

GOOD MORNING: 05/24/19 Farm Direction - Van Trump Report

1 message

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

Fri, May 24, 2019 at 7:30 AM

Reply-To: Jordan <reply-fecf16787165057d-314_HTML-36250946-100003450-1@vantrumpreport-email.com>

To: info@farmdirection.com



"America was not built on fear. America was built on courage, on imagination and an unbeatable determination to do the job at hand." - Harry Truman

FRIDAY, MAY 24, 2019
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Morning Summary: Stocks are slightly higher this morning as traders continue to try and read between the lines in regard to U.S. and Chinese trade negotiations. Bears are saying, China isn't interested in advancing trade talks as long as U.S. officials continue to pressure Chinese tech giant Huawei. This is prompting bears to once again start talking about the weight of tariffs and how it's slowing global growth. On the flip side, bulls are pointing to rumors out of Washington that perhaps a trade deal with China will be finalized much sooner than the media is forecasting. Talk revolving around the Fed seems mostly mixed. Bears are pointing to the fact the Fed doesn't seem eager to cut rates. Bulls are pointing to thoughts that the Fed is looking to keep rates low and not interested in raising them anytime soon. Net-net, the Fed doesn't seem to be much of a factor right now. There's really not a lot on today's economic calendar. Yesterday, the trade was again looking at weaker than expected U.S. new home sales. The median sales price of a new home in April was \$342,200, up from \$314,400 last year. I am also keeping an eye on the European elections. UK Prime Minister Theresa May has announced her resignation after repeatedly failing to win Parliament's approval for a deal to withdraw the country from the European Union. Mrs. May said it was in the "best interests of the country for a new prime minister" to lead Britain through the Brexit process. She announced plans to officially step down as the leader of the Conservative Party on June 7. Current candidates likely to replace Mrs. May including former foreign secretary, Boris Johnson, Dominic Raab, and Andrea Leadsom. As for next week, remember it's a shortened trade week with the U.S. markets closed on Monday in recognition of Memorial Day. As for economic data, the trade will be keeping an eye on a wave of Fed speakers, revised U.S. GDP numbers, Bank of Canada rate announcement, and a heavy dose of Chinese data. Please stay safe this holiday weekend and thank a veteran for their service and dedication!

A Door-to-Door Delivery Company Worth +\$12 Billion! *The investor feeding frenzy around food-delivery startups hasn't stopped. Just three months after raising \$400 million, DoorDash confirmed it has closed another \$600 million with New York City hedge fund Darsana Capital Partners leading the round. That's an extra billion in its war chest so far this year, and half of the total of \$2 billion raised for the San Francisco startup since its founding in 2013. I should mention the new funding round increases DoorDash's post-money valuation from \$7 billion to \$12.6 billion, according to cofounder and CEO Tony Xu. Keep in mind, three years ago, it didn't look like DoorDash would become the delivery darling, as DoorDash raised a down funding round, after investors lowered the share price, and a slew of other delivery startups failed in the months following. That's changed, and now DoorDash's market share has surpassed Postmates and Uber Eats in the U.S. Xu says the money won't be going into fueling a price war with its rivals. He'd rather focus on market expansion and what he calls DoorDash's next billion-dollar business, DoorDash Drive, which delivers for businesses like Walmart. "Our growth has not come on the back of any discounts," he said. "I think that's why investors have continued to approach us in an excessive fashion since the beginning of 2018."*

Latest Tariffs Could Hit Closer to the Checkbook: *For the past few quarters, retailers have warned analysts about the U.S.-China trade war's potential to hurt sales. It's important to note, those effects have been invisible so far because the first two rounds of tariffed products largely excluded "consumer goods". We will*



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Today In History

now be seeing 25% tariffs on things like instant coffee, bathrobes and many common consumer products imported from China like clothes and shoes. It will be interesting to see how businesses and consumers respond. Some businesses who have been struggling, might be entirely punched out of the game, i.e. Dressbarn and Payless shoes, both who have recently announced major store closings. There are even some big popular names like Nike and Adidas who seem heavily concerned, especially if we remain in this elevated tariff environment for an extend period.

AAA Predicts Record Number of Memorial Day Travelers: Nearly 43 million Americans will travel +50 miles or more for the holiday, which for many will start Thursday, May 23 and run through Tuesday, May 28. Total travelers are +3.6% more than last year. Nearly +5% more will travel by air, a total of 3.25 million and 1.9 million will use some other form of travel, train, bus or cruise. The overwhelming majority, 37.6 million, will drive to their destination, a record for the holiday. AAA expects to rescue more than 353,000 drivers over the holiday weekend with flat tires, dead batteries and lockouts the leading cause of breakdowns. Bottom-line, be careful on the roads this holiday weekend as there seem to be a growing number of distracted drivers. (Source: AAA)



Kevin Van Trump ✓

@KevinVanTrump

Our office will be closed on Monday May 27th, 2019 to observe **#MemorialDay**



FARM TANK

Tweets of the Day



1844, What hath God wrought? - In a

demonstration witnessed by members of Congress, American inventor Samuel F.B.

Morse dispatches a telegraph message from the U.S. Capitol to Alfred Vail at a railroad station in Baltimore, Maryland. The message—"What Hath God Wrought?"—was telegraphed back to the Capitol a moment later by Vail. The question, taken from the Bible (Numbers 23:23), had been suggested to Morse by Annie Ellworth, the daughter of the commissioner of patents. Morse, an accomplished painter, learned of a French inventor's idea of an electric telegraph in 1832 and then spent the next 12 years attempting to perfect a working telegraph instrument. During this period, he composed the Morse code, a set of signals that could represent language in telegraph messages, and convinced Congress to finance a Washington-to-Baltimore telegraph line. On May 24, 1844, he inaugurated the world's first commercial telegraph line with a message that was fitting given the invention's future effects on American life. Just a decade after the first line opened, more than 20,000 miles of telegraph cable crisscrossed the country. The rapid communication it enabled greatly aided American expansion, making railroad travel safer as it provided a boost to business conducted across the great distances of a growing United States.



1864, Battle of North Anna Continues - Union General

Ulysses S. Grant continues to pound away at Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia in

the engagement along the North Anna River in central Virginia, that had begun the day before. Since early May, Lee and Grant had been slugging it out along an arc from the Wilderness to Spotsylvania and to Hanover Junction, on the North Anna River. Grant was doing what other Union commanders had failed to do since 1861: ensuring that the Army of Northern Virginia was in constant action to prevent them from retooling. The cost in men, however, was frighteningly high. Grant had lost 33,000 troops in the fighting at the Wilderness and Spotsylvania. Worse, he could not gain the upper hand over Lee. As they raced along the arc, Lee had the advantage of moving along the interior lines, while Grant moved on the outside. As a result, Lee always had a shorter distance to the next point on the waltz around Richmond. At North Anna, Lee beat Grant to the river and quickly assumed a strong position on the high, steep banks. Grant had made two attacks the previous day but each failed. On May 24, the Yankees again probed Lee's position but could not penetrate the Confederate defenses. On another part of the line, a Union brigade carried out an unauthorized assault by a general named James Ledlie, who was evidently drunk. Crossing near Ox Ford in the strongest part of the Confederate line, Ledlie's men nearly broke through before retreating.

