

## GLOBAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THE WEEKLY NEWS BRIEF OF THE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE



August 6<sup>th</sup> – August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2011

**Quote of the Week:** –*“When the effects of food security are the most extreme, we must rededicate ourselves to breaking this cycle of food shortages, suffering, and dislocation that we see playing out once again in the Horn of Africa. We must support countries working to achieve food security. We owe it to the people whose lives we are trying to save, and frankly, we owe it to the donors and the taxpayers who make our work possible. Investing now decreases the chances that Americans or others will be called upon in the future to face these same challenges in 10 or 20 years from now. And I will argue that we will be investing in our own security by supporting political stability and economic growth worldwide.”* ---- Hillary Clinton, U.S. Secretary of State, Remarks at the International Food Policy Research Institute, August 11, 2011

For more information:

- The [Global Food for Thought Blog](#) provides expert commentary, debate, and updates on key developments in real time.
- Background information on the Global Agricultural Development Initiative, and previous editions of *Global Food for Thought*, can be found on the Initiative’s website: [www.thechicagocouncil.org/globalagdevelopment](http://www.thechicagocouncil.org/globalagdevelopment).
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### KEY ARTICLES AND REPORTS

**Secretary Clinton’s Remarks on the Food Crisis in the Horn of Africa, U.S. State Department, August 11**

The primary responsibility naturally does lie with governments and with the people of countries like Ethiopia and Kenya. I have reached out to the leaders of these countries, and they know the kinds of changes that they still need to make. These can be challenging policies to get right, but they are absolutely essential for ensuring wise stewardship of the land and sustainable economic opportunities for the people. Meanwhile, the

countries that pledged their support for food security at the G-8 Summit in L'Aquila in 2009 must make good on their commitments.

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2011/08/170417.htm>

**SEE ALSO: Clinton Announces \$17 Million more in US Aid to Horn of Africa, Urges Food Security Investment**, *Associated Press, August 11*

Clinton has her work cut out for her at home. Although she never mentioned Congress, the House Appropriations Committee has proposed steep cuts in foreign aid funding. Money for the USAID, which pays for much of the government's humanitarian assistance, would fall by \$488 million to \$1.04 billion. That would be \$705 million below the funding request made by President Obama.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/clinton-announces-17-million-more-in-us-aid-to-horn-of-africa-urges-food-security-investment/2011/08/11/gIQAZZMp8I\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/clinton-announces-17-million-more-in-us-aid-to-horn-of-africa-urges-food-security-investment/2011/08/11/gIQAZZMp8I_story.html)

**SEE ALSO: Clinton: Don't Cut Farm Aid for Africa**, *Mary Beth Sheridan, Washington Post, August 11*

She said, working with poor countries to provide things such as improved seeds and extension services could save lives. Feed the Future is part of an international effort to improve the productivity of small farmers in Africa and other impoverished regions.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/clinton-dont-cut-farm-aid-for-africa/2011/08/11/gIQAFNjx8I\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/clinton-dont-cut-farm-aid-for-africa/2011/08/11/gIQAFNjx8I_story.html)

**Let's Save Starving Somalis**, *Opinion, Jill Biden and Bill Frist, USA Today, August 11*

We must also confront the broader challenge of food insecurity that leaves so many people vulnerable to droughts like this one. That's why America has been helping nations such as Ethiopia and Kenya develop innovative and improved crops and irrigation methods, and new ways for farmers to market and transport their products. The goal of our aid is simple: to help create the conditions where such aid is no longer needed. That, ultimately, is how we can help prevent the kind of suffering we see in Somalia today.

[http://www.usatoday.com/news/opinion/forum/2011-08-11-famine-drought-africa-somalia\\_n.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/opinion/forum/2011-08-11-famine-drought-africa-somalia_n.htm)

**Poor Farmers No Threat to U.S. Business**, *Opinion, Howard Buffett, Huffington Post, August 7*

P4P provides training, access to credit and market access for poor farmers. The objective is to use WFP's buying power as an interim step. It is expected that farmers will eventually forgo sales to WFP and in the future sell to companies who operate in their country like ADM, Bunge, Cargill, Maseca or Tiger brands. Once these farmers learn about contracts, quality requirements and delivery obligations while building a credit rating, they have found a permanent way out of poverty. P4P addresses two key concerns I have as a funder: it provides a permanent exit strategy for donor or aid dollars and it can be executed at scale.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/howard-buffett/poor-farmers-no-threat-to\\_b\\_920671.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/howard-buffett/poor-farmers-no-threat-to_b_920671.html)

**Africa Food Security Vulnerability Indices**, *IFPRI Food Security Portal, August 11*

Using data from World Bank Development Indicators, FAOSTAT, USDA, and IFPRI research through 2007, the following tools allow users to detect which countries are most vulnerable to price shocks on global markets.

<http://www.foodsecurityportal.org/africa-food-security-vulnerability-indices>

**Super Committee: Who are these Guys**, *CNN, August 11*

They are the "super committee" -- and they have a lot of work to do. Almost all men -- they are the 12-member panel charged with finding an additional \$1.5 trillion in debt savings over a ten-year period. It will be tough work and will likely require political sacrifice on issues like taxes and entitlements if meaningful progress is to be made toward stabilizing the national debt.

[http://money.cnn.com/2011/08/11/news/economy/debt\\_committee\\_members/](http://money.cnn.com/2011/08/11/news/economy/debt_committee_members/)

**SEE ALSO: What a Super-Committee Compromise Might Look Like**, *The Atlantic, August 12*

The recommended cuts might total less than the \$1.2 trillion over 10 years in reductions the committee is being asked to achieve to avoid across-the-board cuts of the same amount in 2013.

<http://www.theatlantic.com/national/archive/2011/08/what-a-super-committee-compromise-might-look-like/243528/>

**Harvest and Hunger Part 3: From Surplus to Shortage**, Roger Thurow, Senior Fellow on Global Agriculture and Food Policy, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, Global Food for Thought Blog, August 12

It is less than two hundred miles from the village of Kabuchai, where Sanet Biketi began his maize harvest last

week, to the village of Kipnai, where hunger reigns. Yet there was none of the surplus production of Kabuchai's farmers on offer at an emergency food distribution in Kipnai this week. The imported food was carried to Kipnai by trucks that had come from the Kenyan port of Mombasa.

<http://globalfoodforthought.typepad.com/global-food-for-thought/2011/08/roger-thurow-outrage-and-inspire-harvest-and-hunger-part-3-.html#more>

### **Dr. Robert Thompson to join the John Hopkins University as a Visiting Scholar, August 2011**

Robert L. Thompson, a leading expert in the field of agriculture, has joined the Johns Hopkins University Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies as a visiting scholar. He currently serves a senior fellow of global agricultural development and food security at the Chicago Council on Global Affairs.

