

GOOD MORNING: 04/18/19 Farm Direction - Van Trump Report

1 message

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

Thu, Apr 18, 2019 at 7:11 AM

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"What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us." - **Henry Haskins**

THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 2019
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Morning Summary: Stock are steady as traders prepare for an extended Easter weekend with the markets closed tomorrow in recognition of Good Friday. There's some uncertainty in Washington, and many traders are wondering how Wall Street will respond to the more detailed release of the Mueller Report. To this point, the market has shrugged off most all of the concerns and headlines surrounding the event. From what I understand, Attorney General William Barr and Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein will hold a press briefing this morning on the Mueller Report at 8:30 a.m. CST. There's also ongoing uncertainty surrounding trade negotiations. It's not just trade talks with the Chinese that have some investors nervous, but there are now balls in the air with the European Union, Japan, Mexico, Canada, etc... Bulls say investors obviously aren't too concerned, as the stock market continues to push towards all-time record highs. I should mention, the U.S. and China have tentatively scheduled a fresh round of face-to-face talks as both nations try to hammer out the final details of a trade deal. From what I understand, top U.S. trade representative Robert Lighthizer will be traveling to Beijing the last week of April, and that Chinese leaders will be coming to Washington the first week of May. There's talk and rumors that if things go well there could be a signing ceremony in late-May or perhaps early-June. As for more traditional economic headlines, we will see a heavy wave of Q1 earnings reports, including American Express, Blackstone, Danaher, Honeywell, Phillip Morris, Travelers, and Union Pacific. Also today, we will see the first trades of newly public unicorns Pinterest (\$19 per share) and Zoom Video (\$36 per share). Next week we will be digesting earnings reports from over 600 companies, a few of the big names will be: ADM, Amazon, AT&T, Biogen, Boeing, Cerner, Chevron, Chipotle, Coca-Cola, Dunkin Brands, eBay, Edwards LifeScience, Exxon, Facebook, Ford, Goodyear Tire, Harley Davidson, Intel, PayPal, Proctor & Gamble, Sherwin Williams, Snap, Starbucks, Texas Instruments, Tesla, Twitter, Verizon, and Visa.

For All of the Gingers You Know: Red hair is one of the rarest hair colors, gracing just two percent of the global population. To gain this auburn hue, a person usually inherits a mutation in the MC1R gene, which is responsible for pigmentation. It typically gives way to the production of a substance called pheomelanin, which results in red hair and fair skin. But that same gene is also responsible for how the body responds to pain. In a 2004 study, researchers found that redheads, on average, needed about 20% more general anesthesia than people with blonde or dark hair coloring. A 2005 study also found that redheads need more lidocaine for dental procedures than their non-redhead counterparts. Unfortunately, the key mechanism through which the MC1R gene influences pain perception is still not entirely clear. Understanding these mechanisms could help researchers better treat pain in people with red hair, but could also help researchers better understand why everyone experiences pain differently—and how to better manage pain in everyone. (Source: Popular Science)

Why Investors Fail: Throughout Tony Robbins career, he has had the opportunity to interview some of the smartest investors to ever live including Warren Buffett, Carl Icahn, and Ray Dalio. When it comes to investing, the one thing they tell Robbins over and over is that most investors fail simply for psychological reasons. Below are just a couple of the biggest mistakes investors make according to Robbins. (Source: CNBC)


Davos on the Delta

Davos on the Delta sits at the crossroads of dramatic change in agriculture, food, and health — where the most innovative entrepreneurs, top industry experts, early adopter customers and smart investors in risk capital come together to map the future of food system innovation.

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Van Trump Report

Today in History
1906, The Great San Francisco

Confirmation Bias: Someone tells you something and you believe in it, and then you go and talk to everyone else who believes in the same strategy. "The greatest investors are looking for people that are well qualified, not for somebody on the internet." Robbins says great investors seek out someone who will disagree with them and share why so, then they can evaluate and make better decisions.

Overconfidence: Some people tend to get overconfident when it comes to investing, especially men. "Research shows that women actually invest better than men when it comes to trading because men trade more often. They also become more overconfident, which can add to the risk profile."

Interesting Tax Facts: Last year 91% of U.S. individuals met the April 15th deadline and did not file for an extension. Last year about 75% of individual filers got a check or direct deposit back by mid-May from the US Treasury. In 2018 the average refund was \$2,778 per household. (Source: IRS; DataTrek)

Rocky Mountain High: Carl's Jr. will be testing a CBD-infused burger at a location in Denver on April 20th, the unofficial holiday that celebrates marijuana 4/20. From what I understand, it will include two beef patties, pickled jalapeños, pepper jack cheese, waffle fries and around 5 milligrams of hemp-derived CBD extract in the chain's Santa Fe Sauce. And of course, it will cost \$4.20. The limited-time offer makes Carl's Jr. the first national fast food chain to add CBD-infused food to its menu. Keep in mind, the FDA still prohibits adding CBD to food and beverages. (Source: [CNBC](#))

What Separates the Professionals from the Amateurs: Nathaniel Drew challenged himself to capture 1,000 human moments in only seven days. The pic's couldn't be lazy tourist photos and had to include a human subject. In his short video he offers up a ton of fantastic life-hacks! They have nothing to do with photography but about life. Click [HERE](#) to watch this short clip, it's worth the moment. Below is one of the quotes:

"This is not so much a video about photography as it is a video about pursuing something and getting better at it. This is to push myself to create. If you want something in life, then you have to go get it! Nobody is just going to give it to you! Starting and getting out there is always the hardest part. It's the barrier that separates the amateurs from the professionals."



Earthquake - At 5:13 a.m., an earthquake estimated at close to 8.0 on the Richter scale strikes San Francisco, California, killing hundreds of

people as it topples numerous buildings. The quake was caused by a slip of the San Andreas Fault over a segment about 275 miles long, and shock waves could be felt from southern Oregon down to Los Angeles. San Francisco's brick buildings and wooden Victorian structures were especially devastated. Fires immediately broke out and—because broken water mains prevented firefighters from stopping them—firestorms soon developed citywide. At 7 a.m., U.S. Army troops from Fort Mason reported to the Hall of Justice, and San Francisco Mayor E.E. Schmitz called for the enforcement of a dusk-to-dawn curfew and authorized soldiers to shoot-to-kill anyone found looting. Meanwhile, in the face of significant aftershocks, firefighters and U.S. troops fought desperately to control the ongoing fire, often dynamiting whole city blocks to create firewalls. On April 20, 20,000 refugees trapped by the massive fire were evacuated from the foot of Van Ness Avenue onto the USS Chicago. By April 23, most fires were extinguished, and authorities commenced the task of rebuilding the devastated metropolis. It was estimated that some 3,000 people died as a result of the Great San Francisco Earthquake and the devastating fires it inflicted upon the city. Almost 30,000 buildings were destroyed, including most of the city's homes and nearly all the central business district.

