



Jordan Van Trump &lt;jordan@farmdirection.com&gt;

**GOOD MORNING: Van Trump Report 6-28-19**

1 message

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

Fri, Jun 28, 2019 at 5:31 AM

Reply-To: Jordan &lt;reply-fecc17707360027d-1142\_HTML-40325470-100003450-8@vantrumpreport-email.com&gt;

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To view this email as a web page, go [here](#).

"Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same." - **Ronald Reagan**

**Friday, June 28, 2019**[Printable Copy](#) or [Audio Version](#)

**REMINDER:** *There will be NO Van Trump Reports sent next week. Our offices are closed the week of the July 4th holiday! I give my staff two weeks off per year, the week of Christmas and the week of July 4th. These seem to be the best weeks in the summer and winter to spend with the family. In addition, the markets are generally thinly traded each of these weeks as many professional traders take a break. Again, there will be NO Van Trump Reports sent next week. I will, however,*

*personally be monitoring the markets and will send a "Special Report" to paid subscribers if an event should alter my current marketing thoughts, opinions, and/or strategies.*

**Morning Summary:** Stocks have posted their best first-half start in the past 22 years. There have been more reports circulating that the U.S. and China have tentatively agreed to a tariff truce in order to resume trade talks. Details will reportedly be announced ahead of Friday night's meeting between Presidents Trump and Xi Jinping at the G-20 summit in Osaka, Japan. It sounds like this will keep President Trump from moving forward with the extend 25% tariffs on another \$300 billion in Chinese exports. From what I have been hearing, China reportedly demanded additional tariffs be delayed before they would agree to return to the negotiating table. I guess this could all change in the blink of an eye or perhaps a Tweet, so stay tuned. Next week is going to be extremely thin as many large insiders take off for the 4th of July holiday. The big event will be the OPEC meeting scheduled for next Monday and Tuesday. The 4th of July is next Thursday and the markets will all be closed. I suspect the day before and the day after will be mostly non-events. When we come back from the holiday break, we will begin the second-half of the trading year. I will be keeping a close eye on energy prices, the direction of the U.S. dollar, relations between U.S. and Chinese trade negotiators, and the demeanor of the Federal Reserve. Money flow also remains a bit of a concern. I'm seeing data and hearing that fresh money flowing into the market from 401K's and Pension Funds are more quickly rotating towards alternatives and safe haven type plays. We've seen a slight uptick in commodity fund flows tied to precious metals. We are also seeing a bit more money coming out of non-U.S. equity funds. I should note, the 30-year fixed-rate mortgage rate is now averaging 3.73%. The 15-year fixed-rate mortgage averaged 3.16% this past week. Locking in longer-term variable rates would seem to be a smart play. Don't forget, our offices will be closed next week for the holiday. If anything major breaks loose in the market I will provide updates from my vacation. I wish you and your family a very safe and happy Independence Day! Thank you again for your support.

**Economists Keeping Close Eye on Job Markets:** *After years of remarkably smooth sailing, 2019 has brought market volatility and has some*

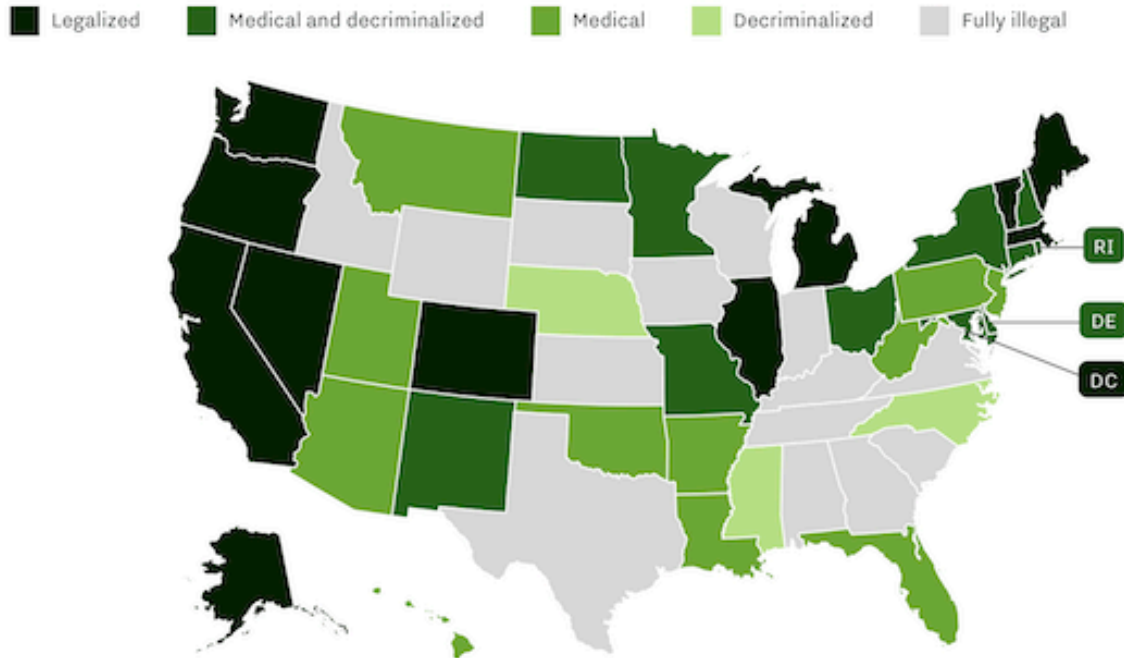
*economists now worried whether we can keep adding jobs at a pace fast enough to sustain the expansion. Keep in mind, job gains don't necessarily have to turn negative to signal trouble. Also, it's worth mentioning, a +0.5% increase from a cyclical low on the unemployment rate has accurately predicted every recession in recent history and has never been a false positive, as Brookings economist Claudia Sahm noted recently. Learn more [HERE!](#)*

**Microsoft Cashing In On 2017 Investment:** *In late 2017, Microsoft invested in an experimental health-care company called Adaptive Biotechnologies, hoping to put its advanced cloud technology to work in life sciences while also making money as a significant shareholder. As of Thursday, Microsoft appears poised to do both. I should mention, Adaptive, which is developing what it calls an "immune medicine platform" to change how we treat various diseases, soared in its public market debut, more than doubling to over \$40 after the company sold shares Wednesday night at \$20 a piece. The pop means the value of Microsoft's \$45 million investment at \$10.67 a share has almost quadrupled. Read more [HERE](#).*

**Illinois Legalized Marijuana:** *Illinois is now the 11th state to legalize marijuana for recreational purposes. Illinois's marijuana legalization law will allow recreational possession and sales starting on January 1, 2020, which creates a new system of taxes and regulations. Adults 21 and older will be allowed to possess and buy cannabis, although tourists in Illinois will be allowed to buy less than state residents. Cities and counties may prohibit sales, but not possession, within their borders. Personal growing will only be fully legal for medical use. Previous low-level convictions and arrests for marijuana will be pardoned and expunged. The law will go into effect on January 1, 2020. (Source: Vox)*

## Marijuana laws in the US

Note: Vermont and Washington, DC, do not allow marijuana sales for recreational purposes.



Source: Marijuana Policy Project  
Credit: German Lopez

Vox

# FARM TANK

Tweets of the Day

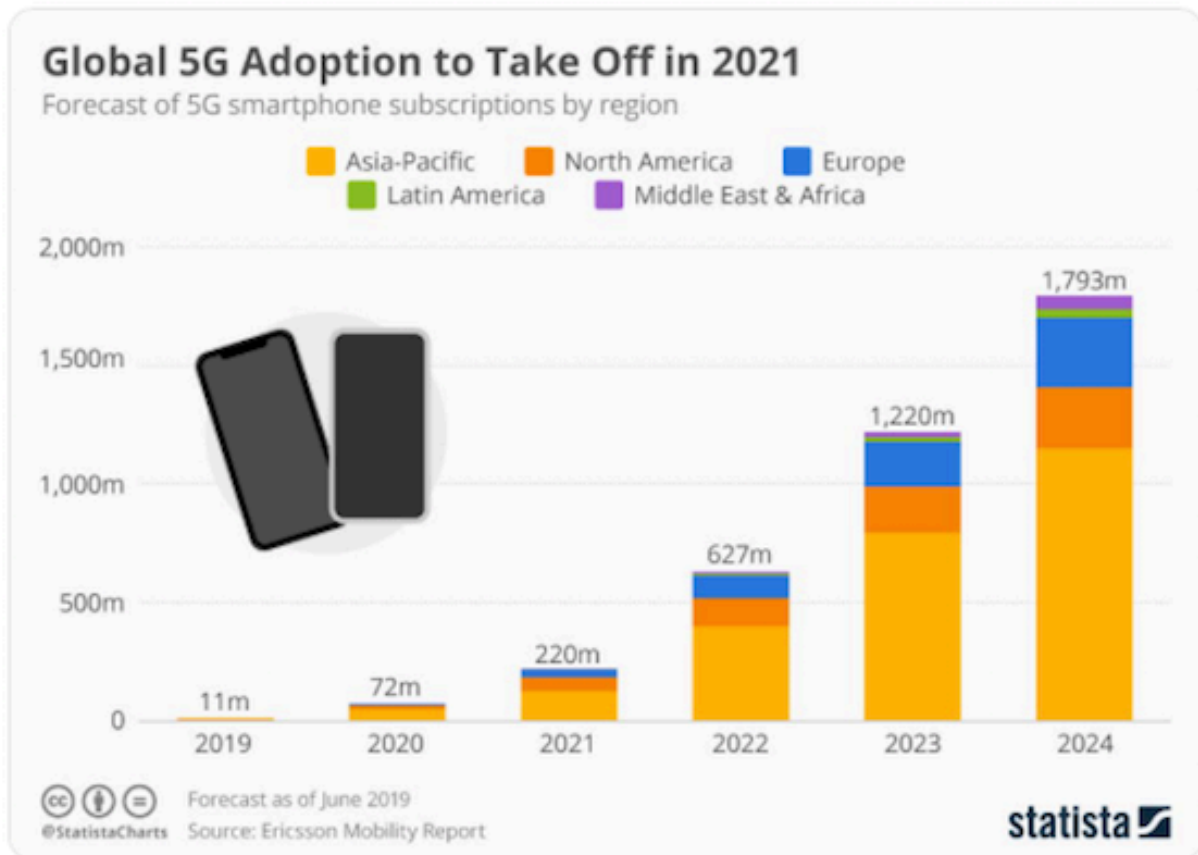




Following

According to the latest estimates by  
[@ericsson](#) #5G technology won't really take  
off until 2021/2022

