



FARMCON <josh@farmdirection.com>

GOOD MORNING: The Van Trump Report 10-11-19

1 message

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

Fri, Oct 11, 2019 at 5:30 AM

Reply-To: Jordan <reply-fecd17787564017f-1142_HTML-68584704-100003450-8@vantrumpreport-email.com>

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"Ask and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock and the door will be opened for you." – **Jesus**

Friday, October 11, 2019[Printable Copy](#) or [Audio Version](#)

Morning Summary: Stocks continue to be driven by the ever-evolving story surrounding U.S.-China trade negotiations. Investors are currently placing their bets on a partial deal getting done after an announcement was made that President Trump will be personally meeting with Chinese Vice Premier Liu He later today. From what I understand, Liu met with U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin for high-level trade negotiations yesterday and are expected to resume those talks today. The President told reporters that talks went well, but there's some speculation that stock bulls are going to want to see an actual signed deal before jumping back heavily into the market. Even if the final result is just a mini deal of some sort, investors are hoping it will lead to a cancellation, or at least a postponement, of upcoming tariffs. On Oct. 15, tariffs are scheduled to increase from 25% to 30%

on \$250 billion worth of Chinese goods. Another round on December 15 would impose 15% tariffs on almost all remaining Chinese imports that have not already been impacted, including consumer goods like electronics, smartphones, and apparel. Investors are also hoping that a finished trade deal with China could help pull the U.S. dollar down against competing currencies that have stumbled during the trade spat, particularly the Chinese yuan and the euro. There is also talk that the current negotiations might include some sort of currency pact with China, which could also ease some of the dollar's strength. As most in the trade recognize, a stronger U.S. dollar is problematic for U.S. companies that are doing business overseas as it makes the cost of American goods more expensive. Many analysts and companies alike have cited the strong dollar as an issue that they expect will weigh on this next round of 3rd quarter earnings. Data yesterday showed that consumer prices remained mostly flat last month, which is good news for the consumer spending side of the economy but poses a challenge for the U.S. Federal Reserve. The Consumer Price Index showed that headline inflation dropped by -0.1% while core inflation (strips out food and energy) fell by -0.2%. The year-on-year rates for both held steady but the month-on-month drops are viewed by investors as another justification for the Federal Reserve to trim interest rates at their next policy meeting on October 29-30. Economic data for today includes Import/Export Prices and Consumer Sentiment. The latter is being closely followed by investors in an effort to see what direction consumer spending might take. Analysts expect the gauge to fall slightly to 92 from a previous 93.2. Turning to next week, economic data slows down a bit with no releases scheduled on Monday due to Columbus Day - most federal government agencies are closed. Bond markets are also closed but stock and commodity markets are open. The rest of the week brings Empire State Manufacturing on Tuesday; Retail Sales, Business Inventories, the Housing Market Index, and the Fed's Beige Book on Wednesday; Housing Starts, the Philadelphia Fed Business Outlook, and Industrial Production on Thursday; and Leading Indicators on Friday. Next week also brings another heavy round of Fed-speak with 9 officials scheduled to deliver speeches. Tuesday kicks off the "unofficial" start of 3rd-quarter earnings season. Some of the key releases include JP Morgan Chase, Goldman Sacks, Wells Fargo, Netflix, Johnson & Johnson, IBM, United Health Group, United Airlines and BlackRock. I am still looking to add a bit more stock market exposure on a sizable pullback.

Great Story About Cardinals Pitcher! Jack Flaherty was adopted at 3 weeks old. He ended up being raised by a single Mother. He wanted to quit baseball his Freshman year. His Mom told him she understood and he could, as long as he told his younger brother that when things get tough it's ok to quit. Jack went to practice the next day.

Now Jack will be pitching in the NLCS with his Mother watching. This was them last night after his 6 inning start. Before going in the clubhouse. Before popping champagne with his teammates. Before talking to the dozens of worldwide sports networks begging him for his ego and attention.

He went to see Mom first! (Source: [Grown & Flown](#))







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Kevin Van Trump, CEO of Farm Direction

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Vaping-Related Disease Deaths Continue to Climb: *The deadly illness linked to vaping is now tied to the deaths of more than two dozen people across 21 states with health officials still uncertain of a direct cause, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Thursday. The number of fatalities jumped from 18 last week to 26 as of Tuesday, with 219 new cases diagnosed over the last week, the CDC said. The agency said the total number of probable cases is now 1,299. Cases have been identified in 49 states, up from 48 last week, as well as Washington, D.C. and the Virgin Islands. Health officials still don't know what is making people sick. Of the cases where doctors know what patients were using, roughly 76% of them said they vaped THC, the active ingredient in marijuana, while 13% said they exclusively used nicotine, according to the CDC. The CDC is recommending that consumers stop vaping, particularly THC and especially anything bought off the street.*

Handbag Sales Reveal a Shift in Consumer Shopping Habits: *The appeal of flashing a brand-new designer purse isn't what it once was. Sales of women's handbags and totes in the U.S. are down more than 20% over the first eight months of 2019, compared with the same period three years*

ago, according to NPD Group's Consumer Tracking Service. "This is clearly not a blip — it's a major shift," NPD Group analyst Beth Goldstein said. "Today's consumer is looking for a solution, not just a bag." Goldstein went on to say this market won't "bounce back," but instead handbag makers need to become "far more consumer centric." Another factor that's increasingly reshaping the industry is the emerging resale market. Names such as Rebag and The Real Real offer used luxury handbags at steep discounts, from brands including Fendi and Chanel. NPD has, meanwhile, called out the handbag category to be "high-impact" and at risk for more sales declines because of tariffs. It said shoppers think of purses as a "nice-to-have" category, not a "must-have" one. And it said the sentiment would only grow should the U.S. enter another period of economic slowdown. Earlier in the week, Piper Jaffray's biannual survey showed teen spending on handbags had hit an all-time low in the survey's 38-year history. (Source: CNBC)

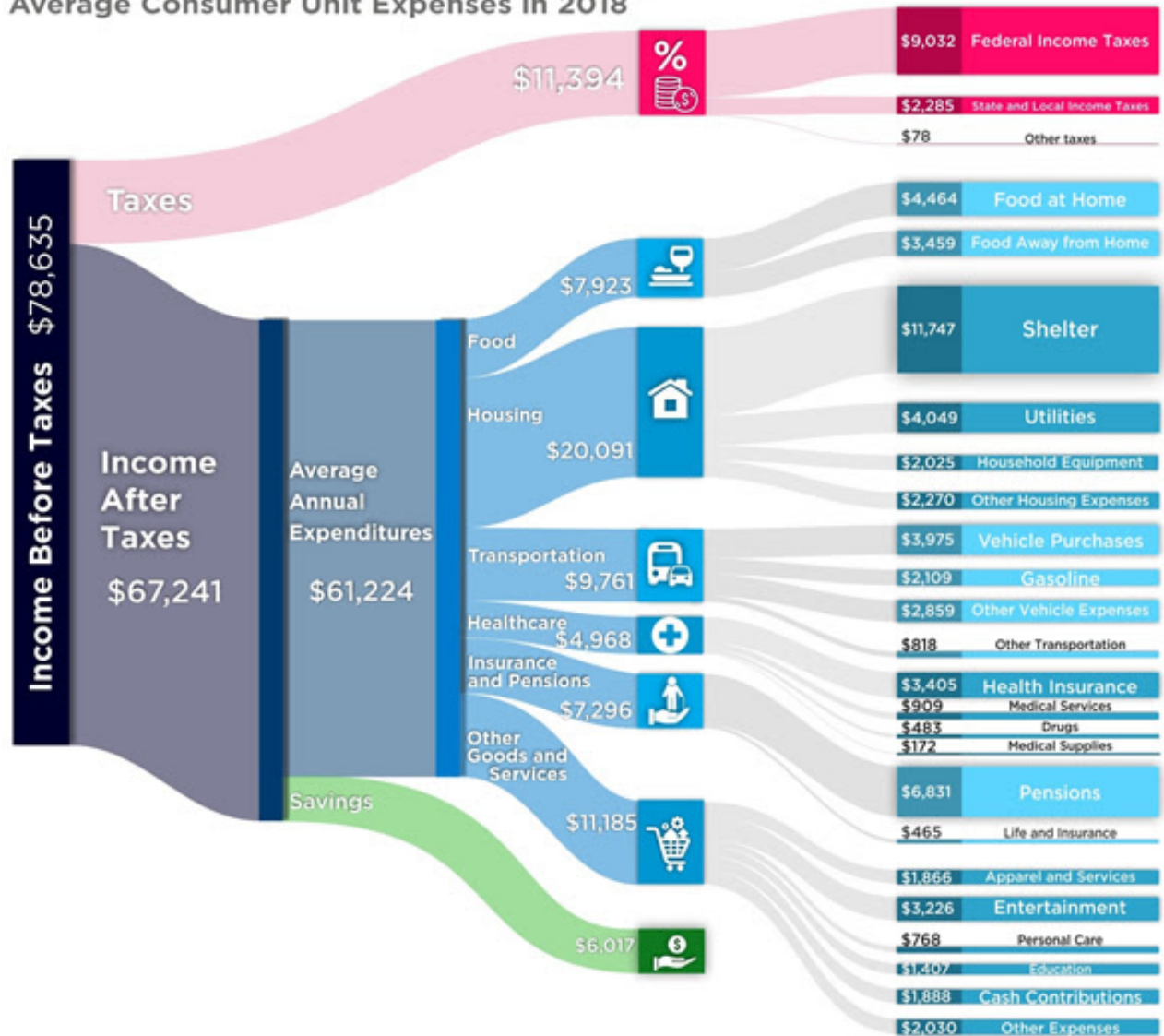
First Manned SpaceX Mission Could Happen Early Next Year: NASA chief Jim Bridenstine said yesterday that the first manned mission into orbit by SpaceX's Crew Dragon would take place in the first quarter of next year, pending the satisfactory outcome of tests. On a visit to the SpaceX headquarters, Bridenstine praised Elon Musk's SpaceX for its "fail fast, then fix" approach to spacecraft design after a personal briefing on the company's long-delayed Crew Dragon capsule. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration is paying commercial launch contractors SpaceX and Boeing \$6.8 billion to build rocket-and-capsule systems to return astronauts to the International Space Station from U.S. soil for the first time since America's space shuttle program ended in 2011. SpaceX has so far never flown humans into orbit, only cargo. Musk expects testing will successfully be completed by the end of this year. Boeing's latest update indicates that the first manned mission for its Starliner spacecraft could also happen in 2020. With no current means of flying astronauts into orbit from U.S. soil, NASA has been paying Russia about \$80 million per ticket for rides to the space station. (Source: Reuters)

