

GUAM DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Citizen-Centric Report | FY 2025

October 2024 - September 2025



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ABOUT US

The Guam Department of Agriculture was established under Public Law 3-103, effective August 1, 1956.

MISSION

To protect and promote the agricultural resources and economy of the Territory of Guam by research, quarantine, control and conservation.

VISION

The Department's role of developing and protecting the island's agriculture, natural resources, and aquatic and wildlife resources is accomplished through the functions of various divisions.

STRATEGIC GOALS

To restore and maintain balance to our ecosystem, working closely with our local and federal stakeholders on natural resource stewardship and agricultural development

To develop and protect the island's agriculture, natural resources and aquatic and wildlife resources

To monitor, manage and recover Guam's natural resources.

To increase and improve our level of services to farmers and landowners by providing cohesive implementation of programs

To coordinate an efficient network of programs and market services; and to encourage people to protect, nurture and conserve our natural resources through the functions of our various divisions



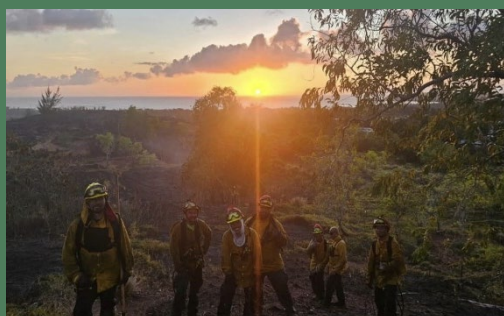
Chelsa D. Muña
Director



Contact Us

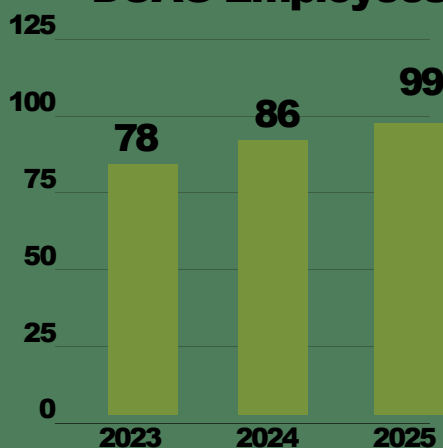
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For more information, visit our website at <https://doag.guam.gov/>

DOAG Employees



FORESTRY AND SOIL RESOURCES

The Guam Department of Agriculture has primary responsibility for conservation management of local government conservation lands. The Forestry and Soil Resources Division is the central division of the Department that is responsible for protecting and restoring forest ecosystems and soil resources in Guam. The mission of Guam Forestry is "to conserve, protect and enhance Guam's vegetative environment and sustain the natural resources which are dependent on healthy forests". The division works with stakeholders to promote healthy and productive forests in both rural and urban areas throughout the island in partnership with non-governmental organizations, the USDA Forest Service, and other government agencies.

Program Goals • Strategy 1: Implement highest priority plantings in urban, rural, and undeveloped areas that meet multiple objectives. **• Strategy 2:** Protect, conserve, and restore forests on public, private, and other non-military lands. **• Strategy 3:** Improve fire prevention, control, suppression and prescribed fire activities through organizing training and equipping staff and resources. **• Strategy 4:** Implement a forest health program and unify interagency efforts to control invasive species.

Accomplishments

Tree Planting Events	23
Trees Planted	10688
Trees Propagated	11000
Total Volunteer Hours	3893
Total Volunteers	450
Wildland Fire Responses	76
Technical Assistance Hrs	1509
Outreach Events	29
Trees Distributed	454

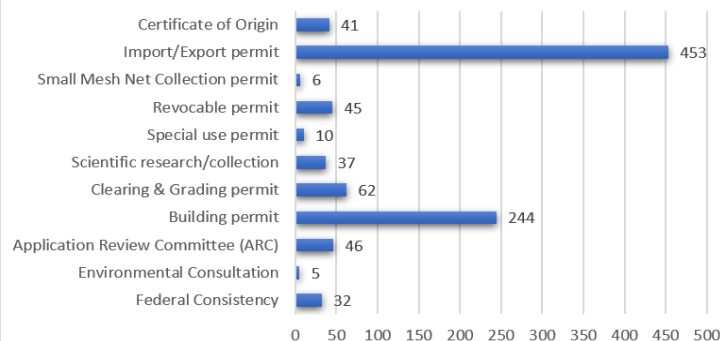
AQUATIC AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES

The Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources (DAWR) monitors and evaluates trends across Guam's flora, fauna, and aquatic environments. DAWR utilizes this data to protect the island's ecosystems by providing environmental reviews, managing permits, and establishing conservation areas to safeguard wildlife populations for generations to come.

