

GOOD MORNING: 09/12/18 Farm Direction - Van Trump Report

2 messages

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Wed, Sep 12, 2018 at 6:38 AM



"Our self-respect tracks and determines our choices. Every time we act in harmony with our authentic self and our heart, we earn our respect. It is that simple. Every choice ultimately matters as it impacts our self-respect." – Dan Coppersmith

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2018

[Printable Copy](#) or [Audio Version](#)

Morning Summary: Stocks are steady this morning and continue to trade near all-time highs. Bulls point to continued growth and strength in the U.S. economy. Not only are corporate earnings and revenues showing huge gains, but U.S. employment is insanely robust. Report after report shows employers hiring at record levels. What's crazy is we continue to see "job openings" vastly exceeding available applicants. We've always seen those out of working and looking for a job exceeding the number of available openings. The past five months that rule has been turned inside out, as we have more jobs available than unemployed. In fact, the most recent data showed there were +659,000 more job openings than unemployed workers. There's been more jobs available than unemployed persons for five straight months. An interesting question now being considered is if our available job openings have surpassed the skill levels, hard work threshold and or intelligence of those who need employment. I can't begin to tell you how many friends I have who own businesses, but simply can't find people that will show up consistently or have any type of strong work ethic. For some this brings into question how much continued growth we can expect to see from our U.S. businesses? Personally, I don't see it as a nearby concern, but it's interesting to consider from a longer-term perspective. More nearby, there continues to be a ton of debate surrounding trade negotiations. Most concerning seems to remain the uncertainty between the U.S. and China. The U.S. has recently approved another \$200 billion in tariffs on Chinese goods, the questions now is when will Washington implement the tariffs? At the same time, China is saying they will ask the WTO next week for permission to impose further sanctions on the U.S. We have also heard talks that the Chinese will join Russian military exercises for the first time in a sign of growing ties between the two nations. Bottom-line, we don't see trade relations with the Chinese immediately improving. As for striking a trade deal with Canada, it sounds like we are moving much closer to a compromise of some sort. I thought we were close last week, perhaps it happens this week...stay tuned. I suspect the market will reward a resolution with Canada and perhaps push to fresh new all-time highs on the headlines. As for today, I'm looking for Apple to garner a ton of the medias attention with the launch of several new iPhones at its scheduled product launch event inside its new Cupertino Headquarters. There's also starting to be more buzz about 5G technology and just how much faster all of our devices will be in the near to immediate future. From what I understand, the rollouts for 5G will start early next year. To this point it sounds like Verizon has the lead in technology and infrastructure to support it. I look for this to be the next game-changer and door that opens for high-speed technology, bringing the next wave of widespread disruption. There's some talk it's what propels and allows for the quicker adoption of autonomous vehicles, wearable devices, etc... Pay close attention to the headlines involving 5G and the companies that will be leveraging and maximizing it's abilities.

Hurricane Florence Delayed: The hurricane remains a CAT 4 but has started to slow it's approach, now not expected to reach landfall in the Carolina's until late-Friday. Our sources suspect the hurricane weakens into landfall, but could stall out over the Carolina's and parts of Virginia, producing massively dangerous flooding and high winds. "A storm with the track of Florence is unprecedented. It was located farther north in the Atlantic than any other storm to ever hit the Carolinas, so what we're forecasting is unprecedented. Also, most storms coming

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into the Carolinas tend to move northward, and this storm looks like it's going to stall over the region and potentially bring tremendous, life-threatening flooding,,," AccuWeather Vice President of Forecasting and Graphics Operations Marshall Moss said. Below are some good graphics from [AccuWeather](#).



Interesting Comments From Hedge Fund King: Ray Dalio, who started out of his two-bedroom apartment in New York City in 1975, is the founder of Bridgewater Associates, the worlds biggest hedge fund. He had some interesting comments on CNBC yesterday that I wanted to share. First he told reporters that he believed the current economic cycle was in the seventh inning, predicting it has about two years left to run. He expressed keeping an eye on the Fed and the pace of interest rate hikes. Increasing rates too fast is a definite concern. Dalio also warned that investors should be "more defensive" in the stock market. Worrying that the upside could be somewhat limited for several sectors because a lot of cash that had been on the sidelines has now been put to work and the benefits of the corporate tax cuts are starting to be seen form the rearview mirror. On a much broader business note, along the way to becoming a titan of finance and philanthropy, Dalio almost went bust in the early 1980s. He has said that near failure was a wake-up call, which highlighted the need to surround himself with independent thinkers to stress test his theories. You can read more at [CNBC](#).

Tax Cut Bringing Home Corporate Cash: Companies took major advantage of last year's tax cuts to bring home profits they had stored overseas. In the first quarter alone, multinational enterprises brought home about \$300 billion of the \$1 trillion held abroad, according to a recent Federal Reserve study. A good chunk of that repatriated money went to share repurchases — for the top 15 cash holders, some \$55 billion was used on buybacks, more than double the \$23 billion in the fourth quarter of 2017. Goldman Sachs economists expect that the total buybacks from all companies in 2018 could exceed \$1 trillion. Read more [HERE](#).

their current investments, what they see at out on the horizon, along with heated debates about our future.

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER

Molly Bloom - One of the most intriguing stories of the past decade. Her story was recently turned into a major hit motion picture called "Molly's Game". The true story of "Hollywood's poker princess" who gambled everything, won big, then lost it all.



"A captivating story that is interesting for a wide audience beyond those who enjoy poker. It's a high stakes adventure providing the layperson a peak into a world few will ever truly know or understand. Molly comes from a family of high achievers. She is no slouch. A champion skier, brains to match. Each time she hit a bump in her life she did not complain, she found a solution with a positive attitude. She offers many fantastic life lessons!"



Weather Wild-Card!

Weather guru Dr. Simon Atkins will be presenting what he is calling one of the most important weather updates and forecasts in years. Join us as he reveals a possible game changer!

Network directly with some of the top CEO's and ag industry executives. Learn first hand how NEW technology and transparency is influencing today's decisions.

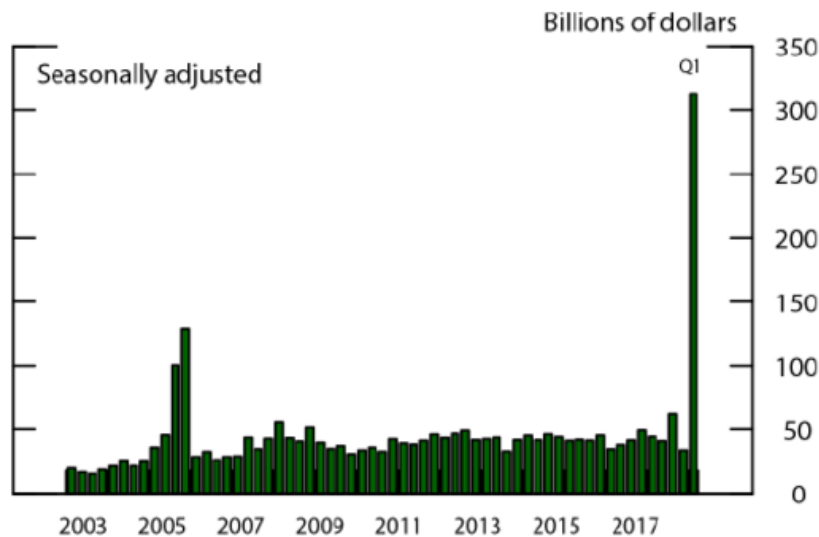
Early Bird Special

\$299

regular price \$500

Remember we sold out early last year!

