been able to obtain fish for your pond from the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, would you have tried to obtain fish from other sources?

	No.	Percent
Yes	1,315	89.9%
No	147	10.1%

- 9b. If you answered YES to Question 9a, where would you most likely obtain the fish?

	No.	Percent
Private Hatchery	924	85.3%
Other Private Ponds	90	8.3%
Caught from Public Waters	69	6.4%

Nearly 80% of the people surveyed had received fish from the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, however, most indicated that they would obtain fish from other sources if necessary. The majority of respondents indicated that their choice for a source of fish, if the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources Farm Pond Stocking Program was unavailable, would be private hatcheries.

10. Besides the fish (largemouth bass, bluegill, channel catfish) that you received from the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources Pond Stocking Program, please check any additional fish that you have stocked in your pond:

	No.	Percent
Largemouth Bass	174	9.1%
Smallmouth Bass	31	1.6%
Bluegill	148	7.7%
White Crappie	110	5.7%
Black Crappie	113	5.9%
Grass Carp	567	29.5%
Hybrid Bluegill	206	10.7%
Hybrid Striped Bass	20	1.0%
Shellcracker	166	8.6%
Minnows	190	9.9%
Bullhead Catfish	46	2.4%
Others	128	6.7%

Many respondents stocked fish from other sources than the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources Farm Pond Stocking Program. Of all the respondents, 1,036 indicated that they had stocked no other fish or failed to respond. Of those individuals that had stocked fish other than those provided by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, the most common species was grass carp. Other common species stocked included hybrid bluegill, minnows, bass and shellcrackers (redeer sunfish). Species in the others category included various species of catfish, walleye, trout, goldfish, carp and frogs. A complete list can be found in the detailed data summary in Appendix 1. As seen below, most fish were obtained from private hatcheries.

11. If you stocked additional fish in your pond, where did you obtain them?

	No.	Percent
Private Hatchery/Dealer	591	81.6%
Other Private Ponds	75	10.4%
Caught from Public Waters	58	8.0%

12. Currently, the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources only charges a \$25 handling fee to stock any size pond with 120 largemouth bass, 400 bluegill, and 50 channel catfish per acre of water. Is this farm pond stocking program valuable enough to you that you would be willing to pay more for this service?

	No.	Percent
Yes	1,140	79.2%
No	300	20.8%

13. The above pond stocking rate would cost you \$250-350 per acre if obtained from a private fish dealer. How much would you be willing to pay on a per acre basis for these fish?

	No.	Percent
\$100	721	59.6%
\$150	91	7.5%
\$200	51	4.2%
\$250	50	4.1%
\$300	9	0.7%
\$350	8	0.7%
Other	280	23.1%

Nearly 80% of respondents would be willing to pay more than the current \$25 that the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources charges for the Farm Pond Stocking Program. The majority indicated that \$100 dollars was the preferred choice, however this was the smallest amount provided on the form. Entries in the Other column ranged from \$10 to \$400, with over 60% indicating that \$50 was the preferred amount.

- 14a. What is your level of satisfaction or dissatisfaction with the fish you received through the pond stocking program?

	No.	Percent
Very Satisfied	1,156	78.2%
Somewhat Satisfied	211	14.3%
Neutral	46	3.1%
Somewhat Dissatisfied	41	2.8%
Very Dissatisfied	4	0.3%
No Opinion	21	1.4%

An overwhelming majority of the surveyed people were very satisfied or somewhat satisfied (92.5%). Dissatisfied responses made up only 3.1% of the completed surveys.

- 14b. If you answered Somewhat Dissatisfied or Very Dissatisfied to question 14a, what was the single most important reason that you were dissatisfied with the fish (enter comment on lines provided).

	No.	Percent
Died	1	14.3%
Few Bluegill	1	14.3%
Size of Fish	4	57.1%
Too Few Bass	1	14.3%

Only 7 people responded with written comments on this question. Most (4) responded with "size of fish" which we assume meant that fish were smaller than was desired. One reported too few bluegill, one reported too few bass and one person reported that the fish had died.

15. How would you rate the importance or unimportance of Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources' Pond Stocking Program as a public service?

	No.	Percent
Very Important	1,212	81.5%
Somewhat Important	232	15.6%
Neutral	38	2.6%
Somewhat Unimportant	5	0.3%
Very Unimportant	1	0.1%

Out of the 1,488 surveys where people responded to this question, 96.1% indicated that the farm pond stocking program was important. This may be somewhat biased as most of the surveys were people who have received fish as part of the program. In general, though, it appears that the stocking program is an extremely popular offering from the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources.

Sources of Farm Pond Information and the Technical Guidance Program

The remainder of these questions deal primarily with the management of farm ponds in Kentucky and include many questions regarding our technical guidance program. They also deal with sources of information and the importance of the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources in providing direction in management of private ponds.

16. Which of the following sources have you used to obtain information on management of your farm pond? (check all that apply)

	No.	Percent
Private Pond Consultants	174	8.5%
Kentucky Dept. of Fish & Wildlife (KDFWR) Website	634	33.0%
Personal Communication with a KDFWR Biologist	694	36.1%
KDFWR Farm Pond Management Book	877	45.7%
KDFWR Farm Pond Management Seminars	85	4.4%
County Extension Offices	559	29.1%
Other Non-KDFWR publications and websites	126	6.6%
Farm Field Days	71	3.7%
Friends	741	38.6%
Farm Supply Store	403	21.0%
Others	111	5.8%

As this was a somewhat open-ended question with many possible responses, the list of responses became quite large. However, most of the information regarding farm ponds appears to be originating from the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. County Extension offices and Farm Supply stores also appeared to be important sources of information. Sources in the Others category included KDFWR officer, internet, NRCS, etc. A complete list can be found in the detailed data summary in Appendix 1.

17. Which of the following is the single most valuable source of information you use to manage your farm pond?
(check only one)

	No.	Percent
Private Pond Consultants	44	2.3%
Kentucky Dept. of Fish & Wildlife (KDFWR) Website	224	11.7%
Personal Communication with a KDFWR Biologist	351	18.3%
KDFWR Farm Pond Management Book	383	19.9%
KDFWR Farm Pond Management Seminars	17	0.9%
County Extension Offices	137	7.1%
Other Non-KDFWR publications and websites	26	1.4%
Farm Field Days	4	0.2%
Friends	186	9.7%
Farm Supply Store	53	2.8%
Others	58	3.0%

When queried as to their most valuable source of information, respondents chose the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources as their 3 top sources. Friends and County Extension offices were also important sources of information. Sources in the Others category included KDFWR officer, NRCS, Self, etc. A complete list can be found in the detailed data summary in Appendix 1.

