



UMass Extension 4-H Program

March 25, 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). Returning members, go to <https://v2.4honline.com/#/user/sign-in>

UMass Extension 4-H Program Safety Precautions

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.



National 4-H Congress – Still time to Apply

National 4-H Congress —November 25-29, 2022 - Atlanta
An educational experience designed to make an impact.

Are you a 4-H Teen? Want to learn more about applying for National 4-H Congress and what this program is all about? Join the information Zoom session on Wednesday April 6 at 7:00PM which will be hosted by former participants, 4-H staff, and chaperones. Teens, parents, and 4-H volunteers are welcome to join to find out more, even if you don't intend to apply! Register at <https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJloceihpjlSg9w1pcT-lgqZxVfzYl3qFufi> Once you register, you will receive a confirmation email containing the link and any additional information you need for the session.

National 4-H Congress is for teens between ages 15-18. Find out more about the UMass 4-H application process at https://ag.umass.edu/sites/ag.umass.edu/files/pdf-doc-ppt/nationaltrip_application_2021.pdf

Upcoming 4-H Dog Academy

The UMass 4-H Dog Committee is hosting an all-day 4-H Dog Academy on Sunday, May 14th from 9AM-5PM at the Marshfield fairgrounds. This will be a fun day of learning, socializing, and working with dogs. The Dog Academy is open to all UMass 4-H members who would like to learn about showmanship, obedience, agility, dog safety, and basic training. The program will include both beginner and advanced tracks, as well as options for those that do not have a dog or do not feel comfortable bringing their dog. The cost for the day is \$25.00 and includes lunch, a t-shirt, and instruction from professional trainers. Stay tuned for registration information and schedules. Please reach out to Meg McDermott, memcdermott@umass.edu with any questions.

Berkshire 4-H Youth Fair Book Cover Contest

The Berkshire 4-H Youth Fair will be celebrating the 80th annual fair this August. This is a unique fair because it is organized and run by youth, for youth, with assistance and guidance from adult mentors. This is also considered to be a leadership project for all 4-H teens working on this fair. The Berkshire 4-H Youth Fair is an open fair allowing anyone between the ages of 5-18 to enter, regardless of 4-H membership status. All youth 12-18 are welcome to join!

Berkshire 4-H Youth Fair 80th Anniversary Cover Contest Rules:

Theme of the Book Cover: Berkshire 80 TH ANNIVERSARY Fair	Rules to Enter: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Must be 5-18 years old to enter• All covers must have a 4-H Clover on them.• Image size is 6"H X 7.5" W
What you are eligible to win: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Your drawing on book covers and posters!• A press release• \$20	Submissions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Postmarked by MARCH 31, 2022, to: 4-H Cover Contest 100 Venture Way, Ste. 334 Hadley, MA 01035• Email to: angelica@umext.umass.edu Please put "Cover Contest" in subject line

4-H Safe At Home

Be safe, be responsible, while Home Alone! Are you a 4-H member who is ready to be home alone? What can you do when you are home by yourself? What snacks can you make, or activities might you do? What does it take to be safe at home?

Join this virtual program held on Wednesdays from 4:30-6 PM, starting April 27th, through May 18th, 2022. This series is designed for all youth ages 10 and older. Contact VaShon Hiltpold with questions at vwallace@umass.edu Use the following link to register: <https://forms.gle/7Vgph5MgByffrRRw5> We look forward to seeing you there!

Ready, SET, Spring into FUN

Looking for ways to infuse some STEM into your club that focuses on some of the upcoming festivals and holidays? Watch the UMass 4-H Facebook page for information about activities focused on the topics below.

April 22 - Earth Day
May 4th - Star Wars Day

April 25- DNA Day
May 6th - Space Day

April 29- Arbor 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 from 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; follow the link <https://forms.gle/yHNupkaZ56NVE4jv6>

Heroes Wear Scrubs

Join any of the final three sessions of Heroes wear Scrubs taking place on March 30 and April 6. All youth ages 8-18 are welcome to attend. Join UMass 4-H educators VaShon Hiltpold and Angelica Paredes along with a group of amazing UMass nursing students to learn a wide range of information about your own body

Those interested should send an email to VaShon Hiltpold 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 28 – State 4-H Beef Workshop Committee Meeting – Zoom – 7:00pm

