

Friday Feedback for June 28, 2019

June Re-interviews – Hurlbut

As you all know, data collection for the June surveys took place during a period of great uncertainty, with weather related planting delays and final planting dates approaching. This was acknowledged during the Secretary's briefing for the June Acreage report. Nationally, 16.7 percent of corn and 41.2 percent of soybeans remained to be planted at the point where all data were collected. Indiana, Michigan and Ohio will be among several other states to conduct June re-interviews. Details on the data collection plan are forthcoming, and we will be sharing those with you as soon as possible.

July is....

National Blueberry Month, National Anti-Boredom Month, Unlucky Month for weddings, National Cell Phone Courtesy Month, National Hot Dog Month, National Ice Cream Month and National Picnic Month. Also, the Dog Days of Summer happen from July 3 to August 11.

The third week in July is Capture the Sunset Week. Head up to Sleeping Bear Dunes, though that might be a bit of a haul for those in Southern Indiana and Southeastern Ohio.

Days observed during July include: July 1st is Canada Day / Dominion Day, Creative Ice Cream Flavors Day, International Chicken Wing Day, International Joke Day, National Postal Worker Day. July 2nd is I Forgot Day and World UFO Day (extraterrestrials can erase your memory, you know). July 3rd is Compliment Your Mirror Day, Eat Beans Day, Stay out of the Sun Day, and Disobedience Day (maybe don't eat beans, get a sunburn and insult your mirror, then.) July 4th is Independence Day (of course, but did you also know it is Independence Day in Rwanda, too?), National Country Music Day, and Sidewalk Egg Frying Day. July 5th is National Apple Turnover Day, National Bikini Day, and Work-a-holics Day. July 6th is International Kissing Day, International Cherry Pit Spitting Day, and National Fried Chicken Day. July 7th is Build a Scarecrow Day, Chocolate Day, and National Strawberry Sundae Day. July 8th is Body Painting Day, National Blueberry Day, and Video Games Day. July 9th is National Sugar Cookie Day and Teddy Bear Picnic Day. July 11th is Cheer up the Lonely Day, National Blueberry Muffins Day and World Population Day. July 12th is Different Colored Eyes Day and Pecan Pie Day. July 13th Barbershop Music Appreciation Day, Embrace Your Geekness Day (I think those two go together.), Fool's Paradise Day, and National French Fries Day. July 14th is Bastille Day, Pandemonium Day (NASS observes that one in June), and Shark Awareness Day (that's actually every day that you happen to be swimming in the ocean). July 15th is Be a Dork Day (statisticians still need to report to work, though), Cow Appreciation Day, and Tapioca Pudding Day. July 16th is Fresh Spinach Day and World Snake Day. July 17th is National Hot Dog Day, Peach Ice Cream Day, World Emoji Day and Yellow Pig Day (no idea). July 18th is National Caviar Day. July 19th is National Daiquiri Day and National Raspberry Cake Day. July 20th is National Ice Cream Soda Day, National Lollipop Day, and Moon Day, and Ugly Truck Day (in Michigan, it's just called Truck Day). July 21st is National Ice Cream Day and National Junk Food Day. July 22nd is Hammock Day and Ratcatcher's Day (catch a rat with a hammock). July 23rd is Vanilla Ice Cream Day. July 24th is Amelia Earhart Day, Cousins Day, National Tequila Day and Tell an Old Joke Day. July 25th is Culinaricians Day, and Threading the Needle Day. July 26th is All or Nothing Day, Aunt and Uncle Day, and System Administrator Appreciation Day. July 27th is National Day of the Cowboy, Take Your Houseplants for a Walk Day (I thought that was supposed to coincide with National Tequila Day), and Take Your Pants for a Walk Day. July 28th is National Milk Chocolate Day, and Parent's Day. July 29th is Interntional Tiger Day, National Chicken Wing Day (not to be confused with International Chicken Wing Day, I guess), and National Lasagna Day. July 30th is National Cheesecake Day, Father-in-Law Day, and International Day of Friendship. Finally, last but certainly not least, July 31st is Mutt's Day.

Friday Feedback for June 21, 2019

Congratulations for 30 years of Service

Three of Michigan's NASDA Enumerators will achieve 30 years of service in 2019. Michigan's most veteran enumerator, Kitty Venable, reached the 30 year level in late January. Diane McPhee joined the 30 year club in February and Linda Newcomb will soon join their ranks in early July.

