



UMass Extension 4-H Program

February 25, 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/>

Look for archived NewsBlast issues at <https://ag.umass.edu/mass4h>

Remember: You must be registered as a current 4-H member in order to take part in any activities, contests or events. Need assistance completing your registration or joining for the first time? Contact your local 4-H office (see the list at the end of the NewsBlast). Go to <https://v2.4honline.com/#/user/sign-in>

4-H Records – Opportunity to Review and Revise Records

The 4-H staff has been working to revise our 4-H records process and is looking for your help! Would you have time to be part of a Focus Group to review these documents?

What is a focus group? A focus group is a group of people who meet to discuss a pre-selected topic which is of interest to them. Those in a focus group help to provide opinions or insight about a topic.

The 4-H team has already met with a previous focus group. They were able to provide some suggestions and ideas to the 4-H staff to create updated 4-H record sheet drafts. We are now asking for additional individuals who are interested in reviewing those drafts and helping to provide suggestions for the next set of draft documents.

Current 4-H members, leaders, and parents are invited to be part of this focus group. You must **register no later than Friday, March 4th** if you would like to participate. Focus group sessions will be held on either **Sunday, March 6th at 7 PM** or **Monday, March 7th at 7 PM** using this link: <https://forms.office.com/r/g9fM4uXxTa>. You would only participate in one session.

We can't wait to see you there! If you have any questions, please reach out to Cynthia Bushey at cabushey@umass.edu.

Looking for Volunteers for Touch Tomorrow Event

UMass 4-H will be hosting an interactive activity table at the Touch Tomorrow event hosted by Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) on Saturday, April 2. This popular science festival attracts thousands of people during this one day event and will be held at Polar Park in Worcester. At the 4-H table we will be sharing general information about the 4-H program and conducting interactive coding and spin art activities.

This year, Touch Tomorrow is being held on the same day as the UMass 4-H State VP day. Many of our usual volunteers may not be available to help us run the 4-H activities at the Touch Tomorrow Event, and we are looking for volunteers. Both morning and afternoon times are available. Any parents, volunteer leaders, and 4-H teens are welcome. To find out more details or to volunteer, contact Kim Pond at kima@umass.edu.

Scholarships

Visit the UMass 4-H website at <https://ag.umass.edu/mass4h/youth/awards-scholarships> to see the variety of scholarships available. While some are county or program specific, others are available to all 4-H members. Also be sure to visit the Massachusetts 4-H Foundation site at <https://www.mass4hfoundation.org/for-families-clubs/grants-and-awards/> to learn about additional grant or scholarship opportunities

Career Exploration Series

Join one or all of the upcoming zoom sessions to learn about a wide range of careers.

March 2	Dr. Thomas Russell Professor of Polymer Science, and Engineering Department Visiting Faculty Registration link: https://bit.ly/3n0bcbt	What are Polymers and what do they do? Did you know that you use items with polymers every day, such as plastic bags, Styrofoam products, and more! Plan to attend the CES zoom with Dr. Thomas P. Russell to learn more about this science and how you interact with polymers! Dr. Russel is the Distinguished Professor of Polymer Science and Engineering at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Learn a little about his research and interest and how it affects you!
March 16	Larry Dapsis Entomologist Registration link: https://bit.ly/3G5wVMp	Are you interested in insects? Do you want to learn more about them or think it might be fun to study them? Join this Career Exploration Zoom to find out more! Larry Dapsis has been learning about insects since he was 5 and now works as an entomologist at UMass Amherst. Find out how he grew from being interested in insects to having a career as an entomologist! Larry describes his work as “a really cool job!”

2022 UMass 4-H Annual STEAM Festival

The STEAM Festival is still open for your entries! Entries are due next week by 3/2

[Awards ceremony will be Monday March 14th at 7pm.](#) All those entered will receive a link, but if you are a new member and thinking about the STEAM Festival for next year and want to check it out reach out to Kim Pond at kima@umass.edu for link.

