

GOOD MORNING: 01/22/19 Farm Direction - Van Trump Report

1 message

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

Tue, Jan 22, 2019 at 7:49 AM

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Today In History

"Some of the world's greatest feats were accomplished by people not smart enough to know they were impossible." - Doug Larson

TUESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2019
[Printable Copy](#) or [Audio Version](#)

Morning Summary: Stocks are slightly lower to start the week as investors prepare for several major headlines, including: a heavy dose of Chinese economic data, as well both the Bank of Japan (BOJ) and European Central Bank (ECB) releasing their latest monetary policy decisions, a wave of U.S. corporate earnings, and the ongoing uncertainty surrounding the U.S. government shutdown and Chinese trade negotiations. The Chinese economic data seems as if it has become a bit more worrisome. The most recent data shows China's GDP growth slipping to 6.4% in the 4th quarter of 2018, which is the lowest rate since the global financial crisis. Chinese GDP growth has slowed now for three consecutive quarters, which keeps the bearish argument of slowing global growth alive. In fact, many economists inside the trade are forecasting growth in China to slow to an annual pace of 6.2% in 2019, the weakest pace of economic growth since 1990, almost 30-years ago. I've been hearing that several Chinese factories are closing for extended periods of time surrounding their upcoming Chinese New Year holiday. I've also heard that Alibaba has slowed down their hiring efforts and has been reducing their spending in preparation for a slowing Chinese economy. It seems like the trade war with the U.S. is starting to cast a bigger shadow over China. Bulls are saying this could be good news as it might prompt quicker trade negotiations by the Chinese leaders? Turning to monetary policy, most inside the trade suspect both the BOJ and ECB will leave rates unchanged to start the new year. We suspect the Bank of Japan could become a bit more dovish as we move forward, while the European Central Bank probably keeps things on hold until this summer or perhaps early-fall. There's a lot of moving pieces right now within the European Union that need to be heavily considered. More than 2½ years after Britain voted to leave the European Union, there's still no clear path for Brexit. I suspect this week promises more of the same. That in turn increases the possibility of Britain leaving the EU without a deal by the March 29 deadline. I should note, The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is warning that the world economy is slowing, and that it could get worse. The agency's updated World Economic Outlook lowered estimates for growth in 2019 by -0.2 percentage points to 3.5%, its second downward revision, this time on account of weakness in Germany and Turkey. But the new report makes clear that the biggest known risks to growth are the unresolved trade disputes between the U.S. and China, and the possibility of Britain exiting the European Union without a deal. Here at home, we are at day-32 of the U.S. government shutdown. Both sides have made some offers but nothing at this point has brought about new formal negotiations or a compromise. Bears argue that the extended shutdown is having a far greater impact on the economy than some inside the trade have previously forecast. There's really nothing new in regards to U.S. and Chinese trade talk as top Chinese emissary are still scheduled to visit Washington next week Jan. 30-31st. I've heard some whispers and rumors that if anything a cosmetic deal of some sort might be established in order to ease consumer and investor sentiment as leaders continue working behind the scenes to iron out more major differences. It still feels like structural issues surrounding "intellectual property". A wave of U.S. corporate earnings will also hit the market this week. A few of the larger names reporting will include: Wynn Resorts, Las Vegas Sands, Halliburton, Johnson & Johnson, Capital One Financial, Stanley Black & Decker, Abbot Labs, Procter & Gamble, Raytheon, Ford Motor, Southwest Airlines, Bristol-Myers, Intel, E-Trade, and IBM. Don't forget, next should be even busier, with President Trump's scheduled State of the Union Address,


1973, Foreman beats Frazier in Jamaica - On

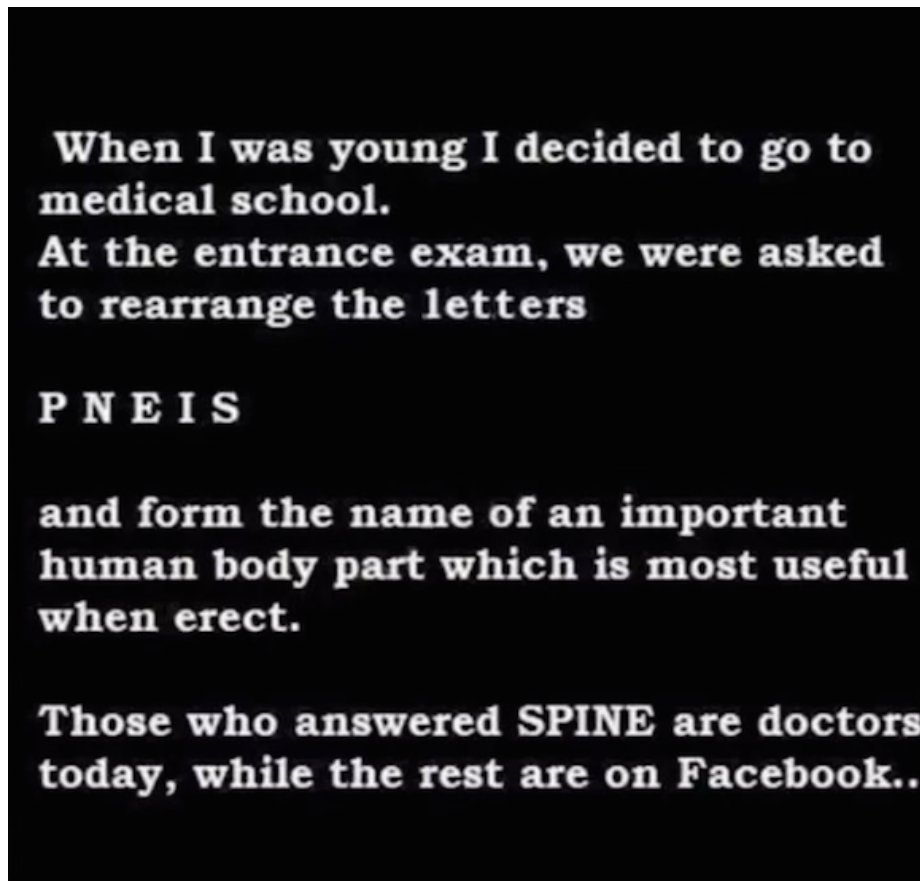
January 22, 1973, in Kingston, Jamaica, the 24-year-old George Foreman pulls off a stunning upset, defeating reigning champion Joe Frazier in four minutes and 35 seconds to win the heavyweight championship of the world. At 6'3" and 217 1/2 pounds, four inches taller and 3 1/2 pounds heavier than Frazier, "Big George" was the 1968 Olympic gold medalist and had won his last 37 fights, 34 of them by knockout. The boxing world, however, sniffed that he hadn't truly faced anyone like "Smokin' Joe," and Frazier—the 1964 Olympic winner and unbeaten heavyweight world champion since 1968, including a 1971 victory over the great Muhammad Ali—was put at a 3-1 favorite before the match in Jamaica. Billed as the "Sundown Showdown," the bout was supposed to be one more triumphant step for Frazier on his way to a multimillion-dollar rematch with Ali. It was Foreman, however, who roared out in front from the beginning. Using his greater size to advantage, Foreman slammed Frazier with uppercuts, knocking him down six times in two rounds, as the crowd went wild in Kingston's National Stadium. Foreman's last punch, a perfect right uppercut, lifted Frazier's stocky body into the air for an instant before he hit the canvas yet again. Frazier struggled to his feet, but at that point, 1:35 into the second round, the referee Arthur Mercante called an end to the bout, declaring Foreman the winner on a technical knock-out (TKO). The Frazier-Foreman fight in January 1973 was the first boxing match broadcast on the Home Box Office (HBO) cable television network. The celebrated announcer Howard Cosell called the match for TV, making one of sports history's most memorable calls when he repeated "Down goes Frazier! Down goes Frazier!" It was Foreman, and not Frazier, who would take on Ali in that multimillion-dollar

another round of Chinese trade talks, the first Fed decision of the new year, a fresh U.S. GDP estimate, the monthly jobs report, and an even greater number of corporate earnings which will include big names like: Amazon, AT&T, Boeing, Caterpillar, Chevron, Exxon, Facebook, General Electric, Harley-Davidson, MasterCard, McDonald's, PayPal, Pfizer, UPS, Verizon, Visa, and the highly anticipated Apple earnings. Bottom-line, a lot of cards could be turned over these next two weeks so make sure you are comfortable with your portfolio.

