

The 25th Amendment Is the First Step in Doubling Food Production

by Dennis J. Mason

Feb. 29—In both the formal sessions and discussions on the sidelines, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Feb. 23-24 Agricultural Outlook Forum 2012 expressed the fight at the heart of the collapse of the trans-Atlantic empire. Will we turn our creative minds toward the problems we face, and master the forces of nature, as is our destiny? Will we Americans have the guts to chuck Barack Obama from the Presidency, and create the conditions for doubling food production? Or will we continue to be subservient to the British empire, whose intention is to kill off the majority of the people of the world, by thermonuclear war, disease, or famine?

Under Obama, the Department of Agriculture (USDA) is governed by the latter outlook. The assumptions of fixed resources, market-analysis, and popular consensus set the tone at the opening plenary session and most of the 31 panels.

The Forum was titled “Moving Agriculture Forward,” and there were attendees who knew that could be done. In private discussions, there were marked disgust, anger, and frustration with the current batch of candidates for the Presidency, and the staged and mindless farce called Presidential debates. Everyone understood that both Obama and the present Republican candidates are non-options.

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack and USDA Chief Economist Joseph Glauber set the stage by lying to the 2,000 attendees at the opening plenary session, that the economy is in a “fragile recovery,” and prospects look good. Vilsack extolled such measures as Obama’s Presidential Memorandum (Feb. 21) ordering all government agencies to buy more “bio-based products” (paint, soap, fuel), in effect, using food for non-food use, despite the U.S. and world shortages of corn and soy relative to need. Glauber simply brushed away food supply concerns, forecasting a large 2012 U.S. corn harvest (see accompanying article).

The concluding session of the plenary featured eight

former Secretaries of Agriculture, who exchanged platitudes about next to nothing—as whispers among the audience noted with disgust. No questions from the crowd were permitted.

This 89th annual Agricultural Outlook Forum marked an exceptionally dismal institutional irony, since 2012 is the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Agriculture Department, under President Abraham Lincoln, who acted with foresight to see to the enactment of the both Land Grant College Act and the Homestead Act, during the Civil War.

Some speakers resorted to pseudo-science in making their case, typified by reliance on the International Panel on Climate Change as an authority, and by the use of elements of Hans Joachim Schellnhuber’s genocidal WGBU report¹ in several of the presentations.

There are, however, better elements within and around the USDA which, if tasked with the goal of doubling food production worldwide, could set to work to make that happen. It is these better elements on which we focus our attention.

Salmonella: More Questions than Answers

The panel on “Fighting Foodborne Illness” focused on the study of salmonella, particularly in cattle. Though there have been reports of a new subset of multi-drug-resistant salmonella, the panelists emphasized that there is no emergency per se in salmonella outbreaks. Salmonella is only now coming under the purview of the USDA, and the goal is to reduce incidence by half. An initial question posed by the panel was, since we have

1. The German Advisory Council on Global Change (WBGU), which is headed by Dr. Hans Joachim Schellnhuber, Honorary Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (CBE), on April 6, 2011 issued a report titled *World in Transition: A Social Contract for Sustainability*. See Helga Zepp-LaRouche, “No to Global Gleichschaltung: Make June 17 the Day of German Resistance,” *EIR*, May 6, 2011; and several articles in *EIR*, May 13, 2011.



USDA/Lance Cheung

U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack speaks at the “Moving Agriculture Forward” forum in Arlington, Va., Feb. 23, 2012. He offered platitudes about the “recovery.”

decreased the incidence of *E. coli* bacteria by over 90% in our beef, why can we have such control over one pathogen, but not another, in the same product?

One of the main challenges is tracing a given bacterium to its source. Salmonella appears widely across the food chain, and can also be carried by pests, pets, and otherwise. DNA gene-sequencing costs have fallen in the last 15 years, to some \$200/genome; the sequencing process compiles a core set of nucleotides, which can aid in tracing an illness back to its source. It is important to know the source, if your aim is prevention.

