

GOOD MORNING: 09/13/18 Farm Direction - Van Trump Report

2 messages

Kevin Van Trump <kvt@farmdirection.com>
 To: Kevin Van Trump <kvt@farmdirection.com>
 Bcc: info@farmdirection.com

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"Change the way you see things and the things you see will change." - Dr. Wayne Dyer

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2018

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Morning Summary: Stocks are poised to open higher but remain in a narrow trading range up near the all-time highs. Bulls are talking about possible optimism in regard to Chinese trade negotiations. From what I understand, Washington is reaching out to China for a new high-level round of trade talks, in an effort to give Beijing another opportunity to address U.S. concerns before it imposes new tariffs on Chinese imports. Insiders are saying this would be a high level meeting and if arranged could perhaps lead to some movement or perhaps a realistic resolution. I'm certainly not holding my breath, but it is good to see some type of talk and movement in a positive direction. Don't forget, there's scheduled to be a wave of economic data released from China later this evening, so we should know more in the morning about how the Chinese economy is holding up. The Fed's Beige Book released yesterday, which is a snapshot of the U.S. economy reported from discussions with business contacts in the Fed's 12 districts, showed that U.S. business are starting to become a bit more worried about the trade war with China and tensions with other major trading partners. In several districts, the Fed said, businesses reported scaling back or postponing investments due to worries about the trade outlook. Despite the trade tensions, the Fed said the economy was expanding at a moderate pace and a tight job market has led to labor shortages across the country and in many occupations. Many believe the tight job market in the U.S. will eventually start pushing wages more aggressively higher. The higher wages along with higher fuel costs at the pump could really start to spark inflation. In turn the Fed may have no choice but to become more aggressive in hiking interest rates. The have already hiked rates twice this year and most are thinking it will happen two more times in 2018. The next interest rate hike coming after the next Fed monetary policy meeting scheduled for Sept. 25-26. Beyond there, we probably get another rate hike in December and perhaps two or three more in 2019. Lael Brainard, a key Fed official, gave a speech yesterday to the Detroit Economic Club, saying "With fiscal stimulus in the pipeline and financial conditions supportive of growth, the shorter-run neutral interest rate is likely to move up somewhat further, and it may well surpass the longer-run equilibrium rate for some period." From my perspective, that means she and perhaps other Fed officials are not scared of raising interest rates higher than some in the market may be anticipating. As for today, we will hear the latest monetary policy announcements from the Bank of England, the European Central Bank and Turkey. Most are looking to see if there is any talk of contagion. I suspect most of the media headlines here at home will focus on hurricane Florence as it barrels toward the Carolinas and nearly 1.5 million people are under mandatory evacuation. It's also estimated that +10 million people are under a warning or watch. Not only are they calling for torrential rains and high winds, but now there's talk of tornadoes being possible today in eastern North Carolina. From what I understand, the storm looks like it will stall out as it takes a slow southern turn once it hits landfall. It's been downgraded to a CAT 2 with the eye breaking up a bit. As our weather guru's suspected early on, it will be the rains and flooding that will probably be the most dangerous. Most are thinking the rains could last for four days and bring +40 inches for some areas. There were some pics floating around that were recently shared by NASA. It's a view of Hurricane Florence taken from a high-definition camera outside the International Space Station. The National Hurricane Center said wave heights in the worst part of Florence are as high as 83 feet. NASA called the view of Florence from the Space Station "stark" and "sobering."

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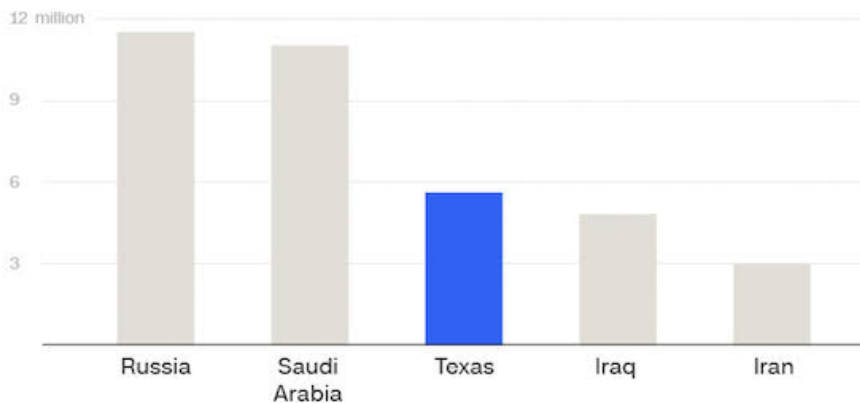


Sit front row in the boardroom with some of the best and brightest! Join us for an exclusively look behind the scenes as several of the top CEO's and leaders openly discuss their next moves in the markets,



America Is Now The Worlds Largest Oil Producer! Move over Russia and Saudi Arabia. America has reclaimed its throne atop the oil world. For the first time since 1973, the United States is the world's largest producer of crude oil, according to preliminary estimates published on Wednesday by the Energy Department. U.S. output kept climbing in June and August, reaching nearly 11 million barrels per day. That nudged the United States ahead of Russia for the first time since February 1999, the EIA estimates. The United States isn't expected to cede its crown any time soon. The EIA expects US oil production to stay ahead of Russia and Saudi Arabia through 2019. Many oil experts suspect the U.S. will be producing 13 million barrels per day fairly quickly and producing 15 million barrels per day well within the next decade. I personally suspect electric vehicles and alternative fuels may have some influence on that type of number, but perhaps I'm wrong, time will tell... I thought the graphic below was really cool. Texas topping both Iraq and Iran in oil production! (Source: [Money](#))

Texas to pump more oil than Iraq, Iran in 2019



Source: EIA's estimate of daily barrels of oil production

If You Only Still Had Your Original iPhone: Some first edition iPhones are even more valuable than the latest iPhone XS MAX. Last year, Bob Kraft, a retired business owner in Madison, Wisc., received an offer of \$11,000 for an unopened iPhone that came in a factory gift box from Apple with a red ribbon — and he turned it down. His asking price was \$15,000. Several sources are now saying that might have been a good investment... WOW!

NEW iPhone Prices Widening The Range: Apple is pushing its iPhone prices to new heights, and unfortunately for price-conscious shoppers, that includes the cheapest ones too. The price of the cheapest new iPhone that consumers can now buy directly from Apple has increased by \$100 to \$449. But that still pales in comparison to the most expensive iPhone on the market. After testing the waters with the \$999 iPhone X, last year, the company has pushed the envelope again with the iPhone XS Max, which starts at \$1,100. In other words, there's now a \$1,000 gulf between the iPhone's most and least expensive models. Here's a link to Wired's latest article titled, "[Everything You Need to Know About the New iPhones](#)". (Source: MarketWatch)

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!