"Really Successful People Say No To Almost Everything" - Warren Buffett:

There was an article circulating this past weekend, that talked about when Bill Gates first met Warren Buffett, their host, Gates' mother, asked everyone around the table to share the single most important factor to their success. Gates and Buffett both gave the same one-word answer..."Focus". Interestingly, that was my same one-word New Years resolution, "Focus". I remember and extremely successful multi-millionaire I had meet in Chicago when I first started in the investment world. He told me to think about a magnifying glass and the sun. We can all remember back when we were kids, we would use the magnifying glass, tilt it just right at an angle with the sun and whatever we had it focused on it would eventually start a fire. The key was the fact we had to hold the magnifying glass extremely still with lots of focus on a specific spot. If you moved the magnifying glass all around, you would never start a fire. This is somewhat similar in in the business world. Focus starts the fire...

Too Funny... Had To Pass Along: My friend Howard Getson, founder of Capitalogix artificial intelligence trading company, shared a funny post this weekend. I thought it would bring a smile.



Super Bowl: Inside The Numbers

- 9** - The number of times Tom Brady has appeared in a Super Bowl. Brady has already won more Super Bowls than any quarterback, and his coach Bill Belichick has won more Super Bowls than any coach.
- 8** - The numbers of times the Steelers, Cowboys and Broncos have appeared in a Super Bowl.
- 6** - The number of times the 49ers have appeared in a Super Bowl.
- 5** - The number of times the Packers, Dolphins, Redskins, Giants, and Raiders have appeared in a Super Bowl.
- 4** - The number of times the Vikings, Bills, and Colts have appeared in a Super Bowl.
- 3** - The number of times the Rams, Eagles, and Seahawks have appeared in a Super Bowl.
- 2** - The number of times the Chiefs, Bears, Bengals, Falcons, Ravens, Panthers

championship bout, held the following summer in Zaire (now the Congo) and dubbed the "Rumble in the Jungle." Ali won the match late in the eighth round, regaining the world heavyweight crown and handing Foreman the first loss of his professional career.



1998, Ted Kaczynski Pleads Guilty to Bombings

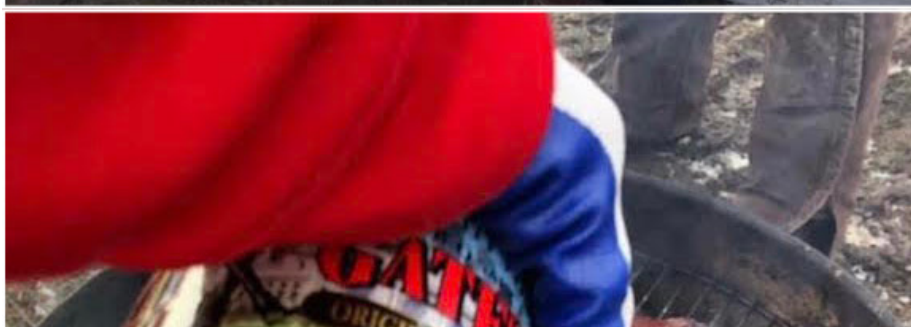
- On this day in 1998, in a Sacramento, California, courtroom, Theodore J. Kaczynski pleads guilty to all federal charges against him, acknowledging his responsibility for a 17-year campaign of package bombings attributed to the "Unabomber." Born in 1942, Kaczynski attended Harvard University and received a PhD in mathematics from the University of Michigan. He worked as an assistant mathematics professor at the University of California at Berkeley, but abruptly quit in 1969. In the early 1970s, Kaczynski began living as a recluse in western Montana, in a 10-by-12 foot cabin without heat, electricity or running water. From this isolated location, he began the bombing campaign that would kill three people and injure more than 20 others. The primary targets were universities, but he also placed a bomb on an American Airlines flight in 1979 and sent one to the home of the president of United Airlines in 1980. After federal investigators set up the UNABOM Task Force, the name came from the words "university and airline bombing", the media dubbed the culprit the "Unabomber." The bombs left little physical evidence, and the only eyewitness found in the case could describe the suspect only as a man in hooded sweatshirt and sunglasses, depicted in an infamous 1987 police sketch. In 1995, the Washington Post in collaboration with the New York Times published a 35,000-word anti-technology manifesto written by a person claiming to be the Unabomber. Recognizing elements of his brother's writings, David Kaczynski went to authorities with his suspicions, and Ted Kaczynski was arrested in April 1996. In his cabin, federal investigators found ample evidence linking him to the bombings, including bomb parts, journal entries and drafts of the manifesto. Kaczynski was arraigned in Sacramento and charged with bombings in 1985, 1993 and 1995 that killed two people and maimed two others. A bombing in New Jersey in 1994 also resulted in the victim's death. Despite his lawyers' efforts, Kaczynski rejected an insanity plea. After attempting suicide in his jail cell in early 1998, Kaczynski appealed to U.S. District Judge Garland Burrell Jr. to allow him to represent himself, and agreed to undergo psychiatric evaluation. A court-appointed psychiatrist diagnosed paranoid schizophrenia, and Judge Burrell ruled that Kaczynski could not defend himself. The psychiatrist's verdict helped prosecutors and defense reach a plea bargain, which allowed prosecutors to avoid arguing for the death penalty for a mentally ill defendant. On January 22, 1998, Kaczynski accepted a sentence of

have appeared in a Super Bowl.

1 - The number of times the Jets, Saints, Chargers, Buccaneers, Cardinals, and Titans have appeared in a Super Bowl.

0 - The number of times the Browns, Lions, Jaguars, and Texans have appeared in a Super Bowl.

Great Family Fun at the Game: Our hometown Chiefs lost in overtime in what was a fantastic game against the New England Patriots. The atmosphere at Arrowhead was priceless. The last two weekends with all of the snow and cold temps made it something to remember. I had a few offers to sit inside a suite, but that's just not my style. My wife and I talked about it, but we've just never had that much fun in a suite. For us it's about being in the moment and about being in the element with the players and the fans. We took all of our ski gear, bundled up and tailgated with a ton of old friends. We had some amazing BBQ ribs, brisket, pulled pork and chicken. Some friends from down south came up and made some unbelievable gumbo. There was shrimp, crawfish, brats, kielbasa, homemade dips, smoked potatoes, grilled corn, etc... Bottom-line, great food, great friends, and a great time. I loved seeing our Chiefs battle the Patriots and Tom Brady. I've always been told, "to be the best you have to beat the best." Unfortunately, we came up just a little short this season. Congrats to the New England Patriots on the victory. I am blessed and happy our family had the opportunity to be a part of it all... Last couple of weekends have been great fun!!! Below are a few pics.



life in prison without the possibility of parole in return for a plea of guilty to all federal charges; he also gave up the right to appeal any rulings in the case. Though Kaczynski later attempted to withdraw his guilty plea, arguing that it had been involuntary, Judge Burrell denied the request, and a federal appeals court upheld the ruling. Kaczynski was remanded to a maximum-security prison in Colorado, where he is serving his life sentence.



