

Friday Feedback for Friday, June 24, 2022

NAHMS Bison Survey – Hiegel/Courser

The NAHMS Bison 2022 Study is being conducted jointly by NASS and the National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS). The purpose of the NASS phase of the study is to compile important information about the bison industry, such as production practices, animal management, biosecurity methods, and operation characteristics. At the end of the survey, producers will have the opportunity to consent to participate in the NAHMS follow-up phase, which will involve free biological testing of their bison and forage.

The study is being conducted by mail and web reporting in July, with follow-up calling from the Data Collection Centers (DCCs) taking place in August. There will be no local phoning for this survey. However, while doing your own survey work, you may end up speaking to a producer who received a NAHMS survey. For your reference and theirs, the NAHMS Bison website can be found at this [LINK](#), and the study benefits and launch sheet can be found [HERE](#). If you have any further questions or concerns about the study, please contact your supervisor, NASDA Coordinator, or the Regional Field Office.

July 1 Survey Packages On their Way - Courser

UPS packages containing July 1 Survey Information were shipped to enumerators on Thursday 6/23. If you were assigned work for July Cattle, July Milk Production, Quarterly Colony Loss, or Ag Yield, please be on the lookout for your materials. If they do not arrive by Monday 6/27, please contact your supervisor.

June Survey Wrap-Up Reminder – Miyares/Goings

June Area questionnaires and photographs are coming in slowly but surely back into the office. Please be sure to review last week's edition of the Friday Feedback which explains what materials need to be returned, identifying "problem segments", and submitting feedback with recommendations for improving future June Area Surveys.

I'll Be Back... – Miyares

As you may or may not have heard, I am going to be serving as the Acting Deputy Director of NASS's Southern Plains Regional Office, headquartered in Austin, Texas. This temporary position, which I will be able to do mostly remotely from my home in Lansing, Michigan, begins the week of July 4. My last day working for the Great Lakes Region will be Tuesday, June 28, which means this will be the last edition of the Friday Feedback I will be writing and editing for a while. Tynisha Tolbert and Brooke Morris are going to be taking over responsibilities for the Friday Feedback in my absence. My responsibilities for the Ag Yield Survey are going to be passed back to Wes Cooper, while the closeout activities associated with June Area and ACES will be handled by Paul Goings. I am scheduled to return to my position as a Group Leader in the Great Lakes Regional Office at the end of October.

While I am looking forward to this opportunity to try something a little different than what I've been doing for years, I know I will miss the work I'm doing, and the people that I work with, which includes all of the NASDA enumerators and supervisors within the Great Lakes Region. We have a large pool of amazing talent that has gone through so much over the past two years, and many of you have come out stronger for it. It is hard to find just the right words to thank each and every one of you for your hard work and dedication to NASDA and the NASS Mission. If it were not for your efforts, we in the Regional Office would not be able to do what we do, and for that, I thank you.

Friday Feedback for Friday, June 17, 2022

Reflections and Recommendations for June Area 2023 – Miyares/Goings

I wanted to take the time once again to thank each and every enumerator for their amazing efforts on this year's June Area survey. The Great Lakes Region achieved the second highest response rate on the survey of any region in the country, and significant increases in the response rate were seen in both Michigan and Ohio! The quality of the data was such that the Great Lakes Region was the first region in the nation to have all of its survey data received in the office, cleaned, and one of the first prepared for summary.

Now that we have closed the book on the June Area Survey for 2022, the Regional Field Office is soliciting recommendations for ways that the 2023 survey can be improved. As stressful as this year's survey was for many of you, things seemed to go much smoother than in the past. Still, that doesn't mean there isn't room for improvement. We would like to have some feedback on the following changes that were implemented this year:

We would appreciate if you could communicate your reflections, concerns, and ideas for improvement on the June Area survey, whether it be in the questionnaire, the CAPI instrument, the training materials, the timing, or any other topic which may have come up during this June Survey cycle, to your supervisors on or before June 24, who will then relay your thoughts to Brooke, your NASDA Coordinator, and to the Regional Office. The Survey Team at the Regional Office will then review the feedback and pass on what we can to the Survey Administration Branch at NASS Headquarters.

