The UMass Extension 4-H E-NewsBlast is sent to all 4-H families and volunteers throughout the state. Each county 4-H office may add information that is specific to that county or region. Unless otherwise noted, all virtual programming is available to 4-H members throughout the state, not matter where you live or what club or group you belong to!

The new enrollment period for 4-H Clubs and Groups is fast approaching. Remember that your club needs to turn in their financial forms and proof of IRS filings before you can re-enroll in 4-H online. More details below!

MASSACHUSETTS 4-H VIRTUAL STATE FAIR

The first ever Massachusetts 4-H Virtual State Fair has closed for entries. Thank you to all who have entered! The judges will be viewing your entries over the next week.

We will hold a virtual Opening Ceremonies for the virtual fair on Saturday, August 29 at 10am. Two of our 4-H members will be singing the National Anthem and several of our 4-H Team will be there as well! The Zoom link is https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/98681082048remony.

NASA Links and Activities

Take a look at this great list of activities, challenges, and links straight from NASA’s Office of STEM Engagement. Here is a list of wonderful web-based education learning resources for students and teachers. Feel free to explore and you will likely find many things to meet and peak you interests. https://www.nasa.gov/stem/about.html

NASA Goddard Visitor Center: https://www.nasa.gov/content/goddard-visitor-center-virtual-experiences
The Goddard Visitor Center is embracing virtual engagement! The updated Facebook page and website now list Virtual Experiences, such as:

3. A weekly NASA@Home highlight (related to Goddard or an Agency priority)
4. Monthly sky watching update with 2 links including spot the station.

More Resources:

- The Goddard Education Resource Center: http://www.nasa.gov/centers/goddard/visitor/home/erc.html – offers FREE teacher resources, planning and lesson guidance
- NASA Shttp://www.ustream.tv/channel/DUJwdHZRq7b
- The Solar System Ambassador Program: http://www2.jpl.nasa.gov/ambassador/
- Resources developed in conjunction with the movie “Hidden Figures”- https://www.nasa.gov/modernfigures-education-toolkit/
- The Space Place: https://spaceplace.nasa.gov/

NASA’s award-winning Space Place website engages upper-elementary-aged children in space and Earth science through interactive games, hands-on activities, fun articles, and short videos. With material in both English and Spanish and numerous resources for parents and teachers, Space Place has something for everyone. Learn about everything from black holes and wild space weather to the reasons for seasons here on Earth. The Space Place has material on space, the Sun, the Solar System, our own planet, and the scientists and technology that make discovery possible.
• For teacher and student resources visit www.nasa.gov and click the educator link; opportunities are updated on a regular basis so check back frequently

• NASA Educator Professional Development opportunities: https://events-na11.adobeconnect.com/content/connect/c1/1088539485/en/events/catalog.html

• Science Visualization Studio: http://svs.gsfc.nasa.gov - All the visualizations created by the SVS (currently totaling over 5,500) are accessible to you through this web site, and free to download. The Scientific Visualization Studio wants you to learn about NASA programs through visualization. The SVS works closely with scientists in the creation of visualizations, animations, and images in order to promote a greater understanding of Earth and Space Science research activities at Goddard Space Flight Center and within the NASA research community.

• NASA Exhibits: http://www.nasa.gov/about/exhibits/indexFeature-RequestExhibit.html


• Career Stories of women at NASA/Science: https://women.nasa.gov

• Activities for kids/students: https://www.nasa.gov/kidsclub/index.html

Club, Advisory Council, Fair Board Annual Financial Reports Due!

Clubs, boards, and committees need to submit a financial report each year; these were due on August 1. If you have not yet submitted your report or need assistance, contact your local 4-H office which can be found at the end of this NewsBlast. All forms can be found at https://ag.umass.edu/sites/ag.umass.edu/files/pdf-doc-ppt/annual_club_report_and_financial_form_0.pdf.

Returning clubs will not be activated until financial reports are received. Important to note: Once you submit your 990-N form, be sure to check that the status is ACCEPTED. Pending is not accepted by the IRS and can cause your EIN number to be revoked if you have a pending status for three consecutive years.

Coding Challenge!

