



Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors

COVID-19 is leaving a permanent imprint on the globe; one that has posed profound and unprecedented challenges and an uncertain future. As promised, NERA is working to ensure continuity of our research community by offering comforting spaces in a biweekly check-in, regular updates, and creative spaces for sharing best practices sessions. Don't hesitate to reach out to us and to your colleagues.

If you, your college or your station has implemented a unique program, strategy, or activity that you'd like to share with your NERA colleagues, let us know. To that end, from time to time, step away from your screens...

“All life is an experiment. The more experiments, the better.” – Ralph Waldo Emerson, in *Journals of Ralph Waldo Emerson, With Annotations – 1841-1844*.

Action items:

- In response to COVID-19, if you, your college or your station have/has implemented a unique program, strategy, or activity that you'd like to share with your NERA colleagues, [let us know](#).
- The [notes from the NERA Spring meeting](#) are posted, check them out. If you have any corrections, please send those to [me](#).
- Last week, NIFA posted [Coronavirus FAQs](#). We encourage you to review those. What new questions do you have for NIFA? Please send those to us, [we'll aggregate your questions](#) and submit those to NIFA as a NERA package.
- As leaders, you might want to send out an expression of thanks to your graduate/professional students. The week of April 6-10 is Graduate-Professional Student Appreciation Week.
- We've created an archive of the [Institutional COVID-19 Resources of NERA Members](#). This list includes the URLs for the publically-facing pages posted by your institutions. We share this as a resource for you to quickly see how the collective membership is responding to the pandemic.
- Our colleagues in Extension have created a webpage dedicated to [Extension Responses to COVID-19](#). You might be interested to take a look at the resources that are available.

- We're hosting a biweekly NERA check-in on April 14th at 10:00 AM. This is an opportunity to join colleagues to share and discuss items of interest that have arisen in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. To join, please use: <https://zoom.us/j/5717743008>.

Reminders/Updates:

- This weekend, Fred Servello asked a number of directors whether the following statement described the current status of research activities effected by COVID-19: "*Research activity has been paused/stopped at your university until further notice except for some very limited exceptions. (Y/N).*" The question tripped off a rapid series of conversations. Keep talking!
- Per your suggestions, NERA submitted a [memo](#) to Scott Angle seeking assistance to address research support issues. The note to the leadership of NIFA is posted on the NERA website.
- ESCOP is currently evaluating how to take advantage of possible infrastructure funding, either through COVID-19 phase supplemental funding or other mechanisms. This effort revisits the [Sightlines](#) study and is intended to reinvigorate investment in critical and essential infrastructure in universities and their agricultural experiment stations that have been subject to years of deferred maintenance.

Informational items:

- In that "How about a little good news category", Lori Wright, the Communications manager for the NH Agricultural Experiment Station, UNH, recently received the 2020 Pioneer Award from the Association for Communication Excellence (ACE) in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Life and Human Sciences. Congrats to Lori and NHAES!
- With Ted's retirement, openings for Administrative Advisors for NE1943 (Biology, Ecology and Management of Emerging Disease Vectors) and NE1944 (Management of the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug.) As a heads up, an AA does not have to be an expert in the content area of the multistate project.
- As a heads up, the [letter](#) submitted by NCFAR that supported the USDA's Innovation Agenda (correspondence letter that NERA and the BAA signed) was submitted to the House and the Senate.



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