

## GOOD MORNING: 11/16/18 Farm Direction - Van Trump Report

1 message

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

Fri, Nov 16, 2018 at 7:44 AM

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To: info@farmdirection.com



"No man steps in the same river twice" - Heraclitus

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2018**
[Printable Copy](#) or [Audio Version](#)

**Morning Summary:** Stocks are poised to slightly lower this morning. Bulls seem extremely happy to see improved trade talks amongst U.S. and Chinese leaders. From what I understand, the two sides are hoping to see President Trump and Xi agree in some capacity to halt or postpone escalating or implementing additional tariffs and also then allow working-level negotiators to iron out more specific details. Traders are also keeping an eye on the European Union, where headlines circulating around the Italian budget and U.K. Brexit plans have many on edge. Just one day after U.K. Prime Minister Theresa May obtained enough support from her senior ministers to move forward with her Brexit deal, there was a flurry of political resignations. I'm told there were a number of letters of no confidence submitted, which could potentially force a vote within the party on the Prime Ministers leadership. May will need the backing of about 320 lawmakers in the 650-seat parliament to pass the deal. The current scheduled Brexit departure date is March 29th. Personally, I don't think it's going to happen, there's just too much fallout taking place inside the British government. As of right now, things could go in a number of directions: May's deal could somehow miraculously find support and win approval; May could actually lose her job and be ousted as Prime Minister; Britain could leave the European Union with no deal or agreement in place; or perhaps even another referendum vote announced. Lets not forget, tension between Italy and the leaders of the European Union are now flaring. The European Union isn't approving the new Italian government budget proposal because the country is too deeply in debt and should be reducing government spending. It will be interesting to see how this tussle plays out. Many global investors are paying very close attention. Here at home, hedge fund billionaire Ray Dalio argues that the Federal Reserve has raised rates to a point where they're hurting asset prices. He once again reiterated, in his opinion, we are in the seventh or eighth inning of the current bull market and that the central bank needs to start looking at monetary policy's impact on asset prices before economic conditions, adding he would err on the side of caution in regard to rate hikes. It's worth noting that Minneapolis Fed President Neel Kashkari agrees that rates should not rise further. The dovish central banker says it would be time to raise rates if inflation shows more signs of strengthening, and said the Fed is pretty close to "neutral" right now. He went on to comment that there were no signs the economy was overheating. There's very little on today's economic calendar. Lets also keep in mind, next week the trade really start to thin out ahead of the shortened Thanksgiving holiday. There's very little on the economic calendar. Our offices will be closed on Thursday and Friday of next week to allow our staff travel and family time. Things will pick back up the following week after the holiday with the release of the latest Fed minutes and headlines surrounding the G20 meeting, where Trump and Xi can hopefully iron out a few things. Staying very conservative...

**Country Music Legend Roy Clark Passes at 85:** *I always remember Roy Clark and the entire Hee Haw gang on the television at my house when I was younger. Roy Clark was one of my fathers favorites. Clark, a member of the Country Music Hall of Fame and the Grand Ole Opry, was beloved by generations of fans. He was 85 years old when he passed Thursday at his home in Tulsa, Oklahoma of complications from pneumonia. Clark became something of an ambassador for country music, not just in the U.S. but internationally, appearing in locales as far-flung as the Soviet Union, where he did a groundbreaking tour in 1976. He also helped turn the Ozark town of Branson, Missouri, into an entertainment hot spot*

for Americans after opening the Roy Clark Celebrity Theatre there in 1983. A remarkably talented multi-instrumentalist, Clark started out on the banjo and mandolin; when he was 14, he received his first guitar as a Christmas present — and made his first television appearance that same year. First performing alongside his father, he began playing in D.C. bars and clubs, ignoring his schoolwork to the point of dropping out at age 15 and soon going on tour with the likes of Hank Williams. I can still remember watching Hee Haw with my parents back when I was growing up and always being impressed with his skills on the banjo and guitar. Pretty cool life... check out a short video of Clark on Hee Haw in 1971 playing the famous Johnny Cash song "Fulsome County Blues". Click [HERE](#)



**Record +\$90 Million For Living Artist:** British artist David Hockney was propelled to unprecedented heights last night after one of his most recognizable works, "Portrait of an Artist... Pool with Two Figures", sold for \$90.3 million, setting a new record for a living artist. I ran a story a couple of weeks back about the painting coming up for auction. I wanted to pay close attention to the sale. If the sale was weaker than anticipated, I would become more worried about a global slow down and perhaps a looming U.S. recession. A strong sale, would make me much more comfortable and a believer in further economic strength. From what I understand, the painting drew almost 10 minutes of solid bidding in front of a standing-room only crowd at Christie's in New York. Bidding started at \$18 million and within 40 seconds had reached \$40 million. The sale handily eclipsed the previous record held by a living artist, which was set by the American Jeff Koons when his "Balloon Dog (Orange)" sold for \$58.4 million at Christie's in 2013. The picture was being sold by Joe Lewis, the UK investor, art collector and owner of Tottenham Hotspur football club. Mr Lewis bought the Hockney in 1995 from Hollywood producer David Geffen for an undisclosed sum and it was offered at Christie's without either a guarantee or a reserve — a rarity for a work estimated to sell at that price. It was seen by art dealers and other investors as a sign of confidence in the market. Reports circulating, show Sotheby's sold over \$360 million of sales with new records set for Dana Schutz, Henry Taylor, Jacob Lawrence and Jack Whitten. More than 95% of the pieces on auction sold. This was certainly considered a strong sale. (Source: The Wall Street Journal, Financial Times)

## Dare to be Different

2018 Van Trump Conference



## 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







**Oklahoma QB Kyler Murray Recreates Famous Bo Jackson Photo:** Kyler Murray, the starting quarterback for Oklahoma Sooners, posted a picture last night on Twitter remaking Bo Jackson's famous "Ball Player" photo from 1987. Murray was drafted No. 9 overall by the Oakland Athletics in the 2018 MLB Draft and also has taken college football by storm this season. He's currently in the race for the Heisman Trophy with Alabama's Tua Tagovailoa. Murray has thrown for 3,038 yards and 32 touchdowns while also running for 640 yards and 7 touchdowns. Not sure how he compares to Jackson just yet considering Bo won the Heisman in 1985 with the Auburn Tigers. Keep in mind, Bo played both football and baseball professionally. I also want everyone to look at the size difference between the two in the picture below. Let's all remember, Bo was 6'1" and 235 lbs. coming out of Auburn while Kyler is currently 5'10" and 195 lbs. I also want to mention "Kyler Knows" doesn't sound nearly as good as the classic "Bo Knows." Risky move by Kyler comparing himself, in my opinion, to one of the greatest athletes of all time. I'm sure this photo will soon be viral.

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"

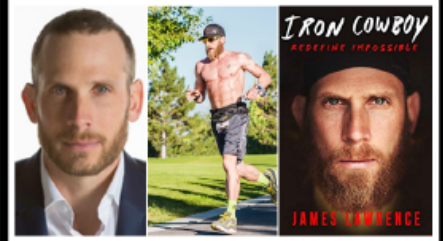
Don't miss this tale of adventure as James Lawrence 'Redefines Impossible.'

*"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."*





# FARM TANK

Tweets of the Day



## 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.*

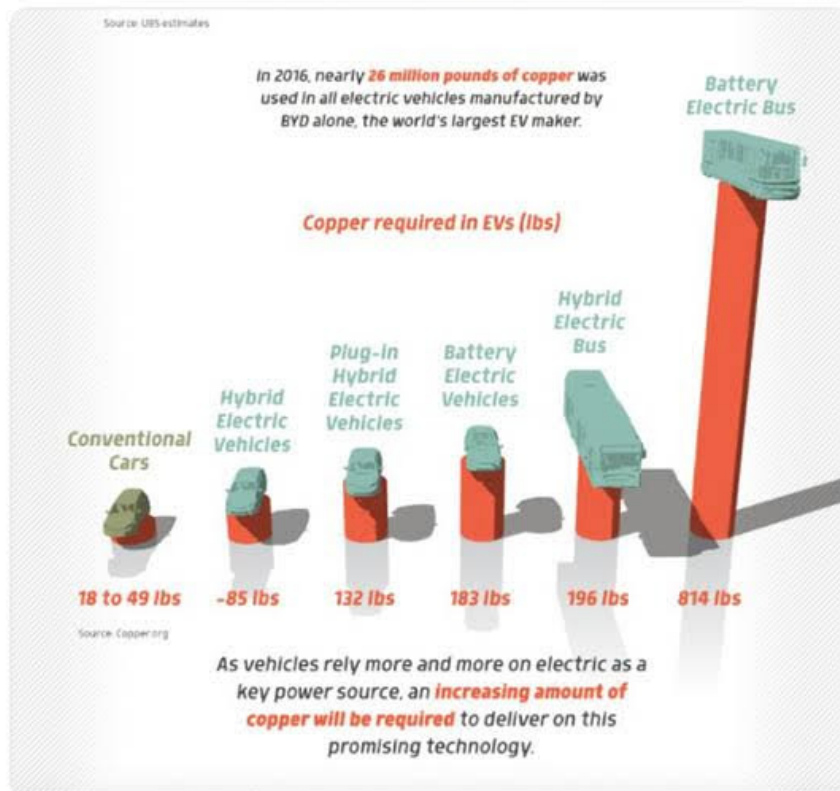




**Ron Loewen**  
@ronloewen

Following

#Infographic: How Much #Copper is in an Electric Vehicle? [bit.ly/2QADnkF](https://bit.ly/2QADnkF)