[bit.ly/2Xevatl](https://bit.ly/2Xevatl)





**Kreigh Smith**  
@KreighSmith

Following



Well, there was beans in there. #plant19  
#NoPlant19







**Jennifer**  
@jenofalltradz

Following



Yep sums up [#harvest19](#) in Oklahoma.  
[@Vines\\_N\\_Cattle](#)



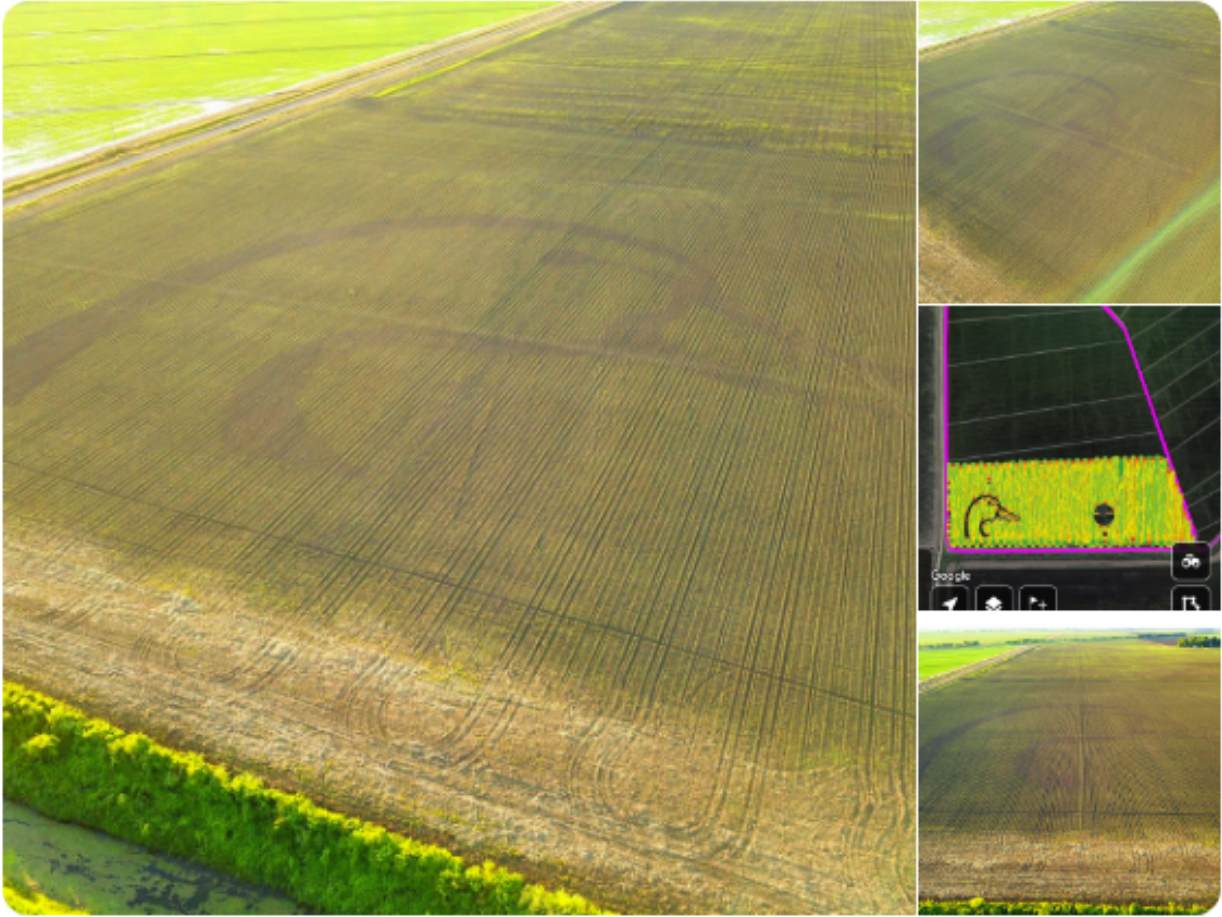
**Travis Senter**

@traviss22

Following



Follow up to the [@DucksUnlimited](#) logo in the [#waterfowl](#) habitat food plot. [@JohnDeere](#) exact emerge planter. [#Plant19](#)







**Super 70s Sports**  
@Super70sSports

Following



I believe this outfield should be suffucient for your needs.





**Super 70s Sports**  
@Super70sSports

Following



You don't want any of this.





**Southwestern Univ.** ✓  
@SouthwesternU

Following



Happy birthday, America! 🇺🇸 Wishing you a happy and safe #4thofJuly. #HBDAmerica 🌟



**Corn** traders desperately want to know how many U.S. acres were planted in 2019? I suspect today's estimate by the USDA will be seen as nothing more than a guess, as producer intentions were spoiled several times by extreme weather difficulties. Remember, we won't start seeing the FSA acreage data trickle out until mid-August. At the same time, we have to keep in mind several areas pushed back prevent-plant deadlines so data could be late and extremely sporadic in nature. We probably won't see NASS start using the FSA acreage data in their estimates until October. In other words, and as I've been saying for weeks, this market is going to take some time to shake out all of the details and specifics. In fact, we might



have a better estimate of yield before we know planted acreage numbers. I'm also thinking "harvested acres" are going to be a bigger wild-card than most are anticipating. I think we could see more fields abandoned or producers throwing in the towel if they continue to face additional weather difficulties. As for "demand" it seems to be a fluid and moving target. Bears will want to continue arguing demand destruction, but I see that all hinging on further price appreciation. Hence, bears in my opinion are ultimately arguing a bullish scenario. Weather nearby is going to improve and some weak kneed bulls might head for the exits as producers start talking about improved fields and better looking crops. As a spec, I'm going to look for bigger pullbacks in price as an opportunity to add a bit more long-term length. As a producer, there might be some opportunities to re-own some of those recent cash sales. I still see the over/under for total U.S. production at 12.5 billion bushels, as both harvested acres and yield will slowly be trimmed. Staying bullish and extremely patient, despite what could be negative nearby price action. Below are a couple of interesting Tweets I wanted to pass along.

