



Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors

The NEED/NERA Joint Summer Session is a little more than a month away. Details about the agenda, registration, and room reservations are available in “Action Items”. The theme for the meeting is “Building a culture of collaboration” and is a follow-on to the Northeast Agenda. We look forward to seeing you at the Omni in Providence, RI in June!

“But nothing is more persistent, more patient, than the past. After all, the past has nothing but time.” – Don Winslow (2023) in *City of Dreams: A Novel*, William Morrow/Harper Collins Publishing, New York, NY.

Action items:

- It's alive! The 2024 Northeast Joint Summer Session meeting website which includes links to registration, lodging reservations, and a draft program, is now available at: <https://www.nerasaes.org/summer2024>. All representatives associated with Cooperative Extension, the experiment stations, the administrative heads, CARET, academic programs, and Northeast communicators are welcome. As a heads up, we're offering an optional tour of [Gotham Greens](#), a commercial, urban-based, production facility for leafy greens on June 3.
- In a continuing quest, we are seeking Administrative Advisers (AA) for several projects as our NERA ranks evolve. Projects that are seeking AAs include: NE2201 *Mycobacterial Diseases of Animals* and NE2333 *Biological Improvement of Chestnut through Technologies that Address Management of the Species and its Pathogens and Pests*. If you're interested, please contact [Rick](#).

Reminders/Updates:

- Earlier this month, the Chronicle for Higher Education ran an article titled [“One Scientist Neglected His Grant Reports. Now U.S. Agencies Are Withholding Grants for an Entire University”](#). The title says it all and is a clear message about the importance of submitting timely reports to grant sponsors.
- Please consider nominating an individual or a team from your institution for an [agInnovation Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion award](#). We know that there are many deserving individuals and teams in the Northeast that offer the best in DEI programming. The same holds for nominating a scientist for a new agInnovation honor, the [Agricultural Research Innovation Award of Excellence](#).
- agInnovation has published an article titled [“Vector-borne Diseases are Taking a Bite Out of Our Health and Safety”](#), authored by Stacey Stearns, UConn Extension. The article highlights initiatives at institutions from around the Northeast working in the area of Vector-borne disease, and examples are the product of a collaboration with the Northeast regional communicators team.
- *The forever green reminder:* In past NERA newsletters, we've made a pitch for “station” photos for both the NERA website and **The Parting Shot**. At the spring meeting we discussed institutions having image libraries. The image libraries are rich archives of photos. We encourage you to share shots from your libraries as well as other image sources. Please [forward pictures to us](#) with a caption and a photo credit.

Informational items:

- The University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture is seeking a dynamic individual to serve as [Associate Director for Research Development and Compliance](#) within the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station (AAES). The Associate Director will also hold the title of Associate Vice President for Agriculture-Research in the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture
- *Last time:* NIFA is presenting a grant applicant/awardee technical assistance webinar on May 2 at 12:00 PM ET titled "[Demystifying the Panel Review Process for Grant Funding](#)". Please share this opportunity with interested faculty and staff. Registration is required.

From the Archive:

- *The context:* We keep an archive of the [NERA News](#) on our website. This includes all the 193 issues that precede this newsletter.

The Parting Shot:



UNH recently held a greenhouse open house and here's a shot of winter vertical production of ornamental pumpkins. This is part of the UNH cucurbits breeding program that's in its sixth decade of continuous research and breeding work. (Photo courtesy of Anton Bekkerman, UNH)

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

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

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