The foot and mouth outbreak in Britain’s countryside has halted the Countryside Alliance march. But more than this, it has highlighted the effects that modern capitalism, via intensive farming methods and the call for cheap food in the developed countries has had on the countryside.

BSE was a turning point. Suddenly it was revealed to many that a lot of farms were not Old MacDonald’s gaff, but giant agribusinesses, that some farmers had multiple properties, that farms were just factories for animals, with profit as the only priority. The foot and mouth outbreak has underlined this. Now people know that many animals are kept in filthy conditions, trucked hundreds of miles across Britain (and sometimes from Britain to other parts of Europe, where foot and mouth has now spread) and then squeezed into sheds in disease-ridden conditions to be fattened up. Then they are taken on other journeys, because of the centralisation of mega-abattoirs, famed for their squalor.

Globalisation has contributed heavily to the present foot and mouth outbreak. 1. By excessive animal transport which moves infected animals around one country, and indeed several countries. 2. Stress suffered by these animals weakens their immune systems and makes them more susceptible to disease. Globalisation seeks “trade facilitation”, liberalising trade, whereby any health and environmental regulations are removed at borders.

The fact is, foot and mouth is not much of a killer for animals, but it gives a chance to the bosses. The foot and mouth crisis is a product of modern capitalism, of agribusiness and intensive farming methods.

The Labour government has claimed that unemployment has fallen below the 1 million mark. Tony Blair, in the run-up to the election, is boasting of this attack on unemployment. But a closer look at the figures reveals that this measure only those out of work AND claiming benefit. Another international way of measuring unemployment is that of the International Labour Organisation, and this puts British figures at 1,535,000, i.e. 54% more than government figures. These extra numbers are people looking for work but not getting benefits. On top of this there are people not looking for work, because they think there aren’t any jobs for them, also not getting benefits. But more important is that most jobs on offer now, need no skills or low skills. Many already in work are on low-paid, part-time and temporary jobs. Soul-destroying, boring jobs with low pay. This is what the boss class expects, and that is what the bosses hope to use this lack of a job future to terrify a workforce into being obedient and compliant.

On top of this, Labour’s New Deal has terrorised the unemployed to take any shitty, low-paid job that comes along. Labour plans to crank up the jobless-bashing by extending these sanctions to unemployed over the age of 25. None of us, jobless or working, unwaged or in a McJob, should take this lying down. We need to organise across traditional divisions to take on these modern slave-drivers.

In This Issue:
News, views, ideas, action, wombles (yes, really) and loads more...
Borneo: Ethnic violence has exploded in Kalimantan [Indonesian Borneo] with Madurese being forced out and hundreds killed by indigenous tribes. The authorities offer no protection, instead inciting trouble. There is a history of tension between ethnic groups. The Madurese arrived in the 1920s; though most arrived under Suharto’s divisive settlement drives in the ‘60s and ‘70s. Chinese have also been on the receiving end of ethnic violence in the past. The tribes [known pejoratively as Dayaks - a catchall name for over 200 non-Muslim tribes] are themselves settlers, though they have been on Borneo far longer than anyone else. Recent settlers like the Madurese and Chinese survive through commerce, while many tribes cling vainly to traditional ways, leading to gaps in economic and political power. The Indonesian state uses this to divert disaffection away from themselves and into the dead-end of ethnic violence. They are now actively removing all Madurese from Kalimantan as they have served their purpose. As Indonesia slips further into economic and political chaos these ethnic disputes will be used increasingly by the authorities to maintain control. With 200 tribes and other ethnic groups, once the Madurese are gone, who might be next? All people in Indonesia must look past these differences and realise who their real enemy is.

Kenya: In an attempt to win political favour the government is planning to give away 10% (67,000 hectares) of its remaining forests to lackeys for logging. The financial loss in timber alone is at least £1.7bn. The ecological and social costs are massive. 15% of the Mau forest is scheduled for felling, even though this is the catchment area for 40% of the country’s water supply. Illegal logging around the source of the Njoro River has already left that supply dry for half the year. A coalition opposed to the scheme has so far managed to block the give-away.

