



Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors

Happy New Year! Here at NERA we're looking forward to what '24 has in store! As we usher in the new year, we have an important save the date in the action items.

“For last year’s words belong to last year’s language. And next year’s words await another voice.” – T. S. Elliot (1943) in “Little Gidding”, *Four Quartets: A Poem*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, New York, NY.

### Action items:

- Save the date. Due to a host of conflicts, we've moved the NERA Spring Meeting to March 25-27, 2024. March 25 will be a travel day and the meeting will convene on the morning of March 26. We're still planning to meet at the APLU and are working on the room-block details. We will share those with you once they are ready for prime time.
- NIFA is preparing a briefing for Congress on agrivoltaics and is interested in knowing about ongoing programs at Land-grant universities. Wendie Cohick did a presentation to NERA on the Rutgers program on agrivoltaics. Do any other institutions in the NE have agrivoltaics programs. If you do, would you please [send to us](#) a brief (2-3 sentences) description of your program? Thanks!

### Reminders/Updates:

- The BAA Communications and Marketing Committee has released the [January 2024 Toolkit](#). Please feel free to share with your communications staff.

### Informational items:

- New Mexico State University (NMSU) invites applications for the position of [Associate Dean/Director of the Agricultural Experiment Station](#), the research arm of the College of Agricultural, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences (ACES).
- The Northeastern IPM Center has shared its report of activities and accomplishments for the 2022 calendar year. Visit the [center's website](#) to read the annual report.
- *Second time:* The FY 2024 AFRI Foundational and Applied Science (Competitive Grant Program) is now available. Check out the [AFRI Program page](#).
- *Second time:* In 2024, the [Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education \(SARE\)](#) program will initiate a \$10 million national food loss and food waste grants program. SARE is now seeking a [Program Coordinator](#). The Southern region SARE will serve as the host institution, applications are due on January 31, 2024.
- *Second time:* The USDA and DOE are co-hosting listening sessions January 12, 16, and 17, 2024, on American Farms, Rural Benefits. The agencies are specifically seeking input on how clean energy siting can benefit farmers. Here's a link to the [Stakeholder Announcement](#).



The first appreciable snow in almost a year fell yesterday in RI. There's always something magical about that... (Photo: Rick Rhodes)

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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