



UMass Extension 4-H Program

March 4, 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 – Re-Enrolling

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>

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.

Visual Presentations Start This Weekend

The Annual VP program contests begin this weekend. All county and state Visual Presentation events statewide will be held by Zoom in 2022. If you have registered and have not received your zoom link, be sure to contact your local 4-H office by Friday afternoon!

Berkshire, Bristol, Franklin, Hampden, Hampshire, Norfolk, and Worcester Counties – Event will take place on March 5. Those who have registered should have received their zoom link.

Plymouth and Barnstable County VP's – Event will take place on March 5. Contact your local 4-H office for assistance if needed.

Middlesex County VP's will take place on March 12. Check with the 4-H office if you need any assistance.

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

The judging of the 2022 STEAM Festival has begun and all those who entered will receive a link to the awards ceremony on Monday March 14th at 7pm. If you are a new member and thinking about the STEAM Festival for next year and want to check it out reach out to Kim Pond at kima@umass.edu for the link. We will also be highlighting projects on our Facebook page and in future news blasts and from what we have seen so far these youth will amaze you.

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

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 7 – 6:30pm – Regional 4-H Horse Meeting
March 8 – 7:00pm – Zoom - Class Lists for 4-H Fairs Q&A
March 10 – 7:00pm Zoom – Horse Chat with Meg Gennings (Former 4-H member, former lecturer at UNH and now UMass and Equine Barn Manager) Insights on the Horse Industry
March 18 & 19 – MA 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

Livestock and Dog Classes for 4-H Fairs in 2022 Zoom

[Join us on Zoom on March 8th at 7:00pm for a Q&A on the class lists for 4-H fairs.](https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/97315449005) The link is <https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/97315449005>

NEW INFORMATION RE: Avian Influenza – Important for all with poultry

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.

2022 State 4-H Horse Roundup

Horse Judging – March 20th – Coggins Creek Farm, Westfield, MA

Hippology & Horse Bowl – April 23rd – St. William's, Tewksbury, MA. Youth qualifying for a contest(s) will receive a notification from their county horse leader.

UConn 4-H Goat Workshop

[UConn 4-H Goat Day 2022 is scheduled for April 2nd in Ratcliffe Hicks Arena, Storrs, CT.](#) This program is open to 4-H youth and volunteers from across New England. The registration deadline is March 9th. Early registration is encouraged, as registration will be closed once capacity is reached. COVID-19 may cancel or change plans for this program and UConn COVID guidelines will be adhered to for this program.

Registration Packet is available at s.uconn.edu/goatday22

Online registration can be completed at s.uconn.edu/4Hgoatday

Massachusetts 4-H Rabbit Workshop

Due to Covid, we had to reschedule our in-person workshop. We have the new scheduled date of May 7th at the Eastern States Exposition Fairgrounds in West Springfield, MA. Some workshops may vary from our January workshop series. Watch your email for the registration link.

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/3mXgqwn	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.

4-H Records – Opportunity to Review and Revise Records

The 4-H staff has been working to revise our 4-H records process and is looking for your help! Would you have time to be part of a Focus Group to review these documents?

What is a focus group? A focus group is a group of people who meet to discuss a pre-selected topic which is of interest to them. Those in a focus group help to provide opinions or insight about a topic.

The 4-H team has already met with a previous focus group. They were able to provide some suggestions and ideas to the 4-H staff to create updated 4-H record sheet drafts. We are now asking for additional individuals who are interested in reviewing those drafts and helping to provide suggestions for the next set of draft documents.

Current 4-H members, leaders, and parents are invited to be part of this focus group. You must **register no later than Friday, March 4th** if you would like to participate. Focus group sessions will be held on either **Sunday, March 6th at 7 PM or Monday, March 7th at 7 PM** using this link: <https://forms.office.com/r/g9fM4uXxTa>. You would only participate in one session.

We can't wait to see you there! If you have any questions, please reach out to Cynthia Bushey at cabushey@umass.edu.

Art Program for ages 10-13

Join in this new opportunity where 4-H Youth participants will work in design teams with UMass undergraduate art students to design prototypes of digital apps. This hands-on, interactive exploration of design thinking is for 4-H members ages 10-13. Most sessions will be held virtually, with one in-person Saturday session held at the UMass Amherst campus.

Teams will work on a design challenge where they will create a prototype of a mobile app that solves a problem or need. Brainstorming with their team, 4-H members will create a design based on community interests or to solve a problem. Their final product may be a learning aid or game as examples; the sky is the limit! Materials needed are a

laptop or desktop computer with Internet and access to Zoom. Mobile phones can also be used to test your prototype. All other *Design-a-thon* workshop materials will be provided by UMass.

To register for this unique program, go to: <https://bit.ly/3HyLqJy>

Did You Know.....

All 4-H clubs and groups in Massachusetts must complete certain paperwork and documents in order to be an official 4-H entity. All clubs, advisory groups, and fair groups must have completed and signed Articles of Organization and Authorization of Subordinate paperwork filed in the State 4-H office in Hadley. They also must have a current EIN number. As part of UMass 4-H, all registered and approved 4-H clubs and groups are overseen by UMass Extension and are considered to have tax-exempt status for 4-H clubs.

Tax exempt status for authorized 4-H clubs and groups means that these groups are exempt from paying any federal or state income tax on funds raised or collected. This is why the annual IRS filing needs to occur. However, this status does not mean that clubs are exempt from paying any state or local taxes such as sales tax when purchasing items. The person authorized to make purchases for your club still is required to pay sales tax. Although the employees of the University may have the ability to obtain a tax exemption when purchasing items for the 4-H program, this does not extend to clubs or volunteers.

Each club or group should have a copy of their original Articles of Organization and Authorization of Subordinate paperwork. If your group has misplaced theirs or needs assistance, please reach out to Linda Horn.

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.

Out of State 4-H Opportunities

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!

Safety Measures and Precautions

Many COVID policies and regulations are changing very quickly at this point in time. Although local towns and schools may be lifting mask mandates, we are currently following the UMass guidance which may be different than the state guidance. This may change by next week, so please continue to be patient and watch for updates!

Current Guidance:

UMass Extension 4-H continues to require that masks be worn in any UMass building, including 4-H offices.

All Indoor 4-H club meetings or events: All adult volunteers, parents present, and youth members are required to wear masks at any 4-H indoor club meetings or events, no matter the location, age of members, or vaccination status. Food is not allowed at meetings.

Any outdoor 4-H club meetings or event: Masks are not required if an event or meeting is held outdoors and if the location allows for proper social distancing. However, any individuals who feel more comfortable wearing a mask is still able to do so.

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, Halden Hall; 100 Carlson Avenue, Newton, MA 02459

VaShon Wallace-Hiltbold, Acting 4-H Educator – vwallace@umext.umass.edu
Pam LeFave, Program Assistant – plfave@umext.umass.edu
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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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