

Friday Feedback for Friday, June 25, 2021

Transitioning to post-COVID field work and data collection activities – Tolbert

This week you should have received a memo from NASDA Headquarters detailing the long-awaited transition to post-COVID field work. If you did not receive the memo, you can read a copy of the memo by clicking/tapping [HERE](#). All memos are eventually stored on the NASDA.org website at this [LINK](#). If you are not receiving notices from NASDA like these, you can also contact your supervisor and/or NASDA coordinator to ensure your contact information is updated.

We are still operating under the current Phase I guidelines, which limits interaction between enumerators, permits only essential travel with RFO/Supervisory Permission, and keeps the moratorium on face-to-face interviews with respondents in place. Once we receive an official date to transition to Phase II, which will hopefully be by mid-July, we will be following the guidelines in the memo very closely, including allowing small groups (up to 10 people) to gather for training purposes for surveys such as Objective Yield and ARMS Phase 2. We look forward to guidelines allowing all of us to gather safely again!

July 1 Survey Packages On their Way - Courser

UPS packages containing July 1 Survey Information were sent to enumerators between Tuesday 6/22 and Wednesday 6/23. If you were assigned work for July Cattle, July Milk Production, Quarterly Colony Loss, Ag Yield, or NAHMS, please be on the lookout for your materials. If they do not arrive by Monday 6/28, please contact your supervisor.

Wheat Objective Yield - Morris

Just a friendly reminder to complete counts and if your fields are in maturity code 6 or 7 – final harvest MUST be completed for Wheat Objective Yield (WOY). Remember that wheat turns quickly and can be harvested when the farmer wants to pull it, please reach out to your operators for their harvesting plan. Also remember your gleanings (if you have any) are to be completed within 3 days harvested.

June Survey Wrap-Up Reminder - Miyares

June Area questionnaires and photographs are coming in slowly but surely back into the office. Please be sure to review last week's edition of the Friday Feedback which explains what materials need to be returned, identifying "problem segments", and submitting feedback with recommendations for improving future June Area Surveys.

Cash Rents Thank You! - Morris

Wishing a HUGE Thank You to all of the enumerators who helped with the final push on Cash Rents last week! Due to circumstances beyond our control, we had to unexpectedly take 1200 Cash Rent records back from the call center based on several counties in all three states where we saw low coverage. GLR enumerators pushed through as many of them as they possibly could in a very short period of time, and we ended the survey in much better shape than we potentially could have. We understand that everyone was tired from the June Surveys, but when we needed your help, you all stepped up. Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!!!

Friday Feedback for Friday, June 18, 2021

Reflections and Recommendations for June Area 2022 - Miyares

I wanted to take the time once again to thank each and every enumerator for their amazing efforts on this year's June Area survey. The Great Lakes Region achieved the second highest response rate on the survey of any region in the country, and the quality of the data was such that the Great Lakes Region was the first region in the nation to have all of its survey data received in the office, cleaned, and prepared for summary.

Now that we have closed the book on the June Area Survey for 2021, the Regional Field Office is soliciting recommendations for ways that the 2022 survey can be improved. The 2021 survey saw lots of changes to the way things were done in the past; while some of the changes were out of necessity due to conditions forced upon us due to the pandemic, other changes added efficiency to the survey processes and are most likely here to stay. We would like to have some feedback on the following changes that were implemented this year:

- Conducting Prescreening Activities in March/April
- Mailing advance copies of photos of segments to respondents
- Having names of potential operators in new segments available to enumerators for prescreening
- Working with a CAPI instrument for June Area
- Focusing on tract-level data instead of field-level data during the survey proper
- Having training videos available on the Purdue site
- Having pre-printed ag tract questionnaires for all operations that were prescreened as ag tracts.

We would appreciate if you could communicate your reflections, concerns, and ideas for improvement on these topics, or any other topic which may have come up during this June Survey cycle, to your supervisors on or before June 24, who will then relay them to the NASDA Coordinators. The Survey Team at the Regional Office will then review the feedback and pass on what we can to the Survey Administration Branch at NASS Headquarters.

