June Area Pre-Screening and ACES - Presentations

First 5 topics:
Introduction to June Area – 2
Introduction to Pre-Screening – 21
Pre-Screening New Segments – 37
Using the Acreage Grid – 60
ACES Overview – 81

The last 5 topics do not have accompanying presentations.
NASS Survey Training

June Area Introduction and Purpose

Cody Brokmeyer
Southern Plains Regional Field Office
Introduction

NASS is responsible for preparing State and National crop and livestock estimates.
The June Area Survey is one of the largest annual NASS survey projects that provides significant utility for the entire NASS survey program.
Introduction

• Benefits from the June Surveys:
  • Farm supply firms rely heavily on statistics
  • Reliable reports help serve farmer needs
  • Places farmers on equal footing
June Area Survey Impacts

1. Measures the incompleteness of the NASS List Sampling Frame (LSF).

2. Collects data on crop acreage, grain stocks, livestock inventory, ag labor, land values, farm type, value of sales, demographics, and computer usage.

3. Data reported by tract operators who are not overlapped (NOL) with the LSF form the basis of samples for follow-on surveys (Cattle Inventory, Sheep and Goat Report, Agricultural Labor, Hog Report, Agricultural Surveys, ARMS 3).
The List Sampling Frame (LSF)

NASS maintains a list of farmers, partners, and other associated names with agricultural operations as part of the “List Sampling Frame”, (or LSF). We also call this the “List” for short.
The List Sampling Frame (LSF)

Attached to each record in the List is a set of “control data”, which indicate basic information about the operation, such as total cropland, crops recently produced, livestock inventory, approximate value of sales, etc.
The List Sampling Frame (LSF)

• Biggest strengths of a well-maintained List:
  • Data collection is relatively inexpensive.
  • Can target specific or rare commodities.
  • Stratified Random Sampling
The List Sampling Frame (LSF)

• Biggest challenges to the List are that:
  • Incomplete
  • Constantly changing
  • Requires ongoing maintenance
  • Expensive to maintain
Segments, Tracts and the Area Frame

The June Area Survey is different as we’re sampling plots of land and analyzing the land use.

Break selected PSU down into sampling units

Select PSU’s
Agtown, US
103001
1 of 1

Total Seg Acres 600
JAS YEAR
SCALE = 8" PER MILE
Segments, Tracts and the Area Frame

Biggest Challenges to Area Frame Enumeration:
• Enumeration is very expensive
• Difficult to sample for specialty crops
• Lack of good boundaries
Segments, Tracts and the Area Frame

The June Area Survey is essentially a “scavenger hunt” in which we find all agricultural activity within each segment that meets the NASS definition of a farm.
Segments, Tracts and the Area Frame

Each Segment will be marked by a 6-digit number, which will incorporate the year it rotated into the sample.
A **Tract** is a parcel of land under one operating arrangement. Tract Boundaries are drawn in **BLUE** pencil (on aerial photo) and represented by **LETTERS**.
Segments, Tracts and the Area Frame

**Non-Agricultural Tracts** include areas of land with no agricultural activity. Non-Ag Tracts totaled 40,838 tracts nationwide (about 50%).

An **Agricultural Tract** is any operating arrangement with land in the segment boundary that has the potential to qualify as a farm.
Segments, Tracts and the Area Frame

**PIGA Tracts** are Public, Industrial or Grazing Association land which does not meet the definition of Land in Farms.

Found only in western states: AZ, CA, CO, ID, KS, MT, NE, NV, NM, ND, OK, OR, SD, TX, UT, WA, and WY
NASS’s Farm Definition

“Any establishment from which $1,000 or more of agricultural products were sold or would normally be sold during the year.”
June Area Takeaway

- Builds the important multi-framed estimates
- Creates supplemental samples for follow-on surveys
- Provides ground truth
- Provides snapshot of reality
Introduction to Pre-Screening

Justin Cech
Northern Plains Region
Screening/Pre-Screening

Pre-Screening allows us to identify operators in a segment before June data collection starts.
Why Pre-Screen?

