



UMass Extension 4-H Program

August 4, 2023

IMPORTANT: Club and Advisory Board Leaders, please turn in your end of year (2022-2023) **as soon as possible**. 4-H offices will be filing all 990-N IRS reports. Please reach out to your local educator with any questions.

Upcoming 4-H Calendar of Events

Date	Title	Time & Location	Registration Info or Zoom Link
8/4-8/6	MA State 4-H Dairy Show	Franklin County Fairgrounds, Greenfield	Dairy Show Entry Book
8/7	Regional 4-H Horse Show Meeting	4-H Hadley Office 6:30 PM	in person
8/8	National 4-H Conference Info Session	Zoom 7:00 PM	Registration Link
8/10	Power Protectors STEM Challenge Webinar	Zoom 1:00 PM	Contact Kim Pond for information
8/10	Big E Dog Show Informational Session	Zoom 7:00 PM	Zoom Link
8/14	Regional 4-H Horse Show Meeting	Zoom 6:30 PM	ccsears@umass.edu
8/14	4-H Discovery Club Meeting	Zoom 7:00 PM	cabushey@umass.edu
8/18-8/28	Marshfield Fair	Marshfield Fairgrounds	
8/19	Massachusetts Teen Leadership Day	Berkshire County Fairgrounds	https://bit.ly/TLD8-19-23
8/21	Regional 4-H Horse Show Meeting	Zoom 6:30 PM	ccsears@umass.edu
8/25-8/27	Middlesex County Fair	Middlesex County Fairgrounds, Westford, MA	
9/2-9/3	East Middleboro Fair	Thompson Street East Middleboro, MA	
9/8-9/10	Western Regional 4-H Horse Show	Three County Fairgrounds in Northampton, MA	
9/13	State 4-H Horse Advisory Committee Meeting	Zoom 7:00 PM	

Approaching Deadlines

Event/Application	Deadline	Link or Contact Info
Extended Deadline for 4-H Members: MA Teen Leadership Day Registration	8/6	https://bit.ly/TLD8-19-23
Big E Registration Deadline for Dairy, Dog, Goats, Horse, and Sheep	8/10	Questions? Ask Carrie Sears
Final day to request Big E Tickets (first come, first serve—limited tickets available)	8/11	See instructions in the email that was sent on July 16 th via 4honline
Annual Club & Advisory Financial Reports due to Regional 4-H Offices	ASAP (were due 8/1)	Contact your regional office with questions
Applications for both Ignite Summit and National 4-H Conference	10/31	cabushey@umass.edu or kima@umass.edu
Record Books due to Regional Offices	10/31	

Final Call to Register: Massachusetts Teen Leadership Day

This is your last chance to sign up for the MA Teen Leadership Day happening on August 19th at the Berkshire County 4-H Fairgrounds at no cost to you! This event is for teens 14+ and we have already closed registration for non-4-H members. **Current 4-H members have through Sunday, August 6, to register for the day.** Keep in mind:

- ✿ Program fee is being waived for currently enrolled 4-H members.
- ✿ Transportation will be provided with stops at the Mt. Ida Campus in Newton, the 4-H office in Auburn, and the 4-H office in Hadley.
- ✿ Lunch will be provided.
- ✿ Participants receive a program t-shirt.
- ✿ You will make peer connections and learn some amazing leadership skills to last a lifetime!

The event is being held at the Berkshire County 4-H Fairgrounds in Pittsfield from 10 AM to 3 PM on August 19th. **Registration for all will be closed on Sunday evening, August 6th.** Link to register: <https://bit.ly/TLD8-19-23>

The Big E New England Center & Animal Shows

IMPORTANT DEADLINE INFORMATION: August 10th is the deadline to enter on-line for the Big E for Dairy, Dog, Goats, Horse and Sheep. Please contact [Carrie Sears](#) with any questions prior to entering.

