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2025 Corn Objective Yield Survey

Interviewer's Manual

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Chapter 1 – Corn Objective Yield Survey

General

You are one of about 300 enumerators in 10 States employed to obtain information from farmers about their corn fields and to make a series of observations on these fields. This Objective Yield Survey is a part of an overall program to provide estimates of crop yields and acreages. Objective Yield Surveys have been conducted for many years and have provided reliable indications of yield.

The 10 States participating in the Corn Objective Yield program include IA, IL, IN, KS, MN, MO, NE, OH, SD, and WI. In these States, interviews and field work will be completed for all samples.

The importance of your work will become apparent as you read how these surveys operate. Briefly, your job consists of interviewing designated farm operators and making some monthly observations in one or more of their corn fields. The operators were selected from the June Agricultural Survey conducted in early June. Monthly visits to the fields start in late August and continue until each field reaches maturity. On the first contact, you will talk to the operator, identify the sample field(s), and complete an interview for each sample field. These observations are recorded on Form A.

In the sample field, you will mark off two small plots called "units" in which you will make plant and fruit counts each month during the growing season. These field observations are recorded on Form B.

When the crop is mature, you will harvest part of the sample units and ship a small sample of the crop to a lab where it will be weighed and tested for moisture content. Soon after the crop is harvested, you will glean some of the fields. Form E is used for gleaning observations and is completed for one-fourth of the samples.

The terms "Objective Yield Survey" and "Objective Yield Forecasts" are used frequently in this work. The term "objective" means that the basic information is based upon actual counts and measurements. Objective Yield Surveys are scientifically designed; and field observations and measurements must be made precisely according to prescribed procedures given in this manual. Objective yield forecasts are based on counts and measurements of a crop after it has emerged and before it is mature. The accuracy of each crop production forecast depends directly upon your performance and the performance of all other enumerators working on this survey.

Purpose

The purpose of the Corn Objective Yield Survey is to provide:

1. Counts and measurements on this crop which can be used to forecast or estimate crop yields per acre on September 1, October 1, November 1, and at the end of the season.
2. Counts and weight of corn left in the field after harvest to estimate harvesting loss per acre.
3. Changes in acreage intended for harvest resulting from fields being plowed or destroyed after the June Agricultural Survey, but before harvest.

Following procedures for this survey, you and other enumerators will obtain counts of plants growing in specified areas of sample fields throughout your State. Mature corn growing within the sample units will be harvested according to prescribed procedures. The various counts and measurements you obtain on the monthly surveys are combined and used with forecasting formulas to predict yields per acre. Estimates of yield are obtained at harvest time when you harvest the sample units. Objective Yield Survey results have shown that these various field counts and measurements provide reliable

forecasts and estimates of yield for individual States and for the Nation. The sample units are too small, however, to provide reliable yield estimates for an individual field.

In late August, you and the other enumerators in the 10 States will enter corn fields to mark off objective yield units. It is most important to locate these units properly and make all counts and measurements accurately.

2024 Corn Objective Yield Survey Statistics

Number of States in Program	10
Estimate Samples Laid Out	1,015
Total Acreage in Sample Units	3.50
Harvested Acres in OY States.....	66,120,000
Percent of U.S. Acres Harvested	79.8%
Percent of U.S. Crop Production	83.4%

From the table above you can understand why careful, accurate field work is so vital to this survey.

Farmer Benefit

The purpose of the objective yield survey is to accurately predict the production of corn crops at the State, Regional and National levels beginning with the September 1 forecast in the September Crop Production report.

As you know, the size of these crops and any potential change in the size are crucial information needed by many people involved in agriculture. Therefore, our reports make national news as these crops near harvest time.

The individual needing this information the most is the farmer, for only with accurate statistical information about the size of these crops can the farmer make knowledgeable decisions about:

1. Marketing Strategies – Information used to sell early using forward contracts, to hedge on the futures markets, to sell on the cash market, or to use any of these in combination.
2. Farm Business Practices – Information used to make decisions on various aspects of farm business operations, such as: Using On-Farm storage in place of selling and/or storing at the local elevator or changing intended usage of a planted crop.

The information the objective yield survey provides is a tool farmers can use to make knowledgeable business decisions. This tool is needed by any farmer who sells corn.

Development of Objective Yield Surveys

The National Agriculture Statistics Service (NASS) has forecasted and estimated the yield of major crops for many years. Although crop acreage changes from year to year, some of the largest variations in crop production are caused by fluctuations in yield. For nearly a century NASS based its yield forecasts on voluntary producer appraisals of expected yield. Objective field measurement surveys were developed to compliment grower surveys and allow statisticians to fine-tune crop forecasts.

Work using objective yield measurements on wheat and corn began in the late 50s. The increasingly important soybean crop was added in the early 60s.

Forecasts and estimates using objective yield procedures are based on:

- 1. Actual counts and measurements made in sample fields by trained enumerators.
- 2. Data obtained by technicians making laboratory analyses of fruit from the crops.

Two components of objective yield data:

- 1. Weight of the fruit and number of fruit (pods, ears, etc.) are used to calculate a biologically based yield.
- 2. Post-harvest gleanings data is used to estimate harvest losses. The gleanings estimate is subtracted from the gross yield estimate derived from pre-harvest sample data to obtain a net yield estimate for each state.

Use of Reports Issued by USDA

Reports issued by the Department of Agriculture provide reliable and timely information for use by farmers, bankers, credit associations, buyers, agricultural economists, policy makers, etc. When all participants in the industry are accurately and equally informed by an unbiased source, no one has the advantage of rumors or other special information that could unfairly influence prices.

These reports may reach the farmer through farm magazines, commodity news service reports, Internet, television, radio, newspapers, etc. Virtually all these reports are based on NASS crop reports. In addition, farmers and other data users can request reports through their Regional Field Office.

Sometimes farmers feel that USDA reports only drive prices down. It is true that prices may change based on crop reports. In the long run, however, it's the actual supply entering the market along with demand that determines prices received by farmers. Reports have had a positive effect on prices as often as a negative effect over the years.

Remember, if unbiased crop reports were not available to all parties, industry reports would be the only data available for farmers to use.

USDA Reports from Corn Objective Yield Surveys

September Crop Production	September 12, 2025
• Acreage, Yield and Production (<i>forecast</i>)	
October Crop Production	October 9, 2025
• Acreage, Yield and Production (<i>forecast</i>)	
November Crop Production	November 10, 2025
• Acreage, Yield and Production (<i>forecast</i>)	
Annual Summary	January 9, 2026
• Acreage, Yield and Production (<i>final, all crops</i>)	(<i>Tentative Date</i>)

The Sample

The corn fields selected for the Objective Yield Survey are sampled from operations that reported corn acreage during the June Agricultural Survey. The sample is drawn so that the probability of any field being chosen is proportional to the size of that field. A 40-acre field is twice as likely to be selected as a 20-acre field. The sample includes small fields as well as large ones. In some cases, a large field is chosen two or more times. This field will have two or more objective yield samples assigned to it.

How Rows and Paces are Determined for Objective Yield

There is an upper limit on the field acres which are used to determine rows and paces. For corn and soybean surveys, the acres are set to 80 if there are more than 80 acres in the field. For all the wheat OY crops, the maximum field acres used are 128 acres. The field is assumed to be rectangular, and the width is calculated as $\frac{5}{8}$ of the length. These numbers are converted to paces and random numbers used to generate row and pace counts.

When corn and soybean row and pace counts are generated, an adjustment is made so that the sample falls within $\frac{1}{4}$ of the field (using the maximum field size described above). For wheat, when the number of rows and paces are generated, an adjustment is made so the unit 1 sample falls within $\frac{1}{4}$ of the field if field acres are ≤ 60 acres, and within $\frac{1}{9}$ of the field if field acres are > 60 .

These adjustments limit how many rows and paces the enumerators need to walk into the fields. For corn and soybean surveys, the maximum number of rows possible is 296 and the maximum number of paces is 473. (Unit 2 is then calculated as Unit 1 + 30 more paces). For wheat, the maximum number of rows for unit 1 is 409 and the maximum number of paces for unit 1 is 256. (Unit 2 is then calculated as Unit 1 + 30 more paces).

Equipment

The items of equipment and supplies which will be used on the Corn Objective Yield Survey are listed below. Your coach is responsible for furnishing all your necessary supplies and equipment; you are responsible for the proper use and care of all items provided. If your supplies run low or equipment becomes unusable, notify your coach immediately.

List of Equipment and Supplies

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ITEM
<input type="checkbox"/>	Interviewer's Manual
<input type="checkbox"/>	Identification Card
<input type="checkbox"/>	Form NAS-011 (Time and Mileage)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Motor Vehicle Accident Report Kit
<input type="checkbox"/>	EPA booklet " Protect Yourself from Pesticides "
<input type="checkbox"/>	First Aid Kit
<input type="checkbox"/>	County Maps
<input type="checkbox"/>	State Highway Map
<input type="checkbox"/>	Clipboard
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sample Field Kit Envelopes
<input type="checkbox"/>	Extra copies of Forms
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pencil
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ball Point Pen
<input type="checkbox"/>	Black Marker
<input type="checkbox"/>	Canvas Satchel or 5-Gallon Bucket
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tape, 12-foot in tenths of inches
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tape, 50-foot in tenths of feet
<input type="checkbox"/>	Four-foot Wooden Dowel Stick
<input type="checkbox"/>	Anchor Pin
<input type="checkbox"/>	Red Florist Stakes
<input type="checkbox"/>	Blue Florist Stakes
<input type="checkbox"/>	Flagging Ribbon

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ITEM
<input type="checkbox"/>	Red Plastic Plant Tags
<input type="checkbox"/>	Caliper
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cloth Bags for Code 6 Ears
<input type="checkbox"/>	Paper Bags
<input type="checkbox"/>	Poly Bags
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rubber Bands
<input type="checkbox"/>	Corn Scales
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tripod (optional)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sample ID Tags
<input type="checkbox"/>	UPS Shipping Labels or Address Tags
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tyvek Envelope

Please hold all supplies and survey materials until the survey project manager sends specific instructions for handling them after the survey has concluded for the year.

Quality Control and Supervision

The Objective Yield Quality Control program is designed to aid in the supervision of enumerators, detect faulty equipment, and to assure that proper survey procedures are followed. A good quality control program will improve the results of the Objective Yield Survey.

The Survey Statistician is responsible for the overall objective yield program. The Survey Statistician provides most of the training at your State Workshop and the necessary equipment and supplies needed for you to complete your assignments.

The Enumerator Coach is your immediate supervisor. Your coach will provide much of the "on-site" field training you will need to complete your assignments. Your coach will also spend several hours with each enumerator during the first few days of each survey period. New enumerators will be visited first and if necessary, revisited after they have completed samples on their own.

Each coach will complete at least one quality control Form Q-1 for each enumerator under their supervision for each crop assigned. Upon receipt of the completed Form B records, the Survey Statistician will inform the coach of the samples selected for quality control. Samples previously worked with the coach will be excluded. Whenever possible, the coach and the enumerator should return to the sample field together while the coach completes the Q-1 check of the enumerator's counts. The coach and enumerator must discuss any differences in counts and the reason for these differences. These differences will be resolved with the enumerator and documented on Form Q-1.

Pesticide Safety Precautions

Organophosphorus insecticides have been in common use for several years. Organophosphorus insecticides are used on most crops. Extreme caution must be taken to avoid overexposure to these insecticides.

A comprehensive pesticide safety program has been developed for all employees who may be exposed to pesticides while working on the Corn Objective Yield Survey. The program is designed to protect you from the possibility of overexposure to harmful pesticides.

Overexposure to pesticides, particularly insecticides, could result from home, garden and farm use, as well as unrestricted work in objective yield fields. Objective yield survey work, however, will pose little or no danger to your health when the safety precautions listed in these instructions are followed. Consult your copy of the [EPA booklet, "Protect Yourself from Pesticides - Guide for Agricultural Workers"](#), for additional information.

The safety program provides for monitoring and restricting exposure to organophosphorus insecticides. These insecticides are highly toxic to humans within several hours after application. The toxicity drops over time, but the rate of decline depends on the product used, application rate, weather factors and other variables.

Determining Use of Organophosphorus Pesticides

You will ask if any pesticide with organophosphorus content has been applied in the past month. If yes, you will obtain the name of the pesticide and the latest application date. You should explain to the operator that you work in many fields on many different farms during a short period of time and that the sole purpose of the question is to ensure that you will not be unnecessarily exposed to harmful insecticides. Informative notes, such as: "The operator will not apply a pesticide;" "He will apply some later;" The name of the pesticide applied, and the last application date should be recorded on the kit envelope for future reference.

Be sure and ask the operator where the information on pesticide spraying will be posted, so you can check it every month before you enter the sample field. Enter the location on the kit envelope.

The symptoms of pesticide poisoning may resemble fatigue or other common symptoms of illness. However, you can protect yourself by knowing and being alert to the early warning signs of poisoning.

Common Symptoms of Pesticide Poisoning

- Breathing difficulty
- Coma
- Cramps
- Diarrhea
- Dizzy spells
- Headaches
- Heavy sweating
- Nervousness
- Pupils of the eye reduced in size
- Seizures
- Sick stomach
- Sudden weakness
- Vomiting

Medical Attention

Go to the nearest qualified physician if poisoning symptoms appear. Explain your symptoms to your doctor and inform them you have been working in fields where insecticides may have been applied. Use information recorded on your Form A, Form B or Kit Envelope to determine the names of insecticides applied to fields where you have recently worked. Give this information to the doctor. Notify your Survey Statistician immediately. Do not return to work on Objective Yield Surveys unless you receive the doctor's approval and the Survey Statistician is notified.



Notify your Enumerator Coach immediately any time medical attention is required!

A list of organophosphorus insecticides that are commonly used in corn production is provided on the next page. The list includes the common names of recommended insecticides along with many trade names. If a trade name is not listed, you should determine the common name of the insecticide from the farm operator, insecticide dealer or County Extension Service. If an insecticide does not appear on the lists, the insecticide dealer or your County Extension Service should be able to tell you if it is an organophosphorus insecticide.

If on the initial Form A or Form B the operator informs you, they will not apply any pesticide with organophosphorus content, you should put a note to that effect on the kit envelope. But, if you arrive at the sample field and it appears the operator has applied a pesticide (due to odor in the air, residue on leaves, spraying or dusting machinery or other evidence), contact the operator before continuing your observations.

If the operator applied a pesticide or is undecided, you should contact him each month to check on the application date and follow the field re-entry intervals specified below.

Field Re-Entry Intervals

The **field re-entry interval** is the amount of time that **MUST** pass after pesticides are applied before entering the field. The intervals must be observed without exception to safeguard your health. The intervals provided are not expected to interfere with the completion of your assignment unless some extremely unusual pest management practices are followed.

Guidance for Field Re-Entry Following Chemical Applications

Chemical Type:	Any Chemical	Organophosphorus Chemical	
Timing of Application:	Previous 24 hours	Previous 72 hours	Previous 30 days
Entry Restrictions:	Do Not Enter Field	Do Not Enter Field¹	Follow Safety Requirements ²

¹ Field re-entry is permitted 72 hours after application was made.

² Prior to entering fields treated with an organophosphorus chemical application within the last 30 days, you must:

- Wear a long-sleeved shirt, long trousers and head covering.
- Never wear any clothing more than one day without laundering.
- Limit work time to a maximum of 6 hours per day in these fields.
- Thoroughly wash all exposed skin (hands, face, etc.) that may have come into contact with plant foliage during the field visit.

Protection Against Pesticide Exposure

Protective Clothing

Wear a long-sleeved shirt, long trousers and head covering when working in fields that have had organophosphorus pesticides applied within the past 30 days. Do not wear clothing exposed to organophosphorus residues for more than one day. Take care in storing and laundering clothing to avoid possible cross-contamination of other clothing. When plant foliage is wet, wear water resistant or waterproof protective gear to prevent absorption of insecticides.

Soap and Water for Decontamination

Each enumerator must carry water and bath soap when they work in fields that have had applications of organophosphorus insecticides. Upon completing work in such a field, thoroughly wash all exposed skin areas (hands, face) that may have contacted plant foliage.

Organophosphorus Chemicals Commonly Used in Corn Production

Trade Name(s)	Common Name
Fortress.....	Chlorethoxyphos
Lorsban.....	Chlorpyrifos
Cygon, Dimethoate.....	Dimethoate
Di-Syston.....	Disulfoton
Orthophos, Phoskil.....	Ethyl Parathion
Cythion, Malathion.....	Malathion
PennCap-M, Methyl Parathion.....	Methyl Parathion
Thimet.....	Phorate
Aztec.....	Tebupirimiphos
Counter.....	Terbufos

Pyrethroids

Capture.....	Bifenthrin
Baythroid.....	Cyfluthrin
Asana.....	Esfenvalerate
Warrior.....	Lambda-cyhalothrin
Ambush, Pounce.....	Permethrin
Force.....	Tefluthrin

Carbamates

Temik.....	Aldicarb
Sevin.....	Carbaryl
Furadan.....	Carbofuran

Sample Field Kits

Enumerators will be given a sample field “kit envelope” for each sample field they have been assigned. The kit envelope is used to organize the forms and sample ID tags they will use for each respective sample field they have been assigned. The number and kind of forms a sample field kit envelope requires will vary according to the month each sample is laid out.

The front of the kit envelope features several fillable fields for identifying the sample that the contents are associated with.

Fields relevant to

- State
- Crop
- Variety
- Sample number(s)
- County
- Operator's name, address and phone number
- Expected harvest date – *determined at Form A interview*
- Sample field pesticides use and application schedule – *determined at Form A interview*
- Sample unit location information – *determined at first Form B field visit*
- Survey date each sample is to be laid out

Enumerators should refer to their CAPI assignment listing and/or supply packing list/sample listing as the resource for completing the labels on the kit envelopes for their assigned samples for the items listed above.



Please disregard the fields on the envelope for recording Segment Number, Tract, and Lives in segment Yes/No on the kit envelope, as their use has been discontinued beginning with the 2025 survey.

The organization of your work for the entire survey year is dependent upon completing this step before starting kit envelope assembly. It is also important to have it completed in the chance someone else has to work on the respective samples in the absence of the enumerator the work was initially assigned to.

The remainder of this section provides a description of the field kit contents, quantity needed for each item, and instructions on how to assemble sample field kits for each assigned field.

Field Kit Contents

- **1 - enumerator labeled kit envelope** – keep and organize all forms and field sample ID tags for the sample in this folder
- **1 - Labeled Form A** – Form A is the only form with sample identifying information printed on it.
- **4 - Form B** – 4 copies needed, one for each forecast period (*September 1, October 1, November 1, December 1*)
 - Fill out the Form B label information identifying the State, POID and fieldwork date for each sample form completed. This information will be needed for callbacks when sample data comes into question.
- **1 - Form E** – 1 copy needed for gleaning samples only. Gleaning samples are completed for all samples numbered in multiple of 4 (*Samples 4, 8, 12, 16, 20, etc.*). Gleaning samples will also appear in Form E assignments in the enumerator's CAPI assignment listing. The CAPI Form E assignment listing is used for reference purposes only. Form E data is recorded on paper and submitted with the respective gleaning sample shipment to the NOD OY lab.
 - Fill out the Form E label information identifying the State, POID and fieldwork date and record gleaning unit row space measurements for each gleaning sample completed. Submit completed Form E with the respective gleaning sample shipment to the NOD OY lab.

- **1- Unit Location Sheet/Objective Yield Grid Map** (2-sided print)

Unit Location Sheet – randomly generated row/pace counts based on sample field acreage; used for determining sample unit locations. The Unit location sheets replaced rows/paces labels used on OY Forms B and E prior to 2025.

Grid Map – When you make your first visit to each field, sketch a map on the Objective Yield Grid Map/face of the kit envelope showing the sample field, starting corner and unit locations. Make the map sketch as large and clear as possible. If for any reason you are unable to complete your work, your coach or another enumerator should be able to return to the sample field and locate the units without difficulty by using your map sketch. Indicate highway or farm road numbers and approximate mileage to the sample field.

Field Kit Assembly

The Objective Yield supply distribution model changed in 2025 to maximize NASS staffing efficiencies. The NOD Lab is now the Objective Yield supply distribution hub for the survey program. All Objective Yield survey materials, supplies and equipment will be sent directly from the NOD Lab to enumerative staff.

The paper materials in this shipment will be used to assemble the field kits for every sample assignment. The following list outlines the most efficient procedure for field kit assembly. Laying out 6 stacks of individual items in order from left to right and using an assembly line process working right to left is the ideal way to organize and assemble field kits.

Pull the following materials from the supply shipments and organize them from left to right into stacks of each item in the order listed below:

- Far left:**
- Stack 1:** Kit Envelopes – *labels will be hand-written*
 - Stack 2:** Lab Sample ID Tags
 - Stack 3:** Form E – *only required for post-harvest gleaning samples (every 4th sample: 4, 8, 12, etc.)*
 - Stack 4:** Form B
 - Stack 5:** Unit Location Sheet/Objective Yield Grid Map
- Far right:**
- Stack 6:** Form A

Field Kit Assembly Instructions

- 1) Use the supply packing list/assignment list as a checklist to verify delivery of listed items.
 - a) Immediately notify your coach of any missing items or faulty equipment so they may be replaced promptly.
- 2) Prepare Kit Envelopes for labeling:
 - a) Refer to CAPI Form A assignment list and fill out the sample identifying information label area on a kit envelope for each sample assigned.
Minimum Info Requirement: Sample Number, Operator's Name, Address, Phone Number, and County
(The remaining fields will be filled out after the Form A interview is completed)
- 3) Organize labeled kit envelopes in sample number order and return them to the far left stack of your work area.
- 4) Starting at Stack 6 (*far right*), take 1 Form A. Keep the Form A on the top of the field kit materials as you move through each stack, adding materials. The information printed on Form A will be important for identifying if the sample requires a Form E for post-harvest gleaning and help make sure the materials are placed in the correct kit envelope.
- 5) Move left to Stack 5, and take 1 Unit Location Sheet/Objective Yield Grid Map and place it under the Form A. The Unit Location Sheet/Objective Yield Grid Map is printed with the Unit Location information on one side of the page and the Objective Yield Grid Map printed on the opposite side of the page.
- 6) Move left to Stack 4, and take 4 Form Bs and place them under the Unit Location Sheet /Objective Yield Grid Map. Form B does not come with a pre-printed sample label. Enumerators will fill out the State, POID, Sample Number, and Forecast Month on the Form B every field visit.
- 7) Move left to Stack 3, and take 1 Form E if the Form A sample number is a multiple of 4 (*sample numbers: 4, 8, 12, 16, etc.*) and place it under the Form Bs. If the Form A sample number is not a multiple of 4, proceed to next step without taking a Form E.
- 8) Move left to Stack 2, and take 5 Lab Sample ID tags and place them under the Form E.
- 9) Move left to Stack 1 (*far left*), Check the sample number on Form A on the top page of the materials gathered in steps 4 through 9 and place them into the kit envelope labeled for the sample materials gathered.
- 10) Repeat steps 4 through 9 for all remaining samples assigned.

Item Layout Order	First Item	Layout Direction				Last Item
Stack #	1	2	3	4	5	6
Field Kit Item	Kit Envelope	Lab Sample ID Tags	Form E	Form B	Unit Location Sheet/ OY Grid Map	Form A
Quantity/Sample	1	5	1	4	1	1
Assembly Order	Last	5th	4th	3rd	2nd	First

Finish ←----- Assembly Direction -----→ Start

Sample Field Kit Envelope

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE Washington, D. C. 20250		**SAMPLE UNIT LOCATION**	
Official Business		Sample No. _____ To be laid out _____ <div style="text-align: right;">(Month)</div>	
STATE _____ Crop _____		Unit 1	Unit 2
Variety _____ <div style="text-align: center;">**Sample Field**</div>		Rows/Paces along edge	
County _____		Paces into field	
Segment No. _____ Tract and Field Code _____		Sample No. 1/ _____ To be laid out _____ <div style="text-align: right;">(Month)</div>	
Lives in Segment? () YES () NO		Unit 1	Unit 2
LSF POID _____		Rows/Paces along edge	
Operator's Name _____		Paces into field	
Address _____		Sample No. 1/ _____ To be laid out _____ <div style="text-align: right;">(Month)</div>	
Phone () _____		Unit 1	Unit 2
Expected Harvest Date _____		Rows/Paces along edge	
Sample Field Pesticide Use Name _____		Paces into field	
Schedule _____		Sample No. 1/ _____ To be laid out _____ <div style="text-align: right;">(Month)</div>	
NOTES: _____ _____ _____		Unit 1	Unit 2
		Rows/Paces along edge	
		Paces into field	
FIELD SKETCH		1/ Additional sample in this sample field	
		North 	

Guidelines for Completing the Form A Questionnaire

When contacting the operator, introduce yourself and tell him that you are working with National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Explain that the USDA is conducting a yield survey and that this farm has been selected for study. Comment on the Objective Yield cover letter on the following page to the operator before the interview starts. Reference the segment image that was sent with the letter.

1. Entries must be legible and made in black lead pencil.
2. Put all entries in the boxes provided. Note the preprinted decimal. Do not write in any bold outlined office use box unless instructed to do so.
3. Write notes in the margins or blank spaces to clarify or explain entries.
4. Record all acreage entries to the nearest tenth acre. If whole acres are reported, enter a zero to the right of the decimal point.

