

## GOOD MORNING: 10/16/18 Farm Direction - Van Trump Report

2 messages

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Tue, Oct 16, 2018 at 6:25 AM



*"If people knew how hard I had to work to gain my mastery, it would not seem so wonderful at all."* —Michelangelo

FYI... The Conference in Kansas City on November 28th and 29th is almost full. If you planned on attending you need to reserve your spot within the next few days. Find out more information and details by clicking [HERE](#)

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2018**

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

**Morning Summary:** Stocks are poised to open higher as the bulls try and regain their footing. Traders are extremely anxious to see Netflix's Q3 earnings, which are scheduled to be released just after the closing bell. There's talk that if Netflix reports well, many of the momentum type technology stocks could quickly regain their swagger... If you recall, it was just last quarter that Netflix disappointed the trade by missing its subscriber addition projections for the first time in five quarters. Last quarter they added +674,000 new domestic subscribers vs. what the trade was thinking would be closer to 1.23 million new domestic subscribers. New subscribers internationally were reported at +4.47 million vs. the trade looking for +5.11 million new subscribers. The obvious worry is that Netflix and other high flyers can not sustain their growth trajectories. Last time, following the release and miss of the numbers, the stock fell immediately by almost -15%. A second big miss in a row could certainly spill over into other areas, so pay close attention. Also adding to recent "uncertainty" is the death of Washington Post journalist and U.S. resident Jamal Khashoggi. From what I understand, Khashoggi was last seen entering the Saudi consulate in Istanbul, Turkey. Saudi authorities had maintained Khashoggi left the consulate the same afternoon on his own accord. Now reports are circulating that the Saudi's may have killed Khashoggi during an interrogation. This fallout is creating a huge diplomatic rift between Saudi Arabia and the West. This is also now sparking bigger controversy between Saudi Arabia and Turkey. President Trump has sent Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to Riyadh to meet with the Saudi King Salman. Keep in mind, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin is scheduled to be in Saudi Arabia next week for an a financial conference and economic summit. I suspect markets would react negatively to a canceled visit by Mnuchin. I heard that Blackstone's Stephen Schwarzman, BlackRock's Larry Fink, JP Morgan's Jamie Dimon, and Ford Chairman Bill Ford have all already pulled out of the conference and canceled their trips to Saudi Arabia. This is obviously a potential "powder-keg" so pay close attention. Here at home, traders are chewing on the latest Federal deficit numbers, which were released yesterday and jumped to a whopping \$779 billion, +\$113 billion or +17% higher than the previous fiscal period. This has many in the trade concerned over the future interest repayments which have increased +24%, from \$263 billion in 2017 to \$325 billion in 2018. Keep in mind, the U.S. government has been able to borrow very cheaply during the last several years, but with rates moving higher, the government will undoubtedly be forced to spend more on interest repayments and perhaps less on everything else, which brings about some questions?. In economic news, traders will be digesting today's updated Industrial Production numbers, JOLTS job openings, and the NAHB Housing Market Index. Wednesday will bring the latest Fed "minutes" and a wave of updated U.S. housing data, including mortgage applications housing starts and building permits. As I mentioned earlier, Netflix's earnings release this afternoon is much anticipated. Also reporting today will be Goldman Sachs, Morgan Stanley, BlackRock, IBM, Dominoes, J.B. Hunt, Johnson and Johnson, CSX, United Health, and Grainger. Later in the week, we will see Pay-Pal, Procter & Gamble, Bank of America, Phillip Morris, Schlumberger, United Rentals, Danaher, and United Airlines.

**Microsoft Co-founder, Seahawks, and Trail Blazers Owner Dead at 65:** *Paul Allen, computer programmer who founded the software behemoth Microsoft with*

Bill Gates when he was 22 and walked away eight years later with what would become one of the largest fortunes in the history of American capitalism, died Monday in Seattle at the age of 65. Allen was also the owner of the NFL's Seattle Seahawks since 1997 and the NBA's Portland Trail Blazers since 1988. He's also the co-owner of the MLS' Seattle Sounders FC. Allen was also known for his love of music. His love of Jimi Hendrix prompted him to start playing guitar. In 1995, Allen even loaned money to Hendrix's family during a legal battle to regain rights to the guitarist's image and music. He also funded a \$100 million museum for music and pop culture in Seattle, now called the Museum of Pop Culture. Like his parents, Allen was also a voracious reader. Over the course several decades, Allen gave more than \$2 billion to a wide range of interests, including, homelessness, ocean health, and advancing scientific research. Allen owned one of the most desirable properties in California, a 120-acre parcel on a hilltop in ritzy Beverly Crest that is on the market for \$150 million, he bought the property for \$20 million in 1997. His estimated net-worth is now estimated at over +\$20 billion, which ranked him as the 21st wealthiest person in the world this year. Allen was a sophomore at Lakeside School when he met Gates, who was two years younger, and they quickly bonded over their mutual fascination with the then-emerging world of computers. Allen's sister, Jody Allen, wrote in a statement: "My brother was a remarkable individual on every level. While most knew Paul Allen as a technologist and philanthropist, for us he was a much loved brother and uncle, and an exceptional friend." Below is a pic from 1978, featuring the original crew at Microsoft. Bottom left is Bill Gates and bottom right is Paul Allen. Who would have ever guessed they would change the world? If you would like to read more details about how Allen and Gates built Microsoft Click [HERE](#)



**Apple Continues to Expand in Health Care:** Apple is pushing deeper into health care with the Apple Watch teaming up with medical company Zimmer Biomet. Both companies are working together to help people who are recovering from knee and hip replacement surgeries. More than a 1 million Americans get knee and hip replacements every year and that number is expected to keep rising. The end goal is to better understand how patients should prepare for and recover from common knee and hip replacement procedures. These companies will be using the Apple Watch, which will track steps, time spent standing, heart rate data, and other relevant information, allowing patients to share it directly in real-time with their doctors. The app will include educational resources, exercise videos and a way for patients to contact their surgeon and care team with questions and concerns. Apple continues to set their sights on the \$3 trillion U.S. health-care sector. Keep in mind, Apple has already sold more than 18 million smart watches.

**Most Expensive Bottle of Wine Ever Sold at Auction:** A 73-year-old bottle of French Burgundy went for \$558,000 last weekend making it the most expensive bottle of wine ever sold at an auction. It was a bottle of 1945 Romanee-Conti that sold for 17 times its original estimate of \$32,000. The reason this bottle went for so much is because Romanee-Conti only produced 600 bottles in 1945. Another bottle of the same wine and vintage went for \$496,000 in the same auction. Both of these bottles came from the personal cellar of Robert Drouhin. These bottles also shattered the previous record for the most expensive bottle of wine ever sold, which was a three-liter bottle of 1945 Mouton-Rothschild that sold in 2007 for \$310,000.

## Dare to be Different

2018 Van Trump Conference



Strategy - Collaboration - Leadership

## 2018 VAN TRUMP CONFERENCE



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!

November 28 - 29, 2018

### 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, 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





# FARM TANK

Tweets of the Day



**David Nelson**  
@DavidNHusker

Following

Can someone please verify the date? My calendar seems to be malfunctioning  
[#harvest18](#) SENEbraska @BetsyJibben



2:46 PM - 14 Oct 2018

6 Retweets 50 Likes



2 6 50

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!"

## REDEFINING THE IMPOSSIBLE: "IRON COWBOY"

Don't miss this tale of adventure as James Lawrence 'Redefines Impossible.'

"Meeting the Iron Cowboy had a lasting affect on me. I spent the next few months ruminating about what should be my own personal challenge. James has that effect on you."

"It was like a pep talk for my head. I loved all the real, raw experiences but this also gave me something else that I wasn't expecting. It touched me deeply on a spiritual level and helped me reconnect to my strongest, truest self, someone who now chooses to keep going when life is hard."

"One of the grittiest stories on perseverance I've ever heard. His epiphany that the whole reason quitting is impossible to him is his love for his kids and his wife. That struck an important nerve for me."

"I think of this story every time something seems too hard or impossible. It has truly changed my life! So blessed to have heard it."





World War II History  
@WW2Facts

Following

F6F-5 Hellcats being prepared for take-off  
aboard the carrier Franklin off Luzon,  
Philippine Islands, in October, 1944.

#History #WWII



3:58 PM - 14 Oct 2018



### 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**

### WHAT'S HAPPENING IN WASHINGTON



*With Washington's every move impacting our future, it's vitally important that we know the latest developments and better understand future direction. Come listen to our team of insiders provide their latest thoughts.*



Vala Afshar  
@ValaAfshar

Following

When you are good at something, you will tell everyone.