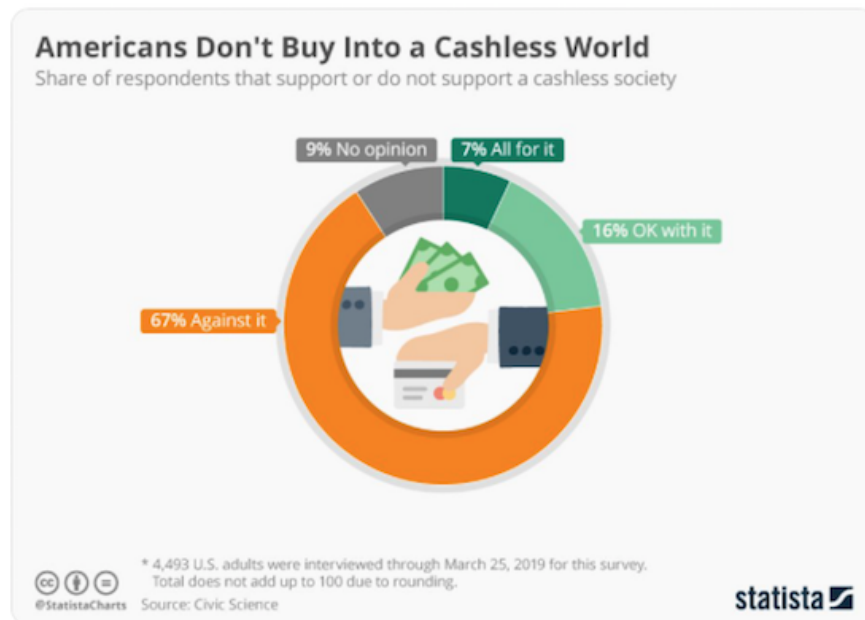


1961, JFK Denies U.S. Military Intervention in Cuba - On this day in 1961, President John F. Kennedy

heats up Cold War rhetoric in a letter responding to Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev's claim that the U.S. was engaging in armed aggression against the communist regime in Cuba. Kennedy denied the allegations, told Khrushchev he was under a serious misapprehension and stated that the U.S. intends no military intervention in Cuba. However, Kennedy insisted that he would support Cubans who wish to see a democratic system in an independent Cuba and that the U.S. would take no action to stifle the spirit of liberty. In fact, the night before Kennedy wrote this letter, approximately 1,200 Cuban exiles, supplied and trained by the CIA, landed in Cuba's Bay of Pigs with plans to overthrow Castro. Kennedy was fully aware that the invasion was underway; he had authorized it three days earlier. CIA documents released in 2000 indicated that Khrushchev had also learned of the plans for a CIA-led invasion well in advance and had passed the information on to Castro via the KGB, Russia's secret police. Early on April 18, Khrushchev sent a letter to Kennedy warning the president to stop the little war against Cuba or risk an incomparable conflagration with the Soviet Union. Privately, Kennedy dismissed as hypocritical a lecture on intervention

About two-thirds of Americans were against a #cashless society via @CivicScience

statista.com/chart/17667/su...



coming from a Soviet leader who had supported communist-led coups in Europe and Asia. In his official response, Kennedy warned Khrushchev not to use the U.S.'s support for Cuban rebels as an excuse to inflame other areas of the world and told the Soviet Union to stay out of the Western Hemisphere's internal affairs. The Bay of Pigs invasion quickly fell apart when it became apparent that the CIA had gravely miscalculated the willingness of Cuba's military to join the exiles in a coup. Castro's forces quickly put down the rebellion, killing approximately 200 of the exiles and capturing the rest, except for a few who managed to escape and report back to the CIA. On April 24, 1961, Kennedy accepted sole responsibility for the botched invasion. The Bay of Pigs failure did not stop Kennedy from supporting subsequent covert plans to overthrow Castro.

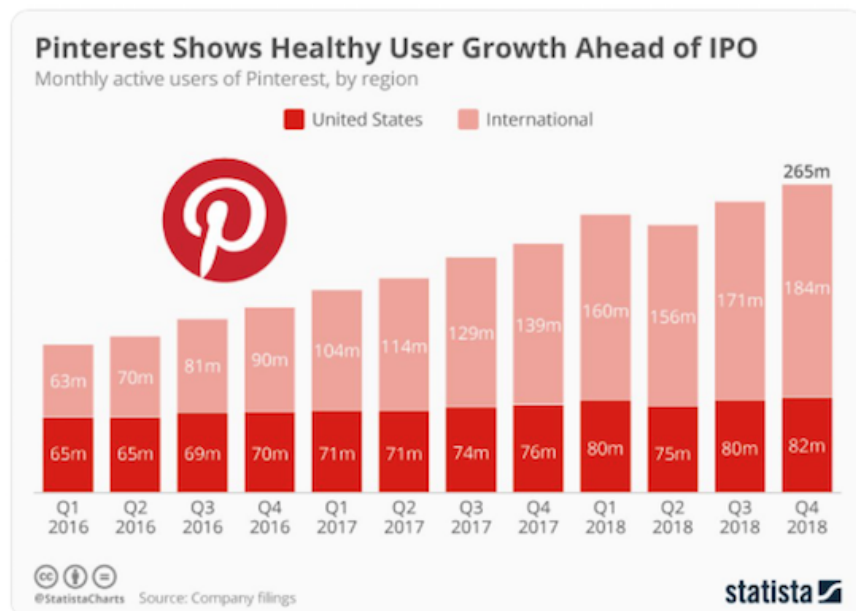


2012, Dick Clark Dies - On this day in 2012, Dick Clark, the TV personality and producer best known for hosting "American Bandstand,"

an influential music-and-dance show that aired nationally from 1957 to 1989 and helped bring rock 'n' roll into the mainstream in the late 1950s, dies of a heart attack at age 82 in Santa Monica, California. The clean-cut, youthful-looking Clark, dubbed "America's Oldest Teenager," also was the longtime host of the annual telecast "New Year's Rockin' Eve" and headed an entertainment empire that developed game shows, awards shows, talk shows, made-for-TV movies and other programs. Richard Wagstaff Clark was born on November 30, 1929, and raised in Mount Vernon, New York. His father was a salesman who later managed a radio station. Clark graduated from Syracuse University in 1951 and moved to Philadelphia the following year to work as a radio disc jockey. In 1956, he became the host of a local, teen-oriented TV show called "Bandstand" (launched in 1952) after the original host was fired. In 1957, "American Bandstand," as it was renamed, began airing nationwide. The program, which showcased ordinary teenagers dancing to records and musical acts introduced by Clark, quickly became a hit with millions of young viewers, who tuned in for the latest music, fashions and dance crazes. Clark helped end the then-standard practice of having white singers cover the songs of black artists on TV, and a number of African-American performers, including Chuck Berry and Chubby Checker, made their national TV debut on "American Bandstand." In 1960, amidst the show's success, Clark was called to testify before a congressional subcommittee investigating the practice of payola, in which record companies bribed disc jockeys in order to get airplay for records. At the hearings, Clark testified to holding an ownership stake in more than 30 different record labels, distributors and manufacturers, and featuring the acts from those labels on "American Bandstand." He denied doing

