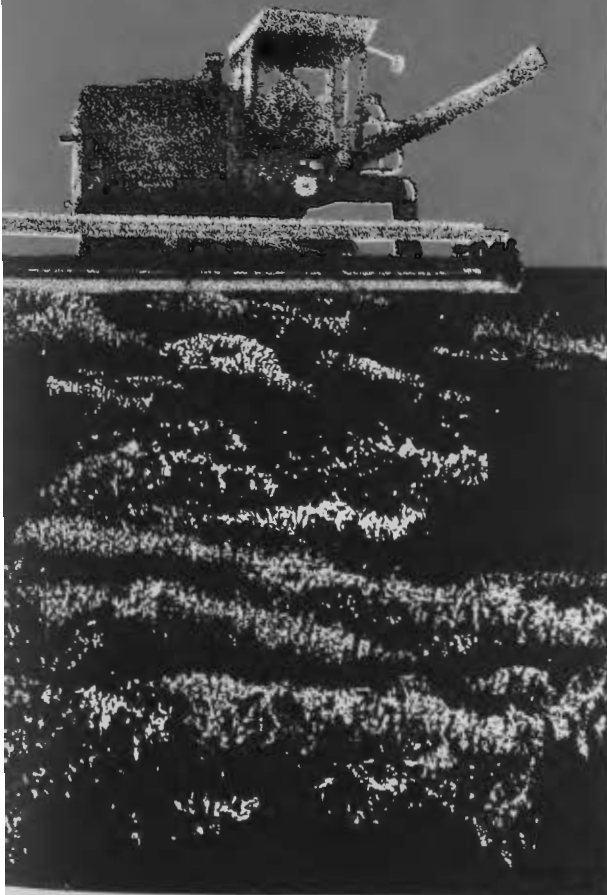


1974  
Census  
of  
Agriculture

Volume I Part 54

# Virgin Islands of the United States



Issued April 1977



U.S. Department of Commerce  
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BUREAU OF THE CENSUS  
Robert L. Hagan, Acting Director

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## REPORTS OF 1974 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

**Preliminary Reports.** Four pages of data published separately for each county having 10 farms or more, and for each State, the four geographic regions, and the United States. *The statistics printed in these reports are superseded by those in the final reports, Volumes I through IV.*

**Volume I. State and County Data.** One for each State, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands, covering the area and its subdivisions. The reports for the States contain data for all farms and farms with sales of \$2,500 and over. Chapter I contains detailed data at the State level classified by size of farm, tenure and age of farm operator, type of organization, value of products sold, and major type of farm; Chapter II, county data summarized by subject; Chapter III, county data by subject for miscellaneous crop and livestock items found in relatively few counties; Chapter IV, county data by county.

**Volume II. Statistics by Subject.** Chapters containing total data for the United States, geographic regions and divisions, and States, for all farms and farms with sales of \$2,500 and over.

**Volume III. Agricultural Services.** Data by county for each State covering establishments whose primary activities are providing agricultural services. Data at the U.S., State, and county levels for all establishments are presented for selected four-digit standard industrial classification codes by size and type of organization. Data shown include dollar volume of business, gross receipts from products provided, gross receipts, labor and payroll by type of service performed, capital expenditures, and expenditures for electricity, gasoline, petroleum, and other fuels.

#### Volume IV. Special Reports.

**Part 1. Graphic Summary.** Profiles the Nation's agricultural system in a series of U.S. maps, a number of which are printed in color. The characteristics of America's farms in 1974 are illustrated for crops, livestock, and many other characteristics.

**Part 2. Ranking Counties and States.** Reports on the top ranking 100 counties and 10 States in descending order of importance for 88 selected items for 1974 with comparative data for 1969.

**Part 3. Coverage Evaluation.** Shows the completeness of the agriculture census for States, geographic divisions, and the United States. Data also show the characteristics of farms missed by value of sales and by selected standard industrial (type-of-farm) classifications. Sampling reliability of the estimate of coverage is shown by value of sales classifications.

**Part 4. Procedural History.** A comprehensive summary of the procedures used in conducting the 1974 Census of Agriculture in the 50 States, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands. The history explains the procedures used from early planning and testing through tabulation and publication of the final reports.

