

GOOD MORNING: 05/16/18 Farm Direction - VanTrump Report

2 messages

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"It is never too late to be what you might have been." — George Eliot

WEDNESDAY, MAY 16, 2018

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Morning Summary: Traders are taking a closer look at headlines involving North Korea. There was some talk late yesterday that North Korean leaders were making threats about canceling the upcoming summit with President Donald Trump. From what I understand, North Korea said it would reconsider the summit with President Donald Trump next month if the U.S. insisted they give up their nuclear weapons. North Korea is saying they want no part of a Libyan-style denuclearization program and is definitely not interested in "one-sided demands". Keep in mind, North Korea, has canceled high-level talks with South Korea, citing its objections to military exercises being conducted by the U.S. and South Korea. Bears are also pointing to the fact the yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note climbed to 3.07% matching its highest level since 2011. At the same time the U.S. dollar has pushed to nearby highs and gold prices have fallen below \$1,300 per ounce for the first time this year. I should also note, the world's third largest economy, Japan, shrank a bit in the January-March period. The contraction was actually the first for Japan in several years. European economic data as of late could also be thought of as favoring the bears. Here at home, traditional economic data has been solid and continues to show signs of steady growth. Data scheduled for release today includes MBA Mortgage Applications; Housing Starts and Building Permits; and Industrial Production. I continue to keep a close eye on headlines involving U.S. trade negotiations. There's not a lot new this morning involving the Chinese relations, but there are more headlines circulating about NAFTA, with many insiders saying a "deal" is still a long ways away and leaders in Washington might not get any real traction for several more weeks. There had been hope that a deal could be negotiated by mid-May, which would provide enough time for the current Congress to get it written up and voted on. Speaker Paul Ryan had set May 17 as the informal deadline to submit a NAFTA deal if the Trump administration wanted the current Congress to vote on a renegotiated agreement between the U.S., Canada and Mexico. The trade understands, the longer it takes to negotiate, the greater the odds the new November elected officials will be getting involved...which creates even further uncertainty. Just to add a bit more to the equation, there's a highly anticipated Mexican presidential election coming up on July 1.

Rising Mortgages Come At Bad Time: Bonds sell off as mortgage rates soar to their highest in seven years. The average contract rate on the 30-year fixed hovered around 4.875 percent late yesterday for the highest creditworthy borrowers and 5 percent for the average borrower, according to Mortgage News Daily. The surge in rates could not have come at a worse time for the spring housing market. Buyers are struggling to find affordable homes for sale, as the supply of listings drops to record lows in most major markets. Home prices are now rising at the fastest rate in four years, according to CoreLogic, and show no sign of easing up. Read more [HERE](#).

Tepper To Buy Carolina Panthers: Billionaire hedge fund manager and Pittsburgh Steelers minority owner David Tepper is reportedly going to sign a deal to purchase the Carolina Panthers for \$2.2 billion. That would mark a record for the highest sale price for an NFL team compared to the current record of \$1.4 billion for the Buffalo Bills in 2014. Tepper would need to "put up at least 30% of the selling price" and sell his 5% stake in the Steelers. (Source: ESPN; DataTrek)

What It Takes To Gain One Pound Of Body Mass: Different sources of animal protein in our diets place different demands on natural resources. One measure of

Today In History



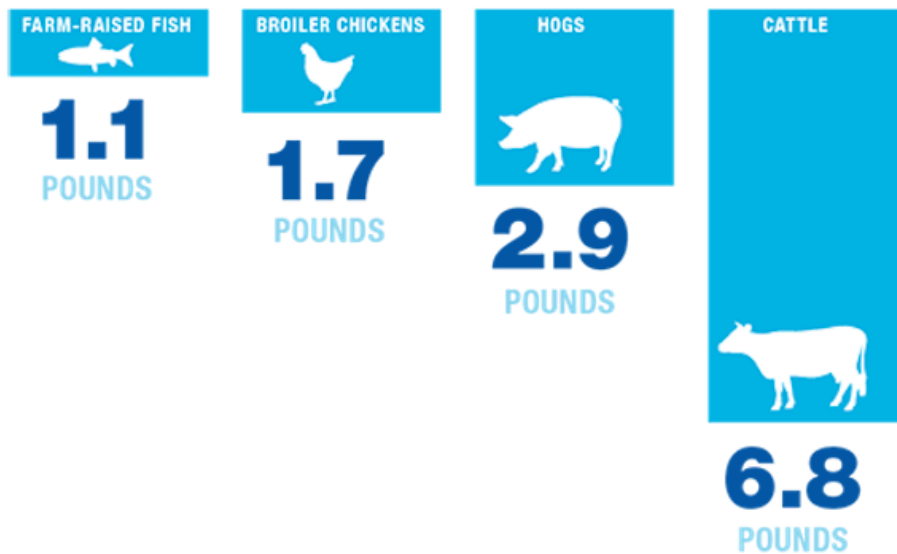
1918, Sedition Act - United States Congress would pass the Sedition Act on this day in 1918. The Sedition Act was written by President Woodrow

Wilson's attorney general, Mitchell Palmer. This bill was designed to protect America's participation in World War I. Combined with the Espionage Act, signed the previous year, these two pieces of legislation would make it a crime for any person to convey information intended to harm or interfere with American Armed Forces and the war effort. The Sedition Act was mostly aimed at socialists, pacifists and other anti-war activists. It would impose penalties on people who would be found guilty of making false statements that interfered with the war efforts. Anyone who was considered an agitator and found to have interfered with manufacturing having to do with the war efforts, insulting the flag, government or the country would face these charges. The Justice Department at the time felt that the legislation would quite public calls for more government action against those thought to be insufficiently patriotic. The Senate would have fierce debates over the bill and its constitutionality. Many felt that it violated the First Amendment which guarantees an individual's right to freedom of speech. However, the bill would still achieve a majority vote. In the House of Representatives, the bill would almost pass unanimously, with only one dissenting vote from a socialist hailing from New York. More than two thousand prosecutions would occur under the original Sedition Act of 1918. The most famous of which was that of a socialist spokesman and craft opponent Eugene Victor Debs who was the founder of the Social Democratic Party and later the Socialist Party of America. In 1921, the Supreme Court would hear his case and rule in his favor, finding that the Sedition Act did in fact violate his First

this is the "feed-conversion ratio," an estimate of the feed required to gain one pound of body mass. (Source: Aquaculture Alliance)

FEED CONVERSION RATIO

Estimated feed required to gain one pound of body mass.⁵



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: You've heard me before, yet you hear me again. Then I die 'til you call me again.

