

GOOD MORNING: 05/28/19 Farm Direction - Van Trump Report

1 message

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Tue, May 28, 2019 at 7:24 AM

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"If you aren't going all the way, why go at all?" - Joe Namath

TUESDAY, MAY 28, 2019
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Morning Summary: Traders return from an extended Memorial Day weekend to a stock market that's been struggling as of late. The tech heavy Nasdaq is down over -6% in the past 30-days, while the broader S&P 500 index is down nearly -4%. Let's keep in mind, the "summer session" between Memorial Day and Labor Day is when we generally start to see volume thin and momentum flounder. I suspect, with current political uncertainty surrounding trade and escalating tensions in the Middle East, we could also see a summertime spike in volatility. Tensions seem to be escalating between the U.S. and Iran, especially after Washington's announcement last Friday that it would be deploying more troops to the Middle East. In return, Iran is now threatening to resume enriching uranium beyond levels permitted in recent accords. From what I understand, Iran's direct crude buyers have mostly vanished after the U.S. announced about a month ago that it was tightening its ban on Iranian oil sales. In other words, China, India, Turkey, South Korea and Japan have essentially all ended direct purchases of Iranian crude. Greece, Italy, and Taiwan have also cut their Iranian oil purchases due to banking and insurance issues associated with the increased U.S. sanctions. Bottom-line, many inside the trade are thinking Iran might now be backed into a corner with their only option to come out swinging. Energy traders are debating between Iranian oil coming out of the supply pipeline, meaning less available oil vs. ongoing trade tensions creating more slack and slowdown in the global economies. I should note, President Trump made a comment on Monday that the U.S. was "not ready" to reach a trade deal with China. In response U.S. rates are nearing two-year lows as traders anticipate a Fed rate reduction in the second half of 2019. Traders here at home are interested in learning more from the latest U.S. Consumer Confidence data and Case-Schiller Home Price Index which are scheduled for release today. Wednesday is an extremely light day of economic headlines. On Thursday, U.S. first-quarter revised GDP data is scheduled to be released. Friday, China will provide its first look at its May economic performance, with most insiders thinking the official manufacturing PMI will tick down to sub-50 levels, showing a contraction amid what many deem to be a deepening trade war with the U.S. I am closely monitoring some of the larger tech stocks that have been beaten up as of late and may start nibbling a bit on the buy-side. Staying very conservative and patient in nature...not wanting to get in any hurry or over-leveraged!

What You Need to Know About the European Elections: More than 50% of European voters turned out last week to vote in the parliamentary elections, the highest turnout in two decades and a sharp increase from the last election in 2014. The center-right group known as the European People's Party (EPP) and the center-left Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (S&D) held 54% of the seats before the vote. Now they're down to 43%, according to Sunday's results. The two blocs together lost more than 70 seats, along with the majority they held for decades. Essentially, the far-right gained ground — but not as much as expected. Because the gains were smaller than expected, the far-right likely won't be able to reshape the future of Europe by itself but it may be able to obstruct the legislative process. Many attribute the victories on the far-right to high unemployment rates, security concerns after several terrorist attacks and tensions over migration. In the U.K., the process to replace prime minister Theresa May has begun, with former foreign minister Boris Johnson the clear front-runner in a field of more than a dozen candidates. "We will leave the EU on October 31, deal or no deal," he told an economic conference in Switzerland. (Source: SeekingAlpha; NewsWeek)



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Today in History

Interesting Facts About Facebook Founder: Mark Zuckerberg is the eighth-richest person in the world with a net worth of around \$70 billion. Keep in mind, he lost more money last year than any of the world's 500 richest billionaires. Interestingly, despite his massive wealth Zuckerberg still drives an inexpensive car and wears basic clothes. Zuckerberg and his wife Priscilla Chan are also very generous philanthropists, investing billions in childhood education and medical research. Many of those closest to Zuckerberg say his main priority is finding ways to give his money away, rather than looking for ways to spend it. I should note, back in 2013 Zuckerberg cut his annual salary at Facebook down to \$1. But when they calculated his other earnings, he's making about \$1.7 million dollars per hour. In other words, it takes Zuckerberg less than an hour-and-a half to earn what the average American man with a bachelor's degree will earn in his lifetime — \$2.2 million. Another way to look at it, in less than two minutes, Zuckerberg makes what it takes the median U.S. worker a year to earn in an entire year — \$46,696. Zuckerberg earned a whopping \$28,538 per minute last year, according to Business Insider's calculations. In an interesting comparison, the average American household spending \$1 is similar to Zuckerberg spending \$700,000. Wow! (Source: [Business Insider](#))

Every Minute Counts: I was at a conference this past week in Arizona where several men in attendance were mourning the death of their good friend Don Cash. Cash was a 55 year old husband and father of four that had a dream of climbing The Seven Summits, the highest mountains on each of the seven continents. Don had completed all but one, the climbing of Mount Everest, the highest and most prominent mountain on earth based on measurement to sea level. From what I understand, the mountain's 29,035-foot peak is more crowded than ever this climbing season and people at the summit are experiencing constant delays and traffic jams because of it. Eleven people have now died on the mountain this season, which veteran climbers blame not on weather conditions or avalanches but on too many people on the mountain. Because of poor weather this year, climbers have had only a few days to attempt to reach Everest's summit. Long lines of climbers at high altitudes have created near standstills. Once you get above about 25,000 feet, your body just can't metabolize the oxygen, so long delays and lines are causing major complications and even death. Especially in a section at the top of the mountain called the "death-zone," known for its low levels of oxygen which can be fatal if climbers linger for too long. Don's family and friends will miss him immensely, he has always been a great family man and wonderful leader. Those on the journey said, "He saw his last sunrise from the highest peak on Earth. At that instant, he became a member of the '7 Summit Club' and fulfilled a lifelong dream..."



1754, First Blood of the French and Indian War - In the first engagement of the French and Indian War, a Virginia militia under 22-year-

