

JANUARY WAKE UP CALL

TEAM LIFESTYLE RESEARCH PAPERS

FUTURE OF AGRICULTURE & FOOD

JANUARY WAKE UP CALL



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LESSON 1

MYSTERIOUS FIRES

FOOD FACILITY FIRES IN USA: 2020-2022

1. FOOD PROCESSING PLANT, Norwood, Massachusetts

February 21, 2020

Fire investigators in Norwood, Massachusetts, blamed a grease fire in a commercial oven for a blaze that spread through a food processing plant.

Firefighters quickly brought the blaze under control despite an extension into the roof line that required extensive overhaul. Authorities estimated the damage at about \$250,000.

<https://www.industrialfireworld.com/543748/food-processing-plant-fire-breaks-out-in-massachusetts>

2. SID WAINER & SON, New Bedford, Massachusetts

April 21, 2020

A fire at a food distribution facility in New Bedford, Massachusetts, left several trucks damaged.

Firefighters responded to the fire at Sid Wainer & Son's warehouse around 12:30 a.m. At least seven tractor-trailer trucks at a loading dock were damaged or destroyed.

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<https://www.nbcboston.com/news/local/fire-at-new-bedford-food-distributor-leaves-several-tractor-trailers-damaged/2096301/>

3. MIZKAN FOOD PROCESSING PLANT, Stockton, California May 26, 2020

Firefighters battled a massive “fire tornado” after a blaze broke out at Mizkan America tomato processing facility in Stockton, California.

Approximately 1.5 acres of plastic pallets burned and drivers were urged to steer clear of the fiery area. It took nearly six hours for firefighters to get the blaze under control.

<https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/11721983/california-firefighters-battle-massive-fire-food-plant/>

4. TYSON FOOD PROCESSING PLANT, Nashville, Arizona July 9, 2020

Arriving at the facility at about 2:20 a.m., firefighters found a structure that was completely enveloped in flames.

Tyson said two employees were injured and were given medical attention.

<https://www.powderbulksolids.com/industrial-fires-explosions/2-hurt-large-fire-tyson-plant-arkansas>

5. HEMINGWAY MEAT LOCKER PLANT, Hemingway, South Carolina July 24, 2020

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A number of neighboring departments provided aid after a meat plant in Williamsburg County caught fire.

The fire started in the roof of the Hemingway Meat Locker Plant, in the area of East Andrews and South Main streets. The fire caused major damage to the building, with about 60 percent of the roof being burned.

<https://www.wmbfnews.com/2020/07/24/multiple-crews-respond-fire-williamsburg-county-meat-plant/>

6. DOMINO SUGAR REFINERY, Arabi, Louisiana

August 27, 2020

A silo caught fire and one witness said the fire suppression system stopped the fire from turning into an explosion. It's unclear what started the fire. The flames started mid-afternoon and smoke billowed from the refinery into the evening hours.

The Domino Sugar Refinery is owned by the ASR group and is the second-largest cane sugar refinery in the world. Over two billion pounds of sugar cane is manufactured at the refinery every year.

<https://www.fox8live.com/2020/08/27/fire-breaks-out-domino-sugar-refinery-arabi/>

7. MR. CHIP INC., Pinconning, Michigan

October 3, 2020

A weekend fire heavily damaged a pickle manufacturer in northern Bay County.

Flames were first spotted coming from an empty brine tank. The manufacturing facility is a total loss, but the company's grading and brining operation was undamaged.

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<https://www.mlive.com/news/saginaw-bay-city/2020/10/pickle-factory-fire-in-bay-county-has-mr-chips-shifting-some-production-to-georgia.html>

8. WEST LIBERTY PROCESSING PLANT, Tremonton, Utah

October 10, 2020

Three people suffered minor injuries and several homes were evacuated due to a large fire at a meatpacking plant.

The fire at West Liberty Foods, 705 N. 2000 West in Tremonton, started in the facility's utility room about 5:30 a.m. Three employees suffered minor burns to their hands and face, while three vehicles were also damaged.

<https://www.deseret.com/utah/2020/10/2/21499350/tremonton-meat-packing-plant-fire-3-injured>

9. ST. VINCENT DE PAUL, Temple, Texas

October 12, 2020

St. Vincent De Paul's food pantry and warehouse were destroyed by fire.

No one was injured but all the food, refrigerators, freezers and storage inside were destroyed.

<https://www.kwtx.com/2020/10/14/fire-destroys-local-food-pantry-closes-store/>

10. DELI STAR, Fayetteville, Illinois

January 11, 2021

The fire destroyed Deli Star's 75,000-square-foot processing plant.

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Deli Star is a second-generation meat and poultry processor of deli meats, prepared foods using *sous vide* technology. as well as sauces and a variety of value-added meats.

<https://www.meatpoultry.com/articles/24395-deli-star-deals-with-the-aftermath-of-devastating-fire>

11. TIEGS POTATO FOOD PROCESSING, Warden, Washington January 21, 2021

A fire destroyed a dehydrated potato processing facility.

