

GOOD MORNING: 08/30/18 Farm Direction - Van Trump Report

4 messages

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"I'm pretty oblivious to a lot of things intentionally. I don't want to be influenced that much." -Jason Fried

THURSDAY, AUGUST 30, 2018

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Morning Summary: Stocks are steady to slightly lower this morning after the S&P 500 and Nasdaq posted their fourth consecutive all-time record high close. Bulls are happy to see the revised Q2 GDP estimate at 4.2%, up slightly from the previous estimate and higher than most in the trade were forecasting. There's also continued optimism remaining that the U.S. may reach a new NAFTA agreement with Canada by Friday or perhaps early next week. I'm told that both sides had representatives working through the night in an attempt to hammer out the few remaining details. The rush is to try and get the agreement in place before the current Mexican president leaves office and new Mexican President Lopez Obrador is inaugurated into office. Bulls are also talking about the Fed perhaps becoming more dovish and the U.S. dollar struggling to find fresh momentum higher, both of which are considered positives for the stock market. Bears are wanting to talk about the upcoming month of September and how it's historically one of the worst stock market months. The S&P 500 has finished lower in 50 out of 91 Septembers, with an average return of negative -1%, according to Dow Jones Market Data. Bears are also giving some attention to Iran as we near the implementation date for sanctions being applied by the U.S. Keep in mind, Iran's oil exports are down sharply since the beginning of August as big buyers like China and India curtail their purchases in anticipation of the U.S. sanctions. It's worth noting, Iran might be escalating tensions by talking about creating complications in the Persian Gulf and Strait of Hormuz which leads into it. I suspect there will be plenty of headlines in the coming weeks if Iran becomes more serious about military actions. Keep in mind, there's also headlines circulating that Russia has moved more ships into the Mediterranean. It will be interesting to see how the market plays out the remainder of the week and if geopolitical tensions will prompt some to bank profits into fresh all-time highs and ahead of the extended holiday weekend? There isn't much in the way of economic news today except for Weekly Employment numbers, along with Personal Income & Spending. Tomorrow will be digesting the Michigan Consumer Sentiment numbers and Chicago PMI. I suspect the markets will start thinning out ahead of the holiday weekend.

Currency Contagion? Argentina's peso tanked -7.5% against the dollar on Wednesday, bringing losses to nearly 5-0% over the past year. Other fragile emerging market currencies also sold off sharply overnight, with Turkey's lira and the South African rand feeling heat, and India's rupee slumping to a new record low. (Source: SeekingAlpha)

Ford's Credit Rating Cut: Moody's has cut Ford's credit rating to one notch above junk, with a negative outlook. The ratings agency has little confidence in the iconic carmaker's ability to restructure its business effectively, and notes that its "global business position" is slipping.

Blockchain & Crypto Currency Continue To Gain Interest: A recently released survey showed 21 of the top 50 U.S. universities, as ranked by U.S. News and World Report, now offer a class on blockchain technology or cryptocurrency, and at least 11 colleges offer more than one. While 34 percent of computer science and engineering majors indicated extreme interest in the technologies, 47 percent of social science majors are interested in the same. It's also worth noting that about 18% of college students in the survey said they owned some type of crypto currency.

Aaron Rodgers Is Getting Paid! Green Bay Packers Quarterback Aaron Rodgers signed a record-breaking, four-year \$134 million, extension that could be worth up to \$180 million in total money. Rodgers will be 40 years old when the deal expires after the 2023 season. An important feature of the deal is Rodgers will receive a \$57.5 million signing bonus. He will bank a total of \$80 million before March 2019. The extension also includes nearly \$103 million total in guarantees, which is another record amount. Not bad for a 5'10" 165 pound high school player who had no real Division I interest and played his first season at Butte Junior college. Great success story!

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Special 2 Day Event
 Kansas City, Mo

A gathering for the
 sharpest minds in
 agricultural investing.

Hear firsthand
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 innovations.

Innovations
 that will be

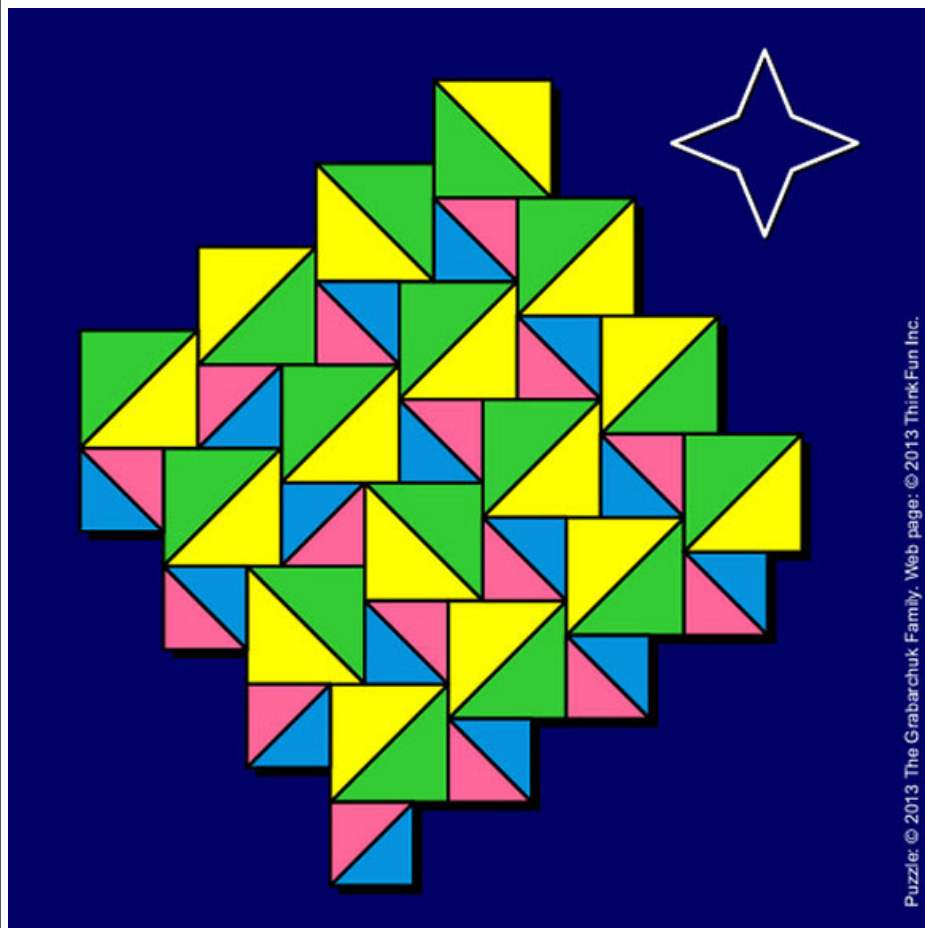
neuro mining



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:

A perfect 4-pointed star, like the one at the top of this picture, is hidden among the squares and triangles. Can you find it?