old Lieutenant Colonel George Washington defeats a French reconnaissance party in southwestern Pennsylvania. In a surprise attack, the Virginians killed 10 French soldiers from Fort Duquesne, including the French commander, Coulon de Jumonville, and took 21 prisoners. Only one of Washington's men was killed. The French and Indian War was the last and most important of a series of colonial conflicts between the British and the American colonists on one side, and the French and their broad network of Native American allies on the other. Fighting began in the spring of 1754, but Britain and France did not officially declare war against each other until May 1756 and the outbreak of the Seven Years War in Europe. In November 1752, at the age of 20, George Washington was appointed adjutant in the Virginia colonial militia, which involved the inspection, mustering, and regulation of various militia companies. In November 1753, he first gained public notice when he volunteered to carry a message from Virginia Governor Robert Dinwiddie to the French moving into the Ohio Valley, warning them to leave the territory, which was claimed by the British crown. Washington succeeded in the perilous wilderness journey and brought back an alarming message: The French intended to stay. In 1754, Dinwiddie appointed Washington a lieutenant colonel and sent him out with 160 men to reinforce a colonial post at what is now Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Before Washington could reach it, however, it was given up without bloodshed to the French, who renamed it Fort Duquesne. Washington moved within about 40 miles of the French position and set about building a new post at Great Meadows, which he named Fort Necessity. From this base, he ambushed an advance detachment of about 30 French, striking the first blow of the French and Indian War. For the victory, Washington was appointed a full colonel and reinforced with several hundred Virginia and North Carolina troops. On July 3, the French descended on Fort Necessity with their full force, and after an all-day fight Washington surrendered to their superior numbers. The disarmed colonials were allowed to march back to Virginia, and Washington was hailed as a hero despite his surrender of the fort. The story of the campaign was written up in a London gazette, and Washington was quoted as saying, "I have heard the bullets whistle; and believe me, there is something charming in the sound." Reading this, King George II remarked, "He would not say so if he had been used to hear many." In October 1754, Washington resigned his commission in protest of the British underpayment of colonial offices and policy of making them subordinate to all British officers, regardless of rank. In early 1755, however, British General Edward

FARM TANK

Tweets of the Day



Following

visualcapitalist.com/map-countries-...



Following

Uber: -8%

of the most influential in the genre. Almost single-handedly, The Virginian turned the American cowboy into a legendary hero. At first glance, author Owen Wister seems an unlikely candidate for having authored a book celebrating the hyper-masculine and independent knight of the open range. Born into a prominent Philadelphia family, the young Wister was expected to grow up to become a refined gentleman, not the chronicler of rough-and-ready cow handlers. He went to school in Switzerland and England, contributed to a poetry magazine, sang in choir, and eventually decided to become a classical composer. After graduating summa cum laude from Harvard in 1882, it seemed that he would certainly join the elite musical society of the northeast. Wister's musical career stalled, however, when he began to suffer from a vague disease that robbed him of his energy and spirit. On the advice of his close friend Theodore Roosevelt, who had found the West to be a tonic for all manner of ills, Wister decided to spend the summer of 1885 on a Wyoming ranch. There he discovered a



Josh Schick
@JoshSchick3

Following

Little throwback on this Sunday. This was six years ago. Two John Deere Gs and two As . I had a lot more time back then to restore Tractors LOL



Gaylord Christianson
@Fockerthereal1

Following

Just a friendly reminder for #Plant19



rugged and romantic world that imbued him with new hope and spirit. He pronounced the air "delicious. As if it had never been in anyone's lungs before." He passed the summer fishing, riding, bathing in creeks, and sleeping in tents. After returning to the east and taking up law, Wister never forgot his magical experiences in the Wild West, and he continued to revisit Wyoming regularly for vacations. In 1891, just returned to Philadelphia from the glories of the West, Wister was determined to begin writing about the land he so admired. He later wrote that he wished to save "the sage-brush for American literature, before the sage-brush and all that it signified went the way of the California forty-niner." After honing his craft with a number of short stories and lesser books, Wister began work on his masterpiece, *The Virginian*, which was published on this day in 1902. The story of a cowhand who is simply called "the Virginian," the book established many of the basic elements of the cowboy myth. The Virginian is a tall, lean young man. He enjoys a good practical joke and an occasional fight, but he is innately intelligent and honorable, a natural nobleman of the prairie. The book became a sensation almost overnight, selling more than 1.5 million copies by 1938 and inspiring four movies and a Broadway play. After *The Virginian*, Wister wrote no more Western novels, though he did publish a collection of some of his early western stories. The great novelist of the American West spent the remainder of his life in the East. He died of a cerebral hemorrhage at his summer home in Rhode Island in 1938.



1987, Matthias Rust Lands His Plane in Red Square -

Matthias Rust, a 19-year-old amateur pilot from West Germany, takes off from Helsinki, Finland, travels through more than 400 miles of Soviet airspace, and lands his small Cessna aircraft in Red Square by the Kremlin. The event proved to be an immense embarrassment to the Soviet government and military. Rust, described by his mother as a "quiet young man...with a passion for flying," apparently had no political or social agenda when he took off from the international airport in Helsinki and headed for Moscow. He entered Soviet airspace, but was either undetected or ignored as he pushed farther and farther into the Soviet Union. Early on the morning of May 28, 1987, he arrived over Moscow, circled Red Square a few times, and then landed just a few hundred yards from the Kremlin. Curious onlookers and tourists, many believing that Rust was part of an air show, immediately surrounded him. Very quickly, however, Rust was arrested and whisked away. He was tried for violating Soviet airspace and sentenced to prison. He served 18 months before being released. The repercussions in the Soviet Union were immediate. Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev sacked his minister of defense, and the entire Russian military was

6'9"
400 lbs
Size-18 shoes
XXXXL shirt

Minnesota RT Daniel Faalele is the biggest dude in college football 🤯 bit.ly/2HlnaGY



humiliated by Rust's flight into Moscow. U.S. officials had a field day with the event—one American diplomat in the Soviet Union joked, "Maybe we should build a bunch of Cessnas." Soviet officials were less amused. Four years earlier, the Soviets had been harshly criticized for shooting down a Korean Airlines passenger jet that veered into Russian airspace. Now, the Soviets were laughingstocks for not being able to stop one teenager's "invasion" of the country. One Russian spokesperson bluntly declared, "You criticize us for shooting down a plane, and now you criticize us for not shooting down a plane."

Upcoming Events

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



Classic Rock In Pics
@crockpics

Following

A great photo!!



WHAT I'M LISTENING TO:



"Beer Never Broke My Heart"
Luka Combs

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!

