



FARMCON <josh@farmdirection.com>

Fwd: GOOD MORNING: Van Trump Report 9-18-19

1 message

Todd Loechler <todd@farmdirection.com>
To: Trae Hodges <josh@farmdirection.com>

Wed, Sep 18, 2019 at 8:11 AM

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **The Van Trump Report** <reply@vantrumpreport-email.com>
Date: Wed, Sep 18, 2019 at 5:30 AM
Subject: GOOD MORNING: Van Trump Report 9-18-19
To: <todd@farmdirection.com>

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

"Givers need to set limits because takers rarely do." - **Rachel Wolchin**

Wednesday, September 18, 2019

[Printable Copy](#) or [Audio Version](#)

Morning Summary: Investors have all eyes on the U.S. Federal Reserve which is set to release its latest policy decision today. The environment surrounding the decision has dramatically changed in just the last several days and so have market expectations. The CME FedWatch tool now shows investors mostly split at 50/50 on another quarter-point rate reduction by the Fed. Last week, the trade was giving another rate cut 90% chance of happening. Some of the changes the Fed may be weighing include an appeared improvement in trade talks between U.S. and Chinese leaders. Trade negotiators are currently scheduled to meet in Washington the end of this week to prep for high-level talks in early October. Also perhaps causing the Fed to pause would be an overall jump in inflation now being fueled by higher energy prices and continued tightening oil the labor market. On the other hand, Fed officials might be considering the more "dovish" stance taken by other global central banks, particularly the European Central Bank (ECB), which last week cut its benchmark interest rate and introduced a new stimulus plan to combat an economic slowdown. China has also enacted stimulus measures as it combats slowing growth across its economy. U.S. economic data since the July rate cut has been a mix of "good" and "lackluster," but nothing has raised a clear warning sign that the economy is headed into sudden decline. In fact, Industrial Production yesterday showed a gain of +0.6% which was the strongest showing of the year. It also marked a decent turnaround as the reading for July came in at -0.1%. Following the release of the Fed's interest rate decision at 1p.m. CST, Fed Chair Jerome Powell will hold a press conference. Don't forget the Fed will also release updated economic forecasts. Other economic data today includes Housing Starts, which are expected to climb to 1.251 million from a previous 1.191 million. Investors will also continue to closely monitor the situation in the Middle East along with oil prices. The U.S. has identified Iran as the source of the attacks that struck Saudi Arabia over the weekend but most in Washington, including the President, seem wary of a military response. The weekend event will probably lead to increased investor attentions on the U.S. Energy Information Administration's oil inventory report due out today. Analysts expect a drawdown of about -800,000 barrels. I should note, Saudi Arabia's energy minister said the Kingdom will restore lost oil production by the end of the month. The Saudi energy minister also reported that average oil production in September and October would be 9.89 million barrels per day and that the world's top oil exporter would ensure full oil supply commitments to its customers this month.



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Kevin Van Trump, CEO of Farm Direction

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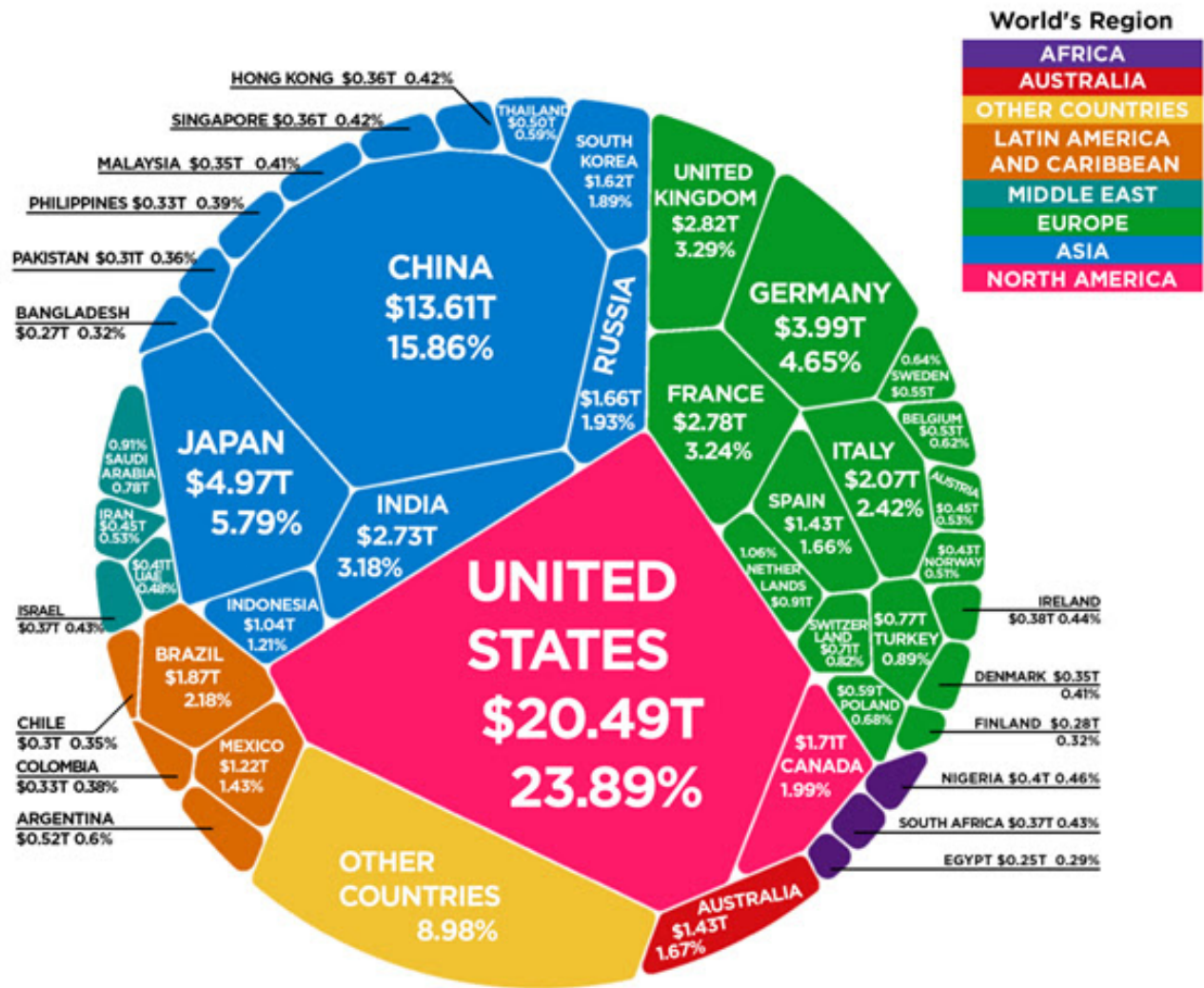


U.S. Confirms Iran as Source of Saudi Attacks: *The United States has identified the exact locations in Iran from which a combination of more than 20 drones and cruise missiles were launched against Saudi oil facilities over the weekend. The locations are thought to be in southern Iran, at the northern end of the Persian Gulf. Saudi Arabia's air defenses have been aimed south for months, to protect against missile attacks launched by Iranian-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen, so they were useless against the missiles and drones coming in from the north. One of the missiles flew through Kuwait's airspace and the U.S. is working with a number of other countries to analyze data on the attack, which could help make the case against Iran. U.S. officials have already blamed Iran for the attack, including the Secretaries of State, Defense, and Energy, as well as President Trump himself. Mr. Trump has also announced that a team led by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo will head to Saudi Arabia, and said the U.S. is talking to other countries in the region as he decides how to respond. United Nations inspectors have also traveled to Saudi Arabia to investigate, while the U.S. works on declassifying information to share publicly. Iran continues to deny any involvement, and the nation's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has ruled out talks with the U.S. at any level. (Source: CBS)*

AT&T Being Sued for Allegedly Inflating Direct TV Now Accounts:

AT&T supervisors encouraged sales reps to create fake DirecTV Now accounts to make the online video service seem more successful than it really was, a class-action complaint alleges. The lawsuit alleges that AT&T lied to investors in order to hide DirecTV Now's failure. Customers were sometimes charged for a DirecTV Now subscription but were told that they were being charged for another thing. There were reportedly even times when customers were told that DirecTV Now was part of a package when they were actually charged an extra monthly fee. The investors involved in the lawsuit called the service's "apparent success" a "complete mirage." AT&T must defend against the lawsuit while its TV business is in rapid decline despite the acquisitions of DirecTV and Time Warner. AT&T told shareholders last week that it expects to lose about 1.1 million TV customers in the third quarter in its DirecTV satellite and U-verse wireline TV services. That doesn't include DirecTV Now, which was recently renamed "AT&T TV Now." The lawsuit comes less than a week after activist hedge fund Elliott Management announced a \$3.2 billion stake in AT&T accompanied by a 23-page report criticizing the firm's previous purchases of Time Warner and DirecTV. (Sources: Business Insider, Ars Technica)

The \$86 Trillion Global Economy: *The world economy is in a never-ending state of flux. The fact is that billions of variables — both big and small — factor into any calculation of overall economic productivity, and these inputs are changing all of the time. Buying this week's groceries or filling up your car with gas may seem like a rounding error when we are talking about trillions of dollars, but every microeconomic decision or set of preferences can add up in aggregate. And as consumer preferences, technology, trade relationships, interest rates, and currency valuations change — so does the final composition of the world's \$86 trillion economy. The visualization below comes from HowMuch.net and charts the most recent composition of the global economic landscape. The included 15 economies represent a whopping 75% of total global GDP, which added up to \$85.8 trillion in 2018 according to the World Bank. Most interestingly, the gap between China and the United States is narrowing — and in nominal terms, China's economy is now 66.4% the size. The U.S. and China represent a third of the world's GDP. Click the graphic for a larger view. More information is available [HERE](#).*

**Article & Sources:**

<https://howmuch.net/articles/the-world-economy-2018>

<https://databank.worldbank.org>

howmuch.net

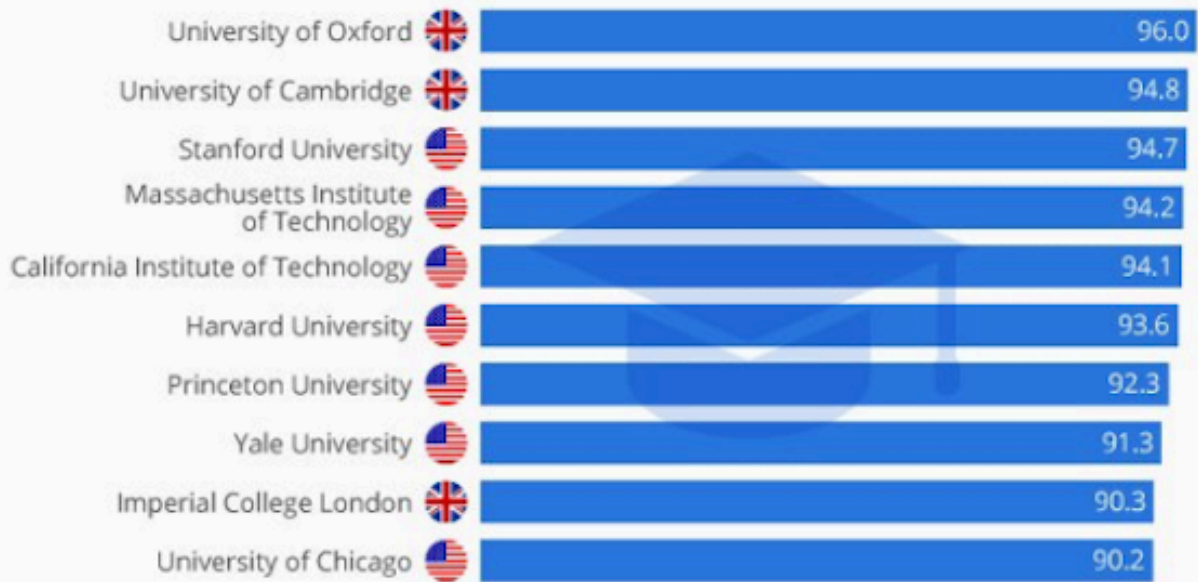
FARM TANK

Tweets of the Day





The best universities in the world: bit.ly/2kaLn0T
#education #university (via @timeshighered)



Infographic: The Best Universities in the World

This chart shows the overall score given to the world's highest ranked universities in 2019.

[statista.com](https://www.statista.com)



Jon Erlichman ✓
@JonErlichman



Cash each company has:

Apple \$210.6 billion

Microsoft \$133.8 billion

Google \$121.1 billion

Samsung \$80.8 billion

Facebook \$48.6 billion

IBM \$46.3 billion

Amazon \$41.5 billion

Oracle \$37.8 billion

Cisco \$33.4 billion

Total: \$753.9 billion



ADM Grain
@ADMGrain



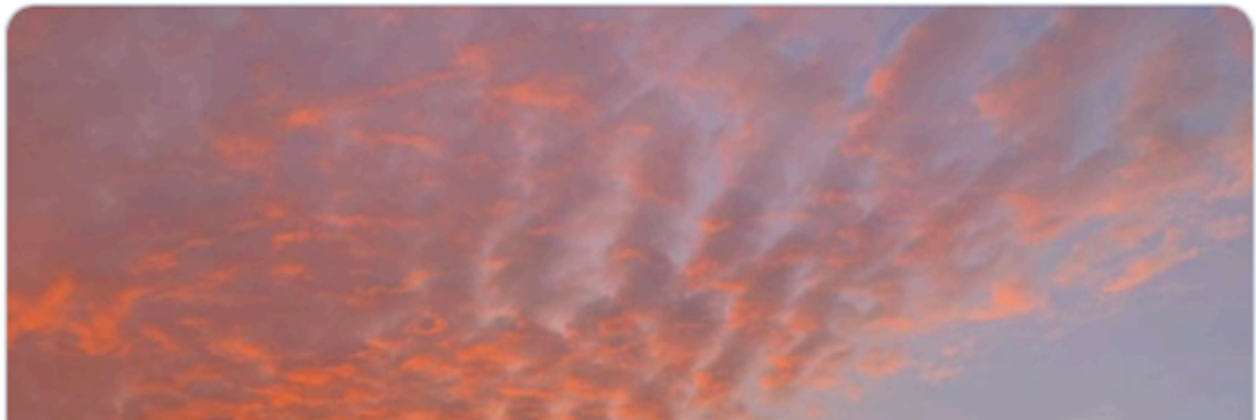
Did you know 87% of U.S. ag products sold are produced on family farms or ranches? @FarmBureau
#FunFactFriday #farming #agriculture



Curtis Gervin
@CurtisGervin



The best place to watch a sunset is from the seat of a combine. #harvest19







Glenn Randall, CCA
@fama_il



Uncle Eddy and Grandpappy were very proud of this corn! This is back when they used to have their 86 cow dairy south of Pana, IL. The variety is YieldMaster 69SL and grew to nearly 20 feet tall! [@FarmsNews](#)
[@FarmFutures](#) [@FarmJournal](#) [@cmdtyAg](#)





Classic Rock In Pics
@crockpics



Bon Jovi, 1989





Mom Knows Best

@mother_know

Following



Great thought

A CHILD WHO IS ALLOWED TO BE
DISRESPECTFUL
TO HIS PARENTS
WILL NOT HAVE TRUE
RESPECT
FOR ANYONE.

A poster for FarmCON, a conference for creative minds in agriculture. The background is a textured, light brown color. At the top, the word "WANTED" is written in large, bold, black, distressed capital letters. Below it, the text "The world's most creative and successful leaders in agriculture!" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font. In the center, there is a stylized black and white logo of a brain with a plant growing out of it. Below the logo, the word "FARMCON" is written in large, bold, black, sans-serif capital letters, with a small plant icon integrated into the letter 'O'. Below "FARMCON", the text "Conference for Creative Minds in Agriculture" is written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. At the bottom, a black banner contains the text "Jan. 15th & 16th, Kansas City, MO - Click Here to Learn More" in a white, sans-serif font.