All registered UMass 4-H members can participate. Look through the STEAM Festival entry book at this link:

<https://ag.umass.edu/mass4h> Contact Kim Pond or Lauren DuBois with questions or if you have difficulty entering. To submit your entries visit: <http://steam-festival.fairentry.com/>. Categories include Science, Engineering, Technology, Animals, the Arts, Crafts, Photography and more.

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

February 28 – 6:00pm Zoom – Hippology Overview

February 28 - 7:00pm Zoom – Horse Bowl Overview

March 7 – 6:30pm – Regional 4-H Horse Meeting

March 8 – 7:00pm – Zoom - Class Lists for 4-H Fairs Q&A

March 10 – 7:00pm Zoom – Horse Chat with Meg Gennings (Former 4-H member, former lecturer at UNH and now UMass and Equine Barn Manager) Insights on the Horse Industry

March 18 & 19 – MA 4-H Blue Ribbon Dairy Calf Sale & Clinics – Clinics to be held on March 18 at 6:00pm and Calf Sale – March 19 at 11:00am – Mallary Complex – Eastern States Exposition Fairgrounds, West Springfield, MA

State 4-H Horse Contests Zoom Series

Hippology and Horse Bowl are scheduled for February 28th 6:00pm will kick-off with Hippology with Coach Cait Beachell followed at 7:00pm with Coach Rose Blomgren.

Livestock and Dog Classes for 4-H Fairs in 2022 Zoom

Join us on Zoom on March 8th at 7:00pm for a Q&A on the class lists for 4-H fairs. The link is <https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/97315449005>

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) Warning

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) has been detected in migratory water birds in the Atlantic Flyway in Nova Scotia, Canada, South Carolina (SC), North Carolina (NC), Virginia (VA), and Florida (FL), Maryland (MD), and New Hampshire (NH). It has recently been found in a commercial turkey flock in Nova Scotia, Canada and in Indiana (IN). Commercial poultry, backyard poultry, and domestic waterfowl continue to be at risk of exposure to the virus due to its presence in migratory waterfowl. Infection within the wild bird population may contribute to introduction and spread of

the disease to and among domestic birds. MDAR is advising backyard and commercial poultry owners to practice **strong biosecurity measures** to prevent domestic poultry from having contact with wild birds. Specifically for birds trying to attain or maintain “Organic” certification, this may mean temporarily confining the birds inside a shelter to prevent or minimize contact with wild birds, their feathers and droppings. This recommendation is in place for the next **90 days**. This recommendation will be reviewed at the end of that time period to determine if an extension is warranted. **Should you notice unusual signs of sickness in your flock**, you should immediately contact your local veterinarian, MDAR at 617-626-1795, or USDA at 508-363-2290.

On-line Beef and Horse Judging Contests Kick-off

The Livestockjudging.com is available again in 2022. Starting on Monday, February 14th, the beef judging and horse judging classes will begin. This a chance for you to try-out your skills at judging if you are just beginning or experienced. Each week, new classes will be offered for you to test your knowledge. To receive the instructions to enter, email Carrie at ccsears@umass.edu

2022 State 4-H Horse Roundup

Horse Judging – March 20th – Coggins Creek Farm, Westfield, MA
Hippology & Horse Bowl – April 23rd – St. William’s, Tewksbury, MA. Youth qualifying for a contest(s) will receive a notification from their county horse leader.

UConn 4-H Goat Workshop

UConn 4-H Goat Day 2022 is scheduled for April 2nd in Ratcliffe Hicks Arena, Storrs, CT. This program is open to 4-H youth and volunteers from across New England. The registration deadline is March 9th. Early registration is encouraged, as registration will be closed once capacity is reached. COVID-19 may cancel or change plans for this program and UConn COVID guidelines will be adhered to for this program.

Registration Packet is available at s.uconn.edu/goatday22

Online registration can be completed at s.uconn.edu/4Hgoatday

Massachusetts 4-H Rabbit Workshop

Due to Covid, we had to reschedule our in-person workshop. We have the new scheduled date of May 7th at the Eastern States Exposition Fairgrounds in West Springfield, MA. Some workshops may vary from our January workshop series. Watch your email for the registration link.

