ing from the manipulations of the Rockefeller-controlled Continental and Cargill grain companies, many cattle feeders suffered huge losses and have cut their operations. U.S. feedlots are presently filled only to 75 per cent of last year's levels.

The financial trouncing received by feedlot operators is now being passed on to cattle farmers themselves. The price farmers receive for feeder calves has plunged from last year's record of $70 a hundredweight to only $25. With cattle numbers at a record high, cattlemen are desperately rushing their animals to market--bypassing the feedlot operators--in an effort to make up their losses. In many cases, the packers will offer the farmers more money for the animals than the cattle feeders. As a result, more than 15 per cent of the cattle now being slaughtered comes directly from the range as compared with 3.3 per cent last year. This means that a larger proportion of meat produced is of the lower-quality, non-grainfed variety.

Some farmers will attempt to feed their animals to market weight themselves in hopes that cattle prices will soon strengthen; but with heavy grain costs, they are unlikely to succeed. Kenneth Monfort, president of the country's largest feedlot operation, commented on this second alternative: "It will be a disaster. Ranchers could lose their equity, their lifetime work, their land, their homes."

Monfort is predicting that by 1976, lower beef supplies reflecting the large-scale liquidation of herds will cut per capita meat consumption in the U.S. from the current 115 pounds per year to the 1960 level of 90 pounds. Monfort is not even taking into account the fact that by then most meat will be lower-grade due to the prohibitive costs of grain feeding.

ROCKY'S SUGAR SWINDLE WIPES OUT SMALL-FRY SPECULATORS

Dec. 5 (IPS)--After buying up more than one-third of the world's sugar trade, Rockefeller's Arab sheikhs resold part of their hoard, causing sugar prices to plunge the daily limit for nine consecutive days on the New York and London commodity exchanges. Having mopped up several brokerage houses in the precipitous price collapse, the Arab speculators then moved back into the market today with large purchases.

The Paris Commodities Exchange was forced to close Dec. 3 due to the collapse of the Nataf brokerage house, which reportedly held half of the contracts for future delivery in the Paris market. Like many unlucky brokers, Nataf had taken a "long" position--that is, bought sugar futures in expectation of reselling at higher prices. When prices plunged, Nataf was unable to meet its increased margin requirements.

While Rocky's manipulation of the commodity markets wipes out the small-fry speculators, there are still no prospects for relief for the working class consumer in the form of large reductions in retail prices. The next stage in the sugar hoax is the activation of a Latin American sugar producers' cartel led by "anti-imperialist" Mexican President Echeverria and Cuba. Rockefeller's Latin American puppets are playing an OPEC-style Great Sugar Robbery and have already announced plans to market jointly 15 million tons at the price of 80 cents a pound. Should the sugar cartelization prove successful, consumers will soon have to shell out $1 a pound at the local supermarket.