

GOOD MORNING: 03/21/19 Farm Direction - Van Trump Report

1 message

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

Thu, Mar 21, 2019 at 7:24 AM

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"You need to clean up your inner mess first to be able to be yourself, to become remarkable, to truly love yourself, your life, your job and even someone else." - Phil Jackson

THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2019
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Morning Summary: Stocks are a bit lower this morning as traders wonder if the underlying market landscape has changed? The Fed has flipped from a tightening bias in late 2018, now to a much more dovish demeanor. Fed Chair Jerome Powell made comments yesterday, insinuating there will be "zero" rate hikes in 2019 and perhaps only one rate hike in 2020. If those comments would have been made two months ago the stock market would have rocketed higher. Those comments were quickly digested yesterday, then the stock market proceed to close lower on the day. Hence, perhaps the markets underlying landscape is changing and shifting? The U.S. dollar is now trading below it's 200-Day Moving Average for the first time in weeks. WTI crude oil is up +30% on the year and Copper is up +10% in 2019. The degree of the Fed's new found dovishness has many inside the market scratching their head? The statement released after the two-day meeting was somewhat downbeat on the economy, pointing to a weaker February jobs report and a slower pace of retail sales and business spending. The Fed seems to believe the U.S. economy is going to start showing stronger signs of improvement, but they want to be extremely patient in regards to rushing the rate hikes. The market also continues to keep a close eye on Chinese trade talks. Bulls backpedaled a bit yesterday when they heard President Trump say tariffs on Chinese imports may remain in place for a 'substantial period of time', even extending beyond the reaching of a trade deal, to help ensure China lives up to their side of the agreement. Keep in mind, these comments are coming just ahead of top U.S trade representative Robert Lighthizer and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin heading to China to further negotiate a deal... you do the math. Blame whomever you like, but we are nine months in trying to untangle a web that has taken years to weave. I still believe in the end we are going to come out much better than before we started the trade negotiations. As for today, the trade will be digesting headlines from the two-day EU Leader's Summit, where there will be more talks about Brexit and perhaps alternative economic stimulus. The trade will also be eager to hear the latest Bank of England policy decision. Here at home, most of the focus will be on the Philadelphia Fed "Business Outlook Survey". As I mentioned earlier in the week, the survey is conducted monthly by the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia and questions voluntary business participants on things such as unemployment, new orders, shipments, inventories, and prices paid. The report is released on the third Thursday of every month, making it the earliest such regional report which is released to investors, hence, the reason it carries some weight with traders. Tomorrow, the trade will be eager to see flash PMI's from the EU, Japan and the U.S. These are also considered some of the first real data points for March and will generally create some conversation and debate.

Americans Betting Big on NCAA Basketball: Reuters recently released a report that estimates about 47 million people - one in five American adults - are expected to bet a combined \$8.5 billion on "March Madness." Remember, this year is the first time the tournament will be held since a U.S. Supreme Court ruling in May 2018 allowed states to legalize, regulate and tax sports betting. They estimate by March of 2023, as many as 39 states could have legal sports betting. (Source: Reuters)

Levi's Going Public...Again: Levi Strauss will start trading on the NYSE today under the symbol "LEVI". The blue jeans maker returns to the stock market after a 34-year absence. Levi's was first taken public in 1971 before being privatized in

Today In History



1871, Stanley Searches for Livingstone

- On this day in 1871, journalist Henry Morton Stanley begins his famous search through Africa for the missing British explorer Dr. David Livingstone. In the late 19th century, Europeans and Americans were deeply fascinated by the "Dark Continent" of Africa and its many mysteries. Few did more to increase Africa's fame than Livingstone, one of the United Kingdom's most intrepid explorers. In August 1865, he set out on a planned two-year expedition to find the source of the Nile River. Livingstone also wanted to help bring about the abolition of the slave trade, which was devastating Africa's population. Almost six years after his expedition began, little had been heard from Livingstone. James Gordon Bennett, Jr., editor of the New York Herald, decided to capitalize on the public's craze for news of their hero. He sent Stanley to lead an expedition into the African wilderness to find Livingstone or bring back proof of his death. At age 28, Stanley had his own fascinating past. As a young orphan in Wales, he crossed the Atlantic on the crew of a merchant ship. He jumped ship in New Orleans and later served in the Civil War as both a Confederate and a Union soldier before beginning a career in journalism. After setting out from Zanzibar in March 1871, Stanley led his caravan of nearly 2,000 men into the interior of Africa. Nearly eight months passed-during which Stanley contracted dysentery, cerebral malaria and smallpox-before the expedition approached the village of Ujiji, on the shore of Lake Tanganyika. Sick and poverty-stricken, Livingstone had come to Ujiji that July after living for some time at the mercy of Arab slave traders. When Stanley's caravan entered the village on October 27, flying the American flag, villagers crowded toward the new arrivals. Spotting a white man with a gray beard in the crowd, Stanley stepped toward him and stretched out his hand: "Dr. Livingstone, I presume?" These words-and Livingstone's grateful

1985. The money it's raising in its return to the public markets is part of the 166-year-old company's plans to expand. The company is issuing 37 million shares priced at \$17 per share, for a total raise of about \$623 million and a \$6.2 billion market value. The exchange said that traders will get in the spirit by wearing Levi's denim from head-to-toe," breaking with a longstanding "no jeans allowed" policy. Don't forget, Ride-hailing firm Lyft will make its long-anticipated debut on the Nasdaq next week.

Apple Announces New AirPods with Wireless Charging and Siri: Apple recently announced a new version of AirPods, which is the second generation of the company's popular headphones that many experts expected the company to announce during their new event next Monday. This new generation of AirPods will support "Hey Siri," which means users can talk to Siri to place phone calls, request music, and ask the weather. This feature will make it easier by speaking to Siri instead of tapping one of the AirPods, which was required on the first model. These headphones will also support wireless charging if customers buy them with a new wireless charging case, which means users can drop it on a wireless charging pad instead of plugging the case in. In addition, a new LED indicator outside shows if it's charging or not. Similar to the first generation, the case provides up to 24 hours of battery life. The new AirPods cost \$199 with a wireless charging case or \$159 without it. The wireless charging case is also available for owners of the first version of AirPods for \$79. Everything will be available to the public now and ship starting March 27th. Keep in mind, I suspect Apple has big plans for their event next week as they have already released these AirPods and new iPads a week before the event.