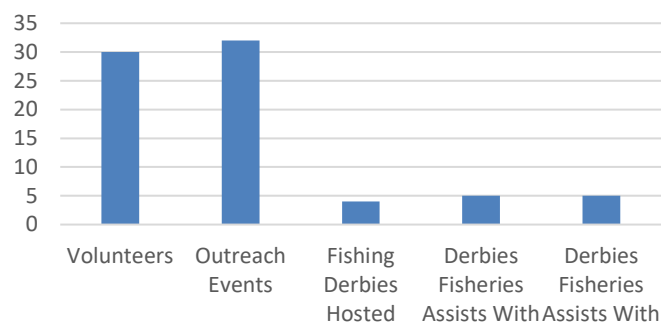
- Wildlife & Aviculture:** DAWR's Wildlife team monitors wild populations of native species, while its aviculture program maintains vital captive-breeding populations of Guam's endangered birds.

• Fisheries Program: This program promotes sustainable cultural, subsistence, and recreational fishing while safeguarding fragile aquatic species, essential fish habitats, and coral reef ecosystems. Through targeted, community-driven programs, it advances science-based fisheries management, habitat conservation, public education, and resource monitoring to ensure healthy, resilient marine life. It supports the responsible stewardship of Guam's marine resources while preserving the island's fishing traditions, food security, and ocean heritage.

No. of Permits/Reports Processed by DAWR



Fisheries Accomplishments

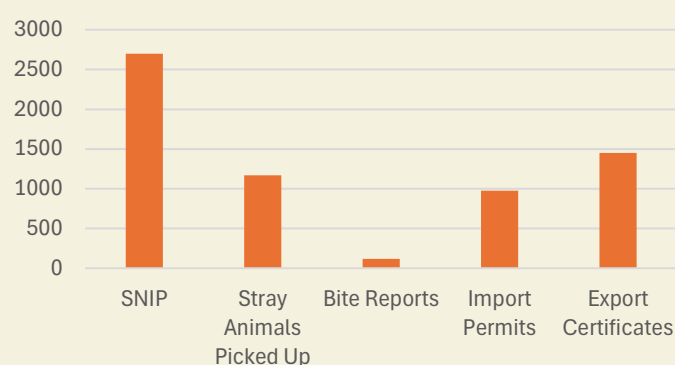


ANIMAL HEALTH

Your Department of Agriculture's Animal Health Division provides compassionate support, education, and enforcement for Guam's animal health laws. Animal Control Officers apprehended and transported 1,170 animals to GAIN and responded to 117 bite reports. There were 942 pet licenses issued. The SNIP program sterilized 2,697 animals. Health Certificates for 1,451 export animals were processed. Approved import permits was 974.

There were 4,641 animals sheltered at GAIN. Seven-hundred and forty-seven animals were adopted. There were two community-based SNIP clinics held to service pet owners closer to their homes.

Animal Health FY 2025



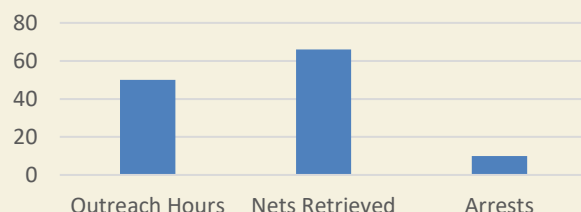
LAW ENFORCEMENT

The Law Enforcement Division's core mission is to preserve, conserve, protect, and enhance all of the island of Guam's natural resources and their habitats through science, public education, public outreach, and the enforcement of all fish, game, forestry, and conservation laws, rules, and regulations—including all endangered and threatened species. As a specialized unit, its mission is to investigate, apprehend, and arrest all natural resource law violators to preserve Guam's terrestrial and marine environments and bring justice to the community we serve.

Conservation Officers Conducted 622 Hours of Patrol During FY 2025

In FY 2025, the Conservation Officers participated in joint operations with the U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, NOAA Law Enforcement, and the Department of Corrections, while also working towards securing P.O.S.T. certifications. The staff consists of five Conservation Officers (one indefinitely detailed to the Fusion Center), two recruits, 10 Conservation Officer apprentices, and eight civilian volunteer Conservation Reservists. Together, they conducted 622 hours of patrol, spent 50 hours at education and outreach events, made 10 arrests, and retrieved 66 abandoned gill nets.