Weather on the Corn Belt has seen a broken line of showers stretch from Michigan to Missouri. The rain is slowing a previously rapid fieldwork pace, but is benefiting recently emerged corn and soybeans. In Illinois, soybeans were 66% planted and 24% emerged by May 13, compared to the respective 5 year averages of 24 and 6%. Meanwhile, warmer, drier weather in the upper Midwest favors an acceleration of fieldwork. Only 21% of South Dakota's intended corn acreage had been planted by May 13, compared to the average of 61%. On the Plains, warm, dry weather in Montana and the Dakotas is promoting planting, emergence, and establishment of spring-sown crops. Despite recent progress, U.S. spring wheat planting (58% complete, vs. 67% on average) and emergence (14% complete, vs. 36% on average) remained behind schedule on May 13. Farther south, beneficial but widely scattered showers dot the central and southern Plains. In the South, locally heavy showers in the southern Atlantic States are halting fieldwork but easing or eradicating pockets of drought. elsewhere, warm, humid weather favors a rapid crop development pace. A disturbance over the eastern Gulf of Mexico will continue to produce locally heavy showers in the southern Atlantic States, regardless of further development. Later in the week, heavy rain will spread northward along the East Coast and the Appalachians, boosting 5 day totals to 2 to 4 inches or more from Florida to southern New England.

Take a Different Look at Midwest Dryness: I came across the drought monitoring tool called the Quick Drought Response Index. Looking across Kansas,

Amendment rights. Later Congress would repeal the Sedition Act.



1966 - The Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution would begin a decade of the bloodiest period in the history in China.

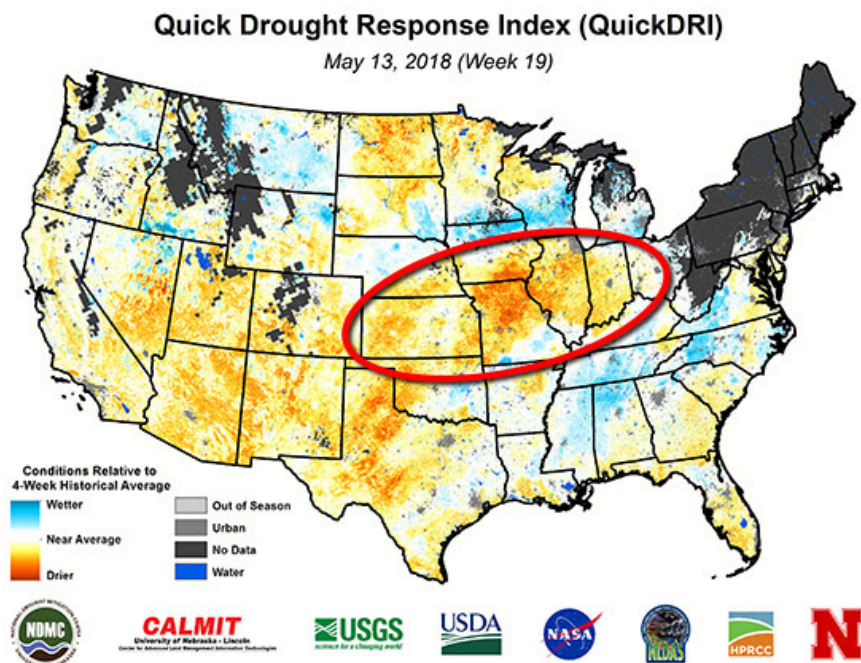
Mao Zedong would use the Chinese masses to assert his control over the Communist party. He wanted to weed out his opponents who allegedly infiltrated the party and who were plotting to create a bourgeoisie dictatorship and were seen as being influenced by Western capitalist. Mao would instigate the masses to "clear away the evil habits of the old society and purge the monsters and demons." Students and urban youth known as the Red Guard would spring into action causing mayhem where ever they pleased, using Mao's directive of destroying old ideas, old customs, old habits and old culture (the "four olds"). Party officials, teachers and intellectuals found themselves in the cross-hairs, they were beaten, publicly humiliated and murdered by the thousands. In Beijing alone, over two thousand people would lose their lives in one month with many choosing suicide. China would basically be in an all-out civil war, with different factions fighting throughout the country and sadly, cultural and religious sites were also ransacked and destroyed with artifacts valued in the millions stolen and lost forever. Mao would realize by 1968 that he had lost total control of the Revolution and would use the military to assert his control once again. Many of the Red Guard would be sent to the far countryside regions in China for re-education. Mao would declare the end of the Revolution in 1969, but it would have long-lasting effects for the country. After his death, reformers would begin to dismantle the Maoist policies and recognize the Revolution as the worst set back the country had ever faced. The Communist Party would state the following "the Revolution was totally responsible for the most sever setback and the heaviest losses suffered by the Party, the country and the people since the founding of the People's Republic." In the end, it is estimated that as many as two million people would lose their lives, millions of people were displaced, and the economy was totally devastated. Ironically, Mao's revolution is thought to have led to China's embrace of capitalism today.



