

Propane and Onion Shortages, The Effects



A record 3rd Arctic blast during Autumn of 2019 shows the shift in jet streams has stretched its influence from the Arctic to the Gulf of Mexico. Dumping record snow in Midwest grow belts, as well as Canada's early freezer. A really wet harvest season is expected and since a lot of excess field moisture is present in corn, as well as in wheat, propane is needed in the drying process.



Then suddenly, nine Midwest states declared emergencies because of regional propane shortages.



CropLife America @CropLifeAmerica · Nov 20

Nine U.S. **Midwest** states have declared emergencies to help [#farmers](#) affected by regional **propane** shortages, which is used to heat homes and dry crops.



U.S. States Declare Emergencies to Help Farmers Hit ...
Regional shortages of propane, used by farmers to dry their crops, have led to emergency declarations ...
[agriculture.com](#)

These shortages are indeed serious, to the point where some senators are echoing their concerns expressed throughout the industry regarding this emergency in the U.S. farms, because crops must be dried from out of season early snowfall.



Sen. Kevin Cramer @SenKevinCramer · Nov 20

I would like to echo the concerns expressed by my colleagues and Executive officials about the **propane** shortages our agriculture community in the **Midwest** is facing.



Emergency hits US farm country due to propane shortage
At least eight U.S. Midwest states declared emergencies in recent weeks over regional shortages of propane needed by grain farmers to dry thei...
[foxbusiness.com](#)

This originally started as a propane scarcity supply in Iowa, then Minnesota, and Wisconsin. Now, it has started to fill the airwaves.

FARM JOURNAL'S
AGPRO November 4, 2019

Liquid Propane Bottleneck Cripples Drying Capacity



What makes an already difficult, wet and nasty harvest even worse? Shortages of supplies you desperately need. [Liquid propane is in scarce supply in Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin](#), leaving farmers to make difficult harvest decisions.

Kansas resonated the same emergency, followed by Missouri, and then now, all the Midwest. So why did they have these “sudden” propane shortages?

Propane shortage causes problems for Iowa farmers - KTIV

ktiv.com/2019/11/07/propane-shortage-causes-problems-for... ▼

DES MOINES, Iowa (WHO) – Iowa is stepping in to help farmers deal with the propane shortages. A combination of trade negotiations, flooding and bad weather has made 2019 a difficult year for Iowa farmers. With a late harvest and cold, wet ...

Midwest farmers add a propane shortage to the their list of challenges...

ktiv.com/2019/11/07/iowa-farmers-add-a-propane-shortage-to... ▼

Iowa (KTIV) – It has been a rough year for farmers in the Midwest, to say the least. Now add a propane shortage to the list. “This whole year has been a problem with late planting too much rain and a late harvest and now an early freeze coming ...

Propane shortage looms | Farm Progress

www.farmprogress.com/energy/propane-shortage-looms ▼

The 2019 corn crop is far wetter than usual at harvest. According to information from the U.S. Energy Information Agency, the availability of propane for the 2019 corn drying and home heating season is in the middle of the range of the past five ...

On top of that, Iowa found itself in the mix as retailers cut farmers back to as little as 30% of their needed allocation, and some drivers had been waiting 6-12 hours. This drove up the cost of an already incredibly dismal harvest season.



Liquid Propane Bottleneck Cripples Drying Capacity



Reports from farmers last week in Iowa and other states with shortages said retailers were cutting farmers off at **as little as 30% of allocation.** With many corn acres yet to harvest, and stalk conditions deteriorating, farmers and cooperatives are looking at a potentially devastating wet grain situation if a propane supply solution isn't found.

Governors in Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin are easing up on trucking hours of service to try to address propane demand. Drivers are often **meeting six- to 12-hour waits** at the rack, which means they're timing out on driving hours while waiting.

Through the last couple of days, demand still outstrips supply to something in the exponential range. Analysts are still pegging it to the extreme cold all the way down to the Gulf of Mexico and the increased need to dry the crops, for now the fourth year in a row.

AgFax

Harvest Complication: Propane Demand Outstrips Supply - DTN

November 19, 2019
By Russ Quinn, DTN Staff Reporter



As if the 2019 growing season didn't have enough weather challenges, corn harvest has come to a complete halt for some farmers as propane for crop drying has been hard to secure. **Increased demand nationwide due to extremely cold weather is limiting supplies available for drying crops.**

This has resulted in approximately 36% total unharvested acres, because farmers chose to leave their crops to dry in the field, rather than try to harvest, then wait for a chance to get the grains through a dryer using propane. So, they are leaving the fate of their crops to nature. The problem is, what if another storm hits or massive rains return in spring. How will the USDA adjust for the positive yield error?