When you are great at something, they will tell you. —@walterpayton



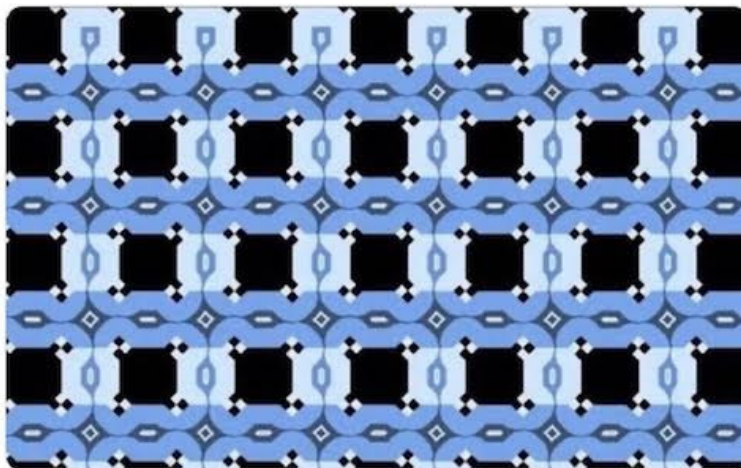
4:24 PM - 14 Oct 2018



Nick Harvey  
@mrnickharvey

Following

All the horizontal lines are actually parallel and I can't stop staring at them.



3:58 AM - 14 Oct 2018

## NETWORKING COCKTAIL EVENT Wednesday, November 28th

*Collaboration is the Name  
of the Game*

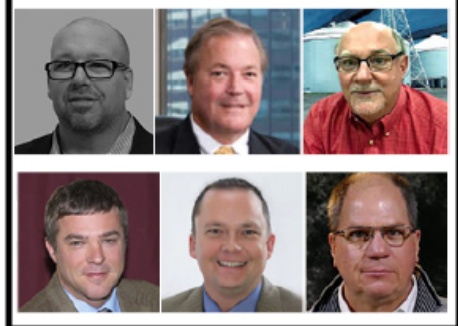
*I recently watched comedian Dusty Slay on the Jimmy Fallon Show, then I saw him again on Jimmy Kimmel. I thought he was funny, so we called him up and booked him for the conference. Come kick back and enjoy the show and some good conversation with friends.*

*Extend your Network by attending!*



### MARKETING ROUNDTABLE

*Kevin Van Trump, Andy Daniels, Mike Mock, Matt Bennett, Chip Nelling and Todd Gleason talk about the markets and strategies for reducing risk and improved pricing.*



### Today In History



**1854, Abe Lincoln** - An obscure lawyer and Congressional hopeful from the state of Illinois named Abraham Lincoln delivers a speech regarding the Kansas-Nebraska Act, which Congress had passed five months earlier. In his speech, the future president denounced the act and outlined his views on slavery, which he called "immoral." Under the terms of the Kansas-Nebraska Act, two new territories

# neuro mining



*As we age, it gets harder and harder to create new neural pathways in the brain. It's the reason kids find it so easy to learn new things, but as adults it often gets more difficult. Doing brain teasers and solving riddles can be an important part of keeping our brain healthy. The more connections we can form, the better our brain will be. I hope this helps provide a little daily fun and exercise. The answer to each riddle or puzzle will be located at the bottom of the report.*

## TODAY'S RIDDLE:

*I am short, I come second among a dozen, and every four years I change in a way that none of the other dozen do. What am I?*

**Weather** in the Corn Belt, produced lingering rain yesterday across the Ohio Valley and the lower Great Lakes region. Sharply colder air is arriving, with this morning's temperatures ranging from 20 to 30 degrees F in western corn and soybean production areas. Concerns exist with respect to the quality of summer crops that have not yet been harvested; in particular, upper Midwestern soybeans were subjected to torrential rainfall in early October, followed by freezes. On the Plains, very cold weather prevails in the wake of a departing storm system. Snow covers the ground early today across large sections of the central Plains. Yesterday saw temperatures fall below 20 degrees F throughout the central High Plains, while freezes were noted in West Texas as far south as Lubbock. Chilly weather will trail a cold front, leading to significantly below normal temperatures across the Plains, Midwest and Northeast. Dry weather will prevail through week's end from the West Coast to the northern Plains and upper Midwest.

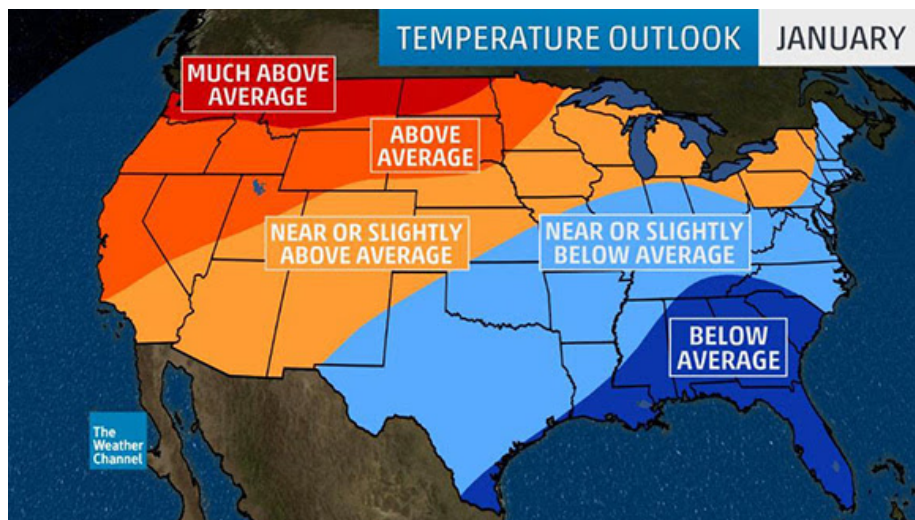
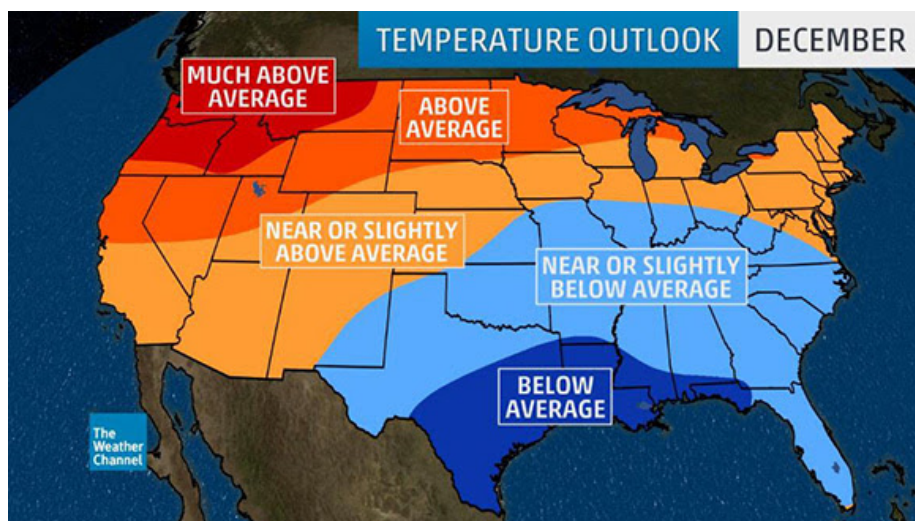
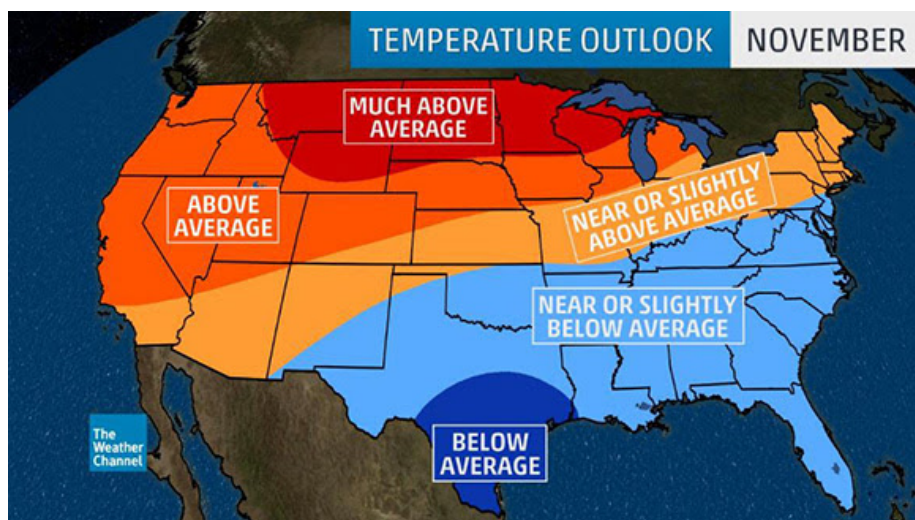
**New Winter Forecast Looks Warm...** *While temperatures for the Midwest and East are quite cold right now., a pattern flip is in the forecast for November. Warmer than average temperatures are forecast in November from the West Coast to the northern plains and much of the Midwest, with below average temperatures likely in southern Plains, according to the latest outlook from The Weather Company. Winter is expected to start out mild for much of the northwestern and north central states. Warmer than average temperatures also anticipated in the northern Plains, upper Midwest and northern Great Lakes. Areas along the Gulf Coast, from Texas to the Florida Panhandle, are expected to endure colder-than-average temperatures during winter's first month. As we continue into January, preliminary forecast show temperatures expected to be similar to those in December. Understand, this predicted early-winter pattern of mildness in the northern states and coolness in the southern states is a common trait of El Nino winters. NOAA has issued an El Nino watch and projects a 70 - 75% chance of El Nino conditions by winter.*

