agInnovation Northeast News #255--August 31, 2026

The start of the fall semester is always an exciting time. New faculty, new staff, new students; all, bring new energy and new ideas to our research operations. There's nothing like it! From innovative research to hands-on learning, you're cultivating the next wave of agricultural breakthroughs.

Best wishes for a successful fall!

"Life starts all over again when it gets crisp in the fall." – F. Scott Fitzgerald (1925) in *The Great Gatsby*. Scribner, New York, NY.

Action items:

- We've posted the notes from our August 21, 2026 zoom meeting. Check those out!

- *Last time*: If you haven't done so, now is a good time to register for the annual meeting for agInnovation scheduled for September 21-24, 2026, in Grand Junction, CO. (Meeting registration closes on September 7!) The theme for the meeting is "Inspiring Solutions to Tomorrow's Challenges." We'll also hold a regional meeting on September 22 while we are in Grand Junction.

- We've posted the face-to-face business meeting materials for our September 22 gathering at Grand Junction. It's a full agenda and we look forward to your engagement.

Reminders/Updates:

- Northeast SARE is extending four large grant programs (four different embedded links) including Farming Community, Research and Education, Research for Novel Approaches, and Professional Development, and are calling for proposals. Proposals are due October 26, 2026, by 4 p.m. ET. Take a look!

- *Save the dates*:
  - 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)
    - October 15, November 19, December 17 (agInnovation Northeast Winter Meeting).

Informational items:

- As we navigate the complexities of our research funding ecosystem, Research America has released an August Recess Advocacy Guide that provides talking points about OMB's proposed changes to federal grantmaking. It's worth a read. You'll recall that your Executive Director submitted comments to the Federal Register on the proposed revision to Uniform Guidance. For the moment, the implementation of the proposed changes has been suspended until December 11, 2026.

- Sara Delheimer has released the Multistate Research Fund Impacts September communications toolkit. Please use and share the materials that Sarah has developed. Our multistate project, NE2334 *Genetic Bases for Resistance and Immunity to Avian Diseases*, is featured as part of "National Chicken Month", sponsored by the National Chicken Council and US Poultry and Egg Association.

- The Western Governors Association (we'll be several of the staff members in Grand Junction) is searching for a Policy Advisor. The position is full-time and located in Denver.

- *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:

- One of the assets we have posted under the "Resources" scroll-down menu is the National Research Support Project Guidelines. To place the Guidelines in context, agInnovation has the capacity to support approximately $2.5 million in national research support projects. We're hoping that you see opportunity there. Plus, our own Beth Gugino chairs the NRSP Review Committee.

The Parting Shot:



From the ground up: NE2331's potato breeding trial, rooted in regional teamwork and nominated for national recognition (photo courtesy of the University of Maine and Mario Andrade).

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

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