

## **Friday Feedback for Friday, February 26, 2021**

### **ARMS III Updates** – Erickson

ARMS III forms are continuing to roll in. The computer edit is open and we're making progress towards cleaning our completed reports. We have discovered a few issues that have popped up that would be helpful if you double check your work before sending it along. Most of these issues have been with reports that operators have completed themselves by mail or online, but these items are helpful to keep an eye on anyway:

- In section J (Farm Debt) please be sure to check the Yes/No box at the top of the page. If a respondent doesn't want to provide this information, at least knowing whether or not debt was used to fund the operation in 2020 will help us address that section properly.
- In Section K, check to see that the combined responses item 2k, 3, and 5, number of people living in the principal operator household, is consistent with the first column of item 15, the breakdown by age of people who live in the principal operator's household.
- There have been some reports where off-farm income in Section M, items 1a, 1b, and 1c, are not consistent with off farm work reported in Section K. Be sure to check these items for consistency and if something doesn't seem right, ask.
- We have seen some reports that a note was written on the form, "No Sales due to COVID", and yet there are still significant expenses on the operation. Understandably, this is going to be a strange year, and while this situation is certainly possible, and more likely to have occurred in 2020 compared to a "normal" year, we need to make sure that when that is reported that it can be verified. Any detailed explanations as to what might have happened would be helpful in this situation. In fact, there may be some operations we will have to call back to verify what happened.

### **Dates Set for June Area Prescreening Teleconferences** – Miyares

June Area Prescreening plans are still in development. This is what we can share so far regarding training for these surveys, which, like was done for ARMS II and ARMS III, will be structured like a State School, just administered remotely.

- Packages containing samples and study materials, including interviewer manuals, aerial photos, and segment envelopes, are scheduled to be shipped to enumerators the week of March 8.
- A series of recorded video presentations will be posted to the Purdue/GLR website for all enumerators to watch as part of their self-study.
- The "home study quiz" will return to a paper format for pre-screening.
- All enumerators will participate in a live teleconference facilitated by the Regional Field Office staff. The dates for these state-specific teleconferences are as follows:
  - **Indiana Enumerators: Thursday March 18, 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**
  - **Michigan Enumerators: Thursday March 18, 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.**
  - **Ohio Enumerators: Friday March 19, 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**

Dial-in numbers and access codes will be provided in the pre-survey kits going out the week of March 8. If you are unable to participate in your state's teleconference, please reach out to your supervisor or NASDA Coordinator to discuss attending a different state's teleconference.

- Enumerators will be meeting with their supervisors by phone sometime between March 12 and March 23 to go over answers to the quiz, review administrative items and review survey issues specific to your geographic area. These are intended to be more like “breakout sessions” rather than mini-schools.
- You will also be provided with practice exercises that help you feel more comfortable with conducting prescreening interviews by telephone, and there will be an exercise where you can enter mock segment data into CAPI.
- Once your supervisor has certified you have been fully “trained” for the survey and you have participated in a teleconference, you can begin data collection on the surveys. June Area prescreening will run until April 16.

As a reminder, the Regional Field Office has produced a one-hour long video that will explain many of the changes to the survey for this year, and will hopefully answer most questions you might have regarding how this survey can be administered in the absence of personal enumeration. Enumerators may charge 1 hour to project code 124 to watch this video, which can be watched by clicking or tapping [HERE](#). The June Area Survey Page, although still under construction, is also live on the Purdue GLR website and can be found at this [LINK](#).

### **Friday Feedback for Friday, February 19, 2021**

#### **iSolved iPad Issues – Kimball**

We have received a few calls from enumerators having trouble getting time sheets and performance evaluations to work properly in iSolved on their iPads. The iOS 14.4 update for the iPad should resolve these issues and allow you to optimize iSolved performance with their system updates that came out about a week ago. Enumerators are authorized to immediately update their iPads to iOS 14.4, if they have not done so already.

