

GOOD MORNING: 04/25/18 Farm Direction - VanTrump Report

2 messages

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"The art of being wise is knowing what to overlook." — William James

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25, 2018

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Morning Summary: Stocks are slightly lower again this morning following yesterday's extremely large setback. Most inside the trade are saying the 10-Year Treasury finally moving north of 3% triggered sell signals amongst the algo's and other computer based trading models. As I mentioned yesterday, conventional wisdom is that more money will now start rotating toward fixed equity and create some additional headwinds for bulls in the stock market. In fact, I've seen numbers floating around inside the trade that show in the past month close to \$1 billion has flowed out of U.S. equity ETF's, while during the same period of time over +\$5 billion has pushed into ETFs that invest in short dated fixed income instruments. I suspect the thought of the 2-Year offering a +2.5% guarantee, which beats inflation, is drawing some consideration, especially by those who believe the stock market is overheated and due for a setback during the next 24-months. I'm personally not in that camp, but I certainly understand and respect the logic. I should note, there have been several times throughout history where interest rates were moving higher and at the same time stocks continued to rally. I've heard vague numbers that indicate about 40% of the time when we are in a interest rate hiking environment stocks have continued to push higher. On the flip side, about 60% of the time the rising interest rates have created headwinds for stocks and pulled the market lower. A lot of those historical numbers depend deeply on many more variables, like the overall "velocity" of the rate hikes, energy costs, wage inflation, corporate and government spending, etc... On top of rates moving higher, bears are also pointing to the recent strength in the U.S. dollar and higher oil prices. More money flowing into the U.S. dollar is causing some to think there might be more problems globally out on the horizon than we can currently see. This is certainly something that has my attention and I am monitoring closely. Especially when a strong dollar can create headwinds for U.S. agricultural and also some of my large cap tech holdings. Bottom-line, the direction of the dollar will be extremely important in the coming weeks. As for today, Facebook will be presenting its first quarterly results since the Cambridge Analytica scandal. A few other big names reporting today are AT&T, Boeing, eBay, Chipotle, Ford, Qualcomm, PayPal, Twitter and Visa. Just keep in mind, to this point most stocks that have reported strong earnings have sold off shortly after their initially headline rally. It feels like some of the larger players have been waiting to use the strong earnings headlines as an opportunity reduce some additional exposure. I remain conservatively bullish longer-term, but very selective in my allocations.

The Arizona Special Election: Republican Debbie Lesko won the House special election in Arizona Tuesday night, holding off a closer-than-expected Democratic challenger. Both parties are claiming it as a victory, with Democrats saying they made the race much closer than many had anticipated.

Caterpillar Warns That Profits Might Be Peaking: Yesterdays stocks' decline could be partially attributed to a Caterpillar management comment about its profitability the rest of the year. The company said on a midday conference call that its first-quarter profit will be "the high-water mark for the year" due to higher investment spending. Caterpillar shares fell by nearly 10 percent from their opening price and overall thirty stocks in the S&P 500 dropped more than 5 percent from their opening prices with many of the names concentrated in the industrial and technology sectors. (Source: CNBC)



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Today In History

neuro mining



As we age, it gets harder and harder to create new neural pathways in the brain. It's the reason kids find it so easy to learn new things, but as adults it often gets more difficult. Doing brain teasers and solving riddles can be an important part of keeping our brain healthy. The more connections we can form, the better our brain will be. I hope this helps provide a little daily fun and exercise. The answer to each riddle or puzzle will be located at the bottom of the report.

TODAY'S RIDDLE: Which vehicle is spelled the same forwards and backwards?

Weather in the Corn Belt is seeing mild, dry weather in the northern region contrast with cool, showery conditions in the Ohio Valley. By April 22, corn planting had not begun and was at least 10 percentage points behind the 5-year average pace in Iowa and Minnesota. During the 4 week period ending April 22, there were less than 2 days suitable for fieldwork in Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota. On the Plains, dry weather prevails across drought-affected southern areas, where -- despite recent rains -- topsoil moisture was rated at least one-half short to very short on April 22 in Texas (67%), Kansas (64%), Colorado (53%), and Oklahoma (53%). Farther north, precipitation stretches from the central Plains to the Dakotas. In the South, rain continued to fall yesterday in several areas particularly across the Tennessee Valley. A slow moving storm will drift northward along the Atlantic Seaboard, reaching New England on Thursday. Additional rainfall could reach 1 to 2 inches in the middle and northern Atlantic States. Meanwhile, a smaller disturbance will trail the initial storm, following a similar path across the Plains, South, and East, and delivering some additional showers. Toward week's end, cool, showery weather will overspread the Northwest. Elsewhere, warm air will gradually shift eastward from the western U.S., encompassing much of the Plains and the Midwest by the weekend. Looking to our South American neighbors, we continue to hear about a dryer trend in Brazil. Soil moisture is generally favorable for the second crop corn in central Brazil. However, southern and central states continue see dryness going back about 30 days and should be watched for potential crop stress.

Early Summer Outlook: *We are getting long-range forecast on early summer indicating hot conditions in the West and close to average temperatures in the East. This is looking similar to the temperature pattern the U.S. experienced last summer when the West saw record or near record heat and the East enjoyed temperatures that were quite mild. In June, below average temperatures are most likely to continue in the northern Plains while the rest of the Midwest is near or slightly cooler than average. Much of the East Coast will near to slightly above average while the West will see warmer than average temperatures grow. In July, there is potential for a major heat wave in the West. A continuation of near average or slightly colder weather is forecast in the Midwest. (Source: Weather Channel)*

