12-18-24 NASDA Supervisor Meeting

Wednesday, December 18, 2024
10:00 AM

- **Attending - NASS side** (Mike, Brooke, Adam, Marlo, ~~Ty,~~ Ben T., Nathanial, Brandy, Katherine)

Project Code - 363 for this meeting

- **Welcome - Management**
    - Marlo - Thank you, and Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!
        - Thanks for working through change, workshops, survey work.

- **State Statisticians**
    - Nathanial -
        - Census of ag is not just every 5 years! Currently conducting cognitive interviews using census form right now using actual respondents to get feedback. Long process, but important - lots of interviews!
        - Lots of trade shows/conferences during the off season
            - Farm Bureau, state convention, others
            - CEAP school - many boxes of IN Annual Bulletins sent to school, great tool to share with producers. If you need a IN annual bulletin, contact Nathanial for shipping
    - Ben T. -
        - Has supply of OH annual bulletins (give out at trade shows, county offices, etc) but have some in stock - contact Ben if you need a copy.
        - Fort Wayne farm show in Jan.
        - FFA meeting in NJ in Feb
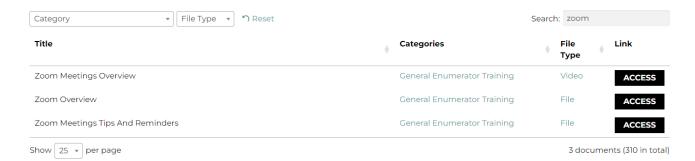   - Pork Congress - Lima, OH in Feb.

- **Previous Meeting Issues/Follow up - All**
    - CEAP Phase II
        - In Person training school feedback
            - "[F:\SURVEYS\CEAP\2024\Training\Phase II Training School\2024 CEAP Evaluation (Responses).xlsx](F:\SURVEYS\CEAP\2024\Training\Phase II Training School\2024 CEAP Evaluation (Responses).xlsx)"
        - Overall positive feedback, but we know what we can do to improve for next year
            - More interactive examples
            - Clearer instructions about grayed out boxes, skips, completion codes, etc next time
            - Specific cover crop mix examples next time
            - Let supervisors see practice exercise before training
            - Others that Logan has logged
    - Pooler - how did it go now that more people/surveys are using it?

- Considering using the pooler for 'callouts' for December Row Crops County Estimates Survey
- Zoom Info
  - Go to https://www.nasda.org/nass/surveys/ and type "zoom" in the search box and tap enter and you'll see some NASDA provided Zoom tips

- **Office Updates and Remarks - All present**
  - No new budget news, still operating on Continuing Resolution until 12/20, which means tight budgets still for our data collection and training efforts. Looking likely that they will pass a CR.
    - CEAP still will provide at least one in-person training event next fall, 2025
  - Enumerator Efficiency Report for your employee reviews: I will provide at a minimum a response rate report, and at most a cost report as well if all the stars align in early January.
    - Will need some output from iSolved from Brooke/Katherine to complete it

- **BAT Updates** - Katherine
  - Annual Evaluations - Starting Jan. 1
    - If you are REALLY ambitions, please wait until Jan. 1 to start this process - system requires you to wait until New Year to start this process
  - Still some outstanding performance evaluations for 2023, will send out a listing of completed evaluations. IF you see someone is missing from that listing in your group, then contact Katherine to see how to fix it.
  - New hires - please get photos to Katherine - text works - 734-972-3979
    - Make sure I9's are done - get all supporting information during pre-hire process
  - It has been a joy to work with everyone! It is nice to hear from you, and nice to know you care.
  - Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

- **NASDA Coordinator Update** - Brooke
  - Ditto (ha!) lots has been covered above.

- Pooler - Please provide POID's when you have specific issues, that will help us fix problems.
    - More practice with it, the better we will be with it
    - Brooke has submitted 10-15 issues to CAPI team to fix issues
- Enumerator efficiency reports coming in January
- Finishing up supervisor evaluations this week
- Time Sheets looking great!
    - Have folks get in and verify so we don't have to remind them/send electronic copy
- iPads - sent out with weekly reminder - but we need more info about your iPads
    - Need CCID - this is the serial number for your SIM card in the iPad
        - Will email supervisors with iPad info of your group, and then you will need to find CCID and input that information
            - Detailed instructions will be emailed

- **Survey Updates** - Mike
    - Timeline of large survey projects -
    - Past:
        - ARMS II, Crops APS, Hogs response rates
        - Objective Yield - Thank you!
    - **Now:**
        - January 1 Survey Materials shipped via UPS on Thursday 12/19 this week.
        January Cattle Report (150)
        January Milk Production Report (178)
        January Sheep & Goat Report (155)
        Quarterly Colony Loss (115)
        Bee & Honey Inquiry (196)
        Crops CE (190)
- VCUS, Veg PDI, CEAP Status current
- CEAP Phase II
    - Understandably, not enough forms turned in for a good status report since everyone was wrapping up December surveys! Admittedly, not a lot of stat time spend editing at this point. Next meeting will provide a status update on how data collection is going
- **Soon:**
    - Census of Horticulture data collection Enumeration Dates: December 30 - March 31
        - Response is required
        - More info on Purdue Site
    - December County Estimates is coming back! Expect to see assignment pushes at the end of this week, early next week. Assignments will be due back early in the New Year, and data collection will start quickly after that. Budgets are low and don't have a lot of local enum $
        - Local data collection efforts will focus on getting as many 'close to publish' counties to publishable status as possible

