



Thanks for joining the virtual joint NEED/NERA Summer Meeting last week. Collectively, we had very productive conversations. See the action items for specific updates. As we met recently, we don't have a lot to share in this newsletter and, hence, kept it short. Stay cool!

“Research is formalized curiosity. It is poking and prying with a purpose.” - Zora Neale Hurston (1942), in *Dust Tracks on a Road*, Chapter 10, Research. Harper Collins e-books.

Action items:

- The [notes from the NERA Business Meeting on June 23, 2021](#) are posted on the NERA website. Please check those out!
- In addition to the NERA Business Meeting, you'll recollect that we had three conversations that revolved around: a Northeast communications network; multistate projects; and updates from NIFA, the Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development (NERCRD) and the Northeast Climate Hub. Here are some follow-up items from those sessions.
 - We've formed a Northeast communications sub-committee that includes Lori Gula (communicator, UNH), Lindsay Willey (communicator, WVU), Erin Miller (communicator, UME), and Matt Wilson (director, WVU). David and I will be backstopping the committee. Should you have thoughts that you'd like to share on the effort, please send those along to [us](#).
 - Several directors made suggestions for projects that should be included in the Northeast's multistate project portfolio. If you have suggestions for new projects or you strongly support a suggested new project area (and would be willing to assist in the initial effort to move a new project forward), [we'd](#) love to hear your thoughts.
 - We hope that you found our time with Director Castille, Dr. Goetz and Dr. Hollinger to be valuable. NIFA, the NERCRD and the Northeast Climate Hub are excellent resources and collaborators with NERA.
- During the NERA Business Meeting we discussed comments that NERA should share with NIFA in response to NIFA's call for input on funding priorities. While our timeline for submission of comments was short, [NERA submitted suggestions to NIFA](#). Those comments are posted on the NERA website.

Reminders/Updates:

- *We're on:* The ESS will hold its [2021 Experiment Station Section Meeting](#) face-to-face in Olympic Valley, CA on September 27-30, 2021. The theme will be “Disruptive Innovation.” The [room reservation link](#) is open.

Informational items:

- The USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), located in Kansas City, Missouri, has multiple vacancies for Program Specialists (Biological or Social Science Specialists; GS 9/11/12). Positions are located in Kansas City, Missouri or locations may be negotiated after selection. These vacancies are available in the Institutes of Food Production and Sustainability; Bioenergy, Climate, and Environment; Food Safety and Nutrition; and Institute of Youth, Family, and Community. Use the following links to view/apply for the Program Specialist positions: [Biological Science Specialist \(GS 11/12\)](#), [Social Science Specialist position \(GS 9/11/12\)](#), and [Social Science Specialist position \(GS 9/11/12\)](#).
- The Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST) has recently released a new paper *The Role of Agricultural Science and Technology in Climate 21 Project Implementation*. The [paper is available for download](#) on the CAST website.



Follow @NERASAES on Twitter

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

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.

Please do not reply directly to this MailChimp message.