

4-H Youth
Development
Program

4-H
News



WESTERN REGION
Spring 2017

UPCOMING EVENTS.....

April

- 3 Hampden County 4-H Fair meeting, 7:00 P.M.
Western Massachusetts Hospital, 91 East Mountain Road, Westfield
- 8 4-H Promotion Belchertown Tractor Supply
- 9 Spring Clinic and Horse Lovers Fun Day Sponsored by the PV Horse Fever 4-H Club
Call the 4-H office at 413-545-0611 for more information.
Lower Maple Crescent Stable, 59 Crescent Street, Granby
- 9 Horse Fever 4-H Club Spring Clinic & Horse Lover Fund Day
Email pioneervalleyhorsefever@gmail.com for more information
Lower Maple Crescent Stable, 59 Crescent Street, Granby
- 10 Berkshire 4-H Fair Association Meeting, 6:30 P.M. Brattle Farm, 600 Williams Street, Pittsfield
- 11 Hampden County 4-H Horse Council meeting, 7:00 P.M. Elm Pizza, Westfield
- 13 Berkshire Window/Poster entries due
- 13 Hampshire County 4-H Fair meeting, 7:00 P.M. Michaels, Rt. 9, Hadley
- 14 Hawlemont Regional Elementary School, Visual Presentations Day
- 15 Serve-Safe Training for 4-H volunteers, 9:00 A.M.-4:00 P.M. Hadley Senior Center, Middle Street
- 16-29 Berkshire Window/Poster contest
- 17 Hampshire County 4-H Awards Banquet, 6:00-9:00 P.M.
Bluebonnet Diner, 324 King Street, Northampton
- 20 Franklin County 4-H Advisory Council meeting, 6:30 P.M.
Montague Police & Fire Station, 180 Turnpike Road
- 21 Game Dinner to support the establishment of a new 4-H club, 6:00 – 9:00 P.M.
See the newsletter for additional information Dean Technical/Vocational High School, 6:00-9:00 P.M.
- 22 4-H Promotion, 9:00 A.M.-Noon Greenfield Savings Bank, Turners Falls
- 22 4-H Promotion, 10 A.M.-4:00 P.M. Earth Day, Amherst Town Commons
- 25 Berkshire Volunteer Association meeting, 7:00 P.M. Brattle Farm, 600 Williams Street, Pittsfield
- 29 Hawlemont Regional Elementary School HAY Conference, 9:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M.
10 School Street, Charlemont
- 29-30 State 4-H Horse Round-Up: **Hippology and Horse Bowl** contests will be held on **Saturday April 29th** at
St. Williams School in Tewksbury, MA. Judging will be at Hillside Meadows Equestrian Center in
Grafton, MA on the 30th. Go to <http://ag.umass.edu/mass4h/programs/animal-science-program/horses/contests-rules-resources> for more information

- May**
- 1 Hampden County 4-H Fair Meeting, 7:00 P.M.
Western Massachusetts Hospital, 91 East Mountain Road, Westfield
 - 5 Southwick Hybrids 4-H Club Visual Presentations Workshop
 - 7 Farm Equipment Auction, Berkshire County 4-H Fairgrounds, Utility Drive, Pittsfield
 - TBD Berkshire 4-H Fair Association meeting, 6:30 P.M. 4-H Fairgrounds, Utility Drive, Pittsfield
 - 9 Massachusetts 4-H Foundation Annual Meeting
 - 9 Hampden County 4-H Horse Council meeting, 7:00 P.M. Elm Pizza, Westfield
 - 18 Franklin County 4-H Advisory Council meeting, 6:30 P.M.
Montague Police & Fire Station, 180 Turnpike Road
 - 19 Hawlemont Regional Elementary School 4-H Awards Program
 - 20 State 4-H Teen Day, 9:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M. Metro West YMCA, 45 East Street, Hopkinton
 - 20-21 4-H Beef & Dairy Academy 3-County Fairgrounds, Northampton
 - 21 Great Barrington Kennel Club Barn Hunt Berkshire County 4-H Fairgrounds, Utility Drive, Pittsfield

