

## GOOD MORNING: 03/01/19 Farm Direction - Van Trump Report

1 message

The Van Trump Report &lt;reply@vantrumpreport-email.com&gt;

Fri, Mar 1, 2019 at 7:28 AM

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### Today In History

"Ambition is the path to success. Persistence is the vehicle you arrive in." - Bill Bradley

**FRIDAY, MARCH 01, 2019**
[Printable Copy](#) or [Audio Version](#)

**Morning Summary:** Stocks are higher this morning and trying to recover after closing lower for the past three consecutive sessions. This is the start of a new month and bulls are hoping to see fresh buying power come into the market. The latest government data showed U.S. GDP growing at a rate of 2.6% in the fourth quarter of 2018. GDP growth for all of 2018 was reported at 2.9% vs. annualized growth of 2.2% in 2017. The fourth-quarter slowdown wasn't as severe as many forecasters had feared, and even with the loss of momentum late in the year, 2018 as a whole was among the best years of the decade-long recovery. As for today, traders will be digesting updated Eurozone and Chinese manufacturing data. Remember, earlier this week data was released that showed Chinese factory activity contracted to a three-year low in February as export orders fell at the fastest pace since the global financial crisis. There were also reports circulating this week that Ford Motor Co's joint venture in China has quietly begun dismissing thousands of its workers due to weak auto sales. A couple of weeks back, China's top auto industry association reported that the country's automobile car sales in January fell -15.8% from a year earlier to 2.37 million. That marked the seventh straight month of declining sales in the world's largest auto market. Many larger traders are wondering if record lending by Chinese banks in January and continued economic stimulus by the Chinese government is only covering up a more serious problem? I've heard a few economists say that China's economic growth could fall to sub-6% in the first half of 2019, especially if no major trade truce is established with the U.S. In my opinion, the Chinese economy probably rebounds during the second half of the year as more of the major support measures start to fully kick-in and take effect. Here at home today, traders will be digest U.S. auto sale data, personal income, and Michigan consumer confidence. Most sources are saying U.S. auto sales are off to their worst start in the past five-years. Bloomberg ran an article yesterday that argues, Automakers are propping up their U.S. sales by boosting deliveries to rental-car companies and other fleet customers, as demand from consumers keeps slipping. Data is showing deliveries to traditional retail consumers, has fallen for three straight years. Probably explains why General Motors is closing plants and Chrysler-Jeep is cutting shifts. As for next week, the economic and political calendar slows a bit. We will be digesting the latest policy decision from the European Central Bank. There will also be some more important Chinese economic numbers released. While here at home, most will be waiting to see the February employment report, which is scheduled for release next Friday morning. Next week's big earnings reports will come from Salesforce, Costco and Target.

**Will "Weed" Decide the Next Presidential Election?** *I've been talking for some time that the next U.S. presidential election could leverage "marijuana" to determine who will be the next President. Well, here we go...* "Senator Cory Booker, Democrats from New Jersey, who recently announced he was running for president in 2020, introduced a bill on Thursday to legalize marijuana nationwide. Imagine this, co-sponsors of the bill, known now as the "Marijuana Justice Act," include fellow 2020 Democratic presidential contenders Senators Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, Bernie Sanders of Vermont, Kamala Harris of California and Kirsten Gillibrand of New York." You can read more [HERE](#)

**Interesting Look at Prices:** *Looking at the price changes over the last 20 years, you can see some interesting differences and trajectories. Hospital services and college books and tuition appear massively out of synch. I also find it interesting*



### 1872, Yellowstone Park

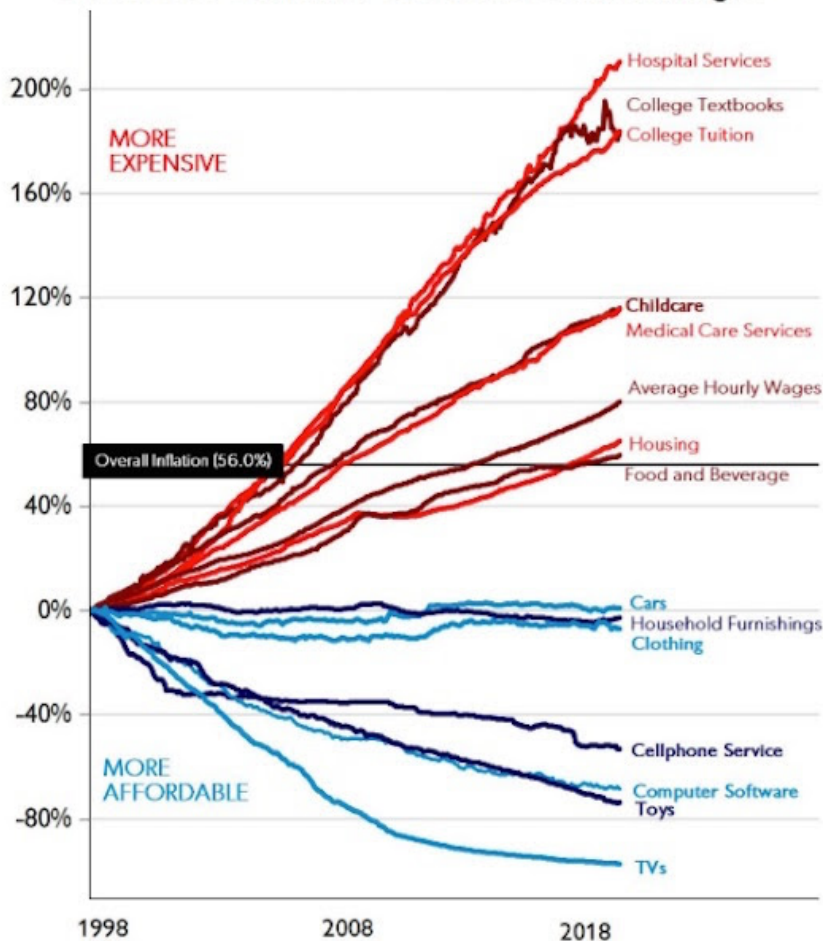
**Established** - President Grant signs the bill creating the nation's first national park at Yellowstone. Native Americans

had lived and hunted in the region that would become Yellowstone for hundreds of years before the first Anglo explorers arrived. Abundant game and mountain streams teaming with fish attracted the Indians to the region, though the awe-inspiring geysers, canyons, and gurgling mud pots also fascinated them. John Colter, the famous mountain man, was the first Anglo to travel through the area. After journeying with Lewis and Clark to the Pacific, Colter joined a party of fur trappers to explore the wilderness. In 1807, he explored part of the Yellowstone plateau and returned with fantastic stories of steaming geysers and bubbling cauldrons. Some doubters accused the mountain man of telling tall tales and jokingly dubbed the area "Colter's Hell." Before the Civil War, only a handful of trappers and hunters ventured into the area, and it remained largely a mystery. In 1869, the Folsom-Cook expedition made the first formal exploration, followed a year later by a much more thorough reconnaissance by the Washburn-Langford-Doane expedition. The key to Yellowstone's future as a national park, though, was the 1871 exploration under the direction of the government geologist Ferdinand Hayden. Hayden brought along William Jackson, a pioneering photographer, and Thomas Moran, a brilliant landscape artist, to make a visual record of the expedition. Their images provided the first visual proof of Yellowstone's wonders and caught the attention of the U.S. Congress. Early in 1872, Congress moved to set aside 1,221,773 acres of public land straddling the future states of Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho as America's first national park. President Grant signed the bill into law on this day in 1872. The Yellowstone Act of 1872 designated the region as a public "pleasuring-ground," which would be preserved "from injury or spoliation, of all timber, mineral deposits,

how technology has driven down the price of commodity type items like TVs, toys, cellphones and computers.

