



Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors

Finally, tomorrow is election day. My ask is simple: please vote.

“The vote is precious. It is the most powerful non-violent tool we have in a democratic society, and we must use it. And so you must go out all across America and tell young people, and people not so young, tell all of us: Vote.

The vote is powerful.” – John Lewis addressing [South by South Lawn](#), October 3, 2016.

### Action items:

- The [notes](#) from the NERA work session “COVID and Finance Workarounds” moderated by Jody Jellison and Eric Wommack on October 20 are posted. Check them out!
- The Multistate Activities Committee met on October 26, the [notes](#) for the meeting are posted on the NERA website. During the meeting, the MAC approved “requests to write” that had been submitted by:
  - NE\_TEMP2210 *Improving Forage and Bioenergy Crops for Better Adaptation, Resilience, and Nutritive Value*, 10/1/22-9/30/27. Renewal, currently NE1710 (same title as new project.) AA is Eric Bishop-von Wettberg (UVM.)
  - NE\_TEMP2140 *Sustainable Management of Nematodes in Horticultural and Field Crop Plant Health Systems*, 10/1/2021-9/30/26. Renewal, currently NE1640 *Plant-Parasitic Nematode Management as a Component of Sustainable Soil Health Programs in Horticultural and Field Crop Production Systems*. AA is Mark Rieger (UD).
  - NE\_TEMP2101 *Eastern White Pine Health and Responses to Environmental Changes*, 10/1/2021-9/30/2026. Renewal, currently NE1601 (same title as new project.) AA is Mark Hutton (UME).
  - NECC\_TEMP2103 *High tunnel specialty crop production*, 10/1/21-9/30/26. New coordinating committee. Proposed AA is Anton Bekkerman.

Should you have faculty that might have an interest in participating in the crafting of the project proposal for any of the renewing projects above, please have them contact the project AA.

- Many thanks for casting your vote in response to the Experiment Station Section ballot. NERA approved the first ballot question “Use ESS funds to support the Communication and Marketing Committee (CMC), a commitment of \$100,000 per year for a period of two years (CY 2021, 2022)” (10-approve, 0-reject, 5-no vote cast); NERA voted to reduce the ESS Annual Assessment to \$0 (6-\$0, 5-\$100,000/year, 4-no vote cast); and NERA unanimously supported changing the name of the CMC Assessment to Annual Assessment (11-approve, 0-reject, 4-no vote cast.) Moses Kairo, ESCOP chair forwarded a memo this morning (sent to directors via email) reporting the ESS voting results. The Experiment Station approved: using ESS funds to support the Communications and Marketing Committee (CMC), a commitment of \$100,000 per year for a period of two years (CY 2021, CY 2022); reducing the ESS assessment of \$200,000 to \$100,000 for CY21 and CY22; and changing the name of the CMC Assessment to Annual Assessment.

## Reminders/Updates:

- LEAD21, the leadership and professional development training program for faculty and professionals in the Land-grant system is accepting applicants for the 17th Class. Here's a [link](#) to the program's web portal. Applications are due on November 30, 2020.
- For the first time in its 133-year history, the APLU Annual Meeting will be held virtually, from November 9-11, 2020. The theme for the meeting is "Resilience and Equity", here's the link to [register](#). As an APLU member, registration is \$45.

---

## Informational items:

- NIFA has released the RFA for the [Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative](#) (OREI). There's \$24 million available in FY21 and \$30 million in FY22.
- The National Science Foundation (NSF) is hosting an Electronic Research Administration (ERA) Forum Webinar on November 5, 2020 from 2:30 – 4:00 PM ET. To participate in this forum, please [Register Now](#).
- Northeast SARE is now accepting proposal for the [Northeast SARE Farmer Grant Program](#). Proposals are due online by 5 p.m. ET on Tuesday, November 17, 2020.
- The University of Georgia Department of Horticulture, Tifton Campus, is seeking an [Assistant Professor of Horticulture - Small Fruit Extension Specialist](#).
- Farm Credit East extends [AgEnhancement Grants](#) to help organizations promote awareness and strengthen agriculture, commercial fishing and forest products in the six New England states, New York and New Jersey. While the grant size is modest (maximum - \$10,000), this is a resource that connects organizations with Northeast credit associations. The next round of proposals are due on April 1.
- The National Science Foundation (NSF) has launched the [Research.gov proposal preparation demonstration site](#). (To use the site, you'll need a NSF ID and password.) The new demo site offers proposers the opportunity to create proposals in Research.gov with the role of a Principal Investigator (PI) prior to preparing and submitting proposals in the actual Research.gov Proposal Submission System.
- The Supporters of Agricultural Research (SoAR) Foundation recently released an interesting report, "[Developing Global Priorities for Plant Research: Adapting Agriculture to Climate Variability](#)." With assistance from NIFA and in collaboration with Virginia Tech, this report is the outcome of an international workshop with notable plant scientists who developed and prioritized global plant research directions, strategies for cooperation and collaboration, and potential funders for the coming decade.
- The National Science Foundation (NSF) will hold for the first time, the [NSF Virtual Grants Conference](#), during the weeks of November 16 and November 30, 2020. Registration will be free of charge.
- The Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development is seeking applications for a [non-tenure track Assistant Research Professor position](#). The position is renewable annually conditional on funding, with a 25% Research and 75% Extension split.
- The University of Maryland is seeking applicants for three positions in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. To view the job descriptions and apply, visit [nerasaes.org/employment](https://nerasaes.org/employment).



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

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

Please do not reply directly to this MailChimp message.