- June**
- 5 Hampden County 4-H Fair Meeting, 7:00 P.M.
Western Massachusetts Hospital, 91 East Mountain Road, Westfield
 - 11 Westfield Riding Club 4-H and Open Horse Show
 - TBD Berkshire 4-H Fair Association Meeting, 6:30 P.M. Brattle Farm, 600 Williams Street, Pittsfield
 - 24 Franklin County 4-H Fair, Open to All Heath Fairgrounds

- July**
- TBD Berkshire 4-H Fair Association Meeting, 6:30 P.M. Brattle Farm, 600 Williams Street, Pittsfield
 - 7-9 Regional 4-H Horse Show 3-County Fairgrounds
 - 8 Hampshire County 4-H Fair Cummington Fairgrounds
 - 18 Massachusetts 4-H Foundation “Shirley Kane Memorial Golf Tournament”, Tee-off 10:00
Holden Hills Country Club, Main Street, Holden
 - 20 Franklin County 4-H Advisory Council meeting, 6:30 P.M.
Montague Police & Fire Station, 180 Turnpike Road
 - 29 Hampden County 4-H Fair & Horse Show Big E Grounds, Mallory Arena

- August**
- 6 Steerage Rock Riders 4-H Horse Show J&J Auction Acres, Brimfield
 - 11 Entries Due, Berkshire Youth Fair Berkshire 4-H Office
 - 17 Berkshire Youth Fair, Fairgrounds set up
 - 18 Berkshire Youth Fair, Fairgrounds set up
 - 18 Berkshire Youth Fair, Exhibit Hall entries due, 3:30-6:30 P.M. Berkshire County 4-H Fairgrounds
 - 19 77th Annual Berkshire Youth Fair, 9:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.
Berkshire County 4-H Fairgrounds, Utility Drive, Pittsfield

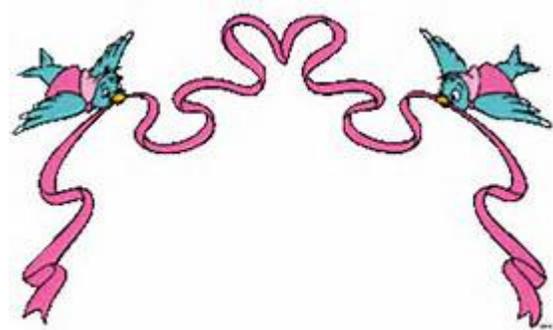


Western Massachusetts 4-H Staff



Thomas M. Waskiewicz,
Extension 4-H Educator
*Franklin, Hampden, and
Hampshire*

Slobody Building, Suite A4
101 University Drive
Amherst, MA 01002
Phone: 413-545-0611
Fax: 413-577-0760
Toll Free: 800-374-4446
Email: waskiewicz@umext.umass.edu



Angelica J. Paredes,
Extension 4-H Educator
Berkshire



78 Center Street, Suite 205
Pittsfield, MA 01201
Phone: 413-448-8285
Email:
angelica@umext.umass.edu



**Mary Phelon, 4-H Program
Assistant**
Franklin, Hampden, and Hampshire
Slobody Building, Suite A4
101 University Drive
Amherst, MA 01002
Phone: 413-577-0759
Fax: 413-577-0760
Toll Free: 800-374-4446

Email: mphelon@umext.umass.edu

Laurie Cadorette, 4-H Secretary
Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden, and Hampshire
78 Center Street, Suite 205
Pittsfield, MA 01201
Phone: 413-448-8285 or 413-577-0754
Fax: 413-577-0760

Email: lauriec@umext.umass.edu



From Berkshire 4-H

Berkshire 4-H Visual Presentations proves to be a FUN event!

Just like a few years ago, people were scrambling about trying to figure out what to do because Mother Nature dropped loads of snow on us causing everyone to have to reschedule their lives, and all for the same time! (At least that is how it feels.) Those who were able to keep 4-H V.P.s as part of their schedule for the day came to the event ready to shine; and shine they did! We were on the fields, in the oven, and under the ocean! The lights went out during one V.P., and someone's parent tied them to their chair. Everyone had fun, but the 4-H'ers who did their V.P.s should be incredibly proud of themselves. They were all great. However, only three shall go on to both States and Big E with their presentations. They are Fiora Caligiuri-Randall of Lee, Hope Motta and Faith Motta, both of North Adams. Congratulations and good luck on the next leg of your journey.



