NERA Meeting

Cornell ILR Conference Center
Cornell University, 140 Garden Avenue, Ithaca, NY 14853

July 9, 2013

Draft Minutes

In Attendance:
Adel Shirmohammadi (MD), Chair
Susan Brown (NYG)
Tom Burr (NYG)
Cameron Faustman (CTS)
Stephen Herbert (MA)
Brad Hillman (NJ)
Michael Hoffmann (NYC)
Hiram Larew (NIFA)
Sabine O'Hara (DC)
Tim Phipps (WV)
Mark Rieger (DE)
Daniel Rossi (NERA)
Fred Servello (ME)
Janine Sherrier (DE)
Kirby Stafford III (CTNH)
Ibrahim Shaqir (ARS)
Jon Wraith (NH)
Rubie Mize (NERA), Recorder

1. **Welcome and Introductions – Chair Adel Shirmohammadi**
   Chair Adel Shirmohammadi called the meeting to order at 8:01AM, welcomed everyone and asked them to give brief introductions.

2. **Approval of Agenda – Chair Adel Shirmohammadi**
   http://www.nera.umd.edu/workshop/NERAAgendaJuly2013.pdf
   Action: The motion made to approve the agenda was seconded and passed.

3. **Approval of Minutes from the March 12-13, 2013 Minutes of the NERA Meeting held at Baltimore, MD – Chair Adel Shirmohammadi**
   http://www.nera.umd.edu/workshop/NERAMinutesMarch2013.pdf
   Action: The motion made to approve the minutes was seconded and passed.

4. Interim Actions by the Chair and NERA Executive Committee Report – Chair Adel Shirmohammadi

(1) Reviewed and approved notification letters for the 2013 Joint NEED-NERA Planning Grant awardees. Letters were signed by NEED and NERA Chairs.

- Regional Collaboration Using Mental Modeling of Small-Scale and Direct Market Farmers to Develop Produce Safety Curricula that Results in Behavior Change [Collaborators are VT, NH, CT, MA, ME and RI. NEED will fund $4,000.]
- Production and Processing of Foodgrade Grains for Northeast Farm Viability [Collaborators are NH, VT, MA, ME, NY and PA. NERA will fund $3,969.]

(2) Sent letter to Director Brad Hillman at Rutgers University conveying the NERA Directors' recommendation for merit increase for NERA staff for FY2014.

(3) Reviewed and approved the release of the two surveys so we can continue the discussion at our summer meeting:

- Northeast Faculty Hiring Decisions Survey
- Resource Use in NE Experiment Stations Survey

(4) Reviewed and approved the draft agenda of the July NERA summer meeting

(5) Approved, along with members of the NERA Executive Committee, the Request for Extension to Sept. 30, 2013 and Request to Write of multistate project NE508-Management of the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug. Original termination date was July 30, 2013.

(6) Represented NERA as ESCOP Delegate and Member of the ESCOP Executive Committee:

- Voted to approve project selected by the Science and Technology Committee for the 2013 National Multistate Research Award - SERA005:Sweet Potato Collaborators Conference
- Reviewed and commented on the ESCOP Response to the PCAST Report

(7) As the region's Advisor to NRSP1 and NIMSS-Host, continued to follow up and assist with administrative arrangements for the NIMSS Upgrade to be implemented by the University of Maryland – Division of Technology. Also reviewed the NRSP1 revised proposal to increase the budget for the Impacts Writer that was submitted to the NRSP Review Committee for consideration at their July 3 meeting.

5. Review of Joint Session Discussions

The Chair noted that the topics were relevant and there was interesting discussion, but ended without a list of action items.

The breakouts for the Disruptive Technology would have been more productive if we stuck with the original plan of separating the discussion on the Extension and the Research perspectives as designed by the presenters. Both groups ended up focusing more on the

extension perspective. What should be the emphasis for research? What new business model can we use to solve a problem as a system? What kind of system? Are there new structures we need to look at or develop? Does the old system still work, or needs to be redesigned? How do we arrive at a consensus on a multistate research focus while looking at the supplier and consumer? How do we use multistate funds to solve a problem? Dan Rossi noted that a regional off-the-top funding can be used. What and how many topics can be identified in our region?

Stephen Herbert suggested looking at food, water, energy and air. Climate change is a very broad and complex topic. Dan Rossi suggested food systems and tackle it in a coordinated way. Brad Hillman is interested in coastal issues, prediction of impacts and linking with EDEN. Janine Sherrier suggested bringing in industry partners.

Action: A working group was formed led by Fred Servello and Tom Burr to look at new business models for the Agricultural Experiment Station. The group will come up with scenarios and recommendations.

6. **Multistate Activities Committee Report – Kirby Stafford III**
http://www.nera.umd.edu/workshop/MACReportJuly2013.pdf

Action: The motions made to approve the following MAC recommendations were seconded and passed.

- Approve the revised proposal NE_TEMP2081: Biological Control of Arthropod Pests and Weeds, 10/2013-9/2018 [Renewal of NE1032]
- Approve the revised proposal NE_TEMP2061: Commercial Greenhouse Production: Component and System Development, 10/2013-9/2018 [Renewal of NE1035]
- Approve the proposal NE_TEMP2121: Management of the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug, 10/2013-9/2018 [Renewal of NE508], as an Education/Extension and Research Activity (ERA). Funds can be expended other than travel.
- Approve the Request to Write a Proposal for Multistate Project - Changing the Health Trajectory for Older Adults through Effective Diet and Activity Modifications, 10/2014-9/2019 [Renewal of NE1039]
- Approve the Request to Write a Proposal for Multistate Project - Poultry Production Systems and Welfare: Sustainability for Tomorrow, 10/2014-9/2019 [Renewal of NE1042]
- Approve the Request to Write a Proposal for Coordinating Committee - Northeastern Corn Improvement Conference, 10/2013-9/2018 [Renewal of NECC029]
- Request to Write a Proposal for Coordinating Committee - Northeast Coordinating Committee on Soil Testing, 10/2013-9/2018 [Renewal of NECC1012]
- The allocations for FY2013 are not yet finalized by NIFA. The decision for FY2013 is to reduce NE9 equivalent to the % reduction of the Hatch fund. Future funding, and hence for FY2014, NE9 off-the-top funding will be increased equivalent to the % increase, if any, for the Hatch fund.

7. NRSP Review Committee Recommendations – Kirby Stafford III

The NRSP Review Committee met by teleconference on June 3, and made the following recommendations. Final AES vote will take place this fall during our ESS meeting in Columbus, OH.

- NRSP4, NRSP6 and NRSP9 midterm review results were good and these NRSPs were approved to continue without any changes
- NRSP_temp281's renewal and budget was recommended for approval without any revision
- The Committee decided to table the NRSP-RC definition of "leveraging funds" until a later date (Continue discussion via email, as needed).
- The NRSP-RC approved the recommendation to NOT support an increase in funding for NRSP1 to support the impact writer full-time.

8. NEED and NERA Joint Meeting

Regional grant workshop proposal – Linda Kay Benning and Dan Rossi

(1) Food system planning grants program update

• Regional Collaboration Using Mental Modeling of Small-Scale and Direct Market Farmers to Develop Produce Safety Curricula that Results in Behavior Change

• Production and Processing of Foodgrade Grains for Northeast Farm Viability

Action: Linda Kay will continue to follow-up with the first group that NEED is funding, and Rubie Mize will follow-up the progress of the second group the NERA is responsible for.

(2) Future topics for jointly funded planning grants

For 2014, the NEED and NERA directors agreed on the following topics:

- Water – need to organize now and submit response to NIFA's request for comments on the RFA. Linda Kay forwarded the request for comments to the directors. There is a webinar on July 16 to gather inputs on the RFA.

Janine Sherrier suggested forming an integrated regional water multistate project, with teams addressing different levels or components of the Water topic.

Action: This group was formed and composed of:

Janine Sherrier
Mike O'Neill
Adel Shirmohammadi
Mike Hoffmann
To be invited are – Art Goldman (RI), Chris Obropta (NJ) and Jim Shortle (PA)

Chair Adel Shirmohammadi requested that the announcement for the webinar be shared with those who attended the Climate Change and Water Resources forum in Beltsville, MD, last year. This group will be a good start for forming the multistate project.

- Other topics for the 2014 Joint NEED-NERA Planning Grant are –
    - Disaster Education Network
    - Health/Nutrition addressing Childhood Obesity

Proposals should be truly integrated and clearly demonstrate Extension and Research activities.

(3) Regional climate change information network proposal – Mike Hoffmann

Mike Hoffmann briefly shared the concept of an "open source agriculture" through a network using social media to collect farmers' adaptation practices and sharing of information among the farmers/producers, extension and research community, public and private sectors. This is one of the outcomes of an on-going collaboration with Canadian colleagues. A workshop to develop this network is planned in the fall, Nov-Dec. 2013. The concept paper will be shared with the NEED directors.

(4) The 2014 Northeast Joint Summer Meeting was also discussed and due to substitutions last year wherein Vermont hosted the 2012 summer meeting and New Hampshire hosted the national Experiment Station Section Meeting in Sept. 2012, Delaware is next in line to host the summer meeting.

9. Northeast Faculty Hiring Decisions Survey – Tim Phipps
PowerPoint presentation is attached below.

Discussion: Information gathered reveal the strengths and gaps in our institutions. Should we continue discussing this topic in future meetings, and decide on areas where we can cooperate? The landscape is changing and we need to look at meshing curricula and talk about tuition barriers. AgIDEA is one tool but it's only for graduate education.

Action: Develop a proposal to meet jointly with Academic Directors, just like the Southern Region. Dan Rossi and Cameron Faustman will work on a proposal. Chair Adel Shirmohammadi suggested that if the Academic Program section is meeting in Washington, DC, we can perhaps convene our spring meeting in Beltsville, MD, or meet with them in Washington, DC.

10. USDA-NIFA Update – Hiram Larew

- Impact of sequestration on NIFA staffing and funding – resulted to 7.8% reduction of operating expenses, only critical mission travel allowed, but hiring for senior positions vacated are open.
- NIFA 2014 budget – restore 2012 level. Both House and Senate proposed increases.
- Farm Bill – Sen. Reid will not entertain any planned extension of the current Farm Bill. Make it known, as stakeholders, the value of the Research Title in the Farm Bill.
- NIFA developed an agency strategic plan with the help of facilitators. Dr. Sonny Ramaswamy will present it at the Joint COPs and will ask for comments from the Land-grant partners.

