



UMass Extension 4-H Program

January 19, 2024

Upcoming 4-H Calendar of Events

Date	Title	Time & Location	Registration, Contact Info, or Zoom Link
1/21/24	MA 4-H Calf Sale Meeting	1 PM Big E Ag Office Eastern States Expo	
1/22/24	Western Regional 4-H Horse Meeting	Zoom 6:30 PM	https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/91827402067
1/23/24	Direct from the Director	Zoom 6:30 PM	https://bit.ly/4-HDirector01-23-24
1/25/24	VP Training for ALL	Zoom 6:30 – 7:30 PM	https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/92069071565
1/25/24	Beef Advisory	Zoom 7:30 PM	https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/93479803467
1/27/24	Southeast Regional Horse Bowl & Hippology Contest	Norfolk Agricultural H.S. Walpole, MA	https://forms.office.com/r/iQZZQcQxWk <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	www.regional4horse.com <i>Note: Snow date TBD</i>
1/30/24	Goat Advisory	Zoom 7:00 PM	https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/91378742923
2/5/24	VP Judge Training (age 16+)	Zoom 6:30 PM	https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/99338757927
2/7/24	State 4-H Horse Show Committee	Zoom 7:00 PM	
2/13/24	VP Judge Training (age 16+)	Zoom 6:30 PM	https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/99338757927
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	<i>Registration link coming soon</i>
2/25/24	VP Judge Training (age 16+)	Zoom 3:30 PM	https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/99338757927
3/2/24	Regional Visual Presentations (VPs)	Bristol Aggie 9:00 AM	<i>Registration link coming soon</i>
3/6/24	State Horse Show Committee	Zoom 7:00 PM	
3/9/24	Regional Visual Presentations (VPs)	Essex Aggie 9:00 AM	<i>Registration link coming soon</i>
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
Western MA Regional Horse Judging Contest	1/19	www.regional4horse.com
4-H re-enrollment deadline to be eligible for STEAM Festival	1/26	https://v2.4honline.com/#/user/sign-in
STEAM Festival Entry Deadline	3/2	http://STEAM-Festival.fairentry.com
National 4-H Dairy Conference Application Deadline	4/1	https://ag.umass.edu/sites/ag.umass.edu/files/pdf-doc-ppt/2024_national_4-h_dairy_application.pdf



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 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. 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 6th 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, January 25th from 6:30-7:30 PM <https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/92069071565>



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

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

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>

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.

Direct from the Director

Tuesday, January 23, 6:30 PM

Join the UMass 4-H Ambassadors on Zoom for a live interview with 4-H State Director Meaghan McDermott. Who is she? What does she do? What are her plans for 4-H in Massachusetts?

Interested? Register at: <https://bit.ly/4-HDirector01-23-24>



STEM Programs & Updates

2024 STEAM Festival

Happy New Year!

The 2024 STEAM Festival opened up for early registration in early December.
To enter your exhibits visit: <http://STEAM-Festival.fairentry.com>

We are looking for some STEAM Festival judges. If interested reach out to Kim Pond at kima@umass.edu

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

Things to Know:

- ✿ For early submission you must have been an approved member by December 1st.
- ✿ 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:

- ✿ January 26th: Must be fully enrolled to enter
- ✿ March 2nd: Fair closes entries for judging
- ✿ March 14th: 7 PM Zoom awards ceremony

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

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.



Animal Science Programs & Updates

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.

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/pdf-doc-ppt/massachusetts_big_e_4-h_beef_agreement.pdf

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 the UMass 4-H State Animal Specialist.



Contact Carrie Sears at ccsears@umass.edu or Andrew Samuelson at asamuelson@umass.edu with animal science questions.

Community Service Opportunity

A Letter from a Leader:

4-H Leaders and Friends,

We've set a date to assemble and distribute the backpacks!

When: January 27th 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM at

Where: Pedal Thru Youth (Bob the Bike Guy) New Headquarters
101 Front Street, West Springfield, MA 01089 (Former Strathmore Papermill)

*****Dress in layers for warmth – there will be heaters, but this is an old mill factory.*****

We're reaching out to media and the law enforcement agencies to arrive after 10:00 AM to cover the project and interview youth/volunteers. This is a great opportunity for clubs to get media exposure and submit for 4-H Foundation media grants. 4-H green, club shirts, etc. are encouraged. Let's show club spirit!

We are still taking donations and feel free to bring items that morning as well: deodorants, chapstick, tissues, hand warmers, packaged wipes, chewy, non-perishable snacks.

Leaders: if your 4-H members plan to attend, please give me a heads up so I can gauge numbers.

Thanks,
Sarah (dressarah@comcast.net)

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 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

Carrie Sears, 4-H Animal Science Program Manager – ccsears@umext.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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