Instructions for Returning Paperwork to East Lansing

Now that the June Area survey data have been cleaned and summarized at the regional office, it is time to begin sending all of the work back to East Lansing to be files and scanned for future reference. Here are some general instructions regarding this process:

- In March, all enumerators were sent two UPS labels specifically for returning their June Area work to East Lansing. One is for the photo box and the other is for the paperwork itself. If you need an additional label to get your work back to East Lansing, please request one through the Online Order Form on the Purdue Site.
- All aerial photos should be returned to East Lansing in the photo boxes they arrived in. Please do not include survey materials in the same box as the aerial photos.
- Michigan's aerial photos should be sent to East Lansing by July 1.
- Indiana and Ohio aerial photos can be held onto until October 1 or until they are no longer needed for Objective Yield, whichever comes sooner. Please note, however, that the Regional Field Office may request that enumerators take pictures of the aerial photographs to be emailed/texted to Regional Field Office staff for quality control purposes.
- Group together the white ag tract questionnaires with the blue screener forms. Keep the white tract questionnaires ordered alphabetically by tract letter within each segment.
- All ag tract questionnaires, with or without data, must be returned to the Regional Field Office in East Lansing by July 1, whether those forms contain data or not. If you have a pre-printed ag tract questionnaire for an operator who is no longer in the segment, or was never in the segment, those should also be returned to East Lansing. Those particular tracts should have a large X drawn across the front and have a note which indicates why that form was not used.

- Comment sheets, FSA Listings, Paper Parcel Maps, and other inserts do NOT need to be returned to East Lansing and should be shredded/destroyed. The exception would be if the forms contain hand-written notes about the operations that were not previously entered into CAPI.

Please note that some supervisors may request to see copies of your forms and aerial photographs as part of quality control and enumerator evaluations. Please work with your supervisors on this and your supervisors will make sure the work gets passed on to the Regional Field Office.

Did you have any Problem Segments?

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, or
- 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 July 1 so we can get the paperwork filled out.

Regional Field Office Closed Friday June 18

Juneteenth is a holiday which commemorates when enslaved people in Texas learned of their freedom, more than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation was issued by President Abraham Lincoln. The news finally reached the port city of Galveston Texas, when Union soldiers arrived on June 19, 1865. The news was met with celebration and began the annual holiday, which spread across the south into the early 20th century to become popular nationally during the 1970s.

On June 17, 2021, President Joseph R. Biden signed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act, which established June 19th as a Federal holiday. As the 19th falls on a Saturday this year, most Federal employees will observe the holiday on Friday June 18.

Friday Feedback for Friday, June 11, 2021

June Area Odds and Ends - Miyares

We are in the home stretch for June Area! Thank you all SO MUCH for your extra efforts and dedication to make this survey work under the most difficult of circumstances. I've spoken with many people in the field and I know it has been like being on a roller coaster: you've screamed, you've panicked, you've stressed out, you've clung on to your neighbors for dear life, you've wished you never had anything to do with it and you couldn't wait until it was over, but I know for some of you, you've also said, "WOW, WHAT A RIDE!!!"

We have heard several complaints about the slowness of CAPI, especially from people with large workloads. As more and more segments have been completed and have been cleaned by our office staff, we have started removing segments from CAPI listings. The removal of these clean segments will hopefully speed up the time it takes to load CAPI for all surveys.

As of 7:00 a.m. on Friday June 11, we have received about 87 percent of the screener forms, 78 percent of the ag tracts, and 69 percent of all segment records. Before you log off tonight, please review your June Area CAPI Listings to make sure that every tract record shows either the date when the form was submitted or the words "no longer in segment". Anything marked "Saved for Review" or "Enum Started" must be finished by tonight.

	26	129	180165	Add	Summary	Status - Submitted							
	26	129	100255340*	A - 1	0	0		620	2001	180165	60.0	Ag	2021-06-10 15:12:15
	26	129	100254910	B - 2	0	0		220	2001	180165	28.0	Non-Ag	No Longer in Segment
	26	129	100254900	D - 4	0	0		220	2001	180165	5.0	Non-Ag	2021-06-08 19:13:13
	26	125	100254710	E - 5	0	0		220	2001	180165	12.0	Non-Ag	No Longer in Segment
	26	157	100254700	F - 6	0	0		220	2001	180165	23.0	Non-Ag	2021-05-25 14:05:55
	26	129	100245780	I - 9	0	0		220	2001	180165	190.0	Ag	2021-06-10 15:13:01

