

Friday Feedback for Friday, September 1, 2023

Welcome Back Mike Laird! – Kalaus

We are excited to welcome Mike back to the region. He spent the last year in Headquarters working for our Research Division. He is back to replace John Miyares as one of the Group Leaders in the region and is getting all his network accounts and rights squared away. More from Mike next week.

Objective Yield Notes – Erickson/Segelhorst

Thank you for your hard work on this year's Objective Yield Surveys. As a reminder, Form-B data collection for this month ends today, September 1, and the last day to submit Form B data into CAPI is September 2. Please continue to submit Form-B's for refusals and lost samples. If you were unable to speak with a sampled operator before the end of the September data collection period, please submit the Form-B as "Status Code 8 – Inaccessible" but leave the Form-A open. You may continue to attempt to reach inaccessible sampled operators for Form-A data collection over the phone or once per month if visiting in-person.

iPadOS Update Guidance - Morris

iPadOS 17 update is scheduled to be released mid-September. With this update, the following iPads will not be able to update to this new operating system:

- iPad Pro 9.7" (1st Generation)
- iPad Pro 10.5" (1st Generation)

To prepare for this update, the above iPad models must be replaced with iPads that can take this new iPadOS update.

The following approved iPads are listed below:

- iPad (6th Generation)
- iPad (7th Generation)
- iPad (9th Generation)
- iPad Pro 11 (2nd Generation)
- iPad Air (4th Generation)
- iPad Air (5th Generation)

We will send out further information and notification once the update becomes available.

Upcoming Due Date Reminders:

Please be mindful of the following due dates:

- Small Grains CAPS Enumeration
 - Indiana/Ohio: August 15 - October 7
 - Michigan: August 30 - October 7
- Corn/Soybean OY Fieldwork (IN & OH only): August 25 – September 1
- September Ag Yield: August 30 – September 6
- Turkeys Raised: August 30 – September 12

- September Crops Agricultural Production Survey (APS): August 30 – September 13
- September Hogs: August 30 – September 14

Please enter your time and mileage into iSolved every day.

Friday Feedback for Friday, September 8, 2023

Hello Again! – Mike Laird

Ty gave everyone a heads-up last week, but in this Friday Feedback I am personally letting you all know I am back in the Great Lakes Region and am settling in again. John left some big shoes to fill, and we're lucky to still have him as part of the greater NASS team, but I'll do my best to continue the high level of work that he would produce for our region as a group leader. I have the pleasure of working with a great team in the office and a great group of enumerators in the field, so half of the job is just giving folks the tools they need to get the job done and staying out of the way! I saw many new projects in the pipeline during my year in research at NASS which are designed to reduce respondent burden in the field and modernize some of our office software and processes. These projects show promise of delivering a better NASS/NASDA experience for all of us, including the agricultural operators we collect information from every day. Despite those improvements that are to come in the future, I am most thankful to be back and working with great people again in the best region in NASDA/NASS.

NASS Server Upgrades on Saturday - Morris

Contractors will be making upgrades to the NASS computer servers this Saturday, September 9, beginning 6:00 AM ET and finishing around midnight ET. The server maintenance should be mostly transparent and NASDA staff should have no interruptions with on-going survey enumeration between 7:00 AM – 5:00 PM. Enumerators may experience system slowness from 5:00 PM ET until midnight ET, when the second phase of the server upgrade is expected to take place.

Upcoming Due Date Reminders:

Please be mindful of the following due dates:

- Small Grains CAPS Enumeration: August 15 - October 7
- Turkeys Raised: August 30 – September 12
- September Crops Agricultural Production Survey (APS): August 30 – September 13
- September Hogs: August 30 – September 14
- Corn/Soybean OY: September 23 – October 1
- October Ag Yield: September 29 – October 4
- October Milk Production: September 29 – October 10
- Quarterly Colony Loss: September 29 – October 12

Please enter your time and mileage into iSolved every day.

Friday Feedback for Friday, September 15, 2023

iPadOS 16.6.1 Approved to Run on CAPI Devices – Morris

The current iPadOS (16.6.1) is approved to run on all CAPI devices. All enumerators must update to this new iPadOS by Monday, September 18, 2023 (COB). A good cellular connection and/or WIFI is needed for a

speedier install. Also, enumerators need to have their iPad fully charged before attempting to install this iPadOS. Expect the install to take ample time to complete. HQ will also post an approval message on the CAPI Dashboard to assist with notifying enumerators.

Lastly, with iPadOS 16.6.1, a new feature was added with this update that needs to be disabled. It is called the “Rapid Security Response.” To disable this feature, go to “Settings” → “General” → “Software Update” → “Automatic Updates.” Once there tap the slider next to “System Responses & System Files” to turn it from green to gray. That will disable the features. Also, double check that “Download iPadOS Updates” is disabled by taping the slider from green to gray.