## 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



**1959, The Sound of Music Hits Broadway** - Did the young Austrian nun named Maria really take to the hills surrounding Salzburg to sing spontaneously of her love of music? Did she comfort herself with thoughts of copper kettles, and did she swoon to her future husband's song about an alpine flower while the creeping menace of Nazism spread across central Europe? No, the real-life Maria von Trapp did none of



NASA Solar System

@NASASolarSystem

Following

The **#Leonid #meteorshower** peaks on Nov. 17. The best viewing will be after midnight your local time, once the Moon has set. In this week's **#10Things**, get tips for taking great photos of meteor showers: [go.nasa.gov/2nhjFh3](https://go.nasa.gov/2nhjFh3) **#Leonids #photography**



those things. She was indeed a former nun, and she did indeed marry Count Georg von Trapp and become stepmother to his large brood of children, but nearly all of the particulars she related in her 1949 book, *The Story of the Trapp Family Singers*, were ignored by the creators of the Broadway musical her memoir inspired. And while the liberties taken by the show's writers, Howard Lindsay and Russel Crouse, and by its composer and lyricist, Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II, caused some consternation to the real Maria von Trapp and to her stepchildren, according to many later reports, those liberties made *The Sound of Music* a smash success from the very night of its Broadway opening on this day in 1959. With a creative team made up of Broadway legends and a star as enormously popular and bankable as Mary Martin, it was no surprise that *The Sound of Music* drew enormous advance sales. But audiences continued to flock to *The Sound of Music* despite sometimes tepid reviews, like the one in *The New York Times* that said the show "lack[ed] the final exultation that marks the difference between a masterpiece and a well-produced musical entertainment." Reviewer Brooks Atkinson did, however, single out the "affecting beauty" of the music from *The Sound of Music* as saving it from a story verging on "sticky." Sticky or no, *The Sound of Music* was an instant success, and numerous songs from its score—including "Do Re Mi," "My Favorite Things" and "Climb Every Mountain"—quickly entered the popular canon. Indeed, the original cast recording of *The Sound of Music* was nearly as big a phenomenon as the show itself. Recorded just a week after the show's premiere on this day in 1959 and released by Columbia Records, the album shot to the top of the Billboard album charts on its way to selling upwards of 3 million copies worldwide.



**1907, Oklahoma Enters Union** - Indian Territory and Oklahoma Territory collectively enter the United States as Oklahoma, the 46th state.

Oklahoma, with a name derived from the Choctaw Indian words *okla*, meaning "people," and *humma*, meaning "red," has a history of human occupation dating back 15,000 years. The first Europeans to visit the region were Spanish explorers in the 16th century, and in the 18th century the Spanish and French struggled for control of the territory. The United States acquired Oklahoma from France in 1803 as part of the Louisiana Purchase. After the War of 1812, the U.S. government decided to remove Indian tribes from the settled eastern lands of the United States and move them west to the unsettled lands of Oklahoma, Kansas, and Nebraska. In 1828, Congress reserved Oklahoma for Indians and in 1834 formally ceded it to five southeastern tribes as Indian Territory. Many Cherokees refused to abandon their homes east of the Mississippi, and so the U.S. Army moved them west in a forced





Molly Hurley





@MollyHurley

Following

Michigan on top vs Ohio State - the rival game 11/24 is going to be exciting again.

#OhioState #Michigan #CollegeFootball #ND #Alabama #clemson #collegefootballplayoff

**COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF RANKINGS**

<b>1. ALABAMA</b> 	<b>3. NOTRE DAME</b> 
<b>2. CLEMSON</b> 	<b>4. MICHIGAN</b> 

5. GEORGIA	16. IOWA STATE
6. OKLAHOMA	17. KENTUCKY
7. LSU	18. WASHINGTON
8. WASHINGTON STATE	19. UTAH
9. WEST VIRGINIA	20. BOSTON COLLEGE
10. OHIO STATE	21. MISSISSIPPI STATE
11. UCF	22. NORTHWESTERN
12. SYRACUSE	23. UTAH STATE
13. FLORIDA	24. CINCINNATI
14. PENN STATE	25. BOISE STATE
15. TEXAS	

NOVEMBER 13, 2018 #CFBPLAYOFF | 2019

march known as the "Trail of Tears." The uprooted tribes joined Plains Indians that had long occupied the area, and Indian nations with fixed boundaries and separate governments were established in the region. During the American Civil War, most tribes in Indian Territory supported the South. With the defeat of the Confederacy in 1865, the territory was placed under U.S. military rule. White cattlemen and settlers began to covet the virgin ranges of Oklahoma, and after the arrival of the railroad in the 1870s, illegal white incursion into Indian Territory flourished. Most of these "Boomers" were expelled, but pressure continued until the federal government agreed in 1889 to open two million acres in central Oklahoma for white settlement. At noon on April 22, 1889, a pistol shot signaled the opening of the new land, and tens of thousands of people rushed to stake claims. Those who had already made illegal entry to beat the starting gun were called "Sooners," hence Oklahoma's state nickname. The following year, the region was divided into Indian Territory and Oklahoma Territory. In 1907, Congress decided to admit Indian Territory and Oklahoma Territory into the Union as a single state, with all Indians in the state becoming U.S. citizens. Representatives of the two territories drafted a constitution, and on September 17, 1907, it was approved by voters of the two territories. On November 16, Oklahoma was welcomed into the United States by President Theodore Roosevelt. Oklahoma initially prospered as an agricultural state, but the drought years of the 1930s made the state part of the Dust Bowl. During the Depression, poor tenant farmers known as "Okies" were forced to travel west seeking better opportunities. In the 1940s, prosperity returned to Oklahoma, and oil production brought a major economic boom in the 1970s.



### 1957, Notre Dame ends Oklahoma Record Winning Streak

- On November 16, 1957, Notre Dame beats Oklahoma 7-0, ending the Sooners' 47-game, 1,512-day college football winning streak. The game also marked the first time in more than 120 games that Oklahoma didn't score a single point. Sooners fans were stunned. Some cried; some sat in the stadium for more than an hour after the game was over. But, as Sooners coach Bud Wilkinson said in the locker room after the game, "There wasn't anything mysterious about it. We just got beat." At the beginning of the 1953 season, the Fighting Irish had beaten Oklahoma 28-21. The next week, the Sooners had tied Pitt 7-7. The week after that, they'd beaten Texas 19-14, and they hadn't lost since. For their part, the Irish were coming off of a humiliating 1956 season—their worst ever—in which they'd lost to the Sooners 40-0. That smarted, and the Notre Dame team was out for revenge. Even though they were playing better in 1957 (they arrived in Norman with a 4-2 record), no one really expected them to



**Jason McPherson**

@JasonLMac

Following

I am glad today's over. Wind and Tarps do not mix. [#Harvest18](#) [@CrokerGrain1](#)



win. Oklahoma was the 18-point favorite, and momentum was certainly in the Sooners' favor—but, as their halfback pointed out years later, "you go against a team as an 18-point favorite, it's pretty hard to get excited—even if it's Notre Dame. Now, was Notre Dame excited? Hell yeah. They're playing the No. 1 team that had a 47-game winning streak. They played a little better against us than I think they did most people. They were pretty damn tough." At the beginning of the game, it looked like it was going to be another Oklahoma rout: Wilkinson's team had possession three times near the end zone but couldn't manage to score. Then, early in the next quarter, Notre Dame fullback Nick Pietrosante sacked the Sooners' quarterback, grabbed the fumble and ran the ball 19 yards. After that, Wilkinson's team just seemed to fold. The Irish won the game on their first possession of the fourth quarter: They chugged forward steadily, covering 80 yards in 20 plays, until Dick Lynch caught a toss and ran the touchdown in standing up. Monty Stickles scored the extra point. "Even the nuns were astounded," the newspaper wrote. Oklahoma still holds the NCAA record for the most consecutive wins by a major college football team. (Division III Mt. Union in Pennsylvania has broken the Sooners' record twice.) In fact, since World War I only four Division I teams have won more than 30 games in a row: Toledo won 35 from 1969-1971, the University of Miami won 34 from 2000-2002, and Wilkinson's Sooners won 31 from 1948-50.

#### Upcoming Events

**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





**Jerod McDaniel**

@jerodmcdaniel

Following

I'm not really sure what to make of this, but I gotta respect this guys game...