- Staff - Cynthia Montgomery is the new Assistant Director, Office of Grants and Financial Management (OGFM) as of July 15. She came from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Dr. Frank Boteler, assistant director of the Institute of Bioenergy, Climate, and Environment (IBCE), retired effective May 31, and Dr. Brad Rein is serving as the acting asst. director.
- Dr. Larew reiterated Dr. Ramaswamy's request to mention USDA when reporting impacts for the good work we do in research that are supported by USDA.
- There is a new initiative from the Office of Science and Technology that all data will be made accessible to the public, and will include open access to results and data of all federally funded research.
- Dr. Ramaswamy will recommend standardizing the administrative rate across the board. It is currently 3% for Hatch and 4% for others. This will need legislative action.
- The REEport has been deployed and adjustments to the system are being made as issues are encountered. Dr. Tim Phipps requested some guidance on the Plan of Work. Only one POW per state is required in the new REEport, but there are four institutions now submitting POWs from West Virginia, and there is no designated lead institution. Dr. Larew will take this question back to NIFA. Connecticut and Maryland (with UMES) also face similar complications.
- On the International Programs, discussions are underway with the Chinese government focusing on research areas on germplasm technology, plant protection, animal science etc. There is on-going collaboration with Israel on water. Also, note that on page 2 of every AFRI RFA is a statement encouraging collaboration with Feed the Future partners.

11. USDA-ARS Update – Ibrahim Shaqir

- ARS operations had been reduced
    - from 1,200 to 800 research projects (within 18 National Programs)
    - from 2,500 to 2,000 scientists and post docs
    - from 8, 000 to 6,000 employees
    - from 100 to 90 research locations
- ARS budget for fiscal year 2012 is about $1.1 billion, increased by $110M.
- Focus of international program is on global hunger.
- ARS partnership mechanism include the Agricultural Technology Innovation Partnership Program (ATIP). One successful example is TEDCO – Technology Development Corporation, which serves as an intermediary for public/private partnerships to enhance the effectiveness of the ARS technology transfer program to help small and expanding businesses. The ARS Office of Technology Transfer promotes adoption & commercialization of USDA research outcomes.

12. Review of NERA Assessments and Staff Salaries – Jon Wraith

Jon Wraith noted that this is a continuation of the discussion from the March 2013 meeting about the NERA budget. At that meeting, Jon Wraith, Mike Hoffmann and Cameron Faustman were tasked to look at scenarios on how to build up NERA's coffers. The last increase of the members' assessments was on July 2002 by 1.3%. A substantial amount of savings was incurred from the Executive Director's salary (the ED position remained vacant for almost a year after the passing of Dr. David MacKenzie in Sept. 2002), Rutgers' 7.5% contribution to the ED's salary until FY2012 and a portion of Rubie Mize's salary being taken from the NIMSS project. The carryover is being used to cover the NERA Planning Grants and increases in salaries, and operational costs mostly due to inflation. There is a need to build the NERA funds if we want to continue the planning grants and have a safety cushion. Jon Wraith presented the calculations that his team came up with. It was also noted that the NERA ED salary is lower than the other three regions. Suggestions for the cushion ranged between 3 to 6 months. There was consensus to simplify the process of calculating the annual increase by agreeing on a percentage.

Action: The directors agreed on a 3-month cushion of operating budget starting on FY2015 that will include a 4% annual inflation increase. The NERA budget will be reviewed every year. The team - Jon Wraith, Mike Hoffmann and Cameron Faustman – will come up with calculations for two scenarios to be presented at the Fall meeting in September.

Scenario One – Everyone pays the 3-month cushion up-front
Scenario Two – Gradual increase to build up to the 3-month cushion

13. ESCOP Report – Mike Hoffmann and Dan Rossi

Please refer to written report below.

14. Executive Director's Report – Dan Rossi

Please refer to written report below.

15. Resource Use in NE Experiment Stations Survey – Fred Servello

PowerPoint presentation is attached below.

Discussion and Action: Develop a white paper that can be used as a resource for NERA. Existing policies and guidelines can be provided as appendices. In Maryland, fees are collected on a voluntary basis. What are the trade-offs for collecting rigid user fees vs. voluntary contribution? At Cornell, faculty has to pay to use the facility. Jon Wraith suggested getting the white paper out within a year. We have stations grappling with issues on setting fees, sharing with other departments/units/colleges and charges for faculty who use them for private research. Tim Phipps suggested developing a website, and share forms that institutions use. Tom Burr requested to also include the financial component.

16. Nominations Committee Report – Jon Wraith

Action: The motion made recommending the following assignments was seconded and passed

- 2014 NERA Officers, effective October 1, 2013
    - Chair - Fred Servello
    - Vice-Chair - Tim Phipps
    - Officer-at-Large – Cameron Faustman
    - Past Chair - Adel Shirmohammadi

- Janine Sherrier (DE) as Advisor to multistate project NE1040: Plant-Parasitic Nematode Management as a Component of Sustainable Soil Health Programs in Horticultural and Field Crop Production Systems, 10/2009-9/2016

23. Resolutions Committee Report – Tom Burr

Action: The motion to approve the following resolution read by Tom Burr was seconded and approved.

Resolution of Appreciation to the Host Institution

WHEREAS, the Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors participated in an engaging and productive meetings at the ILR Conference Center at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, and

WHEREAS, the Directors also were involved in a well-organized joint meeting with the Northeast Extension Directors (NEED), Deans and Administrative Heads (AHS) and Members of the Council for Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching (CARET) on July 7-9, and

WHEREAS, the Directors were very pleased with the informative presentations and engaging discussion on the topics of *"Building Capacity and Resiliency in the Northeastern US Agricultural and Food System"* and *"Managing Disruptive Innovation to Build a More Resilient Business Model for the Future"*, and

WHEREAS, the Directors enjoyed the tour of Taughannock Falls State Park, Sheldrake Point Vineyards, Lively Run Goat Dairy, Stocking Hall Dairy Plant and Cornell campus, the delightful and appetizing dinner at the Museum of the Earth and the compelling presentation by former Cornell President Frank H.T. Rhodes, and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Directors acknowledge their appreciation to Dean Kathryn Boor, AES Director Mike Hoffmann, CES Director Helene Dillard, Bonnie Ferguson, Sarah Degen and their staff for making the meeting a great success and a memorable experience.

July 9, 2013
Signed by -
Adel Shirmohammadi, Chair
Northeastern Regional Association of State
Agricultural Experiment Station Directors

24. Future Meetings:

- ESCOP Meeting - July 24-25, 2013 at Hilton Garden Inn, Manhattan, KS [http://www.aplu.org/page.aspx?pid=817] click Joint COPs Summer Meeting
- ESS/SAES/ARD Workshop and NERA Fall Meeting - September 24-26, 2013 at Hilton Easton, Columbus, OH [http://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/ess2013/t08_pageview3/Home.htm] Note that NERA Meeting will be on **Wednesday, Sept. 25, 8:00-10:00am**
- ESCOP Executive Committee Meeting - November 11, 2013 at Marriott Wardman Park, Washington, DC
- NERA Spring Meeting - March 10-12, 2014 at the Admiral Fell Inn, Baltimore, MD
- 2014 Northeast Joint Summer Meeting - July 13-15, 2014 to be hosted by Delaware

25. Closing Remarks and Adjournment – Chair Adel Shirmohammadi

Chair Adel Shirmohammadi thanked everyone and wished them safe travels back home. He adjourned the meeting at 1:30PM.

Report and Recommendations

NORTHEAST MULTISTATE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

Via Teleconference

June 26, 2013
2:00pm to 3:00pm

Chair, Kirby Stafford III (CT-NH)

Members: Tim Phipps (WV), Fred Servello (ME), Gary Thompson (PA), Bob Schrader and Bill Hare (NEED)

1. Request to approve the ***revised*** proposal NE_TEMP2081: Biological Control of Arthropod Pests and Weeds, 10/2013-9/2018 [Renewal of NE1032]

Proposal NE_TEMP2081 was granted conditional approval by the NERA Directors at the spring meeting. MAC recommended that the proposal be revised. MAC noted, "They need to articulate their milestones, outputs should be measurable (ex. How was release successful?), outcomes should be specific for each objective, and the outreach program needs to be strengthened".

Additional comments from MAC were:

- Important area and came back with strong reviews.
- Project has a history of a well-coordinated group with good output.
- Weak outreach plan.
- Milestones are vague.
- Expected outcomes should be measurable and can be better documented.
- Looks more like a coordinating committee and could better integrate their activities.

Action: Recommends approval of the proposal.

Discussion: MAC's concerns were satisfactorily addressed and pleased that under Methodology the 17 objectives in the original proposal were removed. They are now clearly delineated under four general objectives of conservation, augmentation and classical biological control of invasive plants and insects. A much improved version.

2. Request to approve the ***revised*** proposal NE_TEMP2061: Commercial Greenhouse Production: Component and System Development, 10/2013-9/2018 [Renewal of NE1035]

Proposal was revised as recommended by MAC at the spring meeting to address the following:

- Important area for the region, but need to demonstrate and articulate interdependence better.
- Emphasize Topics 2 & 3, and press for more integrated approach.
- This is an expensive technology so they need to explain the economic implications to those who will adapt.
- Consolidate objectives.
- Reach out to faculty in the urban centers.
- This is a good project that can have significant impact especially in niche urban markets, and can be easily integrated and multidisciplinary.
- It can have the potential to create opportunities and help develop markets for emerging immigrant farmers in the Northeast.

Action: Recommends approval of the proposal.

Discussion: MAC members commended the group for doing a good job in addressing their concerns, and have demonstrated that they are integrated and plan to work interdependently. Economics is still considered an important component and MAC wants to make sure that the Economist's involvement in the project is significant. Need to complete Appendix E participation table.

3. Request to approve the proposal NE_TEMP2121: Management of the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug, 10/2013-9/2018 [Renewal of NE508]

Action: Recommends approval of the proposal as an Education/Extension and Research Activity (ERA). Funds can be expended other than travel.

Discussion: The project involves a lot of coordination. Project's goals and approach are clear, but need to develop their outreach strategically. This will be assigned as an ERA as MAC did not see it as a purely research based multistate project. However, since the proposal has been peer reviewed and NE508 had demonstrated successful coordination and have positively contributed to the understanding of this species, MAC realizes that a lot of research and strategic education/extension still needs to be done and proposes its continuation as an ERA.

4. Request to Write a Proposal for a Multistate Project - Changing the Health Trajectory for Older Adults through Effective Diet and Activity Modifications, 10/2014-9/2019 [Renewal of NE1039]

Action: Recommends approval of request to write a proposal.

Discussion: Research area is important but justification is weak. MAC wants to see in the full proposal a focus on elderly obesity and how the project will address the nutrition needs of an increasingly ageing population. The Northeast region will see in the near future a significant increase in its senior population. Funding opportunities have been focused on childhood obesity and this project will be a good opportunity to address this ageing demographic particularly in urban areas.

5. Request to Write a Proposal for a Multistate Project - Poultry Production Systems and Welfare: Sustainability for Tomorrow, 10/2014-9/2019 [Renewal of NE1042]

Action: Recommends approval of request to write a proposal. The request is well written and area of research is very important for the Northeast.

6. Request to Write a Proposal for a Coordinating Committee - Northeastern Corn Improvement Conference, 10/2013-9/2018 [Renewal of NECC029]

Action: Recommends approval of request to write a proposal. Has a long history of successful coordination and information exchange.

