

Food Is Short; Farm Capacity Undercut; Oust Obama and His London Famine Policy

by Marcia Merry Baker

Nov. 15—November is the month of harvest Thanksgiving in the United States, but this year it marks yet another decline in food production and reserves, more hunger, and dire prospects for the near future. The food isn't there!

In the United States, over the past year's crop season, production levels dropped for all three basic grains—wheat, corn, and rice. U.S. 2011 production of these adds up to 383 million metric tons, in contrast to 416 mmt two years ago, and 398 mmt last year.¹

Feed rations and conditions for meat animals have become so fraught, that U.S. beef output next year, for example, is already forecast to drop significantly, according to the Nov. 9 report of the USDA, well known for understating the real picture. But at the same time, U.S. beef exports have shot up 30% from a year ago.

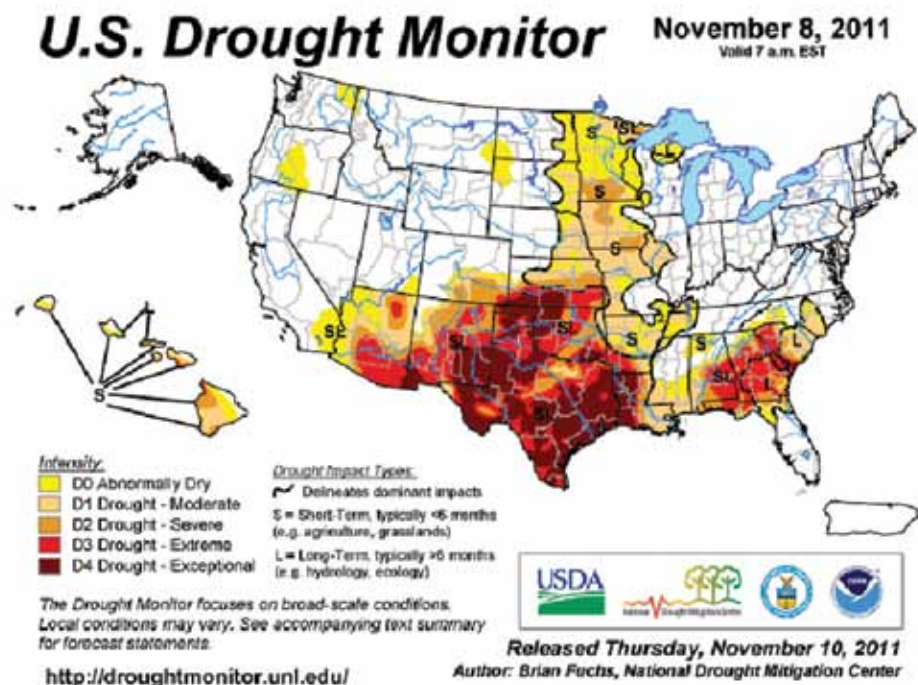
The U.S. situation is part of the global picture of inadequate, and highly variable production of food, in which a web of transnational mega-companies are operating to make it much worse, by "sourcing" and shunting scarce food wherever they choose, for maximum profiteering and food control. The well-known names include Cargill, Monsanto, ADM, Dreyfus, Bunge, Smithfield, Wal-Mart, and others. The less-known in-

clude Lactalis, Olam, JBS, BASF, Syngenta, Nestle, Unilever, Carrefour, and others.

In terms of physical production, why the apparently "sudden" food scarcity in the United States? On the lowest level of understanding, even the clueless can compute that this past year's run of extreme weather—drought, floods, heat, and cold—have had bad effects on U.S. crop production and the food chain.

The U.S. Drought Monitor map (**Figure 1**), summarizes one aspect of the problem. The patterns show areas of severe drought in the Southwest, covering the dryland wheat belt in the southern High Plains, which is also the major U.S. beef-producing region. Texas, the

FIGURE 1



1. "World Agriculture Supply and Demand Estimates" WASDE, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Nov. 9, 2011

This image shows the intensity of drought conditions, both for short-term soil moisture, and long-term hydrologic impacts.

USDA, NOAA, Department of Commerce, National Drought Mitigation Center

leading beef state, is now undergoing mass liquidation of cattle, given the lack of water, the expense of fodder, and lack of Federal aid.

In addition to the Texas-Oklahoma-western Kansas region, experiencing both short- and long-term drought impacts (S and L symbols on the map), the Southeast and the entire Central States regions have drought effects. Other map “layers” could show the flooding impacts this year, especially in the Mississippi and Missouri Basins, but also in the northeastern watersheds, running off into the Atlantic.

Consider what all this means for next year. In the southern High Plains, Winter wheat is planted in the Fall for harvest the following June. Oklahoma State University Ag Extension Service agent Kim Anderson issued this caution on Nov. 3:² “Wheat producers have done a nearly miraculous job of establishing the 2012 hard red winter wheat crop. The crop is now dependent on timely rains,” he said. But who is to say they will come?

