

**2018 Northeast Joint Summer Session
Joint NEED/NERA/AHS/APS/CARET Meeting
Bethany Beach, DE
June 6th, 2018**

Summary report

Summary

This report captures the outputs from the 2018 Northeast Joint Summer Session for NEED, NERA and CARET. It includes the outputs from three exercises:

1. Develop criteria for designing and selecting regional initiatives
2. Define initiatives that are multi-state and multi-institutional that can be pursued over the next year
3. Task plans for priority initiatives

Outputs

Exercise 1: Principals for designing regional initiatives: Describe a set of principles that can be used for the design of and decision making about regional initiatives.

What makes a regional initiatives work?

- Clear roles and responsibilities
 - Strong leadership
 - Effort and credit should be fairly distributed
- Culture of commitment and coalition of the willing
 - Support by and for by scientists and educators
 - Activities align with individual research and extension goals
- Pre-existing relationships are more efficient and tend to work better than having to create new relationships.
- The need is defined through a bottom up and top down process
 - Based on needs identified by consumers and clients
 - Grass root- organic
 - Harness existing energy and success
 - Recognizes institutional priorities
- Work best when the focus is programmatic (versus funding)
- Common goals, shared vision, and meets shared needs
- Meet market demand
- Can successfully resolve any IP issues
- Opportunities for funding
 - Resources are available and the barriers to sharing them
 - It is difficult if not impossible to cross state lines with state funding
 - See a viable funding pathway

Exercise 2: Building regional initiatives:

The full group brainstormed ideas for regional initiatives. Examples of actionable items might include: create an inventory multi-institutional academic programs; develop a multistate research/outreach project dedicated to rural-urban opportunities; or designing multistate plans for workforce development. The group prioritize these against criteria and selected six priorities which are detailed in the next exercise.

Priorities:

- Rural-urban interface
 - Promote local food systems
 - Implement farm to school programs
 - Ethnic crops
 - Consumer literacy and awareness
 - Farm to “needy” markets
 - Support adaptive behaviors of farmers (i.e., risk management)
- Rapid Response Network(s) for Emerging Pests
 - Invasive in the Northeast region and the rural-urban interface
 - Emerging pests and pathogens, create rapid response system
 - Emerging Agricultural pests initiate development of regional IPM programs
 - Infectious disease
- Ecosystem Farming
- Northeast climate issues (Combined with coastal communities and water quality for tasking exercise)
 - Variable weather and water in the content of agro-systems
 - Climate hydrology, extreme events, biogeochemistry
- Water quality and conversation (Combined with climate issues and coastal communities for tasking exercise)
 - Urban/green infrastructure
 - Urban/rural
- Coastal Communities, sea level rise, nutrient management, coastal community resilience (Combined with climate issues and water quality for tasking exercise)

Other proposed initiatives that were not tasked out

- Invasive
 - Invasive In the northeast region and the rural-urban interface
 - Emerging pest and pathogens
 - Rapid response
 - Emerging agriculture pests
 - Initiate development of regional IMP programs
 - Infectious diseases
- Food Safety
 - Standards and inspections
- Workforce development engagement development
- Family farm business planning and intergenerational issues and transition
 - Land access and generational land transactions

- Design support systems
 - Big data – what needs to be collected, what is already being collected
 - Digital agriculture
 - Automation
 - System engineering
 - Infrastructure: edge imputing and sensors
- Well-connected communities focused on social determinates of health
 - Opioid addiction
- Pursue multi-state teaching opportunities

Exercise 3: Task planning for priority regional initiatives:

Teams were formed around the four priorities. Each team was asked to develop a task plan that included a goal, macro steps, immediate next steps, and team members.

1. Initiative title: Enhancing local food systems (NE ELFS)

Initial list of initiatives:

- Rural-urban interface
 - Promote local food systems
 - Implement farm to school programs
 - Ethnic crops
 - Consumer literacy and awareness
 - Farm to “needy” markets
 - Support adaptive behaviors of farmers (i.e., risk management)

Goal: Food access, safety, affordability and profitability.

