

Report and Recommendations

NORTHEAST MULTISTATE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

The Admiral Fell Inn - Board Room [5th Floor]
Historic Fell's Point, 888 South Broadway, Baltimore MD 21231

March 22, 2010
1:00pm to 4:00pm

Chair, Mike Vayda (VT)

Members: Kirby Stafford III (CT-NH), Jon Wraith (NH)

1. National Multistate Research Award Nominations

[2010 Experiment Station Section \[ESS\] Award Description and Guidelines](#)

- NE1027: Ovarian Influences on Embryonic Survival in Ruminants
- NE1042: Optimization of Poultry Welfare and Production Systems for the 21st Century
- NE1033: Biological Improvement of Chestnut through Technologies that Address Management of the Species, its Pathogens and Pests

Action: NE1027 and NE1042 have good track record, but were lacking in terms of demonstrating impacts to their stakeholders. Specifically, economic impacts of NE1027 to the dairy industry should be emphasized. Did it improve productivity or reduced loss? By how much, say in millions of \$ per year? What are the economic impacts of the research outcomes of NE1042? The accomplishments of the project should be presented in an integrated fashion and not necessarily, by state. The reviewers at the national level will be looking at how the "integrated" nature of the activity had achieved outcomes that had significantly impacted its stakeholders. NE1033 was selected as it clearly fits into the intent of the Award. NE1027 and NE1042 will be encouraged to strengthen their write-ups and re-submit again for future consideration.

2. Request to approve the proposal, [NE_TEMP1641: Invasive Plants](#) (Renewal of NE504) [10/2010-2015]

Action: Recommends disapproval of proposal in its present form. The topic area is very important to the NE. However, participation is still too narrow, procedures are vague and interaction with stakeholders not evident. Expected deliverables to the industry are not clearly defined. The objectives and participation remain too narrowly focused on the New England Invasive Plant Center. MAC recommends that the technical committee consider a fundamental reconstitution, and a different mechanism or structure if they wish to pursue, e.g. forming a two-year "Development Committee" to work and strengthen the proposal.

3. Request to approve the proposal, [NE_TEMP1661: Whole farm dairy and beef systems: gaseous emissions, P management, organic production, and pasture based production](#) [10/2010-2015]

Action: Project is important to the Northeast and there are good scientists involved in this project. The proposal needs to be more integrated as problem-focused work rather than written as state by state efforts. Recommends returning the proposal to make it more integrated and address the reviewers' comments.

Note: A conditional approval was granted by the NERA directors. Advisor Stephen Herbert will work with the technical committee to address the concerns raised by MAC, and upon satisfactory completion will be reviewed by MAC for final approval.

4. Request to approve the proposal, [NE_TEMP1681: Design, Assessment, and Management of Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems: Addressing the Challenges of Climate Change](#) [10/2010-2015]

Action: This is an important issue and has strong scientists, but the proposal's objectives and procedures sections are all mixed up. Work with an advisor to strengthen the proposal and address the reviewers' comments. Recommends returning the proposal for re-submission, or consider setting up a two-year "Development Committee".

Note: A conditional approval was granted by the NERA directors. Newly assigned Advisor Adel Shirmohammadi will work with the technical committee to address the concerns raised by MAC, and upon satisfactory completion will be reviewed by MAC for final approval.

5. Request to approve a one-year extension for project NE1025: Biology, Ecology and Management of Emerging Pests of Annual Bluegrass on Golf Courses [11/2005-2011]

Action: Recommends approval and encourages the technical committee to consider submitting a nomination for the national multistate research award next year.

6. Request for off-the-top funding for FY10-11 for Northeast Multistate Projects:
[Summary of NE-9 and NE-59 requests from FY2006 to FY2011](#)

- NE9: Conservation and Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources = Funding requested is \$216,320.
[NE9 FY2011 Budget Request](#)
[NE9 Report and Justification](#)
- NE59: Multistate Research Coordination, Northeastern Region = Funding requested is \$40,788.
The funding requested is to support the Northeastern Regional Center for Rural Development.
[NE59 FY2011 Budget Request](#)
[NERCRD Report](#)

Action: Recommends approval of regional off-the-top at amounts requested for FY2011.