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Today In History



1814, Francis Scott Key -

Key writes a poem which is later set to music and in 1931 becomes America's national anthem, "The Star-Spangled Banner." The poem, originally titled "The Defence of Fort McHenry," was written after Key witnessed the Maryland fort being bombarded by the British during the War of 1812. Key was inspired by the sight of a lone U.S. flag still flying over Fort McHenry at daybreak, as reflected in the now-famous words of the "Star-Spangled Banner": "And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air, Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there." Francis Scott Key was born on August 1, 1779, at Terra Rubra, his family's estate in Frederick County (now Carroll County), Maryland. He became a successful lawyer in Maryland and Washington, D.C., and was later appointed U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia. On June 18, 1812, America declared war on Great Britain after a series of trade disagreements. In August 1814, British troops invaded Washington, D.C., and burned the White House, Capitol Building and Library of Congress. Their next target was Baltimore. After one of Key's friends, Dr. William Beanes, was taken prisoner by the British, Key went to Baltimore, located the ship where Beanes was being held and negotiated his release. However, Key and Beanes weren't allowed to leave until after the British bombardment of Fort McHenry. Key watched the bombing campaign unfold from aboard a ship located about eight miles away. After a day, the British were unable to destroy the fort and gave up. Key was relieved to see the American flag still flying over Fort McHenry and quickly penned a few lines in tribute to what he had witnessed. The poem was printed in newspapers and eventually set to the music of a popular English drinking tune called "To Anacreon in Heaven" by composer John Stafford Smith. People began referring to the song as "The Star-Spangled Banner" and in 1916 President Woodrow Wilson announced that it should be played at all official events. It was adopted as the national anthem on March 3, 1931. Francis Scott Key died of pleurisy on January 11, 1843. Today, the flag that flew over Fort McHenry in 1914 is housed at the Smithsonian Institution's Museum of American History in Washington, D.C.



1847, Mexican-American War -

General Winfield Scott wins the last major battle of the Mexican-American War, storming the ancient Chapultepec fortress at the edge of Mexico City. The war between the U.S. and its southern neighbor began the year before when President James Polk ordered General Zachary Taylor to advance to the disputed Rio Grande border between the newly-minted American state of Texas and Mexico. The

neuro mining



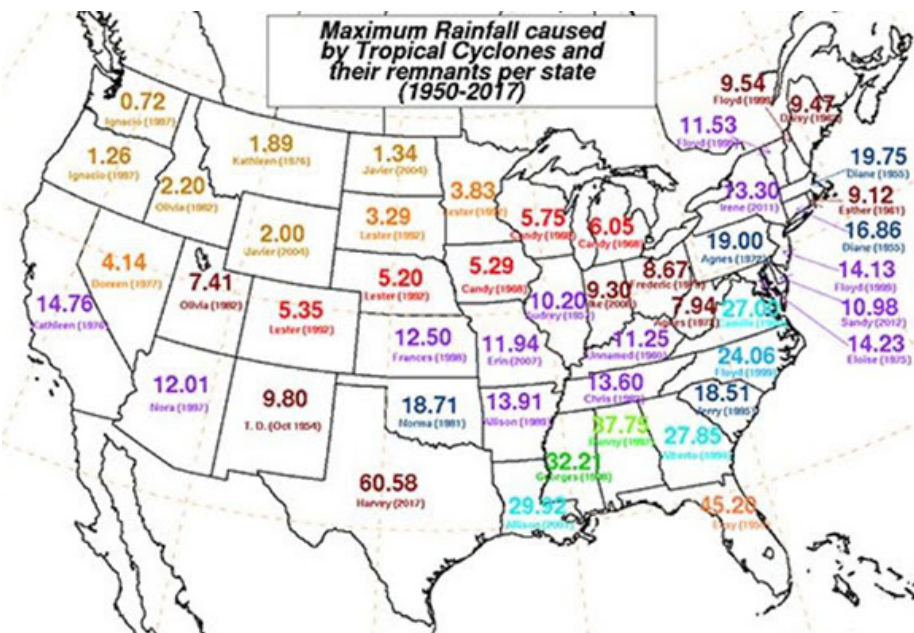
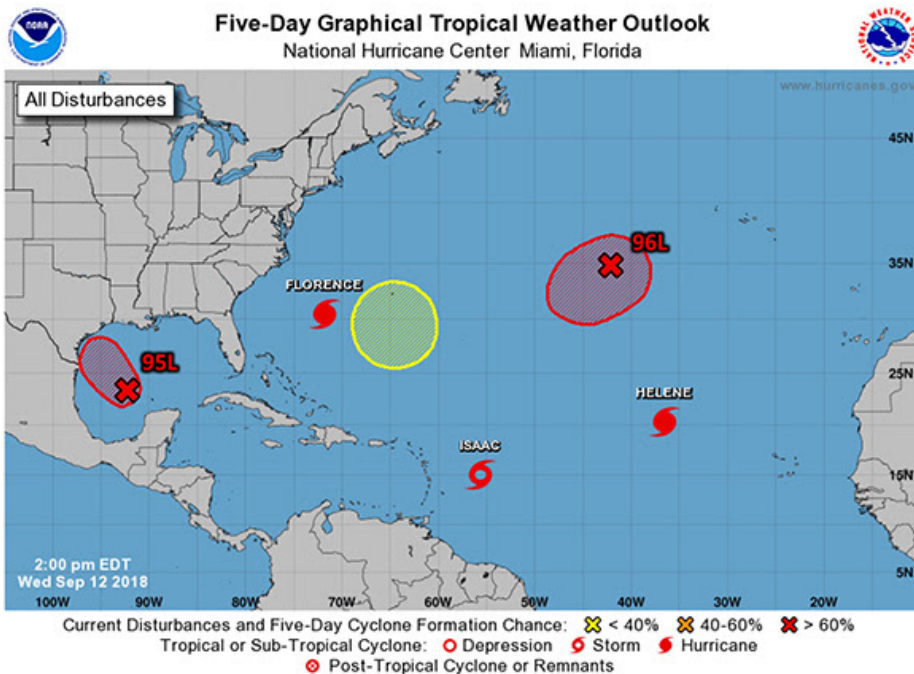
As we age, it gets harder and harder to create new neural pathways in the brain. It's the reason kids find it so easy to learn new things, but as adults it often gets more difficult. Doing brain teasers and solving riddles can be an important part of keeping our brain healthy. The more connections we 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 man says: "Brothers and sisters, have I none, but that man's father is my father's son." Who is he pointing at?

Weather on the Plains is seeing mostly dry windy weather promoting a return to fieldwork in areas that have received heavy rain in recent days. In addition, late season warmth is overspreading large sections of the Plains in advanced of an approaching cold front. Today's high temperatures will top 90 degrees F as far north as South Dakota. In the Corn Belt, favorably dry weather prevails, although lowland flooding persists in parts of the Mississippi and Ohio Valleys. Warmth is returning across the upper Midwest, helping to dry out still soggy fields. In the South, producers in the path of Hurricane Florence are harvesting corn and other crops and preparing farm operations for the approaching storm. Elsewhere, heavy showers and local flooding continue in southern Texas. Hurricane Florence is expected to make landfall as a major hurricane, resulting in potentially devastating coastal damage due to wind, waves and storm surge. Total rainfall could top 20 inches in parts of the southern Mid-Atlantic region.

