



# NERA

Northeastern Regional Association  
of  
State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors Meeting

**December 15, 2015 - Tuesday, at 10:00AM**

## Draft Minutes

**In Attendance:**

Cameron Faustman, Chair  
Ted Andreadis  
Jason White  
Mark Rieger  
Eric Wommack  
Adel Shirmohammadi  
Pat Vittum  
Jodi Jellison  
Dan Rossi  
Jon Wraith  
Brad Hillman  
Jan Nyrop  
Gary Thompson  
Tom Vogelmann  
Tim Phipps

Chair Cameron Faustman welcomed and thanked the directors for making time for this meeting and extended warm welcome to new member, Jody Jellison, AES Director for UMASS.

1. Executive Director Update - Dan Rossi
  - a) APLU ESCOP meeting
    - ESS Award – There was some confusion on the ESS awardees. Letter from ESCOP Chair sent to Ian with changes needed to confer the deserved amount of honor for the ESS Excellence in Leadership awards presented at the annual APLU

meetings. Logistics for the award will now be handled by the S&T Committee for continuity rather than with the ESCOP chair, which rotates among regions.

- A new 1890 institution, Central State University, was added. There is concern in giving land-grant status as there are funding implications on how those are shared. Need to be careful with message as we do not want to be perceived as being exclusive, but adding new institutions has budget implications. There was extensive discussion at ESCOP Executive Committee meeting, and ESCOP to formally voice their concerns to NIFA.
  - North American Climate Alliance gave a presentation. NACSAA has about 50 members. Their work platform relates to sustainable intensification of production, adaptation and resiliency management and greenhouse gas emission reduction. (Dan R. will share info with Adel S.)
  - NIMSS being rolled out, but still have complications. Programmers working on fixing the glitches.
  - National Impact Database project is requesting funds for communicators to get together to write summaries/webstories on 5-6 areas using info from the database. ESCOP voted to support up to 5K the next working session of the LGU National Impact Database Content Subcommittee. ESCOP paid \$5K to cover the previous session.
  - Diversity Leadership Task Force is active and consists of talented people, and expects to report on results in 8-10 mos.
  - 1994s-Native American Institutions have withdrawn from APLU and will go their own route in seeking funds. International group withdrew from APLU's Board on Agriculture Assembly, but might be having second thoughts.
  - Had presentation from Sightlines on results of study on Deferred Maintenance at Schools of Agriculture in U.S.
- a. NERA Representatives (see attachment)  
Will have this up on website and hope to assist members on their roles on regional and national levels. Directors were asked to review the list and let Dan and Rubie know of edits or updates.
  - b. Northeast Supplementary Multistate Research Guidelines  
Being updated and reduced to about 10 pages. Info will be useful particularly for new directors/advisors. Draft will be ready for review by MAC at March meeting, then for consideration by NERA members.
  - c. NEED/NERA Planning Grants announced w/ 2/19/16 deadline  
Announcement out and encourage all to share in their institutions. NERA Planning Grant will be released July 1, 2016.
2. ESS Excellence in Leadership Nominations, Process – Chair Cameron Faustman  
Encouraged directors to submit nominations by the Feb. 1 deadline. Executive Committee will review the nominations and submit recommendation to members at our March meeting.

