



Today we celebrate and honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. While his influential decisions and actions advanced humanitarian rights; even today, ensuring civil rights for all remains a challenge. It is in that spirit that we share Dr. King's words...

"Darker yet may be the night
Harder yet may be the fight
Just stand up for that which is right"

– Martin Luther King (1964) "The Three Dimensions of a Complete Life" in *Letter from a Birmingham Jail*. Penguin Random House UK, London, England.

Action items:

- During our last agInnovation Northeast Business Meeting we discussed creating a research newsletter to serve as an informational archive and platform for launching collaboration. To that end, we'll be forwarding by email to all directors a call for research project descriptions. Be on the lookout for that solicitation!
- *Calling all directors and administrative advisers!* agInnovation has released the calls for nominations for [Agricultural Research Innovation Awards of Excellence](#) (includes Early, Mid-Career, and Life-Time Career researchers) and [Excellence in Multistate Research](#) (multistate research projects). Nominations for multistate research projects are due in our office on February 28 while nominations for researcher awards are due on March 15. Any questions, don't hesitate to reach out to [David and Rick](#).
- Sara Delheimer, the program coordinator for Multistate Research Fund Impact Statements, is soliciting the regions for multistate

projects that are seeking a Writing Workshop. If you're an administrative adviser and your technical team is interested in a writing workshop, [please contact David and Rick](#), and they will provide you with a workshop application form.

- [Registration is now open for the CARET/BAA Washington Conference on February 22-25, 2026](#). Registration closes on February 6.
- *Hold the date*: Our next agInnovation virtual gathering will be on February 26, at 8:00 AM. An agenda and connection details will be emailed to you.

Reminders/Updates:

- You might have received an email about changes to the participant list of NE59, *Multistate Research Coordination Northeastern Region*. We updated the list of participants to reflect our current regional leadership. As a reminder, this is the administrative umbrella project for the region and travel expenses can be allocated to this project to cover costs associated with meetings attended by or hosted by the director or his/her designees. No action is required, just a heads up.
- The Farm Journal has released a new report titled the "[The Mean Sixteen: Major Biosecurity Threats Facing U.S. Agriculture and How Policy Solutions Can Help](#)". This is a worthwhile read that calls for greater investment in public research and development; a familiar chorus to you all...
- *Continuing*: During our December business meeting we discussed the Northeast Computational Research Initiative. We continue seeking prospective members for an initial leadership group to initiate defining priorities and strategies. If this opportunity interests you, [please contact Rick and David](#).
- *Save the dates*:
 - 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)
- *agInnovation Northeast virtual meeting dates (2026, all begin at 8:00 AM)*

- January 15, February 26, April 16, May 21, July 16, August 20, October 15, November 19, December 17 (agInnovation Northeast Winter Meeting)
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Informational items:

- [Registration is now open](#) for the 102nd USDA Agricultural Outlook, February 19-20, 2026, at the Crystal City Marriott, Arlington, VA. The program will include 22 breakout sessions covering a wide range of current issues including commodity and food price forecasts, farm income, U.S. and global agricultural trade, the future of biofuels, and AI applications in agriculture.
 - *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.
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From the Archive:

- Our partner agency, NIFA, has resumed its compliance reviews that span finances to civil rights. We have archived on the agInnovation Northeast website [civil rights review materials](#) from institutions that have undergone a previous evaluation. Check these resources out. As institutions undergo review, we anticipate updating our resource list. Stay tuned!

The Parting Shot:



“I have a dream...August 28, 1963” (photo credit: CNP/Getty Images).

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

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