

Ag Day Registration



Ag Day at the Massachusetts State House is back! 4-H will bring youth ages 12+ and volunteers to the Massachusetts State House for Ag Day on **Wednesday, April 12, 2023**. There will be a student reception, a speaking program with FFA speaking this year, and legislative visits.

This event is open to 4-H members 12 and older. If you would like to participate in Ag Day or volunteer, please register here **no later than March 30th**:
<https://forms.office.com/r/qQ3TeDqwxR>



If you have questions please reach out to Meg McDermott, memcdermott@umass.edu

Upcoming 4-H Calendar of Events

Date	Title	Time & Location	Registration Information
3/18	Western MA Winter Workshops	100 Venture Way, Hadley	https://bit.ly/wM4Hww
3/18	MA 4-H Blue Ribbon Calf Sale	Mallory Arena – ESE Fairgrounds	ccsears@umass.edu
3/20	4-H Discovery Club Meeting	Zoom 7:00 PM	New Interest Link
3/20	Western Region 4-H Horse Committee	Zoom 6:30 PM	ccsears@umass.edu
3/21	Horse Chat	Zoom 7:00 PM	
3/25	State 4-H Horse Judging	Peter Whitmore Stables, Orange, MA	ccsears@umass.edu
3/26	State 4-H Hippology & Horse Bowl	Athol H.S., Athol, MA	ccsears@umass.edu
3/27	State 4-H Dairy Advisory Meeting	Zoom 7:00 PM	
3/28	New England 4-H Horse Show Meeting	Zoom 7:00 PM	Zoom meeting link
3/31	Poultry Workshop & Avian Bowl	Zoom 6:30 PM	
4/1	State 4-H Horse Communications Team Contest	10:00 AM First Parish Church, Westford, MA	ccsears@umass.edu
4/1	State VP Day	Zoom 9:00 AM	
4/5	VP Awards Ceremony	Zoom 6:30 PM	
4/8	Spring Planting Workshop & Mansion Tour	Borderland State Park	Planting Workshop Registration
4/10	4-H Discovery Club Meeting	Zoom 7:00 PM	New Interest Link
4/12	Ag Day at the State House	MA State House, Boston	Ag Day Registration Link
4/12	Career Exploration Series	Zoom 7:00 PM	Registration Link
5/12-5/14	UMass 4-H Dog Academy	Camp Farley	
5/15	4-H Discovery Club Meeting	Zoom 7:00 PM	New Interest Link
6/24-6/25	State 4-H Horse Show	Three County Fairgrounds, Northampton, MA	
7/28-7/30	Worcester County 4-H Fair	Spencer Fairgrounds	

Approaching Deadlines

Event/Application	Deadline	Link or Contact Info
4-H Camp Middlesex Barnyard Counselor	until filled	4-H Camp Middlesex Application
Girls Who Code Application	3/18	Girls Who Code Application
National 4-H Youth in Action Scholarship	3/27	4-H Youth in Action Application
Ag Day Registration	3/30	https://forms.office.com/r/qQ3TeDqwxR
4-H Foundation New 4-H Club Grant	3/31	Club Grant for New 4-H Clubs Form
4-H Campership	3/31	Campership Application
USDA APHIS AgDiscovery Program	3/31	Application Details
STEM Ambassador Application	3/31	STEM Ambassador Application Info
2023 National Dairy Conference Application	4/1	Dairy Conference Application
Spring Planting Workshop & Mansion Tour	4/2	Planting Workshop Registration
Horse Verification Form for NE 4-H Horse Show	4/10	Horse Verification Form
Verification forms due: Dairy Cattle, Beef Cattle, and Working Steers	5/1	Livestock Verification Form, Livestock Lease Form, Beef Lease Form
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 Involved!

Spring Planting Workshop & Mansion Tour



Join us for a beautiful day outside on Saturday, April 8th at Borderland State Park in North Easton, MA!

UMass 4-H and Borderland State Park volunteer, Ellen Farmer, will discuss her volunteer work at the park and conduct a spring planting workshop on the beautiful grounds. Learn about spring planting and leave with your own precious plant. Following the workshop, Paul Clifford, Borderland State Park director, will conduct a tour of the historic Ames Mansion for all program participants.

