



Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors

Many thanks to you for joining the NERA meeting last week and our apologies for those that experienced difficulties connecting. Two reflections: we did not include the pass code on the NERA agenda (our bad!) For future calls, the passcode is: NERA (all caps). You might have also seen that there was some additional code in the hyperlink (an outcome of cut and paste.) For future meetings, we will ensure that connection details are clear and issue free.

We're also interested to hear your comments (good, bad or ugly) on the both the NERA Zoom meeting and the ESS meeting (if you attended.) What did you like? What didn't you like? What suggestions do you have for next year's planning team?

"Create the opportunity to be amazing..." – Patrick Sullivan to the audience of the 2021 ESS Meeting (September 28, 2021), Palisades Tahoe, Olympic Valley CA.

Action items:

- The [minutes of the NERA business meeting](#) held on September 28th are posted on the NERA website, check them out.
- If you attended the NERA meeting, we're interested in hearing your thoughts. What did you like or dislike? [Do you have any suggestions](#) to improve or enhance our virtual, hybrid and/or face-to-face meetings?
- While the ESS Meeting planning committee intends to share a post-meeting survey, do you have any feedback that you'd like to share with [us](#)?
- Last call: As you know, the Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development (NERCRD) is assisting in conducting a [national survey](#) to identify rural community, economic, and workforce development priorities. The survey closes on October 6 and the NERCRD has asked NERA to assist in increasing the number of Northeast responses to the survey. Go for it!

Reminders/Updates:

- Two weeks ago we circulated a number of documents that a working team had developed in the wake of the Agricultural Research Service sharing COVID vaccination attestations, COVID testing requirements and masking mandates for contractors, collaborators and visitors to ARS labs. Last week, the [ARS shared a letter with Doug Steele and Rick Rhodes](#) updating and outlining the ARS vaccination

requirements. (As you know, the Experiment Station Section has a number of ARS labs embedded on our university campuses.) There's a link in the letter called "[Workplace Safety Plan](#)." The linked document includes a description of the governmental requirements for vaccinations and testing of ARS employees as well as contractors and visitors to ARS labs and facilities. [We're](#) interested to hear if these requirements pose any obstacles at your institution.

- If you're not a subscriber to the *Multistate Research Fund (MRF) Impacts News*, check out the latest from [MRF Impacts News/September 2021](#). You'll note that this newsletter profiles the 2021 Excellence in Multistate Research Award winner (*W4188 Soil, Water, and Environmental Physics to Sustain Agriculture and Natural Resources*.) Winning the national multistate research award is on our "to do" list.

Informational items:

- The University of New Hampshire Extension seeks a [Community and Economic Development Field Specialist](#) in Hillsborough County, New Hampshire.
- Colorado State University is searching for a [Research Scientist/Extension Specialist](#) who will be responsible for research and outreach projects pertaining to commercial vegetable crop (including melons) production, and diverse outreach/extension activities at the Arkansas Valley Research Center (AVRC, Rocky Ford, CO).
- *Second time:* The First Americans Land-Grant Consortium (FALCON) is pleased to announce that registration is now open for its 17th Annual Conference, scheduled for October 21-22, 2021. This will be an [ALL-VIRTUAL](#) event. To register for the conference, click [here](#).



Follow @NERASAES on Twitter

Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors (NERA)

www.nerasaes.org

14 East Farm Road

Aquaculture Center

University of Rhode Island

Kingston, RI 02881

Executive Director, [Dr. Richard C. Rhodes III](#): (401) 874-2468

Coordinator, [David Leibovitz](#): (401) 874-4801

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

Please do not reply directly to this MailChimp message.