



UMass Extension 4-H Program

November 19, 2021

Weekly NewsBlast

The UMass Extension 4-H E-NewsBlast is sent to all UMass 4-H families and volunteers. 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/>

Watch for the next NewsBlast on December 3 – there will be no NewsBlast next week. As we approach the Thanksgiving weekend, some of the 4-H staff may be taking time to celebrate with their families. Please call or email prior to visiting.

Save The Date!

Do you have a 4-H dog project? Save Sunday January 23rd from 10am-4PM to attend a one-day dog handling clinic at A Pack of Paws Training facility in Charlton Mass. More information will be coming out on the first week of December. This event is being organized by the UMass 4-H State Dog Committee.

Animal Science Programs

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

Animal Science Meetings

November 22nd – 7:00pm - League of Protein Producers Zoom
November 30th – 7:00pm – Massachusetts 4-H Beef Advisory Zoom
December 1st – 6:30pm – State 4-H Horse Advisory Zoom
December 2nd – 7:00pm – Horse Chat Zoom

Rabbit Workshop Returns in 2022!

[The 40th Annual Massachusetts 4-H Workshop is scheduled for January 22nd at the Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield, MA in the Farm-A-Rama Building.](#) The Massachusetts 4-H Rabbit Advisory is pleased to offer this event in-person with quality workshops and presenters. Watch for the details in early December.



Winter Rabbit Care

Winter is now approaching and so the issue of raising rabbits in cold weather is on many rabbit breeders minds. As with any livestock on the homestead winter can present many challenges in the proper care of these animals. Rabbits are very adaptable to cold temperatures much more than the heat. Cold weather will invigorate your rabbits and bring out their natural playfulness. Temperatures below freezing for extended periods of time and strong winds that lower the wind chill temps can be a problem for newborn or young rabbits.

To learn more – Visit Michigan Extension at https://www.canr.msu.edu/manistee/uploads/files/4H1439_4-H_RabbitTracks_WinterRabbitCare.pdf

Horse Chat

Are you interested in what other horse leaders are offering with their own clubs, what opportunities are available to youth or to bring suggestions on what you would like to see offered in the 4-H Horse Program? Please join us on **December 2nd at 7pm via Zoom** to participate in an open discussion where everyone can share. Feel free to pass along to your county advisory members, parents and members. Meeting Link - <https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/99176056546>

Bringing Animals to Public Events

Fall time is usually busy with community events and 4-H members bringing animals to visit with the public. Make sure to bring your Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) with you or if a canine, your most recent Rabies Certificate. Here is a good resource to review prior to your event -

<https://www.healthyagriculture.org/training/livestock-poultry-public-settings/>

STEM Updates/Dates: Contact Kim Pond with questions or for more details

Computer Science (CS) Google Project – Google and 4-H are working together to provide opportunities to learn Computer Science. Here is one video talking about computer science possibilities on YouTube:

<https://youtu.be/w5uKKI6CfK>

The UMass Extension 4-H program is scheduling activities and opportunities connected to the UMass 4-H Google Computer Science Grant. To accommodate more people's schedules there will be two sessions on Zoom.

- Thursday December 2nd at 5pm featuring our Springfield CS Program &
- Monday, December 6th at 7pm to kick off Computer Science Week

Learn how computer science relates to other 4-H projects such as Horses, Dogs, Clothing and Textiles, and more! Find trainings and resources at the CS Science resource HUB <https://click2computerscience.org/> Resources are available for the 2018 and 2019 NYSD Kits, Ozobots, 3-D Printers, e-textiles, and other projects.

CELEBRATING 4-H COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION

Join us in celebrating 4-H Computer Science during CS Education Week on Wednesday, December 8 at 1:00 PM EST. During this special webinar, you'll learn best practices as we share what worked well in reaching over 1.4 million youth with CS education through the 4-H CS Pathway. Join to explore the new resource, Click2ComputerScience.org, learn how to develop training and skills to engage youth in CS learning and build confidence and competence for staff to teach CS. It would not be a celebration without gifts, register now to join!

Volunteers interested in attending a webinar on the Click2CS resource hub on Dec. 8 at 1pm should contact Kim Pond for invite with link to register. Kima@umext.umass.edu

Berkshire County Youth Fair – Get Involved!

Calling all western Mass 4-H teens! Youth from all over western Mass make up the Berkshire 4-H Fair Association, which is a group of teens that meet once per month, plan everything from the fair book (for people to enter the fair) to judges to entertainment. The single day fair is run by the teens. This 4-H program is an amazing leadership opportunity for any teen! Most meetings, until summer, are via Zoom. To register for the meeting: <https://bit.ly/3FudAE7>

Youth that are members of this club for a minimum of 2 years are eligible to apply for a \$500 continuing education scholarship (college, trade school, certificate program – post high school). If anyone is interested in becoming a 4-H club member, there is a \$40 annual enrollment fee (full and partial waivers are available, ask for details). Members can be enrolled in several clubs – only one fee per child per year (not per group).

Upcoming Zoom Trainings and Information Sessions

Club Officer Roles, Responsibilities, and Information: Designed for teens and volunteer leaders

Tuesday evenings from 6:30-7:30PM. Register here:

<https://forms.gle/pWHbTaqDjZhMTbaaA>

November 30-President/Vice-President

December 7-Secretary

December 14-Treasurer

December 21-Club Reporter/Events Coordinator

Career Exploration Series

The UMass 4-H Career Exploration Series will take a break after our next presenter, Dec 1, 7-8 PM.

To respect everyone's busy lives during the holiday season and just after the new year begins. UMass 4-H CES will have one presenter in January and then go back to its regular schedule of two presentations per month.

