

VIRGIN ISLANDS CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

PURPOSE

The Census of Agriculture for Virgin Islands provides comprehensive data about Virgin Island's agricultural production, operators, and land. Title 7, United States Code, Section 2204g, requires this census. The Virgin Islands Department of Agriculture and other agricultural organizations assisted NASS with the census.

COVERAGE

All places from which \$500 or more of agricultural products were sold, or normally would have been sold, during the census period. In 1998, over 247 farms were counted producing crops and livestock sales of almost \$2.8 million.

CONTENT

Provides data on acreage in farms, crop acreage and quantities harvested, sales by crop type, land use, irrigation, livestock inventories, value of livestock sold, type of farm organization, other farm-related income, operator characteristics, chemical use, farm expenses, machinery and equipment, hired workers, and value of land and buildings.

FREQUENCY

The first census was conducted in 1910 and every 10 years until 1950. (A special census was conducted in 1935 by the Virgin Islands Reconstruction Administration.) Censuses after 1950 were conducted in 1959, 1964, 1969, 1974, 1978, and 1982. After the 1982 census, censuses were conducted in 1988 and 1993, for census years 1982 and 1993.

METHODS

The 1998 Census of Agriculture for Virgin Islands was a mail-out/mail-back census of all known farm operators. The list of known operators was composed of farms from the 1993 census mail list and additional mail lists supplied by the Virgin Islands authorities and private businesses. After removing duplicate names from the final list, each of these operators was sent a census form. To ensure complete coverage, personal enumeration of sample areas was used to estimate activities of non-list and non-response farms.

A memorandum of understanding outlines the responsibilities of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) and the Commonwealth of Virgin Islands in conducting the census. The Commonwealth contributed input to the questionnaire content, aided in constructing the mailing list, provided personnel to collect the data, assisted in analyzing the results of the census, and helped with publicity.

PRODUCTS

The 1998 Census of Agriculture for Virgin Islands is available as a printed report and on the Internet.

USES

The Virgin Islands Department of Agriculture and Extension Service use the data to benchmark their own data. The Virgin Islands Department of Agriculture uses the data for input in decisions regarding government planning and legislation. The Federal Emergency Management Agency uses the data to assist in damage assessment in cases of natural disasters. Agricultural producers use published census statistics to determine possible markets for their goods or location for production. Agricultural consumers use census information on quantities of products produced and availability for export.

SPECIAL FEATURES

Provides the only recognized source of consistent and comparable data on Virgin Island's agricultural activities at the municipio level.

CHANGES

The 1998 Census of Agriculture for Virgin Islands is the first to use the year in which it is conducted as the reference year in its title. This represents a change in name only. The 1992 Census of Agriculture for Virgin Islands was conducted in the summer of 1993, and yet was referred to as the 1992 census. In the 1998 census tables, the data from the 1992 Census of Agriculture are referenced as 1993 data.

ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS

The following abbreviations and symbols are used throughout the tables:

- Represents zero
- (D)** Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual farms
- (N/A)** Not available
- (Z)** Less than half of the unit shown
- cwt** - Hundredweight
- sq ft** - Square feet

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