

## GOOD MORNING: 10/31/18 Farm Direction - Van Trump Report

1 message

**The Van Trump Report** <reply@vantrumpreport-email.com>

Wed, Oct 31, 2018 at 7:10 AM

Reply-To: Jordan &lt;reply-fec5157670660c79-314\_HTML-36250946-100003450-1@vantrumpreport-email.com&gt;

To: info@farmdirection.com



*"Double, double toil and trouble; Fire burn, and cauldron bubble."* - **William Shakespeare**

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2018**
[Printable Copy](#) or [Audio Version](#)

**Morning Summary:** Stocks are higher this morning as traders are digesting positive earnings data from Facebook. Tech traders will now look towards earnings from Apple, which is scheduled to release after the close tomorrow. Technically, I continue to hear many bears talking about more risk to the downside, the S&P 500 perhaps pulling back to the 2500 area which would be about a -15% retracement from the previous all-time highs. I've also heard several inside the trade talking more about the 2300 area, which would signify the lower end of the longer-term channel and around a -22% retracement from the recent highs. I've also heard some short-sellers say they think the Fed might be in a bit of a box between now and the midterm elections. In other words, the market is wanting to hear the Fed walk back their hawkish rhetoric, but with a highly important election less than a week away, the Fed more than likely doesn't want to make a statement or in anyway be blamed for influencing the vote. Let's keep in mind, the next Fed meeting is scheduled for November 7th and 8th, immediately following the November 6th midterm election. I suspect if they choose, they will adjust their rhetoric in the statement following the upcoming FOMC meeting. Until then, the bears may continue to swing for the fences. I should note, former Fed Chair Janet Yellen spoke yesterday at the Charles Schwab Impact conference in Washington, D.C. and dovishly told the crowd she thought that only a couple more rate hikes would be necessary to stabilize growth at a sustainable pace and stabilize the labor market so it doesn't overheat. She went on to say that she sees the fed funds rate averaging about 3% over the next 10 years, meaning in order to get there, the Fed would have to hike three more times, which is less than many current Fed members have been forecasting. Perhaps, Yellen's more dovish talk could add a bit of nearby calm to the waters? Also perhaps a bit bullish, is the latest Consumer Confidence numbers which showed its highest reading since September 2000. Keep in mind, we also have some headlines and uncertainty surrounding the Iranian sanctions that are scheduled to go into full effect this Sunday, November 4th. The recent concerns over global growth and "risk off" attitude on Wall Street have weighed on oil prices as of late. In fact, crude oil prices are actually down about -10% in the past month as many hedge funds and money-managers reduce their bullish bets. In addition, we've actually started to see a little break in gasoline prices at the pump. A month ago, the average price was just north of \$2.87 per gallon, today we are right around \$2.80 per gallon. Unfortunately, that's still well above the \$2.40 per gallon average we were paying last year at this time. Diesel prices last month were averaging about \$3.20 per gallon, today they are actually higher at an average of about \$3.28 per gallon. I continue to keep a close eye on energy prices and uncertainty in the Middle East, historically both can create complications that can end bull runs in the stock market. As for today's economic news, traders are digesting the latest rate decisions from Japan and Brazil. Here at home, the trade wants to see the latest ADP employment numbers and U.S. Employment Cost Index. Earnings will be heavy with reports from big names like Allstate, AIG, Bunge, Clorox, Estee Lauder, Garmin, General Motors, Kellogg, Sprint, and Yum Brands. Tomorrow we will be digesting the Bank of England rate decision, U.S. Construction Spending, U.S. Auto Sales, and U.S. Manufacturing ISM. We also have a ton of U.S. corporate earnings hitting the tape, including the big announcement from Apple. Have a safe and happy Halloween!

**10 Years Ago Today A White Paper Was Released About A Crypto Called Bitcoin:** 10 years ago, a mystery person named Satoshi Nakamoto brought forth an idea that has changed the way the world thinks about currency. The system he

outlined and discussed in the white paper went live a few months later, on January 3rd, 2009. The first real-world bitcoin transaction didn't take place until mid-2010 when Laszlo Hanyecz bought two pizzas for 10,000 Bitcoin in Florida. In May of 2010, (1) Bitcoin was trading for around (1) penny. By October of 2010, the price of each Bitcoin climbed to about 13 cents. In October 2012, BitPay reported having over 1,000 merchants accepting bitcoin under its payment processing service. In November 2012, WordPress had started accepting bitcoins. In February 2013 the bitcoin-based payment processor Coinbase reported selling \$1 million worth of bitcoins in a single month at over \$22 per bitcoin. In early April 2013, the price per bitcoin had rallied to \$266 then dropped from to around \$50. On 23 June 2013, it was reported that the US Drug Enforcement Administration listed 11.02 bitcoins as a seized asset in a United States Department of Justice seizure notice. This marked the first time a government agency claimed to have seized bitcoin. On October 2nd, "The Silk Road" was seized by the FBI. This seizure caused a lot of media attention. At first, prices fell under pressure, then quickly rebounded, eventually exploding from around \$200 per coin on November 3rd to \$900 per coin by November 18th. Bitcoin passed \$1,000 on November 28th, 2013. Prices fell to around \$400 in April 2014, before rallying in the middle of the year. In September 2014 TeraExchange, LLC received approval from the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission "CFTC" to begin listing an over-the-counter swap product based on the price of a bitcoin. The CFTC swap product approval marks the first time a U.S. regulatory agency approved a bitcoin financial product. In February 2015, the number of merchants accepting bitcoin exceeded 100,000. Interestingly, in early 2015, the price of each Bitcoin had fallen back to around \$200 per coin. It wasn't until the Spring of 2016 that prices had steadily risen to levels back above \$500 per coin. In September 2016, the number of bitcoin ATMs had doubled over the last 18 months and reached 771 ATMs worldwide. In early 2017, the price of a Bitcoin was still below \$1,000. By May of 2017, the price had surged to \$2,000 per coin. By August of 2017, it pushed to \$4,000 per coin. By November 2017 the price had pushed to \$8,000 per coin. By December 15th, 2017, the price of each Bitcoin exploded to \$17,900. Prices have since pulled back aggressively and now stand at around \$6,200 per unit. For full disclosure purposes, I remain a longer-term Bitcoin bull and still hold Bitcoins in my investment portfolio. Though currently, the technology isn't developed enough to be used as a full-blown payment system by all. Upcoming projects like Connex, Lightning and others are coming close to solving these problems and making Bitcoin more acceptable for everyday use. In the short term, bitcoin and other top cryptocurrencies might face continued headwinds as selling pressure to lock in year-end tax losses has investors selling what has lost money in order to offset potential capital gains. I will probably be adding to my current position on a deeper break in price. For what it's worth, the most recent data shows Bitcoin now averaging just over 275,000 transactions per day. That sound like a lot, but for comparison, Visa will process an average of 150 million transactions each day. In other words, Bitcoin still has a long ways to go. I'm staying extremely patient...

**Halloween Candy!** This year, the National Retail Federation is estimating that shoppers will spend \$2.6 billion on Halloween candy. That is lower than their \$2.7 billion estimate last year.

## 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





## The most popular Halloween candy in every state



AK	Twix	KY	Swedish Fish	NY	Sour Patch Kids
AL	Candy Corn	LA	Lemonheads	OH	M&M's
AR	Jolly Ranchers	MA	Sour Patch Kids	OK	Dubble Bubble Gum
AZ	Snickers	MD	Milky Way	OR	Reese's Cups
CA	Skittles	ME	Sour Patch Kids	PA	Skittles
CO	Twix	MI	Candy Corn	RI	Candy Corn
CT	Almond Joy	MN	Tootsie Pops	SC	Skittles
DE	Life Savers	MO	Milky Way	SD	Starburst
DC	M&M's	MS	3 Musketeers	TN	Tootsie Pops
FL	Snickers	MT	Dubble Bubble Gum	TX	Reese's Cups
GA	Jolly Ranchers	NC	M&M's	UT	Jolly Ranchers
HI	Skittles	ND	Hot Tamales	VA	Hot Tamales
IA	Candy Corn	NE	Salt Water Taffy	VT	Milky Way
ID	Candy Corn	NH	Starburst	WA	Salt Water Taffy
IL	Kit Kat	NJ	Skittles	WI	Butterfinger
IN	Hot Tamales	NM	Candy Corn	WV	Blow Pops
KS	Reese's Cups	NV	Candy Corn	WY	Reese's Cups



## AMERICA'S TOP 10 HALLOWEEN CANDY

from CandyStore.com

- 1 SKITTLES
- 2 M&M'S
- 3 SNICKERS
- 4 REESE'S CUPS
- 5 STARBURST
- 6 CANDY CORN
- 7 HOT TAMALES
- 8 HERSEY'S
- 9 TOOTSIE POPS
- 10 JOLLY RANCHERS

11 years sales data (2007-2017) sales data, CandyStore.com

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"

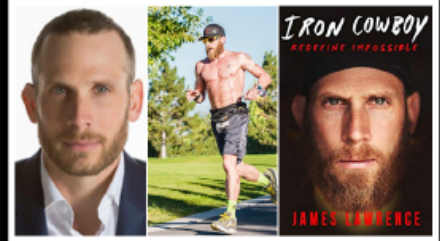
Don't miss this tale of adventure as James Lawrence 'Redeefines Impossible.'

