



UMass Extension 4-H Program

April 28, 2023

Important Reminder for All Clubs

4-H clubs planning fundraisers or community events need to contact their local 4-H Educator to notify them prior to the event. Some events may require you to submit an American Income Life Special Risk Policy available at <https://www.aillife.com/specialriskdivision/activityreport>. If you have questions, please reach out to your regional 4-H Educator.

Upcoming 4-H Calendar of Events

Date	Title	Time & Location	Registration Information or Zoom Link
4/28	State Horse Teams Orientation Meeting	Worcester County 4-H Office, Auburn, 7:00 PM	
4/29	Spring Spectacular	Middlesex County Fairgrounds	
5/5	Poultry Workshop & Avian Bowl	Zoom 6:30 PM	Poultry & Avian Bowl Link
5/10	MA State 4-H Horse Show Committee Meeting	Zoom 7:00 PM	
5/12-5/14	UMass 4-H Dog Academy	Camp Farley	
5/13	MA 4-H Goat Workshop	Erin DeCoste's Farm Lancaster	
5/13	Livestock Judging	Zoom 7:00 PM	Livestock Judging Link
5/15	4-H Discovery Club Meeting	Zoom 7:00 PM	New Interest Link
5/16	Horse Chat	Zoom 7:00 PM	Horse Chat Link
5/17	State 4-H Horse Advisory Meeting	Zoom 7:00 PM	
5/20-5/21	MA 4-H Dairy & Beef Academy	Three County Fairgrounds, Northampton, MA	
6/3	Franklin County 4-H Horse Show	Craig Memorial Equestrian Center, 470 Long Plain Rd. Leverett, MA	Fair Book
6/24-6/25	State 4-H Horse Show	Three County Fairgrounds, Northampton, MA	Show Book
6/25-6/27	Explore UMass	UMass Amherst	Coming soon!
7/22	Hampden County Fair	ESE, Mallory Building West Springfield, MA	
7/28-7/30	Worcester County 4-H Fair	Spencer Fairgrounds	
8/4-8/6	MA State 4-H Dairy Show	Franklin County Fairgrounds, Greenfield	
8/25-8/27	Middlesex County Fair	Middlesex County Fairgrounds, Westford, MA	
9/8-9/10	Western Regional 4-H Horse Show	Three County Fairgrounds in Northampton, MA	

Approaching Deadlines

Event/Application	Deadline	Link or Contact Info
Verification forms due: Dairy Cattle, Beef Cattle, and Working Steers	5/1	Livestock Verification Form , Livestock Lease Form , Beef Lease Form
UMass 4-H Goat Workshop	5/5	Goat Workshop Registration
Franklin County Fair Entries Due	5/20	Fair Book & Registration
Verification forms due: Goat, Sheep, Llama, Alpaca and Swine, Dog	6/1	Livestock Verification Form , Livestock Lease Form , Dog Verification Form
Worcester County 4-H Fair Class Entries Due	7/3	memcdermott@umass.edu

Get Ready for Fair Season!



If you plan on showing your project animal, now is the time to review the latest health requirements for fairs!

The 2023 MA Animal Health Regulations for Fairs & Shows are now on-line on the MA 4-H website on each species page along with the New England Fairs Health Requirements.

Poultry Exhibitors - You will need to have your flock tested and banded prior to the first show. Contact Megan Megrath, Poultry Inspector, Animal Health Division via email at Megan.Megrath@mass.gov or by phone at 617-626-1798

Animal Verification Forms

Now is the time to print off your Animal Verification Forms to plan for the upcoming show season. Lease Forms are also due at the same time. Animal Verification Forms are to be completed for all livestock, dogs, and horses that you plan to show at a 4-H fair, dog academies, and/or Big E 4-H Shows. *Note:* Lambs and kids born after June 1st are still eligible to show based on your fair's requirements, but you will still need to file a Verification Form on them once they are born.

