



We look forward to connecting with all the agInnovation Northeast directors on Thursday for our monthly check-in call. The first action item provides a preview of the agenda. What's clear in the agenda is that we are operating in a moment defined by change, uncertainty, and opportunity. As we've shared before, there is no better time to lead. We appreciate and rely on your continued leadership.

“Almost everything you've ever seen in science fiction has already become science fact.”

- Mo Gawdet (2021) in *Scary Smart: The Future of Artificial Intelligence and How You Can Save Our World*. Pan Macmillan, London, England.

Action items:

- We're holding our monthly agInnovation Northeast call on April 16 at 8:00 AM. Items on the agenda include: agInnovation Annual Meeting 2027 (the Northeast region is hosting the meeting); President's budget: USDA, NIFA, Capacity funds, AFRI; Preparing for change in F&A?; and USDA Terms and Conditions: What's your current state of play? If you need a link for the meeting, [please contact David and Rick](#).

- Your regional office has released the call for abstracts (due April 15) for the first Graduate Student/Post-Doc Forum at Rutgers University, May 26-28. As we shared in the call for abstracts, each director can nominate up to 5 students to submit abstracts for presentation. We're asking the directors to support the travel of the students and agInnovation Northeast is taking care of the costs of meeting. There is no registration fee. If you didn't receive the link to the call for abstracts, [please contact David and Rick](#).

- We forwarded to the agInnovation Northeast directors a ballot seeking

decisions on the disposition of NRSP_TEMP12 *Building Integrated Research Networks to Advance the Conduct and Application of Science with Urban Communities* and selection of the Northeast multistate research award winner. Please cast your votes by close of business on Friday, April 17. If you need a new ballot, [please contact David and Rick](#).

- *It's alive:* [Registration](#) and [room reservations](#) are now open for the [Joint Summer Session](#) June 1-3, 2026, in Burlington, VT. The theme for the meeting is Learning Together, Leading Together. The agenda is posted on the Joint Summer Session landing page.

Reminders/Updates:

- The Northeast Administrative Heads are meeting via zoom this week on April 17 at 8:00 AM. If you need a link to the meeting, [please contact David and Rick](#).
 - NIFA is holding a webinar on April 15 at 2:00 PM ET to discuss the implementation of the new **USDA Terms and Conditions**. Here's the [link to register](#) for the webinar.
 - The attorneys general in 21 states, including 10 in the Northeast, signed on to a lawsuit filed in Massachusetts on March 23 [suing the USDA](#) over its attempt to impose new terms and conditions on funding received through USDA programs, grants, cooperative agreements and mutual interest agreements. We'll keep you posted as the lawsuit winds its way through the courts.
 - *Continuing:* We've asked each station to submit two research descriptions, one on a mature research project and the other on a new project for a semiannual publication, **agInnovation Northeast: Impacts**. Those descriptions are trickling in, slowly! If you haven't sent your descriptions there's still time. We've [posted the request](#) on the agInnovation Northeast website!
 - *Save the dates:*
 - 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)
 - *agInnovation Northeast virtual meeting dates (2026, all begin at 8:00 AM)*
 - April 16, May 21, July 16, August 20, October 15, November 19, December 17 (agInnovation Northeast Winter Meeting)
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Informational items:

- The Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture at the University of Maryland, College Park has an immediate opening for a [Postdoctoral Associate position](#) with a focus on understanding how preharvest and postharvest hormonal treatments impact apple fruit quality-related pathways.
- *Follow up:* The minutes and presentation slide decks from the Northeast Spring Meeting at Cornell AgriTech (Geneva, NY), March 16-18 are now posted listed on our webpage under the Workroom/[Agenda-Minutes](#) drop down menu.
- The APLU has reached out to all the Land-grant institutions seeking input in support of building the campaign for attracting increased investment in capacity funds. This effort is being undertaken in collaboration with Tripp-Umbach, a nationally recognized firm that helps organizations communicate their economic impact. Please add your data to support increasing capacity funds! Due date for submission of data is April 15.
- *Webinar rescheduled:* ACE members Kelsey Hall and Jennifer Alexander recently partnered to update the 2018 survey of land grant university communication units. They'll be presenting a webinar on their work, "Insights from the 2025 National Survey of Land-Grant Communication Units", on April 23, 2026, at 1:00 PM ET. Here's the [Zoom link](#).
- The [National Urban Research and Extension Center](#) is hosting a series of webinars, the Urban Food Series. The next two webinars will be held on April 14, *Weaving Urban Agriculture into the Social–Ecological Fabric of Cities*, and May 5, *The State of Urban Agriculture: Insights from Extension and Research*. Here's the [link to register](#).
- *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:

- While we have played this card previously, we'll play it again. We post meeting agendas as well as minutes from past meetings on the agInnovation Northeast website under the Workroom banner > [Agenda/Minutes](#). There you'll find the landing page for the [Joint Summer Session](#), scheduled for June 1-3 in Burlington, VT. Check it out!

The Parting Shot:



“Northeast colleagues holding a lobby summit at the 2026 National Extension and Research Administrative Officers Conference, Kansas City. From left: David Leibovitz, Alicia Huckle (UConn), Cindy O'Donnell (Delaware), Crystal Clark (Cornell), Celeste Carmichael (Cornell), Catherine Armstrong (New Hampshire), and Winnie Lunt (UConn).”
(courtesy of David Leibovitz.)

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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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