The presentation emphasized that we must reassess our approach to controlling salmonella. A deeper investigation of the bacteria, and its relationship to beef cattle, brings up a host of new questions and lines of investigation.

For example, the incidence of salmonella in cattle tends to rise, the closer one gets to the Equator, with an incidence as low as 1% in northern Canada, compared to some 80% in Mexico. Studies on the other side of the Atlantic show the same trend. One question thus posed is: What role does the bacteria play in the overall health of the animal, especially in the lower latitudes?

There are more than 2,500 known serotypes of salmonella, of which some 1,700 make people sick. Six serotypes account for more than 50% of human illness;

20 account for over 70% of reported cases of salmonella poisoning. What role do the other serotypes play? The panelists alluded to evidence that some serotypes actually contribute to the well-being of the host, and reported that the top two serotypes found in cattle are *not* responsible for outbreaks among humans.

Add to the mix that most of the deaths occur in people over 65 years of age. Perhaps there is some change in the composition of the bacteria of the gut which comes with age. What, exactly, is the relationship between the bacteria and the host?

Another element is seasonal: There are more bacteria in the Summer and Fall than in the Winter and Spring. Montevideo, the prevalent serotype in beef cattle, survives well in insects, and there are, overall, different serotypes found in the hide of the cow, than in its feces. These indicators point to insects as a potential

entry point for the bacteria.

Study of the behavior of the bacteria inside the cattle showed that the lymph nodes are a key point of habitation for salmonella. This unlocks some aspects of disease control, at least as far as beef is concerned, such as the repopulation of the bacteria in the later stages of the supply chain.

I bring this panel discussion to the reader’s attention for several reasons. As presented by the panelists, this investigation of the salmonella bacterium begins to broach some of the investigations of the LaRouchePAC Basement science team. Here, we find a possible relationship between the incidence of the bacteria and broader biospheric determinants, as indicated in the increase of incidence in cattle closer to the Equator. Also, the question of the role of salmonella bacteria in promotion of the health of the host organism, in some cases, suggests a possible relationship of particular bacteria to animal and vegetative organisms more generally, and seems to echo the role that viruses play in the living organism. Most people simply associate bacteria and viruses with disease; a deeper investigation of these important questions will be very fruitful for mankind, as we gain greater mastery over the biosphere and expand the biosphere into space.

The panelists reiterated several times that an honest

investigation will require a paradigm shift as concerns the approach to the problem: instead of simple disease control methods of trying to eradicate the bacteria from the production line (sanitizing feed at the ranch, etc.), a shift toward better understanding the nature of the bacteria. I add here that this sort of shift more generally in science today is vehemently opposed by those who crafted the Obama Presidency. A change in approach, while absolutely necessary, requires a change in the direction of the nation, beginning with the removal of Barack Obama from the Presidency via impeachment or the 25th Amendment to the Constitution.

The Extended Sensorium: Instrumentation for Agriculture

The panel on “Innovations To Minimize Crop Loss in a Changing Climate” is more directly applicable to the challenge of doubling food production, and, with a change in policy, points to a powerful suite of tools to aid in crafting national and international policy on agriculture. Under present policy and funding trends, the recently refined capabilities outlined below are being

tailored to suit insurance purposes under the domain of the USDA’s Risk Management Agency, and also to suit an expanding bio-fuels and bio-products policy.