America's favorite #beer brands are European, with @Heineken and @GuinnessUS topping the list via @YouGov

bit.ly/30ANJq6

America's Favorite Beers Are European

Share of people who rated the following beer brands positively in 2019



@StatistaCharts Source: YouGov

statista



Jon Erlichman

@JonErlichman

Following

Price Disney paid to acquire Marvel: \$4 billion

Box office gross for 4 Avengers films: \$7.6 billion

AVENGERS
\$1.52 billion

AVENGERS
AGE OF ULTRON
\$1.41 billion

AVENGERS
INFINITY WAR
\$2.05 billion

AVENGERS
ENDGAME
\$2.61 billion

Surprisingly, Ledlie never faced any punishment, despite the fact that 220 men were lost in the charge. The engagement at North Anna was small by the standards of this campaign. Grant was wise to refrain from an all-out assault on the Confederate position. However, he was not as cautious just a week later at Cold Harbor, Virginia, where Northern soldiers were butchered wholesale in a devastating attack on fortified Rebels.



1974, Duke Ellington Dies -

The highest compliment Edward Kennedy Ellington knew how to pay to a fellow musician was to refer to him as being "beyond category." If any label could possibly capture the essence of Ellington himself, it would be that one. In a career spanning five decades, the man they called "Duke" put an indelible stamp on 20th-century American music as an instrumentalist, as a composer and as an orchestra leader. Equally at home and equally revered in the Cotton Club and Carnegie Hall, if any musician ever defied categorization, it was Duke Ellington. Fifty years after becoming a household name, and without slowing down professionally until the very end, Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington died on May 24, 1974, at the age of 75. One of the keys to understanding Duke Ellington's persona is to know how and when he received his noble nickname. Unlike Elvis Presley and Aretha Franklin, who were called the King and Queen of their respective genres because of their professional accomplishments, Edward Ellington became the Duke because of his suave demeanor and elegant bearing while still a schoolboy in Washington, D.C. As Studs Terkel put it, "His casual, offhand manner, his easy grace, and his dapper dress gave him the bearing of a young nobleman." The same qualities would remain with Ellington throughout his adult life. Even if Ellington had limited himself to being a composer, he would deserve a reputation as one of the 20th century's best purely on the strength of "Mood Indigo" (1930), "It Don't Mean a Thing (If It Ain't Got That Swing)" (1932), "Sophisticated Lady" (1933) and "Do Nothing Till You Hear from Me" (1940). But Ellington was much more than a composer. His Duke Ellington Orchestra served as an incubator for some of the greatest instrumentalists of the jazz age and became famous for a sound that no other orchestra could mimic. As the conductor/composer Andre Previn once said in comparing Ellington to another jazz orchestra leader of far more modest talent: "Stan Kenton can stand in front of a thousand fiddles and a thousand brass and make a dramatic gesture and every studio arranger can nod his head and say, 'Oh, yes, that's done like this.' But Duke merely lifts his finger, three horns make a sound and I don't know what it is." The style of music that brought him to fame passed in and out of fashion over the decades following his commercial peak, but Ellington himself was never content to work within that style anyway. Over the



Brian Hildebrand
@hildebrandbrian

Following

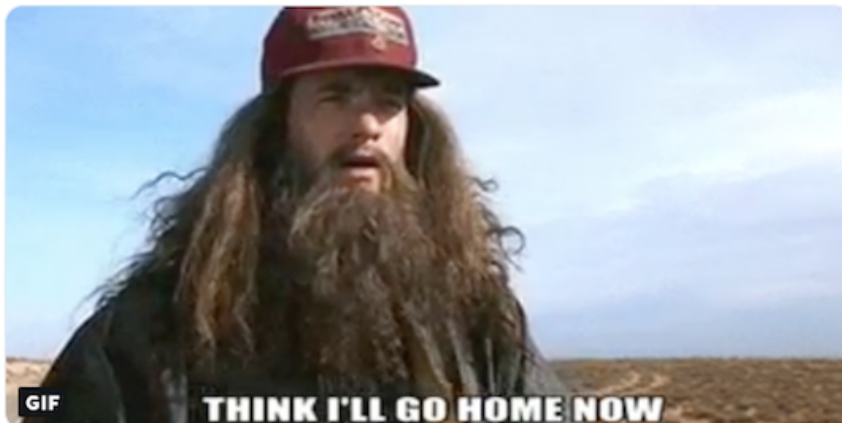
#plant19 is 99.5% complete. Happy to be parked for the rain.



Jason Becker
@JasonBecker4955

Following

Irrigated #plant19 is in the dirt! Managed to squeeze a full weeks worth of work into 4 days. Let it rain and we'll get to work on the dryland.



course of his career, Ellington never stopped pushing himself into new territory, from long-form orchestral jazz compositions to sacred church music. "Every morning you wake up, it's a new day, isn't it?" he once said. "Is there any reason why a human being shouldn't be influenced by a new day?" Jazz historian Ralph Gleason called him "The greatest composer American society has produced." Duke Ellington himself would likely have been satisfied with simply "beyond category."

Upcoming Events

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

Mon. 06/03 - Grain Crashings

Thur. 06/06 - Export Sales, Jobless Claims

Fri. 06/07 - Unemployment Numbers, Wholesale Trade

Mon. 06/10 - Export Inspections, Crop Progress

Tues. 06/11 - USDA Supply/Demand, Crop Production

Wed. 06/12 - Real Earnings

Thurs. 06/13 - Export Sales, Jobless Claims

Fri. 06/14 - Flag Day, Retail Sales

Sat. 06/15 - Father's Day

Mon. 06/17 - Export Inspections, Crop Progress, NOPA Crush

Tues. 06/18 - FOMC Meeting (Day 1), Housing Starts & Pmts

Wed. 06/19 - FOMC Meeting (Day 2)

Thurs. 06/20 - Export Sales, Jobless Claims

Fri. 06/21 - Summer Begins, Cattle on Feed

Mon. 06/24 - Export Inspections, Crop Progress, Cold Storage

Tues. 06/25 - Consumer Confidence, New Home Sales

Thurs. 06/27 - Export Sales, GDP, Jobless Claims, Hogs and Pigs

Fri. 06/28 - Grain Stocks, Planted Acreage

Kevin's Song of the Week



Big D
@cdiedrich23

Following

Basically how No #Plant19 is currently going.



