



## UMass Extension 4-H Program

December 8, 2023

### Upcoming 4-H Calendar of Events

Date	Title	Time & Location	Registration, Contact Info, or Zoom Link
12/12	Paws for Thought Dog Chat	Zoom 7:00 PM	<a href="https://forms.gle/oCJTSrWVerVTM8MKA">https://forms.gle/oCJTSrWVerVTM8MKA</a>
12/13	MA State 4-H Horse Advisory	Zoom 7:00 PM	<a href="mailto:ccsears@umext.umass.edu">ccsears@umext.umass.edu</a>
12/21	Homemade for the Holidays	Zoom 9:00 AM - noon	<a href="https://grayson.agrilife.org/holidaycamp">https://grayson.agrilife.org/holidaycamp</a>
12/29	Dairy Workshops	11:00 AM – 3:00 PM Fletcher Farm Southampton	<a href="https://forms.gle/XfwCiTQpW8BF2Vpy5">https://forms.gle/XfwCiTQpW8BF2Vpy5</a>
1/6/24	Western Regional 4-H Horse Round-up	Hadley 4-H Office 100 Venture Way	<a href="#">Regional Round-up Registration Form</a>
1/9/24	Horse Chat	Zoom: 7:00 PM	<a href="https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/96799760249">https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/96799760249</a>
1/11/24	State 4-H Dairy Advisory	Zoom: 7:00 PM	<a href="https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/92401974138">https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/92401974138</a>
1/13/24	Annual State 4-H Horse Advisory Meeting	Minuteman Press 160 Main Street, Marlborough, MA	<i>Note: use Welly's Restaurant as the GPS address</i>
1/14/24	4-H Members' Reception	Zoom 7:00-8:30 PM	<a href="https://bit.ly/4-HRec11-19-23">https://bit.ly/4-HRec11-19-23</a>
1/27/24	Southeast Regional Horse Bowl & Hippology Contest	Norfolk Agricultural H.S. Walpole, MA	Registration Link Coming Soon <i>Note: Snow date 2/3</i>
1/28/24	Western Regional 4-H Horse Judging Contest	Coggins Creek Stable, 1008 Granville Road, Westfield, MA	<i>Note: Snow date TBD</i>
3/23/24 & 3/24/24	State 4-H Horse Round-up	Athol, MA	
4/6/24	MA State Visual Presentations	Location TBD	

### Approaching Deadlines

Event/Application	Deadline	Link or Contact Info
Dairy Workshops Registration	12/22	<a href="https://forms.gle/XfwCiTQpW8BF2Vpy5">https://forms.gle/XfwCiTQpW8BF2Vpy5</a>
4-H Members' Reception Registration	TBD	<a href="https://bit.ly/4-HRec11-19-23">https://bit.ly/4-HRec11-19-23</a>
Western Regional Horse Round-up Registration	12/28	<a href="#">Regional Round-up Registration Form</a>
Norfolk County Regional Hippology & Horse Bowl Registration	1/19	Registration Link Coming Soon

## 4-H Record Book Program

### Have You Set This Year's 4-H Project Goals?

When you are leaving on a car trip adventure, you only start driving once you know where you are headed.

Now that the 2023-2024 4-H year has begun, your 4-H project adventures are underway, and it is important to decide where you are headed!

The UMass 4-H program offers **two formats** for you to set and track your project goals for the year.

Find complete instructions and records packets that include goals forms on the [UMass 4-H Record-Keeping Website](#).

Use Option #1 if you **like to plan ahead of time** with specific steps you will take with your projects.

*Think...*

*I like to look up the road map on Google to know exactly where I am going before I leave home because I feel confident when I have a plan.*

Use Option #2 if you **have a general idea** of your project but don't quite know exactly how you will go about it.

*Think...*

*I like to hop in the car and head in the general direction of where I am going because I trust I will find my way there if I pay attention to where I am going.*

### Did You Miss the 4-H Records Program Training?

If you missed our training and would like to see the recorded training video, please [click here](#). Contact [Cynthia Bushey](#) with any questions.

