

IMPACT COMMUNICATIONS TOOLKIT

Improving and Restoring Chestnut Trees (NE-1833)

May 2024

ABOUT THE IMPACT STATEMENT

SUMMARY: American chestnut trees were once common and widely used, but chestnut blight has devastated the trees. Since 1982, scientists at land-grant universities have coordinated chestnut research. New discoveries, techniques, and tools are being used by scientists, foresters, orchardists, homeowners, and others to support increased production and restoration of the iconic American chestnut tree.

LINK: bit.ly/MRF-chestnut

PROJECT PARTICIPATION & FUNDING: Project participants include Clemson University, The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Georgia, University of Kentucky, University of Maryland, Mississippi State University, University of New England, The State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Pennsylvania State University, Rutgers University, Shenandoah University, University of Tennessee-Chattanooga, West Virginia University, the USDA Forest Service and The American Chestnut Foundation. Previous and ongoing iterations of this project may include other participants. This project is supported in part by USDA NIFA through Hatch Multistate Research Fund allocations to State Agricultural Experiment Stations at participating land-grant universities.

PROJECT DETAILS: bit.ly/NE1833

HOW CAN YOU USE THE IMPACT STATEMENT?



SEND to department heads, Experiment Station/Extension Directors, and communications staff



DISCUSS with legislators, stakeholders, potential partners, and others



PITCH to magazines, newspapers, and other traditional media outlets



INCLUDE in presentations, grant proposals, briefs, meetings, and reports



SHARE in social media posts, blogs, and newsletters



UPLOAD to websites and databases



ANY WAY YOU WANT! The Impact Statement was created to help promote your work so you may use/share it as you deem appropriate

SHARING ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Write a post. Use the sample posts below or create your own original posts to feature the project and Impact Statement on your social media channels.

Link. Include a [link](#) to the [Impact Statement](#).

Stand out. Include photos or other simple visual aids. Provide attribution and alt text. If your institution does not have suitable images, try these free image libraries:

[USDA Flickr](#)
[USDA-ARS Image Gallery](#)
[Unsplash](#)

Connect. Add relevant hashtags and/or handles for your institution, funders, partners, and stakeholders. Consider timing your posts to connect with related events (e.g., major conferences, holidays, seasons, news).

@USDA_NIFA #NIFAimpacts
@USDA Science
@AgIsAmerica @APLU_Ag #AgIsAmerica
#landgrantuniversities
@MRFimpacts
@NERASAES #PromotingCollaboration

@chestnut1904
#chestnut #trees
#chestnuts

March 21 | International Day of Forests
#ForestDay @UN @FAO

April | National Pest Management Month
#NPMM

Last Friday in April | Arbor Day
#ArborDay

December 14 | National Roast Chestnuts Day

SAMPLE POSTS

American #chestnut trees have been devastated by blight. Discoveries, techniques & tools developed by land-grant universities are being used by scientists, foresters, orchardists, homeowners & others to support increased production & restoration of the iconic tree. bit.ly/MRF-chestnut

The American #chestnut tree was once widely used & appreciated, but chestnut blight devastated these trees. Blight (and other pests, diseases & stressors like climate change) continue to be threats. See how land-grant universities are restoring chestnuts trees in the US: bit.ly/MRF-chestnut

Land-grant universities are coordinating research to protect & restore American #chestnut trees. Researchers are developing disease-resistant chestnut trees, finding ways to manage chestnut blight fungus & and identifying factors that influence reestablishment: bit.ly/MRF-chestnut

As part of a project on #chestnut restoration, scientists maintain orchards of American chestnut, exotic species & hybrid species in multiple states. These orchards are an important source of pollen & nuts for breeding and preservation. See other project impacts: bit.ly/MRF-chestnut

As part of a multistate project on restoring American #chestnut trees, researchers developed techniques to regenerate chestnuts from embryogenic cultures, which is a significant accomplishment for a tree that is difficult to root. See more project impacts: bit.ly/MRF-chestnut

As part of a multistate effort to improve & restore American #chestnut trees, researchers are using traditional breeding & genetic mapping, selection & engineering, to develop chestnut trees with resistance to chestnut blight & Phytophthora root rot. More project impacts: bit.ly/MRF-chestnut

As part of a multistate effort to restore American #chestnut trees, researchers are developing effective ways to cross genetically engineered varieties with wild-type trees so that trees with engineered resistance are adapted for growth across their native range. bit.ly/MRF-chestnut

Working as part of a multistate team to restore American #chestnut trees, scientists identified chestnut blight fungus genes associated with the ability & power to cause disease and identified fungus strains with reduced ability to cause disease. See more project impacts: bit.ly/MRF-chestnut

As part of a project to restore American #chestnut trees, researchers are evaluating biological ways to manage chestnut blight. For example, researchers developed a CRISPR/Cas9 method for making genetic modifications to the chestnut blight fungus. More project impacts: bit.ly/MRF-chestnut

Researchers are working together to protect American #chestnut trees. For example, researchers identified viruses that attack the chestnut blight fungus and identified ways to use these viruses to manage blight in forest settings. See more project impacts: bit.ly/MRF-chestnut

Researchers are exploring biological ways to combat #chestnut blight. For example, researchers documented species of invertebrates & microorganisms that live in blight cankers and could potentially be harnessed to affect cankers. See more project impacts: bit.ly/MRF-chestnut

To protect American #chestnut trees, researchers are exploring ways to manage pests. For example, scientists studied how to use native parasites to manage gall wasps and identified chestnut tree varieties that are less susceptible to gall wasp infestations & damage. bit.ly/MRF-chestnut

As part of a multistate project to restore American #chestnut trees, researchers have backcrossed resistance from exotic chestnut species into American chestnut and planted tens of thousands of hybrid trees throughout the native range. See more project impacts: bit.ly/MRF-chestnut