7. Request for off-the-top funding for FY10-11 for NRSPs

[Summary of NRSP requests](#)

- NRSP-1 Research Planning Using the Current Research Information System (CRIS and NIMSS), 2004-2010
[One year no-cost extension request to 2011](#)
Action: CRIS will no longer be funded under NRSP1. NIMSS will submit a separate proposal to continue funding off-the-top after FY2011. MAC recommends approval of the request.
- NRSP-3 The National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP), 2009-2014
[\[FY2011 Budget Request\]](#) [\[NRSP3 Annual Report\]](#) The annual report is also in NIMSS.
Action: MAC recommends approval of FY2011 off-the-top funding request at \$50K.
- NRSP-4 High Value Specialty Crop Pest Management, 2004-2010
NRSP_temp4 proposal with projected budget is also in NIMSS.
[\[FY2011 Budget Request\]](#) [\[NRSP_temp4 Proposal\]](#)
Action: The proposal underwent an extensive external review that was used to re-write the proposal and the development of the strategic plan. MAC recommends approval of the proposal and the FY2011 off-the-top funding request at \$481,182.
- NRSP-6 Inter-Regional Potato Introduction Project: Acquisition, classification, preservation, evaluation and distribution of potato (*Solanum*) germplasm, 2005-2010
NRSP_temp6 proposal with projected budget is in NIMSS.
[\[FY2011 Budget Request\]](#) [\[Agenda brief for regional associations\]](#) [\[NRSP_temp6 Proposal\]](#)
Action: MAC defers a specific recommendation at this time, pending more discussion at the NERA meeting concerning major issues such as the relevance and value of the project for the Northeast. Needs feedback from the main users, NY, MA, ME, MD and PA.
- NRSP-7 A National Agricultural Program for Minor Use Animal Drugs, 2009-2014
[\[FY2011 Budget Request with Justification\]](#)
Action: MAC recommends approval of FY2011 request at \$325K. If funds equal to or less than this amount become available to NRSP-7 through a Congressional special grant during FY'10, that amount will not be distributed to NRSP-7 from Hatch MRF.
- NRSP-8 National Animal Genome Research Program, 2008-2013
[\[FY2011 Budget Request\]](#) [\[Justification\]](#)
Action: MAC recommends approval of FY2011 request at \$500K. Technical Committee will be reminded to submit the budget request in standard format as requested last June by the NRSP committee.
- NRSP_TEMP161 National Animal Nutrition Program [New Revised Proposal], 2011-2016
[\[Revised proposal with budget\]](#) The proposal is also in NIMSS.
Action: MAC defers action. Questions raised by the NRSP Review Committee were not sufficiently addressed. There are issues on the justification, leveraging, industry involvement, and the budget. The MAC recommends against approval, and suggests that further iterations of this proposal be supported/explained through an oral presentation at the regional meetings by a member of the technical committee or a director more familiar with the proposal make a presentation and answer questions.

8. Advisor Assignments:

- Dr. Fred Servello (ME) for NE504 (*New NE_TEMP1641*): Invasive Plants [2010-2015]
- Dr. Cameron Faustman (CTS) for NE1028: Mastitis Resistance to Enhance Dairy Food Safety [2007-2012]
- Dr. Cameron Faustman (CTS) for NE1042: Optimization of Poultry Welfare and Production Systems for the 21st Century [2009-2014]
- Dr. Cameron Faustman (CTS) for NEAC002: Animal Science Advisory Committee [2006-2016]
- Dr. Tim Phipps (WV) for NEERA1002: Adaptive Management for Improved Nutrient Management [2009-2014]
- Dr. Adel Shirmohammadi (MD) for NE_TEMP1681: Design, Assessment, and Management of Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems: Addressing the Challenges of Climate Change [10/2010-2015]

Action: The directors agreed to serve as advisors, and their assignments were confirmed at the NERA meeting.

9. NERA Planning Grant

MAC held a teleconference on December 9, 2009, and their recommendation to award the grant to the following proposals were approved by NERA on December 22, 2009.

[Summary of 2010 MAC Recommendations](#)

- [NE1005: Addressing the Nutritional and Reproductive Research and Extension Needs of the Organic Dairy Industry in the Northeast](#)
- [NE1008: Healthful Berries: Improving Marketing for Northeast Berry Crops](#)

[2008-2010 NERA Planning Grant Results](#)

Action: MAC requests that a report of the funded proposals be submitted before planning for the next round.

10. Other business:

[Proposed NERA Co-Sponsorship Program for Regional Conferences/Workshops](#)



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Last Updated April 15, 2010