



UMass Extension 4-H Program

November 24, 2023

Upcoming 4-H Calendar of Events

Date	Title	Time & Location	Registration, Contact Info, or Zoom Link
11/29	Horse Chat	Zoom 7:00 PM	https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/96799760249
11/30	Dr. Jonathan Samuelson	Zoom 7:00 PM	https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/92960096416
12/3	Norfolk County Regional Horse Judging Contest	12:30 PM at Norfolk Aggie Horse Barn	https://forms.office.com/r/ew11qqFnG0
12/12	Paws for Thought Dog Chat	Zoom 7:00 PM	https://forms.gle/oCJTSrWVerVTM8MKA
12/13	MA State 4-H Horse Advisory	Zoom 7:00 PM	ccsears@umext.umass.edu
1/14/24	4-H Members' Reception	Zoom 7:00-8:30 PM	
4/6/24	MA State Visual Presentations	Location TBD	

Approaching Deadlines

Event/Application	Deadline	Link or Contact Info
4-H Members' Reception Registration	TBD	https://bit.ly/4-HRec11-19-23
Norfolk County Regional Horse Judging Contest Registration	11/26	https://forms.office.com/r/ew11qqFnG0

4-H Record Book Program

We Need You!

Are you interested in scoring this year's 4-H Record Books?

If you missed the Record Book judge training and are still interested in scoring the newly updated record books, please reach out to [Cynthia Bushey](#).

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.

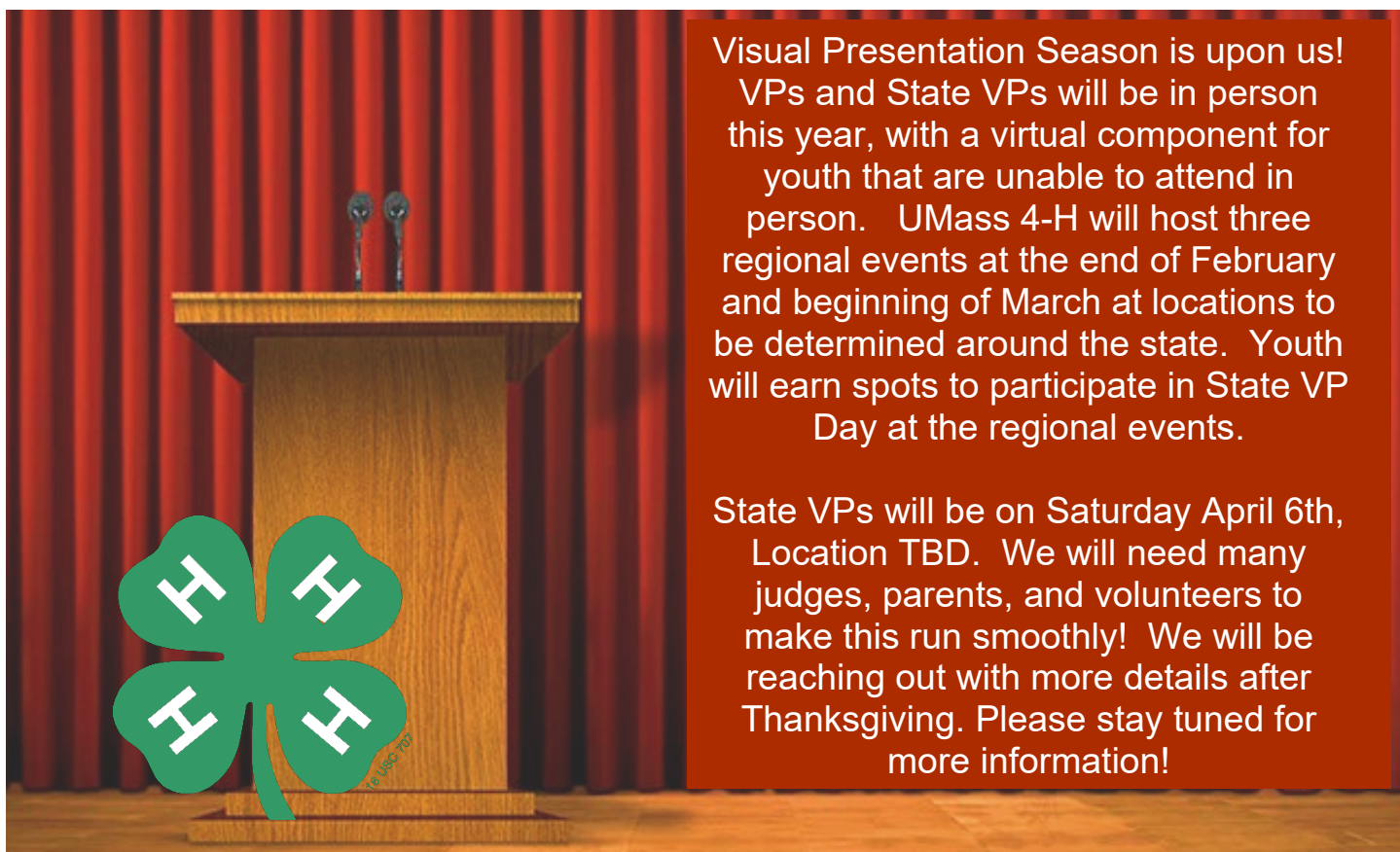
Plymouth County Start Your Records Workshop

