

GOOD MORNING: 07/09/18 Farm Direction - Van Trump Report

2 messages

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"You can have everything in life you want, if you will just help other people get what they want." - Zig Ziglar

MONDAY, JULY 09, 2018

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Morning Summary: Traders continue to debate the negative headlines surrounding trade disputes versus the positives flow of strong U.S. economic data. There really hasn't been anything fresh or new released over the weekend regarding Chinese trade negotiations. It seems the White house has temporarily shifted its attention to announcing their next Supreme Court nomination. As for the U.S. economy, most insiders still see the numbers and data as strong and robust. The most recent U.S. employment numbers were again better than expected, showing +213,000 new jobs created during the month of June. Average hourly earnings rose just +0.2% from the prior month, meaning wage growth is somewhat stagnate, hence no real threats of runaway inflation. There's also not a lot of real "slack" in the workforce. Numbers circulating from several sources, show about 102.7 million Americans are currently in their prime working years, between the ages of 25-54 years old, and over +80% are actually in the workforce employed or actively looking for work, which is not that far off the all-time highs posted back towards the end of the 1990's. The problem is the increased "slack" is now being created in the "less-educated" sector of the U.S. workforce. Remember, there's still a lot more Americans in the workforce that do not have a college degree than those that do. With new technology coming on like gang-busters, especially in the way of automation, I suspect we will be seeing fewer and fewer job openings or jobs being created for the less-educated. This is the "slack" investors seem most worried about and the challenge during the months and years ahead. I have to imagine this is why many leaders in Washington would like to see manufacturing and other industrial type jobs come back to the U.S. Looking at this weeks calendar, today's highlight will be President Trumps Supreme Court nomination this evening. Later in the week, President Trump will travel to the NATO summit, then on to Helsinki for a highly anticipated meeting next Monday with Russian leader Vladimir Putin. As for economic data, the big ticket items this week will be U.S. PPI, CPI and Chinese imports and exports for June, both later in the week. We will also start digesting second-quarter U.S. corporate earnings, with the first significant day being Friday, when the big banks are scheduled to report. Bottom-line, not a lot has changed in the past few weeks, it still remains the strength of the U.S. economy vs. the uncertainty surrounding trade renegotiations. Other headlines surrounding Washington, at least for the moment, appear to be just noise. Both the S&P 500 and Nasdaq are essentially "unchanged" in the past 30-days. During the past 52-weeks the S&P is still up +15% and the Nasdaq up +28%. I remain somewhat "defensive" in nature.

Trump To Announce Supreme Court Nominee Tonight: *President Trump is scheduled to announce his U.S. Supreme Court nomination tonight in a prime-time televised event from the White House at 8:00 PM CST. The nomination will replace retiring Justice Anthony Kennedy, who has long been considered a "swing vote" on the nine-member court. Remember, this is President Trump's second opportunity in 18 months to fill a Supreme Court vacancy. I suspect no matter who he announces, the confirmation hearings will be intense. The Republicans are wanting to get the new Supreme Court Judge approved prior to the mid-term elections in November. The Democrats are obviously wanting to delay the process until after the election, hoping their numbers will be better. Keep in mind the Republicans were able to change the number of votes from 60 to a simple majority of 51 to approve a nominee last year, so this could get interesting. From what I'm hearing out of Washington, four names... Brett Kavanaugh, Raymond Kethledge, Thomas Hardiman, and Amy Coney Barrett have risen to the top of the list. Any of the four would likely represent a solidly conservative voice on the bench and all leaning more to the right than the retiring Anthony Kennedy.*

Interesting Thoughts From My Vacation: *Spent the past week at home with the family on what I call a "working vacation". We used the time away from the office to clear a few acres on a new field and work on a downtown real-estate*



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project. I did manage to squeeze in a few great conversations with old friends and read a several interesting e-mails. Below are couple thoughts worth sharing:

Don't Just Talk The Talk, Your Actions Have To Match Your Beliefs! *It takes courage to stand up for our beliefs, and it takes character to live by them. Yet far too many of us spend more energy verbalizing than living by them. Like all good things in life, it takes dedication, discipline, and hard work!*

Confidence Counts More Than Talent: *The University of California Berkeley's School of Business found the key to success is actually "confidence", not talent. You can only change your life if you change your environment. Surround yourself with positive, confident, successful people and soon you'll find yourself looking at life differently. Rachel Hartman once said, "The right note played tentatively still misses its mark, but play boldly and no one will question you."*

Some Workers Simply Aren't Worth The Trouble...

Order The "Weird Stuff" On The Menu: *When given the opportunity, always try and order the weirdest thing on the menu. The odds are it must be really good or the owner wouldn't have let the chef put it on the menu. The wife and I have started testing the theory. We are trying things we never would have, so far they have all been excellent.*

Here's To The Crazy Ones... *A cool short video showing some crazy things people do in life. Click [HERE](#)*



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:

I'm a family of seven,
Two are bitter and harsh,
Four are twins,

Kansas City, Mo

Over 700 In Attendance Last Year:

Many of the Largest Producers in our Country

CEO's, and Ag Executives

Traders and Hedge Fund Managers

Bank Presidents, FDIC members

Grain Merchandisers, Exporters, Analyst

Leading Ag Retailers

Livestock Executives

Venture Capitalist and Early Investors

Transportation and Logistics Executives

Innovative Start-ups

\$500
Early Bird Special
For First 200 to Register:
\$299

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Learn More**

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

- John Wooden

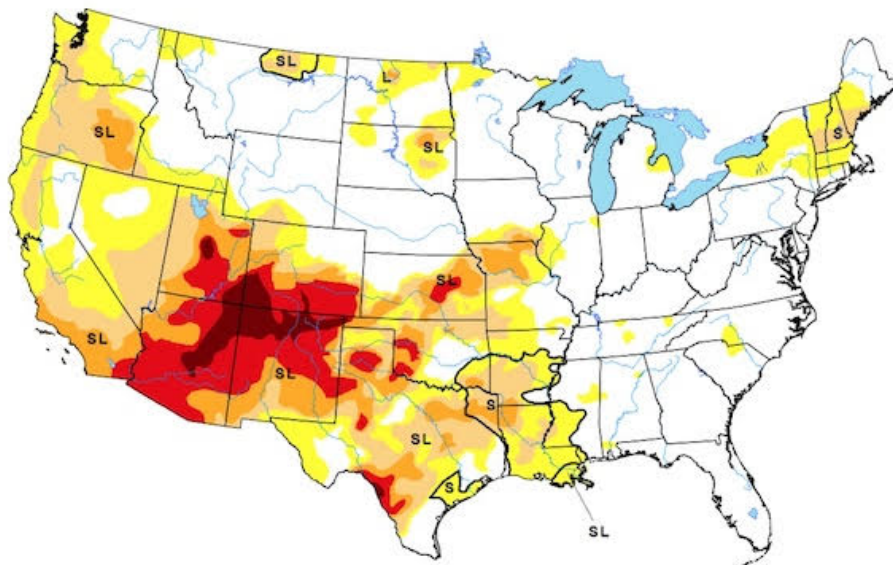
**The
VAN TRUMP
Report**

Co-hosted by:

The last is the warmest of all.

