

Friday Feedback for Friday, November 20, 2020

Annual Security Training Just Got Simpler!

The procedures for completing the Annual Information Security Awareness (ISA) Training have been modified for FY 2021. NASDA field enumerators are now able to review and sign that they understand and agree with the principles outlines in the Agency Personal Identifiable Information (PII) form. This is in place of the traditional full ISA Training available on the USDA public website or the paper versions administered in the past.

Every NASDA field enumerator should log into iSolved to sign/acknowledge the NASS PII Form. On the Welcome page, click on “Documents Requiring Your Review”. You will see the 2021 PII Form. Click “View Here” to read/review the form and then click “Sign Acknowledgement.”

Up to 15 minutes is allowed for enumerators for this review and signing. Time is to be coded to Project Code 350. Signing must be complete by January 31, 2021.

Holiday Payroll Processing

As we are now entering the holiday season, the normal schedules for when time sheets are due may need to be modified to accommodate Federal holidays. Please be sure to work with your supervisor over the next few pay periods to have your time sheets completed in iSolved to meet these adjusted deadlines.

ARMS II Submission Date Extended

In order to maximize the possible time available for data collection in the hopes of boosting response rates, the last day to submit ARMS II is being extended to Monday November 30. Due to other data collection priorities tied to the December surveys, data collection for ARMS II cannot be extended any further than November 30. When submitting inaccessible forms at the end of the survey, the respondent and data collection mode fields can be left blank.

December 1 Packets

UPS packages containing survey information for this month’s Crops APS, Hogs, Row Crop CAPS, Mint, Popcorn, Dry Beans, and Potato Stocks were shipped on Thursday November 19 and should arrive at enumerator homes early next week. If you do not receive your packet by Tuesday November 24, please contact your supervisor or your NASDA Coordinator.

ARMS II Editing Notes

Thanks to everyone for their hard work to date on ARMS II. The data we have been processing for ARMS II has looked generally good, but we have seen a couple of items we would ask that enumerators pay specific attention to when submitting forms:

- If an operator does not spray chemicals on crops, then questions 1 – 11 in Section E-1 can be skipped. There is no point asking about alternating spray times, types of nozzles used, or cleaning of the tanks if the operator didn’t spray at all.
- In section E, several people have checked that they have done both conventional tillage (11b) and minimum/no-till (11g) in the same field. Please enter a comment to verify the situation.
- When submitting forms in CAPI, please double check to make sure you have filled in all of the cells where an answer is expected. We’ve seen some records where cells in the pesticide application table have been overlooked, starting and ending times for the interview left blank, and yes/no checkboxes overlooked. Thorough checking of the forms may save a phone call later. As always, comments are extremely helpful in explaining unusual situations or when cells are left blank.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your NASDA Coordinator or the office.

What is HCTR and is there something I need to do with it?

This year, for the first time in several years, the Great Lakes Region is reaching out to hog contractors in order to see if we can get an up-to-date list of their current contractees. The purpose of this survey is to make sure that we can minimize the amount of potential duplication on our list of pork producers as we begin to prepare for the 2022 Census of Agriculture. There will be no phone follow up to this request. If one of the hog contractors you normally reach out to asks about the form, please explain the purpose and ask them to return the form by mail in the postage-paid envelope provided. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your NASDA Coordinator or the Regional Field Office.

VCUS Postcards – Goings

NASS HQ will be sending out reminder postcards to operators sampled for the Vegetable Chemical Use Survey who still have active CAPI records as of November 23. The postcards will be mailed on November 30. An example of the postcard is shown below.



YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THIS SURVEY IS IMPORTANT!

- Your response will help to ensure that the chemicals necessary for vegetable production remain available to growers.
- Our interviewer will ask you detailed questions about the types of pesticides you use on your crops and your pest management practices.
- To make the phone interview go more quickly, please have your spray records available.

Thank you for your participation! By responding, you represent and give voice to thousands of farmers like you across the nation.

