Massachusetts 4-H Program

April 2, 2021

Weekly NewsBlast

The UMass Extension 4-H E-NewsBlast is sent to all 4-H families and volunteers in Massachusetts. Unless otherwise noted, all virtual programming is available to 4-H members everywhere, no matter where you live or what club or group you belong to!

Check these sites, and your local county Facebook page, for more details and for updates to programs:
https://ag.umass.edu/mass4h
https://www.facebook.com/Mass4H/

Month of the Military Child

April is designated as the Month of the Military Child, underscoring the important role military children play in the armed forces community. Sponsored by the Department of Defense Military Community and Family Policy, the Month of the Military Child is a time to applaud military families and their children for the daily sacrifices they make and the challenges they overcome. We have many 4-H members in military families! Watch for more information in upcoming NewsBlasts to see how you might help to recognize and celebrate our 4-H military youth members.

A Season of Thanks and Service Earth Day Club Challenge

April 1st – September 1st

“...I pledge my hands to larger service... for my club my community my country and my world.”

These words found in our 4-H pledge are meaningful to so many of today’s 4-H families, just as they have been to past members and volunteers throughout the years. Community Service has been one of the main components of 4-H programming over time. Our University of Massachusetts 4-H Team have heard from many volunteers and families asking for new ways to conduct virtual hands-on community service activities. We invite you to become engaged in this Earth Day Challenge, which will combine environmental science with community service by helping the planet.

Although the challenge has not yet started, the information below gives you a head start on what your club might take part in! Be sure to watch future NewsBlasts and the UMass 4-H Website and Facebook page for examples and additional information; send your completed challenge activity forms to Kim Pond.

Do you REALLY know about 4-H?

Maybe you are a 4-H member who has been involved for many years, or for just a few years. Do you think you know all about 4-H? There are many parts of the 4-H program you may know nothing about, even though you might be an expert in your project area. 4-H teen members are invited to take part in 4-H NOW! to learn more than you ever imagined about the 4-H program. By attending, you can better understand the mission of 4-H, learn how you can help grow the program and share what 4-H means to you. Zoom sessions will be held on Wednesdays from 7-8PM. Contact VaShon Hiltpold at vwallace@umext.umass.edu and put 4-H Now in the subject line.

New Dates for this program are: April 7, April 21, May 5 and May 19

Save the Date!

When: Saturday May 22
Time: 10am-2PM
What: Massachusetts 4-H Fair Workshop Day!

A full day of workshops to choose from; come for one or as many as you like! Workshops will focus on items you can enter in a fair or tips to help you with showing animals at a fair.
Watch for more details coming soon!

Life: Ready for YOUR World
For teens ages 12-18

Life can be hard, so let's try to make it a little easier with some important lessons. There will be 3 sessions to this series; you are encouraged to sign up for all, but you can come to one session, one whole series, or a combination of them! Sessions are held on
Tuesday evenings from 7-8PM. To register go to https://forms.gle/U8sqNaAGbH2iH2Wm8 This program is a collaboration between Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island 4-H Programs.

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<tr>
<th>Session 1: Living</th>
<th>Session 2 – Finances</th>
<th>Session 3 – Education/Career</th>
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<td>4/6 – Self Care</td>
<td>4/13 – Banking</td>
<td>5/11 - Exploring YOUR path</td>
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<td>4/20 – Expenses and Bills</td>
<td>5/18 - Applying to college/or jobs</td>
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<td>4/27 - Budgeting</td>
<td>5/25 - Volunteering/Networking</td>
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<td>5/4 – Credit/Schmedit</td>
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Animal Science
Contact Carrie Sears with any questions or to register for any of the events below at ccsears@umext.umass.edu

Zoom Meetings & Workshops
Wednesday, April 7 – 6:30pm – State 4-H Horse Advisory
Thursday, April 8 – 7:00pm – State 4-H Been Team Meeting