Identify segment boundaries, segment layout, non-agricultural areas within the segment, and the names and addresses of possible contacts.
Screening/Pre-Screening

- There must be a completed row on the screening form for each tract identified on the aerial photo.
- Even Segments that are entirely non-ag will still require at least one tract letter and one contact name.
How to Pre-Screen

• Locate the segment using maps
• Research and gain knowledge of the segment
• Determine what is in the segment
Other Tools Available

• FSA Maps and Listings
• Corelogic Listings
• Helpful respondents within the segment
• Internet based resources

• Observation notes
• Your Supervisor
• Your NASDA Coordinator
• The Regional Field Office
Pre-Screening Resources

FSA CLU Maps
Pre-Screening Resources

FSA Names and addresses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FSA</th>
<th>FSA Names and addresses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NO</td>
<td>2016 200 OP 100 John Hancock MY FARM PO BOX 506 SIG AR 66138-5005 555-555-5555 555-555-5555 555-555-5555-C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NO</td>
<td>2016 200 OP 100 Jane Doe THIS GUYS PO BOX 445 MAY OK 71050-250 555-555-5555 555-555-5555 555-555-5555-C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NO</td>
<td>2016 200 OP 100 Mrs.袂 PO BOX 603 BE TN 37272-405 555-555-5555 555-555-5555 555-555-5555-C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YES</td>
<td>YES 2016 200 OP 100 Tom Fry THE RANCH PO BOX 703 KNOWHERE AR 63232-473 555-555-5555 555-555-5555 555-555-5555-C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NO</td>
<td>2016 200 OP 100 Amy Gallent PIGGLES 30300-190 555-555-5555 555-555-5555 555-555-5555-C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NO</td>
<td>2016 200 OP 100 Buddy Whoa BUDDY CATS PO BOX 354 SEACREST 30280-102 555-555-5555 555-555-5555 555-555-5555-C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NO</td>
<td>2016 200 OP 100 Darcey Dudes AR 66138-5005 555-555-5555 555-555-5555 555-555-5555-C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YES</td>
<td>YES 2016 200 OP 100 GET R DONE MYWAY AR 30281-807 555-555-5555 555-555-5555 555-555-5555-C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NO</td>
<td>2016 200 OP 100 Spooktacular Farms DINES AR 30500-924 555-555-5555 555-555-5555 555-555-5555-C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YES</td>
<td>YES 2016 200 OP 100 THE ONE AND ONLY FARMS HERE AR 73952-168 555-555-5555 555-555-5555 555-555-5555-C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NO</td>
<td>2016 200 OP 100 SOME MORE 102 THERE AR 30215-191 555-555-5555 555-555-5555 555-555-5555-C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Pre-Screening Resources

Corelogic Parcel Map
Driving Around Segment

• Driving around a segment allows enumerators to acquaint themselves with the segment
  • Complete prior to phoning potential segment operators
  • Observe landmarks
  • Familiarize enumerator with segment
  • Observe/confirm non-ag

• Protecting enumerators and respondents is a primary concern
Enumerator Guidelines

• Plan routes efficiently
  • Use all available resources (Google Earth, paper maps, etc.) to ensure travels are completed with cost efficiencies in mind

• Limit exposure/contact with others
  • Do not get out of the car to talk to anyone
  • Do not visit any USDA Service Centers, County Assessor Offices, or any other offices or businesses for the purpose of identifying operators

• Utilize PPE
  • Wear a mask if stopping at a gas station or restaurant
  • Wash hands thoroughly or use hand sanitizer after visit and outside contact
Enumerator Guidelines

• Pull over to jot down notes
  • Note landmarks and road names that could help with identifying tracts operated over the phone
  • Document Non-Ag tracts with good descriptions
  • Take note of agricultural production (Ex. the wheat field, the corn stubble, etc.)
  • Note any landmarks within the tracts (Ex. Ditches, tree lines, waterways, etc.)
  • May need to note addresses on mailboxes or houses
What to bring when hitting the road

• The manual tells you to bring...
  • State Highway Map
  • County highway map showing segment locations
  • Area Screening Forms for one or more segments
  • Aerial photographs (with segment boundaries in red)
  • Extra blank screening forms
  • Clipboard (with a plastic cover)
  • Acreage grid
  • Special blue photo markers for marking photos
  • Your iPad
What to bring when hitting the road

• **Things to keep in the car**
  • NASDA Sign for your windshield
  • Boots/Raincoat
  • Extra pens and sharpened pencils
  • Pockets/Pocket Protector
  • Pencil Sharpener
  • Highway Map
  • Interviewer’s Manual
  • NASDA Employee Handbook
What to bring when hitting the road

