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WASDE - 572

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WHEAT: Projected 2017/18 U.S. ending stocks are raised this month by 25 million bushels on reduced exports. This reduction is primarily attributed to heightened Canadian competition expected from its increased exportable supplies. Canada and the United States compete in several of the same markets in Latin America and East Asia. No other supply or use categories are revised this month. Based on NASS prices reported to date and price expectations for the rest of the marketing year, the projected 2017/18 season-average farm price (SAFP) is unchanged at the midpoint of \$4.60 per bushel. However, the SAFP is narrowed by 10 cents at both ends of the range to \$4.50 to \$4.70.

Global 2017/18 wheat supplies are increased, primarily on higher production forecasts for Canada and the European Union more than offsetting production declines in Brazil, South Africa, and Yemen. Canadian wheat production is raised 3.0 million tons to 30.0 million, largely on increased yields in the Prairie Provinces as reported in Statistics Canada's *Production of Principal Field Crops* report, released on December 6. EU wheat production is raised 1.0 million tons to 152.5 million, mainly on higher production in Romania, Poland, Latvia, and Bulgaria.

World 2017/18 trade is greater this month as higher exports from Canada, Russia, and Ukraine more than offset reduced U.S. exports. Projected imports are increased for Indonesia, China and Brazil. Indonesia's imports are raised 1.0 million tons to 11.5 million, primarily on higher expected feed wheat usage. Total world consumption is projected 2.1 million tons higher, primarily on greater usage from Indonesia, Canada, and the EU. Projected global ending stocks are 0.9 million tons higher this month at 268.4 million, which is a new record.

COARSE GRAINS: This month's 2017/18 U.S. corn outlook is for increased corn used to produce ethanol and reduced ending stocks. Corn used to produce ethanol is raised 50 million bushels to 5.525 billion, based on increased sorghum export commitments, and the most recent data from the *Grain Crushings and Co-Products Production* report, which estimated a lower-than-expected amount of sorghum used to produce ethanol during October. With no other use changes, ending stocks are down 50 million bushels from last month. The projected season-average farm price is unchanged this month at a midpoint of \$3.20 per bushel but the range is narrowed 5 cents on each end to \$2.85 to \$3.55 per bushel.

For sorghum, recent large purchases by China have increased sorghum prices relative to corn, sharply reducing the estimated amount of sorghum used to produce ethanol. With expectations of increased U.S. sorghum exports to China, projected food, seed, and industrial use for sorghum is reduced by 50 million bushels, with an offsetting 50 million bushel increase in exports.

Global coarse grain production for 2017/18 is forecast 1.4 million tons higher to 1,323.9 million. The 2017/18 foreign coarse grain outlook is for larger production, increased consumption, and higher stocks relative to last month. Foreign corn production is forecast higher with increases for China, the EU, Laos, and Guatemala more than offsetting a reduction for Russia. China's corn production is raised based on the latest data from the National Bureau of Statistics. EU corn production is higher, mostly reflecting an increase for Romania that more than offsets declines for several countries. Corn exports are lowered for Russia but raised for the EU. Foreign corn ending stocks are raised from last month, largely reflecting increases for China, the EU, and Brazil that more than offset declines for Egypt and Mexico. Global corn stocks, at 204.1 million tons, are up slightly from last month.

RICE: Total 2017/18 U.S. rice supplies are unchanged at 248.9 million cwt. Exports are lowered 1.0 million cwt (all medium- and short-grain) on increased competition from other suppliers in the Mediterranean region. A 2.0-million-cwt reduction in rough rice exports is partially offset by a 1.0-million-cwt increase in milled. Export demand has been better than expected in important milled rice markets such as Iraq and Haiti but less favorable in rough rice markets, most notably Venezuela. The all rice marketing year average price is lowered \$0.20 per cwt at the midpoint to a range of \$12.30 to \$13.30. All classes of rice are reduced this month.

Global rice production for 2017/18 is raised 2.3 million tons to 483.5 million led by a 2.0-million-ton increase for China and a 0.4-million-ton increase for Burma. The China increase is based on updated production data from China's National Bureau of Statistics. Burma's increase is on slightly higher harvested area and better-than-expected yields. Global exports and total use are each raised 0.4 million tons. With total supplies rising faster than use, world ending stocks are raised 1.8 million tons to 140.7 million. China ending stocks are raised 2.0 million tons to 94.5 million; the largest since 1999/2000.

