



Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors

Last week we met in Providence for the NEED/NERA Joint Summer Session. We hope that you found value in the gathering. From our perspective, we were thrilled to have you join us on our surf and turf. We thought the meeting was a success and several of the high points included Steve Sloman's presentation on "Decision Making in a Community of Knowledge"; a visit to Gotham Greens, an urban-based, leafy greens production facility; reflecting on the leadership needed for our next generation; building a blueprint for collaboration on the Northeast Agenda (from communicators to administrators); and examining the opportunities posed by FoodShot.

- "Awareness that knowledge lives in a community gives us a different way to conceive intelligence. Instead of regarding intelligence as a personal attribute, it can be understood as how much an individual contributes to the community. If thinking is a social entity that takes place in a group, then intelligence resides in the team and not just individuals." – Steven Sloman and Phillip Fernbach (2017) in *The Knowledge Illusion: Why We Never Think Alone*. Riverhead Books, New York, NY.

### Action items:

- The [minutes from the NERA business meeting](#) have been posted on the NERA website. We will approve those minutes at our next face-to-face meeting in Raleigh, NC during the agInnovation Fall Meeting.
- The [2024 agInnovation Fall Meeting](#) will be held in Raleigh, NC on September 22-25, 2024. The theme for the meeting is "Reimagining the Land-grant University-Industry Relationship". As a heads up, [registration](#) is live, an [agenda](#) is posted, and [room reservations](#) are available. We look forward to seeing you in NC!
- 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](#).

### Reminders/Updates:

- We remind you to consider the requests that we sent last Friday. Those included Anton Bekkerman seeking a postdoctoral fellow to do an assessment of woody invasive species as a means to develop a scope of the challenges posed by the invasives and Eric Bishop Von-Wettberg seeking your interest in the scoping of a "Training Center for Dairy Processing." For more information, please contact either [Anton](#) or [Eric](#).
- *Hold the date:* the [2024 BAA Summer Leadership Meeting](#) (formerly known as Joint COPS) will be held in

Providence, RI on July 16-18, 2024. During this meeting, agInnovation will host a hybrid business session on July 16 from 8:30 AM – 11:45 AM ET.

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### Informational items:

- The National Academies are hosting a webinar on June 13, 2024, at 2:00 PM ET in the wake of releasing the report: “Exploring Linkages Between Soil Health and Human Health”. [Registration](#) is required and free.
- The University of Florida/IFAS is recruiting a new **Dean** for the [College of Agricultural and Life Sciences](#) to join their [leadership team](#). Details can be found at: [University of Florida - Details - Dean and Professor, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences \(ufl.edu\)](#).
- *And again:* The [2024 Research Center Administrator's Society](#) is meeting in Lincoln, NE on September 8-11, 2024.
- *And again:* The Northeast Regional Aquaculture Center (NRAC) is seeking preproposals. The [RFA for NRAC 2025 Preproposals](#) is posted on the NRAC website. Preproposals are due on July 5, 2024. Please share this information with faculty that might have interest in applying.
- *And again:* 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](#).
- *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:* This week you'll be receiving a ballot on the FY 2025 NERA budget. We've posted on the NERA website and explanation of the [NERA assessments and the budget](#). Check it out!

### **The Parting Shot:**



House of green. Gotham Greens (Providence, RI) field trip during the NEED/NERA Joint Summer Session (photo courtesy of David Leibovitz).

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

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