

Workshop Questions Asked

Terminology

- **What is the Area Frame vs the List Frame?** The Area Frame is made up of all the operators that we identify on June Area Segments. The List Frame is a list that NASS maintains of all operations. Since there is a set amount of land in the US, we use operations that appear on the Area Frame but not on the List Frame to represent all operations that don't appear on the List Frame in future surveys.
- **What does NOL Mean?** NOL means Not On List. These are the operations that are not on our list of farmers. A farmer could be NOL for cattle, but be on the crops and stocks list since these lists are independent. Or, they could be NOL for ALL commodities (crops/stocks/cattle/hogs/sheep and goats/etc).

Home Study

- **Question 33: Is the Income from a trail riding operation included in Section N, Item 1?** No. We don't include this income as this income is not directly tied to agricultural production. If the operator is unable to break out income from a trail riding operation or other outside business, please just make appropriate notes and move on.

Aerial Photo & Screener Jacket

- **Do we draw off roads as a separate tract?** Yes, roads should be drawn off and assigned a tract letter in segments that have them. If there are multiple roads in a segment (ie roads go around all 4 edges of a segment), you should combine all the roads into a single tract to conserve letters since they have the same land use.
- **What color pen should I use on the aerial photo?** For both Area and ACES, draw and label tracts with the BLUE photo pens. RED photo pens were provided for enumerators that want to draw off fields, but that is no longer required. Never write operator names, addresses, or other personal information on the aerial photos.
- **What if a tract was Non-Ag last year, but Ag this year?** Fill out a blank tract questionnaire for the tract. If it is the same person as last year, you can check yes on the screener form and keep their tract letter, but if it is a new person then you will need to screen out the old tract letter (no longer in segment), and assign a new tract letter to the new person.
- **How much Ag activity is needed to fill out an Ag Tract Questionnaire?** If the operator is willing to answer thru the livestock sections (Sections H-J), we consider that to me a complete interview. We would like to get as much information as possible, including demographics, economics and land values, but we understand that these can be contentious sections. Getting all ag production data, including crops grown in the segment, whole farms acres, and livestock data is enough to call the interview complete.

Questionnaire

- **Where should I record acres not planted: Waste, Idle Cropland, or (crop) not yet planted?** Waste acres aren't planted any year, or would take significant effort to prepare before re-entering a crop rotation. Idle cropland is land that is normally planted, but was not able to be this year (too dry, too wet, etc). Cropland not yet planted is land that the operator intends to be planted to a specific crop as of June 1. Regardless, the interview is based on what the farmer intends as of June 1. Make any notes and move on, instead of getting bogged down with any one area.
- **Acres in the segment are prevented plant, but the operator says they might get something planted yet, how should I record it in the questionnaire?** Try to probe what the operator thinks is most likely to happen. If they think they can probably get something in, record their new plans for the acres; if they think it is unlikely they can get anything in, record the acres as idle cropland. If they can't or won't say what's most likely, put it in idle cropland and add a comment.
- **Does this situation count as double cropped?** In general, record acres as double cropped if: The acres were (or will be) planted to two DIFFERENT crops. Acres planted to one crop for two DIFFERENT USES are also recorded in the double crop/dual utilization box at the end of Section D. Please leave item level comments explaining the situation, as they are very helpful for office staff. The interviewer's manual has examples and more detail on page 921.
- **When should I record acres in other uses?** For any crop that asks acres harvested, we expect to see those planted acres in either harvested or other uses. The one exception is on small grains taken for hay, when you should record acres planted to the specific crop, and taken for hay, but not in the harvested or other uses box. In any case, please leave an item level comment clarifying why these acres aren't harvested (hayed, silage, abandoned, etc).
- **What if I see cattle/grain bins on their land, but the crops/stocks and cattle boxes aren't checked?** That is okay. If the cattle box is not checked, it means that we are representing those cattle already on the list side of our surveys so we don't need to collect that section on the area side. Don't forget that Section N still asks total cattle, but there is no need to go further than that. The same goes for crops/stocks box.

CAPI

- **Where is the best place to enter notes?** CAPI has a couple different places to put comments, so below are some examples of what kind of comments should go where. If in doubt, put it in the tract level comments.
 - Item level comments: notes specific to a question/section (eg. Oats are for hay, idle cropland is prevent plant, or op said cropland value went up but can't give a value)
 - Record level comments: General observation about an operator/their farm (eg. Gave section D but refused the rest, observed sheep on drive-by, or operator refused entirely but did confirm he operated in the segment).
 - Segment level comments: These comments usually explain difficulties in enumerating a segment, and are not connected to an individual operator (eg. Road on west side washed out could not do second observation, RA/DA at 95% but

accounted for all acres on aerial photo, Segment is split by river and nearest crossing is 20 miles away).

- **How do I record other crops in Section D in CAPI?** Enter a comment on the other crops box explaining what crop is planted. If multiple types of other crops are planted, enter the total acreage in the box and explain each crop type and acreage in a comment.
- **What if my RA/DA is off?** Use your acreage grid transparency and double check that each tract's reported acres matches what is marked on the photo and no acres are double reported. Some areas may be claimed by multiple or no operators, or a non-ag tract may have been entered incorrectly in previous years. Do your best to sort out any issues. Document these issues in segment level/tract level comments. On rare occasions the Digitized Acres are off, but that gets less common with each passing year.

ACES

- **When will we receive the screener jackets for NEW ACES segments (segments starting with 92xxxx)?** As soon as possible. They are scheduled to begin printing in early June and we will turn them around as soon as we can once we get them in the office.
- **What if I only have one photo box, but both Area and ACES segments?** Let us know about it and ship your Area segment in by June 13th. We'll ship you out another photo box for your ACES segments as soon as we can, but we might have to wait for a few Area photos to come back in first.

Miscellaneous

- **How do I get a comment to show up on CAPI for future surveys?** If you gather information that future enumerators need to be aware of before contacting an operator on future surveys, you can note that in your comments. Adding "Add to ELMO Comments:" to a record level comment will help bring that information to our attention (ELMO is our list maintenance program). Examples of this type of comment are:
Add to ELMO Comments: Aggressive dog on property, enumerate by phone
Add to ELMO Comments: Operator goes by middle name James
- **How can I tell a new segment from an old segment?** New Area segments begin with 12xxxx. New ACES segments begin with 92xxxx.
- **When are operators mailed a presurvey letter and segment maps?** Area operators in Tier 2, and ACES operators on 97xxxx segments were mailed on May 13. Area operators in Tier 3 were mailed on May 20. ACES operators on 92xxxx segments will be mailed on June 6-10.
- **How can operators view the maps online?** Have them go to agcounts.usda.gov/cawi and give them the 12-digit survey code found on the front of the screener jacket (and in CAPI). Have them click the little map symbol at the right of the next screen and it will bring up the segment parcel map that they were mailed.