



Let 'Em Eat Bugs: Thanks To ADM, Illinois To Become Home Of World's Largest Insect Farm

The United Nations wants to eliminate poverty and hunger by feeding insect protein. Thanks to Ag mega-giant ADM, Illinois will soon become home to the largest insect farming operation in the world, dwarfing all other efforts. □ TN Editor

The food industry is about to take a giant leap forward towards sustainability as a new partnership between Chicago-based food processing company Archer Daniels Midland and InnovaFeed, a French firm that makes insect protein for animal feed, are set to build the world's largest insect protein factory farm in central Illinois, according to Forbes.

ADM and InnovaFeed will grow and harvest billion and billions of insects called black soldier fly, whose larvae are scavengers and thrive on decomposing organic matter and convert it into a nutrient-rich protein that can be transformed into animal feed.

Once the facility is operational, both companies estimate yearly output

could be around 60,000 metric tons of animal feed protein.

“I’m in awe. If they can pull this off, it will be magnificent,” said Jeffrey Tomberlin, a professor and entomologist at Texas A&M University who has conducted years of research on insect protein

“This facility will be several times bigger than anything else in the world,” Tomberlin said.

Black soldier fly larvae produce at least one hundred times more protein per acre than traditional animal feed sources such as corn, soybeans, sorghum, oats, and barley. This could be a monumental achievement for the agriculture industry as a bid for sustainably sourced food when pandemic-related shortages have developed, along with soaring prices.

Albert Edwards, an investment strategist at Societe Generale SA, recently published a report on soaring food prices.

Edwards, quoting the latest figures from the UN’s Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), showed food prices of oilseeds, dairy products, meat, and sugar are on the rise. Show below, the FAO food index hit a sixth-year high in November.

“At a time when the World Bank notes that the Covid-19 pandemic will increase extreme poverty by around 150 million, we all need to be very vigilant of another food price bubble,” Edwards warned.

He also links soaring food prices to the Federal Reserve’s easing policies that caused a rapid jump in food prices in 2011, resulting in social unrest in multiple countries.

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