## Price Changes (January 1998 to December 2018)

Selected US Consumer Goods and Services, Wages



Source: BLS

Carpe Diem AEI

**Tesla Closing Retail Stores and Offering \$35,000 Standard Model 3:** Electric carmaker Tesla is finally launching its long-awaited standard Model 3 starting at \$35,000. Previously, the most affordable Model 3 started at \$42,900 after a February price reduction. The base model of the Model 3 will have 220 miles of range, a top speed of 130 miles-per-hour, and accelerate from 0 to 60 mph in 5.6 seconds. In addition, a second version called "Standard Range Plus" will be available for \$37,000 with 240 miles of range, a top speed of 140mph, and will go from 0 to 60mph in 5.3 seconds as well as come with premium interior features. Tesla announced that it will only sell its vehicles online. The electric carmaker will be closing most of its retail stores over the "next few months" and laying off many of its retail employees. I've heard they are going to pen a lot more service centers in order to provide better client care. Bottom-line, moving forward you will only be able to purchase a Tesla online. By pushing all sales online and reducing the retail expense, Tesla says it will be able to lower the price of its cars by -6%, which is the main reason the company was able to finally get to the \$35,000 price point.

**NFL Combine On-Field Workouts Start Today:** The NFL draft doesn't begin until April 25, but contenders to go in the first few rounds like Ohio State's Nick Bosa, Alabama's Quinnen Williams, and Oklahoma's Kyler Murray are all in Indianapolis at Lucas Oil Stadium for the NFL combine doing on-field workouts starting today. College football's top prospects across the country will run 40 yards, count their bench reps, and showcase their skills across the gridiron in hopes of securing spots toward the top of the draft. The 2019 NFL Combine can be watched on NFL Network and can be streamed on NFL.com or the NFL app. However, the 2019 NFL Combine will also have some coverage on ABC this year. Running backs, offensive lineman, special teams, and kickers will workout Friday starting at 8 am CST. Quarterbacks, receivers, and tight ends will workout Saturday starting at 9 am CST. Defensive lineman and linebackers will workout Sunday at 8 am CST and

natural curiosities, or wonders within." For a nation bent on settling and exploiting the West, the creation of Yellowstone was surprising. Many congressmen gave it their support simply because they believed the rugged and isolated region was of little economic value. Yet the Yellowstone Act of 1872 set a precedent and popularized the idea of preserving sections of the public domain for use as public parks. Congress went on to designate dozens of other national parks, and the idea spread to other nations around the world.



### 1961 , Peace Corps

**Established -** On March 1, 1961, President John F. Kennedy issues Executive Order #10924, establishing the Peace Corps as a new agency within the Department of State. The same day, he sent a message to Congress asking for permanent funding for the agency, which would send trained American men and women to foreign nations to assist in development efforts. The Peace Corps captured the imagination of the U.S. public, and during the week after its creation thousands of letters poured into Washington from young Americans hoping to volunteer. The immediate precursor of the Peace Corps—the Point Four Youth Corps—was proposed by Representative Henry Reuss of Wisconsin in the late 1950s. Senator Kennedy learned of the Reuss proposal during his 1960 presidential campaign and, sensing growing public enthusiasm for the idea, decided to add it to his platform. In early October 1960, he sent a message to the Young Democrats that called for the establishment of a "Youth Peace Corps," and on October 14 he first publicly spoke of the Peace Corps idea at an early morning speech at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. The night before, he had engaged Vice President Richard Nixon in the third presidential debate and was surprised to find an estimated 10,000 students waiting up to hear him speak when he arrived at the university at 2 a.m. The assembled students heard the future president issue a challenge: How many of them, he asked, would be willing to serve their country and the cause of freedom by living and working in the developing world for years at a time? The Peace Corps proposal gained momentum in the final days of Kennedy's campaign, and on November 8 he was narrowly elected the 35th president of the United States. On January 20, 1961, in his famous inaugural address, he promised aid to the poor of the world. "To those peoples in the huts and villages of half the globe struggling to break the bonds of mass misery," he said, "we pledge our best efforts to help them help themselves, for whatever period is required—not because the communists may be doing it, not because we seek their votes, but because it is right." He also appealed to Americans to "ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country." After March 1, thousands of young Americans



defensive backs will workout Monday starting at 8 am CST. Players to watch in the combine this year besides the ones listed above include Drew Lock, Josh Allen, Rashan Gray, Ed Oliver, T.J. Hockenson, D.K. Metcalf, A.J. Brown, and Elijah Holyfield. Make sure to check out who your team will be gunning for in this years NFL Draft!

**40 YARD DASH**

# FASTEST

OFFICIAL 40-YARD DASH SINCE 2003

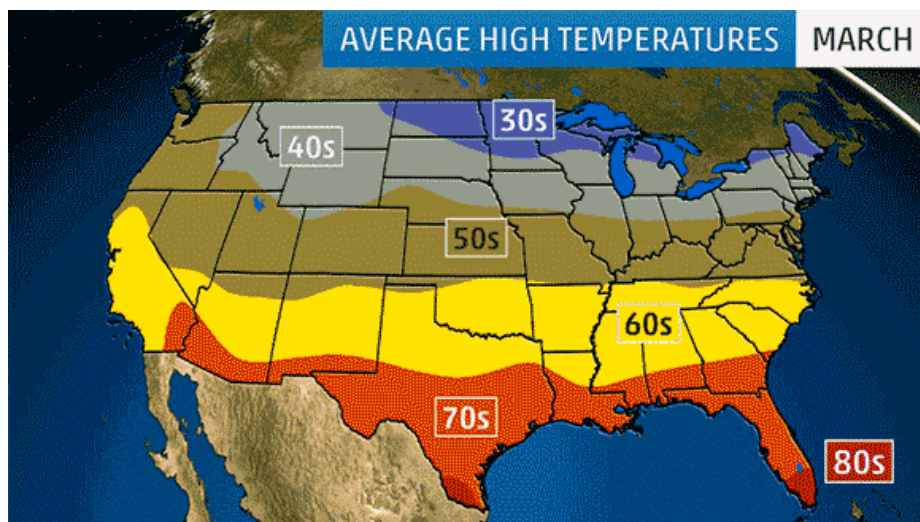


			SCHOOL	40-YARD TIME
2017	WR	JOHN ROSS	WASHINGTON	4.22
2008	RB	CHRIS JOHNSON	EAST CAROLINA	4.24
2014	RB	DRI ARCHER	KENT STATE	4.26
2005	WR	JEROME MATHIS	HAMPTON	4.26
2013	WR	MARQUISE GOODWIN	TEXAS	4.27
2005	CB	STANFORD ROUTH	HOUSTON	4.27
2003	WR	TYRONE CALICO	MIDDLE TENNESSEE	4.27
2017	CB	JALEN MYRICK	MINNESOTA	4.28
2015	WR	J.J. NELSON	UAB	4.28
2010	WR	JACOBY FORD	CLEMSON	4.28

**MARCH 1-4**

LIVE ON  **NETWORK**

**Itching for Spring?** Here's when temps typically warm up... (WeatherChannel)



answered this call to duty by volunteering for the Peace Corps. The agency, which was headed by Kennedy's brother-in-law, R. Sargent Shriver, eventually chose some 750 volunteers to serve in 13 nations in 1961. In August, Kennedy hosted a White House ceremony to honor the first Peace Corps volunteers. The 51 Americans who later landed in Accra, Ghana, for two years of service immediately made a favorable impression on their hosts when they gathered on the airport tarmac to sing the Ghanaian national anthem in Twi, the local language. On September 22, 1961, Kennedy signed congressional legislation creating a permanent Peace Corps that would "promote world peace and friendship" through three goals: (1) to help the peoples of interested countries in meeting their need for trained men and women; (2) to help promote a better understanding of Americans on the part of the peoples served; and (3) to help promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans. By the end of 1963, 7,000 volunteers were in the field, serving in 44 Third World countries. In 1966, Peace Corps enrollment peaked, with more than 15,000 volunteers in 52 countries. Budget cuts later reduced the number of Peace Corps volunteers, but today more than 7,000 Peace Corps volunteers are serving in over 70 countries. Since 1961, more than 180,000 Americans have joined the Peace Corps, serving in 134 nations.



