

Friday Feedback for Friday, April 30, 2021

Local Foods Data Collection Winding Down – Collom/Laird

Data collection for the Local Food Marketing Practices Survey should be wrapping up this weekend. Please be sure to send all records with data to East Lansing via UPS no later than Monday. Refusals and inaccessible records can be submitted through CAPI.

Cash Rent Update - Morris

A new set of approximately 1500 Cash Rent records was turned on in CAPI last night and will be available to call between April 29 and May 13. A fourth batch of new records will appear starting May 14 and will be available to call until May 28. The records you've been calling on during the last two weeks of April, with the exception of matches with April Labor, should have disappeared from your iPads on April 29. Those disappearing records can be turned back on at the end of May if we decide we need to improve coverage in certain counties.

Do You Need Supplies for June Area? - Miyares

Most of the survey materials for the June Area Survey were shipped to enumerators in early March, including the aerial photos, photo pens and pencils, magic erasers, as well as survey information. Knowing some people may have used some of their supplies during prescreening and may need more, we can ship additional June Area supplies upon request when we sent out the labeled questionnaires the week of May 10. If you need anything, please submit a request for materials or supplies using the [NASDA Order Form](#) on the Purdue Site by May 10.

Comments Containing Former Addresses and Phone Numbers – Jones

Before we had a way of tracking address and phone number histories in ELMO, there were comments entered on some records pertaining to former addresses and phone numbers. Unless I have been in a record and seen these and deleted them, many are still present on some records. Example: “former address was 1234 Main Street, Lansing MI”, or “former phone number was 517-485-2222”.

I noticed while reviewing CAPI remarks following the March surveys that some enumerators were attempting these former phone numbers if the phone number on the record was disconnected. It would be helpful and a time saver for enumerators, as well as list frame, to have enumerators ignore these comments. Beginning this summer, we will begin a review of records containing comments like these so we can get them removed, as any former addresses and/or phone numbers that were previously on the record are now in the “ELMO Tracking History.”

NERD is coming! – Tolbert/Weber

For the upcoming June Crops APS survey, NASS will be piloting a project where data that was previously reported by respondents on past quarterly surveys and not edited before it went to summary will be prefilled in web based instruments, including EDR/AgCounts and CAPI. This Non-Edited Response Data, referred to as “NERD” for short, would include acres operated (including owned, rented from others, and rented to others), acres of cropland, and planting intentions reported from the March Crops APS Survey.

During this pilot, enumerators will ask respondents questions using the pre-filled data, reminding respondents what was previously reported, and asking if that information that was recorded is still correct. The presurvey letter is being modified to notify respondents of the presence of the data. Operators completing the survey on the AgCounts website will also see an impact statement to let them know that the presence of the prefilled data. The goal of these statements is to ensure that producers review and update the NERD when valid.

More information on this project will be coming as we get closer to the first of June. Stay tuned!

Friday Feedback for Friday, April 23, 2021

CAPI and AgCounts Unavailable Tonight – Lawson/Laird

NASS will be updating certain computer servers that house CAPI and AgCounts (EDR) systems beginning tonight, April 23, at 8:30 p.m. EDT. Enumerators should log out and stay out of CAPI between 8:30 p.m. EDT tonight (April 23) and 8:00 a.m. EDT tomorrow morning.

Please note that CAPI users will not experience a forced logout, and will not be prevented from entering data into CAPI questionnaires; however, data will not transmit from the iPad to NASS servers during the update. If CAPI Users attempt to enter data after the update process begins, they will see data pile up in the “Stacked Disk” indicator in CAPI, and “Pending” may show for status. Once the server connections are restored, any CAPI data in “Pending” status will transmit normally.

A similar notice to the one above will be posted to both the Purdue Site and the CAPI Dashboard..

June Area Update – Miyares

Thanks to everyone for their hard work in getting through prescreening activities! At this point, we have a little bit of a break before the next phase of data collection begins. For those finishing time sheets today, remember to code all prescreening activities to **Project Code 166**; however, after this pay period, nothing should be charged to Project Code 166. Starting with Pay Period 9, all June Area self-study and data collection activities should be charged to **Project Code 124**.

