

GOOD MORNING: 06/05/18 Farm Direction - Van Trump Report

2 messages

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Tue, Jun 5, 2018 at 6:35 AM



"There is nothing quite so tragic as a young cynic, because it means the person has gone from knowing nothing to believing nothing." - Maya Angelou

TUESDAY, JUNE 05, 2018

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Morning Summary: Stocks continue to impress despite the increasing headlines surrounding potential trade wars. The Nasdaq posted a fresh new all-time record high close yesterday as "big tech" continues to impress. The Nasdaq is now up over +11% on the year and up by almost +5.5% in the past 30-days. There's nothing fancy happening here, Amazon has posted a fresh record high close in six consecutive sessions and Apple closed at a fresh record higher yesterday after kicking off the company's annual Worldwide Developers Conference. Perhaps more good news is the fact crude oil prices continue to pull back a bit. Crude oil is now back to near two-month lows as traders continue to see sizable growth in U.S. production, and more talk that Saudi Arabia and Russia may increase their production in order to offset losses from Iran and Venezuela. Keep in mind the OPEC nations, along with Russia, have a big meeting scheduled in a couple of weeks to discuss forward looking details, so the bulls might be a bit nervous and repositioning ahead of the highly anticipated event? There's just not a lot on the economic calendar this week. Today we will be digesting the latest Redbook numbers, which just a measure of comparable store sales at chain stores, discounters, and department stores. Redbook tracks week-to-week change, month-to-date change, and year-on-year change. We will also see the latest PMI Service Index numbers, and the latest JOLTS report. Remember, the Fed likes to use the JOLTS report to learn more about employment. Formerly the report is known as "Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey" hence the JOLTS acronym. In a nutshell it is a survey done by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics to help provide more detail and to help paint a more clear picture about employment. I suspect today's JOLTS details will be positive and well received by the market. Also keep in mind, the Fed has entered their "blackout period" ahead of next week's meeting, so there will be no speeches or commentary between now and next Wednesday. I remain a conservative bull...

Goldman Thinking Perhaps 4 Rates Hikes In both 2018 and 2019: *There's an article circulating that quotes a Goldman Sachs analyst as saying, "we remain comfortable with our baseline forecast of a total of 4 hikes in both 2018 and 2019, and in fact think the risks to our 2019 forecast are skewed to the upside." There's also more talk from other large banks that this might be as good as it gets in regard to employment, the economy and low interest rates. I encourage you to read the full article [HERE](#)*

Can You Name The Greatest Baseball Managers Of All-Time? *The research staff over at Bleacher Report recently ran an article detailing the top-10 MLB managers of all-time and five names on the honorable mention list. I won't tell you what order or ranking, but see if you can place the names in the order they will appear on the list, it includes: Connie Mack; Bobby Cox; Casey Stengel; Walter Alston; Tony LaRussa; Joe Madden; John McGraw; Joe Torre; Earl Weaver; Terry Francona; Joe McCarthy; Tommy Lasorda; Bruce Bochy; Miller Huggins; Sparky Anderson. Click [HERE](#) to see the list in detail.*

Perception vs. Reality: *I was sent this picture the other day by a friend and it made me think about a few things. Specifically, the madness now associated with "social media" and how many more people are fighting depression. My theory is simple. It's tough not to get depressed about your own abilities and your own life if you are constantly viewing everyone else's highlight reel. I truly believe social media is nothing more than a massive highlight reel that shows only a small spec of someone's life. It never shows all of the struggles and problems... Be careful comparing your REAL life to your friends highlight reel.*



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Livestock Executives

Venture Capitalist and Early Investors

Transportation and Logistics Executives

Innovative Start-ups

What we see

What we don't see



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: It can only exist between any two things and men know it well for the hardships it brings.

Weather forecast are calling for the southern Plains to see above to much above normal temperatures and very little rainfall, likely increasing stress on developing corn and soybeans, especially any corn entering pollination. Hot and dry weather will also stress filling wheat in western Kansas. Showers early this week are offering some short-term benefit. In the northern Plains favorable conditions for spring wheat, corn and soybeans remains with episodes of scattered showers helping easy dryness this week. Hot weather re-developing across the nation's mid-section will expand and intensify as the week progresses, encompassing much of the western and central U.S. Temperatures will routinely exceed 100 degrees F across the southern half of the Plains and Southwest. However, near to below normal temperatures will linger during the next several days in the East. Farther north, a pair of cold front traversing the northern Plains, Midwest and Northeast will help to focus shower and thunderstorm activity. Five day rainfall totals could reach 1 to 3 inches in the upper and northern Midwest. A "ring of fire" #weather pattern will scorch the southern Plains as thunderstorms rumble across the nation's northern tier (Source: WeatherChannel)

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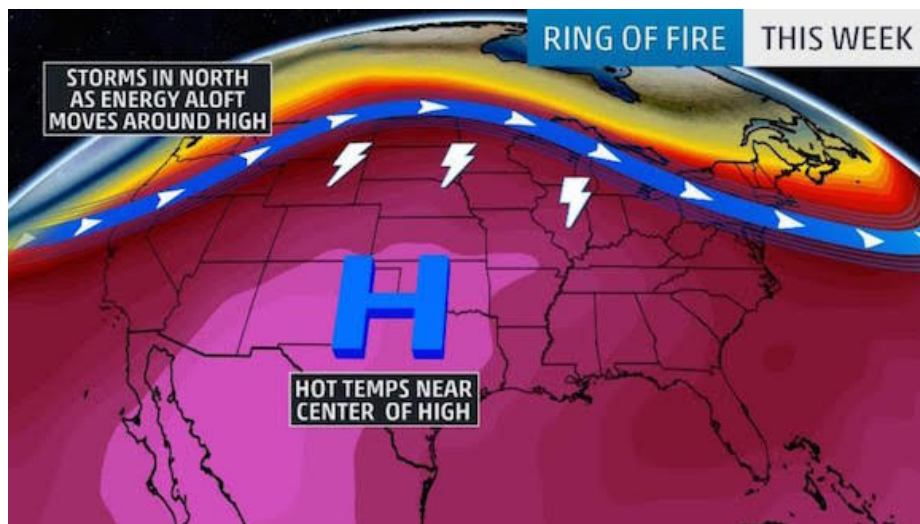
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"When the opportunity comes,
it's too late to prepare."

- John Wooden



Co-hosted by:



Today In History

Warm, Dry Weather to Stick Around through June: Looking at the NOAA, CPC's experimental 3 to 4 week outlook for June 16 - 29 anticipates increased odds for warmer and drier than usual conditions across much of the West and Great Plains. From what I am hearing, we are in the middle of a fairly stable pattern which means the heat and dryness will likely prevail. Under these conditions, we need to watch for flash drought concerns.



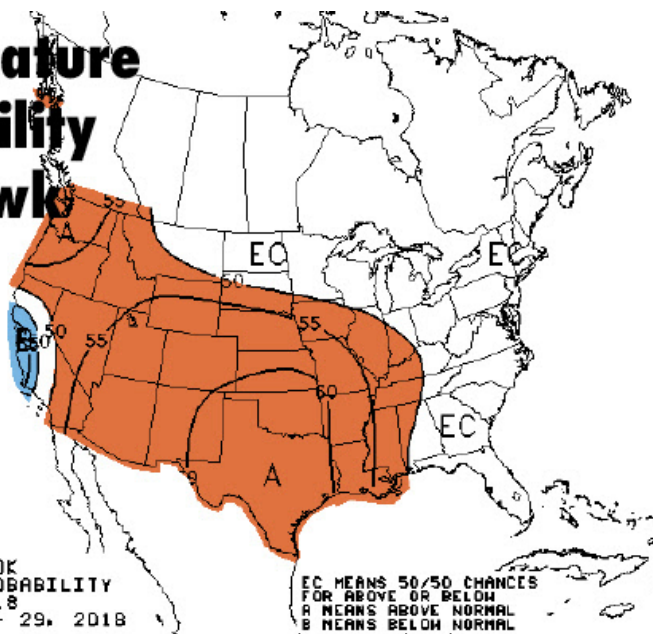
1944, WW II - More than 1,000 British bombers drop 5,000 tons of bombs on German gun batteries placed at the Normandy assault area, while 3,000 Allied ships cross the English Channel in preparation for the invasion of Normandy—D-Day. The day of the invasion of occupied France had been postponed repeatedly since May, mostly because of bad weather and the enormous tactical obstacles involved. Finally, despite less than ideal weather conditions—or perhaps because of them—General Eisenhower decided on June 5 to set the next day as D-Day, the launch of the largest amphibious operation in history. Ike knew that the Germans would be expecting postponements beyond the sixth, precisely because weather conditions were still poor. Among those Germans confident that an Allied invasion could not be pulled off on the sixth was Field Marshal Erwin Rommel, who was still debating tactics with Field Marshal Karl Rundstedt. Rundstedt was convinced that the Allies would come in at the narrowest point of the Channel, between Calais and Dieppe; Rommel, following Hitler's intuition, believed it would be Normandy. Rommel's greatest fear was that German air inferiority would prevent an adequate defense on the ground; it was his plan to meet the Allies on the coast—before the Allies had a chance to come ashore. Rommel began constructing underwater obstacles and minefields, and set off for Germany to demand from Hitler personally more panzer divisions in the area. Bad weather and an order to conserve fuel grounded much of the German air force on June 5; consequently, its reconnaissance flights were spotty. That night, more than 1,000 British bombers unleashed a massive assault on German gun batteries on the coast. At the same time, an Allied armada headed for the Normandy beaches in Operation Neptune, an attempt to capture the port at Cherbourg. But that was not all. In order to deceive the Germans, phony operations were run; dummy parachutists and radar-jamming devices were dropped into strategically key areas so as to make German radar screens believe there was an Allied convoy already on the move. One dummy parachute drop succeeded in drawing an entire German infantry regiment away from its position just six miles from the actual Normandy landing beaches. All this effort was to scatter the German defenses and make way for Operation Overlord, the Allied invasion of Normandy.