1905, Henry Fonda - Henry Jaynes Fonda, was born on this day in Grand Island, Nebraska and would grow up in Omaha.

He would work in his father's print shop, and became very active in Boy Scouts being awarded the rank of Eagle Scout. Fonda would attend the University of Minnesota and major in journalism. Moving back to Omaha he began his acting career at the Omaha Community Playhouse. Wanting to gain better acting credentials, Henry would move east and join the University Players of Falmouth, Massachusetts. Here he would meet his

northern Missouri, southeastern Iowa, central Illinois and into Indiana, you can see the recent dryness that is pushing across the Corn Belt. This tool characterizes the intensification of short-term drought condition patterns on a weekly basis across the continental U.S. The primary goal of QuickDRI is to serve as an "alarm" for rapidly emerging events such as "flash drought" that pop-up quickly — in a matter of a few days to weeks — and are often difficult to detect using traditional drought indicators.



lifelong friend James Stewart. Fonda and Stewart would move to NYC and begin appearing in theatrical productions. His first big break would come in 1935 where he was cast in his first film "The Farmer Takes a Wife." He would sign a seven-year contract with Twentieth Century Fox and be cast in a roll that would win him his first Academy Award for the "Grapes of Wrath." At the outbreak of World War II Fonda would enlist in the United States Navy, where he served for four years aboard the USS Satterlee, a destroyer stationed in the Pacific. He became a Lieutenant in the Air Combat Intelligence department and was later awarded the Bronze Star and Navy Presidential Citation. After the war he would apprise rolls in many different movie genres, starring in over fifty films. In his private life, Fonda would marry five different times and have three children. His third wife would be the mother of his two famous children Jane and Peter Fonda. Both children would describe their father as being "emotionally distant." Fonda was active and an ardent supporter of the Democratic party throughout his life. He held FDR in high regard and would appear in a political campaign commercial for John F. Kennedy. Henry Fonda's professional achievements would include three Academy Awards, three Tony Awards, and several life time achievement awards. President Ronald Regan would honor Fonda upon his death in 1982 by stating, "Fonda was a true professional dedicated to excellence in his craft. He graced the screen with a sincerity and accuracy which made him a legend."

Corn bulls are happy to see prices stabilizing, with the JUL18 contract closing back above \$4.00 per bushel. From a technical perspective, the recent high up near \$4.08² remains nearby resistance. The next hurdle beyond that will come somewhere up between \$4.20 and the high posted back on July 11th at \$4.34². As for the new-crop DEC18 contract, bulls would like to see it close back above last weeks high posted at \$4.23⁶. The previous new-crop high was posted back on July 11th at just under \$4.30 per bushel. New-crop support still looks to remain in the \$4.00 to \$4.10 range. Fundamentally, not a lot has changed. Bears are talking about the better than expected pace to U.S. planting, fairly good weather in the nearby forecast, strong production out of Russia and Ukraine, recent strength of the U.S. dollar and continued political uncertainty surrounding ethanol and trade. Bulls on the other hand are talking about the continued production hiccups in South America, the possibility of fewer U.S. corn acres, extremely strong domestic and global demand for corn, fewer bushels floating around inside China, upcoming U.S. weather uncertainty, strength in crude oil and the funds having overall more bullish tone towards commodities. As a producer, I remain patient, thinking there is still more room to the upside. As a spec, I continue to hold my conservative longer-term bullish positions. I see no reason to add additional risk at the moment.

Upcoming Events

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

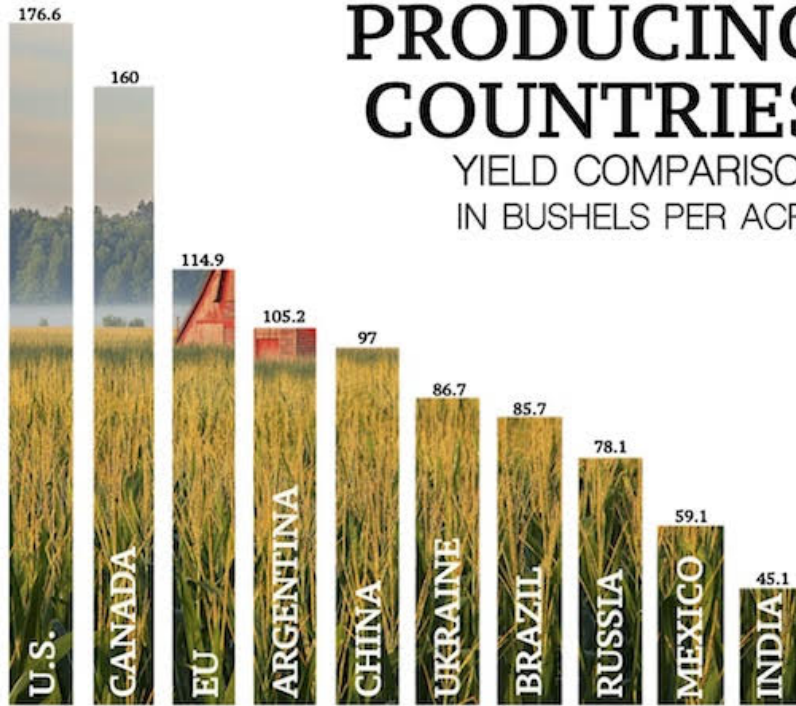
Thurs. 6/28 - Quarterly Hogs and Pigs

Fri. 6/29 - Quarterly Stocks and Acreage

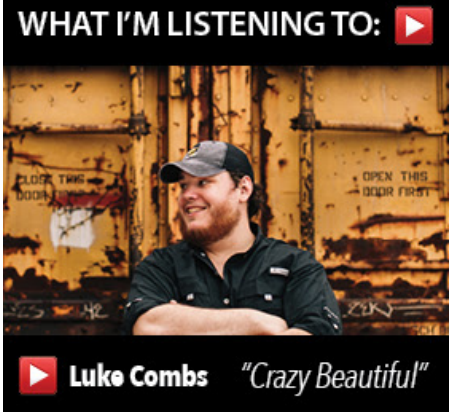
Kevin's Song of the Week

TOP CORN PRODUCING COUNTRIES

YIELD COMPARISON IN BUSHELS PER ACRE



SOURCE: USDA, FAS, PS&D 05/09/18



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.

