



NERA

Northeastern Regional Association
of
State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors Meeting

Jekyll Island Club Hotel - Pulitzer Room
371 Riverview Drive, Jekyll Island, Georgia 31527

October 1, 2014 [8:00-10:30AM]

Draft Minutes

Fred Servello, Chair
Tom Burr
Cameron Faustman
Brad Hillman
Mike Hoffmann
Ian Maw
Mark Rieger
Dan Rossi
Adel Shirmohammadi
Gary Thompson
Pat Vittum
Jon Wraith
Rubie Mize

1. Welcome and Introductions – Chair Fred Servello

Chair Fred Servello called the meeting to order at 8:02am, welcomed everyone and asked for brief introductions.

- Approval of Agenda
<http://www.nera.umd.edu/workshop/NERAAgendaOct2014.pdf>

Motion made to approve the draft agenda was seconded and approved.

- Approval of Minutes from the July 2014 NERA Meeting held at Madison, WI
<http://www.nera.umd.edu/workshop/NERAMinutesJuly2014.pdf>

Motion made to approve the minutes was seconded and approved.

- Chair's Interim Actions
 - Released 2014 Joint NEED-NERA Planning Grant with NEED Chair
 - Convened and met with Task Force to review NERA OED organization and other models – Brad Hillman
 - Prepared agenda for this meeting

A Task Force was formed at the spring meeting composed of Brad Hillman, Fred Servello and Gary Thompson. Chair Servello reminded the Directors that in 2013, we had extensive discussion on the NERA budget and it was decided to look into the NERA-OED structure.

Brad Hillman reported that the group met to look at models of the ED office using background materials from Dan Rossi. They looked at models, strength and weaknesses, and other similar positions in the country and how they operate. Operational costs are going up. Can we afford to continue this way, what other model can we use? Should this position be tied to universities? Can one individual do this job or with an assistant?

Gary Thompson noted that it might be helpful to thumbnail the responsibilities of the position as they might not be aware of everything that position does.

Mark Rieger inquired if any of the EDs are part time, and Brad replied that all regions have fulltime EDs. What catalyzed the discussion, Fred added, is that costs of fringe benefits increased significantly in Rutgers.

The Task Force will continue discussion this fall and will report and give recommendations at the spring meeting. Chair Servello said a good block of time will be devoted on this topic at the spring meeting.

2. Multistate Activities Committee Report – Dan Rossi/Fred Servello (for Tim Phipps)

- Recommendation to approve a Request to Write for NE1010-Breeding and Genetics of Forage Crops to Improve Productivity, Quality, and Industrial Uses (10/2017-09/2022)

Action: Motion to accept MAC recommendation was seconded and approved.

- MAC Chair for 2015-18 and NRSP-Review Committee Member

Tim Phipps served as MAC Chair in 2014 and will become NERA Chair in 2015.

Fred Servell agreed to take over as Chair of MAC and NRSP-Review Committee Member

MAC members from NERA are – Fred Servello, Cameron Faustman, Gary Thompson, Tim Phipps

MAC members from NEED are – Pat Vittum, Ken La Valley

- Multistate Advisor assignments – please see Nomination Committee report below
 - NE9 - Conservation and Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources (10/2013-2018) – Susan Brown
 - NE1020 - Multi-state Evaluation of Winegrape Cultivars and Clones (10/2004-2017) – Brad Hillman
 - NRSP8 - National Animal Genome Research Program (10/2013-2018) - Susan Brown

3. NRSP Review Committee Recommendations – Dan Rossi/Fred Servello (for Tim Phipps)

Ballots were distributed for project approval and off-the-top funding for FY14-15

- Proposed changes to NRSP Guidelines
 - Invest up to 1% of total Hatch Funding in NRSPs.

Dan Rossi clarified that if it is not increased will cover the NRSP1 increase, and if approved will cover all off-the-top requests including the new NRSP.

- “For multistate program, including NRSPs, leveraging shall mean funding brought to bear on the project objectives regardless of source, not including in-kind support from host institution(s).”

Dan Rossi explained that ‘leveraged resources’ will only include money, not just support/facilities provided by host university.

- Recommendation to approve the following proposals:
 - **NRSP_temp1(NRSP1) - Multistate Research Information Management and Impact Communications Program, 2014-2017**
Proposal includes system design and maintenance of NIMSS by Clemson University under a three-year contract.

Year 1= \$300,000 [Clemson= \$245,000 Impacts writing= \$55,000]

Note: The 2014-15 NIMSS budget request of \$245,000 corresponds to the first redesign cost of \$265,000 proposed by Clemson minus \$20,000 in carry-over NRSP-1 funds residing at Rutgers.

Year 2= \$183,500 [Clemson = \$128,500 Impacts writing= \$55,000]

Year 3= \$183,500 [Clemson = \$128,500 Impacts writing= \$55,000]

Dan Rossi emphasized that these are two very important activities supporting the directors. The original NIMSS rolled out in 2002 with \$4000 support each from the regions. There is urgent need to upgrade with latest software and technology. Clemson was selected as they have experience with USDA-EFNEP.

The first year, involving major NIMSS renovations, will cost \$265,000. Second and third years will be \$128,500 each, and expected to go down significantly after the third year to cover just maintenance. \$20k from Rutgers already in process of transfer to Clemson as and they have started working on the design. NRSP1 increased from \$75 to \$300K. New design to be rolled out Sept. 2015.

- **NRSP_temp3(NRSP3) - The National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP), 2014-2019**
Recommends approval of five-year project with off-the-top funding of \$50,000 per year.

Jon Wraith noted that this is a productive group. \$50K keeps the experiment stations involved, and millions come from other sources. Agencies show up at meetings.

NRSP3 had presented at past NERA meetings and we can invite them again. Chair Servello mentioned that when they came to our meeting, our Directors were convinced that we should continue to fund this project. 50K minimum guarantees our continued participation.

- **NRSP_temp301 (NRSP7) - A National Agricultural Program for Minor Use Animal Drugs, 2014-2015**

Recommends approval of one-year project and off-the-top funding of \$325,000.

Dan Rossi noted that the project lost funding from congress, and asked for \$325K support. They need to work on a plan to support the program, and demonstrate that they can secure funding they need. \$325K is not really sufficient to run the program. They looked at combining with IR-4, but split off because they were different, and then again proposed to combine but now has even less commonality. It is a valuable program but securing additional funding has been an issue for the last 3 years.