1968, Robert Kennedy - At 12:50 a.m. PDT, Senator Robert F. Kennedy, a presidential

Temperature Probability 3 to 4 wk



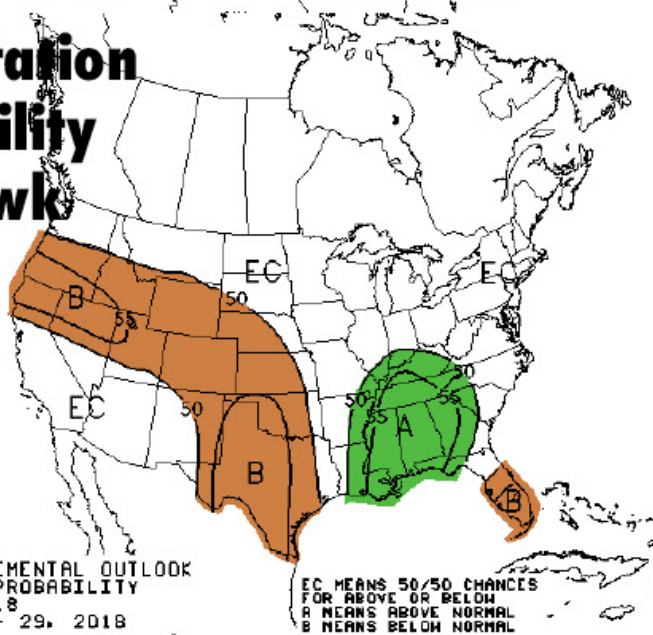
WEEK 3-4 OUTLOOK
TEMPERATURE PROBABILITY
MADE 1 JUN 2018
VALID JUN 16 - 29, 2018



Precipitation Probability 3 to 4 wk



WEEK 3-4 EXPERIMENTAL OUTLOOK
PRECIPITATION PROBABILITY
MADE 1 JUN 2018
VALID JUN 16 - 29, 2018



candidate, is shot three times in a hail of gunfire in the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles. Five others were wounded. The senator had just completed a speech celebrating his victory in the California presidential primary. The shooter, Palestinian Sirhan Sirhan, had a smoking .22 revolver wrested from his grip and was promptly arrested. Kennedy, critically wounded, was rushed to the hospital, where he fought for his life for the next 24 hours. On the morning of June 6, he died. He was 42 years old. Robert Kennedy, born in Brookline, Massachusetts, in 1925, interrupted his studies at Harvard University to serve in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He was legal counsel for various Senate subcommittees during the 1950s and in 1960 served as the manager of his brother's successful presidential campaign. Appointed attorney general by President Kennedy, he proved a vigorous member of the cabinet, zealously prosecuting cases relating to civil rights while closely advising the president on domestic and foreign issues. After Kennedy's assassination in 1963, he joined President Lyndon B. Johnson's administration but resigned in 1964 to run successfully in New York for a Senate seat. In 1968, he was urged by many of his supporters to run for president as an anti-war and socially progressive Democrat. He announced his candidacy for the Democratic presidential nomination on March 16, 1968. Kennedy conducted an energetic campaign and on June 4, 1968, won a major victory in the California primary. He had won five out of six primaries and seemed a shoo-in for the Democratic nomination and, some thought, the presidency. Shortly after midnight, he gave a victory speech to his supporters in the Ambassador Hotel and then, while making his way to a press conference by a side exit, was fatally wounded by Palestinian Sirhan Sirhan. Sirhan was arrested at the scene and indicted for first-degree murder. A mentally unstable drifter, his motives in killing Kennedy have never been clear.



2004, Ronald Reagan - The 40th President of the US, died in Los Angeles at age 93. In addition to his two terms as President, he served as the 33rd Governor of California from 1967 - 75, and was a successful film and television star. Among his best-known movie roles was that of Notre Dame football star George Gipp in the 1940 biopic Knute Rockne, All American. From 1947 to 1952, Reagan served as president of the Screen Actors Guild where he met actress Nancy Davis, who had sought his help after she was mistakenly listed as a possible communist sympathizer on the "Hollywood blacklist." They were married in 1952. Reagan attracted the national political spotlight in 1964 when he gave a televised speech for Republican presidential candidate Barry Goldwater. Two years later he defeated incumbent Edmund Brown in the California Governors race. After 2 terms as CA Governor, Reagan finally received the Republican presidential nomination in 1980 and went on to defeat incumbent Jimmy Carter. At age 69, he was the oldest person ever elected to the US Presidency. During his second term, Reagan forged a diplomatic relationship with the reform-minded Mikhail Gorbachev, chairman of the Soviet Union. In 1987, the Americans and Soviets signed a historic agreement to eliminate intermediate-range nuclear missiles. That same year, Reagan spoke at Germany's Berlin Wall and famously challenged Gorbachev to tear it down. Twenty-nine months later, Gorbachev allowed the people of Berlin to dismantle the

Corn prices have rebounded a bit this morning but are still now down about -30 cents in just the past seven sessions. Traders are not only chewing on U.S. trade uncertainties but also more talk about a U.S. crop that's supposedly in very-good condition. The USDA's most recent data showed 97% of the crop "planted" vs. the 5-year average of 95%. I suspect, if you wanted to argue "planting delays" , Michigan and Pennsylvania are probably your only legit arguments or areas of concern. The USDA reported 86% of the U.S. corn crop as "emerged" vs. 84% last year vs. the 5-year average of 83%. The bulls are also a bit uncertain about Washington's outlook on ethanol. There's talk that the industry might soon be allowed to count ethanol exports toward federal biofuels usage quotas. This has driven RIN prices to multi-year lows and have many insiders thinking it could ultimately provide the fuel industry with a way around the annual EPA mandate. As a give-and-take, there's talk that Washington will lift restrictions on selling E15 blended gasoline in the summer, which has been long sought by the corn lobby because it should help expand the market. Well respected ag Senator Charles Grassley, an Iowa Republican and biofuels advocate, said in a recent statement that allowing exports of biofuels to count toward mandates "exposes the U.S. to trade cases and retaliation from countries like Canada and others." He added that allowing the sale of E15 "isn't anywhere near enough to offset the impact" of the ethanol export credits. "I'm not convinced this is a win-win." I suspect this might have spooked some of the bulls, at least until they learn more about the details and how it will impact longer-term demand. As of right now everyone is just guessing... Weather here in the U.S. doesn't really seem to be causing any wide-spread concerns. There's going to be some extreme heat nearby, but over the next couple of weeks things don't appear all that bad. So the trade is not wanting to add much weather risk premium at the moment. At the same time, the bullish technical picture on the charts has been massively beaten up. I suspect there's still some room to the downside nearby. Longer-term I remain optimistic...

