



Today is a holiday in Rhode Island, Columbus Day, and it provides an excellent opportunity to reflect on our Land-grant history, legacy, and aspirations. While the Land-grant mission was to provide access and equity to higher education, at the time the original Act was signed, it was both and it was neither. The land that financed Land-grant institutions was largely acquired through treaties that were often coercive, broken, or profoundly unequal, as well as through violent displacement of Indigenous peoples. Likewise, access to higher education did not include women, native Americans, or black Americans. The Land-grant system has evolved in the past 164 years. And to that end, we have inherited a remarkable public education and research system. The inheritance carries an obligation: to ensure that the science we produce is accessible, trustworthy, and genuinely in service to all communities. The Land-grant mission was never meant to be static; we are responsible for deciding how faithfully we live up to it.

“Upon the subject of education, not presuming to dictate any plan or system respecting it, I can only say that I view it as the most important subject which we as a people can be engaged in.”

– Abraham Lincoln (1832) in the *First Political Announcement, Sangamo (IL) Journal, March 9, 1832*. [Abraham Lincoln Online](#), edited by Roy P. Basler.

Action items:

- The agInnovation Northeast Zoom call scheduled for **October 15 at 8:00 AM** is cancelled. Please release the event on your calendar and enjoy the found time!

- The [notes from our agInnovation Northeast business meeting in Grand Junction](#) are now posted. Check those out!
- Last week, agInnovation Northeast directors received a ballot to confirm agInnovation's chair elect (Anton!) and to vote on revisions to the multistate guidelines. We'd recommend approving both. If you didn't receive a ballot, [please contact David or Rick](#).
- agInnovation, the national organization, will be holding a virtual townhall meeting on **October 16, 2026, at 4:00 PM ET** to discuss several items including the NRSP Review Committee's proposal to fund a digital ag whitepaper effort and the FY '27 agInnovation proposed budget. If you have not received the connection details, [please contact David or Rick](#).
- If you attended the meeting in Grand Junction, we're interested to hear your thoughts. What did you like and what didn't you like? Your input is important as we plan the next national agInnovation meeting, an event that the Northeast will be hosting in Philadelphia, PA on September 26-30, 2027. Please [send thoughts to Dave and Rick](#).
- Here's a list of open AA slots. If you're interested in any of these, please [contact Dave and Rick](#).
 - NE2206: Green Stormwater Infrastructure and Agriculture (formerly Josh Kohut) – ends 9/30/2027
 - NECC29: Corn Improvement Conference (formerly Margaret Smith) – ends 9/30/2028
 - NECC2202: Formal Structure for the Minor Use Animal Drug Program (formerly Margaret Smith) – ends 9/30/2027
 - NE2201: Mycobacterial Diseases of Animals (currently Rick Rhodes) – ends 9/30/2027
 - NRSP9: National Animal Nutrition Program (currently Rick Rhodes) – ends 9/30/2030

Reminders/Updates:

- On September 29, [Executive Order 14434, Inaugurating the Era of Super Intelligence](#), was issued. The item that we bring to your attention is this explicit direction regarding terminology. The EO states *"It is therefore the policy of my Administration that, to the maximum extent permitted by law, the executive branch shall use the terms "Super Intelligence" and "SI" in place of "Artificial Intelligence" and "AI" and will not acknowledge the usage of "Artificial Intelligence" and "AI" in any applicable setting."* While the order does not retroactively impact existing awards or contracts and

is largely semantic, expect to see the new terminology in upcoming notices of funding opportunities.

- Many thanks for casting your ballots! Jake Bowman is now agInnovation Northeast's officer-at-large, and Lee Hecker is the Administrative Advisor for NECC2312 *Northeast Coordinating Committee on Soil Testing*. We still have Administrative Adviser slots open. Check out the open slots in "Action Items".
- Anton Bekkerman will be appointed as the incoming chair of agInnovation and he'll step into the chair slot in September '27. During the upcoming year, Anton will be framing his "chair's initiatives". We have an excellent opportunity to highlight the Northeast as we assist Anton in framing an action plan for fiscal year '28. Please [send ideas to Anton and Rick](#).
- We recently completed the first version of [agInnovation Northeast: Research](#). This was an initiative that our directors sought, and the goal of this ongoing project was to create a semi-annual collection of research project summaries, one from a mature project and the other from a new project. We're interested to hear your thoughts on what V2 should look like. Check it out!
- A continuing reminder: If you have suggestions or nominations for our next agInnovation Northeast Executive Director, please share those with [Chris Smart](#)! As a heads up, advertisements for the position are posted on the [agInnovation Northeast website](#) and in the [Chronicle for Higher Education](#).
- *Save the dates:*
 - agInnovation Northeast virtual meeting dates (2026, all begin at 8:00 AM)
 - November 19, December 17 (agInnovation Northeast Winter Meeting)
 - agInnovation Northeast face-to-face meeting dates
 - agInnovation Northeast Spring Meeting, February 8-10, 2027, State College, PA
 - agInnovation Northeast Graduate and Post-doctoral Forum, May 4-6, 2027, Cape May, NJ
 - Joint Summer Session, May 5-7, 2027, Cape May, NJ
 - agInnovation Annual Meeting, September 27-30, 2027, Philadelphia, PA

Informational items:

- The University of Rhode Island seeks an experienced farm

manager to oversee crop farmland and facilities. This position will be housed primarily at the Gardner Research Center, which is approximately 85 acres of forage crops, teaching/demonstration gardens, and high tunnels. The position will be responsible for operational oversight and management of the URI Agronomy Farm, East Farm, Greenhouses, and the Botanical Garden, working with assistant farm managers at East Farm and URI Greenhouses and collaborating with the Peckham Farm manager (URI's livestock facilities). The successful candidate will have excellent communications skills, experience in small-scale cropping systems, knowledge of and experience with farm equipment operation and maintenance, and the ability to work with students, faculty, and staff at URI. Additional information about URI's farms can be found [here](#). See the full job posting and apply [here](#). Full consideration will be given to candidates who apply by 10/24/2026, but the position will remain open until a suitable candidate is identified.

- Northeast SARE is seeking a Northeast experiment station director for their Administrative Council. The Administrative Council is the governance board of SARE and sets program policy and makes funding allocation decisions. The appointment is for 4 years with an opportunity to renew for 2 additional years. The Council meets face-to-face two times per year for which your travel is covered by SARE. If you're interested, [please let Rick know](#).
- *Continuing:* The APLU is hosting a [New Administrators Orientation](#) on December 8-10, 2026, in Alexandria, VA. The goal of the orientation is to provide practical guidance for navigating the responsibilities and opportunities of academic administration.
- *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:

- While we were in Grand Junction, our agInnovation Northeast winner, Margaret Smith received the Leadership Award and NE2231 Collaborative Potato Breeding and Variety Development Activities to Enhance Farm Sustainability in the Eastern US, was recognized as the regional multistate research project nominee. We have a page dedicated to [archiving past winners](#). You can navigate to the page easily by using the scroll down menu "About Us>Excellence Awards". Check it out.

The Parting Shot:



“Pumpkin harvest” (photo courtesy of UNH Marketing)

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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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