ON THE FRONTLINE
La Paz, Bolivia: 1500 pensioners march to capital to demand higher pensions.
Jakarta, Indonesia: 8000 in protest calling for resignation of the president.
Mexico: Zapatistas march to Mexico City to highlight indigenous struggle.
Palestine: Clashes with security forces throughout occupied territories during ‘Day of Rage’ against Israeli occupation.
Kiev, Ukraine: Over 18,000 demonstrate against President Kushma. 70 arrests during running battles with riot police.

CELEBRITY PRAT OF THE MONTH

Nope, sorry, we don’t know who the fuck she is either, but she’s on record as having remarked: “People with 12 kids claiming benefits just laze around on the dole because they make more that way than having a job”. She rants on to say that she herself works so hard, poor dear, with “about 5 jobs”, that she’s only able to attend 3 parties a week to flaunt her aristocratic arse and open her silly gob denouncing us proles.
Well, we don’t know what your other 4 jobs are, missus, but the one where you pose in a few tiny bits and pieces of your underwear for some grubby magazine doesn’t seem much like a real job to us missus. In fact, we don’t think you know what a real job or a real life actually is. “Lady”, our arses: you’re just a spotty little rich girl with too much time on your hands and too much of mommy’s and daddy’s inheritance to spend on yourself. Instead of all this indulgence in attention seeking you should try for a few months a bout of job seeking or asylum seeking. then you’d know first hand just what a struggle it can be to exist on so-called ‘benefits’. Ain’t much of a party we can tell you.

International Anarchism

2 members of the Anarchist Federation attended a meeting of the International of Anarchist Federation in Montpellier, France over the weekend of 17/18th March. They met with French, German, Italian, and Spanish anarchists. Among topics discussed was the ongoing construction of the International and a forthcoming international anarchist mobilisation in Genoa, Italy. The AFers signed a joint press statement with the other delegates offering solidarity with Kurdish asylum seekers on hunger strike in Montpelier.

Nessun Dorma

Thousands of anti-capitalists have clashed with riot police in the Italian city of Naples. 40,000 demonstrators took to the streets to protest against a meeting of the Global Forum - a conference of government and technology - and a large number were determined to stop the meeting from going ahead at all. Demonstrators took the U-turn and succeeded in breaking through enemy barricades in an attempt to reach conference delegates from 120 governments.

No can do in Cancun

The latest meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF) was in Cancun, Mexico on Feb 25-27th. 2,700 soldiers and police versus 5,000 protesters and, one would have hoped, a repeat of the same kind of direct resistance that plagued earlier meetings. But sadly no. Things got off to a bad start when buses carrying protesters heading for Cancun were stopped at a checkpoint outside the city and held for 5 hours; their belongings were searched and banners, paints, masks, tyres and helmets were confiscated. This temporary setback led to further divisions in an already divided camp. The strangely named ‘Civil Disobedience’ wanted nothing of the sort. Instead they seemed determined to push through a ‘zero violence, zero drugs, zero provocations’ agenda. Another faction, the ‘Continental Social Alliance’ preferred an alternative forum, holding workshops on issues such as human rights, the environment, labour struggle, and the proposed Puebla to Panama plan - whose goal is the possible future replacement of the Panama Canal. All well and good. But when violence in Cancun finally kicked off on the 27th, with police launching an unprovoked attack on two contingents outside the hotel where the WEF was meeting, it was left to small numbers of people to fight back. 55 arrests and 15 hospital victims later the WEF was given a chance to catch up with the important business of screwing up the planet. The moral of the story? Less talk, more action! Direct action, organised and disciplined, is the only form of protest the authorities fear, the ONLY form that will actually disrupt the bastards in the WEF, IMF etc...from meeting up in the first place.

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Celebrate MayDay in style

May the 1st is a day of celebration in memory of anarchists in Chicago who were executed for leading a strike against capitalist exploitation. This year take the day off, phone in sick and join the London wide Monopoly party to protest against the corruptness and greed that emanate from the global beast of capitalism. Get together with friends and colleagues, get the monopoly board out, get some beers and in and plan an autonomous action against a symbol of authority or capitalism that rules your lives. You could: publicise injustice outside of a prison, hold a mass bureaucratic paperwork burning outside Ofsted, organise a demonstration...... be creative. Contact Mayday Monopoly with your plans and they'll help publicise it:

INSIDE INFORMATION

Justice for Tomek Wilkoszewski!!!

