The UMass Extension 4-H E-NewsBlast is sent to all 4-H families and volunteers in Massachusetts. 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!

Go to the 4-H Website at https://ag.umass.edu/mass4h for more details on all upcoming programs and events.

**4-H Re-Enrollment**

Contact your local 4-H educator or administrative assistant if you need assistance re-enrolling in 4-H. Also check the 4-H website for detailed directions at this link: https://ag.umass.edu/mass4h/about/4h-online

**Wildlife and Exotic Animal Zoom Series**

The Natick Community Organic Farm 4-H group holds monthly workshops via zoom. Each workshop has an invited speaker who teaches about their area of experience and expertise. The sessions are mostly focused on wildlife and exotic animals. These workshops are now open to all who are interested in attending!

Next Session: THIS SATURDAY, January 30 @ 10AM  
Speaker: Katie Fallon  
Contact Pam at plefave@umext.umass.edu to register

Katie Fallon is the author of the book “Vulture: The Private Life of an Unloved Bird” and “Cerulean Blues: A Personal Search for a Vanishing Songbird.” She works at the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary which rescues all sorts of avian wildlife and is an international center for raptor conservation and education. A member of the International Association of Avian Trainers and Educators, Katie has conducted educational programs featuring a variety of raptor, parrot, and corvid species, and she has travelled the world while researching these amazing animals.

**Animal Science**

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

Sunday, January 31 – 1:00pm - Horse Genetics with Dr. Cassie Uricchio  
Tuesday, February 1 – 7:00pm – Nutrition Series on Beef Cattle with Blue Seal Feeds

**NEW Zoom Series starting on February 8th at 7:00pm** –  
Tracking Wildlife in your Backyard with Brian Taylor, Environmental Educator with the North and South Rivers Watershed Association

**STEAM Bitmoji Classroom – New Sessions!**

The 4-H Bitmoji STEAM Classroom is back for 2021! SAVE THE DATE: Starting February 1st

4-H Educator Lauren DuBois’s Bitmoji Classroom will be uploaded at noon on Monday, Feb. 1, 2021. This year we will be focusing on Citizen Science. How can we become better advocates for our world?

We will learn about Recycling, upcycling, green washing, biodiversity, water conservation, drones, and more! A better future starts with us, and it starts now with education and little changes we can make in our daily lives. Try out fun hands on activities and learn from experts in their field of study. All classrooms are self-paced and are accessible at your convenience. If you took part in previous STEAM Bitmoji Classroom activities, you will receive an email with information. If you want to sign up for the first time, email ldubois@umass.edu for an invitation link to join.
Visual Presentation Training

Want to learn about Visual Presentations
• from the perspective of the judge?
• To assist your members or children when preparing for VP’s?
• To explore if you might like to be a VP judge?

Join these Zoom sessions to learn more! Contact VaShon Wallace-Hiltpold @ vwallace@umass.edu

February 2 - 6:30-8:00PM AND
February 13 - 9:00 to 10:30 AM

Spinning Your 4-H Story Part 2, Telling your story

Did you know you can now do storytelling as part of the 4-H Visual Presentations competition? Workshop leader, Dr. Gail N. Herman will lead you through lots of activities such as:

• Learn how to tell stories from an animal’s point of view or even from a sewing machine or a needle's point of view.
• Engage in creative activities with faces and voices.
• How to personify a non-animate object and create an interesting story!
• Create a story by telling how you got interested in your project, or an idea you had!

The group will have fun with six word stories, learn about and use an ‘opposite machine,’ learn about folk stories, and more.

Don’t Delay – have some fun! Dates for the workshops are:
• Feb. 11, 7:00-8:00 PM
• Feb. 18, 7:00-8:00 PM
• Feb. 25, 7:00-8:00 PM

Dr. Gail N. Herman is on the Board of Directors for the National Storytelling Network. She has performed for and taught well over 1,000 students. Gail loves working with students to create and to tell stories with expression. Presently she has a class in Haiti, and has taught students and teachers at Leslie University, Wesleyan University, UConn, and Frostburg University. She has also performed for students on 4 continents.

