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**GOOD MORNING: The Van Trump Report 11-7-19**

1 message

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

Thu, Nov 7, 2019 at 5:30 AM

Reply-To: Jordan &lt;reply-fed810707464067d-1142\_HTML-68584704-100003450-8@vantrumpreport-email.com&gt;

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

"If you do not change direction, you may end up where you are heading." - **Lao Tzu**

**Thursday, November 7, 2019**[Printable Copy](#) or [Audio Version](#)

**Morning Summary:** Investors continue to closely monitor the play-by-play of the U.S.-China trade negotiations. It now looks like finalization of the "Phase 1" part of the deal may be delayed until sometime in December. The Trump administration had originally planned to sign the deal during a November 16-17 summit in Chile. However, Chile canceled the event due to ongoing political unrest. Officials say U.S. locations for their highly anticipated meeting, including Iowa and Alaska, have been ruled out by the Chinese. From what I'm hearing, locations in Asia and Europe are now being considered. Investors don't really care where the meeting takes place, they just want to see the deal signed and delivered before December 15 when another round of U.S. tariffs are set to take effect. There are also concerns that the longer it is delayed, the greater the chance for new problems developing and potentially derailing the deal once again. Investors are also

anxious to hear Trump's decision on whether to impose tariffs on European and Asian auto imports. The deadline for a decision is next Wednesday, November 13. As for today, the Federal Reserve's September consumer credit report is scheduled for release. Companies reporting earnings include Activision Blizzard, Disney, Dropbox, Toyota, Lufthansa, Monster Beverage and Keurig Dr Pepper. Walt Disney is of particular interest as the company missed revenue expectations by more than \$1 billion last quarter. The company may also reveal the first look at early subscriber numbers for its new Disney+ streaming service, which launches on November 12. For full disclosure, I'm currently long a bit of Disney stock and will be looking to add a little more on a pullback.

**Big Name Stock Results Year-to-Date:** *Amazon up +19%, Alphabet up +24%, Walmart up +28%, Home Depot +36%, Microsoft up +42%, Facebook up +46%, Costco up +48%, Apple up +63%, Target up +67%*

**Costco Testing Free Delivery for Prescriptions:** *Costco is teaming up with delivery start-up Instacart to test free delivery of prescription drugs to members. Unlike Instacart's grocery delivery service, however, the Instacart delivery person will ask for proof of identity to ensure they're delivering to the right person, and the checkout process requires buyers to confirm their date of birth (the service is available only to people over age 18). The free delivery move could help Costco compete with Amazon and Walmart, both of which have dabbled in prescription delivery. The moves also pose a threat to large pharmacies like CVS and Walgreens. The pharmacy and drug space is valued at more than \$300 billion and is expected to grow, making it an attractive market opportunity for the largest retailers. (Source: CNBC)*

**Sound Advice!**





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# Founding Partners





**Uber Tanks as Post-IPO Lockup Expires:** *Uber tumbled to an all-time low as the "lockup" period following the company's May initial public offering expired. Lockups prevent early shareholders and executives from selling shares in the first months following an IPO. Dan Ives, an analyst at Wedbush Securities, estimated roughly 763 million shares would be unlocking with roughly 25% at a big risk of selling over the coming days. "We believe it will be an avalanche of selling from early investors and insiders as this train wreck since the IPO continues," he said, and it appears they were correct. Yesterday's sell-off placed the ride-hailing company among the most actively traded stocks in the U.S. by value on Wednesday. Since going public in May, Uber has struggled to win over investors who are concerned about the company's history of losses and newer concerns about the viability of its Uber Eats business. The company has also gone through two rounds of layoffs since its IPO and now faces new complications in California with legislation that makes it more difficult to classify their drivers as contract workers. (Source: CNN, Reuters)*

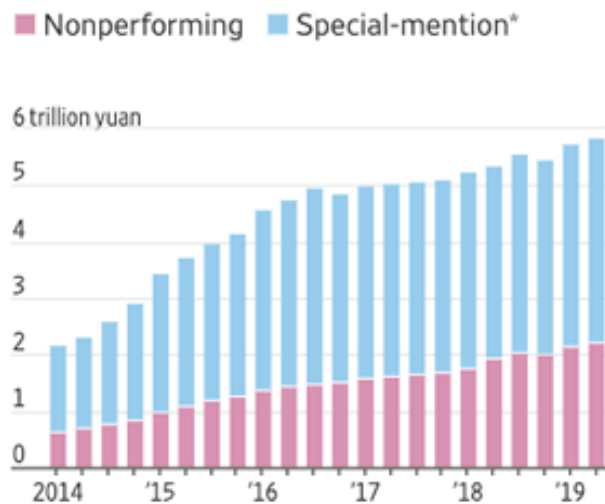
**China Embraces Bankruptcy to Cushion a Slowing Economy:** *After years of pumping out financial support to keep the economy humming and workers happy, China has embarked on a debt reckoning. Beijing is building a bankruptcy system to take on a significant pickup in corporate defaults.*

