

Friday Feedback for Friday, October 6, 2023

New Supervisor in Indiana – Morris/Kalaus

We are excited to announce that starting next week Lauren Johnson will be the new supervisor in Northern Indiana, replacing Debbie Matiya. She brings experience from being an enumerator and the outside world. Lauren is excited to work with her new team and ready for this adventure. We want to thank Debbie for her many contributions to NASS and NASDA as supervisor and are honored to have her stay onboard as an enumerator.

ARMS II/FCUS – Goings/Weber

The paper that was used to print the ARMS II and FCUS questionnaires is making it difficult for some enumerators to see their writing while utilizing a pencil and may pose a problem when the questionnaires are scanned at the NOD. If you feel like this is the case, please continue to collect the data using a pencil and then once you have completed the questionnaire and are sure it is ready for shipping, please trace the pencil with a black pen prior to shipping to the NOD.

ARMS II – Weber

It has been brought to our attention that some of the ARMS II Oat Questionnaires for other regions have a printing error on pages 15-18 where the pages are printed upside down. We are unsure how many of the forms we sent to the field are affected in our region. Please check your labelled Oat Questionnaire before visiting an operation so that you can use a properly printed form if possible. If you need extra blank forms, please let your supervisor know and we will send you some.

Upcoming Due Date Reminders

Please be mindful of the following due dates:

- Small Grains CAPS Enumeration: August 15 - October 7
- October Milk Production: September 29 – October 10
- Quarterly Colony Loss: September 29 – October 12
- ARMS Phase II: September 27 – November 30
- Fruit Chemical Use Survey: October 1 – December 29

Please enter your time and mileage into iSolved every day.

Columbus Day Holiday:

The office will be closed for Columbus Day on Monday, October 9, 2023. If you need assistance, please contact your supervisor.

Friday Feedback for Friday, October 13, 2023

Hey There! – Adam Peters

I am sure many of you have heard by now, and the rumors are true. I have replaced Tynisha as the Deputy Director for the Survey Section here in the Great Lakes Region. I am very excited to be back in the region and I am grateful for the warm welcome. We have a solid team out here, and I am happy to be part of it. As for where I have been, I was working in HQ as a commodity statistician in the Poultry and Specialty Commodities Section for a while, working with various commodity programs including Turkeys, Broilers, Egg Products, and Honey – among other duties in Statistics Division. After that I was selected to be the Section Head for the Environmental and Demographics section, and while that was a great opportunity, I am very honored to have been offered this opportunity to come back to the region and work in the field again, specifically in the best region in NASDA and NASS.

November 1 Packets – Collom

UPS packets containing information for late October and early November surveys will be shipped late next week. If you are in need of supplies, please request them via the on-line tool and we'll do our best to include your supplies with your survey packet.

FCUS and ARMS 2 – Goings and Weber

If you have a chemical with a product code that you can't find, please remember to write the chemical name and EPA number underneath the Pesticide Applications table in the lines provided. Fill out the rest of the Pesticide Applications table like normal (just leave the product code empty). We will be able to fix these as they are keyed in at the NOD.

October OY Missing Forms – Erickson/Segelhorst

We went to final summary for October 1 Objective Yield with many missing corn and soybean lab forms. There were a variety of reasons why the harvested samples did not make it to the NOD lab in time for processing. Several samples were sent to the Michigan office in East Lansing instead of St. Louis, some were shipped too late, while others may not have been shipped at all, based on the UPS tracking numbers.

We need the most complete and accurate data to make the best estimates possible. Please submit Form-Bs in CAPI and ship all harvested samples to the NOD lab on the same day the samples were worked to ensure a complete dataset.

Please stay in close contact with your OY producers to ensure that no samples are lost. It is okay if you need to conduct a final visit for samples that are mature, or if the farmer intends to harvest the field soon. For example, if a farmer tells you that he intends to harvest the field containing an OY sample on October 20, please conduct your final visit prior to that. Annika and I will push out the Form-Bs for all outstanding OY samples on Tuesday, October 17. If you must conduct a final visit before this date, please submit the Form-B as soon as you can. Keep in mind that the recorded fieldwork date **MUST** be the same as the dates on the ID cards. Thank you.

Updating Driver's License – Kimball

Charlie Ingram will be sending an official announcement to all enumerators to update their driver's license in iSolved soon. Here are the instructions ahead of time.

How to update your driver's license in iSolved

1. Log into iSolved
2. Go to the **Employee Self Service** tab.

EMPLOYEE SELF-SERVICE

3. Choose the **Certification/License Updates** option heading.

Certification/License Updates

4. Check the date in the **Expiration Date** column.

| |
|-----------------|
| Expiration Date |
| 06/06/2019 |

5. If it has expired, click on the **+Add New** tab at the top of the page.

Certification/License Updates

+ Add New

∨ Expand All Groups

∧ Collapse All G

6. Enter your new driver's license information for the 5 sections show below.
 - Certification- choose Driver's License.
 - Effective Date- click on the calendar.
 - Expiration Date- click on the calendar.
 - Authority- State of IN, MI or OH
 - ID Number- Enter your driver's license number.
7. Click on the pink **Save** button in the lower right of the screen.

