

NRSP1 Management Committee Call NOTES

Date: Wednesday, January 14, 2026

Time: 2 pm ET, 1 pm CT, 12 noon MT, 11 am PT

NRSP1 Management Committee Members
Chris Hamilton, Chair and NIMSS Lead, agInnovation North Central
Bret Hess (AA), agInnovation-West
Jeanette Thurston (lead AA), agInnovation North Central
David Leibovitz (AA), agInnovation Northeast
Cindy Morley (AA), agInnovation South
Rick Rhodes, agInnovation Northeast
Gary Thompson, agInnovation South
Jennifer Horton, agInnovation West
Alton Thompson, ARD
Julie Estrada (NIMSS User), Purdue University
Robin Williams (NIMSS User), Clemson University
Sara Delheimer (agInnovation MRF Impacts Program Coordinator), Ex-officio
Faith Peppers (NIFA Director of Communications), NIFA Liaison
Tara Warner (NIFA PARS Director), NIFA Liaison

Email list: nrsp1@escop.info

Committee Page: <http://escop.info/committee/nrsp-1-management-committee/>

Attendees: Cindy Morley, Gary Thompson, Jeanette Thurston, Robin Williams, David Leibovitz, Jennifer Horton, Alton Thompson, Sara Delheimer, Chris Hamilton

Call Agenda/Notes:

1. Roll Call and Welcome – Chris
2. NIMSS Update – Chris
 - Chris reviewed the major NIMSS updates from the list below.
3. MRF Impact Program Q4 2025 Update – Sara
 - Sara reviewed her Q4 update.
 - Links and reminders from her post-meeting email:
 - The MRF Impacts Annual Report points out key accomplishments in 2025, shows 2025 performance compared to 2024, and more.
 - If you would like to weigh in on which projects to prioritize for Impact Statements, here is the queue. You can leave notes in the Comments column or add other projects to consider in the section at the bottom of the spreadsheet.
 - Impact Writing Workshop applications are due by Feb. 20. Then, we'll work together to select which project(s) from your region to serve. Here is the application form. And here is the spreadsheet of applicant responses.

- Here is the [link for the Benefits of MRF Projects Survey](#). And here is the [spreadsheet of survey responses](#). For more info about when/how we intend to use the survey, see our [strategy and information doc](#). I am working on adding our pilot responses and other previously collected feedback to this spreadsheet so it's all in one place. Chris is working on pulling a list of active participants from NIMSS so that we can send out our first mass request for responses.

4. NIFA PARS Update (staffing, NIFA reps, etc.) – Tara (if available) – Not on call
5. NIFA Communications Update – Faith (if available) – Not on call
6. Other Items, as needed.
 - Chris asked the group if they would prefer to meet twice a year instead of the current quarterly model. The group discussed pros and cons of each, but ultimately consensus was to stay with the current schedule.

Fathom AI Meeting Recording and Summary Notes:

[VIEW RECORDING - 38 mins \(No highlights\)](#)

NIMSS System Updates

- [New features developed by Parker \(agInnovation\) streamline participant management and data integrity.](#)
- [Appendix E Rollover:](#)
 - [Station Change:](#) When a participant's station is edited, their Appendix E data (FTE, KA codes) now transfers to the new station in "pending approval" status.
 - [Project Renewal:](#) For renewing projects, Experiment Station participants automatically roll over to the new project for director approval.
 - [Rationale:](#) This eliminates manual re-entry and prevents participants from being accidentally left off renewals, a problem that previously took years to resolve.
 - [Note:](#) Objectives do not roll over, as they often change with renewals, requiring directors to select new ones with the participant.
- [System Cleanup:](#)
 - [Inactive stations \(no active users\) and users \(no active proposals\) were mass-deactivated.](#)
 - [Impact:](#) Deactivated items are hidden from dropdowns and search results, making the system much cleaner and more efficient.
- [Annual Report Form:](#)
 - [A new "Grants, Contracts, and Other Resources" section was added.](#)
 - [Rationale:](#) Provides a dedicated field to report leveraged funds, which is critical for demonstrating the value of multi-state projects.

