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10/08/1990 - World Food Day

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FILE



EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
Charleston, Illinois

news

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October 8, 1990

FILE COPY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

WORLD FOOD DAY

CHARLESTON, IL--Eastern Illinois University and area citizens will join more than 400 other campuses and communities on Tuesday (Oct. 16) World Food Day, to focus on policies and ethics concerning hunger.

School children, Eastern Illinois University students and area businesses, organizations and churches will hold canned food drives as part of the activities planned around World Food Day.

The National World Food Day Committee reports that "...from 1987 to 1989 the world simply ate more food than it produced. The huge surpluses that came to be assumed have disappeared."

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Locally, requests for emergency food is rising. The Mattoon Food Pantry predicts requests for food will increase from 2,924 in 1989 to about 5,000 by the end of 1990. The Charleston Civic Association reports a 35 percent increase in back-to-school program aid and there were 501 students in the Charleston Community Unit One School District who received free or reduced school lunches. There are 3,172 students in the district.

Panelists will discuss these concerns during World Food Day. WEIU TV, Channel 51, will broadcast a live teleconference, via satellite, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., with an hour break for a local panel presentation from noon to 1 p.m.

The experts speaking at noon in the West Ballroom of the EIU Union will include Edith Hedges, a nutritionist and EIU assistant professor of home economics; and Gary Wallace, a petroleum geologist and EIU professor of geology.

Also participating are Robert Spitze, a consultant to the United States Department of Agriculture and a professor of agricultural economics at the University of Illinois, and Murl White, an administrator from the Coles County Department of Public Aid. Mike Strader, director of Eastern's Peace Meal Senior Nutrition Program for 14 Illinois counties, will be the moderator.

Members of the international panel will be Robert O. Blake, chairman of the United Nations Committee on Agricultural Sustainability for Developing Countries; Heitor Gurgulino de Souza, rector of United Nations University; Joan Dye Gussow, author and professor of nutrition at Columbia University and John Neiderhauser, an expert on potato production and winner of the World Food Prize. Nancy Amidei, a nationally syndicated columnist, will moderate.

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WORLD FOOD DAY

A rebroadcast of the teleconference will be aired at 12:30 p.m. Oct. 20 on WEIU TV Channel 51, Charleston cable 29, Paris cable 37, Mattoon and Effingham cable 30 and Tuscola, Arcola, Arthur, Villa Grove, Oakland, Atwood and Hammond, cable 26.

For additional information contact Ruth Dow, local coordinator of World Food Day and professor in Eastern's School of Home Economics, at 345-2743 or 581-3223.