Youth must complete and submit their verification forms and make sure they are enrolled in the corresponding animal project in 4honline so they receive timely and important updates as they arise. Remember, a 4-H member can join multiple clubs, but only one per project area. Verification Forms are due to your county/regional 4-H office by the following dates:

- May 1st – Dairy Cattle, Beef Cattle, and Working Steers
- June 1st – Goat, Sheep, Llama, Alpaca and Swine, Dog

Links to Verification and Lease forms:

- [Livestock Verification Form](#)
- [Livestock Lease Form](#)
- [Beef Lease Form](#) (Youth cannot show a leased steer at the Big E)
- [Horse Verification Form](#)
- [Dog Verification Form](#)

Plan Your Summer at the Fairs!

Please check this section frequently over the next several NewsBlasts. Updated information about 2023 fairs across MA this summer and early fall will be provided as it becomes available.

Hampden County Fair

Save the date for the 70th Anniversary of the Hampden County 4-H Fair at the Mallary Complex at the Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield, MA on **July 22nd**. Stay tuned for details!

Worcester County 4-H Fair

Worcester County 4-H Fair will be held at the Spencer Fairgrounds **Friday, July 28th - Sunday, July 30th**. The 4-H fair is open to all counties and all Massachusetts 4-H members. Families are welcome to spend the weekend in campers or tents; camper hookups are available. A schedule will be posted soon, and the Premium Book will be available May 15th. Class entries are due Monday, July 3rd and can be mailed to the Auburn Extension Office. Please [contact Meg McDermott](#) for more information.

Middlesex County Fair

August 25-27 at Middlesex County Fairgrounds in Westford, MA. Stay tuned for details!

Get Involved!

Spring Spectacular

Learn about 4-H from 4-Hers, and more...The Middlesex Advisory Council (MAC) is hosting their second annual Spring Spectacular on **April 29th, 2023 at the Middlesex County Fairgrounds** located at 55 S. Chelmsford Rd. Westford, MA. Come and check out baby animals, 4-H member presentations and demonstrations, cake walks, live entertainment and craft vendors (some vendors may accept multiple payment methods). **Admission:** \$5 per person \$20 per family (cash only)

Join the City Nature Challenge!



The UMass Amherst Libraries are pleased to coordinate efforts for Western Massachusetts's participation in the eighth annual City Nature Challenge (CNC), from Friday, April 28, to Monday, May 8.

The global event calls on current and aspiring community scientists, nature and science fans and people of all ages and educational backgrounds to observe and submit photographic or audio evidence of wild plants, animals and fungi using the free mobile app, [iNaturalist](#), from April 28-May 1. Identification of photographed species will be crowdsourced through the online community from May 2-7, with results announced on May 8.

For more information, visit: <https://www.umass.edu/news/article/umass-amherst-libraries-bring-city-nature-challenge-western-massachusetts>

Explore UMass!

Explore UMass is an overnight program held on the UMass Amherst Campus for UMass Extension 4-H Members entering grades 7-11 (or equivalent for homeschoolers) in the 2023-2024 school year. Youth may choose one of our popular tracks (Food Science or Veterinary Science) that are back this year or try one of our new tracks (Nursing or Engineering)! Registration will open in 4honline in early May. Save the dates and watch for more details in the coming weeks!

Animal Science Programs & Updates

UMass 4-H Goat Workshop

Registration is now open for the 2023 MA 4-H Goat Workshop. The workshop has been moved to a new location in Lancaster, MA. New workshops and goats will be provided for use by participants. Workshop details and registration is located at https://ag.umass.edu/sites/ag.umass.edu/files/pdf-doc-ppt/2023_ma_4-h_dairy_goat_workshop.pdf. **Deadline to register is May 5, 2023.**

State 4-H Horse Show Entry Book

The State 4-H Show is back! The committee has planned a fun-filled weekend. You can show one day or stay the weekend. The show is **June 24-25, 2023** at the Three County Fairgrounds in Northampton, MA. A great show to attend! The entry book is now on-line at https://ag.umass.edu/sites/ag.umass.edu/files/pdf-doc-ppt/2023_state_4-h_horse_show_book.docx.pdf.