The central Washington facility is one of two such potato processing plants in Washington state. Potatoes that don't make the quality or size grade for fresh or frozen markets are often sold to dehydrated processors.

<https://www.thepacker.com/news/industry/fire-destroys-washington-dehydrated-potato-facility>

12. PACTIV INC., Temple, Texas May 12, 2021

Fire personnel were called to the Pactiv Inc. facility after receiving a report of a structure fire at the site. Crews arrived on scene to discover heavy smoke in a storage silo.

Pactiv manufactures and distributes packaging, trays, containers, films and other products for use in the foodservice, food processing, supermarket and convenience store markets. The Temple facility produces products for the foodservice industry.

<https://www.powderbulksolids.com/industrial-fires-explosions/fire-ignites-storage-silo-pactiv-plant>

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13. RICELAND FOODS, Stuttgart, Arkansas

May 23, 2021

A soybean storage bin caught fire at a Riceland Foods plant in Stuttgart, Arkansas. A Riceland spokesperson said the fire started while crews were cleaning out bins.

The fire also spread to the plant's water treatment facility next to the grain bins. Riceland's soybean terminal in Stuttgart has a listed storage capacity of 8,195,000 bushels.

<https://www.world-grain.com/articles/15327-fire-damages-riceland-soybean-storage-plant>

14. KELLOGG, Memphis, Tennessee

July 25, 2021

The Memphis Fire Department responded to the fire at the Kellogg factory. The fire department said the fire started from a rice dryer.

The Kellogg location in Memphis makes breakfast foods.

<https://www.localmemphis.com/article/news/3-alarm-fire-at-kellogg-plant/522-bbef6075-cb6b-4ff9-af59-70fe264749bd>

15. TYSON'S RIVER VALLEY INGREDIENTS, Hanceville, Alabama

July 30, 2021

A Tyson Foods-owned poultry meal plant received significant damage during a fire that ignited at the site.

Reports said the Alabama *Department of Environmental Management* (ADEM) responded to the scene to assess whether there are any environmental impacts from the fire.

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Bought by Tyson in 2018, the facility processes poultry-by products into feed ingredients.

<https://www.powderbulksolids.com/food-beverage/fire-damages-tyson-owned-feed-ingredients-plant>

16. PATAK MEAT PRODUCTS, Cobb County, Georgia

August 23, 2021

Patak Meat Products, a family-owned meat processor, suffered a major fire at its facility. The company has been producing a wide range of Old World favorites and other meat products since 1981.

Firefighters were able to save a portion of the building that contained dry goods storage and the smokehouses.

<https://www.provisioneronline.com/articles/111392-fire-severely-damages-patak-meat-products-facility>

17. JBS MEAT FOOD, Grand Island, Nebraska

September 12, 2021

JBS USA Spokesperson Nikki Richardson said the fire did not impact primary production areas.

Firefighters battled the fire for nearly 15 hours. No one was injured in the incident.

<https://www.ksnbllocal4.com/2021/09/13/gi-fire-rescue-battling-fire-investigating-reported-explosion-jbs/>

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18. DARIGOLD FOOD PROCESSING PLANT, Caldwell, Idaho
October 12, 2021

Firefighters remained on scene overnight after knocking down a five-alarm fire at the Darigold plant in downtown Caldwell.

The Darigold plant employs many people and is a big part of the Caldwell community. Darigold officials said the plant was badly damaged in the fire.

<https://www.wusa9.com/article/news/local/large-fire-reported-at-darigold-plant-in-caldwell/277-b794bcbe-ab04-4eec-8eee-856ba6c288a6>

19. GREENBERG SMOKED TURKEY, INC., Tyler, Texas
November 6, 2021

Greenberg Smoked Turkey, Inc. in Tyler, Texas, halted all of its smoked turkey production for the rest of 2020 after a fire and at least two explosions destroyed parts of the facility.

The company sells about 200,000 smoked turkeys every holiday season. A freezer holding 87,000 turkeys exploded and burned the boxes and bags nearby, which are used to ship hundreds of thousands of turkeys during the company's busiest season.

<https://www.dallasnews.com/food/restaurant-news/2020/11/09/after-87000-turkeys-exploded-in-fire-greenberg-shuts-down-for-holiday-season/>

20. MAID-RITE STEAK COMPANY, Lackawanna, Pennsylvania
November 29, 2021

Fire engulfed the center building at Maid-Rite Steak Co. Inc. in Scott Township, sending flames high into the night sky.

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Explosions rocked the ground as firefighters from 17 local departments tried to knock down the fire inside the meat processing facility. Most of the meat processing area was badly burned and the offices had heavy smoke and water damage.

Authorities think the fire started in a wall.

