

Friday Feedback for Friday, April 29, 2022

Reopening Just a Little More – Johnson/Kalaus/Tolbert

On April 27, NASDA headquarters [sent a memo](#) to all field enumerators to announce that it was transitioning to Phase 3 of the four-phase reopening plan. The memo identified certain allowable activities for enumerators while identifying some as needing permission from the RFO or NASS HQ. We are excited that we have reached this point! Moving forward, we will be meeting to discuss allowable activities which will maximize potential response rates through face-to-face enumeration while balancing our budget constraints. So, where do we stand now?

1. June surveys will be a mixture of call and face-to-face enumeration.
 - We will be working in conjunction with NASS HQ to identify high-impact, critical, and/or special handling records that could be eligible for face-to-face enumeration after telephone calls have been attempted for both surveys. Specific information will be communicated after the plan is created. Unrestricted travel for face-to-face data collection is not permitted.
2. June Area Schools will remain facilitated by supervisors with support from training videos posted to the Purdue Site and in person office staff (as requested).
 - We have passed the timeframe needed to schedule a regional in person school. At this time, we would not expect to be able to host any state schools until January/February 2023 in preparation for ARMS 3 and the 2022 Census of Agriculture. Please contact Brooke to request office staff at your local training.
3. We will have to work as a team to ensure budget constraints do not hamper your data collection activities. Below are practices that will help the office estimate projected spending.
 - Enter your time daily into iSolved.
 - We have a program which helps us estimate daily charges.
 - Track attempted calls on the Call Log feature in CAPI.
 - Plan routes efficiently once we return to face-to-face enumeration.
 - If work can be done the next day, do not claim overtime.

Regional office leaders will be communicating with field supervisors over the next several weeks to make sure that the transition back to limited field enumeration goes more smoothly. Thank you for your patience and for sticking with us over the past 2+ years.

Organic Production Survey is a Census, but Voluntary – Courser

The 2021 Organic Production Survey was mailed to all known certified organic farms and ranches within the 50 states. The questionnaire asks producers to provide information on acreage, production and sales, as well as production and marketing practices. The 2021 survey will provide data for USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) to evaluate crop insurance coverage to help provide adequate pricing for organic producers. RMA reports that they now offer an organic price for 84 crops, up from four crops in 2011, due in part to information received from past Organic Surveys. The report, to be released on the NASS website on December 15, 2022, will also assist producers, suppliers, and others in the private sector in planning the production and marketing of new products to help sustain industry growth. The due date for the report was April 4, with follow up phoning scheduled to take place between April 25 and May 29.

In 2019, the last time the Organic Survey was conducted, response to the survey was mandatory, as it was considered a follow-on survey to the Census of Agriculture. On the enumerator memo initially published on the Purdue GLR website, we indicated 2021 Organic Production Survey was mandatory. However, this year the survey is voluntary. We apologize for the confusion. Producers should be encouraged to report their information, as it will aid USDA efforts to meet the needs of our nation's ever-expanding organic markets.

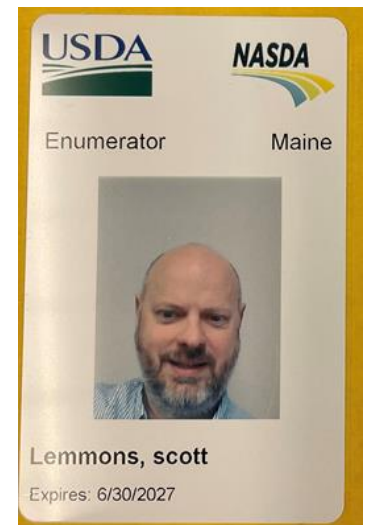
New ID Badges for Enumerators – Kimball

In preparation for the 2022 Census, the Regional Office would like to prepare new ID badges for all enumerators. Unlike the current laminated badges, these new ID badges would be hard plastic with the enumerator's picture printed directly onto the card, similar to the card pictured below.

