



Massachusetts 4-H Program

April 16, 2021

Weekly NewsBlast

The UMass Extension 4-H E-NewsBlast is sent to all 4-H families and volunteers in Massachusetts. 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>

<https://www.facebook.com/Mass4H/>

Earth Day – Still Time to Celebrate!

Although the official Earth Day was this Wednesday, April 22nd, there is still time to participate in earth friendly activities! Earth Day began in 1970 and has been a day dedicated to bringing awareness to environmental protection issues. Here are some great ideas that you might try to celebrate Earth Day from Kids Activities Blog <https://kidsactivitiesblog.com/138729/10-things-you-can-do-to-celebrate-earth-day-from-home/>

VISIT NATIONAL PARKS VIRTUALLY



There are many reasons why you may not be able to visit a US National Park on Earth Day, but the good news is that without a road trip, we can still discover national parks. Many parks are offer virtual visits! Get a bird's eye view of the Grand Canyon. Discover the fjords of Alaska. Or visit the active volcanoes of Hawaii. Nearly all 62 national parks of the United States offer some sort of [virtual tour](#).

SMITHSONIAN LEARNING LAB

The [Smithsonian Learning Lab](#) has so many free resources available to teach your child about a ton of different amazing things. Earth Day has its own special Smithsonian Learning Lab area that includes some incredible photography of the Earth from above. There are pictures, articles, news stories, and even great history lessons!

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

Learn about the world's many animals through the Kids National Geographic Learning [resources](#). Try drawing or coloring pictures of animals or find animal pictures online or in magazines.

START A SEED JAR

Get excited about your future garden by starting a seed jar. As [Little Bins for Little Hands](#) shares, this is a great experiment to see what seeds typically do underground before they sprout from the earth.



May the 4th be with you!

MAY
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BE WITH
YOU

Join us on May 3rd at 7pm to learn about some activities you can use to celebrate Star Wars Day on Tuesday, May 4 and Space Day on Friday, May 7. Learn about the science behind a hovercraft and how you can make your own along with a fun lightsaber craft, star poetry and more. The force is strong with this event since the 2021 National 4-H SET Challenge to be released later this year will also focus on Space Exploration.

Register in advance for this meeting at <https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAucOGqTwwHNJ0u4sKryrHmVIKV6swSr37>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting from Kim Pond.

WPI Touch Tomorrow Program

June 6-12

For all volunteers, 4-H members, and families

WPI's annual [TouchTomorrow](#) festival is back virtually this year, offering a full week of **STEM inspiration for students of all ages!** Join in the learning by taking advantage of guided, hands-on activities, tours, demonstrations, and presentations all from home. All opportunities are designed to demystify STEM and encourage the exploration of new passions. [Registration](#) opens April 14 at <https://wp.wpi.edu/touchtomorrow/> Stay connected by liking the Touch Tomorrow [Facebook page](#), and plan to join! During the festival, the STEM Education Center will be offering **four unique (and free) live workshops for educators**. Educators can learn more and register here: <https://wp.wpi.edu/touchtomorrow/for-educators/>

Doggy Dos and Don'ts: Man's Best Friend; Are You Really His?



It is important to learn about Dog Safety and ways to interact with your dog. Learn what this dog is thinking and be a better friend to 'Man's Best Friend.' Join us for a free class for all ages!

When: Monday April 26 at 7:00PM on Zoom

Sign up: contact Cathy Acampora at acampora@umext.umass.edu

Steam Bitmoji Classroom – Space Exploration



The 4-H STEAM Bitmoji Classroom has evolved! Join in to one of the themed Classrooms that each have 4 bitmoji rooms and 4 assignments. Once all 4 assignments are completed and submitted you will receive a certificate of completion in the mail. You may complete the themed Classroom at your own pace; it can be accessed when it is convenient for your schedule.

The first themed classroom, Space Exploration, will be released on May 4th. You'll learn about stars, Mars, and the solar system from afar. Contact ldubois@umass.edu to receive a google classroom invitation on Tuesday, May 4th, 2021. May the fourth be with you!

All those who complete the 4 assignments by May 31st will be entered into a drawing for one of two- \$15 Gift Cards to Dunkin Donuts. Good luck!

