



Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors

As you might not have heard, long-time NIFA leader and NERA friend, Meryl Broussard, passed away this weekend. NIFA will be holding a memorial service for Meryl at the Waterfront Center next week. We'll keep you posted on the details as they become available.

Be sure to check out action item #1! The summer meeting is right around the corner; we look forward to seeing you in Washington DC.

"The good thing about science is that it's true whether or not you believe in it."  
Neil deGrasse Tyson tweet, June 14, 2013

### Action items:

- Last call: Registration for rooms ([Embassy Suites](#)) and the [2019 Joint Summer Session](#) are open. Don't wait to register! Remember, we'll be running our NERA face-to-face business meeting directly after the joint session. The meetings are scheduled for June 2–5, 2019.
- Wipe your brow. You might have seen that the USDA had developed a disclaimer policy that required USDA scientists to include wording in publications that indicated that the reported findings and conclusions are "preliminary" and had "not been formally disseminated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture." That has been reversed by [Chief Scientist, Dr. Chavonda Jacobs-Young in her letter of May 8, 2015](#). The new disclaimer that could be required on publications with USDA authors would state, "The findings and conclusions in this [publication/presentation/blog/report] are those of the author(s) and should not be construed to represent any official USDA or U.S. Government determination or policy." We'll keep you posted as this continues to unfold.
- Cornerstone Government Affairs is working with congressional offices to develop a fix for the 1:1 match requirement in several of the big grant programs including Specialty Crop Research Initiative (SCRI) and the Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative (OREI.) Cornerstone suggests that individual institutions contact their congressional delegations to seek relief from the 1:1 match requirement. As you'd recollect, the 2018 Farm Bill rescinded the waiver of match for SCRI and OREI.
- We recognize that many things at NIFA are evolving including new requirements for the Plan of Work. We'd appreciate hearing about any problems or challenges that you might have encountered. For instance, a NERA institution recently shared their disappointment in the lack of resources (e.g., webinars and listservs) available as institutions prepare to submit a new Plan of Work and initiate new Hatch projects.

---

### Reminders/Updates:

in Nashville, TN on September 23 - 26, 2019. As details become available, we'll apprise.

---

**Informational items:**

- Northeast SARE has released the calls for preproposals for 2020 [Research and Education](#), [Professional Development](#) and [Research for Novel Approaches in Sustainable Agriculture](#) projects. Preproposals are **due by June 25** at 5 p.m. ET. Applicants selected to submit full proposals will be contacted in mid-August with full proposals due by Oct. 29. Project awards will be made in late February 2020. More information on how to apply may be found at [www.northeastsare.org/getgrant](http://www.northeastsare.org/getgrant).
- The University of Maryland has four positions for which they are seeking applicants. These include: Extension Educator – Family and Consumer Sciences; Extension Educator – 4-H Youth Development; Director of Administrative Services; and a Director for the administration of 3 research and education centers. [The positions are posted on the NERA website](#).



Follow @NERASAES on Twitter

Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors (NERA)

[www.nerasaes.org](http://www.nerasaes.org)

14 East Farm Road

Aquaculture Center

University of Rhode Island

Kingston, RI 02881

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

Coordinator, [David Leibovitz](#): (401) 874-4801

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

Please do not reply directly to this MailChimp message.