

Humility and Pride

Proverbs 3:34; 6:16–17; 15:25; 16:5; 21:4

- God loves humility and hates pride.
- Our culture doesn't really value humility.
- Also in the Ancient Near East, Jewish culture was anti-humility. Everything was based on social status: whom you could marry or do business with, where you sat in synagogue or at a meal, or whether you were invited to that meal at all.
- People spent a lot of time and energy making strategic moves to further their standing in the community.

Proverbs 3:34; 6:16–17; 15:25; 16:5; 21:4

- Jesus ended “the honor game,” choosing a life of humility instead.
- He chose despised sinners and ordinary fishermen as His disciples. He treated foreigners, the poor and outcasts with respect. He ate with sinners, let lepers touch Him, honored children, and let women sit at His feet as disciples.
- Becoming a man was an act of unprecedented humility. With the incarnation, Jesus emptied Himself of the honor He deserved in order to live an obscure, difficult life and die an incredibly shameful death (Philippians 2:3–11).

Proverbs 3:34; 6:16–17; 15:25; 16:5; 21:4

- Proverbs shows us two conflicting value systems – the way of the world (pride) and the way of the Lord (humility).
- The world tells us to focus on people who can help us get ahead, but Jesus said to serve those who can't do anything for us in return (Luke 14:12–14).
- The world tells us to put ourselves first, but Jesus said the first shall be last (Matthew 20:16).
- The world tells us to climb the corporate ladder, but Jesus said to kneel down and wash feet (John 13:12–16).

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- Proverbs 3:34 and 6:17 are part of larger passages that list several character traits that God hates.
- Each of these qualities is contrasted by the picture Jesus created in the Beatitudes: blessed are the meek, the merciful, the poor (Matthew 5:1–12).
- Proverbs 16:5 has an even stronger tone – the arrogant are an abomination. Proverbs tells us that pride is sin (21:4).

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- When James (the New Testament’s “wisdom literature”) quoted Proverbs 3:34, he explained to us why: humility is submitting yourself to God, to His authority and wisdom (James 4:4–10).
- The proud think they know better than God, such as Adam and Eve. That very first sin was about a lack of trust in God’s Word, a lack of submission to His authority.
- Adam and Eve chose to try to take wisdom (knowledge of good and evil) for themselves rather than submitting to God and trusting His wisdom (what He said was good and evil).

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- In a culture that glorifies self-promotion, “humility” may sound like having a negative view of yourself. But it’s not; a humble person has a realistic, biblical view of himself.
- Humility isn’t about putting ourselves down; it’s about not putting ourselves higher than we should be, putting ourselves in the proper place (Romans 12:3) both in our relationship with God and our relationships with each other.
- We are to practice humility in our relationship with God and others.

Proverbs 3:34; 6:16–17; 15:25; 16:5; 21:4

- Humility with God is about recognizing that God is God, and we are not.
- God who created the whole universe knows better than we do and has the right to tell us how to live and to discipline us when we don't obey.
- Humility starts with drawing near to God.
- The closer we get to God, the more we see His glory and the more humble we become (Isaiah 6:5).

Proverbs 3:34; 6:16–17; 15:25; 16:5; 21:4

- Humility with others is about putting others' needs ahead of our own (Philippians 2:3–4).
- It's serving others, even those the world may categorize as "less than" us.
- Humility is loving God and loving others first, thinking of others' needs first.
- It's serving others, not demanding they serve us. It's building up others, not tearing them down so we look better. It's thinking about what we can give instead of what we can get, how we can help others before helping ourselves.

3:7–8; 11:2; 15:33; 16:18–19; 21:24; 29:23

- Pride leads to destruction, but humility leads to wisdom.
- Not only does Proverbs tell us that God hates pride and loves humility, it also (as always) gives us some practical reasons that humility is better than pride.
- Pride leads to destruction, but humility leads to wisdom.
- Humility and wisdom are connected from this discussion of humility.
- Humility is submitting to God's authority, the "fear of the Lord" (15:33).

