



Josh Knight <josh@farmdirection.com>

GOOD MORNING: Van Trump Report 8-29-19

1 message

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

Thu, Aug 29, 2019 at 5:31 AM

Reply-To: Jordan <reply-fec6177473600c7d-1142_HTML-68584704-100003450-8@vantrumpreport-email.com>

To: josh@farmdirection.com

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



"Strong people don't put people down. They lift them up!" - **Michael Watson**

Thursday, August 29, 2019

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Morning Summary: U.S. stock bulls continue to find support in hopes that trade tensions may be easing. There have been no new developments in the ongoing spat between the U.S. and China but the fact that both sides have been quiet for a couple of days may be helping to relieve some of the market's recent volatility. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said U.S. trade officials expect Chinese negotiators to visit Washington, but wouldn't say whether a previously planned September meeting would take place. The U.S. Trade Representative's office yesterday did make "official" the new +15% tariffs on over \$125 billion worth of Chinese goods, which goes into effect this Sunday, September 1. President Trump raised the levy from a previous +10% to +15% last week after China announced

retaliatory tariffs. The energy sector has also lent some support to stocks after oil prices moved up, thanks to a larger than expected drawdown of U.S. crude inventories. The good news is that today's average gas price is around \$2.58 per gallon which is -25 cents lower than Labor Day weekend last year. It's also -5 cents cheaper than the same period in 2017. Average prices by states are ranging from a low of \$2.20 a gallon in Louisiana and Mississippi to almost \$3.66 in Hawaii. Bad news for many seasoned investors is the continued inversion of the yield curve. U.S. 30-year bond yields hit a record low yesterday. In fact, the 30-year yield is now below 3-month T-bill rates, which has not happened since 2007. At the same time, the spread on three-month T-bill rates over 10-year yields widened to as much as 55 basis points, a level not seen since March 2007. A deeper inversion is sending a stronger signal to some that a more meaningful slowdown could be coming. Today begins the release of a series of important U.S. economic data that will continue through all of next week. This morning brings the second estimate of second-quarter GDP which analysts expect to come in at +2.0%, down from an initial estimate of +2.1%. The Consumer Real Spending component of the report will be very closely watched, with consensus expecting it to remain unchanged at +4.3%. Also on the calendar for today: International Trade in Goods and Pending Home Sales. As usual, lots to think about!

NEW Recession Warning... Must Read! *If there's one article you read today, make certain you read this article written by Robert Frank. He writes, "A sudden pullback in spending among the wealthy is sounding alarms. Luxury real estate is having its worst year since the financial crisis, with pricey markets like Manhattan seeing six straight quarters of sales declines. According to Redfin, sales of homes priced at \$1.5 million or more fell 5% in the U.S. in the second quarter. Unsold mansions and penthouses are piling up across the country, especially in ritzy resort towns, with a nearly three-year supply of luxury listings in Aspen, Colorado, and the Hamptons in New York. In addition, luxury retailers are struggling. In the first half of 2019, art auction sales were down for the first time in years. At this month's massive Pebble Beach car auctions, the most expensive cars faltered on the block with more than half not selling. Read more [HERE at CNBC](#)*

China's Corporate "Social Credit" Plan: *The rollout of China's controversial corporate "social credit system" is well under way and many are warning that foreign governments need to wake up to the plan's potential risks. Some insiders are saying the corporate social credit system is part of a "major shift" in China's market access limits for foreign companies as the government enhances its ability to control firms' behavior even as it pledges to scale back on traditional constraints, such as joint venture requirements*

and restricted sectors for investment. According to the chamber, China will assess all companies using about 30 ratings, many of which have already been implemented, on nearly all aspects of their businesses, including tax and customs records, environmental protection, product quality, data transfers, pricing, licenses, and regulatory compliance. Negative ratings on a forthcoming punishment mechanism could mean penalties ranging from potentially small fees and exclusion from subsidies and tax rebates, to blacklisting. Read more from [Reuters](#). The Wall Street Journal also has a great article on the issue, "China's Potential New Trade Weapon: Corporate Social Credits," which you can find [HERE](#).

NEW Nest Doorbell Now Tells You When Package is Delivered: *Google says its new Nest Hello video doorbell can now send alerts when a package is waiting for you. The camera, which can already detect people, is gaining the ability to monitor your doorstep for packages, and it will automatically send alerts when one is spotted. There is one catch, though: Google says package detection can only be used by US Nest Hello users who have a paid Nest Aware subscription, which starts at \$5 a month. Keep in mind, the new "Amazon Key" is a tool that is now allowing Amazon couriers to drop off packages in the user's home, car, or garage. Delivery is certainly changing! (Source: [The Verge](#))*

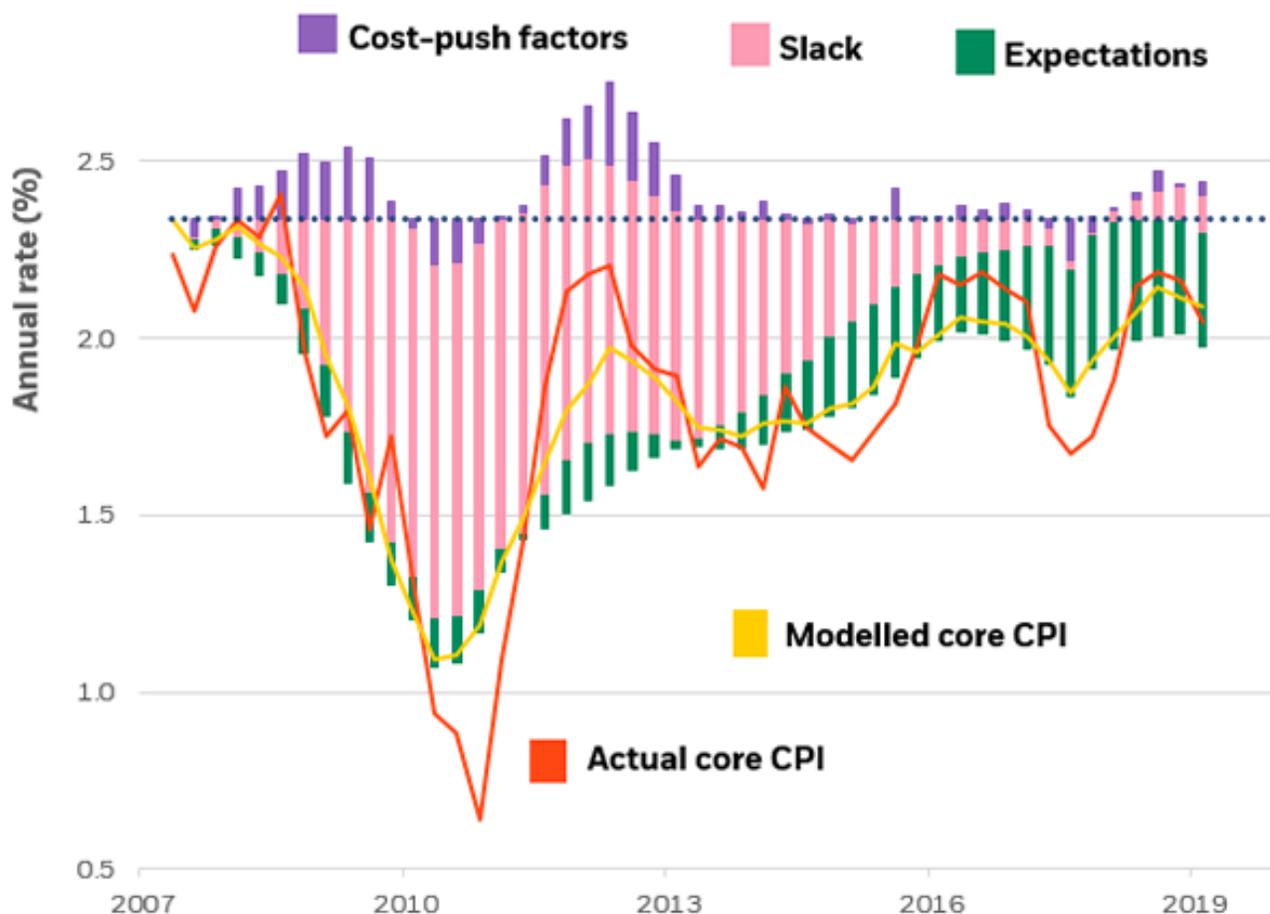
Peloton is Cool but the Business is Losing Millions: *The company that makes cycles and treadmills with screens for users to join live and recorded fitness classes from their homes, hotel rooms or office has become all the craze. Despite triple-digit growth, the company itself continues to post deepening loses. Peloton released documents earlier this week that showed sales surging ahead of its IPO, up another +110% this year to \$915 million from \$435 million in fiscal 2018. Meanwhile, its 2019 net loss widened to \$245.7 million, from a net loss of \$47.9 million in the prior year. The company lost \$163.4 million in 2017. Remember, the company calls itself is the "largest interactive fitness platform in the world," with more than 1.4 million members and is said to be seeking a valuation of at least \$8 billion in its upcoming stock IPO. (Source: MarketWatch; Bloomberg)*

How Central Banks Might Deal With The Next Downturn: *A new paper from BlackRock Investment says unprecedented policies will be needed to respond to the next economic downturn as fiscal policy on its own will struggle to provide major stimulus in a timely fashion given high debt levels and the typical lags with implementation. According to BlackRock - "There is not enough monetary policy space to deal with the next downturn: The current policy space for global central banks is limited and will not be enough to respond to a significant, let alone a dramatic, downturn. Fiscal policy should play a greater role but is unlikely to be effective on its own. An*

unprecedented response is needed when monetary policy is exhausted and fiscal policy alone is not enough. That response will likely involve "going direct": Going direct means the central bank finding ways to get central bank money directly in the hands of public and private sector spenders." More details are available on the BlackRock Blog where they are running a four-part series on the topic. Check out the first post [HERE](#).

Expectations drag

U.S. core CPI drivers, 2007-2019



Sources: BlackRock Investment Institute, with data from Refinitiv Datastream, August 2019.

