

GOOD MORNING: 05/02/19 Farm Direction - Van Trump Report

1 message

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

Thu, May 2, 2019 at 7:40 AM

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"Judge not, lest you be judged."—Jesus

THURSDAY, MAY 02, 2019
[Printable Copy](#) or [Audio Version](#)

Morning Summary: Stock are steady this morning as traders debate a couple of big-ticket items. Bulls are pointing to rumors out of Washington that a Chinese trade deal is close and we may actually have something to chew on by next Friday, May 10th. Bears are pointing to slightly less dovish Fed commentary, as Fed Chair Powell's press-conference may have deflated some hopes of a rate-cut in 2019. As for yesterday's economic data, auto sales numbers were again a bit of a disappointment. Kelly Blue Book reported the average transaction price for a new vehicle in April was up +2% from April, 2018 at \$36,843, mainly due to the continuing popularity of pricey pickups and SUVs. At Chrysler, the only brand gaining much traction is Ram, who continues to gain ground in the pickup truck space. Jeep had another tough month, down -8% but its new Gladiator pickup truck is off to a good start. If you haven't seen it, go check it out, pretty cool for an open air mid-size. Toyota sales were down -4.4% overall last month with its Toyota division reporting a -4.8% decline and Lexus was off -1.3%. The two silver linings for Toyota were its RAV4, which was up +10.1% and trucks, which both reported their best-ever Aprils. Sales for the Tacoma pickup truck spiked +8.3%. Mazda reported a -14% drop compared to last year. Accura sales were also down compared to last year. Honda reported a slight gain. Nissan also a slight gain fueled by strong demand for the Altima. Ford and GM did not release detailed numbers but both are suspected to show sales lower than last year. Data released yesterday also showed construction spending slowed in March. Construction spending across the board has been struggling, but spending in March on new housing took the biggest hit. All residential construction was lower by -1.8% for the month, and now lower by -8.4% for the year. Public construction spending dropped -1.3%. As for today, the trade will be digesting the latest factory and durable goods orders. There will also be another wave of heavy corporate earnings released, including some big names like: Activision Blizzard, Dow DuPont, Dunkin Brands, Kellogg, Shakeshake, Skyworks Solutions, Sotheby's, Under Armour, Wayfair, and Yeti

Amazon Quietly Entering Truck Freight Business: *CNBC recently ran a report that indicates Amazon has been quietly running an 'Uber for trucking' service since last year. The new online service has essentially been matching truck drivers with shippers since last year. Many inside the industry are wondering if this is just a small step or a giant leap for Amazon into the lucrative freight brokerage space? Their under-the-radar freight website says, "Tap into the scale of Amazon as we extend our carrier network to give you best-in-class service at great rates." You can view their freight web site [HERE](#). Overall, the freight brokerage market was worth \$72 billion in the U.S. in 2017, according to Uber's filing, which cites market research firm Armstrong & Associates. It also says companies spent a total of \$700 billion on trucking in the U.S. in 2017. (Source: [CNBC](#))*

Plant-Based Burger Maker "Beyond Meat" *has priced its initial public stock offering at \$25 per share, the top of its anticipated range in a reflection of brisk investor demand. The company starts trading today on the Nasdaq under symbol "BYND". Beyond Meat will use the proceeds from its IPO to invest in new manufacturing facilities and R&D, stepping up competition with rival Impossible Foods. The company's net-revenue more than doubled last year to \$87.93 million.*

Hulu Has Gained Twice as Many U.S. subscribers as Netflix in 2019: *Hulu added twice as many U.S. subscribers in 2019 as Netflix did in its first quarter, according to Hulu's newly announced subscriber numbers. Hulu added 3.8 million domestic subscribers in 2019 compared to Netflix's 1.74 million net additions it*


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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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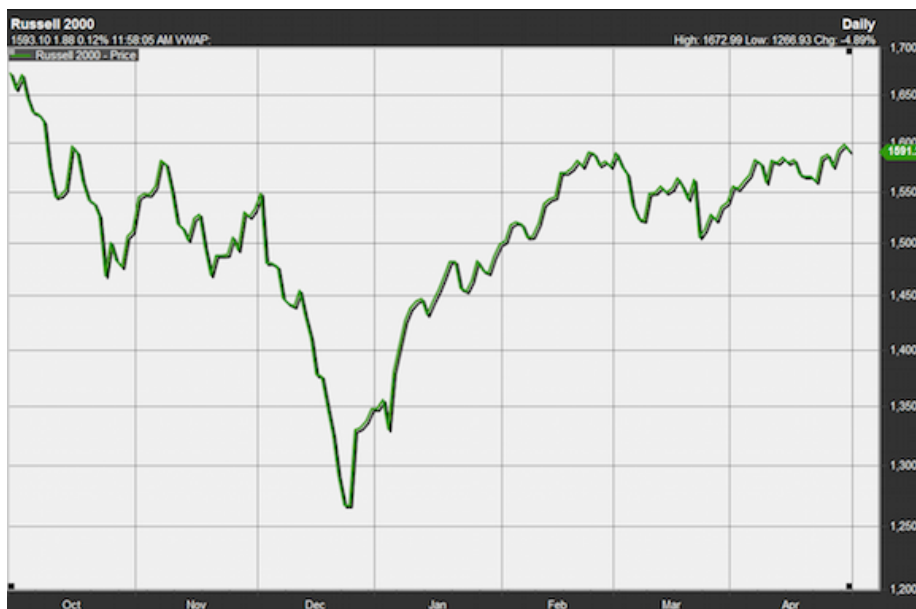
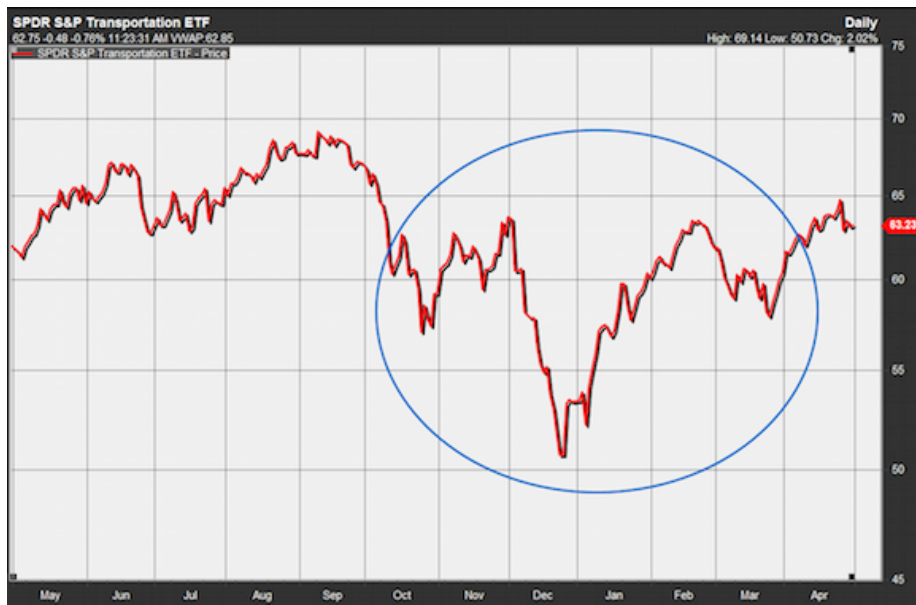
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Today in History

1874, John B. Jones Becomes Major in Texas Rangers - John B. Jones begins

reported in its first-quarter earnings results. Hulu now has a total of 28 million subscribers in the U.S., which is up from the 25 million it claimed at the beginning of 2019. Of the 28 million, 26.8 million of those subscribers pay for the service, while 1.2 million hold promotional accounts. I suspect Hulu posted these great results because of its promotion with Spotify, which allows customers to sign up for a joint plan at \$12.99 per month. Remember, Disney owns a 60% stake in Hulu. Keep in mind, Netflix still remains a much larger service than Hulu with more than 60 million total U.S. subscribers.

