Massachusetts 4-H Program

Updates for July 31, 2020

The UMass 4-H E-NewsBlast is sent to all 4-H families and volunteers throughout the state. Each county 4-H office 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, not matter where you live or what club or group you belong to!

Annual Financial Reports Due!
Club, advisory group, and fair group financial reports are due to local 4-H offices by August 1. All forms can be found at https://ag.umass.edu/sites/ag.umass.edu/files/pdf-doc-ppt/annual_club_report_and_financial_form_0.pdf. Need assistance? Contact your local educator found at the end of this NewsBlast.

Important Notice – Seeds in the Mail
FOR YOUR INFORMATION: The USDA and agriculture officials in multiple states have issued warnings about unsolicited shipments of foreign seeds and advised people not to plant them. State agriculture officials are instructing Massachusetts residents not to plant any unsolicited seeds they receive in the mail from foreign countries. The exact type of seed is unknown, but it’s not believed to be harmful to humans or pets though it could “pose a significant risk to agriculture or the environment,” the department said. Anyone who receives or has received an unsolicited package of seeds should not plant them and should complete an online form (https://www.mass.gov/forms/receipt-of-unsolicited-seeds) to help provide state plant regulators with information, according to the department. Recipients are asked to hold onto the seeds and all packaging, including the mailing label, and a representative from either MDAR (Mass. Department of Agricultural Resources) or U.S. agriculture department will contact them about collection or disposal of the seeds.

Virtual Horse Gallop Final Session:

4-H State Virtual Horse Gallop:
Do you ride a horse, have a horse, love horses or interested in horses? Here is a chance to learn, have fun, meet, and gallop with other 4-H members across the state who feel the same way.

There are four events which are open to Cloverbuds, Juniors and Seniors. Learn about breeds, make treats, do a scavenger hunt, design your own trail course (be careful you may find one of your obstacles incorporated into a 4-H Horse Show!) and play some games. Each event will earn you a prize. Gallop together via a Zoom call on Thursday August 6 from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM. Hope to see you there!

To register, contact Deborah Beaubien at debbieb@umext.umass.edu or Nancy McCarthy at nmccarthy@umext.umass.edu. You will be asked to provide your email address, 4-H club and county.

MASSACHUSETTS 4-H VIRTUAL STATE FAIR

The Fair Entry Book has been sent to all 4-H members, families, volunteers and club leaders. If you have not received one, contact your 4-H office or visit the Massachusetts 4-H website to download your own book at https://ag.umass.edu/mass4h/events/2020-massachusetts-virtual-state-fair

This is a new event for all of us; we may all experience some glitches or issues! Let us know if you have difficulty entering or need any assistance. You will also find detailed directions as a second email attachment with sent with this Blast. This is a step-by-step guide showing how to enter the virtual fair.

All entries are virtual and are submitted as videos or photos. All photos can be uploaded right in the FairEntry program. If you are asked to upload a video, you can either submit a link to where your video is already located and can be viewed or upload it to our new UMass 4-H YouTube site. All the details are in the Fair Entry Book and the second attachment with the directions. There are several upcoming workshops listed below where you can learn how to take videos of your...
animals for the virtual fair.

**Virtual Fair Prep for Goats** to learn about taking videos of your goats for judging. The session takes place on Friday July 31 at 7:30PM. Although this is designed for 4-H members who show goats, anyone can join! Join Zoom Meeting [https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/99615750081](https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/99615750081)

**Virtual Fair Prep for Dogs:** Learn about taking videos of your dog for judging: Wednesday, August 5th at 3PM. This session will include filming techniques, answering questions, and explaining the Parkour class in further details. [https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/91776746086](https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/91776746086)

Dates to Remember:
- August 3 – Entries will Open
- August 12-15 – Virtual Judging
- August 11 – Entries Close
- August 15 – Virtual Fair Date

You cannot submit entries to the virtual fair until August 3.

