



Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors

Thanks to all for casting votes on the agInnovation budget and for joining the NERA early winter virtual meeting. Your engagement contributes to our success, and, for that, we are most grateful.

Be sure to check out the minutes from the NERA meeting last week. Hopefully we'll see you again during the agInnovation all-hands meeting tomorrow, December 12 at 4:00 PM.

“The deserts of the Middle East are in need of water, not bombers. The tens of millions of its inhabitants are craving for the means to live and not for the implements of death. I ask all of you, old members of the United Nations and the new, use your influence not to deepen the abyss of misunderstanding, but to bridge it.” - Golda Meir (1957) addressing the [701st Plenary Meeting](#) of the United Nations General Assembly, Twelfth Session, October 7, 1957, New York, NY.

Action items:

- The minutes for NERA's winter meeting on December 7, 2023, are [posted on the NERA website](#). Please give those a look!
- Last week, we circulated a note sharing that the APLU was developing an advocacy effort dedicated to supporting the large capacity programs like Hatch. Caron Gala is leading this, and she is seeking experts to interview on the following topics: (1) the role of capacity funding in supporting a national network of programs of research; (2) research, Extension, and stakeholder partnered innovation in: blueberry production research, wheat/small grain production research, beef/poultry production research, markets and risk forecasting, and watershed/environmental health research, and responsiveness in research and Extension to disasters (e.g., train derailment, Avian Influenza monitoring, COVID testing); (3) how to talk about the federated system of research/development/Extension that is in partnership with the states, counties, or municipalities; and (4) private sector partnerships. If you have suggestions, [please send those to us](#). We are seeking these by the end of the week.

Reminders/Updates:

- agInnovation (formerly known as the Experiment Station Section) will be holding a virtual business meeting **tomorrow** on December 12, 2023, from 4:00-5:00 PM ET. Among other agenda items, the results of the assessment referendum and budget proposal will be announced. Here's the [link for the meeting](#).
- *Save the date:* NERA will be meeting face-to-face in Washington, DC at the offices of the APLU on

March 11-13, 2024. We anticipate that March 11 will be a travel day and we'll start the meeting on March 12 and adjourn on March 13 at noon. We'll be forwarding details on hotels, stay tuned.

Informational items:

- On January 24, 2024, the [Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research](#) (FFAR) is opening nominations for its [New Innovator Awards Program](#). A new innovator is a tenure-track faculty member for no longer than 3 years and within 8 years of receiving their Ph.D.
- The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign is searching for their next College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences [Associate Dean for Research](#). To ensure full consideration, candidates should apply by **Thursday, February 15, 2024**.
- The College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa is seeking a dynamic and visionary leader to join as the County Administrator (CA) for Hawaii County (the Big Island). To apply or review more information, check out the [position description](#).



Early winter on a Pennsylvania farm. (Photo by Bill Cannon)



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