Technical Patterns Suggest Market Has Legs: A bullish chart pattern, known as an inverse head and shoulders, is cropping up in a number of assets and indexes in recent trade and suggests that the broader equity market may have more room to run beyond its current record levels, according to Asbury Research. In case you are not a chartist, the typical head-and-shoulders pattern is formed when three successive peaks are reached in a charted security. Those peaks are described as the left shoulder and right shoulder, the head representing the highest peak in the middle, and a neckline linking two low points. On the other hand, an inverted head-and-shoulders, is the mirror image of this traditional formation, and points to a rising rather than a bearish, or reversing trend. At the moment, the pattern has emerged in small-capitalization stocks, notably the Russell 2000 index. Keep in mind, the small-cap benchmark had led the charge in the wake of a collapse in the market in late 2018, which culminated in a vicious selloff on Dec. 24, which dragged the S&P 500 index, the Dow Jones Industrial Average, and the Nasdaq Composite Index COMP-0.57% to their worst monthly losses since the 2008 financial crisis. I should mention that an inverse head-and-shoulders pattern also is forming in the Dow Jones Transportation Average. Read more [HERE](#) on what Asbury Research's Chief Market Strategist John Kosar had to say on the multiple occurrences.



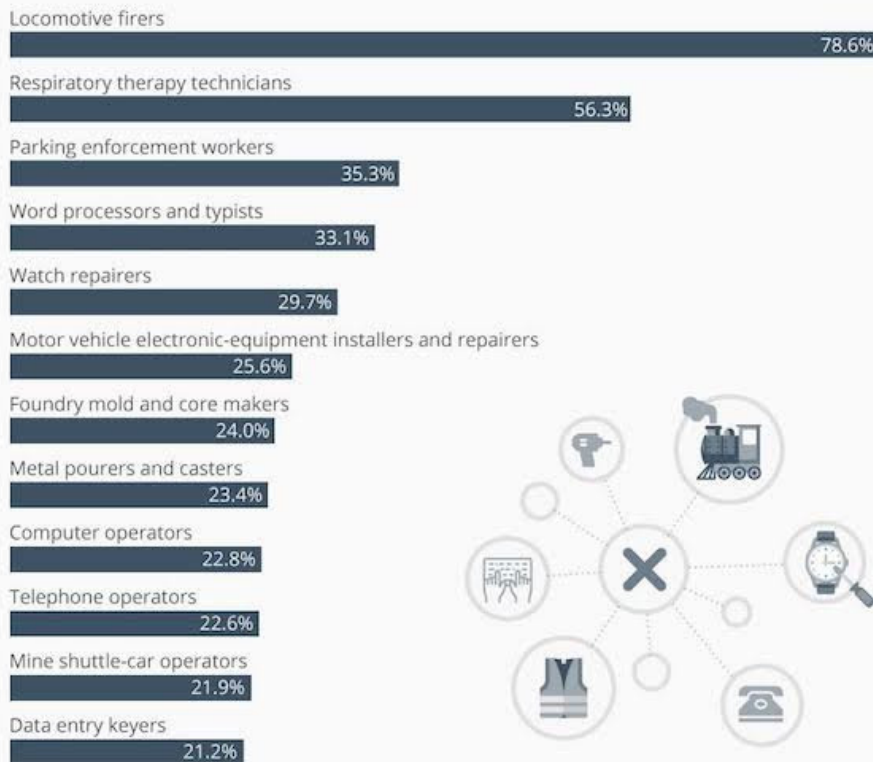
his adventurous career as a lawman with an appointment as a major in the Texas Rangers. Born in Fairfield District, South Carolina, in 1834, Jones moved to Texas with his father when he was a small boy. After graduating from Mt. Zion College in South Carolina, he returned to his home in Texas to enlist in the Confederate Army during the Civil War. Talented and ambitious, he eventually rose to the rank of adjutant general. Jones took the defeat of the Confederacy hard, and after the war, he spent some time traveling in Mexico and Brazil trying to establish a colony for other disgruntled former Confederates. After determining that the colonial schemes held little promise for success, he returned to Texas where his military experience won him a major's commission with the Texas Rangers on this day in 1874. Jones commanded the Frontier Battalion, a force of about 500 men stationed along the Texas frontier from the Red River to the Rio Grande. His mission was two-fold: to keep hostile-border Indians out of Texas and control the outlaws within Texas. His first Indian fight came less than six weeks later. While patrolling near Jacksboro, Texas, with 28 men, Jones spotted a band of more than 100 Indians that he thought were hostile Kiowa, Commanche, and Apache. Displaying more courage than wisdom, Jones directed his small band to attack the larger force of Indians. In the ensuing battle, two of the Rangers were killed and two wounded, but they were lucky to escape without more serious losses. Chastened, Jones acted with greater care in his subsequent battles with Indians, and his force eventually became highly effective in repulsing invasions. Four years later, Jones took on one of the most notorious outlaws on the Texas frontier, Sam Bass. For some months, Bass and his gang had been staging train robberies in Texas. Although most of the robberies failed to net much money because Bass and his partners were incompetent amateurs, the people of Texas demanded that Bass be stopped. The Texas government turned to Jones, ordering him to use his Rangers to run Bass down. Seizing on the drama of the chase, the press dubbed the affair the "Bass War." For four months, Bass led Jones and his Rangers on a wild chase through Texas. In July 1878, Jones learned that Bass was planning to rob the bank in Round Rock, Texas. When Bass did hit the bank, Jones and his Rangers were waiting. Bass was badly wounded in the ensuing gun battle, and he died several days later. Strangely enough, Bass later became a legend, portrayed as good-natured Robin Hood, while Jones has largely been forgotten. Jones continued to command the Frontier Battalion until he died of natural causes in 1881 at the age of 46.



1972, End of an Era at the FBI - After nearly five decades as director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI),

The U.S. Jobs Disappearing The Fastest

Projected decline in employment in U.S. jobs from 2016 to 2026



@StatistaCharts Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Forbes statista



FARM TANK

Tweets of the Day



J. Edgar Hoover dies, leaving the powerful government agency without the administrator who had been largely responsible for its existence and shape. Educated as a lawyer and a librarian, Hoover joined the Department of Justice in 1917 and within two years had become special assistant to Attorney General A. Mitchell Palmer. Deeply anti-radical in his ideology, Hoover came to the forefront of federal law enforcement during the so-called "Red Scare" of 1919 to 1920. The former librarian set up a card index system listing every radical leader, organization, and publication in the United States and by 1921 had amassed some 450,000 files. More than 10,000 suspected communists were also arrested during this period, but the vast majority of these people were briefly questioned and then released. Although the attorney general was criticized for abusing his authority during the so-called "Palmer Raids," Hoover emerged unscathed, and on May 10, 1924, he was appointed acting director of the Bureau of Investigation, a branch of the Justice Department established in 1909. During the 1920s, with Congress' approval, Director Hoover drastically restructured and expanded the Bureau of Investigation. He built the corruption-ridden agency into an efficient crime-fighting machine, establishing a centralized fingerprint file, a crime laboratory, and a training school for agents. In the 1930s, the Bureau of Investigation launched a dramatic battle against the epidemic of organized crime brought on by Prohibition. Notorious gangsters such as George "Machine Gun" Kelly and John Dillinger met their ends looking down the barrels of Bureau-issued guns, while others, like Louis "Lepke" Buchalter, the elusive head of Murder, Incorporated, were successfully investigated and prosecuted by Hoover's "G-men." Hoover, who had a keen eye for public relations, participated in a number of these widely publicized arrests, and the Federal Bureau of Investigations, as it was known after 1935, became highly regarded by Congress and the American public. With the outbreak of World War II, Hoover revived the anti-espionage techniques he had developed during the first Red Scare, and domestic wiretaps and other electronic surveillance expanded dramatically. After World War II, Hoover focused on the threat of radical, especially communist, subversion. The FBI compiled files on millions of Americans suspected of dissident activity, and Hoover worked closely with the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) and Senator Joseph McCarthy, the architect of America's second Red Scare. In 1956, Hoover initiated Cointelpro, a secret counterintelligence program that initially targeted the U.S. Communist Party but later was expanded to infiltrate and disrupt any radical organization in America. During the 1960s, the immense resources of Cointelpro were used against dangerous groups such as the Ku Klux Klan, but also against African American civil rights