Puzzle: © 2013 The Grabarchuk Family. Web page: © 2013 ThinkFun Inc.

changing & shifting
the farm industry.

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

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Early Bird Special

For First 200 to Register :

\$299

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

- John Wooden



Weather forecasts are calling for mostly favorable weather for filling and maturing corn and soybeans except in areas of heavy rain and local severe weather. There are flood concerns in Wisconsin from heavy rains. Recent heavy rains occurred in western and central areas of the Midwest and will likely mean fieldwork delays and locally flooded fields. High winds and hail that occurred may have caused lodging of crops in some fields. In the southern Plains most areas will see little rainfall in the coming days. Episodes of hot weather will deplete soil moisture and stress filling corn and soybeans. More rain will be needed to support winter wheat planting this fall. In the northern Plains, more rain would benefit filling corn and soybeans as crop ratings deteriorate. Rainfall is expected to remain limited during the next 10 days with episodes of above normal temperatures. Cool air settling across portions of the Plains and Midwest will push eastward during the next couple of days, bringing to an end the late-season heat

wave currently affecting much of the eastern U.S. Widespread showers and thunderstorms will precede and accompany the surge of cooler weather.

Rain Brings Improvement to Drought Outlook In Midwest: *Some regions of the Midwest received excess rainfall this past week from heavy downpours, while other areas mostly missed out on the events, leading to some improved drought areas and some degraded drought areas. Along the U.S./Canadian border of Minnesota, several areas reported precipitation accumulations among their lower 20%. Rainfall was deficient in central to southern Iowa where drought in most categories expanded. Parts of northern Illinois also remained dry over the past month or so, leading an expanded area of abnormal dryness, while northern Indiana and northern Ohio saw some improvement. Missouri saw more than 5 inches of rain fall in places. Conditions in the state improved considerably in many areas, although rainfall wasn't enough to overcome the lingering longer-term dryness in other areas.*

Co-hosted by:

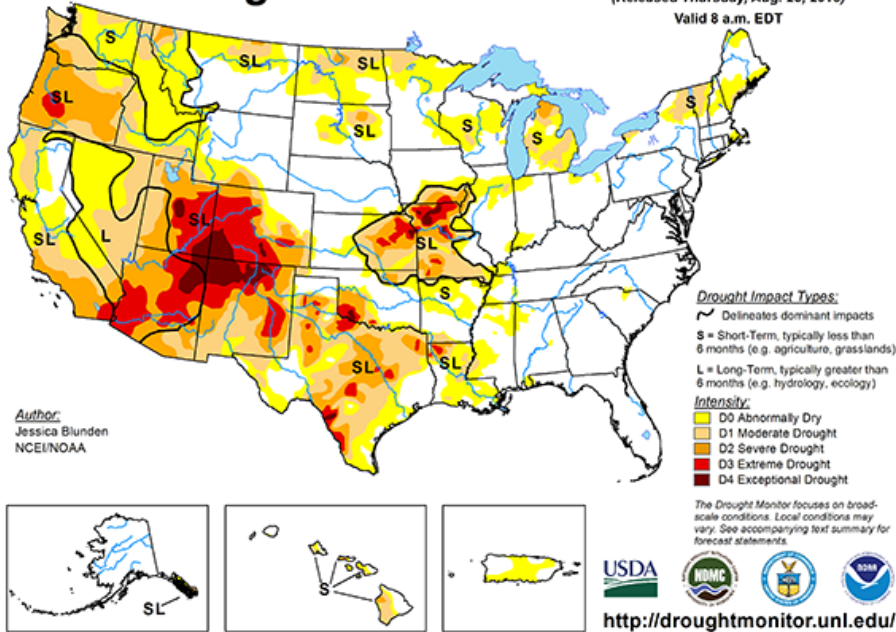


FARM TANK



U.S. Drought Monitor

August 21, 2018
(Released Thursday, Aug. 23, 2018)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

