



UMass Extension 4-H Program

February 2, 2024

**2/8 Zoom Training for ALL**

**VP Deadline COMING SOON!**

**See Details Below & Register by February 11<sup>th</sup>.**

## Upcoming 4-H Calendar of Events

Date	Title	Time & Location	Registration, Contact Info, or Zoom Link
2/5/24	VP Judge Training (age 16+)	Zoom 6:30 PM	<a href="https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/99338757927">https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/99338757927</a>
2/7/24	State 4-H Horse Show Committee	Zoom 7:00 PM	
2/8/24	VP Training Session <b>for ALL</b>	Zoom 6:30 PM	<a href="https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/97620874277">https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/97620874277</a>
2/13/24	VP Judge Training (age 16+)	Zoom 6:30 PM	<a href="https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/99338757927">https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/99338757927</a>
2/20/24	Winter Sowing Class	6:00 PM Plymouth County Office	
2/21/24	State 4-H Horse Advisory	Zoom 7:00 PM	
2/22/24	VP Judge Training (age 16+)	Zoom 6:30 PM	<a href="https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/99338757927">https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/99338757927</a>
2/24/24	Regional Visual Presentations (VPs)	UMass Amherst Furcolo Hall 9 AM & on Zoom	Registration through <a href="#">4honline</a>
2/25/24	VP Judge Training (age 16+)	Zoom 3:30 PM	<a href="https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/99338757927">https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/99338757927</a>
2/26/24	Western Regional 4-H Horse Meeting	Zoom 6:30 PM	
3/2/24	Regional Visual Presentations (VPs)	Bristol Aggie 9:00 AM	Registration through <a href="#">4honline</a>
3/6/24	State Horse Show Committee	Zoom 7:00 PM	
3/9/24	Regional Visual Presentations (VPs)	Essex Aggie 9:00 AM	Registration through <a href="#">4honline</a>
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	

## Approaching Deadlines

Event/Application	Deadline	Link or Contact Info
Regional Visual Presentations	2/11	Registration through <a href="#">4honline</a>
STEAM Festival Entry Deadline	3/2	<a href="http://STEAM-Festival.fairentry.com">http://STEAM-Festival.fairentry.com</a>
National 4-H Dairy Conference Application Deadline	4/1	<a href="https://ag.umass.edu/sites/ag.umass.edu/files/pdf-doc-ppt/2024_national_4-h_dairy_application.pdf">https://ag.umass.edu/sites/ag.umass.edu/files/pdf-doc-ppt/2024_national_4-h_dairy_application.pdf</a>

# 2024 Massachusetts 4-H Visual Presentation Program

## *A Letter from the State 4-H Director:*

Dear 4-H Community,

Visual Presentation season is here! We know that many clubs are hosting VPs at the club level and helping 4-H'ers plan their presentations and we cannot wait to see them all!

We are excited to share that Visual Presentations are back in person this year. UMass 4-H will host three competitions and a statewide competition. Dates and locations are listed below and detailed in the document: [VP Important Dates and Locations](#).

Registration for members presenting is through [4-H Online](#) and that **registration is now open**. Please reach out to your regional educator if you are having challenges registering. **Registration will close at midnight on Sunday, February 11th.**

Please read through the documents linked below. They contain updates and additions to the VP Program. We will have info sessions and judge trainings on Zoom. The dates, times, and links are below and in [this link](#). Please pay special attention to the [VP Letter 2024](#) as it outlines updates to the program.

Please reach out with any questions and we look forward to seeing you at one of the VP days across the state.

Best,  
Meg

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

## Regional Visual Presentation Events

**Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup>**  
**at 9:00 AM**  
**(in person & ALL VIRTUAL PRESENTATIONS)**

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

**Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
**at 9:00 AM**  
**(in person presentations)**

Bristol County Agricultural High  
School  
135 Center Street  
Dighton MA 02715

**Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup>**  
**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 6<sup>th</sup>. If selected to participate in State VP Day, youth will be required to maintain the same presentation style and VP category they competed with in their regional contest.

**Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM**

Collegiate Charter School of Lowell  
1857 Middlesex Street  
Lowell, MA 01851

We will need many judges, parents, and volunteers to make this program run smoothly! Please see all details below and mark your calendar for the VP training, judge training, and regional event that fits your family's schedule! Registration for regional VPs will be opening soon.

### Get Ready for VPs!

How do I choose a category? What is a Presentation Style? What do I need to do to get ready?

#### Zoom Training Session: How to do a 4-H Visual Presentation Training (for ALL)

Thursday, February 8<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-7:30 PM <https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/97620874277>



### Get Trained to Judge VPs!

How do I score a VP? Come to a judge training and learn all you need to know to help support the Massachusetts 4-H youth in the Visual Presentation Program as a regional or state VP judge.

#### 4-H Visual Presentation Judge's Training

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

Monday, February 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM <https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/99338757927>

Tuesday February 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM <https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/99338757927>

Thursday February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 PM <https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/99338757927>

Sunday February 25<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](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!** I hope all of you are doing well, despite the super dreary weather that we have been experiencing across Massachusetts. No worries, though. Our animals keep us busy and on our toes! Caring for our pets and livestock goes to another level during the winter months.



Thank you to everyone for the warm welcome to the MA 4-H program. This has to be the COOLEST job ever! It's been pretty wild to go from 4-Her to volunteer to staff over the course of well...umm....50 years or so....