Smoking in the US has reached an all-time low. Here's why wef.ch/2Sm3axv #health



organizations and liberal anti-war organizations. One figure especially targeted was civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., who endured systematic harassment from the FBI. By the time Hoover entered service under his eighth president in 1969, the media, the public, and Congress had grown suspicious that the FBI might be abusing its authority. For the first time in his bureaucratic career, Hoover endured widespread criticism, and Congress responded by passing laws requiring Senate confirmation of future FBI directors and limiting their tenure to 10 years. On May 2, 1972, with the Watergate affair about to explode onto the national stage, J. Edgar Hoover died of heart disease at the age of 77. The Watergate affair subsequently revealed that the FBI had illegally protected President Richard Nixon from investigation, and the agency was thoroughly investigated by Congress. Revelations of the FBI's abuses of power and unconstitutional surveillance motivated Congress and the media to become more vigilant in future monitoring of the FBI.

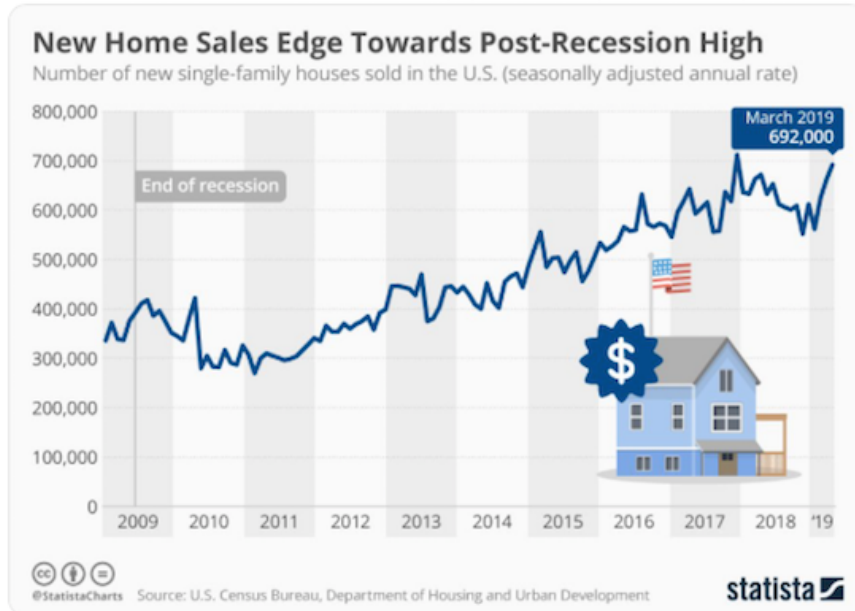


2011, Osama bin Laden Killed by U.S. Forces - On this day in 2011, Osama bin Laden, the mastermind behind the September 11, 2001,

terrorist attacks in the United States, is killed by U.S. forces during a raid on his compound hideout in Pakistan. The notorious, 54-year-old leader of Al Qaeda, the terrorist network of Islamic extremists, had been the target of a nearly decade-long international manhunt. The raid began around 1 a.m. local time, when 23 U.S. Navy SEALs in two Black Hawk helicopters descended on the compound in Abbottabad, a tourist and military center north of Pakistan's capital, Islamabad. One of the helicopters crash-landed into the compound but no one aboard was hurt. During the raid, which lasted approximately 40 minutes, five people, including bin Laden and one of his adult sons, were killed by U.S. gunfire. No Americans were injured in the assault. Afterward, bin Laden's body was flown by helicopter to Afghanistan for official identification, then buried at an undisclosed location in the Arabian Sea less than 24 hours after his death, in accordance with Islamic practice. Just after 11:30 p.m. EST on May 1 (Pakistan's time zone is 9 hours ahead of Washington, D.C.), President Barack Obama, who monitored the raid in real time via footage shot by a drone flying high above Abbottabad, made a televised address from the White House, announcing bin Laden's death. "Justice has been done," the president said. After hearing the news, cheering crowds gathered outside the White House and in New York City's Times Square and the Ground Zero site. Based on computer files and other evidence the SEALs collected during the raid, it was later determined that bin Laden was making plans to assassinate President Obama and carry out a series of additional attacks against

Sales of new single-family #houses unexpectedly rose to a 16-month high in March via @HUDgov @uscensusbureau

bit.ly/2UBLoHm



Beth Lutter
@bethlutter

Following

Here we go! Favorite time of year 🙌
#plant19



America, including one on the anniversary of September 11, the largest terrorist attack ever on U.S. soil, which left nearly 3,000 people dead. Shortly after the 2001 attack, President George W. Bush declared bin Laden, who was born into a wealthy family in Saudi Arabia in 1957 and used his multi-million-dollar inheritance to help establish al Qaeda and fund its activities, would be captured dead or alive. In December of that year, American-backed forces came close to capturing bin Laden in a cave complex in Afghanistan's Tora Bora region; however, he escaped and would continue to elude U.S. authorities for years. A break in the hunt for bin Laden came in August 2010, when C.I.A. analysts tracked the terrorist leader's courier to the Abbottabad compound, located behind tall security walls in a residential neighborhood. (U.S. intelligence officials spent the ensuing months keeping the compound under surveillance; however, they were never certain bin Laden was hiding there until the raid took place.) The U.S. media had long reported bin Laden was believed to be hiding in the remote tribal areas along the Afghan-Pakistani border, so many Americans were surprised to learn the world's most famous fugitive had likely spent the last five years of his life in a well-populated area less than a mile from an elite Pakistani military academy. After the raid, which the U.S. reportedly carried out without informing the Pakistani government in advance, some American officials suspected Pakistani authorities of helping to shelter bin Laden in Abbottabad, although there was no concrete evidence to confirm this.

Upcoming Events

- 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



Lindsay Masse
@lmasse729

Following

Ready to go! #plant19



History Lovers Club
@historylvrclub

Following

Notorious drug lord Pablo Escobar and his son in front of the White House. Washington, 1980's



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

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:



"Girl Goin' Nowhere"
Ashley McBride

Kevin's Song of the Week



Rock History In Pics

@RockHistoryPix

Following

Fleetwood Mac in New Orleans, Louisiana on June 5, 1977



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

If you don't have #time to do it right, when will you have time to do it over.

~John Wooden

#quotes #motivation

IF YOU DON'T HAVE
TIME TO DO IT
RIGHT, WHEN WILL
YOU HAVE TIME TO
DO IT OVER?

- JOHN WOODEN

happening in today's world. Not only here in the United States, but across the globe as well. US farmers need this type of help and information to assist them in their daily efforts. I commend you for a job well done. Please let me know if I can ever be of any help or assistance to you in the future..."