His wife probably told him, "You can go hunting, but you've gotta make your own camper"



**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

**WHAT I'M LISTENING TO:**



**Jimmy Allen** "Best Shot"

#### Kevin's Song of the Week

**NEXT** | level  
**THINKING**



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

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

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

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

*Kevin Van Trump*



**Rock N Roll Pictures**  
@RockNRollPics

Following

Stan Lee and Alan Weiss with Gene Simmons, Paul Stanley, Ace Frehley and Peter Criss, 1977. 📷 Bob Gruen

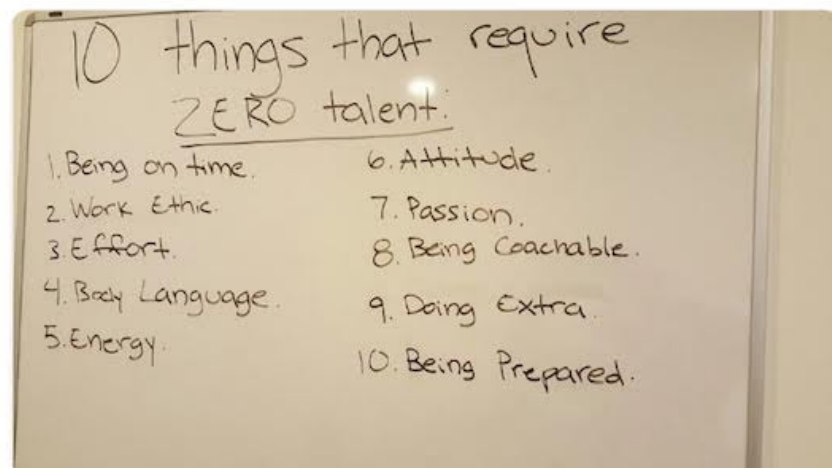


**John Patrick Mullin**  
@JohnPatrick\_TIO

Following

10 things that require ZERO talent. Which is the most important in your mind?

#motivation



## What Others Are Saying

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

**A.M., FDIC**

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

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

## My Own Personal Truisms

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



# 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 have ears but I cannot hear and I have flakes but I have no hair. What am I?

**Weather** on the Plains have seen temperatures rebound to near or above normal levels, although patches of snow remain on the ground. As conditions permit, producers are attempting to complete fieldwork, including harvest activities and late season winter wheat planting efforts. In many cases, already planted wheat has been slow to emerge; in Kansas, 77% of the crop had emerged by November 11, twelve percentage points behind average. In the Corn Belt, wintry precipitation has spread northward from the Ohio Valley and across the Great lakes region, resulting in more fieldwork delays. In contrast mild air has overspread the upper Midwest, although field conditions are far from ideal for harvest activities due to damp soils and lingering snow cover. In the South, freeze warnings are in effect early today in the central Gulf coast region. Elsewhere, wintry precipitation has ended across the mid-South, but heavy precipitation including rain, snow, sleet and freezing rain is spreading northward through the Atlantic Coast States. Precipitation including some heavy snow will linger into today across the Northeast. A period of generally tranquil weather will trail the storm, although some late-week snow can be expected across northern portions of the rockies and Plains. In addition, a new surge of cold air will arrive across the nation's mid-section during the weekend.

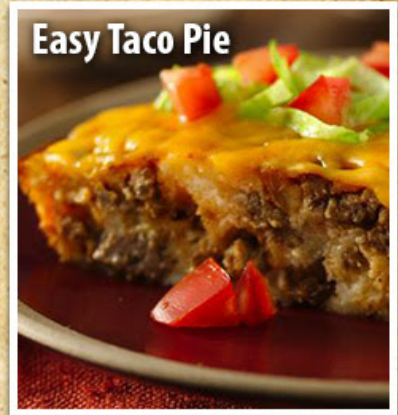
**El Nino's Impact On Drought:** *As you know, El Nino is expected to form and continue through the Northern Hemisphere winter 2018/19 (80% chance) and into spring (55-60% chance). With the wet season now well underway across the western U.S., drought improvement and/or removal is favored to the coastal Pacific Northwest, California and the southern portion of the Southwest. Drought is forecast to persist across the interior Northwest, northern Rockies, northern High Plains, central Intermountain region, central Rockies, and parts of the south-central Plains. Outlook is valid Nov. 15 through Feb. 28.*

*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.*

## Farm Direction RECIPES

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

#### Easy Taco Pie



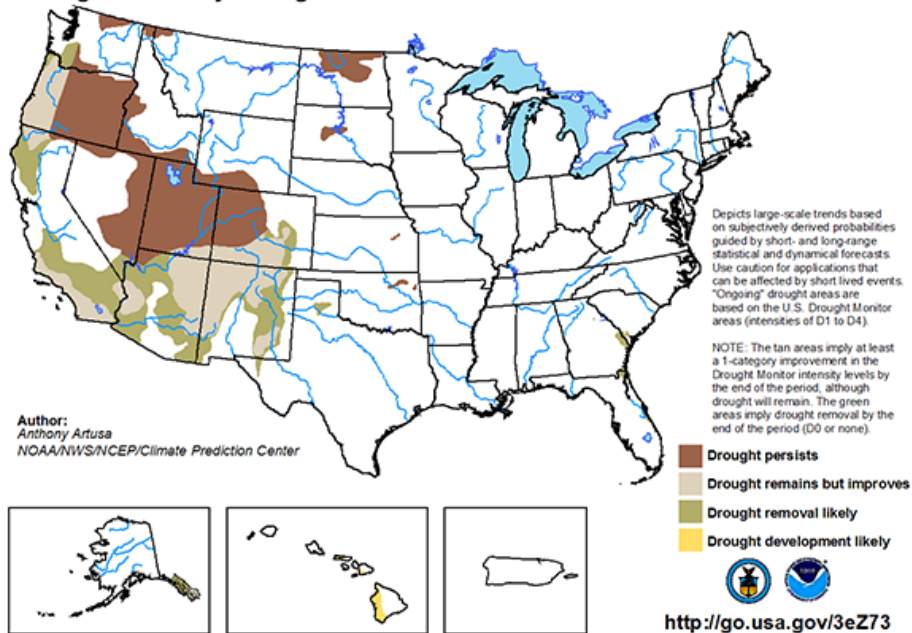
[CLICK TO SEE RECIPE](#)



# U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

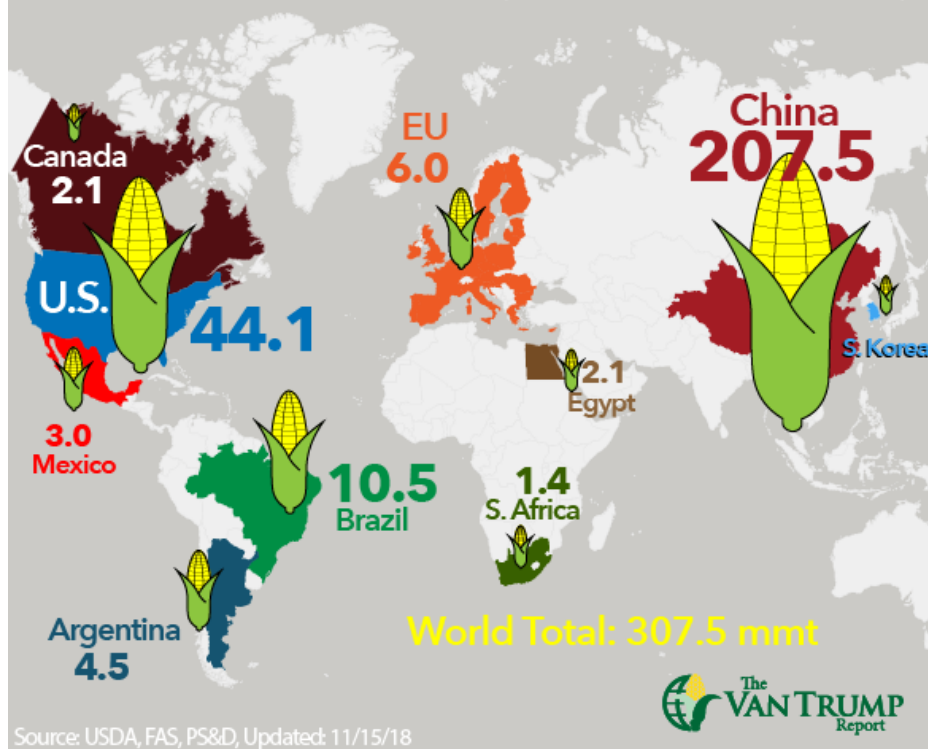
## Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for November 15, 2018 - February 28, 2019  
Released November 15, 2018



Corn prices remain steady and stuck in a fairly narrow range. Bulls are hoping some type of trade resolution with the Chinese will help pull corn prices higher. Bulls are also pointing to more evidence and talk of total U.S. corn production eventually being trimmed a bit further. Late weather problems and harvest delays are creating headwinds for producers in several locations. Higher energy costs associated with drying down bushels and low prices are making some wonder if bringing the corn out of the field is worth it? If it stays in the field, there's no question, we will see a yield drag. I personally don't think we will see that many acres left unharvested, but the higher energy costs are certainly entertaining some thoughts. Bears are pointing to increasing supplies and competition coming from South America and the Black Sea region. This is prompting some bears to reduce their current export estimates. This morning's weekly export sales data will be heavily monitored as the trade wants to learn more about forward looking demand. The past few weeks have been somewhat disappointing. The trade is also catching some headwind as more ethanol plants reduce run rates and close a few operations. There were headlines circulating yesterday that Green Plains closed their Virginia plant and reduced run rates at a few other facilities. I know some other ethanol companies that have also had to make similar moves as margins shrink. As a producer, I've got puts in place to protect all of my remaining unpriced new crop bushels. I want to leave my upside potential open but protect against the possibility of additional downside risk. As a spec, I remain flat, but would entertain being a longer-term bull on a deeper break in price. Currently, I'm in no hurry either way to make a move. I believe there will be easier and better periods of time to predict and forecast price. This is one of those periods of time where I'm just trying not to shoot myself in the foot by becoming impatient then doing something stupid. More worried about U.S. demand, most curious about Chinese trade relations...

