

Friday Feedback for Friday, January 6, 2023

What to do with multi-county records for census – Samson/Magen

The Census of Agriculture attempts to provide quality county level numbers for crop acres and livestock inventory. Some large operations have a significant number of acres or livestock inventory in several counties. As a result, we need to collect county specific data from these large operations.

Among the tagged records that were sent out for field enumeration were groups of questionnaires for operators who are known to have significant agricultural activity in multiple counties. These multiple records are maintained on ELMO with Active Status 09 and are only used for the Census of Agriculture every five years. When visiting these operators with multiple AS-09 records to complete, you may need to briefly explain why they are receiving multiple questionnaires for the same operation. The following are guidelines enumerators can use when talking with the operator.

1. The counties of interest are pre-printed on each of the questionnaire labels. Please point this out to the operator.
2. At a minimum, we need the following information for each of the different counties:
 - a. Acres in Section 1 and 2,
 - b. Harvested acres and production for each commodity,
 - c. Livestock inventory and production for each commodity,
 - d. If they can break out Section 3, 4, 5, and 6, that would be helpful.
3. Ideally, we would want income and expenses for each county, but we know this may be difficult for operators to break out. To simplify matters, if operators can provide the total income and expenses on the county where the operation/operator resided, then the office will break out this information by county. This other information (such as income, expenses, and demographics) need only be recorded on one questionnaire and the office will copy the data to the other operations.
4. Some operations may operate in additional counties that were not included in the packets. For these counties, instruct the operator to add the information for those counties to the form with the county where they reside. There is a place on the bottom of page 2 where the operator can list those additional counties of operation. If the operator has land in separate parts of the county, it is acceptable to cluster the missing county with a neighboring county.
5. It is also possible that the operator does not operate in the pre-printed county. The operator can write on the front that they “do not farm in this county anymore.” Alternatively, they can use this questionnaire for data for another county where we did not supply a questionnaire. These should be large acres or inventory in these new counties, such as over 1,000 acres of cropland.

Please reach out to your supervisor or NASDA Coordinator if you have questions about multi-county operators.

Vegetable Chemical Use Survey Extended for Michigan and Ohio – Goings

A few enumerators and supervisors reached out to the Regional Office to see if it were possible to extend data collection for the Vegetable Chemical Use Survey (VCUS) into the new year, and we are excited that we are able to grant this request. However, due to limited funding available for the project, we were only able to extend data collection in Michigan and Ohio.

The final date to ship Michigan and Ohio VCUS forms to St. Louis for keying and scanning is Friday, January 13. This will also be the last day to submit non-responses into CAPI.

Michigan operators hoping to receive recertification credits towards their pesticide applicator licenses who complete their surveys after January 1 cannot have credits count towards 2022. Their bubble sheets will be held until Fall 2023 when they will be submitted to MDARD with next year’s survey respondents.

NASDA Salaries and Reimbursement Rates – Tolbert/Kalaus

The 2023 NASDA salary, reimbursement rates, and pay periods can be found at this [LINK](#). Salary rates for 2023 include an 8.7% cost of living increase, while the mileage reimbursement rate for 2023 is now 65.5 cents per mile, up 3 cents from the midyear increase for the 2022 rate. New salary rates were effective starting with pay period 26, which ran from December 18 – 31, 2022.

Upcoming Due Dates

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

Surveys	Dates	Project Code	Team Lead
Quarterly Colony Loss	December 30 – January 11	115	Janiece Presberry
Cattle Report	December 30 – January 14	150	Joe Samson
Milk Production Report	December 30 – January 14	178	Jack Hiegel
Sheep and Goat Report	December 30 – January 16	155	Ben Magen
Row Crop CAPS	November 29 – January 17	190	Samantha Hendrixon

The complete list of ongoing and upcoming surveys is updated monthly and can be found on the Purdue GLR website at this [LINK](#).

Friday Feedback for Friday, January 13, 2023

Hemp Survey Returns – Collom

Beginning in February, NASS will be conducting its second Hemp Production, Disposition and Income (PDI) Survey to approximately 500 producers across the three states in the Great Lakes Region. The hemp survey will collect information on the total planted and harvested area, yield, production, and value of hemp in the United States during 2022.