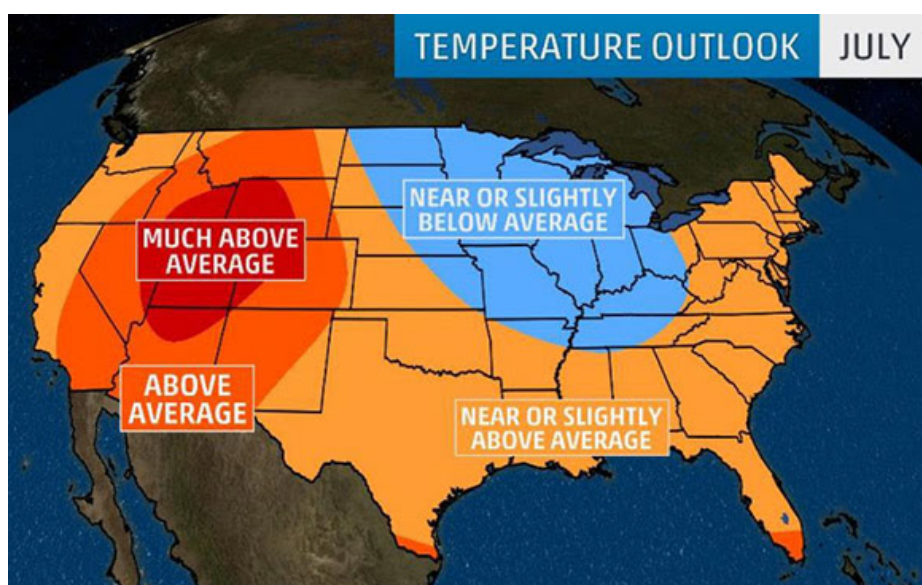
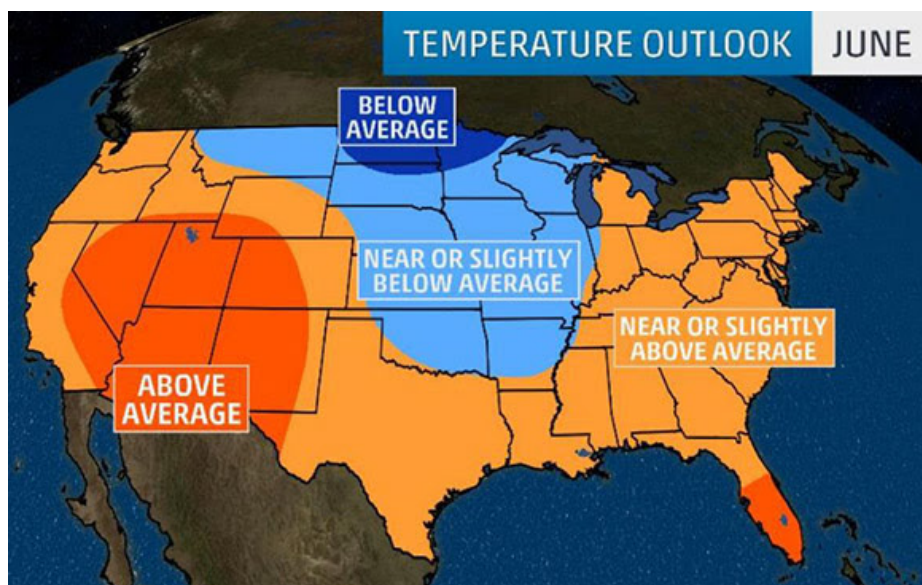


1599, Oliver Cromwell - On this day April 25th, 1599 Oliver Cromwell was born in England. Cromwell is best remembered as the General on the parliamentary side of the English Civil Wars against King Charles I. He would help to bring about the overthrow of the Stuart monarch by signing the death warrant for the King, and then declared himself as the lord protector over England. Cromwell was born into a family that was for the day considered wealthy and influential. He would attend Cambridge University, and move back home to care for his family, after the death of his father. In 1620 he would marry Elizabeth Bourchier and have nine children. Cromwell's life can be broken down into three separate elements: first as a soldier where he set himself apart for his military prowess, secondly as a politician and his skillful maneuvering, and lastly his religion which was the power behind his motivation. He would help the country rebound back after the long civil wars to be a leading power in Europe. As a convinced Calvinist and Protestant, he held strongly to the belief of religious tolerance. Cromwell is said to have had his conversion to a true belief in God in his mid-thirties, prior to this he felt that he was the "chief of sinners." He was very critical of the Church of England and its hierarchy and politics. Cromwell believed that Christian congregations ought to be allowed to choose their own ministers who would serve their parishioners by preaching and praying. After overthrowing the Stuart monarchy, Cromwell would face a Royalist insurrection in Parliament. He would be offered the title of King of England, however, he refused the title and insisted that England be ruled as a Commonwealth. Today most British consider Cromwell to be one of the ten greatest Britons of all time.



1898, War With Spain

Today April 25, 1898 the United States would declare war on Spain. Tensions between the two countries had been growing for the year prior to this date, due to the aftermath of the internal explosion of the USS Maine in Havana Harbor in Cuba. The U.S. had also begun aiding the people in Cuba who were fighting to gain their independence from Spain. Finally, the Monroe Doctrine, which stated that the U.S. would not tolerate further interference from European countries to expand or retake territories back in the Northern hemisphere served to also push the U.S into supporting the independence seeking Cubans. Back in the states, there was also a faction that was strongly pushing for the war, the media. They used yellow journalism (exaggerated and explosive headlines) to help sway public opinion for the war. The Cuban people who had been revolting against Spanish rule for years and the U.S interventions, plus the sinking of the Maine and the media all helped to push President William McKinley into making



Corn bulls are starting to create more buzz about weather complications in the southern portions of Brazil's main crop producing areas. Drier conditions could easily complicate matters in the coming days. I still believe the USDA is currently overestimating the total Brazilian corn crop. I've been hearing that the number probably ends up somewhere between 85 and 90 MMTs vs. the current forecast of 92 MMTs. In fact some insiders are saying if things stay really dry, like they potentially could, Brazil's total corn production could fall to sub-85 MMTs. This would obviously help provide the bulls with some fresh new fundamental headlines and further confirm a shrinking global balance sheet. I remain a longer-term bull on strong demand and shrinking global production. I am however keeping a close eye on the U.S. dollar and headlines surrounding trade negotiations, both are dynamics that could create headwinds ahead. Staying conservatively bullish, but not adding to my existing length. As a producer, I've been banking some profits on short option premium to help further open the upside. I should note, weather here in the U.S. is starting to warmup and cooperate, in turn we are hearing that a lot of planters are now rolling. I suspect we could see a sizable jump in U.S. planted corn acres next week.