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Today In History



1862, Battle of Harpers Ferry - As part of the Maryland Campaign of the American Civil War, the Battle of Harper's Ferry was fought on this day.

As Gen. Robert E. Lee's Confederate army invaded Maryland, a portion of his army under Maj. Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson surrounded, bombarded, and captured the Union garrison at Harpers Ferry, Virginia, now West Virginia, a major victory at relatively minor cost. As Lee's Army of Northern Virginia advanced down the Shenandoah Valley into Maryland, he planned to capture the garrison at Harpers Ferry to secure his line of supply back to Virginia. Although he was being pursued at a leisurely pace by Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan's Army of the Potomac, outnumbering him more than two to one, Lee chose the risky strategy of dividing his army and sent one portion to converge and attack Harpers Ferry from three directions. Col. Dixon S. Miles, Union commander at Harpers Ferry, insisted on keeping most of the troops near the town instead of taking up commanding positions on the surrounding heights. The slim defenses of the most important position, Maryland Heights, first encountered the approaching Confederates on September 12, but only brief skirmishing ensued. Strong attacks by two Confederate brigades on September 13 drove the Union troops from the heights. During the fighting on Maryland Heights, the other Confederate columns arrived and were astonished to see that critical positions to the west and south of town were not defended. Jackson methodically positioned his artillery around Harpers Ferry and ordered Maj. Gen. A.P. Hill to move down the west bank of the Shenandoah River in preparation for a flank attack on the Federal left the next morning. By the morning of September 15, Jackson had positioned nearly 50 guns on Maryland Heights and at the base of Loudoun Heights. He began a fierce artillery barrage from all sides and ordered an infantry assault. Miles realized that the situation was hopeless and agreed with his subordinates to raise the white flag of surrender. Before he could surrender personally, he was mortally wounded by an artillery shell and died the next day. After processing more than 12,000 Union prisoners, Jackson's men then rushed to Sharpsburg, Maryland, to rejoin Lee for the Battle of Antietam.



1910, First Female Police Officer - Alice Stebbins Wells was the first American-born female police officer in the United States, hired in 1910 in

Los Angeles. Alice was a graduate of Oberlin College and Hartford Theological Seminary, where a study she conducted concluded there was a large need for woman officers. She also previously served as a minister in Kansas and a member of the Women's Christian

neuro mining

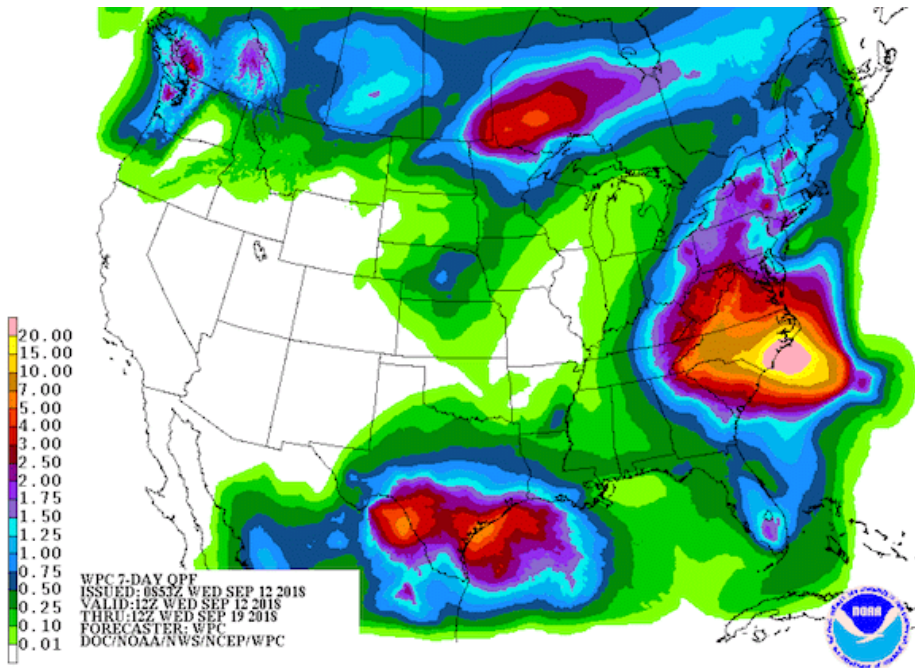


As we age, it gets harder and harder to create new neural pathways in the brain. It's the reason kids find it so easy to learn new things, but as adults it often gets more difficult. Doing brain teasers and solving riddles can be an important part of keeping our brain healthy. The more connections we 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:

What king can you make if you take
the head of a lamb
the middle of a pig
the hind of a buffalo
and the tail of a dragon?

Weather forecasts are calling for Midwest conditions to remain dry with above normal temperatures during the balance of this week. This mild and dry trend will favor maturing and early harvesting of corn and soybeans. Harvest progress in wettest areas will still be delayed. Shower and thunderstorm prospects increase in the region during the seven to 10 day time frame. Southern Plains areas have a much-improved soil moisture supply for winter wheat planting and fall pasture due to recent rains. The northern Plains continue to see mostly favorable conditions for spring wheat harvest and beginning row crop harvest activity. We continue to hear that Hurricane Florence will make landfall tomorrow and will bring extreme rain and winds that will likely cause extensive damage to corn, soybeans, cotton and peanut crops in the Southeast. Below is the 7-Day Precipitation forecast.



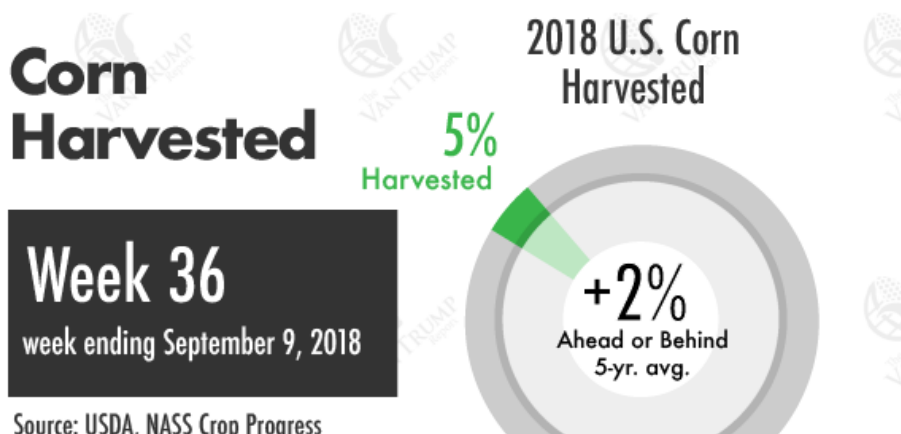
Corn traders are eagerly awaiting today's USDA update. Most sources in the trade continue to look for the USDA to lower their corn yield from last months record large estimate of 178.4 bushels per acre. I might be the odd man out, but I'm just not on the same page. As I've mentioned the past few days, it's just tough for me to believe the USDA would take such a big and bold step in the August report, bumping the yield higher by a massive +4.4 bushels per acre, then turning right around and lowering the estimate. I can certainly see the argument from a traditional fundamental perspective, as crop-conditions in several parts of the nation have deteriorated since the August report. The most recent data shows the USDA lowering their overall crop-condition rating from 71% rated GD/EX ahead of the August report, down to 68% ahead of the September report. States showing the largest drop in GD/EX conditions are: North Dakota down -22% from the August 5th report to the September 9th report; South Dakota and Wisconsin down -6%; Illinois down -4%; Nebraska down -3%; Iowa, Kansas and Texas down -2%; Minnesota and Colorado down -1%. States showing the largest gains in GD/EX conditions are: North Carolina +6% from the August 5th report to the September 9th report; Kentucky +5%; Michigan +4%; Ohio +3%; Missouri +2%; Indian up +1%; Pennsylvanian and Tennessee "unchanged". Yes, I can understand why many suspect the overall yield could be trimmed a bit, but at the same time that doesn't necessarily mean it's going to happen. I think we stay "unchanged". Bulls also argue that corn used for exports and ethanol demand should be raised higher. I agree, but similar to the yield estimate, I'm just not 100% sold on the fact the adjustment will happen in this report. Bottom-line, most inside the trade are looking for a bullish report, via the USDA lowering yield and raising their demand estimates. I just have a hard time seeing it happen in this report. Hence the reason I still believe we haven't seen the lows put in place. The DEC18 new-crop contract low was posted back on July 12th at \$3.50². I believe with cooperating weather from pollination to harvest, which we have seen, historically mid-July feels a bit early to see a low being posted, especially with some of the macro headwinds currently in play. I believe nearby we stay somewhat range-bound, grind slowly lower, then start to climb our way out of the hole post-harvest and into the new year. Staying extremely patient as a producer. As a spec, I'm looking to start building a longer-term bullish spec position at sub-\$3.50 levels.