State 4-H Horse Events:
Watch for details this week.
State 4-H Roundup – Virtual Contest - Hippology & Horse Bowl – May 15
Horse Judging will be at a later date

Horse Contest Practices with the Coaches:
April 8 & 15 – 7:00pm – Hippology Contest Practice with Coach Shari Morris
April 9 & 16 – 7:00pm – Horse Bowl Practice with Coach Rose Blomgren
April 12 & 14 – 7:00pm – Horse Judging Practice with Coach Heather Chmura

Massachusetts Division of Animal Health Workshop:
April 21 at 7:00pm Zoom https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/99728583519
Margaret Gabour, DVM and Carry Shulock-Sexton, Animal Disease Traceability Coordinator will discuss animal movement requirements (faunts, shows and sales) and identification for equines, rabbits, and other species.
Dr. Gabour will review selected equine diseases, biosecurity, and rabbit hemorrhagic disease (RHDV2).

League of Protein Producers:
A new program that will be offered to youth involved with market project animals: beef, sheep, meat goats, swine and poultry. The program will be held every Monday night via Zoom starting May 10th at 7:00pm. Youth will learn about direct marketing their project animals; what the consumer wants and how to best raise your animal using the latest technology and nutrition. These are just a snapshot of some of the workshops being offered. Youth participants will receive a certification at the end of the 8 week program. This program is being funded by Farm Credit East – AgEnhancement Grant. If interested in participating, please contact Carrie Sears for further details.

Livestock and Poultry Judging Practice Contests
Try out your skills at judging livestock and poultry! Directions: Select the below links and once you enter the contest site, you will create a username and enter the code below for each respective contest under the Entry button.
Dairy – Contest is open March 22-April 3 - Link:https://www.livestockjudging.com/contest/details.aspx?id=293 Entry Code: 5qyy
Sheep – Contest is open March 22 – April 5 - Link:https://www.livestockjudging.com/contest/details.aspx?id=294 Entry Code: lscq
Poultry & Swine – Contact Carrie Sears for links/codes

NEW REQUIREMENT FOR THIS YEAR: Livestock Verification Forms
If you have your project animal(s) selected and own or lease, you can start completing your Verification Form available on our website on each of the species page. Please return the completed form to your respective 4-H office. This applies to beef, dairy, sheep, goats, alpacas, llamas and swine.
Deadlines: May 1 – Dairy and Beef Cattle and June 1 – Goats, Sheep, Alpacas, Llamas and Swine
Please contact Carrie Sears with any questions – ccsears@umext.umass.edu

4-H classes being offered at shows:
4-H Members may be seeing some upcoming horse or dog shows being advertised with 4-H classes. These are not sponsored by Massachusetts 4-H but by affiliates who may have prior arrangements with National 4-H. You may choose to attend as an individual; however, the shows do not count towards MA 4-H sponsored awards/high points.
Pet First Aid Kit
Now is the time to be ready in case your pet has a minor cut and needs treatment. To learn how to make your own first aid kit, visit https://www.aspcapro.org/resource/how-make-pet-first-aid-kit

Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) and West Nile Virus (WNV) are mosquito-borne viruses that cause neurologic disease in equines (horses, donkeys, mules), other animals, and people. Routine vaccination can prevent these potentially fatal diseases in equines. In 2020, drought conditions and mitigation efforts including vaccination eliminated EEE and WNV diagnoses in equines in Massachusetts. However, these diseases were still detected in mosquitoes across Massachusetts and in surrounding states. This means that all Massachusetts horses remain at risk for exposure to EEE and WNV.

The US Department of Agriculture has provided funds to the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources to mitigate the effects of EEE through March 2022. The funds will primarily be used through the MDAR EEE Vaccination Program. The goal of this program is to ensure proper vaccination of equines who would not otherwise be vaccinated due to economic circumstances.