*The country now has more than 90 U.S.-style specialized bankruptcy courts to help sort through a morass of corporate debt that, until recently, would have been swallowed by state banks and other creditors. It is a sign that Beijing is worried about the number of failing companies and trying to find a fix. The system is helping, many lawyers, foreign investors and lenders say, as it takes some pressure off local governments that lack the resources for so many bailouts. Courts nationwide accepted close to 19,000 corporate bankruptcy filings in 2018, more than triple the number two years earlier. There are currently more than \$17 trillion in outstanding bank loans in China, according to Wind, a financial data provider. Regulators have told banks to recognize loans more than 90 days past due as nonperforming; official data put nonperforming loan ratios at 1.81%, reflecting a total unpaid principal balance of about \$319 billion. That low ratio is widely thought to understate the level of bad debt on banks' balance sheets. Read more from [The Wall Street Journal](#).*

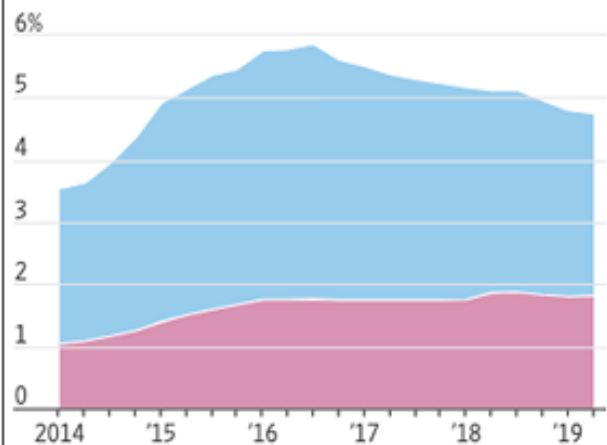
### Piling Up

Years of expansive debt policies in China have resulted in rising stockpiles of troubled loans on commercial banks' balance sheets.

#### Outstanding problem loans



#### As a percentage of all loans



Note: 1 trillion yuan = \$142 billion. \*Special-mention loans comprise debt that banks deem problematic or at high risk of default.

Source: Wind

### Your Winning Design Scores You Free Tickets to FARMCON 2020!

*The Van Trump Report and FARMCON want to promote the amazing creativity of our extended ag-family and give everyone a chance to win free tickets to the FARMCON 2020 event. Today, we're launching a contest for the best DIY FARMCON 2020 design. Your creation can be for t-shirts, hats, stickers, pens...whatever you think it will look best on! Post your design on Facebook or Twitter with the #FARMCON hashtag. We'll collect all the entries and let subscribers vote on the winner. The winning design will go on the FARMCON*

*swag of your choosing with all proceeds donated to the charity of your choice. Plus, the winner gets 2 free tickets to the FARMCON 2020 event being held in Kansas City, MO, on January 15-16, 2020. We encourage everyone to get involved, even the kids (we all know they are the real creative geniuses). The design can reflect your personal connection to agriculture and even tie in your own business. Most of all, we want everyone to have some fun with it. You can display your design on a piece of paper or go with a fancy digital design. Rock out with some glitter paint on a t-shirt or tap your inner-graffiti artist and spray paint your [tractor, barn, kids]. Feel free to take full advantage of our love for all things goats - goats in your design, goats wearing your design, goats eating your design..Go(at) nuts! Below are a few examples of some homegrown designs we've been collecting from friends and family, as well as a few we did in-house, just to give you all some ideas. We can't wait to see what everyone comes up with!*



# Dig In!





# GROUNDBREAKING!



**FARMCON**  
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**Connecting Creative Minds In Agriculture**

**FARM TANK**

Tweets of the Day





World Economic Forum   
@wef



Here are 5 facts about [#crime](#) in the US.  
[wef.ch/2qVYk1C](https://wef.ch/2qVYk1C)