- **NRSP_temp321 (new project) - Database Resources for Crop Genomics, Genetics and Breeding Research**

Recommends approval of five-year project with off-the-top funding as follows:

Year 1 = \$398,631	Other Sources = \$597,354
Year 2 = \$370,165	Other Sources = \$732,278
Year 3 = \$381,834	Other Sources = \$359,245
Year 4 = \$433,969	Other Sources = \$239,837
Year 5 = \$406,591	Other Sources = \$238,238

Tim Phipps brought our concerns to the NRSPRC and asked if we are just adding on to existing databases.

Gary Thompson looked into this and was impressed with new tools already developed and proposed to be expanded. Adel Shirmohammadi asked why this is not federally funded if it supports national program. Use federal funds not on backs of experiment stations. Historically, animal genome database started from NSF, and was origin of genome networks. Dan Rossi noted that there have been similar discussion on germplasm support, similar arguments had gone through analysis and the system could not come up with better models.

Each station will vote individually on the NRSPs. Vote for this new NRSP is for the proposal and the 5-year budget. Project leader, Dr. Dorrie Main at Washington State University (WSU), did a webinar arranged through the North Central, Dan attended and questions were answered.

4. Executive Director's Report – Dan Rossi

- 9 proposals were submitted for the NEED-NERA Planning Grant. Funding is \$4K each from NEED & NERA. Review Committee will meet on Oct. 8, then NERA Dirs. will vote on it.
- Climate hub – Dan Rossi and Nancy Bull had met with them and are now part of the Northeast group that has monthly calls. The Hub will move forward with projects at PennState, Cornell,

UNH (website) and Univ. of Vermont. States have signed and funds sent. DC and CT-NH were not included, and they'll try to correct that. Urban perspective is very important. Initial funds were taken from existing funds. Hub will be visiting states in a couple of months.

- Summer Joint Session will be hosted by UNH July 6-8.
- New NERA homepage at Rutgers will soon be rolled out
- IR4 relocated from Cornell to NJ, and running it from IR4 HQs will have savings from salaries. Project Mgt. Committee (PMC) has director from each region, but no one from Northeast. Dan Rossi serves as the Advisor, and when Cornell Director steps down, Dan Rossi will take that role. The PMC decides resource allocation.
- ESCOP Communication and Marketing Committee is going forward with the \$55K message testing for marketing target.
- Dan Rossi helped organized the ESS/SAES/ARD workshop and invited Dr. Chavoda Jacobs-Young for the ARS Update
- Support work of the Futuring Task Force and Capital Infrastructure, both led by Mike Hoffmann
- Dan Rossi is LEAD21 chair this year

There are three issues that Dan Rossi wanted Directors to keep an eye on –

1- NIFA Center of Excellence, which will allow prioritization of support for grants if you can demonstrate that you have a center of excellence. Sonny Ramaswamy supports creation of regional centers. Dan Rossi will assemble the materials/links related to this and forward the letter to everyone, and Jon Wraith's letter.

2 – NIFA AFRI Review - ESCOP asked Science & Tech Committee to come up with response. This will have considerable influence on funding decisions.

3- POW Panel of Experts – Cameron Faustman agreed to represent NERA and will push for a simple system. Directors were requested to give inputs to Cameron Faustman.

5. 2014-15 Planning Grants – Dan Rossi

- 2014 Joint NEED-NERA Planning Grant
- NERA Planning Grants Update
 - Please refer to attached planning grants update distributed at the meeting.
 - \$20M grants obtained of the \$47,000 NERA spent

Discussion: Since nine proposals were submitted for the NEED-NERA planning grant, Dan Rossi asked if the directors still want us to release our NERA planning grant or should we just look at those proposals, fund one under the Joint NEED/NERA and if there are other good ones, just fund those under the NERA Planning Grant. The \$10K NERA cap might attract those who didn't submit to the joint program. Dan proposed reducing the NERA cap, but Directors decided to keep it at \$10K.

A motion was made to move forward with a separate competition for NERA. It was seconded and approved.

The directors suggested looking at the Joint NEED-NERA perform in the long run, and review the NERA process.

6. ESCOP Update – Mike Hoffmann and Dan Rossi

- Experiment Station Section Meeting Agenda and Briefs
<http://escop.ncsu.edu/Docs/2014ESSBusinessMeetingAgendaWithBriefs.pdf>

Dan Rossi reminded the directors to check their assignments as ESCOP representatives. Senior reps. will attend upcoming ESCOP meetings in Nov. 2014 and March 2015.

Directors were encouraged to use the impacts reporting site, as this will be used by k-global and Cornerstone in their marketing activities.

Futuring Task Force membership has changed, and expanded to include 1994s and non-land grants. They will have a call on Oct. 10 and meet at APLU in November. The group needs a facilitator to organize and manage the futuring project. Mike Hoffmann had looked at what companies are out there.

Mike reported that Sonny Ramaswamy wants estimates from the system to refund existing facility grants. He is working with Ian Maw on draft cover letter to assess institutions, based on NIFA funding formula. At most, 15K for large institutions. They came up with a fair distribution so small ones don't pay as high as large institutions.

7. “Are there emerging needs for agricultural engineering research or tech transfer in the NE - a topic for a future NERA discussion?” – Chair Fred Servello

Chair Fred Servello proposed the topic for ‘Best Practice’ discussion at our spring meeting. He gave a brief background on where it came from and noted that stakeholders aired concerns that we are not giving enough attention to engineering needs of smallscale producers—greenhouse needs of organic farmers, irrigation etc.

- Most ag engineering in colleges have changed and moved elsewhere.
- Tools are being brought in from Europe by faculty. Do we need to develop new tools to address energy, climate change, irrigation, equipment, systems etc.?
- Tech transfer in the context of ag engineering – extension/outreach sharing for example of new tools

Jon Wraith is hiring two ag engineers at UNH.

Cornell has biological engineers. Mike Hoffmann noted on water management and energy side- studies to develop renewable get stuck on economic standpoint. If there are new approaches we should be able to share and help farmers afford those.

Gary Thompson at PSU has online program and just set up management committee consists of engineering and agriculture departments co-located in the college.

Adel Shirmohammadi shared that in 2006, Biological Resource Engineering in the College of Ag moved to the College of Engineering. Engineering application for agriculture is different than what engineering colleges do, like mechanical, civil etc. College is missing agric. and biological engineering. Most RFAs require this and hence, can be a lost opportunity. Adel S. plans to start a graduate program.

Dan Rossi asked if there is a regional model that we can look at. Now that colleges have downsized, this is a need that we have determined.

Adel S. mentioned that there is a cluster of 3-4 faculty funded jointly at UMD.

Gary Thompson noted that smallscale equipment tech transfer have several start-ups because big equipment companies like John Deere are not jumping on this. Tech transfer is important in this context. Gary suggested someone like Paul Hineman – PSU department head.