FARM TANK

Tweets of the Day



World Economic Forum ✓

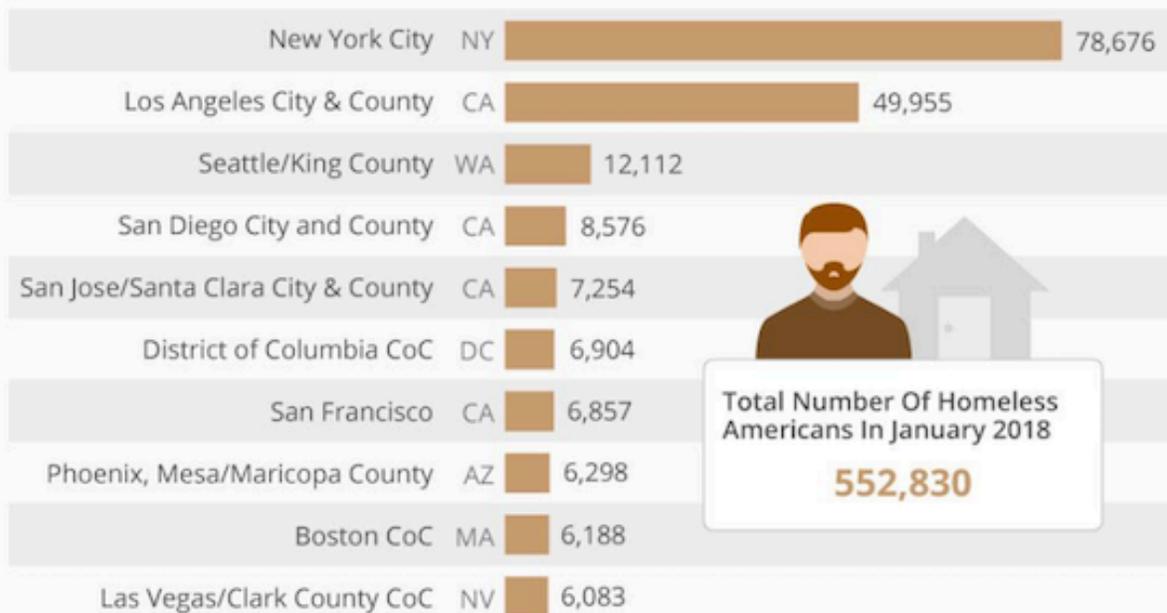
@wef



Six steps that can help us to tackle homelessness
wef.ch/2JPxG3A #society

The U.S. Cities With The Most Homeless People

CoCs with the largest number of people experiencing homelessness in 2018*



* CoC-Continuums of Care are local planning bodies who coordinate homelessness services in certain areas
Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development





World Economic Forum

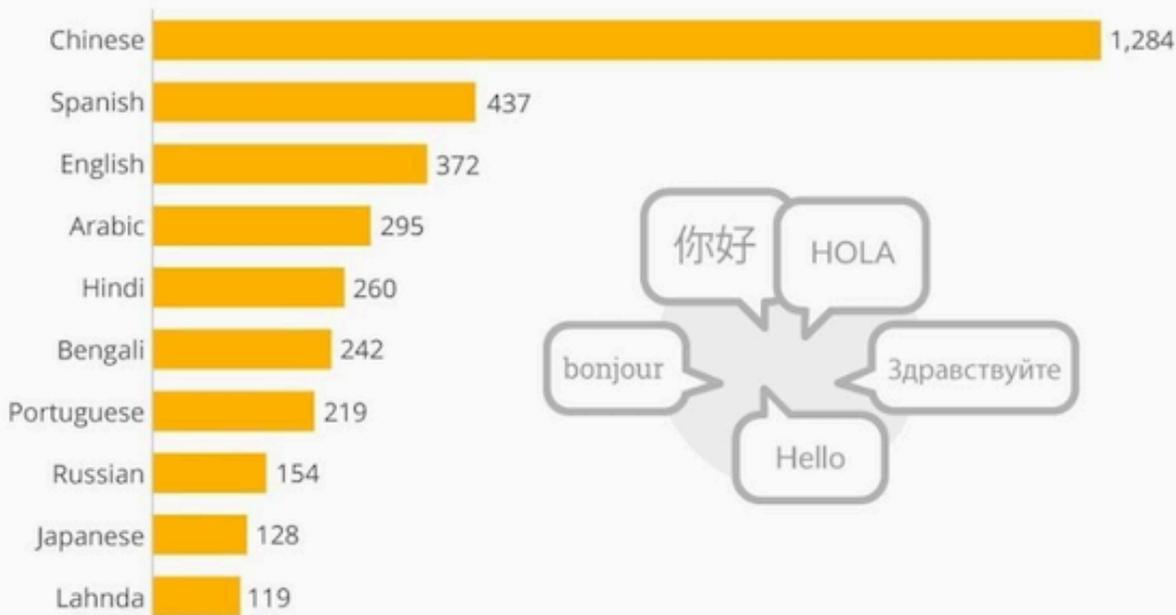
@wef



Machine learning is tearing down language barriers. What does this mean for trade? wef.ch/2PRSvtd #technology #business

The World's Most Spoken Languages

Estimated number of first-language speakers worldwide in 2017 (millions)*



* Each language also includes associated member languages and varieties

@StatistaCharts

Source: Ethnologue





David Park
@wdp52



Good weather at last. #harvest19 @CaseH_UK_IRE
@startintractors





Peter Lord
@Peter_f_Lord



Harvest 2019 complete. Well done team...! #harvest19





Adam Langley
@Adam_langers



Love a filter @JohnDeere #7920 #S785 #Draper
#harvest19





Steven Locke 
@agrlocke



#AgTwitter trying to increase corn demand. Every farm bro will have these in their @YETICoolers #theclaw @WhiteClaw

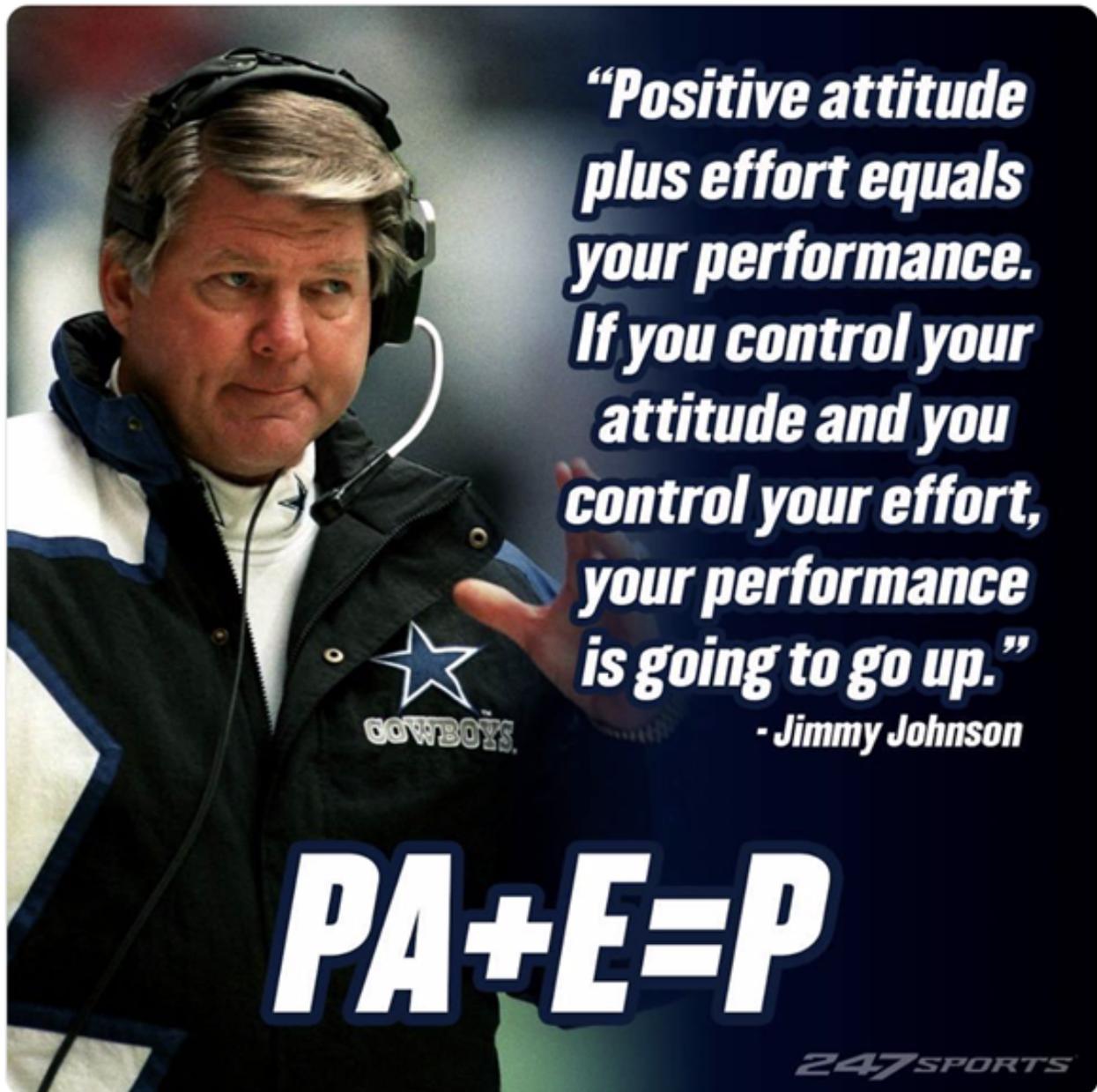


Otto Bielss
@OBielss

Following 

Over the last few days I have seen a number of positive attitude posts and it made me

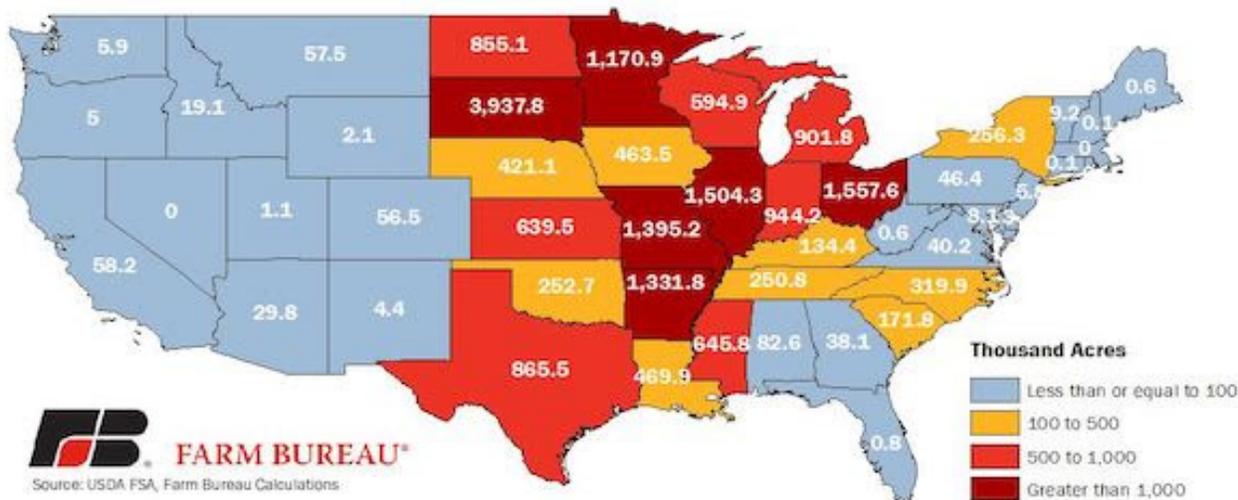
think of this quote from Jimmy Johnson that needs no explanation. Great attitude and great effort makes your performance go up...period. Your talent is the baseline to go up from.