Rules for 4-H Clubs and 4-H Members Bringing Animals into Nursing Homes, Elderly Housing and to Community Events in 2022

In order to ensure the safety of 4-H members and their animals as well as those being visited, UMass 4-H program participants must follow these procedures and rules when visiting nursing homes, elderly housing, and participating in community events with their animals. 4-H Animal Clubs need to review these rules and to work on having youth members and their animals become pet therapy certified. By going through a certification program, 4-H members learn all the proper protocols for on-site visits as well as having their animals certified as therapy animals by expert evaluators.

Currently, visits to nursing homes, elderly housing and senior community events is *not* permitted. We will continue to monitor situations and COVID regulations and will re-evaluate this moving forward. However, until that time, it is not allowed.

In the meantime, clubs or 4-H youth who have their animals pet therapy certified may get permission to visit sites such as nursing homes, and short term care facilities. In order to obtain permission, the youth or club leader needs to:

1. Notify their local 4-H Educator that they plan to conduct a visit. They will need to provide the name of the facility, date and time of the visit, and all animals that are certified as well as the name or names of the youth(s) attending. A copy of the pet therapy certification and health information of each of the animals also needs to be provided.
2. The therapy animal is required to have up-to-date health certificates (current) that are carried with the youth/club when they are going onto a site. i.e. rabies for dogs, cats, small pets, livestock, and mini horses, along with a health certificate issued by a certified veterinarian for livestock and Coggins for horses.

We will be holding trainings for leaders and youth interested in outreach with their animals. Watch your email and newsblast for dates and times.

Taking 4-H animals to public events and exhibits – not 4-H fairs:

When 4-H members plan to bring animals to places such as Tractor Supply, visits, or town events, the following procedures must be followed:

1. Club leaders need to notify their educator with the location, date and time of the event and provide a list of all the animals and the youth who will attend.
2. All animals need to have their up-to-date health paperwork. This paperwork must be brought with them to the event. This requirement is no different than animals being exhibited at fairs and shows. Rabies certificate and health charts on livestock issued for the current along with horses needing a Coggins for the current year.

Visual Presentation Updates and Workshops

The Annual VP program contests are almost here! All county and state Visual Presentation events statewide will be held by Zoom in 2022. Be sure to sign up with your local office to ensure you are registered and will receive information with your presentation time and Zoom link.

Visual Presentation categories are divided into three age divisions (age determined Jan. 1): Cloverbuds, ages 5-7 Juniors, ages 8-13 Seniors, ages 14-18. Cloverbuds may enter at the county level only and receive participation awards. Pre-registration is required for each competition. This year, all participants ages 10 or older can choose to enter using either posters or PowerPoint/Google Slides in any category. See the flyer at the end of the NewsBlast for a list of all dates.

Berkshire, Bristol, Franklin, Hampden, Hampshire, Norfolk, and Worcester Counties – Event will take place on March 5. Those who have registered will receive a schedule and Zoom link next week. **Please plan to join the VP Zoom on Saturday, March 5th at 9 AM.**

Registration ends by 4PM on February 25! Register by logging into 4honline (<https://v2.4honline.com/#/user/sign-in>), Then, click “Events” and then click VPs 2022. No late registrations will be accepted!

OR - Email Martina Jasiewicz at mjasiewicz@umext.umass.edu

Plymouth and Barnstable County VP's – Event will take place on March 5. Contact your local 4-H office to register

Middlesex County VP's will take place on March 12. Registration is open; reach out to your 4-H educator with questions and to register! State Visual Presentations will take place via Zoom on April 2.

State VP Day: Saturday April 2 starting at 9:45am – Zoom link will be provided

State VP Awards Ceremony: Thursday April 7, 6:30pm – Awardees will receive the Zoom link.

Seeking VP Judges

If you are an adult interested in volunteering to help as a judge or in another capacity for the Central-Southeast and Western Regions VP day on March 5th, please register using this

link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1GA6yVM451PoyP2NDotseZehDmssNpNSQ-tbgAfUTQck/viewform?edit_requested=true

4-H Seniors and Volunteers are welcome to become judges. All judges, whether new or returning, are required to attend a training on one of the following dates: Saturday February 19 at 10am or Thursday February 24 at 7pm. Join the zoom training at <https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/96120748329>

Update Your Projects in 4honline

It is important for each 4-H member to enter their project areas in 4honline. Your 4-H projects can be club focused or something you do as an individual. You should be sure to enter any and all projects that you are actually involved with.

