

Because farmers are being forced to sell off their herds, temporarily glutting the market, the prices they are getting for them have sharply fallen to 14-21 cents per pound, compared to 28-33 cents last year. Pork production is in even greater danger, with government officials estimating that 1975 output will drop 10-20 per cent.

The rate hike also threatens to gut the Alberta meat processing industry, which handles 40 per cent of the country's meat. A wave of layoffs will hit the industry as farmers begin to send live animals, rather than slaughtered ones, to slaughter yards in the east.

#### FAMINE PROSPECTS IN INDIA, PAKISTAN WORSEN

Jan. 5 (IPS)--Following last year's famine in India--the worst in 30 years--this year's early crop promises to fall far short even of 1974's tiny yield, severely exacerbating the already disastrous food situation in the Indian subcontinent. Late and inadequate rainfall, coupled with Rockefeller-engineered fuel and fertilizer shortages and a dangerous wheat rust, ensures that India's total harvest for 1974-75 will fall 10 to 12 million tons below last year's and 17 to 19 million tons below the 110 million tons needed for bare subsistence in the country. In Pakistan, last year's wheat harvest of 7.5 million tons is certain to fall well below seven million this year, more than a 10 per cent decline.

India's main summer-fall crop was severely damaged by the floods of last summer, and the harvest was officially reported at 55.5 million tons, down from 65 million last year. Last year's spring crop was a dismal 22 million tons, reduced from the 27 million tons of two years before by a combination of fertilizer shortages, fuel shortages, and the wheat rust. This year, a very late rain--which delayed the winter wheat planting throughout the India-Pakistan wheat belt areas of Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and the Punjab by a crucial month--means that a vastly reduced area had to be planted in wheat, and that the average yields will be lower due to the shorter growing season.

Compounding the crisis, the major dams of the subcontinent--the Bhakra in the Indian Punjab and the Mangala in Pakistan--are far below normal in water because of skimpy rains. This will directly reduce water for irrigation and also severely reduce the hydroelectric power available to run pumps for the tube wells which supply water needs not covered by the dams directly. As a direct result of Rockefeller's Oil Hoax, there is no fuel to run generators and pumps for land irrigation. Moreover, the Bhakra Dam provided the power for the major fertilizer plant in Nangal, where output correspondingly will be down.

The destructive effects of the wheat rust in India will further reduce the crop. With the right weather conditions, the rust

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pathogens can be expected to infect wheat-growing areas in neighboring countries like Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran, etc. A rust epidemic would quickly sweep westward and devastate those Middle East countries which are most dependent on wheat.

#### No Miracle

Under the Ford Foundation-World Bank's Operation Bootstrap, India was forced to adopt the so-called miracle grains which are known to have a high genetic vulnerability to rust. Over 75 per cent of the major wheat regions are planted in these miracle grains, which require more water than normal strains. Thus, with the shortfall in rain, irrigation, and pumped water, the area will face even worse shortages by summer than last year. This year, India was able to cover only about 4.5 million tons of a more than 10 million ton deficit by imports. With prices still rising--another direct result of Rocky's Oil Hoax--India can be expected to be able to cover even less of an even larger deficit this year, unless massive food aid, along the lines of the Emergency Food Program proposed by the International Caucus of Labor Committees, is adopted before that time.