

Cosmetic Database Constraints & Forms

DID YOU KNOW . . . you can change the field prefix to include spaces and symbols not allowed in field names and add text after a field?

What Cosmetic Database Constraints & Forms Give You

- More attractive tables
- Field prefixes longer than allowed for field names
- Field prefixes can include spaces and symbols not valid for field names
- Text after (to right of) database field
- Multiple fields on one line with forms
- Labels not attached to fields

The screenshot shows the 'Table Definition' window for 'agcensp020'. The 'Constraints' tab is active, showing the field 'Market value of crops: \$'. The 'Before' field is 'Market value of crops: \$' and the 'After' field is 'x 1,000'. The 'Minimum' and 'Maximum' are both set to 'None', and the 'Default' is 'Zero'. There is a checkbox for 'Cannot be left blank' which is unchecked. A list of fields is visible on the left, including AREA, PERIMETER, AGCENSPO20, FIPS, COUNTY, STATE, STATE_FIPS, Farms_97, TotalCropland_97, CroplandHarv_97, AvgMarketVal_97, MktValCrop_97, MktValLivstk_97, Sales2500_97, and Sales2500_5000.

Field names would be as shown in the column above left if not altered by constraints or with a database form.

Compare the results that can be achieved using cosmetic database constraints (below, left) and database forms (below, right). Database forms provide headings but do not let the user change viewing units.

The screenshot shows the 'AgriculturCensus' form. It displays data for 'Carlisle County' in 'KY'. The form includes fields for 'Agricultural Census Code: 3365', 'FIPS: 20107', 'COUNTY: Linn County', 'STATE: KS', 'State FIPS: 20', 'Farms: 757 farms', 'Total cropland: 156596 acres', 'Harvested cropland: 100160 acres', 'Average market value of sales: 39646 per farm', 'Market value of crops: \$ 14061 x 1,000', 'Market value of livestock: \$ 15931 x 1,000', 'Sales < \$2,500: 209 farms', 'Sales \$2,500 to \$4,999: 111 farms', 'Agricultural Census Code: 3810', 'FIPS: 21039', 'STATE: KY', 'State FIPS: 21', 'Farms: 323 farms', 'Total cropland: 74451 acres', 'Harvested cropland: 60550 acres', 'Average market value of sales: 77243 per farm', 'Market value of crops: \$ 16384 x 1,000', 'Market value of livestock: \$ 8565 x 1,000', 'Sales < \$2,500: 104 farms', and 'Sales \$2,500 to \$4,999: 33 farms'.

How to Use Cosmetic Database Constraints & Forms

- Click on the Database Constraints tab in the Edit Definition window.
- Select fields in succession modifying Before and After text fields as desired.
- For forms, click on the Make Table/Form icon and choose New Form, then consult the Database Forms Quick Guide.
- With the Edit Form window open when using a fixed width font, simply drag fields in predefined increments for desired alignment.
- With the Edit Form window open when using a proportional font, you may need to hold the shift key while dragging fields for refinement of alignment.

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