As a reminder, your iPad may ask for a passcode when updating the iOS. Enter the same passcode you normally use to unlock your iPad. If you have ANY failed passcode attempts during the process of updating the iOS, please stop what you are doing and contact Linda or Mike at the regional office. Also, please remember to reboot your iPad after installing the iOS 14.4 update and before logging into iSolved. If you continue to experience any iSolved issues after the update, please contact Katherine Kimball at the regional office by email at [Katherine.kimball@usda.gov](mailto:Katherine.kimball@usda.gov) or by phone at 517-324-5334.

#### **Possible Fix to CAPI Error Popping Up on Personal Computers – Lawson**

We have more enumerators now accessing CAPI on their personal computers these days than we ever have in the past, and sometimes the recommendations we have to correct errors on the iPad won’t work the same way on a PC. For example, if you see an error such as “Select picker is not a function” appear on your screen when working in CAPI on your personal computer, simply logging out and logging back in may fix the problem temporarily; however, a more permanent fix would be to do these steps in this exact order:

- 1) Log Out of CAPI
- 2) Clear out your enumerator ID and password fields on CAPI login screen
- 3) Clear preferences at CAPI login screen
- 4) Close ALL browser windows
- 5) Try again.

If these steps do not correct the problem, then clearing the browser history may also be necessary. The process for clearing your browser history may be different for different browsers and different computers. As a reminder, Chrome is the recommended browser to use on a PC when accessing CAPI.

## **Floriculture Update** – Collom

We continue to be concerned that the number of Floriculture returns from enumerators are well behind where we were expecting them to be at this time. If you have not begun to enumerate, please begin immediately. If you have completed Floriculture questionnaires at home, please get them shipped to the regional office in East Lansing via UPS soon. If you have shipped forms to East Lansing that are still showing up on your iPad as not checked in, please alert the Regional Field Office and provide the UPS Tracking Number of the package shipped.

We have identified some matches between Floriculture and early March surveys. Because of this, the Floriculture due date has been extended to March 17. These additional questionnaires were sent to enumerators on Thursday February 18 along with the March Crop and Hog information. If you do not receive your March enumerative packet by Tuesday, Feb 23, please contact your NASDA coordinator. If you are in need of partner information for a particular Floriculture operation, please call your NASDA coordinator or the regional office.

## **ARMS III Updates** – Erickson/Miyares

ARMS III data collection is starting to ramp up and we appreciate everyone's efforts so far. We just wanted to put out a few reminders:

- All reports submitted on the iPad, including refusals, inaccessible forms, and out of business records, should have a comment to explain the situation. We've seen a few refusals come through the system without comments, and it is important for us to know why they refused.
- If a respondent tells you they "mailed in" the form already, you can use the "Mailed In" button in CAPI to indicate that we might be expecting something in the mail; however, if after a couple of weeks that form doesn't show up in your listings as having been received by mail, they will need to be contacted again. We do understand that the mail has been running very slowly lately, so we may need to be more patient with respondents that tell us that they have mailed it back.
- If a respondent tells you that they need another copy of the form sent to them, we can mail one from the office. Please reach out to your NASDA Coordinator with the POID and the Version Number that they need sent to them and we can take care of it. Keep in mind that a second mailing was sent from Jeffersonville on February 8, so there may be a form that may arrive shortly or was just received.
- With as cold and miserable as the weather has been recently, this is probably the best time to reach out to your ARMS III samples. In a few weeks, the weather will start getting nice, operators will be back out in the fields, and other surveys are going to start up including March Crops, March Hogs, and June Area Prescreening. With that in mind, the more contacts we can make in February, the better.
- If a respondent says they do not farm (they rented out their tillable acres in 2020, for example), please probe to make sure the target didn't have livestock and/or CRP acres in 2020. A landlord may not consider themselves a farmer, but he/she still potentially qualifies for ARMS III if they have livestock and/or CRP acres.

