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GOOD MORNING: Van Trump Report 7-12-19

1 message

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

Fri, Jul 12, 2019 at 5:31 AM

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



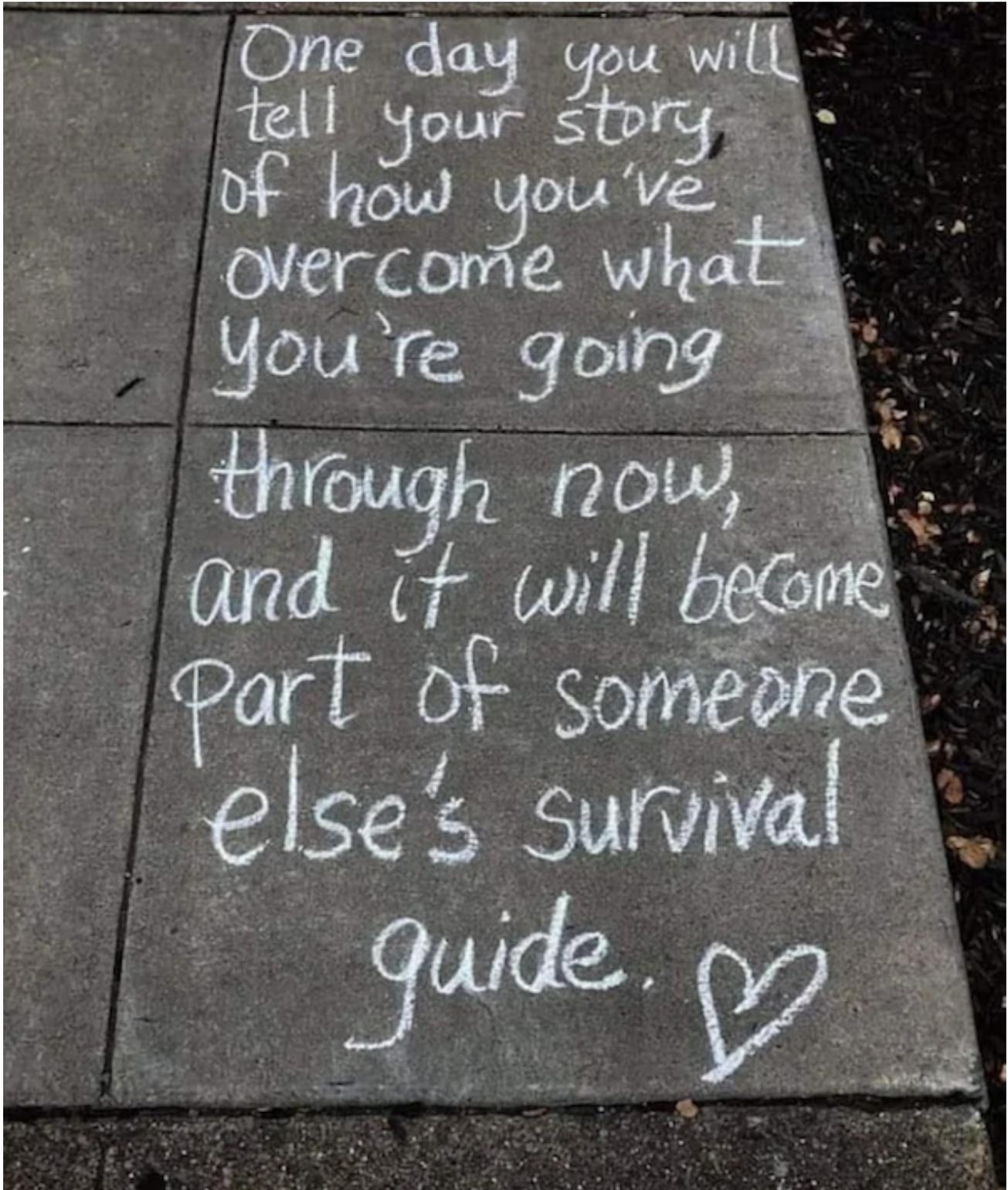
"An intellectual is a man who says a simple thing in a difficult way; an artist is a man who says a difficult thing in a simple way." - **Charles Bukowski**

Friday, July 12, 2019

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Morning Summary: Stocks hit another milestone with the Dow closing above 27,000 for the first time in history and the S&P 500 finishing at an all-time high following two days of testimony by Fed Chair Jerome Powell. Investors are now wondering if the "Fed put" will help insulate the bulls from any negative fallout associated with ongoing trade disputes and the anticipated decline in corporate earnings. I should mention, final tallies after two days of testimony are in with Goldman Sachs economists placing their bets for a quarter-point rate reduction at

75%, a half-point rate reduction at 15%, and unchanged policy at about 10%. Morgan Stanley and UBS economists each said their base case calls were for the Fed to cut interest rates by a more aggressive half-point reduction. As I've said before, I'm remaining fairly cautious and continuing to narrow the scope and breadth of my holdings. Admittedly, we overcame the uncertainty of a July rate cut, but I just don't see enough new news on the horizon, barring a trade resolution that will feed the bulls and push more players off the sidelines in the current environment. Before you get overly bearish, just remember, in past rate-cutting cycles going back to World War II, the S&P 500 has gained +10% in the first six-months after the first interest rate cut and +14% within a year later. Keep in mind, we may not be playing under the same set of rules as in the past. In example, Fed Chair Powell, recently said the relationship between unemployment and inflation is nothing like it was 20-years ago, and has become weaker and weaker." As for "inflation", consumer prices last month increased by the most in nearly 1-1/2 years. Today the trade will digest the latest Producer Price Index. Next week, all eyes will be on 2Q corporate earnings. Monday we kick off earnings with CitiGroup, JB Hunt, and Charles Schwab. Tuesday we will hear from JP Morgan Chase, Wells Fargo, CSX, United Airlines, Johnson & Johnson, and Dominoes. Wednesday, quarterly earnings will be released by Alcoa, Bank of America, eBay, Kinder Morgan, Skyworks, United Rentals and Netflix. Thursday we hear from Blackstone, Capital One, E*Trade, Danaher, Honeywell, United Health, Morgan Stanley, and Phillip Morris. Friday we hear from American Express, Black Rock, and Schlumberger. Next will also be fairly busy with economic data. We start the week with updated Retail Sales numbers and Industrial Production. then we get a wave of fresh Housing data and new Building Permits. We end the week with the Philly Fed and new Consumer Sentiment data. It feels like the stock market wants to continue pushing higher as seasoned traders don't like fighting the Fed.



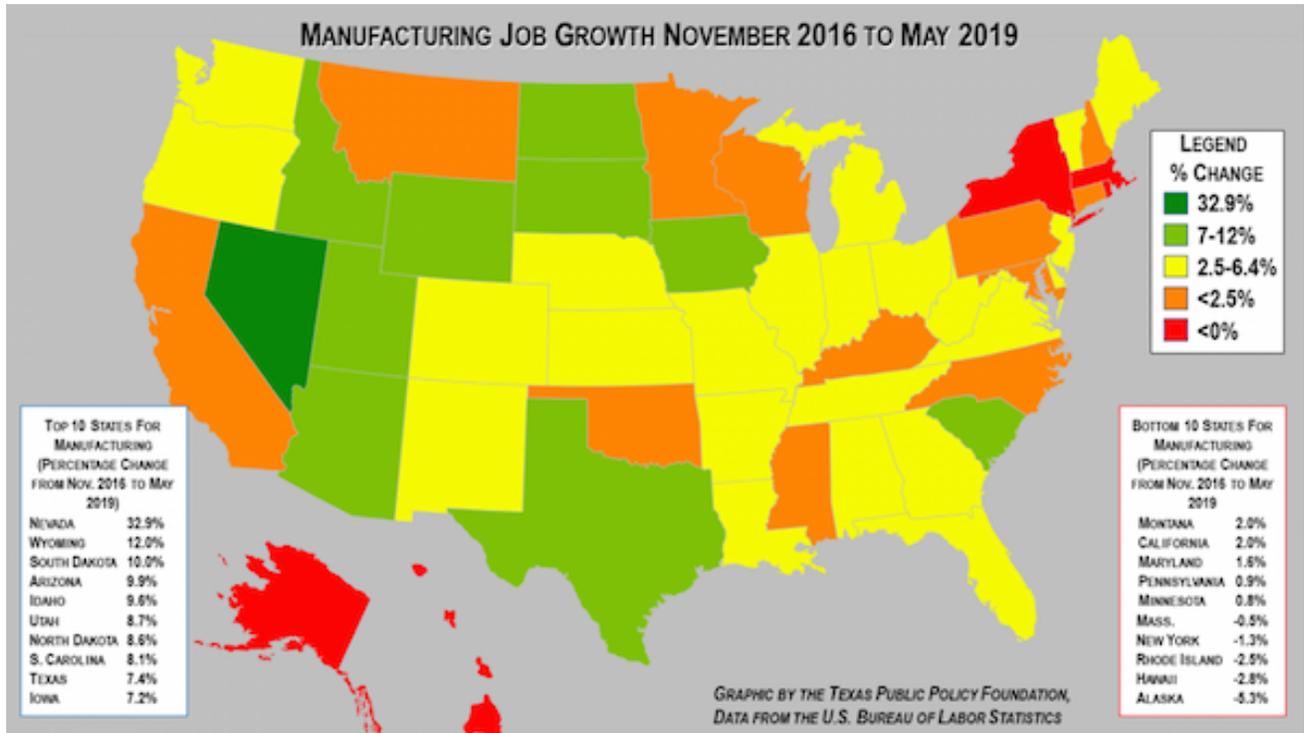
Why Some Folks Have Stayed Out of the Bull Market: *U.S. stocks are up almost 20% this year, but some investors have missed out on much of the rally, as they've sold equities and piled into bonds and money market*

funds out of fear. It's worth mentioning, institutional money managers and retail investors around the world have pulled a net \$140.6 billion out of equity funds in 2019, according to data from Lipper, which tracks \$49.1 trillion of assets. I'm told some analysts are calling it the "Twilight Zone" environment, in which equity prices have risen, despite net selling of stocks by investors, which happens to be taking place all over the world. So far this year, investors have purchased a net \$255.5 billion so far this year, even though more than \$13 trillion of bonds currently hold negative yields, meaning investors lose money by holding them. Also, investors have put a net \$148.6 billion into money market funds that collectively yielded less than 1% this year. Read more [HERE](#).