—Kansas and Nebraska—would be allowed into the Union and each territory's citizens would be given the power to determine whether slavery would be allowed within the territory's borders. It was believed that the act would set a precedent for determining the legality of slavery in other new territories. Controversy over the act influenced political races across the country that fall. Abolitionists, like Lincoln, hoped to convince lawmakers in the new territories to reject slavery. Lincoln, who was practicing law at the time, campaigned on behalf of abolitionist Republicans in Illinois and attacked the Kansas-Nebraska Act. He denounced members of the Democratic Party for backing a law that "assumes there can be moral right in the enslaving of one man by another." He believed that the law went against the founding American principle that "all men are created equal." Lincoln was an abolitionist at heart, but he realized that the outlawing of slavery in states where it already existed might lead to civil war. Instead, he advocated outlawing the spread of slavery to new states. He hoped this plan would preserve the Union and slowly eliminate slavery by confining it to the South, where, he believed, "it would surely die a slow death." Lincoln and his fellow abolitionists were dismayed when Kansans voted a pro-slavery candidate into Congress in November. As Lincoln's political career picked up momentum over the next several years, he continually referred to the Kansas-Nebraska Act and the seeming inevitability that Kansas should become a slave state as "a violence...it was conceived in violence, passed in violence, is maintained in violence, and is being executed in violence." Lincoln continued to actively campaign against slavery in Kansas and helped to raise money to support anti-slavery candidates in that state. Meanwhile, he continued his law practice and ran for the U.S. Senate in 1859. Although he lost to Democrat Stephen Douglas, Lincoln began to make a name for himself in national politics and earned increasing support from the North and abolitionists across the nation. It was this constituency that helped him win the presidency in 1860.



## 1859, John Brown -

Abolitionist John Brown leads a small group on a raid against a federal armory in Harpers Ferry, Virginia (now West Virginia), in an attempt to start an armed slave revolt and destroy the institution of slavery. Born in Connecticut in 1800 and raised in Ohio, Brown came from a staunchly Calvinist and antislavery family. He spent much of his life failing at a variety of businesses—he declared bankruptcy at age 42 and had more than 20 lawsuits filed against him. In 1837, his life changed irrevocably when he attended an abolition meeting in Cleveland, during which he was so moved that he publicly announced his dedication to destroying the institution of slavery. As early as 1848 he was formulating a plan to incite



**Corn** traders continue to debate longer-term supply and demand. Bulls are pointing to a slow U.S. harvest and thoughts the USDA could continue to backpedal in regard to their current 180.7 bushel yield forecast. Bears are pointing to better U.S. harvest weather in the forecast, cooperative weather in South American and Ukraine, and continued talk of more U.S. corn acres being planted next season. The USDA left weekly corn conditions "unchanged" at 68% rated GD/EX. States that showed deteriorating conditions were: Colorado -5%, Tennessee -4%, Minnesota, North Dakota, and Wisconsin -2%, Iowa and Ohio -1%. States left "unchanged" were: Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri, North Carolina, Texas. States showing improved conditions were: Indiana, Michigan, and Nebraska +1%, Pennsylvania +2%. It's worth noting, conditions in Illinois, Nebraska, and Ohio are all still rated +80% Good-to-Excellent". Harvest was reported at 39% complete vs 27% last year vs. the 5-year average of 35% by this date. States running behind their traditional pace are: Pennsylvania -9% behind, Iowa

an insurrection. In the 1850s, Brown traveled to Kansas with five of his sons to fight against the proslavery forces in the contest over that territory. On May 21, 1856, proslavery men raided the abolitionist town of Lawrence, and Brown personally sought revenge. On May 25, Brown and his sons attacked three cabins along Pottawatomie Creek. They killed five men with broad swords and triggered a summer of guerilla warfare in the troubled territory. One of Brown's sons was killed in the fighting. By 1857, Brown returned to the East and began raising money to carry out his vision of a mass uprising of slaves. He secured the backing of six prominent abolitionists, known as the "Secret Six," and assembled an invasion force. His "army" grew to include 22 men, including five black men and three of Brown's sons. The group rented a Maryland farm near Harpers Ferry and prepared for the assault.

On the night of October 16, 1859, Brown and his band overran the arsenal. Some of his men rounded up a handful of hostages, including a few slaves. Word of the raid spread, and by morning Brown and his men were surrounded. A company of U.S. Marines arrived on October 17, led by Colonel Robert E. Lee and Lieutenant J. E. B. Stuart. On the morning of October 19, the soldiers overran Brown and his followers. Ten of his men were killed, including two of his sons. The wounded Brown was tried by the state of Virginia for treason and murder, and he was found guilty on November 2. The 59-year-old abolitionist went to the gallows on December 2, 1859. Before his execution, he handed his guard a slip of paper that read, "I, John Brown, am now quite certain that the crimes of this guilty land will never be purged away but with blood." It was a prophetic statement. Although the raid failed, it inflamed sectional tensions and raised the stakes for the 1860 presidential election. Brown's raid helped make any further accommodation between North and South nearly impossible and thus became an important impetus of the Civil War.

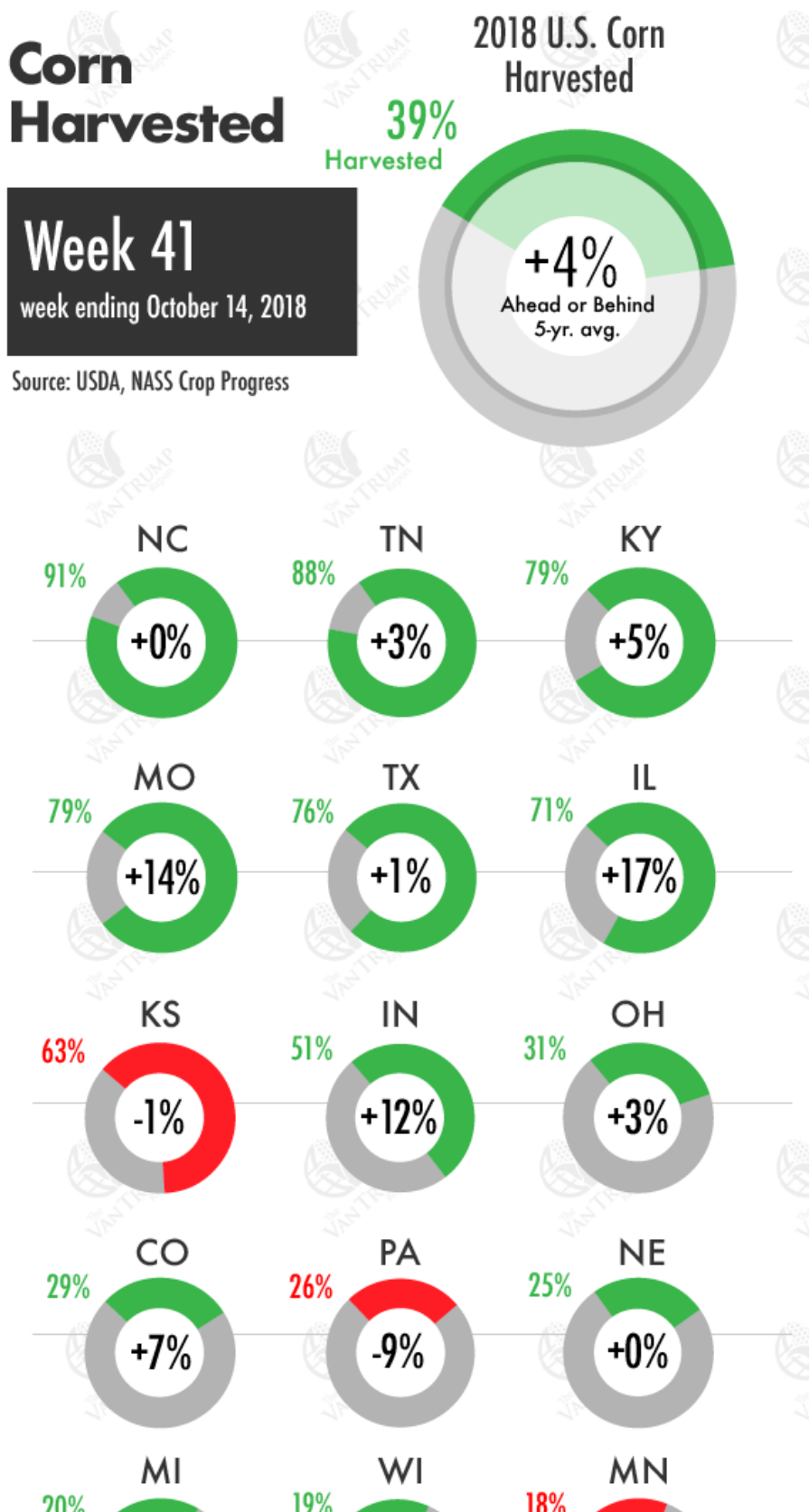


#### 1964, China Joins A-Bomb Club

The People's Republic of China joins the rank of nations with atomic bomb capability, after a successful nuclear test on this day in 1964. Project 596, originally named by the US intelligence agencies Chic-1, is the codename of the People's Republic of China's first nuclear weapons test, detonated at the Lop Nur test site. It was a uranium-235 implosion fission device made from weapons-grade uranium (U-235) enriched in a gaseous diffusion plant in Lanzhou. The bomb had a yield of 22 kilotons, comparable to the Soviet Union's first nuclear bomb RDS-1 in 1949 and the American Fat Man bomb dropped on Nagasaki, Japan in 1945.[3] With the test, China became the fifth nuclear power. This was the first of 45 total nuclear tests China has conducted to date, all of which occurred at the Lop Nur test site. China is the fifth member of this exclusive club, joining the United States,

-7%, South Dakota -4%, Minnesota -2%, Kansas and North Dakota -1%. All other states are running ahead of schedule. From a global perspective, there's talk of good production in China and the European Union crop perhaps improving a bit. Weather in South America seems mostly cooperative but will continue to be monitored closely. As a producer, I've used the recent rally to build a floor in the market to help eliminate longer-term price risk. I've also reduced a bit more price risk in regard to the 2019-20 crop. As a spec, I still see the market as range-bound and starting to push up against stiffer technical resistance.