The Berkshire Youth Fair will be here before you know it!

Over the years, there have been two main types of people who stick out when it comes to fair entry time: those who work like a well-oiled machine, and those who do not. When talking to those who seem to have the process figured out, a pattern emerges. Many of these people say they start putting stuff away in a box, around now, things that they know they will be entering in the Berkshire Youth Fair and other fairs. Things like pictures they have taken or drawn; maybe something sewn, made of wood, a Breyer horse model, or a model rocket! Then right after you go to the Berkshire Mountains Faerie Festival and take pictures there, you can add them to the box (because we have a special category for supporting our own Berkshire events!). This way all non-perishable entries and non-living entries are set aside and ready to go.



North Adams S.W.A.T. 4-H Club WINS BERKSHIRE ROBOTICS CHALLENGE 2017!

They descended from the north knowing that this was their last competition as a team. Yes, their volunteer leader, Nathan Samson, had already announced that he would be hanging up his hat after almost a decade of bringing teams to the competition. (He'll still be around 4-H!) They showed up, one of 26 teams, among 180 youth from throughout Berkshire County, and put in their all. It payed off. They won! Not only did they win the competition, but they also won for Best Mechanical Design. Congratulations, we are all very proud of you!

Thomas Williams' 4-H Project goes to the Historical Society!

The Sheffield Historical Society will be hosting Thomas Williams' exhibit at the Old Stone Store from March 18 – April 23, weekends from 11 am – 4 pm. The items in the exhibit are all items that Thomas has gathered over time, researched and learned about displaying. To learn more about the exhibit or Thomas' Museum, check out: Exhibit - <http://sheffieldhistory.weebly.com/> Museum -



<http://www.berkshiremilitarymuseum.org/about.htm>
!



Barn Hunt Fun Trial at Berkshire County 4-H Fairgrounds - May 21st

The Great Barrington Kennel Club will be holding a Barn Hunt Fun Trial at the Berkshire County 4-H Fairgrounds on May 21st. You do not have to be a member to take part in a Fun Trial! If you have a pooch that you are looking to have some fun with, read up on this event and see if it's right for you & your pooch. Here is what their poster says: "One of the fastest growing dog sports, Barn Hunt uses a dog's innate desire to "sniff stuff"! Almost any dog can be a great Barn Hunter. This event is the perfect opportunity to give Barn Hunt a try. Dogs and handlers begin by assessing the team's ability (instinct) to find the rat among 3 large dog-proof ventilated tubes. (Rats are raised and conditioned to enjoy the sport almost as much as the dogs, carefully tended throughout by their own Rat Wranglers!) Teams may then progress to ever more complex searches, ultimately achieving RATCH (Barn Hunt Champion)!" For more information about the event, contact: GBKC President, Sally Underwood-Miller sunderwoodmiller@aol.com, (413) 298-3411 or visit: www.barnhunt.com

Any Berkshire County 4-H Clubs interested in the possibility of having a fundraiser during this event, email Angelica at: angelica@umext.umass.edu.



7TH ANNUAL SPRING CONSIGNMENT AUCTION (Farm Equipment Auction)

On Sunday, May 7, at the Berkshire County 4-H Fairgrounds the 7th Annual Spring Consignment Auction will be taking place. The auction itself starts at 10 am, preview of items is 9 am – 10 am. If you are interested in consigning items or for more information about the auction, please contact: Chris Brielman (413) 448-1787 or Donald Raucher (413) 537-3177. There will be a 50/50 raffle to benefit the Berkshire County 4-H Fair Association. To view items go to www.auctionzip.com ID# 9337.



