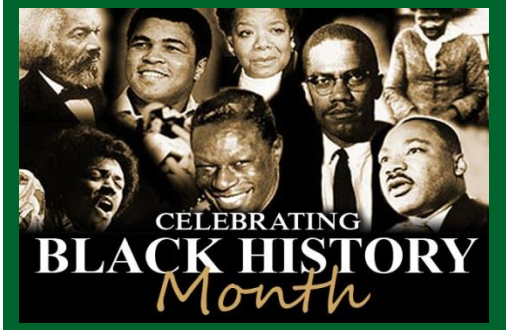
LOUISIANA ASSOCIATION OF COOPERATIVES

E-newsletter

February 16, 2015



IN THIS ISSUE

SLAVERY

Randolph B. Campbell "SLAVERY," Handbook of Texas

Texas was the last frontier of slavery in the United States. In fewer than fifty years, from 1821 to 1865, the "Peculiar Institution," as Southerners called it, spread over the eastern two-fifths of the state. The rate of growth accelerated rapidly during the 1840s and 1850s. The rich soil of Texas held much of the future of slavery, and Texans knew it. James S. Mayfield undoubtedly spoke for many when he told the Constitutional Convention of 1845 that "the true policy and prosperity of this country depend upon the maintenance" of slavery. Slavery as an institution of significance in Texas began in Stephen F. Austin's colony. The original empresario commission given Moses Austin by Spanish authorities in 1821 did not mention slaves, but when Stephen Austin was recognized as heir to his father's contract later that year, it was agreed that settlers could receive eighty acres of land for each bondsman brought to Texas. Enough of Austin's original 300 families brought slaves with them that a census of his colony in 1825 showed 443 in a total population of 1,800. The independence of Mexico cast doubt on the future of the institution in Texas. From 1821 until 1836 both the national government in Mexico City and the state government of Coahuila and Texas threatened to restrict or destroy black servitude. Neither government adopted any consistent or effective policy to prevent slavery in Texas; nevertheless, their threats worried slaveholders and possibly retarded the immigration of planters from the Old South. In 1836 Texas had an estimated population of 38,470, only 5,000 of whom were slaves. The Texas Revolution assured slaveholders of the future of their institution. The Constitution of the Republic of Texas (1836) provided that slaves would remain the property of their owners, that the Texas Congress could not prohibit the immigration of slaveholders bringing their property, and that slaves could be imported from the United States (although not from Africa). Given those protections, slavery expanded rapidly during the period of the republic. By 1845, when Texas joined the United States, the state was home to at least 30,000 bondsmen. After

Statehood, in antebellum Texas, slavery grew spectacularly. The census of 1850 reported 58,161 slaves, 27.4 percent of the 212,592 people in Texas, and the census of 1860 enumerated 182,566 bondsmen, 30.2 percent of the total population. Slaves were increasing more rapidly than the population as a whole.

The great majority of slaves in Texas came with their owners from the older slave states. Sizable numbers, however, came through the domestic slave trade. New Orleans was the center of this trade in the Deep South, but there were slave dealers in Galveston and Houston, too. A few slaves, perhaps as many as 2,000 between 1835 and 1865, came through the illegal African trade.

Slave prices inflated rapidly as the institution expanded in Texas. The average price of a bondsman, regardless of age, sex, or condition, rose from approximately $400 in 1850 to nearly $800 by 1860. During the late 1850s, prime male field hands aged eighteen to thirty cost on the average $1,200, and skilled slaves such as blacksmiths often were valued at more than $2,000. In comparison, good Texas cotton land could be bought for as little as six dollars an acre. Slavery spread over the eastern two-fifths of Texas by 1860 but flourished most vigorously along the rivers that provided rich soil and relatively inexpensive transportation. The greatest concentration of large slave plantations was along the lower Brazos and Colorado rivers in Brazoria, Matagorda, Fort Bend, and Wharton counties. Truly giant slaveholders such as Robert and D. G. Mills, who owned more than 300 bondsmen in 1860 (the largest holding in Texas), had plantations in this area, and the population resembled that of the Old South's famed Black Belt. Brazoria County, for example, was 72 percent slave in 1860, while north central Texas, the area from Hunt County west to Jack and Palo Pinto counties and south to McLennan County, had fewer slaves than any other settled part of the state, except for Hispanic areas such as Cameron County. However, the north central region held much excellent cotton land, and slavery would probably have developed rapidly there once rail transportation was built. The last frontier of slavery was by no means closed on the eve of the Civil War.