Amazon Becomes Fastest-Growing Music Streaming Service: *Amazon is adding subscribers to its music-streaming service at a faster rate than rivals such as Spotify, Apple and Google, making music the latest industry to be disrupted by the e-commerce group. Amazon has a long heritage in music, selling CDs in the 1990s, but the company was late to streaming, launching Amazon Music in autumn 2016 — two years after Apple's equivalent service debuted. Now Amazon is quickly gaining momentum growing at about 70% annually compared to Spotify who is growing at about 30%. From what I understand, Amazon Music costs \$10 a month but that cost falls to \$8 a month for Prime members and \$4 a month for people who listen only on an Echo speaker. Apple and Spotify's music services cost \$10 a month. Interestingly about 14% of subscribers to Amazon Music are aged 55 or older, compared with just 5% of Spotify's customers. Learn more at [Financial Times](#)*

U.S. Manufacturing Job Growth Under President Trump: *In the last 30 months of President Obama's term, manufacturing employment grew by 185,000 or +1.5%. In President Trump's first 30 months, manufacturers added 499,000 jobs, expanding by +4.0%. In the same 30-month time span during the mature, post-recovery phase of the business cycle, some 314,000 more manufacturing jobs were added under Trump than under Obama, which is a +170% advantage. I should mention, manufacturing job growth at the*

state level has been uneven, with state tax, labor, regulatory, and energy policy being significant factors in manufacturing activity. Check out how your state ranks below and read more [HERE](#).



FARM TANK

Tweets of the Day



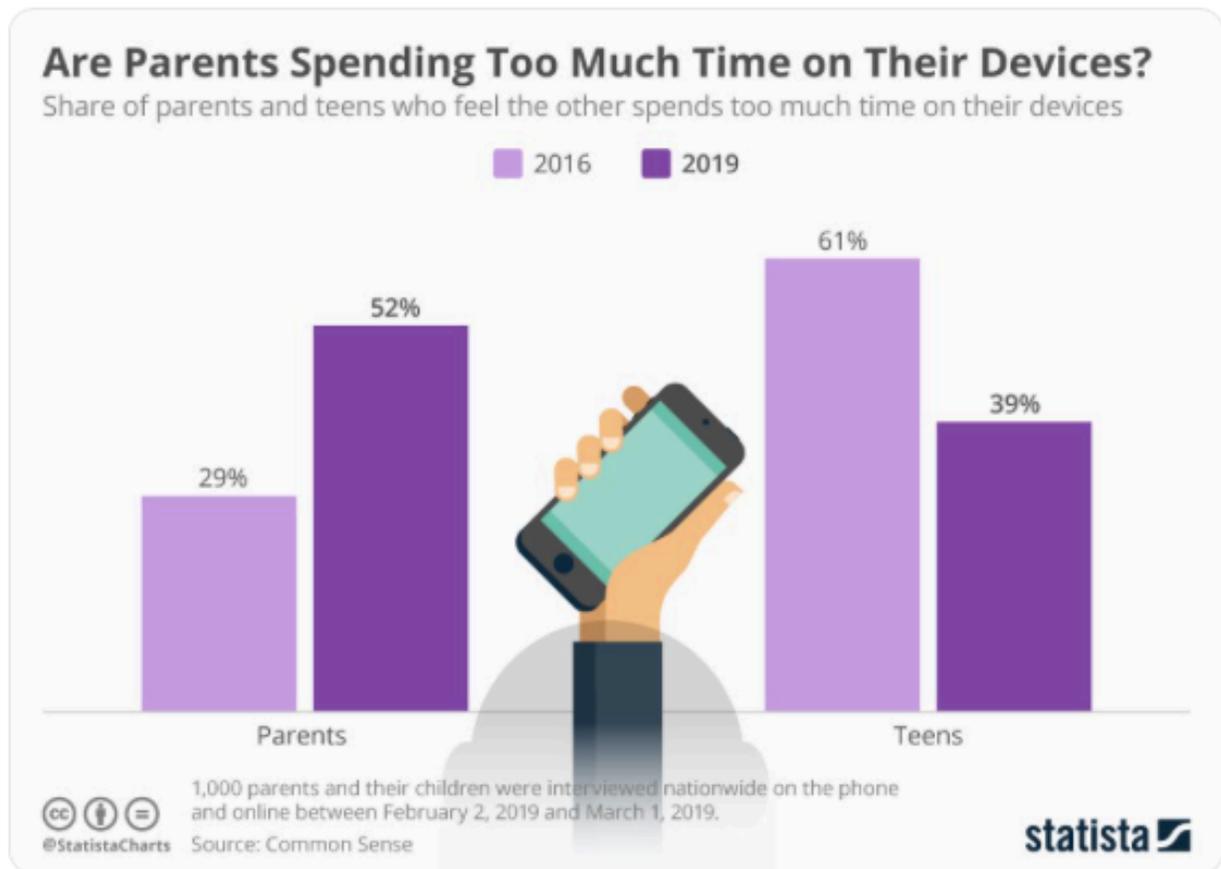


Following



About half of the #teens surveyed by @CommonSense think that their parents spend too much time on their #devices

bit.ly/2ELNsay





Devin Panzier

@devinpanzier

Following



We just planted this and pulled out 20 mins ago. It's a lake now. Poured for 15 mins or less. [@NickHausenWx](#)
[@Forecaster](#)





Mr Moe
@moekeeper

Following



Here is the field across from me. 1st photo is today. The field is unplanted. Second photo is July last year. #INwx #plant19





TJ Klopp
@TJKlopp

Following



Couldn't get enough of #plant19 so thought
plant some soys after hay 🧑🌾





Brian Scott 
@thefarmerslife

Following 

Co-workers and buddies. #plant19 
#harvest19 





History Lovers Club
@historylvrsclub

Following



Mickey Mouse club in the 1930s.





ActionComplete
@ActionComplete

Following



Do what is right, not what is easy.

