



Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors

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**TO:** Steve Loring and Karla Trautman, co-chairs NIDB Subcommittee

**FROM:** Rick Rhodes, Executive Director, NERA

**DATE:** April 4, 2019

**RE:** Participation in the National Impact Database

**CC:** NERA

I'm writing on behalf of NERA to share that the Northeast directors have chosen to withdraw support for and participation in the National Impact Database. Over the past three years, only one NE experiment station has submitted impact statements and that experiment station does not intend to submit additional impact statements. Likewise, the NE experiment station directors have not provided institutional contacts nor reviewers to the NIDB. While NERA appreciates the time and effort that the subcommittee has placed in the "re-boot" of the NIDB, we believe that the NIDB is no longer regionally relevant.

NERA has forwarded a NIDB companion memo to ESCOP indicating NERA's withdrawal of support and participation in the NIDB. Further, we have recommended to ESCOP that the Experiment Station Section engage in a robust discussion of the use and utility of the NIDB nationally. If significant utility cannot be demonstrated, we recommend that ESCOP terminate support for the NIDB. Further, we recommend that ESCOP collaborate with NIFA to determine the opportunities for inclusion of capacity grant-generated impact statements during the integration of the Plan of Work (which includes the Annual Report of Accomplishments and Results) and REEport.



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**TO:** Deb Hamernik, Chair, ESCOP

**FROM:** Rick Rhodes, Executive Director, NERA

**DATE:** April 4, 2019

**RE:** Participation in the National Impact Database

**CC:** NERA; Jeff Jacobsen, Executive Vice-chair, ESCOP

I'm writing on behalf of NERA to share that the Northeast directors have chosen to withdraw support for and participation in the National Impact Database (NIDB). Over the past three years, only one NE experiment station has submitted impact statements and that experiment station does not intend to submit additional statements. Likewise, the NE experiment station directors have not provided institutional contacts nor reviewers to the NIDB. While NERA appreciates the time and effort that the subcommittee has placed in the "re-boot" of the NIDB, we believe that the NIDB is no longer regionally relevant. The NIDB is not reaching identified audiences nor does it appear to be an effective resource in the support of our state and regional advocacy efforts. Lastly, we have communicated this message to the Co-chairs of the NIDB Subcommittee, Steve Loring and Karla Trautman.

NERA recommends that ESCOP, on behalf of experiment station the Experiment Station Section, engage in a robust discussion of the use and utility of the NIDB nationally. If significant utility cannot be demonstrated, we recommend that ESCOP terminate support for the NIDB. Further, we recommend that ESCOP collaborate with NIFA to determine the opportunities for inclusion of capacity grant-generated impact statements during the integration of the Plan of Work (which includes the Annual Report of Accomplishments and Results) and REEport.