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/

Congratulations!!

To all our 4-H Graduates ~

Each of the UMass Extension 4-H Program staff send congratulations to all our 4-H members who are graduating this year! You were able to rise to the challenges you faced during a difficult time with grace and determination. We are all proud of you and send our best wishes to each of you for your next adventure in life!

ANIMAL SCIENCE

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

Zoom Meetings & Workshops

• June 21 – League of Protein Producers – 7:00pm
• June 22 – MA State 4-H Advisory – 8:00pm

July New England 4-H Fair at the Big E Orientation Schedule

Please check your email for the Zoom link. If you did not receive, please contact Carrie.

• June 22 – Dairy Cattle – 7:00pm
• June 23 – Dairy Goat – 7:00pm and Horse - 8:00pm
• June 24 – Sheep – 6:30pm and Beef Make-up Session – 7:30pm
• June 28 – Dog – 7:00pm

Premise ID’s

Youth interested in showing dairy and beef cattle need to have a premise id before ordering their RFID tags. The first step is to contact Carry Shulock Sexton at The MA Division of Animal Health – Carry.shulock-sexton@mass.gov, or call 857-348-3922. Carry will assign you a premise id which you will need before you order your RFID tags for your cattle. RFID tags are becoming a requirement some of the larger shows in the state and throughout the country. It is a way to track the movement of the animal if sold or exhibited at fairs. RFID tags can be ordered from your respective breed associations. Important - you must have the 840 number on the electronic button tag. Please remember this when ordering. If you have any questions, please contact Carrie Sears at ccsears@umext.umass.edu

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

MA Farm Bureau’s Inaugural Barn Cat Photo Contest

If you have a barn cat or know of a stable/farm that would like to nominate their own barn cat, please check-out the following link for the rules and prizes https://mfbf.net/mfbfs-inaugural-barn-cat-photo-contest/ No purchase is necessary.

Biosecurity Alert!

Fair and Show season is here, and there have been increased cases of Strangles and Equine Herpesvirus Myeloencephalopathy (neurologic EHV) in Massachusetts horses!

Do not bring disease home to your herd or flock. Isolate new and returning animals for 30 days and use biosecurity when traveling to shows and other farms.

Resources for keeping your animals healthy and preventing the spread of disease:

Horses: Equine Disease Communication Center https://equinediseasecc.org/
Livestock: Center for Food Security and Public Health https://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/biosecurity-resource/protecting-herd-flock/
FREE Eastern Equine Encephalitis and West Nile Virus Vaccine for Horses

Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) and West Nile Virus (WNV) are spread by mosquitoes and can cause fatal neurologic disease in horses, other animals, and people. Routine vaccination can prevent these diseases in horses. In 2019 EEE led to the death of horses across Massachusetts and in surrounding states. In 2020, drought conditions and mitigation efforts including vaccination eliminated EEE and WNV diagnoses in equines in Massachusetts. However, these diseases were still detected in mosquitoes across Massachusetts and in surrounding states. This means that all Massachusetts horses remain at risk for exposure to EEE and WNV.

Equines participating in the MDAR EEE Vaccination Program will be vaccinated against EEE and WNV for free or at a discounted rate by a Massachusetts-licensed veterinarian. A blood sample collected at the time of vaccination will help veterinarians learn more about duration of vaccine protection and natural exposure to EEE.

Eligible equines are owned by Massachusetts residents who declare financial hardship, are low-income, or are eligible for or receiving government assistance. Priority will be given to these owners over equine businesses and rescues. Assistance for rescues may be available through other organizations.

Owners interested in participating in the MDAR EEE Vaccination Program should contact a Massachusetts Veterinarian. Protect your horses. Call your veterinarian to schedule this life-saving vaccination.