**1969 , Mickey Mantle Retires** - On March 1, 1969, New York Yankees center fielder Mickey Mantle announces his retirement from

baseball. Mantle was an idol to millions, known for his remarkable power and speed and his everyman personality. While "The Mick" patrolled center field and batted clean-up between 1951 and 1968, the Yankees won 12 American League pennants and seven World Series. Mantle was born in Spavinaw, Oklahoma, on October 20, 1931. He grew up in nearby Commerce, and played baseball and football as a youth. With the help of his father, Mutt, and grandfather, Charlie, Mantle developed into a switch-hitter. Mutt pitched to Mantle right-handed and Charlie pitched to him left-handed every day after school. With the family's tin barn as a backstop, Mantle perfected his swing, which his father helped model so it would be identical from either side of the plate. Mantle had natural speed and athleticism and gained strength working summers with his father in Oklahoma's lead mines. "The Commerce Comet" eventually won a scholarship to play football for the University of Oklahoma. However, baseball was Mantle's first love, so when the New York Yankees came calling, Mantle moved to the big city. Mantle made his debut for the Yankees in 1951 at age 19, playing right field alongside aging center fielder Joe DiMaggio. That year, in Game 2 of the World Series, Willie Mays of the New York Giants hit a pop fly to short center, and

# FARM TANK

## Tweets of the Day



World Economic Forum

@wef

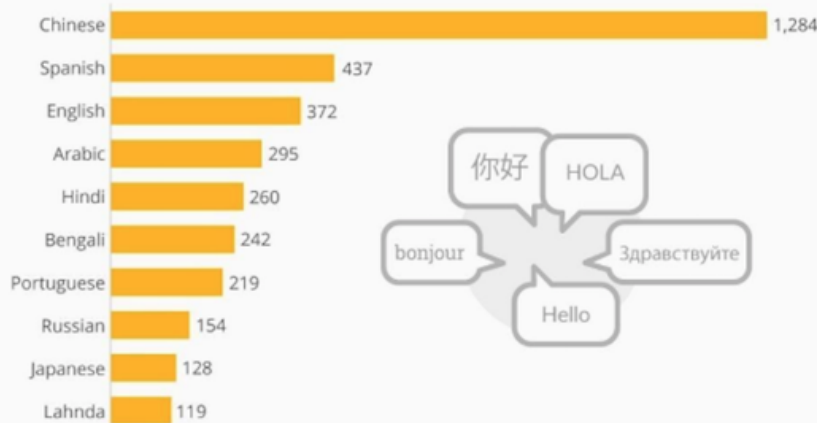
Following

Machine learning is tearing down language barriers. What does this mean for trade?

[wef.ch/2PRSVtd](https://wef.ch/2PRSVtd) #technology #business

### The World's Most Spoken Languages

Estimated number of first-language speakers worldwide in 2017 (millions)\*



\* Each language also includes associated member languages and varieties  
Source: Ethnologue

statista

Mantle sprinted toward the ball. DiMaggio called him off, and while slowing down, Mantle's right shoe caught the rubber cover of a sprinkler head. "There was a sound like a tire blowing out, and my right knee collapsed," Mantle remembered in his memoir, *All My Octobers*. Mantle returned the next season, but by then his blazing speed had begun to deteriorate, and he ran the bases with a limp for the rest of his career. Still, Mantle dominated the American League for more than a decade. In 1956, he won the Triple Crown, leading his league in batting average, home runs and runs batted in. His output was so great that he led both leagues in 1956, hitting .353 with 52 home runs and 130 runs batted in. He was also voted American League MVP that year, and again in 1957 and 1962. After years of brilliance, Mantle's career began to decline by 1967, and he was forced to move to first base. The next season would be his last. Mantle's penchant for drink led to debilitating alcoholism as he grew older, and he died of liver cancer on August 13, 1995, at age 63. At the time of his death he held many of the records for World Series play, including most home runs (18), most RBIs (40) and most runs (42). Mantle was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1974 in his first year of eligibility.

### Upcoming Events

**Mon. 03/04** - Export Inspections

**Wed. 03/05** - Ash Wednesday

**Thurs. 03/07** - Export Sales, Jobless Claims, US Trade Balance

**Fri. 03/08** - Crop Production, USDA Supply & Demand, Unemployment

**Sat. 03/10** - Daylight Savings Time Begins(2:00 AM)

**Mon. 03/11** - Export Inspections

**Thurs. 03/14** - Export Sales, Jobless Claims, Retail Sales

**Fri. 03/15** - NOPA Crush

**Sun 03/17** - St. Patrick's Day

**Mon. 03/18** - Export Inspections

**Tues.-Wed. 03/19-31/20** - FOMC Meeting

**Wed. 03/20** - Spring Begins, Full Moon

**Thurs. 03/21** - Export Sales, Jobless Claims

**Fri. 03/22** - Cattle on Feed, Cold Storage

**Mon. 03/25** - Export Inspections, New Home Sales

**Thurs. 03/28** - Export Sales, Jobless Claims, Hots & Pigs Report





**Chad at Monosem**  
@Monosem\_Chad

Following

#plant19 is itching to get started in the south.  
Just waiting for dry weather.  
#mostimportantpass



**Firestone Ag**  
@FirestoneAg

Following

Are you #RootedinFarming? Share your family's story for a chance to win @FirestoneAg tires, up to a \$2,500 value. @NationalFFA Enter here: [bit.ly/2GPgpnY](https://bit.ly/2GPgpnY)



**Fri. 03/29** - Personal Income, Grain Stock, Prospective Planting

**Mon. 4/1** - April Fool's Day, Export Inspections, Crop Progress

**Wed. 4/3** - US Trade Balance

**Thurs. 04/04** - Export Sales, Jobless Claims

**Fri. 04/05** - Unemployment Data, Consumer Credit

**Mon. 04/08** - Export Inspections, Crop Progress

**Tues. 04/09** - Crop Production, USDA Supply & Demand

**Thurs. 04/11** - Export Sales, Jobless Claims

**Mon. 04/15** - NOPA Crush, Export Inspections, Crop Progress

**Tues. 04/16** - Retail Sales

**Thur. 04/18** - Export Sales, Jobless Claims, Cattle on Feed

**Fri. 04/19** - Good Friday, Full Moon

**Mon. 04/22** - Easter Monday, Export Sales, Crop Progress

**Tues. 04/23** - Cold Storage

**Thurs. 04/25** - Export Sales, Jobless Claims

**Mon. 04/29** - Export Inspections, Crop Progress, Personal Income

#### Kevin's Song of the Week



#### Kevin's Song of the Week



**Facts & Funny**  
@factsfunnyweb

Following

I'm a firm believer in "paying it backwards." I always tell the drive-thru worker that the car behind me is paying! #fastfood #money #drivethru #funny



**History In Pictures**  
@HistoryInPics

Following

Volkswagens Beetles watching 'Herbie - The Love Bug' at a drive-in theater, c. 1960s.



## 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



It is impossible to live without failing at something, unless you live so...

~J.K. Rowling

#quotes #inspiration

"It is impossible to live without failing at something, unless you live so cautiously that you might as well not lived at all. In which case, you've failed by default."

J. K. Rowling

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.

## 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:

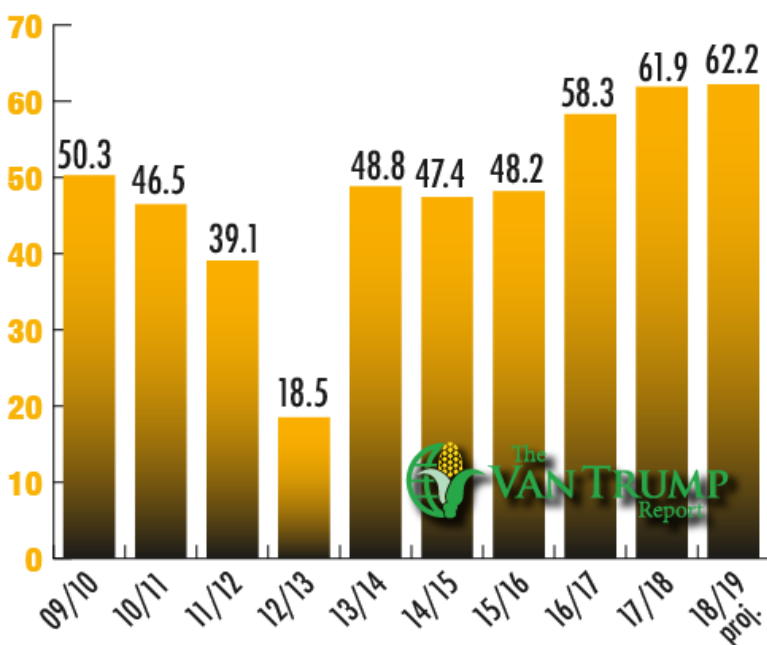
I'm the eyelid to your life and hide you when you're inside. You can draw me and you can pull me, but you must leave to see my good side. What am I?

