

GOOD MORNING: 10/02/18 Farm Direction - Van Trump Report

2 messages

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Tue, Oct 2, 2018 at 6:18 AM



"The most beautiful people we have known are those who have known defeat, known suffering, known struggle, known loss, and have found their way out of the depths. These persons have an appreciation, a sensitivity and an understanding of life that fills them with compassions, gentleness, and a deep loving concern. Beautiful people do not just happen." – Elizabeth Kubler-Ross

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 02, 2018

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

Morning Summary: Stock are slightly lower this morning. Bulls are still celebrating the new trade deal with Canada, while stock bears continue pointing to an underestimated and perhaps longer-term trade battle with the Chinese. Both President Trump and Chinese officials say they remain a long ways away from a compromise and negotiations could be ongoing. I don't know if it's true, but there was a report circulating yesterday that China has reportedly canceled an annual security meeting with Defense Secretary James Mattis amid heightening tensions. I'm also hearing that Vice President Pence is expected to give a speech this week laying out the Trump administration's concerns with China's behavior in recent years and why we must make a stand to change the current trajectory. Goldman Sachs and a few other large investment firms worry that the real risk is U.S. profit growth and margins eventually being pressured if the trade battle continues or further deteriorates, which many suspect could easily happen. Most suspect President Trump will issue a formal statement in the next few days, authorizing Lighthizer to begin the process of considering the next round of tariffs. Several sources are thinking ultimately all Chinese imports will be hit with a 25% tariff, perhaps as early as January 2019. At this point, net margins for S&P 500 companies is at a record high just north of 10%. Those who are most concerned about trade are pointing to the fact 48% of the firms have already reported rising material costs associated with the Chinese tariffs. There's also fear that more U.S. companies will soon be reporting rising labor expenses. A combination of higher labor and material costs is almost certainly a recipe for shrinking U.S. corporate margins. I suspect there's only so much Corporate America can pass along to the U.S. consumer before Consumer Confidence and Consumer Spending start to take a little hit. Perhaps the reason I've heard more talk of large investors shifting or allocating a bit more to "value" plays rather than "aggressive growth". As for today, the trade will be digesting the latest U.S. Auto Sales data. Most inside the trade are thinking the auto sales number could initially disappoint when compared to last year, but just remember Hurricane Harvey struck in August last year and artificially boosted sales in September 2017. Let's also keep in mind, Hurricane Florence cut into sales in the Carolinas in September of this year. Hence, the sales numbers for September will probably disappoint. Let's also keep in mind, Fed Chair Powell will be speaking in Boston today, perhaps providing a few more hints about longer-term interest rates. Crude Oil prices continue to climb, and are now up almost +9% in the past 30-days. As I suspected, average fuel prices at the pump have also been creeping higher. The current U.S. average being reported by AAA is about \$3.88 per gallon, diesel is running about \$3.21 per gallon, E85 averaging about \$2.44 per gallon. These prices are all up about +5 cents per gallon compared to last month. Compared to last year at this time, unleaded and E85 are up about +32 cents per gallon, diesel is up about +50 cents per gallon.

Amazon Raises Minimum Wage To \$15 Per Hour: Amazon.com said it was raising the minimum wage it pays all U.S. employees to \$15 an hour, a move that comes as the company faced increased criticism about pay and benefits for its warehouse workers. The new minimum wage will kick in Nov. 1, covering more than 250,000 current employees and 100,000 seasonal holiday employees. The

THE

VAN TRUMP

CONFERENCE

2018

NOVEMBER 28 -29, 2018

Full MARKET Outlook



On hand will be several leading market analyst, traders and innovators who will be providing their insight and opinions on both short-term and long-term industry direction and outside investment ideas. You do not want to miss this years special event!

SPECIAL "MASTER MIND" SESSION



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,

company said it also will start lobbying for an increase in the federal minimum wage, currently at \$7.25 an hour. (Source: The Wall Street Journal)

Worth Watching... MLB Wild-Card Games: Colorado Rockies will be playing the Chicago Cubs in a one game elimination held at Wrigley Field. It will be shown on ESPN at 7:00pm CST. It will be Cubs ace Jon Lester on the mound against Rockies ace Kyle Freeland. The American League one game elimination will be played on Wednesday night. It will be the Oakland A's vs. New York Yankees, 7:00pm CST on TBS.

Big Name Stores Closing On Thanksgiving: BestBlackFriday.com released its 2018 Thanksgiving Day store closings list Monday, 60 big retailers reported they won't be opening their brick-and-mortar stores on Thanksgiving, Nov. 22. Names like Costco, Nordstroms, Ikea, Sam's Club, Home Depot and Lowe's are among the big names closing their stores for the holidays. According to the National Retail Federation, 174 million people shopped in-store and online during last year's Thanksgiving weekend, which concluded with Cyber Monday. The internet has clearly disrupted yet another tradition. I personally like the stores being closed and allowing the workers to spend time with their families. You can see more stores [HERE](#)

FARM TANK

Tweets of the Day



Jonathan Erdman ✓

@wxjerdman

Following

Welcome to October! First widespread #snow storm of the fall possible early next week in the Rockies, High Plains.

wxch.nl/2luGHL2



12:55 PM - 1 Oct 2018

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

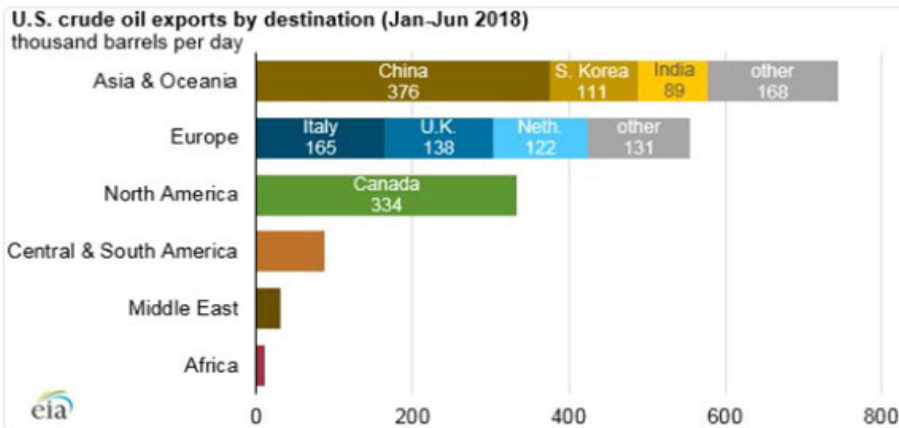
\$299

regular price \$500

Remember we sold out early last year!

LEARN MORE

U.S. [#crudeoil](#) exports increased by nearly 80%, from the first half of 2017 to the first half of 2018 and set a new monthly record of 2.2 million barrels per day in June. Much of it went to Asia. go.usa.gov/xPbJW
[#EnergyTrade](#)



12:45 PM - 1 Oct 2018



Greg Peterson
@MachineryPete

Following

Vintage '70's cool...sold on farm auction
Friday in New Prague, MN by
[@HenslinAuctions](#): '74 Chevy K5 Blazer w/
53,468 miles, 1 owner, not running, sold
\$19,000; '77 Chevy K20 Custom Deluxe, 1
owner, 44,421 miles, sold \$18,500. (98)
Pickups for sale here:
machinerypete.com/listings/truck...



12:09 PM - 1 Oct 2018



1835, Texas Revolution - The growing tensions between Mexico and Texas erupt into violence when Mexican soldiers attempt to disarm the people of Gonzales, sparking the Texan war for independence. Texas—or Tejas as the Mexicans called it—had technically been a part of the Spanish empire since the 17th century. However, even as late as the 1820s, there were only about 3,000 Spanish-Mexican settlers in Texas, and Mexico City's hold on the territory was tenuous at best. After winning its own independence from Spain in 1821, Mexico welcomed large numbers of Anglo-American immigrants into Texas in the hopes they would become loyal Mexican citizens and keep the territory from falling into the hands of the United States. During the next decade men like Stephen Austin brought more than 25,000 people to Texas, most of them Americans. But while these emigrants legally became Mexican citizens, they continued to speak English, formed their own schools, and had closer trading ties to the United States than to Mexico. In 1835, the president of Mexico, Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, overthrew the constitution and appointed himself dictator. Recognizing that the "American" Texans were likely to use his rise to power as an excuse to secede, Santa Anna ordered the Mexican military to begin disarming the Texans whenever possible. This proved more difficult than expected, and on October 2, 1835, Mexican soldiers attempting to take a small cannon from the village of Gonzales encountered stiff resistance from a hastily assembled militia of Texans. After a brief fight, the Mexicans retreated and the Texans kept their cannon. Determined to avenge Mexico's honor, Santa Anna vowed to personally retake Texas. So a newly created Texian army under the command of Sam Houston was created and constantly on the move. On March 31, Houston paused his men at Groce's Landing on the Brazos River, and for the next two weeks, the Texans received rigorous military training. Becoming complacent and underestimating the strength of his foes, Santa Anna further subdivided his troops. On April 21, Houston's army staged a surprise assault on Santa Anna and his vanguard force at the Battle of San Jacinto. The Mexican troops were quickly routed, and vengeful Texans executed many who tried to surrender. Santa Anna was taken hostage; in exchange for his life, he ordered the Mexican army to retreat south of the Rio Grande. Mexico refused to recognize the Republic of Texas, and intermittent conflicts between the two countries continued into the 1840s. The annexation of Texas as the 28th state of the United States, in 1845, led directly to the Mexican-American War.

