



Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors

We're closing in on the Thanksgiving break. Our best to you all during this holiday break!

Action items:

- Maggie Ewell is seeking comments on NIFA's requirement for submitting budgets through grants.gov. This includes all capacity grant programs except EFNEP. NIFA has a resource site for materials (<https://nifa.usda.gov/program/capacity-grantee-resources>). Comments on the policy are due on December 15, 2018 and should be submitted to Policyguide@nifa.usda.gov. Adel Shirmohammadi shared with me his concerns and asked "are we the only ones disliking the new call by NIFA?" I'm seeking your input. Please forward your comments, reflections, and concerns about the new requirements for submitting budgets on capacity funds. If warranted, I'll draft a NERA response and share with NIFA.
- Planning for the summer meeting is well underway. The theme for the meeting is "Urban Agriculture – Creating Links" (June 2-5, 2019, Washington, DC; UDC is the host.) The planning group has identified four topic areas including: *Innovating Food Production, Ensuring Food Access and Security to Urban Populations, Ecosystem Services in the Urban Space, and Connecting Urban Populations to Food and Nature*. If you have any clever ideas on speakers for any of these sessions, we'd ask that you [send those to Rick](#).
- ESCOP is deliberating on what to do with the National Impact Database (<https://landgrantimpacts.org/>.) In the October 22, 2018 NERA News we shared that NERA institutions had little appetite for volunteering reviewers of impact statements. As we have reported previously, very few Northeast agricultural experiment stations submit statements to the database. Since the beginning of 2016, only one NE institution has submitted impact statements to the database. ([The statistics on submission of statement by NERA institutions are posted on the website.](#)) We're suggesting that ESCOP cease support for the impact database. Currently, ESCOP annually dedicates \$12,500 for the website and \$5,000 for impact writers. If this suggestion is not consistent with your thoughts or practices, please apprise by November 26th. I expect to share NERA's reflections on the National Impact Database with all the regional Executive Directors at the National Multistate Coordinating Committee meeting on November 27th.
- The Experiment Station Section was asked to provide topics of interest to explore during the 2019 Joint ESS/CES-NEDA Meeting in Indianapolis, IN, September 23-26, 2019. We ask that you please complete the ESS-CES meeting survey ([click here to view](#)) prior to leaving on Thanksgiving break.

Reminders/Updates:

- [The most recent MAC report is posted on the NERA website.](#) I'm pleased to share that the MAC approved a planning proposal that supports a multistate aquaculture grant writing effort. In the meantime, here are some recent collective MAC highlights: we've received NIFA approval of NE1838: **Development of a Weed Emergence Model for the Northeastern United States**, NE1832: **Biological Control of Arthropod Pests and Weeds**, NE1839: **Development and Evaluation of Broccoli Adapted to the Eastern US**, NE9: **Conservation and Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources**. We have only one project in the NIFA approval pipeline (NE1833; **Biological Improvement of Chestnut through Technologies that Address Management of the Species and its Pathogens and Pests**.) Otherwise, all projects that NERA has submitted to NIFA seeking October 1, 2018 start dates have been approved. Good job MAC!

Informational items:

- The University of Tennessee is seeking an **Assistant Professor** of Agricultural and Resource Economics. [The job description is posted on the NERA website.](#)
- The Department of Entomology at Washington State University is searching for an **Assistant or Associate Professor** in Insect Systematics (see www.wsujobs.com/postings/41048.)
- The United States Food and Drug Administration is seeking a **Director of Research in their Center for Veterinary Medicine**. [Click here for more information and to apply \(USAJobs\).](#)
- ESCOP chair, Deb Hamernik, has announced the 2019 nominations call for the National Experiment Station Section Diversity and Inclusion Award ([click here to view the call](#)). You have time: the due date for nominations is March 29, 2019.
- Dr. Gale Buchanan is working on a new book "What has US agriculture done for you?" and is seeking your input on the most impactful varieties developed by the State Agricultural Experiment Stations. If you'd like to participate, please describe the plant varieties that are/were most impactful from your institution using this link: https://ucdavis.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_ehY2NfN69X3Klux.



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NERA and its member institutions are committed to the principles of affirmative action, diversity, and inclusion.

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