Anderson summarized the specifics: “. . .topsoil moisture in Texas major wheat areas is 37 to 79 percent very short, 32 to 48 percent short and 8 to 15 percent adequate. Subsoil moisture is also lacking.” In Oklahoma, the wheatlands in the western part of the state are in similar condition. There, he said that, “In many wheat areas, the top soil moisture is being removed by the wind and temperature on top and by the dry soil beneath the wheat root zone. Southern Kansas is in about the same shape as northern Oklahoma.”

A Deliberate Policy

But even all this physical geography isn't the real story. Consider: Why must agriculture production remain so vulnerable to swings in weather? Why are there no food reserve stocks? Why is wild speculation in agriculture commodities and farm inputs (fertilizer, fuel, chemicals) allowed to continue? Speculators, who have nothing at all to do with the physical commodity, are buying and selling commodity contracts at the rate to dominate 80% of exchange trades in foodstuff futures? Hyperinflation is accelerating.

These conditions are not oversights; they are deliberate. They result from an evil policy of globalized food scarcity and control. It is perpetrated in the name of free markets, world competition, comparative advantage,

price-setting through speculation, limited resources, and other euphemisms for what is a process of creating conditions for famine. *The intent is hunger, starvation, and depopulation.* This is the world food and agriculture policy imposed for the last four decades under what is best called the modern British Empire—the network of financial and power interests, centered in London and trans-Atlantic-based operations, which has dictated economic policy at large, and for farming and food in particular, for decades.

This network operates through agencies and individuals including the World Trade Organization, the North American Free Trade Association, the Millennium Development Goals, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization and others, to impose their domination. An especially evil policy-front is now being coordinated by Microsoft billionaire Bill Gates through his foundation, as well as the Rockefeller Foundation, and a raft of new initiatives nested in the Obama Administration, around the “Feed the Future” program (announced 2009).

As of now, however, the financial crowd behind this web of control, has gone bust. But, they are still demanding more financial bailouts, and otherwise are ready to start World War III as their response to losing their power. President Obama's food, agriculture, and world food-aid policy is fully in keeping with this British Empire insanity.

Look at the Obama Administration's record:

- No all-out Federal disaster aid response to mitigate agriculture damage from the weather disasters.
- Demand for budget-cutting on even food aid.
- Continued backing for speculation on the Chicago Board of Trade and other exchanges; and guaranteed hyperinflation from financial bailouts.
- Continued backing for huge flows of corn-for-ethanol.
- Continued backing for wrongful private patenting of food seeds and genetics research methods by Monsanto and others in the agro-chemical cartel.
- Blocking of Glass-Steagall financial reorganization and rescue of states and cities.
- Blocking of upgrading the productive land and water base, in particular, through the North American Water and Power Alliance (NAWAPA).

The answer to this insanity, is the same as how we must respond to the immediate threat of World War III from the Empire crowd: get Obama out of office now!

2. southwestfarmpress.com

The Food Isn't There!

The November reports by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (*Food Outlook; Global Market Analysis*) and the USDA give the 2011 global grain production level as 2,300 million metric tons of grain (all kinds), and term this as satisfactory, because, they assert—despite U.S. and other regional crop losses this year—there is a global inching up over reduced crop harvests in 2010 (2,200 mmt) and that of 2009 (2,241 mmt). But what happens next year? Wide swings in farm production are the new normal, given increasingly severe bouts of weather, and the cumulative lack of improvements in water and soil systems.

Wheat. For example, last year's Russian wheat crop was 35% lower than this year, because of the 2010 Eurasian drought. In Ukraine—part of the same Black Sea wheatbelt as Russia, and also short last year—authorities are warning that the 2012 Ukrainian wheat crop could again be harmed by dryness. In the North American durum wheat belt centered in North Dakota (where wheat is planted in the Spring, and harvested later in the Summer), the 2011 durum crop was down 20% from normal, because of the cold and wet conditions.

Corn. The United States produces over 35% of the entire world annual corn crop, but is now diverting 40% of its production into corn-ethanol. This adds up to an automatic world shortage, no matter if perfect corn-growing weather prevails everywhere else in the world. Given the Obama-sanctioned food speculation, corn prices are now topping those of wheat—higher in protein—which is crazy. Livestock feeders are turning to wheat for animals. For example, one cartel pork producer has begun importing feed-grade wheat into the U.S. from Britain, for milling into animal rations for the factory hog farms in North Carolina. Wheat-for-feed is also coming in from Brazil.

