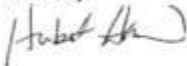


Friday Feedback for Friday, December 2, 2022

Census Update - Kalaus

On November 22, NASS mailed a pressure sealed envelope (see below) to the entire Census mail list containing an invitation to respond online to the 2022 Census of Agriculture. We have been receiving many calls about it. One of the most frequently asked question is “how do I complete the Census if I do not have access to a computer?”. If you run into questions like this, please ensure they know that a paper questionnaire will be mailed to all producers on December 13. To learn more about the Census, visit nass.usda.gov/AgCensus.

Dear Producer,	OMB No. 0535-0226: Approval Expires 09/30/2024
<p>The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is conducting the 2022 Census of Agriculture to provide a complete picture of all U.S. farms and ranches and the people who operate them. Collected once every five years, census data inform decisions that affect you, your community, and industry. Everyone who receives a census is required by law to respond (Title 7 USC 2204(g) Public Law 105-113). Whether you are engaged in agricultural activity or not, please reply promptly so we can update our records.</p>	
<p>Using this URL and survey code, please complete the Census of Agriculture by February 6:</p> <p>www.agcounts.usda.gov</p> <p>Survey Code: <<survey code>></p>	
<p>Some questions may already be pre-filled with information from previous USDA surveys, making online reporting faster and more convenient. You will also receive a paper questionnaire in a few weeks. You do not have to fill out the paper version if you respond online. All information you provide is confidential and protected by federal law. If you need assistance completing the census, call toll-free 888-424-7828. For more information, visit nass.usda.gov/AgCensus. The 2022 Census of Agriculture is Your Voice, Your Future, Your Opportunity. Thank you.</p>	
<p>Sincerely,</p> 	
<p>Hubert Hamer Administrator, National Agricultural Statistics Service United States Department of Agriculture</p>	
<p>To respond, follow these steps:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Go to www.agcounts.usda.gov2. Enter your survey code: <<survey code>>3. Select Submit & Get Survey(s).4. Find the United States 2022 Census of Agriculture and select Start Survey.5. Follow the survey prompts.6. Complete the survey through the conclusion section and select Submit Survey.	

Heavy Traffic Causing Slowness and Errors in CAPI – Morris/Palmer

Starting on Monday, November 28, the NASS Data Collection Systems have been experiencing heavy volume due primarily to the Census mailing. Enumerators working in CAPI and respondents attempting to complete forms through the AgCounts portal experienced slowness and errors. The servers were rebooted, but a page load issue was still present. Please monitor the CAPI Dashboard for more information on this issue, and please report any ongoing issues to your supervisor or to NASDA Coordinator Brooke Morris.

Michigan Fruit Inventory 2022 Update – Saffell

Michigan conducts a fruit inventory survey every three years in cooperation with the Michigan's tree fruit industry. This year's survey will cover apples, tart cherries, sweet cherries, peaches, and plums. There are also sections on tree fruit planting and removal intentions, labor, and abandoned/neglected orchards. The questionnaire will be posted to the Purdue website by COB December 9. Please stay tuned for more information.

CAPI Start Date Adjusted for CAPS Matches with January 1 Surveys – Hendrixon/Miyares

RFO staff have identified approximately 350 Row Crop CAPS samples which match with one or more surveys which do not begin data collection until the end of December, including January Cattle, January Milk Production, January Sheep & Goats, Annual Bees & Honey, January Colony Loss, Commercial Floriculture, the Michigan Fruit Inventory Survey, and the Special Handling Census of Agriculture Records. In order to reduce respondent burden, the CAPI Start Date for these surveys has been adjusted to December 30 so that the CAPS can be collected at the same time as the other January surveys. A second mailing of the CAPS questionnaire is planned for these 350 records who have not already completed the survey online or by mail. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

ARMS 2 Closeout Reminder – Weber/Goings

Thanks to everyone for your continuing efforts to get through ARMS 2. We've started to see more complete reports come through in the last two weeks, and the data continue to look good.

Enumerators working the ARMS II Survey in Michigan and Ohio are reminded that the last day to ship completed paper questionnaires to the National Operations Division (NOD) in St. Louis, MO for keying and scanning is **Friday, December 2**. If a respondent contacts you and is willing to complete the ARMS early next week (no later than December 7), we will not turn away the data, but it will have to be submitted in CAPI in order to make sure we receive it in time to meet our deadlines. Please contact your supervisor or NASDA Coordinator Brooke Morris if you find yourself in that situation.

