



NERA

Northeastern Regional Association
of
State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors Meeting

The Madison Concourse Hotel - Senate Room A
1 W. Dayton St. Madison, WI 53703

July 15, 2014

Draft Minutes

In Attendance:

Fred Servello (ME), Chair
Susan Brown (NYG)
Cameron Faustman (CTS)
Steve Goodwin (MA)
Bill Hare (DC)
Brad Hillman (NJ)
Michael Hoffmann (NYC)
John Kirby (RI)
Ian Maw (APLU)
Sabine O'Hara (DC)
Tim Phipps (WV)
Mark Rieger (DE)
Daniel Rossi (NERA)
Patricia Vittum (MA)
Greg Weidemann (CTS)
Jon Wraith (NH)
Rubie Mize (NERA), Recorder

1. Welcome and Introductions – Chair Fred Servello

Chair Fred Servello called the meeting to order at 11:05AM. He welcomed the directors and guests, and asked everyone to briefly introduce themselves.

- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Minutes from the March 2014 NERA Meeting
<http://www.nera.umd.edu/workshop/NERAMinutesMarch2014.pdf>

Action: The motion made to approve the agenda and minutes was seconded and passed

- Chair's Interim Actions (see attachment below)
 - The white paper on Cost Recovery at Agricultural Experiment Station Research Facilities in the Northeast is being finalized and will be shared with the Directors.
 - The Task Force that will review the NERA organization composed of Chair Fred Servello, Gary Thompson and Brad Hillman will meet via teleconference in early fall, and will deliver their report at the NERA meeting in March 2015.

2. Multistate Activities Committee Report – Tim Phipps
<http://www.nera.umd.edu/workshop/MACReportJuly2014.pdf>

Action: Motion made to approve item nos. 1-4 of the MAC Report as follows, was seconded and passed.

1. Approve revised proposal, NE_TEMP2161: Environmental Impacts of Equine Operations, 10/2014-9/2019 [Renewal of NE1041]
2. Approve revised proposal NE_TEMP2144: Poultry Production Systems and Well-being: Sustainability for Tomorrow, 10/2014-9/2019 [Renewal of NE1042]
3. Approve proposal NE_TEMP2181: Adaptive Management for Improved Nutrient Management, 10/2014-9/2019 [Renewal of NEERA1002]
4. Conditional approval of proposal NE_TEMP2182: Biology, Ecology & Management of Emerging Disease Vectors, 10/2014-9/2019 [Renewal of NE1043]. The outreach component needs to be strengthened.

Action: The Request to Write was approved for a new project entitled, Informed Decision-Making Project [10/2015-09/2020]. The Request to Write for Sustainable Farm Energy Production, Use and Efficiency [10/2014-09/2019] lacked sufficient justification to move forward. The group will be requested to revise and re-submit.

- NRSP Review Committee Recommendations (see report below)

MAC Chair Tim Phipps highlighted topics that need further discussion by the Directors. He noted that the Directors will vote on the final recommendations at the ESS Meeting in September. The NRSPRC will have another conference call in August and more details, specifically the NRSP_temp321 and the increase for NRSP1 for the NIMSS re-design, will be available. The final recommendations will be presented at the ESS Meeting.

- NRSP_TEMP301/NRSP7- A National Agricultural Program for Minor Use Animal Drugs will be approved for a one-year funding (\$325K), but must demonstrate that they have secured new (not in-kind) funds that are equal to or more than 2x the off-the-top funding requested prior to submitting another renewal proposal. See suggested change in NRSP Guidelines, Section IV.B in the NRSPRC Report.

- NRSP_TEMP321- Database Resources for Crop Genomics, Genetics and Breeding Research approval pending formal response to NRSP-RC questions about database platform selection and communication with the National Animal Genome Research Program (NRSP-8) database manager. Approval of new project's budget of \$398,631 will exceed cap of \$2M for total NRSPs. Suggested change in NRSP Guidelines, Section III. A is a recommendation to invest up to 1% of Hatch to bring cap up to \$2.4M.
- Changes to the NRSP Guidelines:
 - Section III. A. General: Change bullet four under delegated authority to “delegate authority to the NRSP-RC to invest up to 1% of total Hatch Funding in NRSPs.”
 - Section IV. B Management and Business Plan: Add the following “For the multistate program, including NRSPs; leveraging shall mean funding brought to bear on the project objectives regardless of source, not including in-kind support from host institution(s).”
- NRSP1-NIMSS will likely be increased. NRSPRC did not have estimated costs for the re-design of NIMSS at their meeting in Denver. The NRSP1 Committee will submit a request for a one-time **additional** funding of \$215K (FY15), and \$107K (FY16-17) for each year to cover maintenance. The current NRSP1 expires in 2016. A one-year project approval will be sought for FY2017 to allow signing a 3-year project with Clemson University.

3. Review of Joint Session Discussions and Next Steps

<https://host.cals.wisc.edu/nenc/schedule/>

Chair Fred Servello asked the Directors for reaction and ideas on opportunities for collaboration on the general session topics on Water Quality & Nutrient Management, and Climate.

Dan Rossi suggested discussing at the NERA spring meeting, a virtual institute in the Northeast and develop a MOU similar to the North Central region on the topic of Water. Steve Goodwin expressed interest in participating, if the Directors decide to work on something specific, say *Hypoxia*. Another suggestion on the topic of Climate, is to address the impact of climate change on invasive species, and build on the network already established under the Northeastern US-Canada initiative.

Chair Fred Servello noted the need to come up with concrete action items that Dan Rossi and Nancy Bull can work on.

Now that the USDA Climate Hubs are established, USDA RFPs will require that climate change components are addressed in proposals. Our objective is to position the region, our institutions and scientists to be able to address these requirements, by determining who/what/where the expertise are. The first task of the Hub is to collect an inventory of these expertise.

Several Land-grant institutions have signed on to USDA's Northeast Climate Hub. Unfortunately, the institutions signed MOUs individually, instead of as a Region, so a few Stations were left out. Dan Rossi and Nancy Bull will have a conference call with David Hollinger's group, and will request if both can join the group to represent the region.

4. NEED and NERA Joint Meeting at 12:45-1:30PM – Rick Rhodes III and Fred Servello
 - Introductions
 - NEED – NERA Planning Grant Proposal and Approval of the Process
 - Working with the USDA NE Climate Hub
 - 2015 Northeast Joint Summer Session
 - Adjourn

Action:

1. The motion made to revise the draft NEED-NERA Planning Grant RFP to broaden the scope, and not limit it to AFRI themes/priorities, was seconded and passed.
The intent is to support the development of “new cross-disciplinary, integrated, and multistate research and Extension programs that address important needs in the region.”
NEED Chair Rick Rhodes noted that we should encourage innovative ideas and use the grant as an opportunity for individuals, who may not come together naturally, to coalesce over innovative and integrated ideas.
 2. Dan Rossi and Nancy Bull were charged to work with USDA Northeast Climate Hub’s David Hollinger, and if necessary, approach Sonny Ramaswamy. The Directors expressed their concern on how MOUs with the Land-grants were handled.
 3. The 2015 Joint Summer Session will not be held jointly with another region. The University of New Hampshire offered to host next year’s meeting at Portsmouth, NH. Directors suggested using Monday as a travel date.
 4. Directors were encouraged to use the impacts website - National Impact Database at <http://www.landgrantimpacts.org>, funded jointly by ESCOP and ECOP.
5. AHS Joins NERA
6. ESS Excellence in Leadership Award Recognition
Bruce McPherson, former Dean and AES Director at Penn State, was unanimously voted by the NERA Directors as this year’s recipient of the Northeast Excellence in Leadership Award. Bruce, along with other awardees from the North Central, South, West and the 1890s, will receive the award at the APLU Annual Meeting in November at Orlando, FL.
7. Executive Director's Report – Dan Rossi (see report below)
 - New NERA Website Demonstration – Rubie Mize
<http://nera.rutgers.edu/index.php>
The new homepage will be rolled out this fall.
8. ESCOP Report – Mike Hoffmann and Dan Rossi (see report below)
9. Discussion of NERA's Multistate Research Program: Present and Future – Fred Servello
Please refer to the following documents attached below:
1. Breakdown of Multistate Research Portfolio by Region and Project Type
 2. Northeast Region Multistate Research Portfolio
 3. National Multistate Research Portfolio - Natural Resources & Related
 4. NERA Planning Grant Proposal Submissions
 5. Timeline for Multistate Research Project Proposal Review and Approval

