



Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors

We had a bit of pause in the NERA Office over the past two weeks. Both David and Rick are recovering from COVID. While we were both vaxxed and boosted, we can attest that the BA.5 variant is the real deal. So, we share these recommendations: ensure that you are up to date on your COVID vaccinations and boosters. The demographic of our leadership group falls right into the viral sweet-spot. While we're in the dog-days of summer, be safe! That could include wearing a well-fitted face covering when you are indoors, and you are not able to socially distance from people outside of your household.

"...after three years of war, a death from disease, even if it befell a public figure, had ceased being an event worth talking about." – Oksana Zabushko (2020) in *Your Ad Could Go Here*, Amazon Crossing, Seattle, WA. (Previously published in 2017 as *Pislya tretioho dzinka vhid do zaly zaboronyay*, Komora Publishing House, Kyiv, Ukraine.)

### Action items:

- At the suggestion of colleagues from the University of Delaware, NEED and NERA are co-hosting a "Conversation on Civil Rights Reviews" on Thursday, July 28 at 3:00 PM ET. During the course of the conversation, we'll be discussing preparing for a NIFA Civil Rights Review and what to expect in the aftermath of the review. To connect, please use the [NERA Zoom](#). The password for the Zoom session is "NERA" (all caps).
- The survey is still open to share your reflections of the Joint Summer Meeting. If you attended, we would be very appreciative if you submitted a survey response. You can share your meeting reflections [here](#).
- The NIFA Communications Manager, LaRachelle Samuel-Smith, has received a national mass media inquiry seeking an expert that can address food budgets and home food gardens in response to the question, "Can home gardening help you combat rising grocery store costs?" NIFA is looking for a quick response, by the close of business Tuesday. If you have someone that you'd like to volunteer, please contact [Maggie Lawrence](#).

### Reminders/Updates:

- As a follow-up to the deliberations of the [Blue Ribbon Panel on Enhancing Coordination Between Land-Grant Universities and Colleges](#), the National Academies are hosting two workshops. The first is on July 27 from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM ET and is titled "Can Data Science and AI Enable New Collaborative Platforms Between Diverse Land-Grant Institutions and Create More Impactful Outcomes?" Click here to [register](#) for this first workshop. The second workshop is dedicated to "Building and Sustaining a Culture of Collaboration Across the Land-Grant System." That's on July 28 from 4:00 PM – 5:30 pm ET. Here's the link to [register](#) for this session.

- Registration and the room block for the ESS/CES-NEDA Meeting in Baltimore is expected to go live in the first week of August. As a reminder the theme for the meeting in “Building Trust” and will be held September 25-28 at the Marriott Baltimore Waterfront.
- The notices of the annual NERA assessments will go out this week. While we work closely with your business officers, please watch for these to ensure that the notice does not slip through the cracks.
- **Mark your calendar.** The next NERA quarterly meeting will be held face-to-face on Wednesday, September 28 from 8:00 AM until 2:30 PM. Our regional meeting is in conjunction with the 2022 Joint ESS/CES-NEDA Meeting at the Marriott Baltimore Waterfront in Baltimore, Maryland on September 25-28.

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### Informational items:

- Back in May, we shared a solicitation from ESCOP seeking nominations for researchers that are climate change experts. ESCOP Chair Chris Pritsos has re-issued the request for nominations as NIFA begins to plan a “Climate Summit” and ESCOP appoints a climate change advisory committee. Use this [link](#) to nominate one of your researchers. There is no limit to the number of nominations that you might submit.
- Joint COPS was held last week in Washington, DC. The [ESCOP meeting agenda and the agenda briefs](#) are available on the ESCOP website. We'll share a link to the meeting minutes once the minutes have been completed.
- *Again:* The University of Connecticut is seeking applicants for the position of [Associate Dean for Extension](#). The application period closes on August 24, 2022.
- *Again:* Long-time North Central Executive Director Jeff Jacobsen will be retiring at the end of the calendar year. The region is currently seeking Jeff's replacement. NCRA Chair, Hector Santiago-Anadón is heading the search. Information about the position and the application portal can be found on the University of Nebraska employment website: [Executive Director - North Central Regional Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors, position F\\_220091](#).



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