Mark Rieger noted that as a college that lost bioresource engineering, UDEL needs this.

Chair Fred Servello concluded to go ahead with the topic, write 2-3 topics that you want speaker to talk about or for us to discuss in March 2015. We should aim to complement and not duplicate.

Dan Rossi also suggested a short survey on how you use your Hatch funds? One liner question – answer salary, travel, research etc. A very short survey but will be valuable.

8. Station Updates – All

Directors gave brief updates on new executive hires, budget issues and personnel needs.

Gary Thompson (PA) – new dean starting today, Dr. Richard Roush, coming as Dean from University of Melbourne, but an American citizen. PSU held meeting on GMO issues attended by faculty and legislators. Climate change hub well underway and meets every two weeks.

Brad Hillman (NJ) – also involved with GMO issues. President from medical school background brought in for merger acquisition of medical school, increasing students from 50K-65K. New Institute for Nutrition and Health created to include food science and nutrition in the college. Dissolved Marine Coastal Sciences, will return shellfish, aquaculture labs back to experiment station.

Mark Rieger (DE) – He is very supportive of facilities fund. Small universities need all the help they can get. Forestry faculty arriving, and asked to please connect her with colleagues in institutions, same with the equine expert. Help plug them in regional network. Searching for head of Animal Science. Poultry diagnostics lab just built.

Tom Burr (NYG) – He plans to leave the Director's office end Dec. and will go back to his lab. \$5M new agreement to develop greenhouses, funding raised by state senator very supportive of Geneva. Near completion of phase 1 agric. sciences research lab, to replace old food science lab. Funding came from same state senator and Fingerlakes Economic Dev. Council. This is being packaged as an economic development project, not an academic project, that will serve small businesses. Viticulture facility being constructed. It is a nice linkage of Cornell and Fingerlakes College, preparing workforce for the wine

industry, and includes agreement that some students go on to Cornell. Refurbish plant growth chambers, over half million funding. New soil microbiologist from Australia. Wrapping up strategic planning for Geneva station to lay out priority projects for research and extension and what faculty needed. Integration of units, some moving to Ithaca.

Adel Shirmohammadi (MD) – commends Mark R. on cooperating with UMD on multistate seed grants. Because of proximity, MD and DE are sharing plant pathology faculty. New Assoc. Dean of Extension, Dr. Stephen Wright, attended field day at DE. Dean Wei tenure ending, search next year. Joint annual symposium with BARC on Nov. 13 on organic production, animal, plant, food and human health. ARS Administrator and NPLs met with UMD's VP-Research, Dean, Stephen and Adel. Will go to Boston to meet architect for new integrated facility. \$450K seed grants, \$30K per proposal also created good outcomes, collect seed data to enable them to write expanded proposals. Need funding for facilities that need renovation, campus fund on hold. Department Chair of Animal Science search ongoing. Hired 4 faculty for plant science and landscape architecture.

Jon Wraith (NH) – hired new communications specialist 6 mos. ago. replacing admin staff at college and had good results, enhanced cooperation with Extension. Spaces are old and outdated, and need for more labs got Provost's attention so got budget item Integrated BioSciences line for building and renovation for 3 teaching labs this coming summer, for legislature approval. 2-year applied science program created. Searching for extension director, have 2 internal candidates. Climate hub met few times and hope it's useful to institution and stakeholder, folks at forestry looking for funds. UNH will hire halftime website manager for Climate Hub.

Mike Hoffmann (NYC) – first female president for Cornell Elizabeth Garrett came on board as of yesterday, and very interested in public service. 6-8 in Cornell involved in climate hub, responsible for vulnerability risk assessment. Cornell Institute for Climate Change has tripled funding. Director fully overwhelmed. Conducted process improvement of greenhouse, reduce costs and improve energy use. New World Foundation – bought large plot for climate friendly farm. Social scientists, 80-90% believe but only 9% will take political action on climate change.

Cameron Faustman (CT) – College has new name -- College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources. Added Department of Kinesiology under college. Hired 11 new faculty, but asked to cut budget by 3%, no firing but will affect graduate student support.

Fred Servello (ME) – Lots of openings at UMaine as retirement incentives were offered to faculty and staff. Looking for a communications specialist, will request job description from Jon Wraith.

Pat Vittum (MA) – currently wearing two hats as Interim Director of Experiment Station and Extension. Dean is very supportive of AES. College having difficulty finding animal science faculty to work on horse farm.

Ian Maw (APLU) – announced annual APLU meeting on November 2-4 in Orlando, FL. Great plenary session on 'crisis communication in campus' with a nationally known presenter. Communication and Marketing Committee moving ahead with 'message testing' led by Darren Katz of k-global.

9. Nominations Committee Report – Adel Shirmohammadi

Adel S. made a committee motion to approve the following appointments. The motion was seconded and approved.

- NERA Executive Committee for 2015
 - Chair – Tim Phipps (WV)
 - Vice-Chair – Cameron Faustman (CTS)
 - Officer-at-Large – Mark Rieger (DE)
 - Past Chair – Fred Servello (ME)
- Resolutions Committee – Brad Hillman (NJ)
- Multistate Activities Committee Chair, 2014-2018 and NRSP Review Committee Member - Fred Servello (ME)
- Multistate Advisor Assignments:
 - NE9 - Conservation and Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources (10/2013-2018) – Susan Brown (NYC)
 - NE1020 - Multi-state Evaluation of Winegrape Cultivars and Clones (10/2004-2017) – Brad Hillman (NJ)
 - NRSP8 - National Animal Genome Research Program (10/2013-2018) - Susan Brown (NYC)
- NERA Representative to the National Plant Germplasm Coordinating Committee (NPGCC), an ESCOP Committee <http://escop.ncsu.edu/ViewCommittees.cfm?comid=41> - Susan Brown (NYC)
- NERA Delegate to the ESCOP Science and Technology Committee <http://escop.ncsu.edu/ViewCommittees.cfm?comid=5> - Adel Shirmohammadi (MD)

10. Resolutions Committee Report – Brad Hillman

The following Resolution of Appreciation to Tom Burr read by Brad Hillman, was approved by the Directors.