Computational thinking is all around us if we look. Here are some coding challenges – and exercise challenges too! Your challenge is not only to try and code the Double Dutch Hop Challenge seen in this video link with your family, but code it! Send your codes/video to ma4hset@gmail.com

There will be a surprise to the first three people who compete. See the double Dutch hop challenge video on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/IowasNewsNow/videos/761763814558837

Did you know? Written instructions can also be considered code or algorithms. Code and algorithms are in many of our daily routines, games and dances. What other Algorithms do you use? If you enjoyed the activity above, go further and check out the 2018 National Youth Science Day "Code Your World" where one activity is to "Code Your Dance". Find it at https://4-h.org/parents/4-h-stem-challenge/4-h-nysd-2018-code-your-world/

STEM Mars Base Camp Challenge Kits for Clubs and Individuals

The 2020 Mars Base Camp Challenge Kits are ready for you to order. In the past these were the National Youth Science Day Experiment Kits (NYSD). Because we are not yet meeting face to face or offering in-person workshops, we are offering a new way to work with the STEM challenge kit!

Order your own individual or family kit from National 4-H at https://shop4-h.org/. Follow the directions and have fun with the experiments; there are even some virtual materials to support you along the way.

Family (15.95) and educator kits (23.95) are on sale now at Shop 4-H (www.shop4h.org) and still a $5 discount per kit thanks to Toyota. The discount will only be available until the gift runs out.

For those families who wish to take part in the 2020 STEM Challenge in October, you may qualify for a reimbursement from Massachusetts 4-H for your purchase! To qualify for a reimbursement, you will need to meet the following criteria:
  o Be fully enrolled for the new 2020-2021 4-H Year by November 30. This includes all fees being paid
outside of Massachusetts! Starting in late September,
at even if a 4

Talk with an expert and find out what it takes to

present it at 4

Part Two

following information:
REGISTER by

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8PMz6vOY3UGVpD5Eu8363YUo9mW2alt

University of Nebraska has a set of virtual tour Zoom Webinars geared for High School students. View them at

INSIGHT FROM MARS Celebrate the 2020 4-H STEM Challenge by Coding an Insight from Mars!

• This is now online at https://4-h.org/parents/4-h-stem-challenge/insight-from-mars-activity/

It’s almost time for 4-H members to submit their records...at least to start writing your 4-H Story. For those of you interested, how would you feel about MIXING THINGS UP? Join us for a two-part Zoom series; spaces are filling up fast!

Part One – How to WRITE your 4-H Story - learn this in time to use this technique with this year's 4-H Records.

These three sessions will be held on Thursday August 27, September 3 & September 10, from 7:00 – 8:00 PM

What if your cow could talk about how hard practicing for showmanship could be? What if your rabbit wanted to tell the world all about the great treats you gave her? What if your horse had an opinion about changing to a bitless bridle, your sewing machine wanted to gush about all the cool projects it got to help with, or your model rocket could tell us all about what it saw from way up high? What other aspect of your 4-H project might we discover by letting your project take over the narration?

Join our special guest Teddy Hansen-Dewar for a virtual workshop series on a new way to tell your 4-H story! She is a 23 year 4-H member and volunteer, and has written many 4-H stories of her own. She is now a poetry and fiction writer! Instead of you being the narrator ("This year, I learned how to prepare a chicken for judging, including making her feathers look nice"), you'll learn how to let someone else be the narrator ("This year, I learned how to stand still while a judge remarked on how handsome I was, and how shiny my feathers were"). We'll work on some exercises to help you think about how the world might look from things in your room, or in your barn, look at some examples of writing from different perspectives, and then let you be creative write a brand-new kind of 4-H Story!

REGISTER by contacting Angelica Paredes at: angelica@umext.umass.edu by August 20. Space is limited! Include the following information: ✓ Member Name ✓ Member Age ✓ 4-H Club/Program Name ✓ County ✓ Leader’s Name ✓ 4-H Project(s)

Part Two – How to TELL your 4-H Story – These sessions will take place later in the year, in time to get you ready to present it at 4-H Visual Presentations in a new category!

Career Exploration Zoom Series

Talk with an expert and find out what it takes to become involved in specific careers. The chart below gives you the dates and a bio about each of the upcoming speakers. Everyone is welcome to attend, no matter your age or project area, or even if a 4-H member! Invite a friend to attend too! To obtain the Zoom link, contact Angelica Paredes at angelica@umext.umass.edu with: session date, youth name, club/school, County. Please add the state you live in if outside of Massachusetts! Starting in late September, this series will continue every other week.

| AUGUST | 26 | Erika Hamilton | Erika is a professor in the Department of Microbiology at UMass Amherst. Her background is in studying how germs like viruses and bacteria make us sick, and how our bodies work to fight off these invaders. In her presentation, she will talk about microbes like bacteria |
and viruses and the fascinating lives they lead. These microbes have a huge influence on us (the current coronavirus pandemic is a great example of this), and understanding this influence is essential to improving our lives. She'll also talk about what it means to be a scientist, the steps to take to become one, and the many different career opportunities open to scientists.

