

JANUARY 2025

## UMass 4-H Events Calendar



Date, Event, &Time	Location	Info or Registration
1/11/25, 11 AM–3 PM MA 4-H Dairy Advisory Annual Meeting	Western MA 4-H Regional Office 100 Venture Way, Hadley	Interested? asamuelson@umass.edu
1/17/25, 5 PM Deadline to register for W. Mass Winter Workshops	Online	To register: <a href="https://forms.office.com/r/uAnisNqcNM">https://forms.office.com/r/uAnisNqcNM</a>
1/22/25, 6:30-8 PM 4-H Visual Presentation Judge Training	Online	Interested? mvollmer@umass.edu
1/19/25, 6-8:30 PM 4-H Members Reception	Online	To register: <a href="https://forms.gle/tRBw6TbfAjDxeXvZ7">https://forms.gle/tRBw6TbfAjDxeXvZ7</a>
1/19/25, 6:30-8 PM How to do a 4-H Visual Presentation	Online	Join at <a href="https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/92283376369">https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/92283376369</a>
1/23/25, 6:30-8 PM How to do a 4-H Visual Presentation	Online	Join at <a href="https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/92283376369">https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/92283376369</a>
1/25/25, 8:30 AM-12:30 PM Western Mass Winter Workshops	Furcolo Hall, UMass Amherst 813 N. Pleasant St., Amherst	To register: <a href="https://forms.office.com/r/uAnisNqcNM">https://forms.office.com/r/uAnisNqcNM</a>
2/1/25, all-day New England 4-H Beef Program	Online	Show information: <a href="https://www.thebige.com/p/competitions/4-h/packets">https://www.thebige.com/p/competitions/4-h/packets</a>
2/1/25, 9 AM-12:30 PM Pedal Thru Youth - Cruiser Care Packs for the Homeless 2025 - Assembly Day	Pedal Thru Youth Headquarters 101 Front St, West Springfield	Interested? dressarah@comcast.net
2/4/25, 6:30-8 PM 4-H Visual Presentation Judge Training	Online	Interested? mvollmer@umass.edu
2/6/25 2025 STEAM Festival entries due	Online Use your 4honline.com family login.	Class list: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1JxYNxHjNG/">https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1JxYNxHjNG/</a>
2/12/25, 7-8 PM Career Exploration Series	Online	To register: <a href="https://bit.ly/4-HCES2-12-25">https://bit.ly/4-HCES2-12-25</a>
2/18/25, 1-4 PM Rabbit Seminar	Plymouth County 4-H Office 44 Obery St., Plymouth	To register: <a href="https://forms.gle/LdY8hNmpbwxsLkHD7">https://forms.gle/LdY8hNmpbwxsLkHD7</a>
2/20/25, 6:30-8 PM 4-H Visual Presentation Judge Training	Online	Interested? mvollmer@umass.edu
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: <a href="https://forms.office.com/r/H68Vgbcywi">https://forms.office.com/r/H68Vgbcywi</a>

Date, Event, & Time	Location	Info or Registration
3/1/25, 9 AM Northeast 4-H VP Contest	Essex Agricultural School 565 Maple Street, Hawthorne	TBA
3/1/25, 9 AM Western 4-H VP Contest	Online & in-person UMass College of Ed., Furcolo Hall 813 N. Pleasant St., Amherst	TBA
3/8/25, 9 AM Southeast 4-H VP Contest	Bristol Agricultural School 135 Center St., Dighton	TBA
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: <a href="https://www.mass4hfoundation.org/for-families-clubs/grants-and-awards/">https://www.mass4hfoundation.org/for-families-clubs/grants-and-awards/</a>
3/31/25 Mass 4-H Foundation Summer Campership applications due	Online	To apply: <a href="https://www.mass4hfoundation.org/for-families-clubs/grants-and-awards/">https://www.mass4hfoundation.org/for-families-clubs/grants-and-awards/</a>
4/5/25, 9 AM State 4-H VP Contest	TBD	TBA