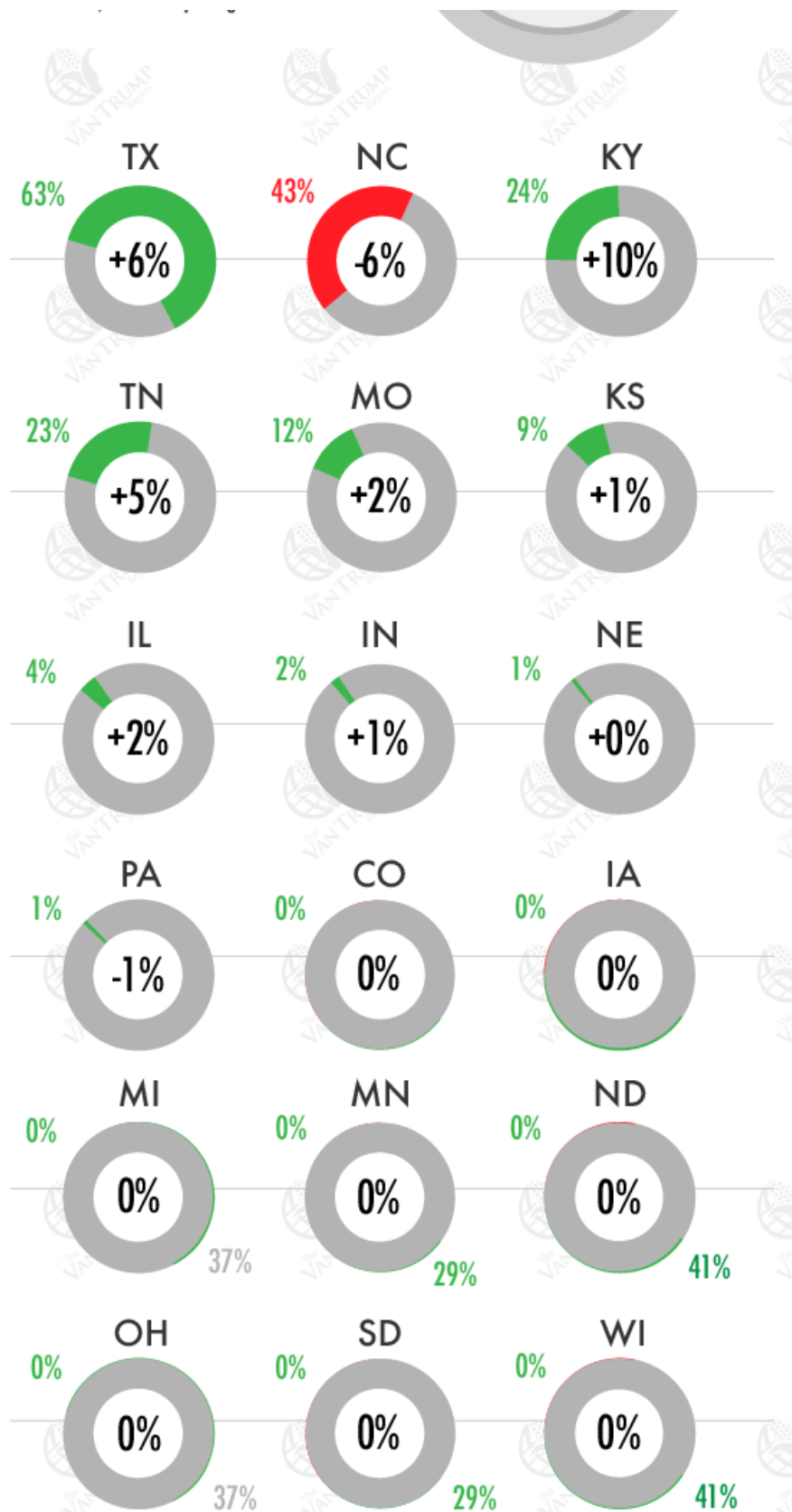
Temperance Union. Wells joined the Los Angeles Police Department after a long battle of petitioning with many citizens who supported her or that she persuaded. With such a huge community reaction the mayor, police commissioner, and the Los Angeles city council had no other excuse but to let Alice become the first policewoman in the LAPD and was classified under civil service, "purity squad", and not required to wear a uniform. Keep in mind, since 1891, law enforcement agencies had employed women only for the care of female prisoners. Mrs. Lucy Gray became the first Los Angeles Police Matron in 1888, voluntarily established her living quarters within the City Jail. After Wells successfully petitioned for a place on the LAPD and was sworn in, as the first woman police officer with arrest powers, on September 12, 1910, she was hired and equipped with a telephone call box key, a police rule book and first aid book, and Los Angeles Police badge #398, full police powers, but not a gun. Interestingly, when Wells showed her badge #398 for a free trolley car ride, the conductor accused her of misusing her husband's identity. The police department remedied this by presenting her with "Policewoman's Badge Number One". Wells was responsible for hand sewing her own police uniform, which was the first police woman's uniform in the United States. It was a floor-length dress and jacket. A reproduction of this very outfit is on display at The Los Angeles Police Historical Society Museum. Due to Wells's advocacy for women's and children's rights, more women were recruited after the Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 1972 to undertake community policing assignments. This is due in part because policewomen were thought to be better at defusing potentially violent situations than policemen. The appointment of Wells attracted nationwide attention and in 1914, she was the subject of a biographical film entitled *The Policewoman*. The University of California would create the first course dedicated to the work of female police officers in 1918, and Wells was made the first president of the Women's Peace Officers Association of California in 1928.



