

Friday Feedback for December 20, 2019

January Survey Preparation

UPS packages for the January 1 Surveys are scheduled to be shipped to enumerators within the next two business days. These packets will contain materials for the January Cattle Report, January Milk Production Report, January Sheep & Goat Report, the Bee and Honey Inquiry, Quarterly Colony Loss, Census of Organic Production, Census of Horticultural Specialties, and additional County Agricultural Production Surveys. If you are expecting to receive a packet and do not receive it before December 30, please contact your supervisor or NASDA Coordinator.

Census of Horticulture Update - Collom

The Census of Horticultural Specialties will be mailed to respondents on Monday, December 30. Packages containing information regarding the Census of Hort, including your assignments, will be shipped to enumerators via UPS. Enumeration can begin on Monday, January 20. Please use the labeled questionnaires that are being sent to you to conduct interviews. Questionnaires should be returned to the office. Keep in mind that floriculture operators will get busier as the spring gets closer so please begin enumeration as close to the 20th of January as you can.

Census of Organics Update - Courser

Survey materials for the Census of Organic have now been posted to the Purdue site at the following link:

[Organic Survey](#)

Please take some time to review these materials. Enumerators are authorized for up to four hours of home study time to become familiar with the survey. While enumerator packets are scheduled to be sent from the GLR in the next couple days, we are still waiting to receive the Interview's Manuals from HQ. If you do not receive an Interview's Manual in your pre-survey kit, one will be mailed to you shortly. Also, an electronic copy is available on the web.

Upcoming Retirements

Michigan's NASDA Coordinator Chad Cloos is retiring from NASS after 30 years of Federal Service effective December 31. A proud Penn State alumnus, Chad began his NASS Career in the Florida Field Office before coming to Michigan in 1991. He has been Michigan's NASDA Coordinator since 2007, a position he thoroughly enjoyed. Chad's future plans include traveling and spending time with family, from his parents in Florida to grandchildren in Texas to his new puppy at home. A retirement celebration was held at the Great Lakes Regional Field Office on Thursday, December 19.

Great Lakes Regional Statistical Assistant Lynn Spisak is also retiring from NASS after 40 years of service effective January 3. Lynn began her career first as a NASDA enumerator, then after a year was hired on full-time with what was then called the Michigan Agricultural Reporting Service. Over the years, Lynn has provided support in preparation for the major NASS surveys and was the point person in preparing materials for countless NASDA training schools. She served as the backup to the NASDA Coordinator and has been preparing NASDA Newsletters and Calendars since 1986. Lynn also got involved with editing completed questionnaires, both on paper and in the computer, especially the June Area, ARMS II, ARMS III, and Chemical Use Surveys, and has been the lead in maintaining the Area Frame records for several years. Lynn has no immediate plans for what she will do upon retirement, but plans to stay in touch. All NASDA enumerators going to Michigan's ARMS III School are invited and encouraged to attend Lynn's retirement celebration, which is scheduled for the evening of Wednesday, February 12 at Ozzy's Kabob in Okemos, MI.

Office Closure Reminders

All USDA/NASS Offices will be closed on Tuesday December 24 (Christmas Eve), Wednesday December 25 (Christmas Day), and Wednesday January 1 (New Year's Day). Additionally, there will be no edition of the Friday Feedback published on Friday, December 27.

**** WISHING EVERYONE A SAFE AND ENJOYABLE HOLIDAY SEASON!! ****

Friday Feedback for December 13, 2019

Missing the Midnight Deadline

It is 11:00 p.m. on the day that all of the surveys are due and need to be submitted in CAPI. You've got a lot of data on paper to punch into your iPad. You open up as many forms on your iPad as you can and start entering in data as fast as you can. The clock strikes midnight, but you still have three or four forms left to go, but you think you're okay because you got the forms open before midnight even though the data was punched in after midnight. You submit your records in the hope that the office gets them...

What we have learned in the office is that when records are submitted after midnight on the night that the survey closes, none of the data that is entered into the iPad stays attached to the record. At the office, the record appears to be "started" or "saved for review" but otherwise the record is empty.

So what should you do if you're in that situation? First, be sure to submit records through "Final Submission" before midnight. Just having it open before midnight is not enough. If you need your supervisor to review your work before it goes through final submission, be sure you are communicating with your supervisor as to how late you can submit it before they turn in for the night. If you can't get it all submitted before midnight, you may need to call the regional office or your NASDA Coordinator to get the data relayed and into the system.

