

## **Friday Feedback for September 27, 2019**

### **Small Grain CAPS Update – Cloos/Miyares**

Starting this morning 9/27, a number of Small Grain CAPS matches with Milk, ARMS II, Fruit Chem, and Ag Yield became available for data collection in CAPI. Additionally, we identified approximately 900 Small Grain CAPS records that have yet to be checked in that are in counties where a few more completed reports could mean the difference between publishing acreage and production for that county and not. Please pay attention to comments on the records indicating the status of these records.

Due to budget limitations, contacts for the Low County Response Follow-Up records should be primarily conducted by phone whenever possible. If a personal visit is necessary, only one visit should be attempted before coding it as inaccessible. Also, if you are already going to be in the neighborhood of one of these operations conducting a Milk Production, ARMS, FCUS, or Ag Yield survey, money can be saved by not charging all of the miles to Small Grain CAPS and charging the mileage to a survey with more funds available (ARMS, FCUS).

Please note that the Regional Field Office will be monitoring the Small Grain Expenses on a daily basis. If it appears that we are going to be going over budget significantly, we will contact supervisors to cease data collection before the end of the survey. To that end, please make sure you are entering your time and mileage into iSolved on a daily basis so we can keep better track of expenses.

Thank you to everyone for your hard work on this project!

### **On Demand Training – Miyares**

This year for the ARMS II Survey being conducted in MI and OH, staff at the regional field office created a set of training videos to supplement the vast material already available on the Purdue GLR website. The target audience for these videos was intended to be newer enumerators who haven't worked ARMS II in the past, but these videos could also be used by experienced enumerators as a refresher in the basic components of the survey. They are essentially set up as narrated power point presentations, similar to what enumerators would have seen had they been in attendance at a state-level NASDA workshop.

The Great Lakes Region is interested in feedback from people who watched the videos as part of their home study, as regional office staff are exploring the possibility of expanding the use of these videos to other surveys where state schools can't happen. If there are areas where you believe the videos could be improved, or if the format should be changed, or there are different topics which enumerators would like explored, please reach out to your supervisor or NASDA Coordinator and let them know what you would like to see.

### **National Good Neighbor Day**

National Good Neighbor Day is observed annually on September 28. This day was created to acknowledge and celebrate the importance of good neighbors.

It is a blessing to have a good neighbor, but it is even a greater thing to BE a good neighbor. Good neighbors often become friends. They watch out for each other, lend a helping hand and are there for advice when asked. Neighbors offer that cup of sugar when you are short, collect our mail when we are on vacation, watch our homes and sometimes watch our children and our pets. Simply put, being a good neighbor makes good neighbors and develops lifelong friendships.



## Friday Feedback for September 20, 2019

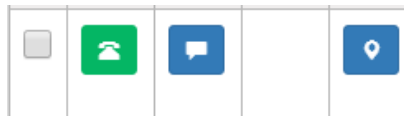
### FCUS Update (MI) – Miyares

Paper questionnaires for the Fruit Chemical Use Survey (FCUS) arrived in East Lansing on Tuesday. Respondent Booklets arrived on Wednesday, and both Pesticide Supplements and Interviewer Manuals arrived in the office on Thursday. Staff at the Regional Field Office have been frantically labeling questionnaires, collating inserts, and assembling kit envelopes for distribution to enumerators within the next few days, with a goal of having everything shipped out by Monday, September 23. We apologize for the continuing delays but hope to get everything back on track very soon.

Based on the timing of their arrival, pesticide supplements will not be included in individual kit envelopes. Each enumerator will receive a number of supplements proportional to the number of FCUS samples assigned. They will typically be shipped in shrink-wrapped packages of 25. If you run into a situation where you feel you need more supplements than you were sent, or you have extra supplements you don't need, please communicate with your supervisors.

We discovered that the printed version Respondent Booklets did not contain the page which included the list of common fertilizers applied to fruit crops and their formulations. A one-page sheet has been printed and inserted in every kit envelope to use as a supplement to the respondent booklet. A link to this one-page document has also been added to the survey page on the Purdue Site, which can be accessed [HERE](#).

We are also including a copy of the pre-survey postcard that was sent to each respondent in each kit envelope. Feel free to use these postcards as like you would use door hangars for respondents who are not home when visited, or as a reference to respondents who may have seen them arrive in the last week announcing the survey.



### Why the Phone Icon is Important - Miyares

If you see a Green Telephone symbol next to a record in your CAPI listings, it means the record is intended for telephone enumeration only and that enumerators are not authorized to visit the operation in person without prior approval from your supervisor and the office. With budgets being so tight, money for travel, especially on very short surveys like Ag Yield or Small Grain CAPS, is very limited. In fact, by default, the mapping tools within the CAPI system are turned off when the green “phone only” icon is lit to discourage folks from getting driving directions to these operations. In many cases, these records have been assigned for local telephone enumeration that otherwise would have been sent to one of our Regional Call Centers, but we are hoping the respondent will be more open to answering the phone by seeing a local phone number on the caller ID screen. If you are a field enumerator who is not comfortable conducting interviews over the phone, or you know from your previous experiences with a particular respondent that they will not be receptive to a telephone call from you, please communicate your concerns with your supervisor before getting in the car.