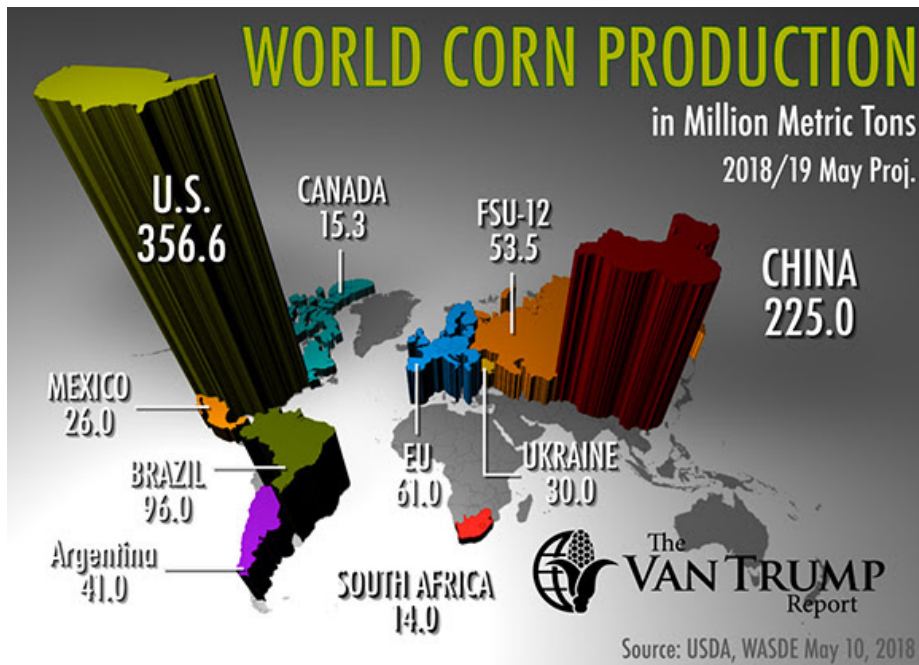
What I do not do in "The Van Trump Report" is give specific financial advice or tell individuals how to invest or how to specifically hedge. Remember, this information is being read by hedge fund managers, bankers, CEO's, and Ag leaders around the globe, therefore it's NOT tailored to fit your specific 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

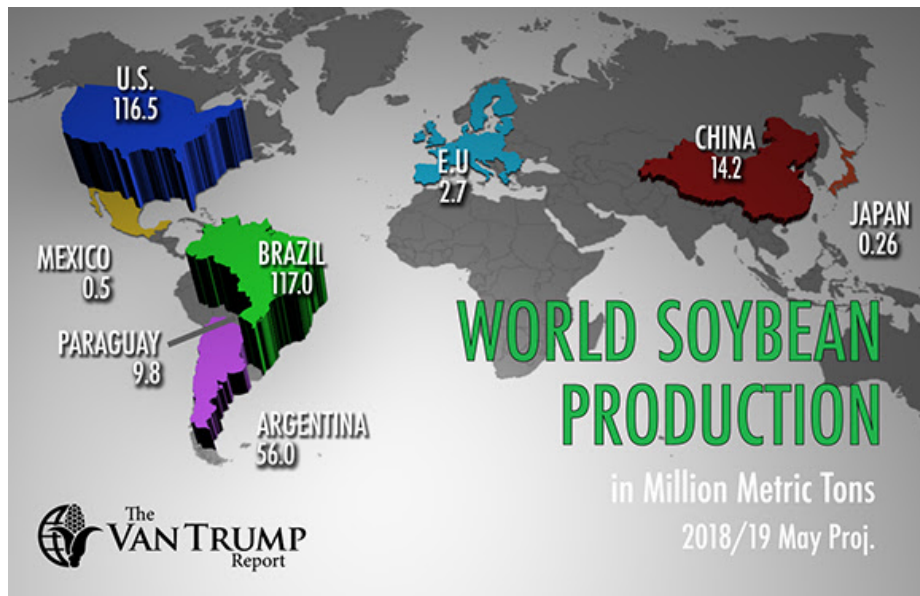
What Others Are Saying

"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



Soybean traders continue to debate mixed headlines surrounding U.S. and Chinese trade negotiations. Bulls are wanting to believe the rumors and talk that China might simply drop the threats of import tariffs being placed on U.S. soybeans and other ag related products in exchange for U.S. leaders pulling back sanctions recently on the Chinese telecom firm ZTE. On the flip side, many political insiders are saying some powerful leaders in Washington are fully against President Trump easing the sanctions on ZTE. I wish I knew a more definitive answer, but there's simply too much noise in the air to make an educated statement. I personally want to believe "trade" will eventually get worked out and actually be better than it was before. But in the back of my mind, I wonder if I'm just talking my longer-term bullish position? Bulls are also pointing to a record April crush number recently reported by NOPA. From that I understand, this is the largest monthly April crush number on record and well above last year. This number also has more bulls saying the USDA is currently underestimating their U.S. crush estimate. Bears are saying not so fast, and if Chinese

buyers don't start taking shipments of U.S. soybeans, the overall demand picture will hit a major roadblock. Remember, China is by far our largest buyer of soybeans and still has close to 4 million bushels sitting at U.S. ports waiting to be shipped. Bears are also reminding us that U.S. producers are off to a fairly good start to planting season...stay tuned, lots of moving parts!



