

GOOD MORNING: 08/22/18 Farm Direction - Van Trump Report

2 messages

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Wed, Aug 22, 2018 at 6:49 AM



"Obsessed is just a word the lazy use to describe the dedicated." -Russell Warren

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 22, 2018

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Morning Summary: Stocks are steady this morning and have now traded back to their highest level since late-January. The current bull run is about to break the all-time record for the longest in history, dating all the way back to March 2009 without a -20% pullback. The S&P 500 has basically quadrupled since hitting the 666 low on March 9, 2009. Strong corporate earnings and a strong U.S. economy continue to push the market past geopolitical uncertainties. Headlines out of Washington are starting to show a little shakeout stemming from Special Counsel Robert Mueller's probe. President Trump's former attorney Michael Cohen has struck a plea deal, while a federal jury in Virginia has convicted former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort on eight counts related to bank and tax fraud. The stock market hasn't flinched on the news and seems very calloused to the negative media headlines surrounding the current administration. The trade instead seems more focused on the uncertainties surrounding global trade, emerging markets, Fed monetary policy and the direction of the U.S. dollar. Currency traders seem to be waiting on more details involving current Chinese and U.S. trade negotiations. Keep in mind, the two days of meetings are the first formal U.S.-China trade discussions since U.S. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross met with Chinese economic adviser Liu He in Beijing back in June. The U.S. and China are both scheduled to impose tariffs on \$16 billion of each other's imports tomorrow. Others in the market are waiting to see today's release of the Fed "minutes" recorded during their latest meeting. Hopefully this will help fill in a little more color in regard to the Fed's longer-term goals and objectives. President Trump is starting to become a bit more vocal about the Fed's continued raising of interest rates, so it will be interesting to see if the Fed rhetoric starts to shift a bit? The market seems to have prepared itself for two more rate hikes this year and perhaps another three hikes in 2019. I suspect we get even more insight from Fed Chairman Jerome Powell's comments and speech in Jackson Hole at the Economic Symposium on Friday. As for today, the trade will digesting the latest Existing Home Sales data this morning, then perhaps a wave of headlines from U.S. and Chinese trade negotiations.

The Brokerage Business Continues To Change: JP Morgan Chase announced yesterday that they will be rolling out an app that could further disrupt the industry as clients will be able to trade for FREE. From what I understand, starting next week, anyone currently using the Chase banking app or website will be able to open a brokerage account. There are no balance minimums and funding from Chase checking/savings will be instantaneous. The whole account opening process should take about three minutes. Customers will then be able to execute 100 trades for free in the first year. After that, trades will cost \$2.95. Accounts over \$15,000 will have no-commission trading past year one. Those with Chase Private Client, a higher account that typically requires at least \$100,000 in holdings, get unlimited trades for free. Users will also supposedly have free access to some portion of JPMorgan stock research and a portfolio-building tools. It will be made available immediately next week to the company's +47 million mobile and online users. Keep in mind, just last year this company was charging about \$24.95 per trade. To say the commission brokerage business is changing is a huge understatement.

Free At Last, Free At Last: I thought someone simply photo shopped the cages out of an animal crackers box. But as I now understand it, following pressure from PETA, the parent company of Nabisco redesigned the packaging of its crackers to remove the metal cages. The new box shows the iconic zebra, elephant, lion, giraffe, and gorilla all "roaming free". After living behind bars for over 100 years, the animals on the box of Barnum's Animals Crackers have finally been freed. We can all sleep better tonight... WOW! PETA celebrated the change, with Executive Vice President Tracy Reiman saying: "The new box for Barnum's Animals crackers perfectly reflects that our society no longer tolerates the caging and chaining of wild animals for circus shows." The new box is pictured below the old box. I'm also glad to see there's no growling tiger.)

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

- John Wooden

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:

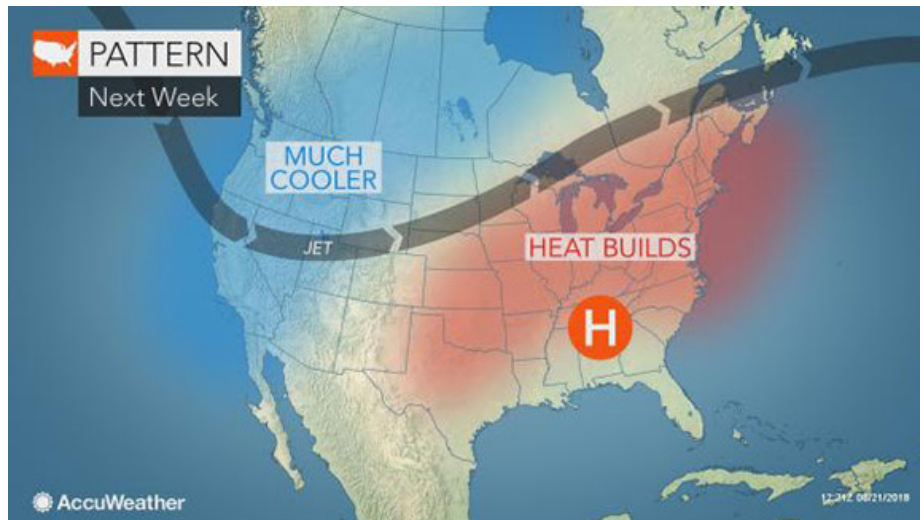
I come in many shapes and colors. I sing in the breeze but only live 7 months. What am I?

Weather on the Plains has seen rain shift northward, but nearly all areas of the nation's mid-section have experienced significant improvements in topsoil moisture in recent days. In Oklahoma, for example, topsoil moisture was rated 21% short to very short on August 19, down from 46% the previous week. In the Corn Belt, locally heavy showers have shifted northeastward across the Great Lakes. Dry weather has returned to the southwestern Corn Belt, following drought easing rainfall that benefited pastures and later-developing summer crops such as soybeans. On August 19, prior to the latest batch of rain, topsoil moisture was rated 66% short to very short in Missouri. In the South, humid weather accompanies widely scattered showers. Soggy field conditions in

The
VAN TRUMP
Report

portions of the Atlantic Coast States continue to limit fieldwork and threaten crop quality due to disease pressure; on August 19, topsoil moisture was rated 33% surplus in North Carolina. Hurricane Lane, currently centered about 500 miles southeast of Kailua-Kona, Hawaii, could threaten or strike the Big Island of Hawaii by Thursday, but impacts will be heavily dependent upon Lane's exact track. Meanwhile on the U.S. mainland, a pair of storm systems will maintain showers conditions across a broad area. The first storm, now moving across the Great Lakes region, will result in locally severe thunderstorms later today in the Northeastern and Mid-Atlantic States. Thundershowers will linger through mid-week along the Atlantic Seaboard. Meanwhile, the second storm will emerge from the western U.S., reaching the Midwest by week's end. Much of the country will experience cooler than normal weather, but heat will linger in the Pacific Northwest through mid-week before later shifting to the High Plains.

