The UMass Extension 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!

**4-H Virtual Halloween Contest Video and Results**

Thank you to all who entered the 4-H Virtual Halloween Contest! There were some great entries for scarecrows, pumpkins, and costumes from many 4-H youth and some adults too! Congratulations to all the winners! You can view the video of all the contest entries at [https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=361328051618030](https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=361328051618030).

**Record Book & Key Award Applications**

**Record Books:** Record books will still be judged! You can submit your records by email or regular mail this year. If emailing, scan this year’s records only and email them to your local 4-H educator. If mailing, find the address of your local 4-H office at the end of the NewsBlast and send a copy of this year’s records there. All submissions must be received by midnight, November 30, 2020.

**Key Award:** The 2020 Key Award application may be submitted by regular mail or by email to your local 4-H educator. The form is available at [https://ag.umass.edu/mass4h/youth/awards-scholarships](https://ag.umass.edu/mass4h/youth/awards-scholarships) and is due by midnight, November 30, 2020. If you already mailed in an application, you do not need to re-submit a new form!

**Scandinavian Fabric Star Project**

4-H’ers-Here is a fun craft project for you, no sewing necessary! Create these stars with holiday or fall fabric for some variety! No Sewing necessary! This Zoom session will take place on Wednesday, November 11 from 7:00-8:00pm

Items you should have with you:

- 4 pieces of cotton fabric each measuring 4 inches by 16 inches
- an iron (Be sure to have an adult to help you if you are too young to use an iron on your own!)

For Zoom Information email waskiewicz@umext.umass.edu

**4-H Volunteer Professional Development Series**

**4-H 101: Part 2** - The second session of this series focuses on engaging youth in 4-H. All 4-H volunteers and parents are invited to attend one or all of these sessions, which begin at 7:00PM. To register and receive the Zoom link, contact VaShon Wallace, vwallace@umext.umass.edu or Tom Waskiewicz, waskiewicz@umext.umass.edu.

**Engaging Youth 4-H Begins November 3rd. All sessions begin at 7:00PM**

Lesson 1 Understanding 4-H Youth Development Delivery – November 3
Lesson 2 Life Skills and the Experiential Learning Model – November 10
Lesson 3 Knowing and Using 4-H Curricula - November 17
Lesson 4 Putting the Experiential Learning Model to Practice – November 24
Online Community Craft Workshop Series

Springfield Mass 4-H Youth Leaders Present: COVID-19 Community Craft Workshop Series on 4 Tuesdays in November

You still have time to register for the first session on the COVID 19 Community Craft Workshop Series. 4-H Teen Leaders from Springfield have created, and are leading, a 4 session workshop series of fun and easy crafts for all 4-H youth.

 Cloverbuds can participate with support of a family member. Scissors, paint and measuring will be involved. This opportunity was created specifically to connect and engage with other 4-hers throughout the state since all in-person events have been canceled for 2020. The 4-H Springfield Mass Youth Leaders have missed creating experiences with other 4-H participants and this is their way to create a virtual connection and new experience. 4-H youth can register to be a part of this workshop series by emailing ldubois@umass.edu

Bitmoji Classroom – New for November: Plants and Engineering

Thanks to all who participated in our first Bitmoji classroom studying Mars and rocketry. The November Bitmoji classroom on Plants and Engineering starts November 2nd – don’t forget to sign up!

Lauren DuBois, Springfield Educator and Kim Pond, State SET Educator, are working with several teens who are creating some movies. Each Week there will be one major activity with links to several other challenges, games, and resources to explore with a focus on Science, Engineering and Technology.

This is open to 4-H youth of all ages; however, the content and hands-on activities will target youth in grades 4 through 7. To register, email Lauren DuBois at ldubois@umext.umass.edu. Once registered you will receive the google classroom link. The Bitmoji team is starting to plan for the December Bitmoji classroom focusing on Kitchen Chemistry. Feel free to send Lauren and Kim ideas on future content and programs.

Animal Science

Zoom Meetings
November 4 – 7pm – Horse Coaches Meeting - we will be discussing the Western National Roundup
4-H Dairy Advisory Zoom – November 5 – 7pm.