<https://www.wnep.com/article/news/local/lackawanna-county/fire-erupts-at-meat-processing-facility-in-lackawanna-county/523-c08b77a3-8a64-4d4b-aed8-45de6e71352b>

21. WEST SIDE FOOD PROCESSING PLANT, San Antonio, Texas

December 12, 2021

A food processing plant on the city's West Side was left with smoke damage following a fire.

Firefighters said when they arrived, they found the processing plant filled with smoke. The damage to the building is mostly smoke damage but the estimate is over \$100,000 because of the food that was exposed to the smoke.

<https://www.ksat.com/news/local/2021/12/13/west-side-food-processing-plant-left-with-smoke-damage-after-fire-safd-says/>

22. SANDERSON ANIMAL FEED PROCESSING PLANT, Collins, Mississippi

December 13, 2021

Collins Fire Chief John Pope said his department received reports about a boiler room explosion at a feed mill operated by Sanderson Farms.

The scene was cleared in about two hours, but one person was reported injured and taken to a local hospital.

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According to Pope, minimal damage was caused to the warehouse facility. The mill was taken offline while the incident is investigated by Sanderson Farms' safety team.

<https://www.gwcommonwealth.com/1-hurt-boiler-explosion-mississippi-poultry-feed-mill#sthash.euI7EICK.dpbs>

23. VAN DRUNEN FARMS TUTHILL PLANT, Momence, Illinois January 2, 2022

Approximately 75 percent of the 80,000-square-foot freeze-drying facility of the Van Drunen Farms Tuthill production site was considered a “total loss” by the company.

Numerous fire departments battled the blaze for several hours.

Van Drunen grows products and produces food and ingredients, which are used across the country and around the world.

https://www.daily-journal.com/news/local/van-drunen-site-total-loss-after-fire/article_341d2c60-6ccc-11ec-b3ae-9f702e956def.html

24. RAW FARM CREAMERY, Fresno, California January 8, 2022

Firefighters say heavy smoke and flames were seen coming from a warehouse on the property. According to officials, crews worked in defensive mode to stop the fire from spreading to other areas.

A total of two warehouses and one cold storage were destroyed from the fire, but firefighters were able to save three farm administration buildings and some bigger agricultural equipment and products.

Fire crews said the incident seemed suspicious.

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<https://www.yourcentralvalley.com/news/local-news/firefighters-investigate-suspicious-fire-at-fresno-creamery-officials-say/>

25. CARGILL-NUTRENA, Lecompte, Louisiana

January 13, 2022

A fire that started at the Cargill-Nutrena feed mill had burned for 12 hours. An explosion reportedly occurred as the firefighters were working the scene.

The mill manufactures feed for the peed food, aquaculture, beef, equine, poultry, dairy and wild game markets.

Cargill's plant includes 65 bins for grain, bulk ingredients, finished feed, six large storage bins and 53,000 square feet of warehouse space.

<https://www.powderbulksolids.com/food-beverage/explosion-and-fire-reported-cargill-nutrena-feed-mill>

26. WASHINGTON POTATO FOOD PROCESSING PLANT, Warden, Washington

January 20, 2022

A fire that broke out at a potato plant prompted evacuations in parts of Washington state.

Authorities issued a level 3 evacuation order for people living in the surrounding area, including west of Road U Southeast and south of State Route 170 in Warden.

Residents were told to immediately evacuate due to possible risk of an ammonia tank explosion. The order was lifted shortly after midnight and residents were allowed to return to their homes.

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/fire-breaks-out-washington-potato-plant-prompts-evacuations-n1255272>

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27. WISTON WEAVER COMPANY, Winston-Salem, Carolina January 31, 2022

An uncontrolled fire at a fertilizer plant in North Carolina forced thousands of people to evacuate.

The city's fire chief said the fire had been "relatively static" overnight, but with 600 tons of combustible ammonium nitrate stored at the site, the risk of an explosion was high.

At least 90 firefighters fought the fire for about 90 minutes after it was discovered at a loading dock, but the risk of an explosion forced them to retreat. The fire quickly consumed the entire building and caused it to collapse.

<https://wlos.com/news/local/thousands-flee-homes-near-winston-salem-fertilizer-plant-fire-north-carolina-winston-weaver-company-explosion-flames-wake-forest-university>

28. WISCONSIN RIVER MEATS, Mauston, Wisconsin February 3, 2022

A portion of Mauston's Wisconsin River Meats burnt down during an overnight fire.

The meat company, located at N5340 Highway HH, Mauston, is in the process of building a new store and sausage processing facility. The new building appears to have survived relatively unscathed by the fire.

<https://www.nbc15.com/2022/02/03/portion-wisconsin-river-meats-plant-total-loss-after-overnight-blaze/>

29. DIAMOND WALNUT FOOD PROCESSING PLANT, Live Oak, California February 4, 2022

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The Butte County Fire Department first reported the blaze at the Diamond Walnut Growers factory at about 8:40 a.m. Almost three hours later, the flames were still going. Authorities closed Highway 99 and evacuated nearby homes.

The walnut plant is no longer in use and vacant at the time of the fire.