**Corn** bulls are pointing to stronger than expected export sales and continued buying

interest from South Korea and Mexico. Unfortunately, there were still no headlines of Chinese buying, so the market continues to battle depression. Deliveries against the MAR19 contract were a bit stronger than most inside the trade had anticipated, which also could have added a little nearby pressure. Old-crop prices continue to trade at levels not seen since last September. New-crop prices have been pulled down to levels not seen since last November. Funds continue to extend their net-short position, with several sources thinking they have sold more than -75,000 contracts this week alone. As the technicals on the chart continue to breakdown and South American weather proves to be cooperative, it feels like several bulls are pitching at least a portion of their position and some new bears are eating the space. With no confirmation of Chinese interest or buying of U.S. corn and no significant South American weather story, it's tough to keep the bulls excited and the bears at bay. The Buenos Aires Grains Exchange is now estimating about 10% of the Argentine crop is rated "Poor-to-Very Poor" vs. more than 70% of the crop rated "Poor-to-Very Poor" last year. The crop in Brazil also looks like it's going to be significantly larger this year compared to last. Let's hope next week we see a better performance. I'm just worried that without Chinese buying headlines or more significant South American weather hiccups, it's going to be tough sailing for a few weeks. Keeping all hedges in place and staying extremely patient.

## U.S. Corn Exports

(in Million Metric Tons)



Source: USDA, WASDE Updated with February 11, 2019 data

**Soybean** bulls are trying to battle back this morning. I hate to sound like a broken record, but it's a similar story to corn. Without a trade deal in place and specific details regarding the world's #1 buyer of U.S. soybeans (China) the market seems somewhat depressed. We've also seen the weather stabilize in South America and Brazil harvesting their crop at a record setting pace. Meaning more stiff competition coming online sooner than some had anticipated. The good news is South American supplies have been dramatically depleted so there's not much room for logistical errors or geopolitical problems. Unfortunately, with U.S. ending stocks near record levels the bulls seem apprehensive that additional premium needs to be added and the bears seem more than comfortable that global demand will be supplied. Weakness in the meal market needs to be monitored as we move forward. Keep in mind, this is the lowest level the MAY19 meal contract has traded since mid-September. Interestingly, the MAY19 soybean contract still hasn't closed beneath the low set just 10-days ago, let alone, the lows established back in September just above \$8.50 per bushel. If we want higher prices we need to see a rally in the meal market, some specifics regarding Chinese buying, some stabilization with African Swine Fever, and a little weather uncertainty. I think all of these line-items are obtainable, unfortunately it might take some time to play out. I'm thinking we could still move lower. Keep in mind, China still has tariffs in play on U.S. soybeans.

**This was Floating Around in the Market Yesterday:** A Chinese government agency said on Thursday that the situation regarding the current outbreak of African swine fever (ASF) is more serious than initially thought, estimating demand for soybean meal will fall 5% as replenishment of pig stocks is "very low". "The situation is more serious and the rate at which pig production capacity is falling exceeds our

*Farm Direction*  
RECIPES  
★ **FAMILY FAVORITES** ★  
-SENT IN BY OUR READERS-

**Southern-Style Green Beans**

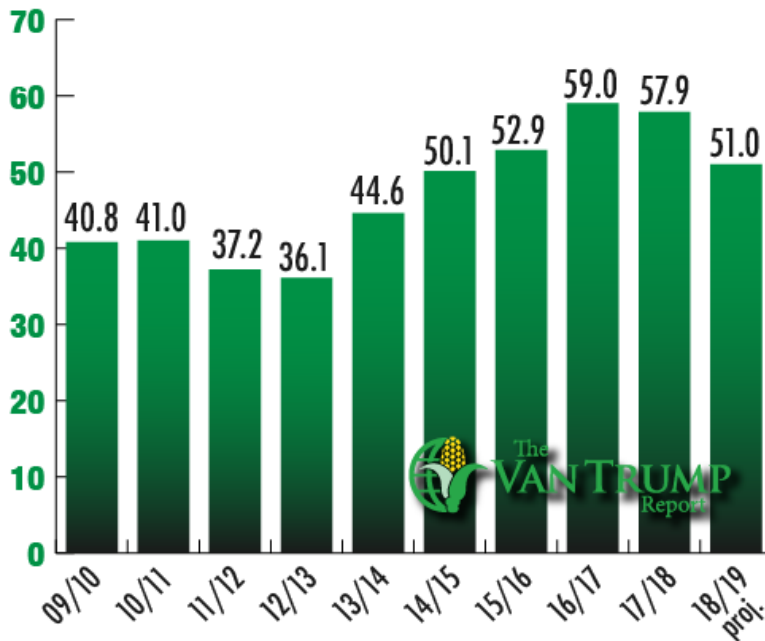
[CLICK TO SEE RECIPE](#)



expectations. Farmers have greater concerns about the epidemic and have strong uncertainty about the prospect for pig farming," the agency said. (Source: AgriCensus; Reuters)

## U.S. Soybean Exports

(in Million Metric Tons)

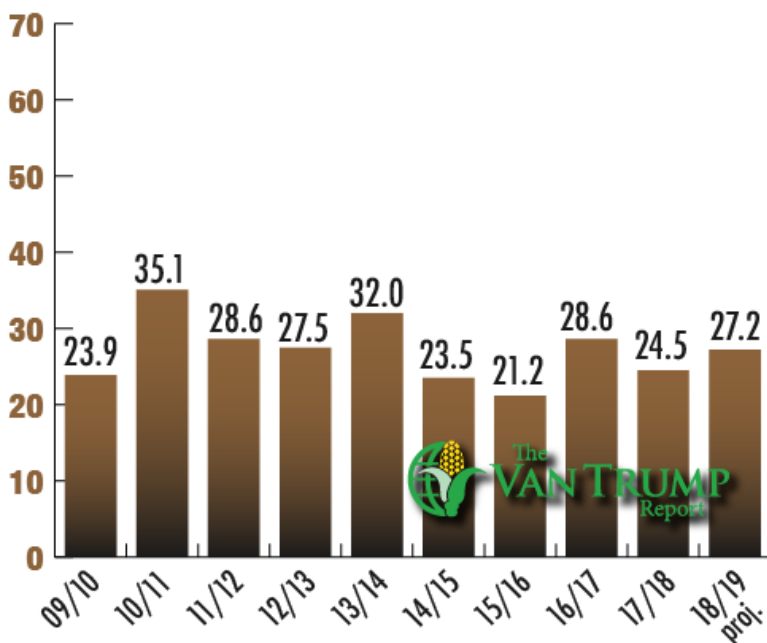


Source: USDA, WASDE Updated with February 11, 2019 data

**Wheat** prices for both HRW and SRW have traded down to fresh contract lows. The only thing really new and fresh for the bulls is the longer-term forecast for Australia which continues to show extreme heat and very limited moisture. Unfortunately, this isn't really fresh or new as most have been anticipating weather related complications. There continues to be some talk that India will need to be an importer of wheat this year, which I deem to be an extremely strong card for the bulls. Add in the fewest U.S. planted acres in the past 100-years, production problems in Australia, and talk of Chinese buying, and I believe it's the start of a strong bullish hand. Can we draw a couple of "wild-cards" in the next three or four months remains an unknown. I like my hand, I'm just most concerned about "time" left on the clock. I'm staying bullish, just not yet wanting to raise my wager.