Chair Fred Servello raised the following questions:

- Is the northeast region's current use of the five types of multistate projects optimal?
- Does the northeast region's portfolio of multistate projects satisfactorily address priority areas for regionally coordinated research?
- Are research needs in natural resources addressed satisfactorily at the regional level?
- What do the previous five years of planning grant proposal submissions tell us about the faculty capacity and subject area interest for working as regional teams?
- Is NERA's development and approval process for multistate projects optimal?

Discussion:

- There is a need to inform and educate Extension counterparts about the ERAs. Other regions tend to use this type more than the Northeast.
- Organize more Coordinating Committees [CCs and ERAs] and require them to include applying for competitive grants in their Objectives, and track their success.
- Who sets priorities – administration (USDA/NERA/NEED/universities), programs or stakeholders we serve? Suggestion is to use the Governors' group, e.g., New England Governors' Club. Priority setting process should begin at the Governor's level. John Kirby related that the North Central Bioeconomy Consortium was formed after they met with the Midwestern Governors. The governors provided direction and funding to the consortium.
- Urban agriculture is a common area/topic in the Northeast, but not sufficiently addressed. UDC will embark on a project to provide green space, related to storm water mitigation, in Washington, DC. A 20,000 sq.ft. greenhouse facility will be built. Similar projects are being done in Baltimore, New Jersey and New York.
- Faculty decides what project to start. They attend regional forums/workshops, that give them the opportunity to meet other scientists who share their interest, and this may eventually lead to forming multistate teams, and perhaps go after grants. Is there a place for managing this process? Do we have the right organization?
- Bill Hare raised the key issue of the relevance of the Land-grant system. Research base is data driven, but results are not significant if the laboratory is not certified. It is extremely expensive to get labs certified, and also to use services of certified labs, but this is necessary to allow scientific data to be used in the court of law.
- Consider the economic development piece – How many jobs are created? Where are they distributed? Across states or regions, consider uniform marketing, taxes and transportation.

10. Nominations Committee Report – Jon Wraith

11. Resolutions Committee Report – Susan Brown

Resolution of Appreciation to the Host Institution – University of Wisconsin

WHEREAS, the Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors (NERA) participated in engaging and productive meetings at the Madison Concourse Hotel in Madison, Wisconsin, and

WHEREAS, the Directors enjoyed the tours of the Wisconsin Energy Institute, Wisconsin Brewing Company and the Wollersheim Winery on Sunday, July 13, which highlighted the contributions of the Land-grant in bioenergy research, and the local agriculture and economy, and

WHEREAS, the Directors enjoyed their interaction in a well-organized joint meeting with the Northeast and North Central Deans, Research/Extension Directors, and Members of the Council for Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching (CARET) on July 14-15, strategizing on regional collaborations while looking into the future of agriculture and natural resources in the areas of water quality and nutrient management, and in the context of climate. They also engaged in discussions on how to work effectively with legislators, and were treated to an interesting luncheon presentation on Communicating Risk in the Science of Food and Agriculture by a very motivating speaker.

WHEREAS, the Directors, enjoyed a relaxing dinner with colleagues at the Harvest Restaurant on the evening of July 14,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Directors acknowledge their appreciation to Deans Kathryn VandenBosch and Rick Klemme, and Laura Van Toll and their colleagues for making the meeting a great success and a very enjoyable experience.

July 15, 2014

Signed by:
Fred Servello, Chair
Northeastern Regional Association of State
Agricultural Experiment Station Directors

12. Future Meetings:

- Joint COPs Meeting, Sheraton San Diego Hotel and Marina, Sand Diego, CA
July 23-24, 2014
- ESS Annual Meeting and Workshop, Jekyll Island Club Hotel, GA
September 30 – October 2, 2014 [**NERA will meet Wed., October 1, 7:30-10:30AM**]
- APLU Meeting, Hilton Bonnet Creek Resort, Orlando, FL – November 2-4, 2014
- NERA Spring Meeting, Baltimore, MD – March 10-11, 2015
- 2015 Northeast Joint Summer Meeting – Portsmouth, NH [UNH will be hosting]

13. Closing Remarks/Adjournment – Chair Fred Servello

Chair Fred Servello thanked the Directors for the lively and productive meeting, wished everyone safe return and adjourned the meeting at 2:44PM.

Interim Actions by the Chair – Fred Servello
March to June 2014

1. As a follow up to discussions at the NERA meeting in Baltimore, requested additional materials and input to finalize the white paper on Cost Recovery at Agricultural Experiment Station Research Facilities in the Northeast.
2. To help implement the ESS Award in its first year and as agreed upon at NERA's March meeting, developed a nomination form for the Excellence in Leadership Award, seeking only brief summaries (no more than two pages) of the key activities and accomplishments of nominees or references to other information sources. The request for nomination was released and Directors cast their votes via electronic ballot to confirm the 2014 regional awardee, Dr. Bruce McPheron, former Dean and PA AES Director.
3. Approved the release of the electronic ballot to confirm MAC's recommendation for the 2014 National Multistate Research Award. MAC reviewed and recommended approval of NE9- Conservation and Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources.
4. Prepared agenda and background materials for the July NERA summer meeting.
5. Met with NCRA and NEED leadership to develop agenda for the following meeting this summer:
 - a. Joint NCRA and NERA Meeting
 - b. Joint NEED and NERA Meeting

Report and Recommendations

NORTHEAST MULTISTATE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

Via Teleconference

July 8, 2014 [Tuesday] - 11:00am to 12:00noon

Chair - Tim Phipps (WV)

**In Attendance: Tim Phipps (WV), Cameron Faustman (CTS), Bill Hare (DC),
Fred Servello (ME), Gary Thompson (PA) and Dan Rossi (NERA)**

1. Request to approve the revised proposal, as per MAC's recommendations to include an economist and the additional objective as suggested by one of the peer reviewers.
NE_TEMP2161: Environmental Impacts of Equine Operations, 10/2014-9/2019
[Renewal of NE1041]

Technical Committee Response:

Added Objective 6: Develop means of determining the impact of equine outreach programs, more specifically determination of BMP adoption rate.

This will allow us to chart progress among producers who use extension services and/or implement BMP's with the assistance of extension or other service providers such as NRCS, state departments of agriculture, and etc. We will work with social scientists to determine adoption rates, what are the reasons for resistance to adoption, and how to develop programs to overcome this resistance. At our fall 2014 meeting we will discuss how we can begin to implement this objective.

The following economists have joined the project team:

Dr. Kenny Burdine
Department of Agricultural Economics
University of Kentucky

Dr. Robin Brumfield
Dept. of Agricultural, Food & Resource Economics
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

Action: MAC is pleased with the addition of the new objective and the two economists. MAC recommends approval of the proposal.

2. Request to approve the revised proposal, as per MAC's recommendation to include an economist.
NE_TEMP2144: Poultry Production Systems and Well-being: Sustainability for Tomorrow, 10/2014-9/2019 [Renewal of NE1042]

Technical Committee Response:

We have added the economic methodology to the proposal under item 3e and added 2 references, and an economist from North Carolina State University, Tom Vukina, had joined the project team.