Climate, Carbon & Canopy

Last Session will be on April 29 at 7-8:30PM

Explore the relationship between weather and climate. Investigate the effects of greenhouse gas and carbon dioxide on climate change. Delve into the global carbon cycle, our individual carbon footprints, and what actions businesses and communities can take to help address climate change. The series will conclude with an examination of how trees are part of the global carbon cycle and the role of trees in the moderating climate change. As part of the workshop, each participant will become a member of the Arbor Day Foundation and receive 10 tree seedlings to plant. You will need access to Zoom and be using Google Sheets in this workshop.

Grade Levels: Middle through High School; Elementary School with support

Cost: \$10-this is for membership in the Arbor Day Foundation and for tree seedlings. It is not a 4-H fee. Checks should be payable to: Hampshire County 4-H Advisory Council and mailed to: Leory Barry, Treasurer, Hampshire County 4-H Advisory Council, PO Box 817 Belchertown, MA 01007

Life: Ready for YOUR World

For teens ages 12-18

Have you joined this class yet? If not, you can still participate in one, or all of the upcoming sessions! Join teens from Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut to learn some new skills! Upcoming sessions are held on Tuesday evenings from 7-8PM. To register go to <https://forms.gle/U8sqNaAGbH2iH2Wm8>

Session 2 – Finances

4/27 - Budgeting

5/4 – Credit/Schmedit

Session 3 – Education/Career

5/11 - Exploring YOUR path

5/18 - Applying to college/for jobs

5/25 - Volunteering/Networking

Massachusetts 4-H Fair Workshops

Calling all 4-H teens and volunteers! Share your skill & creativity! The Massachusetts Extension 4-H Program is hosting a day of workshops focusing on 4-H fair entries. The 4-H Team is looking for individuals who can lead a one-hour virtual workshop to teach a craft, show how to display vegetables or arrange flowers, take a great photo, show an animal, and more! Any items made at this workshop or skills gained can be used in upcoming 4-H or other fairs – whether held virtually or in person.

Fair Workshop Day will be held on **May 22 from 10am-2pm**. If you are interested in leading a workshop, or talking to someone about your ideas, contact Angelica Paredes at angelica@umext.umass.edu.

Career Exploration Series

Register attend by contacting Angelica Paredes at angelica@umext.umass.edu.

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| May 5 | David Fox | <p style="text-align: center;">Carpenter, Electrical Engineer & Computer Design Engineer</p> <p>Dave grew up in Bethesda, Md. His father, a forester, had a small poorly equipped shop in the basement where he fixed things. Dave learned about woodworking at a very early age by also 'fixing things' in that basement. He has always enjoyed making things, particularly of wood, and spent a lot of time in the shop making small pieces of wood out of larger pieces and bending nails! By the time he was ready for college, he had developed a fascination with electronics and tinkered with that more than woodworking. He went to Carnegie Mellon University and earned a degree in Electrical Engineering. After college he became a computer design engineer for over 20 years. Even as an engineer he always did woodworking in his spare time. Eventually, he grew tired of engineering and decided to switch careers and become a remodeling contractor. Running his own remodeling business and being the only employee kept him busy until retirement in 2016. Dave started a 4-H Woodworking Club around 2012, and it has been going ever since.</p> |
| May 19 | Sandra Choate | <p style="text-align: center;">Lawyer</p> <p>In her former position, a day at Sandy's office was anything but routine! It could often involve meeting with lawmakers and their staff in the Capitol complex, being with government officials at any of the many agency headquarters located in Washington, D.C., or meeting with members of American Federation of Government Employees' National Executive Council Board of Directors). On days she was not in the office, she traveled extensively around the country to Conferences and Seminars, to various federal agency offices and to AFGE members' offices.</p> <p>Sandra Choate returned to private practice specializing in the area of federal legislative law after almost 19 years as the Assistant General Counsel-Legislation for the AFGE, AFL-CIO. She has worked on a wide range of issues affecting federal employees and has over 30 years' experience analyzing and drafting legislation; providing advice and guidance to Locals and federal employees particularly in the area of civil service law and regulations; and has specialized expertise in the area of employment issues affecting federal firefighters.</p> <p>She has headed or served on numerous task forces for agencies including the Office of Personnel Management and the Department of Defense. Prior to her work with AFGE, Attorney Choate was in private practice where she represented numerous trade associations as their legislative counsel.</p> <p>She is a graduate of the American University with a B.S. degree in Business Administration/Financial Planning, and a Summa Cum Laude graduate of The George Mason University School of Law. She is a member of the D. C. and Virginia bars, the U.S. Supreme Courts, the U.S. Courts of Appeals for the Federal, D.C., Fourth and Eleventh Circuits, and the U. S. District Courts for D.C. and the Eastern and Western Districts of Virginia.</p> |

