

We Should Not Just Be ‘Waiting for Rain!’

Aug. 11—The Drought Outlook map **Figure 1**, for the July through October period, shows how extensive and lingering the dryness is expected to be, causing terrible conditions for fires, crop failure, and livestock losses. These conditions were discussed by a panel of three farmers, from a tri-state region in the central Plains, on the Aug. 4 weekly web radio program, “The LaRouche Show” (www.larouchepub.com/radio). This map was included in the July 30 petition to the EPA, and the Agriculture and Interior Departments, for a waiver on the Federal mandate for biofuels, filed by livestock, meat, and dairy groups, because of the immediate corn and fodder shortage, and high feed prices.

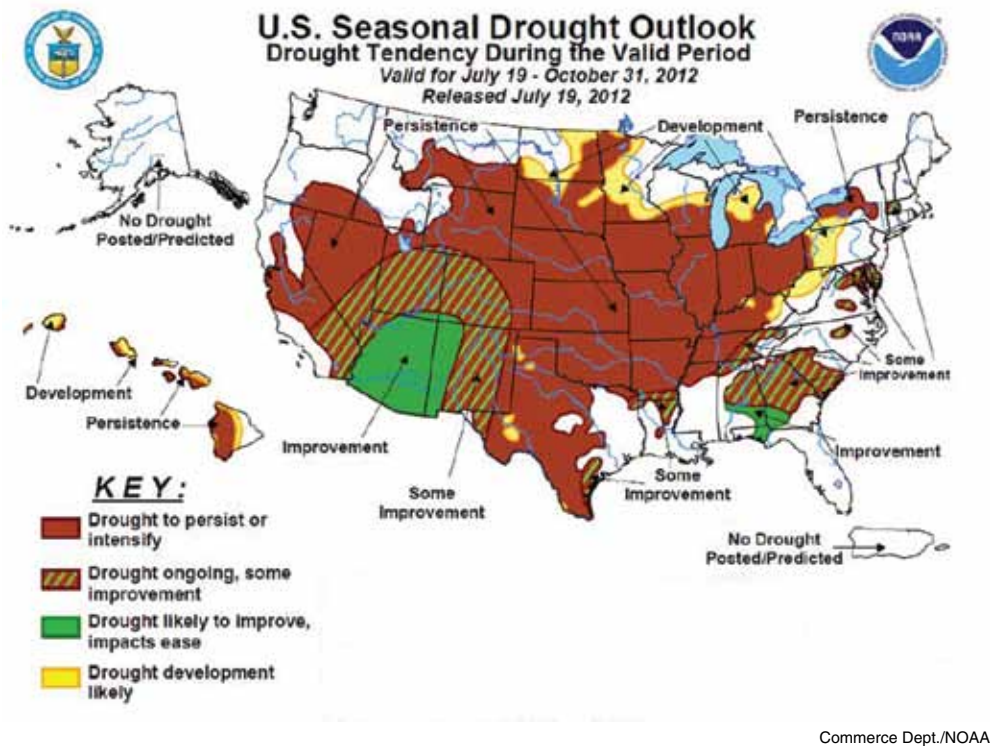
The LaRouche Show was hosted by Marcia Baker; the panelists were Don Eret from eastern Nebraska (Saline County), Ron Wieczorek from eastern South Dakota (Davison County), and Andy Olson from southwestern Minnesota (Cottonwood County). They are all involved in family-farm operations, in corn, soy, wheat, and livestock production. They are also leading the farm-state drive for NAWAPA XXI, and immediately, for Congress to return to Washington, D.C.; pass the Glass-Steagall reinstatement bill (H.R. 1489); enact emergency farm and food action; and establish a national credit system.

Excerpts from their first-hand reports follow.