1948, First American Road Race Post World War II - The first road race to



Adam Nechanicky
@AdamNechanicky

Following

Everyone is posting scenic #harvest18 pics, and I'm over here like: "c'mon boys! Gpa will be back with the grain cart, we gotta get rollin!"



6:59 AM - 28 Sep 2018

20 Retweets 444 Likes



7

20

444



follow WWII takes place in Watkins Glen, a tiny town near the Finger Lakes in New York. In 1961, the Watkins Glen event was added to the Formula One Grand Prix schedule and for the next 20 years, it was a destination for the world's best drivers. Compared to Monte Carlo and other sophisticated stops on the Formula One circuit, Watkins Glen was scarcely even on the map, but the race was named the best Grand Prix of the season more than once. Road racing—that is, racing sleek sports cars on real roads instead of custom-built tracks—had fizzled out in the United States during World War II, but was revived in Watkins Glen by an enterprising young law student named Cameron Argetsinger. Argetsinger was a fan of European road racing in particular and fast driving in general and he was convinced that the village's twisting, scenic lanes and byways would be perfect for a Grand-Prix-style event. Argetsinger spent months planning the race—he plotted its course by arranging and rearranging magazines on his living room floor—and finally settled on a 6.6-mile, mostly paved route around the town's perimeter. Before the race could happen, Argetsinger needed to get permission from nine different state agencies and the New York Central railroad, which agreed to suspend train service through Watkins Glen for the afternoon so that the drivers could cross the tracks safely. Twenty-three cars participated in that first race; Argetsinger and his MG finished ninth. By the end of the decade, the event was drawing 100,000 spectators each year and in 1956, after a couple of race-day accidents on the public roads, the town built a brand-new course especially for its Grand Prix. In 1961, the Watkins Glen race became the only American stop on the Formula One tour. In 1981, citing financial difficulties, Formula One dropped the race from its schedule. Since then, there have been U.S. Grand Prix races in cities from coast to coast—in Long Beach, Las Vegas, Detroit, Dallas, Phoenix and Indianapolis—but none as successful or celebrated as the ones at Watkins Glen.



1967, Thurgood Marshall - Thurgood Marshall, the first black justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. As chief counsel for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in the 1940s and '50s, Marshall was the architect and executor of the legal strategy that ended the era of official racial segregation. The great-grandson of a slave, Marshall was born in Baltimore, Maryland, in 1908. After being rejected from the University of Maryland Law School on account of his race, he was accepted at all-black Howard University in Washington, D.C. At Howard, he studied under the tutelage of civil liberties lawyer Charles H. Houston and in 1933 graduated first in his class. In 1936, he joined the legal division of the NAACP, of which Houston was director, and two years later succeeded

neuro mining



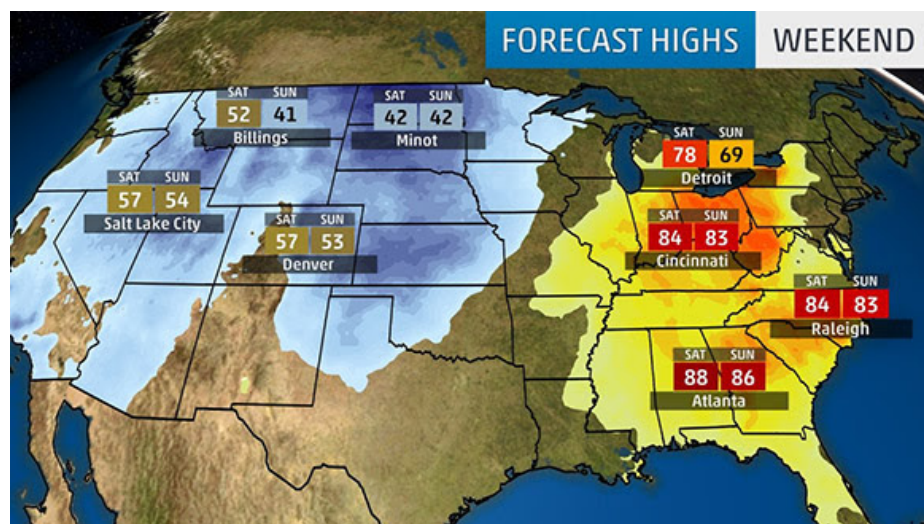
As we age, it gets harder and harder to create new neural pathways in the brain. It's the reason kids find it so easy to learn new things, but as adults it often gets more difficult. Doing brain teasers and solving riddles can be an important part of keeping our brain healthy. The more connections we 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 has six faces but does not wear makeup? It also has twenty-one eyes but cannot see.

Weather for the Corn Belt will see late season warmth in the Ohio and mid-Mississippi Valleys promoting corn and soybean maturation and harvesting. In contrast, cool rain weather is affecting the northern Corn Belt, causing renewed fieldwork delays. A weekend cold snap ended the growing season across large sections of Minnesota and Wisconsin, although most corn and soybeans were mature enough to withstand the freeze. On the Plains, warm, dry weather across the southern half of the region is ideal for summer crop maturation and harvesting. In contrast, cool weather prevails on the northern Plains, accompanied by lingering showers. Recent freezes broadly ended the growing season in Montana and North Dakota.

Pattern Change this Week To Bring Snow to Some, Heat To Others: *The jet stream will divide temperatures in the Lower 48 late this week into the weekend. A snowstorm is possible in the Rockies and High Plains. Severe storms and heavy rain could accompany the storm system in the central states. When such an exaggerated north-to-south oriented jet stream pattern takes shape during fall it typically results in a dichotomy of weather conditions across the U.S. Temperatures will continue to be unfair-like as highs rise in the middle to upper 80s from the Southeast into the Ohio Valley and mid-Atlantic. From the Rockies to the northern Plains and upper Midwest, an initial shot of chilly air will drop temperatures below early-October averages Wednesday and Thursday. Another charge of cold air will quickly move in this weekend across the West and Plains as the previously mentioned jet stream takes a dive south.*



Corn bulls are talking about extreme weather worries handcuffing the U.S. harvest. Heavy rains in the forecast for areas that have already been deemed too wet, have some inside the trade thinking prices are currently too cheap and a bit of weather risk-premium needs to be added. I'm not disputing that argument, especially considering domestic and global stocks are at multi-year lows. My only thought is the risk-premium added could be short lived and there's probably not enough horsepower in the headlines to keep the momentum moving beyond the nearby technical resistance on the charts, which is thought to be somewhere between \$3.80 and \$3.90 in the DEC18 contract. As for demand, weekly export inspections were again above trade expectations and continue to look extremely strong. I also argue that the USDA will eventually need to raise their feed usage estimate higher. The USDA reported weekly crop-conditions "unchanged" at 69% rated "Good-to-Excellent" vs. 63% last year at this juncture. The USDA continues to show the U.S. crop running ahead of schedule. Corn categorized as "mature" is now estimated at 86% vs. the 5-year average of 71%. Corn "harvested" is estimated to be 26% vs. 16% last week vs. the 5-year average of 17% by this date. Tennessee and Pennsylvania are currently the only states running behind their historical harvest pace. Big production states are all running well ahead of schedule. Keep in mind, Illinois corn is currently rated 80% "Good-to-Excellent"; Nebraska 83% GD/EX; Minnesota 78% GD/EX; and Iowa rated 75% GD/EX, of which Iowa, Illinois and Nebraska conditions all showed improvements last week. Minnesota was "unchanged". States showing deteriorating conditions on the week included: Colorado; Michigan; Missouri; North Dakota; Pennsylvania; South Dakota and Wisconsin

Harvest Crop Revenue Insurance Guarantees: Remember these prices will update daily during the month of October as the price average is determined.

