



Massachusetts 4-H Program

August 28, 2020

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!

Remember to turn in your club, advisory or fair board's financial forms. Some are overdue. Our new enrollment period is coming up soon and you will not be able to re-enroll your group without these forms being submitted. Thanks for your cooperation!

MASSACHUSETTS 4-H VIRTUAL STATE FAIR

THANK YOU to all the 4-H members who participated in the Massachusetts 4-H Virtual State Fair and to all the volunteers who judged the entries! We had 230 participants and over 1200 items entered! All participants will be able to see their results after our virtual Opening Ceremonies on Saturday, August 29 at 10AM. Check your email on Saturday morning for the link you will need to view your results!

The opening ceremonies will include the singing of the National Anthem by two 4-H teens, the 4-H Pledge, and a few comments from some members of the 4-H Team will be there as well! The Zoom link for the Opening Ceremonies is <https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/98681082048remony>.

National 4-H Items and Links

Get ready for the classroom, at home or in school! Shop activity kits, curriculum and merchandise for kids of all ages from the official 4-H store! Every purchase supports 4-H kids. Go to www.shop4h.org

National 4-H Week is October 4-10. Find some resources at www.4h.org. Here are some fun things you might do individually or virtually during National 4-H Week:

- Meet virtually with your club
- Wear your 4-H gear
- Shout-Out on social media about 4-H, highlighting some of your projects or your club
- Send a 4-H Thank You to your club leader(s) or someone who has been a positive influence in your life.

4-H at Home provides hands-on, educational activities for kids and teens all year long. Get our latest 4-H at Home Activity Guide, activities from 4-H Land-Grant Universities, and more at <https://4-h.org/about/4-h-at-home/>

TRACTOR SUPPLY PAPER CLOVER FUNDRAISER – Each Fall, the Tractor Supply Company helps raise funds for 4-H Programs with the Paper Clover Campaign. Because of the pandemic, 4-H clubs will not be allowed to have displays or activities at local Tractor Supply Stores. But the Paper Clover Campaign will go on!

- Dates: Oct. 7 – Oct. 18, 2020
- 90% of the funds raised in Massachusetts go right back to Massachusetts 4-H! 10% of funds go to National 4-H Council
- Customers can donate with their in-store purchase, purchasing using the TSC app, or on the TSC's website.

Club, Advisory Council, Fair Board Annual Financial Reports

Clubs, boards, and committee reports were due **August 1**. Do you need assistance completing your form or filing the 990-N with the IRS? Contact your local 4-H educator! We are here to help! 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.

Remember, you cannot re-register for 2020-2021 until your group's financial reports are received.

NASA Links and Activities

Here is a second look at these activities, challenges, and links straight from NASA's Office of STEM Engagement.

[NASA Goddard Visitor Center.](https://www.nasa.gov/content/goddard-visitor-center-virtual-experiences) <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

The Goddard Education Resource Center: <http://www.nasa.gov/centers/goddard/visitor/home/erc.html> – offers FREE teacher resources, planning and lesson guidance

NASA <http://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>

Night Sky Network: Astronomy clubs bringing the wonders of the universe to the public. <http://nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov>

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

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

STEM Mars Base Camp Challenge Kits

Did you purchase your 2020 Mars Base Camp Challenge Kits yet? A family kit can be purchased 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 kits are available at \$15.95.

Families who take part in the 2020 STEM Challenge in October may qualify for a reimbursement from Massachusetts 4-H for your purchase! To obtain a reimbursement, you will need to meet the following criteria:

- Be fully enrolled for the new 2020-2021 4-H Year by November 30. This includes all fees being paid
- Conduct the 2020 STEM Challenge using the kit in your home.
- Submit a photo or two of your family and 4-H member(s) conducting some portion of the experiment
- Complete a short survey
- Submit your invoice for the cost of the kit. Shipping will not be reimbursed; only the cost of the kit.

40 kits will be reimbursed More details as to where to submit your information will be coming in future NewsBlasts.

More Mars Base Camp Challenge Resources:

<https://4-h.org/parents/4-h-stem-challenge/#!2020-challenge>

Professional Development Opportunities at <https://4-h.org/parents/4-h-stem-challenge/#!webinars>

- STEM Challenge Overview for Educators + Kit Unboxing-recording online
- Creating and Adapting Programming for Virtual and Hybrid Delivery-September 10th at 1pm ET

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/>

University of Nebraska has a set of virtual tour Zoom Webinars geared for High School students. View them at <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8PMz6vOY3UGVpD5Eu8363YU0a9mW2alt>

Spinning Your 4-H Story

The first part of the Spinning Your 4-H Story took place on August 27. Still interested in taking part? Contact Angelica Paredes to find out if there is still room!