What family am I?

Weather traders continue to monitor the heat and dryness across parts of the U.S. Most sources seem to be focused on a portion of the Delta, and some areas in Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska and Illinois. The southern Plains wheat harvest looks to have favorable conditions for this week. The decent weather is also favorable for row crops, until mid to late week when a hotter and drier pattern is expected to turn a bit more stressful for crops. Over the next 10 days, the northern Plains will trend drier as well. Temperatures will be hot also, which may gradually reduce soil moisture and increase stress. The extended forecast continues to be heavily debated. Globally, there's been some recent rains that have helped ease a portion of the stress in Russia, Australia and China. I've included a few recent maps that can perhaps help better explain the current and nearby U.S. weather situation.

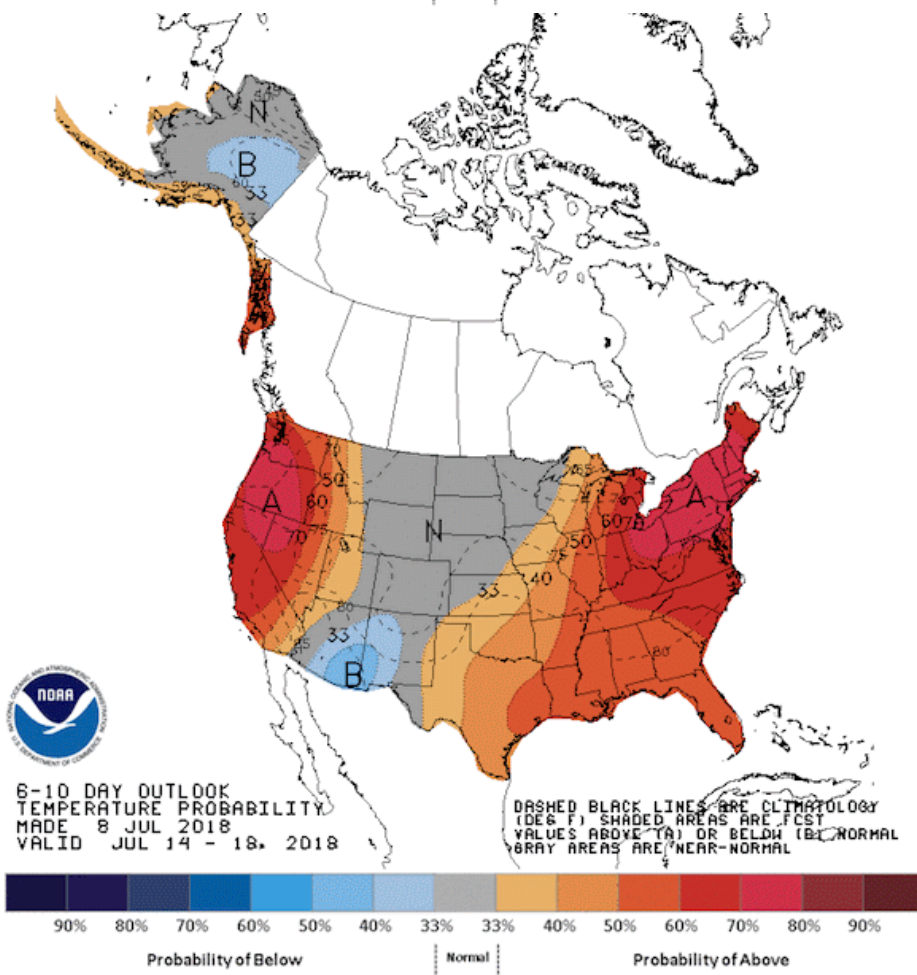
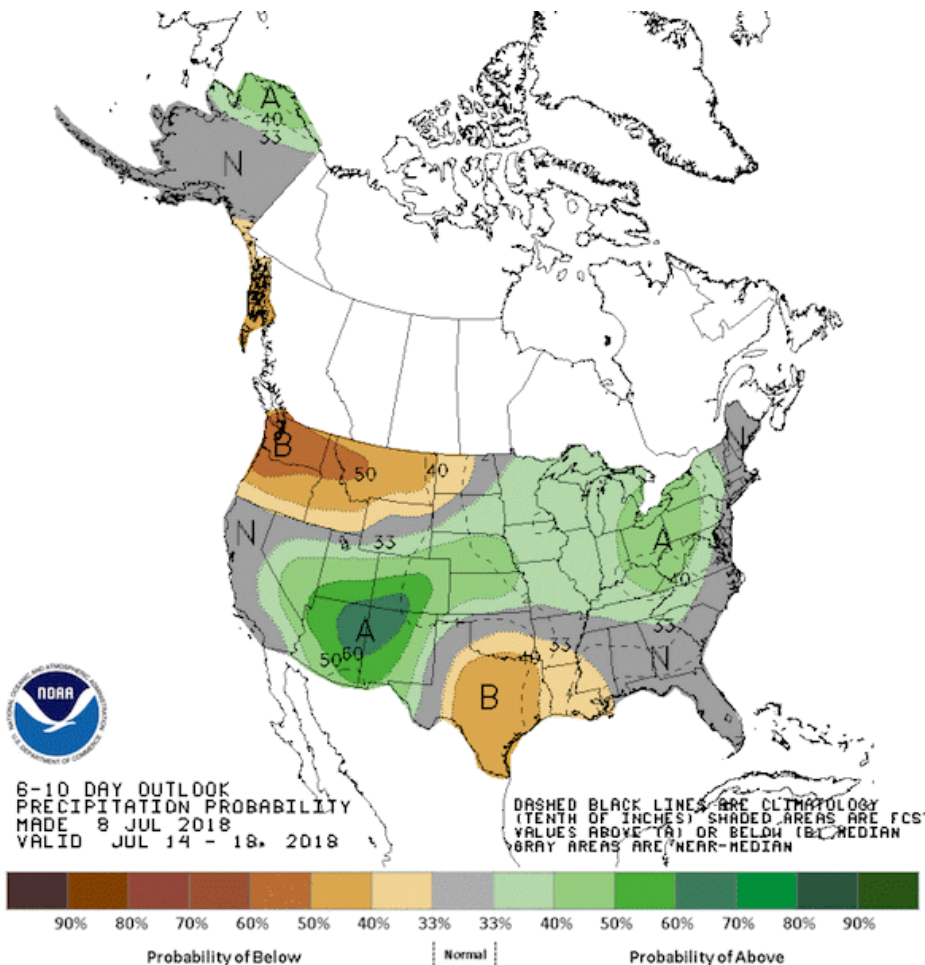