Here is an update as to what will be happening next:

- Name and Address files were created and delivered to NPC on Monday Morning April 19. Operations that screened in and qualified as Ag Tracts will be mailed as second set of parcel maps in mid-May. Any operations that were screened as “non ag” or “no longer in segment” will not be in the mail files; however, any tracts that were prepopulated in CAPI that were not screened will be included in the next mail file.
- NPC will also be preparing labeled ag tract questionnaires for operations that were screened as ag tracts. This way, you won’t have to use so many blanks for them.
- Segments and tracts that were available for prescreening will remain available in CAPI through the end of the survey. Although any updates entered into CAPI at this point will not affect the mail files or label files, you can still make updates to those records in the event that an operator does call you back in the next few weeks, or during the main data collection phase.
- CAPI listings for Old/Returning Segments will become available in CAPI and CAPI Training during the first week of May.
- More training videos will become available on the Purdue Site by May 7. These videos will focus on the Ag Tract questionnaire and procedures for the next phases of the survey. Self-study activities for the next phases of the survey is expected to take place between May 10 and May 17. Please continue to monitor the Friday Feedback and the June Area Pages on the Purdue GLR website for more information.
- A small number of blank ag tract questionnaires were just sent via UPS with the Ag Yield assignments. These are to be used to help with the practice exercises, which were sent out before prescreening began.
- The Regional Office hopes to have the labeled Ag Tract questionnaires and the blank Crops APS, Hog, and ARMS I forms by May 10. Once received, our goal is to get the paper forms shipped to enumerators on May 14. Please continue to monitor the Friday Feedback and the June Area Pages on the Purdue GLR website for more information.

- There will be three teleconferences, one per state, on the following dates to cover data collection procedures for the next two phases of the survey:
 - Indiana: Tuesday, May 18 at 10:00 a.m.
 - Michigan: Wednesday, May 19 at 10:00 a.m.
 - Ohio: Thursday, May 20 at 10:00 a.m.
- Data collection for Non-Ag Tracts and Ag Tracts that have no major crops, livestock, or storage capacity can begin on May 21. Data collection for all other Ag Tracts can begin on May 28.
- Completed records will be submitted on a flow basis in CAPI. The last day to submit records in CAPI is currently June 11, although that is subject to change.
- Enumerators should maintain paper backup copies of all forms until after the data are fully analyzed and summarized in the event that someone from the regional office has a question about the data submitted.
- Starting June 18, paper forms and photos will be shipped back to East Lansing so they can be scanned and filed.

Sad News

The Great Lakes Region is sad to report the passing of Ron McDonald, Central Michigan NASDA supervisor, on Friday April 16. Ron was a NASDA enumerator for 11 years before taking on the supervisor role for 4 years. We are grateful for his many years of dedication and contributions to Michigan Agriculture as a producer and member of NASDA. Ron was kind, caring, and passionate about agriculture. Growing up on a farm, he learned how to operate farm machinery at a young age and ended up obtaining a degree from Michigan State University. After graduating, he continued to run his family farm for over three decades. Ron was 69. A full obituary for Ron can be found at this [LINK](#).



Friday Feedback for Friday, April 16, 2021

ARMS III Winding Down – Erickson

I want to thank everyone again for your hard work on ARMS III. It has been another challenging year, but we have made the best of it. Please adhere to the final due dates for ARMS III. Data collection ends on April 19, and all completes with data must be in UPS to NPC by April 20. All remaining questionnaires must be submitted on the iPad on April 20, with one exception: If someone has told you they intend to complete the report on-line, it is ok to leave that record 'open' on CAPI. Doing this will allow the respondent to still access the record for a few days. However, I expect very few of these cases. The first mailing of ARMS III was 4 months ago, and the second mailing was over 2 months ago, so we have received very few self-reports (mail & EDR) lately.