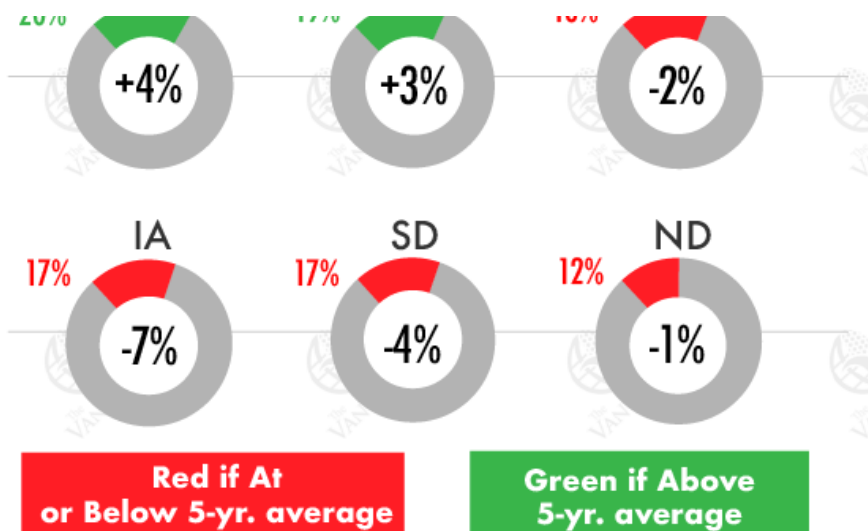
**2018 Fall Harvest Price: Corn \$3.67**



the Soviet Union, Great Britain, and France. U.S. officials were not terribly surprised by the test; intelligence reports since the 1950s indicated that China was working to develop an atomic bomb, possibly aided by Soviet technicians and scientists. Nevertheless, the successful test did cause concern in the U.S. government. During the early 1960s, China took a particularly radical stance that advocated worldwide revolution against the forces of capitalism, working strenuously to extend its influence in Asia and the new nations of Africa. The test, coming just two months after the Tonkin Gulf Resolution (a congressional resolution giving President Lyndon B. Johnson the power to respond to communist aggression in Vietnam) created a frightening specter of nuclear confrontation and conflict in Southeast Asia. The test also concerned the Soviet Union; the split between the USSR and communist China over ideological and strategic issues had widened considerably by 1964. The Chinese acquisition of nuclear capabilities only heightened the tensions between the two nations. Indeed, the test might have been a spur to the Soviets to pursue greater efforts to stop the proliferation of nuclear weapons; in 1968, the United States and the Soviet Union signed the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Little wonder that the Soviets would wish to see China's nuclear force limited, since the first Chinese intermediate-range missiles were pointedly aimed at Russia. The Cold War nuclear arms race had just become a good deal more complicated.

### Upcoming Events

- 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

**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

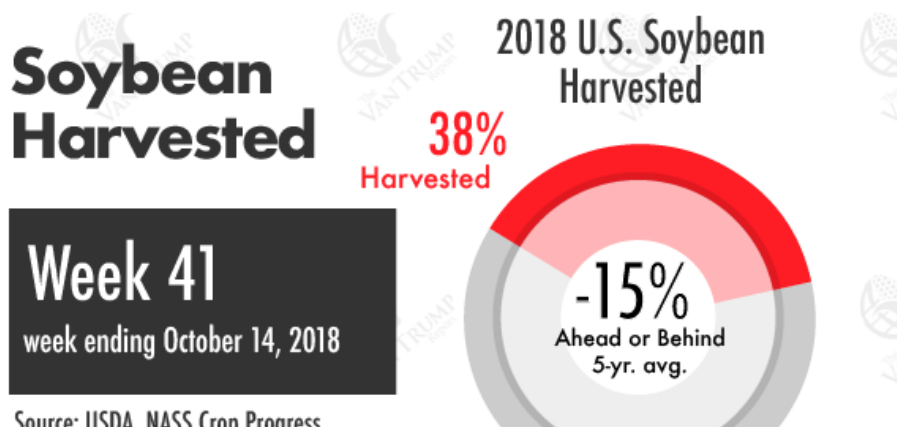
**Mon. 12/24** - Christmas Eve; Market Closes at Noon CST

**Tues. 12/25** - Christmas Day; US Markets Closed

**Fri. 12/28** - Export Sales

**Soybean** bulls are talking about a few cargoes of old-crop U.S. beans loading and moving to China and the pace of harvest in big production states like Iowa and Minnesota falling to over -30% behind their historical pace. Bulls hope these fresh new headlines can help hold and build on the recent gains. Prices are up around +80 cents from the most recent lows. As a producer, I took advantage of the recent rally and decided to eliminate some additional price-risk. I purchased the JUL19 \$9.00 puts to build a longer-term floor and at the same time priced another 10% of my production with the JAN19 contract trading north of \$9.00 per bushel. I also went ahead and pulled the trigger on reducing some of our estimated 2019 price risk. I priced my first round with NOV19 prices trading just under \$9.50 per bushel. I also hedged another small percent in order to reduce further downside risk. The backend of the market is offering some opportunity to reduce some of our longer-term exposure should the Chinese trade negotiations play out longer than anticipated. I'm just a little nervous longer-term with the balance sheet being so burdensome at over +880 million bushels. We also have to remember, South America is getting fairly cooperative weather and Brazil is planting a record number of acres. The USDA showed crop-conditions here in the U.S. deteriorating from 68% down to 66% rated GD/EX. Despite the recent reduction, this is still much better than last years 61% rated GD/EX. States showing weekly deterioration were: Iowa, Kansas and Ohio -5%, Missouri and Tennessee -4%, Arkansas -3%, Kentucky, Minnesota, Nebraska, and South Dakota -2%, Indiana and Wisconsin -1%. States left "unchanged" on the week are: Illinois, Louisiana, Michigan, and Mississippi. The only state showing improvement was North Carolina. Harvest was reported at just 38% complete vs. the 5-year average of 53%. States the furthest behind their 5-year historical harvest pace are: South Dakota -36% behind, North Dakota -33% behind, Iowa -32% behind, Minnesota -31%, Wisconsin -21%, Michigan -18%, Kansas -17%, Arkansas and Nebraska -16%, Ohio -10%, Mississippi -5%, Louisiana and Missouri -4%. States with harvest running slightly ahead are: Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, North Carolina, and Tennessee. The NOPA September soy crush was reported at a record 160.8 million bushels vs. last years 136.4 million bushels. Weekly soybean export inspections were also much stronger than most were forecasting. Bottom-line, demand has caught a couple of bullish headlines and rough weather is complicating the U.S. harvest. I like the thought of reducing price risk and rewarding the rally. As a spec, I remain patient not wanting to chase the market higher and not wanting to play the short side.

