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!

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/

The Second Annual Massachusetts 4-H Virtual Fair – Entry Deadline July 31!

There is still time to submit your entries to the second annual Massachusetts 4-H virtual fair! Entries are open through July 31, 2021. Results will be announced on August 9th at 7pm.

Some new classes are offered this year. You can enter your items in both the virtual and in-person fairs. The entry book and entry instructions are located on the MA 4-H website at https://ag.umass.edu/mass4h/events/second-annual-massachusetts-4-h-virtual-state-fair

NEW: Make your own Pet Toys. For ideas https://earthbath.com/fun-stuff/how-to-make-your-own-diy-pet-toys/?fbclid=IwAR3VqrfAzcGqvtja0GdFaCkenMGjiiQL0fROuDigrG_Ei9alz9odBKs2kXOp8

Pen Pal Project

The 4-H Pen Pal Project is underway! There are 46 4-H members signed up from around the country. Massachusetts 4-H participants will be receiving information soon with details about meeting your pen pal. Contact either Cathy Acampora cacampora@umext.umass.edu or Angelica Paredes angelica@umext.umass.edu to learn more if you have not yet signed up.

PHOTOGRAPHY CHALLENGE – for the fun of it!

Take a photo based on each week’s challenge and submit it by the following Wednesday. Photos will be featured in future NewsBlasts, state 4-H Facebook posts, and wherever we can brag about our amazing 4-H members! Up to 2 photos can be submitted each week per person. Photos from last week’s challenge can be found at the end of the NewsBlast.

One BIG rule – no pictures of people. This is to avoid any issue with photo releases so that we can share the pictures.

This week’s challenge theme: Food – REMEMBER: No people!
Submit photo(s) by: Wednesday, July 28
Submit photo(s) to: vwallace@umext.umass.edu
Be sure to put Photo Challenge in the subject line of your email

Please Note: This summer photography challenge does not replace the annual state photography contest!

4-H Records online- currently unavailable due to software upgrades

Due to the 4honline updates in the software platform, the online 4-H records platform that is affiliated with 4honline is unavailable for 2020-2021. For those who submitted records in 2019-202, be sure to keep the paper copies you submitted for judging. If you need assistance to download the records you submitted online, email Kim Pond kima@umext.umass.edu by August 20th, 2021 with the following information: County, Members Name and Project year.

Global Citizen Program

So far in this program, we have explored the continent s of North America, Antarctica, Africa, and Oceania/Australia. We have learned valuable travel tips, the best food to eat in Kenya, that pets are not kept indoors there, and had a chat with a MA 4-H alum living in Australia! That’s right, Thomas was a Massachusetts 4-H international member for years! Join our next program to explore new things about the Continent of South America. Contact Angelica Paredes for the link.
****NEW**** Young Farmers
The Massachusetts 4-H Program, Massachusetts Horticultural program, and the Massachusetts Farm Bureau are working together to bring you a new program called Young Farmers (YF&R). This series on horticulture, farming and careers will take place on July 27, August 3 and August 17.

YF&R cultivates the next generation through leadership development, advocacy training & networking opportunities. The YF&R is made up of Farm Bureau members engaged in agriculture. The objective of the YF&R program is to provide leadership in building a more effective Farm Bureau and expand our opportunities in agriculture.

The series will be held on the following dates and times:
Tuesday, July 27 at 7:00 P.M.
Presenter: Heather Bonano. Heather will talk about careers in horticulture/agriculture. She works on her family's farm, (Pleasant Valley Gardens) in Methuen.

Tuesday, August 3 at 7:00 P.M.
Presenter: Heidi Cooper. Heidi’s topics are “diversification in Ag business” and “the value of connections in farm marketing.” Heidi lives on dairy farm and works on another vegetable farm. For the last 2 years, she has been employed at a mixed livestock farm that does 12 markets and 400 home deliveries a week.

Tuesday, August 17 at 7:00 P.M.
Presenter: Meg Jennings. Meg will talk about direct marketing. She worked at the UMass Farm and at Lilac Hedge, selling meat directly to consumers.