As a reminder, all incomplete ARMS 2 records must be submitted in CAPI as either refusals or inaccessible. If you were able to connect to the operator, a partner, or a spouse about the survey at least once, but were just never able to set up a time for an interview, or if they kept putting you off, please code that as a refusal. If you never were able to contact a person to even introduce the survey, then code the record as inaccessible. When submitting the forms, please be sure to include all of the administrative coding in CAPI, including the response code, respondent code (if refused) and the mode code (by phone, in person).

Disconnect Reminders - Miyares

The procedure for handling disconnects for the June Surveys will remain generally 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 starting Tuesday, December 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" in CAPI. For time-sensitive situations, you may be called by Brooke or another member of the office staff with the updated contact information.

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. Of course, if one of the new numbers provided by the office 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.

Friday Feedback for Friday, December 9, 2022

Upcoming Due Dates

Thank you for your hard work on December Surveys so far! Please keep in mind the following important dates:

Surveys	Dates	Project Code	Team Lead
Hogs	November 29 – December 11	164	Alan Erickson
Mint	November 29 - December 12	193	Stephen Dothage
Cost of Pollination	November 14 - December 16	118	Janiece Presberry
Dry Bean Inquiry	November 28 – December 16	191	Jim Collom
Popcorn Inquiry	November 29 – December 16	933	Stephen Dothage

Please continue to work on December Ag Production Survey (APS), Vegetable Chemical Use Survey, Vegetable Grower Inquiry, and County Ag Production Survey (CAPS – Row Crops).

Continued Slowness and Errors in CAPI – Morris/Palmer

Again this week, enumerators working in CAPI experienced slowness and API errors. HQ is aware of the issues and are trying to fix them quickly. Please monitor the CAPI Dashboard for more information on this issue, and please report any ongoing issues to your supervisor or to NASDA Coordinator Brooke Morris.

Sad News - Morris

The Great Lakes Region was just informed of the passing of David Fodor, retired NASDA enumerator from Northwest Ohio (one of Kris Karr's enumerators). Born on September 20, 1942, David received his Master's degree from the University of Wisconsin in Biology and taught and coached high schoolers most of his life. David is survived by Jeanne, his wife of 57 years, and two children and five grandchildren. He enjoyed traveling to Alaska, Nova Scotia, through the Panama Canal, Italy and his roots in Hungary. But his special place was the family cabin in Canada. Nothing compared to the fishing trips, northern lights, and comradery with friends and family. I will always remember the stories that he told at NASDA training schools. A full obituary can be found [HERE](#)

Friday Feedback for Friday, December 16, 2022

December Survey Wrap-up – Miyares/Collom/Morris

We're in the home stretch for the December Surveys! Thanks to everyone for their continued hard work on these very important projects, and your patience as we have had more than our fair share of technical difficulties with CAPI this month. Please keep in mind that Friday, December 16 is the last day to submit any Cost of Pollination, Dry Bean, or Popcorn surveys. Also, the last day to submit December Crops APS is Sunday, December 18. As a general reminder, all complete and refused forms should be submitted in CAPI, but you do not need to submit inaccessible forms unless you have comments that need to be updated about those records that will help us when we make the next contact with those operations.

Please continue to work on the Vegetable Chemical Use Survey, Vegetable Grower Inquiry, and County Agricultural Production Survey (CAPS – Row Crops).

Saying Hello - Carpenter

Hi, my name is Erica Carpenter and I recently joined NASS – Great Lakes Regional Field Office serving as a survey statistician. I am from Cincinnati, OH where I live with my husband (Joseph) and two children (Dalton-9 years old and Lorelei-8 years old). We live on a 45-acre farm where we have had cattle, grown hay, and I hope soon to have horses, chickens and goats. My educational background includes a B.A. in Mathematics as well as a B.S. in Education. I also have a M.S. in Administration, a M.S. in Education and a M.A. in Mathematics from the University of Cincinnati. In the past I've served as a mathematics high school teacher and now currently am an Adjunct Assistant Professor at the University of Cincinnati. I have also served in many roles in the manufacturing field from purchasing to quality to finances and more. I'm excited for this next journey and to be a part of NASS!

Some pics of us in the UP (our favorite place to vacation 😊)



Looking Ahead to ARMS 3 - Erickson

This year's ARMS Phase 3 Surveys are scheduled to be mailed to respondents on December 27, with a follow-up mailing scheduled to take place on February 7. There will be two versions of the ARMS III questionnaire this year. These include the normal "Cost and Returns Report", and a special version for wheat producers who were included in the ARMS II sample. Follow-up enumeration (face-to-face) will take place between early February and mid-April.