Contact Angelica Paredes to register

Dog Safety Bitmoji Classroom

Learn about dog safety in this BitMoji classroom. Each week focuses on a different topic on dog safety and responsible ownership. Classes have started!

Week 1 – Overview about Dog Safety
Week 2 - Holiday safety for your dog
Week 3 - Dog interactions
Week 4 - How to read your dog
Week 5 - Choosing the right dog for you

Contact Cathy Acampora if you are interested in joining this classroom acampora@umext.umass.edu

2021 Massachusetts State 4-H STEAM Festival

The Massachusetts State 4-H STEAM festival celebrates all our 4-H members who are Makers!
• Exhibitors must be MA 4-H members who are enrolled and in good standing in the Massachusetts 4-H Program starting in September of 2020 through present. This includes Cloverbuds (ages 5-7), Juniors (ages 8-13) and Seniors (ages 14-18).
• All classes and lots will be posted on the Massachusetts 4-H website and in the FairEntry program.
• STEAM Festival entry book will be posted in the NewsBlast and on the UMass 4-H Website – watch for updates!
• The event will be open for entries in February.
• Any items you make or create on your own during this 4-H year, as part of a 4-H project, through the Winter Workshops, or in any other way can be entered.
• All items will be judged and virtual ribbons will be awarded.
• Special Awards will be given for top Junior and top Senior
• The Awards program is scheduled to take place on Sunday March 14 (Pi Day!)

Adults, parents and teens interested in helping with this new program should contact Kim Pond at kima@umass.edu
Massachusetts 4-H Creative Writing and Art Contest

The Year Without a Summer - 4-H Projects in a Pandemic.
4-H members are encouraged to take part in “The Year Without a Summer: 4-H Projects in a Pandemic”, a new creative writing event. You will be able to share your own perspective regarding the ways that you have interacted with your project during the pandemic. Submit your entry in any of the following categories:

- Poetry of no more than 50 lines
- Short stories of no more than 1000 words
- Artwork that tells a story about this summer from your project’s perspective.

This contest is open to all registered Massachusetts 4-H members of any age. When judged, one winner will be selected from each of the categories. Deadlines are listed below; a full flyer is on the Massachusetts 4-H website.

Remember:

- All entries, whether short story, poem, photo, or artwork, should be from the point of view of your project. Need some help brainstorming ideas? Email Angelica at angelica@umext.umass.edu for assistance

- The deadline for all submissions is March 1, but if you need assistance with written entries (short story/poem), submit them no later than Feb. 1 to receive feedback and assistance. You will get information back with suggestions, ideas, questions, etc., to help with your final submission.

- Winners will be announced at the 2021 State Visual Presentations!

4-H Across America-2021

4-H Across America has begun, but there is still time for more teams to join! Interested? Form a team of 4 people and contact Tom Waskiewicz for more details or visit https://ag.umass.edu/mass4h/news to get more information and details.

Teams will virtually travel across the contiguous United States between now and March 31, tracking their journey. Participate by walking, riding a bike, running, or doing any type of exercise. 4-H members can create a final product which can be submitted into a 4-H fair! 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

Survey for Explore UMass 2021 – Respond by February 1

The Explore UMass event traditionally is held at the UMass Amherst campus over a three day period. This program provides 4-H members ages 12-16 the opportunity to take workshops, stay in UMass dorms, and meet other teens from across the Commonwealth.

Due to the ongoing pandemic and the probability that large, in-person events will not be able to occur, the UMass Extension 4-H Program is planning a virtual Explore UMass program for 2021! Help us to plan this event by completing the short 7 question survey found here https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TWDVKCK All parents and teens are invited to respond! The deadline is February 1.

