

## **Friday Feedback for Friday, August 27, 2021**

### **Objective Yield Reminders – Erickson**

Form-B data collection is underway. Please remember to enter the fieldwork date and the correct status code for each OY form that you submit. All Form-A completes, refusals, & lost samples should be submitted by September 2. For inaccessible Form-A's, please let your supervisor know where you stand with those, and continue to try to complete them. Remember that there is no 'inaccessible' status code for the Form-A's.

Even though Form-B data collection ends on September 1, CAPI will be open for the Form-B's through September 2. All Form-B's must be submitted by September 2. Form-B's for completes are submitted on CAPI, obviously. For refusals & lost samples, please submit the Form-B with the same status code as the Form-A. For samples that are inaccessible so far, please submit the Form-B with status code '8'.

For the upcoming October 1 OY survey, the Form-B's will be populated to CAPI for good samples, plus inaccessibles from this month. Refusals, lost samples, & samples where the final harvest has been completed (if any) for the September 1 survey will be excluded from CAPI for the October 1 survey. If a final harvest visit is completed after September 1, please hold the Form-B until CAPI is open for the October 1 survey, and submit it then. In this case, please promptly send the sample (with completed id cards) to the lab in St. Louis. Do not hold harvested samples.

### **Delayed Phoning for Select Respondents – Miyares/Weber**

The September Crops APS sample has approximately 750 records where the CAPI Start Date has been delayed to September 4. These operators have a very strong history of completing forms by mail or online and we would like to give them some extra time to complete the forms themselves through their preferred method before we begin calling. These forms will appear in your CAPI listings with the POIDs grayed out. Please be sure to review your CAPI listings carefully to identify these records marked for delayed calling before starting enumeration on this survey. If one of those operators does not complete the form by mail or online by September 4, the record will become eligible for calling. Thank you for your understanding.

### **Dealing with Blocked Numbers - Miyares**

We have been hearing reports over the past few months where enumerators have struggled to get through to operators because operators have started blocking enumerator phone numbers as SPAM. If when attempting to make contact with an operation, you suspect that your number has been blocked by the respondent, please contact your supervisor right away. Supervisors may be able to reassign the records to different enumerator, or take on calling attempts themselves. In some cases, we may be able to divert those records back to the call center to have them tried from there. Comments left in CAPI regarding challenges in contacting these operations are also appreciated so that those records aren't continually sent to enumerators whose phones have been blocked.

### **Dealing with CAPI Outages**

Last weekend, there was a problem with the CAPI Application on the iPad and the system was unexpectedly down for 2 ½ days. The outage brought up questions about how best to deal with that situation, especially if it occurs on a weekend when Regional Office staff aren't working. Here are some possible options to try:

- Try going to the [GLR Home Page](#) on the Purdue Site to see something has been posted to "Office Updates and Alerts" regarding what is happening.
- Try going to the [CAPI Dashboard](#), which may also have information on the problem and the estimated time to get things back up and running
- Go to the [iPad Information](#) link on the GLR Home Page. There are strategies provided for troubleshooting problems with accessing CAPI as well as instructions for accessing CAPI on a home

computer. If you do not have a home computer, those same instructions will work for accessing CAPI through the Safari App on the iPad.

If after troubleshooting all of these possibilities you are still having problems, then you can try contacting your supervisor or your NASDA Coordinator. If they are not available, you can contact the Regional Field Office at 517-324-5300 and you can be directed to someone who may be able to help you.

### **Friday Feedback for Friday, August 20, 2021**

#### **Objective Yield Reminders – Erickson**

Data collection for the Row Crop Objective Yield is under way! Please try to complete as many Form-A's as possible this month. There is no inaccessible status code for the Form-A's, so please continue to work on them after September 1 if you can't reach the operator.

The Form-B's will be available on CAPI on August 25. Form-B data collection runs from August 25 – September 1, but CAPI will remain open until September 2. Ideally, Form-A and Form-B data should be submitted on the same day as the interview/field work date. However, CAPI will be open for the Form-B's an extra day to allow enough time for you to submit them. CAPI will remain open indefinitely for the Form-A's.

All Form-B's on your iPad listing must be accounted for each month. The status code for inaccessible Form-B's is '8'. For Form-B's for the follow-on OY surveys (October 1, November 1, etc.) your iPad will be populated with 'active' samples. This means that Form-B's for refusals, lost samples, & samples that have been harvested (final harvest), will not be populated to CAPI in subsequent months.

The corn and soybean crops in the Midwest are maturing rapidly. Based on this week's *Crop Progress* Report, 17% of the Indiana corn crop is dented, and 19% of the Ohio corn crop is dented. These percentages will be higher on August 25. So, it is possible that your first visit to some of your corn samples will require you to do a dent harvest. Please make sure you are familiar with the dent harvest procedures, and make sure you have UPS labels (addressed to the OY lab at the NOD in St. Louis). Remember that all OY samples (dent harvest, final harvest, & gleanings) are sent to the Lab in St. Louis, along with completed id cards.