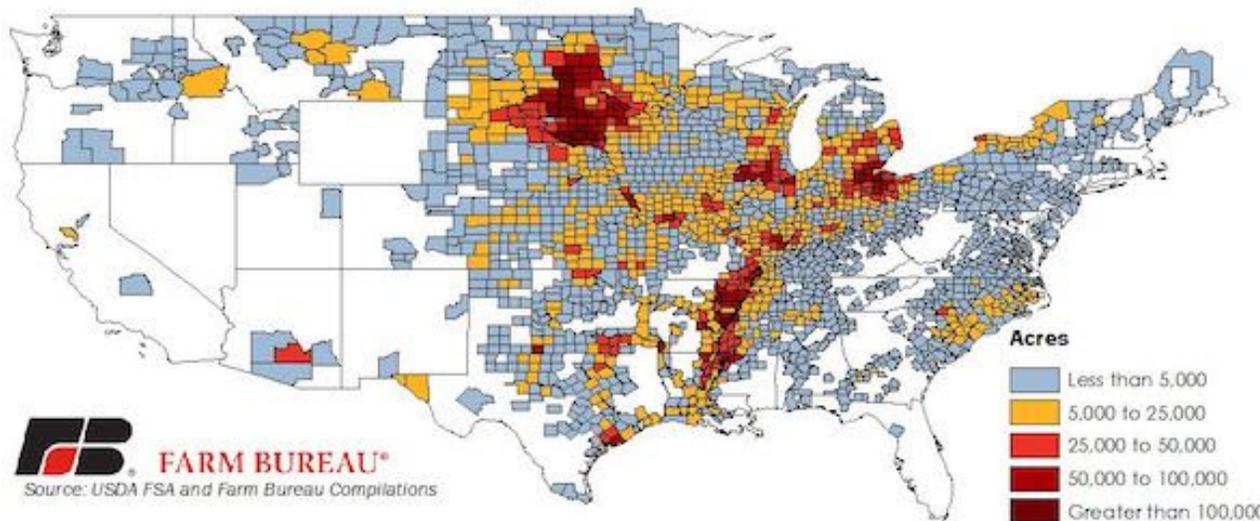
Record Prevent Planting: The previous prevent plantings record, set in 2011, was just shy of 10 million acres for the eight principle crops (Prevent Planting

Implications for 2017). Recently released Farm Service Agency crop acreage data revealed that as of late August prevent plantings were record-high at nearly 20 million acres, more than double the previous record. More than 200 U.S. counties had more than 25,000 acres in prevent plant. Of those counties, more than 80 had more than 50,000 prevent plant acres and 17 counties had more than 100,000 acres in prevent plant. Read more [HERE](#) (Source: Farm Bureau)

**Figure 1. All Acres Prevented From Being Planted in 2019
August 22 Estimate**



**Figure 2. All Acres Prevented From Being Planted, 2019
August 22 Release**



Corn traders continue to debate U.S. yield and total harvested acres. The late-planted crop and cooler than normal temperatures are creating a lack of GDD's. How much this ultimately takes off the upper end of the yield is being debated. Also being discussed more heavily as of late are headlines surrounding ethanol.

Reports recently started circulating that a plant opened back in 1994 in Winnebago, MN, called Corn Plus, was now being forced to close its doors. Margins have been extremely difficult the past many months for those in the ethanol space. At the same time, headlines are now circulating that President Trump will soon be announcing some type of plan to boost demand for biofuels. This is helping to add a little support to the market and may temporarily stop some of the heavy bleeding. Weekly ethanol production was reported slightly higher than last week with overall ethanol stocks down compared to last year. Below I included some interesting acreage data and graphics from our friends at Farm Bureau.

Corn Prevent Plantings: The previous record for corn prevent plants was set in 2013 when 3.6 million acres were prevented from being planted. Over the last decade, the average prevent plantings was 1.8 million acres. In 2019, corn acres prevented from being planted soared past the previous record by nearly 8 million acres to reach a new record of 11.4 million acres, +215% higher than the previous record. Read more [HERE](#) (Source: Farm Bureau)

**Figure 3. Corn Acres Prevented From Being Planted in 2019
August 22 Estimate**

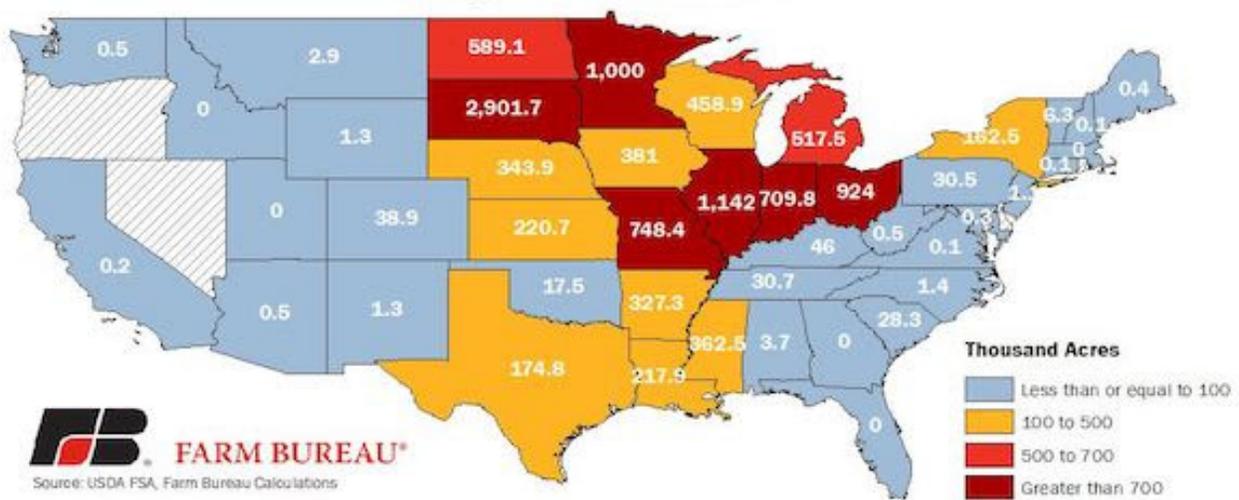
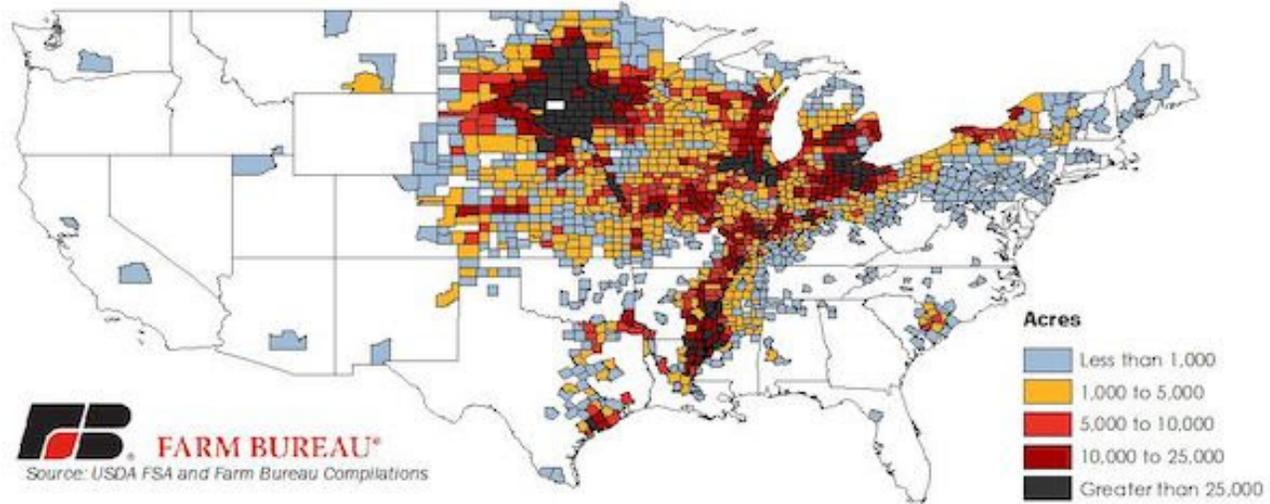


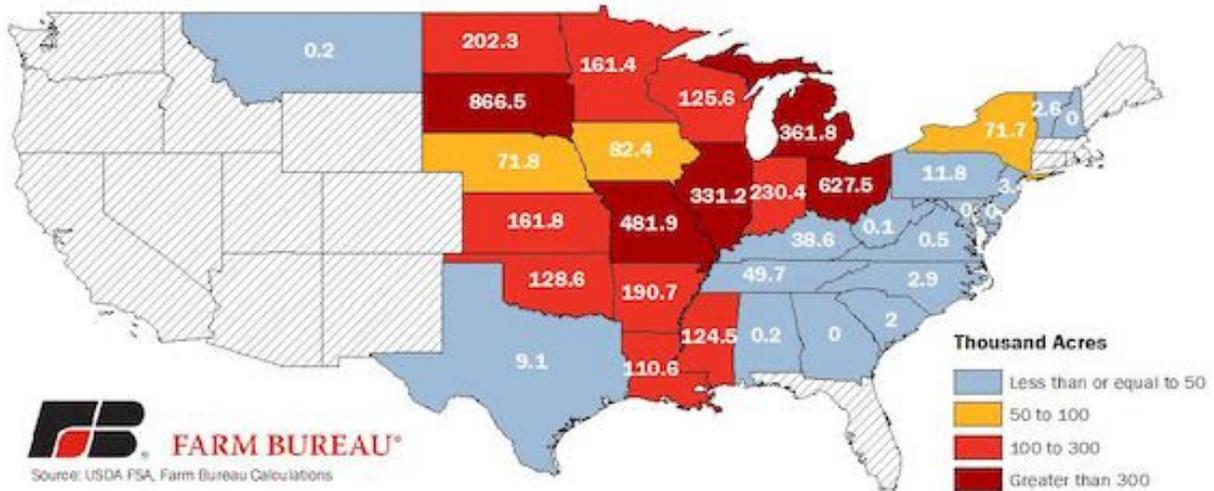
Figure 4. Corn Acres Prevented From Being Planted, 2019
August 22 Release



Soybean prices continue to trading near multi-month lows as bulls see very little fresh or new to chew on. We received a slight bounce on talk that President Trump is going to find a way to boost biofuel demand. Outside of that, there is very little fresh or positive in the way of demand. At the same time, mostly cooperative weather and no major freeze threat in the forecast allows the bears to stay in control. As I've eluded to in the past few reports, we are probably stuck in a \$1.00 price range somewhere between \$8.15 and \$9.15 per bushel until more is known about weather and Washington. Spec traders that are short-term in nature are mostly talking about shorting any rallies that push prices towards the upper end of the range and buying and setbacks to the lower end of the range. Below I included some interesting acreage data and graphics form our friends at Farm Bureau.