Locating the Sample Operators

First, review your CAPI Objective Yield assignment list to identify the operations you have been assigned to contact for the survey. The CAPI assignment list has all of the contact information necessary for scheduling Form A interviews with respondents that reported corn acreage on the June Agricultural Survey.

Your first contact attempt should be made by telephone. Try to complete for A during this contact. If that is not possible, try to set up an appointment to meet with the operator. If no contact by phone is possible, then there is a need to locate the farm operator.

After contacting the operator, introduce yourself and state that you are working with the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Explain that the USDA is conducting a yield survey and that this farm has been selected for the survey. Comment on the Objective Yield cover letter on the following page to the operator before the interview starts.

Producer Letter Example



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
[Your] Regional Field Office



[Date]

Dear Producer:

For more than 50 years, the Objective Yield Survey has played an integral part in U.S. crop production forecasts. USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) combines field measurements with farmer-reported survey data to publish monthly crop production estimates.

Information from the Objective Yield Survey will help you and other American farmers make informed business decisions on your operations.

The Objective Yield Survey will begin in late August for corn and soybeans. During this timeframe, a NASS representative will visit you and other selected producers to verify crop acreage reported on previous NASS surveys. This visit will take 15 to 25 minutes of your time. With your permission, we will then enter your field(s) at the end of each month during the growing season to collect plant and fruit counts and measurements. Our monthly follow-up visits, if required, will not require your time.

Thank you in advance for your support of our programs and [State] agriculture. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at (800) xxx-xxxx.

Sincerely,

[Director's Name]

Director, [Regional] Field Office

U.S. Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service

Enclosure

Mailing Address · City, State Zip
(000) 111-1111 · (000) 111-1111 FAX · www.nass.usda.gov

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

The purpose of this survey is to forecast and estimate crop yields based on counts and measurements from sample plots in selected fields. The operator's cooperation will be helpful. A number of the operators have had fields in the Objective Yield Survey in past years, so this will not be new to them. For the new operators, a further explanation of the purpose as outlined earlier in this chapter may be necessary. Remember that the operator is not required by law to participate in the survey.

Interview the farm operator using a conversational tone and answer any questions they may have. If the farm operator is not at home, arrange to call back later. If the operator is not expected in time for you to make a call back before the survey period is concluded, you may obtain the information from some other informed person. In the event no informed person can be found to give the information, note this on the Form A. Do not enter a field to lay out a unit without permission **even if** you know the operator personally. When it is impossible to obtain an interview during the assigned month, continue to attempt to interview the operator through the next survey period.

Timing of Form A Completion and Setting Up Sample Plots

Once enumerator training been completed with your Enumerator Coach, you may begin attempting Form A enumeration. Once a Form A is complete and you have permission to enter the field, you may find and set up your sample plots. Do not take counts, unless the sample plot is being set up during the data collection period for Form B completion, stated below.

Turning in Completed Corn Samples

You will be working from your home, but in close contact with a coach. Much of your work will be entered into CAPI or sent to the Lab. Thoroughly review your work for each sample before submitting it. Be sure that all required data are entered. Make notes explaining problems and unusual situations. Always enter the data into CAPI and submit it on the same day the work was done. Also, be sure to send the Form B pre-harvest and final harvest samples and the Form E post-harvest gleaning samples within 24 hours of collection.

When samples are shipped to the laboratory, verify that each sample is properly identified with a completed identification tag fastened to the outside of the bag and record the complete 18-digit tracking number on the Form B that corresponds with the shipment. When you ship the post-harvest sample (Gleaning) to the National Laboratory, send the completed E-form within the same Tyvek.

Monthly Objective Yield Survey Program

The following table presents survey dates and forms to be completed.

Survey Date	Date Fieldwork Begins	Forms to be Completed
September 1	August 25	A & B ¹
October 1	September 24	B
November 1	October 25	B
After November 1	Just prior to final harvest	B
Post-harvest	Within 3 days after harvest	E ²

¹ Forms A and B will be completed for all samples for September 1.

² Form E will be obtained for every fourth sample.

September 1 Survey

All sample fields will be visited at this time. Complete Form A for each assigned sample. After the interview, you will lay out and make observations on the two sample units. Form B will be used for recording plant counts and measurements.

October 1 Survey

Complete Form B for all samples remaining to be harvested. If the units for a sample are mature, these units will be harvested and weighed. Corn sample fields to be harvested prior to the survey work week should be visited ahead of the regular survey to complete Form B just before the field is harvested.

November 1 Survey

Complete Form B for all samples not yet harvested. Sample fields to be harvested prior to the November 1 Survey period should be visited ahead of the regular survey to complete Form B fieldwork.

Final Pre-harvest

The Form B will be completed for samples not enumerator harvested by the end of the November 1 survey period. As farmer harvest of the sample field nears, close contact must be maintained with the operator. Final preharvest observations should be made as close to harvest as possible.

Post-harvest Gleanings Survey

Form E must be completed within 3 days following farmer harvest. It is important to glean the sample units immediately following harvest to avoid the risk of gleanings being disturbed by birds and rodents or destroyed by post-harvest tillage operations.

There may be a few instances where extremely bad weather immediately after harvest makes the field inaccessible for a period of time. Close contact should be maintained with the operator to determine when you can enter the field.

Chapter 2 – Terms & Definitions

General

Enumerators working on the Corn Objective Yield Survey should be familiar with the definitions of the terms listed below. To gain the most benefit from training, enumerators should review the definitions of these terms.

Common Objective Yield Survey Terms

Enumerator	Objective Yield Sample
Field	Operator
June Agricultural Survey	Sample Field
Lost Sample	Starting Corner
NASDA Coach	Survey Statistician
NASDA Manager	Unit

Enumerator Coach – The Enumerator Coach is responsible for survey field activity of assigned enumerators. They have authority to switch assignments, hire and evaluate enumerators, etc. in coordination with the Survey Statistician. Enumerator Coaches are also responsible for assisting enumerators with quality control and technical questions related to surveys assigned to enumerators.

Enumerator Manager – The Enumerator Manager is responsible for leading human resources functions and survey management for a team of coaches and enumerators in an assigned region.

June Agricultural Survey – An acreage survey conducted by NASS in early June. The sample fields in the Objective Yield Survey are selected from this survey.

Objective Yield Sample – Consists of two units which are always identified as Unit 1 and Unit 2. Each sample is identified by a unique number.

Survey Statistician – Statistician charged with responsibility of a survey - including enumerator training materials, office edit and processing of objective yield data, and interpreting survey results.

Chapter 3 – Form A Interview

General

There are several purposes of the Initial Interview (Form A). Form A data is used to update the corn acreage intended for harvest since the June Agricultural Survey. The Form A is used to identify the sample field for the Objective Yield Sample, determine acres to be excluded when locating the sample units, obtain permission to locate sample units, obtain intentions to use pesticide(s) with organophosphorus content, and for some states - determine if the sample field is irrigated.

Form A items refer to field corn. DO NOT include sweet corn or popcorn as corn planted.

Form A Data Collection

Form A will be completed for **all** samples during the **September 1** survey.

Names and addresses of the farm operators are provided in the CAPI assignment list.

The Form A interview is designed to obtain changes in acreage of corn for grain. If all or a portion of the original operation has had a change of operators, the Form A acreage still refers to the land area enumerated during the June Agricultural Survey. If this occurs, the new operator will be interviewed to obtain acreage changes. If the sample field is operated by a new person, update all the necessary information on the sample field kit envelope.

When an operation is selected for more than one sample, it is not necessary to complete all items on all initial interview forms during the interview. To avoid asking the operator duplicate questions during the initial interview, complete forms as follows:

- Form A, Items 1 & 2 – one for each operator
- Form A, Items 3-12 – one for each sample field

This provides the necessary initial interview data regardless of how many samples there are in the sample field. As soon as possible after the interview is over, copy data to Form A for additional samples as required.

Handling Operations with Multiple Samples

When an operation is selected for more than one sample, there will be a separate Kit Envelope and set of forms for each sample. Each labeled Form A for that operation will list all samples they are selected for in Table A. The first row in Table A will list the sample number that Form A is for, followed by any other samples the operation is selected for in the rows below it.

When completing the Form A for operations with multiple samples, Item 1 (corn acres planted) and Item 2 (corn acres to be harvested for grain or seed) refer to the whole operation and will be the same on each Form A. These questions only need to be asked once, and can be copied over to subsequent Form A's for the operation.

Complete a row in Table A for each assigned sample.

The remaining questions of the Form A apply to the sampled field, and information may differ for each sample. Therefore, it is necessary to ask these questions for each sample field selected and be recorded on their respective Form A.

For smooth interviews and to reduce respondent burden, it is important to review your assigned samples and be aware of operations with multiple samples.

When an operation has multiple samples, Table A will list all selected samples for the operation. A cardinal direction will be assigned to each sample number in order to assign the samples to the operation's corn fields. Identify the sampled field for each sample number using the cardinal direction indicator. If the operation has more than one corn field, there should only be one sample placed per field until there are no more fields available. For example, if they are selected for two samples and have three corn fields, use the direction indicator to assign the samples to two corn fields. If they are selected for three samples, but only have two corn fields, use the direction indicator to assign the first two samples, and place the third sample in the same field as the first sample.

Most operations selected for the objective yield survey will only have one sample. Please discuss with the survey statistician for additional guidance is needed on operations with more than one sample.

All acreage recorded on the Form A questionnaire must be recorded to the nearest tenth of an acre (*single decimal place*).

For example:

<u>VALUE REPORTED</u>	<u>ENTER VALUE AS</u>
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	(-)

All States

You will use Form A for the initial interview of all corn growers selected. Items 1 and 2 pertain to reported corn acreage planted or to be harvested for grain or seed on the entire operation. The remainder of the questions on Form A pertain to the sample field.

The names and addresses of the selected operations you are to contact are provided in the CAPI assignment list and supply packing list/sample listing. Instructions for copying the information to the respective kit envelopes was outlined in [Chapter 1 – Sample Field Kits](#). It is very important that you verify this information in the Form A interview. Any changes in name or address such as spelling, box or route number, ZIP code, etc., should be noted on the field kit envelope and on the Form A data submission.

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 Corn to be planted since intentions were reported during the June 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 Corn in June. 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 June. 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 June. The additional land, bought or leased, may have corn planted 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 June 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 June Agricultural survey
2. The actual planted acres changed from the intentions reported in June.

Questionnaire Procedures

Procedures:

1. Record the date on the front page of the Form A.
2. Do not change June Planted Acres printed on the form, even if you determined the figure is incorrect. Write notes explaining any difference.

<p>Earlier this season, the number of corn acres you planted or intended to plant for all purposes on all the land you operate was:</p>	<p>JUNE PLANTED ACRES</p> <div style="border: 2px solid black; width: 100px; height: 30px; margin: 0 auto;"></div> <p>DO NOT CHANGE</p>
---	---

The total corn acres planted or intended to be planted on the entire operation was reported on the June Agricultural Survey and has been printed on the questionnaire above Item 1.

DO NOT CHANGE ENTRY IN ITEM 1 (JUNE PLANTED ACRES) OR PRE-PRINTED ENTRIES IN TABLE A.

1. Now I want to update this corn acreage information. What is the current number of corn acres you planted for all purposes on all the land you operate	ACRES	105
2. What are the total acres of corn to be harvested for grain or seed on all the land you operate? (If total equals zero, end interview)	ACRES	102

Item 1 is asked to verify or get an updated number of corn acres planted for all purposes on the entire operation. Record the data as reported in the interview. If the number of acres varies from the June Planted Acres printed in the cell above, provide a comment explaining the difference.

Item 2 is asked to determine how many of their planted acres will be harvested for grain or seed. For the purpose of the objective yield survey, we will be interested in the acres that will be harvested for grain or seed. If the total equals zero, i.e., they will not be harvesting any of their corn for grain or seed, conclude the interview, record respondent name, enumerator and supervisor IDs, and submit the record in CAPI using status code 13- No Corn for Harvest as Grain on Entire Farm on Form A for all samples for the corresponding respondent. If the respondent has corn acreage to be harvested for grain or seed, proceed with the interview according to the remaining instructions.

Now, I need to identify one (or more) of your corn field(s) on the operation and get their acreage.

Notes:

- For the Sample Field(s) on the operation, complete Table A for the corn field(s) based off the cardinal directions indicated on the label (e.g., northernmost field)
- Select corn field regardless if the field is intended to be harvested for grain/seed or other use.

To verify, ask: “What are the total farm acres of corn planted or to be planted on the land you operate?”

This question 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(s). Complete the table numbering the fields from lowest to highest sample number.

Table A				
SAMPLE NUMBER and DIRECTION	TOTAL ACRES IN FIELD	ACRES in USE or CROPS OTHER THAN CORN to be HARVESTED for GRAIN or SEED (For example: silage, ditches, fence rows, waterways, roads, other crops, etc.)		LOCATION DESCRIPTION/ INTERSECTION OF FIELD (E.g., landmarks, features, street intersections)
		USE	ACRES	
1	2	3	4	5
	• _____		• _____	
	• _____		• _____	
	• _____		• _____	
	• _____		• _____	
	• _____		• _____	
	• _____		• _____	
	• _____		• _____	
	• _____		• _____	
	• _____		• _____	

Sketch the sampled field on the Objective Yield Grid Map.

The purpose of the grid map is to help locate the corn sample. You will want to start by locating the homestead in the grid. The home location should be in the middle of the grid. 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, please consult your enumerator coach for instructions.

Sample Number and Direction

The samples will be labeled with a letter that represents a cardinal direction.

N = North
NE = Northeast
E = East
SE = Southeast
S = South
SW = Southwest
W = West
NW = Northwest

If a sample is marked with the direction “N” or North, have the operator identify their northernmost field. If two fields are the same distance in the labeled direction, select the field furthest clockwise. If there are two fields that are the same distance North, select the field furthest to the East for the sample. Similarly, if the selected direction is West, select the field that is furthest North.

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 sample number assigned on the grid to the sample number in Table A.
2. Acres in Other Uses (Columns 3 and 4):
 - Used to indicate any areas in the field from which corn will not be harvested. If the field was completely tilled and not replanted to corn, the acreage would be recorded in Columns 3 and 4.
3. Location Description/Intersection of Field (Column 5):
 - 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 than 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.

The remaining questions on Form A refer specifically to this field assigned to the sample number identified on the front page of the Form A.

If the sample field is already harvested, do not select an alternate field.

All questions below apply to this SAMPLE.

3. For the Sample Field, subtract Column 4 from Column 2 for the total acres of corn to be harvested for grain or seed. Report these acres here:

ACRES

103

Copy the sample field number and its acres to be harvested for grain in the appropriate places in Item 3. Make sure the farmer understands which field is the sample field. It may be necessary to point out the field on the ground or describe its location in terms of other physical features. In all cases, the number of acres entered in Item 3 should agree with the acreage for that same field as entered in Table A.

4. What was the planter row width setting? INCHES

107

If corn is planted in twin rows (narrow/wide/narrow arrangement), the measurement recorded in Item 107 is the from the center of one pair of twin row to the center of the next pair of twin rows. For example, a field with 6-inch twin rows and a 24-inch middle row would record 30 in item 107.

5. On what date was planting completed in this corn field?.....

MM DD

109

In Item 5 record the date (month and day) that planting of the sample field was completed. If the field was replanted, record the date of the last planting. If the date is not known, use the farmer's best estimate.

Kansas and Nebraska Only for Item 6

6. Has this field been (or will it be) irrigated?

1 ☐ Yes

3 ☐ No

2 ☐ Don't Know

CODE

104

Kansas and Nebraska enumerators need to determine if the operator has irrigated, or plans to irrigate, any portion of the sample field. For those states only, enter code "1" for yes if water has been or will be applied by irrigation to all or part of this field at least one time. A code 2, don't know, should only be used if the farmer is unavailable for an interview.

7. With your permission I will go out to the field and mark off two small plots to be used in making stalk and ear counts. I will return to the plots each month until harvest to make counts and measurements, and harvest and weigh a few ears. Would that be all right?

☐ Yes - Continue. (Inform respondent what day/approximate time you intend mark off two small plots to be used in making stalk and ear counts)

☐ No - Conclude interview, enter data into CAPI, and go to item 11.

The purpose of Item 7 is to obtain and record the farmer's cooperation to let you make the pre-harvest objective yield counts and the post-harvest gleanings. Use a conversational tone in explaining your monthly visits to the field and answer any questions which the farmer may have about the field work.

8. Have you or will you apply pesticides with organophosphorus content to the sample field?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Don't Know

If yes, enter latest application date _____ and name of pesticide _____

The purpose of Item 8 is to check if the operator has applied or intends to apply pesticides with organophosphorus content to the sample field. If yes, be certain to copy the information to the sample kit envelope and the Form B. Check back with the operator during future visits regardless of the answer given for Item 8. The operator may need to spray if an infestation occurs.

9. Where should I leave the corn picked from the units? _____

(Copy to the sample kit envelope the location where the operator wishes you to leave the corn.)

Ask the farmer if the Corn you pick can be removed from the field for weighing and not returned. This question is asked so you can weigh the Corn at home in a more controlled setting. Weighing at home will give you more accurate results plus extend the life of the scales.

If the operator wants the Corn weighed and left in the field, this question is asked to determine where the operator wants you to leave the Corn.

10. Do you intend to harvest this field as high moisture corn?

(High moisture corn is defined as corn with moisture content of 30 percent or more.)

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Don't know

This will alert you if a producer plans to harvest the grain as high moisture corn. This information should be transferred to the kit envelope and Form B. It will serve as a guide and help reduce the number of lost samples. High moisture corn is defined as corn with a moisture content of 30% or more.

NOTE: If this is a gleaning sample, tell the operator "After harvest, I will also lay out two small plots to determine harvest loss."

For post-harvest gleaning samples, tell the operator you would like to glean the sample fields to determine harvest loss. The Form E will be completed within 3 days of farmer harvest if permission is granted. Ask the operator to inform you when they intend to harvest the field and/or perform any post-harvest tillage work.

If the response is a refusal, conclude the interview, submit Forms A & B via CAPI as a refusal and the survey statistician will update Form E status for the record. Hold all paper survey forms for all samples through the end of the survey year so they will be available for reference if the survey statistician has questions about a sample.

11. Respondent Name: _____

PLEASE CHECK THE FOLLOWING:

- Review the form for completeness
- Sign name
- On the kit envelope, record operator's
 - Telephone number
 - Expected harvest date
 - Pesticide intentions (Item 8), and
 - Location to leave corn (Item 9)

Enumerator Number

190

Supervisor Number

191

Evaluation

193

12. Enumerator Name: _____

STATUS CODE

180

It is important that you maintain contact with the operator so you will know when the sample field will be harvested. This knowledge on harvest will enable you to obtain the final pre-harvest observations as near harvest as possible, and to obtain post-harvest gleanings and interview within three days after harvest.

Answer all questions the farm operator has about the role of the State Agricultural Statistics Service. If the operator is interested in obtaining Corn production estimates, Enter the e-mail address in the space provided. The survey statistician will see that the information is sent. The operator can access the full report at www.nass.usda.gov/results.

You should leave the farm operator with all questions answered and in a cooperative mood. Remember, the operator may be contacted again for another survey and your actions will greatly influence a willingness to cooperate.

Form A Completion Checklist

Follow the checklist below after you have interviewed the farmer but before you make the field counts:

1. If an operation has more than one field is sampled, copy the data from Items 1-2, including Table A information to Form A for all other samples. The remainder of the questions on Form A pertain to the sample field only.
2. Copy the information regarding pesticide application in Item 9 and high moisture corn harvest intentions in 10 to the kit envelope; also copy Item 9 to Form B.
3. Check any notes you have made on the forms to make sure they are clear. If it was impossible to obtain Form A, note this on the face of the form and on the front of the kit envelope. Plan to interview the operator during the next survey period to obtain permission to lay out the sample units and obtain the cropping practices data.
4. Review Form A for completeness. Enter the data into the iPad. Please hold all paper survey forms for all samples through the end of the survey year so they will be available for reference if the survey statistician has questions about a sample.
5. If the operator will not cooperate and provide an interview, you should still record the date and times that you attempted the interview.

Corn Form A

FORM A CORN YIELD SURVEY - 20XX

OMB No.: 0535-0088
Approval Expires: 6/30/2027
Project Code: 104
Survey ID: 1964



United States
Department of
Agriculture



NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

Please make corrections to name, address and ZIP Code, if necessary.

Date: _____

The information you provide will be used for statistical purposes only. Your response 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 to this survey is voluntary.

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB number is 0535-0088. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 20 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.

Earlier this season you gave a representative from our office information about the corn acreage on your farming operation. We are now collecting information to help determine corn production in (Your State) and the United States.

Corn Form A (continued)

Earlier this season, the number of corn acres you planted or intended to plant for all purposes on all the land you operate was:

JUNE PLANTED
ACRES

DO NOT CHANGE

1. Now I want to update this corn acreage information. What is the current number of corn acres you planted for all purposes on all the land you operate..... ACRES

105

2. What are the total acres of corn to be harvested for grain or seed on all the land you operate? (If total equals zero, end interview)..... ACRES

102

Now, I need to identify one (or more) of your corn field(s) in the tract and get their acreage.

- Notes:
- For the Sample Field(s) in the tract, complete Table A for the corn field(s) based off the cardinal directions indicated on the label (e.g., northern most field)
 - Select corn field regardless if the field is intended to be harvested for grain/seed or other use.

Table A				
SAMPLE NUMBER and DIRECTION	TOTAL ACRES IN FIELD	ACRES in USE or CROPS OTHER THAN CORN to be HARVESTED for GRAIN or SEED <small>(For example: silage, ditches, fence rows, waterways, roads, other crops, etc.)</small>		LOCATION DESCRIPTION/ INTERSECTION OF FIELD <small>(E.g., landmarks, features, street intersections)</small>
		USE	ACRES	
1	2	3	4	5
	• _____		• _____	
	• _____		• _____	
	• _____		• _____	
	• _____		• _____	
	• _____		• _____	
	• _____		• _____	

Corn Form A (continued)

3

FORM A: CORN - Continued

All questions below apply to this SAMPLE.

3. For the Sample Field, subtract Column 4 from Column 2 for the total acres of corn to be harvested for grain or seed. Report these acres here:..... ACRES 103
4. What was the planter row width setting?..... INCHES 107
5. On what date was planting completed in this corn field?..... MM DD 109

Kansas and Nebraska Only for Item 6

6. Has this field been (or will it be) irrigated? 1 ☐ Yes 3 ☐ No 2 ☐ Don't Know CODE 104

7. With your permission I will go out to the field and mark off two small plots to be used in making stalk and ear counts. I will return to the plots each month until harvest to make counts and measurements, and harvest and weigh a few ears. Would that be all right?

☐ Yes - Continue. (Inform respondent what day/approximate time you intend mark off two small plots to be used in making stalk and ear counts)

☐ No - Conclude interview, enter data in to CAPI, and go to item 11.

8. Have you or will you apply pesticides with organophosphorus content to the sample field?

☐ Yes☐ No☐ Don't know

If yes, enter latest application date _____ and name of pesticide _____.

9. Where should I leave the corn picked from the units? _____

(Copy to the sample kit envelope the location where the operator wishes you to leave the corn.)

10. Do you intend to harvest this field as high moisture corn?
(High moisture corn is defined as corn with moisture content of 30 percent or more.)

☐ Yes☐ No☐ Don't know

NOTE: If this is a gleaning sample, tell the operator "After harvest, I will also lay out two small plots to determine harvest loss."

11. Respondent Name: _____

PLEASE CHECK THE FOLLOWING:

- Review the form for completeness
- Sign name
- On the kit envelope, record operator's
 - Telephone number
 - Expected harvest date
 - Pesticide intentions (Item 8), and
 - Location to leave corn (Item 9)

Enumerator Number	190
Supervisor Number	191
Evaluation	193

12. Enumerator Name: _____

STATUS CODE	180
-------------	-----

Corn Form A *(continued)*

4

NOTES:

Operator Email:

Operator Phone:

9929	9917 Check to receive results by email <input type="checkbox"/>	9918 () _____	check if cell phone <input type="checkbox"/>
------	--	-------------------	--

Operation Email: (if different from above)

Operation Phone:

9937	9920 Check to receive results by email <input type="checkbox"/>	9936 () _____	check if cell phone <input type="checkbox"/>
------	--	-------------------	--

Respondent Name:

Respondent Phone (if different from above)

9912	9911 () _____	check if cell phone <input type="checkbox"/>	9910 MM DD YY Date: ____
------	-------------------	--	-----------------------------

This completes the survey.

Chapter 4 – Unit Location

General

Two units are laid out for each sample at the first field visit. These units will be used each month during the growing season to make plant and ear counts. The units are located and laid out according to specific procedures to assure randomness. Enter the field at the first corner you reach when approaching the field. If the field has no definite corners, enter the field from the point which is most accessible by vehicle.

However, your starting corner must allow an opportunity for the units to fall anywhere in the sample field boundaries. If the field has been selected for more than one sample, the second (or third) closest corner to the starting corner will be used as the starting corner for the second (or third) sample number.