Another Heartbreaking American Idol Story: I found another must watch video watching American Idol the other night! During last Sunday's episode of Idol, 27-year-old Lauren Engle revealed to Katy Perry, Luke Bryan, and Lionel Richie that she lost her husband, Garrett, in a tragic car accident in 2017. Laurel decided to sing an original song titled "Compass" with her brother-in-law playing guitar beside her. She absolutely nailed it the song, in my opinion, and I think she has what it takes to be a great country singer! In addition, Lionel Richie added a great quote at the end of the video saying, "Forget about the competition for a moment. You have a mission for the rest of your life to be you! Enjoy the ride because what's in your heart is in your head." I think it's truly important for everyone out there to trust their heart, to be themselves, and enjoy the ride because at the end of the day you only get one chance at life. Click [HERE](#) to watch this must watch video of Lauren Engle's ride to American Idol!

response—soon became famous across Europe and the United States. Though Stanley urged Livingstone to return with him to London, the explorer vowed to continue his original mission. Livingstone died 18 months later in today's Zambia; his body was embalmed and returned to Britain, where he was buried in Westminster Abbey. As for Stanley, he returned to Africa to fulfill a promise he had made to Livingstone to find the source of the Nile. He later damaged his reputation by accepting money from King Leopold II of Belgium to help create the Belgian-ruled Congo Free State and promote the slave trade. When he left Africa, Stanley resumed his British citizenship and even served in Parliament, but when he died he was refused burial in Westminster Abbey because of his actions in the Congo Free State.



1952, The Moondog Coronation Ball - History's

first rock concert began with breathless promotion on the local radio station. Tickets selling out in a single day. Thousands of teenagers, hours before show time, lining up outside the biggest venue in town. The scene outside the Cleveland Arena on a chilly Friday night in March more than 50 years ago would look quite familiar to anyone who has ever attended a major rock concert. But no one on this particular night had ever even heard of a "rock concert." This, after all, was the night of an event now recognized as history's first major rock-and-roll show: the Moondog Coronation Ball, held in Cleveland on March 21, 1952. The "Moondog" in question was the legendary disk jockey Alan Freed, the self-styled "father of rock and roll" who was then the host of the enormously popular "Moondog Show" on Cleveland AM radio station WJW. Freed had joined WJW in 1951 as the host of a classical-music program, but he took up a different kind of music at the suggestion of Cleveland record-store owner Leo Mintz, who had noted with great interest the growing popularity, among young customers of all races, of rhythm-and-blues records by black musicians. Mintz decided to sponsor three hours of late-night programming on WJW to showcase rhythm-and-blues music, and Alan Freed was installed as host. Freed quickly took to the task, adopting a new, hip persona and vocabulary that included liberal use of the phrase "rock and roll" to describe the music he was now promoting. As the program grew in popularity, Mintz and Freed decided to do something that had never been done: hold a live dance event featuring some of the artists whose records were appearing on Freed's show. Dubbed "The Moondog Coronation Ball," the event was to feature headliners Paul Williams and his Hucklebuckers and Tiny Grimes and the Rocking Highlanders (a black instrumental group that performed in Scottish kilts). In the end, however, the incredible popular demand for tickets proved to be the event's undoing. Helped along by massive ticket counterfeiting and possibly by overbooking on the part of the



FARM TANK

Tweets of the Day



Statista
@StatistaCharts

Following

According to new [@SIPRIorg](#) data, the U.S. accounted for 36 percent of global arms exports between 2014 and 2018.



Infographic: The World's Largest Arms Suppliers

This chart shows the share of global arms exports by country from 2014 to 2018.
[statista.com](#)

event's sponsors, an estimated 20,000-25,000 fans turned out for an event being held in an arena with a capacity of only 10,000. Less than an hour into the show, the massive overflow crowd broke through the gates that were keeping them outside, and police quickly moved in to stop the show almost as soon as it began. On the radio the very next evening, Alan Freed offered an apology to listeners who had tried to attend the canceled event. By way of explanation, Freed said: "If anyone...had told us that some 20 or 25,000 people would try to get into a dance—I suppose you would have been just like me. You would have laughed and said they were crazy."



1965, Martin Luther King, Jr. - On this day in 1965, Martin Luther King Jr. begins the march from Selma to Montgomery. In the name of

African-American voting rights, 3,200 civil rights demonstrators in Alabama, led by Martin Luther King Jr., begin a historic march from Selma to Montgomery, the state's capital. Federalized Alabama National Guardsmen and FBI agents were on hand to provide safe passage for the march, which twice had been turned back by Alabama state police at Selma's Edmund Pettus Bridge. In 1965, King and his Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) decided to make the small town of Selma the focus of their drive to win voting rights for African Americans in the South. Alabama's governor, George Wallace, was a vocal opponent of the African-American civil rights movement, and local authorities in Selma had consistently thwarted efforts by the Dallas County Voters League and the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) to register local blacks. Although Governor Wallace promised to prevent it from going forward, on March 7 some 500 demonstrators, led by SCLC leader Hosea Williams and SNCC leader John Lewis, began the 54-mile march to the state capital. After crossing Edmund Pettus Bridge, they were met by Alabama state troopers and posse men who attacked them with nightsticks, tear gas and whips after they refused to turn back. Several of the protesters were severely beaten, and others ran for their lives. The incident was captured on national television and outraged many Americans. King, who was in Atlanta at the time, promised to return to Selma immediately and lead another attempt. On March 9, King led another marching attempt, but turned the marchers around when state troopers again blocked the road. On March 21, U.S. Army troops and federalized Alabama National Guardsmen escorted the marchers across Edmund Pettus Bridge and down Highway 80. When the highway narrowed to two lanes, only 300 marchers were permitted, but thousands more rejoined the Alabama Freedom March as it came into Montgomery on March 25. On the steps of the Alabama State Capitol, King addressed live television cameras and a crowd of



Evan Jodlowski
@evanjodlowski20

Following

Getting the new field mapping rig dialed in today. #plant19 is not far away



25,000, just a few hundred feet from the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, where he got his start as a minister in 1954.

Upcoming Events

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

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



Hope Mayo Floeck
@HopeFloeck

Following

*Me car shopping always ends with something like this saved in my fav pics. Ironically listed on Lubbock TX CL but located in IL. 🤔



WHAT I'M LISTENING TO: ▶



▶ Maren Morris
"Girl"

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



History In Pictures
@HistoryInPix

Following



The Jersey Shore, 1905.



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.



Bleacher Report 
@BleacherReport

Following



James Harden could go scoreless the rest of the season and still average 28.6 PPG... which would lead the league

(H/T @NBA_Reddit)



Farm Direction
RECIPES

★ **FAMILY** ★
FAVORITES

-SENT IN BY OUR READERS-



[CLICK TO SEE RECIPE](#)



Super 70s Sports

@Super70sSports

Following

This won't solve all your problems in life but it's a hell of a good start.