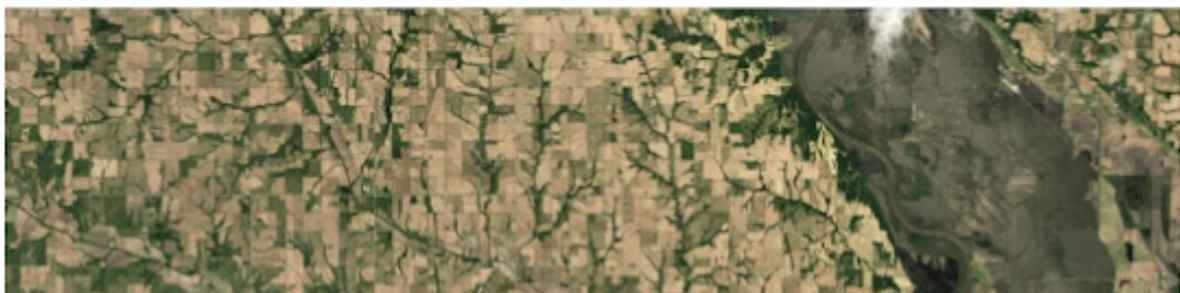


**Laura Thompson**  
@AgTechLaura

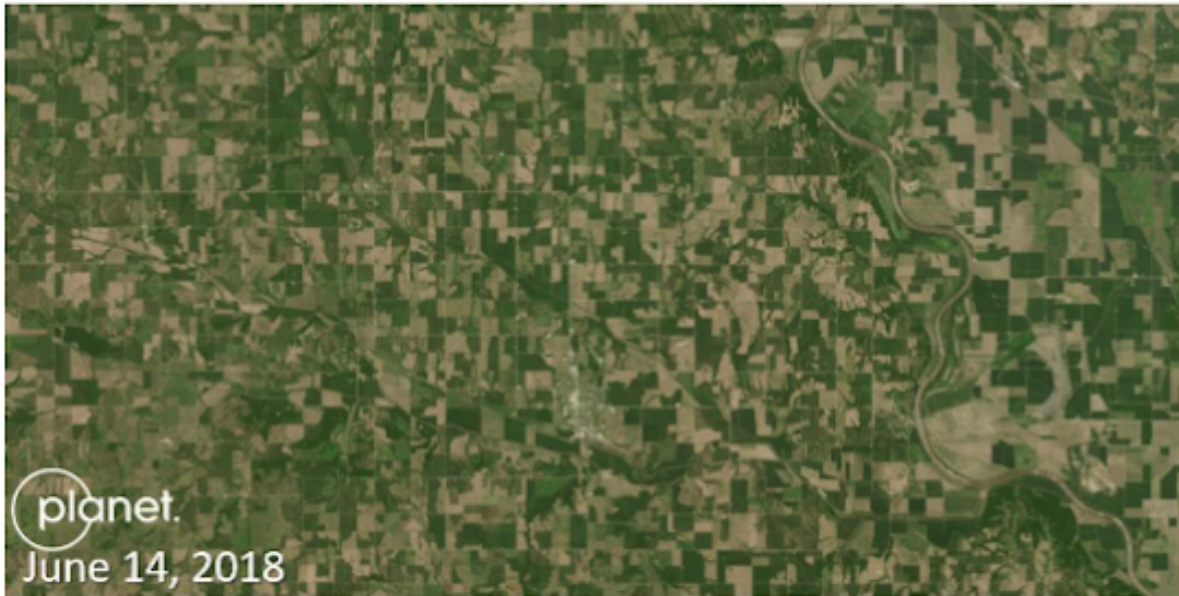
Following



Satellite imagery comparison from June 2018 and June 2019 shows dramatic crop progress differences. This imagery shows areas surrounding Falls City, NE and Missouri River bottom east of Rulo. Interactive version here: [planet.com/stories/2019-c](https://planet.com/stories/2019-c) ...  
[@UNL\\_CropWatch](#) [@glesoing2](#) [#plant19](#)









**Justin Roberts**

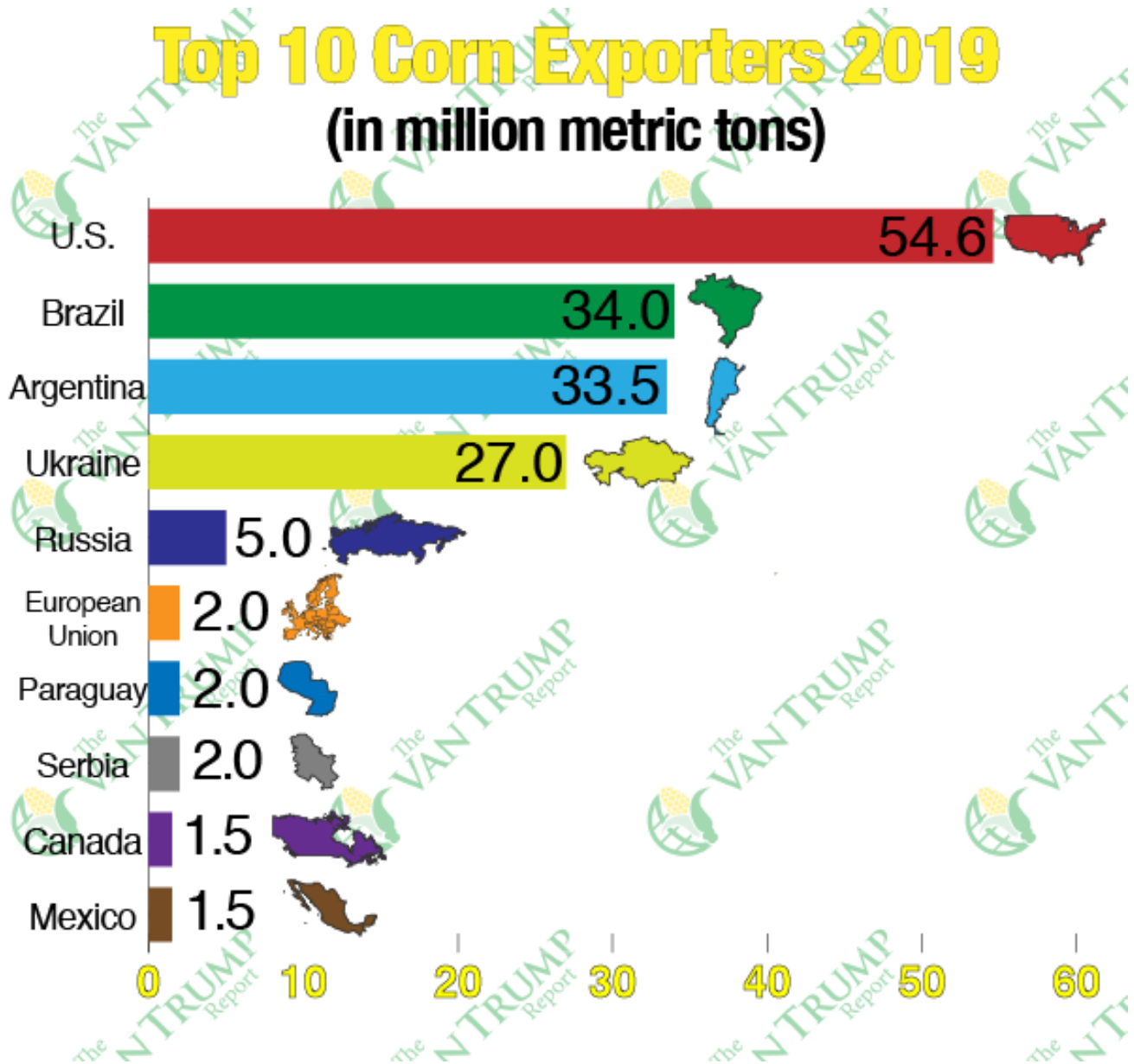
@horned\_ranch

Following



#harvest19 has started in South Texas. 118 day corn is coming out.





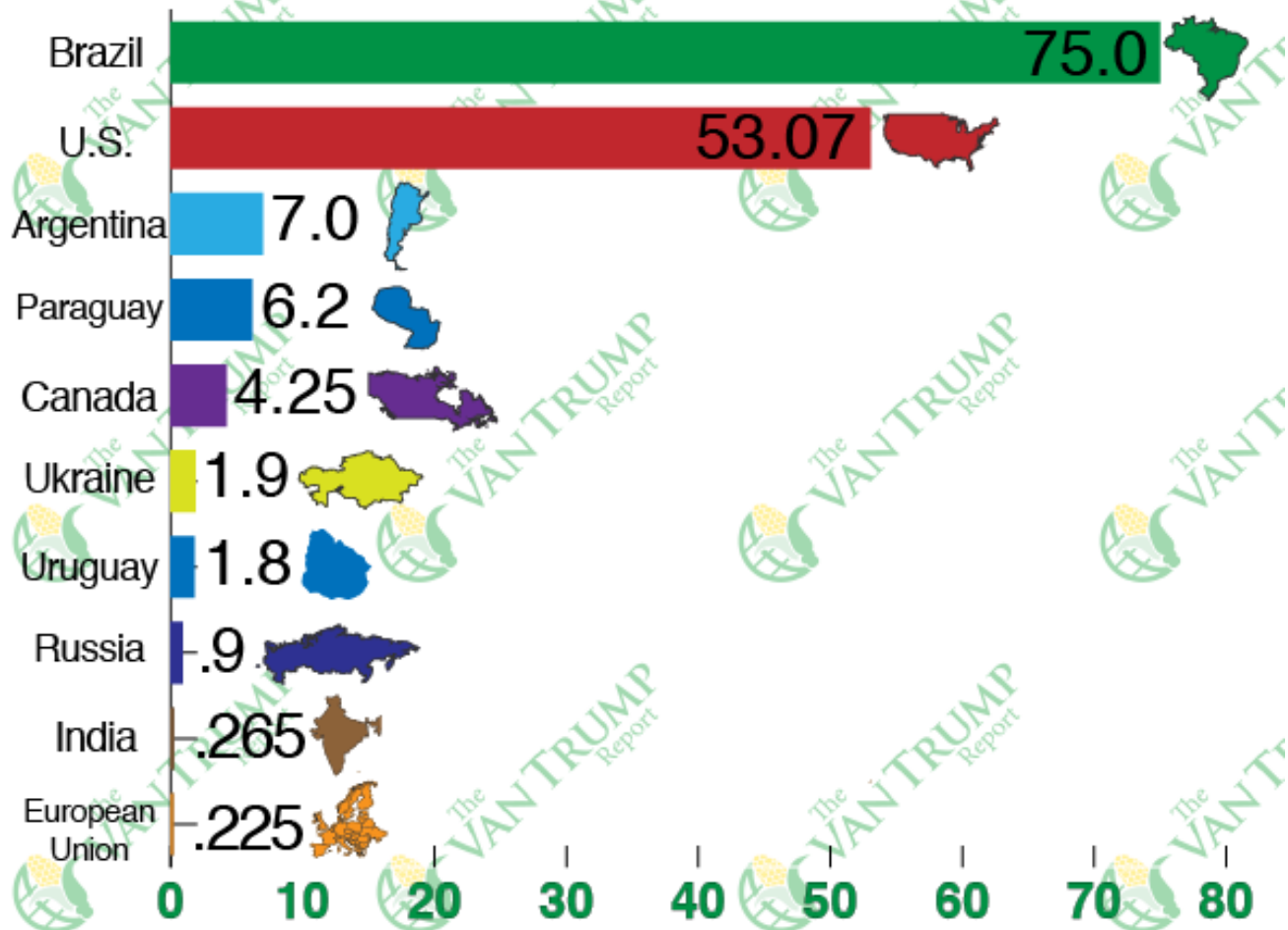
**Soybean** traders are eager to see the USDA's glimpse of planted acreage. I don't think anybody in the trade is looking for the data to be complete or final in nature, but rather simply an early guess. Back in March the USDA offered up an estimate of 84.6 million planted soybean acres. Bears and bulls now seem split on if planted soybean acreage will be larger or smaller. Bears are saying that a large number of corn acres that didn't get planted where in fact switched to soybean acres, hence adding to the USDA's early March forecast. Bulls on the other hand aren't disagreeing with some corn acres switching to soybeans, but they believe there has been such an extended delay in planting that many soybean acres simply didn't get in the ground, hence the USDA's early estimate needs to be moved

