

Friday Feedback for Friday, May 27, 2022

Mail Delay and Disconnect Reminders - Miyares

In an effort to reduce respondent burden, we have identified several hundred records in the June Survey samples which have a history of completing NASS Surveys by mail or online and changed the CAPI Start Date on those records to June 6. This later start date for these operations should provide sufficient time for those who prefer to complete reports themselves to get them submitted before we start calling them, even with slower than normal mail speeds. If you see records in your CAPI listings that are grayed out and not checked in, please wait until after June 6 before calling on these records.

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. For June Area records, we will be querying the CAPI system DAILY beginning May 31 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. For June Area and ACES samples, the tract must still be estimated based on observation during your visit to the segment. 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.

Slow Mail for Ag Yield - Miyares

Delays in mail delivery have meant that most operators sampled for Ag Yield did not receive paper questionnaires until Thursday, May 26 or Friday, May 27. Please keep this in mind as you begin calling on June Surveys this weekend. If possible, please try to delay contacting Ag Yield operators until after Memorial Day weekend. This delay will ensure that operators will have had the opportunity to complete the report themselves by mail or online before you make your call.

Selected Cash Rent Records Reactivated in CAPI – Weber/Miyares

Approximately 130 Cash Rent samples will be reactivated for local data collection in CAPI starting May 28. These are records that not only match ongoing surveys being handled locally, such as June Area, June Crops APS, and June Hogs, but are in counties that we still need more reports completed before that county’s Cash Rent estimate can be published. As a reminder, there is no more money for local data collection for project code 921. When collecting the Cash Rent data for these matches, please charge the time to the matched survey.

Missing Matches with June Area? – Miyares

We’ve received a few calls asking us about Ag Yield, Cash Rents, and Integrated Screening Survey (ISS) matches indicated on the yellow sheets attached to segment envelopes that don’t appear in CAPI. Because of the timing of the availability of the Ag Yield and ISS samples, we had to make our best guess as to whether or not those records would need to be collected together, or if those records needed to be collected at all. For Ag Yield, we looked at June Area matches with the May Ag Yield sample. If the operator wasn’t going to harvest wheat in 2022, then the operator fell out of the June Ag Yield sample. For ISS, several records were identified that were either matched with June Crops APS or had recently completed a survey for us that would allow for those forms to be completed without burdening the operator with a new contact. For Cash Rents, the matches indicated on the yellow sheet were printed before data collection for Cash Rents was suspended. The only Cash Rent records available now are those matched with June Surveys in counties that currently aren’t publishable. Long story short, if a match is indicated on the yellow sheet, but the match isn’t available in CAPI, then trust what CAPI has to say.

Partner Information Available in CAPI Comments – Collom/Laird

As a general rule, contact information for partners is only visible in CAPI for surveys where partner information is asked and verified, such as June Area, Crops APS, Quarterly Hogs, Cattle, Sheep and Goats, Ag Labor, and ARMS. For all other surveys, the CAPI system hasn't been set up to provide this information. Thanks to creativity by RFO Stat Mike Laird and cooperation with our Frames Maintenance Group in St. Louis, we were able to get partner contact information added to the comments you see in CAPI for the smaller surveys which don't ask for partner information. Please note that this information will only be updated by the office once each year during the Spring Classify Cycle and we will be focusing on records which have been sampled for these smaller surveys (Milk Production, Ag Yield, Fruits and Vegetables, Colony Loss, etc.). If you learn during your contacts with these operators that one of the partners listed in the comments is no longer associated with the operation or has new contact information, please be sure to let us know in the comments to "Update ELMO" with the new information, or reach out to a staff member at the Regional Office who can get this information changed.

June Area & ACES Odds and Ends – Miyares/Goings

Data collection is underway for both June Area and ACES, and we have already received over 1700 June Area tracts and nearly 800 ACES tracts to date. Thank you so much for your hard efforts and for making such a great start on these surveys.