**4-H ONLINE Instructions:**

Follow these steps:

1. Login to 4hOnline [http://4honline.com](http://4honline.com) with your email and password.
   - If this is your first time logging on, or if you forgot your password, just select the “I forgot my password” box. A new password will be sent to you. If you cannot remember your email, contact your local 4-H office or Kim Pond for assistance. See the list of contacts at the end of the Blast.
   - If you get an error or need assistance please reach out now to your local 4-H office for support. A list of offices and contacts is at the end of this NewsBlast. We may have entered your email incorrectly, or you may have a different email than you originally used to set up this account.
   - Once you enter 4hOnline, check to be sure all of your information is correct. Update your projects as well.
   - You may also input information about your animals into the system.

Remember to update your 4-H record book! Are you using paper record sheets available at [https://ag.umass.edu/mass4h/programs/communications-program/record-keeping](https://ag.umass.edu/mass4h/programs/communications-program/record-keeping)? Or are you doing online records available at [http://recordbookapp.com/](http://recordbookapp.com/)

Here are some things to work on with records:

- Add any new projects, and delete those you no longer participate in.
- Have your goals changed as a result of COVID-19? Update these.
- Are your activities from the winter such as winter forum and visuals written in?

Information and support materials for 4honline and online records are in the “About” section on our website at mass4h.org as well as information on Record Books.

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**Teen Leadership with Google and STEM Challenge**

We are looking for teen 4-H members with leadership skills who would like to become a CS (computer science) teens and assist with training and delivering lessons for the 2020 STEM Challenge, Mars Base Camp Challenge. More information is on our website at [https://ag.umass.edu/mass4h/programs/science-engineering-technology/stem-challenge-national-youth-science-day-nyrd](https://ag.umass.edu/mass4h/programs/science-engineering-technology/stem-challenge-national-youth-science-day-nyrd)

You will:

1. Attend a virtual orientation in August
2. Find a friend and form a team and sign up (2youth and 1 adult)
3. You will get a SET Challenge Kit mailed to you
4. A national walk through of the box and activities will be held on September 10. There is usually a Googler who joins the call!
5. Run the STEM Challenge in your community/county in October. This year, the challenge may be virtual depending on CDC and UMass guidelines.
6. Submit report by November 16 to be eligible for prizes. In 2019, one of our Massachusetts 4-H teams from Upton won 3rd place nationally!

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**STEM Mars Base Camp Challenge Kits for Clubs and Individuals**

The 2020 Mars Base Camp Challenge Kits are ready for you to order. In the past these were called the National Youth Science Day Experiment Kits (NYSD). Because we are not yet meeting face to face or offering in-person workshops, we are offering a new way to work with the STEM challenge kit!

Order your own individual or family kit from National 4-H at [https://shop4-h.org/](https://shop4-h.org/). Follow the directions and have fun with the experiments; there are even some virtual materials to support you along the way. Family kits are $15.95; Educator kits are $23.95 and include a facilitator guide. For those families who wish to take part in the 2020 STEM Challenge in October, you can be reimbursed for your purchase! To qualify for a reimbursement, you will need to meet the following criteria:

- Be fully enrolled for the new 2020-2021 4-H Year by November 30. This includes all fees being paid
- Conduct the 2020 STEM Challenge using the kit in your home.
- Submit a photo or two of your family and 4-H member(s) conducting some portion of the experiment
- Complete a short survey
- Submit your invoice for the cost of the kit. Shipping will not be reimbursed; only the cost of the kit.

We will reimburse up to 40 kits. More details as to where to submit your information will be coming in future NewsBlasts.

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**Career Exploration Zoom Series**

Join this highly popular series to learn more about a wide range of careers. Talk with an expert and find out what it takes to work in that career. Everyone is welcome to attend, no matter your age or project area, or even if a 4-H member! Invite a friend to attend too! Contact Angelica Paredes at [angelica@umext.umass.edu](mailto:angelica@umext.umass.edu) with: session date, youth name, club/school, County (add state if other than MA) - to obtain the Zoom link and passcode.

