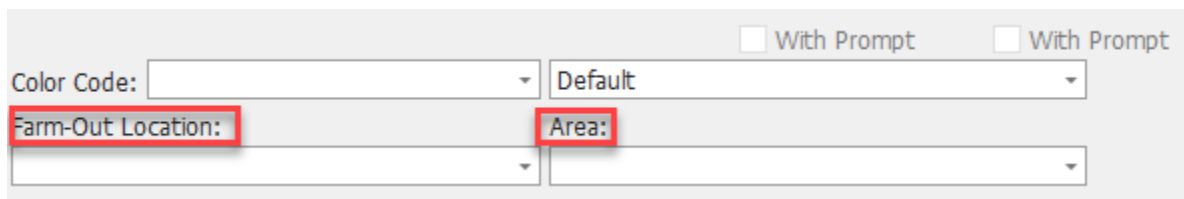


Tech Tip Tuesday—December 5, 2023

Farm-Out Location and Area

When setting up a Farm-Out Agreement, there are two fields in the General tab that seem similar, but are designed for different purposes. If you use one or both of these fields, you will get better results by using them for the intended purposes, and if you use the wrong one, there is a risk you might not see a farmed out trip on the Dispatch grid when you want to.

The fields are “Farm-Out Location” and “Area”, as seen in the screen shot below, taken from the Farm Out Agreement screen.

A screenshot of a software interface for setting up a Farm-Out Agreement. The interface is light gray. At the top right, there are two checkboxes, both labeled "With Prompt", which are currently unchecked. Below this, there are two rows of input fields. The first row has a label "Color Code:" followed by a dropdown menu showing "Default". The second row has two dropdown menus. The first dropdown menu is labeled "Farm-Out Location:" and the second is labeled "Area:". Both labels are enclosed in red rectangular boxes. The dropdown menus are currently empty.

Each of these has a drop-down where you can assign a value, and if the drop-down doesn't contain the value you want, you can simply type a new value into the box.

The **Farm-Out Location** drop-down works in conjunction with the Dispatch Grid to allow you to filter the dispatch grid to include or exclude Location Categories.

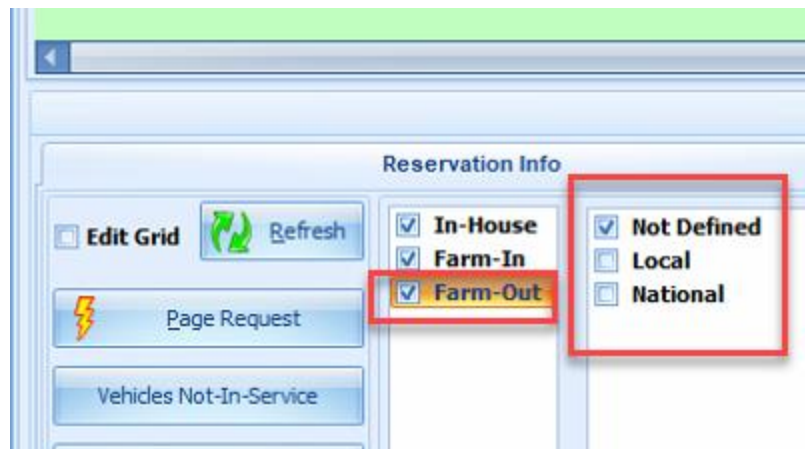
By default, the Dispatch Grid shows you In-House and Farm-in trips, since that's what the Dispatcher needs to make sure happen, but not always Farm-Out trips (for which there is a separate Farm-Out grid.)

But often it can be helpful to show *LOCAL* Farm-Out trips on the main dispatch grid, so when your passenger calls from the airport and can't find his chauffeur, the Dispatcher doesn't have to look in 2 places or panic and not see the trip on the board and scramble to cover the trip.

But, especially if you farm out a lot of trips all over the world, you probably don't want to clog the Dispatch Grid with those trips, since they can just get in the way.

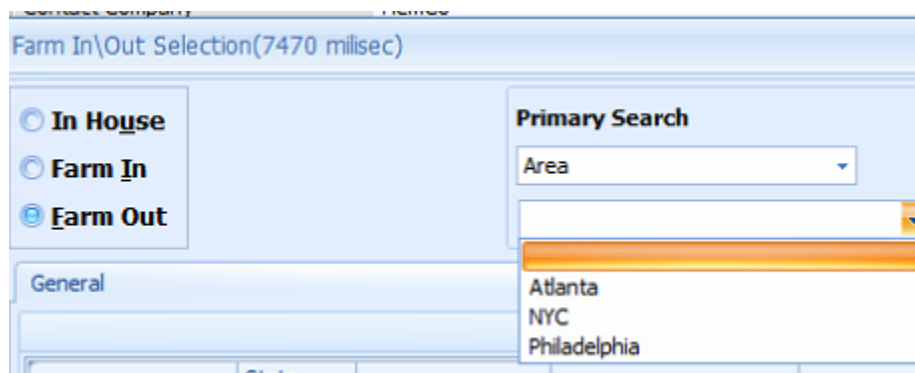
If you set the Farm-Out Location for your local affiliates as “Local”, and your others as “Out-of-Town” or whatever other nomenclature you use, you will then have the ability to selectively filter your Dispatch Grid, by clicking on “Farm-Out” and then putting check-marks in the types of trips you want to see. (Note that “Not Defined” in the screen shot below would select trips covered by affiliates where no selection was made in their “Farm-Out Location” dropdown.)

If you just check “Local” (and, to be safe, “Not Defined”) in the box below, but not “National”, then your trips farmed out to affiliates with “National” selected in their Farm Out Agreement will not be shown.



The “Area” box in the Farm Out Agreement is used to define a service area for affiliate searching. This function can be helpful in metropolitan areas where often some or all of the affiliates aren’t actually in the city itself. For example, not all companies that service Los Angeles are actually in Los Angeles, etc.

When you are looking for an affiliate in the Farm Out list, you can search by Area to locate an Affiliate.



Note that this function has become less popular now that you can use the Map tab to directly see your affiliates near the pickup and dropoff of the trip.

With that in mind, you might want to check your Dispatch Grid and see what choices you have—and if you have a lot, maybe start cleaning up your Farm-Out Agreements to make things simpler and easier for your dispatchers.