



If you're not talking about the pandemic (we're all tiring of that topic), I suspect that you're talking about the weather. We experienced blizzard conditions two weekends ago and we just emerged from a rainy, icy, snowy weekend. No surprise to any of you, the climate is changing. To that end and with the approval of NERA Executive Committee, I submitted comments to NIFA (see the second Reminder/Update) about areas of climate change research that the Northeast is uniquely situated to address. I believe that we are in a sweet spot; the smallness of the region, the richness of our agricultural enterprises, and the density of NE LGU's bodes well for regional funding to support climate change research.

This is a short newsletter this week, must be the weather...

"The world is reaching the tipping point beyond which climate change may become irreversible. If this happens, we risk denying present and future generations the right to a healthy and sustainable planet – the whole of humanity stands to lose." - Kofi Annan, Former Secretary-General of the UN in an [interview](#) with *The Guardian*, May 3, 2015.

Action items:

- **NERA Spring Meeting: NERA will meet virtually on March 15 from 8:30 AM-12:00 PM.** Please mark your calendar! An agenda for the meeting will be issued three weeks prior to the meeting.
- The BAA's Committee on Legislation and Policy (CLP, also known as the Farm Bill Committee) met this afternoon to identify priorities/opportunities and to develop the first draft of the CLP's recommendations. As items of regional interest arise within the CLP, we will share those with you. Likewise, should you have Farm Bill recommendations that you'd like to share with the CLP, either contact Marshall Stewart or send those along to [Rick](#).
- Please hold June 5-7, 2022 on your calendar in anticipation of the NEED/NERA Joint Summer Meeting at the Portland Regency in Portland, ME. Based on data that you contributed, we are planning on this being a face-to-face meeting.
- Many thanks to you all for approving David's application to LEAD21. I'm pleased to share that David

was accepted into the LEAD21 program and will be a member of Class 18. It's been a good start of the year for David, he was also awarded a Master's in Environmental Science and Management.

Reminders/Updates:

- As a heads up, Ali Mitchell Dunigan (NEED ED) and I will be reaching out to you to share that the Northeast Climate Hub will be renewing its joint venture agreements with the region's LGUs and you. Stay tuned!
- [NERA submitted input to NIFA](#) on their climate adaptation/mitigation planning process. We were asked to comment on research areas that NIFA could invest in to address the existential threat of global climate change. The input that NERA provided used a Northeast-centric lens. Check it out.

Informational items:

- The National Institute of Health/National Institute on Drug Abuse is seeking undergraduates to participate in an addiction science summer internship. The program covers travel and housing along with a salary of \$15.00/hour. For more information, please visit [NIDA summer research internship program website](#).
- Consider submitting a proposal to NIFA's [Higher Education Multicultural Scholars \(MSP\) program](#). This program provides scholarships to support recruiting, engaging, retaining, mentoring, and training committed multicultural scholars, resulting in either baccalaureate degrees within the food and agricultural science disciplines or Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degrees for historically underrepresented and underserved groups. Closing date for the MSP is March 23, 2022.
- The USDA has announced the appointment of a new committee, the [Secretary's Advisory Committee for Urban Agriculture](#). The good news is that four members of the committee have clear Northeast connections: Viraj Puri (Gotham Greens CEO, New York, speaker at NEED/NERA summer meeting), Dr. John Erwin (Professor and Chair, University of Maryland), John Lebeaux (Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources), and Zachari Curtis (Operating Director, Washington, D.C., [Dreaming Out Loud](#)).
- *Second time:* ESCOP is seeking faculty scientist members from the Northeast to serve on Social Sciences Subcommittee. The areas of expertise that are sought include: Agricultural Communications, Agricultural Educations, Agriculture Leadership and Rural Sociology. If you'd like to nominate one of your faculty members, please share the name, email address and area of expertise with [Rick](#). He'll pass that on to Bret Hess who serves as the Executive Vice Chair for the Subcommittee.



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