



There are several action items below for which we seek your input. In the meantime, let's hope that a new deal can be struck to keep the government open beyond Valentine's Day.

“As was predicted at the beginning of the Human Genome Project, getting the sequence will be the easy part as only technical issues are involved. The hard part will be finding out what it means, because this poses intellectual problems of how to understand the participation of the genes in the functions of living cells.” - Sydney Brenner, 1995, *Current Biology*5:332.

Action items:

- When Sabine asked how do NERA institutions financially track Hatch projects, you responded. [We summarized the scan and have posted your responses to the NERA website.](#)
- Hold the date/suggestions wanted: the quarterly NERA teleconference is scheduled for **March 28, 2019 at 11:00 AM**. If you have a burning topic that you'd like to see added to the agenda, [please forward those suggestions to Dave.](#)
- You saw in the last newsletter that the NERA Executive Committee gave me a greenlight to pursue the planning of a symposium dedicated to “Ecosystem agriculture (regenerative ag) and agricultural ecosystem services.” This is a NEED-led initiative and one that NERA is serving as a collaborator. The Planning Committee is seeking 2 NERA directors to serve on the Planning Committee: any takers? [Please give Dave or Rick a heads up.](#)
- As you might be aware, the 2018 Farm Bill eliminated the match waiver for Land-grant Universities. [If this is causing problems at your institution, we'd like to know.](#)
- [Applications are now being accepted for the fifteenth cohort in the Food Systems Leadership Institute starting in the fall of 2019.](#)
- We are seeking new AES photos for the NERA website. [Please forward those to Dave.](#)

Reminders/Updates:

- The “no NIFA/ESS relocation without study and consultation” letter drafted by Gale Buchanan, Cathie Wotecki, Roger Beachy *et al* is continuing to make signatory rounds in anticipation of sharing with the new Congress. Interestingly, 8 of 14 NERA stations and/or institutions have signed on including: The Connecticut AES, UConn, Rutgers, Cornell, URI, UNH, UVM and UMass.
- *Last, last call:* [We're still seeking nominations for Excellence in Multistate Research](#) (2018 NE

nominee: NE1335, Resource Management in Commercial Greenhouse Production.) The nomination is due to NERA by February 28, 2019. [If you're an AA for a high-performing multistate research project, nominate them.](#)

Informational items:

- SARE has posted a series of podcasts (21 so far) called "[Our Farms, Our Future.](#)" They are an interesting set of conversations and worth a listen. The latest podcast is titled "Finding a Catalyst for Change in Agriculture."
- The Department of Apparel, Merchandising, Design and Textiles (AMDT) at Washington State University (WSU) is seeking an **Assistant/Associate Professor in Product Development/Design**. To view the position description, visit <https://www.nerasaes.org/employment>.
- The University of Maryland College of Agriculture and Natural Resources seeks applicants for a **Professor and Department Chair position in Nutrition and Food Science**. To view the position description, visit <https://www.nerasaes.org/employment>.
- The University of Massachusetts Amherst is seeking a **Program Director in Extension Agriculture**. To view the position description, visit <https://www.nerasaes.org/employment>.
- [The 2018 Annual Report of the Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development is now posted on the NERA website.](#)



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

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

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