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KENT COUNTY 4-H EXPRESS NEWS

February 17, 2012

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New 4-H Staff in Kent County!

We are happy to announce that there are two wonderful new additions to the Kent County 4-H Team.

You may remember **Kristi Bowers** as a former Kent County 4-H participant and project leader. Kristi now has a new role as a 4-H Program Instructor with MSUE. Kristi has gained experience planning pre-college programs such as 4-H Great Lakes and Natural Resources Camp, 4-H Exploration Days and Educational Talent Search as an undergraduate at Michigan State University. Kristi acquired further youth development experience as a housemother at two boarding schools in Ohio while completing her field work for her master's degree as part of an Extension cohort. Kristi is happy to have made the return to Kent County and proud to live in the city of Grand Rapids for the first time with her dog, Chelsea, and her cat named Cat. She is excited for a Michigan summer full of traveling and various outdoor adventure activities with friends. Until the warmer weather arrives, she will take pleasure in experiencing new places around Grand Rapids, watching Spartan basketball and waiting for the snow to melt.

While new to 4-H, **Christine Mickelson** has been connected with Extension for the past two years. She previously worked as a consultant with the nutritional program instructors in Kent County and then was asked to work on a part-time basis with Glenda in 4-H. Thoroughly enjoying

the experience, Christine was very happy there were openings in the county for full-time 4-H instructors.

BE (before Extension) Christine was in public education for 20 years working as a middle school teacher, middle school assistant principal, and principal of a K-2 building. She is married with two lovely daughters and three perfect grandchildren - a boy, a girl, and an English lab who is the prima donna of the three. She will proudly show you pictures.

Kristi can be reached at (616) 336- 3287 or by email: bowerskr@anr.msu.edu.
Christine can be reached at (616) 336-2036 or by email: mickel24@anr.msu.edu

Please join me in welcoming these new staff to the Kent County 4-H Youth Program!

4-H Dog Clinic and Seminar Saturday, March 10

The Well Mannered Dog, 5949 Clay Ave SW in Wyoming

The Kent County 4-H Dog Developmental Committee is sponsoring a hands-on opportunity to learn and practice skills in showmanship, agility and rally obedience. 4-H members and their families can also gain insight on dog aggression from an experienced animal behavior analyst. Dr. Jennifer Sobie has studied and treated aggressive behavior in dogs. Dr. Sobie focuses on reinforcement and other behavioral machinate techniques. Dr. Sobie will speak on management and handling of aggressive dogs.

Each participant will receive a certificate and small gift for participation. 4-H members are encouraged to bring their 4-H project dogs to the clinic. Dogs must be a on a leash at all times unless being worked.

4-H members from all project areas and from other counties are welcome to attend. Cost is $8 in advance and $10 at the door, which includes lunch. For more information contact Kristi at 616 336-3287 or bowerskr@anr.msu.edu
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Goat Educational Clinic & Mandatory Meeting March 24

The annual 4-H Goat Educational Clinic and Mandatory Meeting will be held on March 24 starting at 9 a.m. at the Kent MSU Extension Office, 775 Ball Ave NE in Grand Rapids. Our guest speaker will be Dr. Jeremy Boge, DVM from the Bull Creek Veterinary Clinic.

Dr. Boge will be discussing the veterinary screening process, illnesses and problem conditions as well as prevention. These factors directly affect your goat and performance at competitions.

There will also be brief introduction to FAMACHE and parasite control - as this will be the main topic of discussion at the educational clinic part of the Goat Show on June 30th.

All goat project families are expected to attend. For more information on all aspects of the Kent County 4-H Goat project, please visit the 4-H Goat Developmental Committee blogspot.

State 4-H Poultry Workshop to be held in Kent County!

A wonderful opportunity for 4-H poultry members will be held on Saturday, March 31 at the Lowell Middle School. An exciting, hands-on poultry workshop covering live bird evaluation

(judging), meat, eggs, poultry competitions and even careers will be held right here in Kent County! 4-H Youth can receive great instruction from Michigan State University experts without a long drive. Cost for this workshop is $8 if registered before March 27 or $10 at the door. The registration fee includes lunch. For complete information please visit the Kent MSU Extension portal site or contact Kristi Bowers at the Kent MSU Extension office.

Will this be your last newsletter?

This will be the last newsletter sent to families enrolled in 2011. From now on, only families enrolled for 2012 will receive the *Kent 4-H Express* newsletter. The e-newsletter is your best information source on all the events, activities and fun things happening in 4-H. Submit your re-enrollments now (if you haven't already done so) and you won't miss a thing!

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Kent County 4-H Council

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Sharon Brandner
April Koop
Julie Kenney
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Tim Bueckman, Teen Representative

The "4-H Express" is written and produced by the 4-H Youth Program and is sponsored by Kent County 4-H Council.

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Kristi Bowers, Kent County 4-H Coordinator

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