Substantial Warmup Ahead For Late August, Early September: *A change in the weather pattern will allow a long stretch of hotter weather with dry conditions when compared to last few weeks across the Midwest and Northeast. By the end of the week, warm days and lower humidity will abound and will evolve next week. A number of days in the pattern will bring highs well into the 90s to the lower 90s or 8-15 degrees above average over a broad area in the Central and Eastern states. This pattern may allow for a great deal of harvesting to get done.*



Corn bulls are struggling to find any fresh new headlines. The best we can find is some crop deterioration in parts of the Dakota's, Colorado and Minnesota. There's also pockets of concern or variability in parts of Wisconsin, Iowa, Kansas and of course Missouri. The funds continue to hold a slightly bearish tilt, primarily on lack of enthusiasm in the global macro space and no real U.S. weather story. Fundamentally we can argue strong demand, but without the interest of the funds and without a significant weather story to threaten supply, it's tough to expect demand to be able to do much more of the heavy lifting. It's going to need some help if we want the market to push beyond the heavier chart resistance up between \$3.90 and \$4.10 per bushel. I keep hearing that perhaps we are going to get some positive headlines regarding NAFTA, but I still haven't seen anything official, just a lot of talk and rumors. Also nothing official in regards to Canada, China or Europe, hence no global macro excitement. From a technical perspective, you can argue we are probably range-bound for a while somewhere between \$3.40 and \$4.10 per bushel. The Pro Farmer Crop Tour finished their second leg last night and released estimates for both Indiana and Nebraska. The results for Indiana project an average yield of 182.33 bushels per acre, up substantially from last years 171.23 estimate vs. and up a great deal more from the 162.5 three-year tour average. The USDA is currently forecasting the Indiana crop at 186 bushels per acre vs. 180 average yield harvested last year. Nebraska is showing an average yield of 179.20 bushels per acre, also up aggressively from last years tour estimate of 165.42 and the 163.06 three-year average. The USDA is currently estimating the Nebraska average yield at 196 bushels per acre vs. 181 last year. Keep in mind this Nebraska number can be heavily debated based on irrigated or non-irrigated fields in the survey. From what I understand, the irrigated number of acres the USDA uses are perhaps different or as a percentage different than what is used in the Pro Farmer Tour, hence creating the debate. As a whole the numbers are definitely coming in stronger than last years tour, but still seem to be lagging the current USDA forecast.

Co-hosted by:



Today In History



1851, Oldest Contested Sporting Event - U.S. built schooner the America defeats a fleet of Britain's finest ships in a race around England's Isle of Wight.

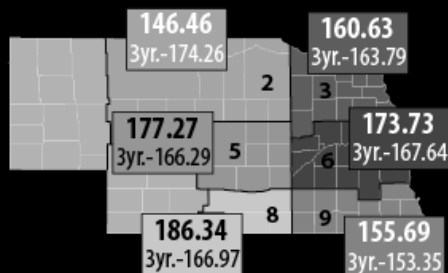
The ornate silver trophy won by America was later donated to the New York Yacht Club on condition that it be forever placed in international competition. Today, the "America's Cup" is the world's oldest continually contested sporting trophy and represents the pinnacle of international sailing yacht competition. The history of the yacht America began with five members of the New York Yacht Club, who decided to build a state-of-the-art schooner to compete against British ships in conjunction with England's Great Exposition of 1851. Designed by George Steers, the 100-foot, black-hulled America had a sharp bow, a V bottom, and tall masts, making it strikingly different from the traditional yachts of the day. In June 1851, the America set sail from its shipyard on New York City's East River, bound for England. Manned by Captain William H. Brown and a crew of 12, the America raced and overtook numerous ships during the Atlantic crossing. After being outfitted and repainted in France, the America sailed to Cowes on the Isle of Wight to challenge the best British sailboats in their own waters. At Cowes, America welcomed all comers for a match race, but no English yacht accepted the challenge. Finally, on August 22, the America joined 14 British ships for a regatta around the Isle of Wight. The prize was the Hundred Guinea Cup, a 2-foot-high silver jug put up by the Royal Yacht Squadron. In the 53-mile race, the America trounced the competition, beating the cutter Aurora by 22 minutes and finishing nearly an hour ahead of the third boat, the schooner Bacchante. Queen Victoria watched the race from her royal yacht, and at one point asked, "What is second?" after seeing the America come over the horizon. Her attendant reportedly replied, "Your Majesty, there is no second." Strangely, a few weeks after its victory, the America was sold to an Irish lord for about \$25,000, giving its owners

FARM JOURNAL CROP TOUR RESULTS

NEBRASKA

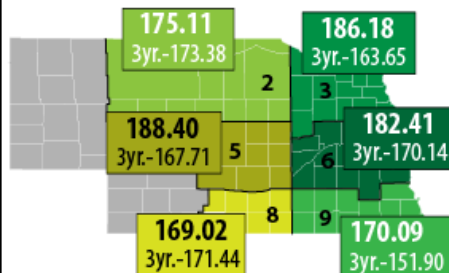


2017 Corn Yields
165.42 bpa



Yields per bushel

2018 Corn Yields
179.17 bpa



Yields per bushel

a slim profit over what they paid for it. It later went through a series of other owners, one of whom changed the America's name to Camilla. As the CSS Memphis, it served briefly as a Confederate blockade runner during the Civil War. The Confederate navy sunk it in Florida to keep it from falling into Union hands, but it was found, raised, and rebuilt by the U.S. Navy, which renamed it the America and used it as a Union blockade ship. Meanwhile, the first owners of the America deeded the Hundred Guinea Cup to the New York Yacht Club in 1857 to be put up as the prize in a perpetual international challenge competition. The first race for the trophy, renamed the America's Cup, was not held until August 1870, when the British ship Cambria competed against 14 American yachts in Lower New York Bay. The Cambria finished 10th. The schooner Magic won the race, and the America, refitted by the navy for the occasion, finished fourth. After service as a navy training ship, the America fell into disrepair under private owners. Today, it exists only in fragments. From 1870 until the late 20th century, New York Yacht Club-sponsored U.S. yachts successfully defended the America's Cup 24 times in races generally spaced a few years apart. Since the 1920s, the America's Cup race has been between one defending vessel and one challenging vessel, both of which are determined by separate elimination trials. In 1983, the United States lost the trophy for the first time in 132 years when Australia II defeated Liberty off Newport, Rhode Island.



1862, Abraham Lincoln -

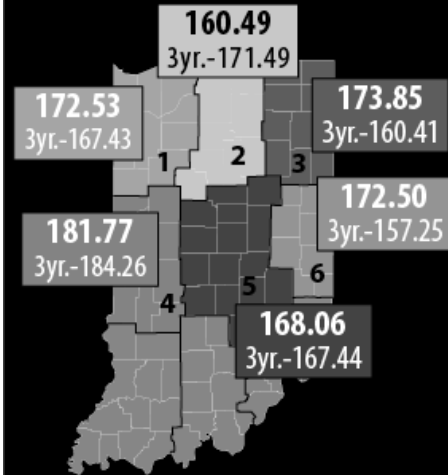
President Lincoln writes a carefully worded letter in response to an abolitionist editorial by Horace Greeley, the editor of the influential New York Tribune, and hints at a change in his policy concerning slavery. From the outset of the Civil War, Lincoln proclaimed the war's goal to be the reunion of the nation. He said little about slavery for fear of alienating key constituencies such as the border states of Missouri, Kentucky, Maryland, and, to a lesser extent, Delaware. Each of these states allowed slavery but had not seceded from the Union. Lincoln was also concerned about Northern Democrats, who generally opposed fighting the war to free the slaves but whose support Lincoln needed. Tugging him in the other direction were abolitionists such as Frederick Douglass and Horace Greeley. In his editorial, "The Prayer of Twenty Millions," Greeley assailed Lincoln for his soft treatment of slaveholders and for his unwillingness to enforce the Confiscation Acts, which called for the property, including slaves, of Confederates to be taken when their homes were captured by Union forces. Abolitionists saw the acts as a wedge to drive into the institution of slavery. Lincoln had been toying with the idea of emancipation for some time. He discussed it with his cabinet but decided that some military success was needed to give the