"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."



# FARM TANK

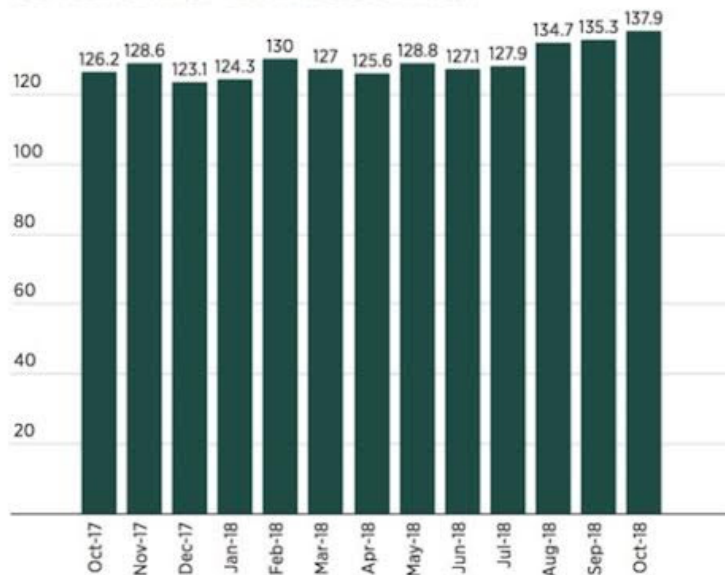
## Tweets of the Day



Following

Consumer confidence rises to an 18-year high in October. [cnb.cx/2Q69jNA](https://cnb.cx/2Q69jNA)

US Consumer Confidence Index



Source: [The Conference Board](https://www.conferenceboard.com/)

CNBC

10:01 AM - 30 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.*





Luv  
@Lady\_L\_U\_V

Following

Enjoy The View...

#Halloween 🎃 🖤



10:09 AM - 30 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 Nellinger and Todd Gleason talk about the markets and strategies for reducing risk and improved pricing.*



### Today In History



#### 18BC? Halloween -

Halloween, also known as All Hallows' Eve, can be traced back about 2,000 years to a pre-Christian Celtic festival held around Nov. 1 called Samhain (pronounced "sah-win"), which means "summer's end" in Gaelic, according to the Indo-European Etymological Dictionaries. Because ancient records are sparse and fragmentary, the exact nature of Samhain is not fully understood, but it



**Kyle Allen**  
@channelseed7

Following

Could be one of my favorite photos this year  
#Harvest18 #cropscount



7:10 PM - 29 Oct 2018

was an annual communal meeting at the end of the harvest year, a time to gather resources for the winter months and bring animals back from the pastures. Samhain is also thought to have been a time of communing with the dead. As I understand it, there was a belief that it was a day when spirits of the dead would cross over into the other world. Such moments of transition in the year have always been thought to be special and supernatural by most familiar with Celtic history. For many, Halloween provides a safe way to play with the concept of death as people dress up as the living dead, and fake gravestones adorn front lawns — activities that are generally less accepted at other times throughout the year, although that seems to be changing as well. Taking another view, Nicholas Rogers, a history professor at York University in Toronto and author of "Halloween: From Pagan Ritual to Party Night", "there is no hard evidence that Samhain was specifically devoted to the dead or to ancestor worship. "According to the ancient sagas, Samhain was the time when tribal peoples paid tribute to their conquerors and when the sidh [ancient mounds] might reveal the magnificent palaces of the gods of the underworld," Rogers wrote. Samhain was less about death or evil than about the changing of seasons and preparing for the dormancy (and rebirth) of nature as summer turned to winter, he said. Though a direct connection between Halloween and Samhain has never been proven, many scholars believe that because All Saints' Day (or All Hallows' Mass, celebrated on Nov. 1) and Samhain, are so close together on the calendar that they influenced each other and later combined into the celebration now called Halloween. The tradition of dressing in costumes and trick-or-treating may go back to the practice of "mumming" and "guising," in which people would disguise themselves and go door-to-door, asking for food. Early costumes were usually disguises, often woven out of straw, he said, and sometimes people wore costumes to perform in plays or skits. The practice may also be related to the medieval custom of "souling" in Britain and Ireland, when poor people would knock on doors on Hallowmas (Nov. 1), asking for food in exchange for prayers for the dead. Interestingly, Trick-or-treating didn't start in the United States until World War II.



**1517, Martin Luther** - Luther approaches the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany, and nails a piece of paper to it containing the 95

revolutionary opinions that would begin the Protestant Reformation. In his theses, Luther condemned the excesses and corruption of the Roman Catholic Church, especially the papal practice of asking payment—called "indulgences"—for the forgiveness of sins. At the time, a Dominican priest named Johann Tetzel, commissioned by the Archbishop of Mainz and Pope Leo X, was in the midst of a





**Will**  
@TilghmanWill

Following

Very proud of my son this morning. His first deer season and deer for him. I'm not sure who was shaking in the end more him or me. #hunting



10:26 AM - 27 Oct 2018



**Inspired Motivation Quotes**  
@IMQuotes\_Videos

Following

Don't be overwhelmed by how far off your goal seems to be, be grateful for your progress, and stay focused on the present moment.

#TuesdayThoughts

The reason why people give up so fast is because they tend to look at how far they still have to go, instead of how far they have come.

@IMQUOTES\_VIDEOS

7:00 AM - 30 Oct 2018

major fundraising campaign in Germany to finance the renovation of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. Though Prince Frederick III the Wise had banned the sale of indulgences in Wittenberg, many church members traveled to purchase them. When they returned, they showed the pardons they had bought to Luther, claiming they no longer had to repent for their sins. Luther's frustration with this practice led him to write the 95 Theses, which were quickly snapped up, translated from Latin into German and distributed widely. A copy made its way to Rome, and efforts began to convince Luther to change his tune. He refused to keep silent, however, and in 1521 Pope Leo X formally excommunicated Luther from the Catholic Church. That same year, Luther again refused to recant his writings before the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V of Germany, who issued the famous Edict of Worms declaring Luther an outlaw and a heretic and giving permission for anyone to kill him without consequence. Protected by Prince Frederick, Luther began working on a German translation of the Bible, a task that took 10 years to complete. The term "Protestant" first appeared in 1529, when Charles V revoked a provision that allowed the ruler of each German state to choose whether they would enforce the Edict of Worms. A number of princes and other supporters of Luther issued a protest, declaring that their allegiance to God trumped their allegiance to the emperor. They became known to their opponents as Protestants; gradually this name came to apply to all who believed the Church should be reformed, even those outside Germany. By the time Luther died, of natural causes, in 1546, his revolutionary beliefs had formed the basis for the Protestant Reformation, which would over the next three centuries revolutionize Western civilization.



**1892, Arthur Conan Doyle -** The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes, by Arthur Conan Doyle, is published. The book was the first collection of

Holmes stories, which Conan Doyle had been publishing in magazines since 1887. In general the stories in The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes identify, and try to correct, social injustices. Holmes is portrayed as offering a new, fairer sense of justice. The stories were well received, and boosted the subscriptions figures of The Strand Magazine, prompting Doyle to be able to demand more money for his next set of stories. The first story, "A Scandal in Bohemia", includes the character of Irene Adler, who, despite being featured only within this one story by Doyle, is a prominent character in modern Sherlock Holmes adaptations, generally as a love interest for Holmes. Doyle included four of the twelve stories from this collection in his twelve favorite Sherlock Holmes stories, picking "The Adventure of the Speckled Band" as his overall favorite.

