



UMass Extension 4-H Program

February 16, 2024

Upcoming 4-H Calendar of Events

Date	Title	Time & Location	Registration, Contact Info, or Zoom Link
2/20/24	Winter Sowing Class	6:00 PM Plymouth County Office	
2/20/24	Paws for Thought Dog Chat	Zoom 7:00 PM	acampora@umext.umass.edu
2/21/24	State 4-H Horse Advisory	Zoom 7:00 PM	
2/22/24	VP Judge Training (age 16+)	Zoom 6:30 PM	https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/99338757927
2/24/24	Regional Visual Presentations (VPs)	UMass Amherst Furcolo Hall 9 AM & on Zoom	
2/25/24	VP Judge Training (age 16+)	Zoom 3:30 PM	https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/99338757927
2/26/24	Western Regional 4-H Horse Meeting	Zoom 6:30 PM	
2/27/24	All-A-Board	Zoom 6:30 PM	https://forms.office.com/r/txAgiRfj6S
3/2/24	Regional Visual Presentations (VPs)	Bristol Aggie 9:00 AM	
3/6/24	State Horse Show Committee	Zoom 7:00 PM	
3/9/24	Regional Visual Presentations (VPs)	Essex Aggie 9:00 AM	
3/12/24	Dog Academy Informational Meeting	Zoom 7:00 PM	Dog Academy Info Meeting Registration Link
3/13/24	4-H Career Exploration Series	Zoom 7:00 PM	https://bit.ly/4-HCES3-13-24
3/14/24	STEAM Festival Awards	Zoom 7:00 PM	
3/20/24	State 4-H Horse Advisory Zoom	Zoom 7:00 PM	
3/23/24	State 4-H Horse Round-up: Hippology & Horse Bowl	Athol, MA	
3/24/24	State 4-H Horse Round-up: Horse Judging	Orange, MA	
4/6/24	MA State Visual Presentations	Collegiate Charter School of Lowell	
5/10-5/12	Dog Academy	Camp Farley	

Approaching Deadlines

Event/Application	Deadline	Link or Contact Info
NE Beef Show Packets Due	3/1	Beef Packet Link
STEAM Festival Entry Deadline	3/2	http://STEAM-Festival.fairentry.com
National 4-H Dairy Conference Application	4/1	Dairy Conference application link
Animal Verification Forms Due (Dairy Cattle, Beef Cattle, and Working Steers)	5/1	See links to forms below
Animal Verification Forms Due (Goat, Sheep, Llama, Alpaca, Swine, and Dog)	6/1	See links to forms below

2024 Massachusetts 4-H Visual Presentation Program



Registration for regional VPs has now closed. Please reach out to Molly Vollmer with any registration questions. We will need many judges, parents, and volunteers to make this program run smoothly!
Please see all details below and plan to attend an upcoming judge training.

Regional Visual Presentation Events

Saturday, February 24th
at 9:00 AM
(in person & ALL VIRTUAL PRESENTATIONS)

UMass Amherst
Furcolo Hall
813 N Pleasant St.
Amherst, MA 01003

Saturday, March 2nd
at 9:00 AM
(in person presentations)

Bristol County Agricultural High
School
135 Center Street
Dighton MA 02715

Saturday, March 9th
at 9:00 AM
(in person presentations)

Essex North Shore
Agricultural & Technical School
565 Maple Street
Hathorne, MA 01937

Massachusetts 4-H State Visual Presentation Day

Youth who perform well at regional VPs may earn an invitation to participate in State VP Day on April 6th.

Saturday, April 6th at 10:00 AM
Collegiate Charter School of Lowell
1857 Middlesex Street
Lowell, MA 01851

- [VP Letter 2024](#)
- [VP Category List 2024](#)
- [VP Important Dates and Locations](#)
- [VP Rubrics](#)
- [VP Info Presentation](#)

4-H Visual Presentation Judge Training

ages 16 and up (*attend one training session*)

Thursday, February 22nd at 6:30 PM

<https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/99338757927>

Sunday, February 25th at 3:30 PM

<https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/99338757927>

STEM Programs & Updates

2024 STEAM Festival



We are looking for some STEAM Festival judges. If interested reach out to Lauren Dubois at ldubois@umext.umass.edu

To enter your exhibits visit: <http://STEAM-Festival.fairentry.com>

The guidelines and class list are posted at: https://ag.umass.edu/sites/ag.umass.edu/files/pdf-doc-ppt/steam_festival_2024_final.pdf

Things to Know:

- ✿ Entries can be done in batches so if you have some things ready, go ahead and enter.
- ✿ 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!