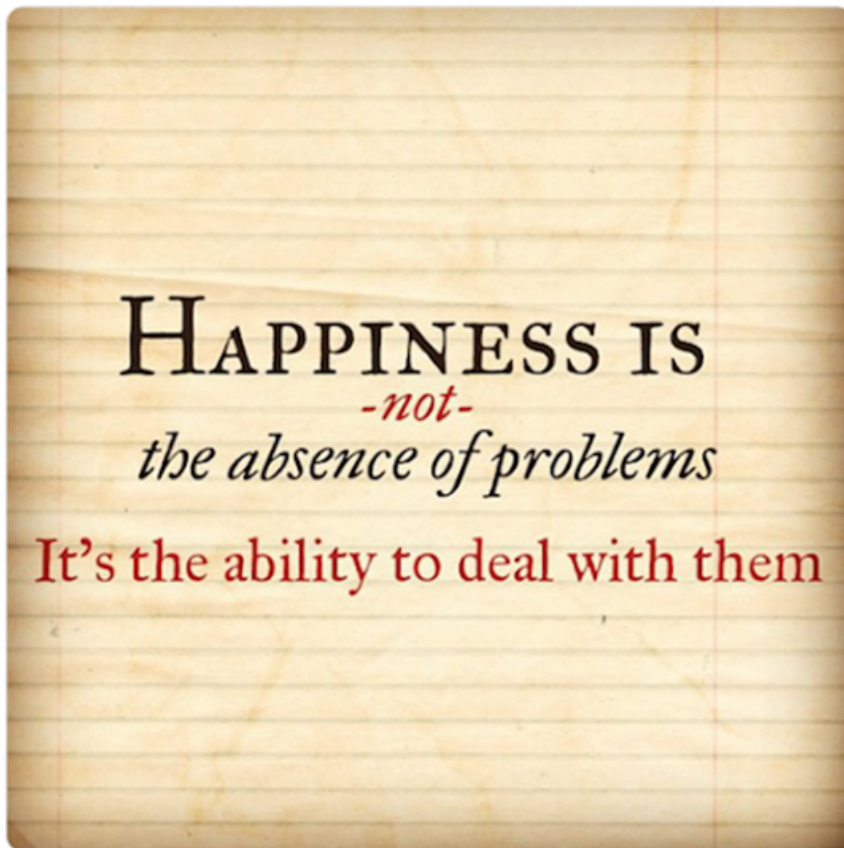
Kevin Van Trump

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



Choose happiness.



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.



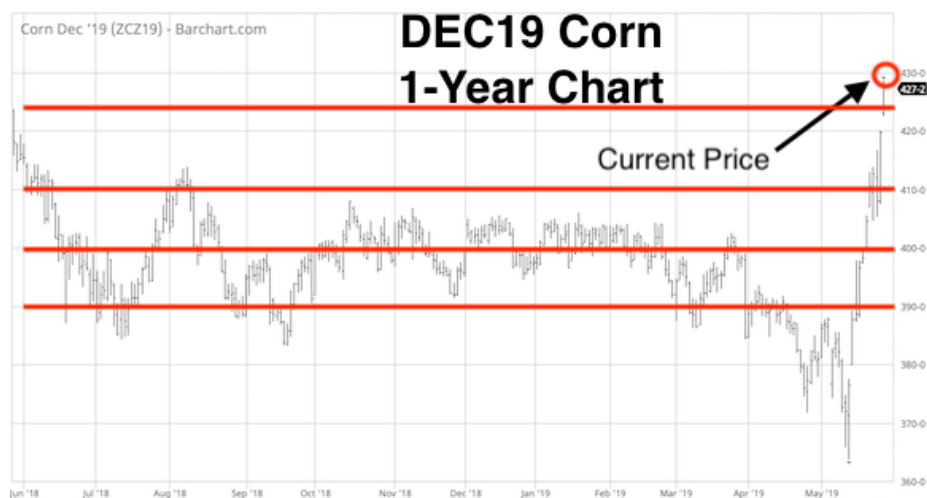
As we age, it gets harder and harder to create new neural pathways in the brain. It's the reason kids find it so easy to learn new things, but as adults it often gets more difficult. Doing brain teasers and solving riddles can be an important part of keeping our brain healthy. The more connections we 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 has a spine but no bones?

Corn prices have rebounded all the way back to last years level. The new-crop DEC19 contract is trading back north of \$4.25 per bushel, a rally of +60 cents in a little over two-weeks time. Weather extremes, planted acres, re-planted acres, preventive-plant, yield drag, the second round of trade subsidies, etc. all remain the topic of conversation and debate inside the market. This afternoon the USDA is scheduled to release their planted acreage estimate, which most are expecting to come in between 60% and 65% planted vs. 49% last week vs 92% planted last year at this stage vs. 91% in the 5-year average. Regardless, I continue to argue total planted U.S, corn acres will be sub-88

million. There are some bulls questioning if planted acres couldn't fall to sub-83 million, especially if rumors of increased "preventive plant" subsidies become part of the equation. There have been rumors circulating that the second round of trade subsidy from Washington could bump the preventive plant subsidy higher. I heard so many rumors and comments over the weekend about how the next round of subsidies will play out, that I'm somewhat confused myself. However, I'm thinking the government is not going to release the specific details until the planting season is further behind us as not to influence producer decisions. I suspect, U.S., weather will remain in the spotlight. Most forecasters are calling for continued rains during the next 10-days with perhaps a more dry outlook in the 11-to-30 day outlook. Unfortunately, southern areas may continue to see heavy rainfall for an extended period. As the planting window closes, there will start to be more focus and debates circulating around yield estimates. You have to imagine talk of a trend-line yield is now an afterthought, as most bulls are starting to work with numbers -6 bushels to -16 bushels below trend i.e an average U.S. yield of between 160 and 170 bushels per acre vs. the USDA's most recent estimate of 176.0 bushels per acre. The argument is that most seed technology has been designed and developed to help dramatically in overly dry conditions, whereas overly wet conditions can create a snowballing effect that negatively impacts yield. Don't forget, the USDA is still probably a week or two from reporting the first round of U.S. crop-conditions. Last year the USDA reported the first look at crop-conditions for the week ending May 27th, showing the crop rated 79% "Good-to-Excellent". The Minnesota crop was rated 86% "Good-to-Excellent" last year during the first week reported; Ohio crop was rated 85% "Good-to-Excellent"; Illinois and Nebraska crops were rated 83% "Good-to-Excellent"; Iowa rated 82%; North Dakota 81%; Indiana 78%; South Dakota 74%; Wisconsin was rated a whopping 90% "Good-to-Excellent"... I just don't see any of these states being anywhere close to these ratings this year. I remain bullish nearby!



Farm Direction
RECIPES

★ **FAMILY FAVORITES** ★
-SENT IN BY OUR READERS-

Oven Roasted Barbecue Potato Salad

[CLICK TO SEE RECIPE](#)

Slowest Corn Planting Years

as of Week 20 (May 17 - 24)

A look back at the top 5 producers from over the last 30 years (1990 - 2019)

Minnesota		
Percent Planted	Report Date	Yield
43%	5/18/1986	122
53%	5/18/2014	156
56%	5/19/2019	???
62%	5/20/1984	107
63%	5/19/1991	120

Iowa		
Percent Planted	Report Date	Yield
60%	5/19/1991	137
62%	5/21/1995	123
65%	5/23/1993	80
70%	5/19/2019	???
70%	5/23/1982	120

Illinois		
Percent Planted	Report Date	Yield
20%	5/17/2009	174
24%	5/19/2019	???
37%	5/21/1995	113
51%	5/19/2002	135
56%	5/19/1996	136

Indiana		
Percent Planted	Report Date	Yield
13%	5/19/2002	121
14%	5/19/2019	???
14%	5/19/1996	123
19%	5/17/1981	108
24%	5/17/2009	171

Nebraska		
Percent Planted	Report Date	Yield
45%	5/23/1982	110
64%	5/21/1995	111
65%	5/20/1984	116
65%	5/22/1983	97
70%	5/19/2019	???

