

Friday Feedback for Friday, March 25, 2022

Fruit and Berry Surveys – Collom

Please don't forget that Fruit and Berry PDI surveys in Michigan are due in CAPI by Tuesday, March 29. If you have been assigned samples for these surveys, please make a concerted effort to phone these as soon as possible. Response rates so far are looking particularly low this year and some enumerators have submitted no reports in CAPI as of Friday March 25. Your efforts are appreciated.

Area/ACES Odds and Ends – Miyares

We had a few calls this week asking about blank screening forms for Area and ACES. These were included with the April 1 Survey packets that were sent to the field earlier this week. In general, enumerators were sent five blank screening forms for every ACES segment assigned, five blank screening forms for every new Area Segment assigned, and one blank screening for each returning segment being prescreened. Supervisors were also given twenty additional blank screening forms for each survey to have on hand just in case. More screening forms will be sent in late April/early May as we prepare to contact operators in segments which were not eligible for prescreening. If you need more screening forms before that, please contact the regional field office.

Our headquarters team is rushing to get the Ohio ACES segments available as soon as possible. The parcel maps, FSA maps, and County Copy Maps have been prepared, and mail files have been created and sent to our Print Mail Center. FSA and CoreLogic listings are being prepared and should be shipped to the Regional Field Office by early next week. Once they arrive, the RFO team will work to quickly get the segment envelopes to the field as quickly as possible so that they can be prescreened at the same time as the Area Segments.

We've also received questions asking why all of the ACES segments are blank in CAPI if we know who was there five years ago and the aerial photos were not cleaned off. The returning ACES segments from 2017 are being treated like new, as there is no guarantee that those operators who were there five years ago are still there now. We did not clean off the photos from five years ago because we had hoped that would speed up the process of getting the tract boundaries identified, but it's quite possible that some will need to change because of new operating arrangements. Among the listings you received with your ACES was a listing that identified all of the tract operators from 2017. If it is verified that they are still in the segment, then their names can be added to CAPI. Please keep in mind, however, that when adding new tracts into CAPI, the next available tract letter is used. To that end, be sure to enter the tracts in alphabetical order so that the photo, the screening forms, and CAPI can remain consistent.

One benefit to not having the names prepopulated into CAPI for ACES is that if you identify a new operator in an old tract, there is no restriction on using that same tract letter with a different person. You do not need to add the former tract operator into CAPI only to then later identify them as no longer in the segment and create a new tract letter. This is different from June Area where if someone who operated a tract in 2021 is no longer there in 2022, you cannot just replace the name of the tract operator with the new operator. In that case, you would need to use a new tract letter.

As a reminder, here are the important dates for prescreening:

- Prescreening contacts begin March 28
- Prescreening contacts end by April 18
- All contact information entered into CAPI by April 21

All names entered into CAPI and screened by April 21 will be added to a mailing list for the next phase of the survey, scheduled to begin in late May. The tracts do not need to be "submitted" to get them on the mailing list, but all of the screening questions which determine if the tract is Ag or Non-Ag must be answered, even if answered with "Don't Know". If you're not completely sure if some names you have identified as tract operators are the

correct people, the names can be still be added to CAPI so they can be added to the mailing list. The name and tract status (ag or non-ag) can be corrected later so long as the “Submit Tract” button is not pressed. Please feel free to contact your supervisor or your NASDA Coordinator if you have any questions.

Being Diligent with Cybersecurity

Cyberattacks have been on the rise in recent times and agriculture is not immune. While many of you may remember the incident involving JBS from last summer (refer to this article [HERE](#)), we have also heard through other sources about cyberattacks on grain elevators in our region. When attacks like this occur, operations can be shut down, forcing stoppage of deliveries and grain sales while further clogging already challenged supply chains. Considering the current global situation, we can expect to see more incidents like this occur. As you communicate with farmers and agribusinesses in your survey work that may have been a victim of a cyberattack, please share with us what you’ve learned through survey comments. If the operation does not want to share the information publicly, remind them that any information they provide to NASS remains strictly confidential, but do encourage the operator to contact the FBI directly so that an investigation can begin.

Friday Feedback for Friday, March 18, 2022

Upcoming Push of New CAPI Instrument – Lawson/Laird

In preparation for upcoming June Area and ACES Prescreening Data Collection activities taking place between late March and mid-April, a new version of the CAPI Production application will be pushed out to CAPI iPads tonight, Friday March 18. Be sure to have your iPad charged and powered on tonight to allow for the update to take. After the weekend, when you first log into CAPI, be sure that your iPad is running the latest version of CAPI, which should reflect the day it was updated (should be at least March 2022) before entering any data into CAPI for live prescreening. If the CAPI applications are not current, they will need to be reinstalled using the “Apps @ Work”.