Soybean Prevent Plantings: For soybeans, the previous record for prevent plantings was set in 2015 when 2.2 million acres were unplanted. Over the last decade prevent plantings have averaged just over 950,000 acres. In 2019, soybean prevent plantings totaled a record-high 4.5 million acres, 99% higher than the previous record. Read more [HERE](#) (Source: Farm Bureau)

**Figure 5. Soybean Acres Prevented From Being Planted in 2019
August 22 Estimate**



Wheat prices have basically been trading in a narrow sideways trading range for the past couple of weeks. Bulls want to believe we are starting to bottom as the market pushes through both the U.S. and Russian harvest. Bulls are also keeping an eye on longer-term weather patterns in hopes of finding areas of more wide-spread complication. StatsCan numbers released yesterday showed expectations of fewer Canadian wheat acres. Bears continue to talk about ongoing burdensome supply both globally and here at home. There's also the continued strength of the U.S. dollar, along with worries and uncertainties in the macro markets that are working to help keep a lid on nearby prices. This market feels stuck with very little in the way of fresh news and little help from other markets. As a spec, I remain on the sideline without much nearby conviction. Longer-term, I like the thought of building a bullish position. As a producer, I continue to stay patient.

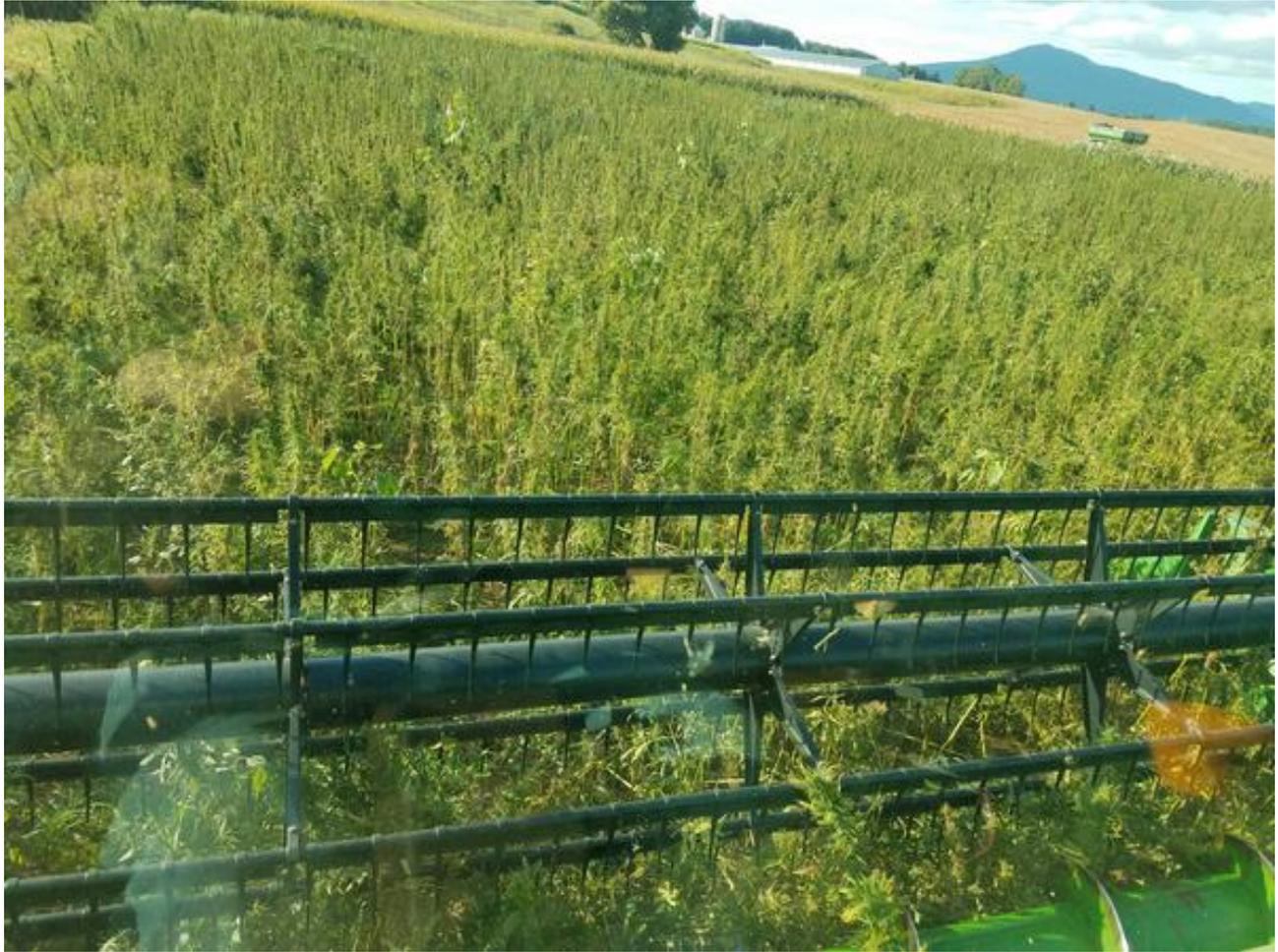
Hemp Harvest In Virginia! One of our readers dropped us a note and shared some great pics and video of their hemp harvest in Virginia. Check it out!

Our 9 acres of hemp was harvested. Two planting dates, May 2 and June 14, but we cut them on the same day just to get it done. Don't know the yield yet but it was not a record setting crop. Typical yield is going to be around 800 pounds per acre.

We had some bad weed pressure in part of the field, but we had some clean parts also. Yes the stalks are green. That is normal because you lose seed if you let it dry down.

A video of harvest is available [HERE](#).





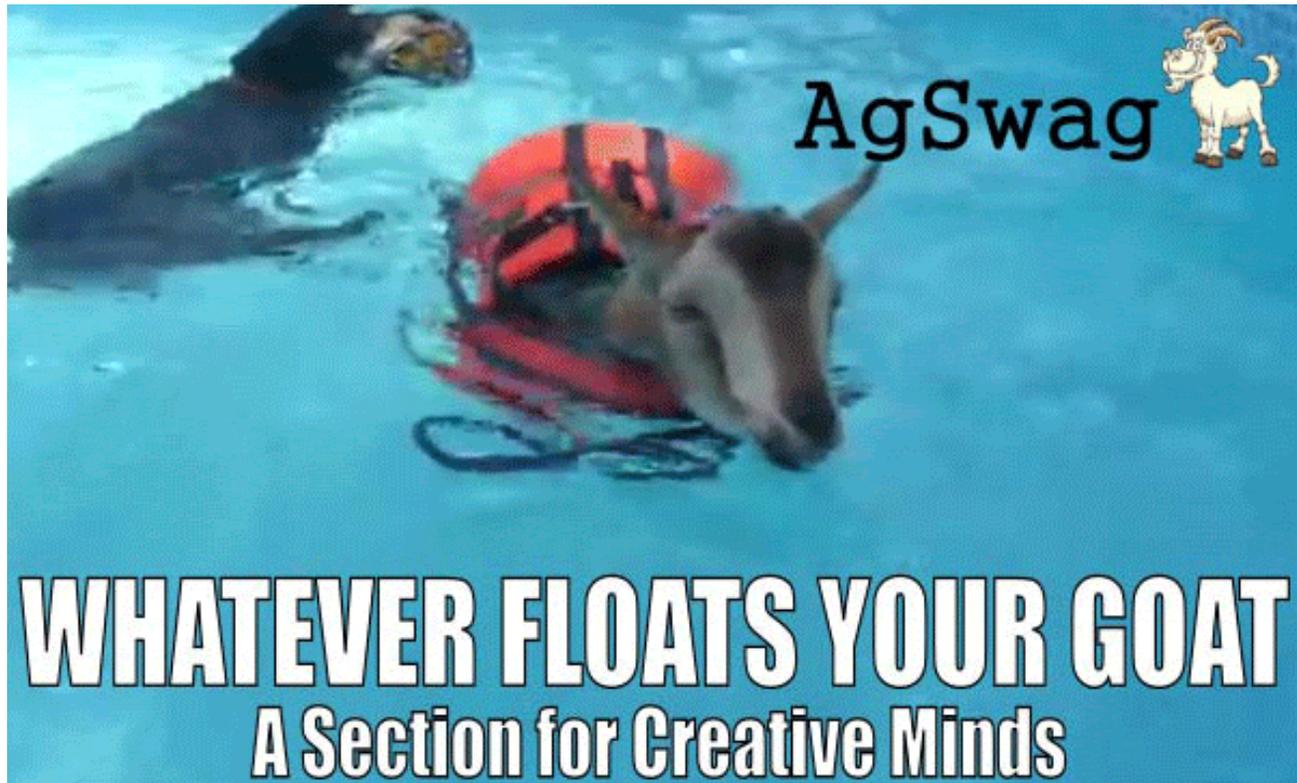












> USDA Launching Investigation Into Beef Pricing Manipulation: *U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue yesterday announced his agency is launching an investigation into recent beef pricing margins to determine if there is any evidence of price manipulation, collusion, restrictions of competition or other unfair practices. "If any unfair practices are detected, we will take quick enforcement action," Perdue said in a statement. The investigation comes as part of the agency's efforts to monitor the impact of a recent fire that shuttered the Tyson Foods plant in Holcomb, Kansas. Cattle prices have tanked because the fire temporarily eliminated a key buyer of livestock and, according to Reuters, farmers have worried that meat packers such as Tyson, Cargill Inc and JBS USA would take advantage of the situation by dropping their offering prices. At the same time, beef prices have climbed as buyers for restaurants, food service companies and grocery chains are scrambling for meat. Profit margins for the packers are above \$400 per head of cattle slaughtered, up from around \$150 before the fire and well above the previous record of \$308, according to Denver-based livestock marketing advisory service HedgersEdge.com. (Sources: USDA, Reuters)*

> Perdue Pledges Trump Will Announce Way To Boost Biofuel Demand: *President Donald Trump will announce a plan to boost demand for biofuels, which*

farmers and producers say has suffered from waivers the administration has issued exempting oil refiners from requirements to blend ethanol into the U.S. fuel supply, Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue said on Wednesday. The Trump administration has scrambled Cabinet members for several weeks now to churn out a plan that would quell an uproar among American farmers after the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) decision to grant 31 biofuel waivers to small oil refineries. "This is news the president wants to deliver ... over the mitigation" of small refinery exemptions, Perdue told an agriculture policy forum as part of the Illinois Farm Progress Show. He did not provide a timeline for when the president would make the announcement. Trump later called in to the farm event in Illinois when Perdue was speaking at a different session and told farmers that instead of doing a "quick deal" with China, he wanted to continue with his tough approach to make a comprehensive deal. He did not make any comments about biofuel policy. Read more [HERE](#).

