



Last week, we met in Grand Junction, both as a national organization and as a region and we're interested to hear your reflections and takeaways. From our perspective, agInnovation Northeast is central to a compact, high-efficiency, and diversified ag sector that thrives on innovation and collaboration. We recognize the challenges of our times: mounting accountability, availability of federal funds for research, and escalating costs. There are opportunities out there, exploring those all depend on our willingness to go to places we haven't been.

"What good is livin' a life you've been given

If all you do is stand in one place"

– Lord Huron, lyrics by Ben Schneider, (2012) *Ends of the Earth on Lonesome Dreams*. IAMSOUND, Los Angeles, CA.

Action items:

- If you attended the meeting in Grand Junction, we're interested to hear your thoughts. What did you like and what didn't you like? Your input is important as we plan the next national agInnovation meeting, a event that the Northeast will be hosting in Philadelphia, PA on September 26-30, 2027. Please [send thoughts to Dave and Rick](#).
- Anton Bekkerman was officially appointed as the incoming chair of agInnovation. He'll step into the chair slot next September. During the upcoming year, Anton will be framing his "chair's initiatives". We have an excellent opportunity to highlight the Northeast as we assist Anton in framing an action plan for fiscal year '28. Please [send ideas to Anton and Rick](#).

- We recently completed the first version of [agInnovation Northeast: Research](#). This was an initiative that our directors sought, and the goal of this ongoing project was to create a semi-annual collection of research project summaries, one from a mature project and the other from a new project. We're interested to hear your thoughts on what V2 should look like. Check it out!
 - As change seems to be our universal constant, Jake Bowman has been nominated for our Officer-at-Large slot. At the end of this week, we'll be sending out an electronic ballot that will include the officer-at-large confirmation. Also included on that ballot will be appointments for new Administrative Advisers. Here's a list of open AA slots. If you're interested in any of these, please [contact Dave and Rick](#).
 - NE2206: Green Stormwater Infrastructure and Agriculture (formerly Josh Kohut) – ends 9/30/2027
 - NECC29: Corn Improvement Conference (formerly Margaret Smith) – ends 9/30/2028
 - NECC2202: Formal Structure for the Minor Use Animal Drug Program (formerly Margaret Smith) – ends 9/30/2027
 - NE2201: Mycobacterial Diseases of Animals (currently Rick Rhodes) – ends 9/30/2027
 - NECC2312: Northeast Coordinating Committee on Soil Testing (currently Rick Rhodes) – ends 9/30/2028
 - NRSP9: National Animal Nutrition Program (currently Rick Rhodes) – ends 9/30/2030
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Reminders/Updates:

- If you have suggestions or nominations for our next agInnovation Northeast Executive Director, please share those with [Chris Smart](#)! As a heads up, advertisements for the position are posted on the [agInnovation Northeast website](#) and in the [Chronicle for Higher Education](#).
 - Last Time: 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 Northeast virtual meeting dates (2026, all begin at 8:00 AM)
 - October 15, November 19, December 17 (agInnovation Northeast Winter Meeting).
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Informational items:

- Sara Delheimer has released the [Multistate Research Fund Impacts October 2026 communications toolkit](#). Please use and share the materials that Sara has developed. Our multistate project, NE2231 Developing Potato Varieties for Farmers in the Eastern US, is featured as a recipient of an Excellence in Multistate Research award.
 - The BAA Communications and Marketing Committee is sharing their [October 2026 Communications toolkit](#) titled “Land-Grant Universities: Advancing Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technologies for Producers”. The Northeast is featured in a Penn State story, "Development of a Robotic Apple Blossom Sprayer for Crop Thinning."
 - *Second time:* The APLU is hosting a [New Administrators Orientation](#) on December 8-10, 2026, in Alexandria, VA. The goal of the orientation is to provide practical guidance for navigating the responsibilities and opportunities of academic administration.
 - *Second time:* Northeast SARE is seeking a Northeast experiment station director for their Administrative Council. The Administrative Council is the governance board of SARE and sets program policy and makes funding allocation decisions. The appointment is for 4 years with an opportunity to renew for 2 additional years. The Council meets face-to-face two times per year for which your travel is covered by SARE. If you're interested, [please let Rick know](#).
 - *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:

- As we noted in the “Action Items”, it seems that change is our universal constant. To that end, we drafted an onboarding document a year ago describing who we are and what we do. You can find the Northeast Directors Onboarding Document listed under the scrolling “Resources” menu. Or if you'd like to jump to it without looking and scrolling, [click here](#).

The Parting Shot:



“Colorado montage” (photos courtesy of David Leibovitz and Rick Rhodes)

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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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