# Editorial

## *Scandal: 'Markets' Attack Food Supply*

Farmers throughout the U.S. cornbelt, from Ohio to Nebraska, report that this year may be their most beautiful, biggest crop ever. Then, they add: "We will suffer for it." Why? Corn prices to the farmer are plummeting, despite the intense need for food and feed crops, for all uses, such as rebuilding herds of meat animals, and processing emergency food-relief supplies for West Africa, stricken by Ebola. The same situation is affecting soybeans.

Corn prices to the farmer have plunged 13% so far in 2014, over last year, when they dropped 40% from 2012, a year when drought cut the corn harvest drastically.

The price drop doesn't represent supply-and-demand dynamics—that's a pretense. It reflects out-of-control speculation on agro-commodities, centered on the Chicago Board of Trade (CME Group), and also that Wall Street and City of London succeeded in eliminating the Federal parity-pricing system for farmers, which, from the 1930s to the early 1960s, had kept farm prices in a steady range, for the benefit of security to the national food supply, by keeping farm producers going.

Total U.S. farm income this year, from all types of production, is expected to drop 30% from last year, according to the U.S. Agriculture Department projections. State revenues in the farm belt are expected to fall accordingly.

The price of corn per bushel, at many upper Midwest local buying stations, is under $3.50 per bushel, less than half the $8.00 a bushel corn hit at one point in 2012. It costs on average, $4.50 a bushel to produce the corn. Farmers warn that they can withstand below-breakeven prices for a little while, if they have a cushion from years past, but: If next year's crop is equally successful, they will be ruined!

Meantime, consumer market-basket prices are soaring, especially for animal protein foods.

Farmers are forgoing plans for land, water, and equipment upgrades. On Aug. 15, John Deere, one of the two largest U.S. farm machinery manufacturers, announced 600 layoffs at two of its Midwest assembly plants: 425 workers will lose their jobs as of Oct. 20 in East Moline, Ill., at the harvester plant; 35 workers will lose their jobs at the seeding and cylinder factory. Last week, Deere reported a 15% decline in its Q3 profits, compared to same time in 2013, reflecting the decline in orders for its agriculture machinery.

Add to this, the fact that much of the food produced cannot be shipped in a timely fashion, due to the clogging of the rail lines with shale-oil gas from the destructive, lunatic fracking craze, and the irony of record production of life-sustaining grain, turning into disaster for producers and eaters alike, gets even more severe.

This is a fraud, commented Lyndon LaRouche. It's a scandalous example of the way that the "markets," "money," and Wall Street cause the destruction of the physical economy, even when all the conditions for prosperity are available. When the cost of food goes up, the price paid to farmers must go up. Providing a secure food supply to the nation means protecting its farmers, and falls directly under the Constitution's commitment to the "general welfare."

It's time to dump "money" as a standard. The appropriate approach is defined in LaRouche's Four New Laws To Save the U.S.A., which begins with Glass-Steagall (to get rid of Wall Street predators), and asserts man's productive role in the universe—for the benefit of all.