### Safety Reminder - Hurlbut

There are two points relating to safety that we would like to address. First, anyone who hears threats from those they encounter while collecting data should report the incident to their local authorities as well as the office. The local authorities will have the fastest response, but the office needs to be informed so that we can properly follow through. Second, many of you in Michigan have heard that Eastern Equine Encephalitis has caused health officials in three western counties to encourage residents to curtail evening activities. This illness is spread by mosquitoes and is not just limited to Michigan, but the number of fatalities has raised the profile of the threat in that state. Please be aware of EEE risks and symptoms and use caution during mosquito hours.

### Saying Farewell:

This week, the Great Lakes Regional Office says goodbye to two of its own.

Shaylind Nance has been an Agricultural Statistician in the Great Lakes Regional Field Office since July 2016, working on a variety of projects, including most recently Ag Labor, Ag Yield, and ARMS II. She had previously interned with the Eastern Mountain Regional Field Office in Louisville, KY in the summer of 2015. She is a 2016 graduate of the University of Tennessee Knoxville with a Bachelor's Degree in Animal Science, with a concentration in Animal Industries and a minor

in Food and Agricultural Business. She has accepted a position as an Agricultural Statistician with NASS's Pacific Regional Field Office in Sacramento, CA. Her last day in East Lansing is September 20.

Samantha Hendrixon has been an intern in the Great Lakes Regional Field Office since May 2017, assisting with a variety of projects and learning the ins and outs of NASS's inner working. She is a 2019 graduate of the Michigan State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Statistics and a minor in Environmental and Sustainability Studies, and a minor in Computational Mathematics, Science, and Engineering. She has accepted a position as an Agricultural Statistician with NASS's Eastern Mountain Regional Field Office in Louisville, KY. Her last day in East Lansing is September 24.

**Saying Hello:**

Linda Lawson is proud to announce the birth of her first grandchild. Alice Kay Lawson was born on September 19 at 5:37 p.m. She weighed in at 5 lbs 5 oz and was 18.9 inches long. Mom and Baby are doing well. If not fortuitously, Linda also saw the following sign at a Chick-Fil-A on her way back from the doctor's.



**International Peace Day**

International Peace Day was established by a United Nations resolution in 1981 with a goal of having “a day of non-violence and cease fire” with the long-term hope of reaching a global cessation of violence and war. It was first held on the third Tuesday of September, starting in 1982, but beginning in 2002, the UN General Assembly changed the date to September 21 for the yearly celebration. Each year on this day, celebrations are held in hundreds of countries, all with the same goal in mind: to stop war and violence.



## Friday Feedback for September 13, 2019

### ARMS II/FCUS Update – Miyares

Pre-Survey Information Kits, including blank questionnaires, home study quizzes, and respondent booklets, were shipped to Ohio enumerators working ARMS II on Wednesday September 11 and to Michigan enumerators working ARMS II or FCUS on Thursday September 12. The websites for both of these surveys should be live by close-of-business on Friday September 13.

Actual assignments for ARMS II in Ohio will be shipped to supervisors on Monday September 16 to be distributed to individual enumerators at upcoming mini-schools. Hard copies of other October 1 Surveys that match with ARMS II, including Milk Production, Ag Labor, or CAPS not checked in, will be inserted with the ARMS II questionnaires for enumerator convenience; however, please note that data collected on these matched surveys must be submitted through CAPI.

For the Fruit Chemical Use Survey in Michigan, however, we STILL have yet to receive paper questionnaires, respondent booklets, pesticide supplements, or interviewer manuals. We printed a small number of these forms to include in the pre-school kits; however, due to the size of the interviewer manuals, we only printed enough copies for supervisors and enumerators who had never worked a Chemical Use survey in the past. Individual assignments will be sent to enumerators on or about September 23, after we have received all of the printed materials and had enough time to coordinate them. We apologize for the delay and will keep supervisors informed regarding the status of the FCUS materials.

### What Happened to my CAPS Listings? – Miyares

Regional Field Office Staff have identified a number of operations who have not yet completed their Small Grain County Agricultural Production Survey (CAPS) where the operation was also sampled for October Milk, October Labor, ARMS II, FCUS, or Monthly Ag Yield. The “CAPI Start Date” for these forms has been reset to September 27 to allow for coordinated data collection with the matched survey that starts at the end of the month. Staff were concerned that operators might be getting calls on CAPS right up until the end of September as the data collection for the matched surveys was getting started. Enumerator notes were added to each record affected.