2010, Conan O'Brien Final Appearance as "Tonight Show" Host

- On this day in 2010, comedian Conan O'Brien hosts his final episode of "The Tonight Show," following an announcement by NBC earlier in the month that Jay Leno would return as the host of the long-running, late-night program. The decision to replace O'Brien was met with protests by his fans and became a public-relations debacle for the network. In its early years "The Tonight Show," which debuted in 1954, was hosted by entertainers including Steve Allen and Jack Paar. Under Johnny Carson, who assumed hosting duties in 1962, the program, with its opening monologue, celebrity interviews, musical performances and comedy sketches, became a late-night institution for millions of Americans. When Carson retired in 1992 he was replaced by Leno. On September 27, 2004, the 50th anniversary of the show's launch, NBC announced O'Brien would take over from Leno in 2009. Born in Massachusetts in 1963, O'Brien graduated from Harvard University and went on to work as a writer for such television shows as "Saturday Night Live" and "The Simpsons." In 1993, the lanky redhead began hosting his own TV show on NBC, "Late Night with Conan O'Brien," which followed "The Tonight Show." After recording the final "Late Night" show on February 20, 2009, O'Brien and his staff relocated from New York City to Los Angeles for "The Tonight Show with Conan O'Brien," which premiered on June 1, 2009. Meanwhile, Leno went on to helm his own weeknight comedy series in primetime. However, the program earned less-than-stellar ratings, and after a strong start O'Brien's "Tonight Show" ratings also slumped. In early January 2010, NBC executives proposed rearranging the late-night lineup: Leno would host a half-hour show at 11:35 p.m. ET (the long-standing start time for "Tonight Show") while "The Tonight Show with Conan O'Brien" would move to 12:05 a.m. O'Brien objected to this plan, publicly stating on January 12: "I sincerely believe that delaying 'The Tonight Show' into the next day to accommodate another comedy program will seriously damage what I consider to be the greatest franchise in the history of broadcasting. 'The Tonight Show' at 12:05 simply isn't 'The Tonight Show.'" O'Brien's fans held rallies outside NBC studios in Los Angeles and other U.S. cities and organized an "I'm with CoCo"



online support movement. Nevertheless, on January 21 it was reported that O'Brien had reached a deal with NBC worth more than \$30 million to leave "The Tonight Show." His last episode aired the following night and included guests Tom Hanks, Will Ferrell and Neil Young. During the program O'Brien said: "Walking away from 'The Tonight Show' is the hardest thing I have ever had to do. ...Every comedian dreams of hosting 'The Tonight Show' and, for seven months, I got to. I did it my way, with people I love, and I do not regret a second." Leno returned as host of "The Tonight Show" on March 1, 2010. On November 8 of that year, O'Brien launched a new late-night program, "Conan," on cable channel TBS. A book about the "Tonight Show" conflict, titled "The War for Late Night: When Leno Went Early and Television Went Crazy" by New York Times reporter Bill Carter, was published that same month.

Upcoming Events

Tues. 01/22 - Export Inspections

Thurs. 01/24 - Jobless Claims

Fri. 01/25 - Export Sales, Cattle on Feed

Mon. 01/28 - Export Inspections

Tues.-Wed. 01/29-01/30 - FOMC Meeting

Thurs. 01/31 - Export Sales, Jobless Claims, Personal Income

Fri. 02/01 - Unemployment, Grain Crashings

Mon. 02/04 - Export Inspections

Tues. 02/05 - Chinese New Year

Thurs. 02/07 - Export Sales, Jobless Claims

Fri. 02/08 - Crop Productions, USDA Supply & Demand

Mon. 02/11 - Export Inspections

Thurs. 02/14 - Valentine's Day

Fri. 02/15 - Retail Sales, NOPA Crush

Mon. 02/18 - President's Day (Some Markets Closed)

Tues. 2/19 - Full Moon, Export Inspections

Wed. 02/20 - Housing Starts & Pmts

Thur. 02/21 - Jobless Claims

Fri. 02/22 - Export Sales, Cattle on Feed/Cold Storage

Mon. 02/25 - Export Inspections

Thurs 02/28 - Export Sales, Jobless Claims

Kevin's Song of the Week



WHAT I'M LISTENING TO: ▶



▶ Lee Brice
"Rumor"

Kevin's Song of the Week

NEXT level THINKING

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

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

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

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

Kevin Van Trump

What Others Are Saying

"I am a recent subscriber to Kevin's newsletter, but I'm a long-time reader of many other high-profile marketing services. I am particularly impressed with



the thorough manner in which Kevin evaluates every economic aspect, both nationally and internationally, that influences commodity prices. His analysis and conclusions are highly thought out and conveyed in layman's terms so that the reader can comprehend the numerous and often complex interrelationships that impact the markets. Kevin is a real attribute to the agricultural sector."

A.M., FDIC

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

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



My Own Personal Truisms

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I never initiate a "short" position in a market that I am "bullish" longer-term, nor do I initiate a "long" position in a market I am "bearish" longer-term.





Farm Direction
RECIPES

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

**Tijuana
Pulled Pork**



[CLICK TO SEE RECIPE](#)







FARM TANK

Tweets of the Day



Statista
@StatistaCharts

Following

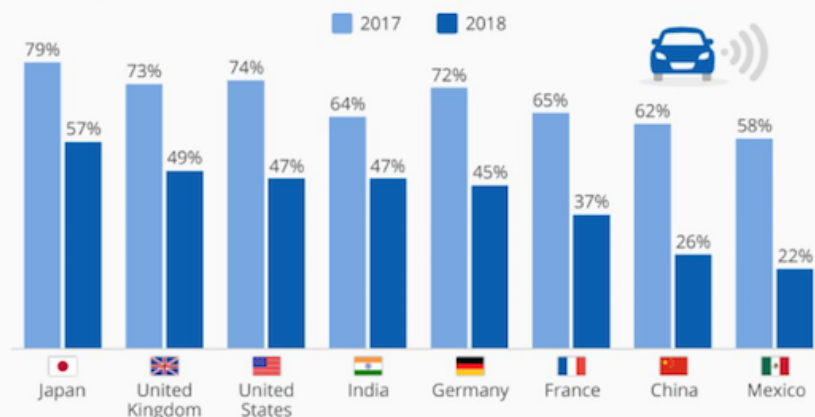


2018 brought new trust in [#SelfDrivingCars](#)
via [@DeloitteInsight](#)

bit.ly/2QQ79I3

People Are Warming Up To Self-Driving Cars

Percentage of consumers who think fully self-driving vehicles will not be safe (2017 vs. 2018)*



* 22,000 consumers in 17 countries were surveyed
on issues relating to the automotive industry.
Source: Deloitte Insights

statista



George Strait ✓

@GeorgeStrait

Following



Looking forward to getting back on the golf course in 2019 with my @gariagolfcar



Bob Birdsell

@farmerbobnwmo

Following



We are now ready for the snow storm. I'm no longer afraid of drifts. I'm going to move you baby.





Jeff Bullerman
@JeffBullerman

Following

Proud Dad moment. Ran to the other shop for about 15 minutes and told them they could play in the big shop. Came back and they were shining the combine without being told 😂 #mykids #futurefarmers #andyclean

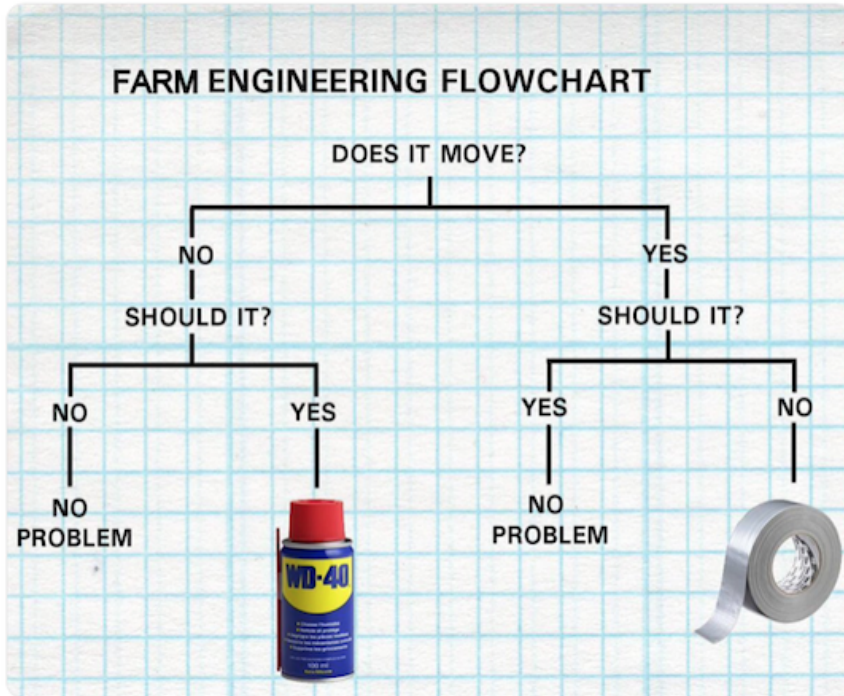


Def my kids. Came back in the shop and they were shining up the combine!