WANTED

**The world's most creative and successful
leaders in agriculture!**



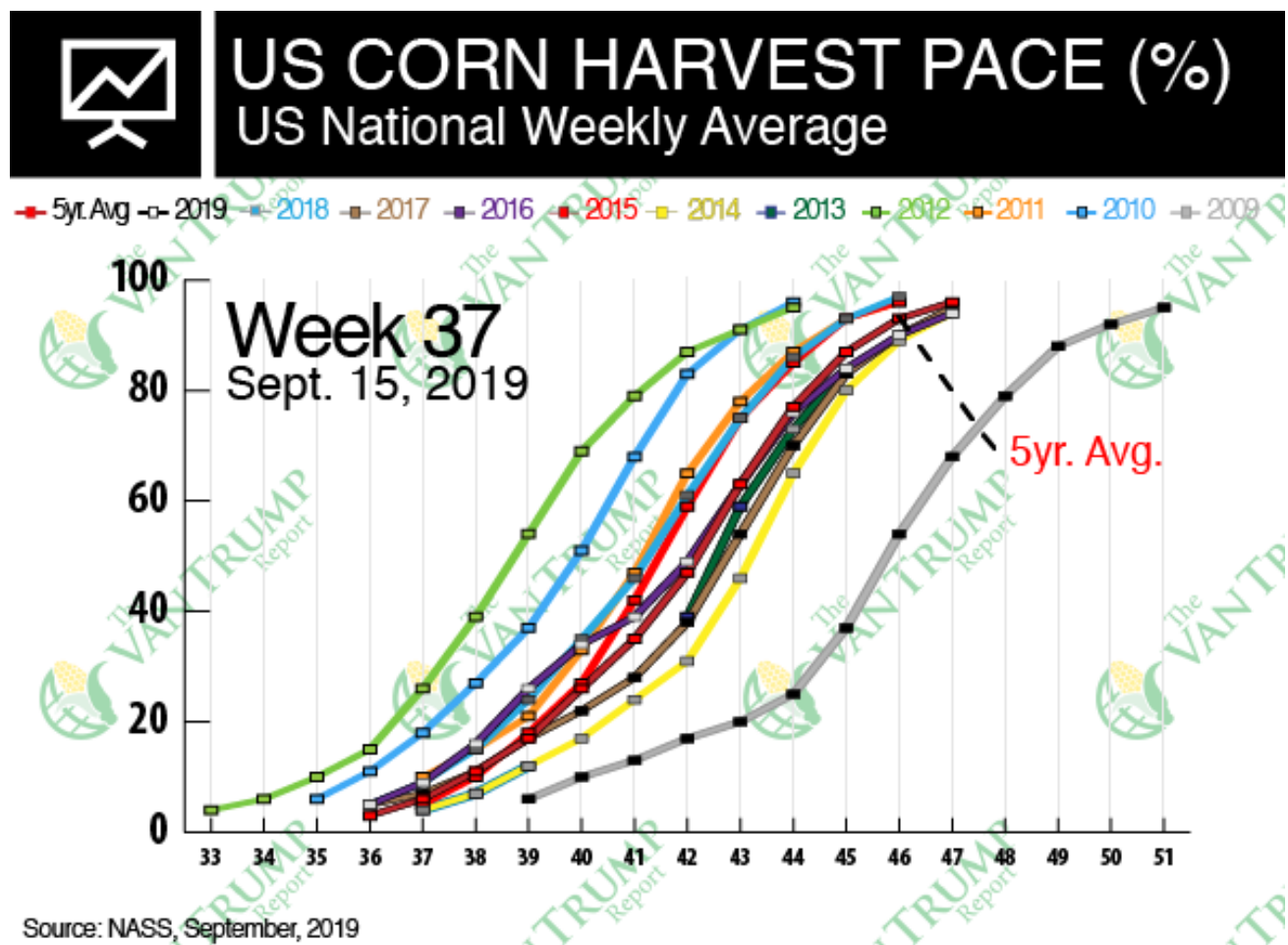
FARMCON

Conference for Creative Minds in Agriculture

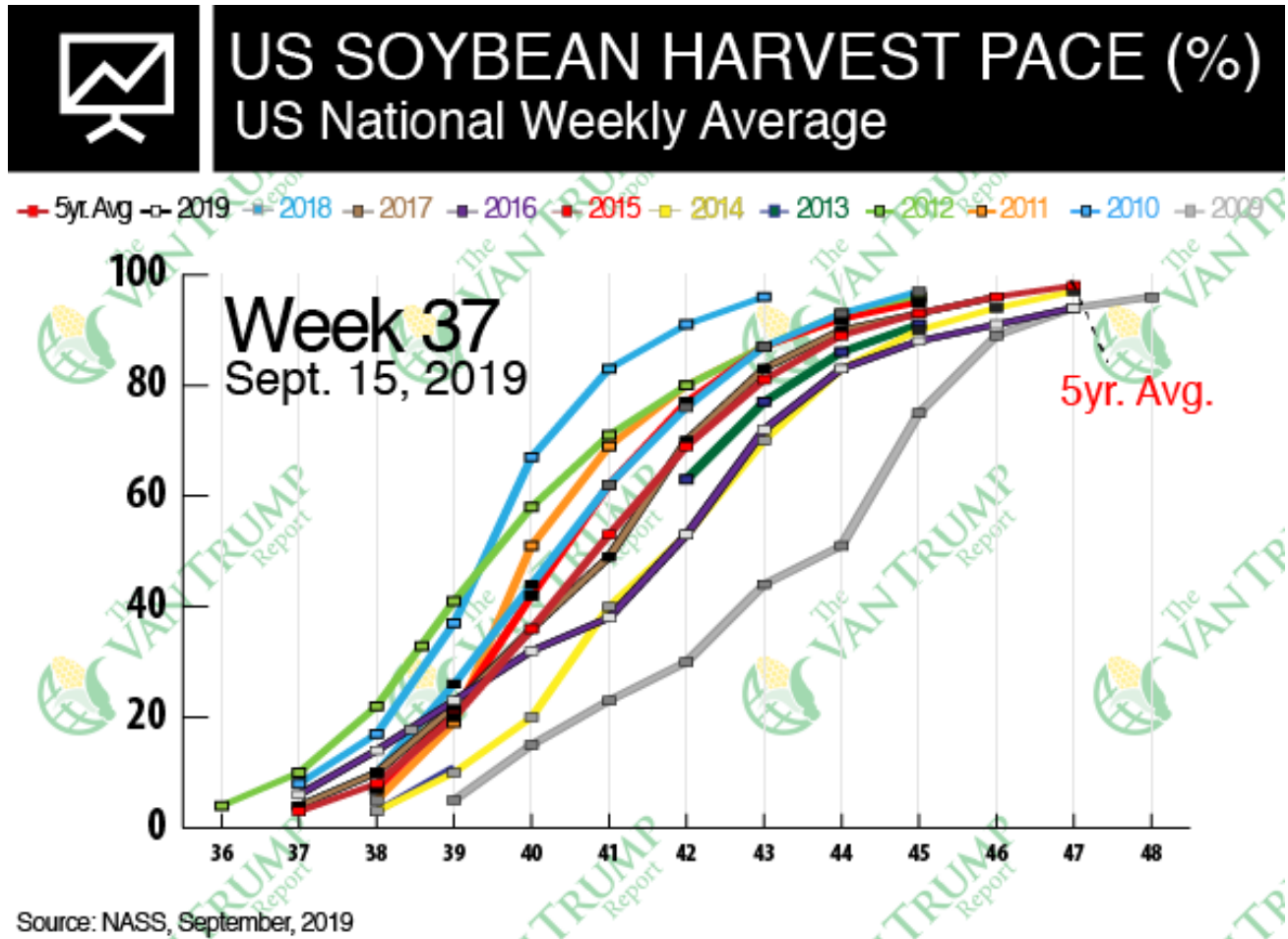
Jan. 15th & 16th, Kansas City, MO - [Click Here to Learn More](#)