It's Officially Peak Hurricane Season: This graphic clearly shows it is the season. The five day tropical weather outlook shows hurricane Florence, hurricane Helen, hurricane Issac and two tropical depressions — 95L (in the Gulf of Mexico) and 96L all brewing. The other graphic shows the maximum rainfall caused by Tropical Cyclones giving you an idea of the potential rainfall that you could expect in your state. The map shows current state rainfall record from tropic cyclones from 1950 through 2017 and was compiled by meteorologists at the NOAA.



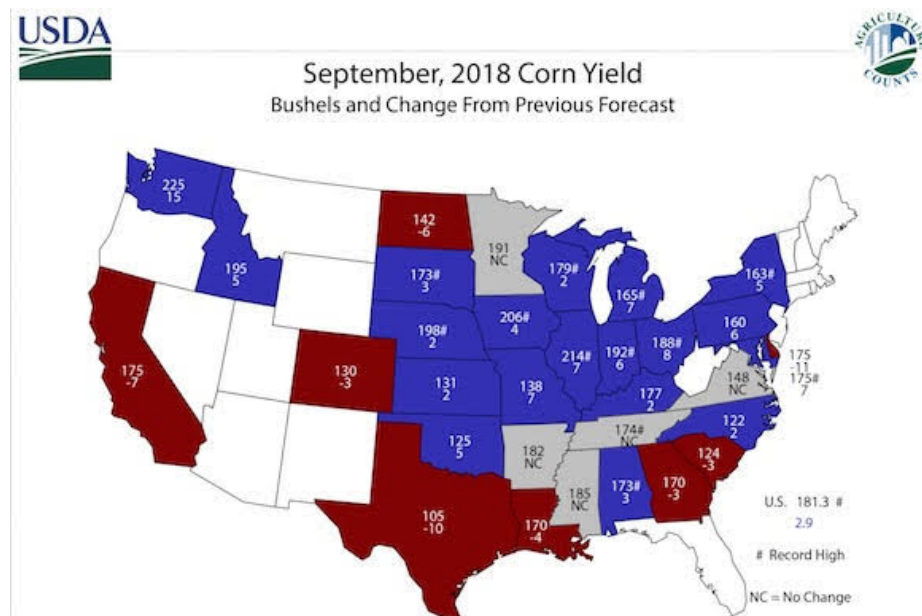
Corn bulls are scratching their head as the USDA catches the trade by surprise, raising their record August yield estimate of 178.4, even higher to 181.3 bushels per acre. In the stroke of a pen or tap on the keyboard this added another +241 million bushels to total U.S. production, which is now forecast at 14.827 billion bushels. Among the major producing states where yields are forecast to be record high are: Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, Indiana, Ohio, and South Dakota. If there was good news to digest, again it all came from "demand". Feed and Residual was raised higher by +50 million bushels; Exports also raised higher by +50 million bushels; Ethanol raised higher by +25 million bushels. Unfortunately, the jump in demand just isn't enough to offset the jump in yield, hence, total ending stocks are raised higher by +90 million bushels to 1.774 billion. Foreign corn production is also forecast higher than last month with projected increases for the EU, Angola, Paraguay, Turkey, and Serbia more than offsetting declines for Canada, South Africa, and Guatemala. Corn exports for 2018/19 are raised for Ukraine, Serbia, and Paraguay, but lowered for Canada and South Africa. Global corn stocks, at 157.0 million tons, are up +1.5 million from last month. The season-average corn price received by producers is now projected -10 cents lower with a midpoint of \$3.50 per bushel. As I mentioned the past several days, I just couldn't get my head around the majority of the trade looking for a reduction in yield, especially considering how big of step the USDA took in August to bump it higher. Just didn't make sense that they would immediately backpedal with fairly cooperative weather in play. From a technical perspective, the bears believe the market is eyeing the contract low at \$3.50^2 posted back on July 12th. As both a producer and a spec, I continue to believe it's only a matter of time before we post another leg lower, perhaps a break into

Mexican government had once controlled Texas and refused to recognize the American claim on the state or the validity of the Rio Grande as an international border. Viewing Taylor's advance as an invasion of Mexican soil, the Mexican army crossed the Rio Grande and attacked the U.S. forces in Texas in April 1846. By mid-May, the two nations were formally at war. The Mexican army was larger than the American army, but its leadership, training, and supplies were all inferior to those of the U.S. forces. Mexican gunpowder was notoriously weak, and cannon balls from their guns often just bounced slowly across battlefields where the American soldiers simply stepped out of the way. As a result, by January 1847, General Taylor had conquered California and the northern Mexican territories that would later make up much of the American southwest. But Taylor was reluctant to take the war into the heart of Mexico, and Polk instead turned to General Winfield Scott to finish the job. In March, Scott landed nearly 12,000 men on the beaches near Vera Cruz, Mexico, captured the town, and began to march inland to Mexico City. Flanking the Mexican defenses at Cerro Gordo Pass, Scott stabbed southward below Mexico City, taking the towns of Contreras and Churubusco. When a final attempt at peace negotiations failed in August, Scott advanced north on the Mexican capital. After Scott's forces stormed the fortress at Chapultepec, the last significant Mexican resistance was eliminated. The next day, September 14, Scott marched his army into Mexico City and raised the American flag over the Mexican National Palace-the "Halls of Montezuma" later celebrated in the famous Marine's Hymn. For the first time in U.S. history, the Stars and Stripes flew over a foreign capital.



1993, Peace Accord - After decades of bloody animosity, representatives of Israel and Palestine meet on the South Lawn of the White House and sign a framework for peace. The "Declaration of Principles" was the first agreement between the Israelis and Palestinians towards ending their conflict and sharing the holy land between the River Jordan and the Mediterranean Sea that they both claim as their homeland. Fighting between Jews and Arabs in Palestine dates back to the 1920s when both groups laid claim to the British-controlled territory. The Jews were Zionists, recent emigrants from Europe and Russia who came to the ancient homeland of the Jews to establish a Jewish national state. The native Arabs sought to stem Jewish immigration and set up a secular Palestinian state. Remember that in May 1948, the State of Israel was proclaimed, and five Arab nations attacked in support of the Palestinian Arabs. The outnumbered Israelis fought off the Arab armies and seized substantial territory originally allocated to the Arabs in the 1947 United Nations partition of Palestine. In the Six-