> Women In Ag To Host New Expo: *Women in Agribusiness is offering women-owned businesses an opportunity to meet with buyers from some of the largest global food and agriculture corporations at the newly-launched business [IGNITE Business Expo](#) . The event will take place Sept. 25 at the Hyatt Regency Minneapolis, Minnesota, U.S. Exhibiting companies must be majority women-owned businesses (51% or more ownership), and the product or service offered should be of use to a large corporation, or a food or agriculture company. Examples of such products include: eye wash stations, office supplies, professional training services, paper board, relocation services and temperature sensors. These companies also are looking for suppliers of soybeans, eggs, corn, dried fruit, spices, tea leaf, nuts, pasta and more. The IGNITE Business Expo takes place just before the 8th annual Women in Agribusiness Summit (WIA), the hosts of the IGNITE, in the same location, Sept. 25-27. More info is available [HERE](#). (Source: World-Grain)*

> U.S. Corn, Soy Sales At 14-Year Low With New Marketing Year Days Away: *From Reuter's Karen Braun - The 2019-20 U.S. corn and soybean marketing years begin on Sunday, but the amount of product sold for export through mid-month is dismal, dampening the chances of trimming domestic supplies over the next year. Through Aug. 15, some 9.94 million metric tons of corn and soybeans have been sold to foreign buyers for shipment in 2019-20, down -55% from both a year earlier and the five-year average for the date.*

Soybean sales are down harder than those for corn and stand at a 13-year low. New sales total 5.26 million metric tons, down -58% from a year earlier and -62% from the five-year average. Corn sales of 4.68 million metric tons, a 14-year low, are down -52% on the year and down -44% from the recent average. The slow soybean sales are less surprising than those for corn because not only is the trade war with top buyer China ongoing, the Asian country has been battling a deadly outbreak of African swine fever (ASF) for more than a year and feed demand is suffering as a result. The corn statistics are perhaps disappointing after a record-setting campaign in 2017-18 and the recent reductions in export expectations for 2018-19. But the sluggish bookings are a relic of bountiful harvests elsewhere in the world that are priced more competitively than product in the United States. Read the full article [HERE](#).

> Disney's Streaming Service Could Blow Past Expectations: *Disney's highly-anticipated streaming service Disney+ is looks like it could be a massive hit in the U.S., according to the UBS Evidence Lab. In a survey of 1,000 U.S. consumers, UBS analysts found that 43% intend to subscribe to Disney+. Breaking those numbers down, 24% said they're "extremely likely" to subscribe, while 19% said they're "somewhat likely." The entertainment behemoth expects to garner 20 to 30 million subscriptions in the U.S. by 2024, or 20 to 30% of the U.S. households, the UBS survey notes. The survey also found that Disney+ is especially appealing to the younger demographic and males. What's more, of the 1,000 respondents, 67% said they would not cancel their current video streaming services. However, of those intending to subscribe, 57% indicated that they would cancel at least one of their other video streaming services. Disney+, which debuts on November 12, will feature content from Disney, Pixar, Marvel, Star Wars, and National Geographic. The service will be available for \$7 per month, or \$70 per year before any bundling packages or discounts. (Source: Yahoo! Finance)*

> Peloton IPO Filing Reveals \$245.7 Million In Fiscal 2019: *Turns out Peloton is burning cash as quickly as its users burn calories. The startup, which makes internet-connected fitness equipment, publicly released paperwork for its IPO on Tuesday. Among other financial headwinds, the startup reported that it had quadrupled its annual net loss from \$47.9 million to \$245.7 million in just the last year. Since its founding in 2012, Peloton has raked in \$994 million in private venture capital, according to Pitchbook data. The New York-based company was most recently valued at \$4 billion. Peloton's business model counts on high*

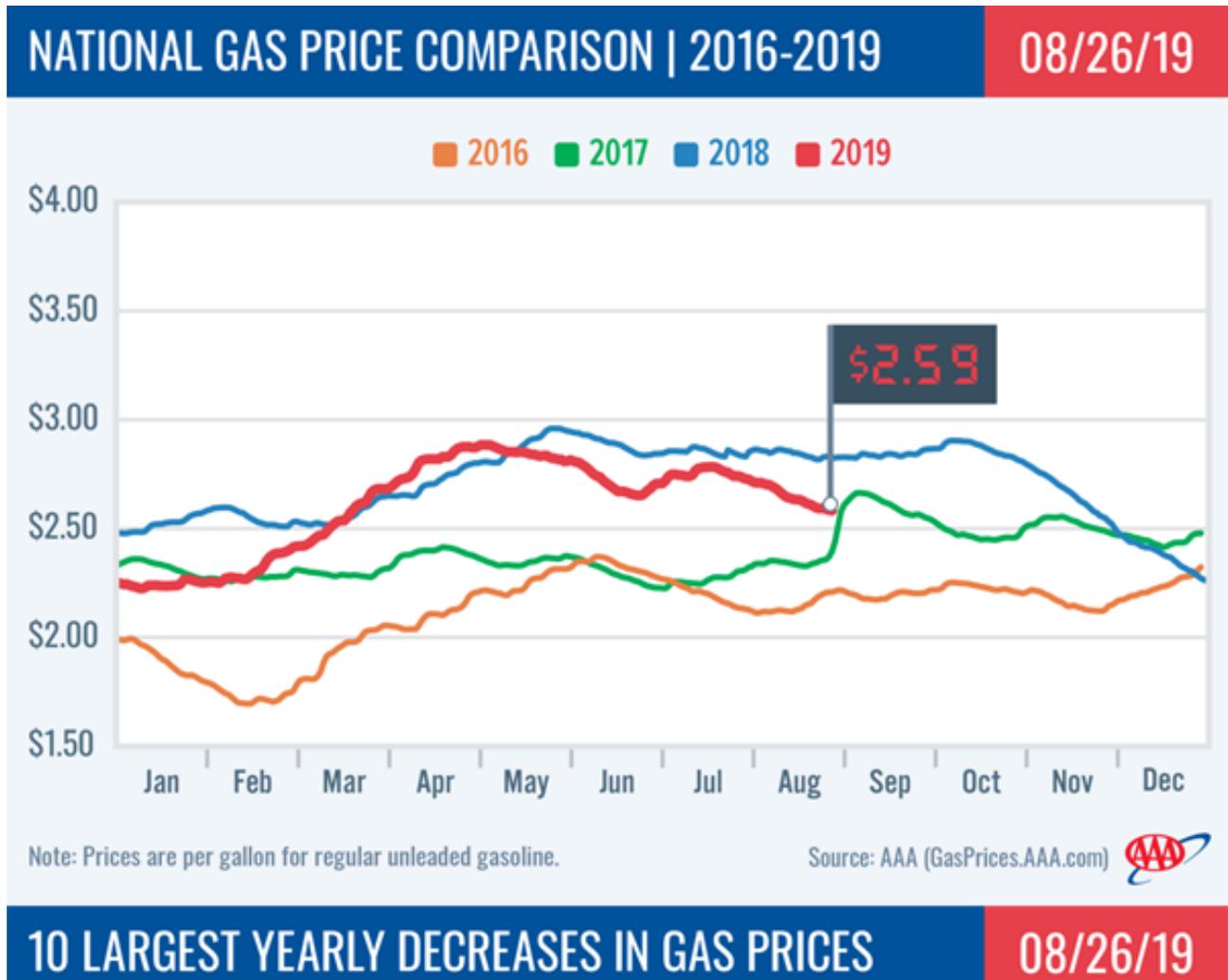
margins on sales of its proprietary fitness equipment and recurring revenue from monthly memberships. Its flagship connected stationary bike costs \$1,995, and its newest product, a connected treadmill, costs nearly double that. Users then have to purchase a \$39 monthly subscription for access to live and recorded fitness classes hosted by celebrity personal trainers. But all those classes come with a cost. Sales, marketing, and licensing fees have all skyrocketed for the startup in the past year, according to the filing. According to the startup's filing, more than 511,000 of its customers are monthly subscribers and it has sold 577,000 "connected fitness devices" globally. (Source: Business Insider)

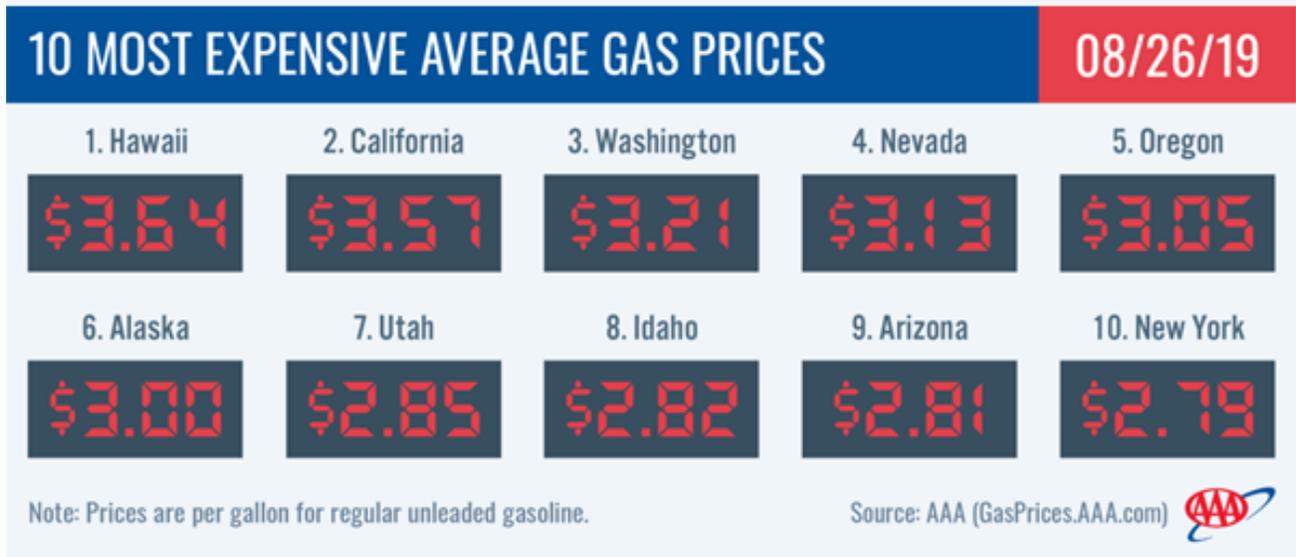
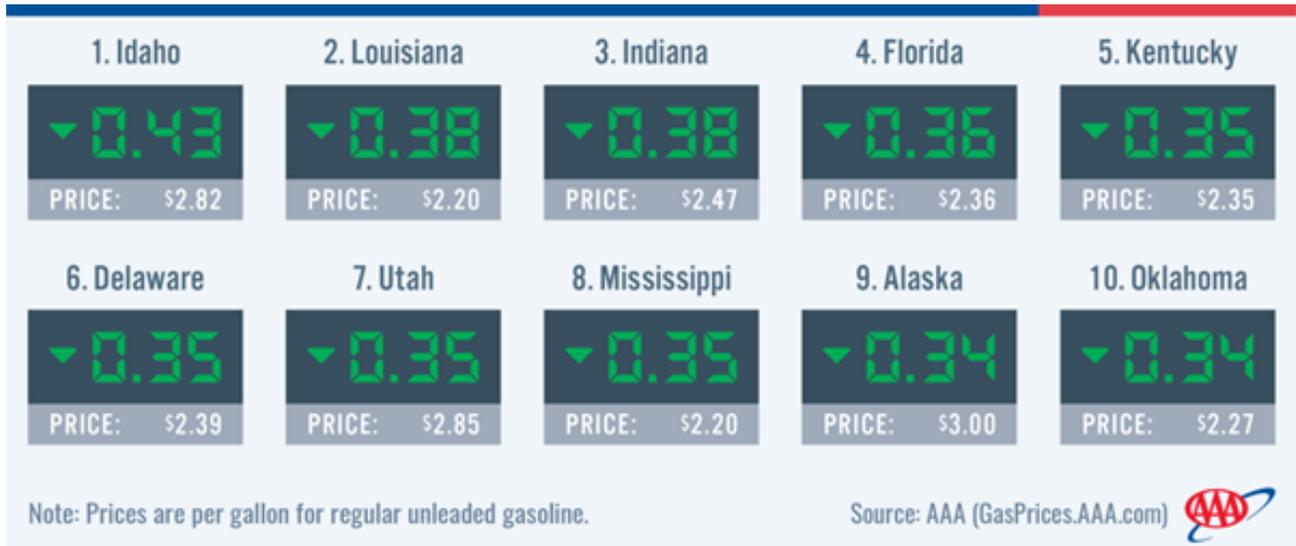
> How Global Military Spending Hit A Record High: *Global military spending increased to a record \$1.8 trillion in 2018 — the largest amount since the Cold War. It's also about 75% higher than post-Cold War low in 1998. Increases from the world's two biggest military spenders — the United States (41%) and China (14%) — played a major role in pushing 2018's spending to new heights. For more than two decades, China's investment in its military has helped push up global spending. Countries throughout the Asia-Pacific region have taken notice and upped their spending as China has become more assertive with upgraded military capabilities. The U.S. "war on terror" helped push up global spending levels after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. However, that spending began to taper off around 2011 as the U.S. faced internal budget pressures and war fatigue. But in 2018, the U.S. began increasing spending once again as the national security focus shifted from terrorism to the rise of China and resurgence of Russia. Learn more [HERE](#).*