### August 5

**Sarah Sportman**

Dr. Sarah Sportman holds a B.A. in History from Union College (1999), an M.A. in History/Historical Archaeology from the University of Massachusetts Boston (2003), and a Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Connecticut (2011). She has worked as an archaeologist for 20 years, studying the archaeology and history of Euro-American and pre-colonial Native American groups in New England and New York. Dr. Sportman worked as a cultural resource management archaeologist for many years, working for several firms across the region, including Archaeological and Historical Services, Inc. (AHS/PAST) and the Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc. (PAL) before accepting the position of Connecticut State Archaeologist in 2020.

### August 12

**Sheriff Bowler**

Prior to his election as Sheriff in November of 2010, Sheriff Bowler was a 24-year veteran of the Pittsfield Police Department, serving as a Detective since 1988. He was a key player in solving some of the city’s largest crimes, including narcotics offenses, kidnapping, sexual assaults, armed robberies and homicides. In addition to his work in the Detective Bureau, he served in the Drug Unit and as an Arson Investigator.

Sheriff Bowler was also an Assistant Deputy Superintendent-Security Affairs at the Berkshire County Jail and House of Correction from 2000 to 2002, where he played an instrumental part in moving the inmates from the former jail on Second Street to the new facility on Cheshire Road.

In addition to the Berkshire County Jail and House of Correction, Sheriff Bowler operates the Berkshire County Sheriff’s Communications Center in Pittsfield, providing fire, police and ambulance emergency 911 and non-emergency communications for 23 communities in Berkshire and Hampden County 24 hours a day.

As chief law enforcement officer in Berkshire County, Sheriff Bowler oversees an average daily inmate population of nearly 200. In addition to the operation of the Berkshire County Jail and House of Correction and the Communications Center, he oversees the Sheriff’s Office Uniform Division, the Civil Process Division and the Berkshire County Underwater Search and Rescue Team.

### August 19

**Dr. Jay Pasachoff**

Jay Pasachoff is Field Memorial Professor of Astronomy and Director of the Hopkins Observatory at Williams College, Williamstown, Massachusetts. A veteran of 72 solar eclipses, he is Chair of the International Astronomical Union’s Working Group on Solar Eclipses. His recent research includes studies of the dynamics of the solar corona. He also studies the atmosphere of Pluto through observation of stellar occultations and participated in the occultation study of Arrokoth that led to the diversion of NASA’s New Horizons spacecraft to image it on January 1, 2019, with the farthest-from-Earth photograph ever taken. His current eclipse research is supported by the Solar Terrestrial Program of the Atmospheric and Geospace Sciences Division of the U.S. National Science Foundation. His Pluto/Arrokoth research has been supported by NASA.

Pasachoff received the 2003 Education Prize of the American Astronomical Society, the 2012 Janssen Prize of the Société Astronomique de France, the 2015 Richtmyer Lecture Award from the American Association of Physics Teachers, and the 2019 Klumpke-Roberts Award from the Astronomical Society of the Pacific.
Pasachoff was born in Manhattan, grew up in the Bronx, and attended the Bronx High School of Science before Harvard for his A.B. and Ph.D. He was a postdoctoral fellow at Harvard and Caltech before coming to Williams College. One junior-high student from Pittsfield who interviewed him in a career discussion went on to become a NASA astronaut who flew into space 4 times!

**August 26**

**Erika Hamilton**

Erika is a professor in the Department of Microbiology at UMass Amherst. Her background is in studying how germs like viruses and bacteria make us sick, and how our bodies work to fight off these invaders. In her presentation, she will talk about microbes like bacteria and viruses and the fascinating lives they lead. These microbes have a huge influence on us (the current coronavirus pandemic is a great example of this), and understanding this influence is essential to improving our lives. She’ll also talk about what it means to be a scientist, the steps to take to become one, and the many different career opportunities open to scientists.

**Sept. 2**

**Senator Anne Gobi**

Anne M. Gobi was first elected as State Representative of the 5th Worcester District in 2001 and as State Senator in 2014. A native of Spencer and Worcester County, Gobi began her college education at Worcester State College with a B.S in History. To continue her education at Massachusetts School of Law for her J.D, Gobi taught at Leicester Public Schools as a history teacher and also at Nichols College as an Adjunct Professor for Political Science.

