

The Drought's Impact on Food

Washington

The great drought of 1977 will sting, but won't cripple, the food budgets of American families, according to the experts who face the dismal chore of trying to guess the whims of the weather and the vagaries of crop yields.

The U.S. Agriculture Department's latest forecast points to a three per cent rise in food prices during 1977 if rain once again falls at normal levels. If the current drought continues, the cost should rise by five per cent for the year, the department predicts. Last year, food costs climbed three per cent.

For California farmers, the growing season could be a nightmare. For the nation's consumers, the blow won't be as staggering for several reasons:

- Other fruit and vegetable producing regions, including Texas, Michigan, New Jersey and Florida, have good crop prospects.

- Enjoying excellent weather, Mexico will produce large crops to take up some of the slack from meager California harvests.

- Wheat and corn supplies have been carried over from last year's record production, easing the strain on two important components of food costs. Wheat, the staple of the world trade, is in good supply because of fine harvests in the Soviet Union, Canada and Argentina. A relatively soft export market for U.S. wheat protects Americans against sharply higher prices for bread, rolls, cakes and other products.

- A prolonged drought in the Western cattle grazing areas, ironically, could drive down food expenditures by cutting the price of hamburger meat. If the paucity of rain forces cattlemen to curtail the grazing time of their herds, the ranchers will send more of their immature cattle to market. The grass-fed animals will be slaughtered for hamburger meat. More herds to market means cheaper hamburgers in the summer.

Consumers wouldn't feel the real pain until 1978 when the shortage of cattle would spur prices up sharply.

At the Agriculture Department, which boasts the most sophisticated forecasts, everyone recognizes the perils of prediction. "We don't have a crystal ball," said Larry Summers, an economist with the department's economic research service.

With these caveats, the department offers its predictions.

A yearly price increase of five per cent, assuming the drought persists, would be painful. Yet it pales compared with the burden the consumers bore in 1973 and 1974, when food prices rose an average of 14.5 per cent each year, spurred by the huge sales of U.S. wheat to Russia, the Plains states drought, which drove up meat prices, and the general inflation created by the Arab oil embargo. In 1975, the increase was a hefty 8.5 per cent.

Prices have risen very slightly in the year's first quarter, Summers noted. The drought's biggest impact will hit in the last half of the year, as reduced supplies of fruits and vegetables draw higher prices from consumers. As the year ends, meat prices will begin climbing and the hamburger surpluses of the summer, created by large herds driven off drought-stricken lands to mar-

Panel's OK on Redwood Land

Washington

Senator James Abourezk (Dem.-S.D.), yesterday announced approval by the Senate Energy Committee of the acquisition of 35 acres of redwood land along Highway 101 in Humboldt county.

Abourezk, chairman of a subcommittee on parks and recreation, said the action was pursuant to authority granted in a 1968 law to acquire a scenic corridor for Highway 101 and was "not related to the present park expansion proposals under consideration."

United Press

ket, will give way to tight supplies from reduced herds.

California's menacing water shortage means higher fruit and vegetable prices. But good stocks of wheat compensate somewhat in figuring overall food costs.

With more corn and wheat staying in this country, there is less incentive for producers to seek higher prices. "The wheat export market is soft now; the demand isn't what it was two years ago," said Dick Hill of the American Freedom from Hunger Foundation, which monitors closely the world food situation. Countries normally needing large volumes of wheat, India and Bangladesh, also enjoyed good crops, Hill said.

The wheat deficit threat is a long term one. If the United States and the importing nations simultaneously suffered bad harvests, the world would be dangerously short of wheat.

The immediate threat facing American families is the immin-

ence of higher prices of fruits and vegetables from California, which supplies about 40 per cent of the nation's consumption.

There is still some prospect, although slim, for a turnaround in the weather.

"Fruits and vegetables have a shorter growing season than crops like corn and wheat," noted Gene Gerke, an economist with the Chicago headquarters of the Food Marketing Institute, a trade association of supermarkets and other food retailers.

"If we start getting good rain in four or six weeks, we could have fresh vegetables again in abundance," he said.

Although California is the biggest single bin of fresh fruits and vegetables, it is not the only source.

"We hope the other areas of the country, and imports, will make up part of the difference and help hold the prices at a reasonable level," if the California crop is severely depressed, said Charles Magoon, director of research for the United Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Association, a Washington-based trade group.

Mexico grows almost all the types of vegetables and many of the fruits harvested in this country. "A lot of stuff comes up from Mexico whenever any one section is short-changed by a bad harvest in the U.S.," Magoon said.

"A lot of the California growers have kinds of branches down there (in Mexico)," Magoon said. "They use the same varieties, and you can't tell the product apart even though it comes from a few hundred miles away (from the California growing areas). The Mexican imports are inspected and graded according to U.S. standards."