ActionComplete

@ActionComplete

Following

Great leaders don't tell you what to do... they show you how its done.

[#quotes](#) [#leadership](#) [#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:

John has been hired to paint the numbers 1 through 100 on 100 apartments.
How many times with he have to paint 8?

Corn bulls continue to talk about extreme flooding and moisture in Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota, and parts of Wisconsin, Missouri and the Dakota's. Unfortunately, the corn market really doesn't seem to care. In fact, prices have actually moved a bit lower this week. Bears still see plenty of time to get the crop in the ground with the soils massively recharged with moisture. I'm not in that camp, but not willing to fight the funds. I'm itching to be a longer-term bull but don't want to be too early to the party. Growth in U.S. demand is clearly being questioned as South American production is going to be much larger than last year. We are also hearing good production numbers coming out of Ukraine. Hence, exports could face more pressure. As for ethanol we've seen the headwinds, and the latest data released yesterday showed inventories jumping to a record 24.4 million gallons while weekly ethanol production fell to its fifth lowest level in the past year. Don't forget, the heavy rains and flooding could certainly limit ethanol production and the movement of corn exports in the coming weeks. As I've said for several weeks, I think we could still see bit more downside pressure, before perhaps making a run deeper in to the U.S. growing cycle. I don't want to false-start as a bull, then get hesitant later on, so I'm going to stay patient. As a producer, I continue to believe we are going to see better prices to market new-crop bushels.



Justin Michaels ✓
@JMichaelsNews

Following

This is Highway 2 crossing from #Nebraska into #Iowa. This is also a perfect illustration of the travel difficulties in this part of the country after the historic and deadly flooding of the last week. @weatherchannel continues coverage in America's Heartland.
#nebraskaflood2019



GLOBAL CORN PRODUCTION

(in Million Metric Tons)
2018/19



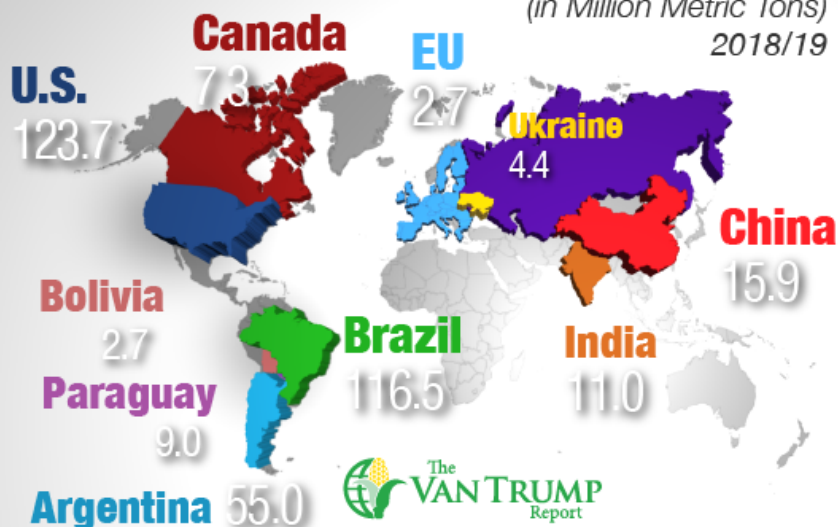
The VAN TRUMP Report

Source: USDA, NASS data retrieved Mar. 20 2019

Soybean prices continue to trade in a fairly narrow range, the MAY19 contract trading essentially 15 cents either side of \$9.00 for the past couple of weeks. The new-crop NOV19 contract still seems comfortable trading somewhere between the \$9.20 and \$9.60 range. Bears are talking about the latest comments from President Trump, where he mentioned that tariffs could stay in place for an extended period of time to help make sure the Chinese make good on their end of an agreed upon deal. Also keeping an lid on soybean prices are the continued negative headlines circulating about African Swine Fever. Comments were circulating inside the trade yesterday that hog feeding in China could now be down by more than -30%. You can read the entire story [HERE](#). One of the big highlights from the article provided an interesting perspective, saying that if China had to replace 30% of their hog population they would need the entire annual production from the U.S., Canada, Brazil and Mexico all combined. WOW! Bulls continue to point to flooding and extremely wet fields in major production areas across the U.S. There's also talk that extended forecast are calling for above normal moisture into May for some areas that are already overly saturated. Bulls are also happy to see top U.S. trade representative Robert Lighthizer and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin heading to China next week to further negotiate a trade deal. For the moment, the market seems to have strong arguments from both the bears and the bulls, which seems to be keeping prices from moving too far in either direction. As a producer, I would like to get one more shot at higher prices prior to planting so I can reduce a bit more new-crop risk. As a spec, I'm still on the sideline not wanting to donate as the market searches for direction. I would entertain being a longer-term bull but still believe there could be more downside.