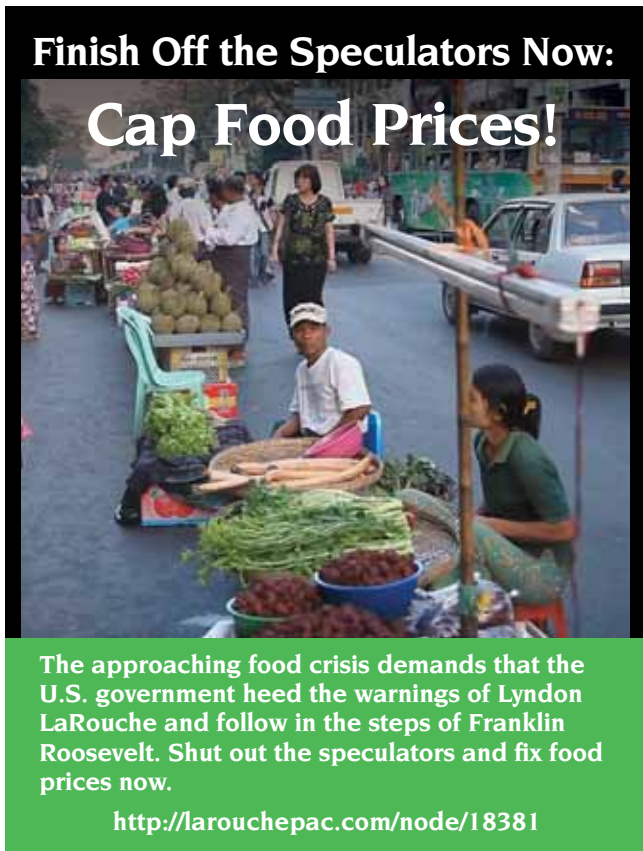
But we have a proven and increasingly precise capability to utilize soil data and climate mapping, to determine, for example, the best places to grow particular crops in a given region of the world. Combining this capability with advanced mapping of crops and other ground cover gives us very useful instrumentation to guide the farmer at work.

The main focus of discussion was the PRISM Climate Group, based at Oregon State University (<http://www.prism.oregonstate.edu/>). Essentially, the problem they tackled was how to create a more reliable metric to gauge the effects of weather, to validate eligibility for claims for “prevented planting” insurance payouts. Often, the claim tickets would have language such as, “unusually wet,” or “abnormally hot,” which, while descriptive, were not precise. The challenge was to define “unusual” and “normal” in a way that could be validated more scientifically.

The approach was to use geospatial climatology and modern technology to define relative normal and abnormal conditions over a given area, using observational data sets on the order of 10 or 30 years, as a basis for comparing the more ephemeral 2-5 day weather patterns within the context of the climate model. In other words, the PRISM model allows us to project historical observational data onto a map with unprecedented accuracy, allowing us to see the characteristics of the area in terms of temperature and humidity extremes, precipitation, etc., while taking into account topographical characteristics such as rain shadow, temperature inversion, and other phenomena peculiar to a particular area of interest.

Having this available in an updatable and expandable interface, deployable for a given area on a moment’s notice, has far more potential than simply verifying whether a farmer suffered flooding out of season.

The panelists gave an example from their work in China. Their mission was to determine the most suitable grasses for urban areas for the country as a whole. They had, however, access to very few on-site plots for testing. After gaining access to comprehensive data on China’s soil and climate, they were able to find areas in the United States which had the same characteristics as areas in China where they would have preferred to have done testing. On this basis, they could make solid recommendations on a regional and country-wide basis.