Conservation Law Enforcement FY 2025



BIOSECURITY

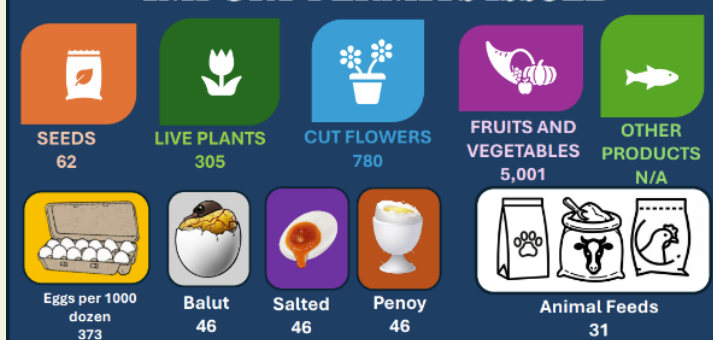
The Biosecurity Section serves as Department of Agriculture's center for Biosecurity and Agricultural Quarantine at the Plant Inspection Facility to protect against invasive species and threats to agricultural products. The Plant Inspection Section operates a federally certified plant inspection station for domestic import of fruits, vegetables, seeds, live plants, and fresh egg imports to Guam and others in the region. The Plant Inspection Facility inspects live plants with pest identification determinations performed to identify if plants are safe, pests and disease free to enter and exit Guam. In FY 2025, there was a total of 6,690 import permits and 605 export permits issued. The Invasive Species Pest Hotline received 121 calls to assist community members with identifying potentially threatening pests. Biosecurity Commodity staff identify potentially threatening pests. Staff also conduct smuggling interdiction and trade compliance enforcement efforts by inspecting retail and wholesale establishments under federal agricultural regulations.

Biosecurity Commodity Officers inspected 756 stores and 13 reconditioning facilities resulting in 9 seizures to protect our community. Staff are also involved in limiting the destructive effects of the coconut rhinoceros beetle, little fire ants and other invasive species through targeted activities and training programs.

EXPORT PERMITS

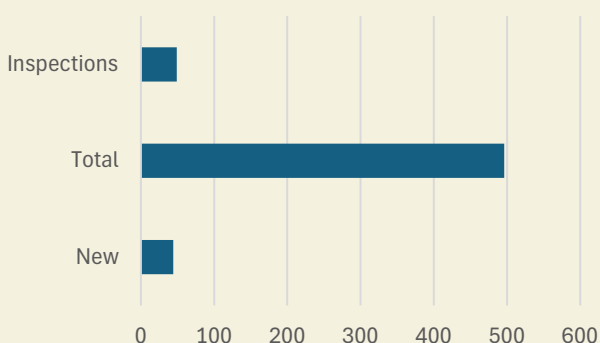
Phytosanitary Certificates	Live Plants	547
	Cut Flowers	
	Fruits and Vegetables	
	Other: Eggs, Seeds, Meats, Pickled products	
Certificate of Origin		58
TOTAL ISSUED		605

IMPORT PERMITS ISSUED



AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Bonafide Farmers



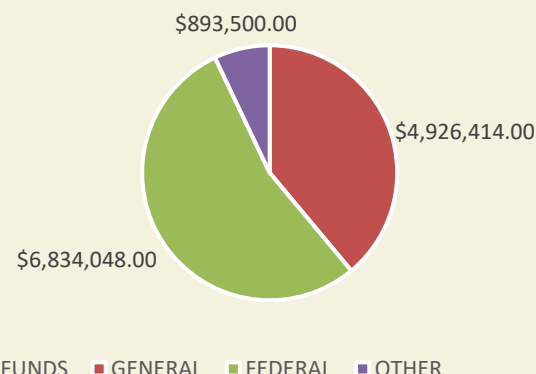
Your Agricultural Development Services Division serves as the Department's hub for development of agricultural programs and education. A key program is the Bonafide Farmer Certificate program. This program aims to track and assist the commercial and subsistence farmers on island. Public Law 22-64 established the Bonafide Farmer definitions, registration, and application procedures. Enrollment in the Bonafide Farmer program requires an on-site farm inspection. Agriculturalists and Agricultural Technicians provide technical guidance upon request. Bonafide Farmers with current certificates are also qualified to file claims with the Crop Loss Compensation Program, upon a natural disaster and local appropriations of funds. In FY 2025 there were 44 new Bonafide Farmers bringing total to 496 Bonafide Farmers. Staff conducted 49 farm inspections.

WHERE OUR SOURCES CAME FROM

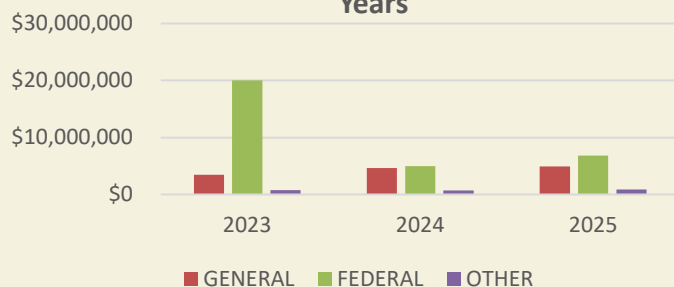
FUNDS	2023	2024	2025	% CHANGE
GENERAL	\$3,441,961	\$4,628,938	\$4,926,414.00	6.43%
FEDERAL	20,020,002	4,953,022	\$6,834,048.00	39.98%
OTHER	780,042	694,853	\$893,500.00	25.59%
TOTAL	\$24,242,005	\$10,278,837	\$12,653,962.00	23.13%

General funds expended in 2025 were 6.43% higher than fiscal year 2024. Federal funds had a 39.98% increase. Other funds saw increase of 25.59% due to special appropriations.