The Domestic Hemp Production Program, established as part of the 2018 Farm Bill, allows for the cultivation of hemp under certain conditions. The Hemp PDI survey will provide needed data about the hemp industry to assist producers, regulatory agencies, state governments, processors, and other key industry entities.

In 2021, the survey was mailed to producers in October with follow-up phoning taking place during November and December. That survey found that planted area for industrial hemp grown in the open for all utilizations in the US totaled 54,152 acres, which includes 1,735 acres across Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio. For the 2022 crop year, the timeline of the survey was adjusted where operators will be mailed a questionnaire in January, follow up enumeration will take place in February, and the results will be published in April.

Talking about NASS and Increasing Cooperation

One of the hardest challenges for any enumerator is to convince operators to complete NASS Surveys, especially if they don't know who NASS is or why we need their data. For shorter surveys, this may not be so hard, but for longer surveys like ARMS or the Census, which ask for a lot of detailed financial information that operators may argue is private, the challenge becomes much greater. Many times, we may only have 30 seconds to relay to our data providers not only what NASS does, but why our work matters to them.

The [Talking About NASS](#) Guide was developed a few years ago as a hands-on tool to support communications of all kinds to those who educate and engage on behalf of NASS. The guide includes information on the NASS mission, plus a library of key statements and talking points you can use in sharing the facts about NASS when talking to our data providers. Please also reference the video, [Increasing Cooperation and Engagement](#), on NASDA's YouTube channel, which addresses operator objections to completing NASS Surveys. Enumerators are strongly encouraged to take the time to review these resources, especially as we head towards a very busy spring data collection period. Other resources are available on the [GLR Purdue Site](#) in the "Helpful Information" section.

Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Observance

The Great Lakes Regional Field Office will be closed on Monday, January 16 in observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr., National Holiday of Service.

Celebrated annually on the third Monday in January, the day honors the achievements of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a Baptist minister who advocated the use of nonviolent means to end racial discrimination. As the most influential of African American civil rights leaders during the 1960s, he was instrumental in the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. He was assassinated on April 4, 1968. Beginning in 1970, a number of states and cities made his birthday, January 15, a holiday, while the US Congress passed legislation in 1983 to make it a National Holiday. In 1994, Federal legislation was signed into law to transform the holiday into a National Day of Service to encourage all Americans to volunteer to improve their communities.

Sad News

The Great Lakes Region was saddened to learn of the passing of Lucille Armstrong, mother of former Northwest Indiana Supervisor Sue Pride, on Wednesday, January 11. Those who would like to reach out to Sue may do so at 775 W Roger Rd #3, Tucson, AZ 85705.

Upcoming Due Dates

Thanks to everyone for their continued hard work on January Surveys so far! Most of the January Surveys have Due Dates coming up very quickly, so please keep in mind the following important dates:

Surveys	Dates	Project Code	Team Lead
Vegetable Chemical Use Survey (MI/OH)	November 1 – January 13	136	Paul Goings
Cattle Report	December 30 – January 14	150	Joe Samson
Milk Production Report	December 30 – January 14	178	Jack Hiegel
Sheep and Goat Report	December 30 – January 16	155	Ben Magen
Row Crop CAPS	November 29 – January 17	190	Samantha Hendrixon

The complete list of ongoing and upcoming surveys is updated monthly and can be found on the Purdue GLR website at this [LINK](#).

Friday Feedback for Friday, January 20, 2023

ARMS 3 Training Packets On Their Way – Erickson

Packages containing training material for the upcoming ARMS III were picked up by UPS from the regional office on Wednesday, January 18. The packages contain the Interviewer Manual, the home-study quiz, several blank questionnaires and respondent booklets, extra screening and out-of-business supplements, a training checklist, the editing guide, cheat sheets for helping to calculate inventory assets, marketing expenses, and checking grain income, door hangers, and other promotional material for the survey. Also included in these packages is material for other February 1 surveys, including Potato Stocks, Turkeys Raised, and Hemp PDI. Labeled ARMS 3 questionnaires are not included in these packages; enumerators will receive assignments at upcoming mini-schools. Enumerators who will be working ARMS III should expect to see these packages as early as today. If you are expecting a package and do not receive it by Monday, please reach out to your supervisor.