American slavery was preeminently an economic institution-a system of unfree labor used to produce cash crops for profit. Questions concerning its profitability are complex and always open to debate. The evidence is strong, however, that in Texas slaves were generally profitable as a business investment for individual slaveholders. Slave labor produced cotton (and sugar on the lower Brazos River) for profit and also cultivated the foodstuffs necessary for self-sufficiency. The effect of the institution on the state's general economic development is less clear. Slavery certainly promoted development of the agricultural economy; it provided the labor for a 600 percent increase in cotton production during the 1850s. On the other hand, the institution may well have contributed in several ways to retarding commercialization and industrialization. Planters, for example, being generally satisfied with their lives as slaveholders, were largely unwilling to involve themselves in commerce and industry, even if there was a chance for greater profits. Slavery may have thus hindered economic modernization in Texas. Once established as an economic institution, slavery became a key social institution as well. Only one in every four families in antebellum Texas owned slaves, but these slaveholders, especially the planters who held twenty or more bondsmen, generally constituted the state's wealthiest class. Because of their economic success, these planters represented the social ideal for many other Texans. Slavery was also vital socially because it reflected basic racial views. Most whites thought that blacks were inferior and wanted to be sure that they remained in an inferior social position. Slavery guaranteed this.

Although the law contained some recognition of their humanity, slaves in Texas generally had the legal status of personal property. They could be bought and sold, mortgaged, and hired out. They had no legally prescribed way to gain freedom. They had no property rights themselves and no legal rights of marriage and family. Slave-owners had broad powers of discipline subject only to constitutional provisions that slaves be treated "with humanity" and that punishment not extend to the taking of life and limb. A bondsman had a right to trial by jury and a court-appointed attorney when charged with a crime greater than petty larceny. Blacks, however, could not testify against whites in court, a prohibition that largely negated their constitutional protection. Bondsmen who did not work satisfactorily or otherwise displeased their owners were commonly punished by whipping. Many slaves may have escaped such punishment, but every bondsman lived with the knowledge that he could be whipped at his owner's discretion.

The majority of adult slaves were field hands, but a sizable minority worked as skilled craftsmen, house servants, and livestock handlers. Field hands generally labored "from sun to sun" five days a week and half a day on Saturday. House servants and craftsmen worked long hours, too, but their labor was not so burdensome physically. Theirs was

apparently a favored position, at least in this regard. A small minority (about 6 percent) of the slaves in Texas did not belong to farmers or planters but lived instead in the state's towns, working as domestic servants, day laborers, and mechanics.

The material conditions of slave life in Texas could probably best be described as adequate, in that most bondsmen had the food, shelter, and clothing necessary to live and work effectively. On the other hand, there was little comfort and no luxury. Slaves ate primarily corn and pork, foods that contained enough calories to provide adequate energy but were limited in essential vitamins and minerals. Most bondsmen, however, supplemented their basic diet with sweet potatoes, garden vegetables, wild game, and fish and were thus adequately fed. Slave houses were usually small log cabins with fireplaces for cooking. Dirt floors were common, and beds attached to the walls were the only standard furnishings. Slave clothing was made of cheap, coarse materials; shoes were stiff and rarely fitted. Medical care in antebellum Texas was woefully inadequate for whites and blacks alike, but slaves had a harder daily life and were therefore more likely to be injured or develop diseases that doctors could not treat.