Come on into the Plymouth 4-H office and learn how to start your records. We will start our summary records, learn about the project records and more!

November 29th 6-8 PM



Massachusetts 4-H Visual Presentations



National 4-H Opportunity



Calling All Artists, Creators and Performers

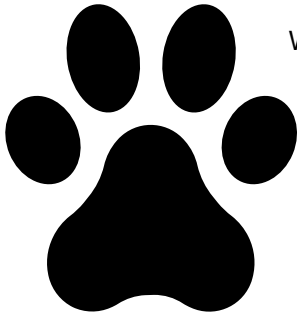
You've got skills...and we want to see them! Students aged 14–19 can submit their work for a chance to be featured at upcoming National 4-H events.

Applications are accepted November 13th through January 1st.

[Apply Here](#)

Animal Science Programs & Updates

Paws for Thought Dog Chats



We are hosting interesting speakers in the world of dogs for all 4-H members and volunteers. They will happen the **2nd Tuesday of each month from 7- 8 PM on Zoom**. To join in, sign up here: <https://forms.gle/oCJTSrWVerVTM8MKA>

December 12th Dog Cognition Study: Learn about exciting dog research projects going on through Boston College and their new research project on Dingoes. What is it like to work with canine behavior research?



January 9th Learn more about breeding dogs. What are the tests required. What do you need to do? How do you manage a litter of puppies and the responsibilities of being a professional breeder?

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.



On the Case with Dr. Jonathan Samuelson

Like an autopsy in human medicine, a necropsy allows veterinarians to glean a wide range of information about a deceased patient. What steps are involved in performing a necropsy? And why would a necropsy be needed? Dr. Jonathan Samuelson, an anatomic pathologist at the University of Illinois Veterinary Diagnostic Lab has the answers.

Hold the date of **November 30th at 7:00 PM** for a Zoom with former MA 4-H dairy alum, Jonathan Samuelson, DVM – University of Illinois – Champaign – Clinical Assistant Professor and Head of VDL Histology. Dr. Samuelson will be discussing his path to vet school and how he chose to specialize in the field of Histology.

Join the meeting using this link:

<https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/92960096416> Contact [Carrie Sears](#) with questions.



National 4-H Poultry Conference



Congratulations to our Avian Bowl Team. The team placed 5th out of 15 teams at the National 4-H Poultry Conference in Louisville, KY. Teams came from CA, MN, WI, FL, PA, NC, AL, AR, NY, MS, OH, MA, MO, KS, and GA. If you are interested in practicing for the 2024 try-outs, please contact Carrie Sears at ccsears@umass.edu



Team Members (left to right): Zackery Zawalski, Margaret Turpel, and Claire Turpel
Team Coach: Debbie Seale.