Unit Location and Layout

The number of rows for locating Unit 1 and Unit 2 are printed on the Unit Location Sheet. The Unit Location Sheet is used in replacement of the pre-printed row and pace counts on the labels previously used on Objective Yield forms prior to 2025.

Each Sample Field Kit should have 1 Unit Location Sheet in the packet of forms included for enumerating the sample. The opposite side of the Unit Location Sheet has the Objective Yield Grid Map printed on it, which will be used for marking sample unit locations in the field sketch after the sample units have been laid out.

The row and pace count, on the Unit Location Sheet are randomly generated number as described previously in the How Rows and Paces are Determined for Objective Yield section in this chapter. The Unit Location Sheet has 4 acreage ranges listed along the top (*less than 10 acres, 10 to 19.9 acres, 20 to 39.9 acres, and greater than or equal to 40 acres*). The unit locations of the sample are dependent on which range the acreage of the field falls within, as depicted below:

Corn Unit Location Row/Pace Counts				
If Field =	< 10 Acres	10-19.9 Acres	20-39.9 Acres	>=40 Acres
Unit 1				
Rows=	26	21	149	279
Paces=	128	112	208	211
Unit 2				
Rows=	56	51	179	309
Paces=	158	142	238	241

REMINDER: Unit 1 row and pace counts +30= Unit 2 location. This information is helpful to remember when locating field sample units.

Corn Unit Location Sheet

Corn Unit Location Row/Pace Counts
If Field = < 10 Acres 10-19.9 Acres 20-39.9 Acres >= 40 Acres

Unit 1

Rows=	26	21	149	279
Paces=	128	112	208	211

Unit 2

Rows=	56	51	179	309
Paces=	158	142	238	241

Objective Yield Grid Map

OBJECTIVE YIELD GRID MAP

OPERATOR'S NAME _____ COUNTY _____

SAMPLE NUMBER(S) _____

N

Unit 1 will be laid out before Unit 2. After the initial layout, the location of the rows used to determine sample maturity will be used to determine which unit to work first.

The following outlines procedures for locating and laying out sample units.

Locating Unit 1

The following steps outline procedures for locating and laying out sample units.

Step 1: Mark the starting corner so it will be clearly visible on later visits. Tie a piece of plastic flagging ribbon to a fence or nearby object or drive a large stake in the ground and attach the ribbon. Make a note of the location and type of marking used on the kit envelope field sketch.

Step 2: Walk along the end of the rows until you have counted the number of rows indicated for Unit 1. This is Row 1 of Unit 1. The next row in the direction of travel is Row 2 of Unit 1. Tie a piece of flagging ribbon to the first stalk in Row 1. This will help you find the same row on subsequent visits to the sample field. The next row in the direction of travel will be Row 2.

Step 3: Walk the required number of paces into the field between Row 1 and Row 2. Start the first pace one and one-half feet outside the plowed end of Row 1. This starting point applies even if plants are not growing to the plowed edge of Row 1.

If you cross any of the areas deducted as "Other Uses" on the Form A (*Table A, Columns 3 & 4*) while you are counting rows or paces into the field, stop counting rows or paces at the start of each area and resume counting at the other side. Any blank or unplanted areas in the field that were not deducted should be included in the row and pace count (see examples in the [Special Problems in Laying Out Units](#) instructions later in this chapter).

Step 4: After you have taken the last of the required paces, lay the dowel stick down so that it touches the toe of your shoe, across Row 1 and Row 2, and at right angles (perpendicular) to the direction of the rows. Lay out Unit 1 in the direction of your travel when you counted your last pace.

Step 5: Anchor the zero end of the 50-foot tape just beyond the dowel stick and directly alongside the plants in Row 1. Work from outside of the unit to avoid damaging the plants. The zero end of the tape must be anchored firmly and close to the ground so it will not move when measurements are made. Mark the sample number on a florist stake and insert it at the anchor point.

Step 6: Insert a florist stake, identified "U1-R1" for Unit 1 and Row 1 exactly 5 feet from the anchor point, making sure that the measuring tape is pulled tight and is flat on the ground.

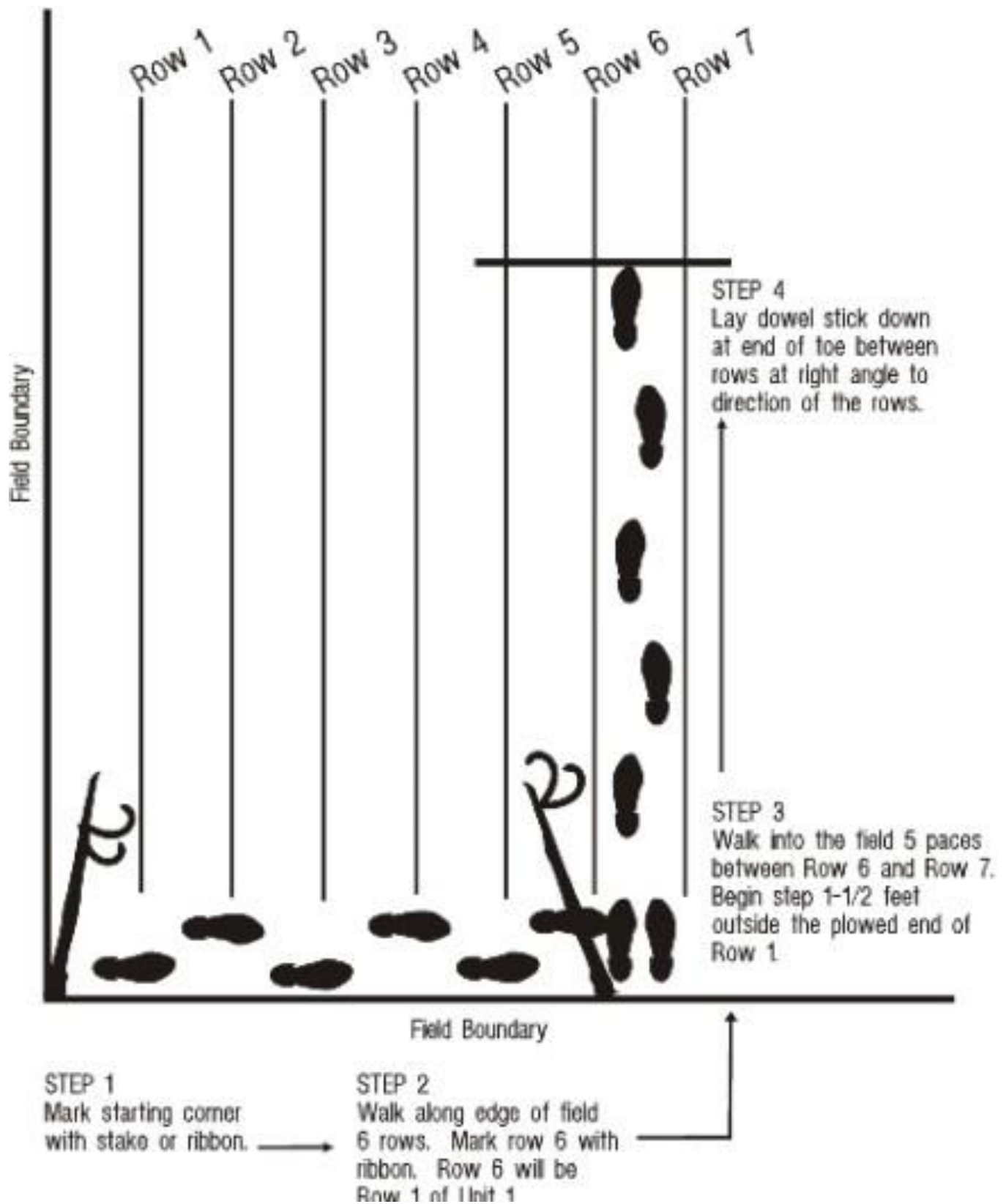
Rule 1: If a plant emerges from the ground exactly at the **starting stake**, include that plant in the unit.

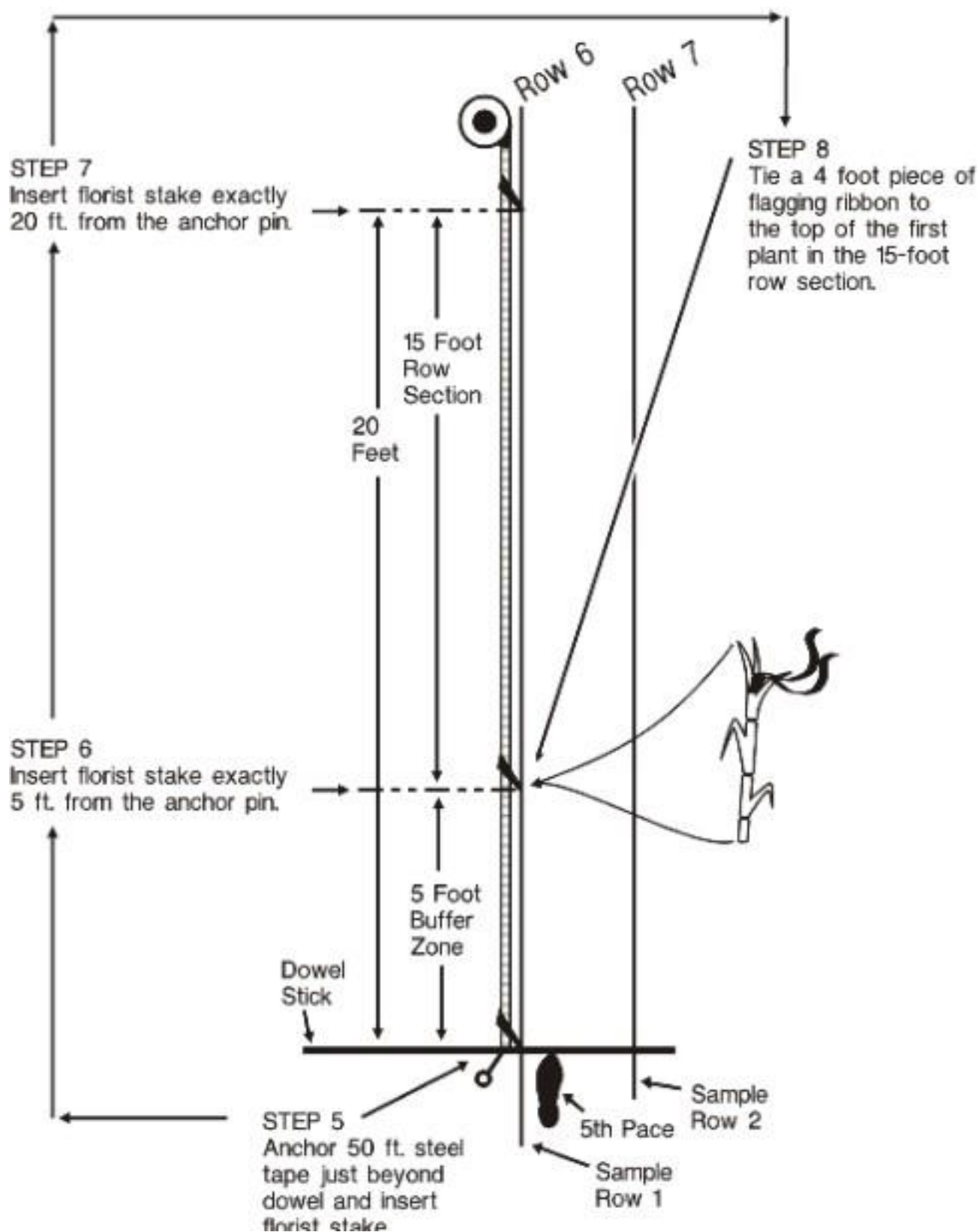
Step 7: Insert a stake exactly 20 feet from the anchor point. These stakes should be placed straight up and down with the flat side at right angles to the row and as close as possible to the center of plants in the row.

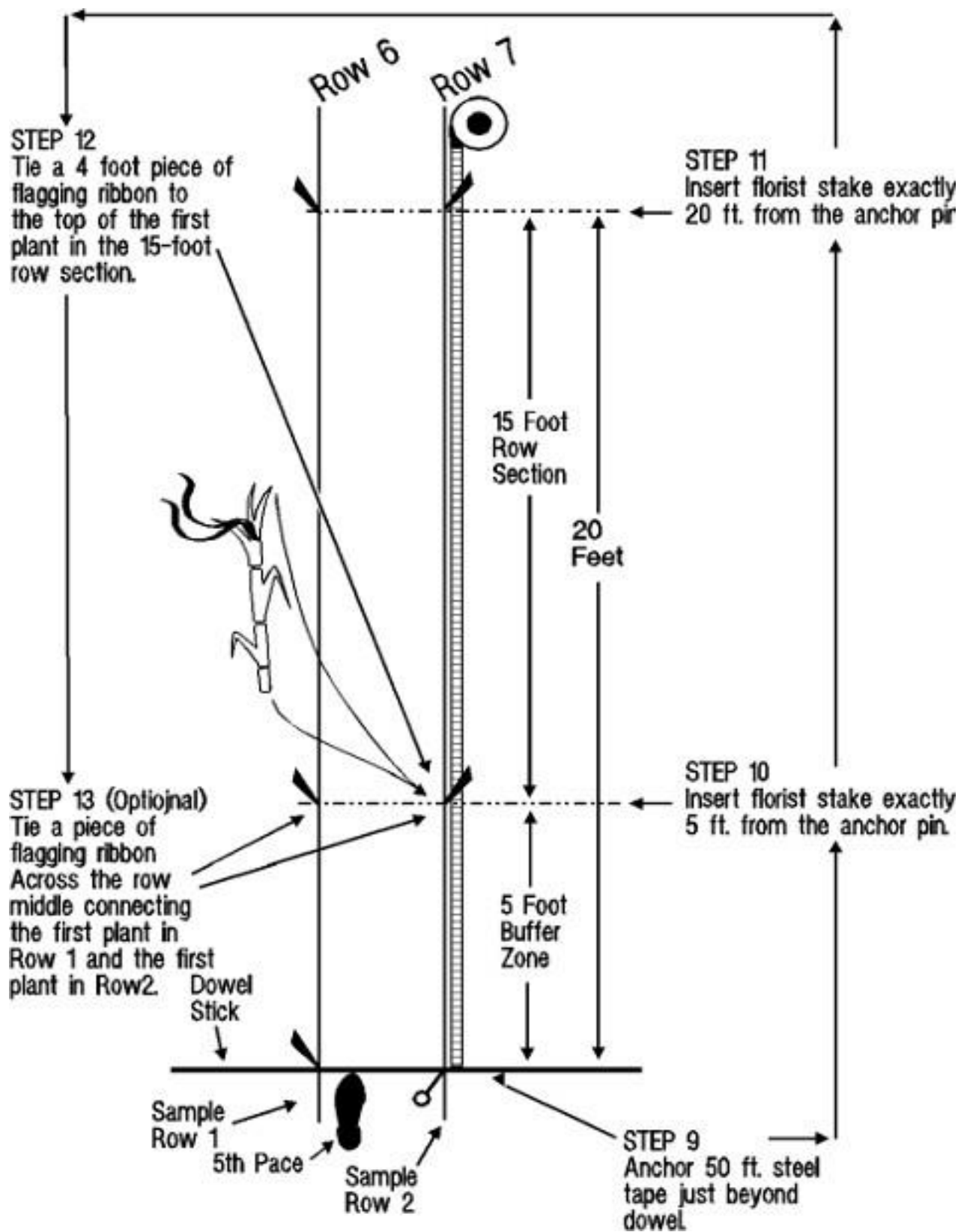
Rule 2: If a plant emerges from the ground exactly at the **ending stake**, exclude that plant from the unit.

Step 8: Identify the first plant in the unit. Tie a piece of flagging ribbon to mark plant for future visits. Use Rule 1 at the starting stake in each row.

- Step 9:** Anchor the 50-foot tape just beyond the dowel stick and next to the plants in Row 2. Do not place a florist stake at the Row 2 anchor point.
- Step 10:** For Row 2 insert a florist stake 5 feet from the anchor point. Mark the starting florist stake as follows: "U1-R2" for Unit 1, Row 2. Do not move the florist stakes; they define the 15-foot count unit.
- Step 11:** Insert a florist stake exactly 20 feet from the anchor pin.
- Step 12:** Identify the first plant in the unit. Tie a piece of flagging ribbon to mark the first plant for future visits. Use Rule 1 at the starting stake in each row.
- Step 13:** Identify the first plant in the unit.
- Optional:** Tie a piece of flagging ribbon across Row 1 and Row 2 at the start of the buffer zone to mark the unit across Row 1 and Row 2 for future visits.
- Example:** Unit 1 located 6 rows along the edge of the field and 5 paces into the field:







Locating Unit 2

After completing the Form B observations in Unit 1, start from the row for Unit 1 and walk 30 more rows in the same direction you were traveling in when you located Unit 1. Then turn and walk into the field for the number of paces from Unit 1 PLUS 30 more paces. At that spot, locate, lay out and mark Unit 2. For example, if Unit 1 was 50 paces into the field, Unit 2 should be 80 paces into the field (50+30). Remember to stop counting paces when walking through a deducted area (refer to Table A on Form A).

The same steps apply in laying out Unit 2 as were used in laying out Unit 1 except florist stakes will be marked U2-R1 and U2-R2.

Preparing Sketch of Sample Unit Locations

When the work for Unit 2 is completed, a field sketch as large and detailed as possible should be prepared on the Objective Yield Grid Map or sample field kit envelope so that the starting corner and unit locations can be found on later visits. For samples where the bounce-back technique has been used, indicate the direction of the units, so you won't walk through them on subsequent visits.

The sample unit sketch does not need to be of artistic quality but should never be ignored. This sketch will not only be useful to you, but it will be extremely helpful in the event someone else has to perform fieldwork on the sample field in your absence at any point in the survey year.

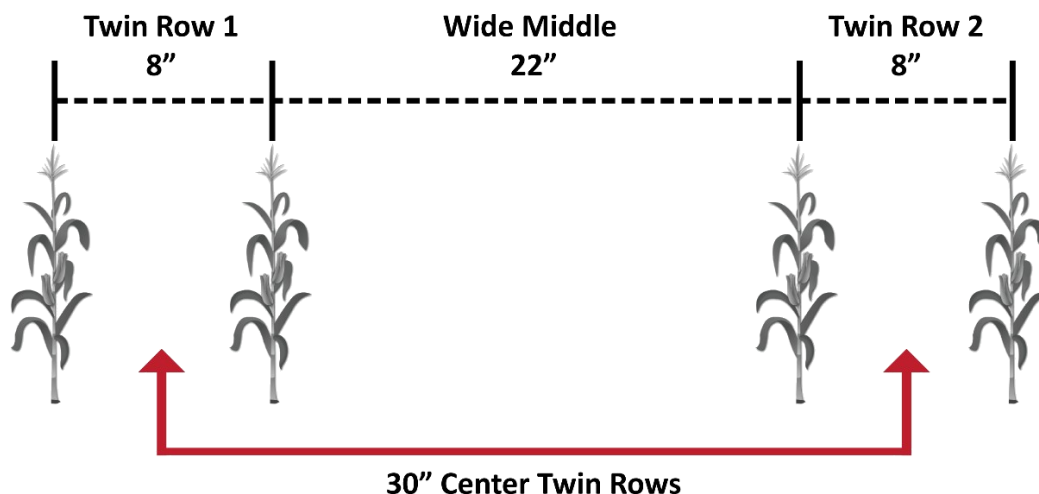
Twin Row Procedures

In a twin row planting configuration, corn is planted in paired rows, usually 7 or 8 inches apart, on 30-inch centers (*narrow/wide/narrow arrangement*). In cases where flood irrigation practices are in use they will be planted in a formed seedbed, elevated above the wider irrigation furrows. The twin row configuration presents challenges for counting rows, determining row space measurements, and recording plant & fruit counts for the purposes of the Objective Yield Surveys.

Twin Rows Sample Unit Location

Each twin row sample unit is comprised of 2 pairs of twin rows. When counting rows along the field's edge to locate the first row of a sample unit, count the pairs of twin rows as individual sample unit rows.

When counting twin rows planted on formed beds, be sure to count only the pairs of twin planted rows and not count the formed beds. This is the best practice to prevent miscounting in cases where more than one pair of twin rows are planted on the same formed bed or when bed widths are non-uniform.



Twin Row Space Measurements

In the direction of travel, measure from the center of the first pair of twin rows in the selected row to the center of the second pair of twin rows (*across 1 wide middle rows*). Continue the measurement from the center of the first pair of twin rows further on to the center of the fifth pair of twin rows (*across 4 wide middle rows*).

Laying Out Twin Row Units

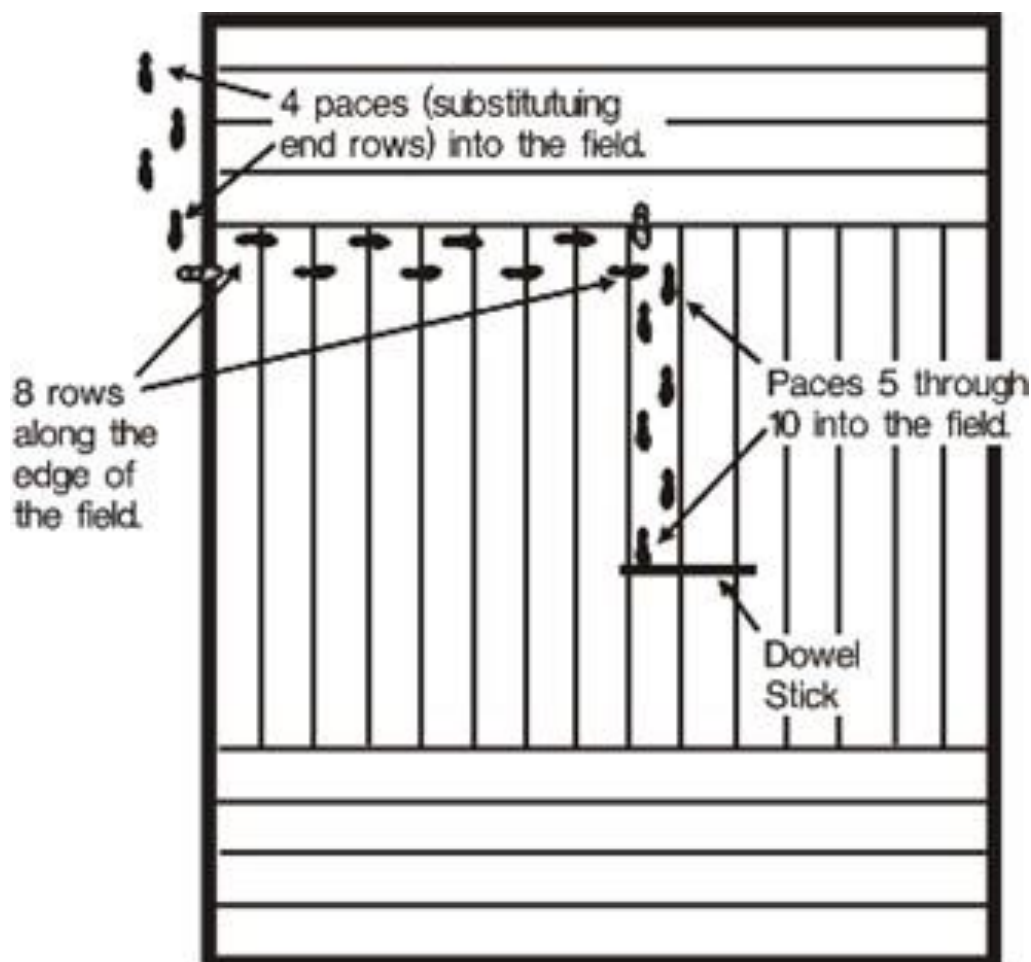
Twin row units will be laid out using the same practices used when measuring fields planted in a uniform, single row configuration. The only difference between the single and twin row units is the twin row unit uses the plants in the two twin rows for each unit row (4 individual rows of plants per sample unit = 8 individual rows per sample). Mark and flag all twin row sample units with the inclusion of the twin row.

Special Problems in Laying Out Units

Seed Corn Fields

Procedures for laying out units in seed corn fields are the same as any other corn field.