Sen. Gobi has been a steadfast advocate for the constituents of the 5th Worcester District and now the Worcester, Middlesex, Hampden & Hampshire District. She and her staff are always available to help those in need to get the help that they have a right to. She has also been a devoted voice for the towns in the district, assisting with grant applications, state assistance, and legislative matters that benefit the district.

Sen. Gobi was chosen by Senate President Spilka to serve as Senate Chair of both the Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture and the Joint Committee on Higher Education. She was also appointed as Vice-Chair of the Joint Committee on Public Service and as a member of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means. Her priorities include land conservation, clean energy, clean water, support for veterans, economic development (especially in rural communities), and support for public education, food security and support of farmers, and reducing costs for municipalities.

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**Virtual Horse Program Contest Results**

Congratulations to all who participated in the contests! Here are results:

**Junior Horse Contest Results**

**Junior Hippology Results - Team**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Overall Score</th>
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<td>Norah Wilson</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Brooke Macjewski</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Aeva Snyder</td>
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**Overall Top 5 Individuals**
### Results from Jr. Horse Roundup

#### Junior Horse Judging Results - Team

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#### Conformation Class Placings - Top 5

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#### Performance Class Placings - Top 5

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#### Oral Reasons - Top 5

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#### Overall Individual - Top 5

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**NEW SERIES COMING SOON**

Spinning Your 4-H Story

It’s almost time for 4-H members to submit their records…at least to start writing your 4-H Story. For those of you interested, how would you feel about MIXING THINGS UP?! Join us for a two-part Zoom series:

**Part One – How to WRITE your 4-H Story**
In time to include it with this year’s 4-H Record!

**Part Two – How to TELL your 4-H Story**
This will take place later in the year, in time to get you ready to present it at 4-H Visual Presentations!

PART ONE (3 sessions)
Thursdays, August 27, September 3 & 10, 7:00 – 8:00 PM

What if your cow could talk about how hard practicing for showmanship could be? What if your rabbit wanted to tell the world all about the great treats you gave her? What if your horse had an opinion about changing to a bitless bridle, your sewing machine wanted to gush about all the cool projects it got to help with, or your model rocket could tell us all about what it saw from way up high? What other aspect of your 4-H project might we discover by letting your project take over the narration?

Join our special guest Teddy Hansen-Dewar for a virtual workshop series on a new way to tell your 4-H story! She is a 23 year 4-H member and volunteer, and has written many 4-H stories of her own. She is now a poetry and fiction writer! Instead of you being the narrator (“This year, I learned how to prepare a chicken for judging, including making her feathers look nice”), you’ll learn how to let someone else be the narrator (“This year, I learned how to stand still while a
judge remarked on how handsome I was, and how shiny my feathers were”). We’ll work on some exercises to help you think about how the world might look from things in your room, or in your barn, look at some examples of writing from different perspectives, and then turn you loose to write a brand-new kind of 4-H Story!

REGISTER by email to: angelica@umext.umass.edu by August 20. Register early! Space is limited!! Include this information:

- Member Name
- Member Birth Date
- 4-H Club/Program Name
- County
- Leader
- 4-H Project(s)

More Summer Learning Resources

Coding with Python

Interested in learning to Code beyond Scratch? Join this Zoom to learn Python language and what you can create with it. Python is easy for beginners to learn, and at a more advanced level can be used for websites and web applications. Find out more by contacting Kim Pond at kima@umext.umass.edu

From PBS:

Avoid the "summer slide" and keep the spirit of curiosity alive with these informal, anytime learning resources. This collection of videos and activities encourages students in grades PreK-12 to spend the summer asking questions, spinning stories, and exploring all the ways that learning can be fun. Summer resources include math, reading, nature, science, arts, engineering, and more! Go to https://cptv.pbslearningmedia.org/collection/summer-learning-collection/