# U.S. Wheat Exports

(in Million Metric Tons)



Source: USDA, WASDE Updated with February 11, 2019 data



> **U.S. Wins WTO Ruling On Chinese Grains:** A World Trade Organization panel agreed on Thursday with the U.S. complaint that China had paid farmers too much for wheat, Indica rice and Japonica rice in 2012-2015. The U.S. trade rep's office filed the complaint in September 2016, saying China had paid farmers nearly \$100 billion more than allowed by the WTO rules. That provided an artificial incentive for farmers to produce more, lowering prices worldwide. (Source: WTO)

> **\$13.6 Billion Disaster Relief Package Proposed:** A group of senators filed a \$13.6 billion disaster relief package for states hit by hurricanes, wildfires and other natural disasters. They said President Trump supports the legislation which includes \$3 billion for USDA to mitigate crop losses.

> **U.S. Farm Debt Soars to Levels Seen During 1980s Farm Crisis:** The amount of debt held by America's farmers has risen rapidly to 1980s-levels at \$409 billion from \$385 billion last year, with loan demand remaining historically high according to U.S. Ag Secretary Perdue. Farm debt has increased by 30% since 2013 -- up from \$315 billion to \$409 billion according to USDA data. And up \$385 billion in just the last year to levels seen in the 1980s. While the data is bleak, there is a bright spot in that land values have stayed fairly level and lower interest rates have kept borrowing relatively affordable. (Source: Reuters)

> **No Changes to Argentine Soybeans Following Scattered Frost:** Buenos Aires Grains Exchange held steady with its 2018-19 soybean crop estimate for Brazil at 53 MMT. The Exchange noted that recent rains in major producing areas improved crop conditions, but there was scattered frosts reported on Feb. 26 causing some crop losses in Buenos Aires and La Pampa.

> **Canada To Plant Less Soybeans:** Similar to 2018/19 planting conditions, many farmers in Canada will be planting 2019/20 crops into soil with lower moisture levels. Until 2017/18, soybean area planted had been slowly increasing and spreading westward from Manitoba into Saskatchewan and even Alberta, drawing area away from spring wheat. However, soybean area planted in Saskatchewan and Manitoba fell by 52% and 18%, respectively, in 2018/19. Industry sources suggest soybean area planted across the prairies could continue declining as multiple factors including higher



seed costs, lower market prices and lower soil moisture levels driving lower yields push farmers back to spring wheat, barley, canola and pulses. (Source: USDA)

> **Andrew Wheeler Confirmed:** In a 52-47 Senate vote, Andrew Wheeler was confirmed as the head of the Environmental Protection Agency. Following Scott Pruitt stepping down amid scandals, Wheeler had served as the acting head.

> **America's Factories are Hiring Again:** Manufacturing employment has risen for 18 straight months, the longest stretch of gains among nonsupervisory roles since the mid-1990s. (Source: The Wall Street Journal)

> **Gap Inc. Splitting Into Two Publicly Traded Companies:** Gap Inc. reported that it will split into two independent publicly traded companies — one comprised of its Old Navy brand, and the second a yet-to-be-named company that includes its other brands like Banana Republic and Athleta. Following the report, share prices surged more than 20% in after-hours trading on the news.

> **Target Stores to Partner with Vineyard Vines:** Target said the limited-edition collaboration will consist of home and outdoor goods, pet gear, clothing, accessories and swimsuits. It said items will cost as low as \$2 and up to \$120, but most will be less than \$35. Vineyard Vines will launch at Target on May 18. Target is hoping to lure some of the younger preppy crowd into the store with this latest move.

> **Uber and Lyft Drivers Will Reportedly Get Stock in IPOs:** Uber Technologies and Lyft will give some of their drivers a chance to participate in their initial public offerings, according to The Wall Street Journal. Both companies plan to include programs to give long-serving and highly active drivers a cash award with the option to convert it into stock. The bonuses will apparently be tiered based on how long a driver has been working with Uber and the number of trips they've made. Meanwhile, Lyft plans to give drivers with 10,000 rides logged \$1,000 they can keep or use to participate in the company's IPO. In addition, Lyft drivers with at least 20,000 rides would be eligible for \$10,000 in cash or a stock equivalent. Keep in mind, Lyft plans on launching its roadshow during the week of March 18th and roadshows are followed shortly after the IPO..

> **Dr. Seuss Returns:** An unfinished manuscript by the late children's author is the basis for "Dr. Seuss's Horse Museum," coming Sept. 3. Random House Children's Books announced Thursday that illustrator Andrew Joyner completed the text, which has a look "both subtly Seussian and wholly his own." The book features horse artwork by Pablo Picasso and Jackson Pollock among others and will include cameos from such Seuss favorites as the Grinch and the Cat in the Hat. (Source: AP)

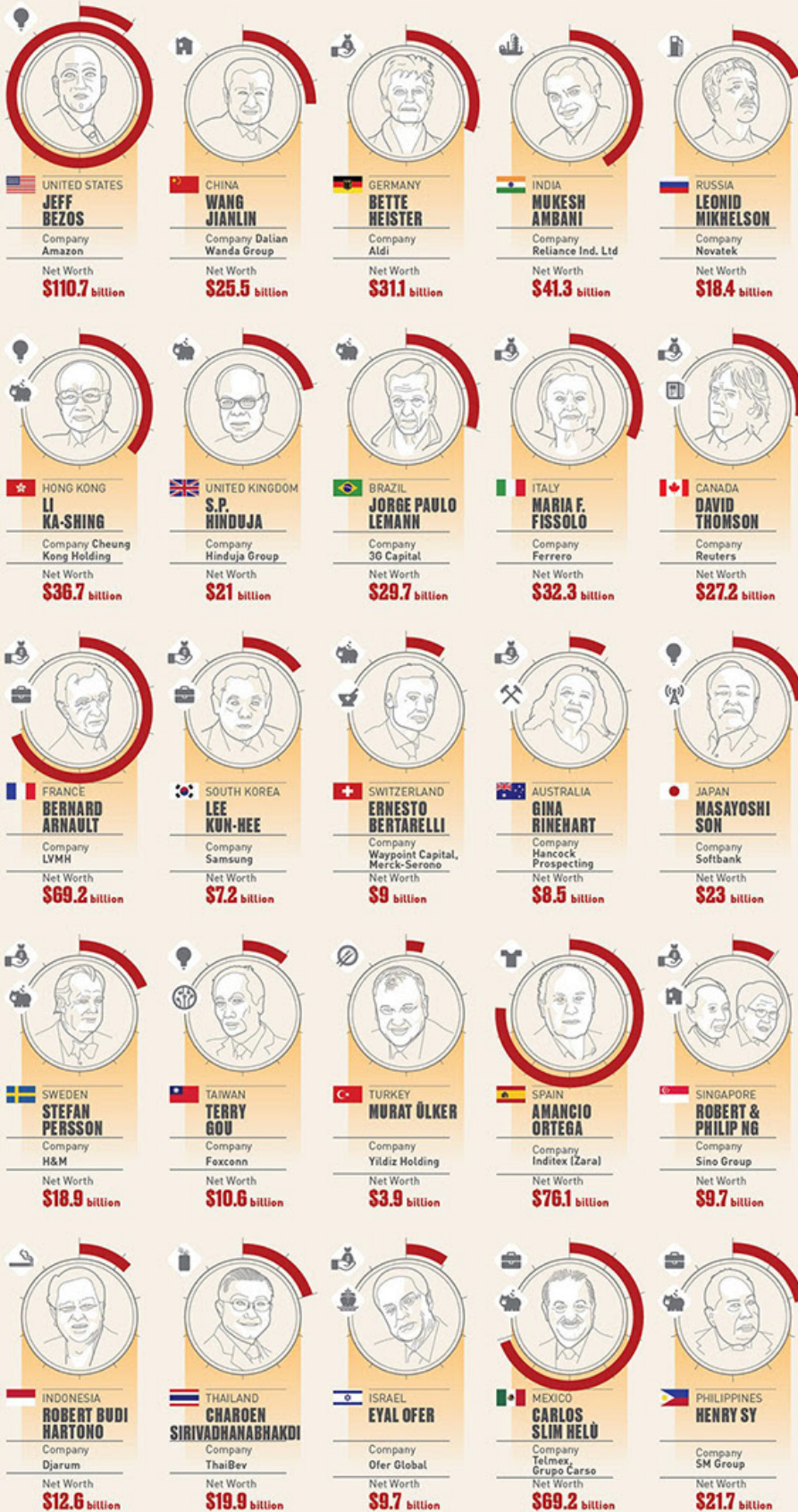
> **25 Countries With the Most Billionaires:** This infographic comes to us from TitleMax and it shows the 25 countries with the most billionaires in them. It also covers the richest person in each of these countries, as well. There are roughly 36 million millionaires in the world. However, according to Forbes, there are just over 2,000 billionaires in existence. Where do these people live, and what countries have the highest concentrations of them as citizens? Check it out below. (Source: Visual Capitalist, TitleMax)



