Three Coins to Target 100X Profits From Bitcoin's Halving

Banyan Hill's NEXT WAVE CRYPTO FORTUNES

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By Ian King, Editor of *Next Wave Crypto Fortunes*

NOT all crypto bull markets are created equal.

Each bitcoin halving cycle has had a different narrative.

In other words, there are specific subsectors within crypto that step into the limelight as money rushes into the crypto sector.

And these have been the most profitable places to invest…

2012

This was bitcoin's first halving cycle, when the reward for mining a block on the network was cut in half from 50 to 25 BTC.

This was still the early days of crypto, so there weren't too many alternatives to bitcoin. But there was still a narrative — that bitcoin was a new digital gold that could be used as a decentralized form of money and a reliable store of wealth.

The resulting bull market caused the price of bitcoin to reach $1,000 for the first time in 2013, climbing up over 21,000% from $5.30 in early 2012.

2016

This was the second halving cycle when the reward for mining a block on the network fell from 25 to 12.5 BTC.

Back then, there were new crypto projects debuting almost every day.

The story fueling the bull market this time around was the Initial Coin Offering (ICO) boom. It was a new way for projects to raise money by creating and selling new crypto tokens.

This caught the attention of investors looking for big profits, sparking an interest in alternative cryptos to bitcoin, or "altcoins."

This bull market led the price of bitcoin up 5,100% to a new all-time high of over $19,600 in 2017.

2020

The third halving cycle brought the reward for mining a block down to 6.25 BTC.

By this time, the crypto market had a chance to mature a bit, and there were several winners from the ICO boom of 2017 and other new projects that were taking cryptos in new and interesting directions.

The promise of these new projects led to a narrative that cryptos would transform our world.

Anything we engage in real life, such as banking, social media and gaming — could be digitized, stored on a blockchain and transacted without a middleman.

The sectors that did best this time around were decentralized finance and non-fungible tokens (NFTs).

The price of bitcoin climbed more than 1,100% to reach $65,000 for the first time in 2021 during this crypto bull run.

2024

Fast forward to today, and we're at the latest halving. This time, the reward for mining was further reduced to 3.125 BTC.

This tells me that the bull run is just beginning.

Bitcoin climbed over 300% from its lowest point in 2022 to hit a new all-time high of $73,800 on March 14.

This time around, the narratives are in the following three crypto sectors:

- **Decentralized Finance (DeFi).**
- **Artificial intelligence (AI).**
- **Tokenization.**

And these are the cryptos we think would best benefit from these narratives…

100X Crypto Opportunity No. 1: DeFi

Ethereum is the most popular Layer 1 protocol in the crypto world. Layer 1s are essentially blockchains that you can build projects on.

The problem with Layer 1s is that these blockchains tend to be slow and inefficient, making it difficult to scale them up.

However, there are two solutions to this.

The first is to upgrade the Layer 1 — an effort that developers of the Ethereum community are already undertaking.

The second solution is to build Layer 2s.

Layer 2s — as the name suggests — are blockchains built on top of the Layer 1. Ultimately, Layer 2s connect back to Layer 1 with improved speed and efficiency.

At this point in its evolution, Ethereum has no shortage of Layer 2s that help it handle more transactions simultaneously and at faster speeds so that you can build usable decentralized applications.

But there is a new Layer 2 that is growing rapidly and gaining some serious attention — called Base.

A More Accessible Layer 2

Base is also built on Ethereum. But what makes it unique is that it was built by the well-known crypto exchange, Coinbase.

With 110 million users and over $80 billion in assets in the Coinbase ecosystem, Coinbase is one of the easiest ways for the average person to invest in crypto.

It provides an easy onramp for users to take their fiat currencies and buy crypto tokens on its centralized exchange.

Now, Coinbase wants to go one step further and create an onramp for people to take their crypto tokens from their centralized exchange and interact with decentralized applications.

