



# Massachusetts 4-H Program

April 30, 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/>

## 4-H Member Highlighted in UMass Extension Newsletter

Caleigh Brown, a 4-H member in Norfolk, is highlighted in the online UMass Extension Newsletter. Read about how she is making a difference with her 4-H dog project helping officers who suffer from trauma.

<https://ag.umass.edu/cafe/news/massachusetts-4-h-members-connect-at-national-gatherings>

## Enrollment Deadline to Participate in 4-H Fairs

It is still not determined whether Massachusetts 4-H Fairs can occur in person or will be virtual. Individuals can join the Massachusetts 4-H program at any time throughout the year; there are no deadlines for joining. However, in order to participate in a Massachusetts 4-H Fair, whether virtual or in person, membership enrollment and fees need to be completed by June 1.

Those who complete membership or are new members after June 1 are still allowed to join and to become 4-H members, of course! However, anyone completing membership after June 1 may not enter items in the Massachusetts 4-H fairs. They are welcome to help with tasks such as fair set up, take down, volunteering at the fair, or just visiting to preview items they may wish to enter the following year. Contact your local 4-H office if you need help completing your enrollment.

## IT'S PAPER CLOVER TIME!



Tractor Supply's Spring Paper Clover Campaign began on Wednesday, April 28 and ends on May 9. Stop by Tractor Supply during that time to purchase a Paper Clover or add a donation to online orders at [tractorsupply.com](https://tractorsupply.com) to help raise funds for Massachusetts 4-H! 100% of funds raised through the Paper Clover campaign directly benefits the 4-H program with 90% of donations raised in Massachusetts directly supporting 4-H youth in our state, and the remaining 10% supporting national 4-H programming.

## May the 4th be with you!

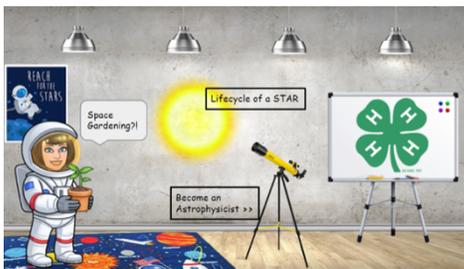


Join us on May 3rd at 7pm to learn about some activities you can use to celebrate Star Wars Day on Tuesday, May 4 and Space Day on Friday, May 7. Learn about the science behind a hovercraft and how you can make your own along with a fun lightsaber craft, star poetry and more. The force is strong with this event since the 2021 National 4-H SET Challenge to be released later this year will also focus on Space Exploration.

Register in advance for this meeting at <https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAucOGqqTwwHNJ0u4sKryrHmVIKV6swSr37>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting from Kim Pond.

## Steam Bitmoji Classroom – Space Exploration



The 4-H STEAM Bitmoji Classroom has evolved! Join in to one of the themed Classrooms that each have 4 bitmoji rooms and 4 assignments. Once all 4 assignments are completed and submitted you will receive a certificate of completion in the mail. You may complete the themed Classroom at your own pace; it can be accessed when it is convenient for your schedule.

The first themed classroom, Space Exploration, will be released on May 4<sup>th</sup> (Star Wars Day!) You will learn about stars, Mars, and the solar system from afar. Contact [ldubois@umass.edu](mailto:ldubois@umass.edu) to receive a google classroom invitation on Tuesday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021. May the fourth be with you!

All those who complete the 4 assignments by May 31st will be entered into a drawing for one of two- \$15 Gift Cards to Dunkin Donuts. Good luck!

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

All sessions will be held by Zoom on Tuesday evenings from 7-8 PM. Use this form to register: <https://forms.gle/U8sqNaAGbH2iH2Wm8>

**Finances:** May 4, Credit-Schmedit!

**Education and Career Exploration:** May 11, Exploring Your Path    May 18, Applying to college or for jobs  
May 25, Volunteering and Networking

**Massachusetts 4-H Fair Workshops**

Calling all 4-H teens and volunteers! Share your skill & creativity! The Massachusetts Extension 4-H Program is hosting a day of workshops focusing on 4-H fair entries. The 4-H Team is looking for individuals who can lead a one-hour virtual workshop to teach a craft, show how to display vegetables or arrange flowers, take a great photo, show an animal, and more! Any items made at this workshop or skills gained can be used in upcoming 4-H or other fairs – whether held virtually or in person.

Fair Workshop Day will be held on **May 22 from 10am-2pm**. If you are interested in leading a workshop, or talking to someone about your ideas, contact Angelica Paredes at [angelica@umext.umass.edu](mailto:angelica@umext.umass.edu).

**Earth Day Challenge Continues  
A Season of Thanks and Service Earth Day Club Challenge**

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.

You can find the Club Challenge Sheets for you to log your progress as well as other resources on the [mass4h.org](http://mass4h.org) homepage. More items will be added as the challenge continues. This project will continue through September 1. Contact Kim Pond with questions.

