**Massachusetts 4-H Program**

**May 7, 2021**

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](https://ag.umass.edu/mass4h) [https://www.facebook.com/Mass4H/](https://www.facebook.com/Mass4H/)

---

**Enrollment Deadline to Participate in 4-H Fairs**

Individuals can join the Massachusetts 4-H program at any time throughout the year; there are no deadlines for joining. However, in order to participate in a Massachusetts 4-H Fair, whether virtual or in person, **membership enrollment and fees need to be completed by June 1**. At this point in time, we do not know whether any Massachusetts 4-H Fairs will or will not be held in person.

Those who complete membership or are new members after June 1 are still allowed to join and to become 4-H members, of course! However, anyone completing membership after June 1 may not enter items in the Massachusetts 4-H fairs. They are welcome to help with tasks such as fair set up, take down, volunteering at the fair, or just visiting to preview items they may wish to enter the following year. Contact your local 4-H office if you need help completing your enrollment.

---

**National 4-H History Map**

Many questions are always asked about 4-H history, such as "Where was the first 4-H club in the U.S.? Where is the longest continuously active club in the country? Where was the first African American 4-H Camp in the sun state? Where was the first Native American 4-H Swine Club in America?" Now those 4-H History Landmarks can be recorded and tracked as a result of the National 4-H Geospatial Leadership Team's National 4-H History Map project. This will give every county a chance to nominate the "first" and "most important" 4-H places, people and events. How do you nominate a historically significant 4-H location/person/event in your community? For more on this project visit [https://4-hhistorypreservation.com/History_Map/](https://4-hhistorypreservation.com/History_Map/) There you will find a link to nominate a site for the 4-H history map and another to view historically significant sites.

Our Massachusetts 4-H Program will also be updating important 4-H sites and people from our program. We need your input! Where were some of the historic 4-H Clubhouses located? Are there any famous Massachusetts 4-H alum that should be highlighted in our state? Who are some of the camp buildings named after and why? This is a great opportunity for us to record some of Massachusetts 4-H History! Send any information you wish to see updated on the map along with any photos you might have to Kim Pond. This is an ongoing project with no deadline!

---

**INTRODUCING THE 2021 4-H STEM CHALLENGE**

Announcing the NEW 2021 4-H STEM Challenge: **Galactic Quest**! Designed by Clemson University, Galactic Quest will focus on the mysteries and adventures of space exploration, including the history of humans in space, the technology and resources that enable off-planet scientific missions, and the obstacles humans encounter in orbit. Activities will touch on important STEM topics ranging from physics and engineering to computer science and space agriculture. Kit sales will launch in July!

---

**Life: Ready for YOUR World**

For teens ages 12-18

The Ready for Life series is almost over, but you can still attend the final three sessions! All sessions will be held by Zoom on Tuesday evenings from 7-8 PM. Use this form to register: [https://forms.gle/U8sqNaAGbH2iH2Wm8](https://forms.gle/U8sqNaAGbH2iH2Wm8)

---

**Education and Career Exploration**: May 11, Exploring Your Path  May 18, Applying to college or for jobs May 25, Volunteering and Networking

---

**Summer of Science: “Space the 4-H Frontier” - July 2021**

Join this new summer series, the Summer of Science with 4-H and learn about Space! There are two choices for participating. One, choose the free option and gather your own materials and supplies, or Two, choose to purchase a kit which includes all materials and supplies. Either way, you have to sign up to participate! The projects are designed for ages 8 and older. Registered Massachusetts 4-H members can enter some completed items in the state virtual fair and potentially other fairs if they occur.
Teens who participate will be given the opportunity to replicate the experiments and activities during the fall — details to follow! Those teens who participate and wish to replicate the program will receive a free SET Challenge Kit

- Kit – Kits must be ordered by June 1 to receive them in time for the program. There are two steps to obtain a kit
  - Email Kim Pond with your name, contact information (email and phone), mailing address, age, and club or group that you belong to.
  - Send a check for $5 for registered Massachusetts 4-H youth or $20 for all others. Fee includes all materials and the cost of mailing your kit to you! Make checks payable to the Massachusetts 4-H Foundation and mail to: Massachusetts 4-H Foundation, 1671 Worcester Road Suite 403, Framingham MA 01701. Mark the envelope ATTN: Beth Bomarsi.