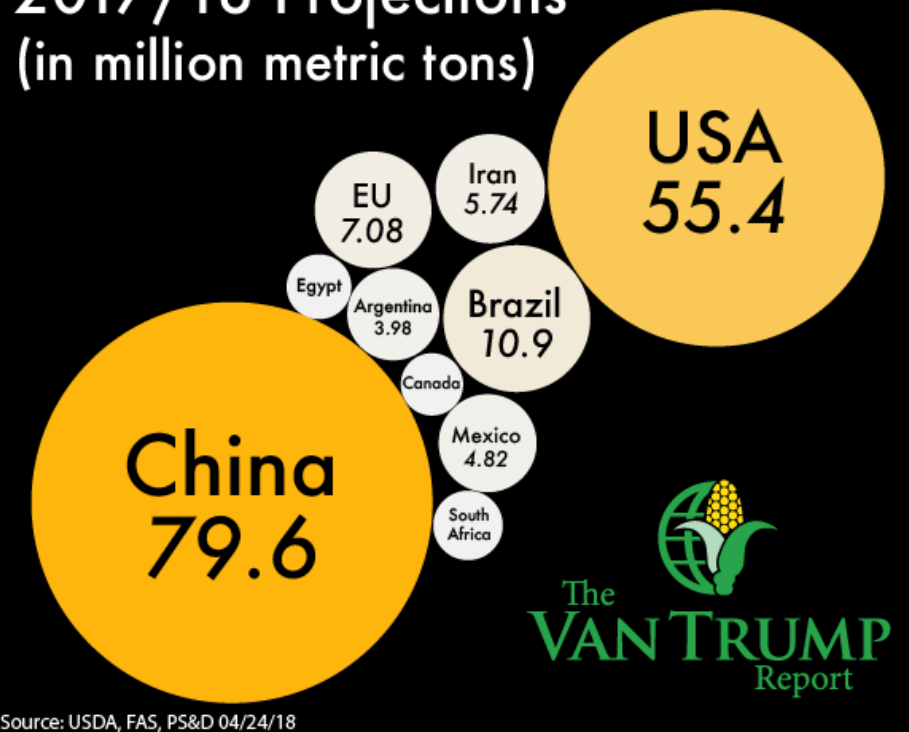
the declaration of war. One month prior to this McKinley had signed a resolution demanding the Spanish withdrawal and getting Congress' approval for a U.S. military force to help Cuba gain its independence. Again, McKinley would send Spain an ultimatum, which they had ignored. War was declared, and the U.S. Naval forces proved to be too much for the Spaniards to handle. A Naval Expeditionary force landed on the island and quickly took over and gained the surrender of Santiago and Manila. The U.S. Army also used the "Rough Riders," a cavalry unit to help gain control over the island of Cuba. The U.S. Navy would also sink two Spanish ships carrying troops off the coast of Cuba. Spain would quickly recall the rest of her naval vessels back to the homeland for protection purposes. The war ended after ten weeks, when the 1898 Treaty of Paris was agreed upon in December. This treaty would give temporary control over Cuba and ownership of the island of Puerto Rico, Guam and the Philippines to the United States. The U.S. would have to pay \$20 million dollars for the infrastructure that Spain had surrendered in the Philippines. Furthermore, this would end Spain's colonial expansionism that it had been implementing for over one hundred years, and it would establish the U.S. as a powerful political/military force that would play its part in world affairs for some time to come. In the end, the Spanish-American war was only one of five U.S. wars to have been formally declared by the U.S. Congress.



1917, Ella Fitzgerald - The "First Lady of Song," Ella Fitzgerald was born today, April 25th, 1917. Lady Ella was born in Newport News, Virginia

and her family would move to Yonkers, New York when she was two years old. It was at the Bethany African Methodist Episcopal Church, where she would first experience formal musical training. In her home it wasn't unusual for her parents to play jazz music, where Ella grew to love artist like Louis Armstrong, Bing Crosby and the Boswell Sisters. At fifteen years of age Ella's mother would die in a car crash and she would move to live with her aunt in Harlem, New York City. This left Ella traumatized, and she would drop out of school to work as a look-out for a bordello. Caught by authorities, Ella would be put in a state reformatory for a time, however she escaped and lived as a homeless person on the streets of New York City where she would survive on the streets by singing. It was in November on 1934 where she would make her singing debut at the Apollo Theater on their Amateur Night. That night she would sing "Judy," a Boswell Sister's song, and she would win the first prize, \$25.00. One year later in 1935 she would win the chance to perform at the Harlem Opera House. Following this performance, Fitzgerald would be offered the opportunity to sing with Chick Webb's orchestra and soon gained acclaim for her performances. Webb would tragically die

Global Corn Ending Stocks 2017/18 Projections (in million metric tons)



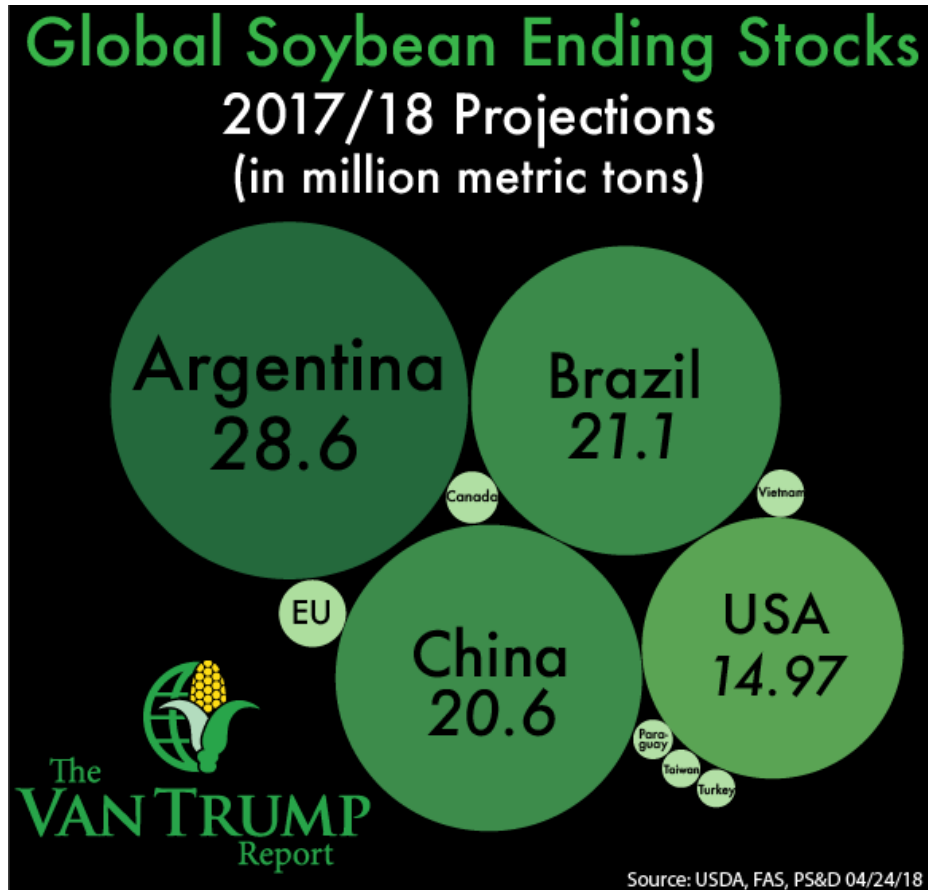
Soybean bulls continue to see prices being supported longer-term by the production failure in Argentina. There were new headlines that Argentine importers have purchased another round of soybeans from U.S. suppliers. Bears say, "who cares, as our biggest buyer China still remains absent as of late". There's still some fear that the market has gotten a bit ahead of itself nearby and prices might need to eventually test psychological support down near \$10.00 to see who's serious about staying long the JUL18 contract. Still hearing strong talk from fundamental bulls who continue to like the new crop bean and meal spreads, but are talking a patient approach. Similar to my concerns for corn, I'm keeping a close eye on the strengthening U.S. dollar, especially how it compares to the weakening Brazilian currency. I'm also keeping a close eye on headlines involving NAFTA and Chinese trade negotiations. Both could create potential headwinds for the market.