For more information please call (888) 424-7828 or visit nass.usda.gov.

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Reduced Schedules during Thanksgiving Week

The Great Lakes Regional Field Office will be closed on Thursday November 26 for the Thanksgiving Holiday. The office will be open with limited staffing on Friday November 27. There will be no edition of the Friday Feedback published on Friday November 27.



Friday Feedback for Friday, November 13, 2020

New State Statistician Coming to Indiana – Johnson

Please welcome Nathaniel Warenski to the Great Lakes Region as the Indiana State Statistician.

Nathaniel grew up in Utah and graduated from Utah State University. He began his career with NASS in Arkansas as an Agricultural Statistician, then after three years transferred to Ohio. When the agency regionalized four years later, he moved to Lincoln, NE in the Northern Plains Region, closer to “home”. After a couple of short years, Nathaniel moved to headquarters where he worked in the Survey Administration Branch as the National lead for the Fruit and Vegetable Chemical Use Surveys. Some enumerators may remember Nathaniel participating in the Fall Chemical Use Survey Regional Training School which took place in Fort Wayne, IN in 2015. Nathaniel returned to the Northern Plains Region in December of 2017, where he has recently served as the NASDA Coordinator for the State of Nebraska.

Nathaniel and his wife Jodi have four sons. Nathaniel enjoys running, taking walks with his dog, volunteering in his church and community, and participating in his boys’ various (and numerous) sporting events. Nathaniel will join the Great Lakes Region on February 15, 2021.

Addressing Contract Vegetable Production – Goings

We have received questions from the field asking what the best way is to deal with producers who are raising vegetable crops under a production contract with a processor. A production contract is one where the contractor provides all of the inputs, including the seed, the fertilizer, and the chemicals, and pays the grower a fee for the use of the land and some labor. Where this differs from a grower hiring a custom applicator to apply the chemicals is that the contractor will also claim ownership of the crop and account for the vegetable land as theirs. With the redesign of the NASS Vegetable Program in recent years, the contractors are also eligible to be sampled for both the End-of-Season Vegetable Inquiry and the Vegetable Chemical Use Survey. To that end, if you run into a vegetable producer who is raising vegetables under contract for a processor and you’re not sure if you should contact the processor to get the spray records, or even if you should account for the acres on the Vegetable Inquiry, please reach out to the office so that we can determine whether or not doing so would cause duplication.

Chemicals not in the Respondent Booklet?

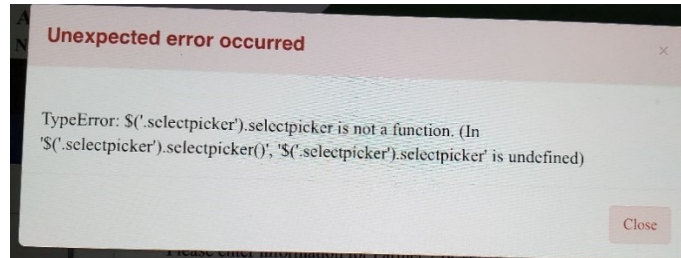
As many of you working ARMS II and VCUS are aware, not every chemical applied to the target crops can be found in the respondent booklet. While there is the option of entering the information about this chemical with an unknown product code on the lines below the pesticide application table, it can be very tedious if that same chemical keeps coming up over and over again. Here is some advice on how to proceed:

- Collect as much information as possible about the unknown chemical, including the brand name, the type of pesticide, the formulation (liquid or dry) and, most importantly, the EPA Registration Number while you are still on the phone with the operator.
- Open the [All Inclusive Pesticide List](#), which can be found on both the ARMS and VCUS pages on the Purdue Site. First do a search to see if the pesticide name is listed, but if it isn’t, do a search for the EPA Registration Number. It’s possible that the chemical might be sold under a different name than is listed in the respondent booklet (Example: Bravo Weather Stik = Bravo 720).
- If the EPA Registration Number isn’t listed, then it could either be a brand new product or an older chemical now being produced by a new company, which would force the creation of a new EPA Number. Reach out to the office so that we can do further research on the product and, if necessary, request a new product code for that chemical or connect that chemical to one that already has a product code. Updates of new and updated product codes are maintained on the Purdue Site at this [LINK](#).
- If there isn’t an EPA Number associated with the product, then most likely it isn’t a restricted use pesticide. Check the list of [adjuvants](#) available on the Purdue site to see if it is listed there.

