



Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors

2024 is off to a great start! We're deep into planning the NERA Spring Meeting and agInnovation requests for nominations are now open. While we all are looking forward to the passage of a Farm Bill, Rick had the opportunity to visit in Washington and share his reflections. That visit led to this week's quote.

"We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

- *The Constitution of the United States: A Transcription*. National Archives, U.S. National Archives and Records Administration, <https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/constitution-transcript>.

Action items:

- The [requests for agInnovation Awards nominations](#) have been posted. The nominations include Excellence in Leadership; Excellence in Multistate Research; Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (individual and group); and Ag Research Innovation (this is a new award). We know that we have outstanding Northeast leaders, researchers, research projects, and DEI innovators. Here's the action item: please check out the calls for nominations and consider submitting a nomination.
- *Save the date*. As we shared in our last newsletter, 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'll be meeting at APLU and we will have a room block at the Marriott Residence Inn Washington, D.C. Downtown. As an added incentive to attend, we'll be sharing agInnovation apparel for all that join us in Washington.
- Rick had an opportunity to represent NERA and the University of Rhode Island during a White House briefing called *Building a Better America: Rhode Island*. His [written comments](#) are posted on the NERA website. While the meeting was actually in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building (next to the White House), it enabled Rick and the Association to share information about us and our impacts with representatives of the Administration.

Reminders/Updates:

- If you haven't checked out the [Multistate Research Fund Impacts](#) page, we'd encourage you to sneak a peek. Here's a link to a recent impact statement "[Supporting Midsize Producers](#)" which included contributions from the University of Maine, UMASS, UNH, PSU, URI, and UVM.
- You've seen that NIFA has distributed the [FY2023 Preliminary Financial Report Guidance](#). The

Planning, Accountability, and Reporting Staff (PARS) have developed a supplemental document, [Changes to Financial Reporting Fields in NRS](#). This document provides a crosswalk of the financial reporting fields to further assist with planning and data collection ahead of the NRS Financial Module release. As a reminder, NIFA hosts monthly NRS webinars. The next NRS webinar is on January 25, 2024, at 2:00 PM ET. Here's the [registration link](#).

Informational items:

- The NIFA [Equipment Grant Program](#) is soliciting proposals that increase access to shared-use special purpose equipment/instruments for fundamental and applied research in the food and agricultural sciences. Proposals are due on May 3, 2024. There's \$4.8 million available and the range of awards is expected to be between \$25,000 to \$500,000.
- The Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) is soliciting applications for the [FY2024 Scientific Cooperation Research Program](#). The FAS expects to fund 12 awards at \$50,000 each. Applications are due on March 25, 2024.
- For you policy and procedures followers, the NSF has just released the new [Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide \(PAPPG\) \(NSF 24-1\)](#). To cut to the chase on changes, check out the [Summary of Changes to the PAPPG](#). The NSF will be presenting a webinar on the new guide on March 12 at 2 PM. Details have not been released on the webinar. Use the following link to receive updates from the [NSF Policy Office](#).
- 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).
- Iowa State University seeks applicants for the position of [Associate Dean for Global Engagement](#) in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Consideration of applications will begin February 26, 2024. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.



Dr. Rhodes goes to Washington... (Photo: Rick Rhodes)



...and visits with the Secretary of Commerce, the Honorable Gina Raimondo. (Photo: Rick Rhodes)

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

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