Poultry Resource from USDA

The USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and the Defend the Flock public education campaign is launching a new outreach effort specifically aimed at helping youth and student poultry owners learn about and practice good biosecurity. This new effort is called #FlockDefender. We hope your organization will partner with APHIS to help spread the word and promote collaboration among poultry growers to keep birds healthy and prevent the outbreak of disease.

Youth are the future of our nation’s poultry farming and industry. The #FlockDefender outreach program shares the agency’s existing Defend the Flock message that encourages and prepares all poultry owners to implement diligent biosecurity practices with future and aspiring growers.

The #FlockDefender page provides youth, students and their leaders and teachers with many electronic resources they can use during meetings, classes and when caring for their flocks. APHIS is also encouraging these young poultry enthusiasts to share photos of their poultry or biosecurity practices. The free youth toolkit is available 24/7 at www.bit.ly/DefendtheFlock-Youth. We also invite you to follow Defend the Flock on Facebook and Twitter for up-to-the-minute news and additions to the campaign website. The Defend the Flock public education program provides checklists, videos, webinars, and educational Resources to help poultry growers make sure they are doing everything possible to keep their birds healthy and reduce the risk that an infectious disease will spread from their property to other flocks.

Biosecurity is the key to keeping our nation’s poultry healthy and a responsibility that we all share. Working together, we can defend all flocks from avian influenza and other infectious diseases.

### Career Exploration Series

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>July 7</th>
<th>Sara Schilling</th>
<th>Dancer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Registration Link: <a href="https://bit.ly/34a7Cal">https://bit.ly/34a7Cal</a></td>
<td>Sara has been competing professionally in dance since 2006 and has been a dance instructor for over 18 years. She and her partner, Evgueni Chaoulski, have had tremendous success in worldwide competitions, and continue to achieve even more, having a highly successful studio in Enfield, CT – EdanSe Company and Ballroom. Currently, they compete in the 10-dance divisions (International Ballroom and Latin styles), representing Canada. Sara and Evgueni are honored to have had the opportunity to compete at the World Championships, not once, but 9 times! Tokyo, Japan in 2009; Kiev, Ukraine in 2010; Gatineau, Canada in 2011; Valleyfield, Canada in 2012; Valleyfield, Canada in 2013; Innsbruck, Austria in 2014; Moscow, Russia in 2018; and in Penang, Malaysia in 2019. They were also crowned Canadian 10-Dance Champions in 2010 and have been consistently Canadian National Finalists. She holds her Licentiate degree in Standard and her Licentiate degree in Latin. Sara is a proud coach of UConn, UMass, Wesleyan University, Trinity College, and Team EdanSe Ballroom Teams. She judges all over the East Coast at collegiate competitions such as MIT, Harvard, Brown University and many more. Sara prides herself in teaching high quality lessons while striving to learning fun and inspiring.</td>
<td>Sara grew up wanting to ride horses, which her parents said would only happen if she learned about them through 4-H. The 4-H program proved to play a giant role in her life. Sara was part of the Mansfield Trottin’ Tribe, and the Uncle Remus Gang. She was president of the Uncle Remus Gang, showing rabbits. She showed horses, rabbits, dogs, and loved the activities building in the Tolland County 4-H Fair. She was Vice President for Tolland County 4-H Fair and helped to oversee all the exhibits in that building. She was Homemaker of the Year 3 years in a row and showed over 50 items ranging from cooking to horses. As an adult, she wanted to give her riding students the same teaching she had, so she started her own 4-H club called Stable Mates. Stable Mates even ran their own horse show! As Sara loved horses, she also began ballroom dancing. As dancing got bigger, she was pulled in 2 directions. With winter being hard for horse activities, and dancing professionally is an opportunity only for a short time frame, she decided to focus on her ballroom dancing for the time being. She still does equine work for 2 local families and is an equine wellness consultant for Yucc’It Up Equine Supplements. She also began a side embroidery business that has grown by leaps and bounds, bringing back fond memories of her Homemaker of the Year days.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Second Annual Massachusetts 4-H Virtual Fair

Many 4-H Fairs will occur this year in person. In addition, the UMass Extension 4-H Program will hold the Second Annual Massachusetts 4-H Virtual Fair!

