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**GOOD MORNING: The Van Trump Report 10-31-19**

1 message

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

Thu, Oct 31, 2019 at 5:30 AM

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"Remember that not getting what you want is sometimes a wonderful stroke of luck." - **Dalai Lama**

**Thursday, October 31, 2019**[Printable Copy](#) or [Audio Version](#)

**Morning Summary:** Investors have pushed the S&P 500 to its second record-high close this week as the Fed cuts interest rates for a third time this year. The Fed's move came as no real surprise with most insiders saying they felt the rate cut was already priced into the market. Traders are now interested in the Fed's plan moving forward? Updated language in the formal announcement indicates they will "pause" the rate trimming for now but will continue to monitor the economic data and reassess the Fed policy as needed. To this point, they have maintained a mostly "dovish" tone and seem willing to be accommodative moving forward should the economy run into heavier headwinds. The Fed also remained mostly upbeat about the U.S. economy, pointing to the strong labor market and rising consumer spending. Odds of a December rate cut are now just 20%. Also out yesterday was the first read on 3rd-quarter GDP which came in higher than

expected at +1.9%. The good news is it shows the U.S. economy is still expanding but at a slightly slower pace than the beginning of the year when GDP shot up to +3.1%. However, the stellar 1st-quarter growth was largely credited to Trump's tax cuts and the impact from those has since faded. GDP in the 2nd-quarter was +2.0%, so the slowdown is very moderate. Investors are now focused on the October Employment Report which is due out Friday. ADP yesterday showed private employers added +125,000 jobs in October, which was inline with expectations and above expectations for Friday's report, which consensus expects to show +90,000 jobs added. Today's economic data includes Personal Income and Outlays and Chicago PMI. Earnings remain in focus this week as well, with most S&P 500 companies continuing to post better-than-expected results. Apple, Facebook, and Starbucks all topped expectations in their earnings announcements after markets closed yesterday. Earnings of note today include Altria, ADM, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Celgene, Cigna, Dupont, Kraft-Heinz, Marathon Petroleum, Royal Dutch Shell, Sirius XM, The Clorox Co., and Westinghouse. On the U.S. political front, the House today will hold a formal vote to move forward with the impeachment inquiry into President Trump. Republicans have complained that Democratic leaders — especially Pelosi and House Intelligence Chairman Adam Schiff — are conducting the investigation in the dark. The formal vote is expected to open the proceedings up to lawmakers as well as the public. The goings on in Washington don't seem to be having much of an impact on stock markets at the moment, but there are starting to be some worries on Wall Street that the whole process is creating even deeper divides between the two parties, which in turn could make investors a bit more nervous. Remember, Congress still needs to pass numerous funding bills by November 21 to avoid a government shutdown. The USMCA (NAFTA replacement) is also still in limbo. As for the U.S.-China trade deal, there are reports floating around that China's refusal to commit to big agricultural purchases is causing some rifts in negotiations. Also, Chile yesterday cancelled next month's APEC summit, which is where President Trump had hoped to sign "Phase 1" of the trade accord with China. Even though the venue obviously needs to change, U.S. officials say Trump wants to keep the same timeline and have a deal signed sometime in mid-November. It will be interesting to see how things play out.

**U.S. Glyphosate Plaintiffs Double In Past Few Months:** *Reuters reported that Bayer is now facing 42,700 U.S. plaintiffs blaming its glyphosate-based weedkillers for their cancer, more than twice the tally in July. Bayer, the inventor of aspirin and owner of Yasmin birth control and Claritin allergy relief brands, is widely expected to eventually buy itself out of the litigation, with analysts currently estimating the size of a future settlement at \$8-\$12 billion. Bayer, which last year acquired Monsanto for \$63 billion, revealed the spike in claims as it reported a 7.5% rise in third-quarter adjusted earnings. stock has lost about 30% in value since last August, when a California jury in the first such lawsuit found Monsanto should have warned of the alleged cancer risks associated with its glyphosate-based weedkillers such as Roundup. Read more at [Reuters](#)*

**Great World Series!** Congratulations to the Washington Nationals on defeating the Houston Astros in game #7 of the 2019 World Series. This is the first time in franchise history for Washington to win a World Series. A bit of history... The Washington Senators, a founding member of the American League, played in the nation's capital from 1901 to 1960 before moving to Minnesota and becoming the Twins. A second Washington Senators team (1961–1971) had a winning record only once in their 11 years. The second Senators team moved to Arlington, Texas, for the 1972 season and changed their name to the Texas Rangers, leaving Washington without a baseball team for the next 33 years. In 2005, the Montreal Expos moved to Washington, D.C. and were renamed the Washington Nationals, and 14 years later are crowned World Series Champions. Keep in mind, back in early-June you could have bet \$100 in Vegas on the Nationals to win the World Series and you would now be collecting \$6,250.





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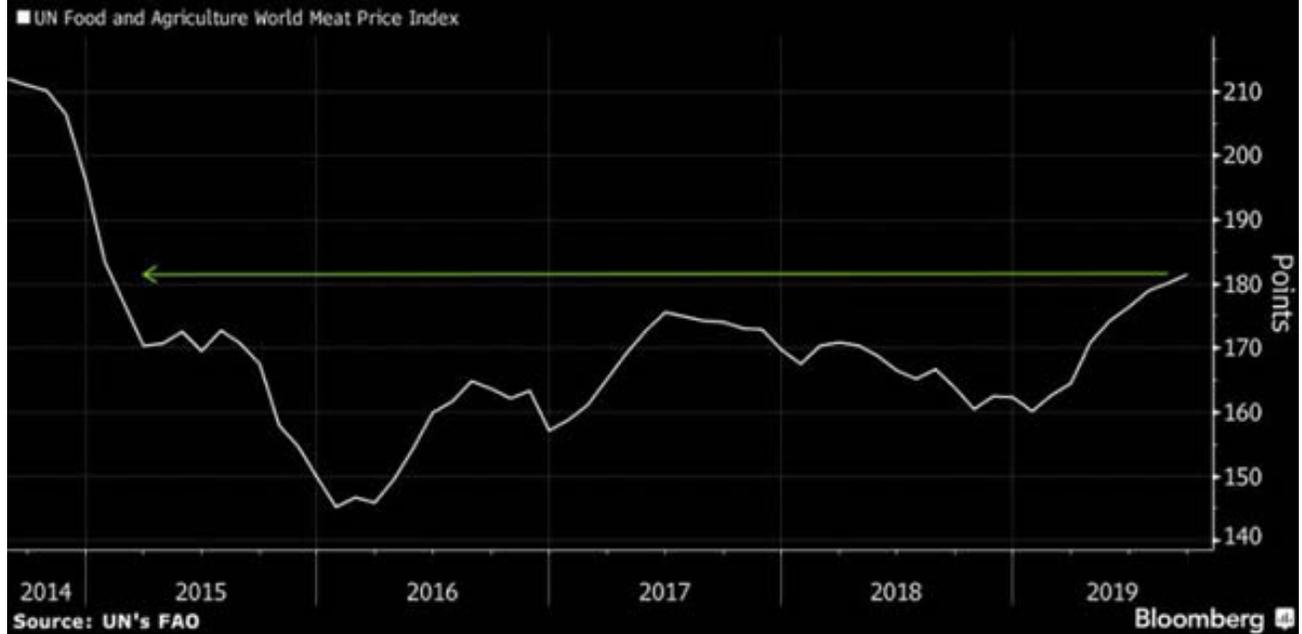
**Fed Cuts Rates as They Signal a Pause in Policy Tweaks:** *The Federal Reserve cut interest rates for the third time this year, though updated wording in the formal announcement indicates this may be the last trim for the foreseeable future...assuming the economy stays on track. The FOMC dropped its language to "act as appropriate to sustain the expansion," while adding a promise to monitor data as officials assess their next move. Two FOMC members, Kansas City Fed President Esther George and Boston's Eric Rosengren, voted against the quarter point cut, preferring to leave rates unchanged. In a follow-up press conference, Fed Chairman Jerome Powell said he believes the Fed's current monetary policy will "remain appropriate as long as incoming information about the economy remains broadly consistent with our outlook." He also stressed that the central bank sees no current need to raise interest rates, saying U.S. inflation would need to significantly move up and remain persistent before they would consider a rate hike. Powell also remains optimistic about the U.S. economy, calling it "resilient to the winds that have been blowing this year" and crediting the U.S. consumer for much of that, saying "What we've had is an economy where the consumer is really driving growth." On the negative side, the Fed says business fixed investment and exports "remain weak." The Federal Reserve's next meeting,*

