

UMass Extension 4-H Program

March 3, 2023

Upcoming 4-H Calendar of Events

Date	Title	Time & Location	Registration Information
3/4	Regional VP Day	Zoom 9:00 AM	Registration closed
3/10	Regional VP Day	Zoom 5:00 PM	Registration closed
3/8	Career Explorations	Zoom 7:00 PM	https://bit.ly/CES3-8-23
3/10	Poultry Workshop Series	Zoom 6:30 PM	<u>ccsears@umass.edu</u>
3/11	Livestock Judging Series	Zoom 7:00 PM	<u>ccsears@umass.edu</u>
3/12	Regional VP Day (if needed)	Zoom 9:00 AM	Registration closed
3/14	STEAM Festival Awards	Zoom 7:00 PM	
3/14	Author Book Talk	Zoom 6:00 PM	<u>please email your request</u> here
3/15	State 4-H Horse Advisory Committee	Zoom 7:00 PM	ccsears@umass.edu
3/17	Dairy Clinics & Dinner	Mallory Arena –11:00 AM	ccsears@umass.edu
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	<u>ccsears@umass.edu</u>
3/20	4-H Discovery Club Meeting	Zoom 7:00 PM	New Interest Link
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 Zoom	Zoom 7:00 PM	
4/1	Sr State 4-H Horse VPs	TBD	ccsears@umass.edu
4/1	State VP Day	Zoom 9:00 AM	
4/5	VP Awards Ceremony	Zoom 6:30 PM	
4/10	4-H Discovery Club Meeting	Zoom 7:00 PM	New Interest Link
5/15	4-H Discovery Club Meeting	Zoom 7:00 PM	New Interest Link

Approaching Deadlines

Event/Application	Deadline	Link or Contact Info
4-H Camp Middlesex Barnyard Counselor	until filled	4-H Camp Middlesex Application
Western MA Winter Workshops	3/13	https://bit.ly/wM4Hww
Kent Lage Scholarship Application	3/15	Kent-Lage-Leadership-Award-Application_23.pdf
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
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
Horse Verification Form for NE 4-H Horse Show	4/10	Horse Verification Form
Verification forms due: Dairy Cattle, Beef Cattle,	5/1	Livestock Verification Form, Livestock Lease
and Working Steers		Form, Beef Lease Form
Verification forms due: Goat, Sheep, Llama, Alpaca	6/1	Livestock Verification Form, Livestock Lease
and Swine, Dog		Form, Dog Verification Form



Ag Day Update

Ag Day at the Massachusetts State House is on April 12th. MDAR and Farm Bureau plan the event. 4-H will have a presence and we are finalizing details. A special email and communication will come out early next week.

Visual Presentations

Best of luck to all UMass Extension 4-H Youth who are participating in Regional Visual Presentations this Saturday, 3/4, Friday 3/10, and Sunday 3/12! If you have questions regarding the VP program or would like to log on to support your club members, please contact Molly Vollmer at <u>mvollmer@umext.umass.edu</u>. Information will be coming out soon regarding the date and time of the Zoom awards ceremony for Regional VPs.



Get Involved!

Western Mass Winter Workshops

Join us on March 18th in the UMass 4-H Western Region office building to participate in the 2023 Winter Workshops! Workshops are free to enrolled UMass 4-H'ers, volunteers, and family members across the state. The window and poster contests are open to Western MA 4-Hers only.

<u>Register</u> for Winter Workshops by Monday, March 13! Register early, some workshops have participation size limits! Workshops will be led by 4-H volunteers and 4-H members from all 4 Western MA counties & Worcester/Central 4-H too! State 4-H STEM Educator, Kim Pond, will also be running a couple of sessions.

Workshop Offerings:

- 9-10 AM: Microgreens The Power of Lil' Greens!, Beginner Quilting, 4-H Pledge in American Sign Language, Poultry 102: Breeding & Hatching, Food Safety for Food Booths.
- 10:15-11:15 AM : Fishy Science, Hand Sewing 101, Piece it together, Poultry 103: Q & A, Basic First Aid
- **11:30 AM 12:30 PM:** Sinking & Floating, Fabric Origami Star, Showing Your Model Horse, Backyard Rabbits 101, SereniTEA: Backyard Foraging-Mindfulness Meditation

A more detailed description of each workshop is included in the registration before you make your choices.