Resolution of Appreciation to Tom Burr

WHEREAS, Dr. Tom Burr has distinguished himself as Director of New York State Agricultural Experiment Station and Associate Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences since 2005, having started his career in 1977 as Professor in the Department of Plant Pathology at Cornell University, and

WHEREAS, Dr. Burr has made significant contributions through his research on plant diseases, and in particular his work on *Agrobacterium vitis*, cause of grape crown gall. His research had helped numerous practitioners and grape growers manage this economically devastating disease in the region and worldwide, and

WHEREAS, Dr. Burr served as Chair of NERA in 2010, member of the Multistate Activities Committee, 2006-2009, and Resolutions Committee member since 2008. He also served as Advisor for multistate projects NE9 - Conservation and Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources; NE1020 - Multi-state Evaluation of Winegrape Cultivars and Clones; and NRSP8 - National Animal Genome Research Program, and

WHEREAS, Dr. Burr generously served as NERA Representative to ESCOP Committees such as the Budget and Legislative Committee, Science and Technology Committee, and as Chair of the National Plant Germplasm Coordinating Committee (NPGCC), and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors at their meeting in Jekyll Island, Georgia, on October 1, 2014, express sincere appreciation to Dr. Burr for his dedicated service and many valuable contributions to the Association and the Land-grant system, and wish him much success in his future professional activities and personal endeavors.

Signed on October 1, 2014 by:
Fred Servello, Chair
Northeastern Regional Association of State
Agricultural Experiment Station Directors

11. Future Meetings:

- ESCOP Executive Committee Meeting – November 3, 2014, Hilton Orlando Bonnet Creek, Orlando, FL
- ESCOP Committee Meeting – March 2, 2015, Omni Shoreham Hotel, Washington, DC
- NERA Spring Meeting – March 9-11, 2015, Baltimore, MD
- 2015 Northeast Joint Summer Meeting – July 6-8, 2015, Sheraton Hotel, Portsmouth, NH

12. Closing Remarks/Passing of the Gavel – Fred Servello and Tim Phipps

Chair Fred Servello thanked everyone for an engaging discussion, and Dan Rossi and Rubie Mize for their support. Tim Phipps was not able to attend due to important commitments at WVU.

Adjourned at 10:43AM.

Agenda Item 8: NRSP Review Committee Update

Presenter: Bret Hess

Action Requested: For action/vote

NRSP Review Committee Members

<p>Bret Hess, Chair (WAAESD)</p> <p>Delegates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shirley Hymon-Parker (ARD)• Doug Buhler (NCRA)• Tom Bewick (NIFA)• Clarence Watson (SAAESD)• L. Washington Lyons (Cooperative Extension)	<p>Executive Directors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Eric Young (SAAESD)• Mike Harrington, Executive Vice-Chair (WAAESD) <p>Interim Delegate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tim Phipps (NERA) <p>Stakeholder Representative:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Don Latham (CARET)
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Background:

The NRSP Review Committee (NRSP-RC) met in Denver, CO on June 17, 2014 for its annual meeting and held a follow up conference call on August 18th to discuss resources needed for the NRSP-1/NIMSS revision (see attached proposal and update) and remaining questions on the NRSP_temp321 proposal.

The following actions were taken by the NRSP-RC:

(Note: These actions are seconded motions that require a majority vote of the Directors to overturn. If this occurs there will be an alternative motion put forward for consideration.)

- **Guidelines Changes:**

Motion and second and unanimous approval of the following recommendation for substantive changes to the NRSP Guidelines:

- **Section III. A. General:** Change bullet four under delegated authority to “delegate authority to the NRSP-RC to invest up to 1% of total Hatch Funding in NRSPs.”
- **Section IV. B Management and Business Plan:** Add the following “For the multistate program, including NRSPs; leveraging shall mean funding brought to bear on the project objectives regardless of source, not including in-kind support from host institution(s).”

- **Funding recommendations:**

A summary of the NRSP portfolio, including NRSP-RC actions, is below.

NRSP 2014-2015

Requests for Off-the-Top Funding

Project	Request FY2012	Authorized FY2012	Request FY2013	Authorized FY2013	Request FY2014	Approved FY2014	†Request FY2015	NRSP Review Committee Recommendation
NRSP1 ¹	50,000	50,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000		
NRSP3	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	<i>see below</i>	
NRSP4	481,182	481,182	481,182	481,182	481,182	481,182	481,182	
NRSP6	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	
NRSP7	325,000	325,000	325,000	325,000	325,000	325,000	<i>see below</i>	
NRSP8	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	
NRSP9	175,000	175,000	175,000	175,000	175,000	175,000	175,000	
NRSP_TEMP001 (NRSP1)							300,000	Approve 3-year budget ¹
NRSP_TEMP003 (NRSP3)							50,000	Approve 5-year budget
NRSP_TEMP301 (NRSP7)							325,000	Approve 1-year budget ²
NRSP_TEMP321							398,631	Approve 5-year budget ³

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

¹NRSP-1 plans to terminate on September 30, 2014. NRSP_TEMP001 is requesting approval of a new 3-year proposal and budget to facilitate an overhaul of the NIMSS and maintenance of the new system through a 3-year contract with Clemson University; the impact communications component of the project is ongoing. The 3-year budget is:

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
MRF Funding	300,000	183,500	183,500

²NRSP7 must demonstrate that they have secured new (not in-kind) funds that are equal to or more than 2x the off-the-top funding requested prior to submitting a renewal proposal.

³Unlike other NRSPs, the NRSP_temp321 MRF budget varies. The 5-year budget is as follows (please reference NIMSS for complete budget details):

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
MRF Funding	398,631	370,165	381,834	433,969	406,591
Other Funding	597,354	732,278	359,245	239,837	238,238
Total Project Budget	995,985	1,102,443	741,079	673,806	644,829

Summary of NRSPs

Project Number	Project Name	Project Period	Midterm Review Year
NRSP-1	National Information Management and Support System (NIMSS)	2011-2014	2014
NRSP-1 (NRSP_TEMP001)	National Information Management and Support System (NIMSS)	2014-2017	2016
NRSP-3 (NRSP_TEMP003)	The National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP)	2014-2019	2017
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 (NRSP_TEMP301)	A National Agricultural Program for Minor Use Animal Drugs	2014-2015	-
NRSP-8	National Animal Genome Research Program	2013-2018	2016
NRSP-9	National Animal Nutrition Program	2010-2015	2013
NRSP_temp321	Database Resources for Crop Genomics, Genetics and Breeding Research	2014-2019	2017

Project Number: NRSP-1

Project Title: Multistate Research Information Management and Impact Communications Program

Requested Duration: October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2017

Administrative Advisors: William Brown, Jeff Jacobsen, Steve Loring, Adel Shirmohammadi

NIFA Representative: Bart Hewitt

STATEMENT OF ISSUES AND JUSTIFICATION

NRSP-1 serves two critical functions for the State Agricultural Experiment Station (SAES) System. First, it supports the National Information Management and Support System (NIMSS). NIMSS was designed to facilitate the management of multistate research and Extension activities supported by the Hatch Multistate Research Fund (MRF), from conception of the proposal to project termination. NIMSS is a web-based application allowing: (1) online submission of proposals, peer reviews and progress reports, and (2) ready access to this information. An automated e-mail notification function prompts users to take action and sends out notifications for meetings and report deadlines. Researchers, Extension educators, stakeholders and other cooperators can search NIMSS for relevant and timely information related to multistate research projects. In addition, the public has access to research project outlines and impacts. NIMSS is now serving all of the 1862 and 1890 Land-grant institutions, allowing them to manage, in a totally paperless system, their multistate research portfolios. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA) also uses NIMSS to download and integrate data into its management dashboard and pre-populate federal forms.

