



You'll see several items that are actionable in each of the sections of the newsletter. Of those, the national item for which we're seeking your assistance is casting a ballot on the BAA vote that, if successful, would make the Communications and Marketing Committee a standing committee. Regionally, we're hoping that you'll register and join us in Portland, ME for the [Joint Summer Session](#). The theme for the meeting is "Innovation" and we've built in plenty of opportunities for building relationships. It's been over two years since we've all met face-to-face. There are other items for your consideration, please read on...

"There is always light, if
only we're brave
enough to see it. If
only we're brave
enough to be it."

- Amanda Gorman (2021) in *The Hill We Climb: An Inaugural Poem for the Country*, Viking Books, New York, NY.

Action items:

- If you haven't cast your BAA ballot on making the Communications and Marketing Committee a standing committee, now is a good time to that. The poll closes on April 20. As a reminder, each institution has six votes: AHS-1, AHS-2, Academic Programs, Experiment Station, Cooperative Extension, and International Programs. Please assist in making sure that all those votes are cast.
- The APLU has developed a list of [FY'23 NIFA funding priorities](#) on behalf of the system. (We've posted the document on the NERA website in our [Announcements/National Updates](#).) For the programs that most interest and impact the Northeast, you'll note that the APLU is seeking \$300M-Hatch (15.4% above FY'22 budget agreement), \$46M-McIntire-Stennis (27.8% above FY'22 budget agreement), \$100M-Evans-Allen (25% above FY'22 budget agreement), and \$500M-AFRI (12.4% above FY'22 budget agreement). As a quick reminder, Anton Bekkerman is the incoming chair of ESCOP's Budget and Legislative Committee (BLC) and Puneet Srivastava is our second NERA representative on the BLC.
- The Executive Directors are collecting input on the Farm Bill. We've been asked for examples of "a USDA funded project with an impactful result" and the "top example of an ongoing project where you see promising results." If you have brief descriptions of projects that you'd like to share, [we're](#) listening!
- We're seeking more great photos from all of your experiment stations to feature on the NERA website scrolling banner. Please share those shots with [Dave](#).

Reminders/Updates:

- The 2022 Northeast Joint Summer Session [registration](#) and [meeting](#) websites have gone live. Early bird registration is currently \$515 and is good through May 4. After May 4, registration increases to \$620. You will see on the meeting website a link to the [meeting hotel](#) (the Portland Regency Spa and Hotel). The hotel requires meeting attendees to reserve rooms by phone, (207) 774-4200 (refer to Northeast Joint Summer Session or University of Maine group) to secure the room rate of \$199/night. As we've shared previously, the theme for the meeting is "Innovation".
- *From DCC chair Henry Fadamiro:* The Diversity Catalyst Committee (DCC) is extending the deadline through the end of the month for submission of nominations for the [National Experiment Station Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Award](#). The DCC appreciates that there are DEI efforts deserving of recognition, underway at all our institutions. Won't you please consider submitting a nomination of a deserving experiment station individual or group?
- *Second time:* The Experiment Station Section's Science and Technology Committee is working with NIFA to create an [interactive map](#) of all the experiment stations (main campus and off-campus, 1862 and 1890). If you click on the link, you'll see name of each station, the creation date, the focus areas, university affiliation, and website. Would you please check the entries for your station or stations? If you have corrections, please forward those to [Bret Hess and carbon copy Rick](#).

Informational items:

- On April 22, 2022, from 11-12:45 EDT, the National Academies of Sciences' U.S. National Committee for Soil Science, USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service, and North Central Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education are hosting a virtual **State of the Soil Event** celebrating the science of soil health and soil health management. This celebration of Earth Day 2022 will be moderated by Dr. Abbey Wick (North Dakota State University) and Tim Hammerich (Soil Sense podcast), with Dr. Wayne Honeycutt as the head guest. Register at www.ndsu.edu/soilhealth and connect to the event at www.hbconnects.com/stateofsoil.
- We've been invited to comment on the topic of "collaboration in the land-grant system." As you know, the USDA asked the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to appoint a **Blue-Ribbon Panel** to examine how collaboration among land-grant institutions can be more impactful in addressing the nation's needs for a successful, sustainable food and agricultural system, and to recommend ways those institutions can better capture and share the collective outcomes of their collaborations. The Panel has posted online, 17 preliminary observations about the current state of collaboration, and is seeking feedback from stakeholders that it will use to inform the planning of a virtual workshop, and ultimately, a consensus report to USDA and Congress. You can find the reference document containing the preliminary observations and the online comment form here: <https://nap.nationalacademies.org/land-grant-collaboration/form/>. You will also find on that page a link to the project website with more information about the Panel and a place to subscribe to project updates. Please send comments by Friday, May 6, 2022. We also anticipate sending in comments from NERA on behalf of the region. If you'd like to share your individual comments with us, please send those to [Rick](#).
- As you know, Penn State is the home of the Northeast Regional Rural Development Center (NERCRD). The Center regularly sends out a newsletter and announcements that might interest you. If you'd like to know more, you might consider [subscribing](#). Or if you have an opportunity you'd like to share with the NERCRD community, send it to krd111@psu.edu.
- The University of Arizona is searching for a Director of the Maricopa Agricultural Center Experiment Station Unit. [Click here](#) to view the detailed position description and application procedure.



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

www.nerasaes.org

14 East Farm Road

Aquaculture Center

University of Rhode Island

Kingston, RI 02881

Executive Director, [Dr. Richard C. Rhodes III](#): (401) 874-2468

Coordinator, [David Leibovitz](#): (401) 874-4801

NERA and its member institutions are committed to the principles of affirmative action, diversity, and inclusion.

Please do not reply directly to this MailChimp message.