**2018 Fall Harvest Price: Soybeans \$8.62<sup>^4</sup>**

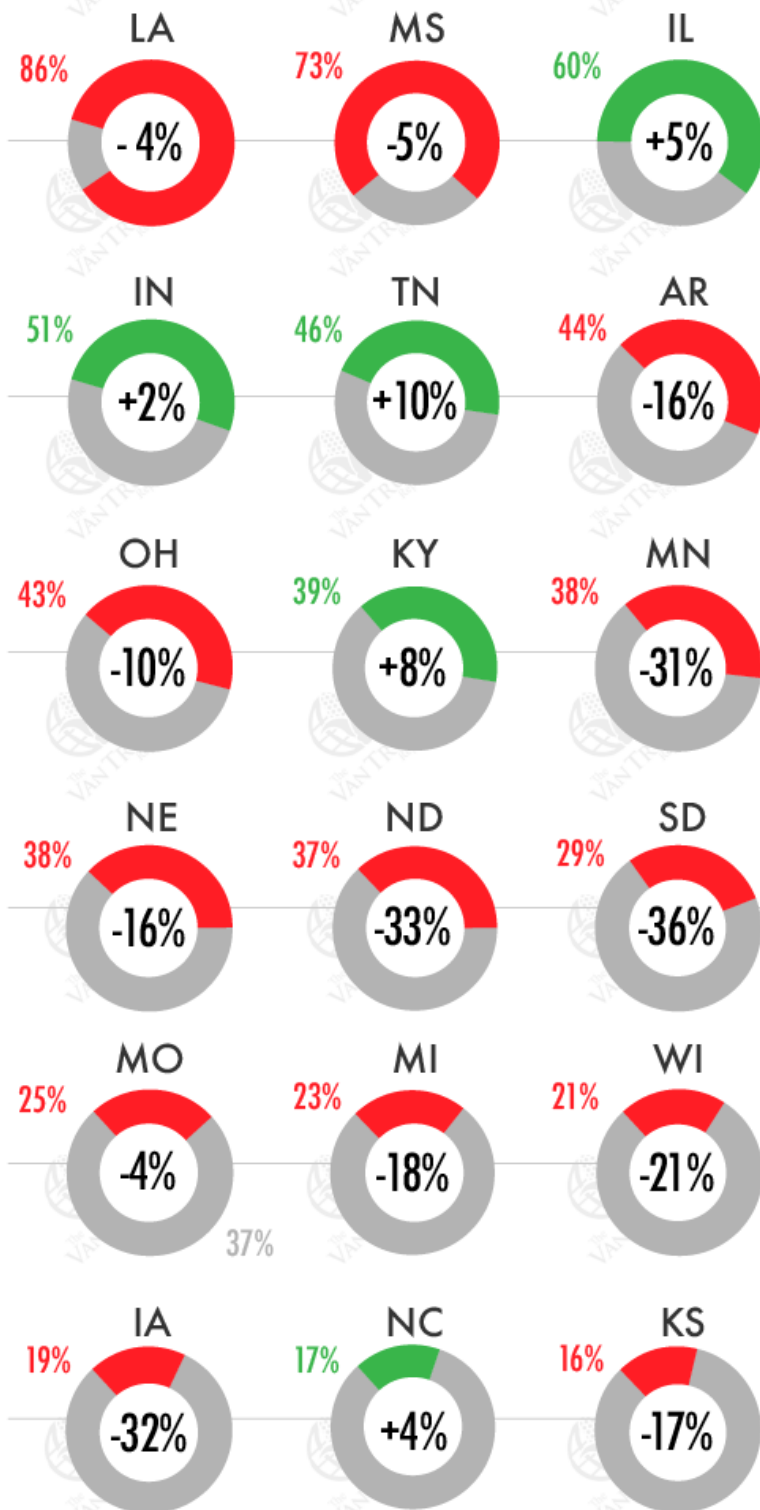


Source: USDA. NASS Crop Progress

#### Kevin's Song of the Week



#### Kevin's Song of the Week



Red if At or Below 5-yr. average

Green if Above 5-yr. average

**Wheat** bulls are pointing to continued rising prices in Russia. Bears are pointing to improved global weather conditions for parts of Argentina, Australia and portions of Russia and Ukraine. Bears are also wondering if the nearby headlines will allow the market to breakout of its current range. We are currently bumping up against nearby resistance on the charts. I'm thinking if we could catch a couple of fresh new bullish

# 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

headlines the bulls could flush out a few more bears and perhaps create a technical buying binge. Stay tuned... As a producer and a spec, I remain bullish, but thought it might take more time for a significant rally to play out. The USDA showed winter wheat planting at 65% complete vs. the 5-year average of 67% by this date. States running slightly ahead of schedule are: Arkansas, Indiana and California +5% ahead, Washington +3%, Idaho +1. All the other states are running behind, Michigan the furthest at -21% behind their historical pace.

# Winter Wheat Planted

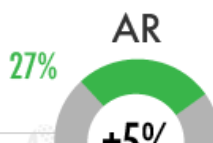
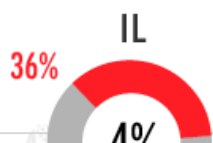
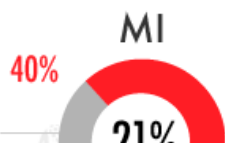
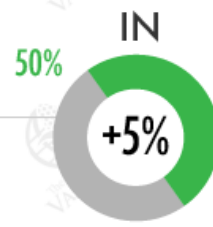
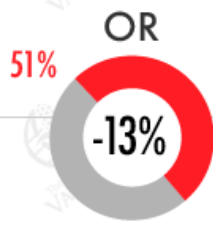
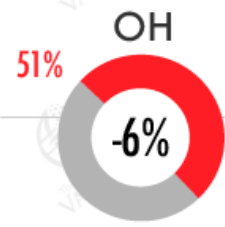
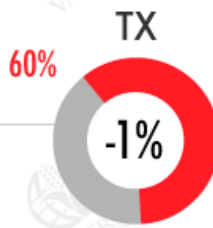
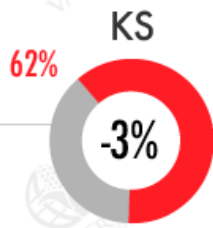
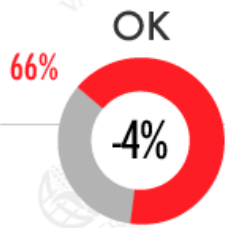
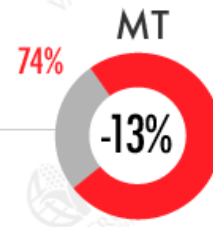
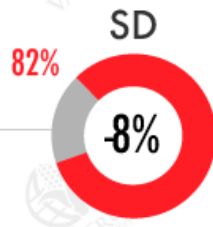
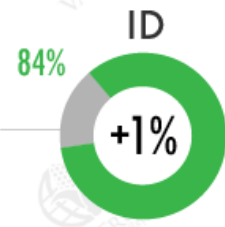
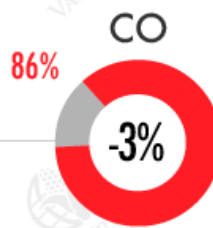
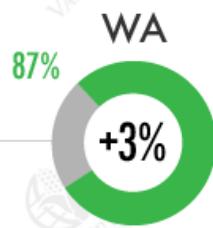
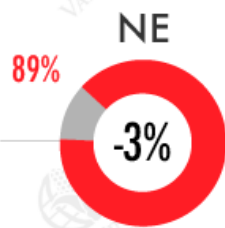
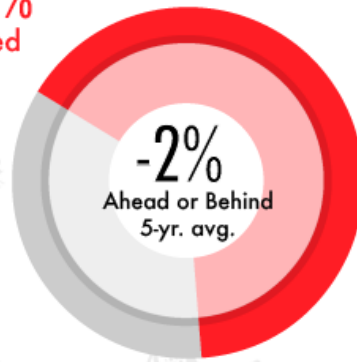
Week 41

week ending October 14, 2018

Source: USDA, NASS Crop Progress

## 2018 U.S. Winter Wheat Planted Percentage

65%  
Planted



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..."

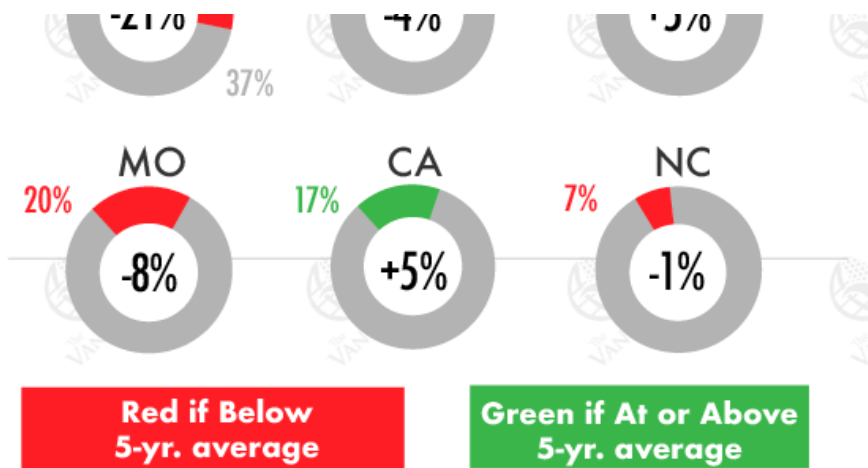
"Bulls make money, Bears make money, but pigs get slaughtered..."

"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.