Horse Chat

Horse Chat is kicking off on November 29th at 7PM on Zoom. Join us for an evening with three of our coaches (Rose Blomgren, Cait Beachell, and Heather Almodovar) along with some team members to talk about their recent experience at the Eastern National 4-H Horse Roundup. Learn how you can prepare for your county contests or prepare your club members to possibly earn a spot on future MA 4-H teams.

Zoom Link:
<https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/96799760249>

Darlene Welch will be speaking in December about the MA 4-H Horse Communications Team who brought home the 2023 Reserve National Team title. Watch for details.

We hope that you can join in!

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 process is being developed and will be rolled out in late December 2023. 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 Carrie Sears.



Contact Carrie Sears at ccsears@umass.edu with any animal science questions.

STEM Programs & Updates

Summer of Science Youth Leader for the “Explore UMass” Program

We are seeking Summer of Science (SOS) Youth Leaders to join the Committee that is planning and running the 2024 Explore UMass Program!

From June 23-25, 2024, Explore UMass participants will stay overnight at UMass Amherst and explore an area of interest alongside educators and experts in the field! Details will be shared as the Committee plans and the program gets closer.



SOS Youth Leaders are a group of selected young people, between the ages of 15 and 18 who serve as members on the Explore UMass Committee. SOS Youth Leaders assist in planning, implementing, and overseeing the Explore UMass program. The SOS Committee is a youth-adult collaboration that meets once a month in the evening on a conference call to plan the event. SOS Youth Leaders lead the Sunday “Welcome to UMass” which is an hour of group building activities that help participants get to know each other. Other responsibilities during the program include: making announcements, assisting with room checks, keeping track of their assigned group of participants and always modeling good character and behavior.

[Click here for more information](#)

Teen Leaders must be involved in 4-H to apply. Your application should include a cover letter and/or resume and include your interest, past participation and leadership experience.

Applications can be emailed to kima@umass.edu or mailed to: Kim Pond, 4-H SET Liaison, 7 Midstate Drive, Suite 102, Auburn, MA 01401

2024 STEAM Festival

We will have several classes for you to enter your projects in the 2024 STEAM Festival!
WATCH FOR THE NEW FAIR BOOK COMING DECEMBER 1st



A FEW 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 super hero
 - Upcycle something you have around
 - Create a Scratch superhero game or Environmental PSA
- We will be updating the 2023 book but take a look and start planning!
https://ag.umass.edu/sites/ag.umass.edu/files/news/pdf/kim_steam_festival_2023.pdf

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

4-H Photography Challenge

See details below to submit a photo for the next challenge
(deadline extended to 11/24)

Just for the fun of it

4-H PHOTOGRAPHY CHALLENGE

Take part in this new 4-H year's challenge! Each month a new photography challenge will be issued in the NewsBlast! Your mission, if you should choose to accept it, is to take photos based on that month's challenge and submit them by the following Wednesday. Photos will be featured in future NewsBlasts, state 4-H Facebook posts, and wherever we can brag about our amazing 4-H members! Up to 2 photos can be submitted each week per person – we know that it can be difficult to choose, but we know you can do it!

One BIG rule – no pictures of people. This is to avoid any issue with photo releases so that we can share the pictures.

This month's challenge:

SPARK

Examples: an activity, a subject, a cause, etc., that gets you excited or motivated
(does not have to be your project)

Submit photo(s) taken by: **Monday Nov. 20th**

Submit photo(s) via email along with Name and Region to: Va Shon Hiltbold at
vwallace@umext.umass.edu

put in subject line Photo Challenge



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. Club leaders who have outstanding reports, please submit them ASAP.** 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.

Re-enrollment FAQs

When Do I Enroll?

After 10/15/23, 4-H members and volunteers can log into 4honline and re-enroll.

Why Do I Need to Enroll?

Both 4-H youth members **and** volunteers need to re-enroll each year to be covered by 4-H accident insurance and to participate in any 4-H program. Click [here](#) for more information on how to navigate re-enrollment in 4honline.

