



On August 2, 2019, the President signed a [two-year bipartisan budget](#) that ended a key concern for us: it eliminates continuing resolutions and provides a path to funding the government past the end of FY 2019. That said, the NIFA relocation saga continues. Check out the first Reminder/Update.

It is a capital mistake to theorize before one has data. Insensibly one begins to twist facts to suit theories, instead of theories to suit facts. – Arthur Conan Doyle, 1892, Adventure I. A Scandal in Bohemia, in *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*, Harper & Brothers, New York.

Action items:

- The [latest agenda for the ESS/CES-NEDA Meeting](#) is now available.

Reminders/Updates:

- The continuing saga of the NIFA relocation: in the last newsletter we reported that Scott Angle shared that the NIFA move will happen and that NIFA is beginning to place employees at the [6501 Beacon Drive facility in Kansas City](#). Last week, the USDA's Inspector General released a report "[USDA's Proposal to Reorganize and Relocated the Economic Research Service and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture](#)." The USDA's Inspector General concluded that the USDA might have broken a law by not obtaining congressional approval before relocating NIFA and ERS to Kansas City. Alternatively, the IG reported that the USDA has the legal authority to carry out the relocation. Interestingly, the USDA's General Counsel states that the USDA is not required to receive permission from Congress to relocate because the Department believes that the committee approval provisions of the spending law are unconstitutional. This is coming down to a debate on budgetary authority. Is it enough to derail the move? Don't know... Should you wish to contact your Congressional delegation on the topic of NIFA moving, please feel free to do so. The Executive Committee suggested that it might also be a good time to remind your Congressional delegation that they are the watchdogs tasked with ensuring that programs that important to the Northeast (e.g., SCRI, OREI, capacity funds, match waivers, etc.) are preserved, promoted, and fully funded.

Informational items:

- [Hotel](#) and [meeting](#) registration for the 2019 Joint ESS/CES-NEDA Meeting is open (Nashville, TN, September 23-25, 2019.) The theme for the meeting is **Leading the Future: Changes, Opportunities, and Relationships**. We'll also do our NERA fall meeting on September 25, 2019. A draft of the [NERA](#)

[agenda](#) is posted.

- Cornell Cooperative Extension is searching for a [Director of the New York State Integrated Pest Management Program](#).



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