1993, Floating Bridge - The rebuilt Lacey V. Murrow Bridge over Lake Washington opens in Seattle. The new bridge, which was actually the eastbound

lanes of Interstate 90 (the westbound lanes cross the lake on a separate bridge), connects the city and its eastern suburbs. It replaced the original Murrow Bridge, the first floating concrete bridge in the world, which was destroyed by a flood in November 1990. In December 1938, Washington governor Clarence Martin and Lacey V. Murrow, the director of the Washington Toll Bridge Authority, broke ground on what would be the largest floating structure in the world: the Lake Washington Floating Bridge, also known as the Mercer Island Bridge, between Seattle to the west and Bellevue,





Washington, to the east. (It was renamed for Murrow in 1967.) At the time the bridge was built, it carried US Route 10 across the lake; a few decades later, that highway became Interstate 90. The bridge was a Public Works Administration-financed project designed to give work to unemployed Washingtonians and to make the towns across the lake from Seattle more accessible to suburban development. When the bridge opened in 1940, the Seattle Times called it "the biggest thing afloat." It was almost two miles long, contained 100,000 tons of steel, floated on more than 20 hollow concrete pontoons, and carried 5,000 cars each day. By 1989, its daily load was closer to 100,000 cars. In 1990, while the bridge was closed for repairs, construction workers punched giant holes in the pontoons that kept it afloat and went home for the weekend. A few days of rain and high winds filled the pontoons with water, and the bridge broke apart and sank. Repairing it was no easy task: The sinking pontoons had pulled more than a half-mile of highway into the lake with them, and the structure needed to be rebuilt from scratch. This project took three years and cost \$93 million. When the bridge finally reopened, it closed one of the last remaining gaps in the interstate highway system: a person could drive from Boston to Seattle without ever leaving I-90.

Upcoming Events

- 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

Soybean prices have drifted back down near the NOV18 contract lows that were posted in mid-July at \$8.26². Traders are waiting to see if the USDA is going to raise its current yield forecast from 51.6 bushels per acre. Most estimates inside the trade believe the number is moving higher to an average between 52 and 53 bushels. I went back and compared the crop condition report that was released ahead of the August USDA report and the one just released yesterday. Ahead of the August USDA report the crop condition was rated at 67% GD/EX. Yesterday, the total crop conditions were estimated at 68% GD/EX. But if you look deeper into the numbers there might be a slightly different story. States showing improvement from the August 5th report to the September 9th report are: North Carolina +18%; Kansas +13%; Missouri +9%; Ohio

+7%; Kentucky and Michigan +6%; Illinois and Indiana +4%; Louisiana +3%; Arkansas +2%; States showing deterioration from the August 5th report to the September 9th report are: North Dakota -20%; Wisconsin -12%; South Dakota -6%; Minnesota -3%; Iowa, Nebraska and Tennessee -2%; Mississippi -1%. In other words, there are some large production states that have seen some deterioration. Meaning perhaps the USDA doesn't raise the yield as much as some are anticipating. As both a producer and a spec, I'm still looking for another leg lower, I'm just not sure today ends as bearish as some are forecasting. In fact, I could see an initial knee-jerk lower being used by the bears to bank profits and cover some short positions. At the same time, I have to imagine we see some longer-term buy side bottom picking. Similar to corn and regardless of today's USDA numbers, I still see this market being range-bound after we get past the volatility of the report. As a spec, I like the thought of selling a strong nearby rally, because I don't think we will have the headlines to keep the momentum supported. At the same time, I like the thought of dipping a toe in the water and buying the next major leg lower as a short-term spec play. In other words, looking to fade the nearby knee-jerks or breakouts.

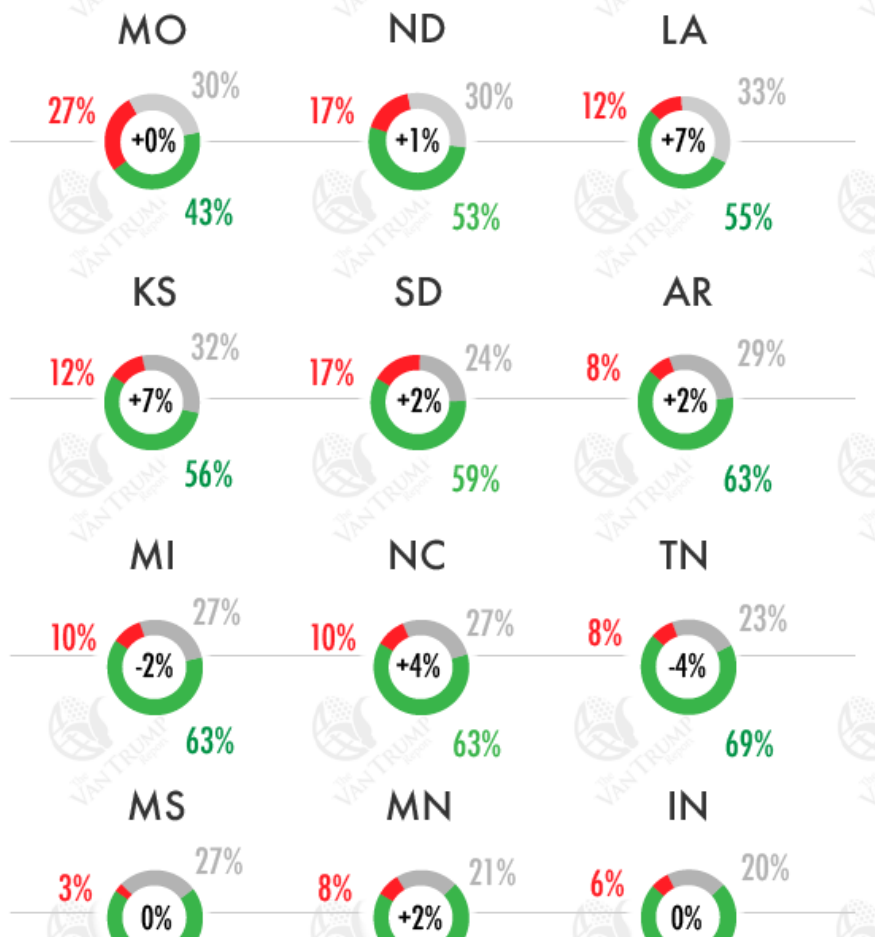
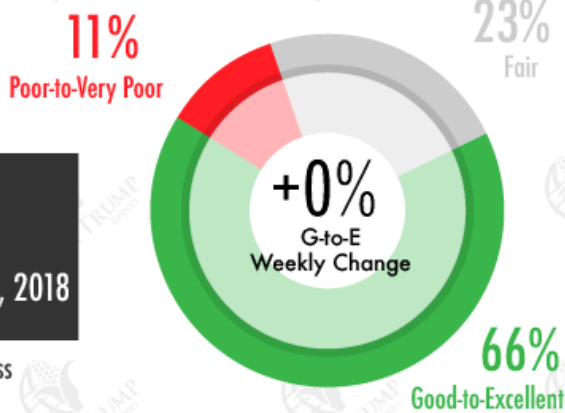
Soybean Crop Condition Ratings

Week 36

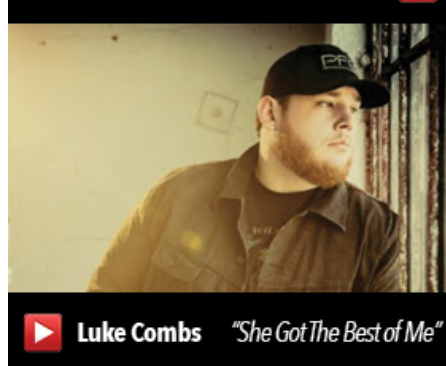
week ending September 9, 2018

Source: USDA, NASS Crop Progress

2018 U.S. Soybean Condition Ratings



WHAT I'M LISTENING TO: ▶



▶ Luke Combs "She Got The Best of Me"

Kevin's Song of the Week

NEXT level THINKING



My goal at "The Van Trump Report" is to help readers better identify the moving parts and dynamics associated with the financial markets, geopolitical events, economics, media and culture that is currently influencing and shaping the direction of the agricultural markets. I like to believe I "Challenge the Traditional" and encourage our readers to think outside the box.