- ✿ **Members:** To be fully enrolled to participate in club meetings and events you must be re-enrolled and have paid your membership fee or have an approved waiver. If you need paper copies of the enrollment or fee waiver forms, your regional office can email or mail them to you.
- ✿ **Volunteers:** There is no fee for volunteers to re-enroll, but you must update your contact information and agree to the current 4-H policies via the re-enrollment process.

What if I Have Never Re-enrolled Online or Forgot How to Do It?

- ✿ If you are a current 4-H member, you already have an account/profile. This was set up by your local office when you enrolled for the first time with your paper enrollment forms.
- ✿ If you have not logged in and set your password, now is the time to work with your office to make sure you are all set to log in.
 - Forgot your email associated with the account?** We can look up the email used to register. Do **not** set up a new account. Contact us.
 - Forgot your password?** You can request one or the office can trigger action for a new password and send you a temporary one. Contact us.

Where Do I Pay?

Even though 4honline has an embedded payment portal, as a UMass Amherst program, we use the University payment portal, instead of the 4honline payment feature. Therefore, when enrolling in 4honline, you **MUST** select Non-electronic/check payment, even if you plan to pay electronically with a credit card.

- ✿ If paying by check, mail to your regional office and they will enter your payment information into the system.
- ✿ If paying by credit card, use the [UMass link](#) and offices will get notified when your payment gets processed.

How will I know I am done with the enrollment process?

Once both enrollment information and payment are processed, the office will approve your membership and send you confirmation that your enrollment is complete.

What if We are a Current 4-H Family and Want to Enroll a New Member?

If you have new members in your family, you will need to complete a paper packet for them. Contact your regional office for a paper enrollment packet.

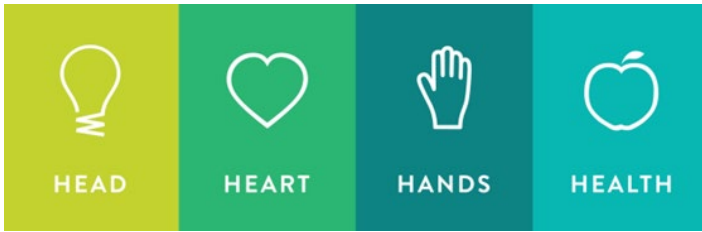
What if I Want to Enroll for the First Time as a Volunteer?

Those interested in becoming new volunteers can reach out to their regional office for an application packet and to register for an onboarding orientation Zoom session.

Why Should I Stay Subscribed to Receive Emails?

Please stay subscribed. If you select "Unsubscribe" from email, you will not get NewsBlasts, reminders of events, or relevant project/program specific information except in the case of critical information when that needs to go out to all families. The biweekly NewsBlast is the main source of consistent information regarding upcoming programs and registration information/deadlines. We also use the database to provide information to select groups for opportunities based on age and project specific events.

Community Service



Is your club interested in supporting youth affected by the fires in Hawaii?

Maui County 4-H clubs are focused on supporting the youth that are currently living in hotels on the island. They are looking for activities to do and this is an area where 4-H shines! They are coordinating a delivery of messages and activities (coloring books, worksheets, cards, games, etc.) to deliver as part of our holiday community service. Please consider making a contribution that would be extra special for the youth in Maui this holiday season.

For those who feel crafty, you might want to create a Zen tangle or mandala that could be shared as a coloring page and you could then also enter it into the MA 4- STEAM Festival.

The Maui County 4-H staff need to have contributions no later than 12/8, so if your club is interested, please reach out to [Kim Pond](#) for the address and more information.



November is Military Family Appreciation Month

Contact [Kim Pond](#) to explore ways to honor Military families throughout the month.



Massachusetts 4-H Foundation

Give to 4-H this Holiday Season

Massachusetts 4-H provides youth with opportunities to gain resilience, independence, and compassion – essential qualities for our rapidly changing world.

- ❁ Your contribution to the Foundation's Annual Fund enables youth to participate in:
- ❁ Animals shows and fairs, like The Big E
- ❁ Conferences such as Explore UMass, National Conference and the Ignite Summit
- ❁ Hands-on activities of all kinds with their clubs
- ❁ And more!

**Give
to 4-H Today!**



Massachusetts **4-H** Foundation

FOSTERING YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

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

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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