Participating equines will be vaccinated against EEE and WNV for free or at a discounted rate by a Massachusetts-licensed veterinarian. A blood sample collected at the time of vaccination will help veterinarians learn more about duration of vaccine protection and natural exposure to EEE. Eligible equines are owned by Massachusetts residents who declare financial hardship, are low-income, or are eligible for or receiving government assistance. Priority will be given to these owners over equine businesses and rescues. Assistance for rescues may be available through other organizations. Owners interested in participating in the MDAR EEE Vaccination Program should contact their veterinarian.

Climate, Carbon & Canopy
Thursdays throughout April: Upcoming dates are April 8, 15, 22, 29 All at 7-8:30PM

Explore the relationship between weather and climate. Investigate the effects of greenhouse gas and carbon dioxide on climate change. Delve into the global carbon cycle, our individual carbon footprints, and what actions businesses and communities can take to help address climate change. The series will conclude with an examination of how trees are part of the global carbon cycle and the role of trees in the moderating climate change. As part of the workshop, each participant will become a member of the Arbor Day Foundation and receive 10 tree seedlings to plant. You will need access to Zoom and be using Google Sheets in this workshop.

Grade Levels: Middle through High School; Elementary School with support
Cost: $10-this is for membership in the Arbor Day Foundation and for tree seedlings. It is not a 4-H fee. Checks should be payable to: Hampshire County 4-H Advisory Council and mailed to: Leory Barry, Treasurer, Hampshire County 4-H Advisory Council, PO Box 817 Belchertown, MA 01007

Additional Programs to Attend

“Dig It!” Soil testing class April 14th
All good gardens start from the ground up. Learn about the importance of soil testing and how to do it. Class includes a soil test kit and materials to help as well as a class on zoom. $15 for 4-H members; $25 for non-members. Sign up by April 7 to receive your test kit!

Say it Ain't Cilantro!
Create fun garden markers. Learn ways to upcycle, make creative garden markers, and make your own rock veggie markers!

Contact Cathy Acampora (acampora@umext.umass.edu) to register and obtain the Zoom links. All classes begin at 7:00PM

State Visual Presentations

The state VP event will be held by Zoom on April 10 and 11. We have received the names of all qualifying 4-H members and will be contacting you very soon! Each person will be assigned to a specific time and Zoom breakout room for their presentation and judging. More details will be sent to each participant. Keep the dates of April 10 and 11 available if you qualified at the local VP events.

Career Exploration Series

Register to attend any of the sessions by contacting Angelica Paredes at angelica@umext.umass.edu. Be sure to provide her with the session you wish to attend, your name, club or school, county and state where you are enrolled if a 4-H member.

