



Northeast Forum

Building a Competitive Future for Invasive Plant Species Research in the Northeast

**USDA Beltsville Agricultural Research Center Campus, Maryland
March 21-22, 2012**

Throughout the Northeastern U.S., research scientists and extension professionals from land grant universities and experiment stations are actively involved with programs focused on invasive plant species. There is excellent potential that these research and outreach efforts by our land-grant institutions can be greatly enhanced and leveraged by coordination at the regional level.

The USDA and other federal agencies emphasize and encourage a multidisciplinary approach to research through greater collaborative efforts not only among different institutions but also among diverse disciplinary groups (e.g., biophysical sciences and social sciences). This includes an enhanced integration of research and extension efforts for solving many of the challenges that fall under their purview.

This forum emphasizes multidisciplinary networking. Scientists from multiple disciplines and land grant functions will define opportunities for regionally coordinated research and extension programs in support of invasive plant species management in the Northeast. Specifically, the forum's goal is to define those areas most likely to provide opportunities in the near future and begin to prepare teams of individuals to aggressively pursue extramural funding associated with those defined areas. The immediate outcome of this forum will be the development of one or more multistate projects.

Agenda:

Wednesday, March 21	Holiday Inn, College Park
5:00-7:00 pm	Registration
5:00-7:00 pm	Reception at the Holiday Inn's Moose Creek Steak House - Adirondack Room
Thursday, March 22	USDA-ARS-BARC Building 5, Room 021
7:00-7:45 am	Registration and Continental Breakfast
7:45-8:00 am	Welcome and Introductions Dan Rossi, NERA Executive Director Joseph Spence, USDA-ARS-BARC Director Program Overview – Cameron Faustman, University of Connecticut
8:00-8:20 am	Multistate Projects in the Experiment Station System – Fred Servello, University of Maine <i>[How they work, opportunities to use them for establishing collaborative teams, need for integration (federal requirement; competitive grant reality)]</i>
8:20-9:40 am	Invasive Plant Species Overview Biophysical Science Perspective – Bernd Blossey, Cornell University Social Science Perspective – to be confirmed Q & A
9:40-10:00 am	Break



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10:00-10:30 am	A Challenge and an Example – Stephan Goetz, NERCRD <i>Leaving the comfort zone (focus on the need to leave the comfort zone of a narrow perspective to become part of the solution). Example of effective team-building.</i>
10:30-11:00 am	Future Horizon of Federal Funding Opportunities - NIFA, NSF, USFS, and NPS
11:00 am-12:30 pm	Breakouts <i>Divide participants into groups comprised of a maximum number of different disciplines (e.g., ecology, molecular biology, physiology, breeding, management/control, social sciences, etc.) and functions (research, extension). Discussions will be driven by specific questions developed by the planning group.</i>
12:30-1:15 pm	Lunch
1:15-2:00 pm	Report of the Groups
2:00-3:00 pm	Reflection Panel and Discussion <i>Panelists (NIFA, NSF, USFS, and NPS) respond to what they've heard thus far and how the Northeast can best prepare itself to be competitive.</i>
3:00-3:30 pm	Summary Thoughts of How to Continue the Conversation/Approach
3:30 pm	Adjourn

Location: A “Meet and Greet” reception is scheduled for Wednesday, March 21, 5:00-7:00 pm at the Holiday Inn. The Forum will be held on the USDA Beltsville Agricultural Research Center Campus in Building 5 on Thursday, March 22, from 7:00 am to 3:30 pm.

Hotel: Participants should make their own hotel arrangements by contacting the Holiday Inn, College Park at 866-240-6315. The room rate of \$109 per night plus taxes is available if you identify yourself with the “**Northeast Invasive Plant Species Forum**”. Rooms are guaranteed at this rate until **February 29, 2012**.

Registration: Please complete the attached registration form and submit it by **e-mail** to Rubie Mize at rgmize@aesop.rutgers.edu. There is no registration fee. The Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors (NERA) will host the Wednesday reception and will provide breakfast, breaks and lunch on Thursday.



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Name:	
Title:	
Email:	Phone:
Address:	

Important!!! Please include a brief statement, or bullets of your areas of interests, or areas for potential collaboration in Invasive Plant Species in the Northeast.
Use additional pages if necessary.

Areas of Interest:

Please submit your registration form by **e-mail** to Rubie Mize at rgmize@aesop.rutgers.edu no later than February 29, 2012.