



University
of Vermont

College of Agriculture
and Life Sciences



2026 Northeast Management Officers Annual Meeting

Current Draft Agenda

October 26–28, 2026

Hotel Champlain | 60 Battery Street | Burlington, Vermont 05401

[Reserve your room](#)

[Register for NEMO 2026](#)

Draft as of September 16, 2026. Schedule and presenters are subject to change.

Monday, October 26, 2026 | 12:30–5:30 p.m.

Pre-Conference Experiential Sessions

The meeting opens with two optional, hands-on experiences connecting UVM research and Extension with Vermont agriculture and local food systems: a visit to the **UVM Horticulture Research & Education Center**, including a seasonal apple-focused activity and an introduction to specialty crop and orchard research; and a **Sensory Practice Workshop with Roy Desrochers**, featuring guided tastings of Vermont-made products.

Meet: Hotel Champlain lobby at 12:30 p.m.; return by 5:30 p.m. Round-trip transportation is provided for participants attending both sessions. **Cost:** \$25.

Accessibility: To request disability-related accommodations, contact UVM Accessibility Services at access@uvm.edu or (802) 656-7753.

Tuesday, October 27, 2026

Location: All Tuesday and Wednesday sessions will be held in the *Lake Champlain Room* at Hotel Champlain.

Time	Session	Presenter/Facilitator
7:30–9:00 a.m.	Breakfast and Conference Registration	
9:00–9:15 a.m.	Welcome and Opening Remarks Conference overview, welcome to Vermont, and introduction to the table-topic boards.	UVM representatives
9:15–10:15 a.m.	UVM College of Agriculture and Life Sciences: Institutional Perspectives and Case Studies Join Dean Linda Prokopy for a discussion of the UVM/CALS experience, including our organizational structure, strategic direction, and evolving approaches to fulfilling the land-grant mission. Using current initiatives and case studies, including efforts to rethink AES funding strategies, this session will highlight challenges, opportunities, and lessons that may resonate across institutions, followed by open discussion.	Linda Prokopy Dean, UVM College of Agriculture and Life Sciences <i>Additional CALS leaders may contribute.</i>
10:15–10:30 a.m.	Break	
10:30–11:00 a.m.	Introductions and State Reports Five minutes per state.	All attendees
11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.	USDA NIFA Updates and Open Discussion <i>Kim Whittet is expected to join virtually.</i> Kim serves as Senior Policy Advisor to the Deputy Director of the Office of Grants and Financial Management and provides high-level expertise on financial assistance policy and regulations for NIFA programs.	Kim Whittet NIFA Senior Policy Advisor, Office of Grants and Financial Management

12:00–1:00 p.m.	Lunch and Networking	
1:00–2:15 p.m.	From Research to Practice: UVM’s Work in Maple This session will highlight UVM’s Proctor Maple Research Center, the oldest maple research station in the world, and its work to advance Vermont’s maple industry through research, Extension, and education. Presenters will share current projects and emerging efforts that support maple producers and help position the industry for a changing future.	Tim Rademacher Scientific Director, Proctor Maple Research Center Mark Isselhardt UVM Extension Maple Specialist
2:15–2:30 p.m.	agInnovation Northeast: Regional Updates and ROI Insights This session will provide a brief regional update from agInnovation Northeast, including key findings from the Umbach ROI analysis and how they may inform broader conversations about the value and future of capacity-funded agricultural research.	David Leibovitz Assistant Director and NIMSS Regional System Administrator, agInnovation Northeast
2:30–2:45 p.m.	Break	
2:45–4:00 p.m.	The Land-Grant University of the Future This interactive panel will explore how land-grant universities can evolve to meet future needs while building on their core strengths. Panelists will offer perspectives, and attendees will be invited to participate in the discussion and share insights from their own institutions. Together, the group will consider practical strategies related to organizational planning, community needs, Extension relevance, research capacity, partnerships, funding models, and long-term sustainability.	Chris Callahan Interim Director, UVM Extension <i>Additional panelists to be confirmed.</i>
4:00–4:30 p.m.	Ask Anything: End-of-Day Q&A Revisit outstanding questions, identify emerging needs, and capture potential follow-up items.	
4:30 p.m.– Evening	Explore Downtown Burlington and Dinner on Your Own	

Wednesday, October 28, 2026

Time	Session	Presenter/Facilitator
7:30–9:00 a.m.	Breakfast <i>A brief UVM CALS Extension and research presentation may be included; details are being finalized.</i>	<i>To be confirmed</i>
9:00–9:45 a.m.	State Reports, Continued Five minutes per state.	All attendees
9:45–10:45 a.m.	Open Forum: Roundtable Discussions Choose a table topic and join a facilitated conversation. Attendees may move between tables. Discussion topics will be shared in advance and may include: • Financial and Funding Systems: budget splits, capacity-fund strategies, county funding and staffing models, and AES fund structures. • Systems and Tools: effort tracking, Workday and other administrative platforms, and roles across sponsored programs and AES offices. • HR and Workforce: recruitment, retention, and career advancement pathways. • Audit and Compliance: lessons learned, preparation strategies, and useful resources.	Table facilitators to be confirmed
10:45–11:00 a.m.	Break	
11:00–11:45 a.m.	NEMO Business Meeting • NERAOC 2028, hosted by Pennsylvania • NEMO 2027 host	NEMO officers

	• Future host planning • Elections	
11:45 a.m.–12:00 p.m.	Closing Remarks Final questions, follow-up and next steps, and conference evaluation.	
12:00 p.m.	Boxed Lunch to Go	