How Americans Spend Their Money: Americans are notorious spenders. Consumer spending accounts for 68% of the country's GDP, making it essential for economic strength. The chart below shows the averages across all American consumers for earnings and spending. As you can see, the average American earned \$78,635 in 2018 and spent \$61,224 of it, which means we're spending about 80% of our income. After taxes are taken out, that percentage jumps even more. Most consumer spending falls into the larger categories of food, housing, transportation, healthcare, insurance, and other goods and services. Housing alone accounts for almost a third of spending. Transportation is another large expenditure, which encompasses vehicle purchases as well as gasoline and "other" vehicle expenses. Health

insurance eats up most of the total spending under healthcare. Changes to consumer spending will have far-reaching ramifications for the rest of the economy. For example, changes in consumer behavior are threatening traditional retail companies and have already led to nearly 200,000 lost jobs since the start of 2017. More recently, the trade war has been taking a toll on consumer confidence and that's a serious threat to economic growth. Click the graphic for a larger view and find more details over at [HowMuch](#).

A Breakdown of the Average American Spending

Average Consumer Unit Expenses in 2018



Article & Sources:
<https://howmuch.net/articles/breakdown-average-american-spending>
 Bureau of Labor Statistics - <https://bls.gov>

howmuch.net

FARM TANK

Tweets of the Day





Liz Ann Sonders ✓
@LizAnnSonders

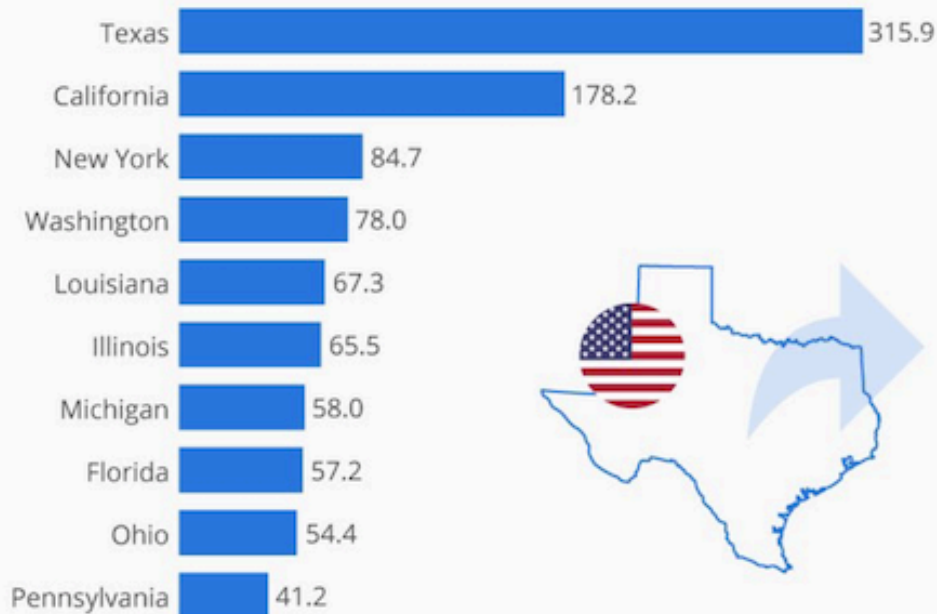


I'm in TX for two days of client events; so perhaps the timing of seeing this chart is fitting

@StatistaCharts

Which U.S. State Is the Biggest Exporter?

2018 exports by U.S. states (in billion U.S. dollars)



Commodities registered in HS system
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

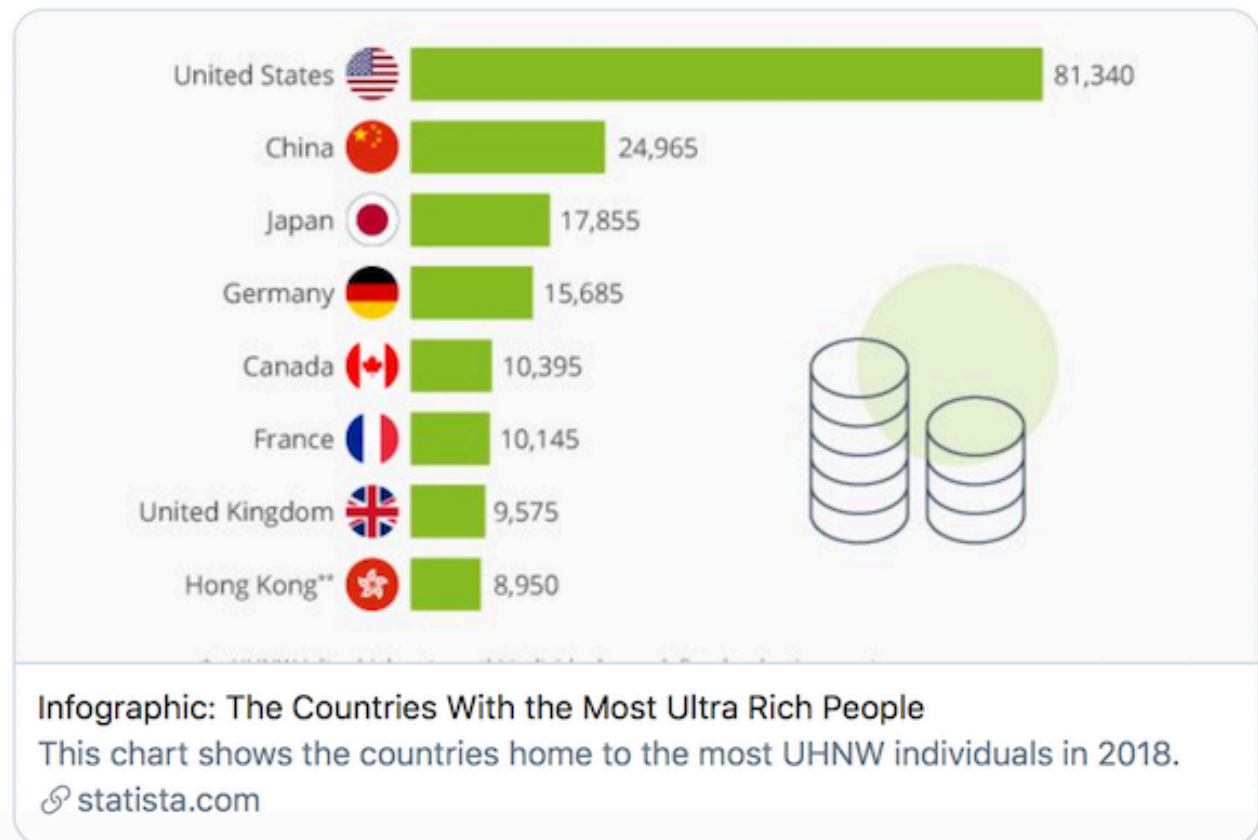
statista



Statista
@StatistaCharts



These are the countries with the most ultra rich people:
bit.ly/2mPLJex (via @WealthX) #UHNW #wealth #rich
#millionaires #ultrarich



Bryan Anderson The Uncensored Farmer
@kc0myx



Pushing to get some beans in the bin before the snow storm. I have the tractor with chains following me because this is a common occurrence this year.
#Harvest19 #AgriTalk







Caleb Wolters
@justfarmin



#harvest19 sunsets



Cortney Solonenko
@SolonenkoFarms



That's a wrap wheat is in the bag !! #harvest19





**Classic Rock In Pics**

@crockpics

Following



Jimmy Page playing to the crowd at Olympia Stadium in Detroit, January 31, 1975.

