

FEBRUARY 2025



UMass 4-H Events Calendar

Date, Event, &Time	Location	Info or Registration
2/12/25, 7-8 PM Career Exploration Series	Online	To register: https://bit.ly/4-HCES2-12-25
2/13/25, 6:30-8 PM How to do a 4-H Visual Presentation Training	Online – OR in-person at 4-H Office, 100 Venture Way Hadley, MA	Interested? ericamaclean@umass.edu
2/18/25, 1-4 PM Rabbit Seminar	Plymouth County 4-H Office 44 Obery St., Plymouth	To register: https://forms.gle/LdY8hNmpbwxsLkHD7
2/19/25, 6-8 PM How to do a 4-H Visual Presentation Training	Plymouth County 4-H Office 44 Obery St., Plymouth	https://forms.gle/seEyekwy49xvRkuw6
2/20/25, 6:30-7:30 PM Teen Ambassador Info session	Online	Interested? vwallace@umass.edu
2/20/25, 6 PM-7 PM Horse-specific Visual Presentation preparation	Online	To register: https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/91876251828
2/20/25, 6:30-8 PM 4-H Visual Presentation Judge Training	Online	Interested? mvollmer@umass.edu
2/21/25, 1 PM-4 PM Winter Livestock Seminar	Plymouth County 4-H Office 44 Obery St., Plymouth	To register: https://forms.gle/LhGskzkBBZpxK5tB9
2/22/25, 9 AM-3 PM MA 4-H Rabbit & Cavy Workshop	Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical High School 565 Maple Street, Hathorne, MA (Hathorne is part of Danvers.)	To register: https://forms.office.com/r/H68Vgbcywi
2/22/25, 6:30 -8 PM How to do a 4-H Visual Presentation Training	Online	Link: https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/92283376369
2/25/25, 7 PM-8 PM Introduction to State and National Poultry Contests	Online	Link: https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/95998774503
3/1/25, 9 AM Northeast 4-H VP Contest	Essex Agricultural School 565 Maple Street, Hawthorne	4-H Online
3/1/25, 9 AM Western 4-H VP Contest	Online & in-person UMass College of Ed., Furcolo Hall 813 N. Pleasant St., Amherst	4-H Online
3/4/25, 7-8 PM Teen Ambassador Info session	Online	Interested? vwallace@umass.edu
3/8/25, 9 AM Southeast 4-H VP Contest	Bristol Agricultural School 135 Center St., Dighton	4-H Online
3/14/25, 7 PM STEAM Festival Awards Ceremony	Online	Participants receive an invitation
3/15/25 Mass 4-H Foundation Kent Lage scholarship due date	Online	To apply: https://www.mass4hfoundation.org/for-families-clubs/grants-and-awards/

Date, Event, & Time	Location	Info or Registration
3/19, 26, & 4/2, 6-7:30 PM 4-H Online Babysitting Course	Online	Register by 3/14: https://forms.gle/E9HhswNoCNBCeA469/vwallace@umass.edu
3/31/25 Mass 4-H Foundation Summer Campership application deadline	Online	To apply: https://www.mass4hfoundation.org/for-families-clubs/grants-and-awards/
4/1/25 Due: National 4-H Dairy Conference Applications	Mail to: Western Regional 4-H Office 100 Venture Way, Suite 334 Hadley, MA 01035	Interested? asamuelson@umass.edu
4/5/25, 9 AM State 4-H VP Contest	TBD	TBA
4/21/25, 11 AM-2 PM Beef Cuts and Grading Workshop	Meat Works, 287 State Rd., Westport, MA	Register: https://ma4hbeefcuts.4honline.com
4/22/25 Livestock Auction Visit	Northampton Co-op Auction 353 Long Plain Rd., Whately, MA	Register: https://ma4hauctionvisit.4honline.com
4/22/25, 10:30 AM-12:30 PM Mill Tour and Grain Identification Seminar	Kent Feeds, Blue Seal Grain Mill, 520 Hall St., Bow, NH	Register: https://ma4hgrainmill.4honline.com

