

## Friday Feedback for August 30, 2019

### **Objective Yield** – Erickson & Presberry

Thank you for your hard work so far with Corn and Soybean Objective Yield in Indiana and Ohio. Hopefully, the rain early in the week didn't slow down fieldwork too much. As the first month of fieldwork wraps up, we wanted to remind you of a few things. Field work for the September survey must be completed by September 1. CAPI will be open through September 2 to allow time for you to submit Form-B's that were completed late in the day on September 1, and/or for records that were saved for review.

Please reference the 'Form Management' document on the Purdue website under the Objective Yield tab. This document goes over how to handle refusals/lost samples and completes. Please make sure your Supervisor is aware of any Form-A's not completed as of September 1. If you have not been able to complete a Form-A by September 1, please hold the Form-A and continue to try to make contact with the operator. Also, in this case, please submit the Form-B as inaccessible in CAPI (status code = 8).

By the end of next week, the office should have all Form-B's accounted for, either by complete on CAPI (status code = 1), inaccessible on CAPI because contact with the operator has not been made yet (status code = 8), or the sample is a refusal/lost sample (the entire kit envelope, containing all forms, should be sent to the office).

As always, please ask your Supervisor if you have any questions. He or she will have (or get) an answer for you.

### **Workplace Harassment Training**

NASS Program Director Charlie Ingram will be emailing documents, as an attachment, directly to all field enumerators and supervisors: **1) Field Enumerator Memo and Instructions on Workplace Harassment Training, and 2) Field Supervisor Memo and Instructions on Workplace Harassment Training.** Both memos are self-explanatory and include step-by-step instructions for enumerators and supervisors, including the link to access the online training along with the usernames/passcodes to use.

Please contact your supervisor if you have additional questions. Thank you!

### **Sad News**

Laura Coleman, an Ohio field supervisor for the past 13 years, has passed away. Cards and condolences can be sent to her husband:

Frank Coleman, 5787 County Rd 77, Mt. Gilead, OH 43338



### **Labor Day**

Labor Day pays tribute to the contributions and achievements of American workers, and Labor Day 2019 occurs on Monday, September 2 (it's traditionally observed on the first Monday in September). It was created by the labor movement in the late 19th century and became a Federal holiday in 1894.

We hope you all have a good, happy, healthy holiday weekend.

**Small Grain CAPS County Selection in CAPI – Cloos**

Recently, enumerators working the County Agricultural Production Survey (CAPS) for small grains in Indiana and Ohio were the first in the nation to alert NASS staff about a county selection issue in CAPI. Hopefully, the issue has now been resolved. It may be necessary to log out and then back in to see the changes.

**Safety Concerns - Hurlbut**

Many of you may have already heard about an incident on this year's ProFarmer Midwest Crop Tour. A NASS employee received a threat by phone and the decision was made to send all NASS employees on the tour home. This incident reminds us that safety comes first, always. We usually think of safety in terms of driving and weather, but recent events force us to accept that people exist who would do us harm. We need to check our judgement from time to time to prevent us from falling into regrettable situations. The decision to recall the NASS employees was not an easy one given our natural tendency to focus on our commitment to work, but we live in a time where an abundance of caution is prudent.

We will be looking at our safety policies for both NASDA and NASS office staff in the coming days. However, we should always remember the cardinal rule that tells us to speak up whenever anything doesn't seem right. Please share all concerns with your supervisor, and supervisors should pass those along to the NASDA Coordinators. Please use the feature in CAPI that records your contacts with respondents and let someone know where you are going and when you will be back before you hit the road.

Federal Protective Services and local police were involved in the ProFarmer tour incident, and it was the right call. The expression "don't be a hero" comes to mind, but there would be nothing heroic about exposing yourself to harm over a statistic that someone doesn't agree with. We are blessed to be entering a weekend with our families and friends free of the pain of tragedy.

**Fall Chemical Use Surveys Coming - Miyares**

September is right around the corner and with it we begin to prepare for our Fall Chemical Use Surveys. In Michigan, the Fruit Chemical Use Survey will run from October 2 to December 20, with a focus on apples, peaches, tart cherries and blueberries. In Michigan and Ohio, the ARMS Phase II Survey will be a Production Practices Report (PPR) for winter wheat this year and will run from October 2 to November 20. There will be no Fall Chemical surveys conducted in Indiana this year.

