

## **Friday Feedback for Thursday, November 18, 2022**

### **December Surveys Approaching – Miyares/Collom/Courser**

There are seven big surveys starting up right after Thanksgiving, including the December Agricultural Survey, Row Crop CAPS, December Hogs, Mint, Dry Beans, Popcorn, and Potato Stocks. Field kits were shipped to enumerators with blank questionnaires this week, and other survey information can be accessed through the GLR Home Page. Please pay attention to the due dates for each individual survey, and make sure that any matched surveys are completed by the earliest of the deadlines.

This month, a larger percentage of December survey forms have been coded for face-to-face interviews. Many of those selected for personal enumeration are operations we have not received good reports from in a while, including those who have indicated a resistance to provide survey data over the phone. Please be sure to review all comments in your CAPI listings before calling or visiting any operators. As a reminder, all forms with a green Telephone Icon in your CAPI listings should be contacted by telephone and not visited without prior authorization of your supervisor.

As noted in previous editions of the Friday Feedback, budgets are getting tighter as we approach the end of the year. It is critical that your timesheets be completed on a daily basis in iSolved so that we can keep track of available funds. To that end, enumerators are strongly encouraged to contact operators by phone to schedule an in-person appointments rather than driving to operations unannounced. Please contact your supervisor if you have any questions, and thank you for your continued hard work and support.

### **Delayed Phoning for Select Respondents – Cooper/Miyares**

The December Crops APS sample has approximately 900 records where the CAPI Start Date has been delayed to December 6. These operators have a very strong history of completing forms by mail or online and we would like to give them some extra time to complete the forms themselves through their preferred method before we begin calling. These forms will appear in your CAPI listings with the POIDs grayed out. Please be sure to review your CAPI listings carefully to identify these records marked for delayed calling before starting enumeration on this survey. If one of those operators does not complete the form by mail or online by December 6, the record will become eligible for calling. Thank you for your understanding.

### **Census Postcards are Coming!**

The 2022 Census of Agriculture will be mailed in phases, starting with an invitation for America's farmers and ranchers to respond online. Beginning November 21, postcards with survey codes allowing respondents to complete their census forms online will be mailed to producers. Paper questionnaires will be mailed in December. Information regarding the Great Lakes data collection and enumerator follow-up will be coming in the next few weeks. To learn more about the Census, visit [nass.usda.gov/AgCensus](https://nass.usda.gov/AgCensus).



## Ignore Message Regarding “Zero Usage” – Morris/Palmer

On November 16, a message was sent out directly to many NASDA enumerators that use CAPI requesting action regarding review and actions on mobile devices. We have been informed by our headquarters that this message can be ignored for now. Future guidance and instructions will be forthcoming once the HQ teams have a chance to define and coordinate the required actions. We apologize for any confusion that any messages may have caused.

## Thanksgiving

It goes without saying, we are thankful to our entire NASDA staff for the work you do throughout the year. You collect the data needed to publish accurate, timely and useful statistics in service to agriculture. The last few years have been especially challenging with COVID restrictions, adjusted due dates and sample sizes, delays in material availability, diversion of unexpected survey work to field enumerators, and problems with the updating of iPads to the new InTunes system. Throughout the year, even while expressing your frustrations, you have maintained your professionalism and continued to work hard to get the job done, which given the challenges is as much as we can ask for. From our family to yours, we wish you all the best for this Thanksgiving season.

Please note that the Regional Field Office will be closed on Thursday, November 24, for the Thanksgiving Holiday. The office will be open with limited staffing on Friday, November 25, but there will be no edition of Friday Feedback published that day.



## **Friday Feedback for Thursday, November 10, 2022**

### ARMS 2 Data Collection Extension – Weber/Miyares

The Great Lakes Region will be extending data collection for this year’s ARMS 2 Survey. The message we’ve been hearing from the field is that operators have been very busy taking advantage of the good weather to finish up harvest and complete fall tillage activities, and operators who might be willing to do the survey might not be free to do so until after Thanksgiving. The final day to ship ARMS 2 forms to the National Operations Division (NOD) in St. Louis, MO will now be **Friday, December 2**. The deadline for submitting any non-response records and records with no item of interest into CAPI is also **Friday, December 2**.