Drought and Wildfires

Ron Wieczorek: Right now, Aug. 3, ... they had to evacuate a town on the Rosebud reservation of 2,000 people, because of wildfires. Pine Ridge has had the same problem. They had to move a community of 1,500, I don’t know offhand how many homes burned. The government has already announced that they’re going to move in some of these mobile homes, make them available, to the Native Americans out there. And I think you can all remember the fires in the Black Hills just a couple weeks ago, where we didn’t even have any airplanes to drop water out there. They had a plane

FIGURE 1



Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Short-term events—such as individual storms—cannot be accurately forecast more than a few days in advance. Use caution for applications—such as crops—that can be affected by such events. “Ongoing” drought areas are approximated from the Drought Monitor (D1 to D4 intensity). For weekly drought updates, see the latest U.S. Drought Monitor. NOTE: the green improvement areas imply at least a 1-category improvement in the Drought Monitor intensity levels, but do not necessarily imply drought elimination.

crash, and we lost two pilots there—and they shut down the planes that we had here for a few days.

The situation is almost like it’s out of control, in Western South Dakota. Thank God last night we had a little shower that moved across the state, which helped some with the fires we had there on the reservations in western South Dakota.

Don Eret: Up in Northeast Nebraska, the Niobrara River Valley had over a week of continually burning fires that they couldn’t get out, and I think they have more pine trees involved there, which feeds the fires. I guess those are now out; but just this morning, they announced out in western Nebraska, in Ogallala, they had a 60,000-acre grass fire that was probably started by some farm equipment, and they didn’t have the means to put that fire out.

Andy Olson: The drought in southwest Minnesota really started about a year ago, and we had very little rain. Last Fall’s harvest—we were having problems with combine fires, and they would start the cornfield on fire, and one particularly hazardous day, with about a 40-mile-an-hour wind, it did get into a town in north-west Iowa, and it almost got out of control here too.

And it would have gone for miles, just jumping roads and hitting this tinder-dry standing corn. So, we can look forward to something like that, if we don’t get some real recharge, because the ground is very dry here.

Wieczorek: I was just looking at a report talking about the forest areas of the western United States. This article, using tree rings as their data base, they’re comparing the the last four-year, five-year drought in the western United States, to similar drought conditions in the Middle Ages, from 977 to 1081, and from 1146 to 1151. So, this is really turning out to cover a very large area.

The other aspect of this thing is, much of the forest has already been destroyed, for these greenies that can only talk about carbon sequestration. They have destroyed probably a third of the ability to sequester carbon by these wildfires, and then all the added carbon that has been put in the air because of the smoke. These greenies should be screaming and hollering, for water from the Yukon and the MacKenzie rivers, and using the Kennedy program of NAWAPA, and the economics that LaRouche is projecting. . . .

Crops, Livestock Hit

Wieczorek: I just drove from Sioux Falls to Platte, South Dakota which is on the Minnesota/Iowa border, basically, to the Missouri River area, on highway 44, and there were a lot of corn fields that looked like November, you know—there was no green left in them at all. Areas where a year ago it would have been grass green, are now open for the danger of fires. And my estimation on that 150 mile drive, was, looking at the corn fields, I would say we'd be very lucky if we have a 40-60 bushel per acre corn crop. A lot of fields there's nothing in, and compare that to a year ago, where we were looking at a 160 to 180 bushel corn crop.

Marcia Baker: And for those who aren't farmers, if you wanted a high average, you want at least 200 bushels, and early in the Spring we might have hoped for that.

Olson: The national media has been saying Minnesota has been getting adequate rain, but even where the rain has fallen, the tremendous heat throughout the cornbelt in the Midwest this Summer will affect the corn yields, as does the lack of moisture. In my situation here, we had a half an inch of rainfall in June and July, and our corn's been impacted dramatically.

To me, the most criminal, is that the green agenda has promoted biofuels and alternative energy and so forth. . . . Now that the choice is between feedgrains for livestock and food for the population, and that is posed against the ethanol, making fuel for automobiles out of food. We're the largest nation in the world that burns its food. And to me, it's extremely immoral.

And they played this with the farmers. They let the farmers in on these ethanol plants, and so there are those that did invest in these plants, that benefitted financially. And they've really felt like this has been great for themselves personally, but they don't understand the intention of this policy. *And the intention of the policy is to reduce population*, and that's what's going on right now. This biofuels thing has to come to a screeching halt. And maybe Congress can accomplish that in the coming period.