FARM JOURNAL CROP TOUR RESULTS

INDIANA

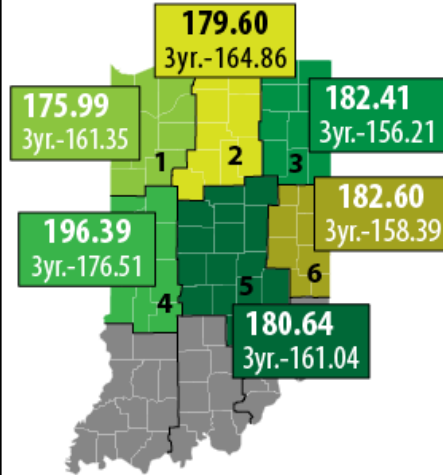


2017 Corn Yields
171.2 bpa



Yields per bushel

2018 Corn Yields
182.3 bpa



Yields per bushel

measure credibility. In his response to Greeley's editorial, Lincoln hinted at a change. In a rare public response to criticism, he articulated his policy by stating, "If I could save the Union without freeing any slave, I would do it; and if I could save it by freeing all the slaves, I would do it; and if I could save it by freeing some and leaving others alone, I would also do that." Although this sounded noncommittal, Lincoln closed by stating, "I intend no modification of my oft-expressed personal wish that all men everywhere could be free." By hinting that ending slavery might become a goal of the war, Lincoln was preparing the public for the change in policy that would come one month later with the Emancipation Proclamation.



1989, Nolan Ryan - Flame throwing pitcher of the Texas Rangers, Nolan Ryan becomes the first pitcher in major league history to register 5,000 career

strikeouts. Ryan would go on to rack up a total of 5,714 strikeouts, over 1,500 more than his closest competition. Lynn Nolan Ryan, Jr. was born January 31, 1947, in Refugio, Texas and raised in Alvin, southeast of Houston. As a high school sophomore, he was scouted by Red Murff of the New York Mets. Ryan's coach regaled Murff with tales of the young pitcher's intimidating fastballs, so powerful they had broken catchers' bones. Murff was impressed—his report said Ryan had the "best arm I've ever seen in my life." Nolan would join the Mets in 1968, and was soon a highly regarded fireballer. In what is often pointed to as one of the most short-sighted moves in baseball history, the Mets traded Ryan to the Angels for third baseman Jim Fregosi after the 1971 season. While with the Angels, Ryan struck out a total of 383 batters in 1973, setting a new major league record but then Ryan migrated to the National League after the 1979 season and pitched for the Houston Astros from 1980 to 1988. He then joined the American League's Rangers prior to the 1989 season. A fan favorite, Ryan was 42 years old and a 21-year major league veteran in 1989, but continued to deliver consistently powerful pitching. He was 14-7 coming into the game on August 22, with 219 strikeouts, and needed just six more to reach the 5,000-strikeout milestone. Rickey Henderson led off the top of the fifth inning with Ryan sitting on 4,999. Henderson, as he did so often in his long career—he retired as the all-time walks leader—worked the count full, fouling off two pitches at a 3-2 count before swinging at and missing a low, 96-mile-per-hour fastball. After the game, Henderson told The New York Times, "It was an honor to be the 5,000th. As Davey Lopes says, 'If he ain't struck you out, you ain't nobody.'" Ryan had requested before the game that play not be stopped to honor him. Instead, after the fifth inning, Ryan was saluted by President George H.W. Bush in a videotaped message. Despite a typically solid

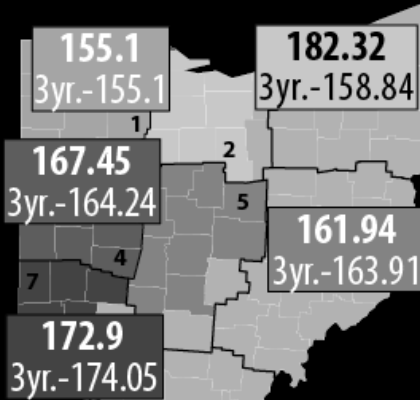
FARM JOURNAL CROP TOUR RESULTS

OHIO



2017 Corn Yields

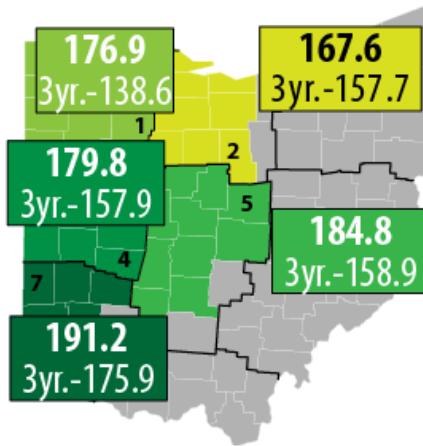
164 bpa



Yields per bushel

2018 Corn Yields

179.5 bpa



Yields per bushel

performance by Ryan, who had 13 strikeouts for the day and allowed only five hits and two walks, the Rangers lost the game 2-0. Ryan finished the season with a 16-10 record and a 3.20 ERA, and led the American League in strikeouts with 301. It was the 10th of 11 times in his 27-year career that Ryan led his league in strikeouts. It's fair to say that Ryan is most famous for his record seven no-hitters; the last came in 1991 when he was 44 years old.

Upcoming Events

Wed. 8/22 - Cold Storage

Fri. 8/24 - Cattle on Feed

Fri. 8/24 - Last Trading Day for September Grain Options

Mon. 8/27 - Crop Progress

Fri. 8/31 - First Notice Day for September Grains

Mon. 9/3 - Labor Day (Markets Closed)