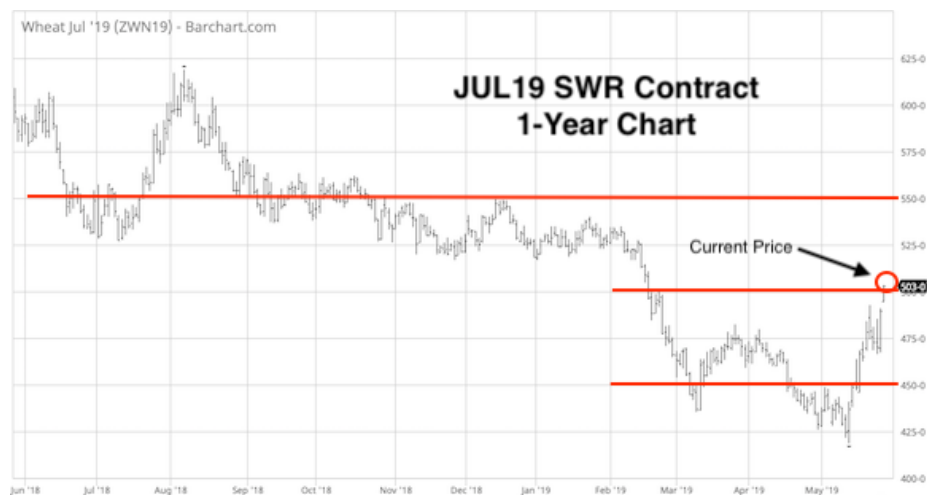
Total U.S.		
Percent Planted	Report Date	Yield
49%	5/19/2019	???
56%	5/21/1995	113.5
61%	5/19/1996	127.1
62%	5/17/2009	164.4
63%	5/22/1983	81.1

Soybean prices are being pulled higher by ongoing U.S. weather uncertainties. The market has rallied +50 cents from the lows posted two-weeks ago. Most inside the trade are looking for the USDA to show somewhere between 26% and 30% of the crop is now planted vs. just 19% last week vs. 77% last year at this stage. Bulls are pointing to the fact some big production states are running well behind schedule and the fact soybeans historically tend to struggle with wet feet. The ongoing trade uncertainty between the U.S. and China and complications from African Swine Fever remain a continued headwind. Bears also point towards an overly burdensome domestic surplus of U.S. soybeans. As a spec, I'm still hesitant in being an outright bull. I see better nearby opportunity in the corn market. I could however see a better opportunity for soybeans in the August, September, October time frame. I still believe once South American new-crop supplies are depleted the market will be forced to add additional risk-premium. However, until that happens, bears may be able to maintain some degree of leverage, especially if U.S. and Chinese leaders remain at odds over trade. As a producer, I'm electing to stay patient...there's still a ton of time on the clock!



Wheat prices have rebounded to multi-month highs on the heels of strong rally in corn. Despite the aggressive move higher, I'm still hesitant in believing wheat can run

on its own two legs. The JUL19 SRW wheat contract is trying to close above \$5.00 per bushel for the first time since mid-February. The HRW wheat contract hasn't closed above \$4.60 since mid-February. Spring wheat is a bit further away, trying to close back above \$5.75 per bushel, something that also hasn't happened since mid-February. Moral of the story, if you're a producer you have to be paying close attention, especially those who missed making early sales. Personally, I'm staying patient, but I also have 50% of our estimated production priced early at levels around \$6.00 per bushel. Don't forget, the USDA will release their spring wheat planting estimate this afternoon, most suspect to see planting jump from 70% last week to between 85% and 90% this week, which puts the crop more inline with the historical planting pace. As a spec, similar to soybeans, I'm still hesitant to be an outright bull, seeing what looks to be an easier shot in the corn market. Keep in mind, the Russian crop estimates continue pushing higher. At the same time, U.S. exports become even less competitive as prices here at home rally. There's also the headwinds associated with a strong U.S. dollar as it compares to the currency of other global exporters. Staying patient as a spec, while paying very close attention as a producer!



> House Fails to Pass Disaster Aid Bill: The \$19.1 billion disaster aid bill which was support by President Trump failed to pass the House on Friday. Following Senate passage on Thursday. I am hearing that the bill could make a second attempt at a vote in June. Included in the bill is: \$13 billion to farmers to cover crop losses; \$1.6 billion to repair damaged highways; \$720 million for the U.S. Forest Service to help cover wildfire suppression efforts; and \$120 million to help the National Park Service repair damaged public lands. Other allocations include: Army Corps of Engineers would receive \$3.25 billion to repair damaged infrastructure; \$414 million would to the EPA of which \$349.4 million is funds to repair drinking water infrastructure.

> Tucked Into The Disaster Relief Bill is a waiver on payment restrictions under USDA's trade relief program. This means farmers earning more than \$900,000 in adjusted gross income would be eligible for trade assistance payments if at least 75% of their income comes from farming, ranching or forestry.

> China Make Controlling Armyworm Infestation A Top Priority: According to China's ag ministry, the prevention and control of army worm is crucial to the country's ability to hit annual grain output targets. The destructive worm has spread to 14 provinces and regions and has been found in 227,000 acres of farmland in China after it was first detected in January. Fall army worm can infest and damage hundreds of acres of corn in a single night. Understand, experts are predicting the fast-spreading pest is expected to reach China's corn belt in the north in June and July. China grows corn on about 104+ million acres and is expected to produce about 257 million metric tons this year. (Source: Reuters)

> China Says It's Making Progress on African Swine Fever Vaccine: It's being reported that Chinese scientists will start working on clinical trials of an African swine fever vaccine -- that is according to state media in China. The state-owned Harbin Vet Research Institute says they have found two vaccine candidates proven to offer immunity to the disease. However, the scientific community who work on animal

vaccines have responded with skepticism saying that developing and launching an effective vaccine is quite difficult.

