



David and I hope you all had a great semiquincentennial celebration, we did!

But I'd be understating things if I didn't share that June was also an especially trying month. My wife was injured in a bike accident in Portugal and experienced a traumatic brain injury. The good news: she's recuperating! Her recovery has given us, certainly me, a spirit of optimism and hope. In a time when it's fashionable to focus on what's wrong, we choose to focus on what we can do. Think about what we can do together!

“For when we have faced down impossible odds; when we’ve been told we’re not ready, or that we shouldn’t try, or that we can’t, generations of Americans have responded with a simple creed that sums up the spirit of a people: ‘Yes we can.’” – Barack Obama (2008) in the concession speech to supporters after the New Hampshire Primary, January 8, 2008. [American Rhetoric: Online Speech Bank](#).

Action items:

- With this issue of the agInnovation Northeast News, we mark a significant transition. Jason Hubbart, who has served as Chair of agInnovation Northeast, is stepping down from that role, as well as from his positions as Associate Dean of Research for the Division for Land-Grant Engagement and Associate Director of the West Virginia Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station. Jason brought to our table something increasingly rare: genuine intellectual depth paired with organizational skill and will. His leadership of agInnovation Northeast was never merely administrative. He engaged us with hard questions and pushed us to think more ambitiously about what agricultural research can and should be. We are grateful for his partnership, his candor, his

friendship, and for the standard he set. Whatever comes next for Jason, our region is better positioned because of his time in these roles. We wish him well!

- The [amended Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) for the Research Facilities Act Program (RFAP) is now posted with the revised July 24, 2026, submission deadline. Here's a link to the [RFAP Technical Assistance Webinar held on June 23, 2026](#). If you're submitting a proposal, would you [please share with us](#) the type of proposal (e.g., Level I-planning activities, Level II-small facility upgrade, Level III-midscale construction, Level IV-large scale construction) and project title?

Reminders/Updates:

- Second time: The [minutes from the June 3 agInnovation Northeast business meeting](#) are now posted on our website. Look this over, we had a rich and robust conversation.
- Save the dates:
 - 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)
 - July 16, August 20, October 15, November 19, December 17 (agInnovation Northeast Winter Meeting).

Informational items:

- The communications toolkits for the month of July are now available for your use. These include the [Multistate Research Fund toolkit](#) (timely summer topics) and the Communications and Marketing toolkit, [Advancing Soil Health and Conservation to Build Resilient Lands](#). Please share these resources with your communications group. They are for you to use freely!
- The University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture is seeking an Assistant/ Associate/ Full-Professor: position title - Animal Waste Management and Farm Animal Environmental Housing Control Specialist (<https://apply.interfolio.com/185899>). Applicant screening begins September 1, 2026, and will continue until the position is filled.
- The University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture is seeking a [Director of its Northeast Rice Research and Extension Center](#). Screening of applicants is expected to begin in August.
- Oklahoma State University has shared resources for its [Science](#)

[Communication Academy](#). This page features a framework for a series of science communication training materials that target undergraduate and graduate student researchers, but they can be used and adapted as needed for classes and working with faculty members. Please share this with your communications professionals and faculty as appropriate.

- [UConn Extension and regional partners](#) are inviting small-scale and backyard poultry producers to participate in a new survey designed to better understand management practices, biosecurity awareness, and educational needs. Please share the link to the survey with small-scale and backyard poultry producer stakeholders in your community as appropriate: <http://s.uconn.edu/poultry-survey>.

- *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.

From the Archive:

- We've updated and posted the *Northeast Agenda*. You can find the agenda (full report and Executive Summary) under "Resources". [Go to the home page](#) and you'll see "Resources" on the right side of the screen. Click that and check out the revised *Northeast Agenda*!

The Parting Shot:



The Bristol Fourth of July Parade, part of America's oldest continuous Fourth of July celebration, founded in 1785. (Bristol, Rhode Island)

agInnovation Northeast
www.aginnovation-northeast.org
35 Campus Avenue
Green Hall room 115
University of Rhode Island
Kingston, RI 02881

Executive Director, [Dr. Richard C. Rhodes III](#): (401) 874-2468
Coordinator, [David Leibovitz](#): (401) 874-4801

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

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