Tues. 9/4 - Crop Progress

Mon. 9/10 - Crop Progress

Tues. 9/11 - 17 Year Anniversary of 9/11

Thur. 9/12 - USDA Supply and Demand

Thur. 9/12 - Last Trading Day for September Grain Futures

Mon. 9/17 - NOPA Crush, Crop Progress

Fri. 9/21 - Cattle on Feed

Sat. 9/22 - Autumn Begins

Mon. 9/24 - Cold Storage, Crop Progress

Tues.-Wed. 9/25-9/26 - FOMC Meeting

Fri. 9/27 - Quarterly Hogs and Pigs

Fri. 9/28 - Quarterly Stocks and Acreage

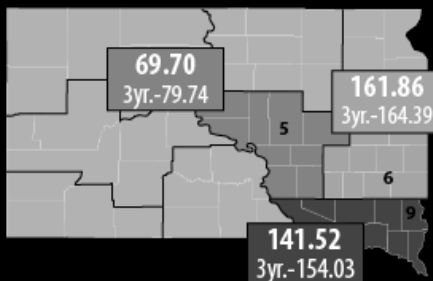
FARM JOURNAL CROP TOUR RESULTS

SOUTH DAKOTA



2017 Corn Yields

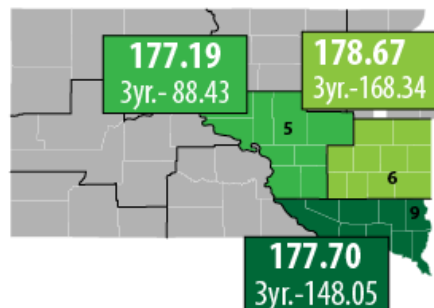
147.97 bpa



Yields per bushel

2018 Corn Yields

178.01 bpa



Yields per bushel

Kevin's Song of the Week

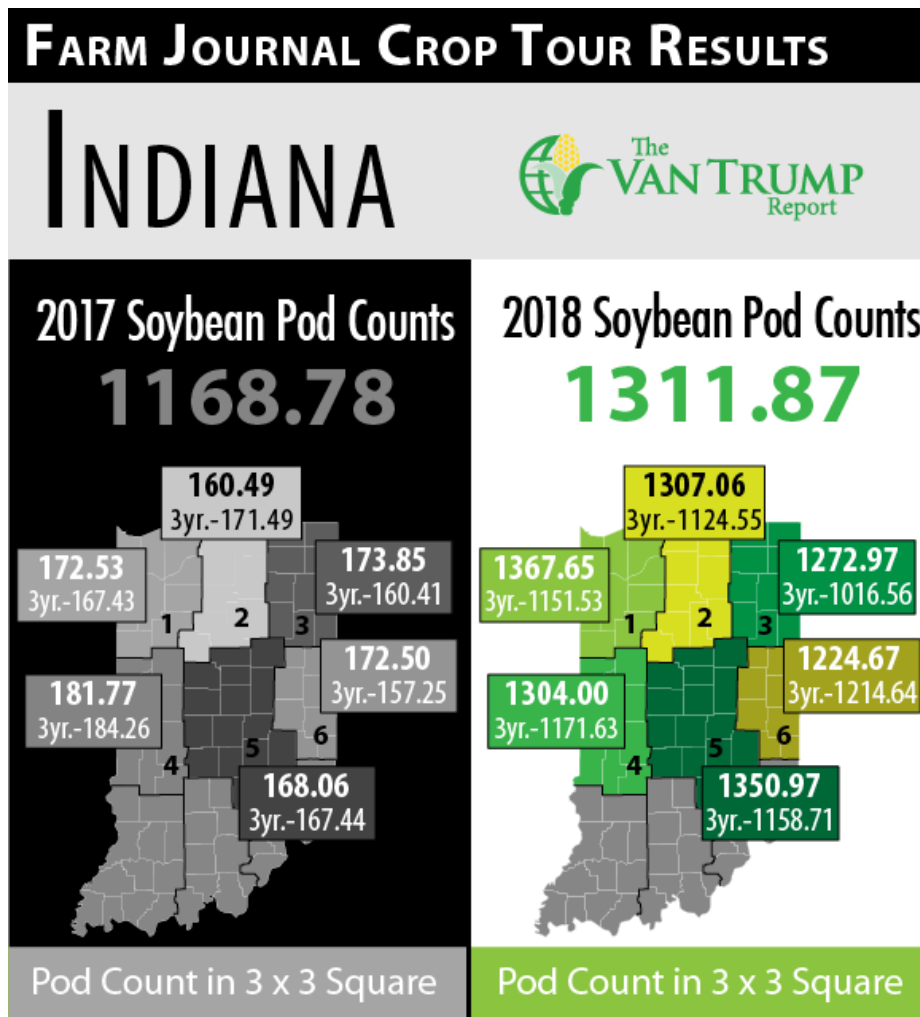
WHAT I'M LISTENING TO:



Scotty McCreery "This is it"

Kevin's Song of the Week

Soybean bears are talking about ample moisture and cooperative temperatures for a large majority of U.S. soybean acres. Bears also continue to see ongoing trade headwinds with the Chinese, and Brazilian producers better positioning themselves to take advantage by substantially increasing upcoming soybean acres. Remember, many parts of Brazil will start planting in just a few short weeks. Bulls are pointing to some problem areas in parts of the Dakotas, as well as some areas inside Minnesota and Iowa. The USDA recently confirmed those thoughts by lowering their weekly crop-condition estimates. The bulls also see current talks with Chinese as steps in the right direction and perhaps a resolution will be in play by mid-October. From a technical perspective, it feels like we are still range-bound somewhere between \$8.50 and \$9.20 per bushel. The Pro Farmer Crop Tour posted results for the second leg of their tour: Nebraska's average soybean pod estimate for a 3x3' area was forecast at 1299.08, up +15% from last year's 1131.02 average pod count and up substantially from the three-year average of 1191.37. The USDA is currently forecasting the Nebraska average soybean yield at 61 bushels per acre vs. 57.5 last year. The Indiana numbers were released, with the tour forecasting the 3x3' average pod count at 1311.87, up roughly +12% from last year's 1168.78 and up even more from the 1146.76 there-year average. The USDA is currently forecasting the Indiana average yield at 58 bushels per acre vs. 54 last year.



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

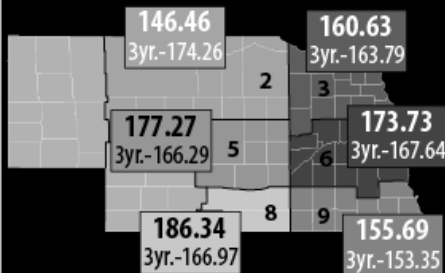
"As a national federal farm policy administrator and commodity producer, I find it critical to keep updated with what is going on in the real world of agriculture and with the domestic and global markets. Of all the services I've have been privy to or have subscribed to over the past 20 years I've found in the past several months of engaging in your "Farm Direction" services to be the best perception and analysis of what is really

FARM JOURNAL CROP TOUR RESULTS

NEBRASKA

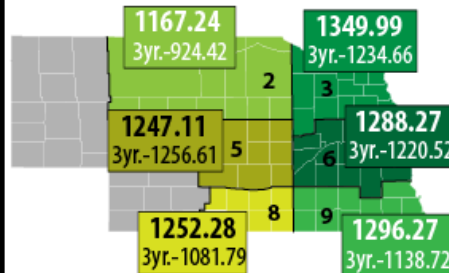


2017 Soybean
1131.02
Pod Counts



Pod Count in 3 x 3 Square

2018 Soybean
1299.08
Pod Counts



Pod Count in 3 x 3 Square

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.

FARM JOURNAL CROP TOUR RESULTS

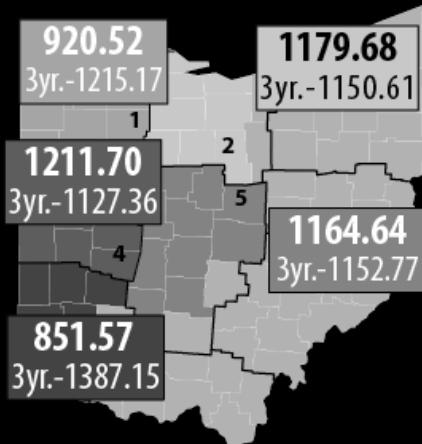
OHIO



2017 Soybean

1107.01

Pod Counts

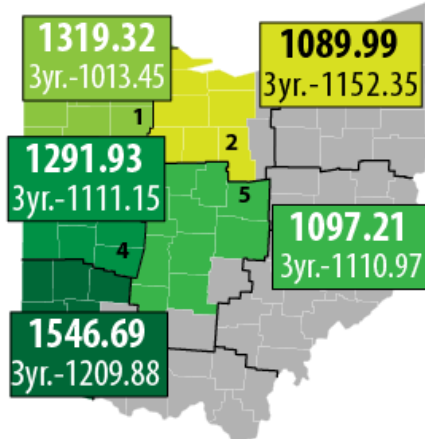


Pod Count in 3 x 3 Square

2018 Soybean

1248.2

Pod Counts



Pod Count in 3 x 3 Square

Farm Direction

RECIPES

★ FAMILY FAVORITES ★

-SENT IN BY OUR READERS-



Summer Italian
Spaghetti Salad
Recipe

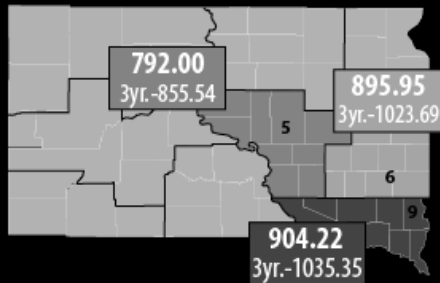
[CLICK TO SEE RECIPE](#)

