

Report and Recommendations
NORTHEAST MULTISTATE ACTIVITIES
COMMITTEE

June 11, 2021

11:00 am - 12:00 pm Zoom Teleconference

Members: Jan Nyrop (Cornell, chair), Eric Wommack (UD), Matt Wilson (WVU), Puneet Srivastava (UMD), Andra Johnson (PSU), Amy Loader (UNH)

Request to Write (requires MAC approval only)

- NE_TEMP2220: *Multi-state Coordinated Evaluation of Grape Cultivars and Clones*, 10/1/2022-9/30/2027, (formerly NE1720), AA: Brad Hillman. Primary reviewer – Amy Loader
 - Renewal of NE1720, a well-established group, under the same leadership for a new 5-year term.
 - Winegrape cultivar development is one of the most important components of the viticulture/vineyard industry.
 - Researchers are developing and evaluating grape cultivars and rootstocks intended for diverse growing locations with an aim on sustainable productions.
 - A coordinated, multistate testing is needed to evaluate adaptation of grape varieties across numerous environments (e.g., dry coastal climates to cold climates to wet climates.)
 - **Jan Nyrop introduced a motion to approve the NE_TEMP2220 request to write, the motion was seconded by Matt Wilson and approved unanimously.**

Request to Approve Peer Reviewed Multistate Research Projects, Coordinating Committees and Extension and Research Activities (MAC recommends to NERA)

- NE_TEMP2140 *Sustainable Management of Nematodes in Horticultural and Field Crop Plant Health Systems*, 10/1/2021-9/30/2026, (Renewal of NE1640), AA: Anton Bekkerman. Primary reviewer – Eric Wommack
 - Six peer reviews were conducted, indicating there is high interest in this topic area.
 - Nematode management is difficult and there is a need for coordinated research in the Northeast.
 - Participation is broad across the LGU system, but we should promote more participation among NERA institutions (e.g., UD has no participants).
 - This project with its broad participation could be a strong nominee for a future Excellence in Multistate Research award.
 - One of the four project objectives is an extension component:
 - Outreach, Public Relations and Extension - Compile and present/publish guidance on nematode management and management effects on soil health for different crops under different conditions

- **Eric Wommack introduced a motion to recommend approval of NE_TEMP2140 by NERA, the motion was seconded by Matt Wilson and approved unanimously.**
- NECC_TEMP2103 *High tunnel specialty crop production, 10/1/2021-9/30/2026, (New), AA: Anton Bekkerman. Primary reviewer – Puneet Srivastava*
 - High tunnel production is increasing in the USA, and it creates unique challenges and opportunities for growers.
 - The technical committee has three objectives that will facilitate the coordination of research activities across participating institutions.
 - Peer reviews were all positive in response to the project proposal.
 - Participation among NERA institutions should be promoted for this new coordinating committee.
 - The coordinating committee (via AA Anton Bekkerman) will be invited to work with committee members to identify researchable problems and if interested, draft a multistate project proposal prior to the termination of the project in 2026.
 - **Matt Wilson introduced a motion to recommend approval of NECC_TEMP2103 by NERA and encourage the committee (via AA Anton Bekkerman) to transition to a multistate research project. The motion was seconded by Eric Wommack and approved by the committee unanimously.**
- NE_TEMP2101 *Eastern White Pine Health and Responses to Environmental Changes, 10/1/2021-9/30/2026, (Renewal of NE1601), AA: Mark Hutton. Primary reviewer – Matt Wilson*
 - Reviews were generally positive. White pine is important and there is a need for understanding the impact of climate change on the species.
 - This project fits into the NIFA portfolio – white pine, a soft wood, is constitutes an important species in silviculture. Likewise, this species provides important ecosystem services and constitutes an important part of agroecology.
 - The group is historically productive and will continue under its same leadership in the new 5-year cycle.
 - **Matt Wilson introduced a motion to recommend approval of NE_TEMP2101 by NERA. The motion was seconded by Amy Loader and approved by the committee unanimously.**
 - **Friendly amendment to motion to recommend approval: The outreach plan was a bit thin and could be improved by the project team. Amy Loader and Andra Johnson (MAC members from NEED) were asked to work with NERA to draft a statement to share with the project team to revise this component.**

Administrative Adviser Assignment (MAC recommends to NERA)

- NE1939 *Improving the health span of aging adults through diet and physical activity, 10/1/2019-9/30/2024, AA: Jean Harvey is stepping down and is seeking replacement.*
 - **NERA will be asked for NE1939 AA nominations during its business meeting later this month.**

Informational items (no action required):

- NE nomination for the National Multistate Research Project award, NE1501: *Harnessing Chemical Ecology to Address Agricultural Pest and Pollinator Priorities*, 10/1/2015-9/30/2020, AA: Jan Nyrop. (Attached)
- NEERA_TEMP2104 *Northeast Region Technical Committee on Integrated Pest Management*, formerly NEERA 1604, 10-1/2016-9/30/2021, AA: Margaret Smith. Project has an approved request to write and is currently preparing a full proposal. end to renew.
- NEERA1603 (will be NEERA_TEMP2103) *Northeast Pasture Consortium*, AA: Margaret Smith, is preparing a request to write.
- NE1602 *Explorations in the Turfgrass Phytobiome: Understanding Microbial Associations and Developing Tools for Management*, 10/1/2016-9/30/2021, AA: Bill Miller. Project will terminate on September 30, 2021.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 am ET.