If anyone has a request for a career/occupation they would like to see UMass 4-H CES try to have a future presentation on, contact Angelica at: adiaz@umass.edu

December 1	Abigail Franklin Archer Fisheries & Aquaculture Specialist Registration Link: https://bit.ly/3net1bS	Abigail Franklin Archer works as a Fisheries & Aquaculture Specialist with two organizations – Barnstable County and Woods Hole Sea Grant. She is a marine scientist and earned her Master's in Wildlife & Fisheries Conservation from UMass Amherst. She does scientific experiments and observation studies on a variety of animals such as oysters, quahogs, and a type of fish called river herring. All her work involves cooperating with town natural resources managers and shellfish aquaculture growers.
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Member registration in 4-Honline -

Have you re-enrolled for the New 4-H Year yet? There are resources to assist you on the UMass Extension 4-H website at <https://ag.umass.edu/mass4h/about/4h-online>. Don't forget – the UMass 4-H Program fee will go up on Jan 1, 2022 to \$80. Families will still be able to apply for a half waiver, but full waivers will no longer be available. Remember, 4-H members must be fully enrolled (all paperwork turned in to county office and fee paid) prior to participating in any programs.

Having trouble? Contact your local 4-H office or follow these tips:

- In 4honline you should see a logo that is a circle with the initials rm in the center. If you do not see that logo, you may be using an old link or one you have bookmarked. Delete your old bookmark and instead go to <https://v2.4honline.com/#/user/sign-in>
- Membership Payment is found at the UMass 4-H website (<https://ag.umass.edu/mass4h>) Scroll down and look for the yellow "Membership Payment" tab on the right side of the page.
- You can reset your password in case you forgot what it is!
- If your e-mail has changed, or you are not sure which email address you used to log in, don't worry! Reach out to your local office and they can either look it up or reset it for you.
- Anyone who is a new member or interested in joining UMass Extension 4-H must contact their local 4-H educator to obtain the proper paperwork. A list of educators is at the end of the NewsBlast.

4-H Club Grants

Did you know that the Massachusetts 4-H Foundation raises funds to support 4-H programming throughout Massachusetts? This independent non-profit partner offers many opportunities for clubs, including 4-H club or council grants. These are available for special projects or needs that the group has which support the educational program and 4-H priorities and are awarded quarterly. Grants are not meant to be used for member awards, travel expenses, tee shirts, etc. Applications are reviewed for this quarter on December 31. You can find out more details and obtain a grant application by visiting <https://www.mass4hfoundation.org/for-families-clubs/grants-and-awards/>

Safety Measures and precautions: UMass Extension 4-H not only requires everyone to wear a mask in any UMass building, including 4-H offices, but also for adult volunteers and youth members at 4-H club meetings or events. COVID guidance can change daily; following daily guidance of the CDC and UMass 4-H when holding 4-H club meetings is required. See below for more details. Thank you for helping to keep our 4-H members safe and healthy!

- Any 4-H club meetings or events held indoors: Masks must be worn by all participants and adults. All CDC/health guidance must be followed regarding social distancing at the time of the event or meeting.
- Any 4-H club meeting or event involving youth under 12: Masks must be worn by all participants and adults. Youth must be socially distanced according to CDC guidelines at the time of the meeting or event.
- Any outdoor 4-H club meetings or event: Masks must be worn by all participants and adults if youth under 12 are present. Youth must be socially distanced according to CDC guidelines at the time of the meeting or event.

UMass Extension 4-H Offices and Contact Information:

All those visiting UMass facilities, including 4-H offices, are required to wear face coverings in all indoor public spaces, including entries, exits, elevators, meeting rooms, restrooms and in all shared offices and work areas. This applies to vaccinated and non-vaccinated individuals. Thank you for your cooperation!

Please note that at this time, not all offices are staffed daily. Should you plan to visit one of the 4-H offices, be sure to call first to be sure that the office will be open. Thank you.

State 4-H Office: 100 Venture Way, Suite 334; Hadley MA 01035
 Linda Horn, UMass Extension 4-H Program Director lrhorn@umext.umass.edu
 Carrie Sears, 4-H Animal Science Program Manager – ccsears@umext.umass.edu
 Deb Comeau – State 4-H Administrative Assistant – dcomeau@umext.umass.edu

Western MA: Franklin, Hampshire, Hampden and Berkshire Counties
 100 Venture Way, Suite 334; Hadley MA 01035

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

Central and Southeastern MA: Auburn 4-H Office: 7 Midstate Drive, Suite 102; Auburn MA 01501

Bristol and Norfolk Counties:

Cynthia A. Bushey, 4-H Educator – cabushey@umass.edu
Kim Henderson, Administrative Assistant – khenders@umext.umass.edu

Worcester County:

Meg McDermott, 4-H Educator – memcdermott@umass.edu
Martina Jasiewicz, Administrative Assistant – mjasiewicz@umext.umass.edu

State 4-H STEM Program Manager:

Kim Pond – 4-H SET Program Manager – kima@umext.umass.edu

Northeastern MA: Essex, Middlesex & Suffolk Counties:

Mt. Ida Campus, Hallden Hall; 100 Carlson Avenue, Newton, MA 02459
VaShon Wallace-Hiltbold, 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: 44 Obery Street, Plymouth MA 02360

Molly Vollmer, 4-H Educator: mvollmer@umext.umass.edu
Cathy Acampora, 4-H Educator: acampora@umext.umass.edu
Tia Quinn, Administrative Assistant: tquinn@plymouthcountyma.gov

Barnstable County: Box 367, Barnstable MA 02630

Sandi Shepherd-Gay, Barnstable County Youth Extension Educator:

sandi.shepherdgay@barnstablecounty.org

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



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