Upcoming Animal Science Zoom Workshops:
November 4 – 7pm - Dr. Amy Tuominen – Sheep Health Care
November 11 – 7pm – Dr. Amy Tuominen – Goat Health Care
November 18 - 7pm – Meg Riley – Sheep Breeding and Ram Selection to Improve Traits
November 24 - 7pm – Amy Roberts – Beef – Fitting Tips

Helpful Tips on Preparing your Flock for the Winter
Cold weather is right around the corner and now is the time to start getting your flock ready for winter. Purina Nutrition has some good tips to follow with your flock. https://www.purinamills.com/chicken-feed/education/detail/tips-for-raising-chickens-in-winter
Soil Testing Tips
Thinking about testing your soil? View the recorded webinar on Testing Soil for Meaningful Results by the UMass Amherst Soil Extension Professor, Dr. Masoud Hashemi and Dr. Sam Corcoran https://ag.umass.edu/cafe/videos/webinar-testing-soil-for-meaningful-results

Meet Caitlyn Chernicki, our animal science student worker!
My name is Caitlyn Chernicki and I'm from Hanson, MA. I own a beef cattle farm that consists of Charolais and Simmental cattle. I started 4-H when I was 10 and stayed involved through high school graduation. I am currently a Senior Pre-Veterinary Major at UMass Amherst working towards becoming a large animal veterinarian! 4-H has had a huge impact on my life and I'm looking forward to working with you all over the next few months!

**NEW** 4-H Winter Horticulture Series!

We Love Soil! Join 4-H Educators, Master Gardeners, and UMass Extension to learn all about Horticulture in this new series!

**November 12, 2020 at 7:00PM:** Learn about how and why we keep our most important horticultural resource healthy.

**November 19, 2020 at 7:00PM:** We Love Soil! Part II. Learn about soil testing, adding amendments, and popular cultivation practices to get your garden ready for spring planting.

**December 3, 2020 at 7:00PM:** Interactive Garden Plot: Have you ever wondered how farmers decided what varieties to plant and where to plant them? This is your chance to learn and use these practices to plot your own gardens for 2021!

**December 10, 2020 at 7:00PM:** DIY Greenhouse and Winter Greens! We'll learn about winter crops that grow in New England and make DIY greenhouses to try growing them in your home!

**December 17, 2020 at 7:00PM:** Spring Garden Q&A: As a group we’ll share our Spring planting plans and talk about why we are choosing specific varieties. This session will be a time to ask questions and give encouragement!

Registration required. Email Tom Waskiewicz at waskiewicz@umext.umass.edu or Meg McDermott at memcdermott@umass.edu. We will send a confirmation, Zoom Link, and supply list.

Career Exploration Zoom Series

Talk with an expert and find out what it takes to become involved in specific careers. Everyone is welcome to attend, no matter your age or project area, Invite a friend to attend too; all are welcome! To obtain the Zoom link, contact Angelica Paredes at angelica@umext.umass.edu with: session date, youth name, club/school, County. Please add the state you live in if outside of Massachusetts!