#LedZeppelin

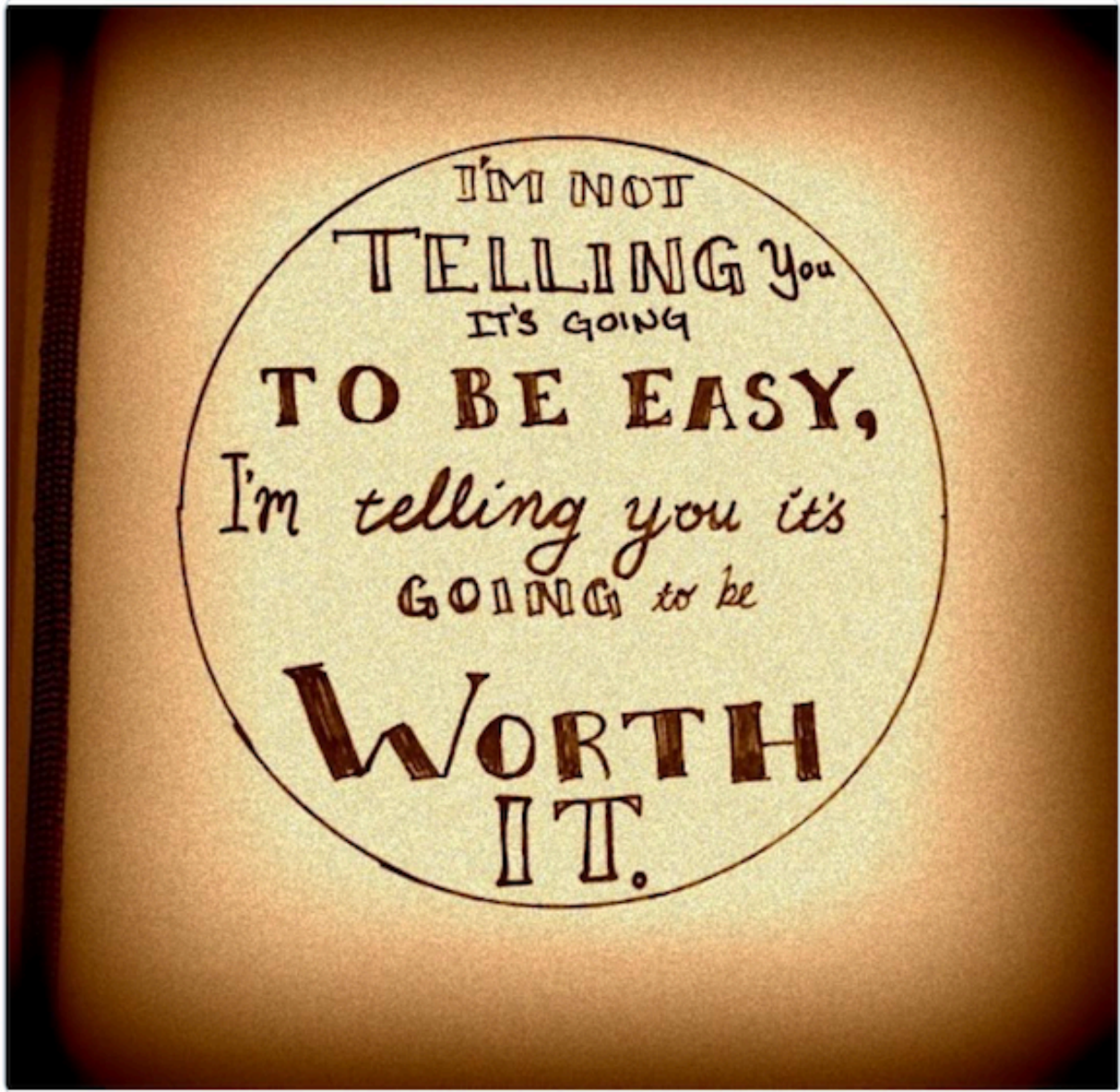




Sports Motivation
@Sports_HQ



Agreed!





Corn bulls were again disappointed as the USDA opted to adjust the U.S. yield higher rather than lower like most in the trade were forecasting. I mentioned several times that we needed to be very careful, the weather for most had been extremely cooperative for the period of time between the September and October reports. I also felt like FC Stone has had a fairly hot hand forecasting the USDA moves as of late, and in early-October bumped their yield forecast higher, which certainly made me stop and think. In this report, the USDA bumped its yield forecast higher from 168.2 to 168.4 and has total U.C. corn production at 13.779 billion bushels, down -20 million bushels on a slight decline in harvested acres. Corn "demand" had some sizeable adjustments: Exports were reduced -150 million bushels; corn used for ethanol was lowered by -50 million bushels; feed and residual use was increased by +125 million bushels. I should also note, beginning stocks were lowered by -331 million bushels based on the lower production estimate for last year's crop as noted in the recent September Quarterly Stocks report. Net-net, U.S. ending stocks are lowered by -261 million bushels from 2.190 billion down to 1.929 billion. Unfortunately, this is still considered overly burdensome and takes some of the recent risk-premium out of the market. An ending stock number sub-1.6 billion would have created a much different and more interesting balance sheet. I personally think there are still more balance sheet reductions coming in the months ahead, but who knows how the market reacts once that ship finally arrives. Globally, the projected corn yield for

Russia was raised slightly higher. At the same time, Russian and Brazilian exports were raised higher which makes sense with the lower U.S. exports. From July to September Brazil exported close to 20 MMTs of corn, nearly double its previous high for that time period, with large shipments to important U.S. markets such as Japan, South Korea, Mexico, and Colombia. Bottom-line, it's tough to be bullish corn over +\$4.00 with nearly 2 billion in domestic ending stocks and +300 MMTs in global ending stocks. Perhaps the winter storm to the north will create some more interesting headlines over the weekend? Perhaps a few finalized trade deals will spark some bullish macro interest by the funds? As a producer, I'm staying patient, happy I made some recent sales. As a spec, I like the thought of buying the deeper breaks.

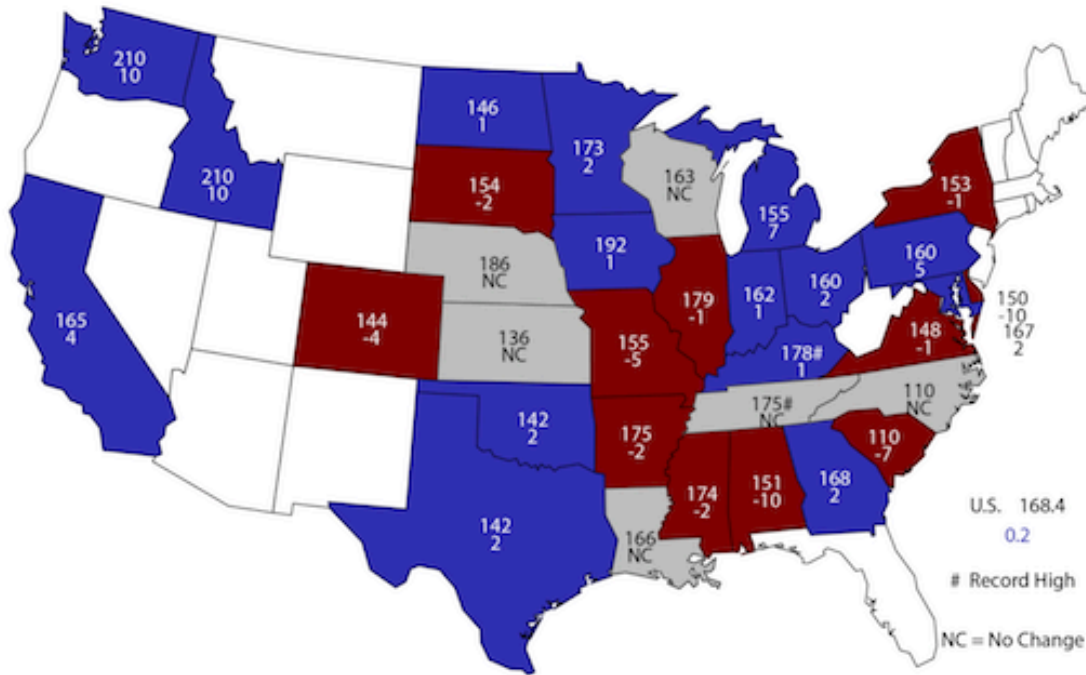
Harvest Crop Revenue Insurance Guarantee \$3.89^0 - Remember this price will update daily during the month of October as the monthly price average is determined.

2019 - Spring price \$4.00; Harvest price ???
2018 - Spring price \$3.96; Harvest price \$3.68
2017 - Spring price \$3.97; Harvest price \$3.49
2016 - Spring price \$3.86; Harvest price \$3.49
2015 - Spring price \$4.15; Harvest price \$3.83
2014 - Spring price \$4.62; Harvest price \$3.49
2013 - Spring price \$5.65; Harvest price \$4.39
2012 - Spring price \$5.68; Harvest price \$7.50
2011 - Spring price \$6.01; Harvest price \$6.32
2010 - Spring price \$3.99; Harvest price \$5.52
2009 - Spring price \$4.04; Harvest price \$3.90



October 1, 2019 Corn Yield

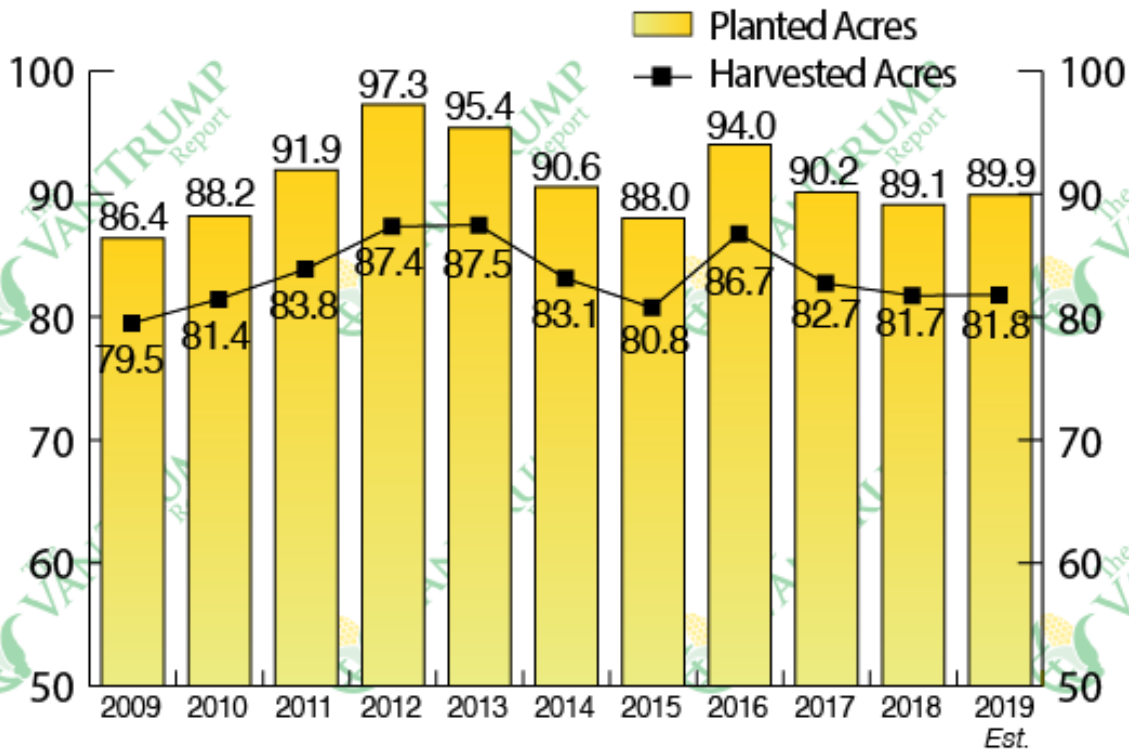
Bushels and Change From Previous Forecast