In preparation for this, we will need each enumerator to take a new passport-like photo at your next mini-school, using your iPad. If you are not scheduled to attend your region's next mini-school because you were not assigned June Area or ACES work, please communicate with your supervisor regarding options. The file containing the picture should be labeled with the enumerator's name in the form FirstName.LastName, similar to how your Gmail account is set up. The picture should then be emailed to Katherine.Kimball@usda.gov before June 3.

Here are some strategies you can use for taking a good photo for your ID badge:

1. Choose a white or light unpatterned wall (or hang a white sheet from a door) in a location with natural lighting from a window but without direct sunlight on the person being photographed.
2. Be sure to stand or sit 2 feet from the background in order to prevent shadows behind you.
3. Be sure to remove ball caps, hats, coats, large hair clips or any other item (except for religious reasons) that could distract from the photo of your face.
4. The person taking the picture should stand 4 feet directly in front of the person being photographed.
5. A natural smile is okay, but relaxed facial features make the photo easily identifiable when compared to the person.
6. Line up the image so that it is centered and is showing only the top of the person's head to their shoulders.



Overview of Monthly Ag Yield Program – Mivares

Each month throughout the growing season, the Agricultural Yield Survey is used to collect data from farmers on expected crop yields based on conditions on the ground as of the first of each month. For the May, June, July, and part of the August Ag Yield surveys, samples are drawn from non-EO List Operators in the March Crops APS survey who reported producing targeted small grain crops, including wheat, oats, and barley. The same operators are contacted each month to track changes to the crop condition and expected yields in order for NASS to forecast and estimate crop production levels throughout the season.

As a general rule, we try to maintain the same enumerator each month throughout the growing season. Thus, an operator you contact this month for May Ag Yield will be reassigned to you for June, July, and August. To that end, when reaching out to operators this month, please make sure they understand that they will be contacted monthly to get updated data on their crops and that, most likely, you will be the one contacting them. Please note that operators sampled for the Small Grains Ag Yield survey (May through August) are exempted from the September Crops APS survey, but could be sampled for Small Grain CAPS in September.

Some operators might ask why we need to ask for the "same information" every month. Crop conditions have the potential to change from month to month, better or worse, based on fluctuations in temperature and precipitation. Catastrophic weather events can also have an impact on crop potential. In an interconnected world that can be impacted by global supply and demand for food, feed, and fiber products, having accurate data on expected yields allows markets to adjust to rapidly changing situations. If an operator indicates that they would prefer not to be bothered every month, please work with them to see if we can get some information for at least a few months of the season, for example, May and August.

For more information on the Ag Yield survey, please consult your Ag Surveys Interviewer's Manual.

delighted to begin her time with the GLR field office!

Rotation of Survey Responsibilities in Regional Office – Tolbert/Miyares

With the arrival of new staff in the Standardized Survey Section at the Great Lakes Regional Field Office, we have taken the opportunity to rotate some of the staff responsibilities.

- Brooke Morris will be taking over NASDA Coordinator responsibilities for the entire region.
- Samantha Hendrixon will be transitioning to administer the Wheat Objective Yield, Small Grain CAPS, Row Crop CAPS, and Michigan Crop Weather programs.
- Annika Segelhorst will be responsible for the ARMS 1, Soybean Objective Yield, and Ohio Crop Weather programs.
- Alan Erickson will continue as the survey lead for the Quarterly Hog Survey, the Corn Objective Yield Survey, and ARMS Phase 3.
- Ben Weber will be transitioning to take over the Cash Rents and Leases survey and will become the lead for ARMS Phase 2.
- Paul Goings will continue his work with the Fruit and Vegetable Chemical Surveys and will be transitioning to take over the June Area and ACES Survey
- John Miyares will be taking on a special assignment as the Acting Deputy Director for the Southern Plains Region in Austin, TX from July 2 to October 23. For now, John is taking the lead on the monthly Ag Yield Survey
- Wes Cooper will be taking over the quarterly Crops Acreage Production and Stocks (APS) Survey and will continue as the backup for the monthly Ag Yield program during John's absence from the Great Lakes Region.