18. Have you received an "on site" pond check (Technical Guidance Program) for any pond you own from a Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources fisheries biologist?

	No.	Percent
Yes	590	31.3%
No	1296	68.7%

This question was primarily designed to filter out respondents that had participated in the technical guidance program. Of the total returns, only about 1/3 had received TG's. This indicated that there are many people receiving fish as part of our stocking program that are not receiving guidance from us. This may be due to the fact that most of the farm pond program fish are going into new or renovated ponds.

19. Did you follow the recommendations provided by the fisheries biologist from the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife through the "on-site" pond check (Technical Guidance Program)?

	No.	Percent
Yes	478	82.3%
No	30	5.2%
Not Yet, But Will	44	7.6%
No Recommendation Needed	29	5.0%

20a. Is the on-site Technical Guidance Program valuable enough to you that you would be willing to pay for this service from the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources?

	No.	Percent
Yes	395	69.2%
No	176	30.8%

20b. Is the on-site Technical Guidance Program valuable enough to you that you would be willing to pay for this service from a private consultant/contractor?

	No.	Percent
Yes	187	33.4%
No	373	66.6%

The preceding two questions are interesting from an agency standpoint. Most of the people would be willing to pay for the technical guidance they received from us. However, most would not be willing to pay for this service from a private contractor. This indicates an implicit level of trust in the technical guidance provided by our District offices that does not appear to exist between private contractors and the public.

20c. If you answered "yes" to either question 20a or 20b, what is the maximum amount that you would be willing to pay per pond for this service?

	No.	Percent
\$25	114	32.0%
\$50	112	31.5%
\$100	95	26.7%
\$200	19	5.3%
Other	16	4.5%

There were only 8 written responses to the Other category and amounts ranged from \$10 to \$3,000. A complete list can be found in the detailed data summary in Appendix 1.

In most cases (67.1%), people were willing to pay at least \$50 dollars for technical guidance on their farm pond. Similar technical guidance (electroshocking survey, population analysis, etc.) from a private source would probably be far more expensive than the \$50 respondents were willing to pay.

21. Would you be willing to pay a private consultant or contractor to diagnose aquatic vegetation problems in your pond and pay them to apply the appropriate aquatic herbicide?

	No.	Percent
Yes	208	37.5%
No	347	62.5%

Most people were not willing to pay a private contractor to diagnose or treat a vegetation problem. This may indicate an unwillingness on the part of respondents to use herbicides in their ponds or to pay to have vegetation problems treated.

22a. What is your level of satisfaction or dissatisfaction with the fishing in your pond after receiving “on-site” pond check (Technical Guidance Program) recommendations from the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources?

	No.	Percent
Very Satisfied	305	53.5%
Somewhat Satisfied	141	24.7%
Neutral	72	12.6%
Somewhat Dissatisfied	18	3.2%
Very Dissatisfied	7	1.2%
No Opinion	27	4.7%

An overwhelming majority (78.2%) of respondents were satisfied with their technical guidance from the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. Only 4.4% indicated that they were dissatisfied in any way.

22b. If you answered somewhat dissatisfied or very dissatisfied to question 22a, what was the single most important reason that you were dissatisfied with fishing in your pond after receiving the “on-site” pond check (enter comment on lines provided)

There were no written responses to this question

23. How would you rate the importance or unimportance of the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources’ “on-site” pond check (Technical Guidance Program) as a public service?

	No.	Percent
Very Important	414	71.6%
Somewhat Important	138	23.9%
Neutral	22	3.8%
Somewhat Unimportant	2	0.3%
Very Unimportant	1	0.2%

Out of 577 surveys, 95.5% of respondents indicated that the technical guidance program was an important public service. Only 3 respondents indicated that they thought it was unimportant. As with the similar question regarding the stocking program, this may be somewhat biased as most of the people that answered this question were participants in the program. In general, though, it appears that the technical guidance program is a very valuable part of our service to the public.

24. Since the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources is funded through the sale of hunting and fishing licenses and boater registrations and receives no general fund state tax dollars, should the Department require the pond owner to have a current fishing license prior to providing the following services:

Pond Stocking?	No.	Percent
Yes	658	35.3%
No	1,204	64.7%

On-Site Pond Check?	No.	Percent
Yes	658	37.5%
No	1,097	62.5%

When asked if they thought a fishing or hunting license should be required for the pond stocking or technical guidance program, most people responded with "no". The percentages were similar for both programs indicating that most of the respondents consider pond stocking and technical guidance to be expected services provided to all the residents of the Commonwealth.

Private Pond Leases for Public Fishing

- 25a. Would you be interested in opening your pond to public fishing through a lease program that would include a yearly payment to you by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources for it use?

	No.	Percent
Yes	91	4.9%
No	1,784	95.1%

- 25b. If you answered yes to question 25a, and would be interested in leasing your pond to the Department of Fish and Wildlife for public fishing, what is the lowest yearly rate you would accept?

	No.	Percent
\$250/Acre	14	18.1%
\$500/Acre	25	32.5%
\$750/Acre	26	33.8%
\$1,000/Acre	10	13.0%
\$2,000/Acre	1	1.3%
\$5,000/Acre	1	1.3%

More than 95.1% of the respondents indicated they did not wish to lease their pond to provide for public fishing access. Of the few that did, 81.9% indicated that they would expect at least \$500/acre/year.

Conclusions

Results from the private ponds survey indicate that there are a wide variety of pond owners across the Commonwealth with a multitude of different expectations and uses for their ponds. The average pond owner had approximately 2 ponds and 3 acres of surface water. Most considered their ponds important for fishing and for scenic beauty. Most have stocked their ponds with fish and many only fish in their private pond. Approximately half purchase a fishing license.

Most pond owners in the survey have received fish from us, but many also buy fish from private hatcheries. Most participants were willing to pay more than the \$25 we charge for the program. A wide variety of additional species are stocked and most of these were obtained from private hatcheries. A vast majority of the respondents were satisfied with the fish they received and considered the Farm Pond Stocking program to be a valuable public service.

Nearly all respondents indicated that most of their information regarding pond management had come from the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources in some capacity. County Extension offices and Farm Supply stores were also cited as sources, so they may provide some opportunities for dissemination of information. Approximately one-third of the respondents had been visited by one of our biologists as part of our technical guidance program. Over 80% have followed our recommendations. Participants were willing to pay the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources for conducting technical guidance, but were less likely to purchase similar services from private contractors. Nearly 80% of the respondents were pleased with their technical guidance. The Technical guidance program was considered by respondents to be an extremely important service to the Commonwealth.

The majority of participants indicated that they did not think a hunting or fishing license should be required for the Farm Pond Stocking Program or the Technical Guidance Program.