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/fire-california-diamond-walnut-factory-b2008086.html>

30. BONANZA MEAT CO., El Paso, Texas

February 15, 2022

El Paso firefighters battled a blaze Tuesday morning at a building near Downtown.

Flames and dark smoke erupted from a building with “Bonanza Meat Co.” painted on it on Paisano Drive at Park Street in the Segundo Barrio. The building was vacant.

The roof of the commercial building partially collapsed during the fire, but there was no damage to any other buildings.

<https://www.elpasotimes.com/story/news/local/el-paso/2022/02/15/el-paso-firefighters-battle-burning-building-segundo-barrio-near-downtown/6796712001/>

31. LOUIS DREYFUS COMPANY (LDC), Claypool, Indiana

February 16, 2022

Louis Dreyfus Company reported that a fire had broken out in a bag house at its Claypool, Indiana, soybean processing and biodiesel plant. Affected systems had been suspended.

The suspension of deliveries slowed production of soymeal and biodiesel at a time of high demand.

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The Claypool plant has capacity to crush 175,000 bushels of soybeans a day and has been running 92 percent of that as actual crush capacity recently, according to an industry source.

<https://www.agriculture.com/markets/newswire/update-1-louis-dreyfus-reports-fire-at-largest-us-soy-processing-plant>

32. SHEARER'S FOOD POTATO PLANT, Hermiston, Oregon February 22, 2022

A portable boiler exploded at a Shearer's Foods potato chip plant south of Hermiston, Oregon, sparking a fire and causing several injuries. The plant was severely damaged.

Seven people were taken to the local hospital, but none with serious injuries.

The plant employs 400 people at full capacity and supplies much of the western U.S. with potato and corn chips. Shearer's is primarily a private label and contract manufacturer of salty snacks and cookies.

<https://www.foodprocessing.com/industrynews/2022/shearers-fire-oregon/>

33. NUTRIEN AG SOLUTIONS, Sunnyside, Washington February 28, 2022

Fire destroyed a warehouse filled with 1.75 million pounds of mixed components for fertilizers. Other structures at the fertilizer plant were also damaged.

The adjacent Nutrien buildings and storage tanks containing hazardous chemicals were spared.

The facility is relatively new, opening in the fall of 2018 as a dry and liquid fertilizer storage and distribution center.

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<https://www.firehouse.com/operations-training/news/21258644/sunnyside-wa-fertilizer-plant-fire-forces-evacuations>

34. NESTLE HOT POCKETS, Jonesboro, Arkansas

March 16, 2022

The Jonesboro Fire Department said it found a fire inside a “large piece of a production line cooler” at the the Nestle facility.

Nestle opened the plant in 2002 and in December 2020, the company unveiled plans to invest more than \$100 million to expand the frozen foods plant, including the addition of 90,000 square feet and a new production line for Hot Pockets frozen sandwiches.

In addition to Hot Pockets, Nestle makes products under the Stouffer’s, Lean Cuisine, DiGiorno, Tombstone and Sweet Earth brands at the plant.

<https://www.meatpoultry.com/articles/26372-nestle-hot-pockets-plant-remains-shuttered-following-fire>

35. WALMART, Plainfield, Indiana

March 16, 2022

A massive fire at a Walmart facility in Plainfield was quickly upgraded to a five-alarm fire.

About 350 firefighters from at least 30 fire departments had responded to the scene since the fire started around noon.

<https://www.wrtv.com/news/public-safety/atf-begins-on-site-investigation-into-walmart-facility-fire-in-plainfield>

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36. PEPSI FOOD PROCESSING PLANT, Piscataway, New Jersey

March 23, 2022

A massive fire at the Pepsi plant in Piscataway drew a huge response from firefighters around the county.

Two firefighters were hurt battling the four-alarm blaze. One had a shoulder injury and the other suffered from heat exhaustion.

Fire and smoke was visible for miles around as more than 100 firefighters from across New Jersey raced to the scene, officials said. Witnesses reported several explosions rang out as smoke filled the air.

<https://www.firehouse.com/operations-training/news/21261433/two-firefighters-injured-at-5alarm-fire-at-piscataway-nj-pepsi-plant>

37. PENOBSCOT MCCRUM, Belfast, Maine

March 24, 2022

Fire crews from several towns battled a fire at the Penobscot McCrum potato processing plant in Belfast.

Officials said the fire was started by one of the facility's large fryolator machines.

Founded in 1886, Penobscot McCrum is a family business dedicated to providing specialty frozen potato products to an array of businesses.

<https://www.newscentermaine.com/article/news/local/several-crews-respond-to-fire-at-belfast-potato-factory-penobscot-mccrum-maine/97-5313831f-2858-4f94-bad8-76a020444097>

38. MARICOPA FOOD PANTRY, Maricopa, Arizona

March 28, 2022

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It's a long road to recovery for Maricopa Food Pantry after a fire destroyed around 50,000 pounds of food.