in 1939 and his band would be renamed Ella and her Famous Orchestra. She would record over 150 songs with her orchestra over the next six years and break free of the big band era in 1942 to begin her solo career, signing a contract with Decca Records. She would be influenced during this time by Dizzy Gillespie and started to include scat singing as part of her performances. In 1945 she would record "Flying Home," a scat album which is said to be one of the most influential vocal jazz records of all time. From 1956 to 1966 Ella would record eight song books which would include standards and rarities from the jazz world, bebop and other genres. These albums are now considered some of the greatest cultural canon of the Great American Songbook. The New York Times stated this about Ella, "Here is a black woman popularizing urban songs often written by immigrant Jews to a national audience of predominantly white Christians. In 1991 Lady Ella was plagued by health problems and would record her last album. In her lifetime Ella Fitzgerald made history as the first African-American woman to win a Grammy Award, record countless albums and sell over 40 million of these recordings. She would die in California in 1996, but she remains alive through her music.

Upcoming Events

- Tues.-Wed. 5/1-5/2** - FOMC Meeting
- Thurs. 5/10** - USDA Supply and Demand
- Thurs. 5/17** - Farm Labor
- Tues. 5/22** - Cold Storage
- Wed. 5/23** - Minutes From 5/2 FOMC Meeting Released
- Fri. 5/25** - Cattle on Feed
- Mon. 5/28** - Memorial Day - Markets Closed
- Tues. 6/12** - USDA Supply and Demand
- Tues.-Wed. 6/12-6/13** - FOMC Meeting
- Fri. 6/22** - Cattle on Feed
- Fri. 6/22** - Cold Storage
- Thurs. 6/28** - Quarterly Hogs and Pigs
- Fri. 6/29** - Quarterly Stocks and Acreage

Kevln's Song of the Week



Wheat traders continue to debate poor U.S. conditions against ample global supply. With U.S. winter wheat acres near record low levels and poor conditions also near record levels, it's tough not get a little bull up. The problem is, it's tough to find a good domestic demand story and low cost-providers in Russia and parts of Europe continue to bring cheap supply to the global market. Despite the recent bounce higher on talk of poor conditions and crop tours getting ready to start, I still think prices could ultimately fall lower. From a technical perspective, I still think the SRW wheat contract could retest the \$4.40 area. As a producer, I really don't have much new-crop price risk remaining. Our downside is fairly well protected as our production will probably be limited. As a spec, I would like to become a longer-term bull but am in no hurry to make that play. I believe there will be better opportunities to buy value. Staying on the sideline looking for an additional break in price.



Kevin's Song of the Week

NEXT level THINKING

My goal at "The Van Trump Report" is to help readers better identify the moving parts and dynamics associated with the financial markets, geopolitical events, economics, media and culture that is currently influencing and shaping the direction of the agricultural markets. I like to believe I "Challenge the Traditional" and encourage our readers to think outside the box.

I use story telling techniques that are written in an easy to read format to help convey my current thoughts about business, markets, technology, weather, sports and life. I also like to include links, filter the noise, and pass along in-depth research and information that I believe could challenge your current thought process and help you make more informed decisions. In addition I include valuable lessons I have learned from other traders, executives and investors, along with an occasional inspirational piece about life, family and faith.

What I do not do in "The Van Trump Report" is give specific financial advice or tell individuals how to invest or how to specifically hedge. Remember, this information is being read by hedge fund managers, bankers, CEO's, and Ag leaders around the globe, therefore it's NOT tailored to fit your specific individual needs. For specific investment or hedging advice please seek the help of a licensed representative that can better understand your particular situation, individual needs and overall risk tolerance. This information should ONLY be used for educational and entertainment purposes.

My family and I would like to thank you again for your support!

Kevin Van Trump

What Others Are Saying

"I am a recent subscriber to Kevin's newsletter, but I'm a long-time reader of many other high-profile marketing services. I am particularly impressed with the thorough manner in which Kevin evaluates every economic aspect, both nationally and internationally, that

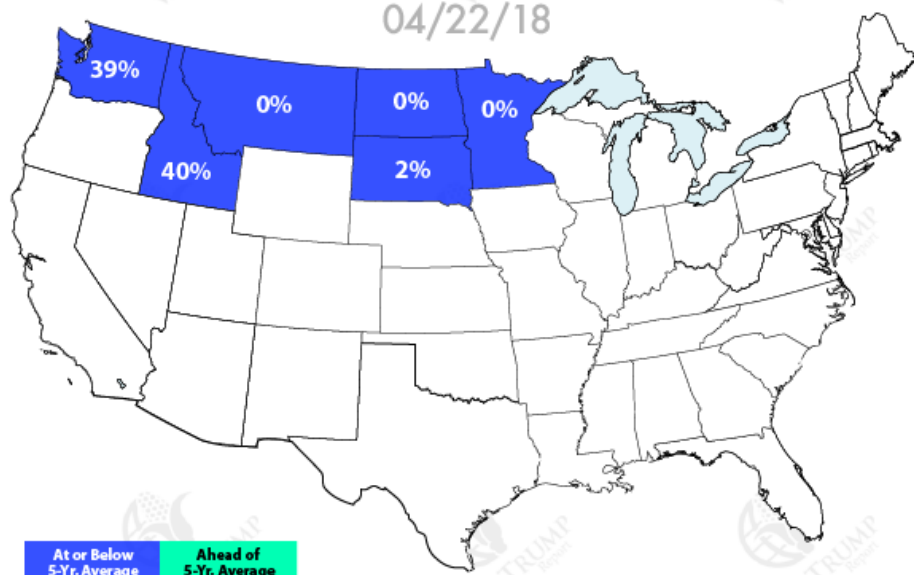
U.S. Spring Wheat Percent Planted, Week 16

2010 - 2018



Spring Wheat Planted

04/22/18



At or Below 5-Yr. Average Ahead of 5-Yr. Average

Source: USDA, NASS Crop Progress

influences commodity prices. His analysis and conclusions are highly thought out and conveyed in layman's terms so that the reader can comprehend the numerous and often complex interrelationships that impact the markets. Kevin is a real attribute to the agricultural sector."

A.M., FDIC

"As a national federal farm policy administrator and commodity producer, I find it critical to keep updated with what is going on in the real world of agriculture and with the domestic and global markets. Of all the services I've have been privy to or have subscribed to over the past 20 years I've found in the past several months of engaging in your "Farm Direction" services to be the best perception and analysis of what is really happening in today's world. Not only here in the United States, but across the globe as well. US farmers need this type of help and information to assist them in their daily efforts. I commend you for a job well done. Please let me know if I can ever be of any help or assistance to you in the future..."

L.T., Assistant Deputy Administrator for Farm Programs USDA

My Own Personal Truisms

"Not To Trade, is often considered a good trading decision..."

