



UMass Extension 4-H Program

December 3, 2021

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/>

Find previous NewsBlast issues on the UMass Extension 4-H webpage at <https://ag.umass.edu/mass4h>. Share the link with friends or your club officers so they can review upcoming items to discuss at meetings.

4-H Program Enrollment Fee Changing Soon!

4-H Program Enrollment Reminder: 4-H members can enroll any time throughout the year. However, the participation fee changes as of January 1 2022 from \$40 per person to \$80 per person. New or returning members should have all their paperwork and payment postmarked or entered by December 31 2021 to still be eligible for the lower rate. Any member may send in a check to their local 4-H office (written out to UMass 4-H Program) or pay by credit card at our secure portal (<https://ag.umass.edu/mass4h/membership-payment>). Remember, waivers are available. Read more at the link provided.

If you are a *returning member*, here are some tips when using 4honline to complete your paperwork (<https://v2.4honline.com/#/user/sign-in>)

- Use Google Chrome or Safari not internet explorer
- Be sure your email is current! If it has changed you need to update it in 4honline. Need help, or forgot your password? Reach out to Kim Pond for assistance.
- Be sure to update your health form, club and project information and click through until you hit final "submit" button. You will get an automated response your re-enrollment was submitted so you know it went through and ready for the office to approve.
- Find resources and tips for using 4honline at <https://ag.umass.edu/mass4h/about/4h-online>
- For Payment: When you are In 4honline please select "Non-Electronic" payment and proceed to the end regardless of payment method. You will then be directed on where to mail your check or pay by credit card. You do not pay directly to 4honline, but instead pay at the 4-H portal <https://ag.umass.edu/mass4h/membership-payment>

Thanks for your patience and support! Don't forget a lot of programming happens in the beginning of the new calendar year and in order to participate you need to be fully enrolled! Stay informed and be ready to sign up for winter workshops, visuals, STEAM Festival and much more.

4-H Dog Project Clinic

The 4-H state dog committee is hosting a dog project handling clinic for all 4-H members interested in working with their dogs in social settings and improving their skills with some basic training. This clinic will be held on Sunday January 23, 2022 at the Pack of Paws Training Facility, 26 Trolley Crossing Road in Charlton MA from 10am-4PM. This clinic is perfect for all ages and abilities and a good way to begin to reintroduce or introduce dogs to social gatherings. There will be beginner, intermediate, and advanced tracks to choose from. Stay tuned for registration information. Reach out to Meg McDermott or Cathy Acampora for more information.

UPCOMING Opportunities for Teens:

National 4-H Agriscience Summit in Bethesda, MD: The National 4-H Agriscience Summit in Bethesda, MD (right outside of Washington D.C) will take place on March 10-13, 2022. Teams from across the county will attend workshops, develop local plans/project and interact with industry professionals and develop the skills and knowledge needed for the challenges facing agriculture, food security, and sustainability. High School teens interested in the opportunity are encouraged to apply by January 7th, 2022 to Carrie Chickering-Sears ccsears@umass.edu Applications can be found at <https://ag.umass.edu/mass4h/clubs-programs/leadership>

National 4-H Conference in Washington D.C. March 19-24, 2022

Participants in National 4-H Conference work together in the four weeks prior to the conference to prepare briefings on important topics. During the conference, delegates will virtually present their prepared briefings to federal officials in Washington, D.C. Delegates also participate in workshops that increase their knowledge, resources, and skills while discussing topics affecting youth and 4-H programming nationwide. There will also be time to make appointments on

Capitol Hill with their Congressional delegation. Delegates not only learn while at the conference: they are empowered to create positive social change in their communities and have the opportunity to practice and apply their skills in a real-world setting. Applications are found at <https://ag.umass.edu/mass4h/clubs-programs/leadership> and are due to Kim Pond (kima@umass.edu) by January 7, 2021.

Welcome Home to our MA 4-H Delegation to National 4-H Congress in Atlanta Georgia



National 4-H Congress is one of the premiere experiences for 4-H members to participate in. National 4-H Congress provides an opportunity for youth to meet other 4-H members from across America as they participate in educational workshops focusing on diversity, cultural experiences, leadership, team development, and of course having fun!

Inspirational speakers contributed each day to the Congress theme including Dr. Carrie Castille Director, National Institute of Food & Agriculture, USDA, John Beede a global adventurer, Aidan Spencer, 2021 Youth in Action Award, and Dan Clark New York Times Best Selling Author.

Workshops ranged from speed meetings, to “Be the Change” and “Expanding Horizons through group involvement”. Tours included visits to Atlanta Aquarium, Football Hall of Fame, Coca Cola, and an evening at the Atlanta History Center. In addition, on Monday morning, the entire Congress delegation performed community service throughout the Atlanta metro area.

Elegant evening galas and semi-formal dances gave the delegates yet another important opportunity to gain a better appreciation of the diversity of delegates, to watch talented 4-Hers from throughout the country perform, and to develop networking skills to enable members to bring home new knowledge and awareness back to their home states.

We can't wait to hear about the experiences our delegates had as well as their ideas for future programming. Our participants were Caleigh Brown – Norfolk County, Emily Connolly – Worcester County, Cameron Golden – Plymouth County, Lily Krauzyk – Plymouth County, Thomas Scalera – Worcester County, and Margaret Turpel – Essex County. The 4-H Staff accompanying the UMass 4-H delegation were Meghan Connolly-Riley & Tom Waskiewicz

Animal Science Programs

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

Animal Science Meetings

December 6th – 7pm League of Protein Producers Zoom

December 16th – 7pm Horse Chat

December 19th – 11am MA 4-H Calf Sale & Clinics – Ag Office – Big E Fairgrounds

Rabbit Workshop Returns in 2022!

