

agInnovation Northeast News #243--March 16, 2026



As you read this, the agInnovation Northeast directors will be gathering in Geneva, New York for the Spring Meeting focused on what's next for us and the region. We look forward to sharing our accomplishments.

“The path to prosperity and global food security leadership begins with American ingenuity, and with bold and smart investments in agricultural R&D.”

– Cary Fowler (2026) in *A Call to Rebuild U.S. Leadership in Food and Agricultural R&D*. Food Security and Leadership Council, <https://www.foodsecurityleadership.org/>.

Action items:

- The details for the Northeast Spring Meeting at Cornell AgriTech (Geneva, NY), March 16-18 are listed on [our meeting page](#). This includes the most recent agenda (V10) and the Multistate Activities Report and Recommendations. Check them out!

Reminders/Updates:

- We've asked each station to submit two research descriptions, one on a mature research project and the other on a new project for a semiannual publication, **agInnovation Northeast: Impacts**. Those descriptions are trickling in, slowly! If you haven't sent your descriptions there's still time. We've [posted the request](#) on the agInnovation Northeast website!

- *For your graduate students and postdocs, hold the date:* An agInnovation Northeast team is planning the first [Graduate Student/Post-Doc Forum](#) at Rutgers University, May 26-28. Check it out!

- agInnovation Northeast was a signatory on a letter to the ranking members of the House and Senate subcommittees on agriculture [requesting \\$500 million for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative \(AFRI\)](#). The letter also seeks a level of no less than \$455 million.
- *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)*
 - April 16, May 21, July 16, August 20, October 15, November 19, December 17 (agInnovation Northeast Winter Meeting)

Informational items:

- The Food Security Leadership Council (FSLC) recently released a short document titled "[A Call to Rebuild U.S. Leadership in Food and Agriculture](#)". As a heads up, Cary Fowler, is the President of FSLC and a World Food Prize winner. The report suggests "no less than \$100 billion in new strategic public R&D investment over ten years." A bold ask!
- The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign is launching the [James F. Evans Global Center for Food and Agricultural Communications](#), and they are [seeking a director](#) to help lead and shape the center from the ground up.
- Washington State University's Department of Animal Sciences is seeking applicants for two positions: [Assistant Professor - Meat Scientist \(Beef\)](#) and [Assistant Professor – Beef Production](#). Screening of applications for both positions will begin on April 1, 2026.
- The [National Urban Research and Extension Center](#) is hosting a series of webinars, the Urban Food Series. The next three webinars will be held on March 24, *Urban Agriculture, Biodiversity, and the Ecosystem Services That Sustain Cities*, April 14, *Weaving Urban Agriculture into the Social–Ecological Fabric of Cities*, and May 5, *The State of Urban Agriculture: Insights from Extension and Research*. Here's the [link to register](#).

- *Second time:* The Association of American Universities engaged Attain Partners to develop a report to dispel confusion and foster a better understanding of the current F&A cost reimbursement system. Click here to access the [Report on Indirect Cost Rates and Recovery](#).
 - *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:

- This week we're highlighting a document from deep in the agInnovation Northeast crypt. To set a context for what we're spotlighting, during our face-to-face meeting in Geneva, we'll be discussing direct cost recovery. As background for that conversation, we're using a study that NERA (remember NERA?) undertook in 2015. You can find the report, [Cost Recovery Systems at Agricultural Experiment Station Research Facilities in the Northeast Region](#), listed under the drop down menu labeled Workroom> [Reports/White Papers](#).

The Parting Shot:



Graduate and Post-Doctoral Forum

Share research, build professional connections, and lay the foundation for a cross-institutional, interdisciplinary network that strengthens collaboration and elevates the collective impact of their work.



All Northeast Land-grant institutions are invited!

▶ Strengthen collaboration

▶ Elevate collective impact

▶ Showcase research

▶ Network and engage

SAVE THE DATES:
May 26-28, 2026



New Brunswick, NJ

Submissions will be accepted for oral presentation or poster, or for poster only.

Further information is in development and will be shared as the event approaches.

“It’s coming, stay tuned!” (courtesy of David Leibovitz.)

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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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