



UMass Extension 4-H Program

March 1, 2024

Upcoming 4-H Calendar of Events*

Date	Title	Time & Location	Registration, Contact Info, or Zoom Link
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	
4/3/24	Ag Day at the State House	Boston, MA	https://forms.office.com/r/uAhwaiASif
4/6/24	MA State Visual Presentations	Collegiate Charter School of Lowell	
4/14/24	4-H Night at Thunderbirds Hockey Game	MassMutual Center	https://springfieldthunderbirds.formstack.com/forms/4htbirds
5/10-5/12	Dog Academy	Camp Farley	

***Please see the Animal Science Updates section below to find even more animal program dates and details.**

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
Kent Lage Leadership Award Deadline	3/15	Application Information
Massachusetts Agriculture Youth Council Application (MDAR)	3/17	https://www.mass.gov/doc/massachusetts-agriculture-youth-council-application/download
Deadline for 4-H Foundation Grants	4/1	Grant Application
National 4-H Dairy Conference Application	4/1	Dairy Conference application link
National 4-H Council Youth in Action Applications	4/1	Apply Here
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

Welcome, Shelby!



We have hired a new 4-H Extension Educator for Worcester County. Please join us in welcoming Shelby Robin to her new position with the UMass Extension 4-H Program!

Shelby has been involved with 4-H since she joined the Upton Hoofbeats 4-H Club at about nine years old. Through her years as a 4-H member, she was also part of the Mendon Mini Whinnies, Holden's Huggable Hounds, and Cave Canem. Since becoming a 4-H alum, Shelby has been active as a volunteer, participating in county and statewide events, judging at numerous fairs, and helping at club events and meetings.

Shelby attended Norfolk County Agricultural High School as a Canine major, then went on to earn a Bachelors degree in Business Management and a Masters degree in Psychology with Southern New Hampshire University.

Shelby now lives in Douglas with her husband, Michael, and their three dogs: Epic, Fable, and Saga. When she is not working, you can find Shelby competing at a dog event or on a mountain snowboarding!

Shelby is looking forward to working with everyone, and to meeting you at upcoming events! Please reach out to welcome Shelby at shelbyrobin@umass.edu.

Ag Day at the State House

Massachusetts 4-H will be participating in **Massachusetts Ag Day at the State House on Wednesday, April 3, 2024**. This year we will be thanking the legislators that co-signed Bill HD 651. If passed, this bill would allow for excused absences to apply to some 4-H events. We are looking for 4-H members who are 12 and older to attend Ag Day and help us thank legislators. We will also have a 4-H member speaking at the morning ceremony. Please fill out this form: <https://forms.office.com/r/uAhwaiASif> if you are interested in attending Ag Day 2024.



Ag Day is still in the early planning phases, but we will send details out as soon as they are made available to 4-H. Please contact Meg McDermott at memcdermott@umass.edu with questions.

Teen Voice in Agriculture: APPLY TODAY!

MASSACHUSETTS *Agriculture* YOUTH COUNCIL



The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources is proud to announce the creation of the Massachusetts Agriculture Youth Council. This council was created to cultivate and foster the next generation of leaders in the agriculture industry. The council will meet throughout the year to hear from guest speakers from the agriculture industry, learn about the legislative procedures and workforce development opportunities, attend special events and tours, and enhance professional skills.

Participating in the Massachusetts Agriculture Youth Council will provide students with an opportunity to learn about the varied agricultural sectors in Massachusetts, emerging trends and innovation in farming, and deepen understanding of other states' agricultural issues through connections with youth councils across the United States.

This opportunity is open to Massachusetts high school seniors and members will serve a one year term from June to May.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLYING

Please visit our website to apply and for more detailed information.
www.mass.gov/info-details/massachusetts-agriculture-youth-council

Applications are due, via email, by March 17, 2024

CONTACT US

For more information contact
Katie Rozenas-Hanson: Katelyn.Rozenas@mass.gov



Applications are due electronically by March 17, 2024. To learn more and apply, visit <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massachusetts-agriculture-youth-council>

2024 Massachusetts 4-H Visual Presentation Program



Registration for regional VPs has now closed. Please reach out to [Molly Vollmer](#) with any registration questions.