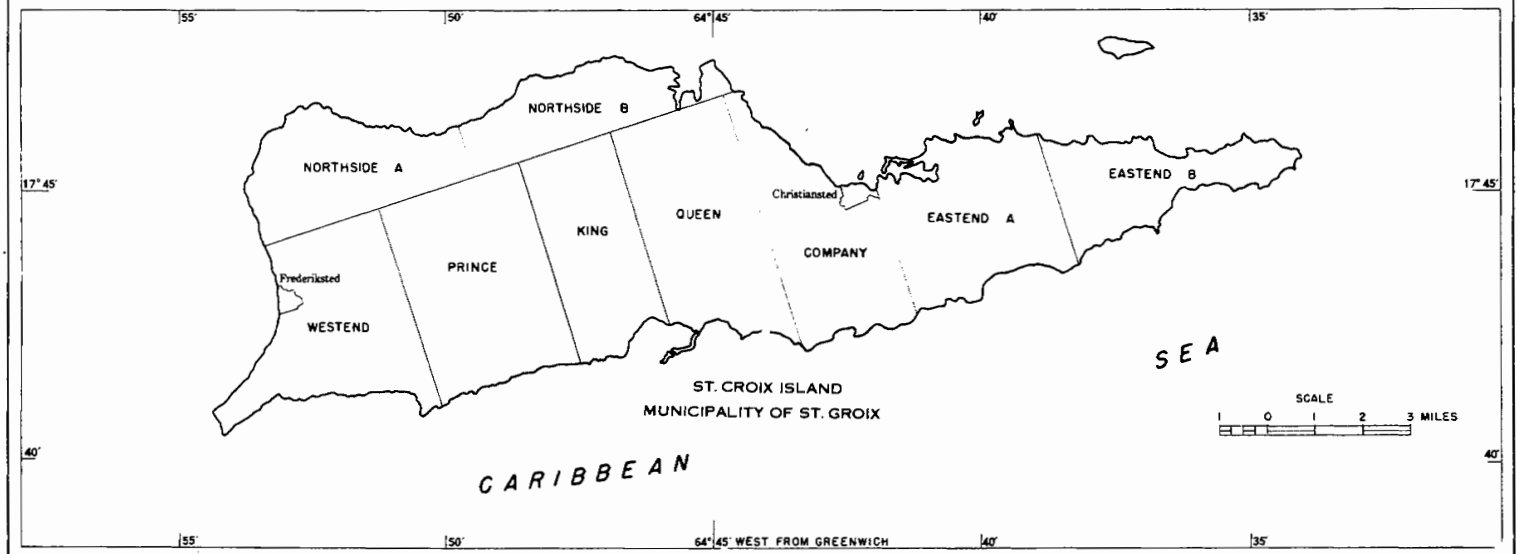
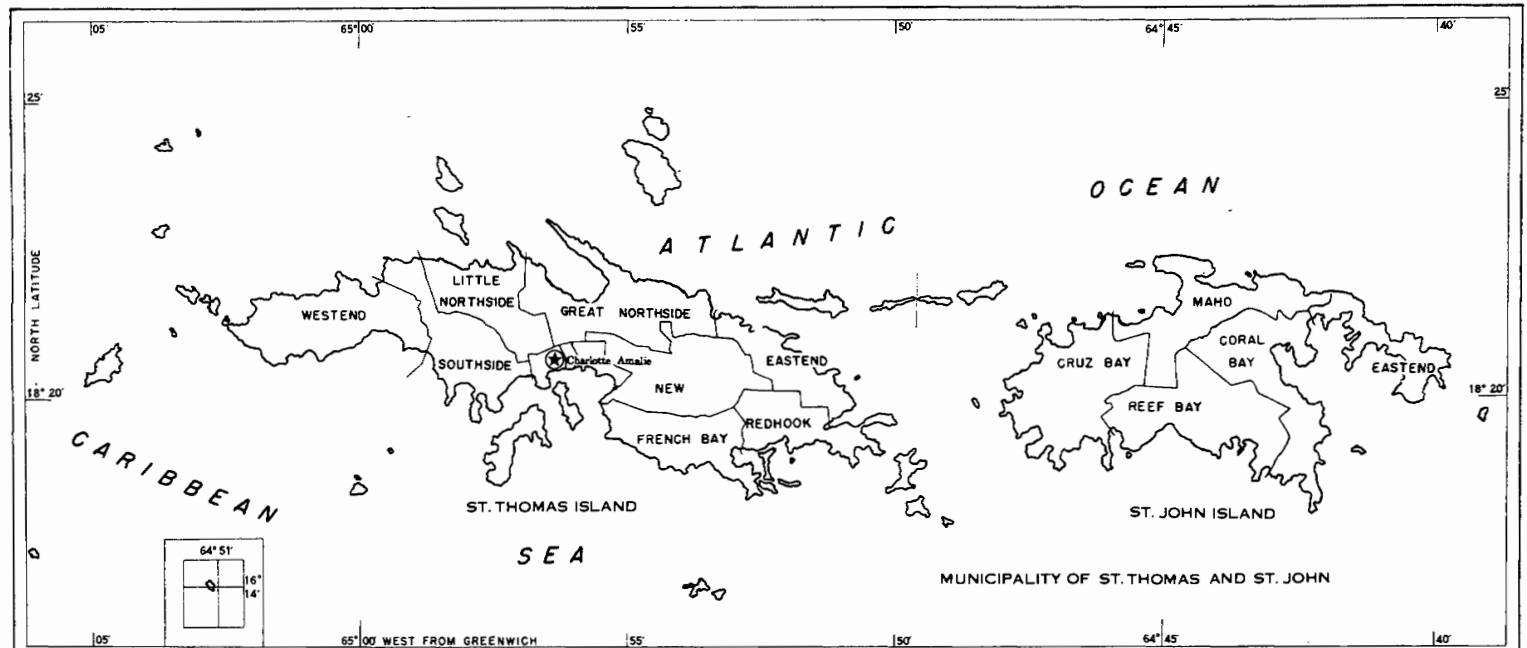
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# VIRGIN ISLANDS