Community Supports 4-H and Soldier On

On Saturday February 18th, our Sheffield based 4-H group the Trailblazers, held a bake sale at Agway in Great Barrington. Due to the generous support of Agway management, staff, and patrons we made enough money to buy 40 pillows, and packs of razors. We purchased these from Walmart in Pittsfield, who continued the community support by offering all the items at a discounted price. Then, on Sunday March 5th we visited Soldier On to donate the items and meet with some of the veterans. Located in Pittsfield, Soldier On provides programs, housing and much needed support for veterans within our community. Article submitted by: Thomas Williams

From Pioneer Valley 4-H (Franklin, Hampden, and Hampshire)

Hampden County 4-H Fair Assoc. Sponsoring Workshops

Information will be sent to Hampden County 4-H families with information about the workshops being offered by the 4-H Fair Association. Workshops will include May 13th 2-4 p.m. at the Southwick Town Hall – First Aid 101. Learn how to put together a kit and use the equipment within it. In May or June Quick Breads and a canning workshop will be offered. Watch for details coming soon!





Thank You

As we move into fair season, we need to remember to thank the many volunteers who serve on each of our 4-H Fair Associations and work year-round to plan and prepare for these fairs. A lot

of time and effort goes into getting ready for each fair for months before the fairs actually occur. There are also many volunteer youth and adults who serve as superintendents and judges during the fair and assist with set-up and take-down. As you visit the 4-H fairs this summer, take time to say thank you to these wonderful volunteers. These groups are also always looking for additional volunteers to assist with the fairs so be sure to sign up at the fair if you have time to donate to help plan the 2018 fairs.

Support 4-H Fairs!

All 4-H'ers are eligible to enter and the volunteers who plan and support the fair are anxious to have exhibitors participate. Fair Books will be on the 4-H web site or available from the 4-H Office so save the following dates and exhibit or visit one of these fairs.

Franklin County 4-H Fair-June 24-Heath Fairgrounds

Hampden County 4-H Fair & Horse Show – July 29th – Mallary Complex and outdoor horse arena. Entries due July 19th.

Hampshire County 4-H Fair –July 8– Cummington Fairgrounds.

Berkshire County 4-H Fair – August 19th – Berkshire County 4-H Fairgrounds.



Special Awards for Hampden County

Youth

Each year the Hampden County 4-H Fair Association offers several special awards to Hampden County youth exhibiting at their 4-H Fair. They include:

Zoafia Demko Award – This award is given to an exhibitor 13 years of age or older who is active in 4-H and community service activities. An application is available at the back of the fair book. The award is given in memory of Mrs. Zoafia Demko who dedicated her life to community service in 4-H and in her community.

Bertha Tower Award – Given in memory of a long time 4-H clothing and home economics leader, three awards are available to exhibitors showing clothing, food preservation, foods and/or needlecraft. An application is also available in the back of the fair book.

Sweepstakes Award – This award is given to the Hampden County exhibitor who accumulates the most number of blue Danish ribbons in hall exhibit entries. The fair secretary collects this information and announces the winner.

Merritt Wright and Michael Demko Awards – These awards are given to youth exhibitors who are active in their club and/or county program, assist in the set-up and clean-up of the fair and assist during the fair. Two awards are given to senior exhibitors and one to a junior exhibitor. These awards are in memory of two longtime supporters of our fair.

Exhibit a Pumpkin at the Big E!

Use your imagination and decorate a pumpkin and exhibit it in the Farmarama Building at the Big E. You may grow or purchase a pumpkin to decorate. Entries are due the end of August. Go to the Big E website for complete information (thebigE.com then agriculture then Native Produce). Youth who have grown their own Big Pumpkins or Squash may also enter the Youth Giant Pumpkin Contest on September 15th. Pre-entry is required. Information is also available on the Big E website. Hope to see you there!

Volunteers needed for Big E

– Sept. 15-Oct. 1

4-H Milk Booth – Two or three volunteers (adults or youth 12 and over) are needed to cover three shifts each day of the fair selling milk shakes and milk products. Shifts are:

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Proceeds from this fundraiser support the Hampden County 4-H Fair. Call Sue Wright (413-786-1432) or Donna Turnbull (413-575-0690) to volunteer.

Volunteers receive an admission and parking ticket and are free to visit the fair before or after their shift. We welcome volunteer who are not in 4-H!

4-H Apple Booth – Youth and volunteers are also needed all seventeen days to sell apples, Indian Corn and gourds and answer questions on the native produce and giant pumpkin exhibits in the Farmarama Building. Proceeds from this booth support the Hampden County 4-H Program, camperships and scholarships and our County 4-H Awards Program. Shifts available include:

9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

3:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

6:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Admission and parking tickets are also provided for those volunteers. We accept non-4-H volunteers as well. Contact Mary Phelon (413-562-3001). We look forward to hearing from you!