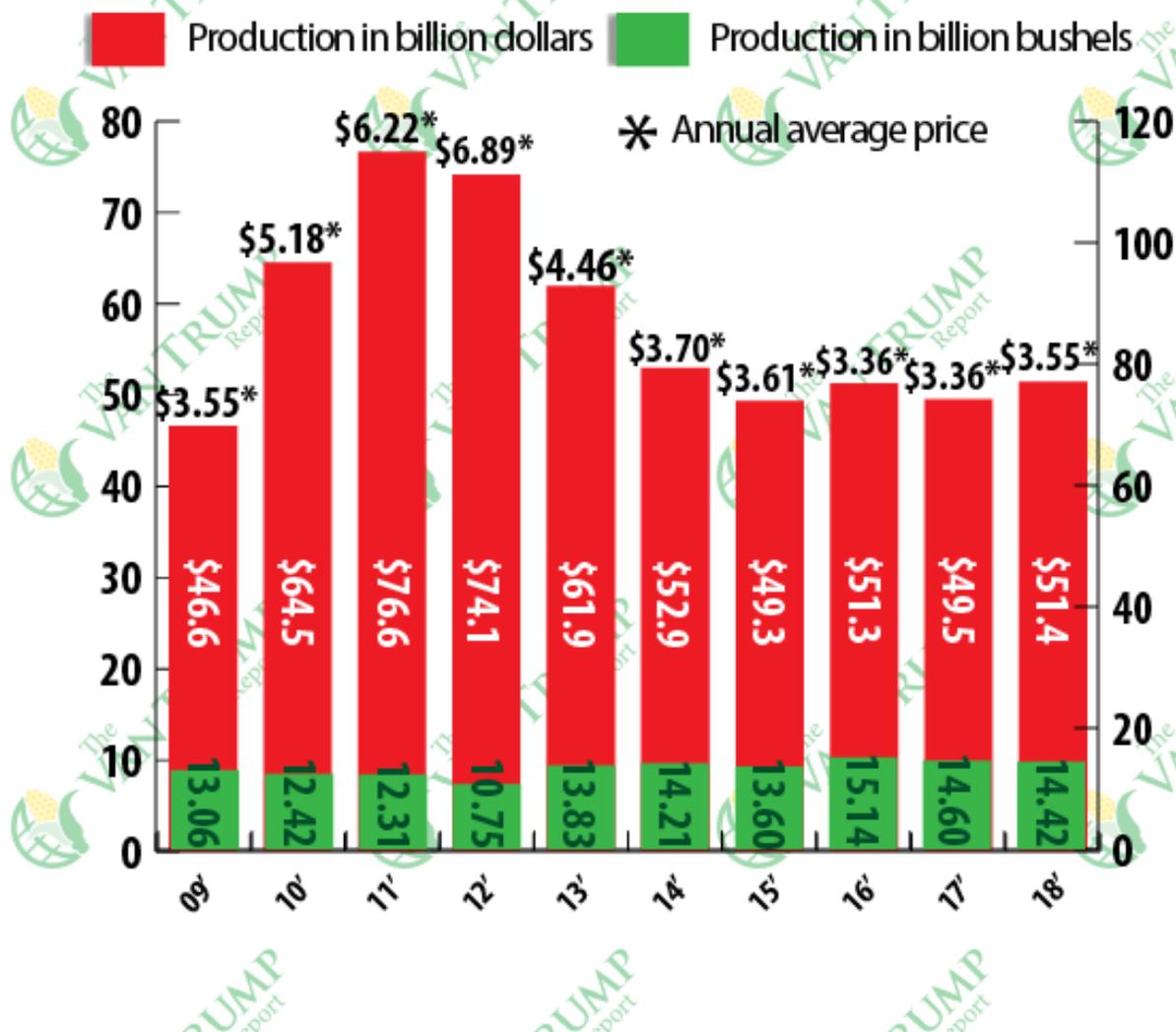
#quotes #inspiration #leadership



Corn bulls discount the USDA data as "fake news". Nobody in the trade bites on updated USDA data that shows +2.6 million more acres planted this year 91.7 million compared to last year 89.1 million. Yield was left "unchanged" at 166.0 bushels per acre. On the demand side of the equation, feed and residual use was raised higher by +25 million bushels, food, seed, and industrial use lowered by -20 million bushels. Exports demand was left "unchanged". Net-net, total new-crop ending stocks are raised from 1.675 billion bushels to 2.010 billion bushels. I just

don't see it, instead have tough time arguing that ending stocks couldn't eventually challenge a sub-1.0 billion bushel level. The USDA currently has total U.S. new-crop production forecast at 13.875 billion bushels, while I'm still thinking sub-12.5 billion bushels. Globally, Ukraine and Argentine corn production is bumped higher and foreign corn ending stocks are virtually unchanged from last month. I argue that global production might also be overstated and global ending stocks are ultimately trimmed to some degree. Net-net, I remain bullish! I still think the previous highs set back in June will ultimately be challenged. I fell like DEC19 corn sub-\$4.20 is extremely cheap. Meaning I just don't see much real potential in being outright short this market. Hearing many producers buying DEC19 \$4.00 puts and pausing for a moment to leave the upside open. If the market breaks the \$4.00 puts help ease some pain. If the market rallies aggressively they will be looking to sell out of the money calls to help finance the floor. Lots of ways to be limiting longer-term risk. Make sure you are talking with your licensed individual advisor about a strategy that's right for your operation.

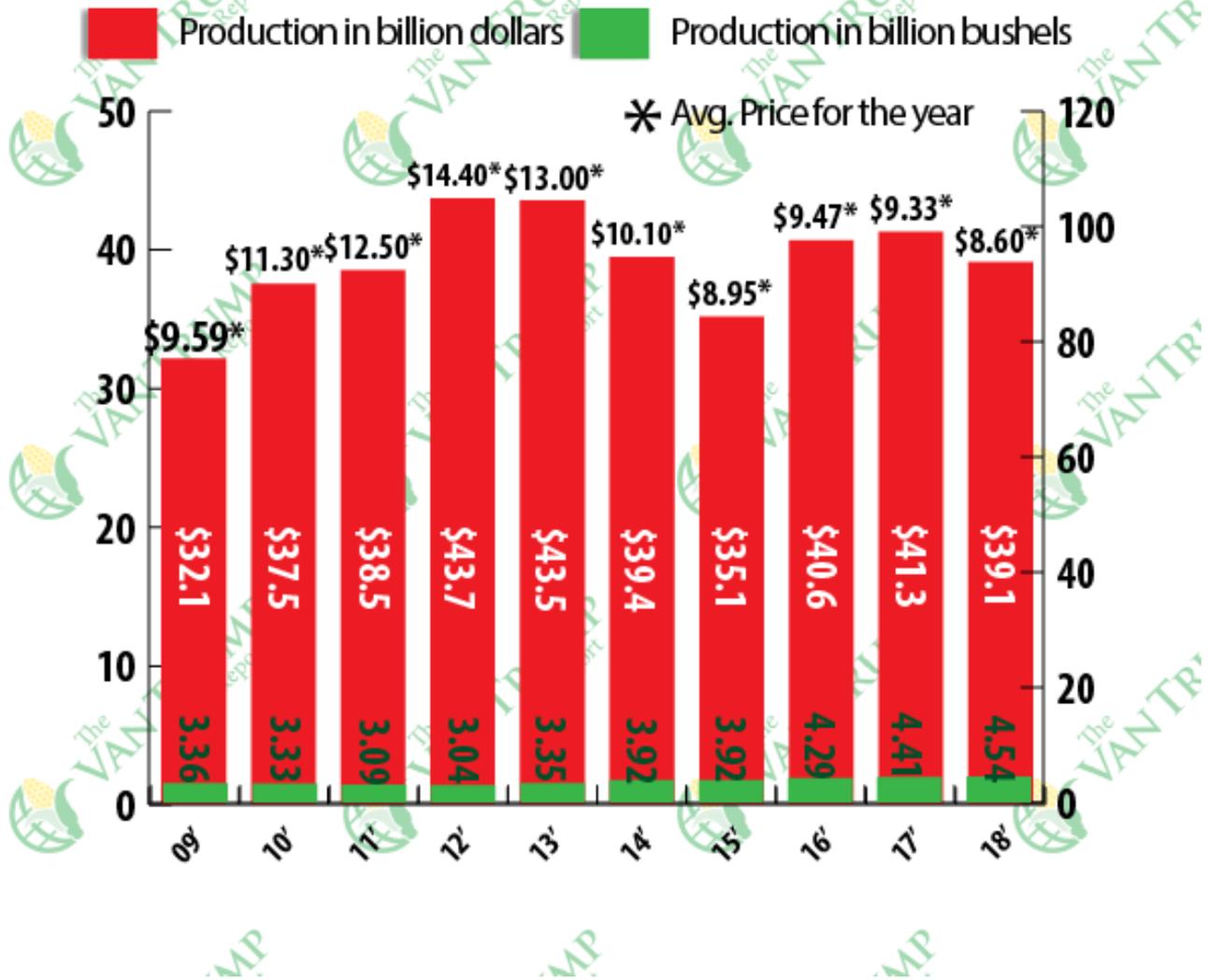
Corn Production vs Average Price



Soybean bulls are happy to see the USDA trim ending stocks to sub-800 million bushels. I personally think U.S. soybean ending stocks could easily fall to sub-650 million, which will make the market much more interesting. The USDA lowered their production estimate by -305 million bushels. Planted acres are lowered from 84.6 million down to 80.0 million vs. 88.1 million last year. Yield is lowered from 49.5 down to 48.5 bushels per acre. It's going to be all about weather and Washington moving forward. If the weather further complicates both yield and harvested acres could be trimmed and production further lowered. If Washington can somehow persuade China to be a more aggressive buyer of U.S. soybeans we could see demand moving higher. If both were to happen a more serious shot of "risk-

premium" would be added to the market. I continue to navigate the waters with a longer-term bullish tilt. It's just hard for me to think about being short soybeans at this juncture sub-\$9.00.