One last reminder – all Form-A & Form-B data will be submitted on CAPI, including refusals and lost samples. The forms should be returned to the kit envelope for reference later. It is very beneficial to have the previous month's Form-B in hand when you re-visit the sample.

Please see the documents on the website for more information on due dates, unit layout procedures, Form-B items, etc., and thank you for all of your continued hard work on this project.

#### **September 1 Survey Packages On their Way - Courser**

UPS packages containing September 1 Survey Information were sent to enumerators this week. If you were assigned work for September Crops APS, September Hogs, September Ag Yield, Turkeys Raised, or Small Grain CAPS, please be on the lookout for your materials. If they do not arrive by Tuesday 8/24, please contact your supervisor.

#### **Disconnect Reminders - Miyares**

The procedures for handling disconnects for the September Surveys remain the same as in previous cycles. Please enter "Bad Ph" in the Attempted Call Log for any records where the phone number is bad. We will be querying the CAPI system on Tuesday September 7 looking for records with "Bad Ph". Regional Field Office staff will conduct disconnect research on these records. Any updates we find will be updated in the "Enumerator Notes" and should be visible on these records no later than Thursday September 9. Please do not submit records as "inaccessible" because of a disconnected phone number until research has been complete and we are able to

determine that no new numbers are available. If one of the new numbers provided works, please be sure to update the contact information in CAPI. If some of the numbers do not work, please let us know through comments so we can make notes about bad numbers to not send out again.

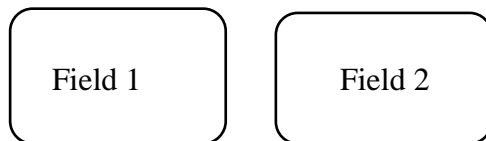
Note: Because of the short data collection period for the Monthly Ag Yield surveys, we may not be able to get updated phone numbers before the end of data collection. Please still identify these disconnected phone numbers and we can try to complete research on them before the next month's survey begins.

### **Friday Feedback for Friday, August 13, 2021**

#### **Selecting the Correct Field for Objective Yield – Erickson/Miyares**

We've received some questions from the field this week regarding how to select the correct field for the Objective Yield Surveys. We hope that this may help you as you begin to work through your Form A's and begin to lay out your samples:

*I have a sample where I'm supposed to pick the northernmost field in the tract, but there are only two fields and they are both side-by-side. Which one do I pick?*



In this case, since there isn't one field that is more north than the other, then rotate clockwise, and pick the one furthest to the east. In the diagram above, it would be field 2.

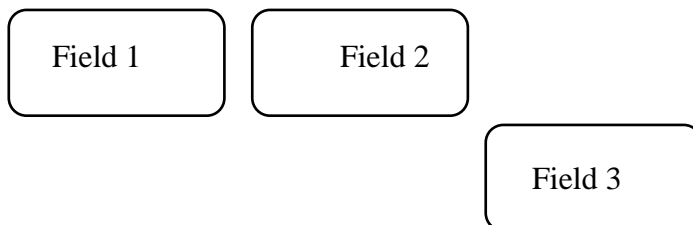
*How would that work in the above diagram if I was asked to select the southernmost field in the tract?*

In that case, rotating clockwise would have you pick the field furthest to the west, which in the above diagram would be field 1.

*I have two samples for an operator in the same segment, and there are two fields laid out as in the diagram above. I am supposed to pick the northernmost field and the easternmost field, but in your explanation, those are the same field (field 2). Is it okay to use the same field twice for this?*

We would recommend that if there are two samples for the same operator and two fields to pick from that both fields be used, even if that second field isn't in the exact direction desired. There will be times when you may need to use the same field twice. In that case, we recommend using a different starting corner

*What about if I have to pick the southwestern most field, but there aren't any fields in the southwest part of the segment?*



In the configuration shown above, there are three fields, none of which are in the southwest part of the segment. Similar to the previous example, you want to rotate clockwise from the southwest until you find a field that satisfies the desired condition. In this case, that would be field 1. It may not be in the south, but it is the westernmost field in the segment.

*What if the field selected isn't going to be harvested for grain? For example, if Field 1 is supposed to be my desired corn field, but it's going to be harvested for silage?*

We are only interested in corn for grain (or seed). Silage corn, Popcorn, or Sweet Corn should be excluded. If the sampled field does not have corn for grain, continue rotating clockwise around the segment until you find a suitable field. For either example above, that would be field 2.

*What if the corn field selected is going to be harvested for seed and the operator doesn't want me in there for fear that I will do something bad to the seed crop?*

Continue rotating clockwise around the segment to see if there is a different corn field that the operator will allow you to enter and take samples. If all fields are to be harvested for seed, and the operator won't allow you to enter any of them, then code the Form A as complete, but the Form B as a refusal.

*What if the field selected is right next to a set of hog barns and the field cannot be accessed without encroaching on biosecurity concerns of the hog barns?*

Continue rotating clockwise around the segment until you find an accessible field. It is better to find an adequate substitute field than it is to lose the sample entirely. Just be sure if you do have to change fields that the field information recorded on Form A (total acres, planting dates, planter row width, etc.) is consistent with the field in which you are laying out the sample.