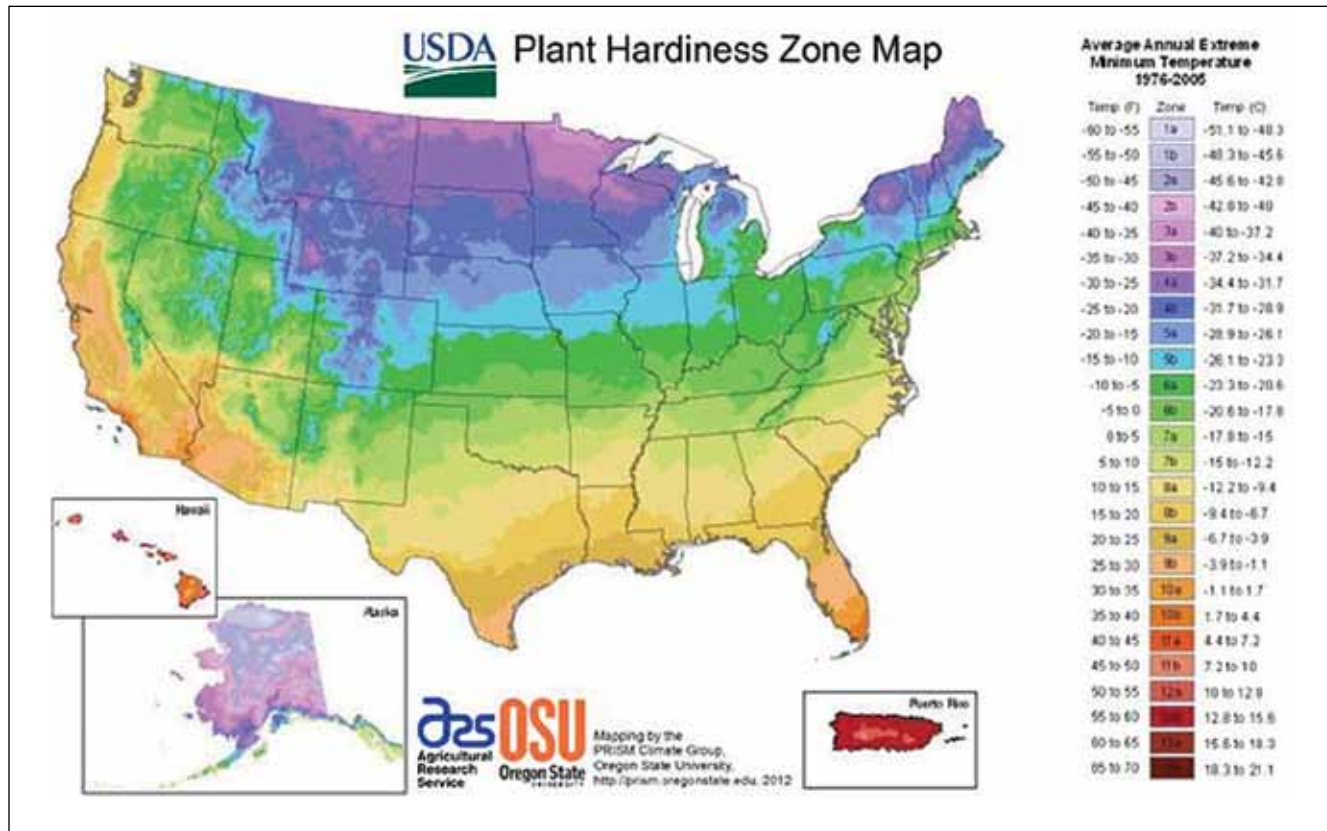


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FIGURE 1



Among other things, PRISM has been instrumental in redefining the USDA Plant Hardiness Zone map (Figure 1), with finer resolution and more precision than was possible before.

The panel also covered CropScope, which is an interface for using the Cropland Data Layer, and details everything that covers the United States—crops, water, developed areas, etc.—with resolution down to 30 meters/pixel, and with data back to 1997. With CropScope, you can easily zoom into and define an area of interest anywhere in the United States, see how the land is being used today, and define parameters for comparison with how that land was used in a previous year.

Launched in January 2011, CropScope is a relatively new tool, designed to be an element in a suite of tools for land management, with the ability to export a given area of interest in several formats, including .KML for direct use in an Earth browser such as Google Earth.

These tools, combined with remote sensing from air and space, and modern methods of precision agriculture, have the potential to give today’s farmer far more power over the land than ever before.

Moving Agriculture Forward

It is clear that we have the capability to double the world’s food production if we so choose. With our expanded sensorium on the ground and in the skies, we have the tools to draft national and international policy with more depth than has been possible in the past. Should we so choose, we could make a comprehensive plan to utilize every fertile acre on Earth, to provide people with all the food they need. With modern methods of soil management, we are beginning to craft the ability to bring fallow acreage into production. And as we move into the domain of fusion power, our potential for managing and replenishing the soil will increase exponentially.

The state of the art is by no means perfect; we are only now beginning to bring the wealth of observational data into service more comprehensively at the farm. The potential is vast. The problem is, under the British imperial system, we are forbidden to apply our technology in a meaningful way. And a change in direction of U.S. agriculture policy will only happen when the direction of the nation as a whole is changed, after Obama is ousted.