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GOOD MORNING: Van Trump Report 8-16-19

1 message

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

Fri, Aug 16, 2019 at 5:31 AM

Reply-To: Jordan <reply-febc17737d670d74-1142_HTML-68584704-100003450-8@vantrumpreport-email.com>

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

"When one door closes, another opens; but we often look so long and so regretfully upon the closed door that we do not see the one that has opened for us." - **Alexander Graham Bell**

Friday, August 16, 2019[Printable Copy](#) or [Audio Version](#)

Morning Summary: U.S. investors continue looking for direction as they struggle to separate meaningful information from the noise. It's becoming a tough chore and that is apparent in the seesaw action stocks have had this week. Bulls are still finding positive signals in U.S. economic data which yesterday showed retail sales climbed +0.7% in July, the strongest gain since March. Remember, consumer spending accounts for two-thirds of U.S. economic output. The Atlanta Fed said the retail sales report caused it to raise its estimate of third-quarter growth to +2.2%, compared to their estimate of +1.9% just last week. On the less positive side, analysts are still raising alarms over the yield curve inversion that occurred earlier

this week. There are some arguments that the panic surrounding the inversion and the belief it may be pointing to a recession is actually exacerbating the phenomenon. Investors are flocking to bonds as they seek "safe haven" type assets. The inflows to U.S. bond funds are the biggest they've been in two months. According to the Financial Times, fixed-income mutual funds and exchange traded funds added \$11.5 billion for the week ended Wednesday, the biggest weekly figure since early June and the fifth-largest on record. Investors also continue to wait for better news on the trade front. China issued a retaliation warning yesterday in regards to the upcoming tariffs set to go into effect on September 1, but had no response regarding Trump's decision to delay some of those for the holiday season. Today's economic data is light with Housing Starts and Consumer Sentiment. Next week brings minutes from the Fed's July policy meeting which could provide some insight into the Central Bank's longer term goal with interest rates. The Fed cut rates in July for the first time in more than a decade while issuing a statement that said they had "uncertainties" about their future policy outlook and citing lackluster inflation and "the implications of global developments." Let's also not forget, the Fed will be under the microscope at next week's upcoming Jackson Hole Economic Symposium, which is scheduled to begin on Thursday. I'm looking for the extreme volatility and wild swings to continue! I'm no hurry to be adding any additional length.

China Is Threatening Retaliation If U.S. Tariffs Are Implemented:

With no mention of President Trump's postponement on a majority of planned tariffs, China on Thursday threatened retaliation if Washington steps up their war over trade and technology by going ahead with planned Sept. 1 tariff hikes on additional Chinese imports. Beijing will take unspecified "necessary countermeasures," the Cabinet said in a one-sentence statement. It gave no details or any indication plans for trade talks in Washington in September might be affected. If you recall, Trump on Wednesday said he would delay implementing those tariffs on about 60% of effected goods until December 15. Trump's main beef with China stems from U.S. complaints that China steals or pressures companies to hand over technology and improperly subsidizes its industries. The U.S., Japan, Europe and other partners complain Chinese plans for government-led creation of global competitors in robotics, electric cars and other technologies violate Beijing's market-opening obligations. At this point, the Trump administration has imposed 25% tariffs

on \$250 billion of Chinese imports. Beijing has retaliated by imposing punitive duties on \$110 billion of American goods. (Source: Marketplace)

Spinning Our Wheels, Interesting data... *August 14th 2018 SPX closed at 2839.96 vs. August 14th 2019 SPX closed at 2840.60. Crazy to think back and reflect on all of the crazy headlines and market gyrations and to see we have ultimately gone nowhere.*

What Hedge Funds Bought And Sold In Q2: *The quarterly publication of hedge fund 13F statements were recently released. It shows the activity within the buy-side community for some of the biggest funds. courtesy of Bloomberg, the latest batch of 13-Fs revealed that the recent red-hot IPOs were quite popular among the 2 and 20 crowd, as Coatue, Tiger Global, and Viking Global all disclosed the value of their positions in struggling-IPO Uber Technologies while its rival Lyft tried to attract big hedge funds. In what may have been the biggest surprise, billionaire activist investor Bill Ackman unveiled a new big new bet on Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway, prompting questions among his investors if they should be paying him... or Buffett? Meanwhile, Berkshire itself boosted its bets on Bank of America and Amazon.com. Click [HERE](#) (Source: ZeroHedge)*

'Shooting,' 'Bomb,' 'Trump': Advertisers Blacklist News Stories Online: *Like many advertisers, Fidelity Investments wants to avoid advertising online near controversial content. The Boston-based financial-services company has a lengthy blacklist of words it considers off-limits. If one of those words is in an article's headline, Fidelity won't place an ad there. Big advertisers have been burned several times in recent years when their digital ads appeared next to offensive content, including fabricated news articles, hateful or racist videos on YouTube and pornographic material. Marketers have used blacklists for years to sidestep controversy. Airlines avoided articles dealing with airline crashes, for instance. Now those blacklists are becoming more sophisticated, specific and extensive, ad executives said. The ad-blacklisting threatens to hit publications' revenue and is creating incentives to produce more lifestyle-oriented coverage that is less controversial than hard news. During the second quarter of this year, 177 advertisers that worked with ad measurement firm DoubleVerify Inc. blocked their ads from appearing on news or political content online, up 33% from*

the year-earlier period and more than double the 2017 total, the company said. The average number of keywords the company's advertisers were blocking in the first quarter was 261. One advertiser blocked 1,553 words, it said. It is a worrisome trend for the news business, a sector already taking a hit as advertising spending shifts to online ad giants Facebook Inc. and Google. Spending on newspaper print ads in the U.S. has plummeted 32% over the past five years, according to estimates from Zenith, an ad-buying company owned by Publicis Groupe SA. The full story is available [HERE](#). (Source: The Wall Street Journal)

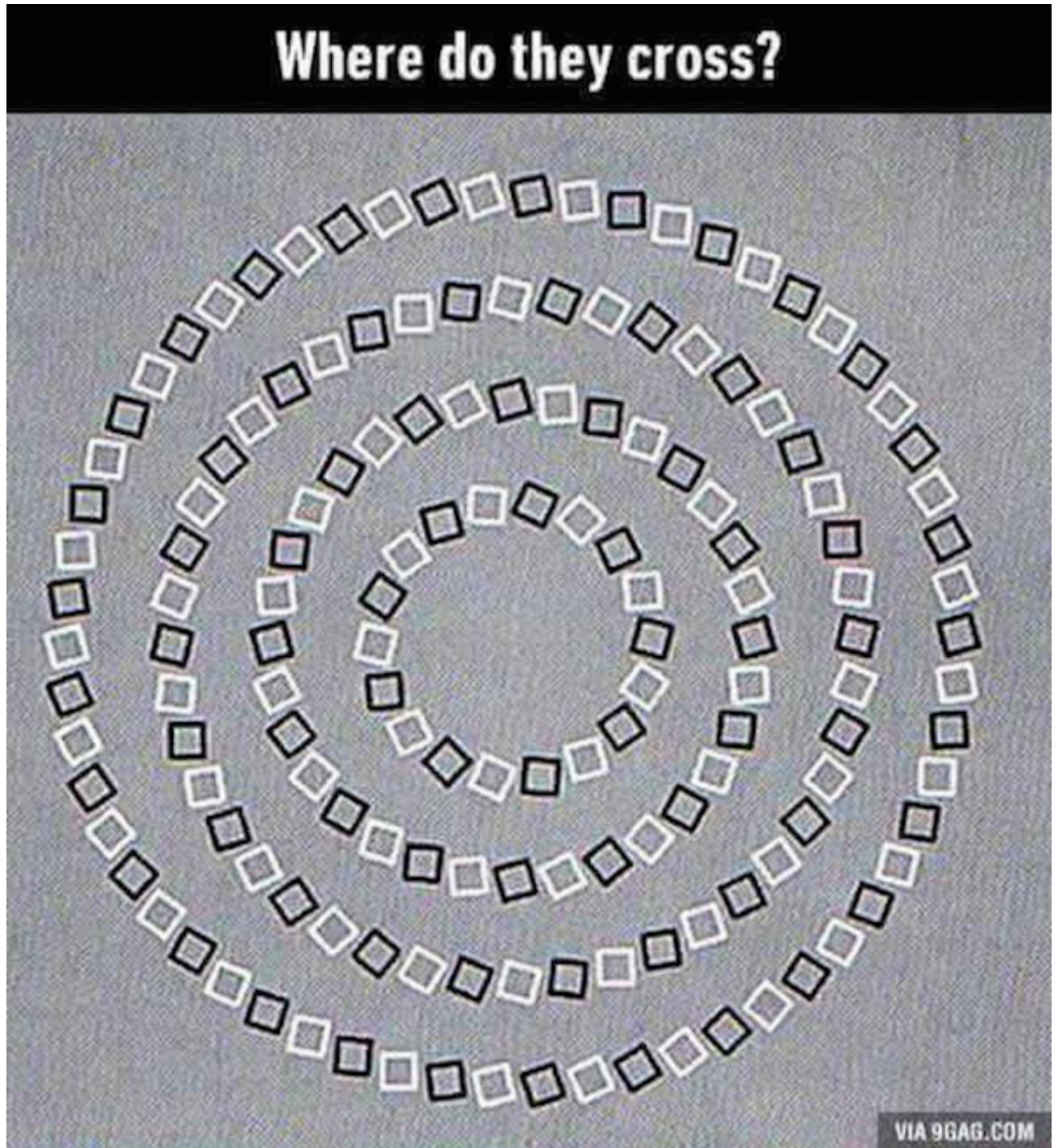
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FCC Moving Forward With National Suicide Prevention Hotline: *The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is moving forward with a proposal to create a three-digit, nationwide suicide prevention and mental health hotline, the agency announced Thursday. The FCC's Wireline Competition Bureau and Office of Economics and Analytics submitted a joint report to Congress on Wednesday laying out its recommendation for the new hotline to be designated 988. FCC Chairman Ajit Pai said he intends to act on the recommendation and move forward with rulemaking. "There is a suicide epidemic in this country, and it is disproportionately affecting at-risk populations, including our Veterans and LGBTQ youth," Pai said in a statement. "Crisis call centers have been shown to save lives. This report recommends using a three-digit number to make it easier to access the*

critical suicide prevention and mental health services these call centers provide." A year ago, President Trump signed the National Suicide Hotline Improvement Act, a law that directs the FCC to begin creating the new line, similar to a nationwide 311 or 911. The staff report submitted to Congress Wednesday found that "designating a 3-digit code dedicated solely for the purpose of a national suicide prevention and mental health hotline would likely make it easier for Americans in crisis to access potentially life-saving resources." (Source: The Hill)

Interesting Illusion: *I was sent this pic the other day. Actually, the four circles never cross. They are each inside the other with the adjoining square boxes tilted to provide the effect they are meeting at a point when in fact they are not. So the logical pattern would seem to be in a left (inward) turning motion that fools the brains perception... Kinda like the markets as of late!*



FARM TANK

Tweets of the Day



REGISTER NOW





Steve Burns
@SJosephBurns



Be careful to only have small trading losses.

INVESTMENT WORTH	INVESTMENT LOSS IN %	% GAIN NEEDED TO RECOVER
\$100,000	0%	0%
\$95,000	5%	5.3%
\$90,000	10%	11.11%
\$80,000	20%	25%
\$70,000	30%	42.85%
\$60,000	40%	66.66%
\$50,000	50%	100%
\$40,000	60%	150%
\$30,000	70%	233%
\$20,000	80%	400%
\$10,000	90%	900%



Allen Meissner
@bigaljack



I get pissed that 7 trucks can't keep up with 2 combines....
Takes a minute but then I realize this is a GOOD problem.
[#harvest19](#)





Chris Staub
@mrchrisstaub

Following



Dad cutting wheat on the 1959 John Deere 45. [#harvest19](#)





Russel Monette
@rumofarms



Fun times ahead... bring on [#harvest2019](#)





Jessica Domel
@JessicaDomel



Corn harvest rolls on in Central [#Texas](#). Thanks to rainfall after planting, we're seeing better yields than we've seen over the past few years. Thank God!

[#txag](#) [#harvest19](#) [#farmlife](#)





Greg Peterson
@MachineryPete



Have a great weekend... #JeepLife





Inspirational Quotes
@QuoteloveU



The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched - they must be felt with the heart. #Quote

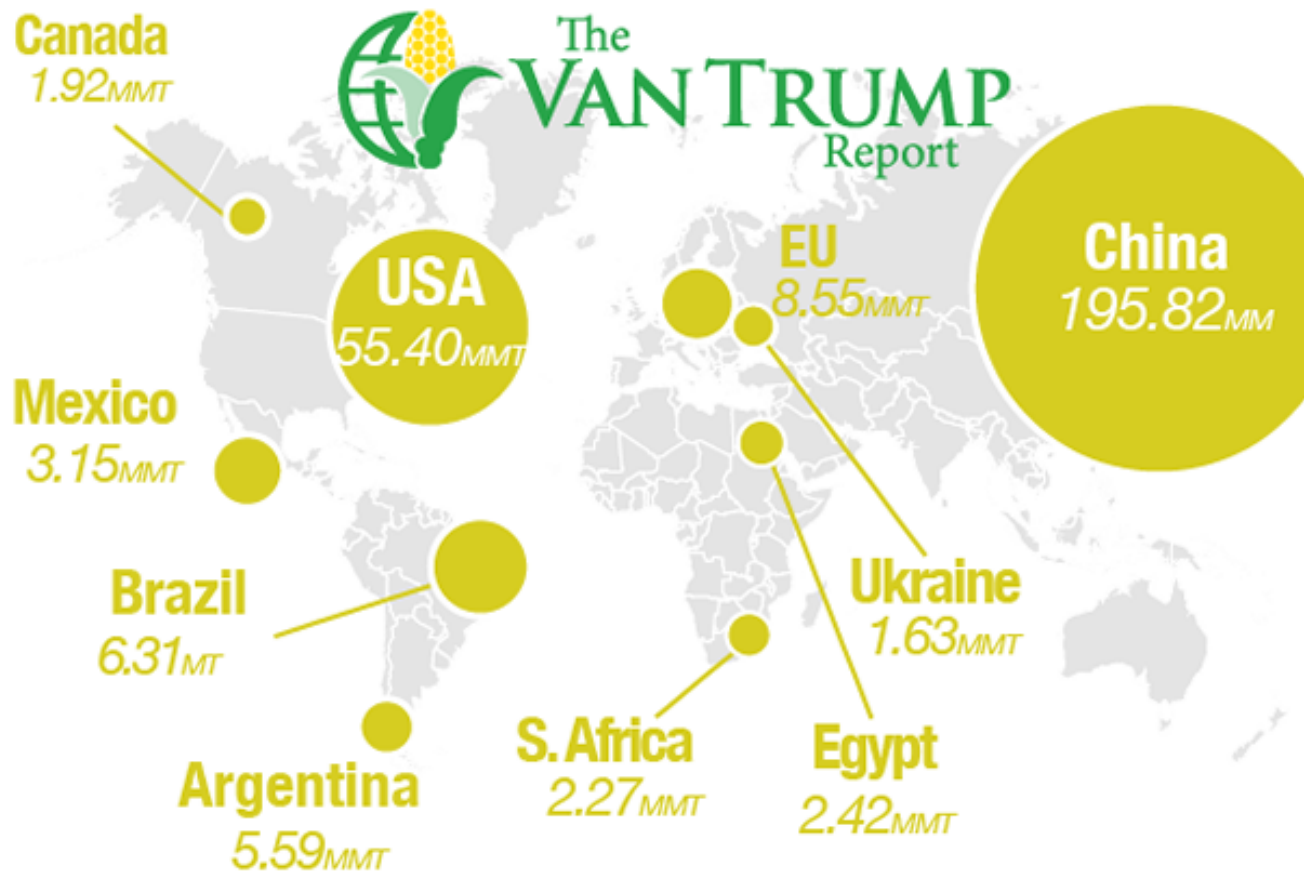


Corn prices may have temporarily stabilized as the margin call gods seem content for the moment having wreaked enough havoc. Bears continue to point to the USDA's burdensome balance sheet outlook and mostly cooperative weather in the nearby forecast. There's also the geopolitical headwinds associated with ongoing Chinese trade headlines, the recent fallout in the Argentine peso, the ongoing strength of the U.S. dollar, and questionable demand for both exports and ethanol. Bulls simply feel like they are out of bullets as the USDA continues to squash all talk of sub-80 million harvested acres and a sub-165 yield average. Until the USDA or some other influential sources start to turn that logic around, it's going to be tough for the bulls to string together and extended uphill run. Don't forget, we have the Pro Farmer Crop Tour starting up next week. I suspect their field results are going to be of major interest to many inside the trade. I remain a wounded

bull that's very tired and beaten up! Sticking with my current positions into mid-October to mid-November. I knew this was going to be a massively wild ride when I signed up back in early to mid-May. At that time, when I wrote up my trade strategy and gameplan for my positions, I made a time commitment into the 4th quarter of 2019. Since this trade was all about "time" and the fact producers and the crop were running out of it, I wanted to stay committed to seeing all the cards play out. Again, this is why I stressed holding small enough positions that would allow me to stay in the game for the long haul. I never suspected we would break almost -50 cents following the August USDA report, but it is what it is. I can't change the past. I'm going to stick to my gameplan and ride the position! Technically, I still suspect we could challenge and test the \$3.50 area.

2019/20 Corn Ending Stocks

August 2019 USDA Estimate - 307.72 Million Metric Tons



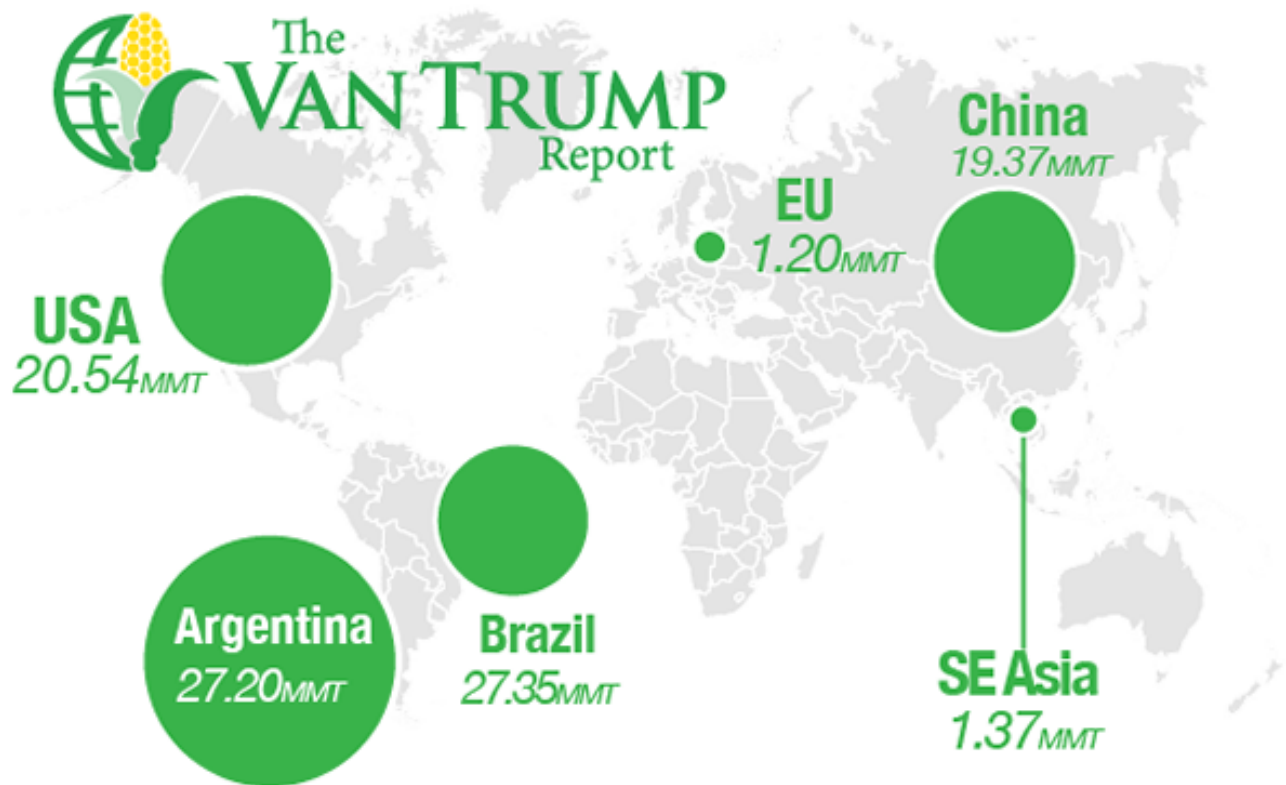
Source: USDA, WASDE August 12, 2019

Soybean traders continue to battle it out! I mentioned a few weeks back that I thought we had entered a fresh battleground area, somewhere between \$8.50 and \$9.00 per bushel. Bears are armed fairly heavily with talk of ongoing Chinese trade difficulties, the continued spread of Africans. Swine Fever, stronger competition from South America, a strong U.S. dollar, and mostly cooperative weather here in the U.S. Bulls, on the other hand, are talking about significantly fewer acres and a lot more late-planted acres. There's also the ongoing questions surrounding the late-crop and if it will get finished and harvested before early-winter weather complications? I should also note, NOPA showed a much better

than expected crush number yesterday that might help ease some of the talks about ongoing demand destruction. Perhaps the USDA might have to backpedal a bit on their recent crush demand reduction? There's also some talk that the USDA might now have soybean exports underestimated. As usual, a ton of moving parts to consider. I continue to hold a conservative bullish position. I am looking to add some longer-term length on a break below the lower end of the range, preferably sub-\$8.50 per bushel. As a producer, I still have trouble getting my head around selling sub-\$9.00 soybeans at least in this uncertain environment. U.S. production and harvested acres still feel like a bit of a wild-card to me. Staying patient...

2019/20 Soybean Ending Stocks

August 2019 USDA Estimate - 101.74 Million Metric Tons

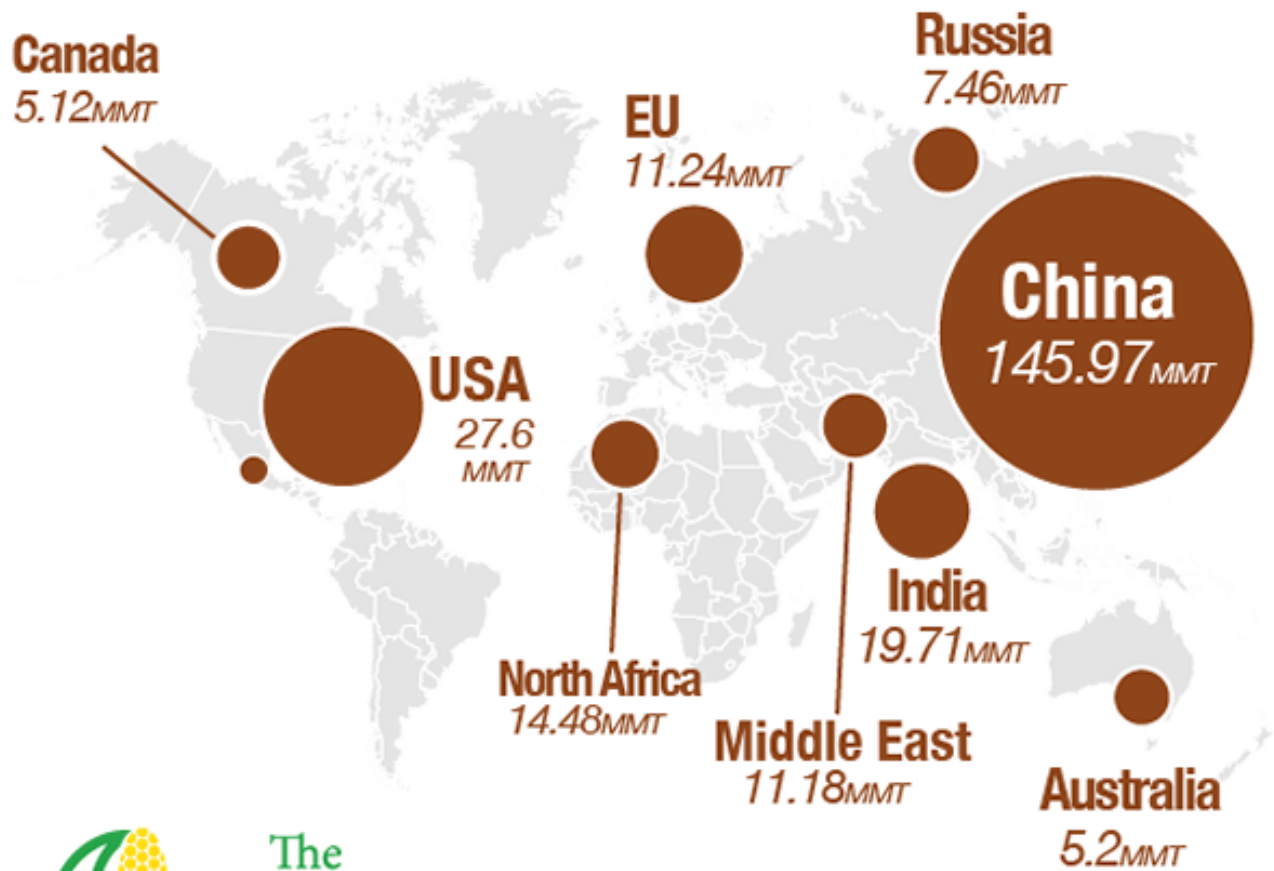


Source: USDA, WASDE August 12, 2019

Wheat prices remain mostly mixed. Unfortunately, prices have tumbled almost -\$1.00 per bushel lower since the late-June high. Perhaps where I'm most discouraged is the fact I had an opportunity to pre-price some of my estimated 2020 production with the JUL20 contract trading north of \$5.50 per bushel. I opted to hold out for higher prices, now I'm staring at a sub-\$5.00 number. Again, hindsight is always 20/20, but I'm worried that without an improved macro landscape it might be extremely difficult to rally wheat +50 cents or more anytime soon. There's really no U.S. weather story, the U.S. dollar remains extremely strong compared to our other global export competitors, and corn bulls are showing very little sign of doing much heavy lifting. Net-net, there's just really not much of a bullish story brewing in the wheat market. I don't want to be short from down at these levels but it's tough to get overly excited with so many macro headwinds and an overly burdensome domestic and global balance sheet. Sitting patiently on the sideline... As a producer, I'm content waiting on higher prices before selling any additional cash bushels.

2019/20 Wheat Ending Stocks

August 2019 USDA Estimate - 285.4 Million Metric Tons



Source: USDA, WASDE August 12, 2019



> Brazil Said To Be "Revisiting" 2018, 2019 Soybean Production: *Brazil is "revisiting" its soybean output estimates for the 2018 and 2019 crop seasons, an official told Reuters, as discrepancies with private-sector estimates raised doubts about the accuracy of the government's supply and demand figures. Guilherme Bastos, director of information and public policy at food statistics agency Conab, mentioned a hefty soybean export forecast from oilseeds association Abiove as one factor triggering the ongoing revision. "The balance of supply and demand is tight, there is no space for exporting 72 million tonnes of soybeans" this year, Bastos said by phone, referring to Abiove's view. "The balance of supply and demand is tight, there is no space for exporting 72 million tonnes of soybeans" this year, Bastos said by phone, referring to Abiove's view. Abiove, which represents trading firms like Cargill and Bunge, estimates domestic soybean production more than 6 million tonnes above the government's in the 2017/2018 and 2018/2019 seasons combined. (Source: Reuters)*

> Tyson Requested Fewer Inspectors At Holcomb Beef Plant: *Tyson, one of the country's largest meatpackers, reportedly petitioned the Trump administration to reduce the number of government inspectors at its factory in Holcomb, Kansas, which recently sustained heavy damage from a fire. In the request, Tyson Fresh Meats proposes using its own employees, rather than independent Department of*

Agriculture inspectors, to take a first look at the meat being prepared. Tyson's employees would identify unsuitable beef carcasses and trim away defects, before USDA inspectors check every carcass that is allowed to go forward for disease and contamination, Tyson said in its March waiver proposal, which was obtained by an advocacy group through a Freedom of Information Act request. The shift would allow Tyson to speed up its factory line. The USDA is considering the request — the first of its kind for a beef plant — as part of a broader overhaul of beef inspections that aims to shift quality control from government inspectors to factory workers, while focusing the USDA's attention on more targeted safety checks. Read more from [NBC](#).

> London University Bans Beef: *Beef burgers, burritos and other enduring student dishes are off the menu at a London university -- in order to help the fight against the climate crisis. Goldsmiths University in London will be scrapping all beef products from its campus, the institution's new chief has announced, as it seeks to become carbon neutral by 2025. The move takes effect from September, when the new academic year begins, and will affect all canteens, cafes and food outlets on the university's grounds. The University cited figures that point to animal-sourced food as a major driver of greenhouse gas emissions. Britain's National Farmers Union (NFU) has been critical of the beef ban, saying it is "overly simplistic" and represented a lack of understanding of the differences between British beef, and beef produced elsewhere. "The NFU has for years been encouraging public bodies such as schools and universities to back British farming and source their produce locally wherever possible. This makes more sense and keeps the choice to eat tasty, sustainably-produced meat firmly on the menu." (Sources: CNN, The Guardian)*

> Are You Ready For The Pro Farmer Midwest Crop Tour? *Pro Farmer scouts will blanket the countryside to measure this year's corn and soybean yield potential during the 27th annual Pro Farmer Midwest Crop Tour, Aug. 19-22, 2019. For those not familiar, the tour is conducted each year by Pro Farmer and is a closely watched late-summer ritual covering seven Midwestern states and the most thorough in-field inspection of yield potential during a critical time in the growing season. Planting delays throughout the Midwest have heightened attention on this year's tour nationally and beyond. More than 100 scouts, industry experts and media reporters will cover approximately 2,000 fields across Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, Ohio and South Dakota. More info is available*

[HERE](#). (Source: Pro Farmer)

> Charity Steer Auction Raises \$284,000 For Ronald McDonald House: *This money raised at this year's Iowa's Governor Charity Steer Auction is going to support Ronald McDonald House. Judge Bill Thill, who had a kidney transplant earlier this year, explained his admiration for the charity - "Our family knows the hidden costs that families go through when you have an ill one. I remember my wife and I having a discussion about [the fact that] it costs \$42 to park, and those types of things can add up when you're in the hospital," said Thill. "Thank God the Ronald McDonald House is there for those families." The show and auction raised over \$284,000 for the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Iowa in Des Moines, Iowa City, and Sioux City. The houses are located near hospitals and provide a "home away from home" for families of seriously ill children. Since its inception in 1983, the Governor's Charity Steer Show has raised over \$3.8 million for the Ronald McDonald Houses of Iowa. Read more [HERE](#).*

> AT&T And T-Mobile Fight Robocall Menace With New Call-Verification Partnership: *Mobile users are rightfully exhausted with receiving predatory robocalls, and certainly of getting spoof calls attempting to trick them into answering. Companies this year finally started to do something about it—and now, AT&T and T-Mobile say they've joined forces to better shield their customers from robocallers. The companies have joined forces on cross-network call authentication geared at weeding out fraudulent calls and better assuring their customers that a caller is who they say they are. Beginning this week, T-Mobile and AT&T customers will see "Caller Verified" language on incoming calls from the other network. Read more [HERE](#). (Source: Gizmodo)*

> Energy Vault Raises \$110 Million From SoftBank Vision Fund As Energy Storage Grabs Headlines: *Imagine a moving tower made of huge cement bricks weighing 35 metric tons. The movement of these massive blocks is powered by wind or solar power plants and is a way to store the energy those plants generate. Software controls the movement of the blocks automatically, responding to changes in power availability across an electric grid to charge and discharge the power that's being generated. The development of this technology is the culmination of years of work at Idealab, the Pasadena, Calif.-based startup incubator, and Energy Vault, the company it spun out to commercialize the technology, has just raised \$110 million from SoftBank Vision Fund to take its*

next steps in the world. Read more [HERE](#). (Source: TechCrunch)

> Massive Biometric Security Flaw Exposes More Than A Million Fingerprints: *A biometrics system used by banks, UK police and defense companies has suffered a major data breach, revealing the fingerprints of more than one million people as well as unencrypted passwords, facial recognition information and other personal data. A biometrics system used by banks, UK police and defence companies has suffered a major data breach, revealing the fingerprints of more than one million people as well as unencrypted passwords, facial recognition information and other personal data. Rotem said that the flaw meant he could change data and add new users, which would allow him to add his own fingerprint to the system and access whatever facilities an original user was permitted to access. He added that not only was the sheer scale of the breach shocking -- the service is used in 1.5 million locations around the world -- but the nature of the data leak will have future consequences: you can change a password but you can't change your fingerprint. Read more [HERE](#).*

> Why You Should Stop Focusing On Productivity: *In this day and age, productivity is a standard requirement for value. There's this idea that those who accomplish more in less time are most valuable to themselves, their colleagues, their companies, and even their families. But an obsession with productivity can actually make you less productive. Focusing on productivity tends to narrow our view, which can be demotivating. A productivity-above-all lens tends to put our attention on the details and nitty-gritty parts of our task, rather than the big picture. Focusing too much on productivity can also be detrimental because it adds pressure. That can be extremely paralyzing. When something feels too big, too much, or just generally unreachable, we're less likely to try to accomplish it. Focusing too much on productivity can be like setting the net too high—if something feels unreachable, it's not even worth trying. That's why, in many instances, you should put less pressure on yourself to keep your motivation higher. Read more [HERE](#).*

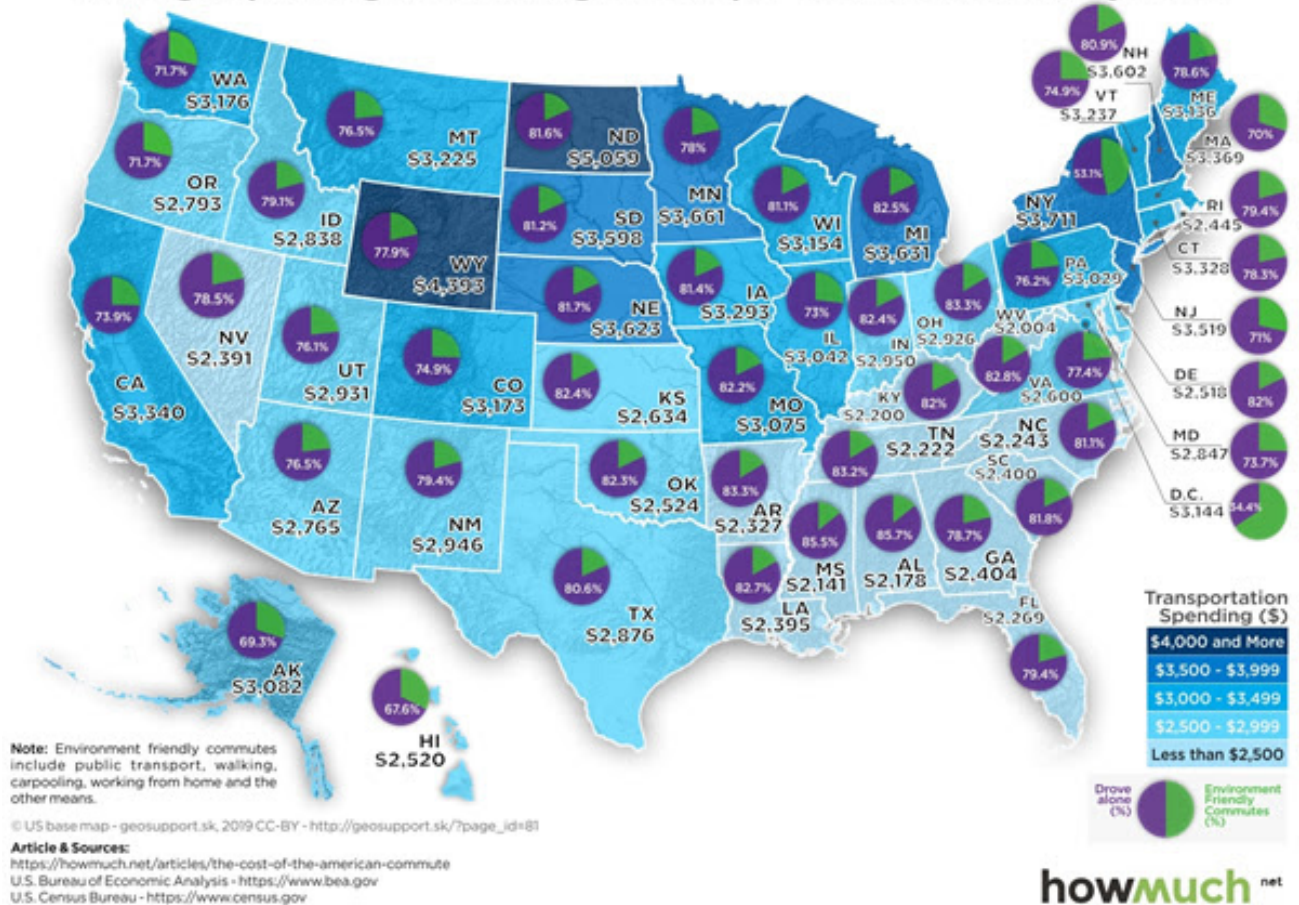
> AI Reveals How 'Old Town Road' Became The Biggest Song Ever: *Did any of us expect the Song of the Summer to come from a completely unknown 20-year-old rapper named Lil Nas X, prominently feature Billy Ray Cyrus, and be based around a sample from Nine Inch Nails? Or that the music video would feature full-on cowboy getups? Or that the decidedly hip-hop track would top not*

only the country music charts, but also the Billboard Hot 100, where it set the record for longest-running No. 1 single—an astounding 19 weeks and counting—of all time? No. No, we did not. Alas, "Old Town Road" went there, and the world will never be the same. But still ... how did that happen? To find out the answer, researchers at the University of Southern California created an AI-based tool that assesses how we process and perceive music, which may shed some light on Lil Nas X's unprecedented cultural takeover. Check it out [HERE](#).

> Visualizing How Much Money Americans Spend on Commutes: *Depending on the state, Americans spend as much as \$5,000 per year on their daily commutes - including gas, maintenance costs, public transportation, and other expenses. North Dakota has the highest average commuting costs in the United States at an average of \$5,059.11 per year. At the opposite end of the spectrum is West Virginia with average annual commuting costs of \$2,003.81. While the type of transportation is a major factor in the overall cost of commuting, there are other factors to consider. Commute time, in particular, seems to be a major contributor to the overall cost of transportation. Washington, D.C., for example, has, by far, the largest number of workers who choose environmentally-friendly transportation options. Yet, it is number 33 in transportation spending. This may be due to D.C. having the second-longest commute time in the country. More details are available [HERE](#). Click the map for a larger view.*

The Cost of the American Commute

Average Spending & Percentage of People Who Drive Alone by State

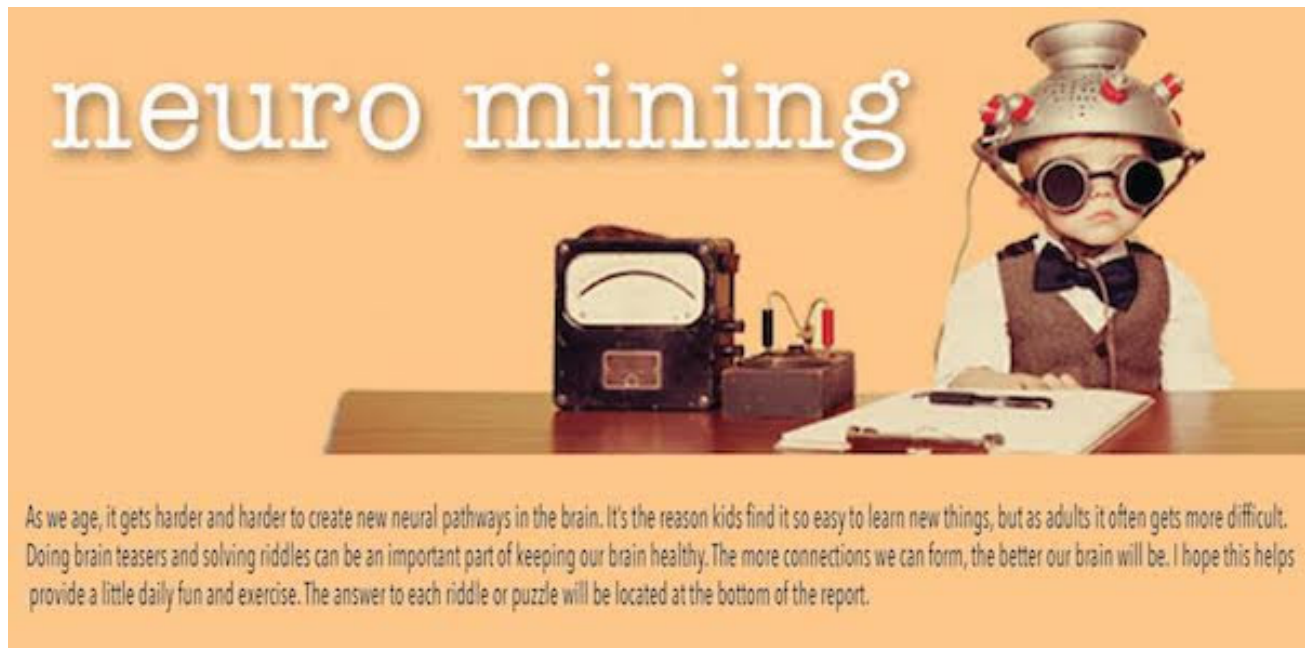


South Central Illinois - There are a ton of PP acres in our area. We were fortunate to only have to take 250 acres of our 2,000 of corn. I spent a few hours walking the fields to check them out and am very optimistic about yields on our acres this year. With all the spring issues, it still looks like we could push 200 bushels per acre. We can't beat last year's crops of 230bpa, which happened to be an all-time best for us, but we are glad to have what we have as others aren't so fortunate. Our late planted beans are expectedly way behind and now we are all waiting for the other shoe to drop an early frost on us! I will be able to give

you a better report on beans in a few weeks. With all the PP acres around here our retail business has had to tighten its belt. Fortunately, we are in a position to handle the down stroke this year as we have always looked out a few years to be ready for the inevitable. I'm telling guys who ask that it is a good time to lock in some DAP as prices are \$80 better than they were in spring.

Northeast North Dakota – *It's the middle of August and most guys only have a very small portion of their wheat cut. Usually by the 20th of August the stragglers are just cleaning up their last farms, so we are 10-15 days behind minimum. That number keeps getting larger as rain keeping pushing us out of the fields. The guys that are looking to swath it down to let it dry, but they dare not try because we don't have a 5-day dry patch for the foreseeable future. I hope this isn't the beginning of ongoing harvest issues like last year.*

Northern Missouri – *We keep getting split by the storms. I would say we have seen 7-8 weeks of dry weather. The guys that got the corn in early are still holding on but it's touch and go right now. The guys that planted in June say they lost a big chunk of their yield about 2 weeks ago. It's surprising how fast the weather can get your crop behind. The corn that's still holding on should be able to limp through, but a rain would put the test weight on and save the beans for sure. This dry spell has zapped our subsoil moisture all the way down to 5 feet minimum.*



TODAY'S RIDDLE: I have two arms, but fingers I have none. I've got two feet, but I cannot run. I carry well, but I carry best with my feet off the ground. What am I?



Our Nations Oldest Rodeo Starts Today... Here's A Bit Of History

Payson, Arizona is where rodeos first took off. The Payson Rodeo is the world's oldest continuous rodeo in the United States, which is held the 3rd full weekend in August every year. The Payson Rodeo started in August of 1884 by a man named Abraham Henson Meadows or what many people know him as "Arizona Charlie." The first rodeos in Payson were held to provide local ranchers and cowhands a chance to meet up and compare their roping skills and cow ponies during the annual "down-time" before the big fall roundup.

Cockfights, greased pig contests, sack races, and tug-o-war were added to the event for more entertainment. Another interesting event the cowboys use to do at Payson was the "chicken pulling" contest. They buried the fowl in the street with only its head and neck sticking out. Then, the rider would ride past the fowl as fast as possible, lean down, and jerk the bird from the dirt.

Today, the rodeo is full of fearless bull riders, steer wrestlers, bronco riders, clowns, and many more that keep people entertained for days. The event kicks off tonight at 6:00 pm with the women's barrel racing events, mutton bustin, bronco bustin, and steer riding. The main rodeo event doesn't kick off till tomorrow. The championship round will be held Saturday night. Payson also features fun events like Rodeo Parade Saturday morning and the annual Payson Pro Rodeo Boots and Bling Rodeo Dance. With more than \$50,000 of prize money at stake at this event, there's no doubt the rodeo will have plenty of exciting competition each night. If this is something you want to tickets are ranging anywhere between \$10-\$25 each day.







Has The Modern World Finally Beaten Ebola?

Ebola is one of the more deadly communicable diseases known to man and one that has unfortunately been back in the headlines over the past year. An outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo has now killed more than 1,800 people. However, there is a bright spot in this story - they have found an effective treatment. The World Health Organization and the National Institutes of Health just announced that two experimental treatments have proven to dramatically improve survival rates.

An experimental vaccine was previously announced as effective in preventing people from developing the disease but these new treatments are the first that can actually help people after they fall ill. That's extremely significant as Ebola can have a mortality rate of more than 75%. The WHO says these new treatments give infected patients a 90% survival rate if they are treated early. Those odds do decrease as the disease progresses untreated but it does still help.

On August 13, two people cured of Ebola using the experimental drugs were released from a treatment center and reunited with their families. Health officials say the drugs will now be used to treat all patients with the disease in DR Congo.

The two treatments were developed by Regeneron Pharmaceuticals (REGN) and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, part of the National Institutes of Health. The clinical trial will continue comparing these two drugs in Ebola treatment centers in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.



A 2014 Ebola epidemic in Africa, for those who don't recall, had the world in a panic as it infected over 28,000 people and killed upwards of 11,000. The disease spread rapidly throughout Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Liberia. A handful of cases were reported in the U.S., though only 2 were contracted domestically and they were both healthcare workers that had treated patients infected while traveling

abroad. The outbreak in Africa officially lasted for 2 whole years until the WHO finally lifted their international public health emergency in 2016.

It's hard to overstate how badly people were freaking out during that epidemic. It garnered non-stop coverage by the news media during the fall of 2014 as the U.S. mobilized 3,000 military personnel to the region. The anxiety bled over into stock markets around the globe as investors worried about the outbreak's potential impact on sectors such as airlines and miners. So-called Ebola stocks — companies that either made hazmat suits and quarantine gear or tiny biotechs that had an Ebola treatment in the pipeline — all started rallying on Sept. 30, 2014, when the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention confirmed the first case of the virus in the U.S.

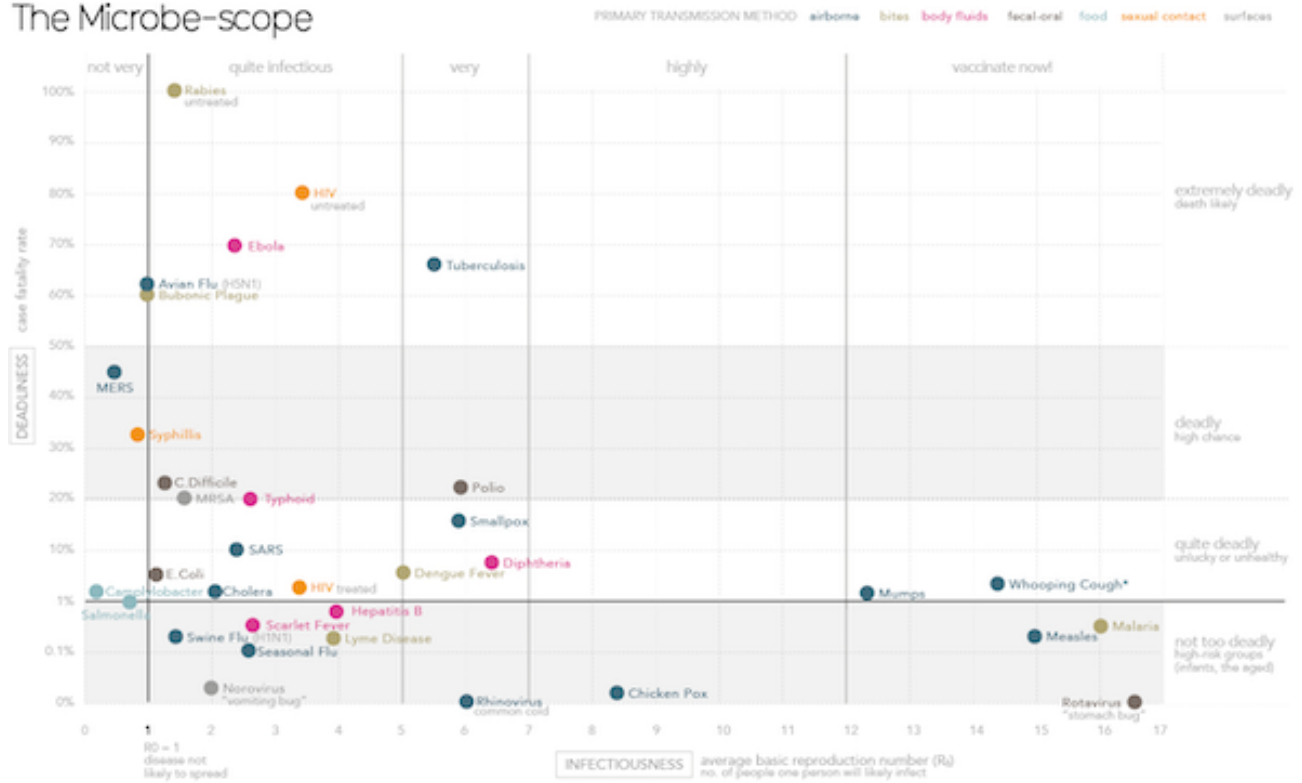
And as quickly as the panic began, it was over. By the end of the year, weekly reports of new infections began to decline and the Western world largely moved on. However, it provided some important takeaways.

In addition to the tragic human death toll, the epidemic severely affected agricultural market chains in the three countries. A study by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) summarized some of the the major impacts that occurred beyond the disease itself: The measures implemented to limit its propagation (e.g. movement restrictions on collective transport, closure of weekly markets and borders) had a tremendous social and economic impact on local communities that depend on agriculture as their primary livelihood.

The report has plenty of valuable observations but another of particular relevance was this: The severity of the 2014 EVD outbreak in Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia was due in large part to increased movement of goods and people within the region and illustrates how intensely and rapidly a virus of this kind can spread in a globalized, interconnected world. (Sources: FAO, Wired, CNN)

Click on the graphic below for a larger view.

The Microbe-scope



David McCandless v1.02 / Oct 2014
InformationIsBeautiful.net

sources: Centers for Disease Control, World Health Org, CIDRAP, studies
fatality rate for health adult in developed nation, * = infants

data: bit.ly/KIB_Microbescope
part of KnowledgeIsBeautiful

EBOLA THE FACTS

TRANSMISSION

In Africa a particular species of **fruit bat** is considered to be the possible host for Ebola virus

Primary host Fruit bat

Secondary hosts

Gorillas

Chimpanzees

Antelopes

Pigs



1

Humans are infected by close contact with the **blood, secretions, organs or other bodily fluids** of infected animals



2

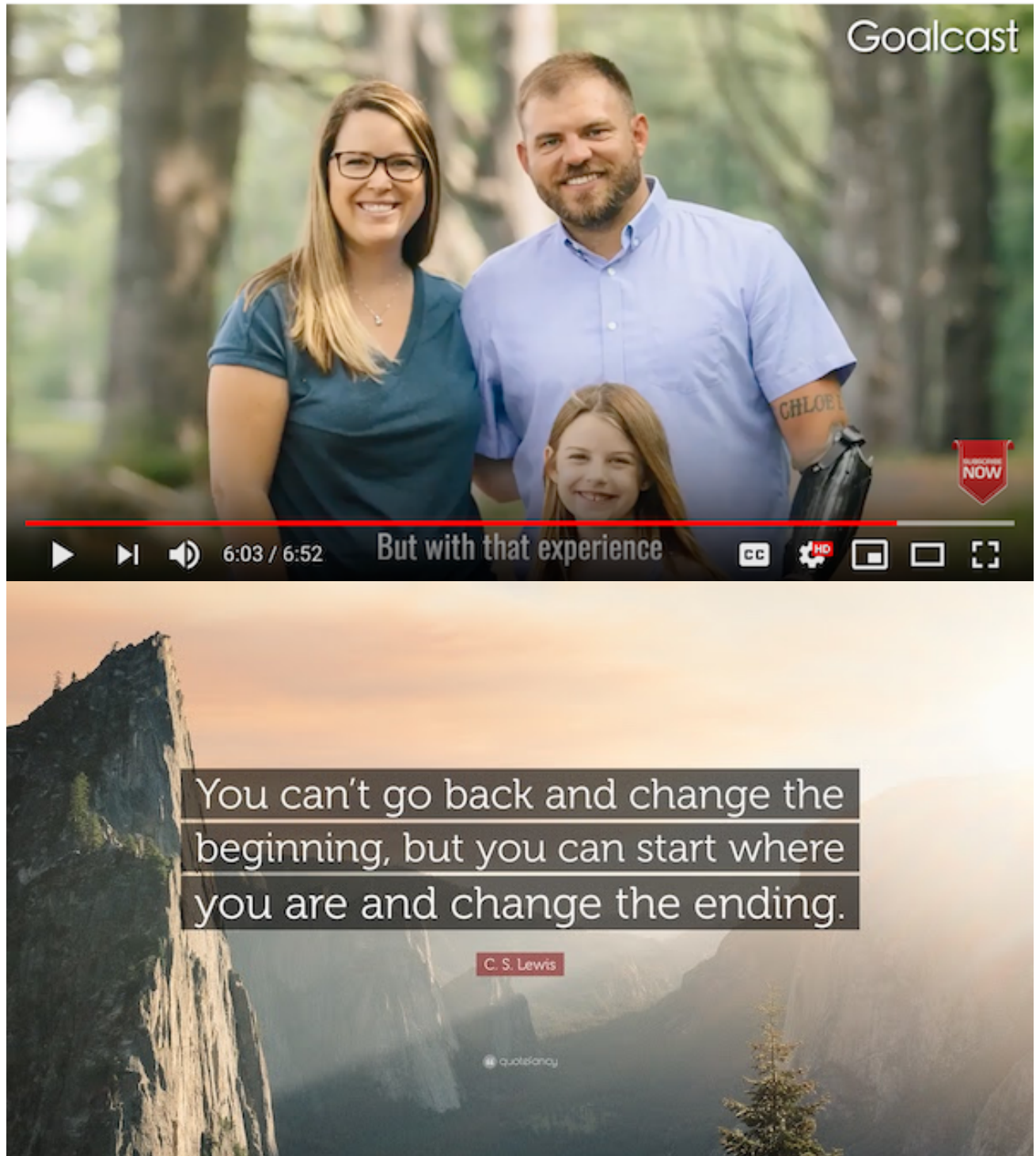
Ebola then spreads through human-to-human transmission, with infection resulting from direct contact **through broken skin or mucus or other bodily fluids** of infected people

Because I Owe Him This Moment...

Travis Mills tells his remarkable story of grit, determination and his will to survive. If you do one thing today watch this short video and share it with someone you love! Click [HERE](#) to watch.

And always remember Travis's two rules ...

1. Don't Dwell on the Past!
2. You can't always control your situation, but you can always control your Attitude!



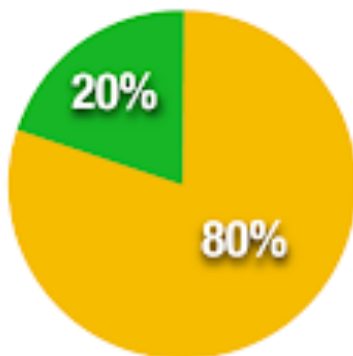
ANSWER to riddle: Wheelbarrow .

CASH SALES & HEDGING TOTALS

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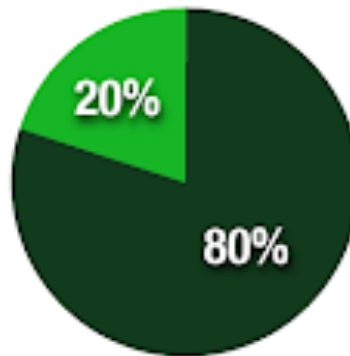
Corn 2018 Crop

80% SOLD
20% HEDGED
0% UNPROTECTED



Soybean 2018 Crop

80% SOLD
20% HEDGED
0% UNPROTECTED



Wheat 2018 Crop

100% SOLD
0% HEDGED
0% UNPROTECTED



Corn 2019 Crop

30% SOLD
20% HEDGED
50% UNPROTECTED



Soybean 2019 Crop

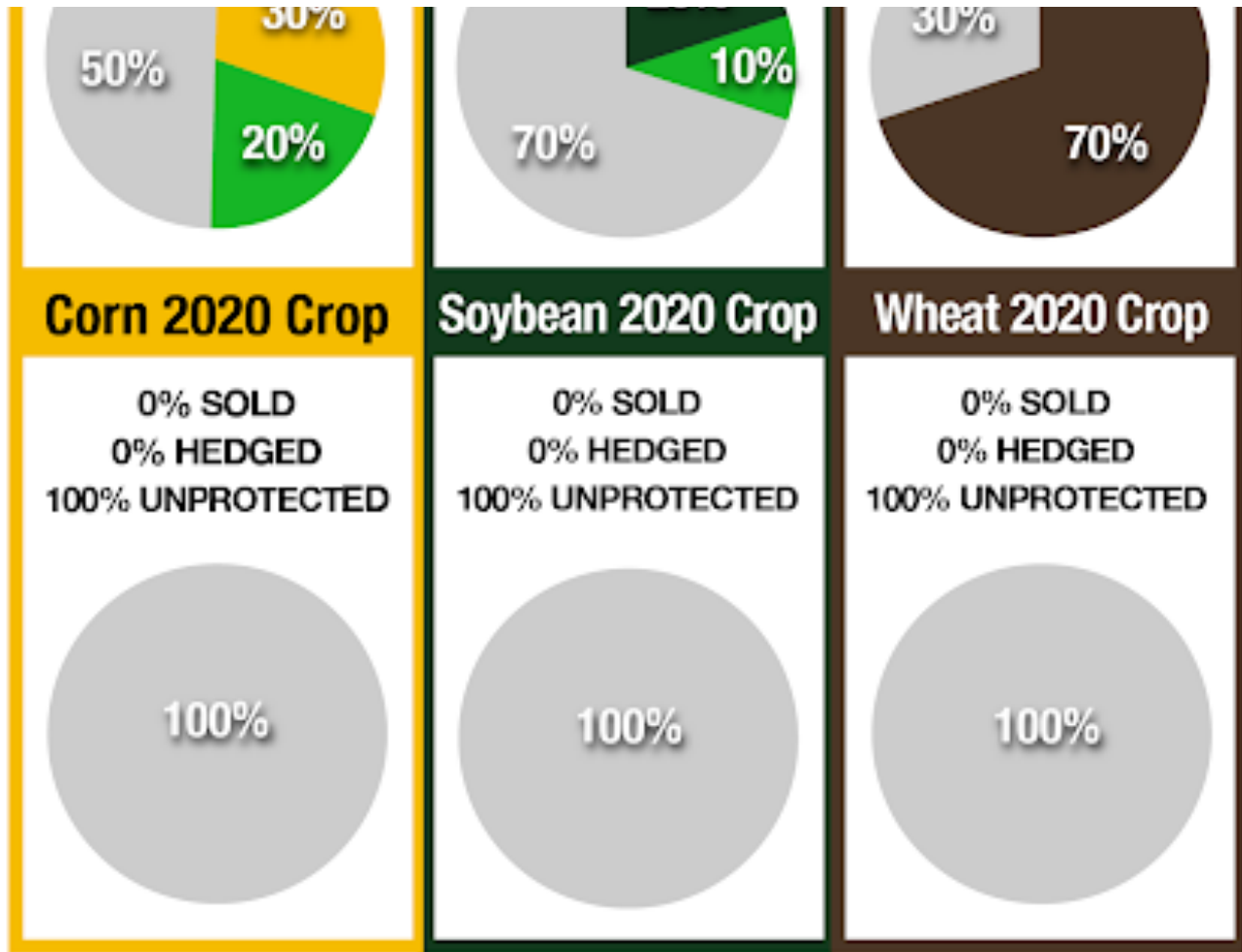
20% SOLD
10% HEDGED
70% UNPROTECTED



Wheat 2019 Crop

100% SOLD
0% HEDGED
0% UNPROTECTED





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