



UMass Extension 4-H Program

January 5, 2024

Upcoming 4-H Calendar of Events

| Date | Title | Time & Location | Registration, Contact Info, or Zoom Link |
|-------------------|---|--|---|
| 1/9/24 | Paws for Thought Dog Chat | Zoom 7:00 PM | Dog Chat Registration |
| 1/9/24 | Horse Chat | Zoom 7:00 PM | https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/96799760249 |
| 1/10/24 | CES: Physician's Assistant | Zoom 7:30 PM | https://bit.ly/CES1-10-24 |
| 1/11/24 | State 4-H Dairy Advisory | Zoom 7:00 PM | https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/92401974138 |
| 1/13/24 | Annual State 4-H Horse Advisory Meeting | Minuteman Press 160 Main Street, Marlborough, MA | <i>Note: use Welly's Restaurant as the GPS address</i> <i>Snow date: 1/14/24</i> |
| 1/14/24 | 4-H Members' Reception | Zoom 7:00-8:30 PM | https://bit.ly/4-HRec11-19-23 |
| 1/14/24 | MA 4-H Beef Get Together & Potluck | 1:00 – 3:00 PM First Cong. Church 307 Boston Rd, Sutton | paul.dunnwrightllc@gmail.com |
| 1/16/24 | VP Training for ALL | Zoom 6:30 – 7:30 PM | https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/91940000555 |
| 1/25/24 | VP Training for ALL | Zoom 6:30 – 7:30 PM | https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/92069071565 |
| 1/27/24 | Southeast Regional Horse Bowl & Hippology Contest | Norfolk Agricultural H.S. Walpole, MA | https://forms.office.com/r/iQZZQcQxWk <i>Note: Snow date 2/3</i> |
| 1/28/24 | Western Regional 4-H Horse Judging Contest | Coggins Creek Stable, 1008 Granville Road, Westfield, MA | www.regional4horse.com <i>Note: Snow date TBD</i> |
| 2/5/24 | VP Judge Training (age 16+) | Zoom 6:30 PM | https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/99338757927 |
| 2/13/24 | VP Judge Training (age 16+) | Zoom 6:30 PM | https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/99338757927 |
| 2/22/24 | VP Judge Training (age 16+) | Zoom 6:30 PM | https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/99338757927 |
| 2/24/24 | Regional Visual Presentations (VPs) | UMass Amherst Furcolo Hall 9 AM & on Zoom | <i>Registration link coming soon</i> |
| 2/25/24 | VP Judge Training (age 16+) | Zoom 3:30 PM | https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/99338757927 |
| 3/2/24 | Regional Visual Presentations (VPs) | Bristol Aggie In Dighton 9:00 AM | <i>Registration link coming soon</i> |
| 3/9/24 | Regional Visual Presentations (VPs) | Essex Aggie 9:00 AM | <i>Registration link coming soon</i> |
| 3/14/24 | STEAM Festival Awards | Zoom 7:00 PM | |
| 3/23/24 & 3/24/24 | State 4-H Horse Round-up | Athol, MA | |
| 4/6/24 | MA State Visual Presentations | Collegiate Charter School of Lowell | |

Approaching Deadlines

| Event/Application | Deadline | Link or Contact Info |
|--|----------|---|
| 4-H Members' Reception Registration | TBD | https://bit.ly/4-HRec11-19-23 |
| Norfolk County Regional Hippology & Horse Bowl Registration | 1/17 | https://forms.office.com/r/iQZZQcQxWk |
| Western MA Regional Horse Judging Contest | 1/19 | www.regional4horse.com |
| 4-H re-enrollment deadline to be eligible for STEAM Festival | 1/26 | https://v2.4honline.com/#/user/sign-in |
| STEAM Festival Entry Deadline | 3/2 | http://STEAM-Festival.fairentry.com |
| National 4-H Dairy Conference Application Deadline | 4/1 | https://ag.umass.edu/sites/ag.umass.edu/files/pdf-doc-ppt/2024_national_4-h_dairy_application.pdf |

New Staff Welcome!



Dear 4-H Community,

Please welcome Andrew Samuelson! Andrew is joining us as a part-time Animal Science Departmental Assistant. He will be working with Carrie Chickering-Sears for the month of January and then will be ensuring that all 4-H Animal Science programs run smoothly. Andrew is a MA 4-H dairy cattle alum who grew up in Worcester County. He is a Virginia Tech graduate and holds degrees in animal science and education. You may have met Andrew at the Big E this past year since he also works part-time in the AG Dept. Andrew brings experience in agriculture, and education (elementary school teacher and principal in Western MA) plus a strong 4-H background. We are fortunate that Andrew can assist in the office. Please reach out to Andrew at asamuelson@umass.edu and say hello.



Welcome Andrew!





2024 Massachusetts 4-H Visual Presentation Program

Visual Presentation Season is upon us!