3e. Economic implications of different production systems.

Where appropriate, production income and costs will be calculated and compared for research previously described. These analyses will assist producers when implementing the research knowledge generated from these studies.

The methodological approach frequently used in economics to evaluate projects or policy proposals is referred to as benefit-cost analysis. The approach relies on measuring benefits and costs of different scientific or engineering projects or regulation policy proposals, and if the benefits are larger than the costs, or if the so-called benefit-cost ratio is greater than 1, the project or policy passes the test and is recommended for adoption or approval.

The proposed methodology for conducting the benefit-cost analysis relies on the standard enterprise budgeting techniques (Boehlje and Eidman, 1984). A typical enterprise budget reflects two sides of the profitability equation: revenues and costs. The standard approach for estimating economic benefits (revenue side) is to look at the change in prices consumers would be willing to pay for the new or improved product or service. For example, the potential economic benefits associated with improved living conditions in confined animal production facilities would materialize if consumers' willingness to pay for this additional attribute would increase as the result of consumers' perception or as the result of some measurable product quality improvement. In most of the work in this project we will focus primarily only on the cost side of the profit equation, whereas the imputed values for total revenue will be calculated based on the break-even price, which implicitly assumes the zero-profit condition, for details see Vukina et al. (2014).

The cost estimation methodology typically involve three steps. In the first step, the baseline cost structure and the break-even price for the relevant commercial enterprise is established. In the second step, we analyze the impact of the new technologies or practices on the baseline cost structure. All aspects of the cost of production that could have an effect on the representative operation's baseline costs will be quantified to obtain the new cost structure and the new break-even price. The comparison of the new technology or practice and old (baseline) break-even prices will be expressed as a percentage increase or decrease in the break-even price relative to the baseline. In the third and final step, we try to calibrate the obtained results to capture possible economies of scale associated with different commercial sizes of targeted operations. To the extent that the analyzed project could have wider market implications, we rely on the partial equilibrium framework.

Action: MAC recommends approval of the proposal. The committee is pleased with the addition of the economist to analyze the cost effectiveness of new technologies and/or practices resulting from this multistate research collaboration.

3. Request to approve the proposal NE_TEMP2181: Adaptive Management for Improved Nutrient Management, 10/2014-9/2019 [Renewal of NEERA1002]

Note that the technical committee had changed the proposal title to "***Reporting Guidelines and Data Handling Protocols for Databases of Nitrogen Response Trials***".

Action: MAC recommends approval of the proposal with the modification to add “corn” in the title, i.e. “*Reporting Guidelines and Data Handling Protocols for Databases of Nitrogen Response Trials in Corn*”. Tim Phipps is the Research Advisor. NEED will be requested to appoint an Extension Advisor.

4. Request to approve the proposal NE_TEMP2182: Biology, Ecology & Management of Emerging Disease Vectors, 10/2014-9/2019 [Renewal of NE1043]

Action: MAC recommends conditional approval with the stipulation that the outreach component of the project be strengthened by providing more specifics on who the project is targeting. MAC is encouraging the technical committee to reach out and involve public medical professionals, veterinary entomologists and practitioners.

5. Request to approve the following Requests to Write (both are attached):

- 5.1. Sustainable Farm Energy Production, Use and Efficiency [10/2014-09/2019]

Action: MAC finds the topic highly relevant, but the Request did not have sufficient information to warrant moving it forward. MAC requests that the submission be revised following the format for the Request to Write by addressing the following:

- The need, as indicated by stakeholders.
- The importance of the work, and what the consequences are if it is not done.
- The technical feasibility of the research.
- The advantages for doing the work as a multistate effort.
- What the likely impacts will be from successfully completing the work.

Two or more stations should support the Request. Mention what states in the region intend to collaborate.

- 5.2. Informed Decision-Making Project [10/2015-09/2020]

Action: MAC commends the detailed justification given in the Request and recommends approval as an ERA with both Research and Extension advisors, and encourages reaching out widely to Land-grant institutions, particularly in the Northeast. A number of universities are already engaged and doing work in their institutions. MAC suggests capturing these in the literature citation and/or invite these experts, including human ecologists, as participants. MAC felt that involvement of the regional rural development centers is important, especially the Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development. There is an expectation for a strong Extension component in this multistate activity. This should be clearly expounded in the proposal. MAC also suggests that the title be revised to better reflect the purpose of the project. Is it for agriculture in general, or to address environmental and natural resource issues? This project will need both Research and Extension advisors.

6. NRSP Review Committee Report [see attached minutes of the NRSPRC meeting]

MAC Chair Tim Phipps attended the NRSP-RC Meeting held on June 17 at Denver, CO. He briefly reported on the recommendations and highlighted topics that may need further discussion at the NERA meeting:

- NRSP_TEMP301/NRSP7- A National Agricultural Program for Minor Use Animal Drugs will be approved for a one-year funding (\$325K), but must demonstrate that they have secured new (not in-kind) funds that are equal to or more than 2x the off-the-top funding requested prior to submitting another renewal proposal. See suggested change in NRSP Guidelines, Section IV.B
- NRSP_TEMP321- Database Resources for Crop Genomics, Genetics and Breeding Research approval pending formal response to NRSP-RC questions about database platform selection and communication with the National Animal Genome Research Program (NRSP-8) database manager. Approval of new project's budget of \$398,631 will exceed cap of \$2M for total NRSPs. See suggested change in NRSP Guidelines, Section III. A. Recommendation to invest up to 1% of Hatch will bring cap up to \$2.4M.
- Changes to the NRSP Guidelines:
 - Section III. A. General: Change bullet four under delegated authority to “delegate authority to the NRSP-RC to invest up to 1% of total Hatch Funding in NRSPs.”
 - Section IV. B Management and Business Plan: Add the following “For the multistate program, including NRSPs; leveraging shall mean funding brought to bear on the project objectives regardless of source, not including in-kind support from host institution(s).”
- NRSP1-NIMSS will likely be increased. NRSPRC did not have estimated costs for the re-design of NIMSS at their meeting in Denver. The NRSP1 Committee will submit a request for a one-time *additional* funding of \$215K (FY15), and \$107K (FY16-17) for each year to cover maintenance. The current NRSP1 expires in 2016. A one-year project approval will be sought for FY2017 to allow signing a 3-year project with Clemson University.

7. 2014 National Multistate Research Award – for info only

The Science and Technology Committee met on May 27 to discuss the following nominations for the 2014 National Multistate Research Award for Excellence.

NCERA197 - Agricultural Safety and Health Research and Extension
 NE9 - Conservation and Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources
 S1049 - Integrated Management of Pecan Arthropod Pests in the Southern U.S.
W2128 - Microirrigation for Sustainable Water Use

W2128 was selected as this year's winner.

8. 2014 Joint NEED-NERA Planning Grant [see attached Draft RFA]

A small group of NEED and NERA directors met by teleconference on June 30. The draft RFA will be discussed at the Joint NEED-NERA Meeting in Madison, WI.

9. Other Business

- Advisors are needed for the new projects above:
 - Extension Advisor for NE_TEMP2181: *Reporting Guidelines and Data Handling Protocols for Databases of Nitrogen Response Trials in Corn* [10/2014-09/2019]
 - Research and Extension Advisors for *Sustainable Farm Energy Production, Use and Efficiency* [10/2014-09/2019]
 - Extension Advisor for *Informed Decision-Making Project* – Margaret Smith will be approached to serve as the Research Advisor [10/2015-09/2020]

- NECC1014- Nanotechnology Risk Assessment
 - The project will expire in 2016, and had not been productive. Advisor Fred Servello has set of recommendations that he would like to present and discuss with the directors.