## Approaching Registration & Application Deadlines

Deadline	Event or Opportunity	Application or Info Link
1/15/25	4-H Members Reception	<a href="https://forms.gle/tRBw6TbfAjDxeXvZ7">https://forms.gle/tRBw6TbfAjDxeXvZ7</a>
1/17/25	Western Mass Winter Workshops	<a href="https://forms.office.com/r/uAnisNqcNM">https://forms.office.com/r/uAnisNqcNM</a>
2/1/25	MA 4-H Rabbit & Cavy T-Shirt Design Contest	<a href="mailto:asamuelson@umass.edu">asamuelson@umass.edu</a>
2/15/25	MA 4-H Rabbit & Cavy Workshop	<a href="https://forms.office.com/r/H68Vgbcywi">https://forms.office.com/r/H68Vgbcywi</a>
3/15/25	Kent Lage College scholarship application deadline	<a href="https://www.mass4hfoundation.org/for-families-clubs/grants-and-awards/">https://www.mass4hfoundation.org/for-families-clubs/grants-and-awards/</a>
3/31/25	Summer Campership application deadline	<a href="https://www.mass4hfoundation.org/for-families-clubs/grants-and-awards/">https://www.mass4hfoundation.org/for-families-clubs/grants-and-awards/</a>

## 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.

## Full-Time 4-H Animal Science Specialist

WELCOME ANDREW SAMUELSON!

UMass Extension 4-H Youth Development is very excited to announce that Andrew Samuelson has accepted the full-time 4-H Animal Science Specialist position! Andrew has been the part time Animal Science Program Assistant for the past calendar year and has done a fantastic job supporting our Animal Science Programs! Please contact Andrew with any questions about upcoming animal science events!



## 4-H Members Reception

YOU ARE INVITED!

**Join the Massachusetts 4-H State Ambassadors for the 4-H Members Reception**

Kick Off a New 4-H Year with Us! January 19, 2025, 6-8:30 PM via Zoom.

Come celebrate the start of an exciting new 4-H year!

Whether you're a returning member or a new member, this event is for YOU!

Are you interested in agriculture, STEAM, community service, or creative arts, 4-H has something for everyone. This is an opportunity for members, families, and volunteers to come together and connect while having fun.

Registration is required by Jan. 15, 2025, follow the link to register

<https://forms.gle/tRBw6TbfAjDxeXvZ7>

We can't wait to see you there!



## Community Service Opportunity

**PEDAL THRU YOUTH - CRUISER CARE PACKS FOR THE HOMELESS 2025 - ASSEMBLY DAY**

Once again, we'll join together to promote our big Western MA Community Service project, Cruiser Care Packs for the Homeless. Last year we had 4-5 clubs representing Hampden, Hampshire, and Worcester County. It's a lot of fun and a great feel-good service project! 4-H members and volunteers from all over the state are welcome!

We've set a date to assemble and distribute the backpacks for Saturday, February 1, from 9 AM to 12:30 PM, at the Pedal Thru Youth Headquarters, 101 Front St., West Springfield. We're reaching out to the media and to law enforcement agencies to arrive after 10 AM to cover the project and interview youth/volunteers. This is a great opportunity for clubs to get media exposure and submit for 4-H Foundation media grants. 4-H Green, club shirts, etc. are encouraged. Let's show club spirit!

We are taking donations and feel free to bring items that morning as well.

Items needed this year:





Deodorants (men's & women's)  
Chapstick  
Ponchos  
Tissues  
hand warmers  
Hats, Gloves, Scarves

Leaders: if your club plans to attend, please give Sarah Bonini a heads-up so she can gauge numbers.

Email: [dressarah@comcast.net](mailto:dressarah@comcast.net)

## Western Mass Winter Workshops

### OPEN TO ALL

Winter Workshops are here! The 4-H Office is excited to bring back Winter Workshops this year and hopes to see you all there. Please share with folks who might not have re-enrolled yet, as they are not on the email list!

If you are signing up multiple people, please fill out the form for each participant.

Registration will be from 8:30 AM to 9:00 AM and the first workshop will begin promptly at 9:00 AM.