UMass Extension Career Exploration Series

Do you know of a youth interested in the business world? What does it mean to be a "Trader"? How can Traders affect the cost of your livestock feed? Can you imagine pretending to be a drug smuggler and trying to fly past the U.S. Coast Guard without being noticed?!

Join us for a presentation by Brian Hand, Wall Street Trader & Pilot , Wednesday 3/8 from 7-8 PM via Zoom. Register for Brian Hand's presentation at: <u>https://bit.ly/CES3-8-23</u>

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 <u>Click here for Application details</u>. 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!

Author Event: Leah Penniman, with Black Earth Wisdom

Tuesday, March 14, 2023 - 6:00pm to 7:00pm: Book talk with Leah Penniman, author of the new book, *Black Earth Wisdom: Soulful Conversations with Black Environmentalists*, as well as *Farming While Black*, and co-founder of Soul Fire Farm in Grafton, NY. Get more information and register for the Zoom link here: https://www.battenkillbooks.com/event/author-event-leah-penniman-black-earth-wisdom



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. <u>Apply here</u>. For more information, <u>contact Jessica Briley</u>, Hiring Manager at 4-H Camp Middlesex. For more information about the camp, visit <u>campmiddlesex.com</u>.

4-H Summer STEM Ambassadors

Are you looking to work with youth this summer? Do you believe in the power of hands-on learning? <u>Apply</u> 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
- <u>Beef Lease Form</u> (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 <u>ccsears@umass.edu</u>

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/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/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/2013_judging_rules_procedures.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://ndsu.zoom.us/.../register/WN_2NNJ6d9uR_gZ4sjxnNkITw

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 <u>kima@umass.edu</u>

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.

The NASA HEAT Helio-Club is written for a virtual club platform but can be modified as an in-person club. Each club session is estimated to take approximately 2 hours.

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



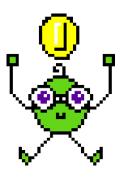
2023 UMass 4-H STEAM Festival

Good luck to all 4-H members who submitted entries! Festival entries are now closed. Save the date for the STEAM Festival Awards via Zoom on 3/14. For new 4-H families and others who want to join us to see this year's winning entries, please reach out to Kim Pond <u>kima@umass.edu</u> for the link to view the awards.

NERD Summit

Are you interested in Technology? Check out the NERD Summit at UMass Amherst **March 17-19**.

The 3-day, jam-packed schedule for NERD Summit 2023 is now posted. Find topics from code camp, drawing with pixels, Lego and learning, websites and more! <u>Click here</u> to review the schedule, order tickets, get hotel and parking info, and more!



Girls Who Code Opportunities



Girls Who Code invites current high school students who identify as girls or non-binary to apply for their *free summer programs*:

- **2-week, introductory Summer Immersion Program (SIP)** hosts current 9th-11th graders in live, virtual classrooms led by industry-leading companies like EA, Pfizer, and ViacomCBS. Students learn HTML, CSS, and JavaScript while getting an inside look into the tech industry. Plus, all SIP students can apply for grants up to \$500.
- Self-Paced Program offers independent study and real-world projects for current 9th-12th graders to earn beginner-level badges in HTML, CSS, and JavaScript for web development or an intermediate-level badge in Python for cybersecurity.

All participants can also access exclusive alumni benefits and career support for life, including preinternship programs, Hiring Summit, virtual mentoring, and GWC Talks webinars for career tips and strategies.

Apply to one or all our programs with the same form! Programs are available June 17 - August 12. Learn more <u>on our website</u> or <u>in a webinar</u>, and <u>apply here as soon as possible</u>! Students get priority consideration when they apply by **February 16, 2022**. Regular-decision applications are due by **March 18, 2022**.

Community Service Opportunities

Community Service Round-Up

Link for Leaders! Club Leaders, please complete this <u>brief survey</u> 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.



GotSneakers Fundraiser



Madelyn Germain, a junior at Norfolk County Agricultural High School and a member of the 4-H Discovery Club, is doing a <u>GotSneakers</u> Fundraiser. GotSneakers is an organization that collects and recycles old athletic sneakers to help the environment. Their work helps to reduce CO_2 emissions released in the manufacturing process, reduce the release of toxic chemicals from incinerating sneakers thrown away, and reduce the number of sneakers that sit in landfills never breaking down. Every pair of sneakers donated will earn a certain amount of money no matter the condition. We will happily take a pair of old, worn-out sneakers that are no good anymore, sneakers that are too small, or new sneakers that you don't quite like!