Here are a few reminders regarding CAPI data entry based on the records that we have seen so far:

- For non-ag tracts, please be sure answer all four of the key questions associated with columns 18, 20, and 20a on the screening form. We have seen several forms where the question which asks about potential for agricultural activity before June 2023 has been skipped.
- If you are changing the name of the tract operator, as a general rule, you need to drop the existing tract (i.e., mark it as "no longer in segment") and create a new tract with the new operator's information. If the operator hasn't changed but you are making a minor change to the operator's name, it is critical to add a comment explaining the nature of the change. Otherwise, the change request may be rejected, and you may be asked to create a new tract letter. Acceptable minor changes could be inclusion of a middle initial, fixing the spelling of the operator's first or last names, or addition of a suffix (Sr., Jr. III, etc.) provided that the person who operated that tract last year hasn't changed. Please remember, however, that even a minor change like this will still require you to check both the Crops-Stocks and Cattle boxes in Section C of the questionnaire.

As a reminder, please focus on completing new segments first, with a goal of having these complete by June 7, as these take longer to process on our end. Also keep in mind though that face-to-face enumeration should be used after telephone attempts have failed, and that any personal enumeration done in the segment should be conducted during the same visit where you would be observing and estimating tracts for non-response.

Finally, please be sure you are entering your time and mileage into iSolved on a daily basis. We will be monitoring our expenditures for Area and ACES survey on a daily basis and will be in regular communication with supervisors on where things stand. If we see that we are spending more than 75 percent of our allocation, we may need to stop data collection early so that we can focus our efforts on data entry with what remaining funds we have.

Cell Phone Consent Statement in CAPI and CAWI for Crops APS - Miyares

As a part of NASS efforts to use text and email communications in survey data collections, the NASS Senior Executive Team (SET) has approved adding a new cell phone consent verification to the online form completed on AgCounts and the CAPI instrument to help broaden outreach to respondents. The cell phone consent statement and checkbox has been added to the June Crops APS survey. Consent from the respondent will be needed to receive text messages from NASS. At this time the change will only apply to the June Crops APS. This change

will be expanded to all other surveys throughout the year. Please note that additional details about the overall use of text and emails in survey data collection are forthcoming.

Currently, the consent statement will not appear when a **new** cell phone and indicator is added where one was not present before. It only appears where there is a current cell phone and indicator in the SMS sample.

Enumerators will notice the following changes inside the address verification area in CAPI:

- A consent statement will appear when a cell phone indicator flag is present in SMS sample grid.
- A text consent checkbox will appear attached to each indicated cell phone.

When the text consent checkbox appears:

- If there is a cell phone and the consent box is already checked, no action is needed.
- If the consent box is not checked, then the enumerator should:
 - Ask whether the respondent would like to receive survey notifications via text message from NASS.
 - Check the box if the respondent consents to receive text messages.
 - Inform the respondent that they will receive a confirmation text message (see below – Note this message will be sent immediately after checking the box).

“USDA NASS Msg: You are now subscribed to USDA NASS survey notifications. Msg freq varies. Msg and data rates may apply. Text STOP to cancel or HELP for support.”

Respondent completing the form using the AgCounts Website will notice very similar changes. An example of what enumerators and respondents will see inside the address verification window is shown below.

Please note! In CAPI, the ‘terms and privacy policy’ web link is not working and will require a new build. MSSS will place a statement on the CAPI Dashboard that enumerators can use until CAPI is updated.

EXAMPLE FROM CAPI

Address verification
Verify Address

Operation Information	Current Information
Operation Name:	DOE FARMS INC
Mailing Address:	
Other Address:	
City:	
State:	
Zip:	

Operator Information	Current Information
Operator's Name:	JOHN DOE
Mailing Address:	[REDACTED] 25
Other Address:	
City:	CENTRE
State:	AL
Zip:	35960

Check the box(es) below if you agree to receive text message survey notifications from USDA NASS to the provided mobile number and agree to our [terms and privacy policy](#). Message rates may apply. Message frequency varies. You can unsubscribe at any time.

