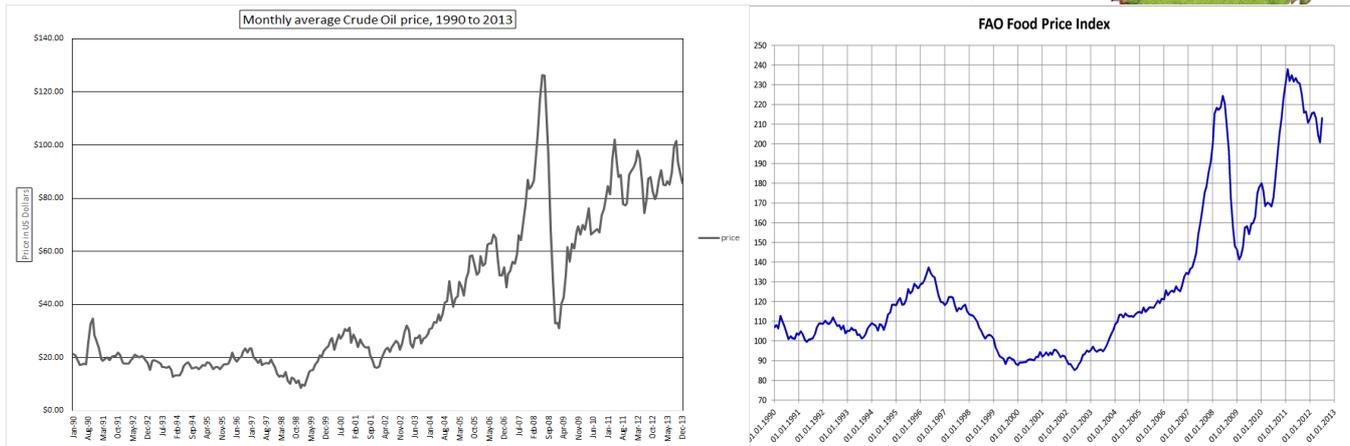


Food and Water

Farming, Fracking, Fuel - Land Use and Environment



The world oil and food prices, 1990 to 2013

Food and water security are global issues. Agriculture that relies on oil-based fertilisers means food prices leap around wildly along with the oil. We have passed the global production peak in conventional crude oil (according to the IEA chief economist, a fact concealed from the British public by the Labour government). Unconventional sources of fossil fuels include fracking which has been shown to contaminate ground water. The rush for biomass and crop-based biofuels is only making matters worse. Meanwhile the Himalayan glaciers that supply the rivers in China and most of India, Pakistan and Bangladesh melt ever faster, threatening to cut off fresh water supplies to a third of the world's population.

LibDem policy:

PP31 - Policies on Genetic Modification (pub 1999)

4.3.1 Organic food is growing in popularity, and we wish to preserve the right of consumers to choose organic produce if they so wish. This freedom is potentially threatened by GM farming if cross-pollination from GM crops proves to be an insuperable problem. (continues)

PP45 - Local economies, local choice (pub 2001)

4.3.1 We support local produce being sold to local people through local outlets. This maintains money in the locality, cuts out food miles and provides the opportunity for people to buy fresh food that can often be special to its region - saving energy as well as directing local resources at local people.

PP77 - Green and Prosperous Communities (pub 2007)

4.1.3 includes: Support local markets and farmers markets using single regeneration grants for local shopping areas, to preserve a diversity of small local shops.

4.4.4 includes: Encourage local authorities, health trusts and schools to procure at least a third of the food they buy from healthy, local sources - encouraging small suppliers, and discouraging transport pollution.

PP82 - Zero Carbon Britain - Taking a Global Lead (pub 2007)

4.5.3 ends: To minimise the risk of food shortages in developing countries it will be necessary to adopt policies such as prioritising the aid budget on stimulating indigenous food production and avoiding excessive incentives at home to convert food crops into biofuels.

4.6.10 ends: We will seek to increase the potential of soil as a carbon sink by promoting responsible soil management using Soil Management Plans.

PP92 – Thriving in a Globalised World (pub 2009)

4.2.6 The concept of ‘air miles’, or ‘food miles’, should be replaced by an agreed international label, or series of labels, for identifying ‘environmental impact’, covering key indicators such as embedded carbon, energy efficiency, impact on water resources, impact on biodiversity and recyclability.

PP113 – Prosperous, Sustainable and Secure (pub 2013)

section 5.2 covers the topic in depth with relation to the EU.

5.2.3 The world has recently seen large fluctuations in prices of agricultural commodities. This volatility has been caused by increasingly unstable climatic conditions, coupled with increasing world demand for grain-fed meat, rising oil prices, cropping for bio-fuels and market speculation.

Challenge:

07 Winter	p15	What Use For Farmland
08 Spring	p5	A New Voice For Rural Britain
08 Winter	p15	GM - The Great Divide
09 Spring	p15	GM - Essential For The Future
09 Summer	p4	A Local Green Way Out Of Recession
10 Spring	p22	The Path To Transition
11 Spring	p22	GMOs Debate
12 Summer	p19	A Sustainable Future for Fish
12 Autumn	p18	Reserve Judgment
13 Spring	p22	First Step
13 Summer	p22	Bees in Crisis
14 Spring	p11	Speculating on Extinction
14 Summer	p22	E.coli - a Modern Case of Hysteria?

Resources:

The World Food Programme <http://www.wfp.org/>

The Global Food Security Programme <http://www.foodsecurity.ac.uk/>

The World Health Organisation food security programme

<http://www.who.int/trade/glossary/story028/en/>

Water Aid UK <http://www.wateraid.org/uk>

The UN Water Programme <http://www.unwater.org/>

UEA Water Security research centre <https://www.uea.ac.uk/watersecurity>

Rob Hopkins' website on transition <http://www.transitionnetwork.org/blogs/rob-hopkins>

f3 - specialising in local food <http://www.localfood.org.uk/>

Big Barn - Community Interest Company <http://www.bigbarn.co.uk/>

Sustainweb - The alliance for better food and farming <http://www.sustainweb.org/>

Slow Food - global organization linking good food to community and the environment.

<http://www.slowfood.com/>

Farmers Markets - <http://www.farmersmarkets.net/>

Making Local Food Work - a programme funded by the Big Lottery Fund

<http://www.makinglocalfoodwork.co.uk/>