> **Facebook Deleted Billions of Fake Accounts:** Facebook said that it caught 2.2 billion fake accounts on its platform in the first quarter of 2019, a number that speaks to the size of the problem it confronts. Yes, it's good that Facebook is increasing policing of fake accounts, however, the uptick in fake account creation is troubling. Facebook emphasizes that most of the fake accounts it's addressing have been taken down within minutes of being created. (Source: Recode)

> **Bitcoin Continues its Move Higher:** Bitcoin, which has leaped higher multiple times over the last few months, is showing little signs of slowing and now bitcoin traders and investors have their sights firmly set on the psychological \$10,000 per bitcoin mark. Jumping 10% yesterday alone before falling slightly, bitcoin price is now trading around \$8,700, up 70% over the last 30 days and a whopping 120% since the beginning of 2019. (Source: Forbes)

> **Sports Illustrated Sold for \$110 Million:** Publisher Meredith Corp. has sold the intellectual property around the venerable sports-news outlet to Authentic Brands Group, the brand-development company that manages Juicy Couture, Nautica, and elements of the Muhammad Ali and Elvis Presley estates, among others for \$110 million. Meredith took on Sports Illustrated as part of its purchase of Time Inc. in January of 2018 for \$1.85 billion plus debt. (Source: WSJ)

> **Another Huge Success Story for Disney:** The live action remake of the 1992 animated classic Aladdin grabbed the top spot of the domestic box office during the U.S. holiday weekend, hauling in an estimated \$112.7 million. Globally, the movie drew in \$207.1 million over the three-day weekend, excluding Monday, further propelling the so-called Disney renaissance. The studio's Avengers: Endgame also continued its record-setting haul in third place, putting it about \$100 million behind the worldwide total of Avatar, the top-grossing movie of all time. (Source: SeekingAlpha)

> **Curveballs Are Getting Nastier In MLB:** It is well known by now that strikeouts in Major League Baseball are at all time highs -- 23% of plate appearances this season. And it's not just increased pitch velocity that's to blame, it's also spin. Curveballs and sliders have gotten nastier, too, with the average curveball spin rate this year at 2,536 rpms, up from 2,315 rpms four years ago. Put another way, 86 pitchers who threw at least 50 curves in 2017 and 2019 averaged an increase of 1.4 inches of greater vertical break. Check out more of baseball's fascinating metrics in this article write by Travis Sawchik [HERE](#). (Source: FiveThirtyEight)

> **Can You Spot a Counterfeit?** This infographic comes to us from Best Choice Reviews, and it highlights facts and figures around counterfeit goods that are passed off as quality brands, and how this type of activity damages consumers, businesses, and the wider economy. In 2018, counterfeit goods caused roughly \$323 billion of damage to the global economy. According to a test by the U.S. Government Accountability Office, it was found that two of every five brand name products they bought online (through a 3rd party retailer) were counterfeits. As a consumer, there are several things you can do to increase the confidence in your purchases, and it all adds up to make a difference. Check out the full infographic [HERE](#) and learn how to spot a fake. (Source: Best Choice Reviews, Visual Capitalist)

Pirated

Copyrighted works that have been reproduced without permission

Knockoff

Close imitations of copyrighted material and designer products

More than 1 in 4 consumers reported *unknowingly* purchasing non-genuine goods online



Makeup 32%
Skincare 25%
Supplements 22%
Medication 16%



Fake goods

are found through many seemingly innocuous platforms



Online marketplaces



Search engines



Mobile apps



Advertisements

In a 2018 test, the US Government Accountability Office found that over

2 OUT OF EVERY 5 of supposedly brand name products it purchased online* were counterfeit



*from 3rd party vendors

FROM THE FIELD

Westcentral Missouri – We are out of the field until at least Friday or Saturday and that's if it doesn't rain. We have another big storm that will hit us Monday-Tuesday timeframe and if that holds true it will be several more days. We received rain over the weekend that amounted to about an inch. I'm hearing guys south of us got substantially more rain. We are also seeing water running over the county roads after an inch of rain which tells you how saturated we already were. I have been looking around at some of the corn that's planted in our area and there's at least 20% that needs replanted if not more. Fortunately for us we have a lot of higher ground that will be fine. We just need sunshine and no rain for several weeks so we can get our soybeans planted.

Northern Illinois – We didn't get quite as much rain as the weatherman predicted but we got a shower on Saturday and a little on Monday. We are back to standing water in the fields and we have severe storms brewing Tuesday with more rain chances on Thursday, Saturday and Sunday so we are nearly sure we are going to preventive plant at least 75% of our corn if not all of it. The only way we plant corn is if we go past the final planting date. We are not worried about the 1% the insurance takes from us, but we are weighing out the option of prevent plant if they are going to pay us a higher percentage. At the pace we are going here we are going to be having the exact same discussion about soybeans and prevent plant.

Northern Minnesota – We might be the only area in the country that grows corn and wheat and are completely done with both. The wheat is starting to row nicely but the corn is still lagging a little. It's been a little cold for corn to germinated very quickly at our temperatures. We actually received our first decent rain in several weeks at a little over an inch. We should start to see everything take off quickly now that the weather is going to warm back up.

CROSSING WIRES

A place to share intelligent thoughts...

Can Labels Lower How Much Food We Waste? *The Food and Drug Administration is going after food waste with a new effort to make sure we don't throw out groceries until they're absolutely inedible. On Thursday, the agency issued a letter to the food industry at large, throwing its support behind a growing trend to almost universally adopt a "Best if Used By" date label on products. At the same time, it's also reminding the public that most foods can still be perfectly safe to eat if they're past the marked date, even if they're not necessarily quite as tasty anymore. The moves are part of a larger effort by the FDA to drastically cut down on America's food waste problem. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, some 30% of Americans' food ultimately goes to waste on store shelves or in people's homes, amounting to roughly \$161 billion lost annually. A major reason why the average person throws out their food, according to research cited by the FDA, is confusion over what exactly the different date labels they encounter really mean. Keep in mind, foods that are still around in your fridge or pantry past their "Best if Used By" date, the FDA noted in its letter, "should be safe, wholesome, and of good quality after the quality date"—so as long as they're stored properly. I suspect it will be hard for people to overcome their long held perceptions on the criteria they use to throw away product regardless what the label says, habits are hard to break...Read more [HERE](#).*

Facebook to Launch Their Own Cryptocurrency in 2020: *Facebook seems to be in advanced stages of planning the cryptocurrency, as the BBC reports that Mark Zuckerberg himself met with the Bank of England's governor Mark Carney to discuss the opportunities and risks of launching a cryptocurrency. I'm told, Facebook has also sought advice on regulatory and operational issues from the U.S. Treasury Department, suggesting the company's cryptocurrency plans are in the end stages. Also, Facebook is reportedly in talks with money transfer firms like Western Union, as it hopes to find cheaper and faster ways for people without bank accounts to send money abroad. Earlier this month, the Wall Street Journal reported that Facebook is also already in talks with some online merchants to accept the currency as a valid form of payment when it launches. The end game for Facebook in the cryptocurrency wars is to elevate its coin above all others and make it the de facto leader among cryptocurrencies that people turn to—and, of course, to elevate the use of cryptocurrencies as a whole. Despite all their attention, cryptocurrencies only have about 30 million users worldwide. That seems like a lot until you compare it with Facebook's user base of 2.4 billion people. I suspect those numbers will soon be changing as crypto's become mainstream over the next few years. Read more [HERE](#) how you transactions will most likely be taking place in the near future.*

