

## **Friday Feedback for Friday, July 30, 2021**

### **Objective Yield Update – Erickson/Miyares**

The Corn and Soybean Objective Yield samples in Indiana and Ohio became available this week and supervisors have completed their assignments. Please be sure to communicate with your supervisors regarding dates and times for mini-schools taking place in the coming weeks.

The web pages containing the OY survey files and training materials is live and can be found at this [LINK](#). For 2021, several videos were posted to the site which go over survey procedures and even include demonstrations of what needs to be done in the field. All enumerators should review these videos on this site prior to your mini-school in order to better prepare for the survey.

There were several changes to this year's survey with the Form A and with procedures for field selection, some of which are not reflected in the Interviewer Manual or even the Form A Video. For example:

- Respondents will receive two pre-survey letters. The first will let operators know they have been sampled for the survey and provide some general information about the survey itself, and the second will contain a parcel map, similar to what they received for June Area, showing the segment where the field was selected. Enumerators will also be receiving copies of the parcel maps, and the maps will be available on the internet through the AgCounts website using a survey code that will be printed on the front of the Form A.
- The United Soybean Board (USB) will no longer be doing their own review on soybean samples drawn from the field. This was a last-minute change and the paper Form A and CAPI instrument are being revised to remove this question; however, some of the Form A's will still have the question on it.
- For 2021, samples consist of June Area tracts where planted corn or soybeans were either reported or observed. Fields will be selected from within the tract based on a cardinal direction (north, south, east, west) preprinted on the Form A.
- Once the field has been identified, procedures for laying out the units and completing the Form B's are unchanged from past years.

Packages containing hard-copy training materials, kit envelopes, and other OY supplies will be sent to individual field enumerators from East Lansing by August 4. Your supervisor will have other supplies, such as flagging ribbon or bamboo poles, at your mini-schools.

### **Returning June Area Photos – Miyares**

All enumerators in Indiana and Ohio who worked the June Area survey should still have the aerial photos in your possession. Now that we have an OY sample, we would like to get the photos that are not needed for OY back to East Lansing as soon as possible. If you are working the OY surveys, please bring the aerial photos to your mini-school so that those which are not needed for OY can be put together to be shipped to the Regional Office. If you are not working the OY survey, please contact your supervisor to see if any of the photos in your possession are needed for OY so they can be transferred to the enumerator who will need them. If none of those photos are needed, you can ship those directly to East Lansing. All photos need to be returned to the Regional Office by October 1.

### **Upcoming Due Date Reminders**

- Field work for Wheat Objective Yield in Ohio must be complete by August 1.
- Data collection for Apple/Peach forecast in Michigan begins today (July 30) and ends August 4.
- Data collection for August Ag Yield in all States begins today (July 30) and ends August 5.
- The last day to ship completed NAHMS forms to the NOD in St. Louis is Friday, August 6.

## **Friday Feedback for Friday, July 23, 2021**

### **Update on Transitioning to Post-COVID Field Work - Tolbert**

Today you should receive a memo from NASDA Headquarters updating the transition to Phase II of the post-COVID field work plan. 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](#).

Phase II gives supervisors and enumerators permission to host small gatherings of 10 or fewer (mini-school) for specifically approved surveys, including [Row Crop Objective Yield](#), [ARMS Phase II](#), and the [Fruit Chemical Use Survey](#). Supervisors will be reaching out to their enumerators and to NASDA Coordinators in the coming days regarding training plans for Objective Yield in Indiana and Ohio. During these mini-schools, all safety guidelines and protocols according to the NASDA memo must be enforced.

All other NASDA travel and small gathering requests (not for mini-schools) must be sent to your NASDA Coordinator to request approval by the GLR Director. Federal staff are still not permitted to travel, so NASDA Coordinators and other office staff cannot attend in-person trainings until approved by our Headquarters.

It is important to note that face-to-face interviewers will not be fully approved until Phase IV, therefore all surveys should still be conducted via phone.

If you have any questions, concerns, or complaints, my line is always open! I look forward to meeting you all when we transition to Phase IV!

### **AgCounts and CAPI to be Down This Weekend - Miyares**

Additional CPU capacity is being added to the NASS NetApp network storage systems to ensure adequate resources are available to support all critical NASS functions. This work will begin Saturday, July 24 at 5:00 p.m. EDT, and is expected to be completed around 5:00 p.m. EDT on Sunday, July 25. During this maintenance window, there will be no access to the AgCounts website, which hosts the CAPI system. Users who try to access the AgCounts website during this time should see a banner message explaining that the system is unavailable until Sunday evening at 5:00 p.m.

