

## Friday Feedback for Friday, April 7, 2023

### ARMS 3 Winding Down – Erickson

Thanks to everyone for their continued hard work on ARMS 3 this year. We've been making some good progress as a region, but there are still over 800 forms in the field waiting to be submitted. We've also seen in our listings some enumerators who haven't submitted any ARMS records as of yet. If you have the records completed, please try to get them sent in as soon as possible. If you haven't completed your interviews, opportunities to do so may be running out. As the weather warms up and fields dry out, it will be much more difficult to catch operators.

Don't forget that any operators who have not completed a voluntary ARMS 3 form by this point will be sent a mandatory census questionnaire later this month. This will be very important to relay to operators you are able to interview over the next few weeks, so they are not surprised when they receive a census in the mail after they think they've already met their census obligation by completing ARMS 3.

During the past week, we've had a small number of completed ARMS 3 forms sent to the Regional Field Office in East Lansing. Sending forms to East Lansing delays the process and adds risk that the ARMS data you collected will not be included as part of the ARMS summary. Please send all completed forms to the National Processing Center (NPC) in Jeffersonville, Indiana.

We've also seen some cases where blank ARMS 3 forms have been sent to Jeffersonville with an out-of-business form attached to them. When NPC receives blank forms, they don't know what to do with them, so they send them back to East Lansing. This also delays getting these records properly processed. Blank paper forms should NOT be sent to NPC. Refusals, out-of-business, and inaccessible reports should be submitted in CAPI with notes explaining the situation. Any out-of-business forms should be sent back to East Lansing, but not with the questionnaires.

As a final reminder, the last day to enumerate ARMS 3 records is Monday, April 17. All completed ARMS 3 forms must be in UPS on route to NPC no later than Tuesday, April 18. All non-response records must also be submitted in CAPI by April 18.

### Upcoming Due Dates

There are a few surveys with due dates coming up very shortly. Please keep in mind the following important dates:

<b>Survey</b>	<b>Enumeration Dates</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Statistician</b>
Potato Stocks Inquiry (MI)	March 31 – April 7	195	Ben Magen
Milk Production Report	March 31 – April 11	178	Jack Hiegel
June Area Prescreening	March 27 – April 14	124	Paul Goings
ARMS III Field Enumeration	February 15 – April 17	904	Alan Erickson
Quarterly Colony Loss	March 31 – April 17	115	Janiece Presberry

The complete list of ongoing and upcoming surveys is updated monthly and can be found on the Purdue GLR website at this [LINK](#).

## Friday Feedback for Friday, April 14, 2023

### Lots of June Area Information – Goings/Miyares

Thanks to everyone for your hard work on Area Prescreening! Today (April 14) is the last day to try to reach out to potential tract operators in the segments being prescreened. All information from prescreening needs to be entered into CAPI by Monday, April 17.

There are several new segments where no new tract information has been entered into CAPI as of this writing. If you need guidance on how to enter tract-level information for Area 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 the CAPI User Manual for June Area (at this [LINK](#)), which you can use as another resource if you don't want to go through the videos.

As a reminder, for all tracts being prescreened, you need to enter the following information into CAPI at a minimum:

- The Initial Screening Question, “Did you live or operate land inside the red 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 may enter 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 red “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 17, please do your best to focus on the names of the ag tract operators in the segment. We can still enter information at a later date, but if we don't have a name in CAPI by Monday, April 17, we won't be able to mail the operator a new parcel map in May.

Starting next week, NASS HQ will be pulling the information entered into CAPI in order to create labeled ag tract questionnaires to assist with enumeration in June. Printing of those questionnaires will begin Friday, April 21, and will be shipped to regional offices on a flow basis. We are hoping to be able to get those to the field during the week of May 8. 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 15.

The CAPI Instrument for Area is going to be turned off for enumerators the morning of April 18, but will be reopened on Friday, April 21 and will remain open throughout the spring. Enumerators may continue to enter information into CAPI after this weekend; however, keep in mind that tract operator names entered into CAPI after April 21 will 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:

- The Area 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 assignments, along with the labeled June Area Ag Tract questionnaires via UPS during the week of May 8 and can begin a new round of self-study. Supervisors will be scheduling mini-schools for your area to take place at some time during the week of May 15.
- Enumeration for June Area for minor ag tracts (CRP Only, Horse and Pasture Only, etc.) can begin on May 20, while calling/visiting larger row crop and livestock operations can begin on May 30. Enumeration work for new segments should be complete by June 6, with all data entered into CAPI by June 7. Enumeration for ALL June Area segments (old and new) should be complete by June 8, with all data entered into CAPI by June 9.

