Volume 1 Area Data Part 54

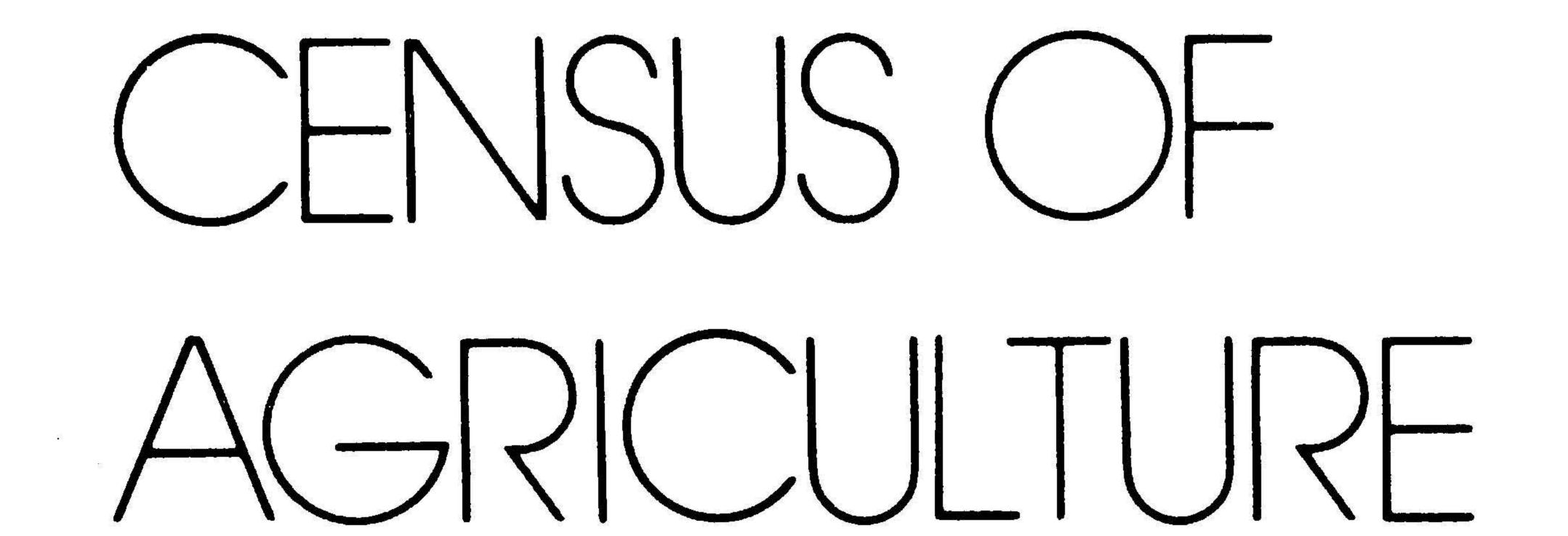
#### Virgin Islands of the United States

