



Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors

We're a week away from the NERA Spring Meeting. We look forward to seeing you in Washington. As we will be meeting in a week, this newsletter is a short one!

The secret to our success is that we live in a world where knowledge is all around us. It is in the things we make, in our bodies and workspaces, and in other people. We live in a community of knowledge."

- Steven Sloman and Phillip Fernbach (2017) in *The Knowledge Illusion: Why We Never Think Alone*, Riverhead Books, New York, NY.

Action items:

- The [agenda for the NERA Spring Meeting](#) on March 26-27, 2024, is posted as are supporting materials.
- We're promoting and soliciting nominations for agInnovation Awards. If you're an Administrative Adviser, we encourage you to consider nominating your project for consideration of [Excellence in Multistate Research](#). Likewise, we're confident that you might have an outstanding effort dedicated to [Diversity, Equity and Inclusion](#). Please nominate an individual or a group. The newest award that agInnovation is seeking nominations for is the [Agricultural Research Innovation Award of Excellence](#). agInnovation expects to recognize a winner from each region and, from that pool, a national winner. All of you have exemplary scientists worthy of recognition.

Reminders/Updates:

- The APLU's Board on Agriculture Assembly (BAA) has produced several short videos, now posted on YouTube, themed around the importance of capacity funding. Each is about a minute long, please take a look. The suite of videos is available at: [Investing in People](#).
- While the minutes for the March 14th agInnovation meeting are not yet posted, a [detailed agenda](#) along with briefs from all of the standing committees is available online. Check it out.
- [Registration](#) for the U.S. National Science Foundation's (NSF) [Spring 2024 NSF Grants Conference](#) is now open. This will be a hybrid conference including face-to-face meetings in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on June 3-5, 2024. Here's a link to the [draft agenda](#).
- *Second time:* [Registration](#) for the National Extension and Research Administrative Officers Conference (NERAOC), April 7-10, 2024, in Wilmington, DE, is now open. As a heads up, this is the first time (in a long time) that the Northeast has hosted this professional development, information sharing, and networking opportunity. This is a splendid opportunity for state CE, AES, and NIFA staff to gather, communicate, and collaborate.

- *Ongoing:* As we acknowledged in earlier versions of the NERA News, we are seeking your photos for “The Parting Shot”. Please [forward those to us](#) with a caption and a photo credit.

Informational items:

- The Ohio State University is seeking an [Associate Dean and Director of OSU Extension and Chair, Department of Extension](#). This position reports to the Vice President for Agricultural Administration.

The Parting Shot:



Sprouts of spring. (University of Vermont Greenhouse, photo courtesy of Rachel Stievater, UVM Horticulture Research and Education Center manager)



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NERA and its member institutions are committed to the principles of affirmative action, diversity, and inclusion.

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