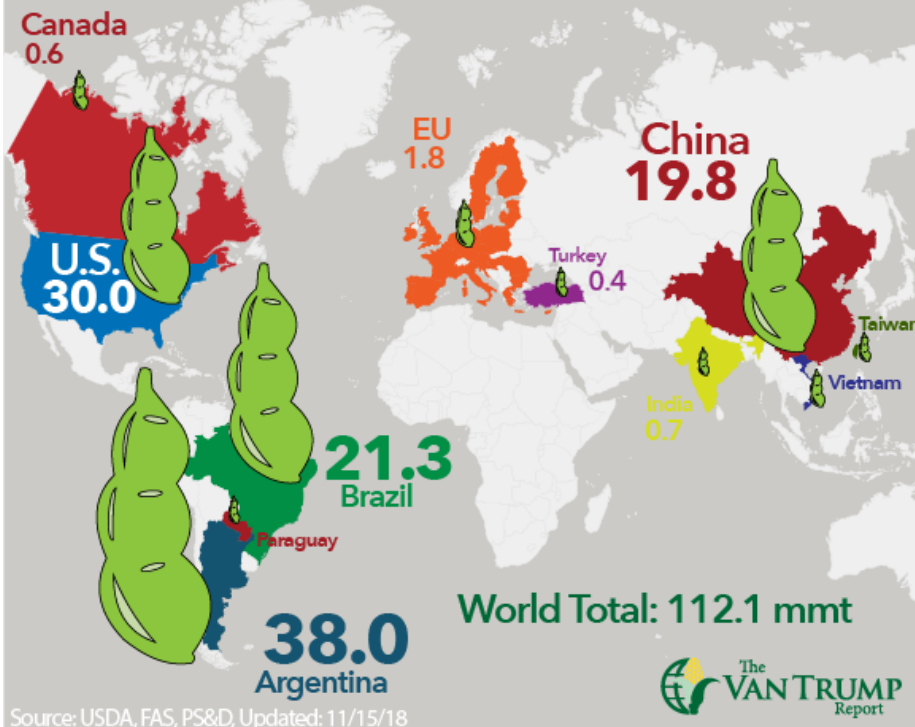
# Global Ending Stocks Corn 2018/19 (in million metric tons)



**Soybean** bulls are happy to see more headlines of U.S. and Chinese leaders talking and discussing potential trade resolutions. Bulls are also happy to see a record October NOPA crush estimate. The crush was reported at 172.346 million bushels, which was higher than most in the trader were thinking. It was also significantly higher than the 160.8 million reported in September and the 164.2 million reported last October. Soybean stocks fell from 1.53 billion last month to 1.50 billion pounds this month, which was actually a little lower than the trade was anticipating, this was also the sixth straight month of lower numbers, but still significantly higher than the 1.224 billion reported in October of last year. Bears are pointing to good weather in South America and their sizable jump in production compared to the past year. There's also continued uncertainty surrounding African Swine Fever. There have been more reported cases this week across China, pushing the total outbreak to more than 60 cases. Many inside the trade, believe the situation could be decidedly worse than the numbers being reported, especially considering it has now spread to over 17 provinces inside China. Bears are also not sold on the U.S. and Chinese inking a trade resolution anytime soon. In fact, many are wondering just how many bears will actually be left in the market holding short positions by the end of November's scheduled G20 meeting? There's talk that the rally might be happening right now in anticipation of a trade deal. There's a lot of question and uncertainty as to how or where the market should be priced considering a near 1 billion bushel ending stock number. Will we rally into the meeting, then selloff on the confirmation? Or could we rally into the meeting and then have another \$+50 cents or +\$1.00 to the upside as a knee-jerk reaction? It's doubtful we catch the bears flatfooted as the meeting between President Trump and Xi has been widely advertised. I'm personally hoping, if nothing else, President Trump can get something worked out with China and U.S. agriculture, especially soybeans. Perhaps we make a few concessions in other areas and China makes a few in regards to buying U.S. agriculture? It's obviously wishful thinking but could certainly be a win-win for all involved. How the market moves and reacts leading up to and following the meeting remains a huge wild-card. I continue to hear a lot of producers targeting JAN19 sales up between \$9.10 and \$9.30 per bushel. I've personally done a horrific job marketing my January contracts. I had some great sales early on, then sold some put premium on the initial break in hopes the trade dispute was going to be short lived or that alternative nations would be forced to be more aggressive buyers of U.S. soybeans, neither of which fully developed or help support price. Now I'm fighting it, worried I'm going to do more harm than good. I have to always remind myself, "first rule of holes, when you're in one... stop digging." I'm going to continue sitting on my hands with hedges in place and some upside potential still in play.

# Global Ending Stocks

## Soybean 2018/19 (in million metric tons)



**Wheat** continues to float around with little fresh or new in the headlines. Bears are pointing to slightly higher production forecasts coming out of Russia and perhaps some improved weather in the Black Sea region. Bears also continue to point towards a strong U.S. dollar, weak U.S. demand, and weak global macro environment. Bulls are pointing to rough weather in some parts of the U.S. and production complications in Australia and portions of the European Union. I continue to hear talk about a lack of milling quality wheat in the supply pipeline, and eventually it should help push U.S. demand. As I've been saying, I don't think that comes to fruition or gains the trades attention until further out on the horizon. Keep your eye on this mornings weekly export sales data. We've clearly been running behind the pace needed to reach the current USDA export estimate, but hopes are we start to surprise to the upside. The trade is also eager to see who Saudi Arabia buys wheat from? If the U.S. can start to gain some notice by large global buyers, prices are poised to move higher. If we don't see an increase in export demand, prices will continue to lag and struggle to build on nearby momentum. This is an important milestone if there is going to be a more dramatic shift to U.S. supplies in the second half of the season. Nothings really changed, I remain a conservative bull, wanting to add to my position on a leg lower. My targeted time for a rally is late Q4 of 2018 or Q1 of 2019. As a producer, I remain in no hurry to price more 2019 bushels.



# Global Ending Stocks Wheat 2018/19 (in million metric tons)



> **Green Plains Inc.**, the nation's fourth-largest ethanol producer, has shuttered a Virginia production plant and cut output at several other facilities as it tries to navigate a supply glut that has pummeled biofuel profits. Green Plains announced on Thursday that it was closing a plant in the town of Hopewell that had capacity to produce 60 million gallons annually. Thirty-one jobs will be cut, it said in a news release. (Source: Reuters)

> **Trade Resolution with China Could Revive Brazil's Transportation Issues:** A resolution to the ongoing trade war between China and the US and a strengthening Brazilian real versus the dollar is likely to revive tension between farmers, the trucking union and the government in Brazil over the cost of transporting goods, an industry conference heard Thursday. Soaring premiums for Brazilian soybeans, which have risen from 63 cents per bushel over futures to 265 cents per bushel since May, and a weaker real versus the dollar had shielded farmers from higher transportation costs imposed by the government this year. (Source: Agricensus)

> **U.S. Beef Could See Japan Restrictions Ease:** Japan could soon be lifting its age import restriction on U.S. beef. From what I understand, Japan's food safety commission recommended the move and will now seek public comments for 30 days before a final decision is reached. Currently, Japan allows U.S. beef imports from animals aged 30 months or younger.

> **Fed Banks Say Lower Ag Income Its Pressuring Farm Finances:** Farm incomes and agrarian credit conditions continued to erode in the third quarter of 2018 according to reports released by the Federal Reserve Banks of Kansas City and St. Louis. Nearly 85% of bankers surveyed by the Kansas City Fed reported that farm borrowers plan to sell mid-to-long-term assets before year's end to improve working capital or make loan payments, up from about 75% a year ago. More than 80% of responding bankers in Missouri and 60% of bankers in Nebraska reported lower income - states where the halt of soybean exports due to the trade war is being sharply felt. Soybeans comprise 27 and 15% of farm revenues, respectively. (Source: Reuters)

**> Consumer Reports Wants To Know Where the Salmonella Came From:** A week before Thanksgiving, USDA is facing pressure from consumer advocates to name the brand sliced to a salmonella outbreak that has sickened more than 160 people in 35 states, including one person who died. (Source: ABC)

**> U.S. Soybean Export Marketshare to Decline Without Infrastructure Improvements:** USDA-AMS recently published a study called "The Impact of Infrastructure and Transportation Costs on U.S. Soybean Market Share: An Updated Analysis from 1992 - 2017." The report examines new transportation routes that have emerged in Brazil and updates previous data in an analysis. Although the U.S. produces the largest volume of soybeans in the world, the U.S. market share of soybean world trade has declined from 66% in 1992 to 40% in 2017. Results suggest the U.S. world market share could decline an additional 12% assuming there are no significant improvements in U.S. transportation infrastructure serving the soybean supply chain, from farm to port. A decline of 1% in the U.S. soybean market share is equivalent to more than half a billion dollars lost in sales. (Source: USDA, GTR)