• As you leave, have with you...
  • Appropriate clothing for the weather
  • Food, snacks, and water
  • Money and/or credit card
  • Cell phone (if you have one)
  • Name Tag and NASDA ID
  • Time Sheets (proof for if you have an accident)
What to bring when hitting the road

• Plan your route before you leave your home, with alternatives
• Leave a note saying where you might be going (general location, not specific operations) and when you expect to return
• Keep track of your odometer reading for mileage
New Segments: Identifying the Operator, Assigning Tract Letters & Completing the Screening Form

Click Here to return to List of Topics
New Segments

• First year in the sample
• Have not been enumerated before
• Drive to the segment
• Make notes of your observations
• Do not record any PII on aerial photos.
Info will be preprinted on the questionnaire.
INTRODUCTION

[Introduce yourself and ask for the operator. Rephrase in your own words.]

I am working on the June Agricultural Survey. This is a national survey where agricultural producers are asked to provide information on crops and livestock.

The information you provide will be used for statistical purposes only. Your responses will be kept confidential and any person who willfully discloses ANY identifiable information about you or your operation is subject to a jail term, a fine, or both. This survey is conducted in accordance with the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2018, Title III of Pub. L. No. 115-435, codified in 44 U.S.C. Ch. 35 and other applicable Federal laws. For more information on how we protect your information please visit: https://www.nass.usda.gov/confidentiality. Response is voluntary.

The area of land shown on this photo (map) has been selected for this survey.

[Refer respondent to photo or map. Provide segment boundaries, houses and other identifying landmarks to help the respondent become familiar with the segment.]

1. On June 1, did you live or operate land inside these red lines?
   □ Yes - [Continue with item 2.]
   □ No - [Determine who the tract operators are inside the segment. Thank respondent and conclude interview.]

2. What were the boundaries of land operated inside these red lines?
   [Verify or draw tract boundaries in blue, then continue with item 3.]
Getting the Correct Operator

• Operator:
  • The person responsible for all or most of the day-to-day decisions such as planting, harvesting, feeding, or marketing for the tract or total land operated. The operator could be the owner, hired manager, cash tenant, share tenant or a partnership. If land is rented or worked on shares, the tenant or renter is the operator.
Getting the Correct Operator

• Rental agreements:
  • Regardless of how rent is paid (free, cash, share of the crop), the person that is renting the land and deciding what is planted is the operator.
Getting the Correct Operator

• Common problems that have occurred:
  • Name recorded is a landlord
  • Name recorded is retired
  • Missing operation details such as operation name and partners

If we don’t get the correct tract operator recorded in June, we’re stuck with having the wrong name on the record for an entire year.
Getting the Correct Operator

• Take time to pre-screen thoroughly:
  • Verify the correct name spellings
  • Record a middle initial
  • Verify addresses and phone numbers
  • Obtain names of partners
  • A partnership is where two or more persons contribute some combination of land, labor, capital, equipment, materials, and management. Each person participates in day-to-day management decisions and shares in profits or losses, but not necessarily on an equal basis.
Getting the Correct Operator

• Sometimes we just don’t know.
  • Not everyone can be contacted
  • Errors do happen
  • Operators can refuse or be inaccessible
  • Observations are necessary
  • Special and unique situations arise
  • Good judgement and common sense must be used
  • Do your best with the information you have and make notes
Once the operator has been identified for a piece of land in the segment:

1. Draw the boundary of the land operated on the segment, on the aerial photo.
2. Assign letters alphabetically, starting with ‘A’ as you identify operators.
Assigning Tract Letters

- Once the operator has been identified for a piece of land in the segment:
  3. Record the tract letter, operator’s name and contact information on the Screening Form.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>tract letter</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Line 1 – Full Name (First, Middle, Last)</td>
<td>Joe Operator</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Line 2 – Mailing Address</td>
<td>111 – 111&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; St</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Line 3 – City, State, ZIP Code</td>
<td>Anytown, XX 55555</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Line 4 – Telephone Number</td>
<td>555-111-1111</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Assigning Tract Letters

- Assign tract letters A, B, C, etc., in order, as you identify operators.
- Do not skip any letters.
- If all 26 letters are used, start using double letters: AA, BB, CC, etc.
- We cannot have more than 99 tracts in a single segments (Tract UUUU).
Assigning Tract Letters