The fire came dangerously close to Mountain View Community Church, where the food pantry is feeding the community.

The food pantry was founded more than 20 years ago.

<https://www.azfamily.com/2022/03/29/50000-lb-food-destroyed-after-fire-ripped-through-maricopa-food-pantry/>

39. RIO FRESH INC., San Juan, Texas

March 31, 2022

A structure fire caused significant damage to a large portion of key fresh onion packing facilities in south Texas.

Rio Fresh grows, packs and ships a large variety of Texas-grown items including Texas 1015 sweet onions, cabbage, kale, greens and melons.

<https://vegetablegrowersnews.com/news/fire-damages-rio-fresh-onion-warehouse-facility/>

40. EAST CONWAY BEEF & PORK, Conway, New Hampshire

April 11, 2022

A fire broke out at East Conway Beef & Pork. Flames engulfed the building and the fire fighters were not able to save any of it.

Neighbors helped drive away the cattle when the fire broke out.

Firefighters from the East Conway Volunteer Fire Department said the same facility burned down about 10 years ago.

<https://darik.news/maine/the-fire-destroyed-a-meat-market-in-conway-this-is-not-the-first-time/202204545468.html>

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41. GEM STATE PROCESSING, Heyburn, Idaho

April 13, 2022

A plane crashed into an Idaho potato and food processing plant. It hit Gem State Processing in Heyburn in East Idaho at about 8:35 a.m., city police said.

The pilot was the only person in the plane and died during the crash. None of the employees at the processing plant were injured.

Gem State Processing sources 18,000 acres of Idaho potatoes.

<https://www.idahostatesman.com/news/nation-world/national/article260423897.html>

42. AZURE STANDARD HEADQUARTER FACILITY, Dufur, Oregon

April 18, 2022

The headquarters of Azure Standard, the nation's premier independent distributor of organic and healthy food, was destroyed by fire overnight.

There were no injuries. The cause of the fire is unknown and under investigation.

The loss of the facility and the impact on companywide operations is being assessed and expected to be limited and temporary. No other Azure Standard facilities were affected.

https://www.columbiagorgeneews.com/fire-destroys-azure-standard-headquarter-facility/article_7df4657c-c03e-11ec-a8c2-5f88e266c6db.html

43. NUTRIEN AG SOLUTIONS, Leoti, Kansas

April 19, 2022

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A fire at a fertilizer company in western Kansas prompted evacuations because hazardous materials were involved.

The Ford County Regional Hazardous Materials Team was deployed to Leoti to fight the blaze and remove hazardous materials.

The fire began around 3:30 p.m. at a Nutrien Ag Solutions plant in Leoti.

<https://www.ksn.com/news/state-regional/chemical-fire-in-leoti-causing-evacuations/>

44. GENERAL MILLS, Covington, Georgia

April 21, 2022

Investigators gathered at the General Mills plant in Covington to comb through the wreckage of a deadly plane crash.

A twin-engine Cessna crashed into several semi trailers at remote part of the cereal plant, killing two people.

Police said the plane appeared to explode on impact. Witnesses said there were a series of small explosions after the crash. About six trailers that were parked together and believed to be mostly empty caught fire and were damaged after the crash.

<https://www.fox5atlanta.com/news/investigators-comb-through-plane-crash-wreckage-at-general-mills-plant-in-covington>

45. GENERAL MILLS, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

April 24, 2022

Cedar Rapids firefighters responded to a fire Saturday morning on the roof of the General Mills food processing plant.

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The fire broke out around 3:45 a.m. at the General Mills manufacturing site at 4800 Edgewood Road SW, according to the Cedar Rapids Fire Department.

Steam and smoke were visible near a spot where a vent stack makes contact with the roof, and thermal imaging confirmed high heat below their position.

<https://www.firefighternation.com/firefighting/general-mills-food-processing-plant-roof-catches-fire-in-cedar-rapids-ia%ef%bf%bc/>

46. HORMEL FOODS FACILITY, Suffolk, Virginia

April 25, 2022

Officials launched an investigation into the cause of a blaze that broke out Monday night at the Hormel Foods facility in Suffolk, VA.

The fire at the Culloden Street site was called in at 6:28 p.m. and crews arrived on scene at 6:32 p.m., the City of Suffolk Department of Fire & Rescue said in a release posted to its Facebook page.

Flames were under control inside the cold storage building at 6:47 p.m. No firefighters were injured during the response. The Suffolk Department of Fire & Rescue Fire Marshal's Office is looking into the cause of the fire.

Hormel's Suffolk plant manufactures Planter's products, according to coverage by the Suffolk News-Herald. The company acquired the location as part of its 2021 acquisition of Kraft Heinz's nuts business.

<https://www.powderbulksolids.com/food-beverage/blaze-ignites-vent-system-hormel-foods-facility>

47. AGRIWAY PARTNERS, Kalona, Washington

April 28, 2022

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Local fire departments responded to a call for smoldering grain in the basement of Agriway Partners at 126 E Avenue in Kalona.