In the past year alone, **#Pinterest** added 51 million monthly active users, mainly thanks to strong international growth via **@Pinterest**

statista.com/chart/17642/monthly-active-users-of-pinterest-by-region



anything illegal and was never charged with a crime. However, prior to the hearings, ABC, which broadcast "American Bandstand," directed Clark to divest himself of all his music-related businesses, a move said to cost him millions of dollars. The music impresario furthered his place in pop culture as the host and producer of "Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve," a TV special that debuted in 1974 and included musical performances and live coverage of the ball drop from New York City's Times Square. Clark helmed the telecast every year until December 31, 2004, having suffered a stroke earlier that month. Though the stroke left him speech-impaired, he returned to the countdown special the following year, with Ryan Seacrest as co-host, and continued to make annual appearances through 2011.

Upcoming Events

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

Wed. 05/01 - May Day/Labor Day, FOMC Meeting, Grain Crashings

Thur. 05/02 - Export Sales, Jobless Claims

Fri. 05/03 - Unemployment Numbers

Sun. 05/05 - Cinco de Mayo

Mon. 05/06 - Export Inspections, Crop Progress

Thurs. 05/09 - Export Sales, Jobless Claims

Fri. 05/10 - USDA Supply/Demand, Crop Production

Sun. 05/12 - Mother's Day

Mon. 05/13 - Export Inspections, Crop Progress

Wed. 05/15 - NOPA Crush, Retail Sales

Thur. 05/16 - Export Sales, Jobless Claims

Mon. 05/20 - Export Inspections, Crop Progress

Wed. 05/22 - Cold Storage

Thurs. 05/23 - Export Sales, Jobless Claims, New Home Sales

Fri. 05/24 - Cattle on Feed, Durable Goods



Dustin Friesen
@DustinFriesen_

Following

Awesome to see this new 32 row 15" Series2 #UltraPlant by @Harvest_Int_Mfg getting ready for #Plant19 here in central Indiana. #LaserPro1 row units setup w/ @AgLeaderTech & @precisionplant tech, thanks to Xperience Ag in Greensburg.



Mon. 05/27 - Memorial Day, Markets Closed

Tues. 05/28 - Export Inspections, Crop Progress

Thur. 05/30 - Jobless Claims, GDP Q1

Fri. 05/31 - Export Sales, Personal Income

Kevin's Song of the Week

WHAT I'M LISTENING TO:



"Old Town Road"
Lil Nas X (feat. Billy Ray Cyrus)

Kevin's Song of the Week

Following

This was taken today!!!! #plant19



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



Eric Blaine
@FarminsGood

Following

Had to post this. #plant19



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.



Classic Rock In Pics
@crockpics

Following

HOW OLD YOUR FAVORITE BAND IS TURNING IN 2019

THE ROLLING STONES - 57 YEARS OLD

VAN HALEN - 47 YEARS OLD

THE WHO - 55 YEARS OLD

AC/DC - 46 YEARS OLD

METALLICA - 38 YEARS OLD

AEROSMITH - 49 YEARS OLD

KISS - 46 YEARS OLD

FLEETWOOD MAC - 52 YEARS OLD

GUNS N' ROSES - 34 YEARS OLD

ZZ TOP - 50 YEARS OLD

EAGLES - 48 YEARS OLD

DEF LEPPARD - 42 YEARS OLD

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Super 70s Sports
@Super70sSports

Following

Remember, every holiday is a new chance to scar your kids for life. At least I hope this was Easter ...



Farm Direction
RECIPES

★ **FAMILY** ★
FAVORITES

-SENT IN BY OUR READERS-

**Sausage Potato
Casserole**



CLICK TO SEE RECIPE



Martina Sartin™

@mraysartin

Following



Happy Easter! It's not about the bunny, it's about the lamb. #Easter



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:

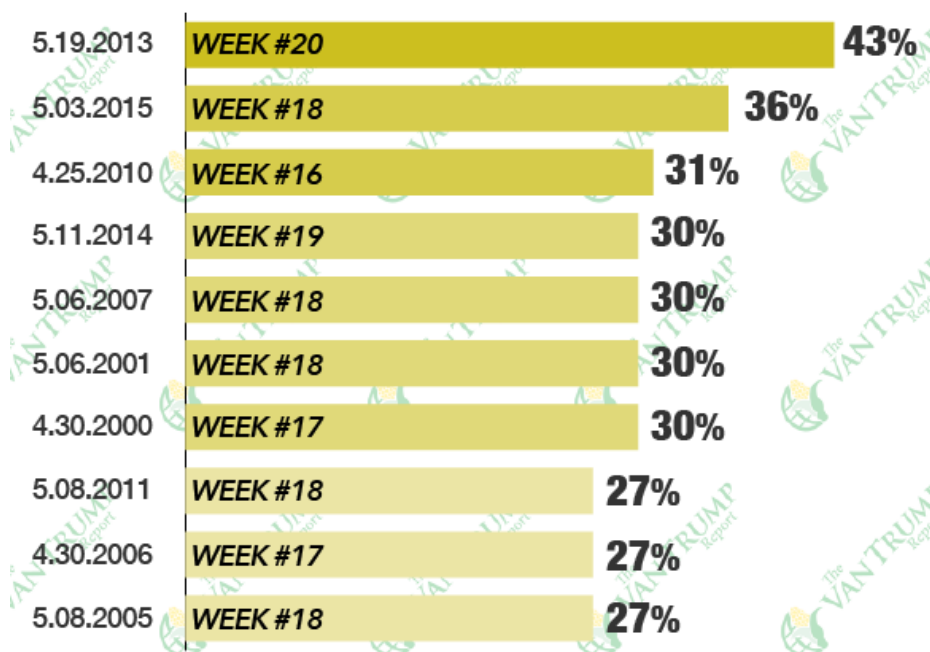
There are several books on a bookshelf. If one book is the 4th from the left and 6th from the right, how many books are on the shelf?