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<tr>
<th>NOVEMBER 4</th>
<th>Dr. Robert Welton &amp; Ashley Lantz</th>
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<td>Western Regional Office of the Chief Medical Examiner</td>
<td>Dr. Welton is a medical examiner at the Western Regional Office of the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner. He received his BS and MS in biological sciences from the University of Massachusetts at Lowell, PhD in biology from Boston College, MPH in epidemiology and biostatistics from Boston University School of Public Health, and his MD from the University of Illinois at Chicago. He completed his intern year in anesthesiology at the University of Illinois Medical Center, followed by a residency in anatomic and clinical pathology at Baystate Medical Center and a fellowship in forensic pathology at the Massachusetts Office of the Chief Examiner. He is currently board certified in Public Health and has been at the Chief Medical Examiner's Office for almost seven years. Ashley Lantz is a Medicolegal Investigator at the Western Regional Office of the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner in Massachusetts. She has a BA in anthropology with a minor in biology from Hartwick College and then received her MA with a focus in forensic anthropology from The George Washington University. She has worked at the Medical Examiner's Office for nearly ten years as a Medical Examiner Assistant, Office Support Specialist and now a Medicolegal Investigator. She participated in her first autopsy as a Clinical Pathology Assistant during college and completed an internship and coursework at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C. while in graduate school.</td>
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<th>NOVEMBER 18</th>
<th>Dan Weissbrodt</th>
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<td>Dan Weissbrodt is currently with The Walt Disney Company under Disney Creative/Character Programming and Development. He is currently a puppet master/specialist, and programmer for Disney Cruise Line, Walt Disney Parks Live Entertainment, and Disney Creative Operations.</td>
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<td>Master Puppeteer-Artist-Designer-Vocal Actor, Extraordinaire!</td>
<td>Dan is also an award-winning television, film, theater performer, creative mind, puppeteer, and manager, who has received accolades for his work with such organizations as The Walt Disney Company, Children’s Television Workshop, The Williamstown Theatre Festival, Disney+, Saturday Night Live, and The Moscow Ballet. He has an extensive decorating, design and fabrication background. His project design, and management highlights include the Fêtes de Noël in NYC’s Bryant Park, award-winning Christmas windows (including the Macy’s and Lord &amp; Taylor displays), and numerous domestic and international productions. He views himself as a perennial teacher and student, and welcomes all opportunities that will further enrich his abilities. While his work has taken him around the globe, Weissbrodt is currently splitting time between North Adams, Ma. and Winter Garden, Florida.</td>
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<td>December 2 Sarah Gardner, Certified Veterinary Technician</td>
<td>Sarah is a 10 year 4-H Alumni. Her 4-H Projects were Dairy Goats, Dogs, Community Service, Leadership, Veterinary Science, Photography, as well as all the public speaking and education that comes with showing these species at the fairs across New Hampshire. She attended NH Teen Conference, Citizenship Washington Focus in Washington, DC, and the National Dairy Quiz Bowl in Louisville, KY. She represented New Hampshire at the Eastern States Exposition showing Dairy Goats when she was 13, and dogs from the age of 14 - 19. She attended Vermont Technical College in Randolph Center Vermont, worked on the college’s dairy farm, was a member of the Dairy Club, and was on the school’s dairy show team. She graduated with an Associates of Applied Science with a Major in Veterinary Technology in 1994 and passed the NAVT and became a Certified Veterinary Technician the same year. She has been a 4-H leader for the past 25 years, currently a leader of the Dog, Goat club in her county and the leader of the only Swine Club in the state. She is on the state livestock curriculum committees, the Eastern States 4-H Dog Show Committee, and is also the advisor of the state 4-H Ag Ambassadors. She has been a Certified Veterinary Technician since 1994. Her current job of 17 years, is the Lead Veterinary Technician in a small animal hospital in southeast New Hampshire. The hospital is a very busy, 2 1/2 Doctor, hospital that focus’ on routine care as well as dentistry, surgery, geriatric care, behavioral and alternative medicine.</td>
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<td>December 16 Nicholas Campbell, Felix Soto, &amp; Alex Whiting</td>
<td>MicrosoftNicholas Campbell is one of the Community Development Specialists for Microsoft in Massachusetts. In this role he works closely with communities and schools to get them the Technology and Training they need to achieve more. Nicholas’ background started at a Vocational High School for Computer Science and Internet Technologies. After trying college and leaving, he started to work at a movie theater and worked his way up to manager. From there he got a job at Microsoft with his experience in managing and background in Computer Science and has been working his way up since. Felix Soto is one of the Assisted Sales for Microsoft in Massachusetts. In this role he works closely with businesses to get them right solutions, technology, training, and any support that they may need. Felix’s background started at High School taking basic classes. His last year of High School being in Puerto Rico, which was a valuable experience to him. He tried out College for a bit, wanting to be a part of the BAU as a kid so he took one year of Psychology and dropped out after only a year. His first job was at Calvin Klein, and later got a job at GameStop working his way up to manager. Before coming to Microsoft, He had many jobs in many different fields. Having little knowledge of computers or the background of Microsoft, besides the gaming side, he was still hired as is always learning. Alex Whiting works on Microsoft’s Education Support Specialist Team helping Teachers learn how to use technology to help students most efficiently. Alex just received his Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from UMASS Lowell. His degree took him 9 years, which is more than twice as long as planned, because he faces special learning challenges. He has spent his entire life heavily immersed in the music industry. He was involved with the starting the popular band PVRIS. He spent several years running his own commercial recording studio. All the while, Alex has been helping Microsoft customers achieve more in their lives by helping them with their technology needs.</td>
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**4-H Enrollment Procedure**

All volunteers and returning 4-H members must re-enroll yearly. Being enrolled allows you to take part in all 4-H activities, contests and programs. Go to [http://ma.4honline.com](http://ma.4honline.com). Be sure to update all your information, especially your email if it has changed.

If you forgot your password, click ‘forgot password’ and a temporary one will be sent to your email. Then, just reset it to create your own.

