The UMass Extension 4-H E-NewsBlast is sent to all 4-H families and volunteers throughout the state; some local 4-H offices 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, no matter where you live or what club or group you belong to!

Winter Workshops

Winter Workshops will be held virtually on **January 16, 17, 23 and 24, 2021** using Zoom. There will be sixteen different sessions to choose from each day! Choose to attend one session or all that you can! Materials will be provided for some of the sessions; details can be found on the UMass 4-H website at [https://ag.umass.edu/mass4h](https://ag.umass.edu/mass4h). There is something for everyone!

Dates: January 16, 17, 23 and 24, 2021
Times: Sessions begin at 10am and end at 2pm
Cost: Free to 4-H members and volunteers who are registered in 4-H Online at the time of Winter Workshop registration. $30 for non-registered members or others. The fee covers all four days of sessions.
**Registration Deadline: December 7, 2020.** Contact your local 4-H educator with any questions!

Animal Science

Zoom Sessions: Contact Carrie Sears for the zoom link at ccsears@umext.umass.edu
- December 9, 7pm - Meg Gennings and Ryan MacKay - Direct Marketing with Beef
- December 9 at 6:30PM - Zoom - Regional 4-H Horse Committee
- December 16, 7pm - Kim Vulu - Wool Processing

Wondering how to hold 4-H Animal Science Activities for your club or group on Zoom? Take a look at Purdue University’s site for some ideas to use at your next on-line meeting! [https://extension.purdue.edu/Owen/article/8778](https://extension.purdue.edu/Owen/article/8778)

Quiz Bowl Opportunity:
All Beginner and Intermediate Horse, Goat and Sheep youth have an opportunity to participate in a virtual quiz bowl practice! Click on the link for the contest you wish to take part in – be mindful of the registration deadline of December 11. This program is being run by the University of Vermont Collegiate 4-H Club
- Sheep and Goat Quiz Bowl Practice Registration Link: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/J8MV2Vz](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/J8MV2Vz)
- Horse Quiz Bowl Practice Registration Link: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JK3ZBK5](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JK3ZBK5)

Community Service: A Season of Thanks and Service

**Rescheduled: December 5th -1:00-2:30pm** – Making a decorated moss tree. This workshop is being rescheduled. Watch future editions for information.

**December 19:1-2:30pm** – Kim Pond, state 4-H SET specialist, will demonstrate and teach participants how to make a simple corsage/boutonniere as well as learn about some of the evergreens and natural materials around us. Follow along as we walk through the process. There will be time for you to work on your creations and grab a cup of hot cocoa before coming back together as a group to share.

**Supplies Needed:** Green floral tape or twine, hat pin or large quilting pin, 1ft ribbon ¼- ½ inch wide and an assortment of real/artificial greens, berries, or
pinecones, small hand held pruners, newspaper to cover your work space. Greens that are flat such as cedar work well.

Upcoming Sessions:
Activities for our 4-legged shelter friends is coming soon! Look for this in mid-December. We are currently lining up speakers and presenters. If you would like to lead an activity over Zoom showing how to make an item for a shelter cat or dog, reach out Kim Pond. This is a great opportunity for a leadership or community service activity.

4-H Across America-2021

4-H youth, families and friends can stay active this winter, even at home, by participating in 4-H Across America 2021. Those interested in taking part should form a team of 4 people. Each team will virtually exercise their way across America from Boston and back, visiting as many states as they can in the “lower 48.”

During this revised program, the following will occur:
- All states in the lower 48 are included (Not Alaska or Hawaii)
- The program begins on January 1 and end on March 31
- Each team must select a Team Captain. The team captain is responsible for the following things:
  - Collect time exercised from each member of the team
  - Collect time exercised by each team member and convert the time to miles. A conversion chart will be provided
  - Keep a record of the team’s miles each month
  - Submit the team’s total miles to the 4-H educator at the end of each month

Each team member will track their daily exercise mileage, whether by walking, jogging, biking, riding, rollerblading, skiing, swimming or by participating in any type of exercise. Team members will submit exercise time to their team captain. Team captains will also document where the team is located on the map at the end of the month. Teams will be asked to complete one of three different activities to show what they learned. More information will be provided during a series of workshops that will be held throughout this event, including Story Mapping, nutrition and healthy eating, stress management, injury prevention, teaming up with pets and time management.