USDA reported corn crop-conditions at 78% "Good-to-Excellent" vs. 79% last week vs. 68% last year. States showing the largest decline in conditions include: Texas and Washington which deteriorated -11%; North Carolina -8%; Louisiana and North Dakota -6%; Colorado, South Dakota and Virginia -4%; Illinois -2%; Georgia, Iowa, Indiana and

Pennsylvania -1%. States showing improved crop conditions include: South Carolina +18%; Alabama +8%; Arkansas +6%; **Nebraska +4%**; Oklahoma +3%; Kentucky, Michigan, Mississippi, Minnesota and Tennessee +2%; Ohio and Wisconsin +1%.

wall, ending Soviet domination of East Germany. On June 5th, 2004, he passed away at the age of 93 after a decades-long battle with Alzheimer's disease. "The government is like a baby's alimentary canal, with a healthy appetite at one end and no responsibility at the other." - Ronald Reagan

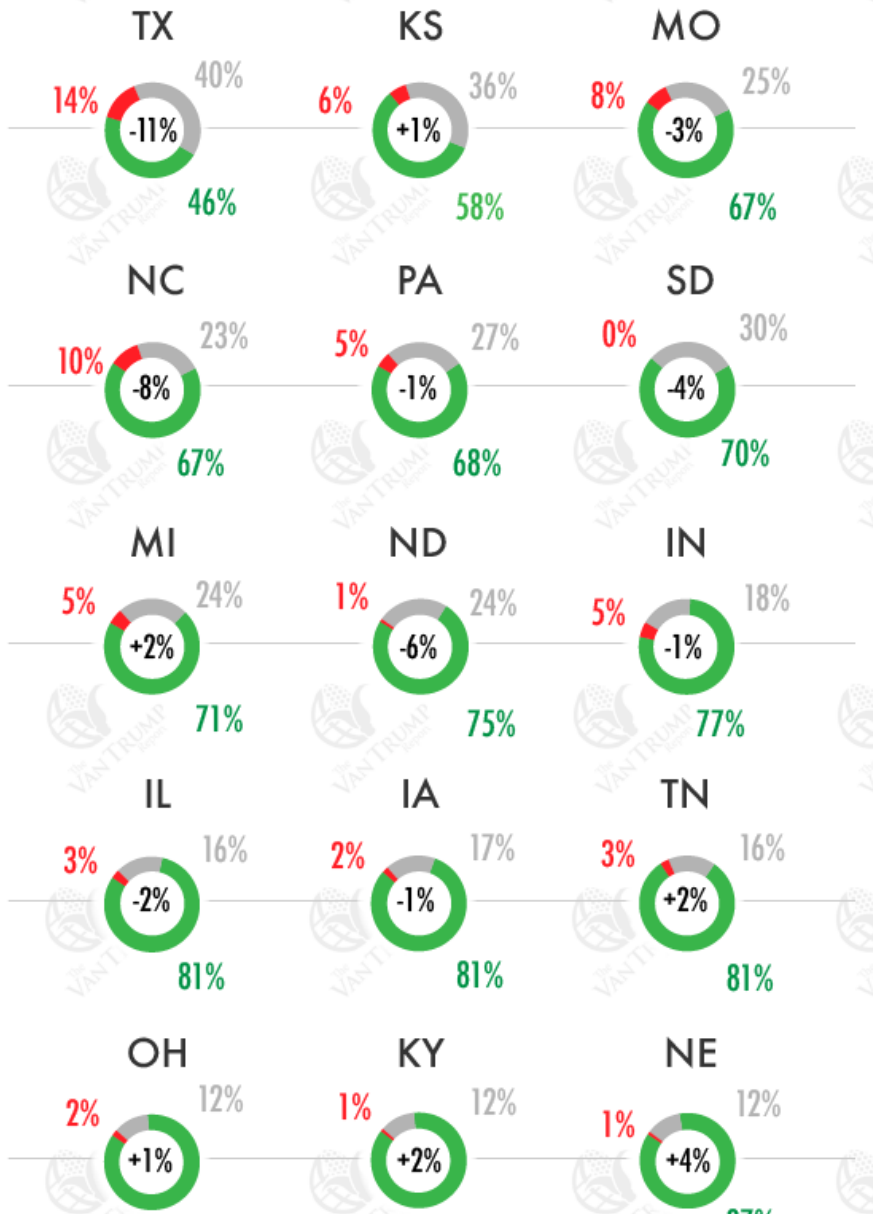
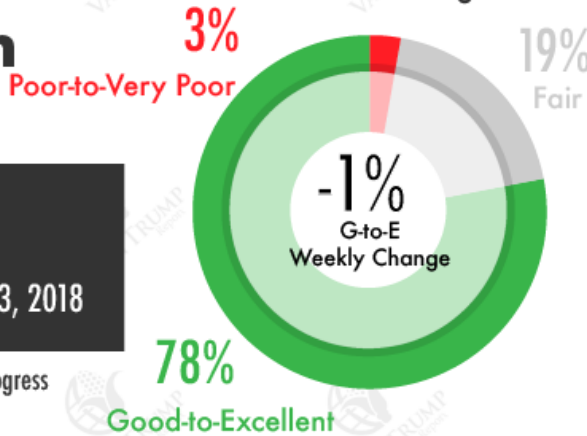
Corn Crop Condition Ratings

Week 22

week ending June 03, 2018

Source: USDA, NASS Crop Progress

2018 U.S. Corn Condition Ratings



Upcoming Events

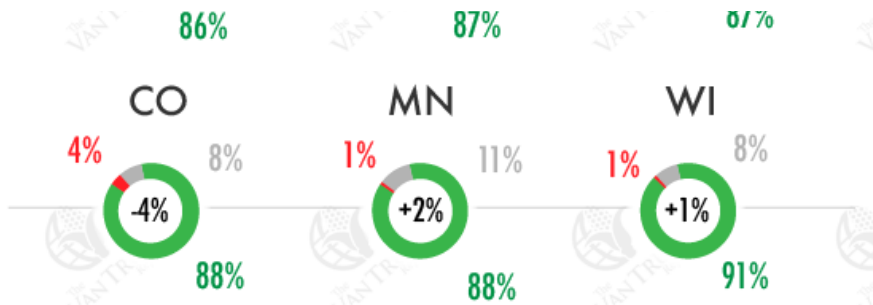
- Tues. 6/12 - USDA Supply and Demand
- Tues.-Wed. 6/12-6/13 - FOMC Meeting
- Fri. 6/22 - Cattle on Feed
- Fri. 6/22 - Cold Storage
- Thurs. 6/28 - Quarterly Hogs and Pigs
- Fri. 6/29 - Quarterly Stocks and Acreage

Kevin's Song of the Week

WHAT I'M LISTENING TO:



Kevin's Song of the Week



Soybean prices are now down close to -50 cents in the past seven trading sessions. Similar to corn, bulls have backpedaled on no real progress in regards to a trade deal and the U.S. crop jumping off to one of its best starts in years. The USDA reported 87% of soybean crop is now "planted" vs. 81% last year vs. the 5-year average of 75%. In other words, planting continues to run well ahead of schedule. The USDA also showed 68% of crop is now "emerged" vs. 55% last year vs. the 5-year average of 52%. Michigan and Pennsylvania are really the only two states that show "emergence" lagging behind their historical norms. I hate to sound like a broken record, but I've been talking about a "wild ride" in the soybean market for weeks. Yes, there are some reasons to be a longer-term fundamental bull, but the traditional fundamentalist might have again shown up a bit too early for the party. I continue to believe "how we get there" is one of the most important parts of the equation? Weather and Washington are simply two "wild-cards" that are extremely hard to predict right now. The easy part of the equation is the fact Argentina, the worlds top exporter of soymeal and soybean oil, has suffered a significant production setback. The hard part is figuring out exactly "when" the market is going to trade it... From a technical perspective, the bulls are hoping the JUL18 contract can hold nearby support in the \$9.88 to \$9.98 range. If not, the trade might look to retest the mid-January low at \$9.65^2. As a spec, I remain on the sideline and extremely happy I did not chase the market higher. I will be looking to become a bullish player if we can breakout to the downside. I still see no reason to chew up equity in the interim... as I said earlier, weather and Washington are tough to successfully trade on a consistent basis.

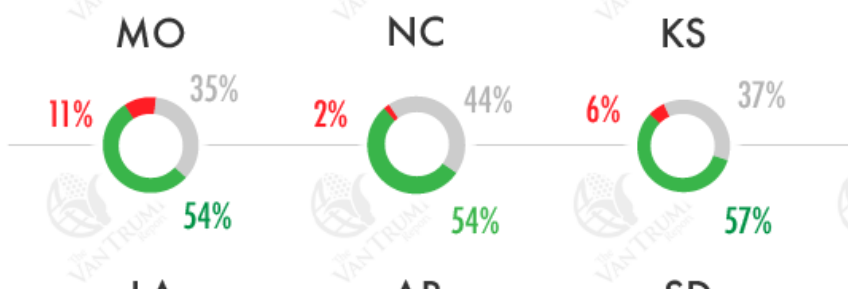
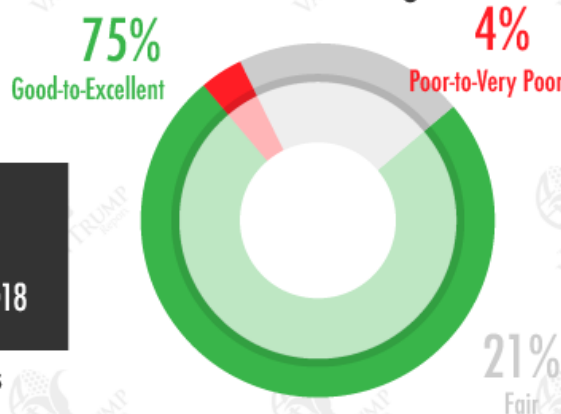
USDA released their first look at soybean crop-conditions, estimating the current crop 75% "Good-To-Excellent". Last year the first condition ratings weren't released until a week later and started the season at 66% rated "Good-to-Excellent". I should note, this is one of the best initial ratings we've seen for the U.S. soybean crop going back over 30-years. The big production states seem to be in very good condition: Illinois rated 78% GD/EX; Iowa rated 80% GD/EX; Minnesota 88% GD/EX; Nebraska 86% GD/EX; North Dakota 80%; Indiana 74% GD/EX.