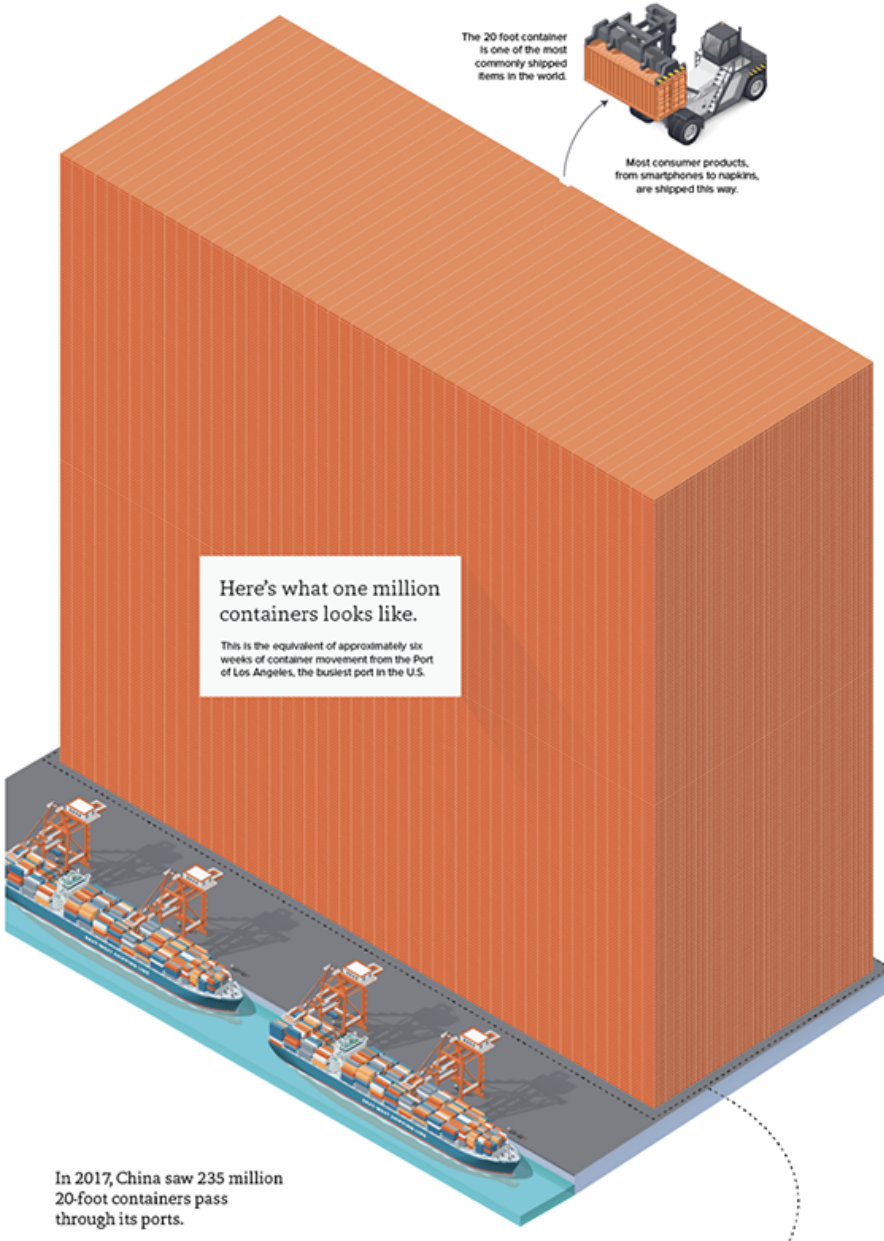
**> Chicken Nuggets Are About To Get More Expensive:** Tyson Foods is planning to raise prices to compensate for increased expenses related to tariffs, as well as higher labor and freight costs, the company said in its earnings report.

**> Auto Tariffs Would Hurt the Worst:** Companies across the globe are saying auto-parts imports would be the most damaging of the Trump administration's trade actions. I'm told that the potential new tariffs would surpass the tariffs that have been imposed between the U.S. and China, and the global tariffs on steel and aluminum. Some believe if implemented, the duties could wipe out all the positive impact of the tax overhaul.

**> Nearly \$1 Billion in Aid Paid To Farmers So Far:** USDA has paid out nearly \$840 million to farmers to date as part of a promised \$12 billion aid program rolled out by President Trump last July to offset losses from the imposition of tariffs on American exports. The pay out has happened on soybeans, wheat, corn, dairy and hogs. The five states that received the highest amount of aid were Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Indiana and Minnesota. (Source: Reuters)

**> Strong Retail Sales Data:** Consumer spending, which accounts for more than two-thirds of U.S. economic activity, grew at its fastest pace in nearly four years in the third quarter. The economy grew at a 3.5 percent annualized rate in the July-September quarter. October's strength in retail sales bodes well ahead of the holiday shopping season. The Commerce Department said it could not isolate the impact of Hurricane Florence, which lashed North and South Carolina in mid-September, on retail sales. However, auto sales jumped 1.1 percent last month likely as residents in the affected areas replaced damaged cars. Auto sales fell 0.1 percent in September. Sales at building material stores surged 1.0 percent in October, probably boosted by rebuilding efforts in areas affected by Florence. Sales at clothing stores gained 0.5 percent after climbing 0.8 percent in September. Online and mail-order sales rose 0.4 percent in October after rising 1.3 percent in the prior month.

**> Visualizing Global Shipping Container Traffic:** Globalization owes a lot to the humble shipping container. In the 1970s, the standardized shipping container solved this problem on a wide scale and turned the world economy on its head. This standardization drove the cost of shipping down as the efficiency of ports skyrocketed. Modern ports can now move upward of 70 containers per crane per hour. With the barrier of shipping costs effectively removed, production began to migrate to countries with cheaper production costs. China is at the center of the new paradigm: nearly one-third of all global containers move through Chinese ports, and seven of the top 10 ports in the world are all located in China. Below is a great visualization of global shipping container traffic. (Source: [VisualCapitalist](#))



**Central Kansas** – Most guys have given up on planting wheat until just recently. We have had several days in the 50's and we are knocking out a little field work. We were lucky enough to get out wheat planted in late September, but we were one of the lucky ones because many guys in other parts of Kansas, not so lucky. They are still trying to plant and there is virtually no way they will be able to insure their wheat especially if they show soybean harvest was done sometime in November. What you have to remember is the final planting date for what is October 20th.

**Northwest Ohio** - I'm considering a switch, from 30-inch rows to 20-inch rows so I can plant both beans and corn with the same planter and match the wheel spacing on



the front of my old Massey combine and Boxcar Magnums tractors. It just so happens that 4-22" rows can be straddled very well with the front wheels dished out...and it will turn on a dime when spaced like that. If I plant the 22" rows first before some of my corn, I feel I can equal or maybe even surpass my drilled beans yield that I plant after my corn now. I can get it done at least twice as fast too. It would be a 30-inch-wide planter vs 15-inch-wide drill and I would have better seed spacing control. It should help with weed suppression because it canopies quicker. On the other hand, it makes it more challenging to apply side dress anhydrous. It's kind of a toss-up on yield for me here in northwest Ohio.

**Central Kansas** - After 8-10" of wet snow here in the last week and then 5 degrees Monday morning plus it was already muddy before the snow, it's scary how long it will take to get the crop out. We were cutting 13 moisture sorghum for a couple of days when the sun was shining, but then the same field would go to 16 with a day of clouds and humidity. If we could get a couple more days of sunshine and a little wind, I'm sure the grain would go, but the ground conditions are going to be horrible. Around 9" of rain in October here. This is the time of year where sorghum doesn't want to dry out. Days are short, and it takes most of the morning for the dew to come off. We had a killing freeze almost a month ago, so the plant is dead.



**Next Generation of Food is Near:** The next generation of biotech food is headed for the grocery aisles, and first up may be salad dressings or granola bars made with soybean oil genetically tweaked to be good for your heart. By early next year, the first foods from plants or animals that had their DNA "edited" are expected to begin selling. It's a different technology than today's controversial "genetically modified" foods, more like faster breeding that promises to boost nutrition, spur crop growth, and make farm animals hardier and fruits and vegetables last longer. Researchers are pursuing more ambitious changes: Wheat with triple the usual fiber, or that's low in gluten. Mushrooms that don't brown, and better-producing tomatoes. Drought-tolerant corn, and rice that no longer absorbs soil pollution as it grows. Dairy cows that don't need to undergo painful de-horning, and pigs immune to a dangerous virus that can sweep through herds. Read more [HERE](#).

