

THE SAMPLE

Winter Wheat sample fields are selected from farms who reported Winter Wheat acreage for harvest during the March Agricultural Survey. All operations reporting wheat in the survey have a chance of being selected in the Objective Yield Survey. All samples are based upon recorded observations so that the probability of any operation being chosen is related to the size of the operation. All operations reporting Wheat Acreage on the survey are eligible for sampling, regardless of size. An operation may be selected two or more times. If this happens, two or more sample numbers will be assigned to the operation and separate counts are to be made for each sample.

Sample Field Kits

You will have a sample field kit for each sample assigned to you. This will be a large envelope containing the survey forms you will need for the interview and for making counts and observations on the sample(s) for each field. Make certain that you receive a sample field kit for each sample assigned to you and that all the necessary forms are present.

Chapter 3 – Form A-1 Interview

General

The purpose of Form A-1 is to update the acreage of wheat expected to be harvested since the previous survey. These forms will also verify the sample field for the Objective Yield sample, determine acreage to be excluded when locating the sample units, obtain permission to locate sample and gleaning units in the field, and obtain information on whether or not the field is intended to be irrigated.

Form A-1 will be completed on the initial phone call for all winter wheat samples.

The different forms used for this survey are printed on paper of different color for easier identification. You will notice that some spaces on the form have bold outlined boxes. These bold outlined boxes are for office use only and enumerators will not make entries in these spaces unless they are instructed to do so. Use only erasable pencils to complete all objective yield forms. Do not change, erase, or mark out any entries made by the State office. Before you begin an interview, review all forms so you know beforehand precisely what questions to ask the operator.

To avoid asking the operator duplicate questions during the initial interview, ask questions as follows:

Form A-1, Table A, Items 1 and 2 - once for each sample.

These questions provide the necessary initial interview data regardless of how many samples are located on the farm or sample field. Shortly after the interview is over, copy data on the appropriate Form A-1 for all samples.

When you start to work on a sample, be sure the label indicating State, operator identification number, sample number and direction indicator is on each form. If not, copy this information from the sample field kit envelope. Enter the date that you make the phone call for the interview.

Your first contact with the operator is very important. Review the discussion of interviewing techniques in your [NASDA Employees Handbook](#).

Introduce yourself and tell the operator that you are representing the National Agricultural Statistics Service (State Field Office) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Explain that the National Agricultural Statistics Service is conducting a wheat yield survey and that this operation has been randomly selected for the study. The purpose of this survey (see Chapter 1) is to estimate crop yields based on counts and measurements from small sample plots in selected fields, and the operator's cooperation will be most helpful. Some of the operators you will contact had fields in the Objective Yield Survey in past years, so this will not be new to them.

On the front of Form A-1, there is a statement which briefly introduces the survey. Use a conversational tone when making the statement, and answer any questions the farmer may have. The operator may wish to accompany you to see what you do in making field observations. This is fine, but work steadily, practice social distancing, and do not take too much of the farmer's time.

If the farm operator is not available when you call, arrange to call back. If the farm operator is not expected back during the survey period, you may obtain the required information from another informed person. In the event no informed person can be found to give the information during the survey period, contact your supervisor. **Do not enter wheat fields without permission.**

If not completed at the time of the first survey period, Form A-1 and Form B should be completed during the next survey period. However, you should make an effort to complete these forms during the assigned survey period.

All States:

For Form A-1, interviews with growers selected from the March Agricultural Survey, you will **not** have an aerial photo. The acreages on this form pertain to the grower's entire operation. The State office will have entered acres of winter wheat for harvest on the entire farm reported earlier, but no data by fields are available prior to your phone call.

For Form A-1 interviews, you will use the objective yield grid map to sketch the location of the winter wheat sampled field(s). All acreage recorded on the Form A-1 must be recorded to the nearest tenth of an acre. For Example:

Reported	Entered	
25	25.0	
25.25	25.3	(When rounding a 5, always round up)
25.12	25.1	
25.75	25.8	(When rounding a 5, always round up)
25.68	25.7	
None	(-)	

Form A-1

All States:

You will use Form A-1 for the initial interview of all winter wheat growers selected. Items 1 and 2 pertain to reported winter wheat acreage for harvest on the entire farm and Items 3-8 pertain to the sample field.

The name and address of the selected operation you are to contact has been entered on the field kit envelope and Form A-1. It is very important that you verify this information. Any changes in name and address such as spelling, box or route number, ZIP code, etc., should be corrected on the field kit envelope and on the Form A-1.

If the operation is known by a farm, ranch or business name, this should also be noted. Listed below are examples of common corrections which should be made:

Mayes ~~Hayes~~, Arthur
Rt. 1
Red Oakes, YS 46725

Cody, John
Rt. 1, Box 608
~~Pinetown~~, YS 54670
Bear Poplar, YS 54690

Sanders, Tom and ~~Rob~~ **Bob**
No. 2 Cove Road
Jamesville, YS 46652

Flying J. Ranch
MGR-~~Merle King~~ **Bob Gray**
Rt. 1 Box 608
Edenton, YS 46647

SOLD ~~Twin Ranch~~
Ridgeview Farms, Inc.
MGR Tony Mills
Evergreen, YS 46104

Paul Gum
R.R. 5
Elkin, YS 46520
Farm name - Hill High ~~Ranch~~ **Farm**

The operator may have changed the acreage of winter wheat to be harvested since intentions were reported during the March Agricultural Survey. This will mean that Item 2 will differ from Item 1. Never change Item 1, but write notes so that the office staff understands the situation.

