

Bill Gates, Monsanto Demand More Globalization, More Famine

by Marcia Baker

Nov. 6—In the Northern Hemisphere, the harvest season is now drawing to a close, continuing below-needed production of grains and other staple commodities, and *loss of agriculture capacity*. This year's production of all kinds of grains is below that of 2008, and animal protein supplies are in decline. The food/farm crisis is part of the general monetary chaos, and worldwide breakdown of the physical economy. The dairy sector, especially, is being decimated.

The principal cause is *not* environmental issues, nor bad weather—although the U.S. cornbelt and Delta have been hit hard by wet and cold conditions at harvest-time—but the refusal of national governments to take concerted action to intervene with emergency measures to stop the financial chaos, and start a rebuilding process for nation-serving economic development. Decades of global-sourcing of food and other essentials, along with financial bubbles, have led to this breakdown point.

It is directly to globalization that the unprecedented level of world hunger can be attributed, a calamity that will, in itself, further the potential for mass death through pandemics, as well as starvation. According to UN statistics, more than 1 billion people go hungry every day, as a result of the destruction of the food self-sufficiency which should form the bedrock of any nation's functioning economy. To provide food self-sufficiency requires support for both farmers and eaters by governments committed to the general welfare.

Lyndon LaRouche has sounded the call for a nationwide U.S. “bankruptcy reorganization,” and related measures internationally, as part of a “Four Power” initiative—United States, Russia, China, and India—to launch a new international credit system for rebuilding nation-states and their economies. The “LaRouche Plan” calls for priority infrastructure projects and agro-industrial activity. The food shortage

crisis is one marker showing the urgency of this “LaRouche Plan.” Famine and doom are inevitable without it.

In brief, what's called for is: restoring fixed and fair exchange rates; ending outsourcing and cartelization of foods, fertilizers, and other necessities; outlawing commodity speculation; launching needed infrastructure programs of rail, water management, and soil improvement; and busting up the seed and genetics cartels.

In direct opposition to the LaRouche approach, there are now renewed calls for anti-nation-state measures *to increase the globalization of food production*, processing, and distribution—the very policies which have brought on worldwide hunger and desperation. Among the leading voices for this fascist-economic drive are Bill Gates and other poseur-philanthropists, the major agro/food-cartel giants—Monsanto, Cargill, ADM, DuPont, JBS, Wal-Mart, Carrefour, et al.—and a nexus of policy slop shops, mostly run out of London, led by Chatham House and the British Foreign Office. Standing behind this gaggle are neo-imperial financial circles bent on control, loot, and chaos.

The same way that Benito Mussolini talked about providing “infrastructure for the people,” the watchword from Gates and fellow globalizers such as George Soros is to “end hunger and poverty,” by expanding “public-private partnerships” of cartel- and foundation-control over national government policies, especially food and agriculture.

This year, a new entity was formed called the Global Food Initiative, by four leaders of the world food cartel: Monsanto, ADM, DuPont, and John Deere. The purpose of the association is to promote globalization and private control over food seeds, processing, farm inputs, trade, and final distribution—determining who eats and who doesn't.

On Nov. 2-3 in London, this goal was discussed at a



European Milk Board/Arnaud Hendrix

In Europe, dairy farmers have taken to the streets in protest of impossible production conditions. In September, European milk producers dumped rivers of milk in front to the EU Commission Milk Board in Brussels.

conference at the Royal Institute for International Affairs (RIIA, or Chatham House), “Food Security 2009—Achieving Long-Term Solutions.” The panel topics illustrate the globalization focus: “What More Is Needed to Ensure . . . the Proper Functioning of Global Food Markets?” and “How Can the Benefits of International Investment in Land Be Maximised and the Risks Controlled?” The overseas “land” issue refers to the neo-plantation movement underway, for establishing huge for-export farm operations in desperate, food-short nations in Africa and Asia, to provide food supplies to the Persian Gulf states, Britain, and others.

All these policies mean guaranteed famine.

First, look at the summary picture of the world food shortages, then at the “pennies for peons” approach of the Gates crowd.

World Grains Crisis

A snapshot of the world grains shortages is provided by the October monthly report of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Despite the roughness of any international statistics, the gross patterns show that the current crop-year’s grain output (wheat, rice, corn, sorghum, etc.) is significantly down from last year, and about half of what is required for a well-fed world. Estimated world grains production for the 2009-10 crop-year is 2,194.31 million metric tons, which is down from 2,229.93 mmt in 2008-09.

Rice production is in dramatic decline. Internationally, 445.67 mmt was estimated to have been produced in 2008-09. In the 2009-10 crop year, world production may be only 433.65 mmt or less. Rice is the staple diet for millions in Asia and Africa.

In this context of declining production and existing acute shortages, any adverse weather episode is an automatic disaster. For example, the early cold and wet conditions in the U.S. cornbelt have caused an immediate threat to the corn, soybean, and animal protein food chain, especially with so much U.S. corn now diverted into ethanol fuel.

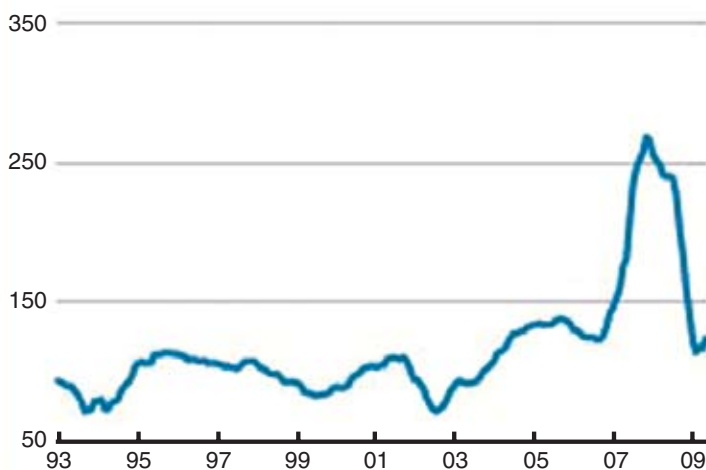
From the Great Plains to the Deep South, late-season rains have caused terrible harvest conditions. As of Oct. 31, only 25% of the U.S. corn crop was harvested; normally, nearly three times that volume, over 71%, is harvested by then. This year, the two biggest corn states, Iowa and Illinois, had only 18% and 19%, respectively, harvested by Halloween.

The U.S. soybean crop was only 51% harvested by the end of October. Normally, 87% is harvested by that date. The farmers can’t get into the soggy fields; many who do, get stuck in the mud, spending hours to get moving again. Corn producers face the increased expense of drying the stored crop. Yields will be down. The corn is being attacked by mold and fungus, particularly, vomitoxin.

The Delta South is a disaster, from cotton, to corn, and soybeans. Flooding is widespread across all types of farm operations. Potato farmers are contending with rot and a crop wipe-out. For farmers, the rain and flooding are a “second Katrina.” Local government leaders are appealing for emergency aid.

However, under the prevailing World Trade Organization (WTO) tenets of “free trade,” any emergency aid (not just offer of unpayable U.S. Department of Agriculture loan “opportunities”) is taboo, as is any ongoing provision for floor prices for farm commodities, parity

Figure 44. FAO price index of dairy products in international trade (2002-2004=100)



The Index is derived from a trade-weighted average of a selection of representative internationally traded dairy products.

pricing for farmers, and similar policies that would provide for national food security, by ensuring the productivity of domestic, high-tech family farming.

Instead, family farmers are being ruined, even as the speculative free-for-all is allowed to continue on the Chicago Board of Trade, and other world food commodity exchanges.

The volatility in futures prices for corn and soybeans in Chicago is out of control, as speculators bet on price trends, under the day-to-day guesstimates about the impact of the problem harvest. In just a ten-day period, the corn futures price (for December delivery) bounced from \$4.13 a bushel on Oct. 23, down to \$3.59 on Nov. 2, with wild daily swings between. Soybean futures went from \$8.78 on Oct. 5 to \$10.06 on Nov. 2, also with wild daily swings, for example, by 44 cents on Nov. 2.

The White House and Congress remain aloof.

Dairy Disaster

Internationally, the dairy farm sector is in acute crisis, with milk output declining; beef, poultry, pork, and all other animal protein sectors of the food chain are likewise contracting. There are proximate reasons—higher feed prices, energy prices, and the persistence of

farm receipts below costs of production—but all of these are, in turn, part of the *general breakdown crisis underway, due to the systemic collapse of the monetary system*, and lack of intervention for a new credit regime, and emergency measures.

In Europe, dairy farmers have taken to the streets in protest of impossible production conditions. In the U.S., there are rearguard state-level actions, by governors, and a few members of Congress, to appeal for aid.