3. ESCOP Leadership – Chair Cameron Faustman  
NERA will be hosting national meeting in Sept. 2017, so we need a nomination for an ESCOP Incoming-Chair. No plans to have joint ESS and ESCOP meeting in 2017. A remainder will be sent asking directors to self-nominate/volunteer before the March meeting, also Feb. 1 deadline.
4. Committee Reports
  - a. Communication and Marketing (CMC) - Rick Rhodes III  
Rick now serving as Chair, after Scott Reed. Plan of Work approved by committee. Focus is to provide unified messaging by actively engaging communication specialists throughout the land-grant system. Kglobal has accomplished a great deal in increasing understanding of land-grant. CMC's role is to help institutions understand what we're getting for our money.
  - b. Science and Technology Committee Update – Adel Shirmohammadi
    - Issue on Data Access is a floating charge for committee. Eric is working with team on a proposal for off-the-top support.
    - The Riley Foundation Report and the Agree Report discussed at last call. Committee supports unified messaging and partnering with appropriate entities and organization as recommended in Report (Adel to send Rubie and forward to all – see below).
  - c. ESCOP Budget & Legislative Committee - Gary Thompson
    - Working closely with ECOP B&L which has their own direction but both collaborating and aware of what each other is doing. Both have advocacy needs.
    - Procedural document on how to introduce new budget initiative was sent to Allan Grant BAC Chair and approved on Oct. 20<sup>th</sup>, and adopted by Policy Board. Lessons learned from Water Initiative prompted creation of this document.
    - Plans underway to study Competitive Programs Transactional Costs  
- NIFA competitive grant program is authorized at 700M but appropriated only at about 250M depending on given year. Significant costs borne by institutions in developing and administering grants, whether you fund 3 or 10 proposals. Appropriation level is fairly low and so not funding as many proposals. Need to find best way and good data to plug into model. NSF had done similar studies that committee is aware of.
    - Committee also discussed granting land-grant status, but decided this issue best left for other committees to handle
5. MAC Report - Fred Servello  
For information only to remind Advisors to follow up with their multistate technical committees. MAC meets half day ahead in March to discuss projects listed below:
  - a. MAC Membership:
    - Chair: Fred Servello, ME (2015-2018)
    - Tim Phipps, WV (2013-2016)
    - Cameron Faustman, CTS (2014-2017)

- Gary Thompson, PA (2015-2018)
  - Pat Vittum, MA/NEED (2014-2017)
  - Ken La Valley, NH/NEED (2014-2017)
- b. Proposals for review in March
- i. **NEERA1003 Renewal** NEERA\_TEMP1601: Northeast Pasture Consortium Collaboration among universities, ARS, NRCS, and pasture-based farmers to do relevant pasture research, education, and technical assistance [10/2016-09/2021]
  - ii. **NE1040 Renewal** NE\_TEMP1640: Plant-Parasitic Nematode Management as a Component of Sustainable Soil Health Programs in Horticultural and Field Crop Production Systems [10/2016-09/2021]
  - iii. **NE1010 Renewal** NE\_TEMP2221: Breeding and Genetics of Forage Crops to Improve Productivity, Quality, and Industrial Uses [10/2017-09/2022]
  - iv. **New** NE\_TEMP1601: Eastern White Pine Health and Responses to Environmental Changes [10/2016-09/2021]
  - v. **New** NE\_TEMP2361: Explorations into the Turfgrass Phytobiome: Establishing Standardized Research Methodology for Studying Microbial Communities and Developing Reliable Applications for Turfgrass Management [10/2016-09/2021]
- c. Requests to Write (pending):
- i. NE1020: Multi-state Evaluation of Winegrape Cultivars and Clones [10/2004-09/2017] – Advisor indicated that group will submit request for renewal
  - ii. NE1046: Management of Annual Bluegrass on Golf Courses: Improved Practices for Maintenance, Pest Control, and Viable Techniques for Transition to More Desirable Grasses [10/2011-09/2016]
  - iii. NEERA1004: Northeast Region Technical Committee on Integrated Pest Management [10/2011-09/2016]
  - iv. NEERA1005: Sustainable Wood Energy [10/2011-09/2016]
- d. Projects not recommended for renewal
- i. NE1047: Ecological Bases for Weed Management in Sustainable Cropping Systems [10/2011-09/2016]
  - ii. NEAC002: Animal Science Advisory Committee [10/2011-09/2016]
- e. New Advisor Assignments:
- i. Ted Andreadis (CT-NH) for NEERA1306: Management of the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug [10/2013-09/2018]
  - ii. Jan Nyrop (NYI) for the proposed NRSP-National Agricultural Data Network (NADN)
  - iii. Still need Advisor to replace Ed Ashworth for Resource Management in Commercial Greenhouse Production [10/2013-09/2018]
6. NERA Executive Director Search - Rick Rhodes III
- Position vacancy has been announced, but response has not been good so far. Directors should consider talking to folks who are suitable and may have expressed interest.