Please feel free to contact Tynisha Tolbert, John Miyares, or Brooke Morris if you have any questions or concerns.

Friday Feedback for Friday, April 22, 2022

Upcoming Push of New CAPI Instrument – Lawson/Laird

A new version of the CAPI Production and CAPI Training applications will be pushed out to CAPI iPads this weekend. All enumerators should be logged out of CAPI by 10:00 p.m. ET on Saturday, April 23. Be sure to have your iPad charged and powered on during this time to allow for the update to take. After the weekend, when you first log into CAPI, be sure that your iPad is running the latest version of CAPI, which should reflect the day it was updated (should be at least April 23, 2022) before entering any data into CAPI for upcoming surveys. If the CAPI applications are not current, they will need to be reinstalled manually using the “Apps @ Work”. It is also recommended that enumerators “Clear Preferences” at the CAPI login screen before they log back into CAPI after the push is complete. We apologize for the short notice. If you need assistance, please contact your supervisor or your NASDA Coordinator.

New Supervisor in Indiana – Morris

We are excited to announce that Debrah Matiya has accepted the position of supervisor for Northern Indiana. Debbie has been a field enumerator under Jennie Hawk since January of 2020. She came to NASDA after retiring from the dental industry where she worked as an office manager. Debbie has great customer service skills, is very organized and detail oriented. Congratulations Debbie on your promotion!

Saying Hello – Tolbert

The Regional Office is excited to announce the arrival of two new statisticians to the Region.

Samantha Hendrixon is a 2019 graduate of Michigan State University, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Statistics with minors in Computer Science and Environmental Sustainability. In 2017, she began working with NASS as an intern with the Great Lakes Region. After graduation, she accepted a position with the Eastern Mountain Region in their Estimates Section. Sam is from a small lakeshore town in West Michigan and enjoys hiking, swimming, working out and spending time with friends and family. Her primary projects with the Great Lakes Region will include Wheat Objective Yield, Small Grain CAPS, Row Crop CAPS, and Michigan Crop Weather.



Annika Segelhorst is a graduate of California State University, Long Beach, with a Bachelor’s degree in Regional Geography and Economics (2020) and a Master’s degree in Economics (2022). While at CSULB, she worked as an ESL (English as a Second Language) tutor and played in the pep band. In 2021, she interned with the NASS Pacific Region Field Office where she assisted with almond and walnut objective measurement projects. In her free time, Annika enjoys reading histories, attending concerts, and watching hockey. Her primary projects with the Great Lakes Region will include ARMS 1, Soybean Objective Yield, and Ohio Crop Weather. She is delighted to begin her time with the GLR field office!



May 1 Survey Packets – Miyares/Courser/Collom

Survey Packets for supervisors and enumerators were shipped on Wednesday, April 20. Please contact your supervisor if your packet doesn’t arrive by Monday, April 25. Packets include information for May Ag Yield, Maple Syrup, and a few more Organic Production Surveys. For enumerators with very large Cash Rent samples, additional blank Cash Rent questionnaires were included with these packets.

Paper Reductions for Upcoming Surveys – Tolbert/Miyares

Due to paper shortages associated with supply chain challenges, the regional office was restricted from ordering a large number of June Crops APS, June Hog, and ARMS 1 blank questionnaires for field enumerator use. Questionnaire orders were limited to 50 percent of the overall sample, which included forms needed for local mailing. Based on expected sample sizes for these surveys, this translates into an average of 25 blanks per enumerator. Enumerators with very large samples may be able to receive more than 25 blanks, which will be offset by those who have fewer than 25 samples who won't need as many blanks. In short, but we will no longer be able to provide one blank questionnaire for every operation in your sample.