Corn continues to trade near contract lows as the U.S. weather forecast shows a few windows of opportunity for future corn planting. At the same time most bears continue to shoot holes in demand growth stories, expecting another downward revision to feed and residual, as well as another slightly reduction to exports by the USDA in the coming months. Ethanol production has actually picked up a bit as of late so I'm hesitant to say the USDA will be making another cut anytime soon. In fact, I know a few seasoned traders who actually think the USDA might have to readjust the corn used for ethanol number higher before it's all said and done, especially if we start to ramp up exports to China in any capacity. Globally, it feels like South American production estimates continue to creep higher and will be significantly larger than last year. Ukraine's corn crop is thought to be closing in on 10% planted with no significant wide-spread weather hiccups. Technically, it feels like the MAY19 corn contract has more significant support in the \$3.50 to \$3.55 range. The current low in the MAY19 contract was posted at \$3.55² per bushel. The JUL19 contract is looking at more significant support in the \$3.50 to \$3.65 range. The current low in the JUL19 contract was posted at \$3.64 per bushel. The new-crop DEC19 contract is looking at more significant support in the \$3.75

to \$3.85 range. The current low in the DEC19 contract was posted at \$3.83² per bushel. As a producer, I continue to sit and wait for better cash prices. I still see no pressing reason to re-own previous sales at this juncture. If we can start to see or forecast a breakout to the upside we will take a much more serious look. Until then we have no choice but to simply sit... With margins this tight, I simply can not justify or afford to take unnecessary risk re-owning and potentially making a mistake. As a spec, I continue to like two positions, either on the sideline patiently waiting for a more clear signal of entry, or a very very small and conservative longer-term bullish position. I understand the bearish argument, but believe I would have a hard time adding to my positions and knowing when to exit the side of the trade. Hence, I simply stay away, waiting for an easier shot! As you can see in the graphic I included below, in mid-May of 2013 U.S. producers planted 43% of the entire corn crop. There have been several weeks where we have planted 30% or more.

Top 10 Corn Planting Weeks

2000 - 2018 biggest weekly jumps (%)

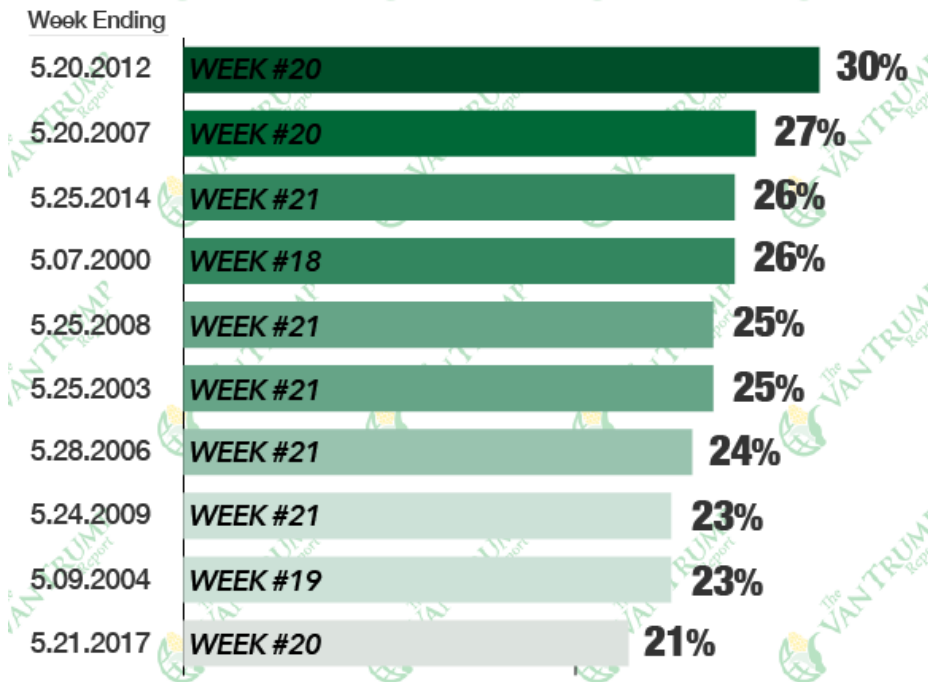


Source: USDA, NASS

Soybean bulls would desperately like to stop the bleeding. Prices have now deteriorated to their lowest level since late-October. The biggest headwind seems to be the continued uncertainty surrounding Chinese trade. From what I understand, the U.S. and China have tentatively scheduled another round of negotiations for the last week of April, and Chinese leaders will be coming to Washington the first week of May. If things go well there could be a ceremonial meeting between President Trump and Xi in late-May or perhaps early-June. Bulls were obviously hoping an agreement could be reached much sooner, as U.S. exporters will be facing much stiffer headwinds moving forward. Technically, it feels like the MAY19 contract could find more significant moving in the \$8.50 to \$8.75 range. This area just feels like no mans land and prices could continue to slosh around without much direction. The current low in the MAY19 contract was posted back in mid-September at \$8.53 per bushel. The JUL19 contract is looking at more significant support in the \$8.60 to \$8.85 range. The current low in the JUL19 contract was posted at \$8.63² per bushel. The new-crop NOV19 contract is looking at more significant support in the \$8.80 to \$9.10 range. The current low in the NOV19 contract was posted back in mid-July at \$8.64⁶ per bushel. There's really nothing fresh or new to report. As each day passes the South American crop seems to have less and less risk. Here at home, U.S. weather uncertainty could eventually lead to a few more soybean acres than currently forecast by the USDA. Obviously, there are also still two huge Chinese "wild-cards" in play with trade negotiations and the fallout associated with African Swine Fever. I've said for several weeks to be extremely cautious being a speculative bull in this market. The current environment just makes it tough to navigate and maneuver positions from the bullish side of the fence. As a producer, I remain extremely patient, thinking it could be several weeks or even a few months before I get another shot at marketing new-crop cash bushels at good price levels. As you can see in the graphic I included below, most of the biggest weeks for planting soybeans happen after mid-May.

