



Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors

Tomorrow, we'll be holding our quarterly teleconference. Hence, we share a single action item, we look forward to seeing you on Zoom.

In the meantime, as we head into the holiday season, David and I extend our best! Enjoy time with your families and your pod of friends. While 2020 has been a long, strange trip, there are a number of interesting opportunities that will be opening in 2021. Here's to the hope that you all find that opportunity. All the best!

Sometimes the light's all shinin' on me

Other times I can barely see

Lately it occurs to me

What a long, strange trip it's been

- Jerry Garcia, Bob Weir, Phil Lesh, and Robert Hunter. 1971. *Truckin'*.

Warner Brothers, Los Angeles, CA.

Action items:

- The quarterly NERA teleconference will be held tomorrow on December 15 from 8:30-10:30 AM ET. To connect: <https://zoom.us/j/5717743008>, the meeting password is (all caps): NERA. The [agenda](#) is posted on the NERA website.

Reminders/Updates:

- The APLU is hosting a webinar on *Agricultural Research Infrastructure Advocacy* on January 11, 2021 at 4:00 PM ET. The webinar will provide an opportunity to learn about materials to support advocacy that advances the \$11.5 billion request for research infrastructure support. [Registration](#) is required.
- We're updating the NERA files and note that the mail delivery services at many institutions is limited. As such, we are seeking your home address in the event that we need to forward something to you. Your address will not be posted nor will we share the address with any organization.
- Last Tuesday, President-elect Biden announced his nomination of former Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack to reprise that role. Vilsack will be responsible for implementing part of the [Climate 21 Project](#), exploiting agriculture's capacity to contribute to an Administration-wide climate change mitigation and adaptation effort.
- The Experiment Station Section has released two 2021 calls for nominations, both of which are posted on the ESCOP website: [Excellence in Multistate Research Award](#) and [Excellence in Leadership Award](#).

- Second time: West Virginia University (Matt Wilson) and Cornell University (Margaret Smith) have agreed to support a “request to write” a social-science focused, multistate project dedicated to evaluating the “Motivations for Growing Industrial Hemp: Farmers, Producers, Policymakers, Retailers, Consumers, and Communities (Stakeholders)”. We’ve posted a prospective description of the project on the NERA website. If you have faculty who are interested in assisting in the development of this concept as a multistate research project, they should contact WVU researchers Debanjan Das (debanjan.das@mail.wvu.edu) and Sunidhi Mehta (sunidhi.mehta@mail.wvu.edu).
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Informational items:

- The University of Connecticut is seeking a [Head of the Department of Animal Science](#). A late summer start date is anticipated.
- The University of Maryland College of Agriculture and Natural resources is seeking applicants for three positions, all of which are posted on the [NERA website](#).
- The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University is seeking a [Director for the Tidewater Agricultural Research and Extension Center](#).
- The College of Agriculture at Oregon State is searching for an [Associate Dean of Research](#). This is a full-time, 12-month, tenured administrator, professional faculty position.
- The Western Extension Directors Association (WEDA) is requesting applications from qualified individuals to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of an [Executive Director](#). The announcement is posted on the NERA website.
- The University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences seeks a [Plant Growth Facilities Superintendent](#) to oversee the operation and management of their plant growth facilities.
- The USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), located in Kansas City, Missouri, has three vacancies for Deputy Directors (Social Sciences, General Natural Resources Management and Biological Sciences.) These are Senior Executive Service positions. For more information, check [Deputy Director](#) on the [USAJobs](#) website.
- The University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension is searching for an [Associate Dean of Youth, Families, and Communities](#).
- The Soil and Crop Sciences at Colorado State University is searching for the next [Director of Colorado Seed Programs](#).
- We previously reported that long-time NERA director and colleague, Sabine O’Hara, is the guest editor for a special issue of *Sustainability*. Initially, the issue was to be dedicated to the roles that urban agriculture plays in advancing urban sustainability. The theme of the issue has been broadened to “Urban Sustainability: Re-envisioning Cities to Lead the Way toward the Circular Economy.” That said, urban agriculture and food systems are an important aspect of this updated call for papers. Sabine is seeking contributions of manuscripts. Abstracts are due on January 15, 2021 and manuscripts are due on March 31, 2021. A description of the [call for manuscripts](#) is posted on the NERA website. Questions about the opportunity should be addressed to sabine.ohara@udc.edu or (202) 368-9504.
- Colleagues at Purdue University have shared on the USDA website an update on [Employment Opportunities for College Graduates in Food, Agriculture, Renewable Natural Resources and the Environment](#). It’s worth a look!
- *Second time:* The USDA is hosting 97th Annual Agricultural Outlook Forum as a virtual event on

February 18-21, 2021. The theme is "Building on Innovation: A Pathway to Resilience," and builds on the current administration's [Agriculture Innovation Agenda](#), launched earlier this year to align USDA's resources, programs, and research toward the goal of increasing U.S. agricultural production by 40% while cutting the environmental footprint of U.S. agriculture in half by 2050. While the event is free, [registration](#) is required.



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