Soybean Crop Condition Ratings

Week 22
week ending June 03, 2018

Source: USDA, NASS Crop Progress

2018 U.S. Soybean Condition Ratings



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!

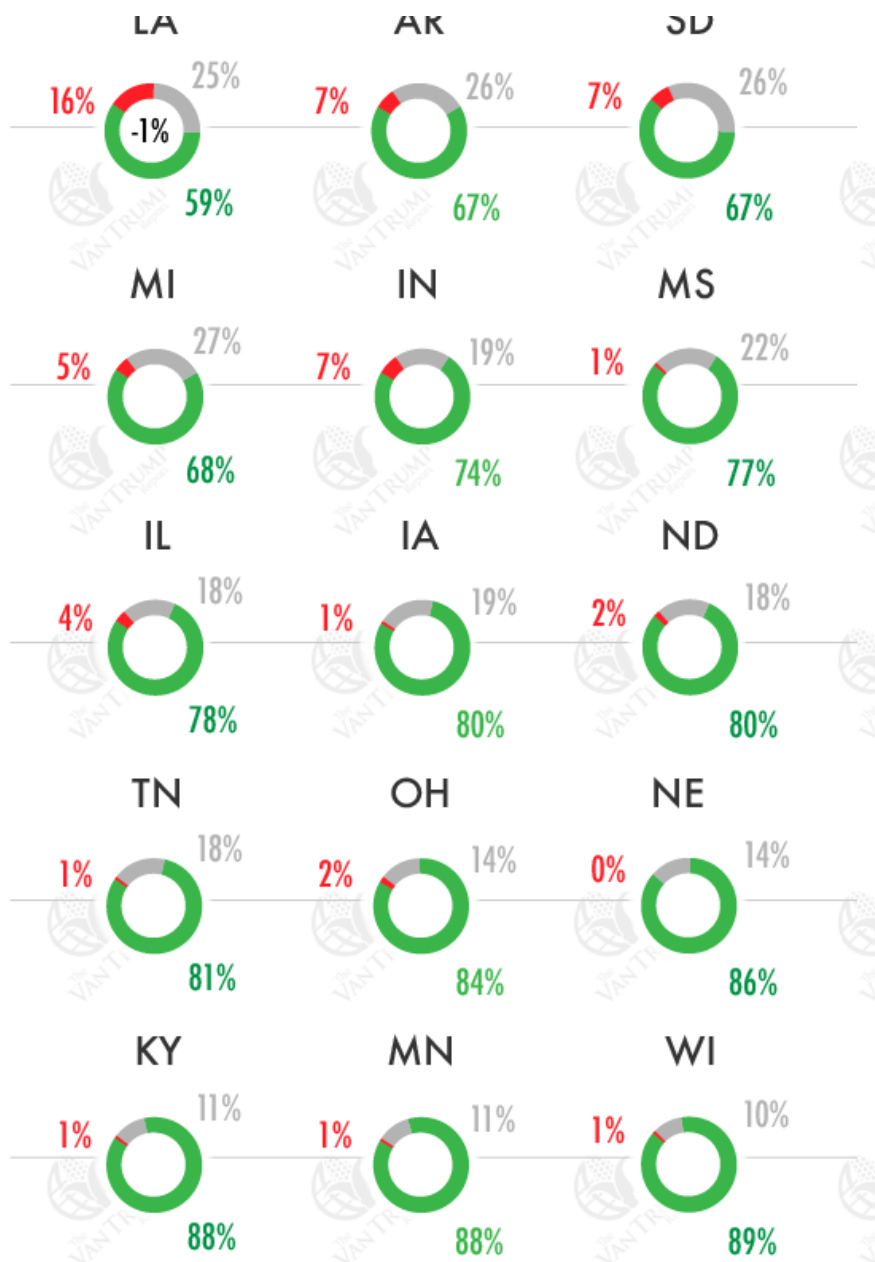
Kevin Van Trump

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 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 prices have bounced back higher this morning but have still tumbled by -40 to -50 cents in just the past five trading session as the U.S. winter wheat harvest starts to move north. The USDA reported the U.S. harvest is now 5% complete vs. the 5-year average of 4% complete. Texas was reported at 35% harvested; Oklahoma 7%; Arkansas 4%; California and North Carolina 3%. The USDA reported 83% of the U.S. winter wheat crop is "headed" vs. the 5-year average of 83%. Overall winter-wheat conditions fell slightly from 38% down to 37% rated "Good-to-Excellent", which compares to 49% last year. Spring wheat planting was reported at 97% vs. the 5-year average 94%. The USDA reported Spring wheat "emerged" at 81% vs. the 5-year average of 82% by this date. Overall spring wheat conditions were rated 70% "Good-to-Excellent" vs. 55% last year on this date. Technically, the market is wanting to see if nearby support in the JUL18 SRW wheat contract can hold at \$4.85 to \$4.90. A close below that level will start to bring longer-term support into play between \$4.60 and \$4.70 per bushel. HRW wheat bulls are hoping to see the market find nearby chart support in the \$4.95 to \$5.05 range. The JUL18 spring wheat contract will be looking to hold support in the \$4.80 to \$4.85 range.