During the year, programs or events may become available for 4-H members who are involved in a particular project area. By using 4honline, the educators can easily find all youth members who are taking part in that project and send out an email to them. If you are not listed, you might not receive an email announcement and might miss taking part in a great learning opportunity. For example, if a change in health regulation for a species comes out and is time sensitive it will be sent to those registered in those projects only to limit the amount of emails families receive.

To update your projects, log into your family account, select the blue "view" button next to the file you would like to update. Select "projects" on the left side bar to open up your project, select edit and you can delete or add projects. If you are in more than one club, select the club that project should be linked to. Contact your 4-H office for assistance if you need it!

Art Program for ages 10-13

Join in this new opportunity where 4-H Youth participants will work in design teams with UMass undergraduate art students to design prototypes of digital apps. This hands-on, interactive exploration of design thinking is for 4-H members ages 10-13. Most sessions will be held virtually, with one in-person Saturday session held at the UMass Amherst campus.

Teams will work on a design challenge where they will create a prototype of a mobile app that solves a problem or need. Brainstorming with their team, 4-H members will create a design based on community interests or to solve a problem. Their final product may be a learning aid or game as examples; the sky is the limit! Materials needed are a laptop or desktop computer with Internet and access to Zoom. Mobile phones can also be used to test your prototype. All other *Design-a-thon* workshop materials will be provided by UMass.

To register for this unique program, go to: <https://bit.ly/3HyLqJy>

From National 4-H – Worth Exploring!

4-H Partnership with JOANN Fabrics

In 4-H many kids get to discover the joys of sewing, crafting and creating. Now through April 30 JOANN's is supporting 4-H by collecting donations from the general public at the checkout. And, they now have some custom 4-H fabrics too!

As part of JOANN's partnership with 4-H, customers can sign up for the JOANN 4-H Rewards card that they can use when shopping online or in-store. Purchases made with the JOANN 4-H Rewards card help support the opportunity for all kids to experience hands on learning.

Safety Measures and Precautions

Many COVID policies and regulations are changing very quickly at this point in time. Although local towns and schools may be lifting mask mandates, we are currently following the UMass guidance which may be different than the state guidance. This may change by next week, so please continue to be patient and watch for updates!

Current Guidance:

UMass Extension 4-H continues to require that masks be worn in any UMass building, including 4-H offices.

All Indoor 4-H club meetings or events: All adult volunteers, parents present, and youth members are required to wear masks at any 4-H indoor club meetings or events, no matter the location, age of members, or vaccination status. Food is not allowed at meetings.

Any outdoor 4-H club meetings or event: Masks are not required if an event or meeting is held outdoors and if the location allows for proper social distancing. However, any individuals who feel more comfortable wearing a mask are still able to do so.

UMass Extension 4-H Offices and Contact Information:

Contact the 4-H person you wish to meet with prior to visiting 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

UMASS 4-H VIRTUAL VISUAL PRESENTATIONS 2022 DATES

February

Saturday
19

Virtual Judges Training 10:00 AM
Join Zoom Meeting <https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/96120748329>

Mass 4-H Seniors and Volunteers are welcome to participate

February

Thursday
24

Virtual Judges Training 7:00 PM
Join Zoom Meeting <https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/96120748329>

Mass 4-H Seniors and Volunteers are welcome to participate

March

Saturday
5

County VP's- Barnstable, Berkshire, Bristol, Essex, Franklin, Hampden, Hampshire, Plymouth, Norfolk, and Worcester Counties

4-H members must register to participate

March

Saturday
12

County VP's-Middlesex

4-H members must register to participate by March 4

April

Saturday
2

State Visual Presentations
9:45AM

April

Thursday
7

State Visual Presentations
Awards Ceremony
6:30PM