Every segment-level record also needs to be submitted once the tracts are all complete and submitted. To submit the segment-level record, click on the blue "Summary" button on the gray bar at the top of each segment, review the information in the segment summary verify the tract counts and acres are correct, then click the "submit" button. In particular make sure that the "Total Tracts" match what is expected and that the RA/DA is between 95 and 105. If it appears that some of the totals do not appear correct, you may need to refresh your CAPI listings to get everything synchronized. Once you click the blue "Submit Segment" button, the status on the gray bar should change from "Pending" to "Submitted".

Total Ag	2
Total NonAg (Col 18)	6
Total NonAg (PIGA)	0
Total Tracts	8

Sum of Reported Acreage	625.3
Digitized Acres	639
RA/DA	97.86

Segment Level Comments Only:

SUBMIT SEGMENT

Please note that NASDA Coordinators will be communicating with supervisors on Saturday June 12 if we see any segments with missing tracts or missing segment-level records. Office staff will also be available most of the day Saturday to clean up work submitted on Friday night.

As a reminder, just because forms are submitted doesn't mean that we're completely done with those segments. We've had to do some callbacks to verify that names or acres were recorded correctly, that new tracts need to be added when there has been a change in the tract operator, and there may be other items as we do some deeper analysis of the data. Please hold on to all paperwork for this survey until June 18, after which you can start packing the materials up to ship back to East Lansing. Guidance on what materials absolutely need to be shipped will be included in next week's edition of Friday Feedback.

Due Date Reminders:

- The last day to submit records in CAPI for June Area is today (Friday June 11).
- The Last Day to Submit any June Quarterly Hog Report record will be Saturday June 12
- The Last Day to Submit the June Agricultural Survey records will be Tuesday June 15
- The Last Day to Submit any outstanding Cash Rents forms will be Saturday June 19

And of course, don't forget to record your time and mileage into iSolved every day.

Hog NAHMS – Courser

The NAHMS Swine 2021 Large Enterprise Study is being conducted jointly by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) and the National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS). The purpose of the NASS component of the Study (Phase 1) is to compile essential industry information involving the areas of swine housing, swine management, production metrics and site biosecurity. To identify vital information, a needs assessment was completed involving industry representatives, producers, veterinarians and animal health officials.

The NAHMS survey will be “phone from field only”. CAPI will be utilized for field data collection. Consent must be obtained from these large swine operations giving permission to contact individual sites being used by the operation. This will be done via phone. This survey will vary in length depending on the number of sites an operation is utilizing. These operations are not to be contacted if a consent form was not obtained during the NAHMS Large Enterprise Site Selection Survey. Operations will be given the opportunity to participate in the NAHMS Phase II follow-up. During this survey consent must be obtained from each operation that wishes to participate. Training on how to code operations that wish to participate in the NAHMS Phase II follow-up will be covered during NAHMS Swine Enterprise Trainings.

A training teleconference for the NAHMS survey has been tentatively scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday June 30 for the select group of enumerators who will be phoning this survey for the region. More information about the NAHMS survey will be posted to the Purdue GLR website very soon.

Friday Feedback for Friday, June 4, 2021

Delayed Phone Records Open Today for Crops APS – Weber

We have received some questions this week asking why some of the June Agricultural Survey records (Crops APS) were not eligible to call in CAPI until today. For the past few quarters, regional offices have been reviewing samples to identify operators who have faithfully been completing surveys by mail or online. Recognizing that the mail doesn't always work as fast as we'd like it to, we changed the CAPI Start date on those records to today (June 4) to allow those who prefer to self-report to get their forms in before we began calling. Of the 1100 or so marked for delayed calling, over one third of the forms came back in the mail. Although we don't have the luxury of extending the start of data collection for every survey, we do believe the delayed start helps maintain positive relations with our best respondents.

June Area Odds and Ends - Miyares

June Area data collection is in full swing! Thanks to everyone who has put in tremendous efforts on this survey over the past few weeks! As of this morning, we've received just over 3500 non-ag tracts and just over 200 ag tracts. As a reminder, we want to see all new segments completed with records submitted in CAPI by June 9, and all other June Area records submitted must be submitted in CAPI by June 11.