Firefighters on scene were able to remove the burning grain in buckets and secure the area. Kalona Fire Chief Jerry Zahradnek said the fire appeared to have begun inside the mixing mill leg, resulting in fire both inside and outside of the equipment.

<https://www.kciiradio.com/2022/04/30/local-departments-handle-kalona-grain-fire/>

48. PERDUE FARMS, Chesapeake, West Virginia

April 30, 2022

A soybean processing tank caught fire at the Perdue Farms plant in Chesapeake.

When firefighters arrived on the scene, they found a large soybean processing tank on fire.

All soybeans had to be removed from the tank to ensure that the fire is completely out.

<https://www.newsbreak.com/news/2588767352934/perdue-farms-plant-catches-fire-in-chesapeake>

49. SALADINO FOOD PROCESSING PLANT, Fresno, California

May 1, 2022

A fire broke out at Saladino's food processing plant on Shaw Avenue and Golden State Boulevard.

Several employees were evacuated from the building while firefighters put out the flames.

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Hours later, firefighters responded to an ammonia leak at the same building. It's unclear whether the leak was related to the fire.

<https://abc30.com/fresno-food-processing-plant-fire-saladinos-foodservice-ammonia-leak-employees-evacuated/11811148/>

50. JBS MEAT PACKING PLANT, Green Bay, Wisconsin

June 7, 2022

A fire occurred at the JBS meat packing plant in Green Bay.

Officials say they responded to the fire around 6:30 p.m. Upon arrival, firefighters noticed flames on the roof.

Crews were able to control the fire within 15 minutes. No injuries were reported. However, around \$30,000 in damages were reported.

<https://www.nbc26.com/news/local-news/fire-at-jbs-meat-packing-plant-in-green-bay-causes-nearly-30-000-in-damage>

51. FESTIVE FOODS, Belmont, Wisconsin

June 13, 2022

A fire ignited inside a food manufacturing facility in the town of Belmont near the Portage-Waupaca County, Wisconsin.

Multiple fire departments responded and were able to put out the fire in nine hours.

<https://www.thegatewaypundit.com/2022/06/another-blow-us-food-market-fire-breaks-food-processing-plant-west-waupaca-county-wisconsin/>

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LESSON 2

NETHERLAND GONE CRAZY

1. Dutch Gov't Attempts To Forcibly Close 3,000 Farms To Comply With 'Green' Agenda

<https://www.zerohedge.com/geopolitical/dutch-govt-attempts-forcibly-close-3000-farms-comply-green-agenda>

2. Why are Dutch farmers protesting over emissions?

<https://www.nujournal.com/news/agribusiness/2022/07/08/explainer-why-are-dutch-farmers-protesting-over-emissions/>

3. Netherlands announces €25bn plan to radically reduce livestock numbers

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/dec/15/netherlands-announces-25bn-plan-to-radically-reduce-livestock-numbers>

4. Dutch farmers' protests

The Dutch farmers' protests are a series of demonstrations by Dutch livestock farmers, characterised by the use of tractors to block roads, and occupy public spaces. The protests were initially triggered in October 2019 by a government proposal to halve the country's livestock in an attempt to limit agricultural pollution in the Netherlands, but protesting farmers have frequently told media that they are motivated by a perceived lack of respect for their profession by the Dutch populace, media and politicians. The protests combined several action groups and an amalgamation of larger goals, which included less government regulation for farmers, more air time for pro-farmer sentiments, and more policy to punish Shell and Tata Steel for their part in the emission crisis.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dutch_farmers%27_protests

5. EU Needs to Reduce Cattle Numbers to Hit Methane Targets, Study Says

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2022-06-14/eu-needs-to-cut-cow-numbers-to-hit-methane-targets-study-says>

JANUARY WAKE UP CALL

LESSON 3

1. US Government Paying Farmers Not To Farm

The goal is to add 4 million acres of farmland to the Conservation Reserve Program, which takes land out of production to blunt agriculture's environmental impact.

The Biden administration announced on Wednesday that it would expand a program that pays farmers to leave land fallow, part of a broader, government-wide effort to cut greenhouse gas emissions in half by 2030. The new initiative will incentivize farmers to take land out of production by raising rental rates and incentive payments.

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) was created in 1985 to incentivize landowners to leave some of their marginal land unplanted, a plan meant to protect the environment by reducing agricultural runoff into streams and rivers, preserving wildlife habitats, and preventing erosion. Today, the Department of Agriculture (USDA) “rents” about 21 million acres of farmland from landowners, typically for 10 years at a time—a tiny fraction of the total land farmed nationwide. In recent years, the number of acres enrolled in CRP has fallen, possibly because USDA’s rental payments have not been competitive with the open market, Chuck Abbott reported for FERN News.