The proceeds will go to <u>The Trustees of Reservations</u>. The Trustees of Reservations are a non-profit organization that works to conserve and preserve over 100 natural and

historic places in Massachusetts. The Trustees protect a variety of sites including hiking trails, historic places, beautiful gardens, and farms for the public to explore and enjoy. Check it out, you might have a site in your town!

There will be a donation box at each of the 4H offices and at Kemp Hall at the Norfolk Agricultural High School. We can't wait to receive your donations!

News from National 4-H

JoAnn Fabrics

Did you know JoAnn Fabrics partners with 4-H? <u>Click here</u> 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 <u>enter</u> 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** <u>Club Grant for New 4-H Clubs Form</u>

Kent Lage Leadership Scholarship

Two scholarships are awarded annually to 4-H members or alumni who have demonstrated outstanding leadership qualities. The award was made possible by Charlesbank Capital Partners and is in memory of Kent A. Lage, a lifelong supporter of 4-H and President of the Foundation's Board of Trustees from 2012-2016. Applications for the Award are now open and **due March 15, 2023**. <u>Kent-Lage-Leadership-Award-Application_23.pdf</u>

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**



4-H Health Safety Policy

Winter is upon us and so is cold, flu, and respiratory illness season. We are taking this time to remind you of the UMass Amherst Covid Policy and to clarify expectations.

UMass 4-H Policy on testing positive for Covid and isolating as consistent with UMass Amherst Policy: <u>https://www.umass.edu/coronavirus/isolation-and-quarantine-guide</u>

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.

Days to Isolate:

- Day 0, first day of symptoms OR day the positive test was taken, whichever is earlier
- Days 1-4, continue to isolate
- Day 5, last day of isolation if asymptomatic or symptoms are improving
- 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 – <u>ccsears@umext.umass.edu</u> Angelica Diaz-Heyman, 4-H Educator – <u>angelica@umext.umass.edu</u> Lauren DuBois, Urban 4-H Educator – <u>ldubois@umext.umass.edu</u> Lizmarie Ulloa, Urban 4-H Program Assistant – <u>llopezortiz@umext.umass.edu</u>

Central Southeast MA Office: Worcester, Norfolk, & Bristol Counties

7 Midstate Drive, Suite 102; Auburn MA 01501

Cynthia A. Bushey, Southeast Region 4-H Educator – <u>cabushey@umass.edu</u> Kim Henderson, Southeast Region Administrative Assistant – <u>khenderson@umext.umass.edu</u> Meg McDermott, State 4-H Interim Director & Worcester County 4-H Educator – <u>memcdermott@umass.edu</u> Martina Jasiewicz, Worcester County Administrative Assistant – <u>mjasiewicz@umext.umass.edu</u> Kim Pond, 4-H SET Program Manager – <u>kima@umext.umass.edu</u>

Northeastern MA Office: Essex, Middlesex & Suffolk Counties

UMass Mt. Ida Campus, Miller Hall; 100 Carlson Avenue, Newton, MA 02459 Heather Thibodeau, 4-H Educator – <u>hthibodeau@umass.edu</u> Va Shon Wallace-Hiltpold, 4-H Educator – <u>vawallace@umext.umass.edu</u> Debbie Beaubien, Administrative Assistant – <u>debbieb@umext.umass.edu</u> Nancy McCarthy, Program Assistant – <u>nmccarthy@umext.umass.edu</u>

Plymouth County Office: Plymouth County

44 Obery Street, Plymouth MA 02360 Molly Vollmer, 4-H Educator: <u>mvollmer@umext.umass.edu</u> Cathy Acampora, 4-H Educator: <u>acampora@umext.umass.edu</u> Meghan Riley, Ag Extension Educator: <u>mriley@plymouthcountyma.org</u> Cheryl Mechan, Administrative Assistant: <u>cmechan@umass.edu</u>

Barnstable County Office: Barnstable County

Box 367, Barnstable MA 02630 Sandi Shepherd-Gay, Barnstable County Youth Extension Educator: <u>sandi.shepherdgay@barnstablecounty.org</u> Laura Notarangelo, Administrative Assistant: <u>laura.notarangelo@barnstablecounty.org</u>

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: <u>https://ag.umass.edu/mass4h</u> and <u>https://www.facebook.com/Mass4H/</u>. Archived editions can be found at https://ag.umass.edu/mass4h. The NewsBlast is sent to family emails unless specific requests are made.