> **The Andersons, Inc. to Acquire Lansing Trade Group, LLC:** *The Andersons, Inc. announced yesterday that it has entered into a merger agreement with Lansing Trade Group, LLC, its long-time affiliate, to acquire the 67.5% of Lansing equity that it does not already own for cash and stock currently valued at a total of approximately \$305 million. (Source: PR Newswire)*

> **September Crushings Set New Record:** *September saw soybean crushings hit 160.779 million bushels which easily surpassed the previous September record by 3.373 million bushels. Keep in mind, this is the 11th month in a row where crush hit monthly records. The trade was expecting numbers below August's 158 plus million bushels.*

> **Farm Bill Talks Hopefully Continue As Lawmakers Head Home:** *The Senate has a short schedule this month which is adding another layer of uncertainty to farm bill talks. Leading ag leaders in the House and Senate have said they had had difficulty in lining up schedules to arrange regular face-to-face meetings. But now that senators have headed home two weeks early to campaign, it appears that in-person negotiations are unlikely in the coming weeks. Last week, Senate Ag Chairman Pat Robert did say that last week they were "getting close."*

> **Weather Damaged Soybeans Eligible For Crop Insurance Claims:** *Farmers across the country are reporting weather-damaged soybeans. In response, USDA's RMA issued a new [fact sheet](#) to help producers fully understand the process for filing quality adjustment claims for damaged crops under the federal crop insurance program. To be eligible, soybeans must grade sample grade or worse. If you have experienced damage to your soybeans, call your crop insurance provider right away. (Source: RMA)*

> **USDA Distributes Trade Aid:** *On Friday, the department issued \$4.8 billion to producers through Agricultural Risk Coverage, Price Loss Coverage and the Conservation Reserve Program initiatives. (Source: USDA)*

> **Insight Into the USMCA's New Biotech Rules:** *The new North American trade pact marks a big step in U.S. efforts to align international standards on ag biotechnology like GMOs. This is the first time that all three countries have collectively addressed ag biotech. One provision that could prove controversial is to speed up the review process for when shipments are found to include trace amounts of a genetically engineered crop that hasn't been approved in the destination country. (Source: Politico)*

> **Shrinking Barley Yields Could Send Beer Prices Higher:** *Average global barley yields during extreme events are expected to drop between 3% and 17%, depending on the conditions, said the study, published in the journal *Nature Plants*. Less barley will mean beer shortages and price spikes. Under the hottest scenario, China will suffer the most shortages this century, followed by the United States, Germany, and Russia, it said. Prices will spike the most in Ireland, Italy, Canada and Poland. During the extreme climate events, prices for a 500 milliliter bottle, slightly more than a pint, in Ireland will rise from about \$2.50 to \$5.00.*

> **Measuring Hurricane Michael's Damage to Ag:** *Florida Ag Commissioner Adam Putnam said at least three million acres of timber were affected by the storms. In Georgia, the state's \$23.3 billion poultry industry was the hardest hit. The Georgia Ag Department estimated that at least 92 chicken houses, which housed millions of birds, were destroyed. Cotton, pecan and vegetable crops were also decimated.*

> **Fraudulent Organic Crops sold for \$10.8 million:** *Three Nebraska farmers agreed to plead guilty to marketing non-organic soybeans and corn as certified organic products. The fraudulent*

scheme allegedly spanned eight years and earned at least \$10.8 million. The grains were then sold nationwide... (Source: Reuters)

> **U.S. Meat and Lab-Grown Meat Industries Come to a Truce:** In a letter to the White House, the U.S. meat industry and its emerging competitors in the field of lab-grown meat struck a truce. They said FDA and USDA should jointly regulate the new product that they agreed to call "cell-based meat and poultry." The proposal would avert a potentially nasty fight among agencies over regulation of the products, including the question whether they can be sold as meat. (Source: FERN)

> **Largest Defense Merger in History:** L3 Technologies and Harris Corporation have agreed to merge in an all-stock deal creating the largest ever defense merger. The company is expected to have annual sales of around \$16 billion and a staff of 48,000. The company will become the 8th largest company based in Florida, according to current Fortune 500 rankings. This deal is expected to close next year, pending a review by the Defense Department.

> **Fidelity Takes Huge Step into Cryptocurrency:** Fidelity Investments, which administers more than \$7.2 trillion in client assets, announced a new and separate company called "Fidelity Digital Asset Services," which will handle cryptocurrency custody and trade execution for institutional investors. Fidelity Investments Chairman and CEO Abigail Johnson said, "Our goal is to make digitally native assets, such as bitcoin, more accessible to investors."

> **iPad is Getting a Full Version of Photoshop:** Adobe recently announced that they will release a full version of its Photoshop editing software for the Apple iPad next year. Although Photoshop is currently available for the iPad, it doesn't offer the same functions that it does on Mac or Windows computers. Looks like users are moving away from computers and more towards tablets.

> **Amazon Partners with Shark Tank:** For the first time ever, Shark Tank has a store on Amazon to help highlight top products from the show. The store will be called the Amazon Launchpad Shark Tank Collection. The store launched with 70 products that were successfully funded on the first 9 seasons Shark Tank. A few products featured in the launch include Hatch Baby, Third Wave Water, and Stasher.

> **UPS Opens Second Largest U.S. Ground Package Facility:** United Parcel Service is opening its second largest U.S. ground package processing facility in Atlanta. UPS said the new site will process roughly 100,000 parcels per hour and create 3,000 new jobs in Atlanta. The building is 1.2 million square and will sit on 321 acres. Seems as if UPS is looking to boost capacity as online shopping continues to skyrocket.

> **Mayweather May Have Another Fight:** Khabib Nurmagomedov (27-0 in MMA) laughed an Instagram video challenging the Floyd Mayweather (50-0, 27 KOs in boxing) to a fight. It didn't take Mayweather long to respond via Twitter saying, "CBS, Showtime and MGM Grand get the checkbook out!" I wouldn't rule this fight out as Mayweather has teased of a possible tune-up fight in December. I'm sure Mayweather will get in the ring for the right price.

> **New African Swine Case In China:** China over the weekend reported a new African Swine Fever case on a farm with nearly 20,000 pigs, the largest farm yet to report the highly contagious disease in the world's top pork producer. The new case underlines the escalating threat to the country's \$1 trillion pig industry. The fact that the disease was confirmed on a significantly larger pig farm has some much more concerned. Keep in mind, China has the largest pig herd in the world with an estimated 500-700 million pigs. (Source: Reuters)

## African swine fever in China

Multiple outbreaks of the deadly African swine fever have been reported across eight provinces in China and the municipality of Tianjin since it was first detected in the country on August 3. Tens of thousands of hogs have been culled in an attempt to stop the disease from spreading through the world's largest pig herd.



## FROM THE FIELD

**Central Arkansas** - We are waiting on the rain again. We still have a day left on corn harvest then we can start on the beans. It has been so wet in this area, pushing us as late as we have ever been in finishing. Last time we were this late, we finished on October 25th. When we finally get started it will take us at least three weeks, so I suspect we finish in November for the first time. The basis on beans is a buck under and there is a lot of guys getting docked. The wet conditions have caused plenty of challenges for presenting any beans in great condition. I have no idea what my beans look like or will fetch as I haven't been in those fields yet. We are sticking with the same rotation and not looking to get cute right now. Fortunately, we own most of what we farm and should be fine. For those looking, land is selling around \$3K an acre and rents around \$70. We don't see that changing anytime soon.

**Southern Canada** - We are in the southern part of Manitoba about 300 miles north of North Dakota. We have about 10 good days of weather and we should start seeing the snow melt off. Most of the wheat that's unharvested is west of us in Saskatchewan and Alberta. Along the Rocky Mountains, there is about 6 inches of snow sitting on the unharvested wheat. We have a couple of fields around us but most fields that are unharvested around here are canola. Most guys will let canola sit in the field as late as February or whenever the snow is off the planted and the cold hair has dried everything out. It has to be extremely cold for the combines to harvest otherwise it is just too wet, guys will just run it through the thrasher and get what they get at that point. The wheat around us looks bad, it's white in color and looks about ready to fall.

**Central Nebraska** - We are averaging a few hours of harvesting about once per week. I think we have completed 2 fields since September 23rd. This weekend we got about 3 inches of snow and a little rain before the snow. It snowed from the east side of the state clear to the Colorado border. The beans are rapidly deteriorating. I have seen beans falling on the ground because the pods are splitting. There are fields of soybeans that are completely laying on the ground. We were harvesting what I thought was our best crop but I'm not really sure at the moment. I think we are losing 2-4 bushels every week we don't get in the field. We actually look good the next 2 weeks so I'm hoping we will be running by the weekend.

# CROSSING WIRES

A place to share intelligent thoughts...

**DOE Grants U of Michigan \$2 Million for Algae to Biodiesel Research:** A new \$2 million grant from the Department of Energy will help researchers at the University of Michigan to develop a method to harvest algae and turn it into fuel that doesn't contribute to climate change. This is, of course, far from the first technology to create environmentally-friendly diesel. Industries have been converting corn and soybeans into fuel for years now, but those methods have plenty of downsides. Every soybean and ear of corn converted into fuel is food that doesn't feed anyone, it takes lots of land to grow those crops, and transporting the crops from the farm to the factory to turn them into fuel takes a lot of fuel itself. Algae has none of these disadvantages. Algae is typically grown in vats, and those vats can be placed pretty much anywhere. Algae is cheaper and faster to grow than either corn or soybeans, making it ideal for converting into fuel. The only reason we are not using algae now is that no one has figured out how as of yet. Read more [HERE](#) about what researchers hope to find...could be another opportunity for the right operation once completed.

**Will Autonomous Cars Make Roads Safer for Pedestrians and Bikers:** As an urban planner, and transportation scholar Daniel Piatkowski, who like most people in his field, has paid close attention to the discussion around driverless cars. He has come to believe that autonomous vehicles will not complement modern urban planning goals of building people-centered communities. In fact, he thinks they're mutually exclusive. In Piatkowski's opinion, we can have a world of safe, efficient, driverless cars, or we can have a world where people can walk, bike, and take transit in high-quality, human-scaled communities. Technology optimists might suggest that driverless cars will be able to pass cyclists more safely and efficiently. They might also be directed to use other roads that are less clogged, though that carries its own risks. Read more [HERE](#) about how autonomous vehicles and citizens will coexist.

