



As the semester closes out and the holiday season approaches, our faculty, staff, and students are beginning to run on empty. Now is a good time to do a group check-in. Your crew will be grateful for your empathy.

As a heads up to the directors, we'll be meeting on December 18 at 8:00 AM for our mid-winter meeting. See the first action item!

“Agriculture is all about the future.” – Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent (2025) on *Face the Nation with Margaret Brennan*, December 7, 2025, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nUnNM5a4MU0&t=539s> (see 9:00 of 45:50).

Action items:

- *Save the date:* all agInnovation Northeast directors are invited to attend our annual virtual meeting on **December 18, 8-9:30 AM**. The agenda, supporting materials, and connection details will be sent later this week.
- Ali Dunigan and I have started to update the Northeast Agenda. Be on the watch for the 2026 version shortly after the beginning of the new year.
- Late last week we asked the directors about how best to address “critical issues” identified in a state plan of work in circumstances for which the critical issue is an area that NIFA no longer supports. Many thanks for your responses. It’s clear that the “critical issue” issue can be addressed in a number of different ways!

Reminders/Updates:

- *Save the dates:* We have dates and destinations!

- agInnovation Northeast Spring Meeting, Geneva, NY, March 16-18, 2026 (hosted by Cornell AgriTech)
- Joint Summer Session (agInnovation Northeast and NEED), Shelburne, VT, June 1-3, 2026 (hosted by the University of Vermont)
- agInnovation Annual Meeting, Grand Junction, CO, September 21-25, 2026 (hosted by Colorado State University)
- *Second time:* There are three efforts underway to secure resources for the Land-grant system. These are being spearheaded by the Board on Agriculture Assembly (BAA). These three efforts have different time horizons and include: FY2027 appropriations (short-term, collateral materials are not yet available), the Capacity Fund initiative (mid-term, [Capacity Funding Initiative slide deck](#)), and the Roadmap/Pillar work (long-term, [click here for the latest set of documents](#)). [We're always interested to hear your thoughts](#) on any of these efforts.
- *Second time:* [NIFA has extended the deadlines](#) for submission of proposals to the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) Competitive Grants Program Foundational and Applied Science (FAS) Program (USDA-NIFA-AFRI-011134). Please share the deadlines with your scientists.

Informational items:

- The Department of Fisheries, Animal and Veterinary Sciences in the College of the Environment and Life Sciences at the University of Rhode Island is seeking applicants for an [Assistant Professor in Fish Ecophysiology](#) (9-month, tenure track).
- Second time: The Communications and Marketing Committee has posted their December 2025 Toolkit. It's titled "[The Land-grant University System: Creating and Delivering Solutions for Healthy Individual, Families, and Communities](#)". Use these materials and share widely!
- Chris Hamilton, agInnovation North Central Assistant Director is seeking expert scientists on the effects of increased wind and solar erosion to provide input for an NPR/Washington Post article. If any of your faculty fit that bill, [send their names to us](#).
- *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:

- Many of our directors serve as Administrative Advisers (AA) on multistate research projects, coordinating committees (CCs), and/or Extension and Research Activities (ERAs). We've posted to the agInnovation Northeast website under the pulldown menu "Resources", an [Administrative Adviser Guidance \(2025\) document](#) that outlines the roles and responsibilities of an AA. Check it out.

The Parting Shot:



“The White Mountains just hit refresh “winter 25/26 loading” (photo by 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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