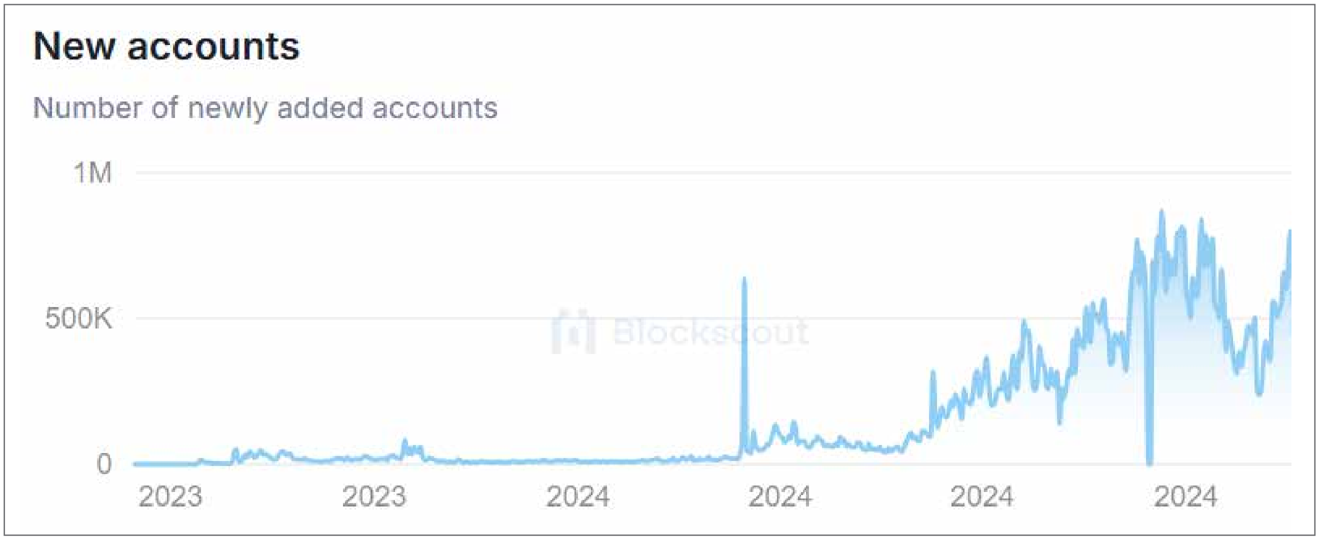
That's where Base comes in.

It is much easier for the average person to access Base than other Layer 2s.

There is no website to go to or any list of specific instructions to follow. Instead, all you need is your Coinbase account to get started, which can guide you to Base.

This ease of access is what makes Base so valuable.

That's the reason why Base has grown so much since its inception.



The number of new accounts created on Base each day has risen from around 38,000 when it launched its main network back in August of 2023 to around 791,000 today, resulting in a total of 81.27 million accounts on the Layer 2 today.

And these aren't just idle accounts, they are responsible for taking the number of transactions per day from around 757,000 per day at launch to 7.57 million per day today.

But here's the thing: Base has no token — and as of now, it has no plans to introduce one.

So, there is no direct way to invest in Base and profit off this growth.

