Is The US About To Experience A Severe Food Shortage?

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Is the United States about to experience a severe food shortage, with prices of basic foods such as meats, fruits and vegetables skyrocketing? Based on recent agricultural and climate assessments, that is not only what we can expect – but what is already happening right now. Here are some excerpts of the frightful statistics and scenarios researched by Michael Snyder, in his article: 15 Reasons Why Your Food Bill Is Going To Start Soaring:

"The state of California, which produces the most vegetables in the U.S, is going through its worst drought ever, with 91.6% of the state experiencing severe to exceptional drought. 2013 was its worst year ever and there has been no improvement so far in 2014. According to CNBC, it is being projected that California farmers are going to let half a million acres of farmland sit idle this year because of the crippling drought. Much of the western U.S. has been exceedingly dry for an extended period of time, and this is hurting huge numbers of farmers and ranchers all the way from Texas to the west coast."

Snyder highlights some notable consequences:

- The size of the total U.S. cattle herd is now the smallest that it has ever been since 1951.
- The federal government has declared portions of 11 states to be "disaster areas", and California farmers are going to leave half a million acres sitting idle this year because of the extremely dry conditions.
- Things are probably going to get worse before they get better (if they ever do). It has been quite common for that region of North America to experience severe droughts that last for decades. In fact, one drought actually lasted for about 200 years. So there is the possibility that the drought that has begun in the state of California may not end during your entire lifetime.
- According to NBC News, businesses across the region are shutting down, large numbers of workers are leaving to search for other work, and things are already so bad that it "calls to mind the Dust Bowl of the 1930s".

Celeste Cantu, the general manager for the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, is quoted as saying that this drought could have a "cataclysmic" impact on food prices. Mike Wade, the executive director of the California Farm Water Coalition, recently explained which crops he believes will be hit the hardest: annual row crops as tomatoes, broccoli, lettuce, cantaloupes, garlic, peppers and corn. Wade said consumers can also expect higher prices and reduced selection at grocery stores, particularly for products such as almonds, raisins, walnuts and olives...

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