



UMass Extension 4-H Program

March 31, 2023

Upcoming 4-H Calendar of Events

Date	Title	Time & Location	Registration Information
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	
4/2	State 4-H Livestock Judging	Zoom 7:00 PM	
4/5	VP Awards Ceremony	Zoom 6:30 PM	
4/8	Spring Planting Workshop & Mansion Tour	Borderland State Park 1:00-3:30 PM	Planting Workshop Registration
4/10	4-H Discovery Club Meeting	Zoom 7:00 PM	New Interest Link
4/11	Horse Chat	Zoom 7:00 PM	
4/12	Ag Day at the State House	MA State House, Boston	
4/12	Career Exploration Series	Zoom 7:00 PM	Registration Link
4/19	State 4-H Horse Advisory	Zoom 7:00 PM	
4/29	Spring Spectacular	Middlesex County Fairgrounds	
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	
7/22	Hampden County Fair	ESE, Mallory Building West Springfield, 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
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 from 1-3:30 PM** 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, Borderland State Park staff 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



Spring Spectacular

Learn about 4-H from 4-Hers, and more... The Middlesex Advisory Council (MAC) is hosting their second annual Spring Spectacular on **April 29th, 2023 at the Middlesex County Fairgrounds** located at 55 S. Chelmsford Rd. Westford, MA. This event will raise money to support the MAC 4-H Scholarship Program.

Come and check out baby animals, 4-H member presentations and demonstrations, cake walks, live entertainment and craft vendors (some vendors may accept multiple payment methods)! Grab some food and your whole family and join us for a full day of fun and memory-making!

Admission: \$5 per person \$20 per family (cash only)

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.

Hampden County Fair

Save the date for the 70th Anniversary of the Hampden County 4-H Fair at the Mallary Complex at the Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield, MA on July 22nd. Stay tuned for details!

Animal Science Programs & Updates

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.

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

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>

Horse Chat

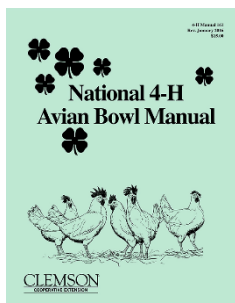
Join us on April 11th at 7:00pm on Zoom for the next Horse Chat. Horse Chat is a monthly program that brings you voices from the horse world. Bring your questions and learn from experts and fellow horse lovers!

New England 4-H Horse Show

Youth interested in participating in the New England Horse Show must submit a Horse Verification Form by April 10th on the horse they plan on showing at this event. Teen helpers are also welcome.

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 24-25, 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.

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.

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

Scholarship Opportunities



If you have received your college acceptance letter, now is the time to start researching scholarship opportunities. To assist you, we have listed some of the available 4-H scholarships on the [MA 4-H website](#).

Scholarships may also be available if you are a member of an organization, such as a fair, agricultural group, livestock association or science group. Another site to explore is the [Massachusetts scholarship listing](#). Plus, reach out to friends who are in college to give you advice.

Good luck to all of our school seniors as you apply for scholarships – “Apply early, apply often!”

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.

Farm and Garden Camp

Want to get your hands dirty while teaching kids and having fun? Come work at Farm and Garden Camp at the Hampshire College Farm Center! We pride ourselves on providing an environment for staff that enables personal and professional growth, a sense of community, and skill development as an educator. Farm and Garden Camp is hiring Instructors, Apprentices and CITs for this summer's staff. The camp is located at Hampshire College, near to PVT bus routes and operates through July and August.

Instructor job descriptions and information about paid Teen Programs (Apprenticeships and CITs) can be found here [on the website](#).

Farm and Garden Camp is a program of The Farm Education Collaborative (TFEC). TFEC designs and delivers authentic agricultural experiences that nurture the connections between families, farms, and food in the Pioneer Valley. Please direct your questions to Leigh Witzling, Camp Director, at farmcampdirector@gmail.com.

Celebrating 4-H Youth & Volunteers!

Essex County Awards Ceremony

Essex County celebrated their annual 4-H Awards Night on March 7th at the Topsfield Fair Grounds. The evening was sponsored by the Essex Agricultural Society in cooperation with the UMass Extension 4-H Program, the Essex County 4-H Advisory Council, and several local corporate sponsors honoring the 4-H community. Over the course of the evening thirty-three 4-H youth members and several volunteers from Essex County were recognized.

While all our volunteers deserve special recognition two Essex County Volunteers achieved significant 4-H volunteer milestones: Linda Agersea, for 30 years as the Topsfield Fair 4-H Activity Leader and Joan Lagasse, for achieving 50 years as an Essex County 4-H volunteer.

Joan is the Leader of Woodland Wanderers, a member of the Essex County 4-H Advisory Council, and Fair Chair of the Topsfield Fair Department. In addition to Joan being a 50-year volunteer, she is also a 4-H alum having spent 12 years as a youth member of 4-H. Congratulations to Joan on receiving the Distinguished Service Award sponsored by the Essex County Advisory Council.

Congratulations to these 4-H members for their great leadership, community service, and commitment to others and to our volunteers for their efforts to make events happen every day that foster 4-H positive youth development for the region!



Joan Lagasse, 50-year 4-H Volunteer

Massachusetts State 4-H Horse Round Up



Congratulations to Horse Project youth from across the state who competed in the 4-H Horse Round-up on March 25th and 26th! Over 50 youth participated over two days in the Horse Judging, Hippology, and Horse Bowl Competitions. The Horse Communications Contest is being held April 1st. Regional Horse Teams will be announced following the completion of that event. Stay tuned!

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. [Club Grant for New 4-H Clubs Form](#)

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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