Gene Therapy is About to Achieve a Milestone: *Gene therapy may have its first blockbuster as Novartis awaits approval to sell Zolgensma to treat spinal muscular atrophy. I'm told researchers are hoping this will be a one-time gene replacement cure in the first weeks of life, but the cost? You don't want to know. From what I understand Novartis expects to win approval this week to launch what it says will be the first "blockbuster" gene-replacement treatment, meaning a drug with more than \$1 billion in sales each year. The treatment, called Zolgensma, is able to save infants born with spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) type 1, a degenerative disease that usually kills within two years. But its expected cost is shocking, too: between \$1.5 and \$2 million, which would make it the most expensive one-time medicine ever sold. Novartis will announce the price as soon as it gets final approval from the US Food and Drug Administration, something the company expects to occur this week. It's worth mentioning, the FDA predicts that by 2025 between 10 and 20 gene or cell treatments will reach the market each year, potentially roiling the US insurance market if costly treatments for hemophilia and muscular dystrophy win approval. Insurers and policy makers will have a challenge in dealing with the issues these "super drugs" present... that they are expensive but also life-changing for those who need them. At the heart of the matter is not saying no to those who need the treatment but also not bankrupting the system as well. Read more [HERE](#) how leaders in the fields are dealing with the issues.*

Could Intuition be the Highest Form of Intelligence: *Intuition, argues Gerd Gigerenzer, a director at the Max Planck Institute for Human Development, is less about suddenly "knowing" the right answer and more about instinctively understanding what information is unimportant and can thus be discarded. Gigerenzer, author of the book Gut Feelings: The Intelligence of the Unconscious, says that he is both intuitive and rational. "In my scientific work, I have hunches. I can't explain always why I think a certain path is the right way, but I need to trust it and go ahead. I also have the ability to check these hunches and find out what they are about. That's the science part. Now, in private life, I rely on instinct. For instance, when I first met my wife, I didn't do computations. Nor did she." I'm telling you this because recently one of my readers,*

posed a question that stopped me in my tracks: What about intuition? It has never been titled as a form of intelligence, but would you think that someone who has great intuition in things, has more intelligence? For me, these are the same thoughts I pass along to my kids and staff, for the most part you know the right answer in your heart, it's when you rely solely on your head that things get complicated as you think you are outsmarting the situation. Read more insights [HERE](#).

Most Radical Advancement of Power Distribution Since Edison: This week the world's first and only digital circuit breaker was certified for commercial use, and the technology invented by Atom Power, has been listed by Underwriters Laboratories (UL), the global standard for consumer safety. Incredibly, this new breaker makes power easier to manage and 3000 times faster than the fastest mechanical breaker. To see how this breakthrough will have profound effects on the daily lives of many, consider this... picture the fuse box in your basement, each switch assigned to different electrical components of your home. These switches are designed to break a circuit to prevent the overloaded wires in your wall from overheating and causing a fire. When this happens, you plod down to your mechanical room and flick the switches on again. Now multiply that simple system in your home to city high rises and industrial buildings, which might have 250 circuit breakers on any given floor, each one ranging from 15 to 4000 amps at higher voltages. At this scale, the limitations and dangers of a manually controlled power system become much more evident—and costly. From what I understand, Ryan Kennedy, CEO of Atom Power, has been working to build a better electrical system since he began his career 25 years ago, first as an electrician and then as an engineer and project manager on large, high profile commercial electrical projects. His experienced based inquiry has revolved around a central assertion that analog infrastructure doesn't allow us to control our power the way we should be able to. That idea has led to some pretty critical questions: "What would it take to make power systems controllable?" and "Why shouldn't that control be built in to the circuit breaker itself?" Read more [HERE](#) on how one man's questioning the status quo led to this game changing innovation.



Say Hello to the Impossible— the First-Ever Digital Circuit Breaker

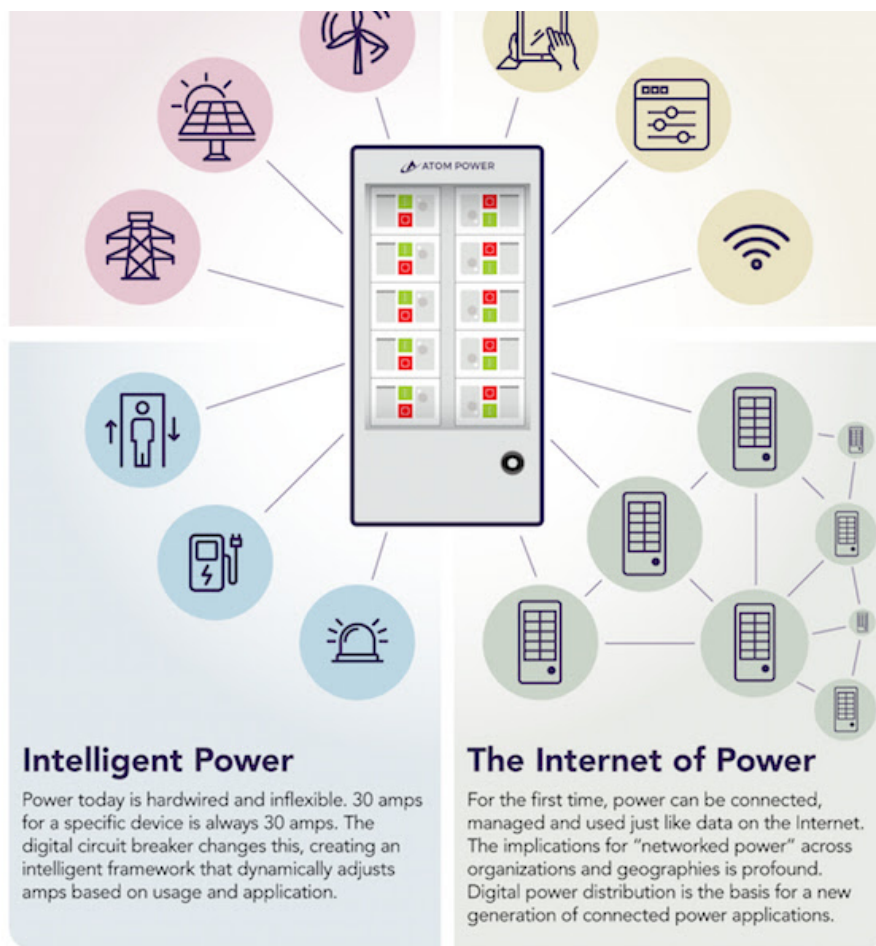
The circuit breaker hasn't changed since Edison's Lab more than 100 years ago. Atom Power has created the first-ever digital, solid state circuit breaker. It changes the economics, safety and possibility for all aspects of power distribution, including sourcing, intelligent energy routing, remote management and connected power (The Internet of Power).

Unlimited Power Source Switching

Switching between different power sources is extremely difficult and often impossible. Digital power distribution changes this, enabling unlimited dynamic switching from one source to another based on specific power needs at any given moment.

Remote Power Management

Digital power can be managed from any mobile device. With just a few taps on an iPhone, operators can adjust in seconds what would have otherwise taken hours. Remote power management at this level has never existed. It dramatically increases safety, improves efficiency and reduces overall power management costs.