Congratulations to each of you for 30 years of service to Michigan agriculture. Thank you for your hard work and dedication. We look forward to continued success together.

Watch this space for acknowledging milestones from Indiana and Ohio in the coming weeks.

Telephone Interviews

Have you ever been trying to reach a farm operator by phone at all hours of the day, and no one answers? If this is the case, the phone number may be wrong. Try searching the internet for a better phone number for the farm name, operator's name or partner's name. The regional field office or your NASDA Coordinator may also have access to search tools to assist you in finding a better number.

When completing a survey on the iPad, please be sure to put the better phone number into the CAPI system either as a comment or, better yet, an address update. All too often, research is completed to find better numbers only for them to never get updated in the system, which causes us to start from scratch the next time we try to contact that operator.

When completing a paper questionnaire, if the telephone number on the label is correct, it's not necessary to copy the good number to the back page. If you do, we need to compare it to the number on the label and if you transpose a digit, we need to figure out which one is correct.

Summer Solstice

June 21, the Summer Solstice is sometimes referred to as "Midsummer" or "Litha." It's the longest day of the year. The amount of daylight only goes down from here... for the next six months. Summer Solstice is the meteorological start of summer. It's time to enjoy vacations, great weather, pools, baseball, and everything else that goes along with the favorite season of kids and most adults. Grab your favorite beverage and enjoy the season, because for many of us it is all too short.

Did you know the sun does not set at the North Pole on the Summer Solstice? There are 24 hours of sunlight.



Friday Feedback for June 14, 2019

Crops APS CAPI open through Saturday – Magen

In order to allow for improved response rates, CAPI will be open for Crops APS through Saturday, June 15th at 11:59 p.m. This will allow enumerators to submit any additional records they can complete. Please contact your supervisors if you have any questions.

We did it – because YOU did it – THANK YOU, THANK YOU, and THANK YOU!

A big thank you to everyone who worked on the June Area Survey. Field staff were amazing as we received everything back in the office in time for us to be able to meet the survey deadlines. Response rates were very close to last year's with a lot more segments to enumerate, and it appears that we will be able to stay just under our budget limits.

As a reminder, please be sure to still keep up with your time sheets on a daily basis, and if you have any photos that have not been shipped back to East Lansing, be sure to send them along right away.

Finally, while the survey procedures are fresh in your head, please note that we are always taking recommendations on how to make the survey run more smoothly. If there is anything that the field office staff can do to make next year go better or that NASS HQ can do to make the survey materials better, please contact your supervisors who can relay that information on to your NASDA Coordinators.

"The way a team plays as a whole determines its success. You may have the greatest bunch of individual stars in the world, but if they don't play together, the club won't be worth a dime." – Babe Ruth



Friday Feedback for June 7, 2019

June Area - Miyares

It's Friday and we are in the thick of it for June Area.... We know you are too! Thank you for all your hard work on the survey as well as time spent on Crops APS and June Hogs. As of Friday afternoon, we have received **45%** of completed segments and **41%** of known Ag Tract Questionnaires in the office.

REMEMBER Monday is the last day to ship UPS. *Please* make sure you use a **Next Day Air** UPS shipping label and keep track of your UPS Tracking codes.

Also, as you finish up with that one last Segment... Tract... Edit... please keep the following things in mind:

- Always include the preprinted screener with a bar code when mailing in segments. Not having the bar code slows down the check-in process.
- If you used a Section D Supplement, DO NOT tape, staple or clip the form to the tract questionnaire. Be sure the segment number, and tract letter are on the form and insert in the tract questionnaire.
- If a farmer is operating multiple tracts in a segment, one tract letter should be used for everything he's operating. DO NOT GIVE EACH TRACT A SEPARATE LETTER!!!
- If a phone number is printed on a label, it is not necessary to copy it over in the phone cell on the back page.
- If the primary operator has changed, even if it is the same operation name, we need to use a different tract letter and the data needs to be put on a blank questionnaire. The pre-printed bar code one should be then returned to East Lansing with an X through the front page explaining the nature of the change. Do NOT put a new operator's data on a bar coded questionnaire that has someone else's name on it.

I hope you have a productive weekend. There will be a few staff here in the office on Saturday, June 8. If you have any questions or need assistance, please feel free to contact John or your NASDA Coordinator.