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## **RELEVANT U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

### **Dr. Jill Biden Leads a Delegation from the United States, White House, August 8**

During this visit, Dr. Biden will meet with government of Kenya officials and highlight the Obama-Biden Administration's Feed the Future program, which is investing in country-led strategies designed to address the root causes of hunger and food insecurity around the world.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/08/08/dr-jill-biden-arrives-kenya-visit-dadaab-refugee-camps-highlight-need-ai>

**SEE ALSO: On Board: Travels with Dr. Biden in Kenya, White House, August 11**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CxoL2HOn4XU&feature=youtu.be>

**SEE ALSO: Briefing on Jill Biden's Recent Trip to Kenya, U.S. State Department, August 9**

<http://iipdigital.usembassy.gov/st/english/texttrans/2011/08/20110809142032su0.5019299.html>

**SEE ALSO: Interview with Courtney O'Donnell: The Lives We Can Save, MORE, August 11**

While our government and others around the world have acted to support the region, there is an urgent need for individuals to act. The pace of the famine is relentless, and without additional assistance, hundreds of thousands of children could die of starvation and disease.

<http://www.more.com/somalia-famine-biden-odonnell>

**Somalia: U.S. Pledges Famine Aid, New York Times, August 9**

The US will give \$105 million in aid to alleviate hunger in Somalia. The White House spokesman said the assistance would come from "existing pools of money." The United States has earmarked \$500 million for famine relief efforts in the Horn of Africa, a region that includes Somalia.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/08/09/world/africa/09briefs-Somalia.html>

### **Jobs and Economic Security for Rural America, The White House Rural Council, August 12**

The Report gives a really good picture of the economic landscape in rural America today. It also shows the commitment and key investments the Obama Administration has already made in rural communities. The report focuses on 5 critical areas: (1) Creating jobs and promoting economic growth; (2) Improving access to quality health care and education; (3) Fostering innovation; (4) Expanding outdoor opportunities; (5) Supporting veterans and military families.

[http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/jobs\\_economic\\_security\\_rural\\_america.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/jobs_economic_security_rural_america.pdf)

**SEE ALSO: White House Rural Council Releases Report on Rural America, Agri-Pulse, August 12**

\$6.2 billion in financing from the Obama Administration helped nearly 10,000 rural businesses expand. Other highlights include assistance to more than 400,000 rural homeowners, financial aid to 10,000 rural small businesses and broadband access to more than 7 million rural Americans.

[http://www.agri-pulse.com/Rural\\_America\\_Report\\_8122011.asp](http://www.agri-pulse.com/Rural_America_Report_8122011.asp)

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## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **World Food Prize 25th Anniversary**

*Date:* October 12th – 14th, 2011

*Location:* Des Moines, IA

The World Food Prize will celebrate its 25th Anniversary this fall during the annual Norman E. Borlaug

International Symposium and the World Food Prize Laureate Award Ceremony. The topic of the symposium this year is "The Next Generation" and will focus on future leaders, challenges and technologies in the fight against hunger. This year, events will also include the Grand Opening of the Norman E. Borlaug Hall of Laureates, a permanent home for the World Food Prize and an event center and educational facility to honor humanitarian heroes and inspire the next generation of scientific leaders. Stay tuned and learn more at [www.worldfoodprize.org](http://www.worldfoodprize.org).

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Global Harvest Initiative GAP Report™ Announcement Luncheon**

*Date:* October 12, 2011

*Location:* Des Moines, IA

The Global Harvest Initiative will release its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Global Agricultural Productivity Report™ (GAP Report™) at the 2011 World Food Prize in Des Moines, Iowa on October 12, 2011. The GAP Report™ serves as a benchmark of agricultural productivity and measures the difference between the current rate of agricultural productivity growth and the pace required to sustainably meet the future agricultural needs of the nine billion people expected to inhabit the Earth by 2050. Learn more and RSVP at

<http://www.eventbrite.com/event/1963977309>

### **American Society of Agronomy Annual Meeting**

*Date:* October 16th – 19th, 2011

*Location:* San Antonio, TX

The American Society of Agronomy, together with the Crop Science Society of America and Soil Science Society of America, will host their International Annual Meetings, which brings together 4,000 scientists, professionals, educators, and students. The theme of the this year's meeting is "Fundamental for Life: Soil, Crop, & Environmental Sciences," and features the symposium, "Feed the Future -- Global Food Security," one of hundreds of symposia and sessions that will be presented throughout the week. For more information, visit [www.acsmeetings.org](http://www.acsmeetings.org)

### **2011 Africa Prize for Leadership**

*Date:* October 22, 2011

*Location:* New York, NY

The Africa Prize honors a distinguished African man or woman who has exhibited exceptional leadership in bringing about the sustainable end of hunger at the national, regional or continent-wide level. The 2011 Annual Fall Event will include the awarding of The Hunger Project's Africa Prize for Leadership for the Sustainable End of Hunger. The laureates for the 2011 Africa Prize for Leadership for the Sustainable End of Hunger: President of Malawi, Bingu wa Mutharika and Liberian Minister of Agriculture, Dr. Florence Chenoweth.

[http://www.thp.org/what\\_we\\_do/key\\_initiatives/honoring\\_africa\\_leadership/2011](http://www.thp.org/what_we_do/key_initiatives/honoring_africa_leadership/2011)

### **Future-Proof Farming**

*Date:* November 9, 2011

*Place:* Bibliothèque Solvay, Brussels

Europe's Common Agricultural Policy needs to meet growing challenges that range from food security and safety to ecological sustainability and climate change. Meanwhile, Europe's farmers face a variety of ecological challenges, yet agriculture can contribute much to the creation of an environment-friendly and resource-efficient economy. Representatives from the farming sector will go into discussion with EU policymakers and experts from academic circles and civil society to debate the challenges facing European agriculture, European farmers and the role a reformed CAP should play in solving the world's food challenges.

<http://www.friendsofeurope.org/Contentnavigation/Events/Eventsoverview/tabid/1187/EventType/EventView/EventId/1066/Futureprooffarming.aspx>

### **Agricultural R&D: Investing in Africa's Future**

*Date:* December 5-7, 2011

*Location:* Accra, Ghana

ASTI, together with the International Food Policy Report Institute, and the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa, is convening a conference on agricultural R&D in Africa focused on the following themes: 1. Levels and

Stability of Agricultural R&D Investments; 2. Human Resource Development of Agricultural R&D; 3. Aligning and Rationalizing Institutional Structures; and 4. Measuring and Improving the Effectiveness of R&D Systems. <http://www.ifpri.org/event/agricultural-rd-investing-africa-s-future>

### **World Biofuels Markets**

*Date:* March 13th – 15th, 2012

*Location:* Rotterdam, The Netherlands

Over 250 biofuels thought leaders will share their experiences and expertise on all aspects of the biofuels value chain during three days of interactive conference sessions.