*and also its last for 2019, is on December 10-11.*

**Apple Revenue Hits New Record with Bets on Subscription Services:** *Apple reported its fiscal fourth quarter 2019 earnings, which saw the company earn a record \$64 billion in revenue. The news reflects the general trend with Apple over the past year: iPhone sales are down, but service revenue hit an all-time high. In other words, Apple's strategy to de-emphasize hardware sales and bet more on subscription services seems to be working. That \$64 billion in revenue is up +2% year over year compared to Q4 2018. However, iPhone sales, which is still Apple's biggest moneymaker, continued to decline compared to last year, bringing in \$33.36 billion in revenue compared to \$36.76 billion last year, a drop of roughly -9.2%. On the flip side, Apple reported that it had reached a record high for its services business, which brought in \$12.5 billion in Q4 (compared to \$11.46 billion last quarter, and \$10.6 billion year over year). Apple says it now has "over 450 million paid subscriptions across the services on our platform, compared to over 330 million just a year ago." Notably, Apple's new service record comes before the launch of Apple TV Plus, perhaps its biggest bet yet on selling consumer subscriptions. Apple's next quarter will be an interesting one, given that its Q1 quarter tends to include the bulk of its holiday sales, as well as the fact that it'll be the first to include the upcoming TV Plus service. The company is forecasting revenue for Q1 2020 between \$85.5 billion and \$89.5 billion, compared to the \$84.3 billion it made in Q1 2019. (Sources: CNBC, The Verge)*

**Poultry Shares Heat Up With Lifting of China Import Ban:** *Share prices of chicken producers have taken flight following China's lifting of a four-year old ban on importing poultry from the U.S. The gains came after Chinese officials said over the weekend that they and U.S. counterparts reached a deal in which the U.S. would allow imports of Chinese cooked chicken and seafood products in exchange for China scrapping the ban on U.S. poultry shipments. The pact, reached amid the broader trade dispute between the countries, caused poultry stocks to pop. The ban was instituted in 2015 in response to outbreaks of avian influenza in the U.S. Lately, however, China has struggled with an outbreak of African swine fever that has cost the country roughly 40% of its hog herd and initiated a scramble for alternative proteins. Sanderson Farms shares got the biggest boost, jumping nearly 16% on Monday, the stock's biggest one-day move in more than a decade. Shares of rivals Pilgrim's Pride and Tyson Foods rose 4.6% and 8.3%, respectively. Those three companies accounted for nearly half of the ready-to-cook chicken produced in the U.S. last year, according to Sanderson. Prices for chicken in the U.S. have yet to jump like the shares of producers have, but they are expected to rise alongside shipments to China. Read more from [The Wall Street Journal](#).*

### Expensive Meat A gauge of global prices has climbed to a four-year high



# FARM TANK

Tweets of the Day





**Jon Erlichman** ✓  
@JonErlichman



## Stock returns since IPO:

Microsoft: +144,651%

Adobe: +120,171%

Amazon: +89,840%

Cisco: +63,855%

Nike: +50,499%

Apple: +42,552%

Starbucks: +24,720%

Netflix: +24,984

Disney: +17,222%

Mastercard: +5,774%

Tiffany & Co: +5,156%

Salesforce: +3,400%

Visa: +1,516%

Facebook: +391%



**Mike McClelland**  
@nipawinmike



Replying to [@JeremyC8080](#)

Buried one last fall day before snow came. Had to take steps off. Skid steer on tracks dug out between tires on both sides. Had to haul dry dirt back in each time to have dry ground to work on. 2 tow straps, 2 quad tracks





**Pata**  
@PataSangster



A three generation farm family!! ❤️❤️. I'm lucky enough to have been along with them for harvest this year!

@Grainline1 @kaj\_birkjar #harvest19 #farm365  
#farmfamily





**LoU@e**  
@LouiseCarduner



Do not use your energy to worry. Use your energy to believe. ☀️ #harvest19 #AgTwitter



**farmerjay**  
@JayReiners



Gunner & the first drake of the year. Unfortunately we busted ice all the way & forecast doesn't look to good for open water for a week or so. Hope they don't all fly over.  
#duckdog #berretta







**Super 70s Sports**  
@Super70sSports



Well, I guess my bike sucked ...





**Sports Motivation**  
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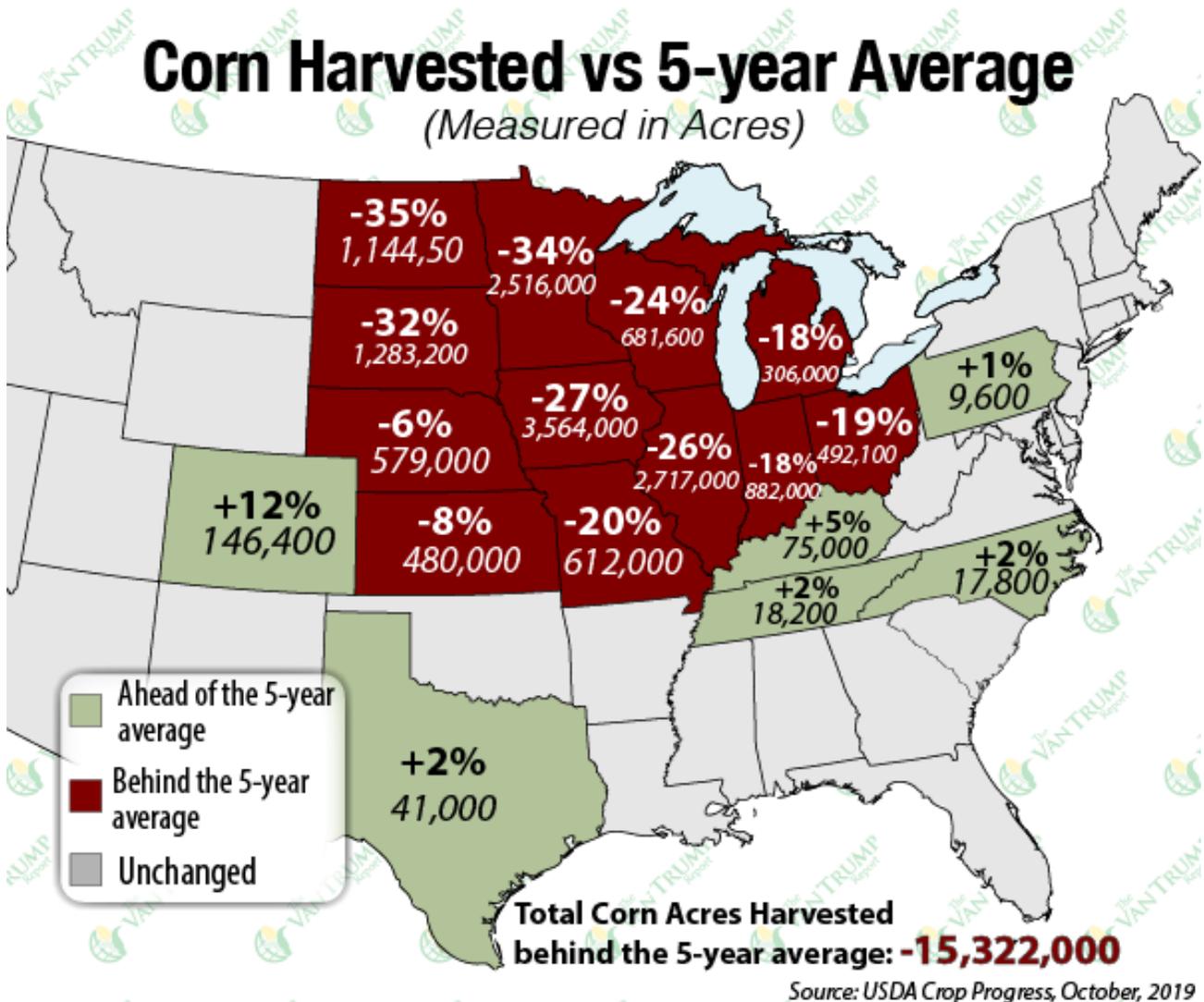
Give it your all everyday.

