



UMass Extension 4-H Program

July 21, 2023

IMPORTANT: Club and Advisory Board Leaders, please turn in your end of year (2022-2023) financial statements and reports to your regional 4-H office by **August 1, 2023**. 4-H offices will be filing all 990-N IRS reports. Please reach out to your local educator with any questions.



Upcoming 4-H Calendar of Events

Date	Title	Time & Location	Registration Info or Zoom Link
7/22	Hampden County Fair	ESE, Mallory Building West Springfield, MA	Fair Book
7/24	4-H Discovery Club Meeting	Zoom 7:00 PM	cabushey@umass.edu
7/26	4-H Records Training	Zoom 7:00 PM	https://forms.office.com/r/5UR5SA9CjP
7/26	State Horse Advisory Committee *New Date	Zoom 7:00 PM	
7/27	Big E Goat Orientation	Zoom 7:00 PM	
7/28-7/30	Worcester County 4-H Fair	Spencer Fairgrounds	Fair Book
8/2	National 4-H Conference Info Session	Zoom 7:00 PM	Registration Link
8/4-8/6	MA State 4-H Dairy Show	Franklin County Fairgrounds, Greenfield	Dairy Show Entry Book
8/7	Regional 4-H Horse Show Meeting	4-H Hadley Office 6:30 PM	in person
8/8	National 4-H Conference Info Session	Zoom 7:00 PM	Registration Link
8/14	Regional 4-H Horse Show Meeting	Zoom 6:30 PM	
8/14	4-H Discovery Club Meeting	Zoom 7:00 PM	cabushey@umass.edu
8/18-8/28	Marshfield Fair	Marshfield Fairgrounds	
8/19	Massachusetts Teen Leadership Day	Berkshire County Fairgrounds	https://bit.ly/TLD8-19-23
8/25-8/27	Middlesex County Fair	Middlesex County Fairgrounds, Westford, MA	
9/2-9/3	East Middleboro Fair	Thompson Street East Middleboro, MA	
9/8-9/10	Western Regional 4-H Horse Show	Three County Fairgrounds in Northampton, MA	

Approaching Deadlines

Event/Application	Deadline	Link or Contact Info
State 4-H Photography Contest Submission	7/28	memcdermott@umass.edu
MA Teen Leadership Day Registration	7/31	https://bit.ly/TLD8-19-23
Annual Club & Advisory Financial Reports due to Regional 4-H Offices	8/1	Contact your regional office with questions

Gratitude Matters!

A thank you note is so important! Our 4-H events would not be possible without sponsors and volunteers. This year, please take a few minutes to write a note to either someone on a fair board, department heads, 4-H staff, sponsors, or another person who helped you to achieve your project goal. It only takes a few minutes of your time but makes a huge impact on the person receiving the note.



ANATOMY OF A GOOD THANK YOU LETTER

Why write thank you letters?

- To give buyers recognition for their support of the program.
- To thank them for their support of your project.
- To show you care and are willing to go the extra mile.
- To make a connection even after the show ring.

Make your greeting respectful and personalized.

Dear Mr. Smith,

Thank them for their support of the program and specifically for their support of your project.

Share a little about yourself and what their support will help with.

I would like to thank you for helping to support the Anywhere County 4-H and FFA Livestock Auction and for buying my lamb. Your support means a great deal to me personally and to the 4-H and FFA programs.

I am a junior in high school this year, and the money that I receive from your purchase will go towards purchasing a livestock project for next year, and helping to pay for college.

Thank them again, close with a respectful salutation and sign your first and last name.

Once again, thank you for your support!

Sincerely,

Bob Johnson

Hand sign the letter!



Other things to remember:

- Use nice stationery or a notecard and handwrite your message.
- Use your best handwriting and proofread for spelling errors.
- Mail the thank you or hand deliver it, but be sure that it is received in a timely manner.

Get Ready for Fair Season!

The 2023 Big E 4-H Animal Shows Schedule

Through a variety of qualifying contests and events, 4-H members ages 12 and above may qualify to showcase their livestock and dogs. Horse youth must be age 13 to qualify and have their verification form on file. Check out the show packets at: <https://www.thebig.com/p/competitions/4-h/packets>. Some packets still need to be uploaded. If interested in entering the 4-H dairy goat and sheep shows, please contact [Carrie Sears](#) or the dog 4-H show contact [Cathy Acampora](#).



- Dairy Cattle 4-H Show – Thursday, September 14 - Sunday, September 17
- Beef 4-H Show – Friday, September 22 - Monday, September 25
- Horse 4-H Show – Thursday, September 21 - September 24
- Dairy Goat 4-H Show - Thursday, September 28 - Saturday, September 30
- Dog 4-H Show - Friday, September 29 - Sunday, October 1
- Sheep 4-H Show - Friday, September 29 - Sunday, October 1

Plan Your Summer at the Fairs!

