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This is our final agInnovation Northeast newsletter of 2025. As the year winds down, we hope you find time to reflect on what we've built together. Across the region, your continued engagement has strengthened our shared enterprise and laid a solid foundation for the year ahead. We move into 2026 aligned, connected, and ready.

With appreciation and best wishes for the holidays!

“Things turn out best for the people who make the best of the way things turn out.” – John Wooden (1988) in *They Call Me Coach*, McGraw Hill, New York, NY.

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Action items:

- The [minutes for our agInnovation Northeast Business Meeting](#) held on December 18, 2025, are now posted on our website. Check those out!
- As we shared during our recent business meeting, we are seeking expressions of interest from agInnovation Northeast directors willing to serve on either the Multistate Activities Committee or as the Officer-at-Large. If so, [please contact Rick and David](#).
- Colleagues at NIFA have shared that the FY2026 Capacity Funds will be allocated and available during the first two weeks of January 2026. We also understand that the allocations will be made on a quarterly basis. Once we know more, we'll share additional details.
- During our December business meeting we discussed the Northeast Computational Research Initiative. We are now seeking

prospective members for an initial leadership group to initiate defining priorities and strategies. If this opportunity interests you [please contact Rick and David](#).

- Many thanks for your input to and approval of the agInnovation Northeast Rules of Operation. The new rules are now posted on our [Rules of Operation](#) page.
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#### Reminders/Updates:

- *Save the dates:*
    - 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)
  - *agInnovation Northeast virtual meeting dates (2026, all begin at 8:00 AM)*
    - January 15, February 26, April 16, May 21, July 16, August 20, October 15, November 19, December 17 (agInnovation Northeast Winter Meeting)
  - Ali Dunigan and Rick are assisting the regional organization of the Northeast Administrative Heads. The NE Administrative Heads will be meeting virtually on January 16 at 8:00 AM. The agenda and connection details will be emailed to the Northeast Administrative Heads at the beginning of the New Year.
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#### Informational items:

- Cornell AgriTech is seeking applicants for a [Senior Extension Associate and Director at the New York State Center of Excellence for Food and Agriculture](#).
- The College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resilience at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa is searching for an [Associate Dean and Associate Director of Cooperative Extension](#). While the position does not have a closing date, first review of applicants will begin on January 16, 2026.
- Paul Lewin, the WRDC Director, has shared that the [Associate Director](#) position for the Western Rural Development Center has officially been posted. The WRDC is located at the University of

Idaho.

- The BAA's Communications and Marketing Committee shared the January 2026 Communications Toolkit. It's titled, "[The Land-Grant University System's Unique Power: Accelerating Discovery, Developing the Workforce, and Delivering Solutions](#)". Check it out! As a heads up there's reference to the recent study undertaken by Purdue that projects employment opportunities in the food, agriculture, renewable natural resources, and environmental sectors. (To access the full study, go to [Food and Agriculture Career Outlook for College Graduates](#).)
- *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.

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*From the Archive:*

- As you have come to appreciate, the agInnovation Northeast website is a treasure trove of archived materials. One of the items that we recently added to our [Reports/Whitepapers](#) pull down menu is a comment article from *Nature* (December 9, 2025) titled "[Food will be more affordable — if we double funds for agriculture research now](#)". As we begin to frame our aspirational research needs, this article provides background on why that investment in agricultural R&D is essential.

**The Parting Shot:**



“Roof-top, lobster pot Christmas tree; necessity is the mother of invention, Galilee, RI 2025” (photo by Rick Rhodes).

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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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