Tomek Wilkoszewski is in prison because he isn’t rich, he doesn’t have contacts with authorities and cannot afford a lawyer. His only crime was that he defended himself. At the end of Feb 1997 he was found guilty of murdering a neo-fascist and was sentenced to 15 years of imprisonment. Tomek may now only be pardoned by the president. Write the president

Prezydent RP, Aleksander Kwasniewski, Krakowskie Przedmiescie 48/50, 00-071 Warszawa.

Write to Tomek: Tomek Wilkoszewski, Zaklad Karny, Orzechowa 5, 98-200 Sieradz.

KLAUDIUSZ DOES TIME.

In 1991, when attacked by three skinheads Klaudiusz Gliklich defended himself and two of the aggressors received injuries. As a result he was charged and sentenced to six years in prison. After 2 years and 9 months of the sentence he was released on parole. His conditional release was supervised by a person who turned out to be a former nationalista. Eventually, being provoked, Klaudiusz hit him. His parole was cancelled and Klaudiusz returned to prison. Write to:

Klaudiusz Gliklich, SZPITAL WIEZIENNY, ul.Chrobrego 2, 43-400 Cieszyn.

II.

FRAMED BY THE POLICE

Jarek ‘Sruba’ was sentenced to three years and six months of imprisonment Nov 1999.

He was framed by the police and charged with beating and robbing a policeman.

JAROSLAW IZYKOWSKI, ZAKLAD KARNY, ul. WIEZIENNA 6, 56-100 WOLOW.

2 RUSSIAN ANARCHISTS ARRESTED

Alexandr Biryukov and Olga Nevskaja are 2 anarchists accused of being part of the New Revolutionary Alternative which attacked the offices of the FSB (successor to the KGB) and killed 2 policemen. They deny any involvement in the actions of the NRA. Write to:

Alexandr Anatolyevich Biryukov, Ul. Novoslobodskaja d. 45, 103 055 Moscow Russia; And to Olga Aleksandrovna Nevskaja, E-20 p/y 201, 111 120 Moscow, Russia.

YUGOSLAV ANARCHIST ARRESTED

On 23 Jan Srdjan Knezevic, was arrested at Belgrade Airport. He is one of the most active anarchists in Yugoslavia. He is accused of the crime of "abandonment of his post and desertion of the Army of Yugoslavia". More info from CNT AIT (International Secretariat) BP 1886, 89003 Auxerre Cedex, France. E-mail cant.ai@wanadoo.fr

Support Amadeu Casellas Ramon

Amadeu Casellas Ramon is on hunger strike since the 13th Jan in the prison of Can Briars, as part of the general mobilizations of social prisoners in the Spanish State regarding collective demands. Send protest letters demanding the freedom of Amadeu Casellas to: Sr. D. ANGEL GOMEZ MUNOZ, Dr. Gen. de Servies, Penitenciaris i Rehabilitacio, C/ Aragó 332, 08009 Barcelona - Spanish State.
Take precautions when going on demonstrations and don’t take cameras, booze or drugs. If you’re nicked give your name and address then say ‘no comment’.

APRIL: 1st (April Fools Day ‘til May 1st (Mayday) International Month of Pie-rect action against Capital and State. More info: www.dessertstorm.org


7th - Merseyside Against Deportations. Assemble 12 noon outside the TU Centre in Hardman Street for transport to Fazakerley prison.

7th - Porton Down (MOD owned chemical warfare laboratory) National demo. Meet 1.30 pm The Maltings, Salisbury. Send SAE for map to Jennifer Pothecary, Lemerle, Amesbury Rd., Newton Toney, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP4 0HN

7th - People Globals Action Benefit Night. Roots, Reggae, Ragga with Bryan Wilson & The Sounds of the Earth, Nomadix Roots. At Arsenal Tavern, 175 Blackstock Road, London N4 (Tube & BR: Finsbury Pk)

15th - Rally against GM Crops. 2pm Harbury, Warwickshire (where there is a 6 ha farmscale trial of Oil Seed Rape). More details: 01926 832650

16th - March and rally against the ‘Son of Star Wars’, meet Ellerbeck (A169, 8m south of Whitby), 10am - contact 01287 660067 email neilbye@hotmail.com. Or contact Gr. Mcr & Dist. CND for transport details (0161) 273 8283.