Some important dates:

- ✿ March 2nd: Fair closes entries for judging
- ✿ March 14th: 7 PM Zoom awards ceremony

Some Ideas:

We have several classes for you to enter your 2024 STEM Challenge "Power Protector" projects in. Grab those pictures and write a description to enter your creations. **Note that some entries have a video requirement.**

More Ideas:

- ✿ The 2024 Shoebox Float theme is "MY Super Power"
- ✿ Enter your Hideout Designs
- ✿ Make your designs into a 3-D model
- ✿ Create a gadget for a superhero or Cosplay costume
- ✿ Create a Scratch superhero game or Environmental PSA
- ✿ Have some fun with what you have around.
- ✿ Upcycle something you own, like making this turtle to mop up spills.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bfti3shQpQE>

Animal Science Programs & Updates



HEY! HEY! If the weather is not making you think of Spring, then you should check out the list of 4-H Animal Science events listed below. There are TONS of opportunities to get out and get going with your livestock project. All of these events address the first three objectives of our program: to develop and foster life skills through positive interactions with others, to teach scientific principles of Animal Science to young people, to increase the awareness of animal industry issues among youth. Make sure your enrollment is up-to-date!

Animal Verification Forms

Now is the time to print off your Animal Verification Forms to plan for the upcoming show season. Lease Forms are also due at the same time. Animal Verification Forms are to be completed for all livestock, dogs, and horses that you plan to show at a 4-H fair, dog academies, and/or Big E 4-H Shows. Note: Lambs and kids born after June 1st are still eligible to show based on your fair's requirements, but you will still need to file a Verification Form on them once they are born. Verification Forms are due to your county/regional 4-H office by the following dates:

- ***New Date: May 1st – Horse***
(only if planning to show at the Sept. New England 4-H Horse Show at the Big E)
- May 1st – Dairy Cattle, Beef Cattle, and Working Steers
- June 1st – Goat, Sheep, Llama, Alpaca, Swine, and Dog

Links to Verification and Lease forms:

- [Livestock Verification Form](#)
- [Livestock Lease Form](#)
- [Beef Lease Form \(Youth cannot show a leased steer at the Big E\)](#)
- [Horse Verification Form](#)
- [Dog Verification Form](#)

4-H Poultry Program

Last fall, the MA 4-H Poultry Quiz Bowl team totally rocked it in Louisville, placing 5th out of 17 teams. Looking to build on that success, there is A LOT of interest in having a group of 4-Hers and volunteers create a MA 4-H State Poultry Bowl event. If this is of interest to you, please complete this [form](#). We are aiming to plan an event in late spring/ early summer.



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 for the Big E has been developed and can be found at

https://ag.umass.edu/sites/ag.umass.edu/files/pdfdoc-ppt/massachusetts_big_e_4-h_beef_agreement.pdf.



Youth must own 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 the Andrew Samuelson at asamuelson@umass.edu.

Cool 4-H Animal Stuff

If you show livestock, then you know that managing the hair on your animal has a BIG impact on performance in the show ring. Here is a link to a series of [clipper videos](#) from Holstein Canada to get you started for 2024.



Save the Dates!

- Dairy Bus Trip to NY: 2/17- 2/19
- [Blue Ribbon Calf Sale](#) Clinics, 3/15 5-8 PM, Big E, West Springfield.
- [Big E Beef Packet 1](#) Due March 1, 2024 (Packet 2 coming soon.)
- **National 4-H Dairy Conference Application due APRIL 1, 2024**
- [Northeast Spring Dairy Show Youth Clinics](#), 4/17 Big E, West Springfield.
- [Big East Jackpot and Youth Beef Show](#), May, 2024. Big E, West Springfield.
- [Stock U Show Clinic](#) – Fryeburg ME 5/25 – 5/26; Registration opens February 1st
- Avian Quiz Bowl, 6/2024... **MORE INFO COMING SOON!**
- State 4-H Horse Show – June 24 & 25 – Three County Fairgrounds, Northampton, MA
- Western Regional 4-H Horse – September 8-10, 2023 at the Three County Fairgrounds in Northampton, MA

Paws for Thought Dog Chat

February 20th Dog Anatomy: Learn all about the dog anatomy- a great class for those interested in showing their dogs at fairs and the Big E. Contact Cathy Acampora for details: acampora@umext.umass.edu.



