



Accomplishments Report of the Office of the Executive Director

July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026

agInnovation Northeast Operations

- Administration of agInnovation Northeast business practices.
- Cooperated and collaborated with business offices of agInnovation Northeast members.
- Regularly updated content on the agInnovation Northeast website.
- Kept up-to-date contact lists for agInnovation Northeast News, agInnovation Northeast Listserv, and agInnovation Northeast website directory.
- Wrote and delivered regular bi-weekly agInnovation Northeast News, all archived on the agInnovation Northeast website.
- Continued improvement of operational efficiency.
- Closed out FY '26 agInnovation Northeast financials; financials were aligned with the approved budget.
- Developed the FY'27 agInnovation Northeast budget (approved by agInnovation Northeast on June 3, 2026).

Regional Activities

- NIMSS, served as regional system administrators. Oversaw all NIMSS functions in the Northeast. Successfully routed all project renewals recommended by the MAC and approved by agInnovation Northeast.
- Conducted regional and national NIMSS training sessions in partnership with other regional associations via Zoom.
- Held one-on-one NIMSS training sessions on an as-needed basis.
- Guided final approval of multistate research projects, a process ascribed solely to the region.
- Conducted quick-response regional surveys to facilitate agInnovation Northeast business (voting), gather feedback on priorities, and inventory communications resources.
- Planned the agInnovation Northeast Spring Meeting, hosted in Geneva, NY and hosted by Cornell AgriTech. Utilized the agInnovation 501(c)(3) to support meeting activities and fully reimbursed the nonprofit.
- Supported the MAC and MAC chair in planning, developing agendas, compiling materials, and running MAC Zoom conferences. Assisted the agInnovation Northeast chair in planning, developing agendas, and compiling materials.
- Implemented monthly zoom calls late in the fiscal year for the region as we navigated an evolving Federal landscape.
- Assisted multiple multistate technical committees working through issues associated with requests to write, project re-write/revisions, project reports, and project peer reviews.
- Communicated regularly with the agInnovation Northeast Executive Committee on issues of importance to agInnovation Northeast.

- In conjunction with several agInnovation Northeast directors, we planned, developed, and ran the first Graduate and Post-doctoral Forum in New Brunswick, NJ on May 26-28, 2026.
- Assisted the agInnovation Northeast chair in planning, developing agendas, compiling materials and running, face-to-face agInnovation Northeast meetings held on September 17, 2025 (St. Louis, MO), March 16-18, 2026 (Geneva, NY) and June 3, 2026 (Burlington, VT).
- Assisted the Northeast Administrative Heads in organizing. Developed agendas and supported Zoom calls in collaboration with the Northeast AHS chair, Linda Prokopy.
- Continued to hold conversations with Northeast communicators about “Creating a Regional Voice”. Created a web presence for the [Northeast Regional Voice](#) on the agInnovation Northeast website.
- Supported the 2026 face-to-face Northeast Joint (NEED/agInnovation Northeast/CARET) Summer Session (Burlington, VT) planning committee including drafting versions of the meeting program and securing speakers. During the meeting, served as speaker and moderator.
- Participated in Northeast NSF Engine proposal planning meetings leading to the development of the “New Farm” (ag-tech concept).
- Assisted agInnovation Northeast Directors on an “as needed” basis.
- Worked closely with Ali Mitchell Dunigan to coordinate activities of agInnovation Northeast and NEED.
- Served as AA for NRSP9 *National Animal Nutrition Program*, and NECC2312 *Northeast Coordinating Committee on Soil Testing*.
- Served as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Northeast Regional Aquaculture Center (NRAC). Provided guidance in the overall operations and mission of NRAC.
- Served as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development (NERCRD). Provided guidance in the overall operations and mission of NERCRD.
- Invited speaker, Northeast Management Officers Conference, “Strengthening Regional Collaboration”, Ithaca, NY, October 22, 2025.

