



UMass Extension 4-H Program

April 8, 2022

Weekly NewsBlast

The UMass Extension 4-H E-NewsBlast is sent to all UMass 4-H families and volunteers. 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> and <https://www.facebook.com/Mass4H/>

The NewsBlast will continue to be distributed weekly in April. Starting in May, the NewsBlast will be sent out on the first and third Fridays of each month (twice per month). Archived editions can be found at <https://ag.umass.edu/mass4h>

UMass Extension 4-H Program Safety Precautions

As of Wednesday, March 9, the University has lifted the indoor mask requirement. When meeting either outdoors or indoors, 4-H members and volunteers are no longer required to wear masks.

Individuals are welcome to wear masks at their own discretion and without question. Masks are recommended for individuals or anyone in their household who have a weakened immune system or an increased risk for severe illness. Individuals who are not fully vaccinated and boosted should also continue to wear masks indoors.

With this transition, we encourage everyone to respect the choices that individuals will make about their own masking. The university also recognizes that COVID-19 presents a fluid public health situation, and we may need to require face coverings in the future should guidance change. Thank you for your cooperation in supporting health, safety and wellbeing within our 4-H community.

Animal Science Programs

Contact Carrie Sears with any questions or to register for any events below at ccsears@umext.umass.edu

Animal Science Meetings, Workshops and Contests

- April 16 – Rhode Island Sheep Workshop – 9am-1pm – Richmond, RI
- April 19 – State 4-H Dairy Day – The Big E, Mallary Arena, West Springfield
- April 19 – Beef Advisory Zoom Meeting – 7:00pm
- April 20 – State 4-H Dairy Advisory Zoom Meeting – 7:00pm
- April 23 – State 4-H Horse & Hippology Contest – St. Williams, Tewksbury

HOLD THE DATES

- June 11 – UMass Dairy Cattle Academy
- June 18 & 19 – UMass Exploring Veterinary Science – UMass Hadley Farm, Hadley

UPCOMING ANIMAL SCIENCE EVENTS

UMass 4-H Dairy Day – April 19 - 10:00am-2:00pm – Mallary Arena – West Springfield. Dairy Bowl, skillathon, and judging tips plus much more. Join your 4-H friends for a fun day of dairy cattle related topics. Registration information is available on-line at <https://ag.umass.edu/mass4h/clubs-programs/animal-science-program/beef-dairy-cattle>

2022 UMass 4-H Beef Academy

New format this year! Zoom sessions will be held every Monday evening starting on April 18-May 16. The in-person event will happen on May 21 at the Three County Fairgrounds in Northampton, MA where you will bring your heifer or steer. Activities will include fitting & showmanship, team fitting contest, livestock judging and the bovine obstacle course. Brochure will be available on the MA 4-H beef page starting on April 11.



Zoom Sessions: All will be held at 7pm.

April 18 – Dr. Katie Beltaire, UMass – Animal Health-Parasites

April 23 – Dr. Joe Emenheiser, UConn – Meat cuts and quality.

May 2 – Steer and Heifer Nutrition

May 9 – Dr. Katie Beltaire, UMass – How to read medicine labels, Basic First Aid Kit and animal vitals.

May 16 – Ask the Chef – Simple recipes, food safety and prepping meals.

Rabbit Health Requirements for Massachusetts Fairs

All rabbits that are exhibited at fairs, and events in Massachusetts are required to have a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) that is issued by an accredited veterinarian. The CVI is good for the entire show season, but the fairs/events need to be listed and attached to the CVI. The CVI needs to have a permanent tattoo id or microchip id on it for each rabbit. This would include pet rabbits. Microchips are expensive but an alternative to tattoos. We are working on setting-up clinics across the state to have low cost programs that youth can get their rabbits charted by an accredited veterinarian.

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in Massachusetts

Backyard flocks have tested positive in our state! Please review the Biosecurity recommendations

at <https://www.mass.gov/.../biosecurity-for-your-.../download> Report sick or dead birds: domestic 617-626-1795; wild 508-389-6300.

Important Dates for Animal Science Projects:

If you plan on showing your animal project at 4-H fairs, please note the following deadlines. All forms are located on the specific species pages.

Verification and Model Lease Forms:

Due by **May 1** to your local 4-H Office – Dairy and Beef cattle

Due by **June 1** to your local 4-H Office – Goat, Sheep, Swine Alpaca, and Llamas

Due by June 1 to your local 4-H Office - Dog Verification Form located at <https://ag.umass.edu/mass4h/clubs-programs/animal-science-program/dogs>

Horse – Need to complete only if you plan on showing at the New England 4-H Horse Show (Big E) in September.