SEPTEMBER 2 Senator Anne Gobi

Anne M. Gobi was first elected as State Representative of the 5th Worcester District in 2001 and as State Senator in 2014. A native of Spencer and Worcester County, Gobi began her college education at Worcester State College with a B.S in History. To continue her education at Massachusetts School of Law for her J.D, Gobi taught at Leicester Public Schools as a history teacher and also at Nichols College as an Adjunct Professor for Political Science.

Sen. Gobi has been a steadfast advocate for the constituents of the 5th Worcester District and now the Worcester, Middlesex, Hampden & Hampshire District. She and her staff are always available to help those in need to get the help that they have a right to. She has also been a devoted voice for the towns in the district, assisting with grant applications, state assistance, and legislative matters that benefit the district.

Sen. Gobi was chosen by Senate President Spilka to serve as Senate Chair of both the Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture and the Joint Committee on Higher Education. She was also appointed as Vice-Chair of the Joint Committee on Public Service and as a member of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means. Her priorities include land conservation, clean energy, clean water, support for veterans, economic development (especially in rural communities), and support for public education, food security and support of farmers, and reducing costs for municipalities.

SEPTEMBER 9 Ag. Extension Panel

Mandy Bayer – Extension Faculty member at the Stockbridge School whose work is focused on the nursery industry and using research to improve irrigation and fertilizations practices among other things

Angela Madeiras – plant pathologist who handles most of the non-woody (turf, fruit/veg, etc.) diagnostics in our plant disease lab

Randall Prostak – weed scientist who works with invasive plants and weeds in a variety of landscapes, mostly non-agricultural

Tawny Siminsky - Team Leader for Landscape, Nursery, and Urban Forestry, who is an entomologist by training

SEPTEMBER 23 Sheriff Bowler

Prior to his election as Sheriff in November of 2010, Sheriff Bowler was a 24-year veteran of the Pittsfield Police Department, serving as a Detective since 1988. He was a key player in solving some of the city’s largest crimes, including narcotics offenses, kidnapping, sexual assaults, armed robberies and homicides. In addition to his work in the Detective Bureau, he served in the Drug Unit and as an Arson Investigator.

Sheriff Bowler was also an Assistant Deputy Superintendent-Security Affairs at the Berkshire County Jail and House of Correction from 2000 to 2002, where he played an instrumental part in moving the inmates from the former jail on Second Street to the new facility on Cheshire Road.

In addition to the Berkshire County Jail and House of Correction, Sheriff Bowler operates the Berkshire County Sheriff's Communications Center in Pittsfield, providing fire, police and ambulance emergency 911 and non-emergency communications for 23 communities in Berkshire and Hampden County 24 hours a day.
As chief law enforcement officer in Berkshire County, Sheriff Bowler oversees an average daily inmate population of nearly 200. In addition to the operation of the Berkshire County Jail and House of Correction and the Communications Center, he oversees the Sheriff’s Office Uniform Division, the Civil Process Division and the Berkshire County Underwater Search and Rescue Team.

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<th>OCTOBER</th>
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<td>OCTOBER</td>
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<td>Alexander Daugherty, Probation Officer for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts</td>
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**Solar Oven S’Mores!**

Create a solar oven and make your own S’mores! In this activity, youth participants will learn about how engineers harness the power of solar energy. You will use aluminum foil to convert energy from the sun into conductive heat to cook s’mores in a cardboard box.

This activity requires access to an outdoor space. For optimal results try it when the sun is most intense. Go to this link to see the whole experiment! [https://4-h.org/about/4-h-at-home/solar-oven-smores/](https://4-h.org/about/4-h-at-home/solar-oven-smores/)

**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](https://ag.umass.edu/mass4h/about/office-locations-contacts)

State 4-H Office:  
Linda Horn, Interim Director - lhorn@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

Southeastern MA (Bristol and Norfolk):  
Jay Field, 4-H Educator – jfield@umext.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

Barnstable County:  
Judy Vollmer, 4-H Educator: jvollmer@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.