

1987

Census of Agriculture

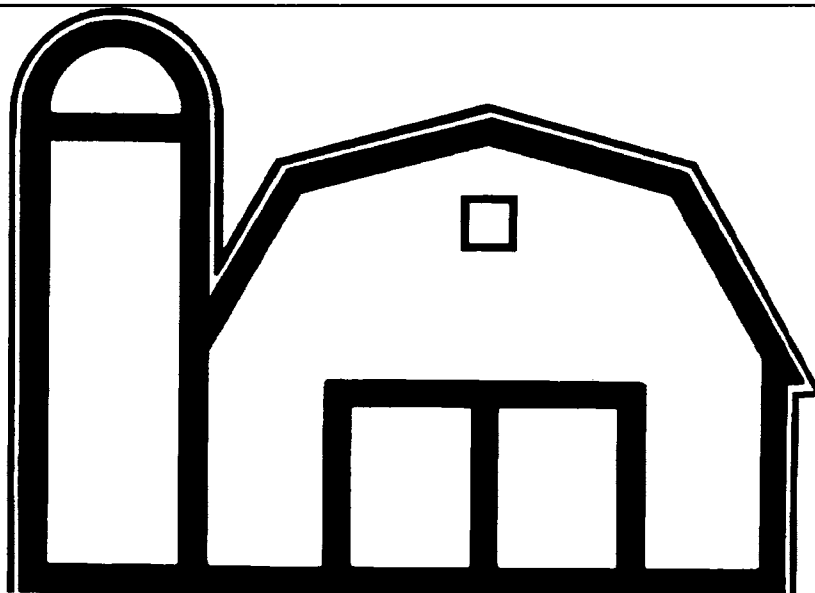
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Volume 1
GEOGRAPHIC AREA SERIES

Part 54

Virgin Islands of the United States

Area Data



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This report was prepared in the Agriculture Division. Many divisions participated in the various activities of the 1987 Agriculture Census of the Virgin Islands: Economic Programming prepared the computer programs, designed the computer system, and installed the hardware; Field performed the clerical processing; Geography developed the field maps; Data Preparation assisted with the preparation of enumeration materials; Administrative Services provided the forms design and other administrative services; Publication Services contributed in publication, planning and design, editorial reviews, composition, and printing procurement; data collection was under the direction of **Eric Dawson**, Commissioner of Economic Development and

Agriculture of the Virgin Islands, under a special agreement with the Census Bureau. The data collection activity was conducted by census enumerators under the supervision of **Godfrey Gordon**, Project Leader.

Representatives of the Government of the Virgin Islands made significant recommendations which helped establish data content and provided valuable advice during the planning stages of the census.

Special tribute is paid to the many farm and ranch operators who furnished the information requested. Only through their cooperation was it possible to collect and publish the data in this report.

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Issued May 1989



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HISTORY

The 1987 census is the 11th 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 census was taken independently of any other censuses. In 1976, Congress authorized the census of agriculture to be taken for 1978 and 1982 to adjust the data reference year to coincide with the 1982 Economic Censuses covering manufacturing, mining, construction, retail trade, wholesale trade, service industries, and selected transportation activities. After 1982, the agriculture census reverted to a 5-year cycle to be taken covering years ending in "2" and "7."

USES OF THE CENSUS

The census of agriculture is the recognized source of statistics about the Virgin Island's agricultural production and the only source of consistent, comparable data at the island level. Census statistics are used to measure agricultural production and to identify trends in an ever changing agricultural sector. Many local programs use census data as a benchmark for designing and evaluating surveys. Private industry uses census statistics to provide a more effective production and distribution system for the agricultural community.

AUTHORITY AND AREA COVERED

The 1987 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 of the United States. The census data for the Virgin Islands may be collected by the Governor or a representative from his/her staff to act as census supervisor, in accordance with a Memorandum of Agreement prescribed or approved by the Director of the Bureau of the Census.

FARM DEFINITION

The data presented in this report relate to places qualifying as farms for census purposes. For the 1987 Census of Agriculture in the Virgin Islands, a farm was defined as any place from which \$100 or more of agricultural products were sold or normally would have been sold during the census year. This is a definitional change from 1982. For 1982, a farm was defined as a "place" of 3 acres or more on which any field or forage crops were harvested or vegetables were harvested for sale during the 12-month period between July 1, 1982, and June 30, 1983, 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, 1982, and June 30, 1983, 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.

COMPARABILITY OF DATA

Comparability of data from the 1987 Census of Agriculture in the Virgin Islands has been slightly affected by improvements in the coverage of the operators' list and improved techniques of training enumerators. In general, data from the 1987 census are comparable with those of previous censuses.

TABULAR PRESENTATION

The detailed tables in this report give totals for St. Croix, St. John, St. Thomas, and for the Virgin Islands, as a whole.

CENSUS DISCLOSURE RULES

In keeping with the provisions of Title 13, United States Code, no data are published that would disclose the operations of an individual farm. However, the number of farms in a given size category or other classification is not considered a disclosure, so this information may be given even though other information is withheld.

DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

Appendix A includes definitions and explanations of selected terms used in the tables. Appendix B displays a bridge table of selected items with the 1987 census data by the new definition, and the 1982 data by both the 1987 definition and the 1982 definition. The 1987 report form is shown in appendix C.

DOLLAR VALUES

All dollar values presented in this report are expressed in current dollars, i.e., 1987 data are expressed in 1987 dollars and 1982 data in 1982 dollars. The dollar values have not been adjusted for changes in price levels between census years.

INVENTORIES, PRODUCTION, AND SALES DATA

Inventories of livestock, poultry, and machinery and equipment are the number on hand at the time of enumeration. Crop production, crop and livestock sales, and expense data are for the 12-month period between July 1, 1987, and June 30, 1988.

ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS

The following abbreviations and symbols are used throughout the tables:

- Represents zero.
- (D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual farms.
- (X) Not applicable.
- (Z) Less than half of the unit shown.
- (NA) Not available.

ISLAND MAP

THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