**Career Exploration Series**

**Register attend by contacting Angelica Paredes at [angelica@umext.umass.edu](mailto:angelica@umext.umass.edu).**

May 5	David Fox	<p align="center"><b>Carpenter, Electrical Engineer &amp; Computer Design Engineer</b></p> <p>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.</p>
May 19	Sandra Choate	<p align="center"><b>Lawyer</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>Sandra 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
June 2		<p align="center"><b>To Be Announced</b></p>

June 16	Lindsey Larson	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Economist World Bank</b></p> <p>Lindsey is an Economist in the Agriculture and Food Global Practice at the World Bank. In this role, she oversees a portfolio of projects that address environmental sustainability, rural livelihoods, and food security. This includes serving as the Deputy Program Manager of FOLUR, a \$300 million program covering 27 countries and 8 agricultural commodities. Before the World Bank, she worked for over a decade with conservation nonprofits. Lindsey holds a BA from Dartmouth College in Environmental Studies, a Master of Environmental Management from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, and an MBA from the Yale School of Management. A 4-H alum, she raised prize-winning dahlias and poultry as a member of the Flora, Fauna and Feathers club in Essex County, MA.</p>
July 7	Sara Schilling	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Professional Dancer and Instructor</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Watch for more about Sara!</p>

---

### Gardening Programs in May

Contact Cathy Acampora at [acampora@umext.umass.edu](mailto:acampora@umext.umass.edu) for the following two programs:

**Contain it!**

May 5 @7pm on zoom. Learn how to grow veggies, herbs, and flowers in containers and some creative ways to make your containers more interesting. Sign up at this link:

<https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEld-ioqDMjHdObYiSMGu0LrSiNIP22TAHx> The class ID is 958 0106 8977

**From Garbage to Garden**

May 12 @7pm on zoom. Learn about composting in this great class! Register at [https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/meeting/register/tjMudOggjsoEtSNW5\\_TUjUnZV6a9B97qi8](https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/meeting/register/tjMudOggjsoEtSNW5_TUjUnZV6a9B97qi8)

Contact Meg McDermott at [memcdermott@umass.edu](mailto:memcdermott@umass.edu) for information and to register for this program:

**4-H Garden Competition**

Are you interested in learning about gardening and horticulture and showing of your green thumb? Join the 4H Garden competition! We have colleagues from UMass Extension, Cornell Cooperative Extension, and Massachusetts Master Gardeners joining us! An information session and workshops will be held on these following days:

- Monday, May 3rd, 7PM-Information Session
- Monday, May 10th 7PM- Plant Anatomy Workshop
- Monday, May 17th 7PM-Botany Workshop
- Monday, May 24th 7PM-Disease and Pest Control Workshop.

---

### ANIMAL SCIENCE

Contact Carrie Sears to register or with questions at [ccsears@umext.umass.edu](mailto:ccsears@umext.umass.edu)

**Zoom Meetings**

May 3 – 7:30pm - Ag Summit Team Meeting

**State 4-H Horse Events:**

May 5 – 6:30pm - State 4-H Horse Advisory Meeting  
 State 4-H Roundup – Virtual Contest - Hippology & Horse Bowl – May 15  
 Horse Judging will be at a later date

**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 10<sup>th</sup> 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.

**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. You will only do on animals that you plan to show. Please return the completed form to your respective 4-H office. May 1<sup>st</sup> for beef, dairy, and working steers. June 1<sup>st</sup> for sheep, goats, alpacas, llamas and swine. [https://ag.umass.edu/sites/ag.umass.edu/files/pdf-doc-ppt/ma\\_4-h\\_animal\\_verification\\_form\\_3.pdf](https://ag.umass.edu/sites/ag.umass.edu/files/pdf-doc-ppt/ma_4-h_animal_verification_form_3.pdf) Youth will receive a signed-off copy from their county office to keep with their project animal registration papers and veterinarian health charts for fairs.

## NEW – Dog Verification Form

June 1<sup>st</sup> is the deadline to submit your Dog Verification Form on your project dog (owned or leased) to your county 4-H office. Please find the form at [https://ag.umass.edu/sites/ag.umass.edu/files/pdf-doc-ppt/2021\\_dog\\_verification\\_form.pdf](https://ag.umass.edu/sites/ag.umass.edu/files/pdf-doc-ppt/2021_dog_verification_form.pdf)

## Showmanship Tips

Here are some good videos to take a look at to give you some pointers:

Beef - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PmjLJ0R8Ce0>

Dairy - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IY301IG0eus>

Sheep - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1S3\\_QAGooc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1S3_QAGooc)

Goats - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ahUN3OClyus>



---

## The 4-H Philosophy of Judging

There are two major purposes of judging:

- to evaluate the quality of a project
- to contribute to the learning experience of the 4-H member

**EVALUATING THE PROJECT** involves an objective appraisal of the finished product whether it is a loaf of bread, a public presentation, an arts and crafts project, a photograph, or an animal project. By using appropriate score sheets for each project area, qualified judges evaluate members in a uniform way according to certain standards.