Locating a Unit in Fields with End Rows

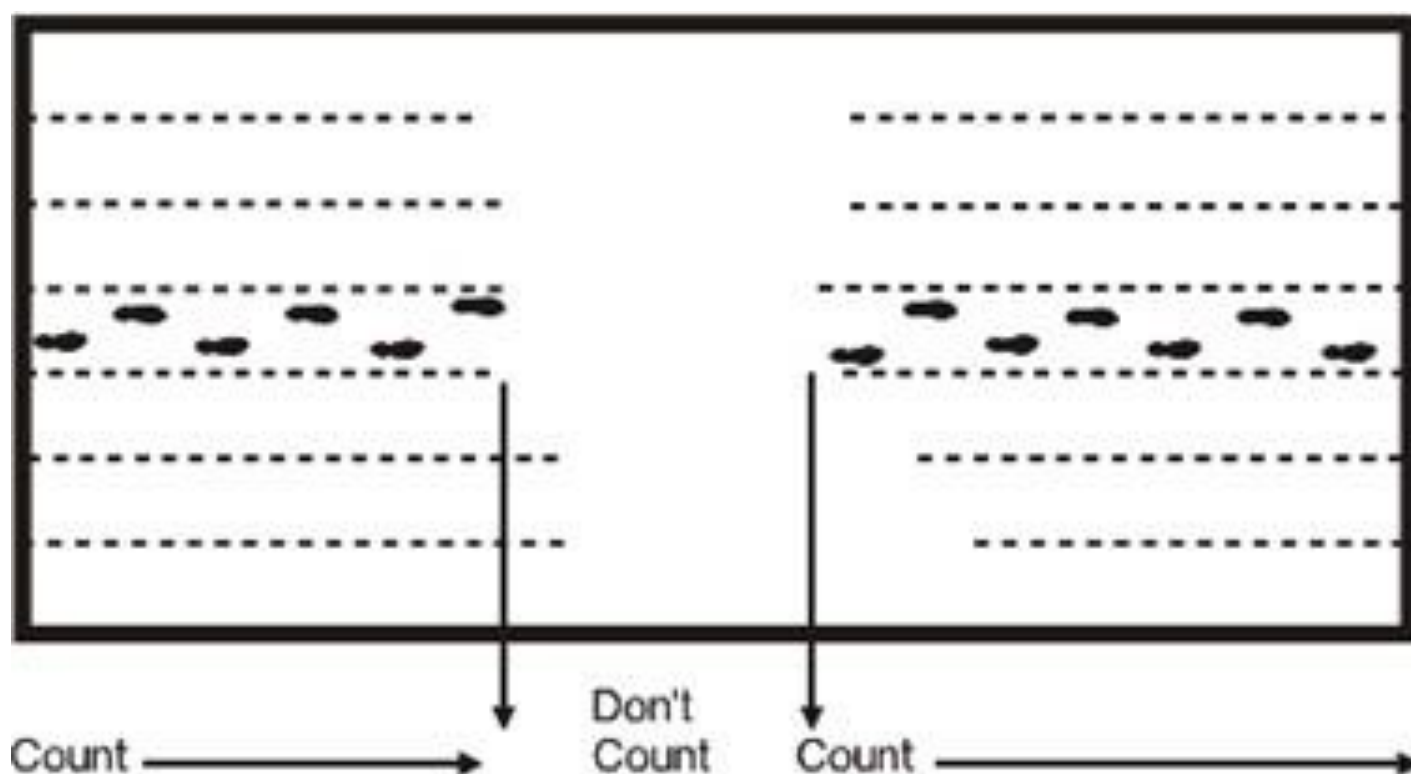


If a field has end rows, make a note of how many there are, but do not include them in count of rows. To begin counting "rows along the edge of field", walk along the ends of the regular rows inside the field, counting them to find row 1 of unit 1.

After finding row 1 of the unit, start pacing into the field from the end of row 1; Count the end rows as paces. For example, if there are 4 end rows, start your pace count with 5 and continue into the field the required number of paces.

If the pace count is less than the number of end rows, the unit will be laid out in the end rows. If, in this example, the number of paces is exactly 4, then row 1 of the unit would be end row 4 and row 2 of the unit would be end row 3. A unit will be laid out in end rows when the number of paces is less than the number of end rows. When the unit falls in end rows, always lay out the unit away from the starting corner.

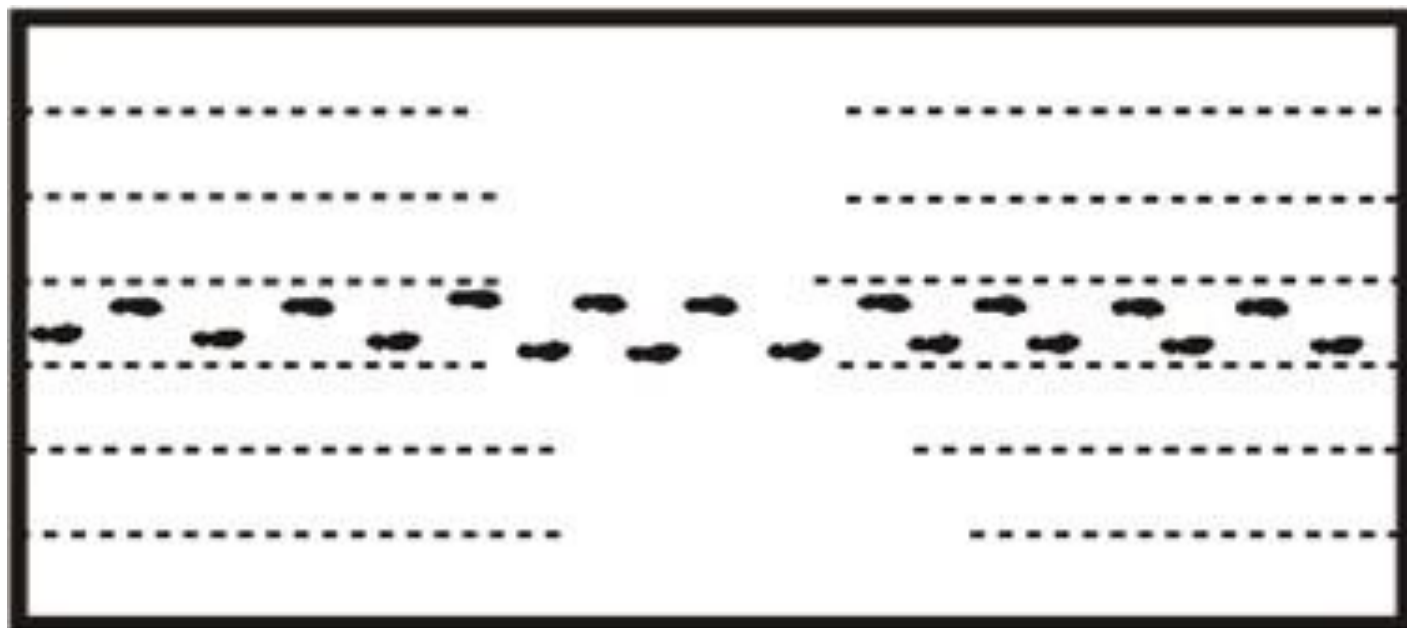
Blank Area that was Deducted on Form A



Sample units are never located in "excluded" areas or in any other areas reported as acreage in "Other Uses" in Table A of Form A.

If, when counting paces into the field, you cross an area which was deducted from the acreage to be "harvested for grain" during the Form A interview, you will stop your count (paces) at the start of such area and resume the count on the other side of the area.

Blank Area or Other Crop Not Deducted on Form A

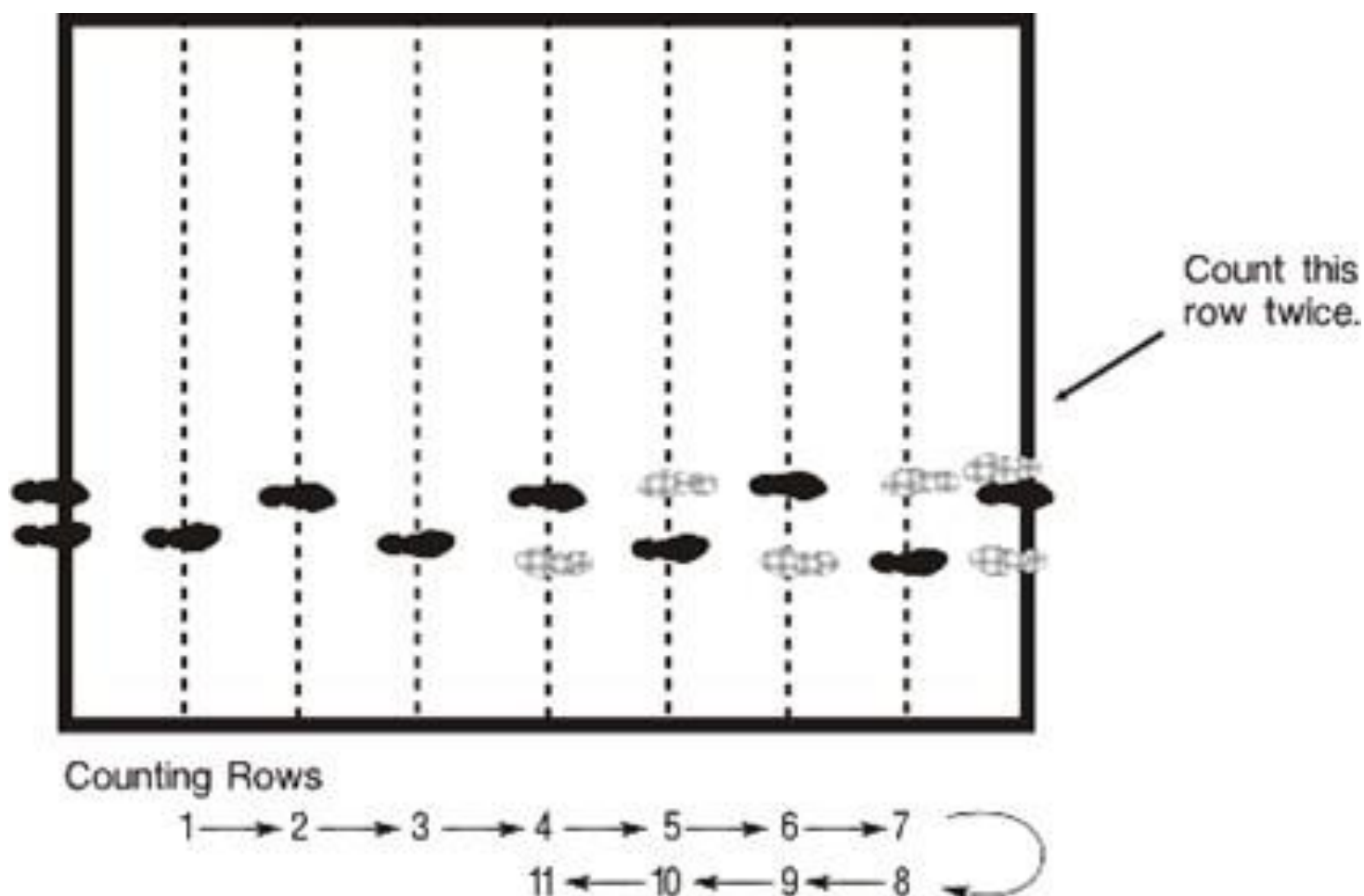


If you cross a blank area which was not deducted from the acreage to be harvested for grain during the Form A interview, you should continue to count paces through this area. Usually, such areas are small drowned-out spots or skips due to poor seed germination and plant survival. If the last pace falls in this blank area, the unit must be laid out even if no plants are present.

If only one unit falls in a blank area, continue to make monthly counts on the other unit. Enter zeros in the appropriate box for the unit located in a blank area.

In case both units fall in a blank area (no plants standing in either of the sample rows) which was not deducted from the net acreage standing for grain (Table A) the units will be laid out. Note for future reference on the kit envelope that the units fell in a blank area, complete a Form B entering zeroes where appropriate. Note on the Form B that both units were blank and hold all forms for the remainder of the survey year.

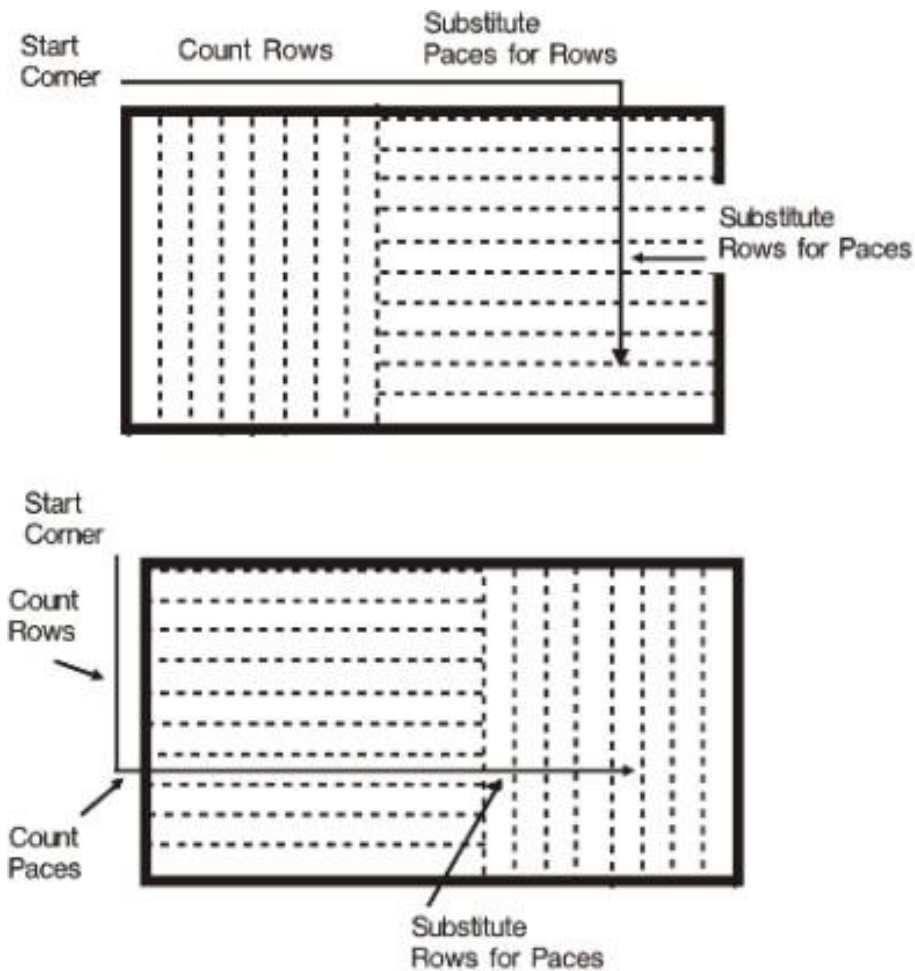
Bounce Back Techniques



In counting rows, if you reach the opposite edge of the field and still have not counted the designated number of rows, turn around and walk back in the direction from which you came until the required number is counted. The last row is counted twice—once as you go out of the field and again as you start back into the field. Always take the next row in the direction of travel for Row 2. If row 1 of the unit falls on the last row in the field, then row 2 becomes the next row in the direction of travel after bounce back.

In counting paces, if you reach the end of the field and still have not counted the required number of paces, turn around and walk back in the direction from which you came until the required number of paces is counted. Lay down the dowel stick and lay out the unit in the same direction that you were traveling when you counted the last pace.

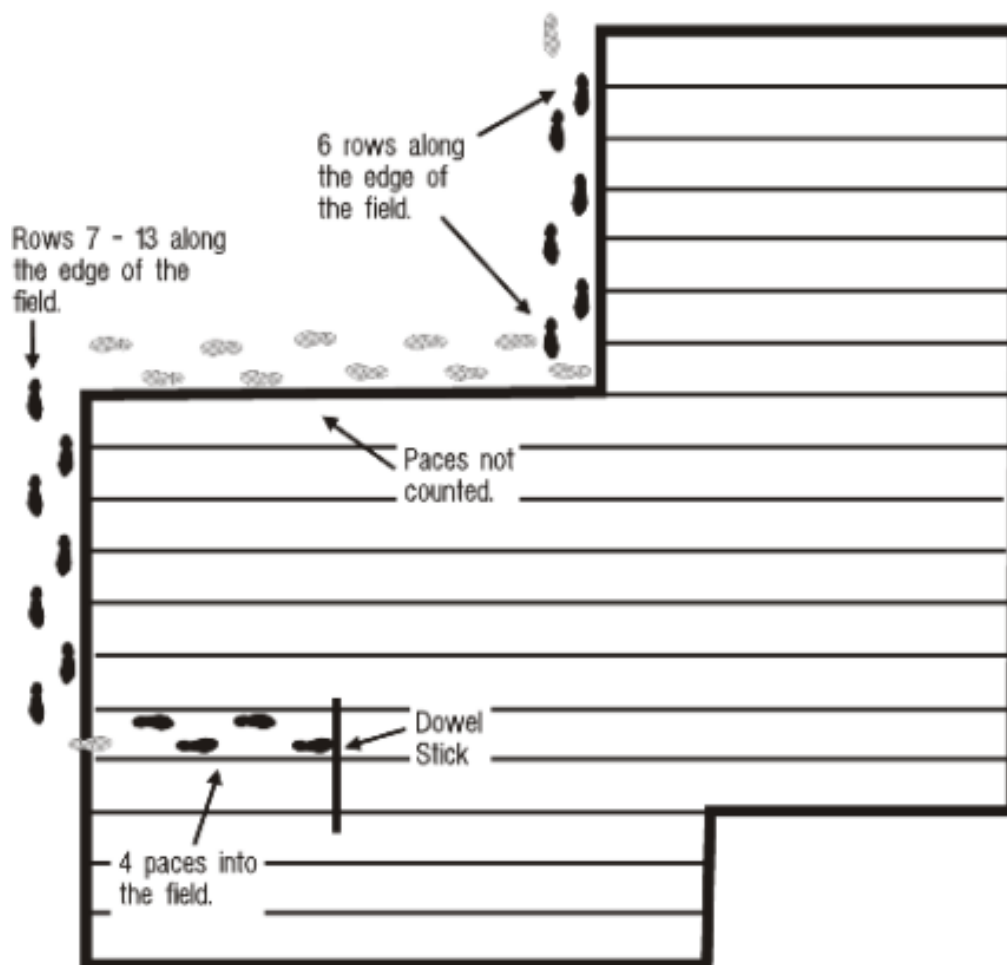
Rows Change Directions



In counting rows, when the direction of the rows changes at right angles, or when there is no definite direction to the rows, or when it is otherwise impossible to count rows, continue in the same direction along the edge of the field and substitute an equal number of paces for rows. Make a note of such changes on the form and on the sample field kit envelope beside the sample number so that this fact will be recorded for later visits.

In counting paces, when the direction of the rows changes at a right angle, substitute an equal number of rows for paces. When laying out units and rows change direction, always lay out the unit away from the starting corner.

Locating Units in Odd Shaped Fields

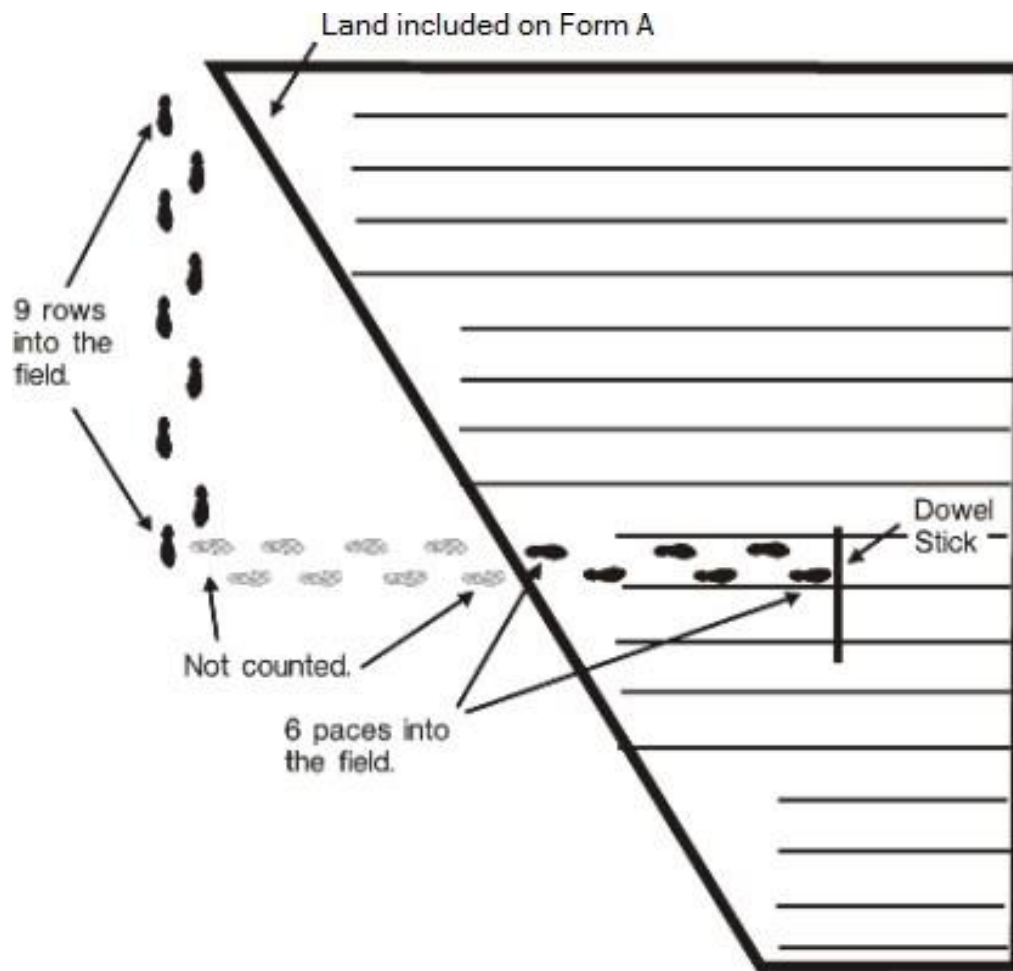


When locating units in odd shaped fields the same rules apply that we have discussed previously. In the illustration above the enumerator pauses counting when walking to the beginning of row 7, then resumes the row count until Unit 1, Row 1 is reached, and the pace count begins.

When laying out samples in odd-shaped fields the main things to remember are:

- 1) Starting corner
- 2) Direction of travel
- 3) Deducted and non-deducted areas

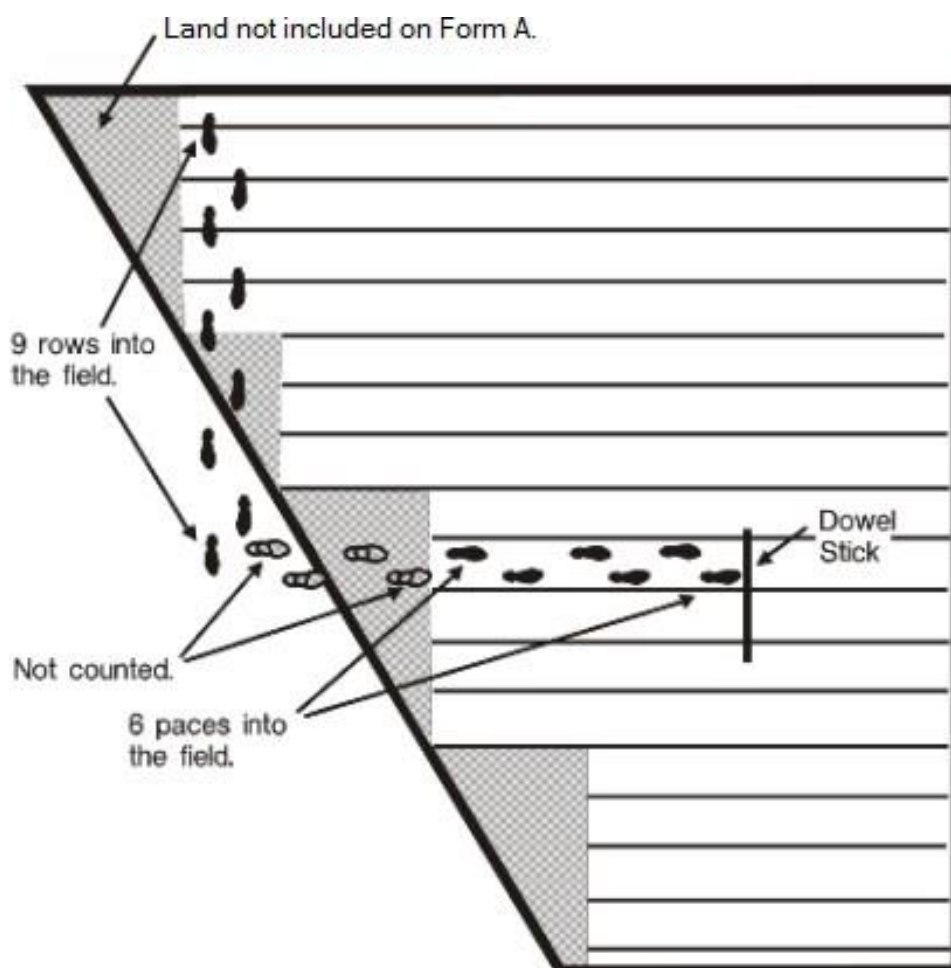
Fields with Blocking and Blank Area Not Deducted



Fields with angular boundaries tend to have an unplanted area measuring the width of planting equipment used for seeding the field (blocking effect) as the end of the row approaches the boundary. In the case illustrated above the distance from the actual start of plants in row 9 might be 50 feet or so from the starting point of row 8.