Please check this section frequently over the next several NewsBlasts. Updated information about 2023 fairs across MA this summer and early fall will be provided as it becomes available. Check out more information on Massachusetts Agricultural Fairs [here](#).

Hampden County Fair

Save the date for the 70th Anniversary of the Hampden County 4-H Fair at the Mallary Complex at the Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield, MA on **July 22nd**. See the [fair book](#) for details. Some highlights include revamped classes throughout with updated points, newly expanded STEM category (section 26, page 63), 70th Anniversary Shoebox Float Parade Challenge (page 64), Pedal Thru Youth Bike Rodeo RETURNS! 12PM Ceremony & Goat Milking Competition featuring state representatives, mayors, and other dignitaries. News media will be here!

Worcester County 4-H Fair

Friday, July 28th - Sunday, July 30th at the Spencer Fair Grounds, 48 Smithville Road, Spencer MA 01562. All entries are to be postmarked by June 26, 2023 to UMass Extension, 7 Midstate Dr. Auburn, MA 01501 Please reach out to Meg McDermott or Kathleen Scalera for more information. Premium Book: <https://ag.umass.edu/sites/ag.umass.edu/files/pdf-doc-ppt/worcestercountyfairbook23final.pdf>

Marshfield Fair

August 18th - 28th Marshfield Fairgrounds. The deadline to submit Exhibitor Entry Forms for the Marshfield Fair is July 1st. Entry Forms can be found at <https://marshfieldfair.org/fair/exhibitor-information/4h-and-animals/> and on our website at <https://plymouthcounty4h.org/forms-and-links>

Middlesex County Fair

August 25th - 27th at Middlesex County Fairgrounds in Westford, MA. Stay tuned for details!

The Big E

September 29th – October 1st at Eastern States Exposition. West Springfield, MA

East Middleboro 4-H Fair

September 2nd - 3rd at East Middleboro 4-H Clubhouse, Thompson Street (route 105). The fair is open September 2nd from 8:30 AM - 6:30 PM and September 3rd from 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM.

Topsfield Fair

September 29th – October 9th. Stay tuned for details.

Biosecurity Measures



The 4-H fairs and shows are underway! If you haven't already, now is the time to refresh yourself on biosecurity measures you should take with your animals when going to or returning from an event.

Here are a few good resources for you to check-out:

Livestock: <https://www.baycounty-mi.gov/Docs/CitizenCorps/BiosecurityForLivestockExhibitors.pdf>

Poultry: <https://www.ohiopoultry.org/Backyard-Flocks/index.cfm>

Equine: <https://www.usef.org/forms-pubs/KR7Md0c5tCw/biosecurity-measures-for-horses-at-home>

Animal Showing Health Requirements

If you plan on showing your project animal, now is the time to review the latest health requirements for fairs!

The 2023 MA Animal Health Regulations for Fairs & Shows are now online on the MA 4-H website on each species page along with the New England Fairs Health Requirements.

Poultry Exhibitors - You will need to have your flock tested and banded prior to the first show. Contact Megan Megrath, Poultry Inspector, Animal Health Division via email at Megan.Megrath@mass.gov or by phone at 617-626-1798



Get Involved!

State 4-H Photography Contest 2023

The State 4-H Photography Contest will be held at the Worcester County 4-H Fair on Saturday, July 29, 2023. Please mail photographs to: UMass Extension 4-H State Photography Contest, 7 Midstate Dr. Auburn, MA 01501. Photographs may also be dropped off on Friday, July 28, 2023 at the Spencer Fairgrounds, 48 Smithville Road, Spencer MA 01562, between the hours of 12:00 PM and 7:00 PM. There are Cloverbud, Junior, and Senior divisions. Up to 13 photos will be selected to be displayed in the New England Center at the Big E. New for this year, 4-H staff will work with individual 4-H Fairs to ensure that 2 entries from the Junior and Senior photography divisions at each 4-H fair are included in the pool chosen for Big E. [Look here](#) for contest details. Direct questions to Meg McDermott at memcdermott@umass.edu.



National 4-H Conference

Attention 4-H teens! Massachusetts 4-H will be sending delegates to the 2024 National 4-H Conference in Washington D.C. from April 14-19, 2024. [Look here](#) to learn more about this amazing experience! Our application process begins with an information session. Please follow [this link](#) to register for one of two upcoming Zoom **information sessions being held on Wednesday, August 2nd and Tuesday, August 8th.**

4-H Records Training

Our new Record Keeping program has launched! Register for a Zoom training session for 4-H youth, families, and volunteers on the new MA 4-H Records on **Wednesday, July 26th at 7 PM!** Please register here by 7/25: <https://forms.office.com/r/5UR5SA9CJP>

What Careers Interest You?

