

## Kim Sabo – MMPA’s Summer Food Systems Fellowship Intern

While it may seem unlikely that someone who grew up in Eastpointe (located on the northeast border of Detroit) is interested in being a large animal veterinarian specializing in dairy, it certainly isn’t impossible, and this year’s MMPA Summer Food Systems Fellowship intern Kim Sabo is living proof of just that.



“My interest in the dairy industry sprouted at my Uncle Ed’s farm in Spruce, Mich.,” Kim says. “I would stay with him over the summer for several weeks. I started doing that when I was about 11 years old until I started college.”

During her undergrad studies at MSU, Kim worked in the dairy nutrition lab where she learned about the nutrition requirements of cattle. Her current curriculum provides

her with the medical background she needs which will enable her to help farmers maintain a healthy herd as well as maintain the quality standards of the food industry.

“Ultimately I plan to work with dairy cows,” Kim says. “I find them to be amazing creatures, capable of impressive production while maintaining themselves and often pregnancy as well.”

During her undergrad program, Kim volunteered at Fowlerville Vet Clinic where she enjoyed being able to spend time with the vets riding around and answering farm calls.

“I want to be a dairy vet because I want to be involved in the food industry and feel like I am doing something good for the community,” Kim says. “I have two years left of vet school. After I graduate I am looking for a large animal vet service that will provide a good mentoring program for me.”

Through Kim’s Summer Food Systems Fellowship Program internship with MMPA, she has already been able to experience much of Michigan’s dairy industry first-hand through dairy plant tours and working with MMPA Member Representatives on various farm calls. She is also conducting a study investigating udder prep procedural drift and its effects on milk harvest.

“MMPA is excited about participating in the Food Systems Fellowship Program again this year,” Dean Letter, MMPA Manager of Producer Testing and Herd Health Programs says. “We are happy to have Kim working with us and hope the experience she gains this summer is helpful to her goal of being a large animal veterinarian.”

Kim says she has enjoyed her time with MMPA thus far and appreciates the opportunity to be part of the Food Systems Fellowship Program so she may gain a more complete view of what happens in the food industry outside of veterinary medicine.

“I have found the MMPA staff and farmers to be very welcoming and helpful,” Kim says. “I am very happy to be on board with MMPA this summer. I know this will be a great experience and benefit to my future.”

### Summer Food Systems Fellowship Program

The Summer Food Systems Fellowship program was developed by the Department of Animal Science and the College of Veterinary Medicine at Michigan State University to provide relevant industry experiences in the food systems arena for veterinary students. Through educational summer study programs, MSU recognizes the importance of teaching veterinary students the realities and challenges animal agriculture faces through continuous food safety and security problems, the potential for an intentional introduction of pathogens by terrorists, decreasing profit margins and a changing workforce.

Several food industry organizations, including MMPA, are “Food Systems Partners,” meaning they employ a veterinary student in a summer position that will provide a meaningful and relevant experience in food systems. The partners also help the student design and implement a project that benefits both the student and the partner.

For more information on the program, contact Dan Grooms, DVM, Ph.D at 517-432-1494 or [groomsd@cvm.msu.edu](mailto:groomsd@cvm.msu.edu).