



Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors

Our second quarter teleconference is scheduled for December 6, 2018. Check out the **Action Items** for access.

Action items:

- We have a NERA teleconference scheduled for December 6, 2018 at 11:00 AM EST. While you will receive an email reminder for the call, you'll be able to access the teleconference by web <https://zoom.us/j/5717743008> or by phone: (646) 558-8656 (access code 571 774 3008.) [The agenda for the meeting is available on the NERA website \(click to view\)](#).

Reminders/Updates:

- Additional MAC update: Shortly after we released our last newsletter, NIFA approved NE1833; **Biological Improvement of Chestnut through Technologies that Address Management of the Species and its Pathogens and Pests**. The MAC is now working on the FY19 proposals.
- *As reported in the [November 19th NERA News](#)*: Maggie Ewell is seeking comments on NIFA's requirement for submitting budgets through grants.gov. This includes all capacity grant programs except EFNEP. NIFA has a resource site for materials (<https://nifa.usda.gov/program/capacity-grantee-resources>). Comments on the policy are due on December 15, 2018 and should be submitted to Policyguide@nifa.usda.gov. Adel Shirmohammadi shared with me his concerns and asked "are we the only ones disliking the new call by NIFA?" I'm seeking your input. Please forward your comments, reflections, and concerns about the new requirements for submitting budgets on capacity funds. If warranted, I'll draft a NERA response and share with NIFA.
- *As reported in the [November 19th NERA News](#)*: Planning for the summer meeting is well underway. The theme for the meeting is "Urban Agriculture – Creating Links" (June 2-5, 2019, Washington, DC; UDC is the host.) The planning group has identified four topic areas including: *Innovating Food Production, Ensuring Food Access and Security to Urban Populations, Ecosystem Services in the Urban Space, and Connecting Urban Populations to Food and Nature*. If you have any clever ideas on speakers for any of these sessions, we'd ask that you [send those to Rick](#).

Informational items:

- The [RFA](#) for graduate fellowships, **Food and Agricultural Sciences National Needs Graduate and Postgraduate Fellowship (NNF) Grants**, has been released by NIFA. Applications are due on January 23, 2019.
- *Second time around*: ESCOP chair, Deb Hamernik, has announced the 2019 nominations call for the National Experiment Station Section Diversity and Inclusion Award ([click here to view the call](#)). You have time: the due date for nominations is March 29, 2019.
- The University of Maryland College of Agriculture and Natural Resources seeks applicants for a Director of Business Analytics. Visit <http://www.nerasaes.org/employment> to view the job description.



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NERA and its member institutions are committed to the principles of affirmative action, diversity, and inclusion.

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