



Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors

As you close out the spring 2021 semester, I hope that you take the opportunity to reflect on your nimbleness, resilience, fortitude, and adaptability. What seemed almost insurmountable last May is now do-able thanks to you. We are now seeing the pandemic-driven restrictions eased as vaccinations continue and infections decrease. While the Joint NEED/NERA/ CARET/AHS meeting will be virtual this summer (see the first action item), face-to-face meetings are starting to open up (see the first reminder/update). While we cannot predict what our business travel will look like in the future, I'd share these two take-homes. The first is that we have all found that there are a number of technologically efficient ways to get our work done. Hopefully, we'll continue to use these effective technologies and strategies that we adopted while working remotely. Second, we shouldn't retreat from work strategies that were effective in the past, pre-pandemic. Let's use the best of both worlds and move on. And it is in that spirit that we share: We look forward to seeing you!

"Easily mistaken, it is not about a love for adversity, it is about knowing a strength and a faith so great that adversity, in all its adverse manifestations, hardly even exists." - Criss Jami (2015) *in* Killosophy: Killing Knowledge, Loving Wisdom. Criss Jami, ASIN: B078YFBTG7.

### Action items:

- Hold the date for the Virtual Joint NEED/NERA/CARET/AHS summer meeting. Here's the framework that the Executive Committees of NEED and NERA agreed upon:
  - Monday, June 21, 1-2:30 PM (NERA and NEED meet separately.) Northeast Research Communication Network: NERA directors and communicators meet together.
  - Wednesday, June 23, 3-4:30 PM. Integrated Multistate Projects conversation.
  - Thursday, June 24, 3-4:30 PM. CARET/AHS initiatives.
- NIFA hosted two webinars recently for which they are seeking input. The first webinar dealt with changes to the [Policy Guide](#) (the webinar is captured on [YouTube: NIFA Policy Guide Update Webinar 2021](#)) and the other was dedicated to the [Farm of the Future initiative](#). We'd share that the changes to the Policy Guide fall into three primary buckets (our buckets not NIFA's): elimination of references to non-authority agency guidance on Terms and Conditions; alignment and standardization of terminology, common forms and requirements per OMB and GASB; and date changes (expanding from 90 to 120 days closeout of financials and submitting reports). The Western Region hosted an additional, local webinar and we've posted their [transcript](#) of the conversation on the NERA website. (It has a bit more applicable

detail than the national webinar.) We are interested to hear your thoughts on the Policy Guide, any concerns? For the Farm of the Future, we were struck by the narrowness of legislative authority: provision by competition, \$4 million to a single institution to serve as a testbed for the farm of the future. We listened carefully and a number of speakers noted that no single institution had the breadth to serve as the testbed of the future and that there is no single model farm. We hope that the RFA that NIFA develops allows multiple institutions submitting collaborative proposals that would span the breadth of the future of farms in America.

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### Reminders/Updates:

- *Continue to hold the date:* The Experiment Station Section is planning on holding its annual meeting face-to-face in Squaw Valley, CA on September 27-30, 2021. The theme will be “Disruptive Innovation.” More to come!
- *Still seeking:* The USDA is seeking examples of how our 1862 and 1890 universities work together on state and national levels. If you have a compelling example of 1862/1890 collaboration, would you please share that with [me](#).

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### Informational items:

- The Northeast Regional Aquaculture Center’s (NRAC) [RFA \(preproposals\) for 2022](#) funding is available on the Center’s website. Please share this opportunity with all potentially interested scientists.
  - The University of Florida is searching for the next [Dean of UF/IFAS Extension and Director of the Florida Cooperative Extension Service](#).
  - Interesting, ARS is now using a headhunter to seek a National Program Leader in [Food Animal Production](#). We previously shared this solicitation in the last newsletter using the USAJobs opening for a [National Program Leader \(Animal Scientist\)](#).
  - Colorado State University is seeking a [Research Scientist/Extension Specialist](#), for the Arkansas Valley Research Center (ARVC) in Rocky Ford, CO.
  - The University of Maryland College of Agriculture and Natural Resources is seeking applicants for four new positions, including an Associate Director, National Reporting, Coordination and Communications Office, USDA SARE Program. Job descriptions for these four positions are [posted](#) on the NERA website.
  - The University of Vermont is extending through a cluster hire, six postdoctoral positions with a focus on sustainable dairy food systems. The two-year positions (with the potential option for renewal) will work with UVM faculty in collaboration with USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) scientists. The post-docs will be based at UVM in conjunction with the ARS Food Systems Research Unit. For more information check out: [Post-Doctoral Positions in Dairy Food Systems, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, The University of Vermont](#).
  - The University of Florida is searching for a [Center Director for the North Florida Research and Education Center \(NFREC\)](#).
  - ARS is recruiting a Research Leader for the Agroecosystem Management Research Unit in Lincoln, NE. The vacancy announcement will close on June 11th. The announcement is available at: <https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/601047700>.
  - *Again:* The USDA announced that it will host the first-ever **Food Loss and Waste Innovation Fair** on May 26 (12 - 4 PM EDT), to showcase USDA investments and business leadership in reducing food loss and waste throughout the food system. Click [here](#) for more information and to access the registration link.
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