Please take a moment to answer a few questions about what professions or professionals you would like to see offered as future UMass 4-H Career Exploration Series presenter(s)!

If you do not know what the UMass 4-H Career Exploration Series is it is a monthly, one-hour, interactive Zoom session with a professional. So far, the presenters have varied in profession from Veterinarians to a Wildlife Survivalist to an Astronaut to a Sheriff, and so many more!

This program is geared towards high school aged students, but all are welcome. The goal is to give youth the opportunity to learn about a profession while being able to ask the questions they want to ask.

Please take the quick survey at: <https://bit.ly/CESideas2023>

Calling All 4-H Teens!

Join several 4-H Educators and other teens for **Massachusetts Teen Leadership Day** on **August 19th**. See details to the right and register here: <https://bit.ly/TLD8-19-23> by **July 31st**.

UMass 4-H Youth Development

Massachusetts Teen Leadership Day

FOR HIGH SCHOOL TEENS AGE 14+

Date & Place:
August 19th
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Berkshire County 4-H
Fairgrounds Pittsfield

Topics Include:

- Leadership Skills
- Communication
- Decision Making
- Teamwork

Lunch will be provided!

If you have questions please email vwallace@umext.umass.edu or angelica@umext.umass.edu

Transportation to Fairgrounds available to 4-H teens from further MA regions

HEAD HEART HANDS HEALTH

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 & employee. 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.

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST

Join the GIS Mappers!

The Writers of Massachusetts!

W.E.B. DuBois

Herman Melville

Emily Dickison

Jack Kérouac

Above: the location of some of Massachusetts' most notable writers

Scan the QR code to see more of our map!

Created by: Faith Motta & Hope Motta
 With support from:
 GG Link 4-H Club
 Kim Pond - MA 4-H STEM Extension Liaison
 Dr. Thomas King - TIC 4-H Extension Liaison

Our MA 4-H representatives to the National GGLEAD team have submitted a map for the ESRI User Conference Map Gallery that is happening in San Diego, CA from July 10-14. We hope to apply to send a team to California next year. Check out their map and scan the QR code for more info.

If you could create a map, what would it include? Do you like Geocaching? Lots of Geospatial technology and it is becoming an important skill with towns, environmental groups and non-profits, electric companies, emergency management and in disasters and soo much more. Look for more workshops and an information session or reach out to [Kim Pond](#) to learn more about the opportunities.

Where's the Food?

Help us get more points!

Are you interested in helping get MA food sites on the National Team's Map?

Follow [this link](#) and enter information on food sites in your area!

Mail - Kim Pond - Outlook

Where's the Food Dashboard

4-h.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/1c8cf76674c646ff958e1e34084a23c3

Where's the Food Dashboard

By the National 4-H GIS Leadership Team

Submissions
38

Batavia NY Farmers Market
New York --- C_Maloe

The Gathering Restaurant
New York --- J_Carmichael

BJ's
New York --- J_peralta

Wal-Mart
New York --- C_VanDyke

BoothBay Farmers Market
Maine --- S_Tate

North Adams
Last update: 1 minute ago

Map showing locations across the Northeast region.

Submissions by State

New York	68.42%
Maine	2.63%
Massachusetts	13.16%
Maryland	5.26%

Last update: 1 minute ago

Food Source Category

Market	5
Food Cupboard	1
Restaurant	1
School Distribution Site	1

Last update: 1 minute ago

Add another entry to the map [here!](#)

NAE4HYDP Progra...pdf

Show all

87°F Mostly sunny 2:57 PM 7/5/2023

Animal Science Programs & Updates

Horse Shows

A must read before you start showing the 4-H show circuit: Review the latest rules, what is legal show equipment, the latest horse show forms, and other horse show details so that you are up-to-date before entering the ring. <https://ag.umass.edu/mass4h/clubs-programs/animal-science-program/horses>

Be sure to contact Carrie Sears at ccsears@umass.edu with any animal science questions.

STEM Programs & Updates

2023 4-H STEM Challenge



Power Level: CRITICAL. Through decades of neglect and waste, Energy Island is in danger of becoming unplugged forever. Now it's in the hands of the next generation—*The Power Protectors*—to bring back a sustainable balance.

Working together as a SUPER team toward a common goal, young people will help endangered Energy Island move from its unsustainable carbon-based energy use to renewable solar, wind and hydro power.

By completing three engaging activities and using cooperation, determination and the POWER of reusable energy, youth will PLAY and WIN together as The Power Protectors!

