

Northeast Agenda

A JOINT VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF THE NORTHEAST

THE INTERSECTION OF THE PEOPLE, COMMUNITIES, ECONOMIES, AND ECOSYSTEMS THAT MAKE UP OUR UNIQUE REGION.

The Northeast Agenda is a collaboration between the Association of Northeast Extension Directors (NEED) and the Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors (NERA).

It identifies challenges and opportunities for the Northeast region's Land-grant programs as they work together to ensure a regenerative, livable, and vibrant Northeast United States.

The Northeast Agenda is intended to inform policy responses and actions and demonstrate how Agricultural Experiment Stations and Cooperative Extension can support all Northeastern Region communities to thrive.

Our Mission, Vision, and Purpose

Defining this work amplifies our individual and collective efforts. This allows each Land-grant enterprise—from Agricultural Experiment Station innovation to Cooperative Extension educational programming and community outreach—to explore how they can apply their specific areas of expertise to meet the challenges and opportunities identified in this report.

MISSION

To inspire research, education, and Extension collaborations that create vibrant communities and resilient food systems and working lands

VISION

A regenerative, livable, and vibrant Northeast United States.

PURPOSE

For Experiment Station research and Extension to collaboratively advance the Land-grant mission

Unique Attributes and Common Critical Concerns

In the context of NEED and NERA, the Northeast United States includes Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, and West Virginia.

The Northeast covers just 6% of the mainland United States but is home to 20% of the US population and contributes 24% of the U.S. GDP from industries as diverse as farming, fishing, health care, manufacturing, education, and technology. Its landscape includes farmland, shorelines and rivers, forests, mountains, and major urban centers as well as rural communities. Its diverse population is a microcosm of the country's overall ethnic and racial diversity.

Nevertheless, each state, each community, and each industry in the Northeast shares four critical concerns: **water (quality and quantity), climate change, shifting population growth trends, and science literacy.**

SPONSORED BY:

Association of Northeast Extension Directors

Northeast Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors

NORTHEAST LAND-GRANT UNIVERSITIES AND EXPERIMENT STATIONS:

Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station

University of Connecticut

Cornell University

University of Delaware

Delaware State University

University of the District of Columbia

University of Maine

University of Maryland College Park

University of Maryland Eastern Shore

University of Massachusetts

University of New Hampshire

Rutgers-The State University of New Jersey

Pennsylvania State University

University of Rhode Island

University of Vermont

West Virginia University

West Virginia State University



Northeast Agenda: Executive Summary

Key Priorities and Promises

The Northeast Agenda honors the legacy of local solutions and builds upon it. Many issues outlined in this Agenda are common to a particular part of our region. Climate, problematic pests, and systemic issues do not care about state lines. We aim to identify key common issues and needs that require collective planning and intervention.

PRIORITY 1

Develop resilient, sustainable, and equitable food systems.

PRIORITY 2

Lead effective adaptation and mitigation for our changing climate.

PRIORITY 3

Promote environmental, human, animal, and community health and well-being.

These priorities require clear, collective actions, which we identify and commit to making a reality. NERA and NEED pledge to:

- Enhance collaboration across Experiment Station research, education, and Extension enterprises.
- Advance innovation and technology-focused research and Extension programs.
- Communicate our impact both internally and externally.
- Engage in intentional diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility opportunities.
- Secure sustainable funding for scientific research, education, and Extension priorities.

A Call to Action

The Northeast Agenda is a living, evolving document identifying numerous challenges affecting our region and work. We hope it galvanizes our regional institutions, colleagues, and communities to create a prospectus of collaboration and investment opportunities. It draws on their diverse institutional knowledge and expertise to create vibrant communities, resilient food systems, and sustainable working lands in the Northeast.

We invite you to engage with us. The Northeast Agenda committee seeks participation, collaboration, and investment. Please contact us if you have questions or want to join this work.

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Connecticut Agricultural
Experiment Station

University of Connecticut

Cornell University

University of Delaware

Delaware State University

University of the District of
Columbia

University of Maine

University of Maryland
College Park

University of Maryland
Eastern Shore

University of
Massachusetts

University of New
Hampshire

Rutgers-The State
University of New Jersey

Pennsylvania State
University

University of Rhode Island

University of Vermont

West Virginia University

West Virginia State
University

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