

agInnovation Northeast News #234--November 10, 2025



We opened our last newsletter with reflections of operating in unprecedented times. As a follow-up to that, colleagues at Cornell shared that an agreement had been reached with the federal government to immediately restore and continue the university's research funding. (For more details, [read the open letter](#) from the Cornell University president, Michael Kolitkoff.) Continue to support each other!

Tomorrow is Veterans Day. As I've shared in past newsletters, my Dad was a World War II Navy vet. To all veterans, thank you for your service, we are a grateful country. And thanks Dad!

“Before you are a leader, success is all about growing yourself. When you become a leader, success is all about growing others.” – Jack Welch (2005) in *Winning: The Ultimate Business How-To Book*, Harper Business/Harper Collins, New York, NY.

Action items:

- *For the directors:* please cast your agInnovation budget ballots. Those were sent out last week via email. If you didn't receive the email notice, [please contact David](#).
- We will continue to accept responses to the short poll on the impact of the delay in accessing FY2026 Capacity Grant funds. If you didn't receive a poll, [please contact Rick and David](#).
- The government shutdown has disabled the USDA staff to

answer questions about grant applications and funding opportunities. As noted on the NIFA website “application deadlines for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) Competitive Grants Program Foundational and Applied Science (FAS) Program (USDA-NIFA-AFRI-011134) will be extended, with new deadlines communicated upon the conclusion of the Radical Left Democrat shutdown.” We’ll keep you posted.

- *Save the date/time:* Our next scheduled Zoom call will be held at 8:00 – 9:00 AM on November 20. An agenda and connection details will be sent to you via email.
- Lewis Burke Associates, the APLU BAA's government affairs consulting firm, will host a [Zoom conversation](#) with all agInnovation directors on November 24 at 2:00 PM ET. The meeting ID is 272 649 9338 and the passcode is NCRA2023!\$.

Reminders/Updates:

- Our last Zoom call for 2025 will be Virtual agInnovation Northeast Winter Meeting on December 18 from 8:00 – 9:30 AM. An agenda and connection details will be sent to you prior to the meeting.
- *Save the dates:* We have dates and destinations!
 - agInnovation Northeast Spring Meeting, Geneva, NY, March 16-18, 2026 (hosted by Cornell AgriTech)
 - 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)

Informational items:

- The University of Massachusetts is seeking a [director for the UMass Cranberry Station](#), located in East Wareham, MA.
- *Second time:* agInnovation's Science and Technology Committee is seeking experts to join a new Rapid Response Multistate Committee (this is a 2-year multistate research project) titled W525 “[Evaluation of Outcomes-Driven, Aspirational Goals to Achieve National Food Security](#)”. The W525 technical committee proposes to assess science strategies outlined in the proposal, recommend additional focus areas, and develop materials demonstrating ROI and public value. For more information contact [Nathan Slaton and Bret Hess](#).

- *Last time*: [LEAD21](#), the system's premier leadership development program, is [accepting applications for Class 22](#). The application portal is open until November 15.
- *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:

- We archive on the agInnovation Northeast website, our [Rules of Operation](#). You'll see that they were last updated in September 2021. This is a teaser. In the very near future, we'll be asking you to consider new revisions to the "Rules". So, stay tuned!

The Parting Shot:



My Dad's ship, the James E. Craig, on its day of launch, July 22, 1943 (photo courtesy of Tom Lane.)

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