**WINNING**  
MEANS YOU'RE  
**WILLING**  
TO GO LONGER,  
**WORK HARDER,**  
AND GIVE MORE  
**THAN ANYONE ELSE**  
VINCE LOMBARDI

The advertisement features a vibrant, multi-colored background with a rainbow gradient. At the top, the word "FARMCON" is written in large, bold, black letters, with a stylized green plant icon integrated into the letter 'O'. Below this, the text "Conference for Creative Minds in Agriculture" is written in a smaller, white font. Two men are standing on either side of the central text. The man on the left is wearing a dark blue suit and glasses, looking thoughtful. The man on the right is wearing a green jacket over a red and black plaid shirt and jeans, waving. The central text "Great MINDS THINK ALIKE" is written in large, bold, black letters, with "MINDS" and "THINK ALIKE" being significantly larger than "Great". At the bottom, a black banner contains the text "Jan. 15th & 16th, Kansas City, MO - Click Here to Learn More" in white.

**Corn** traders continue to debate the obvious i.e. final U.S. acres and yield, upcoming South American weather, U.S. export and ethanol demand, and ongoing trade negotiations. Bulls continue to argue that the current USDA acreage and yield estimates by the USDA need to work lower. I'm in agreement but not wanting to risk a ton of money on it happening. I could also argue that U.S. exports are going to start showing major improvements and corn used for ethanol will be increasing. But then again I'm not confident enough in those debates to place major bets on the outcome. Therefore, as a producer, I continue to like the thought of selling cash bushels out of the field into a strong basis and reowning the board in some capacity. The JUL20 calls and bull-call spreads seem to make some sense. I feel like the bullish cards are in the deck, I just don't know how, when, or if they get flipped over? As a spec, I continue to hold bullish positions and am content playing the waiting game. There's really very little new to report. Corn used for ethanol has slowly increased the past five weeks. In fact, ethanol

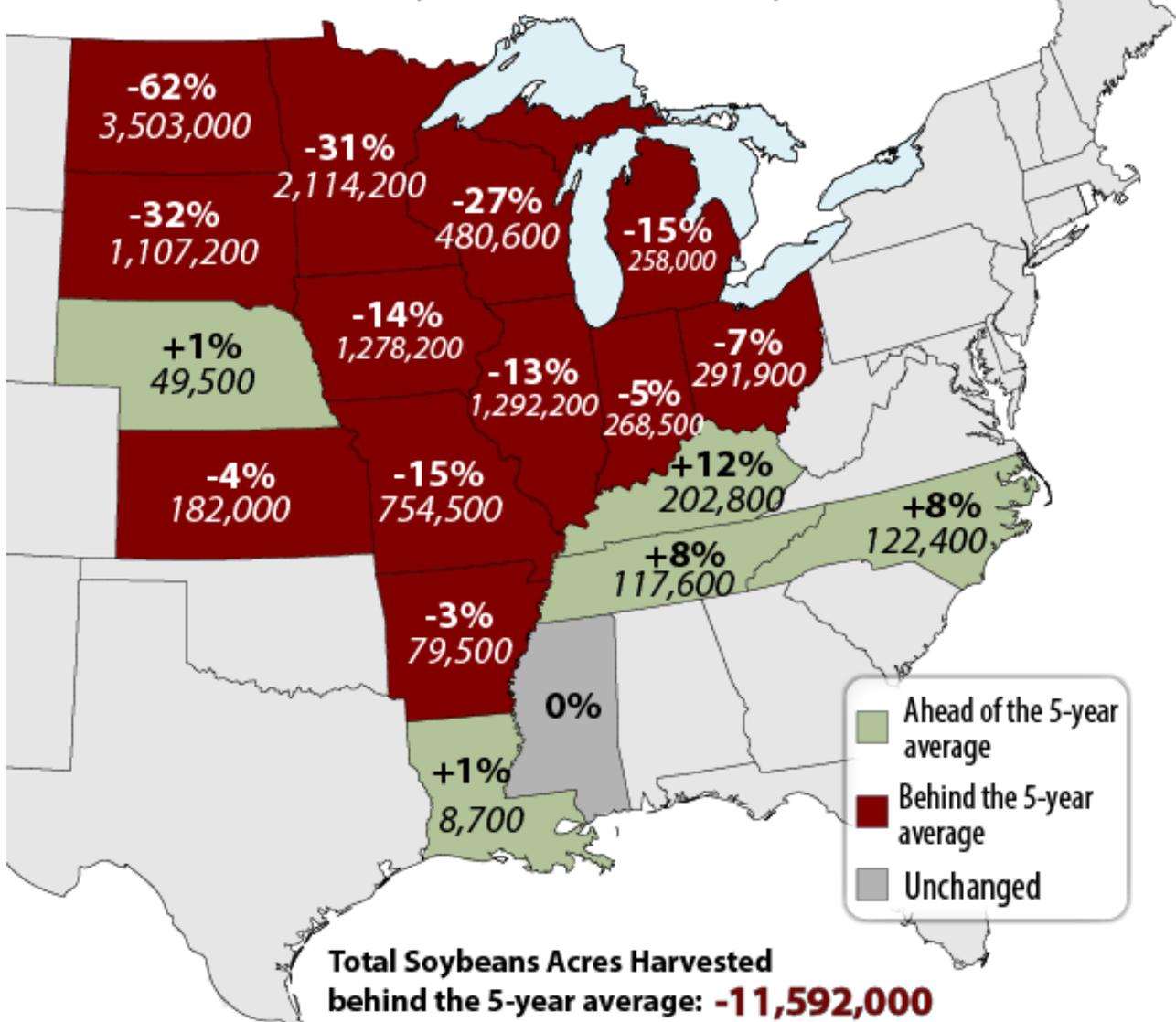
production has now risen to over +1 million barrels per day for the first time since early-September. We should learn more about corn exports this morning. Production numbers will be updated by the USDA next-Friday. Between now and then I'm looking for the market to stay mostly range-bound. The DEC19 contract seems to feel very comfortable floating around between \$3.80 and \$4.10 per bushel. In fact, we really haven't traded outside this range in the past month. I'm also keeping a close eye on the DEC20 new-crop contract, a breakout above \$4.11^4 would be the highest close since August 8th and might be the time to start considering another small cash sale.



**Soybean** traders continue to debate U.S. and Chinese trade negotiations. The latest headlines argue that Chinese leaders are dragging their feet a bit in regards to committing to amounts and timeframes of U.S. purchases. At the same time, Chile's government has been forced to cancel next month's APEC summit in Santiago where President Trump was expected to meet with Chinese leader Xi Jinping to sign "Phase 1" of the newly negotiated trade agreement. Which starts to bring about uncertainty when the trade deal will be officially inked. Technically, the

