

Friday Feedback for Friday, October 29, 2021

EDR Survey Code Discrepancies – Courser

We recently became aware of an issue in the Labor CAPI instrument where some of the Respondent Survey Codes (EDR Survey Codes) are in error when viewing them in the “info” icons in CAPI. The codes printed on the mailing labels for questionnaires sent directly to respondents should all be correct. The codes displayed in CAPI for POIDs starting with 7, 8, or 9 are correct, but the codes for POIDs starting with 1 or 3 may not be correct. For now, please do not provide survey codes from CAPI for respondents to use in EDR on the AgCounts website. Please note that while we discovered this problem on the Labor survey, it does appear to be a problem with other CAPI surveys as well. Fixing this problem is going to require a new CAPI build, which will be pushed out once the issue is resolved and tested. The tentative date for the new build and push is November 15, 2021. Thanks to everyone for their patience.

Due Date Reminders

- The last day to complete field work for Objective Yield is Monday, November 1.
- The last day to submit Form B data in CAPI for Objective Yield is Tuesday, November 2.
- The last day to submit November Ag Yield forms in CAPI is Wednesday, November 3.
- The last day to submit Ag Labor forms in CAPI is Monday, November 8.

Chem Use Survey Odds and Ends – Miyares/Weber/Goings

We’ve gotten through nearly one month of data collection, and we are slowly making progress! By now, we’re hoping that everyone has contacted their sampled respondents to set up an interview time or identified reluctant respondents who may require possible refusal conversion. We were also hoping to see at least one report submitted in CAPI by everyone, even if that report was a refusal. Please be sure your supervisors are aware of your progress with these surveys.

We have received several reports regarding text values not “sticking” in the Field Operations table in the ARMS II CAPI Instrument. We certainly understand your frustration with this. Our HQ has been working on this problem and they are working on a fix for it. Thank you for your patience as we go through some growing pains with this instrument.

We’re starting to see people report chemicals for which there is not a product code available. Remember that in CAPI you can submit the information about the unknown chemicals as part of Question 2 in Section D. Keep in mind that if you keep seeing this same new chemical over and over and want to see if there is a new product code available, first check under the links for the “New Chemical Codes” on either the ARMS II or FCUS pages. If the code isn’t available, you can reach out to either Paul Goings, Ben Weber, or John Miyares for more information. In some cases, we just need to request a new code be created, and within a few days, it will become available for use.

Have you run into respondents who say they’ll work with you on the survey, but they lost (or never received) their copy of the form in the mail? The office has a stack of respondent mailers ready to go at a moment’s notice. Just contact either your NASDA Coordinator or one of the stats in charge of the Chemical Use Surveys (John, Paul, or Ben W.), and we can have a new form sent to the respondent within a day.

Saying Goodbye - Price

I have enjoyed meeting so many of you, and some of you I have known for a long time. Each one of you have brought so much to each of your groups and consequently to our larger group. Back in the day, when we could gather and share ideas it was impressive to learn how clever some of you were in how you did your work. It is hard to know that now since we haven't been able to meet as a large group. Things do change, but the changes that have happened are too much and I am ready to move on to something else. Since there are no workshops anymore and we haven't been allowed to travel to mini-schools, my only option to say good-bye is through Friday Feedback.

I have been at this for 36 years. I have been wanting to retire for a long time but haven't felt like the timing was right until now. My plan has changed several times, honestly. My most recent plan was to retire in March of 2022; however, I can't wait any longer.

For a long time, I have wanted to work with a ministry, and I have had a couple in mind. I have had a job interview with one already and will have a follow up next week. So, I will be changing careers!!!

Thanks to each of you for your dedication to your work and especially for your friendship!

Good-bye, thank you, and God Bless each of you!

Jamie 😊

Friday Feedback for Friday, October 22, 2021

Ag Yield Reminders – Price/Miyares

We are reaching the end of this year's Ag Yield season. Thanks to everyone for their hard work on this survey this year.

Some operators may push back on the survey, asking why they keep getting contacted every month. The Ag Yield survey is conducted monthly throughout the year in order to track expected yields based on changes in weather, soil, and crop conditions. A crop that looks good one month based on adequate heat and timely rains could decline in quality based on overly dry or overly wet conditions taking place over the four-week period between surveys. Major weather events such as floods, hurricanes, and tornadoes can also affect whether a field can be harvested. High moisture in the grain or disease contaminants may change what the farmer is able to sell at the end of the season. NASS publishes updated expected yields in the monthly *Crop Production* reports, which come out on or before the 12th of each month. The November Survey represents that last time this year that these operators will be contacted to provide a forecast for their corn and soybean crops.