Current MAC members:

Tim Phipps, WV (2013-2016) – Chair until end Sept. 2014

Gary Thompson, PA (2012-2015)

Fred Servello, ME (2012-2015)

Bob Schrader, MA-Extension (2011-2014)

Bill Hare, DC-Extension (2012-2015)

Cameron Faustman, CTS (2014-2017)

NRSP Review Committee Meeting
Embassy Suites, Denver, CO
June 17, 2014
MINUTES

Participants:

Bret Hess (Chair)
Eric Young
H. Michael Harrington
Tim Phipps
Clarence Watson
Don Latham
Doug Buhler
Sarah Lupis (Recording Secretary)

Summary of Actions Taken

Motion and second and unanimous approval of the following recommendation for substantive changes to the NRSP Guidelines:

- Section III. A. General: Change bullet four under delegated authority to “delegate authority to the NRSP-RC to invest up to 1% of total Hatch Funding in NRSPs.”
- Section IV. B Management and Business Plan: Add the following “For the multistate program, including NRSPs; leveraging shall mean funding brought to bear on the project objectives regardless of source, not including in-kind support from host institution(s).”

NRSP Project	Title	Request for FY15	NRSP Review Committee Action
NRSP_TEMP003	The National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP)	\$50,000	Approve 5-year budget
NRSP_TEMP301	A National Agricultural Program for Minor Use Animal Drugs	\$325,000	Approve 1-year budget ¹
NRSP_TEMP321	Database Resources for Crop Genomics, Genetics and Breeding Research	\$398,631	Approve 5-year budget ²

¹ NRSP7 must demonstrate that they have secured new (not in-kind) funds that are equal to or more than 2x the off-the-top funding requested prior to submitting another renewal proposal.

² Pending formal response to NRSP-RC questions about database platform selection and communication with the National Animal Genome Research Program (NRSP-8) database manager.

1. NRSP_TEMP321, “Database Resources for Crop Genomics, Genetics and Breeding Research”

Bret Hess (Chair) gave a summary of the project objectives and budget.

There was discussion about intellectual property issues and how this project would handle them—all information will be public and shared except for what is protected by specific database users. Most information would be free and open to the public, including the database itself.

Dorrie Main (PI) will be attending the NE-NC Joint Summer meeting.

There was some discussion about how this group plans to coordinate with other databases that currently exist. There is hope that this database format (Triple) becomes the database of choice, and there was some interest in having this database become the new model. Many are converting already to this type of database (20+).

There was some discussion about if this group plans to expand to include specialty crops—during a presentation, the PI indicated that they would do this. Most of what is in there are specialty crops, but the group was approached by cotton and decided to take that on (the southern region helped to fund that effort).

There was some discussion on how this group could seek funding from the Specialty Crop Research Initiative. Included in this discussion was the notion of offering a smaller budget to this group and encouraging funding through that route. Some of the individual crops already have support under the SCRI. This group aims to serve as the platform for all of those specialty crops. The database currently has 25,000 users. The project is considering user fees.

One RC member suggested that the proposal was a better fit to the mission of the NRSP program than anything he’d read in a long time. The three absent reviewers gave the proposal outstanding marks.

Questions for formal response:

- How and why was this database platform (TriPal/CHADO) selected over other options? How was it determined that this is the preferred platform by specialty crop users (i.e., the same questions asked by peer reviewer Steve Lommel)?
- Has the group communicated with Jim Reece (Animal Genome Project) and/or what are plans to do so?

Motion and second to recommend approval of the NRSP_TEMP321 proposal, subject to formal response to the questions above. Unanimously approved with one abstention.

2. NRSP_TEMP003, “The National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP)”

Bret Hess provided a summary of the project. Doug Buhler, AA on the project, also provided some background on the development of the proposal.

Regions have overwhelming support for the project. The project is succeeding with minimal NRSP contributions.

Absent NRSP-RC members indicated support for this proposal.

Motion and second to approve recommendation for approval of the NRSP_TEMP003 proposal. Unanimously approved.

3. NRSP_TEMP301, “A National Agricultural Program for Minor Use Animal Drugs”

Bret Hess provided a summary of the proposal and history of the project.

The group has struggled to leverage NRSP funds. Also fewer manufacturers/veterinarians are willing to take the research risk. As currently funded, there are insufficient funds to do their work. They intend to spend the year exploring alternative funding options and bolstering stakeholder support.

There was discussion about how to rally the minor animal stakeholders.

This proposal covers a one-year "extension" for this project to close out or re-group.

Motion and second to approve recommendation for approval of the NRSP_TEMP003 project proposal. Unanimously approved. A strong recommendation was made to enhance stakeholder engagement and to have this take place as soon as possible.

4. Mid-Term Review of NRSP001, "National Information Management and Support System (NIMSS)"

Bret Hess gave a summary of the project and mid-term review.

The Administrative Advisors reviewed the project. Major concerns of reviewers focused on how others utilize NIMSS and evaluating the true impact/reach of the impact writing effort. There was discussion about the positive feedback received for the impact writing effort. The impact writing effort has made significant contributions to the ESCOP/ECOP communications and marketing effort; providing a resource for that effort and also for institutions to use in developing further media attention.

There was some discussion about how the NIMSS is used by the general public.

There was some discussion about the necessity of having a functional database. There was widespread support for completely revamping NIMSS, and even for putting other things on hold to ensure that the NIMSS is functional.

5. Budget Discussion

A spreadsheet summarizing FY13, FY14, pending for FY15 and projected for FY16-18 (with assumptions) was distributed by Mike Harrington.

If all projects on the table are approved, and there is an increase in NRSP-1 funding to accommodate necessary upgrades to the database, the NRSP budget will exceed the \$2M cap. This cap was set 2 years ago. There was never any discussion of having the cap be a percentage. It was suggested that the AAs talk to the IR-4 (NRSP4) leadership about reducing their budget to a more maintenance level when they renew in 2015.

Motion to approve pending funding for NRSP-1 in FY14 for up to an additional \$200,000 (total budget = \$275,000) to address the new proposal to fix; a higher proposed budget will necessitate a conference call of the NRSP-RC. Motion to approve pending funding for NRSP-1 in FY15 for up to an additional \$75,000 (total budget = \$150,000); a higher proposed budget will necessitate a conference call of the NRSP-RC.

Motion and second for recommendation to approve 5-year budget for NRSP_TEMP003 (NRSP3). Unanimously approved.

Motion and second for recommendations to approve 1-year budget for NRSP_TEMP301 (NRSP7). Unanimously approved. Motion and unanimous approval of recommendation that NRSP7 must

demonstrate that they have secured 2x the funding requested from the NRSP from new (not in-kind) funds prior to initiating renewal.

Motion and second for recommendation to approve the NRSP_TEMP321 5-year budget. Approved with one abstaining (wants to see PI's presentation at Summer Meeting). There was discussion about alternative funding. First alternate recommendation would be to recommend a 1-year exception to the cap. Second alternate recommendation would be to postpone the NRSP_TEMP321 for one year.

6. Changes to the NRSP Guidelines

Motion and second and unanimous approval of the following recommendation for substantive changes to the NRSP Guidelines:

Section III. A. General: *Change bullet four to delegate authority to the NRSP-RC to approve up to 1% of total Hatch Funding.*

Section IV. B Management and Business Plan: *Add the following "For the multistate program, including NRSPs; leveraging shall mean funding brought to bear on the project objectives regardless of source, not including in-kind support from host institution(s)."*

A final, non-substantive, change was also approved:

B. During Project Term (Years 2-4) *Change "October—November (Year 2)" to "March (Year 3)" and "February—April" to "February—May" (also changes in Appendix 2A)*

C. Renewal of an Existing NRSP *add "committee"*

7. NRSP-RC Term Limits

There was discussion about NRSP-RC term limits for CARET representatives. The term is 4 years for CARET representatives and Don Latham has probably exceeded his term and could propose a change in representatives to the Chair of CARET.