Instructions for Returning Area Paperwork to East Lansing

Now that the June Area survey data have been cleaned and summarized at the regional office, it is time to begin sending all of the work back to East Lansing to be filed and scanned for future reference. Here are some general instructions regarding this process:

- In March, all enumerators were sent two UPS labels specifically for returning their June Area work to East Lansing. One was for the photo box and the other was for the paperwork itself. If you need an additional label to get your work back to East Lansing, please request one through the Online Order Form on the Purdue Site.
- All aerial photos should be returned to East Lansing in the photo boxes they arrived in. Please do not include paper survey materials in the same box as the aerial photos.
- All aerial photos should be sent to East Lansing before June 30.
- Indiana and Ohio aerial photos that may be needed for the Objective Yield surveys will be returned to enumerators at the end of July / beginning of August. All of the aerial photos must be returned at this time so they can be scanned and digitized.
- Group together the white ag tract questionnaires with the pink screener forms. Keep the white tract questionnaires ordered alphabetically by tract letter within each segment.
- All ag tract questionnaires, with or without data, must be returned to the Regional Field Office in East Lansing by June 30, whether those forms contain data or not. If you have a pre-printed ag tract questionnaire for an operator who is no longer in the segment, or was never in the segment, those should also be returned to East Lansing. Those particular tracts should have a large X drawn across the front and have a note which indicates why that form was not used.
- Comment sheets, FSA Listings, Paper Parcel Maps, and other inserts do NOT need to be returned to East Lansing and should be shredded/destroyed. The exception would be if the forms contain hand-written notes about the operations that were not previously entered into CAPI.

Please note that some supervisors may request to see copies of your forms and aerial photographs as part of quality control and enumerator evaluations. Please work with your supervisors on this and your supervisors will make sure the work gets passed on to the Regional Field Office.

Did you have any Problem Segments?

A “Problem Segment” is one which has one or more of the following characteristics:

- The segment contains 20 or more tracts, at least 10 of which are ag tracts, and requires more than 12 hours to enumerate completely,
- The segment contains more than 99 total tracts,
- The segment boundary does not follow features that are identifiable on the photo,
- The segment crosses a state line,
- The segment boundary splits a field,
- The aerial photo quality is terrible, or
- There is a major discrepancy between the digitized acres and the actual acres in the segment.

If you are aware of or remember any problem segments in your area that are not being used for Objective Yield that you would like us to request get “fixed” for next year, please notify your NASDA Coordinator or John Miyares at the Regional Field Office in East Lansing no later than July 1 so we can get the paperwork filled out.

Integrated Screening Survey Data Collection Date Adjustments

Due to limited local data collection funding for the Integrated Screening Survey (ISS), we have been forced to make some changes to data collection dates in order to make sure the money we have for ISS lasts until July 12

- Any ISS records that were matched with June Surveys were removed from CAPI as of June 16. If you have collected data for these records that needs to be entered into CAPI, or if you have an existing appointment with an operator to complete the ISS, please contact Brooke Morris who can turn those records on for you for that purpose.
- For ISS records intended for local data collection that are NOT matched with any other ongoing surveys, the CAPI Stop Date has been moved up to June 29
- For ISS records matched with a July 1 Survey (Cattle, Milk, Colony Loss, Ag Yield), The CAPI Start Date has been moved to June 30 to align with the start date of the matched survey. This may include some records that were matched with June Crops APS or June Hogs that were also matched with July Cattle or July Milk.

Wave 3 ACES Materials Finally Shipped

The Regional Office finally received the FSA and CoreLogic Listings and Maps for the 49 new segments in Indiana and Michigan. Segment envelopes were shipped via UPS from East Lansing on Wednesday June 15. If you are expecting a package and you do not receive it by Tuesday June 21, please contact the regional office.

Please note that the packages only contain the preprinted screening forms, FSA maps and listings, and CoreLogic Maps and Listings. No extra blank tract questionnaires or other supplies were shipped. If you are in need of additional supplies (photo markers, alcohol wipes, etc.), please submit those requests through the NASDA Order Form on the Purdue GLR Website, which can be found at this [LINK](#).

Regional Field Office Closed Monday June 20

Juneteenth is a holiday which commemorates when enslaved people in Texas learned of their freedom, more than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation was issued by President Abraham Lincoln. The news finally reached the port city of Galveston Texas, when Union soldiers arrived on June 19, 1865. The news was met with celebration and began the annual holiday, which spread across the south into the early 20th century to become popular nationally during the 1970s. On June 17, 2021, President Joseph R. Biden signed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act, which established June 19th as a Federal holiday. As the 19th falls on a Sunday this year, most Federal employees will observe the holiday on Monday June 20.