Hampden County 4-H Scholarships

Hampden County has two scholarships available for 4-H members. Applications are available by contacting Mary Phelon at the 4-H Office (413-577-0759).

Hampden County Improvement League

Scholarship – Offered by this volunteer group to 4-H members or youth interested in pursuing an agricultural field.

Hampden County 4-H Scholarship – Offered by the Special 4-H Fund to 4-H members. Money comes from apple sales at the Big E.

Hampshire County 4-H Challenge Classes

The "Challenge" program is sponsored by the Hampshire County 4-H Fair. It provides a wide variety of classes to make or grow for the 4-H Fair. Complete Challenge class information will be available in early April along with details on the distribution of Challenge materials.



The Hampshire County 4-H Fair Auction

This will be held Saturday, April 29th at Hopkins Academy, Rt. 9, Hadley. This is the major fundraiser that makes our Hampshire County 4-H Fair possible. This auction features a wide variety of items including - plants, household items, animal supplies, a wide variety of gift certificates to area businesses plus much, much, more! Each 4-H club is asked to help in this important fundraiser by donating a "theme basket" or other item(s). To view the many items offered, arrive at 3:00 on April 29th. The auction bidding will begin at 4:00 P.M. A light dinner option will be available.

New, this year, is a special club challenge offered by Quabbin Valley Auction. Your 4-H club can win up to \$250 by collecting donations for the auction. All items collected by your club will be totaled based on the value they bring in at the auction. The club that has the highest total will receive \$250. There will be a second place award of \$125 and a third place of \$75.

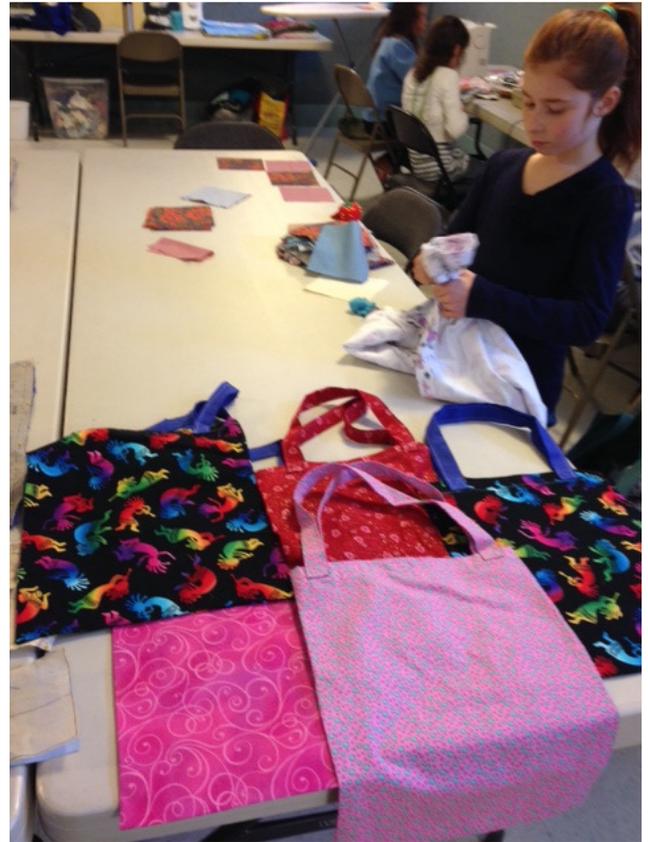
The 2017 Hampshire County 4-H Fair

This fair for the entire family returns to the Cummington Fairgrounds on Saturday, July 8th. The fair catalog will be available on the mass4h.org web site and on the Pioneer Valley face book page. Look for it in early May.



Montague Stitches 4-H Club

Here are pictures of the Montague Stitches 4-H Club with three service projects. They donate non-perishable food to the Survival Center Food pantry once each month. They are making a patchwork quilt which will be donated to our local family shelter, and they are working on bags for school supplies which will go to children around the world, a project organized by our host church, St Andrews in Turners Falls.