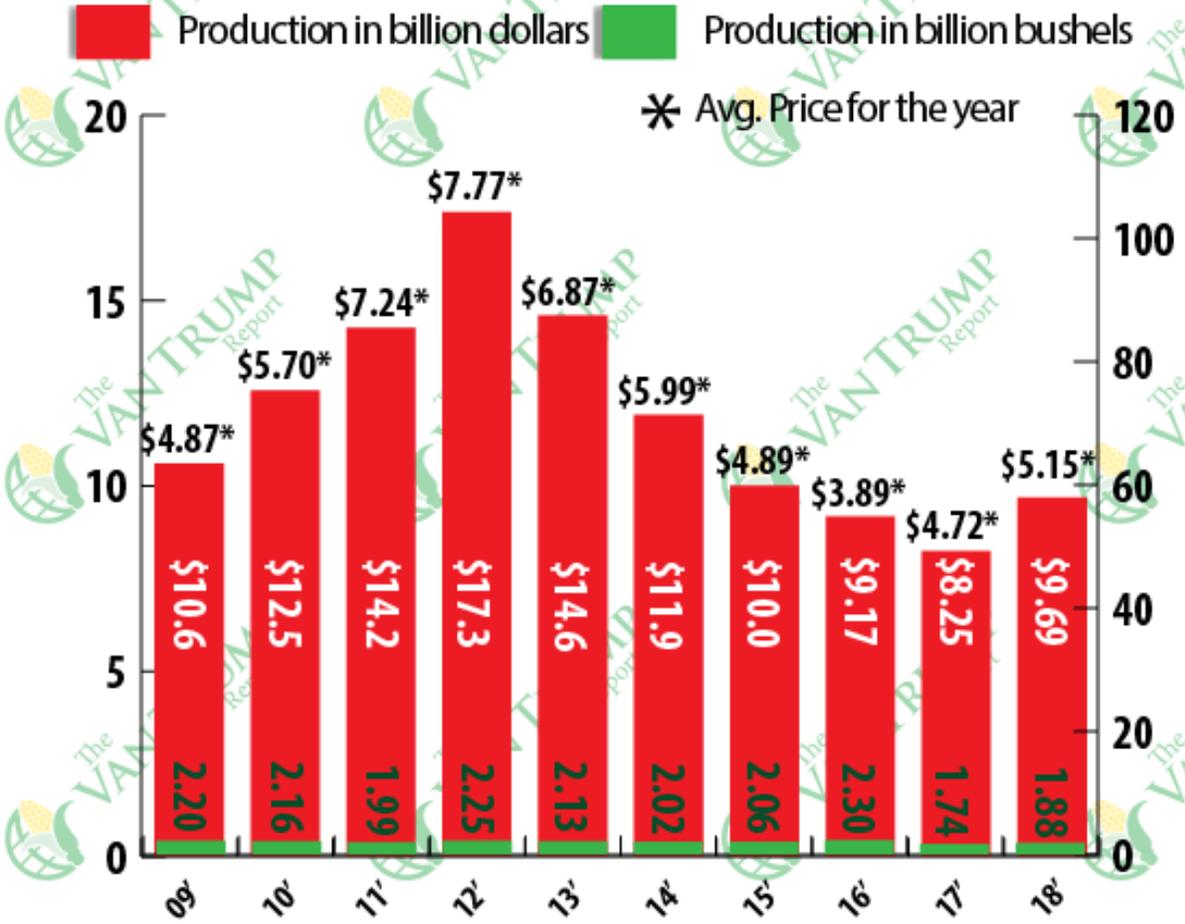
Soybean Production vs Average Price

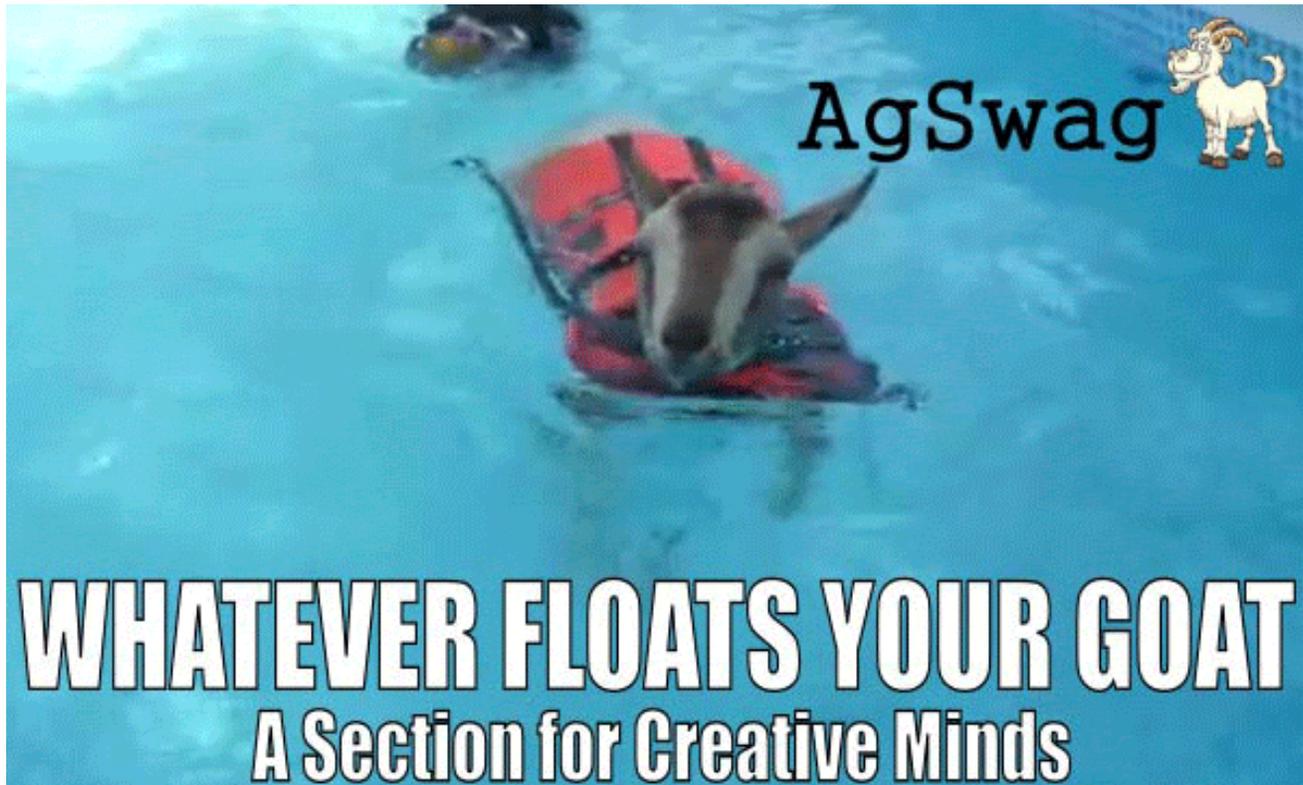


Wheat bulls got a bit of a surprise from the USDA with an adjustment higher in U.S. exports and larger than expected reduction in Russian, Ukraine and European numbers. Here at home, U.S. production was raised higher by +18 million bushels. Acres planted were lowered slightly from 45.8 down to 45.6 million. Yield was raised higher from 48.7 to 50.0 bushels per acre. Domestic use is higher this month on increased feed and residual use +10 million bushels. Somewhat

surprisingly, exports are raised from 900 to 950 million bushels. Exportable supplies for several major global exporters are significantly reduced on lower 2019/20 production forecasts. As a result, the United States is expected to improve its export competitiveness, especially in the latter stages of the 2019/20 marketing year. Net-net, U.S. ending stocks for 2019/20 are projected -72 million bushels lower than last month, but still burdensome at 1.0 billion bushels. Foreign 2019/20 wheat supplies are decreased -10.5 million tons. The production declines were led by a -3.8-million-ton reduction for Russia due to extremely high temperatures and below-average precipitation in June during winter wheat grain fill. Keep in mind however, Russia's production of 74.2 million tons is still the second largest on record. Both the EU and Ukraine are also lowered on hot and dry conditions during June, which is expected to reduce yields although production in both countries remains well above last year. Australia and Canada were lowered as well, mainly on reduced area. Global 2019/20 exports are lowered -2.3 million tons on decreased supplies. Russia's exports are reduced -2.5 million tons and Australia and Ukraine are lowered -1.0 million and -0.5 million, respectively. With global supplies declining, world ending stocks are reduced -7.9 million tons to 286.5 million but remain record large. The projected season-average farm price is \$5.20 per bushel, up +\$0.10 from last month on reduced stocks. As a spec, I remain neutral on an abundance of supply. As a producer, I'm starting to hear more talk of wheat moving into replace corn in some capacity. I like the thought of using a strengthening basis to our advantage and reducing additional price risk on the next leg higher.

Wheat Production vs Average Price





> **Brazil Corn Production Increased:** *Conab raised its estimate of Brazil's corn crop 1.494 MMT from last month, which sends the 2018-19 production number 17.795 MMT past last year's drought-ridden total of 98.504 MMT. I'm told a significant portion of the increase comes from a hike in the safrinha corn crop estimate, which came in at 72.350 MMT. I should mention, the USDA projected Brazil's corn crop at 101 MMT for 2018-19.*

> **Nebraska Has A New Cash Crop:** *By now most eaters recognize the benefits of adding salmon to their diets, but in recent years the levels of protein and omega-3 fatty acids found in the fish have dropped as their source are becoming harder to obtain as our seas become more and more overfished. This has led some innovators in search of a solution for the \$175-billion global aquaculture industry. Now, a landlocked operation which opens this week in Blair, Nebraska, will produce, on an industrial scale, a patented marine algal strain that's rich in EPA and DHA, which is essential fatty acids that your body can't make. I'm told the concept is being pioneered by Veramaris, a joint venture that produces a highly concentrated algal oil. From what I understand, the factory expects to offset the harvest of roughly 2.1 million metric tons of small fish for use as salmon food per year, which is roughly 15% of what the salmon aquaculture industry uses. Read*

more [HERE](#).