Friday Feedback for Friday, June 10, 2022

Upcoming Due Date Reminders

Please be mindful of the following due dates coming in the next week:

- The last day to call on or visit June Area operations was Thursday June 9.
- The last day to submit ANY June Area records in CAPI is Saturday June 11 at 11:59 p.m.
- The last day to submit Crops APS or June Hog reports in in CAPI is Tuesday June 14 at 11:59 p.m.
- The last day to enumerate any June Area records is Thursday June 9. Please focus on getting new segments completed first, where possible by Tuesday June 7.
- The last day to call on and submit Cash Rent records in CAPI Thursday June 16.

Wave 3 ACES Delays – Miyares/Goings

We were informed that due to unanticipated events, the printing of the FSA and CoreLogic Listings and Parcel Maps for the 49 new ACES segments in Indiana and Michigan was further delayed, and that forms will not arrive at the Regional Field Office until Tuesday 6/14 or Wednesday 6/15. Once they arrive, we do plan on preparing the segment envelopes as quickly as possible then sending them out to field enumerators so that you can begin screening and enumeration work by June 20. In the meanwhile, the photos for those segments were be shipped from East Lansing to the assigned enumerators on Friday June 3. If you are an Indiana or Michigan enumerator who was assigned an ACES segment beginning with 920 and you have not yet received a photo box in the past few days with the aerial photos for these segments in them, please let us know right away.

June Area Winding Down – Miyares/Goings

We are in the home stretch for June Area! Thank you all SO MUCH for your extra efforts and dedication to make this survey work under the most difficult of circumstances. I've spoken with many people in the field and I have heard that this year's survey has gone smoother than last year, although there are some things which could still be improved.

As of 7:00 a.m. on Friday June 10, we have received about 87 percent of the screener forms, 78 percent of the ag tracts, and 69 percent of all segment records. At this point, all visits and phone calls to operators should be complete and all efforts should be focused on getting completed reports and estimated data into CAPI. Before you log off on Saturday night June 11, please review your June Area CAPI Listings to make sure that every tract record shows either the date when the form was submitted or the words "no longer in segment". Anything marked "Saved for Review" or "Enum Started" must be finished by tonight.

	26	129	180165	Add	Summary	Status - Submitted								
	26	129	100255340*	A - 1	0	0	620	2001	180165	60.0	Ag		2021-06-10 15:12:15	
	26	129	100254910	B - 2	0	0	220	2001	180165	28.0	Non-Ag	No Longer in Segment		
	26	129	100254900	D - 4	0	0	220	2001	180165	5.0	Non-Ag		2021-06-08 19:13:13	
	26	125	100254710	E - 5	0	0	220	2001	180165	12.0	Non-Ag	No Longer in Segment		
	26	157	100254700	F - 6	0	0	220	2001	180165	23.0	Non-Ag		2021-05-25 14:05:55	
	26	129	100245780	I - 9	0	0	220	2001	180165	190.0	Ag		2021-06-10 15:13:01	

Every segment-level record also needs to be submitted once the tracts are all complete and submitted. To submit the segment-level record, click on the blue "Summary" button on the gray bar at the top of each segment, review

the information in the segment summary, verify the tract counts and acres are correct, then click the “submit” button. In particular, make sure that the “Total Tracts” match what is expected and that the RA/DA is between 95 and 105. If it appears that some of the totals do not appear correct, you may need to refresh your CAPI listings to get everything synchronized. Once you click the blue “Submit Segment” button, the status on the gray bar should change from “Pending” to “Submitted”.

Total Ag	2
Total NonAg (Col 18)	6
Total NonAg (PIGA)	0
Total Tracts	8

Sum of Reported Acreage	625.3
Digitized Acres	639
RA/DA	97.86

Segment Level Comments Only:

SUBMIT SEGMENT

Please note that NASDA Coordinators will be communicating with supervisors on this weekend if we see any segments with missing tracts or missing segment-level records. Office staff will also be available most of the day Saturday and Sunday to clean up work submitted on Friday and Saturday night.

As a reminder, just because forms are submitted doesn’t mean that we’re completely done with those segments. We’ve had to do some callbacks to verify that names or acres were recorded correctly, that new tracts need to be added when there has been a change in the tract operator, and there may be other items as we do some deeper analysis of the data. Please hold on to all paperwork for this survey until at least June 17, after which you can start packing the materials up to ship back to East Lansing. Guidance on what materials absolutely need to be shipped will be included in next week’s edition of Friday Feedback.

