

Dear New agInnovation North Central (agNC) Member:

Welcome! We are so happy you are part of the agNC, the North Central Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors. Here's an overview of our Association, with more information on our [website](#) and our [MS Teams site](#):

- We are one of five regional Agricultural Experiment Station (AES) associations in the US. Regional associations ([Western](#), [Southern](#), [Northeast](#), [1890s](#), and [North Central](#)). We facilitate the coordination and build and strengthen collaborations among LGU scientists who provide solutions to local, regional, and national food and agriculture challenges through multistate and multidisciplinary research, extension, and education.
- All five associations are members of the larger, national [agInnovation](#) organization (previously known as the Experiment Station Section, ESS), for which the governing body is agInnovation (formally, [ESCOP](#) or Experiment Station Committee on Organization and Policy).
- agNC consists of [12 member AESs](#) and 2 partner 1890 LGUs from IA, IL, IN, KS, MI, MN, MO, NE, ND, OH, SD, and WI.
- We are a collegial group of AES and 1890 Agriculture Research Directors who share ideas and best practices, solve issues, engage with stakeholders, and manage the North Central Region's (NCR) [Hatch Multistate](#) project portfolio. We engage with other regions on national issues, including science direction and advocacy. We have regular meetings, both in-person and via Zoom. You should have already received a calendar invite to our monthly meeting. If not, please let us know.
- The agNC office staff include the agNC Executive Director, Dr. Jeanette Thurston, located at Kansas State University, and the Assistant Director, Christina (Chris) Hamilton, at UW-Madison. We serve the agNC directors through a wide assortment of activities, such as planning in-person and monthly ZOOM meetings, facilitating regional and national partnerships and initiatives with other AES offices, associations, and stakeholders (e.g., Cooperative Extension, APLU, USDA), to managing and assisting with the [NIMSS database](#), the agNC and other websites, social media, and managing our multistate research portfolio. The office is funded through assessments from our member institutions and our efforts reviewed annually by our 12 director members.
- Our members serve on various agNC, regional, and national committees. Once you are settled in your role, please consider volunteering for a position as they become available. It's a great way to learn about the agNC and agInnovation in more detail, as well as network with others across the country. Learn more about agNC governance through our [Rules of Operation](#).

Once you get settled, please let us know a good time to meet over Zoom. We would love to meet you and answer any questions you have about agNC.

Best regards,

Jeanette Thurston, agNC Executive Director (jthurston@ksu.edu; 402-730-3544)

Chris Hamilton, agNC Assistant Director (chamilton@wisc.edu; 484-716-7645)

Useful Links and Resources:

- agNC website: <https://www.aginnovationnc.org/>
 - Directory: <https://www.aginnovationnc.org/directory>
 - Officers: <https://www.aginnovationnc.org/agnc-officers>
 - Rules of Operation: <https://www.aginnovationnc.org/rules-of-operation>
 - Upcoming meetings important to NCRA members: <https://www.aginnovationnc.org/calendar>
 - agNC email lists (please ask to be added if you're not sure you're on this):
 - For our agNC directors (with assistants for scheduling): agnc_dirs_and_assistants@g-groups.wisc.edu
 - agNC directors only (for confidential messages): agncdirectorsonly@g-groups.wisc.edu
- If you have yet to, be sure to set up MS Teams. If you need help accessing the agNC MS Teams, reach out to the AD. Meeting notes (agNC (including monthly meetings), APLU, ESCOP), events, announcements and other important items are regularly posted by the ED, AD, and agNC members.
- National agInnovation (AES directors; was ESS/ESCOP):
 - Internal only with links to committee pages and other resources: www.escop.info
 - The main agInnovation leadership committee: <http://escop.info/committee/the-escop-committee/>
 - www.agInnovation.info, the public-facing Experiment Station Section (ESS) website
 - [APLU and ESCOP Organizational Chart](#) (updated 2023)
- Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU): <https://www.aplu.org/>
- North Central Cooperative Extension Association (NCCEA): www.nccea.org
- National Information management Support System (NIMSS), our national multistate project workflow database: www.nimss.org
- Multistate Research Fund Impacts Program: www.mrfimpacts.org
- National Impacts Database (for individual state AES and Extension impacts): <https://landgrantimpacts.org/>
- www.Land-Grant.org: For Farm bill, annual appropriations, and other APLU advocacy-related information.
- [National Information Management and Support System – NIMSS](#)
- Roberts Rules of Order:
 - [Cornell Roberts Rules of Order-Simplified](#)
 - This and other related guides can be found at [Parliamentary Procedure | CU Assemblies \(cornell.edu\)](#)