Spring Brings Added Pleasure
To Southern Louisiana — Crawfish

The easiest way to tell that spring is coming to south Louisiana is to examine a few south-Louisianians. If you see them standing by roadside ditches with a package of belt melt (pancreas) in one hand and a few yards of string and a net in the other, you know that spring has either arrived or is lurking around the corner.

It's crawfish season! And to give you an idea what crawfish mean to folks in south Louisiana, note this: 99 percent of the nation's crawfish are raised in Louisiana, but distribution is hardly a problem, because 85 percent of the tasty crustaceans are consumed within the Bayou State's boundaries.

Crawfish are prepared just about every which way but frozen and dipped in chocolate. Jambalaya, pie, gumbo, stew, bisque, salad and etouffee are some of the favorites, but, “when you boil them with red pepper, corn and potatoes, "mmm" .. you've got a party!

Dripping with sauce, crawfish are eaten like there's no tomorrow. From the elegant dining rooms of world-famous New Orleans restaurants to backroads bars, the sounds of crawfish-eating can distinctly be heard and they sound like this, "succulent!"

Crawfish are a folk institution in Louisiana. In the spring of even-numbered years, the Crawfish Festival in Breaux Bridge closes down business-as-usual, and opens up an animated three days of crawfish dining, Cajun folk music, street dancing, parades and seriously contested crawfish races and eating contests. Breaux Bridge has been officially proclaimed "The Crawfish Capitol of the World."

Those who can't attend the Breaux Bridge Festival needn't miss out on the experience, though. A festival happens just about every spring weekend in southern Louisiana and wherever people gather there's bound to be crawfish.

Some popular spring festivals are Shreveport's "Holiday In Dixie" (April 24 - May 3), Lake Charles' "Contraband Days" (April 29 - May 10), New Orleans' Jazz and Heritage Festival (May 1 - 10), Gonzales' "Jambalaya Festival" (June 12), Galliano's "South Lafourche Cajun Festival" (June 19-21), Pearl River's "Catfish Festival" (June 20-21) and Bayou Lacombe's "Crab Festival" (June 27-28).

To get more information about Louisiana's Festivals and attractions plus a free highway map, contact: the Louisiana Office of Tourism, Dept. 22C, P.O. Box 44291, Baton Rouge, La. 70804, 15041925-3860.