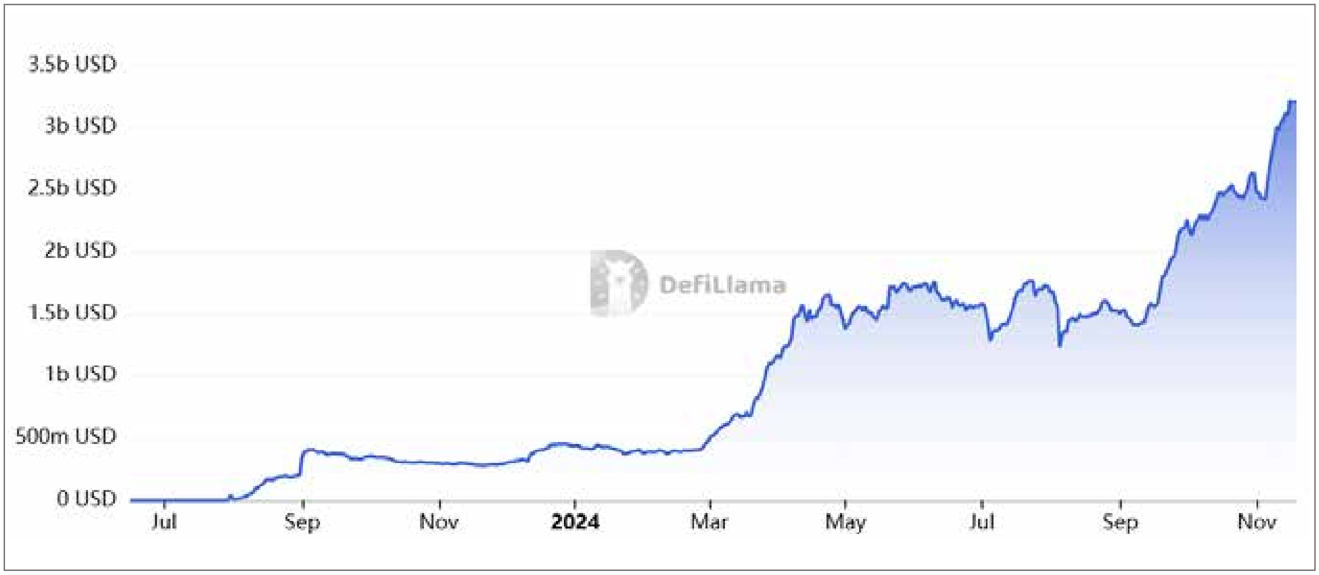
One thing we can do, however, is invest in promising projects in the Base ecosystem that are contributing to this growth.

New Opportunities in DeFi

The sector we want to look at is decentralized finance (DeFi).

Total value locked (TVL) measures the total value of digital assets that are locked or staked in a particular DeFi app.

When you add up the TVLs for all DeFi apps on Base, you see that this is a rapidly growing sector.



The TVL on Base has risen from $61.81 million when the main network launched to $3.22 billion today.

The crypto I want to recommend today is **Moonwell (WELL)** which is responsible for $184.55 million of that TVL today.

Moonwell is a DeFi protocol that allows you to lend and borrow crypto.

Using the protocol, you can contribute your digital assets to a pool. For example, you may choose to lend your ETH token into an ETH pool that also contains other users' ETH tokens.

Then other users can borrow ETH from this pool by paying an interest rate on the amount that they borrowed.

This then translates to you and the other users in the ETH pool getting rewarded with an interest-rate payment on the amount you contributed to the pool.

You can also become a borrower on this platform as long as you first become a lender and contribute funds to a pool.

The amount you lend to pools will determine the amount that you can borrow from other pools.

This is the way that Moonwell maintains a system of collateral that can be seized from you and paid to the users who loaned you those funds in the event that you don't make your payments or default on your loan.

With these functions and operational methods, at the fundamental level, Moonwell is just like several other DeFi lending/borrowing platforms that provide great utility.

The thing that makes Moonwell stand out is the blockchain it operates on.

Moonwell was initially built on Moonbeam, an application-specific blockchain built using a well-known Ethereum Layer 2 solution known as Polkadot.

However, its growth didn't quite take off until it launched on the Base blockchain when it went live in mid-2023.

Today, 82% of its total market size is due to the Base blockchain!

Tokenomics

The token for Moonwell on the Base blockchain is WELL, and it serves two key functions.

The first function is to act as a system of governance.

WELL tokens grant holders the authority to participate in the governance of the Moonwell protocol.

Token holders can submit and vote in "Moonwell Improvement Proposals" — proposals put forth by the community of WELL holders to vote and decide on the future direction of the protocol.

The second function is staking.

On the Moonwell protocol, you can stake your WELL tokens and receive rewards for doing so.

By staking your tokens, you are creating a pool along with other stakers to create a backstop in case of an unforeseen event.

Despite Moonwell's robust security measures and software development practices, there is still a non-zero risk of events or hacks that could result in fund losses.

In the event of that rare case, up to 30% of the staked assets in the pool may be sold to cover the losses resulting from the black swan event or hack.

There is a total supply of 5 billion WELL tokens with roughly 2.96 billion WELL in circulation currently — the rest of it will slowly be released into circulation in the coming years.

Each WELL currently trades at a price of $0.06, making up a protocol with a market cap worth $178 million.