In regard to using leases of private ponds to provide additional fishing opportunities to the public, almost all respondents indicated that they were not interested in leases for any amount. A substantial number of those that did express an interest thought that \$500/acre/year was an appropriate payment.

Roughly 30% of the surveys were returned with written comments. Most were positive and the majority of responses re-emphasized the importance of the Farm Pond Stocking and Technical Guidance Programs for the people of the Commonwealth.

Recommendations

The Farm Pond Stocking and Technical Guidance Programs provide a popular and valuable service to the citizens of Kentucky and warrant continuation in their present form. If it is a financial necessity, the department could possibly increase the fees we charge for fish stocking to offset costs. Most respondents indicated that they were willing to pay a price of between \$50 and \$100. We could also consider adoption of a fee for Technical Guidance visits if finances require it, as 70% of the surveyed people indicated that they would be willing to pay for this service. In general, the public did not think we should require purchase of a fishing license for either program. There seems to be little interest in a pond leasing program for increasing public opportunities, so we probably do not need to pursue the idea any further.

Appendix 1

1. Do you personally fish in your pond?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Yes	1616	84.1%	85.8%
No	267	13.9%	14.2%
Total Responses	1883	98.0%	
Unmarked	38	2.0%	
	1921		

2a. Do you allow people other than your spouse or dependent children to fish in your pond?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Yes	1490	77.6%	79.4%
No	386	20.1%	20.6%
Total Responses	1876	97.7%	
Unmarked	45	2.3%	
	1921		

2b. If YES, how many different people (other than your spouse or dependent children) fish your pond during the average year?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
5 or less	671	34.9%	45.4%
6 to 10	487	25.4%	32.9%
11 to 20	163	8.5%	11.0%
More than 20	158	8.2%	10.7%
Total Responses	1479	77.0%	
Unmarked	442	23.0%	
	1921		

3. Please rate how important or unimportant the following pond uses are to you.

Fishing

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Very Important	1147	59.7%	60.8%
Somewhat Important	543	28.3%	28.8%
Neutral	149	7.8%	7.9%
Somewhat Unimportant	21	1.1%	1.1%
Very Unimportant	27	1.4%	1.4%
Total Responses	1887	98.2%	
Unmarked	34	1.8%	
	1921		

Livestock Watering

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Very Important	525	27.3%	30.3%
Somewhat Important	186	9.7%	10.7%
Neutral	184	9.6%	10.6%
Somewhat Unimportant	107	5.6%	6.2%
Very Unimportant	731	38.1%	42.2%
Total Responses	1733	90.2%	
Unmarked	188	9.8%	
	1921		

Irrigation

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Very Important	153	8.0%	9.3%
Somewhat Important	180	9.4%	10.9%
Neutral	300	15.6%	18.2%
Somewhat Unimportant	174	9.1%	10.6%
Very Unimportant	842	43.8%	51.1%
Total Responses	1649	85.8%	
Unmarked	272	14.2%	
	1921		

Waterfowl Hunting

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Very Important	84	4.4%	5.1%
Somewhat Important	158	8.2%	9.6%
Neutral	351	18.3%	21.4%
Somewhat Unimportant	152	7.9%	9.3%
Very Unimportant	895	46.6%	54.6%
Total Responses	1640	85.4%	
Unmarked	281	14.6%	
	1921		

Attracting Wildlife

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Very Important	897	46.7%	49.6%
Somewhat Important	558	29.0%	30.9%
Neutral	187	9.7%	10.3%
Somewhat Unimportant	49	2.6%	2.7%
Very Unimportant	116	6.0%	6.4%
Total Responses	1807	94.1%	
Unmarked	114	5.9%	
	1921		

Scenic Beauty

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Very Important	1277	66.5%	69.6%
Somewhat Important	430	22.4%	23.4%
Neutral	88	4.6%	4.8%
Somewhat Unimportant	16	0.8%	0.9%
Very Unimportant	23	1.2%	1.3%
Total Responses	1834	95.5%	
Unmarked	87	4.5%	
	1921		

4a. How many ponds do you have?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
01	972	50.6%	52.1%
02	398	20.7%	21.3%
03	218	11.3%	11.7%
04	128	6.7%	6.9%
05	56	2.9%	3.0%
06	31	1.6%	1.7%
07	19	1.0%	1.0%
08	16	0.8%	0.9%
09	7	0.4%	0.4%
10	9	0.5%	0.5%
11	2	0.1%	0.1%
12	3	0.2%	0.2%
13	1	0.1%	0.1%
14	2	0.1%	0.1%
16	1	0.1%	0.1%
19	1	0.1%	0.1%
20	1	0.1%	0.1%
25	1	0.1%	0.1%
30	1	0.1%	0.1%
Total Responses	1867	97.2%	
Unmarked	54	2.8%	
	1921		

4b. What is the total surface acreage of your ponds?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
001	792	41.2%	43.6%
002	407	21.2%	22.4%
003	207	10.8%	11.4%
004	123	6.4%	6.8%
005	84	4.4%	4.6%
006	54	2.8%	3.0%
007	21	1.1%	1.2%
008	25	1.3%	1.4%
009	3	0.2%	0.2%
010	12	0.6%	0.7%
011	3	0.2%	0.2%
012	13	0.7%	0.7%
013	4	0.2%	0.2%
014	7	0.4%	0.4%
015	9	0.5%	0.5%
016	4	0.2%	0.2%
017	1	0.1%	0.1%
018	5	0.3%	0.3%
019	2	0.1%	0.1%
020	4	0.2%	0.2%
021	1	0.1%	0.1%
022	1	0.1%	0.1%
024	2	0.1%	0.1%
025	2	0.1%	0.1%
028	2	0.1%	0.1%
030	4	0.2%	0.2%
032	1	0.1%	0.1%
034	1	0.1%	0.1%
035	2	0.1%	0.1%
036	2	0.1%	0.1%
038	1	0.1%	0.1%
043	1	0.1%	0.1%
045	1	0.1%	0.1%
050	2	0.1%	0.1%
057	1	0.1%	0.1%
060	1	0.1%	0.1%
070	1	0.1%	0.1%
075	2	0.1%	0.1%
080	1	0.1%	0.1%
099	1	0.1%	0.1%
100	1	0.1%	0.1%
104	1	0.1%	0.1%
114	1	0.1%	0.1%
144	1	0.1%	0.1%
146	1	0.1%	0.1%
300	1	0.1%	0.1%
Total Responses	1816	94.5%	
Unmarked	105	5.5%	
	1921		

5a. Have you stocked any of your ponds with fish since you have owned them?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Yes	1777	92.5%	93.1%
No	132	6.9%	6.9%
Total Responses	1909	99.4%	
Unmarked	12	0.6%	
	1921		