### Public perception of crime rate at odds with reality

*% saying there is more crime  
in the U.S. than a year ago*

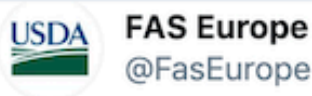
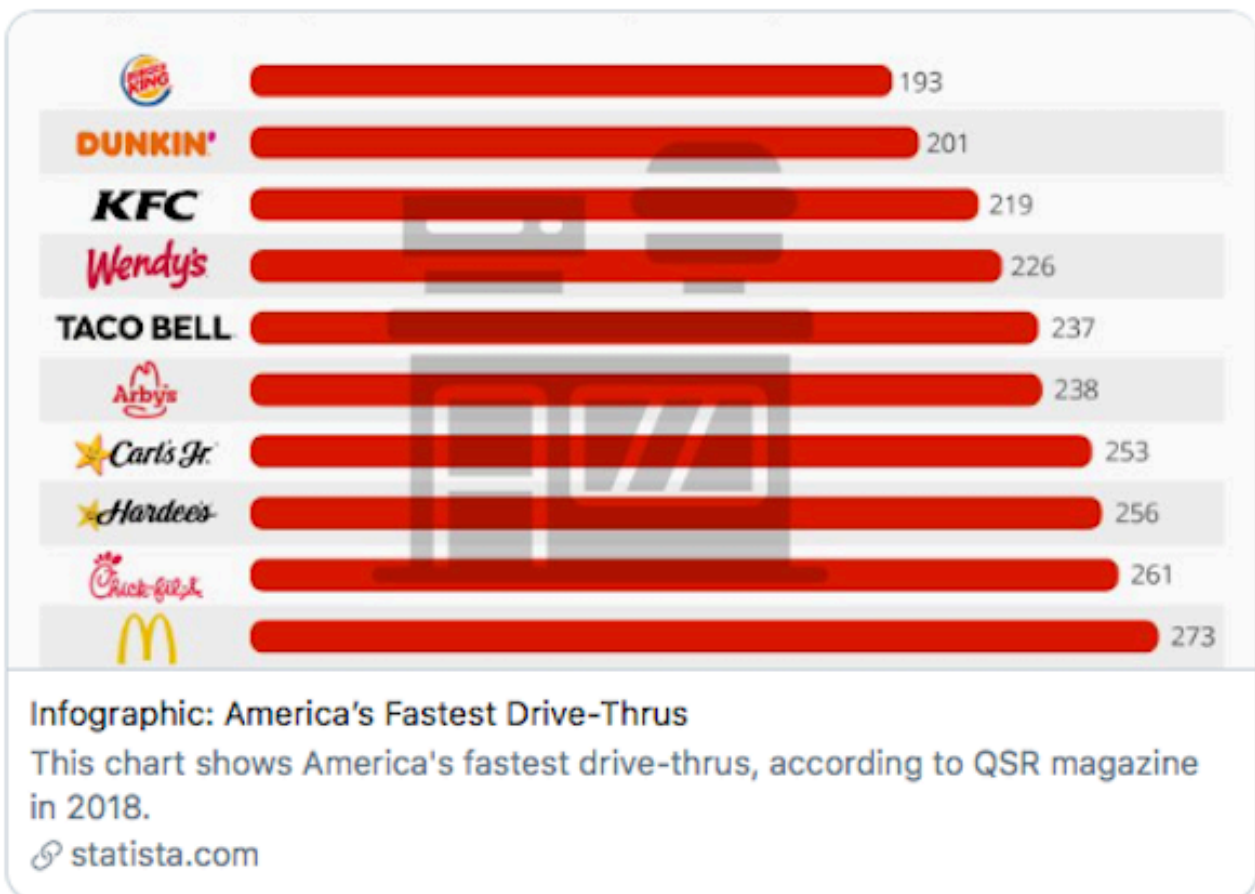


*Violent crimes per 1,000  
persons ages 12 and older*





According to a survey by industry publication @QSRmagazine, #DunkinDonuts 🍩 has the fastest drive-thrus in America. [statista.com/chart/17823/am... #drivethru](https://www.statista.com/chart/17823/american-fastest-drive-thrus/)



Female farm leaders on the rise. 🧑🏫 #DYK that the percentage of female farmers in the United States rose from 31 percent in 2012 to 36 in 2017? And 56 percent of U.S. farms have at least one female producer.  
🙏 [bit.ly/2U8KtOx](https://bit.ly/2U8KtOx) #AgriFactsFriday #WomenInAg