<http://www.worldbiofuelsmarkets.com/>

### **Jobs, Food & Farming**

*Date:* March 19-21, 2012

*Location:* Accra, Ghana

The conference will critically examine, from both research and policy perspectives: 1) Dominant and alternative framings and narratives, and recent empirical data, relating to how young people engage with the agri-food sector in Africa; 2) The dynamics of change in different components of the agri-food sector and the implications of these dynamics for young people; 3) The implications for young people of alternative policy approaches to the development of the agri-food sector. The conference will be co-hosted by the Future Agricultures Consortium based at the Institute of Development Studies and the Institute of Statistical Social and Economic Research.

<http://www.future-agricultures.org/index.php>

### **Job Announcement: Communications Director, Edesia Global Nutrition Solutions, August 2011**

The Communications Director is responsible for further developing and implementing the communications strategy to advance the mission of Edesia and the PlumpyField Network. S/he is tasked with guiding public awareness and advocacy for Edesia's research, programmatic initiatives and partnerships, as well as advocating for the advancement of US policy related to nutrition.

<http://www.edesiaglobal.org/images/pdf/communicationsdirector.pdf>

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## **CONTINUING SPECIAL COVERAGE: DROUGHT IN THE HORN OF AFRICA**

Editorials/Commentaries:

### **Doubling Down on Somali Famine Aid, Opinion, Ertharin Cousin, Huffington Post, August 11**

The U.S. has stepped up to the plate because that is who we are and what we do as a nation. And I know that both the leaders and the citizens of the United States - regardless of their political leaning - continue to be wholeheartedly committed to helping the starving children and families in the drought-stricken region. They are giving generously in response to this emergency, and we urge other countries to do the same.

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/ertharin-cousin/doubling-down-on-somali-f-b-924827.html>

### **Starving in Somalia, Editorial, New York Times, August 11**

It is not in Washington's interest for Somalia to become a safe haven for militants who aim to target the West. There is no easy answer to Somali's agonies. It has to start with saving millions now at risk of starvation, helping them improve their ability to grow their own food and finding ways to strengthen a shaky central government.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/08/12/opinion/starving-in-somalia.html>

### **Why Americans Should Care about Famine in Africa, Opinion, William H. Frist, August 10**

The good news for the American taxpayer is that investments by our humanitarian and development organizations have worked. Through past advances in agriculture and food security led by the US, we learned that from the more plentiful regions of Kenya, food is flowing to the areas of greatest need. The issue is complex, but we know with certainty that a primary focus on health greatly improves the chances of

preventing death and of establishing security throughout the Horn of Africa. It's a worthy investment.  
<http://www.cnn.com/2011/OPINION/08/10/frist.famine.relief/index.html>

**SEE ALSO: Former Senator Bill Frist Talks to Anderson Cooper about the Somalia Famine Crisis, CNN, August 8**

<http://edition.cnn.com/video/?/video/world/2011/08/08/ac.bill.frist.famine.cnn>

**Day Two: On the Ground in the Horn of Africa, Opinion, Rajiv Shah, USAID Blog, August 10**

Since pastoralist communities throughout the region rely on livestock for their livelihoods, we are helping protect animal herds through vaccine programs and accessible veterinary care. In Ethiopia, we are supporting a government-led safety net program that builds boreholes for water, constructs health clinics and educates vulnerable communities about nutrition. These programs are already making a difference.

<http://blog.usaid.gov/2011/08/day-two-on-the-ground-in-the-horn-of-africa/>

**On the Ground in the Horn of Africa, Opinion, Rajiv Shah, USAID Blog, August 9**

The UN estimates that over 12.4 million people are in urgent need of humanitarian aid, including food, water and medical care, across the drought-stricken eastern Horn of Africa. It doesn't have to be this way. With Feed the Future, President Obama's initiative on food security, we are working with the Kenyan government and smallholder farmers to achieve sustainable, long-term and life-saving agriculture development.

<http://blog.usaid.gov/2011/08/on-the-ground-in-the-horn-of-africa/>

#### Media Articles:

**'Silent Crisis' as Food Prices Fuel Hunger in Kenya, David McKenzie and Teo Kermeliotis, CNN, August 12**

The price of a 90 kilogram bag of maize, which is the main food source for most Kenyans, jumped from about \$16 in June 2010 to about \$44 in July 2011 -- an increase of 160%. Sugar prices increased by 19.43% between June 2011 and last month. Analysts say a confluence of factors has contributed to the dramatic increase in the price of some food items.

<http://edition.cnn.com/2011/WORLD/africa/08/11/kenya.food.prices/>

**SEE ALSO: High Food Prices Exacerbate Crisis in Drought-Affected Horn of Africa, UN News Center, August 10**

The prices of grain and milk in the drought-hit Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia have risen to record highs, exacerbating hardship for the estimated 12.4 million people in the region who are facing severe food shortages and famine in some parts of Somalia. Higher domestic fuel prices and a food export ban imposed by neighboring Tanzania are exerting additional upward pressure on food prices in Kenya.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=39271&Cr=Horn+of+Africa&Cr1>

**Health in The Horn of Africa: a Collective Response Needed, The Lancet, August 12**

In an era of advanced agricultural productivity and transportation networks, it is unacceptable that a famine has happened. It is even more unfortunate that Africa is still "a scar on the conscience of the world", as former UK Prime Minister Tony Blair said 10 years ago. More and longer-term investments in agriculture and health in Africa are needed alongside a collective global response.

<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736%2811%2961273-7/fulltext>

**WFP Says Has More Access in Somalia, Mogadishu a Challenge, Reuters, August 11**

The bleak economic outlook in the United States and Europe - traditionally major aid donors - is also raising fears some sources of assistance could dry up. Ertharin Cousin, U.S. ambassador to U.N. agencies, said: "What's important is that we as the United States continue to support our foreign assistance and particularly food assistance," she told reporters in Nairobi.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJ0E77A0KF20110811>

**U.N. Far Short of Dollars to Deal with Africa Famine, CNN, August 11**

The United Nations is desperately trying to convince donors to get generous with their pocketbooks in order to stave off further suffering in the famine-wracked Horn of Africa. The global body said almost \$2.5 billion is needed to cope with the crisis. So far, it has only received 48% of that and is lacking \$1.2 billion.

<http://edition.cnn.com/2011/WORLD/africa/08/11/africa.famine.donations/>

**In Somalia's Famine, Aid Groups Race Against Time**, *NPR, August 10*

As aid groups battle the famine in the Horn of Africa, the news is mixed. More food is getting through and security has improved for now, but tens of thousands of children have already died and many more are at risk. Congress is focused mainly on budget cuts these days, including foreign assistance programs.

<http://www.npr.org/2011/08/10/139392086/in-somalias-famine-aid-groups-race-against-time>

**Confusion Reigns Over New U.S. Policy For NGO Aid**, *Joshua Hersh, Guardian, August 8*

A number of humanitarian organizations currently doing work in Somalia, and especially in parts of the country controlled by al-Shabaab, are struggling to make sense of what exactly has changed in the U.S. policy.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/08/08/somalia-famine-new-us-policy\\_n\\_921613.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/08/08/somalia-famine-new-us-policy_n_921613.html)

**The Hunger for Reliable Famine Stats**, *Carl Bialik, Wall Street Journal, August 5*

Humanitarian groups have settled on quantitative definitions of famine, including a mortality rate of at least two people per 10,000 per day, on average. That means some areas with a death rate of between one and two people per 10,000 each day, but pervasive malnutrition, aren't technically experiencing famine.

<http://blogs.wsj.com/numbersguy/the-hunger-for-reliable-famine-stats-1079/>

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## AGRICULTURAL ISSUES

### Reports:

**World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates**, U.S. Department of Agriculture, August 11

The *World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates* report provides USDA's comprehensive forecasts of supply and demand for major U.S. and global crops and U.S. livestock. The report gathers information from a number of statistical reports published by USDA and other government agencies, and provides a framework for additional USDA reports.

<http://www.usda.gov/oce/commodity/wasde/latest.pdf>

### Media Articles:

**The Environment of the Next Farm Bill Debate**, *Opinion, Steven Klose, University of Illinois, August 12*

What we know for certain is that the current farm bill will expire after the 2012 crop year, and we will not plant the 2013 crop under 1949 permanent legislation provisions. So, ready or not, the debate begins. Moving beyond "when" and into the more interesting question of "what" opens many more questions about the appropriate direction of U.S. farm and food policy.

[http://www.farmdocdaily.illinois.edu/2011/08/the\\_environment\\_of\\_the\\_next\\_fa\\_1.html](http://www.farmdocdaily.illinois.edu/2011/08/the_environment_of_the_next_fa_1.html)

**We Can No Longer Afford Random Acts of Conservation**, *Opinion, Jon Scholl, Agri-Pulse, August 11*

In agriculture we cannot merely look at cutting overlapping government programs or reducing bureaucratic staff, although some of that may be necessary, in order to achieve budget cuts. Instead, we must ask more fundamental questions about what kind of safety net we think is appropriate for modern agriculture, what types of conservation programs best serve the interests of the public, what kind of rural development strategy is most effective, and how generous all of these programs can be.

[http://www.agri-pulse.com/Random\\_acts\\_of\\_conservation\\_Scholl\\_08112011.asp](http://www.agri-pulse.com/Random_acts_of_conservation_Scholl_08112011.asp)

**It's National Farmers Market Week: The Feds Should Support Family Farms**, *Elliott Negin, Huffington Post, August 11*

FreshFarm Markets' growth mirrors the explosion of farmers markets nationwide. Since the USDA launched National Farmers Market Week in 2000, the number of farmers markets has jumped from 2,863 to 7,175. Currently more than 100,000 farms sell food directly to local consumers, and in 2007, the last year the USDA checked, direct agricultural product sales grossed \$1.2 billion.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/elliott-negin/farmers-market-week- b\\_924459.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/elliott-negin/farmers-market-week- b_924459.html)

**Beyond Prime: American Version of Pricey Japanese Kobe Beef Making Inroads**, Washington Post, August 9

Kobe is to beef what a Maserati is to sports cars: the epitome of pricey, exclusive luxury item. True Kobe beef comes from wagyu cattle raised in the Hyogo prefecture of Japan, where Kobe is the capital city. Half a world away from the secretive farms that produce Japan's legendary Kobe beef, Jerry Wilson raises the American version of the meat that will become \$50 steaks and \$13 burgers.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/industries/beyond-prime-american-version-of-pricey-japanese-kobe-beef-making-inroads/2011/08/09/gIQAc8CV4I\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/industries/beyond-prime-american-version-of-pricey-japanese-kobe-beef-making-inroads/2011/08/09/gIQAc8CV4I_story.html)

**Afghanistan Farmers Reportedly Ditch Poppy For Beekeeping**, Tara Kelly, Huffington Post, August 9

Helmand province is home to the country's largest poppy producing region, but Afghan officials say they've seen a 15% drop in poppy production this year. Afghan farmers are leaving their poppy harvesting days behind them in favor of a more lucrative beekeeping future. This could be partly thanks to the U.S. and U.K. development programs that have funded beekeeping training teaching farm at the Gereshk College.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/08/09/afghanistan-poppy-beekeeping\\_n\\_922352.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/08/09/afghanistan-poppy-beekeeping_n_922352.html)

**USDA Proposes Livestock Tracking System**, Marshall Eckblad, Wall Street Journal, August 9

The USDA proposed a new, mandatory system for tracking cattle, poultry and other farm animals to pinpoint the origin of diseases that can spread through herds and halt exports. Ranchers and farmers under the rules would be required to affix a unique identification number to animals transferred between states or tribal areas. The tracking system would allow federal officials to more quickly find the source of an outbreak and isolate the diseased animals, reducing the economic and public-health impacts.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424053111904007304576498612256353894.html>

**SEE ALSO: Senator Johanns Addresses Agriculture Issues**, Fremont Tribune, August 11

Animal identification has been a controversial topic in agriculture over the past few years. Johanns favors a voluntary program, but he said proposed regulations would require producers who moves cattle or hogs across state lines to use some form of identification and have a health certificate.

[http://fremonttribune.com/news/local/article\\_b7d7ccb2-c42c-11e0-9eb2-001cc4c03286.html](http://fremonttribune.com/news/local/article_b7d7ccb2-c42c-11e0-9eb2-001cc4c03286.html)

**Tighter Farm Bill Schedule**, Jerry Hagstrom, AgWeek, August 8

The passage of the law to raise with the debt ceiling and cut the federal budget deficit will not include immediate cuts to farm programs, but may lead to a rewrite of the farm bill on a tight schedule later this year rather than in 2012. "It is in our interest to move quickly," Senator Kent Conrad said, adding that he thinks the process will start in the Senate. Conrad said the new farm bill should reduce program complexity but also contain a disaster program that is funded for the life of the farm bill.

<http://www.agweek.com/event/article/id/18844/>

**SEE ALSO: Farm Bill Won't be like Previous Legislation**, Gretchen Schlosser, AgWeek, August 8

Even though representatives from farm groups disagree on many topics connected to agriculture, they agree that the next farm bill will not be patterned off previous farm legislation and direct payments to producers are not likely to continue into the future.

<http://www.agweek.com/event/article/id/18866/>

**Senior Dem Fears 'Supercommittee' Cuts to Farm Programs**, Pete Kasperowicz, The Hill, August 8

U.S. Rep. Collin Peterson said that he fears the new congressional "supercommittee" tasked with finding \$1.5 trillion in spending cuts will take a big bite out of agriculture programs by the end of the year. Peterson said congressional leaders have already asked the committees what could be cut, and said there is discussion of cutting more proportionally from agriculture than from other programs.

<http://thehill.com/blogs/floor-action/house/175837-senior-dem-fears-supercommittee-cuts-to-farm-programs>

**Africa: Continent Gets Small Scale Agriculture Fund**, AllAfrica.com, August 7

A \$21.45 million fund has been launched to support microfinance for rural households and to finance small-scale investment in agriculture across Africa. The European Solidarity Financing Fund for Africa, a specialist rural microfinance fund, is expected to fund microfinance institutions and producer organizations across the

continent in local currency.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201108080961.html>

**Could More-Nutritious Crops Help Fight Hunger?**, *Sandi Doughton, Seattle Times, August 7*

Funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the work is part of a broader effort to boost the levels of vitamins and minerals in crops many Africans rely on for the bulk of their diets. The Seattle-based foundation has committed more than \$160 million to these so-called biofortification programs. The approach epitomizes Gates' belief in the power of science to combat hunger, and mirrors many of the giant philanthropy's other investments in improved seeds and fertilizers.

[http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/localnews/2015848523\\_harvestplus08m.html](http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/localnews/2015848523_harvestplus08m.html)

**James Beard Foundation Recognizes Leaders in Sustainable Food**, *Christian Science Monitor, August 10*

Michelle Obama, Alice Waters among others receive an inaugural award that recognizes efforts to create a healthier, safer, and more sustainable food world.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/The-Culture/Food/Stir-It-Up/2011/0810/The-James-Beard-Foundation-recognizes-leaders-in-sustainable-food>

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## FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

### Reports:

**The U.S. Should Link Foreign Aid and U.N. General Assembly Voting**, *Brett Schaefer and Anthony Kim, Heritage Foundation, August 8*

Congress should link disbursement of U.S. development assistance to support for U.S. policy priorities in the U.N. and instruct the State Department and the USAID to inform aid recipients of this policy through their missions in New York and explain that opposing U.S. priorities at the U.N. will make Americans, especially Congress, less inclined to continue providing aid.

<http://www.heritage.org/Research/Reports/2011/08/The-US-Should-Link-Foreign-Aid-and-UN-General-Assembly-Voting>

### Media Articles:

**Charity Begins Abroad: Big Developing Countries are Shaking Up the World of Aid**, *Economist, August 12*

Ten years ago the vast majority of official development assistance came from about 15 rich industrialized countries that are members of the Development Assistance Committee, a 50-year-old club of the aid establishment. Today, the establishment donors' aid monopoly is finished. Aid from upstart donors is not exactly new.

<http://www.economist.com/node/21525836>

**U.S. Threatens to Halt Gaza Aid Over Hamas Audit**, *New York Times, August 11*

**The State Department sent a message to Gaza's Hamas leaders that it would withdraw some \$100 million it is spending in Gaza on health care, agriculture and water infrastructure if they did not back off a demand to audit the books of American-financed charities operating there.** Aid provided by American and other foreign groups goes to hundreds of thousands of Palestinians in Gaza, where most of the 1.6 million residents are refugees.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/08/12/world/middleeast/12gaza.html>

**Russia Offers Agricultural Land for Southeast Asian Farmers to Grow Crops**, *Bloomberg, August 11*

Russian President is turning to Asia to boost exports as his country's economy struggles to grow at the pace it did before a 2009 recession. Russia is targeting grain buyers in Southeast Asia to regain its share of the world market after lifting an export ban in July, the Moscow-based Institute for Agricultural Market Studies said.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-08-12/russia-offers-land-for-southeast-asian-farmers-to-make-food-1-.html>

**For U.S. Jobs, It Pays to Look Overseas**, *Nina Easton, CNN, August 10*

Business strategists increasingly recognize that not only are 95% of their potential consumers living outside U.S. borders, they are living in high-growth developing countries. Tapping into those markets will help produce needed jobs. Part of the international affairs budget supports exporting companies to help finance exports, and the U.S. Trade and Development Agency that hosts trade missions. And humanitarian aid can redound to America's benefit.

<http://finance.fortune.cnn.com/2011/08/10/jobs-growth-overseas/>

**Aid Officials: Not the Time to Cut U.S. Food Aid**, *Reuters, August 10*

The concerns about the spreading food crisis come as the House Appropriations Committee proposes further funding cuts for USAID in fiscal year 2012 by \$488 million from last year's level and \$705 million less than the Obama administration requested. Sam Worthington said some lawmakers were so focused on budget cuts they ignored the long-term security and economic benefits to the United States of providing foreign aid.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/08/10/us-somalia-usa-famine-idUSTRE77975H20110810>

**Does Global Battle Against Hunger Have a New Hero?**, *Opinion, Bradley Brook, Huffington Post, August 10*

The U.N.'s FAO recently elected as its next leader Jose Graziano da Silva of Brazil, a former Brazilian food security minister and. He has said eradicating hunger is his first priority for the FAO, which is the U.N.'s biggest specialized agency, with a \$1 billion budget. The FAO plans to spread the knowledge of how to create programs to governments around the globe.

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/huff-wires/20110810/lt-brazil-hunger-s-hero/>

**A Good Return on Investment**, *Opinion, Mark Green and John Lange, Daily Caller, August 9*

The programs funded by the U.S. government's International Affairs Budget are living proof of these shared values. For us, our Kenyan and Tanzanian brothers and sisters are not only our friends — they are our trading partners and our allies in the fight against terrorism and extremism. Now, that's a return on investment.

<http://dailycaller.com/2011/08/07/a-good-return-on-investment/>

**Can Kerry save the State Department on the "Supercommittee"?**, *Josh Rogin, Foreign Policy, August 9*

After two years of budget increases during the Obama administration, the dire fiscal situation has placed diplomacy and development funding on the chopping block. In April, the Obama administration voluntarily cut \$8 billion from the State Department budget as part of the deal to avoid a government shutdown.

[http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2011/08/09/can\\_kerry\\_save\\_the\\_state\\_department\\_on\\_the\\_supercommittee](http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2011/08/09/can_kerry_save_the_state_department_on_the_supercommittee)

**Why is America Cutting Emergency Food Aid in the Middle of a Famine?**, *Opinion, Tony Hall, Bread for the World Blog, August 9*

The proposed cuts ignore the low-cost of these life-saving programs. They also ignore broad bipartisan support these programs have shared in recent decades; President George W. Bush actually increased funding for international feeding programs. Moreover, these cuts would undermine our national security; hungry people either migrate, revolt or die, all three of which create extreme instability.

<http://blog.bread.org/2011/08/why-is-america-cutting-emergency-food-aid-in-the-middle-of-a-famine.html>

**How a Faltering Dollar Starves Food Aid**, *Laurie Garrett, Council on Foreign Relations, August 9*

Garrett calls the current situation - with the troubled dollar, the beleaguered global economy, and a diminishing number of donors at time of rising food prices - a "perfect storm." She says even if the dollar had not gone down in value, the rising cost of food means less can be bought today with the same money.