On a similar note, we reduced the number of blank Ag Yield questionnaires included in this month's enumerator packets. As a general rule, enumerators were not sent more than five blank Ag Yield questionnaires in their packets. For enumerators assigned a large number of forms to call on, the office may have printed up to ten blank questionnaires. Moving forward, the office will not be printing blank Ag Yield questionnaires for the June and July cycles. Electronic copies of the questionnaire are available for reference on the Purdue GLR website.

We understand that for some of you, the reduction and elimination of paper questionnaires is going to be a challenge, but there are strategies that can be employed to make better use of fewer blank questionnaires. Some enumerators will record data from multiple operators on the same form, using different colored pens and pencils to distinguish data for each operator, or erasing the data after it has been entered into CAPI. Other enumerators will use the blank questionnaire as just a template to make sure questions are asked and keep information in a separate notebook or notepad before entering the data into CAPI. In the absence of blank paper questionnaires, enumerators can reference the electronic copy of the paper form that is available on the Purdue GLR website, ask the questions from there, and record the data in a notebook before entering it into CAPI. For smaller surveys, like Ag Yield, enumerators may feel comfortable entering data directly into CAPI during the interview. If you are an enumerator who has been dependent upon blank questionnaires to get your work done, please reach out to your supervisor to discuss ideas for getting away from using paper questionnaires.

For larger surveys like ARMS, Chem Use, NAHMS, June Area, and other surveys that have historically been personally enumerated, we should still be able to provide labeled paper questionnaires for data collection purposes. For surveys where data collection has been handled in CAPI for several years, we should expect that paper questionnaires are going to soon disappear, and over the next several months, we will begin to prepare for that eventuality.

Prescreening is Over, What's Next? – Miyares

Thanks to everyone for your hard work on Area and ACES Prescreening! For ACES, enumerators added over 3300 tracts into CAPI over the past few weeks, including over 850 ag tracts. For the June Area survey, there were over 1500 tracts added to just the new segments, with nearly 500 identified as ag tracts!

This weekend, NASS HQ will be pulling the information you entered into CAPI in order to create labeled ag tract questionnaires to assist with enumeration in June. Printing of those questionnaires will begin Monday April 25, and we are hoping to be able to get those to the field before May 6. Additionally, that name and address file will be used to create updated pre-survey letters and parcel maps to send to tract operators. The second mailing to operators should take place around May 13.

The CAPI Instruments for Area and ACES are going to remain open throughout the spring and enumerators may continue to enter information into CAPI after this weekend; however, keep in mind that tract operator names entered into CAPI after April 22 may not get mailed a parcel map or have a labeled questionnaire generated for them. Enumerators will be provided extra blank ag tract questionnaires for this purpose.

So many of you might be asking what is going to happen next. Here is a tentative schedule of activities to take place for June Area and ACES.

- There are 50 new ACES segments in Indiana and Michigan that still have yet to be assigned to field enumerators because the Regional Office hasn't received them yet. These new segments will not be able to go through prescreening, and are intended to be enumerated between June 20 and July 19, with all data entered into CAPI by July 21. If you're interested in where these segments might be located, you can go to the County Maps and Aerial Photos LINK on the June Area Page on the Purdue Site and click on your supervisor's name. The new ACES segments will be identified as "NEW ACES 920xxx".
- The Area/ACES pages on the Purdue Site are going to be updated with new training videos, supporting material and other information in preparation for the main data collection period. Enumerators should hopefully receive their remaining June Area and ACES assignments via UPS during the week of May 2 and can begin a new round of self-study. Supervisor will be scheduling mini-schools for your area to take place at some time between May 9 and May 20
- Calling on June Area can begin for minor ag tracts (CRP Only, Horse and Pasture Only, etc.) on May 21 while calling on larger row crop and livestock operations can begin on May 28. All enumeration work for June Area should be complete by June 9, and all data needs to be entered into CAPI by June 11.
- Calling on ACES can begin for all prescreened segments starting May 21, while calling on new segments can begin on June 20. ACES enumeration ends on July 19, and all ACES work needs to be entered into CAPI by July 21.