- Plan proposed to finish all NERA business on Tuesday-March 15 and use Wednesday-March 16 as the interview day at our spring meeting, instead of setting up separate for fly-in. If necessary, we can have meeting until 6pm on Tuesday.
- Members agreed on handling NERA business and interviews at the March meeting and extend deadline to Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Depending on how many will be interviewed, members were asked to plan on staying late until Wednesday afternoon.
- Format is to meet for an hour with each candidate, and 15mins. for directors to discuss after.

7. Upcoming meetings - Cameron Faustman

- a. Candidate interviews
- b. March 14-16, 2016 NERA meeting
  - i. What do we keep/what do we cover in other ways (from 2015 Agenda) <http://nera.rutgers.edu/workshop/NERAAgendaMarch2015.pdf>
    - Members appreciated value of having presenters in person, but for this March meeting agreed to revise the format. Written reports will be requested in advance of meeting for directors to review, then 15mins. of Q&A with presenters present or by phone.
  - ii. Best practices, “What’s on your mind” sessions (see attachment)
    - Executive Committee will work with Dan to revisit the list and sessions we’ve done.
    - Directors asked to email suggestions to Cameron and Dan
    - Incorporate 2-3 Best Practices at March meeting

Chair Cameron Faustman will send out another reminder around January 4<sup>th</sup> on actions from this meeting, and reminded directors to plan to stay for interviews on Wednesday afternoon until 4-5PM.

Dan will start drafting our March meeting agenda based on discussion today and will ask our partners for written reports.

Rubie will set up a call, week of Feb 8-12, 2016, for the Executive Committee to finalize the March meeting agenda.

Chair Cameron Faustman wished everyone happy holidays and adjourned meeting at 11:03AM.

## NERA Representatives (as of December 7, 2015)

### Regional

- NERA Chair
  - Cameron Faustman (2015-2016)
- NERA Executive Committee
  - Cameron Faustman, Chair (2014-2017)
  - Mark Rieger, Vice Chair (2015-2018)
  - Rick Rhodes III, Officer-at-Large (2016-2019)
  - Tim Phipps, Immediate Past Chair (2013-2016)
- NERA Multistate Activities Committee (MAC)
  - Fred Servello, Chair (2015-2018)
  - Tim Phipps (2013-2016)
  - Gary Thompson (2015-2018)
  - Cameron Faustman (2014-2017)
  - Pat Vittum, NEED (2014-2017)
  - Ken La Valley, NEED (2014-2017)
- NERA Nominating Committee
  - Tim Phipps, Chair (2014-2016)
  - Cameron Faustman (2015-2017)
- NERA Liaison to Extension (NEED)
  - Vacant
- NERA Liaison to Academic Programs Section (NE-ACOP)
  - Cameron Faustman
- NERA Resolutions Committee
  - Brad Hillman (2014- )
- NERA Ad Hoc ED Search Committee (2015-2016)
  - Rick Rhodes, Chair
  - Fred Servello
  - Jan Nyrop
  - Adel Shirmohammadi
- Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development Board of Directors
  - Tim Phipps, Chair (2010-2016)
  - Sabine O'Hara (2013-2019)
  - Gary Thompson (2015-2021)
- Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development Technical Advisory Committee
  - Cheryl Brown (2010-2016)
  - Paul Gottlieb (2014-2020)
- Northeast Regional Aquaculture Center Board of Directors
  - Rick Rhodes, Chair (2013-2017)
  - Fred Servello (2015-2019)
- Northeast Integrated Pest Management Center Steering Committee
  - Jan Nyrop (2015- )
- Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (NESARE)
  - Jon Wraith