7. Request to Write a Proposal for a Coordinating Committee - Northeast Coordinating Committee on Soil Testing, 10/2013-9/2018 [Renewal of NECC1012]

Action: Recommends approval of request to write a proposal. This is an important multistate activity in the region. We need standards for soil testing particularly in urban areas where gardening and organic farming in small areas is increasing.

8. Revisit request for off-the-top funding for FY13-14 for Northeast Multistate Project:

    - NE9: Conservation and Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources = $240,750
      NE9 FY2014 Budget Request

Action: Defer decision since the sequestration issues are not yet resolved and MAC suggests discussing federal budget issues in general at the NERA meeting.

9. NRSP Review Committee Report

Discussion: NRSP Review Committee recommendations will be discussed at the NERA Meeting –

- NRSP4, NRSP6 and NRSP9 midterm review results were good and these NRSPs were approved to continue without any changes
- NRSP_temp281's renewal and budget was recommended for approval without any revision
- The Committee decided to table the NRSP-RC definition of "leveraging funds" until a later date (Continue discussion via email, as needed).
- The NRSP-RC approved the recommendation to NOT support an increase in funding for NRSP1 to support the impact writer full-time. (Final AES vote will take place this fall during our ESS meeting in Columbus, OH)

10. Advisor assignments for new projects – no new assignments. Advisors for renewing projects will remain the same.

ACCESSION NO. xxxxxxx **SUBFILE**: CRIS
PROJ NO: NYG-xxxxx **AGENCY**: CSREES NY.G
PR0JTYPE: HATCH **PROJ STATUS**: NEW **MULTISTATE PROJ NO**: NE9
START: 01 OCT 2013 **TERM** 30 SEP 2018 **FY**: 2014

INVESTIGATORS: Zhong, G.; Robertson, L.R.; Griffiths, P., Labate, J.; Fazio, G.; J.A.; Baldo, A.
PERFORMING INSTITUTION:
HORTICULTURAL SCIENCE, NY AGRICULTURAL EXPT. STATION
GENEVA, NEW YORK 14456

BUDGET REQUEST FOR FY 2014 NORTHEAST REGIONAL PROJECT NE-09

Item	
Salaries and benefits	**$215,588**
Field Technician – Vegetable Germplasm Manages field operations for seed propagated collections.	$ 42,530
Supervisory Farm Manager (clonal crops) Manages field and greenhouse operations for clonally propagated collections.	$ 75,380
Field Assistant (clonal crops) Assists with field maintenance and propagation of clonally propagated collections.	$ 39,397
Field Assistant (clonal crops) Assists with field maintenance, and characterization of clonally propagated collections.	$ 39,480
Temporary field laborer – Vegetable Germplasm (6 Mon. @ $12/hr) Assists with spring/summer green house and field operations	$ 12,534
Temporary field laborer – Vegetable Germplasm (3 Mon. @ $12/hr) Assists with spring/summer green house and field operations	$ 6,267
Operational costs (utilities, FRU, etc.)	**$25,162**
Supplies	$3,581
Field research - land maintenance, pesticides, etc.	$6,760
Field equipment repairs	$3,903
Seed storage, vernalization, etc.	$5,447
Seed testing	$5,471
Total:	**$240,750**

This budget is reflective of the final fiscal year (2012/2013, FY13) budget for the current NE-9 project with an increase of 3% for salaries for the salary improvement program (SIP) for the Cornell staff on the project, and an increase of 2% allocated for the operational costs. Salaries

make up 90% of the total budget. The four full-time positions supported by the NE-9 project provide critical support for genetic resources conservation, characterization, and distribution activities for the northeastern region and the Plant Genetic Resources Unit. This support includes the clonal farm manager, other support staff for clonal germplasm activities, and critical support for regeneration activities of the vegetable crops. The subsequent years of the budget for this project only provide for SIP costs for these critical staff positions.

Currently, while NE9 receives approximately 11.4% of its budget from regional funding as compared to W6 – 14.2%; NC7 – 16.8%; and S9 – 18.3%, the current project has raised this from the 8% level in 2007. This project proposal maintains the ratio at approximately the same level of funding of regional versus base funding.

Base Funding at ARS in Geneva for FY14*

			$k
•	Salary costs	**NE9 related projects**	1302.1
•	Operational costs	**NE9 related projects**	571.5
		Total NE9-related projects	**1873.6**

*Base funding figures are estimates because for federal budget uncertainties.

Date: 2/19/2013

ACCESSION NO. SUBFILE: CRIS
PROJ NO: NYG- **AGENCY**:
PR0JTYPE: HATCH **PROJ STATUS**: REVISED **MULTISTATE PROJ NO**: NE9
START: 01 OCT 2013 **TERM** 30 SEP 2018 **FY**: 2014

INVESTIGATORS: Zhong, G-Y.; Robertson, L.R.; Chao, C.T.; Griffiths, P., Labate, J.A.; Baldo, A.
PERFORMING INSTITUTION:
HORTICULTURAL SCIENCE, NY AGRICULTURAL EXPT. STATION
GENEVA, NEW YORK 14456

NE-9 Budget Proposal for Fiscal Year 2013 through 2018

Period - October - September

In collaboration with USDA, ARS, Plant Genetic Resources Unit, Geneva, NY 14456

- ARS Project No. 1910-21000-019-00D "CONSERVATION AND CHARACTERIZATION OF GERMPLASM OF SELECTED VEGETABLE CROPS"
- ARS Project No. 1910-21000-020-00D "CONSERVATION AND UTILIZATION OF THE GENETIC RESOURCES OF APPLES, GRAPES, AND TART CHERRIES"

Proposed budget includes 4% inflation factor
Incremental increases have not been added

Salary costs:	**FY13/14**		**FY14/15**		**FY15/16**		**FY16/17**		**FY17/18**	
	Dollars	**FTE**	**Dollars**	**FTE**	**Dollars**	**FTE**	**Dollars**	**FTE**	**Dollars**	**FTE**
Field Techncn - Vegetable Germplasm	$42,530	1	$43,806	1	$45,121	1	$46,475	1	$47,870	1
Farm Manager - Fruit Germplasm	$75,380	1	$77,642	1	$79,972	1	$82,372	1	$84,844	1
Field Techncn -Fruit Germplasm	$39,397	1	$40,579	1	$41,797	1	$43,051	1	$44,343	1
Temp field laborer - Vegetable Germplasm (1 - 6 Mon @12/hr)	$12,534	0.5	$12,911	0.5	$13,299	0.5	$13,698	0.5	$14,109	0.5
Temp field laborer - Vegetable Germplasm (1 - 6 Mon @12/hr)	$6,267	0.25	$6,456	0.25	$6,650	0.25	$6,850	0.25	$7,056	0.25
Field Techncn - - Fruit Germplasm	$39,480	1	$40,665	1	$41,885	1	$43,142	1	$44,437	1
Total Salaries:	$215,588	4.75	$222,059	4.75	$228,724	4.75	$235,588	4.75	$242,659	4.75
Operational costs:										
Supplies	$3,581		$3,653		$3,727		$3,802		$3,879	
Field research - land maintenance, pesticides, etc.	$6,760		$6,896		$7,034		$7,175		$7,319	
Field equipment repairs	$3,903		$3,982		$4,062		$4,144		$4,227	
Seed storage, vernalization, etc.	$5,447		$5,556		$5,668		$5,782		$5,898	
Seed testing	$5,471		$5,581		$5,693		$5,807		$5,924	
Total operational costs:	$25,162		$25,668		$26,184		$26,710		$27,247	
TOTAL NE9 BUDGET ESTIMATE FOR 5 YEARS:	**$240,750**		**$247,727**		**$254,908**		**$262,298**		**$269,906**	

Other sources of Funding

DESCRIPTION	**FY13/14**		**FY14/15**		**FY15/16**		**FY16/17**		**FY17/18**	
	Dollars	**FTE**	**Dollars**	**FTE**	**Dollars**	**FTE**	**Dollars**	**FTE**	**Dollars**	**FTE**
Salaries: 1910-21000-020-00D - Fruit Gerplasm	$587,152	6.75	$598,895	6.75	$610,873	6.75	$623,090	6.75	$635,552	6.75
1910-21000-019-00D - Vegetable Germplasm	$714,945	8.02	$729,244	8.02	$743,829	8.02	$758,705	8.02	$773,879	8.02
Total Salaries:	$1,302,097		$1,328,139		$1,354,702		$1,381,796		$1,409,432	
Note: Fringe benefit rate is 30%										
Travel	$16,313		$16,639		$16,972		$17,311		$17,658	
R&M	$14,140		$14,423		$14,711		$15,005		$15,306	
Contracts and shipping	$36,273		$36,998		$37,738		$38,493		$39,263	
Equipment	$8,657		$8,830		$9,007		$9,187		$9,371	
RSA support - Clonal	$85,980		$87,700		$89,454		$91,243		$93,068	
Facility and admin support	$296,920	1.5	$302,858	1.5	$308,916	1.5	$315,094	1.5	$321,396	1.5
Supplies	$113,252		$115,517		$117,827		$120,184		$122,588	
Total Operational Costs:	$571,535	16.27	$582,966	16.27	$594,625	16.27	$606,518	16.27	$618,648	16.27
Total:	$1,873,632		$1,911,105	$16	$1,949,327		$1,988,313		$2,028,080	
Percentage of ARS Net-To-Location	11.4%		11.5%		11.6%		11.7%		11.7%	

NRSP-RC Teleconference
June 3, 2013 at 2 pm ET, 1 pm CT

CALL NOTES

Participants: Tom Berwick (NIFA), Kirby Stafford (NERA), Brett Hess (WAAESD), Abel Ponce de León (NRSP-RC Chair, NCRA), Sarah Lupis (WAAESD), Arlen Leholm (NCRA), Clarence Watson (SAAESD), Shirley Hyman-Parker (ARD), Don Latham (CARET), Mike Harrington (WAAESD), Chris Hamilton (Recorder, NCRA)

Summary of Actions Taken During this Call:

- All projects up for midterm review were approved to continue without any changes
- NRSP_temp281's renewal and budget was recommended for approval without any revisions
- The Committee decided to table the NRSP-RC definition of "leveraging funds" until a later date (Continue discussion via email, as needed).
- The NRSP-RC approved the recommendation to NOT support an increase in funding for NRSP1 to support the impact writer full-time. (Final AES vote will take place this fall during our ESS meeting in Columbus, OH)

Item 1.0: Midterm Reviews

Action: Motion seconded and approved for all to move forward as-is.