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

My Own Personal Truisms

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

neuro mining



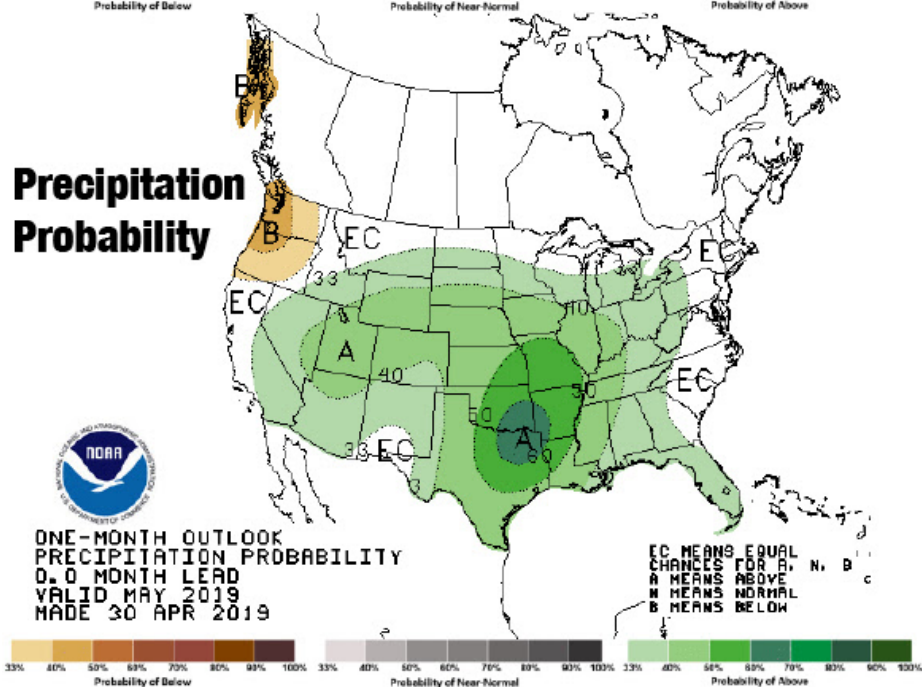
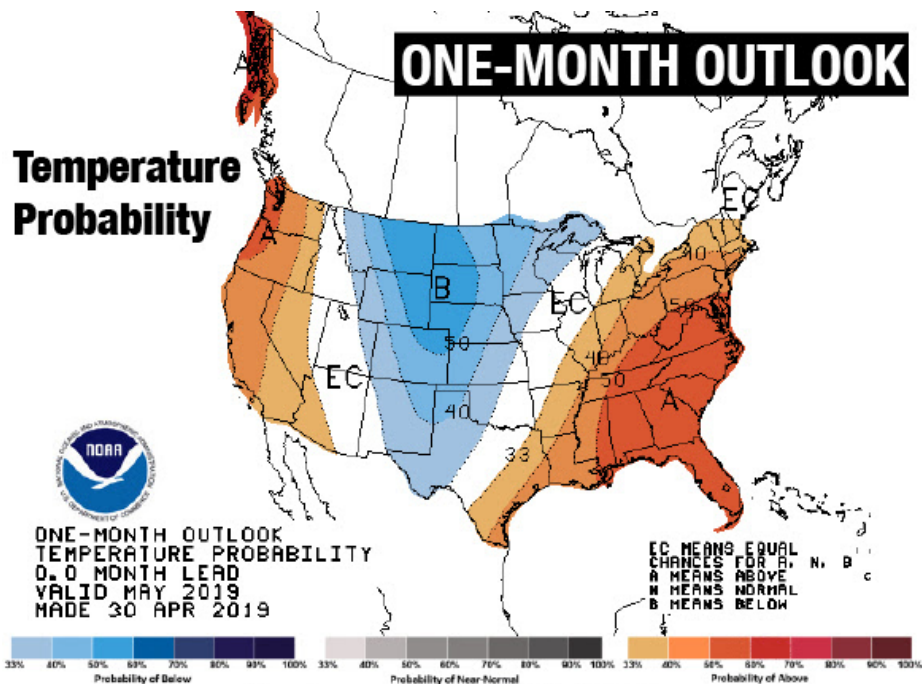
As we age, it gets harder and harder to create new neural pathways in the brain. It's the reason kids find it so easy to learn new things, but as adults it often gets more difficult. Doing brain teasers and solving riddles can be an important part of keeping our brain healthy. The more connections we can form, the better our brain will be. I hope this helps provide a little daily fun and exercise. The answer to each riddle or puzzle will be located at the bottom of the report.

TODAY'S RIDDLE:

Marking mortal privation, when firmly in place. An enduring summation, inscribed in my face. What am I?

More Confirmation This Will Continue To Be A Wet Start To Spring: This forecast doesn't look good for #Plant19 as much of the nation's mid-section is already very wet. As you can see in the outlooks below, wetter than normal conditions are the more likely scenario across the Midwest, with cool weather biased in the western Corn Belt and

warmth for the east. And when taking into account the forecast, the soil moisture map pictured below (showing data through April 30), is not likely to get drier anytime soon.



Farm Direction

RECIPES

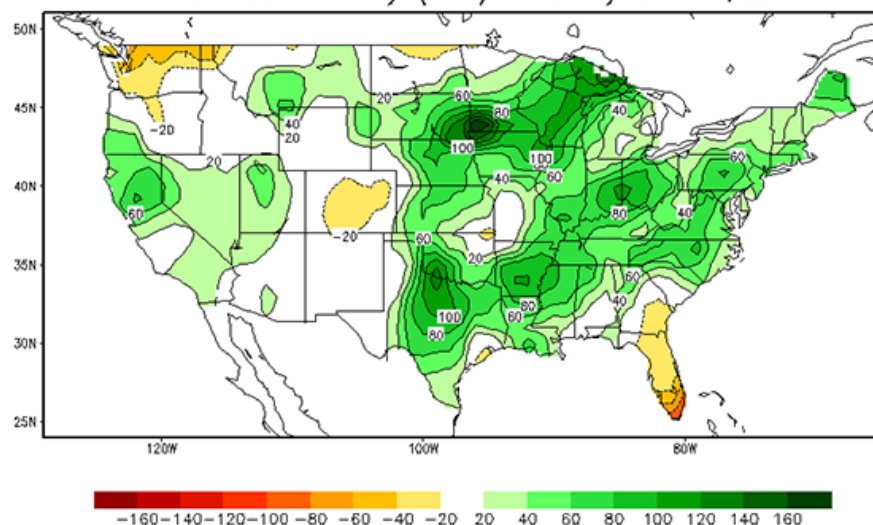
★ **FAMILY FAVORITES** ★

-SENT IN BY OUR READERS-

Spiced-Rubbed Pork Tenderloin

CLICK TO SEE RECIPE

Soil Moisture Anomaly (mm) Last day of APR, 2019



Corn bulls are pointing to more wet and cool conditions in the forecast which will further delay U.S. planting, starting to hear more talk of perhaps 3 to 5 million acres going to "preventive plant". Bears might also be backpedaling a bit on more rumors that a trade deal with China could be finalized by next Friday, May 10th. Weather here in the U.S. will continue to bring ongoing delays, especially in parts of Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri, and Tennessee. There are also many other areas in prime growing regions that are facing extreme conditions. Rumors are also circulating that we are closer to a resolution with China, which might slow some of the talk about slowing demand. The USDA reported corn used for ethanol in March at 441.7 million bushels vs. last year's March ethanol usage of 472.9 million bushels. In other words, we used 31 million fewer corn bushels in March this year compared to last. If you look back on the past seven months of the marketing year, we've used about -150 million fewer bushels of corn for ethanol. Which allows the bears to talk about a further reduction in the USDA's corn used for ethanol estimate. Hopefully, the Chinese will come in and help reverse those thoughts and bring some fresh buying to the space. As for South America, I continue to hear talk and rumors, from boots on the ground, that production estimates are creeping higher. In fact, the USDA's ag attaché over in Argentina is now forecasting this year's crop at 49.0 MMT vs. the current USDA estimate of 47.0 MMT's vs. last year's Argentine production of just 32.0 MMTs. Many traders and bearish fund managers, who are viewing the trade exclusively from a global perspective, argue that any early acreage losses or yield drag seen in the U.S., will be easily offset by a much larger crop out of South America. As a spec, I'm still not jumping in to be a big buyer. I'm worried we could see a little head fake or bounce to the upside then another wave of selling pressure. Bulls have had a hard time building on momentum for the past several months, I don't see that trend changing, unless there's a major bullish pitch delivered inside the Chinese trade details. Stay tuned!

Making Me Think? I was sent an e-mail from a good friend last night, it included the tweet below and said the following "I don't know the prevent plant dates, but heck, I would take the 370/acre, pay the 280 rent and take the year off!!!!

