



Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors

It's been a busy several weeks as many of our NERA institutions were in the totality and near-totality path of the eclipse. David and Rick were both at the National Extension and Research Administrators Officers Conference (NERAOC) in Wilmington, DE when the moon passed between the earth and sun. More on NERAOC below.

Please be sure to save the date, June 3-5, for the NEED/NERA Joint Summer Session at the Omni Providence Hotel in Providence, RI.

“Tell your students or those that you are mentoring you're thankful for the opportunity to work with them. Tell them out loud during your Zoom or while mentoring in person that you recognize they are bringing unique backgrounds, knowledge, and resources—some things you don't know—and that you want this relationship to be a two-way street. Explicitly tell them that you want to learn and grow with them.” - Brian Raison (2024) in *The Encouraging Mentor*, West Bow Press, Bloomington, IN.

Action items:

- Please extend a warm NERA welcome to [Brian Farkas](#), who officially stepped into his role as Dean of the University of Delaware's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources on April 1.
- Many thanks to our colleagues at the University of Delaware and Delaware State University for hosting a successful National Extension and Research Administrators Officers Conference. Our business officers do a fabulous job of supporting our endeavors. Their commitment and care are clear indicators of the support for the research mission and their contributions to our team efforts.
- During NERAOC, the North East Management Officers (NEMO) gathered and decided to meet virtually in Fall 2024. More information is yet to come. Please encourage your administrative officers to visit the [NEMO website](#), and [contact David](#) if they are interested in joining the NEMO listserv.
- We are seeking Administrative Advisers for several projects as the NERA ranks evolve. These include: NE1962 *Outdoor Recreation, Parks, and Other Green Environments: Understanding Human and Community Benefits and Mechanisms*, NE2105 *Industrial Hemp Products, Production, Markets, and Associated Challenges for the Stakeholders*, NE2201 *Mycobacterial Diseases of Animals*, NE2251 *Tourism Resilience and Community Sustainability: Adaptation and Recovery of Rural Businesses and Destinations*, NE2333 *Biological Improvement of Chestnut through Technologies that Address Management of the Species and its Pathogens and Pests*. If you're interested, please contact [Rick](#).
- Save the date: The 2024 Northeast Joint Summer Session, hosted by NEED, NERA, and URI, is scheduled for June 3-5 at the Omni Hotel in Providence, RI. The theme for the meeting is “Building a culture of

collaboration” and all representatives associated with Cooperative Extension, the experiment stations, the administrative heads, CARET, academic programs, and Northeast communicators are welcome.

Reminders/Updates:

- Please consider nominating an individual or a team from your institution for an [agInnovation Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion award](#). We know that there are many deserving individuals and teams in the Northeast that offer the best in DEI programming.
- The Urban Ag multistate research project team, an effort supported by NERA, has completed the full draft of a multistate proposal. They expect to submit the draft to the MAC by the beginning of May. In turn, the MAC will review the proposal for completeness, then send the proposal out for external peer review. Afterward, the technical team will have an opportunity to respond to the reviews and revise the proposal before re-submitting to the MAC. The MAC will perform a final review and forward a recommendation to NERA. The team is on a trajectory to have implemented the first urban ag multistate research project in the national portfolio.
- NEED colleague, Ali Mitchell, provided testimony to the 21st Century Agriculture Commission in Massachusetts and spoke about the impact of Extension programs in the Northeast. We're grateful to Ali for helping to tell the Land-grant story. Her testimony is available on [The General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts website](#).
- *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.

Informational items:

- *And again:* The University of Delaware seeks nominations and applications for the position of [Associate Dean and Director of Cooperative Extension and Outreach](#) in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (CANR). Please direct confidential inquiries, nominations, and application materials to: [Jeremy Duff](#) or [Lois Stetson](#), Greenwood Asher & Associates.
- *Second time:* NIFA is presenting a grant applicant/awardee technical assistance webinar on May 2 at 12:00 PM ET titled [“Demystifying the Panel Review Process for Grant Funding”](#). Please share this opportunity with interested faculty and staff. Registration is required.

From the Archive:

- *The context:* The need for investment in infrastructure continues in the Northeast and the rest of the country. One of the reports that the “system” uses to describe the needs is the **Gordian Report: A National Study of Capital Infrastructure at Colleges and Schools of Agriculture**. The Gordian Report is posted on the NERA website under: [Workroom>Reports / Whitepapers>2021](#).

The Parting Shot:



Washington Monument and a time-lapse of the solar eclipse. (Photo courtesy of William Ingalls/NASA)



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

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