**When:** Saturday, January 25, 2025, from 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM

**Where:** Furcolo Hall, 813 N. Pleasant St., Amherst (UMass campus)

**Who:** Everyone

**Cost:** \$10

**Deadline:** Friday, January 17, 2025, by 5:00 PM

Sign Up and Workshop Descriptions: <https://forms.office.com/r/uAnisNqcNM>

### WESTERN MASS 4-H WINTER WORKSHOPS 2025

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25TH
 9:00AM - 12:30PM
 FURCOLO HALL, UMass AMHERST CAMPUS  
813 N Pleasant St., Amherst, MA
 \$10 PER PERSON

MORE INFORMATION ON WORKSHOPS AND TO REGISTER:  
USE LINK OR QR CODE

SESSION ONE: 9:00AM - 10:00AM		
Sewing a Fabric Basket	The Science of Cheese Making	Homemade Flower Arranging
Home Canning	Showing Your Model Horse	Chew on This
SESSION TWO: 10:15AM - 11:15AM		
Paper Plate Animal Masks	4-H Pledge in Sign Language	Hand Sewing 101
Poultry	Homesteading 101	Know To Grow
SESSION THREE: 11:30AM - 12:30PM		
Needle Felting Bookmarks	Microgreens: A Garden on Your Windowsill!	Equine - Saddles and Tacks
Shoebox Float	Wrist Lovers	Paper Snowflake Chains

UMASS-EXTENSION  
UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST

4-H Extension is a unit of the Center for Agriculture, Food & the Environment in the College of Natural Sciences, UMass Amherst. It is an equal opportunity provider of programs, services, and information. For more information, contact your local 4-H Extension office or the 4-H Extension office at 415-521-8888 or visit [www.4-h.org](http://www.4-h.org).

## UMass 4-H Career Exploration Series (CES)

### PREVIOUS PRESENTATION NOTES

#### NOAA – NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

Did you know that NOAA has many career paths? Including scientists, researchers, law enforcement, engineers, international affairs, web developers, divers, and more!

Information on projects other than those below can be found at <https://www.noaa.gov/office-education/citizen-science>

- NOAA Citizen Scientist - Contribute your time and talents to building a Weather-Ready nation

### Beginner

<https://mping.nssl.noaa.gov/>



Use the mPING app to Report Precipitation

### Intermediate

<http://www.cocorahs.org/>



Join the CoCoRaHS Community to collect rain and snow in your backyard!

### Advanced

<https://www.weather.gov/skywarn/>



Become an official Storm Spotter with the SKYWARN Program to tell weather forecasters what's happening in your area

### How to Get your Foot in the Door

- EPP/MSI Undergraduate Scholarship Program
- Hollings Undergraduate Scholarship Program
- William M. Lapenta NWS Student Internship Program
- Knauss Fellowship
- Margaret A. Davidson Fellowship
- Coastal Zone Management/Digital Coast Fellowship
- Dr. Nancy Foster Scholarship Program
- NOAA Corps
- Pathways Program
- Presidential Management Fellows Program
- And so much more...
- Be one of over **12,000!**

### Beginner

<https://mping.nssl.noaa.gov/>



Use the mPING app to Report Precipitation

### Intermediate

<http://www.cocorahs.org/>



Join the CoCoRaHS Community to collect rain and snow in your backyard!

### Advanced

<https://www.weather.gov/skywarn/>



Become an official Storm Spotter with the SKYWARN Program to tell weather forecasters what's happening in your area

[NOAA.gov/find-a-career](https://www.noaa.gov/find-a-career)

## 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](mailto:adiaz@umass.edu)

## 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!

When: Sunday, January 19 \*OR\* Thursday, January 23, both will be from 6:30 to 8 PM

Where: <https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/92283376369>

## 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: Wednesday, January 22, 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](mailto: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

## 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

---

### 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!

### 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](mailto:acampora@umass.edu) or 774-343-5054.

### 4-H Dairy Program

MA 4-H DAIRY ADVISORY ANNUAL MEETING

Please join the MA 4-H Dairy Advisory Committee for their in-person meeting on January 11, 2025, from 11 AM-3 PM. Feel free to bring a dish to share for our potluck luncheon. RSVP or contact Andrew Samuelson with any questions, at [asamuelson@umass.edu](mailto:asamuelson@umass.edu).

