

Friday Feedback for April 26, 2019 (Saturday Edition)

June Area is Almost Here! – Miyares

All enumerators who have been assigned segments for the upcoming June Area survey should have received a packet in UPS containing blank questionnaires, the home-study quiz, and a copy of the Interviewer's Manual. Please note that this manual is used for several surveys throughout the year and should be kept until June 2020.

This year, instead of conducting a regional training school in Fort Wayne, we are going to be holding "Train-the-trainer" sessions for NASDA Supervisors during the week of April 29 - May 3, with supervisor-led mini-schools to be held over the two weeks that follow. Please be sure you work with your supervisor to know the date, time, and location of your mini-school. Aerial photos for assigned segments and screening forms for new segments requiring pre-screening will be distributed to enumerators at those mini-schools. Enumerators will also be provided with several handouts containing supplemental survey information and some consumable supplies (photo pens, erasers, grids, etc.). Please bring your iPad, manual, your completed home-study quiz, and the blank questionnaires sent to you to the mini-school.

Due to delays resulting from the partial government shutdown earlier this year, Ag tract questionnaires for segments that were enumerated last year will not be available until mid-May and will be shipped to individual enumerators prior to the start of formal data collection. Also, any supplies that were not available to be distributed at the mini-schools will be shipped via UPS to each enumerator with the final assignments.

The June Area Survey Pages on the Purdue Website are nearly complete and can be accessed by touching [HERE](#). Near the top of these pages there is a Pre-School Evaluation Form. Please complete this form and relay to your supervisor particular questions or concerns that you would like addressed at your mini-school. Enumerators are also encouraged to use some of their home-study time to review the 12 PowerPoint presentations which include important information about the survey. Reviewing this information in advance will allow for more discussion time at your mini-schools.

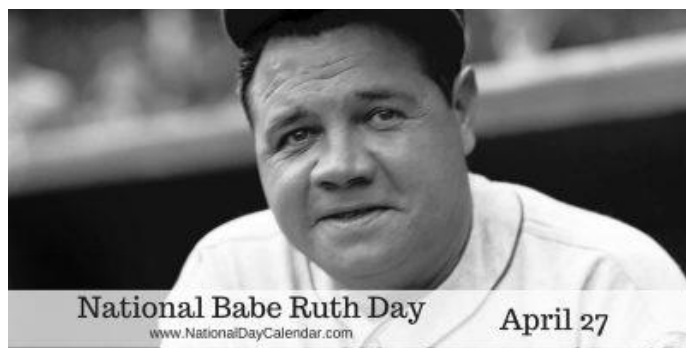
Fresh asparagus - YUM!

Asparagus is available year-round, but spring is the best season for this nutritious vegetable. Crops are harvested from late February to June, with April being the prime month and high season for asparagus. In 2018, Michigan was the nation's largest asparagus producer, with 13,300 tons produced on 9,500 acres harvested.

Babe Ruth Day

Babe Ruth Day, always April 27th, honors one of Baseball's greatest players ever.

On April 27, 1947, Babe Ruth attended Yankee Stadium for Babe Ruth Day. It was to be the second to last time he was at the stadium. In 1946, Babe Ruth was diagnosed with Throat Cancer. Back then, there was not as much treatment as there is today. On this day in 1947, baseball's "The Bambino" returned to "The House that Ruth Built" to be honored.



Friday Feedback for April 19, 2019

Michigan Fruit Inventory Data Collection Update - Laird/Saffell

We have been instructed to stop field visits for all method 41 and 47 records to meet budget requirements. If the survey label has a 41 or 47 in the upper right hand corner, and you do not already have a field appointment scheduled, then the only data collection option for those records is phone follow up. All method 48's are still to be field enumerated.

To avoid any confusion, I will send a listing of POIDs to each enumerator (and their supervisor) who still has field eligible, method=48, surveys in their possession. Otherwise, if you do not receive a listing from me then please halt field visits for your records. Thanks for understanding and thank you very much for the work you have all put into collecting detailed fruit block information.

Questionnaire Flow

When USPS & UPS deliveries come into the office, 2 or 3 individuals are responsible for opening, checking in and distributing questionnaires. Please do not mark your work attention to an individual (unless it is something specific just for that person), there have been times when a delivery was placed on the desk of someone who was away from the office. Also, if placed directly on someone's desk, these questionnaires will not get checked in. Stats assume that any questionnaires they receive have been checked in.

Please note, when UPS labels are printed they usually have Denise Bowman's name on them, it is only because she is the person who creates them. Do not put attention Denise on your packages.

National Jelly Bean Day

National Jelly Bean Day, always April 22, is a time to enjoy gobs and gobs of jelly beans. Anyone who loves jelly beans, knows they are not just for Easter. Sure, they are very popular at Easter. But, they are also enjoyed year round. The flavors are limited only by the imagination of candy makers. If you've never enjoyed the multitude of flavors in a box of gourmet jelly beans, we suggest you head right out to the store and buy some. Jelly beans date back to at least the 1860's. Advertisements promoted sending jelly beans to Union troops fighting in the Civil War. The original candy maker is unknown.



ARMS III – Erickson/Magen

We want to sincerely THANK YOU for your hard work on ARMS III. This year's survey has presented many challenges for all of us, and we really appreciate your efforts. Please be aware of the due dates. Stay in contact with your Supervisor to make sure all of your assigned records are accounted for on time. Also, please remember that good completes with data get sent to NPC. All other questionnaires, such as refusals, inaccessible, and out-of-business/out-of-scope records must be submitted on the iPad. No questionnaires are to be sent to the GLR office.