If you need guidance on how to enter tract-level information for Area or ACES into CAPI, don't forget that there are four short videos that demonstrate how to complete this information on the Prescreening Page of the Purdue GLR Website, which can be quickly accessed by clicking or tapping [HERE](#). You can also find on that page an updated CAPI User Manual for June Area and ACES (at this [LINK](#)), which you can use as another resource if you don't want to go through the videos.

For all tracts being prescreened, you need to enter the following information at a minimum:

- The Initial Screening Question, "Did you live or operate land inside the red/blue lines" must be "YES": The only time you want to answer "NO" to this question is if you want to remove a tract operator from the segment or you didn't mean to add them in the first place. Even though some non-ag tracts like roads, parking lots, and waterways don't actually "live or operate" in the segment, we need to say that they do in order to get the information about that tract into CAPI.
- The Name and Address of the Tract Operator: This will be important as we want to send a parcel map to these operators in May to clarify potential ag activity in June. If the tract is non-ag and there is no clear human owner or operator, please make sure that there is a description of what is in the tract as the operator name (roads, woods, water, railroads, abandoned building, parking lot).
- The eight screening questions must be answered: If there is potential for agriculture, you need to answer one of the eight questions with either "Yes" or "DK", and that will identify the operator as someone with agriculture we want to talk to later. If there is no agricultural activity, answering "no" to all eight screening questions will flag that tract as non-ag.

Please feel free to reach out to your supervisor, your NASDA Coordinator or the Regional Office if you have any questions.

Friday Feedback for Friday, April 15, 2022

2016 CEAP Survey Results Released - Tolbert

From October 2015 through February 2016 (and again in those months in 2016-2017), NASDA enumerators surveyed approximately 23,500 U.S. farmers to obtain field data for the second Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP). Data were collected on conservation practices, CRP, cropping and tillage, pesticide applications, livestock manure applications, irrigation, field operations, size of operation, and more to help assess changes that have occurred since the first CEAP (known as CEAP-1) conducted between 2003 and 2006. The second CEAP, also known as CEAP-2, was designed to provide an evaluation of the trends in and effects of management and conservation practices put in place since CEAP-1. The information gathered will be used for performance reporting and policymaking and will influence conservation planning, program development, and practice implementation, thus enhancing the benefits of voluntary conservation. This survey is very special to me, as I was the Survey Administrator of this project in Washington at the time.

The results from this survey have finally been released. A four page “Summary of Finding” document can be found at this [LINK](#), while the full report can be accessed by clicking or tapping [HERE](#).

ARMS 3 Winding Down – Erickson

It’s hard to believe that we’ve gone through 2+ months of ARMS 3 data collection and the end is just around the corner. We know this has been a challenging and frustrating experience for many, but we have noticed an increase in the number of usable reports from last year. Even if you didn’t necessarily complete those forms with the operator yourself, we know you had a hand in convincing those operators to complete those reports, either online or by mail, and those efforts will be reflected when we begin to compute the incentive awards once all of the records are clean.

As a final reminder, the last day to collect data through interviews and phone calls for ARMS 3 is Monday, April 18. All completed forms with data must be in the UPS on route to NPC in Jeffersonville, IN by Tuesday, April 19. All refusal, inaccessible, and out-of-business records must be submitted in CAPI by Tuesday April 19. Also don’t forget to include comments with your refusal, inaccessible, and out-of-business records submitted in CAPI.

Area/ACES Prescreening Winding Down – Miyares

Thanks to everyone for your hard work on Area and ACES Prescreening! As the process winds down, please be sure to keep in mind how long it can take to enter the data into CAPI. Please plan on finishing up all drive-by observations and calls to potential tract operators by Monday April 18. All information collected through prescreening for both surveys must be submitted in CAPI no later than Thursday April 21. The updated mail file that will be used to send pre-survey letters and parcel maps to tract operators will be created on Friday, April 22.