The ARMS III Page on the Purdue GLR Website is now live and can be found at this [LINK](#). The site contains a wide variety of documentation and supporting information for the survey, which will be heavily relied upon as both a resource bank and a training platform. As we have done with recent surveys, we have posted several training videos covering the content of the questionnaire, along with videos discussing how ARMS data are used and strategies for convincing operators to complete the survey. The videos were created by a team of statisticians from several NASS regions working collaboratively to provide the best training videos possible. Please take the time to review all the videos and complete the home-study quiz BEFORE your mini-school. This will allow more time to be taken at your mini-school to focus on practice exercises, data collection strategies, and forms management. In addition to time spent at mini-schools, enumerators will be allowed eight hours of home study to review materials in the training packets, become familiar with changes in the questionnaire, watch training videos, and complete the home study quiz. Enumerators assigned work for the wheat version of the survey may be authorized an additional two hours of home study.

Small Number of CAPS Forms with Extended Due Date – Hendrixon/Miyares/Morris

The GLR has identified a small number of County Agricultural Production Surveys (CAPS) in counties where we need just a few more reports to be able to publish those counties. The CAPI Stop date on these forms has been changed to Monday, January 23. If you see these on your iPads, please make one last attempt to contact these operations before the final deadline. Thank you for your help!

Delivery of 2022 W2 Tax Statements – Morris/Kimball

All 2022 W2 Tax Forms will be available to NASDA employees electronically through iSolved.

Enumerators will automatically receive an email from Payroll Network/iSolved informing you when your W2 is prepared and ready for viewing, downloading and printing. Login to your iSolved account and under **Employee Self-Service**, click on the tab titled “W2/ACA/1099 Forms.”

Paper copies of W2 Tax Forms will be automatically mailed to any employee who *did not previously sign-up and consent to receive their W2 Form electronically*. If you did not sign up for electronic delivery, then you do not need to request a paper copy. Paper W2 forms will be mailed no later than January 31, 2023.

NASDA continues to strongly encourage employees to receive their W2 Tax Forms electronically. There are several benefits of receiving your W2 forms electronically: 1) faster and more secure delivery than U.S. mail service; 2) protection of your sensitive information from loss, theft, or delay; and 3) quick and easy access to view, download and print your W2 and other tax documents.

Any requests or questions regarding W2 delivery should be sent to: enumeratorsupport@nasda.org

To sign-up to receive your W2 Form electronically, or [to see how you chose to receive your W2 form](#): Login to iSolved and click on the drop-down menu next to your name on the “Welcome page” and then click on the “Electronic Delivery- Tax Forms” tab. You will see a pop-up message showing whether you consented or declined to receive your W2 Form electronically.



Home

My Account

Electronic Consent

Electronic Delivery-Tax Forms

University

Logout

Annual Signatures on Confidentiality Forms (NAS-004) – Morris/Kimball

All employees will need to sign the annual NASDA Certification of Confidentiality (NAS-004) form in iSolved. Beginning today, when you log into iSolved you will see a message to acknowledge the form. *Please sign/acknowledge the Confidentiality form by February 3, 2023.*

To sign/acknowledge any form in iSolved, click on **“Important Company Messages”** or **“Documents Requiring Your Review”** on the iSolved Welcome screen. See sample below.

Welcome back CHARLES



NOTIFICATIONS

Important Company Messages

You will see forms listed on the screen as you scroll down. First, click **“View Here”** to read/review the form. Next, close the window, then **check the box**, then click **“Sign Acknowledgement”** which will be your electronic signature. Thank you!

NASDA Certification of Confidentiality (NAS-004)

Annual Acknowledgement

NASDA Annual Confidentiality Certification 2022

Please review and acknowledge the attached document

Annual Confidentiality Certification 2022 (PDF)

View here



I acknowledge that I have read and understood this document.

Sign Acknowledgement

Friday Feedback for Friday, January 27, 2023

Census Reminder Mailing Confusion – Kalaus

NASS mailed a Census of Agriculture “reminder/thank you” letter to the entire Census mail list last week. The letter stated:

“Our records show that we have not received your response. If you recently reported, thank you.”

The Regional Office and NASS’s Incoming Telephone Center (ITC) have received a lot of calls from respondents who had already sent in their Census form and did not read the latter half of this message. Many were concerned that NASS did not receive their report, which is not the case. If operators reach out to you to ask about the reminder letter, and they did already respond to the census, please assure them that NASS has received their responses.