Conan Doyle was born in Scotland and studied medicine at the University of

# 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 is a Mummie's favorite type of music?*

**Weather** on the Plains is seeing pockets of excessive wetness continue to slow fieldwork in some areas from Kansas southward. On October 28, topsoil moisture was rated 42% surplus in Texas, along with 34% in Oklahoma and 22% in Kansas. Winter wheat planting was at least 10% points behind average in Oklahoma at 78% planted vs. the 5 year average of 88% and Kansas at 76% planted versus 89%. In the Corn Belt, dry weather favors corn and soybean harvest efforts despite an increase in cloudiness. although 34% of the U.S. soybean acreage was harvested during the last 2 weeks, overall progress -- 72% harvested by October 28 -- remains the slowest since 2009, when just 47% had been harvested. In the South, dry weather is nearly ideal for winter wheat planting and harvesting crops such as cotton, peanuts, and soybeans. On October 28, nearly 3 weeks after Hurricane Michael struck the Southeast, nearly half (46%) of Georgia's cotton was rated in poor to very poor conditions. A developing storm system across the nation's mid-section will drift eastward during the next several days. Warm, dry weather will precede the storm, but heavy rain will develop by mid-week along an axis stretching from eastern Texas into the Midwest. Five-day rainfall totals could reach 1 to 4 inches or more in the Gulf Coast States from eastern Texas to Alabama, extending northeastward into the Ohio Valley and the Northeast.

**Active Weather To Start November:** *November will begin with an active jet stream pattern that will bring stormy conditions to parts of the central and eastern states while rounds of rain soak the PNW. Three separate weather systems will move through in the first week of November. In the First system, we will see a threat of strong to severe storms to the South spreading heavy rain into the Ohio Valley and eastern Great Lakes. Then, over the weekend the second system will move from the Dakotas to the Great lakes bringing accompanying rain showers to much of the Midwest. Early next week, the third system will impact parts of the Plains, Midwest and South next Monday and Tuesday. This area of low pressure could have with it heavy rain, strong to severe thunderstorms in the South and perhaps, snow in northern areas. election Day could potentially be affected by this widespread weather system in portions of those regions. All three low-pressure systems will be followed by shots of cool air into the central states.*

Edinburgh, where he met Dr. Joseph Bell, a teacher with extraordinary deductive power. Bell partly inspired Doyle's character Sherlock Holmes years later. Arthur Conan Doyle began writing while studying medicine at university in the late 1870s, and had his first short story, "The Mystery of Sasassa Valley", published in September 1879. After eight years, A Study in Scarlet, Doyle's first Sherlock Holmes story, was published by Ward Lock & Co. The novel was well received, but Doyle was paid little for it, and despite a sequel novel, The Sign of the Four, which was published in Lipincott's Monthly Magazine, he shifted his focus to short stories. In early 1891, the first editor of The Strand Magazine, Herbert Greenhough Smith, received two submissions from Doyle for the newly established magazine. He later described his reaction: "I at once realized that here was the greatest short story writer since Edgar Allan Poe." The first of these, "A Scandal in Bohemia" was published near the back of The Strand Magazine in July 1891. The stories proved popular, helping to boost the circulation of the magazine, and Doyle received 30 guineas for each short story in the initial run of twelve. The initial print run of the book was for 10,000 copies in the United Kingdom, and a further 4,500 copies in the United States, which were published by Harper Brothers the following day. In 1902, Conan Doyle was knighted for his work with a field hospital in South Africa. In addition to dozens of Sherlock Holmes stories and several novels, Conan Doyle wrote history, pursued whaling, and engaged in many adventures and athletic endeavors. After his son died in World War I, Conan Doyle became a dedicated spiritualist. He died in 1930.

## Upcoming Events

**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

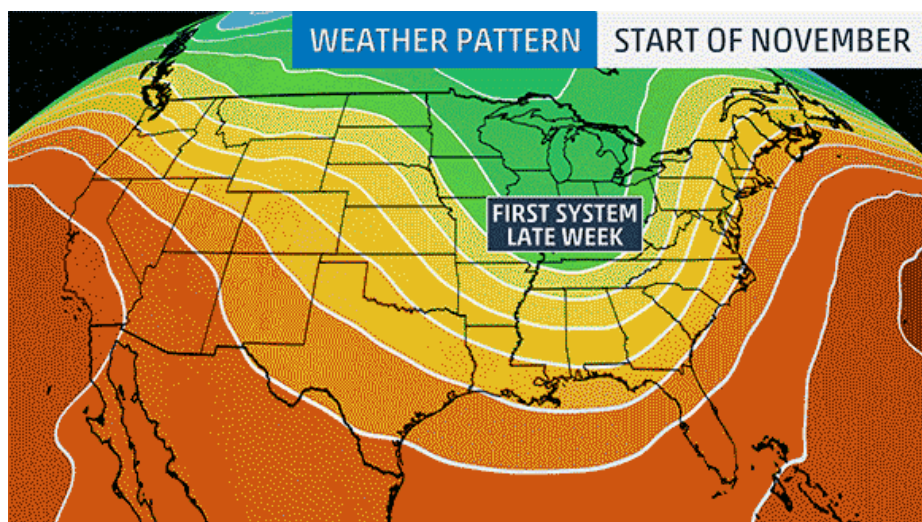
**Tues. 11/13** - Crop Progress

**Thur. 11/15** - NOPA Crush

**Fri. 11/16** - Export Sales

**Mon. 11/19** - Crop Progress, Milk Production





**Corn** prices remain in a narrow trading range. Bulls continue to talk about U.S. production estimates pulling back. The recent forecast for heavy snow in parts of the upper Midwest and delays out East are cause for some concern. Bulls also point to logistical restraints and problems in South America, especially if they are going to be forced to supply China with the majority of their soybeans. Bulls also point to a fairly significant reduction in Chinese and global corn stocks. Bears see the same shrinking of the global balance sheet but deem supply to be ample or adequate enough not to create a shortage. Bears are also banking on a big jump in South American production compared to last year. The verdict is obviously still out on that call, as the weather will play a huge role as the season progresses. Bears also seem to be punching a few holes in what has been an extremely strong demand growth story. U.S. exporters are perhaps seeing more than expected competition from Argentina, Brazil and Ukraine. I'm also hearing more talk that the ethanol grind being used is perhaps below the USDA's current estimate as more milo finds its way into the mix. Remember, the milo export program came to a screeching halt with China passing on U.S. supply. Meaning more milo has to find a home as well. I should also note the U.S. dollar has moved to a multi-month high and the macro landscape remains difficult for the bulls. As a producer, I'm keeping all hedges in place, remaining fearful that more downside risk could occur. Longer-term, weather becomes a huge "wild-card" and could create upside momentum. But from my perspective, that's still a ways off on the horizon. As a spec, I would like to be a longer-term buyer but remain in no hurry to jump in with both feet.

**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

#### Kevin's Song of the Week

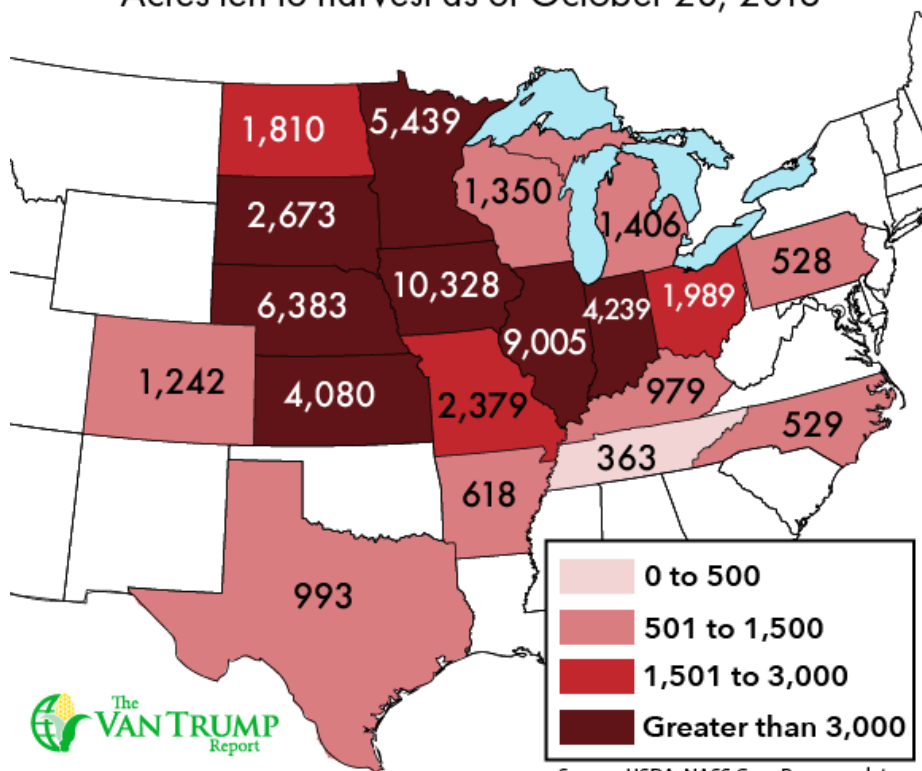


#### Kevin's Song of the Week

# Corn Left to Harvest

(in thousand acres)

