



UMass Extension 4-H Program

February 17, 2023

Upcoming 4-H Calendar of Events

Date	Title	Location	Link (for registration or attendance)	Deadline to Apply/ Register
2/20	Dairy Judging	Hadley 4-H Office	Contact Carrie Sears for details	
2/21	Horse Chat	Zoom 7 PM	Horse Chat Zoom Link	
2/22	Aerospace Workshop for Military Youth	12-3 PM	Joint Base Cape Cod gabriel.j.agaman@uscg.mil	
2/26	VP Judge Training	Zoom 2 PM	Judge training registration link	
2/26	Dairy Youth Bowling Event	Erving	Contact Carrie Sears for details	
2/28	VP Judge Training	Zoom 6:30 PM	Judge training registration link	
3/4	Regional VP Day	Zoom 9 AM	Register in 4honline	2/27
3/10	Regional VP Day	Zoom 5 PM	Register in 4honline	2/27
3/12	Regional VP Day (if needed)	TBA	Register in 4honline	2/27
3/14	STEAM Festival Awards	Zoom 7 PM		
3/14	Author Book Talk	Zoom 6 PM	please email your request here	
3/20	4-H Discovery Club Meeting	Zoom 7 PM	Registration Link for new members	3/17
3/25	State 4-H Horse Round-up: Horse Judging	Peter Whitmore Farm		
3/26	State 4-H Horse Round-up: Hippology & Horse Bowl	Athol H.S.		
4/1	Sr State 4-H Horse VPs	TBD		
4/1	State VP Day	Zoom 9 AM		
4/5	VP Awards Ceremony	Zoom 6:30 PM		
4/10	4-H Discovery Club Meeting	Zoom 7 PM	Registration Link for new members	4/7
5/15	4-H Discovery Club Meeting	Zoom 7 PM	Registration Link for new members	5/12

4-H Program Updates

Regional Visual Presentations *Registration Deadline Coming Soon*

Registration through 4honline closes on 2/27. All 4-H members will choose one day to participate, and all counties will continue to be able to send up to two junior representatives and two senior representatives per visual presentation category to State Visual Presentation Day. VPs are virtual on Zoom this year:

- Saturday, March 4, 2023 9AM
- Friday, March 10, 2023 5PM
- Sunday, March 12, 2023 is reserved if needed.

Get Involved!

USDA APHIS AgDiscovery

Take this chance to get a first-hand look at the many exciting career paths in agriculture!

AgDiscovery is a free summer outreach program to help teenagers explore careers in agricultural sciences. As an AgDiscovery student, you'll live on a college campus for 2–4 weeks and learn from university professors and USDA experts—plant and animal scientists, biotechnologists, veterinarians, wildlife biologists, administrative professionals, and others. You'll gain hands-on experience through labs, workshops, and field trips; participate in character and team-building activities; and join in many other fun and educational events. This year, 22 colleges and universities are participating in AgDiscovery. Each school's program focuses on a specific area of interest to our Nation's agriculture. Information is available at https://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/aphis_general/bro-agdiscovery.pdf

Deadline is March 31st [Click here for Application details](#). This event is sponsored by USDA APHIS. If selected, families will be responsible for the flight cost and any incidentals. This is a highly competitive program so start now on your application!

Author Event: Leah Penniman, with Black Earth Wisdom

Tuesday, March 14, 2023 - 6:00pm to 7:00pm: Book talk with Leah Penniman, author of the new book, *Black Earth Wisdom: Soulful Conversations with Black Environmentalists*, as well as *Farming While Black*, and co-founder of Soul Fire Farm in Grafton, NY. Get more information and register for the Zoom link here: <https://www.battenkillbooks.com/event/author-event-leah-penniman-black-earth-wisdom>

Animal Science Programs & Updates

Horse Chat Series

All horse lovers are invited to attend. Open to both youth and adults. This series is held via Zoom at 7:00 PM. If you are not able to make a session, recordings will be available for your viewing. Please email Carrie Sears at ccsears@umass.edu for a copy of horse chat recordings. <https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/96799760249>



2/21: Horse Chat will host Linda Crabtree. Ms. Crabtree is a Reiki practitioner/teacher and a Certified Equine Acupressure Practitioner. She was a therapeutic riding instructor for 10 years. In 2010, she started her own business, Circle of Peace, with a focus on the well-being of the equines in equine assisted services (EAS) centers. Ms. Crabtree will share and demonstrate a few methods from her Grooming with Gratitude class that you can practice with the equines in your life that will help them feel better and will encourage a deeper connection between you and your equine.

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.

Verification Forms are due to your county/regional 4-H office by the following dates:

- April 10th – Horse (only if planning to show at the Sept. New England 4-H Horse Show at the Big E)
- 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](#)



Careers in Veterinary Medicine

Have you ever thought that you would like to be a veterinarian? Love animals, but not sure what opportunities there are in the field? Check-out this series of veterinarians sharing their specialties.