This event is open to all MA 4-H members, their families, and friends. Registration is required no later than April 2nd using [this link](#). Contact [Cynthia Bushey](#) with questions.

UMass Extension Career Exploration Series

Have you ever heard of Avian Flu or Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE)? Imagine being a veterinarian, able to help take care of animals not just locally but nationally!

Nicole Giguere & Kim Haling get to do just that. They investigate potential foreign animal disease outbreaks and work to get rid of diseases that are already in the U.S. They take lab samples, trace animal movements, and inspect labs and production facilities. When animal disease outbreaks occur outside of the U.S., they work to help contain the disease and minimize impact and animal suffering. They also teach about threats to animals and how to prevent spread.

They are part of many programs including Marketing and Regulatory Programs (MRP), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), and Foreign Animal Disease Diagnosticians (FADD).

Curious? [Join us!](#) April 12th at 7 PM via Zoom



Worcester County 4-H Fair

Worcester County 4-H Fair has a new location!

We will hold this year's fair 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.

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!

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.

4-H Summer STEM Ambassadors

Are you looking to work with youth this summer? Do you believe in the power of hands-on learning? [Apply](#) to work with the UMass Extension 4-H Positive Youth Development Program as a Summer Program STEM Ambassador!

UMass 4-H STEM Ambassadors are trained to provide direct teaching of STEM curriculum to young people throughout Massachusetts. UMass Extension 4-H Educators will train STEM Ambassadors and provide them with the lessons they will teach.

Applicants must be undergraduate or graduate students at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Successful candidates must be available for a one-day onboarding meeting in May 2023 and will work 15 hours/week in and near the UMass Mt. Ida campus in Newton from June through August.

Animal Science Programs & Updates

Horse Chat

Join us on March 21st at 7:00pm on Zoom with special guests from the UVM Morgan Horse Farm. A beacon for horse and history lovers, the UVM Morgan Horse Farm is home to the oldest, continuous Morgan horse breeding herd in the world. Established in 1878, this beautiful historic site is a working farm of 40+ Morgans that is open to the public May through October annually. The UVM Morgan Horse Farm is located just outside Middlebury, Vermont.



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](#)

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

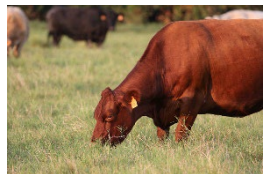
Horse Judging Oral Reasons Scoresheet for Senior 4-H Members

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. 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. 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

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>

Beef 4-H Project Members



North Dakota 4-H welcomes all 4-H'ers from all states to join us for our Jr. Beef Producers Workshop Series! Back by popular demand with new and exciting topics. The series is free and pre-registration is easy! To register: <https://nds.zoom.us/j/96433976845>

Save the date for UMass 4-H Dog Academy!

UMass 4-H Dog Academy will be held at 4-H Camp Farley May 12 - 14th. Dog Academy is open to enrolled 4-H members (ages 8 - 18 as of 1/1/2023). All handling pairs (4-H member and dog) must be previously evaluated in order to attend dog academy. Members may choose to stay the weekend or attend for the day on Saturday 5/13/23. 4-H members who are not bringing a dog are able to come for the Saturday program on 5/13/21. Cloverbud members (ages 5 - 7 as of 1/1/2023) may attend for the day on Saturday or for the weekend with a parent who stays in the cabin with them. Cloverbuds must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

The program schedule, registration instructions, and details will be posted on the UMass 4-H Website. Please reach out to [Meg McDermott](#), or [Cathy Acampora](#) with questions.

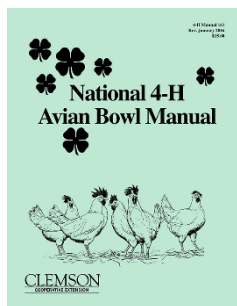
New England 4-H Horse Show

Would you like to learn more about the New England 4-H Horse Show at the Big E in September? Chesley Chmura, New England 4-H Horse Show Chair, will be discussing the show on Zoom on March 28th at 7:00pm. This is a great time to ask questions and find out more about this fun show! <https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/96433976845>

You must be age 12 as of January 1st and file a Horse Verification Form on the horse you plan on showing at this event. Or you can serve as a teen helper. We will be discussing these and other details on the show during the Zoom meeting. We hope that you can join us!