On both surveys, growers will be surveyed on the type, amount, and frequency of chemicals and fertilizer applied to their 2019 crops. Additionally, growers will be asked about pest management practices, including questions regarding how producers scout for and detect pests, keep electronic records, use insect or disease resistant plant varieties, use non-chemical pest controls, rotate tank mixes, and monitor weather data. New to 2019 are a set of questions from USDA's Office of Pest Management Policy (OPMP) which will ask for detailed information on spraying methods and practices, sprayer calibration, tank cleaning/maintenance and the use of Best Management Practices (BMPs). Supervisor teleconferences will be scheduled for mid-September followed by mini-schools in Michigan and Ohio to train on these surveys.

**ARMS III – Save the Dates - Miyares**

Your NASDA Coordinators are in the process of scheduling formal training schools for the ARMS Phase III Survey taking place this coming spring. Barring scheduling difficulties and another government shutdown, the Indiana school will take place the week of January 27, the Ohio school will take place the week of February 3, and the Michigan school will take place the week of February 10. Supervisor meetings will take place on Monday afternoon and new enumerator training will take place on Tuesday morning. Training for all enumerators will begin Tuesday afternoon, run all day Wednesday, and until lunchtime on Thursday. Exact locations and hotels are still to be determined, but the dates should not change. More information will be provided as we get closer to the date.

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### Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced that producers of nearly 17,000 dairy operations have signed up for the [Dairy Margin Coverage](#) (DMC) program since signup opened June 17. Producers interested in 2019 coverage must sign up before Sept. 20, 2019.

The 2018 Farm Bill authorized the new Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) program, which is a voluntary risk management program for dairy producers. DMC replaces the Margin Protection Program for Dairy (MPP-Dairy).

DMC continues to offer protection to dairy producers when the difference between the all milk price and the average feed price (the margin) falls below a certain dollar amount selected by the producer.

### National Banana Split Day

On August 25, 1904, the banana split was first created in the small town of Latrobe, Pennsylvania. David Strickler, a 23 year old pharmacist apprentice working in the soda fountain section of the Tassel Pharmacy in Latrobe, liked to experiment with different combinations of ice cream flavors and toppings. He created the banana split on this day, and sold it for 10 cents, which at the time was twice the price of other sundaes. The banana split caught on with students from local Saint Vincent College, and from there, its popularity spread. Walgreens gets recognition for spreading the banana split across the nation when they added it to their soda fountain menu. National Banana Split Day is always August 25<sup>th</sup>.



## Friday Feedback for August 16, 2019

### **Important CAPI Update!**

HQ will push out a new CAPI instrument at 6 AM Tuesday morning (August 20, 2019) that includes several fixes and enhancements to the CAPI System.

- To prepare for the update, all Enumerators should log out of CAPI Production (CAPI) and CAPI Training applications by midnight on Monday, August 19, 2019.
- Both CAPI icons will disappear from all active CAPI devices on the push date and time above. All enumerators must then re-download both applications after 6 AM Tuesday morning in order to continue working in CAPI.
- Enumerators who are not actively working in CAPI during this push (update) should also download both new CAPI applications ASAP.
- Enumerators can reference the “CAPI Application Download” instructions located on the [CAPI Dashboard](#) for details on downloading the new applications. Both new applications will be pushed to the Apps@work container located on each CAPI device.

### **Objective Yield CAPI Instrument**

If you are working the Objective Yield survey in Indiana or Ohio and haven't had a chance to explore the new CAPI instrument, please take the time to get yourself familiar with the flow of the new instrument through the CAPI training site. We have received some questions about differences in the instrument from past years already and we have passed on some of your concerns to our headquarters, but please remember it's much easier to get problems fixed and changes implemented if we know about them before a survey starts.