Sunshine
@Farmlvngirl

Following



ripsters
@ripsterlicious

Following

My favorite SuperBowl picture
Lenny Dawson halftime





ActionComplete

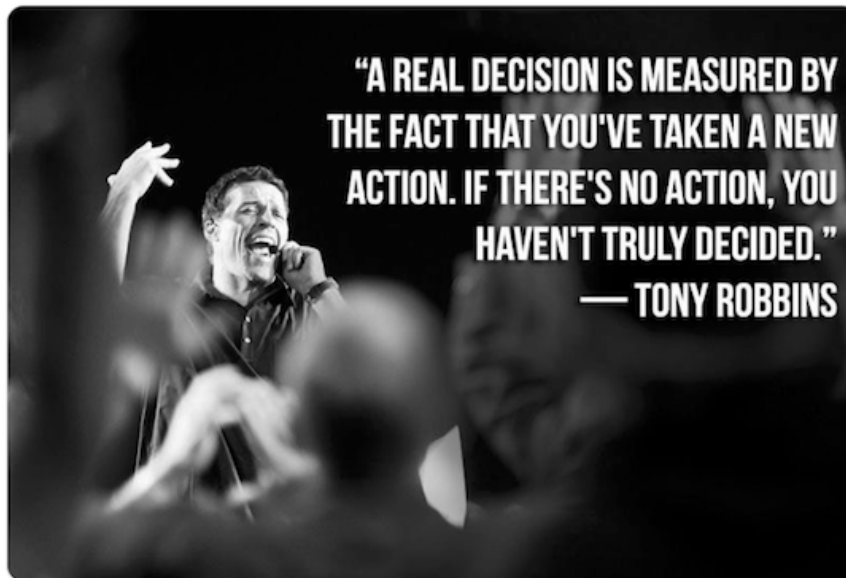
@ActionComplete

Following

A real decision is measured by the fact that you've taken a new [#action](#). If...

~Tony Robbins

[#quote](#) [#inspiration](#)



neuro mining



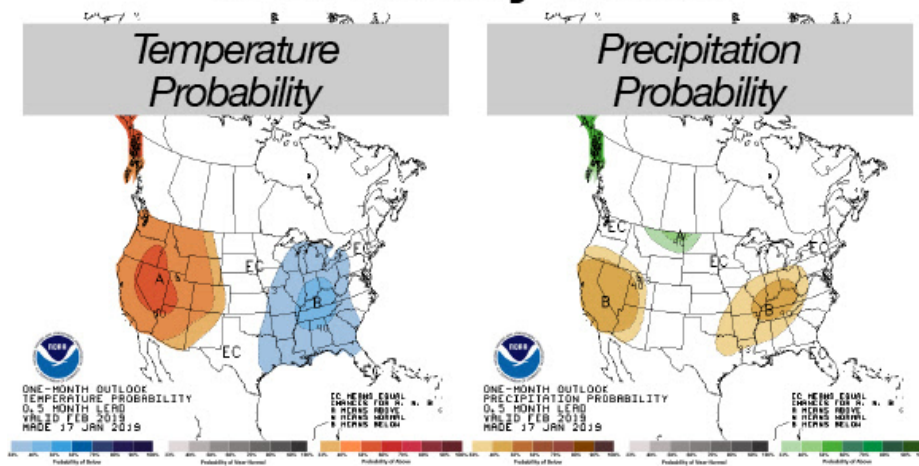
As we age, it gets harder and harder to create new neural pathways in the brain. It's the reason kids find it so easy to learn new things, but as adults it often gets more difficult. Doing brain teasers and solving riddles can be an important part of keeping our brain healthy. The more connections we 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 falls, but never breaks? What Breaks, but never falls?

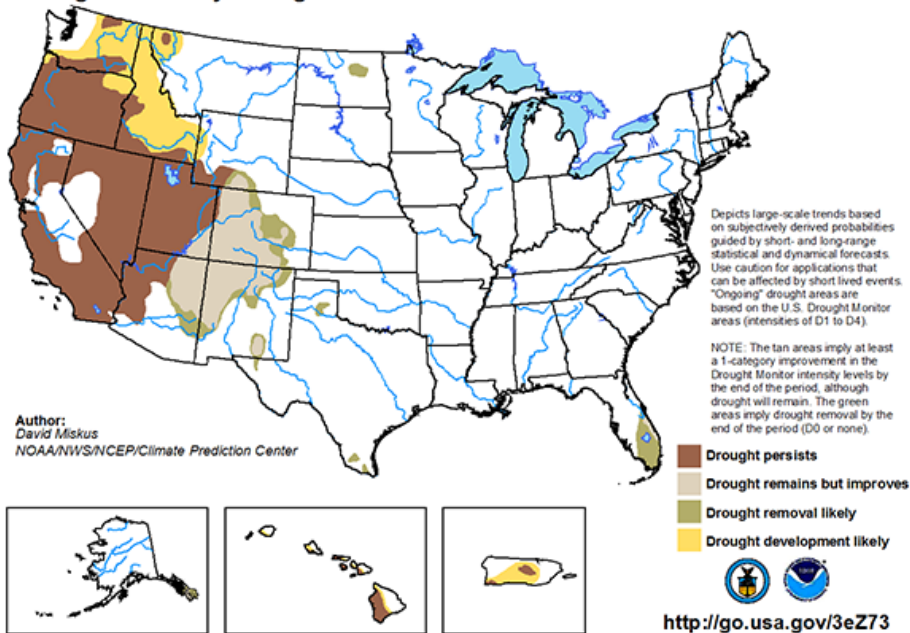
Weather over the weekend saw the predicted winter storm move across the Plains, Midwest and Northeast with rain, mixed precipitation and snow causing some transportation delays throughout the region. Meanwhile, northern areas are in store for several rounds of intense cold wave through the seven-day period. While the northern Plains are in the deep freeze, the southern Plains remain in a pattern favorable for overwintering wheat. There is no damaging cold weather in sight. Of course, the winter snow storm over the weekend did pose a threat to livestock. Despite the government shutdown and numerous national weather services being down, the CPC still issued their Feb outlook for Temperatures and Precipitation. U.S. Drought Monitor also gave their Seasonal Drought Monitor for the January through April timeframe.

CPC February Outlook



U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

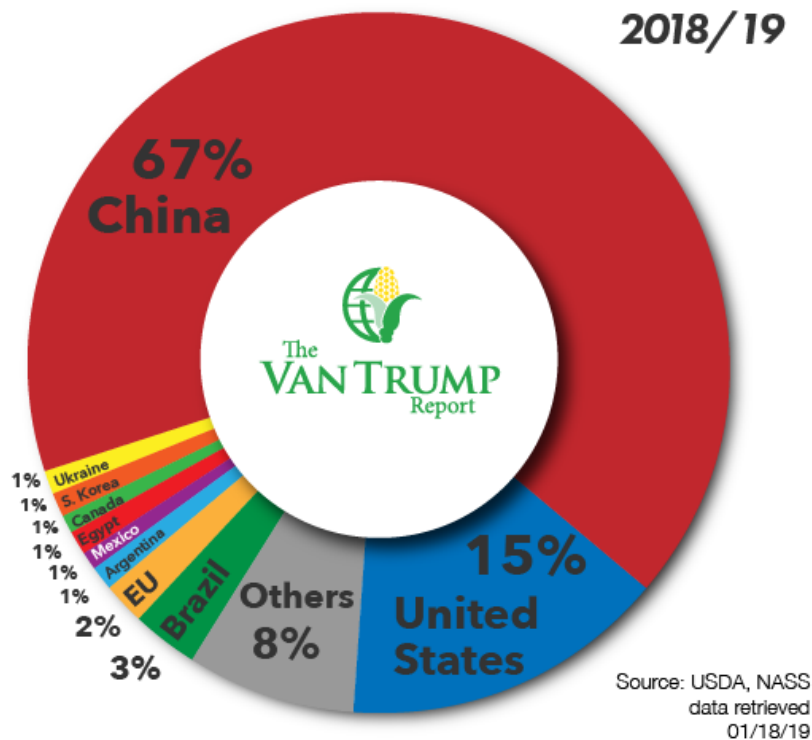
Valid for January 17 - April 30, 2019
Released January 17