Corn bulls are battling extremely cooperative U.S. weather. The late crop is enjoining a warmer end to summer which is helping the overall filling process. There's also very little risk of a cold-snap anywhere in the forecast. Moral of the story, it's tough for the bulls to convince the trade that yield is moving significantly lower with such cooperative weather down the stretch. That's why I'm worried that the upside is limited nearby. Many traders I know, continue to talk about corn staying stuck in a range between \$3.20 and \$4.20 per bushel. The problem is \$4.20 might not come back around again until the next major weather scare either in South America or next seasons U.S. crop. I know that's not what producers

want to hear, but with demand in question, ample U.S. ending stocks, cooperative U.S. weather into harvest, talk of more corn acres in 2020, ongoing trade dispute with the Chinese, a strong U.S. dollar in comparison to other global exporters, it's tough for the bulls to put together a large enough wave of headlines that are needed to tip the bearish boat. Luckily, with 50% of new-crop already priced and no old-crop bushels left, I feel like I'm in a position to play the waiting game into 2020. I would love to have had 70% priced into harvest but I honestly thought we were going to trade higher on the spring weather complications and missed the boat. I'm still kicking myself today, but recognize I have to shake it off and focus on our plans moving forward. Producer who have to move bushels nearby will want to use any rallies to help reduce risk. On the flip side, those who have the cash and can afford to wait could find improved windows of opportunity longer-term. It feels to me like prices could go down and test the lower end of the range during the U.S. harvest, then perhaps start to make a more sustained climb back out of the cellar. Remember, we can't create the waves in life, we can only try and best position ourselves to ride them.



Soybean bulls continue to point to the abnormally large number fields that have still not set pods. To this point the weather has cooperated. Bears believe the abnormally warm conditions could continue for a few more weeks and help the U.S. soybean crop finish stronger than many could have imagined a few weeks back. In other words, I'm not looking for any massive reduction in the USDA's soybean production estimate unless we see a major shift in the weather pattern. Weather in South America is starting to be more heavily monitored. Dryness in many parts of Argentina as well as portions of Brazil will continue to be closely watched and debated in the weeks ahead. Remember, if planting in South America gets delayed for too long it could provide U.S. soybean exporters a much larger window of opportunity and also work towards reducing the number of second-crop acres. On the demand side of the balance sheet it feels like the USDA might eventually need to bump their U.S. estimates a bit higher. Chinese demand obviously remains a huge question as both trade negotiations and the ongoing spread of African Swine Fever create a lot of unknown. The Chinese government has cleared the path to purchasing a select amount of U.S. soybeans, but we still haven't seen any major buying. At least not a big enough purchase to shake the bears completely out of their short positions. As both a producer and a spec, I still feel like the U.S. balance sheet could tighten a bit further and if there any weather hiccups in South America the market could quickly look to add some additional risk-premium. Bottom-line, I want to stay patient until we see higher prices. I would still like to see the NOV19 contract test the \$9.20 to \$9.40 range, which I still think can easily happen before yearend.

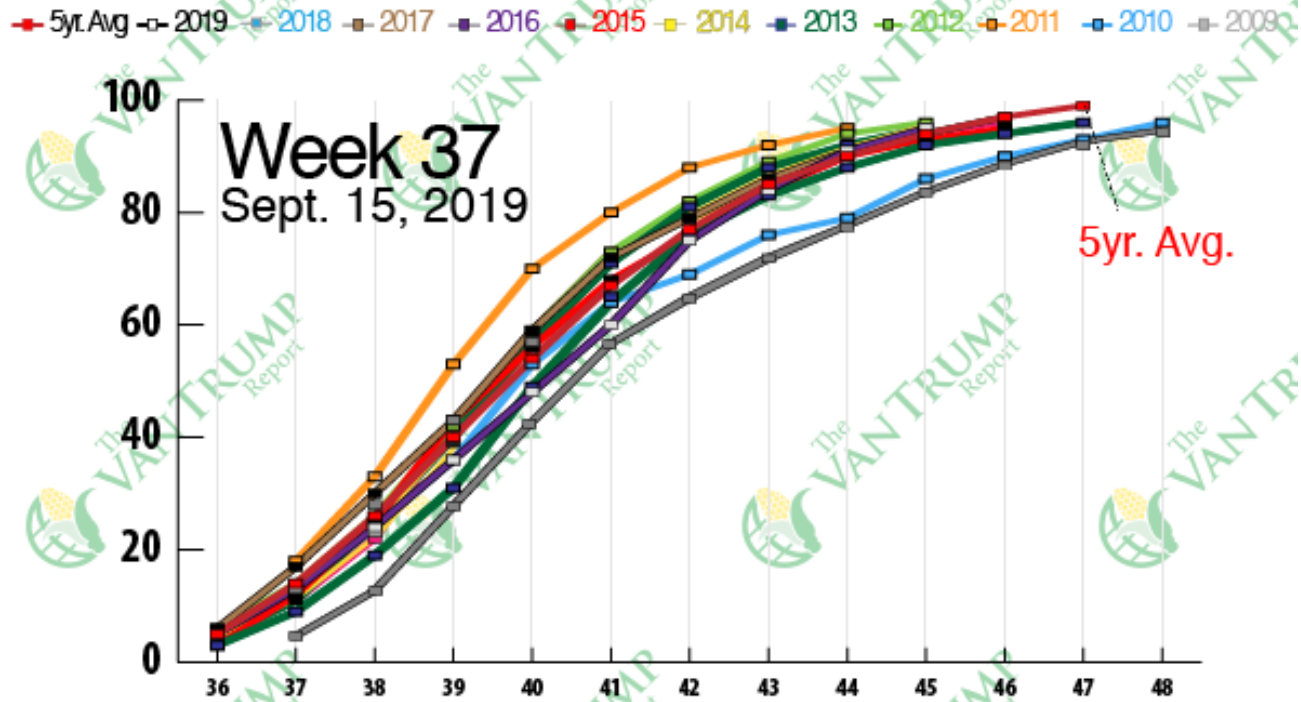


Wheat bulls are keeping a close eye on U.S. winter wheat planting. Producers are talking about some delays taking place in the Western and Southwestern Plains as many areas are experiencing dry conditions. The U.S. spring wheat harvest continues to lag behind but is showing adequate results. Globally, U.S. exporters continue to play second-fiddle to lower cost producers. Egypt was once again a buyer of wheat from France, Russia and Ukraine. Personally, I still feel like there are a couple of dark clouds overhead, i.e. overly burdensome global and domestic surplus, and the overall economic uncertainties circulating in the macro landscape. This double-whammy of being over-supplied along with fears of a global economic slowdown is allowing the bears to stay up to bat.