> **Cargill Inc. Q4 Profits Plummet 41%:** *Citing supply disruptions stemming from the U.S.-China trade war and flooding in the central United States that hit marketing and transportation of grains, Cargill saw Q4 adjusted operating profits fall to \$476 million in the fourth quarter ending May 31st from \$809 million a year earlier. I'm told the Minnesota-based food commodities firm said three of its four business units posted lower year-on-year results, with their animal nutrition and protein segment posting a lower year-on-year profit for the third time in four quarters. Read more [HERE](#).*

> **New CoBank Report Details Coop Consolidation:** *Agricultural cooperatives have been in a steady state of consolidation for decades, but despite the decline in the number of cooperatives, the influence of co-ops in rural America isn't shrinking. However, it is changing. According to the report, some of the changes include location, employment, and financial strength. I'm told USDA data shows co-op numbers were at nearly 10,000 around 65 years ago. Today, they are less than 2,000 as the number of employee increasedng slightly since 2005. Read the entire report [HERE](#).*

> **Wyoming Could Hold thr Key to "Rare-Earth" Independence for the U.S.:** *In May, China threatened to cut off U.S. supplies of rare earth minerals, a metallic element that's used in cellphones, electric vehicle batteries, fluorescent lights, defense, clean energy and much more. As we currently rely on the number two economy in the world for 80% of our supplies and experts are saying the market will grow from \$8.1 billion to more than \$14.4 billion by 2025, it's becoming an imperative for the U.S. to find another reliable supply. I'm told Bear Lodge, a small mountain range tucked away in the northeast corner of Wyoming could hold the key. From what I understand, "rare earth" isn't actually rare as there's an estimated 99 million tons of it in the Earth's crust, but unfortunately, it's hard to find large quantities of the metal in one spot. Though Bear Lake has the supplies, they need to overcome regulatory hurdles to get it out of the mountain. Read more [HERE](#).*

> **Amazon Spending \$700 Million on Employees:** *Amazon is investing more*

than \$700 million into retraining 100,000 of its US employees, or a third of its workforce in the country. I'm told they're launching and expanding training programs to help staff progress their career and move into more skilled roles. I should mention, the training is voluntary for employees, and the good news is most of the programs will be free and workers will be given paid time off to study during their work week. From what I understand, this will be among the biggest corporate retraining initiatives in America, working out to \$7,000 per worker. Read more [HERE](#).

> Crowded Space: *At the moment, there are more than 1,950 active satellites currently orbiting the Earth and plenty more could soon be joining them. With reduced costs and growing competition, we're seeing an increasing number of commercial satellites reaching Earth's orbit, which unlike national space programs, don't recognize national boundaries. Our new space race is bringing ambitious private development opportunities including space mining operations and programs allowing fee-paying tourists to experience going beyond Earth's atmosphere. I should mention, there's a number of companies taking advantage of putting those satellites in space, who are serving both private clients and national governments. Learn more on the growing opportunities [HERE!](#)*

> Why Prosperous Cities Will Get Stronger After Automation: *If you think polarization and inequality are bad now, just wait for the disruption from the next wave of automation according to McKinsey analysts. From what I understand, their analysis of 315 cities and more than 3,000 counties shows only the healthiest local economies will be able to successfully adapt to disruptions caused by the next wave of automation. Meaning, big cities are poised to get bigger, richer, and more powerful at the expense of the rest of America . According to reports, the 25 most prosperous cities that have led the recovery from the Great Recession are poised to get stronger as they claim at least 60% of job growth through 2030 and leave already-distressed rural regions in danger of shedding more jobs. Read more [HERE](#).*

> Baseball Made History Wednesday: *Baseball recently made history when the All-Star Game in York, Pennsylvania called a strike immediately after the first pitch hit the catchers mitt. I'm told the system is run by an official in the press box who monitors a laptop running the TrackMan radar system that electronically*

determines balls and strikes, and that information is immediately relayed to the umpire using a wireless earpiece. From what I understand, there most likely will be an adjustment period for both pitchers and hitters, as the "true" strike zone, based on a batters height is registering both higher and lower than most are used to. I suspect we start seeing all sports relying more and more on technology in the near future to not only remove errors, but more importantly, speed things up! Read more [HERE!](#)

> Know When to Fold'em: *Facebook and Carnegie Mellon researchers created an AI bot called Pluribus to confront elite human poker players and I'm told it defeated them in games where five AIs and one human player. Facebook says that if each chip had been worth a dollar, Pluribus would have won roughly a thousand dollars an hour, or roughly \$5 a hand, playing against five human players. I should mention, winning in multiplayer poker has been seen as an especially tough challenge for AI, as it involves contemplating hidden information like an opponent's hand, as well as bluffing based on one's own hand. From what I understand, this marks the first time an AI has defeated human poker pros in full-scale poker with multiple opponents. Read more [HERE!](#)*

> Gone With The Wind's "Twelve Oaks" is for Sale: *With a starting bid of \$1 million, The Twelve Oaks, the columned plantation house outside Atlanta used in the 1939 movie classic "Gone With the Wind" is up for bidding through the 25th of July. I'm told the 11,000-square-foot Greek Revival mansion built in 1836, fell into disrepair after 1940, but a \$2 million renovation completed in 2017 upgraded the electrical systems, installed new HVAC, added baths, renovated the kitchen, and more. From what I understand, the lot measures more than 3 acres and includes gardens, a pool, a gazebo, a pergola, and a 4-car garage inside a historic carriage house. I should mention, the property is income producing, functioning as an award winning event space as well as a bed-and-breakfast inn. Get an awesome one-minute tour of the property and learn more, and maybe place a bid [HERE.](#)*







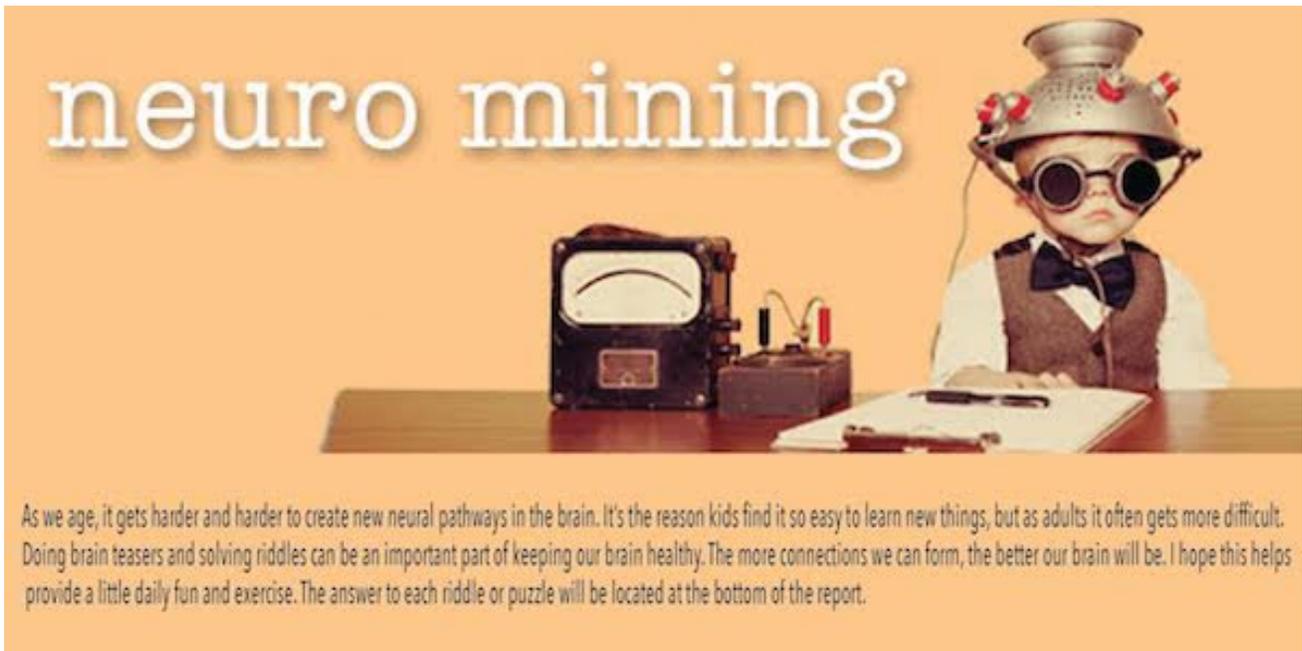


Southcentral Iowa – After what seems to be the most difficult Spring due to delay's, replants, and late planting we're starting to get on the dry side. We're looking at 90 degrees plus for the next 15-day minimum, but our saving grace right now is the overnight temperatures are going to drop into the high 60's and low 70's. If we don't see any rain this month, which is what we are calling for our shallow-rooted corn is going to deteriorate quickly. We're three weeks from tasseling in 95-degree weather, so I can't imagine that goes ideal. If pollination doesn't smoke us, then the early frost the old-timers are predicting will. I have a feeling this is going to be a less than perfect year by a long shot.

Southwest Minnesota – Some corn looks good and some corn looks like it was planted in the mud with a planter that someone forgot to fill with seed. There are so many drown out spots in the subpar field that I don't think guys will even try to harvest them. They will more than likely be a 100% insurance claim. We're looking at loading up as much propane as possible because my gut tells me we will be drying this corn down from 20% moisture or higher. The nice part about propane is it's cheap as dirt this time of year if you have the tanks to hold it. If you don't, they take you over the barrel with the storage cost. Beats the heck out of a buck in a half that it will probably be during harvest though. I would encourage guys to strongly consider trying to figure out how to lock propane in just to be on the safe side.

