4-H and land resources agent for Southeast named

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The University of Alaska Fairbanks Cooperative Extension Service has named Timothy K. Kock (pronounced COOK) as Extension’s 4H/land resources agent in Juneau. Kock (COOK) was one of three finalists for the position, which has been vacant since June 2004 following the retirement of Extension Land Resources Agent Jim Douglas.

Kock is an experienced Extension agent, having worked for the Arizona Cooperative Extension Service for almost seven years as a 4-H agent, building a strong youth development program serving more than 11,000 youth, including 1,000 in traditional 4-H programs. Kock led a staff of six 4H paid staff and 350 volunteer leaders. The governor of Arizona recognized Kock’s outstanding youth development work and named him as a founding member of the Arizona Character Education Commission. Kock has also worked overseas in the Republics of Georgia and Kyrgyzstan of central Asia, promoting agricultural and youth development. Agricultural and horticultural programming overseen by Kock, both in the U.S. and abroad, includes developing community garden projects, youth community service garden projects and using gardening as a tool to promote youth workforce development.

Kock earned a master’s of science in agricultural education in 1995 and a bachelor’s degree in mass communications in 1992, both from the University of Nebraska. He also has an associate of applied science in visual communication.

UAF Extension Associate Director William Butler, who chaired the search committee, said Kock was an excellent match for the community's needs.

“There are enormous opportunities for collaboration and partnerships in Southeast Alaska to provide the level of Extension programming Juneau and surrounding communities want and deserve,” Butler said. Kock’s first day on the job is Jan. 9.
Created in 1930 as a department within the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines, known today as UAF, the Cooperative Extension Service is part of the largest informal education system in the world, connecting Extension programs at land-grant colleges and universities in every U.S. territory and state.

UAF's public service and community engagement role is filled in part by Extension faculty and staff located in Anchorage, Bethel, Delta Junction, Fairbanks, Glennallen, Juneau, Kodiak, Nome, Palmer, Sitka, and Soldotna, and in affiliate offices with the Tanana Chiefs Conference, Eielson Air Force Base, Thorne Bay, and the Delta Mine Training Center.

As the state’s gateway to its university system, Extension serves some 60,000 Alaskans annually, providing a link between Alaska's diverse people and communities by interpreting and extending relevant university, research-based knowledge in an understandable and usable form to the public.

Major program areas include agriculture and natural resources, community resource and economic development, home economics and consumer science, 4-H and youth development, and housing and energy.

Extension offers hundreds of publications, written and produced by university specialists, which contain practical information of interest to Alaska residents. Many publications are free and are available online.

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