

Friday Feedback for May 31, 2019

Delayed Planting and Impacts on June Survey Work – Hurlbut/Miyares

Recent crop weather reports indicate that corn and soybean planting progress is far behind schedule in all three States, and this week has seen even more wet weather. According to some reports, 90-day corn seed is in short supply and an announcement was made that China has stopped purchasing US Soybeans. With the “prevented planting” date of June 5 fast approaching, some questions have come up regarding how best to record data for the June Area and June Agricultural Surveys.

We understand that enumerators want to do the best job possible when collecting and recording this data, but this is going to be an unusual year. At this point, if a field is not planted, determine the operator’s planting intentions as of June 1 and record those acres as such, making sure to indicate how many acres are left to be planted (on the area forms). If the operator indicates that they think they are going to have to leave a field idle this year rather than plant soybeans instead, then the field should be coded as being “idle all during 2019”. If the operator plans to plant winter wheat or rye in the fall, then it should still be coded as idle cropland for 2019.

In prior years, when a large enough percentage of farmers indicated they hadn’t finished planting by June 1, NASS conducted a “June Area Update Survey” in selected states. In those years, farmers were re-interviewed to determine what was actually planted in those fields that were still left to be planted on June 1. Should that happen again this year, then that will be our opportunity to make updates to section D acres that might have been unknown on the first of June; however, when or if an area update survey will take place is still unknown. We will keep you posted with whatever information we learn as the survey progresses. For now, do your best to obtain current acreage intentions as of June 1, even if things are subject to change, and be sure to meet the deadlines of shipping new segments to East Lansing by June 6 and all other June Area work by June 10.

Matched List Surveys Not Appearing on iPads – Miyares

We’ve been getting some reports from the field regarding List forms (in particular, June Crops APS) that are matched and inserted with Area segments that are not showing up as available on the iPad. It appears that a handful of records that were coded as “mail only” that were matched with June Area were printed, labeled, and sent out with the Area records for field enumeration. If you are able to collect and complete the list record on paper, and the record is not available to complete in CAPI, it can still be submitted through the EDR System (www.agcounts.usda.gov) using the Survey Code on the labeled paper questionnaire.

Change in Hay Prices Coding – Collom

Effective immediately, all NASDA work for Hay Prices, including Hay Auctions and Hay Sellers, should be charged in iSolved to Project Code 185 instead of Project Code 172.

National Cheese Day

June 4 is National Cheese Day. Cheese, which can be made from the milk of cows, goats, sheep and even buffalos, is produced from pressed curds of milk. It has been a staple of diets since ancient times, dating back as far back as 10,000 years ago. By the time of the Roman Empire, cheese had become widespread. Today, Americans consume on average around 31 pounds of cheese a year. Depending upon who is counting, there are between 800 and 1,400 varieties of cheese to choose from, classified by taste and texture. Unfortunately, many of these varieties are little known and hard to find. Even so, there is no shortage of varieties in the market.



Friday Feedback for May 24, 2019

New CAPI Application Push Sunday May 26 – Laird/Lawson

- Enumerators should submit all records that are ready to submit, **by midnight on Saturday, May 25, 2019**. All Enumerators should be **logged out** of CAPI Production and CAPI Training applications by this date and time.
- At or before 9:00am EST on **Sunday, May 26**, both CAPI icons (CAPI and CAPI Training) will disappear from all active CAPI devices (iPads).
- Updated CAPI mobile applications will be pushed to the Apps@Work container located on each CAPI device.
- Beginning around 10:00am EST on Sunday, enumerators can re-download and install **both** updated CAPI applications and continue working in CAPI. Please make sure **both** updated applications are installed.
- Use **Project Code 380** for the time spent updating CAPI applications.
- Enumerators can reference a new document on 5/26, “CAPI Applications Download Instructions”, which will be located on the [CAPI Dashboard](#) for details on downloading the updated applications.