FARM JOURNAL CROP TOUR RESULTS

SOUTH DAKOTA

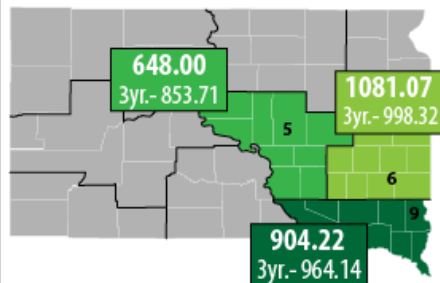


2017 Soybean
899.56
Pod Counts



Pod Count in 3 x 3 Square

2018 Soybean
1024.72
Pod Counts



Pod Count in 3 x 3 Square

Wheat bears are pointing to statements by Russian officials that they are not planning any nearby restrictions on exports and that the crop might actually be a better than recently forecast. This makes many wonder how many exportable bushels Russia will have and if and when U.S. wheat exports will start coming more into favor. Bears are also quick to remind us that the U.S. winter wheat harvest is just wrapping up and the spring wheat harvest has moved past 60% complete, meaning there's no real shortage of available supply and risk is clearly coming out of the U.S. fields. Bulls see tighter global supplies and ongoing global weather uncertainties out on the horizon as reason to keep price elevated and "risk-premium" in the market. From a technical perspective, both the SRW and HRW contracts are pressing multi-week lows and about to test their 100-Day Moving Averages.

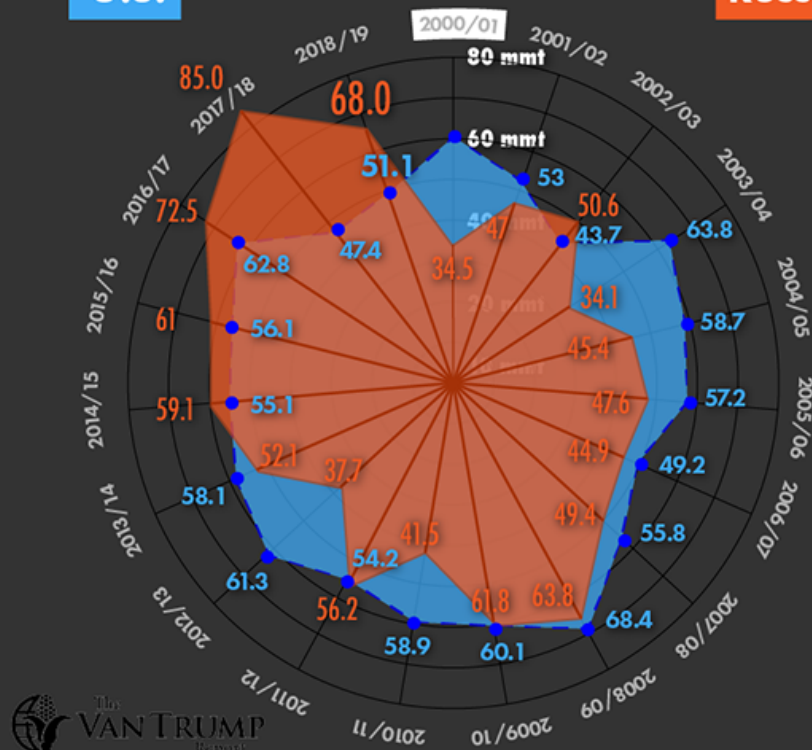
UNITED STATES VS. RUSSIA

Wheat Production

(IN MILLION METRIC TONS)

U.S.

Russia



Source: USDA, updated with August 10th, 2018 WASDE numbers



> **Brazil Soybean Exports Hit Record:** Improved loading rates and a demanding international customer have seen Brazil's loading rates for soybeans pick up over the past week, with a total of 2.2 million mt leaving in the week ending August 17. That's nearly one million mt higher than seen during the same period of 2017. So far, 4.9 million mt of beans have left Brazil in the first half of August, around 82% of the entire volume seen in August 2017, and full month exports on track to beat expectations of 8 million mt. Thanks to trade wars with the U.S., 80% are destined for China.

> **Great Documentary - Hugh Hammond Bennett Conserving Our Nation's Soil:** I came across this fantastic documentary put together by USDA's NRCS on the soil conservation pioneer Hugh Hammond Bennett and the birth of the private lands conservation movement in the U.S. Bennett was outspoken on soil conservation issues, especially through the Dust Bowl years and eventually influenced the passage of the soil conservation act of April 27, 1935. You can view the documentary [HERE](#). "A prosperous & enduring agriculture depends on an adequate supply of productive land." -- Hugh Hammond Bennett

> **Brazil Attorney General Will Appeal Glyphosate Ban:** According to reports, Brazil's AG is expected to appeal the decision to impose a temporary ban on the chemical glyphosate in Brazil. The AG will work alongside the Ag Ministry to make their appeal and safeguard one key products to the nation's gigantic agroindustry. Talk of banning this key chemical has come while the country has committed to raise its biodiesel mandate and also while soy oil and soymeal exports are boosting crush rates and demand. (Source: UAgroConsult)

> **Argentina Has GMO Potato:** Argentina's Ministry of Food and Bioeconomy, under the Ministry of Agribusiness, authorized the commercialization of the seed and the products and by-products derived from the transgenic potato TIC-AR233 that can withstand a virus that destroys up to 70 percent of the crop. From what I understand, Argentine researchers developed the tuber that has as its main characteristic a resistance to the PVY virus. (Source: freshplaza)

> **China Using Iranian Oil Tankers:** In order to get around U.S. sanctions, China is reportedly seeking to use oil tankers from Iran for its purchases. "Chinese buyers of Iranian oil were beginning to shift their cargoes to vessels owned by National Iranian Tanker Co (NITC) for nearly all their imports," Reuters reported. The move could keep Iran's oil exports from falling more than they otherwise would. (Source: Oilprice.com)

> **Big Money Is Leaving Saudi Arabia:** According to Bloomberg and JPMorgan Chase, Saudi Arabia is set to see \$65 billion in capital flee the country this year, or about 8.4 percent of GDP. The figure is down from the \$80 billion that was withdrawn last year, but is still significant. Analysts attribute the political risk of the whims of the Saudi monarchy, and the "dimming of optimism surrounding Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's Vision 2030 economic plan," Bloomberg writes.