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

### **ARMS 3 FINAL REMINDER – Erickson**

We want to sincerely THANK YOU for your hard work on ARMS 3. This year's survey, taking place during a census year, has presented many challenges for all of us, but please know that we really appreciate your efforts.

The last day to collect data through interviews and phone calls for ARMS 3 is Monday, April 17. All forms with data, even if they only contain the crop and livestock information but are missing the expenses information, must be in the UPS on route to NPC in Jeffersonville, IN by Tuesday, April 18. All refusal, inaccessible, and out-of-business records must be submitted in CAPI by Tuesday, April 18. No questionnaires are to be sent to the GLR Office. Also, don't forget to include comments with your refusal, inaccessible, and out-of-business records submitted in CAPI.

### **Supply Requests – Collom/Courser**

Field kits with May Ag Yield, Maple Syrup, and Cash Rent survey supplies are scheduled to be shipped to enumerators via UPS on or before Thursday, April 20. If you have other items that you need sent to you from the Regional Field Office that can be sent in the same UPS package, please submit your requests through the [NASDA Order Form](#) on the GLR Home Page by Tuesday, April 18.

### **Cash Rent Updates – Weber**

Cash Rent samples are now available in CAPI listings. As noted earlier, most records expected to be enumerated locally will not be available to call on until April 29, and can be called throughout the month of May. A small number of records may be called as early as April 17, which includes matches with Ag Labor and the Michigan Fruit Inventory Survey. There are also some records that will not be available to call until May 15 due to matches with surveys taking place during March and April, including ARMS 3 and Milk Production. Additional Cash Rent records may be pulled from the call center to the field after May 15 depending upon the need for improved coverage in certain counties.

## **Friday Feedback for Friday, April 21, 2023**

### **May 1 Survey Packages are On their Way – Collom/Courser**

Field kits with May Ag Yield, Maple Syrup, and Cash Rent survey supplies were shipped to enumerators via UPS on Tuesday, April 18. All enumerators working one of these surveys should have received their UPS package containing materials for these surveys. If you have not received your package, please contact your supervisor so we can track your missing package.

### **ARMS 3 Wrap-Up – Erickson**

At long last, data collection for ARMS 3 is over. THANK YOU for all your efforts this year!

If you have any bar-coded blank ARMS 3 questionnaires still in your possession, you may shred the face page and recycle the remaining pages at this time.

### **“Must” Census Records Reminder – Magen/Samson**

Now that the big push to complete ARMS 3 and Area Prescreening is over, we need to turn our attention to the “Must” Census Records which were pushed to the field for enumeration in late March. These operations are impactful enough that if we do not get a response from the operator, they “must” be estimated for by regional office staff. All enumeration work on these census forms must be complete by May 1 due to budget limitations and the time it will take to estimate these records in the event of non-response.

In many cases, you may have already left a copy of the Census with operators so they could complete the form on their own. If the record is still showing as available in your CAPI listings, please take the time in the next week to follow up with the operator to make sure the form is completed.

These particular forms may be some of the most challenging records to complete, as many of these operators may not have completed a NASS survey in several years, and may not have completed the 2017 Census of Agriculture. With the mandatory nature of the Census of Agriculture, we want to encourage cooperation where possible. If you feel assistance is required from the regional office, a State Statistician, or the Regional Director to help obtain a complete report from these operators, please let us know. If the operator still refuses to complete the census, please return the forms to the Regional Office with as many notes as you can provide about the operations that will help in estimating the forms for non-response.

### **Changes Coming to the Regional Office**

Over the next several weeks, the Great Lakes Regional Office will be experiencing some staffing and assignment changes.

Annika Segelhorst will be joining the NASDA Support Team as a Backup NASDA Coordinator for the Great Lakes Region. In addition to providing support to Brooke Morris when Brooke needs to take leave, Annika will transition to become the iPad Technical Lead for the region, being able to provide support for CAPI, including password and access issues, and answer limited IT questions. She will also monitor the Purdue GLR website to make sure that NASDA support documents are up-to-date, and she will help produce enumerator efficiency reports on a quarterly basis.