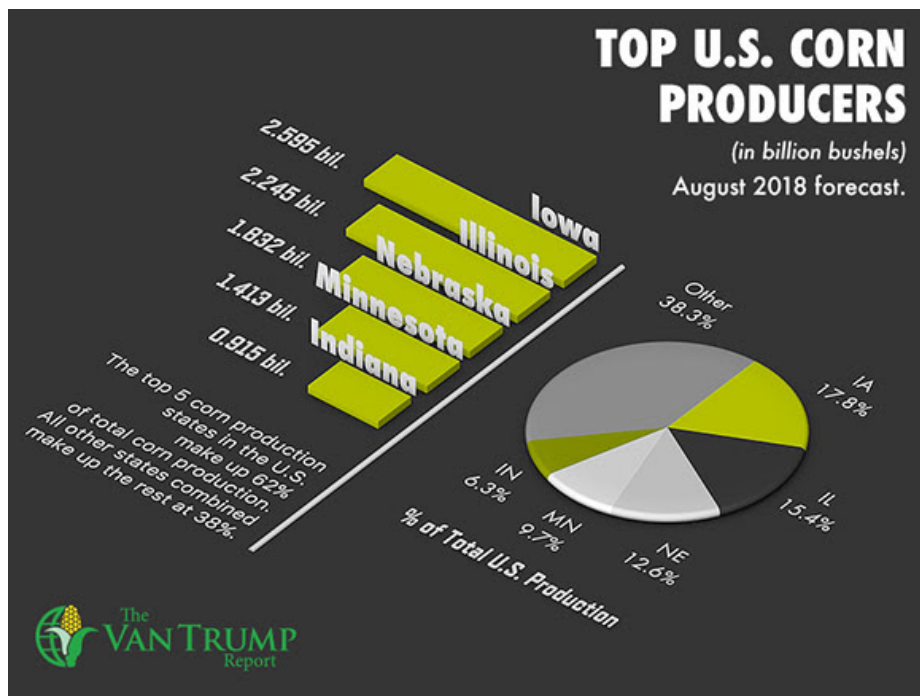


Today in History

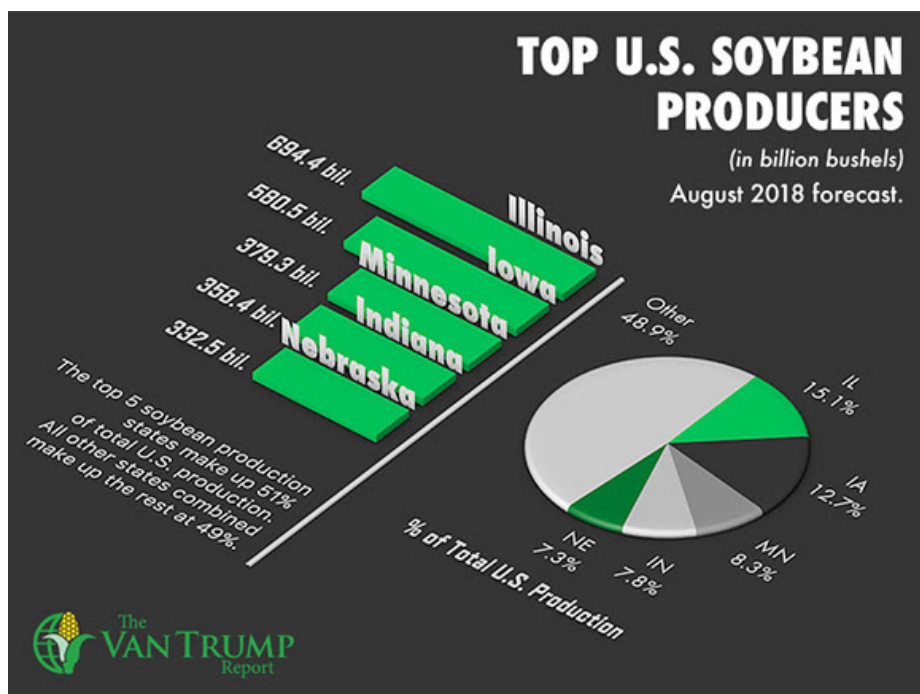


1918 Lenin - After speaking at a factory in Moscow, Soviet leader Vladimir Lenin is shot twice by Fanya Kaplan, a member of the Social Revolutionary party. Lenin was seriously wounded but survived the attack. The assassination attempt set off a wave of reprisals by the Bolsheviks against the Social Revolutionaries and other political opponents. Thousands were executed as Russia fell deeper into civil war. Lenin was drawn to the revolutionary cause after his brother was executed in 1887 for plotting to assassinate Czar Alexander III. He studied law and took up practice in Petrograd (now St. Petersburg), where he associated with revolutionary Marxist circles. In 1903, he met with other Russian Marxists in London and established the Russian Social-Democratic Workers' Party (RSDWP). However, from the start there was a split between Lenin's Bolsheviks (Majoritarians), who advocated militarism, and the Mensheviks (Minoritarians), who advocated a democratic movement toward socialism. These two groups increasingly opposed each other within the framework of the RSDWP, and Lenin made the split official at a 1912 conference of the Bolshevik Party. After the outbreak of the Russian Revolution of 1905, Lenin returned to Russia. The revolution, which consisted mainly of strikes throughout the Russian empire, came to an end when Nicholas II promised reforms, including the adoption of a Russian constitution and the establishment of an elected legislature. However, once order was restored, the czar nullified most of these reforms, and in 1907 Lenin was again forced into exile. Lenin opposed World War I, which began in 1914, as an imperialistic conflict and called on proletariat soldiers to turn their guns on the capitalist leaders who sent them down into the murderous trenches. For Russia, World War I was an unprecedented disaster: Russian casualties were greater than those sustained by any nation in any previous war. Meanwhile, the economy was hopelessly disrupted by the costly war effort, and in March 1917 riots and strikes

Corn bulls are hoping the recent strength in wheat might pull the market higher. There's also some talk of position squaring ahead of the extended Labor Day weekend and end of month. From a historical perspective, the U.S. corn market has often posted its lows between mid-August and mid-September, so there's some hope that the bleeding could soon be over. Bears argue there's still more room to downside, especially if the U.S. crop is confirmed by the USDA to be getting larger not smaller. We also have to keep in mind there's early talk inside the trade that Argentine producers are going to plant more corn acres and that U.S. producers will be planting significantly more corn acres in 2019. As we all know, planting is only the first step in the equation. Ultimately weather will be the determining wild-card, but with none currently in play, the bears are left to swing freely, talking about more acres and adequate supply. From a technical perspective, the \$3.50 area remains heavy psychological support for the DEC18 contract. If we were to close below that level, I suspect we would see more short-side interest come into the marketplace on a bearish breakout. As a producer, I continue to hear more talk of a weakening basis, with the national corn cash price going for around \$3.25 per bushel.



Soybean prices are trying to recover a bit, but I'm wondering how long it will last? There's talk that bears are cleaning up some of their open short positions and banking profits ahead of the long-weekend. There's really nothing fresh or new in the way of Chinese trade negotiations. There's some talk that U.S. soybeans could possibly be moving to Argentina, then being crushed and possibly being made available in some capacity to the Chinese. Bulls are playing this as a positive note, saying anyway you slice it strengthens U.S. demand. Bears continue to question overall Chinese soybean demand. From a technical perspective, nearby support in the NOV18 contract seems to be somewhere in the \$8.25 to \$8.30 range. There's worry that a close below that area could unlock the door to sub-\$8.00. I continue to hear many technicians talking about \$7.77 on the charts. That certainly seems like the bears would be overdoing it on the downside, but when don't the funds overdo it? Perhaps even more concerning, is the widening basis that's now hitting many producers. From what I understand, the national basis average is somewhere around -50 cents under the current board price. Unfortunately, for some producers in the Dakota's the basis has widened to -\$1.70 under in a few locations. Ouch!



Wheat prices are coming off a strong rebound after more rumors circulate that Russia might eventually limit exports. From what I understand, it probably wouldn't start impacting the market until their exports move beyond 25 MMTs, which wouldn't be until closer to yearend. There's talk that if the rumors start to gain more traction, perhaps

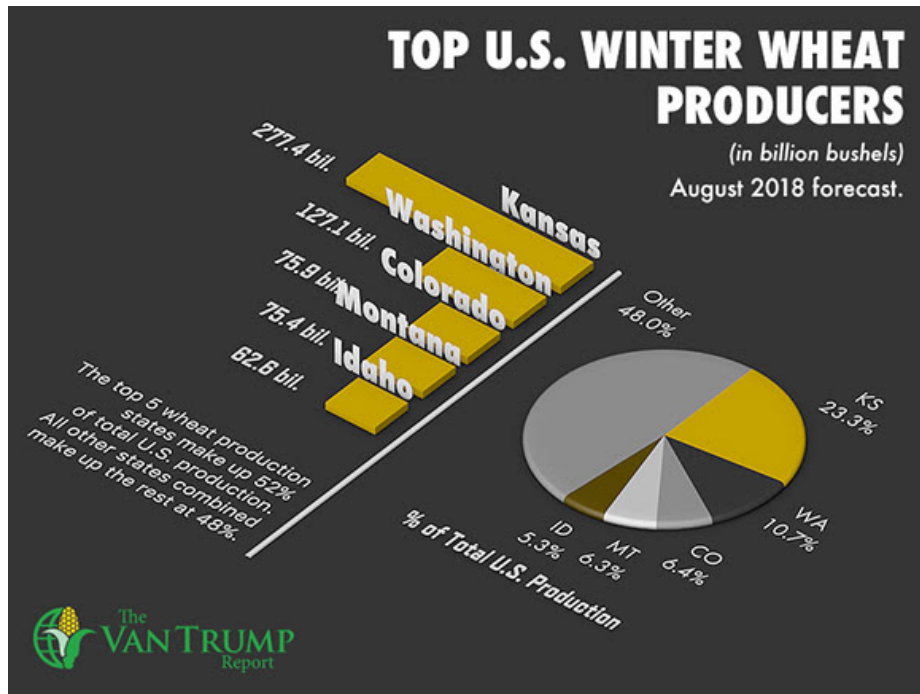
broke out in Petrograd over the scarcity of food. Demoralized army troops joined the strikers, and on March 15 Nicholas II was forced to abdicate, ending centuries of czarist rule. In the aftermath of the February Revolution (known as such because of Russia's use of the Julian calendar), power was shared between the ineffectual Provincial Government and the soviets, or "councils," of soldiers' and workers' committees. Lenin became the virtual dictator of the world's first Marxist state. His government made peace with Germany, nationalized industry, and distributed land but beginning in 1918, had to fight a devastating civil war against czarist forces. In 1920, the czarists were defeated, and in 1922 the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) was established. Upon Lenin's death in early 1924, his body was embalmed and placed in a mausoleum near the Moscow Kremlin. Petrograd was renamed Leningrad in his honor. After a struggle of succession, fellow revolutionary Joseph Stalin succeeded Lenin as leader of the Soviet Union.