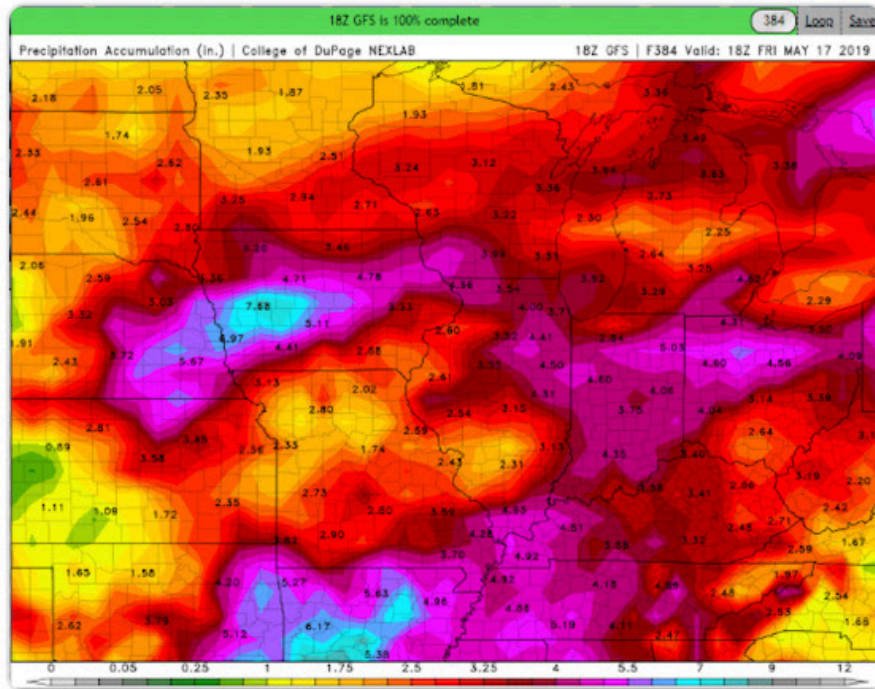


Jim McCormick
@jpmccormick3

Following



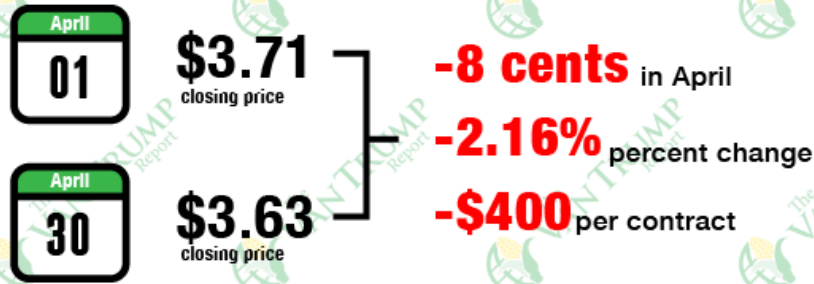
Evening GFS total precipitation accumulation forecast through May 17th If correct we could see huge amount of prevent plant acres 200 bpa #corn, 85 percent revenue policy with 55 percent prevent plant option could be a revenue of \$370/acre #plant19



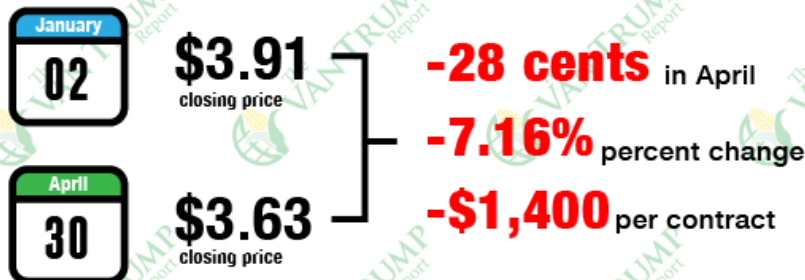
7:08 PM - 1 May 2019

Corn Price Action in April

July Contract (ZCN19)



Year-To-Date Change



Soybean bulls are pointing to rumors that we are getting closer to finalizing a deal with the Chinese. Lets hope those rumors are correct and bring a wave of nearby purchases. We could certainly use a bump in exports. Bears are thinking the USDA might also have their domestic crush estimate slightly overstated. Yesterday's data showed the total U.S. crush in March at 179.4 million bushels vs. 182.2 million bushels last March. This allows the bears to argue that the USDA's current domestic crush estimate is a bit too optimistic and will eventually need to be trimmed by -5 to -15 million bushels. At the same time demand is being questioned, bears are also heavily debating the U.S. acreage forecast, believing the acres could grow a bit larger as farmers battle delays in corn planting. Net-net, nothing really bullish to report other than the rumors of a Chinese trade deal. Even-then, bulls need the Chinese to be immediate nearby buyers of U.S. soybeans to make a significant difference. South America has replenished their supply and the U.S. export window continues to close. Perhaps there will be some fine print in the Chinese trade deal, that sparks a ton of bullish optimism and flushes a large number of bears. I'm not holding my breath, but remain optimistic. Weather here in the U.S. isn't really considered an issue at the moment for soybeans. Chinese trade however remains heavily in the spotlight.

Soybean Price Action in April

July Contract (ZSN19)



\$9.08
closing price

-54² cents in April



\$8.54
closing price

-5.97% percent change

-\$2,712 per contract

Year-To-Date Change



\$9.31²
closing price

-76⁶ cents in April

-8.24% percent change



\$8.54⁴
closing price

-\$3,837 per contract

Wheat bulls are pointing to a slightly weaker U.S. dollar, as well as some weather uncertainties in the forecast. The Wheat Quality Councils Kansas Wheat Crop Tour continues to deliver strong yield estimates and talk of a very strong crop. Results released last night were again similar to the first day, most survey teams seeing +5 to +10 bushel jump in yield compared to last year. The average yield for day two in southwest Kansas came in at 47.6 bushels per acre vs. 35.2 bushels per acre last year and the five-year tour average of 39.3 bushels per acre. There is a lot of talk that the crop is much more immature than in the past and late enough it might become exposed to heat stress and the summer extremes, we will continue to monitor. Scouts in Nebraska are actually estimating a slightly smaller crop than last year (47.4 million bushels vs. 49.5 million bushels), while scouts in Colorado are estimating their crop at just above 97 million bushels vs. just 70.5 million bushels produced last year. There's also more talk circulating about some of the problem areas reported in Canada. We are keeping an eye on this as dry conditions are creating some concerns. As a producer, I still see no reason to sell cash bushels down at these levels, even though we could be lower during the next 30-days. As a spec, I can understand some of the bottom-fishing, but urge traders to keep positions very small until longer-term visibility improves.

Chicago Wheat Price Action in April

July Contract (ZWN19)



\$4.68
closing price



\$4.29
closing price

-39 cents in April

-8.33% percent change

-\$1,950 per contract

Year-To-Date Change



\$5.20²
closing price



\$4.29
closing price

-91² cents in April

-17.54% percent change

-\$4,562.50 per contract



> **March Crush Numbers Up From Feb and Down From Last March:** Coming in as predicted, the March soybean crush numbers finished at 179.4 million bushels. That puts it up 10.2% from February crushings but 1.5% below March of last year. I'm told the meal yield per bushel crushed maintained its consistency of the crop year with a yield of only 46.82 pounds. That is the lowest yield for March for our data since 1981. Over the first six months of the soybean meal marketing year, the yield is pacing at 46.79 pounds. That also would be the lowest on record for marketing years since 1980-81 if there is no improvement this summer.