> 'Extraordinary' Breakthroughs In Anti-Aging Research 'Will Happen Faster Than People Think': *People 50 and older have a lot to look forward to, according to Juvenescence's Greg Bailey—mainly that we won't be aging as fast or poorly as our parents. "Science fiction has become science," said the UK-based anti-aging biotech's CEO about the company's completing its \$100 million Series B round of financing last week. "I think the world is going to be shocked," he said in an interview. In total, Juvenescence has now raised \$165 million in just 18 months to fund longevity projects with the lofty goal of extending human lifespans to 150 years. Bailey said the money will allow the company "to progress all of our products." And there's quite a list of potential therapies. "We have 12 programs based on hard, rigorous science, to try to modify aging. From stem cell research to senolytics to modifying or preventing Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases," he*

said. Read more from [Forbes](#).

> Labor Day Gas Prices On Track To Be Cheapest In Three Years: At \$2.59, the national gas price average is poised to be potentially the cheapest Labor Day weekend average in three years. The current average is already nearly a quarter cheaper than during last year's holiday (\$2.83) and four cents cheaper than 2017's Labor Day (\$2.63). "For Americans who bookend summer with road trips, they will find gas prices this coming weekend that are cheaper than this past Memorial Day and last year's Labor Day holiday," said Jeanette Casselano, AAA spokesperson. "At the start of the week, two-thirds of all states have gas price averages that are nearly a quarter cheaper than last year." Gas prices in the South and Southeast region have dipped to or below the \$2.25/gallon mark for some states, which also tout the cheapest prices in the country today. Motorists in the West Coast region are paying the highest pump prices in the nation, with all states in the region landing on the top 10 most expensive list. (Source: [AAA](#))





Southwest South Dakota - We had a very bad hailstorm go through Sunday night. We have had a very wet summer and the pastures had two-foot grass and three-foot clover. After the hail, it is mowed flat. We had some Japanese millet that was a couple feet tall and now there is nothing left. The good fields still have some green stalks. The worst fields look like year old stubble. We were hoping to

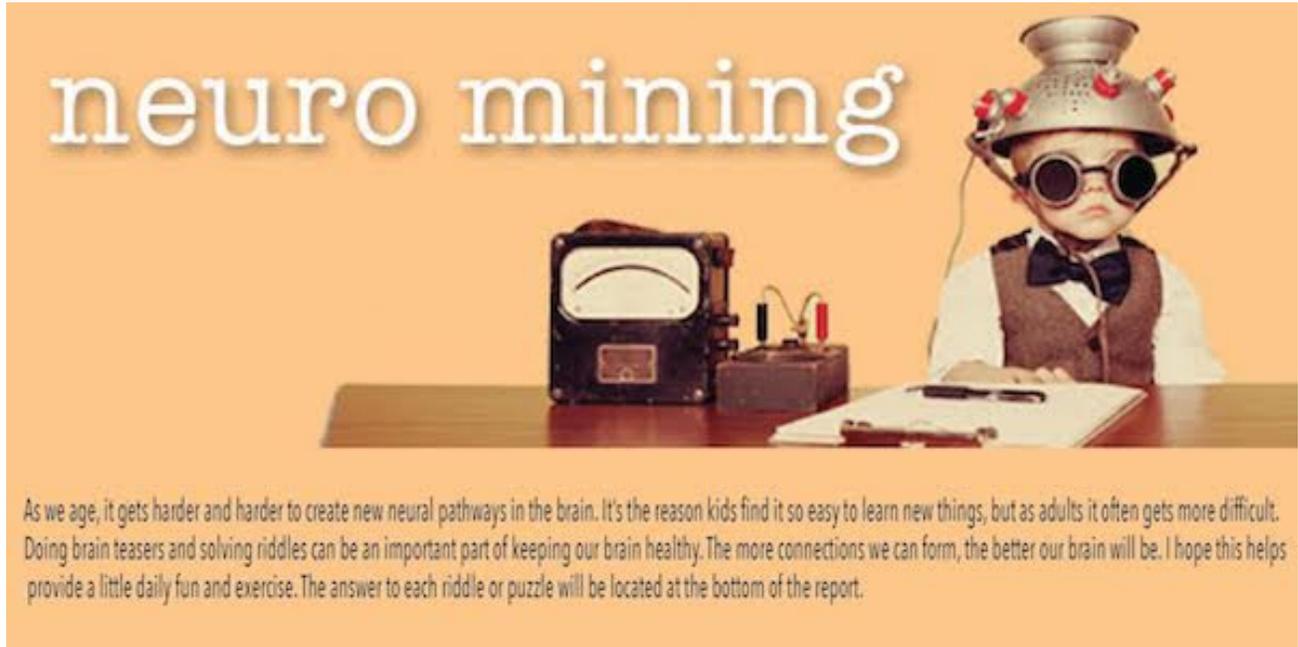
use some of it for winter grazing but I'm not betting it will come back now. As near as we can tell, it was about a five-mile-wide stretch that was flattened. The trees were stripped of their leaves, too.

Western Iowa – *I was out scouting some of my corn planted in mid-May. I was pulling ears off at random and I was surprised to see tip back in much of the corn. We have had plenty of rain all summer so the ears that didn't fill to the end are a little surprising. The ears still measured 18 around and 35-40 in length so I'm guessing it should be a decent yield. The only thing that I can think that may have caused a little tip back would be the less than ideal planting conditions. From what I'm told guys, will be surprised by the yield drag from planting in wet soil as it does more harm than guys expected.*

Southwest Missouri – *The pictures below are corn all planted around the middle of April. As you can see it's sprouting. After looking through several fields it's not hybrid specific - it's on multiple different hybrids. The kernels that are black are soft. When you break the corn cob in half it looks rotted. This is being contributed to just too much rain over the last several weeks and months. It's been nonstop rain for several weeks now.*







TODAY'S RIDDLE: Paint me up to look real good, Then take me to the shop to maintain under the hood. Use a small brush to make no mistake, Or just replace me with something fake. What am I?





BROUGHT
TO YOU BY:



During 2019, iSelect, The VanTrump Report and The Yield Lab Institute are sponsoring a series of weekly webinars featuring the best in agriculture innovation. Agrifood Conversations is all about driving innovation and each month will highlight a specific theme, from biologicals to vertical farms, featuring emerging topics such as soil health, biologics, plant genetics, vertical farming, precision agriculture, herd health and management, and aquaculture, to name a few. Once a quarter, we'll open up the conversation with a panel of experts on that month's topic. Learn about new trends in ag, connect with industry leaders and discover new solutions.

Join us each Thursday at 3pm CT for [Agrifood Conversations](#).

REGISTER NOW



Title: Crop Protection, Without Synthetic Pesticides

Time: Thursday, August 29, @ 3:00 pm CT

Conventional synthetic pesticides offer good efficacy and reliable performance, but they can also have undesirable impacts to workers, consumers and the environment. What's more, existing solutions are now facing pesticide-resistance issues. Vestaron, a Kalamazoo, Michigan-based developer of biologic crop protection products is dedicated to improving the safety, effectiveness, and sustainability of crop protection by ending our reliance on conventional synthetic pesticides with biological peptides that are safer for humans, birds, fish, pollinators

and the environment.

Fifteen months ago, Vestaron was preparing to transition from a focus on R&D to commercializing a line of new environmentally friendly insecticides. Since then, the Kalamazoo-based Vestaron put in place a senior management team led by CEO Anna Rath, built up internal capabilities, brought its first products to market, formed its first distribution relationships, moved contract production from Europe to the Midwest, and secured \$40 million in financing “from a really top-shelf group of investors.” Now the company is off to the races to build out a market for its first family of products.

Initially focused on one class of insecticidal peptide that combines high-level performance with an excellent safety profile, the company has advanced a proprietary fermentation-based peptide production platform that will allow it to develop a wide range of biological crop protection and trait products. With the recent Insecticide Resistance Action Committee (IRAC) approval of a novel mode of action for the Spear® brand family of products, Vestaron is building a commercial phase onto its R&D foundation.

Vestaron has launched two products thus far that target greenhouse and field growers in all 50 US states. Spear-T controls the four major greenhouse pests: aphids, spider mites, thrips, and whiteflies as efficiently as conventional insecticides, and with the safety and sustainability of biologicals. I should mention, Spear-T also has a short 4-hour restricted-entry interval and 0-day pre-harvest interval, making it a valuable new tool for greenhouse pest management. Also, Spear-Lep is Vestaron’s newest bioinsecticide for fruits, vegetables, and high-value field crops. Targeting lepidopteran pests such as caterpillars, loopers and “worms,” field trials of Spear-Lep demonstrate results equivalent or superior to conventional insecticides. With its novel mode of action, Spear-Lep is a valuable new tool for IPM programs.

Learn how Vestaron is changing the game for how farmers protect their crops from pests using biological peptides at the “Crop Protection, Without Synthetic Pesticides,” a webinar to be held at 3pm CT on August 29th featuring Anna Rath, president and CEO of Vestaron.

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New env. friendly bio-pesticide made from spider venom receives EPA approval ow.ly/trMAM #Vestaron #agriculture #agritech #green



Bio-pesticide startup catches EPA approval

A venture-backed startup's bio-insecticide is now approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

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Our biosolutions offer growers a new mode-of-action with no known resistance. [#aginovation](#)
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#US. #Vestaron Corp., a peptide-based #biopesticides company, has completed with \$40 million in Series B #investment #round.