June Area Budget Update - Miyares

Thanks to everyone who has been diligent about keeping up with their time sheets in iSolved on a daily basis. Based on our projections, enumerators should continue to use Project Code 166 for prescreening activities through Monday May 27. Starting May 28, all June Area Survey work, whether for screening or for data collection, should be charged to Project Code 124.

You Can Help

When returning completed June Area screener forms to the office, please be sure the 1st page with the bar code is on the outside as the bar code is used to check in the form. Every screener and tract questionnaire will be checked in. Thank you!

Award Winners

Congratulations to the following enumerators and supervisors on their awards received for work in 2018!

Indiana: Jennie Hawk, Robert Scherrer, Trudy Tackett, Jo Farlow, Debra Wilson, Laura Smith, Audrey Orzulak, Allen Franz, Dan Schroeder, Cheryl Rowe, Lynn Addison

Michigan: Nohemi Barajas, Michael Stickle, Bob Larsen, Mary Ann Sawyer, Nick Liberati, Leslie Sizemore, Bob Sizemore, Bob Haskins, LeRoy Ostlund, Tonya Langdon, Diane Hutchins, Linda Newcomb, Gerry Binger, Diane McPhee

Ohio: Laura Coleman, Mark Fannin, Duane Grimme, Earl Gowdy, Dave Helgeson, Kris Karr, Carolyn Martin, Beckie McCracken, Shane Pugh, Rob Schmelzer, Susan Williams, Carol Wurdack, Jon Yackey, Jerry Zimmerman

Memorial Day

Memorial Day is observed and celebrated the last Monday in May. Memorial Day is dedicated to service men and women who gave their lives for freedom and country. It is also a time to remember loved ones who have passed away. The roots of the Memorial Day observance go back to 1865 and the end of the Civil War when it was first called Decoration Day. It was changed to Memorial Day in 1882.

Memorial Day was traditionally held on the 30th of May. In 1971, Congress changed it to the last Monday, in order to afford a three day holiday weekend.



Friday Feedback for May 17, 2019

Grape Production - Collom

Grape Production: For those interested, National Grape Cooperative (Welch's) and Michigan State University Extension has produced a short video on juice grapes and juice production. It's about 3 minutes long and those unfamiliar with how the process works might find it interesting.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pKLd-vgdeng>

Upcoming APHIS/NAHMS Goat Survey – Weber/Courser

We are starting to get information from HQ about the upcoming Goat NAHMS survey, and we wanted to pass along the details we have. Here's what we know:

- Field Data collection is preliminarily scheduled to be July 1 – August 5, 2019.
- Sample sizes are approximately 130 for each state in our region.
- This is a two-Phase study. For Phase 1, NASDA will contact potential participants and complete a questionnaire and consent form for operators to be contacted in Phase 2. For Phase 2, operators who consent will be contacted by APHIS/State Vets to schedule an in-person interview and collect biologics.
- APHIS will be offering several incentives to producers who chose to participate in this study.

Please stay tuned to the Purdue site as we work to post more details on this valuable survey in the next couple of weeks.

Cash Rents Matched with June – Morris/Miyares

We've received some questions from enumerators and supervisors about additional Cash Rents forms appearing in CAPI listings that are "not available" to do. These are forms that were identified as matches with the June Area Survey as well as with other June 1 "List" Surveys, including the June Agricultural Survey (Crops/Stocks), June Hogs, ARMS I, June 1 Potato Stocks, and the June Cherry Forecast. While a number of these forms were pulled from the call center, several forms were reassigned from one local enumerator to another to match the two surveys. The CAPI Start Date on these records has been set to May 28, 2019 so that enumerators who are already scheduled to contact operators for June 1 surveys can coordinate the data collection for the matches. The listings for the matched surveys should be available by May 21. Please contact your NASDA Coordinator if you have any questions.

