

**Report and Recommendations**  
**NORTHEAST MULTISTATE ACTIVITIES**  
**COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**October 15, 2021, 10:00-11:00 am**

**In attendance: Jan Nyrop (Chair-Cornell), Matt Wilson (West Virginia), Puneet Srivastava (Maryland), Andra Johnson (NEED-Pennsylvania)**

***Action Items:***

***Request to Write (requires MAC approval only)***

- **NE\_TEMP2251: *Tourism Resilience and Community Sustainability: Adaptation and Recovery of Rural Businesses and Destinations*, 10/1/22-9/30/27.** New Multistate Project Proposal, submitted by Doug Arbogast (West Virginia), has been written beyond the request to write requirements. Proposed AA: Matt Wilson (West Virginia).
  - WVU faculty member Doug Arbogast received a NERA Planning Grant, *Strengthening Rural Tourism*, in FY2021. The planning grant team went on to submit a USDA-NIFA grant proposal, and it was funded.
  - This is a strong example of the Experiment Station and Extension working together to developing common metrics for evaluating rural tourism.
  - This project intends to examine rural communities, resilience, impact on economic development, capacity of rural communities to bring economic development to their state.
  - References to Appalachia in the proposal indicate rural communities along the Appalachian mountain range.
  - **Jan Nyrop introduced a motion to approve the NE\_TEMP2251 request to write. The motion was approved unanimously with a call for a list of prospective participants to be uploaded to NIMSS.**
  
- **NECC\_TEMP2202: *Formal Structure for the Minor Use Animal Drug Program*, 10/1/22-9/30/27.** Renewal, currently NECC1702 *Establishment of a Formal Structure for the Minor Use Animal Drug Program*, 10/1/17-9/30/22; AA: Margaret Smith (New York-Cornell AES).
  - This program has been going on for 39 years and is the only program of its kind in the country. Team members have been productive as evidenced by the number of publications across its entire history. Strong support for approving this proposal.
  - **Jan Nyrop introduced a motion to approve the NECC\_TEMP2202 request to write. The motion was approved unanimously.**

- NE\_TEMP2227: *Contribution of Ovarian Function, Uterine Receptivity, and Embryo Quality to Pregnancy Success in Ruminants*, 10/1/22-9/30/27. Renewal, currently NE1727 *Influence of ovary, uterus, and embryo on pregnancy success in ruminants*, 10/1/17-9/30/22; AA: David Townson (Vermont, now URI).
  - This team has a long track record of productivity, \$23M in research was generated over the previous project cycle
  - A strong candidate for the 2022 NE Excellence in Multistate Research Award.
  - **Matt Wilson introduced a motion to approve the NE\_TEMP2227 request to write. The motion was approved unanimously.**
  
- NE\_TEMP2231: *Collaborative Potato Breeding and Variety Development Activities to Enhance Farm Sustainability in the Eastern US*, 10/1/22-9/30/27. Renewal, currently NE1731 (same title), 10/1/17-9/30/22; AA: Mark Hutton (Maine).
  - Potato breeding programs, seed production programs, and germplasm, are integrated across the Northeast region.
  - Western potato varieties don't grow well in the NE.
  - Production potatoes are grown in the Northeast for end products like potato chips and French fries.
  - Long successful program with breeders in institutions throughout the region.
  - In 2020, 7316 seed acres of new varieties were planted, and seed product had a ware product value of almost \$220M.
  - **Jan Nyrop introduced a motion to approve the NE\_TEMP2231 request to write. The motion was approved unanimously.**
  
- NE\_TEMP2249: *Sustainable and Inclusive Rural Economic Development to Enhance Housing, Health, Entrepreneurship, and Equity*, 10/1/22-9/30/27. Renewal, currently NE1749 *Enhancing Rural Economic Opportunities, Community Resilience, and Entrepreneurship*, 10/1/17-9/30/22; AA: Peggy Brennan (New Jersey).
  - Long standing project focused on revitalizing rural communities.
  - Examining environmental issues, rural amenities and economic growth, recreation, racial inequities.
  - This is an example of a NERA project that has come back from a leadership change and a decline in activity at the beginning of the last project cycle.
  - The topic area is somewhat broad: we should challenge the team to identify a unifying factor to integrate around/within the umbrella of rural sustainability
  - **Jan Nyrop introduced a motion to approve the NE\_TEMP2249 request to write, with a call for the team to identify a clear declaration of how project participants are integrated, and how each project participant contributes toward a synergistic activity. The motion was approved unanimously.**
  
- NE\_TEMP2248: *Mastitis Resistance to Enhance Dairy Food Safety*, 10/1/22-9/30/27. Renewal, currently NE1748 *Mastitis Resistance to Enhance Dairy Food Safety*, 10/1/17-9/30/22; AA: Kumar Venkitanarayanan (Connecticut-Storrs).
  - Mastitis is the highest economic impact health problem in dairy cattle.
  - The team met annually and produced 250 publications in its previous cycle.

- **Jan Nyrop introduced a motion to approve the NE\_TEMP2248 request to write. The motion was approved unanimously.**

***Discussion items:***

- In the wake of the tabling of a request to write and the lack of evidence of annual meetings and annual reporting by NE1701, the project's technical team has responded to the MAC. Rick and Jan will evaluate the NE1701 response and share recommendations with the MAC.
- Are scientific publications the appropriate metric we should use to evaluate the success of multistate projects? **(Best practices session at a future NERA meeting)**

*The meeting adjourned at 10:55 am ET.*

DRAFT