If you need guidance on how to enter tract-level information for Area or ACES into CAPI, don’t forget that there are four short videos that demonstrate how to complete this information on the Prescreening Page of the Purdue GLR Website, which can be quickly accessed by clicking or tapping [HERE](#). You can also find on that page an updated CAPI User Manual for June Area and ACES (at this [LINK](#)), which you can use as another resource if you don’t want to go through the videos.

For all tracts being prescreened, you need to enter the following information at a minimum:

- The Initial Screening Question, “Did you live or operate land inside the red/blue lines” must be “YES”: The only time you want to answer “NO” to this question is if you want to remove a tract operator from the segment or you didn’t mean to add them in the first place. Even though some non-ag tracts like roads, parking lots, and waterways don’t actually “live or operate” in the segment, we need to say that they do in order to get the information about that tract into CAPI.

- The Name and Address of the Tract Operator: This will be important as we want to send a parcel map to these operators in May to clarify potential ag activity in June. If the tract is non-ag and there is no clear human owner or operator, please make sure that there is a description of what is in the tract as the operator name (roads, woods, water, railroads, abandoned building, parking lot).
- The eight screening questions must be answered: If there is potential for agriculture, you need to answer one of the eight questions with either “Yes” or “DK”, and that will identify the operator as someone with agriculture we want to talk to later. If there is no agricultural activity, answering “no” to all eight screening questions will flag that tract as non-ag.

You can enter all of the information from columns 18 through 20a into CAPI at this time, but that is not needed now if time is short. Also, you do not need to “Submit Tract” at this time if you think that there may need to be changes to the tract operator’s name, the acreage, or the land use. Selecting “Screen Another Tract” will essentially mark the tract as “Saved for Review”. Eventually, they will all need to be submitted in June.

Remember if you accidentally added a tract that you didn’t intend to, you can click on the “X” to delete the tract; however, keep in mind that once the tract is deleted, you will not be able to use that tract letter again. It may be better to mark those tracts as “No Longer in Segment” by answering “NO” to the initial question, “Did you live or operate land inside these red/blue lines”.

If you are unable to get all of the tract information entered into CAPI by April 21, please do your best to focus on the names of the ag tract operators in the segment. We can still enter all of the information at a later date, but if we don’t have a name in CAPI now, we won’t be able to mail the operator a new parcel map in May.

Please feel free to reach out to your supervisor, your NASDA Coordinator or the Regional Office if you have any questions.

Friday Feedback for Friday, April 8, 2022

Is your CAPI Application Up to Date? – Lawson/Morris

The current version of the CAPI application begins with “v22.03.25”. A new version of the CAPI production and training applications was recently placed in the Apps@Work container on all active CAPI iPads. This latest version was NOT automatically installed. To receive the fix, enumerators must go to Apps@Work on their iPad and manually install the updated CAPI applications. They should also do “Clear Preferences” on the CAPI login screen after installing the new apps and before logging back in. NASS HQ did post an alert to the CAPI Dashboard to assist with notifying enumerators. If you have not updated CAPI to this latest version, please make sure you do so at your earliest convenience.

Upcoming Due Dates:

- The last day to submit Milk Production forms into CAPI is Sunday, April 10.
- Quarterly Colony Loss data collection continues through Sunday, April 17.
- The last day to collect data through interviews and phone calls for ARMS 3 is Monday, April 18. All completed forms with data must be in the UPS on route to NPC in Jeffersonville, IN by Tuesday, April 19. All refusal, inaccessible, and out-of-business records must be submitted in CAPI by Tuesday April 19.
- The last day to collect data through phone calls and drive-by observations for Area and ACES Prescreening is Monday, April 18. All information collected through prescreening for both surveys must be submitted in CAPI no later than Thursday, April 21. The updated mail file that will be used to send pre-survey letters and parcel maps to tract operators will be created on Friday, April 22.

Area/ACES Questions and Answers – Miyares

We've received a number of questions this week from the field regarding Area and ACES, and we wanted to share some of those here.