I use story telling techniques that are written in an easy to read format to help convey my current thoughts about business, markets, technology, weather, sports and life. I also like to include links, filter the noise, and pass along in-depth research and information that I believe could challenge your current thought process and help you make more informed decisions. In addition I include valuable lessons I have learned from other traders, executives and investors, along with an occasional inspirational piece about life, family and faith.

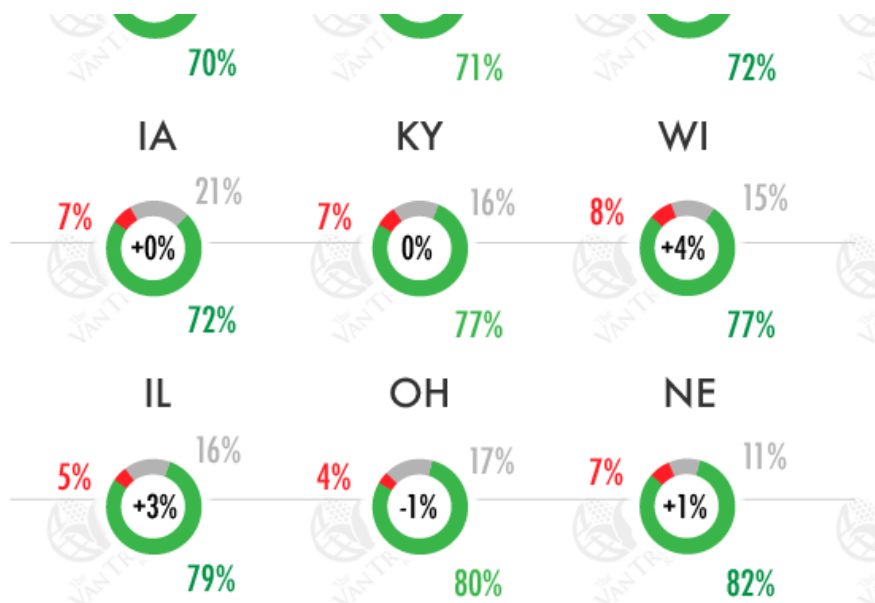
What I do not do in "The Van Trump Report" is give specific financial advice or tell individuals how to invest or how to specifically hedge. Remember, this information is being read by hedge fund managers, bankers, CEO's, and Ag leaders around the globe, therefore it's NOT tailored to fit your specific individual needs. For specific investment or hedging advice please seek the help of a licensed representative that can better understand your particular situation, individual needs and overall risk tolerance. This information should ONLY be used for educational and entertainment purposes.

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

Kevin Van Trump

What Others Are Saying

"I am a recent subscriber to Kevin's newsletter, but I'm a long-time reader of many other high-profile marketing services. I am particularly impressed with the thorough manner in which Kevin evaluates every economic aspect, both nationally and internationally, that



Wheat bulls are hoping to see the USDA trim production estimates for both Canada and Australia, while at the same time increasing their export estimates for the U.S. A couple of wild-cards are Russian and European export estimates. Both areas have seen some production hiccups, but to this point it hasn't drastically slowed their ability to provide low-cost supply. As a bull, I believe eventually that changes and U.S. exports gain demand. Bears argue until that actually happens, there's no reason to add any additional risk premium to price. The weather in the U.S. has helped improve soil moisture and in turn created more talk of winter wheat acres. Also, extremely low prices for soybeans are swaying some acres. The USDA yesterday showed the U.S. Spring wheat harvest at 93% complete vs. the 5-year average of 85%. U.S. winter wheat planting is reported to be 5% complete, which is right in line with the 5-year average. I'm not looking for anything game-changing from today's USDA report. I suspect if the global ending stocks are trimmed a bit it will help keep the downside limited and the bears somewhat honest. On the flip side, the U.S. domestic ending stocks are more than ample and could continue to keep a lid on most momentum to the upside. The bulls need some fresh weather headlines or some bullish macro news. Staying a longer-term bull, but continue to see nearby upside momentum as difficult to hold.

influences commodity prices. His analysis and conclusions are highly thought out and conveyed in layman's terms so that the reader can comprehend the numerous and often complex interrelationships that impact the markets. Kevin is a real attribute to the agricultural sector."

A.M., FDIC

"As a national federal farm policy administrator and commodity producer, I find it critical to keep updated with what is going on in the real world of agriculture and with the domestic and global markets. Of all the services I've have been privy to or have subscribed to over the past 20 years I've found in the past several months of engaging in your "Farm Direction" services to be the best perception and analysis of what is really happening in today's world. Not only here in the United States, but across the globe as well. US farmers need this type of help and information to assist them in their daily efforts. I commend you for a job well done. Please let me know if I can ever be of any help or assistance to you in the future..."

L.T., Assistant Deputy Administrator for Farm Programs USDA

My Own Personal Truisms

"Not To Trade, is often considered a good trading decision..."

"First Rule of HOLES: When you are in one stop digging..."

"Every looser in Vegas, always walks away from the table thinking he could have done better, the winners on the other hand leave while on top..."

"Bulls make money, Bears make money, but pigs get slaughtered..."

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

I'm more of a long-term player, therefore you will not see me give many short-term suggestions or trade ideas. One of my most important rules is that I always follow my long-term direction. Therefore, as long as I am "bullish" a market I will only play that particular market in one of three ways.

- Option #1 - Conservatively long.
- Option #2 - Aggressively long.
- Option #3 - Sitting on the sideline.

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

Spring Wheat Harvested

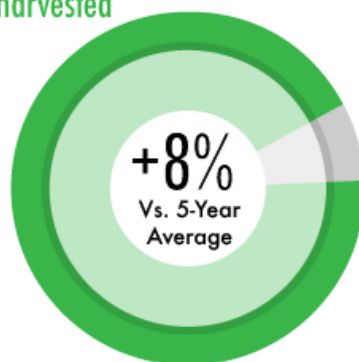
Week 36

week ending September 9, 2018

Source: USDA, NASS Crop Progress

2018 U.S. Winter Wheat Harvested Percentage

93% harvested



ID
89%



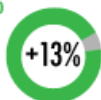
MN
99%



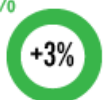
MT
87%



ND
94%



SD
100%



WA
90%



Red if Below
5-yr. average

Green if At or Above
5-yr. average

Farm Direction
RECIPES

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



CLICK TO SEE RECIPE

U.S. Production

	Sep #	Avg. Trade Est.	Trade Range	USDA Aug
Corn Yield	???	177.8	175.5 - 180.0	178.4
Corn Production	???	14.529	14.351 - 14.607	14.586
Soybean Yield	???	52.2	50.9 - 53.8	51.6
Soybean Production	???	4.649	4.523 - 4.781	4.586

U.S. Ending Stocks 2017/18

	Sep #	Avg. Trade Est.	Trade Range	USDA Aug
Corn	???	2.028	1.977 - 2.154	2.027
Soybeans	???	0.426	0.400 - 0.472	0.430

U.S. Ending Stocks 2018/19

	Sep #	Avg. Trade Est.	Trade Range	USDA Aug
Corn	???	1.639	1.477 - 1.785	1.684
Soybeans	???	0.830	0.722 - 1.000	0.785
Wheat	???	0.941	0.885 - 0.999	0.935

