



It's mid-August (and time for the Little League World Series)!

Hopefully, you all have taken time off to recharge and re-energize. It's during times of recharging that we have the opportunity to reflect on the work that we do. We are in the business of science in service to all of us. That's work that strengthens our farms, protects our environment, and ensures a more secure food future. Thanks to you all: a job well done and a job that's left to be done!

"...NIFA measures its success through the impacts of its grants on the public good. Through the integration of research, education, and extension, NIFA ensures innovative solutions to problems in agriculture, food, the environment, and communities go beyond the laboratory, into the classroom, and to people who can put the knowledge into practice." – Catherine Woteki (2016) in a *Statement to the House Committee on Agriculture, March 18, 2016*.

https://agriculture.house.gov/uploadedfiles/woteki_testimony.pdf.

Action items:

- If you haven't done so, now is a good time to [register for the annual meeting for agInnovation](#) scheduled for September 21-24, 2026, in Grand Junction, CO. The theme for the meeting is "Inspiring Solutions to Tomorrow's Challenges." We'll also hold a regional meeting while we are in Grand Junction.
- We've shifted the date of the **agInnovation Northeast**

monthly Zoom call from August 20 to **August 21** at 8:00 AM ET (this Friday!). The agenda and contact information was forwarded to the directors last week. If you did not receive that information, [please contact Rick and David](#).

- If you haven't rung in on the recommendations posed by the NRSP Review Committee, there's still time. If you need access to the ballot, [please contact David and Rick](#).
 - The Northeast Land-grant Communicators is refreshing its list of institutional Experiment Station/ag research communications staff contacts. Please [review the current list](#) and if any changes or additions are needed, [forward those to David and Rick](#).
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Reminders/Updates:

- Many thanks for responding quickly to our regional assessment notices. We very much appreciate your support!
 - Change seems to be the universal constant. To that end, our regional NIFA liaison, Kal Kalavarcharla, is leaving the USDA to take a position in the Research Office at Oklahoma State University. We appreciated Kal's guidance and friendship and extend our best wishes as he pursues a new chapter in his career.
 - Thanks for responding to the poll on moving the Joint Summer Session from its traditional time in early June to early May. We found overwhelming, but not unanimous, support for a meeting in Cape May, NJ in May. Stay tuned, we'll keep you apprised as details emerge.
 - *Save the dates:*
 - 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)
 - **August 21** (*this meeting was originally scheduled for August 20*), October 15, November 19, December 17 (agInnovation Northeast Winter Meeting).
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Informational items:

- The EPA is seeking nominations for the Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee, a federal advisory committee that advises

the EPA Administrator on pesticide policy, science, and program implementation, with a focus on evaluating and reducing the real-world risks that pesticides pose to human health and the environment. [The Federal Register describes how to nominate an individual.](#)

- *Second time:* Wendy Fink, APLU, recently released a copy of the [Economic Impact presentation](#) that was undertaken by Tripp Umbach, the consulting firm that has been doing the work to support the Capacity Initiative. One of the takeaways: every \$1 of federal capacity fund investment generates ~\$51 in economic impact. We're very interested to see how the Capacity Initiative unfolds.
 - *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:

- As we experience turnover in our institutional leadership, we're reminded that we are also turning over Administrative Advisers. To that end, we've posted on our "Resources" dropdown menu, a document titled "[Administrative Adviser Guidance \(2025\)](#)". Check it out, it's all you need to know about supporting a multistate research project.

The Parting Shot:



August: The Field of Dreams month! (right-handed pitcher Gabe Rhodes, photo credit: 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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