Winter Wheat Condition

2018 U.S. Winter Wheat Conditions Ratings

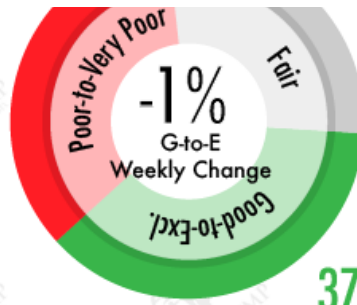


Ratings

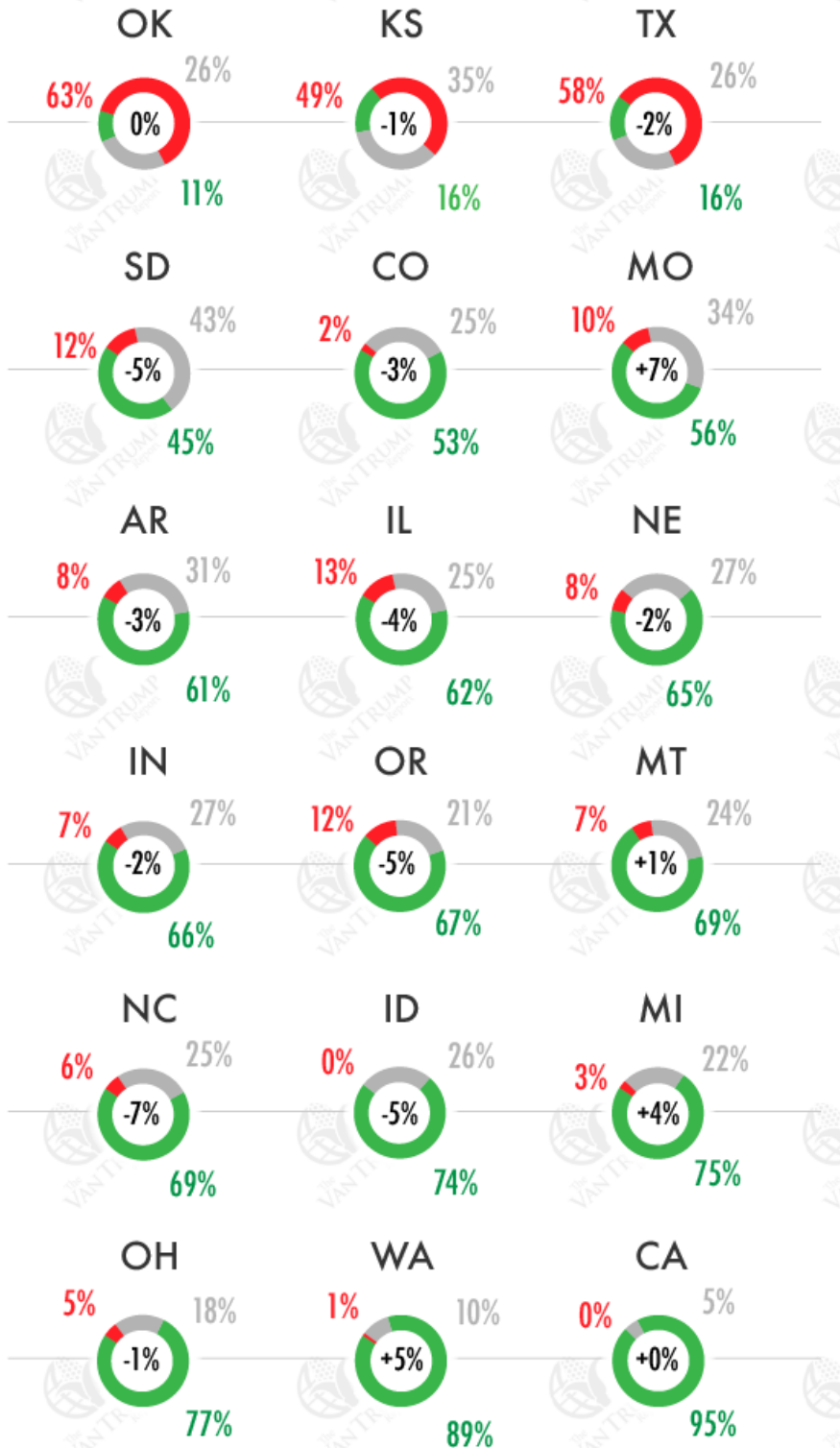
Week 22

week ending June 03, 2018

Source: USDA, NASS Crop Progress



37%



Farm Direction
RECIPES

★ FAMILY FAVORITES ★

-SENT IN BY OUR READERS-



CLICK TO SEE RECIPE



> **Monsanto No More...** Germany's Bayer AG said yesterday that it plans to complete its purchase of Monsanto on Thursday, June 7, after receiving all the required approvals from regulators. Bayer said following the \$63 billion takeover that "Monsanto will no longer be a company name." From what I understand, they will retire the U.S. seeds maker's 117-year-old name, the combined company will be known simply as Bayer, while product names will remain the same.

> **Paraguay May Export More Soybeans Than Argentina For First Time:** Paraguay is expected to export 6.3 MTs this year compared to the 4.2 MTs from Argentina. Drought conditions are responsible for knocking down Argentina's production from 55 MTs to under 40 MTs this year. Known for their high protein content, most of of Paraguay's beans will head to Argentine crushers.

> **Mexico Will Impose a 20% Tariff on U.S. Pork Imports,** two industry officials with direct knowledge of the plan told Reuters on Monday, for the first time providing details of the country's retaliatory measures to U.S. President Donald Trump's tariffs on steel and aluminum. Last week, Mexico said the retaliatory tariffs would apply to pork legs and shoulders from U.S. suppliers, which account for about 90 percent of the country's \$1.07 billion annual imports of the cuts. (Source: Reuters; BusinessInsider)

> **Higher Interest Rates Worries Farmers:** The Federal Reserve has signaled that it will probably raise its benchmark interest rate at least five more times by the end of 2019. As the Fed boosts rates, banks charge more for credit card debt, car loans and home mortgages. Farmers could soon face rates of more than 7%. The Washington Post has an interesting article on this as well as a republished article from 1979 detailing how farmers drove their tractors to Washington to protest rising interest rates. (Source: [Washington Post](#))

> **Bunge Expands In Mexico:** Bunge Ltd. has opened a new 400-tonne-per-day wheat mill in Del Mayab in southeast Mexico. From what I understand, the mill primarily will serve the states of Yucatan, Campeche, Quintana Roo, Chiapas and Tabasco, which together account for about 10% of Mexico's population. I'm told the mill will sell flour in bulk and in bags to both large food companies and small bakeries. The facility will employ 50 people.

> **Brazil Slowly Returning to Normal Rhythm:** There continues to be disputes over the freight rates established in the recent agreement that ended Brazil's trucker strikes. Many companies argue that the low rates that truckers protested about are the result of an oversupply of trucks in the marketplace. As of yet, the dispute is yet to be resolved. The poultry production cycle is taking a while to ramp back up after millions of birds were lost due to scarce feed. Beef processors are thinking live cattle prices will continue to have downward pressure as ranches try to make up for lost sales by putting more cattle on the market. (Source: Soybean & Corn Advisor)

> **Russian Wheat Exports Up Nearly +50% This Year:** Russian wheat exports in the 2017/18 (June-July Marketing Year) were 48.7% higher year on year at 38.074 million metric tons as of May 30. Exports accelerated last week to 980,000 metric tons, up 14% from the previous week. Around 39.5 million metric tons of wheat was forecast to be exported by the end of the campaign, up from 38.5 million metric tons according to the WASDE report, which would be a global record for a marketing year. (Source: Platts)

> **John Deere Sues For 12 Patent Infringements:** Deere & Company took legal action against Precision Planting and owner AGCO Corporation, claiming the companies infringed on 12 John Deere patents. The patents protect tools that give farmers accurate seed placement, uniform seed spacing and even crop emergence while planting at faster speeds. The complaint was filed with the U.S. District Court in Delaware. Interesting to note that John Deere had previously tried to buy Precision Planting, only to be blocked by the U.S. DoJ. (Source: AgPro)

> **Companies Set To Pour \$2.5 Trillion Back Into U.S. Economy:** U.S. companies are expected to push \$2.5 trillion of "flow" into the economy this year in the form of share buybacks, dividends and M&A. This "flow" should help boost a stock market that has been stuck in neutral for much of the year. However, the market is coming off its best month since January and the best may since 2009. (Source: MarketWatch)

> **Is Howard Schultz Leaving Starbucks To Run For President?** Howard Schultz announced yesterday that he is stepping down from his role as executive chairman of

Starbucks. Schultz is seen as the architect of the modern Starbucks, having overseen its expansion from a single coffee shop that opened in Seattle's Pike Place Market in 1971. Over time he grew it into the iconic brand it is today, with more than 28,000 locations globally. Under Schultz's leadership, the company's stock has grown +21,000% since its initial public offering in 1992. He currently owns 37.8 million shares of Starbucks, worth over +\$2.1 billion. Schultz's latest leadership transition has sparked speculation about his potential political plans. He has been a supporter of former President Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton during her bid for president. Schultz said in the memo to the press, "I'll be thinking about a range of options for myself, from philanthropy to public service, but I'm a long way from knowing what the future holds." (Source CNBC)

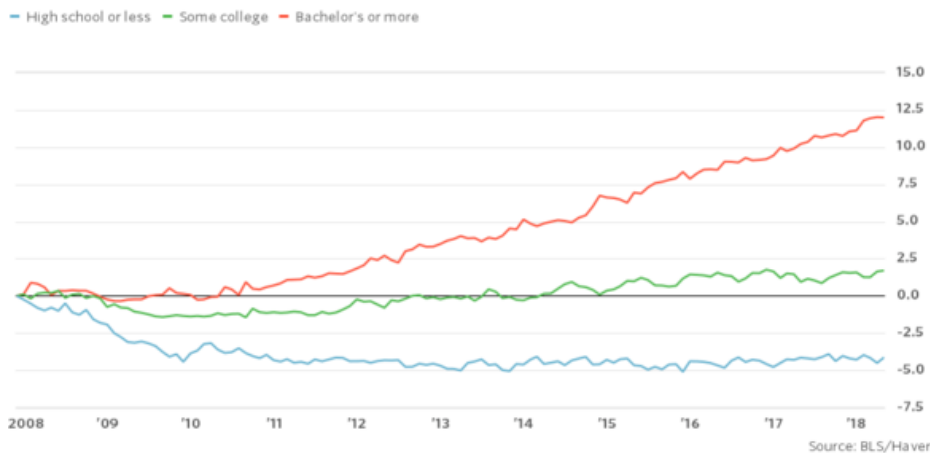
> President Trump Cancels Philadelphia Eagles Visit To White House: *From what I understand, there was some talk that a few players were going to skip the visit as a protest against President Trump and a protest against the new NFL rule that players must stand for the National Anthem.*

> New 3 World Trade Center Overcomes Obstacles To Open: *More than 16 years after the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center, a significant part of the rebuilt site is set to open. The new building at 3 World Trade Center, which is 80 stories high and has more than 2.5 million square feet of office space, is expected to open for business on June 11. So far, it is only 40 percent occupied, but the site's developer, Larry Silverstein, is confident the building, as well as the others at the World Trade Center, will fill up quickly. "These buildings never stay empty for very long," he said in an interview Monday with CNBC's Sara Eisen on "Power Lunch." Read more [HERE](#).*