Texas slaves had a distinct family-centered social life and culture that flourished in the slave quarters, where bondsmen were largely on their own, at least from sundown to sunup. Although slave marriages and families had no legal protections, the majority of bondsmen were reared and lived day to day in a family setting. This was in the slaveowners' self-interest, for marriage encouraged reproduction under socially acceptable conditions, and slave children were valuable. Moreover, individuals with family ties were probably more easily controlled than those who had none. The slaves themselves, however, also insisted on family ties. They often made matches with bondsmen on neighboring farms and spent as much time as possible together, even if one owner or the other could not be persuaded to arrange for husband and wife to live on the same place. They fought bitterly against the disruption of their families by sale or migration and at times virtually forced masters to respect family ties. Many slave families, however, were disrupted. All slaves had to live with the knowledge that their families could be broken up, and yet the basic social unit survived. Family ties were a source of strength for people enduring bondage and a mark of their humanity, too. Religion and music were also key elements of slave culture. Many owners encouraged worship, primarily on the grounds that it would teach proper subjection and good behavior. Slaves, however, tended to hear the message of individual equality before God and salvation for all. The promise of ultimate deliverance helped many to resist the psychological assault of bondage. Music and song served to set a pace for work and to express sorrow and hope.

Slaves adjusted their behavior to the conditions of servitude in a variety of ways. Some felt well-treated by their owners and generally behaved as loyal servants. Others hated their masters and their situation and rebelled by running away or using violence. Texas had many runaways, and thousands escaped to Mexico. Although no major rebellions occurred, individual acts of violence against owners were carried out. Most slaves, however, were neither loyal servants nor rebels. Instead, the majority recognized all the controls such as slave patrols that existed to keep them in bondage and saw also that runaways and rebels generally paid heavy prices for overt resistance. They therefore followed a basic human instinct and sought to survive on the best terms possible. This did not mean that the majority of slaves were content with their status. They were not, and even the best-treated bondsmen dreamed of freedom. Slavery in Texas was not a matter of content, well-cared for servants as idealized in some views of the Old South. On the other hand, the institution was not absolutely brutal or degrading. Slaves were not reduced to the level of animals, and they did not live every day in sullen rage. Instead, bondsmen had enough "room"-time of their own and control of their own lives-within the slave system to maintain physical, psychological, and spiritual strength. In part this limited autonomy was given by the masters, who generally wanted loyal and cheerful servants. Slaves increased their minimal self-determination by taking what they could get from their owners and then pressing for additional latitude. For example, slaves worked hard, but they tried to work at their own pace and offered many forms of nonviolent resistance if pushed too hard. Slaves in general were not revolutionaries who overcame all the limits placed on them, but they did not surrender totally to the system, either. One way or another they had enough room to endure. This fact is not a tribute to the benevolence of slavery, but a testimony to the human spirit of the enslaved blacks.

Though slaves obviously freed their owners from the drudgery of manual labor and daily chores, they were a troublesome property in many ways. Masters had to discipline their bondsmen, get the labor they wanted, and yet avoid too many problems of resistance such as running away and feigning illness. Many owners wished to appear as benevolent "fathers," and yet most knew that there would be times when they would treat members of their "families" as property pure

and simple. Most lived with a certain amount of fear of their supposedly happy servants, for the slightest threat of a slave rebellion could touch off a violent reaction. Slavery was thus a constant source of tension in the lives of slaveholders.

White society as a whole in antebellum Texas was dominated by its slaveholding minority. Economically, slaveowners had a disproportionately large share of the state's wealth and produced virtually all of the cash crops. Politically, slaveholders dominated public office holding at all levels. Socially, slaveholders, at least the large planters, embodied an ideal to most Texans.

The progress of the Civil War did not drastically affect slavery in Texas because no major slaveholding area was invaded. In general, Texas slaves continued to work and live as they had before the war. A great many did, however, get the idea that they would be free if the South lost. They listened as best they could for any war news and passed it around among themselves. Slavery formally ended in Texas after June 19, 1865 (Juneteenth), when Gen. Gordon Granger arrived at Galveston with occupying federal forces and announced emancipation. A few owners angrily told their slaves to leave immediately, but most expressed sorrow at the end of the institution and asked their bondsmen to stay and work for wages. The emancipated slaves celebrated joyously (if whites allowed it). But then they had to find out just what freedom meant. They knew that they would not be forced to labor anymore and that they could move about as they chose. But how would they make their way in the world after 1865? Blacks had maintained a degree of human dignity even in bondage (most owners had allowed them to do so), and Texas could not have grown as it had before 1865 without the slaves' contributions. Nevertheless, slavery was a curse to Texans, white and black alike.