lower. I personally, think today's number could be a bit high. Many producer probably thought they were going to roll out more soybean acres when the survey was completed, but ongoing rains continued to further complicate. Ultimately, I'm thinking the planted acreage number continues to work lower. Only problem is we don't start seeing certified acreage data from the FSA until mid-August, but even then, the numbers won't tell the full story and will continue to be updated through year-end. Meaning we aren't going to know solid acreage numbers for several months. And yield has been highly unpredictable the past several years, with many broad ranging guesses just a few weeks prior to harvest. Bottom-line, lots of big wild-cards are on the table and yet to be turned over. Keep in mind, the 800 pound gorilla in the room is also still uncaged. How things play out with the Chinese and longer-term trade remains an extreme unknown. Perhaps we will learn more details after President Trump and Xi finish their extended meeting in Japan on Saturday. Staying fully engaged with some big ticket items in play...



# Top 10 Soybean Exporters 2019

(in million metric tons)



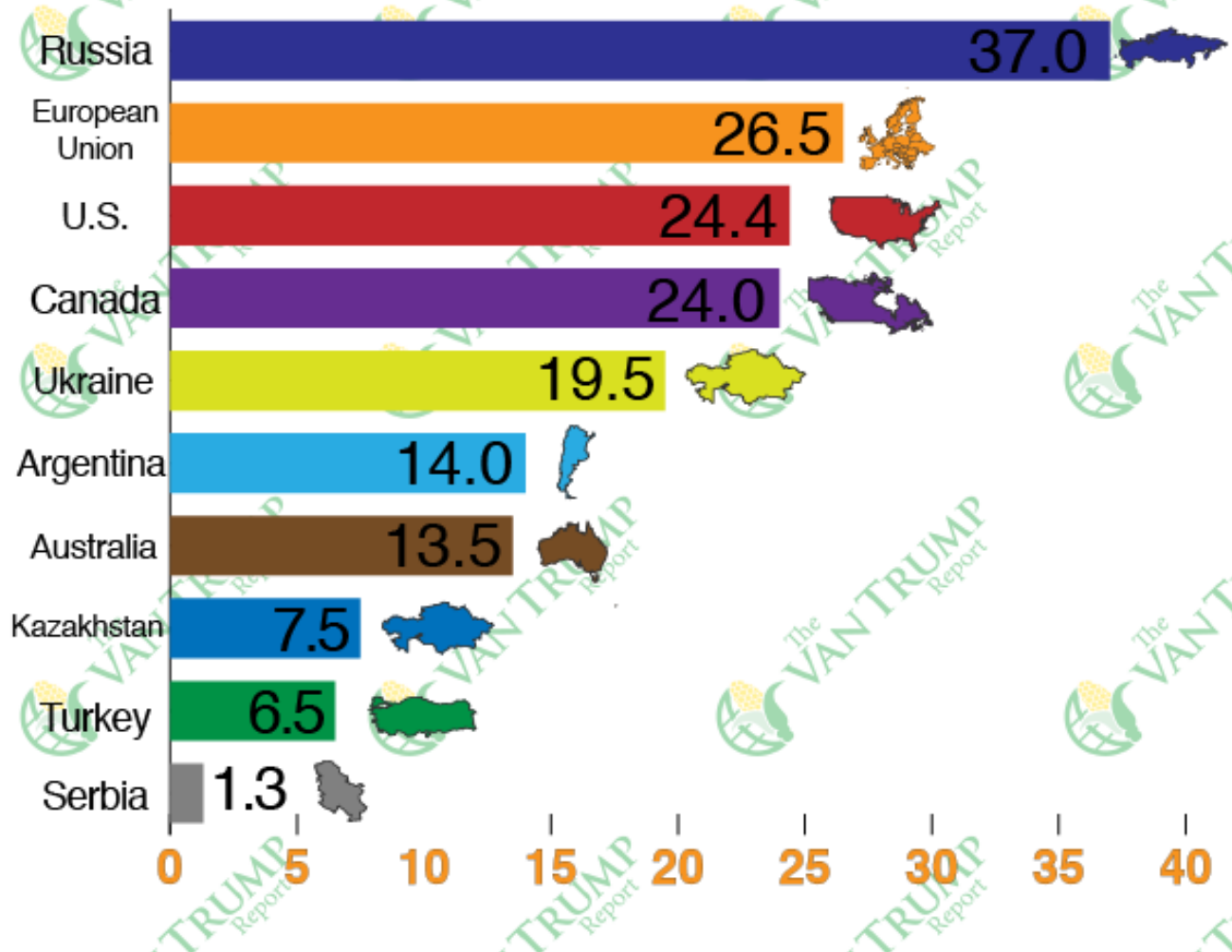
**Wheat** bulls continue to monitor extreme heat in portions of Europe. It seems like areas inside France and Germany seem to be most in the spotlight. Talk of rains over the weekend both in Europe and portions of the Black Sea region has limited additional upside price movement. Today, all eyes shift to the USDA report and upcoming talks between President Trump and Xi. Most in the trade are looking for a few more U.S. winter wheat acres and fewer spring wheat acres. Net-net, not really much difference in all wheat acres, perhaps -100,000 to -300,000 less in total. Bears argue the much improved moisture profile across the U.S. and limited heat stress has brought about improved yields. In other words, fewer acres could be offset to some degree by improved production. Bears also point to somewhat

limited export demand and a glut of global wheat still floating around. We have to keep in mind, this is the third year in a row that U.S. wheat supplies have exceeded +1 billion bushels. Meaning it's tough to gain sustained upside momentum. I included a chart of the DEC19 SRW contract, as you can see, we are now at a very critical level in the market. As a producer, I like the thought of pricing our first 2020 cash bushels against the JUL20 and DEC20 contracts. As a spec, I'm hesitant to be a buyer up at these levels and reluctant to chase the market higher. On the flip side, the market still seems too dangerous to take a short position.



# Top 10 Wheat Exporters 2019

(in million metric tons)



## June 1 Quarterly Stocks Estimate

	June #	Avg. Trade Est.	Trade Range	March USDA
<b>Corn</b>	???	5.349	5.174 - 5.897	8.605
<b>Soybeans</b>	???	1.861	1.700 - 1.962	2.716
<b>Wheat</b>	???	1.100	1.077 - 1.160	1.591

**June 1 Planted Acreage**

	<b>June #</b>	<b>Avg. Trade Est.</b>	<b>Trade Range</b>	<b>March USDA</b>
<b>Corn</b>	???	88.662	82.000 - 89.800	92.792
<b>Soybeans</b>	???	84.355	81.000 - 86.500	84.617
<b>All Wheat</b>	???	45.654	44.500 - 46.100	45.754
<b>Winter Wheat</b>	???	31.577	31.500 - 32.140	31.504
<b>Spring Wheat</b>	???	12.595	11.961 - 13.000	12.830
<b>Durum Wheat</b>	???	1.476	1.300 - 1.820	1.420
<b>Cotton</b>	???	13.819	13.480 - 14.300	13.780
<b>Sorghum</b>	???	5.291	5.060 - 6.000	5.135





**> USDA Identifies GMO Wheat Recently Found:** *USDA officials from the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service confirmed the presence of Monsanto's MON 71800 variety in the genetically modified volunteer wheat plants recently discovered in Eastern Washington. I'm told MON 71800 is known by the trade name Roundup Ready wheat, and was previously found in an Oregon wheat field in 2013. From what I understand, USDA officials continue to test fields on adjacent farms and haven't identified any GE wheat volunteers at other locations to this point.*

**> Hog Inventory Tops +75 Million on June 1:** *Inventory of all hogs and pigs in the U.S. was 75.5 million head, which is the highest since estimates began in 1964. I should mention, this was up 4% from June 1, 2018, and up 1% from March 1, 2019. I'm told expectations were centered around the 3% area. Also, breeding inventory, at 6.41 million head, was up 1% from last year and up 1% from the previous quarter, which is smaller than analysts had expected at 2.1%. Read more [HERE](#).*