Approaching Registration & Application Deadlines

Deadline	Event or Opportunity	Application or Info Link
2/14/25	2/19 How to do a VP workshop, Plymouth	https://forms.gle/seEyekwy49xvRkuw6
2/15/25	MA 4-H Rabbit & Cavy Workshop	https://forms.office.com/r/H68Vgbcywi
2/18/25	Winter Livestock Seminar	https://forms.gle/LhGskzkBBZpxK5tB9
2/18/25	Animal Science Cattle Academy Interest Form	https://forms.office.com/r/5TNYM5wjwh
2/23/25	Intro to State and National Poultry Contests RSVP date	asamuelson@umass.edu
3/14/25	4-H Online 4-H Babysitting Course	https://forms.gle/E9HhswNoCNBCeA469/vwallace@umass.edu
3/15/25	Kent Lage College scholarship application deadline	https://www.mass4hfoundation.org/for-families-clubs/grants-and-awards/
3/31/25	Summer Campership application deadline	https://www.mass4hfoundation.org/for-families-clubs/grants-and-awards/
4/1/25	Due: National 4-H Dairy Conference Applications	Request application from: asamuelson@umass.edu
4/7/25	Livestock Auction Visit	https://ma4hauctionvisit.4honline.com
4/7/25	Beef Cuts and Grading Workshop	https://ma4hbeefcuts.4honline.com
4/7/25	Mill Tour and Grain Identification Seminar	https://ma4hgrainmill.4honline.com

Massachusetts Statewide Programming & Announcements

NEW 4-H Volunteer CORI Process

UMass Extension 4-H Youth Development has a new digital online CORI and Re-CORI submission process, that is effective immediately. New volunteers will receive CORI paperwork, a submission link, and instructions from Kim Henderson.

Existing volunteers will need to re-submit a copy of their license and CORI paperwork every three years. 4-H staff will alert you a month in advance of when you are due to be re-CORI checked. Kim Henderson will send you the paperwork, a submission link, and instructions. CORI paperwork can be notarized by a public notary or signed by a 4-H staff member.

UMass 4-H Career Exploration Series (CES)

NEXT PRESENTATION

ENTOMOLOGIST, BLAKE DINIUS

Some creep, some crawl, and some fly! Are you interested in Entomology? Did you know entomology is a branch of zoology that is concerned with the study of insects?

If you want to learn about a career in entomology, or as an Extension Educator, join us on Wednesday, February 12, at 7 PM via Zoom. Find out what an entomologist does and ask the questions you want to know! Registration link: <https://bit.ly/4-HCES2-12-25>

If you, or someone you know, are interested in a specific field, please let Angelica know and she will do her best to find someone to present in that field.

adiaz@umass.edu

The poster is for the UMass Extension 4-H Career Exploration Series, titled "Beyond Ready: Connecting youth with professionals". It features a blue and green color scheme with a 4-H clover logo. The main text announces a presentation by Blake Dinius, an Entomologist Extension Educator, on Wednesday, February 12, 2025, at 7:00 PM ET. It includes a list of questions to spark interest in entomology and extension education, such as "Do you love science, but don't love the idea of working in a laboratory?" and "Imagine learning about your favorite subjects and getting paid to do so! Better yet, the information you teach can improve lives and help the environment." The poster also mentions that the session is open to all and provides a registration link: <https://bit.ly/4-HCES2-12-25>. A QR code is located in the bottom right corner. At the bottom, it says "via Zoom OPEN TO ALL" and "Register: https://bit.ly/4-HCES2-12-25". The footer includes the UMass 4-H logo and the text "YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AND EXTENSION UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST".

How to do a 4-H Visual Presentation

Attend a training on how to do a 4-H Visual Presentation! This is for all 4-H members, volunteers, parents, and others interested in learning more about how to put together a winning presentation. Basics of public speaking, materials, topics, sources, judging sheets and more will be discussed and questions are welcome! Public Speaking is a critical skill in communication and our 4-H members prove to be some of the best. 4-H members ages 5-18 are welcome to present on a topic of their choice at a future event this spring. 4-H Club, regional, and statewide events are available to youth who are interested in participation and competition. Learn the basics and become a pro!