On my Area Listings, I see names of operations that I know are on the regular list, but have a different target name, or the person listed as the operator on the Area record is really a partner on the List record. How should I fix this? There are a few ways to approach this, keeping in mind that we need to maintain independence between the Area Frame and the List Frame. Area is an "Operator Dominant" survey, meaning that we focus on the operator's name and try to overlap that to the List Frame. The only time we can link the Operation Name on an Area Tract to the Operation on the List Frame is if (a) the operation is managed, or (b) we don't know the operator name on the area record. If you think you need to change the name on the area record, then you need to drop the current tract letter and create a new tract from it. When completing the Ag Tract questionnaire in June, you will need to make sure that all of the names associated with that tract (targets and partners) are listed on the form. In the alternative, if the target on the list record is listed as one of the partners on the area record, then the tract will overlap properly when it comes to measuring undercoverage of the list and determining who we need to contact for follow-on surveys. Please note that if you see a comment on a tract which asks you to make sure that all names associated with the tract are accounted for, it implies that we think that we're missing a key partner on the operation that would allow us to overlap it if that name were added.

I may not be able to get all of the operator names entered into CAPI before April 21. What should the priority be? The highest priority should be on the Ag Tract operators followed by the non-Ag operators. In mid-May, we will be mailing pre-survey letters with parcel maps to all tract operators whose names were entered into CAPI during pre-screening. If the respondent doesn't get a map mailed to them, it will be much harder to get the survey completed in June. Eventually, everything will need to get entered into CAPI before the end of the survey. For June Area, that's June 11, and for ACES, it's July 12.

I am prescreening an old segment with a lot of non-ag names in it. What will happen if I don't get through all of the names in the listing? For old segments, everyone who isn't screened will be rolled into the mid-May mailing. In the absence of confirmation as to whether they are ag or non-ag operators, they may end up getting labeled ag tract questionnaires. As stated in the previous question, whatever isn't taken care of during prescreening will have to get taken care of before the survey ends. The more non-ag tracts we can get out of the way now, the more time we will have to focus on the ag tracts (and other segments) later.

I am hesitant to "submit" tracts in CAPI because I remember last year having to go back and change information after prescreening. How much information do I need to put in during prescreening to get tract operators on the mailing list? The operator names and contact information needs to be entered, and the screening questions need to be asked. For ag tract operators, as long as one of the eight screening questions is answered with a "yes", they will have their names added to the mailing list for the mid-May mailing. For non-ag tract operators, all eight screening questions need to be answered with "no" to confirm they are non-ag. If you can enter answers to the questions in columns 18 through 20a on the screening form, that would be ideal, but to get the non-ag name to register, only the screening questions need to be answered. If you think there is a chance that some of the information for the non-ag operators could change between now and June, you can wait to submit the tracts until June. You cannot submit the segment level record (behind the "summary" button) until after all of the tracts have been submitted and the digitized acres have been accounted for.

What happens if during prescreening I enter into CAPI the name of someone I think is the tract operator only to learn later that it is someone else. Do I need to create a new tract letter and drop the one I created? For newly added tracts in either old segments or new segments, you are allowed to change the name of the operator before the tract is submitted. The CAPI system may warn you about doing so, but it is permitted. What is not permitted is changing the name of an old tract operator in an old segment without adding a new tract letter.

I have a segment with so many tracts that I've run out of letters to use, but I have new tract operators. What should I do? Please reach out to John at the Regional Office for specific guidance. In those cases, our Frames Maintenance Group (FMG) was willing to allow us to substitute names of non-ag tract operators who took over particular properties, but we had to put comments on every one we did so that FMG would allow the change.

Are we going to get labeled blank ag tract questionnaires before June 1 or will everything be unlabeled? Will there be a difference on what we get for Area versus ACES? You are supposed to get labeled blank questionnaires for any ag tracts identified during prescreening. You will also get a number of unlabeled blank questionnaires for every segment to allow for changes that might have taken place since last year. This should be the same for both Area and ACES. If something changes, we will let you know.