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<tr>
<th>April 7</th>
<th>James McDermott</th>
<th>Musician</th>
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<td>James McDermott has been chasing sounds for as long as he can remember. Since the age of six he has been obsessed with all things “noise.” Pots and pans to his first electric guitar and drum set, music has consumed his life. Throughout middle and high school, he studied mandolin, tenor banjo, drum set, guitar and bass, in genres spanning across traditional Celtic to pop to trap, jazz and R&amp;B. After defining a base and mastering the fundamentals of western popular music, he states that he “received the privilege of studying songwriting and music business marketing at Berklee College of Music in Boston, MA, graduating in 2013.” Throughout college and the years since graduation he has accumulated a total of six years live touring experience with his first professional music project, Bay Faction. Playing markets throughout the entire United States, Canada and England have taught him the ins and outs of what it means to live off art in today’s entertainment industry. James’ first love is songwriting, and he’s inspired every day to do just that.</td>
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<td>April 21</td>
<td>Dr. Jennifer Hayden Epperson</td>
<td>Executive Director, Kinship Radio Network, MN - Author</td>
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<td>Helping others reach their potential is Jennifer’s passion. Currently, she serves as the Executive Director of Kinship Radio Network in Minnesota. Previously, she was Moody Radio’s Director of Research and Learning and has been station manager of both WRMB-89.3 FM (Moody Radio) and WIFR-1500 AM (Blount Communications) after getting her start in her native state of Rhode Island at WARV 1590-AM, Warwick. She is also the current Chairperson of the NRB’s (National Religious Broadcasters) Radio committee. Jennifer has worked and taught in international contexts and spent five years as the Executive Producer of TWR’s Women of Hope radio program. In 2012, she completed a doctorate in organizational leadership and has taught leadership and radio on the university level. Jennifer released her first book, <em>The Pioneer’s Way: Leading a Trailblazing Life that Builds Meaning for Your Family, Your Community, and You</em> in October 2020. Jennifer's own 4-H experiences figure prominently in her book <em>The Pioneer’s Way</em>. As a long-time member of the 4-H public speaking program, she was the 1983 Rhode Island state public speaking delegate to the 4-H Congress in Chicago. She credits her 4-H experience with her present success, and yes, her very existence. Her parents, both 4-H members, met at the Rocky Hill Fairgrounds in Rhode Island.</td>
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<td>May 5</td>
<td>David Fox</td>
<td>Carpenter, Electrical Engineer &amp; Computer Design Engineer</td>
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<td>Dave grew up in Bethesda, Md. His father, a forester, had a small poorly equipped shop in the basement where he fixed things. Dave learned about woodworking at a very early age by also ‘fixing things’ in that basement. He has always enjoyed making things, particularly of wood, and spent a lot of time in the shop making small pieces of wood out of larger pieces and bending nails! By the time he was ready for college, he had developed a fascination with electronics and tinkered with that more than woodworking. He went to Carnegie Mellon University and earned a degree in Electrical Engineering. After college he became a computer design engineer for over 20 years. Even as an engineer he always did woodworking in his spare time. Eventually, he grew tired of engineering and decided to switch careers and become a remodeling contractor. Running his own remodeling business and being the only employee kept him busy until retirement in 2016. Dave started a 4-H Woodworking Club around 2012, and it has been going ever since.</td>
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<td>May 19</td>
<td>Sandra Choate</td>
<td>Lawyer</td>
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<td>In her former position, a day at Sandy’s office was anything but routine! It could often involve meeting with lawmakers and their staff in the Capitol complex, being with government officials at any of the many agency headquarters located in Washington, D.C., or meeting with members of American Federation of Government Employees’ National Executive Council Board of Directors. On days she was not in the office, she traveled extensively around the country to Conferences and Seminars, to various federal agency offices and to AFGE members’ offices. Sandy Choate returned to private practice specializing in the area of federal legislative law after almost 19 years as the Assistant General Counsel-Legislation for the AFGE, AFL-CIO. She has worked on a wide range of issues affecting federal employees and has over 30 years’ experience analyzing and drafting legislation; providing advice and guidance to Locals and federal employees particularly in the area of civil service law and regulations; and, has specialized expertise in the area of employment issues affecting federal firefighters. She has headed or served on numerous task forces for agencies including the Office of Personnel Management and the Department of Defense. Prior to her work with AFGE, Attorney Choate was in private practice where she represented numerous trade associations as their legislative counsel. She is a graduate of the American University with a B.S. degree in Business Administration/Financial Planning, and a Suma Cum Laude graduate of The George Mason University School of Law. She is a member of the D. C. and Virginia bars, the U.S. Supreme Courts, the U.S. Courts of Appeals for the Federal, D.C., Fourth and Eleventh Circuits, and the U.S. District Courts for D.C. and the Eastern and Western Districts of Virginia.</td>
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**Virtual Babysitting Course**

The 4-H Babysitting Course is currently being offered virtually on April 5th-9th. The five session course will take place from 4-5:30 PM. The course teaches youth ages 11 and older everything they need to know to be caring, trustworthy, responsible and competent babysitters. Youth will have the opportunity to learn the basics of babysitting including topic areas such as child development, entertaining children, safety guidelines, nutrition, the principles of positive discipline, and more. All participants will receive their babysitter guide and some supplies once registration is complete. After completing the course, youth will receive a certificate of completion and a babysitters I.D. card. The cost for the training is $25 per youth.