This year, the ARMS 3 survey will be integrating questions from the 2022 Census of Agriculture. Respondents who are willing to complete the voluntary ARMS 3 form will have fulfilled their obligation to complete the mandatory Census of Agriculture. Operators who either refuse or otherwise do not complete their ARMS form by the end of March will be mailed a census form from NPC on April 10.

This year's training model for ARMS 3 will be very similar to what was done for ARMS 2. There will be a series of video presentations recorded by NASS staff from across the country posted to the Purdue site by mid-January. Mini-schools will be facilitated by NASDA Supervisors between late January and early February. Our goal is to

have training materials and assignments shipped to enumerators by January 20. More information will be available as we get closer to that date.

Saying Goodbye

The Great Lakes Region said goodbye to Wes Cooper, who has left NASS to take a position with the Government Accounting Office (GAO) in Washington, DC. Wes began his career with NASS in March 2020 with the GLR Surveys Team, working on several projects, including Monthly Ag Yield, ARMS 2, Small Grain CAPS, Row Crop CAPS, and most recently Crops APS. Wes is a graduate of Towson University in Maryland and is originally from the Baltimore area. Wes and his family will be staying in East Lansing until early spring when they will be moving to the DC Area. At a going away luncheon held on December 2, Wes thanked everyone in the Great Lakes Region for making his time with NASS a positive and enjoyable experience.

Friday Feedback for Thursday, December 22, 2022

Holiday Message – Johnson

As we approach the holiday season, please take some time to rest and recharge. We would like to drop you a note to say thank you for all that you have achieved this year. We had a chance to do some face-to-face interviews with respondents and have in person mini-schools. We were happy that the office staff were able to participate in some of the trainings. We understand that we are not 100 percent back to what we know as normal; however, I hope in 2023 that we are able to have a regional training school or state schools.

The Great Lakes Region would like to wish you and your family love and happiness this season and into the New Year!



Katherine is going to be away – Kimball

Katherine will be out of the office from January 2-12th. Enumerators, please contact your supervisor first for help with iSolved issues. Supervisors, please contact Brooke Morris with any unresolved iSolved questions and for iHire new hire assistance. Brooke will have access to the “BAT network” for resetting passwords and new hire onboarding in Katherine’s absence. Happy Holidays!

January Survey Packets on their Way! – Collom/Courser

UPS Packages containing January Survey materials for enumerators were shipped from East Lansing on either Monday, December 19 or Tuesday, December 20. Barring any holiday-based shipping delays, enumerators should receive their packages no later than today, December 22. If you do not receive your packages, please contact the Regional Field Office and we will do our best to track it down.

Also, enumerators are asked to please review the contents of these packages very carefully upon reception. The process of packet preparation was more complicated this month than usual due to the large number of January surveys and coordination with tagged census records included in this mailing. It is possible that there may have been some inaccuracies and oversights. The sooner any problems with the packages are identified, the sooner

things can get corrected. With limited staffing in the office around the holidays, it's possible that updated packages may not be able to be sent out until after the new year.

Tagged Census Records – Magen/Samson

Included in this month's enumerator packages are labeled census questionnaires that have been "tagged" for special handling. These operators were not previously mailed a census form, so the expectation is that they be delivered to the operator in person. Some operators may choose to complete the forms themselves, in which case you can return to the operation to pick up the completed forms, while others may ask you to assist them with the process. Many of the operators will have multiple census forms to complete because they operate in multiple states or multiple counties or have multiple operations for which they are the target. Once completed, all forms should be returned to the Regional Office in East Lansing for review. The due date to have these census forms completed and returned to East Lansing is February 6. More information is available on the [GLR NASDA Purdue Site](#). If you have questions, please reach out to your supervisor or NASDA Coordinator Brooke Morris.

Regional Office Holiday Schedule – Tolbert/Kalaus

The Regional Office will be closed on Monday, December 26 in observance of the Christmas holiday. The office will also be closed on Monday, January 2 in observance of the New Year's Holiday. While the office will be open during the week between Christmas and New Year's, staffing is expected to be limited. To that end, there will be no edition of Friday Feedback published on December 30.

Ohio State Statistician Retires – Turner

I guess this is my farewell sendoff. I am retiring effective December 31. It has been a great 34-year ride with NASS – and man, 34 years makes me sound really old!!!! Not sure what I will do next, but I am ready for a different adventure. Some beach time in St George Island FL and Topsail, NC is definitely in my future. My husband's promise to me when we moved to OH from MD/VA was we would go to the beach every year – and we have, and we will continue to!! I am also looking forward to playing pickleball and may even work a few hours at the gym I go to. Give me a yell if you are in the area – I am always available for a walk or a craft beer at a local brewery. I wish you all the best and a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

-- Cheryl Turner Cturner7887@gmail.com