Regional Visual Presentation Events

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

Contact your regional educator for details and directions if you want to attend a VP day as an audience member to watch, learn, and support your fellow 4-Hers.

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

Practice, practice, practice!



Two Cloverbud members of the Acton C.R.A.F.T. 4-H Club came to the UMass Amherst Mt. Ida Campus 4-H Office to practice their upcoming visual presentations in front of a group of 4-H Extension Educators.

Va Shon, Cynthia, Heather, and Shelby learned all about ukeleles and trains from Andy and Addison. It is so fun to practice VPs together! *(photo credit to Elaine Shirron)*

National 4-H Council Youth in Action

National 4-H Council is looking for Leaders, Creators, Storytellers, and Changemakers.



Apply TODAY to become one of four *Youth in Action* winners. Each outstanding youth will receive a \$5k scholarship, tailored professional mentoring, national speaking opportunities and MORE! Applications are now live until April 1st. [Apply Here](#).

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://aq.umass.edu/sites/aq.umass.edu/files/pdf-doc-ppt/steam_festival_2024_final.pdf

March 2nd: Fair closes entries for judging

March 14th: 7 PM Zoom awards ceremony

National Teen Leadership Trips

UMass 4-H is launching a new application process and guidelines for 4-H teens who are interested in attending one of the three annual national 4-H leadership trips as UMass 4-H delegates: 4-H Ignite Summit, National 4-H Congress, and National 4-H Conference.

For many years, Massachusetts has alternated years when it sends delegates to these trips. Moving forward, we have decided to send delegates each year to all three conferences, with one, consolidated application process. **This application process will open in April of each year with a deadline in June.** The delegate selection process for all three trips will happen during this timeframe even though the trips are spread throughout the fall and spring of the following 4-H year.

There will be more information coming soon, so please tune into future issues of the NewsBlast for details. Direct questions to [Cynthia Bushey](#) or [Kim Pond](#).

Animal Science Programs & Updates



SPREAD THE WORD! As I am meeting and greeting 4-Her's and volunteers around Massachusetts, I am realizing that many folks don't realize that the News Blast is **THE WAY** to stay up-to-date on everything 4-H Animal Science (and Mass 4-H for that matter.). Yes, we do social media. Yes, we chat at our meetings and group texts. However, you can get it straight from the horse's mouth (***pun completely intended***) right here!

So, if you're reading this, then well done! Please feel free to **SPREAD THE WORD** about getting the latest and greatest right here!

Stay on top of your 4-H game:

Animal Verification Forms

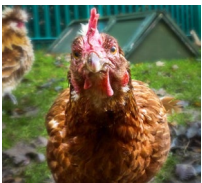
Now is the time to print off your Animal Verification Forms to plan for the upcoming show season. Lease Forms are also due at the same time. Animal Verification Forms are to be completed for all livestock, dogs, and horses that you plan to show at a 4-H fair, dog academies, and/or Big E 4-H Shows. Note: 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](#)

4-H Poultry Program



Whoops! Looks like the link to the Poultry Bowl form from the last News Blast did not work. Let's try that again! If this is of interest to you, please email Andrew at asamuelson@umass.edu. We are aiming to plan an event in late spring/ early summer. If the [form](#) still does not work, please email me.

4-H Goat Program



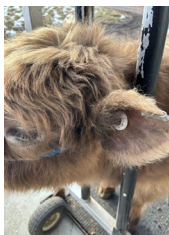
Watch out people! The Dairy Goat program is on the move! **No kidding!!** (Sorry, I couldn't resist.) Here are few dates to mark on your calendar:

- April 6th: [UCONN 4-H Dairy Goat Day](#).
- April 13th: MA 4-H Dairy Goat Day: Erin DeCoste Farm
2680 N. Main St. Lancaster, MA: 10AM-3PM. Registration is coming soon.
- Coming soon: Dairy Goat Tour in Western Mass.