5b. If YES, where did you obtain the fish? (check all sources)

	Frequency	Percent
KDFWR	1477	76.9%
Unmarked	444	23.1%
	1921	

	Frequency	Percent
Private Hatchery	823	42.8%
Unmarked	1098	57.2%
	1921	

	Frequency	Percent
Other Private Ponds	217	11.3%
Unmarked	1704	88.7%
	1921	

	Frequency	Percent
Caught from Public Waters	206	10.7%
Unmarked	1715	89.3%
	1921	

5c. If you checked more than one box in Question 5b, what was your main source of fish?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
KDFWR	525	27.3%	71.1%
Private Hatchery	174	9.1%	23.6%
Other Private Ponds	25	1.3%	3.4%
Caught from Public Waters	14	0.7%	1.9%
Total Responses	738	38.4%	
Unmarked	1183	61.6%	
	1921		

6. Do you personally fish in any other bodies of water in Kentucky other than your pond(s)?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Yes	1069	55.6%	56.1%
No	835	43.5%	43.9%
Total Responses	1904	99.1%	
Unmarked	17	0.9%	
	1921		

7a. Did you purchase a fishing license in 2002?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Yes	959	49.9%	51.0%
No	923	48.0%	49.0%
Total Responses	1882	98.0%	
Unmarked	39	2.0%	
	1921		

7b. Have you purchased or will you purchase a fishing license in 2003?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Yes	1046	54.5%	56.2%
No	814	42.4%	43.8%
Total Responses	1860	96.8%	
Unmarked	61	3.2%	
	1921		

8. Have you received fish to stock your pond from the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources Pond Stocking Program?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Yes	1491	77.6%	79.5%
No	384	20.0%	20.5%
Total Responses	1875	97.6%	
Unmarked	46	2.4%	
	1921		

9a. If you had not been able to obtain fish for your pond from the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, would you have tried to obtain fish from other sources?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Yes	1315	68.5%	89.9%
No	147	7.7%	10.1%
Total Responses	1462	76.1%	
Unmarked	459	23.9%	
	1921		

9b. If you answered YES to Question 9a, where would you most likely obtain the fish?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Private Hatchery	924	48.1%	85.3%
Other Private Ponds	90	4.7%	8.3%
Caught from Public Waters	69	3.6%	6.4%
Total Responses	1083	56.4%	
Unmarked	838	43.6%	
	1921		

10. Besides the fish (largemouth bass, bluegill, channel catfish) that you received from the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources Pond Stocking Program, please check any additional fish that you have stocked in your pond:

	Frequency	Percent
Largemouth Bass	174	9.1%
Unmarked	1747	90.9%
	1921	

	Frequency	Percent
Smallmouth Bass	31	1.6%
Unmarked	1890	98.4%
	1921	

	Frequency	Percent
Bluegill	148	7.7%
Unmarked	1773	92.3%
	1921	

	Frequency	Percent
White Crappie	110	5.7%
Unmarked	1811	94.3%
	1921	

	Frequency	Percent
Black Crappie	113	5.9%
Unmarked	1808	94.1%
	1921	

	Frequency	Percent
Grass Carp	567	29.5%
Unmarked	1354	70.5%
	1921	

	Frequency	Percent
Hybrid Bluegill	206	10.7%
Unmarked	1715	89.3%
	1921	

	Frequency	Percent
Hybrid Striped Bass	20	1.0%
Unmarked	1901	99.0%
	1921	

	Frequency	Percent
Redear/Shellcracker	166	8.6%
Unmarked	1755	91.4%
	1921	

	Frequency	Percent
Minnows	190	9.9%
Unmarked	1731	90.1%
	1921	

	Frequency	Percent
Bullhead Catfish	46	2.4%
Unmarked	1875	97.6%
	1921	

	Frequency	Percent
Other Species	128	6.7%
Unmarked	1793	93.3%
	1921	

10. (continued) Other Species written in

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Albino Channel Catfish	2	0.1%	1.8%
Blue Catfish	3	0.2%	2.6%
Bullfrogs	5	0.3%	4.4%
Carp	1	0.1%	0.9%
Catfish	4	0.2%	3.5%
Channel Catfish	56	2.9%	49.1%
Channel Catfish/Flathead Catfish	1	0.1%	0.9%
Chubs	1	0.1%	0.9%
Crappie	1	0.1%	0.9%
Crayfish/Rainbow Trout/Spotted Bass	1	0.1%	0.9%
Fathead Minnows	2	0.1%	1.8%
Flathead Catfish	2	0.1%	1.8%
Flathead Catfish/Blue Cat/White Bass	1	0.1%	0.9%
Goldfish	3	0.2%	2.6%
Goldfish/Channel Striped Cats	1	0.1%	0.9%
Hybrids Were Placed In Only One Pond	1	0.1%	0.9%
Jumbo Frogs	1	0.1%	0.9%
Koi Carp	5	0.3%	4.4%
Ky Bass	1	0.1%	0.9%
Mollie	1	0.1%	0.9%
Not Any As Of Yet But Will In Future	1	0.1%	0.9%
Paddlefish	1	0.1%	0.9%
Perch	1	0.1%	0.9%
Red Eyes	1	0.1%	0.9%
Shiners	2	0.1%	1.8%
Something To Get Rid Of Pond Lillies	1	0.1%	0.9%
Sunfish	2	0.1%	1.8%
Tadpoles	1	0.1%	0.9%
Trout	3	0.2%	2.6%
Trout/Channel Catfish	1	0.1%	0.9%
Walleye	1	0.1%	0.9%
Walleye/Channel Catfish/Rainbow Trout	1	0.1%	0.9%
White Catfish	5	0.3%	4.4%
Total Responses	114	5.9%	
Unmarked	1807	94.1%	
	1921		

11. If you stocked additional fish in your pond, where did you obtain them?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Private Hatchery/Dealer	591	30.8%	81.6%
Other Private Ponds	75	3.9%	10.4%
Caught from Public Waters	58	3.0%	8.0%
Total Responses	724	37.7%	
Unmarked	1197	62.3%	
	1921		

12. Currently, the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources only charges a \$25 handling fee to stock any size pond with 120 largemouth bass, 400 bluegill, and 50 channel catfish per acre of water. Is this farm pond stocking program valuable enough to you that you would be willing to pay more for this service?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Yes	1140	59.3%	79.2%
No	300	15.6%	20.8%
Total Responses	1440	75.0%	
Unmarked	481	25.0%	
	1921		

