

Enumerator Questions – June 1, 2023 Office Hours.

**Was this session recorded?**

Since the questions and discussion during office hours can meander quite a bit, we put together this summary of enumerator questions for you instead of posting a long recording. Hopefully this makes it a little easier for you to find answers to your questions, rather than having to listen to us for an hour.

For a demo of the June Area CAPI instrument, you can refer to the NASDA NPR webpage, under June Area/2023 June Area Self Learning Videos.

<https://www.nasda.org/nass/regions/northern-plains-region/2023-June-Area-Self-Learning-Videos.pdf> (nasda.org)

**How do we know which operators were mailed out maps?**

We mailed to all ag tracts in a segment that were identified last year, or during prescreening this year. We did not mail to any non-ag tracts. You can also check the DCMS column in CAPI. DCMS Code 760 were mailed. DCMS Code 765 & 720 were not mailed.

**Where should I type in comments?**

Operation/Record level comments should go in the comment box at the top right of CAPI once you are in a record. This could include general comments about an operator or operation or important information that doesn't relate to only one question/section of the tract questionnaire. Make sure to include any information that would help us understand the comment (e.g., "Refused past Section D" rather than just "Refused rest of survey").

Comments on specific questions/sections can go in the Item level comment box that can be found in the calculator next to certain questions. This is for comments like "crop abandoned due to drought" to explain non-harvested acres, or "no grain stored" to explain high storage capacity with no crops on hand.

**In Section D, my operators are a little confused about Woodland and Pasture acres. Can you clarify how that is reported?**

Woodland – Not Pastured (831) and Woodland – Pastured (832) are separate land uses and are mutually exclusive to each other. Acres can be one or the other, but not both. This is the same for Pasture – Permanent (842) and Pasture – Cropland (856). This is different than in the crops portion of Section D where acres harvested or abandoned is a subset of acres planted.

**Do we still have to draw off the waste in fields on the big map?**

No. We no longer need you to draw off individual fields on the big aerial photos. This includes not having to draw off individual waste acres in the fields. You are still welcome to if it helps you, but to save time we encourage enumerators not to. DO still records any waste areas (rocks, waterways, etc.) as waste in Section D if those acres are not planted to a crop. For example, if a 160-acre field of corn contains a ~10-acre waterway that was not planted, it would be recorded

as 150 acres planted to corn and 10 acres of waste. If you have any questions, please ask your supervisor, or reach out to us.

**If a pivot goes over waste, is it considered irrigated acres?**

No, the way the irrigation question at the end of section D is phrased asks specifically for cropland acres. Any waste or non-cropland acres that fall under a pivot are not included in that irrigation question.

**Should we hold ag tracts until we complete a segment or submit them as we go?**

Please submit them as complete them rather than waiting until the end. If you think you are likely to have to adjust acres once you talk to more operators to account for all the acres in the segment, you can hold on to a few for a little while. It's a tough balancing act, but in general please submit tracts and segments as soon as they are finished so we can start looking at them.

**How would AUM land inside a segment be recorded?**

This is a tough one! It can get a little complicated, so I'll try to keep it manageable.

For NASS's purposes, land rented out on an AUM basis is considered as operated on by the owner of the land. This is because they are renting out use of the land rather than the land itself. The owner of the land would be the contact name, and if it is NOT PIGA land (Screener Column 7/Question 2 in CAPI), you would check yes in Screener Column 16/Question 10 in CAPI. This means that the landowner would need to complete an ag tract questionnaire for their pasture acres, but would not include the cattle that are on the AUM land. The cattle would be reported under the owner if they operate in a different Area segment, or on our list surveys.

When in doubt, reach out to your supervisor/NASDA Coordinator/Darin or Justin.

**My paper form has the Crops - Stocks or Cattle box checked, but CAPI is skipping that section!**

**-OR-**

**My paper form doesn't have the Crops - Stocks or Cattle box checked, but CAPI isn't skipping that section!**

HQ is aware of and looking into an issue where CAPI is skipping sections that it shouldn't. If that is the case for one of your tracts, please collect those sections on paper and reach out to your NASDA Coordinator.

We're also looking into any cases where sections come up in CAPI but are skipped on paper. Please let your NASDA Coordinator know about those and add to the record.

Keep in mind that changes to the operation name or address check both the Crops - Stocks and Cattle boxes. Updating operation information in CAPI will cause that ag tract questionnaire to ask both the Crops – Stops and Cattle sections in CAPI.

**Is there a way to skip to the end of a questionnaire for refusals/inaccessible without pushing next through each section?**

Yes, there is! In the general comment box at the top right of CAPI, there are the refusal and inaccessible buttons. These will skip you to the end of the survey. Make sure you complete Section D first before using these buttons though!

**Why am I getting an error message on Section E in CAPI?**

There is what we call a ‘soft error’ on the whole farm acres in Section E. CAPI will check to make sure that whole farm acres operated are not smaller than the acres reported in the tract. Once this warning is sent, you should be able to move on to further questions by pushing the next button again. If you’re still having trouble with it, you can use the general comment box to skip to the end for refusal/inaccessible or reach out to your supervisor/NC/an Area Program Manager for assistance on complete records.

**How do I enter that they refused on individual questions, but not the whole survey?**

In the calculator, there is a ‘DK’ button that you can use for refusals. Let us know any additional information in comments. For example, if someone refuses storage capacity, but does confirm which crops they have, that would be an awesome comment.

**Wait, I’ve got more questions that aren’t covered here!**

No worries, Area is a big project with a lot of moving parts, so it is hard to keep everything straight! Justin, Darin, and your NASDA Coordinator are here to help as best as we can.

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