Moonwell might not sound like the most exciting project ever, but it's a lucrative one nonetheless.

Lending and borrowing apps are a key part of the DeFi ecosystem of any blockchain.

These apps are the crypto equivalent of banks in the real world that allow you to borrow funds to invest them in ideas you want to pursue.

And Moonwell has the benefit of being a lending/borrowing platform on one of the fastest-growing Layer 2s.

Action to Take: Buy and Store Moonwell (WELL) on Coinbase.

100X Crypto Opportunity No. 2: AI

Smart-contract-capable blockchains are nothing new.

They have existed since the launch of the Ethereum mainnet in 2015. These types of blockchains are especially useful for developers of decentralized applications (dapps).

Since the launch of these first smart-contract blockchains, dapps have boomed. Today there are dapps for everything from storage to games to financial services. And these dapps are getting more elaborate and complicated.

This complexity of modern dapps requires faster and better blockchains that are easily scalable.

The first generation of blockchains wasn't built to handle these dapps. Scalability and speed for such complex transactions were an afterthought. That's why most of them, like Ethereum, are currently working on upgrades.

However, there is a new generation of smart-contract blockchains. These are designed from the start with speed and scalability in mind.

The **Near Protocol (NEAR)** is one such blockchain platform.

Near is already capable of 100,000 transactions per second (TPS). To put that in perspective, Ethereum's recent series of upgrades are so that it could take the network from 12 to 15 TPS to 100,000 TPS eventually.

But even if it reaches processing speed parity with Near, it will not be as user-friendly as Near.

Near was built to mimic the traditional web in its ease of use. The platform has a user-centric mission that ensures that users of the dapps don't require any specialized knowledge to operate them.

For example, dapps on Near have features such as account names that are human-readable instead of cryptographic wallet addresses.

While such experiences exist on older blockchains, they're only available on certain dapps and are the result of a third-parties as opposed to being a built-in feature of the blockchain.

But its user-friendliness mission is not just aimed at those who are unfamiliar with the blockchain.

Near even made it easier for existing dapp users to connect to its network by integrating MetaMask Wallet.

This is remarkable because MetaMask is built to work on Ethereum and Ethereum-compatible networks unlike Near.

This integration makes it possible for users on Ethereum ecosystems to connect their Metamask wallet to Near. Once they connect, they can engage with any of Near's dapps as they have been doing with Ethereum-compatible dapps.

How Near Protocol Works

All blockchain networks are made up of nodes, and these nodes have three main purposes:

- Processing transactions.
- Communicating valid transactions with each other.
- Storing the history of the network's transactions.

The problem with this structure is that as the network grows and becomes more congested, the nodes have trouble performing these tasks. The nodes have to run the entirety of the network's code as it executes its functions. This is what leads to slower transactions and high costs on older blockchains.

Near's solution to this is sharding. Using a sharding strategy, Near is able to break up the blockchain into smaller, more manageable segments.

This means that the nodes only have to process the code relevant to these segments instead of the whole blockchain. This reduces the computational load on the network and results in an increased throughput of transactions.

Near is also faster than some older blockchains because it uses a Proof-of-Stake (PoS) validation and consensus system as opposed to a Proof-of-Work (PoW) system.

Network Participants

As with any PoS system, the Near network consists of validators and delegators. Validators run nodes that perform the functions listed earlier. They are randomly assigned transactions to verify and are paid a fee in exchange for successfully doing so.

Delegators on the network can stake their funds in a pool with a validator of their choice and receive a portion of the fees paid out for validating transactions.

In order for a validator to run a node, they have to stake funds in a smart contract. If they act maliciously or fail to maintain consistency in their operations, their funds can be slashed.

The verification of the status of the validator nodes is left up to network participants called fishermen. They are encouraged to root out validator nodes that damage the integrity of the network. In return they are paid a portion of the fees that are slashed from the bad validators.

NEAR Token

The NEAR token is both the utility token and the governance token for the Near Protocol. All fees and rewards on the network are paid out in NEAR.

Near is also a community-governed network. NEAR holders vote on proposed changes and improvements to the network. At the current stage, although the team behind the project suggests ideas for the development and marketing of Near products, it is ultimately discussed and voted-on on their governance forum.