## Massachusetts 4-H Visual Presentations

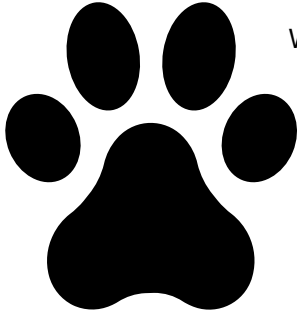
Visual Presentation Season is upon us! VPs and State VPs will be in person this year, with a virtual component for youth that are unable to attend in person. UMass 4-H will host three regional events at the end of February and beginning of March at locations to be determined around the state. Youth will earn spots to participate in State VP Day at the regional events.

State VPs will be on Saturday April 6th, Location TBD. We will need many judges, parents, and volunteers to make this run smoothly! We will be reaching out with more details after Thanksgiving. Please stay tuned for more information!



# Animal Science Programs & Updates

## Paws for Thought Dog Chats



We are hosting interesting speakers in the world of dogs for all 4-H members and volunteers. They will happen the **2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month from 7- 8 PM on Zoom**. To join in, sign up here: <https://forms.gle/oCJTSrWVerVTM8MKA>

**December 12th** Join us with Karen Jesch, a 4-H alumna and Ph.D. student at Boston College's Canine Cognition Center as she shares with us some of her explorations into how dogs—and dingoes—learn.



**January 9th** Learn more about breeding dogs. What are the tests required. What do you need to do? How do you manage a litter of puppies and the responsibilities of being a professional breeder?

**February 13th** Dog Anatomy: Learn all about the dog anatomy- a great class for those interested in showing their dogs at fairs and the Big E.

## MA 4-H Winter Break Workshop

December 29, 2023 – 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM, Fletcher Farm, 22 Gunn Road, Southampton, MA

- ✿ Enrolled 4-H members will have three clinics to participate in: Dairy Judging, Dairy Quiz Bowl, and Winter Heifer Prep.
- ✿ We will also have past National 4-H Dairy Conference Delegates discuss and answer questions.
- ✿ Applications will be made available for the 2024 Dairy Conference.
- ✿ A complimentary lunch will be provided.

A special thank you to the MA 4-H Dairy Advisory for sponsoring.

Dairy Judging – Greg Norris; Dairy Bowl – Nicole Fletcher and Toplines & Winter Heifer Prep – Greg Norris  
Details at <https://ag.umass.edu/mass4h/upcoming-events>. Please Register by December 22nd at:  
<https://forms.gle/XfwCiTQpW8BF2Vpy5>

## Horse Chat



The next Horse Chat on Zoom is scheduled for January 9th at 7:00pm with Jane Karol and her daughter, Hope Cooper. Jane owns Bear Spot Farm in Concord, MA. Home to 26 horses, the farm provides state-of-the-art care and high-performance dressage training programs for the horse and rider from training to Grand Prix. Jane has trained 12 horses to Grand Prix.

The Bear Spot Foundation, part of Bear Spot Farm, offers Equine Facilitated Psychotherapy to children and adults. Jane is certified in clinical psychology and founded the foundation in 2004.

Zoom Link:  
<https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/96799760249>

We hope that you can join in!

## New England Beef Program

Youth ages 12-18 years of age (as of January 1st) are eligible to try-out for the New England 4-H Beef Show that is held in September. A new

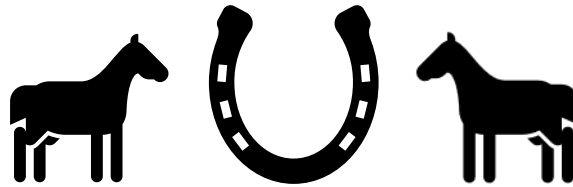
Massachusetts' application process is being developed and will be rolled out in late December 2023. Youth must own and care for their beef steer and the beef heifers can be either owned or leased. A youth may enter up to three animals at this show.

For more information on this show, please go to <https://www.thebige.com/p/competitions/4-h/packets> and review the Beef Show Packets 1 & 2.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Carrie Sears.



## State 4-H Horse Communications Coach and State 4-H Horse Judging Coach and Assistant Coach Applications are posted!



Every 3 years, our state team horse coach and assistant coach positions are posted. This year, it is time to elect our next state communications coach and our horse judging coach. The coaches are responsible for setting up practices with the team members throughout late spring and summer. They travel with the teams to the Northeast 4-H Horse Roundup (held at various locations throughout New England in October) and the Eastern National 4-H Horse Roundup in Louisville, KY in early November. Applicants must be 25 years old to apply. Coaches are required to prepare materials for the State 4-H Horse Roundup in March and the State Horse Communications Contest in April.