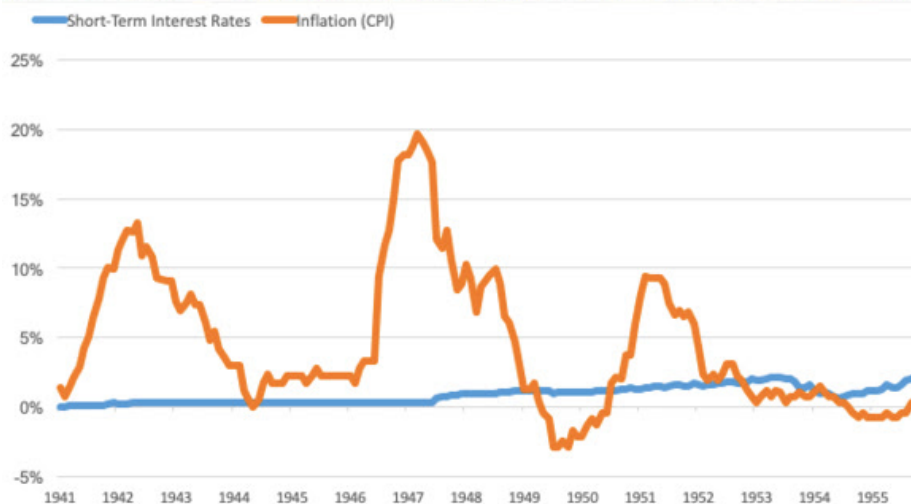
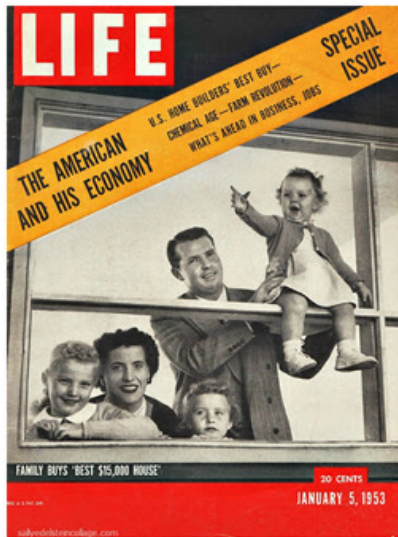
**"Toxic"... Oxford English Dictionary's Word of the Year:** It's worth stating that the Oxford Word of the Year is a word or expression that is judged to reflect the ethos, mood, or preoccupations of the passing year, and have lasting potential as a term of cultural significance. In 2018, toxic added many strings to its poisoned bow becoming an intoxicating descriptor for the year's most talked about topics. It is the sheer scope of its application, as found by our research, that made toxic the stand-out choice for the Word of the Year title. From what I understand, data reveals not only did the rise in the number of times toxic has been looked up on [oxforddictionaries.com](http://oxforddictionaries.com), over the last year the word toxic has been used in an array of contexts, both in its literal and more metaphorical senses. Find out what words completed the list [HERE](#).

**Psychology for Why We Love Our Coffee:** If you're a coffee lover, you know that drinking coffee is a complex and nuanced experience—there's the rich aroma, the comforting warmth, and the loveliness of the ritual of sitting down with a fresh cup. But if you focus on the actual taste of coffee on your tongue, there's no getting around the fact that it's quite bitter, and bitterness isn't always the most delectable taste. In fact, long ago, we evolved to avoid it. But according to a new study from Northwestern University, coffee lovers aren't less sensitive to the bitter taste, as you might guess; they're actually more sensitive to it, which points to an interesting psychological phenomenon behind our love of coffee. Find out what it is [HERE](#).

**AI Outperforms 20 Top-Tier Attorneys:** In a recent study, LawGeex, a legal tech startup, challenged a group of 20 experienced lawyers to test their skills and knowledge against its AI-powered algorithm. The group included associates and in-house lawyers from global firms such as Goldman Sachs, Cisco and Alston & Bird, as well as general counsel and sole practitioners. The task was to review risks contained in five non-disclosure agreements. The AI matched the top-performing lawyer for accuracy – both achieved 94%. Collectively, the lawyers managed an average of 85%, with the worst performer recording 67%. When it came to speed, the AI far surpassed the legal minds, taking just 26 seconds to review all five documents compared to the lawyers' average speed of 92 minutes. The speediest lawyer completed the review in 51 minutes – over 100 times slower than the AI – while the slowest took 156 minutes. Read more [HERE](#).

**Quick History Of The U.S. Economy Since WWII:** If you fell asleep in 1945 and woke up in 2018 you would not recognize the world around you. The amount of growth

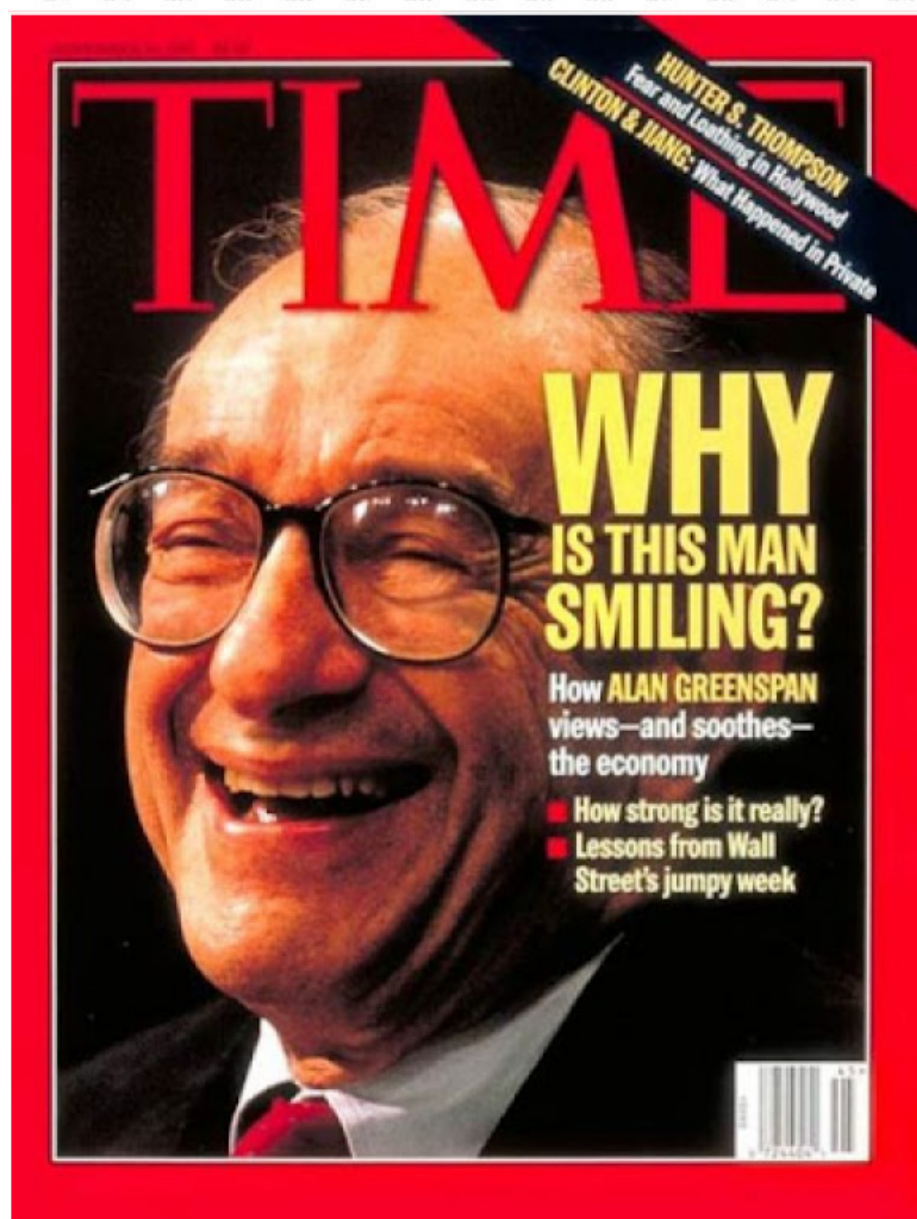
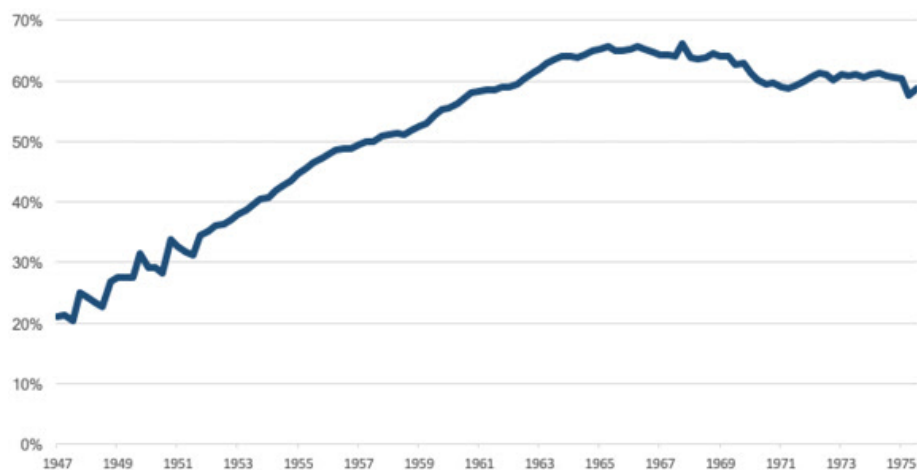
that took place during that period is virtually unprecedented. If you learned that there have been no nuclear attacks since 1945, you'd be shocked. If you saw the level of wealth in New York and San Francisco, you'd be shocked. If you compared it to the poverty of Detroit, you'd be shocked. If you saw the price of homes, college tuition, and health care, you'd be shocked. Our politics would blow your mind. And if you tried to think of a reasonable narrative of how it all happened, my guess is you'd be totally wrong. Because it isn't intuitive, and it wasn't foreseeable 73 years ago.. Find out how it happened [HERE](#).



Year	Total US Household Debt
1945	\$29.4 billion
1955	\$125.7 billion

1965	\$331.2 billion
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Household debt-to-income ratio

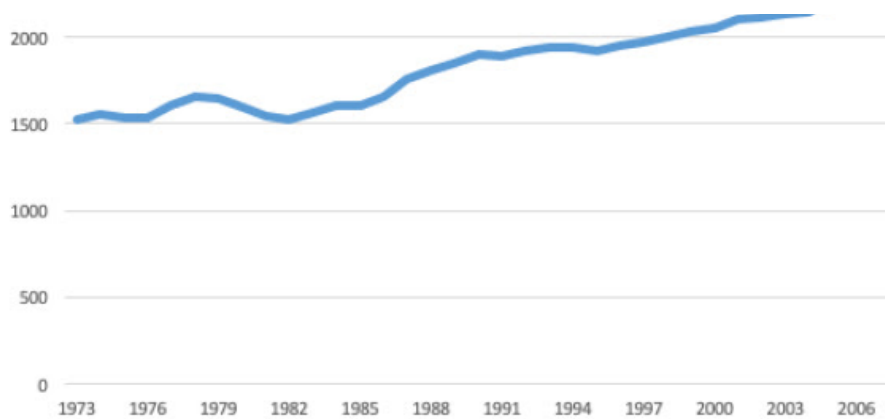


Median square footage of a new American home

2500







### Consumers Switch to Pork and Beef on Increased Supplies

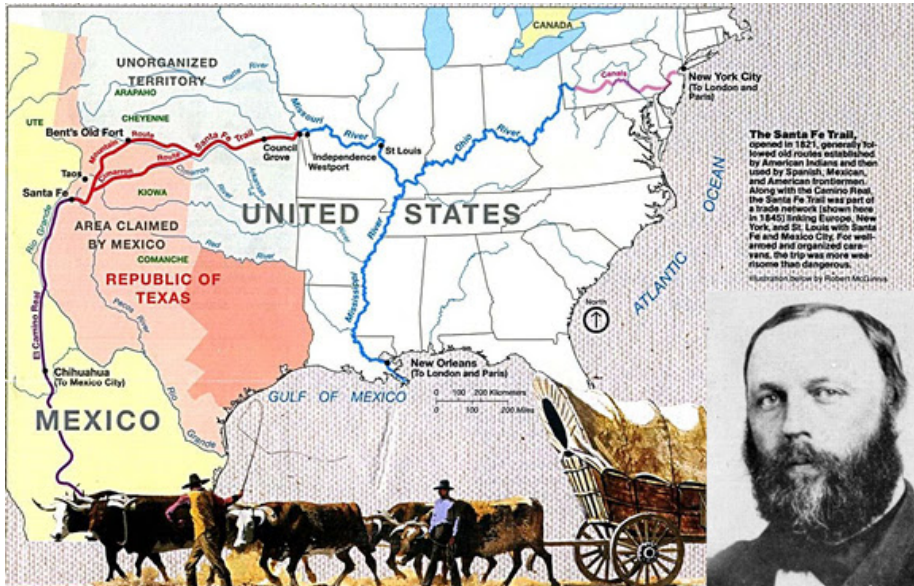
Cattle and pig inventories are up and trade wars are keeping more inventory inside the U.S. borders. Amidst all this, U.S. consumers are changing their preferences for protein, choosing to eat more pork and beef as prices drop. The effects from the trade war also touched third quarter results for chicken producer Tyson as they reported sales missing Wall Street estimates, sending its shares lower even though the company posted an overall profit. It's worth mentioning that operating income from chicken fell nearly -34% from a year earlier, while beef operating income was up about +14%. Restaurants and groceries have quickly turned their turrets as they are promoting beef and pork. Consumers are responding enthusiastically as sales are rising in both sectors. With increased supplies, restaurants such as Wendy's, began featuring a "S'Awesome" hamburger with three strips of bacon, helping fuel pork and beef demand, according to the National Cattlemen's Beef Association. I should note that Wendy's generally doesn't adjust its marketing due to short-term changes in commodity prices... perhaps they think this is a longer-term play? As the trade war grinds on, pork farmers and processors are almost universally shedding profits and jobs from a crippling combination of rising feed costs and sinking pig prices. Unfortunately, the trade war hit at a very bad time for the pork industry, following on the heels of a recent global expansion on the expectation of rising meat demand and low feed prices from excess grain supplies. Meat companies such as Seaboard Triumph Foods and Prestage Farms have spent hundreds of millions of dollars boosting U.S. slaughter capacity by more than +10% from three years ago to nearly half a million hogs daily. It's worth noting that just before trade barriers went up, the U.S. Department of Agriculture predicted in an April analysis that global supply growth would outpace demand this year, sparking "fierce competition and lower prices." Unfortunately for those who had been ramping up production, the tariff battles accelerated those trends by shutting off export markets, raising feed prices and upending regional supply-and-demand dynamics that underpinned industry profits. The question becomes, what can producers expect from the historical supply chains and markets? Will they still be there should the U.S. resolve trade issues with China? Lets also keep in mind the continuing saga of the ASF in China. Should things continue to deteriorate, there could eventually be opportunities to supply China with pork. This is just another example that things can change on a dime, so make sure your business plan always includes options and flexibility to adjust. Looking ahead, the USDA projects per capita chicken consumption will rise only about +1.2% next year, compared to gains of +4.3% for pork and +2.6% for beef.(Source: USDA, Hognation, Reuters)



### **Blind Luck, The Santa Fe Trail, and Wild Profits...**

It was on this day in 1821, Missouri Indian trader William Becknell arrives in Santa Fe, New Mexico, sells his goods at an enormous profit, and makes plans to return the next year over the route that will become known as the Santa Fe Trail. Becknell was born in the Rockfish Creek area of Amherst County, Virginia to parents Micajah and Pheby (Landrum) Becknell. Young Becknell's father and grandfather were veterans of the American Revolution, as were two uncles who died in the war. In 1807, at the age of 20, Becknell married Jane Trusler. In 1810 the young family left Virginia and migrated to the new Missouri Territory, homesteading west of present-day St. Charles. During the War of 1812, Becknell served in the United States Mounted Rangers under Captain Daniel Morgan Boone, son of the famed explorer. Following his military services, Becknell moved west in the summer of 1815 to the area around Boone's Lick and Arrow Rock in central Missouri. The Panic of 1819 took its toll on his business activities by limiting the amount of credit and hard currency available. In early 1820 he purchased 180 acres in Howard County, Missouri and moved the family there. Also in 1820 Becknell ran unsuccessfully for the Missouri Legislature and borrowed money to finance the campaign. By 1821 William Becknell faced substantial debt and was actually thrown briefly in jail. The judge in the case gave Becknell until early 1822 to pay his creditors or face more jail time. Under pressure, Becknell headed out in September 1821 on an extended trading trip, including hunting for furs, as the fur trade was still lucrative. He borrowed money and bought \$300 worth of trade goods for his trip. According to an advertisement Becknell placed in the Missouri Intelligencer newspaper, his intent was "for the purpose of trading for horses and mules and catching wild animals of every description." Becknell and his group were not the only ones searching for a convenient trade route to Santa Fe, but that fall they were the first to arrive, in mid-November 1821. Becknell's timing was near perfect. In fact, many historians say it was simply pure luck that made Becknell the first businessman to revive the American trade with Santa Fe, as Mexico had recently become independent of Spain. It lifted the ban against trade with outsiders that Spain had put in place more than a decade earlier. French colonists from St. Louis had been able to trade exclusively with Santa Fe when both were still under Spanish rule, this was before the Louisiana Purchase. The Chouteau brothers of St. Louis had essentially been given a monopoly with the Spanish for trade in Santa Fe, and this trade contributed to the wealth of the river city. Interestingly, Becknell and a few other merchants continued to trade with the Indians on the American-controlled eastern slope of the southern Rockies. While on his expedition in the fall of 1821, Becknell encountered a troop of Mexican soldiers. They informed Becknell that they had just won their independence in a war with Spain, and the region was again open to American traders. Becknell immediately sped to Santa Fe, where he found a lucrative market for his goods. The people of Santa Fe were eager for what Becknell offered from his string of pack horses. They were willing to pay high prices, with some cotton cloth and calico bringing the then-unheard of sum of three dollars a yard. After a few weeks of trading, Becknell and his party left Santa Fe on December 13 with their saddlebags overflowing with silver. Historians say he turned his \$300 investment into thousands of dollars. Arriving back at his Missouri home in January 1822, Becknell almost immediately began planning his next trading trip to Santa Fe. For his second journey, he chose to haul trade goods by wagon instead of pack horse. He had to slightly alter his original route to accommodate the width of wagons and draft teams. The wagon train left Franklin in May 1822 and suffered considerable hardship, with both animals and people nearly dying of thirst in the parched Cimarron Desert. The 'train' arrived in Santa Fe forty-eight days later. The second trip proved to be even more profitable than the first. Taking an estimated \$3,000 in goods to Santa Fe, Becknell's party returned with six-figure profits. They paid some of that total as dividends to shareholders who had helped fund the trip, and even the smallest investor reaped great returns. Instead of following the old route that passed over a dangerous

high pass, Becknell blazed a shorter route across the Cimarron Desert. Thus, while much of the route he followed had been used by Mexican traders for decades, Becknell's role in reopening the trail and laying out the short-cut earned him the title of "Father of the Santa Fe Trail." In 1827 Becknell was appointed as a Justice of the Peace for Saline County, Missouri. The following year he was elected to the first of two terms in the Missouri House of Representatives. In 1835 Becknell sold all his Missouri property and business interests and moved to present-day Red River County, Texas in northeast Texas. Becknell died on April 30, 1865, at his home. He is buried in a private family cemetery. US 82 passes by the site a few miles west of Clarksville, Texas. The Santa Fe Trail became one of the most important and lucrative of the Old West trading routes; merchants and other travelers continued to follow the trail blazed by Becknell until the arrival of trains in the late 1870s.



## Nascar Cup Championship 2018 Preview

The 2018 Monster Energy Nascar Cup Series championship takes place this Sunday at 1:30 pm CST on NBC. The winner of the Championship will take home a whopping \$1,692,000. Sponsorship money for whoever wins the big event is also huge. I heard that Dale Earnhart received nearly \$1 million per race from sponsors alone in 2017. In case you are wondering, in 1971, when the racing series began leasing its naming rights to the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company, the Championship was referred to as the Winston Cup Series. A similar deal was made with Nextel in 2003, and it became the Nextel Cup Series from 2004 to 2007. Sprint acquired Nextel in 2005, and in 2008 the series was renamed the Sprint Cup Series, which lasted until 2016. In December 2016, it was announced that Monster Energy would become the new title sponsor starting in 2017. The 4 drivers competing for this years Championship, after advancing from the round of 8 last Sunday at the Phoenix Raceway, are Joey Logano #22, Kyle Busch #18, Martin Truex Jr. #78, and Kevin Harvick #4. The drivers eliminated after the last race were Kurt Busch #41, Chase Elliott #9, Aric Almirola #10, and Clint Bowyer #14. This year's winner will be determined by the highest-finishing driver in this weekends race. The race itself is called the "Ford EcoBoost 400" and will take place at the Homestead-Miami Speedway, which will consist of 267 laps and 400.5 miles. The race has been held at the Homestead-Miami Speedway since 1999 when Tony Stewart won the Championship. What I find cool, is this is a track this where truly any of the four drivers can come away with a victory. Lets keep in mind, last year's defending champion Martin Truex Jr. has been great on 1.5-mile intermediate tracks like Miami for the last few years. We also have to remember, Kevin Harvick has 4 wins on such tracks this season. Kyle Busch has 3 wins on similar tracks. And Joey Logano has 9 top-10 finishes himself. For what it's worth, Kevin Harvick, Kyle Busch and Martin Truex Jr. — combined to win 57 percent of all the races so far this year. The Nascar championship weekend will also consist of The Camping World Truck Series Ford EcoBoost 200 at the Homestead tonight at 7 pm CST, which consists of 134 laps and 201 miles. Tomorrow's race will feature the Nascar Xfinity Series Ford EcoBoost 300 on NBC at 2:30 pm CST, which will consist of 200 laps and 300 miles. There are 39 Cup drivers entered in Sunday's race this year, but only 4 drivers competing for the title. The Homestead-Miami Speedway holds 46,000 people, and tickets for the Ford Ecoboost 400 are running anywhere between \$27 and \$160. Keep in mind, tickets sold out 2016 and 2017. Below is a preview of the drivers competing for the Championship this weekend. (source: USAToday)

### Joey Logano

**Team:** Team Penske #22 Ford  
**Odds:** +3300  
**Championship seed:** 1st



**Phoenix Raceway Finish:** 37th

**2018 wins:** 2

**Homestead championship appearances since 2014 format:** 2014-16th, 2016-4th

**Driver Rating at Homestead from 2005 to 2017:** 89.0

**Homestead Records:** Youngest Homestead-Miami pole winner at 22 years, 5 months, 25 days

#### Kyle Busch

**Team:** Joe Gibbs Racing #18 Toyota

**Odds:** +375

**Championship seed:** 2nd

**Phoenix Raceway Finish:** 1st

**2018 wins:** 8

**Homestead championship appearances since 2014 format:** 2015-1st, 2016-6th, 2017-2nd

**Driver Rating at Homestead from 2005 to 2017:** 98.9

**Homestead Records:** NA

#### Martin Truex Jr.

**Team:** Furniture Row Racing #78 Toyota

**Odds:** +225

**Championship seed:** 3rd

**Phoenix Raceway Finish:** 14th

**2018 wins:** 4

**Homestead championship appearances since 2014 format:** 2015-12th, 2017-1st

**Driver Rating at Homestead from 2005 to 2017:** 104.1

**Homestead Records:** NA

#### Kevin Harvick

**Team:** Stewart-Haas Racing #4 Ford

**Odds:** +375

**Championship seed:** 4th

**Phoenix Raceway Finish:** 5th

**2018 wins:** 8

**Homestead championship appearances since 2014 format:** 2014-1st, 2015-2nd, 2017-4th

**Driver Rating at Homestead from 2005 to 2017:** 106.8

**Homestead Records:** Most 2nd place finishes with 3, most top 5 finishes with 9, most top 10 finishes with 15, and highest average finish position with 6.764



# NASCAR Championship 4

The four drivers who will race for the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series championship in Sunday's Ford EcoBoost 400 at Homestead-Miami Speedway (2:30 p.m. ET, NBC):



**Kyle Busch**

No. 18 Toyota  
Joe Gibbs  
Racing



**Kevin Harvick**

No. 4 Ford  
Stewart-Haas  
Racing



**Joey Logano**

No. 22 Ford  
Team  
Penske



**Martin Truex Jr.**

No. 78 Toyota  
Furniture Row  
Racing

## AGE

**33**

**42**

**28**

**38**

## HOMETOWN

Las Vegas

Bakersfield,  
Calif.

Middletown,  
Conn.

Mayetta,  
N.J.

## CAREER CUP SERIES WINS

**51**

**45**

**20**

**19**

## 2018 CUP SERIES WINS

**8**

(Tied for first)

**8**

(Tied for first)

**2**

(Tied for sixth)

**4**

(Ranked third)

## NASCAR CUP SERIES SUCCESS

2015 champion

2014 champion

2016 runner-up

2017 champion

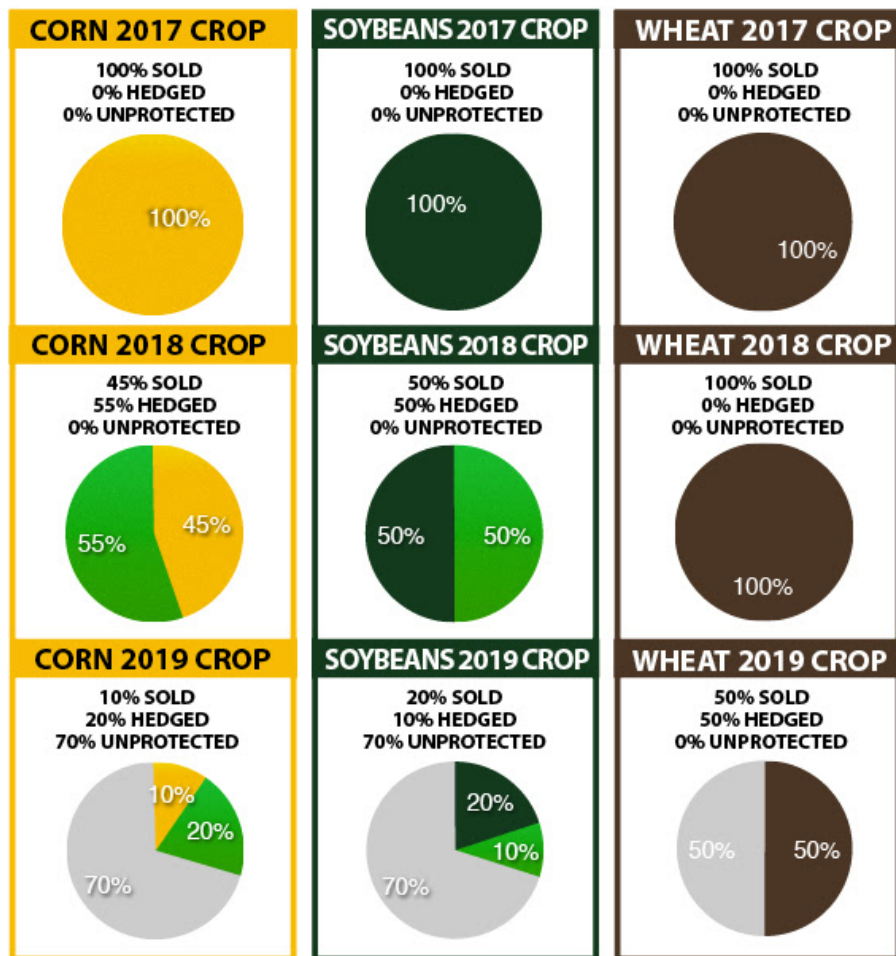
● USA TODAY SPORTS

### ANSWER to riddle:

Corn

## CASH SALES & HEDGING TOTALS

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