



Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors

It's the final countdown to the start of the fall semester. We appreciate that many of you are either in the throes of preparing for the fall or trying to wring out the last of summer vacation. Either way, best wishes!

Many thanks to those who have sent their assessments. We're interpreting that as an endorsement of the value that NERA brings to you. As we've shared previously, it's an honor to work with and for you.

Lastly, see the second action item, the room block for agInnovation's Fall Meeting closes on August 22.

"What sets GE apart is a culture that uses this wide diversity as a limitless source of learning opportunities, a storehouse of ideas whose breadth and richness is unmatched in the world business. At the heart of this culture is an understanding that an organization's ability to learn, and translate that learning into action rapidly, is the ultimate competitive business advantage." - Jack Welch in Robert Slater (1999), *Jack Welch and the GE Way: Management Insights and Leadership Secrets of the Legendary CEO*. McGraw-Hill, New York, NY.

Action items:

- Last week, we sent a request to the NERA directors seeking information about "matching funds" on their Hatch accounts. The questions that we were seeking answers to included:
 - Does your college or institution receive a separate, state line item to support capacity programs?
 - If not, how does your unit meet the Federal match requirements on the capacity funds?
 - Do you receive more state and local funding for capacity programs than what's provided in the capacity allocation to your state?
 - If so, please provide an estimate of how much more? (We're looking for ____% more.)

If you didn't ring in, there's still time to [respond to Rick](#). Thanks!

- agInnovation has set up a [website for ordering embroidered branded apparel](#) (shirts, vests, jackets, or sweaters). If you'd like to place an order, please do so by September 6. Ordered apparel will be available for pickup at the fall meeting in Raleigh. If you are not attending the meeting, contact [David](#) to coordinate delivery.

- *One last time:* Our colleagues at North Carolina State University's Conference and Guest Services are

seeking your registration for agInnovation's [2024 agInnovation Fall Meeting](#) in Raleigh, NC on September 22-25, 2024. The theme for the meeting is "Reimagining the Land-grant University-Industry Relationship". [Registration](#) is live, an [agenda](#) is posted, and [room reservations](#) are available. The room block closes on August 22. We look forward to seeing you in NC!

Reminders/Updates:

- For a piece of good news, check out the story that aired on the CBS Evening News profiling the beginning farmer program at Rutgers: "[As America's farming population ages, a new program looks to cultivate its next generation.](#)"
 - The Association is currently in the throes of changing name from NERA to agInnovation Northeast. To initiate that change, we've filed an amendment to the Cooperative Agreement that NERA has with the University of Rhode Island. The amendment is currently in the hands of URI's General Counsel. More to come...
 - *A continuing ask:* We are seeking Administrative Advisers (AA) for several projects as our NERA ranks evolve. Many thanks to the AAs that are rotating off projects. Projects that are seeking AAs include: NE2201 *Mycobacterial Diseases of Animals* and NRSP8 *Genomic Capacity: Building Applied Genomic Capacity for Animal Industries*. If you're interested, please contact [Rick](#).
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Informational items:

- The National Aquaculture Association is seeking a new [Executive Director](#). This important position leads the promotional and lobbying efforts to further the success of the industry in the U.S.
 - The Penn State University College of Agricultural Sciences is seeking an energetic, innovative, and accomplished [Director of College Relations and Communications](#). This is a senior level administrative staff position that reports to the dean of the college.
 - NIFA is hosting a webinar titled **Leveraging Extension and University Engagement: Developing and Implementing Novel Projects Using Transdisciplinary Approaches** on September 9 at 1:00 PM ET. Speakers include Marshall Stewart (Executive Vice President for External Engagement and Chief of Staff, Kansas State University); Robert Jones (Chancellor of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign); Wendy Powers (Dean, College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences, Washington State University); and Jay Akridge (Trustee Chair in Teaching and Learning Excellence and Professor of Agricultural Economics, Purdue University). [Registration is required and free.](#)
 - For your governmental affairs folks, the American Society for Microbiology is hosting a presentation titled "**Pathways to Progress Against AMR: Advancing Global Countermeasures and Surveillance.**" This is a Congressional briefing and cocktail reception to be held in room 902 of the Hart Senate Office Building from 4 pm to 5:30 pm on Tuesday, September 10, 2024. [RSVPs are requested.](#)
 - *Last time:* Together, NIFA and the APLU are seeking a speaker for the Morrill Lecture to honor outstanding contemporary leadership in teaching and significant contributions as an educator. Nominations of an individual can be made on the [National Institute of Food and Agriculture, and Association of Public and Land-grant Universities Memorial Lecture Series](#) site. Nominations are due on August 23, 2024.
 - *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.
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From the Archive:

- The context: While [NERA's Rules of Operation](#) may not be on your coffee table, they are posted on the NERA website under the "About NERA" navigation heading. You'll see that those rules were last

updated in 2021. As the Association engages in a name change to agInnovation Northeast, those rules will need to be revised. Stay tuned.

The Parting Shot:



Late summer field research, University of Vermont (photo courtesy of Patrick Ewing, USDA/ARS)

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

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