

Money's No Good? What Works Instead?

This Tip is purely an opinion, so I'm warning you in advance. I've seen lists of things that "will disappear in an emergency." Assuming a wide-spread disaster of long duration, money may become useless. If the power goes off, so do the computers in stores, the ATM machines, and the gas pumps. Good-bye credit cards. And maybe, good-bye paper money and most coinage!

So, what would hold its value? Here are my guesses, in alphabetical order:

1. .22 caliber ammunition. No one can reload .22 shells.
2. Ammunition. Many gun owners are short on ammo.
3. Baby formula/diapers: It's back to breast-feeding and cloth diapers.
4. Cigarettes. Nobody rolls his own anymore.
5. Coffee and Tea. Nobody here grows coffee.
6. Flashlight batteries. Even recharging rechargeable ones may not last.
7. Fresh meat. Unless someone kills his chickens or his cow.
8. Fresh vegetables. These are seasonal.
9. Gasoline/diesel fuel. The government will probably confiscate your fuel.
10. Gold. But it's hard to get change for a piece of gold.
11. Guns. Needed for self-defense, hunting, and crime.
12. Illegal drugs. You don't want to mess with it. Addicts will kill for them.
13. Lamp mantles. A very fragile must-have for Coleman lanterns.
14. Liquor. Hard liquor or beer - nobody here is making it.
15. Over-The-Counter drugs. These are more available, but not for long.
16. Pre-1965 Silver coins. Great, if people know what silver is worth.
17. Prescription drugs. What you have is it - unless a drug store is robbed.
18. Propane. 20-lb. bottles and 1-lb cylinders empty quickly.
19. Soap. It can be made, but few know how.
20. Toilet paper. Most homes have 1-2 weeks worth on hand.

.22 caliber ammo is probably the best item on the list. People know what it is, it's portable, and you could trade it by the brick (500), box (50), or round (1).

Not on the list is Food - any food. Grocery store warehouses have a 5-day supply for their stores. Now, add your guesses to this list.