Choose to attend optional Informational sessions which will be held on Fridays in July from 10am-noon. Sessions will include tips and tricks, Q & A sessions and more. After attending each session, complete the experiments in your own time. Sessions will be recorded.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Session</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 2</td>
<td>Training Academy: Prepare for space</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 9</td>
<td>Are You ready? 7 Aerospace Adventures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 16</td>
<td>SPACE Explorer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 23</td>
<td>Mission Control/Debrief</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Steam Bitmoji Classroom – Space Exploration**

The 4-H STEAM Bitmoji Classroom has evolved! Join in on one of the themed Classrooms that each have 4 bitmoji rooms and 4 assignments. Once all four assignments are completed and submitted you will receive a certificate of completion in the mail. You may complete the themed Classroom at your own pace; it can be accessed when it is convenient for your schedule.

The first themed classroom, Space Exploration, was released on May 4th (Star Wars Day!) Learn about stars, Mars, and the solar system from afar. Contact ldubois@umass.edu to receive a google classroom invitation. All those who complete the 4 assignments by May 31st will be entered into a drawing for one of two- $15 Gift Cards to Dunkin Donuts. Good luck!

**Massachusetts 4-H Fair Workshops**

Calling all 4-H teens and volunteers! The Massachusetts Extension 4-H Program is hosting a day of workshops focusing on 4-H fair entries. The 4-H Team is looking for individuals who can lead a one-hour virtual workshop to teach a craft, show how to display vegetables or arrange flowers, take a great photo, show an animal, and more! Any items made at this workshop or skills gained can be used in upcoming 4-H or other fairs – whether held virtually or in person.

Fair Workshop Day will be held on May 22 from 10am-2pm. If you are interested in leading a workshop, or talking to someone about your ideas, contact Angelica Paredes at angelica@umext.umass.edu.

**4-H FilmFest 2021**

FilmFest 4-H is a national film festival for youth that are filmmakers, visual artists, aspiring actors, and those that are just interested in meeting other creative people. FilmFest helps youth become producers, not just consumers, of digital media. The FilmFest will take place on August 7-8 Online, via Canvas and Zoom.

Imagination, fun and curiosity are essential! Cameras, smart phones and mobile devices are strictly encouraged. Courtesy and creativity are always in style.

**New this year at FilmFest: Screenwriting competition!**

In addition to traditional youth film submission categories, this year entries are welcome in the category of youth-created screenplays! More information about the category rules and guidelines can be found on the website below. Keep checking for updates and registration details.

https://extension.missouri.edu/programs/missouri-4-h/4-h-projects-opportunities/4-h-opportunities/4-h-filmfest

**Gardening Programs in May**

**From Garbage to Garden**

May 12 @7pm on zoom. Learn about composting in this great class! Register at https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/meeting/register/tjMudOgqsoETISNW5_TUIUnZV6a9B97qiq8 Contact Cathy Acampora at acampora@umext.umass.edu

Contact Meg McDermott at memcdermott@umass.edu for information and to register for the **4-H Garden Competition**

Are you interested in learning about gardening and horticulture and showing of your green thumb? Join the 4H Garden competition! We have colleagues from UMass Extension, Cornell Cooperative Extension, and Massachusetts Master Gardeners joining us! An information session and workshops will be held on these following days:

- Monday, May 10th 7PM- Plant Anatomy Workshop
- Monday, May 17th 7PM-Botany Workshop
- Monday, May 24th 7PM-Disease and Pest Control Workshop.
Career Exploration Series