*I have a situation where whoever did the June Area survey recorded soybeans in the segment but there's not soybeans here at all. The operator does grow soybeans, but just not in the segment. Any idea how that could have happened? Can I go outside the segment to get an adequate soybean field?*

Based on how June Area was completed, there are a number of reasons why something got recorded as soybeans in a segment but now it's not there. For example, the operator may have been confused on the location of the segment when the enumerator was completing June Area over the phone. The operator may not have finished planting at the time when the June Survey was conducted and never was able to plant the soybeans in that field. The enumerator may have also not done the best job observing the segment in the event of non-response, possibly because the crop seeded to the field hadn't emerged yet. In any of those cases, if there are no soybeans in the tract and there are no fields in the tract that would satisfy as a substitute field, then the sample is considered "lost".

*I didn't work this segment during June Area so I really don't know where anything is. Would it be alright for me to drive around the segment to familiarize myself with what's there before I start calling on Form A's?*

Any extra trips to the field that are not for laying out the samples and collecting field counts require special permission. Reach out to your supervisor and NASDA Coordinator to discuss possibilities. There may be some limited circumstances, like the case described above, where a scouting trip to the segment might be allowed, but the budget for this survey would not allow for unlimited trips to the segment.

If you have any other questions about the field selection process for 2021, please reach out to your supervisor, who can then reach out to regional office staff to get your question answered.

## **Friday Feedback for Friday, August 6, 2021**

### **Objective Yield Update – Erickson/Mivares**

The Corn and Soybean Objective Yield Enumerator Packages containing hard-copy training materials, kit envelopes, and other OY supplies were shipped to individual field enumerators via UPS from East Lansing on Wednesday, August 4. Your supervisor will have other supplies, such as flagging ribbon or bamboo poles, at your mini-schools.

Once your package arrives, please review the contents right away and make sure that it contains everything that you are expecting. If something appears missing, please contact your supervisors right away so we can get the situation corrected as soon as possible.

The last training video (Video 5 – CAPI Demo) has been posted to the Objective Yield pages on the Purdue site. Please be sure to review all of the content on the site before your scheduled mini-schools. The only links that are not active on the pages are the “Harvest Instructions”, which should be posted by early next month.

The Soybean Variety Catalog you received may say it is the 2020 version. There is a 2021 version which will be updated on the Purdue site, but it is the same document as last year’s, just with a new title page.

CAPI Training has been populated with everyone’s assigned samples. If you are not familiar with the CAPI instrument, or just need a refresher, please feel free get into CAPI training to give it a try.

Both Alan Erickson and Jamie Price will be on leave the week of August 9-13. Any OY questions which arise during that time which can’t be answered by your supervisor can be addressed to Brooke Morris or John Miyares in their absence.

### **NAHMS Reminder – Courser/Hiegel**

Please don’t forget that the last day to ship NAHMS forms to the NOD is today, August 6. Thank you to everyone who has worked on this project. We know that, between the abnormal survey processing arrangements and the difficulties in reaching respondents by phone, the circumstances have been less than ideal, but we greatly appreciate your efforts throughout the past several weeks.

### **Small Grain CAPS Start Dates – Cooper/Miyares**

Due to the large number of matches between Small Grain CAPS and August Ag Yield, a decision was made to keep the data collection windows for the two surveys separate. In Indiana and Ohio, the start date for CAPS will be August 16. This will allow for an extra week for potential mail returns to be processed before follow-up phoning begins. For all Michigan records, and Indiana/Ohio records with anticipated matches with September 1 Surveys, including Hogs, Turkeys, Crops APS, or September Ag Yield, the start date will be moved to August 30.

### **Looking Ahead to Fall Chemical Surveys – Miyares/Goings**

Preparations have begun for the 2021 Fruit Chemical Use Survey (MI Only) and the 2021 ARMS Phase II (all states). The ARMS will be a Production Practices and Cost Report (PPCR, aka “the long form”) focusing on corn. Many of the features introduced in 2020 will be used again in 2021, including having a CAPI instrument for data entry and an “Information Only” copy mailed in advance to operators to help them better prepare for the interview. We will be developing training videos that will be available through the Purdue site, which will be followed up with mini-schools to take place in late September. Michigan operators completing the survey will be eligible to receive two credits towards their Restricted Use Pesticide applicator license.

There are still a few items that will need to be resolved before the start of the survey. The questionnaires are still going through the OMB approval process, but our HQ is looking at ways to get enumerators copies of the Final Drafts to work with in order to not delay the start of data collection. Additionally, the NASDA remains in Phase II of the post-COVID field work and data collection transition plan, which does allow for mini-schools, but does not yet allow for any face-to-face interactions with respondents. The preliminary transition timeline had us moving to Phase III, which would allow for face-to-face meetings with respondents by appointment and with certain restrictions, by mid-September. However; no specific date was set for transitioning to Phase III, and the transition timeline was going to be reviewed on a continuous basis, with adjustments and modifications made as needed based on CDC recommendations, OSHA guidance, and other criteria. More information will be provided as it becomes available.