## Municipalities, Quarters and Cities



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# INTRODUCTION

## Authority, Area Covered, and History

The 1974 Census of Agriculture was taken in accordance with the provisions of Title 13, United States Code, reaffirmed by section 818 of the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973 (Public Law 93-86). Sections 142(a) and 191 of Title 13 provide for a census of agriculture every 5 years in each State, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands. Section 191 also provides that the census data for the Virgin Islands may be collected by the governor, or highest ranking Federal official, in accordance with plans prescribed or approved by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

The 1974 Census is the eighth census of agriculture of the Virgin Islands. The first, taken in 1917, was a special census authorized by the Secretary of Commerce. The next was taken in 1930 in conjunction with the population census, a practice that continued every 10 years through 1960. The 1964 Census of Agriculture was the first quinquennial (5-year) census to be taken in the Virgin Islands. For the quinquennial census in 1969, the data for the Virgin Islands were collected in 1970 in conjunction with the 1970 Census of Population. The 1974 census was the third quinquennial census to be taken in the Virgin Islands.

## Questionnaire

The questionnaire for the 1974 Census of Agriculture was prepared by the staff of the Census Bureau with the cooperation of the Department of Agriculture of the Virgin Islands. It contained 89 inquiries, many with several parts. The inquiries

were based on current requirements for agricultural information and, to some extent, on the desire for comparability with earlier censuses.

In most respects, the questionnaire for 1974 was closely comparable with the one for 1969. Among the changes were the following:

1. Dropping the inquiry on farm mortgage debt.
2. Adding inquiries on the distance of farms from a hard-surface road, the financing sources for farm operations, and the number of, and days worked by, paid and unpaid farm labor.
3. Adding an additional ownership category for workpower.

Definitions and explanations for selected items are given in appendix A. A facsimile of the 1974 questionnaire is shown in appendix B.

## Training Program for Enumerators

The supervisors, assistant supervisors, and enumerators employed for the census in the Virgin Islands received special training for this job, which was prepared by the Census Bureau. The training included practice in interviewing and filling out questionnaires, and detailed discussion of the enumerators' instructions.

## Enumeration

The statistics in this report represent totals obtained by tabulating information collected from farm operators from the middle of August to the end of September 1975. For the enumeration, the Virgin Islands were divided into five

Enumeration Districts (ED's) clearly outlined on special maps prepared for the census.