2018 Fall Harvest Price: Corn \$3.65[^]6

his mentor in the organization's top legal post. As the NAACP's chief counsel from 1938 to 1961, he argued more than a dozen cases before the U.S. Supreme Court, successfully challenging racial segregation, most notably in public education. He won nearly all of these cases, including a groundbreaking victory in 1954's *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*, in which the Supreme Court ruled that segregation violated the equal rights clause of the 14th Amendment to the Constitution and was thus illegal. The decision served as a great impetus for the civil rights movement and ultimately led to the abolishment of segregation in all public facilities and accommodations. In 1961, President John F. Kennedy appointed Marshall to the U.S. Court of Appeals, but his nomination was opposed by many Southern senators, and he was not confirmed until the following year. In 1965, President Lyndon Johnson appointed Marshall to be solicitor general of the United States. In this position, he again successfully argued cases before the Supreme Court, this time on behalf of the U.S. government. On June 13, 1967, Johnson nominated Marshall to fill the seat of retiring Supreme Court Justice Tom Clark. Of his decision to appoint Marshall, Johnson said it was "the right thing to do, the right time to do it, the right man, and the right place." After a heated debate, the Senate confirmed Marshall's nomination by a vote of 69 to 11 on August 30. Marshall was officially sworn in to the nation's highest court at the opening ceremony of the Supreme Court term on October 2. During his 24 years on the high court, Associate Justice Marshall consistently challenged discrimination based on race or sex, opposed the death penalty, and vehemently defended affirmative action. He supported the rights of criminal defendants and defended the right to privacy. As appointments by a largely Republican White House changed the ideology of the Supreme Court, Marshall found his liberal views increasingly in the minority. In 1987, Marshall gave a controversial speech on the occasion of the bicentennial celebrations of the Constitution of the United States. Marshall stated: The government they devised was defective from the start, requiring several amendments, a civil war, and major social transformations to attain the system of constitutional government and its respect for the freedoms and individual rights, we hold as fundamental today. In conclusion, Marshall stated: Some may more quietly commemorate the suffering, struggle, and sacrifice that has triumphed over much of what was wrong with the original document, and observe the anniversary with hopes not realized and promises not fulfilled. I plan to celebrate the bicentennial of the Constitution as a living document, including the Bill of Rights and the other amendments protecting individual freedoms and human rights. He retired in 1991 because of declining health and died in 1993.

2018 - Spring price \$3.96; Harvest price ???
 2017 - Spring price \$3.97; Harvest price \$3.49
 2016 - Spring price \$3.86; Harvest price \$3.49
 2015 - Spring price \$4.15; Harvest price \$3.83
 2014 - Spring price \$4.62; Harvest price \$3.49
 2013 - Spring price \$5.65; Harvest price \$4.39
 2012 - Spring price \$5.68; Harvest price \$7.50
 2011 - Spring price \$6.01; Harvest price \$6.32
 2010 - Spring price \$3.99; Harvest price \$5.52
 2009 - Spring price \$4.04; Harvest price \$3.90
 2008 - Spring price \$5.40; Harvest price \$3.74

Corn Harvested

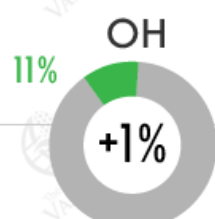
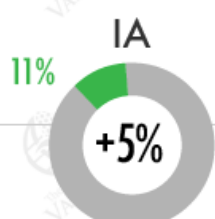
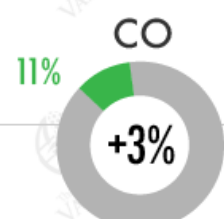
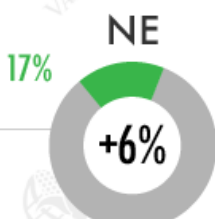
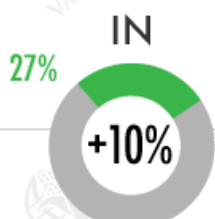
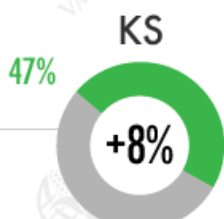
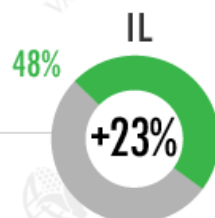
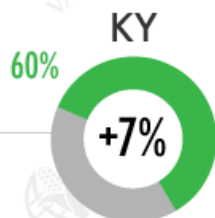
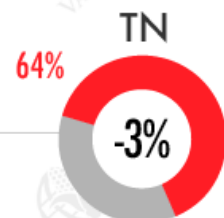
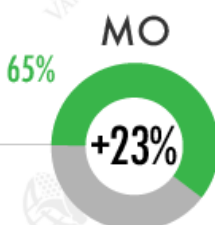
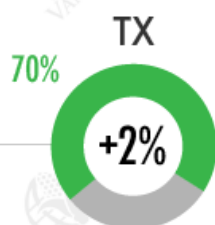
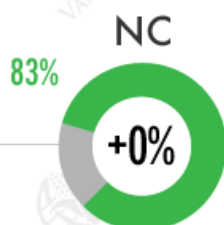
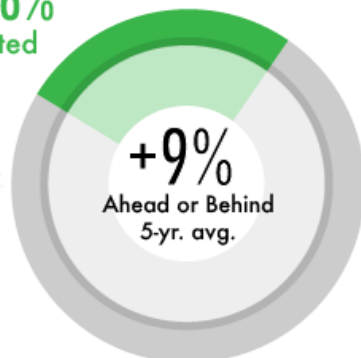
Week 39

week ending September 30, 2018

Source: USDA, NASS Crop Progress

2018 U.S. Corn Harvested

26% Harvested



SD

MI

WI

Upcoming Events

Thur. 10/4 - Export Sales

Fri. 10/5 - Monthly Unemployment

Mon. 10/8 - Columbus Day

Tues. 10/9 - Crop Progress

Thur. 10/11 - USDA Supply and Demand, Crop Production

Fri. 10/12 - Export Sales

Mon. 10/15 - Crop Progress, NOPA Crush

Thur. 10/18 - Export Sales

Fri. 10/19 - Cattle on Feed, Milk Production

Mon. 10/22 - Crop Progress

Thur. 10/25 - Export Sales

Mon. 10/29 - Crop Progress

Wed. 10/31 - Halloween

Thur. 11/1 - Export Sales

Fri. 11/2 - Monthly Unemployment

Sun. 11/4 - Daylight Savings Time Ends (turn clocks back and gain an hour)

Mon. 11/5 - Crop Progress

Tues. 11/6 - Midterm Election

Wed.-Thur. 11/7-11/8 - FOMC Meeting

Thur. 11/8 - Export Sales, USDA Supply and Demand, Crop Production

Mon. 11/12 - Veterans Day; US Markets Open

Tues. 11/13 - Crop Progress

Thur. 11/15 - NOPA Crush

Fri. 11/16 - Export Sales

Mon. 11/19 - Crop Progress, Milk Production

Wed. 11/21 - Cattle on Feed, Cold Storage

Thur. 11/22 - Thanksgiving; US Markets Closed

Fri. 11/23 - Export Sales, Black Friday

Mon. 11/26 - Last Crop Progress, Cyber Monday

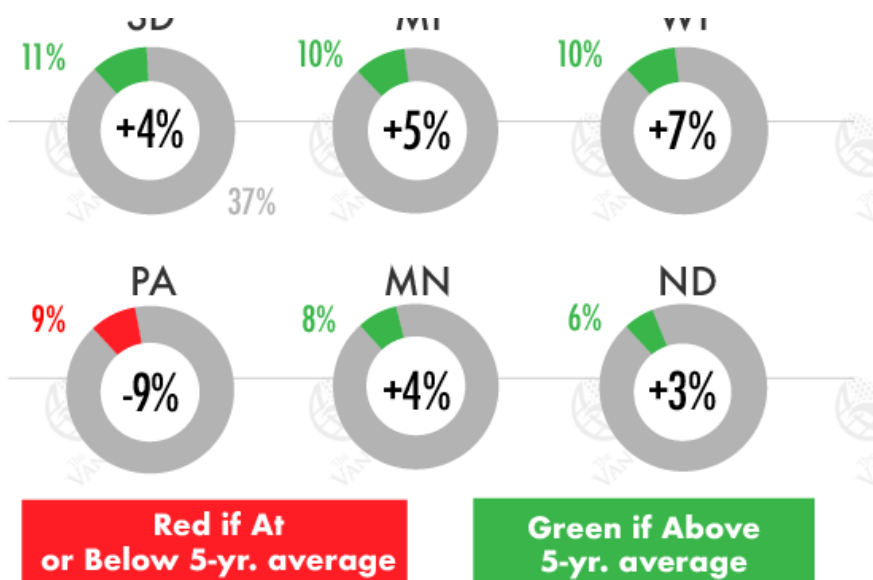
Wed.-Thur. 11/28-11/29 - 2018 Van Trump Conference

Thur. 12/6 - Export Sales

Fri. 12/7 - Monthly Unemployment

Tues. 12/11 - USDA Supply and Demand, Crop Production

Thur. 12/13 - Export Sales



Corn & Soybean Estimates: INTL FCStone is now estimates the 2018 U.S. corn crop at 14.940 billion bushels vs. their September estimate of 14.532 billion. This estimate is +113 million bushels more than the current USDA forecast. FCStone is forecasting the U.S. average yield at 182.7 bushels per acre vs. the USDA's current yield estimate of 181.3 bushels. FCStone is forecasting the U.S. soybean crop at 4.796 billion bushels on an average yield of 54 bushels per acre. The total crop is just slightly higher than the current USDA estimate.



