



We are closing in on the summer meeting and look forward to seeing you all in Bethany Beach, Delaware. Please check the action items, we are seeking your assistance.

Action items:

- We're seeking stories that CARET could use for advocacy that profile programs at the rural/urban interface. These can be regional stories, integrated stories or institutional stories. [If you're willing to share a story \(5 min or less, no slides\) at the Joint Summer Meeting, would you please forward a sketch of the story to Rick?](#) We plan on calling on 3 to 4 presenters during the joint Wednesday morning session. NEED is seeking stories as well.
- Please cast your station's vote on NERA's nomination of NE1335 *Resource Management in Commercial Greenhouse Production* for the Excellence in Multistate Research award. (Six stations have submitted ballots.)
- The National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research (NCFAR) is hosting a summit on May 31 - June 1 in Washington, DC to craft a strategic vision for the future of the agriculture research, extension and economics enterprise. They are expecting 80-100 people to participate. Rick is attending and invites other leaders from NERA to join him in representing the Northeast. Registration is \$250 (https://secure.fass.org/reg_2018_NCFAR_Summit_intro.asp) and a room block is available the Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill (<https://book.passkey.com/go/NCFAR2018>.) Please apprise if you're going.

Reminders/Updates:

- The House Committee on Agriculture has issued a report on the Farm Bill ([House Report 115-661](#)) and the Congressional Budget Office has published an analysis of cost ([posted on NERA website, click to view](#)). Our take is that the Farm Bill is a win. Here are some highlights:
 - Establishes a new framework for the repair and maintenance of facilities and scientific equipment for colleges of food and agricultural sciences.
 - Incentivizes research and development of innovative wood products thus supporting university forestry programs.
 - Streamlines the plan of work and time and effort certification.
 - Reauthorizes SCRI and OREI and maintains funding.
 - Places auspices of SNAP-Ed into Cooperative Extension. (That's an indirect win.)