1963, Hot Line - John F. Kennedy becomes the first U.S. president to have a direct phone line to the Kremlin in Moscow. The "hotline" was

designed to facilitate communication between the president and Soviet premier. The establishment of the hotline to the Kremlin came in the wake of the October 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis, in which the U.S. and U.S.S.R. had come dangerously close to all-out nuclear war. Kennedy's administration had discovered that the Soviets had planted missiles capable of launching nuclear warheads into the U.S. on the island of Cuba. The highly tense diplomatic exchange that followed was plagued by delays caused by slow and tedious communication systems. Encrypted messages had to be relayed by telegraph or radioed between the Kremlin and the Pentagon. Although Kennedy and Khrushchev were able to resolve the crisis peacefully and had both signed a nuclear test-ban treaty on August 5, 1963, fears of future "misunderstandings" led to the installation of an improved communications system. On August 30, the White House issued a statement that the new hotline would "help reduce the risk of war occurring by accident or miscalculation." Instead of relying on telegrammed letters that had to travel overseas, the new technology was a momentous step toward the very near future when American and Soviet leaders could simply pick up the phone and be instantly connected 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It was agreed that the line would be used only in emergencies, not for more routine governmental exchanges. An article in The New York Times described how the new system would work: Kennedy would relay a message to the Pentagon via phone, which would be immediately typed into a teletype machine by operators at the Pentagon, encrypted and fed into a transmitter. The message could reach the

global buyers will look to move more quickly to source Russian supply in an attempt to avoid being shutout six months from now. That could make overall demand a bigger story and provide some needed tailwind to the market. The bulls are also talking about continued global weather problems and talk of a NAFTA trade resolution. Don't forget, StatsCan will be out early tomorrow morning with their latest Canadian wheat estimate. Most sources are thinking they will be -2 MMTs below the current USDA estimate of 32.5 MMTs. There's also a lot of talk that the USDA is still too high with their Ukraine and Australian production estimates.



> USDA Confirms "Mad Cow" Found in Florida: The USDA discovered a cow in Florida infected with bovine spongiform encephalopathy, more commonly known as mad cow disease. The infected cow was not slaughtered for human consumption and no meat from the animal entered the human food supply. It's the first detection of the deadly disease in the U.S. since July of last year. The USDA has confirmed this Florida cow suffered the rare "atypical" type of BSE that is believed to develop randomly in cows. U.S. officials say the incidence of BSE in the U.S. is extremely low, and will remain so. (Source: USDA)

> Chinese Soybean Buyers Tour U.S.; No Purchases Made: A delegation of Chinese soybean importers toured a Missouri farm on Tuesday. The delegation included may of China's top soybean processors including COFCO as well as Chinese reps of U.S. companies Cargill and Bunge. However, the annual gather is lacking a key element this year: there will be no signing of billions of dollars' worth of purchase agreements for soybeans. Top importers China bought more than \$12 billion in U.S. soybeans last year, about 60% of U.S. soybean exports, but has been mostly out of the market since July 6. Last July, a similar event in the U.S. resulted in 12.5 million metric tons in purchase agreements, the second largest one-off deal for U.S. soybeans ever. This year's tour showed that all interested parties from both U.S. and China have come together to continue their relationship and are hopeful once the trade war is over, business will once again flow. (Source: Reuters)

> Canada To Phase-Out Two More Pesticides: According to the latest out of USDA's Canadian office, the pest management regulatory agency has proposed cancellation of all outdoor uses of clothianidin and thiamethoxam over three to five years. These neonicotinoid pesticides which are applied to seeds, leaves, and through ground treatments to mitigate insect damage to crops. This process started back in 2012 and its main purpose is to limit risks to pollinators (bees) and aquatic life. Final decisions on this phase-out won't come till January 2020. (Source: USDA GAIN)

Kremlin within minutes, as opposed to hours. Although a far cry from the instantaneous communication made possible by today's cell phones and email, the technology implemented in 1963 was considered revolutionary and much more reliable and less prone to interception than a regular trans-Atlantic phone call, which had to be bounced between several countries before it reached the Kremlin. In 1967, President Lyndon B. Johnson became the first U.S. president to use the new system during the Six Day War in the Middle East when he notified then-Soviet Premier Alexei Kosygin that he was considering sending Air Force planes into the Mediterranean.



1965, Casey Stengel - New York Mets Manager Casey Stengel announces his retirement, ending his 56-year career in professional baseball.

The 75-year-old Stengel had broken his hip in a fall the previous month, and was instructed by his doctor that resuming the duties of manager would take too great a toll on his health. Charles Dillon "Casey" Stengel made his big league debut as an outfielder with John McGraw's New York Giants in 1912. He parlayed his guts and guile at the plate into a 14-year playing career in the National League. His greatest moment as a player came in the 1923 World Series with the Giants. With two outs in the ninth inning, Stengel won Game 1 with an inside-the-park home run. He also hit a game-winning homer in Game 3, and for the series, Stengel hit an impressive .417 with two home runs and four runs batted in, though the Giants lost to the Yankees four games to two. For his career, Stengel hit a respectable .284, with a .393 average in his three World Series appearances. Stengel's real fame came as a manager. Though he had only middling success with the Brooklyn Dodgers (1934-1936) and Boston Braves (1938-1943), he managed to score a job with the New York Yankees in 1949 to replace the retiring Joe McCarthy, the winningest manager in major league history. Where he had previously managed only struggling teams, Stengel now had a roster of great players at his disposal. He made great use of platooning players, sitting right-handed hitters against right-handed pitchers and vice versa. His record of 1149 wins versus 696 losses with the Yankees over the next 12 seasons was among the greatest in managerial history, and included 10 American League pennants and seven World Series victories. After a heartbreaking loss in Game 7 of the 1960 World Series to the Pittsburgh Pirates, however, the Yankees replaced the 70-year-old skipper with Ralph Houk, believing Stengel was simply too old to manage. Stengel responded: "I'll never make the mistake of being 70 again." In 1962, the New York Mets, an expansion team, hired Stengel as manager. That team went 40-120, the worst record in major league history. They simply did not have good players, but Stengel held on for four seasons, trying to craft a