ARMS II and FCUS – Collom

If you are planning to work the ARMS II or Fruit Chemical Use Survey this fall and have been assigned work, a pre-mini-school packet was sent to you via UPS yesterday, Thursday, September 14. You should receive this package no later than Monday, September 18. If you do not receive a package and were expecting one, please contact your supervisor.

Upcoming Due Date Reminders:

Please be mindful of the following due dates:

- Small Grains CAPS Enumeration: August 15 - October 7
- Corn/Soybean OY: September 23 – October 1
- October Ag Yield: September 29 – October 4
- October Milk Production: September 29 – October 10
- Quarterly Colony Loss: September 29 – October 12

Please enter your time and mileage into iSolved every day.

Friday Feedback for Friday, September 22, 2023

September Quarterly Survey Thank You – Laird, Goings, Erickson

Thank you everyone for your efforts during September Hogs and Small Grains Crops APS quarterly data collection. Each quarter presents its own challenges, and in September we had Ag Yield and Objective Yield overlapping the Crops APS and Hogs data collection period and we appreciate your extra efforts during that time.

Objective Yield – Erickson/Segelhorst

Thank you for your hard work on this year’s Objective Yield Surveys. Form-A data collection is ongoing. One field visit per sample, per month may be made for samples with Form-A’s that were marked as ‘inaccessible’ last month. As a reminder, Form B data collection for this month opens on Saturday, September 23 and ends on Sunday, October 1. The last day to submit data via CAPI is Monday, October 2. Don’t forget to send your samples to the lab via UPS on the same day that the sample was harvested, if possible.

The possibility of a government shutdown exists. If so, it would begin on October 1. If necessary, your supervisor will reach out to you with further information.

Please send samples to the Objective Yield Lab ASAP using the provided shipping labels. You should send completed Form-B data via CAPI as soon as the data are collected. Please review the information provided

about packaging and shipping procedures posted on the NASDA GLR Purdue website:

[Objective Yield Lab Sample Packaging Standards \(purdue.edu\)](#)

[Due Dates \(purdue.edu\)](#)

We appreciate your contributions to the Objective Yield program!

ARMS II and FCUS Supervisor Meeting and Mini Schools – Laird, Weber, Goings

We kicked off ARMS II/FCUS season with a Supervisor ‘train the trainer’ meeting this week where we went over high level data collection do’s and don’ts, due dates, and a few distinct changes to the data collection process from last year. Thank you to our wonderful Supervisors for attending, it was good to virtually see/hear everyone again.

Training and survey materials should now be available to enumerators on the Purdue page. We have received labelled ARMS II questionnaires and should be sending ARMS II packets out by September 26, at the latest. A discrepancy was identified between the questionnaire and the manual regarding question 32-F on page 10. The manual states to enter a 4 for “don’t know”. We ask that you ignore this instruction and enter a -1 in this case.

We hope everyone has a great mini school and that everyone with assignments uses the 4 hours of home study time to watch the videos, read the PowerPoints, and explore the Purdue ARMS II (and FCUS for MI) site. Please let us know if you have questions about your assignments/packet contents or about the training materials. Good luck with data collection!

October 1 Surveys and FCUS UPS Packages – Collom

Packages containing October 1 survey work and labeled Fruit Chemical Use Surveys (Michigan only) were shipped on Wednesday, September 20th. You should receive this work no later than Monday, September 25. If you have not received your work by then, and are anticipating a package, please contact your supervisor. We anticipate shipping ARMS II labeled questionnaires and materials early to mid-next week. If you need supplies, please submit your requests via the on-line request tool no later than Sunday evening (9/24) and we’ll attempt to get those materials to you with your ARMS II work.

Install iPadOS 16.6.1 on CAPI Devices – Morris

Apple recently released iPadOS 17, but this new iPadOS has NOT been approved by CEC. As mentioned before, iPad Pro 9.7” and iPad Pro 10.5” models will not be eligible for this new update once approved. We will continue to decommission and replace these devices.

Please continue to install iPadOS 16.6.1 as soon as possible. A good cellular connection and/or WIFI is needed for a speedier install. Also, you need to have your iPad fully charged before attempting to install this iPadOS. Please allow ample time for the install to complete.

Lastly, with iPadOS 16.6.1, a new feature was added with this update that needs to be disabled. It is called the “Rapid Security Response.” To disable this feature, go to:

“Settings” → “General” → “Software Update” → “Automatic Updates.”

Once there, tap the slider next to “System Responses & System Files” to turn it from green to gray. That will disable the features. Also, double check that “Download iPadOS Updates” is also disabled by taping the slider from green to gray.