Q4 Impact Reporting & 2026 Planning

- **Q4 Performance:**
 - NIFA's Oct 1–Nov 12 shutdown halted all promotion of new impact statements.
 - Older, high-performing content (e.g., drone and specialty crop projects) was removed from the NIFA website, reducing organic traffic.
 - Social media engagement was unexpectedly higher than Q3, showing the program's resilience without NIFA's direct support.
- **2026 Planning:**
 - Impact Statement Queue: Sara is building the 2026 queue, starting with projects that terminated in 2025. Regional input on newsworthy projects is requested.
 - Impact Writing Workshops: The new application form is generating interest, with applications received from NC, NE, and Southern regions.
- **Multi-State Value Survey:**
 - Decision: The group approved a process to send the survey to all active NIMSS participants every two years. Chris will obtain a list of these emails and send the survey out.
 - Rationale: This provides a consistent, large-scale data source for advocacy and communications.

Administrative & Procedural

- **Meeting Cadence:** The group will continue meeting quarterly.
 - Rationale: Provides a regular touchpoint for updates and decisions, with the option to cancel meetings if the agenda is light.
- **NRSP Review Committee:** David will provide an update on the renewal process for NRSP1, which is due around this time next year.

NIMSS Updates

Major Features & Initiatives:

AES/App_E Rollover System (November-December)

- Built new rollover functionality to automatically carry over applications year-to-year
- Added ability to migrate App_Es when users move between stations
- Updated email notifications for the rollover process

Station Management Overhaul (December)

- Stations can now be marked as active or inactive
- Implemented ability to systematically deactivate stations that have no active users
- Inactive stations no longer appear in dropdown menus and autofill forms

- Station users page redesigned to show only users assigned to that station (previously also showed users with app_es related to that station)
- Improved navigation between station-related pages
- Station search results now appear alphabetically

User Management Enhancements (November-December)

- Implemented ability to systematically deactivate inactive users
- Deactivated users are now prevented from logging in
- Added search capability to station users lists
- Improved user search page with tabs and better organization
- Updated how active projects are displayed on user profiles
- Enhanced user editing interface

SAES Form Updates (January 2026)

- Added new section to SAES forms (Grants, Contracts & Other Resources)

Bug Fixes:

- Fixed issue with extension director directory
- Resolved problem preventing station forms from submitting
- Fixed projects not appearing under "under review" tab
- Corrected display issues on events form
- Fixed bug preventing users from removing FTE values
- Improved AA directory performance
- Disabled 'enter' key in certain forms to prevent submission errors
- Fixed attachments not sending with event notification emails
- Added better handling when search system is unavailable

Code Quality & Maintenance (November)

- General code cleanup and modernization, refactored and streamlined existing code

User Experience Improvements

- Added sorting tabs to user search
- Improved button display throughout user management
- Fixed error message formatting
- Better navigation flow between related pages

System Logic Improvements

- Active project filter now includes projects from the last 3 years
- Improved how system finds current/active projects in project chains
- Updated email recipient management system
- Better handling of project relationships and navigation
- Updated code to accurately capture 'last login' value



WE SHARE THE IMPACTS

Q3 | July 1 - Sept 30, 2025

The Multistate Research Fund promotes agricultural innovation by providing federal funds to collaborative land-grant university research and Extension projects. We communicate the impacts and importance of these projects to the American people and give researchers and Extension specialists the skills and knowledge to share their science.

IMPACT STATEMENTS



Sara finalized **3 Impact Statements:** [W4003](#), [NE2439](#), and [S1076](#).

2 Impact Statements are in draft/review stage: [NC1173](#) and [W4170](#).

All finalized impact statements have been uploaded to the NIDB and NIMSS.