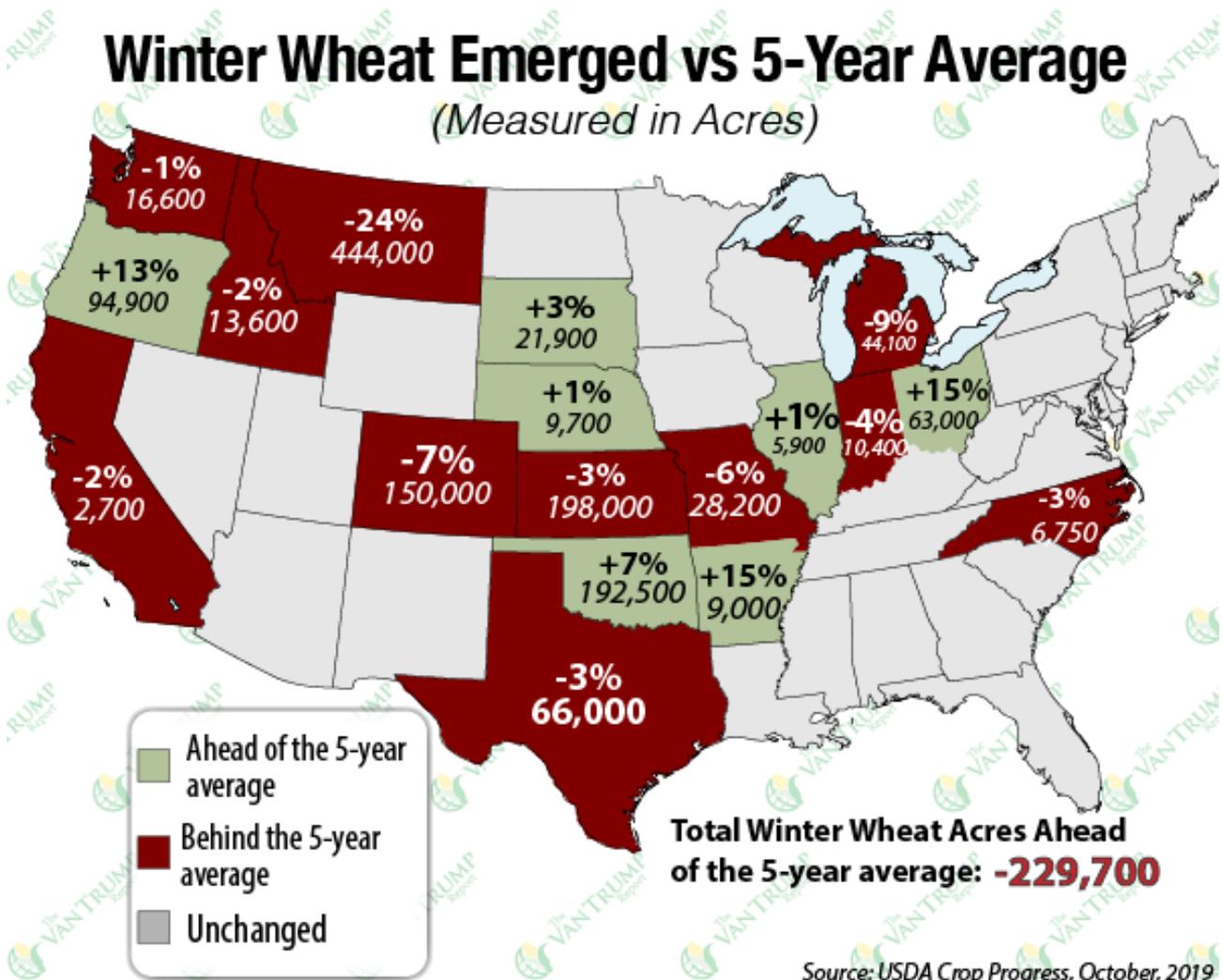
market has started showing some signs of weakness posting its lowest close in the past few weeks. The JAN19 contract seems to have heavier support down in the \$9.10 to \$9.20 area. The new-crop NOV20 contract is thought to have stronger support in the \$9.50 to \$9.60 range. As a producer, I made my first small 2020 sale around this \$9.60 area last month. I'm now paying very close attention and trying to adamantly defend the \$9.50 area. Keeping my eye on updated demand numbers that will be including weekly export sales and the September crush data. Any signs of weakness in demand could cause more bulls to pause. Pay close attention during the next few weeks.

## Soybeans Harvested vs 5-year Average (Measured in Acres)



Source: USDA Crop Progress, October, 2019

**Wheat** traders are debating mostly mixed weather conditions here in the U.S. Bulls are talking about the extremely cold temperatures, while bears are talking about better soil moisture and some protective snow cover being added to the mix. Keep in mind, the USDA's first crop condition estimate was slightly better than the historical average, so I don't really see a major production story brewing. I could argue there are some pockets of concern and some delays in U.S. planting but with ending stocks +1.0 billion bushels and global supply record large it's tough to get overly excited. There's also really not much of a story brewing for U.S. demand. Exports are better than last year, but nothing to write home about. We need to find a fresh bullish catalyst, but at the moment that seems to be a stretch. As a spec, I remain on the sideline. As a producer, I continue to play the extended waiting game.





> **U.S.-China Trade Talks, Beijing's Refusal to Spell Out Farm Buys is Sticking Point:** *U.S. President Donald Trump's demand that Beijing commit to big purchases of American farm products has become a major sticking point in talks to end the Sino-U.S. trade war, according to several people briefed on the negotiations. Trump has said publicly that China could buy as much as \$50 billion of U.S. farm products, more than double the annual amount it did the year before the trade war started. U.S. officials continue to push for that in talks, while Beijing is balking at committing to a large figure and a specific time frame. Chinese buyers would like the discretion to buy based on market conditions. Chinese agricultural buyers, representing a mix of state and private enterprise, typically import from the cheapest source. The U.S. demand that China commit to buying a huge volume of products, regardless of whether they were economical or in demand, would require state intervention to be implemented. That contradicts a core demand the United States is making of China in the current trade war, and a U.S. policy goal for decades: that China become a more market-based economy and stop subsidizing state companies and favoring local firms at the expense of foreign competitors. Read more [HERE](#).*

> **Bunge's 3rd-Quarter Earnings Took a Shocking Nosedive:** *Agribusiness giant Bunge saw its earnings crash 47% in the third quarter as a poor performance from the grains and oilseeds sector pegged back robust growth in their edible oil sector, according to earnings results. The US-based business, the B*

*in the ABCD quartet of agri-majors, reported full segment earnings in the July-to-September period at \$304 million, before income and tax (EBIT). This is down sharply on the \$573 million mt reported in the same quarter last year. The figures are also \$66 million below the second quarter's figures. The companies core oilseeds and grains business earned a total of \$153 million in the 3rd-quarter, down sharply from the \$485 million reported in the same quarter last year. "Average global soy crush margins were significantly lower than in 2018, driven by a combination of farmer retention of soybeans in anticipation of higher prices and soft export demand for soymeal," Bunge's chief executive Greg Heckman said during an earnings call yesterday. Earnings in the oilseeds segment totaled \$107 million, nearly 71% lower than the \$367 million recorded in the same quarter last year. Grain sector earnings more than halved, falling to \$46 million from \$118 million in the same period last year. (Source: Agri Census)*

**> Corn and Oil Industry Both Blast Biofuel Plan at EPA Hearing:** *Corn farmers, ethanol producers, refinery representatives, energy traders and state and local officials from the Midwest all blasted away at the Trump administration's proposed biofuels plan for next year during a public hearing on Wednesday hosted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). At issue is a proposal unveiled this month by Trump's EPA that would increase the amount of corn-based ethanol some oil refineries must blend next year to make up for volumes the agency expects to waive under its Small Refinery Exemption program. The proposal was meant to please farmers, while securing a program the oil industry says is crucial to the survival of small oil refining facilities. It has instead drawn criticism from both sides. The corn industry says it does not go far enough to help ailing biofuel producers, already suffering from the impacts of the U.S. trade war with China. And the oil industry complains the proposal is unfair to refineries that must do more blending. The EPA is seeking to finalize the proposal ahead of an end-November deadline to set 2020 blending requirements. Read more [HERE](#).*

**> Chile Cancels International Conference Where Trump Hoped to Sign Trade Deal with China:** *The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation meeting was scheduled for mid-November in Santiago, but President Sebastián Piñera announced the cancellation Wednesday. His administration has struggled to suppress growing demonstrations in the capital city over issues of inequality. As many as 1 million protesters took part in a peaceful march over the weekend, while smaller protests have turned violent, prompting the government to declare a state of emergency in several major cities. President Trump was scheduled to attend the forum Nov. 15-17, during which White House officials said he was planning to meet with Chinese President Xi Jinping in a bid to lock down a "phase one" trade deal with China. (Source: Washington Post)*

**> Investors are Buying Up Washington's Water and it Could Spell Trouble for Farmers:** *Follow the water and you'll find the money. That's how it often*