Corn continues to trade in a fairly narrow price range with very little fresh or new in the headlines. The MAR19 contract has essentially traded between \$3.70 and \$3.90 per bushel since late-September. Bulls are betting that something positive comes out of the upcoming Chinese trade negotiations. There's also the hope that total production estimates for Brazil and Argentina are lowered. I continue to hear talk that there's about 1 million acres of corn still unplanted in parts of Argentina that have been experiencing overly wet conditions. I'm not really certain what amount of that will simply go "unplanted", but I'm assuming certainly a fair portion. The earlier planted corn in Argentina is supposedly doing much better than the late planted. But I'm still hearing over +50% of their crop is considered to be in "Good-to-Excellent" condition. So probably not that big of an adjustment lower in Argentine production. There's was also some talk that a few more acres went in the ground in some areas of Argentina experiencing good weather. As for Brazil, it's all about second-crop production, which is now starting to be planted in many important locations. Bears argue that the second-corn is going in the ground early and could keep the late weather pressure and uncertainties off the crop. Regardless of how we slice it, I have to imagine there's still going to be more corn being produced in South America than last year. Argentina around 41 to 43 MMTs this year vs. about 32 MMTs last year. Brazil about 94 to 95 MMTs this year vs. 82 MMTs last year. Here at home, there's still a ton of guessing as the USDA remains caught in the government shutdown. Most suspect ending stocks could tick a bit lower on a -1 bushel per acre reducing in yield. But on the flip side there some worries about demand growth moving forward and continued talk of U.S. producers planting more acres in 2019. As both a producer and a spec, I remain optimistic about prices rallying at some point, but I'm still extremely uncertain if we can hold and build on momentum. Hence my reasoning for reducing additional risk on

another leg higher. Ideally, I would like to have about 40% of our new-crop price risk removed by planting.

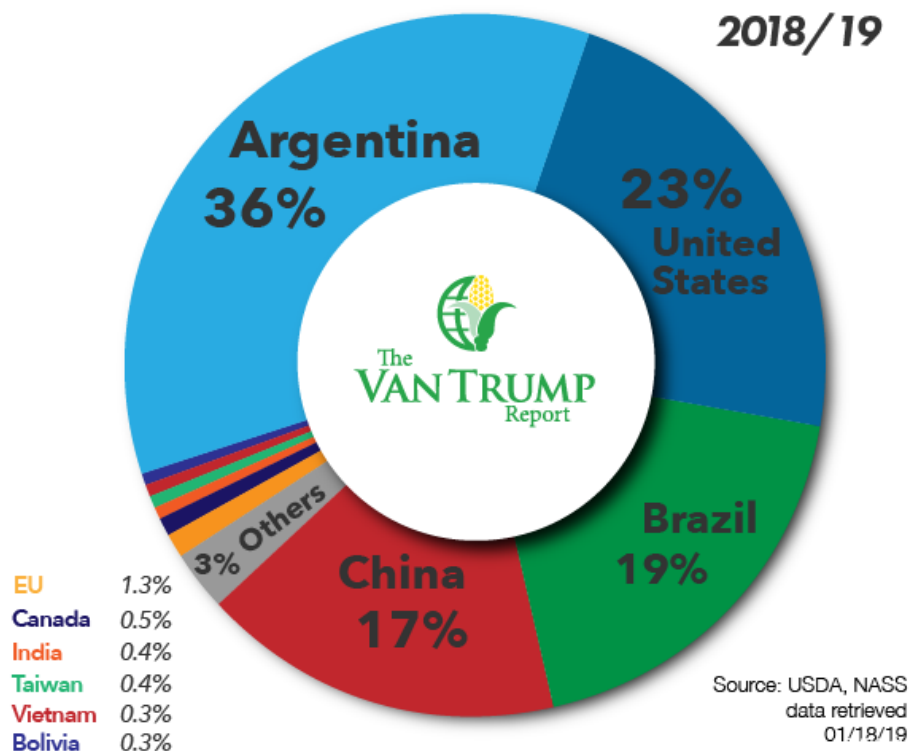
Global Corn Ending Stocks %



Soybean traders continue to debate U.S. exports. Bears argue that Brazil now has harvest well underway and their prices are starting to get cheaper than U.S. competitors. Bulls are still holding out hope that U.S. and Chinese leaders can agree on a large dose of U.S. agriculture heading that direction. South American weather is still being closely monitored. I could argue some areas in Argentina are still way too wet and that some parts of Brazil are still too dry, but overall it doesn't feel like the forecast changed a whole lot the past few days. I think both the Argentine and Brazilian production numbers are going to be moved lower by the USDA once they come back online. Here at home, the trade continues to wait on the government shutdown to end so it can better handle on the current supply and demand numbers. Technically, I still believe the MAR19 contract feels comfortable, at least for the time being, trading in this range between \$8.75 and \$9.25 per bushel. Since last June this contract has basically traded between \$8.40 and \$9.40 per bushel. So as you can see we are currently trading near the higher end of the range. The NOV19 new-crop contract seems most comfortable between \$9.25 and \$9.75 per bushel. The highest its traded since mid-June has been \$9.71. This past Friday we traded to almost \$9.60, again we should recognize we are up near the higher end of the range for the past seven months. I'm certainly not saying these are great prices, because they are not. But as a producer, we have to make certain we are reducing some risk exposure as the market trades near the higher end. Keep in mind, we still have an extremely burdensome balance sheet we need to chew through. While the Chinese economy and overall growth demand for soybeans is being questioned. Some inside the market argue that regardless of trade talks, U.S. soybeans into China could remain uncompetitive into the summer or until prices in Brazil start to be pressured higher.

Global Soybean Ending Stocks %

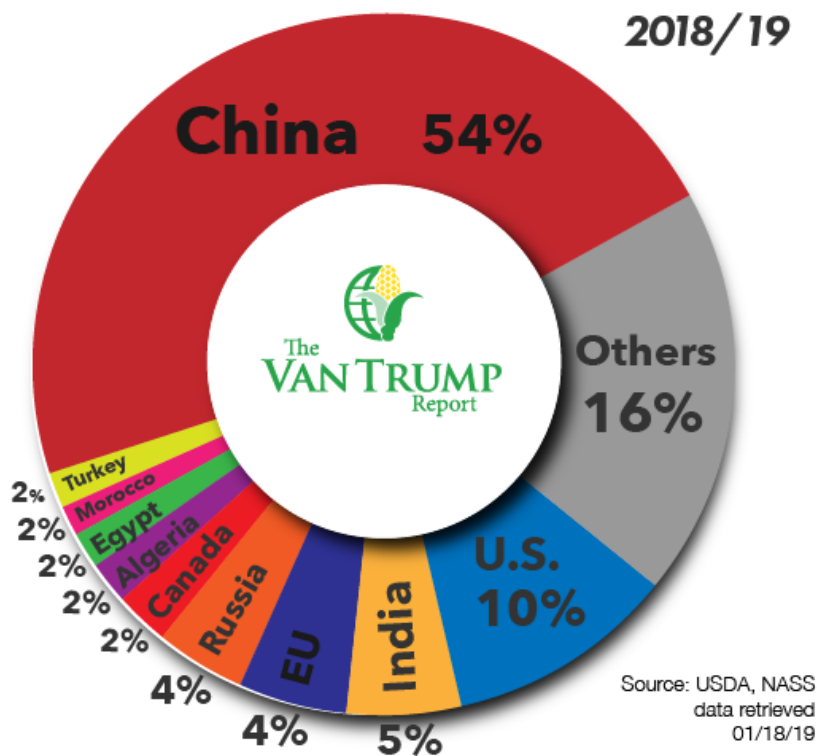
2018/19



Wheat bulls are talking more openly about Russian exports finally starting to slow. Higher prices in Russia and some talk of tighter export controls shows Russian exports dropping to their lowest level this marketing season. Here at home, weekend snow has helped provide protection for many areas currently battling cold temps. We will continue to monitor the threat of winter-kill closely as there are still a lot of cold temps in the forecast for the month ahead.