> College-Educated Landing Most New Jobs: *Nine of out ten new jobs created in the last year have gone to those with a college degree, a finding showing the American economy's growing reliance on a trained workforce as well as the changing demographics of the country. A three-month average finds that 91% of the net increase in jobs held by those at least 25 years old are filled by those with at least a bachelor's degree, according to data compiled by MarketWatch using the May jobs report released by the Labor Department on Friday. That American employers want a higher educated workforce is not a new trend — there's been a premium in wages for the college-educated since the early 1980s. But the most recent recession seems to have accelerated the divide. Despite some lurches here and there, difficulty for those without a higher education has been the norm since the U.S. entered the worst economic period since the Great Depression at the end of 2007. Read more [HERE](#).*

New jobs since the recession

In millions



Northcentral South Dakota - We are officially in the dust bowl of the United States. We had 80 miles per hour wind on Friday evening that kicked up dust for hundreds of miles in every direction. I spoke with the guy at the National Weather Service and there are reports of trace amounts of rain at the Aberdeen airport and everything else was essentially nonexistence. The only exception to that was the farm ground within 50 miles of the Missouri River. The wind basically sandblasted any soybeans under 2 inches tall right off. I have only heard about 3 different operations so far and they have a combined replant total of 3200 acres which amounts to 50-80% of there soybeans planted depending on the operation. I heard the winds were weaker to the west...they only blew 50-60 miles

per hour instead of 80...You could not see more than about 100 yards or less because we couldn't see our shop and it sits about 200 yards from our frontdoor. The radar was picking up red on the map as if it was down-pouring but it was dust because those areas also did not get rain. To give you an idea of how big this dust storm really was...in some severity or another, it covers a little over 8 million acres... now granted that was not all farm ground. I included a video [HERE](#) of what it looked like before it got really bad.

Southwest Iowa - It's pretty dry right now up hear, even though there are a few areas getting spotted showers. Our corn generally looks good until the pm when it begins to roll up due to the heat. We definitely need to catch a rain and it will be fine if we do. A big difference from the last two seasons is that we had good subsoil moisture here. Heading into this season that isn't the case. Winter in our area didn't offer moisture of any kind for the most part. We have been working on tile and digging holes and usually, we see moisture at some point, but not this year. We are trying to finish spraying now as well as haul some corn. We might lose some ground we have farmed for a while as it is going to auction in a sealed bid and I suspect it will sell for much more than what I'm willing to pay. We are seeing \$7,000-\$7,500 lately with rents in the \$265 area.

Northwest Missouri - It's so hot here that we can only spray early in the morning because I don't think Prefix and RUP will have much effect on the weeds at this temperature. We are seeing a small number of cockleburrs, velvetleaf and just a few pig weeds so I'm not too worried about spraying. Normally these weeds grow fast but the extreme heat seems to be holding them at bay which is exactly why I don't think spraying in the middle of the day will do much good. The plants are basically shut down. They should be growing 3 inches a day and they aren't over 3 inches tall total. I'm wanting to spray everything at once but since we have a chance of rain in the next few days I need to get the prefix down, so it activates... which means I will probably be running the sprayer over this ground twice which I don't like that idea at all. I've seen a few neighbors spraying so I'm debating on just spraying regardless of temperature. As a whole everything looks very good so I don't have much to complain about.



USDA Uses NASA's Soil Moisture Content To Monitor Crops: Data from the first NASA satellite mission dedicated to measuring the water content of soils is now being used operationally by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to monitor global croplands and make commodity forecasts. The Soil Moisture Active Passive mission, or SMAP, launched in 2015 and has helped map the amount of water in soils worldwide. Now, with tools developed by a team at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland, SMAP soil moisture data is being incorporated into the Crop Explorer website of the USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service, which reports on regional droughts, floods and crop forecasts. Read more [HERE](#).

Why Walmart And McDonalds Have Differing Views Of Human Cashiers: These days, burger flippers remain at the core of the McDonald's process, but cashiers have lost their significance. More and more McDonald's restaurants have replaced their cashiers with ordering kiosks where people can place their orders. McDonald's haven't confirmed for sure just how many restaurants have ordering kiosks – and no cashiers – but I'm told they are in just about every McDonald's in New York State. Interestingly, at the same time Walmart has given up on replacing humans at the register. Find out what's causing the two companies to adopt opposite practices [HERE](#).

Wyoming First State In Over 100 Years To Sanction Bare-Knuckle Boxing: The International Boxing Hall of Fame said the last significant bare-knuckle bout was July 8, 1889, when John L. Sullivan went 75 rounds to beat Jake Kilrain. Even that event was illegal and had to be staged under the cover of secrecy as most states had outlawed the non-gloved version of boxing. Fighting was forced underground until 2011, when the Yavapai Nation sanctioned a match that Gunn won over Richard Stewart at the tribe's reservation in Arizona. The bout drew more than a million viewers, and the promoter of that event and the Wyoming one, David Feldman, realized there was a hungry market for bare-knuckle fights within the combat sports fanbase. It took him another seven years to find a state willing to sanction the next event. Read more [HERE](#).

Analyst Says "Retailpocalypse" Is Over: According to Analyst Omar Saad, the "retailpocalypse" is over as old-world brands and retailers are figuring out how to manage inventory and market to consumers in the digital era. In a note on Sunday, Saad went on to say that Macy's and others will have equal opportunity in the coming years to compete for the attention of discretionary consumers given a core set of competitive advantages that are not going away. Read more [HERE](#).

What's The Most Popular Slang Term In Your State? Each state in the U.S. has its own oddities — be it food, locales, or how its residents speak. A new map, created by PlayNJ, highlights the most popular slang term in every state. The team collected phrases and terms used on the Slang Map from a combination of survey results and data collected from sites such as [onlyinyourstate.com](#) and [urbanthesaurus.com](#) to gather at least four examples of slang from each state. Check out your state's slang below. You can read more [HERE](#).

-SLANG MAP OF THE USA-

THE LANGUAGE OF YOUR STATE



STATE	WORD	DESCRIPTION	STATE	WORD	DESCRIPTION
1 Alabama	Hot minute	A hot minute is a while, a longish amount of time.	26 Montana	Cowboy Up!	An instruction to deal with a situation in a mature or adult fashion.
2 Alaska	Cheechako	A "cheechako" is a newcomer to Alaska and knows little about living there.	27 Nebraska	Red Beer	Beer with tomato juice, sometimes also with a shot of hot sauce.
3 Arizona	Snowbird	This loving word refers to winter visitors from colder states like Minnesota.	28 Nevada	Pigeon	A pigeon is Las Vegas slang for a loser who throws money at his losses, hoping to turn them into wins.
4 Arkansas	Roofer	A "roofer" is someone who displays traits of idiocy.	29 New Hampshire	XYZ	If someone tells you to XYZ, they're telling you your fly is down (examine your zipper).
5 California	Bomb	If you really like something, it's "bomb".	30 New Jersey	Benny	Bayonne, Elizabeth, Newark and New York-area residents who "infiltrate" the Jersey Shore during the summer. This refers to the way in which you want your chili sauce. Christmas means you want it both ways.
6 Colorado	Gaper	"Gaper" is a derogatory term for a novice skier.	31 New Mexico	Christmas	
7 Connecticut	Apizza	"Apizza" is the New Haven version of the traditional pizza.	32 New York	Deadass	To be completely serious. A reply used by people who have been questioned on the truth of their comment.
8 Delaware	Baggin' Up	"Baggin' up" is laughing. For example, "I was baggin' up when she told me that joke."	33 North Carolina	Dime	A "dime" is a person who is 10/10, referring to the value of a dime.
9 Florida	No-See-Ums	"No-see-ums" are bugs that you struggle to see.	34 North Dakota	Uff Da	An exclamation or interjection used to express bafflement, surprise, or dismay.
10 Georgia	Chitlans	"Chitlans" are children.	35 Ohio	Hollin'	If you're "hollin'" at someone, you're "trash talking" them, insulting them.
11 Hawaii	Shark Bait	A Hawaiian term for tourists so pale they attract the sharks.	36 Oklahoma	Jeet	This is a contraction of the question "did you eat?"
12 Idaho	Potato Drop	A hot minute is a while, a longish amount of time.	37 Oregon	Spendy	If something in Portland is deemed expensive then it may be referred to as spendy.
13 Illinois	LSD	If someone says they're driving on LSD, they mean a road, the Lake Shore Drive.	38 Pennsylvania	Snoopy	If someone is a picky eater then they be called "Snoopy".
14 Indiana	Hoosier	Meant for someone who loves and adores the state of Indiana.	39 Rhode Island	Awful Awful	An "Awful Awful" is a tasty milkshake native to Rhode Island.
15 Iowa	Pork Queen	The "Pork Queen" is the winner of an Iowa beauty contest.	40 South Carolina	Chunk	If you "chunk" something, you're throwing it.
16 Kansas	Get Loaded	To "be loaded" means rich, but to "get loaded" means to get drunk.	41 South Dakota	Kattywampus	Indicates when something is located in a diagonal direction. It can also mean askew or confused.
17 Kentucky	Hot Brown	A "Hot Brown" is an open-faced sandwich covered in Mornay sauce.	42 Tennessee	Meat and Three	"Meat and three" is a popular way of serving dinner, with one meat and three sides.
18 Louisiana	Pass a good time	"To pass a good time" means to have a good time.	43 Texas	Kicker	The "kicker" is the last and most persuasive reason or argument.
19 Maine	Get Er Dun	A redneck phrase meaning to go ahead and complete a task. Shows support, encouragement, or respect.	44 Utah	Biffed	Used to describe falling down, tripping or doing anything completely embarrassing.
20 Maryland	Bop	A "bop" is a distance that is further than you would like to travel.	45 Vermont	Dink	A stupid person, a jerk, or a general putdown of someone's abilities.
21 Massachusetts	It's Brick	If it's "brick", it's very cold.	46 Virginia	Yonder	A distance rather than a location. If something is "over yonder" it's within sight, but not near.
22 Michigan	Yooper	A "Yooper" is a native of the upper peninsula of Michigan.	47 Washington	Pre-Funk	"Pre-funk" is abbreviated from "pre-function" and is drinking before attending an event.
23 Minnesota	You betcha	A way to agree with something.	48 West Virginia	Peck	A "peck" is a considerable amount.
24 Mississippi	Fixin'	"Fixin'" suggests a course of action in Mississippi - e.g. "going to the store" becomes "fixin' to go to the store."	49 Wisconsin	Ope	"Ope" is more of a noise than a word, but can be inputted into any sentence.
25 Missouri	Put out	If you are "put out", you are angry or annoyed.	50 Wyoming	Greenie	Word Wyoming natives use to describe Colorado tourists, as their license plates are green in color.