Contact VaShon Hiltpold at wwallace@umass.edu

**Odds and Ends**

**4-H Teens and Alumni:** The National 4-H Hall of Fame Committee is soliciting applications for a 4-H member to serve as the master/mistress of ceremonies and one to provide entertainment (vocal or instrumental) for the 2021 National 4-H Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. This ceremony is scheduled for October 16, 2021 at the National 4-H Youth Conference Center in Chevy Chase, Maryland.

Each Land-grant University may nominate ONE candidate for consideration as the master/mistress of ceremonies and ONE candidate to be considered for selection to perform at the event. Applicants may be current 4-H members or 4-H alumni who are college age. The
state and/or the 4-H members selected to serve in these roles are responsible for the cost (transportation and lodging) to attend. Are you interested in being considered? If so, contact Kim Pond at the email address found below by April 16!

Earth Day Every Day Webinar Series
A free Earth Day, Every - Day webinar series, sponsored by Rutgers University Cooperative Extension, is ongoing. The interactive, live sessions will be held on Monday evenings at 6:30PM through April 26. The sessions last an hour and focus on steps everyone can take to protect the environment. See how each person can take actions that make our homes more sustainable; from environmentally-friendly lawn care, to recycling, to conducting a home energy audit, and more. For a list of workshops in the series and registration information, follow this link: [https://envirostewards.rutgers.edu/Earth-Day.html](https://envirostewards.rutgers.edu/Earth-Day.html). Can’t attend? View recordings and enter the password EarthDay2020. Find the links to each recording at the link provided for registration.

Next Week: Virtual Equine Affaire
Equine Affaire will be a FREE virtual event this year on April 8-11, 2021
Log on with Equine Affaire for a new and exciting virtual equine event! Equine Affaire in Ohio is going entirely online at [www.equineaffaire.com](http://www.equineaffaire.com) April 8-11, 2021. You can also join the fun by following @equineaffaire on Facebook and Instagram. No tickets needed. The event will include digital learning, shopping, interviews and a lot of other experiences.

4-H & MA Farm Bureau Trivia Night!
Save the date of Monday, April 19th for the first Trivia Night with Co-hosts Dr. Weston Brown and Tom Waskiewicz. The Massachusetts Farm Bureau Promotion and Education Committee, 4-H, and Dr. Weston Brown are hosting a virtual trivia night on Facebook Live! Come test your knowledge of agriculture...from the comfort of your own home! Go to [https://www.facebook.com/events/186501019549945/](https://www.facebook.com/events/186501019549945/) to find out more.

There will be 4 rounds of 10 question each, all relating to agriculture. The live video will start at 6:45 p.m. to give everyone a chance to get situated. The questions will begin at 7:00 p.m. There will be a link to a google form that will be the answer sheet. The questions will be read aloud and presented on the screen, and you can answer on the google doc. At the end of the round, submit the sheet and it will be graded. Once you submit your answer sheet, click “Submit a new response” at the bottom of the page, and a new answer sheet will be generated for the next round. Dr. Brown will be keeping track of points and will announce the standings between each round, and the winners at the end. Some tips to keep in mind: (1) Please keep team names the same each round! (2) A computer would be the best way to participate in this event!

Welcome to New Barnstable County 4-H and Youth Educator
Welcome to Sandi Shepherd-Gay, the new part-time Youth Extension Educator for Barnstable County, Barnstable County 4-H. Sandi received her Bachelor of Science degree from Bridgewater State University and Master of Education from Framingham State University. She joins us after 16 years in public education in roles of health teacher and assistant principal at the middle school level.

4-H was a large part of her family’s life for 13 years as she and her husband, Steve, participated as parent volunteer members while her son was a member of the Middlesex County Good Shepherd Sheep Club. In addition, for some of that time she was a member of the Middlesex County Good Shepherd Sheep Committee supporting the sheep department during the Middlesex County Fair and filled the role of secretary in the judges’ booth. During her spare time Sandi enjoys spending time with her family and friends, being active through bike riding, hiking, camping and traveling. During down time enjoys reading, baking, and sewing.

