



---

We're struggling to read the crystal ball. The presidential election is history, the battle for the majority in the Senate is ongoing and the Democratic majority in the House is the slimmest in decades. COVID cases are rising nationally and at least one NERA institution has recently pivoted and moved all undergraduate classes online. Pfizer is reporting that their experimental vaccine is 90% effective and Moderna initially reported 95% efficacy thus raising the possibility of the availability of two vaccines in the coming months. The reason for opening with these observations? While we live in uncertain and unprecedented times, we are in the knowledge business. We educate the next gen work force and we create new technologies, strategies, and intellectual property to feed the globe, protect natural resources, promote food security, build community resilience, and advance economic opportunity. While it's easy to focus on what's wrong, rest assured that what you do is valued. Thanks for taking on those challenges.

"In the space between chaos and shape there was another chance." Jeanette Winterson, 1998. *The 24-Hour Dog In The World and Other Places*. Jonathan Cape, London.

---

### Action items:

- Mark your calendars: the quarterly NERA teleconference will be held on December 15 from 8:30-10:30 AM ET.

---

### Reminders/Updates:

- In the upcoming months, the Communications and Marketing Committee will be launching a strategic roadmap to increase awareness of the Land-grant University system with an ultimate goal of building public and private support for the system. The roadmap envisions using a "bidirectional strategy." In short, the CMC will be seeking your stories: those compelling narratives about your research, students, faculty and staff. More to come on the communications front.

---

### Informational items:

- The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), in partnership with the Charles Valentine Riley Memorial Foundation and the World Food Prize Foundation, invites you to attend the 2020 AAAS Charles Valentine Riley Memorial Lecture. This year's virtual lecture will focus on the transformation of global food systems to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions and feature a keynote address by Dr. Evan H. DeLucia. [Click here](#) to register.

- The University of Maryland seeks applicants for a Contract Administrator position in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Visit <https://ejobs.umd.edu/postings/80074> to view more information and apply.
- *Second time:* LEAD21, the leadership and professional development training program for faculty and professionals in the Land-grant system is accepting applicants for the 17th Class. Here's a [link](#) to the program's web portal. Applications are due on November 30, 2020.
- *Second time:* Farm Credit East extends [AgEnhancement Grants](#) to help organizations promote awareness and strengthen agriculture, commercial fishing and forest products in the six New England states, New York and New Jersey. While the grant size is modest (maximum - \$10,000), this is a resource that connects organizations with Northeast credit associations. The next round of proposals are due on April 1.



Follow @NERASAES on Twitter

Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors (NERA)

[www.nerasaes.org](http://www.nerasaes.org)

14 East Farm Road

Aquaculture Center

University of Rhode Island

Kingston, RI 02881

Executive Director, Dr. Richard C. Rhodes III: (401) 874-2468

Coordinator, [David Leibovitz](#): (401) 874-4801

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

Please do not reply directly to this MailChimp message.