Top 10 Soybean Planting Weeks

2000 - 2018 biggest weekly jumps (%)

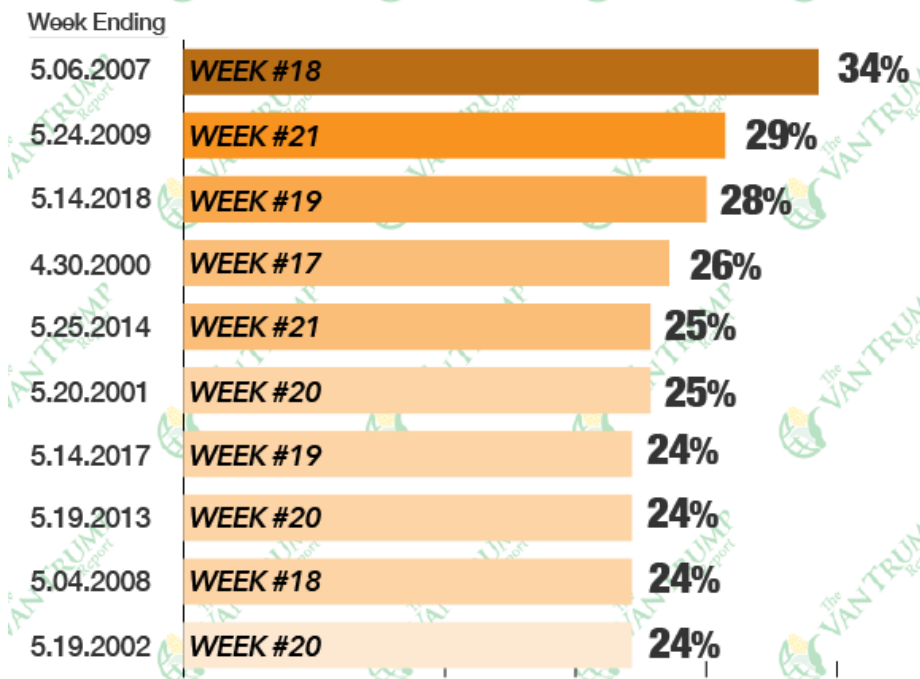


Source: USDA, NASS

Wheat bears continue to point towards better crop-conditions than last year for most major producing areas here in the U.S. Most sources inside the trade have also been talking about much better production forecasts for low-cost producers in Russia and parts of the European Union. Bulls continue to keep an eye on severe and extreme weather across the U.S., as well as some pockets of dry conditions building in the Black Sea region and a few areas inside the EU. Technically, it feels like the JUL19 SRW contract is looking at more significant support in the \$4.25 to \$4.40 range. The current low in the JUL19 contract was posted back in mid-March at \$4.35⁴ per bushel. The new-crop DEC19 SWR contract is looking at more significant support in the \$4.50 to \$4.65 range. The current low in the DEC19 contract was posted at \$4.59⁴ per bushel. Even though I believe there's some longer-term potential in the SRW wheat market, it's just hard to find a nearby bullish catalyst that will allow the bulls to build continued upside momentum. I'm worried that HRW and Spring wheat prices could continue to see more downward pressure nearby. As you can see in the graphic below, Spring wheat planting can vary a great deal between the end of April and the end of May, with producers a few times getting +25% of the entire spring wheat corp planted in one week.

Top 10 Spring Wheat Planting Weeks

2000 - 2018 biggest weekly jumps (%)



Source: USDA, NASS



> **U.S. and China Schedule Face-to-Face Meetings:** The two countries are tentatively aiming to sign trade deal as soon as late May with U.S. Trade Rep. Lighthizer set to travel to Beijing for next rough of talks on April 29. (Source: WSJ)

> **Soybean Exports Hit Weekly Low:** Soybean exports totaled 460,700 metric tons last week, with 130,200 metric tons headed to China. This is the lowest weekly U.S. soybean export levels since before the trade war began. (Source: Bloomberg)

> **Tennessee Ag Dept. Issues 2,600 Hemp Licenses:** Tennessee's Department of Agriculture has issued more than 2,600 licenses for industrial hemp cultivation this year. Last year, there were just 226. That's up 1,100% over last year. According to March figures from Kentucky's Ag Dept., hemp sales jumped \$17 million in 2017 to \$58 million in 2018. (Source: Ganjapreneur)

> **U.S. Exporters Missing Out on Chinese Cotton Demand:** Cotton consumption in China is forecast at 8.95 million metric tons according to the latest estimates from the U.S. attache in Beijing. Growth for domestic demand for textiles and apparel products continues to be a driving force for China's cotton consumption. Imports of U.S. cotton continue to be constrained by the addition 25% tariff that China implemented in July 2018. In the first half of 2018/19 (August - January), U.S. cotton exports to China reached 119,000 tons or 11.2% of China's total import volume. IN contrast, the U.S. market share in the previous marketing year was 45%. (Source: USDA, FAS)

> **E. Coli Outbreaks Spreading:** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced that 109 people had been sickened and 17 hospitalized in six states due to an E. coli outbreak from ground beef. At this time, no common supplier, distributor, or brand has been identified, and those who have fallen ill reported consuming ground beef both at restaurants and at home. The CDC has not advised the public to stop eating ground beef, nor have any recalls been ordered. (Source: CDC)

> **Minnesota To Regulate Nitrogen Fertilizer:** The state AG Department is expected to approve in May a regulation that would regulate use of nitrogen fertilizer in areas

with vulnerable groundwater beginning in 2020.

> Netflix Subscriptions up 26% From Year Ago: Last year at this time Netflix crossed the 125 million subscriber mark with its second biggest quarterly addition of subscribers ever. Now it has over 148 million subscribers around the world, and added 9.6 million in the last three months, more than the 8.9 million it expected. The 26% increase from the same quarter last year is in line with analyst expectations. (Source: Engadget)

> Hungarian Winemaker is Selling a Bottle for \$40,000: Hoping to revive the royal heritage of a wine revered by kings and connoisseurs, a Hungarian winemaker in the Tokaj region known for its golden dessert wine, is selling each of the 18 bottles for \$40,000 each. I'm told the volcanic Tokaj region in northeast Hungary produces wine made with grapes with "noble rot", induced by the "Botrytis" fungus that shrivels grapes and concentrates their sugar. (Source: Reuters)

> Baby T. Rex on sale for \$2.95 million: A 68 million year old baby Tyrannosaurus rex named Son of Sampson was put on sale on eBay for \$2.95 million and paleontologists aren't happy. The scientists believe that such fossils should be held in public trust and that only fossil replicas should be sold. The T. rex was found in Montana in 2013 by Alan Detrich and his brother. While paleontologists are upset with Detrich, many believe the bones might not sell because they are incomplete and shattered in parts. You can check out the eBay listing [HERE](#). (Source: Daily Beast)

