



Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors

---

We're on for the NERA quarterly teleconference on June 10th at 1:00 PM.  
Check out the first action item. We look forward to seeing you!

As each of your states and institutions enter new phases of re-opening, we're interested to hear what's going well, what's working and what's not. Please keep us posted.

"I've missed more than 9,000 shots in my career/ I've lost almost 300 games/ 26 times I've been trusted to take the game winning shot/ and missed./ I've failed over, and over and over again in my life./ And that is why/ I succeed." — Michael Jordan. From Eric Zorn, 1997, [Without Failure, Jordan Would be False Idol](#). Chicago Tribune, May 19, 1997.

---

### Action items:

- We are a go for our virtual summer business meeting on June 10, 2020 from 1:00 – 3:00 PM EDT. As a heads up, we're seeking administrative advisers and volunteers for NERA and ESCOP committees. You will also note that the MAC will be making recommendations; those recommendations are available in the [MAC Report, May 28, 2020](#). If you wish to do the deep dive, the multistate project proposals and reviews will be emailed to you as supplementary materials to the agenda. To connect to the meeting, use <https://zoom.us/j/5717743008>. We'll be posting a draft of the agenda and will share that with you shortly.
- NERA welcomes Dr. Leslie Parise to the Northeast. Leslie joined the University of Vermont as the Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences on May 15th. For the past decade, Leslie served as the chair of the Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.
- NERA bids adieu to Dr. Gary Thompson. Gary has accepted the position of Executive Director of the Southern Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors and will be taking over for Eric Young effective September 1.
- The USDA is seeking public comment and written stakeholder input on the [Agriculture Innovation Agenda](#) (posted on NERA website.) NERA encourages you and/or your scientists to submit comments through the [Federal eRulemaking Portal](#). Ali Mitchell and I are currently working with eXtension to potentially offer a regional listening session that would span interests from Northeast experiment stations to Extension. Comments are due by August 1, 2020.

---

### Reminders/Updates:

- Please take the opportunity to submit your ESS ballot. You'll recollect that casting a vote to approve

allows the Experiment Station Section to transfer its cash reserve to a wealth management account. You approved the strategy during the annual ESS meeting last fall. Approval of the current ballot allows transfer of the funds.

---

### Informational items:

- NIFA is soliciting proposals for the [Food and Agricultural Sciences National Needs Graduate and Postgraduate Fellowship \(NNE\) Grants Program](#). There's \$6.2 million available and 25% of the applications are funded. Proposals are due on June 22, 2020.
- Do you have an outstanding scientist that deserves recognition for their accomplishments? The Global Confederation of Higher Education Associations for the Agricultural and Life Sciences (GCHERA) is soliciting nominations for the [World Agricultural Prize](#). This is a life achievement award and carries a \$100,000 prize. You might recollect that Dr. Ronnie Coffman from Cornell was recognized in 2013. Nominations are due on June 15th.
- And again: The [Multistate Research Fund Impacts](#) group is seeking closer connections with your research communicators. Please send [me](#) the name, email address and phone number of your primary research communicator and I'll submit the NERA list to the MRF impacts working group.
- And again: We're seeking interest from the NERA membership in working to address issues that have recently received press in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* ([Why New Research Calls Some Flagships 'Land-Grab Universities'](#), April 7, 2020) and the *New York Times* ([Ask Who Paid for America's Universities](#), May 7, 2020). In the *Chronicle* article, writer Bennett Leckrone interviewed Robert Lee, an author of a long piece that was published in [High Country News](#) on March 30, 2020. Lee's thesis is that expropriated indigenous land is the foundation of the Land-grant University system. The *Chronicle* article ends: "...this is not designed to be the final word. It's designed to be a sort of a jump-start." We're now jump-starting the conversation. I'd add that ESCOP's Diversity Catalyst Committee is also engaged in the conversation.



Follow @NERASAES on Twitter

Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors (NERA)

[www.nerasaes.org](http://www.nerasaes.org)

14 East Farm Road

Aquaculture Center

University of Rhode Island

Kingston, RI 02881

Executive Director, Dr. Richard C. Rhodes III: (401) 874-2468

Coordinator, David Leibovitz: (401) 874-4801

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

Please do not reply directly to this MailChimp message.