## **Friday Feedback for Friday, February 12, 2021**

### **ARMS III Training Feedback Reminder** – Erickson/Miyares

As a reminder, we would like you to evaluate how the ARMS III training program went this year. On the ARMS III Survey page on the Purdue site, there is a link to the “[On-line Training Evaluation](#)”. Please take the time to fill this out by February 19. Your feedback will help office staff learn how we can improve our training procedures. It can also help to highlight the most useful items that might be kept as part of our training materials even after we transition back to face-to-face instruction at enumerator schools.

### **Save the Dates! June Area is Coming Back!** – Miyares

The June Area Survey will be administered in 2021; however, due to the ongoing pandemic, how we run this survey is going to be very different than it has been done in the past. The Regional Field Office has produced a one-hour long video that will explain many of the changes to the survey for this year, and will hopefully answer most questions you might have regarding how this survey can be administered in the absence of personal enumeration. Enumerators may charge 1 hour to project code 124 to watch this video, which can be watched by clicking or tapping [HERE](#).

The June Area Survey Page is live on the Purdue GLR website and can be found at this [LINK](#). In addition to the video referenced above, you can find current copies of the 2021 screening forms and questionnaires, as well as maps which show the relative location of each segment and the number of both Ag and Non Ag tracts in that segment, if that information is available. We will be continually adding content to these pages over the coming weeks, so be sure to check back there frequently.

Due to the amount of extra time that will be required to process name and address changes for the June Area survey because of the ongoing pandemic, pre-screening is scheduled to run from March 19 to April 20. Supervisors are reaching out to enumerators at this time to discuss the survey and assign segments. Pre-screening training will be conducted in a similar way to how ARMS III training was conducted, with a series of recorded videos to watch that will be posted on the Purdue site along with state-specific teleconferences to address procedural guidelines. The teleconferences will take place on March 18 and March 19, with exact times and audiences finalized by March 1. As you are scheduling your ARMS III interview appointments, please keep those two dates open.

Some important dates associated with this year’s survey are as follows:

- Supervisors will be assigning segments for enumeration between February 10 and February 16
- Names of potential operators being pre-screened will be mailed a special information packet about the June Area survey on March 8
- The regional field office will ship June Area Survey Materials to enumerators by March 12
- All training materials will be available on the Purdue site by March 12
- Enumerator teleconferences take place March 18 and March 19
- Prescreening runs from March 19 – April 20

### **President’s Day Holiday**

The Regional Field Office will be closed on Monday February 15 in observance of the President’s Day Holiday.

## Friday Feedback for Friday, February 5, 2021

### New Statistician in the GLR – Atchison

My name is Scott Atchison. I am from State College, PA where I worked previously at Penn State University as a Research Project Manager and Data Analyst. In this role, my responsibilities included identifying and executing research projects, building psychometrically sound instruments for data collection, as well as cleaning, analyzing, summarizing, and presenting on data to diverse audiences. Recently I completed a Graduate Certificate in Applied Statistics at Penn State, and am looking forward to gaining a deeper understanding of agricultural statistics with the USDA. In my spare time, I enjoy running, visiting museums, and spending time with my wife Ysabel and our two wonderful pets, BB and Trey.