<https://vetmed.tamu.edu/peer/careers-in-veterinary-medicine/>

Livestock Skill-a-thon & Judging Group

We plan to hold in-person sessions in the spring. The skill-a-thon contest is designed to give 4-H members with beef, swine, goat, sheep and alpaca/llama projects a format for enhancing their education. The Ohio Learning Kits are available in some of these project areas and they are a great club activity to prepare for skill-a-thon contests. Contact your local 4-H office. If interested in participating in the sessions on the livestock skill-a-thon, please contact Carrie Sears at ccsears@umass.edu

Horse Judging Oral Reasons Scoresheet for Senior 4-H Members

A new rubric scoresheet has been developed by MA Horse Judging Coach, Heather (Chmura) Almodovar based off from her research from other 4-H states. The new scoresheet was unanimously approved by the State 4-H Horse Advisory. This form will be used at the upcoming State 4-H Horse Judging Contest on March 25th for the senior members. The new scoresheet is located on the MA 4-H website at https://ag.umass.edu/sites/ag.umass.edu/files/pdf-doc-ppt/senior_oral_reasons_scoresheet_2023.pdf

Junior oral reasons will still use the current scoresheet at https://ag.umass.edu/sites/ag.umass.edu/files/pdf-doc-ppt/2013_judging_rules_procedures.pdf

National 4-H Dairy Conference 2023

The application is now on-line for the National 4-H Dairy Conference to be held October 1-4 in Madison, WI. Open to youth 15-18 years of age with a minimum of 3 years of dairy project experience. Information on the conference is located at <https://national4hdairyconference.org/> Application is on the MA 4-H website at: <https://ag.umass.edu/mass4h/clubs-programs/animal-science-program/beef-dairy-cattle>

Save the Dates!

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

Western Regional 4-H Horse – September 8-10, 2023 at the Three County Fairgrounds in Northampton, MA

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

STEM Programs & Updates

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

NASA HEAT HelioClub

The NASA HEAT Helio-Club is a collection of six lessons that complete a comprehensive module created for a middle-school audience (ages 10-14) to introduce basic heliophysics concepts to learners. The NASA HEAT Helio-Club was developed in a collaboration with Maryland 4H but can be modified for different audiences.

The NASA HEAT Helio-Club is written for a virtual club platform but can be modified as an in-person club. Each club session is estimated to take approximately 2 hours.

Each session has three main activities that can be used independently to engage youth in learning specific concepts or applying Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) skills. Sessions build upon one another but can be done individually with some modifications. For more information contact Kim Pond at kima@umass.edu



2023 UMass 4-H STEAM Festival

The STEAM Festival is for **everyone** and we even have a special class for our animal science projects.

In the Animal Science Model class youth can design a model of a barn, paddock or event using the Schleich, Breyer or other small animals in your collection. For example, the model could be a versatility course, obstacle for horses, a dog agility course, a chicken coop, or dream barn. What else can you create?

Other classes to check out:

- Shoebox parade could be about Dorset Sheep, everything apiary or Western Pleasure if that is what your passionate about because the topic is "It's Great to be ME in 2023"
- Pixelated picture of your Rabbit or Swine
- Education Video - Showing a Turkey or Horses have "Frogs"

<https://steam-festival.fairentry.com/Fair/SignIn/18092>

The 2023 STEAM Festival Book is [available on our website](#).

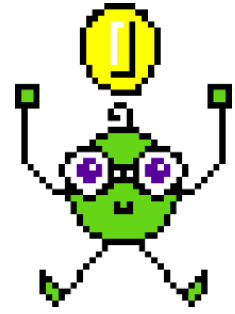
Hold March 14th at 7 PM for the STEAM Festival Awards! We are now also recruiting judges. Direct your questions to kima@umass.edu.



NERD Summit

Are you interested in Technology?
Check out the NERD Summit at UMass Amherst **March 17-19**.

The 3-day, jam-packed schedule for NERD Summit 2023 is now posted. Find topics from code camp, drawing with pixels, Lego and learning, websites and more! [Click here](#) to review the schedule, order tickets, get hotel and parking info, and more!



Girls Who Code Opportunities



Girls Who Code invites current high school students who identify as girls or non-binary to apply for their *free summer programs*:

- **2-week, introductory Summer Immersion Program (SIP)** hosts current 9th-11th graders in live, virtual classrooms led by industry-leading companies like EA, Pfizer, and ViacomCBS. Students learn HTML, CSS, and JavaScript while getting an inside look into the tech industry. Plus, all SIP students can apply for grants up to \$500.
- **Self-Paced Program** offers independent study and real-world projects for current 9th-12th graders to earn beginner-level badges in HTML, CSS, and JavaScript for web development or an intermediate-level badge in Python for cybersecurity.

