



We're closing in on two significant agInnovation Northeast events.

The first is the **Graduate and Post-doctoral Forum**, May 26–28 in New Brunswick, NJ. Many thanks to the directors supporting travel for their students and post-docs to participate in this first and important gathering.

The second is the **Joint Summer Session**, June 1–3 in Burlington, VT. The Burlington meeting will bring to life this year's theme: *Learning Together, Leading Together*. As always, we are at our best when we come together to share ideas, strengthen relationships, and advance our collaborative work.

"We need leaders who are becoming their best in the service of others. We need people like you to lead." – Torin Perez (2018) in *Who am I to Lead? The World is Waiting for You*. Globally Bold LLC., Columbia, SC.

Action items:

- [Registration](#) and [room reservations](#) are still open for the [Joint Summer Session](#) June 1-3, 2026, in Burlington, VT. The theme for the meeting is *Learning Together, Leading Together*. The agenda is posted on the [Joint Summer Session landing page](#).
- We are seeking directors who are interested in taking on leadership roles in agInnovation, the national organization. The first position we are searching for is a candidate to run for the position of BAA Board of Directors, Alternative. This is a back-stopping position to the current agInnovation BAA Board member, Shibu Jose (University of Missouri). The beauty of the position is it gives the

appointee a seat at the BAA Board of Directors table. We are also looking for two agInnovation Northeast thought leaders to join a small group of directors from around the country to “Re-imagine agInnovation”. If we were to build a new organization for the experiment station directors, what would it look like? This opportunity will require a “fly-in” sometime in the late summer or early fall. If you’re interested, please contact [Rick and David](#) (sooner versus later!)

- The [agenda for our June 3 agInnovation Northeast business meeting](#) (face-to-face in Burlington) is now posted. One of the items on the agenda is the identification of the next incoming agInnovation chair. Yup, it’s the Northeast’s turn! For those who might be interested in serving, we’ve prepared an outline of the [roles and responsibilities of the agInnovation Chair](#).
- To assist in meeting planning, we forwarded to the directors a short poll asking whether you are attending several meetings including the Graduate and Post-doc Forum, the Joint Summer Session, the BAA Summer Leadership Meeting, and the agInnovation National Meeting. If you missed seeing the note, here’s the link to a short and quick poll: [agInnovation Northeast Survey: 2026 Meeting Engagements](#).
- Prior to the agInnovation Annual Meeting in Grand Junction, CO (September 21-25, 2026), a day-long workshop will be conducted by The Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science that is tailored for Experiment Station Directors. The Alda Center is internationally recognized for helping scientists and research leaders communicate complex ideas clearly, authentically, and with impact. Please review the [rationale behind the workshop](#) (Alda Center agInnovation Proposal) and an [Alda Center Brochure](#). The workshop has 6 seats available to agInnovation Northeast Directors. Please [contact Rick](#) as soon as possible if you have an interest in attending the workshop. This is a unique opportunity to enhance your communication skills in messaging the value of our science.
- *Request for information:* We’ve heard from one of our station directors that a NIFA national program director reached out to the PD of a Hatch Project and shared that while the project had been approved under a different administration, the project was not aligned with current administration priorities and national interests (e.g., Executive Order...). As such, the NPL requested that the PD review and revise the project. We’re interested to know if you’ve received similar notices. If so, would you please [share the project title, PD, and the reason for the change to Rick and David](#).

Reminders/Updates:

- *Save the dates:*
 - [Joint Summer Session \(agInnovation Northeast and NEED\)](#), Shelburne, VT, June 1-3, 2026 (hosted by the University of Vermont)
 - 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)*
 - May 21, July 16, August 20, October 15, November 19, December 17 (agInnovation Northeast Winter Meeting)

Informational items:

- Lewis Burke Associates, the BAA's government affairs consulting firm, is hosting a continuing [Zoom conversation](#) with all agInnovation directors on Friday, June 26 at 3:30 PM ET. The meeting ID is 272 649 9338 and the passcode is NCRA2023!\$.
- Registration is open for the [2026 BAA Summer Leadership Meeting](#) on July 13-15 in Portland, OR.
- *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:

- There are a number of you out there that are NIMSS power-users. Others, perhaps, not so much. Whether you are a power-user or not, we all can use a NIMSS helping hand. To that end, we keep a link on the agInnovation Northeast website that takes you to a [resource page that includes NIMSS User Guide](#). The page is listed in the drop-down as "NIMSS User Guide". Check it out.

The Parting Shot:

The University of Rhode Island also reminds us, it's springtime!



Spring is in bloom at the URI's East Farm, home to agInnovation Northeast (URI Photo / Keiddy Urrea-Morawicki).

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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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