



August is our slow month, hopefully a reflection of all of you taking some time away from the office and recharging.

In the meantime, check out the first two action items, the ranks of our colleagues are changing. Many thanks to those leaving positions and welcome to those new to our Association. We embrace change for the growth that it invites.

“The central issue is never strategy, structure, culture, or systems. The core of the matter is always about changing the behavior of people.” – John P. Cotter (2013) in *The Heart of Change: Real-Life Stories of How People Change Their Organizations*, Harvard Business Review Press, Boston, MA.

Action items:

- Farewell! Several agInnovation Northeast directors have recently left their director's position including Margaret Smith (Cornell) and Blair Siegfried (Penn State). We thank both for the steadfast service to the region!
- We welcome a number of folks (some you know) to the agInnovation Northeast table including Kumar Venkitanarayanan (Interim Dean/Director, UCONN), Ock Chun (Associate Dean/Associate Director UCONN), Toni DiTommaso (Director, Cornell), Jake Bowman (Associate Dean/Associate Director, UD), Troy Ott (Dean/Director, Penn State), Jean VanderGheynst (Dean/Director, URI), and Linda Prokopy (Dean, UVM).

- We're hosting our monthly agInnovation Northeast Zoom meeting on August 14 at 8:00 AM. The agenda and a link to connect to the meeting will be sent to the directors by email on Thursday. Stay tuned, we look forward to seeing and hearing from you. If you weren't able to join our call on July 17 or if you'd like to refresh your memory on the discussion, [we've posted the notes](#) from the conversation.
- For directors that will be attending the Annual Meeting of the APLU in Philadelphia, the APLU is seeking an agInnovation director that manages a center or has a robust portfolio in hunger and food security to join a panel and roundtable discussion on the "Role that Agricultural Research Plays in Food Security" on the evening of November 10 (during the annual meeting). If you're interested, [please contact Rick](#).
- Please share with us any problems that your investigators encounter while initiating multistate projects in NRS. This includes deferral or rejection decisions. Please [contact Rick](#) or enter the issue anonymously on our [agInnovation Northeast Comment Submission Form](#).
- *Save the date:* The national joint meeting of agInnovation and Cooperative Extension/NEDA/ECOP will be held at the Westport Chalet Hotel in St Louis, MO on September 15-18, 2025. We're hoping that the room block and registration opens shortly!
- *Continuing:* We have several Administrative Adviser (AA) slots open. Here are the projects seeking replacements (current AA is in parentheses). [Please contact Rick and David](#) to share your interest in serving.
 - NRSP8: *Genomic Capacity: Building Applied Genomic Capacity for Animal Industries* (John Kirby)
 - NECC2202: *Formal Structure for the Minor Use Animal Drug Program* (Margaret Smith)
 - NECC29: *Corn Improvement Conference* (Margaret Smith)

Reminders/Updates:

- Sara Delheimer has shared the Multistate Research Fund Impacts toolkit for August: <https://www.mrfimpacts.org/august-2025>. There are a lot of great projects featured for National Water Quality Month and National Wellness Month. Please use this toolkit and share the materials and sample posts.

- If you missed the headlines from the last newsletter, NE2334: *Genetic Bases for Resistance and Immunity to Avian Diseases* was selected as the winner of the national 2025 Excellence in Multistate Research Award! Many thanks to the technical team and Administrative Adviser, Bob Taylor (WVU).
- We in the agInnovation Northeast office are assisting the Northeast Administrative Heads and gathering the group for a regional zoom call later this summer. While we haven't yet identified time/date, we look forward to reconnecting our NE deans.
- Here's the line-up for the remainder of our agInnovation Northeast virtual meetings which start at 8:00 AM: October 16, November 20, and December 11, (regularly scheduled winter virtual meeting). Agendas and connection details will be sent to you prior to the meeting.

Informational items:

- DARPA is holding a 30-Minute Speed Brief ([August DARPA Open Mic](#)) on August 7 at 11:00 AM ET. This is a "must attend" for researchers and academics that wish to turn bold ideas into funded projects. Here's the [link to register](#).
- agInnovation will be hosting Lewis-Burke Associates on August 19 from 2:00-3:30 PM ET to continue the discussion on on-going legislation and funding to the Land-grant university system. We'll forward connection details by email.
- 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:

- The context: We occasionally receive this question from various sources, "Can scientists from non Land-grant Universities (LGU) officially participate on multistate research projects?" The answer is yes, absolutely. To find how to register a non-LGU scientist as an Appendix E participant on a multistate project, you'd go to our [home page](#)>Resources>NIMSS User Guide>NIMSS Manual (agInnovation North Central website)>NIMSS Manual. Voila!

The Parting Shot:



Blue bloom, hydrangeas in the summer at the University of Rhode Island Botanical Gardens (photo courtesy of the University of Rhode Island).

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