



Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors

This has been a summer of change. One of those changes includes the forging of a regional communications effort. Using communications assets that are currently available, we hope to shine a spotlight on the activities of the region and amplify the stories from individual institutions. Speaking on behalf of NERA, we appreciate the work of our institutional communications experts. They are the pros!

“Language exerts hidden power, like a moon on the tides.” – Rita Mae Brown (1989) in *Starting from Scratch: A Different Kind of Writer’s Guide*. Bantam Books, New York, NY.

Action items:

- Registration is now open for the agInnovation Fall Meeting Fall Meeting 2023, *Catalyzing Solutions to Climate Change Impacts on Food Security through Partnerships*, in Grand Rapids, MI, September 24-26. Visit the [conference website](#) for all details. As a heads-up, registration closes on September 13 and the room block is open until September 5.
- We’ve scheduled a **virtual NERA Business meeting on August 10 at 8:30 AM**. The primary item on the agenda is a discussion of the NERA budget. The good news is that we have a healthy carry forward per the direction of the Association and we don’t expect any changes in fiscal year 2024 assessments. We’ll be forwarding connection information by email. The [agenda is posted](#) on the NERA website.
- The [minutes from the agInnovation Executive Committee Meeting](#) on July 19 are now posted. Check them out!
- Sara Delheimer, the principal behind the [Multistate Research Fund Impact website](#), has shared the “communications themes for August 2023”. We’ve [posted those](#) on the NERA website.

Reminders/Updates:

- Thanks for the input on the Farm Bill Modification Request (non-Title VII), originally proposed by the Western region. agInnovation’s Budget and Legislative Committee has endorsed the West’s requests and those requests have been forward to the BAA’s Committee on Legislation and Policy (CLP or Farm Bill Committee). Stay tuned, more to come.
- We hope you’ve have noticed that we’ve added a photo at the end of the newsletter that either captures “local flavor” or is indicative of current events. If you have a picture that you’d like to share with the NERA News followers, [please send those to us](#) with a caption and photographer acknowledgement.

Informational items:

- Penn State Extension is seeking a [Director of Extension and Associate Dean](#). Penn State Extension is administratively housed within The College of Agricultural Sciences, which is also home to nine academic

departments.

- The University of California's Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources is seeking a [Controller](#). To apply for the position, click this [link](#).
- The [2022 NIFA Annual Report](#) is now available. Check it out.
- SARE has published a new document titled "[What is sustainable agriculture](#)". It's worth a read.
- Texas A&M AgriLife is searching for a [Center Director](#) in Lubbock. This person will be responsible for administering and coordinating all aspects of the Center as well as participating in active research through collaboration, where appropriate, to enhance overall faculty research productivity at the Center.
- *Second time:* The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS), Fellowship Programs, has announced a funding opportunity to support the [Cochran Fellowship Program \(CFP\)](#). We've also posted the opportunity on the NERA website. Applications are due on August 25, 2023.
- *Third time:* The Center for Agriculture, Food and the Environment at the University of Massachusetts is seeking an [Associate Director for Operations and Communications](#).



"What I did during my summer vacation." Rick Rhodes (aqua-colored wing) on the north shore of Maui, July 26, 2023. (Photo by Chiara Schembri.)

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