



AMERICAN SAMOA– Census of Agriculture 2018 – Metadata review

American Samoa is one of the territories collectively referred to as the “U.S. Outlying Areas”. For statistical purposes, it is recorded as a separate entity in the World Census of Agriculture Database (in the Oceania Region). Consequently, results related to the United States of America bear only upon the continental territory of the country.

1. Historical outline

The U.S. Bureau of the Census conducted the first Census of Agriculture (CA) in American Samoa in 1920, as part of the decennial Population and Housing Census (PHC). Subsequent agricultural censuses were carried out every ten years.¹ Since 2003, American Samoa was included in the five-year agriculture census program with the exception of 2013. The metadata review and data presented here refer to the CA 2018.

2. Legal basis and organization

Legal framework

The CA 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 Secretary of Agriculture to conduct a census of agriculture every five years. The CA 2018 was conducted in accordance with a Cooperative Agreement approved by the Director of the Census and Survey Division of National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) and by the American Samoa Secretary of Commerce.

Institutional framework and international collaboration

The NASS of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is the government agency responsible for conducting the CA 2018 in the American Samoa. The CA 2018 was conducted with the cooperation and assistance of the American Samoa Department of Agriculture (DA) and the American Samoa Community College – Land Grant. The NASS provided technical assistance at various levels, while the American Samoa DA was responsible for recruiting and training local officers and field staff, and for supervising local administrative matters. The census was funded by the United States federal budget.

Census staff

The CA 2018 in American Samoa employed one project manager, one crew leader/supervisor, and approximately 25 enumerators and they received special training in accordance with instructions prepared by NASS. The training included practice in interviewing and filling out the report form plus detailed discussion of the enumerator's instructions.

3. Reference date and period

Reference day: the day of enumeration for inventory items such as livestock, poultry, machinery and equipment.

Reference period: the calendar year, from 1 January to 31 December 2018, for crop production, crop and livestock sales, expense data, etc.

4. Enumeration period

Data collection was conducted from May to October 2019.

¹ The first nine agriculture censuses in American Samoa were taken in conjunction with the decennial PHC. Agriculture information was collected only for those households that answered affirmatively to questions about agricultural activities asked in the decennial questionnaire.

5. Scope of the census and definition of the statistical unit

The **census scope** covered agricultural activities (crop and livestock production). Information on capture fisheries and aquaculture activities carried out by the agricultural holdings.

The **statistical unit** was the farm, defined as any place that raised or produced any agricultural products for sale or consumption. Farms were classified as: (a) commercial farms, defined as those with sales of USD 100 or more; or (b) non-commercial farms, which are those with less than USD 100 in sales.

Community-level data

There were no community-level data collected along with the census.

6. Census coverage

Geographic coverage

The CA 2018 covered the entire territory of American Samoa.

Cut-off threshold and other exclusions

No threshold was applied.

7. Methodology

Methodological modality for conducting the census

The classical approach was used in the CA 2018.

Relation to other censuses

No relationship with other censuses.

Frames

The CA 2018 frame consisted of a list of commercial farms compiled by the American Samoa Department of Commerce, in cooperation with the American Samoa Department of Agriculture, and the American Samoa Community College – Land-Grant, and supplemented by an electric meter list of the remaining households.

Complete or/and sample enumeration methods

The CA 2018 combined complete and sample enumeration methods. All commercial farms were completely enumerated. The list of commercial farms was supplemented by a sample of households selected from an electric meter list. The purpose of the second sample was to efficiently account for farms not on the commercial farm list and to provide an accurate measure of the agricultural activity in American Samoa.

Sample design (if sampling was used)

All the commercial farms on the list were enumerated with certainty whereas a sample of households was selected from an electric meter list to represent all operations not on the compiled list. The data from these households were given a weight equal to the inverse of their probability of selection to the sample. In a final effort to improve coverage in the western district, which is more heavily concentrated with agriculture activity, a phase 2 follow-up was aimed at any household found on the electric meter list. Data from these households did not receive a sampling weight.

Data collection methods

Data collection was done by means of traditional face-to-face interviews. The information was collected in paper forms (PAPI method).

Questionnaire(s) and items covered

A single questionnaire (report form) was used for data collection. The questionnaire covered 16 out of the 23 essential items recommended in the WCA 2020.²

8. Use of technology

Questionnaires collected using the PAPI method were scanned. OMR was used to capture categorical responses and to identify the other answer zones in which some type of mark was present.

9. Data processing

The NASS undertook the data processing activities. Each report form was reviewed and coded prior to data keying. Report forms not meeting the census definition of “farm” were voided. After review and coding of all report forms, the data were keyed. After the review and keying operations were completed, the electronic files and the report forms were sent to Washington, D.C., where the data were subjected to a thorough computer edit. The corrected data were then tabulated by the computer and reviewed by analysts.

10. Quality assurance

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. Ten percent of the captured data were keyed a second time for quality control. If differences existed, an adjudicator handled resolution. This was used to grade the performance of the keyers, who were required to maintain a certain accuracy level or receive additional training. The measured error rate for the entire survey was 0.39 percent.

In CA 2018, efforts were made to measure error associated with the adjustments for farm operations that were on the list of farm operators, but did not respond to the census report form. This error measurement was developed from the standard error of the estimates at the island level, where appropriate, and were expressed as coefficient of variation (CV). Every estimate has a corresponding CV published with it.

11. Data and metadata archiving

Completed report forms were automatically checked in by scanning devices that identified each case by the bar code in the address label of the form. The report forms were then scanned to create images used for data keying. Data from each report were subjected to a detailed computer edit.

12. Data reconciliation

There was no reconciliation process of CA 2018 data.

13. Dissemination of census results and microdata

The 2018 CA final report was published in April 2019. The census report included methodological notes and the census questionnaire and is available on the NASS website. The census results were disseminated online, through the USDA website. Published data are available in searchable database of NASS, Quick Stats. The access of external users to the CA microdata was not provided.

14. Data sources

United States Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service. 2017 Census of agriculture, American Samoa (2018) Territory, District, and County Data, Volume 1, Geographic Area Series, Part 55, AC-17-A-55, Washington, D.C., United States of America. (also available at

² The following essential items were not covered: (i) 0302- Area of land actually irrigated: fully controlled and partially controlled irrigation; (ii) 0407-Number of permanent crop trees in scattered plantings (for each tree crop); (iii) 0411-Use of each type of fertilizer; (iv) 0501-Type of livestock system; (v) 0503- Number of female breeding animals; (vi) 0601- Use of agricultural pesticides; (vii) 0903-Number and working time of employees on the holding by sex.

https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2017/Full_Report/Outlying_Areas/AmericanSamoa.pdf).

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