3:7–8; 11:2; 15:33; 16:18–19; 21:24; 29:23

- Humility toward God is trusting in His wisdom above your own.
- That will always lead to better results in life – maybe not always physical blessings such as riches and fame but spiritual blessing such as joy and peace and healing (Philippians 2:1–4; Psalm 131:1–2; 3:7–8).
- Pride often sets us up for failure.
- We've seen it happen so much that people quote Proverbs 16:18 all the time, often without realizing it's from the Bible.

3:7–8; 11:2; 15:33; 16:18–19; 21:24; 29:23

- Proverbs says we can “be assured” the proud will not go unpunished (16:5).
- The Hebrew literally says, “hand to hand,” signifying something that is guaranteed, as in a confirming handshake.
- Yet we see every day that some arrogant people do go unpunished, and many humble people are not blessed.
- Scripture gives us two answers: (1) Their punishment may not come until the Day of Judgment, and (2) we need to make sure we have the right definition of “blessed.”

3:7–8; 11:2; 15:33; 16:18–19; 21:24; 29:23

- Blessing in the kingdom of God isn't necessarily physical riches or health or honor.
- It is often spiritual riches (Ephesians 1:3; 3:16).
- It's a healthy exercise to read these Proverbs with the Beatitudes.
- The Beatitudes describe a kind of blessing that is upside-down in the eyes of the world but consistent with the kingdom of God.

3:7–8; 11:2; 15:33; 16:18–19; 21:24; 29:23

- Robert K. Greenleaf, who coined the term “servant leadership” in 1970, wrote that a servant leader is most concerned that other people’s highest priority needs are being served.
- Servant leaders are not focused on accumulating power, wealth or status for themselves. They focus on the growth and well-being of the people and communities to which they belong.
- Which ends up benefitting them because it makes the whole community stronger, from the bottom up. But the focus is not on themselves; it’s on how they can serve and develop others.

3:7–8; 11:2; 15:33; 16:18–19; 21:24; 29:23

- Humility is about focusing on what we can give instead of what we can get.
- It's not just physically but spiritually, emotionally and relationally, too.
- Whether in our work, our church, our home, our friendships or our marriages, it's asking ourselves, "How can I serve this person today?"

Proverbs 25:6–7, 27; 27:2

- It's better to be praised by someone else.
- This last point is a simple, but very true, practical statement about pride versus humility.
- It is always better to have someone else praise you than to brag about yourself.
- Paul went a step further when he said it's not self-praise that makes you "approved," but rather being "the one whom the Lord commends" (2 Corinthians 10:18).

Proverbs 25:6–7, 27; 27:2

- Proverbs uses the example of waiting to be invited to a place of honor versus putting yourself forward in the king's presence.
- When Jesus used a similar example that was relevant to His time, the way people were seated by honor at meals.
- Jesus said, “Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled and he who humbles himself will be exalted” (Luke 14:11).
- James concluded in his wisdom passage on humility that when we humble ourselves in God's eyes, He will exalt us (James 4:10).



Is there going to be a food shortage?

The Global Crisis You're Not Hearing About

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Wheat stalks grow in a field near the village of Hrebeni in the Kyiv region, Ukraine, July 17, 2020. (Valentyn Ogirenko/Reuters)