Wheat bulls have been desperately trying to stop the bleeding. Depending on the contract you trade, the market has fallen by -40 to -50 cents after posting the early-May highs. The domestic U.S. demand story remains extremely hard to locate and makes trading from the nearby bullish side somewhat difficult. The weather uncertainty here in the U.S. has been well advertised and is currently drawing in very little new bullish interest. We have also seen some better rainfall totals across portions of Russia and Ukraine that had been drawing some attention. As a producer, I've been aggressive with sales and reducing risk on the rallies, so am well positioned to remain patient and on the sideline. As a spec, I only want to be a longer-term buyer on much deeper breaks in price. I remain apprehensive and not willing to chase the weather rallies.

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.

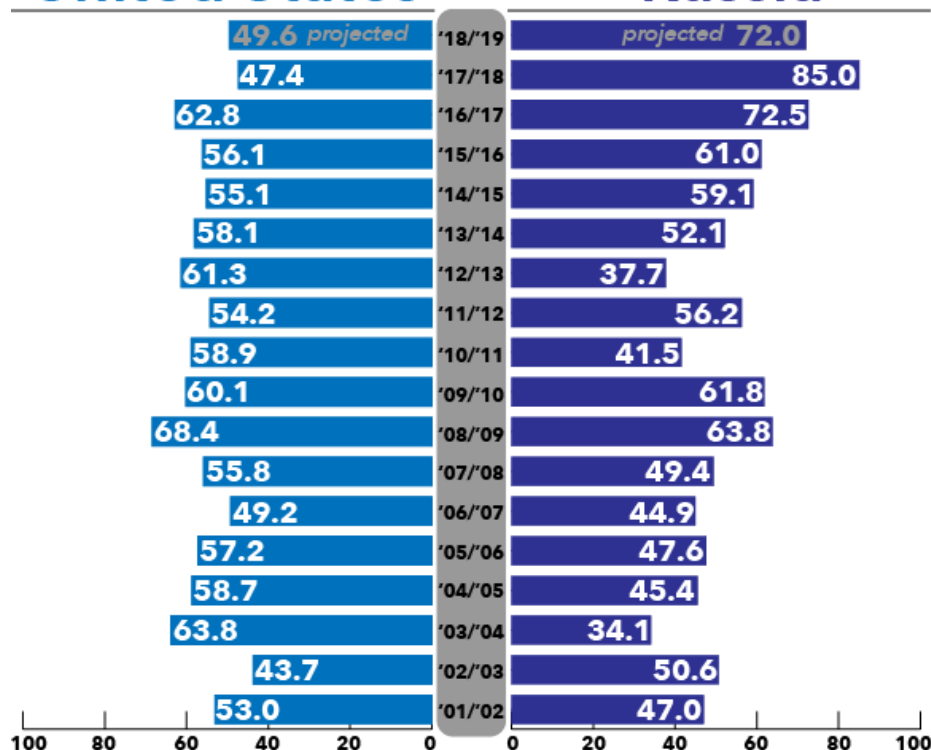
I never initiate a "short" position in a market that I am "bullish" longer-term, nor do I initiate a "long" position in a market I am "bearish" longer-term.

Wheat Production

(in million metric tons)

United States

Russia



Source: USDA, FAS, PS&D 05/15/18

Farm Direction
RECIPES

★ **FAMILY FAVORITES** ★
-SENT IN BY OUR READERS-

Honey Mustard Bacon Brats

[CLICK TO SEE RECIPE](#)



> April Crush Numbers New Record: Just over 161 million bushels of soybeans were crushed in April according to NOPA. Impressively, the number was 16% better year on year. The total wasn't quite enough to beat March's all-time high of 171.858, but did beat monthly expectations.

> Informa Increasing Acres: Informa released their latest acreage estimates and have U.S. corn forecast at 88.976 million acres, which is about +1 million higher than the most recent USDA forecast. They also have soybean acres forecast about +500,000 more than the USDA at 89.412 million. Cotton acres are also forecast higher than the USDA at 13.989 million acres. Spring wheat acres are forecast lower than the USDA by about -200,000 at 12.427 million.

> Tyson Purchases Blending Assets As Costs Rise: Tyson Foods Inc. said on Tuesday it would buy the poultry rendering and blending assets of American Proteins Inc for about \$850 million, as the company looks to recycle more animal products to use in feed and pet food. One of the elevators purchased recently from The Andersons will be used to support Tyson's planned \$300 million chicken processing plant in Humboldt, Tennessee, slated to open around late 2019. The No. 1 U.S. meat processor earlier this month said it expected chicken feed costs to rise by about \$100 million in fiscal 2018. (Source: Reuters)

> Drought Damages Large Portion of Brazil Corn: Brazil's largest grain producing state of Mato Grosso is expected to harvest up to 15% less of second crop corn because of the current drought. They are estimating Mato Grosso farmers will collect an estimated 25 million metric tons of safrinha corn this year. The state produced almost 29 million metric tons of corn last season when the weather was nearly-perfect,

according to government data. The state accounts for about 30% of Brazil's total corn output in a given year. (Source: Bloomberg)

> ICE Ramps Up Workplace Arrests for Immigration Violations: The investigative arm of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement opened 3,510 worksite probes through the first seven months of fiscal 2018 according to new data released Monday. The figure is nearly double the number of investigations launched in all of fiscal 2017. (Source: ice.gov)

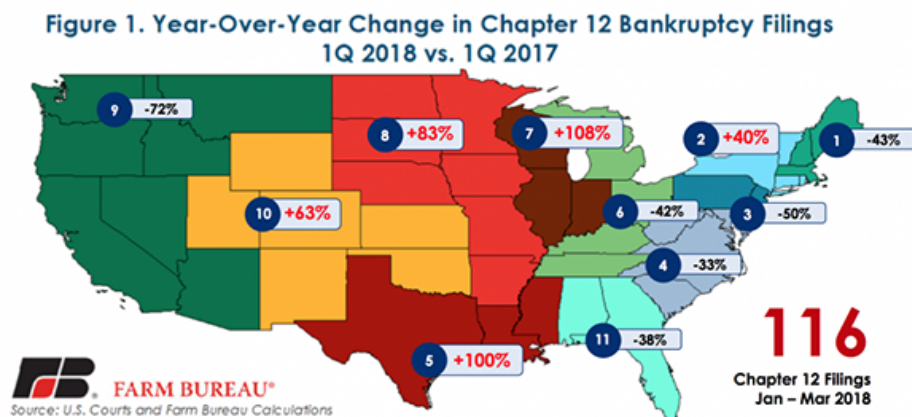
> Bunge Files To List Brazilian Sugar and Ethanol Business: Bunge has filed for a potential public offering of its sugar and ethanol unit in Brazil, Bunge Acucar Bionergia SA, with the Brazilian Securities Commission. The global sugar market is facing challenging times due to a supply glut that has pushed raw sugar prices to the lowest levels in two and a half years. Many sugar companies in Brazil are facing low profit margins and high debt. (Source: Reuters)

> JBS Head Sees Higher Grain Prices: Brazil's JBS SA, the world's largest meatpacking company, said that rising prices for grain don't show any hint of cooling off, forcing it to cut other costs. The drought in Argentina over the winter and below-average rains currently in Brazil have lifted prices for soybeans and corn, elevating costs mainly for pork and poultry processors who use the grains as the main ingredients for feed. Local prices in Brazil for corn are trading at a premium compared to Chicago values, as high exports and strong demand from meat processors lead to expectations of a possible tight supply in the second half of the year.

> U.S. Places Sanctions On Iran After For Supporting Terror Groups: Iran's central bank governor was sanctioned for moving money which supported Iran's elite Revolutionary Guard. I'm told, U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin pointed a finger at bank chief Valiollah Seif for covertly moving money on behalf of the guard's external arm, Quds Force. The money was funneled through Al-Bilad Islamic Bank for the purpose of supporting the violent agenda of Hezbollah.

> 5G Coming To LA: Los Angeles was named as the second city to have 5G network access. From what I understand we are closer than most think as Verizon is planning on locking down four cities in 2018. In February, AT&T said that Atlanta, Dallas and Waco, Tex. would be the first of 12 cities to receive 5G technology, while Sprint is bringing its 5G services to Kansas City, Phoenix and New York City (the millennium capital of the world). (Source: TechCrunch)

> Farm Bankruptcies Are Up Over 100% In Some Areas: According to caseload statistics from the U.S. Courts, for the three month period ending March 31, 2018, there were 116 Chapter 12 bankruptcy filings in the U.S. These Chapter 12 bankruptcies are designed for "family farmers" or "family fishermen" with "regular annual income." Of the 116 filings in the first quarter of 2018, nearly 70% of the bankruptcies were in farm country, i.e. dairy, corn, cotton, soybean and wheat producing areas. Read more from Farm Bureau [HERE](#).



Southeast Iowa - We are a little dry here right now but earlier in the year and throughout the winter we were getting more rain and snow than normal. The moisture was mainly in our local area and did not cover much of southeast Iowa. We have all our corn planted and every field is up and looking as

good as we've seen it look for some time. We just finished beans about a week ago and they are just barely up but as a whole they look very good as well. The only real change we made from last year was we decided to drill beans in a few fields to combat some erosion problems we have been battling for a number of years. We also feel that with all the moisture that we received over the winter...it might cut into the moisture we get this spring so we thought the closer rows might shade the ground and conserve as much moisture as possible. Hopefully, we are not wrong and we don't run into white mold. We just got another couple light showers the last few days and over the weekend so the beginning stages of growth in both crops are looking really good. I don't want to get overly optimistic just yet because this area can produce 100-bushel corn or 200-bushel corn depending on June and July and we are already warm for this time of year. Not to mention I have already heard of guys straight north of us getting hail that pounded their 6-10 corn into the ground.

Northern Illinois - After planting soybeans, I sprayed 4oz fierce XLT with 24d with roundup on April 24th. I planted May 2 but got chased out of field with light rain and got 3/10 that night. These are Asgrow 32x6 treated with Ileva. They have planted about 120,000 population in 30" strip-till. It has been warm but we have been getting a few light showers since planting. I think we got real light rain Friday night sometime about when beans were making there way out. Another 1/2" last night. I am seeing quite a bit of brown and I'm wondering if i'm seeing valor splash damage and if I am I'm wondering how normal that is... It has been warm since planting but it's not like these were March planted beans. I thought the rain I got right after planting would have got me in the clear as far as splash damage but I'm no expert. Some aren't bad but we are seeing it in other fields too.

Northern Michigan - We farm about as far north in Michigan as you can get in what some people call the thumb of Michigan where a person can get to Lake Huron by traveling northeast or west in almost equal amounts. The soil is a little lighter and has a little more sand in it but we usually get good yields because we get a fair amount of rain from the lake. This year has been a little dryer but not so unseasonably that we are worried. The ground up here is very flat and the fields are fairly large so it did not take us long to plant because we run one 48 row planter and one 24 to clean up the edges. We started May 23rd and finished about 8 days later but we don't stop the planter unless it breaks down which thankfully this year it did not. We try to run it in 2-3 shifts depending on my brother and cousins timing. I think in total it sat twice this year, once for a short rain delay and once when my brother overslept and we got our wires crossed. The weather turned cold over the weekend but warmed right back up this week so the crop is getting a good early start which could be good or bad up this far north.



