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The following estimates, forecasts, and projections are mainly taken from recent publications of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, Economic Research Service, and the World Agricultural Outlook Board of the USDA.

Corn. The November forecast for 2001 corn production is 9.55 billion bushels, up 1% from the last forecast but down 4% from last year. Based on November 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 138.0 bushels per acre, up 1.7 bushels from last month and up 0.9 bushel from a year ago. The World Agricultural Outlook Board (WAOB) projected 2001/02 ending stocks of corn are up 116 million bushels from last month because of higher forecast production and unchanged use. A market year average price between \$1.80 and \$2.20 per bushel is expected, compared to \$1.85 for the 2000 crop.

Soybeans. The 2001 soybean crop is forecast at a record high 2.92 billion bushels, up 1% from October and up 6% from last year. The yield forecast, at 39.4 bushels per acre, increased 0.2 bushel from last month and is 1.3 bushels above 2000. WAOB projected ending stocks, at 355 million bushels, are up 10 million bushels from last month. Soybean exports are forecast at 980 million bushels by the WAOB, unchanged from last month. Increased global use prospects are largely met by larger soybean availabilities in South America. A market year average price is projected between \$3.90 and \$4.70 per bushel, compared with \$4.55 for the 2000 crop year.

Cotton. All cotton production is forecast at 20.2 million 480-pound bales, up 1% from last month and up 17% from 2000. Yield is expected to average 685 pounds per harvested acre, up 4 pounds from last month and 53 pounds above the previous year. WAOB projected U.S. ending stocks are down 100,000 bales from last month due to increased exports. Exports are now forecast at 9.4 million bales, equal to the post-World War II record set in 1994/95. Season-to-date export commitments and shipments are the highest since export sales reporting began in the mid-1970's.

Rice. U.S. rice production is forecast at a record high 210 million cwt, up 1% from October and 10% above 2000. The average yield is forecast at a record high 6,374 pounds per acre, up 46 pounds from last month and 93 pounds above last year. Ending stocks in 2001/02 are projected by the WAOB at 42.2 million cwt, up 1.6 million cwt from last month and the largest stocks since 1986/87. The market year average price is expected to average between \$4.00 and \$4.50 per cwt compared to \$5.56 per cwt for the 2000 crop.

Other Crops. Grain Sorghum production is forecast at 537 million bushels, up slightly from the October forecast and 14% above 2000. The U.S. yield is forecast at 61.2 bushels per acre, up from 61.0 last month. The **peanut crop** is forecast at 4.16 billion pounds, up 7% from last month and 27% above last year's crop. Yields are expected to average a record high 2,990 pounds, up 207 pounds from last month. All **tobacco** production is forecast at 1.06 billion pounds, 2% above the October forecast and up 1% from 2000. Yields for 2001 are expected to average 2,355 pounds per acre, 56 pounds more than last month.

Cattle. November 1 **cattle on feed** in the U.S. feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more totaled 11.9 million head, virtually unchanged from a year earlier. October placements were down 5% from the previous year. Marketings of fed cattle were down 2% from 2000. At mid-November, **prices** for choice steers (Nebraska direct, 1100-1300 pounds) averaged \$64 per cwt. Feeder steer prices (Oklahoma City, medium-large frame, 750-800 pounds) were around \$80 per cwt in mid-November, down \$9 from mid-October.

Hogs. During the first two weeks of November slaughter has been running about 1% above a year ago. Prices at mid-November (Iowa-Southern Minnesota direct, 230-250 pounds) were around \$32 per cwt, down \$6 from mid-October. First quarter prices are expected to average \$42 per cwt.

Other Livestock. October **milk production** was down 0.2% from the previous year. Production per cow increased 1.0%, but the number of cows was down 1.2%. **Cheddar cheese prices** (U.S. 40 pound blocks, wholesale) were down the first two weeks of November. During September, total **cheese** production was 1.1% below the previous year, **butter** production was down 1.2% and **nonfat dry milk** production was up 7.6%. US table **egg production** during October 2001 totaled 6.24 billion, up 3% from October 2000. Wholesale market **egg prices** for the fourth quarter of 2001

(Grade A large, New York) are expected to average 72-74 cents per dozen, compared with 83.1 cents a year ago. First quarter 2002 egg prices are expected to average 66-70 cents per dozen, compared with 75.8 cents a year earlier. **Broiler-Type** chicks hatched during October 2001 totaled 740 million, up 4% from last year. Cumulative Broiler-Type Placements in 15 selected states thru November 10, 2001, were 6.59 billion, 1% above a year ago. The wholesale 12-city average price for whole **broilers** for the fourth quarter of 2001 is expected to be 58-60 cents, compared with 57.6 cents from the fourth quarter of last year. First quarter 2002 broiler prices are expected to average 56-60 cents per pound, compared with the 57.8 cents for a year earlier. Cumulative **turkey poult placements** for the 2001 marketing year through October 2001 were 46.2 million, 1% below the same period a year ago. Placements in October 2001, at 23.8 million, were up 1% from last October. Prices (8-16 lb. hens, Eastern Region) for the fourth quarter of 2001 are expected to be 71-73 cents compared with 76.2 cents for the fourth quarter last year. Turkey prices for the first quarter of 2002 are expected to average 60-64 cents per pound, compared with the 61.7 cents average for the first quarter of 2001. **Supplies in refrigerated warehouses** at the end of October 2001 compared with a year earlier were: total chicken, down 17%; turkey, up 4%; pork, down 2%; bellies, up 37%; beef, down slightly; frozen orange juice, up 20%, butter, up 63%; and American cheese, down 16%.

