

2023 JOINT SUMMER SESSION AGENDA¹

Theme: Build Back Better, Together

The 2023 Northeast Joint Summer Session will engage representatives from NEED, NERA, Northeast Administrative Heads Section, University Communicators, and CARET in conversations and work sessions dedicated to the overarching theme of “*Build Back Better, Together*”.

Expected outcomes:

- Build and strengthen relationships between Northeast NEED, NERA, AHS, APS, agriculture communicators, and CARET members.
- Build and reframe integrated activities in a post/peri-COVID world.
- Tell the Northeast story better.
- Work together, learn from each other.
- Explore opportunities to deploy resources together across our organizations. (What might be the spiritual successor to the NEED/NERA Planning Grant RFP?)
- Learn about and from the collaborative extension/research work happening at UMES, UMD College Park, and between the two LGUs.

Monday, June 5

2:00 pm **Registration opens** – Carrick Bend Foyer (Level 1)

4:00 pm – **Optional Tour:** 2-hour cruise, [Schooner Woodwind](#)

6:00 pm *Presenter:* Don Webster, Regional Specialist, UMD-Extension

7:00 pm – **Welcome Reception** – Carrick Bend (Level 1)

9:00 pm

Tuesday, June 6 General Sessions will be in Sheet Bend (Level 3)

7:30 am **Registration** – Sheet Bend Foyer (Level 3)

Breakfast – Sheet Bend Foyer (Level 3)

8:30 am **Welcome and Introductions**

- *Presenters:* Craig Beyrouthy, Dean, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of Maryland and Moses Kairo, Dean, School of Agricultural and Natural Sciences, University of Maryland Eastern Shore

9:00 am **Welcome from NIFA**

- *Presenters:* Rubella Goswami, Director, Plant Protection Division, USDA-NIFA and Kal Kalavacharla, Deputy Director for Institute of Youth, Family and Communities

¹ Agenda version: V13.

- 9:15 am **The Northeast Agenda**
Description: The Northeast Agenda is the product of the directors from two organizations, the Association of Northeast Extension Directors, NEED, and the Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors, NERA. The Northeast Agenda describes the unique characteristics of the Northeastern United States and shares the vision, mission, and purpose of Northeast regional Land-grant programs, our Extension services, and state agricultural experiment stations. The Northeast Agenda identifies challenge and opportunity areas for the regional Land-grant programs to ensure a regenerative, livable, and vibrant Northeastern United States. In this session, we'll unveil the Northeast Agenda.
- *Presenter:* Erica Mirich, Principal, PIVOT Creative and Consulting
- 10:30 am **Break/Open Space Networking - Sheet Bend Foyer (Level 3)**
- 11:00 am **What's Our Story: Building Awareness of Northeast Success**
Description: As directors, we often hear of a need to better tell our story. While we try to archive our impacts (e.g., the National Impact Database), archives are only effective if there's a consistent and meaningful user group. In this session, we'll hear success stories from professional communicators. What's the secret sauce?
- *Presenters:* Stacey Stearns, Communications Specialist, Cooperative Extension System, University of Connecticut; Lori Tyler Gula, Senior Public Affairs Specialist, NIFA; Mary Wirth, Director, College Relations and Communications, Penn State; Graham Binder, Director of Communications, University of Maryland
- 12:00 pm **Lunch – Bowline (Level 2)**
- 1:00 pm **Climate Adaptive/Resilient Farms**
Description: Climate changes, particularly intense storms, short-term (flash) droughts, sea level rise, saltwater intrusion, and high temperatures are causing tremendous operational and infrastructure challenges to farms in the Northeast. Furthermore, farms in this region are expected to contribute to climate mitigation by decreasing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and sequestering large amounts of carbon. With thousands of acres in agricultural research farms and forests, by implementing and demonstrating climate-smart practices on its farms, Agricultural Experiment Stations can serve as leading examples of climate-smart farms that both adapt to and mitigate climate change. This participatory session will present a few examples and encourage an energetic discussion on the implementation of climate-smart agriculture practices on Agricultural Experiment Stations.
- *Presenters:* Mark Schrader, Assistant Director, Cornell AES, Cornell University and Puneet Srivastava, Associate Dean for Research and Director Maryland AES, University of Maryland

