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As you heard this past Friday, President Trump announced that a deal had been made to reopen the government. I appreciate all of you who shared anecdotes on the effects of the shutdown on your operations.

“If you desire peace, cultivate justice, but at the same time cultivate the fields to produce more bread; otherwise, there will be no peace.” – Norman Borlaug, *Nobel Lecture, December 11, 1970*

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### Action items:

- Thanks for sharing your anecdotes on the effects of the shutdown. I forwarded the Northeast's concerns to NIFA and can report that NIFA heard our concerns. Importantly, NIFA understands the importance of getting capacity grant payments released. As information from NIFA becomes available, we'll share with you.
- As you're aware, the BAA charged a committee to assist in the development of a strategy to re-align the discretionary NIFA budget and reduce the number of appropriated lines. [We've created a Strategic Realignment Summary with supporting materials. Check those out.](#) If you have questions, please forward those to us. (Serendipitously, Gary Thompson is on the committee.)
- On Wednesday, January 23rd, we solicited you for information on how you handle your Land Grant funds: do you set up individual accounts for each of your Hatch projects (regular and multistate)? If you haven't rung in, please do. We'll collate the responses and post the responses to the NERA website. (We'll also share those with Sabine O'Hara who made the initial ask for information.)
- We are seeking new AES photos for the NERA website. [Please forward those to Dave.](#)

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### Reminders/Updates:

- The 2019 Fall Joint ESS/CES-NEDA Meeting and Workshop has been relocated from Indianapolis to the Marriott at Vanderbilt, Nashville, TN. The dates are the same as originally planned: September 23 – 26, 2019.
  - The NERA Executive Committee gave me a greenlight to pursue the planning of a symposium dedicated to “Ecosystem agriculture (regenerative ag) and agricultural ecosystem services.” This is a NEED-led initiative and one that NERA is serving as a collaborator. When we have more information, we'll share that with you.
  - ESCOP has updated the Science Roadmap documents. [Visit the ESCOP Website to view the new documents in PDF format.](#)
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## Informational items:

- Penn State Extension is seeking an [Evaluation Director](#) responsible for leading the development and implementation of a comprehensive evaluation and research program for curricula and other initiatives of Penn State Extension.
- The University of Maryland College of Agriculture and Natural Resources seeks applicants for a Contract Administrator position. [Visit https://ejobs.umd.edu/](https://ejobs.umd.edu/) for more information and to apply.
- *Second time:* The Board on Agriculture and Natural Resources, National Academies of Science, is **seeking proposals** from institutions to co-host lectures as part of the 75th Anniversary Lecture Series. The lectures are intended to *engage with the public to explore an agricultural or natural resource issue with which scientists are grappling, highlighting the way in which research, technology, and policy inform that debate and the interplay of scientific knowledge with public and private decision-making.* [Directions for submitting proposals is on the NERA website.](#)
- *Second time:* The University of Connecticut Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics seeks applications for the position of **Department Head** and appointment as **Associate Professor** or **Professor**. Job applicants are directed to: <https://academicjobsonline.org/ajo/jobs/13082>.
- *Second time:* The University of Rhode Island's Cooperative Extension team is seeking a **4-H Educator**. Applicants are directed to <https://jobs.uri.edu/postings/4600>.



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Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors (NERA)

[www.nerasaes.org](http://www.nerasaes.org)

14 East Farm Road

Aquaculture Center

University of Rhode Island

Kingston, RI 02881

Executive Director, [Dr. Richard C. Rhodes III](#): (401) 874-2468

Coordinator, [David Leibovitz](#): (401) 874-4801

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