I’m Back! – Rolewicz!

My name is Allison Rolewicz. I was born and raised in west Michigan. I graduated from Central Michigan University in May 2022 with a master’s degree in applied statistics and analytics. In my spare time I enjoy hiking, camping, frisbee golf, sewing, crocheting, board games, and video games. Having worked for NASS in the past as a Pathways Program Intern, I am excited to be able to return to NASS working full time as a mathematical statistician in the Great Lakes Regional Field Office where I may continue contributing to the creation of timely accurate and relevant statistical products in service to the American Agricultural Industry.



Regional Office Welcomes Second Summer Intern – Braggs

My name is Kayla Braggs, and I am a recent graduate of Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (better known as FAMU) with a degree in Food Science and a minor in Agribusiness. This fall, I will be starting my graduate program at Michigan State University in the Department of Agriculture, Food and Resource Economics (AFRE). I am hoping to focus my research on supply chain sustainability of small to medium-scale farmers and how economic risk factors affect this. I am a USDA 1890 Scholar and I have interned with NASS for the past two summers. I was in the Southern Region in 2020 on the Estimates Team, the Delta Region in 2021 on the Survey Team and now I am back with the agency in the Great Lakes Region between both Surveys and Estimates. I am originally from Atlanta, Georgia so I am excited to venture into the American Midwest! I enjoy cooking, traveling, reading historical fiction books, painting and running. It's great to be back with USDA's BEST agency!



So Long for Now! – Laird

A position recently opened up in NASS's Research and Development Division (RDD) based in Washington D.C. and I have accepted the opportunity to pursue a different career path without having to move my family from Michigan. My last day working with the Great Lakes Regional Office is June 16.

I have been lucky enough to work in the Michigan office with the Great Lakes Region for almost 8 years and have enjoyed working with everyone in our office as well as all of you - our dedicated and hardworking NASDA staff. I have had the pleasure of working with many of you in the field— especially with regard to iPads and CAPI over the years. I know the frequent changes in iPad and CAPI technology can be challenging, but I have always admired your ability to adapt and overcome those hurdles. I wish for the best for each of you and thanks for everything!

-- Mike Laird

Friday Feedback for Friday, June 3, 2022

Upcoming Due Date Reminders

Please be mindful of the following due dates coming in the next week:

- The last day to submit Cherry Production Forecast records in CAPI is Sunday June 5 at 11:59 p.m.
- The last day to submit June Ag Yield records in CAPI is Monday June 6 at 11:59 p.m.
- The last day to submit Potato Stocks records in CAPI is Tuesday June 7 at 11:59 p.m.
- The last day to enumerate any June Area records is Thursday June 9. Please focus on getting new segments completed first, where possible by Tuesday June 7.
- All June Area data must be entered into CAPI by Saturday June 11. Please focus on getting new segments completed first, where possible by Thursday June 9.

Wave 3 ACES Update – Miyares/Goings

We still have yet to receive the FSA Listings and Parcel Maps for 49 new ACES Segments in Indiana and Michigan. Our HQ has told us they will start printing them today and shipping the materials on a flow basis throughout next week as things get printed. In the meanwhile, the photos for those segments are available and will be shipped from East Lansing to the assigned enumerators on Friday June 3, and we will send along the segment envelopes next week as soon as we have them.

As a reminder, parcel maps and presurvey letters will be mailed to potential tract operators in these new segments between June 6 and June 10. Screening and data collection for these segments can begin on June 20. There will be no separate time for prescreening these segments. All enumeration for ACES segments must be complete by July 19 with all data entered into CAPI by July 21.

For the moment, none of the ACES segments has been marked as eligible for face-to-face enumeration. Enumerators are authorized one trip to each of these new segments to get the lay of the land, identify key landmarks and property boundaries, and observe for agricultural potential. A second visit may be authorized by the Regional Office if necessary to follow-up with non-respondents in segments where the majority of tract operators were not able to be reached after attempting at least three contacts by phone. Please talk to your supervisor if you believe a second visit a segment is necessary, keeping in mind that funds for ACES are limited and we cannot afford to visit every segment twice.