Sara prepared the ceremony booklet write-up, news release, and Impact Statement for the **2025 agInnovation Excellence in Multistate Research Award winner**, NE2334: Immunity and Resistance to Avian Diseases. These materials were shared with APLU, NIFA, and agInnovation and posted on [websites](#) and social media.

APLU FANR shared the S1071: STEM in High School Ag Education impact statement in the [September toolkit](#).

APLU FANR also spotlighted [NCERA197: Agriculture Safety & Health Research & Extension](#) for NFSH Week.

In Q3, NIFA shared **1 project in the NIFA Update** newsletter:

- Featured in the [July 16 issue](#), S1085 Cover Crops for Southern Farmers and Ranchers received 378 unique clicks during Q3.

During Q3, NIFA shared **1 project on the NIFA Impacts page**:

- [S1085 Cover Crops for Southern Farmers and Ranchers](#) was posted on July 11 and received 681 views during Q3.

Impacts posted in previous quarters continued to perform well on the NIFA website during Q3:

- [NE1610 Eastern White Pine Issues](#) had 575 views during Q3.
- [W3192 Protective Clothing for Wildland Firefighters](#) received 208 views in Q3.

BENEFITS OF MRF PROJECTS

During Q3, Sara designed a survey using Google Forms to collect information and stories about the benefits of participating on multistate research projects. The survey is being piloted with select leaders and participants of multistate projects. [Survey responses](#) can be seen here and will be used by MRF Impacts and agInnovation to develop talking points and educational material about the importance, impacts, and value of Hatch Multistate projects. Eventually, the survey will be sent to a wider audience on a regular basis.

IMPACT WRITING TRAINING



- Led workshop for S1087 on August 29.
- Preparing training for NIDB inputters on October 15.

MEETINGS & NETWORKING

- Monthly: Participated in APLU Communications and Marketing Committee (CMC) meetings.

SOCIAL MEDIA

In Q3, we highlighted research related to cherries, blueberries, peanuts, catfish, farmers markets, National Farm Safety and Health Week, National Chicken Month, National Preparedness Month, honey bees, water quality, coffee, and more. We shared communications toolkits with NIFA, APLU, and project participants to help them promote multistate projects on social media.

MRFImpacts X performance declined in Q2 (this is an ongoing trend, which our peers are experiencing, too). Facebook and LinkedIn performance was also down in Q3 compared to Q2; however, this is not concerning because Q2 was particularly high-performing.



27 likes **16** retweets/replies
13 clicks on links to view/read the Impact Statement
~50 tweets

1,818

people received our tweets in their Twitter feeds or search results.



~50 posts on Facebook **620** views
25 interactions



~50 posts on LinkedIn **6,613** impressions
307 engagements

APLU FANR made **8 tweets** using MRF Impacts contact. These posts received **765 views** and **23 engagements**.

APLU FANR made **7 posts on facebook** using MRF Impacts content. These posts reached **959 accounts** and received **15 engagements**.

APLU FANR made **1 post on LinkedIn** that featured MRF Impacts content. This post had **949 impressions** and received **24 reactions**, **5 reposts**, and **60 clicks**.

In Q3, NIFA made three times more posts using MRF Impacts content than in Q2. Impressions and engagements matched or surpassed that 3-fold increase. Performance on X was especially high.

NIFA made **27 posts on X** using MRF Impacts content. These posts received **29,671 impressions** and **601 engagements**.*

NIFA made **26 posts on Facebook** using MRF Impacts content. These posts received **2,943 impressions** and **78 engagements**.

NIFA made **27 posts on LinkedIn** using MRF Impacts content. These posts received **28,701 impressions**, **362 clicks**, and **266 likes**.

WEBSITE

1,300 sessions

3 minutes/session

910 unique visitors

NEWSLETTER

Our 2025 Q2 newsletter was sent in July 2025 and had **79 opens (50%)** and **10 clicks**. The Q3 issue was sent October; performance will be reported in Q4.