### 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 on the MA 4-H Beef Team must complete an application. Please contact Andrew at [asamuelson@umass.edu](mailto:asamuelson@umass.edu) if you need an application.

## 4-H Rabbit and Cavy

### MA 4-H RABBIT & CAVY WORKSHOP 2/22/25

The 42nd Massachusetts 4-H Rabbit & Cavy Workshop will be held on February 22, 2025, from 9 AM-3 PM at Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical High School, 565 Maple Street, Hathorne, MA (Hathorne is part of Danvers.)

Registration will open on January 12 using this link: <https://forms.office.com/r/H68Vgbcywi> Deadline – February 15, 2025. We cannot accept phone registrations. The 4-H registration fee is eight dollars (\$8.00) per person for the day. Please make the check payable to the “MA 4-H Rabbit Advisory Committee” and hand it in on the day of the event at the registration table.

Some workshops have a limit to the number of people who may participate. Preference will be given based on the arrival of your registration form. Remember that **youth do not bring their rabbits with them**. Participants should bring a bagged lunch.

Raffle: To help defray the costs of conducting this program, a raffle will be held. Each family is asked to bring a donation (rabbit-related or otherwise). No live animals can be used for the raffle. T-shirts will be available for sale and can be ordered when you register.

NO SALE OF ANIMALS IS ALLOWED IN THE BUILDING. ONLY RABBITS BEING USED IN A WORKSHOP ARE ALLOWED IN THE BUILDING.

If we must cancel due to a winter storm, we will email all participants and post on our MA 4-H Program Facebook page.

If you have any questions, please contact Andrew Samuelson at [asamuelson@umass.edu](mailto:asamuelson@umass.edu).

### T-SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST

The MA 4-H Rabbit and Cavy T-shirt Design Contest is back! All youth are welcome to enter. A prize will be awarded to the winning design. Entries can be hand-drawn or designed digitally. Make sure your entry has the full name of the event: 2025 MA 4-H Rabbit and Cavy Workshop. All entries should be sent to Andrew as a PDF document in full size (8"x 10") and the highest resolution possible. Share your creativity! The deadline is February 1, entries to [asamuelson@umass.edu](mailto:asamuelson@umass.edu)

## 4-H Poultry Program

### GET MORE INVOLVED

The 2024 MA 4-H Avian Bowl Team will be recruiting new members for the 2025 National 4-H Poultry and Egg Conference at the Northeast Poultry Congress on January 18th. The Northeast Poultry Congress will take place at the Eastern States Exposition grounds (Big E), on Saturday, January 18, from 10 AM to 4 PM. Please stop by the table and learn about this tremendous opportunity for 4-Hers interested in this experience. Not attending Congress and interested in learning more? Reach out to Andrew at [asamuelson@umass.edu](mailto:asamuelson@umass.edu).

## Winter Animal Seminars

### RABBIT SEMINAR

This 3-hour seminar will take place at the Plymouth County 4-H office, 44 Obery St., Plymouth, from 1-4 PM, and includes 4-H Records, showmanship training, knowledge, games, and more!

Sign up by emailing [acampora@umass.edu](mailto:acampora@umass.edu) this is not limited to just 4-H'ers enrolled in the rabbit project, **but** you must be actively enrolled in 4-H to attend.

To Register: <https://forms.gle/LdY8hNmpbwxsLkHD7>

## 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

NH 4-H "ANIMAL SCIENCE BONANZA" 1/11/25

NH 4-H Animal Science Bonanza is back for 2025! This event kicks off the new year and introduces youth and families to the world of animal science with 4-H and prepares 4-Hers for the show season ahead. The day features hands-on workshops about animal nutrition, veterinary science, marketing, anatomy, and more! All ages and experience levels are welcome and encouraged to attend.