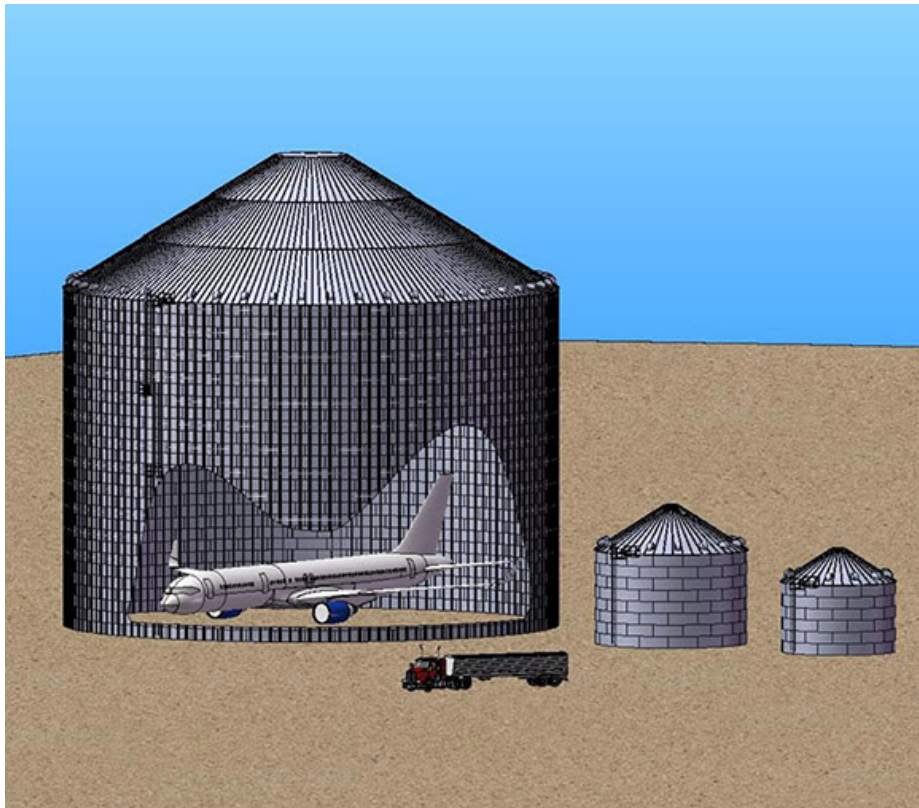
Worth Sharing...

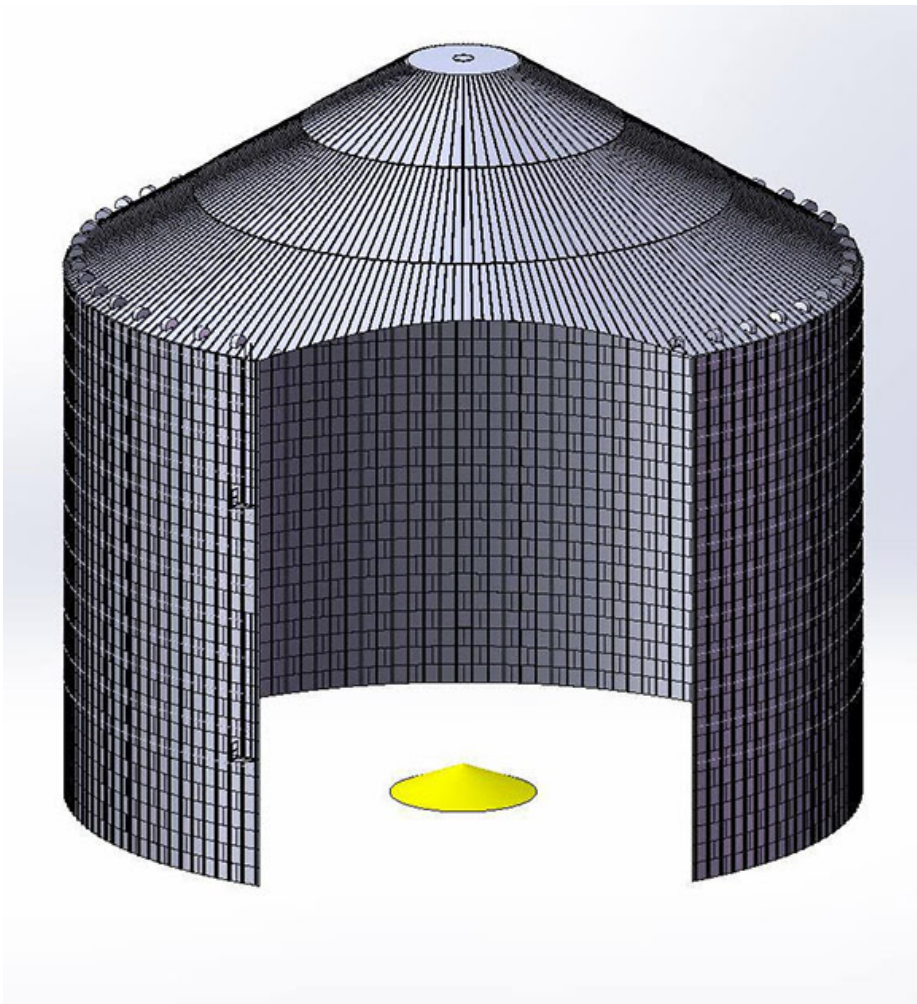
Sukup Manufacturing recently shared this post. I thought it was worth passing along.

You may have heard by now that construction is complete on a pair of bins that hold nearly 2 million bushels apiece. These are the largest free span grain bins in the world at 156' diameter and 29 rings high! To help us wrap our minds around the incredible size of these bins, we're sharing this image which illustrates the bins in comparisons to other items. The bins can fully enclose a Boeing 757. Hats off to Buresh Building Systems, Inc. - this image really shows what an amazing job it was to construct these bins! They are located at Elite Octane in Atlantic, Iowa.