**> Argentina Wheat Planted Acres Raised:** *Swift progress of planting wheat in*

*Argentina lifted the anticipated planted area to an 18-year high of 16 million acres last week, despite recent rains that caused some losses in the north of the country, the Buenos Aires Grain Exchange (BAGE) said Thursday. I should mention that it's up from the exchange's previous view of 158 million acres. Also, BAGE kept its soybean and corn production forecast unchanged at 56 million and 48 million mt, respectively.*

**> April Was First Month Ever That Renewable Energy...** *generated more electricity for the U.S. than coal. From what I understand, clean energy such as solar and wind provided 23% of US electricity generation during the month, compared with coal's 20%, according to the Energy Information Administration. It turns out that April was a favorable month for renewables with low energy demand and an uptick in wind generation. This means we should expect coal to once again pull ahead of renewables again during 2019, although the long-term trends appear to be set. Find out why some believe this could be the start of the end for coal [HERE](#).*

**> Baby Boomers are Contemplating "Rational" Suicide:** *Baby boomers are starting to get older, in their 70's and 80's, and many of them are talking about suicide. Keep in mind, they're not suffering from depression and they're not considering taking their lives anytime soon, but just having the conversation. I'm told they're of the opinion that suicide can be a well-reasoned decision, not a result of emotional or psychological problem. Most of them want to have a "rational" decision made before they can't. I certainly see the logic and expect this could lead to more public debates on the matter. Read more on the highly controversial and in some cases very personal subject [HERE](#).*

**> Great Big Bond Battle:** *A rebellion is brewing in the \$9 trillion corporate-bond market as algorithmic-trading specialists and individual investors are fighting a Securities and Exchange Commission proposal, which they say would unfairly benefit firms that have long dominated the bond world. From what I understand, the battle pits those who depend on equal access to price information against big asset managers and Wall Street banks that have urged the SEC to delay reporting of the largest trades they make with each other. Opponents of the change,*

including San Bernardino County, Calif. and quantitative trading firm Jane Street Capital, said the proposal would make most investors more prone to trade bonds at inferior prices, benefiting the few large firms that control the bulk of assets in the market. Read more [HERE](#) in the battle for equal access to information.

> **Taming Our Impulses to Do Everything:** It always seems to be a hassle to try to cram as much experience as possible into as little time as possible. But at some point, this mad pursuit becomes counterproductive. There's just too much happening too quickly and it's impossible to keep up. Danish philosopher, Svend Brinkmann offers some insights into the joy of mission out. Click [HERE](#) to see how we got to this point and what you can do.

> **Domino's CEO on the Future of the Pizza Business:** Ritch Allison, the chief executive of Domino's Pizza, is sure of one thing: Pizza will endure. Almost everything about how a pizza is made and transported to the customer, however, is undergoing a high-tech shift. Allison recently spoke with The Future of Everything about the role of robots in pizza making, which was centered around the use of customer data and the vehicles that might one day deliver your dinner. Great business insights from someone with a front-row seat... click [HERE](#) to see what to expect in the near future!

> **One Record That May Never be Broken...and a Cool Car:** Sir John Arthur "Jack" Brabham was a legendary three-time champion Formula 1 driver, which holds the rarest of accomplishments in racing history as he remains the only driver to have won the F1 drivers' championship in a car of his own design and make. Keep in mind, it's well agreed upon by racing experts that this record could stand forever as car makers just aren't drivers, and vice versa, Brabham was definitely a rare breed. Now, his accomplished racing son just kicked off the limited production run of seventy \$1.3 million BT62 Brabham "track" supercars earlier this year. Click [HERE](#) to learn more about the tricked out custom-sculpted 700-horse V8.

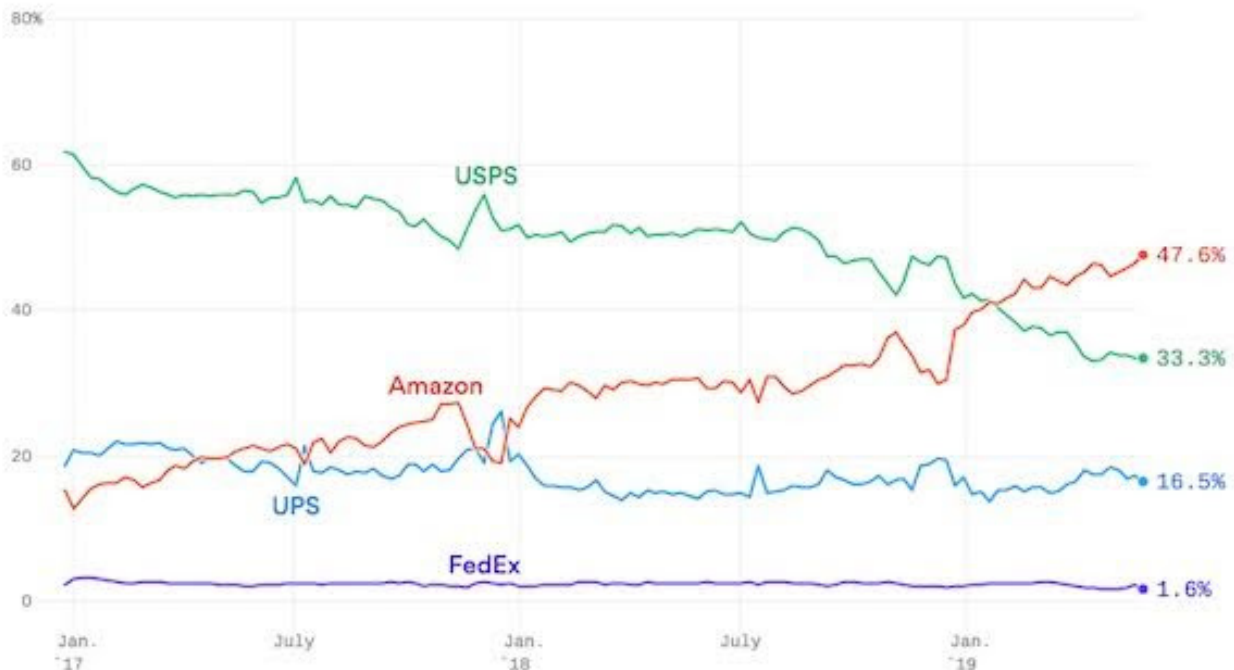
> **Amazon Now its Own Biggest Shipping Client:** Less than a decade after Amazon broke into the logistics industry, it has become its own biggest

shipper. While the world has fixated on Amazon's moves into books, groceries and cloud computing are perhaps the most formidable of all with the companies swift break into different businesses. Keep in mind, Amazon is about 40% of all e-commerce, meaning if they're handling half of their own shipments, which happens to be 20% of the whole market. In addition, researchers found that 48% of Amazon packages are delivered by the company itself, Click [HERE](#) to learn more about how Amazon is turning the logistics industry on its head.

## Amazon, the new king of shipping

### Share of Amazon shipments by carrier

Weekly, Dec. 26, 2016 to May 27, 2019



Data: Rakuten Intelligence; Chart: Axios Visuals

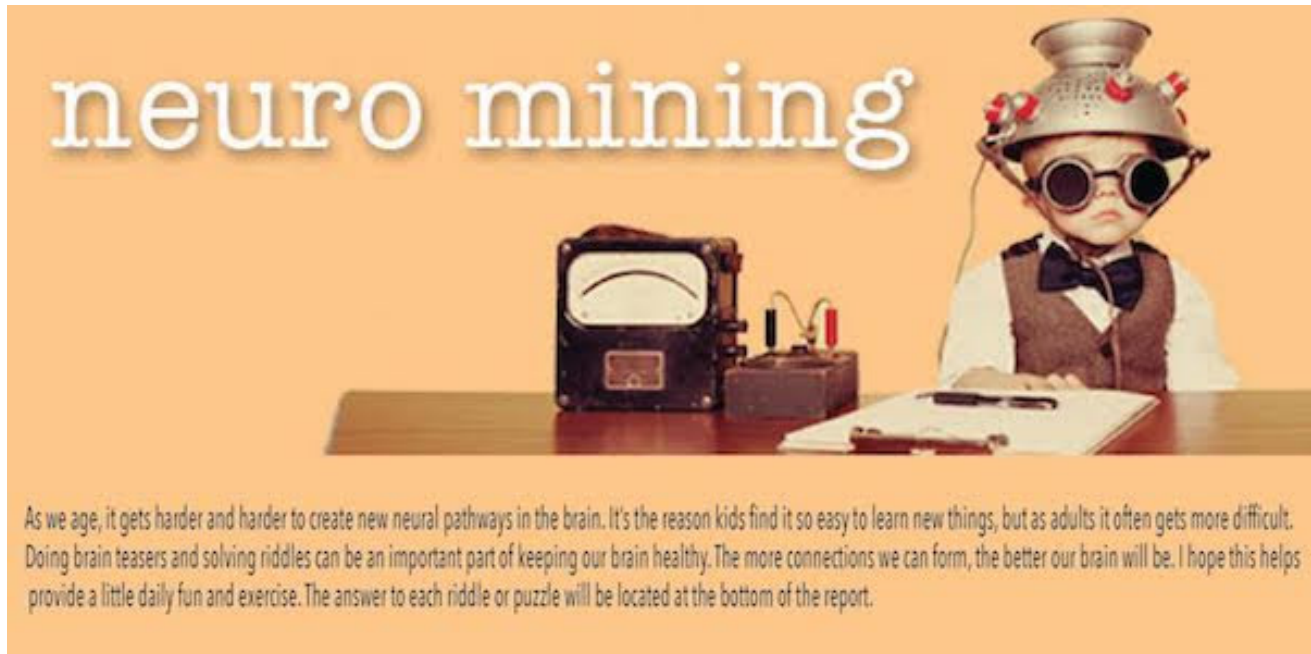




**Southcentral Kansas** – *We're just starting to cut wheat on Wednesday. This is at least two weeks behind our average start date. Yield has been all over the board because of the drowned out spots. We've ranged from 15 bushels to 50 bushels throughout the same field. The biggest surprise, in my opinion, has been the wheat quality. We have been over 61 on the test weight and 12.5 on the protein or higher with protein. We were expecting problems because this type of weather breeds disease. The guys that use custom cutter are waiting for them to move from the south, but most farms with a combine were running middle of this week.*