13. The above pond stocking rate would cost you \$250-350 per acre if obtained from a private fish dealer. How much would you be willing to pay on a per acre basis for these fish?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
\$100	721	37.5%	59.6%
\$150	91	4.7%	7.5%
\$200	51	2.7%	4.2%
\$250	50	2.6%	4.1%
\$300	9	0.5%	0.7%
\$350	8	0.4%	0.7%
Other	280	14.6%	23.1%
Total Responses	1210	63.0%	
Unmarked	711	37.0%	
	1921		

13. (Continued) Other prices written in.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
\$10	1	0.1%	0.4%
\$20	3	0.2%	1.2%
\$25	52	2.7%	20.8%
\$30	2	0.1%	0.8%
\$35	9	0.5%	3.6%
\$40	7	0.4%	2.8%
\$50	158	8.2%	63.2%
\$60	2	0.1%	0.8%
\$75	14	0.7%	5.6%
\$100	1	0.1%	0.4%
\$400	1	0.1%	0.4%
Total Responses	250	13.0%	
Unmarked	1671		
	1921		

14a. What is your level of satisfaction or dissatisfaction with the fish you received through the pond stocking program?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Very Satisfied	1156	60.2%	78.2%
Somewhat Satisfied	211	11.0%	14.3%
Neutral	46	2.4%	3.1%
Somewhat Dissatisfied	41	2.1%	2.8%
Very Dissatisfied	4	0.2%	0.3%
No Opinion	21	1.1%	1.4%
Total Responses	1479	77.0%	
Unmarked	442	23.0%	
	1921		

14b. If you answered Somewhat Dissatisfied or Very Dissatisfied to question 14a, what was the single most important reason that you were dissatisfied with the fish (enter comment on lines provided).

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
DIED	1	0.1%	14.3%
FEW BLUEGILL	1	0.1%	14.3%
SIZE OF FISH	4	0.2%	57.1%
TOO FEW BASS	1	0.1%	14.3%
Total Responses	7	0.4%	
Unmarked	1914	99.6%	
	1921		

15. How would you rate the importance or unimportance of Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources' Pond Stocking Program as a public service?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Very Important	1212	63.1%	81.5%
Somewhat Important	232	12.1%	15.6%
Neutral	38	2.0%	2.6%
Somewhat Unimportant	5	0.3%	0.3%
Very Unimportant	1	0.1%	0.1%
Total Responses	1488	77.5%	
Unmarked	433	22.5%	
	1921		

16. Which of the following sources have you used to obtain information on management of your farm pond? (check all that apply)

	Frequency	Percent
Private Pond Consultants	164	8.5%
Unmarked	1757	91.5%
	1921	

	Frequency	Percent
KDFWR Website	634	33.0%
Unmarked	1287	67.0%
	1921	

	Frequency	Percent
KDFWR Personal Comm.	694	36.1%
Unmarked	1227	63.9%
	1921	

	Frequency	Percent
Farm Pond Book	877	45.7%
Unmarked	1044	54.3%
	1921	

	Frequency	Percent
Farm Pond Seminar	85	4.4%
Unmarked	1836	95.6%
	1921	

	Frequency	Percent
County Extension Office	559	29.1%
Unmarked	1362	70.9%
	1921	

	Frequency	Percent
Non-KDFWR Source	126	6.6%
Unmarked	1795	93.4%
	1921	

	Frequency	Percent
Farm Field Days	71	3.7%
Unmarked	1850	96.3%
	1921	

	Frequency	Percent
Friends	741	38.6%
Unmarked	1180	61.4%
	1921	

	Frequency	Percent
Farm Supply Store	403	21.0%
Unmarked	1518	79.0%
	1921	

	Frequency	Percent
Others	111	5.8%
Unmarked	1810	94.2%
	1921	

16. (Continued) Other sources written in.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
KDFWR Officer	9	0.5%	22.0%
Internet	8	0.4%	19.5%
NRCS	6	0.3%	14.6%
Other Books	5	0.3%	12.2%
Self	3	0.2%	7.3%
Contractors	2	0.1%	4.9%
By Phone	1	0.1%	2.4%
Chip Mcinnis	1	0.1%	2.4%
Commission	1	0.1%	2.4%
FSC	1	0.1%	2.4%
Hatchery	1	0.1%	2.4%
KSU	1	0.1%	2.4%
Magazines	1	0.1%	2.4%
NDR	1	0.1%	2.4%
Total Responses	41	2.1%	
Unmarked	1880	97.9%	
	1921		

17. Which of the following is the single most valuable source of information you use to manage your farm pond?
(check only one)

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Private Pond Consultants	44	2.3%	3.0%
KDFWR Website	224	11.7%	15.1%
KDFWR Personal Comm.	351	18.3%	23.7%
Farm Pond Book	383	19.9%	25.8%
Farm Pond Seminar	17	0.9%	1.1%
County Extension Office	137	7.1%	9.2%
Non-KDFWR Source	26	1.4%	1.8%
Farm Field Days	4	0.2%	0.3%
Friends	186	9.7%	12.5%
Farm Supply Store	53	2.8%	3.6%
Others	58	3.0%	3.9%
Total Responses	1483	77.2%	
Unmarked	438	22.8%	
	1921		

17. (Continued) Other sources written in.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Self	6	0.3%	25.0%
KDFWR Officer	5	0.3%	20.8%
NRCS	3	0.2%	12.5%
Other Books	2	0.1%	8.3%
All	1	0.1%	4.2%
I Haven't	1	0.1%	4.2%
Internet	1	0.1%	4.2%
KSU	1	0.1%	4.2%
Locked Gates	1	0.1%	4.2%
Relatives	1	0.1%	4.2%
See Above	1	0.1%	4.2%
Son	1	0.1%	4.2%
Total Responses	24	0.1%	
Unmarked	1897	98.8%	
	1921		

18. Have you received an "on site" pond check (Technical Guidance Program) for any pond you own from a Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources fisheries biologist?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Yes	590	30.7%	31.3%
No	1296	67.5%	68.7%
Total Responses	1886	98.2%	
Unmarked	35	1.8%	
	1921		

19. Did you follow the recommendations provided by the fisheries biologist from the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife through the "on-site" pond check (Technical Guidance Program)?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Yes	478	24.9%	82.3%
No	30	1.6%	5.2%
Not Yet, But Will	44	2.3%	7.6%
No Recommendation Needed	29	1.5%	5.0%
Total Responses	581	30.2%	
Unmarked	1340	69.8%	
	1921		

20a. Is the on-site Technical Guidance Program valuable enough to you that you would be willing to pay for this service from the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Yes	395	20.6%	69.2%
No	176	9.2%	30.8%
Total Responses	571	29.7%	
Unmarked	1350	70.3%	
	1921		