Integrated Screening Survey Update – Segelhorst/Miyares

After a delay in getting OMB approval, Integrated Screening Survey (ISS) questionnaires will be mailed to respondents on Wednesday June 8. Primary follow-up for non-response for records not matched with one of the June 1 Survey should take place between June 16 and June 30. While data collection for ISS can continue until July 12, the period between June 30 and July 12 should be reserved for ISS records matched with July 1 surveys, including July Cattle, July Milk Production, and Quarterly Colony Loss.

Please note that very little money was allocated for local data collection for ISS and data collection may need to be suspended if funds are depleted. Where possible, please avoid charging data collection costs to project code 905 if the ISS form is matched with another survey and expenses can be charged there. No mileage or driving time can be charged to project code 905. The only records allowed to be field enumerated for ISS include those matched with another survey that is authorized to for field enumeration, in which case driving time and mileage should be charged to the matched survey. Please contact your supervisor or NASDA Coordinator Brooke Morris if you have any questions.

Welcoming New Summer Intern to Regional Office – Wang

Hi all! My name is Vicky Wang and I am a junior at the University of Michigan (Go Blue!) studying Microbiology, Gender and Health, and Statistics. I have not worked in agriculture before, but I am excited to learn as much as possible this summer as an intern at the GLR office. I am interested in statistics because I am looking to study public health epidemiology in graduate school, and statistics are essential when examining historical records in order to predict disease trends. Outside of work, I enjoy hiking, testing latte recipes, and crocheting amigurumi animals. I am grateful for this opportunity and am looking forward to meeting and learning from everyone this summer!



June Area & ACES Odds and Ends – Miyares/Goings

Thanks to everyone for their hard work on June Area to date! We're making good progress, but still have a long way to go before we're finished up

Here are a few new reminders regarding CAPI data entry based on the records that we have seen this week:

- For some reason, our edit system doesn't like when people leave the Double Cropped/Dual Utilization question blank at the end of Section D. If acres were not double cropped, please be sure to enter a zero in that cell, even if the target doesn't grow crops.
- Operators who have over \$1000 in sales are supposed complete the shortened version of the point sheet in Section N, but we've seen several that have come through CAPI as blank. If the operator doesn't have anything to put in that sheet, then adding a comment would help us figure out why that table was left blank. For example, that sheet does not have a place to report hogs, equine, poultry, sugarbeets, dry beans, tobacco, or Christmas trees. If the operator had these products and none of the other ones listed, then it makes sense to leave that table blank. Otherwise, there should be something included in that table.
- If the operator doesn't live inside the segment, then the total acres operated in Section E needs to be greater than the tract acres reported in Section D. Similarly, acres of cropland always must be less than total acres operated, knowing that we have to account for a farmstead somewhere on the operation (the exception is if the operation is managed).
- Please make sure the difference between total land and cropland reported in section E accounts for any non-tillable land reported in the tract in Section D. For example, suppose an operator reports that the total acres operated in Section E is 135 acres, of which 130 are cropland. Then that means that only 5 acres are not tillable. However, if the operator reports 20 acres in section D that are accounted for by the farmstead, waste, and woods, that's going to be a problem.

Over the next twelve days, you may receive messages from either NASDA Coordinator Brooke Morris or Deputy Director Tynisha Tolbert asking to clarify something about one of your segments or tracts that may not have come through CAPI properly, or may require some clarification as to who the operator might be. When you get this message, please be sure to return the message as soon as possible. The data collection period for June Area is very short so it is important to not let these questions linger for too long.

As a final reminder, please be sure you are entering your time and mileage into iSolved on a daily basis. We will

be monitoring our expenditures for Area and ACES survey on a daily basis and will be in regular communication with supervisors on where things stand. If we see that we are spending more than 75 percent of our allocation, we may need to stop data collection early so that we can focus our efforts on data entry with what remaining funds we have.

Sad News

The Great Lakes region is saddened to report the passing of Andrea Buchanan's husband, Gregory.

Services will be Saturday, June 4, 2022 at noon in the Greater Springfield Baptist Church, 407 South Madison Street, Bolivar, TN. There will be a memorial in Little Rock, AR at a later date.

Andrea worked in the Indiana Field Office for several years before transferring to the Delta Region, where she currently works as the coordinator of their call center. Please keep Andrea and her family in your thoughts and prayers. Condolences can be sent to: Andrea Buchanan, 311 Nix Road, Little Rock, AR 72211.