We've had some new questions received from the field this week, which we will add to our Questions and Answers file on the Purdue site:

Q: I was entering data for an ag tract into CAPI, but then I had to get out of it for a while. When I went back into CAPI and clicked on the tract letter to reopen and finish the record, it said it was already submitted, and it wouldn't let me click on the button to "Start Survey". How do I get back into the record?

A: The tract letter and number will let you access the screener-level form. If that has been submitted and the ag tract questionnaire has been started, you want to click on the POID number to get back into the Ag Tract questionnaire. This is also what supervisors need to do to look at records that have been "Saved for Review".


Each area tract has two forms associated with it: The screener-level form (see the letter/number) and the ag-tract level form (see the POID). For non-ag tracts, the ag-tract form is never used. In the example below, Tracts A and C are non-ag while tracts B and D are ag tracts. Notice for tracts A and C that the POID is grayed out, while in tracts B and D both the POID and tract letter/number are available to click/tap on.

	INF	CMT	MAP	DEL	ST	CTY	POID	Tra	Sub	OP DOM	SEQ. NUM
<input type="checkbox"/>	9010					26	001	100179			
					26		100179013	A - 1	0	0	
					26		100179023	B - 2	0	0	
					26		100179033	C - 3	0	0	
					26		100179043	D - 4	0	0	

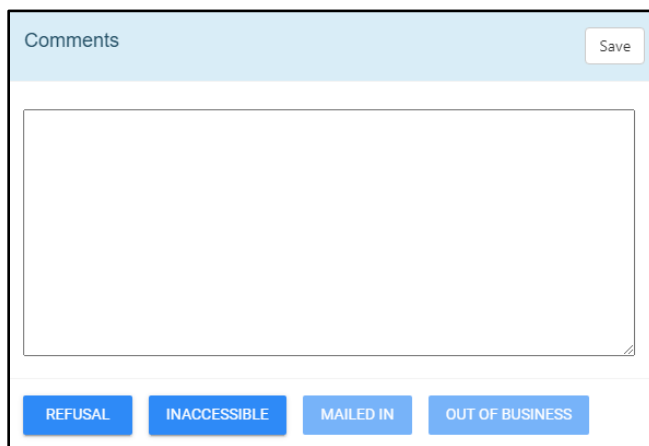
The first time you do any work with an Area Tract in CAPI, whether it is Ag or Non-Ag, you click on the Tract Letter and Number to screen the operation as ag, non-ag, or not in the segment. If an operation screens in as an ag tract, you will have to click/tap on the button that says, "Submit Tract and Start Survey". This will change the POID number from gray to blue. Once that screener-level form has been submitted, the only way to get back into the ag tract information is to click on the blue POID, which is where you find the tract-level questionnaire.

Q: I am starting to get refusals for June Area, and the CAPI instrument isn't letting me skip a lot of pages when I submit the estimated record. Is there a faster way to get through those and can you let me know exactly what needs to be submitted?

A: There is an option to submit the form as a "Refusal" or as an "Inaccessible" report, but there are some minimum data requirements that need to be included in every ag tract.

- The record must be screened in as being an Ag Tract and we need the tract operator's name and contact information. If you are unable to contact or verify the tract operator, use whatever resources you can to determine who the tract operator should be (GIS, Beacon-Schneider, AcreValue, FSA, etc) and enter that name in the system.
- Section A must be complete. Please record whether the operation is managed, a partnership, or an individual operation. If there are known partners, please record them.
- Section D must be complete, even if only through observation. We need to know the acres in the tract along with your best estimate of what activity is taking place inside the tract. Please work with your supervisor regarding the best strategies for observing the segment and estimating for section D.
- Once this is complete, and assuming you have very little other information to report, then you can then click/tap on the "comments" icon.  Enter any other notes you have about the operation in space provided (livestock presence, storage capacity, etc), especially if it is a new segment, then you can code the record as "refusal" or "inaccessible".

If this information from Section A and Section D is provided, then the regional office staff should be able to do the rest. If you try to submit the record as refused or inaccessible without first entering information in Sections A and D, an orange banner will pop up on the screen alerting you to the fact that data are missing for this record and to go back and enter it. Please do not ignore this warning and submit the record anyway, as then you will be contacted by GLR Staff to rectify the problem.