ANYWAY, in this News Blast, I thought of sharing a link to a web page that anchors our work, the [Mass 4-H Animal Science](#) site. On this page, you will find resources for all animals as well as the objectives of the MA 4-H Animal Science program. Please take a moment to poke around, especially if you haven't seen the site in a while.

ALSO, there's A LOT going on in Massachusetts 4-H ALL.THE.TIME. So here are a few friendly reminders for you to stay on top of your 4-H game:

## 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 and Swine, 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](#)

## 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

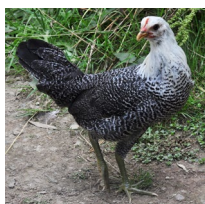
[https://aq.umass.edu/sites/aq.umass.edu/files/pdfdoc-ppt/massachusetts\\_big\\_e\\_4-h\\_beef\\_agreement.pdf](https://aq.umass.edu/sites/aq.umass.edu/files/pdfdoc-ppt/massachusetts_big_e_4-h_beef_agreement.pdf).



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 UMass 4-H State Animal Specialist. Contact Andrew Samuelson at [asamuelson@umass.edu](mailto:asamuelson@umass.edu) with animal science questions.

## Cool 4-H Animal Stuff



Ok, you may know that dairy cattle are my jam. However, I LOVE to learn new things. (I am giving serious consideration to trying to grow a giant pumpkin in 2024.) A few weeks ago, there was a MAJOR poultry show at the Big E that many of our MA 4-Her's were involved with. So that got me thinking about showing chickens. Check out this [video](#) of Bailey, from South Dakota, explaining poultry showmanship. Anyone want to give it a try?

## Save the Dates!

- MA 4-H Dairy Bus Trip to NY: 2/17- 2/19
- MA 4-H Calf Sale Clinics, 3/15 5-8 PM
- Stock U Show Clinic – Fryeburg ME 5/25 – 5/26; Registration opens February 1st
- 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**



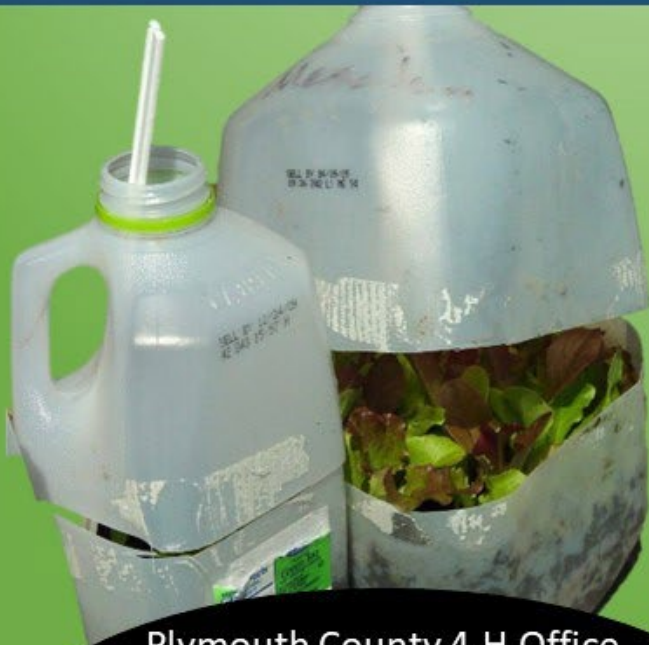
**February 13th** Dog Anatomy: Learn all about the dog anatomy- a great class for those interested in showing their dogs at fairs and the Big E.



# 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



# UMASS 4-H

**Register:**  
<https://bit.ly/2ZQpDfE>  
**Questions:**  
[vwallace@umass.edu](mailto:vwallace@umass.edu)

**Feb 13,  
2024  
10 AM - Noon**

## BABYSITTER'S

**Registration  
Deadline  
2/10/24**

# INSTRUCTOR TRAINING

OR

**via Zoom**

**The training  
will:**

- Teach you the curriculum
- Provide you a copy of the curriculum & a first-aid slider
- Allow you access to a Bitmoji classroom & other support materials

**Feb 22,  
2024  
6-8 PM**

**COST \$50**

**CHECKS PAYABLE TO:  
UMASS 4-H**

**ONLY TRAINED INSTRUCTORS  
CAN TEACH THE COURSE & HAVE  
ACCESS TO MATERIALS.**

 **4-H**  
Youth Development  
UMASS EXTENSION

UMass Extension is a unit of the Center for Agriculture, Food & the Environment in the College of Natural Sciences, UMass Extension is an equal opportunity provider & employer, United States Department of Agriculture cooperating. Contact your local UMass Extension office for information on disability accommodations or the UMass Director if you have concerns related to discrimination, 413-545-4800 or refer to [www.extension.umass.edu/civilrights](http://www.extension.umass.edu/civilrights).





## 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<sup>®</sup>



  
**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.

# 4-H FOUNDATION NEW GRANT OPPORTUNITY

## UNTIL 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!



PHOTO CREDIT: NATIONAL 4-H COUNCIL

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](mailto: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](mailto:memcdermott@umass.edu)

Andrew Samuelson, 4-H Animal Science Departmental Assistant – [asamuelson@umass.edu](mailto:asamuelson@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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