➔ Thursday, February 13, 6:30-8 PM, Western MA 4-H Office, 100 Venture Way, Hadley, MA, In-person and virtual. Contact Erica at ericamaclean@umass.edu

➔ Saturday, February 22, 6:30-8 PM, Online, <https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/92283376369>

➔ Wednesday, February 19, 6-8 PM, Plymouth 4-H Office, 44 Obery St., Plymouth, register by 2/14, at <https://forms.gle/seEyekwy49xvRkuw6>

Visual Presentation Judge Training

Massachusetts 4-H is looking for judges for upcoming 4-H Visual Presentation events across the state. Judges must be ages 16 and up and attend training to learn more about the presentation program, how to serve as a judge, and award placements. All parents, volunteers, 4-H alumni, and members are welcome to serve in this unique role. This is the perfect opportunity to try something new and help our 4-H members perfect their public speaking skills.

There are three virtual training times, you only need to attend one: Tuesday, February 4, or Thursday, February 20. All will be from 6:30 to 8 PM. If you are interested, please email Molly at mvollmer@umass.edu.

Visual Presentations 2024-2025 4-H Year

Please save the dates for Visual Presentations! Locations are tentative and pending confirmation from schools.

3/1/25- In-person and virtual University of Massachusetts, Amherst, College of Education

3/1/25- In-person, Essex County Agricultural High School

3/8/25- In-person, Bristol County Agricultural High School

4/5/25- State VP Day- Location TBD

4-H Teen Opportunity

MA 4-H TEEN AMBASSADORS

Join the Massachusetts 4-H Teen Ambassador Program!

Are you a passionate 4-H teen (13 and older) looking to take your leadership, communication, and citizenship skills to the next level? The Massachusetts 4-H Teen Ambassadors Program is your chance to step up, make an impact, and inspire others!

As a 4-H Teen Ambassador, you'll:

Be a role model for younger youth

Connect with your community and build valuable partnerships

Promote 4-H and everything it has to offer

Develop leadership skills that will set you up for success

This is your opportunity to grow, lead, and make a difference. Are you ready to represent 4-H and create lasting change?

Complete an application by contacting Va Shon Wallace-Hiltbold at vwallace@umass.edu

Interested 4-H Teens must register for and attend one of the Zoom information Sessions:

Feb. 20, Thursday at 6:30-7:30 PM

March 4, 2025, Tuesday 7-8 PM

4-H Babysitting Course

ONLINE 4-H BABYSITTING COURSE

📌 You're Invited to attend the 4-H Babysitting Course! 🧑🏻🧑🏻

Babysitting is more than just a job—it's a responsibility that parents and guardians take seriously when entrusting their most precious treasures, their children, to someone else's care.

Are you ready to become a confident, capable, and trusted babysitter? Join our 4-H Babysitting Course and gain the skills you need to provide safe, responsible, and fun care for children!

☀️ In this training, you will learn:

- ✓ Babysitting responsibilities & expectations
- ✓ Child development & age-appropriate activities
- ✓ Positive guidance & discipline strategies
- ✓ Essential safety & health practices
- ✓ Business skills for a successful babysitting career

Who can join?

Anyone interested in becoming a skilled babysitter and making a difference in a child's life! The cost for the course is \$35, make a check payable to UMass. Free for 4-H Members.

📍 Location: Online

📅 Date & Time: March 19, 26, and April 2, 2025, 6-7:30 PM Eastern Time

Register by: March 14, 2025

📞 Register now: <https://forms.gle/E9HhswNoCNBceA469>

Don't miss this opportunity to attend and gain the confidence parents look



4-H BABYSITTING Course Online

March 19, 26, and April 2, 2025
6-7:30 p.m. Eastern Standard time via Zoom

Would you like to learn babysitting skills? If you are 11-18 years old attend our 4-H Babysitting course online.

This course will:

- prepare youth to become a capable, caring, and responsible babysitters
- teach babysitting safety and responsibilities along with fun activities
- provide a 4-H Babysitting manual and first aid supplies

Participants will come to understand the responsibilities of babysitting and learn the skills needed to become good babysitters. Youth will develop confidence in handling situations they may encounter when babysitting. Upon completion of this course, youth will receive a Babysitter's ID card and a certificate of completion. The cost for the course is \$35. Check payable to UMass Amherst.