NEAR has a total supply of 1.25 billion tokens, and the full token supply will be unlocked by 2027. The network aims for 5% of the total supply to be unlocked each year.

Out of this unlocked amount each year, 90% is paid out as rewards to validators and delegators. And 10% goes to the protocol's treasury to fund future development and marketing efforts.

But Near also burns 70% of all transaction fees so the actual unlock amount per year (rewards minus fees burned) may be slightly greater or less than 5% depending on network activity each year.

At the moment, these tokens collectively have a market cap of $7.1 billion and are worth about $5.86 each.

The Future of Near Protocol

Near's mission of making the blockchain more user-friendly has made a go to spot for developers who are looking to build dapps.

Essentially, Near provides pre-made blocks of data and pre-written code to build the basic infrastructure for dapps.

This makes it so that developers can come in and assemble these tools to get the basic dapp project they want, and then they can customize it from there.

And now Near is bringing this same approach to the most popular type of projects in crypto today — AI projects.

Near Protocol is leveraging its decentralized blockchain infrastructure to make significant inroads into artificial intelligence (AI) by focusing on building open-source, large-scale AI models.

Near aims to democratize access to cutting-edge AI technologies by creating models that are both open-source and monetizable.

Like with their other dapps, developers will start out with the basic building blocks to build their own AI models.

And then these developers can add their own data and customize their models to get the kinds of AI models they want.

This creates a feedback loop where developers come in and innovate and create better AI models that other developers in the future can use as building blocks for their models.

In this way, it's a continuous cycle of improvement and it is crowdsourced instead of having to rely on giant companies like Google and Microsoft that keep tight control over their data and AI models.

That's the vision for Near Protocol looking ahead — to become the home for user-owned AI.

Actions to Take: Buy and store Near Protocol (NEAR) on Coinbase.

100X Crypto Opportunity No. 3: Tokenization

One of the most interesting categories in the world of crypto is decentralized finance (DeFi).

In its ultimate form, DeFi represents a new financial system that operates on a decentralized blockchain network, allowing users to access financial services with full transparency without the need for middlemen such as banks.

DeFi has recently been gaining popularity because Wall Street and more financial institutions are embracing crypto.

Especially with the arrival of the bitcoin ETFs (exchange-traded funds), players in traditional finance are more willing to give crypto projects a chance.

This support is crucial for DeFi to take off and begin replacing elements of the traditional financial system. The most positive comments regarding crypto in finance came from CEO Larry Fink, who said, "[crypto]

ETFs are step one in the technological revolution in the financial markets."

He also stated, "Step two is going to be the tokenization of every financial asset."

In this statement, Fink refers to the concept that you can create tokens on a blockchain representing ownership of real-world assets (RWAs), such as precious metals, real estate, art or stocks.

This blockchain could then be used to trade ownership stakes over RWAs, similar to how we trade stocks of companies.

One company interested in blockchains' potential ability to tokenize RWAs is Citigroup.

In February 2024, Citigroup and Avalanche led a proof-of-concept project that showed it's possible to issue and store tokenized versions of private equity funds for clients compatible with existing bank systems.

While this project is still in its early stages and not yet ready to be implemented, the implications of this successful test are huge.

JPMorgan partnered with private equity giant Apollo Global and is already testing tokenizing with Project Guardian.

Building and managing discretionary portfolios for individual investors is a $5.5 trillion business that enables millions of investors to meet their financial goals.

The objective of Project Guardian is to develop secure and efficient ways to integrate digital assets into the traditional financial system, making trading easy and accessible by relying on blockchain infrastructure.

This opens the door for more Wall Street firms to experiment with RWA tokenization.

And as this already massive market for RWA tokenization continues to grow, so will Wall Street's curiosity and experimentation.

By some estimates, this market is on pace to be worth between $3.5 trillion and $10 trillion by 2030.

If these types of projects can work out the current shortfalls in the user experience and lack of infrastructure to connect such systems to banks and exchanges, this could be how we trade *all* assets in the future.