Are we going to get updated labeled screening questionnaires before June 1 for the segments we are prescreening now? No. You will only get labeled screening questionnaires for old segments that didn't go through the screening process.

Some of these ACES segments have a lot of tracts to them and I don't know if I will have enough screening forms to record all of the information. What should I do? Reach out to your supervisor to see if you can get more sent to you. Your supervisor was sent extras, but we can also send more from the Regional Office if needed.

Suppose during prescreening, I find someone growing cannabis. Does it count as agriculture and how do I record it? Michigan and Ohio allow marijuana to be grown for medical purposes while Michigan further allows it to be grown for recreational purposes. In both states, there are very strict regulations for how it is to be grown. Anything other than home use should be recorded as "Indoor Nursery" crops in Section N and as "Other Crops" in section D, but please leave very detailed notes regarding the situation. Also keep in mind that even though the sale and possession of certain types is illegal under Federal law, NASS and NASDA have an obligation to maintain the confidentiality of all information provided to us by our survey respondents.

Friday Feedback for Friday, April 1, 2022

Disconnect Reminders - Miyares

The procedures for handling disconnects for the April 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 Wednesday April 6 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 Friday April 8. 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.

ARMS 3 Update – Erickson

Thank you again for your hard work on ARMS III. Dealing with reluctant respondents and respondents who do not answer their phone is frustrating, so we appreciate the effort. Just a few reminders as the data collection period starts to wind down. See the Purdue website for more information.

- Please do your best to have 75% of your assignment complete by April 8.
- The last day to collect ARMS III data is April 18.
- All ARMS III completes (with data) must be UPS to NPC by April 19.

- All ARMS III non-responses (refusals & inaccessibles) and out-of-business records must be submitted on the iPad by April 19.
- For all records submitted on the iPad, please enter notes explaining the situation.

Area/ACES Odds and Ends – Miyares

The materials for the new ACES Segments for Ohio (those starting with 92) arrived in East Lansing on Thursday, March 31 and are being sent to the assigned enumerators via UPS on Friday, April 1. Enumerators should expect to receive two separate packages: one containing the aerial photos and the other containing the segment envelopes. Blank ACES Screening Forms were sent with the April 1 Survey Materials on March 21, but if you discover you need more forms, please reach out to the regional office.

As a reminder, the materials for the new ACES segments (those beginning with 92) in Indiana and Michigan will not be available until much closer to June. Prescreening and data collection for those segments will take place between June 20 and July 12.

We've heard some feedback about the CoreLogic listings for the new segments in the past few days:

- If you compare some of the CoreLogic listings to County GIS or Beacon Schneider (BSA Online) listings, you may find that properties that were sold in 2021 may not be on the CoreLogic listings. In those cases, GIS property records for a county may be the way to go.
- CoreLogic listings may also pick up names of people who live just outside the segment boundaries. Please do not just enter all of the names that you find in CoreLogic and assume they are all in the segment
- The names on the CoreLogic Listings are sorted in Parcel Order, but the parcels themselves aren't sorted in any particular order. For the New ACES segments yet to be sent out, we were able to get the CoreLogic listings made in Alphabetical Order by Name. This should hopefully help if you need to group parcels together associated with the same owner.

ARMS 2 and FCUS Finished

Our review of the data from this past fall's Fruit Chemical Use Survey and ARMS Phase 2 are finally complete. Thank you all for your patience as this year's surveys have taken much longer to review than they might have in a "normal" year.

At this time, we no longer need enumerators to hold on to the paper backup copies of these surveys. Complete reports may either be sent back to the regional office in East Lansing for scanning and filing or may be destroyed. Refusals and inaccessible reports can have the first page destroyed and the remaining pages recycled or destroyed. For Michigan respondents who completed these surveys after January 1, if you have completed bubble sheets with pesticide applicator license information from ARMS 2 or FCUS respondents, please be sure to send those back to East Lansing as well so we can request that the credits be added before the end of 2022. If you do plan to ship forms back to East Lansing, please do so by April 20.