



Josh Knight <josh@farmdirection.com>

GOOD MORNING: Van Trump Report 7-19-19

1 message

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

Fri, Jul 19, 2019 at 5:31 AM

Reply-To: Jordan <reply-fecb17727567027b-1142_HTML-68584704-100003450-8@vantrumpreport-email.com>

To: josh@farmdirection.com

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

"Be nice to people on your way up because you'll meet them on your way down." -
Wilson Mizner

Friday, July 19, 2019[Printable Copy](#) or [Audio Version](#)

Morning Summary: Stock bulls are patiently waiting for the Fed to cut rates at the end of the month, which would be the first time in over a decade. As expected, there's some debate and uncertainty in the air as the trade digests stronger economic data as of late. We not only added a lot of jobs last month, but are now also digesting a strong retail sales report, rebounding manufacturing surveys, and jobless claims that contour to hover around cycle lows. To throw a bit more uncertainty in the mix, John Williams, the president of the Federal Reserve Bank of

New York, stoked expectations for a more aggressive 50 basis-point interest rate cut, after touting the benefits of "preventive measures" to protect the economy. Before Williams spoke at the Central Bank Research Association yesterday, investors had priced in roughly a 40% chance of a 50 basis point cut, which promptly jumped to 64% after his remarks. I would agree that if they are trying to get in front of an economic downturn, then there is no reason to wait. But if the Fed is cutting rates to help keep a lid on the U.S. dollar while President Trump and his team try and iron out Chinese trade differences then it's a different story. And a more diverse approach of small cuts would make more sense. Regardless of the reason, as I shared earlier this week, experienced traders will tell you not to fight the Fed, don't overthink the situation and stay long the stock market! I remain bullish longer-term but definitely waiting to see a couple more cards turned over before adding to my current positions. I might even wait until we get past October, before I start rebuilding and adding to my current positions. I'm only about 40% invested, have a ton of dry powder sitting on the sideline and am narrowly positioned in just a handful of stocks. As I've mentioned several times, I don't like the thought of being diversified at the top. Bottom-line, it's my opinion this is not the environment to be betting on the long odds. The small chance of a big win can be highly seductive, and sometimes pay off big. But they are often over-valued, especially when the market is at all-time highs. Therefore it's usually best to save your dry powder for the bets you truly understand and have major conviction. Economic data next week will include new and existing home sales, durable goods, international trade, and Q2 GDP. Turning to today's earnings, traders will digest numbers from American Express, BlackRock and KC Southern. Next week we have earnings being reported from big names like... Amazon, AT&T, Biogen, Boeing, Caterpillar, Cerner, Chipotle, Coca-Cola, Discover, Facebook, Google, Hasbro, Lockheed, O'Reilly, Raytheon, Sherwin Williams, Starbucks, Tesla, Texas Instruments, Travelers, and UPS to name a few.

Dalio Declares "Paradigm Shift", Gold Might be the Winner:
Bridgewater Associate's Founder, Ray Dalio posted a 7,000 word account on LinkedIn Wednesday, where he concluded that a raft of central-bank money printing and a Federal Reserve joining a march toward a new zero-bound

interest rates and in many cases negative rates in European sovereign debt are tantamount to a global "paradigm shift." Essentially, Dalio's point is that moving into gold will be both risk-reducing and return-enhancing at this time. From what I understand, he will soon be sending out his exact explanations as to why he believes that gold is going to be an "effective portfolio diversifier." I should mention that Dalio isn't the only hedge-fund heavyweight touting the benefits of bullion, as famed investor Paul Tudor Jones declared gold his favorite bet for the next year or two as well. For now, gold is up just over 11% for the year, with the major indexes up between 17% to 24%. Read more [HERE](#).

Who Are Tech Companies Backing Politically? *It's too early to tell, but Democrats Pete Buttigieg topped donations from employees of large tech companies in the second quarter of 2019, receiving \$129,973 from 214 people working at Facebook, Alphabet, Amazon and Apple, Morning Consult reports, citing recent filings with the Federal Election Commission. Buttigieg garnered donations from big names in tech such as Netflix Inc. Chief Reed Hastings, Facebook's David Marcus and Y Combinator Chairman Sam Altman. Remember, Elizabeth Warren has aggressively called for big tech giants to be broken up, making it a major part of her policy platform. It will be interesting to see who they ultimately back for President. (Source: The Information)*

Wondering About WeWork? *The workspace rental company also known as "the We company" is arguably one of the most heavily-anticipated companies to debut this year. The company, which is supposedly valued at near \$50 billion, hasn't announced a concrete date as of yet but there's certainly a buzz. Interestingly, the WeWork CEO is sending more signals that may scare off potential IPO investors. The Wall Street Journal reported Thursday that CEO Adam Neumann has sold or borrowed against at least \$700 million of his WeWork stock. The amount seems unusually large for a pre-IPO tech executive.*

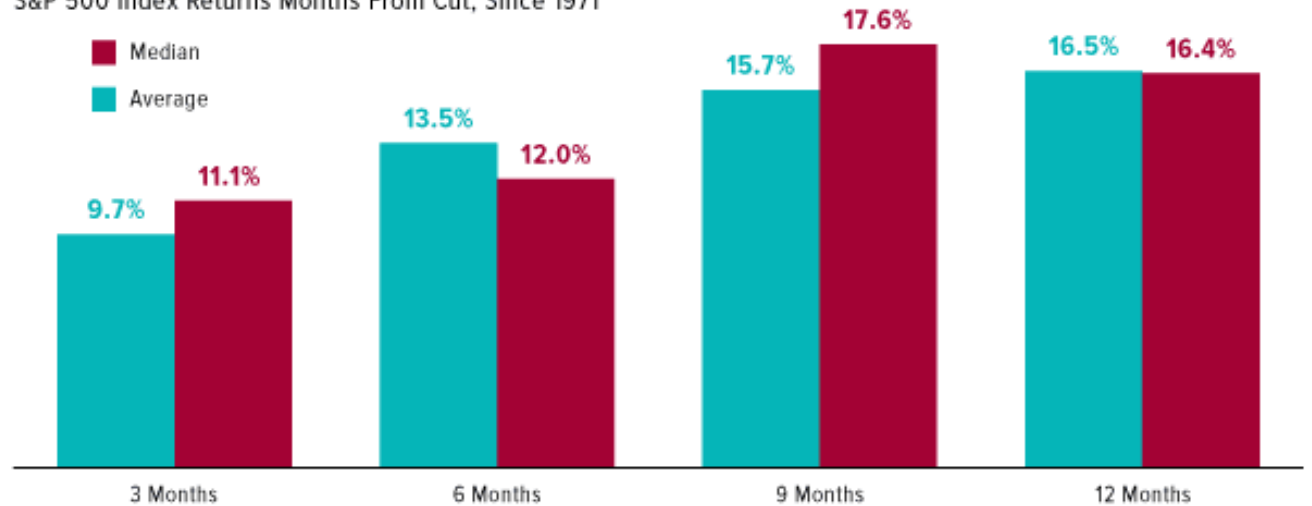
Twitter's New "Hide Reply" Controversy: *Twitter rolled out its test of a controversial change to its service with the launch of a new "Hide Replies"*

feature. Canadians are the only ones with access at the moment and now have the ability to wrestle back control over a conversation they've started by hiding any replies they feel aren't worthy contributions. I'm told Twitter's goal with the feature is to encourage more civil conversation on its platform, but there is plenty of debate as to the outcomes of the individual censorship. Keep in mind, users can already choose for themselves to either "Mute" or "Block" people causing the problems, but the new feature will remove their comments from others' view, in hopes of keeping interactions on track. I should mention, this isn't the equivalent of a delete button, as hidden replies aren't removed from Twitter entirely, but they are just placed behind an icon. If people want to see the hidden replies, then they can press the icon to view them. I'm very interested in what people on both sides will be saying in a few days as I suspect the intentions of the new feature will have to undergo many iterations. Read more [HERE](#).

Bullish Case for 3,500! *Let's assume for a moment that the Fed does take action this year and lowers interest rates. What effect would that have on the stock market as well as manufacturing activity? That's precisely what analysts at market research firm Fundstrat looked into recently, and what they found is that 100 percent of the time, the market increased in the next three, six, nine and 12 months. The median gain over nine months, in fact, was nearly +18%. Hypothetically, if the same thing were to happen today, that would put the S&P 500 Index at around 3,500 by next April. (Source: U.S. Global Investors)*

Forward Market Returns Following an Initial Fed Rate Cut During Expansionary Periods

S&P 500 Index Returns Months From Cut, Since 1971

Past performance does not guarantee future results. **Source:** Fundstrat, Bloomberg, FactSet, U.S. Global Investors

FARM TANK

Tweets of the Day



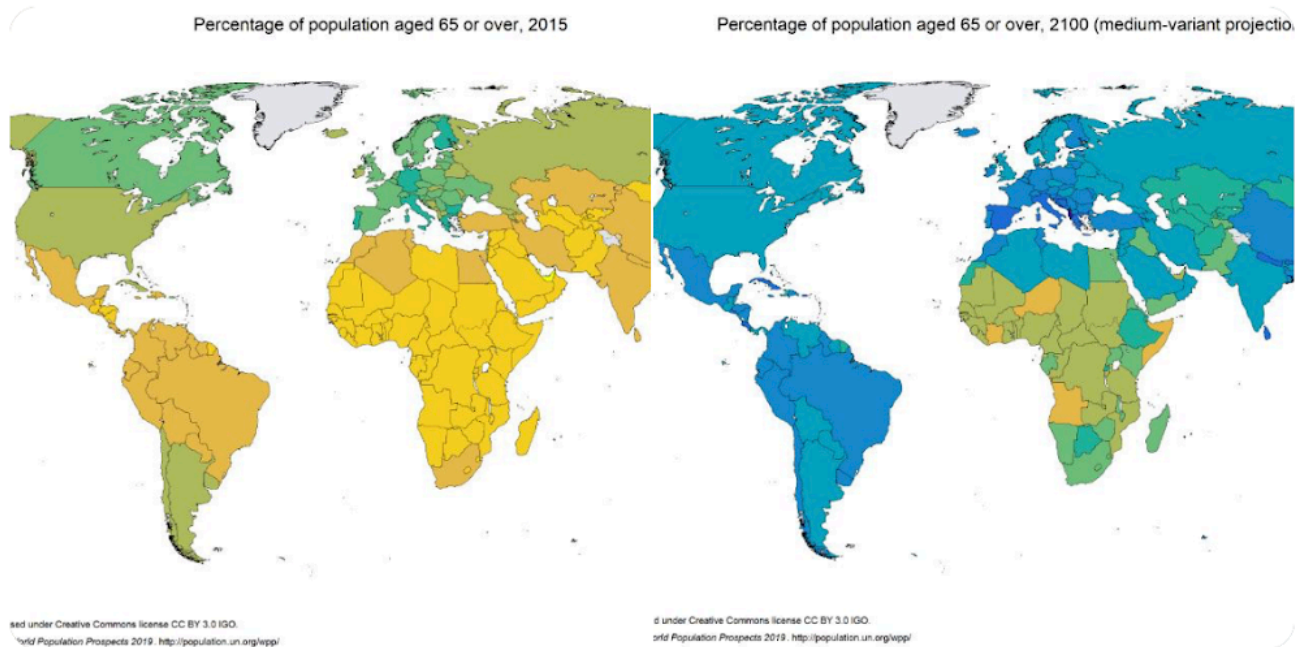
**Conrad Hackett** ✓

@conradhackett

Following



GETTING OLDER: Wow, compare the map on the left (share of populations 65+ in 2015) with what's expected for 2100. (new from @UN)



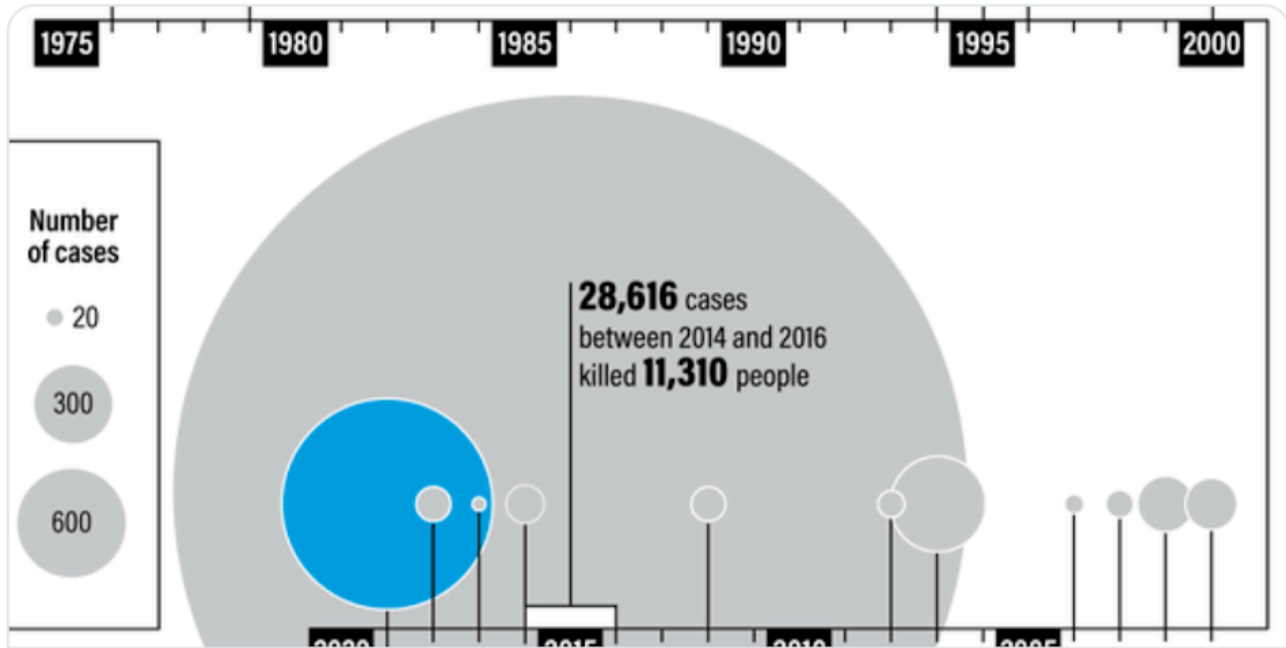


ian bremmer ✓
@ianbremmer

Following



The second-worst Ebola outbreak in history is happening right now.



Graphic Truth: The Growing Ebola Threat

Shortages of new vaccines and attacks on aid workers are among the factors that have hampered health authorities' efforts to fight a new and deadly Ebola outbreak

gzeromedia.com

**Mr. Banjo**

@DFarms001

Following



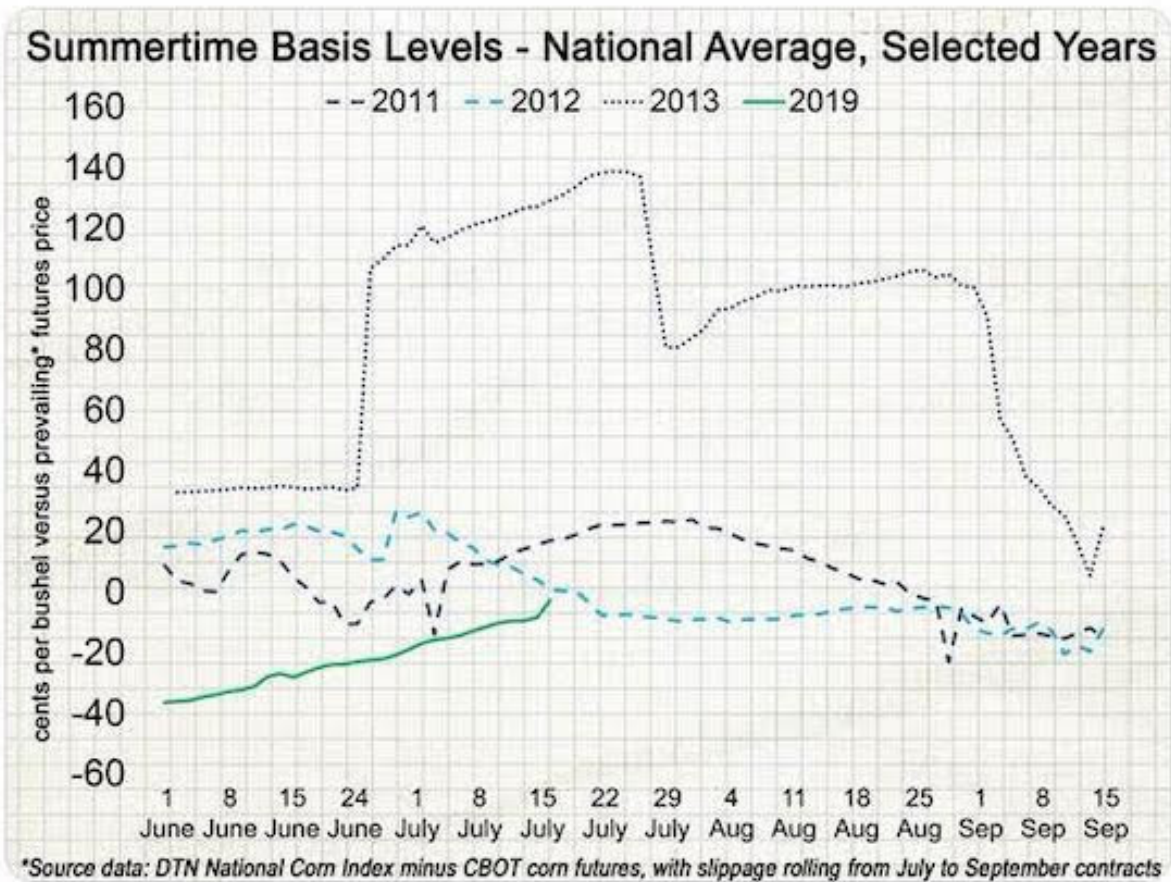
Here's my #plant19 done picture after mudding some more beans in for a neighbor. "Your planter has tracks it'll be fine" 😂😂😂





Elaine Kub
@elainekub

2019 national average summertime [#corn](#) [#basis](#) on a scale with those weird summers we all remember so well (2011, 2012, 2013)



11:24 PM · Jul 16, 2019 · [Twitter Web App](#)

**Tyne Morgan**

@Tyne_Ag

Following



I had to do a double take, but sure enough that's a planter. In Missouri. In the field. Planting. On July 17th. In ground that was flooded out a few weeks ago. 2019, I hope we never see a year like you ever again. [#plant19](#)



**80s Sports N Stuff**

@80sSportsNStuff

Following



We played indoor baseball with mini souvenir bats and nerf balls...then got yelled at by Mom for “being too rough”.



**Inspirational Quotes**

@QuoteLoveU

Following

Keep people in your life that truly love you, motivate you, encourage you, inspire you, enhance you and make you happy. #Quote



Keep people in your life that truly love you, motivate you, encourage you, inspire you, enhance you, and make you happy.

Corn bears continue to point towards improved weather and weak demand. Unexpected rains and cooler temps in the forecasts should help fields in some key growing regions. Bottom-line, there seems to be less worry inside the trade about

the yield continuing to drift lower. At the same time exports continue to disappoint. Funds also seem content on backpedaling as more uncertainty looms regarding Chinese trade negotiations. Technically, I'm keeping a close eye on the DEC19 contract, particularly the \$4.20 level. As a bull, I'm hoping that number can hold and act as longer-term support. But if we break sub- \$4.20, I will be adding to my current bullish positions. I continue to believe corn prices are under-valued longer-term. I've been saying all along, we need to see some type of wash-out to the downside that flushes many bulls and cause the others to think long and hard about their conviction. I'm not sure I've ever been part of a good strong bull market that didn't try and shake people out several times. Money-flow has clearly been an issue this week, as I can argue many bulls are already in the market and taking a wait-and-see approach. I could also argue that some of the bulls have gotten bored with the position going nowhere. We've also seen and heard that a lot more producers have still been planting corn acres, which is crazy to believe but nonetheless happening in several parts of the country. It sounds like the earlier planted corn is doing much better than the late-planted, which is what everyone suspected. The late-planted is simply seeing more stress related problems, shallower root systems, shorter plants, etc... As a producer, I like the thought of staying patient and longer-term oriented. As a spec, I will be looking to add more length if the market remains under pressure next week.

Top 5 Corn Producing States 18/19

2,508,800,000

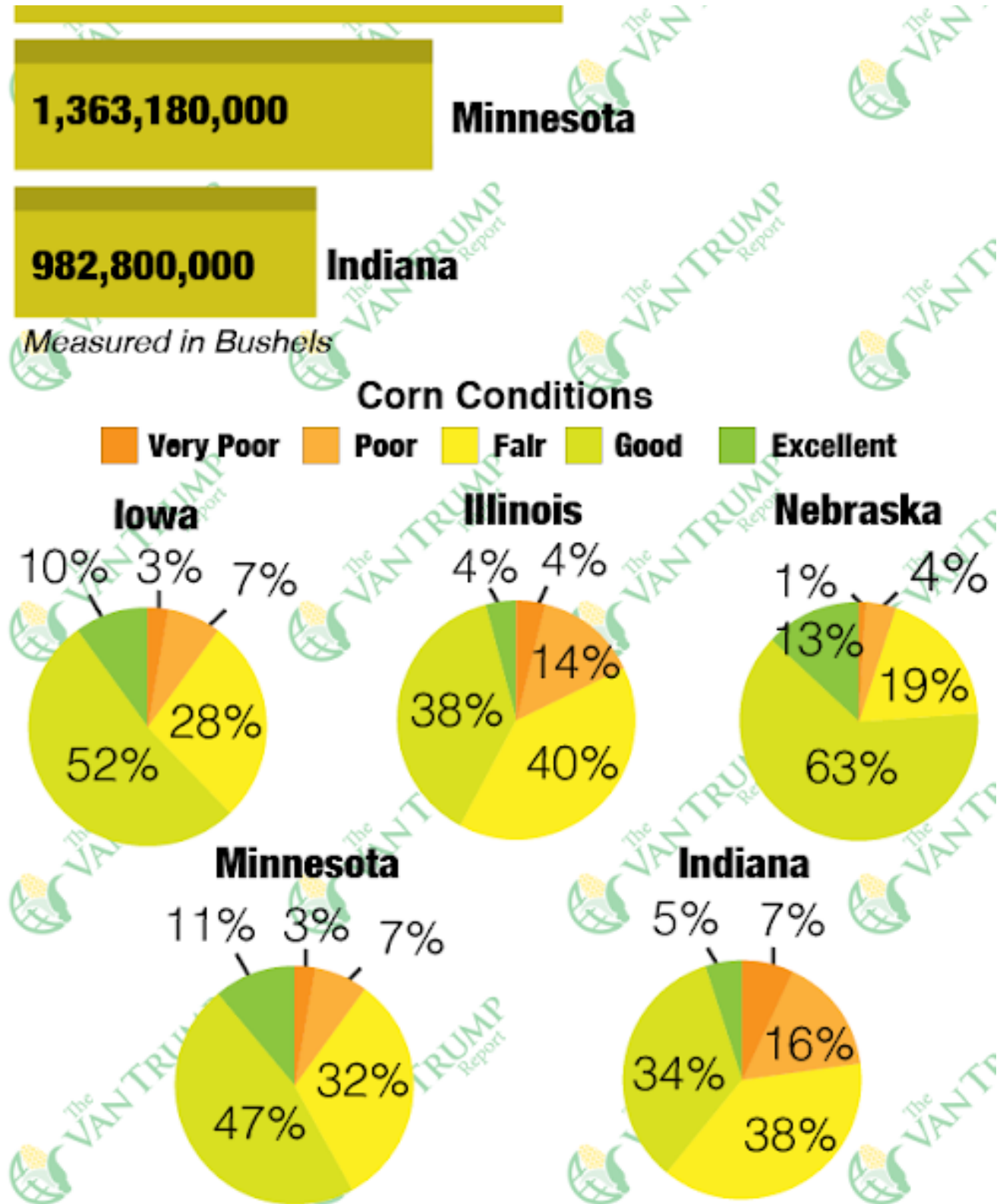
Iowa

2,278,500,000

Illinois

1,787,520,000

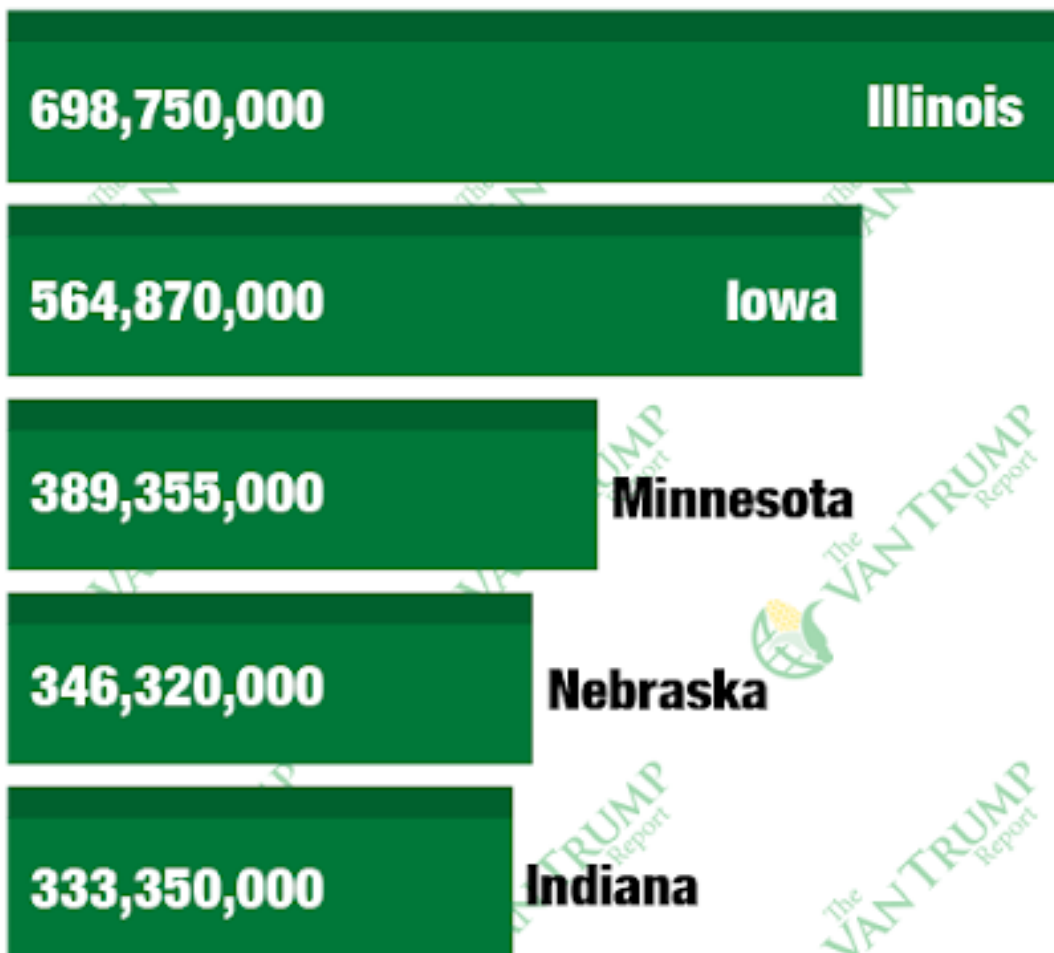
Nebraska



Soybean traders continue to monitor weather and Washington. Technically, the trade is watching the NOV19 contract and wondering if major support can hold somewhere between \$8.75 and \$8.90 per bushel. Bears continue to talk about

China's hog herd being decimated, cut down in size by approximately -25%, and the negative implications for meal demand. At the same time, there's the ongoing uncertainty surrounding Chinese trade negotiations and the recent cancelation of U.S. soybeans going to China. I still contend once South American supplies are more heavily depleted the trade will take on a much different attitude. As a producer, I still have no desire to make sales at these levels. As a spec, I'm becoming much more interested in building a longer-term bullish position but still remain patient. I see no need to get in a big hurry just yet.

Top 5 Soybean Producing States 18/19



Measured in Bushels

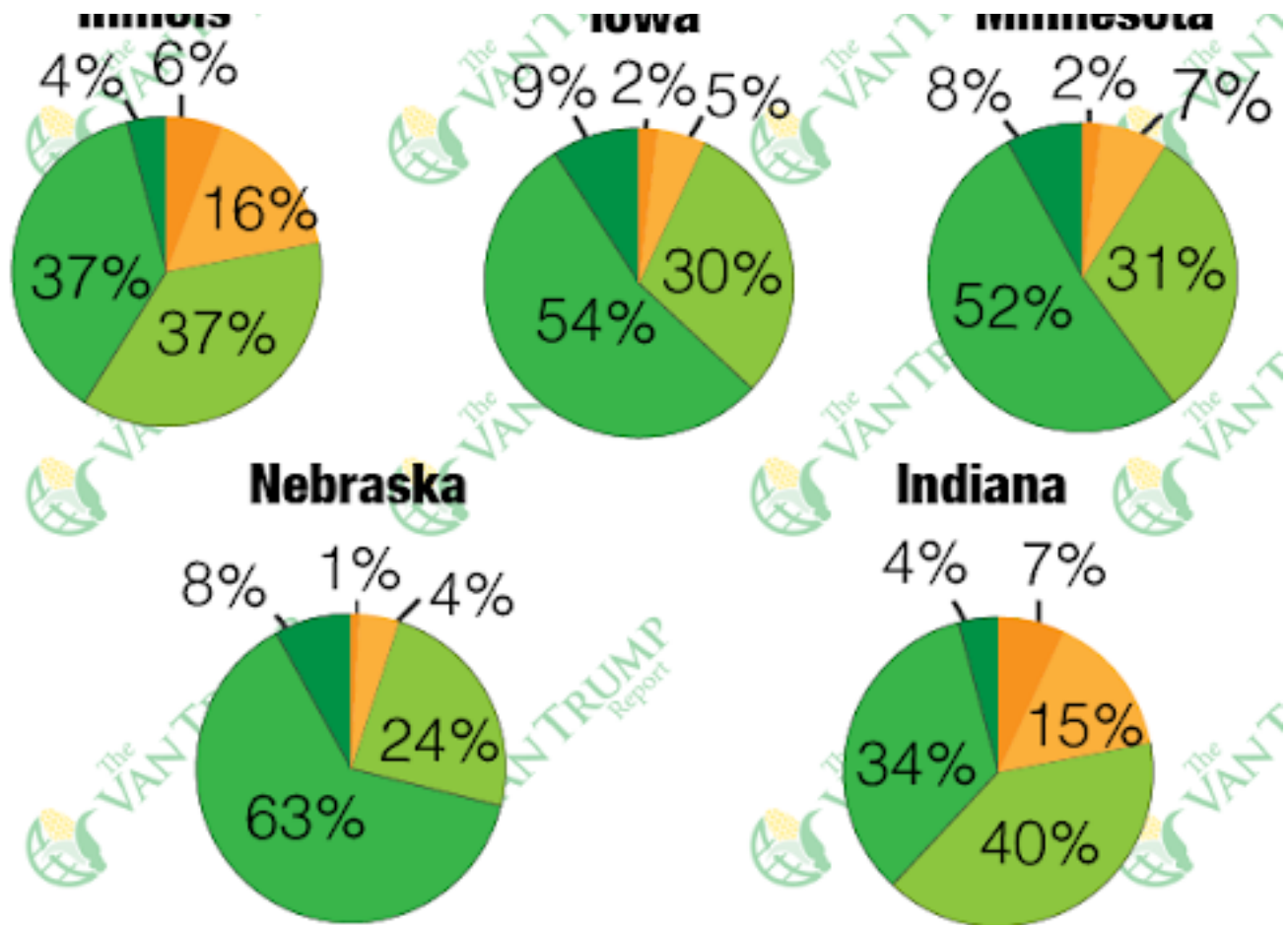
Corn Conditions

Very Poor Poor Fair Good Excellent

Illinois

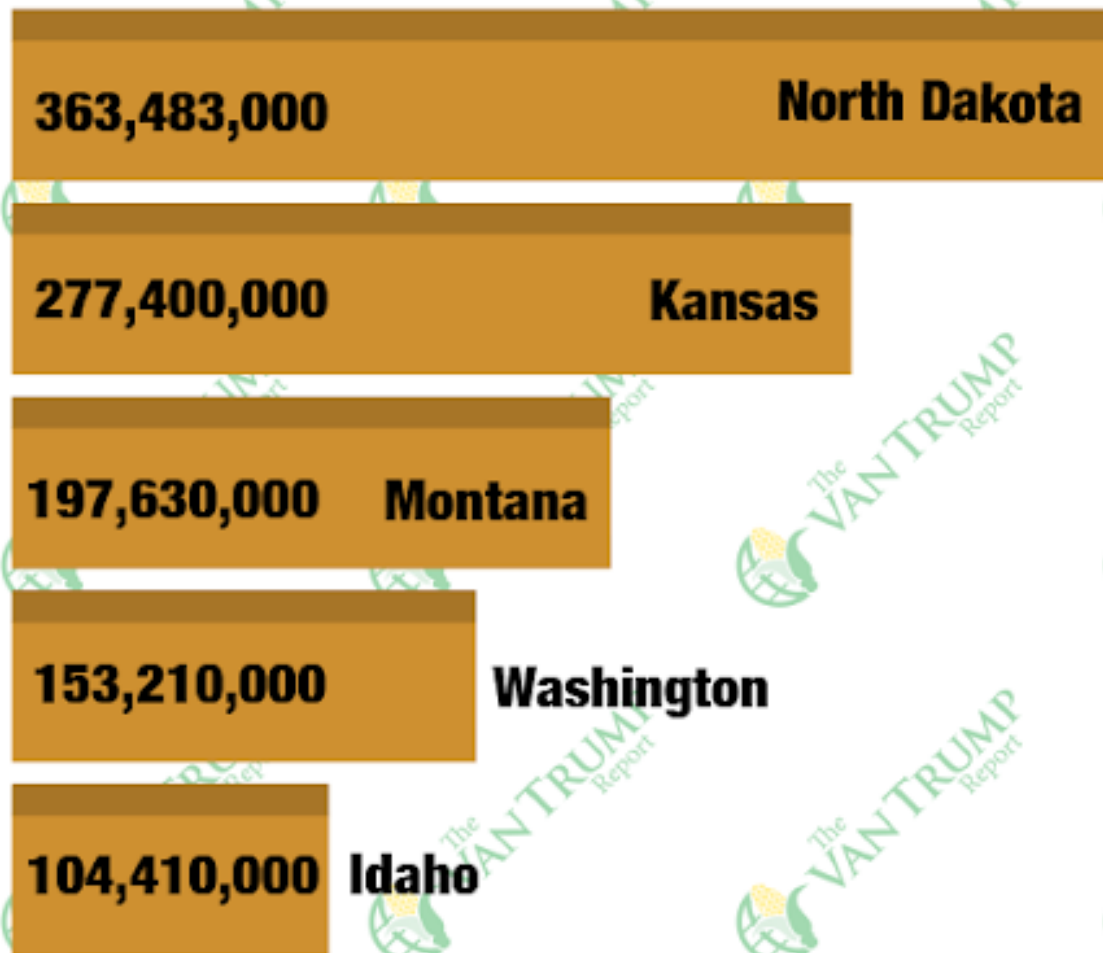
Iowa

Minnesota

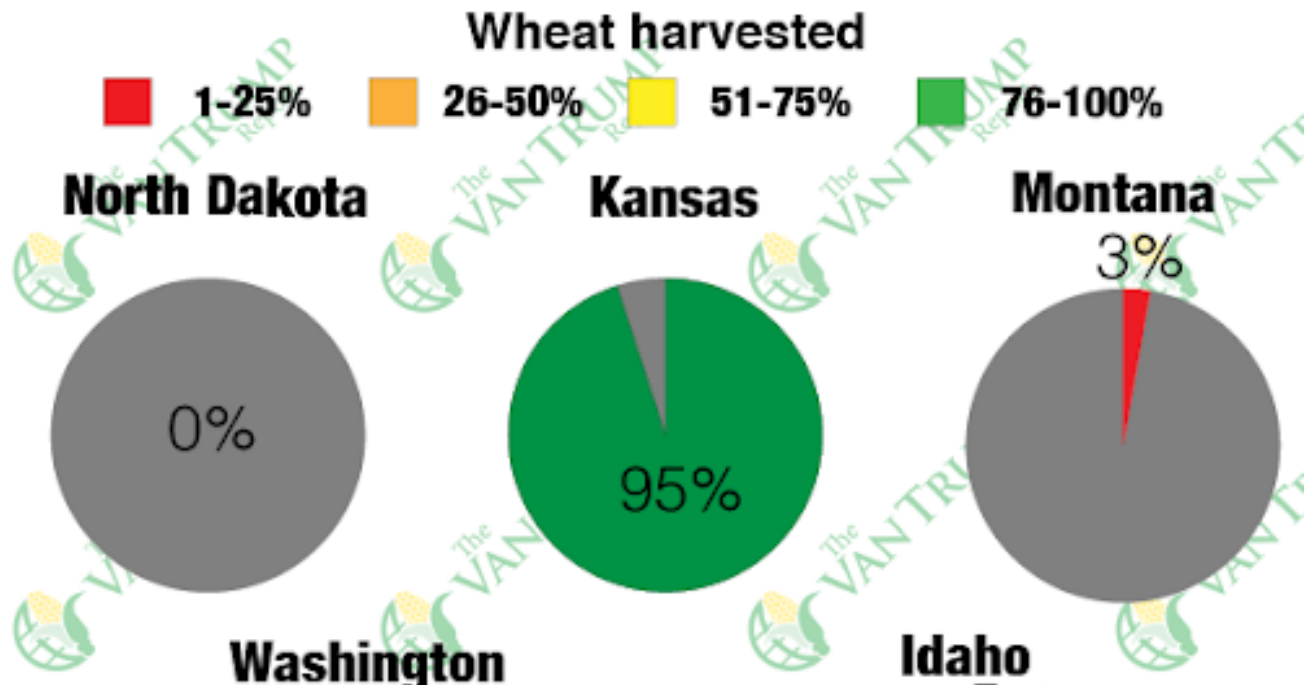


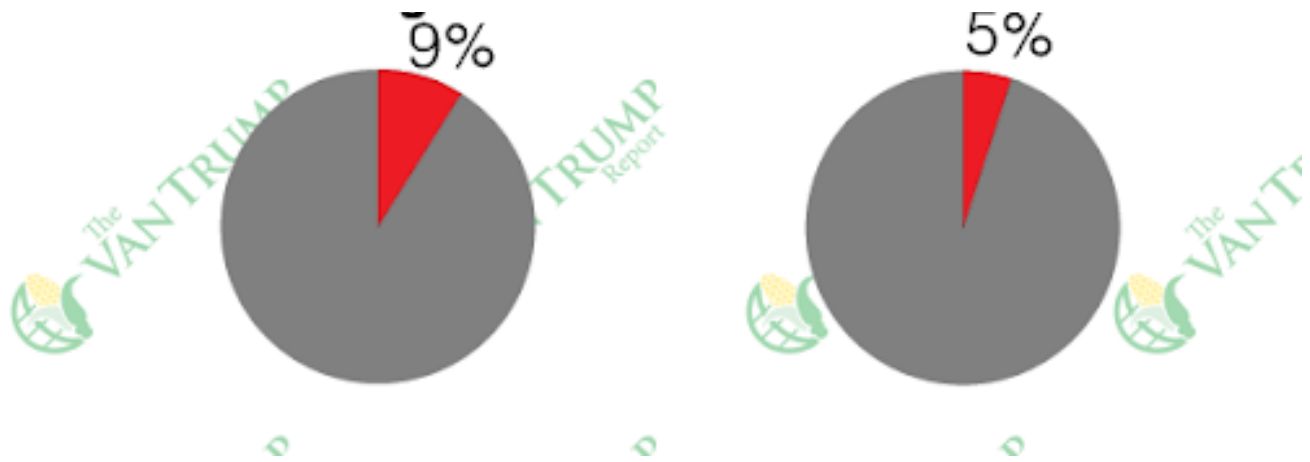
Wheat prices have been pushed to multi-week lows. The WN19 contract hasn't closed below yesterday's level of \$4.93 since mid to late-May. I argued weeks ago that wheat needed corn to move higher and that's certainly been the case. With corn bulls backpedaling there's very little interest in being long wheat with such ample supply both domestically and globally. U.S. exporters continue to play the role of ancillary supplier. Bulls continue to monitor weather complications in Russia and parts of the European Union. Unfortunately, those headlines alone aren't enough to keep the market supported. That's the problem when we are sitting on this much supply. You need a continuing wave of bullish headlines to overcome the burdensome balance sheet. When the headlines become old news or we hit an air pocket or period with little fresh happening, the trade starts reverting back to the balance sheet, which in this case is bearish. I have no speculative position in this market. As a producer, I'm on pause, having made some great early sales and now content on waiting for better opportunities.

Top 5 Wheat Producing States 18/19



Measured in Bushels





> Cargill Shuts Down Feed Mill in China Due to ASF: *Cargill has announced it has closed animal-feed mills in China in recent months and that's partly due to the spread of ASF which has reduced demand. I'm told Cargill's president of animal nutrition told Reuters it's not a six-month trend for China to recover, but a 24-to-36-month kind of resetting of the world's population of animals. Keep in mind, the disease has killed more than a million pigs in China since last summer and has dropped demand for soymeal, pre-mixes, and other feed ingredients. Read more [HERE](#).*

> How Will Higher Corn Costs Affect Swine Finishing? *Feed costs are very sensitive to changes in corn and soybean meal prices, so Michael Boehlje and Michael Langemeier from the University Of Illinois used regression analysis to examine the relationship between hog finishing costs and corn & soybean meal prices. With current projections feed costs expected to increase from \$1 to \$2 per cwt. in the third quarter and from \$2 to \$3 per cwt. in the fourth quarter, these increases in feed costs represent percentage changes of 2-9%. If corn prices spike to \$5.00 per bushel, then feed costs could increase 16 to 21%. Read the details of their report [HERE](#).*

> Only a Few States Remain to Approve Hemp Production: *Most states passed laws quickly and without controversy, responding to the desire in the farm community for a versatile crop that has myriad potential uses. Texas became the latest to pass a hemp legalization law last month, and shortly after, New Hampshire's legislature passed a law allowing the crop to be grown, processed, and traded in the state, but set up a committee to look at how to implement a hemp program. Those actions brought the number of states with hemp laws to 46, leaving just four without a pathway for growers to hop on the hemp bandwagon including Ohio, South Dakota, Mississippi, and Idaho. I'm told Ohio and Mississippi will be on board soon leaving just two, both of whom are not ready to open the gate for the future approval of recreational marijuana. Read more [HERE](#).*

> Tesla's China Factory May Open Sooner Than Thought: *Morgan Stanley's team just returned from a visit of local Chinese suppliers with some fresh feedback on Tesla's progress that's currently under-construction , the Gigafactory 3, in Shanghai. From what I understand, if they're right, Tesla may be able to ramp China production faster than they have anticipated in their model. Tesla said in its first quarter letter to shareholders that they are currently targeting the early part of the fourth quarter. I'm told, if Tesla gets up and running sooner, they may be able to produce as many as 500,000 vehicles globally in 2019. Morgan Stanley expects Tesla to be the leading luxury EV player in China, with hopes of resurrecting an auto buying slump in it's eleventh month. Read more [HERE](#).*

> Toys 'R' Us Partners With b8ta for its Comeback: *b8ta, the retail startup service that has partnered with the likes of Google and Macy's, is getting into the kids' toys space. As part of a new joint venture with Tru Kids Brands, which owns Toys "R" Us, b8ta will bring its expertise in experiential retail to the iconic children's toy store. Both entities will own 50% of the venture. When the curtains are pulled back in the new stores, parents, and kids can expect theaters for movies and video games, a treehouse where kids can play, STEAM workshops, and much more. I'm told the first two stores, which will open in November in Houston and New Jersey, are about 6,500 square feet with future stores being closer to 10,000-square feet versus the 30,000 from its previous era. Keep your eyes on b8ta as they seem to be a great trajectory lately. Read more [HERE](#).*

> Can We Put Morality into AI... Will it be Mandatory? *Ethical dilemmas face drivers all the time, but none more than when you have a split second to decide to hit a pedestrian crossing the road or swerve into a brick wall. Though it may seem like an extreme example, the question was raised at Fortune's Brainstorm Tech in Aspen, CO, this week during a session on finding the humanity in artificial intelligence, which addressed the ethical quandaries of the technology. We all know that humans can or will make a decision in that split second that is reflective of their personal code of ethics, but what happens when they're riding in an autonomous vehicle and are not in control of the car? The more interesting question in my mind is, will be forced to use the tech or be given the option? Read more [HERE](#).*

> Drug Overdose Deaths are Lower for First Time in 30 Years: *Three decades of ever-escalating deaths from drug overdoses in the United States may have come to an end, according to preliminary government data made public this week. From what I understand, total drug overdose deaths in America declined by around 5% last year, which is the first drop since 1990. I'm told, the decline was due almost entirely to a dip in deaths from prescription opioid painkillers, the medicines that set off the epidemic of addiction that has lasted nearly two decades. Unfortunately, fatal overdoses involving other drugs, particularly fentanyl, and methamphetamine, continued to rise. Read more [HERE](#).*

> Be the First Ever to Book the Weinermobile: *Honoring Hot Dog Day earlier*

this week, Oscar Mayer is throwing open the doors of the Wienermobile for the first time ever and letting fans book an overnight stay in the famous mobile hot dog through Airbnb. Don't expect more than the basics as you spend the night in the 27-foot long traveling hot dog fitted with a single sofa bed. I'm told starting Wednesday, July 24, big wiener fans can book one-night stays on August 1, 2, or 3, which is pretty convenient timing if you happen to be going to Lollapalooza it's taking place in Chicago that weekend! Read more [HERE](#).

> **How "The Next Billion Dollar Startups" Have Fared:** Since Forbes and TrueBridge began their partnership to produce the annual Next Billion Dollar Startups list, they've traditionally done a retrospective to see how quickly the companies on the lists have grown. As shown in the graphic below, nearly half of companies on the 2015-2018 Next Billion Dollar Startups Lists have IPO'd, been acquired, or been valued at \$1 billion or greater. Forbes thought it would be a good time to pause and recognize the exits from our Next Billion Dollar Startups lists to date. Click [HERE](#) to see the companies that have already exited the Next Billion Dollar List and "where" they've gone: to the public markets, to another company via an acquisition, or to a private equity buyer.



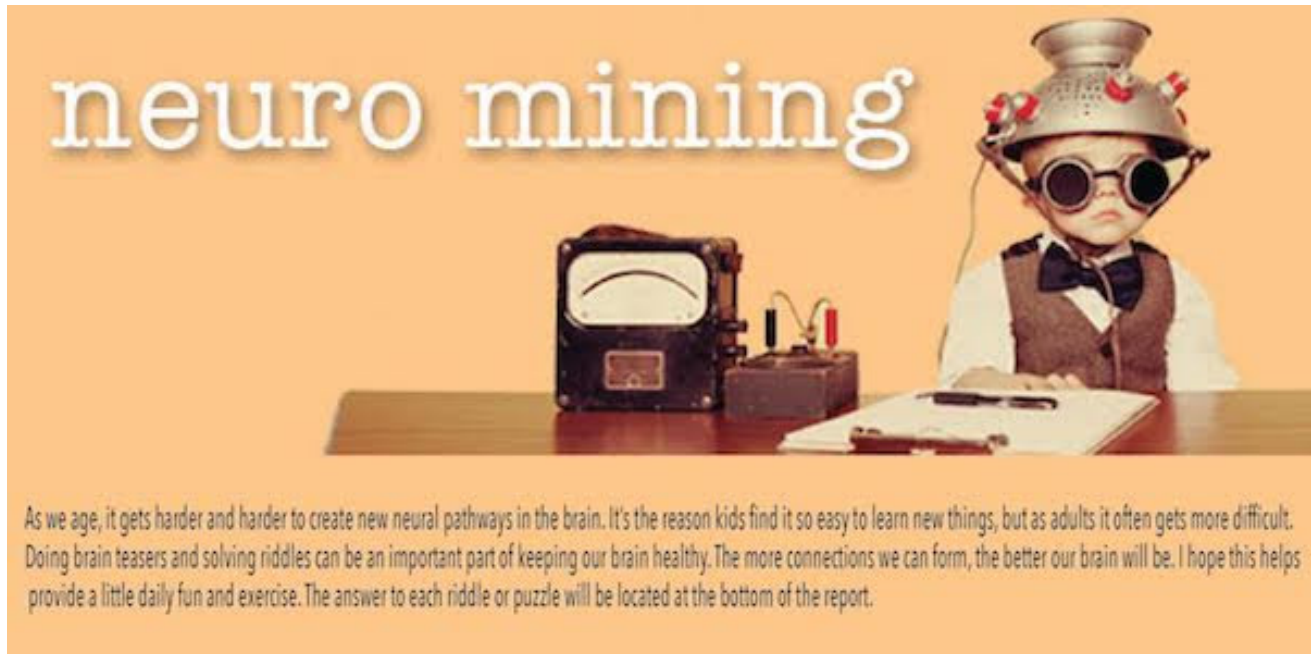


Southern Iowa – We farm just north of the Missouri state line, which is slightly closer to the eastern side of the state. The good news is we got a little rain last night. We were going to start burning up, especially with the heat over the weekend without the rain. The bad news is we'll lose most of all the moisture in a

2-3 day period because of the heat. Thankfully we will be cooling down Sunday night and all of next week. The cool down is right in time for pollination. We will be in full pollination come the first week of August. We might sneak through pollination with cooler nights and days. The big worry around here was we were going to have poor stands along with heat during pollination, which is definitely a receipt for really poor yields.

Central Ohio – *We're lucky that we have rolling hills on our ground that water runs off of nicely. If you travel 20 miles west it's a completely different story than ours. Our soil is a heavy shell that drains well in these wetter conditions that we have seen this year. Our corn ranges from armpit height to eight-foot-tall and all looks good. Our soybeans are knee-high and look good as well. We got a little rain off tropical storm Barry, but it was hit or miss in certain areas. The only real problem we're facing this year is the hay ground has only seen one cutting due to excessive rain. We should be on two maybe three cutting by now. For us, this should be a good grain crop.*

Northcentral Illinois – *The corn has sat for weeks and weeks without much growth. In the last few weeks, we've seen everything jump up from ankle high to maybe chest high in certain areas. There are many fields that are just being planted now, which I'd assume are cover crops and not soybeans. Anyone still planting soybeans would be at a serious risk for frost damage and would be doing it without the safety net of insurance. The next three days will test our root systems that are shallow. We've only had a handful of days over 90 degrees and the next three will be over 100 on the heat index. Next week, we drop back to what I would consider normal. We should see corn start to tassel between the first and second week of August.*



TODAY'S RIDDLE: What do windows wear on a sunny day?



How a Farmer and an Artist Came to Popcorn

Popcorn is one of my favorite snacks, so when I ran across Bjorn Quenemoen and how he and his partner are carving out a profitable niche in the crowded craft popcorn space, I thought his story might inspire others who are looking for new ways to do old things. Quenemoen turned his childhood tradition of Sunday night popcorn with the family into a growing business and he got a good start while in college. I'm told, when he arrived at Bard College in New York, he was shocked to learn that not everyone had grown up sharing his experience. Not only with popcorn, but family time as well. Not being one to sit around, Quenemoen began hosting monthly Sunday night popcorn parties and even went as far as placing posters across campus to ensure success. Interestingly, he'd also

sell a handful of items including Claussen pickles, Lucky Strike cigarettes, and beer, but the real draw turned out to be his popcorn, which his friends aptly named "Bjorn Corn" at the time.

Quenemoen knew before he ever left college that he could turn the family's recipe into a business, but he didn't know he'd be doing it with solar heat in huge outdoor kettles. It was at a popcorn party at Bard that Bjorn met Jamie O'Shea, an artist and the two soon became friends. Interestingly, as O'Shea became aware that Quenemoen was contemplating a popcorn business, he decided to share his own project that just happened to need something to heat up. From what I understand, O'Shea had created these large, curved mirrors which focus sunlight to create high temperatures and he was able to convince Bjorn to give it a try at popping corn.

Solar cooking requires no fuels and produces no emissions, so when it turned out that the unit made great popcorn, the two set off to change the popcorn eating world. I should mention, O'Shea's art project was using materials and techniques that avoided the expensive costs of mirrors. With their mirror basin being so affordable, there have plans to take it around the globe to be used in any way possible.

BjornQorn is fastly becoming a cult hit in the Northeast where quite honestly it was as much the solar use as it was the flavor that got the product on the shelf in the beginning. It didn't take long for the "snobbish" snack crowd of New York to take a liking to it, and as popularity began to grow, BjornQorn even made appearances in skits on The Late Show with Stephen Colbert and Saturday Night Live. I'm even told Etsy staff members have even dressed up as bags of BjornQorn for Halloween. From what I understand, we might be able to start finding it on the shelves at Whole Foods soon, as the product makes its way across America. It's also worth mentioning, as they scale up they have embraced a bit more tech by putting solar panels on their production warehouse, but still popping in the kettles. Learn more about the solar-powered snack at their website [HERE](#). (Source: modernfarmer, villagevoice, solarcooking)



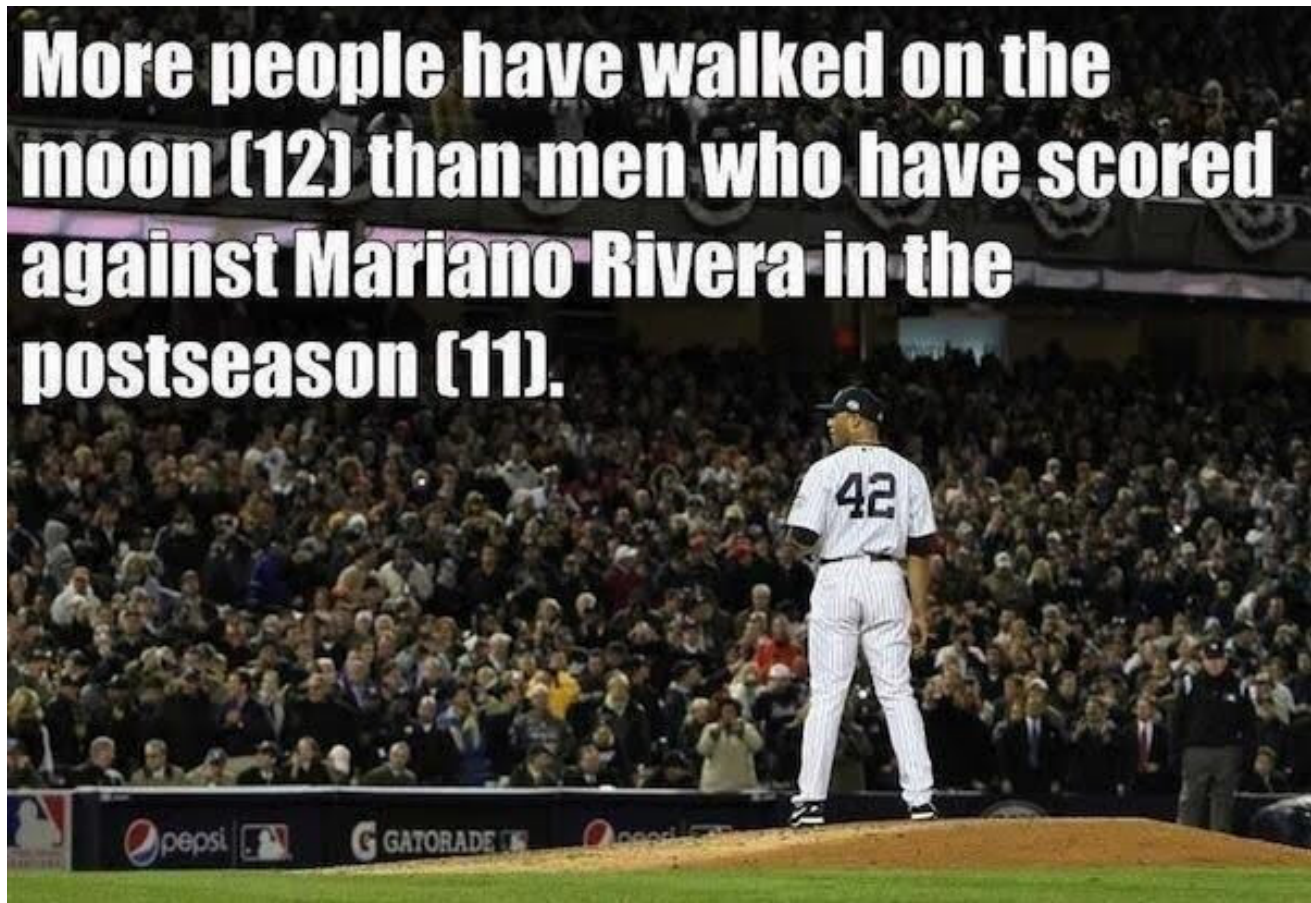




Celebrating Greatness!

Major League Baseball's Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony takes place this weekend. The actual Induction Ceremony is scheduled to take place on Sunday, July 21 at 12:30 p.m. CST. The ceremony will be broadcast live on MLB Network and will be shown via webcast at www.baseballhall.org. The Class of 2019 includes the greatest relief pitcher of all-time, Mariano Rivera. Keep in mind, Rivera is the only player in MLB history to ever be unanimously voted into the Hall of Fame, appearing on all 425 ballots. Even the greats like Babe Ruth, Willie Mays, Mickey Mantle, or Ted Williams could pull this one off. Rivera played more than 19 seasons with the New York Yankees and happens to be Major League Baseball's all-time saves leader with 652 as well as finishing 952 games. Another crazy Rivera stat is he retired the side in order in 229 of his saves. Something a lot of people don't know about Rivera is baseball wasn't in his cards earlier on in his life. Rivera started in his father's footsteps out of school, learning the fishing trade by spending three years toiling on boats for six days a week, year-round. He also started his baseball career as a shortstop when the Yankees discovered him in the

late '80s. A year later Rivera soon became a pitcher when the Yankees finally signed him to a \$3,500 minor league deal. Rivera then rose through the Yankee minor-league ranks to become a Yankee starter in 1995, before transitioning to the bullpen. Mariano is not only a great player, but a great role model as he said before he retired, "I would like to be remembered as a player who was there for others." I'm excited to hear what he has to say this Sunday during the ceremony in Cooperstown! He will be inducted alongside other former greats like Harold Baines, Edgar Martínez, Mike Mussina, and Lee Smith.



I get over bad games right away. Sometimes I've let it go even before I've left the mound. That quick. Why? Because it's over. What can you do about it? Nothing. The only thing you can do is fight if you're still in the game. After that you can do nothing.

Mariano Rivera

WWW.STOREMYPIC.COM



My father was strict and always taught me, no matter who it is, everybody is an uncle. To me, everybody was someone I respect like family. I grew up with that.

Mariano Rivera

95quotes.com

Another Great Story Line will be the induction of the late Roy "Doc" Halladay. If you remember, Halladay died in 2017 when his plane crashed into the ocean 10 miles west of St. Petersburg, Florida. Halladay, who earned the nickname "Doc" during his 16-year MLB career split between the Philadelphia Phillies and the Blue Jays, set numerous major league milestones such as becoming only the 20th player in MLB history to pitch a perfect game in 2010. Just a few months later, he pitched the second no-hitter in post-season history — the first since the 1956 World Series. The two events secured Halladay as only the fifth pitcher ever to have two no-hitters in one season.

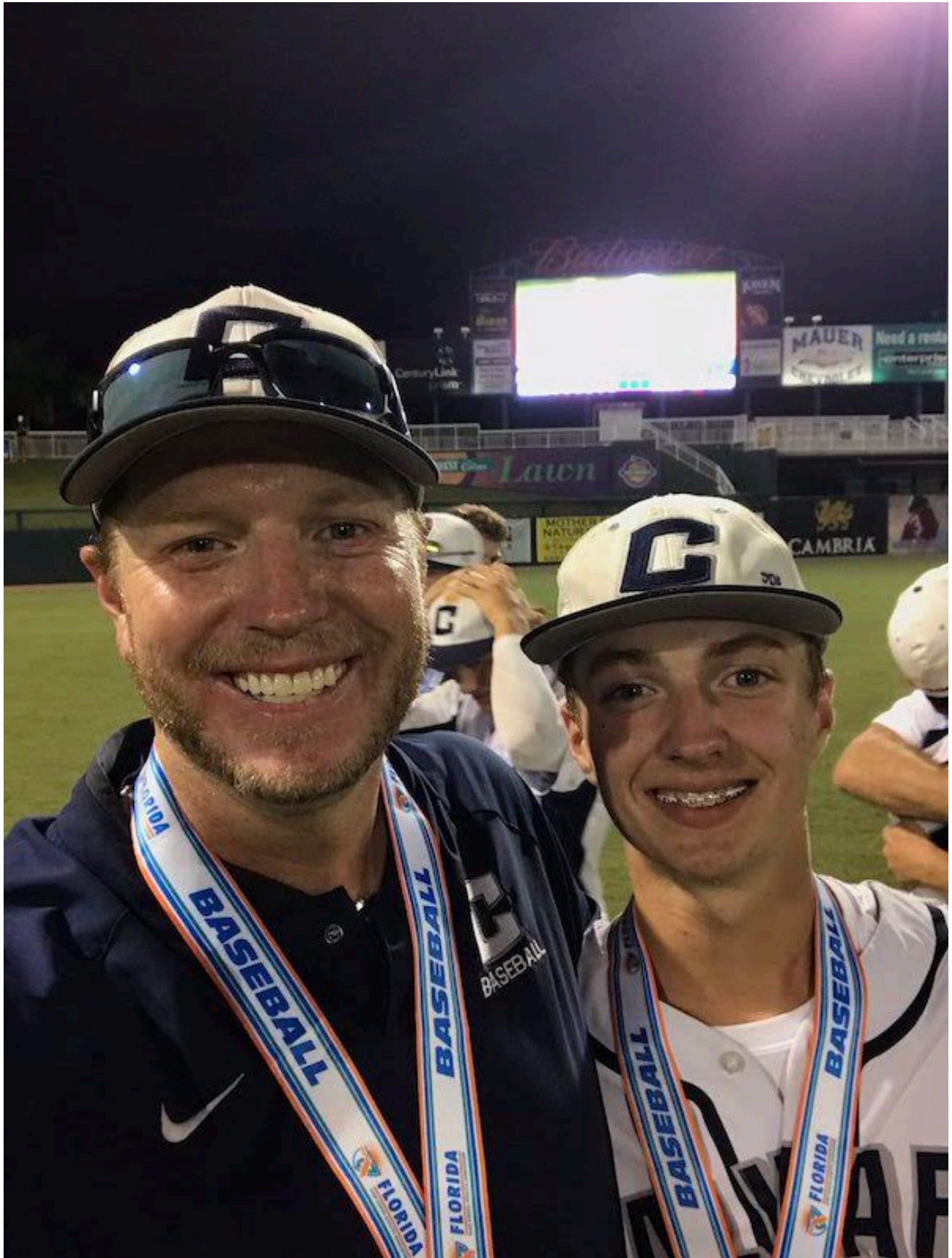
Halladay's son, Braden Halladay, was drafted this year by the Blue Jays out of

Calvary Christian High School in Clearwater, Florida. Keep in mind, this is more than two decades after the late Roy Halladay was picked by the Toronto Blue Jays in 1995. In a tweet after his selection, Braden thanked his father's former team and called it an "honor." However, he confirmed he still plans to attend Penn State University before officially playing in the major leagues.

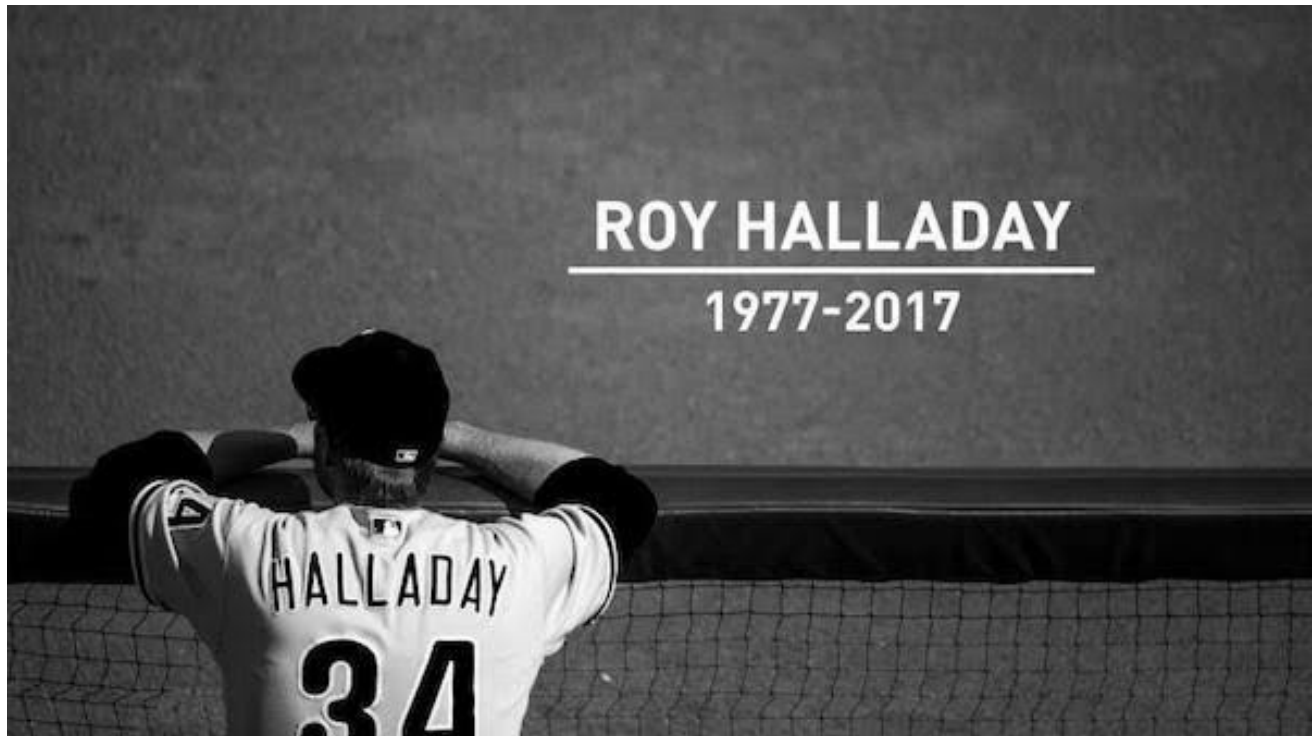
Baseball Hall of Fame announced back in late-January that Halladay was being inducted. His widow, Brandy Halladay, recalled her husband's dream of leaving his mark on the major leagues. "To stand on that stage in Cooperstown and deliver your acceptance speech in front of baseball's most enthusiastic fans is something that every baseball player aspires to achieve, and Roy was no exception," she said. "But that was not Roy's goal. It was not his goal to have those three letters after his signature. His goal was to be successful every single day of his 16-year career. Tonight's announcement is the end result of that effort." She added, "If only Roy were here to personally express his gratitude for this honor, what an even more amazing day this would be." (Source: Sports Illustrated; People Magazine)











Big-League Legends are Certainly Fun to Watch... but mid-July in small hometown ballparks across our great nation are where lots of fun family memories are made! Below are a few of my personal "Hall of Famers." Michelle wearing her cowboy hat to keep the sun off and having some fun with the eye-black; Kennedy always carrying the hardware to the truck after the tournaments; me and my good friend and former MLB star Jason Grimsley giving Jordan and the team some instruction. I hope you and your family have had a great baseball or softball season. There's almost nothing better than sitting at the park watching the kids play a game we all loved.











Baseball Remains the One Constant and whenever I start to think about this great game I always go back to "Field of Dreams," what a great movie! Below are a couple of my favorite scenes that bring back a ton of great memories.

"People will come Ray. The one constant through all the years, Ray, has been BASEBALL. America has rolled by like an army of steamrollers. It has been erased like a blackboard, rebuilt and erased again. But BASEBALL has marked the time. This field, this game: it's a part of our past, Ray. It reminds of us of all that once was good and it could be again. Oh... people will come Ray. People will most definitely come."
To see the actual video [CLICK HERE](#) nobody does it like James Earl Jones!

*If you can't get enough check out his part of the movie...this is actually my "favorite" in the entire film. Watch it all the way through, it's worth the time. One of the comments from a viewer on youtube is as follows...
" This scene makes grown men cry because we see a man reconcile with his father and show him that he loves him after years of distance and anger. In real life it's not always that easy, and many men are painfully aware when watching this clip that they'll never have a reconciliation with their own fathers the way these two men do in this movie. But Hollywood lets us dream, and so we cry because we wish this story for ourselves and are touched by its beauty." [CLICK HERE!](#)*



ANSWER to riddle: Shades.

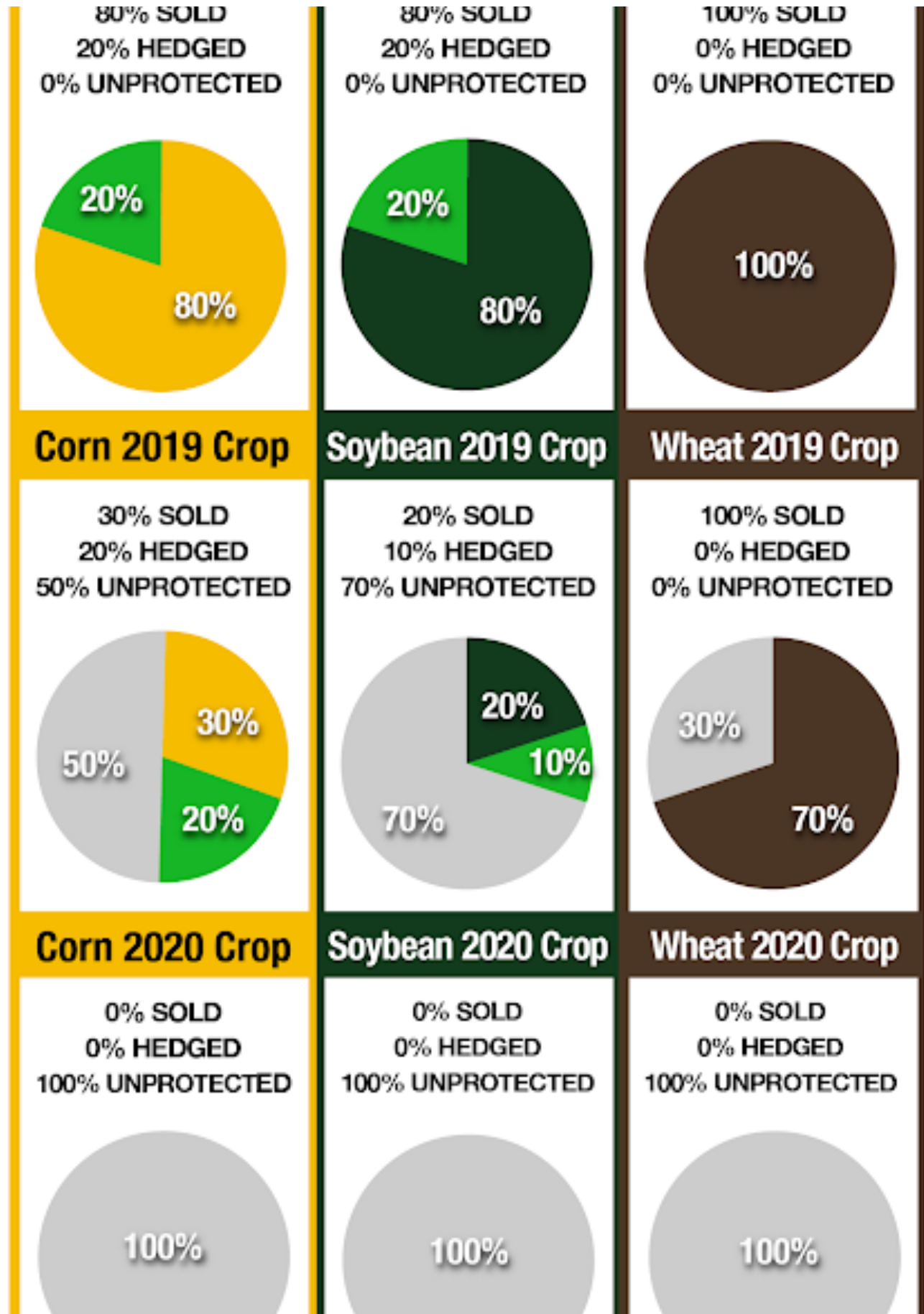
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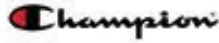
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