

# Food Shortages In America: Should We Worry About The Recent String Of Food Processing Plant Disasters?

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## Higher Food Prices And Shortages?

Our system has been betting on higher food prices since earlier this year, and of course the war in Ukraine has put upward pressure on food and energy. But now one of our Twitter correspondents warns we may have food shortages in America as well. Let's start with the case for higher prices, then consider his warning of shortages and what to do about them.

## Betting On Higher Food And Energy Prices

A month before Russia's invasion of Ukraine, our system's top names had shifted to an energy and food focus.

Biden's welcome to Pittsburgh was a bridge collapse. Fittingly symbolic of our broader collapse. \$CORN ([https://twitter.com/search?q=%24CORN&src=ctag&ref\\_src=twsrc%5Etfw](https://twitter.com/search?q=%24CORN&src=ctag&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)) \$UCO ([https://twitter.com/search?q=%24UCO&src=ctag&ref\\_src=twsrc%5Etfw](https://twitter.com/search?q=%24UCO&src=ctag&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)) \$OIH ([https://twitter.com/search?q=%24OIH&src=ctag&ref\\_src=twsrc%5Etfw](https://twitter.com/search?q=%24OIH&src=ctag&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)) \$RWM ([https://twitter.com/search?q=%24RWM&src=ctag&ref\\_src=twsrc%5Etfw](https://twitter.com/search?q=%24RWM&src=ctag&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)) <https://t.co/H8R2hMWZbi> (<https://t.co/H8R2hMWZbi>)

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— Portfolio Armor (@PortfolioArmor) January 29, 2022 ([https://twitter.com/PortfolioArmor/status/1487510896322785287?ref\\_src=twsrc%5Etfw](https://twitter.com/PortfolioArmor/status/1487510896322785287?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw))

In that post, we noted we had two oil E&P stocks (Laredo Petroleum (LPI) and Antero Resources (AR)), two oil ETFs (ProShares Ultra Bloomberg Crude Oil (UCO) and VanEck Vectors Oil Services (OIH)), and a coffee ETN (iPath Series B Bloomberg Subindex Total Return (JO)) and a corn ETF (Teucrium Corn Fund (CORN)) in our top ten names.

## TOP NAMES

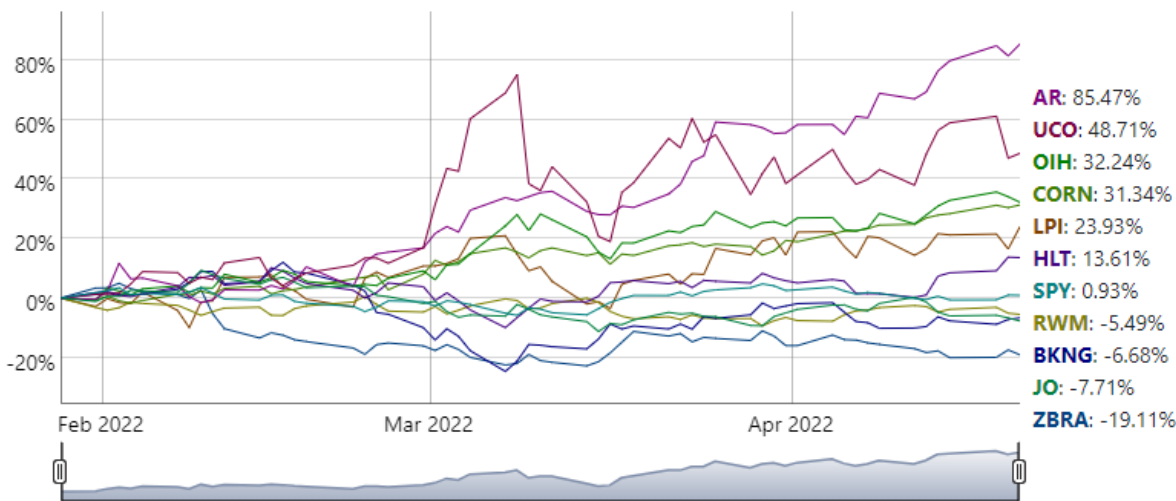
These are the top ten names on Portfolio Armor's daily ranking of securities by its estimate of their potential returns over the next six months. **Historically, actual returns have averaged about 0.2789x Portfolio Armor's estimated potential returns.** These are the names Portfolio Armor starts with when scanning for securities to populate portfolios hedged against declines of more than 9%.