Horse Shows

Franklin County 4-H Horse Show — June 3 — [Entry Book](#)

State 4-H Horse Show – June 24 & 25 – Three County Fairgrounds, Northampton, MA

Western Regional 4-H Horse Show – September 8-10 — Three County Fairgrounds, Northampton, MA—
[Entry Book](#)

Be sure to contact Carrie Sears at ccsears@umass.edu with any animal science questions.

STEM Programs & Updates

Science, Engineering, and Technology (SET) Updates:



May 4th - Stars Wars Day—"May the 4th be with you."

May 6th - Space Day

*There are no specific 4-H events planned for these dates; however, any clubs interested in activities or holding a Zoom on these topics should reach out to [Kim Pond](#).

May 8-12th - Scratch Week

Scratch Week is a global, virtual celebration of Scratch and Scratch Jr. MIT invites you to imagine, create, and share along with them in the Scratch online community all week long in their featured studios and daily themes. Learn more about Scratch day on May 13th at <https://www.scratchfoundation.org/scratch-day>. You also can check your local fair for Technology projects and the 2024 MA 4-H STEAM Festival to enter your work.

Did you know that there is the Annular Solar Eclipse in October and a Full Eclipse in April 2024?

Do you want to conduct a short-term project with your club or others?
For more information contact Kim Pond at kima@umass.edu

4-H Volunteer Stories

Thank you, 4-H volunteers! April is National Volunteer Appreciation month and in 4-H we know that the amazing work we do is not possible without all of our dedicated volunteers! To honor our volunteers, we would like to post volunteer stories and pictures routinely on the MA 4-H Facebook page. In these stories we would like to hear about what 4-H means to you, how you have seen it positively impact the lives of youth and volunteers, and your favorite part of 4-H.

If you would like to feature a volunteer (with their permission) or be featured, please send stories and any photos to Martina Jasiewicz mjasiewicz@umext.umass.edu.

Scholarship Opportunities



If you have received your college acceptance letter, now is the time to start researching scholarship opportunities. To assist you, we have listed some of the available 4-H scholarships on the [MA 4-H website](#).

Scholarships may also be available if you are a member of an organization, such as a fair, agricultural group, livestock association or science group. Another site to explore is the [Massachusetts scholarship listing](#). Plus, reach out to friends who are in college to give you advice.

Good luck to all of our school seniors as you apply for scholarships – “Apply early, apply often!”

Young Adult Summer Job Opportunities

4-H Camp Middlesex

4-H Camp Middlesex is currently seeking candidates to join their staff this summer as Barnyard Counselors. They have a small barn with pigs, sheep, chickens, rabbits, and goats. The counselors teach lessons about the animals, not only about their biology but also how to care for them and also help to maintain the barn. These counselors are also overnight counselors, working as regular camp staff for the summer. Open to individuals age 18 or older. [Apply here](#). For more information, [contact Jessica Briley](#), Hiring Manager at 4-H Camp Middlesex. For more information about the camp, visit campmiddlesex.com.

Farm and Garden Camp

Want to get your hands dirty while teaching kids and having fun? Come work at Farm and Garden Camp at the Hampshire College Farm Center! We pride ourselves on providing an environment for staff that enables personal and professional growth, a sense of community, and skill development as an educator. Farm and Garden Camp is hiring Instructors, Apprentices and CITs for this summer's staff. The camp is located at Hampshire College, near to PVT bus routes and operates through July and August.

Instructor job descriptions and information about paid Teen Programs (Apprenticeships and CITs) can be found here [on the website](#).

Farm and Garden Camp is a program of The Farm Education Collaborative (TFEC). TFEC designs and delivers authentic agricultural experiences that nurture the connections between families, farms, and food in the Pioneer Valley. Please direct your questions to Leigh Witzling, Camp Director, at farmcampdirector@gmail.com.