Check your CAPI Listings for Checked In ARMS – Erickson

We’re continuing to make good progress on ARMS 3, and we continue to be impressed every time we see records you were able to complete by phone. We have also seen plenty of records where you have convinced operators to complete the form themselves, either by mail or online. Please be sure to regularly check your CAPI listings for forms that are checked in so you don’t call someone who has already completed the ARMS. We’re also going to start removing completed ARMS from CAPI so they don’t clutter listings. In short, make sure that you’re using your CAPI listings, and not just your paper forms, to decide who to contact for ARMS 3 on a given day. Thank you for your hard work!

June Area & ACES Odds and Ends – Mivares

By now, everyone should have received their two June Area packages. Please contact the Regional Field Office if you did not receive them.

Blank screening forms for both Area and ACES arrived in the Regional Field Office this week and will be shipped to enumerators with the April 1 Survey Packets, which will contain materials for the Milk Production, Ag Labor, and a few other surveys.

We’ve had some people ask about segment photos that were included in the shipment that do not appear available in CAPI and for which you did not receive a segment envelope. As a reminder, to save on UPS shipping costs, we sent out all of the photos you would need for June Area at the same time, even if they weren’t being prescreened. Just hold onto those until later in the spring. If, however, you received a photo that you really don’t believe should be yours because you don’t normally enumerate that county, please contact your supervisor and then either John or Brooke and we can verify what the story is on that photo.

Upon reviewing some of the listings provided for the Recycled ACES segments, we noticed that while they did contain the names of the operators identified from the 2017 ACES, the listings do not identify the tract letters for those operators. If you need assistance identifying these operators, please contact the regional field office and we can try to get you copies of the screening forms from five years ago.

Please note that there will be more ACES segment photos and information shipped to you at a later date. The new Ohio ACES photos arrived in the Regional Field Office this week and the Indiana and Michigan photos are expected by the end of April. We still do not have segment information, parcel maps, FSA listings, or Corelogic listings for any of these segments, but we will send them along when we have them. We do, however, have electronic copies of these segment photos available on the Purdue GLR website. The pages containing the photos can be accessed [HERE](#).

Finally, please be sure you are using the correct project codes for your work on this project:

- For all self-study activities, video watching, website review, and mini-schools, use **project code 124**.
- For actual prescreening activities associated with June Area (visits to segment, phone calls to potential operators, entering live data into CAPI), use **project code 166**.
- For prescreening or training activities associated with ACES, use **project code 655**.

Reminder: Preapproval Required for Overtime and Large Expenses – Kimball/Tolbert

As a reminder, any overtime worked in a given pay period must be preapproved by both your supervisor and your NASDA Coordinator. If you anticipate needing overtime, please request it before the hours are worked.

Also, while we are having to cut back on materials we ship from the office, if you feel that you need additional items in order to do your job effectively, such as blank questionnaires, UPS supplies, or items normally supplied by the Regional Office, please be sure to check with the regional office to see if they have something they can send to you before spending money to obtain these supplies yourself. More than likely, the RFO can obtain and ship these materials at a lower cost than if you were to purchase them at a retail outlet yourself.

Cash Rents are Coming! – Morris

Enumeration for Cash Rents will be conducted in much the same way as it was in 2021. Altogether, there are approximately 10,000 records which may need to be enumerated locally. In order to not overload the system, samples have been divided into four “buckets”, which will be turned on in CAPI and called at different times during the spring. The first group of records we will focus on include matches with ARMS 3, Fruit PDI and Berry PDI, which will be collected between March 10 and March 29. This will be followed up with records that can be called at the same time as the other April 1 surveys (Milk, Colony Loss, and Potato Stocks) between March 30 and April 13. The remaining groups of forms will be turned on in CAPI approximately every two weeks throughout the spring, until the end of May. Starting May 28, any records we have not been successful with to date will be turned back on for a final round of attempts during the first two weeks of June.

A small number of blank Cash Rent questionnaires will be included with your April 1 Survey Packets. More blanks can be sent at the end of April with the May 1 Survey Packets. Please reach out to your supervisor or your NASDA Coordinator if you have any questions.

Friday Feedback for Friday, March 11, 2022

2021 NASDA Field Enumerator of the Year – Morris

Congratulations to Indiana Field Enumerator Laura Smith who will be one of five field enumerators across the United States receiving the 2021 Field Enumerator of the Year Award! Laura and the other award recipients will be honored at the upcoming 2022 NASS Virtual Awards for Excellence Ceremony, scheduled for April 27.