*works in the dusty rural corners of Washington, where a Wall Street-backed firm is staking an ambitious venture on the state's water. Crown Columbia Water Resources since 2017 has targeted the water rights of farms on tributaries of the mighty Columbia River. This March, the company sealed a \$340,000 deal for Douglas County water. The same day, it paid \$1.69 million for a farming partnership's water in Columbia County. Two months later, the company spent nearly \$1.61 million near Walla Walla. Piece by piece, the company's lawyer, Mark Peterson, is constructing a portfolio to span the state, building out a plan he hopes will untangle the arcane world of water rights, and thrust it into a 21st-century free market. Amid a changing climate, a population boom in Washington and churning development, Peterson's client plans to buy, lease and sell water in a privately operated water market of its own creation. Crown's activities here are unprecedented in scope for a private firm. Some critics fear business models like Crown's could lead to speculation or consolidation. Meanwhile, the company's attempt to buy water from a local family farm partnership in the Methow Valley riled nearby residents, ranchers and farmers, who were concerned that selling the water downstream would permanently end its use in their community and that their lifestyles might dry up. Read the full article from [Seattle Times](#).*

**> Walmart Wants to Build a Fintech Accelerator:** *Walmart is building a new financial technology accelerator to develop products and services that "sit at the intersection of retail...shopping and consumer financial services," the company announced this week. The accelerator is called TailFin Labs, LLC — a play on the words "retail" and "fin-tech" — and will be done in collaboration with Green Dot, one of the original pioneers of the "Banking as a Service" (BaaS) branchless concept. Walmart will own a majority stake in TailFin. Green Dot already has a longstanding relationship with the world's largest retailer. It's currently the issuing bank for Walmart's MoneyCard. According to Green Dot CEO Steve Streit, TailFin is aiming to combine retailing, financial technology, and banking to create integrated products and services for shoppers. According to Daniel Eckert, SVP of Walmart services and digital acceleration, integration is a "mega-trend" that presents a huge opportunity. That involves building "an everyday life app that seamlessly integrates things to make their day a little easier and helps to manage and their confidence level in terms of their financial well-being," Eckert told Yahoo Finance. Read more [HERE](#).*

**> A Global Shipping Revolution is Weeks Away:** *As many as 1 million protesters took part in a peaceful march over the weekend, while smaller protests have turned violent, prompting the government to declare a state of emergency in several major cities. On January 1, 2020, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) will impose new emissions standards designed to significantly curb pollution produced by the world's ships. Amid a broader push toward cleaner energy markets, the IMO is poised to ban shipping vessels using fuel with a sulfur content higher than 0.5%, compared to the present upper limit level of 3.5%. The most*

*commonly used marine fuel is thought to have a sulfur content of around 2.7%. CNBC takes a look at those best placed to cope with the rule change, as well as those likely to struggle with what has previously been described as the "biggest change in oil market history." Check out their analysis [HERE](#).*

**> What History Says About Stocks and the Next Recession:** *The word "recession" is being bandied about these days. How should investors react? They could choose to ignore it and continue to employ a pure "buy and hold" strategy, which will likely generate solid returns over the long run. But many investors don't have the wherewithal—either in faith or in the cash necessary to stay afloat—to weather a steep, prolonged drawdown. That leads us to the question: Is there a good time to step away from equities to avoid sharp losses? Some investors monitor macroeconomic signals in an effort to predict when the next recession will hit. Others largely shrug it off and focus more on companies' ability to earn profits. If one could choose, are you better off knowing a recession is around the corner or knowing that earnings will fall? Bernstein economist Philipp Carlsson-Szlezak addressed that question in a research report this week. Read the breakdown over at [Barron's](#).*

**> Taurid Meteor Shower Set to Light the Halloween Skies:** *With a young moon setting this week just after sunset, those with clear and dark skies could be treated to a show of particularly slow and bright shooting stars this Halloween and beyond... with a chance of "fireballs" late at night. Don't expect dozens of shooting stars, but those blessed with patience have a chance of seeing some of the longest, most lingering and most luminous shooting stars of all around as the Taurid meteor shower peaks. The Taurid meteor shower, sometimes referred to as the "Halloween fireballs," is one of the year's longest, with recognizable activity (at least a couple of visible meteors per hour) running from Oct. 20 to Nov. 30. Because of the fairly dim moon, this will be one of the better weeks to see the Taurid's display. So if you take the kids trick-or-treating, be sure to look up! More info is available [HERE](#).*

**> Nothing Screams Halloween Like Creepy Dolls:** *For the past few weeks, the Olmsted County History Center has been running a "Creepy Doll" competition in the lead-up to Halloween. It posted nine haunting dolls to draw attention to some of the overlooked parts of its sizable collections and asked people vote on the "creepiest." The winner was that lovely in the top picture below. She only has one arm and is about 170 years old. The doll once had a painted face and hair on its cloth head. The paint and hair have long since worn off, giving the doll a mummified appearance. The response to the contest was much greater than they ever imagined. The story went viral and caught international attention including a feature on CNN and in the New York Times. The center's social media feeds began to get engagement from all over the world. Originally, the winning doll and the runner-up were set to be on display just for Halloween, but following the success*

*of the contest, the museum is extending their stay. All nine creepy contestants, in addition to 15 more dolls from the collection, will be exhibited at the History Center now through December 1. (Source: MPR News)*





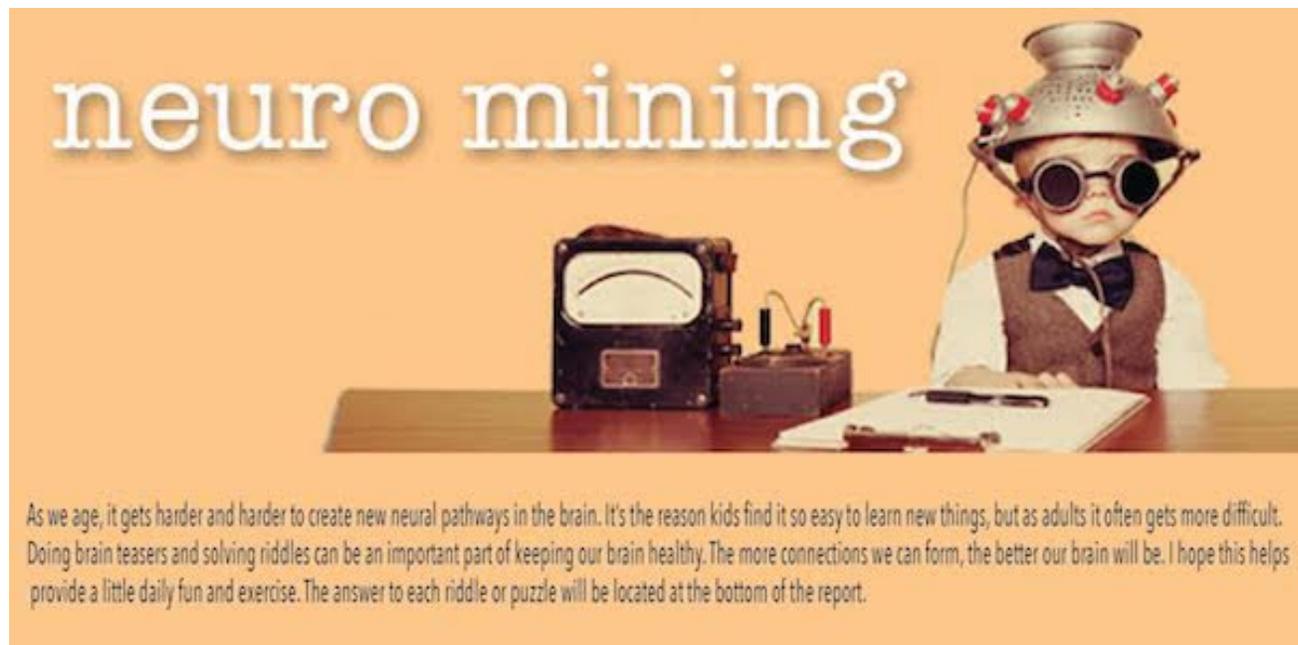


**Northeast Indiana** - *The corn and soybeans are finally done. This year hasn't been as bad in my little neck of the woods as some expected, including myself. The soybeans were 13% off last year's numbers and about 10% behind our APH. From the sound of it, many guys are saying their crops are much worse. The corn was off last year by 6% or about 13 bushels but it was 18 bushels better than our APH and much better than expected even 45 days ago.*