The second important function that NRSP-1 serves is the communication of impacts of multistate research and Extension activities. The impact communications component of NRSP-1 enhances the visibility of Land-grant institutions and the success of the multistate research projects. Impact statements are prepared by a communications specialist at the termination of every project (approximately 60 per year) and are sent to: Administrative Advisors, Regional Executive Directors and their assistants, NIFA representatives and the ESCOP marketing agency kglobal. Administrative Advisors share the statements with project participants, partner trade associations, regulatory organizations, and other stakeholders. The impact statements are posted on the Regional Association websites and are also entered into the National Land-grants Impact Database (<http://www.landgrantimpacts.org>). They are used by NIFA staff in the preparation of reports and responses to Congressional and other inquiries. kglobal features the impact statements on the Ag Is America website (<http://agisamerica.org/>), and on the Ag Is America Twitter feed (reaching over 26,000 users) and Facebook page with about 4,000 followers. This relatively new component of NRSP-1 has been extremely effective and very well received within the Land-grant University system, its public and private partners, its stakeholders and the public in general. Collectively, the NIMSS database system and the impact communications program provide for open and transparent systems that enhance compliance and accountability for SAES.

The Experiment Station Section is entering into a three-year contract with Clemson University to redesign, host and maintain NIMSS. The first year will be focused on the redesign of NIMSS, while the

following two years will provide ongoing maintenance and the opportunity to further enhance NIMSS. The NIMSS redesign will provide substantial direct benefits to administrators and staff of SAES, participating scientists, federal agencies, and many others utilizing this system. There will also be indirect benefits to the public through increased access to current activities and outcomes from the Multistate Research portfolio.

The contract with Clemson will be for the period October 1, 2014 to September 30, 2017. The NRSP-1 Management Committee requests that the current NRSP-1 be terminated effective September 30, 2014 and that this new project be approved for a three year period, October 1, 2014 to September 30, 2017, to correspond to the contract with Clemson. Approval of this request will allow the project to continue to provide critical research support services to the SAES system during the three year contract with Clemson. During the final year of this project, a new five year NRSP-1 project proposal will be developed to support the enhanced NIMSS and the impact communications programs.

IMPLEMENTATION

Objectives and Projected Outcomes

Objective 1: Maintain and enhance the effectiveness and functionality of NIMSS and access and utilization of the NIMSS database.

Objective 2: More effectively document and communicate impacts of the multistate research activities

Outcomes:

At any given time, there are about 300 active multistate research projects and activities recorded in NIMSS. At its peak period, NIMSS gets 28,000 hits per day, and an average of 15,000 hits per day during normal operations. Data transferred varied from 2GB to 4GB per day, during slow to heavy periods. New users register daily and the number of registered active, frequent users are recorded at over 11,000. NIMSS will continue to serve this clientele and the public during the project period, allowing for timely submission of proposals and reports, conduct of peer reviews, meeting notifications, participation and access to information in real time.

In addition, new functionalities will be introduced in NIMSS to enhance access to and quality of information available to users. It is anticipated that participation will continue to be expanded to include those outside the Land-grant system, and will include additional federal and state partners, producers, commodity groups, foundations and foreign scientists. NIMSS will serve as an effective communication tool to share research data and hence, ease the application of new discoveries and technology transfer.

Since its inception in 2002, NIMSS has been used to collect and store information on hundreds of scientists working in multistate projects in specific Knowledge Areas (KAs), Subject of Investigation (SOI) and Field of Science (FOS). NIMSS serves as a national repository of experts and their specializations. This capability will be explored further to build programs to analyze where expertise can be tapped to address national and regional priorities and to solve emerging problems.

NIMSS will be transformed into an even more effective tool in reporting the accomplishments and impacts of agricultural research carried out by Land-grant institutions. This impact information will be used to prepare more effective impact statements from multistate research activities. The Impacts Communication Specialist will continue to refine and enhance the impact statements. More effective ways to communicate impacts will be developed to reach a broader audience. Timely and relevant impact stories will continue to be identified and targeted to popular press outlets such as newspapers (local and national), university publications, industry magazines, agriculture magazines and online news sites. These efforts will greatly enhance the visibility of the Land-grant universities and specifically demonstrate the return in public investment in the multistate research system.

Management Budget and Business Plan

General oversight, policy development, proposal preparation and budget recommendation will be provided by a Management Committee composed of: four Administrative Advisors, representing each of the four SAES regions; an ARD Director; a Cooperative Extension Director; the NIMSS Manager; the four Regional System Administrators; two director's administrative assistants who use NIMSS routinely; and two communicators/writers to advise the impact reporting program. The Administrative Advisors will elect one of their representatives to be the Lead Advisor and Chair of the Committee. NIFA will assign one or more non-voting representatives to the Committee.

NIMSS is managed by each of the Regional Associations serving the SAES. The Regional System Administrators handle the day-to-day tasks related to maintaining the system and answer queries from their users.

The WAAESD Office (WDO) provides coordination, editorial oversight, and physical space to the impact communications component of NRSP-1. The WDO also provides coordination between this effort and the ongoing efforts of ESCOP and ECOP (i.e., with kglobal, Cornerstone, the ESCOP/ECOP Communications and Marketing Committee, and the National Land-grant Impacts Database Project).

Funding for NRSP-1 will be provided through an off-the-top allocation from the Hatch Multistate Research Fund. NRSP-1 will provide important administrative support services to research administrators and staff, project participants and other users of NIMSS and the impact communication efforts. Funding for NRSP-1 is seen as an administrative expense and alternative sources of funding are not anticipated.

Integration and Documentation of Budget Support

NRSP-1 was developed to facilitate the management and communication of the impacts of integrated research and Extension activities supported by the Hatch Multistate Research Fund. It supports all 1862 and 1890 Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension participants. The program can also accommodate integrated education activities as the need arises.