Coming Up Next Week: Meet 4-H Teens across the Northeast!

Virtually meet teens from throughout the Northeast region of the US – from West Virginia to Maine on February 4th at 7:00PM! Enjoy some good conversation, compare 4-H projects and programs and take part in some virtual games. Bring back some teambuilding activities and more to share in our state. Register at http://go.uvm.edu/4hteenmeet. Registration ends soon. This event is free for registered 4-H members!

SPIN Clubs? What Are They? February 24

Across the country, short term 4-H activities and programs are called by different names. These programs have between 6 and 8 sessions or can be held during a one-time, all day session. SPIN programs in other states are the equivalent of the UMass 4-H Impact programs such as Babysitter Training. On February 24 from 7-8PM, parents and other adults 21 and older can learn what is involved in conducting a short term SPIN or Impact program. Register for the one hour session on February 24 from 7-8PM at https://go.rutgers.edu/h9kcm9j9

Adding your animal projects to your 4honline account

You may have noticed a new animal category on the left side of your profile when you log into 4honline. If you used that feature last year you will see we have simplified the forms so there is less to add, thanks to Carrie Chickering-Sears and Kim Pond! These online forms have all the necessary information and dates you will need for entering fairs, including the online fairentry program used last summer. You can find a guide for families which includes screen shots on the 4-H website in the “About 4honline section.”
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 3</td>
<td>Mushroom Montoya</td>
<td>Guest Speaker: Architect, Author, and Shaman Mushroom Montoya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 17</td>
<td>Tim Swanson</td>
<td>Wilderness Survivalist - Owl Eyes Wilderness Survival</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| March 3 | Glenn Hiltpold       | Director of Actuarial Services - Safety Insurance | Glenn Hiltpold is currently the Chief Actuary at Safety Insurance, the fourth largest automobile insurer in Massachusetts. An actuary applies math and statistical methods to many of the business questions that an auto and homeowner’s insurance company faces. For example:  
  - What should we charge a family or individual for auto insurance for a year? How do you do this when the “premium” is usually paid up front, but claims can come months, or sometimes even years later.  
  - How much should an insurance company set aside to cover claims that have happened to somebody, but the insurance company doesn’t know about them yet?  
  - How can an insurance company protect itself from a hurricane, a severe arctic winter and other natural disasters and not go out of business?  
Glenn will discuss how he became an actuary, touching on the exams that are needed as well as the qualities and talents that he looks for when he is looking to hire a new actuary. |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 17</td>
<td>Bob Metcalfe</td>
<td>Wildlife Tracker</td>
<td>Bob Metcalfe is a naturalist and licensed guide with a lifelong interest in local wildlife and the habitat that is essential for their survival. He is an instructor at Boston Outdoor School, the education coordinator for The Saugus River Watershed Council and a member of the Maine Wilderness Guides Association. Through his business, New England Discovery, Bob offers programs in wildlife observation and photography, animal tracking and habitat exploration to adults and school children. <a href="http://www.newenglanddiscovery.com">www.newenglanddiscovery.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 3</td>
<td>James McDermott</td>
<td>Musician</td>
<td>James McDermott has been chasing sounds for as long as he can remember. Since the age of six he has been obsessed with all things noise. Pots and pans to his first electric guitar and drum set, music has consumed his life. Throughout middle and high school he studied mandolin, tenor banjo, drum set, guitar and bass, in genres spanning across traditional Celtic to pop to trap, jazz and R&amp;B. After defining a base and mastering the fundamentals of western popular music, he states that he “received the privilege of studying songwriting and music business marketing at Berklee College of Music in Boston, MA, graduating in 2013.” Throughout college and the years since graduation he has accumulated a total of six years live touring experience with his first professional music project, Bay Faction. Playing markets throughout the entire United States, Canada and England have taught him the ins and outs of what it means to live off art in today's entertainment industry. James’ first love is songwriting, and he’s inspired every day to do just that.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 17</td>
<td>Dr. Jennifer Hayden</td>
<td>Executive Director, Kinship Radio Network, MN - Author</td>
<td>Helping others reach their potential is Jennifer’s passion. Currently, she serves as the Executive Director of Kinship Radio Network in Minnesota. Previously, she was Moody Radio’s Director of Research and Learning and has been station manager of both WRMB-89.3 FM (Moody Radio) and WFIF-1500 AM (Blount Communications) after getting her start in her native state of Rhode Island at WARV 1590-AM, Warwick. She is also the current Chairperson of the NRB’s (National Religious Broadcasters) Radio committee. Jennifer has worked and taught in international contexts and spent five years as the Executive Producer of TWR’s Women of Hope radio program. In 2012, she completed a doctorate in organizational leadership and has taught leadership and radio on the university level. Jennifer released her first book, The Pioneer’s Way: Leading a Trailblazing Life that Builds Meaning for Your Family, Your Community, and You in October 2020. Jennifer's own 4-H experiences figure prominently in her book The Pioneer’s Way. As a long-time member of the 4-H public speaking program, she was the 1983 Rhode Island state public speaking delegate to the 4-H Congress in Chicago. She credits her 4-H experience with her present success, and yes, her very existence. Her parents, both 4-H members, met at the Rocky Hill Fairgrounds in Rhode Island.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Meet the 4-H Team!**