> Argentine Government Getting More Desperate: Argentina has asked the IMF to accelerate its bailout by releasing a \$50 billion loan earlier than planned. IMF managing director Christine Lagarde said the fund was ready to assist the Argentine government in "developing its revised policy plans." The Argentine peso has fallen almost -50% against the dollar this year despite the world's highest interest rates and IMF backing, and the government seems to be getting desperate. (Source: BBC)

> Colorado Could Limit Drilling: Colorado voters in November will consider banning oil and gas drilling within 2,500 feet of homes, businesses and many green spaces, effectively prohibiting it on 85% of the state's non-federal land. The proposal comes as Colorado, the seventh largest U.S. oil and gas producer, experiences an uptick in production. In May, its crude output was 447K barrels per day, up 30% from a year ago. (source: The Wall Street Journal)

> Oreo Debuts Hot Chicken Wing and Wasabi Flavors: Hot chicken wing and wasabi-flavored Oreos may be coming to a store near you. The hot wing flavor has a bright orange shade of buffalo sauce while the wasabi one features a light green filling. Seems like Oreo is really making a change after rolling out recent wild flavors like kettle corn, cherry cola, fireworks, and Peeps before this.

> Aston Martin Getting Ready For a Big IPO: The legendary sports-car brand, which has gone bankrupt seven times, said it plans to float on the London Stock Exchange later this year on the back of a successful turnaround. It reportedly expects a valuation around \$6.4 billion. (Source: Bloomberg)

> Tropical Storm Lane Brings Record Rainfall: The tropical storm that blew through Hawaii this weekend dropped a historic amount of rain across the state. One weather station in Mountainview, Hawaii topped 51.85 inches of rain, the third most precipitation from any storm in the U.S. The enormous amount of rain brought with it flash floods, landslides, strong winds and storm surges. The damage was minimal as the storm was downgraded from a category 3 hurricane to a tropical storm prior to making landfall, through the storm was slow-moving across the island.

> China's Battery Storage Ambition Is Rocketing: 2018 has been one of the most significant years for the energy industry as they went from an operational battery-storage capacity of 389 megawatts to 729 megawatts. That's a huge jump in one year. The battery-storage capacity is for storing excess electricity on the grid. Its main use is to smooth out the intermittent production of electricity from sources such as solar and wind. Remember, China leads the world in renewable energy. What's even more interesting is these large battery storage projects are supporting whole new cities and infrastructure in order to accommodate the staff needed to operate. (Source: Bloomberg)

> Facebook Watch Goes Global: After a year of its launch in the US, Facebook Watch video channels and social interactions will be available around the world. Facebook claims more than 50 million American users view at least a minute of video on Watch each month. Facebook also says these views continue to increase each month. Looks like Google's YouTube and Netflix better watch out.

> Venus vs. Serena: Venus Williams and Serena Williams will face off against each other in the US Open for their next match. Serena is 17-12 against her big sister, including 3-2 at the U.S. Open. They last met at the tournament in 2015, a 6-2, 1-6, 6-3 victory for Serena. Serena has historically played well at the U.S. Open. She has made it to at least the semifinals every year since 2008 when she has participated in the tournament. This will be a great match watching these two legendary sisters battle it out. (Source: Bleacher Report)

> Very Interesting Visualization on Global Temperature Anomalies: A research scientists at the Finnish Meteorological Institute, found a fresh way to illustrate rising temperatures. This visualization shows how most countries have warmed by at least one 1.8 degrees F and all except one have seen temperatures rise by at least 1 degree F since 1880. Using NASA data, the size of the circles indicates how much temperatures have changed relative to the average between 1951 and 1980. Shades of blue are obviously cooler while shades of orange and red indicate warming. Look at the last two decades, red dominates the graphic... While the graphic below may be a bit hard to read, you can get the gist of what is happening to temperatures. You can also go [HERE](#) to view the original video. (Source: Antti Lipponen - @anttilip)

contender out of a mix of young players lacking major league skill and washed-up veterans. All the while, the "Ol' Perfesser," as he is known, confounded and amused the press with his trademark doublespeak or "Stengelese," including lines like, "They say it can't be done, but it don't always work." It was no use, however: the Mets remained a losing team, and Stengel, exhausted by a long career, could sometimes be found napping on the bench. Stengel was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame as a manager in 1966. His record of five World Series victories in a row from 1949 to 1953 remains a standard for excellence in the major leagues.

Upcoming Events

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

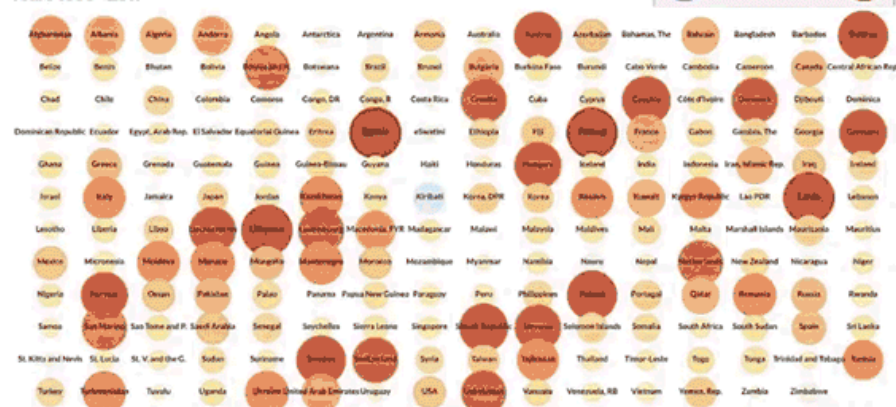
Kevin's Song of the Week



Kevin's Song of the Week

Temperature Anomalies by Country Years 1880 - 2017

2000



Data Source:
NASA GISS, GISTEMP Level-5 Global Temperature Index (GISTEMP), 1200km smoothing
https://data.giss.nasa.gov/gistemp/
Average of monthly temperature anomalies, GISTEMP base period: 1951 - 1980

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Artist: Lippoonen (@lart18)

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

FROM THE FIELD

Northcentral Indiana – The crops look good, I would say they look as good as we could expect. We had a little too much rain in early June that might have taken the top end out of the corn, but I honestly don't think it's going to be much if anything. The soybeans look as good as we have ever seen. I have heard a few neighbors talking about sudden death syndrome and white mold taking the top end off yield, but I haven't honestly seen any sign of that on my beans. Most of the guys I have heard that from fields look like they cut cost and their fields look like they have disease, but these field are few and far between in our area. Most guys are pretty happy with the way their crops look.

