



Tuesday, June 10, 2008

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Food's Uncertain Future

June 05, 2008 12:46 PM ET | [Permanent Link](#)

"[Fixing the Food Crisis](#)" [May 19] neglected an essential policy solution used since Joseph counseled the Pharaoh in the Old Testament: stockpiling food for a rainy day.

Grain and food reserves have been dismantled in many countries where misguided ideology advised them to rely on foreign imports for their food shortfalls. In the United States, we significantly reduced government stocks and suspended the farmer-owned reserve under the 1996 Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act. Countries weathering the food crisis best are those with grain and rice reserves on hand, like Korea and China, whereas those adhering to free-trade policies have opened up their markets to formerly cheap imports and global speculators. The recently passed farm bill represents a missed opportunity to address this vital component of American food security.

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Your article on the food crisis was very worthwhile and complete. I am using it as a basis for my presentation of current events to the senior citizens living in our retirement community. I am also requesting that our general manager list support items included in "[How You Can Help](#)." I think methods of cutting population growth could be the most positive step in helping stop the crisis in the future. Via my church, I hope other members