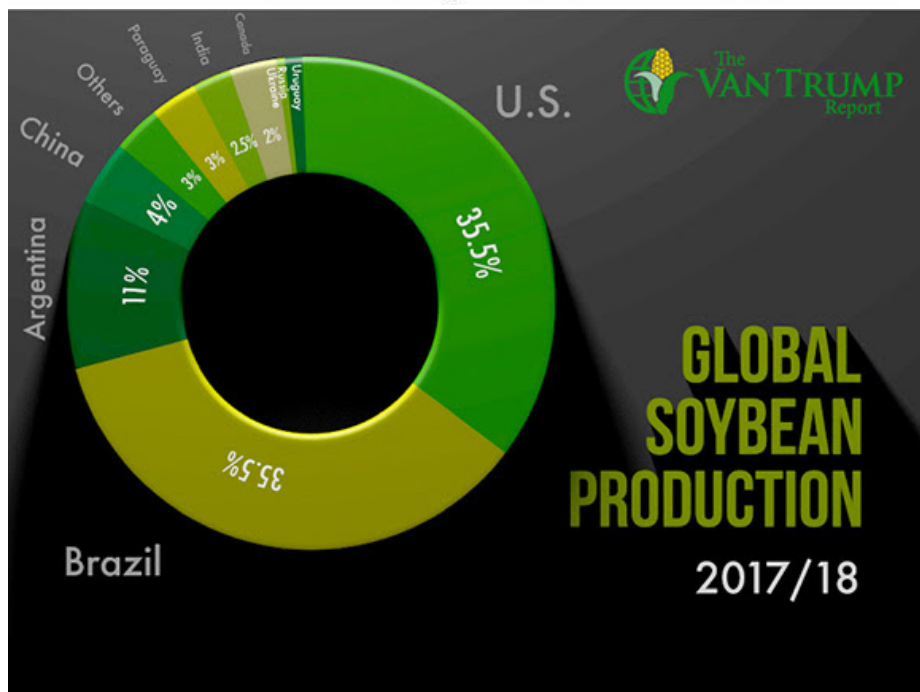
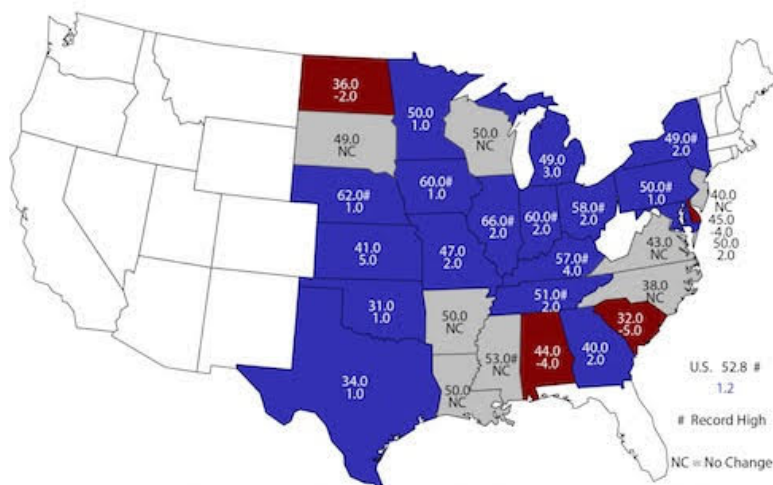
the \$3.30's. Yesterday actually marked our lowest close at \$3.52⁴. Bulls argue that this has to be the highest yield estimate of the year and from here the USDA can only reduce their estimate, there's no way they can raise it higher. I understand the frustration, but I learned many years ago to never say never and that anything is always possible. Staying extremely patient, targeting late-2018 or early-2019 as next marketing window. Thinking sideways trade action in a narrow range though harvest, often this can mean a slow bleed lower...



expecting similar results. The upside momentum probably stemmed from perceived improvement or a step in the right direction regarding Chinese trade negotiations. Several media sources yesterday, released a headline that said the U.S. is proposing a new round of trade talks with the Chinese. Supposedly, the Trump administration is reaching out to China for a new high-level round of trade talks, in an effort to give Beijing another opportunity to address U.S. concerns before it imposes new tariffs on Chinese imports. From what I understand, this would be a high level meeting, and if arranged, could perhaps lead to some realistic resolution. There's also been some positive movement the past couple of days in stocks that derive a large amount of revenue from China, and have been under heavy pressure as of late. This is making some in the market think that somebody might know something... I suspect this has pushed some of the bears out and to the sideline. I'm just worried we won't be able to hold the momentum to the upside, if we don't get movement from the Chinese, who seem like they want to hold out until after the November mid-term elections. The next 60-days could be extremely wild and crazy in this market, make certain you are buckled in! As you can see in the graphic below, 10 states are estimated to harvest a record high yield, including big production states like: Iowa, Illinois, Nebraska, Indiana and Ohio.



September 1, 2018 Soybean Yield
Bushels and Change From Previous Month



Wheat bulls take another blow to the chin as prices are pressured to multi-week lows. The USDA left the U.S. balance sheet "unchanged" with ending stocks at 935 million bushels. But global wheat supplies for 2018/19 were raised +4.7 million tons. Also creating a bearish tone, was the USDA raising their Russian crop estimate by +3.0 million tons on improved spring wheat conditions. Kazakhstan was raised higher by

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.

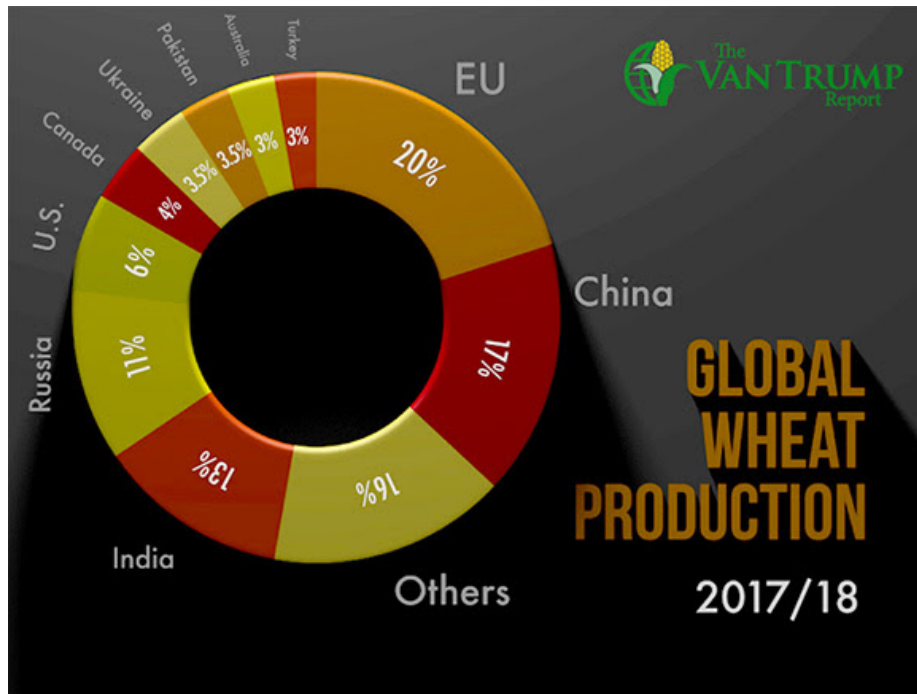
My family and I would like to thank you again for your support!