June Area Updates – Miyares

Boxes and packages with June Survey materials were shipped via UPS Ground to individual enumerators from our offices between Wednesday and Friday. All enumerators should receive these packages by Monday. Please be sure to review the contents of these packages once they arrive. They will include, at a minimum:

- A manila envelope with information for the June 1 "List" surveys (Crops/Stocks, Hogs, ARMS I, Cherries, Potato Stocks, Cash Rents), including Blank questionnaires, pre-survey letters, enumerator memos, and updated assignment listings for those who usually receive them,
- Segment envelopes containing the returning segments and the labeled ag tract questionnaires for those who were in June Area last year
- Supplemental materials to complete the June Area survey, including several blank ag tract questionnaires, blank screener forms, supplements, a few alcohol wipes, a magic eraser (Mr. Clean Sponge) and a new #2 pencil.

Please note that as in past years, labeled "List" questionnaires that match with area records are being provided in each segment envelope, but these forms were not inserted with individual ag tract questionnaires. Also, please remember that data from the "List" surveys must be entered through CAPI and should not be sent back to East Lansing with the paper forms.

Also included in this packet is a sheet of small stickers which show the web address for NASS releases. The idea is that if someone wants to get a copy of the results of the survey they just completed, you could put one of

these stickers on the back of one of your business cards to hand to respondents at the end of the interview. Instructions on how to use these stickers are included in the packet.

Time Sheet Reminder

Don't forget to enter your time and mileage into iSolved on a daily basis. Due to this year's tight budget, we are going to be tracking survey expenses very closely and working with supervisors to make sure that we complete our work on-time with money to spare. As a reminder, here are the project codes you are most likely to work with during the next few weeks:

- 166: June Area Pre-Screening
- 124: June Area Training and Data Collection (ag tracts)
- 123: June Agricultural Survey (Crops/Stocks)
- 162: June Hog Report
- 905: ARMS Phase I
- 128: June Ag Yield
- 134: June Cherry Forecast (MI Only)
- 195: June Potato Stocks (MI Only)
- 921: Cash Rents

World Plant a Vegetable Garden Day

World Plant a Vegetable Garden Day was created by Bob Matthews of Rochester, NY to encourage people to join in the hobby of gardening. The date of May 19th was chosen, as the last frost date has passed for almost everyone in the northern hemisphere, where the vast majority of humans live. Matthews is an avid, lifetime gardener who owns and operates the websites [Garden Hobbies](#) and [Pumpkin Nook](#). While this day is intended to create a vegetable garden, Matthews suggests one could use this day to plant a flower or herb garden instead, or even all three!

Millions upon millions of people are already gardening in some amazing places. Backyard gardens are what normally comes to mind, but urban community gardens also abound. In urban environments, vacant lots are often used (seek permission from the owner first). People grow gardens in containers and pots on balconies, decks, and patios. Apartment rooftops can be a great place for your new garden. For those who are space constrained, vertical gardens can be the solution.



Friday Feedback for May 10, 2019

Review Comments before Interview

Field enumerators usually see comments on their iPad, but for the June Area survey, paper comments will be inserted in the tract questionnaires. Often there are comments about changes that happened over the last year that can only be made in June. Sometimes a comment will contain questions that require an answer from you asking to clarify the status of the operation or involvement of partners. Sometimes a comment will include information about an operation that helps with follow-on surveys (two horses and pasture only; CRP only). One recently reviewed comment said, "Operator very rude." This was written as a caution to the field enumerator, but would NOT be something you would want the operator to see. All in all, it is very important that all comments be read prior to enumeration, but be cautious when meeting with respondents that they don't necessarily see what we write about them.