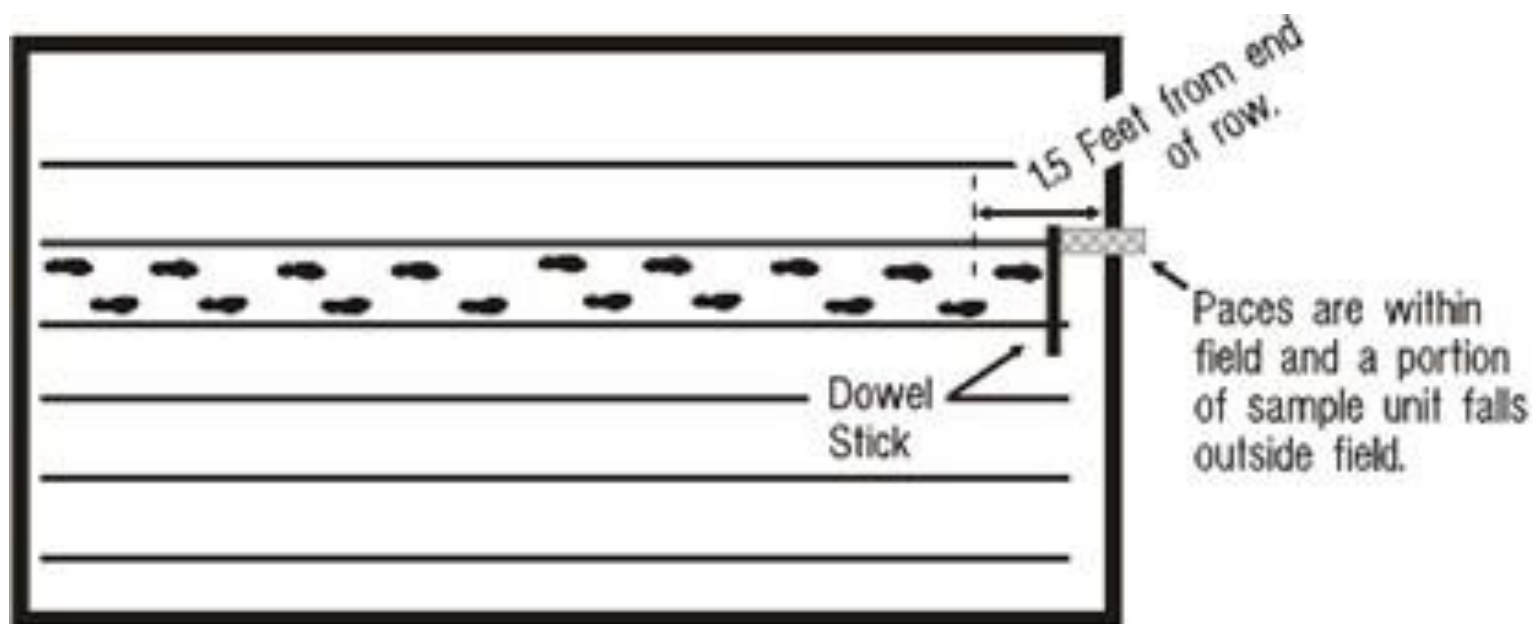
If row 8 is the selected Row 1 of the unit and the blank area was not deducted from the acreage harvested for grain on the Form A the unit would be laid out 3 paces into the field from the beginning of row 8 and the unit Row 2 would fall in the area with no plants present in row 9.

Fields with Blocking and Blank Area Deducted



For this example, assume rows= 9 and paces= 6. If the blank area from row 9 to row 13 was deducted from the acreage for harvest for grain on the Form A, the unit would be laid out 6 paces into the field from the beginning of row 9. Field row 9 would be unit row 1 and field row 10 would be unit row 2.

Units Fall beyond End of Field

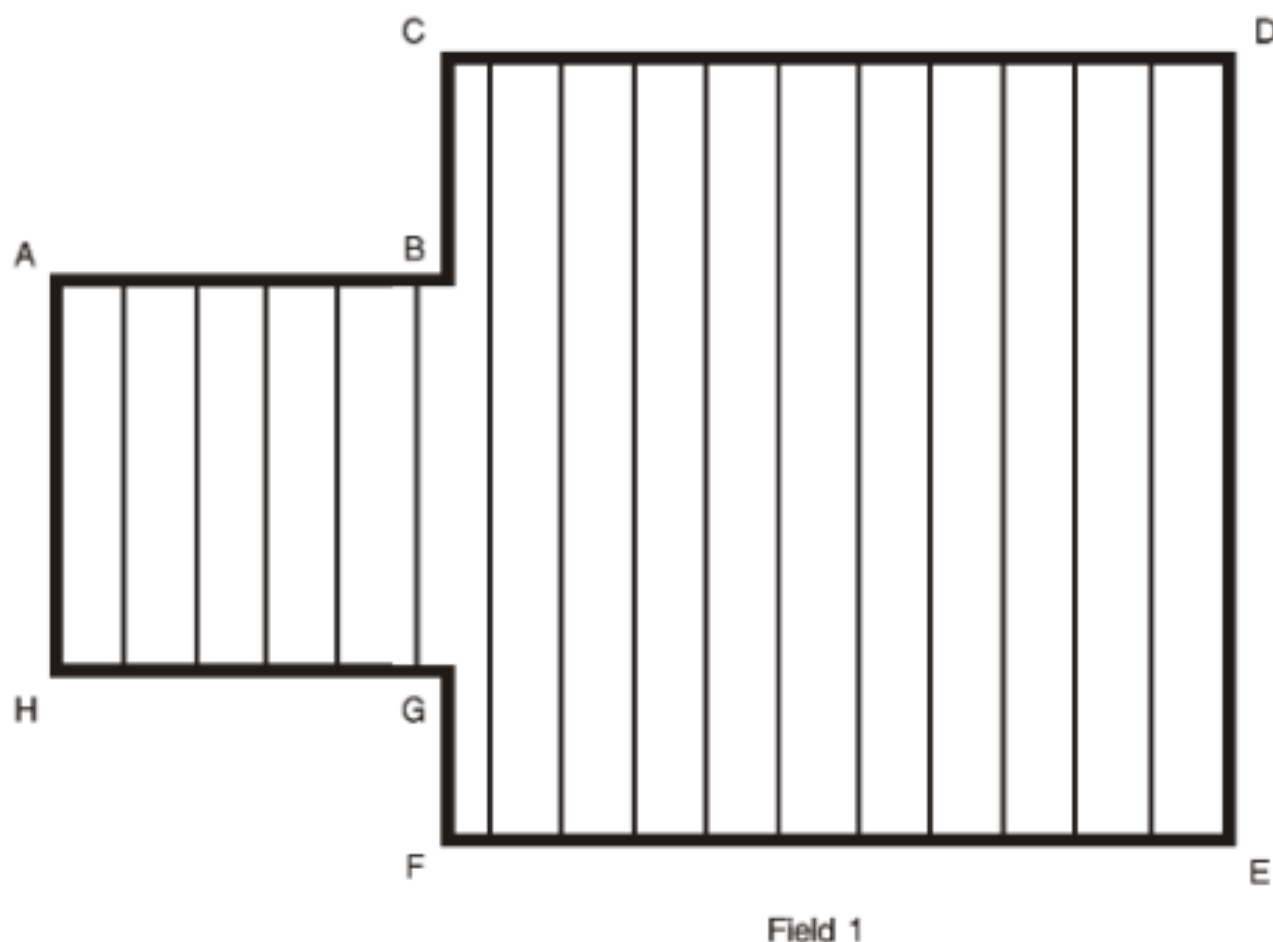


If a unit location falls partly within an area which was deducted from the acreage for harvest during the interview (grass waterway, etc.) move the unit back until it is located wholly on acreage planted to corn with the end point of the unit one and one-half feet from the deducted area. This also applies when part of the unit falls beyond the edge of the field.

If the unit location falls partly in end rows after you have taken your last pace, pick up the dowel stick and back up until you are 1.5 feet from the center of the plants in the first end row. **(Do not lay out a unit across rows).**

This also applies when a unit falls partially within an area which was deducted from the acreage harvested for grain on the Form A. Move the unit back until it is located wholly on acreage planted for grain with the endpoint of the unit 1.5 feet from the deducted area.

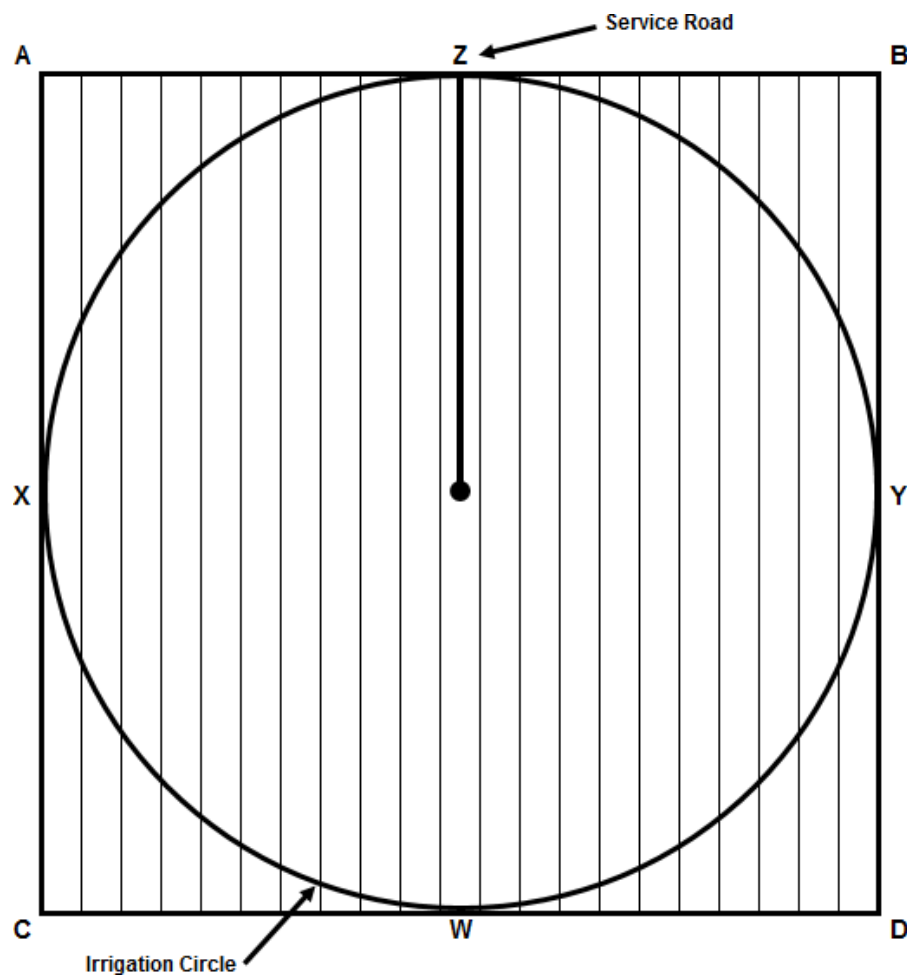
Odd Shaped Fields – Starting Corner



Corners A, D, E or H could be the starting corner under the "unit location" principle because the sample unit would have an equal chance of falling anywhere in the field.

Corners B, C, F, or G cannot be the starting corner because the unit has less chance of falling in the areas of the field marked by Corners A, B, G, H. For example, if "corner B" was chosen as the starting corner and counted rows towards "corner A", rows B to A would have a chance to be in the sample twice before rows B to D had a chance to be in the sample once.

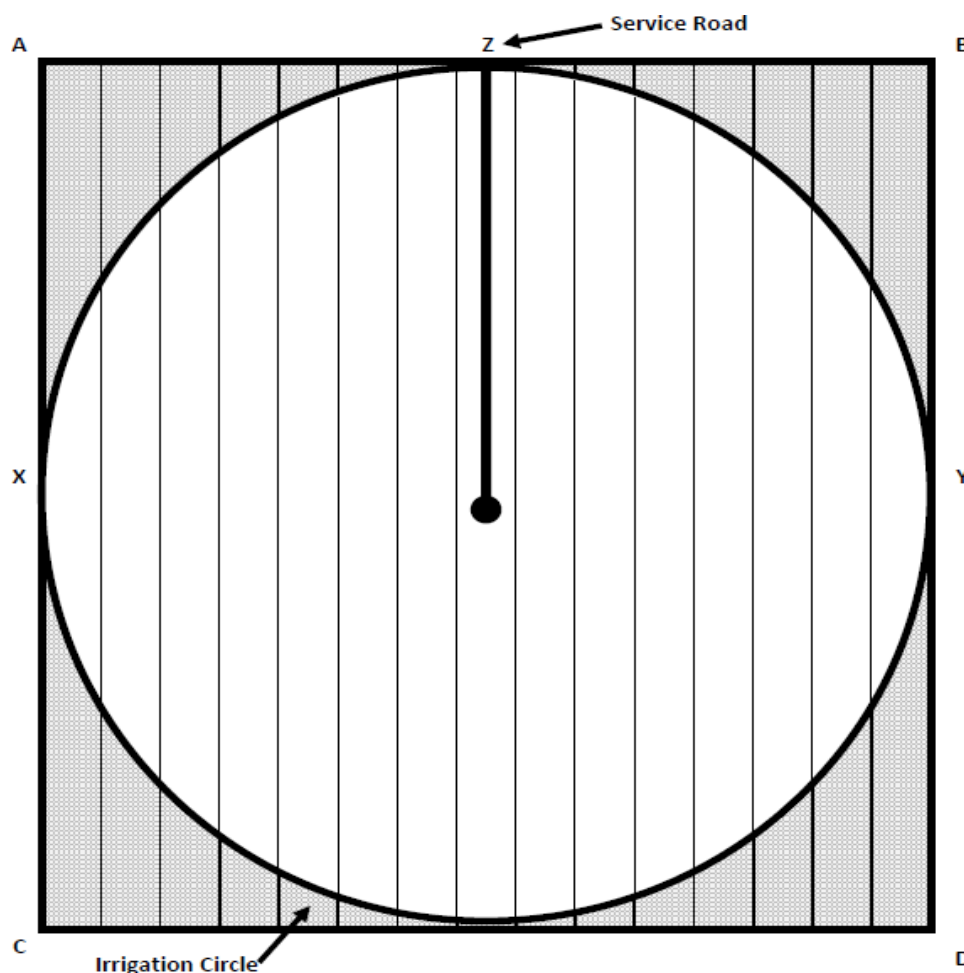
Center Pivot Fields - Starting Corners



Scenario 1

The entire field, including corners, is planted to corn for grain in uniform rows. For all States except Nebraska and Kansas, the correct choices for starting corners are A, B, C and D even though the access road is at point Z. In most cases, the most accessible starting corners will be A and B since the service road can be accessed from the same side of the field. Paces along the edge of the field and into the field will be counted in the usual manner. Because Nebraska and Kansas differentiate between irrigated and non-irrigated plantings for corn, the correct starting corner for this field in Nebraska and Kansas would be point Z. While standing at point Z, unit 1 will be laid out to the right (towards point X). After completing the Form B observations in Unit 1, start from the last pace required for Unit 1 and walk 30 paces parallel with the longer side of the field and in the same direction that you were traveling when you located Unit 1. Then turn at a right angle and walk 30 more paces into the field, to locate, lay out and mark Unit 2.

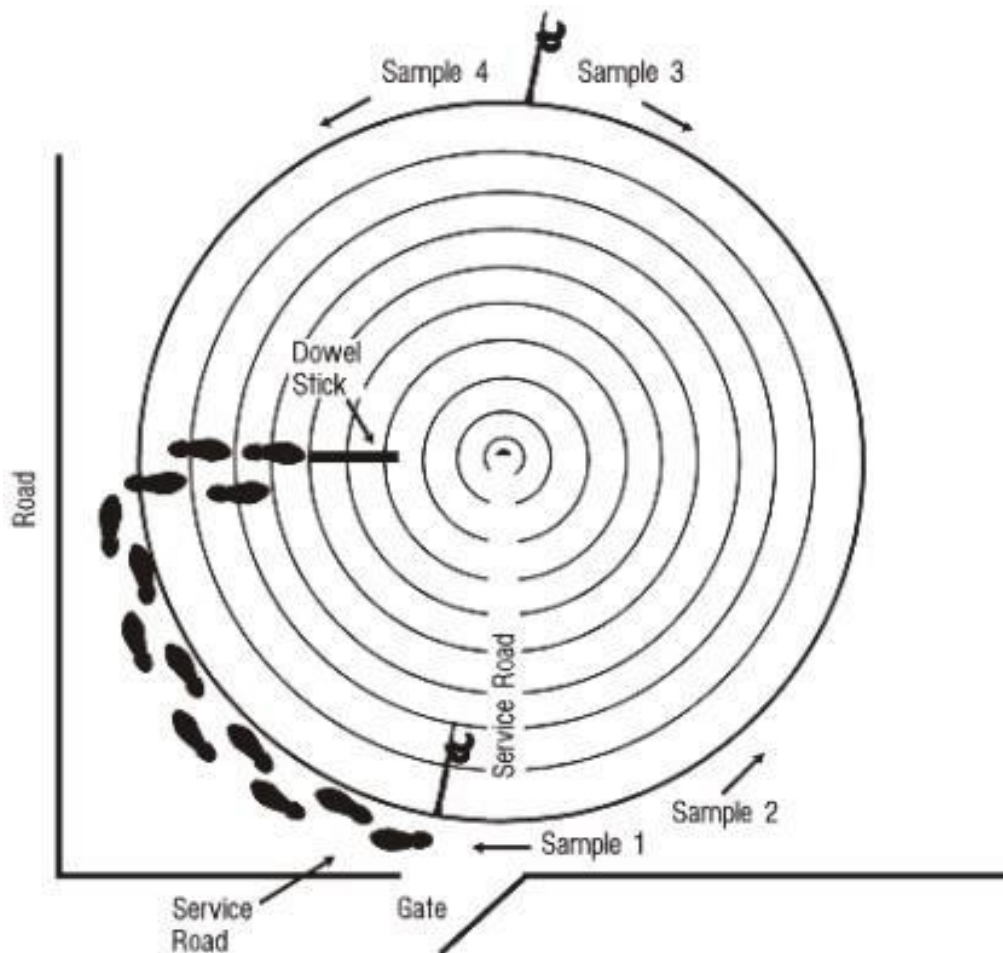
Center Pivot Irrigated Fields (continued)



Scenario 2

The circle only, **not** including the shaded corners, is planted to corn for grain. In Nebraska and Kansas, the corners may be corn for grain but would not be considered since we differentiate between irrigated and non-irrigated plantings. Since the service road (point Z) is the most accessible corner in most cases, it would be considered the starting point. While standing at point Z, unit 1 will be laid out to the right (towards point X). After completing the Form B observations in Unit 1, start from the last pace required for Unit 1 and walk 30 paces parallel with the longer side of the field and in the same direction that you were traveling when you located Unit 1. Then turn at a right angle and walk 30 more paces into the field, to locate, lay out and mark Unit 2. If you have more than one sample to lay out in the field, the starting point for the second sample would be point X. The starting corner for a third sample would be point W and a fourth sample would start at point Y.

Spiral or Circular Planted Fields



The starting point will be that point first reached when arriving at the field. To locate sample units in spiral or circular fields, use paces as shown on the Form B when walking along the edge of the field. Then use the number of rows shown on the Form B to count rows into the field. Be sure your diagram on the sample kit envelope is complete and is easy to follow in locating the sample units in the spiral or circular field.

A second sample in a circular field would be located in a counterclockwise direction from the original starting point. If a third sample was selected, go to the opposite side of the field from the original starting point and locate the third sample in a clockwise direction and if a 4th sample, locate in a counterclockwise direction.

Chapter 5 – Form B

General

The Form B counts and measurements are used to forecast production during the season and to set the end of season production estimate of corn for grain. Each item counted and measured is a very important part of this yield estimate.

Lay out all samples during the September 1 survey period. Unit 2 will be worked before Unit 1 during the November 1 survey periods because maturity is determined from ears beyond Unit 2. After the September 1 and October 1 survey period, work Unit 1 first.

Two units will be laid out for each sample on the first visit to the field. Since the same units will be used each month, proceed directly to the units by the most accessible route on successive monthly visits.

If the field counts cannot be made, complete a Form B in CAPI, with a comment explaining the reason the sample could not be laid out. The sample will be laid out the following month if the field is still standing for harvest. Every effort should be made to complete all B forms each month.

All notes concerning the field that may be useful to you, or your coach should be recorded on the field kit envelope.

Data Quality

You need to be careful when making the counts and measurements required by the Form B. This section contains examples showing how small differences in the counts and measurements you make can change a sample's gross yield forecast. The examples deal with counting the number of ears, the 4-row space measurement, and the diameter measurement.

Example 1. This example shows how changes in the number of ears with kernel formation can change the yield. In this example, we will first calculate the gross yield for a sample using 80 ears from the two units, then with 84 ears in the two units. This difference of 4 ears is a change of 5%. We will use 10.4 feet for the average 4 row space measurement and 0.300 lbs. per ear for the average ear weight in both cases.

The first step is to calculate the number of ears per acre. This is done by adjusting the number of ears in the two units to represent one acre. To do this, the number of ears in the two units is multiplied by the ratio of 43,560 square feet in an acre to the total square feet in both units. The total square feet in both units is calculated by multiplying the average of the 4 row measurements and the length of a unit, 15 feet. If there are 80 ears in the two units, then the ears per acre is calculated by:

$$80 \text{ ears} \times \frac{43,560 \text{ sq. ft. per acre}}{10.4 \text{ ft. per 4 rows} \times 15 \text{ ft.}} = 22,338 \text{ ears per acre}$$

The next step is to multiply the number of ears per acre by the average grain weight and convert to bushels per acre:

$$22,338 \text{ ears per acre} \times \frac{0.300 \text{ lbs. per ear}}{56 \text{ lbs. per bushel}} = 119.7 \text{ bushels per acre}$$

Repeating the process for 84 ears in both units gives us:

$$84 \text{ ears} \times \frac{43,560 \text{ sq. ft. per acre}}{10.4 \text{ ft. per 4 rows} \times 15 \text{ ft.}} = 23,455 \text{ ears per acre}$$

and

$$23,455 \text{ ears per acre} \times \frac{0.300 \text{ lbs per ear}}{56 \text{ lbs per bushel}} = 125.7 \text{ bushels per acre}$$

In this example, a 5% change in the number of ears changed the gross yield by 5%.

Example 2. This example shows how changes in the 4-row space measurement can change the gross yield. We will calculate the gross yields from units with average 4 row space measurements of 10.0 and 10.4 feet. This is a 4% difference. We will use 80 ears in the two units and 0.300 lbs. per ear for both examples.

The ears per acre calculation is:

$$80 \text{ ears} \times \frac{43,560 \text{ sq. ft. per acre}}{10.0 \text{ ft. per 4 rows} \times 15 \text{ ft.}} = 23,232 \text{ ears per acre}$$

If the forecasted ear weight is 0.300 lbs. per ear, the yield per acre calculation is:

$$23,232 \text{ ears per acre} \times \frac{0.300 \text{ lbs. per ear}}{56 \text{ lbs. per bushel}} = 124.5 \text{ bu. per acre}$$

If the 4-row space measurement is 10.4 feet, the ears per acre calculation is:

$$80 \text{ ears} \times \frac{43,560 \text{ sq. ft. per acre}}{10.4 \text{ ft. per 4 rows} \times 15 \text{ feet per unit}} = 22,338 \text{ ears per acre}$$

and the yield per acre calculation is:

$$22,338 \text{ ears per acre} \times \frac{0.300 \text{ lbs. per ear}}{56 \text{ lbs. per bushel}} = 119.7 \text{ bu. per acre.}$$

Again, a 4% change in the average 4 row space changes the gross yield by 4%.

Example 3. This example shows how changes in the diameter measurement could change a sample's gross yield. We use the ear diameter and kernel row length measurements of the 5 ears beyond the unit to estimate the average volume.

A regression model is used to convert this volume measurement to an average weight per ear. The following equation is an example of a regression model:

$$0.16407 + 0.00967 \times (\text{average volume}) = \text{lbs. per ear}$$

The numbers 0.16407 and 0.00967 are called coefficients. These coefficients vary by state, month, and maturity. Nebraska's and Kansas' coefficients also differ for irrigated and non-irrigated samples. HQ calculates the coefficients using the previous 5 years data.

If the 5 ears have an average volume of 16.0 cubic inches, we would forecast the ear weight to be:

$$0.16407 + 0.00967 \times (16.0) = 0.31879 \text{ lbs. per ear}$$

If the number of ears in the unit converts to 23,000 ears per acre, then the forecasted yield per acre for the unit would be:

$$0.31879 \text{ lbs. per ear} \times \frac{23,000 \text{ ears per acre}}{56 \text{ lbs. per bushel}} = 130.9 \text{ bushels per acre}$$

Increasing each ear's diameter measurement by 1 mm could change the average volume to 17.1 cubic inches, then the average ear weight would be:

$$0.16407 + 0.00967 \times (17.1) = 0.32943 \text{ lbs. per ear}$$

and the yield per acre would be:

$$0.32943 \text{ lbs. per ear} \times \frac{23,000 \text{ ears per acre}}{56 \text{ lbs. per bushel}} = 135.3 \text{ bushels per acre}$$

In this example, a 1 mm increase in the diameter measurement increased the gross yield forecast by just over 3%.

Form B Sample Identification

An ID label for recording the State FIPS, POID, sample number, and forecast month has been pre-printed on the Form B. Use the sample ID information recorded on the Kit Envelope (as instructed in Chapter 1, [Field Kit Assembly Instructions](#)) to complete the Form B label each time fieldwork is done.