USDA-NASS
10-10-19

U.S. Corn Planted VS. Harvested Acres

(In Million Acres)



Source: USDA WASDE, October 10, 2019

Soybean bulls are happy to hear that President Trump is scheduled to meet Vice Premier Liu He, China's lead trade negotiator, later today. Political insiders are hopeful that enough progress will be made for the U.S. to put off tariff hikes on \$250 billion of Chinese imports scheduled to go into effect next week. There's also hope that China will agree to some type of agricultural deal. Bulls are also happy to see the USDA lowered its yield forecast by -1 bushel per acre from 47.9 down to 46.9, harvested acres were also slightly reduced. Total U.S. soybean production was lowered by -83 million bushels. On the demand side of the equation, total domestic crush and exports were raised slightly higher. Net-net, a larger than expected reduction in ending stocks from 640 million down to 460 million was delivered by the USDA. The U.S. season-average soybean price for 2019/20 is forecast at \$9.00 per bushel, up +50 cents. Global soybean production is projected at 339 MMTs, down -2.4 MMTs to a 4-year low, mainly reflecting lower production for the U.S. I was worried that we might not be able to hold the rally. Many of the weaker bears exited ahead of the report and bulls placing bets on the USDA balance sheet adjustment, winter weather to the north, or perhaps a Chinese trade deal had already placed their bets. Meaning we are going to need another wave of

headlines to keep the current bulls fed, fully engaged and to attract fresh new buying. As a producer, I'm happy to have made a few recent cash sales and will be looking to make a few more should we push higher and challenge that \$9.50 level in the NOV19 contract. As a spec, I continue to hold a few remaining bullish positions and might entertain adding a bit more length if prices were to pull-back in a more significant manner.

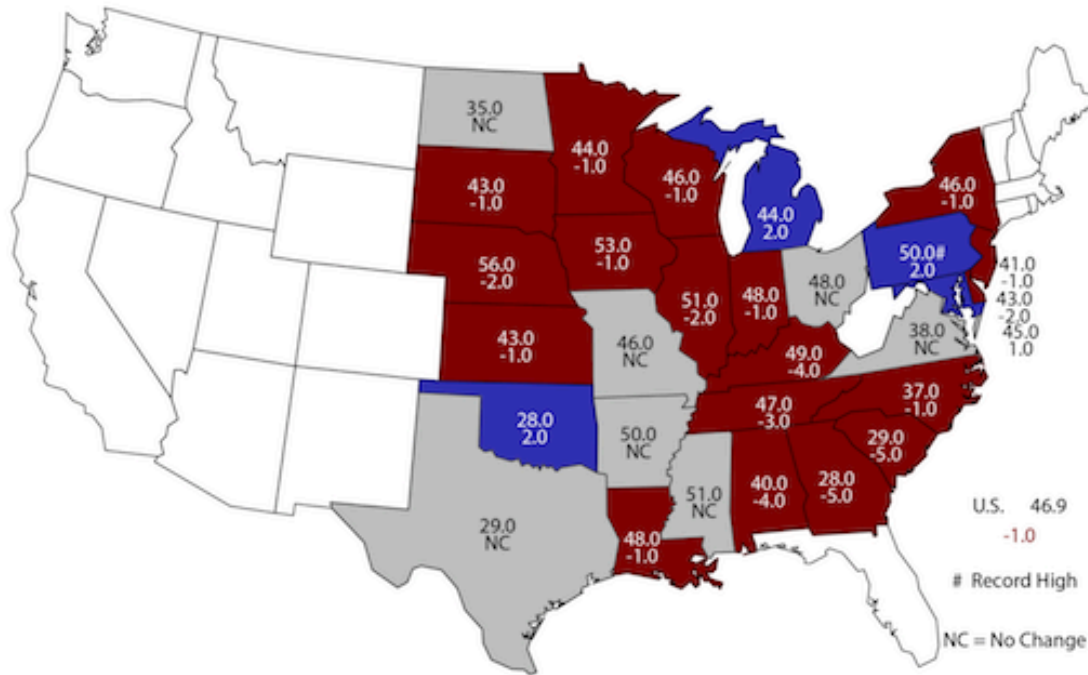
Harvest Crop Revenue Insurance Guarantee \$9.18^0 - Remember this price will update daily during the month of October as the monthly price average is determined.

2019 - Spring price \$9.54; Harvest price ???
2018 - Spring price \$10.16; Harvest price \$8.60
2017 - Spring price \$10.19; Harvest price \$9.75
2016 - Spring price \$8.85; Harvest price \$9.74
2015 - Spring price \$9.73; Harvest price \$8.91
2014 - Spring price \$11.36; Harvest price \$9.65
2013 - Spring price \$12.87; Harvest price \$12.87
2012 - Spring price \$12.55; Harvest price \$15.39
2011 - Spring price \$13.49; Harvest price \$12.14
2010 - Spring price \$9.23; Harvest price \$11.63
2009 - Spring price \$8.80; Harvest price \$9.66



October 1, 2019 Soybean Yield

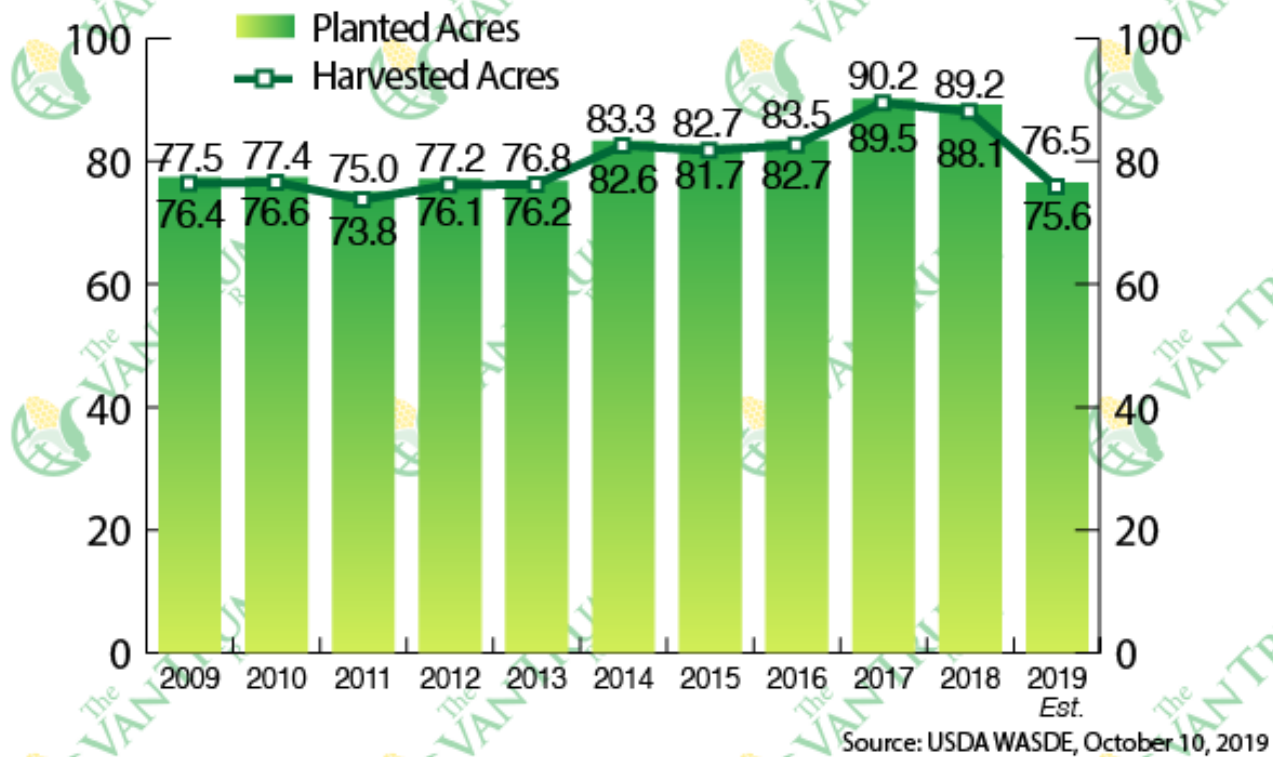
Bushels and Change From Previous Forecast