Community Service

Season 2 of the Seasons of Giving Program

Thanks to all who participated in the first Season of Giving Community Service Program. Club Leaders should have received the items they requested. The second season (mid-January to mid-April) has wrapped up and club leaders should have received the link to submit any community service they have done.



What is the Four Seasons of Giving Program?

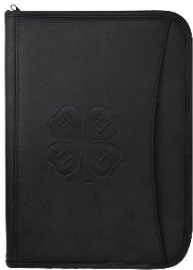
Service to others has always been an important part of the 4-H club program. One part of the 4-H pledge states, "I pledge my hands to larger service." An entire section of the 4-H Summary Record is dedicated to the documentation of community service done by each 4-H member.

4-H groups often conduct community service projects in local communities where they meet. These projects include community beautification, collecting donations for food pantries, raising money for charities, volunteering in nursing homes and donating needed items to hospice and hospitals, to name just a few.

Find the details about our current list of ideas and incentives: [2022-2023 Four Seasons of Giving](#).

Club leaders will receive an email at the end of each season when it is time to report their results. Thanks in advance for contributing to this statewide effort!

If this is your club's first time participating, the first season options are available for your club to choose from (see past NewsBlasts or the Four Seasons of Giving link above for more information). If this is your club's second season of participation this year, you have leveled up! Your club will have these prize options to choose from:



Zippered Portfolio



Scrapbook Kit & Cards



Gavel



Tote with Club Name

More information is on the website along with ideas for community service:
<https://ag.umass.edu/mass4h/clubs-programs/community-service>

Celebrating 4-H Youth

Earth Day at the Cape Cod Canal



Barnstable County 4-H members supported 2023 Earth Day Cape Cod Canal Cleanup on Saturday, April 22, 2023.

528 pounds of trash was collected and we had a great time visiting with folks who stopped by our table to learn more about Barnstable County 4-H!

Thank you AmeriCorps and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for organizing this worthy event.

Massachusetts 4-H Partnerships



It's Paper Clover Time!

Since 2010, Tractor Supply has partnered with 4-H to help create Opportunity4All and raise more than \$14 million through the Paper Clover campaign. The success of these campaigns has impacted over 81,500 youth by providing them with the tools and resources they need to move forward and reach their full potential.

100 percent of funds raised through the bi-annual Paper Clover campaign directly benefits 4-H youth. 90 percent of donations directly support 4-H youth in the state where the funds were raised, and the remaining 10 percent supports the overall mission and growth of 4-H nationally.

Dates for the 2023 Paper Clover Campaign: April 26th – May 7th

Month of the Military Child

April is the month of the military child. Many of our 4-H clubs have a military connected youth and we would love to hear your stories and ways to reach out to other military youth. Contact [Kim Pond](#) with your stories and ideas or to get more information.

Purple Up

Wear purple to celebrate military kids! Purple references the joint environment of the military, encompassing all service branches, Active Duty, Reserve, National Guard, and Veterans. Purple combines each branch's colors into one: the Air Force, Navy, and Coast Guard all use shades of blue, the Army uses green, and the Marines use red.



National 4-H Youth Opportunities

True Leaders in Equity Institute



National 4-H Council is pleased to offer the True Leaders in Equity Institute from July 10-13, 2023, in Bethesda, Maryland. The Institute prepares youth and adult teams—leaders in the Cooperative Extension System—to become change agents championing equity-related issues. **The application deadline is June 1st at 5:00 PM ET.** [Register Here.](#)

Citizenship Washington Focus

Citizenship Washington Focus returns this summer for four weeks, from June 11th - July 7th, as the premier civic engagement leadership experience for high-school-aged teens. CWF encourages young leaders to become effective change agents in their community with what they learn in the Nation's capital. Limited Spots Remain for Citizenship Washington Focus. Register by May 1st to secure your spot. If you need an extension to register, please reach out to us directly at events@4-h.org. [Click here for more information and to register.](#)

Massachusetts 4-H Foundation

Share your 4-H love on TV!

