

## Meet your KGBA Youth Committee

The Kinder Goat Breeders Association recently formed a youth committee to advance the goal of having a youth program to promote Kinder goats and develop the Kinder Goat Breeders of tomorrow. Members of the Youth Committee are Stephanie Lounsbury Griffin, Kim Moff and John James.

**Stefanie introduces herself by saying:** My name is Stephanie Lounsbury Griffin and I am on the Kinder Goat Breeders Association (KGBA) Youth Development committee. I have been raising Kinder goats for over ten years and I am honored to serve on the KGBA board as a member at large. Although the wonderful Kinder goat has many fans and is enjoying increasing interest nationwide, getting our youth interested is key to the future of our organization and the breed as a whole. What better ambassadors than children who love their goats?!

Although I grew up in the suburbs of Seattle, WA, I dreamt of having my own little farm, where I could have animals of all kinds. I imagined sitting on straw bales, feeding hay and basking in the glory of each sunrise and sunset. My favorite television show was Hee Haw and I even had a Hee Haw lunch box, the metal kind, with the insulated soup thermos! Well, my dream finally came true. We have a lovely, little farm in Washington state where we raise Kinder goats, chickens and heritage turkeys. I did a great deal of research on which breed of goat would be best for us. I was fortunate enough to stumble on Kinder goats after meeting a woman in my area who bred and raised them. "I have baby goats," she said. "You should stop by." I did. The rest is history.

It has been my pleasure to raise and care for these special animals and I am looking forward to cultivating an interest within my local area and nationwide. Kids love kids. I know. I used to be one. We didn't have the internet 50 years ago. But I would stack books next to my bed, reading myself to sleep every night, studying intently every farm animal that I could. Children are really no different now than they were back then. So it is an honor and privilege to serve on the Youth Development committee where I will work hard to raise awareness, increase interest and accessibility of our Kinder goats.

**Kim gives the following introduction:** My name is Kimberly Moff from Rustic Acres in Berlin Center, Ohio. My husband, Duane, and I and our 4 children, Kristina, Justin, Logan & Tyler, have been breeding and developing the Kinder Goats on our farm for over 30 years. Duane & I are both Charter members of the Kinder Goat Association. On our 100 acre farm, we have also raised Boer Goats, Registered Pygmy Goats, Nubians, Peidmontese Beef Cattle, Rabbits, Horses and Mini Horses and our one llama, Doolittle. I am the Manager for the Mahoning County Junior Fair in Canfield, Ohio for over 25 years, have worked as an Agricultural Educator at Mill Creek MetroParks teaching school children about agriculture for over 15 years, and currently work at Angels for Animals as the Community Outreach Director.

Over 30 years ago, I decided I wanted a dual-purpose goat that could be used for milk and provide meat on our farm that I could raise with my family. With much research, I found this newly developed breed known as the Kinder Goat and fell in love. With my husband's experience as a Dairy Specialist for Coba/Select Sires, we developed several lines of our own as our foundation herd and worked diligently to improve our

herd as we bred and moved through the generations each year. Over 20 years ago, I established a Kinder Goat Junior Fair Show at our county fair, which continues to grow each year. I have worked with others to help establish new herds and to promote the Kinder Goats in Ohio, as well as other states. I have worked with local youth members who have expressed interest in the Kinder Goats and have started them off by purchasing their first youth memberships and registering their Kinder Goats purchased at my farm.

My 4 children have had the opportunity to show, raise and fall in love with the Kinder Goats on our farm, and now are all in college. Hopefully, we will have grandchildren showing Kinder Goats in the future. For now, I would like to offer my experience, knowledge, talents and new-found empty nest time to help with Kinder Goat youth programs for the Kinder Goat Association. I would like to be a part of teaching youth to make the world a little “Kinder.”

**John James provided the following bio:** My name is John James and I am in my fifth term as the KGBA Secretary. I have been a 4H advisor for 15 years and serve on several committees at the Canfield Fair. I do prison ministry for Celebrate Recovery and lead a Bicycling ministry at our church. I work full time as a regional claims’ manager and conduct corporate training. I’m also an adjunct professor at Kent State University.

My wife Diana and I, along with our children Jeremiah, Jonathon and Ashley have raised goats for 30 years. We’ve raised many breeds of goats including Alpines, Nubians, LaManchas, Saanens, Toggenburgs, Pygmies and Boers. We also raise turkeys, rabbits, broiler and layer chickens and keep a miniature horse. My wife breeds and shows Australian Shepherds and teaches conformation and agility classes at Youngstown All Breed Training Center. I never wanted Kinder goats but Kim Moff gave our daughter a Kinder kid in 2012 and we fell in love with the breed. Their ease of kidding and goofy personalities won us over. Today we focus solely on the Kinder breed.

When I approached the Board about developing a youth program, I was very grateful for the support the board members gave to the idea. We all realized that perpetuation of the Kinder breed is contingent on the next generation wanting to raise and breed Kinder goats. What better way to get young people interested in raising Kinder goats than to provide opportunities and activities for them? As we work to expand the youth program, I welcome the enthusiasm Kim and Stephanie bring to this project.