Sandi is looking forward to learning about and embracing the interests, priorities, and needs of the youth of Barnstable County. She has shared that her goal is to work collaboratively with members of the communities throughout the county to “support our youth to grow to be their best, unique, individual selves in order to become contributing members in their families and in their local and larger communities”.

Reminder of new location for State 4-H Office
A reminder that the state 4-H office has a new mailing address, but all phone numbers will stay the same. Help ensure that your mail will reach all those at the new address by putting the new address into your contacts! State and Western Mass 4-H staff that are located at this new address are:

Linda Horn, Interim Director
Carrie Chickering-Sears, Educator, 4-H Animal Science Program Manager
Angelica Paredes, Educator
Tom Waskiewicz, Educator
Deb Comeau, State Administrative Assistant

The new Address is:
Extension 4-H Youth Development
100 Venture Way, Suite 334
Hadley, MA 01035-9462
4-H Office Contacts:

The 4-H Program is operating and available to answer questions. Reach out to your local office by email. Phone numbers are available at the 4-H Website at https://ag.umass.edu/mass4h/about/office-locations-contacts

State 4-H Office: Linda Horn, Interim Director lrhorn@umext.umass.edu
Carrie Sears, 4-H Animal Science Program Manager – ccsears@umext.umass.edu
Kim Pond – 4-H SET Program Manager – kima@umext.umass.edu
Deb Comeau – State 4-H Administrative Assistant – dcomeau@umext.umass.edu

Western MA (Franklin, Hampshire, Hampden and Berkshire Counties):
Tom Waskiewicz, 4-H Educator – waskiewicz@umext.umass.edu
Angelica Paredes, 4-H Educator – angelica@umext.umass.edu
Lauren DuBois, Urban 4-H Educator – ldubois@umext.umass.edu
Lizmarie Lopez Ortiz, Urban 4-H Program Assistant - llopezortiz@umext.umass.edu

Southeastern MA (Bristol and Norfolk):
Meg McDermott, 4-H Educator – memcdermott@umass.edu
Kim Henderson, Administrative Assistant – khenders@umext.umass.edu

Central MA (Worcester County):
Meg McDermott, 4-H Educator – memcdermott@umass.edu
Martina Jasiewicz, Administrative Assistant – mjasiewicz@umext.umass.edu

Northeastern MA (Essex, Middlesex, Suffolk):
VaShon Wallace-Hiltpold, Acting 4-H Educator – vwallace@umext.umass.edu
Pam LeFave, Program Assistant – plefave@umext.umass.edu
Debbie Beaubien, Administrative Assistant – debbieb@umext.umass.edu
Nancy McCarthy, Program Assistant – nmccarthy@umext.umass.edu

Plymouth County:
Molly Vollmer, 4-H Educator: mvollmer@umext.umass.edu
Valerie Schell, 4-H Educator: vschell@umext.umass.edu
Cathy Acampora, Administrative Assistant: acampora@umext.umass.edu
Tia Quinn, Administrative Assistant: tquinn@plymouthcountyma.gov

Barnstable County:
Sandi Shepherd-Gay, Barnstable County Youth Extension Educator: sandi.shepherdgay@barnstablecounty.org
Dawn Johnson, Administrative Assistant: dawn.johnson@barnstablecounty.org

Massachusetts 4-H is an extension program at the University of Massachusetts. UMass 4-H follows the Massachusetts Governor’s regulations for the reopening of the state as well as the governance of the University of Massachusetts. Although guidelines for numbers of people who can gather have relaxed a bit for the state, the University guidance still states that no in-person 4-H meetings or activities are to take place at this time. This means our clubs and groups still may not meet in person. We will continue to monitor the situation and will allow in-person club meetings and activities to occur when university guidelines have been completed. We hope that your groups will continue to meet virtually and use some of the many programs, contests, and links that we have to offer online.