OILSEEDS: Total U.S. oilseed production for 2017/18 is projected at 132.2 million tons, up slightly due to a small increase in cottonseed. Soybean exports are reduced 25 million bushels to 2,225 million on stronger-than-expected competition from Argentina and Brazil during the first quarter of the marketing year. Seed use is raised in line with projected plantings in the recently released tables to be included in the upcoming *Long Term Agricultural Projections to 2027* report <https://www.usda.gov/oce/commodity/projections.htm>. Soybean ending stocks for 2017/18 are projected at 445 million bushels, up 20 million from last month and still the highest since 2006/07.

Following the December 5, 2017 affirmative determination by the U.S. International Trade Commission regarding countervailing duties on biodiesel imports from Argentina and Indonesia, soybean oil used for domestic production of methyl ester is raised 500 million pounds to 7.5 billion. Reduced soybean oil exports and non-ester domestic use are offsetting, leaving projected ending stocks unchanged at 1.62 billion pounds.

The U.S. season-average soybean price range for 2017/18 is narrowed to \$8.60 to \$10.00 per bushel. The soybean meal and soybean oil price ranges are unchanged at \$295 to \$335 per short ton and 32.5 to 36.5 cents per pound, respectively.

The global oilseed supply and demand forecasts for 2017/18 include higher production, exports, and ending stocks compared to last month. Global production is forecast at 579.5 million tons, up 0.7 million mostly reflecting higher rapeseed, peanut, and palm kernel production. Rapeseed is increased 0.8 million tons to 72.9 million as reductions for Australia and India are more than offset by a 1.6-million-ton increase for Canada based on recent government estimates. Peanut production is raised for Senegal on higher area and yields. An increase in EU sunflowerseed production is offset by lower production for Russia and Argentina. Other production changes include higher palm oil for Indonesia and Thailand and lower palm oil for Malaysia.

Global oilseed exports for 2017/18 are raised 0.5 million tons to 176.3 million with higher soybean exports for Argentina and Brazil and higher rapeseed exports for Canada. Partly offsetting are lower soybean exports for the United States and Canada, and lower sunflowerseed exports for Argentina. Global soybean stocks are up 0.4 million tons to 98.3 million, with lower stocks in South America offset by higher stocks in the United States, Canada, and the EU.

SUGAR: U.S. beet sugar production for 2017/18 is projected at 5.359 million short tons, raw value (STRV), up 409,256 from last month. Recovery of sucrose from sliced sugarbeets for the first three months of the August/July crop year from *Sweetener Market Data* report provides the first empirically based estimate of full crop year recovery. That recovery is projected at 15.4 percent in line with recent historical records. Crop year beet sugar production that includes sugar from desugared molasses is projected at 5.530 million STRV. The fiscal year October/September projection includes adjustments for August-September production that subtracts the estimate for 2017 and adds the historically based projection for 2018. This also includes sugar produced from imported sugarbeets from Canada. Sugar imports for 2017/18 are reduced by 384,452 STRV, as less sugar projected from Mexico is only partially offset by an increase in 2016/17 raw sugar tariff-rate quota imports entering after September 30. Ending stocks for 2017/18 are projected at 1.802 million STRV, implying a stocks-to-use ratio of 14.3 percent.

The projection of Mexico sugar exports to the United States is based on the larger of the Target Quantity of U.S. Sugar Needs from this *WASDE* report or the effective 2017/18 Export Limit previously calculated by the U.S. Department of Commerce (USDOC). Mexico sugar exports to the United States are reduced by 364,595 metric tons (MT) to 1.085 million which is the Export Limit set by USDOC in September 2017 because it exceeds the Target Quantity of U.S. Needs from this *WASDE*. Deliveries for 2017/18 IMMEX are increased by 60,000 MT. The ending stock total for 2017/18 is projected at 1.008 million MT, an amount to meet sugar supply requirements of domestic consumption before the next season harvest. Exports to non-U.S. destinations for 2017/18 are residually projected at 131,298 MT. Total exports for 2017/18 are projected at 1.217 million MT.

LIVESTOCK, POULTRY, AND DAIRY: The 2017 forecast of total red meat and poultry production is reduced from last month on lower beef and pork production forecasts. Beef production is lowered on the current pace of cattle slaughter and lighter carcass weights. The pork production forecast is lowered on smaller-than-anticipated hog slaughter this quarter although partly offset by higher carcass weights. The broiler forecast is raised on a revision to third-quarter production data. The turkey production forecast is unchanged from the previous month. The egg production forecast is lowered on recent hatchery data. For

2018, the total red meat and poultry forecast is lowered from last month on lower expected beef and pork production. Beef production is forecast lower, reflecting slightly lighter carcass weights in 2018. Pork production is reduced as fractionally heavier first-quarter carcass weights only partially offset smaller-than-expected hog slaughter. USDA will release its *Quarterly Hogs and Pigs* report on December 22 which will provide an indication of producers' farrowing intentions into the first half of 2018. Broiler and turkey production forecasts are unchanged from the previous month. The egg production forecast is raised for 2018.