> **EPA Wants To Change Glyphosate Labels:** The EPA is calling for "management measures" to reduce glyphosate drift, along with a new requirement that discloses the risk of herbicide resistance. The label recommendations include warning farmers against spraying when winds exceed 15 mph or during temperature inversions. The agency did acknowledge that the weedkiller poses "potential risk" to mammals and birds, but only where the herbicide is sprayed. EPA also cited risks to plants in the ground and in water if the chemical drifts, but it said the benefits of glyphosate outweigh ecological risks when it's properly applied. (Source: EPA)

> **Rising Meat Prices Have Chains Scrambling:** China's swine fever is partly to blame, as McDonald's warned investors its commodity prices could rise as much as 3 percent this year. While China's KFC operator Yum China Holdings said spiking poultry costs will weigh down margins for the rest of the year. At Texas Roadhouse Inc., a chain specializing in steaks, higher prices are on the menu, with customers paying as much as 3 percent more as it tries to offset rising costs. (Source: Bloomberg)

> **Many American Families Lack Funds for Healthy Food:** Out of America's 3,142 counties, the rates of food insecurity range from 3% in Steele County, N.D., to as much as 36% in Jefferson County, Miss., the report found. And children are suffering the most: One in six kids or 12.5 million children are considered to be food insecure, and an estimated 750,000 live in New York City and Los Angeles.

> **Rural Broadband Could Return Big Benefits:** A new report says deployment of both broadband and precision-ag technology on U.S. farms could generate \$47 billion

"national economic benefits" annually. (Source: USDA)

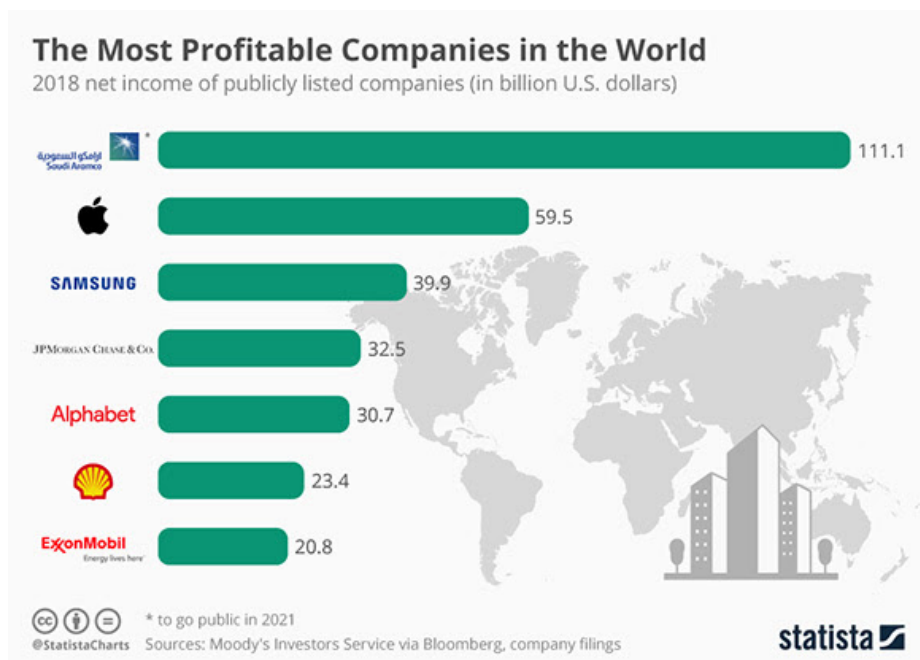
> House Ag Chair Returns from South America Trip: Ag Chairman Collin Peterson returned from a congressional trip to Argentina and Brazil and said that he doesn't see China's growing appetite for South American soybeans and other commodities as a long-term threat to U.S. farmers. He believes China will buy wherever they get the best deal. Peterson did say that until Brazil improves infrastructure

> GM Confirms It's Making an Electric Pickup Truck: Speaking on a call to investors, GM CEO Mary Barra reiterated the company intends to create an all-electric future that includes a complete range of EVs -- including full-size pickups. This is timely news considering Ford recently made some noise last week when they announced an investment of \$500 million into Rivian, a startup American electric off-roading brand. While GM has yet to provide any details of its electric pickup plans, it did announce plans for 20 new electric vehicles by 2023. It's also noteworthy that GM is entering the phaseout stage of the U.S. electric vehicle federal tax credit, whereas Ford and Rivian still have thousands of EVs to sell before they have to worry. (Source: Jalopnik)

> Perfect ACT Scores Not so Unusual Anymore: Turns out, the number of perfect ACT scores nationwide has more than doubled since 2015 and is six times higher today than it was eight years ago. In 2010, 1 of every 2,600 students nailed a perfect score. In 2018, it was 1 of every 500. ACT officials say the test, which more than 1.9 million students took last year, hasn't changed in any meaningful way since 1989. I'm told paying a few thousand dollars for tutoring may not be a bad idea as a 4-point improvement on the test could make a student eligible for as much as \$100,000 in financial aid. (Source: USAToday)

> Google to Allow Users to Delete Old Location and Web History: Currently, you need to remember to visit Google and delete this information, or turn it off completely. But if you turn off location or web history, that can hurt your experience, as Google might not know enough about you to recommend things you might like. This sounds like a happy medium, since you can tell Google to delete all information older than a certain age -- either 3 or 18 months -- on a rolling basis.

> The Most Profitable Companies in the World: In preparation to be public listed, Saudi state oil company Saudi Aramco had to disclose company reports and was subsequently rated by Moody's to have earned US\$111.1 billion in 2018, far surpassing all competitors. In fact, the Saudi company's net profit equaled that of Apple, Google parent company Alphabet and Exxon Mobil combined. Previously, Saudi Aramco's accounts had remained mostly secret since the company was nationalized in the 1970s. Saudi Aramco's IPO was originally scheduled to take place in the previous year but has been rescheduled for 2021. (Source: Statista)



Northern South Dakota – I am hearing guys are already returning their wheat seed because of how late we are getting. For this area, the cut off for most guys is going to May 10th. We are just a little to wet to get in the field by the weekend but should be able to start field work beginning of next week. If it doesn't rain between now and then we should be able to go on our wheat or corn. We are a heck of a lot better then last year when it was dry as a bone. What I'm hearing is guys would be better off pushing corn planting as late as possible and preventive plant the balance of the acre's vs planting soybeans at \$7. Our cash price is still fairly soft but has improved a little since harvest.

Eastern Nebraska – We might get to the point where it's dry enough to get out in the fields but as the temperature's pick-up so do our rain chances. We stay fairly cool until the weekend but should push to nearly 80 degrees by Sunday. We have chances of rain the first 5 days of next week, but we should clear up after that. We have about 10% of our corn planted at this point. We are earlier then most farmers in this area because most guys have very little if not any planted. We normally wouldn't even try to plant in the conditions we planted in, but we just feel like opportunities this year might be limited. At this point we don't plan on changing our rotation unless we have too.

Central Illinois - We didn't get all our NH3 put on in the fall for the first time ever. We have only been able to put on 80 acres this spring and pushed that. We have several more acres to put on before we can plant which we are probably going to switch to 32%. Not one farmer has planted a thing in this area that is very wet and the forecast for this week has 4 days of rain that could be severe. Most all the corn was planted last year at this time along with a lot of beans. What a difference a year makes. If all were sitting in our predicament, I would think the markets might adjust at some point if it continues to keep us out of the field states wide. Stay safe as the long, fast pace hours will be here hopefully soon!