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 23-25, 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



Avian Quiz Bowl Opportunity

Are you interested in learning facts about poultry and would like to participate in Avian Quiz Bowl? For information on Avian Quiz Bowl, check out the National Poultry Conference site at <https://national4hpoultry.ca.uky.edu/content/avian-bowl/>. If interested in participating, please reach out to Carrie Sears at ccsears@umass.edu. Our next Zoom meeting is March 31st at 6:30 PM.

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

2023 UMass 4-H STEAM Festival Awards

Congratulations to everyone who participated in this year's 4-H STEAM Festival! Watch UMass 4-H Facebook for highlights and see the UMass 4-H website for the complete awards presentation.

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.

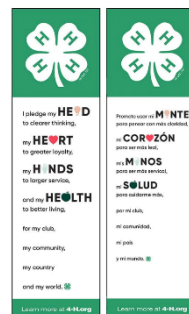
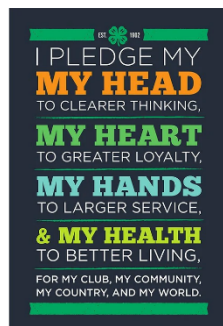
Each session has three main activities that can be used independently to engage youth in learning specific concepts or applying Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) skills. Sessions build upon one another but can be done individually with some modifications. For more information contact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

kima@umass.edu

Community Service Opportunities

Community Service Round-Up

Link for Leaders! Club Leaders, please complete this [brief survey](#) by the end of March 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 [UMass 4-H Community Service Website](#).

Celebrating 4-H Youth!

Massachusetts teens find their spark at the National 4-H Ignite Summit!



Seven Massachusetts teens from across the state have just returned from a very busy four days in Washington DC. National 4-H previously offered three different summits focusing on Healthy Living, Agriscience and STEM but realizing that the problems of tomorrow need a more comprehensive approach, these three areas were combined to create the new and exciting Ignite Summit! This was the first year of the redesigned summit and in attendance from our state was Margaret Turpel, Harrison Sachs and Colleen Kielbania focusing on Agriscience, Sam Jackson and Miru Kunst on the STEM track and Faith and Hope Motta representing the Healthy Living track. The teens jumped right into a number of workshops on topics like “Engaging Teens in Agritech through Hydroponics”, “Small things Teens can do to fight Food Insecurity” and “Game Changers: Exploring STEM Research for Tomorrow’s Leaders.”

Colleen said “ My favorite thing about the Ag track was learning the basis of of plant DNA, creating better and healthier food for our communities and learning how to save fruit varieties from hundreds of years ago. All my workshops were super fun and I’m so excited to help grow my career with everything I learned.”

The teens enjoyed inspiring speeches throughout the summit from speakers including the 2023 Youth in Action Award winners, industry leaders including Dr. Shannon Hauf, VP of Bayer and even an inspiring message from U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy. The teens also had their own private meeting with Lindsey Larson a former Mass 4-H’er who now works on agricultural issues across the globe through her job at the World Bank.

Additionally, the teens participated in an evening tour of the National Monuments and visit to the mall and the Smithsonian Museums. On the last day, the Massachusetts teens really shined when they presented the outline of their Lead to Change project. This year the group is focusing on food access and food insecurity through a Day of Ag-cess which will allow teens to captain a project in their own county for one day when across the state we do our best as 4-H’ers to address the fact that nearly 500,000 people in our state do not have consistent access to healthy food to eat. The teens did an exceptional job representing Massachusetts at the Ignite summit and we look forward to learning more about how we can all support their exciting project.

News from National 4-H

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.



National 4-H Youth in Action Scholarship



Know an inspiring 4-H youth? Encourage them to [enter](#) for the opportunity to win a \$5K scholarship, tailored professional mentoring, national spokesperson/speaking opportunities and MORE! Apply now to become a 4-H Youth in Action winner. **HURRY, the application deadline is March 27th.**

The 4-H Youth in Action program amplifies the diverse stories and leadership of 4-H youth who are making a difference in their communities every day. It is a premiere community of 4-H'ers who are preparing for their future while showcasing how 4-H changed their lives and equipped them to change the lives of others.

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](#)

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

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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