World Ending Stocks 2017/18

	Sep #	Avg. Trade Est.	Trade Range	USDA Aug
Corn	???	192.24	190.28 - 193.77	193.33
Soybeans	???	95.57	94.00 - 97.18	95.61
Wheat	???	272.92	271.00 - 274.11	273.07

World Ending Stocks 2018/19

	Sep #	Avg. Trade Est.	Trade Range	USDA July
Corn	???	154.48	151.71 - 159.00	155.49
Soybeans	???	107.29	104.00 - 111.13	105.49
Wheat	???	257.58	252.00 - 261.37	258.96



> North Dakota Elevators Pulling Bids for Soybeans: In a normal year, most farmers send soybeans to the elevator, and store their corn and wheat to sell at a later point, when the prices generally have a chance to do a little bit of seasonal rising. [The Williston Herald](#) reports that this, however, isn't a normal year for any farmer growing soybeans, and that has NDSU extension specialists weighing in with advice on what to do. "Elevators in the eastern portion of North Dakota have pulled their bids for soybeans. There is literally no price for soybeans," Risk Management Analyst Dr. Frayne Olson, with NDSU, told the Herald. "Right now, it's a small number of elevators, but I do expect more as we get closer to harvest. It's going to be very, very hard to sell soybeans at harvest." Elevators are trying to save the storage space they have for the soybeans they have already bought on a contract basis, Olson explained. Something like 75% of North Dakota soybeans generally go to an elevator, where they're put on a train for an export terminal or elevator in the Pacific Northwest, but the 25% Chinese tariff on U.S. soybeans is causing turmoil. Read more at [Feed & Grain](#)

> Smithfield to Shut World's Largest Hog Plant Before Florence Hits: The powerful storm Florence is expected to hit North Carolina on Friday and Smithfield has come out and confirmed they will shut down their Tar Heel, NC plant on Thursday. The Tar Heel facility can slaughter 35,000 hogs per day and has 4,400 employees. They also plan to close their Clinton facility which has a capacity of 10,600 hogs per day. North Carolina is the country's second-biggest producer of hogs. (Source: Reuters)

> Tracking the Federal Farm Aid Money: We are seeing some people detailing how the trade aid will likely spread throughout the 50 states in the months ahead. Farmers in Illinois stand to receive an estimated \$597 million in direct payments. Iowa farmers are projected to receive \$578 million. Minnesota, Indiana and Nebraska producers would receive the next biggest slices of the pot: an estimated \$360 million, \$312 million and \$306 million respectively. Ten other states are projected to receive at least \$100 million in direct payments to farmers — and they are all in the middle of the country.

> USDA & FDA Will Discuss Cell-Grown Meat: USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service and the FDA have announced they will sit down October 23 - 24 for a public discussion of cell-cultured meat and poultry products. (Source: USDA)

> Salmonella Outbreak Linked to Cage-Free Eggs: Officials from the CDC are monitoring a two state Salmonella outbreak linked to cage-free eggs. At least 14 people have reported falling ill Tennessee and Alabama. Eggs from Gravel Ridge Farms are a likely source of the outbreak.

> FEMA Says They Are Ready for Hurricane Florence: As Hurricane Florence and a series of other storms barrel toward the U.S. -- the Department of Homeland Security division charged with responding to disasters says it's prepared even as the agency defends its 2017 response. Florence is forecast to hit the Carolinas as a Category 4 hurricane later this week, one of the strongest storms to strike the area in nearly 30 years. FEMA Associate Administrator Jeff Board says this will not be a storm that we recover from in days and says the organization is planning for devastation. (Source: Bloomberg)

> Americans Who Earn the Least Spend the Most on Lottery Tickets: "Twenty-eight percent of Americans in the lowest income bracket play the lottery at least once per week, compared to 19% of those who earn more than that. The lowest income households spend \$412 annually on lottery tickets, nearly four times the \$105 per year that the highest earning households (\$75K+ per year) report spending." You can read more at [Bankrate.com](https://www.bankrate.com) (Source: The Wall Street Journal)

> New iPhones Don't Create As Much Buzz As They Used To: Today, Apple is holding it's big annual iPhone event where they are expected to unveil three new iPhone models this year. All three models are rumored to mimic the design of last year's iPhone X i.e. little to no bezels around the screen and a little notch on the front to house the front-facing camera and Face ID sensors. Several other Apple products are also rumored to be updated at the event, including a new Apple Watch. While Apple's annual iPhone announcements are preceded by months of rumors and endless speculation, Google Trends data suggests that the events themselves no longer create as much buzz as they used to. Looking at global search interest for the term "iPhone" shows that last year's announcement of the iPhone X sparked 30% fewer Google searches than the presentation of the iPhone 5 did in 2012. Despite the lack of Google interest, Apple's overall market capitalization peaked at \$1.10 trillion back in August. (Source: Statista)





FROM THE FIELD

Southern Illinois - *Corn harvest is under way and I'll be the first to admit that we underestimated our yield by a fairly large percentage. I shouldn't say we underestimated it because it was right in line with what the kernel counts, and weights came in at, we just didn't believe it. So, either way we are getting a pleasant surprise but unfortunately, we didn't sell all the extra bushels. Prior to this year the best corn we have ever produced was just shy of 200 across the farm. This year we are easily 230 maybe 240 or a touch higher. We didn't believe that our ground could produce at this level, so I would have to believe they have made leaps and bounds in genetics or the weather was nearly perfect. It felt like we had a little dry patch in June but maybe that stress the corn enough to root it down and then we got rain into July and August. That's the only thing I can think of as to why the yield has been so much better than we have ever seen*

Central Indiana - *We farm 50 miles straight west of Indiana. What's crazy is our second crop soybeans look like the first crop beans. If I didn't know which field double crop was, I swear I would not be able to tell the difference. I can't honestly remember a time this has happened. We got 10 inches of rain in August which came over almost 10 different rains, so we really couldn't get better results even if we had pivots. A good pivot will put down an inch of water every 3 days, but the temperatures generally don't cool off like when we got the rain, so I think that was the big difference. We were easily getting an inch of rain every 3-4 days. The rain has slowed down a little in September, but we have been getting rain the last few days, so harvest will be pushed back until we dry down a little more. Our yield checks are coming in over 300 bushels per acre so I'm not sure if we are figuring something wrong or if this is the most unbelievable crop we have ever seen. I'm hoping for the latter...*

Eastcentral Nebraska - *Lincoln is the biggest town from where we farm, it's about 30 miles give or take. We have seen some level of rain every single day for the last week. Some days it might not be more than a drizzle while other days are several inches. I have dumped out 11.75 inches from my rain gauge next to my house in 8 days. I farm within 4 miles in every direction of my home so I'm pretty sure all my fields have received at least 10 inches. The fortunate part about the rain is it's not really hurting corn at this stage. Now if we continue to rain like this then of course we will see some harvest delays, stock rot and dropping ears. I check our longer-term forecast and we are looking a lot drier over the next 10 days, so I think we should be fine. We have good drainage so most of the last 6 inches have run off the field and into the streams. I would like to see that water stay on the field, but the soil just can't hold anymore. I think the beans are will benefit from rain but we are right on the age of it's to hard to tell if that makes sense.*



CROSSING WIRES

A place to share intelligent thoughts...

How Center-Pivot Irrigation Transformed Agricultural Geography: In 1948, an innovative Nebraska farmer named Frank Zybach developed a new type of sprinkler system, the center pivot, which he patented in 1952. Placing the pump at the center of the field next to a well. Center pivot irrigation was a technological triumph—and it also transformed the agricultural geography of the country. With feed crops becoming available in the Great Plains and easily portable via the new interstate highway system, feedlots and meatpacking plants moved to the region. Read more [HERE](#) on how center-pivot brought the dustbowl back to life.