Please note, the area above the label is an instruction that reads: “**STEP 1: FILL OUT THIS LABEL**” in bold capital letters. This instruction is in place to indicate the importance of completing the label before beginning any data collection on the sample.

Failing to properly ID the form creates the risk of misreporting sample data on multiple samples.

STEP 1: ↓ FILL OUT THIS LABEL ↓		
____ STATE	____ POID	____ SAMPLE

(Circle Forecast Month)

Forecast Month: Sep 1 / Oct 1 / Nov 1 / Dec 1

After recording the sample identification information in the label, the date fieldwork was completed on the line provided on the right edge of the Form B.

Unit Location

Follow the instructions in Chapter 4 on [Unit Location and Layout](#) for locating the sample units.

UNIT LOCATION		UNIT 1		UNIT 2
1. Number of rows along edge of field			+ 30	
2. Number of paces into field			+ 30	

Two units will be laid out for each sample. Soybean units consist of two rows, each 3 feet long, plus two adjacent 6-inch row sections. Since the same units will be used each month, you may proceed directly to the units by the most accessible route on successive monthly visits.

If for some reason the field counts cannot be made, complete a Form B in CAPI, with a comment explaining the reason the sample could not be laid out. In such a case, the sample would be laid out the following month if the field is still standing for harvest. Every possible effort should be made to complete all assigned B Forms each month.

All notes concerning the field that may be useful to you, or your coach, should be recorded on the field kit envelope.

Pesticide Safety

Form B has a question just beneath the identification box asking if the operator has applied pesticides with organophosphorus content to the sample field. This will require contact with the farm operator or some other knowledgeable person. This question must be checked **YES** or **NO** for each Form B. If **YES** is checked the date of latest application and name of pesticide must be entered in the space provided.

3. Has operator applied pesticides with organophosphorus content to the sample field?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Don't know

If yes, enter latest application date _____ and name of pesticide _____

Exercise extreme caution to avoid exposure to dangerous pesticides. **Never enter any field that has been treated with a chemical application in the previous 24 hours.** Be sure to follow the [Pesticide Safety Precautions](#) described in Chapter 1.

		UNIT 1	UNIT 2
4. UNIT LOCATION CODE	1 First sample count 2 Unit relocated this month 3 Sample counted previously	302	307
		If code = 3, skip to Item 6	

During the first visit to lay out the unit, enter a code "1" in the appropriate cell box and make row space measurements. If, during a later visit the unit cannot be located, enter a code "2" layout a new unit(s), and make row space measurements. During later visits to the same unit, enter a code "3" and skip the row space measurements.

Row Space Measurement

Row space measurements and ear counts are used to compute ears per acre. This is one of the components required to estimate yield.

5. ROW SPACE MEASUREMENTS		UNIT 1	UNIT 2
a. Measure distance from stalks in Row 1 to stalks in Row 2.....	Feet & Tenths	303	304
b. Measure distance from stalks in Row 1 to stalks in Row 5.....	Feet & Tenths	305	306

The measurements of row spaces will be made on the first visit to the sample units. (When you lay out the sample unit.) These measurements will be skipped on later visits unless a sample unit must be relocated for any reason. Record all distances in feet and tenths of feet -- not in feet and inches.

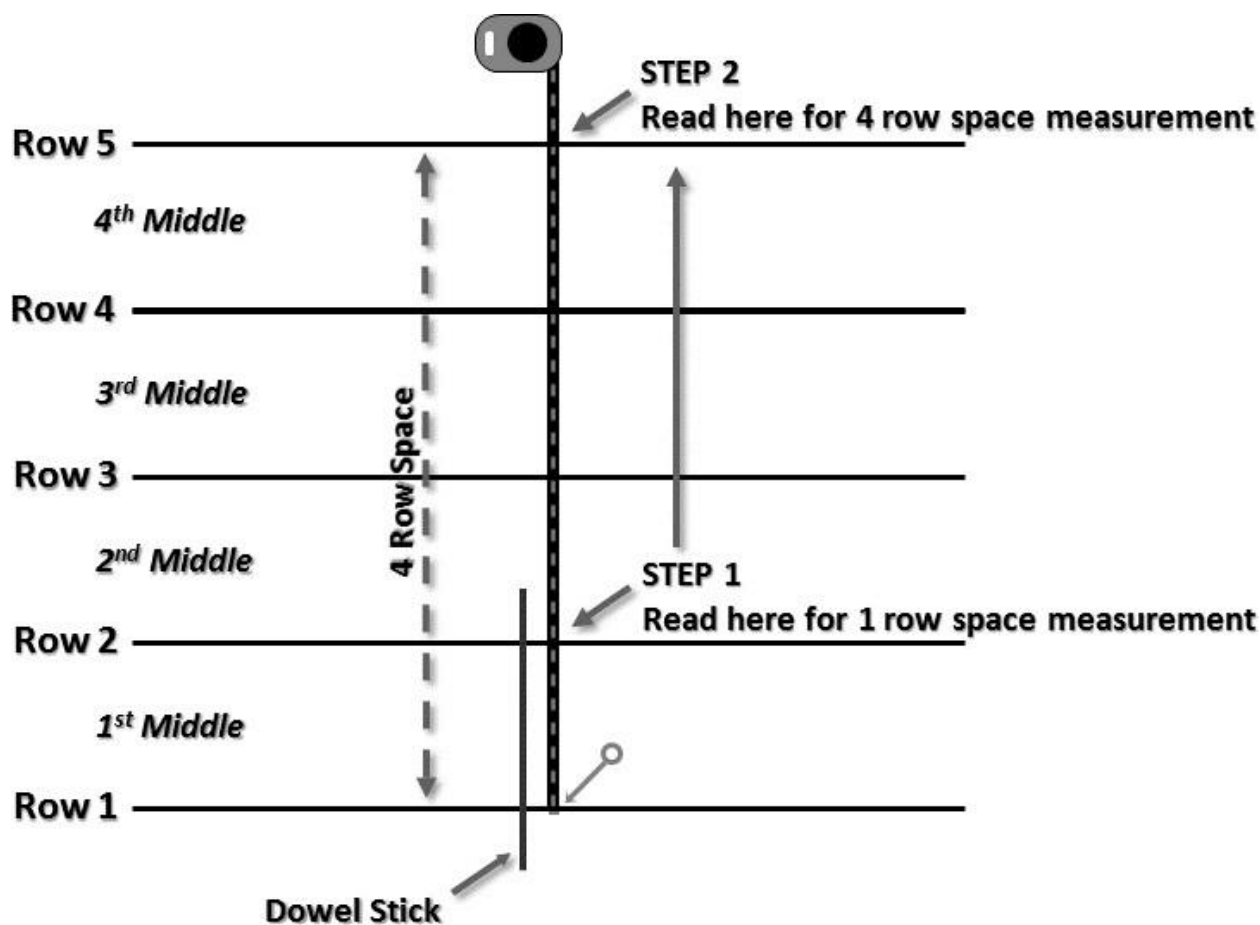
Measuring distance from stalks in Row 1 to stalks in Row 2

At the dowel stick, measure the distance across the first row space with the 50-foot tape measure. Anchor the zero end of the tape measure at the center of the stalks in row 1 and measure to the center of the stalks in row 2. This is the distance across the first middle. Record this distance in feet and tenths of feet in item 5a.

Measuring distance from stalks in Row 1 to stalks in Row 5

Measure the distance across 4 corn row spaces (5 adjacent rows) and record in item 5b. Measure at the dowel stick from the center of the stalks in row 1 (or twin row) to the center of the stalks in row 5. All measurements will be made in feet and tenths of feet.

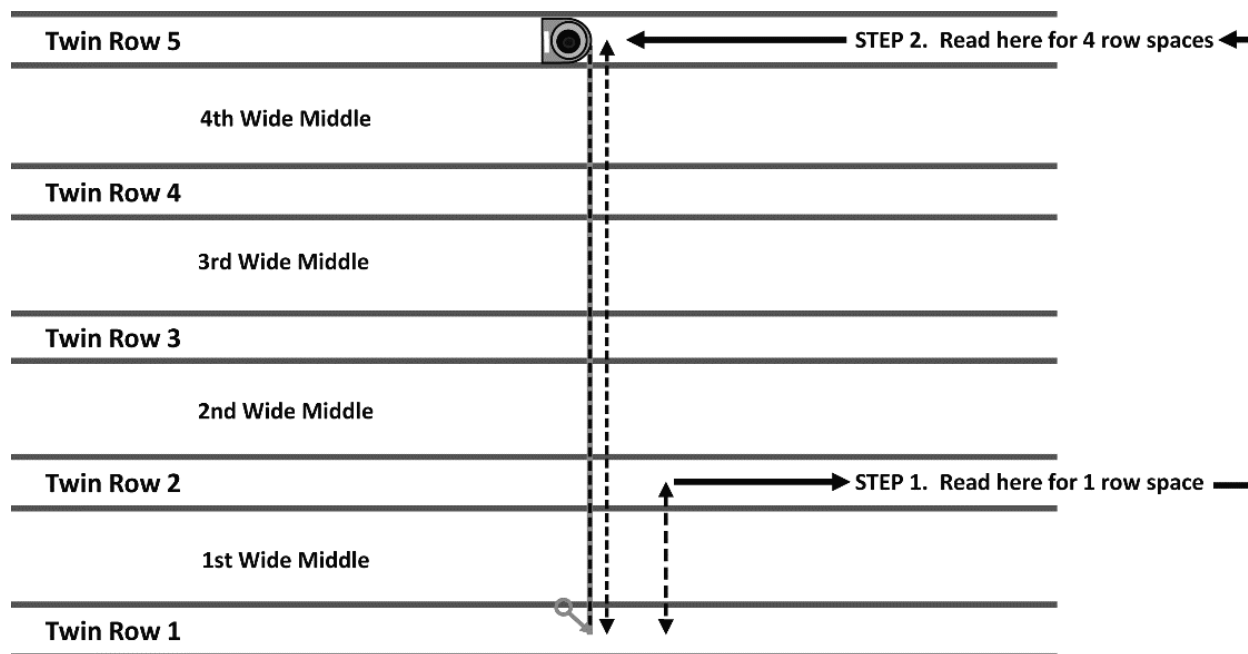
Single Row Planted Row Space Measurements



If the field is "skip planted" so that there are several rows of corn and then several rows of a second crop, record the planting pattern in the margin. For example, if the planting pattern is 2 rows corn, then 2 rows soybeans, the measurement recorded in item 5b is the sum of the distance between two rows of corn in four different strips. Apply the same principle if corn is planted in strips of three or four rows.

Twin Row Planted Row Space Measurement

If a field is planted in twin rows, i.e., two pairs of narrow rows separated by a wide middle, (Example: a 7-inch middle followed by a 30-inch middle), the one-row space measurement recorded in Item 5a is the distance between the center of twin row 1 and center of twin row 2. The entry in Item 5b is the measurement from the center of twin row 1 to the center of twin row 5.



In all cases of unusual row spacing (very narrow, very wide, or non-uniform row space arrangement), or when the unit falls in a blank area of the field and no row space measurement can be made, write an explanatory note in the margin of the form.

Maturity

The observations made beyond the unit provide the maturity stage of the sample. The maturity stage determines which forecast models will be used to forecast the number of ears, grain weight per ear and when a sample is mature.

The maturity determinations are made from 5 ears beyond a designated unit on a specific row each month. The stage of maturity determines which counts and measurements will be made. The table below shows where the observations are made each month:

Designated Measurement Areas:

MATURITY CODES FOR ITEM 6			
For Month	Use Beyond Area	Maturity Code	
Sept. 1	Unit 1, Row 1	2 = Pre-Blister	5 = Dough
Oct. 1	Unit 1, Row 2	3 = Blister	6 = Dent
Nov. 1	Unit 2, Row 1	4 = Milk	7 = Mature

The maturity classification for each ear is based on distinct ear and plant characteristics. This is especially true in the case where the ear shoot develops a hard cob but no kernels. In this case, you must determine the maturity using other parts of the plant such as the silks and husks.

Use the descriptive material below as criteria for determining the maturity stage of each unit. The stage of maturity for each unit must be determined separately. There will be cases when you are undecided on the maturity stage of the unit. When this occurs, classify the unit in the lower stage of maturity.

Corn Maturity Codes

Maturity Code 2 - Pre-blister

Shoot has some silks showing. Little or no watery, clear liquid present in "spikelets."

Maturity Code 3 – Blister

Most "spikelets" contain liquid. Most silks protruding from husks are beginning to turn color.

Maturity Code 4 – Milk

Plant or shuck is green. Ears are erect. Little or no denting. Most kernels are full of milk-like substance, but kernels not fully grown. Silks protruding from husks have turned brown and dry.

Maturity Code 5 – Dough

About one-half of kernels showing dent with some milk or dough-like substance in all kernels. Kernels full grown. Maturity line has not moved halfway to the cob on majority of kernels. Shucks taking on a light rust-colored appearance. Ears beginning to lean away from stalks.

Maturity Code 6 – Dent

Ears are firm and solid. Kernels fully dented with no milk present in most kernels. Shucks are about dry but not beginning to open up. Kernels may be hard to scratch at surface, but still soft near the cob. Maturity line on the kernels has not reached the cob.

To differentiate between Code 6-Dent and Code 7-Mature ears, break the ears, observe the maturity line of the exposed kernels on the top half of the ear and test for milk on top of kernels next to the cob. To be in Code 7, the maturity line of the exposed kernels on the top half must be down to the cob. This indicates that the corn is mature and reasonably represents actual harvest conditions. If there is doubt whether the maturity line has reached the cob, test for milk in the top part of the kernels next to the cob with your thumbnail.

Maturity Code 7 – Mature

Corn is about ready or ready for harvest. The maturity line on the kernels extends inward to the cob. No milk can be squeezed from the top of the kernels next to the cob when punctured with a thumbnail. Kernels shell off the cob fairly easily. When you pick a kernel from the cob, there may be a dark spot on the cob where the kernel was attached. Shucks are dry and are beginning to open up. No green foliage is present.

6. MATURITY CODE of first 5 ears or silked ear shoots	EAR NUMBER					TOTAL OF 5 EARS
	1	2	3	4	5	
						301

Husk and inspect the first 5 ears or silked ear shoots in the designated measurement area for the stage of maturity.

If there is more than one ear on a stalk, follow the "TO BE" rule: TOP--ODD; BOTTOM--EVEN. Always count the top ear first for odd-numbered samples and the bottom ear first for even-numbered samples. Pull back the husks without removing the ears from the stalks and classify each ear as to stage of maturity. Enter the proper maturity code for each ear.

If the unit is at the edge of the field, go to the end of the next row - in the direction of travel (when counting rows) to find the five ears needed for maturity determinations and measurements.

If ears or silked ear shoots are not yet present in the unit or beyond the unit, check the appropriate space in the instruction above Item 6; then complete Item 11 only.

The remaining counts and measurements are based on the Item 6 maturity stages.

<p>a. Will harvest occur within 3 days?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No - Go to Item 6b</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes - Complete Items 11, 14, 15, 16 & 17</p>	<p>b. Are three or more ears in maturity code 7?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No - Go to Item 6c</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes - Complete Items 11, 14, 15, 16 & 17</p>
<p>c. Does Item 301 equal 23 or more?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No - Go to Item 6d</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes - Complete Items 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 & 14</p>	<p>d. Does Item 301 equal 13 to 22?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No - Complete Items 11, 12, 13 & 14</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes - Complete Items 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 & 14</p>

If 3 or more ears are Code 7, or the operator will harvest the sample within 3 days, complete stalk counts (Item 11) and ears counts (Item 14) in the 15-foot units and harvest the ears in row 1 of each unit (Items 15-17).

If the total in Item 6 is 23 or more, transfer maturity codes to Item 7 as specified, and measure kernel row lengths and ear diameters (Items 8 and 9) beyond the unit. If 3 or more of the 5 ears listed in Item 7 are Code 6 or 7, harvest the ears as specified (Item 10) and send them to the lab. Then complete stalk counts (Item 11) and ear counts (Item 14) in the 15-foot units.

If the total in Item 6 is 13 to 22, transfer maturity codes to Item 7 as specified, and measure kernel row lengths and ear diameters (Items 8 and 9) beyond the unit, then complete all stalk and ear counts (Items 11-14) in the 15-foot units.

If the total in Item 6 is 12 or less, make no further observations beyond the unit. Complete all stalk and ear counts (Item 11-14) in the 15-foot units.

When Item 6 has 3 or more code 6 ears, and the operator had earlier informed you that he planned to harvest the sample field as high moisture corn, determine if he still plans to harvest the corn at a high moisture level. If the operator has not changed his plans, determine when he plans to harvest.

7. Maturity code of each of the first 5 ears Code 3 or higher (<i>copy maturity from Item 6. Replace Code 2 ears with next code 3 or higher.</i>) Code	EAR NUMBER				
	1	2	3	4	5
	320	321	322	323	324

If the sum of the maturity codes for the 5 ears in Item 6 totals 13 or more, copy the maturity code for each ear classified as Code 3 or higher directly to Item 7. Whenever the total of the 5 ears is 13 or more and any Code 2 ears are listed in Item 6, select the next ear beyond ear number 5 in the designated measurement area which is maturity Code 3 or higher. List its maturity code in Item 7.

Kernel Row and Diameter Measurements

The kernel row and diameter measurements are used to forecast grain weight per ear. You may remove the ear from the stalk if doing so makes it easier to make these measurements. Before removing the ear, you must do the following:

1. Husk the ear.
2. Pick a kernel row that intersects an imaginary line that runs through the center of the stalk and the center of the ear.
3. Mark this row with a black marker about one inch away from the butt of the ear.
4. Remove the ear from stalk being careful to avoid removing any kernels, especially if the ears will be sent to the lab.
5. Mark on the ear, the order of the ear, i.e., ear 1 through ear 5.
6. Make kernel row length and diameter measurements as described later in this manual. When making the diameter measurement, center the marked row in the jaws of the caliper.

The average length of kernel row will be measured for each of the Code 3 or higher ears listed in item 7. The average kernel row length is the part of the cob length covered by kernels or "blisters".

8. Average length of kernel rows (Item 7 ears)..... Inches & Tenths	326	327	328	329	330
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Select a specific kernel row (or a point on a specific row) to measure the length of that row. Enter the measurement data to one decimal. The tape must be graduated in inches and tenths of inches.

If a part of the ear is rotten or damaged, do not consider it part of the total cob length occupied by kernels. In measuring the average length of the kernel rows on ears with missing or damaged grains, visualize the kernels present forming a continuous row from the butt towards the tip by being moved adjacent to each other on the cob.

At least one kernel must be present on the cob to be considered an ear. An ear with only one kernel present should have an average kernel row length of .1 inch.

In item 9, enter the diameter of the ear measured one inch from the butt of the cob. Record measurements to the nearest tenth millimeter.

9. Diameter of the ear one inch from the butt of the cob (Item 7 ears)..... Millimeters & Tenths	326	327	328	329	330
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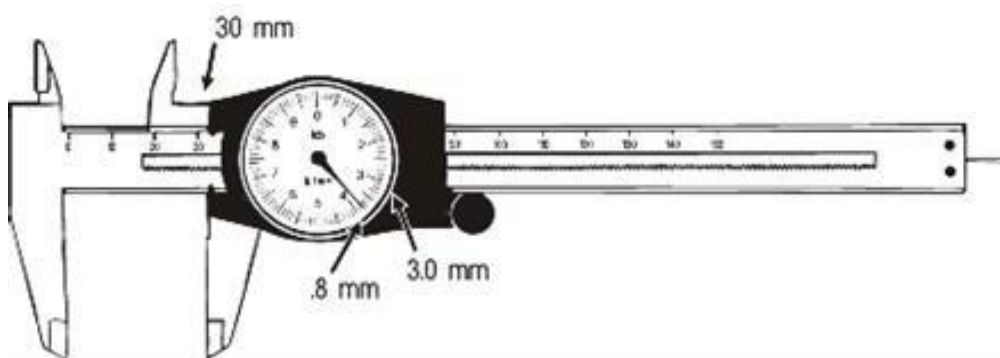
The caliper must be calibrated. To calibrate the caliper, close the jaws of the caliper. Rotate the dial to read 0.

Use the caliper to measure the diameters of the ears. The same five ears used for kernel row measurements will be used for diameter measurements. Ear 1 in the kernel row measurement should be ear 1 in the diameter measurement.

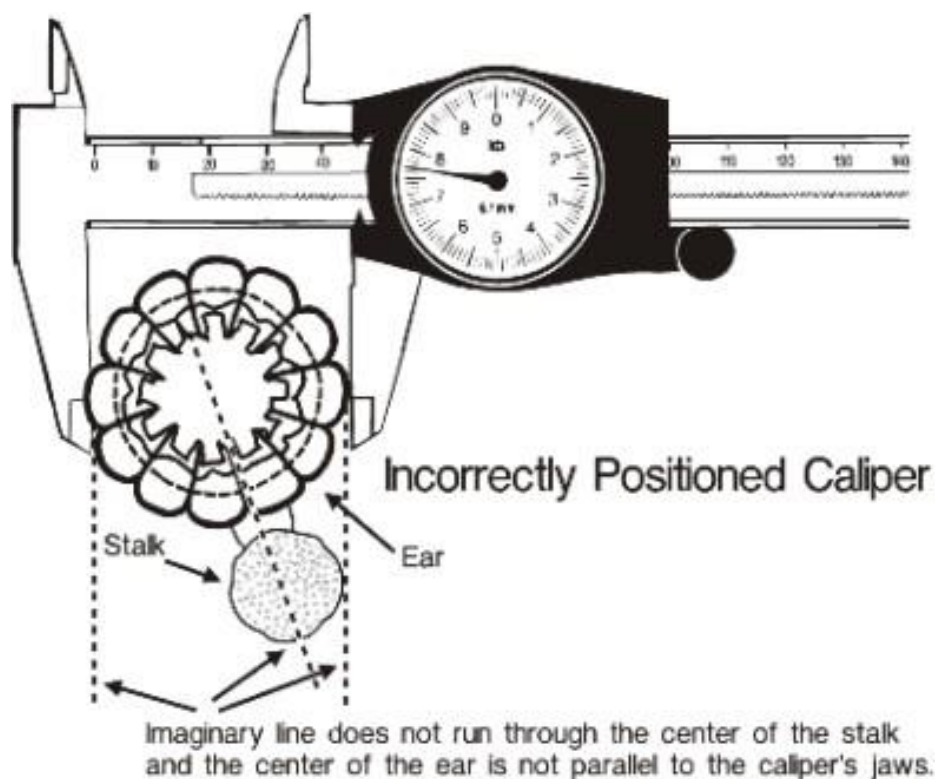
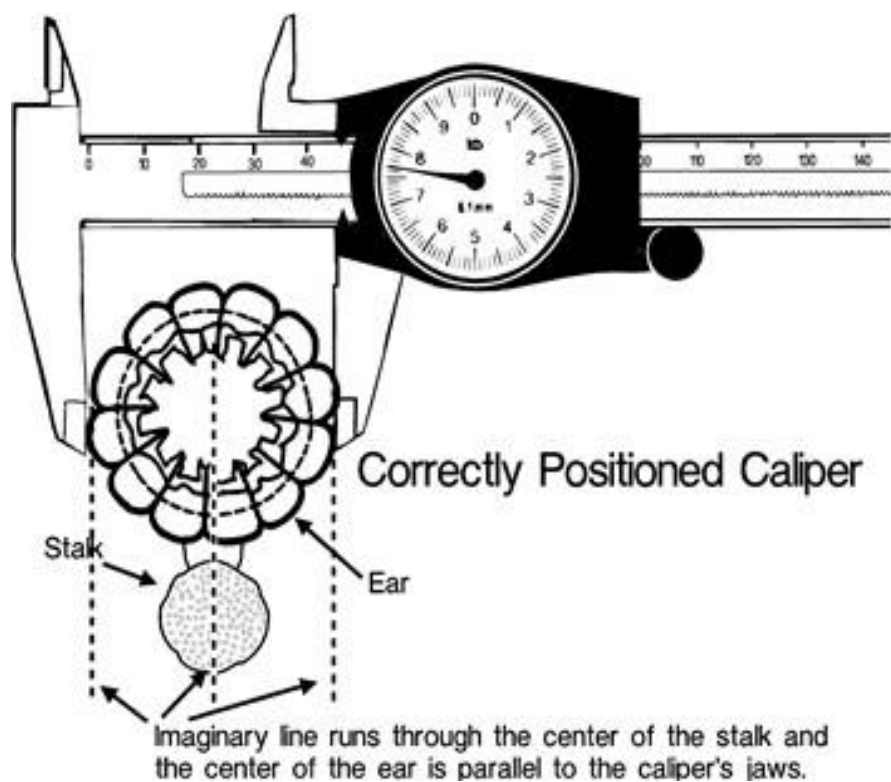
The ear will be completely husked. The husk should not interfere with the caliper jaws. The measurement is taken one inch from the butt of the ear. When measuring the diameter with the ear on the stock position the caliper so the jaws are pointed toward the stalk at a 90-degree angle with the ear in the mouth of the caliper. Close the caliper jaws by rotating the thumbscrew until the jaws are snug against the kernels. Do not tighten so much that kernels are damaged. Read the measurement from the scale (0 to 130 mm) on the stationary ruler portion of the caliper opposite the left side of the dial.