Although none of the operators in the Monthly Ag Yield sample will be included in the December Crops APS survey, nearly all of them will be included in the Row Crop County Agricultural Production Survey (aka. Row Crop CAPS). The CAPS will be mailed out next month, with follow-up phoning to take place in December and January. When contacting operators for Ag Yield this month, please remind them that they may receive one more survey next month to confirm their final corn and soybean yields for the season.

Occasionally, we have some operators in the November Ag Yield survey tell us that they didn't have any corn or soybeans to harvest this year. If this situation arises, please take detailed notes to explain the situation. Operators in the November Ag Yield sample would have told us in June that they were planting corn and/or soybeans, and most likely would have reported expected yields to us at some point between August and October. If something changed, or if we've had it wrong all along, we need to know what happened.

ARMS 2 Odds and Ends – Miyares

The CAPI Instrument for ARMS 2 is back up and running after being taken down temporarily yesterday, October 21. We're not sure at this time what the problem was but remember that there is now a way to easily report problems with the CAPI instrument on the Purdue GLR Home Page. We will relay these issues to our headquarters as they are reported to us.

As a reminder, if a respondent is unable or unwilling to answer large portions of the questionnaire, don't feel the need to enter "DK" for every cell. In most cases, it will be okay to leave the cells blank and leave a comment in CAPI to indicate that certain pages were skipped.

There are, in fact, some questions where "DK" is not allowed. One place in particular where cells should be left blank if the operator doesn't have an answer are the FSA Farm, Tract, and Field numbers in Section A, Question 5. If a respondent doesn't know this information, please leave the questions blank instead of putting in DK in those cells. If you have questions about where to put "DK" and where not to, check with your supervisor.

Sad News

Mona Kaczuk, former long time Michigan NASDA supervisor, died on Monday, 18 October. Mona was well known and highly regarded by those that worked for her and the farmers in Michigan's Thumb. She was an advocate for her staff and helped to train many statisticians on the finer points of NASDA enumeration. Her sharp wit and panache for life will be missed. Arrangements are entrusted to Champagne Funeral Chapel, Pigeon. <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/michigansthumb/name/ramona-kaczuk-obituary?id=30817579> Expressions of condolences outside of Saturday's funeral can be expressed to her daughter, Laurie Beaver, 215 W Irwin, Bad Axe, MI 48413.

Friday Feedback for Friday, October 15, 2021

ARMS II Odds and Ends –Miyares

We are seeing that we do have some completed ARMS II forms already throughout the region, which is very encouraging at this point. We would like to be able to share some of your success stories through the Friday Feedback so that other enumerators may get some ideas as to what has worked so far. It might also be good to hear what hasn't worked as well. Please send your experiences to John.Miyares@usda.gov, and we will try to compile some ideas to share in either next week's Friday Feedback or on the ARMS II Page of the Purdue GLR Website.

A question was raised about Section A, Question 1b regarding "Conventional Corn". For the purposes of this survey, "conventional corn" will be non-organic corn, and could potentially include GMO/GE corn varieties. Consequently, the sum of the planted acres in question 1b should equal the total planted acres in question 1, and the number of planted fields in question 1b should equal the total number of fields planted in question 2.

A few weeks ago, we reported that there would be a new tool available for reporting problems with CAPI instruments. This tool is now LIVE and can be found at this [LINK](#). There is also now a link to this form on the Purdue GLR Home Page. Essentially you would provide the survey name, the POID, the section and question number, and a description of the problem. The message will be passed on to the stats in charge of the survey and, as needed, passed onto the CAPI development team at NASS headquarters.

<u>Helpful Links</u>
NASDA Main Page
NASDA-NASS Page
NASS Releases
Indiana Releases

<u>Forms</u>
Accident & Injury Forms
NASDA Order Form
Other Employee Forms
Report CAPI Issues

<u>FSA Info</u>
FSA Agreement
Support Letter
IN Contacts
MI Contacts
OH Contacts

June Area Photo Update – Miyares

Thanks to everyone who has been working to get their June Area photos back to East Lansing. As of Thursday afternoon, October 14, there were still 56 June Area Photos in Indiana and Ohio that have not yet been returned to the office. Please work with your supervisors to have them returned to the Regional Office as soon as possible.