Each week we will feature some of the individuals who are part of the Massachusetts 4-H Team. This week say hello to:

**Meg McDermott**

Meg is the Central Region 4-H Educator in Worcester County and currently serves as the interim 4-H Educator in Norfolk and Bristol Counties. Meg has been with Massachusetts 4-H for 10 months. Before joining our team, Meg was the 4-H Animal Science Educator with Cornell Cooperative Extension in Columbia and Greene Counties in NY.

Meg’s educational background is in Education Administration and Evaluation and Measurement. She spent her college years in Worcester and she indicates that “I am thrilled to bridge my love of fun and effective hands on youth education and development with my passion for 4-H.” Meg is a Massachusetts 4-H alumna and was in the horse program in Norfolk County. Meg says that she is very excited to be able to work with 4-H members on all their projects, but especially horticulture and animal science projects. In her free time you can find her cooking, gardening, or going out for a hike with her dog, Rosie.
Martina Jasiewicz
Martina is the 4-H Administrative Assistant in the Worcester County office located in Worcester. In her role she oversees many different items, including:

- Process membership / volunteer applications
- Maintain and update volunteer files as necessary
- Make sure all office policies and procedures are updated, including contact information, directions, and frequently requested information
- Keep all office equipment in working condition, & repaired as necessary
- Maintain spending within budget parameters
- Speak with volunteers and assist with questions or issues

Martina has worked for UMass 4-H for 8 years. She has two Cats named Carlos and Natasha. Her hobbies are restoring antique furniture and numismatics (coin collecting)

Kim Henderson
Kim Henderson is the 4-H Administrative Assistant for Bristol and Norfolk Counties. Currently, her office is located in the Norfolk County Agricultural High School in Walpole.

Kim processes all 4-H enrollment and volunteer applications for Bristol and Norfolk counties along with many other duties. This year, she is also assisting Western MA 4-H with their enrollment and volunteer applications. Kim has worked for UMass Extension for 38 years, working part-time for 4-H for the past 23 years.

Kim is married and has two adult children and two granddaughters. She also has a rescue dog. Kim enjoys spending free time visiting with family and relaxing in New Hampshire.

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
Lauren DuBois, Urban 4-H Educator – ldubois@umext.umass.edu
Lizmarie Lopez Ortiz, Urban 4-H Program Assistant - llopezortiz@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 – 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:
Dawn Johnson, Administrative Assistant: dawn.johnson@barnstablecounty.org