



Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors

Here in Rhode Island, we experienced our first snowfall last night. There's something magical about that...

There are several items that we wish to highlight for you. We'll be doing our quarterly NERA Zoom teleconference on December 15. During that call we'll be soliciting the association for volunteers for ESCOP and NERA committees as well folks to serve as Administrative Advisers. Dovetailing off of a "bountiful Thanksgiving" theme, you'll see in "[Informational Items](#)" that UVM is seeking 4 people in a cluster hire for their Department of Community Development and Applied Economics. New hires are cornerstones to moving organizations strategically.

"Stated differently, the disconnect between consumers loving farmers but not loving "big ag" and "big food", is largely premised on their ignorance about which farmers are feeding the world." – Ray A. Starling (2022) in *Farmers Versus Foodies: A Look at the Outside Forces Forging the Future of Farming and Food*, Short Rows Leadership, LLC, Raleigh, NC.

Action items:

- NERA is meeting on Thursday, December 15, 8:30-10:00 AM ET. The [agenda](#) and supporting materials ([MAC report and multistate proposals](#)) are posted on the NERA website. We look forward to seeing you on-line!
- We've heard from the North Central region that the guidance coming from NIFA about financial reporting of competitive grants programs has been confusing and inconsistent. In short, the issue revolves around the Terms and Conditions of Competitive Grants which state that a financial report is due on February 1, 2023. Apparently, NIFA is sending notices that indicate that financial reports are due within 120 days after the project end date. [We're interested in hearing](#) if this is causing indigestion among your business officers.

Reminders/Updates:

- While in DC on behalf of the Experiment Station Section and the Cooperative Extension Section, we visited with Hubert Hamer, the Administrator of the National Agricultural Statistics Service. He sought our help (ag experiment stations and Cooperative Extension) in encouraging producers to respond to the [2022 Census of Agriculture](#). The deadline for responding to the census is February 6, 2023. NASS has posted [tools for partners to promote the census](#).
- You might remember that Wendie Cohick shared a [presentation](#) in Baltimore on the agrivoltaic program at Rutgers. On December 8, the Department of Energy announced the winners of the FARMS

(Foundational Agrivoltaic Research for Megawatt Scale) funding program. Rutgers was awarded \$1.6 million.

- In the event that you missed this in the last newsletter, Jeanette Thurston has been named as Jeff Jacobsen's replacement, changes in the [North Central region](#).

Informational items:

- The University of Vermont is engaged in a community development/applied economics cluster hire (4 positions) and is seeking a [tenure-track, assistant professor with expertise in community development and applied economics](#); [tenure-track, assistant or associate professor with expertise in public policy and public administration](#); [tenure-track, assistant professor with expertise in public communication and public policy](#); and a [lecturer with expertise in public communication](#). UVM is also seeking applicants for the position of [Professor and Chairperson in the Department of Animal and Veterinary Sciences](#).
- The Northeast Regional Aquaculture Center (NRAC) is offering travel support for early career faculty to attend the 2023 Aquaculture America Meeting in New Orleans, LA, February 23-26, 2023. [Click here](#) for detailed information on how to apply.
- *Second time:* The University of Florida is hosting the **Winter 2023 Meeting of the Research Center Administrators Society (RCAS)** on February 5-8, 2023 in Brandon, FL. To register, check the [RCAS](#) webpage. As a heads up, RCAS is focused on issues and challenges related to research centers, research, and education centers (RECs), across the Land- grant system.



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

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