National Activities

- BAA Communications and Marketing Committee (CMC); served as the agInnovation Executive Director Administrative Representative and Executive Vice Chair. Provided strategic direction to the CMC.
- agInnovation Finance Committee; served as the Executive Vice Chair. Provided strategic support for the committee and shadow accounting for APLU 5800 (agInnovation’s operating account) and TD Wealth (agInnovation’s investment account). Planned transfer of assets held by TD to J.P. Morgan. Facilitated all operational transactions on behalf of agInnovation, serving as sole liaison between agInnovation vendors and APLU (payment processor).
- agInnovation National Research Support Project Review Committee; served as the Executive Vice Chair. Provided strategic support for the committee and assisted the chair in the development, planning and implementation of activities and meetings.
- Served as a Sustaining Member on the agInnovation Nonprofit 501(c)(3) Board of Directors and Treasurer. Facilitated all operational transactions on behalf of the Nonprofit, serving as sole liaison with vendors. Facilitated the support of agInnovation regional association

activities via the Nonprofit account. Initiated conversations with banks that support philanthropic organizations and executed transferring the agInnovation endowment from TD Wealth/APLU to J.P. Morgan/Nonprofit.

- Participated in the 2025 face-to-face agInnovation/CES Joint Annual Meeting (St. Louis, MO) planning committee.
- Provided SurveyMonkey support to agInnovation standing committees and BAA standing committees on an as-needed basis including gathering feedback on priorities and gauging willingness to travel and meet face-to-face.
- Participated and contributed to National Multistate Coordinating Committee (now called APLU/ED&A Team meetings.) Coordinated and collaborated with regional executive directors from CES and agInnovation.
- Met monthly with the regional agricultural experiment station Executive Directors.
- Met monthly with Ali Mitchell Dunigan, NEED Executive Director.
- Met monthly with regional association administrative staff.
- Assisted and supported other agInnovation committees including Science and Technology and Budget and Legislative.
- Worked on revisions of the National Guidelines for Multistate Activities in conjunction with regional association counterparts (ongoing).
- Served as manager, webmaster, and primary point of contact for all agInnovation digital assets and websites (both the former ESCOP site and the outwardly facing agInnovation site).
- Worked with communications staff from all regions to gather stories for the agInnovation website.
- Supported BAA, agInnovation, and regional offices in response to recommendations by the APLU/Lewis-Burke on appropriations (capacity and competitive including these grant funding lines: Hatch, Evans-Allen, Smith-Lever, 1890's Extension, McIntire-Stennis, AFRI, and the Research Facilities Act).
- Participated in BAA Leadership meetings, BAA membership meetings, and BAA Policy Board of Directors meetings.
- Signatory on behalf of agInnovation Northeast to multiple letters supporting initiatives that best serve our Association and the national ag experiment station system.
- Monitored NIFA programs through teleconferences and webinars including developments on the NIFA budget, competitive grants program, reporting requirements, Hatch MRF, and communications.
- Held monthly meetings with regional association counterparts and NIMSS technical support team at Clemson University Youth Learning Institute.
- Served as the Administrative Adviser for NRSP1 (David Leibovitz) and engaged in quarterly meetings of the NRSP1 review committee. Participated in re-drafting of the NRSP1 rules of operation.
- Served on the National Extension and Research Administrative Officers' Conference (NERAOC) planning committee, representing agInnovation.
- Invited speaker, NERAOC, "NIMSS Basics and Best Practices", Kansas City, MO, March 24, 2026 (David Leibovitz).
- Moderator, 2026 Association of 1890 Research Directors (ARD) Biennial Research Symposium "Bioenergy, Natural Resources, and Environment" Graduate Oral Competition, New Orleans, LA, March 28-31, 2026.

Travel

- BAA Leadership Meeting, Washington, DC, July 14-15, 2025
- National Extension and Research Officers' Conference (NERAOC) Planning Meeting, Kansas City, MO, August 18-20, 2025
- agInnovation/CES Joint Annual Meeting, St. Louis, MO, September 15-18, 2025
- Northeast Management Officers Conference, Ithaca, NY, October 20-22, 2025
- APLU Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, November 9-11, 2025
- NRAC Board of Directors Meeting, Portland, ME, January 5-7, 2026
- agInnovation Northeast Spring Meeting, Geneva, NY, March 16-18, 2026
- NERAOC, Kansas City, MO, March 23-26, 2026
- 2026 ARD Biennial Research Symposium, March 29-April 1, 2026, New Orleans, LA
- NCFAR Board of Directors and Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, April 21, 2026
- agInnovation Northeast Graduate and Postdoctoral Forum, New Brunswick, NJ, May 26-28, 2026
- Joint Summer Meeting (NEED/agInnovation Northeast), Burlington, VT, June 1-3, 2026