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## Using Field Calculator: Changing Text Case

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## Using Field Calculator: Changing Text Case

Welcome to the Essential ArcGIS Task Sheet Series. This series supplements the Iowa State University GIS Geospatial Technology Training Program short course series, "Essential ArcGIS Tutorial Series." These task sheets are designed to provide quick, easy instructions for performing specific tasks in GIS.

Attribute data is often not in the format that is needed or desired. For example, text may be all capital or lower case letters. The Proper Case command within the field calculator in ArcMap is able to change text from an existing field and quickly rewrite the field in proper case.

### 1. Open ArcMap

Add the Iowa counties shapefile that can be downloaded from the Iowa DNR.

### 2. Changing to proper text case

Open the attribute table for the **counties** layer.

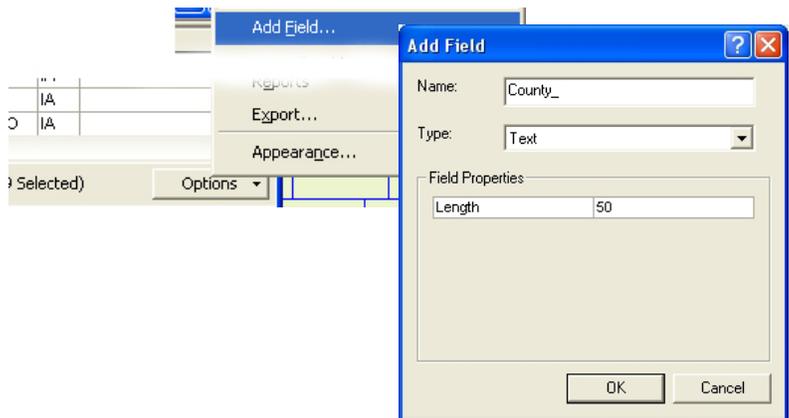
Notice in the field **COUNTY** that the county names are in all capital letters.



FID	Shape	CO_NUMBER	CO_FIPS	ACRES_SF	ACRES	FIPS	COUNTY	ST
0	Polygon	60	119	376536.4	376538	19119	LYON	IA
1	Polygon	72	143	256639.1	256640.2	19143	OSCEOLA	IA
2	Polygon	30	59	258456.8	258457.9	19059	DICKINSON	IA
3	Polygon	32	63	257551.4	257552.5	19063	EMMET	IA
4	Polygon	3	5	421808.4	421810.2	19005	ALLAMAKEE	IA
5	Polygon	55	109	623246.1	623248.8	19109	KOSSUTH	IA
6	Polygon	96	191	441284.9	441286.8	19191	WINNESHEK	IA
7	Polygon	45	89	302992.2	302993.5	19089	HOWARD	IA
8	Polygon	95	189	256767.9	256769	19189	WINNEBAGO	IA
9	Polygon	66	131	300384.5	300385.8	19131	MITCHELL	IA
10	Polygon	98	195	257002.9	257004	19195	WORTH	IA
11	Polygon	84	167	492497.5	492499.6	19167	SIOUX	IA
12	Polygon	71	141	366892.7	366894.2	19141	OBRIEN	IA
13	Polygon	21	41	366445.4	366446.9	19041	CLAY	IA
14	Polygon	74	147	364324	364325.5	19147	PALO ALTO	IA
15	Polygon	41	81	366537.6	366539.1	19081	HANCOCK	IA
16	Polygon	17	33	367668.3	367669.9	19033	CERRO GORDO	IA
17	Polygon	19	37	323544.1	323545.5	19037	CHICKASAW	IA

1. Click **Options > Add Field...**

- In the **Name:** text box, type **County\_**.
- In the **Type:** dropdown box, select **Text**.
- Leave the **Length** at **50**.
- Click **OK**.

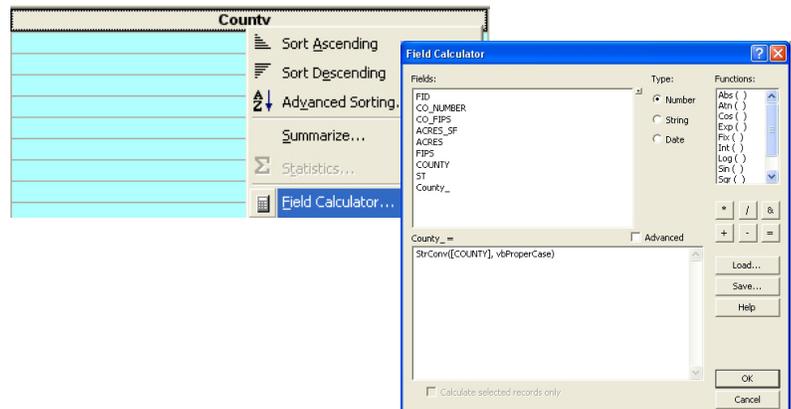


2. Select the **County\_** field so it becomes highlighted and then right click and select **Field Calculator...**

- Click **Yes** in the warning about calculating outside of edit session.

Note: ArcMap's field calculator does not give the option to select Proper Case in its list of functions, so it must be added using VB Script.

- In the **County\_** text box, type **StrConv([COUNTY], vbProperCase)**.
- Click **OK**.

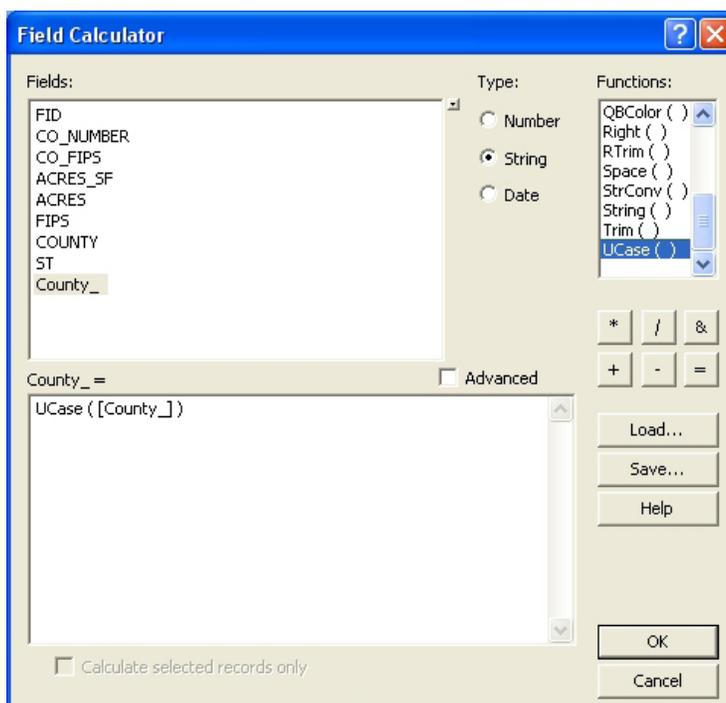


3. All of the county names in the **County\_** field should now be in proper case.

ACRES_SF	ACRES	FIPS	COUNTY	ST	County_
376536.4	376538	19119	LYON	IA	Lyon
256639.1	256640.2	19143	OSCEOLA	IA	Osceola
258456.8	258457.9	19059	DICKINSON	IA	Dickinson
257551.4	257552.5	19063	EMMET	IA	Emmet
421808.4	421810.2	19005	ALLAMAKEE	IA	Allamakee
623246.1	623248.8	19109	KOSSUTH	IA	Kossuth
441284.9	441286.8	19191	WINNESHIEK	IA	Winneshek
302992.2	302993.5	19089	HOWARD	IA	Howard
256787.9	256789	19189	WINNEBAGO	IA	Winnebago
300384.5	300385.8	19131	MITCHELL	IA	Mitchell
257002.9	257004	19195	WORTH	IA	Worth

### 3. Other options for case changing

1. Open the Field Calculator for the desired field by clicking **Options > Add Field...**
  - Under **Type:** select **String**.
  - Under **Functions:** select **UCase ( )**.
  - Or under the **County\_ = field** type **UCase ( [County\_] )**.
2. Repeat the steps and use **LCase** to change text to lower case.



## Contacts

For more information about the Field Calculator, contact:

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For information about the ISU Extension Geospatial Technology Program, contact:

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