Then read the dial to add the millimeters and tenths of millimeters to the stationary ruler reading. Record the measurement to the nearest tenth millimeter in the space provided.

The following figure shows how to read the diameter measurement on the caliper.



The numbers along the top part of the caliper are millimeters in groups of tens. The dial on the caliper gives the units place (the printed numbers) and the decimal place of tenths (the marks between the numbers). In the picture, the black pointer is on the 30 mm mark on the upper part of the caliper. The dial then gives the units place and the tenths decimal place. Here the pointer on the dial is on the 8 tenths mark, giving the reading of 3 units and 8 tenths, making the overall reading 33.8 mm.



Maturity Stage 6 Ear Weights

10. Are 3 or more ears (Item 7) in maturity code 6 or 7?

- ☐ No - Continue to Item 11
- ☐ Yes -
1. Harvest the first 5 ears beyond the unit which are coded 6 or 7.
 2. Place the third and fourth ears in a cloth bag and attach a completed ID tag to the outside.
 3. Place the other three (first, second and fifth) ears in a Tyvek envelope.
 4. Place the cloth bag containing the third and fourth ears in the envelope with the other three ears.
 5. Ship the sealed Tyvek envelope with all 5 ears to the National Lab.
 6. Check Here ☐ when complete.

If three of the five ears used to determine the maturity are in maturity code 6 or 7 the sample will be used to calculate a maturity code six ear weight. We want to compare the code 6 ear weights with forecast model ear weights and the final ear weights.

The following outlines procedures for harvesting maturity stage 6 ears.

Step 1: Harvest the first 5 ears that are in maturity code 6 or 7, starting with the ears used to determine maturity. Continue harvesting ears, working away from the unit, until you have 5 ears in maturity code 6 or 7.

Step 2: Place the third and fourth ears in a cloth bag and attach a completed ID tag to the outside.

Step 3: Place the remaining three (first, second, and fifth) ears in a Tyvek envelope.

Step 4: Place the cloth bag containing the third and fourth ears in the Tyvek envelope with the other ears.

Step 5: Ship the sealed Tyvek with all 5 ears to the National Lab.

If any of the five ears were broken to determine maturity, put the broken ears and any loose kernels in the appropriate bag/envelope.

Counts Within 15-Foot Units

The counts made in the 15-foot units are used with the row space measurement to estimate ears per acre.

COUNTS WITHIN 15 FOOT UNITS	UNIT 1		UNIT 2	
	ROW 1	ROW 2	ROW 1	ROW 2
11. Number of stalks	331	332	333	334

For Item 11, count all stalks in each 15-foot row regardless of size or condition, even if damaged or removed from the unit. Do not count tillers (suckers) as stalks. Count the stalks at ground level. A tiller or sucker emerges from the ground close to the main stalk, often at a slight angle. Other features are the generally smaller size of the tiller compared with the main stalk, and usually (though not always) the lack of brace roots on the tiller. A main stalk and its tillers come from the same seed.

If you are uncertain whether a stalk is actually a tiller, go outside the unit and find a similar plant. Dig around the plant to determine whether it is a stalk or a tiller. If you determine it to be a tiller, tie a piece of flagging ribbon around the tiller and its main plant for reference in future months.

Any volunteer stalks growing in the row space between row 1 and row 2 are included in the count for row 1. Likewise, stalks between row 2 and row 3 will be included in the count for row 2.

Volunteer stalks growing in the row space between row 1 and row 2 or between row 2 and row 3 that are in clumps (several stalks originating from the ground in close proximity to each other) should be counted as only one stalk. Tie a piece of flagging ribbon around the entire clump for reference in future months.

Clumps in the rows will also be counted as one stalk and tied together with flagging ribbon.

Late in the growing season, mature seed may fall to the ground and germinate. Any plants which come from the current year's crop will be excluded from the plant count.

12. Number of stalks with ears or silked ear shoots (Item 12 cannot exceed Item 11 for any row.).....	341	342	343	344
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Count the number of stalks in Item 12 that have ears or silked ear shoots on the main stalk, or if none on the main stalk, on a tiller from the main stalk. A silked ear shoot refers to the early formation of an ear on a stalk or tiller with some silk protruding beyond the husk. During the later stages of ear formation, if the silk dries up, and no evidence of kernel formation is present, do not include the ear shoot count in items 12 and 13. (A dried up silked ear shoot is not counted because it is NOT an ear). Item 12 for any row cannot be greater than Item 11, "total stalks".

13. Number of ears and silked ear shoots (Item 13 MUST equal or exceed Item 12 for any row.).....	351	352	353	354
--	-----	-----	-----	-----

The Item 13 count will include all ears and all ear shoots on which silks have emerged beyond the husks. Exclude dried up silked ear shoots with no evidence of kernel formation. In a few rare instances, more than one ear or ear shoot will protrude from a single node. A node is a fruiting position on the stalk. In these instances, count each ear and/or shoot. Ears and silked ear shoots on tillers (or suckers) are also included in count. Kernel formation is evidence of silking.

14. Number of ears with evidence of kernel formation (Item 14 cannot exceed Item 13 for any row.).....	361	362	363	364
---	-----	-----	-----	-----

Item 14 is a count of all ears in which kernels have definitely begun to form. An ear of corn is defined as a cob having at least one kernel. Ears on tillers should be included in the count. To have evidence of kernel formation, ears must be in blister or later stages of maturity. Ears will have started to enlarge and will have a solid "feel" to them. Most silks protruding from the husks will be turning color or may be brown or dry.

The outline of the kernel rows may be felt through the husks, or kernels may be seen at the top of the cob. In rare cases, more than one ear may develop at a node. If this happens, count each ear.

Do not remove or pull back the husks of ears in the unit to inspect for kernels. In doubtful cases, go outside the unit and inspect similar ears or ear shoots for the presence of kernels. Exclude any questionable ears from Item 14.

Ears with kernel formation found loose on the ground in row 1 and row 2 middles are included in the count of ears for their respective rows. Ears on the ground are also harvested during the final preharvest visit.

Deformities emerging as part of the tassel which resemble a small cob with some kernels are not considered ears and are not included in the count.

Harvesting Sample Units

When the sample is mature, row 1 of both units is harvested and weighed. The field weight helps establish the grain weight per ear. Also, the third and fourth ears are tagged and sent to the lab. These ears are used to determine the shelling fraction and moisture content.

The field weight of ears and lab data on grain weight and moisture content are used to estimate grain weight per ear.

If Item 6 indicated 3 or more Code 7 ears, the units are mature enough to harvest. After November 1: If the sample is not mature by the end of the November 1 survey period, keep in close contact with the operator and complete Form B prior to harvest or before the cut-off date. Your Survey Statistician will inform you of the cut-off date.

The third and fourth ears in row 1 of each unit, counting from the first stalk in the row, will be tagged with a rubber band. If there are less than four ears in a unit, the last ear and the next-to-last ear in the row are tagged with the rubber band.

HARVESTING SAMPLE UNITS

15. HUSK and TAG the 3rd and the 4th ears in Row 1 of both units. Husk remaining ears and weigh ALL ears with grain in Row 1 of each unit regardless of maturity stage.

Number of ears husked with grain (include 3rd and 4th ears) Number

Verify: Cell 312 equals Item 14 cell 361 and
cell 313 equals Item 14 cell 363

UNIT 1, ROW 1	UNIT 2, ROW 1
312	313

Unit 1 ears tagged with rubber bands must be bound together so they can be distinguished from the two ears in Unit 2.

In case there is more than one ear on a stalk, count the top ear first for odd numbered samples. For even numbered samples count the bottom ear first.

Remember the "TO BE" rule: TOP--ODD; BOTTOM--EVEN

An ear of corn is defined as a cob having at least one kernel. Husk each ear as cleanly as possible and deposit the ears in a bucket, sack or other container. Include any kernels that are shelled accidentally. Snap the shank off cleanly.

Count all ears husked from row 1 of each unit. Include the tagged ears in the count. Record the count in Item 15. The count of ears husked must equal the count with evidence of kernel formation recorded in item 14.

16. Weight of ears with grain and any accidentally shelled kernels from Row 1 of each unit (*include 3rd and 4th ears, exclude weight of containers*).....

Pound & Hundredths

314	315
. ____	. ____

After the ears have been picked and counted from row 1 of each unit, take the corn back to your car for weighing. Weigh all husked ears from row 1 of each unit separately and record in Item 16. Include third and fourth ears tagged with rubber bands in the weighing.

Balance the scales and adjust for the weight of the container before weighing. Use a tripod or other support for holding the scales steady. Do not attempt to hold the scales by hand. The scale reading should be verified by a second reading. Be accurate. Each 1/10 pound of corn at 30% moisture obtained from plots with 30-inch rows represents about 1/2 bushel in yield per acre.

Extra care should be taken when reading the scale when a large number of ears are weighed and the scale rotates past the 0.0 lbs. mark. Example, when 30 ears are weighed from unit 1 and the hand of the scale rotates past 0.0 to 5.3 lbs. the weight should be recorded as 15.3 lbs. (10.0 + 5.3). If the weight was recorded as 5.3, the yield for the field would be cut by approximately two thirds.

After weighing, put the third and fourth ears from row 1 of each unit in separate poly bags. Twist the neck of each bag several times to make it airtight and seal the bag with a rubber band. Complete and attach the sample ID tag with another rubber band. Place poly bags from Units 1 and 2 in a Tyvek envelope and ship to the National Lab”.

Do not place the ID tag inside the poly bag.

Special Problems in Harvesting Samples

When returning to samples for the second or later monthly visits, you will generally have no problems finding the units and completing the form. However, for a few samples you may have problems. Handle these problems with the procedures indicated below.

Problem 1: **The crop is still standing, but you cannot find a unit.**

Solution: Lay out a new sample unit using the same number of rows along edge and paces into the field as shown on the Form B and kit envelope. Start from the same corner of the field as when the sample units were originally laid out. Enter a "2" in Item 4 for Unit relocated this month and obtain row space measurements for the unit.

Problem 2: **Part of field has been destroyed before harvest, including the area where one or both sample units were located.**

Solution: Record dashes for each unit that was destroyed. Write "Unit____Destroyed" in the margin of Form B. If only one unit was destroyed, complete all items for the remaining unit. Do not count any paces when crossing the part of the field that was destroyed when locating post-harvest sample units.

Problem 3: **The entire field has been harvested for grain.**

Solution: Write "Field harvested" on Form B. Complete Form E if the field was selected for post-harvest gleaning.

Problem 4: **Part of the field containing one unit has been cut for silage or harvested for grain and the other unit is still standing for harvest.**

Solution: Complete the appropriate Form B for the unit still standing for harvest and write notes explaining what happened.

Problem 5: **The sample field will be harvested before the next survey period, but the sample field is not quite mature.**

Solution: For this survey period, complete the Form B based on the current maturity. Keep in contact with the farmer and make a final preharvest visit just prior to harvest.

Problem 6: **The field was sprayed and could not be entered until near the end of the survey period.**

Solution: Notify your coach of the circumstance. Complete the Form B work when entry is allowed.

Problem 7: **The selected sample field is planted to seed corn. The operator reported that the selected field is planted to seed corn and only part of the field will be harvested for grain. The male rows have been or will be destroyed.**

Solution: On the Form A, do not deduct the acreage represented by the rows that have been or may be destroyed. Lay out the unit and measure row spaces the same as in any field. When determining row space measurements, count the row middles the same whether the male rows have been destroyed or not.

 If one or both units may be destroyed after you lay out the unit, make notes for that row and make counts on the rows still standing.

Problem 8: **The unit(s) fell in a blank area and no plants are present.**

Solution: Write a note on the questionnaire explaining what happened. Complete the other unit if plants are present.

Problem 9: **Ears of corn infected with smut.**

Solution: Ears infected with smut are handled no differently than other ears. These ears are measured and weighed with smut intact. Do not clean ears of smut before sending them to the lab.

Problem 10: **The unit to be used to determine maturity has been destroyed.**

Solution: Use the rows beyond the remaining unit.

After completing all observations, check the Form B for completeness. Sign your name and enter your enumerator ID number and coach's ID number. If your coach assisted you or checked the unit, check the "YES" space. If no assistance was provided check the "NO" space. This question MUST be answered for each sample.

Corn Pre-Harvest and Post-Harvest Sample ID Tag

CORN SAMPLE I.D. TAG	
(Circle Your State)	
IL IA IN KS MN MO NE OH SD WI	
POID _____	
SAMPLE NO. _____	
FORM B DATE: _____	
FORM E DATE: _____	
ENUMERATOR _____	
IF PRE-HARVEST (CODE 6) SAMPLE <input type="checkbox"/> CHECK	
AT HARVEST SAMPLE UNIT 1 <input type="checkbox"/> UNIT 2 <input type="checkbox"/>	
POST-HARVEST GLEANINGS	
SHELLED GRAIN FROM EARS ()	
LOOSE GRAIN FROM GROUND ()	
SHIP SAMPLE TO NATIONAL OPERATIONS DIVISION LAB	

All corn lab samples (pre-harvest and post-harvest) must be properly identified by attaching a completed sample ID tag **to the outside of the poly bag for each sample** sent to the National Lab. These tags maintain the identity of the corn samples from the time they leave the field until they reach the final step of National Lab processing. The data entered or checked on the tag are essential for orderly and timely processing in the lab.

A total of five ID tags per sample could be needed for sample data collection. Please double-check your sample kit envelopes to ensure you have an adequate supply of sample ID tags for sample enumeration.

Never put the ID card inside the poly bag with the sample. The ID tag will absorb moisture from the field sample, rendering it illegible before reaching the National Lab for processing.

Completing Corn Sample ID Tags

Copy sample identification info from Form B, Form E or the Sample Kit Envelope. The sample ID tag date must match the fieldwork date on the corresponding Form B or Form E it pertains to.

All lines of the ID section must be completed for proper identification of the sample. The lab will need this information to properly record data for the sample as it flows through lab processing stations.

Twin Row Sample Harvest

The harvest procedures used for twin row planted fields are conducted using the same procedures used for the single row planted samples with the inclusion of the twin row.

Pre-harvest Samples

For maturity code six samples check this section if sample contains the ears for the maturity code six ear weight.

Harvest Samples

If sending the harvest sample, this section should have a box checked indicating the sample unit. Be sure to check the box indicating which unit the sample came from.

Post-harvest Gleaning Samples

If shelled grain, check the appropriate space and attach to the bag with grain shelled from ears.

If loose grain, check the space provided and attach to the bag with the loose grain gleaned from the ground in the row middles.

Corn Form B

FORM B CORN YIELD COUNTS - 20XX

STEP 1: ↓ FILL OUT THIS LABEL ↓

STATE _____ POID _____ SAMPLE _____

(Circle Forecast Month)

Forecast Month: Sep 1 / Oct 1 / Nov 1 / Dec 1

OMB No.: 0535-0088
Approval Expires: 6/30/20XX
Project Code: 104
Survey ID: 3224United States
Department of
AgricultureNATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

Date: _____

UNIT LOCATION

1. Number of rows along edge of field.....
2. Number of paces into field.....
3. Has operator applied pesticides with organophosphorus content to the sample field?

☐ Yes☐ No

If YES, enter latest application date _____ and name of pesticide _____

4. UNIT LOCATION CODE.....
- 1 First sample count
2 Unit relocated this month
3 Sample counted previously

UNIT 1

UNIT 2

	+ 30	
	+ 30	

UNIT 1

UNIT 2

302	307
-----	-----

Enter Code

If code = 3, skip to Item 6

5. ROW SPACE MEASUREMENTS

- a. Measure distance from stalks in Row 1 to stalks in Row 2.....
- b. Measure distance from stalks in Row 1 to stalks in Row 5.....

UNIT 1	UNIT 2
Feet & Tenths 303 .	304 .
Feet & Tenths 305 .	306 .

Designated Measurement Areas:

MATURITY CODES FOR ITEM 6			
For Month	Use Area Beyond	Maturity Code	
Sept. 1	Unit 1, Row 1	2 = Pre-Blister	5 = Dough
Oct. 1	Unit 1, Row 2	3 = Blister	6 = Dent
Nov. 1	Unit 2, Row 1	4 = Milk	7 = Mature

Husk the first 5 ears or silked ear shoots beyond the unit in the designated measurement area and examine for maturity. Enter the maturity code in the box for the corresponding ear, sum the five maturity codes and enter the total in cell 301.

If ears or silked ear shoots are not yet present, Check ☐ and complete Item 11 only.

6. MATURITY CODE of first 5 ears or silked ear shoots

- a. Will harvest occur within 3 days?

☐ No - Go to Item 6b☐ Yes - Complete Items 11, 14, 15, 16 & 17

- c. Does Item 301 equal 23 or more?

☐ No - Go to Item 6d☐ Yes - Complete Items 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 & 14

EAR NUMBER					TOTAL OF 5 EARS
1	2	3	4	5	
					301

- b. Are three or more ears in maturity code 7?

☐ No - Go to Item 6c☐ Yes - Complete Items 11, 14, 15, 16 & 17

- d. Does Item 301 equal 13 to 22?

☐ No - Complete Items 11, 12, 13 & 14☐ Yes - Complete Items 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 & 14

Corn Form B (continued)

		EAR NUMBER				
		1	2	3	4	5
7. Maturity code of each of the first 5 ears Code 3 or higher (copy maturity from Item 6. Replace Code 2 ears with next code 3 or higher.).....	Code	320	321	322	323	324
8. Average length of kernel rows (Item 7 ears).....	Inches & Tenths	326	327	328	329	330
9. Diameter of the ear one inch from the butt of the cob (Item 7 ears).....	Millimeters & Tenths	336	337	338	339	340

10. Are 3 or more ears (Item 7) in maturity code 6 or 7?

☐ No - Continue to Item 11

☐ Yes -

1. Harvest the first 5 ears beyond the unit which are coded 6 or 7.
2. Place the third and fourth ears in a cloth bag and attach a completed ID tag to the outside.
3. Place the other three (first, second and fifth) ears in a Tyvek envelope.
4. Place the cloth bag containing the third and fourth ears in the envelope with the other three ears.
5. Ship the sealed Tyvek envelope with all 5 ears to the National Lab.
6. Check Here ☐ when complete.

	UNIT 1		UNIT 2	
	ROW 1	ROW 2	ROW 1	ROW 2
11. Number of stalks	331	332	333	334
12. Number of stalks with ears or silked ear shoots (Item 12 cannot exceed Item 11 for any row.).....	341	342	343	344
13. Number of ears and silked ear shoots (Item 13 MUST equal or exceed Item 12 for any row.).....	351	352	353	354
14. Number of ears with evidence of kernel formation (Item 14 cannot exceed Item 13 for any row.).....	361	362	363	364

HARVESTING SAMPLE UNITS

15. HUSK and TAG the 3rd and the 4th ears in Row 1 of both units. Husk remaining ears and weigh ALL ears with grain in Row 1 of each unit regardless of maturity stage.

Number of ears husked with grain (include 3rd and 4th ears).....

Verify: Cell 312 equals Item 14 cell 361 and cell 313 equals Item 14 cell 363

	UNIT 1, ROW 1	UNIT 2, ROW 1
Number	312	313
Pound & Hundredths	314	315

16. Weight of ears with grain and any accidentally shelled kernels from Row 1 of each unit (include 3rd and 4th ears, exclude weight of containers).....

17. Place 3rd and 4th ears of Row 1 in separate plastic bags for each unit. After completing Items 15 and 16, send 3rd and 4th ears to the National Lab.

18. Did you leave the ears of corn where the operator requested?

☐ Yes ☐ No

ENUMERATOR COMMENTS: _____

ENUMERATOR: _____

19. Did a supervisor assist you in working a sample? 1 ☐ Yes 3 ☐ No

UPS Tracking Number: _____
(For samples sent to National Laboratory)

Enumerator Number	390
Supervisor Number	391
Evaluation	393

STATUS CODE 380

Shipping Samples to the Objective Yield National Lab

Good Shipping Procedures:

- Reduce transit time
- Reduce loss of samples whenever a shipping tag is destroyed in transit
- Improve sample quality received in the lab
- Do not interrupt lab workflow

Shipping Samples in the Tyvek Envelopes:



- Include both units if available and if both will fit into one Tyvek envelope. Include an ID tag with each unit. If only one unit is being shipped, include a second loose ID tag for the missing unit showing the reason for its absence (lost to harvest, not planted, drowned out, blank area, etc.)
- Yellow 12" x 15.5" Tyvek envelopes will be used for shipping Corn Objective Yield samples to the National Lab.
- Place a shipping label on the Tyvek envelope and seal it for shipping to the NOD.

There are two procedures for shipping samples to the National Lab. Field enumerators should utilize UPS shipping when available.

UPS 2nd Day Air or UPS Next Day Air Option



- The samples should be taken to a UPS drop off location or a UPS store. If approved, you may also request a pickup by UPS.

USPS Option



- The samples should be taken to the front desk of a post office or sub-station that is still open, unless you have made previous arrangements with the post office where you drop the samples off. The post office may be apprehensive if they find the Tyvek envelope in an outside drop box without their prior knowledge.

The Dos & Don'ts of Packaging and Shipping Corn Samples:

- Do:** Make notes on the Sample ID Tags such as “Unit 1 harvested by farmer before sample could be taken” are helpful.
- Do:** Use paper bags for post-harvest gleanings and enclose the Form E with the sample in the Tyvek envelope. If the gleaned grain is very wet, you may need to use Tyvek envelopes instead of paper bags to eliminate the possible problem of paper bags bursting inside the Tyvek envelope. If this is the case, use one Tyvek envelope for the loose grain and another for the shelled grain from ears (corn), placing both inside the Tyvek shipping envelope.
- Do:** Completely fill out the ID tag, making sure that the date and POID on the ID tag matches the date and POID on the Form B or Form E. The lab will use the date on the ID tags for the lab forms.
- Do:** Place ID tag on the outside of paper bag. Secure bag with rubber bands.
- Do:** Ship only one sample (2-units) per Tyvek shipping envelope. When paper bags are broken during shipping, there are enough problems to contend with when only one sample is involved in the Tyvek envelope. Shipping only one sample per Tyvek envelope helps control the potential of combining of samples. If the samples are combined, they are unable to be processed at the National Lab and the lost samples will not have the respective needed to assess a final yield for the sample(s).
- Do:** Hold all paper survey forms for all samples through the end of the survey year so they will be available for reference if the survey statistician has questions about a sample.
- Do:** Ship samples as soon as possible (within 24 hours) after they have been taken from the field. Do **not** hold them more than one day.
- Don't:** Use red pencil or pen on ID tags.
- Don't:** Staple ID tags to paper or plastic bags (corn).
- Don't:** Use poly bags for post-harvest gleanings unless sample is too wet to be contained by a paper bag.
- Don't:** Use tape of any kind on paper bags containing field samples. This creates a major inconvenience at the national laboratory and interrupts the sample processing workflow.

Chapter 6 – Form E

General

The Form E is used to collect information to determine the harvest loss so net yield can be calculated. Every fourth sample has been selected for gleaning. Because of the small sample size, it is important to complete Form E for every assigned field or alternate field when possible. Complete the Form E for the assigned field even if it was harvested before the final Form B could be completed.

If the sample field has been disked, plowed or grazed, an alternate field will be selected if possible. If the operator has more than one field harvested for grain, select the field closest to the sample field as the alternate. If there are no other fields harvested for grain or all other fields have been disked, plowed or grazed, no alternate field can be selected.

If harvest in the portion of the sample field containing one or both pre-harvest units is not complete, post-harvest observations can be made in the harvested portion of the sample field. If another part of the sample field is used, start the count of rows and paces in the harvested area nearest the starting corner. Use the bounce back technique if necessary.

Form E Sample Identification

Alike Form B, Form E also has an ID label for recording the State FIPS, POID, sample number, and forecast month has been pre-printed on the form. Use the sample ID information recorded on the Kit Envelope (as instructed in Chapter 1, [Field Kit Assembly Instructions](#)) to complete the Form E label each time fieldwork is done.

Please note, the area above the label is an instruction that reads: “**STEP 1: FILL OUT THIS LABEL**” in bold capital letters. This instruction is in place to indicate the importance of completing the label before beginning any data collection on the sample.

Failing to properly ID the form creates the risk of misreporting sample data on multiple samples.

STEP 1:			↓ FILL OUT THIS LABEL ↓		
____			____		
STATE		POID		SAMPLE	

(Circle Forecast Month)

Forecast Month: Sep 1 / Oct 1 / Nov 1 / Dec 1

After recording the sample identification information in the label, the date fieldwork was completed on the line provided on the right edge of the Form E.

Form E Data Collection

UNIT LOCATION	UNIT 1	UNIT 2
1. Number of rows along edge of field.....	+5	+5
2. Number of paces into field.....	+5	+5

The Form E units are located using the same number of paces as used for locating Form B units, plus five rows and paces beyond the pre-harvest unit locations.

FIELD OBSERVATIONS	UNIT 1	UNIT 2
3. Measure distance from stalks in Row 1 to stalks in Row 2..... Feet and Tenths	701 .	702 .
4. Measure distance from stalks in Row 1 to stalks in Row 5..... Feet and Tenths	703 .	704 .