US WINTER WHEAT PLANTED PACE (%)

US National Weekly Average



Source: NASS, September, 2019



> South Korea Confirms First African Swine Fever Outbreak: *South Korea has raised its animal disease alert to the highest level after discovering its first outbreak of deadly African swine fever at a pig farm in Paju, a town near its border with North Korea, the agriculture ministry said on Tuesday. The case was reported less than four months after North Korea reported its first outbreak in late May. Kim Hyeon-soo, South Korea's agriculture minister, told reporters on Tuesday that in addition to raising the alert level, nearly 4,000 hogs would be culled to prevent the spread of the virus. The ministry also ordered a nationwide movement ban of hogs and related livestock for 48 hours while looking into the source of the virus, he said. African swine fever is highly contagious and nearly 100% fatal to swine herds. It occurs among pigs and wild boars, transmitted by ticks and direct contact between animals. There is no vaccine for the disease, but it does not affect humans. South Korea, Asia's fourth-largest economy, imports most of its pork from the U.S. and Germany, with imports accounting for about a third of the country's total pork supplies. South Korea has a pig population of 11.3 million, according to Statistics Korea, and pork, cheaper than beef, is South Korea's most popular meat. Read more [HERE](#).*

> K-State Highlights Risk of Spreading ASF Through Animal Feed: *The African swine fever virus (ASF) can survive a 30-day transoceanic voyage in plant-based feed and ingredients, according to a study by Kansas State University. The new data highlights the potential risks of imported feed, and can be used by the U.S. and other countries to safeguard their pork production, said Megan Niederwerder, who led the team of veterinary researchers. USDA, in outlining its strategy to respond to African swine fever, noted that ingredients like corn, soybeans and flax aren't regulated to mitigate against foreign animal diseases. These ingredients are exported by countries affected by the virus, including China, which accounted for about 11 percent of America's soybean imports between 2015 and 2018. Organic soybeans present a higher risk of being a pathway because the crop isn't treated by chemical agents used to reduce bacteria, the department said. USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service in March said it would identify and rank what factors could predict whether a feed shipment posed a risk of introducing African swine fever into the U.S. to help research and response efforts. The Kansas State University study is available [HERE](#). (Source: Politico)*

> USDA Gives Final Approval for Faster Hog Processing Line Speeds: *The United States Department of Agriculture on Tuesday released a final rule permitting faster line speeds at hog processing plants, a long-anticipated change that parallels recent developments in the poultry industry. The new rule allows slaughterhouses to opt in to the New Swine Slaughter Inspection System (NSIS), a "modernized" system that eliminates maximum line speeds and shifts some of*

the responsibility for removing sick animals from the processing line from USDA inspectors to plant employees. A version of the NSIS has been operating as a pilot in five plants since the 1990s. The rule also mandates some additional food safety testing across the board. Perhaps unsurprisingly, the NSIS is popular with the pork industry and unpopular with food safety and worker health advocates. The agency's Food Safety and Inspection Service argues that the changes will free up inspectors to spend more time on inspection tasks that take place outside the fast-paced slaughter line, like verifying that certain sanitation requirements are being met. (Source: New Food Economy)

> Food Consumption Grows at Faster Rate than Global Population: *Global food consumption has been growing at a faster pace than world population, due to income growth and changes in consumer preferences. According to the European Commission's 'Global food supply and demand, consumer trends and trade challenges' market brief, these developments have resulted in a consumption increase of products of higher value in emerging economies. The brief also breaks down production and use for some of the world's biggest agricultural commodities. North America is by far the largest user of corn, reaching almost 1,984 pounds per capita, significantly above use in South America at 530 pounds per capita and the E.U. at 308 pounds per capita. The substantial global increase in corn is linked to the expansion of livestock production and more recently to the production of corn-based ethanol. Soybeans are primarily produced and traded in the Americas, accounting for 82% of production. At a global level, two thirds of availability are crushed into meals to be used in feed. The E.U. is the main destination market for soy meals, representing 30% of world trade. However, E.U. import needs are declining due to the growing popularity of alternatives such as cereals and more recently pulses. The full report is available [HERE](#). (Source: World Grain)*

> In Rural Appalachia, Beekeeping Offers a New Path for Coal Miners: *Mark Lilly can tell someone loves beekeeping when they find it relaxing to be completely surrounded by bees. Lilly is an apiary manager for the Appalachian Beekeeping Collective, which teaches people in rural West Virginia how to keep bees for profit. The Collective provides its graduates with free bees, hives, and routine mentoring, collects and bottles their honey, and sells it for them at \$25 a jar. Now in its second year, the Collective includes 34 beekeepers. Coal mining employment has dropped almost 40 percent since 2009 and West Virginia now has the lowest labor force participation in the nation. In Summers County, where the Collective is based, 28 percent of people are living in poverty. Although the area relied on the quickly fading mining industry, Lilly and the Collective believe that West Virginia, and all of Appalachia, now has a chance to return to another heritage: beekeeping. The collective also hopes to teach its beekeepers how to use their hives as a means of rebuilding their livelihoods in a struggling economy. Some beekeepers have started their own ventures selling products including beeswax candles and honey-roasted coffee. Read more from [Civil Eats](#).*

> Washington Could Block California's Stringent Auto Emission Rules: *The Environmental Protection Agency is preparing to revoke California's authority to set its own vehicle emission standards, a source familiar with the plans told CNN on Tuesday. The source said the change could come as soon as Wednesday. Industry watchers feared that the Trump administration's plan to freeze federal emission standards, a rollback of tightened standards created by the Obama administration, could have led to two auto markets in the US -- one subject to more restrictive California regulations and another linked to significantly less stringent federal standards. The source said the Trump administration will find the EPA previously acted unlawfully by granting the state a waiver from the Clean Air Act and allowing it to develop stricter standards than those of the federal government. About a dozen states have adopted California's standards, which are geared toward the larger goal of curbing greenhouse gases. Talks between the Trump administration and the California Air Resources Board broke down earlier this year, and the White House announced it would move forward with replacing the Obama-era federal standards. Faced with that, California regulators negotiated a voluntary standard with four major automakers. Those negotiations are now the subject of a Justice Department antitrust investigation. (Source: CNN)*

> Apple vs. EU as World's Largest Tax Case Opens in Luxembourg: *Apple Inc. fights the world's biggest tax case in a quiet courtroom this week, trying to rein in the European Union's powerful antitrust chief ahead of a potential new crackdown on internet giants. The iPhone maker will tell the EU General Court in Luxembourg that it's the world's biggest taxpayer. But that's not enough for EU Competition Commissioner Margrethe Vestager who said in a 2016 ruling that Apple's tax deals with Ireland allowed the company to pay far less than other businesses. The court must now weigh whether regulators were right to levy a record 13 billion-euro (\$14.4 billion) tax bill. The company's huge revenue -- and those of other technology firms -- have attracted close scrutiny in Europe, focusing on complicated company structures for transferring profits generated from intellectual property. A court ruling, likely to take months, could empower or halt Vestager's tax probes, which are now centering on fiscal deals done by Amazon.com Inc. and Alphabet Inc. Apple's legal challenge claims the EU wrongly targeted profits that should be taxed in the U.S. and "retroactively changed the rules" on how global authorities calculate what's owed to them. The U.S. Treasury weighed in too, saying the EU was making itself a "supra-national tax authority" that could threaten global tax reform efforts. President Donald Trump hasn't been silent either, saying Vestager "hates the United States" because "she's suing all our companies." Read more [HERE](#).*