GLOBAL SOYBEAN PRODUCTION

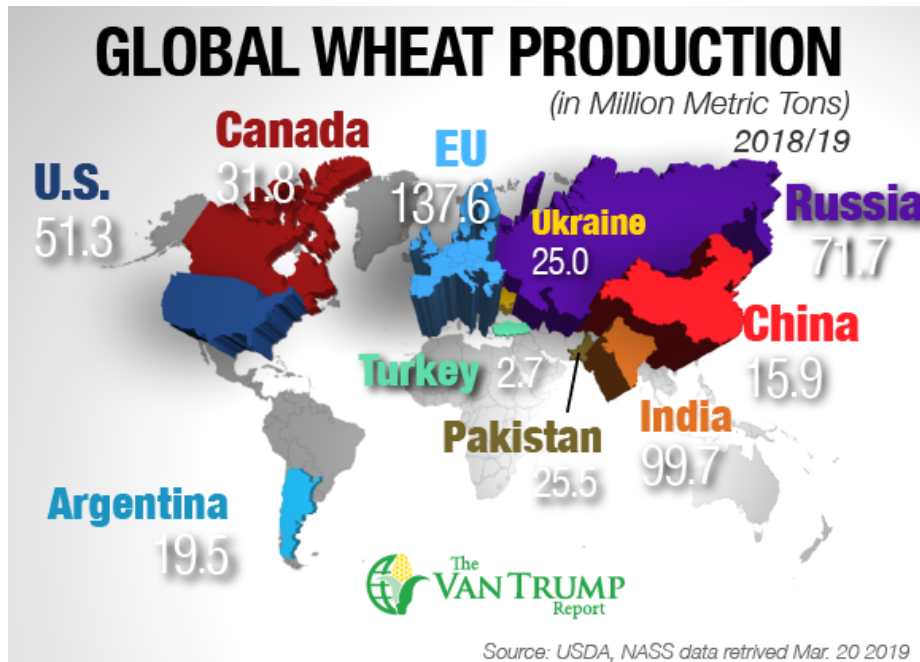
(in Million Metric Tons)
2018/19



The VAN TRUMP Report

Source: USDA, NASS data retrieved Mar. 20 2019

Wheat prices remain steady on the week. Bulls are hoping the market will add more weather related "risk-premium" on the continued talk of flooding across several important winter wheat acres and perhaps major delays in some spring planting areas. Bears continue to point to the obvious, burdensome domestic and global supplies. As a bull, I think the macro landscape is improving as the U.S dollar continues to slowly retreat and the central banks seem to all be onboard with a more accommodative stance. I still believe the upside offers more potential than the downside risk, but keep in mind I was saying this same thing +40 to +50 cents higher. I want to believe there's a story brewing in the wheat market, but I've clearly been swimming upstream for several weeks. As a producer, I'm going to use every bit of the game-clock before I market my remaining 50% of 2019 production. As a spec, I continue to like the bullish side of the trade, but respect the fact more downside pressure could be in the nearby mix, i.e. don't let yourself get overextended trying to pick a bottom. I like a more scaled in approach with ending stocks being at this lofty level.



Hog prices continue to scream higher, producers should be looking at ways to start hedging and locking in a portion of these profits. Even if you believe there is more upside potential, securing a portion of the recent windfall is smart risk management.



> Nebraska Looking At \$1 Billion in Agricultural Damage: The catastrophic flooding that has drowned parts of the Corn Belt could cost upwards of \$1 billion. There's growing talk of Congress needing to take action. Ag Secretary Sonny Perdue said flood relief fund could be part of a broader disaster aid package working its way through Capitol Hill. According to the Nebraska Farm Bureau, the estimate damage from the severe weather could top \$400 million in livestock losses and another \$440 million for crop growers who could be forced to delay or cancel planting.

> Russian Ag Ministry Will Continue Working With Current Union: Last month, the Russian ag ministry said it planned to establish a new association of grain exporters, but has since changed their minds. I am told they will continue to work with the existing union of grain exporters, even though they want to stiffen controls and close some gaps in the legal framework controlling quality and safety.

> Brazil Wheat Production to See a 1-MMT Rise: INTL FCStone is saying that Brazil wheat production will likely come in 1-MMT higher, finishing at 6.6 MMT for 2019. From what I understand the better prices in the country will likely spur higher plantings of the grain, resulting in Brazil importing 5.7 MMT of wheat this year, a 1.3-MMT drop from the year prior.

> Farm Laborers Will Continue To Receive Minimum Wages: A federal judge upheld minimum wage rates for foreign farm laborers adjusted each year by the Labor Department. In the wake of this decision, many employers are saying this is a big loss as they claim minimum wage rates hurt their bottom lines.

> CBD Soon Coming To Your Food: Farmers and food companies are increasingly looking to sell the popular hemp extract — CBD — after the 2018 farm bill approved industrial hemp production. Next week, the FDA is expected to officially announce a new working group to consider potential legislation for introducing CBD into the food supply.

> African Swine Fever In Vietnam: Since its first case of African swine fever was reported on Feb. 19, 221 outbreaks have been reported in 17 provinces and cities, prompting the government to restrict movement of hogs and pig products in affected communities.

> Oil Continues Climb Higher: Oil prices rose yesterday, with U.S. crude topping \$60 a barrel for the first time in about four months, after government data showed the American stockpiles of crude oil and refined fuels plunged last week. WTI has rallied 32% this year after losing nearly half of its value in the final months of 2018. Brent is also up more than 27% year to date, boosted by production cuts from OPEC and U.S. sanctions against Iran and Venezuela.

> White House Launches AI.gov: Now that the US government has been ordered to prioritize AI, it's launching a website to promote its AI efforts. The newly available AI.gov showcases a number of initiatives over the years, including Obama-era moves like the strategic AI research plan as well as Trump-era initiatives like DARPA's quest to solve challenges through AI Next. This is a reflection of how important AI has become, whether or not the work comes from the government it's considered a competitive edge and might just play a crucial role in national defense. Keep in mind, the US clearly wants to be seen leading the way instead of ceding ground to political rivals like China.

> Gucci Sells Distressed Sneaker for \$870: Italian luxury brand Gucci has made another polarizing fashion decision after it stirred outrage over an \$890 sweater that evoked "blackface." Now, the high-end label is selling a pair of intentionally "distressed" leather tennis sneakers that look like they've been pre-owned, for \$870. The sneakers, called the "Screener," are named for a basketball play, according to Gucci's website.

> 71-Year-Old Sets Guinness World Record for Planking: Andy Steinfeldt said he spent his day at the Sabes Jewish Community Center trying to break the Guinness World Record for his age holding an abdominal plank position. According to the JCC, he held the plank for 38 minutes, breaking the previous record of 36 minutes, 58 seconds. If you don't think that is impressive, give it a try and see if you can make it past one minute... way to go Andy!

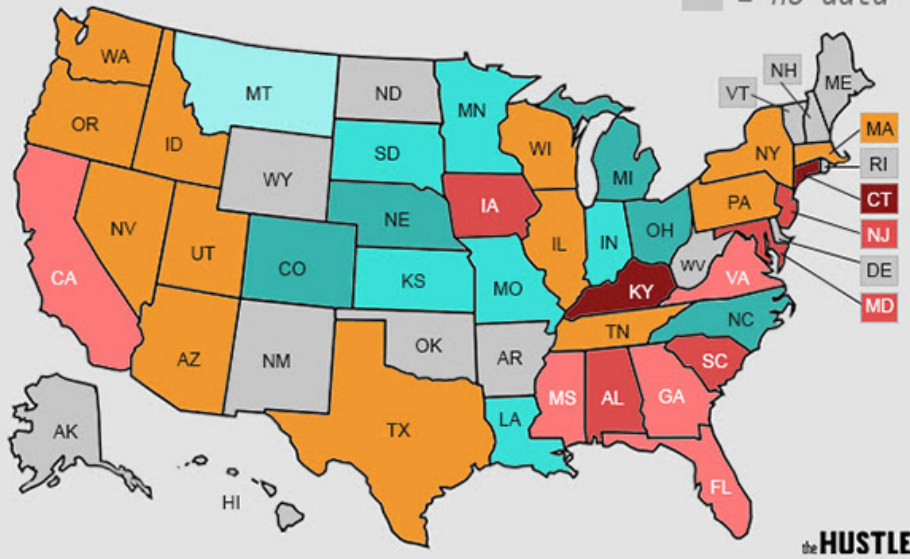
> Congrats, Kentuckians: You're the biggest drunk spenders in America! A few weeks back, we ran a survey asking you all to share your drunk shopping habits (how much you spend, what you buy, where you buy it) and then dug into how it all varies by age, profession, income, and a ton of other variables. Turns out, all you messy drinkers out there spend an average of \$444 per year on stuff while under the influence. Winning the award for the spending the most under the influence goes to our bourbon loving friends in the great state of Kentucky. Interestingly, here's a short list of things people don't remember buying: a full-size inflatable bouncy castle, a WW2-era bayonet, inpromptu tickets to the Cayman Islands, a pan flute, and lots of sex toys... imagine that.