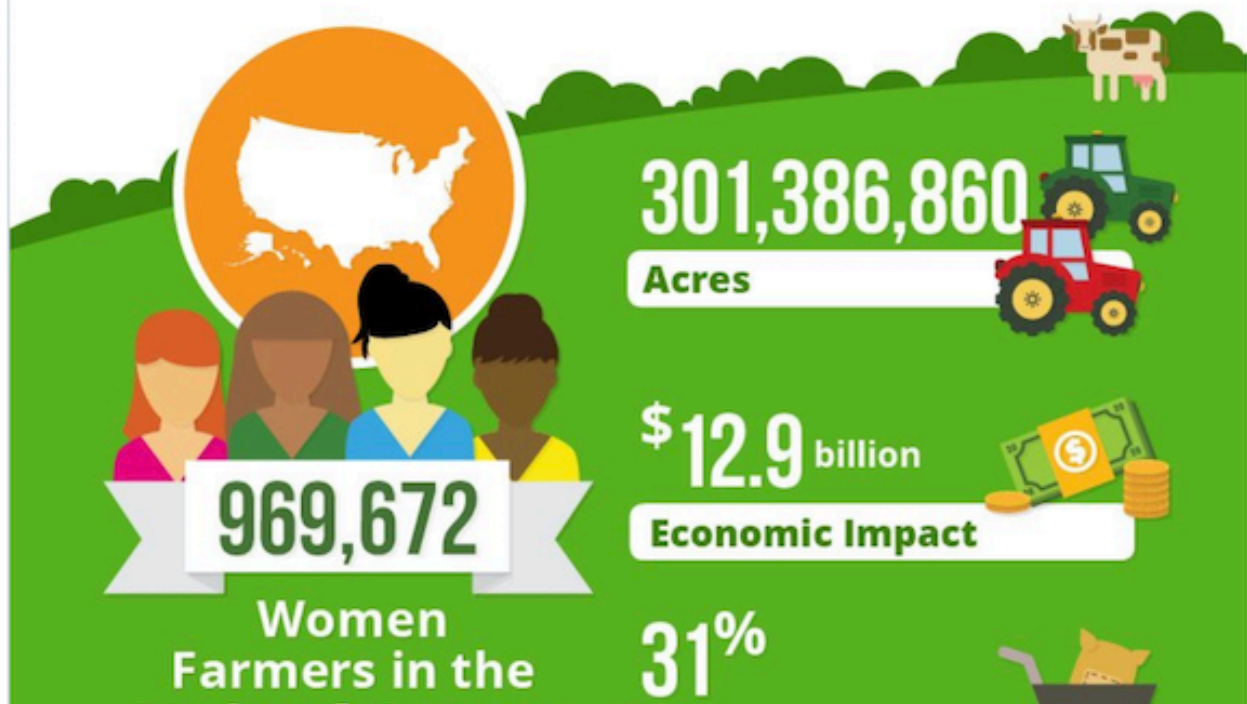


@USDAForeignAg

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

# #WomenInAg

From the classroom to the farm to the boardroom, women in agriculture are helping to pave the way for a better future. As leaders, it is our responsibility to make sure the next generation of women are educated, encouraged and empowered to take on the challenges of meeting the world's growing food, fuel and fiber needs. To help women in the United States connect with other women leaders in agriculture all across the country, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has established a women in ag mentoring network. Join the conversation by emailing [AgWomenLead@usda.gov](mailto:AgWomenLead@usda.gov) or check out [#womeninag](https://twitter.com/womeninag) on Twitter.





Screenshot



**Adam Ramthun**  
@Adam\_Ramthun



Did a couple hours of solo farming last night so got the drone up for the first time all year. [#harvest19](#)





**Andersons PN Ag**  
@AndersonsPNAg



At 55 miles per hour, it will take only 5 seconds to close a gap the length of a football field between you and farm equipment on the road going 5 miles per hour.

[#HarvestSafety](#)







**Antler Valley Farm**  
@5thGenFarming



Its been a slice [#harvest19](#) [#day65](#)

## Red Deer County, Alberta





ActionComplete  
@ActionComplete



The bad news is time flies. The good news is you're the...  
~Michael Altshuler

[#quotes](#) [#inspiration](#) [#leadership](#)

