



UMass Extension 4-H Program

September 23, 2022

Email NewsBlast

MA 4-H State Update



September Fairs

Topsfield Fair: September 30-October 10 (4-H Day on Oct 8th), 207 Boston St, Topsfield, MA

The Big E: September 16-October 2, 1305 Memorial Ave, West Springfield, MA 01089

Upcoming Big E Events

September 23-26 – New England 4-H Beef Show and Sale at the Big E, West Springfield, MA. Sale – September 26 at 6:00pm Mallary Arena 1

September 29-October 1 – New England 4-H Dairy Goat Show – Mallary Arena 2

September 30-October 2 – New England 4-H Sheep Show – Mallary Arena 2

September 30-October 2 – New England 4-H Dog Show – Mallary Arena 1

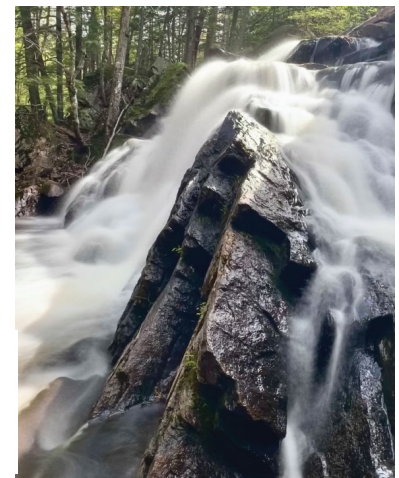


Olive G
Age 11
Western Mass Region
Fly Chicken Fly!

The UMass 4-H State 4-H Photography contest encourages self-expression and creativity. The 4-H members who participate demonstrate many skills, including the use of photographic equipment, photo composition, photography resolution, and creativity. Over the next few weeks, we will feature the twelve Big E Quality Photos selected by the judges of this competition. These photos are on display in the New England Center at the Eastern States Exposition (The Big E) throughout the 17 days of the fair. If you are visiting, stop in to see the photos in person.



Rylie B
Age 8
Northeast Region
A Day at Rockport



Kelli S
Age 18
Northeast Region
Purgatory Falls

Animal Science Programs & Updates

National 4-H Dairy Conference

The National 4-H Dairy Conference is October 1-5 in Madison, WI.

Poultry Ban Lifted

Effective September 19th, the ban on poultry shows, swaps, and sales has been lifted for 4-H events. The Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (H5N1) has dropped off but may rise again when birds start migrating. We will watch the situation carefully and work with our State Health Inspectors.

Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease (RHDV2)

Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease is a fatal disease in rabbits and is considered a foreign animal disease in the United States. This disease is caused by several virus strains. Animal health officials detected one of these strains, Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus Serotype 2 (RHDV2), in North America in the past few years.

In our area, ARBA (American Rabbit Breeders Association) has canceled shows due to it being found in a rabbit in Hartford County, CT. News release: <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/News-Releases/News-Releases---2022/The-CT-Dept-of-Agriculture-Confirms-Incidence-of-Rabbit-Hemorrhagic-Disease-Virus-in-Hartford-County>

Be sure to contact Carrie Sears with any animal science questions at ccsears@umext.umass.edu

Get Ready and Get Involved!

The 2022-2023 4-H Year will begin October 15th. New member enrollment forms are available at regional 4-H offices and 4honline will reopen for returning member registrations on October 17th.

Youth Programs

Teen Ambassador Program

4-H Teen Ambassadors, ages 13-18, work together to carry out the 4-H Teen Ambassadors program's mission to promote 4-H in MA using their skills, knowledge, and leadership abilities. The 4-H Teen Ambassador Program allows teens to strengthen 4-H through education, recruitment, and public relations. We are currently looking for 4-H Teen Ambassadors for the 2022-2023 4-H year. Does this sound like something for you or a teen 4-H member in your club? If yes, attend one of the Zoom information sessions on 10/11, 10/18, or 10/20 from 7-8 PM. Register here: <https://forms.gle/y1QC1zbnGkzfbCkz6>

Statewide 4-H Discovery Club

New this year! Youth across MA have an opportunity to connect with each other and with 4-H Educators and talented adult volunteers to explore interesting topics and engage in 4-H programs across the state. The 4-H Discovery Club will meet monthly via Zoom and is open to youth who are new to 4-H as well as youth already enrolled in their local clubs throughout the state. Our first meeting will be on **October 17th**. For more information on how to join, contact Cynthia Bushey at cabushey@umass.edu.

Welcome to 4-H!

The Welcome Zoom Session is for families who are newly connected to a 4-H group or club. Meet 4-H staff as they share an overview of the Massachusetts 4-H program, including opportunities and resources available for your family to have an incredible experience in 4-H. If you are a returning member who joined within the last year, we would love to see you too! Register here: <https://forms.gle/9oK3BYmLPqcnruMu9>.

4-H Safe at Home Program

Are you 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 Tuesdays from 4:30-6 PM, starting Sept. 20th, through Oct. 11th, 2022. This series is designed for all youth ages 10 and older. Register here: <https://forms.gle/RBTmuWg2Q5oD3vox5>

Volunteer & Club Opportunities

4-H Club Grant Opportunity

The Massachusetts 4-H Foundation is pleased to be able to provide club grants to enrolled 4-H clubs and programs in Massachusetts. Grants are available for clubs' special projects or needs which support the 4-H educational program and 4-H priorities.