**Southeast Indiana** – *When guys planted around here the conditions were a little wet, to say the least. Shortly after we planted the last acres it turned off hot and dry. We're going to replant some acres because they crusted under. Some of them came up, but most struggle. We're going turn the population up about 15% and hopefully, we get a better stand this go around. So many guys are either replanting or planting for the first time and we can't even get seed until the weekend. If guys are planting beans, then they are side dressing corn, which has bottlenecked the 28% market too.*

**Northern Minnesota** – *It's hard to believe that most of the country is wet because we are living rain to rain here. The wheat is on the verge of heading out within the next week. We threw a little extra nitrogen at this crop because it looked so good early on. If this crop doesn't blow at the last lap, we should be looking at an extremely high yield. I think we have a good chance of setting a PR for our corn. The other crops look good, but they have a long way to go before they are made. This part of the state was planted well before most of the southern portions. We've seen the growth of the crops slow a little more than normal, which is mostly because of the lack of GDU's.*



**TODAY'S RIDDLE: You can see me in water, but I never get wet. What am I?**



### **MUST READ... History You Need to Know!**

In June 1776, a little over a year after the start of the American Revolutionary War, the U.S. Continental Congress huddled together in a hot room in Philadelphia to talk independence. In fact, it was on this day in 1776 that the final draft for the Declaration of Independence was submitted to the Continental Congress for approval, and interestingly, Jefferson's efforts only took seventeen days and a couple revisions to produce the document that would forever change the course of a nation and the entire world! Interestingly, the real first draft of the declaration was actually known as "The Lee Resolution," also called the Resolution of Independence, which was an act of the Second Continental Congress declaring the Thirteen Colonies to be independent of the British Empire. Proposed and written by

Richard Henry Lee of Virginia on June 7, 1776, it's considered the earliest form and draft of the Declaration of Independence. You can read it [HERE](#) ! It was on June 11, 1776, Congress appointed a "Committee of Five," consisting of John Adams of Massachusetts, Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania, Thomas Jefferson of Virginia, Robert R. Livingston of New York, and Roger Sherman of Connecticut, to draft a more inclusive declaration. From what I understand, the delegates originally pushed for Richard Henry Lee, author of the Lee Resolution, to write the Declaration of Independence, not Thomas Jefferson, but fate would intervene with a pair of circumstances that would put the responsibility on the shoulders of the young Virginian delegate, who was just 33 years old at the time. First of all, Lee was also appointed to the Committee of Confederation and would be responsible for the writing of the Articles of Confederation, which lead to him to pulling out of the previous committee as it would be too great of an effort to manage both. Second and more sadly, his wife became gravely ill during the Philadelphia convention and forced him to return home prematurely. With that turn of events, Thomas Jefferson would quickly become one of the most important individuals in the history of the United States. As it turns out, Jefferson initially had no interest in penning the Declaration and wanted John Adams to do it instead. Adams adamantly refused, so Jefferson went to work. After several long debates, in that final sweltering hot week of June, a Resolution of Independence was approved on July 2nd, meaning America was officially "free." In fact, several of our founding fathers believed July 2nd would be the day we celebrated our freedom and independence. But just two day later the gentleman in Congress voted to adopt The Declaration of Independence, which was mostly written by Thomas Jefferson offering all the reason why our country should be free from England. Below are a few fun and interesting fact you might not know: (Source: Constitutionalfacts.com, USHistory.org, Wiki; History.com)

**More than One Copy Existed:** *After the adoption of the Declaration of Independence, the "Committee of Five"—Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Roger Sherman and Robert R. Livingston—were charged with overseeing the production of the approved text and original documents. This was completed at the shop of Philadelphia printer John Dunlap. On July 5, Dunlap's documents were dispatched across the 13 colonies to local*

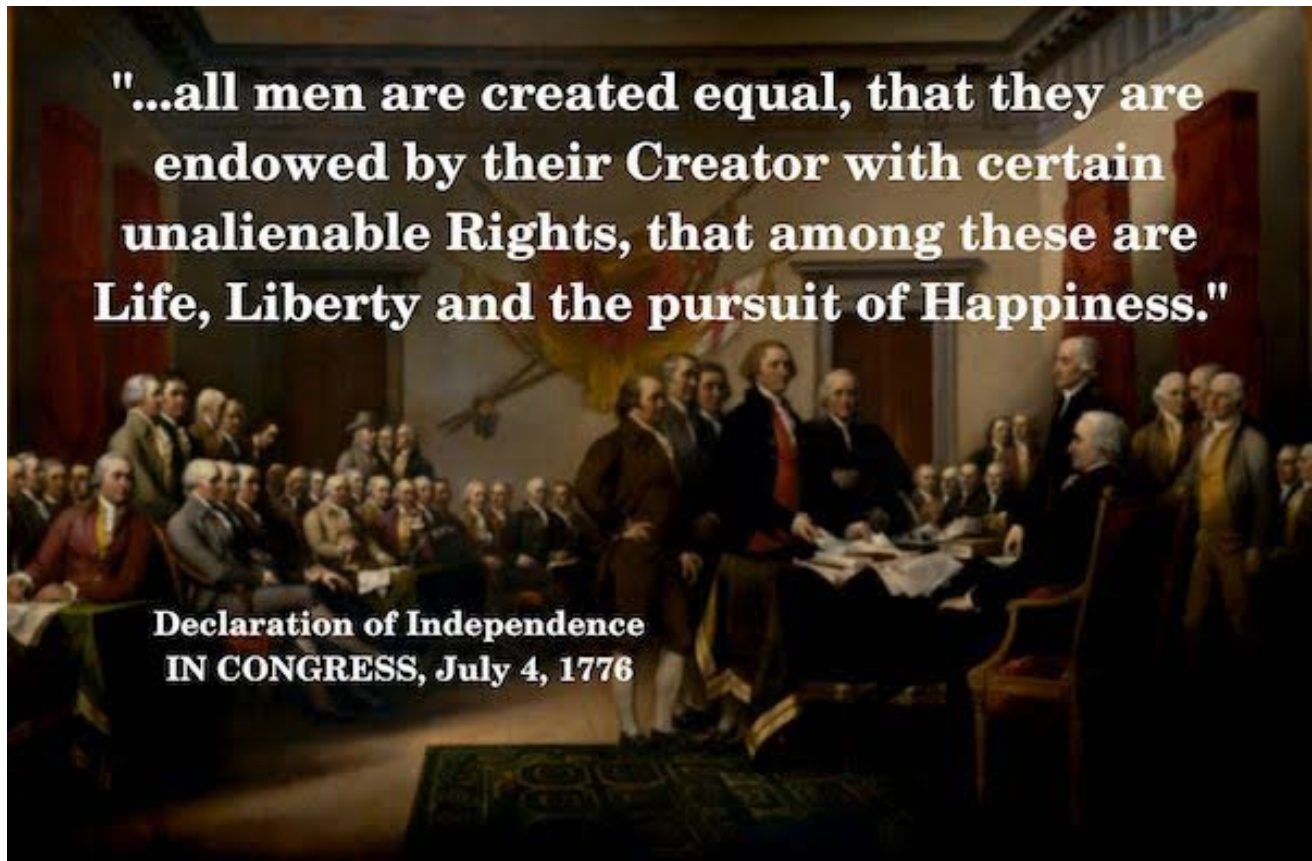
*officials and the commanders of the Continental troops. These rare documents, known as "Dunlap broadsides," predate the engrossed version actually signed by the delegates. Of those thought to have been created on the night of July 4, only 26 are known to have survived. Most are held in museum and library collections, but three are privately owned.*

**Two Found in Modern Day History:** *In 1989, a Philadelphia man found an original Dunlap Broadside hidden in the back of a picture frame he bought at a flea market for \$4. One of the few surviving copies from the official first printing of the Declaration, it was in excellent condition and sold for \$8.1 million in 2000. A 26th known Dunlap broadside emerged at the British National Archives in 2009, hidden for centuries in a box of papers captured from American colonists during the Revolutionary War. One of three Dunlap broadsides at the National Archives, the copy remains there to this day.*