2014 Integrated Research and Extension Planning Grants Program

The Northeastern Cooperative Extension Directors (NEED) and Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors (NERA) announce a regional competitive planning grants program. These grants are to be used to organize Northeast Extension educators and Northeast Agricultural Experiment Station researchers around teams to develop new cross-disciplinary, integrated, and multistate research and Extension programs that address important needs in the region in the topic areas list below.

The intent of the program is to stimulate and develop regional efforts that provide synergy across institutions and strengthen research and Extension efforts in specific areas. Funding for this program is designed to allow each state institution to capitalize on their strengths and to build multistate teams of faculty to enhance research and outreach capacity. It is expected that each state will support the planning processes (travel, etc.) to assist groups in developing the proposals through appropriate discussion/requests at the onset. These efforts will allow us to be more competitive for external agency funding and to provide important educational and outreach programs to stakeholders in the region and beyond.

Proposals are to be needs-driven and focus on new and promising integrated research and Extension activities that bring together specialists in diverse fields to apply complementary approaches to work on an important well-defined problem. Proposals in support of programs that are forward looking/anticipatory are especially encouraged. Expected deliverables include one or more of the following:

- Development of data necessary to enhance the competitiveness of large grants for external funding by various agencies
- Development of new research/Extension programs that provide innovative solutions to issues to Northeastern states
- Development of one or more new technologies that lead to job creation/economic development in Northeastern states
- Development new multi-State programming methods to deliver research information through Extension to communities within Northeastern states

The planning teams must include members from three or more Northeastern states. The leadership and majority of the membership of the teams should be from Northeastern states. However, researchers and Extension educators from other regions may participate. Their participation is expected to strengthen the proposed programs and make them potentially more competitive for future funding.

While we do not have a specific focus to this year's round of proposals, applicants should select projects that address the NIFA AFRI challenge areas or the mandated four competitive funding initiatives authorized in the recent Farm Bill.

The AFRI challenge areas are:

- Childhood Obesity Prevention
- Food Safety
- Food Security
- Water for Agriculture

The four mandated funding initiatives are:

- Organic Agriculture Research & Extension
- Specialty Crops Research Initiative
- New Farmer and Rancher Development
- Biomass Research and Development

Proposals (not to exceed **three** single-spaced pages not including the cover page and appendices) will be due on **September 30, 2014**. Final decisions will be made by October 31, 2014. Funding up to \$4,000 will be available to support travel and meeting expenses to bring the team members together. The source of these funds is the NEED and NERA operational budgets and cannot be used to pay indirect costs; and we reimburse **only** the actual expenses. The funding will be available to the teams for a maximum of one year from the date of the award notification.

Proposals for planning grants should include:

- Cover page (example included)
- Mission and goals of the proposed program
- Justification for the program relative to stakeholder needs and potential for sustained external funding
- Activities to be engaged in by team members towards a more complete definition of the program
- Explanation of roles of team members
- Timetable for completion of the planning activities and preparation of a competitive proposal
- Budget for planning activities (travel, meeting expenses, etc.) not to exceed \$4,000
- Leveraging resources
- CV of Team Leader – As an appendix (two page maximum) demonstrating track record of leading cross-disciplinary and/or multi-institutional collaborations

A required outcome of a planning grant will be a proposal submitted to the National Institute for Food and Agriculture in response to the FY2015 RFAs or other appropriate funding sources. Grant recipients must provide a written report at the end of the grant period and subsequent periodic updates on the status of resulting proposals.

The specific criteria that will be used to evaluate proposals are:

- Addresses an important need in the region
- Stakeholder-supported justification
- Consistent with goals of competitive funding programs
- Potential for sustained funding
- Clearly defined research and Extension activities
- Integrated research and Extension activities; where appropriate, resident education
- Realistic timetable
- Team members appropriate to proposed activities
- Team leaders with demonstrated track record
- Leveraged support
- Overall quality of proposal

Please submit planning grant proposals by c.o.b. on **September 30, 2014** to Rubie Mize at rgmize@aesop.rutgers.edu.

Proposal No. _____

2014 Integrated Research and Extension Planning Grants Program

Project Title: _____

Team Members

Name	Institution/Agency/Other

(Attach an additional sheet if more space is needed.)

Team Leader Contact Information:

Name:	
Address:	
Phone:	
Fax:	
E-mail:	

NERA Meeting
July 15, 2014
Madison Concourse Hotel, Madison, WI

Report of the Office of the Executive Director
March 8 – July 11, 2014

NERA and Regional Activities

- NERA Planning Grants Program
 - Supported the 2014 award recipients
 - Coordinated with NEED in development of a draft proposal for a second round of NEED-NERA planning grants
- Eastern US and Canada Climate Change Collaboration
 - Continue to coordinate with the NE US and Canada Climate Team
 - Coordinated efforts of the NE USDA Climate Hub
- 2014 Northeast Summer Session
 - Supported the planning for the joint Northeast-North Central summer session scheduled for July 13-15, 2014 in Madison, WI
 - Assisted in the development of the joint NCRA-NERA session agenda
 - Assisted in the development of the joint NEED-NERA session agenda
 - Assisted in the development of the NE AHS agenda
- NERA Chair Support
 - Assisted in the development of the July 2014 NERA meeting agenda and compiled agenda materials
 - Prepared NERA Chair's Interim Actions report
 - Prepared NERA ESCOP Report
 - Prepared NERA OED report
 - Assisted in the development of the July 2014 NERA Executive Committee meeting agenda
- NERA Website
 - Worked with website developer to redesign the NERA website
 - Initiated repopulation of the new website
- Northeast Regional Aquaculture Center Mid-Atlantic
 - Served as a member of Board of Directors
 - Approved as necessary appointments to the Industry and Technical Advisory Committees
- IR-4 (NRSP-4)
 - Served as Regional Administrative Advisor
 - Assisting in the development of a strategic planning effort and a new five year NRSP-4 proposal
 - Assisted in preparing a report examining alternative NE regional locations
- NE-1049
 - Served as Administrative Advisor
 - Attended annual Technical Committee Meeting
- Multistate Activities Committee (MAC) Support
 - Assisted MAC Chair in developing agenda and compiling materials for the MAC meeting

- Assisted advisors and technical committee members in revising their proposals to satisfy MAC's recommendations for the following projects that were given conditional approval at the NERA spring meeting:
 1. NE_TEMP2161: Environmental Impacts of Equine Operations, 10/2014-9/2019 [Renewal of NE1041]
 2. NE_TEMP2144: Poultry Production Systems and Well-being: Sustainability for Tomorrow, 10/2014-9/2019 [Renewal of NE1042]
- Assisted advisors and technical committee members in submitting their proposals and participation forms and coordinated peer reviews for the following projects:
 1. NE_TEMP2182: Biology, Ecology & Management of Emerging Disease Vectors, 10/2014-9/2019 [Renewal of NE1043]
 2. NE_TEMP2181: Adaptive Management for Improved Nutrient Management, 10/2014-9/2019 [Renewal of NEERA1002]
New project title is "Reporting Guidelines and Data Handling Protocols for Databases of Nitrogen Response Trials"
- Assisted advisors and technical committee members in submitting the following Requests to Write:
 1. Sustainable Farm Energy Production, Use and Efficiency [10/2014-09/2019]
 2. Informed Decision-Making Project [10/2015-09/2020]