USDA-NASS
10-10-19

U.S. Soybeans Planted VS. Harvested Acres

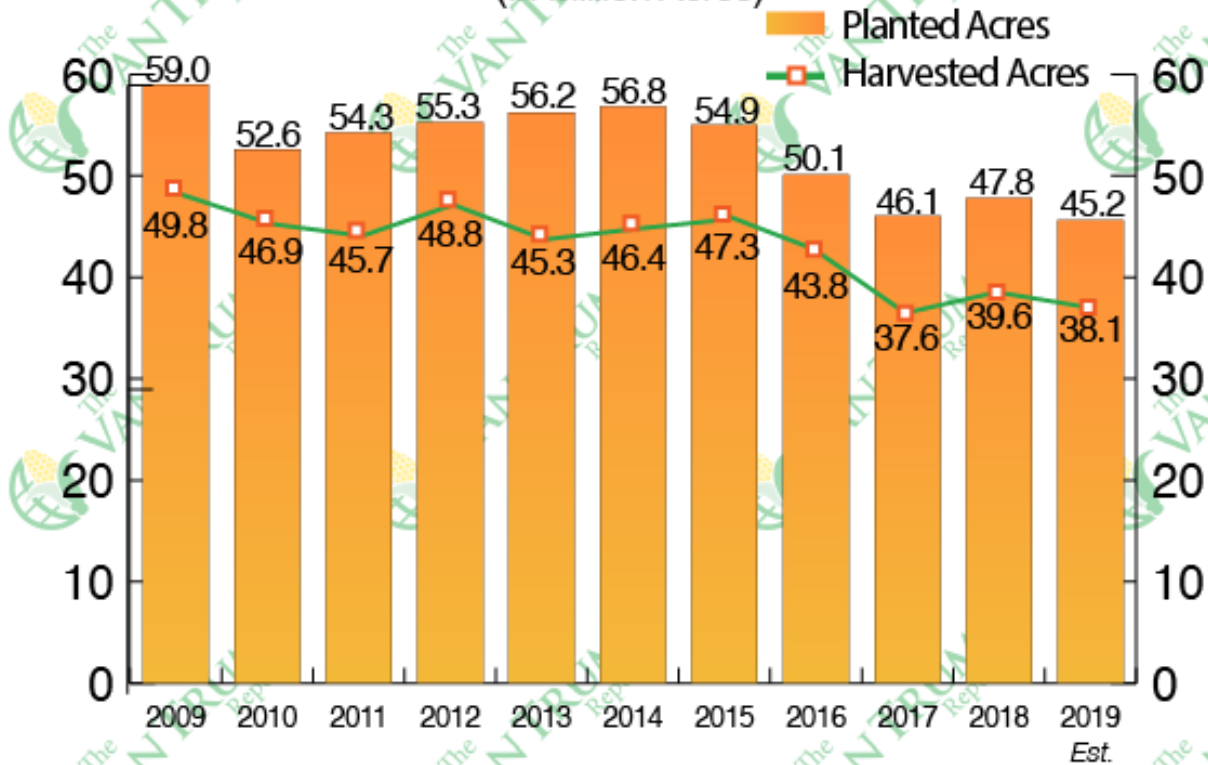
(In Million Acres)



Wheat traders have little fresh or new to digest. U.S. wheat production was lowered by -18.5 million bushels to 1.962 billion. Projected imports are lowered -15 million bushels to 120 million. Annual 2019/20 feed and residual use is lowered by -30 million bushels to 140 million but remain above last year's revised 89.8 million. Wheat exports are lowered -25 million bushels to 950 million on reduced competitiveness in international markets. net-net, U.S. ending stocks are projected at 1.043 billion bushels, up +29 million from the previous month. The season-average farm price is lowered -10 cents per bushel to \$4.70. Global production is lowered -0.3 MMTs led by a -1.0-million-ton cut to Australia's crop on further drought effects. The United States is lowered -0.5 million tons, and Canada and Serbia are each reduced -0.3 million tons. Partly offsetting are production increases of +1.0 million tons for the EU and +0.7 million tons for Turkmenistan, both on updated harvest reports. With supplies rising and use declining, global ending stocks are raised +1.3 million tons to a record 287.8 MMTs. Again, tough to be overly bullish with record global supply and +1.0 billion in U.S. ending stocks.

U.S. Wheat Planted VS. Harvested Acres

(In Million Acres)



Source: USDA WASDE, October 10, 2019

U.S. Production 2019/20

(million bushels)

Corn	October Estimates	Avg. Trade Estimate	Range of Estimates	September Estimates	Last Year
Production	13,799	13,591	12,736 - 13,900	13,799	14,420
Yield	168.4	166.8	159.0 - 169.6	168.2	176.4
Harvested Acres	81.8	81.51	80.1 - 82.6	82.017	81.74

Soybeans	October Estimates	Avg. Trade Estimate	Range of Estimates	September Estimates	Last Year
Production	3,550	3,555	3,384 - 3,660	3,633	4,428
Yield	46.9	47.1	45.5 - 48.5	47.9	50.6

Harvested Acres	75.6	75.639	74.5 - 76.2	75.866	87.594
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U.S. Grain Ending Stocks 2019/20

(million bushels)

		Avg. Trade Estimate	Range of Estimates	September Estimates	Last Year
Corn	1,929	1,689	1,280 - 1,963	2,190	2,116
Soybeans	460	497	324 - 584	640	913
Wheat	1,043	1,040	939 - 1,054	1,014	1,080

World Grain Ending Stocks 2019/20

(million tonnes)

	October Estimates	Avg. Trade Estimate	Range of Estimates	September Estimates	Last Year
Corn	302.55	296.4	289.3 - 304.5	306.3	329.6
Soybeans	95.21	97.0	92.3 - 108.8	199.2	112.4
Wheat	287.80	285.2	280.5 - 288.7	286.5	277.2



> United Soybean Board Study Shows Internet Access Insufficient to Run Rural Businesses: *A new study commissioned by the United Soybean Board (USB) reveals the lack of access to broadband in rural areas takes a significant toll on American farmers and the economy. According to "Rural Broadband and the American Farmer: Connectivity Challenges Limit Agriculture's Economic Impact and Sustainability," an alarming 60% of U.S. farmers say they do not have enough connectivity to run their businesses. Data from the United States Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service indicates that farming contributes to nearly \$133 billion of our country's gross domestic product. Based on USB's rural broadband survey, the lack of connectivity negatively impacts farmers responsible for \$80 billion of gross domestic product. "End users ask farmers to deliver a consistent and high-quality crop without adequate internet access and reliable broadband speeds, which undoubtedly impacts their efficiency and sustainability," says Tim Venverloh, vice president of sustainability strategy for USB. The results of the qualitative and quantitative research highlight the critical need to improve rural broadband access, which has implications far beyond quality of life (information, communication and entertainment) in addition to the livelihood for rural communities. Read more [HERE](#).*

> South American Forest Fires Could Disrupt Farm Belt Rainfall: *Forest fires that swept across Bolivia and Brazil this year could disrupt rainfall distribution across South America's grains-and-beef producing regions in unpredictable ways*

for years to come, according to Leonardo Melgarejo, an agronomist with Brazil's Santa Catarina Federal University. Recent rains in both countries have helped put out the wildfires. However, the fires destroyed large swaths of forest that lock in precipitation in the region, threatening a system of clouds known as "air rivers" in the Amazon that distributes 23 billion cubic meters of water across South America per year, says Melgarejo. That might mean less rain in places that produce beef and soy in not just Brazil and Bolivia but also Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay. Destruction of just 5% more of the Amazon rainforest will trigger a worsening cycle of drought, fires and deforestation, Melgarejo said. German Heinzenknecht, weather specialist with the Applied Climatology consultancy in Argentina, says "It is very possible that parts of northern Argentina will be affected by a delay in the start of the rainy season or that rains will be altogether less than normal. Everything depends on the area that is affected by the fires in Bolivia and Brazil." Read more [HERE](#).

> California Sets February 6 Deadline to End Sale of Chlorpyrifos: Under an agreement reached with Corteva Agriscience, the maker of chlorpyrifos, sales of the pesticide in California will end Feb. 6, 2020, and agricultural growers will not be allowed to possess or use it after Dec. 31, 2020. California environmental regulators have targeted the pesticide for years. They have designated chlorpyrifos as "a toxic air contaminant" that poses health threats when inhaled or exposed to the skin of bystanders. The agreement includes a ban on aerial spraying. Casey Creamer, president of the California Citrus Association, which represents about 5,000 growers, said in an interview that he believes the risks were not as great as the state made them out to be. Creamer added he appreciated that officials have agreed to budget \$5.6 million to help pesticide manufacturers develop a safer alternative to chlorpyrifos. Hawaii and New York are already phasing in chlorpyrifos bans. (Source: Associated Press)

> Pregnancy on the Farm Comes With its Own Set of Risks: Dwindling access to reproductive care has been an issue in rural communities for years: Since 2010, 134 rural hospitals in the U.S. have shut down their obstetrics units, and 18 have closed entirely. That left less than half of rural hospitals providing reproductive care. The closures are coming at a time when at least one woman now works at more than half of America's farms — a 27% increase according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's most recent census (which didn't ask whether people were in operations vs. in the field). The category also doesn't include people who work on the front lines of agriculture but aren't technically producers. Advocates say women are more comfortable asserting their roles in farm operations than ever, which is why they believe health care providers need to make sure women have access to safety information when it comes to things like pesticides and working with livestock. Read more from [Harvest Public Media](#).

> New Cocoa-Pricing Method Makes for a Hot Commodity: Cocoa prices are

surging as traders grapple with a new method for pricing exports designed to alleviate poverty among farmers in Ivory Coast and Ghana, the world's largest growers of the chocolate ingredient. At a time when weakness in the world economy is hurting assets such as oil and industrial metals, cocoa has been one of the top performers in commodities markets. Uncertainty about the new way of pricing West African cocoa exports, designed to improve living conditions for farmers, is driving the rally. According to the World Bank, 80% of cocoa producers, or four million people and their families, live on less than \$3 a day. In July, Ivory Coast and Ghana said they would introduce a "living income differential" of \$400 a ton, to be charged on top of the London futures price. The neighboring nations have the ability to swing prices because they grow around 60% of the world's cocoa. Both their harvests dwarf those of Ecuador and Nigeria, the next-largest producers. The premium applies to next year's cocoa crop, which the two countries will start to ship from October 2020. However, it has already been used in export contracts because large Western chocolate companies have locked in purchases well in advance of receiving their cocoa. One factor pushing futures prices higher: Companies that normally buy cocoa directly from West Africa appear to have been buying beans from exchange stores instead. These stockpiles have depleted by 44% since the end of August, a steep decline in what is normally a source of last resort. Read more [HERE](#).