For questions or more information contact vwallace@umass.edu

Register by **March 14, 2025**



Register at <https://forms.gle/4kmeFmHWsiqhQ3TUg>

4-H Youth Development
UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS - AMHERST

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 & employer. United States Department of Agriculture cooperating. Contact our local UMass Extension office for information on disability accommodations or the UMass Director if you have concerns related to discrimination 413-554-4800 or refer to www.extension.umass.edu/equality

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for when choosing a babysitter.
We can't wait to see you there!

Explore UMass!

SAVE THE DATE – JUNE 22-24, 2025

Explore UMass is a program for both 4-H members and non-members, ages 12-16. Youth participants get to experience Campus Life during this immersive 3-day, 2-overnight STEM program on the UMass Amherst Campus.

Young people get to see what it is like staying overnight in a college dorm, eating at UMass's world-renowned dining commons, and engaging in hands-on STEM workshops and activities with peers.

4-H Animal Science Updates

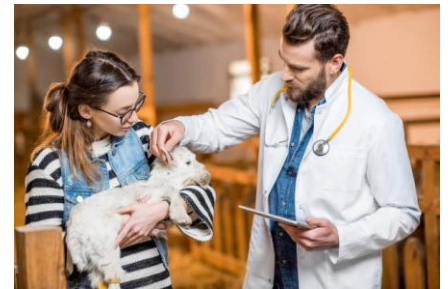
Explore Vet Science

A HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE

Do you love animals? Have you considered becoming a veterinarian? On June 14th and 15th, 2025, MA 4-H Animal Science and UMASS Vet Science will be welcoming students, ages 13 to 18, interested in Veterinary Science.



Youth will be learning about the wide range of opportunities in this profession and will get **TONS** of hands-on animal experience. This year, we are bringing back the option to stay overnight in a UMASS dorm! To make the best program possible, we are asking interested youth to complete this [interest form](#) by February 20, 2025. Once we have the topics in place, a registration form will be sent out in early March. Please email Andrew at asamuelson@umass.edu if you have any questions.



Winter Livestock Seminar

HONE YOUR SKILLS

On Friday, February 21, 2025, learn about showing dairy cows, goats, and sheep. Knowledge games and work on your records. You do not have to be on the project to attend, come learn what it is all about, if you are, come hone your skills! Taught by volunteers and staff. Please register at the link so we have enough materials. Free to all enrolled 4-H members. Must be enrolled to participate. The deadline to register is Tuesday, February 18, 2025. Register at <https://forms.gle/LhGskzkBBZpxK5tB9>. For questions, reach out to Cathy Acampora at acampora@umass.edu.

Livestock

LIVESTOCK AUCTION VISIT

Livestock Auction Visit will take place on Tuesday, April 22, at the Northampton Co-op Auction, 353 Long Plain Rd., Whately, MA. Participants will learn about the work of the livestock auction. Our visit time will depend on the interest of the group attending. This workshop is free. Youth will need to provide their own transportation and be accompanied by an adult. Special instructions for participating in each event will be sent out a week prior to the event. Sign-up by April 7, at <https://ma4hauctionvisit.4honline.com>.

MILL TOUR AND GRAIN IDENTIFICATION SEMINAR

A Mill Tour and Grain Identification Seminar will take place on Thursday, April 24, at 10:30 AM at the Blue Seal Grain Mill, 520 Hall St., Bow, NH. Participants will tour the grain mill and learn about the grains that are used in animal feeds. This workshop is free. Youth will need to provide their own transportation and be accompanied by an adult. Special instructions for participating in each event will be sent out a week prior to the event. Please sign up by April 7, 2025, at <https://ma4hgrainmill.4honline.com>.

4-H Horse Program

SAVE THE DATE

February 8, 2025, Western Region Mini Horse Round-up! This event will take place at the Hadley 4-H Office. Watch for registration information – coming soon!

HORSE VISUAL PRESENTATION PREPARATION

Join the MA 4H Communication Team coaches, Heather Almodovar and Caitlin Curry, on Thursday, February 20, from 6 PM-7

PM, for an info session on how to elevate your horse topic VP or speech to national quality, followed by Q+A time and a workshop where you can get feedback on your presentation. Make sure your speech is ready to go for regional and state competitions! Register at <https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/91876251828>.