Trade. October U.S. **trade projections** for cotton improved while 2001/2002 export prospects for rice and beef declined, compared with last month. Wheat, corn, soybeans, pork, broilers, and turkeys were unchanged from September. October projections of the volume of exports for the 2001/2002 marketing year compared to 2000/2001 are: **wheat** down 3%; **corn** up 6%; **rice** up 3%; **soybeans** down 2%; **soybean meal** up 1%; **soybean oil** up 71%; and **cotton** up 39%. October projections for the volume of meat exports in calendar 2002 compared to 2001 are: **beef** up 2%; **pork** down 7%; **broilers** up 3%; and **turkeys** down 1%. The **U.S. trade deficit** for goods and services decreased to \$18.7 billion in September, from a revised \$27.1 billion in August. The **U.S. agricultural trade surplus** was \$1.304 billion in September, compared with \$852.3 million in August.

Prices. The rate of **inflation**, as monitored by the CPI for all urban consumers, decreased 0.3% in October but has increased 2.1% over the last 12 months. The **PPI** decreased 1.6% in October, and has decreased 0.4% for the 12-month period ending in October. The October **prime rate**, averaging 5.53%, was down from 6.28% in September. Compared to a year earlier, **feed** prices in October were up 8%; **feeder livestock and poultry** prices were up 2%; **fertilizer** down 7%; **ag chemicals** up 1%; **farm machinery** was unchanged; **seeds** up 7% and **fuels** down 22%.

World Weather and Crop Developments (November 11-17). A storm system developed over the southern Great Plains, producing heavy rainfall accumulations that halted fieldwork across much of Texas. Some areas experienced flooding, but most of the precipitation was beneficial for developing winter crops. Storms also provided much-needed moisture for winter grains in the interior Pacific Northwest, although soil moisture reserves remained low. Coastal rains boosted moisture supplies for fruits, vegetables, and winter grains and forages in California. Topsoil moisture supplies remained mostly adequate for winter wheat development in the Corn Belt, but increasing moisture shortages hindered emergence and development in the central and northern Great Plains and along the Atlantic Coastal Plain. Warm weather stimulated growth of winter grains and forages where adequate moisture supplies were available. Light to moderate showers favored winter wheat in **Ukraine** and southern **Russia**, although seasonably colder weather prompted crops to begin entering dormancy in many areas. Relatively cold weather helped to cold-harden winter grains in northeastern **Europe** and slow crop development in most other areas. Showers continued in winter grain areas of **Algeria** and **Tunisia**, prompting winter grain planting. In **Australia** showers benefited pastures and emerging summer crops but hampered winter grain harvesting. In south **Asia** rain lingered over southern and eastern rice areas, as drier, warmer weather elsewhere favored summer crop harvesting. In the **Middle East** unseasonably warm, dry weather covered primary winter wheat areas, aiding fieldwork but taxing moisture reserves. In portions of the North **China** Plain, light rain provided some moisture for vegetative winter wheat, but seasonably dry weather prevailed elsewhere. In central **Argentina**, somewhat drier weather eased excessive wetness but the reduced wheat quality remained a concern. Widespread showers covered the major **Brazilian** soybean producing areas, continuing to boost soil moisture for soybean planting.

Other News. **Cotton is experiencing greater weakness in world prices** than grains and other crops. World cotton prices, down 39% from a year earlier as of October 2001, have suffered from global slackening of demand coinciding with rebounding world production. Over the past two decades, **consumption of sweet bell peppers** has been on the rise in the U.S. Given continued strong demand, U.S. growers harvested 12% more bell pepper acreage in 2000 than a year earlier. **Recent years have seen strong demand for dairy products**; prices were generally robust except when rapid expansion in milk production temporarily overcame demand. But in 2002, softening economic conditions probably will result in less vigorous demand growth for cheese, butter, and dairy products overall. **European Union (EU) preferential trading agreements (PTAs) mean heightened competition for U.S. Ag Exports.** Although the EU has pursued global multilateral trade negotiations within the World Trade Organization (WTO) and extends most-favored-nation treatment to the U.S. and other WTO members, it also participates in more nonglobal PTAs than any other WTO member. Over two-thirds of EU imports come from countries with such agreements, which do not include the U.S.

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