Sessions two and three will be held on September 3 and 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?

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.

SEPTEMBER	2	Senator Anne Gobi	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
SEPTEMBER	9	Ag. Extension Panel	<p><u>Dr. Mandy Bayer</u> - Dr. Bayer is an Extension Assistant Professor of Sustainable Landscape Horticulture. She majored in Landscape Contracting at Penn State and worked as a landscape designer before</p>

			<p>returning to graduate school. She has a Master's Degree in Crop Sciences from the University of Illinois and a PhD in Horticulture from the University of Georgia. Her background is in studying how we can improve the sustainability of ornamental plant production through improved irrigation practices. She also studies how to improve establishment of plants in the landscape, and is also the advisor for the AS and BS horticultural science programs in the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at UMass, along with being a part of UMass Extension. Dr. Bayer will talk about the many areas of Horticulture.</p> <p><u>Dr. Madeiras</u> - Dr. Madeiras is a plant pathologist working in the Extension Plant Diagnostic Lab, where she diagnoses plant health problems in vegetables, fruit, turf, and greenhouse crops. Many people are unaware that plants get diseases too, and that these diseases can have a big impact on our food supply and the livelihoods of all kinds of growers. Being a plant pathologist is sometimes a little like being a detective- you have to gather all the clues you can and put them together. In her presentation, Dr. Madeiras will talk about what makes plants sick, what a routine case might be like, and some of the different career paths open to plant pathologists.</p> <p><u>Randall Prostack</u> - Randy Prostack is an Extension Weed Specialist. As the grandson of a dairy farmer, Randy fell in love with agriculture at a young age. In 1994, Randy joined the University of Massachusetts and in 2000 he became an extension weed specialist. He is a member of the UMass Extension Landscape Nursery and Urban Forestry team and is an active contributor to the turf and Crop Dairy Livestock Equine extension teams. He currently serves on the Massachusetts Invasive Plant Advisory Group. Randy is an active member of the Weed Science Society of America and served as president of the Northeastern Weed Science Society. In February 2013, Randy received the Northeastern Weed Science Society's Outstanding Educator Award. The 2020 growing season will mark Randy's 32nd year working in weed science.</p> <p><u>Tawny Simisky</u> - Tawny Simisky is an Extension Entomologist with the Landscape, Nursery, and Urban Forestry Program. She has a Master of Science in Ecology and Environmental Science with a focus in Entomology from the University of Maine where she studied a native, ground-nesting wasp. She taught as an adjunct professor at Westfield State University and in the summers, worked for the MA Department of Conservation and Recreation. Eventually she joined MA DCR full-time as the ground survey supervisor for the Cooperative Asian Longhorned Beetle Eradication Program in Worcester, MA. In 2016 she joined UMass Extension, she creates entomology-related programming for professionals, and provides diagnostic support to the UMass Plant Diagnostics Laboratory.</p>
SEPTEMBER	23	Sheriff Bowler	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>

			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.
OCTOBER	7	Ron Schreier, NFL	<p>Senior Audio Mix Engineer, NFL Films Ron has worked in recording studios, mixed live concerts, designed sound systems and is currently working as a senior audio engineer for NFL Films. His recent assignments include mixing Good Morning Football on NFL Network and Hard Knocks on HBO. He has won three Emmy awards and has been nominated eight times.</p> <p>Ron started as a freelance studio recording engineer, transitioned to live sound and location recording. Using his network of clients, he landed freelance work at NFL Films and two years later was offered a full-time position. This will be his 19th season as a full-time audio engineer at NFL Films.</p> <p>Along with discussing his career path, what the true meaning of a "dream Job" is; it's not what you think. He'll also discuss working in the Film and Television industry and the importance of finding work that meets all of your life's expectations.</p>
OCTOBER	21	Alexander Daugherty, J.D.	<p>Probation Officer for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Dr. Daugherty has worked as a Probation Officer for 23 years. His first 18 years were as a juvenile Probation Officer; currently he supervises adults on probation for criminal charges. In his role as Probation Officer he takes part in every aspect of a person's involvement with the courts, from paperwork to home visits to court appearances. He is also an Adjunct Professor at Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts. Alex teaches classes in Criminal Justice. Prior to working in the court system, he worked on legal issues within several different facets of housing, from title searches to adjudicating over housing disputes.</p>

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/>



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

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-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:

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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

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 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.



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