WE SHARE THE IMPACTS

Q4 | Oct 1 - Dec 31, 2025

The Multistate Research Fund promotes agricultural innovation by providing federal funds to collaborative land-grant university research and Extension projects. We communicate the impacts and importance of these projects to the American people and give researchers and Extension specialists the skills and knowledge to share their science.

IMPACT STATEMENTS



Sara finalized **1 Impact Statement: NC1173**.

1 Impact Statement is in draft stage: **W4170**.

All finalized impact statements have been uploaded to the NIDB and NIMSS.



APLU FANR shared the W3009: Automation in Specialty Crops impact statement in the October [toolkit](#).

Due to the federal government shutdown from October 1 to November 12, 2025, NIFA shared less MRF Impacts content in Q4 than previous quarters of 2025. NIFA did not share any of our impact statements in the NIFA Update newsletter or NIFA Impacts blog; however, impacts posted to the [NIFA Impacts](#) webpage in previous quarters continued to perform well during Q4:

- [NE1610 Eastern White Pine Issues](#) had **104 views** during Q4.
- [W3192 Protective Clothing for Wildland Firefighters](#) received **58 views** in Q4.
- [S1085 Cover Crops for Southern Farmers and Ranchers](#) had **163 views** in Q4.

IMPACT WRITING TRAINING



- Led training for NIDB inputters on October 15.
- Led workshop for NCERA224 on December 8.

MEETINGS & NETWORKING

- Monthly: Participated in APLU Communications and Marketing Committee (CMC) meetings.
- Co-led the NIDB Communications Team.
- Provided research impact mapping guidance to Janice McDonnell (Rutgers University) in preparation for a workshop series for faculty. They plan to use some of our Impact Writing Workshop resources in the series.

NEWSLETTER

Our 2025 Q3 newsletter was sent in October 2025 and had **62 opens** and **13 clicks**. Opens and clicks increased across all quarters of 2025.

WEBSITE

1,720 sessions **2.5** minutes/session

1,489 unique visitors

SOCIAL MEDIA

In Q4, we highlighted research related to World Soil Day, National Farmers Day, Rural Health Day, apples, pears, pork, seafood, cold weather, food safety and food security, health and wellness, and more. We shared communications toolkits with NIFA, APLU, and project participants to help them promote multistate projects on social media.

MRF Impacts content performance on all social media platforms was higher or remained the same in Q4 than in Q3. Considering NIFA was unable to share or engage with our content during much of Q4, this increase in performance is especially noteworthy; performing well without NIFA's engagement suggests our content had broad appeal.



51 tweets

37 likes **26** retweets/replies

10 clicks on links to view/read the Impact Statement

2,431

people received our tweets in their Twitter feeds or search results.



50 posts on Facebook

404 views

30 interactions



~50 posts on LinkedIn

7,147 impressions

257 engagements

APLU FANR made slightly fewer X and facebook posts with MRF Impacts content in Q4 compared to Q3; however, this is not immediately concerning due to the amount of holiday/out of office time during Q4.

APLU FANR made **2 tweets** using MRF Impacts content. These posts received **95 views**.

APLU FANR made **2 posts on facebook** using MRF Impacts content. These posts **reached 263 users** and received **5 engagements**.

APLU FANR made **2 posts on LinkedIn** that featured MRF Impacts content. This post had **466 impressions** and received **21 engagement**.

Due to the government shutdown, NIFA did not make any social media posts (with MRF Impacts content or otherwise) from October 1 to November 12, 2025. Performance of the posts they were able to post is consistent with previous quarters.

NIFA made **13 posts on X** using MRF Impacts content. These posts received **4,285 impressions** and **148 engagements**.

NIFA made **13 posts on Facebook** using MRF Impacts content. These posts made **971 impressions** and **68 engagements**.

NIFA made **13 posts on LinkedIn** using MRF Impacts content. These posts received **13,096 impressions** and **405 engagements**.