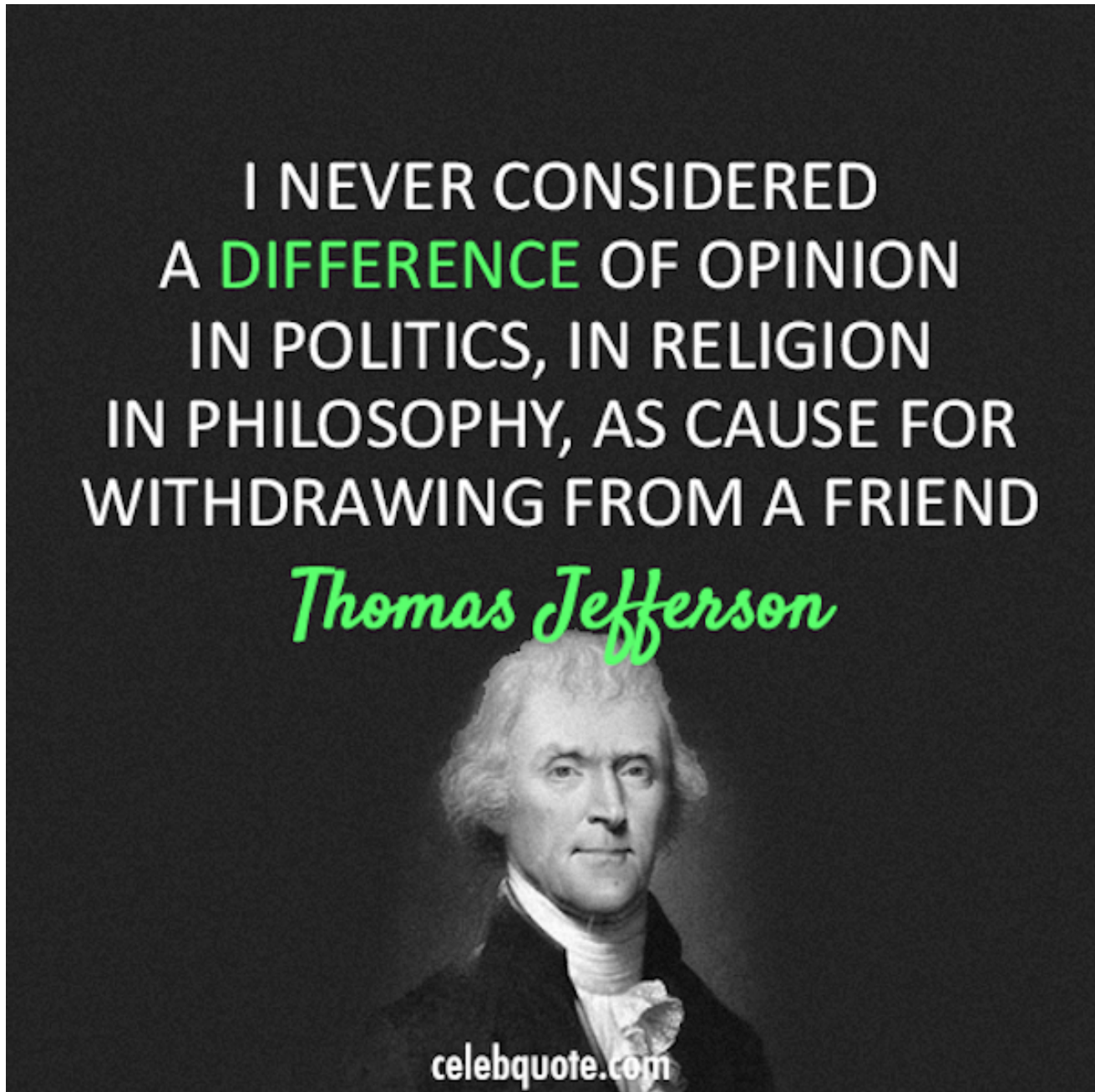
**The Declaration of Independence Spent World War II in Fort Knox:** *On December 23, 1941, just over two weeks after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, the signed Declaration together with the Constitution was removed from public display and prepared for evacuation out of Washington, D.C. Under the supervision of armed guards, the founding document was packed in a specially designed container, latched with padlocks, and sealed with lead and placed in a larger box. All told, 150 pounds of protective gear surrounded the parchment. On December 26 and 27, accompanied by Secret Service agents, it traveled by train to Louisville, Kentucky, where a cavalry troop of the 13th Armored Division escorted it to Fort Knox. The Declaration was returned to Washington, D.C., in 1944.*

**Spooky, Crazy, Gives Me the Chills!** *Both Thomas Jefferson and John Adams, the two men who contributed the most to The Declaration of Independence both died on the same day -- July 4, of 1826, exactly 50 years after the Declaration's adoption. Remember, John Adams was the second President of the United States and Thomas Jefferson was his Vice President. Thomas Jefferson became the third President of the United States, serving two terms. It's historically document that in his final words,*

*John Adams at the age of 90, lay on his deathbed while the country celebrated Independence Day. His last words were, "Thomas Jefferson still survives." Sadly, he was mistaken... Jefferson had died five hours earlier at Monticello at the age of 82. Thomas Jefferson and John Adams were the last surviving members of the original American revolutionaries who had stood up to the British empire and forged a new political system unlike anything the world had ever seen! The story of their deaths on this hallowed day always gives me chills... God Bless the United States of America!*







### Get Ready for Wimbledon 2019

Wimbledon is the oldest tennis tournament in the world and by far the most prestigious competition for its professionals. First held in 1877, the summer tradition has always been played at the All England Club in Wimbledon, London, and is the only Grand Slam event still played on grass. This year's competition will be played out from July 1-14 and will attract over half a million spectators as well as millions upon millions of TV viewers across the globe. From all I'm seeing heading into the event, it looks to be a wide-open battle in both men's and women's divisions. As the 142nd edition of the championship gets underway next week, I thought I'd share a few facts:

**The Courts:** Wimbledon is the only major tennis tournament still played on grass. Both the Australian Open and US Open were once played on grass, but no longer are. It takes place over a series of 19 courts, including the four main show courts, Centre Court, No. 1 Court, No. 2 Court, and No. 3 Court. Not only is the 100% perennial ryegrass tended to year-round, but for the event, it's cut to a height of exactly 8 mm.

**Changes for 2019:** Court 1's project is complete and will be open this year with a retractable roof and an increase in capacity of 1,000 seats to 12,345. Also, morning start times will move to 11 am and, for the first time, and there will be a final-set tie-break at 12-12 to avoid marathon matches.

**All White Please:** Wimbledon rules state that all players must be dressed almost entirely in white, and umpires can ask a player to change if they don't meet the dress code. For instance, in 2013, Wimbledon champ Roger Federer was told to switch his shoes for his next match because they had orange soles.

**Total Prize Money:** The All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club have raised the prize money for the 2019 Wimbledon Championships by 11.76% to an overall prize purse of \$49.4 million, with winners taking home \$2,983,748 each.

**The Longest Match:** This is crazy, but in 2010 on Court 18, 'Marathon Man' John Isner (USA) beat Nicolas Mahut (FRA) 6-4, 3-6, 6-7 (7), 7-6 (3), 70-68 in a match that lasted 11 hours and five minutes, with their final set lasting 8hrs 11mins. It lasted so long that it was suspended because of darkness two nights in a row.

**Fastest Serve:** American Taylor Dent holds the record for the fastest ever serve at Wimbledon with a 148 mph ace delivered in 2010. Venus Williams represents the women, having hit a 129mph serve in 2008.

**Rainy Day Blues:** Since 1922, only seven Wimbledon tournaments have been played without rain interruptions.

**That's a Lot of Balls:** Around 54,000 tennis balls are used in the Wimbledon tournament, which is inspected and replaced every seven to nine games in order to keep them in optimum condition. When they're not used, tennis balls are even put in a

*refrigerated container to keep them looking spotless! If you're a superfan, you'll be pleased to hear you can buy a can of three balls for \$3.18 after Wimbledon have finished with them – quite a bargain, actually. Interestingly, Wimbledon once used white tennis balls. But they were replaced with yellow balls in 1986 to make them more visible to TV cameras.*

**So You Think It's Easy to be a BBG...** *BBG's at Wimbledon have literally been coached within an inch of their lives! Around 250 ball boys and girls are selected from 27 nearby schools, who at around the age of just 15, then have the intense job of keeping track of the fast-moving tennis ball. First of all, they have to take a test to make sure they can stand completely still for at least 3 minutes, then each BBG is then expected to attend weekly training sessions of 2.5 hours – and they have to be precise, disciplined and fast – it's almost military-like! I'm told the teenagers are constantly assessed, and if they don't meet Wimbledon's high standards, they aren't allowed to take part in the tournament.*

**The Youngest Champion:** *The youngest male champion is Boris Becker (West Germany) who won the men's singles title in 1985, aged 17 and 227 days. Martina Hingis became the youngest player to win a Wimbledon title, at the age of 15 years, 282 days, by winning doubles championship in 1996.*