### **CAPI Connectivity Concerns**

At a recent meeting between representatives of regional field offices and headquarters, there was some discussion regarding problems with connectivity and usability of the CAPI system in various parts of the country following recent talk of USDA dropping cellular plans from iPads. We've heard reports that working offline does not seem to be fully functional. With more pressure to have WiFi connectivity, many enumerators in several regions have reported traveling several miles to upload assignments, send data, and complete their time sheet daily as required by NASDA. This has also meant that more enumerators are using the iPads for data entry and not data collection.

Enumerators have stressed that relying on private businesses, library access, and going to school properties to gain WiFi signal is not sustainable, as many businesses provide this service to paying customers for their patronage, not for those looking to take advantage of free WiFi access. NASS HQ agrees with these sentiments but is emphasizing that connectivity issues need to be reported before they can be resolved. Gathering the right information in order to troubleshoot connectivity problems is going to be key. If you are an enumerator who is regularly having issues with connectivity due to poor cellular coverage, lack of WiFi service, or problems with working offline, it is vitally important that your issues are reported to your supervisor who can bring your concerns to your NASDA Coordinator and NASS Staff.

### **National Honey Bee Day**

August 17th is National Honey Bee Day! This day was first established in 2009 for beekeepers, as a way to promote honey and to encourage educational programs. After all, honey bees not only produce honey, they are vital to the pollination of a wide array of our fruits and vegetables. Now, that's certainly something to appreciate!

Did you know that many bees have to travel 55,000 miles to produce just one pound of honey? To get that pound of honey, those bees need to gather nectar from two million flowers. A single bee will gather just a 1/2 teaspoon of honey in its lifetime. After all of this hard work, honey bees deserve this special day of recognition.



## Friday Feedback for August 9, 2019

### **Problem Segments from June Area – Miyares**

Regional field offices have been asked to identify “problem segments” for June Area which may need to be split for 2020. A “Problem Segment” is one which has one or more of the following characteristics:

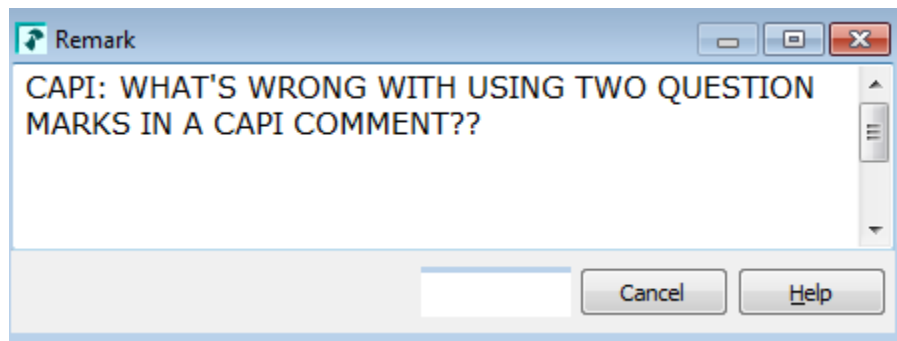
- The segment contains 20 or more tracts, at least 10 of which are ag tracts, and requires more than 12 hours to enumerate completely
- The segment contains more than 99 total tracts
- The segment boundary does not follow features that are identifiable on the photo
- The segment crosses a state line
- The segment boundary splits a field
- The aerial photo quality is terrible
- There is a major discrepancy between the digitized acres and the actual acres in the segment

If you are aware of or remember any problem segments in your area that are not being used for Objective yield that you would like us to request get “fixed” for next year, please notify your NASDA Coordinator or John Miyares at the Regional Field Office in East Lansing no later than September 6 so we can get the paperwork filled out.

### **August Ag Yield Response Rates Increase –Miyares**

We would like to thank all of the Great Lakes enumerators for their extra efforts this month with the August Ag Yield Survey. Our regional response rate for this survey was up 0.3 percent from a year ago. Ohio drove the region’s increase with a 6.4 percent improvement over last year while Indiana went up by 0.2 percent. The August *Crop Production* Report is one of the most important releases of the year, as it includes the first yield and production forecasts for corn, soybeans, dry beans, and hay, as well as final forecasts for wheat, oats, and barley. This month’s report, scheduled to be released on Monday August 12 at noon on the [NASS Website](#), will also be special as it will contain revised planted and harvested acreage estimates derived from the June Area Re-Interview Survey. Having solid response rates helps to strengthen the estimates we publish in service to agriculture. Great job, and thank you!