There is a scramble by corn-importing nations to try to line up supplies. In the forefront is Mexico, where corn originated, but which nation has been forced into import-dependency by NAFTA. Mexico and others have bought corn this year from South Africa. But in South Africa, which produces half of all the corn grown in southern Africa, an absolute corn shortage is expected to show up next month. So much of this year's South Africa crop has been pledged to export, that domestic users will be shorted.

Rice. Most of the world's rice is grown and consumed in the country where it is produced, especially China and India. But millions of people are dependent

on rice imports. Out of the world's total annual rice production—in the range of 450+ million tons (milled basis), some 30+ million tons are exported, and of this amount, nearly two-thirds comes from the three top exporters—Thailand, Vietnam, and the United States, each of which has crop problems. This year's U.S. rice crop is down 23% from last year.

In Thailand, which alone accounts for one-third of all world rice traded, the epic flooding is wiping out exportable surplus. Fortunately, India will make surplus rice available for export in the coming months.

One example of the menace to crop output capacity can be seen in the situation for rice growers in Texas, the fourth-biggest U.S. rice-producing state. Because of the severe water shortage in East Texas—the center of the state's rice production—officials of the Lower Colorado River Water Authority plan to cut irrigation needed for rice, and divert the water instead to residential and other non-farm use. This can eliminate the Texas rice crop altogether.

World Hunger Map

Even if next year there were perfect conditions for good crops around the world, the current level of 2,300 mmt annual harvest of total grains is, at best, half of what the world's 7 billion people need. Do the math: this works out to about 700 pounds of grain produced per capita each year, which means only about one pound a day per person for cereals grain consumption in any form; plus another pound to go through the animal-protein livestock feed chain. Of course, this doesn't count losses from spoilage, transport, and handling.

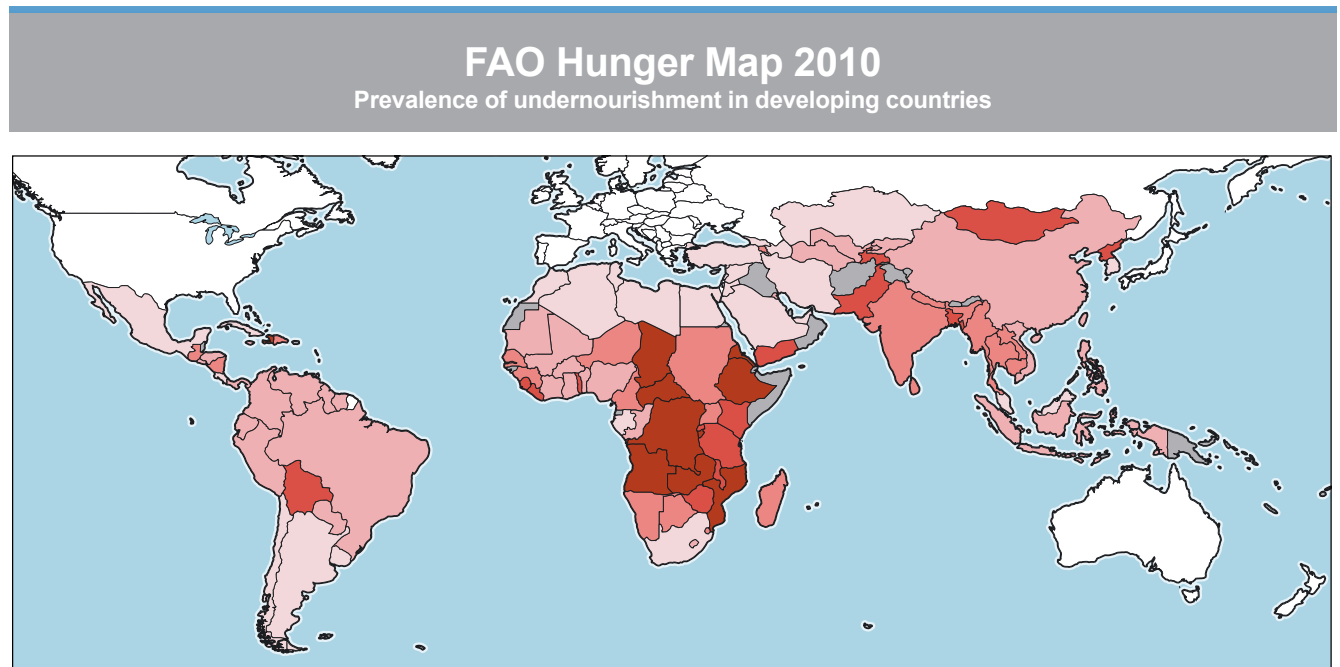
Even if you increase the daily volume of grain per person for 5 or 6 billion of the world's 7 billion people, by the recourse of saying that there are 1 or 2 billion people who subsist on roots, not grains, like the London Irish Potato Famine policy—e.g., cassava in Africa or in Haiti and the Caribbean, you see that 2,300 million tons of grain is completely inadequate.