The beef and turkey export forecasts are raised for 2017 on strong global demand which is expected to carry into first-quarter 2018. No change is made to pork and broiler trade forecasts. The egg export forecast is raised for 2017, supported by expectations of solid demand and recent trade data while the egg import forecast is reduced. No change is made to the 2018 egg trade forecasts.

The cattle price forecast for 2017 is lowered on recent prices, but the 2018 cattle price forecast is unchanged from the previous month. The hog price forecast for 2017 is raised on recent demand strength and as this strength is expected to carry into 2018, hog price forecasts are raised for next year. The broiler price forecast is lowered for 2017, but the forecast is unchanged for 2018. Turkey price forecasts are lowered for 2017 and 2018 on relatively weak demand. Egg prices are raised for 2017 and 2018 on strength in demand.

The milk production forecast is lowered for 2017 on slower growth in milk per cow. The slower growth in milk per cow is expected to carry into 2018 and combined with an expected slower rate of growth in cow numbers, the 2018 milk production forecast is lowered. The 2017 and 2018 fat basis import and export forecasts are unchanged from the previous month. On a skim-solids basis, the 2017 and 2018 export forecasts are raised on higher expected whey exports. No changes are made to 2017 and 2018 skim-solids basis import forecasts.

Price forecasts for cheese, butter, and nonfat dry milk are lowered for 2017 on current price weakness and slower demand. The 2017 whey price forecast is unchanged at the midpoint. All dairy product price forecasts are reduced for 2018 on pressure from large stocks and slower expected demand. Class III and Class IV price forecasts are lowered for 2017 and 2018, reflecting the lower product prices. All milk prices are forecast lower at \$17.60 to \$17.70 per cwt for 2017 and \$16.65 to \$17.45 per cwt for 2018.

COTTON: This month's 2017/18 U.S. cotton forecasts include higher exports, slightly higher production, and lower ending stocks. Production is raised 63,000 bales as increases in the Southwest are largely offset by decreases in other regions. Domestic mill use is unchanged, but exports are raised 300,000 bales due to reduced production in other countries. Ending stocks are now projected at 5.8 million bales, 200,000 lower than forecast in November, but more than double their 2016/17 level. The forecast range for the marketing year average price received by producers is raised 3 cents at each end, to a midpoint of 66 cents.

The global 2017/18 cotton forecasts include lower beginning stocks, production, and ending stocks. Global production is reduced 1.5 million bales as reductions for Pakistan, India, Burkina Faso, Argentina, and Australia are only partly offset by increases in Turkey and Central Asia. A 1.0-million-bale decline in India's estimated beginning stocks results in a

similar decline in global 2017/18 beginning stocks. The revision in India's beginning stocks reflects higher estimated consumption since 2015/16, and both India's and world 2017/18 consumption is forecast higher this month—a 335,000-bale increase in the global forecast. World consumption is forecast to grow at a 4.2 percent annual rate in 2017/18, more than double its long-run level. Projected world ending stocks are 2.9 million bales lower this month than in November, and at 87.9 million bales are now forecast marginally higher than the year before.

Approved by the Secretary of Agriculture and the Chairman of the World Agricultural Outlook Board, Seth D. Meyer, (202) 720-6030. This report was prepared by the Interagency Commodity Estimates Committees.

APPROVED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Johansson".

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In 2018, the WASDE report will be released on Jan 12, Feb 8, Mar 8, Apr 10, May 10, Jun 12, Jul 12, Aug 10, Sep 12, Oct 11, Nov 8, and Dec 11.

