



Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors

I hope that you all had a great Thanksgiving break. We look forward to visiting with you on the teleconference this Friday, 12/6. We hope that you've had time to consider the "NIFA Reimagined" questions posed in our 11/25/2019 email and shared below as well. The eye-popper on NIFA is that the agency experienced a 78% workforce reduction as a result of the relocation. How might we exploit the opportunities?

On dit quelquefois, le sens commun est fort rare... or It is sometimes said, common sense is very rare..." – Voltaire, 1764, [*Dictionnaire Philosophique*](#)

Action items:

- Our next NERA teleconference is scheduled for December 6, 2019 at 11:00 AM. You can log onto the teleconference at <https://zoom.us/j/5717743008> or dial in on (646) 558-8656 (access code 571 774 3008.) A draft of the [agenda](#) is posted. In anticipation of the discussion that will ensue around the "NIFA Reimagined" agenda item, I'm posing four questions that each of the other regional Executive Directors is posing to their region. Here are the questions:
 - How can NIFA improve its delivery of capacity programs for supporting research and extension?
 - What changes will improve NIFA's implementation of its competitive programs?
 - How can NIFA increase transparency and effectiveness of its organizational structure?
 - What steps NIFA should take to enhance its customer experience?

Reminders/Updates:

- The [minutes of the November 11, 2019 ESCOP Executive Committee meeting](#) (held during the APLU Annual meeting) are posted. As an FYI, the CMC's proposal to hire a strategist was approved and is moving forward.
- The Experiment Station Section has released calls for nominations for the 2020 Excellence in Multistate Research and Excellence in Leadership awards. Both calls are posted on the [NERA website](#).
- Second time: We posted a draft of the NERA Institutions: Lab Space Allocation Policies to the NERA website. Check it out. If you'd like to modify the document by adding details from your institution or if you'd like to amend your institutional policies, [please apprise](#).
- We continue to gather data on untoward issues as a result of the NIFA move and workforce reduction. If you've run into issues please forward those to [me](#), I'll aggregate on the part of the region.

Informational items:

- West Virginia University is searching for a [Dean of the Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Design](#). Applications and nominations should be provided by December 31, 2019. [Click here](#) to view an expanded position description.
- The University of Maryland is seeking an [Extension Specialist – Family and Community Well-being and Health](#).
- The US EPA is seeking research proposals on the [Impact of PFAS in Rural Communities and Agricultural Operations](#).
- The APLU and AAVMC are seeking volunteers to serve on the APLU-AAVMC Gene Editing Working Group. If you (or your faculty) are interested, please forward a brief statement of interest that includes what you might contribute and relevant experience to either Eddie Gouge (egouge@aplu.org) or Kevin Caine (kcain@aavmc.org.) The Working Group intends to meet in Washington, DC twice over the next year to develop a framework to guide APLU and AAVMC. The Working Group will communicate by telephone and e-mail in between meetings. Reimbursement for travel and lodging expenses will be provided.



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