## National

- ESCOP Chair-Elect, Chair, Past Chair (2016-2019)
- ESCOP
  - Tim Phipps (NERA Immediate Past Chair) (2015-2016)
  - Cameron Faustman (NERA Current Chair) (2014-2017)
  - Mark Rieger (NERA Vice Chair) (2015-2018)
- ESCOP Executive Committee
  - Tim Phipps (NERA Immediate Past Chair) (2015-2016)
- ESCOP Budget & Legislative Committee
  - Gary Thompson, Chair (2014-2016)
  - Tim Phipps (2011- )
  - Jon Wraith (2014- )
- ESCOP Science & Technology Committee
  - Cameron Faustman (2011- )
  - Adel Shirmohammadi (2015- )
- Communications & Marketing Committee
  - Rick Rhodes, Chair (2014-2017)
  - Cameron Faustman, ACOP Representative (2015-2018)
- NRSP Review Committee
  - Fred Servello (2015-2016)

## **2016 Integrated Research and Extension Planning Grants Program**

The Northeast Cooperative Extension Directors (NEED) and Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors (NERA) announce a regional competitive planning grants program. These grants are to be used to organize Northeast Extension educators and Agricultural Experiment Station researchers around teams to develop new cross-disciplinary, integrated, and multistate research and Extension programs that address important needs in the region.

The intent of the program is to stimulate and develop regional efforts that provide synergy across institutions and strengthen research and Extension efforts in specific areas. Funding for this program is designed to allow each state institution to capitalize on their strengths and to build multistate teams of faculty and staff to enhance research and outreach capacity. It is expected that each state will support the planning processes (travel, etc.) to assist groups in developing the proposals through appropriate discussion/requests at the onset. These efforts will allow us to be more competitive for external agency funding and to provide important educational and outreach programs to stakeholders in the region and beyond.

Proposals are to be innovative and needs-driven and focus on new and promising integrated research and Extension programs that bring together specialists in diverse fields to apply complementary approaches to work on an important problem. Proposals in support of programs that are forward-looking/anticipatory are especially encouraged. Such programs must include both specific research and Extension components and should lead to the development of one or more of the following:

- Development of new research/Extension programs that provide innovative solutions to issues to Northeast states
- Development of one or more new technologies that lead to job creation/economic development in Northeast states
- Development of new multi-State programming methods to deliver research information through Extension to communities within Northeast states

The planning teams must include Extension and research members from three or more Northeast states. The leadership and majority of the membership of the teams should be from Northeast states. However, researchers and Extension educators from other regions may participate. Their participation is expected to strengthen the proposed programs and make them potentially more competitive for future funding.

A required outcome of a planning grant will be a proposal submitted to the National Institute for Food and Agriculture or other appropriate funding sources. Grant recipients must provide a written report at the end of the grant period and subsequent periodic updates on the status of resulting proposals.



Proposals will be due on **February 19, 2016**. The proposals are not to exceed **three** single-spaced pages (Times Roman 12 point and one inch margins) not including the cover page and appendices.

The proposal will be reviewed by a committee composed of both NEED and NERA directors. Final decisions will be made by March 17, 2016. Funding up to \$4,000 will be available for a maximum of one year from the date of award notification. The funds will be administered by the Offices of the NEED and NERA Executive Directors and will only be used to reimburse actual expenses. Unused funds will be retained by NEED and NERA. Funds may only be used to support transportation and meeting expenses to bring teams together for planning and organizational purposes. Funds cannot be used to pay indirect costs and will not be awarded for salaries or wages. Planning grant funds cannot be used to support initial research or Extension activities of the proposed program.

