



Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors

Happy April and this is not an April Fools posting. We had a very engaging NERA spring meeting last week in Washington. We encourage you to check out the minutes of the meeting posted on the NERA website. During our discussions, we shared that the NERA website held a trove of resources that might be useful to all the NERA directors. To that end, we've added a new section to the NERA News called "From the Archive". This profiles a resource on the website that you may not be aware of.

"The lost cannot be recovered; but let us save what remains: not by vaults and locks which fence them from the public eye and use, in consigning them to the waste of time, but by such a multiplication of copies, as shall place them beyond the reach of accident."

-Thomas Jefferson (1791) in a letter to Ebenezer Howard. Jefferson was wishing Howard success in creating an archive of documents that described events early in the history of the United States. "From Thomas Jefferson to Ebenezer Hazard, 18 February 1791," *Founders Online*, National Archives, <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Jefferson/01-19-02-0059>. [Original source: *The Papers of Thomas Jefferson*, vol. 19, 24 January–31 March 1791, ed. Julian P. Boyd. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1974, pp. 287–289.]

Action items:

- The [minutes for the NERA Spring Meeting](#) are posted on the website. In addition to the supplementary materials that were provided prior to the meeting, we've added the slide decks from the [Penn State Ag Experiment Station profile](#) and [NIFA Compliance Reviews](#). As you peruse the meeting minutes, you'll see that we discussed the location for the NERA Spring Meeting 2025. The directors favored meeting at a station site within the region. Stay tuned for ongoing discussions on that topic.
- *Save the date:* The 2024 Northeast Joint Summer Session, hosted by NEED, NERA, and URI, is scheduled for June 3-5 at the Omni Hotel in Providence, RI. The theme for the meeting is "Building a Culture of Collaboration" and all representatives associated with Cooperative Extension, the experiment stations, the administrative heads, CARET, academic programs, and Northeast communicators are welcome.
- 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.

Reminders/Updates:

- David and Rick will be representing NERA and agInnovation at the upcoming [National Extension and Research Administrative Officers Conference \(NERAOC\)](#) in Wilmington, DE, April 7-10. If you have business officers attending, please make sure they stop by the agInnovation booth.
 - *Second time:* The APLU's Board on Agriculture Assembly (BAA) has produced several short videos, now posted on YouTube, themed around the importance of capacity funding. Each is about a minute long, please take a look. The suite of videos is available at: [Investing in People](#).
 - *Second time:* [Registration](#) for the U.S. National Science Foundation's (NSF) [Spring 2024 NSF Grants Conference](#) is now open. This will be a hybrid conference including face-to-face meetings in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on June 3-5, 2024. Here's a link to the [draft agenda](#).
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Informational items:

- The University of Delaware seeks nominations and applications for the position of [Associate Dean and Director of Cooperative Extension and Outreach](#) in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (CANR). Please direct confidential inquiries, nominations, and application materials to: [Jeremy Duff](#) or [Lois Stetson](#), Greenwood Asher & Associates.
 - The Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST) is hosting a webinar on Wednesday, April 3 at 12:00 PM ET titled "Applications, Benefits, and Challenges of Genome Edited Crops". The webinar will be presented by Sarah Evanega and David Ertl. [Registration](#) is free and required.
 - The [Multistate Research Fund Impacts toolkit for April 2024](#) is now available. Please share this toolkit and use the materials and sample posts as needed.
 - The [April Communications and Marketing Toolkit](#) (produced by the BAA's standing committee, the Communications and Marketing Committee) is ready for use. The theme for this month is "Enhancing Water Efficiency and Management".
 - NIFA is presenting a grant applicant/awardee technical assistance webinar on May 2 at 12:00 PM ET titled "[Demystifying the Panel Review Process for Grant Funding](#)." Please share this opportunity with interested faculty and staff. Registration is required.
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From the Archive:

- *The context:* during the NERA Spring meeting we mentioned that state agricultural experiment stations performed approximately 75% of the publicly funded agricultural R&D in the United States. That statistic can be found in a paper titled "The Drivers of U.S. Agricultural Productivity Growth" by Philip Pardey and Julian Alston posted on the NERA website under [Reports/Whitepapers>2020](#). (The location of the factoid is on page 14 of the paper.)

The Parting Shot:



The usual suspects: NERA Spring Meeting attendees. (Photo courtesy of Rick Rhodes.)



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