



We've just finished digging out from Winter Storm Hernando. Snow slowed our shovels, not our progress. We'll be together in Geneva in two weeks, focused on what's next for agInnovation Northeast.

Please review the first Action Item to ensure we move decisively when we convene. Thank you for the resilience and momentum you bring to this region.

“For to reach a port, we must sail—sail, not tie at anchor—sail, not drift.” – Franklin D. Roosevelt (1938) in [Fireside Chat, April 14, 1938](#). The American Presidency Project, UC Santa Barbara.

Action items:

- We're two weeks from out from agInnovation Northeast Spring Meeting at Cornell AgriTech (Geneva, NY), March 16-18. All the current details are listed on the [our meeting page](#). There you'll find links to registration for the meeting (no cost to you, we're tracking attendees), hotel booking details (the Holiday Inn Express room block closed on February 27), and the most recent version of a draft agenda. You'll see a number of suggestions for prospective work sessions. We're seeking presenters for those sessions. Any takers? Alternatively, if you have a last minute thought for a work session that would benefit your colleagues, [we'd love to hear your idea](#).

Reminders/Updates:

- 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, thanks! If you haven't sent you descriptions there's still time. We've [posted the request](#) on the

agInnovation Northeast website, check it out!

- *For your graduate students and postdocs, hold the date:* An agInnovation Northeast team is planning the first [Graduate Student/Post-Doc Forum](#) at Rutgers University, May 26-28. Check it out!
- We were one of 42 organizations that signed onto a letter requesting an increased 302(b) allocation for the FY27 Agriculture-FDA appropriations bill. We've [posted a copy of the letter on our website](#). As a quick primer, a 302(b) allocation is the funding level the House and Senate Appropriations Committees assign to each of their 12 appropriations subcommittees. It effectively sets the spending ceiling for each subcommittee. Those subcommittees then divide that funding among the agencies and programs within their jurisdiction. Once that ceiling is set, everything downstream becomes a zero-sum exercise.
- Our interest in the Northeast Computational Research Initiative continues! We're seeking prospective members for an initial leadership group to initiate defining priorities and strategies. If this opportunity interests you [please contact Rick and David](#).
- *Save the dates:*
 - agInnovation Northeast Spring Meeting, Geneva, NY, March 16-18, 2026 (hosted by Cornell AgriTech)
 - 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)*
 - February 26, April 16, May 21, July 16, August 20, October 15, November 19, December 17 (agInnovation Northeast Winter Meeting)

Informational items:

- The University of Maine is seeking a [Farm Superintendent-Aroostook Farm](#) (Presque Isle, Maine.) The Aroostook facility is a recognized hub for potato research and Extension with particular strength in breeding and applied field innovation. Recent investments, including a new potato phenotyping laboratory and advanced phenotyping and sorting line, position the farm at the forefront of modern cultivar development.

- Sara Delheimer has released the MRF Impacts toolkit for March 2026 <https://www.mrfimpacts.org/march-2026>. Use Sara's materials to assist your communications efforts. Please note that National Nutrition Month is trademarked by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. See [here](#) for trademark and copyright info and guidelines on authorized use.
- The Communications and Marketing Committee has released their March 2026 Toolkit, [Building Resilient Water Systems](#). Check out the resources and use these to assist in your efforts!
- The Association of American Universities engaged Attain Partners to develop a report to dispel confusion and foster a better understanding of the current F&A cost reimbursement system. Click here to access the [Report on Indirect Cost Rates and Recovery](#).
- *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:

- This week we're highlighting the [Northeast Regional Voice](#) page on our website. This page represents the collaboration between agInnovation Northeast and our regional communicators. Check out the stories! Think about activating your communicators and adding content. Stacy Stearns is our primary communications coordinator.

The Parting Shot:



“The Rhodes house: our kingdom for a plow!” (Photo courtesy of Jane Bates.)

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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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