**The bad news is**  
*Time flies.*  
**The good news is**  
*you're the pilot.*

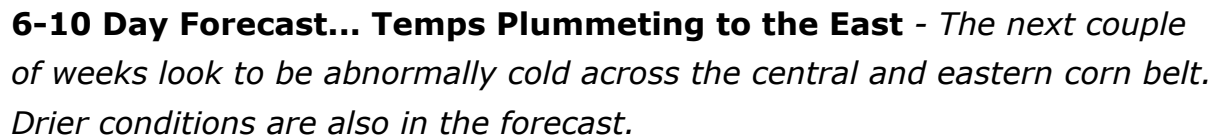
~ Michael Altshuler



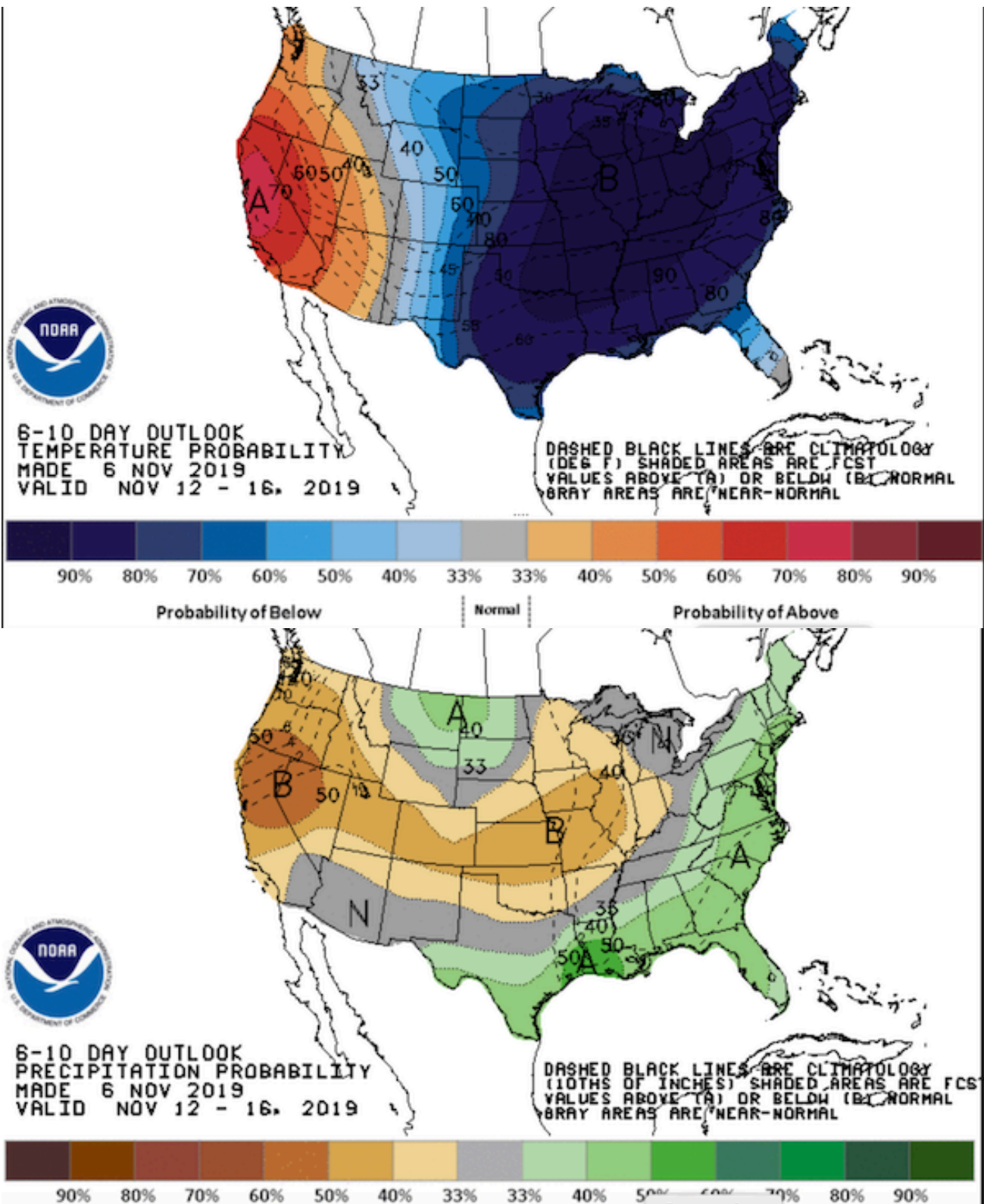


**Corn** continues to slosh around in a sideways to lower pattern. Technical traders seem to be keeping a close eye on the nearby DEC19 low at \$3.78<sup>2</sup>. A close below that level could perhaps open up more downside pressure. There seem to be several bearish technical targets down in that \$3.50 to \$3.70 range, so stay alert. As a producer, I feel very comfortable with my current marketing efforts. I have about 60% of our current price risk removed and about 20% of our estimated 2020 risk removed. I have to imagine another leg higher, perhaps something that pushes the market north of \$4.00 per bushel will bring about a more heavy wave of farmer selling. Keep in mind, the DEC20 through JUL20 contracts are currently trading in the \$4.00 to \$4.20 range. As a spec, I'm still holding a few bullish positions in the DEC19 contract, perhaps stubbornly so... I told myself back in the spring I was going to hold the DEC19 into expiration and roll to MAR20 so I could be around if and when the USDA ultimately readjusts its production forecast. I have to admit however I got a little scared when the USDA made the big correction to last year's crop just a couple of months ago. I'm simply not comfortable holding a position that long hoping for a downward adjustment only to see the headlines become irrelevant to the market. Meaning if ending stocks push higher and the USDA waits months to make a downward adjustment to its production estimate it could simply fall on deaf ears. The market won't care at that point in time. Again, another example of "perspective" and "timing" being everything for the market. These "after-the-fact" adjustments are getting

