



Tomorrow we'll open the first **agInnovation Northeast Graduate and Post-doctoral Forum**. And the week after (June 1-3) we'll be gathering at the **Joint Summer Session** at the University of Vermont. We look forward to seeing you at one or both of the events!

While we've previously used the quote below, it's fitting to repeat it today, Memorial Day. It's a good day to honor those who gave their lives to preserve our freedom.

"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).

Action items:

- As we noted, we open the agInnovation Northeast Graduate and Post-doctoral Forum tomorrow. To give you a flavor of what our students and post-docs will be talking about, check out [the program for the Forum](#). We're impressed, you should be too! We're also excited about the prospect of this event serving as model for other regions. Many thanks for your support!
- We hope you're ready for the **Joint Summer Session** on June 1-3, 2026, in Burlington, VT. The theme for the meeting is Learning Together, Leading Together and the agenda is posted on the [Joint Summer Session landing page](#).

- The most recent business meeting agenda (see *agInnovation Northeast Business Meeting Agenda, Burlington, VT, June 3, 2026*) on the [Agenda/Minutes](#) page of our website. We've packed a lot into the agenda and look forward to your engagement. As you've heard us say in the past, "better together"!
 - *Continuing to request information:* We've heard from one of our station directors that a NIFA national program director reached out to the PD of a Hatch Project and shared that while the project had been approved under a different administration, the project was not aligned with current administration priorities and national interests (e.g., Executive Order...). As such, the NPL requested that the PD review and revise the project. We're interested to know if you've received similar notices. If so, would you please [share the project title, PD, and the reason for the change to Rick and David](#).
-

Reminders/Updates:

- Our colleagues in NCFAR have asked us to consider signing on to [a community letter](#) to the chairs and ranking members of the House Committee on Ag and the Senate Committee on Ag, Nutrition, and Forestry. As you'll read, the letter is an expression of concern about the restructuring of the USDA's Research, Education, and Economics Mission Area. We'll be discussing this at our face-to-face business meeting on June 3.
 - *Save the dates:*
 - [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)
 - *agInnovation Northeast virtual meeting dates (2026, all begin at 8:00 AM)*
 - July 16, August 20, October 15, November 19, December 17 (agInnovation Northeast Winter Meeting)
-

Informational items:

- The Communications and Marketing /Committee has released the June 2026 Toolkit, [Land-grant Universities: Preparing the Next Generation Through Positive Youth Development](#). Please share and use the resources.
- Registration is open for the [2026 BAA Summer Leadership Meeting](#) on July 13-15 in Portland, OR. The [agInnovation](#)

[Executive Committee](#) will hold a business meeting during the event on July 14.

- *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:

- We have a webpage dedicated to [Reports and Whitepapers](#). The two items listed in 2026 revolve around investments. The earlier entry (March 2026) is from the Food Security Council and calls for a bold investment of \$100 billion in new funding over the next 10 years for food and ag R&D. The later entry is the booklet for *agInnovation Northeast Graduate and Post-doctoral Forum*. The Forum booklet shares 37 abstracts that will be presented this coming week. The booklet also serves as a call for investment. Indeed, investing in human infrastructure, graduate students and post-doctoral fellows, is essential for a successful ag R&D enterprise.

The Parting Shot:



“Echoes of sacrifice, freedom rests here”, the American Cemetery, Colleville-sur-Mer, Normandy, France (photo: Rick Rhodes).

agInnovation Northeast
www.aginnovation-northeast.org
35 Campus Avenue
Green Hall room 115
University of Rhode Island
Kingston, RI 02881

Executive Director, [Dr. Richard C. Rhodes III](#): (401) 874-2468
Coordinator, [David Leibovitz](#): (401) 874-4801

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

Please do not reply directly to this MailChimp message.