



NORTHEAST MULTISTATE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE REPORT

December 12, 2024

Members: Puneet Srivastava (Maryland-Chair), Jason White (CT-New Haven), Blair Siegfried (Penn State), Chris Smart (NY Geneva), Bill Miller (MA/NEED), Brian Schilling (NJ/NEED) [Non-voting, ex officio: Rick Rhodes (NERA), David Leibovitz (NERA)]

Informational Items

Administrative Adviser Vacancies (activities seeking Administrative Advisers)

- NE2101: *Eastern White Pine Health and Responses to Environmental Changes* (AA – George Criner, Maine)
- NE2201: *Mycobacterial Diseases of Animals* (AA – Matt Wilson, West Virginia)
- NE19225: *Current Status and management of herbicide-resistant weeds in Northeastern U.S. currently drafting renewal proposal* (New proposal in 2025)

Northeast Activities / National Research Support Projects ending 09/30/2025

- NECC2001: *Sustainable Farm Energy Production and Use* (AA – Puneet Srivastava, Maryland) **interested in renewal**
- NE2001: *Harnessing Chemical Ecology to Address Agricultural Pest and Pollinator Priorities* (AA – Blair Siegfried, Pennsylvania) **currently drafting renewal proposal**
- NE2045: *Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems: Assessing the Impact of Soil Variability and Climate Change* (AA – Lisa Townson, Rhode Island) **interested in renewal**
- NRSP4: *Facilitating Registration of Pest Management Technology for Specialty Crops and Specialty Uses* (Regional AA – Moses Kairo, Maryland Eastern Shore) **currently drafting renewal proposal**
- NRSP9: *National Animal Nutrition Program* (Regional AA – Rick Rhodes, agInnovation Northeast) **currently drafting renewal proposal**

Northeast Activities / National Research Support Projects new in 2025

- NE19225: *Current Status and management of herbicide-resistant weeds in Northeastern U.S. currently drafting renewal proposal*
- NRSP_TEMP_12: *Building Collaborative Research and Extension Networks to Advance the Research & Application of Science with Urban Communities* (Regional AA – Bill Miller, Massachusetts)
- NRSP_TEMP_13: *Artificial Intelligence for Agricultural Autonomy* (Regional AA – Margaret Smith)

Northeast Mid-Term Reviews to be assigned in 2025

- NE1962: Outdoor Recreation, Parks and Other Green Environments: Understanding Human and Community Benefits and Mechanisms (AA–Anton Bekkerman, New Hampshire)
- NE2201: Mycobacterial Diseases of Animals (AA–Matt Wilson, West Virginia)
- NE2202: The Equine Microbiome (AA–Chris Smart, New York-Geneva)
- NE2203: Legal Issues in Agriculture and Natural Resources (AA–Puneet Srivastava, Maryland)
- NE2204: A regional network of social, behavioral, and economic food systems research (AA–Kumar Venkitanarayanan, Connecticut-Storrs)
- NE2206: Green Stormwater Infrastructure and Agriculture (AA–Wendie Cohick, New Jersey)
- NE2210: Improving Forage and Bioenergy Crops for Better Adaptation, Resilience, and Nutritive Value (AA–Eric Bishop-von Wettberg, Vermont)
- NE2220: Multi-state Coordinated Evaluation of Grape Cultivars and Clones (AA–Margaret Smith, New York-Ithaca)
- NE2227: Contribution of Ovarian Function, Uterine Receptivity, and Embryo Quality to Pregnancy Success in Ruminants (AA–David Townson, Rhode Island)
- NE2231: Collaborative Potato Breeding and Variety Development Activities to Enhance Farm Sustainability in the Eastern US (AA–Margaret Smith, New York-Ithaca)
- NE2248: Mastitis Resistance to Enhance Dairy Food Safety, Milk Quality, and Animal Welfare (AA–Kumar Venkitanarayanan, Connecticut-Storrs)
- NE2249: Sustainable and Inclusive Rural Economic Development to Enhance Housing, Health, Entrepreneurship, and Equity (AA–Anton Bekkerman, New Hampshire)
- NE2251: Tourism Resilience and Community Sustainability: Adaptation and Recovery of Rural Businesses and Destinations (AA–Anton Bekkerman, New Hampshire)
- NECC2202: Formal Structure for the Minor Use Animal Drug Program (AA–Margaret Smith, New York-Ithaca)

Open Discussions

Award Nominations

- *Northeast Excellence in Leadership*: Typically, the Association identifies an individual who has served conspicuously on behalf of agInnovation Northeast. Our past four winners include: Matt Wilson (2024), Jan Nyrop (2023), Jody Jellison (2022), and Fred Servello (2021). **The OED encourages the directors to consider nominees and forward those names to Rick.** Those names will be aggregated, shared with the Executive Committee and, if needed, presented as a slate of nominees to the Association. (Here's a [link to the nomination form.](#))
- *Northeast and National Excellence in Multistate Research*: The Northeast has an excellent portfolio of multistate research projects yet has not won the national multistate research project award since 2010. This past year, the region nominated NE1834 *Genetic Bases for Resistance and Immunity to Avian Diseases*. That project finished a very close second. Shall the NE1834 be refined and resubmitted, or should another project be nominated for consideration? If a different project is submitted, what project? **All Administrative Advisers are encouraged to provide input on the Excellence in Multistate Research nomination.** (Here's a [link to the nomination form.](#))

- *Northeast and National Research Innovation Award of Excellence*: This past year agInnovation sponsored a new award category called the Agricultural Research Innovation Award of Excellence. This award includes identification of a regional winner and from the regional winners, a national winner. (This year's national winner was Barbara Valent, Kansas State University.) The Northeast has no nominations. What can be done to stimulate submissions from the region? (Here's a [link to the nomination form](#).)

New Projects

- With the addition of the first Urban Ag multistate project in the multistate portfolio, what additional projects should the Northeast be contributing? We've heard about Agri-voltaics and Aquaculture, are there others? For these (and if there are others), how shall we kick-start the initiatives?