

Feedgrains, such as corn and winter wheat, have also been effected, resulting in skyrocketing costs for animal raisers. The lack of adequate fodder for animals is putting the finishing touch on the collapsed livestock industry. Unable to feed their animals over the winter, farmers are selling them for slaughter at bottom level prices. Milk production is reported down by 5-10 per cent.

FARMERS HOME ADMINISTRATION HALTS DISASTER LOANS

WASHINGTON, D.C., Dec. 6 (IPS)--New York State vegetable growers warned today of farm bankruptcies should the Farmers Home Administration fail to renew the disaster loans farmers received after Hurricane Agnes hit in 1972. It is traditional FHA practice to extend disaster loans for three to five years to allow farmers a chance to readjust.

Under questioning here from Representatives Benjamin A. Gilman (R.-N.Y.) and Peter Peyser (R.-N.Y.), FHA Assistant Administrator Lucius Dickerson said, "The FHA legal division has determined that we have no authority to refinance these [disaster] loans any longer."

If the FHA does not renew the loans, the farmers say, there is no way to obtain seeds, make repairs and purchase equipment for the 1975 crop. Anthony J. Lascala, president of the Goshen area "Sleepy Hollow Producers Growers Inc.," says if the farmers, himself included, don't receive the money by April there will be no new crop. Lascala insisted that the growers have tied up all their investment security, including their property, in FHA disaster loans. With no security, they are unable to get loans through local banks.

The above comments were made in a special meeting of farmers and FHA officials organized by Rep. Gilman who is presently active in efforts to coopt farmer ferment. Gilman reports little hope of obtaining legislation to change FHA policy.

NFO DEBT MORATORIUM

Dec. 5 (IPS)--The text of the debt moratorium resolution passed overwhelmingly by the National Farmers Organization convention today in Memphis is as follows:

"The National Farmers Organization urges the Governors and the President of the United States of America to declare that a State of Emergency exists

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in Agriculture and to issue a proclamation to all banks and lending institutions to declare a moratorium on all foreclosures, on all evictions, and on all loans (live-stock, land, etc.) pertaining to agriculture.

"This moratorium is to be lifted only by an Act of Congress."

BRITISH AGRICULTURE REPORT WARNS OF CATTLE STARVATION

Dec. 5 (IPS)--British farmers had their worst fears confirmed this month in a report released by the Ministry of Agriculture. The survey warned that because of the shortfall in fodder supplies, many animals, especially cattle, would be doomed to starve this winter. In addition, people who keep pet ponies for their children have been told bluntly that if they cannot afford to feed the horses, they should shoot them instead.

This "choice" is the first example in the advanced sector of Rockefeller's brutal policy of triage, already claiming thousands of human lives each day in Africa and the Indian subcontinent. Triage, originally a French term, refers to the battlefield practice in which inadequate medical facilities necessitate the neglect of (and thereby certain death for) one class of victims in order to save another.

By the time the Agricultural Ministry in Britain published their findings--that hay production is down 10 to 30 per cent since last year in England and Wales, with the biggest shortages in areas which normally "export" hay to other regions--farmers had already made their choice. By the end of November, the rate of calf slaughtering had reached 17,500 as compared to 4,000 last year.

The President of the British Veterinary Association, who urged that children's ponies be shot, explained the situation in these words: "Quite simply, there is too little food for too many animals." He recommended that: "Only productive animals should be kept. Disposal or slaughter of some animals may be necessary for others to survive."

CATTLE RANCHERS FACE BANKRUPTCY

Dec. 5 (IPS)--The American National Cattlemen's Association predicts that by next summer the nation's 500,000 "cow-calf operators" will have lost \$1 billion. Cow-calf operators are the farmers and ranchers who raise calves bought by cattle feeders to fatten for the market. Because of high grain prices, result-