

World grain production declines, as fascists build 'no meat' campaign

by Marcia Merry

As spring planting draws to a close in the northern latitudes, the full horror of world food shortages is becoming apparent. This year's global harvest—even with perfect crop-growing weather—won't even begin to replenish the dwindling world grain reserves. At the end of the 1989-90 crop season, the world's grain stocks will be even lower than four years ago—the net result of limited plantings, impoverished farmers, rampaging environmentalists, and, most of all, rotten government policies that are causing or condoning reduction of food output, and depopulating ever larger parts of the globe.

Figure 1 shows the downward trend of grain production, and the plunging trend of grain stock levels. The data are from the Rome-based U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), which said in its March "Food Outlook" report, "Even assuming normal weather, 1990 production is unlikely to be large enough to meet trend consumption in 1990-91 and allow stock replenishment. With stocks at their lowest level for many years, adverse weather would have serious consequences."

In many important grain regions in the United States, neither the farmers nor their fields have recovered from the famous Killer Drought of 1988. The governor of one of the world's leading producers of spring hard wheat, North Dakota, has just asked for official federal disaster designation for his state, after three years of drought.

The United Nations bureaucrats, as usual, are understating the trends, even as they sound the alarm. In fact, total world grain stocks (wheat, rice, corn, millet, barley, oats and all others) will have fallen by 36% in late 1990, as compared with four years earlier.

This has happened because for the past three years in a row, annual grain output has been *below* annual grain consumption—itself at an inadequate level for most people. Therefore stocks have been drastically drawn down to make up for this shortfall, and now stocks themselves are diminishing, in effect, to nothing.

The projected level of grain stocks this year will be less than 17% of annual average consumption. In 1985-86, stocks were about 26% of average annual consumption. Civil defense and military logistics planners recommend stocks of 8

months to 2 years—enough to bridge the gap between poor harvests, and to span disaster recovery times.

To provide enough grain for a plain, but adequate diet for all 5 billion-plus people on Earth, there needs to be 3 billion tons of grain output a year, counting grain consumed directly as cereal products, and grain consumed indirectly through feeding livestock for milk, meat, and dairy products.

Instead, as Figure 1 shows, annual grain output has stagnated at about 1.8 billion tons in the 1980s, and in 1987-88 fell to 1.791 billion tons, and 1.746 billion tons in the crop year just completed. The FAO projection for this current year, based on optimism about the weather, is still only 1.868 billion tons.

The decline in crop output is across the board. Therefore, the annual "carryover" of stocks of grain of all types has dropped from 426 million tons in the 1985-86 crop year, down to under 399 million tons last year. It is expected that, even with perfect growing weather, there will be only 293 million tons of grain carryover at the end of 1990.

The decline is evident for all the major grains globally:

Wheat: Stocks have dropped from 161 million tons in 1985-86, to a forecast of only 116 million for the end of summer.

Corn and other coarse grains (grain sorghum, barley, and oats): Stocks have dropped from 208 million tons in 1985-86 down to 126 million tons expected as of the end of the season.

Rice: Stocks have fallen from 58 million milled tons in 1985-86, down to an expected 51 million tons in 1990.

The declines in stocks are most obvious in the six major grain-exporting regions of the world—the areas which in recent decades have produced "surplus" for export and food relief. These nations are: the United States, the European Community, Canada, Australia, Argentina, and Thailand.

According to the FAO's March report, "In the United States, by far the largest cereal exporter, wheat stocks at the end of the current 1989-90 season are expected to be the lowest since 1974-75 and for coarse grains since 1983-84."

The latest "Situation and Outlook" report of the United States Agriculture Department (USDA) likewise gives a

bleak picture of the U.S. grain output potential:

U.S. wheat. Wheat reserves are at 400 million bushels, the lowest in 20 years. Farmers are expected to plant 1 million acres less wheat in 1990 than in 1989. If the wheat crop is less than 2.5 billion bushels, projected by the USDA, then exports will have to drop.

U.S. corn: The expected 7.8 billion bushel crop will fall short of the combined domestic usage and export demand which totals to 8 billion bushels. The USDA estimates the 1989-90 corn reserve at 1.2 billion bushels, which will be drawn down to 1 billion bushels, less than two months' supply.