As a reminder, please do NOT send paper records that have no usable data for wheat or potatoes to the NOD to be keyed. If an operator refuses to complete the survey, is inaccessible, is out-of-business, or didn’t grow winter

wheat or potatoes for 2022, those records should be submitted in CAPI with a comment to explain the situation. There have been several records where enumerators have both submitted the form in CAPI and sent the form to the NOD. Doing this causes delays in processing forms that do have data and causes problems with data being duplicated in the system. Thank you for your understanding.

### **Apple Applications Disappearing on CAPI iPad – Morris/Palmer**

After migrating all of the CAPI iPads to the InTune Mobile Device Management System, it was discovered that some Apple applications and functions were missing. The CAPI Team at NASS headquarters has met with USDA's IT Support personnel to discuss these issues. As of Monday morning, November 7, iCalendar, iBook, and the print function have been pushed out to all CAPI devices. Once the iPad is checked in over a strong network connection, the applications will automatically pull down.

As we get closer to the start of December data collection, please be sure you are able to access both the CAPI and CAPI Training applications on your iPads and that your passwords are up to date so we do not have any delays in data collection. Thank you for your patience as we work through the glitches that arise with migration. If you still have unresolved issues with your iPad, please contact Brooke Morris.

### **Sad News**

The Great Lakes Region was sad to learn of the passing of Robert Venable, retired NASDA enumerator from Northeast Michigan, on October 30. Born on July 4, 1935, Bob was a proud US Marine and veteran of the Korean War. Bob is survived by his wife, Catherine "Kitty" Venable, who also worked as a NASDA enumerator for many years, six daughters, seven grandchildren, and fifteen great-grandchildren. A full obituary can be found [HERE](#).

### **Veteran's Day Holiday – November 11**

The Regional Field Office will be closed this Friday, November 11, in recognition of Veteran's Day. This federal holiday is celebrated every year on November 11, regardless of the day of the week it falls on. First recognized as Armistice Day in 1919, Veterans Day marks the date when Germany and the allies signed a 1918 agreement to cease World War I hostilities. The fighting ceased on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs. President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed November 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day, saying: "To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory." In 1938, Congress passed a law to mark November 11 as a legal holiday. In 1954, President Dwight Eisenhower signed a law that changed the name to its current form.

### **Friday Feedback for Friday, November 4, 2022**

#### **Area Photo Maps Final Reminder**

With Objective Yield surveys all but over, please be sure to send all June Area photo maps back to the Regional Office by today, Friday, November 4. We will begin inventory the week of November 7 to correct issues with map storage identified earlier this year, and order replacement photos for the coming year, if necessary. If you need supplies from the office, please contact your supervisor or NASDA Coordinator, Brooke Morris.

#### **Ag Yield Appreciation**

Thanks to everyone for their work with this year's monthly Ag Yield survey! Response rates saw improvements over 2021 in five of the seven months. These improvements are due largely to the efforts of our NASDA field enumerators working on a very tight timeline to get data collected for the monthly Crop Production reports. For that, we can't thank you enough.

Please note that while none of the operators in the November Ag Yield survey are in the December Crops Acreage Production and Stocks (APS) sample, more than half were sampled to participate the Row Crop County Agricultural Production Survey (CAPS). As a general rule, the CAPS record will be assigned to the same enumerator who completed the Ag Yield. If that is a problem, please reach out to your supervisor.

### **Reassigned Veg and Cost of Pollination Samples**

This week, the office discovered that there were a number of Vegetable Inquiry and Cost of Pollination (COP) Samples matched with the Vegetable Chemical Use Survey (VCUS) that were not assigned to the same enumerator. The problem was identified and corrected yesterday so that all three surveys would be assigned to the enumerator with the VCUS record. Please be sure to refresh your CAPI listings to see if you now have new samples or have had samples removed from your assignments before calling or visiting on these surveys. If you have any questions, please contact your supervisor.

### **Important Date Reminders**

Don't forget that Daylight Savings Time ends on Sunday, November 6, at 2:00 am. At that time, clocks turn back one hour to 1:00 am, and we will be on "Standard Time" until Sunday, March 12 at 2:00 am. Don't forget that the last day to submit Ag Labor surveys in CAPI is Wednesday November 9 at 11:59 pm.