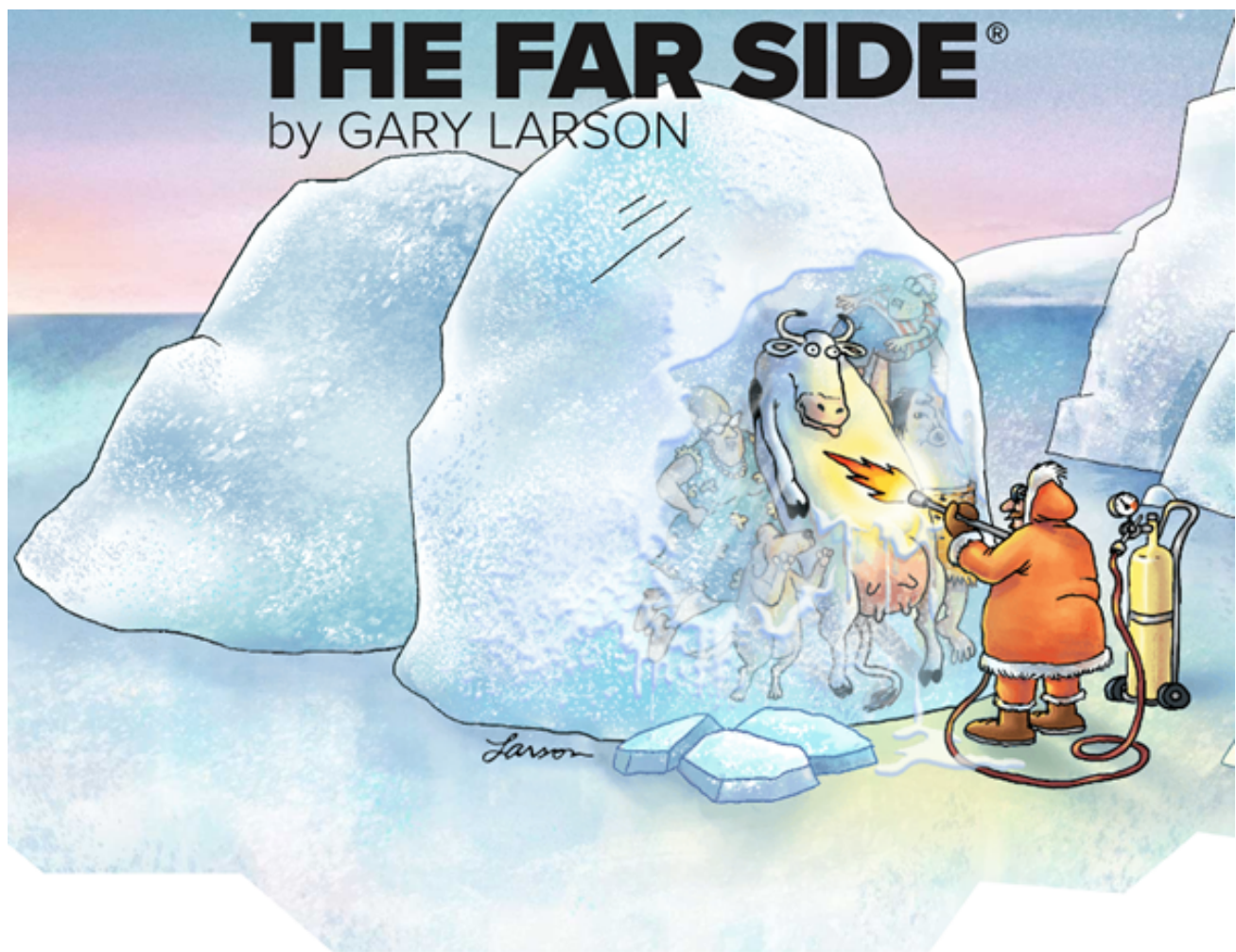
> How To Lose Weight, Grandmaster Style: *The 1984 World Chess Championship was called off after five months and 48 games because defending champion Anatoly Karpov had lost 22 pounds. "He looked like death," grandmaster*

and commentator Maurice Ashley recalls. In 2004, winner Rustam Kasimdzhanov walked away from the six-game world championship having lost 17 pounds. In October 2018, Polar, a U.S.-based company that tracks heart rates, monitored chess players during a tournament and found that 21-year-old Russian grandmaster Mikhail Antipov had burned 560 calories in two hours of sitting and playing chess -- or roughly what Roger Federer would burn in an hour of singles tennis. Robert Sapolsky, who studies stress in primates at Stanford University, says a chess player can burn up to 6,000 calories a day while playing in a tournament, three times what an average person consumes in a day. Based on breathing rates (which triple during competition), blood pressure (which elevates) and muscle contractions before, during and after major tournaments, Sapolsky suggests that grandmasters' stress responses to chess are on par with what elite athletes experience. It all combines to produce an average weight loss of 2 pounds a day, or about 10-12 pounds over the course of a 10-day tournament in which each grandmaster might play five or six times. Read more from [ESPN](#).

> Secret Message Discovered in Milton's Epic 'Paradise Lost': An undergraduate student has discovered a secret message in John Milton's epic poem "Paradise Lost." The hidden message is an acrostic, meaning a missive spelled out by the first letters in each line of the poem. It reads "FFAALL" and "FALL" — an appropriate triple-use of the word "fall," as the poem's subject is the Biblical story of the decline of Satan, as well as the banishment of Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden. Milton published "Paradise Lost" in 1667 in 10 books; a follow-up edition was released in 1674 in 12 books. The newly discovered acrostic appears in book 9 of 12, in lines that describe a debate between Eve and Adam over whether they should stick together in the face of Satan's temptations or split up to face the devil's snares separately. What's really amazing is that it took 350 years for anyone to notice! Undergraduate Miranda Phaal from Tufts University in Massachusetts, who discovered the secret message, interprets the acrostic as representing the double fall of humankind (Adam and Eve) read downwards, interlinked with the third fall of Satan read upwards – showing perhaps how Satan tempted Adam and Eve, or how pride tempted all three of them. It's not the first acrostic to be discovered long after the poem's publication – a now well-known SATAN acrostic wasn't found in the text until 1977. (Source: Science Alert)

> The Far Side May Be Returning, Nearly 25 Years After Shutting Down: Everyone in the U.S. who read the newspaper funny pages from 1980-1995 will likely remember the witty, single-panel comic The Far Side by Gary Larson. Well, good news. According to the official Far Side website, more Far Side comics are on the way. The website, run by Andrews McMeel Universal, posted a Far Side comic illustration with the sentence "Uncommon, unreal, and (soon-to-be) unfrozen. A new online era of The Far Side is coming!" The website didn't provide any additional information on when or how Larson's comic will return, and Andrews McMeel Universal hasn't released any comments as of yet. While it's possible that

Larson is merely planning to re-release previously published material online, fans are hoping Larson has decided to officially un-retire the strip. The Far Side pointed out the ludicrous side of being human, and the secret genius of animals. The humor is often based on uncomfortable social situations, improbable events, an anthropomorphic view of the world, logical fallacies, impending bizarre disasters, (often twisted) references to proverbs, or the search for meaning in life. Larson's frequent use of animals and nature in the comic is popularly attributed to his background in biology. Gary Larson published the last of his iconic The Far Side comics on January 1, 1995. And since 2000, the comic's official website had remained exactly the same until the new illustration appeared over the weekend. Some fans are speculating that nothing will happen on the site until January 1, 2020, exactly 25 years after the final comic was published and exactly 40 years after the first comic debuted on January 1, 1980. (Source: CNET, Wikipedia)



Uncommon, unreal, and (soon-to-be) unfrozen.

A new online era of *The Far Side* is coming!



Eastern Indiana – *My seed salesman and agronomist were out scouting corn a few days back. They feel confident we are sitting on 200 bushels per acre corn. We could use one more rain but if we don't see it, the only thing that will go backwards is soybeans. The soybeans are sitting on 50-55 bushels right now with the thought we should see at least one more rain in the next 2 weeks. If we miss the rain, they are probably going to drop back to the low 40's. Right now, you don't dare drop any nuts or bolts on the ground because you might lose them in the big cracks the dry weather has brought us.*

Western Minnesota – *We got a nice ½ inch rain last night. The storm pushed on east and should hit most of the central part of the state. It's getting to the mid 80's this week but that will come to an end by the weekend. We will start seeing more normal weather closer to the 70's and nights in the 40's and 50's. One interesting thing we are seeing in our soybeans is the 3 bean pods seem to be aborting the third bean or putting on a very small soybean that will not amount to much. While the soybeans look good with 3 bean pods, it might be deceiving.*

Central Iowa – *The corn is variable, there are good fields and poor fields. The good fields should be roughly at our average or slightly below. The poor fields will be 30-50 bushels worse than we expect. We like to see entire farm averages around 220 but the poor ground is looking more like either side of 170. The fields yield all depend on how the fields lay and how well they drain. We have just had way too much water early in the year that will drown out acres even with tile.*

neuro mining



As we age, it gets harder and harder to create new neural pathways in the brain. It's the reason kids find it so easy to learn new things, but as adults it often gets more difficult. Doing brain teasers and solving riddles can be an important part of keeping our brain healthy. The more connections we can form, the better our brain will be. I hope this helps provide a little daily fun and exercise. The answer to each riddle or puzzle will be located at the bottom of the report.

TODAY'S RIDDLE: What is the coolest letter in the alphabet?

FROM MY PERSPECTIVE



Kevin Van Trump



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: Changing Traditional Agriculture with More Economical and More Sustainable Food!