<http://www.cfr.org/food-security/faltering-dollar-starves-food-aid/p25616>

**US Debt Struggle Puts Middle East Aid Commitments in Question**, *VOA News, August 8*

The bulk of all U.S. foreign assistance to Egypt in 2011 falls under "peace and security" issues: \$1.3 billion are earmarked to fight terrorism, trafficking in narcotics and people, and weapons of mass destruction, and for promoting conflict resolution. Much smaller amounts serve the domestic needs of a nation of approximately 93 million.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/news/middle-east/US-Debt-Struggle-Puts-Middle-East-Aid->

[Commitments-in-Question-127258298.html](http://blogs.voanews.com/breaking-news/2011/08/08/russia-to-send-50000-tons-of-food-aid-to-north-korea/)

**Russia to Send 50,000 Tons of Food Aid to North Korea**, *VOA News, August 8*

Russian Foreign Minister says his country will send 50,000 tons of grain to North Korea to help it cope with food shortages after devastating floods. The South Korean minister for foreign affairs and trade arrived in Moscow to discuss a wide range of topics, including the situation on the Korean peninsula and joint ventures with Russia.

<http://blogs.voanews.com/breaking-news/2011/08/08/russia-to-send-50000-tons-of-food-aid-to-north-korea/>

**SEE ALSO: UN Agency Says Floods Damaged Key North Korean Croplands**, *VOA News, August 9*

The FAO said that almost 60,000 hectares of cropland were affected by the flooding in the second and third weeks of July. It said there are not yet any precise estimates of losses but that low-lying rice and other paddy crops are likely to be most affected.

<http://blogs.voanews.com/breaking-news/2011/08/09/un-agency-says-floods-damaged-key-north-korean-croplands/>

**National Security in an Age of Austerity**, *Opinion, Kurt Volker, ACUS, August 8*

In a time of austerity, the instinct is to retrench. The United States still has the biggest economy in the world, the biggest defense establishment in the world and the largest set of complex interests in the world. Our well-being depends upon security, freedom and prosperity throughout the world.

[http://www.acus.org/new\\_atlanticist/national-security-age-austerity](http://www.acus.org/new_atlanticist/national-security-age-austerity)

**East Africa Needs Infrastructure to Fight Famine**, *Opinion, Craig and Marc Kielburger, Huffington Post, August 8*

Drought is not new to East Africa. The response this time is reminiscent of past emergency aid operations that provided short-term relief, but halted prior to addressing systemic change. We need more than food drops to stop famine. We need boreholes, irrigation, agricultural capacity-building, water-catchment systems, permanent schools, sanitation, and policy research...to start.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/craig-and-marc-kielburger/east-africa-aid\\_b\\_920968.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/craig-and-marc-kielburger/east-africa-aid_b_920968.html)

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## ENVIRONMENT (WATER/CLIMATE)

### Media Articles:

**\$100 Million for the Everglades: A Smart Investment for Nature and People**, *Opinion, Mark Tercek, Huffington Post, August 12*

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack announced the commitment of \$100 million of U.S. funds to restore and protect wetlands in the Northern Everglades Watershed. In this time of debate over the use of federal funding, the project is a good example of the kind of return we can expect from well planned investments in the conservation of our land and water.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/mark-tercek/100-million-for-the-everglades\\_b\\_925368.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/mark-tercek/100-million-for-the-everglades_b_925368.html)

**Drought Cripples the South: Why the 'Creeping Disaster' Could Get a Whole Lot Worse**, *TIME, August 9*

There's evidence - when it comes to rainfall, at least - that the good years may be behind us. The Southwest in particular has a history over the past two millennia of megadroughts that lasted for decades. Deeper into the geologic past, dust bowls endured for centuries. Just as worrying, climate change is expected to further dry out much of the region, potentially multiplying the impacts of population growth and the usual dry spells.

<http://www.time.com/time/health/article/0,8599,2087504,00.html>

**Enhanced Cooperation Vital to Protect Forests from Extreme Weather**, *UN News Centre, August 9*

Several UN agencies and their partners are calling for greater cooperation to tackle the threat posed to the world's forests from extreme weather events and natural disasters. In November, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change is scheduled to release a special report on managing the risks of extreme events and disasters to advance climate change adaptation.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=39264&Cr=forests&Cr1=>

**Is Famine in the Horn of Africa Linked to Climate Change?**, *Duncan Green, Oxfam, August 8*

The historical record does not "prove" that the current drought is directly attributable to climate change. True, there are now a few cases in which scientists have been able to estimate the extent to which man-made climate change has made a particular extreme weather event more likely, but these exercises require reliable long-term weather data that only exists for Europe and North America – no such studies as yet exist in the case of the current drought.

<http://blogs.oxfam.org/en/blog/11-08-08-climate-change-famine-horn-africa>

**Preventing the Next Somalia: Energy+Water = Food**, *Robert Freling, Huffington Post, August 10*

"For now, the world has a moral imperative to help save lives in Somalia, but as pointed out by the U.N. Secretary-General, we also need to be thinking about and acting on the structural changes that are required to address questions of food security over the long-term. Solutions such as solar-powered drip irrigation offer great hope for parts of the world that are especially vulnerable to famine during periods of extended drought like the one now occurring in the Horn of Africa."

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/robert-a-freling/preventing-famine\\_b\\_921035.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/robert-a-freling/preventing-famine_b_921035.html)

**Gore Flings Barnyard Epithet at 'Organized' Climate Change Critics**, *New York Times, August 9*

Climate skeptics have "polluted" public debate on global warming using the same tactics tobacco companies once employed to deny the health risks of smoking, former Vice President Al Gore said last week.

<http://www.nytimes.com/cwire/2011/08/09/09climatewire-gore-flings-barnyard-epithet-at-organized-cl-54197.html>

**Debt Deal Reopens Debate on Climate Catastrophes**, *New York Times, August 9*

The last-minute legislation approved by Congress last week to raise the debt ceiling creates a disaster fund that will carry billions of dollars for recovery in hard-hit areas. But the provision's emphasis on savings is seen by some as a pathway to reduced disaster funding, even as Americans are witnessing a historic period of active hurricanes, intensifying floods and more violent thunderstorms.

