



We're three weeks out from the ESS/ES/ARD Annual Meeting and NERA meeting in Lincoln, NE. We hope to see you there. In the meantime, we have several important action items for your consideration.

Action items:

- NIFA is holding a listening session ([NIFA Listens](#)) in the northeast (Hartford, CT) on October 11th. I plan to attend and to provide NIFA with a 5-minute, oral presentation on behalf of NERA. We're seeking your input on several questions: Do you plan to attend? Do you plan to deliver remarks? Do you have input that you'd like me to share with NIFA. To frame the discussion, NIFA is seeking our input on three questions:

- In your field, what is the most-needed breakthrough in science/technology that would advance your agricultural enterprise?
- When considering all of agriculture, what is the greatest challenge that should be addressed through NIFA's research, education, and extension programs?
- What is your top priority in food and agricultural research, extension, or education that NIFA should address?"

Please forward your thoughts and intent on the NIFA listening session by October 1st.

- This action item emanated from a note that we forwarded to the NERA listserv. We are collecting your thoughts on the National Impact Database. Have you identified institutional contacts and impact editors? Do you have prospective candidates who might serve as reviewers for Northeast research impact statements? What are your views on the National Impact Database? [Please forward your thoughts and views to the listserv, Dave, and Rick.](#)

- We're still seeking your input on your off-campus F&A rate setting policies. You'll recall that Jason Hubbart (WVU) is seeking your assistance. He asked how do NERA institutions define "off-campus" rates for F&A. For instance, the WVU policy reads as *"The off-campus F&A rate (currently 26%) should be used for projects when the work will be performed in facilities or at sites not owned by WVU and when the project includes sponsor approved rent or usage fees that are directly allocated and charged as a cost of the sponsored project. If a project is located in leased space and the lease is a direct charge to the project, then the project is considered off-campus. Projects requiring off-site field research, data collection, experimentation, survey administration or testing conducted in space or at sites not owned by WVU that do not include project paid rent or usage fees should use the appropriate on-campus F&A rate."* Please forward to me (rcr3@uri.edu) your institutional, off-campus rate F&A policy. We'll collate the policies, share with Jason, and post the doc to the NERA website.

Reminders/Updates:

- The MAC is currently in the throes of doing an electronic MAC meeting. The MAC is deliberating on three, peer-reviewed proposals that have been revised by the technical teams. The proposals include: NE_TEMP1833 *Biological Improvement of Chestnut through Technologies that Address Management of the Species and its Pathogens and Pests*; NE_TEMP1832 *Biological Control of Arthropod Pests and Weeds*; and NE_TEMP1839 *Development and Evaluation of Broccoli Adapted to the Eastern US*. The MAC is also considering two requests to write: NE-TEMP1941 *Environmental Impacts of Equine Operations* and NE_TEMP1942 *Poultry Production Systems and Well-being: Sustainability for Tomorrow*. We expect to bring the MAC report and an electronic ballot to NERA for your consideration before the end of the month.
- During the NERA teleconference, the Association discussed Secretary Perdue's proposed reorganization of the ERS and the relocation of the ERS and NIFA to a place outside of the district. As an Association, we decided not to take an action; other organizations like APLU and the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (architects of the [community letter](#)) were taking actions on our part. We also reflected that there were conflicting interests on our campuses and in our states. For instance, some government affairs officers, central administrators, and state economic development staff viewed Secretary Perdue's relocation proposal as an economic or strategic opportunity. The APLU recently shared that the chair and ranking member of the Senate's Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry are seeking input from Secretary Perdue on the reorganization and relocation. That letter is posted on the APLU website. (To see the letter click [here](#).) Last, APLU has shared that the BAA leadership will be meeting by teleconference with USDA Deputy Secretary Censky on September 13th at 3 PM. We'll keep you posted as the NIFA reorganization and relocation issues unfold.
- The **2018 Annual Northeast Management Officers (NEMO) meeting** will be hosted by the University of Massachusetts and will take place in Northampton, Massachusetts beginning Sunday evening, October 21 and concluding midday on Tuesday, October 23. Details and Registration for the meeting are at <https://ag.umass.edu/northeast-management-officers-nemo>.

Informational items:

- The USDA announced the **call for nominations for the 2020 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee**. The panel, known as DGAC, will be made up of outside experts who provide "independent, science-based advice and recommendations" to USDA and HHS to help the agencies develop the Dietary Guidelines, which are updated every five years. The makeup of DGAC will be of intense interest to food and agriculture groups. Many may recall that the 2015 Dietary Guidelines were extremely contentious, with nasty public feuds over recommendations for meat and sustainability issues. Nominations for the committee will be accepted until October 6th. For complete information and procedures for nominations see: <https://www.dietaryguidelines.gov/>.
- The Pacific West Area is recruiting a **Research Leader for the Animal Disease Research Unit** (ADRU) in Pullman, WA. Prospective candidates should check: <https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/507986300>.
- The position of **Extension Program Development and Evaluation Specialist** (tenure-track Assistant Professor) is currently open at New Mexico State University. The announcement is posted at <https://jobs.nmsu.edu/postings/32216>.

- The University of Georgia's College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences is inviting applications for **assistantships to MS and PhD programs in the Department of Horticulture**. [Click here to view the announcement.](#)
- **Last call:** Sarah Lupis and Sara Delheimer are planning their **impact writing workshops** for AY 2018/2019. These workshops are 2.5 hours and they have funds to work with multistate project groups. If you are an AA that has a group that would benefit from the workshop, please contact Rick and he'll forward the Northeast nominations to Sarah. [Click here to view a description of what the workshops do.](#)
- The University of Maryland Extension is seeking three positions: two Agent Associates and one Director of the Northern Maryland Cluster. [Visit the NERA website for more information and to apply.](#)



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