UN food chief: Ukraine war's food crisis is worst since WWII

By EDITH M. LEDERER March 29, 2022

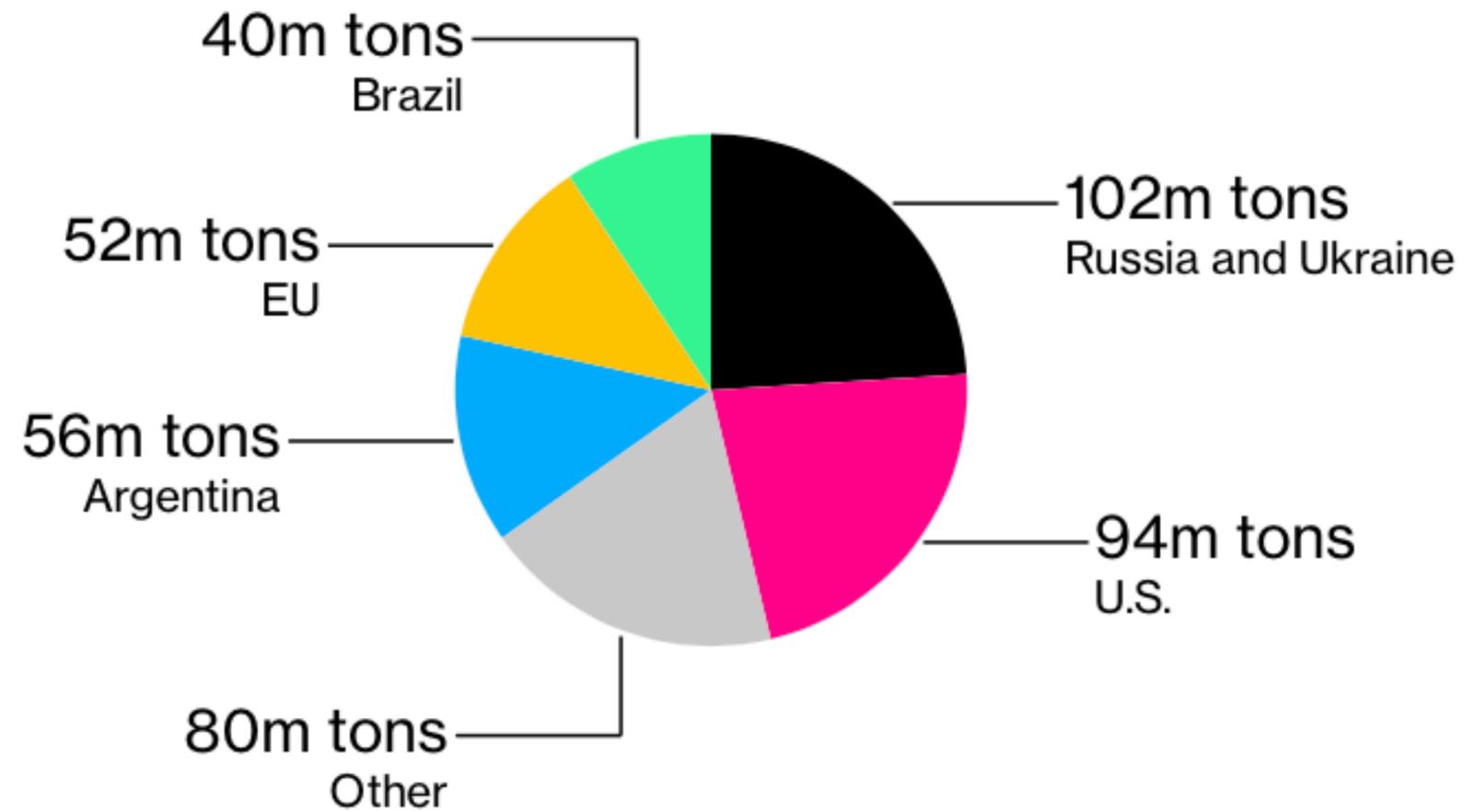


Best

Feature

Breadbasket to the World

Russia and Ukraine account for a quarter of global grains trade



Source: International Grains Council

Note: Estimates for the 2021-22 season, for wheat and coarse grains

Food Shortage - Ukraine

- Nearly 25 percent of all the wheat exports in the world come from Ukraine and Russia. About 20 percent of all the corn exports in the world come from there. Most of the sunflower oil comes from that region along with significant amounts of potash used for fertilizer.
- Wheat that was in the fields have been stolen by Russian soldiers.
- Even if there was enough wheat left, there is hardly anything making its way out of the country. The two major ports (Mariupol and Odessa) are closed. And there are hundreds of anti-ship mines floating in the Black Sea making it nearly impossible for cargo ships to make it to a port in the region.