Following

FCStone - 2018 U.S. Crop Estimates

#Corn Yield

IL: 213.0 bpa

IA: 204.0 bpa

NE: 199.0 bpa

IN: 197.0 bpa

OH: 192.0 bpa

#Soybeans Yield

IL: 67.0 bpa

IN: 65.0 bpa

NE: 64.0 bpa

OH: 62.0 bpa

IA: 59.0 bpa



Translate Tweet

3:33 PM - 1 Oct 2018

Mon. 12/17 – NOPA Crush

Thur. 12/20 – Export Sales

Fri. 12/21 – Quarterly Cold Storage, Hogs and Pigs, Monthly Cattle on Feed, Personal Income

Mon. 12/24 – Christmas Eve; Market Closes at Noon CST

Tues. 12/25 – Christmas Day; US Markets Closed

Fri. 12/28 – Export Sales

Kevin's Song of the Week



Kevin's Song of the Week

Soybean bulls are happy to see a deal inked with Canada. Thoughts are it frees up more time and effort to find a compromise with the Chinese. Personally, I'm not sold on the fact we have moved a step closer or improved our positioning with the Chinese by

inking a deal with Canada. The Chinese trade negotiations seem much more complicated. In fact, I heard yesterday, The Chinese have actually canceled a U.S. military meeting that had been scheduled for next week. A few insiders say we ruffled their feathers further by approving the sale of some U.S. military hardware to their neighbors in Taiwan—a move that hasn't historically gone down well with Chinese officials. At the same time, the U.S. imposed sanctions on the Chinese military for buying weapons systems from Russia, which brought about more negative comments from the Chinese government. Lets also keep in mind, just last week, the U.S. flew its B-52 bombers over the disputed South China Sea, which also seemed to fire up the Chinese. Even though I remain optimistic longer-term, thinking a new trade deal will eventually be agreed upon, and be very beneficial to the U.S. farmer, I still think it's going to take more time, meaning the sky might get darker before the sun comes up. Here at home, weekly soybean export inspections were a bit below trade expectations. The USDA left weekly crop-conditions "unchanged" at 68% vs. 60% last year at this stage. The crop remains ahead of pace, with the USDA reporting 83% "dropping leaves" vs. 75% last year. The crop is now 23% harvested vs. 14% last week vs. the 5-year average of 20% on this date. Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Ohio are the states currently running behind schedule. Illinois harvested 18% of their crop last week and is still showing 80% of their crop in "Good-to-Excellent" condition; Iowa is showing 74% rated GD/EX; Nebraska 85% rated GD/EX; and Minnesota 72% rated GD/EX. Weather and Washington remain the driving force...

Harvest Crop Revenue Insurance Guarantees: Remember these prices will update daily during the month of October as the price average is determined.

2018 Fall Harvest Price: Soybeans \$8.57^6

2018 - Spring price \$10.16; Harvest price ???
 2017 - Spring price \$10.19; Harvest price \$9.75
 2016 - Spring price \$8.85; Harvest price \$9.74
 2015 - Spring price \$9.73; Harvest price \$8.91
 2014 - Spring price \$11.36; Harvest price \$9.65
 2013 - Spring price \$12.87; Harvest price \$12.87
 2012 - Spring price \$12.55; Harvest price \$15.39
 2011 - Spring price \$13.49; Harvest price \$12.14
 2010 - Spring price \$9.23; Harvest price \$11.63
 2009 - Spring price \$8.80; Harvest price \$9.66
 2008 - Spring price \$13.36; Harvest price \$9.22

Soybean Harvested

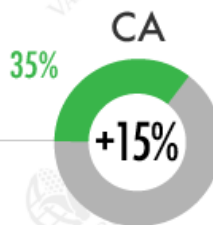
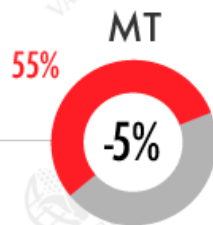
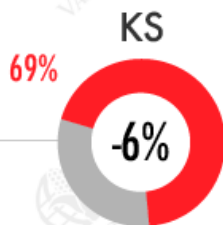
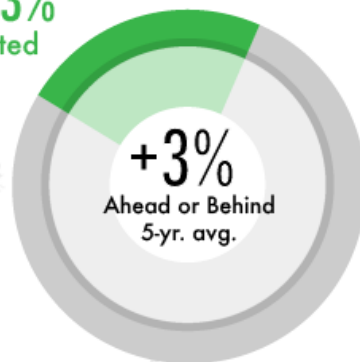
Week 39

week ending September 30, 2018

Source: USDA, NASS Crop Progress

2018 U.S. Soybean Harvested

23% Harvested



NEXT level THINKING



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

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

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

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

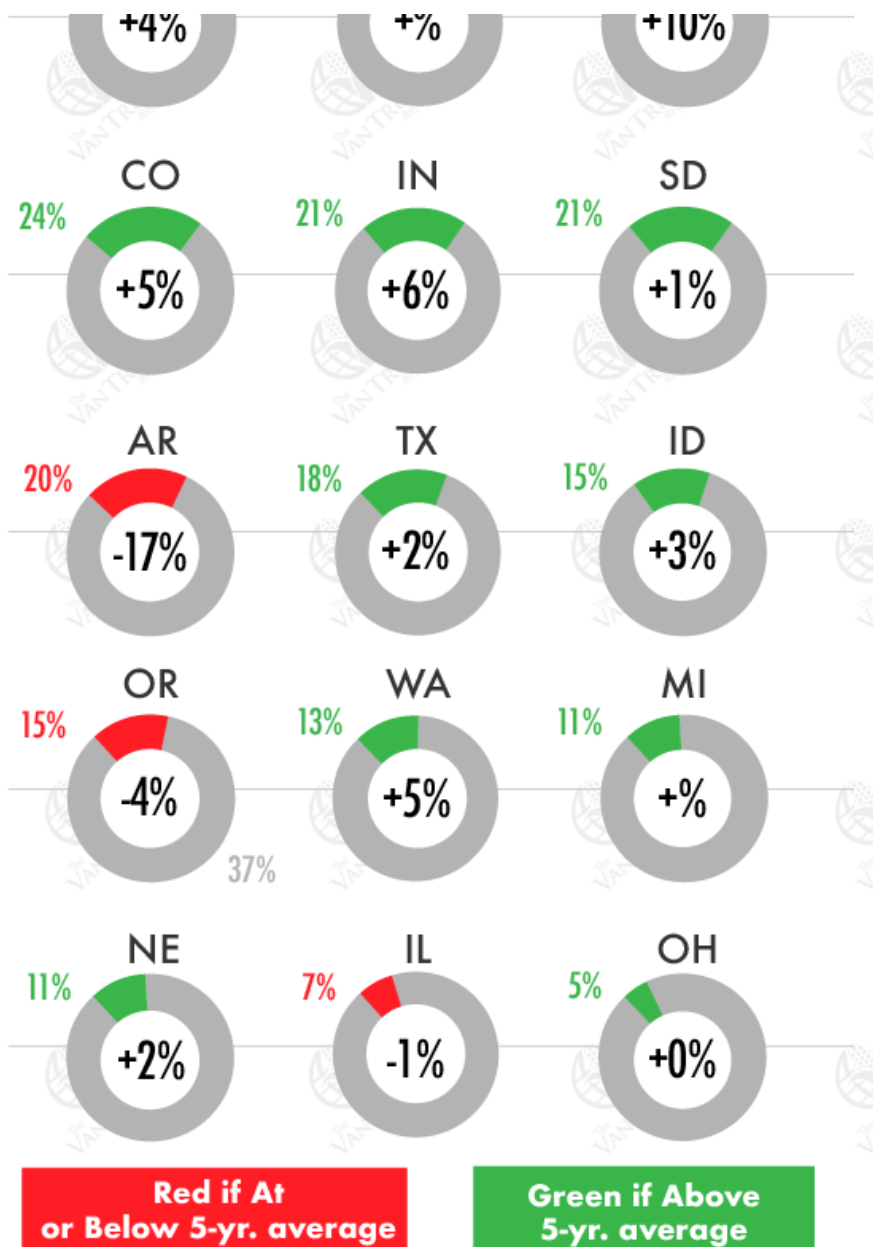
Kevin Van Trump

What Others Are Saying

"I am a recent subscriber to Kevin's newsletter, but I'm a long-time reader of many other high-profile marketing services. I am particularly impressed with the thorough manner in which Kevin evaluates every economic aspect, both nationally and internationally, that influences commodity prices. His analysis and conclusions are highly thought out and conveyed in layman's terms so that the reader can comprehend the numerous and often complex interrelationships that impact the markets. Kevin is a real attribute to the agricultural sector."

