



Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors

We hope that you take the opportunity to rest, relax, and recharge this week as we close in on the New Year. While the pandemic has posed obstacles all year long, we've emerged as a robust, resilient, and relevant organization, a reflection of the quality work that you and your faculty, station scientists, staff, and students are engaged in. We look forward to your continued engagement. And to that end, we extend our best to you all, with our hopes for a prosperous, productive and post-pandemic, 2022.

"Conditions are never perfect. 'Someday' is a disease that will take your dreams to the grave with you... If it's important to you and you want to do it 'eventually,' just do it and correct course along the way." - Tim Ferriss (2009) in *The 4-Hour Workweek*, Harmony Books, New York, NY.

Action items:

- Many thanks for joining the NERA teleconference on December 15th. The [draft meeting minutes](#) are posted on the NERA website, check them out.
- Last week we sent a note that included 3 items for your consideration. Here they are again!
- As we discussed during the NERA call, the communications survey is re-opened for those that didn't have the opportunity to complete the survey. Here's a link to the survey: https://wvu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_37qzPqQRjMSoccu. Please pass this along to your primary communications contact. (As a heads up, the following institutions rang in: Cornell [AgriTech], Cornell [Experiment Station], Delaware, Maine, Maryland, New Hampshire, Rutgers, Vermont and West Virginia. That said, a "do-over" is perfectly legal.)
- NIFA has shared that they are working on a pilot project with the National Ag Library to ensure that peer-reviewed journal articles that are published as part of NIFA-funded project or program are available to the public. The library has retained a private contractor to support this effort and the contractor is seeking 10-15 volunteers (faculty and organizational administrators) to provide feedback on how the process for submitting full-text articles might work. The contractor is aiming to initially meet during the week of January 10. Might you or your faculty be interested in participating? If so, please contact [Rick](#).
- Colleague and former Executive Director, Mike Harrington, is working with the National Academies of Sciences on a Blue Ribbon Panel "[Enhancing Coordination Between Land-Grant Universities and Colleges](#)". Mike posed the following questions that I'll share with you: "What are your expectations for outcomes of funded research (by capacity or competitive funds) and what attributes (or metrics) do you employ to measure success of a research project?" We're not looking for tomes, we're seeking your pocket calculation and brief explanation. Please send those on to [Rick](#).

Reminders/Updates:

- Colleague, dean, and director, Darrell Donahue, shared a recent news article about [WVU research promoting a healthier poultry environment](#). As we develop a Northeast communications network, we'll be seeking stories like this to amplify the value of the research in which your institutions are engaged. There's also a great holiday message here as well. We hope that you've all had the opportunity to hunker down in your warm, dry homes and enjoy the magic and hope of this holiday season. There's an exclamation mark on that if you have any little chickadees around...
- We shared with you a solicitation from Henry Fadamiro, chair of ESCOP's Diversity Catalyst Committee (DCC) asking for actions that you've taken in response to the DCC's Call to Action. If you haven't rung in and wish to, please forward your responses to the call to action to [Rick](#).
- While we live in uncertain times posed by the pandemic, NERA is still planning will be meeting face-to-face on March 15-16, 2022 in Philadelphia, PA. Stay tuned!

Informational items:

- The Research Center Administrator's Society will be meeting in New Orleans on February 13-15, 2022. Here's the [link to register](#).
- Colorado State University's AES Western Colorado Research Center in Fruita, CO, seeks a Research Associate II to assist with research and operations. See the full job description and how to apply at <https://jobs.colostate.edu/postings/96494>.
- The North Central regional associations of Experiment Station (NCRA) and Cooperative Extension (NCCEA) Directors have initiated a pilot program called the LGU2U Initiative, a series of virtual sessions that intend to reinforce and enhance the unique relationship between LGUs and NIFA. LGU2U's planning committee invites NERA to join the upcoming Session IV: Sustaining the Partnership on January 20, 2022, 10:00am – 12:00pm Eastern Time. For more details and registration info, visit <https://www.ncra-saes.org/nc-lgu2u-initiative> or contact [Christina Hamilton](#) (NCRA).

Happy holidays and happy New Year!



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

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