2024 Dog Academy

Dog project members, save the dates: May 10-12 at Camp Farley Register [here](#) for an informational Zoom meeting on March 12th at 7:00 PM: <https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUtc-GtpjgpEtGpRO04D8i4fkbLSN0hb3EJ>.

For more information contact Cathy Acampora at acampora@umass.edu or 774-343-5054.



UMass Extension 4-H Career Exploration Series via Zoom



Lacresha Bowers, MS, RDN, LD Nutrition Education Program Director Wednesday, March 13, 2024, 7:00 PM ET

30,000 people in Massachusetts! That's the number of people helped by the UMass Extension Nutrition Education Program. Being a registered dietitian, you get to be a food expert and help people be their healthiest selves.

Where can you work? Hospitals, community health centers, food prep companies, universities, as a speaker, and more! You could work on the federal, state, or community level.

It's not just good food, it's science based.

Interested? Join us and find out more from Lacresha!



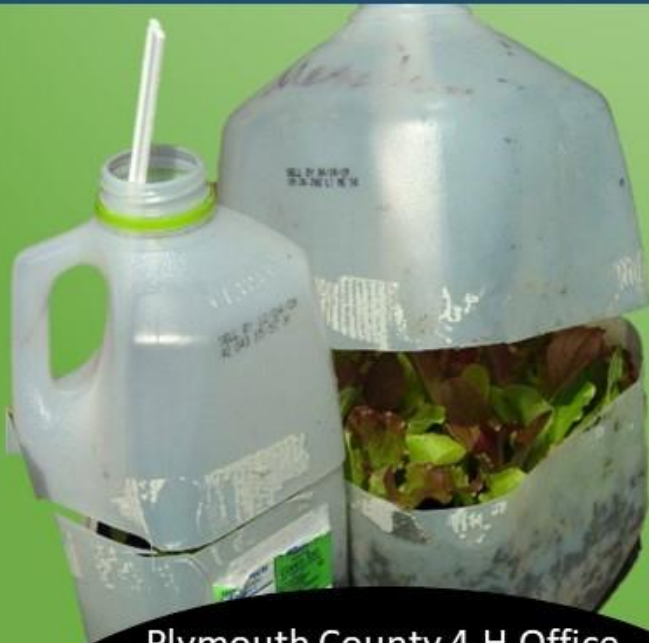
Register:
<https://bit.ly/4-HCES3-13-24>



Winter Sowing Class

\$10
Includes all
materials

Start your garden the easy way. Learn how to start your seeds early.



Sow your seeds the
easy way. No more
electricity, less
watering, no more
taking up space in the
house and less worry.
Let Mother Nature do
the work for you!

Plymouth County 4-H Office
44 Obery St. Plymouth
basement.
February 20 6 pm

Sign up on our website under Plymouth County Extension
Tab



Plymouth County 4-H
44 Obery St.
Plymouth, MA 0236
774-404-7020



MASSACHUSETTS 4-H DAY AT THE THUNDERBIRDS



SUNDAY, APRIL 14TH

@ MASSMUTUAL CENTER

vs. PROVIDENCE BRUINS

@3:05PM



Exclusive \$16 ticket rate for 4-H members, volunteers, family, and friends! Seats will be in the 4-H section!

\$3 hot dog, popcorn, and soda voucher available to add on!

Join us for 4-H Day at the Thunderbirds! Catch the Tbirds take on the Providence Bruins for a 3:05pm start! Each 4-H member will receive a souvenir TBirds bag! Stop by the 4-H Table in the concourse located by to pick up your souvenir T-Birds Bag! Sign up via the order link for fun experiences at the game for 4-H members!

Post game Paint the TBirds Ice Event!



Scan the QR Code or call (413) 417-2289 to order tickets or for questions!

<https://springfieldthunderbirds.formstack.com/forms/4htbirds>



LAUREN BLANCHARD
ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
(413) 417-2289
SPRINGFIELDTHUNDERBIRDS.COM
@THUNDERBIRDSAHL
PROUD AFFILIATE
ST. LOUIS BLUES



MASSACHUSETTS 4-H TEEN AMBASSADORS

PRESENT
ALL-A-BOARD

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27TH, 6:30-7:15 PM VIA
ZOOM

Join the 4-H Ambassadors on Zoom for a short introduction about the Massachusetts 4-H boards and councils. Discover what they are, how they support the 4-H program and why you should be a part of them.