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Iowa Corn: Wet Grain and the Propane Shortage

November 14, 2019

By Charles Hurburgh, Iowa State University Extension Specialist



The late harvest has caused higher moisture corn than normal. Since most farm dryers and some elevator dryers operate on propane gas (LP), the LP distribution backup has caused wet corn to be held, either in storage, or in the field. With 36% of acres unharvested as of November 11, Iowa has relatively less wet corn waiting than states to the north and east. Elevator reports indicate the wet corn is around 20% moisture in central and western Iowa, up to 25% moisture or higher in northern and eastern Iowa.

Moreover, this is one thing I want to point out, “Iowa’s Wet Grain and the Propane Shortage”. The general corn quality in 2019 is below average due to record late planting, thus the immaturity of the grains. This means that kernels are still incredibly small, for both wheat and corn this year because plants didn't have enough time to grow and mature. Since there is no standard kernel size of what goes through the dryers, some will be completely dried while others have pockets that are still wet.

This is similar to roasting coffee beans; you will not be mixing pea berry beans to regular Arabica coffee beans because of their difference in size. If you do, some of the beans will be burned while others are still going through the roasting process. Maybe experts should explain what will happen if you put wet corn inside a bin or a silo, for the information of the public. I'm sure we are familiar with ergot on rye, but what about corn, or wheat?

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The general corn quality in 2019 is below average, due to the record late planting and subsequent immaturity and incomplete grain fill. Immature corn has lower test weight, lower protein content, and poorer storability (resistance to mold invasion). Replanted corn and very late initially planted corn are also causing large variations in moisture content that cannot be fully evened out in high temperature dryers; **there will be pockets of wet grain in the dry corn.**

In like manner, waiting for grain dryers also happening in North Dakota, so some corn harvests are stalled due to lack of propane to dry crops. According to a retailer, they were 10 semi-loads behind and priority will be given to hospitals, churches, schools, businesses and residences. And, if any propane is left, that will be given to farmers for crop drying. This for me, is a distorted order of priorities. Do you mean food is the least important of the list in our lives? For now, food shortages are not yet shocking our society, but wait until 2021.

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GRAIN DRYERS WAIT

Matt Undlin, a farmer from Lansford, North Dakota, told DTN his corn harvest could be stalled for the rest of November due to lack of propane to dry down his crop. His retailer said they were 10 semi-loads behind and priority will be given to hospitals, churches, schools, businesses and residences. **If any propane is left, it will be made available for crop drying,** he said.

But seriously, how prepared are you for food shortages? Are you storing some food for the future? Anyhow, this is mind boggling. Propane prices are lower than last year, even with eight states declaring shortages and restricting crop harvesting process this year in the United States, how can prices remain lower than last year? This, for me, is a pure artificial market manipulation and artificial shortages in these areas.

I feel that this is purposeful to further reduce food output in the United States and I have my own assessment of what is going on. Why are our crops so dismal; why is there no forthcoming help; and why do prices remain stagnant or below last year's levels, with all these record losses, bottlenecks and shortages?

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Harvest Complication: Propane Demand Outstrips Supply – DTN

**November 19, 2019
By Russ Quinn, DTN Staff Reporter**

PROPANE PRICES LOWER THAN LAST YEAR

The increase in demand has not affected the price of propane, at least not yet, although some local areas have seen increases. The propane price at the Conway, Kansas, Hub that stores approximately one-third of the nation's propane, finished Thursday at 52.75 cents per gallon, which is actually lower than a year earlier.

Meanwhile, onion prices in India doubling within just a week. People are protesting in the streets because of onion price hikes, as a consequence of onion shortages across the country. In order to mitigate this problem and pacify citizens, the Modi government instantly throws on an export ban, which they call a 'knee-jerk' reaction to prevent civil unrest.

India: Modi government's onion export ban a 'knee-jerk' reaction

New Delhi has banned exports of the key Indian kitchen staple to rein in prices that have **doubled in recent weeks**. It's not the first time the government has acted to control onion supply and it's certainly not the last.