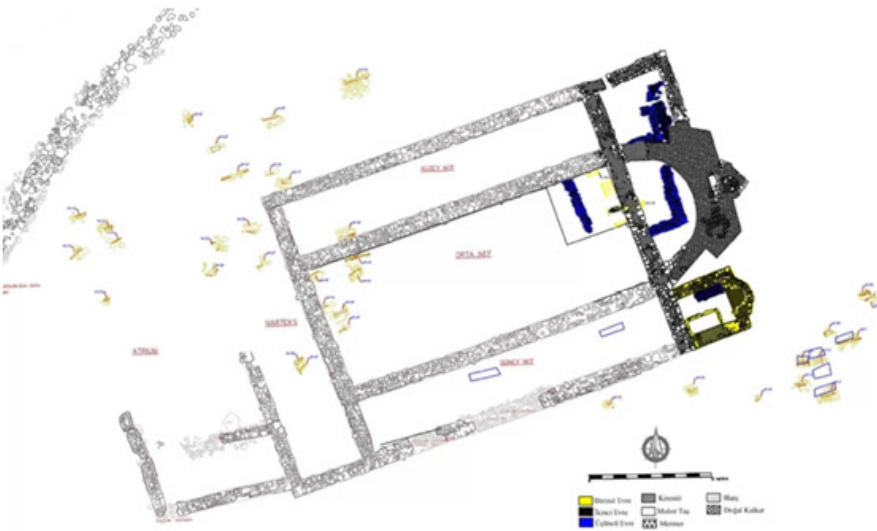
Hauling A 100 Million Ton Iceberg to the Desert: The National Advisor Bureau (NABL), a private engineering firm, wants to schlep a glacial iceberg from Antarctica — weighing approximately 100 million tons — to Dubai, via an intermediate stop in either Perth, Australia, or Cape Town. If the iceberg doesn't melt along the way, the firm will sell the water to Dubai's government. If the project succeeds, it could solve one of the world's biggest problems of not having enough clean, safe drinking water. A problem I'm told that will affect nearly 3.4 million people by 2030. Read more [HERE](#) on how the team plans to get the iceberg there.

\$1 Million Prize at Stake For Winning Drone: Artificial intelligence (AI) has been gradually kicking human butt in competitions. Now, it will have a new venue in which to try to assert its dominance over humanity: drone racing. Last week, VentureBeat reported that the Drone Racing League (DRL) plans to launch the Artificial Intelligence Robotic Racing (AIRR) Circuit, a series of competitions

between autonomous drones and their human-piloted counterparts. In 2019, autonomous drones — ones capable of navigating complex courses without any supervision from humans or preprogramming — will compete against one another in four races, DRL CEO Nicholas Horbaczewski told VentureBeat via an email. The team responsible for the winning drone will receive \$1 million prize provided by Lockheed Martin. It's been cool to see all the new opportunities that tech advancements have created for competitions that pay prize money. Read more [HERE](#).

What Teens Think About Their Social Media Use: Almost 90 percent of American teens now have their own smartphones, and some 70 percent use social media multiple times per day. But as social networking services are increasingly criticized for being too addictive — and many are now building tools to limit their usage to “time well spent” — how does social media affect young users’ self-esteem and mental health? That’s one focus of a new study by media nonprofit Common Sense, which polled more than 1,100 U.S. 13-to-17-year-olds this past spring. It also compared some responses to a similar poll it conducted in 2012, when fewer teens had their own smartphones. See results [HERE](#).

Archeologists May Have Discovered Church from Council of Nicaea: A chance discovery by a team of archeologists in Turkey may have revealed one of the most significant sites in the history of Christianity after years of fruitless searching. And they’re now planning an underwater museum. When Constantine I, the first Roman Emperor to convert to Christianity, chaired the ecumenical Council of Nicaea in 325 AD, bishops from across the world descended on Lake Ascanius to iron out divisions in the early Christian church. The modern-day lake, Lake Iznik in Turkey, has for years been the focus of archeologists trying to find treasures from that ancient time. Read more on how they came about finding the church [HERE](#).



FROM MY PERSPECTIVE

Kevin Van Trump



A PRODUCTIVE WINTER COVER CROP THAT PAYS

WEBINAR | 9/13 AT 3PM CT
PRESENTED BY: ARVEGENIX

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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 "Arvegenix"

Title: A Productive Winter Cover Crop That Pays

Time: Thursday, September 13 @ 3:00 pm CT

A cover crop is a crop that's planted primarily in the offseason to manage soil erosion, soil fertility, soil quality, water, weeds, pests, diseases, and other long-term farm concerns. Once that work is done, though, these crops are typically plowed under so the land can be used again for productive purposes. Arvegenix has developed Covercress, a new oilseed crop that's grown over the winter between normal full-season corn and soybeans. Click [HERE](#) to see a short and informative video about "covercress". It acts like a cover crop while also producing oil and high protein feed that can fit markets similar to canola. This allows farmers to mature a full oilseed crop in time for full season soybean planting, while also preventing erosion and improving soil health like other cover crops. Learn how one company is working to develop cover crops that, instead of costing the farmer money, actually generates income at "[A Productive Winter Cover Crop That Pays](#)," a webinar to be held at 3 pm CT on September 13 featuring Jerry Steiner, CEO of Arvegenix.



Apple's Biggest Event of the Year "Gather Round"

Apple's biggest hardware event of the year will take place today at 10 am PT. If there's any consistency in past years, the event will be unveiling all of Apple's new products. Most sources believe Apple will reveal at least two and perhaps three new iPhones, along with some other additional hardware. This year's launch will likely be an "S" year, which usually means that last year's phones get some updated internals, camera improvements, and an "S" affixed to their names. In other words, it might not be a year of a totally different design or rollout of totally new products. Based on what's been said by analysts, leaks, and reports, below is what we're expecting Apple will announce. (Source: Business Insider)

A Lower Cost iPhone - Along with two pricey, high-end iPhones, Apple is expected to release a lower-cost device with a 6.1-inch LCD display. Estimates suggest this device would be more affordable than its brethren, with a price closer to \$550 or \$650.

Higher-end iPhones Perhaps Named the "iPhone Xs" and "iPhone Xs Max" - These two higher-end iPhones may come with OLED screens. Older cell phones came with LED or LCD displays, which use a backlight to illuminate their pixels, while OLED's pixels actually produce their own light. OLED screen also provide better viewing angles, primarily because the technology is so thin and the pixels

