



The directors will be [meeting next week in Grand Junction](#), hence the short newsletter this week. One of the topics that we'll be discussing in Colorado is "*Operating Successfully in the Evolving Federal Funding Landscape*". Here, we'd like to pause and reflect not on what we don't have and want, but on how to we'll truly deliver on our promise, "science that feeds the world". You all work from positions of leadership and influence. Use those tools as forces for good. Thank you for all that you do, the entire agInnovation Northeast team is a beacon.

"If one has courage, nothing can dim the light that shines from within." – Maya Angelou (2014) in *Rainbow in the Cloud: The Wisdom and Spirit of Maya Angelou*. Random House, New York, NY.

Action items:

- We've [posted the agInnovation Northeast face-to-face business meeting materials](#) for our September 22 gathering at Grand Junction. It's a full agenda and we look forward to your engagement.
- It's official, agInnovation Northeast has started the search for its next Executive Director. (Rick will be retiring after 11 years in the position in June 2027.) Advertisements for the position are posted on the [agInnovation Northeast website](#) and in the [Chronicle for Higher Education](#). Chris Smart is leading the search. If you have suggestions for outstanding candidates, please share those with [Chris](#)!

Reminders/Updates:

- The Northeast is the featured region this month on the

[agInnovation website](#) (see *Our Work in Action*). The first story featured describes the award of an [NSF Engine proposal dedicated to seafood](#); an effort that is supported by three of our members: URI, UNH, and the University of Maine. As many of you are aware, Penn State is leading an initiative in anticipation of the next call for Engine proposals. That effort is called “New Farm”. Stay tuned for news on that front.

- Second 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 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)
 - October 15, November 19, December 17 (agInnovation Northeast Winter Meeting).

Informational items:

- The Northeast Management Officers (NEMO) Annual Meeting will be hosted by UVM and held held October 26-28, 2026 in Burlington, VT at Hotel Champlain. This is a premier professional development and networking opportunity for Land-grant administrative staff in both research and extension. Registration is open through September 15, and lodging reservations are open through October 5. [Visit the meeting website for more information.](#)
- 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.
- 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](#).

- agInnovation South is also seeking a [visionary and collaborative leader](#) to serve as its next Executive Director. (Gary Thompson is retiring at the end of '26.)
 - *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:

- We're "double downing" on the agInnovation Northeast Executive Director's announcement and search. We've posted the [job advertisement](#) and [position description](#) in the "*Employment Opportunities*" section under the "Announcements" scroll down menu. The advertisement has been optimized for web-searching and the goal of the Executive Director Search Committee is to cast a wide net. As we shared in "Action Items", please send suggestions of outstanding candidates to [Chris Smart](#).

The Parting Shot:



"Straight from the pond to the palm, oysters in the whole shell"
(NSF Seafood Engine, photo courtesy of Nora Lewis, the University of Rhode Island).

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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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