<https://thecounter.org/biden-administration-farmers-conservation-reserve-crp-usda-vilsack/>

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2. Rajasthan

No one will be permitted to keep more than one cow and a calf in a house without a license

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/jaipur-news/rajasthan-makes-licences-mandatory-for-keeping-cows-at-home-in-urban-areas-101650250395225.html#:~:text=Officials%20said%20no%20one%20will,a%20house%20without%20a%20license&text=Jaipur%3A%20The%20Rajasthan%20government%20has,at%20homes%20in%20urban%20areas.>

3. UNITED KINGDOM

British farmers are being offered a lump sum payment to leave the industry – but at what cost to agriculture?

<https://theconversation.com/british-farmers-are-being-offered-a-lump-sum-payment-to-leave-the-industry-but-at-what-cost-to-agriculture-183264>

4. GUJRAT

<https://m.thewire.in/article/politics/maldharis-gujarat-bjp-cow-politics>

5. IRELAND

6. SRILANKA

7. ARGENTINA

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8. POLAND

9. EU : 40 LAC FARM REDUCED 2005-2015

<http://capreform.eu/why-farm-numbers-must-continue-to-fall/>

JANUARY WAKE UP CALL

LESSON 4

BILL GATES & AGRICULTURE

1. BILL GATES DONATES \$315 MILLION TO CGIAR

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation pledged \$315 million to the CGIAR global agriculture research partnership (a group my regular readers will be familiar with) to address the "[climate] adaptation needs of smallholder farmers" by funding "early warning systems for tracking the climate-accelerated spread of crop and livestock diseases and digital services that connect farmers with a wide range of supports more efficiently

CGIAR gene banks presently manage 768,576 accessions of farmer' seeds. Taken together, CGIAR gene banks represent the largest and most widely used collections of crop diversity in the world

<https://regenerationinternational.org/2020/11/01/one-empire-over-seed-control-over-the-worlds-seed-banks/>

<https://www.gatesfoundation.org/ideas/media-center/press-releases/2021/11/gates-foundation-pledges-315-million-smallholder-farmers-cgiar-climate-change>

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2. BILL GATES INVESTS \$75 MILLION IN IMPOSSIBLE BURGERS

3. BILL GATES: 5 LAC SHARES OF MONSANTO

4. BILL GATES: LARGEST PRIVATE FARMALAND OWNER OF USA

5. BILL GATES: HUGE INVESTMENTS IN BEYOND MEAT & MOTIF INGREDIENTS

6. BILL GATES: LARGEST SHAREHOLDER OF JHON DEERE

7. BILL GATES: GATES AG ONE

7. BILL GATES: BOOK = HOW TO AVOID A CLIMATE DISASTER

8. VANDANA SHIVA

A Call to Action and Transformation Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the headlines have been dominated by the warning of a food crisis on the horizon. But, according to the FAO, the World Bank, and the International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems (IPES), there is currently no risk of global food supply shortages. So why are so many countries now facing an increased risk of food insecurity, and in worst cases famine? Regardless of the adequate global supply, the week of March 7, 2022, food prices reached their highest price spike in history. Excess speculation, increased commodity future pricing and increased volatility in the market, are all behind the crisis. Meaning bigger gains for financial players, and big agricultural firms. What is crucially being overlooked by most diagnoses of the current food crisis is how the problem does not lie in a lack of supply, or lack of market integration, but instead in how the food system is structured around power. The current price crisis and incoming hunger crisis is not a

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symptom of war, but a symptom of a system gone too far. In our current state of multiple overlapping crises, pushing further down this path will only continue to create ever worse global crises. Instead, we must listen to the international consensus on the need to create an alternative to industrial agriculture and the large-scale distribution model. It is time to abandon our resource intensive and profit intensive economic systems that have created havoc in the world, disrupting the planet's ecosystems and undermining society's systems of health, 31 justice, and democracy. It has been clearly proven that Big Industrial Agriculture and food systems, based on large-scale monocultures, genetically engineered crops, and intensive use of chemicals, are major contributors to this collapse. Once again, the crises that the civil society is facing, are being used to boost the corporate takeover of our seed, agriculture, food, global health systems, information, and democracy, and has emerged as a pervasive force, able to derail the international agenda, and push our future and the future of our planet towards extinction and ecological collapse. In the last 30+ years, we have been defending Seed Freedom, Food Freedom, and Earth Democracy through Navdanya and the Seed Freedom network, and in coalition with many other civil society movements across the world. From the 2nd to the 16th of October (and beyond...), we invite you to join people and communities around the globe, and work together to launch a Campaign for Our Bread, Our Freedom, to take back our Seed, Food, Democracy and Freedom, and celebrate our seeds, our soils, our land, our territories, to create an Earth Democracy based on Living Seed, Living Soil, healthy communities and living economies of care. "Let us align our creative potential with the higher planetary laws and higher laws of humanity which make life and wellbeing possible for all" —Dr Vandana Shiva The shift from fossil fuel driven corporate globalization to localization of our economies has