- ✿ Regional VPs and State VPs will be in person this year, with a virtual component for youth that are unable to attend in person.
- ✿ UMass 4-H will host three regional events around the state at the end of February and beginning of March.
- ✿ Youth will earn spots to participate in State VP Day at the regional events.
- ✿ State VPs will be held on Saturday, April 6th at the Collegiate Charter School of Lowell.

We will need many judges, parents, and volunteers to make this program run smoothly! Please see all details below and mark your calendar for the VP training, judge training, and regional event that fits your family's schedule! Registration for regional VPs will be opening soon.

Regional Visual Presentation Events

Regional events are planned in Western MA, Southeastern MA, and Northeastern MA on different dates. Youth are invited to present at ONE of these events, according to what best fits their family's schedule. Youth may choose any of the regional event locations regardless of where they live. They will also choose a presentation style and VP category. More information regarding presentation styles and VP categories will be coming soon.

Saturday, February 24th
at 9:00 AM
(in person & ALL VIRTUAL
PRESENTATIONS)

UMass Amherst
Furcolo Hall
813 N Pleasant St.
Amherst, MA 01003

Saturday, March 2nd
at 9:00 AM
(in person presentations)

Bristol County Agricultural High
School
135 Center Street
Dighton MA 02715

Saturday, March 9th
at 9:00 AM
(in person presentations)

Essex North Shore
Agricultural & Technical School
565 Maple Street
Hathorne, MA 01937

Massachusetts 4-H State Visual Presentation Day

Youth who perform well at regional VPs may earn an invitation to participate in State VP Day on April 6th. If selected to participate in State VP Day, youth will be required to maintain the same presentation style and VP category they competed with in their regional contest.

Saturday, April 6th at 10:00 AM
Collegiate Charter School of Lowell
1857 Middlesex Street
Lowell, MA 01851

Get Ready for VPs!

How do I choose a category? What is a Presentation Style? What do I need to do to get ready?

Zoom Training Sessions: How to do a 4-H Visual Presentation Training (for ALL)

Tuesday, January 16th from 6:30 PM-7:30 PM <https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/91940000555>

Thursday, January 25th from 6:30-7:30 PM <https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/92069071565>



Get Trained to Judge VPs!

How do I score a VP? Come to a judge training and learn all you need to know to help support the Massachusetts 4-H youth in the Visual Presentation Program as a regional or state VP judge.

4-H Visual Presentation Judge's Training

ages 16 and up (*attend one training session*)

Monday, February 5th at 6:30 PM <https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/99338757927>

Tuesday February 13th at 6:30 PM <https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/99338757927>

Thursday February 22nd at 6:30 PM <https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/99338757927>

Sunday February 25th at 3:30 PM <https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/99338757927>

4-H Record Book Program

Have You Set This Year's 4-H Project Goals?

When you are leaving on a car trip adventure, you only start driving once you know where you are headed.

Now that the 2023-2024 4-H year has begun, your 4-H project adventures are underway, and it is important to decide where you are headed!

The UMass 4-H program offers **two formats** for you to set and track your project goals for the year.

Find complete instructions and records packets that include goals forms on the [UMass 4-H Record-Keeping Website](#).

Use Option #1 if you **like to plan ahead of time** with specific steps you will take with your projects.

Think...

I like to look up the road map on Google to know exactly where I am going before I leave home because I feel confident when I have a plan.

Use Option #2 if you **have a general idea** of your project but don't quite know exactly how you will go about it.

Think...

I like to hop in the car and head in the general direction of where I am going because I trust I will find my way there if I pay attention to where I am going.

Did You Miss the 4-H Records Program Training?

If you missed our training and would like to see the recorded training video, please [click here](#). Contact [Cynthia Bushey](#) with any questions.

UMass 4-H Career Exploration Series is starting 2024 with a Physician Assistant!

Cheryl Acampora PA-C Certified Physician Assistant

Wednesday, January 10, 2024, 7:30 PM ET

Imagine being able to save someone's life! Help people of all ages and backgrounds in any place and any field of medicine! Like TV shows like Grey's Anatomy or Scrubs? Always wanted to help people? Interested in working in medicine, but not being in school for forever like a doctor? Always wondered what its like to be in the operating room or surgery?

You can work in the hospital, in the home, on the road, in offices and clinics and so much more!

Come learn how Cheryl became a PA and learn the great and diverse ways you can be in medicine and help people!

Come ask the questions you want the answers to! Join us and ask Cheryl Acampora, Certified Physician Assistant.
Wednesday, January 10, 2024 7:30 PM Eastern Time via Zoom
Geared toward middle & high school youth, open to all. Link to register: <https://bit.ly/CES1-10-24>

Making the Connection: 4-H & Homeschool

How homeschool families have expressed their use of the **Career Exploration Series**

My child is interested in a career in the field being presented and wants to learn more.

My child is learning how to ask questions to get the information they want.