December Surveys Winding Down

Speaking of midnight deadlines, there are several surveys that are wrapping up in the next few days. All reports must be submitted in CAPI for the following surveys on the date indicated before 11:59 p.m.:

- Vegetable Grower Inquiry: December 13
- December Crops APS: December 16
- Popcorn Inquiry (Indiana): December 16
- Dry Bean Inquiry (Michigan): December 16

Fruit Chemical Use Survey Reminder

The last day to ship Michigan's Fruit Chemical Use Surveys and the Pesticide Applicator Credit Applications that go with them to the Regional Field Office is Friday December 20. There are no exceptions and no possible extensions for this survey. All time to be charged to Project Code 141 must be entered in your timesheet by the end of Pay Period 25 (December 21) as the data collection funds will run out and there will be no additional NASDA money made available for working on this survey after Pay Period 25. We understand that it may take time to transcribe spray records into the questionnaire, but that time will not be available after December 21; that work will need to be done by Regional Field Office staff if necessary. If you have any questions, please contact your supervisor or your NASDA Coordinator.

Poinsettia Day

Poinsettia Day, celebrated December 12, forms a cultural bridge between the U.S. and Mexico. The date marks the death of Joel Roberts Poinsett, an American botanist, physician, and Minister to Mexico who in the 1820's sent cuttings of the plant he'd discovered in Southern Mexico to his home in Charleston, South Carolina; however, it wasn't until the early 1920s that the poinsettia started taking root in American culture. Every year, poinsettias contribute upwards of \$250 million to the US Economy at the wholesale level, and poinsettias are the best-selling potted plant in the U.S. and Canada. Known as *Euphorbia Pulcherrima*, poinsettias come in hundreds of beautiful colors, but the bright red variety are most commonly associated with the Christmas Season.

Friday Feedback for December 6, 2019

New NASDA Coordinator for Michigan Announced

Paul Goings has been selected as the new NASDA Coordinator for Michigan. Paul is a 2016 graduate of Purdue University with a degree in Agribusiness. He has been working for NASS since the summer of 2017 as a member of the Surveys Team at the Great Lakes Regional Field Office where his primary responsibilities have included preparing the weekly Michigan Crop Weather reports as well as managing the ARMS Phase I and Fruit/Vegetable Chemical Use Surveys. Paul will be replacing Chad Cloos, who is retiring at the end of the year.

Keeping our lists up to date

Throughout enumerator travels, we know people will become aware of operations going out of business, reorganizing, or having a major shakeup due to the passing of a partner, target, or family patriarch/matriarch. If you hear of something happening with an operation in your area that we should probably be aware of in future contacts, don't feel like you need to wait until you get a survey for that operation in hand to let us know about the change. We're happy to take updates at any time.

What do TSWAP and PSWAP mean?

A field enumerator reached out to the Regional Field Office unsure what it meant when her assignment listings indicated that a survey was matched with "TSWAP" or "PSWAP". TSWAP is short for "Target Swap". This indicates that the person who was originally sampled for the record last spring is no longer associated with the operation and that the target is a new person. This new person might have been a partner on the operation earlier, or it might be a substituted operator taking over the business. PSWAP is short for "Partner Swap", and it indicates that a target and a partner have swapped roles in the operation. The name of the operator you see in your CAPI listings SHOULD be the appropriate person to contact, but sometimes, when operations are in transition, it's hard to know exactly who we should be talking to, so including these labels helps both the office and enumerators know which operations need more attention, and possibly clarification, on who is the primary target.

Friday Feedback Contest Winners

Congratulations to Indiana's Anita Girod, Michigan's Barb Cotey, and Ohio's Cathy Pitzer, who were selected as the winners of the Friday Feedback Contest! One winner from each state was selected by random draw from those who turned in an e-mail entry before noon on November 25. Winners will be receiving a small prize in the mail in the next week.

Email Alerts for Friday Feedback

Starting very soon, the Regional Field Office will be sending an email alert to all active GLR enumerators to let them know when Friday Feedback has been posted for the current week, along with a link to access the most

current report so enumerators can just click on the link to read the report, which will still be posted on the Purdue Site. Our hope is that with a regular e-mail reminder with a quick link to the report that we can increase readership to this weekly newsletter.

Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

Pearl Harbor Day, always December 7th, commemorates the Japanese attack on the U.S. Naval base at Pearl Harbor. The attack began at dawn December 7, 1941. It crippled the U.S. Pacific Fleet, and caused the U.S. to enter World War II. During the attack at Pearl Harbor, over 2,400 American servicemen and 68 civilians were killed. Five of the eight battleships at Pearl Harbor were sunk or sinking, and virtually all ships were damaged.

On December 8, 1941 President Franklin D. Roosevelt stated in a speech to Congress it was "a day that will live in infamy". The U.S. then declared war on Japan. On Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, U.S. flags are to be flown at half-staff.