- Sending copies of all 3 states to enumerators willing to use the CAPI Pooler for this project
- Other standard surveys data collection begins (see Purdue site for more info):
  January Cattle Report (150)
  January Milk Production Report (178)
  January Sheep & Goat Report (155)
  Quarterly Colony Loss (115)
  Bee & Honey Inquiry (196)
  Crops CE (190)
- ARMS III **Assignments coming to you on 12/20, due back 1/5** - memo/email is coming soon
- ARMS III Training Format
  - **2 hours of ARMS III Train the Trainer on 1/29 from 10 AM - Noon eastern time**
  - 8 hours per enumerator at your discretion (can be less for experienced folks, more for newer) from 1/30-2/15
    - **ARMS III 2nd mailing is scheduled for 2/6**, can decide to contact before or after dependent on enumerator and relationship with operator, but with a tight budget it may be wise to let the mail work as much as possible.
    - **We will send ARMS III Training supplies either 1/22 or 1/23** with other February survey work.
- ARMS III Data Collection Plan
  - **Start after training is complete (between 1/30 and 2/15) until ~4/15/25 (firm date TBD)**
  - Phone first to set up appointment unless you are driving by for another survey
  - We have roughly 1/2 the $/sample that we did for last year's data collection, need to be frugal again
  - **Responses are REQUIRED for both surveys**
    - Perhaps instruct folks to highlight that word 'required' since it is not in bold or very obvious)
  - ARMS III looks very similar to TOTAL forms, both say TOTAL on the top.
    - ARMS III version looks like this (Has Costs and Returns Report - Version 1 on top and is 24 pages long and is blue-ish :
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OMB No. 0535-0240: Approval Expires 10/31/2027

2024 TENURE, OWNERSHIP, AND TRANSITION OF AGRICULTURAL LAND (TOTAL)	
SURVEY CODE:	Costs and Returns Report – Version 1 Project Code: 904 (09/28/2024)

  - TOTAL landlord version looks like this - is 12 pages long and green-ish:
    - Verrrry few being handled by local enumeration (if any), mostly being handled by calling centers

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2024 TENURE, OWNERSHIP, AND TRANSITION OF AGRICULTURAL LAND

SURVEY CODE:

www.agcounts.usda.gov

- **Later:**
  - February packets (And ARMS III training/assignments) will be shipped ~1/22
  - March surveys
    - Crops APS, Hogs

- **Supervisor Share / Open Forum - NASDA**
  - How are things going in your area? Any info to share?
  - Lots of operators saying they are contacted too often
    - Liken to reaching into a bag where an operation makes up a large portion of the commodity of interest.
  - Thank you in general to cooperative respondents
    - Can we get something standardized in the field? CEAP specifically, would be nice to have those postcards. Also, struggled with words to thank them.
    - What do other supervisors/enumerators do to thank operators, especially the cooperative ones that report lots and often.
    - What wording should we use for thank you cards?
    - If you use postcards, that means everyone can see it! No PII on postcards.
    - Reimbursement? Postage expense (stamp price) under $35. Project code= whatever survey you sending note for.
  - OH - Large operators don't want to divulge how much grain is in storage. Elevators are not full of grain, but not willing to pay to acquire grain. Is this a local issue, or a regional issue? 3-5k acre farms.
    - MI - some large operations feel the same way, lots of folks waiting for farm bill renewal before sharing. Get response like " I have about 1/3 of crop in storage" and that is as much info as I can get.
    - Perhaps high input costs vs low price for grain.
    - Farm bill could have something to do with this.
      - Perhaps production disaster payments on the way from another USDA agency, but not for certain
    - IN - If we can explain - the office (East Lansing) knows there is grain on hand, and if you refuse, we will estimate an amount, so it is better to gives us your best guess than the office best guess.
    - Another suggestion - ask them (in December) if they have sold any grain yet (as a starter). Then maybe poke at the price, and go from there (did they do OK in the market?). If they don't want to talk about it - ask about what

precent the sold or moved to get a number out of them. A percentage estimate is better from them versus us determine in the office.

- Do you intend to market a percentage by month, or by the first of the year?
- Find a way to get a roundabout way to get that info than asking directly sometimes.

- **Deputy Updates - Deputies**
    - Adam - It is great to see our friendly rivalry with UMR and HLR regions, and to see us in the top 1/2 of the leaderboard. Thanks for your efforts and hard work.
    - Happy Holidays.

- **Open topics -All**
    - Reminder! **Project Code is 363 for this meeting**
    - Some positive feedback on pooler, reports of enumerators enjoying the system
    - Next meeting 1/15 @ 10 AM

- **Closing - Management**