U.S. biopesticide company Vestaron raises \$40 mln in Series B round
U.S. Vestaron Corp., a peptide-based biopesticides company, has completed with \$40 million in Series B investment round.

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Facial Recognition... The Good, The Bad, The Ugly!

Facial recognition has increasingly been in the news as the technology begins to seep into more and more areas of everyday life. It inspires equal parts fascination and concern among consumers and researchers, alike. Among privacy advocates, the rapid advancements in the technology are setting off alarm bells as it becomes more widespread and accessible.

Facial recognition falls under the category of biometric technology which, simply put, is the statistical analysis of people's unique physical characteristics. It's becoming more common in workplaces and governments as it's considered a

superior form of security - physical attributes such as fingerprints and eyeballs are much tougher to counterfeit or steal. And human biometric markers don't change much over the course of a lifetime. Fingerprints and the human iris, for instance, are considered "mostly" unchanging and thus the most stable types of biometric identifiers.

Facial recognition works by capturing a person's facial image and turning it into digital information based on individual features. The face matching process then verifies that a face matches those digital patterns. It is also a lot more commonplace than you might think. When Facebook suggests people that should be tagged in a photo you upload, that is facial recognition technology at work. The latest iPhones use it to unlock phones and car companies have begun experimenting with ways to use it for replacing keys and fobs. Airline JetBlue has been testing it out on select routes in lieu of boarding passes.

There is a long list of ways that facial recognition could benefit society, from tracking down criminals to finding lost children and even diagnosing disease. Mouthwash brand Listerine has actually developed an app that alerts blind people when they are being smiled at and the app "Finding Rover" can help pet owners reunite with lost animals if they show up at a shelter.

As with any technology that has the potential for great good, however, there is an equal number of potentially negative uses, although "negative" can be highly subjective. The biggest complaints revolve around privacy, especially in the West where we place a high degree of value on personal and political freedom. In China, however, those attitudes are quite different and the use of facial recognition technology is widespread. If you've been paying attention to the protests in Hong Kong, you might have seen people tearing down lampposts. Their target was the facial recognition cameras the protestors believe they contain.

China has billions of cameras installed throughout its cities and the government is very open about its aim of building a national surveillance system. The country is currently the world's biggest market for security and surveillance technology and it's estimated they will have around 300 million cameras installed by 2020. China's technology boom is helping fuel advancements and the government itself is investing billions into AI technology companies to help further their surveillance plans. Already, China's national database of individuals flagged for surveillance is estimated to be north of 30 million people. However, according to experts, that is

too many people for current facial recognition technology to handle.

Chinese propaganda frequently touts the technology's use in the capture of criminals, which some experts believe is a way to make the Chinese people more comfortable with the constant surveillance state. There are also growing "public shaming" tactics in use, such as displaying video of jaywalkers on giant billboards. Insiders say China's propagandists frequently exaggerate how widespread the use of these surveillance systems are, though, which is also viewed as a form of controlling the masses via fear. "The whole point is that people don't know if they're being monitored, and that uncertainty makes people more obedient," said Mr. Chorzempa, a fellow at the Peterson Institute.

If you think you're safe from surveillance cameras here in America, you'd be wrong. Most countries, the U.S. included, have no specific legislation that regulates the use of facial recognition technology. This legal limbo opens the door to abuse, such as obtaining our images without our knowledge or consent and using them in ways we would not approve of.

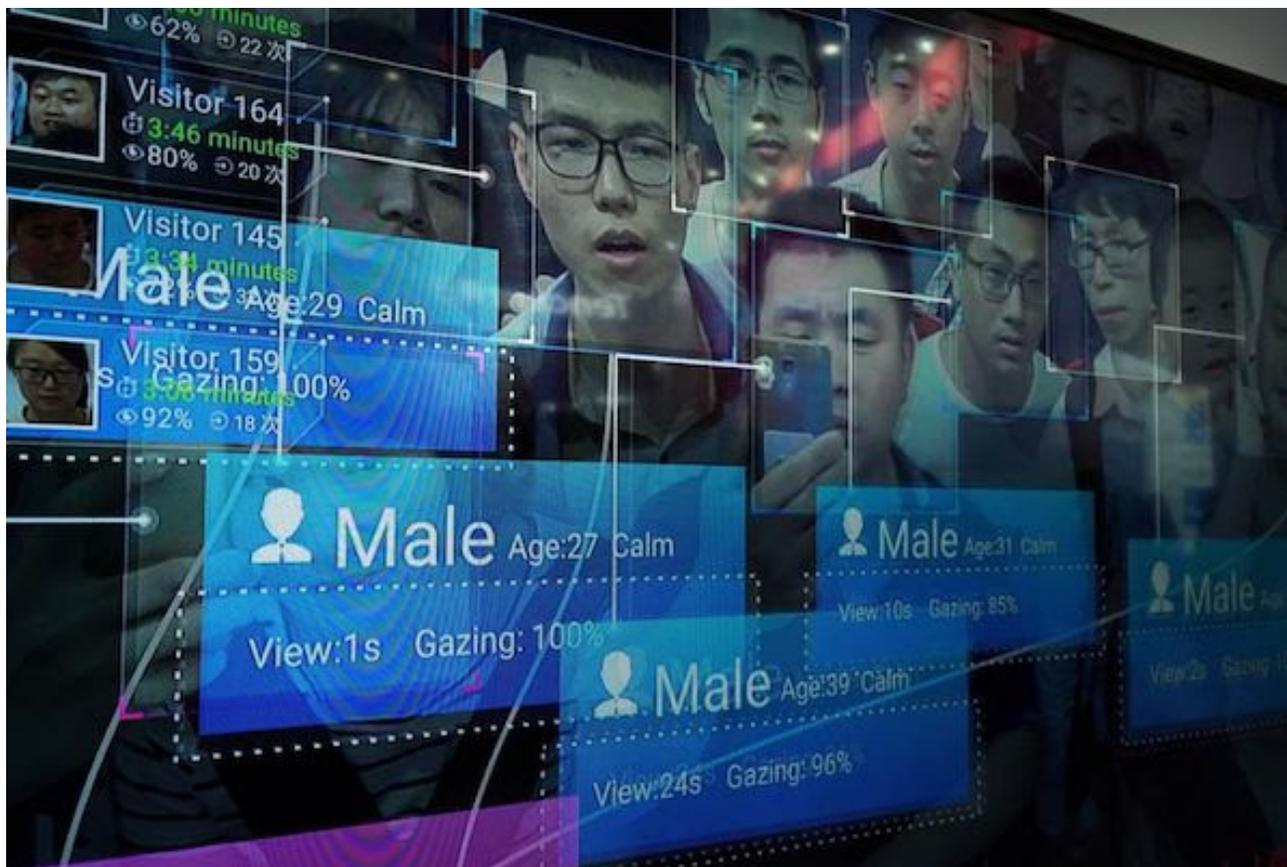
Once the Facial Recognition technology measures and identifies your facial signature — which is a mathematical formula — it's compared to a database of known faces. And consider this: at least 117 million Americans have images of their faces in one or more police databases. According to a May 2018 report, the FBI has had access to 412 million facial images for searches.

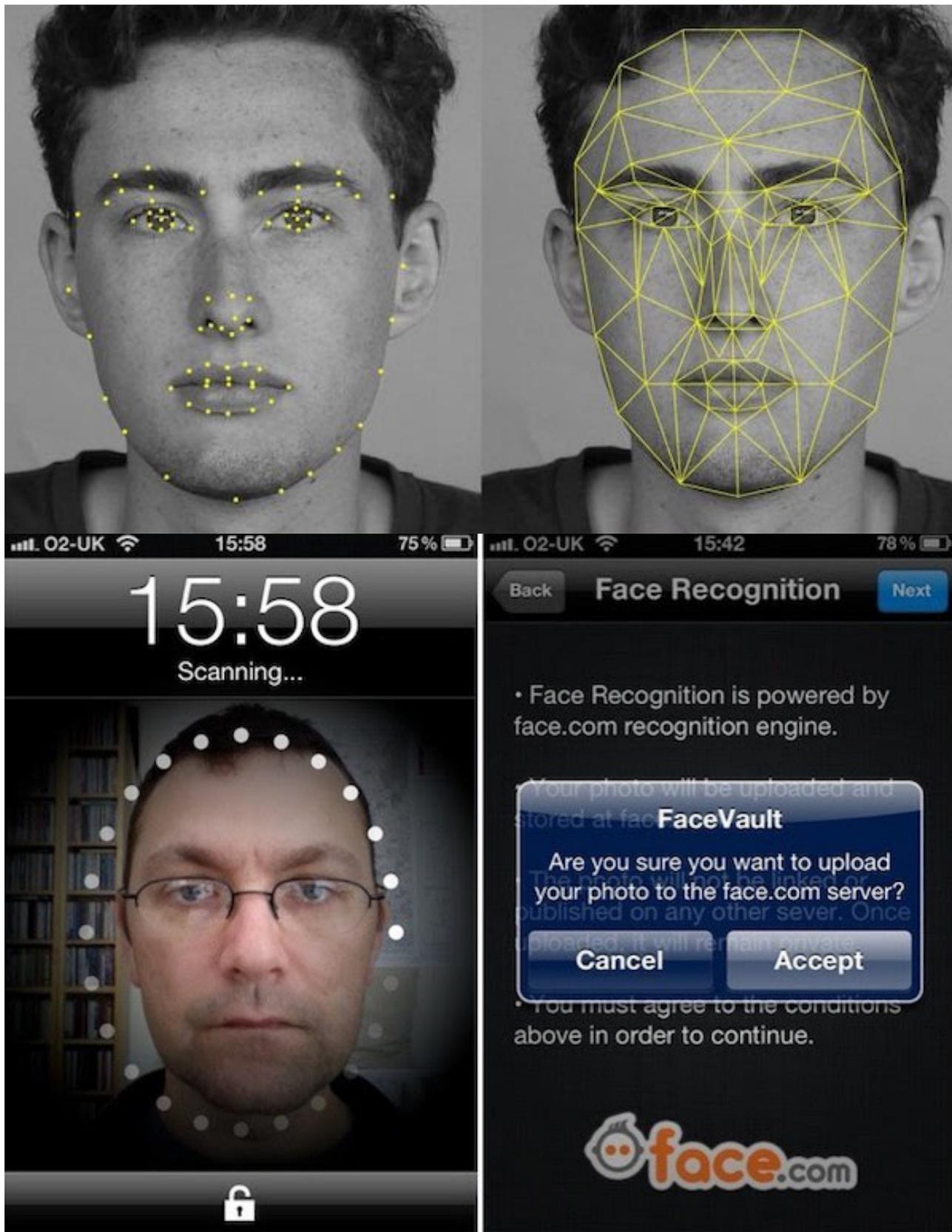
Back in 2001, Tampa police came under fire for using surveillance cameras to scan the faces of fans attending Super Bowl XXXV. The system then cross-referenced the digital scans with a database of wanted criminals, all without the knowledge of the attendees. Personally, I don't mind the intrusion of privacy. I would rather be safe than sorry when attending big events like this with my family.