**CONTRIBUTING TO THE 4-H MEMBER'S LEARNING EXPERIENCE** is equally important. In some cases, this is achieved by personal contact with the judge. "Interview" judging gives the member a chance to discuss his project, ask questions about the evaluation and learn ways in which he can improve. In other cases, the judge is asked to make written comments on the evaluation form so that the 4-H member may learn what was done well, or what may need improvement with the particular entry judged. In most livestock divisions, the judge will give their reasons regarding their placings to the youth and audience orally rather than on paper.

**THE DANISH SYSTEM** is used with non-livestock projects and 4-H activities, such as foods, clothing, computer, woodworking, etc. This approach emphasizes **individual achievement** rather than competition. Members are evaluated in terms of how they use their own potential and develop their own abilities. These ribbons are commonly called "straight ribbons" or "Danish ribbons." The Danish system of judging allows for there to be many "blue ribbons" and first place awards. Awards are determined by individual achievement of each member not in relation to other entries. However, awarding or receiving red or white ribbons is a learning experience as well. The evaluator should grant the award he or she feels is appropriate. Top placings should not be given if an exhibit is not worthy.

**The Standard System** is used when judging livestock exhibits. Each exhibit is judged against others in the same class. Awards are made accordingly. All livestock is judged under the standard system, with exception of showmanship classes, which will be judged under the Dual Merit System. Awards given in this system are commonly called rosettes.

**The Dual Merit System** is used when judging livestock classes. Using this system, each exhibit will be judged by BOTH the Danish System AND the Standard System. All showmanship classes will be judged using the Dual Merit System.

The development of young people is our first consideration in 4-H work. Judging should be an enjoyable learning experience, stimulating the 4-H member to greater achievement and personal development.

---

## National Contests

Did you participate in Massachusetts 4-H program Spinning Your Story? Are you a person who enjoys creative writing? Then this National Contest is for you!

### What's Your Story?

What do you think would happen if the toy company Sleich got together with 4-H to create the most fantastic animal tale of all time? Find out with the "Create Your Story" contest, launching NOW! Ask your 4-H families to join in the fun by creating a story only they can imagine. The top 10 stories will go to a vote and the top two will be part of an interactive "create your own adventure" video premiering this fall! [LEARN MORE](#)

### National Songwriting Challenge:

[2021 Musical Theater Songwriting Challenge for High School Students Opens for Submissions](#)

Calling all high school songwriters! The National Endowment for the Arts and the American Theatre Wing are now accepting submissions to the [2021 Musical Theater Songwriting Challenge](#). This national contest is for high school students with a passion for writing songs that could be part of a musical theater production and the wide range of musical styles represented in contemporary musicals.

[The Songwriting Challenge](#) provides selected student winners (an individual or duo) with their own coaching team consisting of a mentor and music director (both musical theater professionals) to hone an original song into a Broadway-ready composition and then have that

song recorded by Broadway musicians and vocalists in New York City. The final songs debut in a special matinee program on iHeartRadio Broadway, are distributed on streaming music platforms, and compiled into a songbook created by Concord Theatricals.

**The application is simple and [can be completed online](#). The deadline is **May 17, 2021** at midnight ET. This is open to all high school students!**

To meet winners from previous years, listen to their songs, or learn more about the program, [go to the Arts Endowment website](#). Any questions, contact Victoria Hutter, [hutterv@arts.gov](mailto:hutterv@arts.gov)

---

#### 4-H Office Contacts:

The 4-H Program is operating, and we are available to answer questions. All 4-H staff is currently working remotely so it is best to 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](mailto:lrhorn@umext.umass.edu)  
Carrie Sears, 4-H Animal Science Program Manager – [ccsears@umext.umass.edu](mailto:ccsears@umext.umass.edu) Kim Pond  
– 4-H SET Program Manager – [kima@umext.umass.edu](mailto:kima@umext.umass.edu)  
Deb Comeau – State 4-H Administrative Assistant – [dcomeau@umext.umass.edu](mailto:dcomeau@umext.umass.edu)

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

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

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

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

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

Barnstable County: Sandi Shepherd-Gay, Barnstable County Youth Extension Educator: [sandi.shepherdgay@barnstablecounty.org](mailto:sandi.shepherdgay@barnstablecounty.org)  
Dawn Johnson, Administrative Assistant: [dawn.johnson@barnstablecounty.org](mailto: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 re-opening 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.

---



UMass Extension is a unit of the Center for Agriculture, Food & the Environment in the College of Natural Sciences. UMass Extension is an equal opportunity provider & employer, United States Department of Agriculture cooperating. Contact your local UMass Extension office for information on disability accommodations or the UMass Director if you have concerns related to discrimination, 413-545-4800 or refer to [www.extension.umass.edu/civilrights](http://www.extension.umass.edu/civilrights).

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST