



UMass Extension 4-H Program

March 11, 2022

Weekly NewsBlast

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/>

Look for archived NewsBlast issues at <https://ag.umass.edu/mass4h>

4honline – Be sure to re-enroll

Remember: You must be registered as a current 4-H member in order to take part in any activities, contests or events. Need assistance completing your registration or joining for the first time? Contact your local 4-H office (see the list at the end of the NewsBlast). Go to <https://v2.4honline.com/#/user/sign-in>

UMass Extension 4-H Program Safety Precautions

New information!

As of Wednesday, March 9, the University has lifted the indoor mask requirement. This means that when meeting indoors, 4-H members and volunteers are no longer required to wear masks.

Individuals are welcome to wear masks at their own discretion and without question. Masks are recommended for individuals or anyone in their household who have a weakened immune system or an increased risk for severe illness. Individuals who are not fully vaccinated and boosted should also continue to wear masks indoors.

With this transition, we encourage everyone to respect the choices that individuals will make about their own masking. The university also recognizes that COVID-19 presents a fluid public health situation, and we may need to require face coverings in the future should guidance change.

Thank you for your cooperation in supporting health, safety and wellbeing within our 4-H community.

Visual Presentations

The Annual VP program contests will be held this weekend in the Northeast Region of Suffolk, Essex and Middlesex counties. If you have registered and have not received your zoom link, be sure to contact your local 4-H office by Friday afternoon!

State VP Day: Saturday April 2 starting at 9:45am – Zoom link will be provided to those who qualify. You will be notified.

State VP Awards Ceremony: Thursday April 7, 6:30pm – Awardees will receive the Zoom link.

Visual Presentation categories are divided into three age divisions (age determined Jan. 1): Cloverbuds, ages 5-7 Juniors, ages 8-13 Seniors, ages 14-18. Cloverbuds may enter at the county level only and receive participation awards. Pre-registration is required for each competition. This year, all participants ages 10 or older can choose to enter using either posters or PowerPoint/Google Slides in any category. All participants under 10 are required to use posters only this year.

2022 UMass 4-H Annual STEAM Festival Awards Ceremony

The judging of the 2022 STEAM Festival is completed! Did you enter? Would you like to attend the award ceremony? All are welcome! Awards will be presented on Monday March 14th at 7pm. Contact Kim Pond at kima@umass.edu for the link.

Ready, SET, Spring into FUN

Looking for ways to infuse some STEM into your club focusing on some of the upcoming festivals and holidays? We want to hear from you!!

Last year UMass 4-H held several zoom sessions sharing activities you could do with your club, and we are curious and want to know if you are interested in taking part in similar activities this year. Should these sessions be for adults where we show you how to replicate the activities with your club, or would youth members prefer to participate in the activities directly? These sessions might be virtual or in person; they will be planned after we receive your thoughts and opinions. Your input matters! Go to this link to voice your opinion! <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/K7FG6D9>

Upcoming events might include the following: what will the activities be?

March 14 - Pi Day

March 20 - Spring Equinox

April 22 - Earth Day

April 25- DNA Day

April 29- Arbor Day

May 4th - Star Wars Day

May 6th - Space Day

May 15-21 - Scratch Week

4-H Babysitter Training Course

The UMass **4-H Babysitter Training Course** will be offered across Massachusetts for youth ages 11 and older via Zoom during three sessions to be held on March 29th, April 5th and April 12th at 4:30-6pm. The course offers participants the opportunity to learn the basics of babysitting, including child development, entertaining children, safety guidelines, nutrition, the principles of positive discipline, and more. Upon completion of this course, participants will receive a certificate of completion and a babysitter's ID. The cost is free for registered UMass 4-H members and \$25 for youth that are not currently part of the 4-H program. Materials for the course will be mailed out. Registration is required by March 22, 2022. To register follow the link <https://forms.gle/yHNupkaZ56NVE4jv6>

UMass 4-H Needlework and Sewing Clubs Open House

Interested in sewing, knitting, crocheting, quilting or some other type of needlework? UMass 4-H is holding a virtual "Open House" to talk about some 4-H clubs throughout the state that have expressive arts projects. Find out where these clubs are located, whether they are in-person or virtual, and the types of activities and projects they take part in. Current volunteers and those interested in potentially becoming a 4-H volunteer in this area as well as 4-H members of all ages are all welcome to join the meeting. Plan to join the open house on Tuesday, March 15, 7:00 PM via Zoom.



To register, go to: <https://bit.ly/37pg5vL>

Heroes Wear Scrubs

The Heroes Wear Scrubs program is currently taking place. You can join any of the final three sessions which will occur on March 23, 30 and April 6. All youth ages 8-18 are welcome to attend. Join UMass 4-H educators VaShon Hiltbold and Angelica Paredes along with a group of amazing UMass nursing students to learn a wide range of information about your own body! For instance, did you know that blood pressure measures the flow of blood both leaving your heart and entering your heart? Did you know that it is ok if you ask your doctor to better explain something to you?

Those interested should send an email to VaShon Hiltbold at vwallace@umass.edu. Please put Heroes Wear Scrubs in the subject line.

Animal Science Programs

Contact Carrie Sears with any questions or to register for any events below at ccsears@umext.umass.edu

Animal Science Meetings, Workshops and Contests

March 16 – State 4-H Beef Advisory Meeting – Zoom – 7:00pm

March 18 & 19 – 4-H Blue Ribbon Dairy Calf Sale & Clinics – Clinics to be held on March 18 at 6:00pm and Calf Sale

March 19 at 11:00am – Mallary Complex – Eastern States Exposition Fairgrounds, West Springfield, MA

March 20 – State 4-H Horse Judging – Coggins Creek Farm, Westfield, MA

March 21 – Regional 4-H Horse Committee – Zoom - 6:30pm
March 24 - State 4-H Dairy Advisory – Zoom – 7:00pm

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in Massachusetts

HPAI has been detected in either wild water birds, domestic birds, or both, along the east coast from Canada to Florida. Affected states include MA, CT, ME, NH, NY, and others. HPAI has also been found in KY, IN, and MI. HPAI surveillance of domestic and wild birds in MA is ongoing.

This means that all domestic poultry in Massachusetts may be at risk of exposure. Use good biosecurity to protect your flock and your facility against the HPAI virus. See MDAR's recommendations

here. <https://www.mass.gov/.../biosecurity-for-your-.../download>

Report sick or dead birds: domestic 617-626-1795; wild 508-389-6300.

Important Dates for Animal Science Projects:

If you plan on showing your animal project at 4-H fairs, please note the following deadlines. All forms are located on the specific species pages.

Verification and Model Lease Forms:

Due by **May 1** to your local 4-H Office – Dairy and Beef cattle

Due by **June 1** to your local 4-H Office – Goat, Sheep, Swine Alpaca, and Llamas

Due by June 1 to your local 4-H Office - Dog Verification Form located at <https://ag.umass.edu/mass4h/clubs-programs/animal-science-program/dogs>

Horse – Need to complete only if you plan on showing at the New England 4-H Horse Show (Big E) in September.

Please complete the Horse Verification Form located at <https://ag.umass.edu/mass4h/clubs-programs/animal-science-program/horses>

Career Exploration Series

March 16	Larry Dapsis Entomologist Registration link: https://bit.ly/3G5wVMp	Are you interested in insects? Do you want to learn more about them or think it might be fun to study them? Join this Career Exploration Zoom to find out more! Larry Dapsis has been learning about insects since he was 5 and now works as an entomologist at UMass Amherst. Find out how he grew from being interested in insects to having a career as an entomologist! Larry describes his work as “a really cool job!”
April 6	Shannon Hulst & Greg Berman Registration link: https://bit.ly/3mXqgwn	Geography is an interesting subject! In Massachusetts there are mountains in the west, rivers and lakes throughout the state, coastline, lowlands, and more. Shannon Hulst has studied the geography of flood plains and how they change the landscape around them. Greg Berman focuses on the coastal areas and is a specialist at the Woods Hole Oceanography Institution on Cape Cod. Join this Zoom to learn more about this topic and how it might affect the area where you live and how it may change the geography in Massachusetts.

Tractor Supply Paper Clover Campaign

Tractor Supply Company will be holding the Spring Paper Clover campaign from April 27-May 8. Customers can donate \$1 and purchase a paper 4-leaf clover to support the 4-H program. Each state receives 90% of the funds raised, with National 4-H Council receiving 10%. All funds are designated to be used for leadership programs only. We have been using these to help defray costs of national 4-H congress, conference, academies, and other programs.

This spring, 4-H members will be allowed back in stores to present information about their projects and the 4-H program. They are allowed to ask for donations from the public. Check with Carrie Sears regarding regulations for 4-H members to bring any animals to this event. Also, be sure to inform your 4-H members to check with their local store if they wish to be present during the paper clover campaign.

Agrotek Innovation – University of Vermont

Agrotek Innovation is a new program being offered by the University of Vermont (UVM). College of Agriculture and Life Science and Extension 4-H that is designed to build **AgriScience and Biotechnology skills for youth in middle and high school**. This summer AgroTek Innovation will include a free, week-long, residential academies where

participants will dive deep into one of two topics – **Culturing Cells for Healthier Soils** and **Converting Waste into Value-Added Product**. Each week allows participants to learn, make connections with University researchers, and build relationships with undergraduate student mentors. We especially encourage those under-represented in ag careers (female identifying, BIPOC) to participate.

Only 12 slots are available per week. Students will stay in single room accommodations in a UVM dormitory and be supervised by professional, trained 4-H staff who have all undergone background checks, in addition to UVM teaching faculty and their graduate students. Learn more at <https://www.uvm.edu/extension/youth/agrotek-innovation-program-7th-12th-graders>. **Applications are due by April 1, 2022.**

Update Your Projects in 4honline

It is important for each 4-H member to enter their project areas in 4honline. Your 4-H projects can be club focused or something you do as an individual. You should be sure to enter any and all projects that you are actually involved with.

During the year, programs or events may become available for 4-H members who are involved in a particular project area. By using 4honline, the educators can easily find all youth members who are taking part in that project and send out an email to them. If you are not listed, you might not receive an email announcement and might miss taking part in a great learning opportunity. For example, if a change in health regulation for a species comes out and is time sensitive it will be sent to those registered in those projects only to limit the amount of emails families receive.

To update your projects, log into your family account, select the blue "view" button next to the file you would like to update. Select "projects" on the left side bar to open up your project, select edit and you can delete or add projects. If you are in more than one club, select the club that project should be linked to. Contact your 4-H office for assistance if you need it!

4-H Teens and Adults needed as Volunteers for Touch Tomorrow Event

Come and be part of the UMass 4-H table at the WPI Touch Tomorrow science event on Saturday, April 2. You can sign up for as little as two hours, part of the day, or the whole day! This one day event and will be held at Polar Park in Worcester and attracts thousands of people. 4-H will have general information about the program as well as several hands-on activities for visitors to enjoy.

Since the Touch Tomorrow event will be held on the same day as the UMass 4-H State VP day, some of our usual volunteers will not be able to help out. Parents, volunteer leaders, and 4-H teens are welcome. To find out more details or to volunteer, contact Kim Pond at kima@umass.edu.

UMass Extension 4-H Offices and Contact Information:

Contact the 4-H person you wish to meet with prior to visiting to ensure they are scheduled to be in. Thank you.

State 4-H Office: 100 Venture Way, Suite 334; Hadley MA 01035

Linda Horn, UMass Extension 4-H Program Director lrhorn@umext.umass.edu

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

Deb Comeau – State 4-H Administrative Assistant – dcomeau@umext.umass.edu

Western MA: Franklin, Hampshire, Hampden and Berkshire Counties

100 Venture Way, Suite 334; Hadley MA 01035

Angelica Paredes, 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 and Southeastern MA: Auburn 4-H Office: 7 Midstate Drive, Suite 102; Auburn MA 01501

Bristol and Norfolk Counties:

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

Kim Henderson, Administrative Assistant – khenders@umext.umass.edu

Worcester County:

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

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

State 4-H STEM Program Manager:

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

Northeastern MA: Essex, Middlesex & Suffolk Counties:

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

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: 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

Tia Quinn, Administrative Assistant: tquinn@plymouthcountyma.gov

Barnstable County: Box 367, Barnstable MA 02630

Sandi Shepherd-Gay, Barnstable County Youth Extension Educator:

sandi.shepherdgay@barnstablecounty.org

Dawn Johnson, Administrative Assistant: dawn.johnson@barnstablecounty.org



UMass Extension is a unit of the Center for Agriculture, Food & the Environment in the College of Natural Sciences. UMass Extension is an equal opportunity provider & employer, United States Department of Agriculture cooperating. Contact your local UMass Extension office for information on disability accommodations or the UMass Director if you have concerns related to discrimination, 413-545-4800 or refer to www.extension.umass.edu/civilrights.

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST