

VIRGIN ISLANDS (US) - Agricultural Census 2002 - Explanatory Notes

Historical outline

The first Census of Agriculture was conducted in the U.S. Virgin Islands in 1920 and the second in 1930, in conjunction with the first Decennial World Agricultural Census promoted by the International Institute of Agriculture (seated in Rome, Italy). Other censuses were conducted at a ten-year interval through 1960 when, with a census taken in 1964, U.S. Virgin Islands were included in the Quinquennial (five-year) Agricultural Census Plan. Successively, dates were adjusted in order to coincide with Economic Censuses and consequently the following agricultural censuses were conducted in 1978 and 1982. After 1982, agricultural censuses were reverted to a 5-year cycle. The 2002 census, to which data here refer, is the 14th undertaken in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Organization

The 2002 U.S. Virgin Islands Census of Agriculture was organized and conducted in accordance with a Memorandum of Agreement approved by the Administrator of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and by the Commissioner of Agriculture of the U.S. Virgin Islands. It was carried out with the cooperation and assistance of the U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Agriculture. From the one side, the NASS provided technical assistance at various levels, and from the other the Department of Agriculture of U.S. Virgin Islands was responsible for recruiting and training local officers and field staff and supervising local administrative matters.

Enumeration period

Data collection in all Outlying Areas generally occurs in January and February.

Reference date/period

Inventories of livestock, poultry, machinery and equipment are those available "on hand" refer to 31 December 2002. Data on crop production, crop and livestock sales and expenses refer to the calendar year (2002) preceding the data collection period.

Definition

Farm is any place from which \$ 500 or more of agricultural products is produced and sold, or which would normally have been sold, during the calendar year 2002. (The farm definition is the same used in the previous census, except that the census year is the calendar year instead of the 12 months period from 1 July to 30 June previously used).

Coverage

The census covered the entire territory of US Virgin Islands, which is one of the collectively referred "U.S. Outlying Areas", together with Guam, American Samoa and Northern Mariana Islands.

Frame

A list of operational farms was developed from several different sources. Enumerators were assigned a region (Enumeration District, ED) and investigated all the names on the list for that region. In the case of farms no more operational or farms newly in business, the list was consequently updated.

Method

The complete enumeration of all Agricultural Operations in each Enumeration District was carried out through direct interview.

Data source

Census of Agriculture 2002, Vol.1, Geographic Area Series, Part 54, January 2005. United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), or National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Virgin Islands of the United States.

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