



Many thanks to you all for contributing to the NERA Spring Meeting. While I couldn't join you, I understand that the meeting was in very good hands. Check out "[Action Items](#)", the meeting minutes are posted. In the meantime, I hope that you are all enjoying the madness of March; is there anything better than men's and women's college basketball?

"I get a group of people who are talented to commit to excellence and to work together as one. That's where it starts. Different talents, same commitment." - Mike Krzyzewski (retiring coach Duke University) on his webpage, [Coach K](#).

Action items:

- The [minutes and supporting materials](#) from the NERA Spring Meeting are posted. Check them out!
- As follow-up to visiting with ESCOP chair, Chris Pristos, we have posted to the NERA website a [letter that Chris wrote](#) to the chairs of the BAA Policy Board of Directors and the Budget and Advocacy Committee expressing concern about their representation of Experiment Station Section priorities.
- Mark your calendars. The 2022 Northeast Joint Summer Session, a meeting that includes NEED, NERA, Administrative Heads, and CARET, will be held as a face-to-face session in Portland, ME on June 5-7, 2022. The theme for the meeting is "Innovation." Details on registration are forthcoming. Stay tuned!

Reminders/Updates:

- The Northeast Regional Aquaculture Center (NRAC) is seeking preproposals in response to their [NRAC 2023 RFA](#). NRAC has approximately \$700,000 for project funding available in the fall of 2022. Each project can be funded up to \$300,000 for a two-year period.
- This week, we're told, the Board on Agriculture Assembly (BAA) will be issuing a ballot that establishes the Communications and Marketing Committee (CMC) as a standing committee. First, if you are issued a ballot, please cast a vote. (Not casting a vote is a "no" vote.) As the Executive Director that backstops the CMC, my recommendation to you is to cast a vote in the affirmative. This action would elevate the communications and marketing efforts of the system and better support the Experiment Station Section.

Informational items:

- The Weed Science Society of America is hosting two webinars on NIFA Grant Programs [March 22, 2022](#) and on [March 29, 2022](#). Registration is required for each session. (As a heads up, registration requires agreeing to receive Weed Science emails.)

- For you NIFA New Reporting System mavens, the [monthly NRS webinar](#) will be held on Thursday, March 24 at 1PM EDT.
- As you heard from ESCOP chair, Chris Pritsos, an ad hoc committee that includes Anton Bekkerman and Rick, has been convened. The purpose of the committee is to start a refresh of the branding of the Experiment Station Section and the development of an advocacy kit for the stations. As materials become available, we'll apprise.
- NIFA continue to grow. NIFA is seeking **National Program Leaders** in [Biological Sciences](#) and [Social Sciences](#). Should you have questions about either position, NERA colleague and friend, [Deb Hamernik](#), is available to answer those.
- Cornell's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences is seeking a creative, experienced and knowledgeable individual to serve as [Director for Cornell's Hudson Valley Laboratory](#). Located in Highland, New York, this is a significant agricultural region where crops like tree fruits, stone fruits, berries, vegetables as well as wine and hard cider production abound.



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