Entries will open on July 1-31, 2021; results will be announced on August 7th. Some new classes will be offered this year. Note that you can enter your items at both the virtual and in-person fairs. The entry book will be posted next week on the UMass 4-H website. Watch for the announcement on Facebook and in emails.

FAIRS

There are a variety of UMass 4-H fairs that will occur this summer. For most of these fairs, all 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!

<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>Still being determined</td>
<td>Middlesex County Fairgrounds</td>
<td>Pam LeFave</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Topsfield Fair</td>
<td>There are 4-H classes; check with contact person</td>
<td>Topsfield Fairgrounds, Essex</td>
<td>Nancy LeFave</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worcester County 4-H Fair 8/28</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Barre, Mass</td>
<td>Meg McDermott</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Middleboro 4-H Fair 9/4-9/5</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>E Middleboro 4-H clubhouse; Thompson St, Middleboro</td>
<td>Molly Vollmer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barnstable Fair – July 19-25</td>
<td>Yes, and open youth</td>
<td>Cape Cod Fairgrounds, Falmouth</td>
<td>Sandi Shepherd-Gay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marshfield Fair Aug 20-29</td>
<td>Open to all New England 4-H members and open youth</td>
<td>Marshfield Fairgrounds</td>
<td>Molly Vollmer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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2021 New England 4-H Horse Show July 26-29, 2021

This event takes place at the New England 4-H Summer Fair on the Eastern States Exposition Grounds.

Eligibility: Exhibitors (Riders/Drivers/In-Hand/ Small Equine)

1) This show is open to currently enrolled MA 4-H members 12-18 years of age as of January 1, 2021.
2) Youth may enter up to two horses. No limit on the number of delegates for this show. Horse Verifications must be submitted on the horses that will be entered.
3) Horse Sharing will be allowed. Members must be in the same county. Youth must submit separate Horse Verification Forms indicating Shared Project. Each youth must also submit separate entries on-line.

Timeline: Some items on this timeline have passed. If you need more information contact Carrie Sears

1) By June 11th, youth will submit their intent to show to Carrie Sears at ccsears@umext.umass.edu
2) On June 12th, the youth who have contacted Carrie Sears will be forwarded to their 4-H club leader(s) for approval.
3) By June 16th, the leaders will notify Carrie Sears of the approved youth. Youth that may not be ready for the show can be considered as a Junior Leader and assist at the show. Junior Leaders help with handing out ribbons, assisting the horse youth in their state. Youth are not required to stay overnight.
4) By June 18th, youth will need to complete a current Horse Verification Form(s) on up to two horses that they plan on exhibiting and file with Carrie Sears via email.
5) On June 21st, youth will be notified of approval to enter. Entry link and packet information will be emailed to the youth.
6) July 9th - Deadline to enter online.
7) Starting June 27th, horses will need to have a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) completed within 30 days of arrival at the Big E Fairgrounds (July 27th).
8) On July 11th, a mandatory orientation for the delegates will be held via Zoom.

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**The New England 4-H Summer Fair @ Eastern States Exposition— July 26-29, 2021**

To be held at Eastern States Exposition Fairgrounds, 1305 Memorial Avenue, West Springfield, MA

This is a new fair for youth to participate in July. It is similar to the former New England 4-H Show held in September in that youth ages 12 (as of January 1st, 2021) -18 years of age are eligible to apply. It has been created to give youth the opportunity to meet and compete with other 4-H youth from across New England, showcasing their livestock, horse and dog projects. The fair will be different from the past Big E 4-H animal competitions in that youth will not be housed overnight in the Moses Dorm. This year, parents, guardians and parent assigned chaperones will be in-charge of the youth. Youth will check-in and check-out daily with their parent or parent assigned chaperone. Each show will have assigned night volunteers to watch the animals in the evening. There will be available for a fee on the grounds camper and tent spaces. Families may choose to stay in hotels. There will be no 4-H program chaperones provided at this event. Food will be available for purchase from vendors at the event.