1. NRSP4: All good, should continue.
2. NRSP6: All good, should continue.
3. NRSP9: All good, should continue.

Item 2.0: NRSP8 Renewal (NRSP_temp281)

1. 7 reviews, most were excellent to good, a few fairs, interesting comments
2. Increasing funds mentioned, problems with business plan, other sources to reduce OTT AES funds, we require listing of entire budget on other projects, no idea what kind of funding they are leveraging, not direct $$ to NRSP8
3. Need to develop a business plan on how they will directly leverage other funds to directly support NRSP8 and how they will reduce OTT funds?
4. NE region recommends NRSP8 have some plan to decline funding to maintenance level
5. NC, W, and S recommended move forward as-is
6. Definition of leveraging? Interpreted in broad sense, so even indirect funding (to researchers and supporting projects) is acceptable, leveraging doesn't have to be funds directly to the NRSP.
    a. **Action Taken:** Motion to approve w/out changes: Bret, Clarence seconded. Motion approved.

b. Table discussion of definition of "leveraging", whether it needs to be direct to NRSP or not

7. Budget comments (see those listed above)

Item 3.0: NRSP1 Proposed Budget Increase for Full-Time Impact Writer

1. Comments from regions
    a. Western: Support proposal, believe it is a worthwhile investment for minimal cost
    b. North Central: Does not support
    c. South: Supportive
    d. Northeast: Does not support, time best spent on targeting, not full-time
    e. Other comments:
        i. Mike: Targeting makes more work, not less
        ii. What do about split vote?
            1. All members of committee get a vote
            2. ARD doesn't pay to support NRSP1 (Shirley abstained)
            3. Vote: 4 N/3 Y
                a. Kirby: N
                b. Bret: Y
                c. Abel: N
                d. Arlen: N
                e. Clarence: Y
                f. Don: N
                g. Mike: Y
            4. **Action Taken: Final NRSP RC recommendation is NOT to approve the proposed increase. Final AES vote will take place during Fall ESS meeting in September.**
2. Other Discussion - None

Item 4.0: Sequestration Cuts and NRSP budgets for FY13 and FY14 (see below table for FY13 summary)

- For information only.
- Budgets were reduced by 7.61%. Forward to NIFA for final FY13 allocations to NRSP committees
- We may see final cut as slightly higher, but that will not affect NRSP project allocations for FY13, since the 7.61% is now set
- We will know more about FY14 next year, hopefully in the fall

Item 5.0: Other Business

1. Status of 2013 Revised NRSP Guidelines – In final format and already posted to ESCOP site: http://escop.ncsu.edu/EZcontainer.cfm?pg=guidelines.htm

Call adjourned, thanks for all your work, NRSP-RC members!

NRSP 2013-2014 Summary

Project	Request FY2011	Authorized FY2011	Request FY2012	Authorized FY2012	Request FY2013	Authorized FY2013	Revised FY2013 funding amounts based on sequestration cuts (Senate 7.61%)	†Request FY2014 (assuming a return to FY12 levels)
NRSP1	0	0	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	46,195	75,000
NRSP3	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	46,195	50,000
NRSP4	481,182	481,182	481,182	481,182	481,182	481,182	444,564	481,182
NRSP6	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	138,585	150,000
NRSP7	325,000	325,000	325,000	325,000	325,000	325,000	300,268	325,000
NRSP8	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	461,950	-
NRSP9	350,000	175,000	175,000	175,000	175,000	175,000	161,683	175,000
NRSP_temp281							-	500,000

†Assuming an acceptable midterm review during year three, all NRSP budgets were approved during 2012 Fall ESS Meeting for the duration of their current, five-year cycle.

		Project Period	Midterm Review Year
NRSP-1	National Information Management and Support System (NIMSS)	2011-2016	2014
NRSP-3	The National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP)	2009-2014	-
NRSP-4	Enabling Pesticide Registrations for Specialty Crops and Minor Uses	2010-2015	2013
NRSP-6	The US Potato Genebank: Acquisition, Classification, Preservation, Evaluation and Distribution of Potato (Solanum) Germplasm	2010-2015	2013
NRSP-7	A National Agricultural Program for Minor Use Animal Drugs	2009-2014	-
NRSP-8	National Animal Genome Research Program	2008-2013	-
NRSP-9	National Animal Nutrition Program	2010-2015	2013
NRSP_temp281	National Animal Genome Research Program (NRSP8 renewal)	2013-2018	2016

NEED – NERA Joint Meeting

Cornell ILR Conference Center

July 9, 2013, 9:00 am – 10:00 am

Draft Agenda

9:00 am	Introductions
9:05 am	Regional grant workshop proposal – Linda Kay Benning and Dan Rossi
9:20 am	Food system planning grants program update • Regional Collaboration Using Mental Modeling of Small-Scale and Direct Market Farmers to Develop Produce Safety Curricula that Results in Behavior Change • Production and Processing of Foodgrade Grains for Northeast Farm Viability
9:25 am	Future topics for jointly funded planning grants
9:40 am	Regional climate change information network proposal – Mike Hoffmann
10:00 am	Adjourn

Winning Teams and Winning Grants
Northeast Regional Workshop Proposal

Description:

The overall goal for this workshop is to assist research/extension teams in attaining higher levels of performance and to enhance the probability of successfully obtaining funding to support the team's goals.

The workshop is designed for groups that are early in the process of becoming a multidisciplinary and cross functional team. These teams should arrive with issue or problem that they will be addressing (or are in the early stages of collaborative team response). Individuals and single investigators may find attending useful, however a significant component to the curriculum is designed for helping teams become high performing and successful at finding supporting resources.

Expected Outcomes:

- Participants will understand the keys to successful collaborations including: (1) What the collaboration is trying to accomplish, (2) Best implementation practices and (3) Best rules of engagement.
- Participants will understand the importance of interpersonal skills, including the role of emotional intelligence, in achieving successful teams and collaborations.
- Each team should leave the regional workshop with a good start on what their team is trying to achieve including strategies to fund their efforts.
- All attendees will receive a Memory Stick with all workshop presentations/documents and a significant number of resource documents on grant writing. Past experience has proven that workshop participants prefer receiving information in a memory stick rather than in a notebook.

Draft Agenda:

<u>Day 1</u>

6:30 am Breakfast

7:50 am Welcome - Introductions and Objectives for Workshop

8:30 am Why Teams and the Art of Collaboration

- *Focus and Execution*
- *Real team characteristics*
- *Building Blocks for teams*

9:30 am Break

10:00 am The Role of Emotional Intelligence (EQ)

- Learn key concepts in Emotional Intelligence (EQ)
    - Understand the business case for EQ
- Observe EQ in action
- Discuss EQ skill techniques
- Set EQ development goals

12:30 pm Lunch

1:30 pm Start Developing Your Team ACTION Strategies

2:30 pm Break

2:45 pm A Framework for Collaboration

- What the collaboration is trying to accomplish
- Best implementation practices
- Developing your team Logic Model
- Best rules of engagement
- Project Management Best Practices

4:30 pm Case Situation Analysis and Group Reports

5:00 pm Adjourn for the day
Individual consultations available during the evening

5:30 pm Reception

Day 2

6:30 am Breakfast

8:00 am Focusing on Key Elements of Proposals

- Common Short Comings
- The Peer Review Process
- Writing SMART Objectives
- Examples of Good Objectives from Funded AFRI Projects
- Project Summaries or Abstracts
- Budgets
- Supporting Documentation

8:45 am Opportunities for Integrated Team Proposals (Research, Education and Extension)

- Roles for our mission areas (Research, Education and Extension)
- How to clarify roles
- Elements of success within those roles
- Elements of an effective outreach plan

9:30 am Revising Logic Models and Joint Work Products -

- Using the Logic Model
- Joint goals
- Joint work products
- Benchmarks and evaluation
- Logic Model group discussion

10:15 am Break

10:30 am Developing Your Team ACTION Strategies
Each group will work to develop a preliminary action plan that will focus on steps they will use to become a higher performing and more self-directing team.
Members of the training team will work directly with each group.

- Clarifying the purpose of your team.
- Setting measurable objectives
- Identifying joint work products
- Defining success
- Overcoming barriers
- Addressing logistical needs of the team
- Funding and resourcing the team
- Next steps

11:45 pm Lunch

12:45 pm Show Me the Money!

- Accessing Information on Funding Sources and Planning
- Understanding and Working with Foundations
- Using Grants.gov
- Community of Science – COS
- Matching your idea to those of the Agency or Foundation
- Assessing Institutional Support

1:30 pm Developing a Personal Strategic Plan and the Ethics of Grant Writing

- Myths Debunked
- Campaigning your Idea
- Responsible Conduct of Research

The Take Home Message

- The Holy Grail!

2:15 pm Debriefing and Team Diagnostics

- Addressing the challenges ahead
- Taking the next steps

2:45 pm Closing Comments and Evaluation

3:00 pm Adjourn

Location: TBD

Dates: TBD

Staffing:

Presenters: Arlen Leholm
Robin Shepherd
Mike Harrington

Hosts: Linda Kay Benning
Dan Rossi

Support: Rubie Mize

Estimated Budget:

Expenses assuming 60 participants:

Presenter honoraria:	3 @ $1500 =	$ 4,500
Presenter travel:	3 @ $1000 =	$ 3,000
Emotional Intelligence Books:	60 @ $40 =	$ 240
Other Supplies:		$ 100
Meals, Break, Reception:	66 @ $200 =	$13,200
Total Expense:		$17,840

Registration Fee: $350

NERA Meeting
July 9, 2013
Cornell ILR Conference Center, Ithaca, NY

Experiment Station Committee on Organization and Policy Report
March 2013 - July 2013

ESCOP Officers

- Chair - Mike Hoffmann
- Chair-Elect – Steve Slack
- Past Chair – Lee Sommers
- Executive Vice Chair – Dan Rossi
- ESS Rep to BAA Policy Board – Steve Slack
- Budget and Legislative Committee Chair – Jeff Jacobsen
- Communications & Marketing Committee Chair – Nancy Cox
- Science & Technology Committee Chair – Bill Ravlin
- NRSP Review Committee Chair – Abel Ponce de Leon

NERA Representatives to:

- ESCOP:
  - Jon Wraith
  - Adel Shirmohammadi
  - Fred Servello

- ESCOP Budget & Legislative Committee
  - Tim Phipps
  - Gary Thompson (Incoming Chair)

- ESCOP Communications and Marketing Committee
  - Steve Herbert
  - Rick Rhodes

- ESCOP Science & Technology Committee
  - Cameron Faustman
  - Tom Burr

- NRSP Review Committee
  - Kirby Stafford

Meetings

- ESCOP will next meet at the Joint COPs meeting, Hilton Garden Inn, Manhattan, KS, July 24-25, 2013
- ESS Annual Meeting and Workshop, Hilton Easton, Columbus, OH, September 24-26, 2013
- APLU Meeting, Marriott Wardman Park, Washington, DC, November 10-12, 2013

ESCOP Activities

ESCOP Chair Mike Hoffmann continues to work on a number of initiatives to strengthen ESS partnerships with other entities and particularly with ECOP and NIFA. He has worked closely with ECOP Chair Daryl Buchholz to strengthen a strategic alliance between ESCOP and ECOP and with Sonny Ramaswamy to strengthen the partnership with NIFA. An ESCOP response to the PCAST *Report on Agricultural Preparedness and the Agriculture Research Enterprise* was prepared and forwarded to the co-chairs of PCAST. In addition, a proposal for the appointment of a National Futures Task Force was prepared and forwarded to the BAA-PBD.

