

## REGIONAL RESEARCH PROJECT OUTLINE

RRF Project NE-059: Mustistate Research Coordination, Northeastern Region

**Duration:** 

October 1, 1999 to September 30, 2029

### **OBJECTIVES:**

1. To facilitate the planning and coordination of Regional Research.

2. To simplify accounting and disbursement of travel funds at each participating State Agricultural Experiment Station (SAES) for Regional Research planning and coordination.

#### **PROCEDURES:**

An allotment of the RRF will be made at each participating station using appropriate CRIS forms to pay the necessary expenses of the directors serving as administrative advisers, members of technical committees, participating scientists, and other persons authorized by the designated administrative advisers at their Stations desiring to participate in meetings, including working groups and conferences. These meetings will be for the purpose of conferring on, coordinating and furthering research on specific problems of concern to two or more States. Administrative Advisers and Station Directors shall be guided by the policies at their own stations regarding travel and other expenses to be authorized. As a policy, the Chairperson of the Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors (NERA) will serve as Administrative Adviser and chair of this project. He/she may authorize special meetings as required. A report on the purpose and accomplishment of such meetings shall be included in the annual progress report from the Coordination Project. The Project's Chairperson, with the assistance of the Association's Executive Director, shall be responsible for assembling this report.

## JUSTIFICATION:

Subsection 3c 3 of the Hatch Act (69 Stat. 671) authorizes the use of federal Regional Research Funds (RRF) for cooperative research in which two or more SAESs are cooperating to solve problems that concern the agriculture of more than one state. Section 4 further authorizes the use of appropriations to the States for planning, coordinating, and conducting cooperative research. The cooperative research is to be carried out under specific Regional research projects recommended by NERA, and approved by the Secretary of Agriculture. In some instances, extended cooperation under formal research plans is unnecessary when conferences, working groups and like methods can bring researchers together for the exchange of experience and opinion, and for the coordination of State and Federal research. In many cases, problems can be solved by such initial attention without the need for more formal interstate cooperation.

Coordination of the research between the States and between projects requires interstate travel of Station scientists, administrative advisers, and scientists attending technical committee meetings, conferences, and work groups. This proposed Regional Coordination Committee will be a distinct entity, meeting in separate sessions and carrying out its functions independently of other

regional committees. It will have interests broader than a single subject-matter field. It is essential that funds be available for travel and expenses for meetings of this committee, to allow it to approve regional research projects, for members to attend conferences and working group meetings, and to allow SAES Directors to facilitate regional collaboration by the participating SAESs.

This Regional Research Coordination Project will serve as the administrative authority for such conferences, work groups and like meetings for the purposes of facilitating efforts and conserving expenses; to better administer the RRF; and to better facilitate immediate cooperative actions on urgent research problems.

#### PRESENT STATUS:

Funds for travel of technical committee representatives and Administrative Advisers who have formal, contributing roles on approved Regional Research projects will be made available from the RRF allotments made to the participating states. Representatives of other states who wish to attend the regional meetings must seek their support from other sources. As a result, each Station is thus accountable for its employees' travel to Regional Research meetings, often under many different projects and funds. Support for travel of State representatives to Regional Research meetings on problems of concern to two or more States (which are not documented under formal project outlines) also must be obtained from sources other than the RRF allotments to the States. Under these circumstances, it may not be possible for some States to send representatives to such meetings.

To facilitate the planning and coordination of Regional Research the Director of each Station may, at his or her discretion, use Regional Research Funds for his or her Station's share, or a portion of the share, to meet office expenses relating to multistate research activities of an Executive Director.

### **COOPERATING STATIONS:**

The fifteen Northeastern State Agricultural Experiment Stations located in Connecticut (New Haven); Connecticut (Storrs); Delaware; District of Columbia; Maine; Maryland; Massachusetts; New Hampshire; New Jersey; New York (Cornell); New York (Geneva); Pennsylvania; Rhode Island; Vermont; and West Virginia will be the cooperating Stations.

# **ORGANIZATION:**

Directors of the Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors will constitute the NE-059 Technical Committee. The Chair of the Association will serve as Administrative Adviser as well as the Chair of the Technical Committee. The Executive Director of the Association will serve as Secretary of the Technical Committee.

APPROVAL: Northeastern Regional Association of Agricultural

Experiment Station Directors

Administrator, CSREES

Date