20b. Is the on-site Technical Guidance Program valuable enough to you that you would be willing to pay for this service from a private consultant/contractor?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Yes	187	9.7%	33.4%
No	373	19.4%	66.6%
Total Responses	560	29.2%	
Unmarked	1361	70.8%	
	1921		

20c. If you answered "yes" to either question 20a or 20b, what is the maximum amount that you would be willing to pay per pond for this service?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
\$25	114	5.9%	32.0%
\$50	112	5.8%	31.5%
\$100	95	4.9%	26.7%
\$200	19	1.0%	5.3%
Other	16	0.8%	4.5%
Total Responses	356	18.5%	
Unmarked	1565	81.5%	
	1921		

20c. (Continued) Other amounts written in.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
\$10	2	0.1%	25.0%
\$20	1	0.1%	12.5%
\$150	1	0.1%	12.5%
\$500	3	0.2%	37.5%
\$3000	1	0.1%	12.5%
Total Responses	8	0.4%	
Unmarked	1913	99.6%	
	1921		

21. Would you be willing to pay a private consultant or contractor to diagnose aquatic vegetation problems in your pond and pay them to apply the appropriate aquatic herbicide?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Yes	208	10.8%	37.5%
No	347	18.1%	62.5%
Total Responses	555	28.9%	
Unmarked	1366	71.1%	
	1921		

22a. What is your level of satisfaction or dissatisfaction with the fishing in your pond after receiving “on-site” pond check (Technical Guidance Program) recommendations from the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Very Satisfied	305	15.9%	53.5%
Somewhat Satisfied	141	7.3%	24.7%
Neutral	72	3.7%	12.6%
Somewhat Dissatisfied	18	0.9%	3.2%
Very Dissatisfied	7	0.4%	1.2%
No Opinion	27	1.4%	4.7%
Total Responses	570	29.7%	
Unmarked	1351	70.3%	
	1921		

22b. If you answered somewhat dissatisfied or very dissatisfied to question 22a, what was the single most important reason that you were dissatisfied with fishing in your pond after receiving the “on-site” pond check (enter comment on lines provided)

There were no written responses to this question.

23. How would you rate the importance or unimportance of the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources’ “on-site” pond check (Technical Guidance Program) as a public service?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Very Important	414	21.6%	71.8%
Somewhat Important	138	7.2%	23.9%
Neutral	22	1.1%	3.8%
Somewhat Unimportant	2	0.1%	0.3%
Very Unimportant	1	0.1%	0.2%
Total Responses	577	30.0%	
Unmarked	1344	70.0%	
	1921		

24. Since the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources is funded through the sale of hunting and fishing licenses and boater registrations and receives no general fund state tax dollars, should the Department require the pond owner to have a current fishing license prior to providing the following services:

Farm Pond Stocking?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Yes	658	34.3%	35.3%
No	1204	62.7%	64.7%
Total Responses	1862	96.9%	
Unmarked	59	3.1%	
	1921		

Technical Guidance?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Yes	658	34.3%	37.5%
No	1097	57.1%	62.5%
Total Responses	1755	91.4%	
Unmarked	166	8.6%	
	1921		

25a. Would you be interested in opening your pond to public fishing through a lease program that would include a yearly payment to you by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources for its use?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Yes	91	4.7%	4.9%
No	1784	92.9%	95.1%
Total Responses	1875	97.6%	
Unmarked	46	2.4%	
	1921		

25b. If you answered yes to question 25a, and would be interested in leasing your pond to the Department of Fish and Wildlife for public fishing, what is the lowest yearly rate you would accept?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
\$250/Acre	14	0.7%	16.9%
\$500/Acre	25	1.3%	30.1%
\$750/Acre	26	1.4%	31.3%
Other	18	0.9%	21.7%
Total Responses	83	4.3%	
Unmarked	1838	95.7%	
	1921		

25b. (Continued) Other amounts written in.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
\$1000	10	0.5%	83.3%
\$2000	1	0.1%	8.3%
\$5000	1	0.1%	8.3%
Total Responses	12	0.6%	
Unmarked	1909	99.4%	
	1921		

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources welcomes any other comments you may have about our farm pond or technical guidance program.

	Frequency	Percent
Comments	539	28.1%
No Comments	1382	71.9%
Total Responses	1921	

Appendix 2

2003 Private Pond and Lake Management Survey

Final Results

1,921 Surveys Summarized

**Kentucky Department of Fish
and Wildlife Resources
Fisheries Division**

**Please return your completed questionnaire
in the enclosed envelope to:**

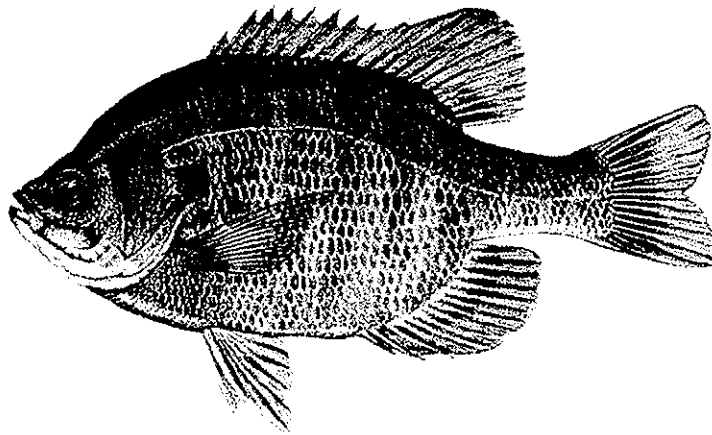
Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources

#1 Game Farm Road



Frankfort, KY 40601

- We want your opinion! Please complete this survey and return it to us.
- It is important that this survey is completed only by the person to whom it was addressed. This will ensure that pond owners are most accurately represented.
- Please do not write your name on the questionnaire because we want to guarantee your anonymity. An identification number has been stamped on the back that will only be used to check your name off our list once your survey has been returned.
- Please return the questionnaire in the postage paid envelope provided.

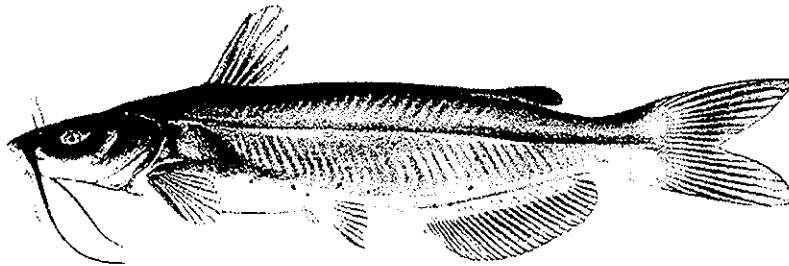


THANK YOU FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE

1. Do you personally fish in your pond?

85.8% Yes

14.2% No



2a. Do you allow people other than your spouse or dependent children to fish in your pond?