The culprit in this onion shortage is the excessive rainfall during the growing season, so India is being affected as well with agricultural struggles now noticeable across the planet due to the shifting Intertropical Convergence Zone ((ITCZ) the intensifying Grand Solar Minimum. Plus, the wandering jet streams resulting in cloud cells moving in new places across continents.

India: Modi government's onion export ban a 'knee-jerk' reaction



India, which is one of the world's top onion exporters, has banned exports of the vegetable and **has imposed restrictions on stocks traders can maintain in a bid to bring down the prices of the key Indian kitchen staple.**

Onion prices, which have been steadily rising this year, have doubled in recent weeks in several cities, largely due to **excessive rainfall in onion-growing areas.** The deluge has added pressure on supplies that were already reeling from last year's drought and a delay in monsoon rains this year. Retail onion prices are hovering around 60-80 rupees (around €1, \$1.1) per kilogram, less than a year after a plunge in onion prices to as low as one rupee per kilogram in some places prompted farmer protests.

We are now facing a very serious conundrum. If your food prices increase 8% per month, then prices are going to double at the end of the year, at the very least. What would you stop spending on first?



Retail inflation at 16-month high as food prices soar

Nov 14, 2019 00:56

Retail food inflation in October was 7.9%, the highest since August 2016. Retail inflation, excluding the food and beverages sub-group grew at just 2.7% in October. [read more](#)



Retail inflation in October rises to 4.62%, breaches RBI's medium term target of 4%

Nov 13, 2019 17:49

India's factory output shrank for the second straight month at 4.3% in September, recording its worst show since the present series was launched in April 2012. [read more](#)

Neighboring country Bangladesh gets 60% of their onion imports from India. So with the full-on cut off, only 40% is available for demand in Bangladesh. Guess what, the same things are going on there, people are out on the streets demanding onions. What will happen if it's a shortage for meat and everything else you eat? Do you really think our society will maintain its stability?



India: Modi government's onion export ban a 'knee-jerk' reaction

Tremors abroad

The tremors of the ban are being felt in neighboring Bangladesh, where onion prices skyrocketed within hours of the decision.

Bangladesh bought nearly \$60 million worth of the vegetable — about 60% of its total onion imports — from India in 2017.

The prices of Indian onions in the UAE, another major importer, are also beginning to rise, the *Gulf News* reported. Indian onions are popular among South-Asian expats in the country.

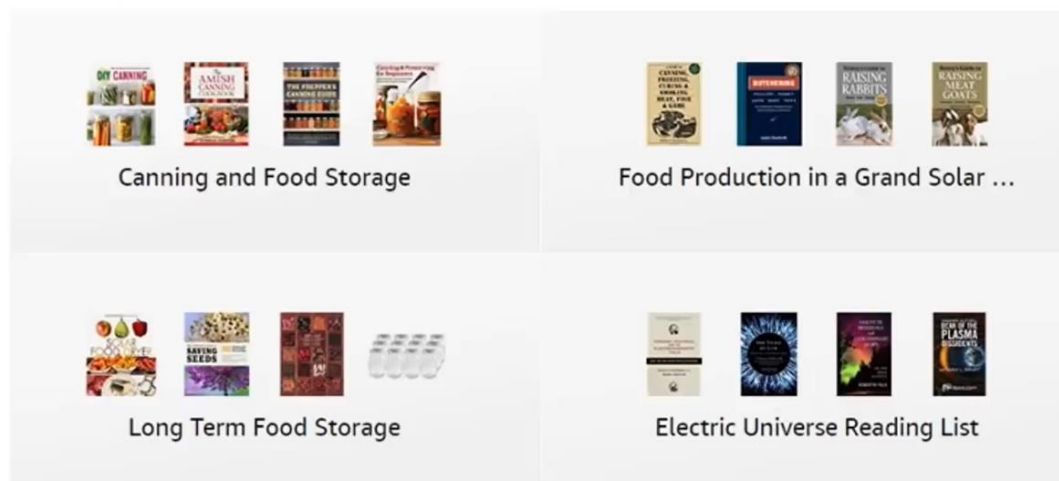
If you are looking for ideas for long-term food storage, such as canning, packing and dehydrating visit my Amazon links.



ADAPT 2030 



<https://amzn.to/2Q8LqrV>



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Soaring Indian onion prices raise risk of political fallout

https://newstoday.com.bd/index.php?option=details&news_id=2548756&date=2019-11-16

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