NASS Awards for Excellence

The 2019 NASS Awards for Excellence Ceremony will be held on April 17th. Congratulations to Ohio field enumerator, Mark Fannin, one of only four nationwide to receive the Enumerator of the Year Award. Congratulations also to Beckie McCracken, who was among those on the Response Rate Research Team that was recognized with a Circle Award.

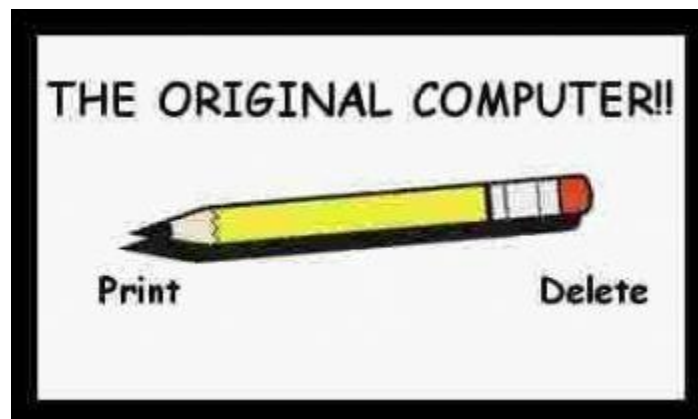
Rubber Eraser Day

Make no mistake... Rubber Eraser Day, April 15, celebrates the invention of erasers. We all make mistakes. This day is designated to recognize and appreciate the value of that little plug (as manufacturers call them), that sits atop our pencils. When we make a mistake, they are the big "cover-up", make that eraser, of our booboo or faux pax. Just imagine how messy our documents would be without it!

Why not just call it "Eraser Day"? There's two reasons. The first erasers were made of rubber. Today, they are made of rubber, or vinyl. Secondly, in Great Britain, they are formally called "rubbers".

In the world of erasers, there are two men who are prominent. Joseph Priestley discovered the eraser in 1770, using pieces of rubber imported from Brazil. Then in 1858, Hyman Lipman of Philadelphia, Pa., patented the pencil with an eraser at the end.

Today's Quote: To err is human, an eraser is divine!



Friday Feedback for April 5, 2019

Floriculture - Collom/Laird

A special note of thanks to those enumerators and supervisors that worked Floriculture. Despite the government shutdown and the ever changing due dates, the survey went exceedingly well. The surveys came into the office on a consistent basis and the data quality was nearly perfect. Thank you for your hard work.

New CAPI Update – Lawson/Laird

We have seen a few more issues with the new CAPI system during data collection this past week. Thank you for the wonderful job all of you have done by providing specific details when reporting issues. This info has been extremely helpful to the HQ programmers!

These are the things they want to know:

1. The enumerator ID - especially if the problem is only happening to one enumerator.
2. The name of the survey; if the problem appears within a survey form. A specific POID is always helpful!
3. When did it first happen and did the problem just occur once or is it repeatable? Meaning it occurs on every form or you see the same error message every time you logout.
4. If you were using an iPad or a personal computer when you had the problem (Remember to ONLY use the Chrome browser on a computer)
5. Finally, a picture is worth a thousand words. Text or email a picture of the screen if possible.

“DIDN’T I TELL YOU A YEAR AGO THIS GUY WASN’T FARMING?!?!” - Miyares

The staff at the Regional Field Office truly appreciate all efforts that have been made to help clarify the status of operators that have indicated to us that they are no longer farming. We have been getting better data on who is taking over operations and the disposition of farmland and equipment when a farm sale has taken place. All of this information is extremely important in maintaining an accurate list of farms in our region.

Recently, we have been seeing a number of these types of records that, upon further research, our colleagues at the Frames Maintenance Group (FMG) in St. Louis are hesitant to put out-of-business due to the presence of other control data that might suggest they meet the NASS Definition of a Farm, including people who may have land in conservation programs such as CRP, are receiving payments through government supported agricultural programs, or may have idle cropland. In those cases, when a record isn’t dropped, we are adding a comment to the record saying, “Per FMG, Record must remain active due to…” along with an explanation. These records will also have a flag attached to them to force a stat to review the record if it shows up in a survey sample and make a determination as to whether it should or should not be sent to the field for enumeration. For example, if a person is a landlord who is remaining active for census because he/she receives at least \$1000 in government payments, that person doesn’t need to be contacted for a Quarterly Ag Survey because he/she isn’t making the day-to-day decisions for that operation. Records like that will be held in the office and coded accordingly. Efforts will also be made to purge any control data that might make the operator eligible to be sampled for different surveys. However, even with these safeguards, records are going to slip through and be pushed out to CAPI that perhaps don’t need to be contacted based on comments you have provided to us on these operations before.

If you see a comment in your assignment listings that indicates that an operator is probably out of business but “Per FMG” is not, then please double check with your supervisor or NASDA Coordinator to determine whether a contact is necessary. Please also double check the “office notes” comments on the record which may indicate why that record is being pushed out for enumeration.

Go with the Flow! - Spisak

Over the past few years we've established an agenda for getting prepared for the Mid-year Surveys. This has included a Supervisors Training School in Mid-April when we've distributed aerial photos, etc. The government shutdown earlier this year has had long range repercussions and delays. We are starting to receive needed manuals, photos, etc. and are doing our part to do what we can as materials and information is received. Thank you for your assistance and your patience.

Zoo Lovers Day

Zoo Lovers day is always April 8th. Zoos have been around for thousands of years. A zoo was originally called a "menagerie". In some form, menageries have been around since ancient times. The earliest recording was around 1500 B.C.!!

People, young and old, enjoy visiting the zoo. Where else can you see lions and tigers and bears all in one location? And, elephants, too!