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.

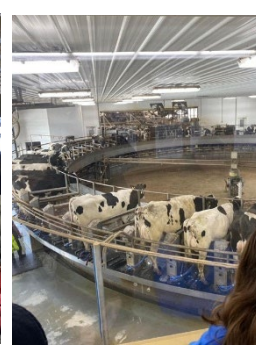


Youth must own their beef steer and the beef heifers can be either owned or leased. A youth may enter up to three animals at this show. For more information on this show, please go to <https://www.thebige.com/p/competitions/4-h/packets> and review the Beef Show Packets 1 & 2. If you have any questions, please reach out to the UMass 4-H State Animal Specialist. Contact Andrew Samuelson at asamuelson@umass.edu with animal science questions. *(Photo credit: Melissa Weigel. Lugnut is looking awesome with his new RFID tag.)*

Blue Ribbon Calf Sale



Saturday, March 16th will mark the 22nd Annual Blue Ribbon Calf Sale. Over the years, the calf sale has become the premier youth dairy sale on the east coast. The longevity of the sale is one more example of our Massachusetts 4-H volunteers stepping up time and time again to make our best better for our 4-Her's. On Friday evening, March 15th, from 5-8pm there will be several workshops for all interested in the 4-H dairy project. Be sure to mark your calendars! Specific workshops will be listed in the next News Blast and on the Facebook page. Funds from the calf sale support 4-H Dairy learning events across the year. Here are a few pics from the recent bus tour to Eastern New York: *(Photo credits: Duane Noto, Katelyn Poitras.)*



Livestock Judging Resources For 4-H Clubs

The MA 4-H Animal Science Program has a subscription to [Livestockjudging.com](https://livestockjudging.com). This platform has TONS of virtual judging resources for all species. Interested? Please contact Andrew at asamuelson@umass.edu.

Save the Dates!

- [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
- UCONN 4-H Dairy Goat Day, April 6, 2024
- MA 4-H Dairy Goat Day, April 13, 2024
- [Northeast Spring Dairy Show Youth Clinics](#), 4/17 Big E, West Springfield.
- MA 4-H Beef visit to [Plymouth Meats](#), Plymouth CT, Monday, April 22nd 3 PM. Interested? Email Andrew at asamuelson@umass.edu.
- [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

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/j/95150340918>

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



Wyoming 4-H
VIRTUAL CAREER NIGHT

Featuring a special presentation by
THE PETERSON FARM BROTHERS

MARCH 19, 2024

6PM MST

VIA ZOOM

REGISTER NOW!

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

UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING EXTENSION
AMBER ARMAJO
307-347-3431
AMWALL@UWYO.EDU
WYOMING4H.ORG/VIRTUAL-CAREER-NIGHT

The poster features a photograph of three men in a field, a QR code for registration, and the Wyoming 4-H logo.



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>



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](https://twitter.com/thunderbirdsahl)

PROUD AFFILIATE
ST. LOUIS BLUES



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^o




**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.

Massachusetts 4-H Foundation



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.](#)

4-H Foundation Grant Information Session

Great news for 4-H Clubs, Advisories, and Fairs interested in [The Massachusetts 4-H Foundation's New Grant Program!](#) (See the [Request for Proposal](#) for eligibility guidelines.)

We're offering (3) FREE virtual drop-in Information Sessions for interested applicants over Zoom on the following dates:

- **Monday, March 5th @ 12:00-1:00 PM** | Join Session [HERE](#)
- **Thursday, March 7th @ 8:00-9:00 AM** | Join Session [HERE](#)
- **Tuesday, March 12th @ 6:00-7:00 PM** | Join Session [HERE](#)

Just enter the discussion room with your questions anytime within the session timeframe and our grants consultant will answer your questions and walk you through the application process.

If you cannot attend any of these sessions, you are still welcome to submit questions via email at grants@mass4hfoundation.org, and a staff member will respond to you.

The application deadline is approaching on April 1st, so let us help you prepare!



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

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

Shelby Robin, Worcester County 4-H Educator – shelbyrobin@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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