Updated Manuals Available – Miyares

The Agricultural Surveys Interviewer's Manual is a great resource for enumerators. It includes information for not only the June Area survey, but also the Quarterly Agricultural Surveys, Quarterly Hogs and Pigs, January/July Cattle, and January Sheep & Goats. These are updated every year and are available in hard copy and on the iPads at this [LINK](#). All enumerators working the June Area survey received a new copy of the manual with their June Area pre-school materials. If you are not working the June Area survey and you need to receive an updated copy of the manual, please contact your NASDA Supervisor or request one through the on-line request form at the regional office and you can receive a copy with your June 1 Survey Assignments.

May Ag Yield Response Rate Improves – Miyares

We would like to thank all of the Great Lakes enumerators for their efforts this month with the May Ag Yield Survey. Our regional response rate for this survey was up 80.8 percent, up 22.5 percent from a year ago. This marks the first time since 2014 that the regional response rate for Ag Yield was above 80 percent. Having solid response rates helps to strengthen the estimates we publish in service to agriculture. Great job, and thank you!

Where are all of the ARMS I forms? – Goings/Miyares

Now that ARMS III data collection has come to a close, it's already time to start thinking ahead to ARMS Phase I for next year. Phase I is a screener survey to determine if operators meet the definition of a farm and to see if they grow any of the targeted commodities for Phase II. For 2019, the only targeted Phase II commodity is winter wheat in Michigan and Ohio. For Phase III, there are no targeted livestock commodities. Consequently, the sample size is much smaller in our region than it has been in past years.

In an attempt to reduce respondent burden, headquarters has identified a significant number of operations where we already have 2018/19 data either through recently completed NASS surveys or FSA signups which can help determine if wheat was to be grown in 2019 or if the operation would meet the definition of a farm that will not need to be contacted. Additionally, all of the questions on the ARMS Phase I questionnaire also appear on the June Agricultural Survey, so operations who were sampled for both surveys will only need to complete the one. As a result, we're only going to need to reach out to approximately one-third of the sampled operations in an already reduced ARMS I sample. So if you're wondering where all of the ARMS I forms that you would have normally received at this time are, they're probably not coming.

Where did my Cash Rents go? – Morris/Miyares

We have identified a number of operations sampled for the Cash Rents survey that haven't completed their form yet that are matched with the June Surveys (both Area and List). In order to prevent operators from getting calls on Cash Rents while enumerators are field enumerating June Area, we are going to transfer the Cash Rent forms to the enumerator working the June Area segment on Monday May 13 and change the CAPI dates so that they can't begin those until May 28. Cash rent forms matched with the June List survey will also be turned off before the end of the month, as the Cash Rent questions are also asked on that survey as well. Turning these forms off in the short run will give respondents a break from getting many calls on cash rents knowing we're going to need them for the other June Surveys.



Friday Feedback for May 3, 2019

June Area is Almost Here! – Miyares

This year, instead of conducting a regional training school in Fort Wayne, we held “Train-the-Trainer” sessions for NASDA Supervisors. There will be supervisor-led mini-schools over the two weeks for field enumerators. 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.

Bird Day and International Migratory Bird Day

People love birds. Bird watching is a favorite pastime of millions of people. It is the most popular of hobbies, and can be enjoyed by everyone regardless of age. With this popularity, it comes as no surprise that there is more than one day established to recognize, appreciate, and enjoy birds. We suggest you celebrate all of these days.

Bird Day is the oldest of the days set aside to recognize birds. According to the U.S. Library of Congress, Bird Day was first observed on May 4, 1894. It was started by Charles Almanzo Babcock, superintendent of schools in Oil City, Pennsylvania. By 1910, Bird Day was widely celebrated, often in conjunction with Arbor Day. Bird Day and Arbor Day events are focused upon conservation training and awareness.

International Migratory Bird Day, observed on the second Saturday in May, celebrates the incredible journey that migratory birds take each year. They travel thousands of miles between breeding grounds in North America, and their winter homes in Central and South America. Organizers say this is a day to both support, and to increase awareness of conservation efforts in support of migratory birds. They also suggest a field trip into a woods to look for and enjoy migrating birds.