The United States of Drunk Shopping

Average annual amount of money spent on purchases while under the influence, by state

\$200 \$300 \$400 \$500 \$600 \$700 \$800

= no data



FROM THE FIELD

Westcentral Missouri – A big rain hit a fairly large area that I would have thought kept most guys out of the field for 2 weeks minimum, that was about a week ago. Low spots in county roads had water running over them and nearly every field had standing water after just a few hours of rain. Several days ago, rumors were floating around that one guy was putting anhydrous on, which seemed unlikely, but it was true. Then as each day past this week one more guy was running around the area. Now I've heard at least 4 guys running. Most guys are holding off because of compaction concerns but if we miss the rain that is supposed to hit Friday there will be a lot of guys rolling in this area by the weekend.

Eastcentral Illinois - We are playing the waiting game like most in our area. At least we were fortunate enough to get our tillage done and put down some anhydrous. I'm not sure how everyone will be getting serviced this spring as most didn't get to their fields last fall at all. A lot of guys are still up in the air to how much corn they will be planting, especially with the bump in price of anhydrous since last fall. My goal is to remain patient and not get caught planting into wet and cool conditions, as that never works out. We still are sitting on more corn than we should be, so we are hoping for a bump before summer. Some basis bids in the area are not that bad, so we are considering locking that down.

Northcentral Kansas – We have been jumping into the 50's and 60's the last week or better but we are still a little wet, but we are getting pretty close to getting out in a few fields. I was thinking we might get out there by the weekend, but they are calling for a good chance of rain on Friday with continuation on Saturday. At the beginning of this month things looked like we were going to be sitting for a full month, but everything turned right really fast until this rain over the weekend. It's surprising how fast things can change.

CROSSING WIRES

A place to share intelligent thoughts...

Cloud Based Tech is Tyson Foods Next Frontier: Tyson Foods, the largest meat producer in the United States and exporter of food to more than 100 nations – is stepping up in a new area: cloud-based insights that can benefit the environment, farm finances and Tyson's sustainability goals. Companies and investors should take note as this is the next frontier for implementing more rigorous sustainability initiatives by improving businesses' ability to make, measure and monitor progress. The Arkansas-based food company recently decided to accelerate land stewardship practices on 2 million acres of corn by 2020. To be successful, Tyson needs to collaborate with vast networks of farmers on solutions, and it needs them to report progress. Enter MyFarms, a supply chain platform that streamlines agricultural data management, analytics and reporting automation in an innovative way. Such technology can reform the food system's tendency to burden grain suppliers with time-intensive, complex and duplicative sustainability reporting requirements that return no value to them. Read more [HERE](#) on Tyson's move to deliver deeper business insights to farmers.

Why We Should Care About Quantum Computing: Quantum computing is real and it is on our doorstep. It differs from classical digital computing in that it relies on the manipulation of quantum bits, or qubits, that can hold different values simultaneously until the result of the computation is read out. I should mention that tech companies are pouring millions of dollars into their quantum efforts, and the recently approved National Quantum Initiative Act sets aside \$1.2 billion for quantum research over the next five years. Also, the White House's recently released budget proposal calls for spending \$430 million on quantum information science in the coming fiscal year. Keep in mind, organizations have been hard at work for some time on the developing quantum computing in order to revolutionize our scientific knowledge, improve our industrial base, and provide substantial economic and national security benefits. Watch a short video [HERE](#) on how our world will soon operate on a different plane as every action we take and decision we make will most likely be affected by the new tech.

WHO Seeks Transparency in Human Gene Editing: Following its first two-day meeting in Geneva, the WHO panel of gene editing experts - which was established in December after a Chinese scientist said he had edited the genes of twin babies - said it had agreed to a framework for setting future standards. From what I understand, officials believe it would be irresponsible for any scientist to conduct human gene-editing studies in people, and a central registry of research plans should be set up to ensure transparency. Remember, a Chinese scientist last year claimed to have edited the genes of twin baby girls and news of the births prompted global condemnation, in part because it raised the ethical specter of so-called "designer babies" - in which embryos can be genetically modified to produce children with desirable traits. Moving forward, the committee will develop essential tools and guidance for all those working on this new technology to ensure maximum benefit and minimal risk to human health. I suspect this is an area we will only hear more about in the very near future as science continues to develop its understanding and tools surrounding gene editing. Read more [HERE](#).

New "Smush" Crayons Let you Paint Like Van Gogh: When the founder of toy company Kid Made Modern Todd Oldham was a kid, he left a box of crayons in a hot car one summer. When he returned, all the colors had melted together, becoming one giant multi-colored crayon blob. Now, Oldham has partnered with the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) Design Store to create what he now calls Smush Crayons—giant crayons that are composed of a variety of different colors all melted together. But rather than a random assortment of colors like that crayon box of yore, these Smush Crayons are derived from three masterpieces in MoMA's collection: Van Gogh's *Starry Night*, Monet's *Water Lilies* and Alma Thomas's abstract work *Untitled*. Interestingly, creating a Smush Crayon today is a much more complex process than the magical thing that happened in the overheating car. Crayons are made up of wax and pigment, but different colors have different melting points. Learn more [HERE](#) on the new creation.