Outreach, Communications and Assessment

Input from SAES administrators and scientists on issues of policy, planning, and management of NRSP-1 is essential element in sustaining it as an effective support system. The approval of this NRSP provides

the mechanism to support the representation of user interests and provide a forum to assess the effectiveness of the outreach of the NRSP-1 programs.

The Regional System Administrators will serve as the primary contacts and source of information and training for university administrators, program managers, investigators, business officers, and station staff using NIMSS. The WDO will serve as the primary contact and source of information on the impact communications component. The NRSP-1 Management Committee will serve as stakeholder representatives in addressing assessment issues and to help evaluate the effectiveness of outreach efforts. The representatives will be responsible for collecting information from the institutions in their respective regions or associations to reflect the effectiveness of the NIMSS and the impact communications programs in meeting their needs and objectives. The Committee will provide an annual report outlining the accomplishments of the previous year in support of the objectives at the ESS fall meeting. A copy of the report will accompany the annual budget request.

PROJECT PARTICIPATION: All 1862 and 1890 Land-grant Institutions

LITERATURE CITED: N/A

BUDGET:	<u>2014-15</u>	<u>2015-16</u>	<u>2016-17</u>
NIMSS:	\$245,000 ¹	\$128,500 ²	\$128,500 ²
Impact Communications Project:	\$ 55,000	\$ 55,000	\$ 55,000
TOTAL	\$300,000	\$183,500	\$183,500

¹ The 2014-15 NIMSS budget request of \$245,000 corresponds to the first redesign cost of \$265,000 proposed by Clemson minus \$20,000 in carry-over NRSP-1 funds residing at Rutgers.

² The 2015-16 and 2016-17 NIMSS budget requests of \$128,500 reflect the on-going operations and maintenance cost proposed by Clemson.

NIMSS Update (9/2014)

Presenters: Jeff Jacobsen, Dan Rossi

Current NIMSS - NIMSS had undergone two transfers in 2014. The first involved moving the system from the Univ. of Maryland to an external server, and the second to a Rutgers' Amazon Web Service account. The transfer to the Rutgers' server account was completed on August 27. Coding adjustments are underway to correct glitches due to a software upgrade (to ColdFusion ver.11) related to the second migration. Data entry is working and upload to the NIFA REEport has been restored. Approval letters and meeting authorizations are not automatically sent yet, but can be copied and pasted to committees as needed. At this time, the current system will be maintained and used until the newly re-designed NIMSS is ready for rollout. Maintenance of the current system is planned for the remainder of CY2014 and CY2015.

Future "NIMSS"- A subcommittee of NRSP1 [Jeff Jacobsen (chair), Bill Brown, Steve Loring, Adel Shirmohammadi, Shirley Hyman-Parker, Chris Hamilton] reviewed the responses to a national solicitation for a redesign of NIMSS. Available members of this group and two IT professionals (Robert Ridenour UTIA; John Chamberlain NMSU) participated in a conference call with Clemson's Youth Learning Institute Information Technology Team (ITT) to respond to provided questions and offer additional insights. Several follow-on calls were made to clarify residual questions. In addition, two other IT professionals reviewed this proposal with favorable recommendations. These details were provided to NRSP1 electronically and discussed in conference calls.

NRSP1 recommends developing a contract with Clemson's ITT for the redesign, operations and maintenance of the new system. The one-time cost of the redesign is \$265,000 and the on-going cost of operations/maintenance is \$128,500. This would require: 1) termination of NRSP1 on September 30, 2014, and renewal with a 3-year proposal and budget and 2) a contract for service with ITT.

Our discussion has been to develop a 3-year contract. One year of redesign and two years of operations/maintenance with the new system. This would result in a redesign that is responsive, operational and optimally tested by the national system over the following two years.

Recommended ESS Actions for NIMSS:

NRSP1 recommends that the new, 3-year NRSP1 budget for NIMSS be:

- \$245,000 one-time NIMSS redesign (\$265,000 - \$20,000 in carry-over funds) for FY2015
- \$128,500 on-going NIMSS operations/maintenance for FY2016
- \$128,500 on-going NIMSS operations/maintenance for FY2017
- The new 3-year budget would also include an increase the budget for the Impact Communications Specialist to \$55,000 (from \$53,410) for FY2015, FY2016, and FY2017 to accommodate variable fringe benefit rates.
- The total request for NRSP1 is \$300,000 [FY2015], \$183,500 [FY2016] and \$183,500 [FY2017] as presented in three-year NRSP1 proposal [FY2014-17].

A proposed NIMSS redesign team composed of: four regional NIMSS System Administrators (Chris Hamilton, Sarah Lupis, Rubie Mize, Donna Pearce), one Executive Director (Jeff Jacobsen), Director (Steve Loring), four State staff regional representatives (Shelley Whitworth [NC], Tammy Heil [S], Angie Dangerfield [W], Rachel Unger [NE]), NIFA representative (Katelyn Sellers). In addition, ITT recommends that 1-2 people become the day-to-day contacts for their programmers. Chris and Sarah have volunteered to be these contacts.

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NERA Meeting
October 1, 2014
Jekyll Island Club Hotel, Jekyll Island, Georgia

Report of the Office of the Executive Director
July 12 – September 30, 2014

NERA and Regional Activities

- NERA Planning Grants Program
 - Supported the 2014 award recipients
 - Finalized and distributed the announcement for a second round of NEED-NERA planning grants
 - Assisted in recruiting members for the planning grant review committee
- NE USDA Climate Hub
 - Organized a call with the NE Climate Hub leadership and Nancy Bull to discuss better coordination
 - Participated in bi-monthly conference calls with NE Climate Hub state representatives
 - Participated in monthly calls with NE Climate Hub leadership
- 2015 NERA Spring Meeting
 - Requested proposals from the Admiral Fell Inn and Lord Baltimore Hotel for the March 9-11, 2015 NERA meetings in Baltimore, MD.
- 2015 Northeast Summer Session
 - Coordinated with University of New Hampshire to plan next summer's joint session, July 6-8, 2015 in Portsmouth, NH
- NERA Chair Support
 - Assisted in the development of the October 2014 NERA meeting agenda and compiled agenda materials
 - Prepared NERA Chair's Interim Actions report
 - Prepared NERA ESCOP Report
 - Prepared NERA OED report
 - Assisted in the development of the October 2014 NERA Executive Committee meeting agenda
 - Assisted NERA Task Force to examine alternative executive director organizational models
 - Assisted in recruiting a Northeast research representative for the NIFA Plan of Work Expert Panel
- NERA Website
 - Worked with website developer to redesign the NERA website
 - Prepopulated the new website
- Northeast Regional Aquaculture Center Mid-Atlantic
 - Served as a member of Board of Directors
 - Approved as necessary appointments to the Industry and Technical Advisory Committees