Global Wheat Ending Stocks %

2018/19





> ASF Continues to Spread Across China: China announced a new outbreak of African Swine Fever (ASF) in the northwestern region of Ningxia on Sunday, reported China's agriculture ministry. This marks the 25th region or province to record an ASF outbreak in China. Currently there is no vaccine for ASF, although many countries are working to develop one, including China. According to Liz Wagstrom, chief veterinarian at the National Pork Producers Council, the quest for an ASF vaccine has been going on for a good 50 years. It's no easy feat, because ASF is the largest virus known to man, she said. Because of its size, it's difficult to discover which, if any, of those proteins has the antibody that would protect against clinical disease. According to Wagstrom, a vaccine for ASF is still several years away from being available to pork producers. Some U.S. sources say 10 years, while a European report says the vaccine is still 20 years out. Remember, China is the world's top pork producer, accounting for half of global supply and with all its production consumed locally. (Source: [FarmJournal's Pork](#))

> U.S. Chickens to China: We continue to hear that Washington and Beijing are in talks to try and reopen U.S. poultry into China. If the talks are successful, U.S. meat giants like Sanderson Farms Inc., Pilgrim's Pride Corp. and Tyson Foods Inc. could begin clawing back some of the business in China, a key market that represented hundreds of millions of dollars in annual sales before a ban was implemented in 2015 in response to an outbreak of avian flu in the U.S. China's block on U.S. poultry has been costly for chicken companies. In 2017, U.S. meat companies shipped \$1.3 million worth of chicken meat to Chinese buyers, compared with \$248 million in 2014, according to USDA data. (Source: [The Wall Street Journal](#))

> DowDuPont To Launch Enlist E3 Soybeans in 2020: DowDuPont's ag unit, Corteva agriscience, is gearing up to broadly sell farmers in North American and Brazil a new type of genetically modified soybean for planting next year in a challenge to rival Bayer AG. Corteva revealed its plans for Enlist E3 soy seeds on Thursday, after top global soybean buyer China said last week it approved the crops for import. For years, Enlist E3 was on hold while waiting for the nod from Beijing. Corteva said Enlist E3 soybeans, which can resist three herbicides, will be offered in Brazil, Canada and the U.S. with some commercial sales to begin in 2019 and a full roll-out by 2020. (Source: Reuters)

> Soil Scientists Win Prestigious Honors: Ohio State University soil scientist Rattan Lal was awarded the Japan Prize, one of the most prestigious honors in science and technology, for his work on no-till agriculture and carbon sequestration. Each year two fields of scientific endeavor are honored. The Japan Prize laureates receive a certificate of merit and a prize medal. A cash prize of \$450,000 is also awarded for each prize field. (Source: Japan Prize)

> China's Moon Harvest: Seeds taken up to the Moon by China's Chang'e-4 mission have sprouted. It marks the first time any biological matter has grown on the Moon, and is being seen as a significant step towards long-term space exploration. The Chang'e 4 is the first mission to land on and explore the Moon's far side, facing away from Earth. Plants have been grown on the International Space Station before but never on the Moon. (Source: BBC)

> Consumer Sentiment Drops: Dropping to its lowest level since before the U.S. presidential election in 2016 amid growing concerns over U.S. economic growth, the University of Michigan consumer sentiment index fell to 90.7 this month. Sentiment fell from 98.3 in December, preliminary data showed and economists polled by Refinitiv expected the index to fall to 96.4.

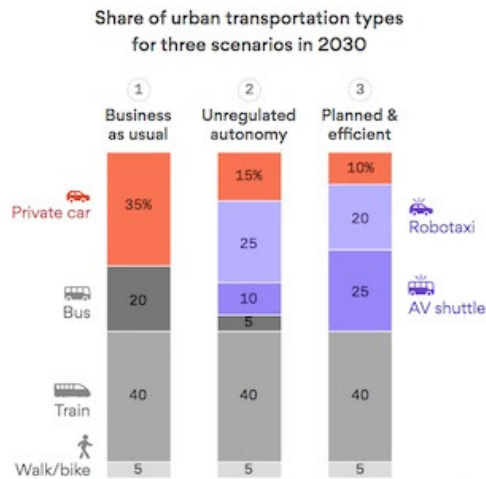
> President Trump to Meet Again with Kim Jong Un: From what we understand, President Trump will hold a second summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in late-February. White House spokeswoman Sarah Sanders said. She said a location would be announced later.

> China's Birthrate Falls to Lowest in 60 Years: The number of babies born in China last year fell by some 2 million from 2017, to 15.23 million, data from the National Bureau of Statistics showed on Monday. Demographer He Yafu said it was the least since 1961 and the third-lowest since the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949. (Source: Bloomberg)

> Taking a Closer Look How Urban Transport May Evolve: A new McKinsey & Co. report shows why autonomous vehicles and ride-sharing are kind of a wild card when it comes to greenhouse gas emissions — and have the potential to help provide climate benefits if planners take the right steps. Uber and other companies are already

changing the way people move around in cities, while AVs are poised to shake things up even further as the tech takes hold. The report looks at 3 trajectories for how urban traffic and transport patterns could evolve, and their effects on urban development and the environment. Click [HERE](#) to see report.

How the future of commuting could cut emissions & travel time



Adapted from Hannon et. al., 2019, "The road to seamless urban mobility"; Chart: Andrew Witherspoon/Axios



Westcentral Indiana – We farm a few miles from the state line of Illinois. We started harvest the second week of September after about a 9-inch rain, but it didn't hurt the corn. We just started on our sandy soil and got the job done. We have tracks on both our grain carts, so we didn't have much problems filling them as the harvest progressed. The corn started out making between 260 and 280 on the lighter irrigated soil and was closer to 230 on our last field. The beans made close to 75 bushels. We didn't really have a ton of problem with tracking up our ground because if there was any chance of us getting into mud we just would hold off. I value all the work I have done to build up the soil over getting the crop off. I had to till a field after 5 years of no till and the yield dropped 50 bushels year over year. So, we do as little as possible to disturb the makeup of the soil. Compaction is the one thing you have to watch out for when you no till.

Northwestern Iowa – This was the year of excess. We had excessive rain, we had excessive wind, we had excessive hail. The only thing we didn't have was excessive yield. We had close to half our farm shredded by hail and in that same storm we had about 50% green snap. We don't farm beans, but the guys that do lost most of their crop in the same storm. We decided to leave a few strips for insurance and cut ours for silage because our adjuster didn't think we had 80 bushels left after the first storm. The kicker was we had another hail storm that ripped us in the same fields and we just called off the silage guys because there wasn't much left after that. We will end up collecting insurance but it's not anywhere near what harvesting a good crop would have been. The first of July, I thought we had 200+ corn. I'm glad to be done with this year.

Southwest Wisconsin – We started harvesting in mid-October while some of our fields were full of water. It was do it or lose yields which we were not going to let happen. We did have to empty the cart most times before it was anywhere near full but at least we never got stuck. In my opinion, the best fields produced around 225 bpa and the worst yields hit around 190 bpa. We did have to spend a bit of time helping others get unstuck but that's just what you do for your neighbors around here. Overall we say around 213 bpa and fortunately by the time we were finished the corn had time to dry down to around 16% moisture which was a lot better than when we started.

CROSSING WIRES

A place to share intelligent thoughts...

Researchers Develop Floating Deep Farms Concept: *Believing that rising sea levels caused by climate change are likely to lead to increased erosion and inundation of salt water, reducing the amount of land available for farming, researchers at Nottingham University have developed the concept of floating deep farms, consisting of large vertical shafts or containers, submerged under seawater near coastal areas. I'm told the containers, which could be used to grow a variety of crops, could also act as a sink for carbon dioxide captured from the local environment. The project is the brainchild of Prof Saffa Riffat, chair in sustainable energy at Nottingham's faculty of engineering, and research fellow Prof Yijun Yuan, a specialist in mining engineering and sustainable energy. You might remember the pair as they unveiled plans last year to build underground farms within the disused tunnels of depleted coal, salt and gold mines in countries such as the UK and China. Whether these ideas come to fruition or not I suspect future research will build off elements within the designs. Read more on their latest ideas [HERE](#).*

New AI Algorithms Can Turn Text Recipes Into Pictures: *Until now, text-to-image artificial intelligence produced synthetic images by looking at visually descriptive phrases like "this pink and yellow flower has a beautiful yellow center with many stamens" or, "a small bird with black eye, black head, and dark bill." But the new AI algorithms developed by computer scientists Ori Bar El, Ori Licht, and Netanel Yosephian at Tel Aviv University don't require you to visually describe anything: It can generate fake photos of food from text recipes that list the ingredients and the method of preparation but don't contain any visual description of how the final plate looks. The AI wasn't allowed to read the title of the recipe to generate the image, as it may be descriptive enough on its own. It exclusively used the ingredients and the instructions. This is an important test for the power of AI, as the paper published on Cornell University's Arxiv.org site suggests. It shows a capacity for abstraction that we've assumed computers don't have. This could change the trajectory of where AI takes us. Find out how it works [HERE](#).*

Avoid Stress... Avoid Brain Shrinkage: *Stressed and want a good reason to decompress? Maintaining a healthy blood pressure is a given, but now you have yet another reason to do what it takes to relax. A recent study finds chilling out isn't just an indulgence: according to researchers, stress not only impairs memory, but actually decreases brain size. The study, published in the journal Neurology, comes after researchers studied 2,231 middle-aged participants in the famous Framingham Heart Study. In addition to finding a correlation between high levels of the stress hormone cortisol and memory impairment, the researchers also found via MRI scans that those with heightened cortisol had decreased brain volume. From what I understand, researchers are claiming that the fast pace of modern life seems to frequently trigger our flight-or-fight response, which in turn causes our cortisol levels go up, which is associated with worse brain structure and cognition. Read more on why it's important to reduce your stress [HERE](#).*

Why You Might Want to Pay Off Your Mortgage Debt Fast: *"Shark Tank" star and financial expert Kevin O'Leary has some advice for homeowners: "The No. 1 debt you want to get rid of is pay off your mortgage," he tells CNBC Make It. A big reason to prioritize paying off your mortgage as soon as possible is the change in tax law for 2018 means "these days, you can't write off as much as you used to," says O'Leary. The enactment of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (the sweeping tax overhaul that was signed into law in 2017), resulted in a significant drop in the number of homeowners who are able to benefit from a mortgage tax break. In April, CNBC reported only an estimated 13.8 million taxpayers will be able to claim the mortgage-interest deduction in 2018, a 57% drop from the over 32.3 million in 2017. Though there are several reasons for that, a common problem is that the new law nearly doubled the standard deduction. That matters because mortgage interest is an itemized deduction — meaning in order to use it, the total of your itemized deductions needs to be more than the amount of the standard deduction. Read more [HERE](#).*

BMW and The North Face's New Cutting Edge Teardrop Tent Trailer: *Surprising to most industry experts, the recent CES show in Vegas showcased a new collaboration between BMW Designworks and The North Face. Outdoor fans were introduced to a new design, the collapsible Futurelight teardrop trailer. From what I understand, the concept highlights TNF's rugged, new ultra-breathable fabric and features a unique design with a tent-style canopy, non-pneumatic tires and staggered beds. I'm told The North Face says that response to the trailer has been strong, as the concept serves as an attention-grabbing way of relating the story about TNF's Futurelight fabric, which debuted at CES and will launch in waterproof-breathable outerwear later this year.*

Starting in 2020, the fabric will also find use in TNF tent construction, moving closer to its role on the concept trailer. Definitely something for all the minimalist who enjoy camping! Read more [HERE](#).





Scientist Using CRISPR to Make Interesting New Changes to Crops Centuries Old

Understand, in the distant past the juicy tomato and its spicy cousin, the chili pepper, split from their common ancestor. This forever changed the trajectory of the two cultivated plants. While they still share much of the same DNA, they have taken on much different growing patterns, shapes and taste profiles. The split is of interest to scientists who today wonder if advances in gene-editing techniques can once again merge the two and create a food item that incorporates the benefits of both. Brazilian researchers are making the case to give this work a shot in the latest issue of the journal [Trends in Plant Science](#). The idea isn't to create a new food. The point is to get more people eating capsaicinoids, the molecules that give red peppers their taste. Scientists say there are 23 different types of capsaicinoids, and many of those molecules have demonstrated anti-inflammatory, antioxidant and weight-loss properties. Certain of the molecules have also been shown to ward off the development of tumors. The problem is, it is difficult to commercial mass produce capsaicinoids. Pungent varieties of the pepper plant, also known as the genus *Capsicum*, are generally grown in open-field settings, which makes them more vulnerable to environmental conditions that wind up being bad for higher yields. Basically, these are labor-intensive crop. And it's hard for farmers to keep their spicy *Capsicum* levels consistent across an entire crop. Tomatoes, on the other hand, are very easy to mass produce because they are less sensitive to environmental factors and are also often grown indoors. This makes them a prime potential vehicle for engineering to contain more capsaicinoids. Understand, the genes that produce capsaicinoids exist in the tomato, they are just not active. But thanks to the gene-editing tool, CRISPR, scientists are hoping to turn these genes back on. That should give tomatoes the extra boost to deliver even more health benefits along with a little extra spice. This isn't the only work researchers are using CRISPR technology for. At least three groups of scientists around the world are tinkering with the genetics of tomatoes to make them better-suited to the needs of growers, consumers, and shippers, as well as to enhance their flavors. (Source: Atlas Obscura)



Hottest Cars at Barrett-Jackson 2019 in Scottsdale

Last week car collectors and enthusiasts from around the world gathered in Scottsdale, AZ at WestWorld for one of Barrett-Jackson's famous annual events, which is also known as "the world's greatest collector car auctions." Now in its 48th year, Scottsdale is the first of Barrett-Jackson's four auctions of 2019. Keep in mind, this event in Scottsdale consigned 1,800 no-reserve vehicles, which is now a record for Barrett-Jackson and the most on record for any public collector car auction. Below are some of the coolest cars I saw get auctioned off at the show! (Source: www.barrett-jackson.com)

2012 McLaren MP4-12C High Sport

This is a limited edition McLaren, number 9 of the 10 High Sport versions produced in 2012 is a special limited edition of the car in the spirit of the McLaren 12C GT3 racer. This unique version was known as the High Sport, which included improved redesigned front and rear bumpers with side air extractors and louvers on top of the front fenders to increase downforce and reduce drag, while significantly improving braking and tire cooling. The High Sport engine modification to 675hp could now achieve 0-60 mph in under three seconds flat in launch mode with a top speed north of 200 mph. This special McLaren sold with 364 actual miles.

Price: \$214,500



John Lennon's 1965 Mercedes-Benz 230SL Roadster

That's right, this car was once owned by John Lennon. It even included a copy of the original U.K. registration including John Lennon's iconic signature. The Mercedes is believed to have been sold by Lennon to a private couple in the Newmarket area and then to Mr. Howard Wise. It would then find its way to Peter Jarvis in Cocoa Beach, FL, in the mid-1980s. The SL was then sold to a Mr. Barnett in California, who sold the car in 1999 to the current Florida museum owner.

Price: \$187,000



2005 Saleen S7 Twin Turbo

This 2005 Saleen S7 Twin Turbo is one of a very limited number produced, and this was the first Saleen S7 Twin Turbo to be shipped to Europe. This Saleen S7 Twin Turbo made its public debut at the Top Marks Show in Monaco, where its admirers included Prince Albert of Monaco and actor Roger Moore, who famously portrayed James Bond in numerous films. The S7 Twin Turbo has achieved some world-class acceleration numbers by reaching 0 to 60 in just 2.8 seconds and 0 to 100 in a mere 5.9 seconds with only 240 actual miles on the odometer.

Price: \$687,500



1965 Ford Mustang - First Pre-Production Hardtop VIN 00002

This is the very first Ford Pilot Plant/Pre-production Mustang hardtop. This 1965 Mustang started the Pony Car revolution in American car building, resulting in the later creation of the Camaro and Firebird. It was hand-assembled at the Ford Pilot Plant and is one of three known existing Pilot Plant Mustangs to survive. This special Mustang has been restored to factory new specifications with all major components having matching numbers. It's powered by a 170ci 6-cylinder engine mated to a 3-speed manual transmission. which includes the First Ford Mustang Hardtop set of binders.

Price: \$192,500



2014 Mercedes-Benz G63 6x6

You read the title correctly, this is a 6x6 Mercedes-Benz truck. This Mercedes-Benz 6x6 truck is what the company calls the declaration of automotive independence. Mercedes produced very limited numbers of the G63 worldwide with very few ever making it to the U.S. It combines the engine from the G63, a twin-turbo V8, with 6x6 portal axles, a pickup version of the G-Class body and a luxury interior, can deliver 0 to 60 mph in 7.8 seconds. This truck was sold with 965 actual miles.

Price: \$1,210,000



1953 Chevrolet Corvette convertible

This is #290 of only 300 manufactured in 1953, which is the lowest production Corvette from any year. This was the first mass-produced fiberglass-bodied car, and all of the 300 cars built were assembled by hand in the back of a customer delivery garage in Flint, MI. All of the 1953 Corvettes were identical, with convertible bodies in Polo White with a Sportsman Red interior and a black canvas top. The car has been part of a private collection in Southern California since 2008. Recent work in 2018 included new brake cylinders on all four wheels, a new battery, a valve job, carburetors rebuilt and new Al Knoch seat covers.