Not Just Talking About Food Waste: Atlanta native Jasmine Crowe isn't just talking a good game about food waste. No, instead she has launched Goodr, an app that connects places that manage large amounts of food (and even catered events like galas and weddings) to the hungry and in need. I'm told the idea was born last year after hosting dinners for the homeless. According to Fast Company, she realized "Hunger is not a scarcity issue. There's more than enough food. It's actually a logistics issue." From what I understand, the businesses can track their donation tax write-off in th app...a win for everyone. Read more [HERE](#).

Check Out Top 10 Entry Level Jobs: Your first job out of college could pay anywhere from \$32,000 to \$76,000, according to data from Salary.com. Your salary may matter now more than ever, since the annual interest rate on federal student loans for undergraduates could hit more than 5 percent for the 2018-2019 academic year. That's in addition to the \$1.4 trillion borrowers owe in loan debt already. If you are still searching for your first post-collegiate job, check out the top paying entry level jobs [HERE](#).

It's Not The Meditation...It's Your Breathing: The many benefits of meditation might be well documented, but the breathing exercises associated with mediation might be what's actually doing all the good work to your body and your mind. Ever wondered why you can focus better when you meditate, or why people who meditate frequently seem so relaxed? How you breathe has a direct effect on your heart rate, which in turn can influence every major system in your body in a sort-of sad chain reaction. When people have or experience anxiety or stress, they tend to inhale sharply and then hold their breath. So how do you breathe right? Read how [HERE](#).

Putting Machines To Work Leads To More Human Jobs: Experts are saying that automation (robots) will lead to job growth in certain industries for us humans. But everyone wants to know, which industries will this help? Basically, the companies that crack the code are those that can assign repetitive, precise tasks to robots, freeing human workers to undertake creative, problem-solving duties that machines aren't very good at. Read more [HERE](#).

World Has More Billionaires Than Ever: The world's billionaire population and their combined wealth reached record highs in 2017, boosted by strong performances across major economies and equity markets, according to a Wealth-X report released Tuesday. The number of billionaires in the world reached 2,754 last year, increasing 15% from the prior year and exceeding the previous record of 2,473 in 2015, according to the Billionaire Census 2018 by Wealth-X, a global wealth intelligence and insight provider. Their total wealth, including public and/or private holdings, liquid assets (cash or cash equivalent), real estate and other luxury assets (such as art collection, yachts, jets, etc), grew 24.4% year-over-year to US\$9.205 trillion. Read more [HERE](#).

Top 10 Billionaire Cities

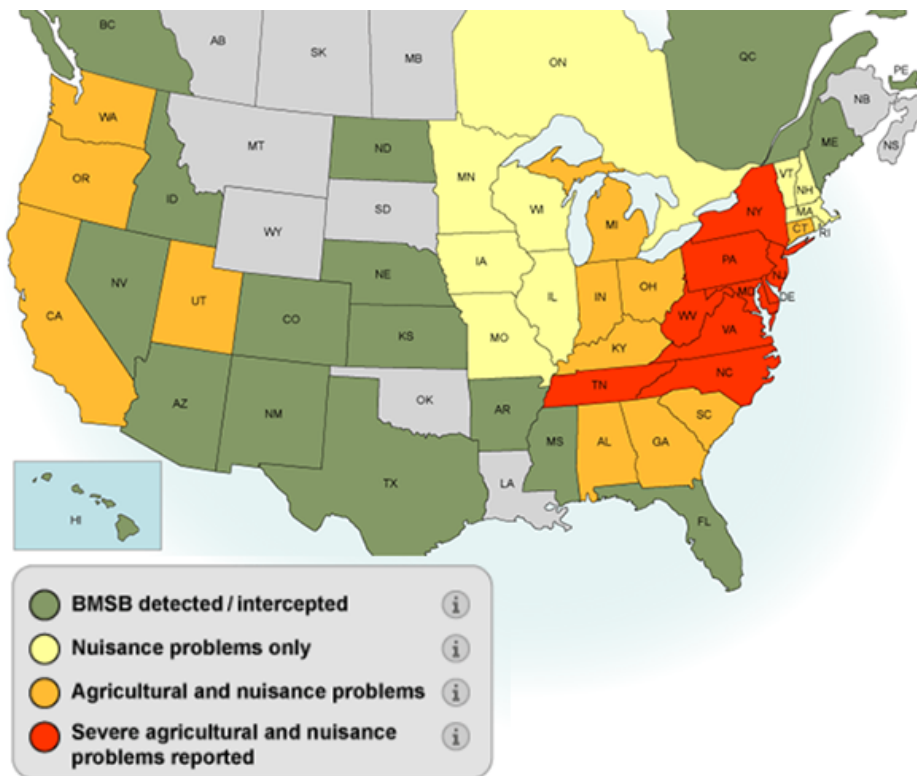


Source: Wealth-X, 2017



Meet the Stink Bug that I Is Overrunning the U.S.