**Northeast Kansas** - *We were planted in a timely manner for the most part. We*

*had a few fields that were planted a little later but as a whole, it wasn't much of our farm. Soybeans are ranging from 65 to 75 bushel which we are tickled pink about. We even had a field make in the lower 80's which is a farm PR for soybeans in that field. We figured we had an okay crop of soybeans come on, but this was honestly much better than expected. Corn is on the top side of the average yields but not by much. So far the corn has ranged between 175 and 195 bushels per acre. We were honestly hoping for a little better corn but this isn't bad at all considering all the adverse weather many areas have seen this year.*

**Eastern Indiana** - *I wanted to give you a quick update on what we are seeing and what we might be seeing in the near future. We got a decent chunk of rain on Sunday but we were back harvesting corn by Tuesday through most of the night. That was followed by a nice soaker today so we are back out of the field again for at least a couple days. Anyway, the wind is forecast to gust upwards of 40-50 miles per hour tomorrow so we are worried that our weak stalks coupled with heavy, wet corn, we might be seeing a lot of down corn by Friday, which will be a damn mess. By the way, soybeans are done and we were less than impressed.*



**TODAY'S RIDDLE:** What do you get if you divide the circumference of a jack-o-lantern by its diameter?



## **Do You Know The Different Types Of Corn Grown In The U.S.?**

It has long been a misconception -- by those in the general public -- that all corn growing in a field is the same. This misconception is generally fueled by the mixed messages consumers have received about the corn ethanol industry's feedstock of choice. Despite what strong opinions some have, the truth is, there are many varieties of corn with specific purposes, which are grown to meet various food and production needs. The National Corn Growers Association says approximately 12% of the U.S. corn crop ends up in foods that are consumed. What kinds of corn make up the remaining percent? To answer that question, let's take a look at some of the major categories (these aren't all of them, there are dozens of other special-purpose corns). It's always good to have an overview, just in case you run into someone espousing many of the misconceptions out there surrounding this highly misunderstood grain. (Source: [National Corn Growers Association](#); USDA Census of Agriculture; Environmental Protection Agency)

**Dent Corn** - Also referred to as "field corn," dent corn is named for the dimple that forms in the middle of the corn's kernel. According to the NCGA, dent corn accounts for approximately 99% of all corn production in the U.S. You won't find dent corn in the grocery store, and you wouldn't want to. It's much starchier than sweet corn and has a bland flavor. Dent corn is used as livestock feed, for making natural corn syrup, or industrial products like clean-burning ethanol for fuel, beverages or sanitizers. Specifically, ethanol production plants employ processes to convert dent corn into ethanol. What makes dent corn suitable for these processes is that much of the kernel is starch. The means dent corn is the most efficient raw material, one that is renewable and environmentally friendly.

**Sweet Corn** - Sweet corn is often what people think of when they think of corn. This variety of corn is what you'll typically find in a grocery store or served at a barbeque. Sweet corn is harvested prematurely, before the normal conversion of sugar into starch can take place. Essentially, this means the kernels have more sugar content than starch content, allowing sweet corn to be considered a vegetable instead of a grain. According to the 2012 USDA Census of Agriculture, sweet corn was harvested on over 28,000 farms and in all 50 states. Florida, Washington, New York, California and Georgia are the largest producers of fresh sweet corn. The production of sweet corn

*for processing is heavily concentrated in the upper Midwest and the Pacific Northwest, where Minnesota, Washington and Wisconsin are the leading producers. Yields average between 4 to 6 tons per acre.*

**Flour Corn** - *You might be thinking of "cornmeal" when you hear Flour corn, but this technically isn't the same thing. One of the oldest varieties of corn, flour corn has soft kernels consisting of soft starch content. This corn is easy to grind and is used in baked goods and a slew of other foods such as corn muffin mix.*

**Popcorn** - *In comparison to dent corn, popcorn is a relatively minor crop, You guessed it, popcorn is a variety of corn purposed for human consumption. it is characterized by a tough outer shell encapsulating a small amount of soft starch content. According to the Popcorn Board, Americans average annual consumption of 42 quarts of popcorn each year. Wow!*

**Flint Corn** - *Flint corn has a similar use to those of dent corn but isn't as popular. Named after its hard, glassy outer shell, the majority of the world's flint corn is grown in Central and South America. This is largely because these areas use flint corn as a feed and food source. The U.S prefers the higher-yielding dent corn which has had infinitely higher amounts of breeding work than flint corn.*

**Candy Corn:)** *With today being Halloween I thought it would be the one day that perhaps we should talk about "candy corn". **In the late 1800s, George Renninger of Wunderle Candy Company created candy corn. His sweet treat represented the bright colors of corn kernels and was originally named "Chicken Feed". In the beginning, candy corn was yellow, orange and white. However, it wasn't until 1889 that the Goelitz Candy Company made the candy popular. Later, other candy makers developed a variety of popular colors and flavors as well. The original confection was made by hand using corn syrup, sugar, water, marshmallows, fondant and carnauba wax (a wax made from the leaves of a palm tree). However, modern candy makers produce treats using machines while using the original ingredients. These days, numerous recipes create candy corn flavors in cakes, cookies, beverages, and more. The National Confectioners Association estimates that 35 million pounds (over 9000 metric tons) of candy corn are sold annually.***





### **Some Fun Facts You Might Not Know About "It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown"**

When I was a kid, one of my favorite things was the start of the holiday season. I always felt it kicked off with Halloween, then Thanksgiving, then Christmas, wrapping up with New Year. Interestingly, I always timed it up and started to get excited when I would see the tv running promos about "It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown", right around Halloween. The tale focuses on thumb-sucking Linus and his unwavering belief in "The Great Pumpkin", discovering along the way that his friends don't think the mythical being is real. To prove them wrong, he spends the night alone in "the most sincere pumpkin patch" he can find.

This was back before VCRs and DVDs, and obviously way before you could stream anything and everything on demand. It was a once-a-year event and I think the anticipation made it even more magical. I think my mom shared in that excitement as well, knowing that for at least 30 minutes, she would have some peace and quiet while her children were engrossed in something that didn't involve making a mess!

It also aired AT NIGHT, just like the grown-up shows! Back then, kids' shows were generally only on in the mornings or right after school let out in the early afternoon. Something about having one of "my shows" take priority over what the adults might want to watch added another air of magic to the whole holiday season for me.

The Great Pumpkin was the third television special based on the Charles M. Schulz comic strip, and the second one that was holiday-themed - "A Charlie Brown Christmas" was the first. It was first broadcast on October 27, 1966, on CBS, which aired it every year until 2001, when ABC bought the rights and took over the annual tradition.

The tradition of the Peanuts' special got started after television sponsors saw producer Lee Mendelson's documentary about Schultz and asked if the two could team up on a television Christmas special based on the Peanuts comic strip. They brought on Jose Malendez for the animation, as he was the only person Schulz trusted to turn his comic creations into television characters. CBS didn't initially like what the three came up with but changed their minds after "A Charlie Brown Christmas" was seen by roughly half of all households watching television during its premiere on CBS on December 9, 1965.

