



Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors

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As the pandemic shrunk our collective social worlds, I've seen (Zoom primarily) or heard from many of you more frequently than pre-COVID. I'm taking that as a positive. I appreciate the unknown waters that you are all navigating. Many thanks for your leadership!

"You get in life what you have the courage to ask for." – Nancy Solomon, 2010, in *Impact! What Every Woman Needs to Know to Go from Invisible to Invincible*. John Wiley and Sons, Hoboken, NJ.

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Action items:

- From time to time, step away from your screens...
- Two polls are currently circulating with NERA directors: one related to Sightlines and the commitment of funds to extend a study done on deferred maintenance. This serves as the backdrop to an \$8.4 billion ask to support infrastructure. The other is related to the impact that COVID-19 has had on your research operations. This will be used to support a \$300 million request to provide additional support for NIFA competitive and capacity programs/projects. Please forward those to me at your earliest convenience.
- We'll be hosting a NERA Best Practices session on Tuesday, April 28th at 11:00 AM. The best practices topic will be: "COVID-19 and Principles for Re-opening Research Laboratories and Activities." To connect, we'll use ZOOM: <https://zoom.us/j/5717743008>. We will also be sending you an invitation and an agenda.
- Save the time and date: The face-to-face Joint NEED/NERA summer meeting has been postponed until the summer of 2021. NERA will meet via ZOOM on June 10th from 1:00-3:00 PM. More details to come!

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Reminders/Updates:

- We've created an archive of the [Institutional COVID-19 Resources of NERA Members](#). This list includes the URLs for the publicly-facing pages posted by your institutions. We share this as a resource for you to quickly see how the collective membership is responding to the pandemic.
- Our colleagues in Extension have created a webpage dedicated to [Extension Responses to COVID-19](#). You might be interested to take a look at the resources that are available.

- Second call: With Ted's retirement, openings for Administrative Advisors for NE1943 (*Biology, Ecology and Management of Emerging Disease Vectors*) and NE1944 (*Management of the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug*.) As a heads up, an AA does not have to be an expert in the content area of the multistate project.

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***Informational items:***

- NIFA recently added a program area to its main Agricultural and Food Research Initiative RFA: Rapid Response to Novel Coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) Impacts Across Food and Agricultural Systems. Deadline to submit applications is June 4. NIFA will expedite application evaluation and awards review to ensure rapid project start-up. For more information and to apply, [view the AFRI funding opportunity](#).
- The [USDA National Agroforestry Center](#) is requesting proposals to substantially expand and accelerate the availability of information to support decisions on the adoption and design of urban agriculture that includes agroforestry practices. Complete details on this request for proposals and how to submit a proposal can be found at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/nac/resources/grants/urban-request-for-proposals.shtml>.
- The University of Wyoming is seeking applicants for a Director, Business Operations / Finance & Administration. [Click here to view the position description](#).



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NERA and its member institutions are committed to the principles of affirmative action, diversity, and inclusion.

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