AC78-A-54

### 1978 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

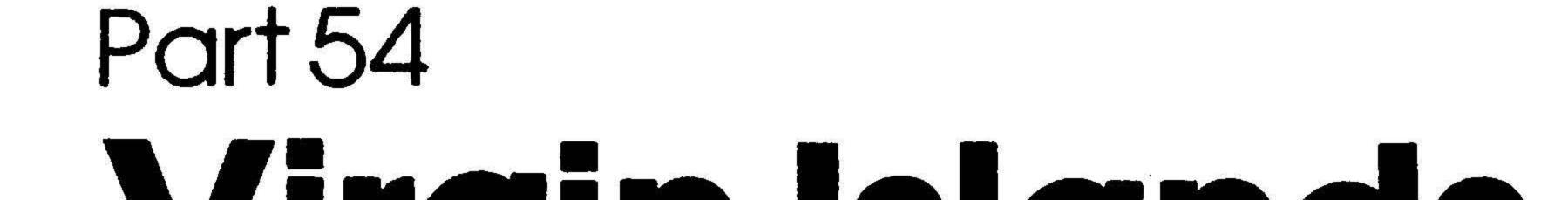
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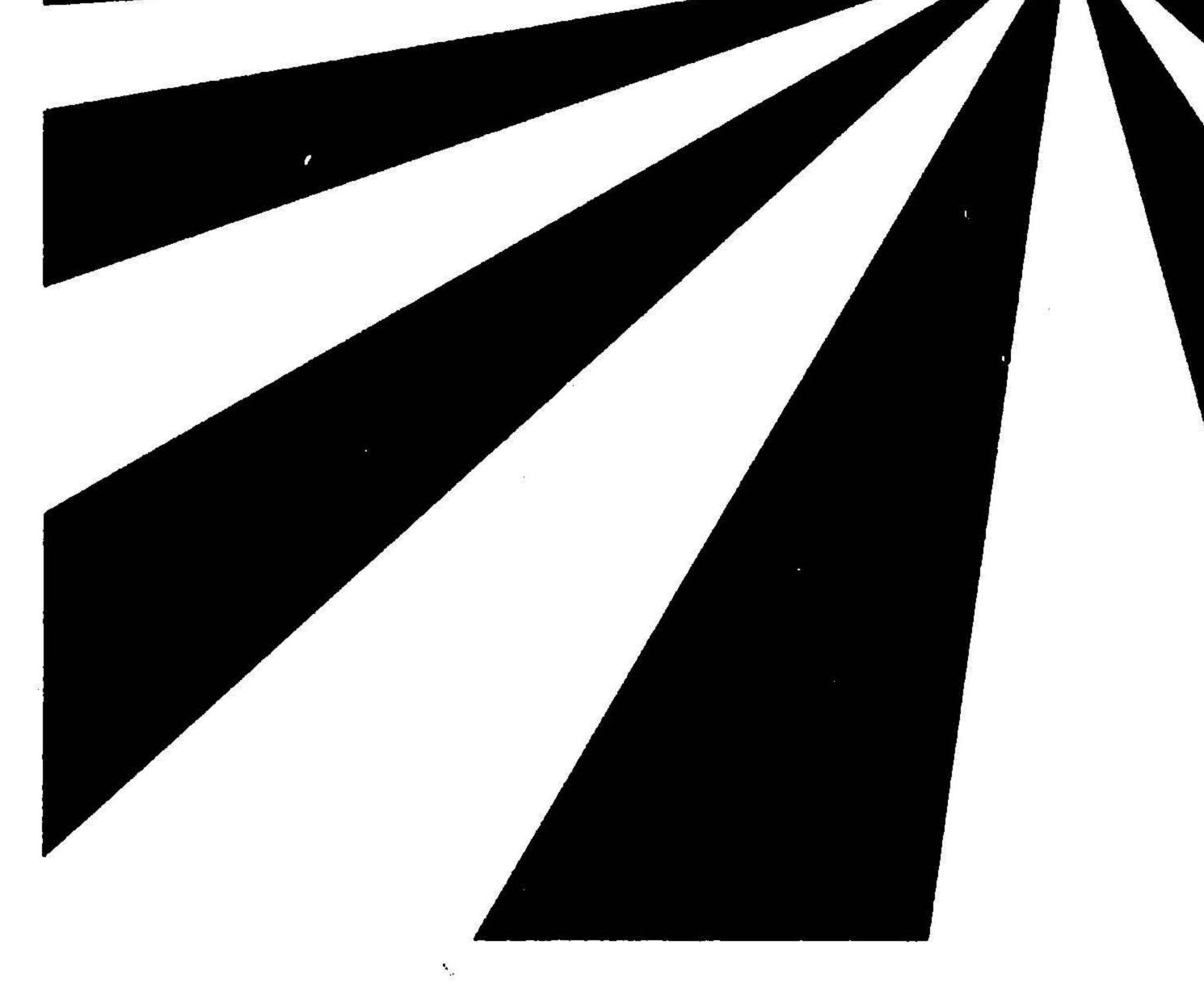


## Volume 1 Area Data





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# Virgin Islands of the United States

## AC78-A-54

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## Issued April 1980





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This report was prepared in the Agriculture Division under the general supervision of **Orvin L. Wilhite**, Chief. **Kenneth R. Norell**, Assistant Chief for Special Surveys, participated in the overall planning and supervised the preparation of instructions for office processing and training materials, the development of enumeration procedures, and the technical review of the statistics prior to publication. **William W. Perry**, Chief of the Outlying Areas Branch, until July 7, 1979, made significant contributions to the overall planning and development of procedures for the enumeration and handling of technical problems associated with the census. Preparation of the tables and editing and reviewing of the data was performed under the direction of **Alice Brown**.

The census data were collected under the direction of the Governor of the Virgin Islands, the Honorable Juan Luis. The actual data collection was carried out by census enumerators under the supervision of Henry Carter, Census Manager.

Forms Design was accomplished under the general supervision of Henry J. Husmann, Chief, Administrative Services Division, assisted by Albert W. Cosner, Cathern Kline, Irene Gray, and the entire staff of the Forms and Mail Management Branch.

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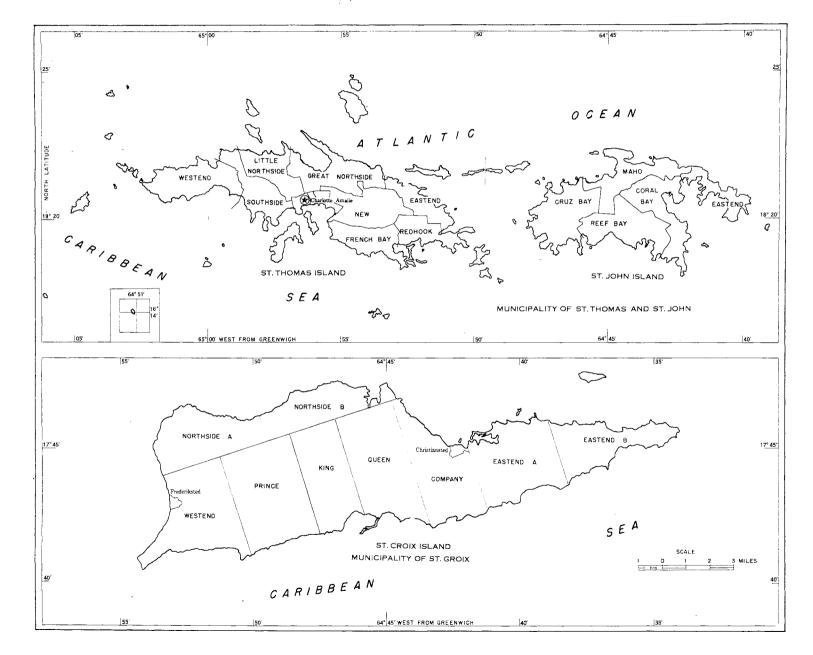
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#### AUTHORITY, AREA COVERED, AND HISTORY

The 1978 Census of Agriculture was taken in accordance with the provisions of title 13, United States Code. Sections 142(a) and 191 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 1978 census is the ninth census of agriculture of the Virgin Islands. The first, taken in 1917, was a special census authorized by the Secretary of Commerce. The next agriculture census was taken in 1930 in conjunction with the decennial 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 of 1969, the data were collected in 1970 in conjunction with the 1970 Censuses of Population and Housing. The 1974 and 1978 censuses were taken independently of any other censuses.

#### **REPORT FORM**

The report form for the 1978 Census of Agriculture was prepared by the Outlying Areas Branch of the Agriculture Division, U.S. Bureau of the Census, in cooperation with the Department of Agriculture of the Virgin Islands. It contained 82 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.

Definitions and explanations for selected items are given in appendix A. The 1978 report form is shown in appendix B.

#### TRAINING PROGRAM FOR ENUMERATORS

Supervisors, assistant supervisors, and enumerators employed for the census in the Virgin Islands received special training for the job in accordance with instructions prepared by the U.S. Bureau of the Census. The training included practice in interviewing, filling out the report form, and a detailed discussion of the enumerator's instructions.

#### ENUMERATION

The statistics in this report represent totals of data collected from farm operators from mid-July to the end of August 1978. For the enumeration, the Virgin Islands was divided into six Enumeration Districts (ED's) and each district was clearly delineated on special ED maps prepared for the census. Each enumerator was assigned an ED and given a map of the area to be enumerated. The enumerators were also given a list of the persons from whom a report form had been obtained in the 1974 Census of Agriculture as well as other persons known to be conducting farm operations. The enumerators were required to check all persons on their list. They were also given a list of special and large farms located in their area and were required to fill out a report form 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 complete coverage of all land used for agriculture, whether by an individual, a corporation, or an institution.

To avoid enumeration of the same place more than once, rules were established whereby enumerators could determine who was responsible for completing a report form for a given place. If a place was entirely within the boundaries of an ED, the enumerator assigned to that ED was responsible for completing the report form, regardless of where the person in charge of the operation lived. If a place was partly in one ED and partly in another, the enumerator for the ED in which the operator lived was responsible for completing the report form to include all the land the person operated in the Virgin Islands, regardless of the ED.

#### FARM DEFINITION

The statistics presented in this report relate to places qualifying as census farms. For the 1978 Census of Agriculture in the Virgin Islands, a farm was defined as a "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, 1977, and June 30, 1978, 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, 1977, and June 30, 1978, 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. Places meeting any of the above criteria were included in the tabulations as farms.

The definition of a farm for 1978 was the same in all previous censuses, except the one for 1950. 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 report form 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

The office processing was done in the Agriculture Division at the U.S. Bureau of the Census. Each report form was edited and coded prior to being data keyed. Report forms obtained for places not meeting the census farm definition criteria were voided. The remaining report forms were examined for accuracy, consistency, and completeness. Enumerator's 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 report form or from report forms for nearby farms of similar type and size.

After all the forms had been edited and coded, the data were encoded onto magnetic tape and subjected to a thorough computer edit analysis. Any inconsistencies were reviewed, corrected, and encoded to magnetic tape. The corrected data were then tabulated by the computer and printed out for review. Subject matter specialists reviewed the computer tabulations for reasonableness and consistency. Corrections were made on the basis of a reexamination of the original report forms. The historical data were then manually transcribed to the tables for publication.

#### 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 is given for many items for which information is available.

#### ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS

The following abbreviations and symbols are used throughout the tables:

- 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.