> Waymo Says Driverless Cars are on the Way: Waymo, the autonomous vehicle business under Alphabet, sent an email to customers of its ride-hailing app that their next trip might not have a human safety driver behind the wheel, according to a copy of the email that was posted on Reddit. The email entitled "Completely driverless Waymo cars are on the way" was sent to customers that use its ride-hailing app in the suburbs of Phoenix. Both the early rider program and Waymo One service use self-driving Chrysler Pacifica minivans to shuttle Phoenix residents in a geofenced area that covers several suburbs including Chandler and Tempe. All of these "self-driving rides" have a human safety driver behind the wheel. A driverless ride is what it sounds like. No safety driver behind the wheel, although a Waymo employee would likely be present in the vehicle initially. While driverless Waymo vehicles have been spotted periodically, they have never been used to shuttle the general public. The introduction of driverless vehicles would be milestone for the company. Read more [HERE](#).

> Apple Desktop Users Should Hit Pause on the New OS Update: Apple has released macOS Catalina; the latest version of its desktop operating system for millions of iMacs, Macs, MacBooks and MacBook Pro machines. Unfortunately Apple has also confirmed that there are some major issues, and affected consumers should refrain from updating the OS until these issues are addressed. The Mac platform is especially popular with DJs, but Apple's removal of iTunes and underlying XML database has broken popular and niche music tools alike. A number of other tools—including Apple Aperture, Microsoft Office 2011 and Adobe

CS6—are experiencing issues as well. Catalina also drops support for 32-bit applications. They simply will not run under the new system. If you are a Mac user that is reliant on a 32-bit app, then you have just a single dialog on installation that warns of the loss of support. Without looking, would you know which of your apps are 32-bit and which are 64-bit? Although you can step back from Catalina to the previous version of macOS (Mojave), that is a destructive process that requires you to erase your hard drive and have a back-up from before the upgrade to Catalina. Bottom line, Mac users should do some research before updating to the new OS! (Source: Forbes)

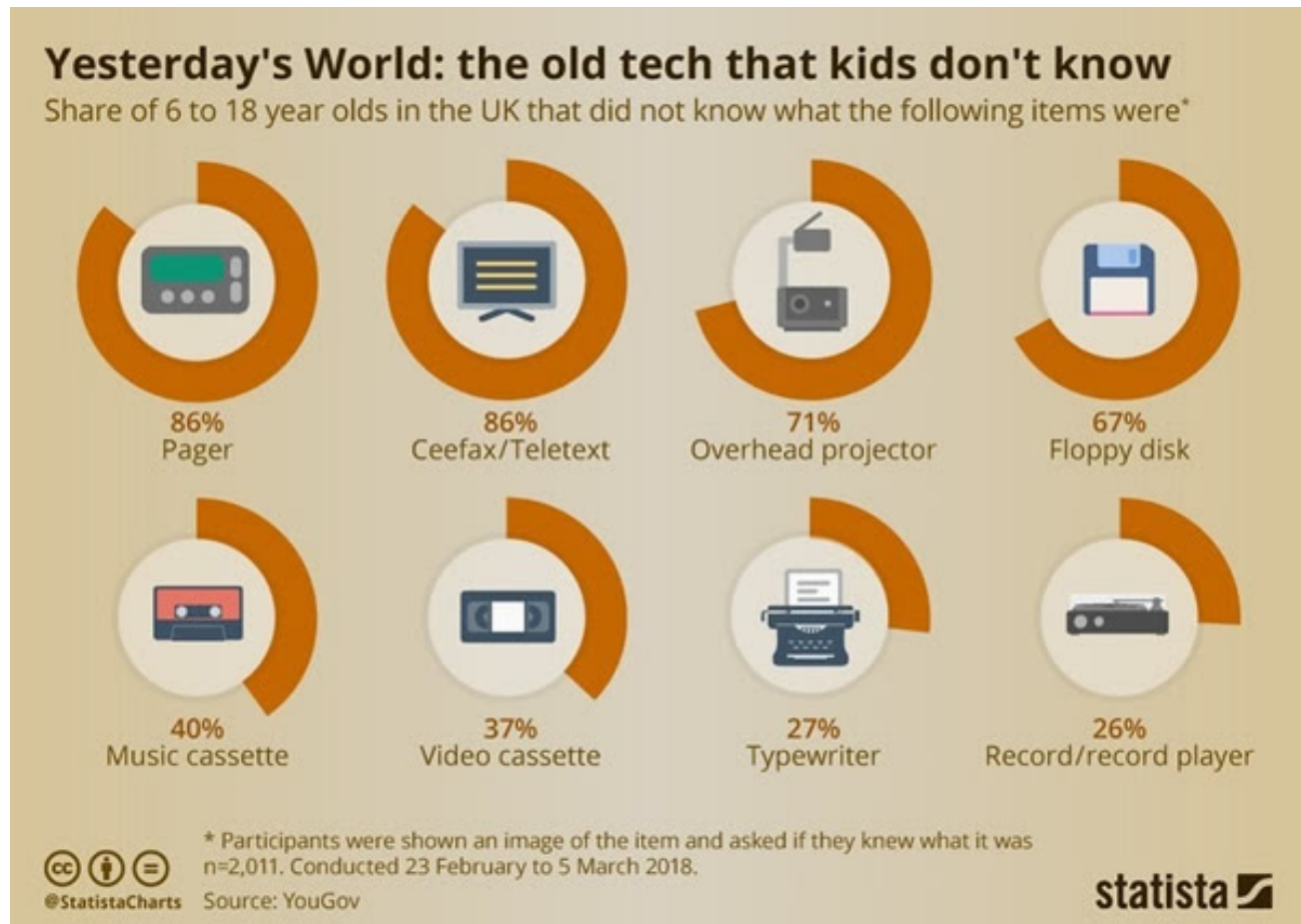
> 20 Countries Facing Population Collapse: While the world's population is expected to continue growing for decades to come, many countries face serious demographic headwinds, with low birth and immigration rates leading to aging and shrinking populations. Japan is facing a "demographic time bomb" as young people in that country forgo having children. The BBC recently highlighted attempts to slow Bulgaria's population decline — the fastest in the world — by improving educational and economic opportunities in the country, making it more attractive for younger workers to stay rather than immigrating elsewhere in the European Union or to other countries. And while the United States is projected to keep growing for the foreseeable future, Americans are waiting longer to have children, suggesting a gradually aging population. To get a sense of the demographic challenges confronting different parts of the world, Business Insider found the countries projected to have the most rapidly shrinking populations in the next few decades. Check out the list [HERE](#).

> The Surprising Decline of Entrepreneurship and Innovation in the West: The idea that we are living in an entrepreneurial age, experiencing rapid disruptive technological innovation on a scale amounting to a new "industrial revolution" is a pervasive modern myth. Scholars have written academic papers extolling the coming of the "entrepreneurial economy". Policymakers and investors have pumped massive amounts of funding into start-up ecosystems and innovation. Business schools, universities and schools have moved entrepreneurship into their core curricula. The only problem is that the West's golden entrepreneurial and innovation age is behind it. Since the 1980s entrepreneurship, innovation and, more generally, business dynamics, have been steadily declining – particularly so in the U.S. Read more from [The Conversation](#).

> Congrats to Simone Biles on Winning Her Fifth All-Around Title: Simone Biles routed the field again — breaking her own women's record margin of victory — in winning her fifth world all-around title and extending a six-year unbeaten streak. Biles, who earned her 22nd career world medal (one shy of the overall record), hit four clean routines en route to 58.999 points. She finished by dropping an imaginary mic at the end of her floor exercise. She is the only woman with more than three world all-around crowns. Biles distanced silver medalist Tang

Xijing of China by 2.1, bettering her record margin of victory of 1.693 set last year. Biles has four more medal events between Saturday and Sunday in individual apparatus finals. She earned medals in all of them last year. Two medals this year will break Vitaly Scherbo's record for most career world championships medals. Biles said last week that she's 99 percent sure these will be her final worlds, which would make the Tokyo Olympics likely her final competition. (Source: NBC Sports)

> Four Revolutionary Technologies that are Now Extinct: *Japan's last pager has emitted its final beep. Tokyo Telemessage, the country's only remaining pager provider, shut down its radio signals this week, following decades of dwindling subscribers. Pagers first went on sale in Japan in the 1960s and were known as pokeberu, or "pocket bells". They were a popular way of contacting someone on the go. Callers could send a short message by dialling a pager number from a landline. The device was initially used to reach salespeople who were out on the road, but later became a status symbol, clipped to the belts of city workers to demonstrate industriousness. By the end of the 1980s, there were 60 million pager users worldwide. But within a decade, its popularity was rapidly overtaken by the mobile phone. In a UK study, 86% of kids over six-years are unable to identify a pager. Three other revolutionary inventions that have gone the way of the dodo - the portable cassette player, the floppy disk, and the video cassette recorder. Read more [HERE](#).*



Central South Dakota - *Today is the last day for the week that we can be in the field. Rain/snow until Sunday. I didn't see a combine move until yesterday. There are about as many guys cutting corn as soybeans. I'd say half the beans have leaves on them yet and lots of corn with green upright ears. Soybean yield so far on mine is a little less than 2018 crops.*

Northwest Minnesota - *We are extremely wet. Rain and snow are on the way all weekend and then maybe again the middle of next week. There is spring wheat still in the field in our area. Almost all the soybeans are still in the field, most of the sugarbeets are in the field and all the corn is in the field. There are beans sitting on the ground in the picture below.*



Southeast North Dakota - *With the record-breaking rain totals that we received the last 45 days, there will be a lot of corn that will be unharvestable. This picture is from the neighbors trying to chop silage before the snow. The quadtrac was needed to pull the chopper. The snow and wind have the possibility of being a*

major problem over the next few days.