Eastern South Dakota – The corn milk is about 70-80% here. We did kernel counts and kernel test weight counts. Now I understand that kernel counts, and weighing aren't exactly accurate by themselves but when you do both together it's hard to not get within 2-5% of the yield. We are looking at 260-bushel corn with test weight close to 58-60 pounds. The kernel counts are 34 long by 16 around with a population close to 31,000. The weight of the kernel vs the actual ear puts the test weight at +/- 59 pounds per bushel. This will be the best crop I have ever seen in this area. I'm not sure if anyone else is seeing this but we are seeing it in all our fields.

Central Missouri – We farm not far from Sedalia, MO. We are in a far worst drought here then 2012. This is the worst corn and soybeans that I have literally ever seen. The early corn is our best corn but it's still not good. The later planted stuff is coming off and it's nearly not worth harvesting, we are seeing shriveled kernels and test weight close to 52 or less. The soybeans either don't have complete pods or the pods are completely flat. The yields in beans will lucky to cover our custom cutters. All the yard grass is even dead so there's not much hope around here.

CROSSING WIRES

A place to share intelligent thoughts...

Dairy Cows Now Have Their Own 'Fitbit': As demand for dairy products increases, farmers are under an increasing amount of pressure to boost yields and ensure their animals are in top physical condition. One business, IceRobotics, is using technology to assist the farming process. Based in Edinburgh, Scotland, the company develops and provides data collection and analysis to help farmers monitor the behavior of dairy cows. Data collection and analysis is enabled by a sensor being placed on a cow's rear leg. From what I understand it's recording data multiple times a second. I'm told the device provides farmers with a wealth of data, including information relating to a cow's fertility. Using visual interfaces such as graphs, a farmer can monitor when a cow is lying down or upright. Read more [HERE](#) on how tech is helping producer's bottom line.

The Early Bird Might Get the Worm, But The Second Mouse Gets The Cheese:) Are your most fruitful hours later in the evening when most early risers are in bed? Do you feel led by guilt feelings to get up early and get your day going because that's what successful people do? Well, now science can back up what you already knew about yourself, meaning it isn't procrastination to sleep in (according to the world's standards), if you are still effective. According to researchers, there is a

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

gene mutation that contributes to DSPS, or delayed sleep phase syndrome. Read more [HERE](#) about one CEO who overcame his guilt after learning about the science behind his behaviors.

3D Technology Takes Genome Mapping To Next Level: In 2003, researchers sequenced the human genome for the first time, writing out all 3 billion of the DNA base pairs that dictate every aspect of our makeup. Now, a new team of researchers from the University of Illinois has figured out a way to create a 3D image of this valuable roadmap to human biology. Their research now allows us to know about the three-dimensional location of the DNA pairs — that is, where the various pairs in the double helix were located in relationship to the cell's nuclear structures. That's important, because it can tell us a lot about their function and activity. Read more [HERE](#) on the breakthrough.

California Needs 200X Current Electrical Storage: California lawmakers approved a measure mandating that all electricity come from wind, solar and other clean-energy sources by 2045, marking the state's biggest step yet in the fight against global warming. The state currently gets about 44 percent of its power from renewables and hydropower. The move would accelerate a shift already underway to wind and solar but hinges on a big bet -- that battery costs will plunge, allowing for a transition away from the natural gas plants that provide about a third of California's electricity. From what I understand, there is a movement to make the Hoover Dam a huge battery for the state. Read more [HERE](#).

Most Popular Home-Cooked Meals In Every State: Every state has iconic local dishes, favorite meals, and even favorite brunch items. But every state also has its own beloved dish to make at home. The folks over at Porch, a home improvement site, poured over thousands of Instagram posts that used the hashtag #homecooking to parse out every states' favorite home-cooked meal. Some dishes will be obvious but others, not so much. Click [HERE](#) to see details of all 50 states.



The Battle Over Water Could Be Spreading

Texas and Mexico share over 1,200 miles of border and crisscrossing beneath both, lie 15 transboundary aquifers that aren't even on the maps of either country yet. From what I understand, experts are claiming that the one-two punch of climate change and a future booming population will dry up the current supply of water coming from the Rio Grande River, meaning these unregulated aquifers could be the epicenter of future geopolitical entanglements if not dealt with soon. Currently, Texas and Mexico have detailed sharing agreements for every acre-foot of water that flows through the Rio Grande, which is a good thing since the river is dwindling by the year. Making sure both sides are upholding those agreements while the region rides through its regular whiplash of droughts and floods takes up most of the bandwidth of water officials on both sides, leaving no time for looking decades down the road. Fortunately, Rosario Sanchez, a Texas A&M University hydrologist has spent her academic life seeking out transboundary aquifers that aren't yet on maps and is responsible for identifying 36 of them, 15 of which are shared by the two countries. Sanchez is quick to point that both countries are acting like turning a blind eye will make the problem go away. Unfortunately, this could become a huge problem in a few short decades. It's worth noting that groundwater depletion will threaten communities on both sides as temperatures in the Rio Grande Valley are rising and droughts are expected more frequently moving forward. I'm told that surface

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..."