<http://www.nytimes.com/cwire/2011/08/09/09climatewire-debt-deal-reopens-debate-on-climate-catastro-86997.html>

**Nigeria: Oil-Polluted Ogoniland could Become Environmental Model**, *Guardian, August 9*

Ogoniland is one of the most oil-polluted places on earth but it could become a model for other countries wanting to clean up their environments or avoid making the same mistakes. If governments and oil companies were prepared to put up the money to act, it could provide work to train tens of thousands of Ogonis, leave the area "pristine" and help many other African countries that were on the point of commercially developing their oil reserves.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/2011/aug/09/niger-delta-shell-oil-spills>

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## WOMEN & GIRLS

### Reports:

**Violence Against Children in Tanzania**, *UNICEF, August 2011*

Tanzania is the first country in Africa to undertake A National Study on Violence against Children – for the first time measuring all forms of violence amongst girls and boys and giving national estimates of the prevalence of violence.

[http://www.unicef.org/media/files/VIOLENCE\\_AGAINST\\_CHILDREN\\_IN\\_TANZANIA\\_REPORT.pdf](http://www.unicef.org/media/files/VIOLENCE_AGAINST_CHILDREN_IN_TANZANIA_REPORT.pdf)

**SEE ALSO: Tanzania Report Reveals Extent of Violence Against Children**, *Guardian, August 9*

The study finds that nearly three out of every 10 girls and nearly three out of every 20 boys in Tanzania claim to have experienced sexual violence.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/poverty-matters/2011/aug/09/tanzania-violence-against-children>

**Stop Making Excuses**, *Human Rights Watch*, August 8

This report documents maternity care failures that include abuse of maternity patients by health workers and substandard care in Eastern Cape Province, putting women and their newborns at high risk of death or injury.  
<http://www.hrw.org/reports/2011/08/08/stop-making-excuses>

**SEE ALSO: Maternal Deaths Quadruple in South Africa**, *Yahoo News*, August 8

The report says some of the increase - to more than 4,500 maternal deaths a year - could be the result of better reporting and a massive HIV/AIDS rate that has 18 percent of South Africans infected, some 5.7 million people.

[http://old.news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20110808/ap\\_on\\_re\\_af/af\\_south\\_africa\\_dying\\_mothers](http://old.news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20110808/ap_on_re_af/af_south_africa_dying_mothers)

Media Articles:

**After Independence, South Sudan Battles Maternal Mortality**, *Media Global*, August 12

Emerging from decades of civil war, South Sudan lacks vital infrastructure and health services, including comprehensive maternal care. Poorly equipped and under-staffed, most health clinics in South Sudan are unable to handle even the most common and easily preventable pregnancy complications, including hemorrhaging, obstructed labor, infection, and malnutrition.

[http://mediaglobal.org/article/2011-08-11/after\\_independence\\_south\\_sudan\\_battles\\_maternal\\_mortality](http://mediaglobal.org/article/2011-08-11/after_independence_south_sudan_battles_maternal_mortality)

**Zimbabwe: Uplift Women, Acting President Urges**, *ALLAfrica*, August 12

Joice Mujuru has called for concerted efforts in uplifting women as they are key in contributing to economic growth and sustainable development in Zimbabwe. Officially opening 1 50/50 strategic meeting, the President said gender justice and gender balance was key in the development of any country.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201108120688.html>

**UN Official Voices Concern over Reports of Rape of Somali Women Fleeing Famine**, *UN News Center*, August 11

The UN official leading the fight against sexual violence in times of conflict voiced concern over reports that women and girls fleeing famine in Somalia were being raped or abducted and forced into marriage by bandits and other armed groups as they tried to reach refugee camps in Kenya.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=39282&Cr=Somalia&Cr1>

**Empowering Women Key to Climate Change**, *Times (South Africa)*, August 9

Climate change can't be solved without empowering women, and global problems can't be solved without addressing climate change, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Maite Nkoana-Mashabane says. She said in the case of all the wars in Africa women were on the frontline of picking up the pieces, and were the carriers of development, ensuring the survival of communities.

<http://www.timeslive.co.za/scitech/2011/08/09/empowering-women-key-to-climate-change>

**Women Need Greater Say in Dealing with Drought**, *Vivian Leung, Reuters AlertNet*, August 8

A lack of women in policymaking is worsening the impact of the Horn of Africa drought, U.N. and aid agency officials say. Women - as in most natural disasters - are worst hit, aid agencies say. Changing that, they say, will require efforts to involve women in preparing for, responding to and recovering from drought.

<http://www.trust.org/alertnet/news/women-need-greater-say-in-dealing-with-drought-officials>

**Meeting the Needs of Seven Billion Requires Investing in the Health and Education of Women and Girls**, *Opinion, Tamara Kreinin, The Mark*, August 5

Women are recognized as having a critical role to play in reducing poverty, boosting economic growth and agricultural productivity, promoting environmental sustainability, and raising healthy and well-educated children. However, when women lack access to contraceptives, they often face difficult and repeated pregnancies that keep them from finishing their education, building sustainable livelihoods, providing opportunities for their children, and financially supporting their families.

<http://www.themarknews.com/articles/6278-sustaining-seven-billion>

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## MARKET ACCESS AND TRADE ISSUES

### Reports:

#### **FAO Global Food Price Monitor**, *Food and Agricultural Organization, August 9*

International prices of wheat which had fallen in May and June continued to decline in July. The benchmark US wheat price averaged USD 308 per ton, down 8percent from its June level. Wheat prices remained 45 percent higher than a year earlier although they are 36 percent below their peaks in 2008. The decline in July mainly reflected pressure from the 2011 winter wheat harvest in the US and Europe, as well as large export availabilities expected in the Black Sea region in the 2011/12 marketing season.

[http://www.fao.org/giews/english/gfpm/GFPM\\_08\\_2011.pdf](http://www.fao.org/giews/english/gfpm/GFPM_08_2011.pdf)

### Media Articles:

#### **Crop Yield Raises Risk to Food Cost**, *William Neuman, New York Times, August 11*

Consumers can expect to see a jump in prices for pasta, meat, vegetable oil and other grocery items in the coming months as a pair of new government reports forecast that a brutal mixture of heat, drought or flooding has taken a toll on the corn, soybeans and wheat grown on American farms.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/08/12/business/corn-and-soybean-prices-rise-after-usda-report.html>

#### **SEE ALSO: Food Commodities Prices Surge**, *Financial Times, August 11*

Food commodities prices surged after the US government slashed its forecast for the country's crops due to the impact of a heat wave and drought. The US is the world's top exporter of food commodities, accounting for half the world's corn, a third of the world's soybeans and a up to a fifth of the world's wheat. As such, USDA forecasts have a big impact on global prices.

<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/744f1a34-c438-11e0-ad9a-00144feabdc0.html>

#### **SEE ALSO: Higher Food Prices on Way**, *Wall Street Journal, August 11*

It takes several months for a commodity such as corn to make its way down the production line and into a box of cereal, so consumers next year will be buying food made from raw materials bought this year, when crop prices reached multiyear highs.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424053111904007304576498160619971454.html>

#### **EU Plans Cuts to Subsidies for Biggest Farms**, *Stanley Pignal and Simon Mee, Financial Times, August 11*

Subsidy payments to Europe's largest farmers will be cut sharply under early proposals being crafted in Brussels that would cap European Union funding to any single farm at €300,000 a year from 2014. The proposal is part of a larger overhaul of how subsidies to farmers – the largest single part of the EU's budget – are allocated. A similar idea was floated in 2007 before being struck down by national governments.