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

+0.5 million tons, also on excellent spring wheat conditions. Production is increased +2.7 million tons in India to a record 99.7 million on updated government data. These increases are partially offset by a -2.0-million-ton decrease in Australia and a -1.0-million-ton decrease in Canada, both reflecting continued dry conditions during the growing season. The good news is, exports out of both Australia and Canada were lowered. Unfortunately, with total supplies rising faster than use, global ending stocks are raised +2.3 million tons to 261.3 million and well ahead of most estimates, but are still -5% below last year's record. The season-average farm price range is unchanged at the midpoint of \$5.10 per bushel and the range is narrowed \$0.20 per bushel to \$4.70 to \$5.50. As I've been saying, I see no need to be in a nearby hurry to be buyer. As a producer we've made some terrific sales and are actually somewhat oversold with +50% of our estimated 2019 production already priced. As a spec, I like the longer-term bullish story, but believe there could still be more downside nearby.



> U.S. Court Affirms Broad's CRISPR Patent: The widespread ability for humans to manipulate their own DNA and that of many other organisms has arrived, perhaps faster than anyone once expected. And that has happened thanks to the discovery in the early part of this decade that CRISPR-Cas9. However, who discovered this technology has been a matter of dispute for many years. Now, a three-judge federal court panel has upheld a previous decision in 2014 that awarded the Broad Institute of Harvard and MIT the first CRISPR patent. This ruling could pave the way toward a massive cross-licensing deal, as often happens in biotech patent disputes. (Source: Economy)

> U.S. Median Household At Record Highs: Median household income rose 1.8% in 2017 to a new high of \$61,372. This marks the third year in a row that median household income has gone up. The latest data boosts an already positive outlook for the U.S. middle class, with the number of job openings reaching a record high of almost 7 million in July. (Source: U.S. Census Bureau)

> Amazon Is Branching Out: For the first time, the e-commerce giant will sell live, full-sized Christmas trees this year. The trees will be shipped in a box within 10 days of being cut down and should survive the trip. They will go on sale starting in November and some will have free shipping through Amazon Prime. Of course, the convenience will cost you as a 7 foot Fraser fir from a farm in North Carolina will run about \$115. (source: MarketWatch)

> White Castle To Launch A Plant-Based Burger: After slinging tiny square beef sliders for decades, the company began testing meat-free burgers at 140 locations in

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.

April and it has been well-received. Now, the Impossible Slider will be available at nearly 400 locations nationwide. The burger is a plant-based patty from Silicon Valley start-up Impossible Foods that looks, tastes and "bleeds" just like real meat. The burgers are definitely selling well and cost just \$1.99 each. (Source: CNBC)

> Chipotle Launches Mentoring Program for Alternative Farming & Agri-Tech: Chipotle is seeking applicants for its Chipotle Aluminaries Project, a new accelerator focused on ventures that change the food landscape. The program will provide mentoring and introductions to potential investors. Industry leaders Kimbal Musk, who sits on the boards of Chipotle, Tesla and Space X, as well as restaurateur Richard Blais, an all-star on Top Chef, are top advisors. The program will focus on alternative farming and growing systems, farming and agriculture technology, food waste and recovery and plant and alternative products. (Source: CNBC)

> China Drops 2018/19 Soybean Import Forecast: China has slashed its forecast for 2018/19 soybean imports as farmers reduce their use of the soybean in animal feed because of the Sino-U.S. trade conflict, leading the government to raise its supply deficit estimate. Imports of soybeans in the crop year that starts on October 1 will be 83.65 million metric tons, down 10.2 million metric tons from last months' estimate of 93.85 million metric tons according to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs in their monthly crop report. They are saying its because they are feeding lower protein livestock and poultry feed. But in actuality this is the first official assessment by China on the impact of the trade war. (Source: Reuters)

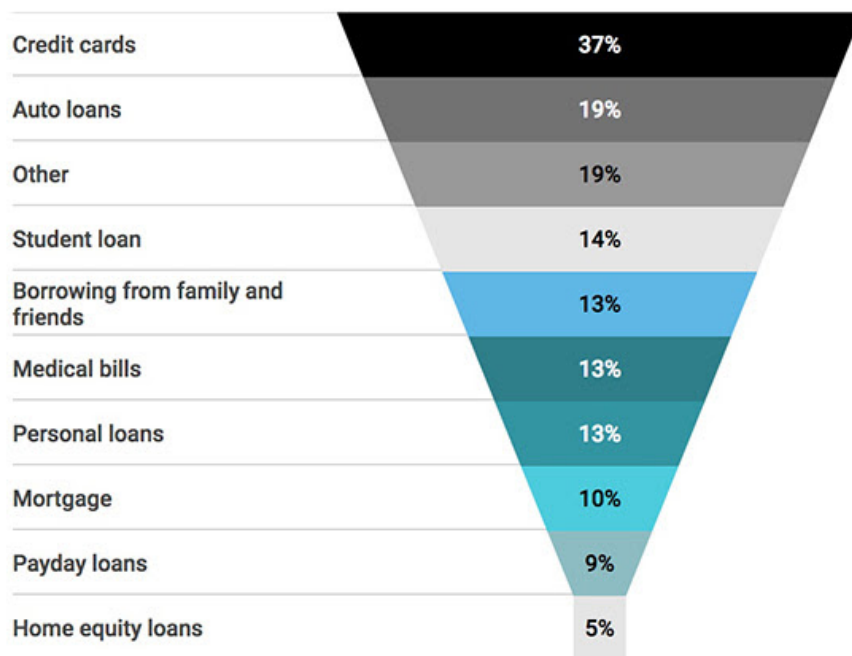
> World Hunger Is On The Rise: After decades of progress in bringing down global hunger rates, the number of people in the world who aren't getting enough to eat is higher for the third year in a row, according to a new United Nations report. The UN found 821 million people were undernourished in 2017, up 6 million compared with 2016.

> Swine Fever Continues As China Bans Hog Transport: China has banned the transport of live hogs and pig products from 10 regions bordering the six provinces that have reported Africa swine fever outbreaks in recent weeks. Live markets will also be shut in the regions. The 10 areas under the new ban slaughtered a combined 217 million hogs in 2016, around one-third of the country's total. Hearing that these new measures are incentivizing illegal movement of pigs by farmers and traders who are struggling to maintain their livelihoods. (Source: Bloomberg)

> Sexually Transmitted Debt: You're probably wondering what in the world I'm talking about. Well, it's a nasty financial bug that you can pick up from your partner. Sexually transmitted debt is where one person in a relationship becomes responsible for their partner's financial debt. Finder.com's report, based on a survey conducted in June of more than 2,000 adults, says 74 million Americans have taken on responsibility for debt from a current or ex-partner. Credit cards top the list, followed by auto loans and student loans. The average amount of debt is estimated at \$11,845 for an estimated \$250 billion in total acquired debt. (Source: CNBC)



Where does sexually transmitted debt come from?