- Tract letters that may be confused for others such as
  - N and Z
  - M and W
  - I and H
  Should be underlined
Half Acre Rule

• For residential areas, use the Half Acre Rule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Visible Ag Activity</th>
<th>No Visible Ag Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Half (½) Acre or Less</td>
<td>• Assign tract letter&lt;br&gt;• Complete tract questionnaire</td>
<td>• Assume non-ag tract</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than Half (1/2)</td>
<td>• Assign tract letter&lt;br&gt;• Complete tract questionnaire</td>
<td>• Interview operator and complete Screening Form</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acre</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Completing the Screening Form

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>8</th>
<th>9</th>
<th>10</th>
<th>11</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>T</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letter</td>
<td>Line 1 - Full Name (First, Middle, Last)</td>
<td>Is this tract Public, Industrial, or Grazing Association land used on an AUM basis?</td>
<td>On the total acres operated on June 1, have you sold or will there be any crops grown, hay cut, livestock, poultry, honey bees or aquaculture raised this year?</td>
<td>On the total acres operated on June 1, are any crops now in storage or will there be any crops stored before June 1, 2023?</td>
<td>Has this operation owned or raised any hogs or pigs in the past 12 months, or does it expect to own or raise any this year?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Name: Joe Operator</td>
<td>□ Yes - Enter acres in col.21 and conclude interview.</td>
<td>□ Yes - Go to Questionnaire</td>
<td>□ Yes - Go to Questionnaire</td>
<td>□ Yes - Go to Questionnaire</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Address: 111 – 111th St</td>
<td>□ DK - Go to Questionnaire</td>
<td>□ DK - Go to Questionnaire</td>
<td>□ DK - Go to Questionnaire</td>
<td>□ DK - Go to Questionnaire</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Anytown, XX 55555</td>
<td>□ No</td>
<td>□ No</td>
<td>□ No</td>
<td>□ No</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Phone: 555-111-1111</td>
<td>□ No</td>
<td>□ No</td>
<td>□ No</td>
<td>□ No</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Completing the Screening Form

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>12</th>
<th>13</th>
<th>14</th>
<th>15</th>
<th>16</th>
<th>17</th>
<th>18</th>
<th>20</th>
<th>20a</th>
<th>21</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Has this operation owned or custom fed any sheep or goats since January 1, or does it expect to own or custom feed any this year?</td>
<td>On June 1, were there any horses, ponies, or other equine, regardless of ownership, on the total acres operated?</td>
<td>Excluding home use, have there been or will there be any vegetables, melons, fruit, nuts or berries grown on this operation this year?</td>
<td>Excluding home use, have there been or will there be any nursery, greenhouse, floriculture, sod, cut Christmas trees or other woody crops grown on this operation this year?</td>
<td>On June 1, did this operation have any idle cropland or more than 99 acres of pasture?</td>
<td>NON-AGRICULTURAL TRACTS</td>
<td>How many acres are inside these red lines?</td>
<td>Does this tract have potential for agriculture before June 1, 2023?</td>
<td>What best describes this non-agricultural tract?</td>
<td>Acres of Public, Industrial, or Grazing Association land used on AUM basis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes – Go to Questionnaire</td>
<td>Yes – Go to Questionnaire</td>
<td>Yes – Go to Questionnaire</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>846</td>
<td>818</td>
<td>783</td>
<td>849</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DK – Go to Questionnaire</td>
<td>DK – Go to Questionnaire</td>
<td>DK – Go to Questionnaire</td>
<td>DK – Go to Questionnaire</td>
<td>DK – Go to Questionnaire</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>LAND USE</td>
<td>YES = 1</td>
<td>DK = 2</td>
<td>NO = 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**United States Department of Agriculture**
**National Agricultural Statistics Service**
Completing the Screening Form

• Column 20 – Does this tract have potential for agriculture?