Grants are not awarded for travel expenses, community service projects, tee shirts, etc. The amount of each grant awarded will be based on the merit of the project and the number of people served. Clubs with 4 - 8 members will qualify for up to \$100, 9 to 15 members up to \$300, over 15 members up to \$500. Clubs are eligible for one grant per calendar year.

Grants will be awarded quarterly. Applications will be reviewed on March 31, June 30, **September 30** and December 31. If all allocated funds are awarded before the end of the calendar year, applicants will be notified and invited to resubmit their requests the following year.

Please contact Kathy Harvey-Ellis, Marketing & Communications Associate, with any questions: kellis@mass4hfoundation.org. To review the application or submit one, go to <https://form.jotform.com/61925692127158>

Leader Meetings for New and Returning Leaders

We are excited about the upcoming 4-H year! 4-H works best when we work together. All counties are strongly encouraging 4-H club leaders and co-leaders to attend one of two 4-H leader meetings in October. These meetings will be a time for leaders to connect with each other, ask questions about policies and procedures, and gather and share information about the upcoming 2022-2023 4-H Year.

Program Dates:

Thursday, October 13th 6:30 PM-8:00 PM via Zoom

Saturday, October 22nd 10:30 AM-12:00 PM at the Auburn 4-H Extension Office

Please register here: <https://forms.office.com/r/Ge4knTBSbz>

Make the Connection: Home School & 4-H

Does your family homeschool or do you have friends who do? Join us via Zoom on October 5th at 7 PM to talk with club leaders whose families or club members have decided to integrate 4-H into their homeschool experience. Register here to participate: <https://bit.ly/3RXFZZO>. If you are one of these families and would like to help lead the discussion, contact Angelica Diaz-Heyman at angelica@umext.umass.edu.

Make the Connection:
HOME SCHOOL & 4-H

October 5
7:00 PM
Zoom

Please join us on Wednesday, Oct. 5, 7:00 PM (EDT)
Free, registration required: <https://bit.ly/3RXFZZO>

- > Meet UMass 4-H Staff.
- > Meet home school parents involved with 4-H.
- > Meet home school youth that are 4-H members.
- > Learn how 4-H curriculum fits in with the state standards & how current families utilize it.

ASK QUESTIONS!

4-H Youth Development
UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST

2022 National 4-H STEM Challenge

The 2022 National 4-H STEM Challenge focuses on the mysteries and adventures of ocean exploration – with robots! Learn to explore Earth's Ocean and how it relates to all life on the planet using STEM. Check out the lab at <https://rucool.marine.rutgers.edu/>. These and other science kits and 4-H curriculum are available for clubs to sign out and use with their youth. Contact your regional 4-H Office or Kim Pond for more information.

Around the Regions...

Central-Southeast Region

SAVE THE DATE: Welcome Back Picnic & Field Day for all families in Bristol & Norfolk Counties, Saturday October 15th at Wrentham Developmental Center. Details to follow. Contact Cynthia Bushey with questions at cabushey@umass.edu

Western Region

Berkshire County 4-H Scholarship

Are you a Berkshire 4-H Alum? Are you in college, attending a trade school, or going for a certification? Did you know you may be eligible for a \$500 scholarship...no matter how long ago your membership was?

DEADLINE TO APPLY IS SEPTEMBER 30, 2022.

Application and guidelines here: <https://bit.ly/Berk4Hscholarship>

National 4-H News & Opportunities

American Idol Auditions!

Did you know that American Idol hosts special auditions for 4-H members? Get those vocal chords warmed up! See <https://4-h.org/about/blog/abcs-american-idol-and-4-h-collaborate-for-second-virtual-audition-day/> for more information and start picking your audition songs!

National 4-H Week

October 2-8 is National 4-H Week! Wear your 4-H t-shirt and show your 4-H pride!

This week is an especially good time to spread the word about 4-H in your community. What will your club do this week? You could volunteer at a local food bank, pet shelter, or other local organization, write cards or letters to residents of a long term care facility, present on a 4-H project outside your local Tractor Supply. Remember, if your club is conducting fundraisers, going on a field trip, or holding a demonstration or presentation during this week, or throughout the year, check in with your local 4-H educator to be sure they know your plans.



UMass Extension 4-H Program Safety Precautions

4-H clubs and groups are able to meet with no mask restrictions at this time. 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.

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 community.

Miss the Last Blast?

If you missed our previous edition, please follow [this link](#) to learn more about the following topics: Details about 4-H year start date and staffing updates, 4-H Club Financial Reports, National Sewing Month Activities, Acorn-collecting Citizen Science Opportunity

UMass Extension 4-H Offices and Contact Information

Be sure to contact the office or person you plan to meet with prior to visiting to ensure the office is open. 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

Western MA: Franklin, Hampshire, Hampden and Berkshire Counties

100 Venture Way, Suite 334; Hadley MA 01035

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 and Southeastern MA:

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

Heather Thibodeau, 4-H Educator – hthibodeau@umass.edu

Va Shon Wallace-Hiltbold, 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

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.
