



We're closing in on mid-summer and are hoping that you all have an opportunity to take some time off: you deserve it. As issues arise, don't hesitate to share those; we interested to hear. An issue that has recently arisen revolves around protection of agricultural intellectual property. Check out the first action item.

A wise man in China asked his gardener to plant a shrub. The gardener objected that it only flowered once in a hundred years. "In that case," said the wise man, "plant it immediately." – John C. Polanyi, Nobel Prize in Chemistry – 1986, "[A Scientist and the World He Lives In](#)", Empire Club of Canada address.

Action items:

- We've posted the FBI's [infographic](#) on Agricultural Economic Espionage. The issue of integrity of US research and protection of trust and confidentiality has arisen a number of times in the past year, most recently from the [NSF](#). We're interested in hearing how your institution protects your agricultural intellectual property.
- A [draft of the agenda](#) for the ESS/CES-NEDA Meeting is now available, [registration](#) is open, and [rooms can be booked](#) now. The NERA business meeting will be held from 7:00 am - 8:45 am on Wednesday, September 25 in room Parthenon E.

Reminders/Updates:

- While there's no action to be taken, the NIFA relocation story continues to unfold. The GSA has extended the deadline for Kansas City companies to submit bids to host ERS and NIFA. Interestingly, the current landlord of the Waterfront Center, NBL, has filed a complaint that stated "USDA's mini-competition for the delineated area was unprecedented, ill-conceived, and unauthorized by statute and regulation..." Last, until permanent space is identified in Kansas City, the USDA intends to "office" employees in temporary space.
- NERA's goal this year, as part of the Northeast agenda, is to display at least one, high-definition photo on the scrolling banner on the NERA website. We're seeking shots from Rutgers, UConn, UD, UDC, URI, and WVU.

Informational items:

- You'll notice a new page on the NERA website under the Resources drop-down menu called [NERA Best Practices Sessions](#). On that page, we'll house slide decks from best practices sessions along with the running list of both past and potential session topics.

- The Northeast Regional Aquaculture Center (NRAC) has released its [2020 RFA for preproposals and for mini-grants](#). Please share this information with scientists that might have interest.
- NIFA is hosting a Reporting Web Conference to share information about procedures associated with REEPort and the newly revised and updated Plan of Work on Thursday, August 8, 2019, from 2:00 to 3:30 PM (Eastern). Please visit the [Reporting Web Conference Series webpage](#) for more information.



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