GLOBAL FOOD CRISIS: UKRAINE CROP PLANTING DOWN BY QUARTER AS NATION STRUGGLES TO EXPORT LAST HARVEST



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Europe - Germany

- What is the impact on the European Union. Germany (25% GDP).
- Dependent on Russia (32% pipeline gas, 34% crude oil, 53% hard coal).
- If the EU bans Russian energy, it will be cold winters and hot summers. But it will also affect industries that will have to pay higher energy costs. That will make them less competitive on the global market.
- There is a financial drag on the EU from certain countries (PIGS).
- European Central Bank had to print lots of money to keep them in the EU and will have to print more. This could lead to social unrest and revolution.

Politics

EU Push to Ban Russian Oil Is Stalled by Hungarian Demands

- Delay means a deal is unlikely before Russia's Victory Day
- Member states will continue negotiations in the coming days



German inflation hits 40-year high as ECB president warns of 'supply shock'

March rate of 7.6% in eurozone's largest economy comes as Christine Lagarde warns of 'difficult phase' for bloc



The ECB says soaring prices of food, as well as energy and manufactured goods, will squeeze consumers' purchasing power © Julien Behal/PA

Food Shortage - Other Countries

- Some hoped that India could increase wheat production but that faded because of the intense heat wave hitting the country and reducing crop yields.
- Restrictions on wheat exports seems likely in India and other countries
- Meanwhile, the fertilizer shortage has become a topic of concern.
- The human cost of a food crisis (malnutrition, starvation) is but one concern
- Another is the inevitable political unrest that follows food shortages: the trigger of the Arab Spring was rising grain prices and food shortages.

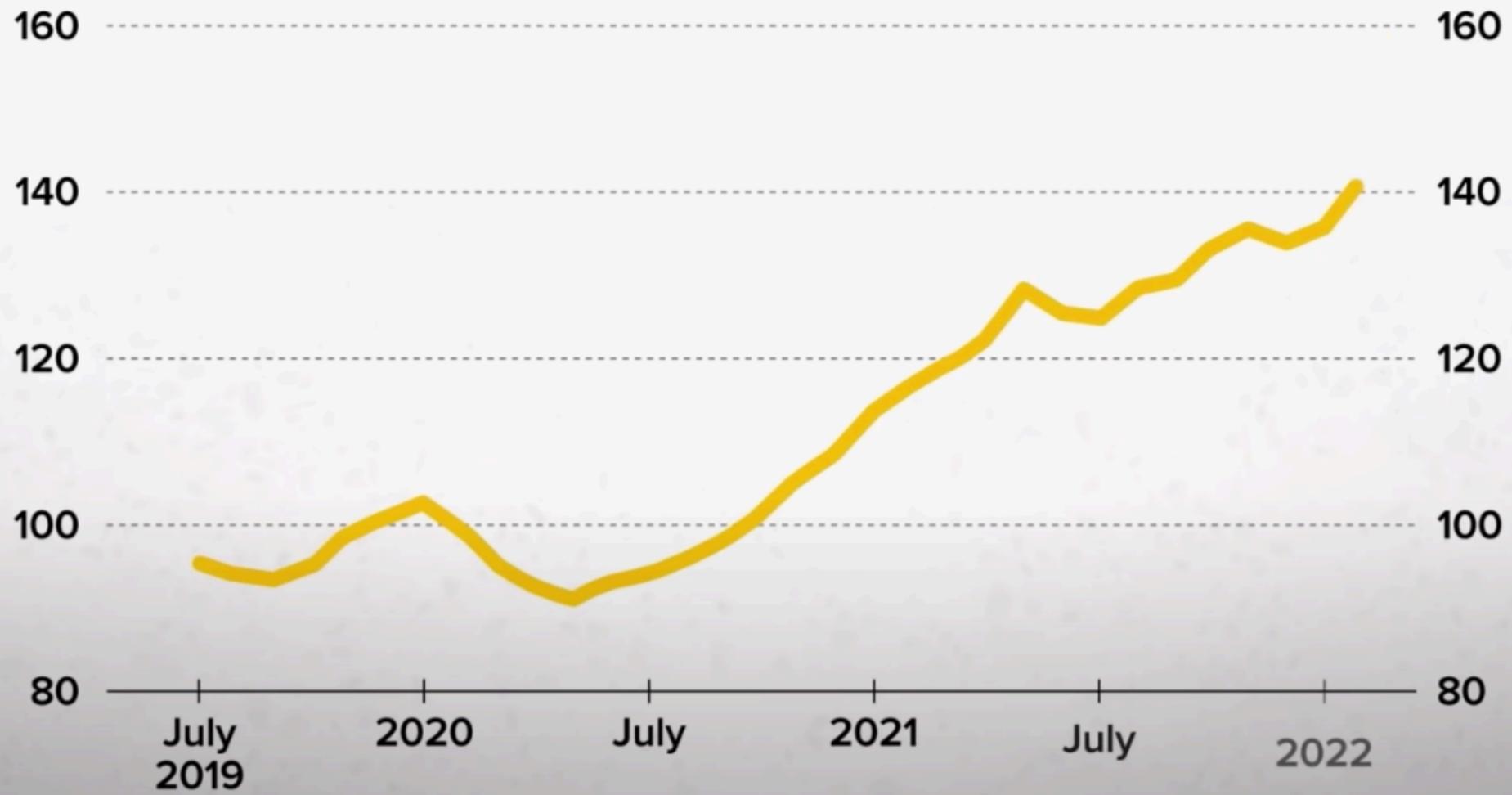
FOOD CRISIS: GERMAN FARMERS WARN OF DROUGHT-RELATED CROP FAILURE ON TOP OF GRAIN, FUEL, FERTILISER WOES