FFA Award

Lilly Thang of the Steerage Rock Riders 4-H Club was awarded the Smith Vocational Chapter FFA Star Courtesy Corp award for best Courtesy Corps in the state. The Courtesy Corps works closely with the convention staff to ensure the success of the annual state FFA convention. Being selected as a Courtesy Corps member is a prestigious honor. This qualifies Lilly to go with the group representing Massachusetts at their national event.



Camp Howe

The focus of Camp Howe is to foster understanding and appreciation of individual differences. Camp Howe offers lessons in diversity that campers don't even realize they are learning because they are having so much fun making new friends, discovering the wonders of nature and gaining independence. It truly is a camp for all youth!

We offer camp in one or two-week sessions for a total of seven weeks of summer camp for your camper. One and two-week campers live together based on age. One week sessions are given a number and two week sessions are given a letter. All sessions begin on Sunday, except Day Camp which begins on Monday.

For campers who have finished 6th grade and entering 7th grade we consider an in-between age and can be registered into either the Junior or Teen depending on what the parents think the child is emotionally ready for. Please call us if you would like more information about the differences of the program.

Listed below are our session dates and rates for the summer of 2017. The tuition listed includes everything except the optional teen adventure trips. Each camper will receive a free Camp Howe T-shirt. A non-refundable deposit of \$100 for each week that a child is registered is due upon registration. The balance is due four weeks before the beginning of the camper's session. Registration completed after June 1 must include full tuition.

Resident One Week Sessions (includes free T-Shirt)

JUNIORS

Overnight (1st grade to 6th grade) \$510.00

- ECHO Overnight (campers with special needs 1st grade to 6th grade) \$670.00

TEENS

- Overnight (7th grade and above) \$525.00 (include a trip either rock climbing or skeet shooting)
- ECHO Overnight (campers with special needs 7th grade and above) \$670.00

Dates

Session 1: Sunday July 2 through Friday July 7, 2017

- Session 2: Sunday July 9 through Friday July 14, 2017
- Session 3: Sunday July 16 through Friday July 21, 2017
- Session 4: Sunday July 23 through Friday July 28, 2017
- Session 5: Sunday July 30 through Friday August 4, 2017
- Session 6: Sunday August 6 through Friday August 11, 2017
- Session 7: Sunday August 13 through Friday August 18, 2017

One Busy Fantastic Farmers 4-H Club

January: Northeast Poultry Congress

Chloe Macaluso made champion row with a Quail D'Anvers hen!

Lana Krol was third in Jr. Showmanship and Chloe Macaluso was fourth!

The youth from the Fantastic Farmers had many best of breeds and reserve breeds during this show!

February: Poster workshop: The Fantastic Farmers Poultry Club spent an entire afternoon working on 4-H posters. Many went on for special recognition from the Belchertown 4-H Town Council. Those winners will be announced at our April 27th achievement night.

March: Fantastic Farmers participated in county visual presentations at Hopkins Academy on March 11th. Chloe Macaluso is going on to State and the Big E doing How to Do A Walkover.

Lana Krol and Allison Kotowski are going on to state with a visual on How to Make Bath Bombs.

Ellie Gelinis is going on to state doing how to play the Clarinet

Regan Johnson is going on to State doing How to Frost a Cupcake

Julianna Applegate is also going on to State!

March 25: Fantastic Farmers is going to be a Tractor Supply in Belchertown doing a bake sale and promoting 4-H as well as talking about how to properly care for Poultry during Chix Days!

April 1: Some Fantastic Farmers are attending State 4-H Visuals in Bedford while others are going to Southern New England Poultry Show at UConn.

April 8: Fantastic Farmers are going to Tractor Supply in Southampton to Promote 4-H and doing a visual with the children on how to properly care for poultry during Chix days!



New 4-H Club Forming at Dean Technical School in Holyoke

Please come join the Dean Technical High School 4-H club for a night of food, raffles, and fun!

When: April 21st 2017

Where: Dean Technical High School- Cafeteria
1045 Main St. Holyoke MA 01040

Time: 6:00 P.M.- 9:00 P.M.- Dinner
Doors will open @ 5:30 P.M.

