



While the \$11.5 billion infrastructure effort is a long-shot, the initiative was moved forward when President Biden announced his plan to make significant investments in infrastructure. Check out the first bullet.

“...but if you look really closely, most overnight successes took a long time.” – Steve Jobs, 2007. *In The Pixar Story*. Leslie Iwerks, Producer and Director, Leslie Iwerks Productions and Pixar Animation Studios.

Action items:

- Last Thursday President Biden in his address on infrastructure ([The American Jobs Plan](#)) announced that his plan calls for an investment of \$40 billion to upgrade research infrastructure in laboratories across the country. The \$11.5 billion Agriculture Research Infrastructure Advocacy (ARIA) effort is included in that upgrade figure. Our take is that the effort is picking up speed. We shared a survey with NERA to assess the level of engagement in the ARIA effort by the Association. Only three institutions responded and support for the effort ranged from neutral to enthusiastic. We're interested to see how support for the effort might evolve given the new landscape.

Reminders/Updates:

- *Second time and important:* NERA and NEED are continuing to plan a joint meeting on ecosystem services. In preparation for that symposium, the planning team proposes to assess the breadth of current Northeast ecosystem services. The planning team is now seeking a “fellow” to do the survey and to that end, the Northeast Ecosystem Services Assessment Fellow position has been posted: <https://impact.extension.org/2021/03/19/northeast-ecosystem-services-assessment-fellow/>

Informational items:

- North Carolina A&T is seeking a [chair of Animal Sciences](#) in the College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences.
 - The [USDA National Agroforestry Center](#) is requesting proposals to create regionally-applicable and practice-specific agroforestry educational materials based on producer production information and experiences. Awards are anticipated to be up to \$100,000, with a minimum of \$35,000 for any one project. A 1:1 match is required.
 - The Nature Conservancy is seeking both small (up to \$20K) and large (up to \$100K) proposals for their [Supporting Oyster Aquaculture and Restoration \(SOAR\)](#) Fund to pave the way for a resilient and sustainable U.S. shellfish aquaculture industry.
 - The Northeastern Regional Center for Rural Development (NERCRD) has shared its 2020 Annual Report. [Click here](#) to view the full report.
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