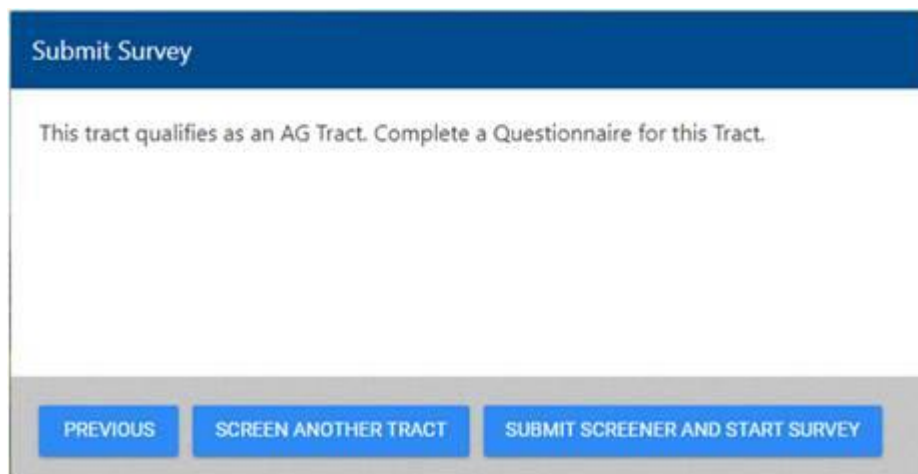
I will be in touch with the NASDA Coordinators on April 21 to discuss the records that have not been submitted. So, please make sure your Supervisor is aware of any records that were not submitted on time. Again, these records are completes with data that are in UPS to NPC, and records where the respondent has promised to complete the report on-line within the next few days.

June Area Prescreening Closeout – Miyares

This is a reminder today, **Friday April 16**, is the last day to enter June Area Prescreening information into CAPI. It is important to have the correct tract operators into CAPI Production so that the mailing list for the next phase of the June Area Survey can be created. If you or any of your people have questions or problems with getting the prescreening information into CAPI, please reach out to your NASDA Coordinator.

In terms of what actually needs to get into CAPI by today, here are the priorities:

- All Ag Tract Operator information is entered into CAPI, and each ag tract is screened in as either “Yes” or “DK” in regards to involvement with agriculture (DK is okay to use if you have been unable to confirm that the person you’ve added is going to be farming in the segment; a DK will still get them on the mailing list.
 - Note: The tracts do not need to be “Submitted” if there is a chance that there could be a change in the information entered between now and June 1; however, in order to make sure that the operator gets on the mailing list for the June 1 Survey, they need to have gone through the full screening portion of the CAPI form. Once you see the screen that says, “This operator qualifies as an Ag Tract” and the two buttons that say, “Screen Another Tract” and “Submit Survey and Start Survey”, you’ve gone far enough. Since we can’t start the Ag Tract survey until the end of May, clicking on “Screen Another Tract” is the best way to close these out.



Submit Survey

This tract qualifies as an AG Tract. Complete a Questionnaire for this Tract.

PREVIOUS SCREEN ANOTHER TRACT SUBMIT SCREENER AND START SURVEY

- Get as many of the non-ag residents of the segment into CAPI and submitted so that we don't need to deal with them later. If they are not submitted, we'll end up having to submit them in June.
- If any names have been prepopulated into CAPI that are clearly not supposed to be in the segment, ag or non ag, then they need to be screened out so they are marked as "No Longer In the Segment". This can be done by simply answering "No" to the initial question, "Do you operate inside the red lines?" (Note: Clicking on the big X will also delete the tract, but then it makes that tract letter unavailable to use later.)

Do NOT click on the "Summary" button on the Gray Bar to "Submit" the entire segment unless it is 100 percent non ag. Submitting that summary record now could cause problems later if changes need to be made or tracts still need to be added.

Segment Summary - SUBMITTED					
Segment: 150221					
Tract	Name	Ag/NonAg	Screening Status	Tract Acres	Tract Status
A - 1	NON AG 220 RESIDENTIAL HOMES	NoN Ag	2021-04-10 21:42:33	127.0	Not Available
B - 2	NON AG 6 BUILDINGS - OFFICE UNITS	NoN Ag	2021-04-10 21:43:13	3.2	Not Available
C - 3	NON AG ROADWAYS	NoN Ag	2021-04-10 21:43:57	8.0	Not Available
Total Ag		0	Sum of Reported Acreage		138.2
Total NonAg (Col 18)		3	Digitized Acres		135
Total NonAg (PIGA)		0	RA/DA		102.37
Total Tracts		3			

As far as paper products go, the paper screeners should be as filled in as far as we can get them and the photos should be marked up with the tract letters with as few "holes" as possible. Whatever isn't taken care of now will have to be finished and/or corrected in June. Please hold on to all paperwork until June. Do not send any paper forms to East Lansing at this time.