For information and zoom access contact Tom Waskiewicz at waskiewicz@umext.umass.edu

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

Zoom Meetings
August 2 – League of Protein Producers – 7pm

Poultry Testing For Shows
The MA Poultry Inspectors can now go into the field to test poultry for shows. Families should contact the MA Dept. of Animal Health – Poultry Testing- Megan Megrath at Megan.Megrath@mass.gov or phone 617-626-1798

The Big E – September 17-October 3, 2021
The Big E is looking for 4-H livestock demos at the fair on the weekends that the 4-H livestock shows have been held in the past years. Dairy – September 18 & 19, Beef – September 25 & 26 (Steer show and sale will be held at this time), Sheep & Goats – October 1. If you are interested in participating, please contact Carrie Sears for further details at ccsears@umext.umass.edu

Animal U from Iowa State:
This innovative online learning tool to engage kids in learning about the science behind livestock production. Explore 85+ lessons in beef, swine, and careers that youth may access at any time! https://www.extension.iastate.edu/animalu/

Massachusetts 4-H Dairy Show
Open to enrolled 4-H youth ages 11-18 as of Jan 1st, 2021. The show is August 6-8 at the Franklin County Fairgrounds in Greenfield, MA. The Entry Book is on-line at https://ag.umass.edu/sites/ag.umass.edu/files/pdf-doc-pdf/2021_ma_4-h_show_entry_book.pdf Youth will participate in quiz bowl, judging, grilled cheese and milk shake contests as well as dairy showmanship and breed classes. For further information, please contact Carrie Sears at ccsears@umext.umass.edu

Animal U from Iowa State:
This innovative online learning tool to engage kids in learning about the science behind livestock production. Explore 85+ lessons in beef, swine, and careers that youth may access at any time! https://www.extension.iastate.edu/animalu/

4-H FAIRS
UMass 4-H fairs will occur throughout the summer, offering 4-H members many opportunities to show what they have learned in their project areas. For most of these fairs, all registered Massachusetts 4-H members are welcome to enter classes. However, be sure to check with the contact person listed below to obtain a link to the fair entry book and before entering your projects!

Not entering items in a fair? Be sure to visit at least one and get some ideas for what you might participate in during the next 4-H year!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fair and Date(s)</th>
<th>Open to all MA 4-H members</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact Person</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hampden Co 4-H Fair 7/24</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Big E Fairgrounds</td>
<td>Tom Waskiewicz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hampshire Co 4-H Fair 8/14</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Cummington Fairgrounds</td>
<td>Tom Waskiewicz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MA State 4-H Dairy Show 8/6-8/8</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Franklin Co Fairgrounds</td>
<td>Carrie Sears</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middlesex Co 4-H Fair</td>
<td>Check with contact person</td>
<td>Middlesex County Fairgrounds</td>
<td>Pam LeFave</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For information and zoom access contact Tom Waskiewicz at waskiewicz@umext.umass.edu
In this offline activity, kids build a telescope and learn about physics and light and how telescopes have been used to explore space.

Stellar Optics
This unplugged board game promotes teamwork as kids gather the resources needed to live and work in deep space.

Astro Adventure
This unplugged board game promotes teamwork as kids gather the resources needed to live and work in deep space.
Cosmic Claw
Kids work hands-on to engineer a mechanical arm that works to harvest crops in space.

Cyber Satellite
In this computer science activity, kids learn about cyber security and decoding to stay safe from obstacles in orbit.

Lost in Space
If you are interested in Space the 4-H Frontier and The STEM Galactic Quest challenge, you might want to join the adventure of “Lost in Space!”

A team of 4-H educators is working with Kentucky SET leaders to create kits that focus on the Galactic Quest this month. If you or your club are interested in being part of this Lost in Space adventure, email Kim Pond kima@umass.edu with the names and ages of youth members, club name, and county by August 1st so we can determine the interest and start planning based on the clubs interested and their locations. Find out more here: https://inventr.io/product/adventure-kit-30-days-lost-in-space/

UMass Extension 4-H Offices and Contact Information:
The 4-H Program is operating remotely; we are available to answer questions. It is best to 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 lhorn@umext.umass.edu
Carrie Sears, 4-H Animal Science Program Manager – csears@umext.umass.edu
Kim Pond – 4-H SET Program Manager – kima@umext.umass.edu
Deb Comeau – 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):
Cynthia A. Bushey, 4-H Educator – cabushey@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; vscell@umext.umass.edu
Cathy Acampora, 4-H Educator; acampora@umext.umass.edu
Tia Quinn, Administrative Assistant; tquinn@plymouthcounty.ma.gov

Barnstable County: Sandi Shepherd-Gay, Barnstable County Youth Extension Educator:
sandi.shepherdgay@barnstablecounty.org
Dawn Johnson, Administrative Assistant: dawn.johnson@barnstablecounty.org

See below for some of the entries from the Summer Photo Challenge “Water.” Thanks to all who entered!