Be sure to send the team Captain’s name and email, name of the team and names of team members to Tom at waskiewicz@umext.umass.edu by January 1, 2021

Quilting -Learn English Paper Piecing - December 29

Join the Montague Stitchers’ 4-H Club for the Quilting Tutorial “Introduction to English Paper Piecing” on December 29, 2020 from 3-4 PM via Zoom. Registration deadline is Friday, December 18.

You need:
· 7 pieces of cotton fabric, each measuring 4 inches square
· one contrasting thread color, one coordinating color
· fabric scissors, a few straight pins, a needle
· one piece of felt 10 inches square, an iron
· 7 hexagon paper templates measuring 1 ½ inches on one of the 6 sides

Email 4-H Educator, Tom Waskiewicz by Friday, December 18th to register at waskiewicz@umext.umass.edu

To download your hexagon paper template and for further information, visit the 4-H website events page. https://ag.umass.edu/mass4h/upcoming-events
Bitmoji Classroom

The New Bitmoji Classroom will be uploaded on Monday, December 7th! We are shifting to Kitchen Chemistry. Learn the science behind cooking and baking while making some edible treats for you and your family to try out. Yum!

Sign up with Lauren DuBois ldubois@umass.edu for an invitation to the classroom.

Congratulations to the Massachusetts 4-H Dairy Management Team

The Massachusetts 4-H Dairy Management Team placed third overall in the National Dairy Evaluation Experience. Fifteen teams competed overall. Team members began their experience in September with assigned management scenarios that ranged from housing of animals to reproduction. This contest simulated the National Dairy Challenge for college students. A panel of college faculty and extension specialists evaluated each state’s report. For the Massachusetts team, Rachel Meacham submitted a letter along with management recommendations. Additional team members included Tim Meacham and Evan Cooper; the coach was Nicole Fletcher.

The team from Wisconsin placed first; the New York team placed second. Massachusetts 4-H was tied for third place with Michigan. Other competitions teams were from the following states: FL, GA, IA, IL, MA, MD, ME, MI, NC, NJ, NY, PA, VA, WA, and WI. All participants will receive a medal.

4-H 101: Volunteer Professional Development Series

4-H 101 continues with Session 3: Creating 4-H Clubs. Even if you are a veteran club leader, you may either learn some new information or have some ideas to contribute! All sessions begin at 7:00PM on the Tuesday evenings listed below. Contact VaShon Wallace at vwallace@umext.umass.edu or Tom Waskiewicz at waskiewicz@umass.edu to receive the zoom link.

**Series 3: Creating 4-H Clubs - All sessions begin at 7:00PM**

- Lesson 2 Starting 4-H Clubs – December 8
- Lesson 3 Conducting Club Meetings – December 15
- Lesson 4 Planning the 4-H Club Year – December 22

**Series 4: Opportunity4all - All sessions begin at 7:00PM**

- Lesson 1 Marketing 4-H Clubs – January 5
- Lesson 2 Recruiting, Training and Recognizing Volunteers – January 12
- Lesson 3 Recognizing 4-H’ers Accomplishments – January 19
- Lesson 4 Making Action Plans – January 26

4-H Winter Horticulture Series

Upcoming sessions will be full of exciting discussions and hands on learning!

**December 10, 2020 at 7:00PM:** DIY Greenhouse and Winter Greens! We’ll learn about winter crops that grow in New England and make DIY greenhouses to try growing them in your home!

**December 17, 2020 at 7:00PM:** Spring Garden Q&A: As a group we’ll share our Spring planting plans and talk about why we are choosing specific varieties. This session will be a time to ask questions and give encouragement!

Email Tom Waskiewicz at waskiewicz@umext.umass.edu or Meg McDermott at memcdermott@umass.edu to register and receive your link and list of supplies needed.