A.M., FDIC

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



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.

Wheat struggles to find fresh new headlines. Bulls continue talking about further complications involving the Australian crop. on the flip side, bears are pointing to arguably better moisture in the Black Sea region. Once again, disappointing weekly U.S. export inspections keep the bears engaged and the bulls limited. I also continue to hear more talk from the bears about increasing U.S. wheat acres. I don't disagree, but I'm wondering if the heavier rains in the forecast might lower some of those estimates. The USDA is currently estimating that 43% of U.S. winter wheat is now "planted" vs. the 5-year average of 40% planted by this date. The crop is estimated to be 14% "emerged" which is right in line with the 5-year average. States where planting is estimated to be running behind schedule include: Arkansas; Michigan; Montana; Nebraska; North Carolina; Ohio. I remain a longer-term bull and continue to hold a small conservative spec position. As a producer, I was an aggressive seller on the early rallies and am now content playing the waiting game. In absolutely no hurry with this market... I believe there's going to be another significant leg higher, we just have to give it time. I also remain intrigued by the escalating geopolitical tensions in the Black Sea region.

Winter Wheat Planted

2018 U.S. Winter Wheat Planted Percentage

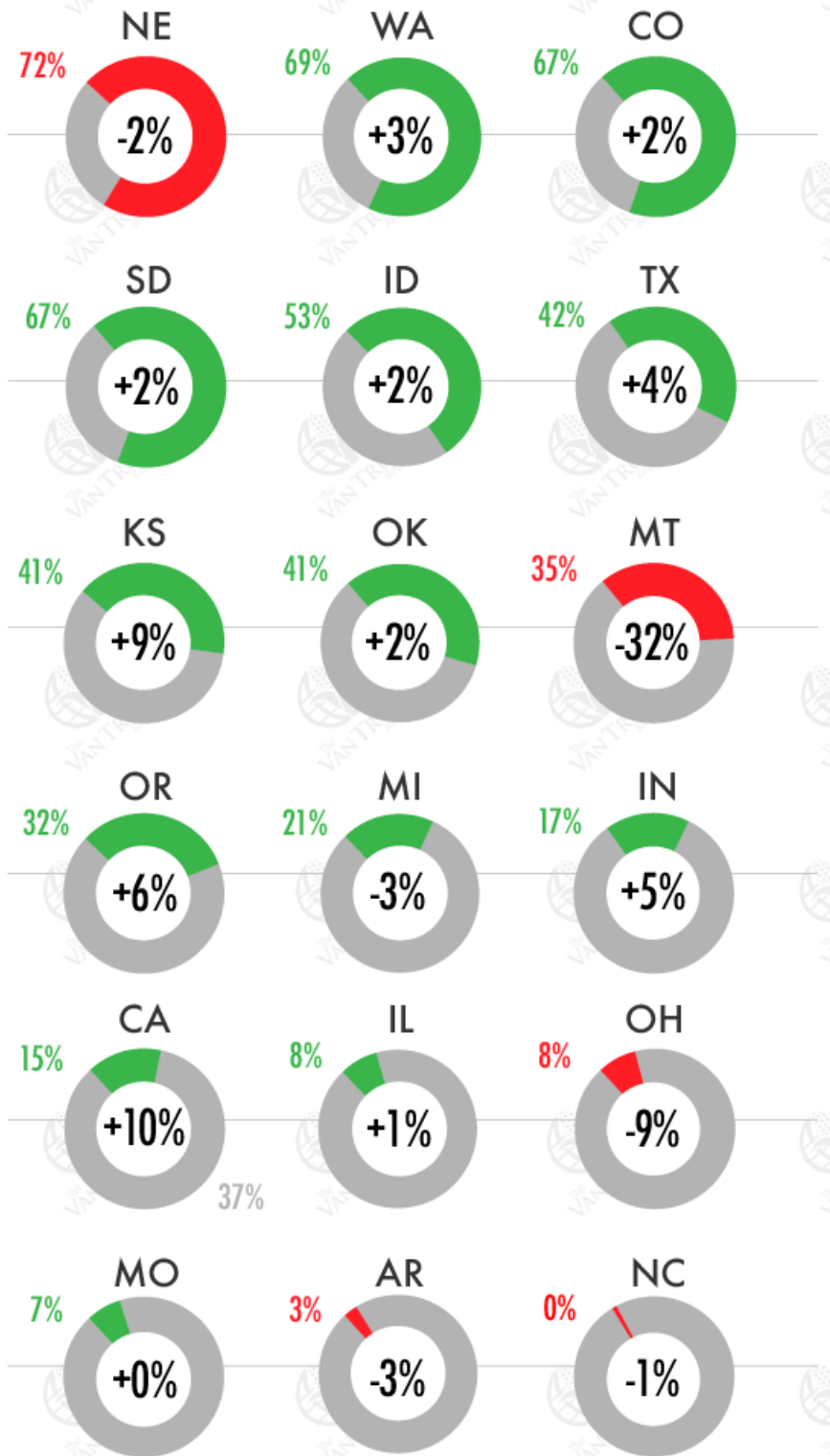
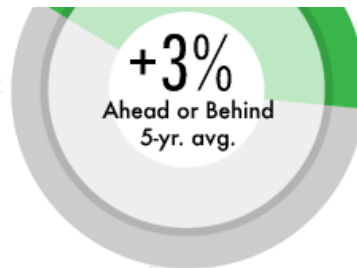
43%
Planted



Week 39

week ending September 30, 2018

Source: USDA, NASS Crop Progress



Red if Below
5-yr. average

Green if At or Above
5-yr. average

Farm Direction RECIPES

★ FAMILY FAVORITES ★

-SENT IN BY OUR READERS-



Cinnamon Baked
Doughnuts

[CLICK TO SEE RECIPE](#)



> **Cotton Harvest Update:** Cotton harvest is moving as fast as it can (19% complete) as many have been chased out of the field with recent rains. Texas has managed to increase harvested acres to 25%, a two-point rise over last week. At this point, we are still ahead of yearly averages.

> **Brazil Soybean Crop Raised by INTL FCStone:** Brazil is expected to increase soybean production by 170,000 MMT from last months projections, ending at 119.34 MMT according to INTL FCStone. From what I understand, Brazil should export 71.50 MMT in 2018-19, with China continuing to buy from the South American country as the ongoing trade war continues

> **Farm Bill Has Some Orphaned Programs:** While most of the big-ticket items in the farm bill continue right along even without the law being reauthorized, there are nearly 40 so-called orphan programs which no longer have funding as of today. Despite Perdue's pledge that USDA will work within its authorities to do what it can, it's not clear exactly what will happen to each program. Orphan programs span a wide range of initiatives, from providing support for beginning producers and organic research to assistance for veteran and socially disadvantaged farmers. (Source: Politico)

> **Russian Hog Producers Struggle With ASF:** Russia's pork industry is being hampered by African Swine Fever (ASF) as outbreaks of the virus are preventing producers from exporting more to lucrative Asian markets and leaving them with falling prices at home, industry experts say. Russia first reported ASF in 2007 and has registered more than 1,300 cases since then as the highly contagious hemorrhagic disease of pigs has spread from the southern Caucasus region to the country's northwest region and Siberia in the east. (Source: Reuters)

> **Taiwan Increases U.S. Soybean Purchases by 37%:** Officials from Taiwan and the Iowa Soybean Association gathered in the Iowa Capitol today for a ceremony to celebrate Taiwan's agreement to buy \$1.5 billion worth of U.S. soybeans over the next 24 months. "Today's announcement by our Taiwanese trading partners to increase purchases of U.S. soybeans is welcome news," said Iowa Soybean Association president-elect Tim Bardole of Rippey. "As an Iowa soybean farmer, I can say firsthand that we need some good news." (Source: radioiowa)

> **Ethanol Used for Fuel in India at All-Time High:** The volume of ethanol blended with gasoline has reached an all-time high in India, but continues to lag goals, the US Department of Agriculture said Monday. I'm told ethanol consumption for fuel use is poised to reach 1.25 billion liters in 2018, thanks to the governments allowance of a new feed stock, the highest volume on record, according to the USDA's annual report on biofuels in India. From what I understand, blend rates could spike as high as 3.2% but will fall well short of the governmental targets at 10%.

> **Instagram's New Boss:** As expected, Adam Mosseri, Instagram's current VP of product and a former high-ranking product exec at Facebook, is taking over as "Head of Instagram." Mosseri ran Facebook's News Feed for years, which is arguably the most important single product that Facebook offers today. He also ran Facebook Home, which was the company's failed effort to create a mobile home screen for Android phones back in 2013. Sounds like Zuckerberg made the possible choice he thought was fit.

