



Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors

There are a number of action items to which we draw your attention.

“An experiment is a question which science poses to Nature, and a measurement is the recording of Nature’s answer.” – Max Planck (translated from German by Frank Gaynor), 1949, Scientific Autobiography and Other Papers. Philosophical Library, New York.

Action items:

- Mark your calendars: the quarterly **NERA Zoom teleconference** is scheduled for **December 6, 2019 at 11:00 AM**. The **NERA Spring Meeting**, our annual face-to-face get-together, is slated for **March 21-23, 2020 in Philadelphia** at the Bellevue at the Hyatt. (That is the same hotel that hosted the 2017 ESS meeting.)
- If you haven’t cast your station’s Multistate Activities Committee ballot, there’s still time. Balloting closes on Wednesday, October 23rd.
- NEED and NERA are collaboratively planning a symposium on Ecosystem Agriculture and Services set for November 5-6, 2020 in Providence, RI. The planning team for the symposium is seeking input on interest in the symposium. We’ve posted a “[socializing document](#)” to the NERA website. Does this effort interest you? ...your faculty and staff? ...others (whom are you thinking of)?
- Second time around: Jody Jellison has asked how each of the stations in our region meet their match. We appreciate that required match for capacity funds is shown on the Appendix A’s in the OFGM. How do you meet that designated match requirement? By the skin of your teeth? Through a direct state allocation? ...through matching state salary and fringe? ...in kind? ...other (please describe)? Please send [me](#) short note on how you make match. I’ll summarize and share with the region.
- Are you experiencing any untoward issues as a result of the NIFA move and workforce reduction? If so, please forward your issues to [me](#), I’ll aggregate on the part of the region.

Reminders/Updates:

- For the time being, we have restricted us-aesdirs@lyris.nifa.usda.gov from posting to the NERA listserv in an effort to reduce or eliminate “bounce” messages and duplicate messages. We’re concerned that NIFA is not moderating the LYRIS listserv in a timely fashion and, instead, is releasing caches of messages that are clogging mailboxes.
- The results for the CMC voting are in. The CMC proposal to hire an expert to draft a marketing and communications strategic plan using residual funds held by the committee will move forward. NERA voted 11-approve, 0-reject, 4-no vote cast. Final tally for the Experiment Station Section was 54-approve, 7-reject, 17-no vote cast. The ECOP Executive Committee also approved the motion as did the

Administrative Heads Section. We'll keep you posted on how this unfolds.

- There's still time to share your thoughts and reflections on the ESS Meeting in Nashville. Check out <https://form.jotform.com/83036656584970>. This link will close on October 23rd.

Informational items:

- The University of Maryland is searching for three positions: [Tenure-track Faculty Position in Arthropod Vectors of Human Disease](#), [Post-doctoral Fellow in the Joint Institute for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition](#), and [Recirculating Aquaculture Systems Specialist](#).



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

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