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U.S. Cotton Supply and Use 1/

	2015/16	2016/17 Est.	2017/18 Proj.	2017/18 Proj.
			Nov	Dec
<i>Area</i>				
Planted	8.58	10.07	12.62	12.62
Harvested	8.07	9.51	11.41	11.41
<i>Yield per Harvested Acre</i>				
	766	867	900	902
<i>Beginning Stocks</i>				
Production	3.65	3.80	2.75	2.75
Imports	12.89	17.17	21.38	21.44
Supply, Total	0.03	0.01	0.01	0.01
Domestic Use	16.57	20.98	24.14	24.20
Exports, Total	3.45	3.25	3.35	3.35
Use, Total	9.15	14.92	14.50	14.80
Unaccounted 2/	12.60	18.17	17.85	18.15
Ending Stocks	0.17	0.06	0.19	0.25
Avg. Farm Price 3/	3.80	2.75	6.10	5.80
	61.2	68.0	60.00 - 66.00	63.00 - 69.00

Note: Reliability calculations at end of report. 1/ Upland and extra-long staple; marketing year beginning August 1. Totals may not add due to rounding. 2/ Reflects the difference between the previous season's supply less total use and ending stocks. 3/ Cents per pound for upland cotton.

U.S. Quarterly Animal Product Production 1/

Year and Quarter		Beef	Pork	Red Meat 2/	Broiler	Turkey	Total Poultry 3/	Red Meat & Poultry	Egg	Milk
2016 IV Annual	6,625	6,648	13,329	10,065	1,511	11,708	25,037	2,220	52.5	
	25,221	24,941	50,387	40,695	5,981	47,225	97,612	8,565	212.4	
2017 I II III IV* Annual			Million Pounds					Mil doz		Bil lbs
	6,300	6,409	12,764	10,233	1,487	11,848	24,612	2,174	53.6	
	6,404	6,137	12,595	10,407	1,481	12,023	24,618	2,175	55.3	
	6,731	6,239	13,023	10,551	1,479	12,167	25,191	2,187	53.5	
	6,870	6,775	13,700	10,350	1,550	12,035	25,735	2,210	53.4	
	Nov Proj.	26,400	25,740	52,358	41,540	5,997	48,072	100,430	8,771	215.8
2018 I* II* III* Annual	Dec Proj.	26,305	25,560	52,082	41,541	5,997	48,073	100,155	8,746	215.7
	6,430	6,700	13,183	10,400	1,475	12,008	25,191	2,215	54.4	
	6,920	6,390	13,365	10,625	1,500	12,265	25,630	2,195	56.2	
	7,035	6,580	13,669	10,700	1,500	12,340	26,009	2,240	54.3	
	Nov Proj.	27,620	26,925	54,763	42,275	6,025	48,848	103,611	8,905	219.7
	Dec Proj.	27,590	26,915	54,723	42,275	6,025	48,848	103,571	8,935	219.3

* Projection. 1/ Commercial production for red meats; federally inspected for poultry meats. 2/ Beef, pork, veal and lamb & mutton. 3/ Broilers, turkeys and mature chicken.

Year and Quarter		Steers 2/	Barrows and gilts 3/	Broilers 4/	Turkeys 5/	Eggs 6/	Milk 7/
2016 IV Annual	Dol./cwt	Dol./cwt	Cents/lb.	Cents/lb.	Cents/doz.	Dol./cwt	
	107.69	37.02	78.0	116.6	81.7	17.80	
2017 I II III IV* Annual	120.86	46.16	84.3	117.1	85.7	16.30	
	122.96	49.73	88.5	100.4	80.0	18.23	
	132.76	51.70	104.7	99.1	74.7	16.83	
	112.46	55.59	94.9	96.9	102.1	17.70	
	116-119	44-45	85-86	86-87	143-146	17.75-17.95	
	Nov Proj.	121.80	49.01	93.8	96.6	94.7	17.65-17.75
2018 I* II* III* Annual	Dec Proj.	121.42	50.38	93.4	95.7	100.3	17.60-17.70
	117-123	47-49	88-92	83-87	106-112	16.50-17.00	
	112-122	49-53	86-94	91-99	91-99	16.20-17.00	
	110-120	47-51	84-92	96-104	96-104	16.40-17.40	
	Nov Proj.	113-122	43-47	85-92	96-103	92-99	16.90-17.80
	Dec Proj.	113-122	46-49	85-92	93-100	100-107	16.65-17.45

*Projection. 1/ Simple average of months. 2/ 5-Area, Direct, Total all grades 3/ National Base, Live equiv 51-52% lean. 4/ Wholesale, National Composite Weighted Average. 5/ 8-16 lbs, hens National. 6/ Grade A large, New York, volume buyers. 7/ Prices received by farmers for all milk.

