



Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors

Our first newsletter did not appear as we had expected. So, we've moved away from using Outlook Publisher and the NERA listserv and instead will be using MailChimp. As we indicated in the first newsletter, our goal is to provide you with calls to action and to keep you astride of issues and opportunities that have arisen in the region and the nation in the past two weeks. We respect your time and we will limit the number of emails that we forward to you as a means to keep clutter out of your email in-box.

From time to time, the directors will send requests to us and those requests elicit an email conversation. We'll keep those conversations going on a real time basis using the Listserv (neradirs@listserv.uri.edu). Last, if you have any suggestions for the newsletter, do not hesitate to share with David Leibovitz (david_leibovitz@uri.edu).

Action items:

- We are seeking station-specific photos to showcase on the NERA website. Please gather some photos from your institution and forward them to David Leibovitz, NERA Coordinator (david_leibovitz@uri.edu).
- If you haven't already, please reply to David Leibovitz with the listing of Land-Grant Impacts Database Editors and Users for Research within your institution. This information is being reviewed and revised by the database team at Texas A&M.

Issues resolved:

- We'll be using MailChimp for future newsletters. As a reminder, please don't respond directly to MailChimp messages.

Informational items:

- The APLU shares that the Biological Technologies Office (BTO) of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) has released a Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) for the Insect Allies Program. (See: <https://www.fbo.gov/spg/ODA/DARPA/CMO/HR001117S0002/listing.html>.) DARPA is soliciting innovative research proposals that enable expression of crop traits within a single growing season at scale by delivering a modified virus to target plants by a mobile insect vector; thereby addressing national security challenges in agriculture domestically and abroad. Respondents to this BAA must propose novel approaches to modify an insect-transmitted virus to confer traits to a crop of agricultural value by means of a host-specific vector.
 - The University of Rhode Island is seeking a *graduate student in agroecology*. The description is on the NERA website at: <https://nerasaes.org/student-opportunities/>
 - The University of Maine is seeking a *Dean of the College of Natural Sciences, Forestry and Agriculture*. The job announcement is on the NERA website at: <https://nerasaes.org/employment-opportunities/>
 - Michigan State University AgBioResearch is seeking an *Assistant Professor in the Department of Entomology*. The job announcement is on the NERA website at: <https://nerasaes.org/employment-opportunities/>
 - Doug Buhler (MSU) is seeking your participation in a research survey on freshwater ecosystem health. The survey is being conducted by members of a multistate fisheries research group under a project sponsored by the United States Department of Agriculture, National Institute of Food and Agriculture. If you'd like to participate and did not receive the invitation, the link to the survey is: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KKNRHP>
 - Bart Hewitt sent out the annual reminder for the FY 2016 Data – REEport Financial Report for Capacity and Non-Capacity Grant Projects; and also the FY 2016 Data – Annual Progress or Final Reports for Capacity projects in REEport from NIFA. Bart's letter is on the NERA website at: <https://nerasaes.org/nifa-updates/>
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Please do not reply directly to this MailChimp message.