Career Exploration Zoom Series

Talk with an expert and find out what it takes to become involved in specific careers. Everyone is welcome to attend, no matter your age or project area, Invite a friend to attend too; all are welcome! To obtain the Zoom link, contact Angelica
December 16
Nicholas Campbell, Felix Soto, & Alex Whiting

Microsoft
Nicholas Campbell is one of the Community Development Specialists for Microsoft in Massachusetts. In this role he works closely with communities and schools to get them the Technology and Training they need to achieve more. Nicholas' background started at a Vocational High School for Computer Science and Internet Technologies. After trying college and leaving, he started to work at a movie theater and worked his way up to manager. From there he got a job at Microsoft with his experience in managing and background in Computer Science and has been working his way up since.

Felix Soto is one of the Assisted Sales for Microsoft in Massachusetts. In this role he works closely with businesses to get them right solutions, technology, training, and any support that they may need. Felix's background started at High School taking basic classes. His last year of High School being in Puerto Rico, which was a valuable experience to him. He tried out College for a bit, wanting to be a part of the BAU as a kid so he took one year of Psychology and dropped out after only a year. His first job was at Calvin Klein, and later got a job at GameStop working his way up to manager. Before coming to Microsoft, He had many jobs in many different fields. Having little knowledge of computers or the background of Microsoft, besides the gaming side, he was still hired as is always learning.

Alex Whiting works on Microsoft’s Education Support Specialist Team helping Teachers learn how to use technology to help students most efficiently. Alex just received his Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from UMASS Lowell. His degree took him 9 years, which is more than twice as long as planned, because he faces special learning challenges. He has spent his entire life heavily immersed in the music industry. He was involved with the starting the popular band PVRIS. He spent several years running his own commercial recording studio. All the while, Alex has been helping Microsoft customers achieve more in their lives by helping them with their technology needs.

4-H Re-Enrollment Procedure

Please Note: When you re-enroll for the 4-H program in 4honline, we ask that you pay by credit card through the UMass bookstore site. However, the 4honline program will send you a very confusing notice such as the one here:

Dear (your name)
Your enrollment has been approved, however payment is required before you will become active in the current program year. Please follow the instructions below to submit your payment. Please submit payment to (Name of County). Amount Due: $40.00

Unfortunately, this message is automatically generated by 4honline, and we are not able to change it. We are working with the company to have this changed to other less confusing wording! However, since you paid through the UMass bookstore or by check, you can ignore that automatic message from 4honline. When your credit card payment or check is processed by the 4-H office, you will receive an email from that local 4-H office letting you know your membership is approved.

To Re-Enroll:
All volunteers and returning 4-H members must re-enroll yearly. Being enrolled allows you to take part in all 4-H activities, contests and programs. Go to http://ma.4honline.com. Do not use Internet Explorer – it is not compatible with 4honline! Be sure to update all your information, especially your email if it has changed. If you forgot your password, click ‘forgot password’ and a temporary one will be sent to your email. Then, just reset it to create your own.

FEE to Participate: The fee to enroll for 2020-2021 is $40 through December 31. On January 1, 2021, the fee will be $80 per member. The participation fee is not refundable for any reason.

Need assistance, and possibly a fee waiver? Go to https://ag.umass.edu/sites/ag.umass.edu/files/pdf-doc-ppt/2020-2021_waiver_of_fee_guidelines_0.pdf to learn more. Waivers must be submitted to your local 4-H educator and you must receive an approval before going online to re-enroll. After December 31, only half-waivers will be available; full waivers will no longer be an option.

Payment: Credit card payment is not submitted in 4honline, but through https://umassextensionbookstore.com/products/87. Follow these directions: When you are on the payment screen in 4-H Online you need to select the option for Non-Electronic Payment. Follow the directions for the extension bookstore payment site. Tips for using 4honline are found at https://ag.umass.edu/mass4h/about/4h-online. (4honline Family guide). If you do not see your club listed in 4honline, check with your local educator.
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):
Meg McDermott, 4-H Educator – memcdermott@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 – ywallace@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
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 reopening 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.