Contact Information	Current Information	Consent to Receive Texts
Person Phone:	[REDACTED] 6	
Other Phone:	[REDACTED] 3	
Operation Phone:	[REDACTED] 6	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I Agree to receive texts
Person E-Mail Address:		

Return to Listing
Edit Info
Verify Address

EXAMPLE FROM AGCOUNTS

Address verification

Operation Information	Current Information
Operation Name:	DOE FARMS 300965960 INC
Mailing Address:	
Other Address:	
City:	
State:	
Zip:	

Operator Information	Current Information
Operator's Name:	JOHN DOE
Mailing Address:	[REDACTED] 3
Other Address:	
City:	CULLMAN
State:	AL
Zip:	35057

Check the box(es) below if you agree to receive text message survey notifications from USDA NASS to the provided mobile number and agree to our [terms and privacy policy](#). Message rates may apply. Message frequency varies. You can unsubscribe at any time.

Contact Information	Current Information	Consent to Receive Texts
Person Phone:	[REDACTED] 6	
Other Phone:	[REDACTED] 4	
Operation Phone:	[REDACTED] 6	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I Agree to receive texts
Person E-Mail Address:		

Make Corrections
ADDRESS VERIFIED - NEXT



Friday Feedback for Friday, May 20, 2022

Purdue Site is Moving to a New Platform – Lawson/Laird

This week, the Great Lakes Region NASDA website, hosted by Purdue University, went down. We have learned that Purdue University is moving all their websites to a new platform to improve the browsing experience for people accessing the site with different devices (computers, tablets, phones, etc.) while also bringing the site into compliance with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, which requires that schools which receive federal funding have both their public facing and internal websites be fully accessible to those with disabilities.

Working with Purdue, we were able to get an automated redirect in place so that anyone clicking on the link to the old platform would automatically be taken to the new home page of: <https://ag.purdue.edu/usda/gl/>

All enumerators who have created bookmarks and shortcuts to the old site should update them, so they point to the new home page as soon as possible. Follow these steps to create a new shortcut on the iPad:

- 1) Get to the new home page by either selecting the original link on the iPad desktop or typing the new URL in the Safari search bar: <https://ag.purdue.edu/usda/gl/>
- 2) Ensure that you see the new home page with the Great Lakes water: 
- 3) Touch on the share icon at the top right 
- 4) Select “Add to Home Screen”
- 5) Touch the blue “Add” button.
- 6) This will minimize Safari and show you the new icon on the iPad desktop. Press and hold the icon to edit the home screen and move it to the bottom dock bar or anywhere you like.



We have created a link with “Click HERE” to get to the original website so you will have easy access to all the information and training materials while we rebuild our website over the next month on the new platform. The new website will have a new look and feel but will continue to serve the GLR NASDA staff while at the same time meet the new standards required by Purdue University.

June Survey Packets On Their Way – Collom/Mivares

Enumerator packets for the June 1 Surveys were shipped via UPS from East Lansing on Thursday, May 19. If you are expecting a packet and do not receive one by Tuesday, May 24, please contact Brooke or the Regional Office. This month’s packets contain materials for the June Crops Acreage Production and Stocks (APS) Survey, the June Hog Report, the Integrated Screening Survey, the Michigan Cherry Production Report, and the Michigan Potato Stocks Inquiry. No additional blank Cash Rents questionnaires were included in this packet, as local data collection for that survey has been suspended.

Notably absent from this month’s packets are materials for the June Ag Yield Survey. In an effort to transition to a more paperless environment, the regional office will not be sending Ag Yield materials to enumerators for either the June or July surveys. Electronic copies of the questionnaires and other survey information can be found on the Purdue Site at this [LINK](#). Ag Yield assignments are available in the CAPI system. Matches between Ag Yield and other June 1 Surveys can be identified in the CAPI listings by looking for POIDs with asterisks next to them (see example below). As a general rule, records with a Data Collection Management Strategy (DCMS) code that begins with a 6 should also identify records that are matched with other ongoing surveys.