• Consider:
  • Ask respondent if they **intend** to have agriculture in the next year. **If** no respondent is available, use your best judgment.
  • Could a crop be seeded without having to improve or clear the land?
  • Is there a greenhouse or grain storage bin on the property?
  • Is there a fenced pasture, barn, pen, hog building, chicken house, or any other sign of potential for livestock?
  • Non-Ag Tracts coded to have a potential for agriculture MOST LIKELY will be sampled for all follow-on surveys such as the Ag Survey, Cattle, Sheep, Hogs, and Labor
Completing the Screening Form

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Codes to be used in Column 20a are:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1) Residential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2) Woods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(3) Idle Open Land</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(4) Pasture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(5) Water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(6) Reported Non-Ag by Respondent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(7) Vacant Houses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(8) Obvious Non-Ag</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(9) Grassland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(10) Hunting Preserve or Private Land Managed for Wildlife</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(11) Government Land</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(12) Other</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Completing the Screening Form

[Complete these items when enumeration of segment is completed.]

1. Total tract letters listed in Column 5, page 2 (sum of all Screening Forms for this segment) ..............................................

2. Number of tract letters listed on photo or map......................................................................................................................... (Item 1 must equal Item 2.)

3. Number of Area Version questionnaires completed..............................................................................................................

4. Number of tracts with acreage listed in Column 18, page 3 .................................................................................................

5. Number of tracts with acreage listed in Column 21, page 3 .................................................................................................

6. Total of items 3 + 4 + 5 .................................................................................................................................................. 8,326 (Item 6 must equal Items 1 and 2.)

Workshe

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ag Tract Acres</th>
<th>Non-Ag Tract Acres</th>
<th>PIGA Tract Acres</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Address</td>
<td>Phone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------</td>
<td>------------------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joe Operator</td>
<td>111 – 111th St</td>
<td>555-111-1111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wayne Farmer</td>
<td>112 Main St</td>
<td>555-222-2222</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sally Rancher</td>
<td>456 112th St</td>
<td>555-444-4444</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Farmer</td>
<td>789 Main St</td>
<td>555-111-3333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bob Builder</td>
<td>123 – 111th St</td>
<td>555-555-1111</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Completing the Screening Form

• Special Situations
  • Federal Public Land (Forest Service)
  • Non-Federal Public Land
  • Industrial Land
  • Grazing Associations
  • Institutional Farms
  • Ag Businesses
  • Out-of-state operations
  • Boundaries of segment not identifiable.
  • Boundaries of segment on aerial photo and county map do not agree.
  • Segment boundaries extend into a neighboring state/county
  • Segment boundary cuts through a field.
If you have questions, review the Interviewer’s Manual or reach out to your supervisor.

Thank you for all that you do!
Reviewing your Photos and Using June Area Acreage Grid

John Miyares
Great Lakes Region
Review the Aerial Photo

BEFORE SHIPPING YOUR PHOTOS BACK:

• Look for blank unlabeled areas on photo
• Check the Photo Against the Screening Form AND what is in CAPI
  • Find each tract letter
  • Check that ambiguous tract letters are underlined
    N, Z, M, W, I, H.
  • Compare total tract sizes
The Aerial Photos 5 C’s

1. **Complete:** All Land is accounted for
2. **Clear:**
   - ✓ No erroneous information
   - ✓ Letters are in one direction with North facing up
3. **Correspond:**
   - ✓ Tract letters match the screening form
   - ✓ Tract letters match what is in CAPI
4. **Correct:**
   - ✓ Lines are in correct location
   - ✓ Correct colors – Segments are red, Tracts are blue.
5. **Confidential:**
   - ✓ Absolutely no names should ever be written on the aerial photo
This is CORRECT:
This COULD be Better:
Acreage Grid

• When to use it
  • If acreage is unknown
    • Refusals and Inaccessibles
    • Non-Ag Tracts
    • Woods and Waste
  • To verify land totals
    • Digitized acres
    • Field Acres to sum of Tract Acres
    • Tract Acres to sum of Segment Acres
Acreage Grid

• How to use it
  • Template method
    • Place grid over the area
    • Acres = sum of the covered squares
  • Ruler method
    • Measure the length and width
      • Acres = Length X Width X 10
    • Triangles with a right angle
      • Acres = ½ (horizontal base X vertical height X 10)
Template Method

Place the acreage grid on top of the aerial photo.