Keeping Small Refinery Exemptions in Check: *It was recently reported that the EPA will likely be considering the 39 pending petitions for 2018 small refinery exemptions very soon. The EPA approved 53 small refinery waivers from 2016 and 2017, and these waivers have a direct impact on rural America and corn farmers. With an already tough economic environment, more waivers will continue to chip away at farmers' bottom line by destroying demand for corn. While the EPA is at least moving toward greater transparency, proposing to lift the veil of secrecy around these handouts and perhaps name all the companies that win special treatment, I thought I'd share 39 reasons the EPA should stop granting any more Small Refinery Exemptions, according to the National Corn Growers Association. Click [HERE](#) to read.*

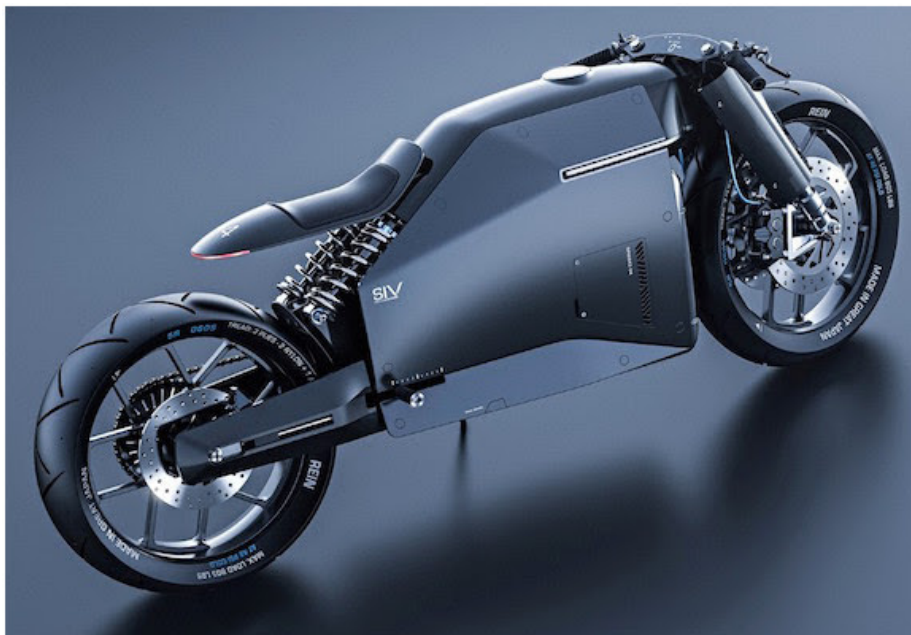
Amazon's Blockchain is Ready for Use: *Amazon Managed Blockchain is now available and is a fully managed service designed to help companies quickly set up blockchain networks of their own that are scalable and easy to create and manage. Arriving first in northern Virginia before expanding to other regions over the course of the next year, I should mention that applications will vary based on your business's needs, for example, Hyperledger Fabric is well-suited for applications that require stringent privacy and permission controls with a known set of members, for example a financial application in which sensitive information is shared only with select banks. In contrast, Ethereum's use is for situations where transparency for all members is key and a blockchain network needs to be highly distributed, with an example being a customer loyalty blockchain network that allows any retailer in the network to independently verify a user's activity across all members to redeem benefits. I know it may all still sound confusing but believe me this is the way business will be done so be sure to understand the technology. Read more [HERE](#).*

How One Woman Preserved More Than 30 Years of TV History: *Nearly 71,000 VHS and betamax cassettes are sitting in boxes, stacked 50-to-a-pallet in the Internet Archive's physical storage facility in Richmond, California, waiting to be digitized. The tapes are not in any order at all as they got a jumbled in the many miles they put on to reach their final destination. First recorded in Marion Stokes's home in the Barclay Condominiums in Rittenhouse Square in Philadelphia, the tapes had been distributed among nine additional apartments she purchased solely for storage purposes during her life. Later, they passed on to her children, into storage, and finally to the California-based archive. Although no one knew it at the time, the recordings Stokes made from 1975 until her death in 2012 are the only comprehensive collection preserving this period in television media history. Read more [HERE](#) on how the Internet Archive will honor the same vision as Marion.*

Final Straws Problem Sucks: *Emma Cohen's business started out beyond her wildest dreams, but soon she discovered a threat to the brand she was building. Her company, FinalStraw, makes an environmentally friendly reusable straw, which took off on crowdfunding website Kickstarter about year ago. Then a few months later, in October,*

it got to pitch its product on ABC's "Shark Tank," and soon after launching, realized she had an unexpected problem — loads of counterfeits were coming to market from across the globe. Her purpose was simple, to reduce single-use plastic waste. And when people get one of these [knockoff straws], and they open it up, and it doesn't work, and it only cost \$5, guess where it's going? It's going in the trash," said Cohen, FinalStraw's CEO. "The entire mission of what we're trying to do as a company has been defeated by these fake FinalStraws. I should mention that FinalStraw sells its collapsible straw for \$25 and it comes in a carrying case with a cleaning brush. In 2018, the brand made \$5 million in revenue. Read more [HERE](#) on how CNBC travelled to China to help Cohen, click [HERE](#) to learn more about the FinalStraw.

How Japanese Culture Shaped a Cool New Motorcycle Design: Designers Artem Smirnov & Vladimir Panchenko believe Japan's design ethos lies heavily on their culture and history, pulling inspiration from minimalism, origami, and traditions like the samurai spirit, but a heavy European influence has resulted in Japan's large automobile industry following cues that aren't originally Japanese. So the duo set out to design a motorbike that is indicative of Japan's culture, spirit, and aesthetic. Making use of planar surfaces reminiscent of samurai uniforms, and a body with an origami-inspired form, the designers take care to go the distance by integrating a Samurai-sword-style woven handle for the handlebar grips! The bike comes with a styled carbon-fiber body, which not only makes the bike lighter and faster, but allows it to achieve its origami-style design rather seamlessly. More innovation lies in the dual-suspension on the front and the back, along with an adjustable seat for comfort, and what looks like a push-to-accelerate footrest. See more [HERE](#).






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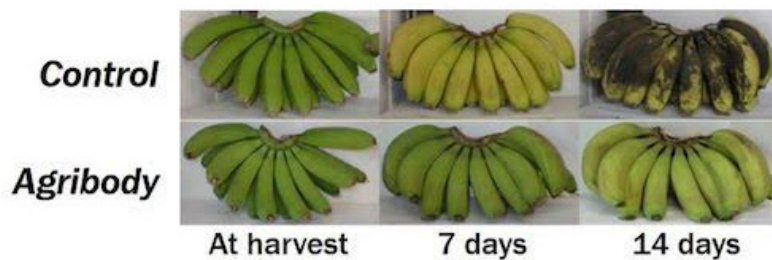
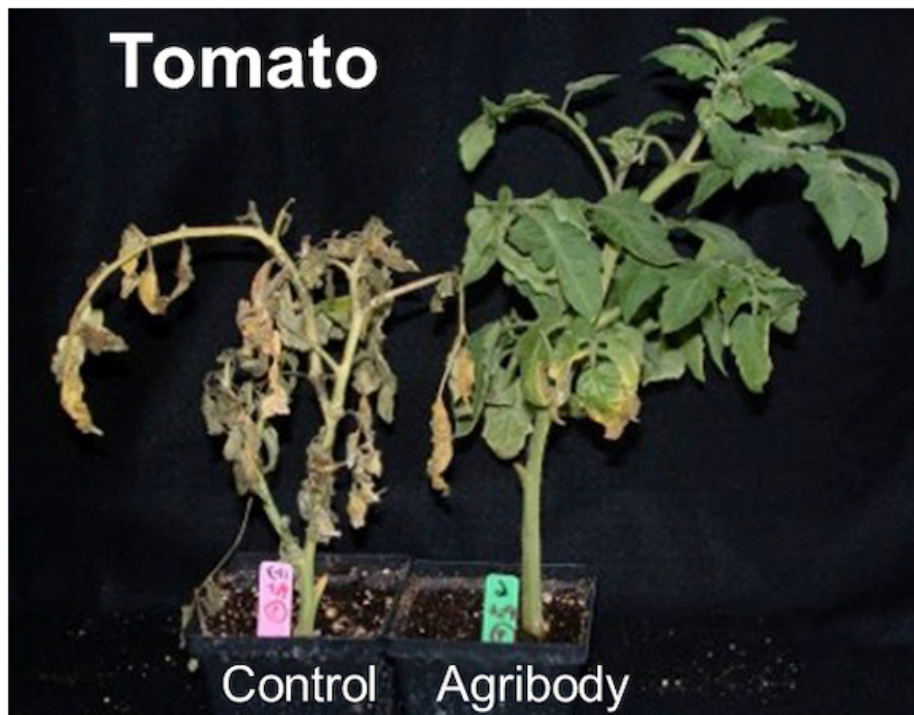
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Learn More About "Agribody Technologies"