School Resources for Parents and 4-H Volunteers

From WGBH Public Television: As schools and students, families and educators adapt to the current health crisis, WGBH in partnership with the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care, WGBY/New England Public Media, and The Basics, is supporting them by gathering some of our free, trusted digital resources from PBS LearningMedia and our award-winning educational preschool programming. PBS LearningMedia resources span disciplines for grades PreK-12, are aligned to national and state standards, and include videos, comprehensive lessons, and other activities. Family Activities support learning and development for children ages 0 to 8. Resources are divided into Family Activities, Grade Level Activities, and additional resource collections. Go to https://www.wgbh.org/distance-learning-center

Back to School During COVID-19

Virtual Babysitting Classes are being offered to learn how to become a certified babysitter. Cost is $25. Sign up on the Plymouth County 4-H website https://plymouthcounty4h.org/babysitting

Camp In A Box. Receive the materials with activities and instructions for a wide variety of fun summer projects. Attend a zoom class for instruction and information. Cost is $25. Sign up on the Plymouth County 4-H website.

Virtual Teen Leadership Program This program meets every Tuesday at 3 pm via Zoom for 1 hour. Topics include resume writing, government, leadership, interview skills, money matters and community service. Sign up on the website https://plymouthcounty4h.org/teen-tuesdays-leadership Free for 4-H members $25 for Non members

For Cloverbuds:

Story time live on Facebook. Join Merida the pet therapy dog for a new story each week. Many come with a lesson or animal information. Every Tuesday at 11:30 am on Plymouth County 4-H Facebook page and 4 pm on Fridays on her page Meridacollie where she will read a dog story and demonstrate some dog training tips or dog safety tips.

Potpourri of Activities to Explore from other States

ANIMAL SCOOPS – LAST SESSION ON August 5 (Poultry) from 9:00-10:00am
Included activities: Trivia, videos and recipes. Share what you know and learn something new. Appropriate for ages 8-18. Pre-registration is required. Just click on the following link by the Tuesday, before each session and the link to join the Zoom meeting will be emailed to you.

GARDENING: EATING WHAT WE GROW - August 4th, August 18th from 10:00-11:00am
Join these fun interactive sessions to explore what plants eat, how to grow and harvest them, soil science, sunshine, recipes, and more! Appropriate for ages 8-18. Register here.
GARDENING: EATING WHAT WE GROW - August 4th, August 18th from 10:00-11:00am
Join these fun interactive sessions to explore what plants eat, how to grow and harvest them, soil science, sunshine, recipes, and more! Appropriate for ages 8-18. Register here.

SUMMER OF SCIENCE - Enjoy a summer filled with science! Every Wednesday from 1:00-2:00 pm – Join the weekly virtual science cafe where you will meet a scientist, learn about their work, and get to ask questions. Open to youth entering grades 7-12 in the Fall. This program is running through August 12. To register to this event, head to https://www.uvm.edu/extension/youth/announcements. Registration links are listed under each date and topic.

Learn about Massachusetts wetlands and the animals that call them home with Mass DEP Environmental Analyst Carlos Fragata, who is also a 4-H volunteer from Plymouth County! Go to the YouTube link here to see the video: https://youtu.be/CZxQZbP_a2M. Look for more videos at https://wildlandstrust.org/


Natural Resources Management Academy for youth entering grades 7-12 at the University of Vermont. Are you interested in the environment and ready to explore more in depth? The academy takes place via online presentations and allows you to continue to learn at home with additional activities. Learn more and register at www.surveymonkey.com/2020NRMA

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 – csears@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):
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Plymouth County:
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  Valerie Schell, 4-H Educator: vschell@umext.umass.edu
  Cathy Acampora, Administrative Assistant: acampora@umext.umass.edu
Massachusetts 4-H is an extension program at the University of Massachusetts. UMass 4-H follows the Massachusetts Governor's regulations for the re-opening 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.

Barnstable County:
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Dawn Johnson, Administrative Assistant: dawn.johnson@barnstablecounty.org