Register attend by contacting Angelica Paredes at angelica@umext.umass.edu.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 19</td>
<td>Sandra Choate</td>
<td>Lawyer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>In her former position, a day at Sandy's office was anything but routine! It could often involve meeting with lawmakers and their staff in the Capitol complex, being with government officials at any of the many agency headquarters located in Washington, D.C., or meeting with members of American Federation of Government Employees' National Executive Council Board of Directors. On days she was not in the office, she traveled extensively around the country to Conferences and Seminars, to various federal agency offices and to AFGE members’ offices. Sandy Choate returned to private practice specializing in the area of federal legislative law after almost 19 years as the Assistant General Counsel-Legislation for the AFGE, AFL-CIO. She has worked on a wide range of issues affecting federal employees and has over 30 years' experience analyzing and drafting legislation; providing advice and guidance to Locals and federal employees particularly in the area of civil service law and regulations; and has specialized expertise in the area of employment issues affecting federal firefighters. She has headed or served on numerous task forces for agencies including the Office of Personnel Management and the Department of Defense. Prior to her work with AFGE, Attorney Choate was in private practice where she represented numerous trade associations as their legislative counsel. She is a graduate of the American University with a B.S. degree in Business Administration/Financial Planning, and a Suma Cum Laude graduate of The George Mason University School of Law. She is a member of the D. C. and Virginia bars, the U.S. Supreme Courts, the U.S. Courts of Appeals for the Federal, D.C. Fourth and Eleventh Circuits, and the U.S. District Courts for D.C. and the Eastern and Western Districts of Virginia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2</td>
<td>SPECIAL PROGRAM To Be Announced</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 16</td>
<td>Lindsey Larson</td>
<td>Economist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>World Bank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Lindsey is an Economist in the Agriculture and Food Global Practice at the World Bank. In this role, she oversees a portfolio of projects that address environmental sustainability, rural livelihoods, and food security. This includes serving as the Deputy Program Manager of FOLUR, a $300 million program covering 27 countries and 8 agricultural commodities. Before the World Bank, she worked for over a decade with conservation nonprofits. Lindsey holds a BA from Dartmouth College in Environmental Studies, a Master of Environmental Management from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, and an MBA from the Yale School of Management. A 4-H alum, she raised prize-winning dahlias and poultry as a member of the Flora, Fauna and Feathers club in Essex County, MA.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 7</td>
<td>Sara Schilling</td>
<td>Professional Dancer and Instructor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Watch for more about Sara!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ANIMAL SCIENCE

Contact Carrie Sears to register or with questions at ccsears@umext.umass.edu

IMPORTANT: Up-To-Date Disease Outbreak Information There is an outbreak of Strangles and Respiratory Equine Herpesvirus – A horse was confirmed positive in Hampshire County with the Respiratory Equine Herpesvirus There are confirmed Strangles cases in Middlesex and Essex Counties. For sheets on both diseases can be found at https://equinediseasecc.org/disease-information This site also has good information on outbreaks in other states if youth are traveling to out-of-state horse shows.

Zoom Meetings & Workshops
May 10 – League of Protein Producers – 7:00pm
May 11 & 13 – 4-H Horse Showmanship Workshop – Two-part series – 7:00pm (see below for details)
May 12 – Ag Summit Team Meeting - 7:30pm

State 4-H Horse Events:
State 4-H Roundup: Practice on May 12@ 7:00pm
Virtual Contest - Hippology & Horse Bowl on May 15@ 8:30am
Awards Ceremony on May 16@ 6:30pm

Horse Judging will be at a later date

League of Protein Producers:
A new program will be offered to youth involved with beef, sheep, meat goats, swine and poultry market project animals. The program will be held every Monday night via Zoom starting May 10@ at 7:00pm. Youth will learn about direct marketing their project animals; what the consumer wants and how to best raise your animal using the latest technology and nutrition. These are just a snapshot of some of the workshops being offered. Youth participants will receive a certification at the end of the 8-week program. This program is being funded by a Farm Credit East AgEnhancement Grant. Contact Carrie Sears for further details if you are interested in participating.