> **Google's New Easter Egg Game:** Google's newest Easter egg is a text adventure hidden away in Chrome's development console. It apparently takes around half an hour to an hour to complete. To launch the game Google search for "text adventure" in Chrome. Then, hit Cmd+Option+J for Mac users or Control+Shift+PC for PC users. A console window will then open with the following prompt: "Would you like to play a game? (yes/no)". Click yes to start playing.

> **New Ferrari Supercar Has No Windshield or Roof:** Ferrari just unveiled its new sports cars, Monza SP1 and SP2, that has no roof or windshield. Ferrari developed a new technology called the "Virtual Wind Shield" that allows air to shoot up just in front of the driver behind the steering wheel. The car is also supposed to have the most powerful engine the company has built. The new models can go from 0 to 60 mph in 2.9 seconds and 0 to 124 mph in 7.9 seconds. As many as 499 of these cars will be made and each will cost around \$1.75 million.

> Amazon Free Ad-Supported Video Service: Amazon is expected to announce a free ad-supported video service supported on Fire TV this week, which will feature past TV shows and movies. This will be available to all Fire TV users and not just Amazon Prime Video users. It's expected this move could help Amazon capture revenue from the TV advertising market, which is expected to generate almost \$70 billion in revenue in the U.S. this year alone. I suspect this will start to hurt The Roku Channel, Hulu, and Netflix as well.

> White Walker by Johnnie Walker: Scotch maker Johnnie Walker is launching single malt scotch whiskey collection inspired by the White Walkers of HBO's hit series Game of Thrones. This is a limited-edition whiskey with notes of caramelized sugar, vanilla, fresh red berries, and a touch of orchard fruit. The bottles will be priced between \$29.99 and \$64.99 depending on the age and reserve.

> High-End Collector Car Market Continues to Soften: We have all heard the astronomical prices that high-end collector cars have gone for in the past few years. The latest darling of the car auction world: a 1962 Ferrari 250 GTO that Sotheby's sold at Monterey for \$48.4 million was a new record for a car at auction. However, these figure mask an underly softness in classic car market. According to analysis by CarGurus, all cars 25 years old or older rose in price more than 60% in the past three year, but just 2.9% in the past year. The Historical Automobile Group Index is up just 0.05% so far in 2018. The S&P 500 is up 8.5% year-to-date. I think the speculators, have moved on to something else, so the cool down is not surprising. (Source: Fortune)

> Rocketman Trailer Released: Paramount Pictures released the first trailer for "Rocketman," which is a new movie being produced based on the life of Elton John that will hit theaters May 31, 2019. Kingsman's Taron Egerton will take on the lead role for the film playing Elton John. Click [HERE](#) to watch the trailer.

> Chinese President Tours Farms, Channels Mao: In what many are saying is a page right out of Mao Zedong's playbook, Chinese President Xi Jinping last week visited farms in northeastern China, where he held up stalks of wheat and made small talk with farmers. According to the New York Times, in one photo, Xi is shown under an idyllic blue sky, confidently stepping forward while an adoring crowd of farmers looks on. Mao was a master of propaganda in rural settings, using images and songs to highlights his concern for the common worker and to cultivate a paternalistic, caring image. (Source: [New York Times](#))



Northeast Iowa – Depending on where you live in Iowa we are going to expect about 2.5 – 4 inches of rain in September. I would say that's a very consistent number most years. We got close to 425% on the high end of that number, which is almost 17 inches. All the creeks, ponds, rivers etc. are blown out of there banks and I would say there's little to no chance of harvest in the next 2 weeks if this rain stops today. The crazy part about our situation is we have rain chances nearly every day for the next 10 days. If this rain continues for more then 3 days, maybe 5 days we are shut down for the balance of the month. I have never seen this much water sitting in the field. Every single field that has in low areas is completely under water and we have beans laying down all over the place. We have very little corn and soybeans harvested so far on our farm.

Southwest Minnesota – I wanted to write in and confirm that what the other guy in Minnesota said is correct. The USDA has us way over inflated because I have harvested a decent chunk of both corn and soybeans. We are about 15 bushels less then last year on our soybeans. Our corn is about 50 bushels less on average then last year. We are at a stand still now because of rain so I'm guessing that we are going to lose a few bushels every week that this soybeans delay continues. We aren't getting small rain delays, we are getting several inches at a clip. We got hit with 5 inches last week alone. This has been a long, rough harvest to say the least.

Central Missouri – We are on standby waiting to see if we miss the rain tonight. If we don't get any rain, then we will jump back in the corn and knock some acres on corn. We are going to be close to 90 degrees 2 days this week and 2 days over 80 so we are going to dry down quickly if we do get rain. The corn is making close to 100 bushels which is about 40 bushels below our APH and our beans are making 45-50 which is a few bushels better than our APH. We are happy to get the extra bushels because I'm hearing guys that are getting jammed up by not getting the \$1.65 payment because they are not producing much, and they are going to get minimum payment because we have 75% insurance and yield is good enough that we are only going to get minimum payment on that front. They are getting hit by government payment, insurance payment and price so we feel lucky that we are not in that group.



Greener Grazing Could Go Commercial in Two Years: *The concept of reducing livestock emissions by using seaweed as feed is the subject of ongoing scientific research, and early results are promising. University of California researchers have found that cows that eat seaweed appear to emit less methane. But one of the big challenges to implementing the seaweed solution is getting enough of the stuff to farmers, and the kind of seaweed that has shown results in cows isn't commercially farmed. Enter Australis Aquaculture of Greenfield, Massachusetts, which is in the midst of research at facilities in Vietnam and Portugal that is part of its push to become the first farm to produce the seaweed at commercial scale. The company calls the effort "Greener Grazing" and it expects to be operating at commercial scale in two years, said Josh Goldman, the company's chief executive officer. Read more [HERE](#) about how you could one day grow seaweed on your farm.*

Internet Founder Seeking to Decentralize His Innovation: *The internet is not what its founder, Tim Berners-Lee, wanted it to be. The open resource that everyone can see and interact with, purchase things, connect and innovate on has turned into a bastion of unwanted control and manipulation of our data. I'm told Berner and his team at MIT have been developing a decentralized platform or a Solid POD, a Personal Online Data storage system, designed to give every internet user full control over their data: Solid (Social Linked Data). This week he is revealing the first start-up to take advantage of the Solid platform, called Inrupt. Berners-Lee and his partner John Bruce will lead a small team of inspired developers to take the power back from the internet giants. Personally, I believe the idea has merit but will have a hard time overcoming the economic issues companies would face adopting the platform. Read more [HERE](#).*

E-Commerce Startup Vroom Is Changing the Used Car Buying Experience: *The stereotypical used car salesman and by extension, the entire customer experience, seems untrustworthy, disingenuous, and downright slimy. The new e-commerce startup Vroom, which focuses on selling high-end used cars, is trying to restore trust in used cars by taking the salesperson out of the picture entirely—and reframing the experience with a punchy, irreverent identity. The six-year-old company's new brand identity, courtesy of Pentagram, aims to transform the image most of us have of buying a used car into something a little more fun and glamorous. And in doing so, it subtly nods at some of the most successful car branding in the world, including Corvette and VW. Read more about how Vroom is overcoming the reservations of buying a used car [HERE](#).*

How You Can Improve Your Kids Cognition: *Cutting back on screen time, along with the right amount of sleep and physical activity, is linked to improvements in cognition among children, a study suggests. The observational study analyzed data from a broader study funded by the National Institutes of Health, focusing on 4,500 children between the ages of 8 and 11. Researchers then compared time spent on screens, sleeping, and engaged in physical activity from that study against the Canadian 24-hour Movement Guidelines, created by the Canadian Society for Exercise Physiology to advise how kids should spend their time in a given day. The study associates kids who met the guidelines — which include 9 to 11 hours of sleep, at least one hour of physical activity, and less than two hours on screens — with improvements in cognition. Once again, I would suggest, it isn't the phone or ipad itself that causes issues, rather the unbalanced use of them that cuts into a healthier lifestyle. Read more [HERE](#).*

Find Your Ideal Sleep Routine: *When it comes to health and productivity, it's not just about what you do — eating right, exercising, and working hard — it's also about when you do it. Chronobiology is the study of internal clocks, how they differ among people, and how you can adjust your daily schedule to suit your unique biological rhythm. Each person's rhythm, or chronotype, is different. According to psychologist and sleep specialist Dr. Michael Breus, there are four chronotypes, which he labels dolphins, lions, bears, and wolves. Roughly half the population is made up of bears; the rest is split among dolphins, lions, and wolves. Breus' website includes a [diagnostic quiz](#) readers can take to try to identify their chronotype. In Breus' book "The Power of When," he outlines the ideal daily routine for each chronotype. Below, you'll find the highlights of those schedules. Click the graphic for a larger view. (Source: Business Insider)*

THE IDEAL SLEEP ROUTINE FOR EVERY TYPE OF PERSON

According to psychologist and sleep specialist Dr. Michael Breus, there are four different **chronotypes**, or a person's internal clock and rhythm. He labels them as the following animals:

DOLPHIN



Dolphins are light sleepers, who are often diagnosed with insomnia.