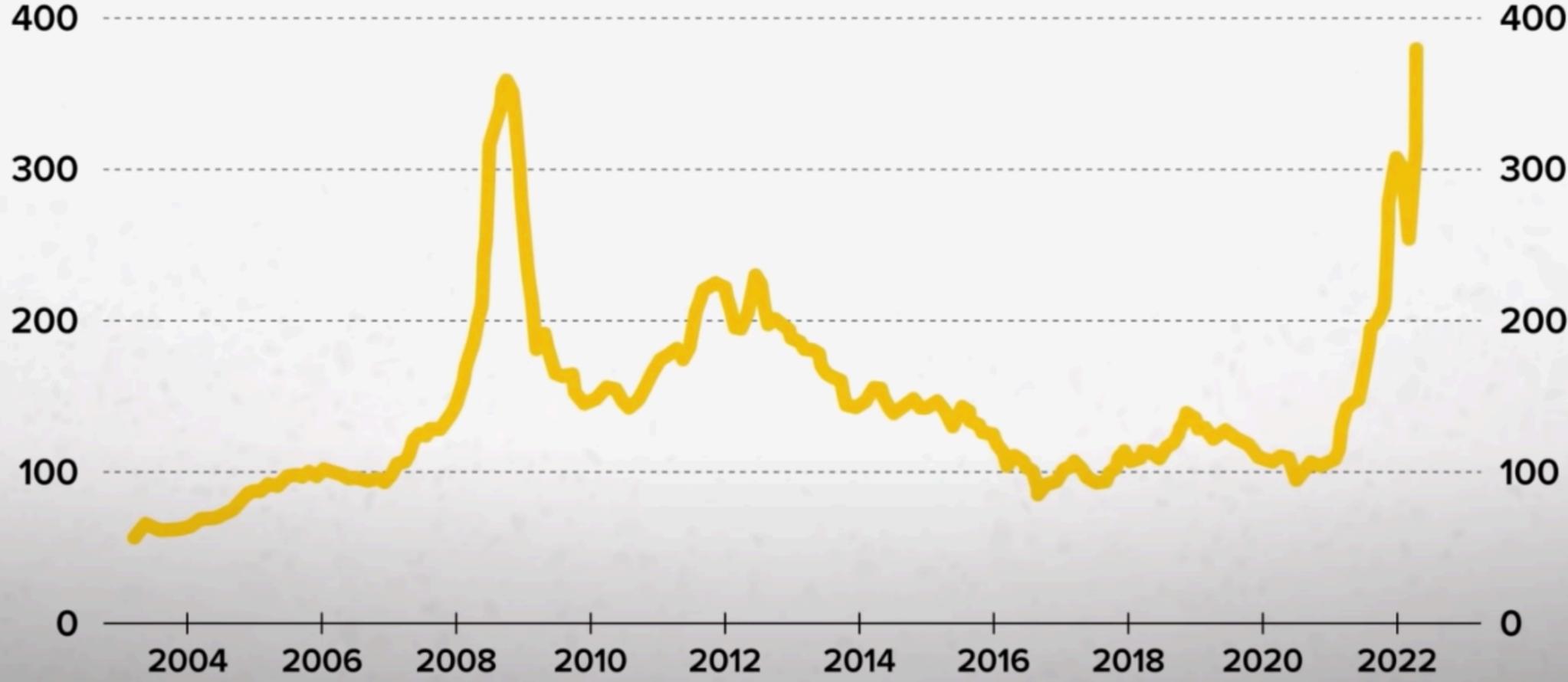
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Global food price index