Blacks in the Military

Westover Air Force Base, MA
"Human Relation Committee"

By 1968, however, events in the military were moving much beyond the careful control of the Secretary's office. While the military was attempting to take the institution beyond society, blacks in the military were reflecting that society. Rioting by blacks demonstrated their frustration with institutional racism, powerlessness, and the war in Vietnam. Rioting became almost a trademark of many American cities during the 1960s. Institutional racism and powerlessness existed in the military but personal racism also existed in daily contacts between whites and blacks. As a result, racial incidents occurred at Longbinh outside Saigon (1968) and at Camranh Bay (1969) in Vietnam, and at Fort Bragg, North Carolina (1968), Camp Lejeune, North Carolina (1969), and Camp Pendleton, California (1970).

The result was "The Report of the Inter-Service Task Force on Education in Race Relations," (31 July 1970), which recommended an education program in race relations for all military personnel and a Race Relations Education Board to determine policy and approve curricula for the program.

Tuskegee Airmen

Like so many others in the late 1930s, the young black Americans who would become known as the Tuskegee Airmen were full of patriotic zeal and eager to serve in the military as the war in Europe and Asia intensified. What set them apart was that they wanted to fight the enemy from the air as pilots, something that black people had never been allowed to do before. Many applied to U.S. Army Air Corps (USAAC) flight training program, but all were initially rejected because of the color of their skin – all branches of the U.S. military were deeply segregated.

Red Ball Express

During WW II, advances toward the enemy often ran allied troops painfully short of supplies. Armies without food to feed the soldiers or medical supplies to mend the injured as well as guns without bullets would

soon bring the best trained Army to its knees. To ensure that the Americans and the allies were well supplied with everything they needed to advance against the enemy, the Red Ball Express was created. The Red Ball Express was a large convoy of trucks filled with supplies. The name originated from the idea of announcing someone very important. A white flag with a red ball centered on it indicated a vice admiral's ship. Later, the name "red ball" referred to perishables in rail cars that needed to have the right of way to prevent spoilage. Thus, "red ball" attached to any type of transport meant that it was important and vital that it reached its destination quickly. Of the drivers of this trucking convoy, 75% were of African American descent. This was in part because during WW II, the general idea of the military echelon was that the black soldier was not as capable in combat as the rest of the troops.

Black Women in the Military

Major General Marcia M. Anderson

In addition to occupying familiar roles as caretakers in the military, it is said that many black women fought on the front lines of war but in disguise. If black women truly disguised themselves as men then it is no wonder that they have gone unrecognized. Major General Marcia M. Anderson (the first black woman to hold the position of "Major General" in U.S. army history) alludes to the same claim. She said, "During the American Revolution, African-American women dressed in men's clothing and fought beside their husbands". Although highly plausible, there is very little proof that this actually happened (but there is no proof that it did *not* happen).

There is, however, proof of one black woman who served in the army during the late 1800s. After the Civil War, Cathay Williams enlisted as William Cathey in the U.S. Regular Army and was mistaken as a black man even after a quick medical examination by an army physician. "Cathey" was the first black woman **recorded** in history to serve in combat. It makes you wonder how often events like this has occurred in the past.

UN: Somalia Food Situation Improving, But Still at Risk

A displaced Somali woman carries a child and her belongings as she arrives at a temporary dwelling after fleeing famine in the Marka Lower Shebbele regions to the capital Mogadishu.

Hilary Heuler

NAIROBI, KENYA—

The U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization says food security in Somalia has actually improved of late, following years of drought. But as experts point out, Somalia's food situation is still far from normal.

The disastrous dry spells that have wracked war-torn Somalia for years seem to have loosened their grip on the country, at least for the moment. New figures released by the FAO on Wednesday shows that the most recent rains in Somalia were normal, and that the number of people facing a food crisis has declined over the past six months by around 30 percent.

But these improvements may be temporary. Nina Dodd, who works with the U.N. Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit, pointed out that other key indicators, such as child malnutrition, have not been improving. In some places, she said, they have actually been getting worse.

"Food security is not only responsible for nutrition. Malnutrition can be caused by a lot of factors. In south-central Somalia the situation is worse. We see critical levels of malnutrition," said Dodd.