The fresh fruit and vegetable association had reports that the Mexican growing conditions have

been "near ideal" in the past winter, he noted.

Unusually heavy rains over a large area of central and northern California could correct the ominous prospects for the year in fruits and vegetables, suggested Larry Van Meer, director of the economics division at the National Canners Association. California furnishes 85 per cent of the canned tomatoes, 100 per cent of the cling peaches, 40 per cent of the canned pears, and virtually all the canned fruit cocktail in the United States.

Van Meer cited one positive note: "There are fairly good inventories on hand of most canned items at the present time."

Carryover stocks normally contribute ten per cent to 12 per cent of a year's supply. The stockpiles can't completely compensate for the effects of a very bad harvest, Van Meer said.

The "if" of California weather, if the rains suddenly ease the drought, is paralleled by the "if" of the grazing lands for cattle in the Dakotas, Nebraska and 11 Western states. If rainfall increases, the grasses will flourish, and the herds may graze and grow fat.

If this doesn't happen, ranchers will face hard decisions: The federal government may restrict their access to the parched rangelands. Should this happen, the cattlemen must choose between buying costly supplemental feed or delivering the cattle in large numbers to market.

A big surge of cattle to market would yield dramatic downward pressure on hamburger prices in a month or two, said Ron Micheli, associate director of the American National Cattlemen's Association.

This would come at the most helpful time, to balance the rising fruit and vegetable costs in the weekly marketbasket.

Los Angeles Times

Funeral Notices

BURDEN, William H. Sr. — CHRISTIE, Lillie
CREAMER, Marty J.
CREEDON, Dermott John
DAVIS, George Avery
EIHLER, Ernst
FINNEGAN, John F. (Babe)
GEE, Sue Ying
GOBIN, William W.
GRADWOHL, Sarah
GROSS, Aaron I.
JENSEN, Karl L.
KENDRICK, Belle F.
LUCEY, Michael T.
LUDWIG, Albert Ronald
MEHL, Carl E.
PINKHAM, Joy Avon
SCHAFFER, Henrietta (Penny Segale)
SORRICK, Lurline Browning
SWIFT, Lela L.
WOLFF, Lucille E.

BURDEN, William H. Sr. — Accidentally, May 31, 1977, beloved husband of Ethel Burden; loving father of Lynn, Deborah Ann and William H. Burden Jr.; fond brother of Robert Holt, Maxine Sane, Raymond, Orville and Betty Burden and the late James and Charles Burden.
Friends are invited to attend funeral services Monday, June 6, at 8:30 a.m., from DUGGAN'S SERRA MORTUARY, 500 Westlake Ave., east of Junipero Serra Blvd., D.C.; thence to St. Andrew's Church, at 9 a.m. Interment, Holy Cross Cemetery. Recitation of the Rosary 8 p.m. Sunday. Friends may call after 9 a.m. Saturday.
THE BUD DUGGAN FAMILY

CHRISTIE, Lillie — June 2, 1977, beloved wife of the late Alfred J. Christie, loving mother of the late Alfred J. Christie Jr.; devoted grandmother of Allen Christie; great-grandmother of five; a native of California; aged 90 years.
Friends may pay their respects Saturday and Sunday. No funeral services at the request of the deceased.

Doris Davis Scott of Edmore, Mich.; grandfather of 13; native of Norwalk, Ohio; aged 91 years; a member of the Mountain View Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Friends are invited to attend the funeral services Friday, June 3, at 1 p.m. at the Seventh-day Adventist Church, 1425 Springer Rd., Mountain View. Pastor Euel Atchley officiating. Interment, Alta Mesa Memorial Park. Arrangements under the direction of ROLLER & HAPGOOD & TINNEY, 980 Middlefield Rd., Palo Alto.

EIHLER, Ernst — Entered into rest, May 31, 1977, beloved husband of Lucia Eihlizer; father of Hope Mevorah; father-in-law of David Mevorah; survived by relatives in Switzerland; a founding member of the Chef's Assoc. of the Pacific Coast; a member of West Portal Lutheran Church; a native of Luzern, Switzerland; aged 63 years.
No services will be held. Contributions may be made to Good Shepherd Home of the West, Terra Bella, Calif.

FINNEGAN, John F. (Babe) — In this city, June 2, 1977, dearly beloved son of John and the late Anne Finnigan; loving brother of Rose Seymour, Anita Henken, Ruth Lucas, Helen Leithold, Denis, Thomas, Joseph and Raymond Finnigan and the late Agnes O'Brien and Leo Finnigan; also survived by several nieces and nephews; a native of S.F.; aged 66 years; a retired employee of the S.F. Water Department; a member of El Retiro Retreat Association.
Friends are invited to attend the funeral services Saturday, June 4, at 9:30 a.m., from DUGGAN'S SERRA MORTUARY, 500 Westlake Ave., east of Junipero Serra Blvd., D.C.; thence to St. John's Church, where a Mass of Christian Burial will be offered at 10 a.m. Private interment, Monday, Holy Cross Cemetery. Rosary Friday (tonight) 8 p.m.
THE BUD DUGGAN FAMILY
GEE, Sue Ying — In this city, May 24, 1977, beloved husband of Sau Fong T. Tse Gee; loving father of Richard, Adam, Edward and Calvin Gee, Jane Fong, Alice Wong, Marian Segraves and Leanna Gee; brother of Sue Mee Jee of New York; also

devoted brother of Nellie Graaffs; and a devoted uncle.