In order to minimize the amount of clutter in the CAPI listings, Regional Field Office staff have turned off any CAPS forms that have already been completed so that it will be clearer which CAPS records remain available for data collection. There may also be some forms we will push for local enumeration towards the end of the month if we need to improve coverage in certain counties in addition to those getting turned on because of matches with other surveys starting around October 1. As a reminder, the last day to submit any CAPS records is October 12.

### Mayflower Day

On September 16, 1620, over 100 men, women, and children set sail from Plymouth, England in search of a new life in the New World, where they could have religious freedom and continue using their native language, culture, and customs. On Mayflower Day, celebrated annually on September 16, we commemorate these brave, early settlers who helped to pave the way for millions more to follow in search of freedom and the dreams and promises of a New World.



## Friday Feedback for September 6, 2019

### **Please Report CAPI Issues - Lawson**

There have been a few CAPI issues recently that were found happening to people working Ag Yield and the September Ag Survey. When alerted, our HQ wasn't aware of any problems and couldn't easily reproduce them without getting specific POIDs from us.

If you notice any problems with a survey or with the system while working in CAPI, please first check the **dark blue** area of the [CAPI Dashboard](#) that contains a System Status Message. This will display any current issues HQ is aware of in addition to having a link to the Frequently Asked Questions page, which may also provide helpful information. If you see anything new that isn't listed in the System Status message that doesn't seem right, don't hesitate to contact your supervisor or your NASDA Coordinator.

When reporting a CAPI related problem, either with the system or a specific survey, these are the things we will need to know:

1. What is your enumerator ID? It is helpful to know if this problem is happening to just one enumerator or multiple enumerators.
2. What is the name of the survey you are working on and what was the POID where the problem showed up in? (especially if the problem appears within a survey form)
3. When did the problem first appear?
4. Did the problem just occur once or has it been a repeating problem (meaning the problem occurs on every form, or the same error message pops up every time you log out)?
5. Were you using an iPad or a personal computer when you had the problem (Remember to ONLY use the Chrome browser when accessing the CAPI system on a computer)
6. Can you take a picture of the problem and send that in? Remember, a picture is worth a thousand words; please text or email a picture of the screen showing the problem if possible.

### **Chemical Use Survey Update – Miyares**

There have been some unavoidable delays in the production of survey materials for the Fall Chemical Surveys. We just received the final copies of the respondent booklets for ARMS II from our headquarters today, and with that we believe we have all the material we'll need to prepare pre-school packages and field materials for our Ohio and Michigan enumerators. Pre-school materials should be shipped to enumerators on September 11 to allow for enough time for home study before the first mini-schools take place, and the Purdue/GLR site for the ARMS II Survey should also be set up for enumerator use by the end of next week.

For the Fruit Chemical Use Survey in Michigan, however, we have yet to receive questionnaires, respondent booklets, pesticide supplements, or interviewer manuals, in either electronic or hard copy forms, as of 11:00 a.m. on Friday September 6. Without this, not only can we not send out FCUS pre-school packets, we can't set up the website. We apologize for the delay and will keep supervisors informed regarding the status of the FCUS materials. We are still hoping that, at a minimum, we will be able to post materials to the Purdue site for the FCUS by the end of next week.

### **Ag Yield Response Rates Increase Again! –Miyares**

We would like to thank all of the Great Lakes enumerators for their extra efforts this month with the September Ag Yield Survey. Our regional response rate for this survey was up 7.5 percent from a year ago. Ohio drove the region's increase with a 15.7 percent improvement over last year while Indiana went up by 10.1 percent. This month is the third time this year that the Monthly Ag Yield survey achieved above an 80 percent response rate! This month's report, scheduled to be released on Thursday September 12 at noon on the [NASS Website](#), will contain updated yield estimates for corn and soybeans for our region. Having solid response rates helps to strengthen the estimates we publish in service to agriculture. Great job once again, and thank you!

**National Grandparent's Day** – the first Sunday after Labor Day

It is only right and fitting that one day of the year is set aside to honor our grandparents. It is time to celebrate those special people who are always there with a hug, a kiss, a cookie, something special, or take us somewhere.

National Grandparent's Day originated in 1978. Then President Jimmy Carter declared it to be the first Sunday after Labor Day.

If you can, enjoy the day with them. That is the greatest gift they can receive from you. If you can't see them, call.

Grandparents are a special gift to children—  
Magnetic & Priceless ! ♥



**September 911 Remembrance Day**

EIGHTEEN YEARS LATER, the attacks of September 11, 2001, are still fresh in the memories of many Americans.

Nearly 3,000 people in New York, Virginia, and Pennsylvania lost their lives on 9/11 after terrorists hijacked airplanes to use as weapons. As the years pass, suffering continues alongside the memorializing—among those who lost loved ones and by survivors and first responders who sustained injuries or who were forever changed by the horrific events—even as the country, and the world, changes.

On the anniversary of 9/11, we encourage everyone to spend a few minutes reflecting upon this event, and praying for the victims who died, and their families and friends.