

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 'agcensp020 - Table Definition' window shows the 'Constraints' tab for a table. The 'Field Label' is 'Market value of crops: \$'. The 'Before' field is 'Market value of crops: \$' and the 'After' field is 'x 1,000'. The 'Minimum' is 'None' and the 'Maximum' is 'None'. The 'Default' is 'Zero'. There is a checkbox for 'Cannot be left blank'. Below this, the 'PolygonDatabase / agcensp020' window shows a table form with fields like 'Agricultural Census Code', 'FIPS', 'COUNTY', 'STATE', 'State FIPS', 'Farms', 'Total cropland', 'Harvested cropland', 'Average market value of sales', 'Market value of crops: \$', 'Market value of livestock: \$', 'Sales < \$2,500', and 'Sales \$2,500 to \$4,999'. Each field has a text input and a unit or multiplier.

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 'AgriculturCensus' window shows a table form for 'Agricultural Census 1997 from National Atlas'. The 'COUNTY' is 'Carlisle County'. The 'Agricultural Census Code' is '3810' and 'FIPS' is '21039'. The 'STATE' is 'KY' and 'State FIPS' is '21'. The table contains the following data:

Farms:	323	farms
Total cropland:	74451	acres
Harvested cropland:	60550	acres
Average market value of sales:	77243	per farm
Market value of crops: \$	116384	x 1,000
Market value of livestock: \$	9565	x 1,000
Sales < \$2,500:	104	farms
Sales \$2,500 to \$4,999:	33	farms

COSMETIC DATABASE CONSTRAINTS & FORMS

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.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

See the sections entitled Database Constraints and Manipulating Database Forms in the Display volume of the:

Online Reference Manual