## HOW DID THEY ACQUIRE THEIR WEALTH?



## WHO ARE THE RICHEST PEOPLE IN EACH OF THE TOP 25 COUNTRIES?







## FROM THE FIELD

**Eastern Missouri** – We are dropping down to the negatives over the weekend and looking at 100% chance of snow. But the good news is that will not last because we are back above 40 degrees after the first week of March. I don't know if weather just goes off historical patterns that far out, but we are looking at rain every day for the entire second week of March and temperatures in the low 40's which would just be follow through on our harvest conditions of non-stop rain. I personally don't think the snow will amount to much but when we get this close to spring snow tends to get exaggerated a bit. If we actually get all that rain nobody will be planting in early April because we will be hustling to get field work done.

**Northwest Iowa** – We normally sit either side of freezing during the second half of February. I have heard that the rivers are still flowing because the amount of water. The last 25 days have been below 32 degrees. They are calling for a follow through wet spring that may make 1993 and last year's harvest look like a walk in the park. We are considering full season corn, but we are having to seriously second guess that if the weather doesn't cooperate. We might be planting beans by default if this plays out.

**Northcentral Kansas** – We were out with cattle the entire night and I guarantee you one thing, this will be the last year we calf in the winter. We are either switching to the fall or getting rid of these cattle. I think in the last month I have slept more hours in the cab of my pick-up than my bed making sure these darn calves don't go down in the snow. Now we are going to get another seriously bad blast of cold and snow right in the midst of calving. The good news is we haven't lost a single calf yet.



## CROSSING WIRES

A place to share intelligent thoughts...

**Scientists Add This Ingredient to Yeast and Make THC:** A team of researchers at UC Berkeley figured out a way to manufacture tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and cannabidiol (CBD) — both products derived from the cannabis plant — from specially bioengineered yeast, according to *Wired*. From what I understand, by injecting cannabis sativa plant genes into common brewer's yeast, which is the stuff that turns sugars into alcohol during the beermaking process, the yeast started spitting out cannabinoids as well, including THC — the psychoactive one — and CBD. In other words, the breakthrough could lead to beer that gets you high. I'm told it could also be a big deal for the environment, meaning that planting, growing, and harvesting cannabinoids from large numbers of cannabis plants isn't as energy efficient as simply cultivating yeast. In a somewhat staggering figure, one 2012 study suggested 3% of California's total electricity usage was used to grow cannabis. Read more [HERE](#) on what could be high-quality, low cost crop!

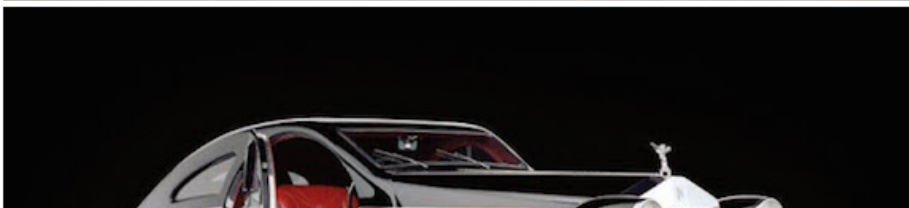
**Clean Your Brain With the Right Kind of Sleep:** New research suggests that how deep we sleep can affect our brain's ability to effectively wash away waste and toxic proteins. Because sleep often becomes increasingly lighter and more disrupted as we get older, the study reinforces and potentially explains the links between aging, sleep deprivation, and heightened risk for Alzheimer's disease. According to Maiken Nedergaard, codirector of the Center for Translational Neuromedicine at the University of Rochester Medical Center, sleep is critical to the function of the brain's waste removal system and this study shows that the deeper the sleep the better. Because the accumulation of toxic proteins such as beta amyloid and tau in the brain are associated with Alzheimer's disease, researchers have speculated that impairment of the glymphatic system due to disrupted sleep could be a driver of the disease. This squares with clinical observations which show an association between sleep deprivation and heightened risk for Alzheimer's. Read more [HERE](#) on the latest discoveries.

**Making Transparency Work for Accountability:** In bureaucracies, paper is and has always been power, meaning corrupt practices could be hidden behind a veil of paper-enabled opacity. Seeking to transform the analogue, paper-based, legacy systems used to interact with citizens, governments are ambitiously seeking a digital process, whereby they can make public services open, simple and citizen-centric. Back in 1988, American economist Robert Klitgaard summarized the factors encouraging corruption in his famous "corruption formula":  $C = M + D - A$ . Klitgaard said: "Corruption equals

monopoly plus discretion, minus accountability.” Read more [HERE](#) to see how governments are using technology to create transparency in their operations.

**Millennial's Freeloading Could be Costing Netflix over \$190 Million a Month:** As many as 1 in 5 people today are mooching off of someone else's account when streaming video from Netflix, Hulu or Amazon Video, according to a new study from CordCutting.com. Of these, Netflix tends to be pirated for the longest period — 26 months, compared with 16 months for Amazon Prime Video or 11 months for Hulu. That could be because Netflix freeloaders often mooch off their family instead of a friend — 48% use their parents' login, while another 14% use their sister or brother's credentials, the firm found. At a base price of \$7.99 per month (the study was performed before Netflix's January 2019 price increase), freeloading users could save \$207.74 over a 26-month period. At scale, these losses can add up, the study claims, and results show that millennials, not surprisingly, account for much of the freeloading. They're the largest demographic pirating Netflix 18% and Hulu's service 20%. Read more [HERE](#) on the state of the cord cutting community.

**Check Out These Historic Beauties From the 1920s and 30s:** Creating a list with the most beautiful cars ever made is not an easy task. Especially when tastes differ, and you have to select only a handful out of dozens of incredible designs. But here we are, with a list that could at least serve as an introduction to the vast field of automotive beauty. Though is just a part of a series that will go through almost a century of automotive art, the current list starts with the cars that saw the light of the day before World War II. And what an incredible time was this for beautiful cars! If you are an enthusiast, you will definitely want to click [HERE](#) see the rest of the top twelve as well as to learn more about these beauties.