"First Rule of HOLES: When you are in one stop digging..."

"Every looser in Vegas, always walks away from the table thinking he could have done better, the winners on the other hand leave while on top..."

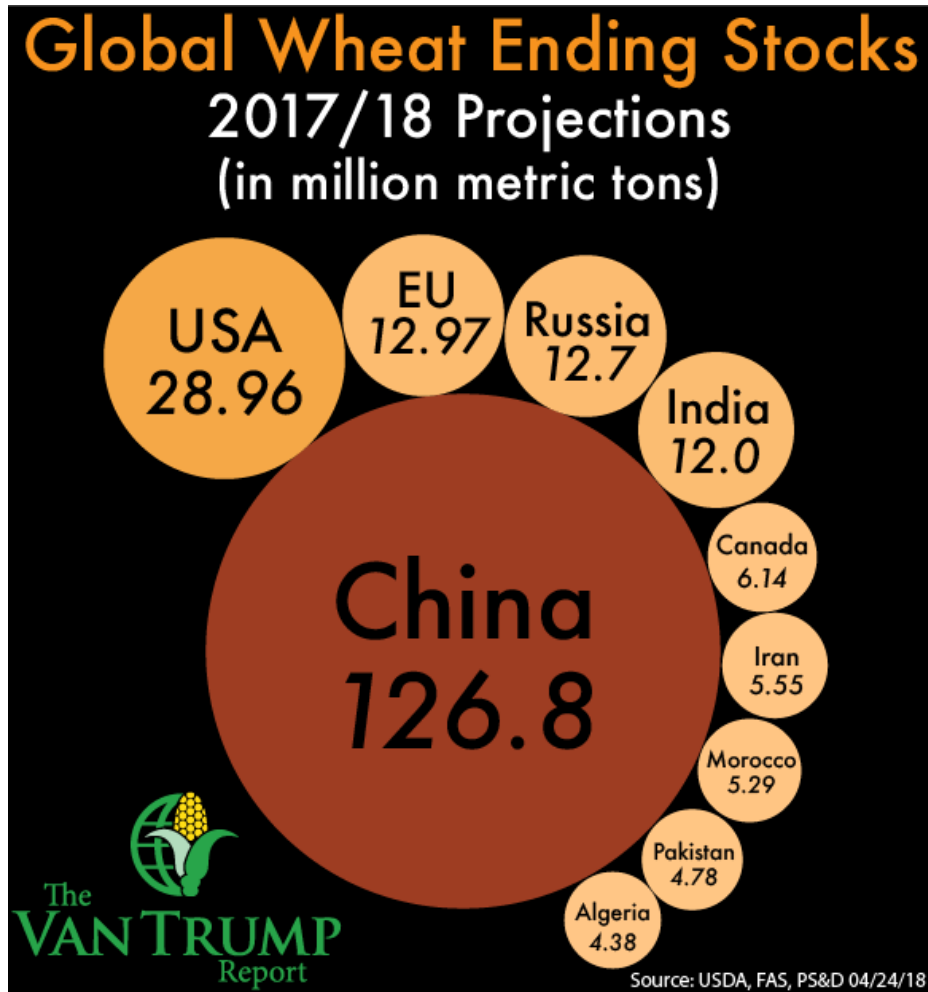
"Bulls make money, Bears make money, but pigs get slaughtered..."

"The markets ability to remain irrational can often times last much longer than your ability to remain solvent..."

I'm more of a long-term player, therefore you will not see me give many short-term suggestions or trade ideas. One of my most important rules is that I always follow my long-term direction. Therefore, as long as I am "bullish" a market I will only play that particular market in one of three ways.

- Option #1 - Conservatively long.
- Option #2 - Aggressively long.
- Option #3 - Sitting on the sideline.

I never initiate a "short" position in a market that I am "bullish" longer-term, nor do I initiate a "long" position in a market I am "bearish" longer-term.



> Mnuchin Heads To China: Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin will depart for China to negotiate over U.S. trade disputes within days, President Donald Trump said. "We have a very good chance of making a deal," Trump said in a meeting with French President Emmanuel Macron. If the two sides can't reach an agreement, he said, proposed U.S. tariffs on billions of dollars in Chinese goods will take effect after a May 15th public hearing.

> Sanderson Farms Expect Lower Operating Earnings: Weaker-than-expected pricing and slightly higher-than-expected unspecified legal costs prompted at least one industry analyst to lower her operating earnings estimate for Sanderson Farms for fiscal 2018. Farha Aslam at Stephens Inc. said uneven chicken breast production and weak demand in the wake of winter storms in February contributed to lower prices, along with weakness in wing prices after lower demand by restaurants. She lowered her 2018 earnings estimate for Sanderson Farms to \$10.65 from \$10.85 a share and the outlook for fiscal 2019 to \$10.65 a share from \$10.75. (Source: Meatingplace)

> Consumer Confidence Increases In April: An index of U.S. consumer attitudes increased in April, recovering from a fall in March. The Conference Board's measure of consumer confidence increased to 128.7 this month, up from 127 in March. The April reading beat a forecast from Reuters analysts, who expected the index to slip further to 126. Consumer confidence fell in March, breaking a two-month streak of gains. (Source: CNBC)

> Nibulon Invests \$90 Million To Restore River: Ukraine grain trading company Nibulon has invested \$90 million of its own money to re-open 83 miles of the Southern Buh River. The river is Ukraine's second longest and winds its way through the agricultural heartlands to the port of Mykolaiv on the Black Sea. Ukraine has struggled with logistics, with railways often choked, delayed or lacking the right railcars, but the

river network has not been maintained since the country achieved independence, so it hasn't offered a viable alternative to alleviate the pinch points. The company hopes to float four million mt by 2021. (Source: Agricensus)