Time: Thursday, September 19, @ 3:00 pm CT

Supply challenges could impact the future of meat-centric Western diets as producers come under more heavy pressure and scrutiny regarding global greenhouse gas emissions and food waste. At the same time, political activist continue to argue that plant-rich diets reduce emissions and also tend to be healthier, leading to lower rates of chronic disease and improved overall health. Keep in mind, many researchers and politicians are saying they could reduce emissions by up to 70% but also save \$1 trillion in annual health-care

costs.

Afineur is a company that believes they might have a solution! By selecting and teaming up microbes for their ability to naturally improve food nutritional value, taste, and texture through fermentation, Afineur's technology platform could be a game-changer for biotechnology and food science. Bottom-line, by transforming fermentation into a process, Afineure can now control, tailor, and naturally improve specific characteristics of a food product.

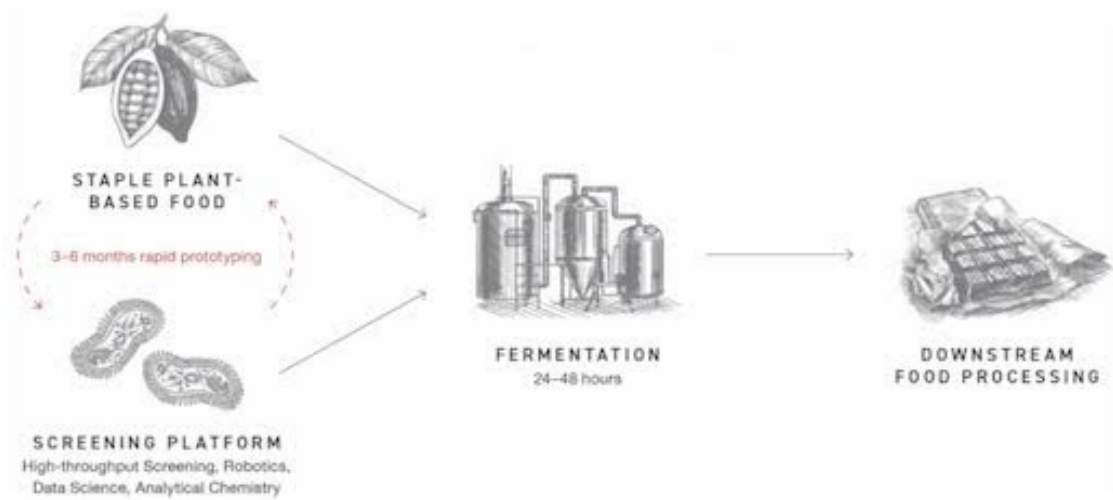
Fermentation has a long history in human culture, with the earliest cheeses dating from 7,000 years ago. But in the past fermentation was used mostly for practical ends, as a food preservation mechanism. With today's increased knowledge of biology and microbes, we now have the ability to select specific traits that can change the chemical profile of foods in many tailored ways.

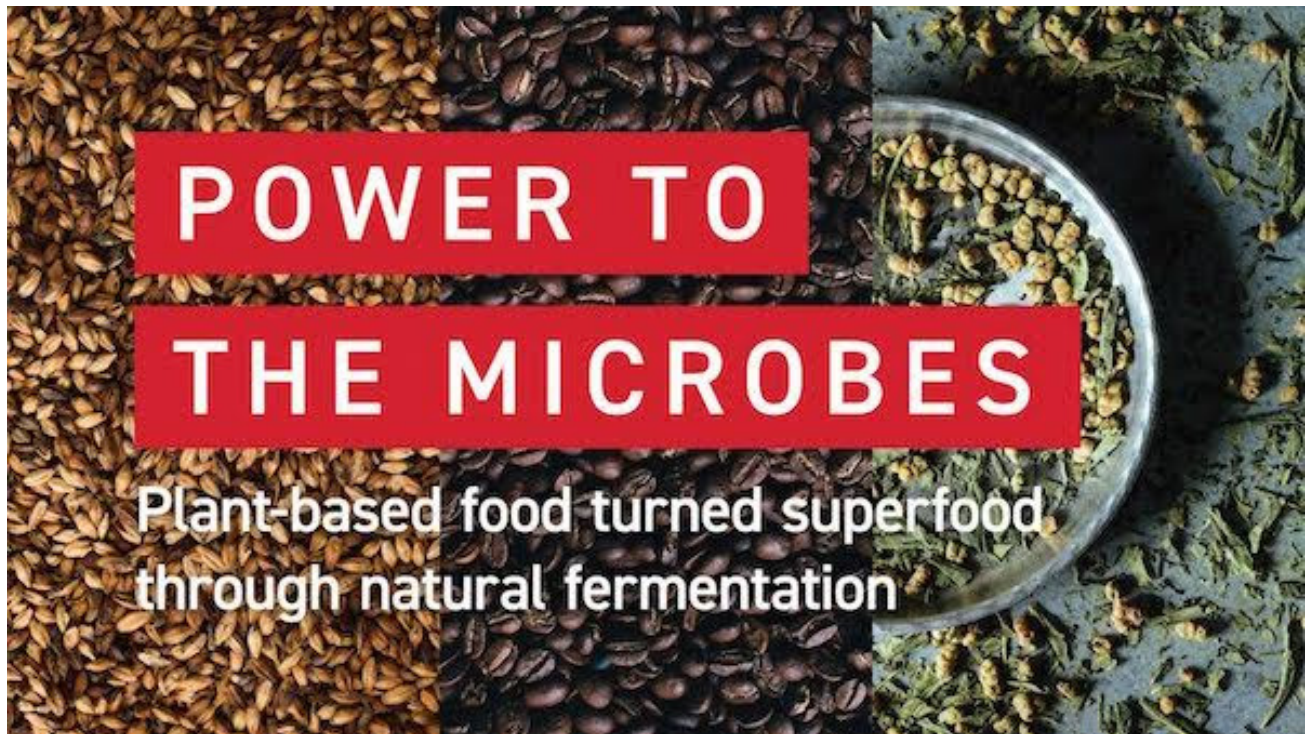
Afineur's first product design was by cofounders Camille Delebecque and Sophie Deterr and was specifically chosen after the pair were inspired to make a change to the way the most expensive coffee in the world, "Kopi Luwak", was being produced. In case you don't know, this particular high-end coffee is made from coffee beans that have been partially digested, and then excreted by the Asian palm civet (a relative of the mongoose) found throughout Southeast Asia. With a pricetag of \$80 a cup, many companies began caging the animals to produce the coffee, leading to abuses and a less consistent product.

Data is the lifeblood of new research, and Afineur has now assembled a unique library of over 700 types of micro-organisms for their tailored food fermentations platform. I'm told fermentation generally takes 2 or 3 days, and afterward the food is sterilized so people can consume it in the same way as traditional product. The company believes by using microbes and technology they have created one of the most impactful ways to naturally produce better food products, both economically and sustainably by unlocking the full value.

Learn more how Afineur is using microbes to naturally produce better food products economically and sustainably at "Creating the Next Generation of Food Ingredients from Fermentation By-Products," a webinar to be held at 3pm CT on September 19th featuring Camille Delebecque, PhD, co-founder and CEO of Afineur.

Technology platform





Researchers Find Water on an Alien Planet that Might Support Life

For the first time in human space exploration, scientists have found evidence of water on a planet that's within what's known as the "habitable zone." The exoplanet (a world outside our solar system) orbits its star at a distance that would make the atmosphere warm enough for liquid water to exist on the planet's surface, though it's not clear what that surface might look like. It's the only world yet found with water in its surrounding atmosphere with the right temperatures for human life, and it's even possible that it rains liquid water there.

"This is the only planet right now that we know outside the solar system that has the correct temperature to support water, it has an atmosphere, and it has water in it—making this planet the best candidate for habitability that we know right now," University College London astronomer Angelos Tsiaras. He's the co-author of one of two studies that support the discovery.

Known as "K2-18b", the exoplanet was first identified in 2015 by NASA's Kepler spacecraft. It's not the first planet scientists have found evidence of water on, but none of those worlds would be suitable places for life. For instance, in 2018, NASA announced the discovery of water vapor in the atmosphere of WASP-39b, an enormous Saturn-size planet where the dayside reaches a scorching 1,430 degrees Fahrenheit. The discovery of water vapor on K2-18b is exciting because it bolsters hope that life-supporting planets may exist outside our solar system. Some scientists, including in the *Nature Astronomy* paper, have referred to the planet as a super-Earth. A super-Earth is larger than Earth but smaller than Neptune – typically up to about a maximum of twice the size of Earth.

Researchers began studying K2-18b because of its orbit within its star's habitable zone as well as its large size - it has a radius of about 2.7 times that of Earth, and a mass about nine times that of Earth. Thousands of planets in habitable zones have been identified, but they are generally too small for scientists to study their atmosphere. This is why they tend to focus on "super-Earths" - planets with masses up to 10 times that of our home planet, which means they might also sport rocky surfaces.

K2-18b is about 111 light-years from our solar system, so physically getting to it isn't within our capabilities at the moment. However, both research teams say that the studies make K2-18b an ideal target for follow-up missions, including NASA's upcoming James Webb Space Telescope and the European Space Agency's future ARIEL space telescope. Unlike Hubble, these telescopes will be able to see other atmospheric gases, such as methane, ammonia, and carbon dioxide—and potentially even chemical markers for life. The James Webb Space Telescope, which will be the world's most powerful observatory after it launches in 2021, could tell us more about the surface of K2-18b. The telescope will also be able to study worlds that are smaller than K2-18b and more akin to our planet.

In a nutshell, this is one of the first planets ever discovered that has some semblance of conditions that could perhaps accommodate human life. It will be interesting when an actual human can travel that far and tell us what it's like. (Sources: National Geographic, The Verge)



An artistic rendering of K2-18b. | Image by Alex Boersma

The planet and its parent star, K2-18, lie about 124 light years away toward the constellation of Leo. The exoplanet is larger and more massive than ours, but orbits in the habitable zone. K2-18, although more red than ours, shines in K2-18b's sky with a brightness similar to ours.



History Worth Re-Learning... "The Star-Spangled Banner"

205 years ago, mid-September 1814, a 35-year-old lawyer named Francis Scott Key pens an amateur poem that is put to music and becomes the "Star Spangled Banner". Several months earlier, Francis Scott Key witnessed the bombardment of Fort McHenry by British ships of the Royal Navy, he was moved and inspired by the large U.S. flag, with 15 stars and 15 stripes, still flying triumphantly above the fort during the massive attack. "The Star-Spangled Banner" was recognized for official use by the United States Navy in 1889, and by U.S. President Woodrow Wilson in 1916, and was made the national anthem by a congressional resolution on March 3, 1931. Below are some very interesting and moving stories about "the" Star-Spangled Banner." I think it's important and imperative that we continue to

acknowledge and re-learn our nations history. (Source: History.com; Wiki)

"The Defence of Fort McHenry" - This was actually the title of Key's famous poem. It was written after he witnessed the Maryland fort being bombarded by the British during the War of 1812. Key was inspired by the sight of a lone U.S. flag still flying over Fort McHenry at daybreak, as reflected in the now-famous words "And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air, Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there."

The Actual Flag - In addition to a thunderstorm of bombs, a torrent of rain fell on Fort McHenry throughout the night of the Battle of Baltimore. The fort's 30-by-42-foot garrison flag was so massive that it required 11 men to hoist when dry, and if waterlogged the woolen banner could have weighed upwards of 500 pounds and snapped the flagpole. So as the rain poured down, a smaller storm flag that measured 17-by-25 feet flew in its place. "In the morning they most likely took down the rain-soaked storm flag and hoisted the bigger one," Leepson says, "and that's the flag Key saw in the morning." Today, the flag that flew over Fort McHenry is called "The Star Spangled Banner" and is housed at the Smithsonian Institution's Museum of American History in Washington, D.C. It is said this is one piece of American history that will never be loaned out or sent to another museum for sharing. Many call it our nations most prized possession.

Fighting To Save A Friend - After one of Key's friends, Dr. William Beanes, was taken prisoner by the British, Key went to Baltimore, located the ship where Beanes was being held and negotiated his release. However, Key and Beanes weren't allowed to leave until after the British bombardment of Fort McHenry. Key watched the bombing campaign unfold from aboard a ship located about eight miles away. After a day, the British were unable to destroy the fort and gave up. Key was relieved to see the American flag still flying over Fort McHenry and quickly penned a few lines in tribute to what he had witnessed.

Becoming The National Anthem - The poem was printed in newspapers and eventually set to the music of a popular English tune called "To Anacreon in Heaven" by composer John Stafford Smith. People began referring to the song as "The Star-Spangled Banner". Keep in mind however that America didn't have a national anthem until 1931—and it could have taken longer if not for a cartoon. In 1929, Robert Ripley published an item in his syndicated "Ripley's Believe It or Not!" cartoon pointing out the fact that America did not have a national anthem. After Ripley received many letters of backlash, he told these upset patriots that their efforts would be better spent writing their congressmen. This led to a five-million-signature petition asking Congress for a national anthem. It worked. In 1931, President Herbert Hoover signed a

law making the "Star-Spangled Banner" the official national anthem of the United States of America.

The Rest of the Story... - I always loved hearing Paul Harvey. This is his rendition and story about how the song came about. I encourage everyone to give it a quick listen. Click [HERE](#).



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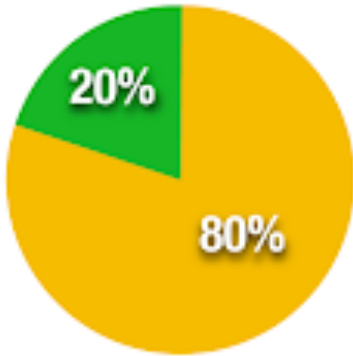
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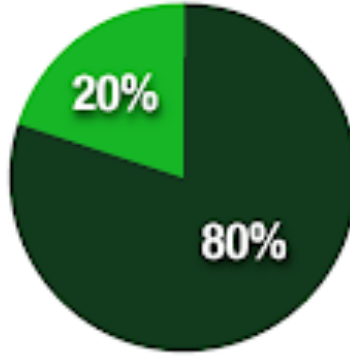
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20% HEDGED
0% UNPROTECTED



Corn 2019 Crop

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0% UNPROTECTED



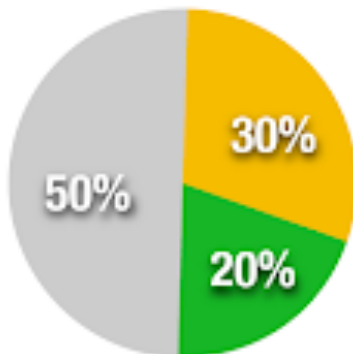
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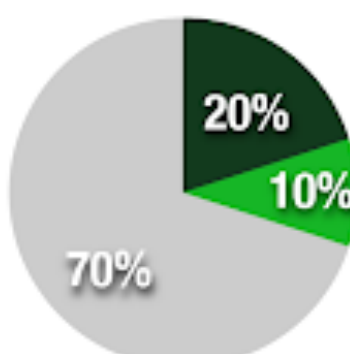
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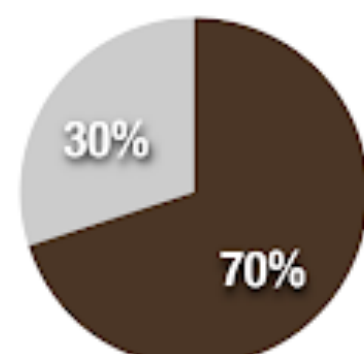
Corn 2020 Crop

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10% HEDGED
70% UNPROTECTED



Soybean 2020 Crop

100% SOLD
0% HEDGED
0% UNPROTECTED



Wheat 2020 Crop

0% SOLD
0% HEDGED
100% UNPROTECTED



0% SOLD
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