

Friday Feedback for Friday, June 5, 2020

Stanford University Study Letter – Hurlbut

Jamie Price received a curious letter from an FSA office yesterday which invited farmers to participate in an online survey conducted by the Stanford University Graduate School of Business. What caught Jamie's eye was that in the letter accompanying the survey, the first sentence of the second paragraph says "You were selected from a publicly available database of agricultural producers maintained by the U.S. Department of Agriculture."

The concern is that the recipients may think that NASS provided the names. **NASS did not provide the names and they did not use our database.**

The survey was sent to 40,000 farmers sampled from all 50 states. The names and addresses were obtained through a FOIA request of the same information the Environmental Working Group gets from FSA. Many of you might not be aware that although NASS data are exempted from FOIA requests, information from other USDA agencies may be publicly available.

Please notify any of your contacts who ask about the letter that it is a legitimate survey, but it isn't one of our surveys. Do not discourage them from doing it. The important thing is to know that NASS did not, does not, and will not share confidential information.

Getting Results of Surveys to Respondents – Miyares/Lawson

As a general rule, if a respondent is interested in seeing the results of a survey, they must provide us with a valid e-mail address where we can send a copy of the press release announcing the survey. As an alternative, respondents can subscribe online to automatically receive all survey results, or respondents can go to our website on the day of the release.

We have been able to accommodate a small number of respondents who do not have access to the internet or to email who have requested copies of the survey results. If one of your respondents requests this, please enter the request as a CAPI comment before you submit it. Something simple like, "Wants results sent by regular mail" is sufficient.

Of course, if the respondent is not interested in the survey results, or perhaps is already subscribed to receive all of the results, then the cell where one would enter the e-mail results can be left blank and no comment is required.

The bottom line is don't enter things such as "no", "nope" or "none" in the email results field in the survey. It causes errors and creates confusion about the intent. The email field should contain either a valid email address or be left completely blank.

Disconnect Reminders – Miyares

As was mentioned in last week's edition of Friday Feedback., please do NOT code and submit "disconnects" as inaccessible until the end of a survey period. By coding and submitting these records as inaccessible at the start of a survey, they become unavailable for respondents to complete online, either by EDR or by CAPI, even if we were to find a better number. Additionally, for many of the surveys with data collection periods of two weeks or longer, NASS is sending second reminders in pressure-sealed envelopes asking respondents to complete the form online if possible.

Here are some recommended guidelines for coding any future records where all phone numbers are disconnected:

1. Mark the disconnects in the “Address Verification Screen”, then touch “Save Info”

Operation Information	Current Information	Update if necessary
Operation Name:	DOE FARMS INC	DOE FARMS INC X
Mailing Address:		
Other Address:		
City:		
State:		
Zip:	0 - 0:	-

Operator Information	Current Information	Update if necessary
Operator's Name:	JOHN DOE	JOHN DOE X
Mailing Address:	██████████	██████████ X
Other Address:		
City:	██████████	██████████ X
State:	NH	NH X
Zip:	03275 - 0	03275 -

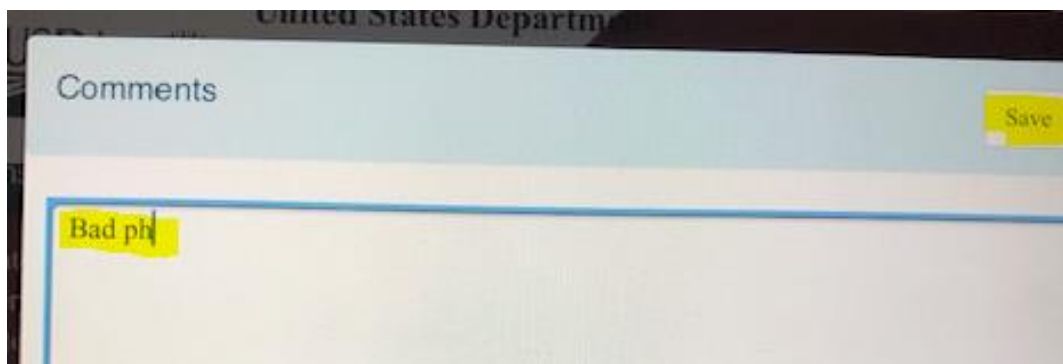
Contact Information	Current Information	Update if necessary
Person Phone:	██████████	999-999-9999 <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Check if disconnected
Other Phone:	██████████	999-999-9999 <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Check if disconnected
Operation Phone:	██████████	999-999-9999 <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Check if disconnected
E-Mail Address:		

Return to Listing Save Info Verify Address

2. Leave a comment within the General Comments section by touching the comment icon.



3. Enter the comment “Bad Ph”, then touch Save. By using this standard comment, Regional Field Office staff will be able to search more easily for disconnected records.



4. Touch on this icon to return you to the listing page.



5. Leave the record sitting in your listing. Do NOT submit the record as inaccessible until the LAST day of the survey. You will know that the comment has been saved by looking at the Comment Icon and seeing that a number is indicated.

Also remember that the Regional Field Office has tools to find better phone numbers that should be tried before giving up on contacting an operation. You can call the Regional Office Main Line at 517-324-5300 or your NASDA Coordinator for help. If you prefer e-mail, please be sure to send the request to both Lisa Jones (lisa.a.jones@usda.gov) and Marty Saffell (marty.saffell@usda.gov) just in case one of them is out of the office.

If by the last day before the end of the survey period a better phone number has yet to be found, or the one the office found isn't any good, then be sure to review all of the comments on records not yet submitted and submit them as inaccessible so we know that the phone numbers on the record will need to get removed. Please contact your supervisor or your NASDA Coordinator if you have any questions.