Westcentral Indiana - Our county is one of the better-looking ones in the area. Things rapidly get worse south and east with maybe 10% unplanted. Lots of corn that didn't make it "knee-high" by the 4th and beans the size of double crops. On the other hand, corn planted on higher ground during the short

planting windows we had in late April and early May looks relatively good (relative to crops this year). There's water damage in low areas, but we escaped many of the flooding rains earlier, getting fractions of an inch when areas south and east got inches. If we get rain this summer and a warm, late fall, some of this corn will be decent, but if it's a repeat of 1974 (my first-year farming) with a dry summer and early frost it will be ugly in many areas. Driving surveys from Marion and Indianapolis on the east through central, as well as northern Illinois, have shown few areas any better than here. I'm happy to be retired during a year like this. I'm not even going to start commenting on USDA and market manipulation. Last year this place made 260 corn and 80 beans, my guess this year will be 200 if it rains and 60 beans. Most places are worse to much worse.



neuro mining

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

TODAY'S RIDDLE: What has a neck but no head?



FROM MY PERSPECTIVE

Kevin Van Trump

Containerized Grain Shipments Opening New Markets

Containerized grain exports had a slow spring, reflected in the -10% decrease in movements compared to the same period last year and things aren't expected to get much better in the immediate future. I should mention, while not a widely used method of cargo transport in agriculture, container shipping has been fueling global trade for decades. In fact, the United States trade deficit with China and other countries leaves millions of empty containers sitting at ports and intermodal hubs across the country, meaning ocean carriers are often returning empty boxes back to Asia and other international ports at an estimated cost of \$15 billion to \$20 billion a year. Those in the trade are hoping that some U.S crops like soybeans could alleviate this problem and benefit growers, exporters, and international buyers.

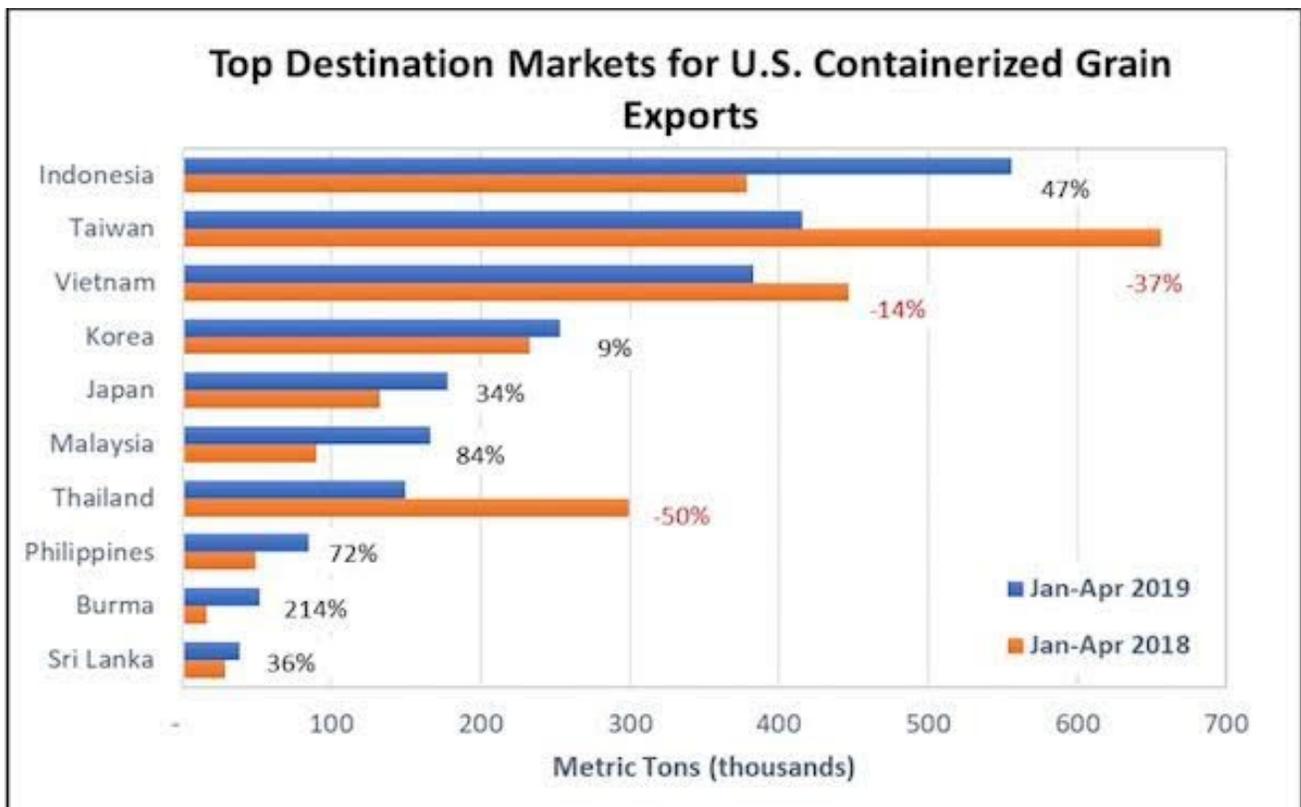
Foreign nations often don't have sufficient economies of scale-like larger buyers in China, which means they don't have the capacity to accept a bulk-vessel shipment that often carries +2.0 million bushels of soybeans. This is where container shipments could greatly help serve smaller customers, allowing importers to only buy what they need, when they need it. It would also help with logistics and shipping to smaller end-users who only need a container or two of supply.

Containerization also helps promotes security and supply chain visibility, which are big trends in the food industry. Shipping containers provide watertight and nearly airtight protection to its contents, which reduces heat damage and helps maintain moisture levels between origin and destination, according to a study by the Illinois Soybean Association. It's worth mentioning that in addition to minimizing inventory and improving food security, containers also limit damage from insects, fungi, and sprouting and help prevent beans from splitting.

U.S. exporters hope to continue to grow their existing markets in areas like Indonesia, who received about 1.3 million metric tons of U.S. soybeans via containers in the 2017-18 marketing year with container shipments representing about 60% of its total imports. Following Indonesia, Taiwan, Thailand, and Vietnam are also top destinations for containerized exports of soybeans. I'm told

buyers in these markets and exporters are taking advantage of the huge supply of empty containers in the Chicago area and across the country.

Growth in soybean imports by the rest of the world has been increasing since 2011. Assuming current projections hold steady, 2018 will be the first year since China emerged as a consistent importer in which the 5-year average growth rate in soybean imports will be lower for China than for the rest of the world. Meaning perhaps now is the best time for the industry to look to containers to open new markets and to help diversify our market share. (Source: ams.usda.gov, ajot.com)



SHIPPING CONTAINERS: HOW CONTAINERIZATION SUPERCHARGED GLOBAL TRADE

THE HISTORY OF THE SHIPPING CONTAINER

The 20 or 40-foot steel box became a

The 20-foot intermodal steel box became a standardized unit that could be carried by any truck, train or container ship.



It set off an era of tremendous efficiency in the global shipping of goods.



The first container shipped from Newark to Houston in April 1956.

SHIPPING CONTAINERS TODAY

\$4 TRILLION

worth of goods are moved by containers each year.

52%

of the world's goods are moved by shipping container.

CONTAINER FAST FACTS

Containers can carry everything from agricultural products to electronics to oils and liquids.



They're also repurposed for innovative uses, from pop-up bars to swimming pools to emergency hospitals.



Some ships can carry an astonishing **11,000** 20-foot containers. If those containers were loaded onto a train, it would stretch **44** miles.