<https://extension.unh.edu/event/2025/01/2025-4-h-animal-science-bonanza>

CT 4-H YOUTH RABBIT JUDGING WORKSHOP 1/25/25

Watch and listen to judges, learn how to scribe, compete in the quiz bowl, and practice on the rabbit in this workshop. This event will take place on Saturday, January 25, 2025, from 9 AM to 3 PM, at Nonnewaug High School, 5 Minortown Road, Woodbury, CT. The deadline to enter is January 15; submit one registration per person participating. Pre-registration is required. Contact Jen Jedd at [jenjedd114@gmail.com](mailto:jenjedd114@gmail.com)

UCONN 4-H SHEEP DAY 2/1/25

Interested in learning more about the 4-H Sheep project? Contact Andrew for more information about this event held by our CT 4-H friends, [asamuelson@umass.edu](mailto:asamuelson@umass.edu).

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](mailto: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.



**4-H YOUTH RABBIT JUDGING WORKSHOP**

SATURDAY JANUARY 25  
NONNEWAUG HIGH SCHOOL  
5 MINORTOWN ROAD  
WOODBURY CT 06798  
9AM-3PM

WATCH AND LISTEN TO JUDGES, LEARN HOW TO SCRIBE, COMPETE IN QUIZ BOWL, PRACTICE ON THE RABBITS

REGISTER AND SEE RULES HERE OR EMAIL [JENJEDD114@GMAIL.COM](mailto:JENJEDD114@GMAIL.COM)

PLEASE SUBMIT ONE ENTRY PER PERSON BY JANUARY 15

OPEN TO ANYONE INTERESTED IN RABBIT JUDGING

**UCONN** EXTENSION

[HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/JQV3EHFK9ICEUBW9](https://forms.gle/JQV3EHFK9ICEUBW9)



## 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](mailto: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](mailto:asamuelson@umass.edu).

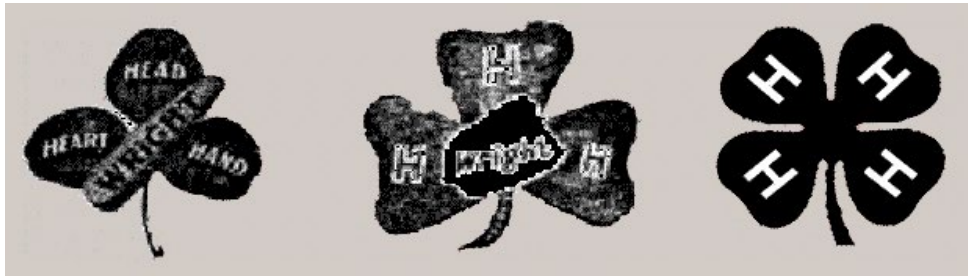
## NEW ENGLAND 4-H DOG CLINIC 5/3/25

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](mailto:asamuelson@umass.edu).

## 4-H Fun Fact

---

Did you know that the 4-H Clover originally was a 3-leaf clover, adding the fourth leaf in 1911 to represent the health "H"!



## National 4-H News & Opportunities

---

### 4-H Military Partnership

#### MILITARY PARTNERSHIP MEETING UPDATE

The January 9th meeting was canceled as we joined in the National Day of Mourning for President Jimmy Carter. The funeral was at 10 am at the Washington National Cathedral.

The UMass 4-H program would like to invite those working with military families with youth ages 5-18 to join us at our next meeting on February 13th at 11:30 am, to share resources and opportunities, and to make connections. Reach out to our MA 4-H Military Liaison at 508-831-1223 x114 or [kima@umass.edu](mailto:kima@umass.edu) to learn more and for the Zoom link. Meetings may be set up as face-to-face meetings in the future.

4-H Memberships are FREE for children of active and reserve military members.



**What is the 4-H Military Partnership?** <https://www.militaryonesource.mil/resources/external/4-h-military-partnership/>

#### MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD CELEBRATION

April is designated as the Month of the Military Child, underscoring the important role military children play in the armed forces community. We would like to hear your ideas and see how we can support your plans and our military-connected youth during this special month.