Title: The Future of Genetically Modified Organisms**Time: Thursday, May 02 @ 3:00 pm CT**

Join us for a conversation with Dr. Jerry Feitelson about the history and future of genetically modified organisms, gene editing, and more. He'll share information on product labeling, consumer education, and recent policy changes in the US. Feitelson has over 30 years of industrial research experience in agricultural biotechnology, drug discovery, proteomics, research tools, and biofuels. He's currently the Co-founder and CEO of Agribody Technologies, Inc, which is a company that applies a proven solution to food-sourcing problems due to ever-growing population, decreasing farmland availability, and climate change by increasing crop yields by at least 20% and extending shelf life of perishable products by 2-3x. In addition, he served as Chief Scientific Officer of Global Clean Energy Holdings, Inc, an inventor of 13 U.S. patents, 7 pending patents, author of 50 peer-reviewed scientific publications, and graduate at Massachusetts Institute of Technology as well as earning a PhD. in genetics at Stanford University. Keep in mind, genetic modification or genome editing technology targets a validated, very early biological switch the delays plant senescence, while increasing resistance to diseases and sublethal stresses such as drought, heat, cold, salt, low nutrients, and crowding in many key crop plants, so this isn't information you want to miss out on. Remember, this special edition of AgriFood Conversations with extremely helpful insight doesn't run on a regular basis! Learn more at "The History and Future of Genetically Modified Organisms & Consumers: A Conversation with Dr. Jerry Feitelson," a webinar to be held at 3 pm CT on May 2nd featuring Dr. Jerry Feitelson, CEO and Co-Founder of Agribody Technologies.

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"Alphabet" First Drone Operator to Receive FAA Approval... Why it Matters!

Alphabet's spinoff company, Wing, recently gained FAA approval and reportedly plans to begin routine deliveries of small consumer items in two rural communities in Virginia

within the next few months, which is an important step that gives the company the first legal authority in the U.S. to begin dropping products to actual customers by air. To get to this point, Wing has been testing its drones in a suburb of Canberra, Australia, where they have made more than 3,000 deliveries to show the drones' safety and gain the approval. Keep in mind, drone regulations still don't allow most flights over crowds and urban areas that limit where Wing can operate, but with these new approvals signed by the FAA, it gives the company the ability to charge for deliveries of clients' goods and apply for permission to expand to other regions. In addition, the exact locations where Wing drones are allowed are yet to be determined. Wing's drones are like a hybrid between a helicopter and plane powered by 14 propellers, which is able to lift off vertically and fly horizontally at high speeds. They're meant to deliver a wide range of everyday items, from food and drinks to medicine and emergency supplies. From what I understand, the drones will carry packages up to 3.3 pounds in its belly, which lowers the item to people's front door with a hook while it hovers a safe distance of about 20 feet overhead. The government sees an advantage in these drones, and are helping to push them to market as they dramatically reduced carbon emissions and road congestion. Keep in mind, not everyone in the U.S. has accepted the idea of using drones in populated areas. A Pew Research Center survey found that 54% of Americans actually disapprove of drones flying near homes. The main reason many of these Americans disapproved is because of concerns with noise and privacy. In addition, other experts in the space have questions about the economics, will there be a premium having items delivered by drone? Some sources are saying there could ultimately be a discount in freight and shipping charges. I suspect no matter how hard people fight against this technology, we are eventually going to move this direction. In addition, I don't expect to see these drones popping up in neighborhoods near me for a few more years. Click [HERE](#) to watch how these drones work!



Oldie but Goodie...

As a break from the daily grind and negative news headlines, I thought I would pass along a funny story that has again recirculated back my direction. Both Michelle and I had a real laugh reading again... I hope it brings a smile to your face!

A first-grade teacher was having trouble with one of her students. One day she asked Johnny what his problem was, and he replied, 'I'm too smart for the first grade, my sister is in the third grade and I'm smarter than her too.'

The teacher took him to the principal's office and explained the situation to the principal.

The principal told her that he would give Johnny a test, and if he failed to answer one question, he would go back to the first grade and be quiet.

The teacher and Johnny both agreed.

Principal: "What is 3×3 ?"

Johnny: "9"

Principal: "6 x 6?"

Johnny: "36"

And so it went on like this, the principal asked him every question a third grader should know.

Finally, after about an hour, he told the teacher, "I see no reason Johnny can't go to the third grade, he answered all of my questions right."

The teacher asked if she could ask him some questions.

The principal and Johnny agree.

Teacher: "What does a cow have 4 of that I only have 2 of?"

Johnny: "Legs"

Teacher: "What do you have in your pants that I don't have?" the principal gasps but before he can stop him from answering, Johnny says, "pockets."

Teacher: "What does a dog do that a man steps into?"

Johnny: "Pants"

Teacher: What starts with F and ends with K and means a lot of excitement?"

Johnny: "Firetruck"

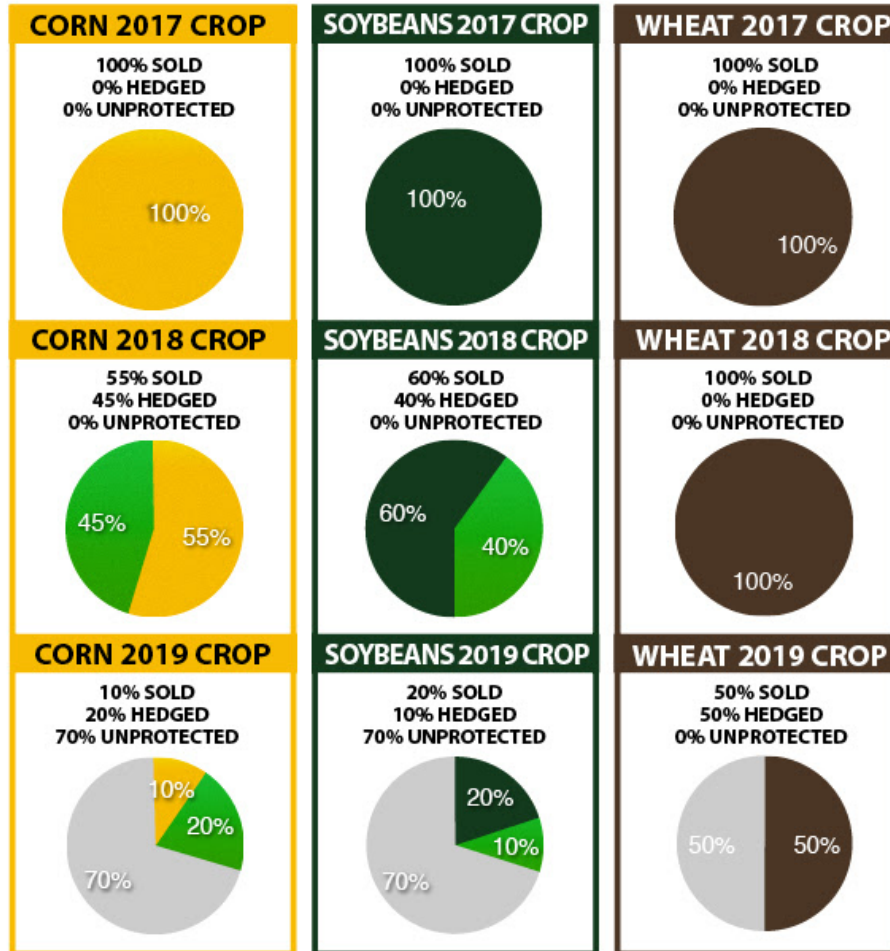
The principal breaths a big sigh of relief and says "Heck, put Johnny in the fifth grade, I got the last 4 questions wrong myself!!!"



ANSWER to riddle: A Tombstone.

CASH SALES & HEDGING TOTALS

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