As a final reminder, please charge all prescreening activities on your timesheet to **Project Code 166**.

Friday Feedback for Friday, April 9, 2021

2020 NASDA Field Enumerator of the Year - Morris

Congratulations to Ohio Field Enumerator Ron Cronley who will be one of seven enumerators across the United States receiving the 2020 Field Enumerator of the Year Award! Ron and the other award recipients will be honored at the upcoming 2021 NASS Virtual Awards for Excellence Ceremony, scheduled for April 21.

ARMS III – Erickson

Well, we are now in the home stretch of ARMS III data collection. Today (April 9) is the ‘75% of your assignment complete’ benchmark. Currently, at the regional level, 55% of the sample is checked in. Please adhere to the April 19 & 20 due dates. Data collection ends on April 19. On April 20, all ARMS III records must either be in UPS to NPC if complete with data, or submitted via CAPI if otherwise.

Cash Rent Update - Morris

A new set of approximately 1500 Cash Rent records was turned on in CAPI last night. The majority of those records will be available to call between April 14 and April 28 while a smaller number of records will be available between April 19 and May 7. The second, smaller group includes matches with April Labor, and the data collection dates were set up to be matched that way. The records you’ve been calling on during these first two weeks of April, including the matches with April Milk Production, should disappear from your iPads on April 13. Those disappearing records can be turned back on at the end of May if we decide we need to improve coverage in certain counties.

CAPI Training for June Area – Miyares

CAPI Training for the June Area Survey will be unavailable between April 11 and April 13. It should be available again on April 14. Any data that had been previously entered into CAPI Training by enumerators will be erased with records reset while the system is being synched up to the 2021 sample in preparation for the Ag Tract Data collection taking place in late May and Early June.

June Area Odds and Ends – Miyares

We are heading into the home stretch for prescreening. Don’t forget that the last day to submit records into CAPI is April 16, and don’t forget to be entering hours and mileage into your time sheets on a daily basis so we can make sure we don’t go over on our prescreening budget.

A small group of Indiana Enumerators “met” with John and Jamie in an informal “office hours” teleconference this week where a few more questions arose about survey procedures, some conversations about how well the survey is going took place, and a few ideas came about that could help improve how we relay this information to you. We will be creating a digest of June Area Questions and Answers that will be available on the June Area pages on the Purdue Site so that you don’t have to go looking in multiple editions of the Friday Feedback to look for your answers. These are the questions that came up this week.

I clicked on the “summary” button on the gray bar and “submitted” my segment after I finished my screeners. Was it okay to do that? The only time you should be submitting a segment is when the Ag Tracts and Non Ag tracts are all accounted for in CAPI and your reported acres are within 5 percent of your digitized acre total. If your segment is 100 percent Non-Ag, then it’s okay to submit it, but if there are ag tracts to submit later, you don’t want to submit the segment through the “summary” button. Since we can’t enter any Ag Tract data until closer to the first of June, nobody should be within the 5 percent of the digitized acres at this time. For those who did it, you should have received a warning to probably not do it.

Can the segment level record be unlocked if we do submit it? No, but it's not the end of the world if you did submit it already. You will still be able to add new tracts to the segment, but it won't update the listing in the summary where the tract count is. If that count needs to be updated, you will need to work with the regional office to correct that before the survey is over.

I noticed that when I changed a name and address of one of the pre-populated tracts in a new segment that the new operator's name won't "stick" if you open up the "Verify Address" screen for that tract after the tract has been submitted. Should we be worried about losing that information? What our contacts at our headquarters have told us is that if the name and address in the CAPI Listings is correct, then you should not worry. The name and address in the CAPI listings will be what is used when the mail file is pulled identifying the Ag Tract operators that we're mailing to in Mid-May and which are going to be getting labeled Ag Tract questionnaires to complete.