To access the application: [https://ag.umass.edu/sites/ag.umass.edu/files/pdf-doc-ppt/team\\_coaches\\_application\\_2024.pdf](https://ag.umass.edu/sites/ag.umass.edu/files/pdf-doc-ppt/team_coaches_application_2024.pdf)

**Deadline to apply is 12/31/23**

Contact Carrie Sears at [ccsears@umass.edu](mailto:ccsears@umass.edu) with any animal science questions.

# STEM Programs & Updates

## 2024 STEAM Festival

The 2024 STEAM Festival kicked off December 1st.

We are looking for some STEAM Festival judges. If interested reach out to Kim Pond at [kima@umass.edu](mailto:kima@umass.edu)

Fair entry is **now open** to start submitting entries.

The guidelines and class list are posted at:

[https://aq.umass.edu/sites/aq.umass.edu/files/pdf-doc-ppt/steam\\_festival\\_2024\\_final.pdf](https://aq.umass.edu/sites/aq.umass.edu/files/pdf-doc-ppt/steam_festival_2024_final.pdf)

### Things to Know:

- ✿ For early submission you must have been an approved member by December 1<sup>st</sup>.
- ✿ Entries can be done in batches so if you have some things ready, go ahead and enter.
- ✿ Then if you are working on your Shoebox Float, things for Computer Science Week or the STEAM Challenge during winter break, you can enter them later this month.
- ✿ You can even come back again to enter more projects before judging begins.
- ✿ Entering projects in batches should make it easier for members who have a lot of entries.

### Process to Enter:

- ✿ You can enter one or more class entries you have ready and submit an invoice.
- ✿ The office will check-in those entries.
- ✿ Once the items on that invoice are checked in you can then go enter others.
- ✿ **Note:** If you have not completed your re-enrollment or are just in the process of joining 4-H, don't worry! We will "sync" again with 4honline after the New Year and then you can submit your entries. Keep working on them over the winter holiday break!



Do you want to conduct a short-term STEM project with your club or others? Several options and kits are available such as electricity, rocketry, 3-D printing, and coding.

For more information contact Kim Pond at [kima@umass.edu](mailto:kima@umass.edu)

# Community Service

## CRUISERS CARE PACKS



BOB THE BIKE MAN



### THE COMMUNITY OUTREACH OF THE SEASON

Please help us by donating items to benefit those in need. Local youth organizations will assemble packs and law enforcement agencies will distribute.



girl scouts

### DROP OFF LOCATIONS

Pedal Thru Youth  
101 Front Street  
West Springfield, MA  
(Former Strathmore Paper)

Curry Honda  
767 Memorial Drive  
Chicopee, MA 01020

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

413-433-9059

[contact@pedalthruyouth.org](mailto:contact@pedalthruyouth.org)





Pedal Thru Youth  
101 Front Street  
West Springfield, MA

## DROP LOCATIONS

Curry Honda  
767 Memorial Drive  
Chicopee, MA 01020

## National 4-H Opportunities

# 2023

# Homemade for the Holidays

DECEMBER 21, 2023  
9 AM TO NOON VIA ZOOM

Register at: <https://grayson.agrilife.org/holidaycamp>

Virtual Camp Link and supply list will be emailed by **Thursday, December 14th**

**Additional projects will be pre-recorded by 4-H professionals, for your viewing at any time!**

*Open to Individual Families and Group Sites  
3rd grade and up*



Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service or accommodations to participate in this event are encouraged to contact the Grayson County AgriLife Extension Office for assistance, at least two weeks prior to the marketed education program. The members of Texas A&M AgriLife will provide equal opportunities in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity and will strive to achieve full and equal employment opportunity throughout Texas A&M AgriLife. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

Homemade for the Holidays will be a one-day LIVE event on Thursday, December 21st from 9 am to noon via ZOOM.

However, there will be 5 or 6 additional pre-recorded activities from 4-H Professionals around the nation which families/groups can do at their leisure throughout the holiday break on the resource page.

Register for the FREE event at <https://grayson.agrilife.org/holidaycamp>



## Calling All Artists, Creators and Performers!

You've got skills...and we want to see them!  
Students aged 14–19 can submit their work for a chance to be featured at upcoming National 4-H events.

Applications are accepted November 13<sup>th</sup> through January 1<sup>st</sup>.