National Activities

- ESCOP Science and Technology Committee Chair Support
 - Completed term as Executive Vice-Chair of the Science and Technology Committee, April 2014
 - Prepared a committee report for the March 3 ESCOP meeting
 - Prepared monthly reports for ESCOP CAC calls
- ESS Awards Programs
 - Provided overall coordination to the 2014 Excellence in Multistate Research Awards Program
 - Organized the Committee review of the regional submittals and recommendation of a national Multistate Research Award winner
 - Assisted in the implementation of the ESS Award for Excellence in Leadership
- ESS/CES Communications and Marketing Committee Co-Chair Support
 - Served as the ESS Executive Director point person
 - Assisted in scheduling, planning and developing agenda for Executive Committee and Full Committee conference calls
 - Assisted in the preparation of a Committee recommendation for Marketing Initiative expansion for the Policy Board of Directors
 - Prepared monthly reports for ESCOP CAC calls
 - Prepared agenda brief for July ESCOP meeting
- ESCOP Chair's Advisory Committee (CAC)
 - Participated in monthly CAC conference calls
- ESS/SAES/ARD Annual Meeting and Workshops
 - Assisted in the development of the program agenda
 - Organizing a workshop on Collaborative Opportunities with ARS
- Joint COPs Session
 - Assisted in the development of the program agenda

- NRSP-1 Management Committee
 - Provided support to the NRSP-1 Management Committee
 - Facilitated quarterly conference calls of the NRSP-1 Management Committee
- NIMSS
 - Prepared a RFP for NIMSS Upgrade
 - Supported transfer of NIMSS to cloud based server
 - Facilitated a number of repairs to NIMSS resulting from the transfer
 - Served as regional NIMSS Coordinator
 - Provided national level support for the operations of NIMSS
 - Supported NIFA Management Dashboard access to NIMSS data
- National Futuring Steering Committee
 - Supported chair (Mike Hoffmann) of the Steering Committee
 - Assisted in scheduling, planning and developing the agenda for Committee conference calls
 - Assisted in preparation of a Steering Committee report Policy Board of Directors
 - Prepared agenda brief for July ESCOP meeting
- Capital Infrastructure Task Force
 - Supported chair (Mike Hoffmann) of the Task Force
 - Assisted in scheduling, planning and developing the agenda for Task Force conference calls
 - Assisted in the preparation of a report and recommendations to the Policy Board of Directors
 - Prepared agenda brief for July ESCOP meeting
- National Water Program
 - Assisted in the development of a proposal for a National Water Program
- LEAD 21 Program
 - Served on Board of Directors (completed term as Secretary/Treasurer, now serving as Program Chair)
 - Participated in April Board of Directors meeting
 - Participated in LEAD 21 Class 10 Session 1 and June Board of Directors meeting
- Program Monitoring and Feedback on:
 - NIFA budget developments
 - NIFA competitive grants programs
 - NIFA operational web and teleconferences
 - NIFA Hatch MRF utilization

Travel

- March 26-27, 2014 – NE 1049 Annual Technical Committee Meeting, San Antonio, TX
- May 6-7, 2014 – National Multistate Coordination Committee Annual Meeting, Washington, DC
- May 13-15, 2014 – National Value Added Conference, Baltimore, MD
- June 22-27, 2014 – LEAD 21 Class X Session and Board of Directors Meeting, Minneapolis, MN

NERA Meeting
July 15, 2014
Madison Concourse Hotel, Madison, WI

Experiment Station Committee on Organization and Policy Report
March 2014 – July 2014

ESCOP Officers

- Chair - Steve Slack
- Chair-Elect – Robert Shulstad
- Past Chair – Mike Hoffmann
- Executive Vice Chair – Jeff Jacobsen
- ESS Rep to BAA Policy Board – Steve Slack
- Budget and Legislative Committee Chair – Bret Hess
- Communications & Marketing Committee Co-Chair – Nancy Cox
- Science & Technology Committee Chair – John Russin
- NRSP Review Committee Chair – Bret Hess

NERA Representatives to:

- ESCOP:
 - Adel Shirmohammadi
 - Fred Servello
 - Tim Phipps
- ESCOP Budget & Legislative Committee
 - Tim Phipps
 - Gary Thompson (Incoming Chair)
- ESS/CES Communications and Marketing Committee
 - Rick Rhodes
- ESCOP Science & Technology Committee
 - Cameron Faustman
 - Tom Burr
- NRSP Review Committee
 - Tim Phipps

Meetings

- ESCOP will next meet at the Joint COPs meeting, Sheraton San Diego Hotel and Marina, Sand Diego, CA , July 23-24, 2014
- ESS Annual Meeting and Workshop, Jekyll Island Club Hotel, GA, September 30 – October 2, 2014
- APLU Meeting, Hilton Bonnet Creek Resort, Orlando, FL, November 2-4, 2014

Budget and Legislative Committee

The ESCOP Budget and Legislative Committee is providing input into the FY2015 budget development through the BAA Budget and Advocacy Committee. The Committee developed a budget priority setting survey to seek input from the Directors to provide input into the FY2016 budget. The Committee also developed a survey on the use of the Science Roadmap.

Communications and Marketing Committee

The AES/CES Communications and Marketing Committee continues to work closely with kglobal and Cornerstone on a targeted educational effort to increase awareness and support for basic and applied research and transformational education provided by Land Grant Universities through Agricultural Experiment Stations and Cooperative Extension. We are into the second year of a two year partnership with ECOP to support the Project. ECOP has not yet made a decision to extend the partnership. The AHS have indicated an interest in joining the effort and a proposal for possibly expanding the effort is under consideration if additional funds are made available through the AHS. An expansion proposal will be presented to the PBD at their July meeting. The CMC has focused its messages during the past year on nutrition and health. It is now considering adding a second focus – water security.

Science and Technology Committee

The Committee met by conference call in May to evaluate the regional 2014 Multistate Research Award. It selected W2128 - *Microirrigation for Sustainable Water Use* and forwarded its recommendation to the ESCOP Executive Committee. The Executive Committee has approved this recommendation and the winner will be announced at the fall ESS meeting. The award will be presented at the November APLU meeting. The Committee has edited the award announcement for the next round. It also is planning to prepare a response to an expected USDA Open Access to Data policy statement.

National Research Support Review Committee

The NRSP Review Committee met in June to consider renewing two projects (NRSP-3 and NRSP-7), one new project (Database Resources for Crop Genomics, Genetics and Breeding Research), and one mid-term review (NRSP-1).

Other Activities

- Impact Reporting
 - ESCOP has approved joining ECOP in supporting the Strategic Opportunities and Measuring Excellence System. The system includes an impact database which will allow for search and retrieval of impact statements of AES research.
 - The System has been implemented and is open for the submittal of impact statement from the Stations.
- Pest Management Working Group
 - The Pest Management Working Group prepared a report suggesting the formation of a new Pest Management Program that would be funded as a single line item.

- The 2014 Appropriations Act provided a lower than anticipated level of funding for this line and more importantly included the line within the integrated set of accounts. In so doing, it made the Extension Integrated Pest Management Coordination and Support Program now subject to 30% indirect cost charges thereby greatly reducing the amount of operating funds for the program. A letter has been prepared requesting that institutions provide a one-time waiver to this allowable charge. We expect to have the problem corrected in the next appropriations cycle.
- A proposal has been developed outlining the charge and composition of a national Pest Management Coordinating Council.
- Water Resources Working Group
 - The National Water Resources Working Group has prepared a proposal for a national water security initiative.
 - The Working Group will soon forward its report to the PBD-BAC with a recommendation that funding in the amount of \$100 million be sought for the initiative.
- Futuring Task Force
 - The National Futures Steering Committee, chaired by Mike Hoffmann, and consisting of representation from the various BAA sections was charged to determine a charge, goals, outputs, timeline and composition of a Futuring Task Force that would guide the futuring initiative.
 - The Steering Committee has prepared a planning document that will be presented to the PBD at their July meeting.
- Capital Infrastructure
 - A Task Force chaired by Mike Hoffmann worked with a firm (Sightlines) a proposal to conduct the survey and to generate an estimate of total capital infrastructure needs on our campuses.
 - The Task Force has prepared a proposal for funding the project that will be presented to the PBD at their July meeting.

