

Historical outline

New Zealand has participated in all the rounds of World Census of Agriculture. Present data refer to the 2002 Census of Agriculture, Horticulture and Forestry, which is the first comprehensive agricultural census conducted since 1994. Surveys of the agriculture sector were held in 1999 and 2000: in 1999, Statistics New Zealand conducted a sample survey of livestock and arable farming, while the 2000 survey related to horticulture.

Organization

The census is organized by Statistics New Zealand with the cooperation of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF).

Enumeration period

The census day was 30 June 2002. The mailing of questionnaires started on 27 June, with all questionnaires being posted by mid-July.

Reference date/period

- Data on area sown, area harvested and production of temporary crops refer to the agricultural year ended 30 June 2002.
- Data on area planted under permanent crops refer to 30 June 2002.
- Data on livestock numbers refer to 30 June 2002.

Definition

- **Agricultural holding:** An agricultural holding (Farm) is an agricultural production unit consisting of one or more blocks of land, managed as a single operation which is engaged in agricultural activity.
This includes:
 - Farming livestock, horticulture, forestry, and growing grain, seed and arable crops.
 - Land potentially usable for such purposes.

Coverage

- Geographically, the census covered the entire country.
- Statistically, the census included all individuals or business involved in livestock, cropping, horticulture or forestry, whether the farming activity is a major source of income or not.

Frame

The list of farms used for the 2002 Agricultural Census has been extracted from Statistics New Zealand's Business Register and from the Inland Revenue Department's Client Register. This list includes all enterprises, on either the Client Register or the Business Register, that are recorded as having agricultural activity.

Method

The agricultural census is a postal sample survey, the selected farmers and growers being asked to complete and return questionnaires within 14 days of receipts. A complete return is requested for anyone who is carrying out farming, horticultural or forestry activities.

Data source

The 2002 Census of Agriculture, Horticulture and Forestry, Provisional Results. Statistics New Zealand.

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