KATTLE KITTEN
@KATTLEKITTEN

Following

We are ready for #Plant19



WHAT I'M LISTENING TO:



"Shallow"
Danielle Bradbery - Shallow ft. Parker McCollum

Kevin's Song of the Week

NEXT | level
THINKING

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

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

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

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

Kevin Van Trump

What Others Are Saying

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



Thank you Lord!

dear god,
today i woke up.
i am healthy.
i am alive.
thank you.

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

A.M., FDIC

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

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

My Own Personal Truisms

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

neuro mining

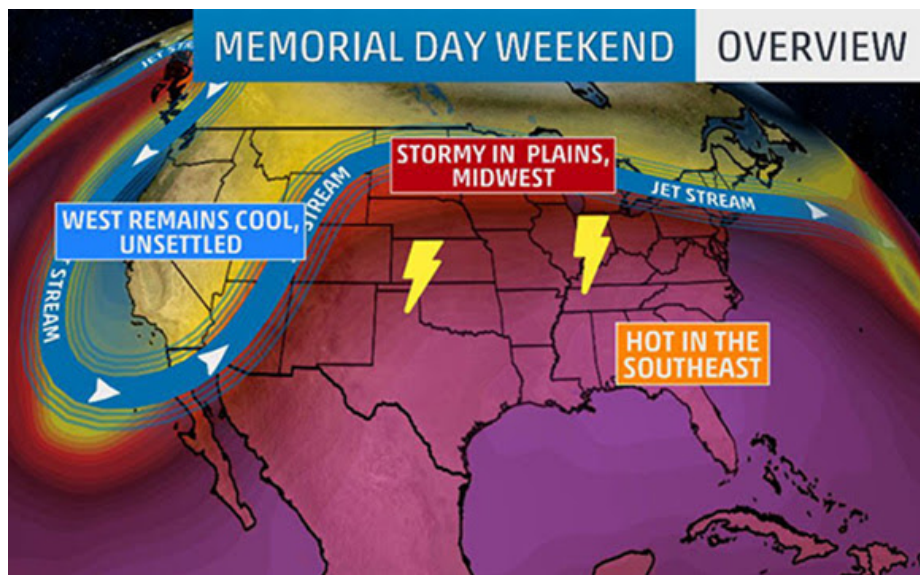


As we age, it gets harder and harder to create new neural pathways in the brain. It's the reason kids find it so easy to learn new things, but as adults it often gets more difficult. Doing brain teasers and solving riddles can be an important part of keeping our brain healthy. The more connections we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

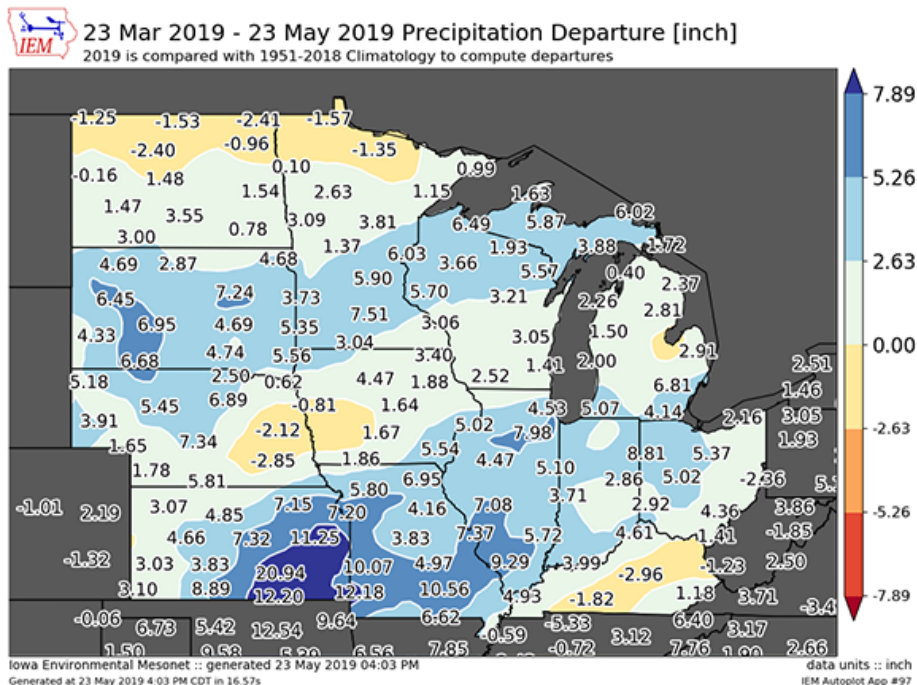
TODAY'S RIDDLE:

What did one flag say to the other flag?

Hot and Wet This Memorial Weekend: The holidays is expected to see thunderstorm and rain continue across the Plains and Midwest, same as it's been for weeks now. Along with rain across much of the nation, near-record heat is anticipated as well. In the Southeast, highs will be in the 90s. As for the Midwest it will be in the 70s and 80s on Saturday. And the Wet will be cool for late May. It is not the best weather outlook for the nearly 43 million Americans expected to take to the roads or sky this Memorial Day weekend. This is the second-highest holiday travel volume in records dating back to 2000, according to AAA.



Comparing This Spring's Rainfall Totals to the Average? This map shows Plant19 precipitation compared with average (based on 1951 - 2018 data). I went ahead and took the data back two months from March 23 through May 23. Looking at as much as 22 inches above average in places, just in this two-month timeframe.