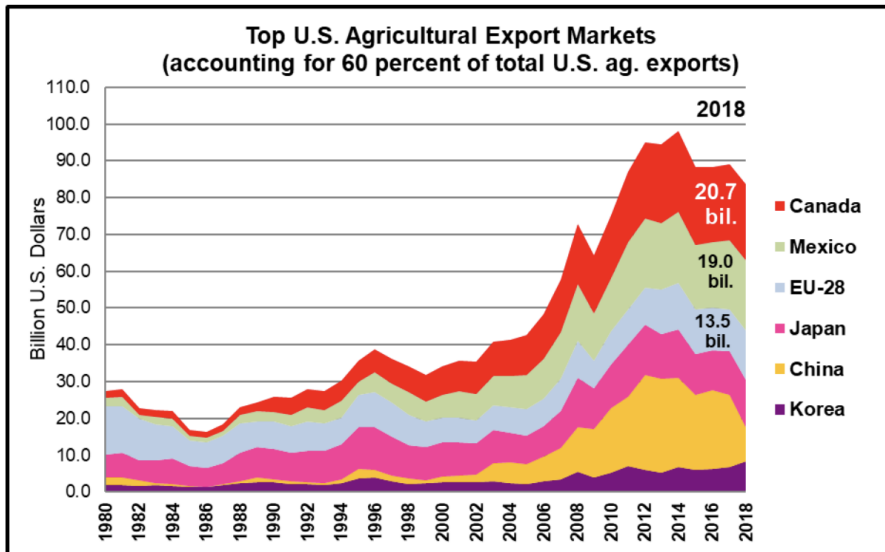
U.S. Military is Buying Powered Exoskeleton Guardian XO: It looks a bit like a cross between Iron Man's suit and Ripley's Power Loader from "Aliens" — and while it won't kill the alien queen quite yet, it does give its wearer super strength. American robot developer Sarcos Robotics announced recently that it's been awarded a contract by United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) to deliver a pre-production, full-body robotic exoskeleton called the "Guardian XO." And it looks absolutely brutal. The partnership could greatly enhance the productivity of a single officer in the field and decrease fatigue or strain — but the USSOCOM didn't reveal the exact intended use case for the exoskeleton. It's the latest sign that exoskeletons are finally hitting the mainstream as automobile manufacturers are already considering the use of simpler exoskeletons on factory floors. In a February press release, Sarcos' exoskeleton was described as giving its wearers "the strength of a forklift but a gentler touch." Read more [HERE](#) on the future of the human physical ability.



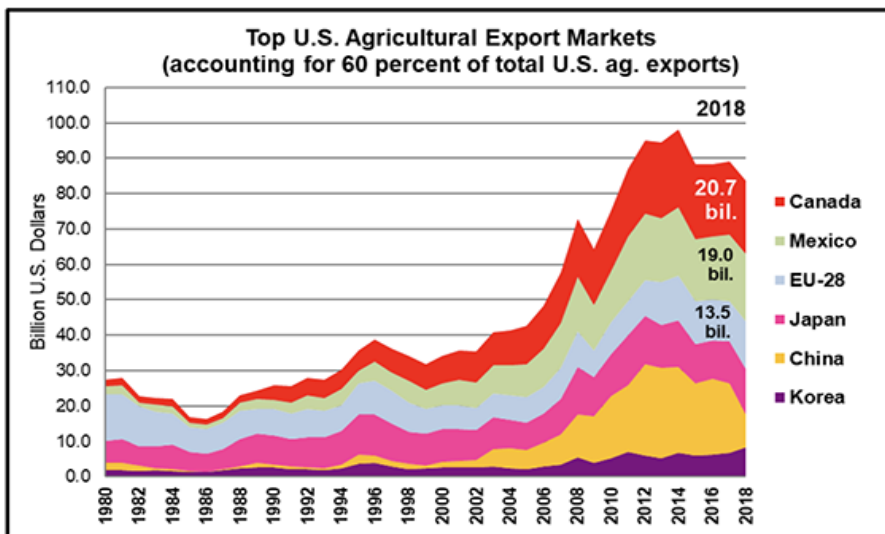
Canada Remains #1 Spot for U.S. Ag Exports

According to the latest from the USDA attache out of Canada, our neighbors to the North continue to be the number one export destination for U.S. ag products. In 2018, U.S. agricultural exports to Canada totaled \$20.7 billion. U.S. exports of high-value food and beverage products to Canada (\$16.1 billion) represented over 24% of total U.S. consumer oriented ag exports globally. These high-value exports support tens of thousands of jobs in the United States. In addition to large companies, many of the U.S. exporters are small and medium-sized businesses for which shipments to Canada represent their first export opportunity. In 2018, total two-way trade in agricultural goods with Canada reached nearly \$44 billion. A testament to NAFTA's importance for both countries, deeply integrated supply chains show more than \$845 million in agricultural products crossed the U.S. - Canadian

border each week. Over the last three decades, many argue the main reason for the strong increases in trade was the passage of the U.S.-Canada Free Trade Agreement in 1988, followed by the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) in 1994. These trade agreements helped to eliminate many tariffs that were in play. Certainly there are still some big improvements that could be made and we are hoping that's what comes from the ongoing trade negotiations and hard work both North American nations are putting into the new proposed USCMA agreement. Bottom-line, we do a lot of business with each other and leaders from both nations understand the importance of our relationship. I have a ton of farming friends in both Canada and the U.S., I suspect great things are in our collective future... Staying positive! (Source: USDA, FAS - Global Ag Trade System)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau Trade Data



Source: U.S. Census Bureau Trade Data

Should You Buy, Lease... or Subscribe?

I was in a debate the other night at dinner with a friend about car ownership vs. leasing, interestingly he also educated me a bit on the newest subscription based programs. I had often heard the benefits of leasing and actually took a leap about 20 years ago. I leased a Lincoln Navigator for my wife. As you could have guessed, she went over the mileage limitations and it probably ended up costing me more than traditional buying. From what I'm understanding, the leasing programs have gotten much better and are attracting a lot of owners. I think it's an interesting play since technology is moving along so quickly. Outright ownership could become painful if you find yourself holding an outdated model or vehicle that can't accommodate the latest technological advancements. Buying a car involves a down payment and a monthly payment. But once it's paid off, you own the car. But what if you own something that's already out-of-date from a technological standpoint? Leasing a car requires a less expensive monthly payment than buying, but doesn't give you any equity in owning the vehicle. A third and interesting option, is now available in a subscription model. Bottom-line, like everything in life, it all depends on your individual circumstances when deciding which option is better, traditional ownership, leasing or subscribing. The idea with a lease is that you're only paying for depreciation. And at the end of the lease, you have the right to buy the car at a predetermined price. But guessing what a car will be