Today In History



1865, Mary Surratt - Is the first woman executed by the government of the U.S. for her role as a conspirator in Abraham Lincoln's

assassination. Surratt, who owned a tavern in Surrattsville (now Clinton), Maryland, had to convert her row house in Washington, D.C., into a boardinghouse as a result of financial difficulties. Located a few blocks from Ford's Theatre, where Lincoln was murdered, this house served as the place where a group of Confederate supporters, including John Wilkes Booth, conspired to assassinate the president. From what I understand, it was Surratt's association with Booth that ultimately led to her conviction, though debate continues as to the extent of her involvement and whether it really warranted so harsh a sentence. On the day of the assassination, Booth asked Surratt to deliver a package, which was later discovered to contain firearms, to her old tavern in Maryland. On her way home, Surratt ran into John Lloyd, a former Washington police officer who currently leased the tavern. When authorities first questioned Lloyd about their encounter, he did not mention anything significant and denied that Booth and David Herold had visited his tavern. Yet when questioned later, he claimed that Surratt had told him to have whiskey and weapons ready for Booth and Herold, who would be stopping by that night. Louis Weichmann, one of the alleged conspirators who delivered the package with Surratt, was released after he testified against her. He later claimed that the government had forced him to testify, and that it plagued his conscience for the rest of his life. Furthermore, Lewis Powell, a conspirator who was hanged with Surratt, proclaimed her innocence to his executioner minutes before his death. It was expected that President Andrew Johnson to pardon Surratt because the U.S. government had never hanged a woman. With that, the execution was delayed until the afternoon, and soldiers were stationed on every block between the White House and Fort McNair, the execution site, to relay the expected



pardon. But the order never came. Interestingly, it is claimed that there have been numerous sightings of Mary Surratt's ghost and other strange occurrences around Fort McNair. I'm even told there has been a hooded figure in black, bound at the hands and feet as Surratt had been at the time of her execution, allegedly seen moving about.



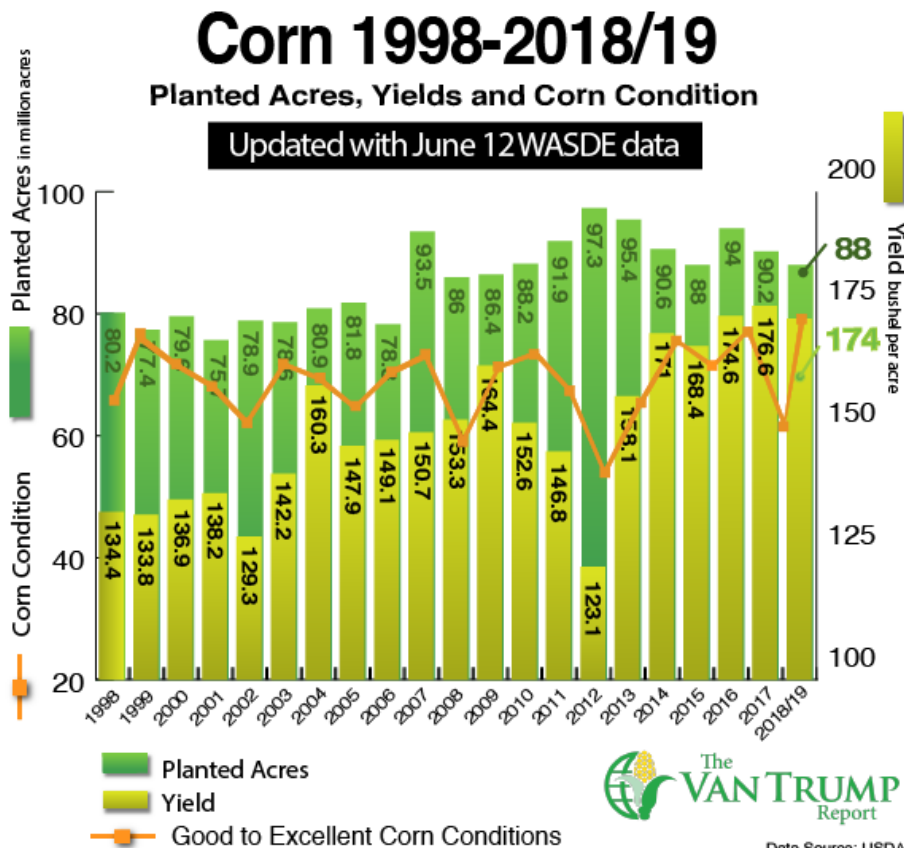
1930, Hoover Dam - 21,000 men would work for five years to complete the largest dam of its time, the Hoover Dam. Interestingly, the project actually began 30 years earlier as a vision from engineer Arthur Powell Davis from the Bureau of Reclamation. Davis produced an engineering report that became the guiding light when official plans began in 1922. It's worth noting that Herbert Hoover, the 31st president of the United States and a committed conservationist, played a crucial role in making Davis' vision a reality. As secretary of commerce in 1921, Hoover devoted himself to the erection of a high dam in Boulder Canyon, Colorado. The dam would provide essential flood control, which would prevent damage to downstream farming communities that suffered each year when snow from the Rocky Mountains melted and joined the Colorado River. Further, the dam would allow the expansion of irrigated farming in the desert and would provide a dependable supply of water for Los Angeles and other southern California communities. It would take more than the President's exuberance to push the plans into a reality. I'm told Congressional approval and individual state cooperation were slow in coming. Mostly because, just like today, water rights were a source of contention among the western states that had claims on the Colorado River. To address this issue, Hoover negotiated the Colorado River Compact, which broke the river basin into two regions with the water divided between them. Hoover then had to introduce and re-introduce the bill to build the dam several times over the next few years before the House and Senate finally approved the bill in 1928. In an impressive feat, Hoover, now president, signed the Colorado River Compact into law, making the project "the most extensive action ever taken by a group of states under the provisions of the Constitution permitting compacts between states." Once preparations were made, the Hoover Dam's construction sprinted forward: The contractors finished their work two years ahead of schedule and millions of dollars under budget. Today, the Hoover Dam is the second highest dam in the country and the 18th highest in the world. It generates enough energy each year to serve over a million people, and stands, in Hoover Dam artist Oskar Hansen's words, as "a monument to collective genius exerting itself in community efforts around a common need or ideal."