The 40th Annual Massachusetts 4-H Workshop is scheduled for January 22nd at the Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield, MA in the Farm-A-Rama Building. The Massachusetts 4-H Rabbit Advisory is pleased to offer this event in-person with quality workshops and presenters. Watch for the details coming out soon!

Animal Biosecurity

People who raise animals are not the only ones who need to be concerned about diseases that can easily spread between humans and animals. These types of diseases are called zoonotic diseases, and anyone who encounters animals could be at risk. The best way to prevent the spread of zoonotic diseases is by having and using a plan that reduces the risk of disease transmission. This is known as biosecurity, and it is an important step to making sure people and animals remain healthy. Michigan State University updated their site with resources that can be used by leaders, youth and fair staff.

Links –

(Zoonotic Diseases) https://www.canr.msu.edu/animal_science/zoonotic-disease

(Fair & Exhibition Toolkit) <https://www.canr.msu.edu/fair-and-exhibition-animal-health/>

(One day Shows) <https://www.canr.msu.edu/fair-and-exhibition-animal-health/one-day-livestock-jackpot-and-pop-up-shows>

Save the Date!

December 27th at 7pm. Zoom-Gabe Brown is a nationally recognized rancher that has his own marketing brand of beef and a leading expert on the regeneration of pastures. He goes all over the world speaking on this topic and he has agreed to spend time with us. His website is <http://brownsranch.us/> Mr. Brown runs a 5000 acre operation, direct markets his beef plus farm tours and speaking engagements. Please email me if you would like to participate at ccsears@umext.umass.edu



Horse Chat

Our next chat is on **December 16th at 7pm via Zoom**. The format is a set topic with an open discussion where everyone can share. Feel free to pass along to your county advisory members, parents and members. Meeting Link - <https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/99176056546>

All Pony – Horsemanship Learning Games

Free horsemanship learning games for youth. Learn about horses, play games, take fun quizzes about ponies at <https://www.allpony.com/>

CELEBRATING 4-H COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION

Join us in celebrating 4-H Computer Science during CS Education Week on Wednesday, December 8 at 1:00 PM EST. During this special webinar, you'll learn best practices as we share what worked well in reaching over 1.4 million youth with CS education through the 4-H CS Pathway. Join to explore the new resource, Click2ComputerScience.org, learn how to develop training and skills to engage youth in CS learning and build confidence and competence for staff to teach CS. It would not be a celebration without gifts, register now to join!

Volunteers interested in attending a webinar on the Click2CS resource hub on Dec. 8 at 1pm should contact Kim Pond for invite with link to register. Kima@umext.umass.edu

UMass 4-H Community Service-Learning

The first phase of the 4-H Community Service Learning Initiative, "Youth Mental Health," will be wrapping up at the end of 2021. We are asking clubs, families, or individuals who conducted any community service that had a positive impact on Youth Mental Health to fill out a quick survey. Even if you did not participate in this initiative, but feel your project or activity had a positive impact on youth mental health, complete the survey at this link: <https://bit.ly/3ITcpXL>

Phase 2 of this initiative kicks off on January 18 at 7:00PM. This phase will take place between January and April of 2022 and the focus will be on Food Insecurity. Register at this link to find out more and participate in the kickoff at <https://bit.ly/3rsIr06>

Thank you for your interest in these important initiatives. Your survey answers will help us with future programs!

Calling all Western Mass Teens:

The Berkshire 4-H Fair Association is a group of teens from the Western Massachusetts region that meet once per month to plan the Berkshire 4-H Fair. With adult mentor guidance, youth participants plan everything from the fair entry book to judges, to entertainment. The single day fair is run by the teen planning group. This 4-H program is an amazing leadership opportunity for any teen! To learn more register for the info session on Monday, December 6 from 7-8 PM via Zoom, at: <https://bit.ly/3FudAE7>

Youth that are members of this club for a minimum of 2 years are eligible to apply for a \$500 continuing education scholarship (college, trade school, certificate program – post high school) If anyone is interested in becoming a 4-H club member, please contact Tom at waskiewicz@umext.umass.edu. As with any 4-H club, the 4-H membership fee applies. However, if you are already a registered member, there is no additional fee.

Career Exploration Series

The UMass 4-H Career Exploration Series is taking a short break and will return in January 2022 with one presenter. We will return to the format of two presenters per month starting in February.

If you have a request for a career/occupation you would like to see UMass 4-H CES try to book for a future presentation, Angelica at: adiaz@umass.edu

Safety Measures and precautions: UMass Extension 4-H continues to ask for your cooperation by wearing masks in any UMass building, including 4-H offices. In addition adult volunteers and youth members need to wear masks at any 4-H indoor club meetings or events. COVID guidance can change daily; following daily guidance of the CDC and UMass 4-H when holding 4-H club meetings is required. See below for more details. Thank you for helping to keep our 4-H members safe and healthy!

- Any 4-H club meetings or events held indoors: Masks must be worn by all participants and adults. All CDC/health guidance must be followed regarding social distancing at the time of the event or meeting.
- Any 4-H club meeting or event involving youth under 12: Masks must be worn by all participants and adults. Youth must be socially distanced according to CDC guidelines at the time of the meeting or event.
- Any outdoor 4-H club meetings or event: Masks must be worn by all participants and adults if youth under 12 are present. Youth must be socially distanced according to CDC guidelines at the time of the meeting or event.

UMass Extension 4-H Offices and Contact Information:

Please note that not all offices are staffed daily. Should you plan to visit one of the 4-H offices, be sure to call first to be sure that the office will be open. 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
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

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:
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
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



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.

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST