

Historical outline

The first agricultural census in the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) was conducted in 1970 in conjunction with the decennial population census. This practice was continued in 1980 and 1990 also. However, in 1998 an independent agricultural census was conducted for the first time. The 2002 Census of Agriculture in CNMI, the fifth in the series, is synchronized with the five yearly programme of Agricultural Census followed in the main United States.

Organization

The 1997 Appropriations Act of United States transferred the responsibility of the Agricultural Census from the Bureau of the Census, to the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) of the US Department of Agriculture (USDA). Thus since 1998 the responsibility for agricultural census of CNMI vests with NASS.

Enumeration period

The enumeration for Agricultural Census 2002 took place during January 2003.

Reference date/period

Inventories of livestock, poultry and machinery relate to the time of enumeration. The data on crop production, crop and livestock sales and expenses relate to the calendar year 2002.

Definition

A farm (agricultural holding) is defined as: "Any place from which US\$ 1 000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold (or normally would have been sold) during the 2002 calendar year".

Coverage

The agricultural census covered the entire country.

Frame

The CNMI Census of Agriculture was based on a list of farm operators compiled by the CNMI Department of Commerce. The core of this list was a compilation of all persons having a business licence to sell agricultural products. The local Department of Agriculture provided a supplementary list of known farmers.

Method

Data were collected through personal interview of farm operators. Each enumerator was an employee of the Department of Commerce and had responsibility for specified names on the list of farm operators. The enumerators contacted all persons on their list and completed a Census Report Form for all farm operations. If a person on the list was not operating a farm, the enumerator recorded whether the land had been sold or rented to someone. If it was still being used for agriculture, the name of new operator was included in the list of holders for further enumeration.

Data source

Census of Agriculture 2002 (Vol. I), Geographic Area Series, Part 56. United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), United States of America.

Contact

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