Upcoming Due Date Reminders:

Please be mindful of the following due dates:

- Small Grains CAPS Enumeration: August 15 - October 7
- Corn/Soybean OY: September 23 – October 1
- October Ag Yield: September 29 – October 4
- October Milk Production: September 29 – October 10
- Quarterly Colony Loss: September 29 – October 12
- ARMS Phase II: October 2 – November 30
- Fruit Chemical Use Survey: October 2 – December 29

Please enter your time and mileage into iSolved every day.

Friday Feedback for Friday, September 29, 2023

Potential Government Shutdown Information - Ingram

Due to the potential government shutdown at 12:00 a.m. EDT (midnight) Saturday, September 30:

On or before Saturday (9/30/2023):

- All time and expenses for PP20 should be entered into iSolved, and timesheets must be submitted.
- Supervisors should complete review and verify timesheets before midnight.

After 12:00 midnight (EDT) on Saturday (9/30/2023):

- Should a shutdown happen, no NASDA work can occur, and use of any NASS-issued equipment, such as iPads, and laptops, is not authorized.
- NASS staff will not be allowed to work. All communications from NASS staff will cease after Saturday if there is a shutdown. Operations will resume again when funding is restored and federal staff receive authorization to return to work.
- No data collection activities are to be done.
- No time may be entered in timesheets or expenses incurred for dates that the shutdown is in effect.
- NASDA HQ will process timesheets/payroll as scheduled next week.

Your NASS Regional Office/NASDA Coordinator will inform you about any changes or cancellations of upcoming activities in your state/region.

NASDA will send you an email with any additional updates or information as it becomes available.

Potential Shutdown Survey Information

If the Federal government ceases to be funded at midnight on Saturday, all NASDA work will have to stop until a new funding package is passed by Congress and signed into law by the President.

HQ has asked us to provide the following guidance to you regarding the October 1 surveys. Additional guidance will be forthcoming for other surveys as it becomes available.

Ag Yield: Enumeration should begin as early as possible on Friday and enumerators should make as many attempts to get data as possible on Friday and Saturday. This data should be entered into CAPI and submitted no later than 11:59 pm on Saturday, September 30.

Objective Yield: Please make every effort to have all your work done by Saturday, September 30 (data collection was previously scheduled through October 1). Form B data should be submitted via CAPI as soon as it is completed. You should ship samples to the NOD lab frequently using the UPS labels provided to you. Please ship all samples to the lab no later than 11:59 pm on Saturday. This means that all samples that are needing to be shipped to the NOD lab should be in a UPS drop box by Saturday night.

Milk Production and Quarterly Colony Loss: Surveys begin Friday, September 29. Please contact as many respondents as possible before COB on September 30th and submit the data collected via CAPI.

Please monitor the government funding status through national news channels. If a funding agreement is reached prior to midnight on September 30, data collection for these projects should continue as normal. Do not wait for another memo or message to resume regular data collection activities.

ARMS II – Laird/Collom/Weber

All ARMS II packets were assembled and shipped on Monday 9/25 this week. All enumerators should have received their packets by now with assignments and various spare forms inside. Please contact your supervisor if you have not received your packet or if your packet is missing anything and we will work with them to get you what you need.

ARMS II and FCUS – Laird/Collom/Weber/Goings

We also received notification from HQ about numerous errata in the survey materials. We reposted the corrected IMs for ARMS II and FCUS to the Purdue site as well as the two errata/corrections documents. Details about what was corrected can be found [HERE for ARMS II](#) and [HERE for FCUS](#) and are posted on the Purdue site as well.

Objective Yield – Segelhorst

Some enumerators may not be following the correct procedure when harvesting soybean pods. As a reminder, once units reach Stage 5 Maturity or within three days of farmer harvest, enumerators should harvest all pods from all plants in the **3-foot section** of Row 1 for each unit in Stage 5. Instructions are provided in item 13 of the Soybean Form-B. Some enumerators have submitted pod counts in items 15 and 16 that are consistent with the number of pods reported in the 6-inch row sections for a given unit.

Please review your work to ensure that reasonable counts in items 15 and 16 are submitted. If low pod count figures are equal to data submitted for item 12, 'Number of pods with beans', this implies that you sent pod samples to the NASS Objective Yield laboratory from the incorrect sampling area. Several samples exhibiting this error have been identified.

Thank you for your dedication to the success of the Objective Yield program. We appreciate your hard work.

Upcoming Due Date Reminders:

Please be mindful of the following due dates:

- Small Grains CAPS Enumeration: August 15 - October 7
- Corn/Soybean OY: September 23 – October 1
- October Ag Yield: September 29 – October 4
- October Milk Production: September 29 – October 10
- Quarterly Colony Loss: September 29 – October 12
- ARMS Phase II: November 27 – November 30
- Fruit Chemical Use Survey: October 1 – December 29

Please enter your time and mileage into iSolved every day.