79.4% Yes

20.6% No (Skip to Question 3)

2b. If YES, how many different people (other than your spouse or dependent children) fish your pond during the average year?

45.4% 5 or Less

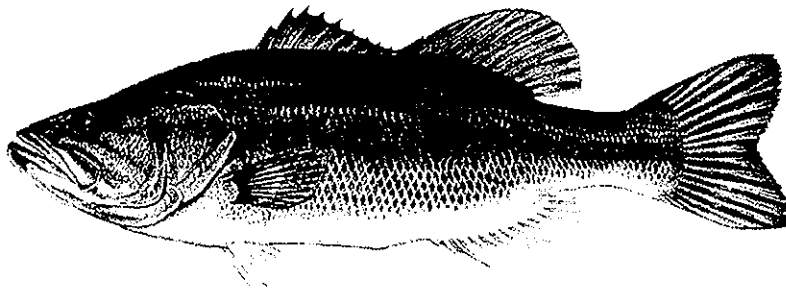
32.9% 6 to 10

11.0% 11 to 20

10.7% More than 20

3. Please rate how important or unimportant the following pond uses are to you.

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Neutral	Somewhat Unimportant	Very Unimportant
Fishing	<input type="checkbox"/> 61%	<input type="checkbox"/> 29%	<input type="checkbox"/> 8%	<input type="checkbox"/> 1%	<input type="checkbox"/> 1%
Livestock Watering	<input type="checkbox"/> 30%	<input type="checkbox"/> 11%	<input type="checkbox"/> 11%	<input type="checkbox"/> 6%	<input type="checkbox"/> 42%
Irrigation	<input type="checkbox"/> 9%	<input type="checkbox"/> 11%	<input type="checkbox"/> 18%	<input type="checkbox"/> 11%	<input type="checkbox"/> 51%
Waterfowl Hunting	<input type="checkbox"/> 5%	<input type="checkbox"/> 10%	<input type="checkbox"/> 21%	<input type="checkbox"/> 9%	<input type="checkbox"/> 55%
Attracting Wildlife	<input type="checkbox"/> 50%	<input type="checkbox"/> 31%	<input type="checkbox"/> 10%	<input type="checkbox"/> 3%	<input type="checkbox"/> 6%
Scenic Beauty	<input type="checkbox"/> 70%	<input type="checkbox"/> 23%	<input type="checkbox"/> 5%	<input type="checkbox"/> 1%	<input type="checkbox"/> 1%



4a. How many ponds do you have? _____ Range 1-30 Average = 2.15

4b. What is the total surface acreage of your ponds? _____ Range 1-300 Average = 3.79

5a. Have you stocked any of your ponds with fish since you have owned them?

- 93.1% Yes
6.9% No (Skip to Question 6)

5b. If YES, where did you obtain the fish? (check all sources)

- 77.0% Kentucky Dept. Of Fish & Wildlife
42.8% Private Hatchery
11.3% Other Private Ponds
10.7% Caught from Public Waters

5c. If you checked more than one box in Question 5b, what was your main source of fish?

- 71.1% Kentucky Dept. Of Fish & Wildlife
23.6% Private Hatchery
3.4% Other Private Ponds
1.9% Caught from Public Waters

6. Do you personally fish in any other bodies of water in Kentucky other than your pond(s)?

- 55.6% Yes
43.9% No

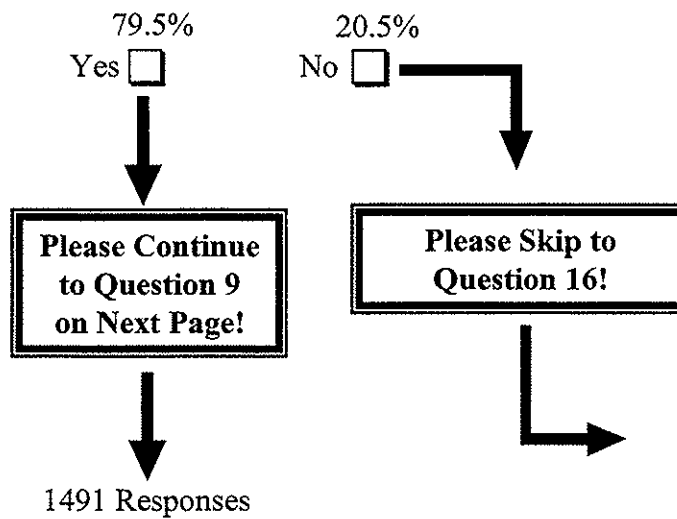
7a. Did you purchase a fishing license in 2002?

49.9% Yes
48.0% No

7b. Have you purchased or will you purchase a fishing license in 2003?

56.2% Yes
43.8% No

8. Have you received fish to stock your pond from the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources Pond Stocking Program?



9a. If you had not been able to obtain fish for your pond from the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, would you have tried to obtain fish from other sources?

- 89.9% Yes
10.1% No (Skip to Question 10)

9b. If you answered YES to Question 9a, where would you most likely obtain the fish?

- 85.3% Private Hatchery/Dealer
8.3% Other Private Ponds
6.4% Caught from Public Waters

10. Besides the fish (largemouth bass, bluegill, channel catfish) that you received from the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources Pond Stocking Program, please check any additional fish that you have stocked in your pond:

- | | | | | | |
|-------|--------------------------|---------------------|------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 9.1% | <input type="checkbox"/> | Largemouth Bass | 8.6% | <input type="checkbox"/> | Redear/Shellcracker |
| 1.6% | <input type="checkbox"/> | Smallmouth Bass | 9.9% | <input type="checkbox"/> | Minnows |
| 7.7% | <input type="checkbox"/> | Bluegill | 2.4% | <input type="checkbox"/> | Bullhead Catfish |
| 5.7% | <input type="checkbox"/> | White Crappie | 6.7% | <input type="checkbox"/> | Others _____ |
| 5.9% | <input type="checkbox"/> | Black Crappie | | | _____ |
| 29.5% | <input type="checkbox"/> | Grass Carp | | | _____ |
| 10.7% | <input type="checkbox"/> | Hybrid Bluegill | | | _____ |
| 1.0% | <input type="checkbox"/> | Hybrid Striped Bass | | | _____ |

(Please List all Species)

11. If you stocked additional fish in your pond, where did you obtain them?

- 81.6% Private Hatchery/Dealer
- 10.4% Other Private Ponds
- 8.0% Caught from Public Waters

12. Currently, the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources only charges a \$25 handling fee to stock any size pond with 120 largemouth bass, 400 bluegill, and 50 channel catfish per acre of water. Is this farm pond stocking program valuable enough to you that you would be willing to pay more for this service?

