



Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors

This has been an interesting two weeks. Dr. Sonny Perdue has been nominated as the Secretary of Agriculture and the USDA/ARS has rescinded an internal “no-public facing documents to be released until further notice”. It shines a new light on the roles of social media in this digital era.

#### Action items:

- The spring meeting is scheduled for March 13-15 at the historic Admiral Fell Inn, Fells Point, Baltimore, MD. David Leibovitz will be sharing with the Admiral Fell Inn the list of attendees. Please contact [David](#) if you plan to attend and share with him the evenings that you will be staying at the Admiral Fell. [Deadline for notification on hotel night stays is February 09](#). We are expecting registration to be \$200.
- [Jessica Leahy](#) (University of Maine; [jessica.leahy@maine.edu](mailto:jessica.leahy@maine.edu)) is seeking input on your experiences of leasing Experiment Station land to external entities. Jessica is especially interested in seeing examples of lease documents.

#### Reminders:

- The NEED/NERA Planning Committee continues to seek suggestions on themes for this summer’s joint meeting. Please forward your ideas to [Rick](#) or [Dave](#). (This is a follow-up to the [NERA News Supplement 1, January 6, 2017](#) and the [NERA News, January 17, 2017](#).)

#### Informational items:

- A draft of the agenda for the NERA Spring Meeting is posted on the NERA website. [Click here to view the draft agenda](#).
- In the aftermath of the USDA/ARS internal gag order rescinding, we’re sharing the publication Hatch Act Restrictions on Federal Employees’ Political Activities in the Digital Age (<https://fas.org/sqp/crs/misc/R44469.pdf>), the federal policy written by the Congressional Research Service on social media communications and political activities of Federal employees. This will also be a topic of discussion at the spring meeting.
- The University of Maryland is seeking several positions including an *Extension Educator (Carroll County)* and a *Coordinator for Digital Horticulture Education*. Visit <http://www.nerasaes.org/employment-opportunities> to view the job descriptions.
- The University of Delaware is seeking applicants for an *Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist, Agronomy* position. Visit <http://www.nerasaes.org/employment-opportunities> to view the job description.

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

[www.nerasaes.org](http://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