

Title: 4-H Program Delivery and Administration

Project Leader: Sherrie Guyott

Project Overview:

More than 20% of the population of Massachusetts is under age 18. These young people are the future workforce and leaders of our state and our nation. The healthy development of these youth cannot be left to chance. Since 1919, the Massachusetts 4-H Program has provided support, resources and educational opportunities to Massachusetts youth. The mission of Massachusetts 4-H is to assist youth in developing life and work skills that will prepare them to be capable, caring and competent adults. Massachusetts 4-H is an active participant in the national 4-H "Grow Leaders" campaign as we work to prepare our youth to be the leaders of tomorrow.

A statewide network of thousands of dedicated volunteers and leaders serve as mentors and role models to 4-H youth throughout the state. Volunteers and collaborators lead a variety of clubs, school enrichment activities and special interest programs that emphasize experiential learning and help youth build valuable life skills. 4-H Educators collaborate with volunteers to plan and deliver local programs, such as animal science, visual presentation programs, and community service projects that have a lasting effect on youth and a positive impact on the future success and vitality of Massachusetts.

Activity Summary – 2019

- 4-H Club Community Service Projects (11)
- 4-H Youth Leadership Program (1)
- 4-H Records (11)
- 4-H Volunteer Mentoring System (11)
- Citizen/Leadership Development Programs (2)
- Massachusetts statewide 4-H club program (195)
- Produce 4-H newsletter to communicate information to all 4-H families (4)
- Promotional exhibits/recruitment events (99)
- School enrichment programs: plant science and embryology (268)
- Science Camps (5)
- Science Education & Technology youth programs (15)
- Short term programs in babysitting, plant science, general science and nutrition (480)
- Support local 4-H advisory and program councils (96)
- Visual Presentation Program (9)
- Volunteer and member recognition programs (11)

- Volunteer screening, orientation and placement (10)
- Volunteer training sessions (21)
- Youth project exhibitions at fairs (11)

Total Educational Contacts

	Youth Contacts	Adult Contacts
Direct	51050	22454
Indirect	670	3808

Narrative Summary and Impact

2018-2019 was a successful year in many ways. First, we were able to increase the number of youth we reached to 27,851, a 5% increase in total participation from the previous year. In addition, 4-H club members increased 4% to 2308.

MA 4-H initiated a STEM Ambassador program in 2017. This is a program where college students deliver STEM programs to youth at summer programs run by youth agencies that we partner with including town recreation programs, community youth centers and Boys and Girls Clubs. The program is funded through grants from the Grange, the Massachusetts 4-H Foundation and the UMass Center for Agriculture, Food and the Environment. This year we doubled the number of sites and staff in an effort to reach more youth statewide. We reached 383 youth this year, more than doubling the 180 youth we reached in 2018.

Summer Program Directors assure us that this program is making a difference. One SAC Director stated, "I want to thank you for the support you offer to our children every year. You make a difference in their lives." Parents have also given positive feedback including, "My son is 10 years old. He is a student who at times has had little interest in school. Yesterday after the 4-H Aerospace event he explained every piece of material he brought home and how it worked. He continued to talk about all the activities that he did throughout the day. You have no idea how pleased I was to see him so intrigued and excited about the whole day."

MA 4-H continues to offer important project support to 4-H members and volunteers through regional and state workshops and competitions. Poultry has been a growing project area and this was the second year we offered a poultry workshop day, attended by 126 youth and 32 volunteers. In addition, MA will be sending a team to the national 4-H Poultry Bowl later this fall. Over 1,000 youth were involved in the Visual Presentation program at the local level and 199 competed at the state competition in April. This is the largest statewide event of the 4-H year, staffed by nearly 50 volunteers, 7 staff members and attended by well over 500 people.

Over the last five years MA 4-H has worked on building a STEAM program in Greater Springfield and Holyoke, focusing on underserved audiences. We have collaborated with other departments on campus including the College of Engineering, Department of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning, Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences and Food Science Department. Working with our community partners we have created hands-on learning activities and experiences for urban 4-H youth. In addition, we offer STEM opportunities to create an interest in higher education and career pathways for this group of young people.

4-H members get the opportunity to develop and practice skills in 4-H. They submit written records documenting their activities and accomplishments.

Collaborating Organizations

- (4-H) FFA (Formerly Future Farmers of America)**
- (4-H) Massachusetts 4-H Foundation**
- (4-H) Massachusetts Envirothon Committee**
- Whitman-Hanson Public Schools**
- North Adams Public Schools**
- Pittsfield Public Schools**
- Northampton Mayor's Council**
- Joint Base Cape Cod**
- Independence House for Domestic Violence**
- Greenfield YMCA**
- Citizens for Citizens of Fall River**
- Wood Housing Development of Wareham**
- WPI**
- Springfield Public Schools**
- Holyoke Public Schools**