Where are the 140 Million Acres in U.S. Conservation

On the 900 million acres that America Farmers use to produce the crops that feed the world, over 140 million acres are currently receiving conservation-related financial and technical assistance from the federal government. Keep in mind, farmers use these programs as they manage a variety of resource-conserving and wildlife habitat-preservation practices to protect and enhance natural resources and wildlife, as well as protect the environment. Of all the programs, three are considered primary and include, the Conservation Reserve Program, Conservation Stewardship Program, Environmental Quality Incentives Program. Interestingly, these acres cover 15% of all U.S. farmed acres and when combined equal an area larger than California and New York combined. It's worth mentioning, this total does not include all farmer conservation efforts through state-initiated and private conservation programs. Farm Bureau Chief Economist and friend John Newton has put together some information on these programs and the land enrolled that I thought I would pass along. If you are interested in a deeper dive on the changes to the EQIP and CSP in the 2018 farm bill you can click [HERE](#). In case you missed it, USDA's Farm Service Agency will accept applications beginning June 3, 2019, for certain practices under the continuous Conservation Reserve Program signup and will offer extensions for expiring CRP contracts. Click [HERE](#) to learn more. (Source: fb.org, nacdnet.org)

CRP program has a primary objective to conserve and improve soil, protect water quality, and provide wildlife habitat by establishing long-term cover, primarily grasses and trees, on highly erodible land or land in need of conservation buffers that has previously been in row crop production. CRP is the largest federally administered private-land retirement program, with annual outlays approaching \$2 billion per fiscal year. Enrollment is capped each year, and under the 2014 farm bill, enrollment was limited to no more than 24 million acres during fiscal years 2017 and 2018. I'm told the 2018 farm bill expands CRP acreage to a maximum of 27 million acres by 2023. In 2017, Texas enrolled the most acres at 2.9 million with Kansas following with 2.1 million acres, and I should mention that as a percentage of farm acres, CRP

enrollment was the highest in Washington at 8% and Mississippi at 7%. In the CRP graphic below, you'll see CRP acres as a percentage of a state's total farm acres.

CSP provides financial assistance to producers who have already begun to implement conservation on their land and commit to doing more. Producers must enroll their entire operation in the program, already have addressed two priority resource concerns, and commit to addressing another priority resource concern over the life of their five-year contract. I understand that CSP is a very competitive program, and only producers that commit to achieving the highest level of conservation are awarded contracts. According to enrollment data, since 2014 nearly 77 million acres have been enrolled in active and completed contracts. South Dakota, Nebraska and New Mexico led the pack with a combined 20 million acres, but as a percentage of agricultural land in CSP, enrollment was the highest in Alaska at 44%, New Hampshire at 23% and over 20% in both Arkansas and Louisiana. Looking at the bottom graphic you will find eighteen states have more than 10% of their agricultural land area enrolled in active or completed CSP contracts.

EQIP is a voluntary conservation program that provides farmers and ranchers with financial cost-share and technical assistance to implement conservation practices on working agricultural land. With many EQIP practices to choose from, the most widely used practices consist of cover cropping, nutrient management, irrigation water management, prescribed grazing, fencing and forest stand improvements. Over the last three fiscal years, EQIP acreage represented nearly 4% of all U.S. farmland, with Texas having the greatest number of active and completed acres at 6.5 million, followed by New Mexico at 4.2 million acres.

Figure 1. Conservation Reserve Program Acreage as a Percent of Total Agricultural Land

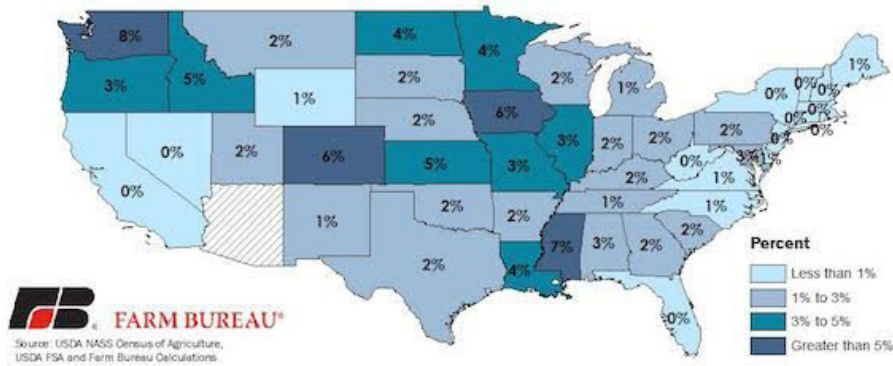


Figure 2. Conservation Stewardship Program Active and Completed Acreage as a Percent of Total Agricultural Land

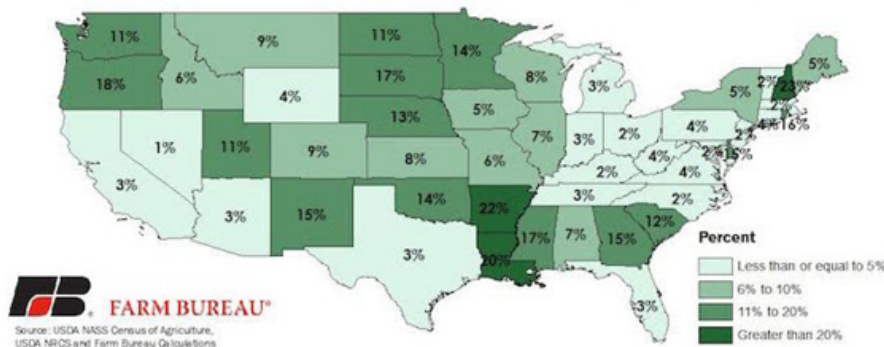
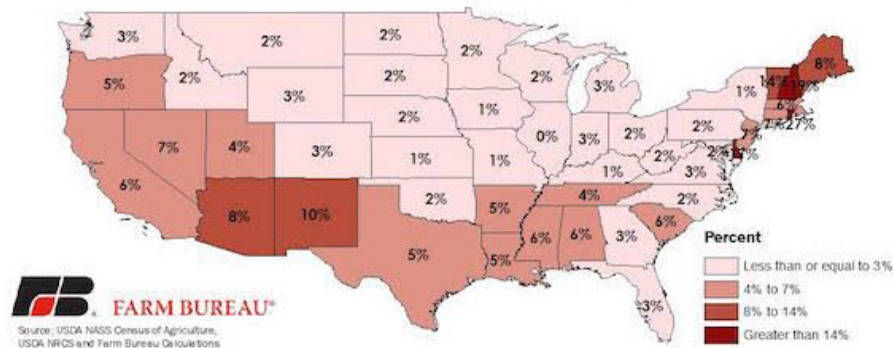