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: After you go through a fall I will take over. All life will stall, or at least grow slower. What am I?



Ten of the Most Creative Corn Mazes You'll Find

Corn mazes are old-fashioned, low-tech fun for everyone, but the process of making them is anything but simple. It can take months, and a lot of creativity, to settle on a theme and design for a maze. After the idea is determined, a drawing is laid out in a computer design program and then plotted against a grid so the farmers know exactly where to cut through the cornfield. It's a lot of work that consumes a lot of time, but oh, so worth it for the thousands of visitors who make lasting family memories thanks to the hard work of these farming families.

Plenty of media sources put together their lists of top ten corn mazes but Departures.com put together a list of the ten most "over-the-top" mazes that are sure to bring back some childhood memories. I thought the list was worth passing along. Hopefully, you and your families can find some time to spend together on some fun fall activities like the following corn mazes. Keep in mind, there are a ton of other activities at most locations, along with some delicious local foods on site! Most daily ticket prices fall in the \$12-\$25 for adults and less for children, but be sure to click on their link to learn about the unique offerings of each farm. If you don't find any of these mazes to your liking, try the old "Field of Dreams" approach...build it and they will come! Enjoy!

[Cherry Crest Farm](#) - Ronks, Pennsylvania: At Cherry Crest corn maze, there are three levels of challenge, with the first taking about 20 minutes. You better have some game as well as stamina for the second and third levels. I'm told it could take up to 45 minutes on level two, but if you're up for putting your skills to the test, go for the full maze and expect to spend about two hours. This year's corn maze theme is 'Man on the Moon,' so if you really want to be on-theme, consider timing your trip in the evening so you can walk the maze by moonlight or flashlight!



[Cornbelly's](#) - Spanish Fork, Utah: Cornbelly's was started by corn maze pioneer Brett Herbst, who now runs Maize, and has been going strong for 24 years. This fall you are invited to get lost in their WORLD OF WIZARDS corn maze, with a special nod to Harry Potter. The labyrinth is open day & night - never haunted - and will challenge your wits for an average of 30-45 minutes as you navigate the 8 acres of pathways. Along the way you'll encounter interactive games and special wizard-themed trivia.

[Long and Scott's](#) - Mount Dora, Florida: The Sunshine State is better known for orange groves, but this working farm grows corn, cabbage, and cucumbers. The corn maze is only one of a handful of options on offer at Long and Scott's—there's also the labyrinth and mist mazes, and a 60-foot slide into a sandpit. I'm told it all started with just a 7 acre corn field... Now it has become a tradition with many of their guests.



[Cool Patch Pumpkins](#) - Dixon, California: Cool Patch takes its name from the pumpkin side of the business, but don't be fooled into thinking corn is an afterthought. This farm has the distinction of holding the Guinness World Record for being the largest temporary corn maze. Every year the maze is completely unique and this year features their very own logo and a special tribute to their local First Responders!

[Happy Day Farm](#) - Manalapan, New Jersey: At Happy Day Farm, you can roam through three miles of maze on 10 acres, with designs focused on anniversary themes like John Deere's 100th birthday, or Curious George's 75th. The aim here is to collect squares for your 'maize-o-poly' board. Families with little ones have the option to take the shorter path.



[Amazing Acres](#) - *Edwardsburg, Michigan: Kids will have a literal field day at this 90-acre farm. Amazing acres advertises nearly 50 activities, including oversized tricycle racing, an apple cannon, and a covered wagon play structure. The farm also has two corn mazes designed with this year's theme of superheroes and unicorns in mind.*

[Vermont Corn Maze](#) - *Danville, Vermont: Twenty-four acres, 10-foot-tall corn stalks and more than three miles of trails mean you should expect to spend more than two hours finding your way through this winding maze. The BIG Maze covers 24 acres and throughout it, you'll find unique things from past mazes and 100' of bridges. An Emergency Exit trail also covers most of the maze giving you a chance to take a break, grab a snack or use the restrooms without having to start over from the beginning. Children do have a shorter option and both options include an underground tunnel.*

[Treinen Family Farm](#) - *Lodi, Wisconsin: Treinen Family Farm is a child's paradise, with tractor tire playgrounds, slides, and a hay fort. The maze takes about 45 minutes to complete. Before you head out, climb up the 'observation tower' for a look at the pattern. Teams get a blank map and find clues in mailboxes along the way.*



[Queens County Farm Museum](#) - Queens, New York: Sick of getting lost in between buildings? You don't need to go far to get lost in between corn stalks instead. 'The Amazing Maize Maze' is made up of puzzles and clues that lead city slickers through three acres of path at New York City Landmark Queens County Farm Museum. The adventure begins with a stalk talk to prepare you for the 3-acre challenge of finding clues, solving puzzles and making your way out of this interactive maze.

[A-Maize-ing Farms](#) - Mayfield, Kentucky: With a name like A-Maizing-ing Farms, it's no surprise that they've claimed the honor of Kentucky's largest corn maze. There are three levels of challenge here, as well as a giant bounce pillow, hayrides, and pumpkins.



Get Lost in a Corn Maze!



NEW Amazon Gadget Gifts that Might be Cool for the Holidays

Online retail giant Amazon has added a slew of new products to its lineup, most of which are, of course, Alexa-enabled. Among them are new iterations of the

Amazon Echo and Dot, the latter of which adds a new LED clock screen that displays not only the time but alarm times and the temperature as well. There is also a new Echo Show 8, this one featuring an 8-inch display and equipped with the FreeTime feature. Amazon says the FreeTime on Echo Show will showcase kid-friendly videos, allow for video calls that have been pre-approved by a guardian, and allow for photo-editing with stickers. The company also announced its first-ever celebrity voice for Alexa - Samuel L. Jackson. For a one-time 99 cent fee, the superstar will read the news, update the weather, and even tell jokes. Mr. Jackson will be available later this year and will be rated "mature", which for Samuel L. Jackson fans, goes without saying. Check out some of the other new gadgets below:

Amazon Smart Oven: *Yes, Amazon made an oven. The Amazon Smart Oven is a microwave-convection oven-fryer-warmer hybrid that can be controlled with other Alexa-enabled devices. It also has built-in presets that automate some cooking processes. "Just ask Alexa to cook common foods using dozens of presets that have been carefully tested and tuned. Alexa will announce when to stir the food during cooking and let you know when it's finished." The Amazon Smart Oven is available for pre-order at \$250. Click [HERE](#).*



EchoBuds: *Amazon is finally entering the crowded wireless earbud space,*

though they have added Alexa compatibility to theirs, of course. According to Amazon, these buds feature a noise-cancellation setting via Bose's Active Noise Reduction technology. Plus, the buds are compatible with other voice services like Siri or Google Assistant. They boast up to 5 hours of battery life, which can be extended to 20 hours with the case. Pre-order pricing starts at \$130, making them quite a bit cheaper than Apple's AirPods. Click [HERE](#)



Echo Glow: *The Glow is basically an illuminated orb that looks a lot like a nightlight, which makes sense because it's actually aimed at kids. Its Alexa-enabled features include "flickering campfire light for playtime, a Sleep Timer that gradually dims as bedtime nears, or, coming soon, a dance party with music and lights," Amazon said of the Echo Glow. Echo Glow is available now for pre-order at \$30. Click [HERE](#).*



Amazon Eero: *This router stems from the wi-fi router company, Eero, that Amazon purchased earlier this year. The wireless mesh wi-fi router covers 1,500 square feet and claims to "intelligently route traffic to avoid congestion, buffering, and dropoffs." The app allows users to monitor their network, check device usage, share the network with friends, or even pause the internet. Eero Secure or Eero Secure+ services are available as subscription add-ons. The router is available now for \$100 or a 3-pack for \$250. Click [HERE](#).*

Echo Flex: *This is a compact Amazon Echo speaker that plugs directly into a wall outlet, cable-free. It doubles as a USB charging port. For now, it just allows you to access Alexa but Amazon plans to add accessories like a hallway smart nightlight and Ring-linked motion sensor. It's a cheaper alternative to Echo Dot at just \$25 (pre-order) and it also doesn't take up any surface space. Accessories are expected to start at \$15. Click [HERE](#).*



Echo Frames: *These smart eyeglasses are part of Amazon's Day One Edition initiative, which the company bills as "a new way for us to get new products out in limited volume, to customers, and to get real feedback—and if customers love them, we'll double down and build a lot more." That means they are available on an invite-only basis, similar to the original Echo and more recently Echo Look and Echo Auto. The frames are prescription compatible but don't have a camera or display. Amazon says they are meant to access Alexa remotely with a built-in mic along with direction speakers that aim Alexa's responses at you so they aren't heard by people around you. So far, they only work with Android phones. Invitees can pick them up for \$180.*



Echo Loop: *Another invite-only product, this one is a smart ring that contains two tiny microphones, a speaker, and a button that activates the device, all apparently small enough to wrap around your finger. The ring pairs with a user's phone and will vibrate when Alexa is listening as well as when the wearer is receiving a notification or a call. It will be \$100 via the initial invitation period, rising to \$130 once the introductory period ends.*



Bonus sneak-peak: Amazon also teased an upcoming product for dogs called Ring Fetch which clips onto a collar and let's pet owners track their four-legged friends if they escape a designated area. This device will use a new wireless standard called "Amazon Sidewalk," a low-bandwidth protocol that's designed to power ultra-low-power devices and connect them over long distances. Sidewalk uses a 900MHz spectrum, and Amazon says it works over distances up to 500m and even as far as a mile using a network of access points. Amazon says it handed out 700 of the devices to its employees, friends, and family and had the LA Basin completely covered by the network in three weeks. Amazon wants the secure protocol to be used in low-cost devices ranging from smart lights, to weather sensors, and rain sensors in your mailbox and hopes that the protocol will allow for devices with exceptionally long battery lives of a year or more. (Sources: Gizmodo, The Verge, Amazon)



Celebrating 35 Years Together!!!