Please complete the Horse Verification Form located at <https://ag.umass.edu/mass4h/clubs-programs/animal-science-program/horses>

Sheep Day

Rhode Island 4-H is sponsoring a Sheep Day on April 16 from 9am-1pm at the Washington County Fairgrounds, [78 Richmond Townhouse Road, Richmond, RI](https://www.richmondri.com/). 4-H youth ages 5-18, open to beginner to expert level (adults may attend).

Registration required by April 11th to be eligible for door prizes. Register at <https://web.uri.edu/4h/>

New England 4-H Shows

The 4-H livestock, horse and dog shows at this time will be back with the Big E Fair in September. The dorms will also be available to our delegates. Each of the species committees are reviewing their show schedules and determining the number of days the delegates will be at the fair. Right now it looks like the 4-H shows are going to be held during their regularly scheduled weekends.

So far announced:

Dairy Goat 4-H Show - Thursday, September 29-Saturday, October 1

Dog 4-H Show - Friday, September 30-Sunday, October 2

Sheep 4-H Show - Friday, September 30-Sunday, October 2

4-H Horse Shows

Our 4-H horse shows entry books are starting to be posted on-line at <https://ag.umass.edu/mass4h/clubs-programs/animal-science-program/horses> under the Contest/resources tab.

Posted this week:

Norfolk County 4-H Horse Show – May 1st Entry deadline is April 25th.

The Regional 4-H Horse Show – July 1st-3rd Entry deadline is June 17th.

Equine Career Insights

Insights is a career awareness series created by the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame for middle and high school students considering work in the horse or racing industries. <https://www.racingmuseum.org/education/insights>

4-H Safe At Home

Be safe, be responsible, while Home Alone! Are you a 4-H member who is ready to be home alone? What can you do when you are home by yourself? What snacks can you make, or activities might you do? What does it take to be safe at home?

Join this virtual program held on Wednesdays from 4:30-6 PM, starting April 27th, through May 18th, 2022. This series is designed for all youth ages 10 and older. Contact VaShon Hiltpold with questions at vwallace@umass.edu Use the following link to register: <https://forms.gle/7Vgph5MqByffrRRw5> We look forward to seeing you there!

4-H Dog Academy – May 14



The UMass 4-H Dog Committee is hosting an all-day 4-H Dog Academy on Saturday, May 14th from 9AM-5PM at the Marshfield fairgrounds. This will be a fun day of learning, socializing, and working with dogs. The Dog Academy is open to all UMass 4-H members who would like to learn about showmanship, obedience, agility, dog safety, and basic training. The program will include both beginner and advanced tracks, as well as options for those that do not have a dog or do not feel comfortable bringing their dog. The cost for the day is \$25.00 and includes lunch, a t-shirt, and instruction from professional trainers. Please register in 4H Online: <https://v2.4honline.com/#/user/sign-in> under the events tab and mail a rabies certificate and check to Meg McDermott. **Please make the check payable to: MA 4-H Dog Committee**, UMass Extension, ATTN: Meg McDermott; 7 Midstate Drive Suite 102, Auburn, MA 01501

Please reach out to Meg McDermott, mecdermott@umass.edu or Cathy Acampora, acampora@umass.edu with any questions.

Explore UMass Conference for 4-H Teens

The Explore UMass conference for enrolled UMass Extension 4-H members ages 12 through 16 will take place on June 26-28 at the UMass Amherst campus.

Explore UMass is an overnight 4-H teen conference. Participants choose from different workshop tracks, sleep in the dorms, and experience dining on campus. The fee for this conference is being subsidized by the Massachusetts 4-H Foundation; the cost for each participant is \$100 per person. There are a variety of scholarship sources should you need additional financial support. Reach out to your local educator to find out how to contact the advisory council or state 4-H office for more details.

Youth participants must be 12 years old by June 26th 2022 or attending grades 7-11 for the 2021-2022 school year. This year, Explore UMass is open to those enrolled in the Massachusetts 4-H program only. Contact Kim Pond with any additional questions you may have.

Tractor Supply Paper Clover Campaign



NATIONAL 4-H
COUNCIL

The 4-H and Tractor Supply Company Spring Paper Clover campaign will occur from April 27-May 8. Customers can donate \$1 and purchase a paper 4-leaf clover to support the 4-H in their state. Each state 4-H program



receives 90% of the funds raised, with National 4-H Council receiving 10%. All funds are designated to be used for leadership programs only. We have been using these to help defray costs of national 4-H congress, conference, academies, and other programs.