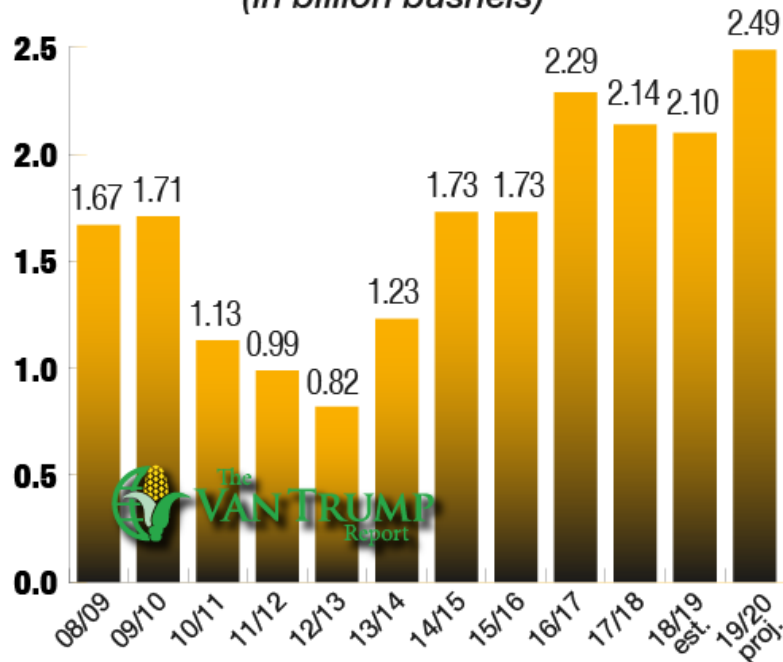
Corn bulls took a step back as there's some questions regarding the next round of "trade aid". Bears are saying it could influence the producers and perhaps incentivize for late planting. In other words, there's some hesitation as a producer might now be less apt to take "preventive plant", instead planting late and taking a shot on raising a crop. I personally don't see it as a game changer. The weather forecast remains extremely wet for next week and many producers are looking at a massive number of unplanted acres into late-May and early-June. There's also a large amount of acres that need to be re-planted. Keep in mind, the corn market moved higher for nine consecutive sessions, gaining +50 cents from its most recent lows. Myself and several large traders have been talking this week, and we have found it somewhat interesting that we've seen such an orderly flow to this market. Traditionally, with this type of weather event we would have expected to see much more violent type price action. Psychologically, weather markets can be extremely difficult to trade. The market can be subject to multiple extremes within the flip of the switch or a simple change in the forecast. I think many of us bulls thought prices would be even higher heading into the extended Memorial Day weekend. But we have to remind ourselves, almost everything else in the market has been bearish, i.e. an extremely strong U.S. dollar, +32 MMTS of additional corn being harvested in South America this year compared to last, ongoing trade uncertainties, overly burdensome domestic supply, a struggling ethanol industry, etc... I'm staying bullish and extremely patient with this market. I simply think it's



going to take some time for all of the details to play out. Therefore, I'm making certain I don't get overly-leveraged so not to get shaken out of the market. Producers who priced new-crop bushels via accumulator type contracts might also want to take a wait-and-see approach in regards to making additional new-crop sales.

U.S. Corn Ending Stocks

(in billion bushels)

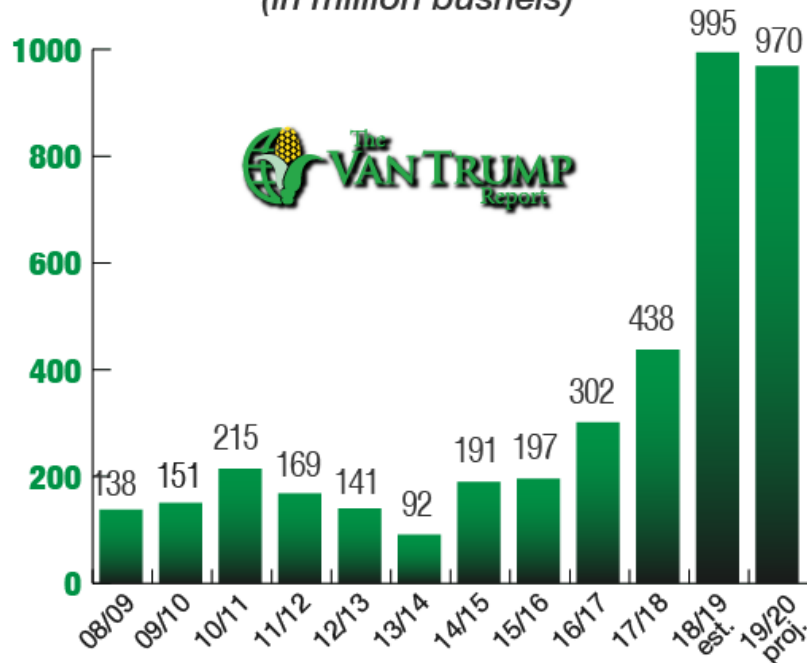


Source: USDA, WASDE numbers from May 10, 2019 report

Soybean traders continue to pull prices back-and-forth as ongoing uncertainties swirl around Chinese trade, African Swine Fever, U.S. subsidies, weather, etc... Bears continue to point to burdensome domestic supplies and a strong South American crop. There's also talk that weather and Washington might somehow encourage more soybean acres. On the flip side, bulls are pointing to ongoing weather complications and extremes here in the U.S. as reason enough to now start worrying. I'm personally finding myself more in agreement with the bulls, perhaps a story is brewing. Keeping a very close eye on trade headlines. There was talk circulating from inside Washington that a trade deal with China might get done sooner than many in the market are currently projecting. Bulls seem a bit hesitant to bite on the headlines as they've been burnt in the past on similar rumors. As a spec, I'm starting to like the thought of buying a significant break in the market. Bottom-line, I'm paying very close attention to the soybean market as U.S. planting and production start to become more debatable. New-crop NOV19 soybean prices really haven't done much all week, down roughly -10 cents from Monday's high. As a spec, I remain on the sideline, but thinkingly strongly about buying the next significant break in price. But with current burdensome supply on the domestic balance sheet and China trade relations in limbo, I'm in no real hurry to get overly aggressive on the buy-side!

U.S. Soybean Ending Stocks

(in million bushels)