The fair will not have any entry fees. The Big E will provide for the youth and designated volunteers their meals while at the show. Also provided by the Big E will be the animal bedding. Youth will need to provide their own animal feed.

**So how do I apply?**

First, take a look at the show packet for the project animal you plan on showing at [https://www.thebige.com/p/competitions/4-h/packets](https://www.thebige.com/p/competitions/4-h/packets) DO NOT ENTER YOUR ANIMAL UNTIL YOU ARE NOTIFIED. See below each project animal’s requirements.

Each species will have their own selection criteria set-up by their respective committee plus the youth must have a Verification Form on file. You will email Carrie Sears ccsears@umext.umass.edu of your interest in showing dairy, horse, goats, sheep and working steers. For the dog show, contact Meg McDermott memcdermott@umass.edu

**Junior Leaders:**

There are also junior leader positions available for most of the shows which is an option for youth who do not plan on showing an animal but would like to assist with the show. Notify Carrie Sears on the livestock and horse shows and Meg McDermott for the dog show.

Zoom orientations will be set-up prior to the show to go over rules and answer any questions for each of the species. Watch for dates and times.

**2021 4-H STEM Challenge**

Designed by Clemson University, the 2021 4-H STEM Challenge, Galactic Quest, focuses on the mysteries and adventures of space exploration. Kids learn foundational STEM skills while they wrestle with the same questions as today’s top aerospace scientists and engineers! Activities can be done all at once or individually, making it great for classrooms, afterschool programs, clubs, parents and more. Visit this website [https://4-h.org/parents/4-h-stem-challenge/](https://4-h.org/parents/4-h-stem-challenge/) to learn more about this hands-on event and watch for more Massachusetts 4-H STEM Challenge events! Kits will be available at [www.shop4h.org/parents/4-h- programming](https://www.shop4h.org/parents/4-h-programming) as well as through your 4-H office in the near future.

**Astro Adventure**

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

**Stellar Optics**

In this offline activity, kids build a telescope and learn about physics and light and how telescopes have been used to explore 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.

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**“Space: the 4-H Frontier”**

Contact Kim Pond at kima@umext.umass.edu for more details.

For those that ordered kits, expect to receive them soon. Kits will be mailed next week. You can still sign up to participate by utilizing everyday materials; if you are interested contact Kim and a list will be provided.

These activities are great to use with a 4-H group, at home with your children or in any other program with youth. The activities are designed for youth 8 and older and prepare participants for this Fall's 2021 STEM Challenge: Galactic Quest. Teens who participate will be given the opportunity to replicate the experiments and activities during the fall in 4-H Programming. Those teens who participate and wish to replicate the program will also receive a free STAM Challenge Kit "Galactic Quest". Contact Kim Pond for more details and plan to go onto one or more of the online zoom sessions to learn how to conduct the activities for each week. Obtain your link from Kim for each Zoom session which will be held on Fridays in July from 10am-noon. Complete the experiments in your own time after attending. Sessions will be recorded for you to come back to and review at your own pace.

July 2 Training Academy: Prepare for space
July 9 Are You ready? : Aerospace Adventures
July 16 SPACE Explorer
July 23 Mission Control/Debrief
Global Citizen Program

Join this 4-H virtual program and explore the world! Visit all of the continents, meet people from different countries, learn travel information and become a better global citizen. This program is for youth ages 12-18. Register at this link: https://bit.ly/2Tx4rnr. Contact Angelica Paredes for more details or information.

4-H Office Contacts:

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 – 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):
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@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
Tia Quinn, Administrative Assistant: tquinn@plymouthcountyma.gov

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