HORSE COMMUNICATION

Those working to qualify for the Horse Nationals communication team will have two opportunities this year:

They must compete with a horse topic at their regional Visual Presentations.

They then have two options; they can compete at State Visual Presentations if they are selected to do so. They can also sign up and present their Visual Presentation at our Communications Day April 24th at the Auburn Office. That event will be run from 4pm-7pm and participants will sign up for a time slot. A sign-up form will be coming.

Any 4-H member is eligible to enter and try out to be on the communications team- they do not have to be in a Horse club. Please contact Shelby Robin at shelbyrobin@umass.edu with any questions.

4-H Dog Program

SAVE THE DATE

The dates for the 2025 Mass 4-H Dog Academy have been set for May 9-11, 2025, at Camp Farley in Mashpee (Cape Cod). Stay over for the weekend and learn about dog health, breeds, 4-H records, agility, showmanship and so much more! Details to follow this winter. Interested in learning more? Contact Cathy Acampora at acampora@umass.edu or 774-343-5054.

4-H Dairy Program

2025 ANIMAL SCIENCE CATTLE ACADEMY INTEREST FORM

This year's Animal Science Academy will be at the Tri-County Fairgrounds in Northampton, June 20-22, focusing on beef, dairy, and working steer cattle. In order to make the best event ever, we need to know who is interested in attending and what they are working on this year. If you are interested in attending this year's academy, please complete the interest form by February 18, 2025. Form: <https://forms.office.com/r/5TNYM5wjwh> Questions: asamuelson@umass.edu

NATIONAL 4-H DAIRY CONFERENCE APPLICATIONS

Since 1954, the National 4-H Dairy Conference has been where dairy youth from across North America can interact with one another and grow their understanding of the dairy industry. Held during the World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin, youth must submit an application and participate in an interview to be considered for this experience. Any 4-Her with dairy project experience is welcome to apply. To request an application, please reach out to Andrew at asamuelson@umass.edu. Applications are due on April 1, 2025.

4-H Beef Program

NEW ENGLAND 4-H BEEF PROGRAM

Youth ages 12-18 (as of January 1st) are eligible to try out for the New England 4-H Beef Show held in September. Youth must own and care for their beef steer; 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>. Steers must be entered by March 1st, and heifers must be entered by May 24th. Any youth interested in participating in the MA 4-H Beef Team must complete an application. Please contact Andrew at asamuelson@umass.edu if you need an application.

BEEF CUTS AND GRADING WORKSHOP

The Beef Cuts and Grading Workshop will take place on Monday, April 21 at 11 AM, Meat Works, 287 State Rd., Westport, MA. Youth will get a tour of the facility and participate in meat cut identification and grading experience. This workshop is free. Youth will need to provide their own transportation and be accompanied by an adult. Special instructions for participating in this event will be sent out a week prior to the event. Please sign up by April 7, 2025, at <https://ma4hbeefcuts.4honline.com>. We can't wait to see you in April!

4-H Poultry Program

INTRODUCTION TO STATE AND NATIONAL POULTRY CONTESTS

The Massachusetts Poultry Program has been participating in the National 4-H Poultry and Egg Conference for many years. This conference brings 4-Hers together from all over the country to compete in competitions such as the Avian Bowl, Judging Contest, and Egg Chef Challenge. This year, our leaders will be launching a special program for juniors. On February 25th, from 7-8 PM, via Zoom, any 4-Her (juniors and seniors), with an interest in poultry, should attend this meeting to learn more about this fantastic event. Let Andrew know if you will be attending by February 23, asamuelson@umass.edu. See you on the 25th, <https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/95998774503>

4-H Animal Science “SAVE THE DATE”

ANIMAL SCIENCE ACADEMY FOR GOATS: ERIN DECOSTE FARM, MAY 31, 2025

ANIMAL SCIENCE ACADEMIES FOR BEEF, DAIRY, & WORKING STEER: TRI-COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS, JUNE 20-22, 2025

EXPLORE VET SCIENCE: HADLEY FARM, JUNE 14-15, 2025

New England Opportunities

CT 4-H DAIRY JUDGING 101 2/8/25

This free workshop will feature instruction from one of the best in the industry! Dr. Katharine Knowlton, Dairy Science Professor and Dairy Judging Coach for Virginia Tech, will lead the workshop on judging and reasons. Pre-registration is required. Register with Bill Davenport, (860) 459-6753, william.davenport@uconn.edu.