Due Date Reminders

The last day to submit records in CAPI for the March Hog Report is Monday, March 14. The last day to submit records for the March Agricultural Survey (Crops APS) is Thursday, March 17.

June Area & ACES Website is Live and Other Updates – Miyares

The enumerator pages for the June Area and Agricultural Coverage Evaluation Survey (ACES) Prescreening activities is now available on the Purdue Site at this [LINK](#), or you can get there by navigating to the [GLR Home Page](#) and selecting “Area and ACES Prescreening” from the list of CAPI System Surveys. The pages host a wide variety of materials, including the following:

- Ten Training Presentation Videos which cover prescreening procedures as well as demonstrate how to use the CAPI Instrument for June Area and ACES.
- A region-specific video which goes over the survey timeline and expectations for the GLR specifically
- A “Questions & Answers” document, which addresses several issues that came up during the survey last year that are still relevant to this year and are not necessarily covered in the Interviewer Manual
- Copies of pre-survey materials, questionnaires, and other enumerator resources
- Links to segment location maps, county maps, and electronic copies of the aerial photos

Enumerators are strongly encouraged to begin reviewing the website contents and watching the training videos as part of your self-study in preparation for these surveys before attending mini-schools. In addition to mini-schools, all enumerators are allowed up to eight hours of self-study, which should be charged to **Project Code 124**. Please also be sure to be communicating with your supervisor regarding the date, time, location, and expectations of your region’s pre-screening mini-school.

All enumerators working the June Area and ACES will be receiving two UPS packages within the next few days that contain materials needed for the surveys. One of the boxes will contain the aerial photos of all of the segments you have been assigned (including those which are not being prescreened), a plastic bag full of survey supplies (pencils, photo pens, alcohol wipes, etc.), some NASDA trinkets to be used as giveaways with operators when personal enumeration begins again, and a wireless keyboard for your iPad, if requested by your supervisor. The other package will contain envelopes with information about the segments you will be prescreening, a copy of the interviewer’s manual, UPS labels addressed to the Great Lakes Regional Field Office (RFO) for returning photos and other materials at the end of the survey, and a two-pocket folder containing survey support materials as well as a NASDA Windshield sign and a large transparent photo grid. If you do not receive these materials by Wednesday March 16, please contact your supervisor right away so we can track down your packages.

One important item not included with these packages are blank screening forms for both the Area Survey and the ACES. This is because at the time of this writing, the RFO hasn’t received them yet. Our hope is that these blanks will be included in the packages that will contain the April 1 Survey Information (Milk Production, Ag Labor, etc.), which should be shipped no later than March 22. Also, you will notice that we did not print as many hard-copy resources to include in this year’s training folders. Supply chain challenges have limited our paper supply, and we had to prioritize which documents to print and which documents would be available exclusively on the Purdue site. If there is something that you notice is missing from either your packages or the Purdue site that you need to have to do this survey, please reach out to your supervisor to discuss.

Upcoming Pushes of New CAPI Instruments – Lawson/Laird

A new version of the CAPI Training application will be pushed out to CAPI iPads on the night of Friday, March 11, in preparation for upcoming June Area and ACES Prescreening Training activities. Only CAPI training is being pushed at this time to minimize the interference with ongoing March Survey data collection activities. This will be followed on March 18 by a new version of the CAPI Production application, which will be necessary for using the updated June Area and ACES instruments during prescreening activities taking place between late March and mid-April. Please be sure that your iPad is running the latest version of CAPI (should be v2022.03.18) before entering any data into CAPI for live prescreening. If the CAPI applications are not updated, they will need to be reinstalled using the “Apps @ Work”.

ARMS 3 Odds and Ends – Erickson

We are now at the mid-way point of data collection for ARMS III! We are excited to report there are some very positive results. One big difference between self-reports and enumerated reports is notes. Most self-reports do not have any notes, we really appreciate the notes that are written on ARMS III questionnaires which help explain unusual circumstances.

Reminders:

- Please remember to enter the beginning and ending times (or total time) for all interviews. We’ve seen several records come through with this information missing.
- If a respondent would like another questionnaire mailed to them, please e-mail John and Alan. One of us will reach out to HQ and another questionnaire will be mailed to the respondent promptly. Please verify the address and provide us with the state-POID & version.
- For all non-responses (refusals & inaccessible) and out-of-business records that are submitted on CAPI, please enter notes in CAPI, documenting the situation. For these records, there are a few administrative items that must be coded, so your notes help ensure that the record is coded accurately.

