



Last week, Rick and David moderated sessions at the Northeast Management Officers (NEMO) Meeting in Ithaca, NY. A theme that emerged from the meeting is we are operating in unprecedented times. For instance, Cornell has not been able to draw down Federal grant funds since April but has allowed researchers that have negotiated grants and contracts with Federal agencies to continue to make expenditures, using non-federal funding sources. The sum for the largesse? \$90 million. If ever there was a clarion for us to collaborate and support each other, it's now.

“If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.”

– J. William Middendorf II (as cited by Frank Lennon, 2024 and Alex Kufner, 2025) in “Former Navy Secretary, Diplomat Middendorf Dies”, *Providence Journal*, October 27, 2025.

Action items:

- Notes from the agInnovation Northeast monthly meeting on October 16, 2025, are [available here](#). Read on! Many thanks to you all for joining: better together!
- This week we will be sharing a short survey on the impact of the delay in access to capacity funds. As you know, the RFPs for Capacity Grants were not released until September 30, the day before the government shutdown. As the shutdown continues through the end of the month, no action will be taken on the proposals. It's not clear when access to the FY2026 Capacity funds will open. Watch out for the survey, it will be coming to you via email.
- We're extending **agInnovation Northeast thank yous** to Eric

von Wettberg and Chris Smart. Eric will be stepping down as the agInnovation Northeast vice chair and as Director of the Vermont Agricultural Experiment Station to pursue further academic interests and passions. Chris has agreed to take Wendie Cohick's place on agInnovation's Budget and Legislative Committee. We are grateful to you both!

Reminders/Updates:

- Beth Gugino and Gretta Tritch Roman (Penn State) hosted the first meeting of the **Northeast Ag and Food Tech Corridor to Promote Food Security** group last Friday. This regional effort is dedicated to developing an NSF Engine proposal. The goal of the Engine program is to support flourishing innovation ecosystems across the U.S. If you have a faculty member that might be interested in joining the proposal development team, [please contact Beth and Gretta](#).
 - Our next scheduled Zoom calls will be held at 8:00 – 9:00 AM on November 20 and December 18. The December 18 gathering is the agInnovation Northeast Virtual Winter Meeting which will run from 8:00 – 9:30 AM. Agendas and connection details will be sent to you prior to the meeting.
 - *Save the dates:* We have dates and destinations!
 - agInnovation Northeast Spring Meeting, Geneva, NY, March 16-18, 2026 (hosted by Cornell AgriTech)
 - Joint Summer Session (agInnovation Northeast and NEED), Shelburne, VT, June 1-3, 2026 (hosted by the University of Vermont)
 - agInnovation Annual Meeting, Grand Junction, CO, September 21-25, 2026 (hosted by Colorado State University)
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Informational items:

- Sara Delheimer has released the [MRF Impacts Toolkit for November](#). As you'll see there are excellent multistate projects featured for National Rural Health Day as well as compelling thumbnails of research on turkey production and antimicrobial resistance management. Please use the toolkit and share widely! If you'd like to subscribe to Sara's newsletter, [click here](#).
- Likewise, Andrea Putman from the APLU has shared the Communications and Marketing Committee's November 2025 toolkit titled "[A Season of Gratitude: Giving Thanks to Our Colleagues and Friends at Public and Land-grant Universities](#)". There are some excellent resources available here.

- agInnovation's Science and Technology Committee is seeking experts to join a new Rapid Response Multistate Committee (this is a 2-year multistate research project) titled W525 "[Evaluation of Outcomes-Driven, Aspirational Goals to Achieve National Food Security](#)". The W525 technical committee proposes to assess science strategies outlined in the proposal, recommend additional focus areas, and develop materials demonstrating ROI and public value. For more information contact [Nathan Slaton and Bret Hess](#).
- Auburn University is seeking an [Assistant Professor in Poultry/Animal Behavior and Well-being](#). This is a 9-month tenure-track position.
- [LEAD21](#), the system's premier leadership development program, is [accepting applications for Class 22](#). The application portal is open until November 15.
- *The forever green reminder:* In past newsletters, we've made a pitch for "station" photos for both the agInnovation Northeast website and The Parting Shot. We encourage you to share shots from your libraries as well as other image sources. Please [forward pictures to us](#) with a caption and a photo credit.

From the Archive:

- The context: agInnovation Northeast assists not only the regional communicators (check out the stories on our website page titled the [Northeast Regional Voice](#)), we also assist the Northeast Management Officers. For a look at what the business officers undertook in Ithaca last week, check out [Northeast Management Officers \(NEMO\) Annual Meeting](#). Our business officers are a fantastic group of professionals, thanks for all that they do!

The Parting Shot:



Sweet moments, Cornell made (photo from David Leibovitz during a tour of the Cornell Dairy Bar during the NEMO Annual Meeting in Ithaca, NY.)

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