

# Re: OT: Inflation in the US

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- *From:* default <default@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
  - *Date:* Sun, 20 Jan 2008 19:40:29 -0500
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On Sun, 20 Jan 2008 09:13:02 -0800, John Smith  
<assemblywizrd@xxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

default wrote:

On Thu, 17 Jan 2008 19:15:38 -0500, krw <krw@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

Food is incredibly cheap in the US.

That is changing rapidly right now. Double whammy lots of corporate aid to Archer Daniel Midlands to make ethanol will take corn from the feeds to animals and it is in 90% of packaged food now.

The double whammy comes in when it costs more to mine fertilizer, transport feeds and chemicals, then transport the product to market and keep it fresh with refrigeration.

Cheap food is something we will be looking back on in 6 months or less.

In the 70's I briefly worked for the ag chem division of occidental petroleum corp. Urea came from one of the handful of ammonia reactors in Russia. Phosphates, sulfur and other import fertilizers came on large ships into the port of stockton from various other countries.

Now with the BAD trend to run food through our gas tanks—someone is going to get mighty hungry! I am afraid there IS doom and gloom down that road ...

Hydrogen cars make me laugh also, there are NO hydrogen wells! And, the cost of burning fossil fuels to generate electricity to make hydrogen is a lousy practice. Claims of efficient hydrogen fuel cells "just around the corner" abound—but then so do rumors of perpetual motion and zero point energy.

Re: OT: Inflation in the US

I am afraid it is difficult to draw pretty pictures and fool me ... if only ponds and fletcher had come through ...

Regards,  
JS

I was rolling around laughing to the Pretzel's "Hydrogen Future" speech. I wonder if he actually believed that stuff and who the hell is his science advisor? "Most plentiful fuel in the universe"

Today it is ethanol. Now if they could actually turn cellulose into alcohol that might change things. So far, except for saying it had been done in a laboratory, there's no such thing as a cellulose fermenter and no economically viable process out there.

Why take a food crop if your intent is to produce fuel? The logical way would be to determine what crop would yield the most alcohol for the least expenditure of resources, that will grow on the land available. Is corn that crop?

If cellulose could be made to work, why all the hype about using the corn stalks? Why not just use waste wood, leaves, bark, paper, and cotton?

I'm guessing that it would serve us better in the short and long term to increase efficiency in the way we use fuel, instead of trying to sustain our wasteful habits.

I guess it all boils down to what lobbyists find attractive.

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