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Maya Angelou's reflection on resilience speaks to the moment: we may not control every challenge, but we can decide how we rise to meet it. At agInnovation Northeast, that means staying connected, sharing knowledge, and moving our work ahead together. The updates and opportunities below offer several ways to engage.

"You may not control all the events that happen to you, but you can decide not to be reduced by them."

– Maya Angelou (2008) in *Letter to My Daughter*. Random House, New York, NY.

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Action items:

- The notes of agInnovation Northeast Zoom call on January 15 call [are now posted](#). Check them out, they include links to the Delaware Climate Action Plan and the Maryland Climate-Smart Agriculture: Roadmap to Resilience.
- *agInnovation Northeast Spring Meeting*: As you know, our Spring Meeting is slated for March 16-18 in Geneva, NY. March 16 is a travel day with the meeting opening on March 17. We expect to adjourn by noon on March 18. We've set up a [meeting landing page](#). On the landing page you'll see a link for booking a room at our group rate (Holiday Inn Express, 530 Hamilton St., Geneva, NY 14456) and meeting registration. While there is no registration fee, the registration is used to track attendees and dietary restrictions. Your Executive Committee is working on a meeting agenda and is seeking suggestions for work session topics and presenters. (A draft of the agenda is posted. Items highlighted in yellow are suggestions.) What suggested topics resonate with you? What challenges or opportunities not listed do you want to discuss? Would

you be willing to lead the conversation? Please [send your suggestions to Rick and David](#).

- Last week, we asked each station to submit two research descriptions, one on a mature research project and the other on a new project. We're gathering those descriptions for a semiannual publication, **agInnovation Northeast: Impacts**. Our goal for the newsletter is to identify shared interests, complementary expertise, and opportunities for collaboration. We've [posted the request](#) on the agInnovation Northeast website, check it out!
- *From the quick turnaround department:* This morning we sent out a request from the agInnovation Budget and Legislative Committee (BLC) seeking input on the BLC's [comments to NIFA on the Research Facilities Act Program \(RFAP\)](#). (We've posted in "Reminders", the link to the NIFA RFAP Listening Session on February 5.) If you have comments that you'd like to share on the BLC document, [please send those to Rick and David](#).

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Reminders/Updates:

- The APLU BAA is hosting a webinar on February 4 at 4:00 PM ET to provide information for CARET delegates and deans in preparation for the [CARET/BAA Washington Conference](#). [Registration for the webinar is required](#).
- NIFA will be holding [a virtual listening session](#) on February 5 at noon ET to solicit public input on the implementation of the FY 2026 Research Facilities Act Program (RFAP) Notice of Funding Opportunity. The RFAP program aims to assist Land-grant Institutions with the construction, modification, acquisition, modernization, refurbishment, or remodeling of agricultural research facilities to conduct research in the food and agricultural sciences.
- The Northeast Regional Ag and Food Tech Corridor Meeting will be holding a planning meeting on February 4-6, 2026, at the Delta Hotel in Philadelphia, PA. The planning meeting is dedicated to the "build-out" of an NSF Engine proposal. For more information, [contact Gretta Tritch Roman](#).
- [Registration is now open for the CARET/BAA Washington Conference](#) on February 22-25, 2026. Registration closes on February 6.
- *Calling all directors and administrative advisers!* agInnovation has released the calls for nominations for [Agricultural Research](#)

[Innovation Awards of Excellence](#) (includes Early, Mid-Career, and Life-Time Career researchers) and [Excellence in Multistate Research](#) (multistate research projects). Nominations for multistate research projects are due in our office on February 28 while nominations for researcher awards are due on March 15. Any questions, don't hesitate to reach out to [David and Rick](#).

- *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)
- *Continuing:* During our December business meeting we discussed the Northeast Computational Research Initiative. We continue seeking prospective members for an initial leadership group to initiate defining priorities and strategies. If this opportunity interests you, [please contact Rick and David](#).

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*Informational items:*

- The Communications and Marketing Committee has shared its February 2026 Communications Toolkit titled [Building Resilient Food Systems](#). Please use these materials to assist your communications efforts.
- Sara Delheimer has released the [MRF Impacts Toolkit for February 2026](#). Share this toolkit and use/adapt materials and the sample posts!
- The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the Plants for Human Health Institute at North Carolina State University seek a proven leader who will serve as the [Director of the NC State Plants for Human Health Institute](#).
- *Second time:* [Registration is now open](#) for the 102nd USDA Agricultural Outlook Forum, February 19-20, 2026, at the Crystal

City Marriott, Arlington, VA. The program will include 22 breakout sessions covering a wide range of current issues including commodity and food price forecasts, farm income, U.S. and global agricultural trade, the future of biofuels, and AI applications in agriculture.

- *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.
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*From the Archive:*

- Archive seems to imply "old". We'd share that we have items in the agInnovation Northeast archive that are new (and haven't happened!). As we noted in "Action Items", we've set up [a landing page for our spring face-to-face meeting in Geneva](#). That page is part of an archive in which we file all [agInnovation Northeast meeting agendas and minutes](#). Check it out.

**The Parting Shot:**



“Red sky at night, winter in Rhode Island, stay warm!” (Photo: Rick Rhodes)

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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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