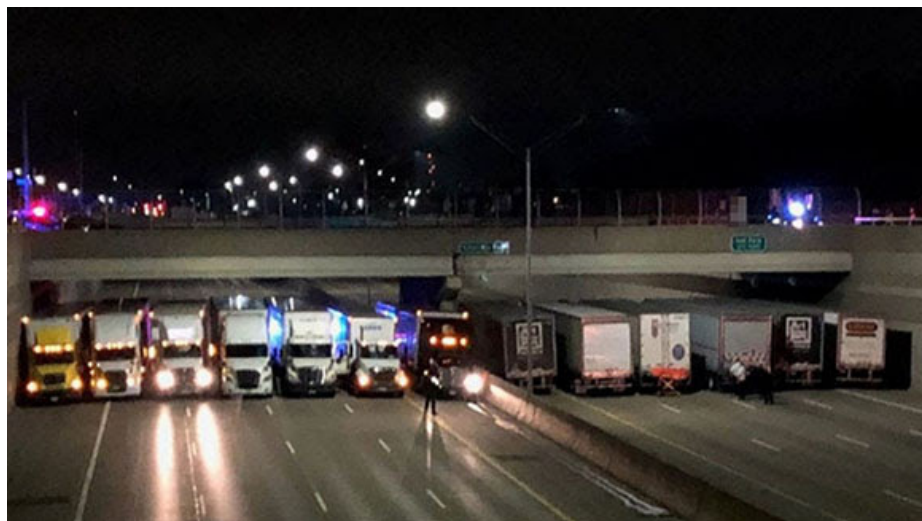
> Chinese Sorghum Importers Look For Help: One source said his company was asking Beijing to impose the new tariffs only on cargoes loaded at U.S. ports after April 18, in a bid to protect almost a dozen vessels carrying U.S. sorghum that have already started sailing. A second source at a private importer based in eastern China said a group of companies, including at least one state-owned firm met Commerce Ministry officials to discuss concessions for the new tariff, but did not disclose details of the meeting. Companies are being squeezed by the recent 178.6 percent deposit.

> When Switching To Diet Soda Isn't Healthy: Making the switch from regular to diet soda might seem like a healthful choice — but according to a new study to be presented at the 2018 Experimental Biology meeting, zero-calorie sweeteners such as aspartame and Ace-K might actually be worse. Or they might be better. Or they might be just as bad. The bottom line? Right now, researchers just don't know. Read more [HERE](#).

> USDA Or DARD? Senators who represent the Appalachian region, including Sens. Mark Warner (D-Va.), Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.) and Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.), plan to introduce a bill today that would rename the USDA as the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. The aim is to focus the agency on economic development in remote parts of the country. (Source: Politico)

> Snapchat App Bringing Back Some Original Design: In February, Snapchat released a controversial app redesign that triggered backlash from users. The main complaint: The redesign separated celebrity Snapchat stories from those that came from your friends. Snapchat is now taking steps back, confirming that they are testing a new design that brings friends' "Stories" back to the "Discover" page as well as some of the other changes from the original design.

> Great Teamwork Saves A Life: Keeping things positive, 13 truck drivers were flagged down by the Michigan State Police in order to create a wall in the middle of I-696 underneath an overpass just outside of Detroit in order to prevent a man from jumping off the bridge. The police did talk the man down and afterward, thanked each trucker for pulling over to assist. If we keep our eyes open, I suspect there are plenty of opportunities, both big and small to make a difference in someone's life each day. (Source: USA Today)



Eastern Colorado - We have been a little cool out here and I would say that we are a good 10 days behind schedule. Historically, our soil temps are a good 20 degrees warmer than the 40-degree mark that we are at today. I would say by April 20th typically we have started planting. I can usually tell from the spring wheat growth stage on what the soil temps are but this year we do not have any spring wheat planted. I would need to check but this may be the latest we have ever planted. I know that we always shoot to have the corn in the ground by mid-May but this year that may

be a challenge. I truly believe with soil temps this cold and planting so late the entire growing season will be pushed back, which could present problems on the back end.

Central South Dakota - It finally feels like spring today as the temperatures are close to 70 degrees with some nice south winds. By the end of the week, I hope that we can get in the field to do some spraying. It looks like the earliest we will plant would be early next week. We will start with getting the few acres of spring wheat planted. I do not think any spring wheat has been planted up here and a little surprised on the USDA's 3% planted to date for the US. We do have another chance of rain the next couple of days but after that, we have a decent window to roll with the planters. Once we get the wheat in, we will wait for the soil temps to warm up and the weather forecast to be favorable.

Central Texas - We operate some grain elevators and cattle ranches in our area. Most of the grain goes to the poultry operations in the area and various feed mills. We are seeing some of the guys put more bean acres in and not for reasons you might think. As you know the south has a wild hog problem down here and the guys have found out the hogs will not eat the beans nearly as much as they do corn. The hogs are so thick down here that you can go out every night and eliminate a bunch. A buddy and I took mules out the other night and stayed out until dawn, putting down 70 of the mangy beasts. The corn is nearly waist high in some areas here as we have had some cooler temperatures. It is growing so fast that you can almost see it growing.



Argentina Province Rejects U.S. Pork: Argentina and the United States have agreed to terms for the resumption of US pork exports to Argentina for the first time since 1992, but the province of La Pampa has already refused to play ball. Following an understanding first struck in August 2017 between President Mauricio Macri and US Vice President Mike Pence, technical requirements for US pork exports were finalized last week between the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Office of the US Trade Representative (USTR), and the Ministry of Agro-Industry. According to a USDA and USTR joint statement, the United States exports US\$ 6.5 billion in pork products annually, and the Argentine market could be worth at least an additional US\$ 10 million a year. Read more [HERE](#).

Amazon Wants In Your Trunk: Amazon announced today a new service that gives its couriers access to a person's vehicle for the purpose of leaving package deliveries inside. But rather than use smart locks and a cloud-connected camera to gain entry, Amazon wants to use the connected technologies embedded in many modern vehicles today. The company is launching this new service in partnership with two major automakers — General Motors and Volvo — and will be rolling out in 37 cities in the US starting today. Read more [HERE](#).

World's First Penis & Scrotum Transplant Restores Military Vet's Injury: A young military veteran severely maimed by an improvised explosive device (IED) received the world's first total penis and scrotum transplant, surgeons at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine announced Monday. Understandably, the patient wished to remain anonymous but did tell reporters that he "felt whole again." The IED took both of his legs above the knee and destroyed his genitals. But it was the genital injury that hit him hardest, he said. "That injury, I felt like it banished me from a relationship. Like, that's it, you're done, you're by yourself for the rest of your life. I struggled with even viewing myself as a man for a long time." Incredibly, this first of its kind surgery, which was estimated to cost \$300,000 to \$400,000 was performed at no charge by the doctors at Johns Hopkins. You can read more [HERE](#).

Placing Your Bet On The Future Of Transportation: Ride-sharing services like Uber and Lyft have come to dominate a new market, where people pay for miles instead of buying vehicles, and the same model is now, controversially, being applied to scooters. Cars can actually drive themselves, under certain conditions. But what will this mean for the future of how we commute? Co.Design spoke to eight venture capitalists from firms like Andreessen Horowitz and Google Ventures as well as smaller, transportation-focused funds to learn what version of the future they're betting on and how they think people will move around cities and the world in the coming years. See where the smart money is placing their bets [HERE](#).

Big Data And Big Tech Shaping Your Future Healthcare Market: This isn't the first time tech has tried to gain an ambitious foothold in the healthcare market. However, it shouldn't be surprising that in today's data-obsessed era, that companies like Amazon, Apple, IBM, and Alphabet are again taking steps to capture some of multi-trillion dollar

market. Today's infographic from Koeppel Direct shows how this is all playing out, as well as the specific initiatives that big technology companies are using to gain a foothold in a market that's ripe for change. Things are changing quickly in the healthcare industry so stay alert. See full infographic [HERE](#).