2000, NASCAR Kenny Irwin Jr. - On this day in 2000—eight weeks to the day

Corn prices are down about -12% from this time last year. Bulls continue to point towards strong U.S. demand. Exports continue to impress and will almost certainly be raised higher once again by the USDA in the upcoming report. Several sources inside the trade are thinking we could ultimately see a +20 to +40 million bushel bump higher as U.S. exports look to remain competitive through the end of the summer. Bears argue that might not be the case as the USDA announced recently that they would start taking the current tariff policies into place. Bears are also thinking a portion of any export increase could be offset by a lower feed and residual number, which almost always seems to be a wild-card. Ethanol demand remains strong, but perhaps a much larger question is how new acting head of the EPA, Andrew Wheeler, will react and respond to biofuel issues in Washington. Several of the insiders I know are playing the Scott Pruitt resignation as bullish card, believing there is now more wiggle room in the negotiations and President Trump might use it as an opportunity to get back in good graces with the farmers, especially considering so many have had to take it on the chin as trade is renegotiated. The price jump in RINs following the announced resignation last Thursday also confirmed that the trade believes the move is somewhat pro-ethanol. Traders continue to debate total U.S. corn production. Bulls continue to believe some areas in big production states are simply too hot and too dry to producer a record setting national average yield. Bears on the other hand continue to believe the crop could ultimately test a record setting 180 bushels per acre. From what I can gather, the market is currently trading a yield somewhere between 175 and 180 bushels per acre, with most seeming to lean towards the 178 to 179 range. That's definitely a big yield number. It will interesting to see if the USDA makes any type of significant jump in the upcoming report. As for today, most are looking for another slight setback in condition ratings. As you can see from the graphic I included below, last year crop-conditions for the first week in July showed just 68% rated "Good-to-Excellent" and we still produced another record yielding crop of 176.6 bushels per acre. Conditions this year showed 76% of the U.S. corn crop rated "Good-to-Excellent" into the first week of July.



after the fourth-generation NASCAR driver Adam Petty was killed during practice at the New Hampshire International Speedway in Loudon, New Hampshire—the driver Kenny Irwin Jr. dies at the same speedway. During practice for the thatlook.com 300 at New Hampshire Motor Speedway, Irwin slammed head on into the wall, causing his car to flip onto its side. According to fellow driver Brett Bodine speaking to CNN, the car slid along its side for a long time before rolling on its roof. Irwin likely died instantly of a basilar skull fracture less than a month before his 31st birthday. Fellow Indiana native and rival Tony Stewart would win the race that Sunday, and donate the trophy to Irwin's parents. Irwin's accident was blamed on a stuck throttle, which was the same cause of the accident that had killed Adam Petty. On the other hand, Petty's grandfather, the NASCAR icon Richard Petty, dismissed those charges, attributing the two similar crashes to "circumstances beyond human control...circumstances with the way you stop that thing so quick. Your body just can't stand it." A native of Indianapolis, Indiana, Kenny Irwin Jr. won Rookie of the Year honors for the NASCAR Winston Cup series in 1998, earning one fifth-place finish and four top-10s while driving the famous No. 28 Texaco Havoline Ford for the Robert Yates Racing team. Among the celebrated previous drivers of the No. 28 were Ernie Irvan and Davey Allison. After Irwin racked up three more top-five finishes in 1999, including third place in the Daytona 500, he left the Yates organization and joined a team owned by Felix Sabates. In a car sponsored by BellSouth, he ran a total of 17 races, still seeking a win.



Upcoming Events

- Mon. 7/9** - Crop Progress
- Thur. 7/12** - USDA Supply and Demand
- Mon. 7/16** - Crop Progress
- Fri. 7/20** - Cattle on Feed
- Mon. 7/23** - Cold Storage, Crop Progress
- Mon. 7/30** - Crop Progress
- Fri. 8/10** - USDA Supply and Demand

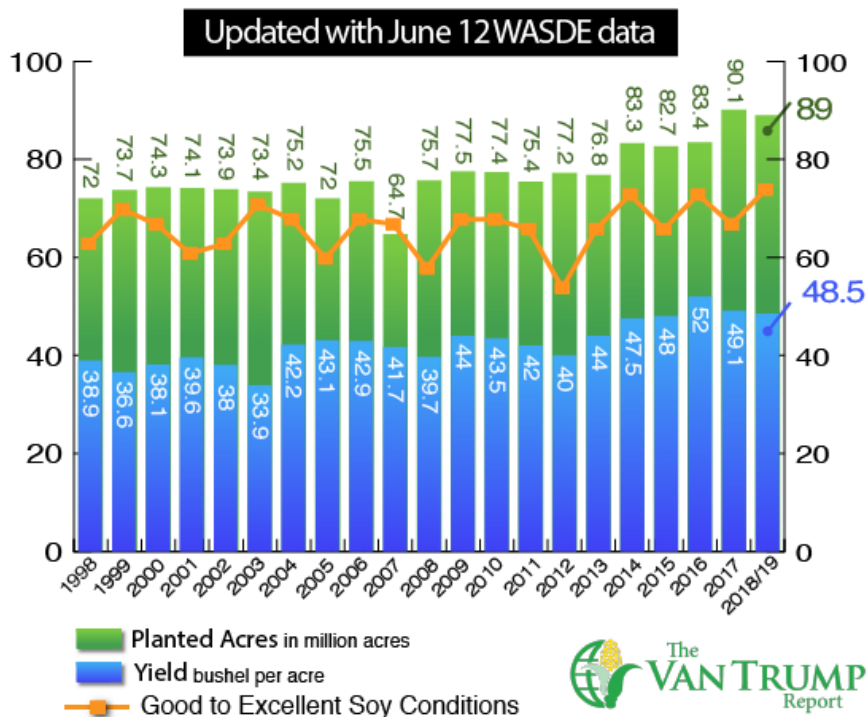
Kevin's Song of the Week

Soybean prices struggle to hold Friday's recent rally. The market has now tumbled almost -\$2.00 per bushel in just the past five-weeks. Bulls are still saying the bottom is now in place following Friday's impressive rally off fresh new contract lows. Technical guru's always consider it a strong signal when the market is able to post a bullish outside day higher. I'm not so sure I'm on board with the bottom being in place, especially as the upcoming USDA report on Thursday will start taking into account the complications associated with tariffs and particularly the reduction in Chinese demand. In fact, I've talked to a few bears in the market who actually think U.S. soybean prices could eventually drop to sub-\$8.00 if the U.S. weather cooperates, the Chinese call all U.S. trade bets, and South American producers plant more acres in the months ahead. Interestingly the biggest rally in weeks, which happened last Friday, occurred on yet another wave of bearish news, U.S. tariffs on Chinese goods becoming "official" and the Chinese canceling 432,000 MTs of U.S. soybeans. From what I understand, 366,000