Budget and Legislative Committee

The ESCOP Budget and Legislative Committee monitored the FY2013 USDA-NIFA budget, is monitoring progress on and providing input into the FY 2014 USDA/NIFA budget development process, and is initiating input into the FY2015 USDA/NIFA budget development through the BAA Budget and Advocacy Committee. The Committee developed a budget priority setting survey to seek input from the Directors. The Committee also continues to monitor and provide input into the Farm Bill development through the BAA Committee on Legislation and Policy (CLP).

Communications and Marketing Committee

The AES/CES Communications and Marketing Committee continues to work closely with kglobal and Cornerstone on a targeted marketing campaign aimed at raising awareness of the Land Grant System among key stakeholders. The current ESCOP assessment agreement supporting these activities is in its final year and an extension will be considered and voted on at the 2013 ESS meeting.

Science and Technology Committee

The Science and Technology Committee evaluated the regional nominations for the 2013 Excellence in Multistate Research Award and selected a national winner that was approved by the ESCOP Executive Committee. The national winner, which will be recognized at the November APLU meeting, is *SERA005 - Sweet Potato Collaborators Conference*. A second national award was developed and will be submitted to the ESCOP for approval at the July meeting – ESS Leadership Excellence Award. It is anticipated that nominations will be requested this fall and the first award will be presented at the 2014 APLU meeting. A proposal to ESCOP was prepared for funding for the design, printing and distribution of the Science Roadmap synthesis paper, *Meeting 21st Century Challenges*.

National Research Support Review Committee

The NRSP Review Committee met by conference call on June 3 and decided to support the proposal for a new five year period for NRSP-8 (National Animal Genome Research Program). It approved all projects up for midterm review to continue without any changes (NRSP4, NRSP6, and NRSP9). It also decided not to recommend the budget increase request for NRSP-1 to support a full-time impact writer. The Directors will vote on these recommendations at the 2013 ESS Meeting.

NERA Meeting

July 9, 2013
Cornell ILR Conference Center, Ithaca, NY

Report of the Office of the Executive Director

March 9, 2012 – July 5, 2013

NERA and Regional Activities

- Eastern US and Canada Climate Change Collaboration
  - Continue facilitation of this collaboration through a series of conference calls
  - Assisted in the development of and participated in a renewed North Central regional climate change collaboration
- NE Food Systems Initiative
  - Continue coordination of efforts with NEED in the NE Food Systems Initiative
  - Supported 2013 NERA Food Systems Planning Grant recipient
- NERA Planning Grants Program
  - Supported 2013 award recipients
  - Preparing the 2014 Planning Grants round
- 2013 Northeast Summer Session
  - Hosted regular conference calls to develop the program for the joint session, "Building Capacity and Resiliency into the Northeastern US Agricultural and Food Systems."
  - Coordinated with the host institution the logistics for the joint session scheduled for July 7-9, 2013 in Ithaca, NY
  - Assisted in securing speakers for the joint session
- NERA Chair Support
  - Assisted in the development of the July 2013 NERA meeting agenda and compiled agenda materials
    - Prepared NERA Chair's Interim Actions report
    - Prepared NERA ESCOP Report
    - Prepared NERA OED report
    - Prepared, administered and compiled results of two NERA surveys:
      1. Northeast Faculty Hiring Decisions Survey
      2. Resource Use in NE Experiment Stations Survey
  - Assisted in the development of the July 2013 NERA Executive Committee meeting agenda
  - Assisted in the development of an agenda for a joint NEED-NERA meeting at the NE Summer Session
    - Prepared a proposal for a NE regional grants workshop
- Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development
  - Continue to serve as Chair of the Board of Directors
  - Participated in monthly Center leadership conference calls

    - Participated in quarterly Center Technical Advisory Committee conference calls
    - Assisted in the planning and participated in the NE Food Systems Webinar
- Northeast Regional Aquaculture Center Mid-Atlantic
    - Member of Board of Directors
    - Approved as necessary appointments to the Industry and Technical Advisory Committees
- IR-4 (NRSP-4)
    - Serve as Regional Administrative Advisor
    - Participated in several IR-4 50th anniversary events
    - Participated in a series of conference calls concerning the proposed budget reductions and the proposed consolidated pest management budget line
- NE-1049
    - Serve as Administrative Advisor
    - Attended annual Technical Committee meeting and submitted 422 report
    - Coordinated with Technical Committee the review and revision of a multistate impact report
- Multistate Activities Committee (MAC) Support
    - Assisted MAC Chair in developing agenda and compiling materials for the MAC meeting
    - Assisted advisors and technical committee members in submitting revisions of conditionally approved proposals:
        1. NE_TEMP2081: Biological Control of Arthropod Pests and Weeds, 10/2013-9/2018 [Renewal of NE1032]
        2. NE_TEMP2061: Commercial Greenhouse Production: Component and System Development, 10/2013-9/2018 [Renewal of NE1035]
    - Assisted advisors and technical committee members in submitting their proposals and participation forms and coordinated peer reviews for the following projects:
        1. NE_TEMP2121: Management of the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug, 10/2013-9/2018 [Renewal of NE508]
    - Assisted advisors and technical committee members in submitting the following Requests to Write:
        1. Changing the Health Trajectory for Older Adults through Effective Diet and Activity Modifications, 10/2014-9/2019 [Renewal of NE1039]
        2. Poultry Production Systems and Welfare: Sustainability for Tomorrow, 10/2014-9/2019 [Renewal of NE1042]
        3. Northeastern Corn Improvement Conference, 10/2013-9/2018 [Renewal of NECC029]
        4. Northeast Coordinating Committee on Soil Testing, 10/2013-9/2018 [Renewal of NECC1012]

<u>National Activities</u>

- Multistate Research Award Program
    - Provide overall coordination to the program
    - Facilitated the ESCOP Science and Committee review of the regional Multistate Research Award nominations.

    - Forwarded to and facilitated the approval the Committee selection for the ESCOP Executive Committee
- ESCOP Chair Support
    - Serve as the Executive Vice-Chair of ESCOP
    - Prepared ESCOP response to the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) *Report on Agricultural Preparedness and the Agriculture Research Enterprise*
    - Prepared a proposal to the BAA Policy Board of Directors for the appointment of a National Futures Task Force
    - Assisted in the planning, organizing and development of the agenda of the ESCOP Committee meeting, July 24, 2013
    - Assisted in the planning of the joint ECOP-ESCOP session during the Joint COP's meeting, July 24, 2013
    - Scheduled and assisted in planning and developing agenda for monthly Chair's Advisory Committee conference calls
- ESCOP Science and Technology Committee Chair Support
    - Continued to serve as the Executive Vice-Chair of the Science and Technology Committee
    - Prepared and obtained approval for a new ESS Leadership Excellence Award
    - Prepared a committee report for the July 2013 ESCOP meeting
    - Prepared monthly reports for ESCOP CAC calls
    - Prepared a proposal to ESCOP for funding of the design, printing and distribution of the Science Roadmap synthesis paper, *Meeting 21st Century Challenges*
- NRSP-1 Management Committee
    - Provide support to the NRSP-1 management committee
    - Facilitated quarterly conference calls of the NRSP-1 management committee
- NIMSS
    - Prepared a scope of work for the updating and revision of the NIMSS program
    - Negotiating a contract with the University of Maryland to rewrite the NIMSS programming
    - Serve as regional NIMSS Coordinator
    - Provided national level support for the operations of NIMSS
    - Oversee upgrades to NIMSS
    - Supported NIFA Management Dashboard access to NIMSS data
- New Deans/Directors/Administrators/NPL's Orientation
    - Assisting in the development of the program of the Orientation
    - Prepared, administered and compiled the results of a survey of previous and prospective Orientation attendee
- Guidelines for Multistate Research Activities
    - Assisted in the revision and updating of the Guidelines
- 2013 ESS/SAES/ARD Meeting
    - Coordinating with the other ED's in the development of a workshop program
- Service
    - LEAD 21 Board of Directors
    - ESCOP Chair's Advisory Committee
    - ESCOP Executive Committee

    - National Multistate Management Committee
    - BAA PBD Committee on Legislation and Policy
- Program Monitoring and Feedback
    - AES-CES Communications and Marketing Project
    - Farm Bill development
    - NIFA budget developments
    - NIFA competitive grants programs
    - NIFA operational web and teleconferences

Travel

- April 4, 2013, Washington, DC – NE-1049 Technical Committee Meeting
- April 24-25, 2013, Washington, DC – National Multistate Coordinating Committee Meeting
- May 29-30, 2013, Minneapolis, MN – Mid-West US-Canada Climate Change Meeting
- June 27-28, 2013, Minneapolis, MN – LEAD-21 Board of Directors Meeting

For immediate release
Contact: Cameron Faustman, 860-486-2919 or Sarah Lupis, 970-491-6280

Dairy Food Safety Team Receives Excellence in Research Award

Ithaca, NY—July 8, 2013 – The 2013 Northeastern Region Excellence in Multistate Research Award will be presented to a team of scientists from Agricultural Experiment Stations and Cooperative Extension units at Land-Grant Universities in the northeast and across the country for keeping dairy farms operating sustainably and maintaining a safe supply of dairy products for consumers to enjoy. For the past six years, the Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors has have presented this award in recognition of successful, well-coordinated, high-impact research and extension efforts. The team will be honored at the annual Joint Summer Session at Cornell University in Ithaca, NY on July 8, 2013.

This year's winning project, "Mastitis Control and Dairy Food Safety," is recognized for developing tools, treatments, and on-farm practices that reduce milk loss, enhance the quality of dairy products, and improve animal welfare. Dairy cows do more than produce milk. The U.S. dairy industry contributes more than 65 billion dollars per year to the national economy and provides jobs for over one million Americans. Mastitis effects every dairy farm in the U.S; afflicting one third of all dairy cows at some point and leading to reduced milk production, discarded milk, increased veterinary involvement, and even cow deaths—an industry-wide cost of over two billion dollars per year that is ultimately passed on to consumers.

Controlling diseases like mastitis is key to maintaining the sustainability of dairy farms and keeping dairy products safe and readily available for consumers to enjoy. Prevention is the key to managing this disease and this team has identified new vaccines against this disease and developed nutritional supplements and management practices that keep dairy cows healthy. Scientists have also improved technologies to detect disease in the herd, allowing farmers to address mastitis infections quickly, with fewer interventions. In addition, the team has developed on-farm technology to rapidly evaluate milk quality, ensuring that dairy products are safe and healthy.

Support for this project comes from the Multistate Research Fund established in 1998 by the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act (an amendment to the Hatch Act of 1888) to encourage and enhance multistate, multidisciplinary research on critical issues that have a national or regional priority.

This year's Northeastern Region Award of Excellence in Multistate Research honors the outstanding collaboration and commitment of the participating scientists representing 25 different universities in the U.S and Canada.