Gardening Programs in April and May

Contact Cathy Acampora at acampora@umext.umass.edu

Doggy Doo's and Don'ts

- April 26 @7pm on zoom. Learn what your dog really likes and doesn't like and how to understand what they are trying to tell you. Featuring Merida, the pet safety collie who will demonstrate many doggie behaviors. Sign up at this link: <https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcqdu-vqzsrHtf8pMpPNauklf-DrjnaCaJp>

Say it Isn't Cilantro

- April 28 @ 7pm on zoom. Come see some fun ways of marking your garden plants that recycle items you have at home. You will also learn to paint veggie rocks for your vegetable garden. Contact Cathy to sign up.

Contain it!

- May 5 @7pm on zoom. Learn how to grow veggies, herbs, and flowers in containers and some creative ways to make your containers more interesting. Sign up at this link: <https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEld-ioqDMjHdObYjSMGu0LrSiNIP22TAHx>

Earth Day Challenge Continues A Season of Thanks and Service Earth Day Club Challenge

These words found in our 4-H pledge are meaningful to so many of today's 4-H families, just as they have been to past members and volunteers throughout the years. Community Service has been one of the main components of 4-H programming over time. Our University of Massachusetts 4-H Team have heard from many volunteers and families asking for new ways to conduct virtual hands-on community service activities. We invite you to become engaged in this Earth Day Challenge, which will combine environmental science with community service by helping the planet.

You can find the Club Challenge Sheets for you to log your progress as well as other resources on the mass4h.org homepage. More items will be added as the challenge continues. This project will continue through September 1. Contact Kim Pond with questions.

ANIMAL SCIENCE

Contact Carrie Sears to register or with questions at ccsears@umext.umass.edu

Zoom Meetings & Workshops

April 26 – 6:30pm Regional 4-H Horse Advisory

April 29 – 7:30pm Ag Summit Delegate Team Meeting

State 4-H Horse Events:

State 4-H Roundup – Virtual Contest - Hippology & Horse Bowl – May 15

Horse Judging will be at a later date

League of Protein Producers:

A new program that will be offered to youth involved with market project animals: beef, sheep, meat goats, swine, and poultry. The program will be held every Monday night via Zoom starting May 10th at 7:00pm. Youth will learn about direct marketing their project animals; what the consumer wants and how to best raise your animal using the latest technology and nutrition. These are just a snapshot of some of the workshops being offered. Youth participants will receive a certification at the end of the 8-week program. This program is being funded by Farm Credit East – AgEnhancement Grant. If interested in participating, please contact Carrie Sears for further details.

NEW REQUIREMENT FOR THIS YEAR: Livestock Verification Forms

If you have your project animal(s) selected and own or lease, you can start completing your Verification Form available on our website on each of the species' page. You will only do on animals that you plan to show. Please return the completed form to your respective 4-H office. This applies to beef, dairy, sheep, goats, alpacas, llamas, and swine.

Deadlines: May 1 – Dairy and Beef Cattle and June 1 – Goats, Sheep, Alpacas, Llamas and Swine

Please contact Carrie Sears with any questions – ccsears@umext.umass.edu

4-H classes being offered at shows:

4-H Members may be seeing some upcoming horse or dog shows being advertised with 4-H classes. These are not sponsored by Massachusetts 4-H but by affiliates who may have prior arrangements with National 4-H. You may choose to attend as an individual; however, the shows do not count towards MA 4-H sponsored awards/high points.