What if I still need to change a name or address in May or June after we're all done prescreening? It is best if it can be done in CAPI when entering the data from the screener forms, and really should be done on the screening portion of the CAPI instrument (where you click on the letter and tract number to screen in the respondent as Ag or Non-Ag, and not the POID where you are entering Ag Tract data). If you're concerned that the name or address might change, then don't submit anything in CAPI until June. Once you submit a CAPI form, that record is locked and cannot be updated. Our recommendation is to make sure everything is the way you want it on paper before entering anything into CAPI.

I have a segment that crosses a state line. What should I do with it? Collect the information for the portion of the segment that is in your state. Anything outside of your state should not be included. You will need to contact the Regional Field Office to make them aware of the problem, as the digitized acres will not be correct if part of the segment has to get cut off. We will have to send that into our Headquarters to have the boundaries of the segment adjusted as well as the digitized acres, but that can't happen until after the survey is over and the photo is no longer needed for data collection for June Area and Objective Yield.

I wasn't able to attend the Office Hours. Is there going to be another one? If your supervisor group wants to set up a group teleconference to ask questions and discuss survey procedures, please have your supervisor reach out to your NASDA coordinator to discuss options.

Friday Feedback for Friday, April 2, 2021

Important iPad Information – Lawson/Laird

All iPads MUST be checked for these 3 Important Items:

1. All Enumerators should be using the latest version of the CAPI Production and CAPI Training

- Check to ensure that the version displayed in the top right corner when logged into CAPI is **21.03.26**
- To get the correct version on the iPad: Logout of CAPI, then touch on the green diamond Apps@Work icon and “Update” to the latest version
- If it is NOT displaying the correct version when using a PC, logout of CAPI, and close all browsing tabs or windows. If the current version still doesn’t appear, try clearing the browsing history.

2. All iPads MUST be running at least version 14.4 of the Apple iOS operating system.

- Go to the gray settings icon
- Touch on General on the left-hand side
- Touch on About on the top right
- Look at the software version on the top right
- If this number is 14.3 or lower, then touch General – Software Update – Download and Install (Passcode is the SAME used to unlock the iPad)
- If the number is already running at least 14.4 or AFTER updating the iOS:
 - o Touch again on General on the left then Software Update – Automatic Updates - Ensure that “Download iPadOS Updates” is gray indicating it is OFF (If it is on, touch the green area of the button to turn it off)

3. Steps MUST be performed each quarter to keep the cellular service active on ALL iPads

- The cellular service has been terminated on a couple of iPads in our region over the past month. We spoke to one of these enumerators and he said he did turn off WiFi and test the cellular service back in January however, he did not complete any records, so no data was transmitted. Simply browsing a website is not enough to keep the cellular service active.
- **ALL of the following steps MUST be performed before April 16th to keep the cellular service active on ALL of our regions iPads:**
 1. Touch on the gray settings icon
 2. Touch “WiFi” on the top left side so it turns blue
 3. If WiFi is on, touch the green area of the button on the top right to turn off WiFi
 4. Press the home button to exit settings
 5. Login to CAPI Training by touching on the red tree icon
 6. Enter data for one of the practice records in your listing
 7. You might notice a red number counting down at the top of the screen as data is transmitted
 8. Touch on the final submit button
 9. Wait for all of the data to be transmitted (no number count at the top)
 10. Logout of CAPI Training
 11. Press the home button to exit CAPI Training
 12. Go back into settings and turn WiFi back on if desired

Please let your supervisor know if you think the cellular service has already been terminated on your iPad.

ARMS III – Erickson

The data collection period for ARMS III is winding down. With about 2 weeks left to go, I wanted to mention a couple of things. I want to say THANK YOU for your hard work collecting ARMS III data by telephone. ARMS III is a difficult survey to begin with, so having to restrict the way we collect data has made ARMS III even more challenging. I realize you are busy with other projects, and as the weather improves, farmers are more difficult to contact, but please do your best to give a final push the next couple of weeks.

We often talk about due dates, so today will be no exception. The 75% ‘assignment complete’ benchmark is April 9, and data collection ends on April 19. Finally, April 20 is the day where all remaining ARMS III questionnaires must either be in UPS to NPC or submitted on the iPad with notes (if it is a non-response or out-of-business). Please stay in touch with your Supervisor to make sure these due dates are met.