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U.S. Meats Supply and Use

		Beginning stocks	Production 1/	Imports	Total Supply	Exports	Ending Stocks	Total Use	Per Capita 2/ 3/
<i>Million Pounds /4</i>									
Beef	2016	683	25,288	3,015	28,986	2,556	757	25,673	55.6
	2017 Proj. Nov	757	26,467	2,966	30,190	2,855	700	26,635	57.3
	Dec	757	26,372	2,966	30,095	2,875	700	26,520	57.0
	2018 Proj. Nov	700	27,687	3,030	31,417	2,970	715	27,732	59.2
	Dec	700	27,657	3,030	31,387	2,985	715	27,687	59.1
Pork	2016	590	24,956	1,091	26,637	5,239	507	20,891	50.1
	2017 Proj. Nov	507	25,756	1,113	27,376	5,588	630	21,158	50.4
	Dec	507	25,576	1,113	27,196	5,588	630	20,978	50.0
	2018 Proj. Nov	630	26,941	1,000	28,571	5,900	660	22,011	52.1
	Dec	630	26,931	1,000	28,561	5,900	660	22,001	52.1
Total Red Meat 5/	2016	1,320	50,480	4,322	56,123	7,801	1,304	47,018	106.9
	2017 Proj. Nov	1,304	52,451	4,330	58,085	8,450	1,374	48,261	109.0
	Dec	1,304	52,175	4,330	57,809	8,470	1,374	47,965	108.3
	2018 Proj. Nov	1,374	54,856	4,272	60,502	8,878	1,419	50,205	112.6
	Dec	1,374	54,816	4,272	60,462	8,893	1,419	50,150	112.4
Broiler	2016	832	40,260	131	41,223	6,644	778	33,800	89.8
	2017 Proj. Nov	778	41,096	123	41,997	6,713	780	34,504	91.0
	Dec	778	41,097	123	41,998	6,713	825	34,460	90.9
	2018 Proj. Nov	780	41,823	130	42,733	6,910	780	35,043	91.8
	Dec	825	41,823	130	42,778	6,910	790	35,078	91.9
Turkey	2016	201	5,981	50	6,232	569	279	5,384	16.6
	2017 Proj. Nov	279	5,997	28	6,304	618	300	5,386	16.5
	Dec	279	5,997	28	6,304	623	325	5,356	16.4
	2018 Proj. Nov	300	6,025	40	6,365	650	300	5,415	16.5
	Dec	325	6,025	40	6,390	655	300	5,435	16.6
Total Poultry 6/	2016	1,041	46,789	184	48,014	7,372	1,065	39,577	107.6
	2017 Proj. Nov	1,065	47,627	154	48,847	7,464	1,088	40,294	108.8
	Dec	1,065	47,628	154	48,848	7,469	1,158	40,220	108.6
	2018 Proj. Nov	1,088	48,395	174	49,657	7,705	1,088	40,864	109.6
	Dec	1,158	48,395	174	49,727	7,710	1,098	40,919	109.7
Red Meat & Poultry	2016	2,361	97,269	4,506	104,136	15,173	2,369	86,595	214.6
	2017 Proj. Nov	2,369	100,078	4,484	106,931	15,914	2,462	88,555	217.8
	Dec	2,369	99,803	4,484	106,656	15,939	2,532	88,185	216.9
	2018 Proj. Nov	2,462	103,251	4,446	110,159	16,583	2,507	91,069	222.1
	Dec	2,532	103,211	4,446	110,189	16,603	2,517	91,069	222.2

1/ Total including farm production for red meats and, for poultry, federally inspected plus non-federally inspected, less condemnations. 2/ Pounds, retail-weight basis for red meat and broilers; certified ready-to-cook weight for turkey. 3/ Population source: Dept. of Commerce. 4/ Carcass weight for red meats and certified ready-to-cook weight for poultry. 5/ Beef, pork, veal, lamb and mutton. 6/ Broilers, turkeys and mature chicken.

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U.S. Egg Supply and Use

	2015	2016	2017 Proj.	2017 Proj.	2018 Proj.	2018 Proj.
			Nov	Dec	Nov	Dec
Eggs	<i>Million Dozen</i>					
Supply						
Beginning Stocks	23.3	31.1	27.1	27.1	27.0	26.0
Production	8,053.0	8,565.0	8,771.3	8,746.3	8,905.0	8,935.0
Imports	123.5	121.9	37.4	34.4	40.0	40.0
Total Supply	8,199.8	8,718.0	8,835.8	8,807.8	8,972.0	9,001.0
Use						
Exports	313.6	279.0	313.0	323.0	320.0	320.0
Hatching Use	995.6	1,009.6	1,028.7	1,033.7	1,030.0	1,030.0
Ending Stocks	31.1	27.1	27.0	26.0	27.0	27.0
Disappearance						
Total	6,859.4	7,402.3	7,467.1	7,425.1	7,595.0	7,624.0
Per Capita (number)	256.3	274.7	275.2	273.7	278.0	279.1