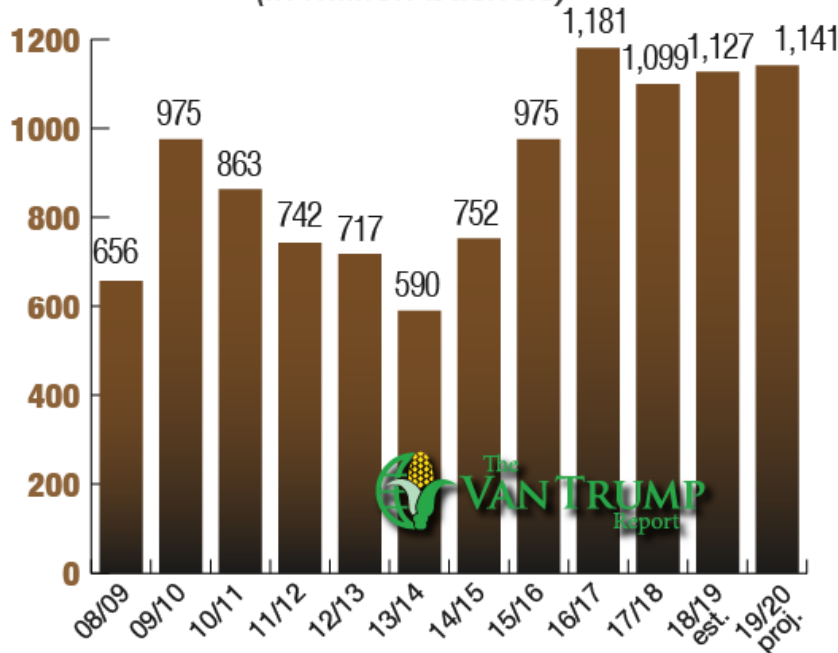


Source: USDA, WASDE numbers from May 10, 2019 report

Wheat prices have struggled to find much ongoing upward traction after peaking on Monday. The ongoing concerns surrounding trade negotiations and subsidies from Washington have been enough to cause just a bit of uncertainty in the market and reason enough for the bulls to momentarily pause. I wrote earlier in the week, I was worried that the wheat market wouldn't be able to sustain ongoing upside momentum on its own merits. Instead it would probably need the help of ongoing higher prices from corn and perhaps even soybeans. Since corn and soybeans have somewhat stalled, wheat bulls have struggled to gain additional momentum or find fresh headlines. Yes, there's some pockets of concern brewing in regards to the U.S. crop, but those headlines have been extremely well advertised. We also have to keep in mind U.S. export demand has been weak and U.S. supplies massively large at over +1.0 billion bushels. At the same time, we have a strong U.S. dollar, and production estimates from inside Russia moving higher. It just still feels like a tough environment for wheat bulls to run on their own. If corn can breakout to the upside, I'm looking for wheat to be pulled higher, hoping as a producer, this provides another opportunity to reduce new-crop price risk. Staying patient!

U.S. Wheat Ending Stocks

(in million bushels)



Source: USDA, WASDE numbers from May 10, 2019 report



> U.S. Formally Announces \$16 Billion Trade Aid Package: The US government on Thursday formally announced an aid package to farmers worth \$16 billion to compensate them for what they said was unfair retaliatory measures in its trade war with China. However, despite earlier reports that soybean farmers would receive up to \$2/bu in aid for lower soybean prices, the US undersecretary for farm production and conservation Bill Northey said the government will not give any monetary figure. We want to make sure farmers are "planting for the market" and that "folks have complete flexibility during this challenging planting season".

> China Continues to Buy Up U.S. Pork: This week's export sales data showed China made its second-largest ever purchase of U.S. pork in the week ended May 16 coming in at 31,400 metric tons. China has now surpassed Mexico as the largest buyer of U.S. pork for the year, totaling 195,000 metric tons. This is a trend we are likely to continue as the country must import pork in the wake of the African swine fever epidemic. (Source: Reuters)

> The House Is Trying To Block ERS from Moving: The saga of moving the USDA ERS offices out of D.C. to somewhere in the Midwest continues. We are hearing that a final site for the offices is likely before the end of May, however, on Wednesday House lawmakers tucked language into their fiscal 2020 Agriculture-FDA spending bill that would block the move, along with the plan to bring ERS under the control of USDA's chief economist. Ultimately, the bill isn't likely to become law anytime soon, and the relation of of the ERS is expected to happen this summer. (Source: Politico)

> EPA Pulls A Dozen Products Containing Pesticides Off the Market: The agency announced Monday it has canceled the registrations of 12 pest-killing products with compounds belonging to a class of chemicals known as neonicotinoids, as part of a legal settlement. The decision follows five years of litigation in which beekeepers and environmentalists pressed the agency to mount a response to the use of neonics. Finally, at the end of 2018, three agribusinesses — Bayer, Syngenta and Valent — agreed to let the EPA pull from shelves the 12 pesticide products used by growers ranging from large-scale agricultural businesses to home gardeners. (Source: WashPo)

> Grain Barge Shipments Remain Low: Barge shipments of grain transiting Mississippi River Locks and Dam 27 (above St. Louis, MO), Arkansas River Lock and Dam 1 (near Tichnor, AR), and Ohio Olmsted Locks and Dam (near Olmsted, OH)

remained low for the week ending May18. Total grain barge movements for the week were 369,250 tons, about the same as the week before and 54% less than the 3-year average. Year-to-date grain movement by barge for calendar year 2019 is 9.2 million tons, 26% less than the same time last year. YTD shipments of up-bound fertilizer by barge are 11% lower than the 3-year average, at 4.4 million tons. The barge industry expects more delays in the coming weeks, as lock closures and high water conditions continue to challenge barge operations. (Source: USDA, GTR)

> U.S. Navy Sails Through Taiwan Strait...Again: Less than a month after two U.S. warships transited through the strategic waterway, another two U.S. vessels and the same voyage in a move that is likely to anger Beijing, which has long asserted sovereignty over Taiwan. This is just one of a growing number of flashpoint in the U.S. - China relationship, which also include a trade war, U.S. sanctions and China's increasingly muscular military posture in the South China Sea, where the U.S. also conducts freedom-of-navigation patrols. (Source: Reuters)

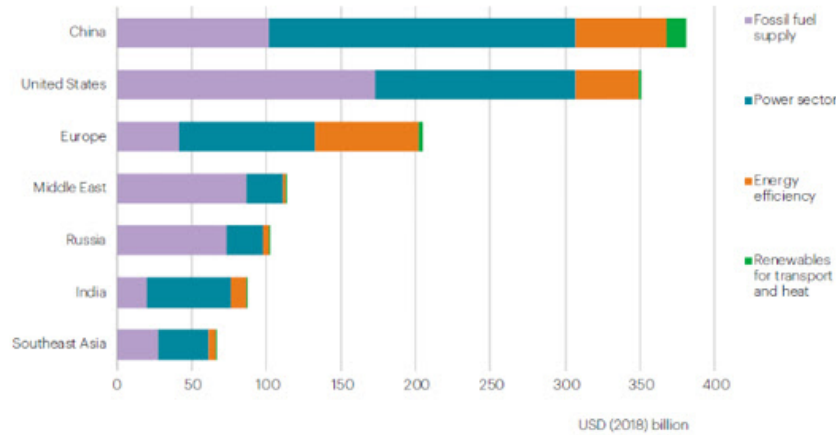
> Mortgage Rates Declined Sharply This Week: Following news of sluggish economic data, showing that trade tensions with China may actually be a boon to the U.S. housing market, rates dropped sharply. As markets prepare for a protracted trade war, investors are rushing into the relative safe-haven of the bond market, causing the yield on the U.S. 10-year Treasury to plummet. Mortgage rates loosely follow that yield. For the most qualified borrowers, rate quotes could fall below 4%.