June Area Odds and Ends – Miyares

We hope that prescreening efforts have gone well so far. We have received a number of questions from the field about how some of the pre-populated segments should be handled and what enumerators need to complete before the April 16 deadline.

I added some names of new tract operators in CAPI yesterday, but when I went in this morning, they were gone. What happened? When you add a new name to CAPI you MUST go through the screener form completely. If you add a name, but don’t complete the screener questions, you will lose the information that was entered and also lose the ability to use that tract letter once you log out or refresh your listings. If you want to make sure that the newly added names “stick”, you need to continue through the screener form until you get to the screen that says, “This tract qualifies as an Ag Tract” or “This Tract Qualifies as a Non Ag Tract”, and you see the button which says “Screen Another Tract” or “Submit”.

What needs to be “submitted” in CAPI? At the end of every screener form in CAPI, there are two buttons that can be selected: Either "Screen Another Tract" or "Submit" (For Ag Tracts, it will say "Submit Tract and Start Survey", and for Non Ag Tracts it will say “Submit Survey”). If there is a possibility the contact information you entered in the screener form could change, then click on “Screen Another Tract”. If you’re 100% sure that the name you’ve entered is the person operating either the ag tract or the non-ag tract, then you can “Submit”. Once you press “Submit”, you can’t change the Screener Form. If you’re worried about locking yourself out of a form, use the “Screen another tract” option more than the “Submit” options.

If I’m not able to confirm who is operating a particular tract, but I’ve got a pretty good idea who is, is it better to enter the name now, or to wait until June? I don’t want to lock in a name if I’m not sure it’s the right person. If we have a name of a screened ag tract operator in the system by April 16, then they will get mailed a form in May/June. If there are holes in the map after April 16 (perhaps some parcel that is normally rented that the renter hasn’t been identified yet), we’ll have to deal with them in May/June. The feedback we have gotten from the field has suggested that people who didn’t receive the parcel maps in the mail are somewhat suspicious of what we’re doing when we cold call them. My recommendation is to enter the name into CAPI, answer “don’t know” to the first screening question about raising crops or livestock, then click on the button that says, “Screen Another Tract”. That will add the operator to the May/June Mailing list, but will also give you the opportunity to change the name and address or recycle the tract if it turns out that the person actually doesn’t operate inside the segment. If you are worried about needing to make an update later, then they should choose the “Screen Another Tract” and not the “Submit” button because choosing “Submit” will lock the record.

How much needs to be completed by April 16? Here's what I would recommend:

- Submit as many non-ag tracts with acres as you can so you don't have to deal with them later.
- If you're able to confirm the names and addresses of the ag tract operators, you can submit the screener forms at this time, but you'll need to keep track of the acres on the paper form. If you don't know the acres, that's okay. So long as the land/tract/parcels are accounted for on the photo, we can finalize acres later when completing the Ag Tract questionnaire.
- If you are fairly confident, but not 100% sure, on a name or address on an ag tract operator because you weren't able to contact them, then enter the name and address into CAPI, select "Don't Know" to the first screening question, then select "Screen another tract" when that button pops up. This should pull that new name and address into the mailing that will go out in May for the June data collection period.

Do I need to submit the SEGMENT level record before April 16? No. You can click on the "Summary" button to monitor your progress on getting the tracts accounted for in each segment, but you cannot submit the entire segment until all of the individual tracts are accounted for, both Ag and Non-Ag, and all of the digitized acres within the segment are accounted for to within 5 percent. That might not be able to happen until June, because we can't enter information for ag tracts until June. The exception is if the segment is 100% non-ag. If there are no ag tracts in the segment, those can be submitted now through the "Summary" button.

What needs to be kept on paper? Do your best to make sure that everything in the photo is accounted for and as many tracts as you are aware of are listed in the paper screener form. Because acres for ag tracts cannot be entered until late May/early June, keeping track of them on the side, as well as at least making sure all of the land in the photo is accounted for before April 16, and having as many names entered into CAPI (either as "submitted" or to the point where you "screen another tract") will make things better in June.