I want to share an article about the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug and the problems it is causing across the U.S. The BMSB, as it is known to entomologists, farmers and exterminators, is a shield-shaped, armored-looking insect about the size of our thumbnail. The pest is thought to have arrived here in the U.S. about 20 years ago, coming from east Asia, where their ecosystem controls keep it from being a nuisance. Unfortunately, we haven't been so lucky here in the U.S. The first documented arrival of BMSB was in Allentown, Pennsylvania in 1996. Most experts believe it was likely a stowaway in a palletized shipment of goods from China. It took probably another five years for U.S. scientists to make a positive ID, because this bug looks like several indigenous species. The bug feels at home in a variety of landscapes and climates. Interestingly the bug only breeds in summer, and appears to have no real difficulty establishing large populations both indoors and out. Though the worst infestations so far have been in the mid-Atlantic states, it's really only because they have had a few more years to settle and get established. States further towards the interior of the country, for instance Minnesota, are now starting to report an increase in numbers. In Wisconsin, the bug has been confirmed in 11 southeastern counties and is suspected in two others, including Polk County, along the Minnesota border. Officials say that the pest has caused no significant harm to crops as of yet, but outbreaks have been unpredictable, so the future is very uncertain. So far, the biggest losses have been suffered by fruit growers; the bugs' bite creates scars that make apples, peaches and other produce too ugly for market; often, the surface damage is also an indicator of rot within. I have heard that both corn and soybeans can be attacked by the bug, but the outlook is extremely complicated. Damage to sweet corn and edamame is considered a serious problem because of the disfigurement factor. If you'd like to learn more about the stink bug's presence, history and outlook for states in the Midwest, you can learn more at www.StopBMSB.org. If you'd like to read more about some of the more serious infestations of Stink bugs here in the U.S. you should read The New Yorker article titled, " [When Twenty-Six Thousand Stinkbugs Invade Your Home](#)"



Amazon Moving Deeper Into The Housing Business

Amazon continues to move deeper into the housing sector. This time teaming with Lennar Corp, the largest U.S. homebuilding company, to help people experience an improved daily living experience with the use of Amazon technologies. From what I understand, Amazon is now launching a chain of showroom homes across the U.S. called "Amazon Experience Centers". The first locations will appear in Atlanta, Dallas, Los Angeles, Miami, Orlando, San Francisco, Seattle, and Washington, DC. The showrooms are designed to showcase the skill and efficiency of Amazon's technologies

in a residential setting. Visitors will be able to experience firsthand how Amazon Alexa technology can control things like TV, music, colored mood lighting, thermostats, robotic vacuums, smart locks, doorbells, blinds, etc... It is as easy as saying, "pull down the blinds" or simply pushing a button in the pantry to order more paper towels delivered directly to your home. Amazon says the centers are "intended to educate and inspire." Lennar recently announced that nearly all of its 35,000 homes built across 23 states this year will come with an array of Amazon smart home features, i.e. new buyers will be able to turn on their music, control their thermostat, lock their doors, and turn on the lights by a simple voice command. The smart home industry is a massively growing field and a space Amazon wants to dominate. In fact, some industry experts are saying the smart home market could push to over +\$40 billion by 2020. The three main competitors in this field currently are Amazon, Apple, and Google. I think it will be interesting to see these three giants battle it out for market share. I also think these three power-houses will advance the space very quickly, which could ultimately mean some really cool gadgets and advancements for us the homeowner.



Cool Video That Makes You Think... Good Life Lesson

Ray Dalio's best-selling book "Principles: Life & Work", which I have read and highly recommend, has had some of its biggest lessons turned into an 8-series animated ultra adventure. With many of our children and grandchildren graduating from high school and or college this month, I thought it was worth passing along some very interesting insight.. For those who don't know, Ray Dalio is the founder of Bridgewater Associates, the largest hedged fund in the world. Dalio started the firm 1975, just a few years after leaving college and after a brief stint as a futures trader at Shearson Hayden Stone. At last count, the firm had +\$160 billion in assets under management. Dalio himself is thought to be worth about \$20 billion. He and his wife Barbara joined Bill Gates and Warren Buffett's Giving Pledge, vowing to donate more than half their family fortune to charitable causes. The videos are short, quick and provide great life lessons. Below is just one example that I believe really needs to be hammered home with a lot of our younger hires, it's titled "Embrace Reality & Deal With It"... Click [HERE](#)

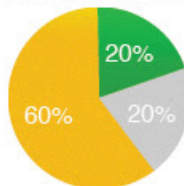


ANSWER to riddle: Echo

CASH SALES & HEDGING TOTALS

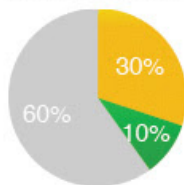
CORN 2017 CROP

60% SOLD
20% HEDGED
20% UNPROTECTED



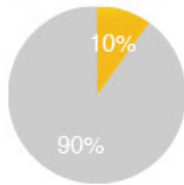
CORN 2018 CROP

30% SOLD
10% HEDGED
60% UNPROTECTED



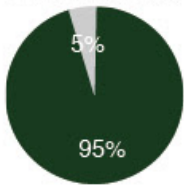
CORN 2019 CROP

10% SOLD
0% HEDGED
90% UNPROTECTED



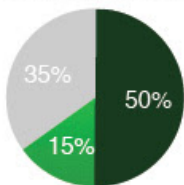
SOYBEANS 2017 CROP

95% SOLD
0% HEDGED
5% UNPROTECTED



SOYBEANS 2018 CROP

50% SOLD
15% HEDGED
35% UNPROTECTED



SOYBEANS 2019 CROP

0% SOLD
0% HEDGED
100% UNPROTECTED



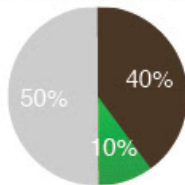
WHEAT 2017 CROP

100% SOLD
0% HEDGED
0% UNPROTECTED



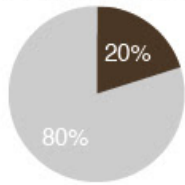
WHEAT 2018 CROP

40% SOLD
10% HEDGED
50% UNPROTECTED



WHEAT 2019 CROP

20% SOLD
0% HEDGED
80% UNPROTECTED



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