

# Are Food Production Facilities Really Under Attack in 2022?

27 April 2022 - An OpEd - by OOMAN

A lot of YouTube channels have been screaming “**Our Food Production Facilities Are Under Attack!!!**”. I have not seen anything other than a list of facilities, dates, and the type of “attack”. These have ranged from: **FIRES!!!**, to **EXPLOSION!!!**, and **PLANES CRASHING INTO BUILDINGS!!!** I challenge everyone that starts reading this to have the mental fortitude to read this to the end, and resist the urge to start screaming “**DENIER!!!!!!**”.

I was having a conversation about this with Steve from the Corsair Trainers channel, and we were both getting a feeling this story was being over-hyped. Instead of starting to scream into the interwebs, we decided to look into it further and do some research!

Our starting point was a list that was floating around that contained 23 locations that had incidents. The Claim was all of those were from 2022. 7 of them dated back to 2021 and earlier, and the Walmart fire in Indiana was listed twice. I added one newer one that wasn't on the list, so we have 16 “attacks” to look at. It might be helpful to download the PDF or Excel Spreadsheet that is also posted at <https://theRSyndicate.com/news> and follow along.

The first thing I did was find numerous articles about each of these incidents. I included the links to the articles that provided the most details or latest updates to each situation. I noticed that MOST of the locations on this list were not food “PRODUCTION” facilities at all. I created categories and color coded them on the spreadsheet.

The first category I created was “Red” for BUUUUUULLSHIT!!! There were two that without a doubt fall into this category. First, the Bonanza Meat Company fire in El Paso, TX on 2/15. If anyone bothered to read past the first paragraph or two, they would see that the building was VACANT, but had Bonanza Meat Co. painted on the wall !!!! Second, was the General Mills airplane crash story out of Georgia on 4/21. The story clearly states that the plane crashed NEAR the facility into a remote tractor trailer storage PARKING LOT. Plane was having engine trouble at takeoff, control tower knew about it, it crashed, and the pilot is dead.

The second category I created was “Orange” for Grocery Stores, Butcher Shops, and Food Pantries. By definition, Grocery Stores and Food Pantries do not meet the definition of a “Food Processing Plant”. Small family owned butcher shops may “process” meat, but none on this list are on the scale of being a “plant” or having a significant effect outside of their immediate areas. There were 4 incidents that fell into this category:

- 1) Harper's Market Poultry in Hamilton Mountain on 2/1, an Independent Grocery Store.
- 2) Wisconsin River Meats in Mauston, WI on 2/3, a Butcher Shop. A portion of the old building primarily used for storefront and offices burned. Meat and orders were stored in a different building and were not effected.
- 3) MarCo Food Pantry in Arizona on 3/28, a Food Pantry. They were operating out of trucks and containers in a church parking lot. Not even a "facility" by definition with no brick & mortar buildings. Unfortunately, they lost 40,000# of food in that fire, but are back up and running as of 4/22.
- 4) East Conway Beef & Pork in New Hampshire on 4/11, a Butcher Shop. Family owned small business, two cows died in their fire.

Being a small business owner myself, I do not mean to downplay or demean the losses these businesses suffered. My heart goes out to them and the communities that they serve. That, however, does not change the fact that these were not huge "Food Production Plants", that the fear mongers and master click-baiters are portraying.

The third category I created was "Yellow" for minor producers, supplementary products or distribution related facilities. Again, these are by definition not "Food Processing Plants", and will not have a catastrophic impact on food supplies in the U.S.. There were 5 incidents that fell into this category:

- 1) Van Drunen Farms in Momence, IL on 1/1, an Ingredient Processor. This facility produced freeze dried ingredients for nootropics and sports nutrition ingredients. Losing something like this will not cause people to starve. They produce luxury items.
- 2) Shearer's Foods in Hermiston, OR, a Potato Chip maker. Potato chips are not a critical food source, soooo.....first world problem. Headlines said "Boiler Explosion!!!", article says boiler exploded after a fire broke out. Former safety manager stated in an interview that he left the company because management disregarded his concerns over lax safety standards and practices.
- 3) Gem State Processing in Idaho on 4/13, is a potato plant. Suffered only minor damage when a Cessna carrying mail crashed into the building. Female pilot was killed in the accident. Statistics show females rarely carry out terror attacks, much less kamikaze terror attacks. Cause of crash has yet to be determined.
- 4) Taylor Farms in Salinas, CA on 4/13, produces and distributes salad for restaurants and schools. Again...first world problems. No one is going to starve if processed salad disappears off the face of the earth tomorrow. The fire was caused by a maintenance crew doing some welding.
- 5) Azure Standard in Oregon on 4/18, produces liquids, fruit packing, and carob products. "One of the LARGEST food distributors in the country!!!" This was actually a relatively small plant compared to their other 20+ plants/facilities. Fire was attributed to **Improper Storage** of Corn Roll, which either ignited or caused dust that was ignited by unprotected electrical outlets. Liquid manufacturing to resume within 1-week, and other operations ASAP before fruit harvest season.

Without knowing exactly everything they make, and how much of it they make, there may be an argument to be made that this incident could be elevated to the “Green” category, but I have not been able to find enough to satisfy “MY” criteria.

The fourth category I created was “Blue” for Major Distribution Facility. The only incident that fell into that category was the Walmart fire in Plainfield, Indiana on 3/16. While Walmart is a major distributor of food, they do not process food at their facilities, and food is only a portion of what they distribute. I do not know the breakdown of food vs. other goods, so you can decide if it should go under Green or Yellow for yourselves, and adjust the numbers accordingly.

Finally, the 5th category I created was “Green” for actual Food Production Facilities. There were four that fell into this category:

- 1) Cargill Nutrena Feed Mill in LeCompte, LA on 1/14, Produces Feed for Livestock. This would be the one that concerns me the most on this list. If all the others were as vital as this, I would get very concerned. Again, there was an explosion that was a secondary result of a fire. Cause unknown.
- 2) Potato Processing Plant in Warden, WA on 1/21, Processes undesirable potatoes for dehydrating. These potatoes go into a lot of stuff like instant mashed potatoes. Again, this is an incident I would be concerned with if it weren't for the history of numerous severe safety violations reported.
- 3) Nestle plant in Jonesboro, AR on 3/13, Produces Hot Pockets and products for other frozen food lines (Stouffer's, Lean Cuisine, DiGiorno, and Tombstone). Think of all the millennials that will starve if mommy doesn't have Hot Pockets to bring down to them in their basements!!! All kidding aside, this could be an important facility and have the production shift to other types of products in the event of severe shortages. Cause of fire was unknown.
- 4) Rio Fresh in Texas on 3/31, Packaging Facility. LARGEST ONION PACKING FACILITY (in South Texas). This facility is a significant facility, but they downplay the part about “in South Texas”. There are many others around the country, and even in Texas. My concern with this one is unknown cause of fire, and proximity to our southern border. This could be a genuine attack.

At the end of the day, I do not believe ANY of these accidents are the result of a focused effort on destroying our food supply. If they are, all but three or four of them TOTALLY SUCK at choosing their targets!!! Most of these incidents can be explained by accidents, negligence, lack of maintenance, and possibly even things like disgruntled current/former employees or insurance fraud. Those three or four are also the only ones that would have any (minor) significant nationwide, long lasting effects. When you look at the big picture, which includes the size of our country and all of the other plants out there, these are not even going to be a blip on the radar.

The following are the numbers of “Fires, Explosions, Crashes” at various food processing plants since 2017:



There is no context or criteria given as to what is considered a Food Processing Plant, so I cannot say it is an apples-to-apples comparison. Even so, if we are currently at 4 food processing plants, according to my criteria, four months into the year, we would be on target for 12 for the full year. 12 is not that far off from the 11 in 2021, and does not raise the bar high enough for me to consider the crisis that the Fear Mongering Master Click-Baiters are making this out to be. All it takes is a few exaggerated stories like this to land us in a crisis like we saw with the Great TP Shortage! Don't get sucked into the HYPE!!!

Let me know what you think, and tell me if I'm missing something. I really want to know if there is something I'm getting wrong here. You can send me your feedback at [OOMANFEMA5@gmail.com](mailto:OOMANFEMA5@gmail.com) Thank you, if you had the mental fortitude to get all the way to the end, and give this some serious thought...

-OOMAN / Oliver