Price: \$220,000



1968 Ford Econoline Mystery Machine Van

This 1968 Ford Econoline van underwent a body-on restoration and is styled after the Mystery Machine from Scooby Doo. It's finished in the correct movie exterior color combination along with the Mystery Machine livery. The interior is a custom blue, green, and orange movie-style look and is complete with a Ghost Finder instrument panel. It's powered by a factory 302ci V8 engine mated to a 3-speed automatic transmission.

Price: \$59,400.00



2019 McLaren Senna VIN 005

Inspired by one of the world's greatest racing drivers, Ayrton Senna, this 2019 McLaren Senna with a VIN of 005 is McLaren's lightest and the world's fastest street-legal supercar around a track. The Senna's aerodynamics generate 40% more downforce and 30% more lateral grip than the P1 did. Capable of 0-62 mph in 2.8 seconds and 0-124 mph in 6.8 seconds it's actually faster around the track than its Ultimate Series sibling, the McLaren P1. Painted in ultra-unique Amethyst Black with 281 actual miles this Senna boasts a prized serial chassis number of 005 out of only 500 vehicles, which have been sold out since their announcement and is one of approximately 120 in the United States.

Price: \$1,457,500... the most expensive in the auction!



2018 Jeep Wrangler JL Custom "Smokey and the Bandit" SUV

log "Bandit" features color-coordinated flares and bumpers, which were taken off, prepared, primed, and painted as well as given a fresh coat of base clear. It sports custom-painted one off Bandit 20" Snowflakes, custom graphics, a one-of-a-kind Trans Am Shaker hood and the interior is adorned with Banditos and kerchiefs to emulate the famous Bandit. "Bandit" has been customized with a Teraflex ST4 lift kit with drop brackets, Fox monotube shocks, and a custom rear license plate combination.

Price: \$75,900



Larry Fitzgerald Sells 3 Cars

The star receiver for the Arizona Cardinals, who is likely a future Hall of Famer sold three cars from his collection last Saturday at the auction. His cars include a 1968 Chevrolet Chevelle custom coupe with a custom Alpine stereo, 1970 Plymouth 'Cuda custom coupe that was originally built as a 440 Six Barrel car, 1968 Dodge Charger custom coupe with 200 test miles. Below are the pictures of the cars he sold.

Chevelle Price: \$60,500

Plymouth Price: \$60,500

Charger Price: \$110,000



Simple Life Lessons Worth Sharing

This was sent my way the other day and I thought it was worth sharing. It's extremely simple advice, but we often lose sight of simple when life gets in the way. I always find it helpful to have a few reminders along our journey. Hope these spark a little thought. Enjoy and feel free to share with your family and friends.

The Seven Best Doctors

1. God
2. Sunlight
3. Rest
4. Exercise
5. Diet
6. Self Confidence
7. Family and Friends

Ten Undeniable Facts of Life

1. Your life is Now! Don't hesitate when you could act. There is an old Roman proverb that people often quote – "Carpe diem" – meaning "Seize the day". More often than not, we fail to act due to lack of confidence or courage. This hesitation keeps us from moving forward. No matter the outcome, you will end up smarter than before.
2. "Eat your food as your medicines, otherwise you have to eat medicines as your food."
3. The one who really loves you will never leave you for another, because, even if there are 100 reasons to give up, he, or she, will find that one reason to hold on.
4. There is a big difference between a human being and being human.
5. Change is good! Life is change. We shouldn't resist it. Remaining stagnant is in opposition to the natural order of life. Flow with change. Embrace it and regard it as an adventure.
6. If you just want to walk fast, then walk alone. However, if you want to walk far, then walk together.
7. Don't educate your children to be rich. Educate them to be happy, so when they grow up they will know the value of things, and not just their price.
8. It to shall pass! Whatever is causing you worry or pain right now won't cause you worry and pain forever. Time heals. Things change. It will pass.
9. You define the meaning of life. A meaningful life is what you define it to be. If you want it to be about material things and possessions, it will be. If you want it to be about family and friendships, it will be. You are loved when you are born. You will be loved when you die. In between, only YOU are in charge of your life.
10. Good things don't come easy!

Life Lessons

"Nothing ever
goes away until
it teaches us
what we need to
know."

**NEVER CHASE
LOVE, AFFECTION,
OR ATTENTION.
IF IT ISN'T GIVEN
FREELY BY
ANOTHER PERSON**

—Pema Chodron

ANOTHER PERSON,
IT ISN'T WORTH
HAVING.

KUSHANOWIZDOM

Life is full of lessons.

You are free to make choices,
but you are not free from the
consequences of those choices.

powerofpositivity.com

SURROUND
YOURSELF
WITH PEOPLE WHO
PUSH YOU
TO BE
YOUR
BEST SELF

LESSON IN LIFE

A wise man sat in the audience and cracked a joke.

Everybody laughs like crazy.

After a moment, he cracked the same joke again.

This time, less people laughed.

He cracked the same joke again and again.

When there is no laughter in the crowd,

he smiled and said:

*You can't laugh at the same joke again and again,
but why do you keep crying over the same thing
over and over again?*

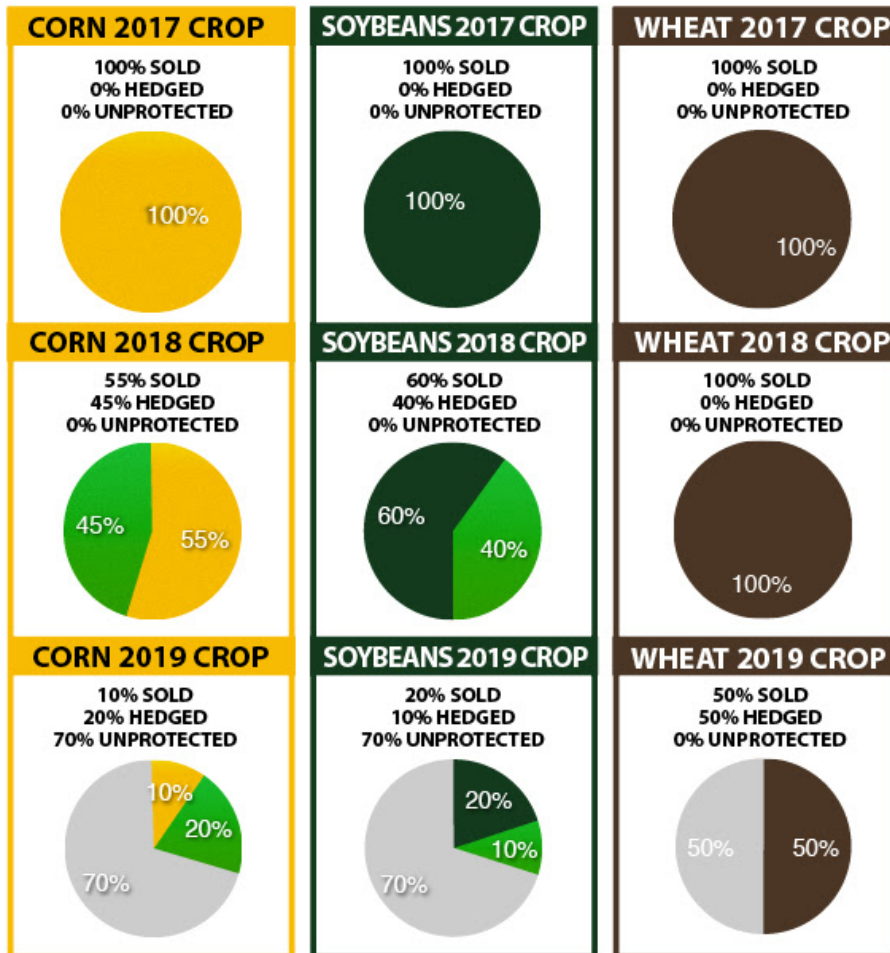
SOMETIMES GOOD
THINGS FALL APART
SO BETTER THINGS CAN
FALL TOGETHER.

via thisislifeyouarein

ANSWER to riddle: Day and night.

CASH SALES & HEDGING TOTALS

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