### **Issue with Multiple Question Marks entered into CAPI**



See the Office Updates and Alerts section at the top of the [GLR Website](#) and the [CAPI Dashboard](#) for additional details about enumerators entering multiple question marks into CAPI. Please contact the office if you are having issues transmitting data.

## **Smokey the Bear is 75**

Smokey Bear was born on Aug. 9, 1944, when the U.S. Forest Service and the Ad Council agreed that a fictional bear would be the symbol for their joint effort to promote forest fire prevention.

Artist Albert Staehle was asked to paint the first poster of Smokey Bear. It depicted a bear pouring a bucket of water on a campfire and saying “Care will prevent 9 out of 10 fires.” Smokey Bear soon became very popular as his image appeared on a variety of forest fire prevention materials. In 1947, his slogan became the familiar “Only YOU Can Prevent Forest Fires!”

In the spring of 1950, in the Capitan Mountains of New Mexico, a young bear cub found himself caught in a burning forest. He took refuge in a tree, and while managing to stay alive was left badly burned. The firefighters who retrieved him were so moved by his bravery, they named him Smokey.

News about this real bear named Smokey spread across the Nation, and he was soon given a new home at the National Zoo in Washington, D.C. The living symbol of Smokey Bear, he played an important role in spreading messages of wildfire prevention and forest conservation. Smokey died in 1976 and was returned to Capitan, New Mexico, where he is buried in the State Historical Park.





## Friday Feedback for August 2, 2019

### **NASDA Policy Change Regarding Collecting and Uploading Enumerator's Auto Insurance** – Kimball

Per NASDA HQ: “After providing initial proof of insurance when a new hire is put on-board, there is no need to collect proof of insurance afterward. When employees sign the annual NAS-004 form on confidentiality and motor vehicle insurance, this serves as their statement and proof that they have and maintain their state-required insurance”.

### **Upcoming Due Date Reminders:**

As a reminder, Monday, August 5 is a big day:

- The last day to submit Apple/Peach Forecast forms in CAPI is Monday, August 5
- The last day to submit August 1 Ag Yield forms in CAPI is Monday, August 5.
- The last day to ship NAHMS forms back to East Lansing is Monday, August 5.

The upcoming surveys calendar has been updated on the website, showing tentative survey dates through the end of October.

### **Enumerator Change-of-Address** - Bowman

Recently we've received change-of-address information for field enumerators. Please include the date the change takes effect so that mailings from the office are sent out accurately and you receive work in a timely manner.

### **Objective Yield Update (Indiana and Ohio):**

We received the OY sample earlier than expected and have been working very hard to reconcile assignments for each enumerator. We are now in the process of printing all of the forms and getting all of the supplies assembled for the first of the mini-schools scheduled for next week. Pre-school information (manuals, quizzes, etc.) will be sent to individual enumerators early next week. For those who want to get a jump-start on home study, the Objective Yield pages on the website have been updated and can be found by touching [HERE](#). Experienced enumerators (those who have worked the OY survey for at least three years) are permitted three hours of home study while new enumerators (for whom this is the first, second, or third year working the survey) may have five hours of home study. This would be in addition to time spent at the mini-schools.

This year's OY budget is extremely tight, down over 60 percent from 2018. Enumerators are strongly encouraged to minimize the number of trips taken to the fields. For example, where possible, complete a Form A and lay out the samples in the same trip, or lay out a sample and do the Form B counts in the same trip. This could save time and mileage for data collection efforts later in the year. Supervisors will also discuss with enumerators ways to be efficient in this survey.

### **National Watermelon Day**

National Watermelon Day is August 3. This big fruit deserves its own big day. So, we give pause to celebrate watermelons on National Watermelon Day. Sweet and tasty, watermelons, are one of summer's favorite fruit. It's standard fare at picnics. While watermelon is over 90% water, it sure tastes good. And, what picnic would be complete without a seed spitting contest?