Also please note that while there is a button for "Mailed In" and "Out of Business" with that comment box, those two buttons should not be used under any circumstances. Respondents were not mailed a copy of the questionnaire in advance, so they did not have the opportunity to mail in the form. Additionally, any Area Operator who would be "Out of Business" should be screened out initially as "No Longer in Segment"

Q: I have a number of pre-labeled white ag tract questionnaires for operations that are non-ag. Where did they come from and what am I supposed to do with them?

A: Any pre-populated tract in a new segment that didn't get fully pre-screened back in March/April as non-Ag was assumed to be Ag, and a labeled questionnaire was created for those records, whether they needed it or not. I believe the assumption was that it would save on the number of blank questionnaires that would be needed if those that could potentially have ag activity were pre-labeled. If you have them and you don't need them, then

treat them like you would an operator that is no longer in the segment: Draw a large X across the front of the form, put a note on it that says it's supposed to be non-Ag (or not in the segment at all) and prepare to ship the forms back to East Lansing after June 18.

Q: I have an ag tract where the name on the front label is no longer involved in the operation (retired, deceased, etc.), but the partner on page 2 is still there and has taken over the farm. Can I still use the same tract letter?

A: No. If the operator name on the front page is no longer associated with the farm, even if the farm name has not changed, then you need to add a new tract letter and mark the old one as "no longer in segment".

Q: What if the person whose name on the front of the label is still there, but the partners that are on page 2 are no longer there. Can I still use the same tract letter?

A: Yes. So long as the name on the front page is still the "target" of the operation and is making day-to-day decisions for the operation, you can keep the same tract letter.

Q: I found someone who lives in a segment that is a partner on another agricultural operation in the same segment. Does the partner need his own ag tract? Would it be better to code the partner as a non-Ag resident of the segment or should I code up the partner's house as "waste" in the ag tract segment.

A: If the partner is not operating independently, then the partner does not need a separate ag tract. It is more appropriate to code the partner's home as a non-ag residential tract rather than call it "waste" as part of a different ag tract. Unoccupied dwellings can be included as waste, but not occupied dwellings. Also, keep in mind that if the partner takes over the entire operation at some point in the next five years, then the partner's non-ag tract can be easily converted to an Ag Tract.

Q: What if I have two different farmers living in the same residence but operating different pieces of land? Do I need to report it as a partnership even though it isn't one? Who claims the farmstead?

A: If it's not a partnership, don't report it as a partnership. Each operator should get a piece of the farmstead, if it is in the segment (at least 0.1 acres). Thorough notes should be submitted with records like this to explain the situation so that it's clear that it's not a partnership.

Q: When I went to enter a completed paper form into CAPI, the CAPI instrument skipped right over the Cattle Section, even though the operator has cattle. Is CAPI broken and how do I get the cattle information in there?

A: If the operation is already matched with a list record, and the list record is classified for the January/July Cattle Surveys, then the Cattle Box on the paper form will not be checked and the cattle questions in Section H can be skipped, both on paper and in CAPI.

There are times when an unchecked Cattle Box in Section C will need to be checked (new tract operator in an old segment, formerly non-ag operator now an ag tract operator, new segment operator, partners added/deleted, operator name or contact information updated). If none of those situations occurred, then it can be left unchecked and the cattle section can be skipped. Although there is no place to check the Cattle Box in the CAPI form, the CAPI instrument will know behind the scenes whether the Crops/Stocks Box or Cattle Box are supposed to be checked and will route the questions accordingly.

Q: I noticed that if you add a new tract operator in the screener form, it asks through question 10, but if the name hasn't changed from last year, the screener form only asks through question 9. Is something missing?

A: The questions are all asked, but the numbering in CAPI is inconsistent. All eight screener questions that are included on the Blue Form are asked, but for tracts where the name was prepopulated, the screener questions are labeled as questions 2-9 while in newly added tracts, the name and address information for the tract operator is question 2 and the eight screening questions are labeled as 3-10. CAPI will number the questions based on the order they appear in CAPI and they are not lined up with the numbering on the paper form.