Acres left to harvest as of October 28, 2018



**Soybean** prices are steady this morning, but have fallen -60 cents from its mid-October highs. First Notice Day for the NOV18 contract is today, the contract goes off the board in two weeks. Many bears think we could ultimately retest the lows on the chart down at \$8.12<sup>2</sup>. Bulls continue to point towards weather worries and delays in the U.S. harvest. Several states in the upper-Midwest are now looking at 10 to 12 inches of snow in the forecast, while producers towards the East and in the Delta are battling wet conditions. The question being asked is how many acres will go unharvested, and what will the yield drag be on some of the late harvested fields? Bears don't seem all that worried, especially with the U.S. sitting on record ending stocks and continued lack of export demand. There was talk yesterday, a cargo of soybeans that had been sold to China and ready to leave our port, was actually resold to Vietnam, further confirming China's effort to avoid U.S. supply. There's also no fresh or new news surrounding Chinese trade negotiations. It seems most inside the trade are now mentally preparing for the next round of tariffs and the trade conflict to deepen further before improving. There's also the ongoing headwinds and uncertainty surrounding African Swine Fever and the Chinese government trying to ration demand by lowering protein requirements and importing more alternatives. At the same time, producers in Brazil are off to a record planting pace on a record number of acres. From what I am hearing, Brazil is now about 50% planted, with Mato Grosso north of 75% planted. I should note, the CME is lowering the daily limit in soybeans from 75 cents down to 60 cents per bushel. Wheat will remain at 35 cents and corn at 25 cents per day. As a producer, I continue to keep hedges in place. As a spec, I still believe we will see another leg lower and want to remain patient in regards to being a longer-term bull. I suspect if the outside macro environment would turn more optimistic, so would my overall opinion about the soybean market. Until then, I will probably struggle to get excited about the nearby outlook.

## 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

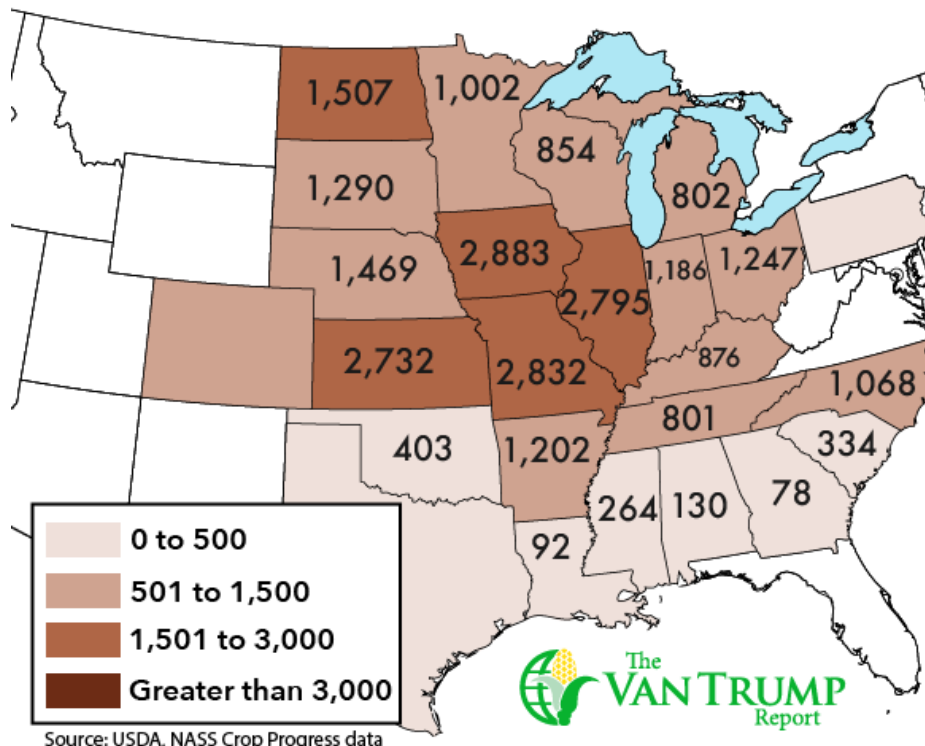
"As a national federal farm policy administrator and commodity producer, I find it critical to keep updated with what is going on in the real world of agriculture and with the domestic and global markets. Of all the services I've have been privy to or have subscribed to over the past 20 years I've found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



# Soybean Left to Harvest

(in thousand acres)

Acres left to harvest as of October 28, 2018



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** prices again struggle to hold upside momentum. The lack of fresh news allows the bears to focus on a strong U.S. dollar and bearish overall tone to the macro markets. Continued talk of slowing global growth makes it difficult to attract outside money flow. Traditional fundamentals look as if they could eventually prove to be bullish, but the timing just isn't right at the moment. Russia has more export bushels available than many bulls inside the trade were anticipating. Australia's production problems have been fairly well advertised to this point, even though the USDA probably has more trimming to do on their current estimate. We also continue to monitor dry conditions in parts of the European Union and parts of the Black Sea region. Here at home, bulls are wanting to argue that the overall winter wheat crop conditions weren't as good as many had forecast. Bears point to the fact U.S. winter wheat conditions were reported at 53% Good-to-Excellent compared to 52% last year. In other words, even though the conditions were not all that great, they weren't all that bad. States where conditions were reported better than last year: Montana 84% rated GD/EX this year vs. just 22% rated GD/EX last year; South Dakota 44% GD/EX this year vs. 17% GD/EX last year; Arkansas 59% vs. 42%; Nebraska 71% vs. 55%; Illinois 66% vs. 59%. Texas 46% vs. 43%. California and North Carolina are both showing conditions the same as last year. States with current crop conditions worse than last year: Oregon 53% rated GD/EX this year vs. 77% rated GD/EX last year; Michigan 58% this year vs. 79% last year; Missouri 50% vs. 65%; Kansas 42% vs. 55%; Washington 73% vs. 85%; Ohio 79% vs. 90%; Oklahoma 38% vs. 47%; Indiana 64% vs. 71%; Colorado 64% vs. 65%; Idaho 59% vs. 60%. Obviously, the big worry or concern is the top U.S. wheat producing state of Kansas, which arguably facing tougher conditions than last year.

