



It's Memorial Day, the unofficial beginning of summer, an indicator for the pending Joint Summer meeting, and, most importantly, a time to remember our military members who have paid the ultimate price for our freedom. Indeed, today is about patriotism, remembrance, and gratitude.

Please pay close attention to the [action items](#), many of which pertain to the summer meeting.

“In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.” – John McCrae from *In Flanders Fields* (1915). (The poem is in the public domain.)

### Action items:

- The planning team for the 2022 Northeast Joint Summer Meeting is looking forward to seeing you in Portland, Maine next week, June 5-7. Here are several important reminders for meeting attendees.
  - Meeting [registration](#) is still open.
  - While the room block is now closed, contact [Rebecca Huffstutler](#) at the University of Maine if you need assistance with a room.
  - The [Joint Summer Meeting agenda](#) is available on the meeting website.
  - Likewise, the [NERA Business Meeting agenda](#) on June 7 from 8AM- 12PM is posted on the NERA website. Supporting materials are available using the previous NERA Business Meeting agenda link. Be sure to look over the Microsoft New Future of Work Report (this serves as the basis of the afternoon work session on June 6), the MAC Report, and the accomplishments report of the Office of the Executive Director (this serves as background for the evaluation of the Executive Director).
- If you haven't forwarded your Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion officer contact information to [Rick](#), now is a good time to do that. You'll recall that ESCOP's Diversity Catalyst Committee chair, Henry Fadamiro, had asked for the primary DEI contact for each of our AES and colleges of ag/natural resources/life sciences.
- *Ongoing:* We continue to seek pictures that typify research activities on your campus. Please send your photos to [David](#) and we'll run those on the scrolling banner on the NERA website.

### Reminders/Updates:

- The newest member of NERA's Executive Committee is Anton Bekkerman who will serve as the Officer-at-Large. As a reminder, Eric Wommack is NERA's chair, Puneet Srivastava is the Vice Chair, and

Matt Wilson is the Past Chair. Terms for Executive Committee members roll-over in September coincident with the annual Experiment Station Section Meeting which will be held in conjunction with the Joint ESS/CES-NEDA Meeting in Baltimore on September 25-28, 2022.

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***Informational items:***

- Check out the report created by post-docs Mario Machado and Alicia Coleman. As you know NEED and NERA supported these two postdocs to do a landscape evaluation of ecosystem services in the Northeast. Here's their report: "[Ecosystem Services in Working Lands: Practice and Policy of the U.S. Northeast](#)".
- On June 3, NIFA is hosting a webinar from 2:30-4:00 PM ET on the RFA for [Youth Innovators Empowering Agriculture Across America \(YEA\)](#). [Registration](#) is required. As a heads up, there are two pots of funds available: Youth Innovators Empowering Agriculture Across America (YEA) projects (budgets must not exceed \$7,850,000 total per project for project periods of four or five years) and Youth Innovators Empowering Agriculture Across America Coordination Network (YEA-CN) (project budgets must not exceed \$5,000,000 total per project for project periods of four or five years).
- Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack will be livestreaming an event on Wednesday, June 1 at 11:30 AM ET to announce the USDA's framework for shoring up the food supply chain and transforming the food system to be fairer, more competitive, and more resilient. You'll be able to access the event using this link, [Food Systems Transformation](#).
- *Continuing:* We recently sent to the NERA directors a solicitation from ESCOP chair Chris Pritsos, seeking nominations for climate change research experts. In short, ESCOP is creating a roster of climate change experts to assist and advise both ESCOP and NIFA on issues and opportunities revolving around the challenges of global climate change. Your office of the Executive Director endorses this initiative and looks forward to a contingent of Northeast scientists serving as advisors. If you did not see the solicitation from Chris, we are happy to forward that you. Please contact [Rick](#).



Photo: DE 201, USS James E. Craig at launching on July 22, 1943. Rick's Dad was an enlisted seaman serving on the Craig as the Radarman, first class. This Buckley class destroyer escort was part of the Pacific fleet during World War II. Many thanks for your service, Dad! -Rick



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