FY 2025 Funding Sources



Funding Sources Expended Over Fiscal Years

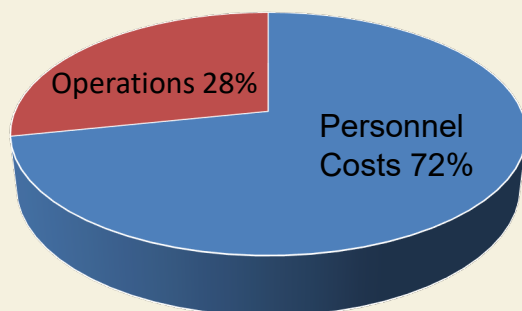


HOW OUR SOURCES WERE USED

EXPENDITURES	2023	2024	2025	% CHANGE
SALARIES, WAGES, & FRINGE	\$6,208,957	\$8,006,440	\$7,245,709	-9.50%
OPERATIONS (SUPPLIES, EQUIPMENT, CONTRACTUAL SERVICES, TRAVEL, UTILITIES, MISCELLANEOUS)	\$18,033,048	\$2,272,397	\$2,856,961	25.72%
TOTAL	\$24,242,005	\$10,278,837	\$10,102,669	-1.71%

The total amount expended in the fiscal year 2025 was \$10.2M. This is a decrease of 1.7% compared to 2024. The Operations category increased 25.7% over 2024, due to contractual expenditures with federally funded construction and an increase of subrecipients of federally funded grants.

Expenditures



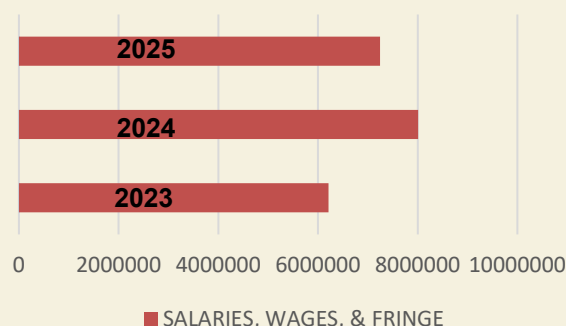
■ SALARIES, WAGES, & FRINGE

■ OPERATIONS (SUPPLIES, EQUIPMENT, CONTRACTUAL SERVICES, TRAVEL, UTILITIES, MISCELLANEOUS)

In FY 25, 72% of costs were salaries and fringe benefits. The remainder of operational costs were 28% of the total expenditures.

Personnel costs have maintained a stable trend across fiscal years 23-25, with a slight decrease between FY 24 and FY25 due to vacant positions remaining unfilled.

Personnel Costs



CHALLENGES



The slow hiring process has impeded the work of the entire department. It is imperative that every division have at least one administrative staff position locally funded and filled. If administrative staff positions are not filled, then the division lacks the resources to fill other federally funded and locally funded positions.

Slow Hiring Process



Wildfire and Public Safety: Wildfires accelerate erosion and the movement of soil pollutants into surface waters and domestic water supplies. Fires also contribute to the decline of the coral reef systems by hastening the delivery of soil sediment into the coastal waters. On average, 4.36% of the island's total land area was burned each year between 2015 and 2024.

Wildfire and Public Safety



Abandoned fishing nets cause damage to the coral reef and kill large numbers of fish, needlessly. Our law enforcement division collected 66 abandoned fishing nets in FY 2025. The Fisheries division staff collected additional nets, that sometimes contained injured marine creatures. The collection of these nets uses resources that could otherwise be dedicated to other important issues.

Abandoned Fishing Nets

MOVING FORWARD

Habitat Conservation Plan

This plan will allow for the creation of a comprehensive plan for the conservation of endangered species and their habitats. "The creation of an Island-Wide HCP will enable us to protect habitats for endangered and threatened species while providing a streamlined course of action for responsible development," said Chelsa Muña, Director of DOAG.



Fisheries Management Plan

The Fisheries Management Plan has been thoughtfully been in the development phase using community feedback and scientific data to guide the way that our community want to manage fish stocks not only fish today, but for future generations.



Stray Animal Population Control

SNIP's goal is to create a sustainable impact on the animal population of Guam, decrease animal suffering, and increase community education that addresses the issue of Guam's stray animal population. Funding has been secured in an America the Beautiful Grant to help trap large groups of feral canines. The grant began its second phase in 2025.



We want to hear from you. Do you like this report? Do you believe it should include any other information? Please let us know by contacting (671) 300-7965/66.