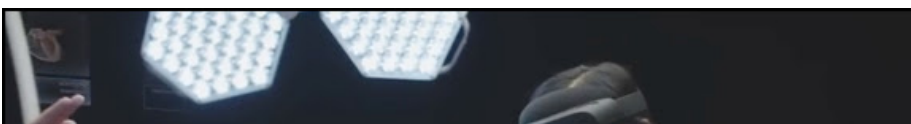
### **Tilray's Acquisition of Manitoba Harvest Positions Them to Lead Cannabis Industry**

Tilray, the Canadian cannabis producer, who became the first company to go public on the Nasdaq last July, just purchased Manitoba Harvest, the world's largest hemp foods manufacturer, for \$317 million. From what I understand, the food based products from Manitoba Harvest are currently sold in over 16,000 stores throughout the U.S. and Canada, allowing Tilray to stake its claim as the leader in the cannabis market over its rivals Aurora Cannabis and Canopy growth. It's worth mentioning none of the three biggest Canadian marijuana producers have been shy about expressing their desire to enter the United States' market. However, they can't have marijuana operations in the U.S. and retain their listings on major stock exchanges while marijuana remains illegal at the U.S. federal level. Hemp though, is a different story with its low levels of the psychoactive ingredient THC, clearing the way for the major Canadian marijuana producers to jump into the U.S. hemp market. Keep in mind, the opportunity is enormous as the Hemp Business Journal says the market will grow to \$1.3 billion by 2022, and the Brightfield Group, a cannabis market research company is even more optimistic stating that the market will hit \$22 billion by the same date. From what I'm hearing, Brightfield goes on to say that they are not "wearing rose colored glasses in terms of the bizarre and challenging regulatory framework that surrounds this industry", meaning there is too much momentum, too much demand, and too much potential for this industry not to explode. Personally, I feel the same way as I've watched the sentiment in the U.S. change over the last couple of years and believe that many aggressive producers will be jumping on the wagon to produce hemp and reaping the benefits of getting in the new market early. There are a lot of moving parts at the moment for the hemp industry as it gets legs underneath it, but there is certainly huge upside for those that enter and figure out how to navigate the space. I do not hear much debate that cannabis as a whole is becoming more accepted as a functional ingredient, pushing the profile of hemp to the forefront of many discussions and making Tilray's acquisition of Manitoba Harvest a very strategic move. I should mention this isn't the first move the company has made to position itself in the new and lucrative market. In December, the company entered into a joint venture worth \$100 million with AB InBev to develop non-alcoholic drinks with CBD and THC, and just this week, Tilray closed on a deal to acquire a 662,000-square-foot cultivation facility from Natura. Some could argue that Canada is going to get a leg up on the U.S as became just the second nation in the world to officially legalize marijuana. I suspect it won't be too far down the road that all cannabis is legalized to some extent, sending the industry market share skyrocketing. Definitely something to consider as both a producer and investor. Click [HERE](#) to learn more about investing in cannabis stocks. For full disclosure, I currently do NOT own any Tilray stock, but have it on my radar and closely monitoring as the volatility has smoothed out to some degree. (Source: Fooddive, MotleyFool, Yahoo)

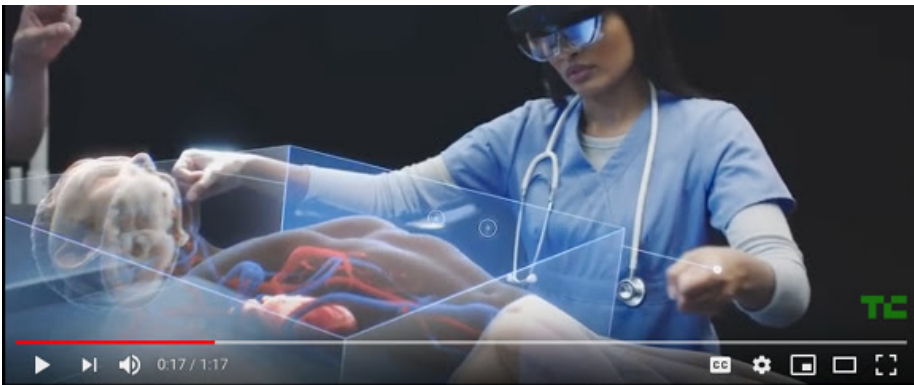


### More Businesses are Starting to use Hologram Technology... Very Interesting!

Microsoft recently unveiled the "HoloLens 2," an upgraded version of its mixed-reality headset, hoping more businesses will start to using the hologram technology for their employees. Keep in mind, this isn't a headset used for gaming, sending interactive emojis to friends, or one that the average consumer will ever wear. The HoloLens is for people whose jobs are being digitally transformed like people who work in design or manufacturing, architects, doctors, people who fix trucks, work on oil rigs, military personnel, etc... Mixed reality, or augmented reality, is a technology that overlays digital images like holograms onto the real world, where users who wear a HoloLens headset see the NEW world around them, but with virtual graphics overlaid. The images often integrate with real surfaces and objects, for example, imagine a virtual cup of coffee appearing to rest on a real table. I've heard many architects are now using the technology to walk business owners and general contractors through a building or house before ground is ever broken. In other words, you put on the headset and can actually start walking around inside the building before it's ever built. This allows you to move things around and change plans on the fly before your actually into the project. I've heard other companies are using the headsets to train their mechanics and new employees that are hired to repair and keep important equipment running. Rather than having to take the equipment offline, the new hires can practice, train and work on the exact same virtual piece of equipment by simply putting on the headset. The new "HoloLens 2" is said to be more comfortable than some of the other headsets due to positioning of the lenses and moving more of the computing power to the back. Its diagonal field of view is twice as big as the previous device using a new kind of imaging technology. I'm also told, the new headset has an AI processing unit and now connects to Azure, which is Microsoft's cloud service. Other key features of the HoloLens 2 include real-time eye tracking, see-through holographic lenses, and a Qualcomm Snapdragon 850 processor. Microsoft is also announcing new HoloLens apps that they think most companies will benefit from like Dynamic 365 Guides, which lets companies put together guided instructions in mixed virtual reality. Another app, called Dynamic 365 Layout, creates a persistent map of the buildings you're in and stores that with Microsoft. This will allow developers to place a hologram on a table in a room and leave the room finding it there hours or days later. Microsoft has even said that it will allow anybody to open an app store for its new HoloLens 2 headset, which could put some pressure on Apple and Google. Microsoft hasn't set a definite release date, but the HoloLens 2 can be pre-ordered now and is expected to ship later this year. I include a short 1-minute video that I believe helps better explain the technology and how it's dramatically helping many professions and business owners. Click [HERE](#)









### When Did Baseball Players Start Getting "PAID"

Yesterday, the Philadelphia Phillies announced they had signed all-star right fielder Bryce Harper to a



13-year \$330,000,000 contract. Not a bad payday for a 26-year old getting to play his favorite sport! Ironically, it was on this same day back in 1972 that homer legend Hank Aaron signed a three-year deal with the Atlanta Braves that paid him a staggering \$200,000 per year, making him the highest-paid player in Major League Baseball at the time. Two years later, Aaron became baseball's home run king when he broke Babe Ruth's long-standing record. Keep in mind, Aaron was an awesome player, winning the National League batting title in 1956. The following season, he took home the league's MVP award and helped the Braves beat Mickey Mantle and the heavily favored New York Yankees in the World Series. In 1959, Aaron won his second league batting title. Season after season, Aaron turned in strong batting performances, hitting .300 or higher in 14 seasons and slugging at least 40 homers in eight separate seasons. He's also one of only two players to hit 30 or more home runs in a season at least fifteen times. In May 1970, he became the first player in baseball to record 500 homers and 3,000 hits. Aaron also holds the MLB records for the most career runs batted in (RBI) (2,297), extra-base hits (1,477), and total bases (6,856). Aaron is also in the top five for career hits (3,771) and runs (2,174). He's one of only four players to have at least seventeen seasons with 150 or more hits. The achievement Aaron is best known for however is breaking Babe Ruth's record of 714 career home runs, which he did on April 8, 1974, at Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium, when he hit his 715th home run in the fourth inning of a game against the Los Angeles Dodgers. Aaron held the MLB record for career home runs for 33 years until it was broken by Barry Bonds. The interesting part of this story is not how good Hank Aaron was, but the difference we've seen in money being paid to the players in baseball. Aaron was arguably one of the all-time best and the Braves signed him to the highest paid contract in 1972. But in today's dollars, the \$200,00 Aaron was paid in 1972 would be worth just over \$1.1 million. For what it's worth, Alex Rodriguez has hauled in excess of \$353 million in MLB career salary earnings. The next closest is Derek Jeter at just over \$250 million in career MLB earnings. For reference sake, Hank Aaron banked just over \$2 million in total MLB earnings during his 22-year career. I thought it would be fun to consider a few interesting facts and take a look back at how it all unfolded:

**1927 Babe Ruth** *an annual salary of \$70,000 from the New York Yankees.*  
**1979 Nolan Ryan** *\$1 million annual paycheck from the Houston Astros making him the highest paid.*  
**1981 Dave Winfield** *\$2.5 million per year with the Yankees.*  
**1989 Kirby Puckett** *\$3.0 million per year with the Minnesota Twins.*  
**1990 Jose Conseco** *\$4.7 million annually from the A's.*  
**1991 Roger Clemens** *\$5.3 million per year signed with the Red Sox's.*  
**1992 Ryan Sandberg** *\$7.1 million per year with the Cubs.*  
**1996 Ken Griffey Jr.** *\$8.5 million per year with the Seattle Mariners.*  
**1996 Albert Belle** *\$11 million with the Chicago White Sox.*  
**1998 Mike Piazza** *\$13 million with the New York Mets.*  
**2000 Roger Clemens** *\$15.5 million per year with the Yankees.*  
**2000 Alex Rodriguez** *\$25 million in late 2000 with the Texas Rangers.*  
**2016 Zack Greinke** *\$31 million pitching for the Arizona Diamondbacks*  
**2017 Clayton Kershaw** *\$35 million pitching for the Los Angeles Dodgers.*  
**2019 Max Scherzer** *\$37 million pitching for the Washington Nationals*  
**2019 Stephen Strasburg** *\$38 million pitching for the Washington Nationals*  
**2019 MLB League Minimum** *this year it was just raised to \$555,000.*

\* If you want to see an entire list of this years salaries Click [HERE](#)





bharper3407 • Follow

bharper3407 Happy Birthday to the man I call Pops! Can't thank him for everything he has done and still does on a daily basis for me..From waking up at 3am to provide for our family to throwing me countless hours of BP..The man works his tail off still every day in the gym and in the yard and yet never complains at all! I get my hard work, attitude, looks, and all from him! And finally for making us laugh any chance he gets! This man does everything possible to make us happy and he truly is my hero! I love you big man!! Hope today is a great day!🎂  
#Pops #TheMan #Stud

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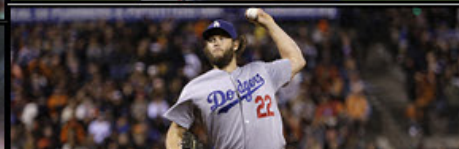
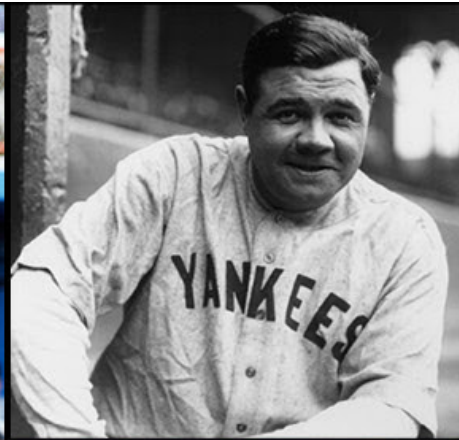
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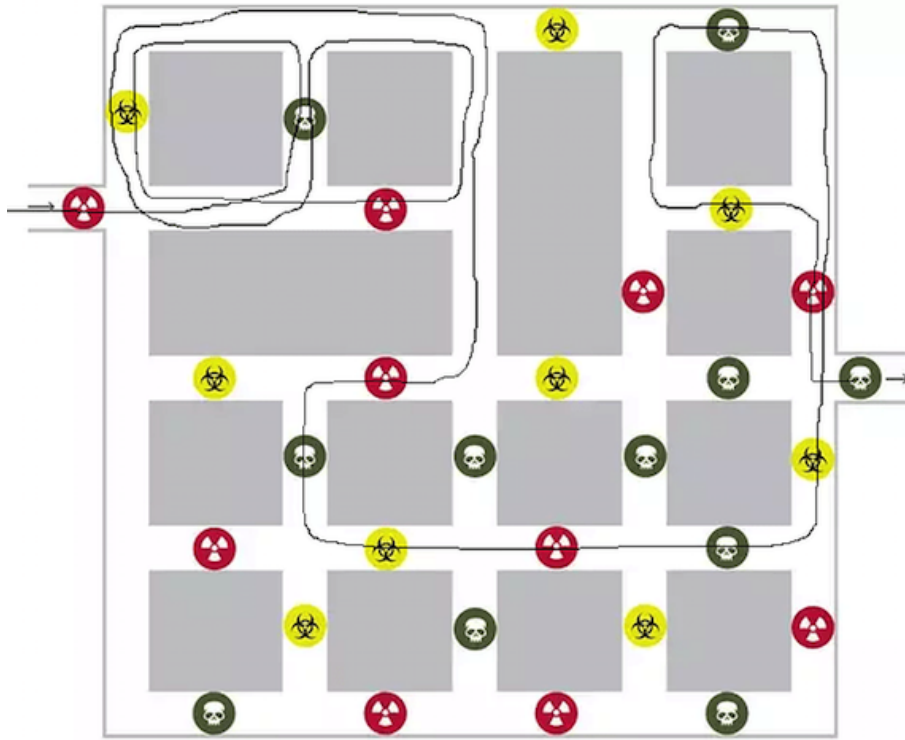






MAZE ANSWER...

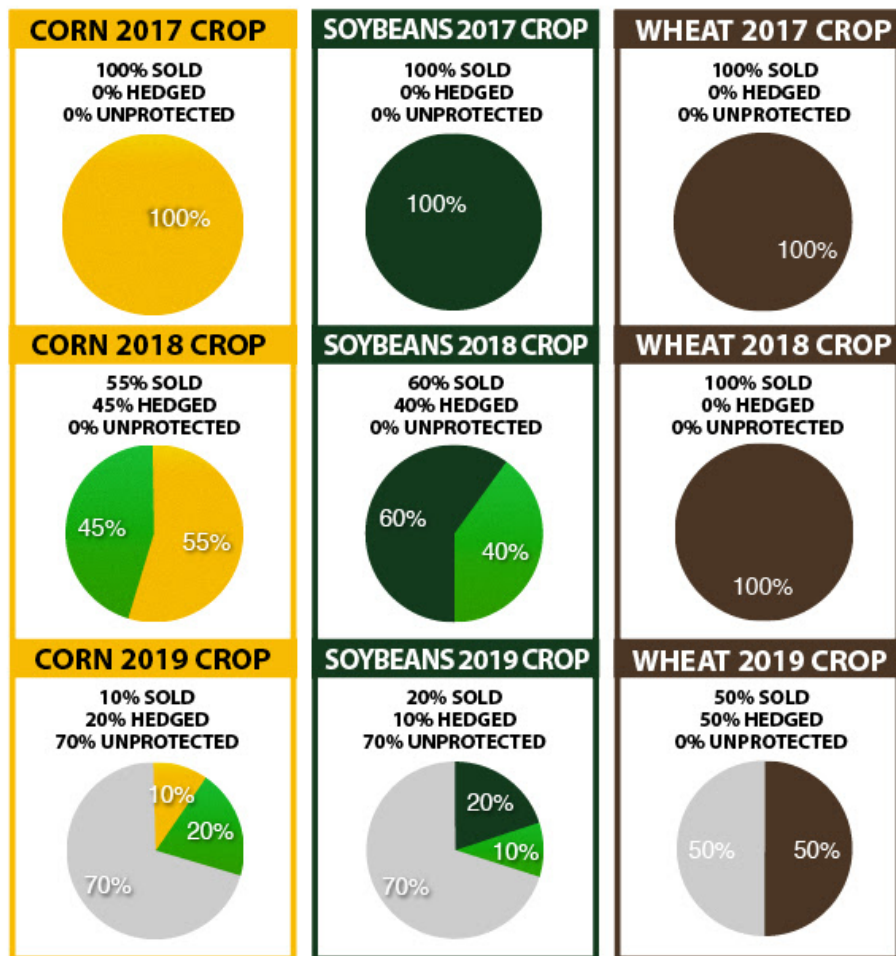




**ANSWER to riddle:** Curtains

## CASH SALES & HEDGING TOTALS

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