## Comparing Winter Wheat Conditions

2018 U.S. Winter Wheat Good-to-Excellent Conditions

53% Good-to-Excellent



2018 vs. 2017

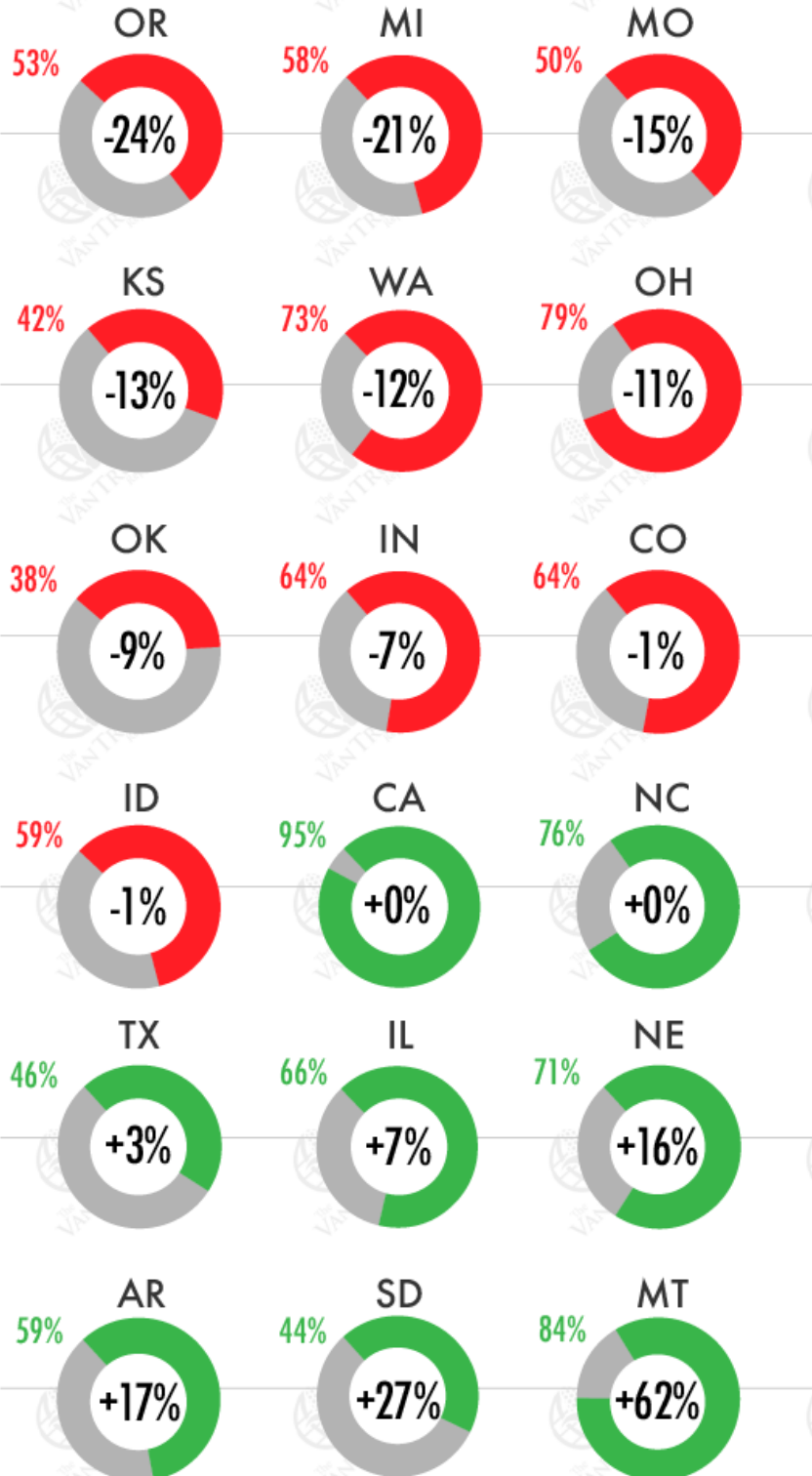
2018 TO 2017

# Week 43

week ending October 28, 2018

Ahead or Behind  
2017 G-to-E Conditions

Source: USDA, NASS Crop Progress



Red if Below  
2017 G-to-E conditions

Green if At or Above  
2017 G-to-E conditions

Farm Direction

RECIPES

## ★ FAMILY FAVORITES ★

-SENT IN BY OUR READERS-

Creamy Garlic  
Parmesan Brussels  
Sprouts w/Bacon



CLICK TO SEE RECIPE





> **Bunge Ltd. Preparing to Consider a Sell:** *Bunge Ltd is finalizing agreements with activist investors D.E. Shaw and Co and Continental Grain Co to add four directors to its board and set up a committee to explore a sale, two sources familiar with the matter said on Tuesday. The agreement was first reported by the Wall Street Journal, which earlier this month said D.E. Shaw had raised its stake in the grain trader and was working with Continental Grain to make operational improvements at the company. Bunge shares were up 3.3 percent at \$67.92 on Tuesday afternoon. (Source: Reuters)*

> **Daily Price Limit Changes by CME:** *Soybeans daily maximum move will drop to 60 cents a bushel from 75 beginning November 1. Also, meal from soybeans will see their daily limit fall to \$20 a ton from \$25 while soybean oil daily limits will move down to 20 cents a pound from 25 cents.*

> **ASF Subsidies in Xinxiang:** *China is set to lift curbs on the African Swine Fever in Xinxiang, a city in the northern province of Henan. All swine fever restrictions will be lifted but monitoring for new cases will continue in the area for the near term as the disease continues to spread.*

> **India, China and Turkey Still Buying Iranian Oil:** *With just days to go before U.S. sanctions on Iran go into effect, it appears that India, China and Turkey are still resisting demands from Washington to eliminate purchases. Reuters reports that there is tension within the Trump administration over how hard to press these countries, with one camp, led by national security adviser John Bolton, pushing for zero tolerance, and others more in favor of offering some waivers. Several top importers are still set to buy some Iranian oil in November. (Source: Oilprice.com)*

> **Coinbase Raises \$300 Million:** *In its latest round of funding, a series E injection has brought the start-ups value to near \$8billion. I'm told the start-up plans to use those funds to "accelerate the adoption of cryptocurrencies and digital assets. It's worth noting that Coinbase is often seen as a poster child for the industry, and its allure among top venture capitalists has been touted as a positive sign for the future of cryptocurrencies. The deal takes Coinbase to \$525 million from investors to date, while the valuation represents a huge jump on the \$1.6 billion it was deemed to be worth when it previously raised — that was \$100 million back in August 2017.*

> **Lunar Rocks To Sell For A Million at Sotheby's:** *Three tiny moon rocks, collected by a Soviet space mission in 1970, are expected to sell for up to \$1 million when they go to auction in November. Sotheby's says the minuscule fragments, valued between \$700,000 and \$1 million, are the only known and documented lunar rocks to be available for private ownership. I'm told they were retrieved by the unmanned Luna-16 Mission in 1970 and were first sold in 1993 by the widow of former Soviet space program director Sergei Pavlovich Korolev.*

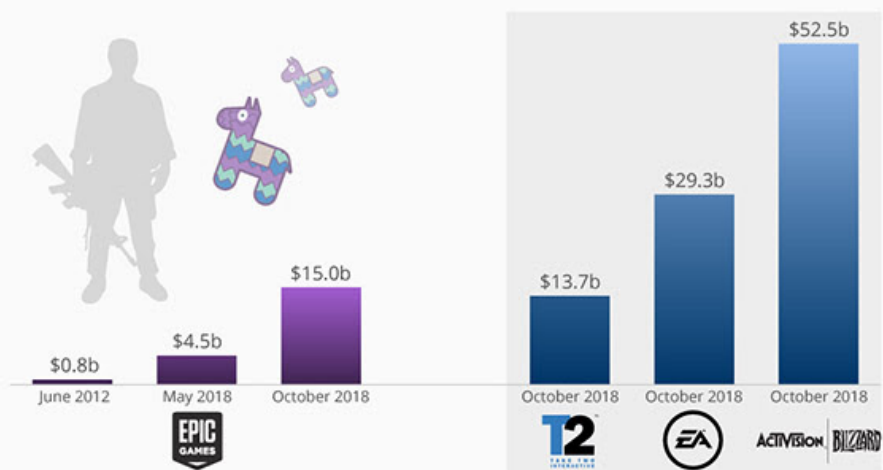
> **Chipotle's Test Drive-Up Windows Gaining Traction:** *Chipotle's drive-up test restaurants have been a hit with customers and the store will add more next year. CEO Brian Niccol shared that the above national average digital sales from those test stores show consumers appreciated the service. From what I understand, The company has been pushing technology, including delivery and digitized kitchens. Digital sales grew 48% in the quarter, but it so far hasn't been enough to move the needle, especially as delivery competition is coming on fast.*

> **Uber Launching New Monthly Subscription Plan:** *It is being called "Ride Pass" and is available today in five cities: Los Angeles, Austin, Orlando, Denver, and Miami. For \$14.99 a month, riders can lock in flat rates on all the UberX and UberPool trips they take over the course of that month. The rates, based on historical data, will be heavily discounted, saving riders up to 15 percent on their overall monthly travel, Uber says. Ride Pass fares won't be subject to typical external events like weather, traffic, or surge pricing. And there's no limit to the number of rides customers can take each month.*

> **Fortnite Maker Hits \$15 Billion Valuation:** *Epic Games, creator of the blockbuster onlie game Fortnite, has landed a \$1.25 billion investment form multiple investors, the company announced last week. It was the largest funding round ever for a video game company, valuing Epic Games at almost \$15 billion. Fortnite's success has led to a huge jump in Epic Games' valuation this year. Back in May, its valuation was etimated to be \$4.5 billion or less than a third of what it now reportedly is.*

## Fortnite Maker Hits \$15-Billion Valuation

Valuation of Epic Games compared to the market cap of leading video game companies\*



CC BY ND  
@StatistaCharts

\* Market capitalization for Take-Two, EA and Activision Blizzard as of October 29, 2018.  
Sources: Media reports, Yahoo! Finance

statista



## FROM THE FIELD

**Eastcentral Iowa** - We can finally get back in the fields after rains kept us out for the last couple of weeks. Prior to that we had some snow as well that pushed us back. At this point we are 90% harvested on our beans in this area and I'd say 20% of the corn has been picked. We will not be setting records this year with our production on either crop. We were able to make some good early sales and we will sit on the rest for now. We are counting on some bump before March hopefully. Most of us will be on our standard same rotations but I have heard a few guys may go heavier corn acres. It's getting a little scary out here for a soybean grower, but our options are limited with our current set up. We will continue to look for other sources of income but are fortunate to own a good percentage of what we farm, and we are not looking to add leverage to operation right now.

**Central Minnesota** - I have been reading about the other boys in the state getting a little rain over the weekend and I feel for them. We didn't get enough rain to stop our combine only because it has tracks. We are about 99% done with soybeans, the only beans we have left are sitting in such a big mud hole that we don't plan on even harvesting them. I think it's at total of 3 acres in 2 fields. We are about 50% done with corn as of Monday. We are knocking out about 100-150 acres per day. The biggest thing for us is the truck drivers is not able to keep up since we only have 2 trucks and a grain cart. We are running until everyone has to stop because early next week this area is going to get what the weatherman is calling a massive snow storm. They are talking almost 2 feet so I'm guessing we get about a foot. Right now, we have about 800 acres of corn to get done before the snow flies on Tuesday, so we are going to cut it close. I'm worried that anymore weather issues the stocks are going to start weakening up.

**Southern Iowa** - We just wrapped up soybeans on Monday and we are going to knock out corn over the next 11-13 days god willing the weather stays fair. We had a very small number of soybeans that were black, but they really came out well overall. I would say we are about average on the soybean yield, maybe slightly above or below what we expected but we are still putting all the numbers together. Considering we had very little rain through July and most of August they did okay. The corn we have harvested is slightly above what we expected. The one thing that I have heard from a lot of other farmers is their corn isn't standing well. We did not have that problem on most of our acres.



# CROSSING WIRES

A place to share intelligent thoughts...

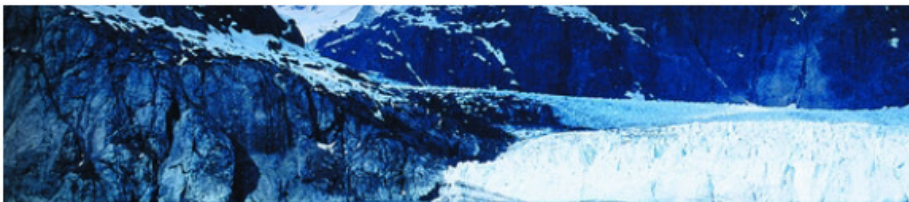
**Military Considers Global Rocket Deliveries:** Thanks to the emergence of the American private space industry, the United States Air Force can consider a wild-sounding possibility: rocket launches that blast cargo into space to land anywhere in the world within 30 minutes. Last week, at a military conference outside Dallas, Air Force officials confirmed that the service has met with private space companies to discuss the possibility. The argument for cargo delivery by space starts with speed. A C-5 aircraft can carry 150 tons of supplies to the other side of the globe in 10 hours, which is pretty impressive. But a rocket could launch a capsule that delivers the same amount in half an hour. In cases of extreme emergencies—for example, moving antidotes for toxic weapons, replacements for damaged gear, or a fresh load of ammunition—speed equals saved lives and successful missions. Read more [HERE](#) on the future use of this technology.

**Innovation Isn't about Ideas... It's about Solving Problems:** very enterprise needs to innovate. It doesn't matter whether you're are a profit-seeking business, a nonprofit organization, or a government entity. The simple truth is that every business model fails eventually because conditions change over time. We have to manage not for stability, but for disruption — that, or face irrelevance. The truth is that there is no one path to innovation. Everybody has to find their own way. Just because someone had success with one strategy doesn't mean it's right for the problem you need to solve. So the best advice is to gather as many tools for your toolbox as you can. Keep in mind that Innovation is never a single event. It is a long process of discovery, engineering, and transformation. [HERE](#) are four facts about innovation that you'll rarely hear, though they're critically important.

**Millionaire's Grit Outweighs Their Average GPA of 2.9:** GPA is one of the most important markers of success in school — but in the real world, that number has less of an effect on life achievement or wealth. What we see is that the average college GPA of American millionaires is actually 2.9. In general, high school valedictorians do well but they don't actually reach the highest level of success metrics. They don't become the billionaires or the people who run the world in general. And that's because what the research found was that school teaches you to comply with rules. So valedictorians often go on to be the people who support the system, they become a part of the system, they don't change the system or overthrow the system. While valedictorians generally score high in the personality trait of conscientiousness, what you see among the millionaires with their 2.9 GPAs is they're known for grit. Read more [HERE](#).

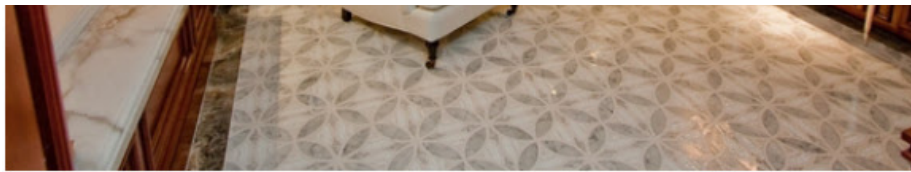
**How Hotels Are Changing Hospitality in the Airbnb ERA:** As the hotel industry figures out how to navigate hospitality in the age of Airbnb, the Standard, a boutique hotel chain is focusing on its strengths. "It's forced us to do better what we're really good at, and what we're really good at is bringing people together," says Standard International CEO Amar Lalvani. "That's something [Airbnb] can never do." That's where the hotel lobby—and The Standard's new Lobby app—comes into play. The idea behind the app is simple: Hotel lobbies used to be a place for spontaneous conversations, to meet and mingle with people from around the world. "I think of it kind of like the movie *Lost in Translation*, the beautiful, spontaneous, unexpected things that can happen in a hotel," says Lalvani. "Now what happens in a hotel lobby is everyone is looking at their phone." In attempt to fight the iPhone-instigated isolationist tendencies, the Standard is hoping to bring real people together in real time... read more [HERE](#).

**Check out The Utopia...A Floating Luxury Apartment Building:** For the ultra-wealthy, traveling the world is nothing new — but now they're bringing their luxurious homes along with them. The richest people in the world can now buy permanent luxury apartments on Utopia, a 971-foot long cruise ship that will travel the world for months at a time and stop for global cultural and sporting events such as the Olympics, Wimbledon, and Carnival in Rio de Janeiro. The floating residences cost between \$4.4 million and \$36 million — and many of the largest apartments are already purchased, David Robb, founder and chairman of the Utopia project and Harvard Business School alum, told Business Insider. I'm told the Utopia is set to launch in early 2019...read more [HERE](#).









## MICROBE TESTING THAT'S CHEAP, EASY AND PORTABLE

WEBINAR | 11/1 AT 3PM CT  
PRESENTED BY: NANOPORE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:



During 2018, iSelect, The VanTrump Report and The Yield Lab Institute are sponsoring a series of weekly webinars featuring the best in agriculture innovation. Agrifood Conversations is all about driving innovation and each month will highlight a specific theme, from biologicals to vertical farms, featuring emerging topics such as soil health, biologics, plant genetics, vertical farming, precision agriculture, herd health and management, and aquaculture, to name a few. Once a quarter, we'll open up the conversation with a panel of experts on that month's topic. Learn about new trends in ag, connect with industry leaders and discover new solutions.

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### Learn More About "Nanopore Diagnostics"

**Title: Microbe Testing That's Cheap, Easy and Portable**

**Time: Thursday, November 01 @ 3:00 pm CT**

Does your doctor know exactly what bacteria they're dealing with before prescribing you a course of antibiotics? Do food processors understand the microbes that are inhabiting their production lines and what they might mean for consumers? Not always, and it's because microbe testing has long been a complicated, expensive and time-consuming process. Nanopore Diagnostics is developing the iNDxer, a testing platform that will put microbiology testing into the pocket of the end user, saving time and money. Testing that once took days and highly trained professionals will instead be produced rapidly by anyone. Staged development is planned for the platform with a start in low-barrier aquaculture veterinarian applications. By informing aquaculture facilities in near real-time when dangerous pathogens are present the iNDxer will enable swift and effective remediation. This will reduce death and diminished biological activity leading to a 60% reduction in economic loss due to microbial disease in salmon and other farmed fish. Learn how one company is solving this problem with advanced digital optics at, "Microbe Testing That's Cheap, Easy and Portable," a webinar to be held at 3 pm CT on November 1st featuring Tom Cohen, Founder of Nanopore Diagnostics.



### **America's Most Haunted Places**

Whether you believe in ghosts or not, there are plenty of people out there that do and they have passed down spooky stories about them for years now. All across America are houses and buildings that have ghoulish tales surrounding them. Below are some of the creepiest ones I've come across!

**Stanley Hotel** - Estes Park, Colorado's Stanley Hotel is famous for its prominent role in the classic Stephen King horror movie, *The Shining*. When King stayed in room 417, he experienced a number of unusual things consistent with tales from other guests. There are reports of having belongings unpacked, lights turning on and off, and hearing phantom children laughing and giggling in the halls. Staff members have also heard music coming from the empty ballroom and kids running and playing on the floors above them. The hotel plays up its haunted reputation, showing the uncut R-rated version of the movie 24 hours a day.



**Villisca Axe Murder House** - On June 10, 1912, the old white frame house at [508 E Second St](#) in Villisca, Iowa, became a grisly crime scene. The heinous murder of Josiah B. Moore, his wife, their 4 children and 2 young girls who were overnight guests rocked the small town of Villisca, IA, and the murderer was never identified. Over the years, residents of the home reported visions of a man with an ax, children crying and unexplained paranormal activity. In 1994, the home was restored to its original condition with no indoor plumbing or electricity. These touches add to the chilling ambiance during a lamplight tour from April through November or an overnight experience available by reservation for groups.





**Fort Mifflin** - Built in 1771, Fort Mifflin in Philadelphia is the country's only Revolutionary War battlefield that is still intact. There are 14 restored buildings on the grounds on the Delaware River and reportedly plenty of spirits from the past. Among the ghosts said to haunt the fort is a screaming woman whose cries are so loud that the Philadelphia police have been called to investigate, only to find no one there. Other characters in the local ghost stories include a faceless man wandering around the fort, a tour guide dressed in revolutionary garb and numerous children and dogs.



**Moon River Brewery** - The Moon River Brewery brought its beloved beers to Savannah, Georgia, in 1999, but the building is one of the oldest in town, dating back to 1821. In its original incarnation, it was the City Hotel, a high-end hotel with a history of violence during the Civil War. Men were killed in the hotel during heated skirmishes, including a Yankee who was beaten to death by locals in 1860. Some bar patrons today say they've seen bottles mysteriously fly through the air and have witnessed guests being pushed, touched and even slapped by unseen forces. One resident apparition, Toby, is said to skulk around the billiards room looking for the next great bar brawl.



**The Sultan's Palace (no website)** - The house at [716 Dauphine St](#) is a classic French Quarter beauty in the heart of New Orleans, with wrought-iron balconies and a large courtyard. But in the 1800s, this residence was a house of horrors for the Sultan, a wealthy man with a depraved lifestyle, multiple wives and children, and a harem of women and young boys held against their will. Neighbors complained about the mysterious habits of this man who had a predilection for partying, opium and torture. But the greatest mystery in the house was the Sultan's demise when he was buried alive in the courtyard after his family and harem were hacked to pieces in a bloodbath by an unknown perpetrator. Today, his angry spirit is thought to be responsible for the unusual noises, loud music and strong incense smells that waft from the home, as well as unwelcome advances on past female residents who swear the Sultan is still up to his old tricks of groping female visitors.



**Lafitte's Blacksmith Shop Bar** - Another spooky spot in New Orleans, legend has it that this old Bourbon Street bar is haunted by pirate Jean Lafitte. Opened in 1772, the bar was rumored to be a front for Lafitte's smuggling operation and the hiding place for his stolen booty. Many believe his treasure is still somewhere beneath the charred ash and brick and that Lafitte—whose red eyes glow from behind the downstairs fireplace—remains to protect it. Some staff and guests even claim to



*have seen the ghost of Lafitte himself staring at them from the bar's dark corners, only to vanish seconds later, leaving the faint trace of a tobacco smell behind.*



### **World's Best At Carving Pumpkins**

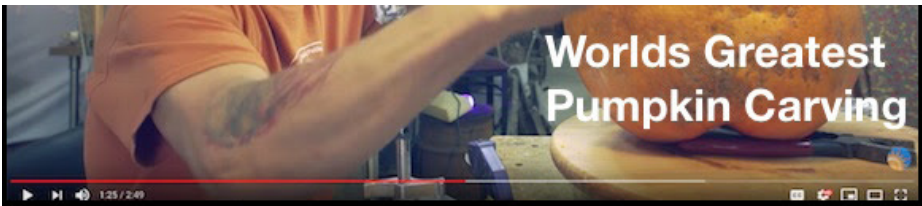
Ray Villafane has become the world's foremost pumpkin carver. Villafane Studios looks like a cross between Geppetto's workshop and a mad scientist's laboratory. Everywhere are precariously balanced rock sculptures that look like they belong in a zen garden. And pumpkins. Lots of pumpkins! There are faces carved into russet potatoes, preserved in jars of vinegar like fetal pigs in a science classroom. It's cliché to say magic can be found in the unlikelyst of places, but Ray Villafane is living proof of the truth of that cliché. His whole life is about finding and creating magic in unlikely places. So how does one become one of the world's most elite pumpkin sculptors? Villafane, 49, grew up on Long Island and majored in illustration, and a love of working with kids landed him a job as an art teacher in northern Michigan. Somewhere along the way, he discovered a talent for molding pumpkins to his will. The kids noticed, and started bringing pumpkins to his classroom for him to carve. Pumpkins were just one artistic medium for Villafane, though. After 13 years of teaching, he got a gig as a commercial sculptor. He did work for Warner Bros., Marvel, D.C. Comics and Hasbro, designing collectibles and action figures. It was steady work, good work. He had insurance, a future. Most people would say he'd made it. But Villafane knew he was building someone else's dreams, not his own. His thoughts kept returning to pumpkins. It doesn't bother Villafane that his art rots. He's embraced the ephemeral nature of his preferred medium. "It almost heightens the experience. If you have a moment you enjoyed and it's gone, it's only human nature to romanticize about it after it's gone," Villafane says. "If you do something and it's around forever, you just don't have the appreciation of it that you would have if it were gone." Below are a few tips for carving the best pumpkin. I have also included a short must see video of Villafane's work. Click [HERE](#) (Source: [USAToday](#))

### **Up Your Pumpkin-Carving Game With These 5 Expert Tips**

- 1. Choose a pumpkin that is heavy for its size. A heavier, denser pumpkin means more pumpkin flesh to work with.*
- 2. Keep a spray bottle of water nearby and wet the pumpkin flesh as you work. It will make the flesh more pliable and easier to work with.*
- 3. Ditch the grocery store pumpkin carving kits for pottery instruments, like ribbon tools. They're cheap and easy to find at art-supply stores.*
- 4. If you're carving a face, keep a mirror nearby and use your own expressions as a reference.*
- 5. Practice on a potato. They're much smaller and cheaper, and the flesh is similar to a pumpkin's.*











