



Many institutions are releasing their plans for fall. Please keep us posted on what you're doing. We continue to seek your estimates on the negative financial impacts that COVID-19 has had on your research operations. Last, wear your masks, socially distance, avoid crowds, and be well!

"But I still believe that if we make the right decisions now, informed by science, data and the experience of medical professionals, we can save lives and get the country back to work." – Bill Gates, [Opinions-Bill Gates: here's how to make for lost time on covid-19](#), Washington Post, March 31, 2020.

### Action items:

- We value your input and participation! In the last newsletter, we made an ask for participation. You responded. We'll continue to make that ask, to participate on [NERA committees](#), on [ESCOP committees](#), and on multistate projects as [Administrative Advisers](#). I'll also pitch participation in surveys that we send. I'm aware that your time is valuable. As such, we won't send long, time-consuming polls. For those surveys that we do send, please consider responding; your input is essential to best represent the needs, the wants, and the objectives of the Northeast. There's still time to ring in on the [survey](#) that gauges your intent to attend the ESS/ARD Annual Meeting in Baltimore on September 28-30, 2020. The survey is only 3 questions and takes less than a minute to complete.
- Hold the date: NEED and NERA are co-hosting a listening session on July 14 at 10:00 AM EDT for the [Agriculture Innovation Agenda](#) (posted on NERA website.) We encourage you, your designee or your station scientists to join us. The agenda and connection details will be released this week.
- We're seeking estimates of the negative financial impact that COVID-19 has had on your research operations. What costs have you incurred as a result of research ramp-down or research resumption? Please share those with [us](#).

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### Reminders/Updates:

- The PARS Research Working Group (RWG), the ad hoc committee for which each region nominated representatives from the ranks of staff and directors, will be meeting soon. NERA's staff representative is Rubie Mize (UMD) and director representative is John Dieffenbacher-Krall (UME.) Rubie and John may be reaching out to you or I'd invite you to contact Rubie or John with concerns or reflections on directions that NIFA reporting should be taking.
- The Northeast Administrative Heads met on June 25th to discuss a Northeast agenda. The group will be meeting again on July 16 at 2:30 PM to continue the discussion.
- We've posted on the NERA website, sign-up sheets for [NERA and ESCOP](#)

[committees](#) and [Administrative Adviser](#) slots. The sign-up is a self-nomination. If we have more than one volunteer for a position, we'll host a run-off. Once we have nominations for all open positions, we'll share a ballot for confirmation by NERA. Nominations close on July 17th.

- Now that the 2021 NERA budget has passed, we'll be sending out assessment notices. You might want to give your business offices a heads-up.

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### Informational items:

- On June 22nd, NIFA announced a \$90 million investment in research projects seeking to improve the sustainability of the nation's food supply. Of the eight institutions that were awarded \$10 million each, 3 were in the Northeast. The University of Connecticut and West Virginia University each received a \$10M award and the University of Maryland received two \$20M awards. Congratulations research directors!
- Northeast SARE's [Research and Education](#), [Professional Development](#), and [Research for Novel Approaches](#) grant programs are currently accepting preproposals for the 2021 grant cycle. Preproposals are due online by 5 p.m. ET on Thursday, July 23, 2020.
- Thanks for providing your input on the survey of the BAA's Committee of Legislation and Policy (CLP) Farm Bill priorities. While the [full survey results](#) are posted, the directors have clearly indicated that modification of the match requirements for USDA competitive grants and commitment of funding for LGU infrastructure are high priority items.
- The [notes from the June 10 summer teleconference](#) are posted. Check those out.
- Second time around, vote coming: Fred Servello reported to NERA two items related to the National Research Support Project (NRSP) Review Committee (RC). The NRSP RC has extensively edited the *NRSP Guidelines*. In doing so, the new guidelines have been shortened, streamlined and ambiguous language removed. This was especially important to assist in describing intent surrounding business plans to transition away from off-the-top funding. Your office of the executive director (OED) recommends approval of the new guidelines. The NRSP RC has also developed a two-track category of NRSPs. The two tracks would distinguish core NRSP projects like NRSP1 (*Multistate Research Information Management and Impact Communications Program [NIMSS]*) and NRSP4 (*Facilitating Registration of Pest Management Technology for Specialty Crops and Specialty Uses*) versus new and emerging innovations like NRSP8 (*National Animal Genome Research Project.*) The OED recommends approval of this new designation and direction.
- The University of Maryland is seeking a 4-H Youth Educator in Prince George's County. That [position announcement](#) is posted on the NERA website.



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