**Robotic Startup Cobalt is Hoping to Make Your Work Space Safer:** Due to the regular news reports of workplace violence, Sequoia Capital has contributed a \$13 million round of funding to start up Cobalt Robotics, bringing their total to \$16.5 million. Alfred Lin of Sequoia is joining the start-up's board of directors and shared the company is on board with the project specifically because its robots can help companies ensure the physical safety of their employees and facilities without constantly surveying them the way CCTV cameras would do. "It's not just the utility of the thing," the investor said, "it's very empathetic, not like a PA system that's blaring at you with mics and cameras recording your every move." Cobalt robots can scan an employee's or a visitor's badge, detect open doors, water leaks, spills or intrusions, among other things. When they sense an anomaly in a building, they can alert a security specialist, who can send a guard to patrol in person as needed. Read more [HERE](#).

**Want to Slow Down the Aging Process...Try Intermittent Fasting:** Countless research studies have shown the benefits of intermittent fasting, and now Harvard scientists have closely examined its impact on the aging process. Intermittent fasting refers to an eating pattern that cycles between periods of fasting and eating. The most common intermittent fasting methods involve daily 16 hour fasts, or fasting for 24 hours, twice per week. Advocates of intermittent fasting argue that humans have been fasting throughout our evolution. Sometimes it was because food wasn't available, but it's also been a core part of major religions including Islam, Christianity and Buddhism. The intermittent fasting study done at Harvard was published in the journal *Cell Metabolism* and reveals that intermittent fasting slows down the aging process. That's right. If you want to live longer, adapt your eating patterns to have periods of fasting and eating. Read more [HERE](#).

**Lexus is Making a Luxury Yacht:** Luxury car brands like Aston Martin, Mercedes-Benz, and Bugatti have entered the luxury yacht market. Now, Lexus is entering the high-end boat space with a 65-foot luxury yacht. It will be called the LY 650 and is scheduled to go on sale in the U.S. in 2019. The yacht has an 18.8-foot beam, 1,800 standard horsepower, and sleeps a total of 15 people. The price of this yacht has not been announced yet. Read more [HERE](#) on the luxury liner.



### U.S. Home Heating Bills Forecast Slightly Higher This Winter

The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) recently released their "Winter Fuels Outlook" report, which forecast most U.S. households can expect higher heating expenditures this winter (October through March) compared with last winter. Winter temperatures are expected to be similar to last winter in much of the country, which was around the 10-year average, but the overall higher energy costs are going to trickle down to the consumer. On average, EIA expects natural gas bills to rise by 5%, home heating oil by 20%, and electricity by 3%. However, expenditures for homes that use propane are expected to be about the same as last winter. Below are a few additional insights. You can read the full report by Clicking [HERE](#). There's also a ton of useful information and research [HERE](#)

**Natural Gas** - Nearly half of all U.S. households heat primarily with natural gas. EIA expects households heating primarily with natural gas to spend about +5% more this winter compared with last winter. EIA forecasts residential natural gas prices to average \$10.29 per thousand cubic feet (Mcf), and average household consumption is forecast to total 58 Mcf. EIA expects natural gas spot prices at the U.S. national benchmark Henry Hub to average \$3.20 per million British thermal units (MMBtu) (\$3.32/Mcf) this winter, which is 8% higher than last winter. Although inventory levels are low, EIA expects natural gas supplies to be adequate to meet winter demand. However, low inventory levels could create wholesale price volatility and localized wholesale price spikes in the event of cold temperatures, particularly a prolonged cold snap.

**Heating Oil** - Customers in the Northeast region rely on heating oil more than in any other region. About 21% of households in this region use oil for space heating, down from 27% seven years ago. An increasing number of homes in the Northeast

have switched to natural gas and electricity for space heating. Nationwide, 4% of households use heating oil for space heating. EIA expects households whose primary space heating fuel is heating oil to spend an average of +20% more this winter than last winter, reflecting retail heating oil prices that EIA forecasts to be 50 cents per gallon +18% higher than last winter and consumption that EIA forecasts to be 1% higher than last winter. Heating oil prices are expected to be higher this winter than last winter because of higher crude oil prices and higher distillate fuel margins.

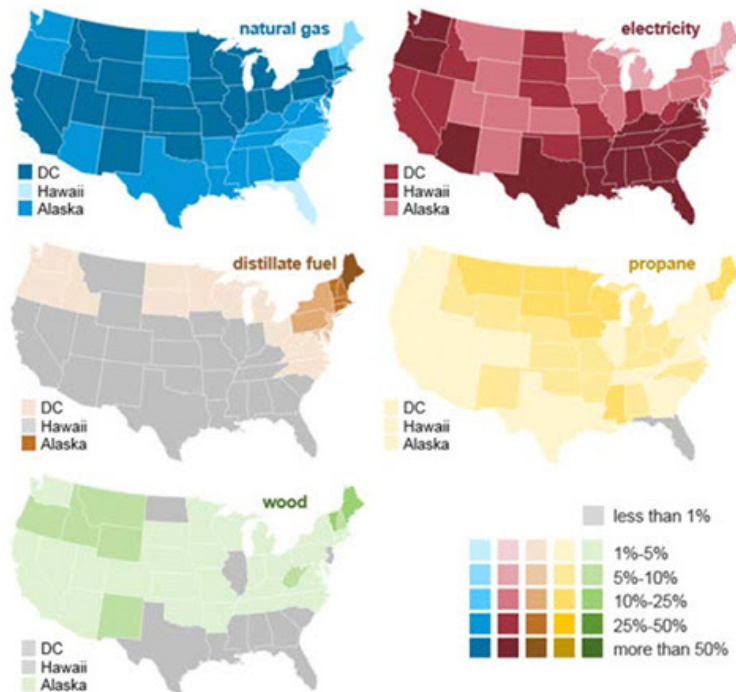
**Electricity** - EIA forecasts that households heating primarily with electricity will spend an average +3% more this winter on their electricity bills. This increase in forecast expenditures is a result of +1% higher consumption, including both heating and non-heating uses of electricity, and +2% higher residential electricity prices than last winter. Among U.S. households, 40% rely on electricity as their primary heating source. Nearly two-thirds of homes in the South heat primarily with electricity compared with only 16% in the Northeast. Electricity. EIA forecasts that households heating primarily with electricity will spend an average of \$36 (3%) more this winter on their electricity bills. This increase in forecast expenditures is a result of 1% higher consumption, including both heating and non-heating uses of electricity, and 2% higher residential electricity prices than last winter. Among U.S. households, 40% rely on electricity as their primary heating source. Nearly two-thirds of homes in the South heat primarily with electricity compared with only 16% in the Northeast.

**Propane** - About 5% of all U.S. households heat primarily with propane, and many of these households are in the Northeast and Midwest. EIA expects these households to spend roughly similar levels on average for heating this winter compared with last winter, but projected changes in expenditures vary by region. EIA expects that households heating with propane in the Northeast will spend an average +1% more this winter than last winter, reflecting prices and expenditures that are both about 1% higher than last winter. EIA expects households in the Midwest to spend an average of +2% less this winter, reflecting average prices that are about +1% higher and consumption that is -3% lower than last winter. EIA forecasts that propane production at natural gas plants and refineries will be 14% higher this winter than last winter, total consumption is expected to be the same as last winter, and net exports are expected to be 19% higher than last winter. Propane inventories typically build between April and October and begin drawing down in late- September or October as temperatures begin to drop. U.S. propane (including propylene) inventories at the end of September were 79.4 million barrels, which was 8% lower than the previous five-year average for that time of year. The low U.S. inventories are primarily the result of U.S. Gulf Coast inventories that were 19% lower than the five-year average going into the heating season. Strong global demand for propane contributed to U.S. Gulf Coast inventories that have remained on the low side of the normal inventory range since early 2017. Inventories in the Midwest, the region that relies most on propane for heating and agricultural uses, ended September 3% higher than the five-year average. Propane prices are higher at the Gulf Coast market hub at Mont Belvieu, Texas, than at the Midwest hub at Conway, Kansas, which may provide incentive for more propane to move to the Gulf Coast. Regional Midwest data shows stocks at or higher than the five-year averages in all of the various sub regions.

**Wood** - About 2.1 million households (2%) used cord wood or wood pellets as the primary residential space-heating fuel in 2017. EIA estimates another 8% of households use wood as a secondary source of heat, making wood second to electricity as a supplemental heating fuel. In 2015, one in four rural households used wood for primary or secondary space heating, compared with 6% of urban households, according to EIA's Residential Energy Consumption Survey.