World Food Day – October 16

Celebrated annually on October 16, World Food Day commemorates the founding of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in 1945. Since the holiday was established in 1979, it has become a way to raise awareness about hunger, malnutrition, sustainability, and food production. Millions of people suffer the health consequences of malnourishment, which damages growing bodies and brains. Statistics show that almost 40 percent of the world’s population cannot afford a healthy diet. While the world currently produces enough food to feed every person on the planet, 14 percent of the world’s food is lost annually, either from inadequate harvesting, handling, storage and transit while 17 percent is wasted at the consumer level. World Food Day acts as an impetus to get involved, reduce food waste, and help provide sustenance for millions.

Friday Feedback for Friday, October 8, 2021

Upcoming Due Dates and Reminders

- The last day to submit Small Grain CAPS records was Thursday, October 7. Thanks to everyone who has been working hard in the past two weeks to help us get better coverage in those counties that just needed a few more reports.
- The Regional Office will be closed on Monday October 11 in observance of the Columbus Day Holiday.
- The last day to submit October Milk Production Reports is Monday, October 11
- The last day to submit Quarterly Colony Loss Reports is Wednesday, October 13

ARMS II Odds and Ends –Miyares

After some initial delays the CAPI Demonstration Video is now available on the ARMS II pages of the Purdue GLR website. It is about 60 minutes in length, and an index was included at the beginning to make it easier navigating to topics of interest.

There has been one significant change to the layout of the CAPI Instrument since the CAPI Demo video was published. A problem was discovered with the Section F Field Operations Table where equipment names entered in the table were not “sticking” when the record was either submitted or saved for review. In order to fix this, the table had to be reordered so that the equipment name became the first column and the sequence number was moved to the third column. Please pay attention to this difference as you are entering numbers into CAPI.

Computer & Non-Commercial Tractor Applications

Line	What operation or equipment was used?	Code	Seq.	Who was the machine operator?	What was the size or swath of the machine used?	Record size unit code	How many acres were covered? EXCLUDE land forming and hauling operations. Acres	OR	How many total hours were spent on land forming, or hauling? Hours	Which Power Source was used?	What was the fuel type of the tractor?	Crop Code
1	Float	45	1	Partner	23	Feet	23	OR		Tractors <40	Diesel	105
2	Flex-tine Toot	33	2	You (the Op	12	Row	12	OR		Tractors 40-	Diesel	105
3	Wheel Drive	WD	3	You (the Op	1	Feet	1	OR		Tractors 40-	Gasoline	105
4	Hay Wagon	195	3	You (the Op	23	Moldboard	23	OR		Tractors 150	LP gas	105

A question arose at a mini-school regarding the Section F table and whether to include hauling activities by semi-trucks if those trucks do not enter the field. While the field operations table helps ERS analyze the impacts of soil compaction in the field by tracking the amount of machinery entering the field, the table is also used to determine the cost of production of the target crop. Since hauling is one component of that cost, we DO want to include semi-trucks involved in hauling the crop to the point of first sale, even if the trucks do not enter the field.

June Area Photo Update – Miyares

As of Thursday morning, October 7, there were still 171 June Area Photos in Indiana and Ohio that have not yet been returned to the office. These are past due. Please work with your supervisors to have them returned to the Regional Office as soon as possible.

Objective Yield – Erickson

Thanks for your hard work so far with Objective Yield. The ‘Crop Production’ Report will be released on October 12, which will contain yield & production estimates, including corn and soybeans. Data collected for Objective Yield & Ag Yield were used to prepare these estimates.

Please monitor your fields closely. Even though the November 1 data collection period doesn’t officially open until October 25, you must conduct a final visit when the crop is mature, or a few days prior to when the farmer intends to harvest the sample field. So, a final visit may take place at any time. For example, if a final visit is done on October 14, please fill out the final Form-B with the fieldwork date of October 14. The date on the id cards that are sent to the lab along with the sample, should also be October 14. The sample should promptly be sent to the lab in St. Louis, and the Form-B should be held until CAPI is open for the November 1 survey.

CAPI for the November 1 survey (Form-B) will be open on October 22. If you conducted a final visit earlier in October, such as the example above, please submit this final Form-B on October 22. Samples that have already been completed will not be populated to the iPad for the November 1 survey.

CAPI remains open for the Objective Yield Form-A’s, because there are still a few OY respondents who remain inaccessible. The Form-B for these will be populated to the iPad for November. Even though it is unlikely at this point, if a Form-A is completed and the sample field has not been harvested yet, please go ahead and submit the completed Form-A and lay out the units, as usual.

Please reach out to your Supervisor if you have any questions.