### **Status of August 1 Survey Packages – Collom/Miyares**

UPS packages containing August 1 Survey Information were shipped to Indiana and Michigan enumerators on Tuesday, July 20. If you were assigned work for August Ag Yield, the Apple/Peach Forecast, Potato Acreage and Disposition, or Small Grain CAPS (Indiana Only), please be on the lookout for your materials. If they do not arrive by Friday, July 23, please contact your supervisor.

Ohio packets containing August Ag Yield and Small Grain CAPS will be shipped to enumerators on Monday July 26.

### **Objective Yield Update – Erickson**

The Corn and Soybean Objective Yield samples in Indiana and Ohio were unexpectedly delayed. We are hoping to have the sample available to push to supervisors for assignment by Tuesday July 27, with assignments finalized by Thursday, July 29. Office staff will be working hard to package the training and survey materials for shipping from East Lansing no later than August 4. Meanwhile, the Objective Yield pages on the Purdue GLR Website are still under construction and should hopefully be live by the end of next week. Please contact your supervisor or your NASDA Coordinator if you have any questions.

## **Friday Feedback for Friday, July 16, 2021**

### **June Area Problem Segment Reminders - Miyares**

About a month ago, we had published a request in the Friday Feedback asking enumerators and supervisors to let the office know if there were any “Problem Segments” out there which required reduction or splitting. 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.

To date, we have only been told about ONE problem segment in the entire region, but I am sure there are more out there that we haven’t been told about. If you are aware of or remember any segments in your area that meet these criteria, please notify your NASDA Coordinator or John Miyares at the Regional Field Office in East Lansing no later than July 23 so we can get the paperwork filled out to request these segments get “fixed” for next year.

### **June Area Closeout Reminders - Miyares**

Thanks to everyone who has taken the time to get the paper June Area questionnaires back to East Lansing, including both the white ag tract forms and the blue screener forms. There are still a small number of forms that have yet to come back to the office, and your NASDA Coordinator or Supervisor has probably reached out to you about what is still missing. We will be sending the questionnaires received so far on to St. Louis to be scanned early next week. If you are still in possession of any June Area materials, please send it to the Regional Office as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please contact your NASDA Coordinator.

### **Asparagus Harvest Update - Collom**

While Michigan’s asparagus harvest has been over for about 6 weeks, this short [LINKED VIDEO](#) provides an interesting overview of how the asparagus you purchase at Meijer or Walmart makes it to your plate. Michigan is the largest producer of asparagus in the United States. In 2020, Michigan asparagus farmers harvested 266,000 cwt from 9,500 acres. Total farm gate value was nearly \$24 million.

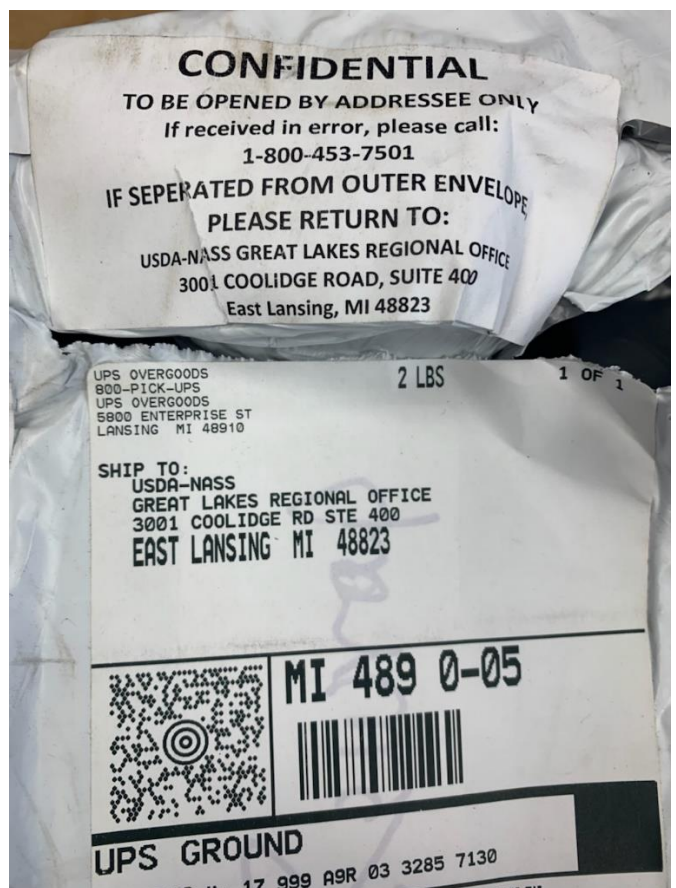
## Friday Feedback for Friday, July 9, 2021

### Upcoming Due Date Reminders and Updates

- The last day to submit either Cattle Reports or Milk Production Reports in CAPI is Monday July 12.
- The last day to submit ARMS 1 forms in CAPI has been extended to Wednesday July 14.
- The last day to submit Quarterly Colony Loss forms in CAPI is Wednesday July 14.