> **World's First Wind-Mapping Satellite Launches:** European meteorologist have had to wait 16 years for their first wind mapping satellite. The European Space Agency's Aeolus mission is slated to launch today — weather permitting. Aeolus, a \$550 million mission, will use ultraviolet lasers to track wind speed and direction in the lower parts of the atmosphere. If it works, Aeolus will greatly improve forecasts in tropical regions and by 2% across the globe. That 2% could mean billions of dollars in value in allowing people to better prepare for storms. (Source: Scientific American)

> **Trump Declares Disaster In Iowa:** President Trump ordered federal assistance to areas in Iowa affected by severe storms, tornadoes, winds and flooding in June and July. Federal funding is available to state and local governments, as well as to nonprofits, on a cost-sharing basis for emergency work and repair of facilities in 30 of the hardest-hit counties. (Source: USDA)

> **California's Plan For A New Power Grid:** *California is ready to remake the U.S. West -- or at least its power grid. The legislature is considering a plan to expand a grid serving 30 million Californians to encompass as many as 13 other Western states -- if they choose to join the effort. The California Independent System Operator, which currently manages a \$9.3 billion wholesale market, would cede authority to a regional body under the proposal, which requires federal approval. Opponents believe a regional system could give way to the kind of market manipulations that Enron was infamous for in the early 2000s, exposing consumers to soaring energy costs, critics say. Read more [HERE](#) how the ghost of the energy crisis haunts the conversation.*

> **Microsoft Says Russian Military Linked To Cyber-Attacks:** Microsoft warned that cyber-attackers linked to the Russian military are once again targeting U.S. political groups. The shadowy group, known as Strontium, created web domains that mimicked organizations such as the Hudson Institute to dupe voters, President Brad Smith said. Microsoft is sifting through evidence of the group's intentions after getting a court order to take over those domains, effectively disrupting the hacking campaign.

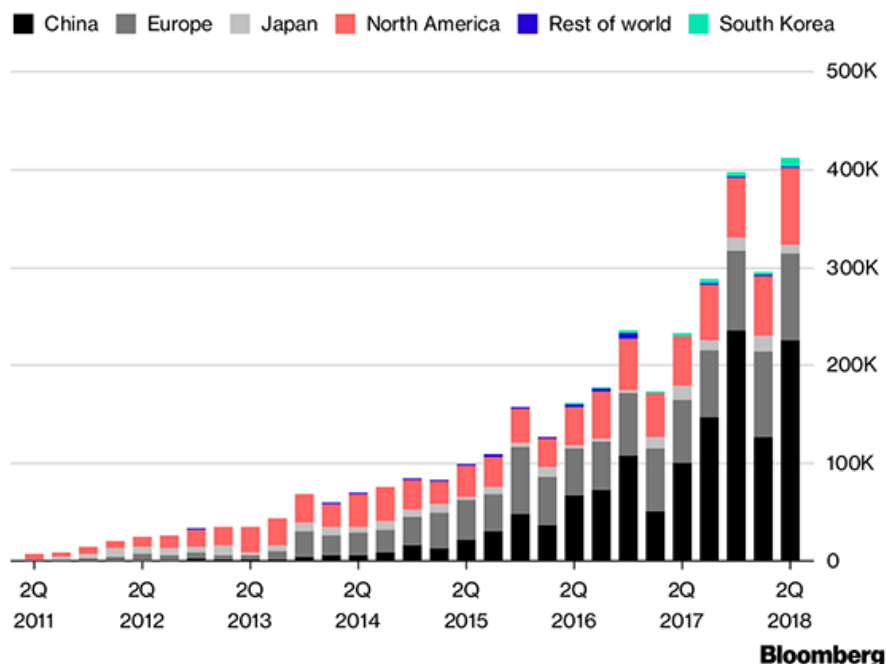
> **New Mac Computers On The Way:** Apple will release a new low-cost laptop and a professional-focused upgrade to the Mac mini desktop later this year, ending a drought of Mac computers that have limited sales of the company's longest-running line of devices. I'm told the new laptop will look similar to the current MacBook Air, but with thinner bezels around the screen. The display will be a higher-resolution "Retina" version.

> **Fewer and Fewer Hospitals:** U.S. hospitals have been closing at a rate of about 30 a year, according to the American Hospital Association, and patients living far from major cities may be left with even fewer hospital choices as insurers push them toward online providers like Teladoc and clinics such as CVS's MinuteClinic. The next year to 18 months could see a further increase in shutdowns, with the risks coming following years of mergers and acquisitions. (Source: SeekingAlpha)

> **Electric Vehicle Sales Continue To Grow:** Global sales of electric vehicles cracked the 400,000 barrier in the second quarter, rising 77 percent from a year earlier to 411,000, according to a report from Bloomberg NEF. China, with 225,000 units, not only maintained its lead but outsold the rest of the world combined. Europe accounted for 22 percent of EV sales in the quarter, while North America had 19 percent.

Electric Vehicles Charge Ahead

Sales worldwide top 400,000 units in a single quarter for the first time



Southeast South Dakota - I'm just going to say a couple things about this and try to keep my rant short. I was looking at the graphics that you sent out this morning and we farm in region 5 and I can guarantee you that our farm will not make 177.19 and I would be willing to put my money where my mouth is. I would say if, and this is a big IF, we make 160 bushels per acre we are darn lucky and all my years in farming tell me 150 kills this entire corn crop. We fertilize for 200 and expect 200 but we were just way to dry. Everything south of interstate 90 faced weeks and weeks of too much water and I know there is big areas that are drown out. I think there's a lot of bad areas out there but apparently the tour thinks there a great deal more acres of good corn.

Southeast Missouri - We have been extremely hot with very little rain until just recently which is way to little to late. The nights have been a little warmer but not so warm that the crop hasn't gotten a break. We did get a little to much heat at night in the early to middle of July but it was fairly short lived and allowed most everyone to get there wheat finished up fairly quickly. The corn will be hit or miss depending on if you were under a few showers on the dry land. I would say most guys are going to make 130 if they are lucky on their dry land and maybe 190-200 on irrigated. The reason I don't think we will get a better yield then 200 is because the kernel depth is just not there. We have moved through the stages of corn too fast.

Southcentral Indiana - We have 4 foot tall beans that look amazing as you drive by but when you get out there the pods just don't exist. We are seeing 25 or less pods on a 4 foot tall plant which is enough to make a guy want to quit farming. You can look across the field and it looks like the best looking soybeans we have nearly ever seen but the pods are just not there and I can't honestly make heads or tails of it. I am irritated that my plants don't have pods, and that we seem to have the best looking soybean crop ever because now the elevator has just dump our basis. On top of that the price is in the trash can which makes farming a little tough at the moment. Maybe I'm looking at this wrong but it sure seems bleak at the moment.

CROSSING WIRES

A place to share intelligent thoughts...

Pipeline's Organic Supply Chain Is Growing: Pipeline Foods LLC., a U.S.-based supply chain solutions company focused on organic, non-GMO and regenerative food and feed, will acquire a 3.4-million-bushel grain elevator from Archer Daniels Midland Company in Atlantic, Iowa. This will be the sixth facility acquired by Pipeline across Canada and the U.S. Pipeline Foods will now have a direct relationship with farmers in the region, helping to ensure identity preservation of the product and allowing them to take ownership at the farm gate, thereby increasing transparency and traceability for all stakeholders. This might provide opportunities for those looking to diversify. Read more [HERE](#) on what Pipeline is doing.

Will Killer Robots Be Banned? When drafting a treaty on the laws of war at the end of the 19th century, diplomats could not foresee the future of weapons development. But they did adopt a legal and moral standard for judging new technology not covered by existing treaty language. This standard, known as the Martens Clause, has survived generations of international humanitarian law and gained renewed relevance in a world where autonomous weapons are on the brink of making their own determinations about whom to shoot and when. For instance, in 1995, concerns under the Martens Clause motivated countries to adopt a preemptive ban on blinding lasers. And now, with the future of 'killer robots' a legitimate concern, 26 countries have expressly supported a ban on the automated killing systems, including China. Read more [HERE](#) on how things may play out in the new fields of battle.