worth in three or four years can be tricky in today's rapidly changing market. If you're leasing and the car depreciates more than you thought—then you win, because you simply hand it back and walk away. If the car doesn't depreciate as much as predicted, then you get to buy it at below-market value. I know a fellow who experienced that latter scenario with a special-edition Porsche. The car just didn't depreciate, so at the end of the lease he bought it and promptly re-sold it for a profit that let him recoup all his lease payments. "Essentially, I drove a cool Porsche for three years for free," he said. Adding even more decisions is the third option of a "subscription". The idea here is that everything is included—insurance, maintenance, wear-and-tear items. Terms are shorter. In some cases, your payment includes the right to swap into different cars. Porsche Passport, a program the company offers in Atlanta, starts at \$2,000 per month. For that, you get a Cayman, Boxster, Macan or Cayenne, insurance included, with the right to "flip" into a different car whenever you want. For \$3,000 per month, you access more expensive vehicles. Volvo's subscription program—Care By Volvo—is a lot more mainstream, and costs \$750 per month. You don't get to switch into different cars all the time, but you do get the option to upgrade to a new car after only 12 months. And there's no price negotiation, which a lot of people will view as a major bonus. There's also GM's Maven program, which is kind of like Uber meets Avis—you book a car via an app on your phone and drive it as long as you need it. There are month-long terms in some cities, or you can pay by the hour (from \$8 an hour for cars, \$14 per hour for a big SUV like a Tahoe). And, to take this thing full circle, if you own a GM vehicle you might be able to rent it to other people through Maven. (As you could with any car through Turo). I might be more confused now that I'm learning about all of the options being made available... There certainly are a lot more moving parts in play. Do your homework and try and get an edge! (Source: Popular Mechanics; USNews; CreitKarma; Money)

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NCAA Wrestling Championship Preview

The NCAA Division I wrestling championship tournament kicks off today and runs through this Saturday, March 23rd. Session 1 will start today on ESPNU at Noon, session 2 is on tonight at 7:00 pm on ESPN, session 3 takes place tomorrow afternoon at 11 a.m. on ESPNU, session 4 will be held tomorrow night at 8 p.m. on ESPN, and the final sessions that include the individual national championship matches will be on ESPN at 7:00 pm this Saturday. The NCAA Championships this year will return to Pittsburgh for the first time in more than 60 years, as the city last held the event in 1957 when Port Robertson's Oklahoma Sooners beat host Pittsburgh for the title. Keep in mind, the NCAA Wrestling Championships have been held in the state of Pennsylvania 13 times with the last one in 2011 at Philadelphia. Many experts are saying to skip past the whole team title thing for the NCAA wrestling championships because many are thinking Penn State should run away with the win by as much as 40 points as the school sends three #1 & #2 seeds to the tournament this year. Keep in mind, Penn State is seeking its fourth consecutive national championship and its eighth since 2011. The more interesting race in this tournament looks to be who is going to come in second place behind Penn State and the individual weight class championships themselves. Some

schools looking to compete with Penn State include second-ranked Oklahoma State with Daton Fix and Derek White, Missouri with Jaydin Eierman and three-time All-American Daniel Lewis, Cornell with Yianni Diakomihalis, Rutgers with Anthony Ashnault, and Iowa with Alex Marinelli and 2018 NCAA champion Spencer Lee. Even though Penn State might run away with the title this year, I suspect there should be some great individual matches in this tournament. Click [HERE](#) to preview the brackets for every weight class in this year's tournament! Below are predictions for each weight class! For all you wrestling fans out there, I just want to say I feel for you as I remember spending countless hours in high school gyms watching my son wrestle for many years. I include a picture of my son, Jordan, winning a tournament when he was little. Great times, great life lessons...

125 lbs. Championship

Predicted Winner: No. 1 seed Sebastian Rivera of Northwestern

Challengers: Spencer Lee from Iowa and Jack Mueller from Virginia

133 lbs. Championship

Predicted Winner: Dalton Fic from Oklahoma State

Challengers: Nick Suriano From Rutgers, Steven Micic with Michigan, and Luke Pletcher with Ohio State

141 lbs. Championship

Predicted Winner: Yianni Diakomihalis from Cornell

Challengers: Joey McKenna from Ohio State and Jaydin Eirman from Missouri

149 lbs. Championship

Predicted Winner: Anthony Ashnault from Rutgers

Challengers: Matthew Kolodzik with Princeton, Micah Jordan with Ohio State, and Mitch Finesilver from Duke

157 lbs. Championship

Predicted Winner: Jason Nolf with Penn State

Challengers: Nolf will win

165 lbs. Championship

Predicted Winner: Alex Marinelli with Iowa

Challengers: Vincenzo Joseph with Penn State and Logan Massa from Michigan

174 lbs. Championship

Predicted Winner: Mark Hall from Penn State

Challengers: Zahid Valencia with Arizona State

184 lbs. Championship

Predicted Winner: Myles Martin with Ohio State

Challengers: Shakur Rasheed from Penn State

197 lbs. Championship

Predicted Winner: Bo Nickal from Penn State

Challengers: Nickal will win

285 lbs. Championship

Predicted Winner: Gable Steveson from Minnesota

Challengers: Derek White from Oklahoma State and Anthony Cassar from Penn State





My Son Has Joined The Wrestling Team by

*My son has joined the wrestling team, I don't know what to say,
I fear that he will stink like sweat, after practice every day.
I wish my son would play a game, or shoot a bouncing ball,
Instead he joins the wrestling team, which has no class at all.*

*My son is watching all he eats, he eats the foods he hates,
He knows what foods are good for him, he has to cut some weight.
He works to learn reversals, and take downs that are planned,
Hand control and when to shoot, and how to pin his man.*

*His uniform's a singlet, and a thing he calls "head" gear,
That's all there is, no pads, no fuss, or fancy stuff to wear.
He talks about his wrestle offs, and how to take men down,
He shoots, he pins, he's ready, for any kid in town.*

*Before I have a chance to cheer, they twist and turn so fast,
My son is eating rubber, with his face upon the mat.
The buzzer sounds and I'm relieved, to see it's at an end,
But no, he hasn't finished yet, he takes the stance again.*

*They shouldn't make him do it, I think he's had enough,
Why does he grovel on his knees, to prove that he is tough.
The referee is watching, each and every move he makes,
My son must know the rules, or learn from his mistakes.*