Macro Steps

1. Expertise Inventory.
 - a. Need to define exactly what we are going to inventory and who we need to reach out.
2. Identify expertise clusters
3. Identify external partners
4. Bring those clusters together using a planning grant in a policy workshop
 - a. Do we have a common lexicon?
 - b. What is the state of the issue
 - c. Best practices
 - d. Identify needs

Table team:

- Brian Schilling
- Bill Hare
- Roberte Moseley
- Steve Bananno
- Don Robinson
- Sarah Dayton
- David Leibovitz

- Francine Sulinski
- Debby Sheely
- Jody Tellison
- Bill Miller
- Bill Cults

2. Rapid Response Network(s) for Emerging Pests

Initial list of initiatives:

- Invasive in the Northeast region and the rural-urban interface
- Emerging pests and pathogens, create rapid response system
- Emerging Agricultural pests initiate development of regional IPM programs
- Infectious disease

Components:

- Notification
- Surveillance
- Education
- Bio/ecology
- Engagement (other agencies)

Goal: Provide faster more effective response by development of appropriate controls and courses of actions. Assemble groups to identify research needs. Risk assessment and manage impacts.

macro term tasks:

- Describe the gaps/needs within existing services and programming
- Conduct training and tests, overall coordination
- Identify a funding steam

Immediate next steps:

- Clarify problem – what system do we want to focus on (i.e., insects, plants, diseases). Select one with best change of success.
- Who are the leaders and teammates?
 - Form a leadership team should include: diagnostic labs, Department heads, SDA, NIFA, APWIS
 - Need to engage the community

Table team:

- Gary Thompson – contact
- Brad Hillman
- Pat Vittum
- Donna Brown
- Larry Katz
- Fred Servello
- Eric Wommack
- Ted Andreadis

- Tracy Hoover
- Jim Shirk

3. Ecosystem Farming

Goal: Successful forms that implement land-use enhancing practices

Tasks:

- Letter of intent (Mike)
 - Identify faculty, staff and constraints
- Regional conversation (Ken)
 - Fund travel
 - SWOT
- Examples from peer reviewed literature
 - SAS proposal
 - SARE

Table team:

- Mike
- Ken
- Michelle
- Bunnie
- Tom
- Charles
- Chris
- Joe

4. **New England Water Management Initiative (NEWMI)** (combines climate change, water quality, and coastal communities)

Initial list of initiatives:

- Northeast climate issues
- Variable weather and water in the context of agro-systems
- Climate hydrology, extreme events, biogeochemistry
- Water quality and conversation
 - Urban/green infrastructure
 - Urban/rural
- Coastal Communities, sea level rise, nutrient management
- Coastal community resilience

Goal: To understand climate change and management of water quality and develop strategies for effective conversation.

Macro steps:

- Inventory of assets in New England
- Identify leaders around the assets
- Identify resources both internal and external

- Define objective and develop action plan

Next steps:

- Inventory of the list of assets (David)
- Ad hoc leadership team: Jan, Bob, Chuck, Carol, Mark, Adel and Jason

Team table:

- Chuck Ross
- Jan Ngrop
- Bob France
- Mark Rieger
- Carol Thornber
- Adel Shirmohammadi
- Jason Hubbart

Appendix 1-- AGENDA & SESSION PLAN

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By the end of the event, we hope to achieve the following outcomes:

4. A thorough understanding of the opportunities at the rural-urban interface.
5. An inventory of success stories about Northeastern institutional programs that can be used for advocacy.
6. Develop criteria for designing and selecting regional initiatives that the different sections (Cooperative Extension, the agricultural experiment stations, and academic programs) can collectively work on together.
7. Select several initiatives that are multi-state and multi-institutional that can be pursued over the next year and develop task plans for each.
8. A commitment to continued regional engagement of the sections represented at the session.

Output: By the end of the event, we will develop an outline of a “regional initiative action plan” that captures the outcomes of these conversations and organizes them into a short (2-3 page) document.

Agenda

8:00 Introductions, Chair

- Rick introduce event, why we are doing this, and why it is important (10 minutes)

8:10 Goals, flow and agenda, M. Amaral

- *PPT with objectives, agenda*

8:20 Success in advocacy: Examples of regional successes stories/past regional initiatives (multi-institutional, multi- sector) that have been or could be used for advocacy.

8:45 Principals for designing regional initiatives: Describe a set of principles that can be used for the design of and decision making about regional initiatives.

9:30 Pivot Point: Are regional initiatives the right investment of time and energy?

10:00 Building regional initiatives:

11:30 Define next steps and clarify the role of initiative leads and expected contributions by Executive Directors.

Noon Adjourn