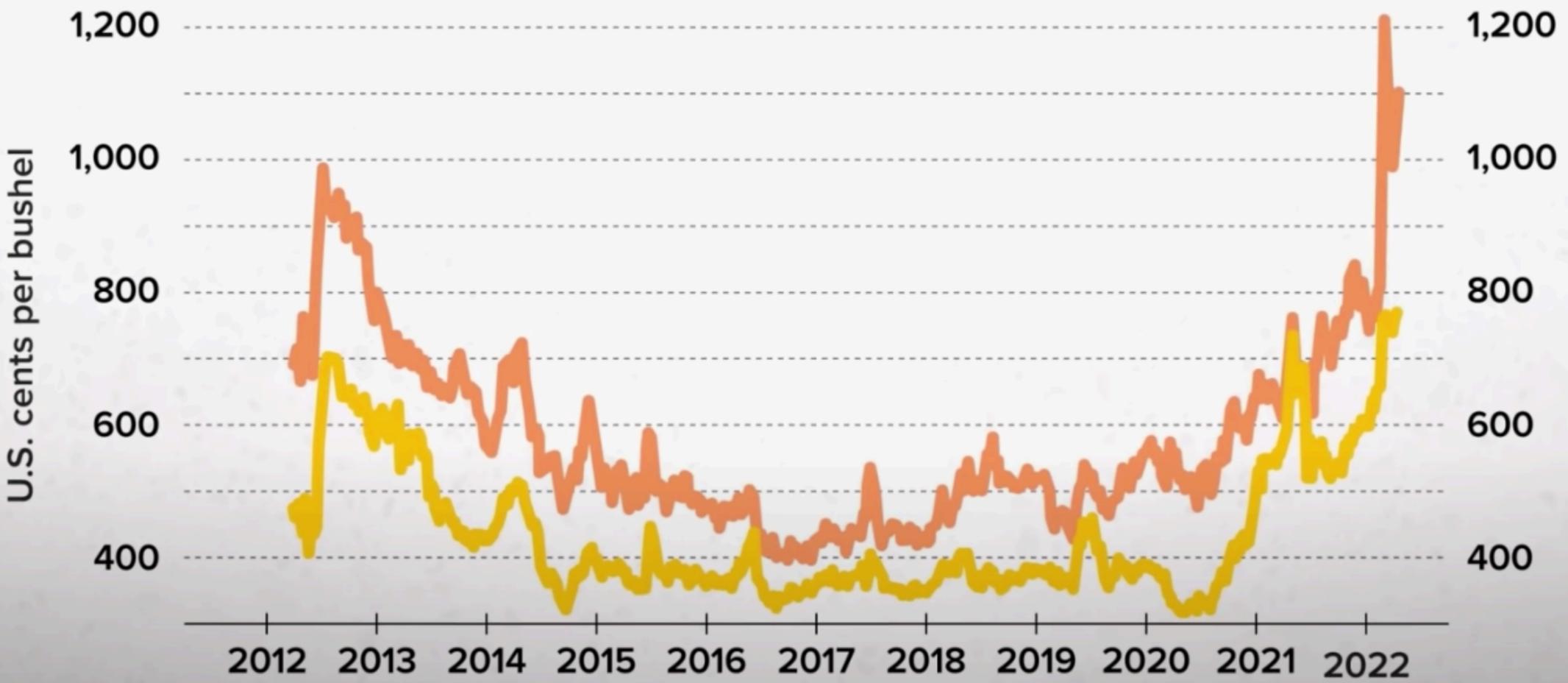


Global fertilizer price index



Wheat
(W.1)

Corn
(C.1)



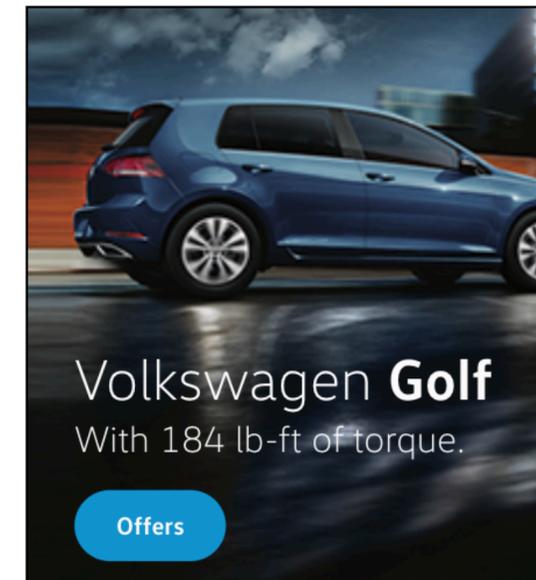
United States?

Baby formula shortage worsens: Even more supplies now out of stock

Published: May. 09, 2022, 3:52 p.m.



Advertisement



United States?

- Back in February, Abbott Laboratories instituted a recall of powder formulas (Similac and others) manufactured in its Sturgis, Michigan facility.
- The supply chain for infant formula was strained well before Abbott's recall.
- Infant formula is now out-of-stock in 40 percent of stores nationwide.
- Infant formula is one of the items most frequently stolen from retail stores. This is one of the reasons some stores keep infant formula in a locked cabinet.
- A majority (57%) is purchased through the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC).



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The first photo is from this morning at the Ursula Processing Center at the U.S. border. Shelves and pallets packed with baby formula.

The second is from a shelf right here at home. Formula is scarce.



Response

- We should be grateful and give thanks (1 Thessalonians 5:18) we live in this country.
- We should call for our leaders to distribute food that we can provide for others countries. We should reevaluate the ethanol subsidies.
- We should plan for higher energy prices and higher food prices.
- Proverbs 3:9 - "Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops."
- Don't hoard - besides we probably can't hoard anyway.

GROCERIES

Costco Is Still Putting a Purchase Limit On These Products

Stocking up isn't an option when buying these.



By Amanda McDonald / Published on March 30, 2022 | 3:42 PM



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Employees Follow**



**These 4 Meat
Products Are Being
Recalled**

Response

- We should be grateful and give thanks (1 Thessalonians 5:18) we live in this country.
- Proverbs 3:9 - "Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops."
- Be generous with our neighbors.
- Proverbs 19:17 - "Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will reward them for what they have done."