	INF	CMT	MAP	ST	CTY	POID	Tra	Sub	OP DOM	SEQ. NUM	DCMS
AG YIELD SURVEY - JUNE 2022-06-01 (128)											
<input type="checkbox"/>				26	063	301320090*	1	1	0		620
<input type="checkbox"/>				26	151	301385420	1	1	0		220
<input type="checkbox"/>				26	011	301431300*	1	1	0		620
<input type="checkbox"/>				26	145	301782710*	1	1	0		620

June Area & ACES Starting Up – Miyares/Goings

CAPI instruments for ACES and for most of June Area unlocks tomorrow, May 21. Please take advantage of this time to get a head start on completing interviews and entering data into CAPI in order to free up time later in the data collection period to work on the other ongoing June Surveys. As you complete your work, please focus on new segments first, with a goal of completing these by June 7, as these take longer to process on our end.

As a reminder, only a certain number of segments were identified as being eligible for field enumeration, and for the most part, these were segments that were 100 percent estimated for non-response last year or contained operators deemed as “impact records” for Crops APS this year. If you do find, however, that you have a segment where at least two-thirds of the operators do not have good phone numbers or the segment is in an Amish community that doesn’t use telephones as a rule, please reach out to the regional office and we will work with you on a case-by-case basis to see what we can do about allowing personal enumeration in those segments.

Updates were made to the coding of individual tracts to identify those that were eligible for field enumeration and those that were not. As a general rule, if one tract in a segment is allowed to be visited because it may be an “impact record” for Crops APS, then every tract in that segment is also allowed to be visited. If you see inconsistencies on this in your CAPI listings (i.e., some tracts in a segment have the green telephone icon while others don’t), please reach out to Brooke or John and we can get that corrected.

Keep in mind though that face-to-face enumeration should be used after telephone attempts have failed, and that any personal enumeration done in the segment should be conducted during the same visit where you would be observing and estimating tracts for non-response. Thank you for your hard work, and good luck!

Suspension of Cash Rents and Organic Survey Data Collection – Tolbert

After reviewing survey expenses to date, I made the difficult decision to halt data collection for Cash Rents and Organics until further notice. All records were removed from CAPI on Monday night except for certain High Impact/"Must" records in the Organic Survey. I will be working with the staff at the Regional Office to determine if there are potentially any Cash Rent samples in targeted counties matched with other June Surveys that we can possibly turn back on after June 1 for local data collection, but at this point, all Cash Rent samples have been diverted to the Call Centers where possible. If you had an established appointment to complete either Cash Rents or Organics with an operator, or an operator calls you back to complete a questionnaire with you, then collect the data on a blank form, then contact the office so that the record can be reactivated in CAPI and you can submit it.

We have to continue to partner in this effort. It is my goal to reduce the amount of data collection cancellation notifications from the office and to secure adequate funding for each project. To help us with these efforts so that we can get an accurate accounting of all money spent on survey projects, please remember to enter time and mileage in iSolved on a daily basis. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to your supervisor.

ARMS 1/ISS – Segelhorst/Miyares

Every other year, Phase 1 of the Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS) is presented as the Integrated Screening Survey (ISS). The survey is used to screen producers for eligibility for the Vegetable Chemical Use Survey (VCUS) and later phases of ARMS (Phase 2 and Phase 3).

Due to annual changes in the ARMS program, the surveys must be reapproved by OMB each year. For 2022, this process was delayed, and consequently, the mailing of the vast majority of ISS forms has been delayed until June 8. When reaching out to respondents to complete the ISS, please keep in mind that the operator may not have received the questionnaire before you call. For most matches with Hogs, Potato Stocks, and Cherries, we did mail an ISS questionnaire in the same envelope, but that was not true for matches with June Crops APS or June Area. Fortunately, when you review the ISS questionnaire, you will notice that most of the questions on the ISS are included on both the June Crops APS questionnaire and the June Area Tract questionnaire. In fact, the only questions not included on those surveys are the detailed vegetable acreage questions found on page 2 of the ISS form. When contacting operators for ISS that are also being contacted for June Area or June Crops APS, please keep this in mind. If you plan your interview correctly, you should be able to complete both questionnaires at the same time without having to ask the same questions twice.

If you have any questions or concerns about this, please reach out to your supervisor or to NASDA Coordinator Brooke Morris.