But while we wait for Wall Street to catch up, there are cryptos that we can invest in today that are pursuing tokenized RWAs … like our final recommendation in this special report — **Ondo Finance (ONDO)**.

Tokenizing US Treasuries

Ondo Finance is a DeFi protocol that uses blockchain technology to tokenize financial products, like the ones that follow U.S. treasuries, U.S. dollar yield and U.S. money markets.

Essentially, Ondo just offers a DeFi version of familiar products.

An example is Ondo's OUSG products, which is just a tokenized version of BlackRock's iShares Short Treasury Bond ETF.

Ondo purchases traditional asset securities (in this case, the BlackRock Short Treasury Bond ETF) and then uses its own blockchain system to tokenize them.

Asset tokenization starts when investors deposit U.S. dollar-pegged stablecoins (USDC) or U.S. dollars (fiat) into the Ondo platform.

Investors will then receive OUSG tokens representing ownership of U.S. government securities assets.

At the time of writing, one OUSG token is equivalent to $108.88 and offers a 4.64% annual percent yield. Buying OUSG means you can own a piece of U.S. Treasury, in token form, right in your crypto wallet.

And each token experiences the same fluctuations in value as the RWAs it represents.

Unlike other crypto tokens that can be transferred anywhere, OUSG has transfer restrictions to ensure that it only changes hands between entities that qualify as OUSG investors.

This helps maintain Ondo's compliance with regulatory and financial requirements.

However, you can use OUSG to borrow other crypto assets using Flux Finance, a lending platform within Ondo's ecosystem.

As mentioned earlier, Ondo's financial products are developed for institutional-grade investors, so the minimum amount needed to deposit to purchase OUSG is $100,000.

Additionally, you have to meet at least one of the following criteria, depending on the type of investor you are:

- **Accredited investors require:**
  - A personal net worth of over $1 million.
  - Individual income of more than $200,000 or joint income of more than $300,000 over the past two years.
  - A professional certification or other credential from an accredited educational institution.
- **Qualified purchasers require:**
  - Own more than $5 million ($25 million for institutions) of investments.
  - Professional certification, designation or other credentials from an accredited educational institution.

Currently, there is $101.66 million in total value locked in the OUSG product, and it sees $239 million in daily trading volume.

Ondo Token

Ondo Finance's native token is ONDO, which is also the native token for the crypto lending platform Flux Finance.

Primarily, ONDO serves as the governance token for ONDO DAO.

This DAO is made up of ONDO holders who vote on and oversee aspects of Flux, such as which assets it should support and the market parameters it should follow.

This way, you can look at holding ONDO as becoming a stakeholder in the future of Flux and Ondo Finance as a whole.

ONDO has a total supply of 10 billion tokens, 1.4 billion of which are in circulation currently. The rest will be unlocked over the next five years.

With 52.1% of ONDO's total supply allocated to growth incentives such as airdrops and developers, educators, researchers and strategic contributors to Ondo's ecosystem, it seems hyperfocused on growing its platform in the future.

Actions to Take: Buy and store Ondo Finance (ONDO) on Coinbase.

If you're looking to capture your next post-halving windfall, we believe Moonwell, Near and Ondo have the potential to do just that. We recommend buying all three tokens on Coinbase. If you're interested in setting up a Coinbase account, check out our step-by-step guide in your ***Mastering Next Wave Crypto Fortunes*** report here.

Regards,

Ian King
Editor, *Next Wave Crypto Fortunes*

ABOUT IAN KING: Ian King is a former hedge fund manager with over two decades of experience in trading and analyzing the financial markets. His market insights have been featured on Fox Business News, Investopedia and *Seeking Alpha*. At 21, Ian started in the mortgage bond trading department at Salomon Brothers. He then honed his skills in trading at Citigroup before spending a decade at New York-based hedge fund, Peahi Capital. There his team made a 339% total return in 2008 alone. He is also known as one of Investopedia's top resourceful contributors. In 2017, he came to Banyan Hill Publishing to help our readers get ahead of the markets. He currently offers four services and a free newsletter educating readers on the stock and crypto markets. Ian's services are all dedicated to a niche market in the tech sector — each with a unique and winning strategy to make smart, thoroughly researched investments.

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