TABLE 18

The table below presents a record of the differences between the June 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 3.2 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90% confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 5.4 percent. The average difference between the June projection and the final estimate is 16.1 million tons, ranging from 0.4 million to 32.2 million tons. The June projection has been below the estimate 20 times and above 13 times.

RELIABILITY OF PRODUCTION PROJECTIONS 1/

COMMODITY AND REGION	Root mean square error	90 percent confidence interval	Difference between forecast and final estimate				
			Average	Smallest	Largest	Years	
						Below final	Above final
	Percent		---Million metric tons---				
WHEAT							
World	3.2	5.4	16.1	0.4	32.2	20	13
U.S.	5.9	10.0	2.7	0.0	8.4	19	14
Foreign	3.3	5.7	14.9	1.1	31.9	19	13
COARSE GRAINS 2/							
World	3.8	6.5	26.3	0.6	103.3	17	16
U.S.	14.7	25.0	21.5	1.0	103.8	15	18
Foreign	2.8	4.8	13.7	0.4	41.6	16	16
RICE (Milled)							
World	2.5	4.3	7.3	0.3	21.8	22	11
U.S.	6.9	11.7	0.3	0.0	1.1	19	14
Foreign	2.6	4.4	7.2	0.4	21.9	21	11
SOYBEANS							
World	NA	NA	11.1	1.5	27.9	3	7
U.S.	9.2	15.5	4.3	0.0	12.0	15	18
Foreign	NA	NA	10.0	1.2	23.9	4	5
COTTON			*---Million 480-lb. bales---*				
World	6.1	10.3	4.0	0.0	16.4	19	13
U.S.	10.4	17.6	1.5	0.1	5.6	16	17
Foreign	6.2	10.6	3.3	0.2	12.4	19	13
UNITED STATES			*-------Million bushels-------*				
CORN	17.5	29.7	851	8	4,010	16	17
SORGHUM	20.7	35.1	88	0	228	13	19
BARLEY	15.0	25.4	29	1	206	12	21
OATS	24.8	42.1	33	1	231	7	26

1/ Marketing years 1981/82 through 2013/14. Final for grains, soybeans and cotton is defined as the first November estimate following the marketing year for 1981/82 through 2012/13, and for 2013/14 last month's estimate.

2/ Includes corn, sorghum, barley, oats, rye, millet, and mixed grain

June 2014 Office of Global Analysis, FAS, USDA