How is the grain and general food shortage manifest? One billion people in the world are malnourished, and millions face starvation. **Figure 2** shows the "Hunger Map" kept by the FAO, rating nations on the criteria of relative lack of food, "Undernourishment in the Total Population."³

Africa is the success story for the London famine policy. In the Horn of Africa famine, 12 million people

3. Interactive, www.FAO.org

FIGURE 2



Source: FAOSTAT 2010 (www.fao.org/hunger)

Note: The map shows the prevalence of undernourishment in the total population of developing countries as of 2005-7 – the most recent period for which complete data are available. Undernourishment exists when caloric intake is below the minimum dietary energy requirement (MDER). The MDER is the amount of energy needed for light activity and a minimum acceptable weight for attained height, and it varies by country and from year to year depending on the gender and age structure of the population.

The designations employed and the presentation of material in the map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of FAO concerning the legal or constitutional status of any country, territory or sea area, or concerning the delimitation of frontiers.

Prevalence of undernourishment in developing countries (2005-07)

- Very high (undernourishment 35% and above)
- High (undernourishment 25-34%)
- Moderately high (undernourishment 15-24%)
- Moderately low (undernourishment 5-14%)
- Very low (undernourishment below 5%)
- Missing or insufficient data



www.fao.org

UN Food and Agriculture Organization, FAOSTAT 2010.

This image shows “Prevalence of undernourishment in developing nations,” by country, for which details on the lack of food are provided (2005-07) interactively from the FAO database, www.fao.org/hunger. The picture is worse today.

are at risk of death by starvation.

The London/Obama food policy for Africa was recently reiterated by Bill Gates, in an evil presentation and report to the G20 meeting this month in Cannes. He said that more public/private projects—involving local peons in “value chain” work for the cartel companies (Wal-Mart, Pepsico, General Mills, and others)—can help Africa produce and export more to “participate in global markets.” In the meantime, cassava can be genetically modified for higher yields, to support more poor Africans to subsist on it. Gates called for a “transaction tax” on speculation to help fund these kinds of programs.

United States Can’t Feed Itself

The United States, other than for a select few bulk commodities (corn, wheat, soybeans, rice), has been in-

creasingly food import-dependent for 20 years. By food group, the volume of imports as a percentage of domestic consumption, range from over 80% for seafood, to 30% for fruits and nuts. Now, the supply and reliability of the world food-chain system is breaking down for the “haves” as well as the “have-not” nations.

Look at something as simple as peanuts, which is in shortage this year. In Georgia—the biggest producing state, the peanut crop fell by 30% from last year. Much of what was planted didn’t survive the drought conditions, and what did, was hit by diseases, unfit for food-use. Less area was planted to peanuts to begin with, because of “market signs” showing Georgia farmers they might better gamble on cotton.

U.S. peanut butter consumption has shot up 10% since 2008, as people skipped on meat, seeking cheaper

ways to eat. It won't be cheaper now.

But even with food present and apparently affordable, Americans can't afford to eat. Nearly 15% of the U.S. population is now relying on Federal food relief—the SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), or food stamps. In August, the number of SNAP recipients hit 45.8 million people. Food stamp rolls have risen 8.1% over the past year. On top of this, charities are trying to cope with record appeals for giveaway food. True to form, Obama and his Super-Congress plan to cut domestic food aid.

In Mexico, hunger is widespread and getting worse. There are 20 million, out of 113 million total, going hungry as of late 2010, according to a new report this month. This is up by 2 million since 2008. The survey of “food poverty” estimates that 25% of the population does not have secure access to basic food. The National Institute for Nutrition estimates that 20% of Mexican children are suffering actual malnutrition. The Institute registered a daily count of 729,000 children under the age of five, as being malnourished, in mid-October.



American Farm Bureau Federation, Texas

On Nov. 2, the Texas Department of Agriculture's Hay Hotline announced a listing of over 1,000 hay producers in 42 states, for Texas ranchers seeking to find cattle fodder, now that pastures are dried up.

Overall, over 40% of Mexico's food consumption is now imported, since NAFTA was imposed in 1994. Rice, 80% imported. Soybeans, 95%. Wheat, 56%. Beans, 33%. Milk powder, 33%. All of these food imports, in Mexico and elsewhere, are now threatened.

Lyndon LaRouche on Glass-Steagall and NAWAPA:

“The greatest project that mankind has ever undertaken on this planet, as an economic project, now stands before us, as the opportunity which can be set into motion by the United States now launching the NAWAPA* project, with the preliminary step of reorganizing the banking system through Glass-Steagall, and then moving on from there.”

“Put Glass-Steagall through now, and I know how to deliver a victory to you.”

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*The North American Water and Power Alliance

