



PLYMOUTH COUNTY 4-H SUMMER 2020 NEWSLETTER



MESSAGE FROM THE 4-H DIRECTOR:

Greetings 4-H Families,

I would like to provide you with an update of the Plymouth County Extension 4-H Program during this unprecedented time. Much of our responsibilities have changed and morphed with so many other pieces of life as we navigate the corona virus pandemic. Our traditional spring programs and their delivery mode including 4-H Visual Presentations, Embryology, 4-H Sunflower Program, Tick Shoe Spray events, Canine Safety and Education Programs and have drastically changed or were halted as a result of the current health climate. Additionally our largest programs of the year have postponed or cancelled now through summer including 4-H Summer Camps, National 4-H Conference, local and state Livestock shows and the latest, the Marshfield Fair.

As difficult, as it has been to go on without these events in our lives and as part of our 4-H program we have risen to a new way of business. Plymouth County Extension has quickly changed its delivery mode of many programs and adapted platforms to continue to reach the people and youth of Plymouth County. The staff has been quick to respond to new community needs including personal connection, back to roots

gardening, an appreciation for the outdoors and home schooling opportunities.

The Plymouth County 4-H and Extension websites have been recently updated to be more user friendly and put current programming out front. Staff manages several social media outlets multiple times a day to stay in touch and relevant to all age groups of our clientele. Our 4-H clubs and volunteer groups, teachers and others have been working well with Zoom, Google Meet, Teams, Facebook Live and more to support or work and share whenever possible the values and resources of Cooperative Extension and 4-H.

We are currently working on offering programs including 4-H Horse Bowl, State 4-H Dog Show and a State 4-H virtual fair through online platforms. We are also hoping to announce a plan for small groups to begin in person 4-H activities, meetings with social distancing, and other policies in place as we head towards summer. We hope that summer and fall will work towards getting our routines back in place and allowing the programing and experiences that Make the Best Better!

Molly Vollmer
Extension Director



NEW VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

In these changing times, we are expanding our programming to offer virtual learning. Most of the virtual programming we are offering at this time will come in the form of short-term programs. 6-10 week offerings of a specific interest area. We call it SPIN Clubs (SPecial INterest Club).

This does not replace our traditional face-to-face club work in the long term. Once we are able to meet face to face again the club meetings will resume. We will also continue to offer virtual learning.

We are working hard to give you continued access to Plymouth County 4-H programming.

SUMMER VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

Summer Virtual Babysitting classes:

Summer classes held M-W-F, one hour each day for two weeks. \$25

June 15-26

July 6-17

July 20-31

August TBA

To sign up register online at:

<https://plymouthcounty4h.org/babysitting-programs>



The 4-H Babysitters Training Course teaches youth ages 11 and older what they need to know to be caring, trustworthy, responsible and competent babysitters. The 6 session course includes units on:

- Safety
- Basic First Aid *no certificate
- Child Development
- Nutrition
- Entertaining Children
- Business of Babysitting

What's Inside:

- Virtual Summer Programs
- Camp in a Box
- Facebook live storytime
- Plymouth county 4-H center update
- Office update

4-H is looking to collaborate with libraries, recreation programs, after school programs and other youth serving agencies to offer this course. 4-H will train your staff or volunteers and provide 4-H curriculum.

A few things to know about the Virtual Course

- All course work is done online via Zoom.
- Pre-registration is required
- You will receive your zoom link upon payment of \$25 fee
- You can pick up manual at Plymouth office or it can be mailed to you

You will need a few items at home to participate:

1. paper
2. writing / coloring materials
3. facecloth
4. a small pompom
5. elastic
6. googly eyes or marker

Summer Camp in a Box:



The Camp in a box program offers 6 weeks of an activity delivered to your home. Each activity will have a zoom session that is designed to assist the participant and answer questions. Each weeks box is purchased separately, First order deadline is June 22 for week June 29 activity.

<https://plymouthcounty4h.org/summer-programs>

SUMMER VIRTUAL DOG CLUB

Are you and your dog at home with nothing to do? Have you thought of training your dog, but did not know where to start? Join our Plymouth County 4-H Virtual Dog Club to get started training your dog at home! You only need a few minutes each day to build a relationship with your dog and improve their behavior. Once available club will have some in person meetings.