Rank	Ticker	Company Name	Last Price*	Potential Return
1	UCO	ProShares Ultra Bloomberg Crude Oil	\$110.65	72.48%
2	JO	iPath Series B Bloomberg Coffee Subindex Total Return ETN	\$64.43	68.24%
3	AR	Antero Resources Corp.	\$19.62	76.79%
4	OIH	VanEck Vectors Oil Services ETF	\$227.35	66.47%
5	HLT	Hilton Worldwide Holdings, Inc.	\$143.39	68.36%
6	CORN	Teucrium Corn Fund	\$22.75	64.56%
7	BKNG	Booking Holdings, Inc.	\$2,412.94	68.12%
8	RWM	ProShares Short Russell2000	\$23.67	60.92%
9	ZBRA	Zebra Technologies Corp.	\$492.57	62.24%
10	LPI	Laredo Petroleum, Inc.	\$69.13	65.76%

\* As of Friday's close

Screen capture via the Portfolio Armor (<https://portfolioarmor.com/>) on 1/28/2022.

Since then, the energy and corn names have ripped higher (though coffee has cooled off a bit).



Of course, Russia's invasion of Ukraine has played a role here. In addition to being one of the world's top exporters of wheat (along with Ukraine), Russia is also one of the top exporters of agricultural inputs such as oil, natural gas, and fertilizer. The war, plus the sanctions regime in response to it, have raised food and energy prices and raised the prospect of food shortages in countries such as Egypt, which are dependent on wheat imports. America, as an agricultural superpower, seemed less likely to suffer food shortages.

## A String Of Disasters at Food Processing Plants and Warehouses

Our correspondent Ben Braddock brought up another risk factor: a string of disasters at food production plants and warehouses, mainly in the U.S.

<https://t.co/ANngAuxeby> (<https://t.co/ANngAuxeby>)

— Dr. Benjamin Braddock (@GraduatedBen) April 20, 2022 ([https://twitter.com/GraduatedBen/status/1516851776724647940?ref\\_src=twsrc%5Etfw](https://twitter.com/GraduatedBen/status/1516851776724647940?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw))

<https://t.co/ltJ8clwAJI> (<https://t.co/ltJ8clwAJI>)

— Dr. Benjamin Braddock (@GraduatedBen) April 20, 2022 ([https://twitter.com/GraduatedBen/status/1516852932142063617?ref\\_src=twsrc%5Etfw](https://twitter.com/GraduatedBen/status/1516852932142063617?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw))

<pic.twitter.com/C5ishgP9Um> (<https://t.co/C5ishgP9Um>)

— Dr. Benjamin Braddock (@GraduatedBen) April 20, 2022 ([https://twitter.com/GraduatedBen/status/1516853305422581760?ref\\_src=twsrc%5Etfw](https://twitter.com/GraduatedBen/status/1516853305422581760?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw))

Not just the US either - this was last month in Taiwan at a grocery logistics center, absolutely massive fire <https://t.co/0qGtQeukdn> (<https://t.co/0qGtQeukdn>)

— Dr. Benjamin Braddock (@GraduatedBen) April 20, 2022 ([https://twitter.com/GraduatedBen/status/1516856235798192137?ref\\_src=twsrc%5Etfw](https://twitter.com/GraduatedBen/status/1516856235798192137?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw))

Meanwhile, 27 million chickens and turkeys - and counting - are being culled because of bird flu <https://t.co/UgU7qDQdQB> (<https://t.co/UgU7qDQdQB>)

— Dr. Benjamin Braddock (@GraduatedBen) April 20, 2022 ([https://twitter.com/GraduatedBen/status/1516862285960163332?ref\\_src=twsrc%5Etfw](https://twitter.com/GraduatedBen/status/1516862285960163332?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw))

There's more <https://t.co/EoxglZTYmp> (<https://t.co/EoxglZTYmp>)