Save

8. **Thank you for updating your driver's license information!**

Upcoming Due Date Reminders

Please be mindful of the following due dates:

- ARMS Phase II: September 27 – November 30
- Fruit Chemical Use Survey: October 1 – December 29
- Ag Labor: October 19 – November 9
- Corn/Soybean OY Fieldwork: October 25 – November 1 (it is okay to conduct a final visit prior to October 25 if the sample field is mature, or if the farmer intends to harvest the field soon)

Please enter your time and mileage into iSolved every day.

Friday Feedback for Friday, October 20, 2023

Passing of Timothy Davis

The Great Lakes Region is sad to announce the passing of Michigan NASDA Supervisor Cindra Mikel's son, Timothy Davis, age 64. Timothy passed away on Tuesday night, Oct. 17, 2023. There will be a viewing on Saturday, October 21, from 4:00-8:00 p.m. Service will be on Sunday, October 22, at 2:00 p.m. All will take place at Wagner Family Funeral Home in Cassopolis, MI. There will be food at the VFW Hall in Cassopolis, after the Funeral. The burial is at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, Oct. 23, 2023. Link to the Obituary:

<https://www.wagnercares.com/listings>

CAPI version v23.10.19 – Morris

Please double check the next time you get into CAPI to make sure you have the correct version – everyone should have v23.10.19 (in the upper right corner of CAPI).

Separate Agricultural Labor Survey – Goings/Hiegel

It has come to our attention that there is another survey on farm labor currently being conducted. The Agricultural Labor Working Group, comprised of members of the House Committee on Agriculture, is seeking input from farm employers and employees on the workforce issues they face, particularly with regard to the H-2A visa program. The congressional survey, which can be completed [here](#), has been promoted by the Farm Bureau and other organizations over the past several weeks. If your sampled operators inform you that they already completed a labor survey, please check with them to ensure that it was the NASS survey that they completed.

ARMS II – Weber

For Section F – Field Operations, use code 999 for machinery or implements used that are not listed in the respondent booklet.

If you enumerate an operation that spans across multiple States, and the field selection for ARMS 2 (determined by direction) is in a State that differs from the operation's 'home' State, carry on as you normally would with data collection. All fields in any State are eligible for the sampled operation. A big thank you to Rachel Bakowski for reaching out concerning this matter.

ARMS II and FCUS – Weber/Goings

We need you to send forms to the NOD as soon as they are complete. Very few enumerators met the first benchmark due date of sending in one complete report by October 11th for ARMS II and October 18th for FCUS. The next benchmark due date is to have 100% of interviews set up and any refusal conversions discussed with your supervisor by October 25th for ARMS II and November 15 for FCUS. The following benchmark due date is to have **50% of good, complete interviews mailed out to the NOD by Nov. 8th for ARMS II and December 9th for FCUS**. Please mail back forms early and often! HQ has given us benchmarks in the office for getting data analyzed and cleaned up and we are counting on you to send those forms in ASAP when they are completed. Thank you for your hard work!

Mail Returns to NOD – Laird

There was a question about whether multiple surveys can be put in the same package when sending forms to the NOD or not. I asked and the answer was **yes**, you may put multiple forms, even from different surveys/operators, in the same package to the NOD.

Objective Yield – Erickson/Segelhorst

Please send samples to the lab ASAP after visiting fields. Last month, there were several instances where the sample arrived too late to the lab and was not used in the final estimate/analysis. That means all the hard work in the field for those samples yielded 0 results. Please pay close attention to form dates, too, as they should all match. Please reach out to your supervisor if you have any questions.

November 1 Packets – Collom

UPS packages containing November 1 work, as well as ARMS II and FCUS manuals, will get into UPS today. Enumerators should receive them no later than Monday COB. If someone doesn't receive a package and they're expecting one or if we missed something let us know.

Upcoming Due Date Reminders

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- Ag Labor: October 19 – November 9
- Corn/Soybean OY Fieldwork: October 25 – November 1 (it is okay to conduct a final visit prior to October 25 if the sample field is mature, or if the farmer intends to harvest the field soon)
- Potato Acreage and Disposition: October 30 – November 5
- November Ag Yield: October 30 – November 5

Please enter your time and mileage into iSolved every day.

Friday Feedback for Friday, October 27, 2023

Cost of Pollination Matches – Collom/Presberry

There are a significant number of matches between the Cost of Pollination and the Fruit Chemical Use Survey (and a few ARMS II matches). Because of the significant number of matches, we have updated the 'start date' for the Cost of Pollination to 25 October for those that match FCUS or ARMS II surveys. This will allow enumerators to collect the data concurrently and enter the Cost of Pollination data into CAPI immediately. The start date for Cost of Pollination surveys that do not match ARMS II or FCUS will remain 6 November. Just as a reminder, Cost of Pollination should be entered into CAPI and the ARMS II and FCUS surveys should be sent via UPS to the NOD in Saint Louis, Missouri.

Corn and Soybean Objective Yield – Erickson/Segelhorst

Thank you for your continued hard work on the corn and soybean Objective Yield surveys. This month's data collection period will extend through Wednesday, November 1. You may continue to enter data in CAPI until Thursday, November 2.

Please submit the Form-Bs in CAPI and ship all harvested samples to the NOD lab on the same day that the samples were worked. Recorded fieldwork dates must match the dates on the lab sample ID cards for samples to be properly processed. Thank you.

Upcoming Due Date Reminders

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- Potato Acreage and Disposition: October 30 – November 5
- November Ag Yield: October 30 – November 5
- Cost of Pollination: November 6 – November 29

Please enter your time and mileage into iSolved every day.