Proposals for planning grants should include:

- Cover page (see attached for suggested format)
- Mission and goals of the proposed program
- Justification for the program relative to stakeholder needs and potential for sustained external funding
- Activities to be engaged in by team members towards a more complete definition of the program
- Explanation of roles of team members
- Timetable for completion of the planning activities and preparation of a competitive proposal
- Budget for planning activities (travel, meeting expenses, etc.) not to exceed \$4,000
- Leveraging resources
- CV of Team Leader – As an appendix (two page maximum) demonstrating track record of successful external funding and leading cross-disciplinary and/or multi-institutional collaborations

The specific criteria that will be used to evaluate proposals are:

- Addresses an important need in the region
- Justification demonstrates stakeholder support for the project
- Consistent with goals of competitive funding programs
- Potential for sustained funding
- Clearly defined planning activities
- In support of programs that are integrated research and Extension (including youth development) activities; and where appropriate, teaching activities
- Realistic timetable
- Team members appropriate to proposed activities
- Substantial participation by research and Extension personnel from three or more Land-grant institutions in the Northeast
- Team leaders with demonstrated track record of successful external funding and leading cross-disciplinary and/or multi-institutional collaborations
- Potential support (funding or other) from other entities
- Well written and organized proposal that addresses all the required criteria satisfactorily

Please submit planning grant proposals electronically by c.o.b. on **February 19, 2016** to Rubie Mize at [rgmize@aesop.rutgers.edu](mailto:rgmize@aesop.rutgers.edu).

## 2016 Integrated Research and Extension Planning Grants Program

**Project Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Team Members:**

Name	Discipline	Appointment (AES, CE, Both)	Institution/Agency/Other

(Attach an additional sheet if more space is needed.)

**Team Leader Contact Information:**

Name:	
Address:	
Phone:	
Fax:	
E-mail:	

**2016 Experiment Station Section Awards for  
Excellence in Leadership**

**NERA Nomination Form  
Deadline – February 1, 2016**

**Nominee:**

**Institution(s):**

**Titles:**

**Accomplishments:**

Leadership Positions Held Regionally and Nationally:

Committee Assignments:

Special and Extraordinary Service Activities:

(e.g., active participation in affairs of the Regional Association and/or ESCOP;  
regional, national and/or international special assignments with distinctive  
performance that has advanced the mission of the ESS and the land-grant ideal;  
and a record of significant accomplishments in the agricultural sciences)

**(You may provide webs links for more specific information.)**

**Nominator** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

From: ESCOP Science and Technology Committee

### **AGree Report: Research and Innovation: Strengthening Agricultural Research**

The ESCOP S&T Committee reviewed, discussed and approved (11/30/2015) the following points from the June 2015 Report. In general, we support the Report's narrative supporting current and future interests in substantially growing the agriculture and natural resources research infrastructure through a variety of mechanisms. AGree's core members and advisors are represented by current and past public and federal officials whom are listed in the Report (page 14). We provide specific reaction and comments below to the vision and elements of the Report. Lastly, if there are no comments on the AGree recommendations we are neutral.

1. U.S. research priorities are continually evaluated and refined at the federal and state levels through vast stakeholder engagement, visioning by faculty and professional societies and in ESCOP with the Science Roadmap. This ongoing realignment and action-agenda supports change, efficiency, and the dynamic nature of agricultural research that is both fundamental, transdisciplinary, systems-based addressing current and future challenges.
2. New financial resources are urgently needed to meet the demands. In addition, we fully support a growing partnership with other federal agencies to support (and grow) agricultural research with NIFA. This was a key element of the NRC Review of the AFRI program which S&T fully supported an expansion of multiple agency strategic focus on relevant research.
3. We do support increased interactions with Congress through established mechanisms as a means to understand the critical issues being addressed by research in the food and agriculture challenge arena by LGU ESS/ARD. We question the need for additional Congressional oversight.
4. S&T recognizes the federal mandate and, more importantly, the scientific value of access to publications and data to enhance and scientific advancements from all sources of funding. We encourage a go slow approach as the federal agencies are working on multiple fronts to meet the mandate and LGUs are studying and implementing processes and practices. This will help to ensure that limited resources at the State and Federal level are used effectively and efficiently.
5. Rich stakeholder engagement occurs within the States on a regular and consistent basis. There may be some value in discussions that capture this input and aggregate it to a regional and national agenda, where appropriate.
6. Leveraging State and Federal resources with multiple stakeholders is a common and accepted practice. Very few issues are entirely the domain of the public or private sector.
7. New resources should be secured for both capacity and competitive funding mechanisms. AFRI programs have, unfortunately, been significantly below authorized levels for many years. The U.S. should strive to restore our global leadership in agricultural and natural resources research.
8. AGree's Implementation Plan should provide additional venues to discuss and refine the U.S. infrastructure associated with NIFA, other federal agencies and LGUs. We welcome these actions and believe that ESS/ARD should be fully engaged in these efforts.