Share



Northern Iowa – I have been traveling around the state of Iowa and parts of Minnesota and I have seen a lot of incredible corn yields and fields. Same story in soybeans but better. There are areas of the state that are drown out but I'm promising you that there are much larger areas that are going to make up for those drown out spots in spades. One thing I have heard that I thought you might find interesting is there's some rumblings about cob rot and black corn. I have only heard this in areas that had the large amounts of rain. I have heard that it's as bad as 40% damage and dock from the elevator. My guy at the elevator didn't even want the corn but they took it as a favor to the farmer. I think they will probably just blend it off and it will come out clean leaving the farmer receiving next to nothing for his corn while the elevator pushes it down the road clean as a whistle. I have heard other cases were the cob rot was nearly insignificant; like less than 1%.

Central Missouri – We are farming 30-40 miles outside of Kansas City and we were lucky because we didn't get hit as hard with all this drought as what some guys did. With that being said, we are still in drought conditions, but I have heard of worse scenarios. I am about 15-20% done with my corn and we are messing around with a broken-down machine but we should get rolling by tomorrow at the latest. There are a few good things about my situation, the first is I'm 100% sold or maybe more at a higher level then we are currently trading at. The second is we should get a little insurance at the yield we are combining unless it improves a little.

Eastcentral Nebraska – I have included a picture of soybean we pulled out of a field next to my house, near Tarnov, Nebraska. One of the plants has 197 pods while the

other all have at least 125 pods or more per plant. We used a wrench to measure the stem and it's 5/8 of an inch on most plants. None of these plants are tall either, as you can see from the picture they are putting pods on tight. I didn't go out and cherry pick these plants this is a real field vision of a large field. This field is a group 2.7 maturity that was planted in 20-inch rows. The population was 135,000 seeds per acre. We used a biological seed, soil and foliar treatments.



CROSSING WIRES

A place to share intelligent thoughts...

Google Joins Fight Against Food Waste: Food waste is a trending topic lately and it is far from solved. Now, one of the biggest tech companies in the world has launched a new effort to keep the discussion alive: Google has introduced "Your Plan, Your Planet"—an interactive web app intended to help people understand the impact of their waste. To be fair to those who jumped into the conversation earlier, plenty of apps looking to battle food waste already exist from straightforward concepts like FoodKeeper—a USDA app that helps let you know when food goes bad—to more involved programs like Food Cowboy that aims to connect excess food with the people who need it. Even Alexa can tell you how to stop wasting food. But successfully fighting food waste is all about getting as many people on board as possible, so it's great to see another big name like Google get more involved. See what they are doing [HERE](#).

How Robots Are Making A Difference In Care Giving: Among the symptoms of dementia is a phenomenon called "sundowners syndrome": an increase in agitation, confusion, and anxiety as late afternoon transitions to evening. Whatever the trigger, sundowners can make otherwise amiable people combative and even violent, a frightening and unsettling experience for patients and caregivers alike. Staff in hospitals and nursing homes typically treat the symptoms with sedative drugs. But in recent years, facilities from Japan to the US have turned instead to a specialist: a robot baby

seal named Paro. Read more [HERE](#) to discover how Paro is making lives better for many.

Continuing Education For Outdoor Lovers: Classroom time isn't so bad when you're building fly-fishing rods in Virginia or barbecuing in the Lone Star State. From learning to pack raft in the Alaskan wilderness to perfecting the basics of backcountry skiing in Chamonix, Outside Online presents the ultimate course catalog for a continuing education in the outdoors. If you love being outdoors and learning new skills, you'll want to check out the list of interesting courses offered throughout the states [HERE](#).

If Your Are Serious About Something... Do It Daily: It's better to do anything daily than sporadically. If you do something daily, your chances of mastering it are very high. The challenge and the hidden benefit is that there are only 24 hours in a single day. This 24-hour constraint will force you to decide what really matters to you. What are you serious about? What are you working on? Life is extremely busy and you won't follow your dreams or reach your goals without a daily plan. Read more [HERE](#) to learn how to overcome wrong thoughts about needing chunks of time.

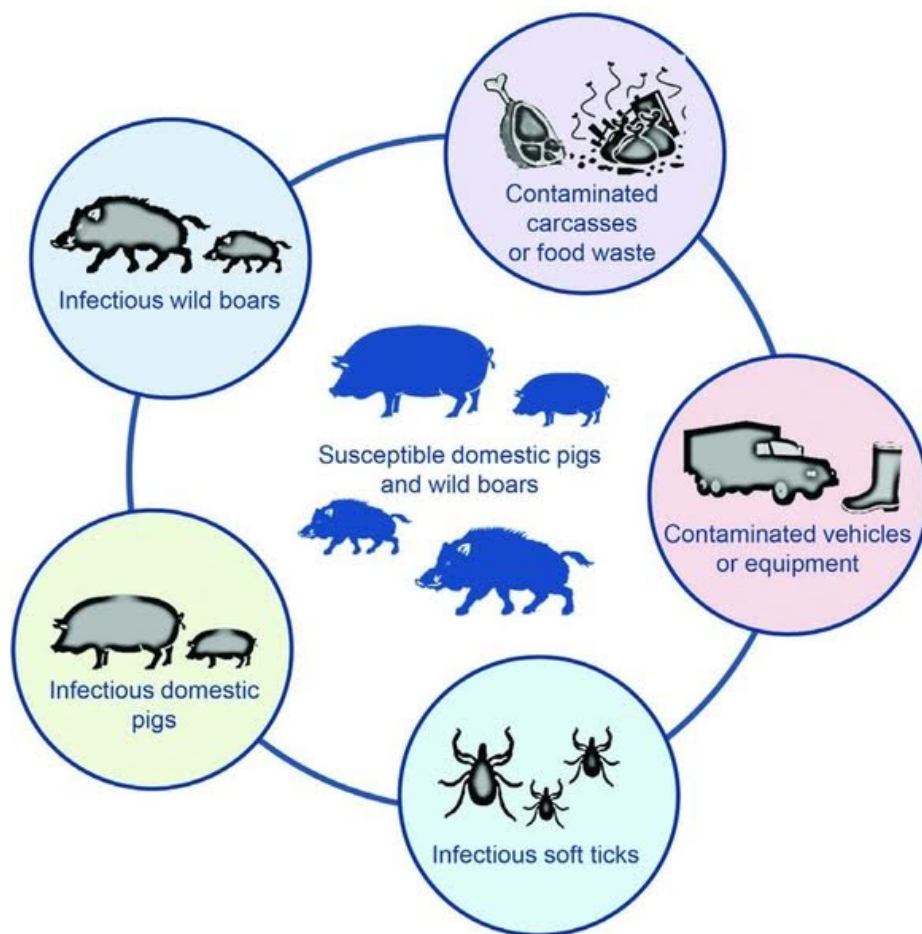
Construction Crew Finds 1,500-Year-Old Roman Gold Stash: About 300 gold coins, dating back around 1,500 years to a time when part of the Roman Empire was collapsing, have been discovered during construction at an abandoned cinema in Como, in northern Italy. Finding hoards containing an abundance of gold coins are rare, and the ministry called the new find an "extraordinary discovery" in one of the statements. Read more [HERE](#) on the incredible find.