DOG SHOW MANDATORY MEETING AUGUST 10th at 7:00 PM VIA ZOOM: Mandatory informational zoom for all dog project members aged 12 and up that are interested in taking part in the Big E Dog Show on September 29-Oct 1. Contact [Cathy Acampora](#) with questions. Zoom link: <https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/99956895039>

The 2023 Big E 4-H New England Center & Animal Shows Schedule

Through a variety of qualifying contests and events, 4-H members ages 12 and above may qualify to showcase their livestock and dogs. Horse youth must be age 13 to qualify and have their verification form on file. Check out the show packets at: <https://www.thebige.com/p/competitions/4-h/packets>. Some packets still need to be uploaded. If interested in entering the 4-H dairy goat and sheep shows, please contact [Carrie Sears](#) or the dog 4-H show contact [Cathy Acampora](#).

- Massachusetts Days in the New England Center—September 15 and September 16. **4-H Day September 16.**
- Dairy Cattle 4-H Show – Thursday, September 14 - Sunday, September 17
- Beef 4-H Show – Friday, September 22 - Monday, September 25
- Horse 4-H Show – Thursday, September 21 - September 24
- Dairy Goat 4-H Show - Thursday, September 28 - Saturday, September 30
- Dog 4-H Show - Friday, September 29 - Sunday, October 1
- Sheep 4-H Show - Friday, September 29 - Sunday, October 1



Tickets for **4-H Day** are first come first serve. Request forms were sent out July 16th through 4-H Online and we are taking requests through August 11, 2023. We cannot guarantee the number of tickets we will receive from the Big E.

4-H members receiving Big E quality on Visual Presentations have been invited to present at the Big E. Please make sure you submit your information to [Meg McDermott](#) and sign up for an orientation session.

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. Check out more information on Massachusetts Agricultural Fairs [here](#).

Marshfield Fair

August 18th- 28th Marshfield Fairgrounds. 4-H members and volunteers who wear a 4-H shirt can get in free on 4-H/Agriculture Awareness Day, Wednesday August 23rd.

Middlesex County Fair

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

East Middleboro 4-H Fair

September 2nd - 3rd at East Middleboro 4-H Clubhouse, Thompson Street (route 105). The fair is open September 2nd from 8:30 AM - 6:30 PM and September 3rd from 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM.

The Big E

September 29th – October 1st at Eastern States Exposition. West Springfield, MA

Topsfield Fair

September 29th – October 9th. Stay tuned for details.

Biosecurity Measures



The 4-H fairs and shows are underway! If you haven't already, now is the time to refresh yourself on biosecurity measures you should take with your animals when going to or returning from an event.

Here are a few good resources for you to check-out:

Livestock: <https://www.baycounty-mi.gov/Docs/CitizenCorps/BiosecurityForLivestockExhibitors.pdf>

Poultry: <https://www.ohiopoultry.org/Backyard-Flocks/index.cfm>

Equine: <https://www.usef.org/forms-pubs/KR7Md0c5tCw/biosecurity-measures-for-horses-at-home>

Animal Science Programs & Updates

Horse Shows

A must read before you start showing the 4-H show circuit: Review the latest rules, what is legal show equipment, the latest horse show forms, and other horse show details so that you are up-to-date before entering the ring. <https://ag.umass.edu/mass4h/clubs-programs/animal-science-program/horses>

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

STEM Programs & Updates

2023 4-H STEM Challenge

Power Level: CRITICAL. Through decades of neglect and waste, Energy Island is in danger of becoming unplugged forever. Now it's in the hands of the next generation—*The Power Protectors*—to bring back a sustainable balance.

Working together as a SUPER team toward a common goal, young people will help endangered Energy Island move from its unsustainable carbon-based energy use to renewable solar, wind and hydro power.

By completing three engaging activities and using cooperation, determination and the POWER of reusable energy, youth will PLAY and WIN together as The Power Protectors!



- **Superhero Hideout** – Kids will learn about renewable energy and apply this knowledge to analyze and assess their own energy use. They'll design an electrifying Power Protector hideout using their imagination and critical thinking skills to create a space to collaborate and protect Energy Island.
- **Amped Up Engineering** – Using the Engineering Design Process, kids will design and build a model of a sustainable energy source to help Energy Island survive and thrive. They will use their Super Skills of creativity, problem solving and innovative thinking to save the day!
- **Energy Island Adventure** – Playing this collaborative board game, kids work as a SUPER team to achieve a common goal: Help the endangered Energy Island move from its unsustainable carbon-based energy use to renewable solar, wind and hydro power. They use decision making, communication and collaborative skills to play – and WIN – together as **The Power Protectors** of Energy Island.