> War of the Rockets... and More: Billionaire founders of Amazon and SpaceX plan to blanket low-Earth orbit with thousands of satellites that will beam broadband internet to the planet, potentially transforming how the developing world in particular accesses the web. Both Bezos' Blue Origin rocket company and Musk's SpaceX have been working in parallel with one another for years to get their rockets flying to space, but with their internet ambitions, Musk and Bezos are now on a collision course. SpaceX's Starlink has already received FCC approval for a planned constellation of more than 7,000 satellites, and the company launched two Starlink satellites in 2018 as part of a proof-of-concept test. On the other hand, Amazon's Project Kuiper hopes to fly 3,236 satellites to orbit, but has yet to file for FCC approval. "This is a long-term project that envisions serving tens of millions of people who lack basic access to broadband internet," an Amazon spokesperson tells Axios in an email. Amazon and SpaceX both have good reasons for getting into the satellite internet game, as Amazon's e-commerce and web services businesses would benefit from having billions more people using high-speed internet and SpaceX's business could gain a new revenue stream in addition to rocket launches. Read more on Bezos vs. Musk 2.0 [HERE](#).

> The Migration of Millionaires: The world's wealthiest people are also the most mobile. High net worth individuals (HNWIs) - persons with wealth over U.S. \$1 million - may decide to pick up and move for a number of reasons. In some cases they are attracted by better tax laws or less crime. Today's graphic, using data from the annual Global Wealth Migration Review, maps the migration of the world's millionaires, and clearly shows which countries are magnets for the world's rich, and which countries are seeing a wealth exodus. China leads the millionaire migration with over 15,000 Chinese HNWIs choosing to migrate to other countries in 2018. Time-honored locations - such as Switzerland and the Cayman Islands - continue to attract the world's wealthy, but no country is experiencing HNWI inflows quite like Australia. The country has a strong economy, no inheritance tax and lower cost of health care, which can make it an attractive alternative to the U.S. (Source: Visual Capitalist, [Global Wealth Migration Review](#))

precisely onto the teats of the respective animal. Then, the machine does its thing by recording and/or transmitting data itself. I'm told the 5G trial network is the courtesy of Cisco Systems Inc., who partnered with the University of Strathclyde, is trialling wireless and mobile connectivity within the framework of its Rural First initiative in three locations. Read more [HERE](#).

How Are Americans Using CBD... and is it Working? Trying to figure out the CBD space or the chemical compound, naturally occurring in cannabis plants can be a bit challenging these days whether you are looking to grow hemp to produce the oil or simply use it for one of the many ailments it claims to offer relief from. Keep in mind that up to this point, clinical studies haven't necessarily proven the results that many Americans claim they are receiving, but that doesn't change the fact the cannabis oil is a hot commodity now for a number of people and for a number of uses. On Quartz's behalf, Harris Poll recently surveyed more than 2,000 people in the US about their experience, knowledge, and opinions regarding CBD and found that more than 85% of Americans have heard of CBD, and of those, more than one in five have tried it. I'm told some 55% surveyed said they use it to relax. Half reported using it to reduce stress and anxiety, and the proportions of people who use CBD to improve their sleep and relieve pain (including muscle, chronic, and joint pain) were not far behind. Also on the list were relief from migraines, menstrual symptoms, nausea, and sexual enhancement. So what can you expect from using CBD, find out [HERE](#).

Becoming Your Best... the How Comes From the Why Not the Other Way Around: It's about initiating — continually creating situations that force you to become more than you currently are. Purging yourself of all your imperfections. Evolving. It doesn't matter how good your strategy is, if you're not skilled at what you do, that strategy won't take you very far. As Jason Fried and DHH have said: "Many amateur golfers think they need expensive clubs. But it's the swing that matters, not the club. Give Tiger Woods a set of cheap clubs and he'll still destroy you." When you're confident about what you do and clear about where you're going, the right strategy will make itself known. Hence, when your "why" is strong, you'll figure out "how." If you're looking for how to be successful, you're going about it all wrong. You're doing it for the wrong reasons. And you'll continuously be left searching for the next patch of land to find gold. What will be left? An open field of half-dug holes, three feet from gold. If you know what you want and why you're doing it, you're not worried about the "gold." Your security is internal, and you certainly aren't worried about the outcomes because you already know they are coming. Read five KEY things you can do [HERE](#) to get started being the best at what you do!

First Ever Human U.S. Clinical Trials Using CRISPER: Two patients at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia are now in a study using CRISPER, making it the first time ever that the innovative genetic engineering that gives scientists the power to edit DNA much more easily, has been used for human clinical trials in the U.S. I'm told that one patient had multiple myeloma, and one had sarcoma, but both had relapsed after undergoing standard treatment. From what I understand, the trial involves removing immune system cells from patients, genetically modifying them in the lab and infusing the modified cells back into the body, with the hope that the modified cells will target and destroy cancer cells. Currently, we have no information as to how things are working. I should mention that the study has been approved to eventually treat 18 patients. Learn more [HERE](#).

Nikola Introduces the Future of Watercraft... the Wav: Electric trucking company Nikola Motors just announced an all-electric sit-down personal watercraft called the Wav (pronounced "wave"). Inspired by the design of superbikes, the Wav is a wild looking jet-ski style vehicle that Nikola Motors CEO Trevor Milton called the "future of watercraft." It features a waterproof 12-inch, 4K display in the dashboard, LED lights in the front and back, and even has cruise control. Milton debuted the Wav alongside an all-electric off-roader and the company's two flagship electric big rigs at an event in Arizona recently. From what I hear, the Wav will be powered by a completely new adaptable battery architecture that Nikola developed specifically for watercraft, and a smaller stand-up version will come next. If you are interested in getting a Wav, the company is already taking reservations, but pricing and other specs were not immediately announced. I'm told it will ship sometime in the early 2020s. Read more [HERE](#).