- 79.2% Yes
- 20.8% No

13. The above pond stocking rate would cost you \$250-350 per acre if obtained from a private fish dealer. How much would you be willing to pay on a per acre basis for these fish?

- 59.6% \$100
- 4.1% \$250
- 7.5% \$150
- 0.7% \$300
- 4.2% \$200
- 0.7% \$350
- 23.1% Other \$Range 0-400 Peak \$50

14a. What is your level of satisfaction or dissatisfaction with the fish you received through the pond stocking program?

- 78.2% Very Satisfied
- 14.3% Somewhat Satisfied
- 3.1% Neutral
- 2.8% Somewhat Dissatisfied
- 0.3% Very Dissatisfied
- 1.4% No Opinion

14b. If you answered Somewhat Dissatisfied or Very Dissatisfied to question 14a, what was the single most important reason that you were dissatisfied with the fish (enter comment on lines provided).

7 Entries - 4 too small -2 too few-1 died

15. How would you rate the importance or unimportance of Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources' Pond Stocking Program as a public service?

- 81.5% Very Important
- 15.6% Somewhat Important
- 2.6% Neutral
- 0.3% Somewhat Unimportant
- 0.1% Very Unimportant

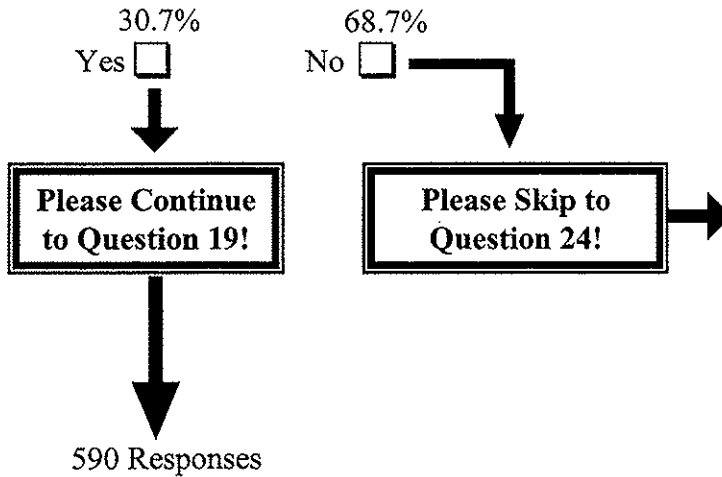
16. Which of the following sources have you used to obtain information on management of your farm pond? (check all that apply)

- 8.5% Private Pond Consultants
- 33.0% Kentucky Dept. of Fish & Wildlife (KDFWR) Website
- 36.1% Personal Communication with a KDFWR Biologist
- 45.7% KDFWR Farm Pond Management Book
- 4.4% KDFWR Farm Pond Management Seminars
- 29.1% County Extension Offices
- 6.6% Other Non-KDFWR publications and websites
- 3.7% Farm Field Days
- 38.6% Friends
- 21.0% Farm Supply Store
- 5.8% Others 41 responses - game warden, FSC, NRCS

17. Which of the following is the single most valuable source of information you use to manage your farm pond? (check only one)

- 3.0% Private Pond Consultants
- 15.1% Kentucky Dept. of Fish & Wildlife (KDFWR) Website
- 23.7% Personal Communication with a KDFWR Biologist
- 25.8% KDFWR Farm Pond Management Book
- 1.1% KDFWR Farm Pond Management Seminars
- 9.2% County Extension Offices
- 1.8% Other Non-KDFWR publications and websites
- 0.3% Farm Field Days
- 12.5% Friends
- 3.6% Farm Supply Store
- 3.9% Others 24 responses - self, game warden, NRCS

18. Have you received an “on site” pond check (Technical Guidance Program) for any pond you own from a Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources fisheries biologist?



19. Did you follow the recommendations provided by the fisheries biologist from the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife through the “on-site” pond check (Technical Guidance Program)?

- 82.3% Yes
- 5.2% No
- 7.6% Not Yet, But Will
- 5.0% No Recommendation Needed

20a. Is the on-site Technical Guidance Program valuable enough to you that you would be willing to pay for this service from the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources?

- 69.2% Yes
- 30.8% No

20b. Is the on-site Technical Guidance Program valuable enough to you that you would be willing to pay for this service from a private consultant/contractor?

33.4% Yes

66.6% No

20c. If you answered “yes” to either question 20a or 20b, what is the maximum amount that you would be willing to pay per pond for this service?

32.0% \$25

31.5% \$50

26.7% \$100

5.3% \$200

4.5% Other \$ 8 responses \$10-\$3,000

21. Would you be willing to pay a private consultant or contractor to diagnose aquatic vegetation problems in your pond and pay them to apply the appropriate aquatic herbicide?

37.5% Yes

62.5% No

22a. What is your level of satisfaction or dissatisfaction with the fishing in your pond after receiving “on-site” pond check (Technical Guidance Program) recommendations from the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources?

- 53.5% Very Satisfied
- 24.7% Somewhat Satisfied
- 12.6% Neutral
- 3.2% Somewhat Dissatisfied
- 1.2% Very Dissatisfied
- 4.7% No Opinion

22b. If you answered somewhat dissatisfied or very dissatisfied to question 22a, what was the single most important reason that you were dissatisfied with fishing in your pond after receiving the “on-site” pond check (enter comment on lines provided)

No Responses

23. How would you rate the importance or unimportance of the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources’ “on-site” pond check (Technical Guidance Program) as a public service?

- 71.8% Very Important
- 23.9% Somewhat Important
- 3.8% Neutral
- 0.3% Somewhat Unimportant
- 0.2% Very Unimportant

24. Since the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources is funded through the sale of hunting and fishing licenses and boater registrations and receives no general fund state tax dollars, should the Department require the pond owner to have a current fishing license prior to providing the following services:

Pond Stocking? 35.3% Yes
64.7% No

On Site Pond Check? 37.5% Yes
(Technical Guidance) 62.5% No

25a. Would you be interested in opening your pond to public fishing through a lease program that would include a yearly payment to you by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources for its use?

4.9% Yes (Go to Question 25b)
95.1% No (You have completed the survey!)

25b. If you answered yes to question 25a, and would be interested in leasing your pond to the Department of Fish and Wildlife for public fishing, what is the lowest yearly rate you would accept?

16.9% \$250/Acre
30.1% \$500/Acre
31.3% \$750/Acre
21.7% Other \$ 13 Responses \$0 - \$5,000 10 at \$1,000

