



Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors

In preparation for the NERA Spring Meeting at the end of March, we shared a survey to gauge your understanding of the NERA value proposition. We invite you all to respond. The link for the survey is embedded in the second action item.

As a reminder, we are seeking your photos, either professional, station, or personal for inclusion as “The Parting Shot”.

“Reading is the door to knowledge. Knowledge raises the yield of the paddy. Knowledge combats poverty. Knowledge saves lives.”

- Abraham Verghese in (2023) *The Covenant of Water*, Grove Press, New York, NY.

Action items:

- The room block (Residence Inn Washington Downtown) for the NERA Spring Meeting is closing today. If you haven't reserved a room, now is good time to do that. Here's the link to: [the NERA room block](#). The [agenda for the NERA Spring Meeting](#) on March 26-27, 2024, is also posted.
- Per the opening of this NERA News, we're seeking your insights and reflections of the NERA value proposition. We invite you to complete a brief (5-minute) poll. Here's a link to the survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/neravalue2024>. (If you have trouble accessing the survey, please contact [David](#).)
- We're promoting and soliciting nominations for agInnovation Awards. If you're an Administrative Adviser, we encourage you to consider nominating your project for consideration of [Excellence in Multistate Research](#). Likewise, we're confident that you might have an outstanding effort dedicated to [Diversity, Equity and Inclusion](#). Please nominate an individual or a group. The newest award that agInnovation is seeking nominations for is the [Agricultural Research Innovation Award of Excellence](#). agInnovation expects to recognize a winner from each region and, from that pool, a national winner. All of you have exemplary scientists worthy of recognition.
- The BAA Communications and Marketing Committee is seeking an incoming chair from agInnovation. This is a 3-year commitment for which you would serve as incoming chair, chair, and past chair. All NERA directors are eligible to be appointed, is anyone interested in taking on this leadership position? If so, [please contact Rick](#).

Reminders/Updates:

- [Registration](#) for the National Extension and Research Administrative Officers Conference (NERAOC), April 7-10, 2024, in Wilmington, DE, is now open. As a heads up, this is the first time (in a long time) that the Northeast has hosted this professional development, information sharing, and networking opportunity.

This is a splendid opportunity for state CE, AES, and NIFA staff gather, communicate, and collaborate.

- As we acknowledged earlier in this NERA News and advertised on February 19, we're now calling the photo at the end of the newsletter "**The Parting Shot**". We are seeking your photos! Please [forward those to us](#) with a caption and a photo credit.
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Informational items:

- The Ohio State University is seeking an [Associate Dean and Director of OSU Extension and Chair, Department of Extension](#). This position reports to the Vice President for Agricultural Administration.
- The Communications and Marketing Committee (CMC) has posted the [March 2024 Communications Toolkit](#). Check it out, pass it along to your communications group or both.
- The Multistate Research Fund Impacts toolkit for March 2024 is available at: <https://www.mrfimpacts.org/march-2024>. Please share this toolkit and use the materials and the sample posts as you see fit.

The Parting Shot:



It's a big world out there, make a difference. (Copper Mountain, CO, photo courtesy of Rick Rhodes)



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

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