JANUARY WAKE UP CALL

become an ecological and social imperative. Economic localization implies that whatever can be produced locally with local resources should be protected to build a vibrant local economy so that both livelihoods and the environment are protected. This was Gandhi's concept of Swadeshi. Let us prepare for a Recovery where the health and wellbeing of all peoples and the planet are at the center of all government and institutional policy, community building and civic action. Ecological food and agriculture systems that are fossil fuel free, and poison free have the potential to address the multiple crisis by working with nature, not against her laws, by working with our hands, heads, and hearts to create sacred economies based on care and compassion, not greed and disposability of people, especially farmers and artisans. The creation of local ecological economies based on "bread labor" and co-creativity with nature is the only way to sustain the earth and human societies through rejuvenation of real work. We are creative intelligent beings given creative heads, hearts and hands. Every human being has a right to be creative to live to their full potential and evolve their intelligence in diverse ways. Creativity cannot be reduced to designing the next algorithm for living in virtual reality. Creativity is above all our co-creativity to join our intelligence with the intelligence of the earth and all beings. Through our common creativity we can say an effective "No" to the assumption of fossil fuel based throwaway economies which creates throwaway people.

<https://navdanyainternational.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/SOWING-HUNGER-REAPING-PROFITS-REPORT-d2.pdf>

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LESSON 5

FOOD SCARCITY OR SPECULATION?

- According to the official narrative, due to Russia and Ukraine making up 25 to 30 percent of global trade in wheat and more than 50 percent of trade in sunflower oil, seed, and meal,
- According to the FAO, the World Bank, and the International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems (IPES), there is currently no risk of global food supply shortages. This is thanks to a higher-than-normal global wheat stocks and a comfortable stock-to-use ratio at 26.7 percent, which according to the FAO, indicates, “a relatively comfortable supply level.
- There is no supply problem, but there is an over-speculation problem
- Also according to the FAO Cereal Supply and Demand report, updated in May 2022, world cereal stocks stand at a historic high, with an increase of up to 5.2 million tons up from the 2020/2021 season. Russian production, even in the wake of the war, has also not slowed down

<https://www.fao.org/worldfoodsituation/csdb/en/>

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LESSON 6

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM: BUGS, INSECTS, LARVAE AS FUTURE OF FOOD

1. 5 reasons why eating insects could reduce climate change

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2022/02/how-insects-positively-impact-climate-change/>

2. Worms for dinner

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2021/05/europe-insect-based-food-meat/>

3. Good grub: why we might be eating insects soon

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2018/07/good-grub-why-we-might-be-eating-insects-soon/>

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4. Salted ants. Ground crickets. Why you should try edible insects.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2022/11/27/eating-insects-good-for-you/>

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LESSON 7

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Ideas for Actions include:

- Promote and protect biodiversity richness in our forests, our farms and our food to stop the destruction of the earth and the sixth mass extinction.
- Promote local, organic, healthy food through local biodiverse food systems and cultures and economies of care (farmers markets, CSAs biodistricts).
- Practice sustainable agriculture based on integration of diversity of crops, trees and animals.
- Save, grow and reproduce traditional seed varieties to safeguard biodiversity. They need to be saved not as museum pieces in germplasm banks, but in living working seed banks as a basis of a health care system.
- Create poison free zones, communities, farms and food systems.
- Support, regenerate and strengthen communities.
- Create Gardens of Hope, Gardens of Health everywhere – in community gardens, institutions, schools, prisons, hospitals in the cities and countryside.

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- Demand that your government stop subsidising industrial agriculture and unhealthy systems that create a burden of disease. Public subsidies should be redirected to systems based on agroecology and biodiversity conservation, which provide health benefits and protect common goods.
- Demand that your government halt subsidies and further investments in the fossil fuels sector, including fossil fuel based agricultural inputs, as real climate action.
- Demand that your local/national government, your municipality stop favouring industrial junk food and unhealthy food systems based on toxic and nutritionally empty commodities.
- Demand that your local/national government, your municipality put an end to monocultures, genetic manipulation of plants and factory farming of animals which are spreading pathogens and antibiotic resistance.
- Demand that your government stop deforestation, which is expanding exponentially through industrial monocultures for corporate interests. Forests are the lungs of the Earth.
- Demand that your government and international bodies introduce policies to assess the costs of damage to health and the environment caused by chemicals and enact the polluter pays principle.
- Demand that your government and international bodies put Health as priority over corporate interests with respect to chemical and pesticide use in food and agriculture. The precautionary principle must be enacted.
- Demand that your local/national government, your municipality transition from globalisation to localisation and make permanent deglobalisation. Stop the corporate takeover of our food and health.

JANUARY WAKE UP CALL

- Demand that your local/national government, your municipality introduce local circular economies which increase the wellbeing and health of people.
- Demand that your government and international bodies stop using 'Growth' and GDP as measures of the health of the economy. GDP is based on the extraction of resources from nature and wealth from society.
- Demand that your government and international bodies adopt citizens wellbeing as a measure of the health of the economy.

-----THE END-----