More Professional Sports Teams Are Turning To Solar: According to new research released by the Solar Energy Industries Association, more than 46 MW of solar capacity are operating at 37 professional sports facilities nationwide. Every leading sports league in the United States, including the NFL, NBA, MLB, NHL, MLS, NASCAR and IndyCar boast solar assets. A third of the NFL stadiums in the U.S. have a solar system, with the MLB and NBA not far behind with 30% each. To put the proliferation of solar across professional sports in context, last year nearly 42 million Americans attended an event at a stadium, arena or raceway with a solar system. Read more [HERE](#).

Russian Soldiers Soon To Wear 'Active Camouflage': The Russian government plans to demonstrate "stealth camouflage" technology for ground forces capable of changing its appearance. The camouflage, developed by Russian defense contractor Rostec, will be shown off at this week's Army-2018 defense exposition in Moscow. According to Russian state media the camouflage can change its color and pattern depending on the soldier's environment. Rostec CEO Sergei Chemezov stated that the technology, "can reflect color changes and imitate complex graphical depictions, up to the leaves wavering in the wind." Check out the new gear [HERE](#).

"Little Red" The 1st Mustang Shelby GT 500 Is Found: One of automotive history's near-mythical lost cars has been found, but mystery still surrounds "Little Red," an experimental Ford Mustang that's the father of every Shelby GT 500 performance car ever built. I'm told that Shelby drove it regularly, and then-Ford President Lee Iacocca liked it so much that Little Red became the model for the Mustang California Special. Little Red was recently unveiled in front of a shocked crowd at the Henry Ford museum, inviting experts to inspect the car and help fill in gaps in its history. The stunned crowd included Carroll Shelby's grandson Aaron Shelby and Henry Ford III, great, great grandson of Ford's founder. From what I understand, the car's history is so complicated that Craig Jackson, chairman of Barrett-Jackson classic car auction company has set up a website and Facebook page, where people who have information can contribute. See a quick video of the find [HERE](#).





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During 2018, iSelect, The VanTrump Report and The Yield Lab Institute are sponsoring a series of weekly webinars featuring the best in agriculture innovation. Agrifood Conversations is all about driving innovation and each month will highlight a specific theme, from biologicals to vertical farms, featuring emerging topics such as soil health, biologics, plant genetics, vertical farming, precision agriculture, herd health and management, and aquaculture, to name a few. Once a quarter, we'll open up the conversation with a panel of experts on that month's topic. Learn about new trends in ag, connect with industry leaders and discover new solutions.

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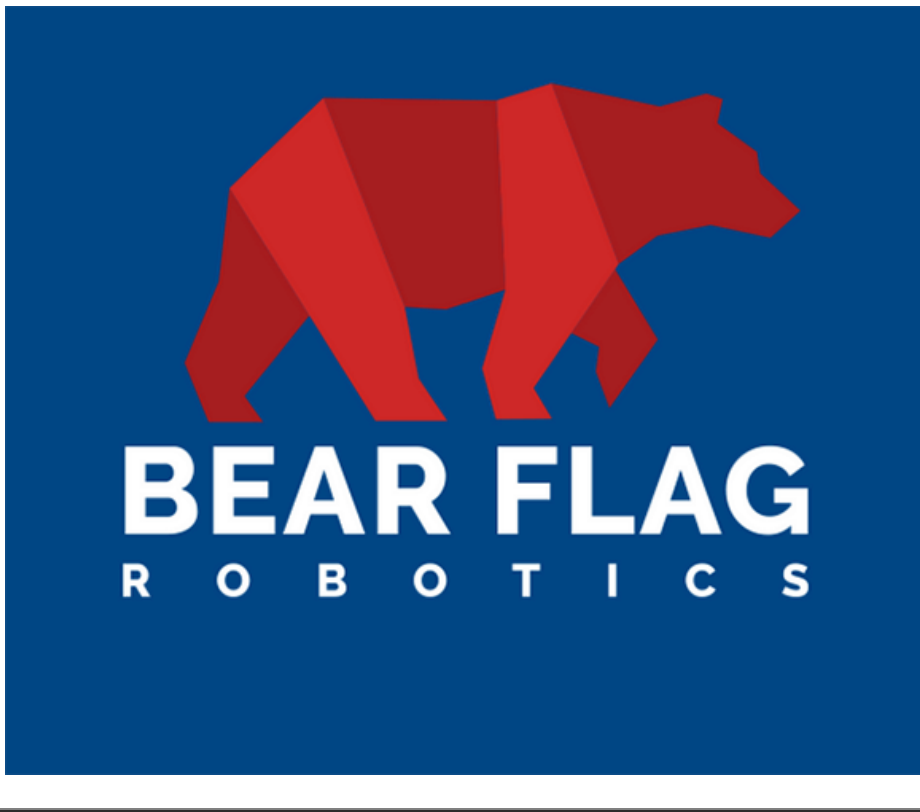


Learn More About "Agrible"

Title: How Robotics Is Helping Farmers 'Think Outside the Cab'

Time: Thursday, August 23 @ 3:00 pm CT

The gas-powered tractor revolutionized farming when it was first introduced for agricultural use in the early 20th century, allowing farmers to do more, faster, and scale their operations up to meet the growing demand of postwar America. Improvements continued over the decades, but farm implements have remained largely as they've always been: dependent on human operators to do their work and help streamline the farm. Bear Flag Robotics is developing self-driving technology for tractors and implements, with a mission to help lower the cost of farming through automation. Its automation kits can upgrade today's tractors with cutting-edge autonomous technology, including route planning, job scheduling, and real-time control. According to the company, autonomous technology can return up to 75% of existing tractor-driving labor costs to growers and exponentially multiply in-field productivity. Learn how one company is bringing new technology to the tractor at "How Robotics Is Helping Farmers 'Think Outside the Cab,'" a webinar to be held at 3 pm CT on August 23 featuring Igino Cafiero, Founder & CEO of Bear Flag Robotics. Click [HERE](#) to watch Bear Flag Robotics tractors drive themselves.



Some of the Most Incredible Items Ever Found at Thrift Stores

My wife and I love to go antique shopping, to auctions and the occasional thrift stores. I feel like I always find myself trying to spot rare finds when we are out shopping or I'm just looking around online, unfortunately I've never hit the jackpot. I will run into some small finds every now and again, but nothing that has ever yielded big profits. After reading hundreds of stories through the years, it seems like many times the people that discover these items weren't even looking for them, but rather just something they stumbled across on their journey and had a "feeling" that they needed to buy it. Below are some of the most valuable items ever found at a thrift store.

1959 Jaeger-LeCoultre Deep Sea Alarm Watch

Zach Norris discovered this watch at a Goodwill in Phoenix when he was digging through a box of old watches. Zach actually knew this was a rare watch, so he didn't think twice about paying \$5.99 for it. There only happens to be 900 of these watches made, so Zach turned around and sold the watch for \$35,000.



Sweater worn by Vince Lombardi

Sean and Rikki McEvoy always loved picking out cool vintage clothing and selling them online. Both of them happened to buy an old West Point sweater at a Goodwill in Asheville, North Carolina for 58 cents in 2014. After some time, they were both watching a documentary about Vince Lombardi when they noticed him wearing the sweater. They ended up getting the sweater authenticated and flipped it for \$43,020.



