



Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors

This will be a brief newsletter, we don't want to upstage NERA's quarterly Zoom teleconference tomorrow. And to lighten up the quote this week, I selected a reflection captured on a sign that was posted outside of a favorite Tex-Mex restaurant, El Arroyo, located at the corner of West Fifth and Campbell in Austin, Texas.

"Try meditation, it's better that sitting around doing nothing." Arroyo, S. 2020. *In El Arroyo's Big Book of Signs, Volume 4.* Cozumel Publishing Company, Austin, TX.

Action items:

- The virtual NERA Spring Quarterly Meeting will be held on March 9, 2021 from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM ET. The [agenda](#) and [supporting materials](#) are posted on the NERA website. To connect, use our Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/5717743008>, password (all caps): NERA
- We haven't yet reached the 100% mark on pictures from every NERA member institution. Please [share](#) pictures of your institution and of scientists, staff and/or students engaged in research activities. We scroll NERA pictures on the NERA website.

Reminders/Updates:

- The Agricultural Research Infrastructure Advocacy (ARIA) Advisory group in conjunction with the APLU and Rebuild Rural held a webinar during which the [Gordian Study](#) was "publicly released" (you all had seen this months ago) and the \$11.5 billion ask was discussed. As a follow-on to that webinar, the APLU has shared an [advocacy toolbox](#) that you are welcome to use. Likewise, Forbes/Tate Partners (the group that's worked with the Communications and Marketing Committee) has also provided a [Gordian Rollout Toolkit](#) for your use. (I suspect that we'll discuss this initiative during the quarterly meeting tomorrow.)

Informational items:

- NERA hosted a best practices work session on "[All Things NIMSS](#)" on February 23 at 10:00 – 11:00 AM ET. The session outline, video recording and NIMSS User Manual are posted on the NERA website.
- USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) is recruiting a Center Director at the Center for Grain and Animal Health Research (CGAHR) in Manhattan, KS. The vacancy announcement will close on March 29. The announcement is available at: <https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/593474100>.
- NERA was a signatory on two recent letters, one submitted to [USDA Secretary Vilsack](#) and the other to House/Senate budget and appropriations committees (not yet sent, will post the signed letter after

sending.) Both seek increased investments in agricultural research.

- The [minutes of the February 25, 2021 ESCOP meeting](#) are now posted as are all the supporting [agenda briefs](#). Review at your leisure and convenience.



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

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

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