Figure 3. Environmental Quality Incentives Program Active and Completed Acreage as a Percent of Total Agricultural Land



What's All the Buzz About "White Lightning"

Matthew Boling, also known as White Lightning, is a high school track star that has recently gone viral, some calling him perhaps the fastest man in the United States. The Houston Strake Jesuit senior became the first high-schooler ever to break 10 seconds in the 100-meter dash by running a 9.98, but the time was not officially because it was slightly aided by wind. The legal limit for wind in a high school track event has to be under 2 meters per second (or less than 4.5 miles per hour) for the run to officially count. I should note, Boling's 9.98-second time beat the previous high school record in all conditions. He also broke the official high school national record a few weeks later by running a 10.13-second 100-meter dash. Keep in mind, either of these would have been fast enough to qualify for the last Olympics. What might be even more crazy, is the fact Boling had never competed in the 100-meter dash prior to his senior year of high school. To add even more spice to the story, Boling was running anchor for his 4x400 relay team, when he posted an astonishing 44.74-second 400-meters in the State championship. His 44.74 second time is extremely close to the current men's world record held by Wayde van Niekerk of South Africa coming in at 43.03 seconds. Boling's amazing run helped his team post the best time in the entire country at 3:10.56. In a wild finish, Boling battled from way behind to win the race, at one point trailing DeSoto's team by about 30 meters. In addition, Boling also won the Texas state championship in the long jump with a distance of 25 feet and 4.5 inches. Boling says he will attend the University of Georgia this fall, where I suspect he has an extremely bright future ahead. I encourage everyone to watch this short video of Boling running the final leg and winning the 4x400 relay. You can start watching at about the 2:00 minute mark, Boling then touches the baton at about the 2:25 mark. Click [HERE](#) to watch the race. I've never seen anything like it!



Don't Ever Give Up On Your Dreams

I received this e-mail the other day from a friend and thought it was worth passing along. It reminded me that we never fully know God's plan and just how quickly things can change. Never tell yourself that you've missed your chance or that you aren't good enough. Stay positive and continue to fight the good fight!

At age 23, Tina Fey was working at a YMCA.

At age 23, Oprah was fired from her first reporting job.

At age 24, Stephen King was working as a janitor and living in a trailer.

At age 27, Vincent Van Gogh failed as a missionary and decided to go to art school.

At age 28, J.K. Rowling was a suicidal single parent living on welfare.

At age 28, Wayne Coyne (from The Flaming Lips) was a fry cook.

At age 30, Harrison Ford was a carpenter.

At age 30, Martha Stewart was a stockbroker.

At age 37, Ang Lee was a stay-at-home-dad working odd jobs.

At age 39, Julia Child released her first cookbook it wasn't until age 51 that she got her own cooking show.

At age 40, Vera Wang designed her first dress.

At age 40, Stan Lee (chairman of Marvel Comics) released his first big comic book.

At age 41, Joey Behar, former co-host of The View was a high school English teacher.

At age 41, Donald and Doris Fisher founded The Gap.

At age 42, Alan Rickman gave up his graphic design career to pursue acting.

At age 44, Sam Walton opened the first store named Wal-Mart

At age 45, Henry Ford created his first Model-T

At age 46, Rodney Dangerfield got his first big break on the Ed Sullivan Show.

At age 46, Samuel L. Jackson got his first movie role.

At age 48, Momofuku Ando (inventor of the instant noodle) was selling salt and been in prison.

At age 50, Ray Kroc decided to open his first McDonalds

At age 52, Morgan Freeman landed his first MAJOR movie role.

At age 55, Duncan Hines wrote his first food and hotel guide. It wasn't until age 73, that he licensed the right to use his name to the company that developed Duncan Hines cake mixes.

At age 57, Kathryn Bigelow finally reached international success when she made The Hurt Locker.

At age 65, Harland Sanders found himself broke, but then things worked out when he sold the first Kentucky Fried Chicken franchise.

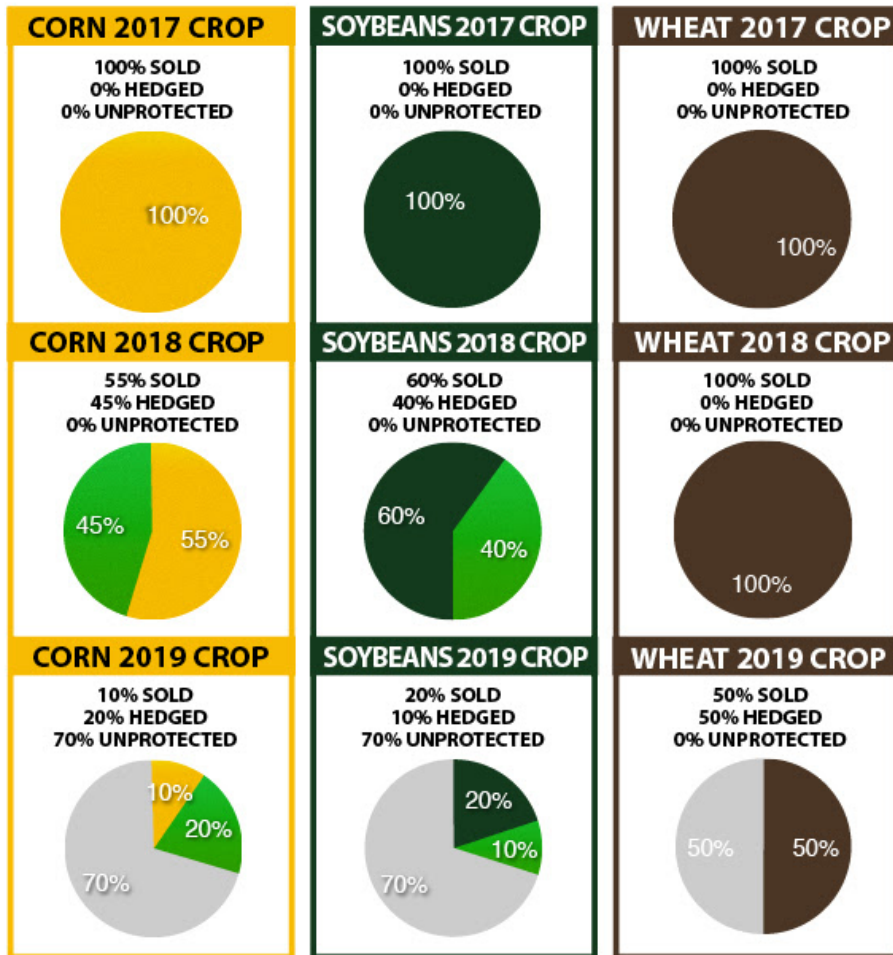
*At age 76, Grandma Moses began her painting career.
At age 78, Louise Bourgeois finally become a famous artist.*



ANSWER to riddle: A book!

CASH SALES & HEDGING TOTALS

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