



Last week, was an interesting one for the NERA office. David managed the helm while Rick led a team to review Virginia Tech's system of agricultural research and Extension centers. The visit to Virginia tripped off an action item and a future best practice session. Read on!

“Everyone would like to be best, but most organizations lack the discipline to figure out with egoless clarity what they can be the best at and the will to do whatever it takes to turn that potential into reality.” – Jim Collins (2001) in *Good to Great*, HarperCollins Publishers, New York, NY.

Action items:

- Many thanks for responding to the NERA spring meeting survey. We had a robust response (71% of the stations rang in). Based upon your recommendations, we're planning on meeting face-to-face in Philadelphia on March 15-16, 2022. We'll keep you posted as we work out the details.
- On behalf of ESCOP Chair, Chris Pritsos and the 2021 ESS Meeting Planning Committee: if you attended the ESS meeting either face-to-face or virtually, would you please take a few minutes and complete a brief post-meeting survey by clicking [ESS Meeting Survey](#). If any of you are interested in the video recordings of the ESS meeting sessions, [please drop us a note](#) and we'll provide you with the access credentials.
- As we shared, Rick spent last week in Virginia with a team of directors reviewing VaTech's ag research and Extension centers. We believe that there is great value in an external review and will be sharing reflections of that during a best practice session at our spring NERA meeting. More to come.

Reminders/Updates:

- Northeast Administrative Advisors: You've probably seen that NIFA has updated their representatives on a number of NE multistate research projects. If your project has been assigned a new NIFA representative, it'd be worth your time to reach out to the NIFA rep to introduce yourself and touch base.

Informational items:

- The NRCS is seeking a [National Animal Husbandry Specialist](#) for the staff of the Ecological Sciences Division, Science and Technology.
- The Northeast SARE program is seeking applicants for two new positions: Grant Program Assistant (apply by November 22) and Communications Professional (apply by December 6). Announcements for both of these positions are posted on the Northeast SARE website: <https://northeast.sare.org/news/>.
- The University of Maryland is seeking applicants for two positions: Assistant Director of Ag Pre-Award Services ([click to view](#)), and SNAP-Ed Agent Associate ([click to view](#)).



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