Friday Feedback for Friday, November 6, 2020

Picker Error in CAPI – Lawson/Laird

We have had an increasing number of reports from enumerators about a “Select Picker” error in popping up CAPI (see picture below). We suspect that the error is caused by the ARMS II CAPI instrument, but enumerators have reported issues in other instruments as well. An alert has been added to the main page of the Purdue GLR website with the steps to fix the problem. It is important that all of the steps in this [DOCUMENT](#) be followed in the exact order to fix this problem in any CAPI instrument.



Please note that performing these steps will also clear the “iSolved Identity Authorization” on the iPad. If you use the iPad to access your time sheet, and you have to perform these steps, then the next time you attempt to log into iSolved, you will get a message which says, “We don’t recognize this computer...” and you will have to obtain a new Temporary Authorization Code via text or email to confirm your identity.

Please let Mike or Linda know if you have any other CAPI issues that these procedures do not fix.

Michigan Small Fruit and Hops Update – Saffell/Laird

For the last several months, we have been patiently awaiting an opportunity to resume personal enumeration on the remainder of the outstanding Michigan Small Fruit and Hops Inventory Surveys. At the same time, we recognize that we need to put some closure on this project. After consultation with the cooperator on the project, it was decided that there will be another mailing of questionnaires to non-respondents on November 12 followed by one more round of telephone enumeration between November 23 and December 18. The calendars on the Purdue site will be updated accordingly. Please use project code 923 for any work on this project. If you do not have a questionnaire for an operation on your CAPI listing, please contact the Regional Field Office.

ARMS II/VCUS Training Feedback Wanted – Last Call!

The Surveys Team at the Regional Field Office needs your feedback on how well the training plan we used for the ARMS II and Veg Chem Survey worked for you. We created an online evaluation form which can be reached at this [LINK](#). Please take the time to let us know by November 6 what we could do to improve upon this model. At this time, it appears that training for the ARMS III Survey may need to be structured similarly so if there are ways we can improve upon what we did for this survey, we’d like to know.

Leaving Comments in CAPI for ARMS II and VCUS – Miyares/Goings/Cooper

In the absence of scanned paper images for the fall chemical use surveys, having clear comments which help to clarify unusual situations will be important for stats in the office trying to make sense of the data. Unfortunately, there may not be an easy place to enter comments right at the cell you will want to make a comment on, especially if the question requiring a comment is tied to a pick list or a set of check boxes. If that is the case, you can either add the comments to another cell or in the Enumerator Comments box at the end of certain screens; however, be sure that your CAPI comment references the question or item code from the paper form that needs the comment and that you review what you have written to ensure clarity. As a reminder, keeping the paper copy of the questionnaire until it is no longer needed will also be helpful in case questions cannot be answered. ARMS II paper questionnaires should not be discarded until at least January 11 and VCUS paper questionnaires should not be discarded until March 31.

CAPI Demonstration Video Available for VCUS – Miyares/Goings

A new video has been added to the Vegetable Chemical Use Survey (VCUS) page on the Purdue GLR website that highlights some of the particular issues that enumerators need to pay special attention to when entering data into the CAPI instrument. The video does not look at every question and every screen, since many of the features of this instrument are similar to the ARMS II CAPI Instrument and most enumerators are working both surveys. As a reminder, enumerators are strongly encouraged to review both videos and enter data from at least one of the practice exercises into “CAPI Training” before trying to enter live data in the CAPI Instrument.