The devastating famine that struck Somalia between 2010 and 2012 killed more than a quarter of a million people -- half of them children under the age of five. The country's U.N. humanitarian coordinator at the time said the international community was partly to blame, having not acted quickly enough to counter the effects of a severe drought.

FAO's Rudy van Aaken said that although food security may have improved since then, the population is still vulnerable to even the slightest shock.

"Somalia is not out of the woods, that's clear. We had a slight improvement in part of the country this time around, but we are not back to the situation as before the famine in 2010. Many more people -- 750,000 -- are still in crisis and emergency. And we don't see that this is a result of a sustainable improvement. It's more the impact of the last rainy season, which happened

to be quite good. But the next one may just as well be bad again,"

Continued support for farmers and pastoralists was needed to protect them against future droughts and dry spells, said van Aaken. The FAO's current programs include vaccination of herds, irrigation and the introduction of drought-resistant crops.

Women in the Mayo-Sava part of Cameroon say they are too frightened of potential Boko Haram attacks to farm

Women in the Mayo-Sava part of Cameroon say they are too frightened of potential Boko Haram attacks to farm

© IRIN

Maroua, 28 January 2015 (IRIN) - More than half a million people in Cameroon's Far North region are in need of urgent food aid, the government says, as attacks by militant group Boko Haram have forced farmers to abandon their fields, shut down local markets, and halted the movement of people and goods.

Food security, particularly along the border, is getting worse due to the regular arrival of Nigerian refugees, who often rely on host communities for food.

"Unless something is done to aid farmers and supply local markets with basic commodities, the region is at risk of famine," said Midjiyawa Bakari, the governor of the Far North.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) estimates that 54 percent of households in the North and Far North regions of Cameroon now face food shortages.

UNICEF estimated the rate of global acute malnutrition in the Far North to be 9 percent in November. Cameroon's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MINADER) says the situation has "deteriorated sharply" since then and that malnutrition rates among children under five are now higher than 20 percent in many of the affected communities. This exceeds the World Health Organization's emergency threshold of 15 percent.

Cereal production decline

An assessment this month by MINADER in Far North's three most affected departments, Mayo-Sava, Mayo-Tsanaga, and Logone and Chari, found that an estimated 70 percent of farmers have deserted their farms, and many more have missed out on key farming activities, such as timely planting, during the past six months.

"Attacks by Boko Haram came very close to my village and we were all forced to leave," Dan Mustapha, a farmer from Mayo-Sava's Moro village, told IRIN. His family's two hectares of farmland – normally sown with sorghum – remain unplanted this season.

Boko Haram has been active in neighboring Nigeria since 2009, killing thousands and displacing nearly a million people, according to the International Organization for Migration.

Cross-border attacks by Boko Haram into northern Cameroon have become more frequent and increasingly violent in recent months. More than two dozen villages along the border have been raided since early December. At least 80 people were kidnapped earlier this month. The government says that at least 10,000 Cameroonians have now fled their homes in fear.

Additionally, dozens of hectares of land in Mayo-Tsanga originally meant for agriculture, have been turned into refugee camps or settlements for the internally displaced.

Government curfews, which forbid the movement of people and vehicles between 7pm and 6am, have restricted many of the remaining farmers from properly working their land.

"Farming is labor intensive," a trader from a market in Maroua, the capital of the Far North region, explained. "But with the current situation, you cannot stay for long on [your] farm."

As a result, the production of cereal crops, such as sorghum, millet, cowpea and rice, dropped by more than 50 percent last year, according to MINADER. The Ministry estimates the region needs 770,000 tons of cereal each season, but only 132,000 tons were produced in 2014. This is compared to 2012, when the region produced an estimated 509,000 tons.

"This [violence] has had a serious impact on regional output, because the populations in Mayo-Tsanaga, Mayo-Sava, and Logone and Chari, are predominantly farmers and traders and herders," said Jean Vevet, an official from the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development's regional delegation.

Residents say their meagre stocks have already begun to dwindle. Many farmers report having begun to eat the grain that was reserved for seed.