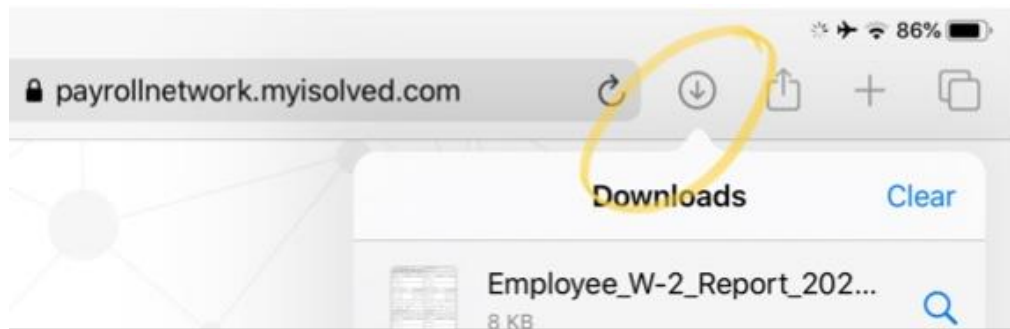
### Enhancements to iSolved – Morris

NASDA sent out a notice to all enumerators and supervisors about updates being made to the iSolved payroll system to work better for you. Beginning today, February 5, iSolved will be enhanced with a new look and page designs in several areas. Generally, the only major changes are new colors on timecard entries and new colors on the navigation tabs/menus, but otherwise your timecard will have the same format and will be completed as you normally do things. A copy of the memo was posted to the Purdue site in the “Office Updates and Alerts” area. The memo can also be found at this [LINK](#).

### Troubleshooting Opening of Documents – Lawson/Kimball

In response to the request that enumerators sign their annual Confidentiality Statements in iSolved before February 15, some enumerators have reported having difficulties viewing/opening documents or forms when using their iPads. If you are having trouble, here are some general instructions provided to us by NASDA:

To view any document or form, click on the “Downloads” button at the top right of the screen, then select the document from the drop down list that you wish to view.



If the document does not pop up:

- Press the HOME button and go into the gray “Settings” icon.
- Scroll down on the left hand side and touch on Safari.
- Look on the right hand side. If “Block Pop-Ups” is green, touch the green part of the button to turn blocking of pop-ups off, then try again.

## **ARMS III Update and Reminders** – Erickson/Miyares

We want to thank those of you who participated this week's ARMS III teleconferences. For those who were not able to attend any of the three teleconferences, a recording of the February 3<sup>rd</sup> teleconference with Ohio enumerators was posted to the ARMS III Page on the Purdue Site, and it can be reviewed if you click or tap [HERE](#).

NASDA Supervisors will be participating in a follow-up teleconference with the Regional Field Office Staff on Monday, February 8 at 1:00 p.m. Please communicate any questions you have to your Supervisor ASAP. Also don't forget that we would like you to evaluate how this training program went this year. On the ARMS III Survey page on the Purdue site, there is a link to the "[On-line Training Evaluation](#)", which will help office staff learn how we can improve our training procedures, or about helpful items that might be kept even after we transition back to face-to-face instruction at enumerator schools.

As is the case every year, we have already discovered some problems with the interviewer's manual and the questionnaire. When problems are discovered like these, we post them to an '[Oversights](#)' document, which can be found on the ARMS III page of the Purdue site, both at the top of the page and near the bottom of the page. Please be sure to regularly monitor the ARMS III page, and the Oversight document in particular, as we will post various things there such as answers to questions, errors in the interviewer's manual, etc. Of course, you should also take advantage of the materials on the website – the quiz, videos, cheat sheets, edit guides, practices, etc. Your Supervisor has access to additional practices.

Here are a few other things to remember as you prepare for data collection.

- For the Hog version, please remember that the selected operation must have had at least 25 hogs or pigs on the operation at any time during 2020 (regardless of ownership) to qualify for the hog specific sections (sections N – X). If the answer to Section N, item 1 is 'no', please skip to the last page.
- Before sending the completed forms on to either your supervisor for review or to Jeffersonville to be keyed and scanned, please be sure to review the overall questionnaire to see that it makes sense. Does the completed questionnaire tell the operation's 'whole story'? Were unusual circumstances validated with a comment? Were skip instructions followed properly?
- It is important to follow the instructions on form management. Good reports with data are to be sent directly to NPC in Jeffersonville, and all other reports (out-of-business, refusals, inaccessible) are to be submitted on the iPad, with detailed notes. The ARMS III questionnaire for out-of-business, refusal, & inaccessible records will not be sent to the office or to Jeffersonville. A detailed document describing the Forms Management procedures has been posted to the ARMS III page on the Purdue site, and it can be reviewed if you click or tap [HERE](#).

Thanks again, and good luck with your interviews.