U.S. Milk Supply and Use

	2015	2016	2017 Proj.	2017 Proj.	2018 Proj.	2018 Proj.
			Nov	Dec	Nov	Dec
Milk	<i>Billion Pounds</i>					
Production	208.6	212.4	215.8	215.7	219.7	219.3
Farm Use	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Fat Basis Supply						
Beg. Commercial Stocks	10.5	12.3	12.7	12.7	13.6	13.6
Marketings	207.6	211.4	214.8	214.7	218.7	218.3
Imports	5.8	7.0	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1
Total Cml. Supply	223.9	230.8	233.6	233.6	238.4	238.0
Fat Basis Use						
Commercial Exports	8.5	8.4	9.1	9.1	9.4	9.4
Ending Commercial Stocks	12.3	12.7	13.6	13.6	12.4	12.8
CCC Donations	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Domestic Commercial Use	203.0	209.7	210.9	210.8	216.7	215.9
Skim-solid Basis Supply						
Beg. Commercial Stocks	9.4	9.2	9.5	9.5	12.6	12.6
Marketings	207.6	211.4	214.8	214.7	218.7	218.3
Imports	6.0	6.5	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1
Total Cml. Supply	223.1	227.1	230.4	230.4	237.4	237.0
Skim-solid Basis Use						
Commercial Exports	37.3	39.0	39.9	40.1	41.7	41.8
Ending Commercial Stocks	9.2	9.5	12.6	12.6	10.7	12.0
CCC Donations	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Domestic Commercial Use	176.6	178.5	177.9	177.6	185.1	183.2

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.

U.S. Dairy Prices

	2015	2016	2017 Proj. Nov	2017 Proj. Dec	2018 Proj. Nov	2018 Proj. Dec
Product Prices 1/						
Cheese	1.6454	1.6050	1.630- 1.640	1.630- 1.640	1.625- 1.715	1.620- 1.700
Butter	2.0670	2.0777	2.325- 2.355	2.315- 2.345	2.285- 2.405	2.270- 2.380
Nonfat Dry Milk	0.9016	0.8292	0.860- 0.880	0.855- 0.875	0.770- 0.840	0.745- 0.805
Dry Whey	0.3804	0.2875	0.440- 0.450	0.440- 0.450	0.325- 0.355	0.310- 0.340
<i>Dollars Per Pound</i>						
Milk Prices 2/						
Class III	15.80	14.87	16.15- 16.25	16.15- 16.25	15.50- 16.40	15.30- 16.10
Class IV	14.35	13.77	15.10- 15.30	15.05- 15.25	14.15- 15.15	13.90- 14.80
All Milk 3/	17.13	16.30	17.65- 17.75	17.60- 17.70	16.90- 17.80	16.65- 17.45
<i>Dollars Per Cwt</i>						

1/ Simple average of monthly prices calculated by AMS from weekly average dairy product prices for class price computations. 2/ Annual Class III and Class IV prices are the simple averages of monthly minimum Federal order milk prices paid by regulated plants for milk used in the respective classes. All milk price is the simple average of monthly prices received by farmers for milk at average test. 3/ Does not reflect any deductions from producers as authorized by legislation.

Reliability of December Projections 1/

Note: Tables on pages 35-37 present a record of the December projection and the final Estimate. Using world wheat production as an example, the "root mean square error" means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the current forecast will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 0.8 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90% confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 1.4 percent. The average difference between the December projection and the final estimate is 3.8 million tons, ranging from 0.4 million to 10.2 million tons. The December projection has been below the estimate 27 times and above 9 times.