The trio came together again for "Charlie Brown All-Stars!", which aired in the summer of 1966, then got to work on the Halloween special. "It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown" started the titling tradition of a short phrase, followed by "Charlie Brown" for nearly all subsequent Peanuts specials and was nominated for an Emmy Award in 1966. Below are some other fun bits of trivia about the Great Pumpkin:

**Kids sent Charlie Brown candy for years:** *In one of the saddest moments of the cartoon, downtrodden Charlie Brown opens his Halloween goodie sack and discovers he's been given rocks instead of candy. According to Schulz, for years after the program would air on CBS, bags, and boxes of candy would come in from all over the world "just for Charlie Brown."*

**Charlie Brown only received rocks because of a playful argument between animators:** *In an interview with Washington Post, Mendelson revealed the dispute. "Sparky said that maybe we ought to have Charlie Brown get a rock... I said, 'Oh, come on, that's a little too harsh and cruel.' But the more I protested, the more he wanted it. And after I protested more, Sparky said: 'Okay, he'll get three rocks!'"*

**It was the first time Lucy snatched the football from Charlie Brown in animation:** *When Schulz, Mendelson, and Melendez were brainstorming scene ideas for the special, talk turned to the fact that Lucy's habit of pulling*

*the football away from Charlie Brown had never been seen in animation. When ABC started airing the show in 2001, it cut that scene to allow for longer commercial breaks.*

**Schultz's son gave him the idea for Snoopy's dogfight:** *The trio decided the Halloween special would be a good time to introduce Snoopy's World War I Flying Ace. The joke had appeared in the strip, but Mendelson thought it would work even better in motion. He was right: the sequence with Snoopy in a doghouse dogfight is one of the most memorable in the Peanuts animated canon. The original idea for Snoopy to be a fighter pilot came from Schulz's son, Monte, who was building model airplanes with a particular interest in those from World War I. Monte suggested to his dad that Snoopy fight the Red Baron.*

**It's secretly about Santa:** *The Great Pumpkin saga was adapted from Schulz's newspaper strip, where he had conceived it as a metaphor for some of the hope (and disappointment) associated with Saint Nick. Schulz disliked the idea kids heard of a jolly fat man who delivered presents all over the world when he knew many families could only afford one or two gifts for the holidays. In the book "It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown: The Making of a Television Classic," producer Lee Mendelson recounts Charles Schulz saying, "[T]he Great Pumpkin is really a kind of satire on Santa Claus because Linus of course writes for gifts and expects to get them. And when the Great Pumpkin doesn't come, Linus is crushed. It shows that you can't always get what you hoped for but you can still survive . . . and you can keep trying. Linus never gives up, just like Charlie Brown."*

**Scholars thought the Great Pumpkin was real:** *Talking to the Schenectady Gazette in 1968, Schulz said that since the special began airing two years earlier, he had received a number of letters from academics wondering where the Great Pumpkin story had originated. "A number of professional scholars have written me about the origination of the legend," he said. "They insist it must be based on something," Schulz suggested they broach the topic with Linus instead.*

**Violet's voice actor puked after every recording session:** *For many Peanuts specials, actual children were used to voice Charlie Brown, Lucy, Linus, and the rest. Anne Altieri, who portrayed both Violet and Frieda, was so nervous to be part of the show that she threw up every time she was done with a recording session.*

**A potential lisp rushed production:** *Actress Kathy Steinberg who voiced Sally had a loose front tooth halfway through filming. For fear of a lisp ruining the uniformity of Sally's voice, the six-year-old was rushed to the*

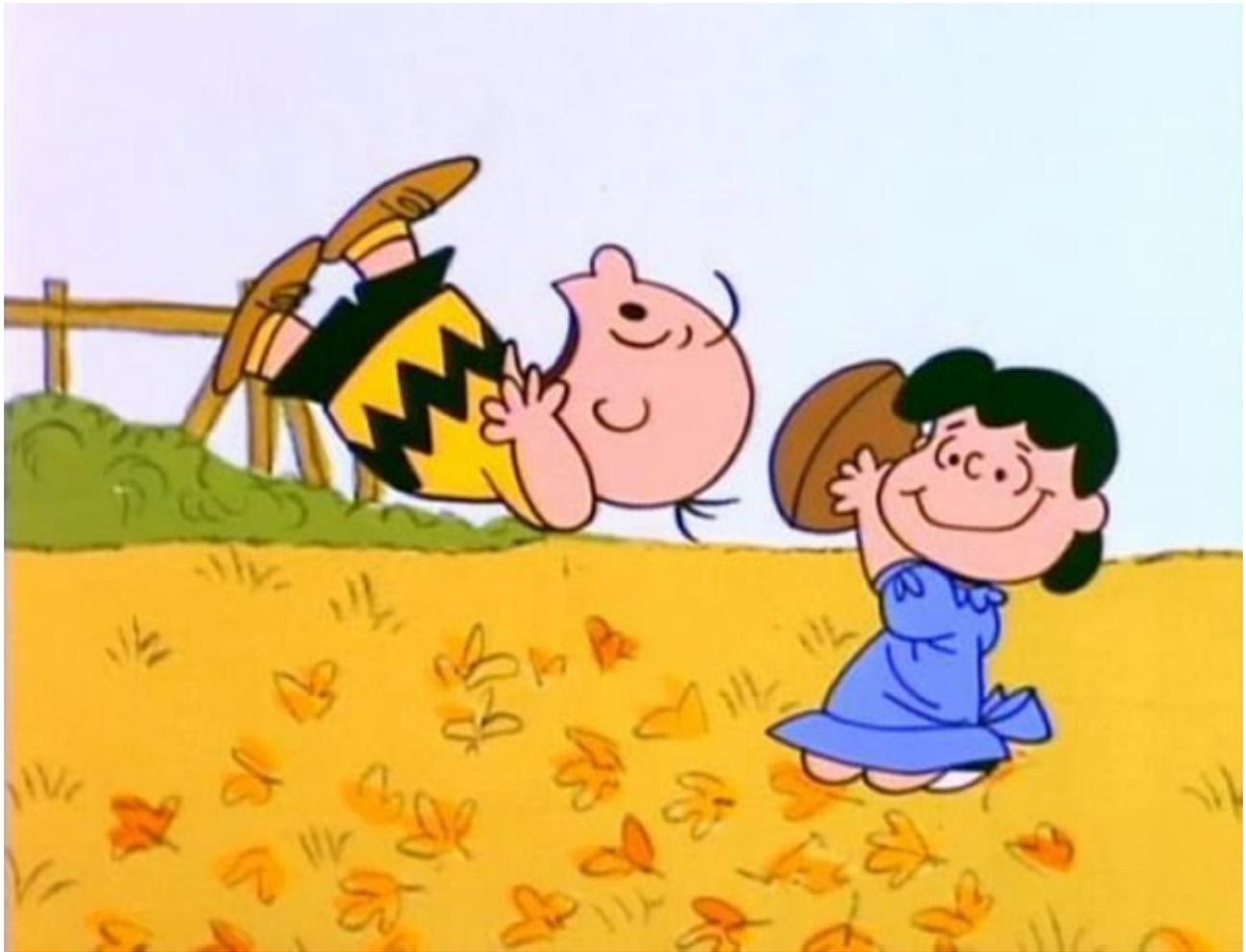
*studio that night to complete her lines. Her tooth fell out the next day.*

**Music composer Vince Guaraldi was found naked by cops:** *The jazzy scores of the early Peanuts specials were the work of composer Vince Guaraldi. When he was busy putting together "The Great Pumpkin Waltz" for the show, he decided to break for a shower. When he came out, he thought he heard noises outside and went to investigate, naked, and locked himself out in the process. Keyless, Guaraldi tried climbing a ladder to a second-floor window when cops spotted him. "Don't shoot," he said. "I'm the Great Pumpkin." Police were many months away from getting the joke, but they let him back inside anyway.*

**CBS threatened to end the franchise:** *CBS warned the crew that if this special failed to generate ratings as high as those received for A Charlie Brown Christmas less than a year earlier, they would not commission any more Peanuts cartoons. It ultimately did so well, new Peanuts cartoons continued to air throughout the following decades, even after Charles Schulz's death. (Sources: Wikipedia, Mashable, IMDb)*









### **Happy Halloween!!!**

Below are just a few fun pics that have come my way the past couple of days and made me smile. I hope everyone has a safe and happy Halloween. I certainly miss those nights with kids.