Example 1: The operator does not currently operate the entire acreage reported as winter wheat in March. For example, part or all of the land was sold, leased, or rented to someone else.

Procedures:

1. Include the land that has changed hands in with the original operator's acreage.
2. Select the sample field(s) based on the total acres reported in March. If the sample field(s) is controlled by the original operator, obtain permission to enter the field. If the sample field is now operated by a different person, you will need to contact this new operator for permission.
3. Obtain the name, address and phone number of the new operator regardless of whether you need to make contact on this survey.

Example 2: The operator currently operates more land than reported in March.

The additional land, bought or leased, may have wheat seeded on it already.

Procedures:

1. Exclude this new acreage.
2. Select the sample field(s), and proceed with interview.

Example 3: The operator still operates the land reported in March and has not acquired additional acreage. The difference between Item 1 and Item 2 is due to:

- 1) A respondent or enumerator error on the March Agricultural survey
- 2) The actual harvested acres changed from the intentions reported in March.

All States:

Procedures:

1. Record the date on the front page of the Form A-1.
2. Do not change Item 1, even if you determine that the figure is in error. Write notes.

1. Earlier this season, the number of winter wheat acres you intended to harvest on all the land you operate was ACRES . ____
(Do not change)

The total acres harvested in the grower's entire operation as identified on the face page has been entered in Item 1. Do not change this entry for any reason.

2. Next, what are the total acres of winter wheat for harvest on the land you operate? [If total equals zero, end interview].....Acres

To Verify, what are the total acres of winter wheat for harvest on the land you operate?

Now, I need to identify one (or more) of your winter wheat field(s) and get their acreage.

[Enumerator Notes:

- For Sample Field 1, complete Table A for the winter wheat field closest to the respondent's residence.
- For Sample Field(s) 2-8, complete Table A for the winter wheat field(s) based off the cardinal directions indicated on the label (e.g., northern most field).]

This statement will serve as an introduction to Table A. The reason for mapping the sample fields is to have a way of finding the sample field When completing multiple samples, first identify the sample with the H direction (field closest to the operator's residence). That will be on the first row. Next, complete and begin with that sample. Then complete the rest of the samples based on lowest sample number to largest sample number.

Draw the winter wheat field on a grid map.

The purpose of the grid is to help locate the winter wheat sample. You will want to start by locating the homestead in the grid. The home location should be in the middle of the grid. Next, identify the field closest to the operator's home. Have the operator describe any roads, landmarks, and natural boundaries that will help you identify and keep track of the fields. Use the grid to sketch the roads, landmarks, etc..

Use of a county highway map in conjunction with the grid map may also help you as you and the operator identify the sampled field. Scale is not important; however, the relative location is critical.

If you have problems drawing the grid map because the farms fields are spread out over many counties, call your Survey Statistician for instructions.

Sample Number and Direction

One sample will be the field closest to the operator's home, Indicated with an H in Table A on the Form A. This is the first field you should identify.

The additional samples will be labeled with a direction. If a sample is marked with the direction "N" or North, have the operator identify the northern most field in the farm (excluding the initial field selected). If two fields are the same distance north, select the field furthest to the west (left side).

Select one Field per sample until there are no more fields, then go back to the first field and continue the same process until there are no more samples.

Required entries in Table A, Columns 2-5.

For each field, record the data required in Table A:

1. Total Acres in Field (Column 2): Record all acreage in the field. Be sure to match the field number assigned on the grid to the field number in Table A.
2. Acres in Other Uses: Columns 3 and 4 are used to indicate any areas in the field from which winter wheat will not be harvested. If a field was over seeded with spring wheat, it is still considered to be winter wheat. If the field was completely tilled up and replanted to spring wheat, the field is considered spring wheat and would be recorded in Columns 3 and 4.
3. LOCATION DESCRIPTION/INTERSECTION OF FIELD (Column 5): Now record landmarks, features, and street or road intersections to help identify where the field is located.

The direction variable will determine in which field the sample will be laid out. One sample is selected for one field. There will only be one sample per field listed in Table A, unless there are fewer fields in the operation then the number of samples selected for the operation. After selecting the sample field, you will complete the interview by asking Items 3-8 for each sample field using Form A-1.

TABLE A

SAMPLE Number and Direction	TOTAL ACRES IN FIELD	Acres in USE or CROPS OTHER THAN WINTER WHEAT to be HARVESTED for GRAIN or SEED (For example: not seeded, bare spots, winter kill, waterways, roads, other crops, etc.)		LOCATION DESCRIPTION/ INTERSECTION OF FIELD (E.g., landmarks, features, street intersections)
		USE	ACRES	
1	2	3	4	5
21 H	25.0	Not Seeded	3.0	N near bridge and river
22W	35.0	Not Seeded	1.0	East of Farmstead
23S	105.0	Winter Kill	1.0	South of Farmstead