NEW REQUIREMENT FOR THIS YEAR: Livestock Verification Forms
If you have your project animal(s) selected and own or lease the animals, you need to complete a Verification Form. These are available on the UMass 4-H website on each of the species’ page. Complete the form for any animal you plan to show; you do not need to complete a
form on any animal you own or lease but will not be showing. Return the completed form to your respective 4-H office on June 1st for sheep, goats, alpacas, llamas and swine. Youth will receive a signed-off copy from their county office to keep with their project animal registration papers and veterinarian health charts for fairs. You can find the forms here: https://ag.umass.edu/sites/ag.umass.edu/files/pdf-doc-ppt/ma_4-h_animal_verification_form_3.pdf

NEW – Dog Verification Form June 1st is the deadline to submit your Dog Verification Form on your project dog (owned or leased) to your county 4-H office. You can find the form at https://ag.umass.edu/sites/ag.umass.edu/files/pdf-docppt/2021_dog_verification_form.pdf

UMass Amherst Summer Equine Program
Join UMass faculty for an online Equine Science Intensive and learn all about Horse Pregnancy & Foaling. Using real-life case studies from the UMass Hadley Farm Equine Center, you will learn how to properly manage a broodmare during her 11-month pregnancy and prepare for a new foal! You will use applied science, observational skills, and horse behavior to help predict when a foal might be born. For more information - https://www.umass.edu/uvw/programs/pre-college/summer/equine-science

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

Showmanship Tips
Here are some good videos to take a look at to give you some pointers:
Beef - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PmjLj0R8Ceo
Dairy - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iY301fG0eus
Sheep - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1S3_QAGooc
Goats - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ahUN3OClyus

4-H Horse Showmanship Workshop with Deb Danforth

Session 1 - May 11 - 7pm Session 2 - May 13 - 7pm Contact Carrie Sears to register at ccsears@umass.edu

Deb Danforth has been involved with horses for over 45 years as an exhibitor, breeder, teacher, coach, 4-H leader and judge. She has taught Horse Judging at the college level and is the coach of the Vermont 4-H Horse Judging Team. She has coached and trained multiple youth to both Showmanship and Equitation Championships, as well as the 2013 Miss Buckskin World & Miss Horsemanship.

As a breeder and exhibitor, her horses have qualified for the Appaloosa World Show and won countless year end awards in a wide variety of classes with several organizations. In addition, she has raised and shown several futurity winners. She actively competes in Halter, Hunt Seat, Western and Ranch classes with her Appaloosa gelding.

Deb has been judging open shows for 40 years. As a regular presenter at the New England 4-H Horse Judge’s School she helps educate and share her judging experience with the attendees. Many of her past judging team members have gone on to become popular carded judges. She enjoys mentoring young judges and working with youth - teaching, training, coaching and sharing the passion of horses.

This event is open to everyone!

National Contests

Did you participate in Massachusetts 4-H program Spinning Your Story? Are you a person who enjoys creative writing? Then this National Contest is for you!

What’s Your Story?
What do you think would happen if the toy company Scleich got together with 4-H to create the most fantastic animal tale of all time? Find out with the “Create Your Story” contest, launching NOW! Ask your 4-H families to join in the fun by creating a story only they can imagine. The top 10 stories will go to a vote and the top two will be part of an interactive “create your own adventure” video premiering this fall! Go to https://createyourstorywith4H.com/

National Songwriting Challenge:
2021 Musical Theater Songwriting Challenge for High School Students Opens for Submissions

Calling all high school songwriters! The National Endowment for the Arts and the American Theatre Wing are now accepting submissions to the 2021 Musical Theater Songwriting Challenge. This national contest is for high school students with a passion for writing songs that could be part of a musical theater production and the wide range of musical styles represented in contemporary musicals.

The Songwriting Challenge provides selected student winners (an individual or duo) with their own coaching team consisting of a mentor and music director (both musical theater professionals) to hone an original song into a Broadway-ready composition and then have that
song recorded by Broadway musicians and vocalists in New York City. The final songs debut in a special matinee program on iHeartRadio Broadway, are distributed on streaming music platforms, and compiled into a songbook created by Concord Theatricals.

The application is simple and can be completed online. The deadline is May 17, 2021 at midnight ET. This is open to all high school students!

To meet winners from previous years, listen to their songs, or learn more about the program, go to the Arts Endowment website. Any questions, contact Victoria Hutter, hutterv@arts.gov

4-H Office Contacts:
The 4-H Program is operating, and we are available to answer questions. All 4-H staff is currently working remotely so 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):
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@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

Massachusetts 4-H is an extension program at the University of Massachusetts. UMass 4-H follows the Massachusetts Governor’s regulations for the reopening 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.