10-week summer program. Meets Wednesday's starting June 24, 2020 for 1 Hour each week. \$25
Register today at:
<https://plymouthcounty4h.org/virtual-dog-club>

In the fall members are encouraged to join the club for the 4-H year.

SUMMER VIRTUAL ANIMAL AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

4-H Animal Ambassador Program educates youth on a variety of animals and bugs. Each session will focus on a specific group and runs for 6 hours over several days. Learn about the wild world around you in the fun program. Recommended ages 8 & up.

-Bugs around us: starts June 13. Weekends in June, 8-9am

-Life in the ocean: starts July 7. Tuesdays in July 8-9:30 am

-Backyard Wildlife: starts July 9, Thursdays in July 8-9:30 am

\$25 / session

Sign up today at :

<https://plymouthcounty4h.org/animal-ambassador-program>



STORY TIME ON FACEBOOK LIVE

Watch our Facebook page for Cathy and Meri to read weekly.

- Sunflower House- for ages 4-8. We read Sunflower House by Eve bunting and learn how to make our own sunflower house
- Big Pumpkin- for ages 4-8. We read Big Pumpkin and learn how to plant and care for our own Big Pumpkin
- Harriet's Tales- For ages 4-8. We read A Chicken followed me home and learn about chickens and where our eggs come from, assisted by Harriet the hen.
- Puppy Dog Tales- for ages 3-6 We read A Dog For me and learn how to care for our dogs and be safe around them. Features, Meri the pet therapy dog helping

MARSHFIELD FAIR

It comes with sadness that we must inform all of you that the Marshfield Fair is cancelled for the 2020 season. Keep working with your animals. We are planning for 2021.

VIRTUAL FAIR

In light of all the fairs closures this season the Massachusetts 4-H program is working hard to put together a Virtual fair for all 4-H members.

Keep an eye out for more details and keep working with those animals.

4-H RECORDS

This is a great time to update 4-H records. Reminder to be eligible for Plymouth County Project Medal you must submit your records by October 1.

<https://plymouthcounty4h.org/4-h-records>



PLYMOUTH COUNTY 4-H

CENTER UPDATE

(AKA FIELD OF DREAMS)

We are still moving ahead with the farm plans. The greenhouse is being delivered this month, the slab and utilities in preparation for the greenhouse will be complete in a week or so. This space will be open for 4-H clubs.

Within our plans, we have included a community garden with plots for rent. (2021 growing season)

If you are on the Field of Dreams committee please watch for a zoom invite for a upcoming meeting.

FALL FESTIVAL OCTOBER 3

We are still planning to host our first annual Fall Festival on October 3 (following all state guidelines for group gatherings). Festival will be held at the new Plymouth County 4-H Center, AC Cranci Way, Plymouth. The plan is for clubs to recruit, demo and show animals.

Watch for updates.



4-H OFFICE UPDATE

Great news!!! We are back in the office every day. Please call before coming by. The building is still closed to the public but we are happy make an appointment and we can invite you in. Keep in mind a Mask is required to enter the building and social distancing is to be observed.

EXCITING NEWS FOR THE EXTENSION OFFICE

As many of you know, we had our office in a building in Hanson for years. Over the years without any maintenance, the building became unsafe for us. This led us to our location now on the second floor of the County Administration Building. We were grateful for a new home but being on the second floor has not always been easy for our volunteers or staff.

The county commissioners have offered us a new space and come August you will find us in a new location. One that is better suited to our needs, club needs and volunteer needs. This space will offer a place for large meetings as well as club meetings.

For more info call Molly or Val. We would love to share.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Due to the COVID 19 we have extended the deadline for all Plymouth County 4-H Scholarships. New deadline is September 1, 2020 (this year only). Apply today!!!!

PDF of each scholarship is located on our website at <https://plymouthcounty4h.org/forms-and-links>

Robery Scholarship (4-H member pursuing college education in animal science)

Stillman Scholarship (for residents of Hanson, E. Bridgewater & Halifax pursuing college educations in agriculture or horticulture field)

Duxbury – Marshfield Scholarship (must be resident of Duxbury or Marshfield pursuing post-secondary education)