BLUE RIBBON CALF SALE 3/14-15/25

The 2025 edition of the Blue-Ribbon Calf Sale is coming soon! Held at the Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield, clinics will be on Friday evening, March 14th and the sale is on March 15th.

UConn 4-H DAIRY AND BEEF DAY 3/29/25

Interested in learning more about the 4-H Beef and Dairy projects? Contact Andrew for more information about this event held by our CT 4-H friends, asamuelson@umass.edu.

UConn 4-H GOAT DAY 4/5/25

Interested in learning more about the 4-H Goat project? Contact Andrew for more information about this event held by our CT 4-H friends, asamuelson@umass.edu.

NEW ENGLAND 4-H DOG CLINIC 5/3/25

Interested in learning more about the 4-H Dog project? Contact Andrew for more information about this event held by our CT 4-H friends, asamuelson@umass.edu.

TUFTS LARGE ANIMAL OPPORTUNITY

Dressage4Kids and the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University are pleased to present a special Open House with lectures, presentations, and hands-on activities. This event will be held on Saturday, April 5, 2025, at the Tufts Equine Center, Agnes Varis Campus Center and Auditorium, 5 Jumbo's Path, North Grafton, MA. The schedule will be released closer to the event.

Join us for an interactive day of learning, including presentations and additional hands-on learning opportunities in the Hospital for Large Animals. This event will include a fun and interactive combination of presentations, panel discussions, and hands-on learning opportunities for youth and adult participants to learn about a variety of topics, ranging from emergency preparedness to first aid to discussions about life as a veterinarian.

Registration Fees through February 28th (includes access to lectures, presentations, hands-on activities and lunch):

Youth ages 21 and under: \$30

Adults aged 22 and older: \$50

Registration Fees from March 1 through March 21 (includes access to lectures, presentations, hands-on activities and lunch):

Youth ages 21 and under: \$35

Adults aged 22 and older: \$70

There is also a small discount for groups of 6 or more. Contact Mary at d4k.org@gmail.com for more info.

All youth under age 18 must be accompanied by an adult participant and the adult participant must be registered.

To register, please follow this link and complete the online registration form: [D4K UP at Tufts Equine Center April 5 2025 : D4K Unmounted Programs : Programs : Dressage4Kids](#)

Please contact Mary Livernois at d4k.org@gmail.com with any questions.



4-H Fun Fact

Since 4-H began more than 100 years ago, it has become the nation's largest youth development organization. The 4-H idea is simple: help young people and their families gain the skills needed to be proactive forces in their communities and develop ideas for a more innovative economy.

Want to read more: <https://4-h.org/about/history/>

National 4-H News & Opportunities

4-H Military Partnership

MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD CELEBRATION

Month of the Military Child

April is designated as the Month of the Military Child, underscoring the important role military children play in the armed forces community. If your club would like to host an event and invite military youth, please reach out to Kim Pond at kima@umass.edu so we have time for it to hit newsletters and communication. You can also show your support by joining in and wearing purple for Purple Up which will be April 11 for the Massachusetts National Guard, April 23 the Interstate Purple Up Day, or any time in April and share your pictures.



THIRD THURSDAYS TOGETHER

We are excited about our Third Thursday session lineup. Third Thursdays Together are webinars for extension and service staff who work with military-connected youth and families. Sessions are free, and registration is required. You can find the link at: <https://www.4-hmilitarypartnership.org/>

