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## American Samoa – 2008 Census of Agriculture - Explanatory Notes

### Historical outline

Previous agricultural censuses were undertaken in 1930, 1950, 1960, 1970, 1980, 1990, 1998 and 2003.

### Legal basis and organization

The census of agriculture is required by law under the “Census of Agriculture Act of 1997,” Public Law 105-113 (Title 7, United States Code, Section 2204g). The law directs the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture to conduct a census of agriculture in 1998 and in every fifth year thereafter, covering the prior year. The census of agriculture includes each State, Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands. The census is under the responsibility of the United States Department of Agriculture, National Agriculture Statistical Service (USDA/NASS). The census in American Samoa was undertaken in accordance with a Memorandum of Agreement between NASS, the Department of Interior’s Office of Insular Affairs, and the American Samoa Department of Commerce. The census was funded by the United States Federal budget. USDA/NASS assisted and cooperate with the American Samoa Department of Agriculture and American Samoa Community College - Land Grant.

### Enumeration period

The 2008 Census of Agriculture in American Samoa started at late April and finished at early July 2009.

### Reference period/date

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 January 1 and December 31, 2008.

### Definition of the statistical unit:

The statistical unit was defined as the farm as any place that raised or produced any agricultural products for sale or home consumption. Holdings were classified in: a) Commercial farms defined as those with sales of U\$S 100 or more; and b) non-commercial farms which are those with less than U\$S 100 in sales.

From the point of view of “**land tenure**”, holdings were classified as:

- Own or ownerlike possession (subdivided in "communal/non-communal);
- Rented from others (subdivided in "communal/non-communal).

### Geographical coverage

The census covered the whole country.

### Statistical coverage

All holdings were covered: commercial farms by complete enumeration and non-commercial farms by sampling.

### Data items coverage

The census covered all main items of the WCA2010 core module plus specific information on value and volume of sales, other economic activities of holding and sources of income.

### Frame

The census frame was the list of commercial farms prepared by the American Samoa Department of Agriculture and maps for the area frame.

### Methodology

The census combined complete and sample enumeration. All farm operations on the list of commercial farms compiled by the American Samoa Department of Agriculture were completely enumerated supplemented by an area sample of the remaining households. The purpose of the area sample was to efficiently account for farms not on the commercial farm list and provide an accurate measure of the agricultural activity in American Samoa.

An area sampling design was applied to select households not in the list of commercial farms. So the universe was the totality of households in the country excluding commercial farms.

A unique identifier for each element of the population was adopted by numbering each household and each commercial farm.

A random sample of the not commercial farm households was selected, using the available maps with the household identification information. The sampling rate was 20%. A serpentine selection methodology, starting at a random point was used to select the area sample.

The interviews were face-to-face and the information was collected in paper forms.

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**Post census techniques to check census quality**

No Post Enumeration Survey (PES) was performed. Quality checks included strict field supervision, clerical screening for farm activity, follow-up of non-respondents, keying and transmittal of completed report forms, computerized editing of inconsistent and missing data, review and correction of individual records referred from the computer edit, review and correction of tabulated data, and electronic data processing.

**Special features**

Non-holding rural households were covered by the area sample component of the survey.

**Data source**

2007 Census report at website (includes methodological Notes and Questionnaire)

**Mailing address / Census contact Points**

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Website: <http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2007/>