WCVB, Channel 5 has a great segment that anyone can get involved with for their morning news. Participate by submitting a Wake Up Call for the Eyeopener! It's easy to participate. All you need is a smartphone and an energetic group.

Click here for the easy step by step: <https://www.wcvb.com/article/see-yourself-on-the-eyeopener-submit-a-wake-up-call/10295151>

Club Grant for New 4-H Clubs

We are pleased to add a new club grant option to the Foundation's Grants Program. This specific grant is for \$150 and is available to new 4-H clubs to support start up needs such as meeting space cost, t-shirts, sweatshirts, program supplies, etc. [Club Grant for New 4-H Clubs Form](#)

Carrie Myers
Executive Director
cmyers@mass4hfoundation.org
508-881-1244



Massachusetts **4-H** Foundation
FOSTERING YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

4-H Health Safety Policy

UMass 4-H Policy on testing positive for Covid and isolating as consistent with UMass Amherst Policy:
<https://www.umass.edu/coronavirus/isolation-and-quarantine-guide>

Calculating Isolation:

Day 0 is your first day of symptoms or a positive viral test. Day 1 is the first full day after your symptoms developed or your test specimen was collected. If you have COVID-19 or have symptoms, isolate for at least five days. On Day 6, leave isolation (if you are able to wear a mask at all times when around other people, including in your household, through day 10). You may remove your mask prior to day 10, if you have had two negative tests taken 48 hours apart

Youth and volunteers may return to 4-H activities with a mask on Day 6 if they are asymptomatic. Please do not attend events if you are sick. Admittance to 4-H events is up to the discretion of the organizer. Attendees who are symptomatic may be denied entry or asked to leave.

UMass Extension 4-H Offices and Contact Information

State 4-H & Western MA Office: *Berkshire, Franklin, Hampshire, & Hampden Counties*

100 Venture Way, Suite 334; Hadley MA 01035

Carrie Sears, 4-H Animal Science Program Manager – ccsears@umext.umass.edu

Angelica Diaz-Heyman, 4-H Educator – angelica@umext.umass.edu

Lauren DuBois, Urban 4-H Educator – ldubois@umext.umass.edu

Lizmarie Ulloa, Urban 4-H Program Assistant – llopezortiz@umext.umass.edu

Central Southeast MA Office: *Worcester, Norfolk, & Bristol Counties*

7 Midstate Drive, Suite 102; Auburn MA 01501

Cynthia A. Bushey, Southeast Region 4-H Educator – cabushey@umass.edu

Kim Henderson, Southeast Region Administrative Assistant – khenderson@umext.umass.edu

Meg McDermott, State 4-H Interim Director & Worcester County 4-H Educator – memcdermott@umass.edu

Martina Jasiewicz, Worcester County Administrative Assistant – mjasiewicz@umext.umass.edu

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

Northeastern MA Office: *Essex, Middlesex & Suffolk Counties*

UMass Mt. Ida Campus, Miller Hall; 100 Carlson Avenue, Newton, MA 02459

Heather Thibodeau, 4-H Educator – hthibodeau@umass.edu

Va Shon Wallace-Hiltbold, 4-H Educator – vawallace@umext.umass.edu

Debbie Beaubien, Administrative Assistant – debbieb@umext.umass.edu

Nancy McCarthy, Program Assistant – nmccarthy@umext.umass.edu

Plymouth County Office: *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

Meghan Riley, Ag Extension Educator: mriley@plymouthcountyma.org

Cheryl Mechan, Administrative Assistant: cmechan@umass.edu

Barnstable County Office: *Barnstable County*

Box 367, Barnstable MA 02630

Sandi Shepherd-Gay, Barnstable County Youth Extension

Educator: sandi.shepherdgay@barnstablecounty.org

Laura Notarangelo, Administrative Assistant: laura.notarangelo@barnstablecounty.org

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/>. Archived editions can be found at <https://ag.umass.edu/mass4h>. The NewsBlast is sent to family emails unless specific requests are made.



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