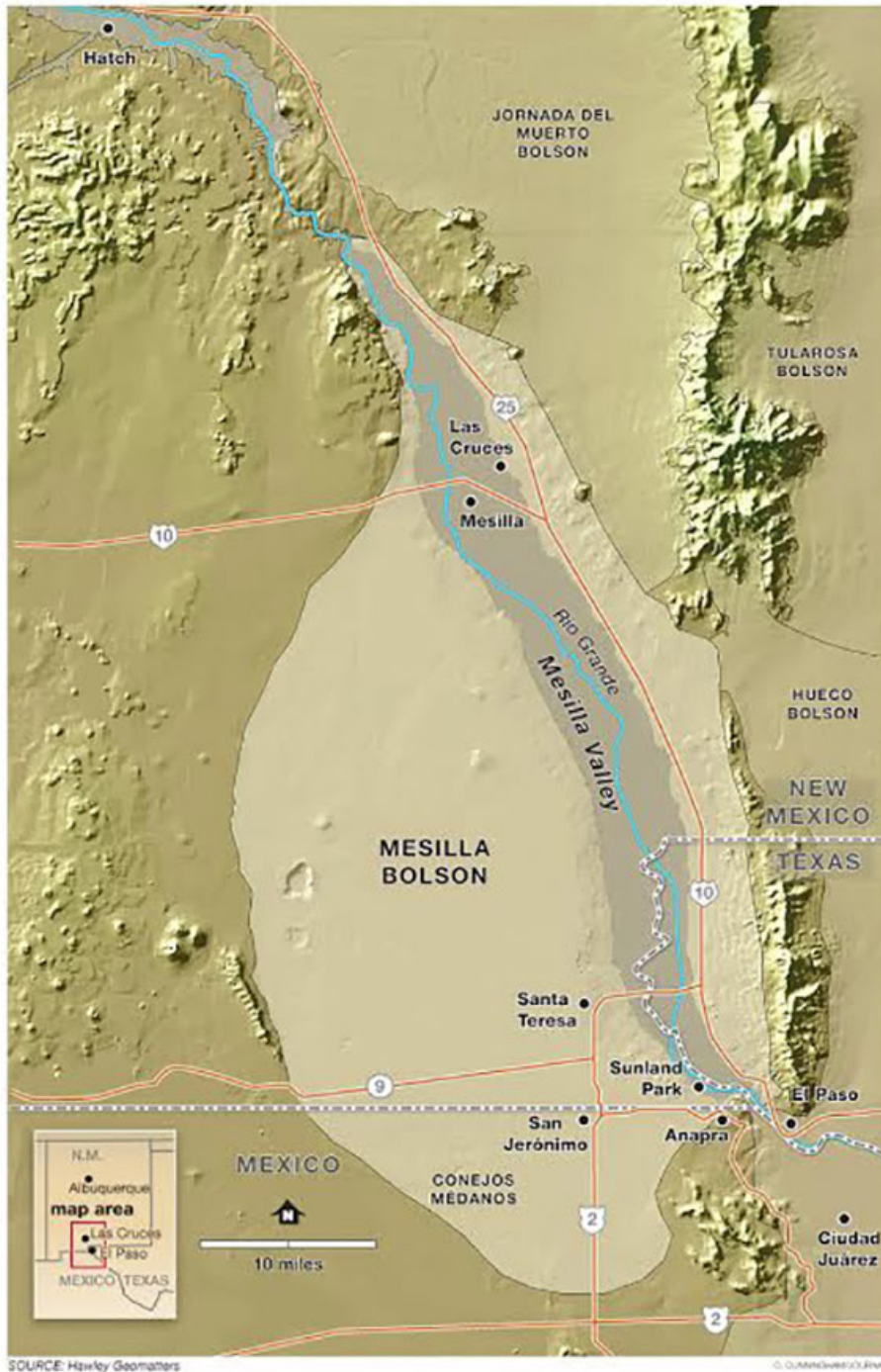
"The markets ability to remain irrational can often times last much longer than your ability to remain solvent..."

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.

water is already vanishing and some expect it to last for no more than 20 more years. On top of that populations in the area will double if planners are correct. All this means that groundwater management could quickly catapult above the issues of immigration, economic trade and drug violence that take up the daily agendas of officials on both sides. Interestingly, any aquifer maps that both countries are using end at the border, creating what academics in the water world call "blank map syndrome", meaning if you put the two maps together, the aquifers would look like mismatched puzzle pieces. From what I gather, both sides are comfortable operating like this as creating a unified map together would lead hard conversations as to who owns what etc, etc. Bottom line, this appears to be a real issue that needs addressing sooner than later or I suspect this thing will be one big litigation.



A Look Inside Mark Cuban's Shark Tank Investment Portfolio

I think it's always good to know where intelligent investors are putting their money to see where the next big play will be. I also think It's great to see what new people are inventing to help an idea possibly spark in your mind. Below are some of the best companies Mark Cuban has put money in that have been on the show Shark Tank. Other companies not featured below that Mark has put money in is Angel and Tomboys, Chirps Chips, Dude Products, Gameday Couture, Guardian Bikes, Hot Tot, Ice Shaker, Instafire, Lollaland, LuminAID, MistoBox, Monkey Mat, Mush, Power Practical, Prep Expert, Q Flex, R. Riverter, Simple Sugars, Slyde Handboards, Stella Valle, The Label Project, and Tower Paddle Boards.



Bee Free Honee

Mark went in on this investment with Barbara Corcoran and Chris Sacca for \$210,000 for 30% of the company. Bee Free Honee sells honey made from apples, lemons, and sugar.



Bottle Breacher

Mark and Kevin O'Leary invested \$150,000 for 20% of the company. Bottle Breachers claim to fame is they sell custom engraved bottle openers made from .50- caliber bullets. With their success, they have donated to over 200 non-profits in the last year alone, providing the opportunity to support Military Veterans, Active Military Personnel, First Responders, Children's Foundations and various other non-profits.



Bouquet Bar

Mark invested \$150,000 for 20% of the company. Bouquet Bar sells customizable gift boxes with a wide variety of different flowers.



Chapul

Mark invested \$50,000 for 10% of the company, which sells protein bars made from cricket flour. Chapul cricket protein powder is a minimally-processed, clean protein that contains all the essential amino acids for healthy muscle growth and development.



Combat Flip Flops

Mark went in with Lori Greiner and Draymond John for \$300,000 for 30% stake. Combat Flip Flops is a company that sells flip-flops, scarves, and jewelry made in countries that have been impacted by wars.

COMBAT FLIP FLOPS
BAD FOR RUNNING. WORSE FOR FIGHTING.



Goverre

Mark went in with Lori Greiner and Robert Herjavec for \$200,000 for 13% of the company. This company sells spill proof wine glasses.



Grypmat

Mark invested \$360,000 with Lori Greiner and Richard Branson for 30% of Grypmat, which are tool mats that don't slide.



Loliware

Mark and Barbara Corcoran went in on this deal together for \$600,000 getting 25% of the company in return. Loliware sells edible cups and straws.



Nuts 'N More

Mark and Robert Herjavec invested a total of \$250,000 together for a 35% stake in this company. Nut 'N More focuses on selling nutrient-rich peanut butter.



The Style Club

Mark went in by himself for a half million dollars for 20% of The Style Club. This company sells women's apparel and accessories with empowering messages.



An Old Man Reveals Key To Grieving

This has been floating around the internet and I felt it worthy of passing along. An internet user asked on a post, "My friend just died. I don't know what to do." A reply was posted by a self-titled "old guy"...What he had to say was not only a helpful response, but it might just change the way you approach life and death. I encourage you to read his remarks below and pass along.

I'm old. What that means is that I've survived (so far) and a lot of people I've known and loved did not.

I've lost friends, best friends, acquaintances, co-workers, grandparents, mom, relatives, teachers, mentors, students, neighbors, and a host of other folks. I have no children, and I can't imagine the pain it must be to lose a child. But here's my two cents...

I wish I could say you get used to people dying. But I never did. I don't want to. It tears a hole through me whenever somebody I love dies, no matter the circumstances. But I don't want it to "not matter". I don't want it to be something that just passes. My scars are a testament to the love and the relationship that I had for and with that person. And if the scar is deep, so was the love. So be it.

Scars are a testament to life. Scars are a testament that I can love deeply and live deeply and be cut, or even gouged, and that I can heal and continue to live and continue to love. And the scar tissue is stronger than the original flesh ever was. Scars are a testament to life. Scars are only ugly to people who can't see.