What You Need To Know About "African Swine Flu" In China

China is currently the epicenter for the latest bout of African Swine Flu (ASF) and officials there are scrambling to contain the epidemic. Earlier in the week the number of culled hogs stood at +40,000 in an attempt to contain the disease from spreading through the world's largest pig herd. China has about 700 million pigs, which is an incredible half of the world's swine population. We have to keep in mind, pork is the country's primary protein source. I'm told based on the distances between infected

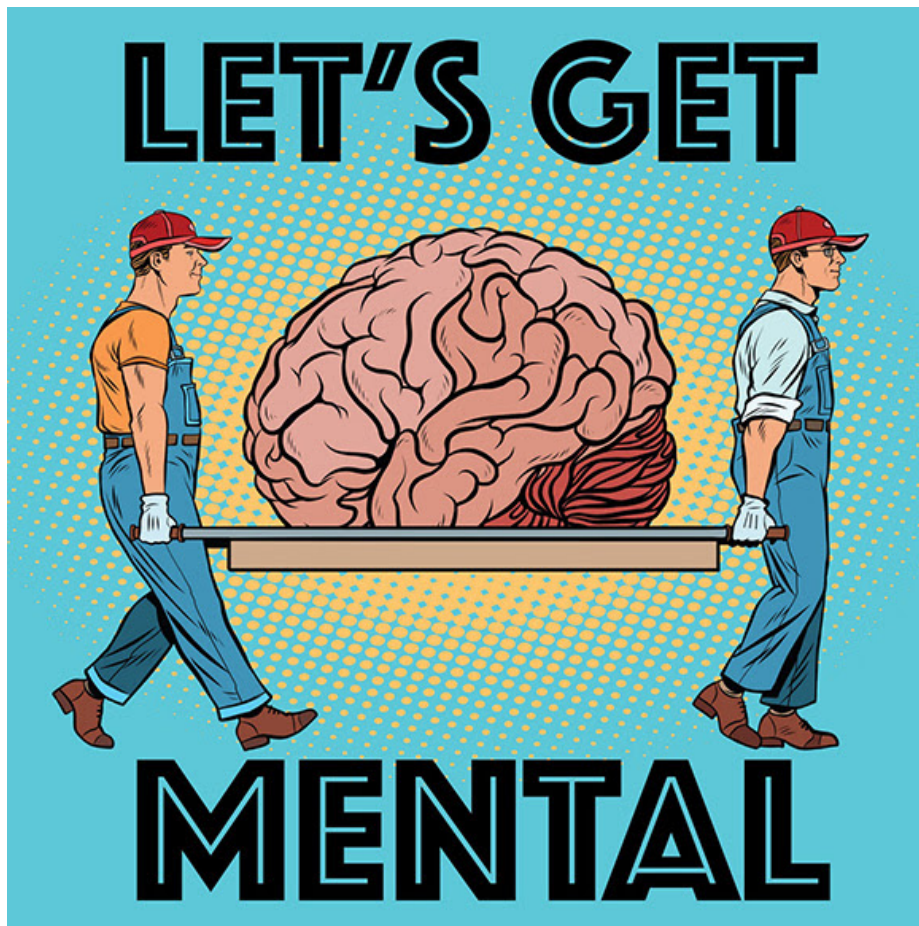
locations, some officials believe the flu may have entered the processed food system, making final containment significantly more challenging. ASF can spread very rapidly in pig populations by direct or indirect contact and can persist for long periods in uncooked pig products, facilitating its introduction into new areas, which is what has most officials worried moving forward. Of particular concern is that it is believed most producers in China are not trained or prepared to catch the disease in its early stages, leaving the door open for potential spreading outside China's borders. Keep in mind, a wider spread of the virus carries huge implications, especially for the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam, which have large pig industries, with Vietnam being at greatest risk as it shares a border with China and the two engage in significant amounts of trade. Bottom line, tracking infected meat and meat products from the pigs is key to fight the spread of the highly viral disease as it can survive in processed foods. This fact is clearly understood by the European Union which is trying to contain outbreaks which have already hit several countries in the central and eastern part of the bloc. I suspect this could become a major issue if China cannot shut it down quickly. From what I'm told by pork market experts, if things go bad, and I'm told with this disease it could, we could see the necessity of a 30% cull rate on the herds in China, which is based on previous containment efforts in Russia and Ukraine. Should this view play out it would leave a major void in China's number one consumed protein. Unfortunately, due to the current 78% tariff on U.S. pork heading into China, I don't think the U.S. will be big players in supplying their needs. However, other exporting nations will be and that will leave an overall void in global surplus. This would then open the doors for U.S. exporters and hopefully create enough reasons for prices to rally. We will continue to monitor the situation and headlines closely in the days and weeks ahead...stay tuned! (Source: scidiv, beefcentral, reuters)





CRISPR Could Soon Change Your Mood

Millions of Americans now take antidepressant drugs for depression, anxiety, chronic pain or sleep problems. For the millions of Americans who have clinical depression, roughly one third don't find relief with antidepressants. But now, researchers are trying a different approach to alleviate depression. Science has learned that depression is an extremely complex disease, and a combination of factors likely play causal roles. Serotonin, sometimes referred to as the "happy chemical" because it contributes to feelings of happiness, is produced by nerve cells and is thought to regulate mood and social behavior. Previously, researchers believed that reduced serotonin levels in the brain caused depression. The serotonin hypothesis of depression was first described in the 1960s. As this hypothesis was the main driver for depression research, the majority of antidepressant drugs were developed to target serotonin receptors in the brain, essentially aiming to boost serotonin, a chemical thought to regulate mood and social behavior. Using CRISPR technology, the scientists have been able to target an altogether different type of receptor called delta-type GABA receptors. They think that natural mood-boosting substances in the brain can target these receptors. The most commonly prescribed antidepressant drugs — such as Prozac, Paxil and Zoloft — were approved by the FDA more than 30 years ago. This new approach involves targeting GABA receptors with substances called neurosteroids, chemicals that occur naturally in the brain and are involved in emotional and motivational brain networks. Using CRISPR, they mutated the delta-type GABA receptors to isolate and test their role in brain functioning. Researchers at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis and Sage Therapeutics in Boston think it may be that special mix of reducing inflammation while activating these receptors that contributes to antidepressant effects. It's amazing to see what the new CRISPR/Cas9 gene editing technology can do and how researchers can now learn how particular drugs affect individual receptor subtypes. It's very interesting (Source: Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis)