Contact [Kim Pond](mailto:Kim.Pond@umass.edu) for more information on participating in this year's 4-H STEM Challenge!

STEM Challenge Webinar

Volunteers interested in running this year's STEM Challenge in their county or at a community event who would like to attend a webinar on August 10th at 1:00 PM should reach out to Kim Pond at kima@umass.edu for registration information.

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

Community Service

Season 3 of the Seasons of Giving Program

Thanks to all the clubs who have been participating in the Seasons for Giving Community Service Program. The third season (mid-April to mid-July) is in full swing. Club leaders who participated in the first Season of Giving Community Service Program should have received the items they requested. The second season (mid-January to mid-April) has wrapped up and club leaders should have received the link to submit any community service they have done.

We are finalizing the second season and will be reaching out to Club Leaders to fulfill their item requests for those that selected a customizable option. Now that we are in a very busy time in the 4-H year we are happy to be opening up the survey for the third season as the year is quickly going by.

- If this is your club's first time submitting – great! The first season options are available to choose from.
- If this is the second season your club is participating in, you have levelled up and have new options.
- Congratulations to those completing their third season as there are some cool options for you.

What is the Four Seasons of Giving Program?

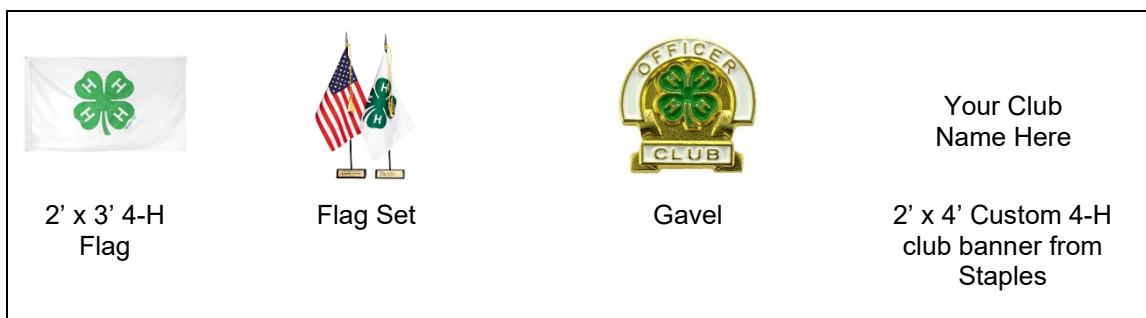
Service to others has always been an important part of the 4-H club program. One part of the 4-H pledge states, "I pledge my hands to larger service." An entire section of the 4-H Summary Record is dedicated to the documentation of community service done by each 4-H member.

4-H groups often conduct community service projects in local communities where they meet. These projects include community beautification, collecting donations for food pantries, raising money for charities, volunteering in nursing homes and donating needed items to hospice and hospitals, to name just a few.

Find the details about our current list of ideas and incentives: [2022-2023 Four Seasons of Giving](#). More information is on the website along with ideas for community service: <https://ag.umass.edu/mass4h/clubs-programs/community-service>

Club leaders will receive an email at the end of each season when it is time to report their results. Thanks in advance for contributing to this statewide effort!

If this is your club's first or second time participating, the first and second season options are available for your club to choose from (see past NewsBlasts or the Four Seasons of Giving link above for more information). If this is your club's third season of participation this year, you have leveled up! Your club will have these prize options to choose from:



Massachusetts 4-H Foundation

Register Now for the 2023 Shirley Kane Memorial 4-H Golf Tournament

The Massachusetts 4-H Foundation will hold its 21st annual Shirley Kane Memorial 4-H Golf Tournament on Monday, September 11th at the Holden Hills Country Club.

The golf tournament supports ALL Massachusetts 4-H programs, including animal science, STEM, visual presentations, and more! Plus, it's a fun time. Enjoy a great day of golf, and then stay and socialize at a casual BBQ.

To sponsor or play, please [visit the Foundation's website](#). We hope to see you there!

Get Cash for Your Club with the 4-H Publicity Grant!

4-H Clubs can receive \$100 for each published, unique newspaper article that mentions their club's name. There is a limit of three awards per club each year.

Clubs may also receive one publicity award for special publicized events, including Visual Presentation Day, National Youth Science Day, and the Big E. [Online Publicity Request Form](#)

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

Carrie Sears, 4-H Animal Science Program Manager – ccsears@umext.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 – llopezortiz@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 – khenderson@umext.umass.edu

Meg McDermott, State 4-H Director – memcdermott@umass.edu

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

Kim Pond, 4-H SET Program Manager – kima@umext.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 – vawallace@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.org

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@barnstablecounty.org

Laura Notarangelo, Administrative Assistant: laura.notarangelo@barnstablecounty.org

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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