> Study Shows Married Couples Happier Than Everyone: Analyzing data from 286,059 people between October 2017 to September 2018, a new study found that marital status, their health and economic activity were the top three things people said made them most happy. Married couples rated their life satisfaction 9.9% higher than widows and widowers, and they were 8.8% happier than divorced or separated people. Singles, however, only reported being 0.2% happier than those who are divorced. From what I understand, they compared these findings to results from the same survey given between 2011 and 2012 and found that marital status matters more to people's overall life satisfaction today than economic status. This was not the case in the immediate aftermath of the Great Recession.

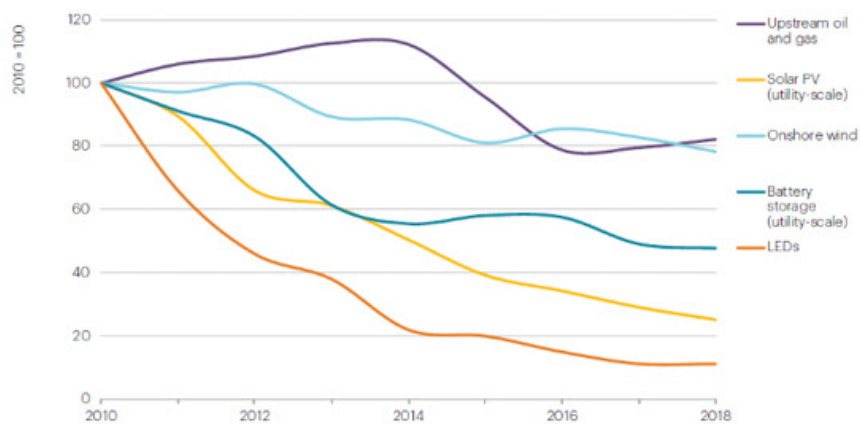
> USA Sees Drop in Tourism: Overseas visitors traveling to the US are not coming as frequently as they used to. I'm told there was a 5.4% drop in March compared to the same time last year, representing the worst showing since 2015, and prompting fears among the country's tourism chiefs that the US will lose out to rival destinations this year I should also mention, tourism fell in February as well, albeit by a more modest 0.2%.

> The World Invested Almost \$2 Trillion In Energy Last Year: The world invested \$1.8 trillion in energy last year, with spending on renewables stalling, while oil, gas and coal projects increased. The International Energy Agency's World Energy Investment 2019 report shows overall global investment in energy stabilized in 2018 after a recent decline. Interestingly, investment in coal increased for the first time since 2012 while renewables saw no net addition to capacity. Production of biofuels, which had fallen behind in recent years, saw a rise in investment last year. China remained the biggest market for energy investment last year, even as the U.S. is rapidly catching up. Increases in oil and gas -- particularly in the shale sector -- have driven the bulk US investment. By contrast, China is putting much of its money into low-carbon projects, with big investments in nuclear power and renewables. India is the most rapidly growing market for investment. (Source: EIA)

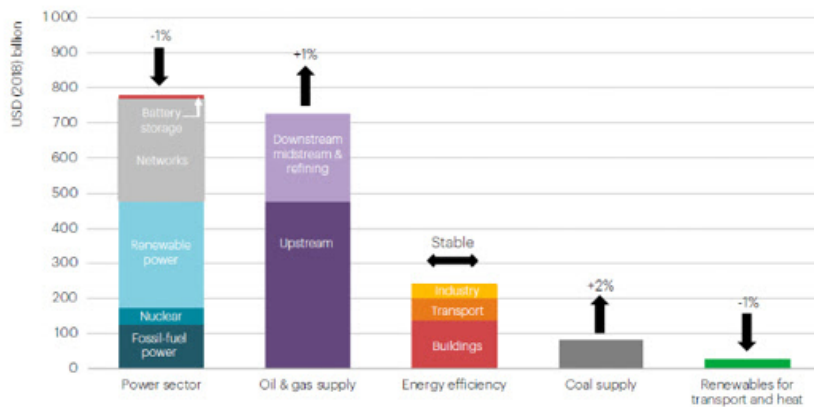
Energy investment by sector in selected markets in 2018



Capital costs in selected energy-related sectors



Global energy investment in 2018 and change compared to 2017



FROM THE FIELD

Westcentral Indiana – We have significant rain chances 12 of the next 15 days. We got more rain last night which came on top of already wet soil. We have a significant chance of rain again on Friday and Saturday. I would say we are more than likely going to preventive plant at least 50% of

our corn if not more if we can get the weather to straighten out at least a little. We are going try and get beans in the next few weeks, but we are probably going to struggle to get beans in if the weather stays true. This year is going to be tough on yields no matter if we get the crop in at this point.

Northern Minnesota – We are completely done with corn and wheat. We are waiting on temperatures to come up a little bit before we drill any soybeans. Most guys in our area have most if not all their wheat and corn in the ground but very little of either crop is out of the ground. Unlike most areas we have been dry for nearly 3 weeks until the last few nights we have seen about a half inch. We should start to see the corn in a week or less depending on how warm we get.

Central Illinois – We got more rain last night and more coming this weekend. We haven't been able to turn a wheel this week and I haven't seen any other guy make any progress this week. If Illinois jumps up more than 10% planted, I would be shocked. We have been getting hit with rain from top to bottom for the last 10 days. At this point everyone is just waiting on June 5th to submit their prevent plant acres.



Researchers Turn CO2 into Liquid Fuels: Chemists at the University of Illinois have successfully produced fuels using water, carbon dioxide and visible light through artificial photosynthesis. By converting carbon dioxide into more complex molecules like propane, green energy technology is now one step closer to using excess CO2 to store solar energy—in the form of chemical bonds—for use when the sun is not shining and in times of peak demand. Keep in mind, the goal here is to produce complex, liquefiable hydrocarbons from excess CO2 and other sustainable resources such as sunlight. Also, liquid fuels are ideal because they are easier, safer and more economical to transport than gas and, because they are made from long-chain molecules, contain more bonds—meaning they pack energy more densely. It's worth mentioning, there are other, more unconventional potential uses from the hydrocarbons created from this process, as they could be used to power fuel cells for producing electrical current and voltage. As exciting as the development of this CO2-to-liquid fuel may be for green energy technology, the researchers acknowledge that Jain's artificial photosynthesis process is nowhere near as efficient as it is in plants, but hopefully future work will catch up to nature's processes. Read more [HERE](#).