University of California
University of Connecticut
Cornell University
University of Delaware
University of Georgia
University of Idaho
University of Iowa
Kansas State University
University of Kentucky
Louisiana State University
University of Maine
University of Maryland
Michigan State University
University of Minnesota
University of Missouri
Rutgers University
Ohio State University
Pennsylvania State University
University of Tennessee
Utah State University
University of Vermont
Virginia Tech
Washington State University
University of Wisconsin
University of Montreal
University of Saskatchewan

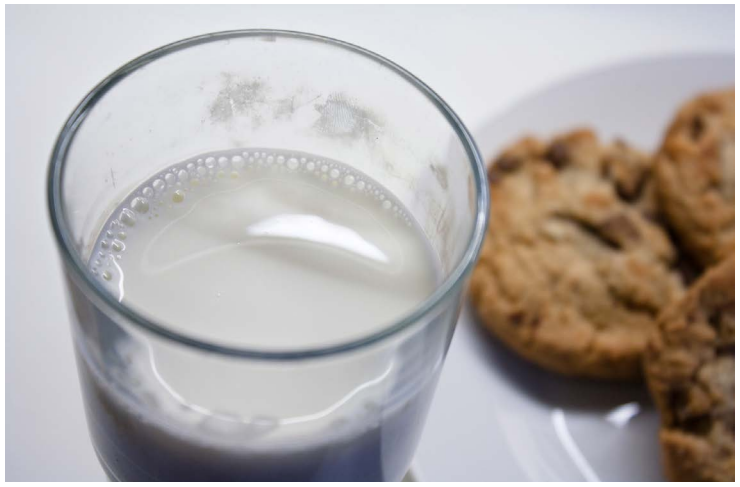
Mastitis Control & Dairy Food Safety

This project has advanced knowledge about bovine mastitis and developed tools, treatments, and dairy farm practices that reduce milk loss, enhance quality, and improve animal welfare.

Who cares and why?

The U.S. dairy industry contributes more than 65 billion dollars per year to the national economy and provides jobs for over one million Americans. However, the dairy industry is currently suffering losses related to bovine mastitis—a potentially fatal infectious disease that causes swelling, heat, hardness, and pain of the udder, leading to abnormalities in milk or complete cessation of milk production. Mastitis affects every dairy farm in the U.S., and approximately one third of dairy cows experience some form of mastitis during their annual lactation cycle. Estimated costs to the dairy industry due to reduced milk production, discarded milk, increased veterinary involvement, and cow morbidity exceed two billion dollars per year. Though antibiotic treatments are effective in some cases, milk from a treated cow is not marketable until drug residues have left the cow's system, and antibiotic usage is prohibited on organic dairy farms. Currently available vaccines have only limited effectiveness. Research and education are needed to develop appropriate treatments, vaccines, dietary supplements, and breeding strategies that improve dairy animal welfare, reduce production losses, maintain milk quality, and improve the global competitiveness of the U.S. dairy industry.

Dairy cows (above, USDA photo) do more than produce milk. The U.S. dairy industry contributes billions of dollars to the economy, provides jobs, and supports local businesses. Controlling diseases like mastitis is key to the sustainability of dairy farms and keeping dairy products safe and readily available for consumers to enjoy (below, photo by Pimthida, Flickr).



What has the project done so far?

Since 1977, the NE-1048 project has fostered collaboration among Extension professionals and researchers from 23 State Agricultural Experiment Stations and scientists from Canada, Scotland, and Belgium to address mastitis control. As a multistate effort, this project has helped research encompass a wide range of cow herds and dairy farm practices. Many researchers have focused on describing susceptibility and resistance to mastitis pathogens and enhancing dairy cows' defenses against the disease. In particular, researchers have studied changes in cows' immune system responses during various stages of lactation and periods of physiological stress. Researchers have also developed new technologies that have allowed the examination of previously unstudied mammary tissue cells. In addition, scientists have found a gene associated with mastitis susceptibility. Other NE-1048 scientists have studied the effectiveness of antibiotic treatments and researched new vaccines. One of these studies found that nutritional supplementation can help white blood cells kill mastitis pathogens. Researchers have also improved diagnostic tools and have developed new technologies that advance mastitis control, milk quality, and dairy food safety. These technologies include on-farm methods and rapid DNA-based methods for detecting pathogens, techniques for testing milk residue for antibiotics, methods for evaluating milk quality in

sheep and goats, and revised practices for dairy farms. For example, studies showed that fly control programs can help reduce mastitis spread. These findings combined with successful Extension efforts have had an enormous effect on reducing milk loss and animal morbidity. In the last five years, project members have published many book chapters and more than 200 peer-reviewed journal articles. Additionally, members have made numerous presentations and updated several websites, making information available to dairy farmers.

Impact Statements

Provided useful technology to the scientific community and the dairy industry

Heightened awareness and knowledge of mastitis, leading to increased adoption of effective control measures among dairy farmers and veterinarians

Enabled more accurate diagnosis of mastitis, leading to more informed treatment decisions

Developed new approaches for early detection of mastitis, enabling more successful intervention

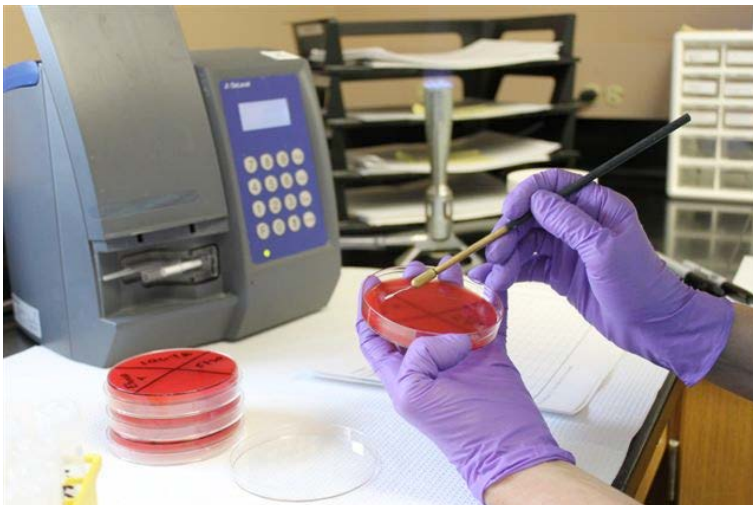
Assessed alternative mastitis treatments, potentially reducing use of antibiotics

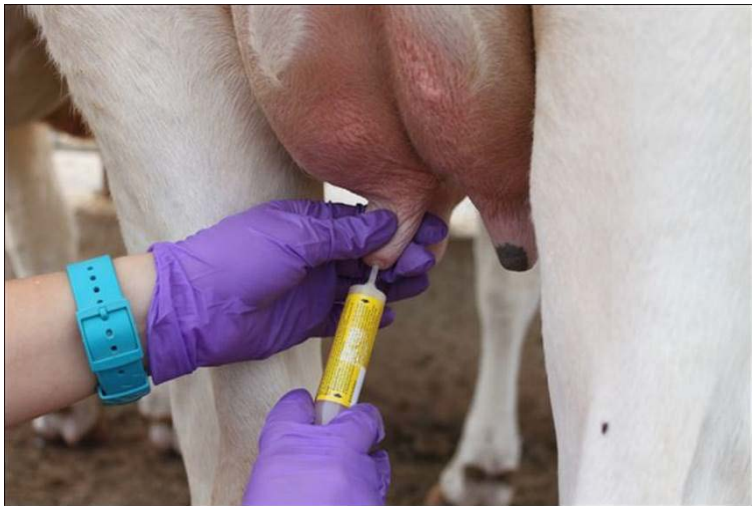
Enabled breeding and selection of animals that are more resistant to mastitis

Decreased the incidence of mastitis on U.S. dairy farms

What research is needed?

More research is needed to determine reasons why some cows are highly resistant to mastitis. In addition, scientists need a better understanding of how pathogens are transmitted from the environment, how they spread from cow to cow, and how they evade the immune system. Studies also need to determine the role of non-pathogenic bacteria in protecting against infection. Researchers need to improve mastitis detection and treatment, with particular attention to using antibiotics efficiently so that mastitis pathogens do not develop resistance to these treatments. More work is also needed to identify new vaccines. With all future research, scientists need to ensure that technology and information is transferred to producers.





To diagnose infections in cows' mammary glands, milk samples are drawn, spread onto plates, and then cultured for 48 hours before they are examined for pathogens (top photo). To cure existing cases of mastitis, scientists have recommended antibiotic therapy using injections of approved, commercially available products for lactating and nonlactating cows (bottom photo). Still, prevention is the key to managing this disease.

Want to know more?

Administrative Advisor:
Cameron Faustman (cameron.faustman@uconn.edu)

This project was supported by the Multistate Research Fund (MRF) established in 1998 by the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act (an amendment to the Hatch Act of 1888) to encourage and enhance multistate, multidisciplinary research on critical issues that have a national or regional priority. For more information, visit *http://www.nera.umd.edu/*.

Compiled and designed by Sara Delheimer

Worksheet for estimating assessment increases required for maintaining balanced budget for NERA

June, 2013

Faustman, Wraith, Hoffman - for NERA consideration

**** Change values for cells containing annual costs and annual assessment % increases, and calculations will automatically update**

Scenario 1:

Increase assessment X% annually starting FY15 so draws down carryover balance over a few years, then rebuilds. Can revisit assessment when sufficient balance; set equal to annual cost increase?