Tickets: \$20.00 per adult
\$15.00 12 yr+ student or 4-H member
\$10.00 11yr and under 4-H member

RSVP full table (8 ppl) = \$100

Dinner: Pig Roast/ Game Dinner

Scholarships

To all GRADUATING SENIORS residing in Berkshire, Hampshire, or Franklin Counties: This is your invitation to apply for one of the four \$500 scholarships awarded by the Hillside Agricultural Society, sponsor of the Cummington Fair. Your acceptance at any accredited two or four year college makes you eligible to apply.

Applications must be submitted before May 1, 2017, and must include:

1. Letter stating your financial need, community service, future plans, and personal background.
2. Official transcripts of your scholastic records.
3. Three letters of reference, one of which must be from a person not associated with your school.

Applicants will be judged on the basis of these additional credit may be given to any applicant who plans a career in any phase of agriculture, who come from an agricultural background, or who has volunteer and/or has exhibited at the Cummington Fair.

Shortly after May 1st, the Scholarship Committee will meet and evaluate all applications. Winners will be personally notified and schools will receive an announcement that can be included at their

graduation exercises or awards assemblies. Actual payment of the award will be made to the student after satisfactory completion of the first semester of college. Money for these scholarships is earned from the dining room and the food concessions at the Cummington Fairgrounds during the Fourth of July horse and ox drawing contests. Scholarship winners are requested to assist in whatever capacity they are able during this event and are not otherwise asked to repay their scholarship.

Fully completed applications must be sent to me prior to May 1st. Late or missing information could result in disqualification. Go to <http://cummingtonfair.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/ScholarshipApplication2017.pdf> for complete details.

Hampshire County 4-H Store

The Hampshire County 4-H Store, which offers 4-H promotional items, such as pencils, stickers, wristbands, notepaper, cups and desktop flag sets has moved across the office to next to the 4-H row of offices behind the UMass Extension Bookstore. It is still in the same building, same entrance. Nancy keeps the store stocked with great items that all 4-H clubs can use, keeping it at affordable prices.

April is National Volunteer Month - Thank You to our 2545 Volunteers and Collaborators!

4-H volunteers serve as club leaders, short-term program facilitators, Advisory and Program Council members, judges, fundraisers, food booth coordinators, chaperones, coaches and more! Through these volunteers, we were able to reach over 25,000 youth last year with positive youth development. Volunteers are the heart of the 4-H program, selflessly donating their time to support and mentor youth. Please take the time in April (and throughout the year) to thank a 4-H volunteer!!!

Applying for a 4-H Membership Waiver

The Massachusetts 4-H Youth Development Program has changed its eligibility guidelines and procedure for participation fee waivers. The parent may *request a full or half waiver* of the annual participation fee of \$60.00 (*or Early Bird Special*

enrollment of \$50 if enrolled prior to Nov. 1). Please note the annual family maximum is \$150. These funds are used in support of the 4-H program in Massachusetts.

A family can request the full fee or half of the fee be waived:

- ✿ If a family income is at or below the income guidelines established by the federal government for eligibility for free or reduced price lunch in public schools. The guidelines are set at 185% of the federal poverty level. A full waiver will be granted in this case.
- ✿ When the financial hardship of the family will impact the participation of the youth in 4-H.

Please submit a letter requesting either a full or partial waiver of the participation fee:

- ✿ Include names of child/children and parent within the letter for which the waiver is being requested. Parent must sign, date the letter and include their address.
- ✿ To be eligible for a half fee waiver, a family must provide an explanation of their financial hardship and pay the other half of the fee due.
- ✿ To be eligible for a full fee waiver, the family must supply their SNAP ID number or documentation of family income. The family's gross income (i.e. before taxes are withheld) falls at or below the following guidelines:

Send the letter and required documentation to your local 4-H Educator. Indicate on the space provided on the Member Enrollment Form that you have submitted a waiver request. *Members cannot be enrolled until the request for the full fee waiver is approved or the request for a half waiver is approved and half of the fee is paid.* Please note the information supplied to the local Educator will be held in strict confidence. In the past couple of years, there is Waiver Form that has been circulating. This is not valid nor acceptable. Please refrain from using such form. Call the 4-H office at 413-545-0611 if you have any questions on this process.