U.S. soybeans: Plantings are down 1.3 million acres from 1989. Output is expected to fall below 2 billion bushels. Reserve stocks are non-existent.

In this situation of scarcity, the cartel of giant food companies (Cargill, Continental, Archer Daniels Midland-Toeffer, Louis Dreyfus, Bunge, Garnac-André, and a few others) are deciding who eats, and who doesn't. National pledges to the world food relief agency have dropped from over 13 million tons of grain a year in 1986, down to 11.3 million tons or less this year, despite the dramatically increasing need.

Whole nations in Africa are being denied either the means to produce food, or food relief supplies. The result in starvation on the scale of genocide. The March FAO report states, "A cause of particular concern is the substantial unmet food aid requirement of Angola, Ethiopia, Mozambique, and Sudan." The report further states, "The global refugee situation has deteriorated further, with the refugee population now estimated at 15 million. Their 1990 food aid requirements are estimated at 1.3 million tons."

In contrast to the measly 11.3 million tons of food grains relief for 1990 (including Western pledges to Eastern Europe), 17 million tons of food grains have been pledged to the Soviet Union from the United States alone this trade year (beginning Oct. 1, 1989).

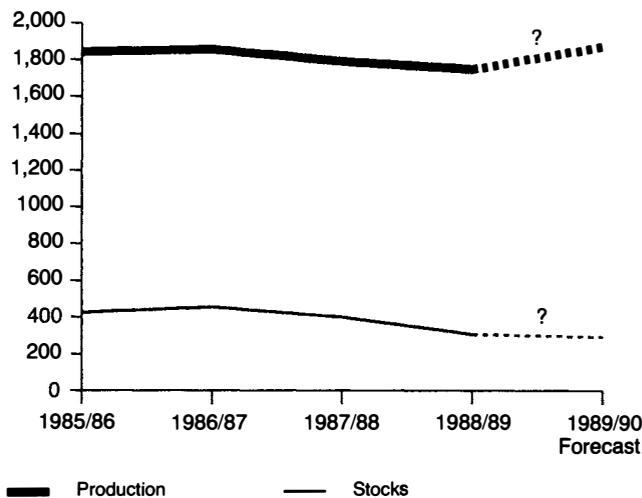
President Bush plans to sign a Long Term Agreement for grain shipments to Russia, with Mikhail Gorbachov at the scheduled summit meeting in early June. The United States would commit to send at least 50 million tons of grain over the next five years.

The real aim: eliminate people

Timed with the release of the FAO and the USDA spring warning reports, "viewpoint" articles are being played up in the media to say that increasing grain output is not the answer, and that eliminating people is the actual policy objective.

Lester Brown, the former employee of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, who heads up the much-publicized Worldwatch Institute, says in his annual "State of the World" report for 1990, that there are countries like Ethiopia, "and scores of other countries where human numbers" outpace the economic system.

FIGURE 1
World cereals production and stocks fall
(Millions of metric tons)



Source: U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization

"Either these societies will move quickly toward smaller families," warns the fascist Brown, "or rising death rates from hunger and malnutrition will check population growth." Brown hails the murderous policy of Communist China, where the population growth rate has been reduced by half, and people are being crushed and suppressed by deliberate primitivism.

The *New York Times* takes a seemingly more sophisticated approach to how the world's people should "adjust" to the grain shortage. The May 6 issue's "Week in Review section" carried on its front page an article entitled, "Cows in Trouble; An Icon of the Good Life Ends Up On a Crowded Planet's Hit Lists." It attacks dairy and beef livestock from many vantage-points, claiming that their flatulence contributes to air pollution, etc. But the main fallacy promulgated by the population-"adjustment" advocates, is that animals consume grain, which could otherwise go to human consumption directly, if people would only forego meat and milk in their diets. John Robbins, the author of *Diet for a New America*, is featured demanding that people find alternative food sources to the centuries-old, nutritious cuisines based on meat and milk. Robbins says, "Cattle and dairy are the most inefficient use of land conceivable."

The article also features ten charts and graphs on questions of "changing tastes" in consumers, and asserts that "the 136 million metric tons of grain that feed the beef for 250 million Americans could feed 400 million worldwide, according to Dr. Pimentel of Cornell."

These and similar articles now flooding the media deliberately downplay the essential role of meat and milk in efficiently supplying high-quality protein in the daily diet.