As many of you know, my wife Michelle and I have been together since High School. I couldn't imagine doing this dance without her! This past week we celebrated by taking a great trip to the Northeast to enjoy the fall scenery. We've never been north of Boston and have always wanted to see the area during the fall foliage. Of course, we both had a million excuses for why we didn't have the time to take the trip, but we've decided we no longer have the time to keep thinking that way. We've concluded we are always going to be busy with something we deem important, that's just who we are, we like to keep ourselves extremely busy. But we've also realized the clock is ticking, so we are just going to book trips and figure out how to make it work. I'm so glad it only took us 50 years to figure this out:) I challenge my friends and readers to take this same leap of faith. Schedule the date nights and trips first, don't always push them out of the way and sacrifice that time together because it's the easiest thing on the schedule to move. Before long you will look back and have sacrificed your entire relationship to make time for things that in the end will mean very little. Below are a couple of fun pics, one of Michelle and I together in high school in the mid-80's and one from last week's trip off the Atlantic. It's crazy to think about how fast time flies. Hope everyone has a great weekend and spends a little extra time with that someone you love. I've read and been told many marriage tips throughout the years. The folks at Your Tango have published some of the best submitted. You can

see "The 50 Best Marriage Tips Of All Time" by Clicking [HERE...](#)

The fine art of dating: *Setting aside a romantic evening on a regular basis can rekindle the magic of a long-term relationship. It doesn't have to be fancy, just special time for the two of you to remember how and why you first fell in love. - John Sovec, LMFT*

Avoid the "Roommate Syndrome": *In order to keep the spark alive and avoid "roommate syndrome," couples have to understand the notion of spending "time" together versus creating "sacred" time together. Spending time at social events, time with family and doing "chores" together does not count as sacred time. Instead, carve out special time to not only be intimate, but also ensure that you continue to share new experiences together such as hiking, exploring someplace new, or arranging a stay-cation in your own city. - Marni Battista, CPC*

More Touching: *Research consistently shows that touching more creates a stronger bond by releasing oxytocin. Hold hands, rub shoulders, hug, kiss, give high-fives or even fist-bumps or bottom pats. When you give a quick hug or kiss, try to lengthen it to at least 5 or 10 seconds for more effective results! - Lori Lowe, MA*

Agreeing to Disagree: *No two people agree on everything, and that's okay, but it's important to be okay with each other's differences. - Lee Bowers, LP, PhD*

Mars vs. Venus: *For men, it's important to understand that women want to be listened to. Men don't need to solve or fix everything; listening itself is an exceptional gift. For women, it's important to understand that men need time for themselves. By giving him space to pull away and not taking it personally, you allow him to reconnect with his desire for you and his commitment to the relationship. - MarsVenus Coaching, Life Coach*

Be More Perceptive & Less Delusional: *Boredom in the bedroom, lack of conversations, resentment are all symptoms that need to be treated just as you would symptoms for a chronic illness that seemingly has no cure. Throw at it every possible remedy you've got, no matter how alternative or weird it seems. Chances are one or more of them will actually work and your marriage will get stronger and stronger. - Alisa Bowman, Relationship Coach*

Choose Your Words Carefully: *Never begin a sentence with the word 'you'. Instead, start with the word "I" and then share your feelings*

instead of your thoughts. This is not as easy as it sounds because we all disguise a lot of thoughts as feelings, as in "I feel like you are avoiding me." Genuine feelings are sad, angry, happy, lonely, frustrated, etc ... and sharing your core feelings creates better communication, and more connection and compassion. - Veronica Monet, ACS, CAM

An Improved You: *Love your marriage by first taking care of yourself. So many of my patients say the reason their marriage fell apart is that they became depressed and disinterested in their partner. If you keep working on you, your marriage will stay fresh and vital. Start today by adding a new wedding vow to your list: Promise to take care of yourself so you will continue to age with grace and confidence by your partner's side. - Mary Jo Rapini, LPC*





ANSWER to riddle: Winter.

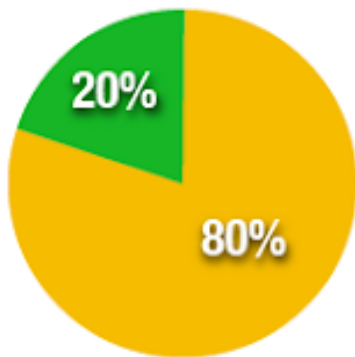


CASH SALES & HEDGING TOTALS

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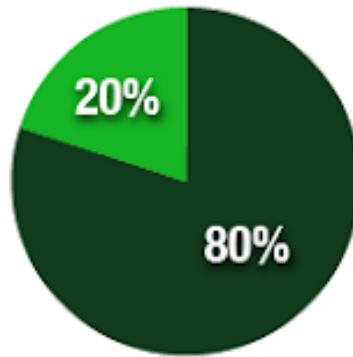
Corn 2018 Crop

80% SOLD
20% HEDGED
0% UNPROTECTED



Soybean 2018 Crop

80% SOLD
20% HEDGED
0% UNPROTECTED



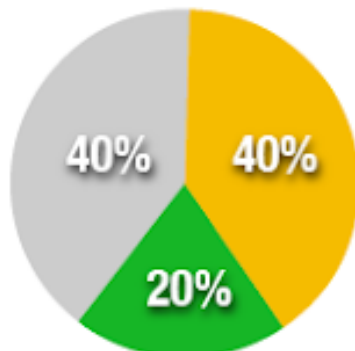
Wheat 2018 Crop

100% SOLD
0% HEDGED
0% UNPROTECTED



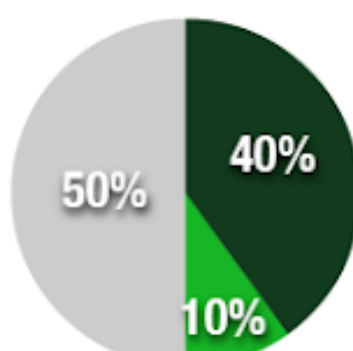
Corn 2019 Crop

40% SOLD
20% HEDGED
40% UNPROTECTED



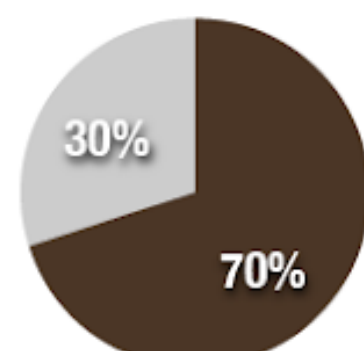
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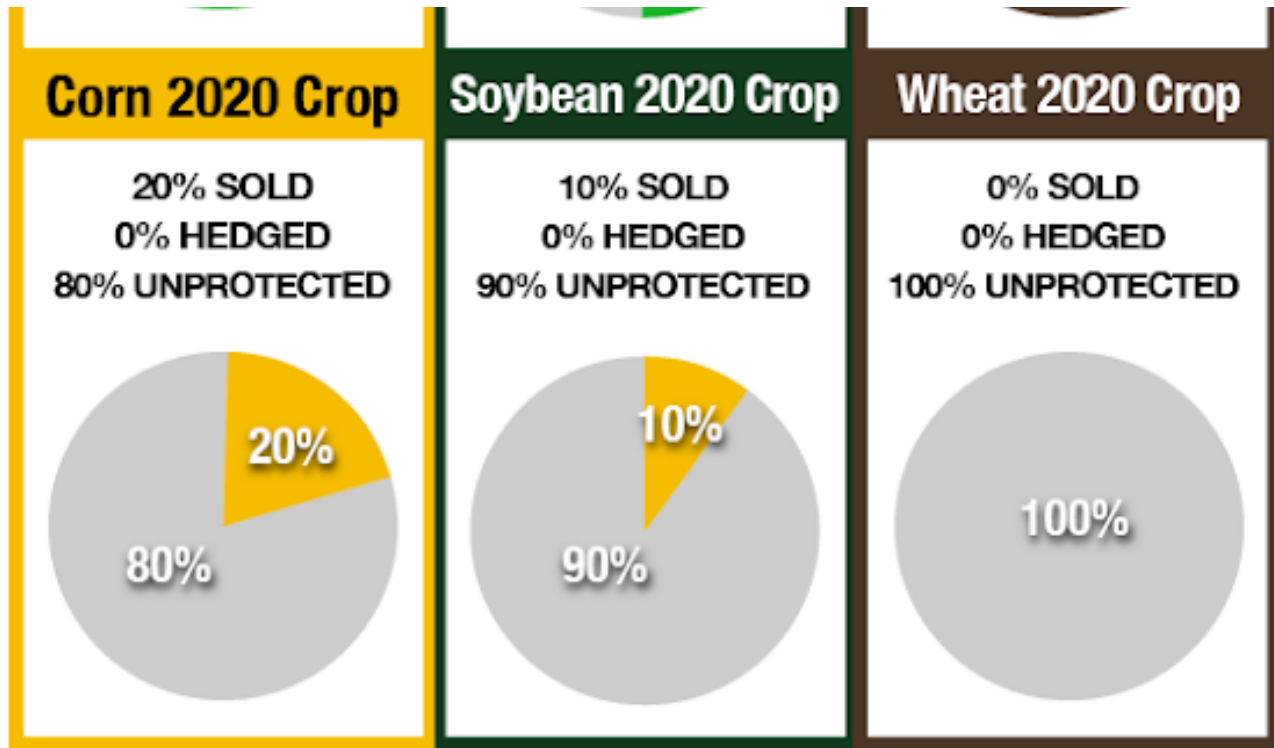
40% SOLD
10% HEDGED
50% UNPROTECTED



Wheat 2019 Crop

100% SOLD
0% HEDGED
0% UNPROTECTED





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