I have a segment with 37 prepopulated names, but only 20 of them are actually operating in the segment. Why are all of these names in here if they are not operating? When regional office staff were doing the pre-prescreening research in January, we were told to add as many names as we could so they could get on the mailing list. The names added were those who we felt strongly were either likely to be operating in the segment, likely to be non-ag residents of the segment, or had some history in the segment. Given what we have learned so far about how the mailed parcel map have worked, it was better to have more names in the list that received photos and to have those names removed than it would have been to not have enough names listed and have to cold call potential operators who didn't receive a parcel map.

Why did you have to prepopulate the names with tract letters in CAPI? My Photo is a complete mess because letters are all over the place and things don't correspond to the right parcel numbers. Honestly, when regional office staff were doing the research in January, we had no idea that the names were going to get prepopulated into CAPI and pre-assigned tract letters. Our goal was to just get the names, and we assumed we were going to get paper listings of who got mailed something, and that enumerators would then be making the calls and adding those who were verified operators into CAPI. We see both sides of it. For segments that are mostly agricultural, having the names prepopulated is a time saver. For those segments that are primarily residential, prepopulating created unintended consequences.

I don't like the idea that I'm going to be losing a bunch of tract letters, and I would prefer my photo to look "cleaner". Can I move around the names so that I am not skipping a bunch of letters that I can't use later? If I were to move around the names so that everything in tracts A through KK were consolidated to be between tracts A and T, then next year, the next available tract letter would be U, correct? In theory yes, but I think that effort to consolidate tracts like that is not worth it UNLESS you have 80 or more pre-populated tracts and we risk approaching the 99 maximum this year or next year. If the names of operators associated with the pre-populated tracts are correct, I would leave them where they are and not move them around to save letters. For example, if there are 37 tracts prepopulated (A through KK), but only 20 of those are in the segment, then keep those 20 in the place where they were. Don't move KK (tract 37) back to T (tract 20) if all of the information for tract KK already had the correct contact information. Sure, it is frustrating that we don't have all of the tracts in the order that we want, and we might lose some early tracts next year, but that's better than spending the effort moving things around.

For those prepopulated tracts that are not in the segment, is it better to use the "X" to delete the segment from my listing or to screen the person out so it will show up as "No Longer in Segment"? I would avoid using the X to delete tracts where possible. Suppose someone was prepopulated into Tracts B and C that were never supposed to be in the segment. By using the "No Longer in Segment", then tracts B and C are eligible to reactivate this year. This could be handy if we find a new tract operator that wasn't prepopulated that we want to add. If we're still talking about a segment with 37 prepopulated tracts, and you just click "Add New Tract", then CAPI will go to tract 38 (LL) regardless as to how many of them are available. However, if you say B and C were "no longer in the segment", then any new operators could be put back into B and C this year without having to add tract LL – 38. If you hit the X button to delete tracts B and C, then tracts B and C are gone completely and can't be reused ever. Long story short, if some tracts can be recycled, not for the stuff that's prepopulated, but for the operators that weren't prepopulated that have to get added once we discover them, that would be best.

You mentioned maybe moving some things around if we have more than 80 tracts but not for 37 tracts. Why? The maximum number of tracts allowed in any segment is 99, and we do have a few in the region that have that many. Once you get 99 tracts there is no room to add new tracts or change existing tract operators. Inevitably, there will be updates that need to be made to segments every year, but there often aren't that many changes to the tract operators between years 2 and 5 of the segment use. If we have a new segment that had to use up to Tract KK – 37 this year, and have to start with Tract LL – 38 next year, then we still have room to add 60 more names to the tract, and the likelihood that any one segment is going to have 60 new operators rotated in over a five-year period is pretty low. Summing up, unless we're at risk of hitting that 99-tract cap, don't waste time trying to be creating and moving things around to save a few letters for future use.

If we're going to keep these systems next year, I've got some ideas on how you could make this better for enumerators. Do you want to hear them? Yes! Please share your concerns with your supervisor who can pass them on to the NASDA Coordinator. The June Area Team will submit recommendations you have for improving the systems through the Survey Evaluation (E-2) Process. The E-2 Forms are not due until the end of June, but if you want to send something now while it's fresh on your mind, you are more than welcome to.