MTs of old-crop and 66,000 MTs of new-crop were canceled. The good news, despite lack of Chinese demand, we are still seeing strong U.S. export sales on weak U.S. prices, especially when comparison shopping against South American supplies. Bottom-line, U.S. soybeans from the Gulf are well cheaper than most all other sources of high protein and starting to be substituted. Bulls are also pointing towards some potential problems ahead in regards to U.S. weather, particularly continued heat and mounting dryness in the extended forecasts for some important locations. Bottom-line, both the bulls and the bears have some legitimate arguments at this point. I'm not sure there's enough meat left on the bone to the downside to bring in new large bearish bets. But at the same time, I've learned it's extremely difficult to maintain upside momentum on just short-covering and bottom-picking. It just doesn't feel like there's a big enough story right now to attract large bullish positions. Hence the reason I suspect nearby we continue to trade in a range sideways to somewhat lower. As long as U.S. weather stays cooperative and the Chinese continue to call all bets, it's tough to envision an extended rally.

Soybeans 1998-2018/19

Planted Acres, Yields and Corn Condition



Wheat prices are down a bit this morning, but have rallied about +30 cents from lows posted earlier last week. Bulls point to the fact U.S. exports have become a bit more competitive in the global market. There's also talk that global supplies are starting to tighten as production is weaker in nations that have been considered the world's low-cut providers, i.e. Russia, Ukraine, Australia and portions of the European Union. Adding to the well advertised complications, I recently heard that Germany's winter wheat crop was going to be down over -15% compared to last year. Also helping to provide a bit of a tailwind has been the recent weakness in the U.S. dollar. As a spec, I remain conservatively bullish and looking to add to my position on a deeper break in price. As a producer, I remain patient in regard to reducing more longer-term price risk.

WHAT I'M LISTENING TO: ▶



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.

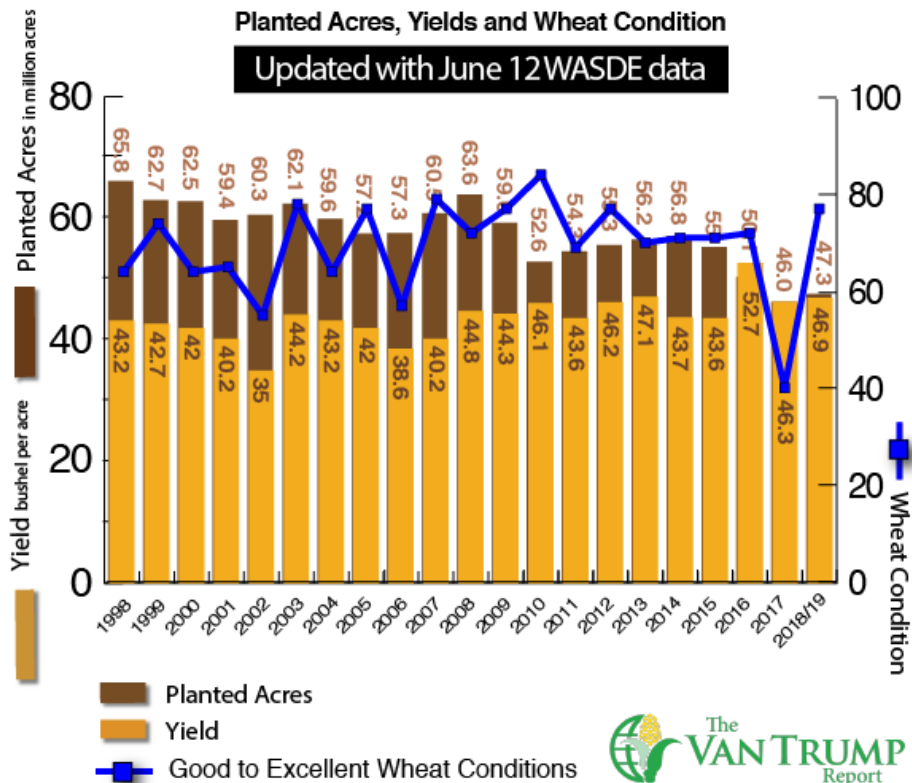
My family and I would like to thank you again for your support!

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

Wheat 1998-2018/19



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.



> **Will Chinese Government Reimburse Buyers of U.S. Soybeans?** There has been some rumors as of late that the Chinese government is going to reimburse Chinese importers who have to purchase U.S. soybean cargoes for the purpose of state reserves. I can't confirm the rumors, but the headlines are circulating.

> **Soybean Exports Surge In Q2:** The value of soybean exports nearly doubled in May from April to a seasonally adjusted \$4.14 billion, driving the U.S. trade deficit to its narrowest margin since October 2016, the U.S. the Commerce Department said Friday. Weekly data on grain shipments from the Agriculture Department show export volumes may have been even stronger during much of June. The surge, which did little to ease farmers' pain amid a downturn in prices, shows how global trade is shifting in the face of tit-for-tat sanctions between the world's two largest economies. Read more [HERE](#). (Source: WSJ)

> **Watch What You Eat:** More than 200 people have been infected by cyclosporiasis, a parasitic intestinal infection, after reportedly eating vegetables from Fresh Del Monte Produce vegetable trays. According to the CDC, most of the trays were bought from Kwik Trip or Kwik Star convenience stores across Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin. (Source: SeekingAlpha)

> **May Ethanol Exports Down Over -40%:** According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the U.S. exported only 91.9 million gallons of ethanol in May. Dropping 43% month on month and 23% lower than a year ago. Our largest buyer was Canada, who imported 108.6 million barrels of fuel-grade ethanol in May. The team at S&P Global Platts Analytics has forecasted U.S. exports will be near 1.34 billion, up 4% from 2017.

> **Andrew Wheeler Steps In As Interim EPA Chief:** Following the resignation of Scott Pruitt last week, the interim boss for the EPA will be Andrew Wheeler. Wheeler is no stranger to the EPA, where he has worked for over two decades. He also spent time as an advisor to Senator James Inhofe (R-OK). Learn more about Wheeler [HERE](#).