Assumed annual Costs Increase FY15-19		Final FY12	Projected FY 13	Proposed FY 14	*Anticipated FY 15*	*Anticipated FY 16*	*Anticipated FY 17*	*Anticipated FY 18*	*Anticipated FY 19*	*Annual Assessment increase FY15-19*
4%										8.5%
			Cumulative % increase:		8.5%	17.0%	25.5%	34.0%	42.5%	
Income		$ 326,214	$ 328,189	$ 326,989	$ 354,783.07	$ 384,940	$ 417,659.49	$ 453,161	$ 491,679	Ignores meeting fees, which are round-off error magnitude
Expenses	[1]	$ 342,073	$ 383,848	$ 393,811	$ 409,563	$ 425,946	$ 442,984	$ 460,703	$ 479,131	
Difference		(15,859)	(55,659)	(66,822)	(54,780)	(41,006)	(25,324)	(7,543)	12,548	
Carryover Bal.		$ 264,481	$ 208,822	$ 142,000	$87,220	$46,213	$20,889	$13,346	$25,894	Goal is not to go negative, but maintain some level of buffer

This model requires greater annual increase, but shows carryover beginning to rebuild sooner than Scenario 2 (depending on costs and assessments percentages

Note that assumed % annual cost increase has substantial impact on calculations, including carryover balance

Scenario 2:

Draw down Carryover up front, with smaller annual assessment increase to keep up with costs

Can change amounts from carryover used for FY15, FY16 in cells below (bold red font

Assumed annual Costs Increase FY15-19		Final FY12	Projected FY 13	Proposed FY 14	*Anticipated FY 15*	*Anticipated FY 16*	*Anticipated FY 17*	*Anticipated FY 18*	*Anticipated FY 19*	*Annual Assessment increase FY15-19*
4%					From Carryover	From Carryover				7.5%
					60,000	20,000				
			Cumulative % increase:		7.5%	15.0%	22.5%	30.0%	37.5%	
Assessments					$ 351,513	$ 377,877	$ 406,217	$ 436,684	$ 469,435	
Total Income		$ 326,214	$ 328,189	$ 326,989	$ 411,513	$ 462,377	$ 406,217	$ 436,684	$ 469,435	Ignores meeting fees, which are round-off error magnitude
Expenses	[1]	$ 342,073	$ 383,848	$ 393,811	$ 409,563	$ 425,946	$ 442,983.82	$ 460,703	$ 479,131	
Difference		($15,859)	($55,659)	($66,822)	$1,950	$36,431	($36,766)	($24,019)	($9,696)	
Carryover Bal.		$ 264,481	$ 208,822	$ 142,000	$83,950	$100,380	$63,614	$39,595	$29,898	Goal is not to go negative, maintain some level of buffer

This model requires lower annual increase, but shows carryover taking longer to begin to increase (how long varies with assumed costs and assessment increases

Note that assumed % annual cost increase has substantial impact on calculations, including carryover balance

Annual Assessments by Station, using current (FY2012-13) Share proportion

Scenario 1

Station	Share	FY14	---- Annual NERA Assessments ---- FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19
CT- New Haven	0.01770	$ 5,734.61	$ 6,222	$ 6,709	$ 7,197	$ 7,684	$ 8,172
CT-UCONN	0.04620	$ 14,968.29	$ 16,241	$ 17,513	$ 18,785	$ 20,058	$ 21,330
Delaware	0.04780	$ 15,486.67	$ 16,803	$ 18,119	$ 19,436	$ 20,752	$ 22,069
Maine	0.06660	$ 21,577.67	$ 23,412	$ 25,246	$ 27,080	$ 28,914	$ 30,748
Maryland	0.08380	$ 27,150.28	$ 29,458	$ 31,766	$ 34,074	$ 36,381	$ 38,689
Massachusetts	0.08180	$ 26,502.30	$ 28,755	$ 31,008	$ 33,260	$ 35,513	$ 37,766
New Hampshire	0.04790	$ 15,519.07	$ 16,838	$ 18,157	$ 19,476	$ 20,796	$ 22,115
New Jersey	0.09680	$ 31,362.14	$ 34,028	$ 36,694	$ 39,359	$ 42,025	$ 44,691
NY-Geneva	0.04980	$ 16,134.65	$ 17,506	$ 18,878	$ 20,249	$ 21,620	$ 22,992
NY-Ithaca	0.12890	$ 41,762.18	$ 45,312	$ 48,862	$ 52,412	$ 55,961	$ 59,511
Pennsylvania	0.15750	$ 51,028.27	$ 55,366	$ 59,703	$ 64,040	$ 68,378	$ 72,715
Rhode Island	0.04960	$ 16,069.85	$ 17,436	$ 18,802	$ 20,168	$ 21,534	$ 22,900
Vermont	0.04200	$ 13,607.54	$ 14,764	$ 15,921	$ 17,077	$ 18,234	$ 19,391
Washington, DC	0.01380	$ 4,471.05	$ 4,851	$ 5,231	$ 5,611	$ 5,991	$ 6,371
West Virginia	0.06980	$ 22,614.43	$ 24,537	$ 26,459	$ 28,381	$ 30,303	$ 32,226
	1.000	**$ 323,989.00**	**$ 351,528**	**$ 379,067**	**$ 406,606**	**$ 434,145**	**$ 461,684**

Scenario 2

Station		FY14	---- Annual NERA Assessments ---- FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19
CT- New Haven	0.01770	$ 5,734.61	$ 6,165	$ 6,595	$ 7,025	$ 7,455	$ 7,885
CT-UCONN	0.04620	$ 14,968.29	$ 16,091	$ 17,214	$ 18,336	$ 19,459	$ 20,581
Delaware	0.04780	$ 15,486.67	$ 16,648	$ 17,810	$ 18,971	$ 20,133	$ 21,294
Maine	0.06660	$ 21,577.67	$ 23,196	$ 24,814	$ 26,433	$ 28,051	$ 29,669
Maryland	0.08380	$ 27,150.28	$ 29,187	$ 31,223	$ 33,259	$ 35,295	$ 37,332
Massachusetts	0.08180	$ 26,502.30	$ 28,490	$ 30,478	$ 32,465	$ 34,453	$ 36,441
New Hampshire	0.04790	$ 15,519.07	$ 16,683	$ 17,847	$ 19,011	$ 20,175	$ 21,339
New Jersey	0.09680	$ 31,362.14	$ 33,714	$ 36,066	$ 38,419	$ 40,771	$ 43,123
NY-Geneva	0.04980	$ 16,134.65	$ 17,345	$ 18,555	$ 19,765	$ 20,975	$ 22,185
NY-Ithaca	0.12890	$ 41,762.18	$ 44,894	$ 48,027	$ 51,159	$ 54,291	$ 57,423
Pennsylvania	0.15750	$ 51,028.27	$ 54,855	$ 58,683	$ 62,510	$ 66,337	$ 70,164
Rhode Island	0.04960	$ 16,069.85	$ 17,275	$ 18,480	$ 19,686	$ 20,891	$ 22,096
Vermont	0.04200	$ 13,607.54	$ 14,628	$ 15,649	$ 16,669	$ 17,690	$ 18,710
Washington, DC	0.01380	$ 4,471.05	$ 4,806	$ 5,142	$ 5,477	$ 5,812	$ 6,148
West Virginia	0.06980	$ 22,614.43	$ 24,311	$ 26,007	$ 27,703	$ 29,399	$ 31,095
	1.000	**$ 323,989.00**	**$ 348,288**	**$ 372,587**	**$ 396,887**	**$ 421,186**	**$ 445,485**

ESCOP Meeting
July 24, 2013, 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm
July 25, 2013, 8:00 am – 10:00 am
Hilton Garden Inn, Manhattan, KS
Room TBA

Draft Agenda

July 24, 2013

3:00 pm	Welcome and Introductions – Mike Hoffmann
3:05 pm	Approval of Minutes and Agenda – Mike Hoffmann
3:10pm	Interim Actions of the Chair – Mike Hoffmann
3:20 pm	NIFA Update – Sonny Ramaswamy
3:35 pm	Cornerstone Update – Jim Richards/Hunt Shipman
3:50 pm	Budget and Legislative – Jeff Jacobsen/Mike Harrington
4:05 pm	Communications and Marketing Committee – Nancy Cox/Arlen Leholm
4:20 pm	Discussion/Best Management Practices I – "How new faculty positions are created and prioritized"
5:00 pm	Adjourn

July 25, 2013

8:00 am	Science and Technology – Bill Ravlin/Dan Rossi
8:15 am	NRSP Review Committee – Abel Ponce de Leon/Arlen Leholm
8:30 am	Policy Board of Directors – Steve Slack/Eric Young
8:45 am	Reports from ECOP – Clarence Watson, ESCOP liaison to ECOP Doug Lantagne, ECOP liaison to ESCOP
9:00 am	2013 ESS/SAES/ARD Meeting and Workshop Update – Steve Slack/Arlen Leholm
9:15 am	Discussion/Best Management Practices II – "How institutions deal with unproductive faculty"
10:00 am	Adjourn

ESCOP
Experiment Station Committee on Organization and Policy

2013 ESS/SAES/ARD Meeting and Workshop
Hilton Columbus at Easton
3900 Chagrin Drive
Columbus OH 43210

Draft Program

Tuesday, September 24, 2013	
1:00 PM	**Registration**
3:00 – 3:15 PM	**Welcome / Opening Remarks** (Moderator: Steve Slack) • Michael Boehm, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, The Ohio State University • Bruce McPheron, Vice President for Agricultural Administration and Dean, The Ohio State University
3:15-5:15 PM	**North Central General Session "An Ohio Perspective on Water Quality Issues" / Q&A** Speakers: • Jeff Reutter, Director, Ohio Sea Grant, The Ohio State University "Lake Erie Algal Blooms: Framing the Water Quality Issue" • Jack Fisher, Executive Vice President, Ohio Farm Bureau Federation "We Don't Have to Choose Between Food Production and Water Quality" • Karl Gebhardt, Chief, Ohio Department of Natural Resources "Response of State Agencies to Water Quality Issues in Ohio" • Libby Dayton, Research Scientist, School of Environment and Natural Resources, The Ohio State University "Evaluation/Revision of the Ohio Phosphorus Risk Index Using Field-Scale, Edge-of-Field Monitoring Data" • Richard Moore, Executive Director, Environmental Sciences Network, The Ohio State University "A Nutrient Trading Model for Advancing Clean Water Initiatives" • Lonnie Thompson, Distinguished University Professor, Department of Earth Sciences, The Ohio State University "In a Time of Rapid Climate Change, What is Happening to the World Water Supply"
6:00 – 8:00 PM	**Opening Reception**

Wednesday, September 25, 2013	
7:00 AM	**Registration**
6:30 – 7:45 AM	**Breakfast**
8:00 – 10:00 AM	Regional Meetings • ARD • NCRA • NERA • SAAESD • WAAESD
10:00 – 10:30 AM	**Break**
11:00 – 12:00 PM	**ESS Business Meeting**
12:00 – 1:30 PM	**Luncheon with Speaker - *Dr. Cathy Woteki, Under Secretary for USDA's Research, Education, and Economics (REE)***
1:30 – 3:00 PM	**ESS Business Meeting (continued)**
3:00 – 3:30 PM	**Break**
3:30 – 5:00 PM	**Discussion Session I: "Industry Employment Needs for the Future" – *John Sherwood*** (Moderator: Mike Harrington)
6:00 – 8:30 PM	**Banquet**
Thursday, September 26, 2013	
7:00 – 8:15 AM	**Breakfast**
8:30 – 10:00 AM	**Discussion Session II: "IR-4 50th Anniversary and Update" – *Jerry Baron*** (Moderator: Dan Rossi)
10:00 – 10:30 AM	**Break**
10:30 – 12:00 PM	**Discussion Session III: "New Budget/Management Strategies for Dealing with Austerity" - Speaker TBD** (Moderators: Arlen Leholm, Carolyn Brooks)
12:00 – 12:30 PM	**Boxed Lunches**
12:30 – 2:00 PM	**Discussion Session IV: "Board on Natural Resources Roadmap" - Speaker TBD** (Moderator: Eric Young)
2:00 PM	**Adjourn**

N.E. Hiring Decisions and Needs and Strengths Survey

July 9, 2013

Positions Overview

- Fifteen Institutions (189 actual and planned hires)
  - 83 Hired last year
    - 52 professors with research appointments (T/R/S usually)
    - 20 extension faculty and educators
    - 5 postdoc/RA
    - 4 lecturers
    - 2 other