- IR-4 (NRSP-4)
 - Served as Regional Administrative Advisor
 - Assisting in the development of a strategic planning effort and a new five year NRSP-4 proposal
 - Assisted NIFA in developing a peer review for NRSP-4
 - Assisted in developing proposals for alternative NE regional locations
- NE-1049
 - Served as Administrative Advisor
- Multistate Activities Committee (MAC) Support
 - Assisted advisor and technical committee members in submitting the revised proposal for NE_TEMP2182: Biology, Ecology & Management of Emerging Disease Vectors, 10/2014-9/2019 [Renewal of NE1043]. This proposal was given conditional approval at the summer meeting. The revision has been accepted by MAC and the new project is approved by NIFA, NE1443.
 - Assisted advisor and technical committee members in submitting a Request to Write for NE1010-Breeding and Genetics of Forage Crops to Improve Productivity, Quality, and Industrial Uses (10/2017-09/2022).

National Activities

- ESS/CES Communications and Marketing Committee Co-Chair Support
 - Served as the ESS Executive Director point person
 - Assisted in scheduling, planning and developing agenda for Executive Committee and Full Committee conference calls
 - Drafted the Committee recommendation for the Marketing Initiative expansion for the Policy Board of Directors
 - Prepared monthly reports for ESCOP CAC calls
 - Prepared agenda brief for October ESS meeting
- ESCOP Chair's Advisory Committee (CAC)
 - Participated in monthly CAC conference calls
 - Assisted in recruiting an ESCOP representative to the BAA Committee on Legislation and Policy
- ESS/SAES/ARD Annual Meeting and Workshops
 - Assisted in the development of the program agenda
 - Assisted in the development of the ESS business meeting agenda
 - Organized a workshop on Collaborative Opportunities with ARS
- NRSP-1 Management Committee
 - Provided support to the NRSP-1 Management Committee
 - Facilitated monthly conference calls of the NRSP-1 Management Committee
 - Assisted in preparing a three year funding plan for NRSP-1 including the NIMSS redesign
 - Drafted a new three-year (FY15-17) proposal for NRSP-1
- NIMSS
 - Supported transfer of NIMSS from University of Maryland (UMD) to Amazon cloud based server (AWS)

- Established an AWS account for NERA/Rutgers, provided access and worked closely with UMD and NIMSS programmers, AWS tech. support and USDA-NIFA for a successful migration of NIMSS to the Rutgers server account on Amazon.
- Facilitated a number of repairs to NIMSS resulting from these two migrations
- Assisted in the negotiations with Clemson for the redesign and hosting of NIMSS
- Prepared a preliminary phase agreement between Clemson and Rutgers to initiate work on the redesign of NIMSS
- Served as regional NIMSS Coordinator
- Provided national level support for the operations of NIMSS
- Supported NIFA Management Dashboard access to NIMSS data
- BAA Futuring Task Force
 - Supported chair (Mike Hoffmann) of the Task Force Committee
 - Assisted in the recruitment of members for the Task Force
 - Assisting in scheduling, planning and developing the agenda for Task Force conference call and a face-to-face meeting in November
 - Prepared agenda brief for October ESS meeting
- Capital Infrastructure Task Force
 - Supported chair (Mike Hoffmann) of the Task Force
 - Assisted in development a funding plan for the capital infrastructure survey
 - Assisted in negotiating a revised contract with Sightlines
 - Prepared agenda brief for October ESS meeting
- LEAD 21 Program
 - Served on Board of Directors (serving as Program Chair)
 - Prepared agenda brief for October ESS meeting
- Program Monitoring and Feedback on:
 - NIFA budget developments
 - NIFA competitive grants programs
 - NIFA operational web and teleconferences
 - NIFA Hatch MRF utilization

Travel

- July 21-23, 2014 – Joint COPs and ESCOP Meetings, San Diego, CA

NERA Meeting
October 1, 2014
Jekyll Island Club Hotel, Jekyll Island, Georgia

Experiment Station Committee on Organization and Policy Report
July 2014 – September 2014

ESCOP Officers

- Chair - Steve Slack
- Chair-Elect – Robert Shulstad
- Past Chair – Mike Hoffmann
- Executive Vice Chair – Jeff Jacobsen
- ESS Rep to BAA Policy Board – Steve Slack
- Budget and Legislative Committee Chair – Bret Hess
- Communications & Marketing Committee Co-Chair – Nancy Cox
- Science & Technology Committee Chair – John Russin
- NRSP Review Committee Chair – Bret Hess

NERA Representatives to:

- ESCOP:
 - Adel Shirmohammadi
 - Fred Servello
 - Tim Phipps
- ESCOP Budget & Legislative Committee
 - Tim Phipps
 - Gary Thompson (Incoming Chair)
- ESS/CES Communications and Marketing Committee
 - Rick Rhodes
- ESCOP Science & Technology Committee
 - Cameron Faustman
 - Tom Burr
- NRSP Review Committee
 - Tim Phipps

Meetings

- ESS Annual Meeting and Workshop, Jekyll Island Club Hotel, GA, September 30 – October 2, 2014
- ESCOP Executive Committee Meeting in conjunction with APLU Meeting, Hilton Bonnet Creek Resort, Orlando, FL, November 3, 2014 (TBC)

- ESCOP Meeting in conjunction with the AHS/CARET Meeting, Omni Shoreham Hotel, Washington, DC, March 3, 2015 (TBC)

Budget and Legislative Committee

The ESCOP Budget and Legislative Committee is providing input into the FY2015 budget development through the BAA Budget and Advocacy Committee. The Committee developed a budget priority setting survey to seek input from the Directors to provide input into the FY2016 budget. The Committee also developed a survey on the use of the Science Roadmap. Preliminary findings show that two thirds of respondents indicate that the Science Roadmap has guided programmatic decision. Of those reporting no change, 60% reported the priorities were already aligned with the Roadmap.

Communications and Marketing Committee

The AES/CES Communications and Marketing Committee continues to work closely with kglobal and Cornerstone on a targeted educational effort to increase awareness and support for basic and applied research and transformational education provided by Land Grant Universities through Agricultural Experiment Stations and Cooperative Extension. We are into the second year of a two year partnership with ECOP to support the Project. ECOP has committed to a third year (2015) but has not yet made a decision to extend the partnership beyond that time. The AHS had indicated an interest in joining the effort and an expansion proposal was presented to the PBD at their July meeting. The AHS supported the report and overall initiative, but decided to continue the initiative at the current level of \$400,000 with funding evenly split between ESS and CES. The AHS is also interested in supporting a workshop for ag communications to interact with kglobal and learn how to better support the effort. The CMC has focused its messages during the past year on nutrition and health. It is now considering adding a second focus – water security.

