



Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors

There are a number of meetings on the near horizon, including a NIMSS work session on February 23, ESCOP on February 25, CARET/AHS on February 28 – March 4, and the NERA Spring Meeting on March 9. We value and respect the time that you spend meeting virtually. If you're finding that you are calendar-limited, I hope that you'll join your NERA colleagues on March 9!

“Leadership is about making others better as a result of your presence and making sure that impact lasts in your absence.” – Sheryl Sandberg, 2013 in [Lean In: Women, Work and The Will to Lead](#). Alfred A. Knopf, New York, NY.

Action items:

- NERA will be hosting a best practices work session tomorrow, February 23 at 10:00 – 11:00 AM ET, on “All Things NIMSS.” Directors and business officers are welcome to join! Here are the connection details: <https://zoom.us/j/5717743008>, password (all caps): NERA.
- The 2021 ESCOP Meeting, held in conjunction with CARET/AHS, is scheduled for February 25 at 11 AM – 2 PM ET. The meeting [agenda](#) is available here and is posted on the NERA website. Here are the details to connect: <https://ncat.zoom.us/j/97867768101?pwd=bHcxVjZsQVMYdnZ0NitVR01XN2RzZz09>, meeting ID: 978 6776 8101, passcode: 398584.
- The 2021 Joint CARET/AHS Virtual Meeting will be held from February 28 – March 4, 2021. The theme for the meeting is **Land-Grant Universities: Leading and Partnering with Solutions for Life's Challenges for America**. Click [here](#) to register.
- We're holding the virtual NERA Spring Quarterly Meeting on March 9, 2021 from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM ET. We look forward to you joining! We anticipate circulating the agenda tomorrow.

Reminders/Updates:

- The Agricultural Research Infrastructure Advocacy (ARIA) Advisory group has shared that the Gordian Study will be publicly announced during a webinar on March 4. The time has not yet been announced; we will keep you posted. As a follow-up to input from the experiment station directors, the ARIA has posted a [Frequently Asked Questions](#) document. As we indicated in the last newsletter, this is an exciting opportunity for the system that has the best shot at succeeding if we are all on board.
- We're seeking pictures from NERA institutions to post on the NERA website as part of our front page, scrolling images. Our goal is to be able to have an image of every NERA institution on the home page. Please send those pictures to [David](#).

Informational items:

- [Richard Tom](#), PSU, is heading the Northeast Sun Grant program and is seeking faculty speakers that have expertise in techno-economic analysis (TEA) and life cycle assessment (LCA.) Richard has also shared that he will be releasing a Sun Grant RFP this spring with an expectation of awarding about a dozen initial projects (roughly \$100K each.) Stay tuned!
- Kansas State University seeks an experienced, accomplished and creative leader with a strong record of research and scholarly activities and a commitment to economic development to serve as its next [Vice President for Research](#) (VPR). WittKieffer is hosting this executive search.
- Second time: NIFA is hosting a series of webinars for new investigators scheduled for March 1-4, 2021. The webinars are designed to provide information about AFRI programs, introduce new NIFA staff to applicants, and answer questions. More information is available at: <https://nifa.usda.gov/2021-afri-ni-webinar-series>. Registration is required to participate in each of the webinars. The first webinar in the series is titled **AFRI New Investigator Overview** and is slated for Monday, **March 1, 1-2:30 CST**. Here's the [registration link](#).



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Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors (NERA)

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