21st - NF - not welcome in Leicester. Meet at Leicester Railway Station, 10:00am. 07718629651 or leicesteropposition@yahoo.co.uk, http://radical.members.beeb.net/21st - CIA (Cambridge in April) Action Day against all forms of abuse in Cambridge-shire. Environments, human rights, social justice campaigners, call 01223 624660

27th - onwards. 20 years of the 1 in 12 Club Party. 20 years of self-management, music and mayhem at 21-23 Albion St., Bradford, BD1 2LY. There’s loads of events planned check out www.1in12.com or Tel 01274 734160

28th - Tyneside May Day March to Newcastle Exhibition Park. Speakers and good beer! Assemble 11am Forth St behind Central Station. Bring banners, placards, etc. Rally begins 1pm @ Exhibition Park

28th - Workers’ Memorial Day. An international day of remembrance of workers killed, disabled or injured by their work www.lhc.org.uk/current/wmd_fs

MAY: 1st - Mayday Monopoly. See article inside.

And if you like resistance check out these... Organise! for revolutionary anarchism. Magazine of the Anarchist Federation. By far the best mag going (us, biased?), giving in depth reporting and analysis from the class struggle. £1.50 an issue/subscriptions £3 from AF c/o 84b, Whitechapel High St, London, E1 7QX

Black Flag Legendary anarchist mag. £1.50 issue/E6 a sub. BM Hurricane, London, WC1N 3XX

Counter Information Free anarchist newsletter reporting on struggles from around the world. Transmission, 28 King St, Glasgow, Scotland, G1 5QOP

Direct Action If revolutionary unionism is your thing read the paper of the Solidarity Federation (Anarcho-Syndicalists). £1.50 issue/E5 sub. PO Box 29, SW PDO, M15 SHW

SchNEWS Weekly direct action newsletter. Send stamps to PO Box 2600, Brighton, BN2 2DX

Class War Anarchist tabloid - the name says it all. Sells from PO Box 467, London, E8 3QX

Earth First! Action Update £5 for 12 issue sub. PO Box 487, Norwich, NR2 3AL

Freedom Bookshop 84b Whitechapel High St (in Angel Alley) London, E1 7QX

Subscribe to resistance

- I enclose £4 (£6 EU, £12 Rest of the world) for the next 12 issues of resistance bulletin (cheques payable to “AF”) and send to AF, PO Box 375, Knaphill, Woking, Surrey, GU21 2XL
- I enclose £3 for a year’s subscription to Organise! magazine.
- I am interested in the Anarchist Federation and would like more information.

Name..................................................
Address..................................................

What’s Going On?

Who are we?

We are an organisation of class struggle anarchists aiming to abolish Capitalism and all oppression to create a free and equal society. This is Anarchist Communism. We see today’s society as being divided into two main opposing classes: the ruling class which controls all the power and wealth, and the working class which the rulers exploit to maintain this. By racism, sexism and other forms of oppression, as well as war and environmental destruction the rulers weaken and divide us. Only the direct action of working class people can defeat these attacks and ultimately overthrow capitalism.

As the capitalist system rules the whole world, its destruction must be complete and world wide. We reject attempts to reform it, such as working through parliament and national liberation movements, as they fail to challenge capitalism itself. Unions also work as a part of the capitalist system, so although workers struggle within them they will be unable to bring about capitalism’s destruction unless they go beyond these limits.

Organisation is vital if we’re to beat the bosses, so we work for a united anarchist movement and are affiliated to the International of Anarchist Federations.

Join the Resistance

The Anarchist Federation has members up and down Britain fighting for the kind of world outlined above. We take part in everyday struggles which affect us all, such as industrial disputes, strikes and supporting prisoners. We are active in environmental struggles, anti-racism and against government attacks on our community.

For more information on anarchism, the Anarchist Federation and fighting back contact:

Anarchist Federation
84B Whitechapel High Street
London E1 7QX
Phone 07946 216 990
www.afed.org.uk
e-mail anarchistfederation@bigfoot.com