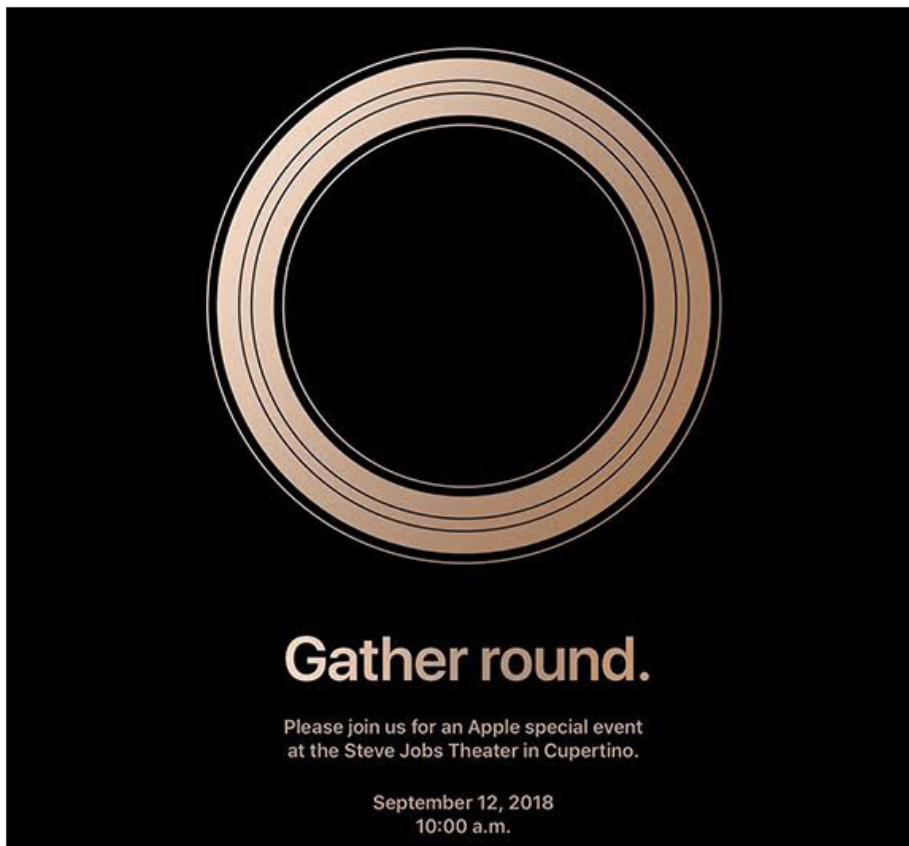
are so close to the surface. The two new OLED phones will come in different sizes — 6.5-inch and 5.8-inch — and will have the same nearly full-screen display and facial recognition camera as the iPhone X.

Apple Watch Series 4 - Leaked images of the Apple Watch Series 4 show that Apple will be offering a bigger display on the watch for an edge-to-edge design along with what appears to be a slimmer size than the previous versions. The new watch is also expected to come in two new, larger sizes, and have longer battery life, new health-tracking functions, and a faster chip.

When iOS 12, Watch OS 5, and tvOS 12 will be released - New Apple software typically becomes available each fall, which means Apple will probably announce official release dates for each operating systems.

When AirPower wireless charging pad will be available - When Apple announced the iPhone 8 and iPhone X a year ago they also gave a sneak peek of its wireless charging pad, called AirPower. AirPower will be able to charge an iPhone, Apple Watch, and its AirPods headphones at the same time.

Updated AirPods - Apple has already announced a new AirPods case that can charge wirelessly, but other new features are still rumored, like water resistance and noise cancellation.





Kentucky Bourbon Festival

Bourbon lovers from all around the world will travel to Bardstown, KY, this weekend for the annual Kentucky Bourbon Festival, which runs Sept. 12–16th. It's the 26th year for the event, where attendees come from all over the country to celebrate the history and art of bourbon. The Kentucky Bourbon Festival started in 1992 as only a bourbon tasting and dinner for an exclusive 250 people. The event this year will be filled with bourbon tasting, distillery tours, food, and great music. Traditional events such as the Bourbon Cigars & Jazz and The Great Bourbon Tasting & Gala are always huge hits. The event is also home to the world championship bourbon barrel relay, which is a barrel rolling race between many of the Kentucky distilleries. This year the festival added some new events that include Kentucky Bourbon Festival Barrel Selection and an event called The Flights of Bourbon. From what I understand, this event allows you to fly away with the crews from Buffalo Trace & 1792 and expand your tasting knowledge of great Kentucky Bourbons. The Kentucky Bourbon Festival partnered with The Bourbon Review to try and select the finest barrel of Kentucky bourbon. There's a lot to learn about bourbon at this event as well such as how each individual grain can greatly affect the spirit that comes off the still. The event examines corn, rye, wheat, and malted barley, which are the four grains that makeup on 99% of whiskeys. There will also be shows about the process of making the alcohol. I thought this might be a fun event to attend in hopes of sparking an idea or finding something we might want to diversify into on the farm. I'm told the festival is free to attend, but some of the events inside can cost money. Sounds like if you really love Kentucky bourbon this is the event you need to attend. A few of the big name bourbons participating in the festival are: Barton 1972 Distillery; Blanton's; Buffalo Trace Distillery; Bulleit Distilling Co; FourRoses; Heaven Hill Distillery; Jim Beam; Maker's Mark; Wild Turkey Distilling Co; Woodford Reserve, etc... You can learn more Information about the event [HERE](#)



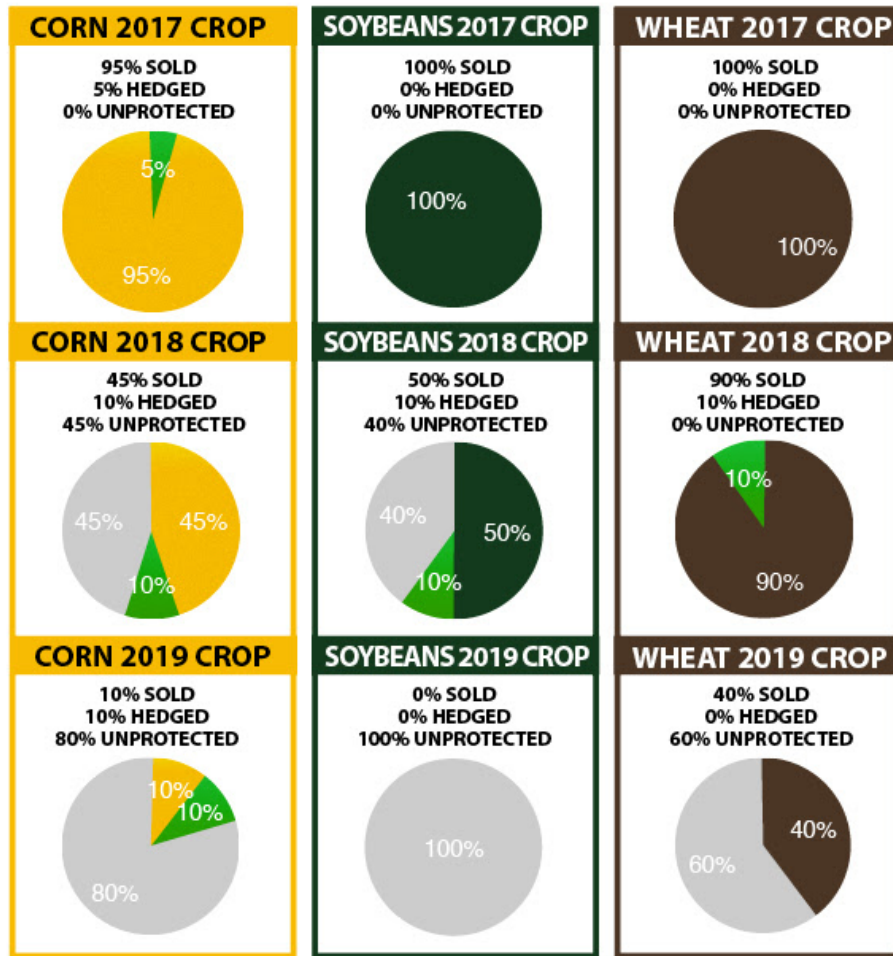


ANSWER to riddle:

A Lion (think... the head of a Lamb (L), the middle of a pig (i), the hind of a buffalo (o) and the tail of a dragon (n).

CASH SALES & HEDGING TOTALS

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