Breakdown of Multistate Research Portfolio by Region and Project Type

[as of July 2, 2014]

Region	Multistate Projects NC, NE, S, W	ACs Advisory Committees	CCs Coordinating Committees	ERAs Education/ Extension and Research Activity	DCs Development Committees	Total
North Central	43	11	18	25	1	98
Northeast	28	1	5	4	0	38
South	22	12	7	17	0	58
West	28	0	1	30	6	65
NRSPs	7					7
Total	128	24	31	76	7	266

Northeast Region Multistate Research Portfolio

July 2014

I. Agriculture

Animal & Related (n = 10)

- NE1041 Environmental Impacts of Equine Operations, 09/30/2014
- NE1042 Optimization of Poultry Welfare and Production Systems for the 21st Century, 09/30/2014
- NE1044 Whole farm dairy and beef systems: gaseous emissions, P management, organic production, and pasture based production, 09/30/2015
- NE1048 Mastitis Resistance to Enhance Dairy Food Safety, 09/30/2017
- NE1201 Mycobacterial Diseases of Animal, 09/30/2017
- NE1227 Ovarian Influences on Reproductive Success in Ruminants, 09/30/2017
- NE1334 Genetic Bases for Resistance and Immunity to Avian Diseases, 09/30/2018
- NEAC002 Animal Science Advisory Committee, 09/30/2016
- NECC1200 Equine Clinical Studies, 09/30/2017
- NEERA1003 Northeast Pasture Consortium, 09/30/2016

Plants & Related (n = 10)

- NE009 Conservation and Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources, 09/30/2018
- NE1010 Breeding and Genetics of Forage Crops to Improve Productivity, Quality, and Industrial Uses, 09/30/2017
- NE1020 Multi-state Evaluation of Winegrape Cultivars and Clones, 09/30/2017
- NE1040 Plant-Parasitic Nematode Management as a Component of Sustainable Soil Health Programs in Horticultural and Field Crop Production Systems, 09/30/2016
- NE1047 Ecological Bases for Weed Management in Sustainable Cropping Systems, 09/30/2016
- NE1231 Collaborative Potato Breeding and Variety Development Activities to Enhance Farm Sustainability in the Eastern US, 09/30/2017
- NE1335 Resource Management in Commercial Greenhouse Production, 09/30/2018
- NE1336 Improving Quality and Reducing Losses in Specialty Fruit Crops through Storage Technologies, 09/30/2018
- NECC029 Northeastern Corn Improvement Conference, 09/30/2018
- NEERA1306 Management of the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug, 09/30/2018

Agricultural-Other (n = 1)

- NEERA1002 Adaptive Management for Improved Nutrient Management, 09/30/2014

2. Foods and Nutrition (n = 1)

- NE1039 Changing the Health Trajectory for Older Adults through Effective Diet and Activity Modifications, 09/30/2014. Renewed as NE1439, 09/30/2019

3. Natural Resources (n = 6)

- NE1038 Hydropedology: Genesis, Properties, and Distribution of Hydromorphic Soils, 09/30/2014
- NE1438 Hydropedology of Vernal Pool Systems, 09/30/2019
- NE1333 Biological Improvement of Chestnut through Technologies that Address Management of the Species, its Pathogens and Pests, 09/30/2018
- NE1962 Outdoor Recreation, Parks and Other Green Environments: Understanding Human and Community Benefits and Mechanisms, 09/30/2017
- NEERA1005 Sustainable Wood Energy, 09/30/2016
- NECC1013 Strategies to Evaluate and Mitigate Ozone Impacts on the Structure and Function of Vegetation 09/30/2017

4. Other and Multiple Categories (n = 9)

- NE1043 Biology, Ecology & Management of Emerging Disease Vectors, 09/30/2014
- NE1045 Design, Assessment, and Management of Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems: Addressing the Challenges of Climate Change, 9/30/2015
- NE1046 Management of Annual Bluegrass on Golf Courses: Improved Active Practices for Maintenance, Pest Control, and Viable Techniques for Transition to More Desirable Grasses, 09/30/2016
- NE1049 Community Health and Resilience, 09/30/2017
- NE1332 Biological Control of Arthropod Pests and Weeds, 09/30/2018
- NECC1014 Nanotechnology Risk Assessment, 09/30/2016
- NECC1312 Northeast Coordinating Committee on Soil Testing, 09/30/2018
- NEERA1004 Northeast Region Technical Committee on Integrated Pest Management, 09/30/2016
- NE059 Multistate Research Coordination Northeastern Region, 09/30/2029

National Multistate Research Portfolio – Natural Resources & Related

July 2014

Forests and Rangeland

- NE1333 Biological Improvements of Chestnut through Technologies that Address Management of the Species, its Pathogens and Pests, 2018
- NEERA1005 Sustainable Wood Energy, 2016
- W2192 Improving Safety and Health of Wildland Firefighters through Personal Protective Clothing, 2017
- SAC013 Forestry, 2020
- WERA040 Application and Utility of the Ecological Site and Condition Concept for Monitoring Rangeland Ecological Status in the Western U.S., 2017
- WCC1008 Rangeland Education across Institutional Borders, 2018

Fisheries and Wildlife

- NC1189 Understanding the Ecological and Social Constraints to Achieving Sustainable Fisheries Resource Policy and Management, 2016

Water and Environment

- NE1038 Hydropedology: Genesis, Properties, and Distribution of Hydromorphic Soils, 2009
- NE1438 Hydropedology of Vernal Pool Systems, 2019
- W2190 Water Policy and Management Challenges in the West, 2009
- WERA102 Climate Data and Analyses for Applications in Agriculture and Natural Resources, 2015
- NECC1013 Strategies to Evaluate and Mitigate Ozone Impacts on the Structure and Function of Vegetation, 2017

Policy

- W3133 Benefits and Costs of Natural Resources Policies Affecting Ecosystem Services on Public and Private Lands, 2017
- SERA039 Public Policy Issues Education, 2018

Other

- NE1962 Outdoor Recreation, Parks and Other Green Environments: Understanding Human and Community Benefits and Mechanisms, 2017
- NCERA220 Biological Control of Arthropods and Weeds, 2011

(year = project end date)

NERA Planning Grant Proposal Submissions, 2010-2014

(RFA's emphasized USDA Challenge Areas. * = funded proposal)

1. Agriculture

Animal & Related (n= 3)

- NE1002 Biomass Production Potential on Equine Operations
- NE1005 Addressing the Nutritional and Reproductive Research and Extension Needs of the Organic Dairy Industry in the Northeast*
- NE1408 Expanding the Adoption of Low and No Grain Feeding to Improve the Viability of Organic Dairy Farms in the Northeast.