extremely difficult to navigate, especially when we have such heavy computer-driven fund flow in today's trade. The USDA clearly has its work cut-out especially this year with the crazy spring weather and extremely late-harvest. I still struggle to see where bashing the USDA does us any good? They can only work with the data they have in hand. I also know several folks on their team and I promise they want nothing more than the best for rural America and our farming communities. Unfortunately, I don't have the wildest of guesses in regard to where they go with yield in tomorrow's report. I've been bullishly wrong almost every time this growing season. I keep thinking the USDA is going to cut total production and it just doesn't happen. It seems to me like FCStone and IEG Vantage have had the hot hand forecasting this year's crop and their latest estimates were fairly close to the USDA, but both bumped a hair higher. IEG Vantage, formerly Informa, raised its average U.S. yield forecast from 167.5 to 168.6 with total production bumped higher to 13.792 billion bushels. FCStone also bumped its U.S. corn yield estimate higher from 169.3 to 170.0 and in turn, slightly increased its production forecast. The USDA currently has the U.S. yield projected at 168.4 bushels per acre and total production of 13.779 billion. Bottom-line, I just can't bet heavily on a big reduction. I've made that bet in a couple of the previous reports and came up empty-handed. My grandfather would always ask me if I knew the definition of insanity? I learned to quickly reply, "doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results..." I worry about price nearby, that's why I've been a fan of selling cash bushels out of the field into a strong basis and reowning flat-price on the board in some capacity.