Each enumerator was assigned a specific area to enumerate. The enumerators were given a map of their area and a list of the persons from whom a questionnaire had been obtained in the 1969 Census of Agriculture as well as other persons known to be conducting farm operations from other sources. The enumerators were required to visit all the persons on their lists.

To obtain as complete an enumeration as possible, enumerators were required to plot on their map the location of each occupied dwelling or place in their ED. They were also given lists of special and large farms located in their area and were required to fill out a questionnaire for each one or explain why one was not necessary.

Enumerators were also instructed to ask enough questions about tracts of land on which no one lived to determine whether agricultural data should be collected from the person in charge of the land. This procedure was designed to assure the enumeration of all land used for agriculture, whether by an individual, a partnership, a corporation, or an institution.

To avoid enumeration of the same place more than once, the Census Bureau established rules whereby enumerators could determine who was responsible for completing a questionnaire for a given place. If a place was entirely within the boundaries of an ED, the enumerator assigned to it completed the questionnaire, regardless of where the person in charge of the operation lived. If a place was partly in one ED and partly in

## INTRODUCTION Continued

another, the enumerator for the ED in which the person in charge lived was responsible for completing the questionnaire; he reported on all the land that the person in charge operated in the Virgin Islands, including land outside his ED.

### Farm Definition

The statistics presented in this report relate to places qualifying as census farms. For the 1974 Census of Agriculture in the Virgin Islands, a farm was defined as any "place" of 3 acres or more on which any field crops or vegetables were harvested or gathered during the 12-month period between July 1, 1974, and June 30, 1975, or on which there was a combined total of 10 or more fruit or nut trees or plants, any livestock, or 10 or more poultry at the time of enumeration. Places of less than 3 acres were counted as farms if their sales of agricultural products between July 1, 1974, and June 30, 1975, amounted to at least \$100, or if they could normally be expected to produce agricultural products in sufficient quantity to provide sales amounting to at least \$100. All places meeting any of the criteria specified in the census farm definition were included in the tabulations. The word "place" designates all land in the Virgin Islands under the control of one person or partnership. Control of the land may have been through ownership, management, lease, rental, or cropping arrangement.

For all previous censuses except the one for 1950, the definition of a farm

was the same as for 1974. For 1950, all places, regardless of size, were counted as farms if the total value of agricultural products in 1949, except home garden products, whether for home use or for sales, amounted to \$100 or more. Enumerators filled out a questionnaire for every place that the operator considered a farm, every place of 3 acres or more whether or not it was considered a farm, and every place of less than 3 acres whose agricultural production in 1949 was valued at \$100 or more.

### Office Processing

In the Agriculture Division at the Census Bureau, each questionnaire was edited and coded prior to being sent for data keying. Questionnaires for places not meeting the census farm definition criteria were voided. The remaining questionnaires were examined for accuracy, consistency, and completeness. Enumerators' errors in computations and in units of measures, inconsistencies, and misplaced entries were corrected. Missing information was derived and entered on incomplete reports on the basis of related information on the same questionnaire or from questionnaires for nearby farms of similar type and size. In certain instances, respondents were contacted by mail or telephone to complete or clarify certain entries on their reports.

In the coding process, numeric codes were assigned and entered on each questionnaire to classify farms by size in terms of total area, by tenure and birth-

place of the operator, and by the total value of agricultural products sold. In addition, questionnaires for commercial farms were coded to further classify them by type of farm.

After the questionnaires had been edited and coded, the data were keyed onto magnetic tape. Data records were reformatted and tabulated on the computer.

Subject matter specialists reviewed the computer tabulations for reasonableness and consistency. Corrections were made on the basis of a reexamination of the original questionnaires. The historical data to be published were then added.

### Tabular Presentation

The data tables in this report give totals for each of the three islands—St. Croix, St. John, and St. Thomas—and for the Virgin Islands as a whole. Comparative information for preceding census years are given for those items for which information is available.

### Abbreviations and Symbols

The following abbreviations and symbols are used throughout the tables:

- Represents zero
- D Data withheld to avoid disclosing figures for individual farms or farm operations
- X Not applicable
- Z Less than half of the unit reported
- NA Not available