March 30 - State 4-H Horse Committee Advisory – Zoom – 6:30pm
March 31 – Horse Chat with UVM Staff – Mary Fay – Zoom – 7:00pm
April 9 – State 4-H Senior Horse Communications Contest – St. Williams, Tewksbury
April 16 – Rhode Island Sheep Workshop – 9am-1pm – Richmond, RI
April 19 – State 4-H Dairy Day – The Big E, Mallery Arena, West Springfield
April 23 – State 4-H Horse & Hippology Contest – St. Williams, Tewksbury

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>

Sheep Day

Rhode Island 4-H is sponsoring a Sheep Day on April 16 from 9am-1pm at the Washington County Fairgrounds, [78 Richmond Townhouse Road, Richmond, RI](https://www.washingtoncountyfairgrounds.com/). 4-H youth ages 5-18, open to beginner to expert level (adults may attend). Registration required by April 11th to be eligible for door prizes. Register at <https://web.uri.edu/4h/>



New England 4-H Shows

The 4-H livestock, horse and dog shows at this time will be back with the Big E Fair in September. The dorms will also be available to our delegates. Each of the species committees are reviewing their show schedules and determining the number of days the delegates will be at the fair. Right now it looks like the 4-H shows are going to be held during their regularly scheduled weekends. We will keep you updated as soon as the schedules are finalized.



The Big E has launched a new look for their logo! Be sure to use this logo if you are posting or sharing any updated information about Big E with your groups.

Tractor Supply Paper Clover Campaign

Tractor Supply Company Spring Paper Clover campaign will take place between April 27-May 8. Customers can donate \$1 and purchase a paper 4-leaf clover to support the 4-H program. Each state 4-H program 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.

Career Exploration Series

April 6	Shannon Hulst & Greg Berman Registration link: https://bit.ly/3mXqgwn	Water – What’s the big deal? We drink it, bathe in it, swim in it, and get rained on...what else is there to know? Water is a powerful force, therefore there are several careers that address its many facets and the challenges of living near it. Do you know what a floodplain is? Have you heard of shoreline change/erosion? How do rising sea levels affect living near the ocean, or the water you drink? Join the Career Exploration Zoom to learn about how Shannon Hulst and Gregory Berman both work on Cape Cod in Massachusetts to tackle these issues and more!
April 20	No CES	April school vacation week
May 4	Kevin Podkowka Registration link: https://bit.ly/36nGWbg	Forester with the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Kevin became a Forester 25 years ago because he loved being outside. As a forester he has planned and supervised numerous logging operations, fought wildfires, served as a team member for major hydrologic restoration projects, worked with critically endangered species, helped build forest access roads, planned and supervised reforestation projects, planned and supervised large scale exotic vegetation control projects, and the list goes on. As a management forester Kevin is responsible for directing activities on state owned lands that meet the goals and objectives mandated by DCR. Log on to find out more about this and what a Forester does!

Other Opportunities to Explore

Butterfly Garden Seeds: [Free Milkweed Seeds & contributions for Live Monarch Foundation-Get your milkweed seeds for the Monarch Migration](#) Live Monarch is a company that will send 15+ Butterfly Garden seeds including Milkweed and growing instructions. This company will ask for a contribution but will send seeds even if you cannot afford a contribution. Go to the link above or visit www.livemonarch.com for details.



Gardening At Home: visit the 4-H at Home website to find lots of information and hands on activities for growing plants and herbs at home. <https://4-h.org/about/4-h-at-home/gardening-at-home/#!/post-content> These projects include all instructions, a list of materials needed, and are geared for grades 3-8. You can also download the series of 6 lesson activities for later projects. Have fun and be sure to enter some of your completed items in our upcoming fairs this summer!

UConn 4-H STEM DAY

4-H members ages 13-18 are invited to attend the UConn 4-H CSI program on April 23 from 9:00-2:30 at the UConn Storrs Campus. The fee is \$20 for enrolled 4-H members and \$25 for non-4-H youth. The fee includes a boxed lunch and t-shirt. Learn about the technology involved in real-life crime solving situations! Put your own problem-solving skills to the test! The Registration deadline is April 8. Contact Nancy Wilhelm at 860-486-4127 nancy.wilhelm@uconn.edu or Pamela Gray, 860-373-0357 pamela.gray@uconn.edu.

Rhode Island 4-H Sheep Day

Have a sheep project? Want to learn more? Consider attending Sheep Day sponsored by Rhode Island 4-H. This fun day of workshops will take place from 9am-1pm on April 16 and is open to 4-H and non-4-H youth ages 5-18. Participate and learn about handling, vet tips, creating items from wool and more. The workshop will be held at the Washington County Fairgrounds on Richmond Townhouse Road in Richmond RI. Register by April 11 to be eligible for door prizes. Go touri.edu/4H

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



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