There would be a lot of screaming from those that are benefitting from the returns on the ethanol plants—farmers especially. But it's feast or famine. If you invested in an ethanol plant, you've done pretty well over the last years, and if you haven't, well, that's the way it's divide and conquer in agriculture.

We're in Serious Trouble

Wieczorek: In 1988, there was a \$40 billion loss. I think we're already talking about almost three times that, and it's not over with. The drought is deepening across the southeastern part of the country, even in the southeastern part of the state here; where some of us got an inch [of rain] in the state, the southeast corner had about 25-50%, or a half inch, which is nothing, when you get another 100°, or even a 90° day, with the southwest winds.

We're in serious trouble.

Eret: I'm right on the border, pretty much, between irrigation and the dryland; in fact, our own farm has some of each, and that's because of the availability of underground water. There's going to be a harvest on the irrigated ground, but boy, that's coming at a big expense now, because irrigation is 24 hours a day, every day of the week, and running up pretty good fuel costs. And it's still not going to be a great crop—it's going to be a fair crop, probably, because of the heat wave.

Now, in the dryland, I can see the stuff all dried up already, and so whatever's going to happen to corn, has already taken place. Either there's going to be a little bit, or nothing there.

The other big crop is soybeans, and they're kind of green. If we don't get some rain here in a week, I guess we can pretty well shut down the dryland soybeans too.

There have been years previously—'36 and '56—when there were long periods of dryness, no rain; there were long periods of extremely high temperatures. Well, we have gotten a combination of the two together for an extremely long period now, and that's what really taking everything down hill here. And I think that's pretty much the story behind everything that we see on the maps, that show the whole central United States in this trouble.

Nebraska is the second-largest state to develop these ethanol plants, but they are all cutting back on production, and three of them now have shut down completely; it's the cost of the corn now that's regulating that. But it is causing problems for the livestock feeders, because most of our bigger farms maintain themselves as cow-calf operations, even though they have a lot of acreage of corn and beans.

But now they're going to market with their cattle, culling their herds down, and they're taking a beating on that, because that's reducing their prices because of that going on.

Now, talking about Glass-Steagall, the thing I see in it, is getting the regulation. I always followed quite closely the start of the CFTC [Commodity Futures Trading Commission] back in the '70s, and the whole thing nobody talks about is regulation of the commodities, like CFTC's supposed to be doing, and is not doing, because of all the deregulation that's going on now. . . .

No Reserves; People Will Die

Olson: America used to have feedgrain reserves, but with the GATT, and the free trade, and all this deregulation, that has been eliminated, so there are no reserves. And this is the story with reduced production in America. And what this translates into, is that there are people in the world that are going to die because of this. There's not enough food.

It's frustrating when I think about this, but really, how are we going to solve this? I think the most important thing is to re-implement Glass-Steagall. And that will cause people to think, and we'll get a change in leadership. . . .

As a farmer—that's been my profession—I'm very

aware of how we can produce in this country. And back in '88, there was talk to revive the NAWAPA concept, and to get this started. And if we would have done that in '88, we would have had it pretty much in place, and the West would have water, and we could manage water between watersheds. But right now we're defenseless. We're just waiting for rain. And that's not the position that agriculture should be in in America.

Eret: We're getting what started in Texas last year, and moved up this way. Now our people are sending their cattle back to the Gulf [of Mexico] areas, to either get feed, or to sell their cattle there now, even though we were importing their cattle last year, onto our ranges here.

All of our crops are over one month ahead of schedule here, and that somehow has fit into this problem too.

Wieczorek: I just looked at a report that was printed in a journal called *Natural Geoscience*, by ten researchers out at Oregon State University. They refer to this as the strongest drought in eight centuries. So this is not a cyclical thing, a short-term cyclical thing.

There is a crying need for NAWAPA.

Lyndon LaRouche on Glass-Steagall and NAWAPA:

"The greatest project that mankind has ever undertaken on this planet, as an economic project, now stands before us, as the opportunity which can be set into motion by the United States now launching the NAWAPA* project, with the preliminary step of reorganizing the banking system through Glass-Steagall, and then moving on from there."

"Put Glass-Steagall through now, and I know how to deliver a victory to you."

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