<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/52811868-c432-11e0-ad9a-00144feabdc0.html>

#### **SEE ALSO: IFA Critical of Leaked Plans on Agricultural Payments**, *Irish Times, August 10*

Ireland's largest farm organization has criticized proposals that farm payments should be based on farm size under the reformed common agricultural policy. The existing single farm payment system is complex and takes into account production on farms in a three-year period dating from the early 2000s and all other payments due to farmers in 2005.

<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/ireland/2011/0810/1224302180349.html>

#### **India Food Inflation Accelerates**, *Anat Vijay Kala, Wall Street Journal, August 11*

Food inflation in India accelerated significantly due to simmering price pressures in several commodities, damping hopes of a pause in rate increases by the central bank despite moderating economic growth. Price pressures stemmed from costlier fruits, vegetables and high-protein foods such as meat and milk. Egg, meat and fish prices rose about 6% week-on-week and about 13% from a year earlier.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424053111903918104576501704108230970.html>

#### **Commodities Expected to Play Catch-Up**, *Brenda Bouw, The Globe and Mail, August 10*

Commodity stocks have been hit harder than the price of the products themselves during the recent rout on global markets, a sign that commodities have further to fall as fears of another recession intensify. A drop in

commodity prices has huge implications for Canada's economy, given its dominant position as a producer of zinc, uranium, gold and other metals alongside key global agriculture products such as wheat and potash.  
<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/commodities-expected-to-play-catch-up/article2122134/>

**Corn, Wheat Swap Roles as Prices Surge**, *Carolyn Cui, Wall Street Journal, August 9*

In a reversal of historic patterns, the price of corn is higher than wheat, an anomaly that is upending commodities-trading strategies and changing what poultry producers feed their chickens. Since 1970, wheat has cost an average of \$1 per bushel more than corn. The reason: wheat is used mainly to feed people, in flour for bread, pasta and pastries, while corn is more commonly fed to animals.  
<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424053111904480904576496610907800774.html>

**Hay Cheaper to Ship to China than California Hits Dairies: Freight Markets**, *Bloomberg, Aug 8*

U.S. hay, the country's third-largest crop by value, is now cheaper to ship to China than to farmers in central California, compounding shortages that mean record prices for the dairy industry. Ocean freight costs about \$30 a short ton (0.91 metric tons) to send hay to Asia from Los Angeles, compared with \$53 to truck the crop from southern California to the center of the state.  
<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-08-09/hay-cheaper-to-ship-to-china-than-california-hits-dairies-freight-markets.html>

**Inflation Climbs in China on Higher Food Prices**, *Keith Bradsher, New York Times, August 8*

Inflation in China accelerated last month to its fastest pace in three years, with consumer prices up 6.5 percent from a year earlier mainly as a result of rising food prices. Rising prices could make it harder for the Chinese government to cut interest rates or take other measures to stimulate the economy if weakness in the American and European economies causes a slowdown in Chinese exports.  
<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/08/09/business/global/inflation-climbs-in-china-on-higher-food-prices.html>

**Africa's New Middle Class Lures Investment**, *Witney Schneidman, Bloomberg, August 8*

During the past 10 years, six of the world's fastest-growing economies have been in sub-Saharan Africa. The majority of African governments have developed strategies to reduce poverty, and this has led to improvements in public health and education. Business leaders and civil-society organizations, among others, are contributing to a new spirit of debate and tolerance. Africa's moment is at hand.  
<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2011-08-08/africa-s-new-middle-class-lures-investment-witney-schneidman.html>

**How Congress Devastated Congo**, *Opinion, David Aronson, New York Times, August 7*

The Dodd-Frank law has had unintended and devastating consequences, as I saw firsthand on a trip to eastern Congo this summer. The law has brought about a de facto embargo on the minerals mined in the region. The smelting companies that used to buy from eastern Congo have stopped. No one wants to be tarred with financing African warlords. For locals, however, the law has been a catastrophe.  
<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/08/08/opinion/how-congress-devastated-congo.html>

**Radiation Threat Rattles Japan's Food Chain**, *Red Dvorak and Juro Osawa, Wall Street Journal, August 6*

Four months after the disaster, the government still is struggling to contain the contamination and to come up with an effective system for policing its food supply. Some foods, such as juices and honey, hit store shelves without any government screening. Many other foods are spot tested, but only minimally.  
<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424053111904772304576466641695180326.html>

**SEE ALSO: Japan Battles to Restore Food Safety Confidence**, *Financial Times, August 8*

Last week a ban on beef shipments was widened to four northeastern Japanese prefectures. But worries about the safety of beef have already travelled far beyond the region, as potentially contaminated rice straw has been shipped to numerous other parts of the country for cattle feed.  
<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/14545ef4-c0f1-11e0-b8c2-00144feabdc0.html>

**SEE ALSO: Japan Revives Rice Futures Trade as Radiation Threatens Harvest**, *Bloomberg, August*

When the Tokyo Grain Exchange bet its future on rice trading, it didn't expect radiation fallout would be part of investor decisions and volatility. The exchange will list rice contracts today for the first time since the start of the World War II to boost flagging volumes and profit.

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2011-08-07/japan-revives-rice-futures-trade-as-radiation-threatens-harvest.html>

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## **AGRIBUSINESS**

### Media Articles:

**A Biotech Giant Looks to Become a 'Yield Company' in a Climate-Stressed World**, *New York Times*, August 11

Striving to pull away from being "just a biotechnology company," global agricultural corporation Monsanto is again turning to the global food crisis to champion the need for high-tech crops. The company's pipeline is teeming with seeds aimed to protect farmers from losses due to pests, heat, drought and nutrient deficiencies.

<http://www.nytimes.com/cwire/2011/08/11/11climatewire-a-biotech-giant-looks-to-become-a-yield-comp-38583.html>

**E.P.A. Bans Sale of Tree-Killing Herbicide**, *Jim Robbins, New York Times, August 11*

The Environmental Protection Agency banned the sale of Imprelis, a weed killer introduced this year that landscapers link to thousands of tree deaths around the country.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/08/12/science/earth/12herbicide.html>

**AMYRIS Biofuels Break through Trade Barriers**, *Reese Ewing, Reuters, August 10*

California-based Amyris produces farnesene, an oily hydrocarbon, from sugar cane in a fermentation process using genetically altered yeast. Its production operations are focused in Brazil, the world's biggest and cheapest grower of cane. The biggest market in which Amyris is establishing itself is renewable transport fuels.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/08/10/us-brazil-amyris-idUSTRE7796P520110810>

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