[Apply Here](#)



# The New 4-H Year is Underway!

The 2024 4-H year has officially begun!. All youth and adult volunteers are required to re-enroll each year if they plan to continue participating in 4-H. **Re-enrollment is open for all clubs whose financial reports have been accepted by regional offices.** Returning members and volunteers may re-enroll in 4honline or they may complete a paper enrollment packet (available at regional offices). New 4-H members need to complete paper enrollment forms.

## Massachusetts 4-H Foundation

### Give to 4-H this Holiday Season

Massachusetts 4-H provides youth with opportunities to gain resilience, independence, and compassion – essential qualities for our rapidly changing world.

Your contribution to the Foundation's Annual Fund enables youth to participate in:

- ✿ Animals shows and fairs, like The Big E
- ✿ Conferences such as Explore UMass, National Conference and the Ignite Summit
- ✿ Hands-on activities of all kinds with their clubs
- ✿ And more!

**Give**  
to 4-H Today!



Massachusetts **4-H** Foundation

FOSTERING YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

# 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

Meg McDermott, State 4-H Director – [memcdermott@umass.edu](mailto:memcdermott@umass.edu)

Carrie Sears, 4-H Animal Science Program Manager – [ccsears@umext.umass.edu](mailto:ccsears@umext.umass.edu)

Angelica Diaz-Heyman, 4-H Educator – [angelica@umext.umass.edu](mailto:angelica@umext.umass.edu)

Erica MacLean 4-H Educator – [ericamaclean@umass.edu](mailto:ericamaclean@umass.edu)

Lauren DuBois, Urban 4-H Educator – [ldubois@umext.umass.edu](mailto:ldubois@umext.umass.edu)

Lizmarie Ulloa, Urban 4-H Program Assistant – [lulloa@umext.umass.edu](mailto:lulloa@umext.umass.edu)

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

7 Midstate Drive, Suite 102; Auburn MA 01501

Cynthia A. Bushey, Southeast Region 4-H Educator – [cabushey@umass.edu](mailto:cabushey@umass.edu)

Kim Henderson, Southeast Region Administrative Assistant – [khenders@umext.umass.edu](mailto:khenders@umext.umass.edu)

Martina Jasiewicz, Worcester County Administrative Assistant – [mjasiewicz@umext.umass.edu](mailto:mjasiewicz@umext.umass.edu)

Kim Pond, 4-H SET Program Manager – [kima@umext.umass.edu](mailto:kima@umext.umass.edu)

Kathleen Scalera, Central Southeast Regional Program Assistant – [kscalera@umass.edu](mailto:kscalera@umass.edu)

## **Northeastern MA Office:** *Essex, Middlesex & Suffolk Counties*

UMass Mt. Ida Campus, Miller Hall; 100 Carlson Avenue, Newton, MA 02459

Heather Thibodeau, 4-H Educator – [hthibodeau@umass.edu](mailto:hthibodeau@umass.edu)

Va Shon Wallace-Hiltbold, 4-H Educator – [vwallace@umext.umass.edu](mailto:vwallace@umext.umass.edu)

Debbie Beaubien, Administrative Assistant – [debbieb@umext.umass.edu](mailto:debbieb@umext.umass.edu)

Nancy McCarthy, Program Assistant – [nmccarthy@umext.umass.edu](mailto:nmccarthy@umext.umass.edu)

## **Plymouth County Office:** *Plymouth County*

44 Obery Street, Plymouth MA 02360

Molly Vollmer, 4-H Educator: [mvollmer@umext.umass.edu](mailto:mvollmer@umext.umass.edu)

Cathy Acampora, 4-H Educator: [acampora@umext.umass.edu](mailto:acampora@umext.umass.edu)

Meghan Riley, Ag Extension Educator: [mriley@plymouthcountyma.gov](mailto:mriley@plymouthcountyma.gov)

Cheryl Mechan, Administrative Assistant: [cmechan@umass.edu](mailto:cmechan@umass.edu)

## **Barnstable County Office:** *Barnstable County*

Box 367, Barnstable MA 02630

Sandi Shepherd-Gay, Barnstable County Youth Extension Educator: [sandi.shepherdgay@capecod.gov](mailto:sandi.shepherdgay@capecod.gov)

Laura Notarangelo, Administrative Assistant: [laura.notarangelo@capecod.gov](mailto:laura.notarangelo@capecod.gov)

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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.



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