Sharing Economy and Technology are Shaking Up Senior Housing Projects: Evolving priorities of modern seniors, including the financial burdens associated with living longer than prior generations did, are challenging a U.S. formula for senior housing that hadn't changed much in decades. Keep in mind, today's target market for senior housing comprises a large and influential demographic. The number of households with people age 80 and over jumped 71% from 4.4 million in 1990 to 7.5 million in 2016, according to Harvard's Joint Center for Housing Studies in its "Housing America's Older Adults" report. As baby boomers age, the number of households in this group will more than double by 2037. Don't expect to the future of senior housing projects to continue to build in higher-density locales, with homes suited for multiple generations, and community support and stimulation that keeps retirees active and healthy. Moving forward, you can expect to see the sharing economy come into play as these age groups aren't so varied. In fact, it's where, as much as how, seniors live that may take a page from the millennial and Generation Z handbook: a migration back into cities and denser suburbs for an active lifestyle and readily available services, according to architecture firm Perkins Eastman. In a survey it conducted in early 2019, 26% of client firms that build and redevelop properties for seniors says they believe boomers will be most concerned with living in proximity to an urban location or town center, up from 19% in 2017. Read more [HERE](#) how developers and city planners are preparing for the move.

You Now Have Three Options After Death... Burial, Cremation, and now Composting: Gov. Jay Inslee of Washington state, signed legislation on Wednesday allowing the practice of "aboveground decomposition," making Washington the first state in the nation — and likely the first place in the world, legal experts said — to explicitly allow human remains to become compost. I'm told, Washington's new law, which takes effect in May 2020, will allow bodies to be placed in a receptacle, along with organic material like wood chips and straw, to help speed up the natural transition of human remains into soil. I should mention, Washington State University tested the process with six bodies that were donated for research. After being put in a rotating container and wrapped in organic materials like alfalfa, the bodies were then bathed in air warmed by microbes. From what I understand, the bodies decomposed after about four weeks, producing about one cubic yard of soil per person. Interestingly, a proponent of the process already has a business in place and for about \$5,000, her company will be able to turn bodies into compost and return the soil to loved ones to be spread on a garden or to help grow a tree, just as people can spread cremated ashes.

Not sure how I feel about the process, but I suspect given time it will catch on with the entire sustainability movement that drives most new ventures. Read more [HERE](#).

Why is There so Little Intellectual Humility Today? In a nutshell, intellectual humility reflects the extent to which someone is willing to at least entertain the possibility that he or she might be wrong about something. People who score high in intellectual humility tend to be more open to experience and more agreeable. In one study, researchers saw intellectual humility as a way to explore individual religious beliefs and how people manage religious differences in everyday life. However, Duke University psychologist Mark Leary quickly recognized the potential relevance of this trait to a wide range of political and social issues and ended up conducting a series of influential studies to explore how the trait predicts our reactions to people and ideas that we disagree with. Leary found that individuals who score on the high end of intellectual humility process information differently from those who score on the low end. For example, they're more tolerant of ambiguity and they realize that not every problem has a single, definitive answer or outcome. When they hear a claim, they are more likely to seek out evidence and prefer two-sided, balanced arguments. Unfortunately, most people do not score high on intellectual humility. Interestingly, Leary discovered that when he asked the following question – "Think about all of the disagreements you have had in the last six months. What percentage of the time do you think that you were right?" – the average response was about 66%. It was rare for someone to report being correct less than 50% of the time. Read more [HERE](#) how a little humility in social discourse could go a long way to strengthening relationships.

Only Porsche to Survive WWII Going to Auction in August: If you're a die-hard Porsche fan of some means, you may want to start liquidating some assets, because one of the most significant cars in the brand's history is going up for auction. It's the 1939 Porsche Type 64, and that year is not a typo. This is a Porsche sports car from before the end of World War II and before the official formation of the Porsche car company after the war 70 years ago and the production of the 356. This beauty has a truly fascinating history. According to RM Sotheby's, Ferdinand Porsche and Volkswagen planned to build and race three Type 64s in a 1,500-kilometer race from Berlin to Rome in September 1939. Based on the KdF-Wagen, the early version of the postwar Beetle uses the same drivetrain, but the engine output was increased to 32 horsepower, and an aerodynamic, riveted aluminum body was fitted. I'm told only one was built before the race was canceled because of the war, with the other two being spearheaded by Ferdinand's son Ferry Porsche a little bit later. One of those was used as a personal car by the Porsches, and it was the only one to survive the war. Read more [HERE](#) on the one of a kind Porsche going to auction in Monterey, Calif., Aug. 15-17.





Happy Memorial Day... Today's Report is Dedicated to Our Soldiers!

I wanted to take just a quick moment and talk about "Memorial Day." I know I might be preaching to the choir, but many people fail to realize that Memorial Day was originally set aside to exclusively honor the fallen soldiers of our great nation. In fact, it was first observed on May 30th, 1868, when flowers were placed on the graves of both Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery. The first state to officially recognize the holiday was New York in 1873, hence Waterloo, NY was officially declared the birthplace of Memorial Day by President Lyndon Johnson in May of 1966. Since then the traditional observance of Memorial Day has diminished, as many Americans have somehow forgotten the true meaning and traditions of this great day. To help re-educate and remind Americans, the "National Moment of Remembrance" resolution was passed back in December of 2000, which asked that all Americans on Memorial Day at 3 p.m. local time, "Voluntarily and informally observe in their own way a moment of remembrance and respect, pausing from whatever they are doing for a moment of silence for those who have sacrificed their life for our great country." I know it doesn't get much air time from the press, but I thought I would make mention of it in today's letter. Having a grandfather who served in WWII and a father who served in Vietnam, I was taught at an early age to be thankful for the freedoms I have and the sacrifices that have been made by others. Though my father never wanted to talk about his time in the war, my mother let me see the letters he had mailed her on various occasions. By what I could gather in a few of the letters, I can only imagine some of the horrific experiences. My father simply said there was no reason to discuss the war, and that he only hoped neither I nor my children would ever have to experience such a thing. He was 18 when left and 22 when he came back home, I have to believe a forever changed man. Below I have included a partial list highlighting the estimated number of Americans who have been killed and or wounded while defending our freedoms. Take a moment and think about how many families have been torn apart or splintered in the wake of a fallen soldier. What I find even more hard to swallow is how some individuals and groups chose to disrespect the very

freedoms so many have sacrificed for. Below are round estimates for soldiers found wounded or dead in the largest U.S. military conflicts. (Source: Wikipedia)

- 1775-1783 American Revolutionary War - 50,000 Wounded / 25,000 Dead
- 1812-1815 War of 1812 - 20,000 Wounded / 15,000 Dead
- 1846-1848 Mexican-American War - 17,500 Wounded / 13,300 Dead
- 1861-1865 Civil War - 1,300,000 Wounded / 750,000 Dead
- 1898 Spanish-American War - 6,000 Wounded / 2,500 Dead
- 1898-1913 Philippine American War - 11,000 Wounded / 4,200 Dead
- 1917-1918 World War I - 320,000 Wounded / 117,000 Dead
- 1941-1945 World War II - 1,100,000 Wounded / 406,000 Dead
- 1950-1953 Korean War - 128,000 Wounded / 40,000 Dead
- 1955-1975 Vietnam War - 215,000 Wounded / 60,000 Dead
- 1990-1991 Gulf War - 1,200 Wounded / 300 Dead
- 2003-2011 Iraq War - 37,000 Wounded / 4,500 Dead
- 2001 - Present ... War in Afghanistan - 20,000 Wounded / 2,500 Dead