Researchers began working on facial recognition back in the 1960s but progress in its development has increased exponentially with advances in artificial intelligence and machine learning as well as 3D imaging. Some of today's systems actually incorporate what's called "surface texture analysis" which is basically a way of identifying a patch of skin, called a "skinprint." Algorithms turn the patch into a mathematical, measurable space and the system can then distinguish any lines, pores and the actual skin texture of a human. It's supposedly been used to correctly distinguish between identical twins, something facial recognition alone

has not yet achieved.

One of the problems with facial recognition in its current state is that it is not 100% accurate and reliable, according to privacy experts. The ACLU ran pictures of California lawmakers through a facial recognition program that matches faces to a database of around 25,000 mugshots. 26 of the legislators were flagged as a criminal that matched the mugshot. Interestingly, two universities have developed anti-facial recognition glasses to make wearers undetectable. Some experts say hackers will eventually want to steal your face. If your facial data can be captured it could someday be used to commit fraud or turn a profit by scammers. It's crazy to think we may soon have to start finding a way to protect our face from hackers... (Sources: Financial Times, CommonDreams, CNN, HowStuffWorks)







Tribute to Billy Mills

I am told I missed a true American Olympic hero in Billy Mills. One of our readers wrote in and provided a great story that I wanted to share. I continue to learn new

things everyday...

Kevin,

I was somewhat disappointed after reading the "Olympics" article and I thought about the "greatest upset in Olympic history"... so if you want to do an incredible story on a "true" American, look to Billy Mills.

Growing up as an Oglala Sioux on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota...orphaned at 12, he went to the Haskell Institute in Lawrence, KS. In 1956 he won the Kansas State High School Championship in cross country. He got a scholarship to University of Kansas to run, where he won the Big 8 Championship and was a 3-time All American. Kansas won the NCAA track championship in '59 and '60 with Mills running and winning! He also worked hard and received his college diploma.

Billy joined the U.S. Marine Corp where he also ran and made the U.S. Olympic Team in Tokyo, 1964. On the day of the 10,000 meters, Billy was an alternate to "little Gerry Lindgren" of Seattle. The coach came in Billy's room an hour before race time and said, "Mills you are running the 10,000 get out there..." Lindgren, it turned out, had become sick. Billy hurried to put on his uniform and rushed down to the track for the start of the 10,000 meters.

During the race, Billy was elbowed off the track as he came forward but he quickly got back on the track and continued his pursuit of the leaders. Coming off the final turn, Billy knew he had some left in the tank. He turned on the after burners and literally blew past the best the world had to offer. Billy Mills won the Gold Medal in Olympic record time. It was called the greatest Olympic upset in history! In fact, Billy was the first non-European to win the Olympic event and remains the only winner from the Americas. Billy was poised to do it again in Mexico '68 but was injured just before the games.

Billy went into motivational public speaking and was celebrated as doing just that - Motivating people to do better, to give everything they have, and to be successful in life no matter what they choose to do. He's still speaking today,

motivating corporate elites.

Do yourself a favor and walk down the street to either the University of Kansas or the Haskell college and I'm sure they'll have a showcase recognizing Billy Mills and his incredible achievements in life. Then do yourself another favor by giving Billy the tribute he deserves in the '64 Olympics via your pages... a hometown boy!



The Beatles From Start To Finish In Just Three Summers!

55 Years ago during the late-summer of 1964, a crazy-haired rock group called "The Beatles" launched their first American concert tour! They appeared on The Ed Sullivan Show back in February, and the band's popularity here in the U.S. exploded, so they decide to come back to play for the roaring crowds.

The first concert kicked off on August 19, 1964, when the Fab Four traveled to California to take the stage at the Cow Palace in San Francisco. All 17,130 tickets sold out, and the venue was almost full by 7 pm. Gate receipts amounted to \$91,670. Of this, the group took away \$47,600 gross. The other acts on the bill, and throughout the tour, were, in order of appearance, The Bill Black Combo, The Exciters, The Righteous Brothers and Jackie DeShannon.

Showtime was 8 pm, and The Beatles took to the stage at 9:20 pm wearing dark blue suits. To say "Beatlemania" was in full swing would be a huge understatement. And thanks to an offhand comment by George Harrison about the group's favorite candy in the days leading up to the show, the Beatles themselves were pelted with flying jelly beans throughout that night's set. In fact, their Cow Palace performance was stopped twice due to the numbers of jelly beans being thrown.

Nineteen girls required first aid during the concert, many having passed out, one boy dislocated his shoulder, 50 fans were hurt and two were arrested. A further fifty were prevented from invading the stage. Though John, Paul, George, and Ringo were uninjured, they left the Cow Palace that night by ambulance after their limousine was swarmed by berserk fans. It was a scene that would become familiar to the group as they continued on their first historic tour of America.

The Beatles' manager Brian Epstein chose venues like the 17,000-seat Cow Palace for the 1964 tour expressly because he feared that the Beatles might not sell out the large sports stadiums, wow was he ever wrong.

The Beatles' set that night and throughout their first tour that followed featured only 12 songs, most often in this order: "[Twist and Shout](#)", "You Can't Do That", "[All My Loving](#)", "[She Loves You](#)", "Things We Said Today", "[Roll Over Beethoven](#)", "[Can't Buy Me Love](#)", "If I Fell", "[I Want to Hold Your Hand](#)", "Boys", "[A Hard Day's Night](#)" and "[Long Tall Sally](#)".

The Beatles' performances at each concert would only last about 33 minutes. Somewhat ironically, the Beatles would play their final official concert on this day, August 29, 1966, at San Francisco's Candlestick Park. Although they made an unannounced live appearance in January 1969 on the rooftop of the Apple building, the concert at Candle Stick Park was their last official gig.

From what I read The Beatles' fee or rake for their final concert was just \$90,000...my how times have changed! You can read more at the [BeatlesBible](#). The video below is from Candlestick Park and fans remembering back on that final concert in San Francisco on this day in 1966... Click [HERE](#).



I also wanted to include a few of my own personal favorite Beatles songs. I've basically included an entire day of iconic music listening. Brings back lots of childhood memories :) "[Come Together](#)"; "[Yesterday](#)"; "[A Day in the Life](#)"; "[Something](#)"; "[Let it Be](#)"; "[Hey Jude](#)"; "[Revolution](#)"; "[Strawberry Fields Forever](#)"; "[Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds](#)"; "[Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band](#)"; "[We Can Work it Out](#)"; "[Eleanor Rigby](#)"; "[Penny Lane](#)"; "[The Ballad of John and Yoko](#)"





MEET

THE BEATLES

Rock to Their Incredible First Album *Capitol*

3
20
1964

RECORDS
BONUS
SOLD IN
UNITED STATES



CHARTS
THE
1964
TOP
100
"I Want to Hold
Your Hand"
and
"I Saw Her
Standing There"

BEATLES TOUR SCHEDULE


1964


18 Aug. New Orleans - New Orleans	5 Sept. International Amphitheatre - Chicago
19 Aug. Convention Hall - Las Vegas	6 Sept. Olympia Stadium - Detroit
21 Aug. Coliseum - Seattle	7 Sept. Maple Leaf Gardens - Toronto
22 Aug. Empire Stadium - Vancouver	8 Sept. Forum - Montreal
23 Aug. Hollywood Bowl - Los Angeles	10 Sept. Cedar Rapids - Cedar Rapids
24 Aug. Red Rocks Amphitheatre - Denver	11 Sept. Boston Garden - Boston
27 Aug. The Gardens - Cincinnati	13 Sept. Civic Center - Baltimore
18 Sept. Forest Hills Stadium - New York	14 Sept. Civic Arena - Pittsburgh
19 Sept. Convention Hall - Albany City	16 Sept. Public Auditorium - Cleveland
2 Sept. Convention Hall - Philadelphia	18 Sept. Park City Stadium - Salt Lake City
3 Sept. State Fair Coliseum - Indianapolis	19 Sept. Municipal Stadium - Kansas City
4 Sept. Auditorium - Milwaukee	20 Sept. Municipal Coliseum - Dallas
	21 Sept. Paramount Theatre - New York



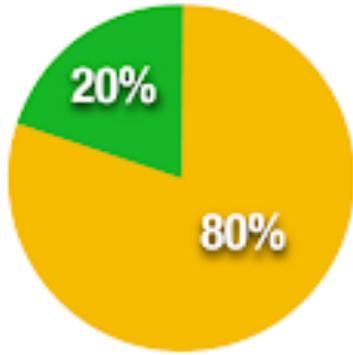


ANSWER to riddle: A fingernail.

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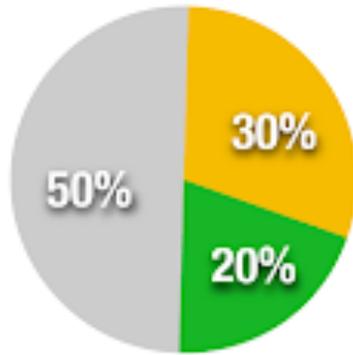
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Corn 2018 Crop	Soybean 2018 Crop	Wheat 2018 Crop
<p>80% SOLD 20% HEDGED 0% UNPROTECTED</p>	<p>80% SOLD 20% HEDGED 0% UNPROTECTED</p>	<p>100% SOLD 0% HEDGED 0% UNPROTECTED</p>



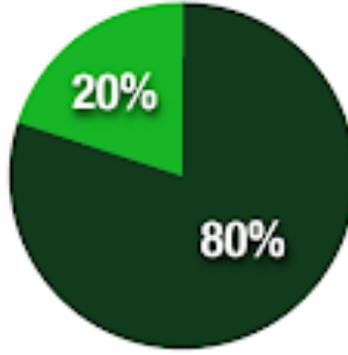
Corn 2019 Crop

30% SOLD
20% HEDGED
50% UNPROTECTED



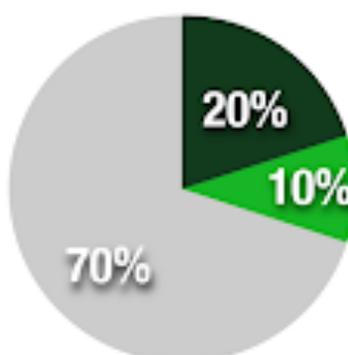
Corn 2020 Crop

0% SOLD
0% HEDGED
100% UNPROTECTED



Soybean 2019 Crop

20% SOLD
10% HEDGED
70% UNPROTECTED



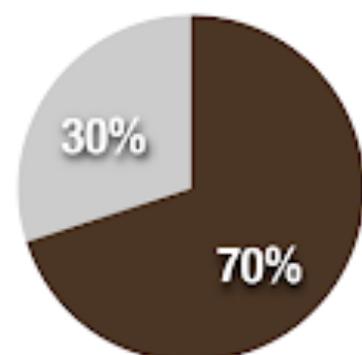
Soybean 2020 Crop

0% SOLD
0% HEDGED
100% UNPROTECTED



Wheat 2019 Crop

100% SOLD
0% HEDGED
0% UNPROTECTED



Wheat 2020 Crop

0% SOLD
0% HEDGED
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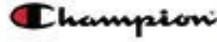
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