- 2:30 pm **Networking Break** - Sheet Bend Foyer (Level 3)
- 3:00 pm **Current Efforts for Making the Northeast a Center of Urban Agriculture Excellence**
Description: While urban agriculture is recognized as a means for bringing fresh, healthy foods to locations where grocery stores are scarce, the urban enterprises also pose opportunities for meaningful jobs, building neighborhood resilience, mitigating climate change, workforce development, and social justice. This session will be dedicated to current efforts for making the Northeast a center of Urban Ag Center of Excellence. What can directors do to assist?
- *Presenters:* Dwane Jones, Dean, CAUSES, University of the District of Columbia; Matt Wilson, Chair agInnovation; Darren Jarboe, Principal Agent and Assistant Director, University of Maryland Extension; Lila Karki, Assistant Professor and Program Evaluation Specialist, University of Maryland Eastern Shore Extension
- 5:00 pm **Meeting adjourn**
- 5:30 pm **Dinner Banquet at Buddy's Crabs and Ribs (100 Main Street, Annapolis, MD)**

Wednesday, June 7

- 7:00 am **Breakfast** - Sheet Bend Foyer (Level 3)
- 8:00 am **Section Meetings:**
 NEED – Sheet Bend (Level 3)
 NERA – Bowline (Level 2)
 AHS & CARET – Carrick Bend West (Level 1)
 Communicators – Carrick Bend East (Level 1)
- 10:00 am **Networking Break** – Foyer outside sections' meeting rooms
- 10:30 am **Section Meetings Continued**
- 12:00 pm **Lunch – Trophy Room Restaurant** (enter through the hotel lobby)
- All afternoon General Sessions will be held in Sheet Bend (Level 3)
- 1:00 pm **Watershed Central: The Chesapeake Bay**
Description: During the session “Watershed Central: The Chesapeake Bay” attendees will learn how Land-grant institutions, non-profits, state governments, and communities work together to protect and restore the Chesapeake Bay through collaborative watershed-wide initiatives, research projects, and transformational education opportunities. The Chesapeake Bay watershed will be treated as a case-study for how Land-grants across the northeast region can work with neighboring institutions and others to protect, restore, and steward their own watersheds.

- *Moderator:* Ali Mitchell, Executive Director, NEED
- *Panelists:* Eric May, Professor, Department of Natural Sciences, University of Maryland Eastern Shore; Kristen Hughes Evans, Executive Director, Sustainable Chesapeake; Jacqueline Takacs, Watershed Restoration Specialist, University of Maryland

2:30 pm **Networking Break** - Sheet Bend Foyer (Level 3)

3:00 pm **Northeast Climate Hub**

Description: Curtis Dell, Co-Director for the USDA Northeast Climate Hub will join us to present the history, role and function of the [USDA Regional Climate Hubs](#). Dr. Dell will also provide an overview of the activities and resources that can be accessed from the Northeast Hub. A panel of Northeast Extension and Experiment Station Directors will then summarize key initiatives that are addressing issues related to climate in their states. The session will end with an interactive discussion that seeks to identify opportunities for mutual support and collaboration between the Climate Hub and Land-grant institutions in the Northeast.

- *Moderator:* William Miller, Associate Director for Program Development, Assessment and Federal Compliance, University of Massachusetts
- *Presenter:* Curtis Dell, Research Soil Scientist USDA-Agricultural Research Service and Co-Director for the USDA Northeast Climate Hub
- *Panelists:* Margaret Smith, Associate Dean and Director, Cornell AES, Cornell University; Puneet Srivastava, Associate Dean for Research and Director Maryland AES, University of Maryland; Jennifer Volk, Associate Director of Cooperative Extension, University of Delaware

5:00 pm **Meeting adjourn**