### The Importance of Good Packaging – Kalaus/Bowman

On Thursday, July 1, the Regional Office received an empty box in that day's UPS deliveries. It had been shipped by a NASDA Enumerator returning June Area questionnaires, but it arrived in rough shape. It was broken, had been retaped, and the contents of the package had fallen out somewhere in transit. UPS was able to find the inner package with the questionnaires, saw the "CONFIDENTIAL" label on it, created a new label and put it on the inner security package, and the questionnaires arrived on Friday, July 2.



We ask enumerators to double-bag the contents of any and all packages containing Personally Identifiable Information (PII) for these rare occasions that something goes wrong in shipping. Had the enumerator not used the label, these questionnaires could have been lost forever and we would have potentially had a major security issue on our hands from the breach of confidentiality. If you are not regularly using these labels on your inner packages when sending completed and labeled forms to the Regional Office, please start. When you are close to running out, please ask for more. For those who have been using these confidential labels, Great Job and Keep Up the Good Work!

## **Friday Feedback for Friday, July 2, 2021**

### **Ag Yield Mailing Problems – Cooper/Miyares**

Due to situations beyond our control, the July Ag Yield questionnaires that were supposed to be mailed to respondents from our North Carolina Print Mail Center on June 22 were not mailed until June 28. This means that some operators in our region may only have just received our questionnaires today. There may be several operators who may tell you that they just dropped the form in the mail, but if you can relay to them the importance of getting that data over the phone so we can have it in a timeline manner, that would be greatly appreciated. The due date of July 6 for all forms to be received cannot be changed.

### **Looking Ahead to Row Crop Objective Yield - Erickson**

We've had a few questions received regarding Corn and Soybean Objective Yield in Indiana and Ohio. We still don't have a lot of information yet, but we have been given some tentative dates for various OY activities:

- Samples are expected to be available by mid-July. Assuming there are no delays, we will be pushing samples to supervisors for assignment by July 19 with the goal of having everything assigned by July 26.
- There will be a supervisor teleconference intended to cover the highlights of the survey on July 22.
- Survey training materials, including new training videos, will be available on the Purdue site by July 22.
- Supervisors will be scheduling training activities with their enumerator teams in accordance with NASDA guidelines.
- UPS packets with survey materials and OY supplies will be shipped from East Lansing before July 30.
- Form A's can be completed by phone and submitted in CAPI starting in early August.
- The first set of Form B field counts can be completed and submitted in CAPI starting August 25.

We will be providing more information as it becomes available.

### **Disconnect Reminders**

The procedures for handling disconnects for the July 1 Surveys (Cattle, Milk, Colony Loss, ARMS 1) remain the same as in previous cycles. Please enter "Bad Ph" in the Attempted Call Log for any records where the phone number is bad. We will be querying the CAPI system beginning Tuesday 7/6 looking for records with "Bad Ph". Regional Field Office staff will conduct disconnect research on these records. Any updates we find will be updated in the "Enumerator Notes" and should be visible on these records no later than Friday July 9. As a reminder, please do not submit records as "inaccessible" because of a disconnected phone number until research has been complete and we are able to determine that no new numbers are available. If one of the new numbers provided works, please be sure to update the contact information in CAPI. If some of the numbers do not work, please let us know through comments so we can make notes about bad numbers to not send out again.

### **Feedback on Training Videos Requested**

The Cross Regional Training Team that developed the June Area Training Videos are interested in your feedback about the videos posted to the June Area Purdue Site. What worked? What didn't? What videos would have been more helpful to have? Should we continue to have them as we transition back to face-to-face training models? If you have some thoughts you'd like to share, please e-mail them to [John.Miyares@usda.gov](mailto:John.Miyares@usda.gov) by July 9. Thanks!

### **Independence Day Holiday**

On July 4, 1776, The Declaration of Independence was signed, giving birth to the United States of America. On the 245th anniversary of this momentous occasion, we once again can take the opportunity to celebrate and reflect on all that America is and can be in the future.

The Regional Field Office will be closed on Monday, July 5 in observance of the Independence Day Holiday.