



Happy New Year! We hope that you all had a grand holiday season. All the best in 2023!

“The State Agricultural Experiment Stations (SAESs)—typically co-located on the campuses of the Land Grant Universities—conduct the majority of U.S. public agricultural R&D...”

– Phillip G. Pardey and Julian M. Alston (2021) [The Drivers of U.S. Agricultural Productivity Growth in 2021 Agricultural Symposium: The Roots of Agricultural Productivity Growth](#), Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City.

Action items:

- As we noted in our previous newsletter, we heard from the North Central region that the guidance coming from NIFA about financial reporting on competitive grants programs was confusing and inconsistent. In short, the issue revolved around the Terms and Conditions of Competitive Grants which state that a financial report is due on February 1, 2023. NIFA is sending notices that indicate that financial reports are due within 120 days after the project end date. Not surprisingly, stations in all the regions are reporting that the NIFA notices are “confusing and...causing angst” (language from a Northeast station director). Jeanette Thurston, the Executive Director in the North Central region, responded to NIFA on behalf of all the stations seeking a discussion on the issue. [We're interested in hearing](#) if this is causing indigestion among your business officers and we'll keep you posted on how this unfolds.
- As discussed during the quarterly NERA teleconference, we have a number of committee seats and Administrative Advisor slots open. The [list of openings](#) is posted on the NERA website. We'll be reaching out to folks about the open slots, stay tuned!
- For all of our NERA Administrative Advisors, the [request for nominations](#) for Excellence in Multistate Research is posted on the [ESCOP website](#). Please consider nominating your project!

Reminders/Updates:

- Hold the date: the NEED/NERA Meeting will be held in Annapolis, Maryland, June 5-7, 2023.

Informational items:

- Last, last time: The University of Florida is hosting the **Winter 2023 Meeting of the Research Center Administrators Society (RCAS)** on February 5-8, 2023, in Brandon, FL. To register, check the [RCAS](#) webpage. As a heads up, RCAS is focused on issues and challenges related to research centers, research, and education centers (RECs), across the Land-grant system.
- The North Central regional associations of Experiment Station ([NCRA](#)) and Cooperative Extension ([NCCEA](#)) Directors are continuing the LGU2U Initiative, a series of virtual sessions that intend to reinforce

and enhance the unique relationship between LGUs and NIFA. The NERA community is invited to join the upcoming LGU2U session on January 11 at 3:00 pm ET. [Registration](#) for this session is required.



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

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