— Dr. Benjamin Braddock (@GraduatedBen) April 20, 2022 ([https://twitter.com/GraduatedBen/status/1516867852648726529?ref\\_src=twsrc%5Etfw](https://twitter.com/GraduatedBen/status/1516867852648726529?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw))

Two months ago <https://t.co/a8lCSwjxwT> (<https://t.co/a8lCSwjxwT>)

— Dr. Benjamin Braddock (@GraduatedBen) April 21, 2022 ([https://twitter.com/GraduatedBen/status/1516969597018255361?ref\\_src=twsrc%5Etfw](https://twitter.com/GraduatedBen/status/1516969597018255361?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw))

## Should We Be Worried About This?

One respondent says we shouldn't.

Warehouse fires are nothing new. They happen every year. You just have not been paying attention. The actual scale of the loss is miniscule compared to the size of the actual food supply.

— Just Some Guy Man (@Teach\_2\_Win) April 20, 2022 ([https://twitter.com/Teach\\_2\\_Win/status/1516891046223003649?ref\\_src=twsrc%5Etfw](https://twitter.com/Teach_2_Win/status/1516891046223003649?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw))

In the U.S. there were approximately 1,240 warehouse fires per year between 2009 and 2013, with annual property damages of around \$155 million. This represents a reduction in the number of fires over a 30-year observation period, from 4,700 to around 1,200 per year.

— Just Some Guy Man (@Teach\_2\_Win) April 20, 2022 ([https://twitter.com/Teach\\_2\\_Win/status/1516892089673527296?ref\\_src=twsrc%5Etfw](https://twitter.com/Teach_2_Win/status/1516892089673527296?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw))

Another commenter draws a comparison to the panic about black churches burning down a few years ago.

Remember the "black churches are burning all over the South" media panic in the 1990s? Turned out people didn't understand that there is a vast number of churches in the country, and a lot of them catch fire, especially in rural areas.

— Citizen of Omni-America (@ghostofalbertm1) April 21, 2022 ([https://twitter.com/ghostofalbertm1/status/1516939519169335299?ref\\_src=twsrc%5Etfw](https://twitter.com/ghostofalbertm1/status/1516939519169335299?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw))

## In Case There Will Be Shortages

Twitter user "Remnant" offers some suggestions just in case we do have food shortages.

If you haven't already, go to the store and, at the very least, buy a big bag of rice and some dry beans. Canned anything is good too. Go as calorie-dense as possible.

— ▲ REMNANT. (@remnantposting) April 21, 2022 ([https://twitter.com/remnantposting/status/1516962542408671233?ref\\_src=twsrc%5Etfw](https://twitter.com/remnantposting/status/1516962542408671233?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw))

Ideally, you portion the stuff out and vacuum seal it, or seal in mylar bags with oxygen absorbers, then put those in your hard containers. Something like this:<https://t.co/fCHPrRIZJD> (<https://t.co/fCHPrRIZJD>)

— ▲ REMNANT. (@remnantposting) April 21, 2022 ([https://twitter.com/remnantposting/status/1516963230345744387?ref\\_src=twsrc%5Etfw](https://twitter.com/remnantposting/status/1516963230345744387?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw))

Plan for 2,000/cal per person per day. You won't actually want to eat that much, as you can survive on less to stretch the food, but it gives you headroom. The more you can get the better, minding budget and storage space limitations. Shoot for at least a couple of weeks' worth.

— ▲ REMNANT. (@remnantposting) April 21, 2022 ([https://twitter.com/remnantposting/status/1516964126270107648?ref\\_src=twsrc%5Etfw](https://twitter.com/remnantposting/status/1516964126270107648?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw))

Also, MAKE SURE you have some way to purify water if you have to. If you can afford it, get some bottled water to hold onto as a last resort. Get iodine tablets, and ideally a gravity-fed filter as well. The filter and tablets are great because they require no energy.

— ▲ REMNANT. (@remnantposting) April 21, 2022 ([https://twitter.com/remnantposting/status/1516965225911787521?ref\\_src=twsrc%5Etfw](https://twitter.com/remnantposting/status/1516965225911787521?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw))

These seem like reasonable, and fairly inexpensive precautions.

*This article was submitted by an external contributor and may not represent the views and opinions of Benzinga.*

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