Freedom Is Not Free... by Kelly Strong

*I watched the flag pass by one day.
It fluttered in the breeze.
A young Marine saluted it,
and then he stood at ease.*

*I looked at him in uniform
So young, so tall, so proud.
With hair cut square and eyes alert
He'd stand out in any crowd.*

*I thought how many men like him
Had fallen through the years.
How many died on foreign soil?
How many mothers' tears*

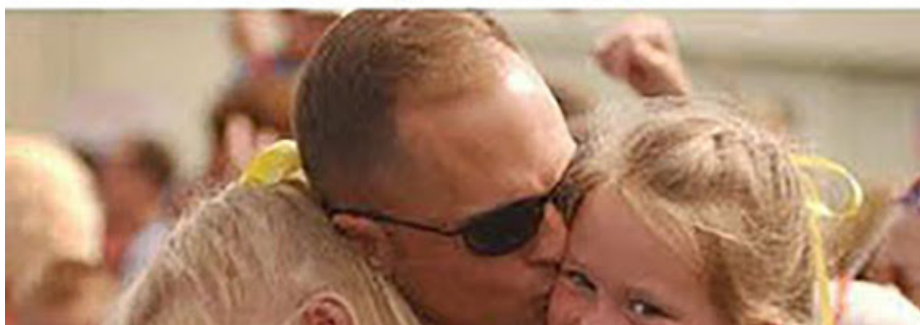
*How many pilots' planes shot down?
How many died at sea?
How many foxholes were soldiers' graves?
No... freedom isn't free.*

*I heard the sound of TAPS one night,
When everything was still
I listened to the bugler play
And felt a sudden chill.*

*I wondered just how many times
That TAPS had meant "Amen,"
When a flag had draped a coffin
Of a brother or a friend.*

*I thought of all the children,
Of the mothers and the wives,
Of fathers, sons and husbands,
With interrupted lives.*

*I thought about a graveyard
At the bottom of the sea
And unmarked graves in Arlington.
No... freedom isn't free.*





Paying Tribute... Must See Video!

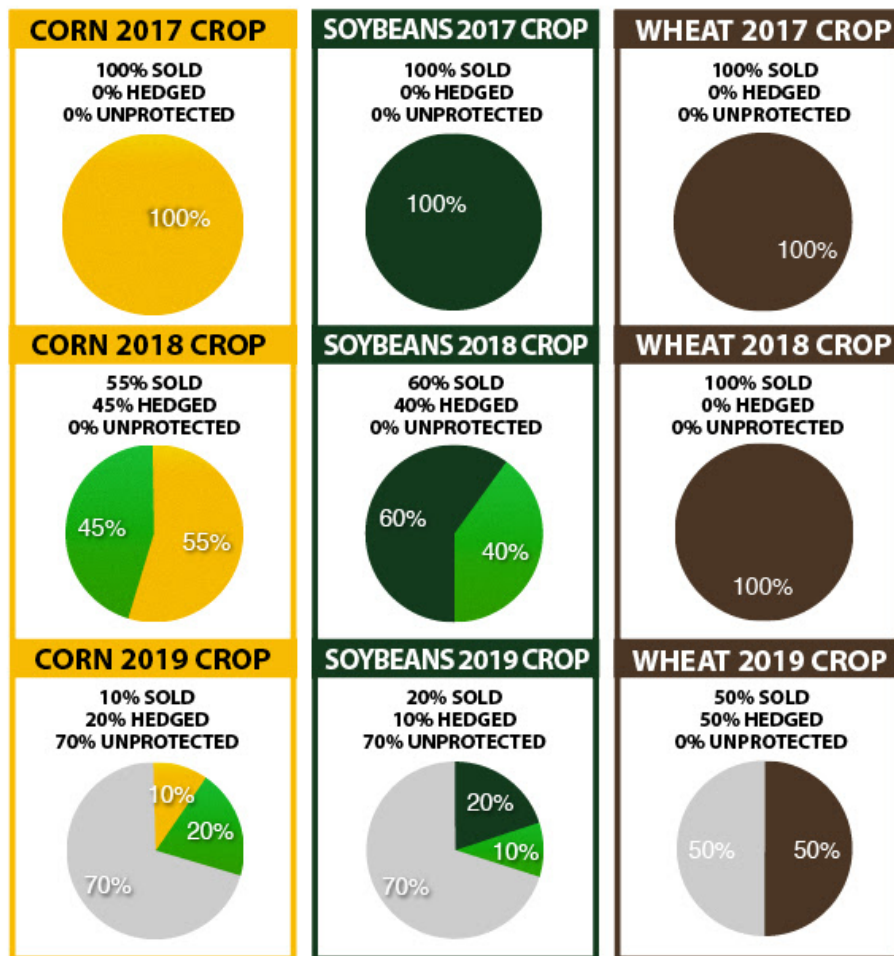
I included a video I was sent several years ago. It was from a friend who had a son in the military. I never get tired of seeing it! The video is of Brandon Lara, from New Braunfels, Texas, coming back home to the US. Brandon was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, from Camp Pendleton, Calif.; Brandon died July 19th at the age of 20 in Ubaydi, Iraq, while supporting US combat operations. A military flight from Dover Air Force Base, Del., that landed at about 10 a.m. at Randolph AFB brought his body home to awaiting family members and military officials. After a Marine Corps honor guard transferred the flag-draped casket from the aircraft to a hearse, the procession of base and local police cars, funeral home vehicles, family cars, and more than 100 Patriot Guard motorcyclists traveled from base operations and then down Harmon Drive between the rows of people lining each side of the street. Just outside the gate, the motorcade passed under an American flag suspended between the buckets of two outstretched ladders from fire trucks from Live Oak, Texas, and Universal City, Texas. From the base, the motorcade traveled down FM 78 to FM 3009 and up Interstate 35 to New Braunfels. Like the scene along Harmon Drive, thousands of people in the community lined the streets in Universal City and Schertz leading to the highway. The video below is shot from the dash camera of a police car in the procession. The appreciation seen by the American people has stuck with me ever since. I urge everyone to watch this video, pass it along and keep the spirit of our fallen soldiers alive. Click [HERE](#) it's certainly worth your time...



ANSWER to riddle: Nothing. It just waved!

CASH SALES & HEDGING TOTALS

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