> China Cancels U.S. Soybeans As Expected: U.S. net export sales published Friday revealed the long-anticipated cancellation of US sales of Chinese soybeans, with buyers scrapping purchases of 432,000 mt ahead of Chinese taxes on imports of US soybeans. Buyers tore up deals for 366,000 mt for the current marketing year, which ends next month, and 66,000 mt for the next marketing year, starting in September. The move was well expected by the market, which was surprised to see net sales of old crop reach 561,600 mt last week versus market expectations of about 300,000 mt. (Source: Agricensus)

> E.U. Wheat Production Lowered: Due to a hot and dry spring in the northern bloc and some recent reports of crop damage in France, the E.U. will harvest almost 6 mt less this year. It is expected that the E.U. will produce a total of 136 mt of soft wheat this season, a drop of 4% from 2017 production numbers.

>Over Supply Of Crude Lulled Capital Investing To Sleep: Oil investors may regret urging companies to cough up cash now instead of investing in growth for later as the dearth of exploration is setting the stage for an unprecedented crude price spike, according to Sanford C. Bernstein & Co. Companies have been compelled to focus on boosting returns and shareholder distributions at the expense of capital expenditures aimed at finding new supplies, according to analysts. I hear some are saying the possibility exists for \$150 a barrel oil as some companies oil reserves have fallen by 30% recently. (Source: Bloomberg)

> Twitter Doubles Efforts To Suspend Fake Accounts: From what I understand, Twitter has spent the last few months aggressively closing fake accounts in an attempt to stem the spread of "Fake News" coming from its platform. According to one report, Twitter suspended as many as 70 million accounts between May and June of this year, and it doesn't look like they will be slowing down anytime soon. Read more [HERE](#)

> Tesla's New "Model 3" Has Self-Parking Feature: The Model 3 can now park itself. Called Summon, the feature is now available on the company's new sedan. It's a clever feature that takes advantage of the vehicle's connectivity and autonomous driving capabilities. With Summon owners can command their Model 3 to pull into a parking spot and power down. It can even control garage doors — all without a driver behind the wheel or controlling the vehicle remotely. (Source: TechCrunch)

> LeBron Goes For The Money And The Spotlight: After turning down the \$35.6 million one year deal with the Cavaliers, the four-time MVP and three-time NBA champion made a quick decision during his free agency stint to become an LA Laker. LeBron made the decision to join the Lakers within the first 24-hours of NBA free agency. LeBron and the Lakers agreed to a deal paying him \$154 million over the next 4 seasons. In case you are counting, that's over +\$105,000 per day for the next four-years. There are still trade rumors floating around about the Lakers trying to get Kawhi Leonard, which would be a game changer for the league. We will have to wait and see if the Lakers now have enough talent to beat the Warriors, who just recently signed DeMarcus Cousins, arguably the best big-man in basketball.

> Alcohol Abuse! The Barton 1792 Distillery in Kentucky has now fully collapsed and in the process destroyed an estimated 18,000 barrels of bourbon, each holding about 53 gallons of the whiskey. For those who don't want to do the math, that's about 4,770,000 fifths of whiskey gone.





FROM THE FIELD

Southwest Ohio - Well we started the year off planting the corn into very dry dirt and it seemed bleak at that time. But, the rain started to fall and the heat picked up and we feel truly blessed. Corn was planted anywhere from May 1st through Memorial Weekend. The earliest stuff is 7 to 8 feet tall and shooting tassels already. The little bit later stuff is surprisingly less than a month behind it. The corn plants have almost perfect leaves and formation and we are not seeing any weather tattering or insect damage. What I'm trying to say is. . . I can't remember the last time corn has ever looked this perfect. It's almost too good to be true, everything including the yards are green and lush. My wife usually only has to mow the grass every two weeks at this point in the year but she is still mowing it weekly because the rain is keeping it growing at spring pace.

Northern Illinois - Looking at a hot and dry nine days ahead of us here, luckily we got a good three inches of rainfall over the weekend. About fifteen miles north of us, close to the Wisconsin border, they have been getting pounded by rainfall and are basically lakes in the fields so I consider us very lucky to be in one of these good weather pockets. We have actually only had one weather related issue so far this year, two weeks ago we had a microburst storm come through our area and it dropped pea sized hail on us. After assessing the field we found that the hail tore forty percent of the leaves off of the corn, but we did have great weather following and the crop rebounded. By day three only one percent of the corn crop was affected by the hail. We are hoping that we stay in this pocket and can finish out the season on a strong note.

Northcentral Oklahoma - We've been done with winter wheat for a bit and are waiting to get our double-crop beans in the ground. We waited to plant following harvest due to the very dry conditions then it started raining and kept us out longer. Eventually, we were able to get them in. The harvest was ok considering how dry it was over the winter, meaning we were happy enough with the 32bpa, especially considering the premium we received for the 14% protein we delivered. It's interesting to most in our experience, stressed crops have always produced more protein and exactly the opposite on when things seem to be perfect.



CROSSING WIRES

A place to share intelligent thoughts...

'Smart' Food Packaging May Prevent Food Borne Illnesses: Short of swearing off fresh produce, how can you protect yourself from tainted meat, fruit, and vegetables? A new type of "smart" food packaging may hold the key to preventing food-borne illnesses. Developed by scientists at McMaster University in Canada and published in the April issue of ACS Nano, the packaging monitors for bacteria in food and emits a fluorescent signal if they're detected. Current methods to test food for pathogens involve taking the product to a lab, dissolving it, and then waiting to see if bacteria grows out of the resulting meat slushee. The process is slow, gross, and not easily replicable at home or in the deli section of your local grocery store. See how one company thinks it can help in a time of need [HERE](#).

Synthetic Diamonds Lead To Quantum Computing Breakthrough: For decades, physicists, materials engineers, and others have been trying to achieve the conceptual promise of quantum-encrypted communications because the data transferred in that process is theoretically immune to covert surveillance. Any attempt to observe that data between parties - à la the Heisenberg Uncertainty Principle - would fundamentally alter that information, quickly revealing that it was compromised. The problem has been storing and preserving qubits and then converting them to fiber optic-ready photons. See how the team at Princeton is using synthetic diamonds to open new doors [HERE](#).

Why Ray Dalio Says We Should Reflect On Our Times Of Pain And Failure: There is no avoiding pain, especially if you're going after ambitious goals. Believe it or not, you are lucky to feel that kind of pain if you approach it correctly, because it is a signal that you need to find solutions so you can progress. If you can develop a reflexive reaction to psychological pain that causes you to reflect on it rather than avoid it, it will lead to your rapid learning/evolving. After seeing how much more effective it is to face the painful

realities that are caused by your problems, mistakes, and weaknesses, I believe you won't want to operate any other way. Read the rest of Ray's thoughts [HERE](#).