6:30 a.m.
Wake up and exercise.

7:30 a.m.
Eat breakfast.

9:30 a.m.
Have coffee.

10 a.m.–12 p.m.
Brainstorm and work on creative projects.

12 p.m.
Eat lunch.

1–4 p.m.
Walk around the block if you're feeling tired.

4–6 p.m.
Work on intellectually demanding tasks. Send professional emails.

6 p.m.
Meditate or do yoga.

6:30–8 p.m.
Eat dinner.

10:30–11:30 p.m.
Turn off all screens. Take a hot shower/bath. Read a novel.

11:30 p.m.
Go to sleep.

LION



Lions tend to wake up early with lots of energy. By early evening, they're exhausted.

5:30 a.m.
Wake up and eat breakfast.

6–7 a.m.
Do planning and big-picture thinking. Meditate.

9–10 a.m.
Have coffee.

10 a.m.–12 p.m.
Hold meetings.

12 p.m.
Eat lunch.

1–5 p.m.
Brainstorm and journal.

5–6 p.m.
Exercise.

6–7 p.m.
Eat dinner.

10 p.m.
Turn off all screens.

10:30 p.m.
Go to sleep.

BEAR



Bears' internal clocks track the rise & fall of the sun. They need a full 8 hours of sleep a night.

7 a.m.
Wake up and do a few minutes of exercise.

7:30 a.m.
Eat breakfast.

9–10 a.m.
Plan your day.

10 a.m.
Have coffee.

10 a.m.–12 p.m.
Work on difficult tasks. Send professional emails.

12 p.m.
Take a walk, eat lunch, and take another walk.

2:30–2:50 p.m.
Nap or meditate.

3–6 p.m.
Make phone calls and send emails.

6–7 p.m.
Exercise.

7:30 p.m.
Eat dinner.

8–10 p.m.
Brainstorm.

10 p.m.
Turn off all screens.

11 p.m.
Go to sleep.

WOLF



Wolves have a hard time waking up early and are most energetic in the evenings.

7–7:30 a.m.
Wake up with two alarms. Jot down your thoughts.

7:30 a.m.
Eat breakfast.

8:30 a.m.
Do a few minutes of outdoor exercise.

9 a.m.
Plan your day.

11 a.m.–1 p.m.
Have coffee. Take care of busywork.

1 p.m.
Take a walk and eat lunch.

4–6 p.m.
Hold meetings and present your ideas to coworkers.

6–7 p.m.
Exercise.

8 p.m.
Eat dinner.

11 p.m.
Turn off all screens. Meditate. Take a hot shower.

12 a.m.
Go to sleep.

SOURCE: Dr. Michael Breus, "The Power of When"

BUSINESS INSIDER



Interesting History... How Long Have Farmers Been Growing Rice???

With the U.S. rice harvest well underway and in many place now complete, I thought it would be interesting to look back in history...way back! I also included some old pics below from U.S. rice harvest. An archaeological dig in China has uncovered evidence that shows humans have been farming domesticated rice for around 9,000 years. A researcher from the University of Toronto Mississauga named Gary Crawford worked alongside a team of from Zhejiang Province in making the discovery of ancient domesticated rice being cultivated for human consumption. Understand that while rice today is one of the most crucial grains in our global economy, at one time it was simply a wild plant. The ancient rice fragments were found in the lower Yangtze valley, and indicate to the researcher on hand that rice domestication had been going on for quite some time. Around three years of concentrated exploration of the 10-acre dig site located around 325 feet above sea level in a flat basin were all that was needed for the team to make their conclusions. In addition to the rice remains, the archaeologists found a trove of artifacts such as animal bones, stone tools, charcoal and examples of advanced, sophisticated pottery discovered around 5 feet below the surface. This is not the first time Crawford has conducted research into China's early agriculture. he has long studied the ancient animal and plant management efforts trying to understand how and why prehistoric humans transitioned to an agrarian lifestyle in lieu of a more nomadic one focused on foraging and hunting. Something pushed individuals living in these regions away from hunting and instead into farming in a major way, and Crawford and other researchers want to find out exactly what drove these people to

make such fundamental shifts in their behavior. Of course, the discovery of this early example of rice domestication represents the initial stages of that fundamental shift towards sustainability. I find these topics extremely interesting. If you would like to read more about this discovery, you can check out the the findings published recently in Scientific Reports, an online open-access journal from the publishers of Nature. (Source: [Eureka Alert](#))



Rice harvest on the Dave Thomas farm near Eagle Lake.
— Courtesy Mrs. R. L. Cook

New Presidential Limo Unveiled

President Trump is now rolling in a new Cadillac limousine. This is actually the first major redesign of the presidential state car since 2009. At least two of the limos were

spotted in New York a few weeks ago, and they are the first of about a dozen that are expected to be built by General Motors. As before, the limo is designed to look like a sedan but is actually a heavily armored vehicle built on a truck chassis. Details are top secret, but its large wheels tip their hubs to its heavy underpinnings. A photo of President Trump about to enter the limo posted to Twitter by the White House social media director revealed the new look and five-passenger rear compartment, which is reportedly equipped with its own oxygen supply in case of a chemical or biological attack. Other security features are rumored to include protection against ballistics and explosives, built-in tear gas launchers and an emergency medical suite equipped with an adequate supply of the president's own blood type. Below are some interesting and fun facts about the Presidential limo: (Source: Jalopnik, Detroit Free Press)



Early History - President William Howard Taft's purchase of four cars and the conversion of the White House stables into a garage seems to be where it all started. According to the United States Secret Service, it was customary for them to follow the presidential horse-and-buggy on foot, but that with the popularization of the automobile, the Secret Service purchased a 1907 White Motor Company steam car to follow President Theodore Roosevelt's horse-drawn carriage. In fact, Presidents rode in stock, "unmodified" cars until President Franklin D. Roosevelt's administration bought the Sunshine Special, the first presidential state car to be built to Secret Service standards. Until the assassination of John F. Kennedy, presidential state cars frequently allowed the president to ride uncovered and exposed to the public. President Kennedy's assassination began a progression of increasingly armored and sealed cars. Taft was the president who saw the world was going mechanical, and understandably converted the White House stables into a garage for the cars that congress had granted him. The first official car of state was a steam car, specifically a White Motor Company Model M Steamer, which is pictured below.



FDR's Sunshine Special - In 1939, President Franklin D. Roosevelt received a Lincoln Motor Company V12 convertible, called the "Sunshine Special". The Sunshine Special (so named because the top was frequently open) became the president's best-known automobile, the very first to be built to Secret Service specifications. Built on the chassis of the Lincoln K-series, the Sunshine Special has a 160-inch wheelbase, room for 10 passengers, rear doors hinged backwards, heavy-duty suspension, two side-mounted spare tires, and standing platforms attached to the exterior to accommodate Secret Service agents. The Sunshine Special underwent two sets of modifications. Firstly in 1941 the car's top was lowered 3 inches out of aesthetic concerns. Then, in 1942 after the attack on Pearl Harbor, the car underwent the addition of armor, 1-inch-thick bulletproof glass, "metal-clad flat-proof inner tubes, a radio transceiver, a siren, red warning lights, and a compartment for submachine guns." After the second set of modifications, the car weighed 9,300 pounds and was 6 feet longer.



Al Capone - Once Al Capone was busted for tax evasion, and dying of syphilis in Alcatraz, he had little use for his armored 1928 Cadillac V8 Town Sedan. Naturally, and after the attack on Pearl Harbor, it was put to government service protecting the President, primarily FDR.



Harry S. Truman - Legend has it that Truman held a grudge with General Motors because they would not give him use of their cars during his run for the 1948 presidential election; thusly, he chose Lincoln for the presidential state car. The White House leased ten Lincoln Cosmopolitans. The cars were modified by coachbuilder Henney Motor Company, while Hess and Eisenhardt provided extra security features, with extra headroom to accommodate the tall silk hats popular at the time, and were painted black. Nine of the automobiles had enclosed bodies, while the tenth was an armored convertible especially for President Truman. The tenth Cosmopolitan was 20 feet long, 6.5 feet wide, and weighed 6,500 pounds, 1,700 pounds heavier than a stock Cosmopolitan. All ten cars were outfitted with 152-horsepower V8 engines "with heavy-duty Hydra-Matic transmissions." In 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower had the Cosmopolitan convertible fitted with a Plexiglas roof that became known as the "Bubble-top"; it remained in presidential service until 1965.