Joe Samson will be retiring from NASS effective May 31. Joe has been with the Great Lakes Region since prior to regionalization, moving to Michigan in late 2004, and has been in charge of a number of major survey and estimation projects for the region, including the Cattle Survey, the Census of Agriculture, the Organic Production Survey, CEAP, NAHMS, FRIS, and the Census of Aquaculture. Prior to coming to Michigan, Joe worked in the Utah, North Dakota, and New England Field Offices, as well as working two tours at NASS Headquarters.

John Miyares will be taking a position with the NASS National Operations Division as a Group Leader over the Enumerative Surveys Development Group. This group is responsible for developing and maintaining the Blaise programs that are used by call centers for collection of survey data and by regional offices for editing and processing survey data. John has also been with the Great Lakes Region since prior to regionalization, moving to Michigan in 2007, and has served as a group leader in the region since 2013, first over the Fruit and Field Crops section and most recently over the Standardized Surveys Section. John also worked in the New England Field Office and completed long-term temporary assignments in NASS Headquarters and in the Southern Plains Regional Office. John begins his new position effective May 21.

Tynisha Tolbert has accepted a position as the Call Center Group Leader with NASS's National Operations Division. In this position, she will be responsible for overseeing the activities of NASS's four call centers in St. Louis, MO, Cheyenne, WY, Little Rock, AR, and Oklahoma City, OK, and coordinating the call center needs for all of the regional field offices. Tynisha has served as the Deputy Regional Director of the Great Lakes Region since 2021. Prior to this, Tynisha worked in the Louisiana and Oklahoma Field Offices, the Arkansas Call Center, the Delta Regional Office, and NASS Headquarters. Tynisha begins her new position effective May 21.

Until some of these positions in the Regional Office can be filled, Deputy Regional Director Ty Kalas and Regional Group Leaders Jim Collom and Ann Courser will be helping to fill the holes left by these vacancies.

### **Friday Feedback for Friday, April 28, 2023**

#### **New State Statistician for Ohio – Johnson**

Benjamin Torrance will be joining the Great Lakes Region as the new Ohio State Statistician, taking over for Cheryl Turner, who retired at the end of last year. Ben was raised on a crop and livestock farm in western Illinois along the Mississippi River and graduated with a Master of Science in Agribusiness Economics from Southern Illinois University. Ben comes to us as a Group Leader from the Delta Regional Office. Ben's journey with NASS began in June 2004, and he has worked in several locations, including the Nevada and Arkansas Field Offices, the Upper Midwest and Delta Regional Offices, and NASS Headquarters in the Census and Survey Division. Ben officially begins as the Ohio State Statistician on May 21.

#### **Michigan Fruit Inventory Reminder – Saffell/Rolewicz**

Please be mindful that the Michigan Fruit Inventory Enumeration deadline is fast approaching. As of April 27, 54% of our sample has been received. Roughly half of the remaining unchecked records consist of large operations--please do not wait to complete larger operations. As a reminder, phone enumeration must be completed by May 31 and the final date to ship forms for this survey back to East Lansing is June 2. Thank you for your continued efforts toward this project.

#### **Area Records Turned Back On in CAPI – Goings/Miyares**

June Area records should now be visible in CAPI for all segments. If you have information collected during prescreening that didn't get previously entered into CAPI, you can enter this information at this time; however, keep in mind that the label files for the next phase of the survey have already been pulled, so any updates or new tracts added to prescreened segments will not have a labeled paper questionnaire created for them, nor will they receive a pre-survey letter and parcel map in the mail.

While old segments are visible in CAPI, data cannot be entered into CAPI for those segments until at least May 20 for non-ag tracts and May 30 for ag tracts. Data collection for new segments is expected to be completed by

June 6, with all data for new segments entered into CAPI by June 7. The last day for data collection in any segment will be June 8, and data for all segments must be entered into CAPI by June 9.

Updates to the June Area pages on the Purdue GLR website are being updated and will be available for enumerators to review on Friday, April 28. The biggest addition to the pages will be links to additional training videos which will help you get more familiar with the content of the Ag Tract questionnaire. Up to six hours are authorized for self-study to help you prepare for the survey proper. Enumerators who have not worked June Area in the past or who did not work during prescreening earlier this year can claim an additional two hours of home study. The home-study hours will be in addition to mini-schools, which will be facilitated by your supervisor. Please communicate with your supervisor to make sure you know the scheduled date, time, and location of your Area Mini-School.