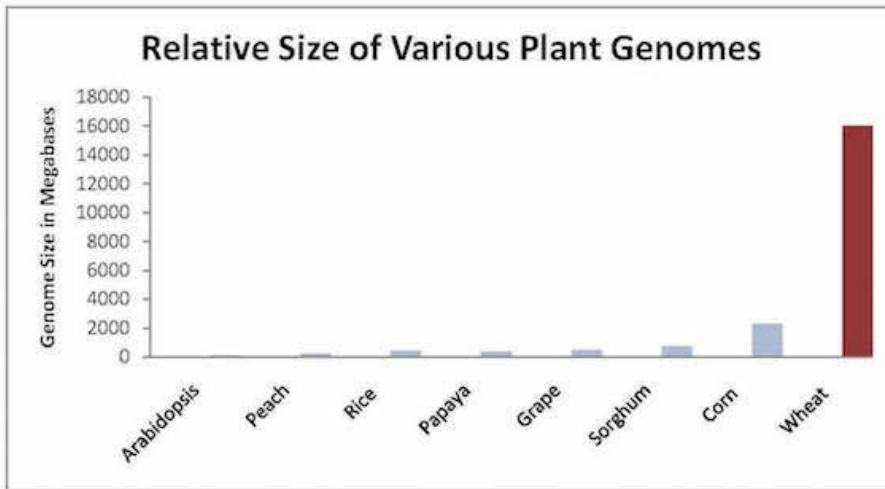




Durum Wheat "Genome Sequencing" Major Accomplishment

A team of international researchers has sequenced the durum genome, an accomplishment that will contribute to the development of new and more productive durum wheat varieties for growers around the world. It's worth mentioning, durum wheat is the source of semolina for pasta, a food staple around the globe. I'm told not only the immense size of the durum genome made the process particularly challenging, but also the amount of repetitive DNA, or the pieces of the genetic puzzle that look identical to others. Fortunately for future researchers, the durum genome will serve as a blueprint that allows them to develop new breeding tools and enables plant breeders to achieve their breeding targets with greater efficiency and precision. Sequencing the genome is the first, very long and difficult step that occurs prior to the real work of determining what the sequences are telling us. Scientists still need to translate those strings of letters into an understanding of how the genome works, meaning what the various genes that make up the genome do, how different genes are related, and how the various parts of the genome are coordinated. Keep in mind, it could be years before the impact is felt at the producer level, but as scientists develop new DNA markers, breeders will one day be able to select the most beneficial parent materials for breeding programs, leading to enhanced traits as higher yields, better end-use quality, and an improved resistance to fusarium headblight. Also, in another exciting discovery, Curtis Pozniak, a University of Saskatchewan durum breeder, along with University of Alberta scientists Gregory Taylor and Neil Harris, identified the gene in durum wheat responsible for accumulation of cadmium, a toxic heavy metal found in many soils. In fact, I'm told the European Union is planning to lower the acceptable levels of Cd in harvested agricultural products. For wheat, the threshold may be reduced by half, from 0.2 to 0.1 µg/g of raw material, which would exclude from consumption at least 20% of the durum wheat currently produced, making these current discoveries all the more important. Moving forward, having this durum wheat high-quality genome sequence enables researchers to better understand the genetics of gluten proteins and the factors that control the nutritional properties of semolina as well as improve pasta quality traits. I suspect as computer power continues to double every 20 months, we will begin to see more and more discoveries that could open doors to viable diversification and premiums at a quickening pace. Make sure you are paying attention and be ready to execute. (Source: producer.com, science daily)





Wishing Everyone A "Good Friday" and Happy Easter!

Markets are closed tomorrow in observance of Good Friday, which will be followed up by Easter this Sunday. As Good Friday is a religious holiday, primarily observed by Christians, most government agencies and banks will be open. For those who aren't aware, Good Friday is the day that Christians recognize the crucifixion of Jesus Christ - the actual day he died on the cross. Easter marks the resurrection of Christ. You may not be aware of this, but Easter is the oldest Christian holiday. It is also considered the most important day of the church year as all annual Christian movable feasts and days of worship are arranged around Easter. The movable feast dates include Good Friday, as well as Ash Wednesday and Palm Sunday. They are so called because they do not fall on any "fixed date" on the Gregorian calendar, which follows the cycle of the sun and the seasons. Movable feast dates change every year, depending on when Easter falls. Determining that date is actually a pretty complicated process and has been a matter of controversy for centuries. It's believed that early Christians celebrated the resurrection of Christ every Sunday, but at some point, probably the second century, it became customary to celebrate specially on one day. Which Sunday that was changed several times and differed from Western and Eastern Christians. Western Christians settled the matter at the Council of Nicea in 325, where they decided on the first Sunday following the paschal moon, which is essentially the first full moon of Spring. The equinox happens on March 19, 20 or 21 every year, so that means the earliest Easter can ever fall in Western Christian country's is March 22. And given the lunar cycle, the latest it could ever fall is April 25. For members of the Eastern Orthodox churches, their dates are a bit different because they adopted the Julian calendar back in those early centuries, which has a different lunar cycle. So while Western Christians will be observing Easter this Sunday, March 21, Eastern Orthodox Christians don't celebrate the holiday until April 28 this year. Below are a few more interesting facts you may not know about Easter:

Origin of Easter: *The origins of the word "Easter" are not certain, but probably derive from Estre, an Anglo-Saxon goddess of spring. The German word Ostern has the same derivation, but most other languages follow the Greek term used by the early Christians: pascha, from the Hebrew pesach (Passover).*

Easter Eggs: *Eggs have been a traditional part of the Christian Easter celebration for centuries. Decorating them during the Spring is a tradition that has been around even longer than Christianity. The egg has been a symbol of new life and rebirth for cultures all over the world for thousands of years.*



When the tradition of decorating them started is a mystery, but the oldest decorated eggshells ever found date back at least 60,000 years! For Christians, the Easter egg is symbolic of the resurrection of Jesus. It's believed the Easter egg became tradition as part of celebrating the end of the privations of Lent - in Medieval Europe, eggs were forbidden during the forty day fast. To preserve the eggs laid during that period, they were hardboiled and were a "treat" once Lent ended. The decorating of Easter eggs is a true art form in some cultures, most especially in Eastern Europe. Ukraine and other Slavic countries have long practiced a decorating tradition called "pysanka" or "pysanky". The resulting batik-like patterns are no doubt amazing, but it looks like a painstaking process. You can watch a video explaining some of the symbolism of the designs the how it's done [HERE](#).

Ham and Lamb: *The origin of eating ham at Easter goes back much further than Christianity and is really just a matter of practicality. Ancient cultures slaughtered their animals in the Fall and preserved them for the Winter months. When Spring arrived, it was time to eat up the last of those preserved meats. The custom of lamb for Easter dinner comes from the Jewish Passover holiday. On that day, a*

sacrificial lamb was eaten, along with other symbolic foods, at the Passover Seder. The Christians adopted the lamb as a symbol of Jesus and retained the custom.

White Lilies: The traditional Easter Flower is the lily. The white lily is a symbol of purity. The single flower stem coming up from a bulb represents Christ coming back to life 3 days after his crucifixion.



Pretzels: The twisted bread snack is associated with both Lent and Easter. According to legend, an Italian monk invented them to reward children for learning their prayers. The way he folded the dough was meant to resemble arms crossing in prayer.



