



Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors

We're sharing this supplement because we have for you at least one critical path issue (room block) and several reminders (AAs and nominations) for your consideration. The NEED/NERA Joint Summer Session is a little more than a month away and the room block closes this Friday, May 10. Check the first "Action Item".

The theme for the meeting is "Building a culture of collaboration" and is a follow-on to the Northeast Agenda. We look forward to seeing in you at the Omni in Providence, RI in June!

"We give our children phones instead of toy shovels, iPads instead of fishing rods. It doesn't have to be this way. Shoo them out of the virtual world and let them dig earthworms. Plant a garden and get dirty with them..." – Joel K. Bourne, Jr. (2015) in *The End of Plenty: The Race to Feed a Crowded World*, WW Norton and Company, New York, NY.

Action items:

- The 2024 Northeast Joint Summer Session meeting website which includes links to registration, lodging reservations, and a draft program, is now available at: <https://www.nerasaes.org/summer2024>. Here are direct links to the [room block](#) (which closes on May 10) and to [registration](#). As a heads up, we're offering an optional tour of [Gotham Greens](#), a commercial, urban-based, production facility for leafy greens on June 3.
- Many thanks to those casting votes in support of new administrative advisers. Congratulations to Chris Smart and Anton Bekkerman! Chris was confirmed as the AA to NE2105 *Industrial Hemp Products, Production, Markets, and Associated Challenges for the Stakeholders* and Anton was confirmed as AA for NE1962 *Outdoor Recreation, Parks and Other Green Environments: Understanding Human and Community Benefits and Mechanisms* and NE2251 *Tourism Resilience and Community Sustainability: Adaptation and Recovery of Rural Businesses and Destinations*.
- *A continuing ask:* We are seeking Administrative Advisers (AA) for several projects as our NERA ranks evolve. Many thanks to the AAs that are rotating off projects. Projects that are seeking AAs include: NE2201 *Mycobacterial Diseases of Animals*; NE2249 *Sustainable and Inclusive Rural Economic Development to Enhance Housing, Health, Entrepreneurship, and Equity*; NE2333 *Biological Improvement of Chestnut through Technologies that Address Management of the Species and its Pathogens and Pests*; and NRSP8 *Genomic Capacity: Building Applied Genomic Capacity for Animal Industries*. If you're interested, please contact [Rick](#).

Reminders/Updates:

- Please consider nominating an individual or a team from your institution for an [agInnovation Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion award](#). We know that there are many deserving individuals and teams in the Northeast that offer the best in DEI programming. The same holds for nominating a scientist for a new agInnovation honor, the [Agricultural Research Innovation Award of Excellence](#).

- *The forever green reminder:* In past NERA newsletters, we've made a pitch for "station" photos for both the NERA website and **The Parting Shot**. At the spring meeting we discussed institutions having image libraries. The image libraries are rich archives of photos. We encourage you to share shots from your libraries as well as other image sources. Please [forward pictures to us](#) with a caption and a photo credit.

Informational items:

- All the regional agInnovation Executive Directors (Rick included) will be in Washington tomorrow for the annual meeting of the [National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research](#) (NCFAR) and Hill visits. One of the items on the agenda is a panel of congressional staff representing Chairwoman Stabenow, Ranking Member Boozman, Chairman Thompson, and Ranking Member Scott. More to come in the next newsletter...

From the Archive:

- The context: We maintain a list of committee assignments (NERA and agInnovation) on the NERA website. Need to know who's doing what, check out [Committees and Liaisons](#).

The Parting Shot:



It's that time of year, miles of smiles. (Photo courtesy of URI Archives)



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

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