



The holiday season is upon us. To our friends and colleagues at agInnovation Northeast, David and I extend our best. Please find time to relax and spend time with your family.

Since it's almost Christmas Eve, we share, again, the words penned by Clement Clarke Moore and originally published anonymously in the [Troy Sentinel \(page 3\) on December 23, 1823](#), 201 years ago, today!

"Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there;
The children were nestled all snug in their beds,
While visions of sugar-plums danced in their heads;..."

Action items:

- The agInnovation Northeast business meeting [minutes from December 12, 2024](#), are posted on the website, give those a read. You'll see in the notes some follow-up efforts that are reflected in several of the following action items.
- agInnovation Northeast chair, Wendie Cohick, is soliciting your input on the [Chair's Priorities and Initiatives](#). As the directions indicate, Wendie is accepting suggestions on priorities, initiatives, and themes. Here's a [link to the Google doc](#) to submit input. Go for it!
- University of Maine colleague, George Criner, is seeking assistance from agInnovation Northeast directors on station policies related to hunting. If you'd like to add your policies on hunting on Station property, go to the NERA (yes, we're still calling it NERA here) [Best Practices Session webpage](#) and click on the "Hunting Policies at Northeast Agricultural Experiment Stations - agInnovation Northeast, December 2024". The Google doc is editable, add away!
- agInnovation is working collaboratively with Cooperative Extension on the "Research Roadmap", an initiative championed by former agInnovation chair, George Smith. We are seeking content experts to review 3 new roadmap docs including: 4-H-Positive Youth Development, Nutrition and Health, and Community Economic Development. If you have faculty that might be interested in reviewing a 1-page document and identifying the "wicked big, researchable questions", [please share those names with David and Rick](#).

Reminders/Updates:

- agInnovation's Diversity Catalyst Committee will be offering all directors with an opportunity to complete the Intercultural Development Inventory. This is a data-driven tool to assist in the development of inclusive leadership. We're expecting that to open by mid-January.

- As a heads up, [Susan Moser](#) (Division Director, Institute of Food Production and Sustainability, Division of Plant Systems-Production) and [Kal Kalavacharla](#) (Deputy Director, Institute of Food Production and Sustainability) are agInnovation Northeast's NIFA liaisons. These colleagues are terrific resources. Don't hesitate to contact either if you have questions that fall in the realm of "all things NIFA."
- As we shared in the [December 12 agInnovation Multistate Activities Committee Report](#), we have 14 Northeast multistate projects that will be undergoing mid-term review in the Spring. If you're an Administrative Adviser on any of the NE 22XX series projects, you'll be hearing from us soliciting the review.
- Again: In keeping with our name change, we've also migrated the domain of our organizational website. We're now: www.aginnovation-northeast.org. Bookmark us!
- The agInnovation apparel site is open. Check out: [Home | agInnovation Apparel \(square.site\)](#).

Informational items:

- The Communications and Marketing Committee has released the January 2025 Toolkit: [The Unique Power of the Land-grant University System: Accelerating Discovery, Developing the Workforce, and Delivering Solutions](#). Please share widely!
- The 2025 CARET/BAA Washington Conference (formerly known as CARET-AHS) is slated for February 23-26, 2025, at the historic Watergate Hotel. [Registration](#) is live, and [room reservations can be secured here](#).
- Our colleagues at the College of Menominee Nation in Wisconsin (a 1994 tribal Land-grant institution) are seeking an [Aquaculture Nutrition Research Associate](#). The background? The researcher presently on these projects is making a career transition and so they are looking for a scientist to take over the funded work on short notice.
- The Department of Nutrition at the University of Nevada, Reno invites applications for the position of [Department Chair at the Associate/Full Professor level](#). The purpose of this position is to build on the Department's strengths in nutrition.
- *Second time:* The Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center is searching for a [Vice Chancellor for Research](#). The Vice Chancellor assists the Chancellor-Dean of the College of Agricultural, Human, and Environmental Sciences in promoting the research mission of the Center and the College.
- *Hold the date:* Steve Lommel, agInnovation chair, extends an invitation to join the next agInnovation Business Meeting, to be held virtually, on **March 5, 2025, from 2:00-4:00 PM ET**.
- *Second time:* The National Academies (NASEM) have two calls out seeking experts on [The Future of Drought in the United States](#) and the [Status of Insects in North America](#). Both of these links include the expertise areas sought by the NASEM staff. We encourage you to nominate your scientists. If any of you would value be nominated, we're happy to put that together for you. Please [contact Rick](#) if you're interested in being nominated.
- *Third time:* Please share this announcement with faculty who might be interested in artificial intelligence. [The 4th Annual Artificial Intelligence in Agriculture Conference](#) (March 31-April 2, 2025, the Mill at Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS) is calling for abstracts. Deadlines are January 6, 2025, for speakers and February 14, 2025, for posters.
- *The forever green reminder:* In past NERA newsletters, we've made a pitch for "station" photos for both the NERA website and **The Parting Shot**. At the spring meeting we discussed institutions having image libraries. The image libraries are rich archives of photos. 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:

- *The context:* This is the part of the newsletter in which we share a unique attribute that you can find on the [agInnovation Northeast website](#). [We'd like to hear from you](#) about a resource that you found on the website and that helped you in some positive way. No tomes needed, just a quick description of what was helpful.

The Parting Shot:



Classic New

England Christmas tree: lobster pots and lighted buoy on a dock in Galilee, RI (photo courtesy of 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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