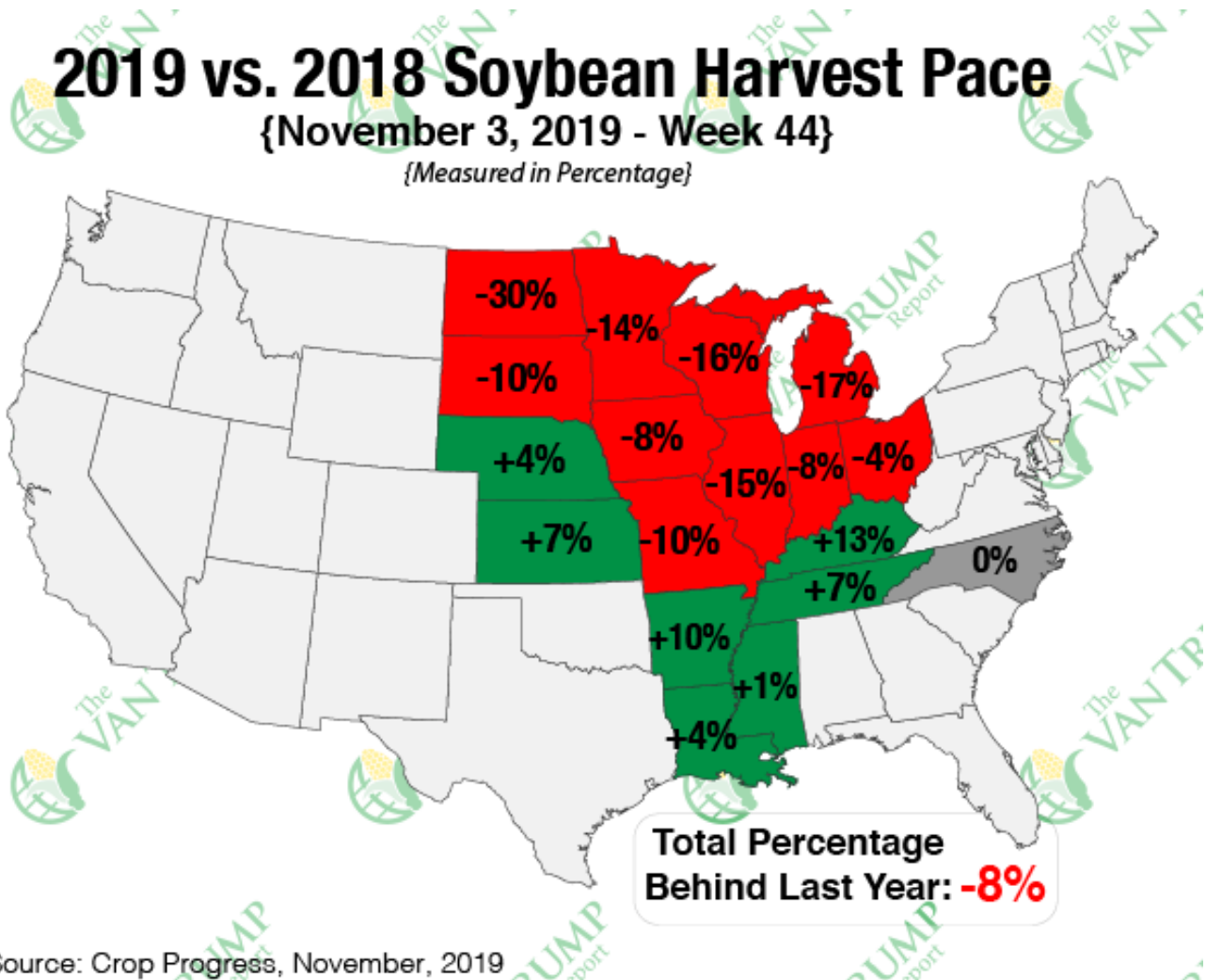






**Soybean** bears are listening to whispers and rumors of pessimism regarding U.S. and Chinese trade negotiations. Most of the market is eagerly awaiting tomorrow's USDA report. Bulls are hoping to see the USDA reduce its U.S. production estimate and further shrink the balance sheet. Bears are pointing to improved weather in South America and talk of increasing estimates. Of course, the future of U.S. and

Chinese trade talks remain a heavy uncertainty. Technically, the trade is eager to see if the bulls can push the JAN190 contract north of \$9.60, something that hasn't happened since early-March. Nearby support seems to be in the \$9.20 to \$9.25 range, below that level we start to talk the \$8.65 to \$9.00 range, a level we last traded in during August and September. As a spec, I remain on the sideline having banked some profits in my previous bullish positions. I will consider reowning as a bull if prices pull back more substantially. I'm just not all that interested in buying a breakout or momentum to the upside, especially with all of this Chinese uncertainty still in the air and mostly cooperative weather in South America.



**Wheat** bulls want to believe the USDA is going to make a more sizeable reduction to global production. We've all seen the headlines involving Australia and Argentina. Bulls argue production estimates for both are still heavily overstated and need to be reduced. Bears doubt the reductions will do much to really impact the overall burdensome global balance sheet. There's some debatable weather here at home and how it specifically impacts emergence and longer-term strength