Disrupted trade

More than 60 percent of the region's income usually comes from cross-border trade with Nigeria and Chad, according to MINADER. But with no goods to sell and very few customers, many merchants have now fled their market stalls all together.

The cross-border cattle business, one of the mainstays in the region, has also drastically slowed.

"The economic setup of the region has totally been disrupted," said Samuel Bello, a bank manager in Maroua. "This has a serious impact on every income generating activity in the area. Fewer customers come to save money in the banks today, because the usual sources of income are threatened," he told IRIN.

Food prices up, purchasing power down

Fear of attacks have also caused many traders to flee their posts, further disrupting the local economy.

"It is difficult for us to get a regular supply of vegetables and fresh food," said Alim Dubou, a vegetable trader in Maroua. "No one wants to drive along the highway," he said, citing an example from earlier this month, when at least 15 passengers were beheaded by suspected members of Boko Haram, while riding a bus between Maroua and Kousseri, according to local and international news reports.

A lack of markets and goods has caused the price of rice in Kolofata, a community in the Mayo-Sava department that has suffered the brunt of Boko Haram attacks, for example, to increase from $0.34 per kilogram to $0.52 per kilogram, over the past 10 months.

The prices of other basic commodities, such as corn, sorghum and petrol, have risen by 20 to 80 percent since March 2014, according to MINADER.

Relief plans

Cameroon's government says it is now working closely with humanitarian and aid agencies, such as the World Food Programmed, UNICEF and the UN Refugee Agency, to provide food, shelter and health care to both refugees and communities hosting them. However, funding constraints and insecurity along the border have limited their actions.

In response to the influx of refugees and rising food insecurity, the government scaled up its Strategic Response Plan for 2014-2016, and is now calling for US$126 million to help the most vulnerable. The funding will help provide emergency food aid and agriculture inputs to the population, Vevet said.

On 16 January, President Paul Biya also promised to deliver "tons" of cereal, including rice, millet and sorghum, along with edible oil and other consumer products, to the region, but did not say how much or when it would arrive.

Sufianu Salifa, a 47-year-old cowhide seller, fled to Maroua from Kolofata with his five children..

"We have to rebuild our lives," he said, "and if the government could provide us with the food soon, it can sustain us while we try to start other activities to make life stable."

Comments:

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New Study Sheds Light on Characterizing Global Food Trade to Include Nutritional Value

University of Minnesota

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL — Growing global trade is critically important for providing food when and where it's needed -- but it makes it harder to link the benefits of food and the environmental burden of its production. A study published this week in the journal BioScience by an interdisciplinary team of researchers at the University of Minnesota's Institute on the Environment proposes to extend the way we characterize global food trade to include nutritional value and resource consumption alongside more conventional measures of trade's value.

"Trade is usually described in terms of the value or weight of the goods being exchanged," said study lead Graham MacDonald, a postdoctoral research scholar with the Institute's Global Landscapes Initiative (GLI). "But these don't necessarily capture other important aspects of food production and distribution. Accounting for food's nutritional value and the land and water resources needed to produce exports offers a more holistic view of how trade affects global food security and the environment. Our study uniquely juxtaposes these perspectives."

"Economic, nutritional and environmental metrics all tell different stories of the geography of global trade, so it's important to include a range of metrics to get a complete picture," said co-author and

GLI co-director Paul West. "Our food system is increasingly globalized. The patterns we uncovered can help to assess how current and future policies affect the complex links between food and the environment."

The researchers compiled millions of global food trade statistics for the 2000s from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to calculate the monetary value, calories, land use and irrigation water consumption associated with 390 traded food commodities derived from 139 crops and 10 domesticated animals. Traded goods were tracked back to which nations actually grew the underlying crops using cross-national data on agricultural production. They discovered that each of the four metrics -- money, calories, land use and irrigation water use -- revealed a distinct set of nations and commodities that shaped global totals, underscoring the importance of considering all of them when characterizing and making policy decisions related to global food trade. Among the findings:

- Global exports of food commodities were worth about US$522 billion per year in the period 2000 to 2009.
- More than one-fifth of the calories grown in farm fields are ultimately traded, which also required about 20% of the world's croplands (~245 million hectares).
- Over 70% of the global trade according to all metrics is concentrated in only 20 exporting and 33 importing countries.
- Animal products comprised more than one quarter of the value of trade but only 5 percent of the calories traded. In total, exports of meat and other animal products use at least 8 percent of the global agricultural land base.
- The bulk of monetary value of food trade is concentrated in trades among European Union countries, but these trade relationships are often facilitated by land use in other regions where the crops behind those products are grown. These're-exports' from European Union countries require over 9 million hectares of cropland in other regions.