Second Annual Massachusetts Virtual Fair

Hold the date – August 7th

Massachusetts 4-H Dairy Show

August 6-8, 2021 at the Franklin County Fairgrounds, Greenfield, MA

Now is the time to be ready in case your pet has a minor cut and needs treatment. To learn how to make your own first aid kit, visit <https://www.aspcapro.org/resource/how-make-pet-first-aid-kit>

UMass Amherst Summer Equine Program

Join UMass faculty for an online Equine Science Intensive and learn all about Horse Pregnancy & Foaling. Using real-life case studies from the UMass Hadley Farm Equine Center, you will learn how to properly manage a broodmare during her 11-month pregnancy and prepare for a new foal! You will use applied science, observational skills, and horse behavior to help predict when a foal might be born. For more information - <https://www.umass.edu/umw/programs/pre-college/summer/equine-science>

Premise ID's

Youth interested in showing dairy and beef cattle need to have a premise id before ordering their RFID tags. First step is to contact Carry Shulock Sexton at The MA Division of Animal Health – Carry.shulock-sexton@mass.gov, or call 857-348-3922. Carry will assign you a premise id which you will need before you order your RFID tags for your cattle. RFID tags are becoming a requirement some of the larger shows in the state and throughout the country. It is a way to track the movement of the animal if sold or exhibited at fairs. RFID tags can be ordered from your respective breed associations. Important - you must have the 840 number on the electronic button tag. Please remember this when ordering. If you have any questions, please contact Carrie Sears at ccsears@umext.umass.edu

4-H Office Contacts:

The 4-H Program is operating and available to answer questions. Reach out to your local office by email. Phone numbers are available at the 4-H Website at <https://ag.umass.edu/mass4h/about/office-locations-contacts>

State 4-H Office: Linda Horn, Interim Director lrhorn@umext.umass.edu
Carrie Sears, 4-H Animal Science Program Manager – ccsears@umext.umass.edu
Kim Pond – 4-H SET Program Manager – kima@umext.umass.edu
Deb Comeau – State 4-H Administrative Assistant – dcomeau@umext.umass.edu

Western MA (Franklin, Hampshire, Hampden and Berkshire Counties):
Tom Waskiewicz, 4-H Educator – waskiewicz@umext.umass.edu
Angelica Paredes, 4-H Educator – angelica@umext.umass.edu
Lauren DuBois, Urban 4-H Educator – ldubois@umext.umass.edu
Lizmarie Lopez Ortiz, Urban 4-H Program Assistant - llopezortiz@umext.umass.edu

Southeastern MA (Bristol and Norfolk):
Meg McDermott, 4-H Educator – memcdermott@umass.edu
Kim Henderson, Administrative Assistant – khenders@umext.umass.edu

Central MA (Worcester County):
Meg McDermott, 4-H Educator – memcdermott@umass.edu
Martina Jasiewicz, Administrative Assistant – mjasiewicz@umext.umass.edu

Northeastern MA (Essex, Middlesex, Suffolk):
VaShon Wallace-Hiltpold, Acting 4-H Educator – vwallace@umext.umass.edu
Pam LeFave, Program Assistant – plefave@umext.umass.edu
Debbie Beaubien, Administrative Assistant – debbieb@umext.umass.edu
Nancy McCarthy, Program Assistant – nmccarthy@umext.umass.edu

Plymouth County:
Molly Vollmer, 4-H Educator: mvollmer@umext.umass.edu
Valerie Schell, 4-H Educator: vschell@umext.umass.edu
Cathy Acampora, Administrative Assistant: acampora@umext.umass.edu
Tia Quinn, Administrative Assistant: tquinn@plymouthcountyma.gov

Barnstable County:
Sandi Shepherd-Gay, Barnstable County Youth Extension Educator: sandi.shepherdgay@barnstablecounty.org
Dawn Johnson, Administrative Assistant: dawn.johnson@barnstablecounty.org

Massachusetts 4-H is an extension program at the University of Massachusetts. UMass 4-H follows the Massachusetts Governor's regulations for the re-opening of the state as well as the governance of the University of Massachusetts. Although guidelines for numbers of people who can gather have relaxed a bit for the state, the University guidance still states that no in-person 4-H meetings or activities are to take place at this time. This means our clubs and groups still may not meet in person. We will continue to monitor the situation and will allow in-person club meetings and activities to occur when university guidelines have been completed. We hope that your groups will continue to meet virtually and use some of the many programs, contests, and links that we have to offer online.



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