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GOOD MORNING: Van Trump Report 8-28-19

1 message

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

Wed, Aug 28, 2019 at 5:31 AM

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"Some of us think holding on makes us strong; but sometimes it is letting go." - **Hermann Hesse**

Wednesday, August 28, 2019

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Morning Summary: Stock markets remain volatile as recession fears are reignited thanks to a deepening yield curve inversion and sending the 10-year yield to its lowest level against the 2-year rate since May 2007. Which spooks a ton of investors since that was a flare that was fired right ahead of the last economic meltdown. Bond market insiders say traders are increasingly worried about the global economic outlook in the face of what could be an escalating U.S.-China trade war. Part of that worry seems to stem from confusion over recent phone calls and if Chinese leaders are actually wanting to try and work out a deal. Several insiders are warning market participants that the Chinese are becoming

more content on waiting until after the 2020 U.S. election. This is obviously worrying investors. Regardless if it is true or not, if enough investors start to believe or fear this rhetoric, we could find ourselves dealing with a self-fulfilling bearish prophecy. One thing is for certain, many investors seem to be growing fatigued by "talk" and stock market bulls might be more likely to stick to swim closer to shore until some tangible progress is made. There is still some good news to be found in U.S. economic data, with August Consumer Confidence remaining strong at 135.1 compared to a revised 135.8 for July. Yesterday's read also handily beat economist expectations. Investors hope the optimism will translate to continued strength in consumer spending. Another bright spot is found in the Richmond Fed Manufacturing Index, which jumped from -12 in July to +1 for August. The report showed sharp increases in both shipments and new orders. Economic data due today includes State Street Investor Confidence and the Atlanta Fed's Survey of Business Uncertainty. Also on the calendar is a speech from San Francisco Federal Reserve Bank President Mary Daly. If you remember, Daly was a supporter of the U.S. Federal Reserve's July rate cut, calling it "an appropriate recalibration of policy in response to the headwinds we're facing—along with inflation rates that continue to come in under our 2% target." Just last week, she stated that she doesn't feel the U.S. is headed toward a recession, so investors will be interested to hear if she has shifted her view at all. Keep in mind this week's key economic data - including GDP, International Trade, and Personal Income and Outlays - are scheduled for release Thursday and Friday. In addition, both days are likely to see lower-than-usual levels of market participation due to the extended Labor Day holiday weekend, which more than likely means increased volatility. It feels like everyone wants to be bearish and with more money than usual on the sideline, I'm seeing the pain trade to the upside. I'm not sure what happens in the next 30-60 days, but it feels to me like we are going to catch some large players underinvested and the stock market will be higher by yearend. I will be buying the deeper breaks.

Corporate Execs Cashing in \$600 Million Worth of Stock a Day:

Corporate insiders have sold an average of \$600 million of stock per day in August, according to TrimTabs Investment Research, which tracks stock market liquidity. August is on track to be the fifth month of the year in which insider selling tops \$10 billion. The only other times that has happened was 2006 and 2007, the period before the last bear market in stocks, TrimTabs said. Investors often view insider buying and selling — transactions

performed by top executives, leading shareholders and directors — as a signal of confidence. Even though the stock market is much larger than it was in 2007, so the \$10 billion mark may not mean as much now as it did then, the acceleration of insiders heading for the exits could indicate concern about the challenges ahead, especially as the US-China trade war threatens to set off a recession. Nicholas Colas, co-founder of DataTrek Research, says insider selling is not always a helpful indicator at a high level. Rather than reflecting a lack of confidence, he said, the selling may simply be the result of insiders bracing for leaner compensation. Other executives may sell stock to diversify their holdings or to raise money to pay taxes. To avoid tripping insider trading rules or spooking shareholders, some executives schedule periodic stock sales. Read more from [CNN](#).

Popeyes is Sold Out of Chicken Sandwiches! *Popeyes said it sold as many chicken sandwiches in the past two weeks as it expected to sell through the end of September. "The demand for the new chicken sandwich in the first few weeks following launch far exceeded our very optimistic expectations," the company said. "In fact, Popeyes aggressively forecasted demand through the end of September and has already sold through that inventory." Analysts have been saying for months that "fried chicken" was likely to be the fast-food industry's next big battleground. Earlier this summer, McDonald's franchise owners pleaded with the company to give them a chicken sandwich that could face down the Chick-fil-A juggernaut. Instead, Popeyes brought out its version and basked in the hoopla that the sandwich created. Popeyes, owned by Canada's Restaurant Brands International, has 3,100 stores in 25 countries, although it is best known in the United States. In the past 12 months, the number of Popeyes stores has grown by 6.6%. Given that McDonald's has about 14,000 stores in the U.S., you can imagine what might happen to chicken demand if it was able to match Popeyes' fried chicken frenzy.*

U.S. Fed Issues Rare Statement On Central Bank Policy Standards: *The Federal Reserve said it rejected political considerations in its policy-making after one of its former top officials called for the central bank to consider the economic risks of President Trump's re-election when setting interest rates. Former New York Fed president William Dudley, in an article published Tuesday by Bloomberg Opinion, urged the central bank to*

reconsider its apolitical approach because, by cutting interest rates, it is enabling Mr. Trump to escalate trade wars that are harming the economy. His suggestions, which stunned economists and other Fed officials, would mark a significant departure from the central bank's practice of ignoring partisan politics when setting policy. Fed officials quickly dismissed the recommendations in the column. "The Federal Reserve's policy decisions are guided solely by its congressional mandate to maintain price stability and maximum employment. Political considerations play absolutely no role," said Michelle Smith, a Fed spokeswoman. The White House declined to comment. Separately, Mr. Trump continued his attack on the central bank Tuesday by blaming the Fed for recent weakness in manufacturing. "Our Fed has been calling it wrong for too long," he said on Twitter. (Source: The Wall Street Journal)

Facebook "Threads"... What You Need to Know: *Facebook is developing a new messaging app called "Threads" that's meant to promote constant, intimate sharing between users and their closest friends. Threads is designed as a companion app to Instagram, and invites users to automatically share their location, speed, and other details with friends, along with more typical text, photo, and video messages using Instagram's creative tools. The app, which is designed for sharing with your 'close friends' list on Instagram, is now being tested internally at Facebook. You can read more details [HERE](#)*

The World's Biggest Exporters: *Developing and developed countries both export products around the globe but the global export industry is dominated by just a few. China is, by far, the largest exporter in the world, exporting a total of \$2.5 trillion worth of goods in 2018, beating the United States by about \$800 billion. The country's top exports last year included machinery, technology, furniture, plastics, and vehicles. The largest U.S. export industries include food and beverage, crude oil, civilian aircraft, auto parts, and industrial machines. Furthermore, the top three countries combined (China, the United States, and Germany) exported more than the next seven countries combined. Meanwhile, at the bottom of the list, countries like Niue and Palau are only exporting a few million dollars worth of goods per year. Click the map for a larger view. (Source: [HowMuch](#))*



Charlie Bilello ✓
@charliebilello



The best and worst performing stocks in the S&P 500 this year...

#1: Chipotle \$CMG

Best Performing Stocks in the S&P 500 (2019)					Worst Performing Stocks in the S&P 500 (2019)				
Rank	Symbol	Name	Sector	YTD Total Return	Rank	Symbol	Name	Sector	YTD Total Return
1	CMG	Chipotle Mexican Grill Inc	Consumer Cyclical	87.6%	500	NKTR	Nektar Therapeutics Inc	Healthcare	-44.7%
2	MKTX	MarketAxess Holdings Inc	Financial Services	73.8%	499	JWN	Nordstrom Inc	Consumer Cyclical	-44.5%
3	BLL	Ball Corp	Consumer Cyclical	70.4%	498	M	Macy's Inc	Consumer Cyclical	-43.9%
4	TSN	Tyson Foods Inc	Consumer Defensive	66.3%	497	DXC	DXC Technology Co	Technology	-42.0%
5	AMD	Advanced Micro Devices Inc	Technology	60.7%	496	TPR	Tapestry Inc	Consumer Cyclical	-41.1%
6	TDG	TransDigm Group Inc	Industrials	60.6%	495	ABMD	Abiomed Inc	Healthcare	-40.9%
7	SBAC	SBA Communications Corp	Real Estate	60.5%	494	KHC	The Kraft Heinz Co	Consumer Defensive	-40.2%
8	LDOS	Leidos Holdings Inc	Technology	58.7%	493	GPS	Gap Inc	Consumer Cyclical	-38.4%
9	ETN	Eaton Corp PLC	Industrials	58.4%	492	DD	DuPont de Nemours Inc	Basic Materials	-38.2%
10	LHX	L3Harris Technologies Inc	Technology	56.9%	491	XEC	Cimarex Energy Co	Energy	-36.9%
11	CDNS	Cadence Design Systems Inc	Technology	56.7%	490	MYL	Mylan NV	Healthcare	-35.7%
12	EQIX	Equinix Inc	Real Estate	56.7%	489	MOS	The Mosaic Co	Basic Materials	-33.8%
13	CPRT	Copart Inc	Consumer Cyclical	56.0%	488	CXO	Concho Resources Inc	Energy	-32.4%
14	TSS	Total System Services Inc	Technology	55.7%	487	KSS	Kohl's Corp	Consumer Cyclical	-31.7%
15	CTAS	Cintas Corp	Industrials	54.8%	486	HAL	Halliburton Co	Energy	-30.4%
16	FLT	Fleetcor Technologies Inc	Industrials	54.4%	485	ABBV	AbbVie Inc	Healthcare	-28.8%
17	EFX	Equifax Inc	Industrials	52.7%	484	CPRI	Capri Holdings Ltd	Consumer Cyclical	-28.8%
18	MSCI	MSCI Inc	Financial Services	52.0%	483	TRIP	TripAdvisor Inc	Consumer Cyclical	-28.7%
19	GPN	Global Payments Inc	Industrials	51.6%	482	NOV	National Oilwell Varco Inc	Energy	-28.6%
20	SNPS	Synopsys Inc	Technology	51.1%	481	MAC	Macerich Co	Real Estate	-28.5%

@CharlieBilello

Data Source: YCharts

@CharlieBilello

Data Source: YCharts



Steve Burns
@SJosephBurns





Dan Ronceray
@RoncerayDan



So, I guess we started [#harvest19](#) today.



Mike Pasztor 🌽 🌱 🌾 🐷 🐷 🥒 🌶️
@Pasztor79



Week 6 of pickle [#harvest19](#) 🥒 🥒 🥒 [#ontag](#)







Tom Craven
@TomCraven11



Harvest 19 Done!   #harvest19





B/R Betting ✓
@br_betting



You really hate to see it 😞

(via _ghirt8/IG)





Clever Marketing
@CleverMarketg

Following

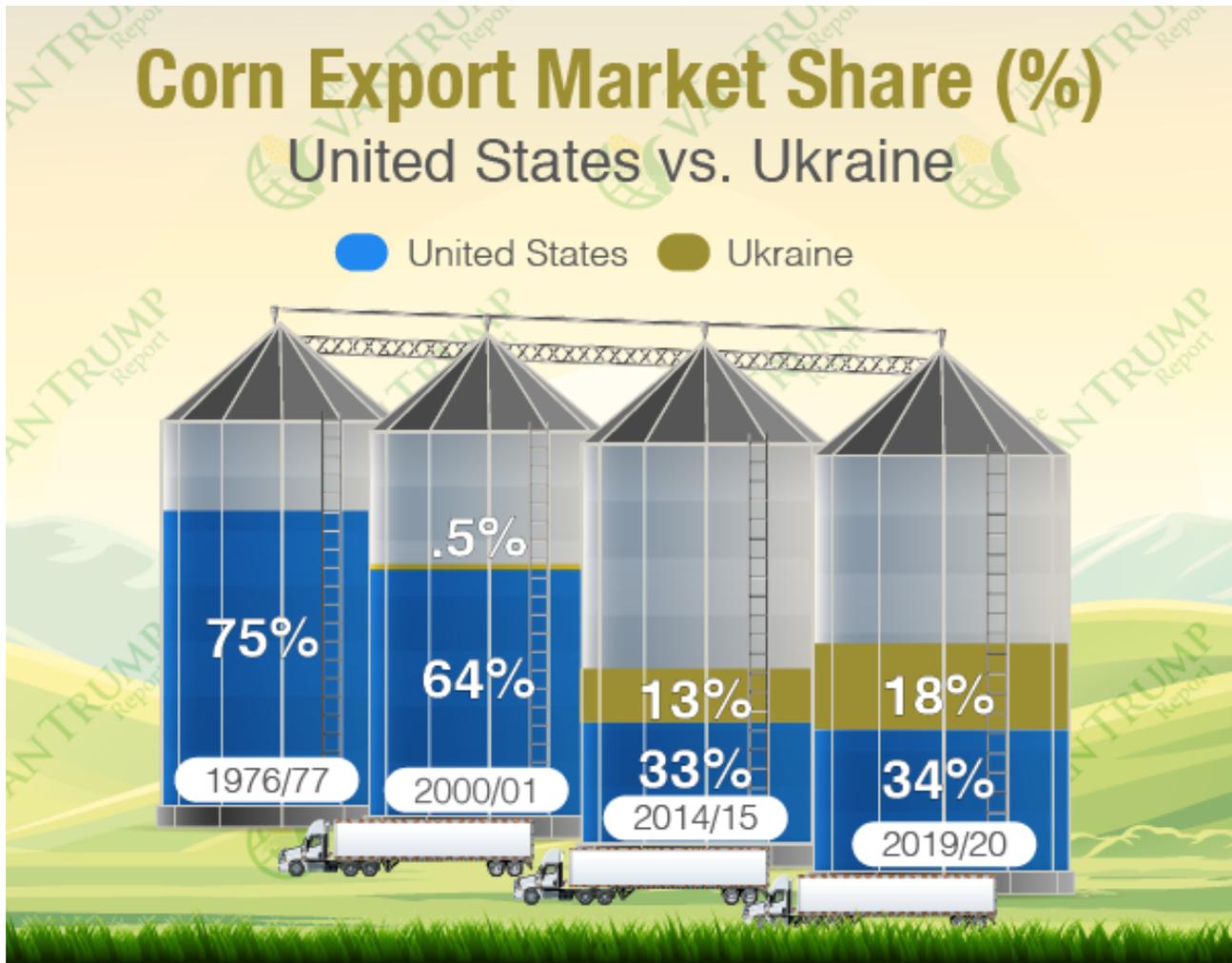


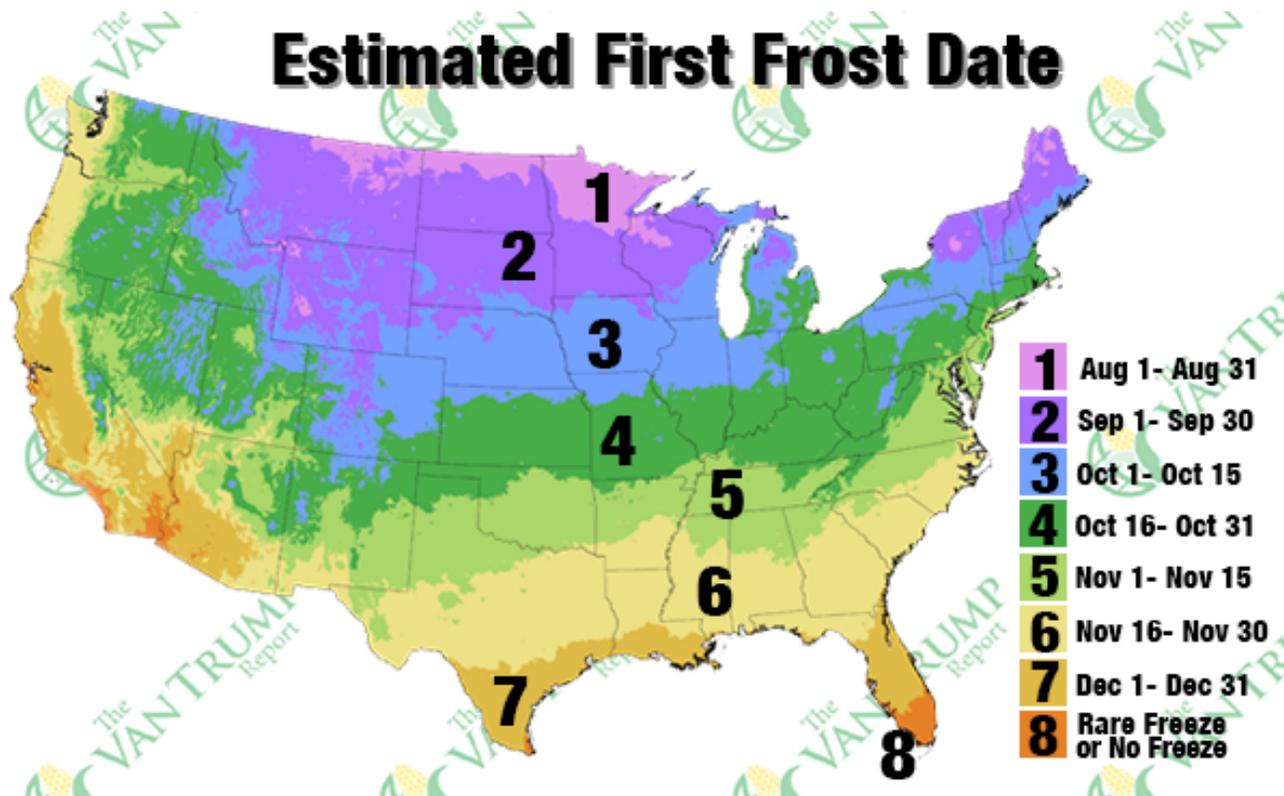
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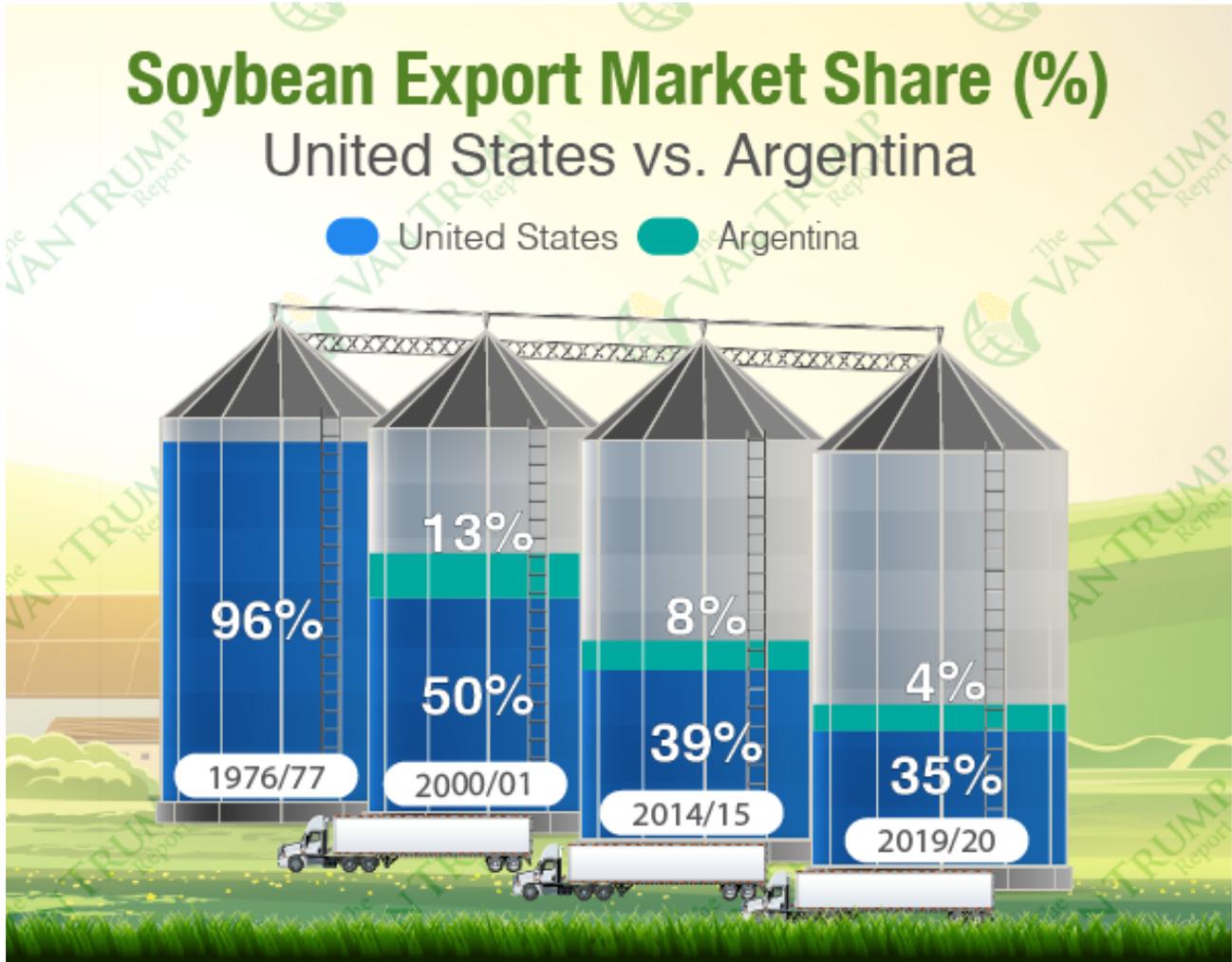
Corn bulls continue to struggle as prices consolidate and seem content trading just above contract lows. I continue to hold longer-term bullish positions but feel there is still more downside risk nearby. Technical traders are curious if the current DEC19 low can hold at \$3.63⁶ per bushel or will the bears want to shake the bulls a bit more heavily by testing the \$3.50 level? Most bigger traders I know that

have been out on their own private crop tours are all saying the same thing, there's massive variability in the fields and wide-ranging degrees of maturity which makes it nearly impossible to get an accurate guess. Most are taking a somewhat wild stab or shot in the dark and issuing a disclaimer regarding accuracy. At this point, many of the bulls have been burnt so badly it's going to take a sizable turn of events to get them back on the bandwagon, which doesn't seem likely in the current environment. The USDA is going to have to show signs they are turning their bearish ship around, or Washington needs to provide evidence of a step in the right direction regarding Chinese trade, or weather forecasters need to show signs of an early winter frost. If neither of those major changes comes about, it feels like the market will simply continue to trend in its current direction grinding sideways to lower. Sorry, there's just no bullish catalyst at the current moment. I can argue, with the funds short and the market technically over-sold we are due for some type of bounce, but without some major headline help, it will be tough for the bulls to hold upside momentum.

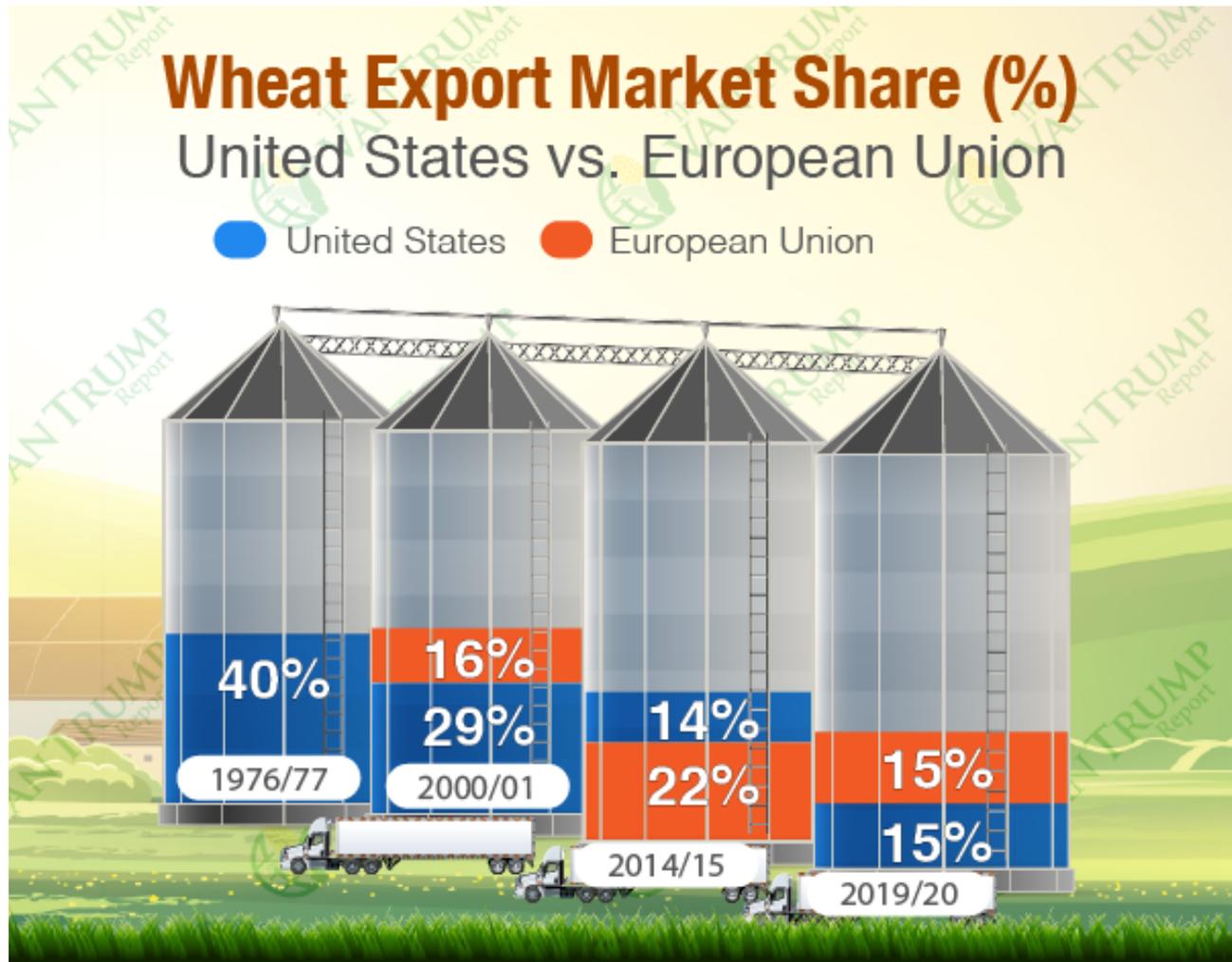




Soybean bulls continue to battle both weather and trade negotiations. I'm not telling anyone anything they don't already know. The weather has been mostly cooperative across the U.S. as of late and headlines suggest a trade deal with China is still a ways off on the horizon. Bulls continue to talk about cool temps and a massively late-planted crop that might have a very difficult time finishing. Most traders who have been out on extensive crop tours continue to talk about a U.S. yield somewhere between 41 and 46 bushels per acre depending on late-weather. This is obviously below the USDA's current estimate of 48.5 bushels per acre, but who's left standing that's willing to bet on the USDA's next move? Remember the weather has been fairly cooperative, so hell, the USDA's liable to raise their estimate. Meaning I'm certainly not willing to place a bullish bet counting on a yield reduction. Yes, there could be some bullish complications associated with an early freeze. There could also be a sizeable bullish bounce on hints of a trade compromise of some sort. There could also be some bullish optimism if the U.S. dollar starts to weaken, and or South American weather starts to show signs of creating complications. On the bearish side, signs of a deeper divide between U.S. and Chinese leaders will definitely drive prices lower. A strengthening U.S. dollar, good planting weather forecast for South America, and the continued spreading of African Swine Fever would all also work to pressure price. As a producer, I'm hoping some of these storm clouds can pass over by late-2019 or perhaps early-2020, trying to hunker down and ride out the negative sentiment. Technically, it feels like we might be stuck in a wide-range until more is known. Upside resistance in the NOV19 contract feels extremely strong up between the \$8.80 to \$9.15 range. On the downside, more heavy support is found between the \$8.15 and \$8.50 range. Short term traders sound like they are interested in selling the upper end of the range and buying the lower end of the range.

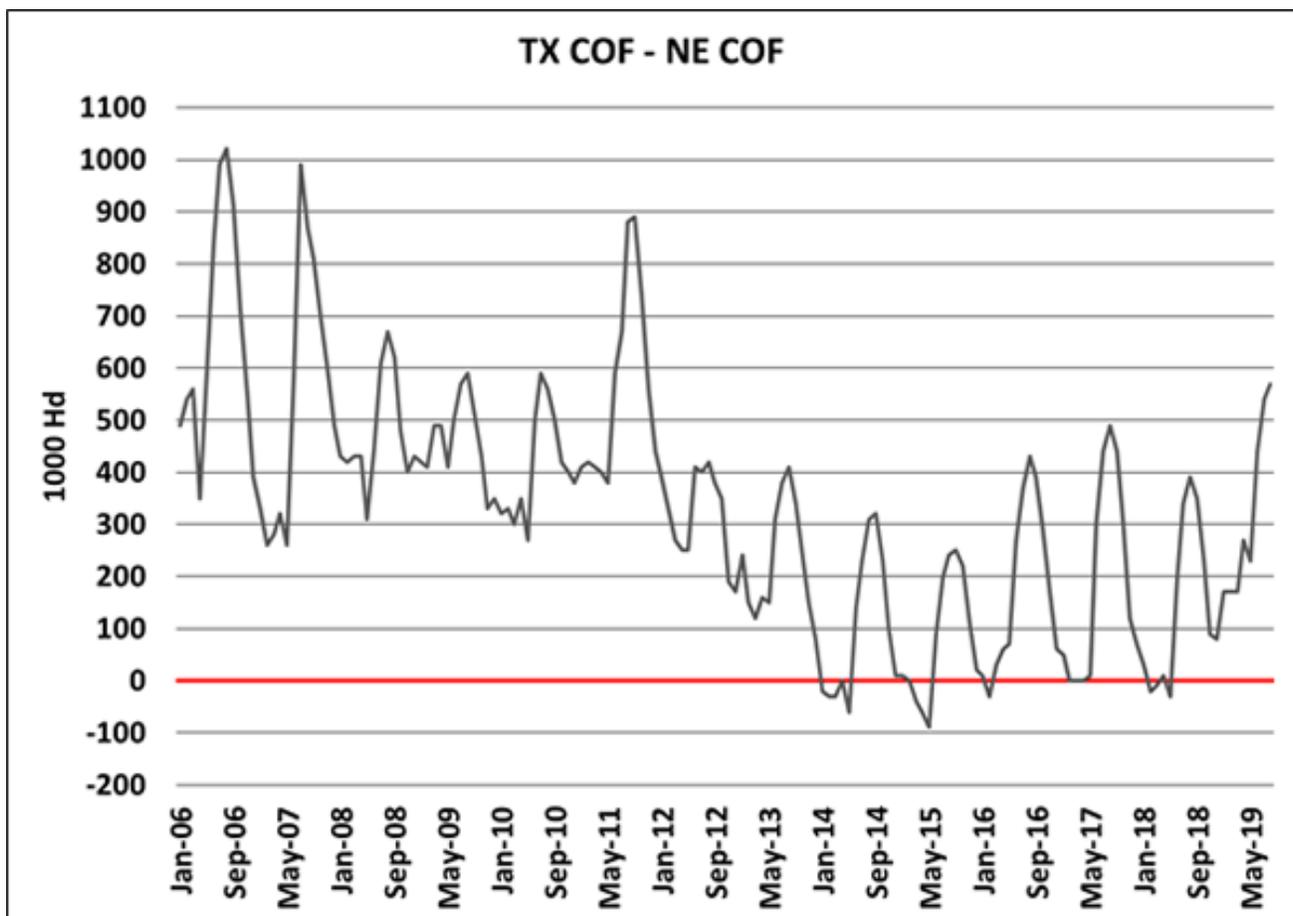


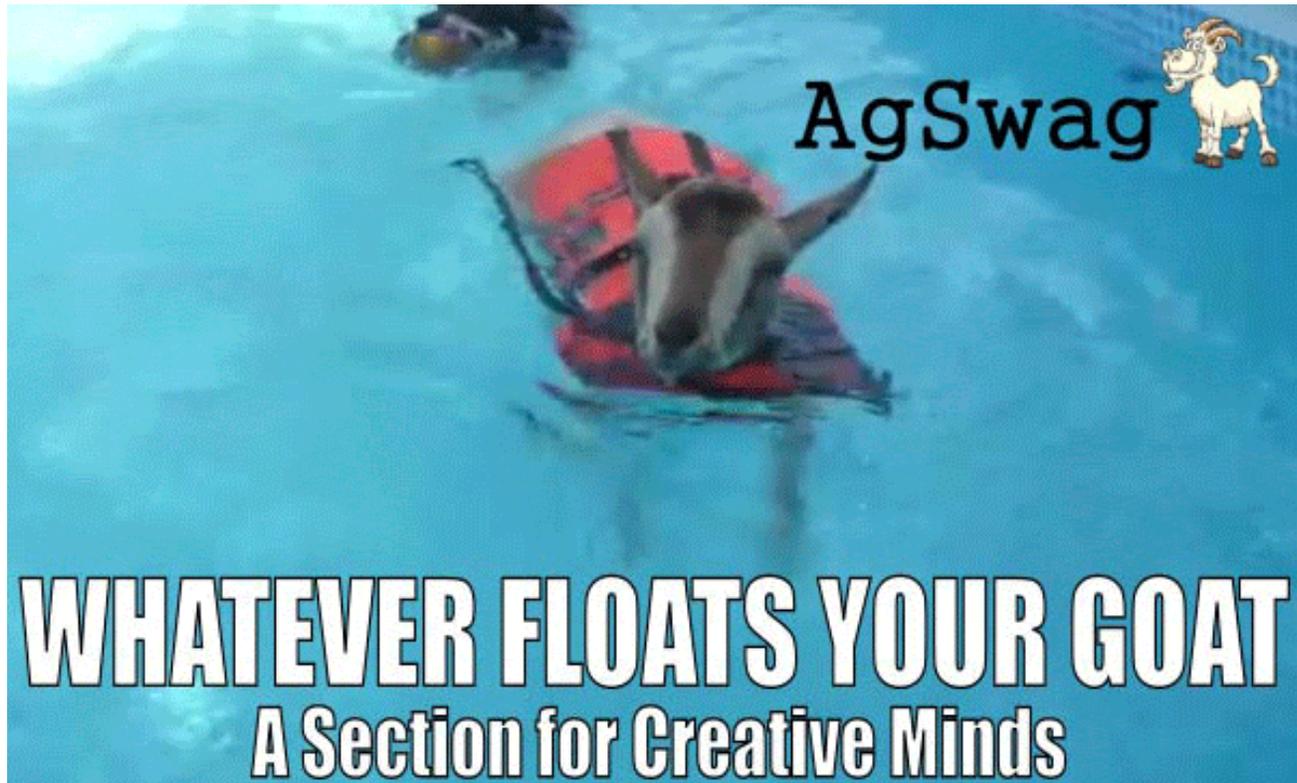
Wheat traders continue to chew on mostly old news, nothing really fresh. Egypt's GASC was in the global market as a buyer but again sourced the supply from Russian, Ukraine and European suppliers. U.S. exporters continue to act as only the worlds ancillary supplier. With global stocks record large and domestic ending stocks +1.0 billion bushels, bulls have to find a more bullish demand story, which isn't easy to come by, especially with a strong U.S. dollar. There's also really not much in the way of a wide-spread weather story. At least nothing strong enough to override the burdensome balance sheet or continued negative macro outlook. As a spec, I would like to believe this market will soon find a bottom, but I am still unwilling to place a bullish bet. As a producer, I remain content playing the waiting. Keeping a close eye on winter weather, trade headlines, and trying to forecast the longer-term direction of the U.S. dollar.



Cash fed cattle prices continue to trade at a premium to the nearby futures contracts at this time. Last week's cash trade 1.00/CWT higher in general and on slightly larger volume compared to the previous week, but still lighter volumes than what would be expected. The expectation for this week's trade is likely steady at this point with some light trade reported so far in CO at 106.50/CWT. The beef spot beef market ended last week slightly lower and approximately 3.00/CWT off recent highs, but the comprehensive report shows a stronger week over week market with slightly lighter total volume. Comprehensive export sales printed as strong of a number since the first quarter of this year. Coming into this week the market was mulling over Friday's Cattle on Feed data and fresh news of a U.S.-Japan agreement on principle that would eliminate some burdensome tariffs. All of these bits of news certainly matter and are of consequence, however, the market has become desensitized to headlines for the most part and seems to be in the "show me" stage. The Cattle on Feed summary is 100% of a year ago on feed numbers with 98% of last year's placements and 107% versus last July's

marketing's. Interestingly, the south cattle on feed numbers continue to outpace northern numbers. TX cattle on feed is the largest versus NE numbers since late 2011 keeping in mind this is the seasonal time period when we expect this to top out. Very little fresh factual news has bubbled up related to Tyson's Holcomb, KS, plant so far. The futures markets started off the week on a firmer note and then gave up most/all of those gains yesterday on lighter volume. Many are confused or concerned about the recent action in futures markets. We certainly cannot predict or time the market long term, but it would seem that the market has a commercial player that is awkwardly positioned in a physically long spot and a non-commercial trader that is very close to flat. We lack that story or spark to move markets in a significant way. Long term it seems that cattle certainly have room to advance, but the short term situation is cluttered with uncertainties related to macro and micro issues. In some ways this sheds some light on why futures continue to chop and the trade appears noncommittal. Trey Warnock - [Amarillo Brokerage Company](#)





> **Farm Futures Survey Estimates 94.1 Million 2020 Corn Acres:** *Farm Futures magazine released their early survey for next years planting intentions. I'm personally not really sure about this survey as they are forecasting even more planted corn acres next year at 94.1 million. They also show planted soybean acres up +9% at 83.6 million. All-winter wheat seedings were forecast slightly higher at 32.1 million acres. All other kinds of wheat, sorghum, and cotton are all seen lower.*

> **USDA Secretary In Illinois Today:** *U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue will be in Illinois today, August 28. His visit starts in Decatur at an Ag Policy Summit hosted by U.S. Representative Rodney Davis (IL-13). Perdue will later tour the Farm Progress Show, also in Decatur, and participate in a live interview with Max Armstrong and Orion Samuelson. The secretary is also scheduled to brief stakeholders on a new USDA Waterways Report and participate in a Q&A session with Assistant Secretary James in Alton, Illinois.*

> **China Pork Imports Seen Doubling Over Next Two Years:** *Chinese pork meat imports are projected to sharply rise from 2.1 million tonnes in 2018 to 3.3 million tonnes in 2019 and 4.2 million tonnes in 2020, because of the African*

swine fever outbreak, according to broker and consultancy INTL FCStone. FCStone estimated during a commodities outlook conference in Sao Paulo that China's pork meat production will fall to 38 million metric tons in 2019 from 54 million metric tons in 2018. It expects the production to fall further to 34 million metric tons in 2020, as the country will continue to struggle to control the devastating disease. Additionally, China's southwestern province of Sichuan, the country's top pig-farming province, is removing some restrictions on hog production to help stabilize supplies. Sichuan produced more than 65 million pigs in 2017, according to official data, or more than 9% of the country's total, making it China's leading producer. To achieve a provincial target of 40 million hogs a year, local authorities should promote standardized and modern farming, and support farms that produce 2 million hogs or more each year with integrated feed plants and slaughtering facilities, said the notice published on the department's website. They should also remove any obstacles to projects under construction and allow them to be completed as soon as possible, it said. Sichuan also plans to abolish the 1-hectare (2.5-acre) limitation on land use for pig raising and related facilities and allow for "reasonable use" of land to meet the needs of the pig industry, including permitting pig farms on some grades of protected forest land. (Source: Reuters)

> Biofuel Credit Surplus Could Blunt RIN Price Impact From Trump Moves:

A big surplus of U.S. biofuel blending credits would likely blunt potential price increases in the market if the Trump administration follows through on its proposal to boost blending volumes mandates, four industry sources said. Prices for the credits known as Renewable Identification Numbers, or RINs, tanked this month after the Environmental Protection Agency decided to grant 31 biofuel waivers to oil refiners, exempting them from their obligation to blend ethanol into their gasoline. The administration has since sought to quell anger over the waivers in the agricultural industry and is considering boosting next year's blending volumes mandates to compensate for the impact of the waivers. While that move could help bolster demand for corn-based ethanol, its impact - especially on the RIN market - could be muted by a buildup in the so-called "RIN bank" over the past few years: There were 2.19 billion carryover RINS from 2018 for use for compliance in 2019, according to EPA estimates, compared to 2.59 billion for 2018, 2.22 billion for 2017 and 1.54 billion for 2016. Learn more [HERE](#).

> Syngenta To Speed Up Corn Trait Development With \$30 Million Facility:

Syngenta has officially opened its new Trait Conversion Accelerator, a \$30 million

expansion at its Nampa, Idaho, research and development and seed production facility. As the name implies, Syngenta expects to use the highly-automated, controlled environment corn breeding facility to speed up the time frame currently needed to introduce new corn traits for farmers. Currently, Syngenta has the third-largest, global germplasm pool, which is augmented by seven breeding collaborations. David Hollinrake, regional director for Syngenta in North America, says farmers will see more corn traits, as a result of its Agrisure technology, coming to the marketplace in the company's NK and Golden Harvest corn seed brands. Independent seed companies will also be able to license Syngenta technologies through its GreenLeaf Genetics. Read more [HERE](#).

> How Healthy Is Beyond Meat's "Bleeding" Veggie Burger? *Beyond Meat's "bleeding" veggie burger has become a popular alternative to traditional meat patties at fast-food restaurants. The patty is now on menus at TGI Fridays, Carl's Jr., and A&W. Starting Tuesday, customers can also order Beyond's nuggets and wings at a Kentucky Fried Chicken in Atlanta. Subway also plans to sell a Beyond Meat meatball sub starting next month. The Beyond Burger is often billed as a healthier and more environmentally friendly alternative to beef, but many consumers have been skeptical about its processed nature. Business Insider asked four nutritionists to weigh in on this debate by evaluating the 22 ingredients in a Beyond Meat patty. Most of them classified the burger as a "sometimes" item, meaning it can be healthy to eat on occasion as a substitute for real beef. Check out the full results [HERE](#).*

> Brazil To Reject G7 Aid Offer To Fight Amazon Fires: *The Brazilian government has said it will reject an offer of aid from G7 countries to help tackle fires in the Amazon rainforest. French President Emmanuel Macron - who hosted a G7 summit that ended on Monday - said \$22m would be released. But Brazilian ministers say the money is not needed and accuse foreign powers of wanting control of the Amazon. Satellite data show fires - mostly in the Amazon region - are burning at record levels. Commenting on the G7 offer of aid, Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro's chief of staff, Onyx Lorenzoni, told the Globo news website: "Thanks, but maybe those resources are more relevant to reforest Europe. Mr Bolsonaro has previously said his government lacks the resources to fight the record number of fires in the Amazon region. But Mr Bolsonaro - who has been engaged in a public row with Mr Macron in recent weeks - accused the French leader of launching "unreasonable and gratuitous attacks against the*

Amazon region", and "hiding his intentions behind the idea of an 'alliance' of G7 countries". Read more [HERE](#).

> What Happens When a Drone Crashes Into Your Face? *The vision of a drone-filled future involves tiny buzzing pieces of plastic and lithium-ion filling the skies above us. But for that vision to be realized, companies need to make sure a plummeting drone won't cause a horrific injury to innocent passersby below. So what actually happens when a drone collides with a human? It's a question that the Alliance for System Safety of UAS through Research Excellence (ASSURE) has sought to answer with an 18 month-long study. The most common injuries were lacerations, cuts, and bruises. ASSURE says that the inexact science of concussions prevented a realistic assessment of the risk of that type of injury. There was only one incident of serious eye damage though ASSURE acknowledges that the rotating blades on ubiquitous quad-copter drones will lead to ocular injuries. Among its recommendations to the FAA is rotor/blade guards for such drones and development of medical mitigation procedures. Researchers not only wanted to see what injuries resulted but to develop safety testing methodology and make recommendations to the FAA for rule-making. It's the only comprehensive science-based study of its kind in the world. Check out the details [HERE](#).*

> A Massive Raft of Volcanic Rock Is Floating Towards Australia, Which Could Be Good News For The Great Barrier Reef: *A gigantic floating raft of volcanic rock that emerged from an underwater volcano eruption in the Pacific Ocean is slowly drifting towards the Australian coast, heartening hopes it could benefit the imperilled Great Barrier Reef. The massive pumice raft – over 20,000 football fields in size and composed of volcanic rock that's light enough to float on the surface of water – appeared only a few weeks ago, after a suspected underwater volcanic eruption near Tonga. Satellite imagery first revealed the giant formation on the water's surface on August 9, corresponding with reports from sailors at the time. While the volcanic phenomenon could constitute a sailing hazard, news of the raft formation is being welcomed by scientists, especially since the pumice slick is drifting towards the east coast of Australia. Read more [HERE](#).*

> How Aging Shapes Narrative Identity: *There's a lot of research now that shows that in the teenage years we develop skills from what's called autobiographical reasoning—which is the ability to derive personal meaning from*

your past—and that's really the key to narrative identity. When you start doing that in your teenage years, then that kind of opens up a Pandora's box that says "okay now you can actually create a story for your life that makes meaning about who you were and where you're going." Kids have memories going back probably to age 4. They can tell stories early on, they learn, but they don't see their lives in big narratives that they are the main protagonists of. Early on in life, let's say late teens to early adulthood, people's goals tend to be more what's called "promotion focused goals." Their goals are about attaining stuff—rewards, education, friends. But there's a tipping point somewhere in your 40s or 50s where you start to move toward what are called more "prevention focused goals." And prevention focused goals are about holding on to what you have or compensating for losses. And then you have the autobiographical author. Read more [HERE](#).

> Front Lawn Becomes A Stage For House-Ridden Boy: *Aside from immediate family, no one is allowed in the house to see 3-year-old Quinn Waters. More importantly, Quinn can't go out. Parents Jarlath and Tara Waters of Weymouth, Massachusetts, said Quinn's natural immunity was temporarily wiped out after he got a stem cell transplant to treat his brain cancer. "We basically keep him in a bubble just as a precaution," Jarlath said. "Even a common cold could be something that will bring him back into the hospital," Tara added. Fortunately, the kid is a champ who has retained a mostly positive attitude. But it still stinks. Unfortunately, staring out a window is a poor substitute for walking out a door. For the last two months, Quinn's connection to the outside world has been limited to whoever passes by, which hasn't been all that limiting, actually. "It started out with family members coming to the window," Jarlath said. Then the neighbors started showing up to entertain with non-contact art projects and other stupid human tricks. Next, the police caught wind — and pretty soon top-notch performers were just showing up on Quinn's front lawn. An absolutely heartwarming story! Check out the full story and video [HERE](#).*





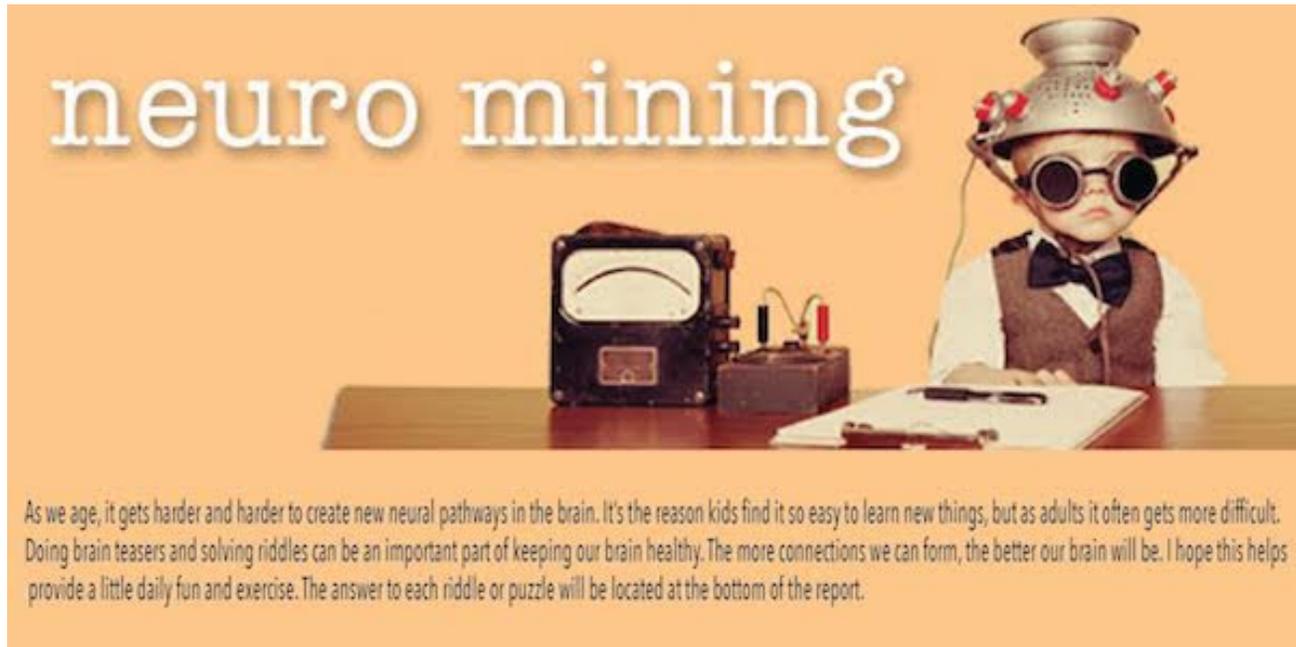
TARA WATERS



Central Minnesota – *It's been a brutal year from trying to get the crops planted, sprayed etc. Our normal frost will occur on or before the first week of October. The problem we are facing right now is the corn will be no where done by our normal frost. We need to not see a frost any earlier than October 15th if we are going to avoid damage to our corn. That is 10 days later than normal and with how this year is going I don't think that's a reasonable expectation. The soybeans all look really good but like the corn, we don't need any frost before normal or we will be harvesting bb size soybeans.*

South Central Iowa – *If we are considered to be the better part of the country according to the tour, I feel sorry for the rest of the country. I will be the first to admit we actually look good from the road. The only problem we have is the wide variety we see in the middle of the fields. The corn is denting so we should be out of the danger zone for a frost. The beans are short but contain a lot of pods. I just need the pods to fill. The beans seem like we could be dinged with a frost but it's hard to tell. It looks like our weather is going to stay fairly warm for the next few weeks and we then will have a much easier time determining if they are at risk.*

Northwest Minnesota – *We are making very slow progress with wheat harvest. We got about 1 inch of rain yesterday, so we won't be back in the field until later in the week. The drying process is slow because we never got above 60 degrees. The next couple days we should see a little drying as the wind blows. We will take the good with the bad because the rain will finish the corn and soybeans about perfectly. This should be one of our better crops in a good number of years. The main difference in our area is we were able to get all the crops in May.*



TODAY'S RIDDLE: I can bring tears to your eyes; resurrect the dead, make you smile, and reverse time. I form in an instant, I last a life time. What am I?



Be Careful in the Water... Battling Dangerous Algae!

Extremely dangerous and harmful algal blooms (often called HAB which stands for "harmful algal bloom") now pose environmental concerns in all 50 states. In fact, many beaches across the country are being shut down due to harmful outbreaks that are making people sick. I'm also hearing more reports of pets becoming fatally ill from water sources that contain the dangerous algae. Three healthy dogs frolicking in a pond in North Carolina ended up dead within minutes, likely from exposure to toxic blue-green algae. Actually, not algae, but a photosynthetic cyanobacteria that mimic blue-green algae and can produce a powerful liver toxin. These dogs and people are getting into waters then ingesting some of these dangerous toxins and having extreme adverse reactions.

Health professionals are certainly starting to take notice. Even now, it's not uncommon for stagnant, freshwater bodies in local neighborhoods to show signs on the surface that can signal major danger. Red tides, blue-green algae, and cyanobacteria are all examples that have had severe impacts on human and animal health, aquatic ecosystems, as well as the economy. The NOAA is now enlisting the help of underwater robots to help assess the situation.

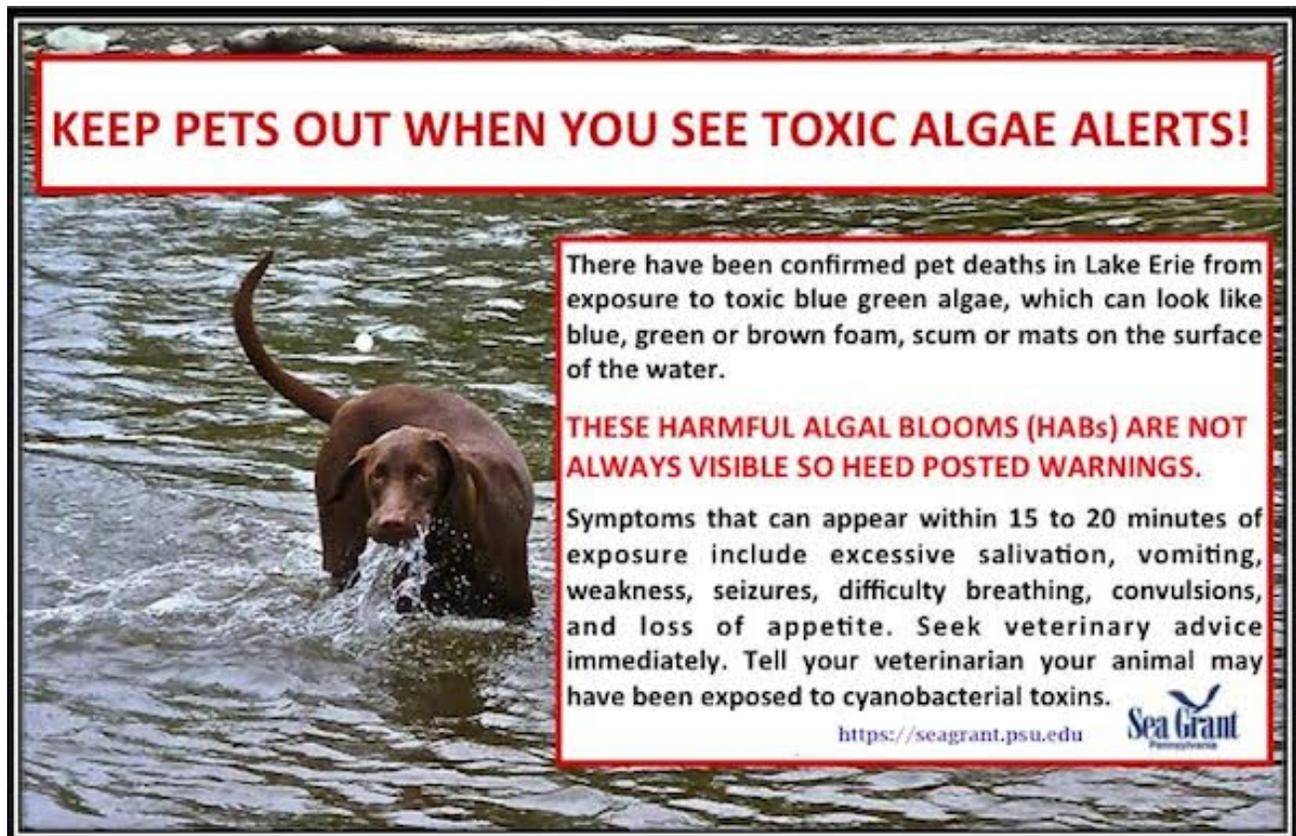
Long-range autonomous underwater vehicles have been deployed to the western portion of the Lake Erie basin and will spend a total of two weeks searching for patches of algae that may be toxic. Data collected will allow scientists to know how far the bloom extends and where it's most intense. One of the robots will carry NOAA's "lab in a can" to measure microcystin, a potent liver toxin produced by the cyanobacteria that cause harmful algal blooms in the Great Lakes. It is this liver toxin that has been the cause of many pet and animal deaths.

Accompanying the two robots will be an airplane that will be taking hyperspectral images of the bloom and mapping it from the sky, providing researchers a view of what the bloom looks like on and below the water's surface. Measuring algal toxins with this technology is a game-changer for scientists as they will begin to understand how the bloom travels through the water column and changes its toxicity.

Collecting information on the genetic composition of the cyanobacteria, paired with data like water temperature, nutrient levels, and wind conditions will be critical in assisting scientists and resource managers to understand the factors that lead to blooms. I should mention, once these underwater robots are fully operational, they will give NOAA the ability to detect, monitor, and map harmful algal blooms and their toxicity on a 24/7 basis, which will offer huge cost-savings compared to scientists taking samples from a ship or along the shore. With 24/7 deployment in all weather conditions, the UAVs can provide more detailed information to researchers and drinking water managers than other monitoring methods.

Determining if an algal bloom is harmful can't be done just by looking at it, not to mention, toxins can be present even when a bloom is not visible. So in order to protect your family and pets, and I know it sounds obvious, but you need to avoid entering bodies of water that seem like they smell a little bad, look slightly

discolored, have some foam floating, scum or algal mats on their surface. If you or your pets do go in water that has an algal bloom, wash yourself and your pets off immediately afterward with clean tap water, and do not let your pets lick their fur until after they are heavily rinsed. Before traveling to lakes, rivers, or beaches, check the local water conditions, and follow any advice posted by the state or local environmental health department online or near the water. Remember, people can get exposed to dangerous cyanotoxins simply if they inhale, swallow or swim in contaminated waters, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Severe exposure can damage the liver and kidneys and induce symptoms such as nausea and diarrhea, atypical pneumonia, earaches, sore throat, swollen or blistered lips, sore muscles and weakness, and itching or burning eyes. It's impossible to detect cyanotoxins by sight alone, so the official advice is simple: If in doubt, stay out. NOAA does provide HAB forecasts on their website [HERE](#). (Sources: research@noaa.gov, cdc.gov)

A photograph of a brown dog swimming in water. The water has a greenish tint, suggesting an algal bloom. A red-bordered text box is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing a warning about toxic algae.

KEEP PETS OUT WHEN YOU SEE TOXIC ALGAE ALERTS!

There have been confirmed pet deaths in Lake Erie from exposure to toxic blue green algae, which can look like blue, green or brown foam, scum or mats on the surface of the water.

THESE HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS (HABs) ARE NOT ALWAYS VISIBLE SO HEED POSTED WARNINGS.

Symptoms that can appear within 15 to 20 minutes of exposure include excessive salivation, vomiting, weakness, seizures, difficulty breathing, convulsions, and loss of appetite. Seek veterinary advice immediately. Tell your veterinarian your animal may have been exposed to cyanobacterial toxins.

<https://seagrants.psu.edu> 



IDENTIFYING A HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOM (HAB)

This quick guide provides a visual comparison of appearance and color and odor that can be helpful in distinguishing non-toxic green algae and aquatic plants from potentially toxic cyanobacteria blooms or harmful algal blooms (HABs).

Non-toxic Algae & Plants

Cyanobacteria/HAB

APPEARANCE



Rooted Plants



Floating Plants



Plant-like Algae



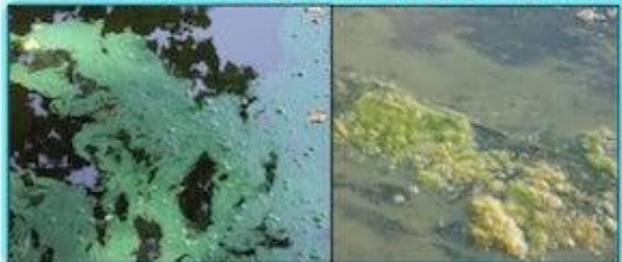
Filamentous Algae



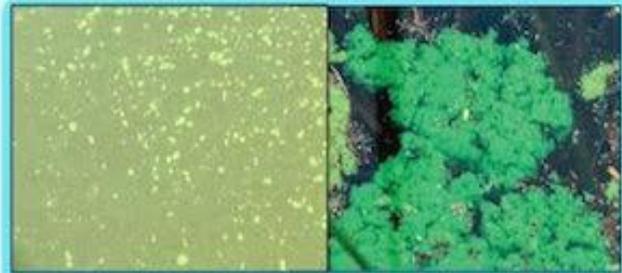
Paint or Soup



Scum, Bubbling or Spit-like Floating Foam



Lettuce or Chopped Grass



Spires



Mats



Blobs



State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814



ATTENTION: Cyanobacteria blooms/HABs can produce toxins that are harmful to humans and animals.

"Pumpkin Spice" and a Few Interesting Facts!

Consumers can't seem to get enough of pumpkin spice flavoring, and retailers have definitely taken notice. This year, both Starbucks and Dunkin have pushed up the seasonal release of pumpkin-pie flavored drink items, with Dunkin starting last week and Starbucks releasing the pumpkin-floodgates yesterday. Both dates are slightly earlier than last year and both fall within what's considered "the dog days of summer." And herein lies the problem - pumpkin spice is an autumn flavor! Or so some would argue.

Pumpkin spice is a distinctively American flavor combination rooted in our Thanksgiving tradition which, obviously, is celebrated in autumn. And that's the root of the argument against Pumpkin Spice Lattes (PSL) in August, with some die-hard PSL fans on social media even claiming it is blasphemy to drink one while it is still so warm outside. Some also feel that retailers are tarnishing everything that makes PSL season special by kicking it off during a very not-fall time of year. Pumpkin goes with cozy sweaters and fireside chats, not bathing suits and barbeque.

Retailers, however, say they are just responding to consumer demand. Genevieve Aronson, vice president for communications at Nielsen, agrees that consumers are driving the August arrival of pumpkin spice flavors. She told MarketWatch recently, "For many, widening the sales window for pumpkin spice products could be seen as a win-win: enabling companies to cater to the enduring consumer demand for pumpkin spice while building out the opportunity to strengthen seasonal sales."

Nielsen food industry analysis shows that early-season pumpkin spice-related sales have indeed been increasing. And the demand for the flavor overall hit a new record last year, with sales totaling more than \$488 million, a +15.5% increase over 2017. There is even pumpkin spice flavored dog food, sales of which grew an astounding +123.7% last year!

Regardless of how and when you prefer your pumpkin spice, there is no denying its popularity. Below are some fun facts about its origins: (Sources: MarketWatch, Nielsen, Scientific American, Wikipedia)

Pumpkin Spice Originated in Medieval Times. *In the Middle Ages, a similar spice combination was used in everything during that time period. Not only did it taste good, those same spices were also considered a status symbol that wealthy people used to flaunt their riches. Food historian Ken*

Albala says that what we think of as pumpkin spice went into most recipes up until the advent of French haute cuisine in the 17th century. Ultimately, by the 18th century, the British lost their love for pumpkin pie and began to negatively associate pumpkins with Native Americans.

"American Cookery" is thought to be the first cookbook to ever include "pumpkin pie". *It was written by an American and featuring ingredients indigenous to America was published in 1792 and contained a recipe for pumpkin pie that very closely resembles what we recognize as traditional pumpkin pie today.*

McCormick introduced "pumpkin pie spice" in the 1950s, *giving rise to its use in a myriad of other dishes. It is a blend of cinnamon, nutmeg, and cloves, though some modern mixtures add ginger.*

Pumpkin spice coffee seems to have first appeared in 1996 *from a company called Home Roast Coffee near Tampa, Florida. By 1998, it had spread to other cities like Las Vegas, where it was offered at The Whole Bean, and Fasig's in Allentown, Pennsylvania. Pumpkin spice coffee spread across America's small coffee shops surely, but slowly.*

Starbucks first introduced pumpkin spice lattes *on October 10, 2003. Peter Dukes, Starbucks' director of Espresso Americas, said: "developers realized there was something special around the pumpkin flavor, especially since there wasn't anything around pumpkin at the time." Sales of the drink exceeded the company's expectations: Dukes said: "we couldn't keep up initially... we had to expedite inventory to the stores." Pumpkin Spice Latte was Starbucks' most popular seasonal beverage, with more than 200 million sold between its 2003 introduction and 2015.*

Pumpkin Pie and coffee is actually a very traditional American combination. *Up until the late 19th century, people regularly ate breakfast pie, including flavors like pumpkin and apple. Alongside bottomless cups of coffee, breakfast pumpkin pie was on hotel and restaurant menus and held a regular spot on the breakfast menus in the homes of Ralph Waldo Emerson and Oliver Wendell Holmes.*

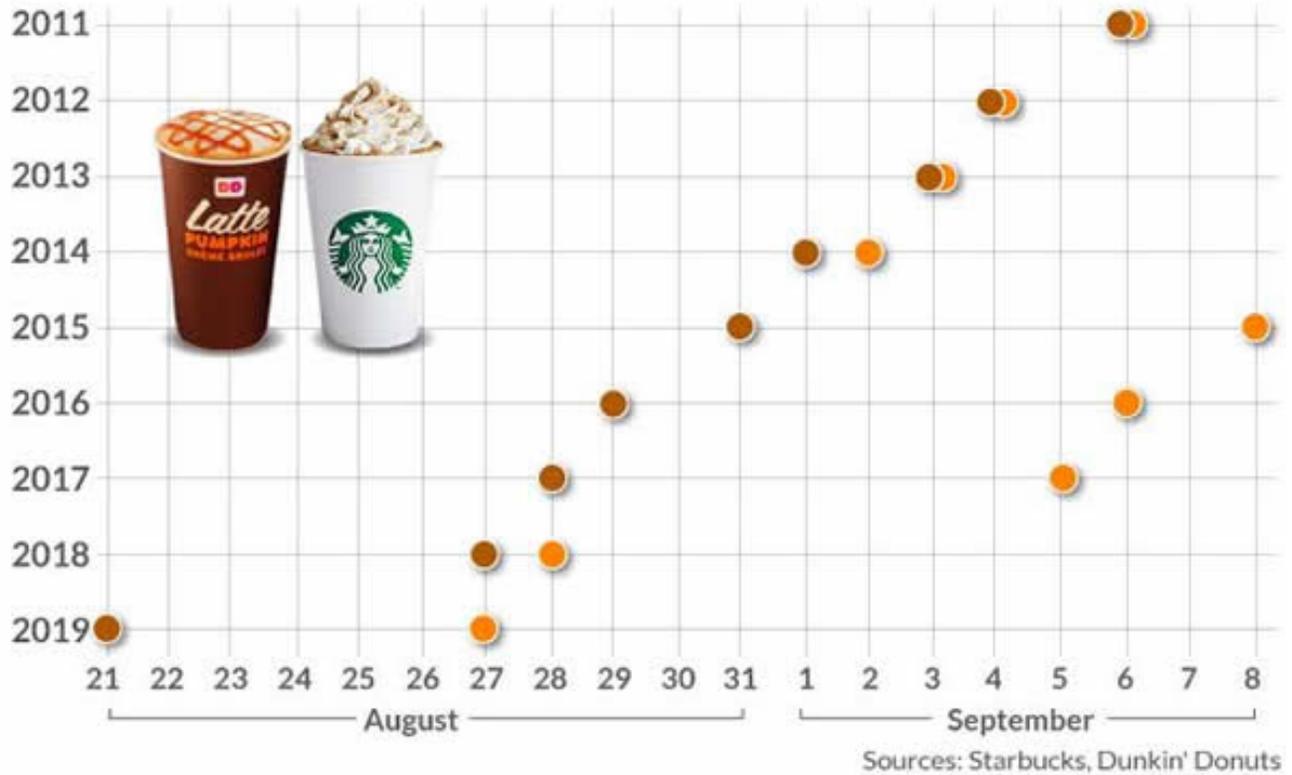
More Pumpkin Spice for More Products! *According to Datassential Menu*

Trends, restaurants' pumpkin-inspired offers have exploded. These items include pumpkin M&M's, Dunkin' Donuts pumpkin-flavored coffee K-packs, and pumpkin-flavored whiskey. Companies have also manufactured pumpkin spice lotion, shampoo, and candles.

Pumpkin Spice Creep

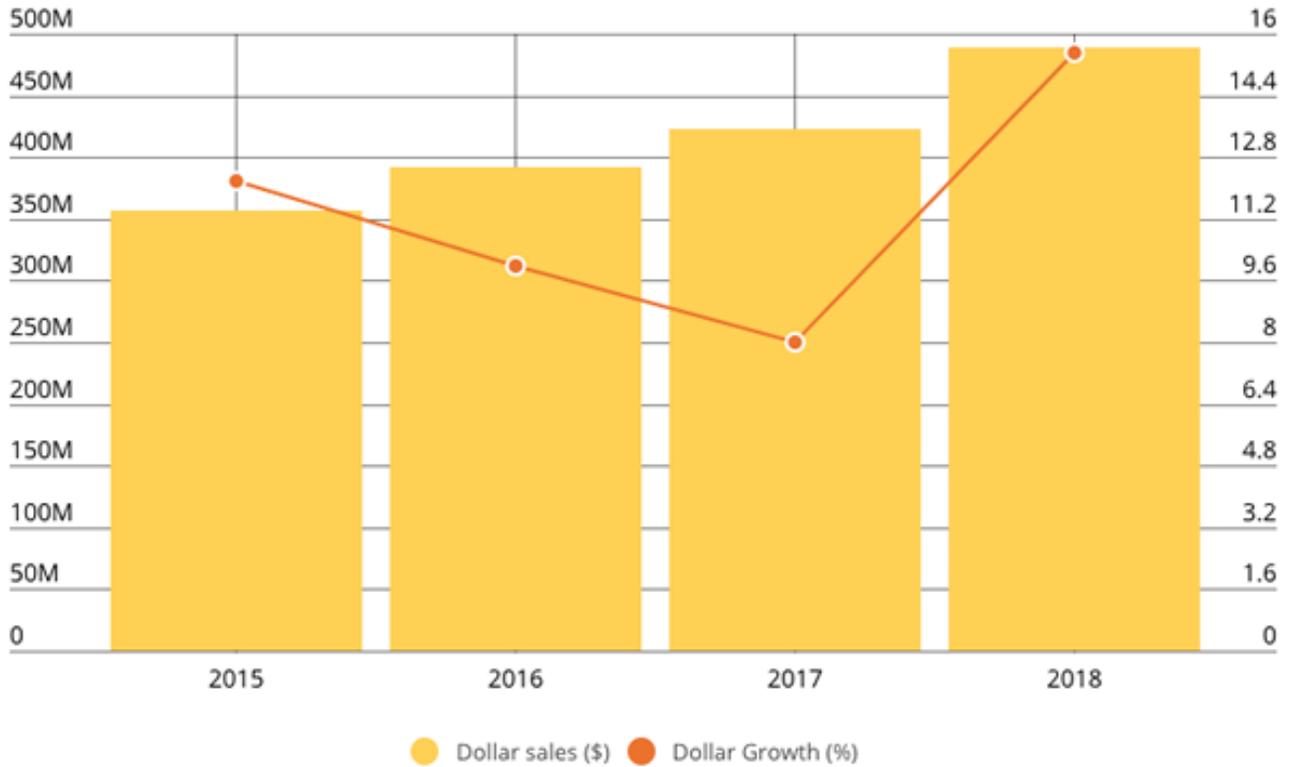
Fall-themed drinks are hitting menus earlier

● Dunkin' Donuts ● Starbucks





SALES OF PUMPKIN-FLAVORED PRODUCTS ARE AT AN ALL TIME HIGH



Source: Nielsen Retail Measurement Services, Total U.S. All Outlets Combined (xAOC), 52 weeks ended Aug. 25, 2018, vs. previous annual periods.



One Of My All-Time Favorite Olympic Moments... "Never Give Up"

A friend and I were talking about going to next years Summer Olympics, which is scheduled to be held in Tokyo, Japan. During the conversation, we started to try and name all of the greatest Olympic highlights we could remember, test your skills...

1932: "Babe" Didrikson winning two women's gold medals and a silver in the Olympics held in California.

1936: Jesse Owens winning four Olympic gold medals in front of Adolf Hitler in Berlin, Germany.

1960: The Olympics in Rome with a young American boxer named Cassius Clay AKA Muhammad Ali bringing home a gold. Despite being only 18, he won all four of his fights easily.

1964: A U.S. boxer by the name of Joe Frazier wins a gold medal.

1968: In France a young U.S. skater by the name of Peggy Fleming wins our only gold.

1972: In Munich Germany, U.S. swimmer Mark Spitz set an Olympic record with seven gold medals.

1976: In Austria a young girl by the name of Dorothy Hamill wins the women's figure skating gold medal.

1976: In Montreal Canada, Caitlyn (then Bruce) Jenner wins the decathlon with a world record score of 8,618 points.

1980: Lake Placid, New York, in a stunning upset, the U.S. Men's National Hockey team defeated the USSR National Team in what was later called "Miracle On Ice."

1984: Los Angeles, California, Carl Lewis won four gold medals in the 4x100 meter, 100 meter, 200 meter, and long jump events. However, Mary Lou Retton, on an injured knee, became the star of the games after winning gold in the all-around, which capped a five-medal performance.

1988: Seoul, South Korea, Florence Griffith Joyner won the 100 meter, 200 meter, and 4x100 meter events and earned a silver in the 4x400 meter. Diver Greg Louganis overcame a concussion in the preliminaries to win and repeat as champion in the springboard final.

1992: Barcelona, Spain, Basketball welcomed professionals and the American "Dream Team" led by Michael Jordan, Larry Bird, Magic Johnson, and Charles Barkley.

1994: Lillehammer, Norway, who can forget Tonya Harding's infamous attack against Nancy Kerrigan during the U.S. Figure Skating Championships. Bonnie Blair also became the first woman to win three 500 meter Olympic gold medals in a row.

1996: Atlanta, Georgia, an iconic moment was made when Muhammad Ali lit the Olympic flame, but the 1996 Summer Games was marred by a bombing

that left two dead and 111 injured. America triumphed when Michael Johnson won the 400 meter event and established a new world record in the 200 meter event. Gymnast Kerri Strug nailed the landing on an injured foot to help Team USA win in the All-Around.

2004: Athens, Greece, Michael Phelps won six gold medals while earning a record eight total.

2008: Beijing, China, Michael Phelps set a record of eight gold medals in a single Olympics. It was also the year that Usain Bolt set effortless-seeming world records in the 100 meter and 200 meter events, and won another gold in the 4x100 meter event.

2012: London, UK, Phelps added six more medals, including four gold, to bring his personal count to 22. Gymnast Gabby Douglas won gold in the all-around and another in team, while the U.S. Women's National soccer team won its fourth gold medal in five Olympics in front of a record crowd.



I also wanted to include one of the Olympics greatest defeat... Derek Redmond was favored to win the gold medal in the 400-meter race at the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona. This was a major moment for Redmond since he was

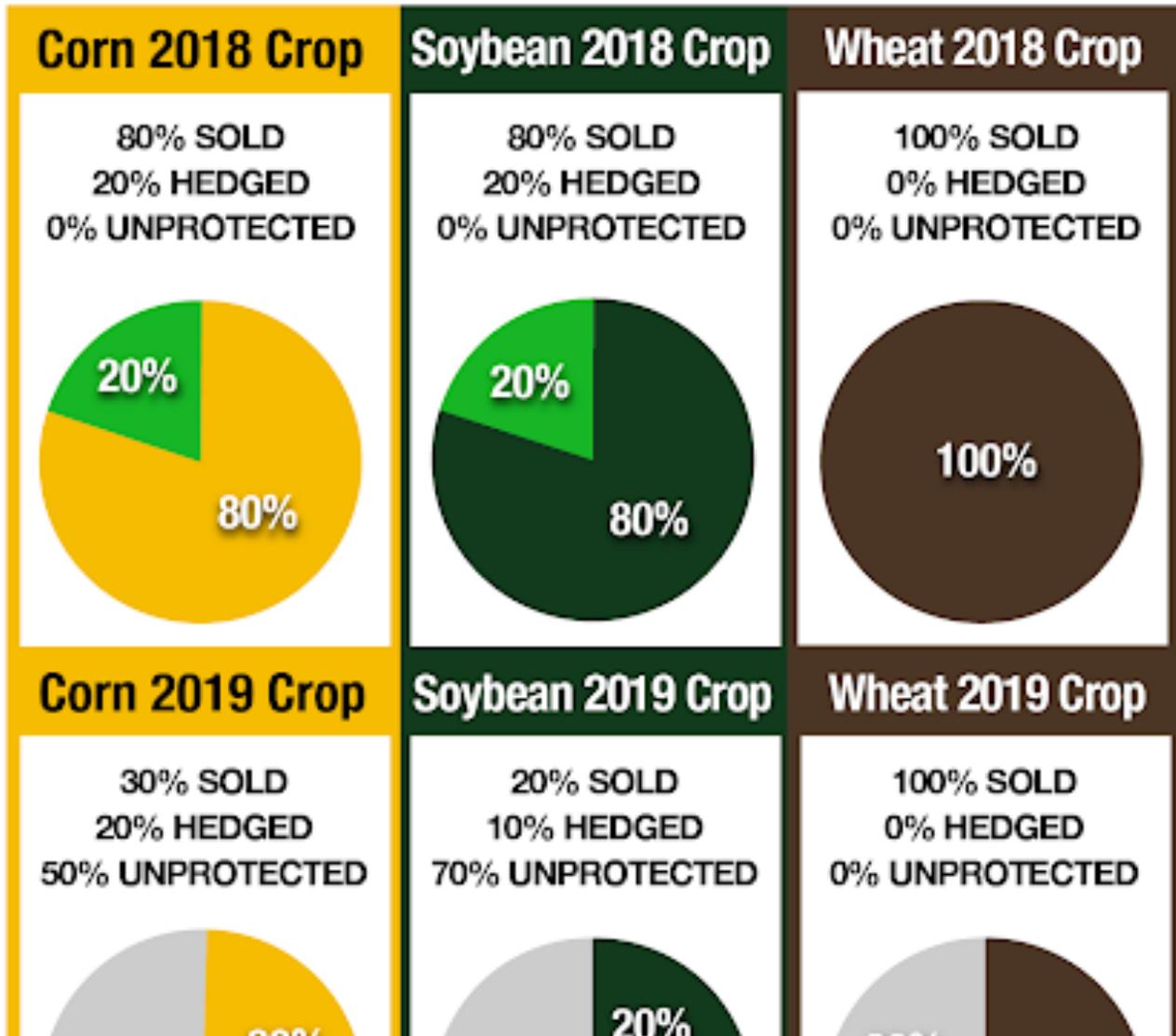
forced to pull out of the 1988 Olympics in Seoul just 90-seconds before his first heat due to an injury to his Achilles tendon. In front of a packed stadium with 65,000 screaming fans, Redmond settled into the starting blocks and got out of the gates quickly. Just before the mid-way point, he felt a horrific pain. He had completely torn his hamstring. In fact, after the Olympics in Barcelona, he was told by a surgeon that he would never run again. Fans near where the accident happened reported Redmond screaming, "there's no way I'm getting on that stretcher, I'm going to finish this race... I have to finish this race". Suddenly a large man races down from the top of the stands. He jumps the barrier and fights off security, yelling, "that's my son out there." It was Jim Redmond, Derek's father. As you will see in the video, at one point Derek is hurting so badly that he wants to actually give-up, but his father Jim continues to inspire. No, unfortunately, Derek Redmond never won his gold medal, but he did "finish the race". As a parent, isn't that really the most important thing we can teach our children both by words and action... "Never Give Up". What a moving and powerful video! **Click [HERE](#).**

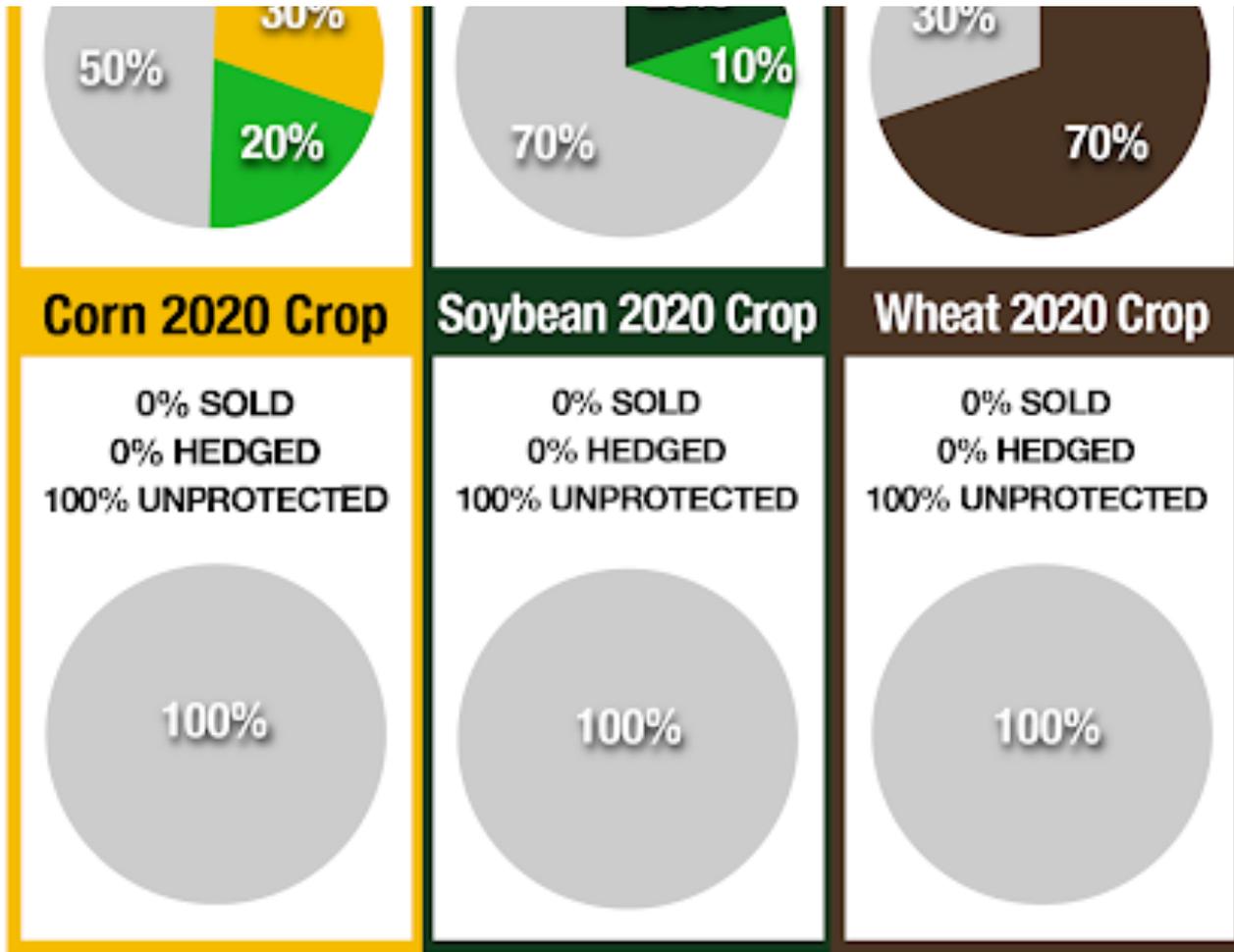


ANSWER to riddle: A memory.

CASH SALES & HEDGING TOTALS

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