My child is interested in many things and wants to learn more/see if this is an area worth pursuing.

- ✿ Career Exploration
- ✿ Research/Writing
- ✿ Inquiry
- ✿ Post-presentation Work

My child has to look up information related to the career before the presentation and ask relevant questions.

After a presentation I have my child look into more information and do a project/report for their schoolwork.

Animal Science Programs & Updates

Paws for Thought Dog Chats



We are hosting interesting speakers in the world of dogs for all 4-H members and volunteers. They will happen the **2nd Tuesday of each month from 7- 8 PM on Zoom**. To join in, sign up here: <https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAuc-ijprzkqEtDgtOZX49CHz-GJNyG7Rm11>



January 9th Learn about breeding dogs from 2 successful dog breeders.. What are the tests required. What do you need to do? How do you manage a litter of puppies and the responsibilities of being a professional breeder?

February 13th Dog Anatomy: Learn all about the dog anatomy- a great class for those interested in showing their dogs at fairs and the Big E.

Horse Chat



The next Horse Chat on Zoom is scheduled for January 9th at 7:00pm with Jane Karol and her daughter, Hope Cooper. Jane owns Bear Spot Farm in Concord, MA. Home to 26 horses, the farm provides state-of-the-art care and high-performance dressage training programs for the horse and rider from training to Grand Prix. Jane has trained 12 horses to Grand Prix.

The Bear Spot Foundation, part of Bear Spot Farm, offers Equine Facilitated Psychotherapy to children and adults. Jane is certified in clinical psychology and founded the foundation in 2004.

Zoom Link:

<https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/96799760249>

We hope that you can join in!

New England Beef Program

Youth ages 12-18 years of age (as of January 1st) are eligible to try-out for the New England 4-H Beef Show that is held in September.

A NEW Massachusetts' Application for the Big E has been developed and can be found at: https://ag.umass.edu/sites/ag.umass.edu/files/pdf-doc-ppt/massachusetts_big_e_4-h_beef_agreement.pdf.

Youth must own and care for their beef steer and the beef heifers can be either owned or leased. A youth may enter up to three animals at this show. For more information on this show, please go to <https://www.thebige.com/p/competitions/4-h/packets> and review the Beef Show Packets 1 & 2.

If you have any questions, please reach out to the UMass 4-H State Animal Specialist.



Contact Carrie Sears at ccsears@umass.edu or Andrew Samuelson at asamuelson@umass.edu with animal science questions.

STEM Programs & Updates

2024 STEAM Festival

Happy New Year!

The 2024 STEAM Festival opened up for early registration in early December.
To enter your exhibits visit: <http://STEAM-Festival.fairentry.com>

We are looking for some STEAM Festival judges. If interested reach out to Kim Pond at kima@umass.edu

The guidelines and class list are posted at: https://aq.umass.edu/sites/aq.umass.edu/files/pdf-doc-ppt/steam_festival_2024_final.pdf

Things to Know:

- ✿ For early submission you must have been an approved member by December 1st.
- ✿ Entries can be done in batches so if you have some things ready, go ahead and enter.
- ✿ You can even come back again to enter more projects before judging begins.
- ✿ Entering projects in batches should make it easier for members who have a lot of entries.

Process to Enter:

- ✿ You can enter one or more class entries you have ready and submit an invoice.
- ✿ The office will check-in those entries.
- ✿ Once the items on that invoice are checked in you can then go enter others.
- ✿ **Note:** If you have not completed your re-enrollment or are just in the process of joining 4-H, don't worry! We will "sync" again with 4honline after the New Year and then you can submit your entries. Keep working on them over the winter holiday break!

Some important dates:

- ✿ January 26th: Must be fully enrolled to enter
- ✿ March 2nd: Fair closes entries for judging
- ✿ March 14th: 7 PM Zoom awards ceremony

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

The New 4-H Year is Underway!

The 2024 4-H year has officially begun!. All youth and adult volunteers are required to re-enroll each year if they plan to continue participating in 4-H. **Re-enrollment is open for all clubs whose financial reports have been accepted by regional offices.** Returning members and volunteers may re-enroll in 4honline or they may complete a paper enrollment packet (available at regional offices). New 4-H members need to complete paper enrollment forms.



UMass 4-H Policies

UMass Extension 4-H Policies:

<https://ag.umass.edu/mass4h/volunteers/for-current-ma-4-h-volunteers/volunteer-resources>

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

Meg McDermott, State 4-H Director – memcdermott@umass.edu

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

Andrew Samuelson, 4-H Animal Science Departmental Assistant – asamuelson@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 – lulloa@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 – khenders@umext.umass.edu

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

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

Kathleen Scalera, Central Southeast Regional Program Assistant – kscalera@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 – vwallace@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.gov

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@capecod.gov

Laura Notarangelo, Administrative Assistant: laura.notarangelo@capecod.gov

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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