A piece of Flemish Artwork

An 81-year-old man named Leroy, who was a former antique dealer, bought a painting from a Goodwill in South Carolina for \$3. He was very attracted by the frame of the picture and hoped the painting was made in the same time period. Trying to figure out how much the painting is worth his daughter took the piece of art to Antiques Roadshow. They found out it was a piece of Flemish artwork from the 17th century that they ended up selling for \$190,000.



John Quincy Adams' Declaration of Independence

Michael Sparks was going through a thrift store in Nashville, TN in 2006 when he thought he found a replica of the Declaration of Independence. He thought it was a well-done piece if it was real or not, so he bought it for \$2.48. It turns out the copy he bought was 1 of 200 official copies commissioned by John Quincy Adams in 1820, and only the 36th every discovered. Sparks ended up selling his find for \$477,650.



Billy the Kid's photobomb Picture

Randy Guijarro was going through boxes at a thrift store in Fresno, California when he bought a few old photographs for \$1 a piece. The more he looked at one of the pictures, the more he was convinced he knew one of the people in the photo. He began to do more research and finally figured out the person he thought he knew was the famous outlaw Billy the Kid and the others in the photo were part of Billy's gang. One of the pictures Guijarro found ended up getting appraised for \$5 million.



Faberge Egg Made for Russian Royalty

Doesn't seem like much of a deal compared to the other items, but a man thought he found an amazing bargain when he bought a golden egg from a flea market for \$14,000. He was wanting to melt the egg down and sell the gold for a small profit. He decided to see if the egg was worth anything first when he came across an article about people searching for long-lost Faberge egg made for Russian royalty in the late 1800s. It turns out the egg was the one people were searching for and sold somewhere around \$33 million.



World's Largest Pearl

This item was actually found in someone's bedroom in the Philippines where it was sitting for 10 years. Finally, in 2016 the fisherman walked into a tourist office carrying what he thought was a huge rock. What this man thought was a rock turned out to be the largest pearl in the world weighing 75 pounds and fetching \$100 million.



Photograph Taken by Ansel Adams

Rick Norsigian was at a garage sale in 200 when in Fresno, CA when he found an image of Yosemite National Park on glass plates. Norsigian ended up taking home the plates for \$45. He had a hunch these plates were worth more than the \$45 he spent on them, so he started going to experts about them. Turned out his find ended up earning him \$200 million.



Woods And Mickelson Will Battle For \$10 Million Purse Over Thanksgiving

Golf fans around the world can now schedule their Thanksgiving weekend plans around the \$10 million match between Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson to be played at Las Vegas' Shadow Creek. It's no secret that the two best players of this generation and the top two historic money leaders have not had the warmest relationship over the course of their careers. But recently the ice has begun to melt with the two having grown closer together as they become the elder statesman on tour. From what I'm hearing, the two may be looking to become business partners moving forward. I'm told that Mickelson's camp is hoping to play a couple of exhibitions matches with Woods, not always against him, each year. Interestingly, the two were secretly priming the pumps on this match as far back as April at the Masters when they caught the public attention by playing a rare practice round together. Mickelson also stoked the fire a bit at the Players Championship in May, when the two were paired together by saying telling the media "The excitement that's been going on around here, it gets me thinking: Why don't we just bypass all the ancillary stuff of a tournament and just go head-to-head and just have kind of a high-stakes, winner-take-all match. Now, I don't know if he wants a piece of me, but I just think it would be something that would be really fun for us to do, and I think there would be a lot of interest in it if we just went straight to the final round." Keep in mind, by then the negotiations were well underway and Tiger would play along by saying, "I'm definitely not against that. We'll play for whatever makes him uncomfortable." This is not the first made for TV golfing episode as many of you will remember that for 40 years, Shell's Wonderful World of Golf was broadcast along with 25 years of the Thanksgiving weekend tradition 'Skins Game'. And then there was the Monday Golf series that Woods played in, including the 2005 "Battle at the Bridges," where Woods and John Daly lost to Mickelson and Retief Goosen. As far the match is concerned, Mickelson has had the better 2018, including his win at WGC-Mexico Championship in March, his first PGA Tour victory in five years, putting him at 21st in the World Golf Rankings. Woods comes in at 50th in the world, but he has been playing inspired golf lately, having moved up 21 spots in the WGR since his sixth-place finish at the British Open. Shadow Creek is an impressive layout that will challenge the skills of both players as it has massive length measuring over 7,500 yards. Which should create plenty of exciting recovery shots as both players are well down the line in driving accuracy. I'm hearing that Woods opens as a slight -150 favorite in odds posted by the Westgate LV Superbook. Should be entertaining! (Source: CBS, Sportline, SI)



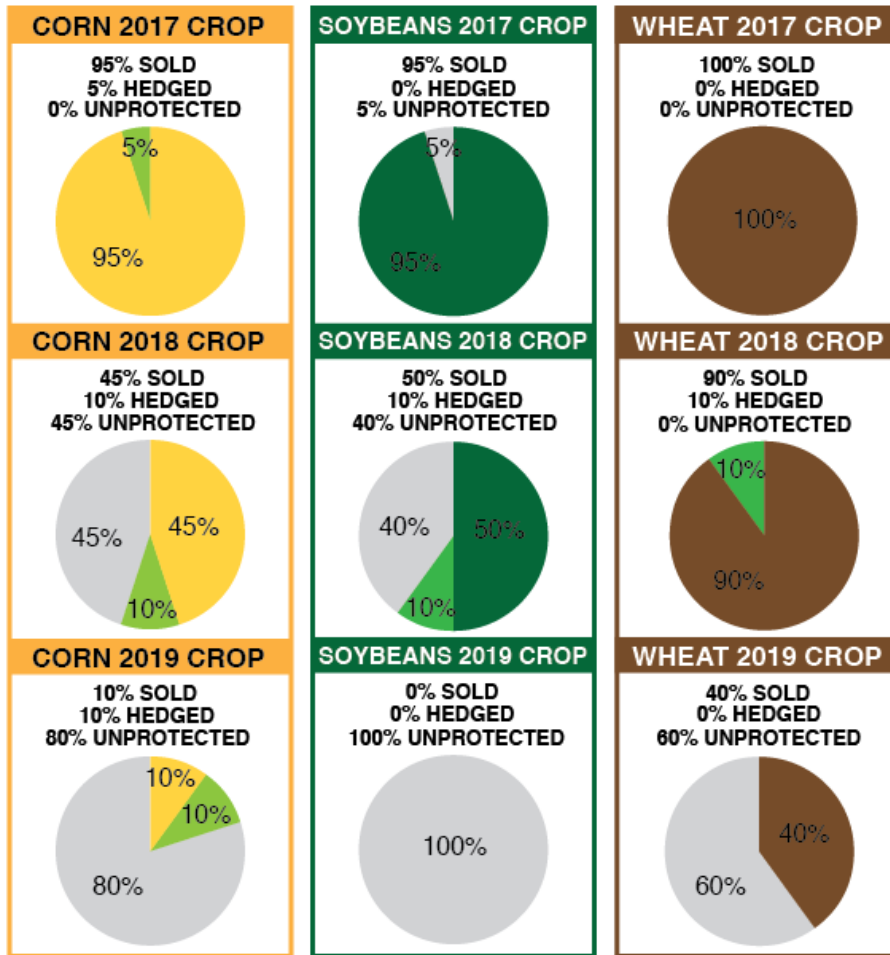




ANSWER to riddle: Leaf

CASH SALES & HEDGING TOTALS

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