Private family services were held Thursday, SINAI MEMORIAL CHAPEL, Divisadero St. at Geary.

JENSEN, Karl L. — In San Francisco, June 1, 1977, dearly beloved husband of the late Ingeborg Jensen; loved step-father of Fred Johansen, Ann Hagerty and Egon Johansen; loved by seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren; a native of Copenhagen, Denmark; aged 75 years; a member of Golden Gate-Speranza Lodge No. 30, F.&A.M.; Golden Gate Lodge No. 49, Danish Brotherhood and Veterans of Foreign Wars; a veteran of World War I.

Friends may attend the funeral services 1 p.m. Friday, June 3, at ANDERSON'S, Valencia St. at 25th St., under the auspices of Golden Gate-Speranza Lodge No. 30, F.&A.M. Interment, Olivet Memorial Park.

ANDERSON'S FUNERAL PARLORS VISITOR PARKING

KENDRICK, Belle F. — May 28, 1977, survived by her two loving children, Jonathan David, 23 and Susan Marie, 21.
Private funeral services held, June 2, 1977.

LUCEY, Michael T. — In Santa Clara, June 1, 1977, beloved husband of Catherine Lucey of Cupertino; loving father of Michael, Allison and Kathleen Lucey, all of Cupertino, Patricia Lucey of Porterville and Maurine Greig of San Jose; son of Mr. & Mrs. John Lucey of San Jose; aged 53 years; a native of Wyoming.

Friends are invited to attend funeral services on Saturday, June 4, 1977 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Cupertino where a Mass of Christian Burial will be said at 10 a.m. A holy Rosary will be recited on Friday evening June 3, 1977 at 8 o'clock, also at St. Joseph's, Cupertino. Visitation at the SUNNYVALE MORTUARY, 1315 Hollenbeck Ave., Sunnyvale, until 6:30 p.m., Friday, June 3, 1977. Interment at the Gate of Heaven Cemetery, Los Altos. The family prefers contributions to the Cancer Society.

LUDWIG, Albert Ronald — June 1,

Concord; a native of San Francisco; aged 50 years.

Friends are invited to attend funeral services, Saturday, June 4 at 10 a.m. at OUMET BROS. CONCORD FUNERAL CHAPEL, 1763 Grant St., Concord. Private burial, Oakland Memorial Park, Lafayette. Memorials may be made to the Cancer Society.

SCHAFFER, Henrietta (Penny Segale) — Of Hayward, May 31, 1977; devoted wife of Paul Schaffer; loving mother of Jeanne Segale of Hawaii and Jane Segale of Hayward; dear sister of Zeldia Helgeson of Sacramento, Charles Enochson of San Francisco and Wayne Enochson of Reno, Nev.; a native of North Dakota; aged 53 years.

Friends are invited to attend the complete services at the CHAPEL OF THE VALLEY, 20359 Lake Chabot Rd., Castro Valley on Friday, June 3 at 11 a.m. The Rev. Lee Sather of Faith Lutheran Church of Castro Valley officiating. Interment, Olivet Memorial Park, Colma.

CHAPEL OF THE VALLEY

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SORRICK, Lurline Browning — In Oakland, June 2, 1977; wife of the late Warde W. Sorrick; loving mother of Barbara Sorrick Goodfellow of Coronado; grandmother of A. Scott Goodfellow, Jr., and Jane G. Sorrick; great-grandmother of Allison Lee Goodfellow; a native of Woodland, California.

Graveside services will be held Tuesday, June 7, at 9 a.m. in Mt. View Cemetery, 5000 Piedmont Ave., Oakland.
ALBERT BROWN MORTUARY OAKLAND

SWIFT, Lela L. — In San Mateo, June 1, 1977; late of San Mateo; loving mother of Elaine M. Richards of Millbrae; also survived by two sisters, three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren; a native of South Dakota; aged 73 years.

Funeral services, Saturday 3 p.m. at the CHAPEL OF THE HIGHLANDS, El Camino Real at Millwood Dr., Millbrae. Interment will follow in Oakland.

WOLFF, Lucille E. — In Walnut Creek, June 1, 1977; beloved wife of Albert M. Wolff of Orinda; loving mother of Judy Davis of San Lorenzo; Dick Wolff of