Worldwide cow-milk production is declining. In the United States, for example, the annual milk production in 2008 was 190 billion pounds. It's projected to fall this year to 188.9 billion pounds or less, and is forecast by the USDA to drop in 2010 to 187 billion pounds.

A sorry, voluntary milk cow kill-off campaign—"herd retirement"—has been conducted by dairymen cooperatives, based on the false theory that reducing "supply relative to demand" will push up prices to the farmer. Some 250,000 cows, and 5 billion pounds of milk output capacity, have been destroyed over the past 18 months, in the name of "aligning supply with demand." But this idea, which was always a fairy-tale, is hopeless. In the U.S., the average milk price to farmers dropped from \$18.29 per hundred pounds of raw milk in 2008, down to under \$14 in 2009. Farmers are losing thousands of dollars a month on their milking herds. At this rate, soon 25% of the U.S. family-scale milk producers will be out of business.

Meat sectors are in a similar situation. There is now no income at all in family-scale beef production, and cow-calf producers are selling at a loss this year. The feedlots they sell to are in a similar position. For the last two months, those still in operation, from Nebraska to Texas, have lost about \$65 per head for every animal they fattened and sold. In 2008, feedlots lost an average of \$100 per head. Feedlots have been going out of operation in mass numbers in Texas over the past year, leaving only the select few world-scale cartel operations in business.

Over the past three years, as U.S. domestic meat production has dropped, imports of meat have increased, as the shift has continued to ever greater world meat cartel control. Tonnage of red meat and poultry



gatekeepers.civilblog.org

Calling for anti-nation-state measures to increase the globalization of food production, processing, and distribution—the very policies which have brought on worldwide hunger and desperation, are the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and other poseur-philanthropists, along with the agro/food-cartel giants, and a nexus of London-based policy slop shops. Here, billionaires Bill and Melinda, with some of their victims, in India.

imports rose from 3.646 billion pounds in 2008, to the range of 3.867 billion this year, with a USDA forecast of 4.024 billion in 2010. All the while, on net, U.S. per-capita consumption (statistically called “disappearance,” including wastage) of meat and poultry is dropping: from an estimated 216.1 pounds per person per year in 2008, down to a range of 211 this year, and falling to 208 pounds or lower in 2010. Reality will be far worse than these linear USDA projections, if not revolutionized to a development course.

Pennies for Peons

On Oct. 15, Bill Gates spoke in Des Moines, Iowa, at a symposium held in conjunction with the annual World Food Prize awards ceremony. Gates struck his constant theme of reducing hunger and poverty by aiding smallholder, poor farmers in Africa. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation announced nine grants amounting to \$120 million to be doled out to farmer-programs in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, in the name of increasing incomes and prospects for poor farmers. Their Foundation press release stressed the way their grants will aid “sustainability,” by such means as helping women in India to “manage” scarce

water and land resources and not overuse irrigation, etc.

Keep in mind the context in which this do-gooder pretense occurs: The premise is the continuation of the WTO era of globalization, which itself is a catastrophe both for when it has “worked,” and when it has failed, as now. In fact, Gates and others use the usual WTO-doublespeak when presenting their intentions: They want millions of poor farmers have “access to markets,” and to be able to find their place on the “global value-chain” of long-distance, free-trade food, etc.

Secondly, the rise of Gates and a few others—Warren Buffett, the Rockefeller Foundation, Soros, et al.—as the Supreme Donors for such agriculture and health causes such as fighting malaria, AIDS, wheat rust, hunger, and poverty—is part of the process of the takedown of the system of national governments having their own sovereignty and means to carry on R&D, support their farm sectors, and care for their people.

It is an especially sick irony, when Gates and his associates speak of themselves as furthering a new Green Revolution for Africa; in 2006, the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) was founded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and the Rockefeller Foundation. The historical truth is that the original Green Revolution of the 1940s-70s, was founded and conducted by figures supporting the sovereignty and development of nation-states, not free-trade devastation. These figures include plant scientist Dr. Norman Borlaug (1914-2009); Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, with whose backing her nation became grain-self-sufficient in 1974; and Henry Wallace, the agro-geneticist who was Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s Agriculture Secretary for three terms, and Vice President.

In the same camp as Gates, Soros, et al., are the cartel agro-corporations themselves, which have seized even patent rights to food seeds, and seed-improvement technologies. This was never legal in the United States until the GATT/WTO era of the 1990s, when it became enforced the world over.

Monsanto Company announced on Nov. 6, that it will open its first research center in China, for “collaborations” on plant biotechnology and genomics.