#### 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/>

- January 16, 2025, at 2:00 PM ET - Exploring NASA Science with Anita Dey, Strategic Partnerships Manager, Outreach and Engagement, NASA Headquarters  
NASA Science seeks to reach beyond our current knowledge by investigating the Earth, the Sun, the Moon, other worlds of our solar system, the stars, and the deep universe. Earth science and agriculture are key components of NASA missions and experiments for continued advancements. Join us for an overview of NASA Science, explore available resources, and learn about upcoming opportunities, and new programs for educators and youth through NASA Science and Military OneSource. Blast Off with NASA Science!
- 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

### STEAM FESTIVAL 2025

The 2025 STEAM Festival is open through February 6th for you to put in your entries: Visit [fairentree.com](http://fairentree.com), go to find your fair, search Massachusetts and you will see it pop up on the right and use your [4honline.com](http://4honline.com) family login.

For the 2024 STEM Challenge, the 2025 STEAM Festival will have classes for you to enter your projects and more:

\*Shoe Box Float (Under Crafts in Art) - Topic can be STEM Challenge or MA 250 -

<http://massachusetts250.org>.

\*Scratch or Coded Game around Ag or Food Insecurity (Under Computer Science in Technology)

\*Your Greenhouse Designs (Under Horticulture in Science)



Built models under Greenhouse - blueprints only in Designs  
\*Entrepreneurial "Chew on This" -(Under Audio/Video in Technology)

NEW in 2025 - Mapping Classes for Analog and Digital Maps

A reminder that videos cannot be uploaded they must be somewhere like YouTube or Facebook where you can include a link.

Link to class lists: <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1JxYNxHjNG/>

## Massachusetts 4-H Foundation

### Thank You

#### THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!

Thank you to everyone who gave to the Foundation's 2024 Annual Fund! We could not support Massachusetts 4-H without you.



# Massachusetts 4-H Foundation

FOSTERING YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

### Summer Camp

#### GET READY FOR SUMMER

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](mailto:memcdermott@umass.edu)

Andrew Samuelson, 4-H Animal Science Specialist – [asamuelson@umass.edu](mailto:asamuelson@umass.edu)

Angélica Diaz-Heyman, 4-H Educator – [adiaz@umass.edu](mailto:adiaz@umass.edu)

Erica MacLean 4-H Educator – [ericamaclean@umass.edu](mailto:ericamaclean@umass.edu)

Lauren DuBois, Urban 4-H Educator – [ldubois@umext.umass.edu](mailto:ldubois@umext.umass.edu)

Lizmarie Ulloa, Urban 4-H Program Assistant – [lulloa@umext.umass.edu](mailto: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](mailto:kima@umext.umass.edu)

Shelby Robin, Worcester County 4-H Educator – [shelbyrobin@umass.edu](mailto:shelbyrobin@umass.edu)

Kathleen Scalera, Central Southeast Regional Program Assistant – [kscalera@umass.edu](mailto:kscalera@umass.edu)

Kim Henderson, Southeast Region Administrative Assistant – [khenders@umext.umass.edu](mailto:khenders@umext.umass.edu)

Martina Jasiewicz, Worcester County Administrative Assistant – [mjasiewicz@umext.umass.edu](mailto: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](mailto:vwallace@umext.umass.edu)

Nancy McCarthy, Program Assistant – [nmccarthy@umext.umass.edu](mailto:nmccarthy@umext.umass.edu)

Debbie Beaubien, Administrative Assistant – [debbieb@umext.umass.edu](mailto:debbieb@umext.umass.edu)

### *Plymouth County Office: Plymouth County*

**44 Obery Street, Plymouth MA 02360**

Molly Vollmer, 4-H Educator: [mvollmer@umext.umass.edu](mailto:mvollmer@umext.umass.edu)

Cathy Acampora, 4-H Educator: [acampora@umext.umass.edu](mailto:acampora@umext.umass.edu)

Meghan Riley, Ag Extension Educator: [mriley@plymouthcountyma.gov](mailto:mriley@plymouthcountyma.gov)

Cheryl Mechan, Administrative Assistant: [cmechan@umass.edu](mailto: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](mailto:sandi.shepherdgay@capecod.gov)

Laura Notarangelo, Administrative Assistant: [laura.notarangelo@capecod.gov](mailto: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.



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 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](http://www.extension.umass.edu/civilrights).

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST