

Josh Knight <josh@farmdirection.com>

GOOD MORNING: Van Trump Report 8-14-19

1 message

Mark Hendershott <markhendershott@gmail.com>
To: Trae Hodges <josh@farmdirection.com>

Wed, Aug 14, 2019 at 8:05 AM

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"Hang out with people better than you and you will drift in that direction." - Warren Buffett

Wednesday, August 14, 2019

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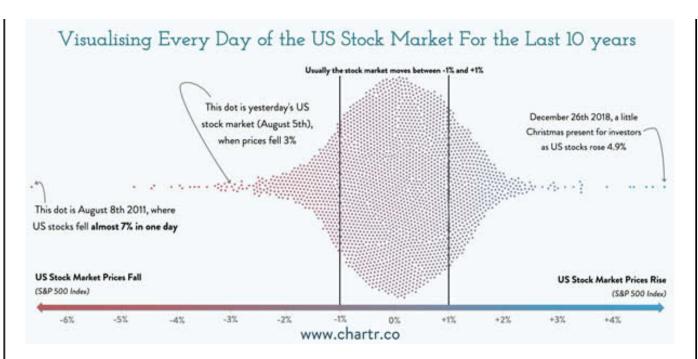
Morning Summary: Stock traders are digesting President Trump's recent announcement that the U.S. will be delaying a series of tariffs that were initially scheduled to begin on September 1. The 10% tariffs on approximately \$107 billion worth of Chinese consumer goods are now suspended until December 15, barring a new trade deal with China. It was initially viewed by the market as a very welcome relief but many bears are now wondering if it's too little too late? The goods impacted by the tariffs include things like cell phones, clothing, and toys, all of which tend to be popular holiday gift items. The extension gives retailers a chance to now get items imported without the burden of the additional levies, boosting the outlook for a healthy holiday shopping season. Unfortunately,

investors are also digesting a string of reports from analysts like Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley warning that Trump's trade dispute with China is negatively impacting U.S. growth to a greater degree than first anticipated. According to Harvard's Megan Greene, these warnings shouldn't really be that surprising. As she tells Politico, "It makes sense for everyone to be downgrading because everyone assumed we'd have some kind of trade deal with China by now and we don't." For today, U.S. economic data is very light with the Import Price Index the only data of much significance. There is a slew of EU data due out, including GDP and employment figures. However, a lot of investors consider this data nearly irrelevant in the face of Britain's impending exit from the EU. This is an event that's never happened in the history of financial markets, so the potential impact on Europe's economies is a total wild-card. The trade continues to keep a close eye on geopolitical issues brewing in Hong Kong, Italy, and Iran. There's also a lot more talk circulating around the ongoing conflict between Pakistan and India over Kashmir and how it might be starting to further complicate India's border dispute with China. As an investor, I remain on pause and apprehensive in adding additional length. I still see some rough waters ahead and want to exercise more extreme patience.

Could Hong Kong Clashes Impact U.S. Stocks? The situation in Hong Kong appears to be devolving even further with the airport shuttered for another day and reports of violence between pro-democracy demonstrators and authorities. At the airport Tuesday, demonstrators seized two men they suspected of being pro-Beijing infiltrators, with witnesses saying they were beaten. In both cases, paramedics had to struggle to extract them from the crowd. The protests have been ongoing for two months now and market watchers are starting to wonder if the unrest could impact U.S. and global markets. Trade tensions between the U.S. and China already have investors nervous and some analysts thing the confrontations in Hong Kong could further erode investor confidence. The concern there is that the Chinese government could look to clamp down on what it may view as an insurrection. Some fear that China declaring the protests an act of terror could lead to military action by Beijing. Hong Kong is viewed as a major financial hub, so trouble in the region - especially the military kind - could send investors running out of stocks and into more "safe haven" assets like bonds. What's more, China has actually insinuated the U.S. is somehow behind the protests. If the violence does escalate into a military action, that could spell even more complications for U.S.-China trade negotiations. (Sources: Wall Street Journal, MarketWatch)

Are Negative U.S. Interest Rates Possible? Many articles have pondered the short-term and long-term impacts of negative interest rates around the globe. Some of these concerns are recent, while some have persisted for years. One recent tally even put the amount of sovereign and related bond issuances trading with negative yields at close to \$15 trillion. These are mostly in Europe and in Japan, but what about the real possibilities of negative interest rates in the United States? For a central bank to have negative interest rates, something is far from peachy in the economy and in the financial markets. To ponder negative interest rates in the United States in 2019, that is another situation in which the financial media's headline writers have gone above and beyond reality versus actual market and economic conditions. Read more HERE.

What It Means When Stock Prices Get Volatile: The chart below shows the S&P 500's price action everyday for the last decade. It was created on August 5th, so we're missing a few days but that doesn't make it any less fascinating! The area in the middle between -1% and +1% has the heaviest concentration of trading days, showing that most of the time the stock market is actually pretty boring. In fact, when things start to get interesting, that volatility is often indicating major moves ahead. Volatility works in both directions. Its very definition means price movements that are sharp, sudden, and frequent, but those can be either up or down. The "New York Times" noted the increased frequency of market swings in 2011 and speculated that larger swings might be business as usual for the future of the stock market. The newspaper defined major "market swings" as increases and declines between 3% and 4% of the market returns. Yale School of Management professor Roger Ibbotson defines volatility as approximately 20% a year, with a change of 5.8% a month. Click on the chart for a larger view. (Sources: chartr.co, Zacks, The Motley Fool)

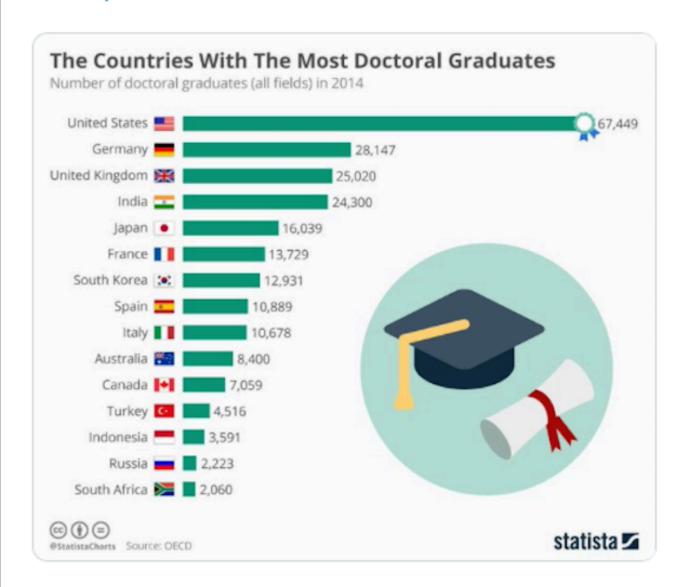






These countries have the most doctoral graduates

wef.ch/2Gk0XAz #education



Ben Burgess

@BenBurgessAg





HALF CENTURY OF PROGRESS CORN BEGINNING TO DENT. It was planted 82 days ago. Come see how this turns out. @halfcenturyshow @Rantoul_IL #racetomaturity #plant19



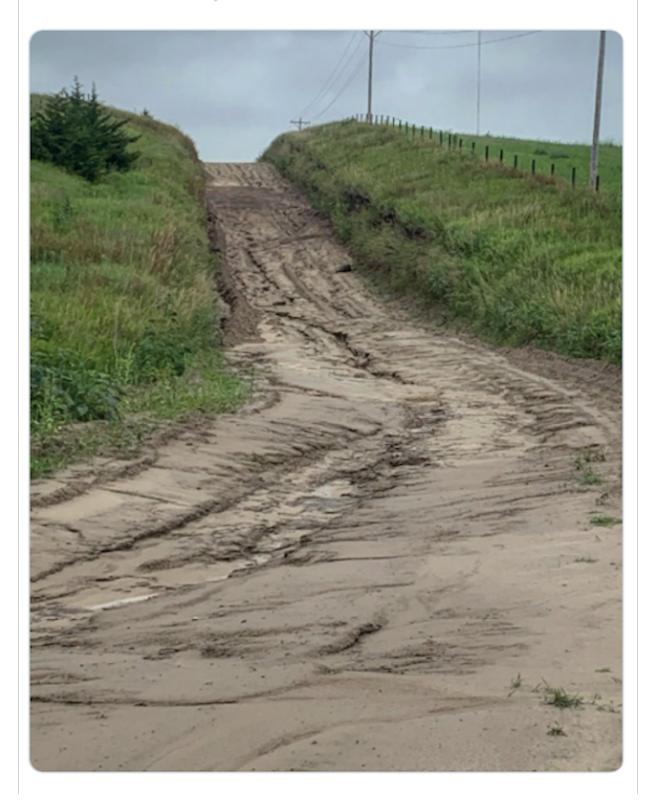


Getting all the ducks in a row. #harvest19 right around the corner. Wishing everyone a safe & trouble free harvest whether you're underway or still on standby.





This road sums up 2019.



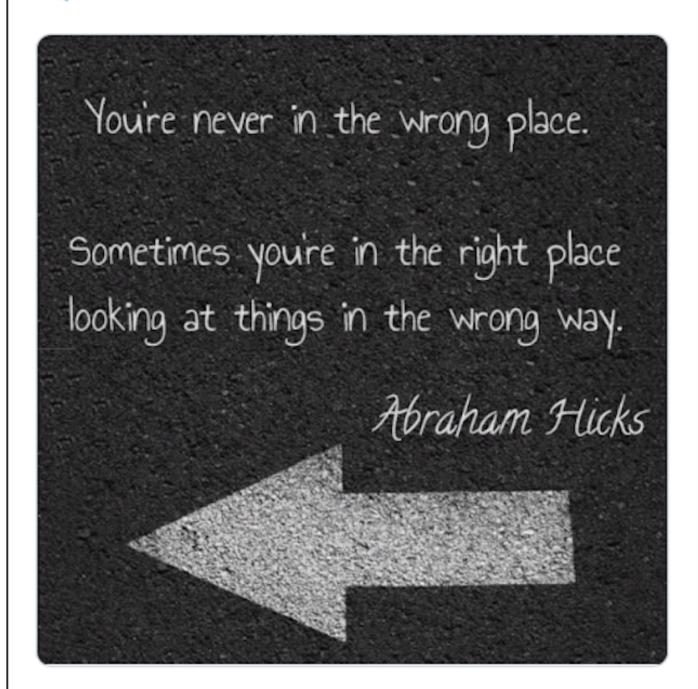


Truth.





You are never in the wrong place. Sometimes you are in the right place looking at things in the wrong way. #Quotes



Corn prices tumble far enough to fill a gap on the DEC19 chart that was created

between May 13th and 14th. Traders are now thinking the bears will soon take a run at the \$3.63^6 low with ultimate support perhaps not being found until the \$3.50 level. There's just a lot of uncertainty right now about money-flow and who's going to step in and be a big buyer? There's a ton of controversy and questions still surrounding acres, how many will actually be harvested, FSA vs. USDA numbers, silage numbers, etc... Technically, the charts have been obliterated and the bears are in total control. Fundamentally, the USDA has given the bears the clear upper hand with a bigger crop and a bigger balance sheet. Weather forecasts are also proving to be a bit wetter, which helps the bearish argument for improving conditions and a stronger yield. I continue to bet on a bullish hand but am much more worried and concerned than I was a few weeks ago. A professional trader friend of mine sent me a note last night. I thought I would share a portion of his thoughts below.

There is a shit load of discrepancy in corn acres. In my opinion even more so today than the June acreage report. But it doesn't matter if they are off and continue to be off, as long as the USDA is publishing numbers that is what the market is going to trade.

Another trader once told me "the job of the market often feels like it's to inflict the most pain on the most number of people". So I assume since the short in May and June got toasted, and now the long from June and July are toasted, the market is dead in the water barring a big ass frost or flood.

Do I think corn is of value under \$3.80, hell yes!

But think about it, all the players have already blown their wad, commercials covered use till new crop arrives with strong basis bids only to see it get pummeled, the demand destruction won out over the short supply argument, at least according to the USDA number gurus.

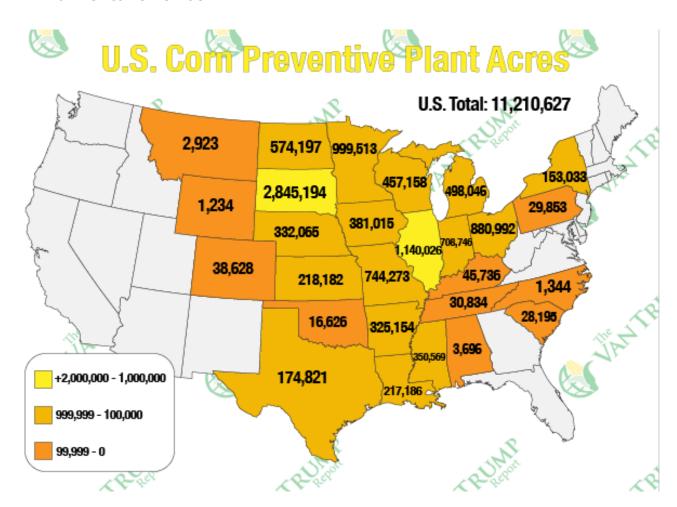
I still think it is like a 2010 market and we may see higher prices, but again I ask who is left to buy it???

Every bull has got his ass kicked, and now barring a drought-like start to South America it is going to be an even slower climb back up the hill unless a mid-Sept frost comes into play. So in the overnight, with DEC trading under 3.85 the 3.70 put 4.10 combo (put vs call) was trading even. 15 cents downside option same price as 25 cent upside call. That is f'd up in my mind

or at least some massive call skew going into "frost season" which is correct, almost like drought premium.

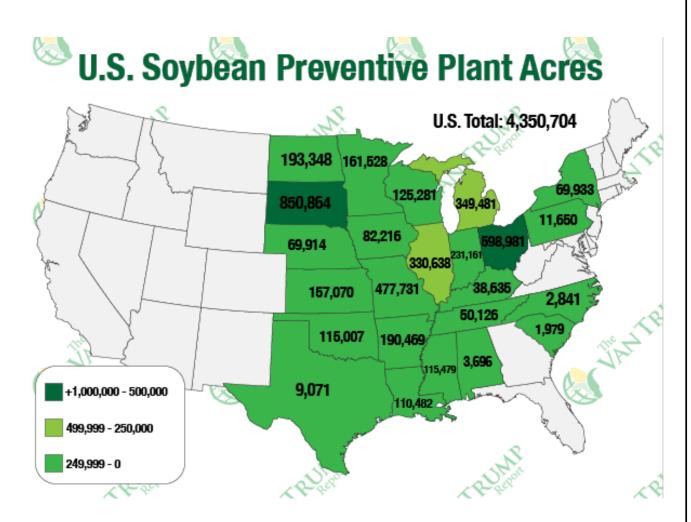
I talked to a big corn broker this spring when DEC was on the lows, sad as it was, I told him sometimes it's just best to turn the screen off. We rallied plus 80 cents from there. The market will always go too far, and the FOMO (fear of missing out) will eventually get the best of even the most strong-willed players.

As the professional traders like to say, it is not where you get in a trade but rather where you get out. This market rolled over for dead when the Tump tariff was announced and has never recovered. As they always said in the pit, sell it when you can, not when you have to... Those are good words for the farmer to remember!



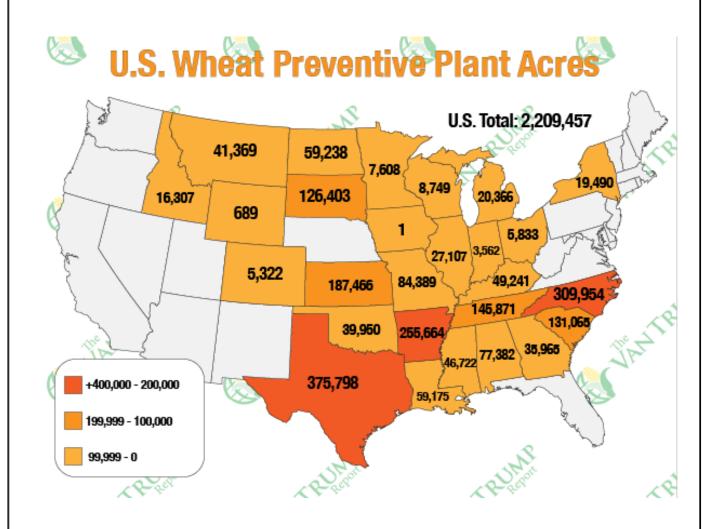
Soybean bulls are trying to fight the good fight in the face of heavy headwinds. President Trump along with leaders in Washington taking a step back in regards to new Chinese tariffs may have helped provide a

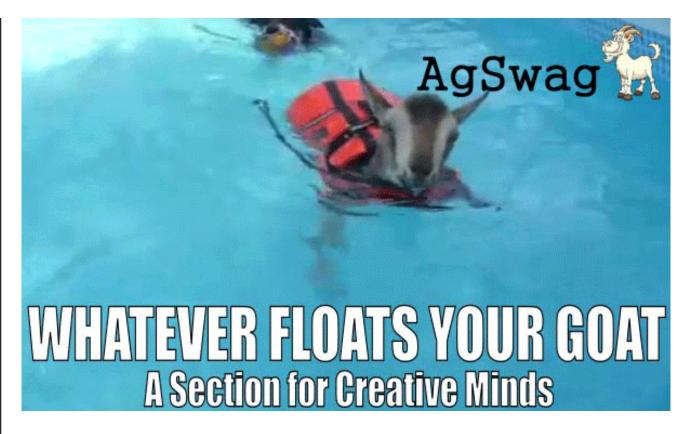
bit of support for the soybean market. There's some talk that China might purchase some U.S. soybeans as a token of good faith? I also think the USDA lowering acres and talk of a lower yield are helping to keep prices somewhat supported. Don't forget the USDA also projected new-crop global soybean stocks will be trimmed by over -12 MMTs from a recent record. Bulls are hoping some type of temporary trade deal can be inked with the Chinese that includes U.S. soybeans. Bears continue to point towards African Swine Fever and the seriousness of the problem. U.S weather obviously remains a major wild-card and will be extremely important during the next 30 to 45 days. I suspect U.S. weather and Washington to remain the biggest market-moving factors. As a spec, I remain long this market having bought the break sub-\$3.65. I will be looking to add additional length if the trade stumbles aggressively for some reason. As a producer, I want to still remain patient. I'm just in no hurry to be a seller of soybeans with prices sub-\$9.00



Wheat continues to feel like a broken market. The spreads are absolutely insane! The KC vs. Chicago spread is the craziest I can remember. Chicago SRW wheat trade to a +75 cents premium to the Kansas City HRW wheat. I can't imagine it happening, but before long we might even see spring wheat prices trade lower than SRW wheat? Who knows? There's really very little fresh news. As I've reported several times the past few weeks the market still seems comfortable posting lower-highs and lower-lows. As a spec, I think we might be getting down to a level where we can buy the breaks and sell the rallies on a short-term scale. If we get

stuck holding the position, prices have been beaten up badly enough that it might not get overly painful, Just don't allow yourself to get overextended. As a producer, I see my only option right now as staying patient and waiting for higher prices and better opportunities. It's just tough to get wildly bullish with this much global supply floating around and domestic ending stocks estimated to be north of +1.0 billion bushels. Don't forget, weakness in the corn market and strength in the U.s. dollar have also been creating major headwinds. If those two dynamics were to shift, perhaps we could spark a little rally.





- > Unusual Ag Income Sources and 2019 Tax Implications: Farmers getting payments for things like prevented planting indemnities need to consult their tax expert about impacts on their tax filings. Listen to the USDA's full interview with Barry Ward of Ohio State University Extension HERE.
- > President Trump Urges Japan To Buy U.S. Farm Products: U.S. President Donald Trump has directly asked Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to buy farm products worth a 'huge amount', Kyodo news agency reported on Tuesday, citing unidentified Japanese and U.S. government sources. Soybeans and wheat were included in the request, Kyodo said, with the Japanese government said to be mulling its response. The purchase would be worth several hundred million dollars including transport costs, Kyodo said. (Source: Reuters)
- > Anthrax Confirmed In North Dakota Cattle: North Dakota agriculture officials say anthrax has been confirmed in a group of cows in a pasture in eastern Billings County. North Dakota's State Veterinarian Susan Keller ays producers in surrounding areas should check with veterinarians to see if they should begin vaccinating the cattle against the bacterial spores. Anthrax vaccines are readily available, but it takes about a week to establish immunity, and the vaccine must be administered annually. This is the states first reported case of anthrax this

year. Learn more HERE.

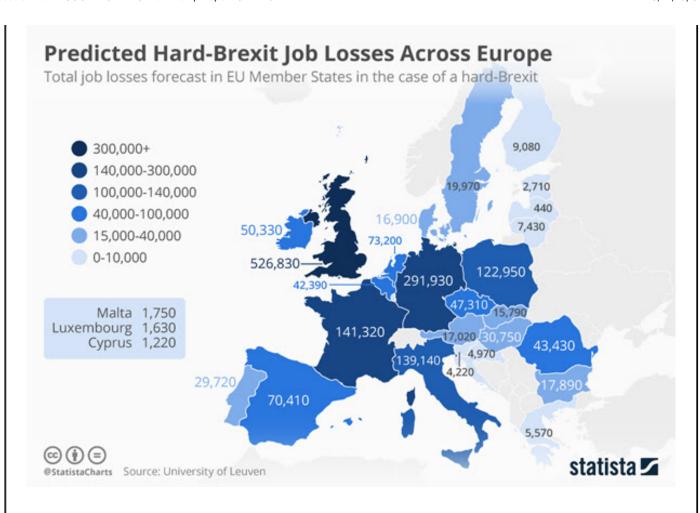
- > African Swine Fever In Asia Has Led To The Loss Of More Than 5 Million Hogs: The U.N.'s Food and Agriculture Organization has released new data showing Asia has lost more than 5 million hogs due to the current outbreak of African Swine Fever. That amounts to a whopping 10% of the pig populations in China, Vietnam, and Mongolia. The Asian outbreak was first detected last year right around this same time. There is no effective vaccine for the disease, which is 100% fatal for pigs and has lead to massive economic losses for producers in the affected countries. ASF is currently present in six Asian countries: Cambodia, China, North Korea, Laos, Mongolia and Vietnam. The EU is also concerned about the disease as an outbreak has been slowly spreading in wild pig populations, particularly in Eastern Europe where it is believed to have spread from Russia and Belarus. The outbreak of African swine fever in China is forecast by experts to wipe out about a third of Chinese pork production this year, or 18 million tonnes, twice the amount of pork exported worldwide every year. (Source: Feedstuffs, Insurance Journal)
- > Postmates IPO Set For September: Food delivery startup Postmates reportedly plans to unveil their IPO filing as early as next month, which would give them a stock market debut sometime in the third quarter of this year. This will be the first time investors get to check out the company's financials. Postmates was most recently valued at \$1.85 billion, and has raised \$681 million in private venture funding since 2011, according to Pitchbook data. The startup confidentially filed with the US Securities and Exchange Commission in February. How Postmates will fare on the public markets is up for debate. The billion-dollar company will go head-to-head with other public businesses in the space, including powerhouses Uber and Grubhub. More details are available over at TechCrunch.
- > MasterClass Founder Launching Online College Credit Courses, Failures Get a Refund: Raise your hand if Calculus 101 made you want to tear your hair out in college. If so, then you might be one of the people MasterClass Cofounder Aaron Rasmussen had in mind when creating his new startup Outlier.org. Starting this fall semester, the new venture will offer two classes—Calculus I and Introduction to Psychology—online for \$400 per course and actual college credit. The main idea behind Outlier is to provide accessible college classes at a fraction of the cost. To do that, the startup is partnering with the University of Pittsburgh

so that upon passing the class, you can transfer three credits to any school of choice. The \$400 fee also covers the cost of textbooks, and Outlier says that any student who does not pass "with a grade sufficient to receive university credits" will receive a full refund. Read more about the innovative idea HERE.

- > Commercial Real Estate Prices Are Stumbling In Global Capitals: Commercial-property prices in major cities around the world tumbled in the second quarter, amid signs of slower global growth and heightened trade tension between China and the U.S. Average property prices fell in the second quarter from the first quarter in Hong Kong and Seoul to London and Washington, D.C., according to data from Real Capital Analytics. Paris commercial real-estate prices declined the most among the markets that Real Capital Analytics tracks in Europe, tumbling 2.6% for the quarter. Prices in Central Chicago fell 2.1%, making it the worst performer among U.S. cities. The quarter marked the first time in years that property prices in so many of the world's major cities were weaker than the previous quarter. Prices for hotels, office buildings, malls and other commercial property in these metro areas enjoyed a big run-up in recent years, but an increasingly murky economic outlook is weighing on sentiment. Read more from Morningstar.
- > The Science-Backed Ways Music Affects Your Brain and Productivity: Studies about how music affects our brains and emotions have been ongoing since the 1950s, when physicians began to notice the benefits of music therapy in European and U.S. hospital patients. However, humans have been using music to communicate thoughts and feelings to one another for centuries. Today, research suggests that music can help relieve negative emotions like stress, anxiety, and depression. It can even decrease instances of confusion and delirium in elderly medical patients recovering from surgery. Furthermore, research says that listening to happy or sad music can make us perceive others as being happy or sad, respectively. All of these findings make it clear that, for better or worse, music's impact on our emotions is very real. Read more HERE.
- > "Storm Area 51" Is Planning An Alien-Themed Music Fest: The event started out as a joke. Then the RSVP list grew to 2 million. Now, the creators of the viral space oddity, "Storm Area 51 They Can't Stop All of Us," are planning a music festival in Rachel, Nevada, the closest habitation to the Nellis Air Force Range and Area 51. Brock Daily, one of the organizers of the event, told USA

TODAY in a message that the purpose of the event was to "embrace the cultural statement made by the viral event. "People believe in aliens and they obviously want to know what's going on in there [Area 51]," he said in a message. "So I believe this is the safest option to display our unified curiosity." Area 51, part of the larger Nevada Test and Training Range at Nellis Air Force Base, has been the long running subject of conspiracy theories that say the U.S. military is housing secrets about aliens and UFOs. Read more about getting your Martian Groove on HERE.

> Predicted Hard-Brexit Job Losses Across Europe: The below map might be one of the best thing I've seen to explain some of the concern surrounding a so-called "no deal" or "hard-Brexit." A study by Leuven University in Belgium has predicted that the 1.2 million jobs will be lost across Europe in the case of a hard-Brexit. Unsurprisingly, the United Kingdom is expected to be the country that will suffer the most with over 500,000 jobs set to be lost. Germany would also be significantly impacted with just under 292,000 redundancies while France and Italy would lose 141,320 and 139,140 jobs respectively. A no deal Brexit means the UK would immediately leave the EU with no agreement in place about the "divorce" process - or how they separate. Overnight, the UK would leave the single market and customs union, subjecting the UK to the EU's external tariffs. Many politicians and businesses believe this would be a disaster for the economy. (Source: Statista, BBC)





Central Kansas – I have seen more corn planted in this area then I have ever seen in years past. Our particular county is under a pretty serious drought but if you go 50 miles in any direction all the crops look good. It seems we have missed all the rains and the heat just won't let up. One thing guys have done around here is planted a lot of shorter season corn and milo which never yields as well as the longer season. I wouldn't be surprised if we are close to 100-bushel corn. We normally expect about 140 bushels across the farm in a decent year.

Northwest Illinois - We went from dark green to some ugly greens in a hurry. Visually, corn went downhill this last week. Driving around here it's easy to see over most corn fields or look out over fields on the hills. Just driving by last week, you would have said great looking corn, but now not so much. This spring when

we had rain after rain, we didn't get rooted down properly in corn. We are seeing the consequences of that now that the weather has turned dry. I haven't been out in fields yet. We have been away from the farm for a while and it's surprising to see the difference in how the crop looks.

Southern Minnesota – I've been out scouting fields the last few days. The soybeans were all planted in the same time frame and I'm seeing a lot of plants with very few pods compared to normal this time of year. I'm hoping we are just further behind and more pods are coming. The corn has big ears and small ears throughout the same fields, but we are seeing bigger ears in the May corn and smaller ears in the June corn. Right now, we have received a few rains and the humidity is fairly high, so we don't need anymore rain at the moment. The subsoil is holding moisture pretty well. The last few weeks is about as dry as we've seen it and it's what we need at the moment. A lot of rain the last year or so.



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 3 positive numbers give the same result when multiplied and added together?



UN Report Says Immediate Changes Needed in Food Production

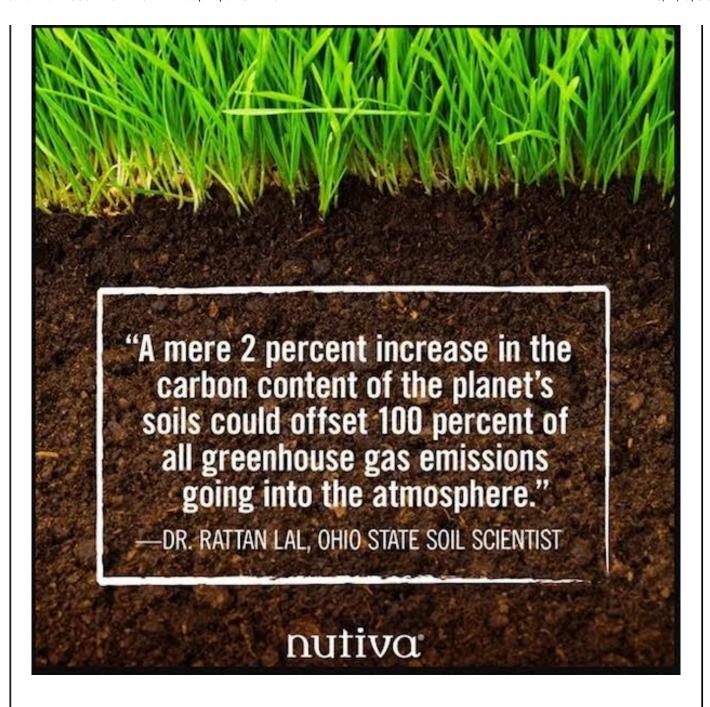
100 scientists looked at 7,000 studies to try and better understand how human impacts on land are causing greenhouse gas emissions and how changing what we do on farms and in forests can help fight climate change. According to the latest report from the U.N.'s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), farming, forestry, and other human land use are responsible for approximately 23% of global greenhouse gas emissions.

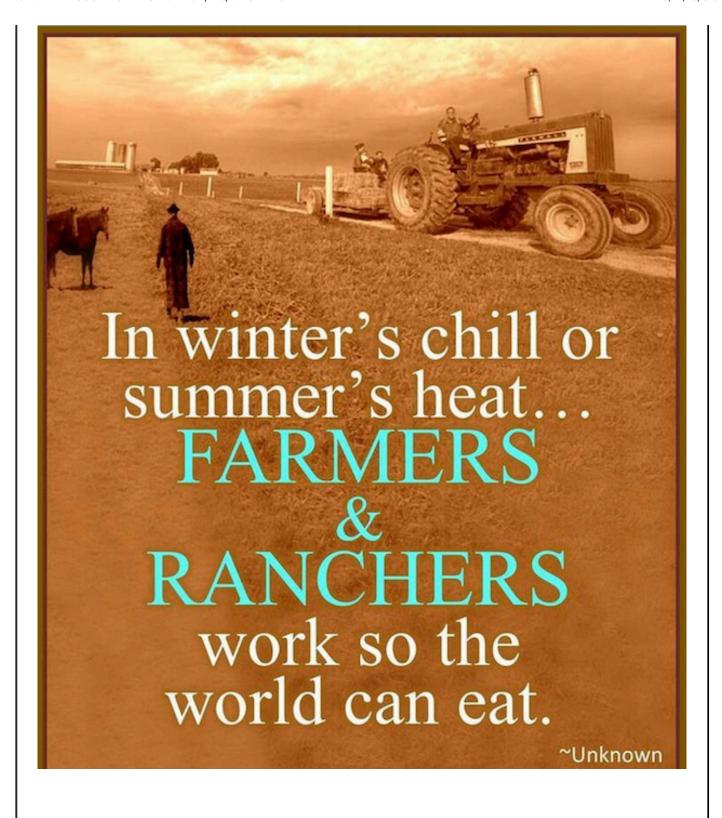
Reports of this nature are nothing new, but the urgency to change habits and pressure from both political leaders and the public is becoming much more serious. For instance, experts are saying we could stop fossil fuel emissions tomorrow and still fail to reach our goals if the Amazon is cleared or Sumatra burns. Keep in mind, many places are moving in the wrong direction, as deforestation in Brazil has surged +278% in the last year.

Scientist believe we are making some progress on the farms here at home, unfortunately, it only seems to be incremental progress against an exponential problem. We can debate all day on the cause, but that won't change the fact more changes and regulations are going to be coming our direction.

David Perry, CEO of Indigo Ag, had a very relevant quote on social media recently, where he commented on the IPCC report, and I thought it added a needed perspective... "the United Nations recognizes the need to make changes that remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, and highlights agriculture as the opportunity to accomplish this. It seems that, in addition to feeding the world, farmers have the opportunity to save it." We can agree or disagree with how the media portrays the issue but we certainly can't refute that something is going to be done, so each has to decide how we can find a way to be part of a solution rather than seen as part of the problem! You can see the entire UN Report HERE. (Source: ipcc.ch, fastcompany, LinkedIn)









Home Alone, The Senior Edition

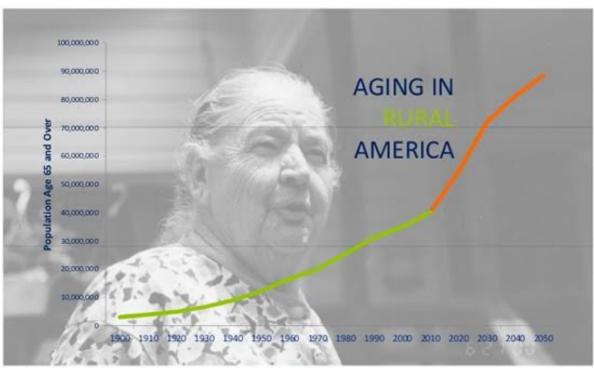
A Virginia man recently made headlines for surviving on nothing but Coca Cola for five straight days. However, this wasn't a publicity stunt designed to prove a point but rather an accident that could have had a very tragic end for the elderly man if not for an observant mail carrier.

Glenn Smith's bizarre diet choice stemmed from a fall that left him unable to move. Luckily, the stash of soda that was within reach provided enough sustenance to keep him alive until a mail carrier became suspicious about his untouched deliveries. Smith's story ended with a clean bill of health after a trip to the hospital but it obviously could have ended in tragedy if his mail carrier hadn't raised the alarm.

Smith's age was never disclosed but the reports all refer to him as "elderly." He

also lives alone and clearly didn't have anyone checking in on him on a regular basis. Unfortunately, these sad circumstances are a reality for many seniors in our country.

In doing a little research, I was surprised to learn that more than half of U.S. adults age 75 and older live by themselves. That works out to over 10 million elderly men and women. The 75+ age range is a particularly vulnerable demographic. They are more likely to have one or more serious health issues, along with mobility problems. At the same time, they tend to be more socially isolated with most no longer in the workforce while also facing an ever-shrinking circle of close friends. Combined, these factors exponentially increase their risk of serious injury or death. Those risks are obviously heightened even further if they lack a solid support system.



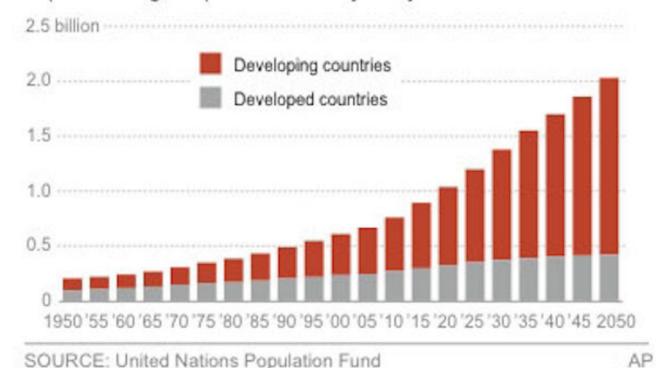
A DEMOGRAPHIC SNAPSHOT OF RURAL SENIORS AND THEIR HOMES

Housing Seniors and Veterans in Rural America: Preservation, Development and Services Conference August 2013 Council Bluffs, Iowa HAC

Housing Assistance Council

Global rise in aging population

The number of people in the world aged 60 and older is expected to grow past 2 billion by the year 2050.



Some people are quick to point to assisted living as a one-size-fits-all solution but it is just not that simple. I've witnessed first hand what a difficult and sometimes heartbreaking decision that can be for both the seniors making the move and the family members that are worried about them. We also need to keep in mind that not all families can afford the expense of assisted living. And sadly, not all seniors

have a family to turn to for any type of help at all.

Regardless of circumstances, I strongly believe our seniors deserve the support of their communities. Every year when extreme weather hits - be it summer heat or winter cold - news outlets always remind us to check in on our elderly neighbors. But weather extremes aren't the only dangers seniors face, especially those that live alone and I encourage everyone to make an effort to check on their elderly neighbors no matter what time of year it is. Also, if you are looking for a way to give back or way to help others, perhaps simply spending time with some of our amazing seniors would be rewarding for all involved. (Sources: CDC, National

Council On Aging, WUSA9)

Below are just a few of the risks associated with seniors living alone:

Social Isolation - The risk of death for people who are socially isolated is as great as the risk of death for people who smoke 15 cigarettes a day, according to a Brigham Young University study. Social isolation can affect mental health, increase the risk of heart disease, infectious illness, cognitive deterioration, and high blood pressure. Social isolation is not the same as loneliness - someone can be suffering from isolation even if they don't feel lonely. If a person is not actively engaging with family, friends, and their community, they are socially isolated.

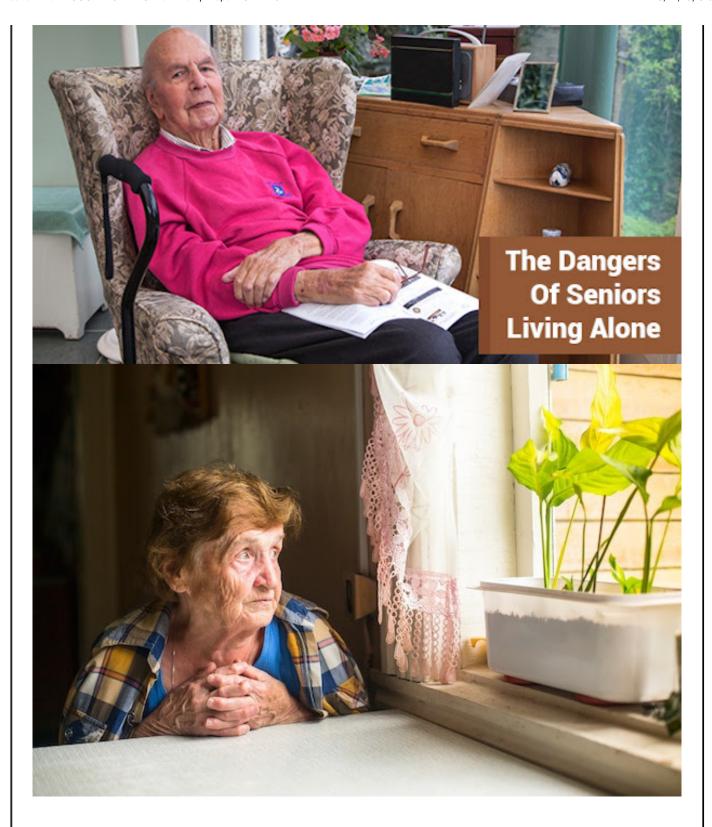
Greater Chance of Depression - Depression is a major symptom of social isolation, but it is not necessarily the cause of it. People can actually suffer from clinical depression for a long time without realizing it. These symptoms can go unchecked when you live alone because you don't have the advantage of an external perspective that could notice them.

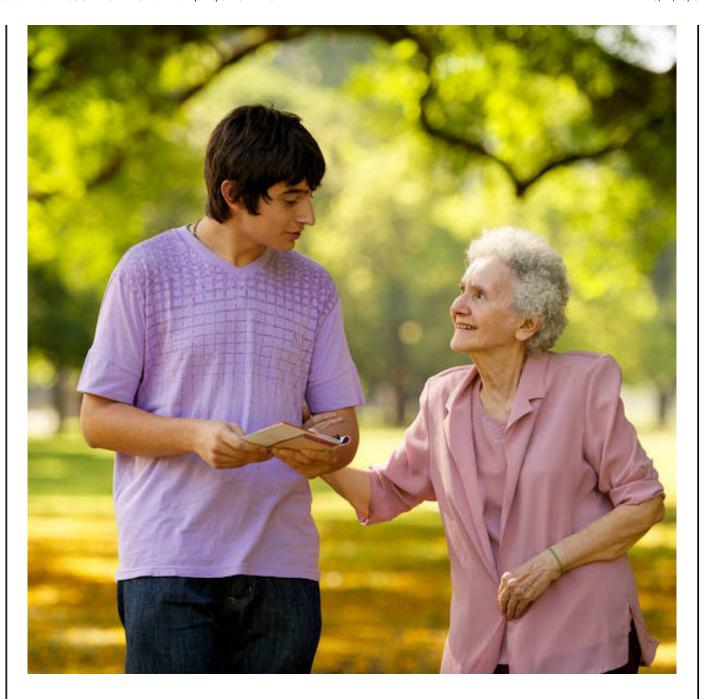
Higher Rate of Anxiety - Anxiety and depression are often different sides of the same coin. Anxiety expresses itself physically with insomnia, shortness of breath, heart palpitations, dry mouth, nausea, dizziness, muscle tension, numbness in hands and feet. Anxiety is often the result of feeling unsafe, which is magnified when you live in social isolation.

More Likely To Be Poor - Elderly people who live alone are far more likely to be live below the poverty level and struggle with paying bills. Sometimes this is out of necessity not everyone is able to retire with sufficient savings. However, some elderly people live in poverty because they don't know how to manage their retirement savings or are having a hard time remembering to pay the bills.

Greater Risk of Falls - Your risk of falling and experiencing a traumatic injury increases dramatically after the age of 65. Elderly falls are one of the leading causes of death and morbidity among the elderly. When you live alone, you don't have an extra pair of eyes ensuring that your home is free from tripping hazards. You also don't have someone who can help you get help if you do fall.

Greater Risk of Accidental Overdose - Aging increases the chance of taking prescription medication. At the same time, the risk of accidental overdose also increases. This is because it's easy (for anyone who takes prescription medications at any age) to forget that they already took their pills. While the second dose of medication isn't necessarily a fatal mistake, someone suffering from even mild dementia could accidentally be taking three, four, or more extra doses.





The War Ends!

Crowds roared and people started partying in the streets on this day in 1945. In fact, the largest crowd in the history of New York City's Times Square gathered to start a multi-day celebrate. The victory itself was announced by a headline on the "zipper" news ticker at One Times Square, which read "*** OFFICIAL TRUMAN ANNOUNCES JAPANESE SURRENDER ***"; the six asterisks represented the branches of the U.S. Armed Forces. In the Garment District, workers threw out cloth scraps and ticker tape, leaving a pile five inches deep on the streets. The news of the war's end sparked a "coast-to-coast frenzy of servicemen kissing

everyone in skirts that happened along," with Life publishing photographs of such kisses in Washington, Kansas City, Los Angeles, and Miami.

Americans began celebrating as if joy had been rationed and saved up for the three years, eight months and seven days since Sunday, Dec. 7, 1941, the day of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Emperor Hirohito's announcement of Japan's acceptance of the terms of the Potsdam Declaration was broadcast to the Japanese people over the radio a little after noon Japan Standard Time on August 15, 1945. Earlier the same day, the Japanese government had broadcast an announcement over Radio Tokyo that "acceptance of the Potsdam Proclamation [would be] coming soon", and had advised the Allies of the surrender by sending a cable to U.S. President Harry S Truman. A nationwide broadcast by Truman was aired at seven o'clock p.m. daylight time in Washington, D.C. on Tuesday, August 14. The formal signing of the Japanese Instrument of Surrender took place in early September on board the battleship USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay.

V-J Day as it became known, was the effective end of World War II. Remember, it was just a few weeks earlier on August 6 and 9, 1945, the United States dropped atomic bombs on both Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Though it's a time of celebration we must never forget the families that were impacted, the sacrifices that were made, and the lives that were forever changed. The world should be forever grateful! I included below a very short video that is worth watching. Click HERE.





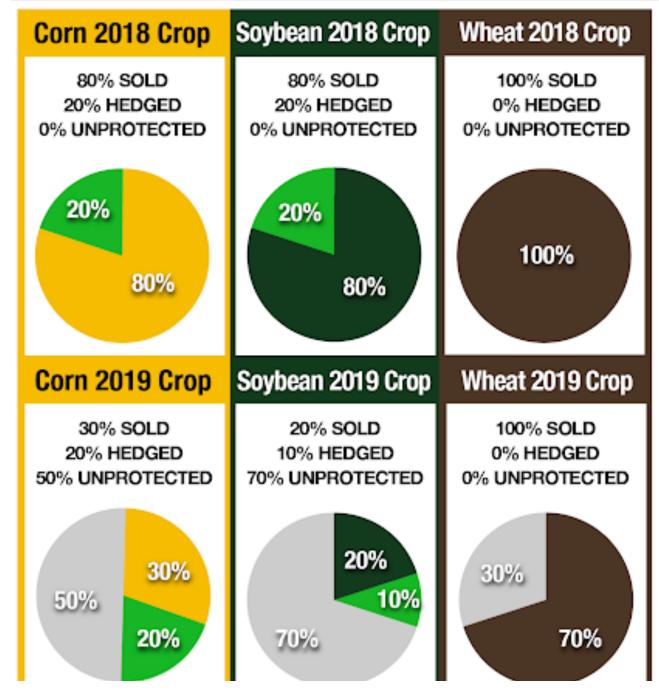


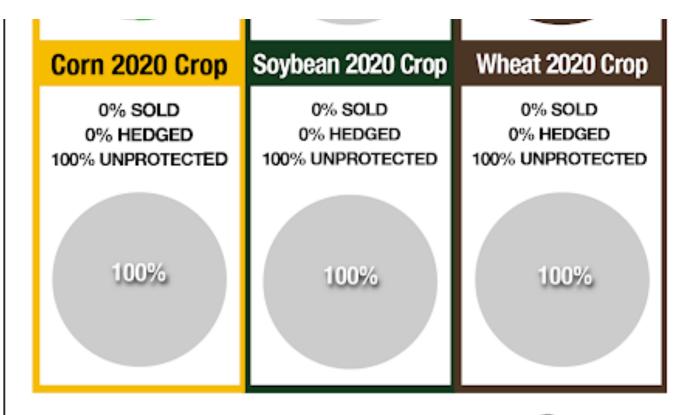


ANSWER to riddle: 1,2, and 3.

CASH SALES & HEDGING TOTALS

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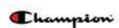
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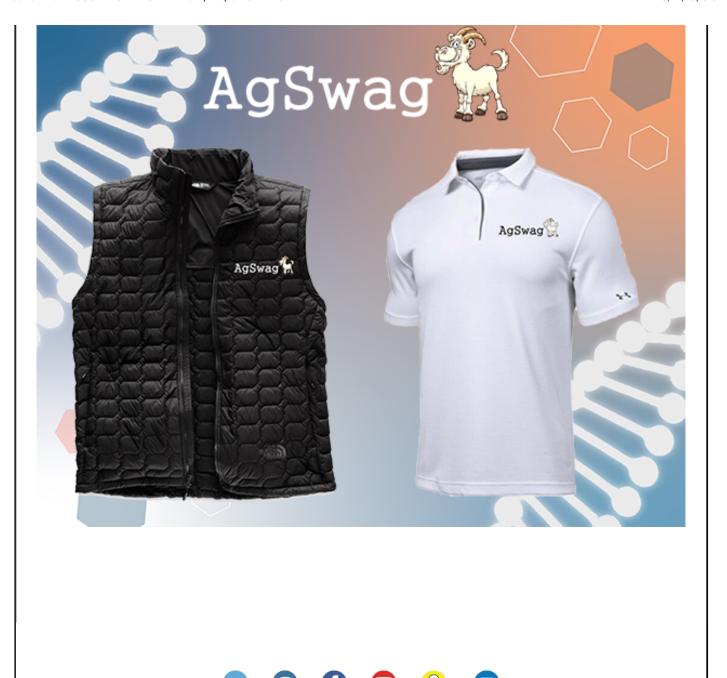












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