# AMERICA'S TOP 10 HALLOWEEN CANDY

from *CandyStore.com*

- |                |                   |
|----------------|-------------------|
| 1 SKITTLES     | 6 CANDY CORN      |
| 2 M&M'S        | 7 HOT TAMALES     |
| 3 SNICKERS     | 8 HERSHEY'S       |
| 4 REESE'S CUPS | 9 TOOTSIE POPS    |
| 5 STARBURST    | 10 JOLLY RANCHERS |

11 years sales data (2007-2017) sales data. CandyStore.com













**Happy Halloween**

**ANSWER to riddle:** Pumpkin pi.

*"We can't solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them".*  
- Albert Einstein

*"It's not a faith in technology. It's faith in people."*  
- Steve Jobs

*"The truest drive comes from doing what you love."* - Peter Diamandis

*"Don't be afraid to fill the gaps. The good ideas will come. They will fill the gaps."*  
- John Hock

*"Creativity is the ability to see what others see and to do what others do not do."*  
- J.P. Morgan

*"Curiosity is the source of all knowledge."*  
- Aristotle

*"If you know the plan, and you'll know how successful you can be, you don't have a plan. That's why you can't beat most folks."*  
- Vince Lombardi

*"Our goals can only be reached through a vehicle of a plan, in which we must fervently believe, and upon which we must vigorously act. There is no other route to success."*  
- Pablo Picasso

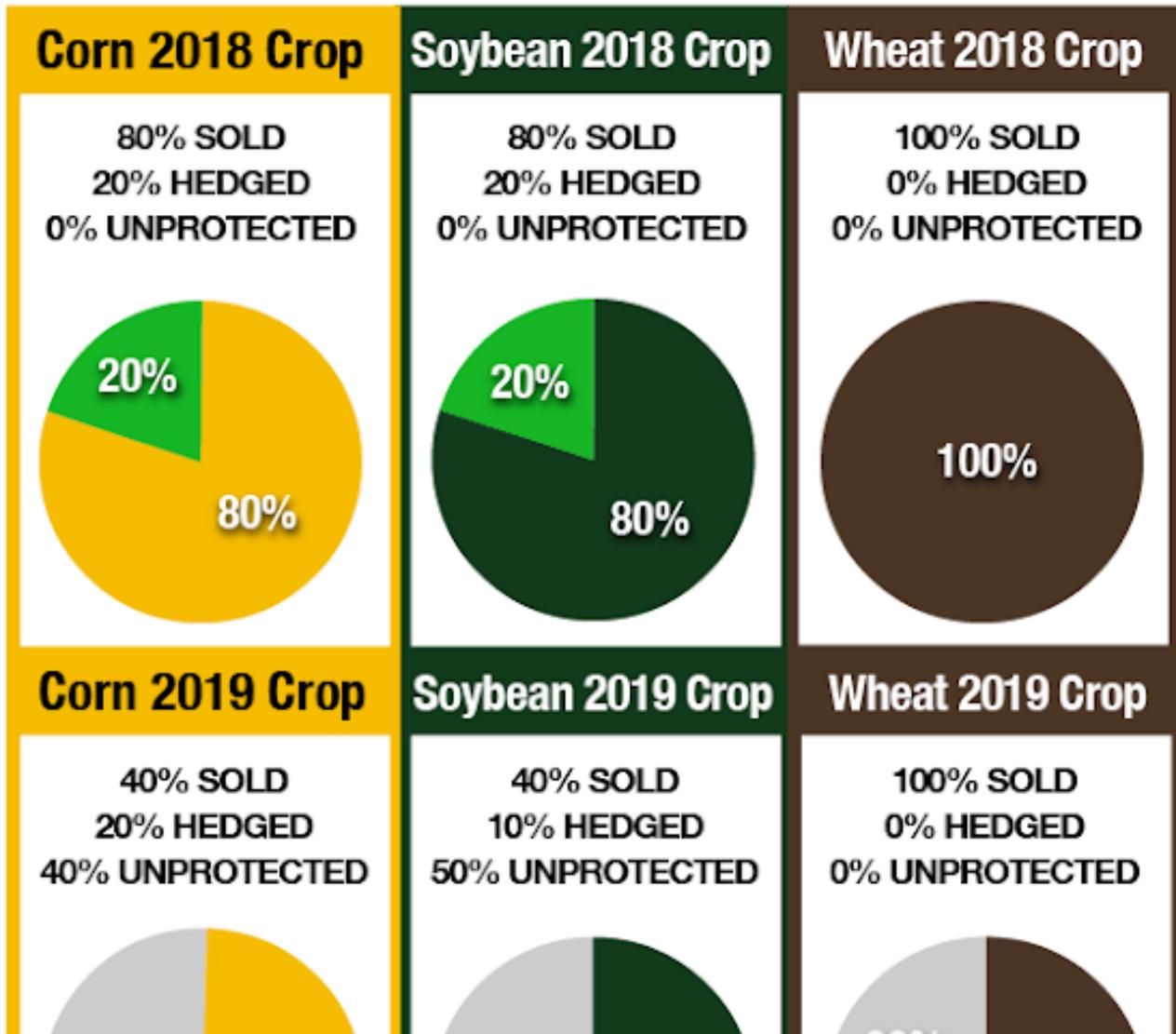
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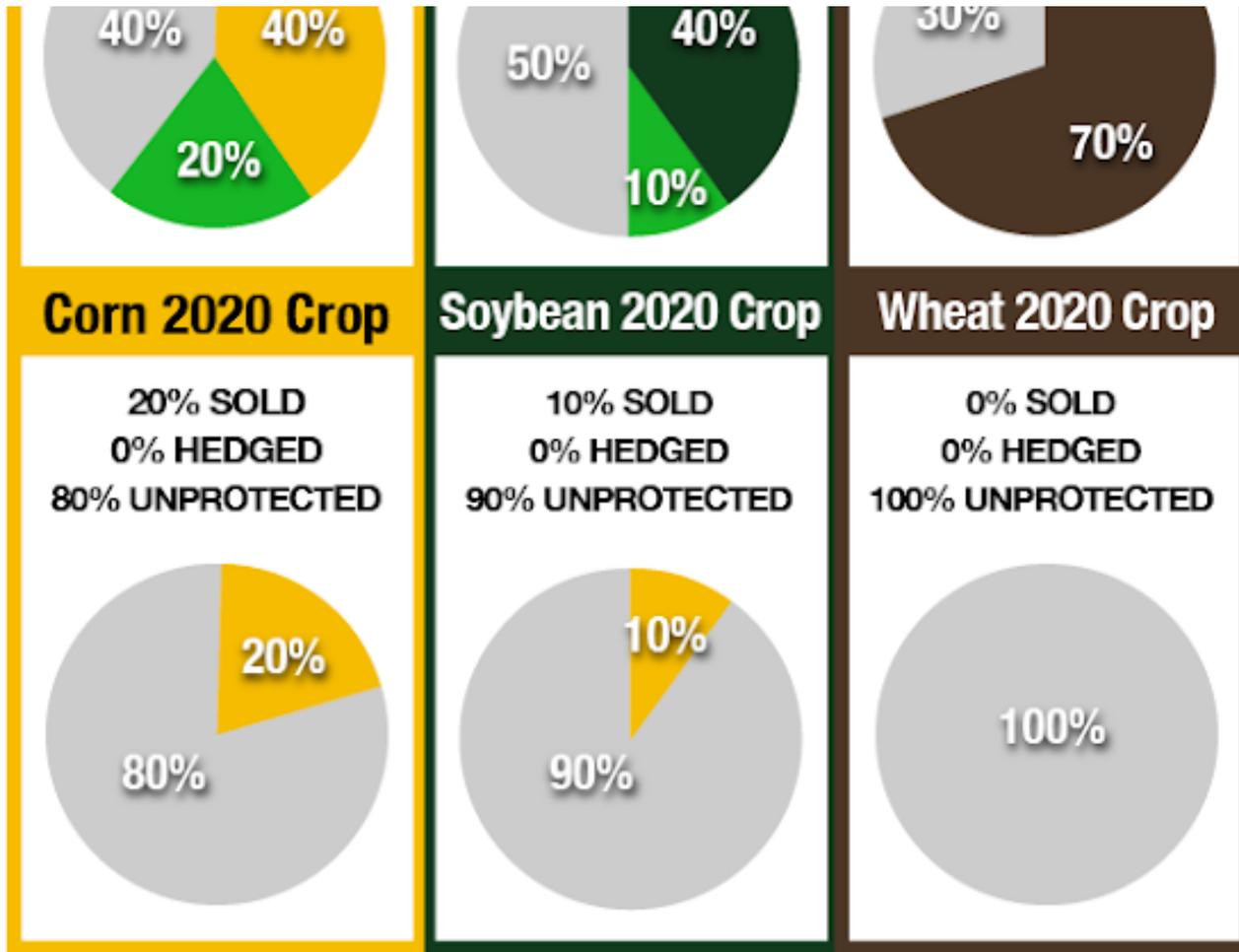
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