This spring, 4-H members will be allowed back in stores to present information about their projects and the 4-H program. They are allowed to ask for donations from the public for their club. Check with Carrie Sears regarding regulations for 4-H members to bring any animals to this event. Also, be sure to inform your 4-H members to check with their local store if they wish to be present during the paper clover campaign to arrange a date and time.

Career Exploration Series

April 20	No CES	
May 4	Kevin Podkowka Registration link: https://bit.ly/36nGWbg	Forester with the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Kevin became a Forester 25 years ago because he loved being outside. As a forester he has planned and supervised numerous logging operations, fought wildfires, served as a team member for major hydrologic restoration projects, worked with critically endangered species, helped build forest access roads, planned and supervised reforestation projects, planned and supervised large scale exotic vegetation control projects, and the list goes on.

		As a management forester Kevin is responsible for directing activities on state owned lands that meet the goals and objectives mandated by DCR. Log on to find out more about this and what a Forester does!
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Independent Members Meeting Next Wednesday

Newer 4-H Members who are not yet enrolled in a club and are exploring options are invited to attend a zoom meeting with 4-H educators. Independent members will meet as a group to ensure that they have a 4-H experience of the highest quality, learning about existing clubs, programs and activities, and state & county programs. Hands-on activities will be part of the meetings and the group will conduct project work.

No matter where you are in the state, if you currently are not affiliated with a 4-H group and are an independent member, join the zoom on April 13, 2022, at 6:30pm via Zoom. Sign up here for Zoom link <https://forms.gle/NVbT4G2XNmP25LUo6> If you have questions, contact vwallace@umass.edu

UMass 4-H Facebook Page

Visit us at <https://www.facebook.com/Mass4H> each day to see posts about these topics:

Monday – Healthy Lifestyles with a focus on mental health, but also exercise and nutrition

Tuesday - Deadlines, tips, record book reminders, and icebreakers

Wednesday – Animal Science and Agricultural Information

Thursday – Civic Engagement, including club officers, community service, teen leadership and clubs in the news

Friday – Science, Engineering and Technology.

UMass Extension 4-H Offices and Contact Information:

Contact the 4-H person you wish to meet with prior to visiting any of the 4-H offices to ensure they are scheduled to be in. Thank you.

State 4-H Office: 100 Venture Way, Suite 334; Hadley MA 01035

Linda Horn, UMass Extension 4-H Program Director lrhorn@umext.umass.edu

Carrie Sears, 4-H Animal Science Program Manager – ccsears@umext.umass.edu

Deb Comeau – State 4-H Administrative Assistant – dcomeau@umext.umass.edu

Western MA: Franklin, Hampshire, Hampden and Berkshire Counties

100 Venture Way, Suite 334; Hadley MA 01035

Angelica Paredes, 4-H Educator – angelica@umext.umass.edu

Lauren DuBois, Urban 4-H Educator – ldubois@umext.umass.edu

Lizmarie Ulloa, Urban 4-H Program Assistant - llopezortiz@umext.umass.edu

Central and Southeastern MA: Auburn 4-H Office: 7 Midstate Drive, Suite 102; Auburn MA 01501

Bristol and Norfolk Counties:

Cynthia A. Bushey, 4-H Educator – cabushey@umass.edu

Kim Henderson, Administrative Assistant – khenders@umext.umass.edu

Worcester County:

Meg McDermott, 4-H Educator – memcdermott@umass.edu

Martina Jasiewicz, Administrative Assistant – mjasiewicz@umext.umass.edu

State 4-H STEM Program Manager:

Kim Pond – 4-H SET Program Manager – kima@umext.umass.edu

Northeastern MA: Essex, Middlesex & Suffolk Counties:

UMass Mt. Ida Campus, Hallden Hall; 100 Carlson Avenue, Newton, MA 02459

VaShon Wallace-Hiltbold, 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: 44 Obery Street, Plymouth MA 02360

Molly Vollmer, 4-H Educator: mvollmer@umext.umass.edu

Cathy Acampora, 4-H Educator: acampora@umext.umass.edu

Meghan Riley, Ag Extension Educator: mriley@plymouthcountyma.org

Tia Quinn, Administrative Assistant: tquinn@plymouthcountyma.gov

Barnstable County: Box 367, Barnstable MA 02630

Sandi Shepherd-Gay, Barnstable County Youth Extension Educator:

sandi.shepherdgay@barnstablecounty.org

Dawn Johnson, Administrative Assistant: dawn.johnson@barnstablecounty.org



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