[Click here](#) or contact [Kim Pond](#) for more information on participating in this year's 4-H STEM Challenge!

STEM Challenge Webinar

Volunteers interested in running this year's STEM Challenge in their county or at a community event who would like to attend a webinar on **August 10th at 1:00 PM** should reach out to Kim Pond at kima@umass.edu for registration information.

Do you want to conduct a short-term STEM project with your club or others? Several options and kits are available such as electricity, rocketry, 3-D printing, and coding. For more information contact Kim Pond at kima@umass.edu

Get Involved!

Ignite Summit & National 4-H Conference

Attention 4-H teens! Massachusetts 4-H will be sending delegates to both the Ignite Summit from March 14-17, 2024 and to National 4-H Conference from April 14-19, 2024. Applications will open August 18th and are due October 31st. Please follow [this link](#) to register for our second Zoom **information session on Tuesday, August 8th**.

Did You Miss the 4-H Records Program Training?

Our new Record Keeping program has launched! If you missed our training last week and would like to see the recorded training video, please contact [Cynthia Bushey](#).

What Careers Interest You?

Please take a moment to answer a few questions about what professions or professionals you would like to see offered as future UMass 4-H Career Exploration Series presenter(s)!

If you do not know what the UMass 4-H Career Exploration Series is it is a monthly, one-hour, interactive Zoom session with a professional. So far, the presenters have varied in profession from Veterinarians to a Wildlife Survivalist to an Astronaut to a Sheriff, and so many more!

This program is geared towards high school aged students, but all are welcome. The goal is to give youth the opportunity to learn about a profession while being able to ask the questions they want to ask.

Please take the quick survey at: <https://bit.ly/CESideas2023>

Community Service

Season 4 of the Seasons of Giving Program

Thanks to all the clubs who have been participating in the Seasons for Giving Community Service Program!

A link has been sent out to club leaders for the 4th Season of Giving, as we are getting to the end of our 4-H year. It is great to see that some clubs have completed community service throughout the year and have submitted in each season so far. Clubs completing their 4th season of participation can pick from curriculum for the upcoming 4-H year or an end-of-year pizza or ice cream party to celebrate!

The program is designed for you to submit your projects as you complete them or you may submit them quarterly; however, if you have community service projects from earlier in the year, you can still enter them. This means that even if you completed a community service project back at the beginning of the 4-H year, you could still submit it.

Remember that this program is progressive, and the reward choices get bigger and bigger the more you do throughout the year!

Notes about completing the form:

- The survey is for multiple types of projects and many of you will only have participated in one type of community service. Enter "0" or "null" in any sections that do not apply to you.
- You will receive a copy of your responses that you can save to include in your year-end club report.

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!

Massachusetts 4-H Foundation

Register Now for the 2023 Shirley Kane Memorial 4-H Golf Tournament

The Massachusetts 4-H Foundation will hold its 21st annual Shirley Kane Memorial 4-H Golf Tournament on Monday, September 11th at the Holden Hills Country Club.

The golf tournament supports ALL Massachusetts 4-H programs, including animal science, STEM, visual presentations, and more! Plus, it's a fun time. Enjoy a great day of golf, and then stay and socialize at a casual BBQ.

To sponsor or play, please [visit the Foundation's website](#). We hope to see you there!

Get Cash for Your Club with the 4-H Publicity Grant!

4-H Clubs can receive \$100 for each published, unique newspaper article that mentions their club's name. There is a limit of three awards per club each year.

Clubs may also receive one publicity award for special publicized events, including Visual Presentation Day, National Youth Science Day, and the Big E. [Online Publicity Request Form](#)



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

Erica MacLean 4-H Educator – ericamaclean@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 Director – 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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