## Heating fuel market shares vary across U.S. regions

Primary home heating fuel by state, 2017



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration based on 2017 American Community Survey

Short-Term Energy and Winter Fuels Outlook  
October 10, 2018

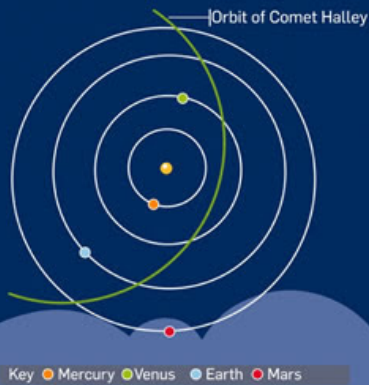
### Earth's Best Light Show Begins This Week

The month of October brings one of the best annual light shows - the "Orionids Meteor Shower". The meteors this year are expected to peak on October 21-22, but they are actually extremely active between October 15th and October 29th. They are expected to produce a maximum of 15-25 meteors per hour, though visibility will vary depending on other light sources in the sky, particularly the moon. The source of the meteors is actually Halley's Comet which is only visible from Earth every 75 years or so. It last visited our part of the solar system in early 1986 and won't return again until June 2061. The meteors are produced due to the comet's close passage to the sun, which causes some of the ice to melt and allows bits of rock to break off. It's these rocks that create the comet's "tail" and what we will see flashing in the sky. Obviously, Halley leaves a lot behind when it comes our way, as these were all dropped off way back in 1986! Halley is classified as a periodic or short-period comet, meaning one with an orbit lasting 200 years or less. It is the only comet that a human could possibly see twice in their lifetime. Most other comets have a short-term orbital period. Halley is also quite unique in that its orbit around the sun is the opposite direction of the planets. Scientists believe the comet has had its current orbit set somewhere between 16,000-200,000 years. A very broad time-range for sure, but it is very hard to calculate as it has been observed so few times. The first time its appearance was ever documented was in 240 AD. Though astronomers noted seeing it for centuries, no one put together that they were all observing the same object until 1705, when English astronomer Edmond Halley connected the dots. After recognizing its regular appearance in historical records, Halley correctly calculated that his comet would reappear in 1758. Sadly, Halley died in 1742 and never got to see the comet for himself. The best time to go meteor gazing this month is in the darkest hours before dawn. The meteors really don't start showing up until very late evening after the constellation Orion ascends over the eastern horizon, after which many more are visible. Extremely early-risers should see some amazing skies. The meteors will originate from the southeast, but they will be streaking across all parts of the sky. If you are patient and give your eyes at least twenty minutes to get really adjusted, you are bound to see a couple no matter what direction you are facing. Enjoy the show!

## Orionid meteor shower

### What are they?

The Orionid meteors are debris left behind by Comet Halley which last visited Earth in 1986.



### Where to look

The radiant point for the Orionids is in the direction of the famous constellation Orion the Hunter



▲ Sirius  
South East



### What You Need To Know About 2018-2019 NBA Season

NBA's new season will tip-off tonight. Even though I'm not a huge NBA fan, I do love the game of basketball. I also wanted to provide everyone with a little knowledge and background regarding the upcoming season incase you find yourself in conversation. The first game of the year will showcase the "76'ers vs. Celtics" and will be aired on TNT at 7:00 pm CST. I remember growing up watching Dr. J and the 76'ers battle Bird and the Celtics. They were some great games. Tonights game should be a good as well, with both the Celtics and 76ers forecast to be in contention for the title. Below are some facts and odds worth sharing:

**Favored To Win It All** - The Golden State Warriors are once again favored to win it all, followed by... Boston Celtics @ 6 to 1; Houston Rockets @ 8 to 1; Los Angeles Lakers @ 10/1; Philadelphia 76ers @ 14 to 1

**MVP Favorites** - LeBron James is now playing with the Los Angeles Lakers and again is the favorite to win the MVP award, betting \$100 on King James will get you +\$300; Anthony Davis, New Orleans Pelicans; +350; Giannis Antetokounmpo, Milwaukee Bucks +400; James Harden, Houston Rockets +500; Kawhi Leonard, Toronto Raptors +600; Kevin Durant, Golden State Warriors +950

### Biggest Offseason Acquisitions

**LeBron James Signs with the Lakers:** LeBron went to a different city and signed a contract worth \$153.3 million over 4 years including a player option for the 4th year. This is the biggest free agent acquisition the Lakers have had in years and maybe ever.

**DeMarcus Cousins Signs with the Warriors:** Cousins proves he really wants a championship this season signing with the Warriors for a 1-year contract worth contract \$5,337,000 million. This is a huge pay cut for the star center considering his last contract with the Pelicans was worth 2 years for \$40 million.

**Kawhi Leonard and DeMar DeRozan Trade:** Earlier this offseason, the San Antonio Spurs traded Kawhi Leonard and Danny Green to the Toronto Raptors for DeMar DeRozan, Jakob Poeltl and a protected 2019 first-round pick. This was one of the biggest surprises this season because both Leonard and DeRozan weren't happy with the trade.

**Carmelo Anthony Signs with the Rockets:** One of the later moves this offseason was Carmelo signing a 1-year deal with the Rockets for \$2.4 million. Hopefully, Carmelo can mesh with Chris Paul and James Harden to really make a triple threat this season.

### Rookies to Watch

**Deandre Ayton:** The 7'1" and 250-pound center went first overall this to the Phoenix Suns last season. Ayton looks to be the real deal as he leads all rookies in scoring and rebounds through the NBA preseason.

**Luka Doncic:** Last years MVP of Euroleague went 3rd overall in the draft to the Dallas Mavericks. Doncic averaged 12.5 points and 4.7 assists in Liga ACB and 16.0 points and 4.3 assists in 33 EuroLeague appearances and is the favorite for Rookie of the Year this season.

**Allonzo Trier:** The undrafted shooting guard from the University of Arizona has outscored most of 2018's first-rounders this offseason averaging 14.2 points per game. Trier looks to be the biggest steal this season for the New York Knicks and the rest of the NBA.

**Harry Giles III:** After two ACL tears, only 300 NCAA minutes, and a full NBA season lost, Giles looks like he's ready to finally play. He was actually considered one of the top talents in his draft class when the Kings selected him with the 20th overall pick in the 2017 draft. Now that Giles is finally healthy it looks like he's ready to make an impact with the Kings this season.

### New Rules

**Shot Clock:** The 24-second shot clock now will be reset to 14 seconds after an offensive rebound rather than be put back at 24 seconds. It will also reset to 14 seconds if the ball goes out of bounds after a deflection by a defender.

**Clear Path Rule:** There is now a list of requirements for a referee to be able to whistle a clear path foul during a transition scoring opportunity.

- The ball is ahead of the tip of the circle in the backcourt
- No defender is ahead of the offensive player with the transition scoring opportunity
- The player with the transition scoring opportunity is in control of the ball
- The foul deprives his team of an opportunity to score

**Hostile Act:** The definition of a hostile act has been broadened for instant replay purposes. This will allow referees to review plays to determine the appropriate penalty for players or coaches if they are involved in hostile encounters while playing the game.



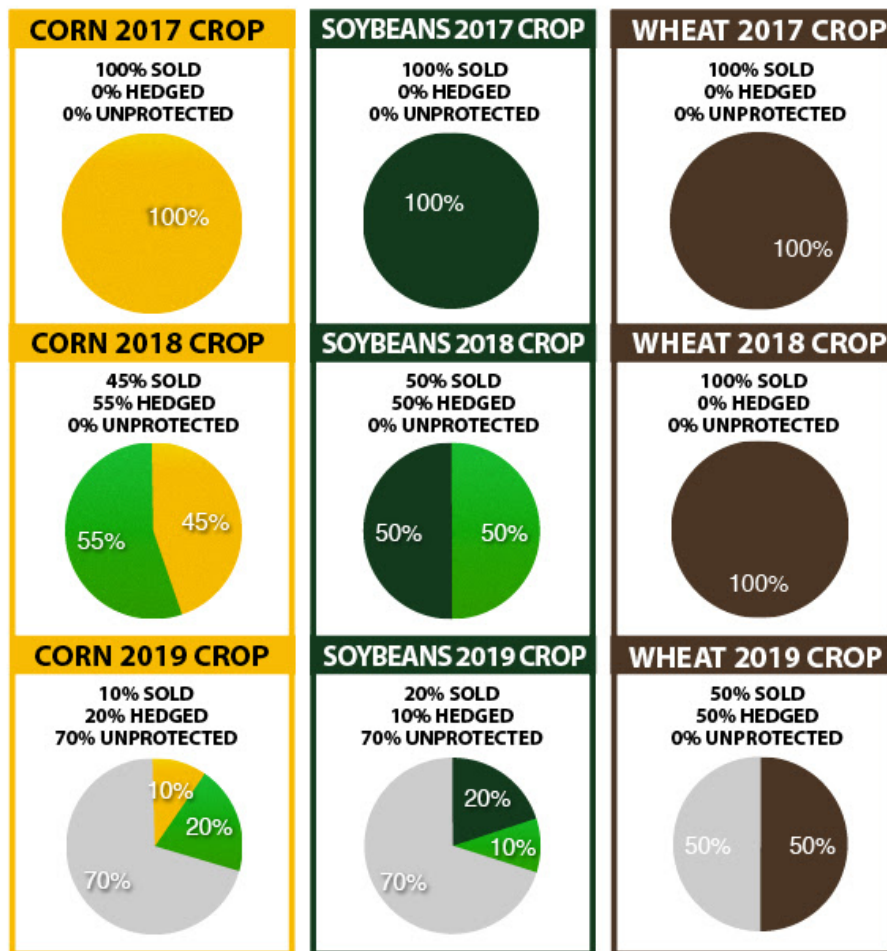


**ANSWER to riddle:**

*The month of February*

## CASH SALES & HEDGING TOTALS

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