	Differences between forecast and final estimate						
	Root mean square error	90 percent confidence interval				Years	
			Average	Smallest	Largest	Below Final	Above Final
WHEAT	<i>Percent</i>						
Production			<i>Million Metric Tons</i>				
World	0.8	1.4	3.8	0.4	10.2	27	9
U.S.	0.4	0.7	0.2	0.0	1.2	17	13
Foreign	0.9	1.6	3.8	0.3	10.3	27	9
Exports							
World	5.3	9.0	5.5	0.1	18.3	30	6
U.S.	5.8	9.8	1.6	0.2	3.9	20	16
Foreign	6.6	11.1	5.4	0.5	17.9	32	4
Domestic Use							
World	1.3	2.1	5.5	0.1	16.7	20	16
U.S.	6.0	10.2	1.6	0.1	3.6	10	26
Foreign	1.3	2.2	5.6	0.1	16.1	24	12
Ending Stocks							
World	5.6	9.5	6.8	0.9	19.4	26	10
U.S.	10.6	18.0	1.7	0.1	7.0	24	12
Foreign	5.8	9.8	5.6	0.4	19.3	25	11
COARSE GRAINS 2/							
Production							
World	1.4	2.4	11.6	0.0	36.0	26	10
U.S.	1.3	2.2	2.4	0.0	7.5	18	18
Foreign	2.0	3.4	11.7	0.3	37.5	25	11
Exports							
World	6.9	11.7	6.6	0.1	33.3	27	9
U.S.	15.4	26.1	5.3	0.1	12.8	16	20
Foreign	12.0	20.3	6.6	0.0	27.1	24	11
Domestic Use							
World	1.3	2.1	9.7	0.3	36.5	21	15
U.S.	3.6	6.2	4.9	0.1	17.9	17	19
Foreign	1.5	2.5	9.0	0.3	36.9	23	13
Ending Stocks							
World	9.8	16.6	12.3	1.0	30.3	29	7
U.S.	19.3	32.7	7.4	0.7	23.9	19	17
Foreign	12.9	22.0	10.5	0.1	31.8	29	7
RICE, milled							
Production							
World	2.0	3.3	5.5	0.0	16.2	29	7
U.S.	2.9	5.0	0.1	0.0	0.5	18	14
Foreign	2.0	3.4	5.5	0.1	16.2	30	6
Exports							
World	9.4	15.9	1.7	0.1	6.1	28	8
U.S.	7.6	12.9	0.2	0.0	0.6	19	15
Foreign	10.6	17.9	1.7	0.0	6.0	26	10
Domestic Use							
World	1.6	2.7	3.9	0.0	15.9	25	11
U.S.	7.6	12.9	0.2	0.0	0.6	17	19
Foreign	1.6	2.7	3.8	0.0	16.1	25	11
Ending Stocks							
World	10.8	18.3	5.3	0.1	27.9	29	7
U.S.	21.8	37.0	0.2	0.0	0.8	20	16
Foreign	11.1	18.8	5.3	0.2	27.7	29	7

1/ Footnotes at end of table.

CONTINUED

Reliability of December Projections (Continued) 1/

	Differences between forecast and final estimate						
	Root mean square error	90 percent confidence interval	Average	Years			
				Smallest	Largest	Below Final	Above Final
SOYBEANS	<i>Percent</i>						
Production				<i>Million Metric Tons</i>			
World	3.8	6.5	5.4	0.1	23.8	21	15
U.S.	2.0	3.4	1.1	0.1	2.7	15	21
Foreign	6.4	10.8	5.5	0.1	25.1	18	18
Exports							
World	7.0	11.8	3.1	0.1	13.1	22	14
U.S.	9.3	15.7	2.1	0.1	6.4	22	14
Foreign	17.9	30.4	2.8	0.0	11.4	18	18
Domestic Use							
World	2.8	4.7	3.8	0.0	13.2	20	16
U.S.	3.5	6.0	1.2	0.0	3.6	23	13
Foreign	3.3	5.7	3.4	0.2	11.9	21	15
Ending Stocks				<i>Million 480-Pound Bales</i>			
World	15.8	26.8	4.4	0.1	18.5	21	15
U.S.	45.4	77.1	2.2	0.2	7.3	10	26
Foreign	17.4	29.6	4.0	0.1	18.3	22	14
COTTON	<i>Million 480-Pound Bales</i>						
Production							
World	3.2	5.4	2.4	0.0	7.2	20	15
U.S.	2.0	3.5	0.2	0.0	0.8	18	17
Foreign	3.8	6.4	2.3	0.0	7.1	19	16
Exports							
World	7.1	12.1	1.9	0.1	9.0	22	14
U.S.	14.1	23.9	0.9	0.0	3.0	23	13
Foreign	9.2	15.6	1.4	0.0	8.3	19	16
Domestic Use							
World	2.8	4.8	2.1	0.1	8.2	18	18
U.S.	6.1	10.4	0.3	0.0	1.0	19	16
Foreign	2.9	4.9	2.0	0.1	7.9	20	16
Ending Stocks							
World	11.2	19.1	4.2	0.5	12.0	21	15
U.S.	28.1	47.7	1.0	0.1	3.2	10	26
Foreign	11.9	20.2	4.0	0.1	12.1	25	11

1/ Marketing years 1981/82 through 2016/17 for grains, soybeans, and cotton. Final for grains, soybeans, and cotton is defined as the first November estimate following the marketing year for 1981/82 through 2016/17. 2/ Includes corn, sorghum, barley, oats, rye, millet, and mixed grain.