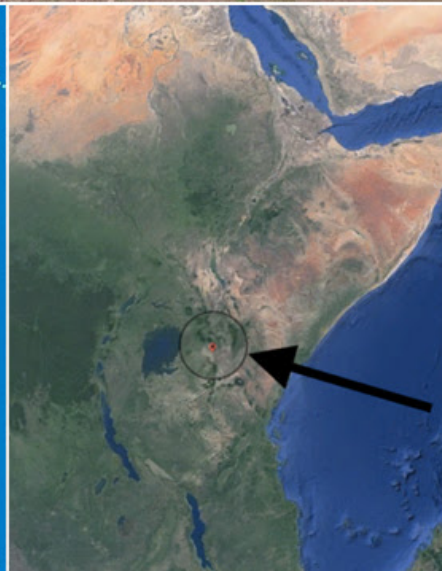
The healthcare industry is ripe for disruption - and disruption it's getting. Big tech companies like Apple, IBM, and Amazon are fighting to claim their stakes in an industry that, until now, has been decades behind in tech advancements. This shift will impact all involved, from doctors and nurses to patients and insurers. Let's dive deeper into how this collision is beneficial for both tech and healthcare.

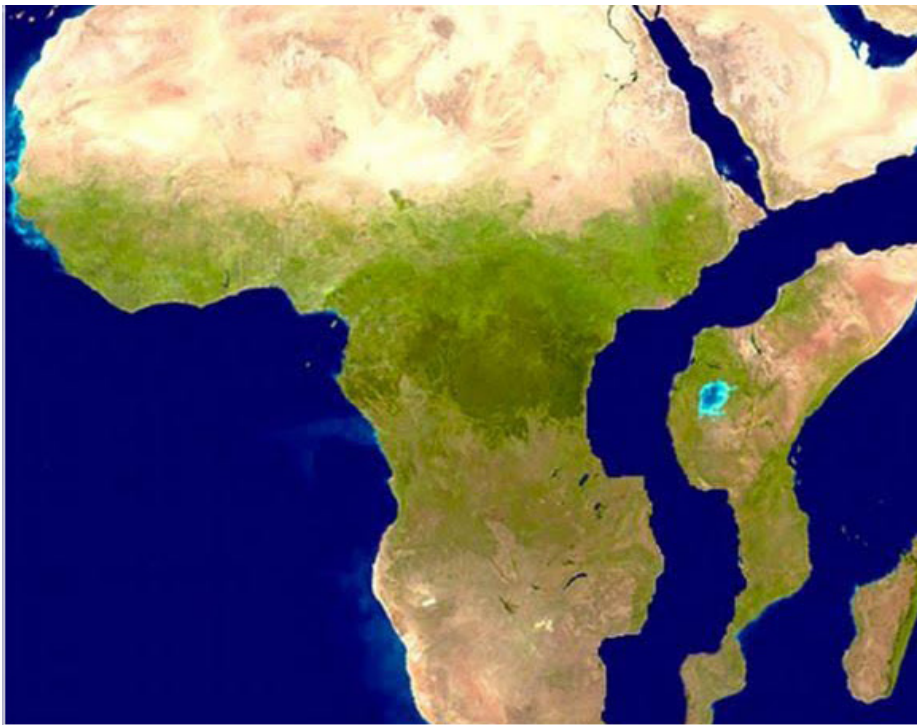


Africa Is Splitting In Half Right Before Our Eyes

A large crack, stretching several miles, is splitting Africa across southwestern Kenya. The tear is 50 feet deep and over 60 feet across at the moment. I'm told the tear, which continues to grow daily, caused part of the Nairobi-Narok highway to collapse and was accompanied by seismic activity in the area. Interestingly, though we don't see or usually feel it, the Earth is constantly moving beneath us. We know, the movement of the Earth's lithosphere (formed by the crust and the upper part of the mantle) is broken up into a number of tectonic plates. These plates are not static, but move relative to each other at varying speeds, "gliding" over a viscous asthenosphere. From what I understand, over time the constant movement of the plates will eventually thin out the mantle and seismic forces beneath the Earth then have less mass to move, which leads to cracks, rifts and the eventual development of new ocean basins. An example of a place on Earth where this has happened is the South Atlantic ocean, which resulted from the break up of South America and Africa around 138 million years ago – ever notice how their coastlines match like pieces of the same puzzle? Currently the East African Rift Valley stretches over 1,800 miles from the Gulf of Aden in the north towards

Zimbabwe in the south, splitting the African plate into two unequal parts: the Somali and Nubian plates. If the future follows the past, then eventually the ocean will flood in the basin of the rift creating a smaller African continent and a large island in the Indian Ocean consisting of parts of Ethiopia and Somalia, including the Horn of Africa. I doubt any of us will be here to see it, but it is remarkable to see a bit of the process unfolding before our eyes. [HERE](#) is some cool drone footage of the crack. (Source: [Quartz](#))





No Time To Exercise? There Might Soon Be A Pill For That

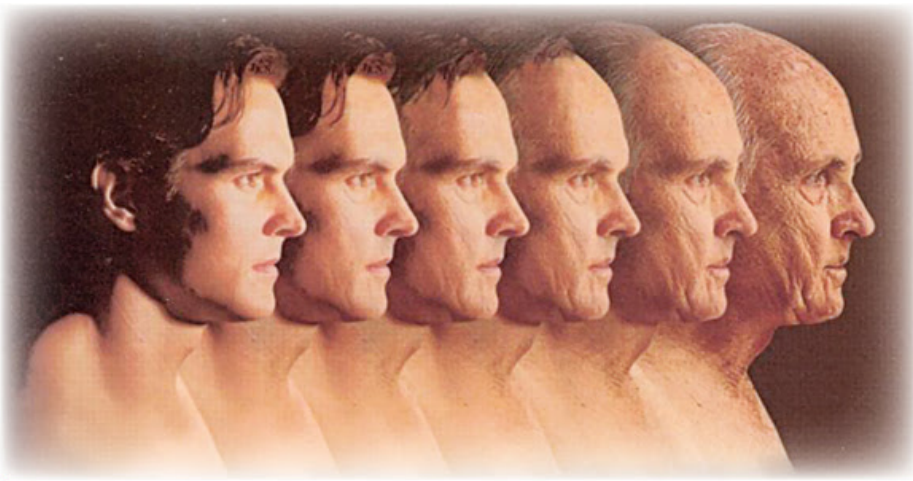
Researchers in Australia say they have made a breakthrough with the exercise “pill” they’ve been working on for over a decade. The drug has the ability to mimic some of the beneficial effects of exercise such as burning more calories and fat. The results of tests in the lab using mice are pretty encouraging. From what I understand, after just a week of taking Compound 14, as its known, the blood-glucose levels of obese, sedentary mice on high-fat diets actually began to return to normal numbers. Researchers developed another drug from the same experiment called 516, which they are not sure how it works but do know what it does. Impressively, 516 extends the same beneficial impacts of exercise without moving a muscle - literally! Ron Evans, the lead author of the study, began testing 516 back in 2007 in an effort to gain a better understanding of the genes that can switch our metabolism on or off. His research showed mice given a daily dose of 516 and allowed to exercise regularly increased their endurance by as much as +75% in just four weeks. What’s more, their body fat index shrank, their insulin resistance came down and their muscle-composition ratio shifted. Shockingly, a new study appears to reveal that the drug also benefited mice that didn't exercise. I'm told it works by mimicking the effect of endurance exercise on the PPAR-delta gene. 516 binds to this gene and boosts the signal it sends to break down and burn fat. It sounds too good to be true and you know what I say about that. Realistically, these two drugs do have promising applications, most obviously in helping treat obesity, diabetes, and people with medical conditions that keep them from exercising. Evans does note that with 516, it could become another “illegal” temptation for professional athletes seeking to get an edge on the competition. (Sources: The New Yorker, Quartz, ABC)