Friday Feedback for Friday, May 13, 2022

Wednesday Push of New CAPI Instrument – Lawson/Laird

A new version of the CAPI Production and CAPI Training applications is expected to be pushed out to CAPI iPads during the late evening hours this Wednesday. All enumerators should be logged out of CAPI by 10:00 p.m. ET on Wednesday, May 18. Be sure to have your iPad charged and powered on during this time to allow for the update to take. After Wednesday night, 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 May 13, 2022) before entering any data into CAPI for upcoming surveys. If the CAPI applications are not current, they will need to be reinstalled manually using the “Apps @ Work”. It is also recommended that enumerators “Clear Preferences” at the CAPI login screen before they log back into CAPI after the push is complete. If you need assistance, please contact your supervisor or your NASDA Coordinator.

Timesheets DAILY – Morris

With over half of the June Area Training Mini-Schools completed this week – I’m still seeing a handful of blank timesheets. Please start (if you haven’t already) entering your timesheet daily. We will be running daily reports to see how much of what surveys is being worked. If you need assistance, please contact your supervisor or your NASDA Coordinator.

Friday Feedback for Friday, May 6, 2022

June Area Updates – Mivares/Goings

The Area and ACES survey pages on the Purdue GLR website have been updated. You can access the pages at this [LINK](#), or you can click on the “Area and ACES Survey” link on the Purdue GLR Home Page. Please be sure to visit the site so you can become familiar with all of the resources provided. In addition to having electronic copies of new survey supporting materials, there are new training videos which have been developed by a team of survey statisticians from across the country that are meant to provide general instruction on completing the questionnaires. These videos, which combined are 166 minutes in length, should be reviewed before attending your region’s mini-school. Enumerators will have six hours of home/self-study for this phase of the survey. Enumerators who have only worked June Area once or twice may have two hours of additional time, as can enumerators who did not work during the prescreening phase of the survey.

UPS Packages with June Area and ACES materials were shipped to field enumerators from East Lansing on Thursday May 5 and Friday May 6. Please note that due to the high volume of materials being shipped, several enumerators were shipped two packages: one which contained labeled questionnaires and other paperwork with PII, and a second package which contained blank questionnaires and other materials without PII. Click or tap [HERE](#) to review what the packages should contain. If you do not receive any packages by Tuesday May 10, or if you think you are missing something from your packages, please contact your supervisor or the Regional Field Office as soon as possible so we can begin tracking procedures.

Among the items in your packages is a yellow sheet which lists the segments that you were assigned. This listing also will indicate which segments have been deemed eligible for personal enumeration. The segments selected for personal enumeration included those with at least three ag tracts that were 100 percent inaccessible in 2021 or segments that contained an impact/high-priority operation for the June Crops Acreage Production and Stocks (APS) survey. Other segments that are marked to be conducted by phone may be able to be personally enumerated if more than two-thirds of the ag tract operators do not have phone numbers. If you have a segment that you think needs to be personally enumerated that was not coded as such, please contact your supervisor who will discuss options with Regional Field Office staff.

Enumerators will be receiving some blank screening forms and ag tract questionnaires for both the June Area and ACES surveys for training purposes, even if they were not assigned any work for one of the two surveys. The number of blank ACES forms includes those which may be needed for new segments in Indiana and Michigan that have just been assigned and were not included in these packages. Please do not destroy or recycle any blank materials until after July 21 when ACES data collection is complete. Even if you don't think you need those forms, another enumerator with a more complex segment may need your extra forms, and the Regional Field Office does not have any additional blank forms to send to the field at this time.

Several June Area segments will have a golden-colored sheet attached indicating surveys that are matched with those particular ag tracts. The regional office will be providing a limited number of blank forms for the June Crops APS, Hogs, ISS, and other surveys later this month after they have been received, but they will not be labeled and will have to be manually coordinated.

Where most enumerators were involved in prescreening, many of the materials which were sent in March (photo markers, alcohol wipes, grids, etc.) were not shipped again. If you need additional consumable supplies for the survey because you used up everything during prescreening, please request these materials through the [NASDA Order Form](#) on the Purdue GLR home page by May 16 so we can include them in the packages being sent with the other June 1 survey materials later this month.

Please contact your supervisor, NASDA Coordinator Brooke Morris, or the Regional Field Office with questions.