- February 20, 2 pm EST –The Art of Reflection with Lauren Dye, University of Georgia 4-H
Children and youth enjoy the activities we plan and often learn a great deal as they experience the process and the project. Planning for intentional reflection during and after the activity is an important component of the Experiential Learning process. Join the webinar to discover different strategies and techniques to make reflection as much fun as the activity and provide participants (and facilitators) the tools needed to extend their learning.
- March 20, 2 pm EST - Crucial Conversations for Mastering Dialogue with Joe Smith, Crucial Learning
If you're not getting the results you want, it's likely that an important conversation hasn't happened or hasn't been handled well. Both individual and organizational success is largely determined by how quickly, directly, and effectively we speak up when it matters most. People willing and able to hold Crucial Conversations are at the heart of healthy and high-performance organizations. Join the webinar to learn the skills of the world's best communicators. Gain the confidence and ability to dialogue when stakes are high, opinions vary, and emotions run strong.
- Check out the past Third Thursday Together in the recordings archive online. If you missed the November edition of the Food Curriculum Series by Angie Frost with Purdue University Extension, Be sure to watch these and check out the recipes on the University of Kentucky Extension website, shared by Rachael Davis, McCracken County 4-H. Thanks, Rachael!

CONNECTING WITH THE PARTNERSHIP

If you have not, please join our Facebook group and share what's happening in your programs, ask questions, and get input from others working with military-connected youth. You must answer certain questions to be accepted as a member, so include those responses when you ask to join.

We hope you visit our website <https://www.4-hmilitarypartnership.org/> often to learn what's new for the 4-H Military Partnership. As always, we'd love to see what you are doing.

STEM OPPORTUNITIES

Thanks to all those who entered the 2025 STEAM Festival. We will be working on judging over the next few weeks and preparing for the awards ceremony on March 14 at 7pm. All those who entered will get a zoom link they can share with their family and club leader. If you are new and would like to join us to learn more about this winter fair reach out to Kim Pond at kima@umass.edu or Lauren DuBois at ldubois@umass.edu.



Massachusetts 4-H Foundation



Massachusetts **4-H** Foundation

FOSTERING YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Apply for a Foundation Campership

The air is cold now, but summer is coming! Get your child ready for summer camp at one of the former Massachusetts 4-H camps and apply for a Foundation campership for summer 2025. Applications are due March 31, 2025. Apply here: <https://www.mass4hfoundation.org/for-families-clubs/grants-and-awards/>



Kent Lage Leadership Award



YOUR 4-H EXPERIENCE CAN BRING IN EDUCATION DOLLARS!
The Foundation is now accepting applications for its 2025 Kent Lage Leadership Award! This award recognizes 4-H'ers who have excelled in leadership qualities and will be enrolled in college next year. The due date is March 15, 2025. The first-place winner earns \$1,500, and second place receives \$750. Apply here: <https://www.mass4hfoundation.org/for-families-clubs/grants-and-awards/>

UMass 4-H Policy

UMass Extension 4-H Policies

<https://ag.umass.edu/mass4h/volunteers/for-current-ma-4-h-volunteers/volunteer-resources>

University Information about Flu, Covid-19, and RSV for Fall 2024

Guidelines: All respiratory virus updates are posted on the EHS homepage on the following website: [UMass Public Health Promotion Center & Vaccine Clinic Information | Environmental Health & Safety | UMass Amherst](#), which includes the latest guidance from MA DPH on what to do if you have symptoms, test positive or exposed.

UMass Amherst follows the [Massachusetts Department of Public Health \(MA DPH\) guidance](#) for respiratory viruses like Flu, COVID-19 and RSV

- If you have symptoms of a respiratory virus (isolation), [please follow this guidance](#).
- If you have tested positive for a respiratory virus (such as COVID-19), but do not have symptoms, [please follow this guidance](#).
- If you were exposed to someone with a respiratory virus illness (exposure precautions), [please follow this guidance](#).

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 Specialist – asamuelson@umass.edu

Angélica Diaz-Heyman, 4-H School & Community Partnership Specialist – adiaz@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

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

Kim Henderson, Southeast Region Administrative Assistant – khenders@umext.umass.edu

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

Northeastern MA Office: Essex, Middlesex & Suffolk Counties

UMass Mt. Ida Campus, Miller Hall; 100 Carlson Avenue, Newton, MA 02459

Va Shon Wallace-Hiltbold, 4-H Educator – vwallace@umext.umass.edu

Nancy McCarthy, Program Assistant – nmccarthy@umext.umass.edu

Debbie Beaubien, Administrative Assistant – debbieb@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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