



We appreciate you are all in the throes of planning for fall. If you feel like there is a practice, strategy, or plan that your NERA colleagues should know of, please share that with us and we'll crank up the conversation.

We'd also draw your attention to the first action item: "say hello to." As we've written in the past, NERA has experienced a dramatic change in leadership. We said our goodbyes and extended expressions of gratitude. Now it's time to welcome the new cadre of NERA leaders.

"Leadership is about people, it's about inspiring people to believe that the impossible is possible..." – Gifford Thomas, 2019. *Inspirational Leader: Inspire Your Team to Believe in the Impossible*. (Independently published.)

Action items:

- From the "say hello to" department, we're sharing the following list of NERA directors who are new to the region, new to a position, or have changed position during the past 4 months.
 - Cornell: Margaret Smith, Director-Cornell Agricultural Experiment Station; Jan Nyrop, Director-Cornell AgriTech
 - University of Maine: Mario Teisl, Interim Dean and Interim Director-MEAFES
 - University of Maryland: Puneet Srivastava, Associate Dean for Research and Associate Director-MDAES
 - University of New Hampshire: Anton Bekkerman, Associate Dean and Director-NHAES
 - Penn State: Steve Loerch, Senior Associate Dean and Interim Director-PAAES
 - Rutgers: Laura Lawson, Executive Dean and Director-NJAES; Wendie Cohick, Associate Dean and Associate Director-NJAES
 - University of Vermont: Leslie Parise, Dean and Director-VTAES; Jean Harvey, Associate Dean and Associate Director-VTAES
 - West Virginia University: Darrell Donahue, Dean and Director-WVAFES
- We're planning on having a virtual fall meeting prior to the ESS meeting and expect to hold a 2-hour session during the week of September 21-September 25. Stay tuned!

Reminders/Updates:

- Continuing to look: We are still seeking [administrative advisers](#) for two NE multistate research projects (*NE1791 Mycobacterial Diseases of Animals* and *NE1938 Carbon Dynamics and Hydromorphology in Depressional Wetland Systems*), one NE Coordinating Committee (*NECC2001 Sustainable Farm Energy Production and Use*), and one NRSP (*NRSP3 National Atmospheric Deposition Program [NADP]*.) As we've shared in the past, there is no requirement to be a disciplinary expert.

- The Annual ESS/ARD Meeting will be held virtually, September 28-October 1, in 2-hour slots in the evening (6-8 PM EDT) to enable all directors, from the East Coast to the Western territories, to join. Mark your calendars!
- AFRI extends Strengthening Grants to small and medium-sized universities (total enrollment, 17,500 or less) and to state agricultural experiment stations or degree-granting institutions that are USDA EPSCoR eligible. FY2020 EPSCOR eligible states and districts in the Northeast include: Connecticut, District of Columbia, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont, and West Virginia. The list shifts for FY2021 and includes: Connecticut, District of Columbia, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

Informational items:

- The University of Wyoming is seeking an [Associate Dean](#) to provide leadership for the Wyoming Agricultural Experiment Station.



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