Report: [http://www.foodandagpolicy.org/sites/default/files/AGree\\_RII\\_2015\\_0.pdf](http://www.foodandagpolicy.org/sites/default/files/AGree_RII_2015_0.pdf)

## Best Practices Sessions

- Hatch Project Management; i.e., Project Development & Review, Reporting, and Budget Distribution Mechanisms (NERA 3/07)
- Effecting Change, Keeping Institutions Agile, Replacing Unproductive Tenured Staff (NERA 7/07)
- Allocation of Space; i.e., Office, Lab, Greenhouse, Field, etc. (ESS 9/07)
- Re-Directing Non-Productive or Unnecessary Faculty Research Programs (Re-Treading/Re-Training). (ESS 9/07)
- Estimating Costs of Raising and Managing Research Animals and Implementing Per Diem Charges; Decision Processes, Transition, Oversight, etc. (NERA 3/08)
- Budgeting for New Faculty Hires (Including Start-Up and Spousal Hires); Unique Start-Up Packages, Inter-College Spousal Hiring, Funding Start-Ups, etc. (NERA 7/08)
- Managing Significant Budget Reductions; i.e., Selective vs. Across-the-Board, Prioritization, Creative Funding Mechanisms, etc. (NERA 3/09; ESS 9/08)
- Relationships with State Departments of Agriculture (NERA 7/09)
- Institutional and Regional Responses to Budget Reductions (NERA 9/09)
- Managing High Cost Agricultural Research Facilities (ESS 9/09)
- Positioning NERA Institutions and Scientists for the New AFRI RFP (NERA 3/10)
- Adoption of a "*Culture Of Sustainability*" in Our Institutions (NERA 3/10)
- Encouraging Collaborations (NERA 7/10)
- Coordinated Regional Research on Invasive Plants (NERA 9/10)
- Documenting Impacts, How and Why (ESS 9/10)
- How do we want to handle dairy support in the region? (NERA 3/11)
- Intellectual Property: How It is Handled and the Role of Experiment Stations (NERA 3/11)
- Sustainable Campus Operations (ESS 9/11)
- Structuring University-Wide Centers and Institutes; Issues and Solutions (ESS 9/11)
- Program Evaluation in Plans-of-Work and Annual Reports (NERA 3/12)
- Forming, managing and benefitting from AES external advisory and advocacy committees; what works and what doesn't (NERA 3/12)
- Encouraging leadership development for faculty and staff – LEAD 21 or campus-based programs (NERA 3/12)
- Future of Animal Research Programs (ESS 9/12)
- Small Farms Viability (ESS9/12)
- Resources/Faculty Sharing (NERA 3/13)
- Establishment of a Grant Support Unit in the Experiment Station, College or University Level (NERA 3/13)
- Resource Use in our Experiment Station/Research Centers/Facilities (NERA 3/13 and 7/13)
- Northeast Faculty Hiring Decisions (NERA 7/13)
- New Budget/Management Strategies for Dealing with Austerity (ESS 9/13)
- Emerging Needs for Agricultural Engineering Research or Tech Transfer in the NE (NERA 10/14)
- Open Architecture Laboratory Management (NERA 7/15)
- Identifying gaps in our research and extension expertise for 21st century problems (NE 7/15)
- Meeting the Need for Future Leadership in Teaching, Research and Extension. (NE 7/15)