Reliability of United States December Projections 1/

	Differences between forecast and final estimate						
	Root mean square error	90 percent confidence interval				Years	
			Average	Smallest	Largest	Below Final	Above Final
CORN	<i>Percent</i>						
Production	1.3	2.3	88	0	250	18	17
Exports	16.0	27.1	186	9	467	16	20
Domestic Use	3.9	6.6	187	14	574	21	15
Ending Stocks	22.1	37.6	287	16	986	19	17
SORGHUM	<i>Million Bushels</i>						
Production	4.2	7.2	15	1	53	18	18
Exports	17.3	29.4	28	0	123	24	11
Domestic Use	18.8	31.9	36	0	127	15	20
Ending Stocks	45.8	77.7	25	1	104	13	23
BARLEY							
Production	1.5	2.6	4	0	24	15	10
Exports	30.8	52.3	9	0	37	13	21
Domestic Use	6.6	11.1	16	0	70	13	22
Ending Stocks	12.3	20.9	13	0	39	25	9
OATS							
Production	1.1	1.9	2	0	18	7	9
Exports	73.9	125.5	1	0	7	9	10
Domestic Use	4.8	8.1	12	1	39	15	21
Ending Stocks	20.4	34.6	14	1	52	23	13
SOYBEAN MEAL	<i>Thousand Short Tons</i>						
Production	3.4	5.8	1,002	152	2,578	22	14
Exports	11.1	18.9	689	100	2,850	21	15
Domestic Use	3.3	5.6	704	50	2,293	18	18
Ending Stocks	34.1	57.9	59	0	214	15	19
SOYBEAN OIL	<i>Million Pounds</i>						
Production	3.5	5.9	445	43	1,530	24	12
Exports	27.0	45.8	318	0	1,325	19	15
Domestic Use	3.8	6.4	449	25	1,761	22	14
Ending Stocks	21.8	37.0	298	1	1,051	22	14
ANIMAL PROD.	<i>Million Pounds</i>						
Beef	3.6	6.1	723	9	2,311	26	9
Pork	3.3	5.6	426	20	1,592	21	14
Broilers	1.8	3.0	391	1	1,346	21	14
Turkeys	3.0	5.1	121	2	407	21	14
	<i>Million Dozen</i>						
Eggs	1.9	3.3	105	3	515	24	11
	<i>Billion Pounds</i>						
Milk	1.6	2.6	1.8	0.0	6.1	18	13

1/ See pages 35 and 36 for record of reliability for U.S. wheat, rice, soybeans, and cotton. Marketing years 1981/82 through 2016/17 for grains, soybeans, and cotton. Final for grains, soybeans, and cotton is defined as the first November estimate following the marketing year for 1981/82 through 2016/17. Calendar years 1982 through 2016 for meats, eggs, and milk. Final for animal products is defined as the latest annual production estimate published by NASS for 1982-2016.

Related USDA Reports

The *WASDE* report incorporates information from a number of statistical reports published by USDA and other government agencies. In turn, the *WASDE* report provides a framework for more detailed reports issued by USDA's Economic Research Service and Foreign Agricultural Service. For more information on how the *WASDE* report is prepared, go to: <http://www.usda.gov/oce/commodity/wasde>.

Supply and Demand Database

The Foreign Agricultural Service publishes Production, Supply, and Demand Online, a comprehensive database of supply and demand balances by commodity for 190 countries and regions at <https://apps.fas.usda.gov/psdonline/app/index.html>. Data for grains, oilseeds, and cotton are updated monthly and data for other commodities are updated less frequently.

Foreign Production Assessments

Preliminary foreign production assessments and satellite imagery analysis used to prepare the *WASDE* report are provided by the Production Estimates and Crop Assessment Division (PECAD) of the Foreign Agricultural Service. PECAD is located at www.pecad.fas.usda.gov/.

Metric Conversion Factors

1 Hectare = 2.4710 Acres

1 Kilogram = 2.20462 Pounds

Metric-Ton Equivalent	= Domestic Unit	Factor
Wheat & Soybeans	bushels	.027216
Rice	cwt	.045359
Corn, Sorghum, & Rye	bushels	.025401
Barley	bushels	.021772
Oats	bushels	.014515
Sugar	short tons	.907185
Cotton	480-lb bales	.217720



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