JFK - In 1961, President John F. Kennedy accepted a modified, dark blue, 1961 Lincoln Continental that cost almost US\$200,000 (equivalent to about \$1.65 million in 2018). Assigned the Secret Service code name of X-100, it was the most sophisticated presidential state car yet built. The car included a "heavy-duty heater and air conditioner, a pair of radiotelephones, a fire extinguisher, a first-aid kit, and a siren." The exterior featured improved, retractable standing platforms and handles for Secret Service agents, and flashing red lights recessed into the bumper. Unique to the X-100 were three sets of removable roofs (a standard soft top, a lightweight metal one, and a transparent plastic one) and a hydraulic lift that raised the rear cushion 10 1/2 inches off the floor. Both of these feature sets were designed to make the president more visible to the public. Unfortunately, they were also contributors in the assassination of John F. Kennedy. After the Kennedy assassination, the X-100 was redesigned for an estimated cost of \$500,000. The redesigned X-100 was painted black and featured "improved telecommunications gear, a more powerful engine and flat-proof tires made of rubber-coated aluminum." The fuel tank was protected against explosion by a "porous foam matrix" that minimized spillage in the event of a puncture. The passenger compartment was protected by 1,600 pounds of armor, and the three removable roofs were replaced by a fixed glass enclosure that cost more than \$125,000. The glass enclosure was made of thirteen different pieces of bulletproof glass (ranging in thickness from 1 to 1 13/16 inches and was then the largest piece of curved bulletproof glass ever made. In 1967, the X-100 was modified again with an upgraded air conditioning system, an openable rear-door window, and structural enhancement to the rear deck. Despite successive presidential state cars being built and delivered to the White House, the X-100 continued to be occasionally used by Presidents Lyndon B. Johnson, Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford, and Jimmy Carter until it was retired from service in early 1977.



Ford & Reagan - A modified, 22-foot 13,000-pound 1972 Lincoln Continental was delivered to the White House in 1974. The six-passenger limousine was leased from the Ford Motor Company and featured a 460-cubic-inch, 214-horsepower V8 engine. The fully loaded automobile also had external microphones to allow occupants to hear outside noises, full armor plate, bulletproof glass, and racks for the Secret Service to store submachine guns. This presidential state car was the vehicle in which President Gerald Ford was shot at by Sara Jane Moore, and which transported President Ronald Reagan to the hospital after the attempt on his life in 1981.



The Move To A Cadillac - A 1983 Cadillac was selected as the Presidential limo and delivered on January 30, 1984. The Presidential Cadillac Fleetwood was 17 inches longer and 3 inches taller than the stock Fleetwood. It featured armor and bulletproof glass (2 3/8 inches thick, and was described as "distinctively styled, with a raised roof and a large rear greenhouse. To deal with the added weight of the armor, the car had oversized wheels and tires, heavy-duty brakes, and an automatic leveling system.



Bush Sr. - *In 1989 President Bush Sr. went back to a Lincoln Town Car.*



Clinton & Bush - *President Bill Clinton chose to go with a Cadillac Fleetwood Brougham. President Bush Jr. also stayed with the Cadillac, but upgraded to the Cadillac DTS (DeVille Touring Sedan).*



Obama's Limo - *The 2009 Presidential limo model had rocket-propelled grenades, night vision optics, a tear gas cannon, onboard oxygen tanks, an armored fuel tank filled with foam to prevent explosion, pump-action shotguns, and 2 US pints of blood in the president's blood type. The car could also fire "multi-spectrum infrared smoke grenades as a counter-measure to a rocket-propelled grenade attack or anti-tank missiles." The car featured 8-inch-thick doors. General Motors spokeswoman Joanne K. Krell said of the presidential state car, "The presidential vehicle is built to precise and special specifications, undergoes extreme testing and development, and also incorporates many of the top aspects of Cadillac's 'regular' cars -- such as signature design, hand-cut-and-sewn interiors, etc... starting in*

2009 all state cars were built with 5-inch (130 mm)-thick bulletproof glass and were hermetically sealed with their own environmental system. The doors had no keyholes; the way to open the passenger doors on the limousine is a secret known only to the Secret Service. The only window that goes down is the drivers.



The 8-inch thick armored doors are as heavy as a 757 cabin door.

Rod Stewarts Somewhat Unusual Path To Success

Rod Stewart dropped out of school at age 15 and worked briefly as a silk screen printer as he tried to become a professional soccer player. He was encouraged by his father, to pursue a professional career in soccer. In the summer 1960, Stewart was invited to try out for the Brentford Football Club. Contrary to some longstanding accounts, Stewart states in his 2012 autobiography, he was never signed to the club and that the club never called him back after his tryout. He said he was good, but obviously not that good. In any case, regarding possible career options, Stewart concluded, "A musician's life seems a lot easier and I can also drink while making music, and I can't do that while playing football. I plumped for music ... They're the only two things I can do: play football and sing a bit." He actually began his career to stardom as a banjo and harmonica-playing backup. Stewart struggled for about 10-years before amercing it big. In fact, it was on this day back in 1971 that Rod Stewart's "Maggie May" became his first number one single. Since then, this massive pop icon has sold over +40 million albums and realized over 35 pop chart hits. Interestingly, "Maggie May" was a last-minute addition to the album "Every Picture Tells a Story" and was originally released as the "B" side to the single "Reason To Believe." Soon, however, radio programmers began flipping "Reason To Believe" in favor of "Maggie May," the possibly autobiographical tale of a young man reflecting wistfully on the end of a love affair with an older woman. Stewarts next #1 single came in 1977 with the release of "Tonight's the Night Gonna Be Alright". In 1994, Stewart staged the largest free rock concert in history when he performed in front of 3.5 million people in Rio de Janeiro. Rod Stewart is now 73 years of age and still selling out concerts! I included below a video of Rod Stewart singing "Maggie May" back in 2013, he doesn't look to bad for being 68 years old in that video... Click [HERE](#) (Source: Wiki; History)

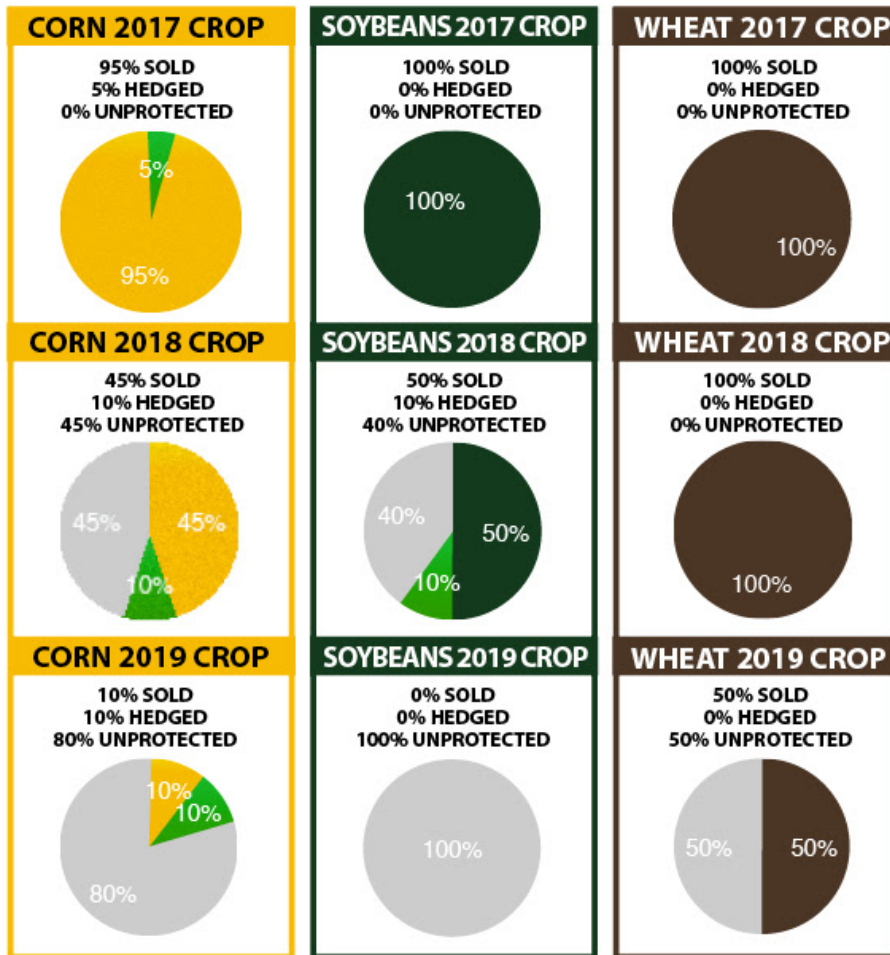


ANSWER to riddle:

A die (dice)

CASH SALES & HEDGING TOTALS

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