



Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors

Happy Labor Day. Make the most of the long weekend!

In the meantime, we'd highlight our one action item and that is the identification of the next officer-at-large. We expect to make that appointment at the NERA business meeting in Raleigh. If you're interested in taking on a NERA leadership position and will not be attending the agInnovation meeting, please give Rick a heads up.

"May it be said on some future Labor Day by some future President of the United States that we did our work faithfully and well." President Franklin D. Roosevelt (1941) in "[A Labor Day Remembrance](#)", Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum.

Action items:

- In September the NERA Executive Committee turns over. The Association is seeking a new officer-at-large. To briefly recap the turnover: Puneet Srivastava rotates off the Executive Committee as past chair, current chair Anton Bekkerman steps into the past chair slot, vice chair Wendie Cohick accepts the gavel as chair, and officer-at-large Jason Hubbard rolls into the vice chair slot. If you're interested in taking on a leadership role, please [share that with Rick](#).

Reminders/Updates:

- Thanks for ringing in on the questions about match that we posed in an email to the directors and in the August 19 NERA News. That information will be folded into a capacity funds best practice piece. If you didn't respond, we'd value hearing from you.
- The [2024 agInnovation Fall Meeting](#) is in Raleigh, NC on September 22-25, 2024. The theme for the meeting is "Reimagining the Land-grant University-Industry Relationship". [Registration](#) is live and an [agenda](#) is posted.
- A continuing ask: We are seeking Administrative Advisers (AA) for several projects as our NERA ranks evolve. Many thanks to the AAs that are rotating off projects. Projects that are seeking AAs include: NE2201 *Mycobacterial Diseases of Animals* and NRSP8 *Genomic Capacity: Building Applied Genomic Capacity for Animal Industries*. If you're interested, please contact [Rick](#).

Informational items:

- The Communications and Marketing Committee has released the September 2024 Toolkit. The theme of the toolkit is [Building Solutions for today and tomorrow: The Research Facilities Act \(RFA\) in the Farm Bill](#). Please use and share these materials.
- Sara Delheimer has posted the Multistate Research Fund Impacts Toolkit for September 2024 (take a

look at <https://www.mrfimpacts.org/september-2024>.) Please feel free to share this toolkit and use the materials and the sample posts.

- The Northeast Center for Rural Development has shared a new report that provides an overview of key sessions, definitions, takeaways, initiatives, and best practices discussed during the [2023 Northeast Digital Equity Summit](#). Check it out.
- The Foundation for Food & Agriculture Research (FFAR) and the Dutch Research Council (NWO) are holding an informational webinar on **September 12, 2024, 11:00 am-12:30 pm ET** on the [Greenhouses in Transition](#) program. This program focuses on the regional sustainability of the CEA sector by developing transdisciplinary, cross-sector innovations.
- George Smith, agInnovation chair, is the featured speaker for the next NCFAR Lunch-N-Learn session on September 17 from 12:00-1:00 PM ET, in 1302 Longworth House Office Building. The title of George's presentation is "A 10-Year Agricultural Research Roadmap for America's Security and Future". Please share this announcement with your government affairs officers. [Registration is free and required](#).
- The Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research is hosting their annual Board of Directors Public Conversation on September 19 at 10 AM ET. This is your opportunity to interact with the board to provide input. [Registration is required](#).
- *Last time*: NIFA is hosting a webinar titled **Leveraging Extension and University Engagement: Developing and Implementing Novel Projects Using Transdisciplinary Approaches** on September 9 at 1:00 PM ET. Speakers include Marshall Stewart (Executive Vice President for External Engagement and Chief of Staff, Kansas State University); Robert Jones (Chancellor of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign); Wendy Powers (Dean, College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences, Washington State University); and Jay Akridge (Trustee Chair in Teaching and Learning Excellence and Professor of Agricultural Economics, Purdue University). [Registration is required and free](#).
- *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*: If you ever wondered who serves on the NERA Executive Committee, look no further than "About NERA" in the navigation bar and click "Officers" in the pull-down menu. Here's the [FY 2024 NERA Executive Committee](#). As you've seen in this week's "Action Items", we're looking for the next officer-at-large.

The Parting Shot:



Labor of love, Maine wild blueberry growers (Photo courtesy of the University of Maine)

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

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