Interestingly, whether a country is a net importer or net exporter varied, depending on the metric considered. "For example, China exports apples and other fruits that are fairly high value, while it mostly imports land-intensive but much lower-value soybean. Kenya exports high value tea and coffee, but imports wheat grown on foreign cropland that is an important food staple," said MacDonald.

- A handful of trade paths stood out as particularly prominent, especially the cropland area embodied in soybean exports from the U.S., Brazil, and Argentina to China. "In other words, we identified really land-intensive and water-intensive 'mega-trades' that disproportionately contribute to global trade," MacDonald said. "Such trades are a reflection of highly specialized and export-oriented agricultural systems that manifested in rapid globalization."

Retailers Fret as Products Languish on Ships, Docks at Port

JUSTIN PRITCHARD, Associated Press

The critical gateways for international trade have become more like parking lots for massive cargo ships that haul a you-name-it selection of consumer goods made in Asia and return there with U.S. exports. And U.S.-produced perishables, including meat and produce, are unable to be sent to Asian consumers.

First Lady: 'Cheese Dust is Not Food'

DARLENE SUPERVILLE, Associated Press

In an interview in the March issue of Cooking Light magazine, Mrs. Obama says Sam Kass, the family's former personal chef, had taken a stand against the boxed variety, which includes processed cheese powder among the ingredients.

Food Safety

Associated Press – (Michigan) **50,000 turkeys die at Michigan farm; feed cited.** The U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the U.S. Department of Agriculture are investigating the August 2014 death of about 50,000 turkeys at 5 farms owned by Sietsema Farms of Allendale and are working to determine how oil intended for industrial use was shipped to the farms as a feed additive. Officials reported at a January meeting of the Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development that steps were taken to prevent health risks to customers, while the company reported a loss of about $1 million. Source: http://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/2015/02/10/turkey-deaths-michigan-feed/23162733/

Associated Press – (National) **Pepperidge Farm recalls 46000 bagel packages.** Pepperidge Farm issued a recall for about 46,000 packages of bagels sent to stores in 23 States due to undeclared peanuts or almonds. Source: http://www.foxnews.com/us/2015/02/07/pepperidge-farm-recalls-46000-bagel-packages/

Co-Op Leadership Conference

April 24 – 26, 2015

Camp Grant Walker

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2015 Youth Co-op Leadership Conference Application

DUE: April 2, 2015

Participant: (Type or print in ink)

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Age: _____ Grade: _____ Check One: _____ Female _____ Male

T-shirt Size: ___S ___M ___L ___XL ___XXL

Home Telephone or Cell Phone ( ) _____ Parish: _____

Mailing Address: _____ City _____ Zip _____

I would like to participate in the talent show _____ YES _____ NO
(If participating you must bring all required items needed to showcase your talent).

Parent or Guardian Information:

Name: _____ Relation: _____

Phone: *Day* ( ) _____ *Evening* ( ) _____ *Cell* ( ) _____

I agree to follow instructions of my chaperones and to participate in all scheduled activities during the Co-op Conference.

_____ _____
Signature of Participant *Signature of Parent/Guardian*

RECOMMENDATION BY ORGANIZATION'S REPRESENTATIVE

By signing below, I acknowledge that the applicant is of high moral character and demonstrates qualities of honesty, integrity and leadership. I recommend that this applicant be considered for selection to attend the Youth Conference on Cooperatives.

_____
Signature of Parish 4-H Agent

Completed application, participant health form and the $30.00 registration fee must be received no later than April 2, 2015.

Make check or money order payable to: *LA Council of Farmer Cooperatives* or LCFC

Mail to: Terri Crawford
Co-op Leadership Conference
212-B Macon Ridge Road
Winnsboro, LA 71295

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