



Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors

It's a week away from the [agInnovation Fall Meeting](#) during which we'll hold our quarterly NERA Business Meeting. We're hoping to see you all in Grand Rapids!

"To be awake is to be alive." - Henry David Thoreau (1854) from *Walden*,
"Where I Lived and What I Lived For" Penguin Books, (2005), New York, NY.

Action items:

- The agenda for NERA Business Meeting (September 25, 3:30-5:30 PM; September 26, 8:00-10:00 AM) is [posted on the NERA website](#).
- The agenda and supporting materials for the agInnovation Business Meeting on Tuesday, September 26 is posted on the ESCOP website, [agInnovation/ESS/SAES/ARD Fall Meeting 2023](#).
- As we close out the 2023 Federal fiscal year, we had a number of institutions in our region who were scheduled to undergo a NIFA Civil Rights Review. We're tracking who has undergone review and were interested to hear who has undergone review. If you've undergone review, do you wish to add any items to the [NEED-NERA Civil Rights Review Materials](#) page on the NERA website. Please contact [Rick and David](#).
- We've changed our mailing address! Our new physical mailing address is located at: NERA, The Office of the Provost, Green Hall – Room 115, University of Rhode Island, 35 Campus Drive, Kingston, RI 02881. Keep those cards and letters coming!

Reminders/Updates:

- The MRF Impacts toolkit for October 2023 is posted on the NERA website under [Workroom/National Updates](#). Please share this toolkit and use the materials and sample posts as you see fit.

Informational items:

- The National Charrette Institute at Michigan State University is hosting the [GROW-Urban Agriculture Conference](#), a virtual initiative that will be held over three consecutive days on November 1-3, 2023. The Generating Research Opportunities Workshop (GROW) is dedicated to enhancing urban agriculture and food systems through the development of collaborative proposals working at the intersection of urban agriculture and food systems. [Registration](#) for the Zoom event is required.
- Colleague Sreekala Bajwa, Dean and Director at Montana State University, shared this *MarketWatch* article, "[Opinion: American Farmers urgently need new technology to keep food on the world's table](#)", written by Vince Smith and Phil Pardey. There are some excellent talking points on why investment in publicly funded agricultural R&D is so important.
- *Second time*: The University of Delaware are seeking to fill two leadership positions: [Dean, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources](#) and [Associate Dean and Director of Cooperative Extension](#).

- Second time: The [Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development](#) (NERCRD) is requesting applications for an [Associate Director](#) position.
- We've added a photo at the end of the newsletter that either captures "local flavor" or is indicative of current events. If you have a picture that you'd like to share with the NERA News followers, please send those to us with a caption and photographer acknowledgement.



["Laser scarecrow"](#) at the University of Rhode Island." (Photo courtesy of Lisa Townson, URI)

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

www.nerasaes.org

35 Campus Avenue

Green Hall room 115

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.

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