*In the top picture, the smaller bins to the right are:
48' 8 Ring 51,335 Bushel
36' 6 Ring 21,675 Bushel*

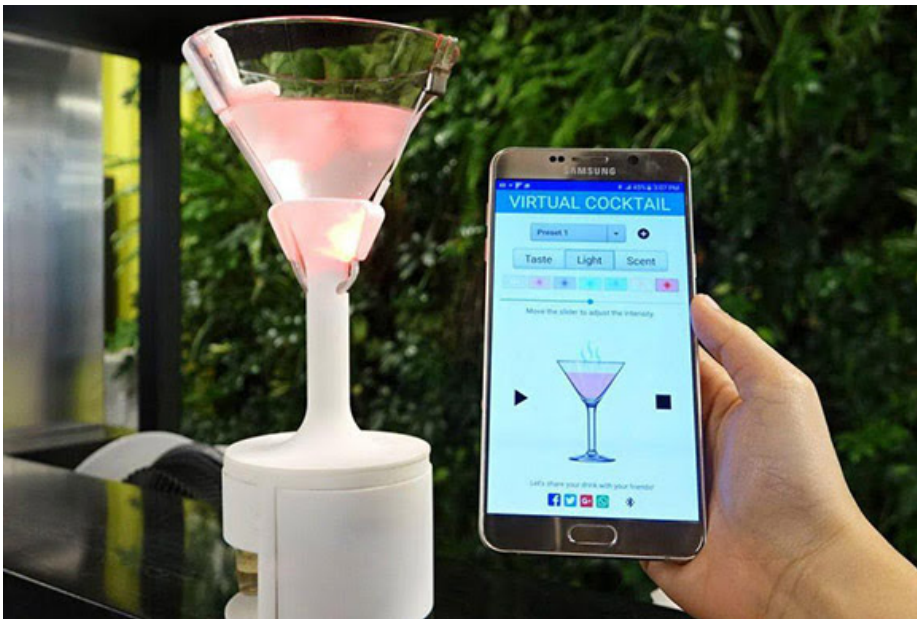
In the bottom picture: The CAD drawing depicts the first thousand bushes in the worlds largest bin.





Here's A Crazy Thought... Drink Anything You Want for 0 Calories

"Vocktail" could be the new future of drinking. For people who struggle drinking enough water each day or have that crave for a tasty drink while they are on a diet, this could be your solution. Vocktail, created by Researchers at the National University of Singapore, is a virtual reality drinking vessel that can make water or any liquid taste like whatever beverage you please. Say you really want to drink a few margaritas, but you can't afford to consume the calories for the day or you have to be the designated driver. Vocktail helps people achieve this through their latest technology. All you do is fill the glass with water. Access the mobile app to connect the glass via Bluetooth and you have a water that tastes exactly like a margarita. Some readers may be asking how this is done or how it's even possible. The glass you pour the water in is a 3-D printed structured filled with scent cartridges and micropumps. Through these scent cartridges and micropumps, the glass releases smell molecules that change the drinker's perception. So, say you want something that is blueberry flavored. The glass will pump out blueberry scents making you feel like you are drinking a blueberry flavored drink. Interestingly, smell isn't all this glass does to try and change your taste buds. The rim of the glass holds two electrode strips. When these strips touch your tongue they send electric pulses. This makes your taste perception perceive a different taste than it's actually receiving. These electric pulses vary in signal and can make drinks taste more sour or more bitter. This glass also includes LEDs at the bottom that helps adjust the color of the liquid in the glass via the mobile app. For example, if you are wanting to taste a red wine, then the lights change to red. I'm clearly starting to see more about technology that can alter our present state of perception. Drinking water while tricking our minds into thinking it's a margarita is just another step in this direction. About three weeks ago I actually witnessed a wire band that is placed on your head and can deliver the electric signal for Bacardi. In turn you get the feeling of being drunk but do not actually have to drink the alcohol or feel the side-effects of a hangover. One of the craziest things I've ever seen. I will try and have it available at our conference in KC in late-November.



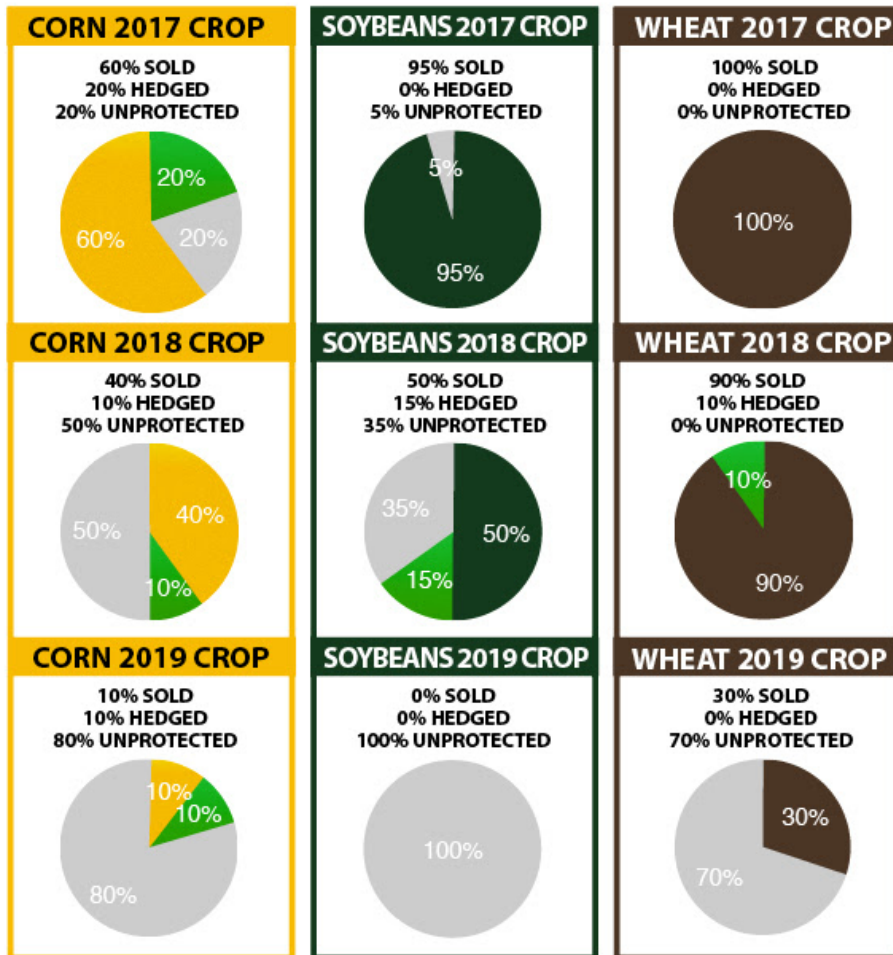
Raising Your Kids Like A "Musk"

We've all heard of Elon Musk and his wild entrepreneurial spirit, but recent reports suggest it was how he and his two siblings were raised that helped them all become extremely successful. Elon is the oldest at 46, followed by his younger brother Kimbal who is 45, and younger sister Tosca who is 43. Their mother is Maye Musk, former model from South Africa, who is fluent in four languages and has a couple of Masters degree's. She has been interviewed a lot as of late, as all of her kids are often in the headlines, and at age 70 she was recently named the face of Covergirl. Back when the kids were young and after divorcing their father, the Musks couldn't afford small luxuries like eating out or going to the movies and Maye, to save money, gave the kids haircuts, manicures and pedicures. She also worked five jobs at once. When asked about her parenting style, she's said she always encouraged her children to experiment, make mistakes and take risk. She also backed up her words with action. She gave Elon and his younger brother Kimbal, \$10,000 to start Zip2, the brothers' first entrepreneurial venture together. She helped them with photocopies and groceries to support the company as it began to take off. Just four years after their mom invested in their company, Compaq bought Zip2 for \$307 million. Elon used some of this money to found X.com in 1999, which he later turned into a company now called PayPal. In 2002 PayPal was sold to eBay for a whopping \$1.5 billion. Elon then used his proceeds from that venture and started SpaceX and became an early investor in Tesla, of which he's now CEO. Tesla is now valued at \$58.7 billion and is working on the next big challenge...driverless vehicles. Space-X has a goal of colonizing Mars and making space flight 10 times cheaper. Elon recently said SpaceX is on track to launch more rockets than any country in 2018. Between working on colonizing Mars and mastering self-driving cars, Elon reportedly invested over \$100,000 of his own money into his third company, The Boring Company, which creates tunnels he hopes to use for futuristic projects like the Hyperloop, which could transport people aboveground or underground at speeds of over +600 mph. Brother Kimbal, who is now often referred to as a "founding father of the modern food movement" and one of the "top people changing food in America." He owns The Kitchen Cafe, a family of community restaurants located across the American Heartland. He has also co-founded Big Green, a nonprofit that has built hundreds of outdoor classrooms called "Learning Gardens" in schoolyards across the country. Sister Tosca, is a producer and director of feature films, television programs and web content. Her web series, Tiki Bar TV, and Hallmark television movie, Holiday Engagement have become huge hits. In fact, Holiday Engagement, is the most watched television movie on Hallmark.



ANSWER to riddle: Distance

CASH SALES & HEDGING TOTALS



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