THE OPPORTUNITY FOR U.S. SOYBEANS

FOR SOYBEANS, CONTAINER SHIPPING ENABLES:

- Ⓢ Higher quality soybeans
- Ⓢ Identity preservation and specialty soybeans
- Ⓢ Improved shipment predictability and efficiency
- Ⓢ Faster shipment turnaround
- Ⓢ Access to dozens of diverse international markets

To learn more about shipping soybeans
with containers, visit www.ilsoy.org

Icons made by Freepik from www.flaticon.com

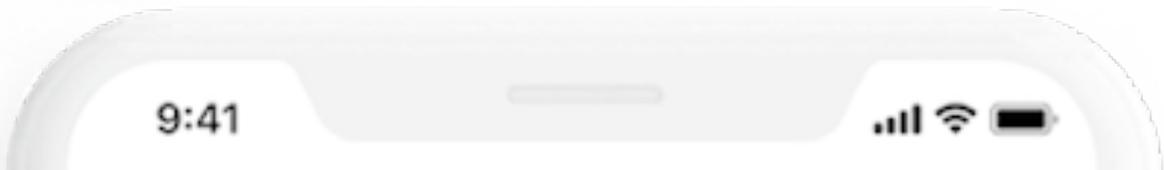
**You Can Now Buy Your Own Bird**

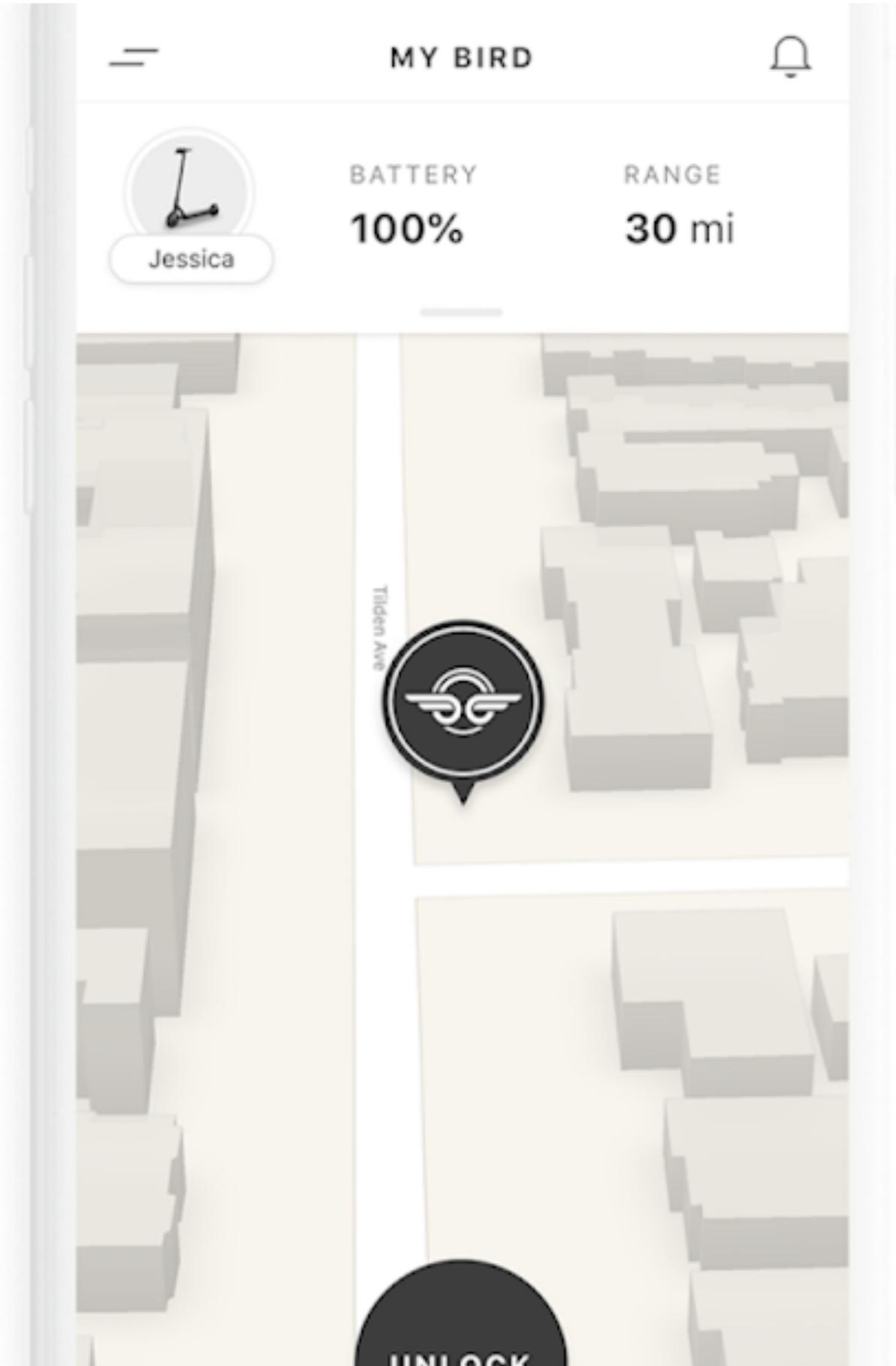
Bird recently unveiled its next-generation electric scooter called the Bird One that will be more durable, powerful, and longer-lasting than previous versions. In addition, Bird will be selling it to anyone who's tired of ride-sharing and is ready to enter the new world of scooter ownership at an expensive price of \$1,299. Keep in mind, this scooter will be hitting the streets about seven months after the company released its first custom-built scooter for dockless ride-sharing, the Bird Zero.

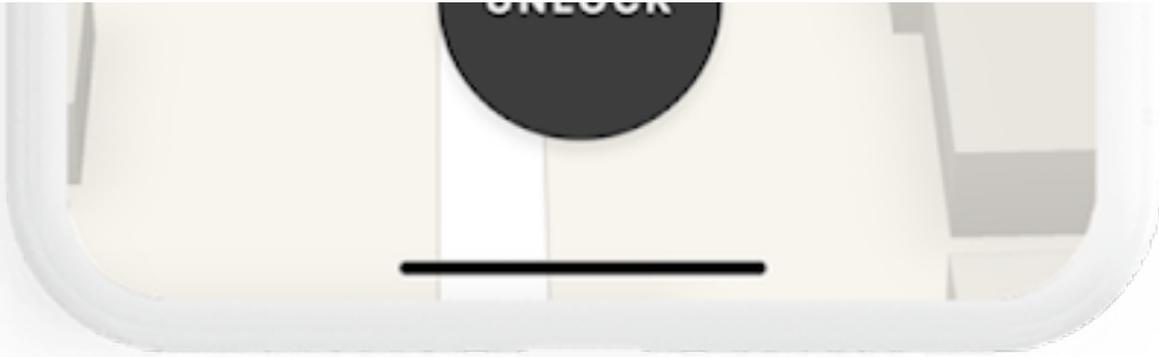
Remember, the Bird Zero was intended to be a more rugged scooter that could take a beating and keep rolling for an average of 10 months, says Bird CEO Travis VanderZanden. The company predicts the Bird One will be able to stay charged longer as well as stay in circulation for at least 12 months. I should also note, the longer lifespans on these scooters will be a key indicator if Bird ever hopes to become a profitable company as they lose \$293 per scooter right now. The main reason why these scooters will be able to last so much longer is because they will have a 473Wh battery, which will give the scooter twice the battery power and a range of up to 30 miles on a single charge. In addition, other upgrades on the Bird One's include GPS-enabled anti-theft device, 9-inch semi-solid pneumatic tires, LED lighting, a mechanical rear drum brake, and a digital lock that can be locked and unlocked from Bird's smartphone app. The new scooters will also top out at 19 mph and carry a max weight of 220 pounds.

Everyone interested in buying a scooter from Bird, you can preorder them now and they will be available in three colors including jet black, dove white, and electric rose. Buying a Bird One also comes with other benefits like your if your scooter breaks down you can bring it or mail it to one of Bird's service centers, located in North America and Europe to be fixed. If the scooter is stolen, then Bird's "bird hunter" network of freelancers may be able to track it down and find it. Click [HERE](#) to preorder one today as they are expected to ship this summer!

Bird also recently announced its monthly personal rentals in San Francisco and Barcelona, which might affect the sales of these Bird Ones. The rental program enables people to rent a scooter for \$24.99 a month with no cap on the number of rides, which means your only spending \$300 per year for unlimited access to a Bird scooter and don't have to worry about getting it stolen. In addition, according to the presentation published in The Information, Bird users' average ride came to \$3.65, so for a new scooter purchase to make sense a rider will have to ride their scooter over 350 times a year to equal the price of a Bird One. In addition, I've heard of recent competition from the Xiaomi's Mi scooters, which sell on Amazon for \$448. I should also note, I've seen Swagtron scooters retailing on Amazon for around \$299. Click [HERE](#) to buy a Xiaomi scooter and Click [HERE](#) to buy a Swagtron scooter! At the end of the day, there's a lot of competition in the scooter space, but Bird is clearly trying to be the go-to provider of electric scooters whether it's the traditional shared model, monthly rentals, or selling direct to consumers. (Source: The Verge)







What a Submariner Pitcher from Pittsburgh Can Teach Us About Life

Art is often defined as the expression or application of human creative skill and imagination. Submarine style pitcher Kent Tekulve clearly did it his way and with an artistic flare ! It was on this day in 1987, the 6'4" 170 pound Tekulve would take the mound for his 900th game in relief with the Pittsburgh Pirates. His massively unorthodox style of throwing sidearm in a submarine manner brought about a ton of debate.

Sports and life involve heavy doses of both science and art. I argue that you need both if you want to be one of the best at anything. The science of sound mechanics and hard work can be enough to make you "good," but to be "great" at anything you need that artistic flare. Major league baseball pitchers use the science of physics when they throwing a good curveball, but to actually throw a great curveball like Barry Zito it is clearly a form of art.

Paramount differences exist between both art and science. The first big difference is that art is subjective while science is objective. The second is that art expresses knowledge and wisdom, most often in the form of subjective representation, while science is the system or process of acquiring knowledge. Art and science are therefore inherently different but can coexist to form an incredible team. I've seen some of the hardest working athletes nail the mechanics and want it more than any other, but if they are missing the "art" or what many call the "it factor" they can never bridge the gap from good to great.