The "Uber for Kids" Expanding And Creating Heated Debates: *There's a company called "HopSkipDrive", which is a so-called Uber for kids. The company gives rides to children as young as 6 years old. The founders hope to help parents run the kids from everything to soccer practice to pizza parties. The Los Angeles-based company, which was started by three moms in 2014, is now expanding to Denver. As you can imagine there is big debate brewing amongst moms and who would or would not allow their children to ride with a complete stranger. You should know the service only hires drivers who not only pass comprehensive 15-point background checks, but also have a minimum of five years of child-care experience and are willing to get fingerprinted. You can read more [HERE](#) and debate the subject at the dinner table.*

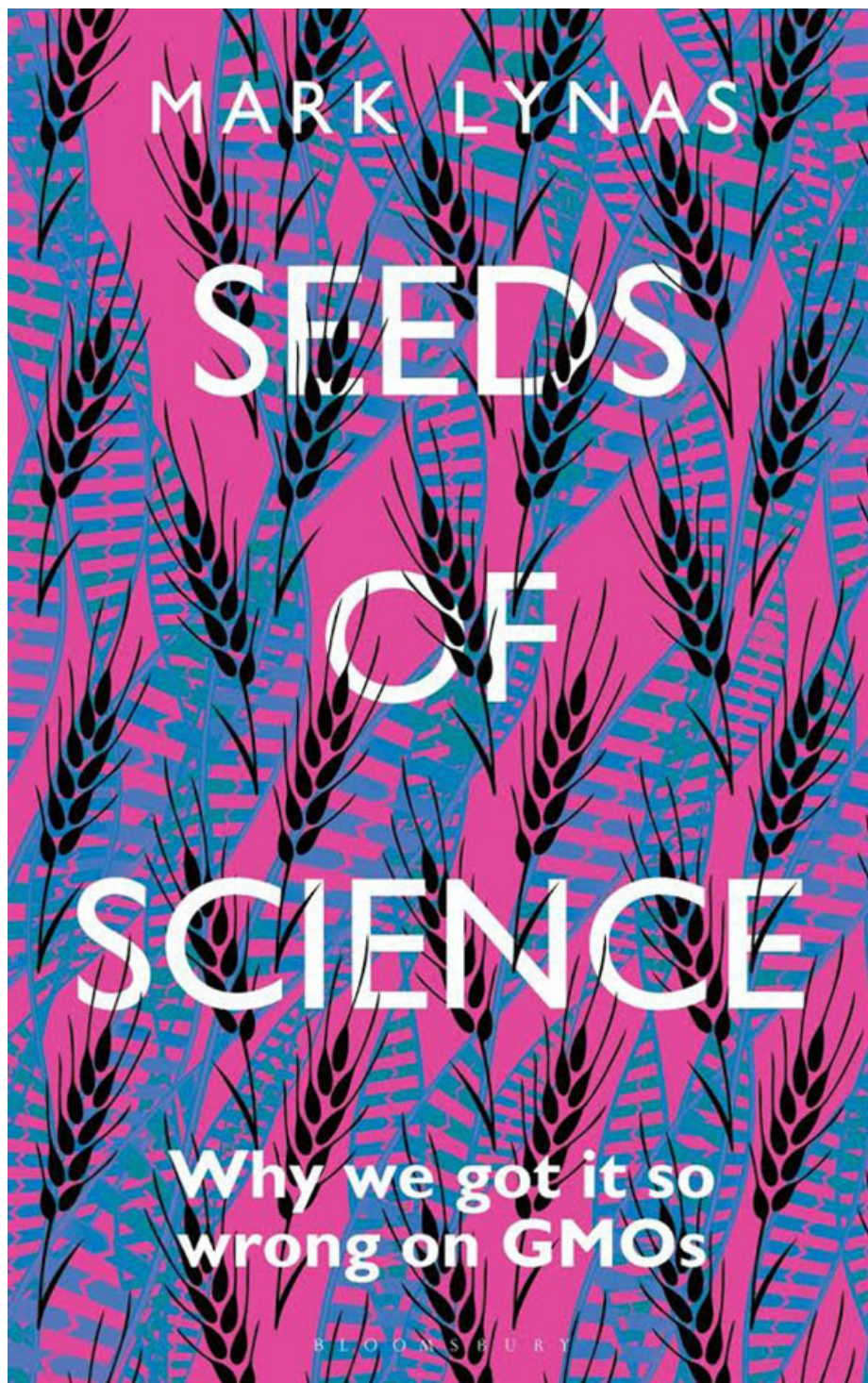


Another From The Field of Science Reversing Anti-GMO Stance

Mark Lynas is a science writer by profession, a visiting fellow at the Cornell Alliance For Science and was an outspoken activist against GMO's upon their release in the 90's. It's safe to say he was all in against the technology as his list of activities included trespassing to destroy test fields, lobbying to have GMO food banned in supermarkets, helping organize the world's first campaign targeting Monsanto and he even unsuccessfully tried to steal the world's first cloned farm animal, Dolly the sheep. Interestingly, Lynas has since reversed his views on GMOs, as the evidence debunking almost all of the claims have accumulated over the years. But he says, there's no denying the remarkable world-wide success of the anti-GMO campaign. To see that success, one need look no farther than the now-famous segment of Jimmy Kimmel's talk show, where he sent a reporter out to a West Coast farmers market to ask food-conscious shoppers what they thought of GMOs. All the interviewees declared their horrified avoidance of GMOs—and then, predictably, failed to come up with an explanation for what the letters "G.M.O." stands for. You can see the short Kimmel interview [HERE](#). In a move that put Lynas at odds with his former associates, he allowed science to have its say. What moved Lynas was the multiple reports from respectable sources, all of whom have scientifically put to rest the public's fear of GMO's. What finally tipped the scales for Lynas was the statement issued by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, which read, "The science is quite clear: Crop improvement by the modern molecular techniques of biotechnology is safe." Lynas has often been attacked by one-time activist friends for his change of mind, but Lynas simply asked himself, what was the alternative...to stick to a position that I knew to be false in order to avoid losing reputation? I'm told that Lynas has recently published a new book, "Seeds of Science: Why We Got It So Wrong on GMOs". Bottom-line, we all believe strongly in many things, but how many of us take the time to correct

or admit the inconsistencies when our beliefs and actions don't line up? (Source: [Wall Street Journal](#))