**FEE to Participate:** The fee to enroll for 2020-2021 is $40 through December 31. On January 1, 2021, the fee will be $80 per member. **The participation fee is not refundable for any reason.**

Need assistance, and possibly a fee waiver? Go to [https://ag.umass.edu/sites/ag.umass.edu/files/pdf-doc-ppt/2020-2021_waiver_of_fee_guidelines_0.pdf](https://ag.umass.edu/sites/ag.umass.edu/files/pdf-doc-ppt/2020-2021_waiver_of_fee_guidelines_0.pdf) to learn more. Waivers must be submitted to your local 4-H educator and you must receive an approval before going online to re-enroll. After December 31, only half-waivers will be available; full waivers will no longer be an option.

**Payment:** Credit card payment is not submitted in 4honline, but through [https://umassextensionbookstore.com/products/87](https://umassextensionbookstore.com/products/87). Follow these directions: When you are on the payment screen, you need to select the option for **Non-Electronic Payment.** Follow the directions for the extension bookstore payment site. Tips for using 4honline, the enrollment program, are found at [https://ag.umass.edu/mass4h/about/4h-online](https://ag.umass.edu/mass4h/about/4h-online). If you do not see your club listed, check with your local educator. We are still obtaining some 2019-2020 club reports which must be returned before a club can re-enroll.

Local offices receive notifications of payments made and will approve once payment is made. New members will need to contact their local 4-H office to enroll. You will receive instructions on how to enter.
Partnership with JoAnn Fabrics

We have an exciting opportunity to share with all 4-H volunteers and 4-H members!

- Through our partnership with JOANN Fabric and Crafts, 4-H’ers can expand their hearts, hands, and minds through new crafting projects on Creativebug.com. When you sign up for a JOANN 4-H Rewards Card, https://www.joann.com/4-h/ you save 15% off every purchase and have a portion of the sale go back to support 4-H! You also will get free access to Creativebug.com. This is not a credit card, but much like a store loyalty card. JOANN returns 50% of the funds that come from those using the rewards card to the state where the card is used! Using your rewards card will generate funds for the MA 4-H Program.

Creativebug.com has thousands of arts and crafts video classes taught by design experts and artists. Do you already have a rewards card? Go to https://www.creativebug.com/lib/4-h and use your rewards card number to sign up for free Creativebug access today.

- JoAnn’s has also generously donated items to a few of our 4-H offices. You may be receiving an email from your local 4-H educator about these.

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Marine Biology

Cape Cod’s Center for Coastal Studies in Provincetown is offering free access to Sea Change Film Shorts 2020 streaming online and on demand anytime from November 15th thru November 23rd. This one hour special features 4 film shorts: two about the devastating effects of microplastics on marine life, and an animated short from Nigeria. The show includes lively Q & As with Barbara Moran and CCS scientists.

In addition to Sea Change Film Shorts, all registered guests will receive access to Sea Chest 2020, a collection of 50 film shorts curated by Coastal Studies' scientists covering a range of topics including climate change, marine mammals, and much more. To register, simply click below. And please feel free to pass the invitation along to all your friends!

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Massachusetts 4-H Foundation Online Auction

Massachusetts 4-H Foundation's Online Auction kicks off in one week on November 1st and will run through November 15.

Bid on great prizes like:

- Mountain bike
- Cape Cod Getaway for two nights
- Cardi’s Furniture gift card
- Family portrait sessions
- Two-month membership at Acadia Fit Training
- Lego Mindstorms Create & Command Your Own Robot
- Personal concert from folk singer Diane Taraz
- Plugged in Band Program Class gift card
- And more!

To participate in the auction, visit Bidding for Good starting November 1st at 8:00 a.m. All proceeds raised from the auction benefit 4-H programming in Massachusetts.

Contact Laurie Flanagan, Executive Director, if you have any questions at lflanagan@mass4hfoundation.org.

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Winter Workshop Forums:

Save the dates of January 16, 17, 23 and 24 for the Massachusetts 4-H Virtual Winter Workshops! Attend one or as many workshops as you like. Workshops are for 4-H volunteers, parents, members, and others who may be interested! Watch for details soon!

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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 – 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

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@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: vschell@umext.umass.edu
Cathy Acampora, Administrative Assistant: acampora@umext.umass.edu

Barnstable County:
Judy Vollmer, 4-H Educator: jvollmer@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 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.