**The Most Wins:** *Martina Navratilova has won Wimbledon Women Singles 9 times. She also shares a record of winning 20 Wimbledon titles, an all-time record, with Billie Jean King. Roger Federer holds the record of winning the Wimbledon Men Singles 8 times. Björn Borg (1976–1980) and Roger Federer (2003–2007) co-hold the record for most consecutive victories with five.*

**Wearing Headgear:** *33 players, including John McEnroe ("Broad Red Headband") in 1981, Martina Navratilova ("Thin Purple Ribbon Headband") in 1990, and Conchita Martinez ("Broad Navy Blue Headband") in 1994, have worn headgear in the singles final.*

**My Picks:** *Without a doubt, this will be the most open tournament in years for both the Men's and Women's Singles events. In the men's, the dominant players of the last decade, Roger Federer, Rafa Nadal, and Novak Djokovic, will be the favorites. The 'Big 3' have shared the last 10 Grand Slam singles tournaments equally between them and in*

*fact, since 2004, only 10 of the 62 Grand Slam Men's Singles events played have been won by someone outside this incredible group. I'm going with the old pro Federer for one last run. Keep in mind, however, he's now 37, so age might be a factor. Most seem to be going with Djokvic, as Nadal hasn't competed on grass this year. As for the women, it's tough not pick Serena she has won Wimbledon seven times and she'd tie Margaret Court's record of 24 major singles titles with another victory this year. Unfortunately, the 37-year-old Williams has withdrawn from three of the five tournaments she's entered in 2019, raising major questions about her health. the other player I like is the 23 years old Australian, Ashleigh Barty.*

*I couldn't help myself, I had to run a picture of the big Wimbledon finals matchup in 1980 which was "John McEnroe vs. Bjorn Borg". I was never any good at tennis, but when I was a kid and someone would ask me to go play, I always wanted to be John McEnroe.*



### **July 4th... America's 243rd Birthday!**

Since our office will be closed next week and I will be spending time with my family, I wanted to take a quick moment and wish you a safe and happy "Independence Day." What an amazing and important day of recognition for our great nation! This day commemorates the adoption of the Declaration of Independence. The Continental Congress declared that the thirteen American colonies regarded themselves as a new nation, called the United States of America, and were no longer part of the British Empire. Below are some cool facts and stories that I hope you find interesting:



**Many Of Our Founding Fathers Predicted It Would Be Forever Remembered:** *In fact, John Adams wrote a letter to his wife Abigail Adams on July 3rd, 1776, stating, "This day of July, 1776, will be the most memorable epoch in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever more." Though, Adams wishes didn't come true till 1783 when Boston made "Independence Day" an official holiday. This has been a tradition throughout the US ever since.*

**How Much Do We Spend On Fireworks?** *In 2018, an estimated value of over \$850 million was spent on fireworks on July 4th alone. Keep in mind, Massachusetts still doesn't even let consumers buy fireworks. This also doesn't take into account all of the money spent days leading up to the holiday. It's hard to believe, but only 44% of America's firework displays are held on the 4th of July.*

**Pounds Of Fireworks Per Person Rapidly Rising:** *Americans shoot off almost 1 pound of fireworks each year for every adult. And this figure has grown rapidly in recent years, from half a pound per adult in 2000. In 1976, the United States' bicentennial, the figure was just one-sixth of a pound annually.*

**Fewer Pros More Rookies:** *Back in 2000, roughly one-third of all fireworks were set off during professional displays, the kind that light the skies of cities around the world on holidays like New Year's Eve and national celebrations. By 2017, professional displays comprised less than 10%.*

**Injuries From Fireworks:** *Sadly, an average of 7 people die each year due to firework injuries. Interestingly, the number of injuries has dramatically come down over the years. I remember back when I was a kid, everybody*

*and their brother would be getting hurt on July 4th. Since 1986, injuries have steadily fallen. Men suffer about 70% of fireworks injuries.*

**Celebrating With Alcohol:** *July 4th is actually America's top beer drinking holiday each year. An estimated amount of over \$1 billion was spent on beer the last 4th of July. What many people don't know is that Revolutionary War fighters celebrated with rum. George Washington ordered a double ration of rum for American soldiers to celebrate on Independence Day in 1778.*

**Increased Travel and Road Deaths:** *More Americans than ever recorded in history, nearly 49 million, will honor the red, white, and blue with an Independence Day getaway this year. Overall, travel volume for the holiday is expected to rise 4.1% over last year with an additional 1.9 million people planning road trips and other vacations to celebrate America's birthday. For the record-high 41.4 million Americans who will travel by automobile this Independence Day, INRIX, a global mobility analytics company, predicts drivers could face delays as much as four times a normal commute, with Wednesday, July 3 the worst day on the roads. A sad and sobering fact is an average of almost 500 people die in auto accidents on the 4th of July each year. If you're on the roads be safe and buckle up!*

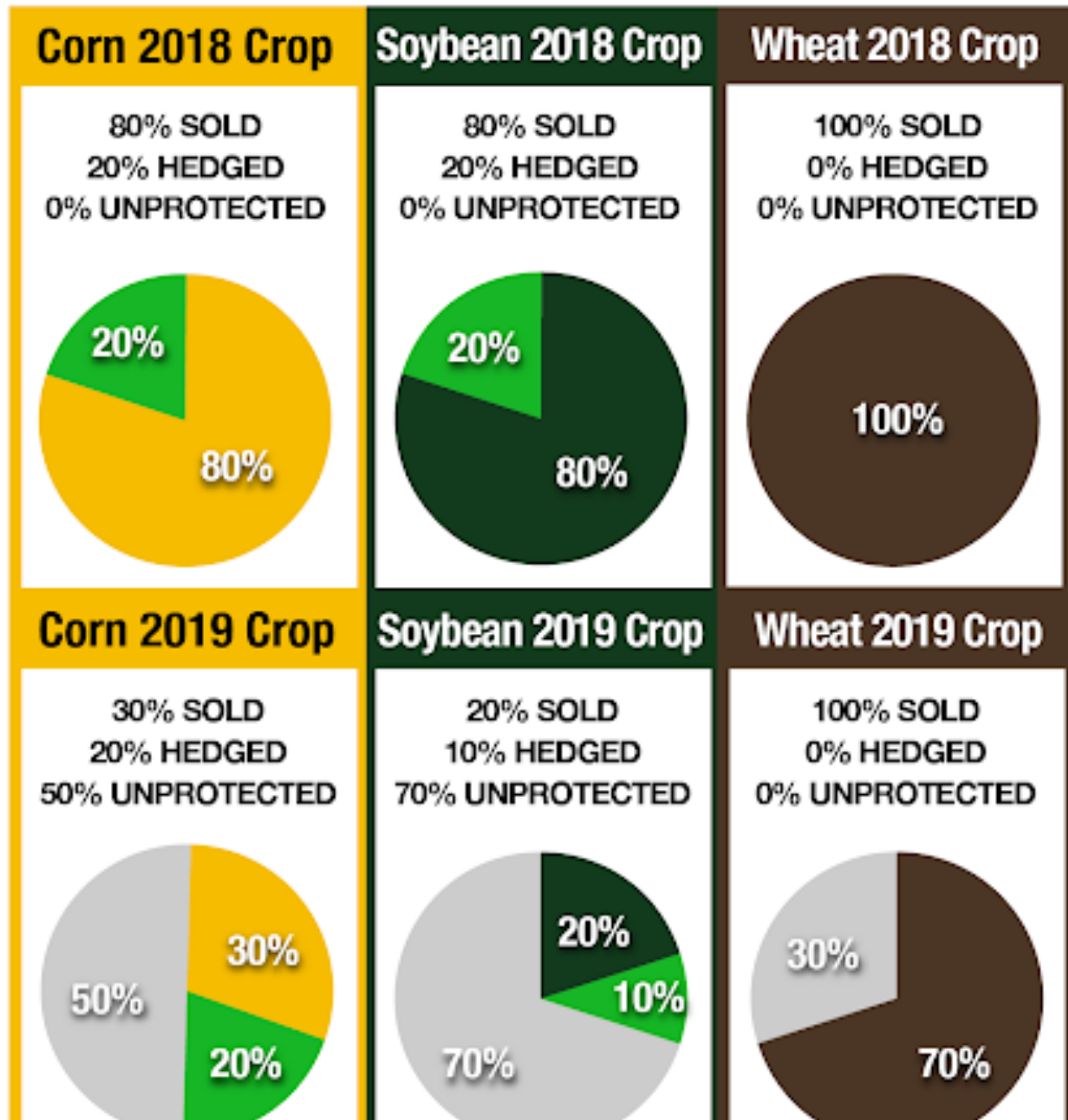
**Keeping The Grills Going:** *According to the Hearth, Patio & Barbecue Association, the Fourth of July is the most popular day for barbecuing on a grill. In 2018, the National Retail Foundation estimated Americans spent +\$7.5 billion on total food to celebrate the 4th of July. Over +\$800 million will be spent on beef; +\$370 million on chicken; +\$215 million on pork; +150 million on hotdogs; +\$135 million on bacon; +\$125 million on sausages; +\$85 million on shrimp; +\$50 million on turkey; +\$48 million on salmon; +\$43 million on BBQ sauce. There are also many millions spent on Berries, Cherries, and Tomatoes.*



**ANSWER to riddle: A reflection.**

**CASH SALES & HEDGING TOTALS**

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