This is a Great Read and Reminder

The following e-mail has been sent around the block a number of times, but as we head into "Good Friday" and "Easter Sunday", I thought it might be worth rekindling and sending around the horn one more time. The e-mail first circulated back in September of 2000 after Roane County, Tennessee, High School principal Jody McLoud made the following speech before over the PA system just before kickoff I hope you enjoy and share with others. From my family to yours, I wish you a safe and happy Easter.

"It has always been the custom at Roane County High School football games to say a prayer and play the National Anthem, to honor God and Country."

Due to a recent ruling by the Supreme Court, I am told that saying a Prayer is a violation of Federal Case Law. As I understand the law at this time, I can use this public facility to approve of sexual perversion and call it "an alternate life style," and, if someone is offended, that's OK.

I can use it to condone sexual promiscuity, by dispensing condoms and calling it "safe sex."

If someone is offended, that's OK.

I can even use this public facility to present the merits of killing an unborn baby as a "viable" means of birth control."

If someone is offended, no problem, that's OK.

I can designate a school day as "Earth Day" and involve students in activities to worship religiously and praise the goddess, "Mother Earth", and call it "ecology", no problem, that's OK.

I can use literature, videos and presentations in the classroom that depicts people with strong, traditional Christian convictions as "simple minded" and "ignorant" and call it "enlightenment", that's OK.

However, if anyone uses this facility to honor GOD and to ask HIM to bless this event with safety and good sportsmanship, then Federal Case Law is violated.

This appears to be inconsistent at best, and at worst, diabolical.

Apparently, we are to be tolerant of everything and anyone, except GOD and HIS Commandments.

*Nevertheless , as a school principal, I frequently ask staff and students to abide by rules with which they do not necessarily agree.
For me to do otherwise would be inconsistent at best, and at worst, hypocritical.
I suffer from that affliction enough unintentionally.
I certainly do not need to add an intentional transgression.*

For this reason, I shall "Render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's," and refrain from praying at this time.

"However, if you feel inspired to honor, praise and thank GOD and ask HIM, in the name of JESUS, to bless this event, please feel free to do so... As far as I know, that's not against the law--yet."

One by one, the people in the stands bowed their heads, held hands with one another and began to pray.

They prayed in the stands.

They prayed in the team huddles.

They prayed at the concession stand and they prayed in the Announcer's Box!

The only place they didn't pray was in the Supreme Court of the United States of America, the Seat of "Justice" in the "one nation, under GOD."

*Somehow, Kingston, Tennessee, remembered what so many have forgotten.
We are given the Freedom OF Religion, not the Freedom FROM Religion.
Praise GOD that HIS remnant remains!*

JESUS said, "If you are ashamed of ME before men, then I will be ashamed of you before MY FATHER."

If you are not ashamed, pass this on..

I'm not one bit ashamed to pass this on.

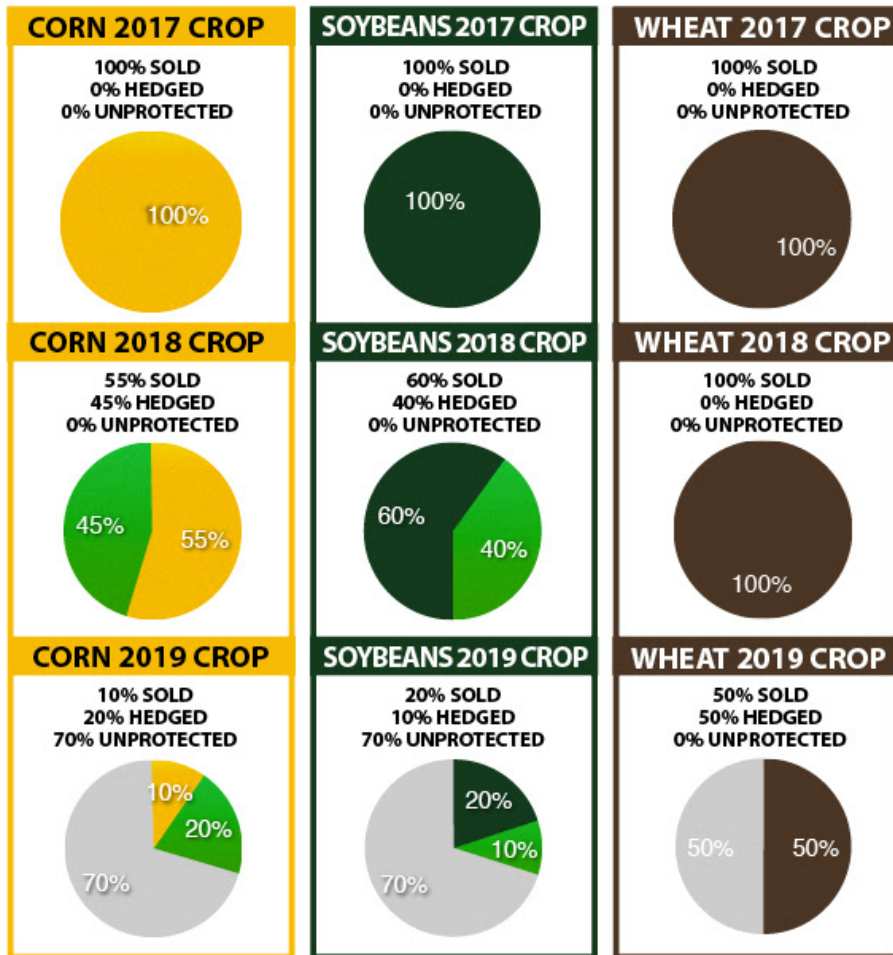
From my family to yours, I wish you a safe and happy Easter. God bless everyone this holiday weekend!



ANSWER to riddle: 9. Try sketching the problem out to see it.

CASH SALES & HEDGING TOTALS

PLEASE READ The Van Trump Report is a publication intended to give analytical research to the Agricultural community. The Van Trump Report is not rendering investment or hedging advice based on individual portfolios or individual business operations. Kevin Van Trump is NOT registered as a stock or commodity advisor in any jurisdiction. You need to consult with your own registered advisor for specific strategies and ideas that are appropriate to your specific portfolio or business entity. Information included in this report is derived from many sources believed to be reliable but no representation is made that it is accurate or complete. This report is not intended, and shall not constitute, or be construed as an offer or recommendation to "buy", "sell" or "invest" in any securities or commodities referred to in this report. Rather, this research is intended to identify issues and macro situations that those invested in the agricultural industry should be aware of to help better assess and improve their own risk management skills. Please read the entire [DISCLAIMER PAGE](#) for full risk-disclosure and copyright laws.



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