



Many thanks to all of you for making the 2022 Northeast Joint Summer Session a success. It was rewarding, gratifying, and exhausting to see everyone and build/rebuild our face-to-face relationships. To that end, we're keeping this newsletter short.

“The key to being a good mentor is to help people become more of who they already are — not to make them more like you.” – Suze Orman (2015) LinkedIn blog, [I Didn't Become a Mentor to Make Others More Like Me](#), August 3, 2015.

Action items:

- The minutes for the NERA business meeting are posted on the [NERA website](#). Check those out.
- During the NERA business meeting, Rick Roush discussed opportunities that exist with the region's state departments of agriculture and their directors/commissioners. If you have compelling stories of relationships that you have with your state departments of agriculture, please contact and share those with [Rick Roush](#).
- *Ongoing:* We continue to seek pictures that typify research activities on your campus. Please send your photos to [David](#) and we'll run those on the scrolling banner on the NERA website.

Reminders/Updates:

- Long-time North Central Executive Director Jeff Jacobsen will be retiring at the end of the calendar year. The region is currently seeking Jeff's replacement. NCRA Chair, Hector Santiago-Anadón is heading the search. Information about the position and the application portal can be found on the University of Nebraska employment website: [Executive Director - North Central Regional Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors, position F_220091](#).

Informational items:

- USDA Secretary Vilsack held a teleconference on June 1 announcing a framework for shoring up the food supply chain and transforming the food system. If you didn't tune in, the [press release](#) (USDA release no. 0116.22.) is worth a read.
- Secretary Vilsack and its Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs mission have been in close connection with Ukraine's Minister of Agriculture, Mykola Solskyi, on a variety of serious challenges. Minister Solskyi has requested assistance to secure phytosanitary lab equipment needed for grain exports. Secretary Vilsack would like to engage with public and land-grant universities on whether they have equipment to donate or connections to entities that might have equipment available to contribute. If you have older equipment in working order and would consider a donation, please respond directly to Doug Steele at dsteale@apl.org.
- *Continuing:* If you haven't forwarded your Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion officer contact information to [Rick](#), now is a good time to do that. You'll recall that ESCOP's Diversity Catalyst Committee chair,

Henry Fadamiro, had asked for the primary DEI contact for each of our AES and colleges of ag/natural resources/life sciences.

- *Continuing:* We recently sent to the NERA directors a solicitation from ESCOP chair Chris Pritsos, seeking nominations for climate change research experts. In short, ESCOP is creating a roster of climate change experts to assist and advise both ESCOP and NIFA on issues and opportunities revolving around the challenges of global climate change. Your office of the Executive Director endorses this initiative and looks forward to a contingent of Northeast scientists serving as advisors. If you did not see the solicitation from Chris, we are happy to forward that to you. Please contact [Rick](#).



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NERA and its member institutions are committed to the principles of affirmative action, diversity, and inclusion.

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