VISIT LINK TO REGISTER:

<https://forms.office.com/r/txAgiRfj6S>




Youth Development
UMASS EXTENSION

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UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST

Wyoming 4-H VIRTUAL CAREER NIGHT

 MARCH 19, 2024

 6PM MST

 VIA ZOOM

Learn about different career paths and how to get ready for the career you want!

Featuring a special presentation by
**THE PETERSON
FARM BROTHERS**



UNIVERSITY
of WYOMING
EXTENSION



AMBER ARMAJO

307-347-3431

AMWALL@UWYO.EDU

WYOMING4H.ORG/VIRTUAL-CAREER-NIGHT



REGISTER
NOW!



4-H Partner Organizations



Trailblazer applications open Feb. 1 - March 3, 2024

Georgia Boot is a proud partner of National 4-H Council. We believe every kid should have the opportunity to be #GeorgiaBootStrong and we believe in creating #Opportunity4All through the hands-on learning experiences that 4-H offers. These programs help build confidence, creativity, leadership and resiliency, shaping our future leaders.

From now until August of 2024, we will offer various promotions on our website and at select retail partner locations. For each pair sold during these promotions, \$5 will be donated to National 4-H Council to provide critical resources needed to support the organization's efforts to empower our youth.

BOGS[®]




**WE'LL DONATE \$5 FOR
EVERY BOGS 4-H BOOT
PURCHASED.**

[Learn more here!](#)

JOANN



**SHARE YOUR 4-H CRAFT CREATIONS
#JOANNLOVES4H**

Donate at the register March 3-May 4, 2024 to support 4-H!

JOANN stores are connecting more young people to experiences where they can learn by doing, creating & making. By providing local 4-H Clubs with resources and tools to run impactful programs, JOANN brings the 4-H experience to more kids in need. JOANN supports National 4-H Council through a combination of customer donations and year-round sales with the JOANN 4-H Rewards Card and custom 4-H fabric.



The Kent Lage Leadership Award recognizes two 4-Hers each year for outstanding demonstration of leadership. Our awards have increased for 2024! The first place winner will be awarded **\$1,500** and second place will receive **\$750**. [Learn more and apply here.](#)



Massachusetts **4-H** Foundation
FOSTERING YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

4-H FOUNDATION NEW GRANT OPPORTUNITY

DEADLINE APRIL 1, 2024

The Massachusetts 4-H Foundation is pleased to announce the launch of a pilot Grant Program for 4-H clubs, advisories, and fairs. This is a great opportunity for these organizations to gain the support needed to meet youth development goals!

The Foundation is currently welcoming applications in the program areas of:

- Capacity building
- General operating expenses
- Equity and inclusion

Grants will range from \$1,000 - \$3,000, which represents the largest amounts to be distributed from the Foundation to 4-H organizations in a grant process to date.

The deadline for applications is April 1, 2024.

For detailed eligibility and submission information, download the [Request for Proposal \(RFP\)](#).

To view or complete the Grant Application, click: [Grant Application](#)

If you have any questions about what qualifies for each program area or how to go about the simple process of applying, please send your question to grants@mass4hfoundation.org and a staff member will respond to your query.

[APPLY NOW!](#)

UMass 4-H Policies

UMass Extension 4-H Policies:

<https://ag.umass.edu/mass4h/volunteers/for-current-ma-4-h-volunteers/volunteer-resources>

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

Andrew Samuelson, 4-H Animal Science Departmental Assistant – asamuelson@umass.edu

Angelica Diaz-Heyman, 4-H Educator – angelica@umext.umass.edu

Erica MacLean 4-H Educator – ericamaclean@umass.edu

Lauren DuBois, Urban 4-H Educator – ldubois@umext.umass.edu

Lizmarie Ulloa, Urban 4-H Program Assistant – 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

Kim Henderson, Southeast Region Administrative Assistant – khenders@umext.umass.edu

Martina Jasiewicz, Worcester County Administrative Assistant – mjasiewicz@umext.umass.edu

Kim Pond, 4-H SET Program Manager – kima@umext.umass.edu

Kathleen Scalera, Central Southeast Regional Program Assistant – 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

Va Shon Wallace-Hiltbold, 4-H Educator – vwallace@umext.umass.edu

Debbie Beaubien, Administrative Assistant – debbieb@umext.umass.edu

Nancy McCarthy, Program Assistant – nmccarthy@umext.umass.edu

Plymouth County Office: *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.gov

Cheryl Mechan, Administrative Assistant: 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

Laura Notarangelo, Administrative Assistant: laura.notarangelo@capecod.gov

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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