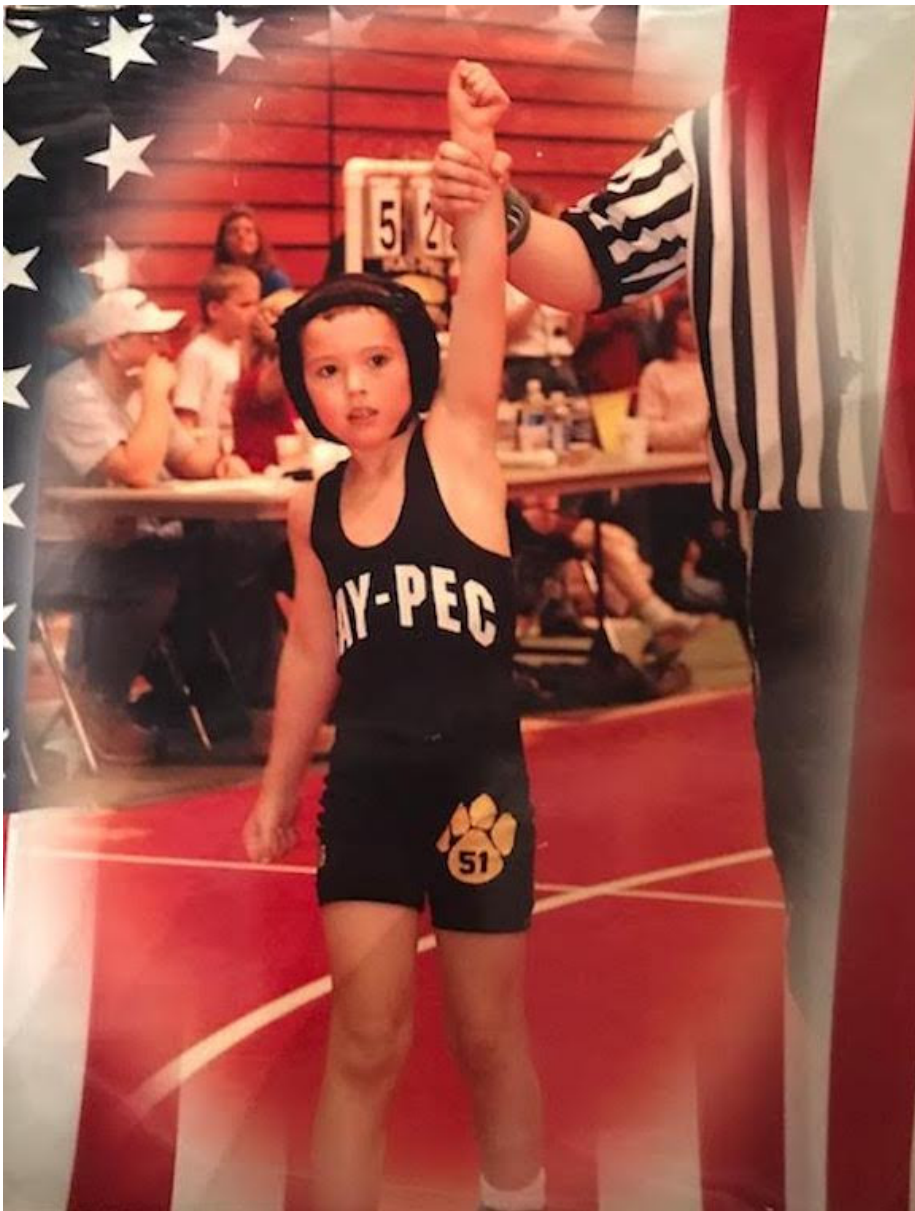
*He can not cheat or hurt his man, or dare to throw a fit,
The ref will give away a point, without discussing it.
With every muscle straining, he tries his best to win,
Perseverance is the key, if he wants to make that pin.*

*Adversity can't keep him down, they roll and bridge and turn,
My son has found persistence, a lesson he must learn.
His companion's endurance, as he strives until the end,
And if he has the guts, determination is his friend.*

*It takes a lot of courage, and a certain kind of grit,
Self-reliance, spunk and luck, are all a part of it.
Each wrestler must give his all, no matter what the cost,
His gain will be tenacity, even if he's lost.*

*And when the match is over, the wrestlers will shake hands,
Good sportsmanship's expected, from every wrestling man.
My son has joined the wrestling team, I'm proud to tell you why,
He's learned the things that make a man, and make a mother cry.*

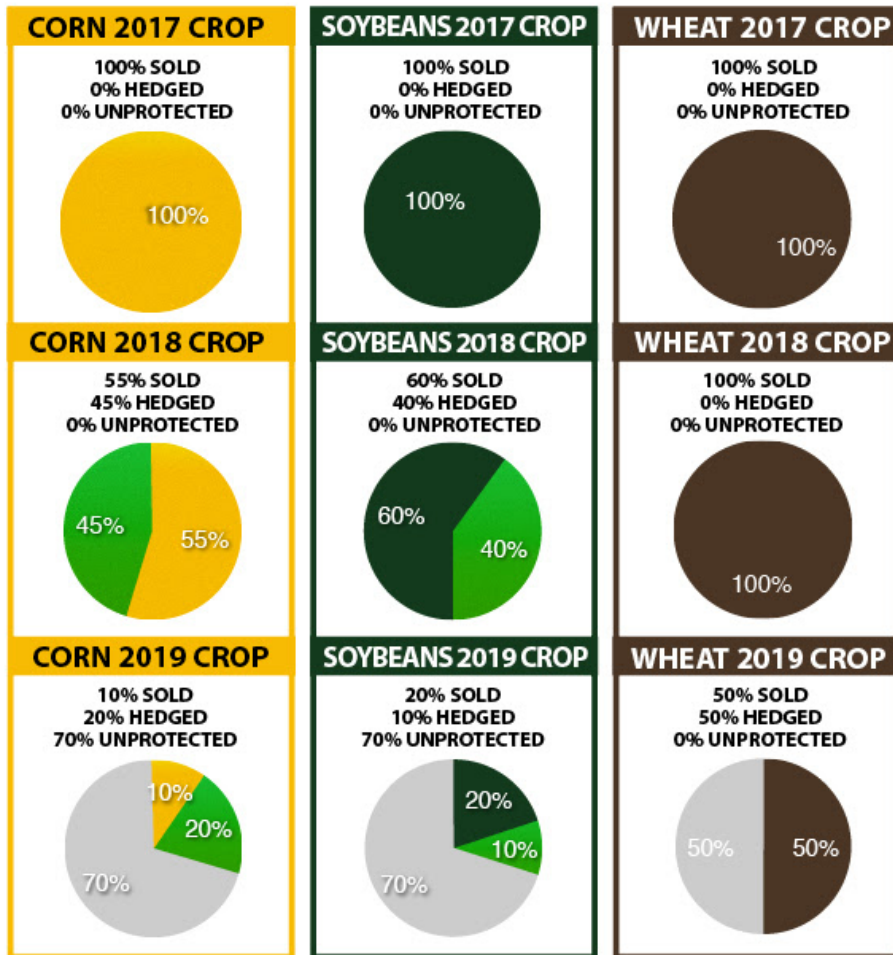
Below is a pic of my son wrestling when he was little... great times!



ANSWER to riddle: 20 times. (8, 18, 28, 38, 48, 58, 68, 78, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 98)

CASH SALES & HEDGING TOTALS

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