Life Expectancy Pushing Higher... How Long Will Most Live?

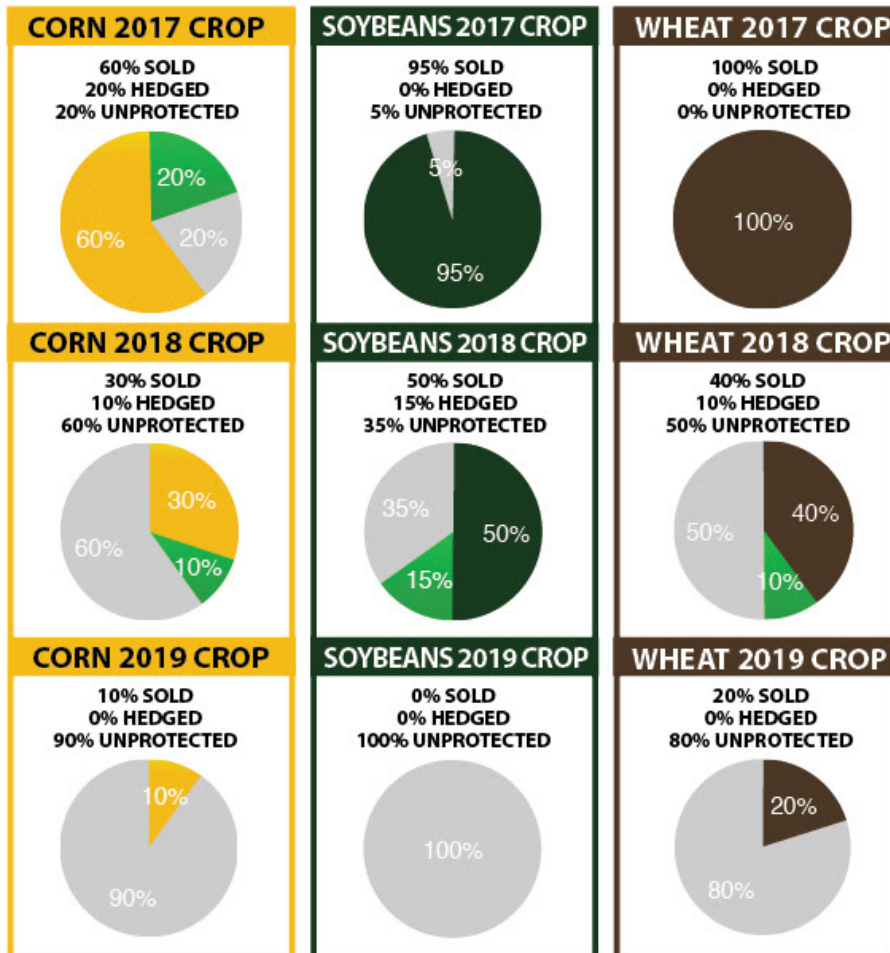
According to The World Health Organization, in the middle of the last century there were only 14 million people in the world aged 80 years or older. However, by 2050, there will be almost 400 million people in this age group – with 100 million of them in China alone. Within the next five years, for the first time in history, the population of people aged 65 and older will outnumber children under the age of five! As you can imagine an increase in worldwide longevity is putting pressure on countries' health services and financial budgets. There is no debating the fact that with more older people in the population there is going to be an increased demand on government healthcare and social security systems. I started thinking more about the "longevity of life" and went out and did a little research, I found some interesting thoughts that I wanted to pass along:

- *Current world life expectancy is 67.2 years of age.*
- *Oldest confirmed recorded age for any human is 122 years, reached by Jeanne Calment who lived between 1875-1997.*
- *Bronze Age and the Iron Age, life expectancy was 26 years of age.*
- *1600s in England, life expectancy was only about 30 years, largely because two-thirds of all children died before the age of four.*
- *Colonial America, the average life expectancy was under 25 years in the Virginia colony, and in New England about 40% of children failed to reach adulthood.*
- *Industrial Revolution, the life expectancy of children increased dramatically. The percentage of children born in London who died before the age of five decreased from 74.5% in 1730-1749 to 31.8% in 1810-1829.*
- *18th century life expectancy was between 30 and 35 years of age.*
- *19th century life expectancy climbed to 35 to 40 years of age.*
- *20th century, the average lifespan in the United States increased by more than +30 years, of which 25 years can be attributed to advances in public health.*
- *AIDS is particularly notable on life expectancy in many African countries; According to the UN the life expectancy at birth for 2010-2017 (if HIV/AIDS did not exist) would have been: 70.7 years instead of 31.6 in Botswana, 70.5 years instead of 31.8 in Zimbabwe, and 69.9 years instead of 41.5 in South Africa.*
- *Asian-Americans live the longest of all ethnic groups in the United States, with a life expectancy of 87 years, almost ten years longer than Euro-Americans who are expected to live until age 78.2, while African Americans life expectancy is only 73.6.*
- *Women - About 90% of individuals aged 110 are female. Sorry guys... the average male life expectancy in the US is right around 76 years of age, while women in the US are now averaging over 80 years of age. It may be hard to believe but the average life expectancy for women in Monaco is thought to be above 93 years of age. Men just over 85.*
- *Number of centenarians in developed countries is increasing at approximately 5.5% per year, which means doubling the centenarian population every 13 years, pushing it from some 455,000 in 2009 to 4.1 million in 2050. In the United States, the number of centenarians more than doubled from 1980's 32,194 to 72,900 in November of 2015.*



ANSWER to riddle: Racecar

CASH SALES & HEDGING TOTALS



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