Positions Overview, Con't

- 106 Planned Future Hires
  - 77 professors with research appointments (T/R/S usually)
  - 14 extension faculty and educators
  - 3 postdoc/RA
  - 4 lecturers
  - 4 admin
  - 4 other

Planned and Actual Hires by Discipline

- Bio/Health Sciences (82)
  - Animal Sciences (21)
    - dairy (7)
    - Veterinary medicine and animal diseases (6)
    - Misc (8)
  - Plant Sciences (26)
    - Plant pathology (6)
    - Horticulture (6)
    - Agronomy (6)
    - Soil Science (5)
    - Misc (3)
  - Environmental Sciences and Ecology (18)
  - Health and Nutrition (17)

- Social Sciences and Business (34)
  - Ag/Resource/Environmental Economics (17)
  - Business and Marketing (12)
  - Misc (5)
- Other Biosciences (35)
  - Molecular Genetics (3)
  - Statistics/biostatistics/computational biology (7)
  - Entomology (4)
  - Food Science (6)
  - Food Safety (4)
  - Forestry (6)
  - Marine Sciences (5)

- Other Other (31)
  - Landscape Architecture (14)
  - Climate Change (4)
  - Engineering (5)
  - 4H/Youth Development (5)
  - Family and Consumer Sciences (3)
- Other Other Other (7)

Strengths and Needs

- Areas where 2 or more indicated need
  - Animal Sciences
    - Need: MA, MD (extension), RI
    - Strength: MD, WV, VT, CT (disease)
  - Plant breeding/genetics
    - Need: MA, MD, WV, VT
    - Strength: NY, NH, DE, WV
  - Plant Pathology
    - Need: MA, MD, WV (small fruits), VT
    - Strength: PA, CT, MD

Strengths and Needs, Con't

- Agricultural Engineering
  - Need: DE, WV
  - Strength: PA, NY
- Food Science
  - Need: DE, MD
  - Strength: PA, CT, MD
- Organic/Sustainable Agriculture
    - Need: NY, DE, RI
    - Strength: WV, NH, and lots of others

Strengths and Needs, Con't

- Biotech/Plant Sciences
  - Needs: PA, WV
  - Strengths: NY, PA

COST RECOVERY FOR "SERVICES"

Overview of NERA Survey of Member Institutions

and

Next Steps

July 9, 2013

Today's Game Plan

1. Introduction (5 min)
2. Summary of survey results (20 min)
3. Conclusions on information value (5 min)
4. Straw proposal for next steps (15 min)
   - Goal
   - Action steps
   - Initial time line

Please accept imprecise terminology at this point.

Cost Recovery & Fees	Cost Sharing
Cost recovery	Fees set below full costs
Full cost recovery	Fees set below defined costs
Recovery of true costs	Subsidized costs
Recovery for defined services	Supplementing funds
Recovery for allowable costs	Cost sharing for user categories
Recovery of non-subsidized costs	Cost sharing projects
Service fees	
Plot/bench fees	
Fees set below cost recovery	
Recharge	
Contingency fund	

No. of institutions reporting cost recovery systems

Crops	4
Greenhouses	10
Livestock	7
Small animal	8
Growth chamber	6
Shared equipment	6

Institutions reporting (N = 15):
CT-NH, CT-S, DE, DC, ME, MD, MA, NH, NJ, NY-1, NY-G, PA, RI, VT, WV

Footnotes on who is doing what…..

Crop farms: DE & RI plan to initiate. CT-S - discussions underway. UNH attempted and stalled (by univ.)

Greenhouses: CT-S - discussions underway. DE – faculty voluntarily buy consumables.

Livestock: CT-S – animals in BSL2 only. NY-I – dairy/sheep transitioning to outside vendor. RI – expects to initiate.

Small animal: often managed at higher institutional level.

Growth chambers: CT-S – intend to initiate in 2016. ME may initiate

Shared equipment: typically occurring elsewhere in university.

What costs are recovered?

Crop farms: chemicals, lime/fertilizers, fuel, irrigation, cultivation. Labor and consumables. Variable: perennials, weeding, harvesting.

Greenhouses: total cost – facility or growth space or defined services - except (labor, utilities), (staff on state funds), (maintenance and depreciation).

Livestock: feeding, bedding, stall upkeep, prevent. care. Other noted feed and bedding production, training, equip. maintenance.

Small animal: food, bedding, cleaning. Labor in some cases.

Growth chambers: "All annual expenses." Limited info. Repair and maintenance plus contingency. Some excluded labor and utilities.

Shared equipment: limited data. Repair contracts and salaries. Attempts to include total costs.

Is there full cost recovery?

Crop farms: Recovery of costs for defined services, not for facility. Not clear on full cost recovery. Reported subsidies of 33%, 74%.

Greenhouses: ? typically reported full cost recovery…… except exclusions (labor, some salaries, subsidized costs)

Livestock: highly variable. E.g., exclusion of labor, portion of basic husbandry costs, costs above herd maintenance.

Small animal: generally closer to full cost recovery. Some note subsidy from VPR. Some exclude selected salaries.

Growth chambers: limited info. Indications of excluded costs.

Shared equipment: limited info.

How are rates determined?

Crop farms, greenhouses, growth chambers:

- Break-even cost based on FY expense data, audited annually. Done by college finance office and facility superintendents.
- Fraction of the marginal costs related to production and maintenance costs of field investigations.
- Break-even cost analysis, a process dictated by our university's division of financial affairs.
- Set at a level sufficient to cover all non-subsidized costs on a fiscal year basis.
- Department committee determines the rate schedules for greenhouses for facility review.

Livestock: Few direct responses. Indications of high variability for cost recovery systems.

How are revenues apportioned?

Crop farms, greenhouses:

- to college for equipment and infrastructure (ME)
- to facility or academic unit to offset expenses (NY, MA)

Livestock:

MA - 100% to facility
NH - These go directly to the conventional dairy
NJ - All revenue goes to the farm operating budget
VT - All revenue goes to cover the farm operating cost.

Small animal: returned to facility. Some to VPR.

Growth chambers: returned to unit or station

Shared equipment: returned to unit

Are fees charged to all programs?

Crops, greenhouses, livestock:

Generally yes. Noted exceptions: One reported research and extension only. One excluded extension.

Small animal, growth chambers, shared equipment:

Uniformly "yes."

How are fees collected?

- Service request forms go to accounting office.
- Services are tracked on spread sheet, tallied, and billed to investigators after end of the season.
- Direct billing through university accounting. Now developing a reservation/billing system for all farm and greenhouse operations.
- Through custom built software. Work requests are submitted to farm managers who facilitate completion of work records and release of billing data to accounting department.
- When people sign up to use space, a chart string is provided that will be used to charge space to

How are fees charged to grants?

- Billed as a direct expense through university accounting systems.
- As per schedule that is published on-line
- Faculty are provided planning assumptions that include usage rates for their use in developing grant proposal budgets.
- Farm rates include only federal allowable costs so charging of sponsored grants is fully acceptable.

How are fees charged on contracts to private companies?

NJ:

- One location has a 2x rate fee structure for external private companies, who contract for plot maintenance services , but steward the work themselves.
- At other locations, all projects must have an internal project leader responsible for stewardship; hence work is billed at same rate.
- When work is covered by formal corporate sponsored contracts (not fee for service), F&A rate is applied.
- Seek to remove any internal subsidies and have discretion to also cover indirect (F & A) charges.

ME: Typically have a faculty contact and use standard fees. Plan to revise system to capture additional costs.

Cost sharing (CS)

RI: User expected to pay published rate. Department, college or station may supplement when user is unable to pay full rate.

ME: SOP - expect full fees. Station or college CS can be requested. CS approved for breeding/variety work. Dean may provide CS in startup.

NJ: Station offers CS via a RFP and review of the proposal/reports.

NY-I: No CS. / **NY-G:** Allowable, but currently no CS for user groups.

PA: The department overseeing greenhouse s may subsidize the fee.

VT: Subsidize instructional greenhouse fees for units . With livestock, CS approved before grants are submitted.

(G. chamber, shared equip., s. animal – generally no CS, but some.)

Challenges Implementing Fees -- 1

- Initial resistance, slow cultural change initially. In mature systems, additional stress occurs when subsidies are reduced.
- Difficult to coordinate fee structures on farms with different cultures and requirements. Difficulties in normalizing fee structures across units.
- Issues with multi-institutional proposals (result of high range of fees).
- Concerns about ability of PIs to fund through sponsored funding.

Challenges Implementing Fees -- 2

- Determining all cost components of greenhouse operations was difficult.
- Making sure PIs share protocol s with farm staff ahead of time so they know what level of services will be needed
- Difficult to accommodate additional costs for teaching.
- Helping PIs who are unfunded to get data for prelim results for grants.

Other Benefits

- Forces needed discussions on faculty use of facility resources. Ditto for other academic units and external users. Adds formal cost information to those discussions.
- Financial analysis by function for fee setting can assist facility management.
- Financial analysis and fee structure aids assignment of facility resources for matches in grant proposals.
- Efficient use of facility services becomes a higher priority.
- Helps with competition for space or access.
- Customer service becomes more relevant to facility managers.

Suggestions - 1

- If you implement a fee, regardless of the college or department, it's best to charge the same fee. If you want to favor your own faculty (i.e., in the host dept/college), then provide a rebate at year's end.
- Have SOPs. Have an advisory group that establishes policy.
- Keep the focus on "fee for services" as opposed to plot/land use/bench fees.
- Work closely with your Office of Research and Sponsored Programs from the start of cost recovery system planning.
- Talk to key folks in other institutions to learn the ropes about the financial analysis approaches, pitfalls, and what works well.

Suggestions - 2

- Be conservative initially and avoid inclusion of any direct cost category that might raise an IDC-conflict flag.
- Strive toward consistency in practices, but the diversity of size, scope, and focus of facilities makes consistency difficult.
- Limit fluctuation in rates.
- Encourage entrepreneurial endeavors that may serve to offset fees.
- Be transparent by showing facility total costs, reasoning behind need to implement and demonstrating how such a new structure would be of value to their research program.

Presentation Outline

1. Introduction
2. Summary of survey results
3. Conclusions on information value
4. Straw proposal for next steps
   - Goal for next steps
   - Action steps
   - Set initial time line

Conclusions on Potential Use of These Survey Data

- There is value for directors planning to institute cost recovery systems: help in getting approval from administrators, designing systems, and implementation.
- There is value for tweaking existing systems.
- There is value as an information resource for new directors.
- There is value for advisory committees on cost recovery.
- Data refinement: Depends on planned use of the data, but some gap filling and clarification will be needed at every level (e.g., program/policy vs. procedures/best practices)

Straw Proposal

Goal: Develop resource document for NERA – with objectives TBD (e.g., White paper – program and policy level; procedures-level doc – alternatives and best practices.)

Potential Action Steps:

- Establish a time line/ reserve time for future mtg discussions
- Define objectives for resource document.
- Refine data to meet objectives
- Develop document
- Compile existing policy and user docs and website info