



Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors

Today is a Rhode Island state holiday as it is in many but not all of the Northeast. Whether you celebrate this as Columbus Day, Indigenous Peoples Day, or Monday, it's a good day to reflect on how we all got to where we are and the contributions and sacrifices of those who enabled our collective family journeys.

"Today, we also acknowledge the painful history of wrongs and atrocities that many European explorers inflicted on Tribal Nations and Indigenous communities. It is a measure of our greatness as a Nation that we do not seek to bury these shameful episodes of our past — that we face them honestly, we bring them to the light, and we do all we can to address them," – Joseph R. Biden (2021), "[A Proclamation on Indigenous Peoples' Day, 2021](#)." The White House, 8 Oct. 2021.

Action items:

- Many thanks to you all! We have received 93% of FY2025 NERA assessments. This is the earliest that we've hit that mark. We're in great fiscal shape. The action item: a pat on the back!

Reminders/Updates:

- As we shared in our last newsletter, the [minutes from the NERA Business Meeting on September 23](#) are now posted on the NERA website.
- *A continuing ask:* We are seeking an Administrative Adviser (AA) for: NE2201 *Mycobacterial Diseases of Animals*. If you're interested, please contact [Rick](#).

Informational items:

- The [Multistate Research Fund Impacts Newsletter for October](#) profiles the contributions of the Northeast project, NE 2334 *Avian Disease Resistance and Immunity*. We suspect that you recognize this as our regional nomination for the national multistate research project award.
- The NSF is seeking reviewers for the FY25 [Graduate Research Fellowship Program](#). Reviewers are asked to review, on average, 20 applications between December and early January. Reviewers also attend a virtual panel on one day, assigned according to field of expertise, in mid-January 2025. Register your interest at <https://nsfgrfpreviewers.org>.
- The Communications and Marketing Committee is hosting a training session for new and returning inputters to the **National Impact Database** on October 30 at 2:00 PM ET. To attend, [register here](#).
- NIFA is hosting the fourth installment of their **Grant Applicant/Awardee Technical Assistance Virtual Workshop** on November 14 at 12:00 PM ET. This session will discuss differences between competitive and capacity funding and resolving common user issues in REEport and the NIFA Reporting System. Here's the [link to register](#).

- Colleague Victor Cabrera has shared that the University of Wisconsin will be hiring between 120 to 150 new faculty through an effort titled the “Wisconsin Research, Innovation and Scholarly Excellence (RISE) Initiative”. A large number of those slots will be dedicated to the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences at UW and hired as groups. Groups that are now seeking applicants include: [AI to Advance Life Sciences](#), [AI to Enhance Agricultural and Natural Systems](#), [Furthering the Bioeconomy](#), and [Mitigating Climate Impacts on Agroecosystems and Communities](#).
- The [New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum](#) in Las Cruces, a division of the State of New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA), is looking to fill the position of Executive Director with an exceptional individual who has a deep understanding and passion for agriculture coupled with relevant museum administration experience. The position is open until filled. Review of applications will begin on November 1, 2024. A cover letter and resume should be sent to executive.search@dca.nm.gov.
- *Second time*: The University of Massachusetts is searching for a new [Director of the Center for Agriculture, Food and the Environment and Assistant Vice Chancellor for Agricultural Research and Engagement](#). The successful candidate will also serve as Director for both UMass Extension and the Massachusetts Agricultural Experiment Station. The position reports to the Dean, College of Natural Sciences and to the Vice Chancellor for Research and Engagement.
- *Second time*: LEAD21, the Land-grant University’s leadership development program, is now accepting applications for Class 21. We’ve included the [Call for Applications](#) on the NERA website.
- *The forever green reminder*: In past NERA newsletters, we’ve made a pitch for “station” photos for both the NERA website and **The Parting Shot**. At the spring meeting we discussed institutions having image libraries. The image libraries are rich archives of photos. We encourage you to share shots from your libraries as well as other image sources. Please [forward pictures to us](#) with a caption and a photo credit.

From the Archive:

- *The context*: Last week, we forwarded a note from Steve Lommel who chairs both agInnovation and the standing Budget and Legislative Committee seeking your input on the Research Facilities Act (RFA). We’ve archived on the NERA website the most recent document that serves as the foundation of the request for support of RFA. This can be found under the “Workroom” pulldown menu under [National Updates](#). Take a look at [“A National Study of Capital Infrastructure at Colleges and Schools of Agriculture \(An Update\) - Gordian report supported by APLU - February 2021”](#).

The Parting Shot:



A rare agInnovation group shot taken at the fall meeting in Raleigh. For the complete roll of photos taken during the meeting check out [“agInnovation celebrates regional and national excellence at 2024 Annual Meeting”](#). (All images are courtesy of [Charles Dickens Photography](#).)



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