

# AMERICAN SAMOA - Agricultural Census 2003 - Explanatory Notes

## Historical outline

The US Bureau of the Census conducted the first agricultural enumeration in American Samoa in 1920. The subsequent agricultural censuses were carried out every 10 years, in conjunction with the Population and Housing Censuses. In 1997 the responsibility for conducting the Census of Agriculture in the United States and, consequently, in the Outlying Areas (*i.e. The Virgin Islands of the U.S., Guam, American Samoa and Northern Mariana Islands*) was transferred to the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Starting from 1998, American Samoa was included in their Five-Year Agriculture Census Program. The 2003 Census of Agriculture is the tenth conducted in American Samoa and the second conducted as an independent census of agriculture, after the one undertaken in 1998.

## Organization

Census data were collected in accordance with a Memorandum of Agreement between NASS, the Department of Interior's Office of Insular Affairs and the Department of Commerce of American Samoa. It was conducted with the cooperation and assistance of American Samoa Department of Agriculture and the American Samoa Community College – land Grant.

## Enumeration period

Data were collected during January to February 2003.

## Reference date/period

For inventories of livestock, poultry, machinery and equipment: time of enumeration.

For crop production, crop and livestock sales and expenses: calendar year 2003.

## Definition

The farm definition of the 2003 Agricultural Census was "Any place that raised or produced any agricultural products for sale or for home consumption" (Approximately seventy-five percent of all households fitted this definition). It is a broader definition than the one used in 1990, which used a cut-off of "sales worth US \$100 or more of agricultural products during the census year".

## Coverage

The census covered the entire territory of American Samoa.

## Frame

The frame was obtained from a list of operational farms developed from several different sources. Enumerators assigned to an Enumeration District (ED) were requested to investigate all the names listed for that ED; information was collected only for those households with agricultural activities. In the case of farms no more operational or farms newly in business, the list was updated with field operation.

## Method

In addition to enumerating all holdings in the list of known commercial farms, a sample of households was enumerated, through direct interview, to account for production used for family consumption.

## Data source

Census of Agriculture 2003, Vol.1, Geographic Area Series, Part 55 October 2005. United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), or National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), American Samoa.

## Contact

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## Website

<http://www.nass.usda.gov/census>