NASS will be sending another follow-up mailing in a few weeks. That mailing will exclude anyone that already responded.

NASS has updated its list of [Frequently Asked Census questions](#), moving the question about reminder messages to the very top.

Floriculture Reminder – Collom

We are currently about halfway through the data collection period for Floriculture, but only have about one third of the Floriculture forms checked in at this time. For those who have been chipping away and making progress on this survey, thank you. For those who haven’t gotten very far, please try to step up your efforts. Although data collection continues until March 1, the next two weeks leading up to Valentine’s Day tend to be very busy for Floriculture operations. If finding time to complete these records is a challenge, please communicate with your supervisor to discuss options.

Photo IDs – Kimball

If you did not recently receive a new photo ID, it is because we do not have a photo on file for you. For those who need a photo ID, please utilize the upcoming mini-school to take photos. Please use a white or light background to have your photo taken (from the shoulders to the top of your head) and email it to Katherine.kimball@usda.gov and your supervisor. If you are not able to email it, please text it to your supervisor.

ARMS 3 Oversight and Clarifications – Erickson/Miyares

As mentioned in previous communications, enumerators are strongly encouraged to wait until February 15 to begin data collection for ARMS 3 to allow for the second mailing of questionnaires, scheduled for February 7, to take place. However, for those enumerators who do have permission from their supervisors to begin data collection before February 15, CAPI is now available for ARMS 3 to allow enumerators to enter refusal, inaccessible, out-of-business, or out-of-scope forms.

It was brought to our attention that in question 2 of the Enumerator Home-Study Quiz, the question should be asking, “When reporting the total acres operated, the following may be included except…” The current wording of the question asks about total acres owned, which given the four possible answer choices provided, none would make sense. To clarify, land used on a fee per head (AUM) basis should never be included as part of total acres operated.

In Section 7 of the questionnaire, question 1 asks whether the operation had access to the internet during 2022, either on the operation or at an operator’s residence. Three of the choices refer to the service being “installed”,

which added confusion to some readers, wondering if we were asking if we wanted to know if the operation had internet connections installed in 2022. Please ignore the word “installed” here. While we are interested in measuring the increase in access to high-speed internet on farms and ranches, the service did not need to be “installed” in 2022 for the operator to answer “yes”.

In Section 27, items 2 and 3 reflect the estimated total market value of the operation’s landlord’s share of the crop or livestock production from the operation. The amounts reported in this section do not need to be reported or added back into Sections 9-25 under cash or contract sales. In those sections, the operators should only report monies paid to them for items sold. For example, suppose an operator was renting a 45-acre corn field on a share rent agreement through which the landlord was to be paid a 1/3 share of the crop. Suppose 9000 bushels of corn from that field were delivered to the elevator and the prevailing price was \$5 per bushel. In that instance, the operator would receive \$30,000 for the corn sold and the landlord would receive \$15,000. Typically, the elevator would pay the \$15,000 to the landlord directly and the operator would only have received his two-thirds share. When completing the form, sections would be filled out as shown below. Please refer to page 61 of the interviewer’s manual for clarification.

SECTION 11 FIELD CROPS													
1 Enter Field Crop Name		2 Enter Code		3 Acres Harvested		4 Total Production Harvested		5 Acres Irrigated		6 Operation's share of the total quantity harvested that was (will be) used on this operation for feed, seed, etc.		7 Cash Sales from any year's production (Exclude contract sales and removals) (Dollars)	
Corn		4053	6	4054	45	4055	9000	4056	—	4057	—	4058	\$ 30000.00

SECTION 27 LANDLORD'S SHARE OF CROPS & LIVESTOCK			
1. In 2022, did this operation have a SHARE RENT agreement for land rented FROM others?			
4678	1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes - Complete this section	3 <input type="checkbox"/> No - Go to SECTION 28
2. What was the estimated total MARKET VALUE of the operation's landlord's share of crop production from this operation in 2022?		0184	<input type="checkbox"/> Mark "X" if None
			Dollars
			\$ 15000.00
3. What was the estimated total MARKET VALUE of the operation's landlord's share of livestock production sold or removed from this operation in 2022? (Exclude shared livestock production not part of a land rental arrangement.)		0276	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mark "X" if None
			Dollars
			\$.00