

REPORT FOR

**Fourteenth Census of the United States,**  
Volume VI, Part 3 – Agriculture

**GUAM**

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**Introduction.** -- The following is a report of the statistics of the census of agriculture for the island of Guam, taken by the governor of Guam in accordance with plans prescribed by the Director of the Census, as required by the act of Congress approved March 3, 1919, providing for the Fourteenth and subsequent decennial censuses of the United States. The statistics of products relate to the calendar year 1919; those of live stock relate to January 1, 1920.

**Field Crops.** -- As measured by the number of acres reported under cultivation in 1919, corn is by far the most important field crop of Guam, representing 60.3 percent of the total. During that year, 28,947 bushels of corn were harvested, averaging 13.3 bushels to the acre. Two other crops of importance are sweet potatoes and taro. The sweet potato crop in 1919 totaled 13,671 bushels, an average yield of 25.5 bushels per acre. The average yield of taro was 2,710 rootstocks per acre.

Table 1 shows the average, production, and average yield per acre of nine different field crops of Guam in 1919.

Table 1. Acreage, Production, and Average Yield per Acre  
of Specified Crops: 1919

Product	Acres Harvested		Production		Average Yield
	Number	Percent	Quantity	Unit	
Total	3,606	100.0	...	...	...
Corn	2,173	60.3	28,947	Bu	13.3
Sweet potatoes	536	14.9	13,671	Bu	25.5
Taro	473	13.1	1,281,861	No	2,710.1
Yams	160	4.4	12,104	Bu	75.7
Tobacco	81	2.2	36,261	Lbs	447.7
Cassava	80	2.2	103,513	Lbs	1,293.9
Rice	58	1.6	615	Bu	10.6
Arrowroot	32	0.9	34,256	Lbs	1,070.5
Sugar	13	0.4	24,200	Lbs	1,861.5

Source: 1919 Guam Agriculture Census

The island of Guam is not at present self-supporting, but it is believed that it could be made so by the proper development of its agriculture. There is more arable land in Guam than the present population can cultivate with the means at hand. Most of the farmers live in towns and go to and from their farms on feet or in bull carts, thus wasting much time. The greater part of the farming is done with crude hand tools, but modern plows and other agricultural implements are being gradually introduced. On account of the very shallow layer of soil over the "cascajo" (coral limestone), only a comparatively small amount of land can be cultivated with animal-drawn implements. About one-half of the total area of the island is suitable for agriculture and pasturage.

Owing to the fact that there are at present no facilities for storing food crops and also because of the lack of good roads, there is little incentive for the native farmers of Guam to produce more food than is required for their own immediate consumption.

In 1919 the island government opened a public market in Agana, to which the native farmers may bring their produce for sale. The United States Department of Agriculture maintains two experiment farms in Guam primarily to teach the natives modern methods of farming and to stimulate interest in the breeding of live stock.

**Tree products.** – Coconuts are the most important of the products of Guam. The production reported for 1919 amounted to 7,643,200 coconuts, an average of 19 per tree for the 404,581 trees reported. Not only are coconuts used extensively as food by the natives, but copra, or dried coconut meat, from which the oil is later expressed, is the chief product for export from Guam. The following table shows the exports of copra from Guam to the United States and to Japan from 1915 to 1919, inclusive:

Table 2. Exports of Copra

Fiscal Year	Country of Destination	
	United States	Japan
Total	5,357,688	4,205,973
1915	259,360	731,180
1916	982,610	958,958
1917	1,472,576	761,474
1918	1,502,218	902,681
1919	1,140,924	851,680

Source: Annual reports of the Governor of Guam for FY ending June 30

Note: Amounts are in pounds

Tropical fruits are not produced for export from Guam at present, but coffee and cacao of excellent quality are now grown and could be profitably cultivated for export.

Table 3 shows the number of the principal fruit and seed-bearing trees and plants of Guam, the production, and the average yield per tree in 1919.

Table 3. Number of Trees or Plants, Production, and Average Yield per Tree or Specified Fruits and Seeds: 1919

Variety	Trees or Plants		Production		Average yield
	Number	Percent	Quantity	Unit	
Total	660,791	100.0	...	...	...
Coconuts	404,581	61.2	7,643,200	No	18.9
Bananas	158,142	23.9	117,298	Bunches	...
Pineapples	42,637	6.5	29,928	No	...
Coffee	32,191	4.9	19,553	Lbs	...
Breadfruit	15,970	2.4	1,003,700	No	62.8
Oranges	2,788	0.4	394,700	No	141.6
Lemons	1,992	0.3	205,100	No	103.0
Papaya	1,247	0.2	15,288	No	12.3
Cacao	490	0.1	182	Lbs	...
Limes	367	0.1	88,000	No	239.8
Mangoes	284	0.0	32,652	No	115.0
Alligator pears	69	0.0	5,832	No	84.5
Grapefruit	33	0.0	1,392	No	42.2

Source: 1919 Guam Agriculture Census

**Live stock.** – The live stock enumerated in Guam in 1920 included 6,149 carabaos, 4,367 horses, 1,160 goats, 543 hogs, and 73 cattle.

It will be noted that there are much larger numbers of carabaos than of horses on the islands. The carabao, or water buffalo, is the chief burden-bearing animal of Guam, being used both for drawing carts and for plowing. The natives seldom eat the meat of the carabao; and although its milk is of excellent quality, it is rarely used for food.

Neither horses nor cattle have multiplied rapidly since their introduction into Guam. The island government, however, has acquired a small heard of fine cattle and is endeavoring to interest the native farmers in scientific methods of stock breeding and raising.