Festival features alligator cooking

FRANKLIN — The 1989 International Alligator Festival will be held Oct. 20-22 and will include rides, food booths, and an alligator cooking contest.

A new attraction at this year's festival will be an indoor Arts & Crafts show.

The International Alligator Festival promotes Louisiana's native reptile, the alligator. The festival exists to increase awareness of the value of the alligator to the Louisiana economy, as well as to stress the important role that this reptile played in the historical development of the state.

Festival organizers hope for large numbers of people to attend and say that Franklin has plenty of parking available.

Although most events will be held in downtown Franklin, on Main Street Boulevard, some pre-festival events are being held in other local facilities.

Festival events will be supervised by the members of the Steering Committee Members. The committee has engaged the protection of the Franklin City Police force also.

Over the years, the festival has attracted attention from all parts of the United States, as well as foreign countries. The 1986 festival was mentioned on national television and was publicized in three states.

In Louisiana, 27 newspapers and 11 radio stations carried festival notes and events.

The Festival Cookbook was

income of those who trap them during the official seasons.

In addition, the festival attempts to make the public aware that the meat of the alligator is low in fat, high in protein and is most versatile in all types of cooking.

A cooking contest is held on the festival grounds each year, and is a widely-recognized fare, sold out its first edition and a second printing is in progress.

The festival has a slide presentation which is available to civic and patriotic clubs, schools, and other such groups.

The program, delivered by a festival representative, deals with the importance of the alligator to the state, the success of the Wildlife & Fisheries program for population control, the value of the regulated season to the economy and the part that the alligator plays in the balance of nature in the wetlands.

More than 3,200 students and 800 adults have seen the program. Through the efforts of festival organizers, one of Louisiana's oldest communities is being returned to its place of importance in the state's lifestyle and economy.

For further information regarding the festival or related events, write to the International Alligator Festival Coordinator, 903 Anderson St., Franklin, LA 70538 or call 828-3487.