At the dowel stick, measure the distance across the first row space (row 1 to row 2) beginning at the center of the stalks in Row 1 and measuring to the center of the stalks in Row 2. Next, measure the distance across four row spaces. Start at the dowel stick from the center of the stalks in row 1 and measure in the direction of row 2 across four row spaces to the center of the stalks in row 5. Record distances in feet and tenths of feet. If skip planted, follow instructions shown in Chapter 5.

	ROW 1	ROW 2	ROW 1	ROW 2
5. Pick up all ears attached to stalks, all ears, and pieces of ears with kernels in each row middle. Shell and deposit all grain in paper bag. Identify bag as "shelled grain" Check	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Pick up all ears attached to stalks in rows 1 and 2 of the 15-foot section and all ears and pieces of ears, large or small, lying on the ground inside the unit. The unit includes the area from the row 1 stalks up to but not including the stalks in row 3.

When uncertain whether ears should be included or excluded refer to the illustration on page 603.

When facing a gleanings sample, the horizontal line immediately in front at the 5-foot markers, and the side to your left will be the INCLUDE SIDES. The side opposite from you and the right side will be the EXCLUDE SIDES. All ears, including those partially in and partially out, will be EXCLUDED from the count and weight from the EXCLUDE sides. Those partially in and partially out will be INCLUDED from the INCLUDE SIDES.

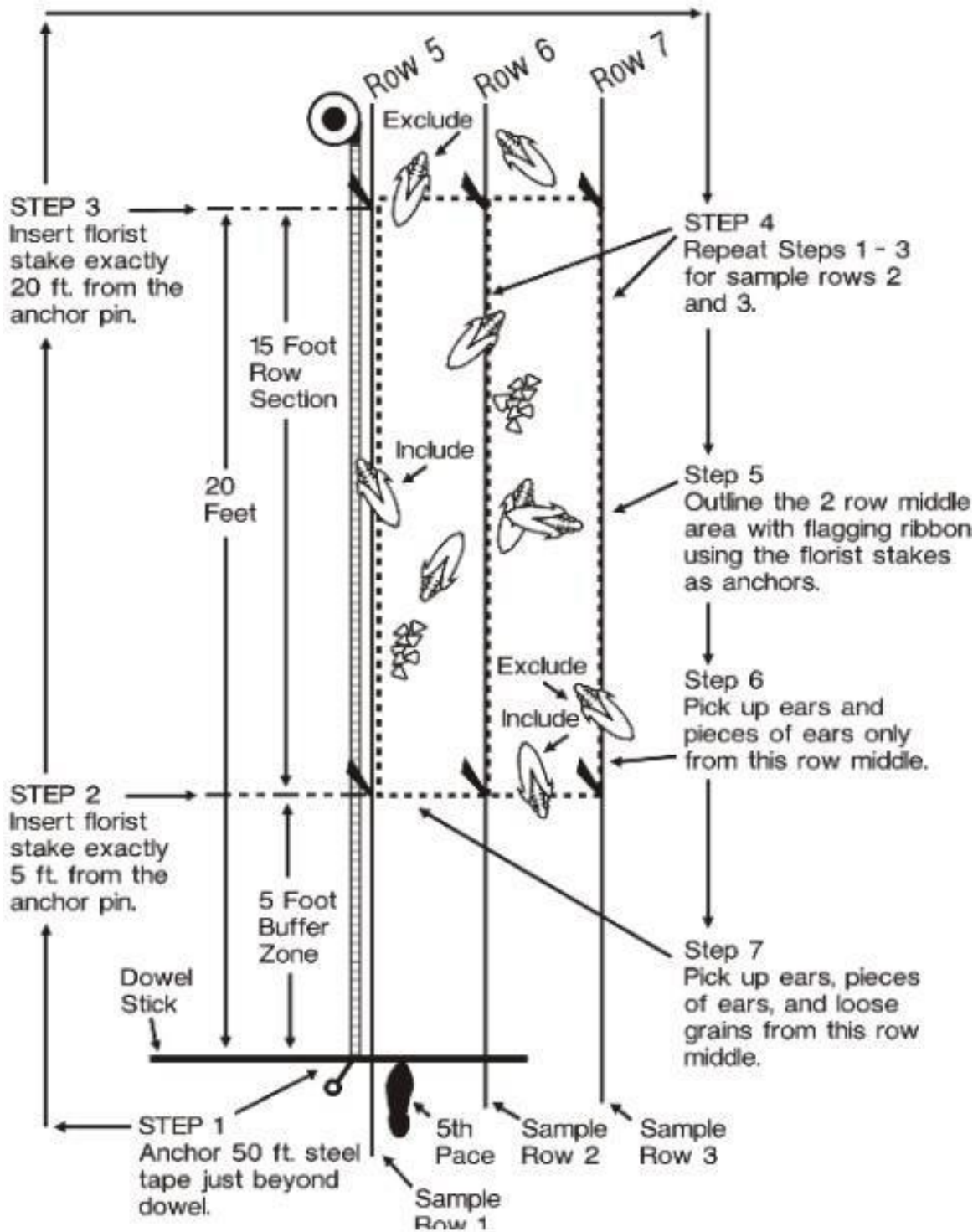
Exercise extreme care in gleanings the unit. One average size ear of corn inside the unit represents a 3-bushel harvest loss. Shell and deposit all grain in a paper bag. This bag will be used for both Units 1 and 2. Identify this bag as "shelled grain". If the grain is wet and the paper bag will not hold the grain, put the grain in a poly bag.

6. Pick up loose grain in the middle of first row of each unit. Deposit in separate paper bag. Identify bag as "loose grain" Check	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

From row 1 and its associated middle, up to, but not including row 2, pick up all loose grain on the ground in each unit and deposit in a different paper bag from that used for the Item 5 grain. Identify as "loose grain". The same bag will be used for both units. Clear away all trash to expose any grains that may be hidden. A combine or tractor wheel may run over an

ear of corn and crush it or press it into the ground. When this happens only the grain still attached to the cob should be deposited in the bag as "shelled grain". The remainder of the grains gleaned is "loose grain".

Pieces of ears that were overlooked in Item 5 and are found during the gleaning for loose grain should be shelled and included with the loose grain. **Do not include these pieces with the item 5 grain.**



7. Was an alternate field used for making post-harvest observations?

☐ Yes - (Indicate in Field Notes)

☐ No

FIELD NOTES: If post-harvest observations cannot be made, give reasons here.

Check "YES" or "NO". If it was not possible to make the post-harvest observations, explain fully in field notes.

8. Did a supervisor assist you in working this sample?

☐ Yes

☐ No

SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS:

- Attach completed ID tag to the paper bag(s) containing gleanings.
- Place bag(s) and this Form E in a Tyvek envelope.
- Ship Tyvek envelope to National Lab.
- Record the UPS Tracking Number on the Kit Envelope

Enumerator Number

790

Supervisor Number

791

ENUMERATOR: _____

STATUS CODE

780

Inform your Enumerator Coach if observations cannot be made. Enumerator coaches will inform the survey statistician of all samples where Form E post-harvest observations could not be made.

Enter your enumerator and coach's ID number and sign your name.

THE BACK OF THE FORM E IS FOR OFFICE USE ONLY.

Shipping Gleaning Samples

After the gleaning work is completed in both units, attach ID tag to the paper bag(s) containing gleanings. Place bag(s) and Form E in a Tyvek envelope and ship to the National Lab within 24 hours of sample collection.

Record the UPS Tracking Number on the Kit Envelope. Having the tracking number available after the sample has left your possession will be helpful in assisting the survey statistician locate the shipment if delivery to the OY Lab gets delayed or if the sample goes missing in transit.

Corn Form E

FORM E CORN OBJECTIVE YIELD - 20XX

STEP 1: ↓ FILL OUT THIS LABEL ↓

STATE	POID	SAMPLE
-------	------	--------

(Circle Forecast Month)

Forecast Month: Sep 1 / Oct 1 / Nov 1 / Dec 1

OMB No.: 0535-0088
Approval Expires: 6/30/20XX
Project Code: 104
Survey ID: 3227



United States
Department of
Agriculture



NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

Please make corrections to name, address and ZIP Code, if necessary.

Date: _____

NOTE: The post-harvest field gleanings should be completed as soon after harvest as possible, and must be done within 3 days after harvest. If the sample field has been plowed, disked, or pastured since harvest, select an alternate field for gleaning if one is available on the operation.

UNIT LOCATION

- Number of rows along edge of field.....
- Number of paces into field.....

UNIT 1	UNIT 2
+ 5	+ 5
+ 5	+ 5

FIELD OBSERVATIONS

- Measure distance from stalks in Row 1 to stalks in Row 2..... Feet and Tenths
- Measure distance from stalks in Row 1 to stalks in Row 5..... Feet and Tenths

UNIT 1	UNIT 2
701 Feet and Tenths	702 Feet and Tenths
703 Feet and Tenths	704 Feet and Tenths

GLEANINGS IN 15-FOOT UNITS

CHECK EACH BOX AS COMPLETED

- Pick up all ears attached to stalks, all ears, and pieces of ears with kernels in each row middle. Shell and deposit all grain in paper bag. Identify bag as "shelled grain"..... Check
- Pick up loose grain in the middle of the first row of each unit. Deposit in separate paper bag. Identify bag as "loose grain"..... Check

ROW 1	ROW 2	ROW 1	ROW 2
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- Was an alternate field used for making post-harvest observations?

☐ Yes - (Indicate in Field Notes) ☐ No

FIELD NOTES: If post-harvest observations cannot be made, give reasons here.

Corn Form E (continued)

2

FORM E: CORN- continued

8. Did a supervisor assist you in working this sample? ☐ Yes ☐ No

SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS:

- Attach completed ID tag to the paper bag(s) containing gleanings.
- Place bag(s) and this Form E in a Tyvek envelope.
- Ship Tyvek envelope to National Lab.
- Record the UPS Tracking Number on the Kit Envelope

Enumerator Number	790
Supervisor Number	791

ENUMERATOR: _____

STATUS CODE	780
-------------	-----

NATIONAL LABORATORY DETERMINATIONS

Date sample received in lab (MM DD) _____

9. Weight of grain from ears.....	Grams to Hundredths	707
10. Weight of loose grain from ground.....	Grams to Hundredths	708
11. Moisture ^{1/}	Percent (One Decimal)	709

^{1/}If sample weight is too small for moisture test, sufficient grains of known moisture content will be added to the sample so that a moisture test can be made. The moisture content of the sample can then be derived using the following formula:

$$E = \frac{(A + B) D - (B \times C)}{A}$$

Where A = Weight of small corn sample (items 9 & 10) ____	Grams
B = Weight of additional grain required for moisture test ____	Grams
C = Moisture percent of B ____	Percent
D = Moisture percent of A + B combined ____	Percent
E = Result: Moisture percent of small sample (enter in item 11) ____	Percent

 Lab Technician(s) _____ Date Analysis Completed _____
 MM DD

Chapter 7 – CAPI Data Entry

General

CAPI will be used for data entry for Form A and Form B records. All data will be recorded on the paper forms during the Form A interview with the operator and monthly Form B counts and measurements in the field. After the field visit is complete the enumerator will access their assignment listing on the iPad and enter the data for their samples into the CAPI forms exactly as it was recorded on the paper forms in the field and submit the record after data entry has been completed.

*****IMPORTANT: NEVER take the iPad into a field under any circumstance.*****

To take full advantage of the mobile data collection technology developed for this survey, enumerators are recommended to enter and submit the data immediately after they have exited the field or by the end of the day the fieldwork was completed.

Please hold all paper survey forms for all samples through the end of the survey year so they will be available for reference if the survey statistician has questions about a sample.

The survey statistician will provide specific instructions on how they wish to handle the completed paper forms for samples entered and submitted via CAPI after the survey has concluded for the year.

Survey Designer and Edit System

The CAPI instruments, developed using the Survey Designer System, incorporate survey-specific conditional restrictions (edits) to ensure data quality. These edits, based on administrative survey parameters, limit data entry to expected items only. This approach ensures that only necessary data is entered for completing a record for final submission. Additionally, the edits in the CAPI instrument alert users to any required corrective actions before they can proceed with data entry.

Examples of Edits in Place:

- Fieldwork Date must be set before entering any other data in the form.
- A unit Status Code must be selected before proceeding to the next page.
- When Unit Location = 1 or 2, Row space measurement is required before proceeding.
- When Unit Location = 3- Unit Laid out Previously, the row space measurement cells are hidden.
 - This is in place because the row space measurement does not change in a sample unit from month to month without first relocating it to a new position in the sample field.
- Enumerator and Supervisor fields must be complete before proceeding.

OY CAPI USER TIP: Always review your work before data entry and final submission!

Errors made on paper forms will also be errors when they are loaded to the survey edit system.

Edits do not correct data entry errors. They are only in place to limit data entry to be available for expected items.

It is imperative for the CAPI user to review their work on the paper form before beginning data entry and verify keyed data with the paper form before submission.

CAPI Form A and B Status Codes

Prior to the implementation of CAPI data collection in the Objective Yield Survey status codes were determined by the survey statistician based on the data reported by the enumerator who completed the form.

The status code is used to identify the sample unit's status for the current enumeration period based upon recorded observations.

A status code must be selected by the user in CAPI for each Objective Yield Sample form before proceeding.

Please read the selections from the drop-down menus carefully before selecting the code that identifies the current status of the sample being enumerated.

*****Status codes differ across all Objective Yield forms for all crops*****

Corn Form A Status Code Definitions:

1- Complete

First Visit: The enumerator was able to get permission to visit the field, lay out the sample units and complete the Form A questionnaire.

Minimum data requirement for Status Code 1:

- Interview date must be entered
- Questions 1-5 must be positive where applicable (102-105)
- Enumerator and coach number must be entered
- Status Code 1 must be selected (180)

7- Refusal

Any Visit: The farmer refused to participate in the survey in the Form A interview or decided they do not want samples laid out in the field.

Future Visits: No future visits will be required.

Minimum data requirement for Status Code 7:

- Interview date must be entered
- Status Code 7 must be selected (180), no other data is required.
- Enumerator and coach number must be entered.
 - Submit Form B and Form E (if applicable) as refusals as well

13- No Corn for Harvest as Grain on Entire Farm

First Visit: No Corn was planted for harvest as grain on the entire farm at the time the Form A interview was conducted.

Future Visits: No future visits will be required.

Minimum data requirement for Status Code 13:

- Interview date must be entered
- Status Code 13 must be selected (180), no other data is required
- Enumerator and coach number must be entered
 - Submit Form B and Form E (if applicable) as No Corn for Harvest as Grain on Entire Farm as well

Corn Form A Status Code Summary:

When Corn Form A Status Code is:	Is Form A expected next month?
1- Complete	NO
7- Refusal	NO
13- No Corn for Harvest as Grain on Entire Farm	NO

Form A CAPI Response Coding and Where to Enter Comments

After Form A data entry is completed select the following response codes in the submission screen. See below for comments entry example.

Item	CAPI Response Coding Used for OY Surveys
Response:	Completed
Respondent:	(Who Responded)
Respondent Name:	(Leave Empty)
Respondent Mode:	Telephone on iPad
Enumerator:	Enter enumerator ID number
Supervisor:	Enter coach ID number
Comments:	General survey comments from the paper form should be entered via the comments icon. Comments that are related to a particular cell or item can be entered in item level comments, accessible via calculator icon.

Corn Form B Status Code Definitions:

1- Complete (Form B expected Next Visit)

The sample field is standing for harvest and sample unit measurements have been recorded. A Form B will be expected next month.

If 3 or more ears in the measurement area are maturity code 6, follow the procedures for code 6 ears outlined in Chapter 5.

First Visit: Complete Form B to meet minimum data requirements for Status Code 1.

Future Visits: The enumerator will return to the sampled field to record measurements for both units and complete Form B accordingly each month until the sample units are mature enough to perform pre-harvest procedures and send the final pre-harvest sample to the national laboratory for processing.

Minimum Data Required for Status Code 1:

- Record Fieldwork Date
 - Unit Location Codes must be 1-3 (302, 307)
 - Row Space Measurements (303, 304, 305, 306) must be empty when Unit Location Code = 3
 - Maturity Code: (301)
 - If ears or silked ear shoots are not yet present on the 5 ears, Check ☐ and complete Item 11 only.
 - If ears or silked ear shoots **are** present and fewer than 3 ears have a maturity code of 7 and field is **not expected** to be harvested within the next 3 days.
 - Items in questions 7-14 must be completed where applicable (320-364)
 - Status Code 1 must be selected (380)
- Form B is **expected** next month.

2- Farmer Harvested for Grain Before Units Were Laid Out

The sample field was harvested for grain before sample was laid out. The operator has no other field available as an alternate.

First Visit: Add comment explaining the situation on Form B/in Enumerator Comment area of CAPI instrument.
Complete Form B to meet minimum data requirements for Status Code 2.
Gleanings samples: Record fieldwork date and comment explaining the situation on Form E.

Future Visits: No future visit will be required.

Minimum Data Required for Status Code 2:

- Record fieldwork Date
- Status Code 2 must be selected (380), no other data is required
Form B is **not expected** next month.

3- Farmer Harvested for Grain after Units were Laid Out

Sample units were laid out previously, but were harvested for grain by the farmer before the current month's observations could be completed.

First Visit: Add comment explaining the situation on Form B/in Enumerator Comment area of CAPI instrument.
Complete Form B to meet the minimum data requirements for Status Code 3.
Gleanings samples: Record fieldwork date and comment explaining the situation on Form E.

Future Visits: No future visit will be required.

Minimum Data Required for Status Code 3:

- Record fieldwork date
- Status Code 3 must be selected (380), no other data is required
Form B is **not expected** next month.

4- Enumerator Harvested or Both Units Are Blank (No future Form B expected)

Corn in sample units was final harvested by the enumerator. Three or more ears are maturity code 7 or farmer will harvest within 3 days. Perform pre-harvest procedures for each sample unit, package, and send the samples to the national laboratory according to specifications outlined in this manual.

Pre-Harvest: Complete Form B to meet minimum data requirements for Status Code 4.

Future Visits: Gleanings samples (*sample numbers that are a multiple of 4, i.e. 4, 8, 12...*) will only require a future visit; within 3 days of farmer harvest.
No future visit will be required for non-gleanings samples

Minimum Data Required for Status Code 4:

- Record Fieldwork Date
- Unit Location Codes must be 1-3 (302, 307)
- Row Space Measurements (303, 304, 305, 306) must be empty when Unit Location Code = 3
- Maturity Code: (301)
 - 3 or more ears must be in code 7 or field is expected to be harvested within 3 days.
- Items in question 11 must be completed where applicable (331-334)
- Items in question 14 must be completed where applicable (361-364)
- Items in question 15 must be completed where applicable (312-313)
- Items in question 16 must be completed where applicable (314-315)
- Status Code 4 must be selected (380)
Form B is **not expected** next month.

5- Field Partially Destroyed – Both Units Destroyed

The part of the field containing both sample units was destroyed, plowed, or abandoned by the farmer (was not harvested for grain). This situation commonly occurs in instances where the sampled field has incurred severe damage from weather (wind, hail, etc.), fire, vandalism, etc. Part of the field remains for harvest as grain.

Inform your Enumerator Coach if the field was destroyed and no field was available for gleaning. Enumerator coaches will inform the survey statistician of all samples where Form E post-harvest observations could not be made.

Any Visit: Add comment explaining the situation on Form B/in Enumerator Comment area of CAPI instrument.
Complete Form B to meet the minimum data requirements for Status Code 5.
Gleanings samples: Record fieldwork date and comment explaining the situation on Form E.

Future Visits: No future visit will be required.

Minimum Data Required for Status Code 5:

- Record fieldwork date
- Status Code 5 must be selected (380)
Form B is **not expected** next month.

6- Lost Sample – Field NOT Harvested for Grain

The sample field was NOT harvested for grain. During the initial interview, the farmer indicated the field would be harvested for grain and the sample units were laid out by the enumerator. However, since the initial visit, the entire sample field was destroyed, plowed, pastured, cut for silage or abandoned by the farmer.

Do not use status code 6 if the sample field has been harvested for grain but the field was plowed, grazed, etc. before the final pre-harvest observations could be made, use status code 3.

Any Visit: Confirm the field will not be harvested for grain with producer and complete form B accordingly. Add comment explaining the situation on Form B/in Enumerator Comment area of CAPI instrument. Complete Form B to meet the minimum data requirements for Status Code 6. If a Gleanings samples: Record fieldwork date and comment explaining the situation on Form E.

Future Visits: No future visit will be required.

Minimum Data Required for Status Code 6:

- Record fieldwork date
- Status Code 6 must be selected (380)
Form B is **not expected** next month.

7- Refusal

The farmer refused to participate in the survey in the Form A interview or decided they no longer wish to participate after samples were laid out in the field.

Any Visit: Add comment explaining the situation on Form B/in Enumerator Comment area of CAPI instrument. If a gleanings sample, add fieldwork date and comment explaining the situation on Form E. Complete Form B to meet minimum data requirements for Status Code 7.

Future Visits: No future visit will be required.

Minimum Data Required for Status Code 7:

- Record fieldwork date
- Status Code 7 must be selected (380), no other data is required
Form B is **not expected** next month.

8- Inaccessible

Sample units are standing for harvest but are inaccessible by the enumerator this month. This occurs in instances where enumeration for the survey month was prohibited by weather, field point of access was closed, locked, recent chemical applications, etc.

Form B cannot be inaccessible the last survey month of the year. If no pre-harvest data can be collected, use status code 2 or 3 as the final Form B for the season.

Any Visit: Add comment explaining the situation on Form B/in Enumerator Comment area of CAPI instrument. Complete Form B to meet the minimum data requirements for Status Code 8.

Future Visits: Return to field as normally scheduled.

Minimum Data Required for Status Code 8:

- Record fieldwork date
- Status Code 8 must be selected (380), no other data is required
Form B **is expected** next month.

11- Sample Field Planted to Corn but Not for Harvest as Grain

Sample field was planted to corn but not for harvest as grain. During the initial interview, the farmer indicated that the selected sample field will not be harvested as grain. No sample units were laid out. Sample fields expected to be harvested as silage should be a Status Code 11.

First Visit: Add comment explaining the situation on Form B/in Enumerator Comment area of CAPI instrument. Complete Form B to meet minimum data requirements for Status Code 11.
Gleanings samples: Record fieldwork date and comment explaining the situation on Form E.

Future Visits: No future visit will be required.

Minimum Data Required for Status Code 11:

- Record Fieldwork Date
- Status Code 11 must be selected (380), no other data is required
Form B is **not expected** next month.

12- Corn for Grain on Operation but Not Planted for ANY Purpose in the Sample Field

During the initial interview, the farmer indicated that the selected sample field was planted to corn for grain, however the field was discovered to be planted to another crop. No sample field is available to be surveyed.

First Visit: Add comment explaining the situation on Form B/in Enumerator Comment area of CAPI instrument.
Complete Form B to meet the minimum data requirements for Status Code 12.
Gleanings samples: Record fieldwork date and comment explaining the situation on Form E.

Future Visit: No future visit will be required.

Minimum Data Required for Status Code 12:

- Record Fieldwork Date
- Status Code 12 must be selected (380), no other data is required
Form B is **not expected** next month.

13- No Corn Planted for ANY Purpose on Entire Farm

During the initial interview, the farmer indicated they did not plant any corn on the entire farm. No sample field is available to be surveyed.

First Visit: Add comment explaining the situation on Form B/in Enumerator Comment area of CAPI instrument.
Complete Form B to meet the minimum data requirements for Status Code 13.
Gleanings samples: Record fieldwork date and comment explaining the situation on Form E.

Future Visit: No future visit will be required.

Minimum Data Required for Status Code 13:

- Record Fieldwork Date
- Status Code 13 must be selected (380), no other data is required
Form B is **not expected** next month.

Corn Form B Status Code Summary

When Corn Form B Status Code is:	Is Form B Expected Next Month?
1- Complete	YES
2- Farmer harvested for grain before units were laid out	NO
3- Farmer harvested for grain after units were laid out	NO
4- Enumerator harvested sample units	NO
5- Field partially destroyed – Both units destroyed	NO
6- Lost Sample – Field NOT harvested for grain	NO
7- Refusal	NO
8- Inaccessible	YES
11- Sample field planted to corn but not for harvest as grain	NO
12- Corn for Grain on Operation but Not Planted for ANY Purpose in the Sample Field	NO
13- No Corn Planted for ANY Purpose on Entire Farm	NO

Form B CAPI Response Coding

After Form B data entry is complete and you have clicked the Finish Button at the bottom of the form to submit the record, select the following response codes in the submission screen for each record.

Item	Response Coding Used for OY Surveys
Response:	Completed
Respondent:	Other
Respondent Name:	(Leave Empty)
Respondent Mode:	Face-to-Face on iPad
Enumerator:	Locked out and auto coded from Assignment Listing
Comments:	All OY survey comments should be made in the Enumerator Comments area before ending Form B data entry.

CONCLUSION	FORM B CORN YIELD COUNTS
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Response:

9901

Completed

Respondent:

9902

Other

Responded By (Enter respondent's name, if not the operator):

Reporting Mode:

9903

Face-To-Face on iPad

Enumerator:

9998

98255

PREVIOUS

NEXT

DOE FARMS INC
JOHN DOE
20 100216230 SEQ:1