### Happy Halloween... And Some Things You Might Not Know

Halloween originated with the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain, when people would light bonfires and wear costumes to ward off ghosts. In the eighth century, Pope Gregory III designated November 1 as a time to honor all saints; soon, "All Saints Day" incorporated some of the traditions of Samhain. The evening before was known as "All Hallows Eve," and later Halloween. Over time, Halloween evolved into a day of activities like trick-or-treating and carving jack-o-lanterns. Around the world, as days grow

shorter and nights get colder, people continue to usher in the season with gatherings, costumes and sweet treats. Below are some fun facts: (Source: History, Wiki, )

**History:** Celtic festival of Samhain (pronounced sow-in) - The Celts, who lived 2,000 years ago in the area that is now Ireland, the United Kingdom and northern France, celebrated their new year on November 1. This day marked the end of summer and the harvest and the beginning of the dark, cold winter, a time of year that was often associated with human death. Celts believed that on the night before the new year, the boundary between the worlds of the living and the dead became blurred. On the night of October 31 they celebrated Samhain, when it was believed that the ghosts of the dead returned to earth. In addition to causing trouble and damaging crops, Celts thought that the presence of the otherworldly spirits made it easier for the Celtic priests to make predictions about the future. For a people entirely dependent on the volatile natural world, these prophecies were an important source of comfort and direction during the long, dark winter. To commemorate the event they built huge sacred bonfires, where the people gathered to burn crops and animals as sacrifices to the Celtic deities. During the celebration, the Celts wore costumes, typically consisting of animal heads and skins, and attempted to tell each other's fortunes. On May 13, 609 A.D., Pope Boniface IV dedicated the Pantheon in Rome in honor of all Christian martyrs, and the Catholic feast of All Martyrs Day was established in the Western church. Pope Gregory III later expanded the festival to include all saints as well as all martyrs, and moved the observance from May 13 to November 1. In 1000 A.D., the church would make November 2 All Souls' Day, a day to honor the dead. All Souls Day was celebrated similarly to Samhain, with big bonfires, parades, and dressing up in costumes as saints, angels and devils. The All Saints Day celebration was also called All-hallows or All-hallowmas (from Middle English Alholowmesse meaning All Saints' Day) and the night before it, the traditional night of Samhain in the Celtic religion, began to be called All-Hallows Eve and, eventually, Halloween. In the second half of the nineteenth century, America was flooded with new immigrants. These new immigrants, especially the millions of Irish fleeing the Irish Potato Famine, helped to popularize the celebration of Halloween nationally.

**Trick-or-Treat:** The American Halloween tradition of "trick-or-treating" probably dates back to the early All Souls' Day parades in England. During the festivities, poor citizens would beg for food and families would give them pastries called "soul cakes" in return for their promise to pray for the family's dead relatives. The distribution of soul cakes was encouraged by the church as a way to replace the ancient practice of leaving food and wine for roaming spirits. The practice, which was referred to as "going a-souling" was eventually taken up by children who would visit the houses in their neighborhood and be given ale, food and money.

**Dancing For Your "Treat":** Most experts trace trick-or-treating to the European practice of "mumming," or "guysing," in which costume-wearing participants would go door-to-door performing choreographed dances, songs and plays in exchange for treats. According to Elizabeth Pleck's "Celebrating The Family," the tradition cropped up in America, where it would often take place on Thanksgiving.

**Jack-O'-Lanterns Haven't Always Been Made Out Of Pumpkins:** The jack-o'-lantern comes from an old Irish tale about a man named Stingy Jack. According to folklore, Stingy Jack was out getting sloshed with the Devil when Jack convinced his drinking partner to turn himself into a coin to pay for the drinks without spending money. Jack then put the Devil, shaped like a coin, into his pocket, which also contained a silver cross that kept the Devil from transforming back. Jack promised to free the Devil as long as the Devil wouldn't bother him for a year, and if he died, the Devil could never claim his soul. Jack tricked the Devil again later, getting him to pick a piece of fruit out of a tree and then carving a cross into the bark when the Devil was in the branches. This trick bought Jack another 10 years of devil-free living. When Jack finally died, God decided he wasn't fit for heaven, but the Devil had promised never to claim his soul for hell. So Jack was sent off to roam Earth with only a burning coal for light. He put the coal into a turnip as a lantern, and Stingy Jack became "Jack of the Lantern" or "Jack o' Lantern." Based on this myth, the Irish carved scary faces into turnips, beets and potatoes to scare away Stingy Jack or any other spirits of the night.

**Halloween was originally referred to as "Cabbage Night" In The U.S.:** This came from a Scottish fortune-telling game, where girls used cabbage stumps to predict information about their future husbands. In the early Framingham, Massachusetts, teens skipped the fortune-telling and simply went around throwing cabbage at their neighbors' houses, according to Framingham Legends & Lore. This was no isolated tradition: In late 19th century America, country boys reportedly rejoiced in throwing cabbage, corn and assorted rotten vegetables, according to "Candy: A Century of Panic and Pleasure."

**Candy:** One quarter of all the candy sold annually in the U.S. is purchased for Halloween, over 600 million pounds. Candy corn is one of the most popular candies and has been being made in the U.S. since 1898. Seven out of ten consumers are



planning to hand out candy tonight. The average consumer will spend about \$86 on decorations, candy, costumes and more.

**Bobbing for Apples:** This was originally a British courting ritual that was brought to America. Each apple represented a potential suitor, and the bobber would try to bite the apple of the guy she liked. If it only took one try, it was fate, but the more tries it took, the more likely their love wouldn't last.

**Why the Colors Orange and Black?** This has been a tradition from the very beginning with orange symbolizing harvest season and black symbolizing death and the end of the Summer.

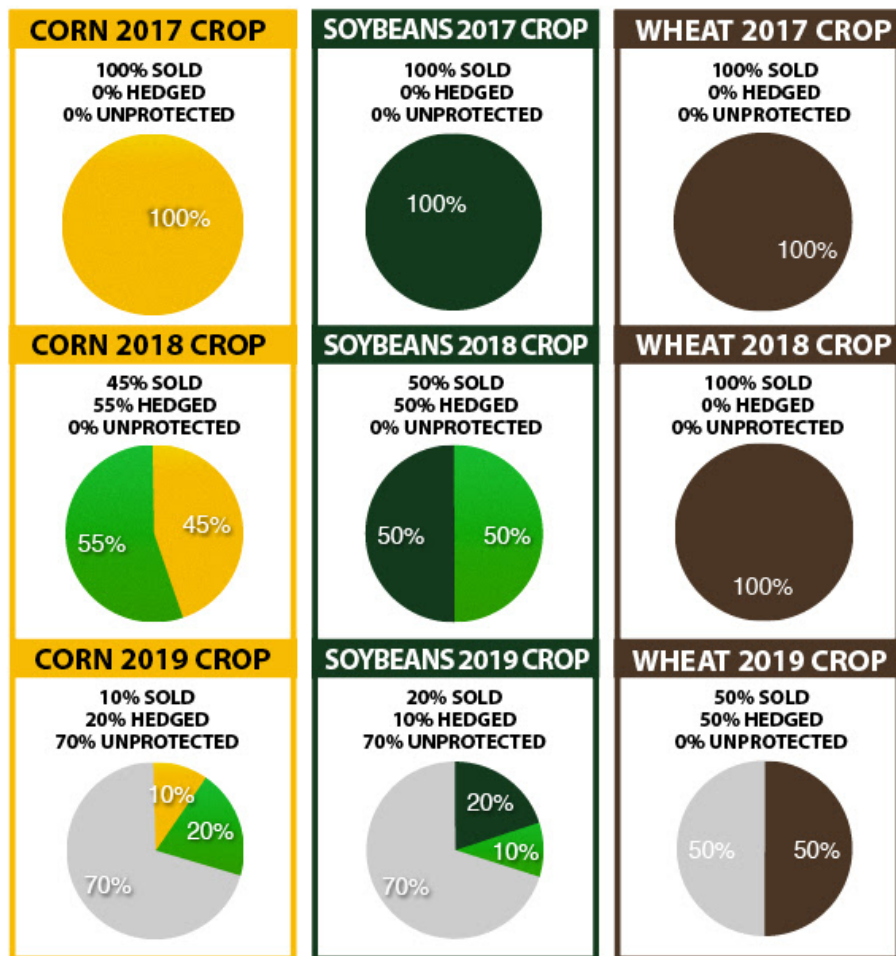


**ANSWER to riddle:**

Wrap

## CASH SALES & HEDGING TOTALS

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