Try to find a shape that matches the field.
The square with 40 in it matches

So that means there are 40 acres in that field
You may not find an exact square to match the field, but you can still use the template method.
Template Method

Place these 5 acre boxes over the field

Add them up to find that there are 20 acres in this field
Template Method

Use the 1/10 of an acre boxes for small odd shaped fields

Count the number of squares

200 squares = 20 acres
Ruler Method

The ruler method works better for large rectangular fields
Use the ruler on the bottom of the grid to see the width of the field is 1.5 inches.
Ruler Method

Move the ruler vertically to see that the length of the field is 5.5 inches
Ruler Method

Multiply the length times width times 10 to find 82.5 acres in field

1.5 \times 5.5 \times 10 = 82.5 \text{ acres}
Reviewing your Photos and Using June Area Acreage Grid

Thanks For Watching!
Agricultural Coverage Evaluation Survey (ACES)

Madisyn Beyer
Northwest Regional Field Office
Objectives

➢ Provide an overview of ACES.

➢ Explain how information from ACES and June Area survey segments will be used for the Census of Agriculture.

➢ Describe differences between ACES and June Area survey.

➢ Review survey timeline.
Purpose

- Measure the accuracy and completeness of the Census of Agriculture farm counts and selected farm characteristics.

- ACES segments are used to improve targets for hard-to-find populations.

- Helps measure:
  - Undercount of farms not on the Census Mail List (CML).
  - Undercount of farms incorrectly classified as non farms.
  - Overcount of farms duplicated in the census.
  - Overcount of non farms incorrectly classified as farms.
ACES vs. June Area

**ACES**
- Conducted once every 5 years
- Re-using 2017 segments + new 2021 segments
- Not summarized to support Estimating Program
- Includes Hawaii and Puerto Rico

**June Area**
- Conducted annually
- Have a 20 to 25% rotation of new segments annually
- Summarized to support the Estimating Program
- Excludes Hawaii and Puerto Rico
**ACES vs. June Area**

- Photo Map segment outline = **BLUE**
- Tract boundaries and letters = **BLUE**
- Fields Section D = Not needed.

- Photo Map segment outline = **RED**
- Tract boundaries and letters = **BLUE**
- Fields Section D = No longer needed.
Screening Form:

- Same version for ACES and June Area.
- ACES screening form is on **WHITE** paper.
- June Area screening form is on **PINK** paper.
- Complete Names and Addresses are very important.
- All tracts (ag and non-ag), are included in the mail list for the Census of Agriculture.
Tract Questionnaire:

▪ ACES = Condensed Version (12 pgs.) on BUFF paper.

▪ June Area = Standard Questionnaire (24 pgs.) on WHITE paper.

▪ Neither require field level data in section D.
  ▪ No need to draw off the fields within a tract.
Questionnaire Section Differences

- **Section D – Crops and Land Use on Tract**
  - *June Area*: Regular crop and land questions, varies by state version.
  - *ACES*: Only two questions - acres in tract, farmstead/dwelling in tract, if so acres in farmstead/dwelling.

- **Section E shorter for ACES. Focus is on acres operated.**

- **Sections F through M are not included on ACES.**

- **Section N - Farm Level Items will be asked for all tracts on ACES & June Area.**
  - Set up this way every five years in preparation for the Census of Agriculture.
Interviewer’s Manual

➢ Appendix A
  ○ Included every five years specifically for ACES.
  ○ Provides background and purpose on ACES.
  ○ Documents standard procedures for completing the ACES tract questionnaire.
# ACES Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACES Activities</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Prescreening – Wave 1</strong> <em>(Reusing segments from 2017 from all states in ACES)</em></td>
<td>March 21 - April 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Data Collection – Wave 1</strong></td>
<td>May 21 – July 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Prescreening &amp; Data Collection – Wave 2</strong> <em>(New segments for TX, MO, OH, and PR)</em></td>
<td>May 21 – July 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Prescreening &amp; Data Collection – Wave 3</strong> <em>(All remaining new segments)</em></td>
<td>June 20 to July 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All data submitted in CAPI</td>
<td>Follow your region’s survey dates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Project Code=655 (For Prescreening and Data Collection)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Take Away Notes

• Important: Collect as many names, addresses, and phone numbers during pre-screening of both ACES and June Area tracts, especially the non-ag tracts.
  • Provides higher matching accuracy for Census Mail List.
  • Aids in identifying Census Mail List under coverage.
  • More likely to find smaller crop and livestock farms.

• Survey materials and timelines have differences.
  • Pay close attention to the form color and version.
  • Both surveys are submitted in CAPI.
  • ACES timeline extends through mid-July.
This concludes the ACES training.
Thank you!