Science and Technology Committee

The Committee has prepared and implemented a survey of its membership that will guide future directions for the Committee. The survey asks the members to prioritize a number of potential topics and areas of focus to allow the Committee to further contribute to the Experiment Station Section.

National Research Support Review Committee

The NRSP Review Committee met by conference call in August. The committee will recommend that the limit on NRSP funding be changed from a fixed level of \$2 million to 1% of Hatch funding. It will also recommend a five year proposal and budget of \$50,000 per year for NRSP-3 (The National Atmospheric Deposition Program) and a one year proposal and budget of \$325,000 for NRSP-7 (A National Agricultural Program for Minor Use Animal Drugs). In the case of the latter it will also recommend that any future submittal of a NRSP-7 project proposal must demonstrate that they have secured new (not in-kind) funds that are equal to or more than 2x the off-the-top funding requested. The Committee accepted responses to questions about a new project (Database Resources for Crop Genomics, Genetics and Breeding Research) and will

recommend its approval. It also will recommend the termination of the current NRSP-1 (National Information Management and Support System) and the approval of a new three-year NRSP-1 proposal (Multistate Research Information Management and Impact Communications Program). The budget request is \$300,000 for FY2015 and \$183,500 for the fiscal year 2016 and 2017. This funding will support the current impacting reporting project and a three-year contract with Clemson for the redesign, maintenance and hosting of NIMSS.

Other Activities

- Impact Reporting
 - The Strategic Opportunities and Measuring Excellence System has been revised to accommodate both Extension and Research impacts.
 - Directors are encouraged to submit impact statements for their institutions.
- BAA Futuring Task Force
 - The BAA PBD approved a plan for a BAA Futuring Task Force at their July meeting.
 - The Task force will be chaired by Mike Hoffmann and includes representation from the various BAA sections, the 1890s, the 1994s and the Non-Land-grants.
 - The Task Force will meet by conference call soon and will have a face-to-face meeting in November during the APLU Annual Meeting.
- Capital Infrastructure
 - The BAA PBD approved a plan from the Capital Infrastructure Task Force chaired by Mike Hoffmann for a survey of institutions to generate an estimate of total capital infrastructure needs on our campuses.
 - The survey would be conducted by Sightlines and they will generate estimates of deferred maintenance.
 - We are working with APLU to implement an assessment, as approved by the BAA PBD, to cover the cost of the survey.

2014-15 Integrated Research and Extension Planning Grants Program

The Northeastern Cooperative Extension Directors (NEED) and Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors (NERA) announce a regional competitive planning grants program. These grants are to be used to organize Northeast Extension educators and Northeast Agricultural Experiment Station researchers around teams to develop new cross-disciplinary, integrated, and multistate research and Extension programs that address important needs in the region.

The intent of the program is to stimulate and develop regional efforts that provide synergy across institutions and strengthen research and Extension efforts in specific areas. Funding for this program is designed to allow each state institution to capitalize on their strengths and to build multistate teams of faculty to enhance research and outreach capacity. It is expected that each state will support the planning processes (travel, etc.) to assist groups in developing the proposals through appropriate discussion/requests at the onset. These efforts will allow us to be more competitive for external agency funding and to provide important educational and outreach programs to stakeholders in the region and beyond.

Proposals are to be innovative and needs-driven and focus on new and promising integrated research and Extension activities that bring together specialists in diverse fields to apply complementary approaches to work on an important problem. The proposals should include both well-defined research and Extension components. Proposals in support of programs that are forward-looking/anticipatory are especially encouraged. Expected deliverables include one or more of the following:

- Development of data necessary to enhance the competitiveness of large grants for external funding by various agencies
- Development of new research/Extension programs that provide innovative solutions to issues to Northeastern states
- Development of one or more new technologies that lead to job creation/economic development in Northeastern states
- Development new multi-State programming methods to deliver research information through Extension to communities within Northeastern states

The planning teams must include Extension and research members from three or more Northeastern states. The leadership and majority of the membership of the teams should be from Northeastern states. However, researchers and Extension educators from other regions may participate. Their participation is expected to strengthen the proposed programs and make them potentially more competitive for future funding.

Proposals will be due on **September 30, 2014**. The proposals are not to exceed **three** single spaced pages (Times Roman 12 point and one inch margins) not including the cover page and appendices.

The proposal will be reviewed by a committee composed of both NEED and NERA directors. Final decisions will be made by October 31, 2014. Funding up to \$4,000 will be available to support travel and meeting expenses to bring the team members together. The source of these funds is the NEED and NERA operational budgets and cannot be used to pay indirect costs; and we reimburse **only** the actual expenses. The funding will be available to the teams for a maximum of one year from the date of the award notification.

Proposals for planning grants should include:

- Cover page (example included)
- Mission and goals of the proposed program
- Justification for the program relative to stakeholder needs and potential for sustained external funding
- Activities to be engaged in by team members towards a more complete definition of the program
- Explanation of roles of team members
- Timetable for completion of the planning activities and preparation of a competitive proposal
- Budget for planning activities (travel, meeting expenses, etc.) not to exceed \$4,000
- Leveraging resources
- CV of Team Leader – As an appendix (two page maximum) demonstrating track record of leading cross-disciplinary and/or multi-institutional collaborations

A required outcome of a planning grant will be a proposal submitted to the National Institute for Food and Agriculture or other appropriate funding sources. Grant recipients must provide a written report at the end of the grant period and subsequent periodic updates on the status of resulting proposals.

The specific criteria that will be used to evaluate proposals are:

- Addresses an important need in the region
- Stakeholder-supported justification
- Consistent with goals of competitive funding programs
- Potential for sustained funding
- Clearly defined research and Extension activities
- Integrated research and Extension (including youth development) activities; and where appropriate, teaching activities
- Realistic timetable
- Team members appropriate to proposed activities
- Team leaders with demonstrated track record
- Leveraged support
- Overall quality of proposal

Please submit planning grant proposals electronically by c.o.b. on **September 30, 2014** to Rubie Mize at rgmize@aesop.rutgers.edu.

Proposal No. _____

2014-15 Integrated Research and Extension Planning Grants Program

Project Title: _____

Team Members

Name	Institution/Agency/Other

(Attach an additional sheet if more space is needed.)

Team Leader Contact Information:

Name:	
Address:	
Phone:	
Fax:	
E-mail:	