



The item we wish to highlight is the virtual quarterly NERA business meeting slated for December 7, 2023, at 8:00 AM. Check out the first action item.

We are hopeful that Thanksgiving was everything that you wanted it to be.

From the NERA Office, we continue to be grateful to serve you. As we share on our website, we're committed to the Northeast Agenda, supporting agricultural research in the Northeast, and promoting institutional collaboration.

“Do what you can to show you care about others, and you will make our world a better place.” — Rosalyn Carter in [Biography, The Carter Center](#).

Action items:

- NERA will be holding its virtual quarterly business meeting next week on December 7, 2023, at 8:00-9:30 AM. A meeting agenda is posted on the NERA website ([Agenda/Minutes](#)). The connection details can be found [here](#).
- *Calendar hold:* agInnovation (formerly known as the Experiment Station Section) will be holding a virtual business meeting on December 12, 2023, from 4:00-5:00 PM ET. Among other agenda items, the results of the assessment referendum and budget proposal will be announced. Here's the [link for the meeting](#).
- Earlier today, we sent out to the NERA directors the agInnovation Budget Ballot. The ballot has two questions for your consideration. The first is approval of the assessment to agInnovation. This assessment is \$100,000 and is identical to the assessment of the past three years. The assessment is apportioned to each institution based on NIFA funding (capacity and competitive [3 year rolling average]). Across all the 1862 and 1890 institutions, individual station assessments range from ~\$250 to ~\$10,000 with an average institutional assessment of ~\$1,450. The calendar year 2024 budget proposes \$183,000 in expenses and an income of \$209,402. (For a full explanation see the [CY 2024 agInnovation Budget Explanation](#).) From our perspective in the office of the Executive Director, we'd recommend approval of both the assessment and the budget.
- For those that attended the APLU Meeting, how'd it go? [We're](#) interested to hear your feedback.

Reminders/Updates:

- We bring to your attention several climate-related items. Over the past two weeks, two important reports were released. The [National Climate Change Roadmap](#) (an effort funded by NIFA, led by Colorado State University, and supported by the Meridian Institute) identifies seven thematic areas. These areas frame the research backbone as a means to address the climate science challenges for the benefit of agriculture, working landscapes, and the communities that rely upon them. The report that garnered more press was the release of the [Fifth National Climate Assessment](#) (NCA), a Federal, multi-agency effort that assessed the state of climate science and communicates the impacts of climate change

on people, communities, and ecosystems across the United States. Accompanying the release of the NCA, President Biden announced more than \$6 billion in investments to make communities around the country more resilient to the impact to climate change. Both portend future research funding.

- The Local and Regional Food Systems (LRFS) Resilience Playbook is a collaborative effort between university-based researchers, LRFS leaders, and USDA experts. The Playbook is designed to support food systems leaders seeking to broaden and deepen their understanding of the distinct strengths and vulnerabilities of LRFS in times of disruption. [Explore this new resource here.](#)
- Prior to Thanksgiving, agInnovation's Diversity Catalyst Committee hosted a webinar by Jennifer Ballinger: "**A Lived Experience: Tribal Relations and Natural Resource Stewardship.**" The webinar is now posted for to the [agInnovation site](#) and [YouTube](#).

Informational items:

- Rutgers University, School of Environmental and Biological Science (SEBS), is searching for a [Chair of the Department of Agricultural, Food and Resource Economics](#) (DAFRE). The Chair position is a 9-month academic appointment typically for the duration of 3 years, with the possibility of renewal.
- *Equity Fellowships:* The [Foundation for Food & Agriculture Research](#) (FFAR) and the [Native American Agriculture Fund](#) (NAAF) are accepting applications for the [Tribal Agriculture Fellowship](#) (TAF) program through February 3, 2024. Likewise, the Northeast Climate Hub is seeking a [USFS Tribal Climate Equity Fellow](#).
- *Second time:* The University of Georgia has an opening for an [Extension Leadership Specialist](#) charged with leading the national faculty leadership development program, LEAD21, sponsored by the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities (APLU) and administered through a contract with the University of Georgia. This is a full-time Faculty appointment home-based in Athens, Georgia.
- *Second time:* The University of Connecticut's Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture is seeking an [Assistant Professor in Controlled Environment Agriculture](#). This is a 9-month, tenure track position. The review of applications will begin on January 12, 2024.



UMass College of Natural Sciences Dean Michael Fox, Center for Agriculture, Food, and the Environment (CAFE) Interim Director Lynne McLandsborough, and Director of the Massachusetts Cranberry Station Hilary Sandler standing in a bog set up for a fundraiser. Note the café tables in the background! (Photo courtesy of Lynne McLandsborough, October 2023)

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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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