Plant & Related (n = 14)

- NE1004 Understanding the Influence of Diseases and N Use Efficiency on Biomass Yield in Switchgrass)
- NE1008 Healthful Berries: Improving Marketing for Northeast Berry Crops*
- NE1101 Integrating Wide-area Monitoring of Pests and Weather in the Northeast
- NE1104 Evaluating, Maintaining and Enhancing Managed Honey Bees and Bumble Bees in Insect-Pollinated Specialty Crops in the Northeast*
- NE1106 Beach Plum: An Old Plant on a New Horizon
- NE1107 FDA Approval of Berry Health Claims: Benefiting the Berry Industry by evidence-based research on the preventive and therapeutic benefits of berries
- NE1201 Oilseed Crop Growth and Processing for Northeast Farm Profitability*
- NE1202 Expansion of High Tunnels in Selected Cities in Pennsylvania, New York and Ohio to Extend the Production Season for Vegetables and to Improve Nutrition of the Underserved Communities and Fight Childhood Obesity and Diabetes
- NE1207 Establishment of an International Diagnostic and Culture Collection Infrastructure for the Fungal Genus *Fusarium* to Better Manage *Fusarium* Diseases and Toxin Contamination
- NE1401 Focusing Chemical Ecology on Agricultural Pest Management Priorities*
- NE1404 Economics of Alternative Fruit Crops for New England
- NE1405 A Systems Approach to Crop Production in High Tunnels: The New Frontier
- NE1406 Sustaining Cucurbit Vegetable Production and Bee Health in the Northeast and mid-Atlantic Regions
- NE1411 Enhancing Direct-Market Farm Profitability: Testing Asian Pear Adaptation, Sustainability and Productivity in the Northeastern Region

Agricultural-Other (n = 4)

- NE1003 Understanding Market Opportunities/ Challenges and Establishing Successful Marketing Strategies for Non-Conventional/Specialty Farming Operations in the Northeastern Region
- NE1010 Anaerobic Digestion on the Urban Fringe: Exploring the Synergy between Small Farm Animal Waste and Food Waste for Economical Bioenergy and Compost Production and Environmental Stewardship
- NE1102 Agricultural Expansion in the Northeast: Enhancing Food Security While Conserving Ecosystem Services in the Era of Climate Change
- NE1301 Examining the Role of Regional Food Networks (RFNs) and Their Relationships to Long-Term Resilience in the US Food System through the Linkages of People, Place, and Prosperity*

2. Foods and Nutrition (n = 8)

- NE1001 Collaborative Group in Food Biophysics
- NE1103 Improving Family Food Decision-Making to Address Childhood Obesity
- NE1203 Development of Proposals that Reduce Childhood Obesity through Local Procurement, Meal Preparation, and Activity Based Interventions*
- NE1204 Development of Proposal in Response to the AFRI RFA for Obesity Prevention among Older Teens/Emerging Adults*
- NE1205 Prevalence and control of food borne pathogens from foods purchased at farmers' markets, farm stands, cooperatives, and/or other direct retail outlets in the Northeast*
- NE1208 Fusing Food Supply and Animal Health Information: Dependable Food Sources 2013
- NE1302 Sanitation and safe food handling practices of small and very small food processors in New England
- NE1409 Northeast Regional Program to Ensure Produce Safety on Exempt Farms by Addressing Farmer Needs

3. Natural Resources (n = 4)

- NE1209 Can the Biofuel Industry Access Biomass from Eastern Non-Industrial Private Forests?
- NE1304 Tree biomechanics and mitigating tree hazards*
- NE1407 Understanding Socio-cultural Assets and Vulnerabilities with Rapid Environmental Change: A Community Based Participatory Approach
- NE1402 Sustainable Wood Energy in the Northeast

4. Other (n = 6)

NE1007 Planning the Northeast Sun Grant 2010 Roadmap and Vision

NE1303 Northeast Farm Energy Initiative, NE1403 Northeast Farm Energy Initiative

NE1009 Biomass Research and Development for Coastal Agro-Ecosystems: Building a Multi-disciplinary University of Delaware and University of Maryland Research and Extension Team for the Delmarva Peninsula

NE1006 Enhancing and Developing Innovative 4-H Programs in the NE Region by Incorporating Social Entrepreneurship Aspects. NE1105 Examining the Potential to Incorporate Social Entrepreneurship in Developing Innovative 4-H Programs in the NE Region

NE1206 The Science of Food & Agriculture - Bridging Program Gaps and Evaluating the Coordination of STEM with 4-H Youth in the Northeast Region

NE1410 Organic Lawn Care Practices for the Northeast*

Timelines for Multistate Research Project (NC, NE, S, W) Proposal Review and Approval

Process Step	Deadline			
	North Central	Northeast	South	West
Request to write	September 15	March or July	June 1	November 15
First complete draft proposal	December 1	May – November	January 1	January 15
Advisory Committee reviews	February 15	NA	January – March	NA
Peer reviews	NA	October – December	February - April	January - March
Revised proposal		December – January	May 1	
MRC review	February – March	February	June – July	March/April
MRC meets to make decisions	March/April		NA	March/April
Directors approve projects w/o revisions	March/April	March	NA	March/April
Committee addresses any MRC concerns	April - May	April – June	July – August	April – June
Final proposal with MRC revisions	June 1			June/July
Directors approve remaining projects	July	July	NA	June/July
NIFA notified of regional approval	April or July	March or July	July – August	June – July
Project start date	October 1	October 1	October 1	October 1

Item 5.0: 2014 Fall ESS/AES/ARD Meeting and Workshop Update

Presenters: Robert Shulstad, Eric Young

2014 ESS Meeting and Workshop

Draft Schedule, 6/18/14

Tuesday, Sep 30	
3:00 - 7:00	Registration
6:30 - 8:30	Opening Reception
Wednesday, Oct 1	
6:30 – 8:00	Breakfast
7:30 - 10:30	Regional Meetings (start time determined by region)
10:30 - 11:00	Break
11:00 – 12:30	ESS Business Meeting
12:30 - 1:30	Lunch
1:30 - 3:00	ESS Business Meeting
3:00 - 3:30	Break
3:30 - 5:00	University of Georgia Session – Moderator: Bob Shulstad <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overview of the GA Agricultural Experiment Station – Bob Shulstad• Mike Doyle, Center for Food Safety (confirmed)• Scott Jackson, World Soybean Center for Applied Genetic Technology and Institute of Plant Breeding, Genetics, and Genomics (confirmed)• Steve Stice, Regenerative Bioscience Center (confirmed)
	Dinner on your own

Thursday, Oct 2	
6:30 - 8:00	Breakfast
8:00 – 8:30	<p>“Leadership in Agriculture: Case Studies for a New Generation”, a new book on leadership by John Patrick Jordan, Gale A. Buchanan, Neville P. Clarke and Kelly C. Jordan – Moderator: Steve Slack</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gale Buchanan and John Patrick Jordan (confirmed)
8:30 - 10:00	<p>ARS Update and Partnering with ARS – Moderator: Dan Rossi</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ARS Update – Chavonda Jacobs-Young, ARS Administrator (confirmed) • Collaborations between AES and ARS Scientists Panel
10:00 - 10:30	Break
10:30 – noon	<p>Phytobiomes Research – Moderator: Mike Harrington</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jan Leach, Bioagricultural Sciences & Pest Management, Colorado State Univ (confirmed) • Kelley Eversole, President, Eversole Associates (confirmed)
12:00 - 1:30	Lunch
1:30 - 3:00	<p>International Germplasm Exchange – Moderator: Eric Young</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background and ARS Point of View on International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and Other Relevant International Agreements – Peter Bretting, ARS (invited) • Industry Point of View – Tom Nickson, Monsanto or Stephen Smith, DuPont Pioneer (tentative) • University Point of View – (breeder w/experience in international germplasm exchange) • Potential for Senate Ratification of International Treaty – Jane DeMarchi, ASTA (invited), and Hunt Shipman, Cornerstone Inc. (confirmed) • Q&A and Discussion
3:00 -3:30	Break
3:30 - 5:00	<p>Public Access of Publications and Datasets, Best Management Practices – Moderator: Jeff Jacobsen</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simon Liu, National Ag Library (confirmed)

6:00 - 10:00	Group Dinner
Friday, Oct 3	
7:00 - 9:00	Breakfast and Depart