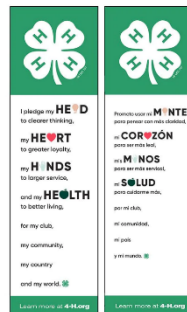
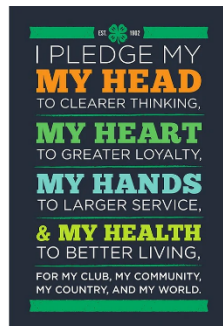
All participants can also access exclusive alumni benefits and career support for life, including pre-internship programs, Hiring Summit, virtual mentoring, and GWC Talks webinars for career tips and strategies.

Apply to one or all our programs with the same form! Programs are available June 17 - August 12. Learn more [on our website](#) or [in a webinar](#), and [apply here as soon as possible](#)! Students get priority consideration when they apply by **February 16, 2022**. Regular-decision applications are due by **March 18, 2022**.

Community Service Opportunities

Community Service Round-Up

Club Leaders, watch for a survey link being emailed to you soon for our first Season of Giving! Once you complete the survey letting us know your club's community service activity for the first quarter (from October 15 - Jan 16th), you will be able to choose one of the following thank you gifts: 8 patches, pledge/pennant set, 20 bookmarks, or a single base flag set



For more information visit the website:

https://ag.umass.edu/sites/ag.umass.edu/files/pdf-doc-ppt/2022_community_service.pdf

GotSneakers Fundraiser



Madelyn Germain, a junior at Norfolk County Agricultural High School and a member of the 4-H Discovery Club, is doing a [GotSneakers](#) Fundraiser. GotSneakers is an organization that collects and recycles old athletic sneakers to help the environment. Their work helps to reduce CO₂ emissions released in the manufacturing process, reduce the release of toxic chemicals from incinerating sneakers thrown away, and reduce the number of sneakers that sit in landfills never breaking down. Every pair of sneakers donated will earn a certain amount of money no matter the condition. We will happily take a pair of old, worn-out sneakers that are no good anymore, sneakers that are too small, or new sneakers that you don't quite like!

The proceeds will go to [The Trustees of Reservations](#). The Trustees of Reservations are a non-profit organization that works to conserve and preserve over 100 natural and historic places in Massachusetts. The Trustees protect a variety of sites including hiking trails, historic places, beautiful gardens, and farms for the public to explore and enjoy. Check it out, you might have a site in your town!

There will be a donation box at each of the 4H offices and at Kemp Hall at the Norfolk Agricultural High School. We can't wait to receive your donations!

National 4-H Partner Opportunities

JoAnn Fabrics

Did you know JoAnn Fabrics partners with 4-H? [Click here](#) to find out how to register for a JOANN 4-H Reward Card to receive 15% off all purchases you make on materials for your 4-H projects! JoAnn's donates a percentage of all purchases made using a rewards card to 4-H.



CALLING ALL 4-H'ers!

We're looking for 4-H'ers who want to share their 2023 project journey with the Georgia Boot audience. Trailblazers will be required to provide Georgia Boot with photos and progress updates throughout various project stages to be used on Georgia Boot's social media channels, email, and website. Four winners will receive a prize package valued at \$500. The package consists of a free pair of Georgia Boots (up to \$200), a \$200 gift card to a local farm & ranch or hardware store of their choosing, and Trailblazers merchandise.

Interested in being a Georgia Boot Trailblazer? Simply [fill out the form](#) and attach a picture of a current or past 4-H activity by February 24th, 2023. We will contact the winners by March 21, 2023 via email

Massachusetts 4-H Foundation

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. **Deadline 3/31/23** [Club Grant for New 4-H Clubs Form](#)

Kent Lage Leadership Scholarship

Two scholarships are awarded annually to 4-H members or alumni who have demonstrated outstanding leadership qualities. The award was made possible by Charlesbank Capital Partners and is in memory of Kent A. Lage, a lifelong supporter of 4-H and President of the Foundation's Board of Trustees from 2012-2016. Applications for the Award are now open and **due March 15, 2023**. [Kent-Lage-Leadership-Award-Application_23.pdf](#)

4-H Camperships

Visit the 4-H Foundation website for information regarding camperships for the Massachusetts 4-H summer camps. These camperships are not need-based and applications are open to all enrolled 4-H members.

Deadline 3/31/23

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



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

4-H Health Safety Policy

Winter is upon us and so is cold, flu, and respiratory illness season. We are taking this time to remind you of the UMass Amherst Covid Policy and to clarify expectations.

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.

Days to Isolate:

- Day 0, first day of symptoms OR day the positive test was taken, whichever is earlier
- Days 1-4, continue to isolate
- Day 5, last day of isolation if asymptomatic or symptoms are improving
- 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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