As for grief, you'll find it comes in waves. When the ship is first wrecked, you're drowning, with wreckage all around you. Everything floating around you reminds you of the beauty and the magnificence of the ship that was, and is no more. And all you can do is float. You find some piece of the wreckage and you hang on for a while. Maybe it's some physical thing. Maybe it's a happy memory or a photograph. Maybe it's a person who is also floating. For a while, all you can do is float. Stay alive.

In the beginning, the waves are 100 feet tall and crash over you without mercy. They come 10 seconds apart and don't even give you time to catch your breath. All you can do is hang on and float. After a while, maybe weeks, maybe months, you'll find the waves are still 100 feet tall, but they come further apart. When they come, they still crash all over you and wipe you out. But in between, you can breathe, you can function. You never know what's going to trigger the grief. It might be a song, a picture, a street intersection, the smell of a cup of coffee. It can be just about anything...and the wave comes crashing. But in between waves, there is life.

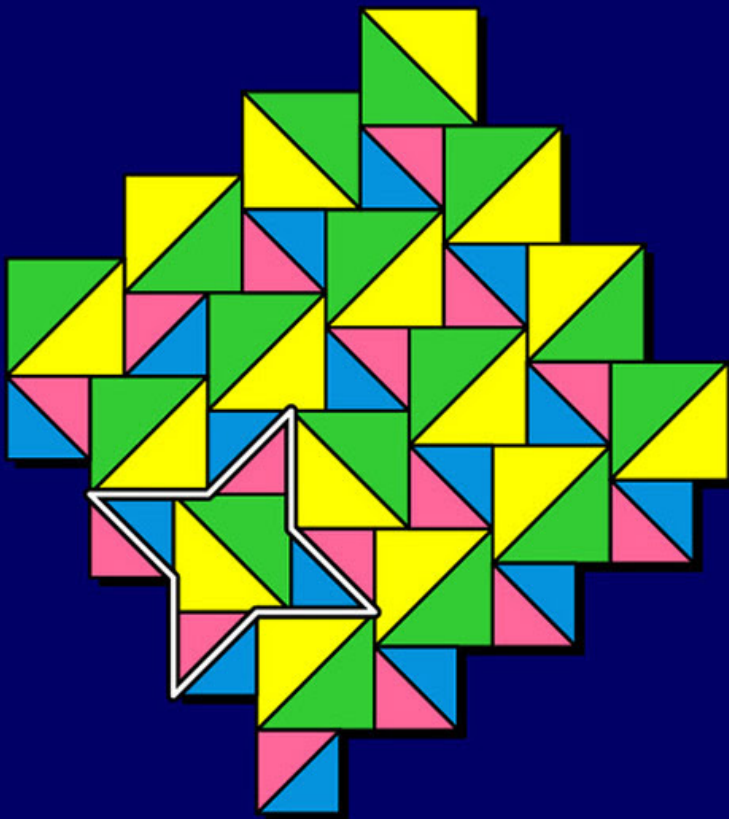
Somewhere down the line, and it's different for everybody, you find that the waves are only 80 feet tall. Or 50 feet tall. And while they still come, they come further apart. You can see them coming. An anniversary, a birthday, or Christmas, or landing at O'Hare. You can see it coming, for the most part, and prepare yourself. And when it washes over you, you know that somehow you will, again, come out the other side. Soaking wet, sputtering, still hanging on to some tiny piece of the wreckage, but you'll come out.

Take it from an old guy. The waves never stop coming, and somehow you don't really want them to. But you learn that you'll survive them. And other waves will come. And you'll survive them too.

If you're lucky, you'll have lots of scars from lots of loves. And lots of shipwrecks.



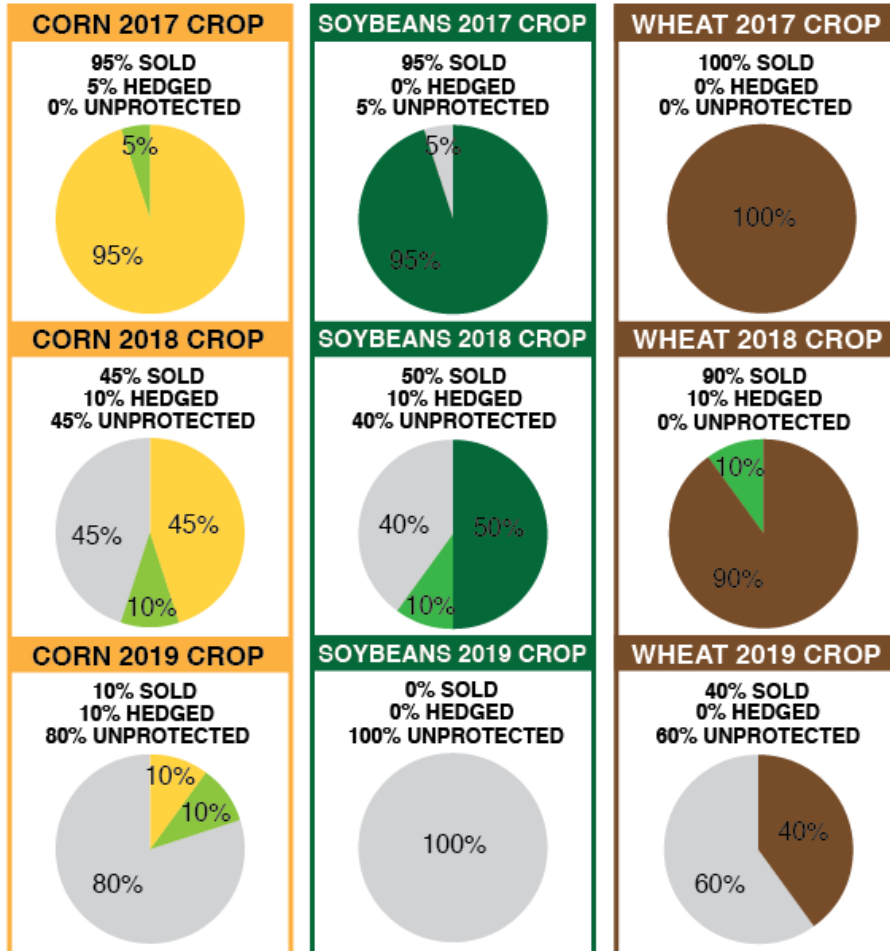
ANSWER to riddle:



Puzzle: © 2013 The Grabarchuk Family. Web page: © 2013 ThinkFun Inc.

CASH SALES & HEDGING TOTALS

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Thu, Aug 30, 2018 at 6:49 AM

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Thu, Aug 30, 2018 at 6:50 AM

[Quoted text hidden]

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Thu, Aug 30, 2018 at 7:05 AM

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Respectfully,

Jordan Van Trump

—“We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit” – Aristotle