Finally, please be aware of the survey progress benchmarks. March 25 is the date to be 50% done with your assignment, April 8 is the date to be 75% done with your assignment, and data collection ends on April 18. There are some folks who have not submitted anything to date, not even refusals. Please keep your Supervisor informed of your progress.

Photos Needed for Photo ID’s – Kimball

Katherine has checked the files for everyone who requested a photo ID. The individuals listed below do not have a photo on file and will need to have their passport photos taken. This expense can be claimed on your timesheet.

Supervisors: April Hoeing, Kris Karr, Chelsi Pegram.

Enumerators: Curt Aldrich, Cheri Banet, April Bruce, Sam Fredendall, Rebekah Headings, Mark Hineman, Emily Knight, Terry Love, Jerry Matuch, Mary Ann Sawyer, Les Sizemore, Janice Stadin, Brenda Vantlin, Debra Wilson.

Please send **both passport photos** directly to Katherine’s house for processing. Her address is: 425 E. Front St., Adrian, MI 49221. Also, be sure to **clearly label the photo envelope with your name** so that she will know who the photo belongs to.

If you are female and have recently submitted a photo to the office, please let us know. We currently are trying to identify some photos that were received.

Friday Feedback for Friday, March 4, 2022

Continued Paper Shortage Woes – Tolbert/Miyares

As mentioned previously, supply chain challenges continue to limit the availability of paper for us to print questionnaires and survey support items such as presurvey letters, enumerator memos and training materials. This week we learned that the second mailing for ARMS 3 questionnaires was delayed because of the paper shortage, with forms getting mailed as supplies became available over a staggered period between February 8 and February 25. We also learned that not all operators sampled for the Cash Rent survey were mailed a questionnaire; operators who have a good history of responding by mail were sent questionnaires, while most operators were sent a pressure-sealed envelope asking respondents to complete the form online using the AgCounts website.

In the coming months, the Regional Field Office will be reducing the amount of survey support materials and printed questionnaires provided to enumerators each month. Most of you are aware that we did not send as many blank March Agricultural Survey forms to enumerators as we normally do because we just didn't have the blanks. We also reduced the amount of paper support materials printed for ARMS 3, leaving many of the reference materials we normally print available only on the Purdue GLR Website. As we begin to prepare materials for June Area and ACES prescreening over the next week, we will have to do the same thing, providing only the supporting materials which need to be printed and providing fewer blank questionnaires and screening forms to each enumerator. For monthly survey packets, we will no longer be printing individual enumerator memos and presurvey letters, leaving those to be accessed exclusively from the Purdue GLR website. The Regional Office has also formed a team to explore how we can best reduce our paper usage over the next year, starting with providing only a minimum number of blank questionnaires and reducing the number of surveys where assignment listings and comment sheets are printed. Consequently, we are going to have to become more reliant on the CAPI system for not only data entry activities, but also data collection activities and attempted contact tracking.

More information will be provided as we have it, and we appreciate your patience as we begin to make this difficult transition.

Disconnects and ARMS 3 – Erickson

We've started to get some questions about what to do with disconnected phone numbers for ARMS 3. As with other CAPI surveys, enumerators may enter "Bad Ph" into the Attempted Call Log in CAPI and we will periodically query the logs to see if there are records requiring phone number research. You can also call your NASDA Coordinator, or Lisa or Marty at the Regional Field Office to see if a better number can be found more quickly. If it turns out that a record cannot be completed because of a bad phone number, be sure to remove the bad phone number from the Address Verification Screen in CAPI before submitting the record as inaccessible. If you are able to complete the interview with a better phone number, make sure to indicate on the paper form what the correct number should be, and then code box 0009 with a "1" so we can more track the change.

Organic Production Survey Coming – Samson

This spring, NASS will again administer the Organic Production Survey. The primary purpose of the survey is to collect value of sales information at the commodity level along with acreage and production data for a variety of certified organic crop and livestock commodities. This survey is conducted in partnership with USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA). Although it is considered a Census Follow-on, and all known operators with certified organic production, exempt organic production, and/or transitioning acreage will be sampled for the survey, participation in the survey is voluntary. This will be the seventh time that NASS has administered this survey, and this year's report form has no changes from the survey conducted in 2019. Data collection is expected to run between April 25 and May 29. While most of the calling on this survey will be handled by our call centers, there will be a small number of records that will have to be handled locally, including "Must" records. More information will be provided on the Purdue GLR website in the coming weeks.