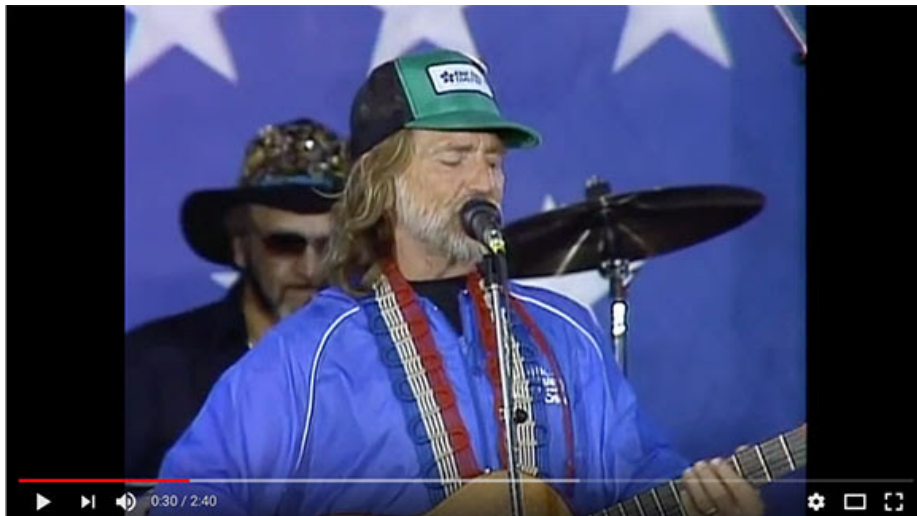
MUST WATCH VIDEO: Why The Doctors Might Have It Wrong?

A friend of mine sent me this TEDTalk the other day and he deemed it insanely important for me to watch and hopefully pass along. It is presented by pediatrician Nadine Burke Harris, who has extensive data and research showing childhood stress and adversity has a direct correlation to health as an adult and overall longevity of life. Many in the medical profession have always believed childhood trauma was something you just got over as you grew older. The latest data is showing this is not the case and is creating much more long-term complications. This is definitely a TEDTalk worth hearing and thinking more deeply about... Click [HERE](#)



"Farm Aid" Scheduled for September 22, 2018

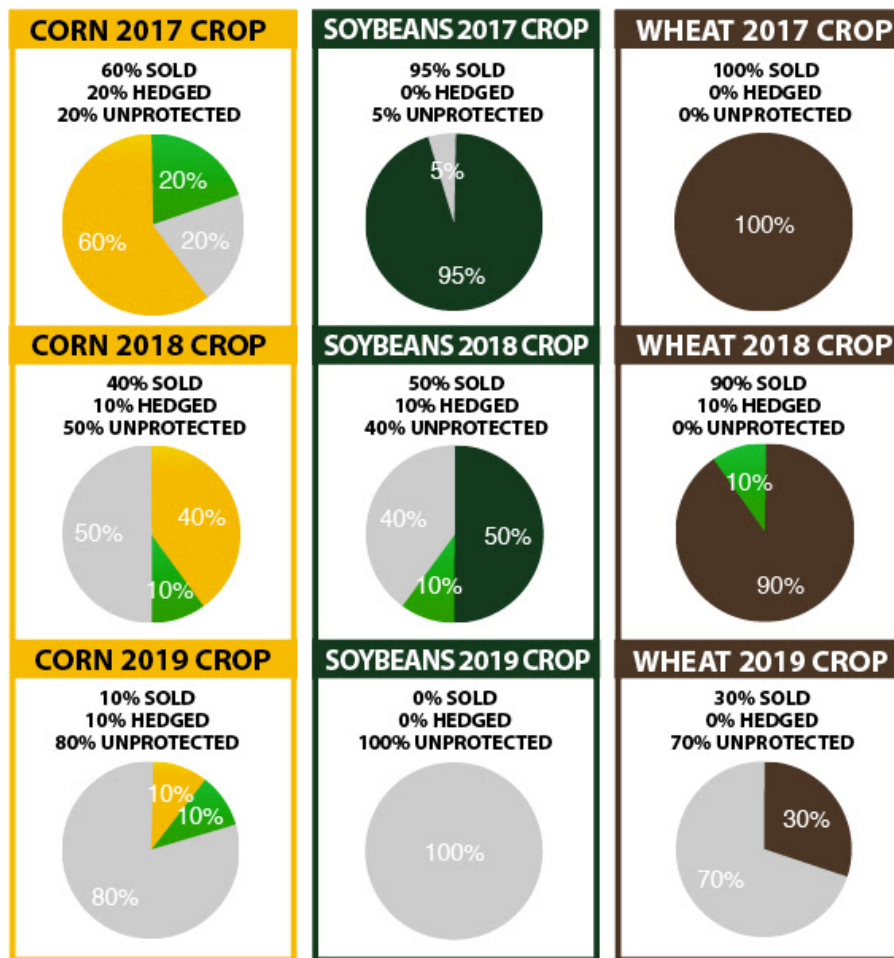
Farm Aid is heading to Connecticut for the first time in its 33-year history taking place at the XFINITY Theatre. The lineup will feature Farm Aid regulars Neil Young, Willie Nelson, John Mellencamp, Dave Matthews & Tim Reynolds alongside Chris Stapleton, Kacey Musgraves, Sturgill Simpson, Margo Price, Nathaniel Rateliff & The Night Sweats, Lukas Nelson & Promise of the Real and Particle Kid. There will also be additional artist added to the line-up between now and then. Each year, the Farm Aid board members Willie Nelson, Neil Young, John Mellencamp, and Dave Matthews host a music festival to bring together a wide variety of artists, farmers, and fans for one mission... to help keep farmers on their land. The charity event has now raised over \$53 million for struggling farmers. In the 1980s, family farmers faced a major crisis, which hadn't been seen since the Great Depression. Plummeting land values, rising interest rates, troubled credit markets and unfair lending practices pushed tens of thousands of farmers out of business. Due to these tough conditions in agriculture Nelson, Mellencamp, and Young started the charity concert event known as "Farm Aid". The first Farm Aid event was held in Champaign, Illinois on September 22nd, 1985 with an incredible line-up including the early-creators of Farm Aid, Bob Dylan, Don Henley, Merle Haggard, Johnny Cash, Billy Joel, Bon Jovi, John Denver, Sammy Hagar, George Jones, and many others. Willie Nelson has even said, "Family farmers are the backbone of our country." Tickets to this year's event are now on sale and ranging from \$54.50 to \$279.50. This is definitely a very cool event and one you might want to think about attending. Watch Willie perform live at the inaugural 1985 Farm Aid concert by Clicking [HERE](#)





ANSWER to riddle: The Seven Seas.

CASH SALES & HEDGING TOTALS



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