



Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors

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For those seeking evidence that we are rock stars, check out the first Reminder/Update.

This is a busy time of year as the semester closes out, commencement ceremonies unfold, and summer meetings rapidly approach. Best wishes to all as you close out. For those that will be participating in commencements, good luck as you usher your grads to their next big deal. For us in NERA, we're looking forward to seeing you in Annapolis in less than a month.

Once in a while, you get shown the light.  
In the strangest of places if you look at it right.

-Jerry Garcia (music) and Robert Hunter (lyrics), 1974, "Scarlet Begonias"  
in *From the Mars Hotel*, Grateful Dead Records, San Rafael, CA.

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### Action items:

- [Registration](#) for the 2023 Northeast Joint Summer Session in Annapolis, Maryland, June 5-7, 2023, is open. As you've heard, the theme for the meeting is **Building Back Better, Together**. The link to the [room block](#) in the Graduate Annapolis Hotel is up and running as well. The joint meeting agenda is posted on the [2023 Northeast Joint Summer Session website](#) and on the [NERA website](#). The NERA Executive Committee has also posted the [NERA Business Meeting agenda](#), to be held on June 7. Please take a look at these materials.
  - Last week we forwarded a note from ESCOP's ad hoc Agricultural Research Infrastructure committee seeking your input on the Research Facilities Act. The poll is still open, and we ask that you take a few minutes (3 minutes tops!) to complete the survey. Here's the link: [Ag Infrastructure Survey](#).
  - The National Science Foundation (NSF) requests input to inform the development of a roadmap for its newly established Technology, Innovation, and Partnerships (TIP) Directorate, in accordance with the CHIPS and Science Act of 2022. For more information, check the Federal Register "[Request for Information on Developing a Roadmap for the Directorate for Technology, Innovation, and Partnerships](#)." Comments are due on July 27, 2023.
  - **Last call:** Next week, the University of the District of Columbia will be hosting a workshop dedicated to drafting of a Multistate Research Project on "Urban Agriculture" on May 23, 2023. NERA is providing support for the meeting and is offering \$1,000 travel scholarships to researchers that are interested in attending the workshop. If you have a researcher that is interested in participating, please have them contact [Rick](#). (We currently have 9 scientists on our list of prospective attendees with room for up to 15.)
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### Reminders/Updates:

- Ben Houlton, Dean of Cornell's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, [opened the Dead & Company concert](#) on May 8th and in doing so refers to the roles that Land-grant universities have in mitigating climate change. The concert marked the anniversary of the Grateful Dead performing at Cornell on May 8, 1977 and was held as a charitable event that supported [MusicCares](#) and [Cornell University's 2030 Project](#), in which researchers combine science, scholarship, and innovation to develop climate-change solutions. Rock stars!
- The Northeast Regional Aquaculture Center (NRAC) is seeking pre-proposals. The [RFA for 2024 preproposals](#) is posted on the NRAC website. The submission deadline is June 23, 2023.
- Last time: The APLU has framed what the "system" is seeking in the Farm Bill. (Here's a link to the [APLU's recommendations for Title VII of the Farm Bill](#). This information is archived on [Land-grant.org](#).) Are there items in Title VII or the other titles of the Farm Bill that we should be seeking? Here are two examples of asks from another region. The West is seeking elimination of the 5% cap on using capacity funds for employer contributions to retirement accounts. The West is also asking that state agricultural experiment stations be added as eligible applicants to the Conservation Innovation Grant program (a subset of EQIP grants).

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### Informational items:

- While this conflicts with the 2023 Northeast Joint Summer Session, the National Science Foundation (NSF) is hosting the **Spring 2023 NSF Virtual Grants Conference** (June 5 – 8, 2023). This virtual conference will be broadcast live on Zoom. To register for this free event, visit the [conference website](#).
- *Continuing:* The annual meeting of agInnovation (formerly known as the Experiment Station Section) is scheduled for September 24-26 in Grand Rapids, MI. The theme for the meeting is **Catalyzing Solutions to Climate Change Impacts on Food Security through Partnerships**.
- *Continuing:* ESCOP's Diversity Catalyst Committee has extended the deadline for submitting nominations for the [National Experiment Station Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion awards](#) (individual and group). Nominations are now due by June 30.
- The University of Guam is searching for a Dean of the College of Natural and Applied Sciences (CNAS). The position announcement is posted on the [NERA website](#).



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Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors (NERA)

[www.nerasaes.org](http://www.nerasaes.org)

14 East Farm Road

Aquaculture Center

University of Rhode Island

Kingston, RI 02881

Executive Director, Dr. Richard C. Rhodes III: (401) 874-2468

Coordinator, David Leibovitz: (401) 874-4801

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

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