

Efficient and Effective Part 4 of 4

November 2008

Fuel Conservation of a Different Kind

A recent online news service recorded yet another consequence of the scarcity of food during this time of multiple global crises. The Russian government has announced plans to control up to half of Russian grain exports - mainly wheat, several hybrids of barley (black, malted) and flax. Russia is the world's fifth largest grain exporter. Washington DC agricultural diplomats responded swiftly.

Some analysts have suggested the development of an OGEC – Organization of Grain Exporting Countries – modelled after OPEC – Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries. While OPEC has not been fail-proof and faultless, it has provided some stability of fossil fuel supply and pricing.

The current global food dearth has been extensively analyzed in the trade and consumer press. Specific to wheat, the market share of the world's top five wheat exporters (US, AU, CDA, EU, ARG), fell from 84% to 63% in three short years, as farmers converted wheat production to other crops in response to conservation and farm programs.

Russia's statement has been interpreted by some as a diplomatic weapon to exert political power. Separately, a US news release stated that the upcoming Obama administration could increase the FDA's power to limit US food imports due to safety reasons. This comes fresh on the heels of the long-awaited, extensively-debated, FDA-finalized food import regulations under the US Bioterrorism Act of 2002. While these actions, responses and interpretations appear extreme, they do expose the stress and strain the global food trade, and shortage, has on political relationships.

"An Army Marches on its Stomach"

The role of food and agriculture in world trade and global-political relations cannot be under-estimated. Conversion of the GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) to the WTO (World Trade

Food & Nutrition Battle Cries

Issued from the UK Lord Privy Seal's Office, July 1939

Civil Defense

Your food in war-time

Public information leaflet no. 4

Read this and keep it carefully. You may need it.

Some Brits alive to tell the tale report that the UK diet during WWII was 'one of the best of the 20th Century' - rationed, yet adequate and nutritious. American and Canadian governments issued advice to prudently buy and carefully prepare food, then eat with gusto!



CANADA'S OFFICIAL FOOD RULES	
<i>These are the Health-Protective Foods</i>	
Be sure you eat them every day in at least these amounts. (Use more if you can)	
MILK—Adults—1 pint. Children—more than 1 pint. And some CHEESE, as available.	
FRUITS—One serving of tomatoes daily, or of a citrus fruit, or of tomato or citrus fruit juices, and one serving of other fruits, fresh, canned or dried.	
VEGETABLES (In addition to potatoes of which you need one serving daily)—Two servings daily of vegetables, preferably leafy green, or yellow, and frequently raw.	
CEREALS AND BREAD—One serving of a whole-grain cereal and 4 to 6 slices of Canada Approved Bread, brown or white.	
MEAT, FISH, etc.—One serving a day of meat, fish, or meat substitutes. Liver, heart or kidney once a week.	
EGGS—At least 3 or 4 eggs weekly.	
Eat these foods first, then add these and other foods you wish.	
Some source of Vitamin D such as fish liver oils, is essential for children, and may be advisable for adults.	

A Canadian 1942 newspaper headline:

Canada at war cannot afford to ignore the power that is obtainable by eating the right foods

followed by this 1946 post-war poster message, which resonates with pleas heard from UN officials today: **FF**

*"Food is urgently needed in Europe and the Far East.
Do your bit for hungry humanity by conserving food.
Buy less Use less Waste nothing"*

Some Web sites

<http://www.nutrition.org.uk/upload/Wartime%20Rationing.pdf>
http://www.shipowners.ca/documents/joint_conference/WARD_WEISENSEL.pdf

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