From Francis Scott Key to Jimi Hendrix... What You Might Not Know About The Star-Spangled Banner

It was on this day back in 1814 that Francis Scott Key penned a poem which was later set to music and in 1931 becomes America's national anthem, "The Star-Spangled Banner." With all the heated debate and discussion still surrounding athletes and the National Anthem, I wanted to pay special recognition and provide some facts and details: (Source: [History.com](https://www.history.com))

"The Defence of Fort McHenry" - *This was actually the title of Key's famous poem. It was written after he witnessed the Maryland fort being bombarded by the British during the War of 1812. Key was inspired by the sight of a lone U.S. flag still flying over Fort McHenry at daybreak, as reflected in the now-famous words "And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air, Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there."*

The Actual Flag: In addition to a thunderstorm of bombs, a torrent of rain fell on Fort McHenry throughout the night of the Battle of Baltimore. The fort's 30-by-42-foot garrison flag was so massive that it required 11 men to hoist when dry, and if waterlogged the woolen banner could have weighed upwards of 500 pounds and snapped the flagpole. So as the rain poured down, a smaller storm flag that measured 17-by-25 feet flew in its place. "In the morning they most likely took down the rain-soaked storm flag and hoisted the bigger one," Leepson says, "and that's the flag Key saw in the morning." Today, the flag that flew over Fort McHenry is called "The Star Spangled Banner" and is housed at the Smithsonian Institution's Museum of American History in Washington, D.C. It is said this is one piece of American history that will never be loaned out or sent to another museum for sharing. Many call it our nations most prized possession

Fighting To Save A Friend - After one of Key's friends, Dr. William Beanes, was taken prisoner by the British, Key went to Baltimore, located the ship where Beanes was being held and negotiated his release. However, Key and Beanes weren't allowed to leave until after the British bombardment of Fort McHenry. Key watched the bombing campaign unfold from aboard a ship located about eight miles away. After a day, the British were unable to destroy the fort and gave up. Key was relieved to see the American flag still flying over Fort McHenry and quickly penned a few lines in tribute to what he had witnessed.

Becoming The National Anthem - The poem was printed in newspapers and eventually set to the music of a popular English tune called "To Anacreon in Heaven" by composer John Stafford Smith. People began referring to the song as

"The Star-Spangled Banner". Keep in mind however that America didn't have a national anthem until 1931—and it could have taken longer if not for a cartoon. In 1929, Robert Ripley published an item in his syndicated "Ripley's Believe It or Not!" cartoon pointing out the fact that America did not have a national anthem. After Ripley received many letters of backlash, he told these upset patriots that their efforts would be better spent writing their congressmen. This led to a five-million-signature petition asking Congress for a national anthem. It worked. In 1931, President Herbert Hoover signed a law making "The Star-Spangled Banner" the official national anthem of the United States of America.

The First Sporting Event - The "Star Spangled Banner" was first played at a baseball game in 1862 in Brooklyn, NY. It was first played at a World Series in 1903 in Boston.

1969 Woodstock Version - Often called the most iconic song of all time, Jimmi Hendricks rendition of the "Star Spangled Banner" played back in 1969 at Woodstock has become one of the most listened. Click [HERE](#) to listen and see Jimmi work his magic.

Best Super Bowl Star-Spangled Banner - Whitney Huston owns this spot amongst voters, for when she performed at the Super Bowl 25 in 1991. Whitney, at the peak of her vocal powers, roared through one of the best National Anthem performances ever. Click [HERE](#) to watch her sing live in Tampa, Florida.

The Rest of the Story... - I always loved hearing Paul Harvey. This is his rendition and story about how the song came about. Worth a listen, Click [HERE](#)

★ I PROUDLY ★
STAND

*... gleaming
those broad stripes and
bright stars, thro' the
perilous fight,
On the ramparts we
valiantly were so gallant
streaming?*

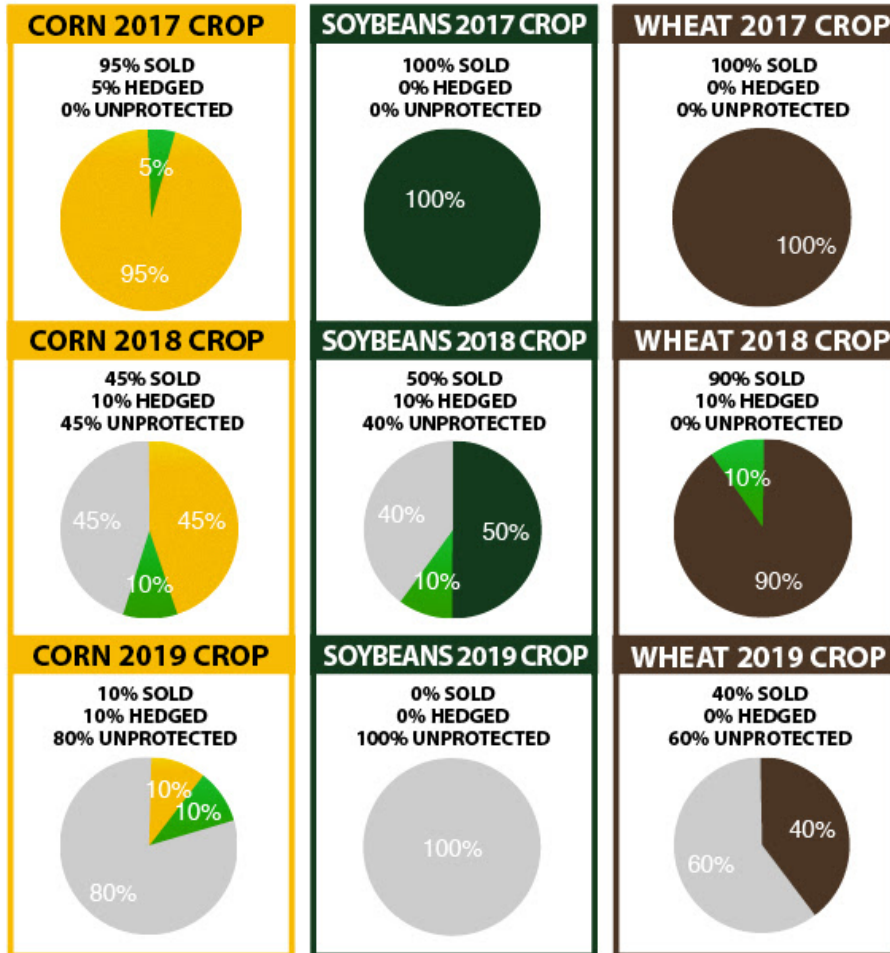
FOR THE **NATIONAL**
★ **ANTHEM** ★

ANSWER to riddle:

His son.

CASH SALES & HEDGING TOTALS

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Kevin Van Trump <kvt@farmdirection.com>
 To: Kevin Van Trump <kvt@farmdirection.com>
 Bcc: info@farmdirection.com

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