Farming also has many similarities and needs a combination of both science and art. I'm part of a small group that owns farms in South America. Several

of our partners are amongst some of the best producers in America. Their families have been farming for over 100 years. They trained our staff in Brazil and laid out all of the science and mechanics they had learned through the years. Unfortunately, we as a group failed to recognize the importance of the "art." Our U.S. producers had it in their blood, they had learned tricks, hacks, and had wisdom that only an artist could envision. The producers in Brazil only had the "science" side of the equation. In the end, the producer in Brazil could get to "good", but in my opinion, are still many many years away from getting to "great." In fact, they may never get to "great" because they're not allowing themselves the room to discover and look at things with an open an unbiased perspective. When you are only taught the science and mechanics early on it becomes extremely difficult to find the space or room to openly discover the art side of the equation.

Art, most often transcends the traditional. Lucky for the Pittsburg Pirates, Kent Tekulve, was crazy enough and had enough confidence in himself that he didn't listen to the coaches at every level who tried to correct his mechanics and take the art out of his repertoire. Remember, art is an individual perception where "beauty is truly in the eye of the beholder." Science, on the other hand, is much more regimented with rules, procedures, and policies to follow. Science is also much more easy to understand and implement.

History has provided us many examples of how artistic talents have been married with specific scientific skills to solve complex problems and create wonderful things: the great pyramids, the works of da Vinci, the Roman Coliseum, Machu Picchu, and the Pantheon are just a few. The most successful people, cultures, and business have found the right mix of the two.

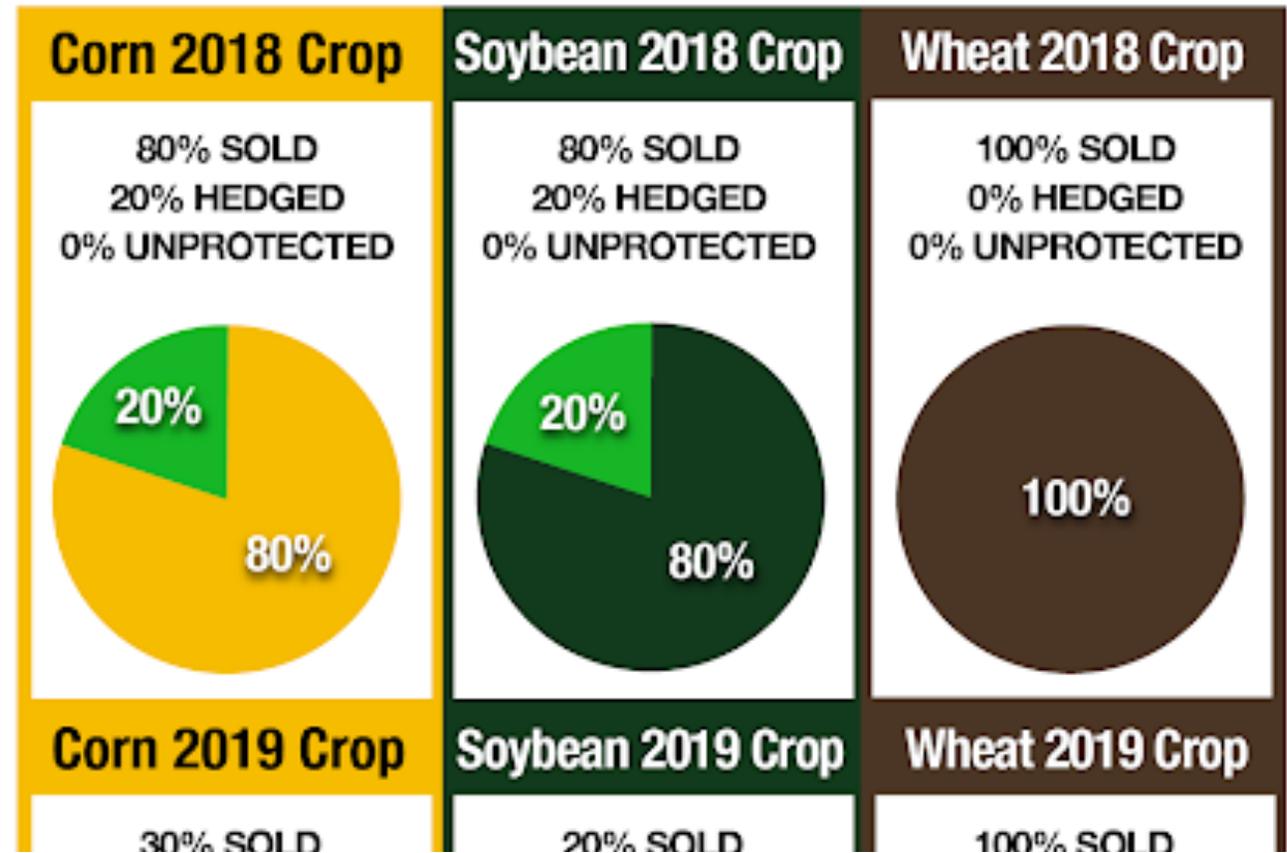
Parents, bosses, and mentors have to be extremely careful not to lean and rely so heavily on science that we take the art out of our youth. We have to let them use exploratory methods to find their own "art"... I believe it's massively important! If you never got to see Tekulve pitch or would like to flashback and see a few highlights from that great 1979 World Series Click [HERE](#).

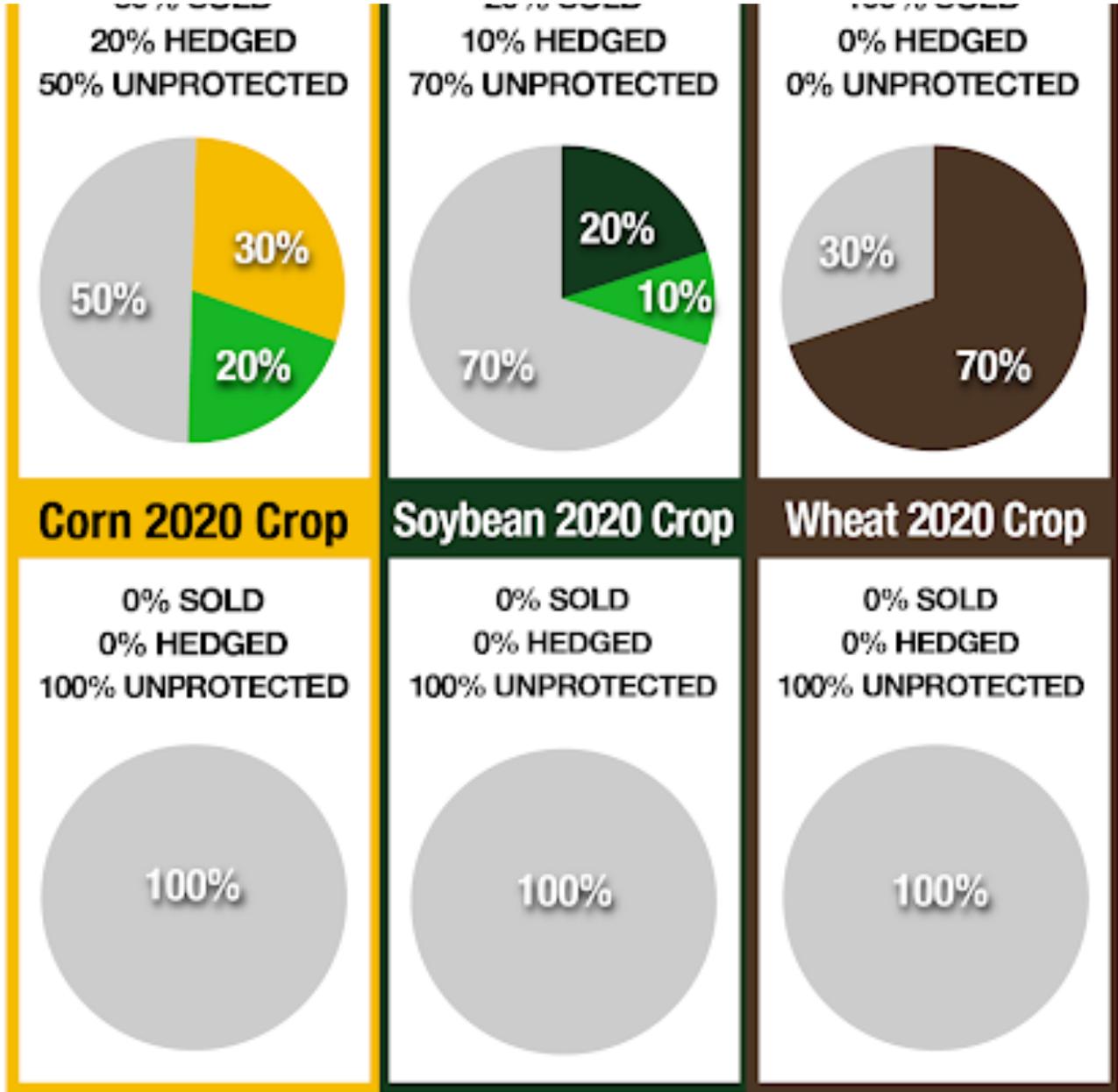


ANSWER to riddle: A bottle.

CASH SALES & HEDGING TOTALS

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