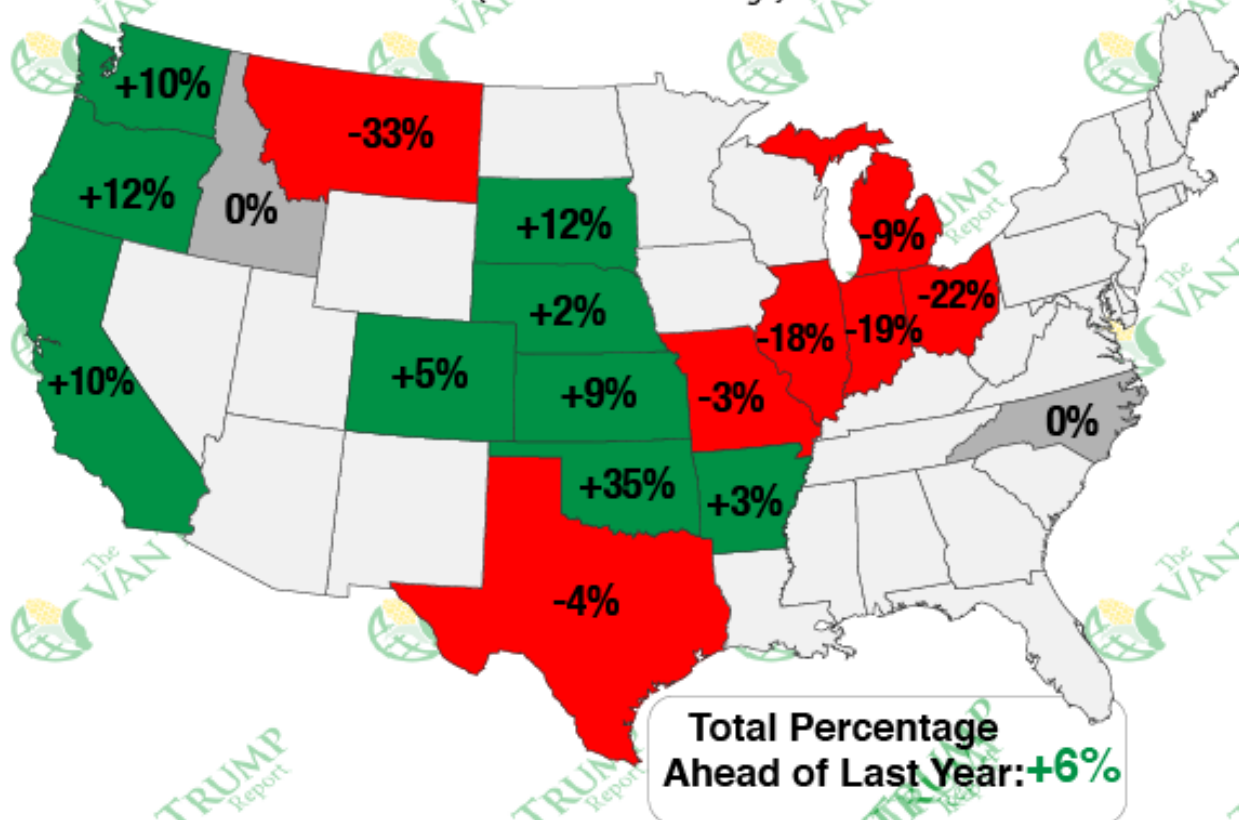


of the crop? But again, with the domestic U.S. balance sheet near +1.0 billion bushels it's just not a strong enough headline to flush the bears or entice a wave of new bullish money. Hence the market continues to chop around. Technically, the DEC19 SRW contract has traded between \$5.00 and \$5.35 the past few weeks. The DEC19 HRW contract has traded roughly between \$4.00 and \$4.37 per bushel. The DEC19 Spring wheat contract has been trading between \$5.20 and \$5.60 per bushel. I suspect the downside of the spring contract will soon be tested. As a producer, I want to remain patient. As a spec, I have no current positions in any of the wheat markets. May place some bets if the USDA delivers a surprise, still in no real hurry to jump in this market as it searches for direction.

## 2019 vs 2018 Winter Wheat Good-to-Excellent

{November 3, 2019 - Week 44}

{Measured in Percentage}



Source: Crop Progress, November, 2019

**U.S. Production 2019/20**  
(million bushels)

<b>Corn</b>	<b>November Estimates</b>	<b>Avg. Trade Estimate</b>	<b>Range of Estimates</b>	<b>October Estimates</b>	<b>Last Year</b>
Production	???	13,575	12,736 - 13,792	13,779	14,420
Yield	???	166.9	159.0 - 170.0	168.4	176.4
Harvested Acres	???	81.318	80.1 - 81.82	81.815	81.740

<b>Soybeans</b>	<b>November Estimates</b>	<b>Avg. Trade Estimate</b>	<b>Range of Estimates</b>	<b>October Estimates</b>	<b>Last Year</b>
Production	???	3,500	3,317 - 3,609	3,550	4,428
Yield	???	46.5	44.0 - 47.9	46.9	50.6
Harvested Acres	???	75.430	74.50 - 76.70	75.626	87.594

## **U.S. Grain Ending Stocks 2019/20**

(million bushels)

	<b>November Estimates</b>	<b>Avg. Trade Estimate</b>	<b>Range of Estimates</b>	<b>October Estimates</b>	<b>Last Year</b>
Corn	???	1,756	1,215 - 1,959	1,929	2,116
Soybeans	???	419	306 - 521	460	913
Wheat	???	1,025	958 - 1,073	1,043	1,080

## **World Ending Stocks 2019/20**

(million tonnes)

	<b>November Estimates</b>	<b>Avg. Trade Estimate</b>	<b>Range of Estimates</b>	<b>October Estimates</b>	<b>Last Year</b>
Corn	???	300.2	291.1 - 304.4	302.6	324.0
Soybeans	???	94.6	88.0 - 109.4	95.2	109.9
Wheat	???	287.1	285.1 - 288.5	287.8	277.7

**\*All reports to be released Friday, November 8th at 11:00 AM CST\***

**Rice** futures are easing their way back higher and are again trading around the 12.00/cwt level after finding new lows during the transition from November to January futures. Prices sold off toward the end of October and many specs have decided to take a wait and see approach. Harvest is pretty much wrapped up. The yield and acreage concern that pushed us to some impressive levels this summer has been priced in, but I believe that the bulk of the premium should at the very least hold into the first of next year as we wait on the final numbers from USDA. Cash markets are bidding a bit better on tight gripped producers, cheap barge freight and improving exports. The report tomorrow is expected to be quiet and should not push things too much one way or the other. There is some chatter that we will see better pricing opportunities into the end of the year. I cannot necessarily argue with that, but I believe that it is going to be a much firmer basis that could offer the better pricing opportunities. Looking next year's crop, there is talk of more acres going in with better prices and fields that are already prepped that could not get planted this year. That is something to be mindful of that I will be keeping a close eye on. Technically, we need to see rice close and hold back above 12.10/cwt in JAN to try to give bulls more confidence to the upside. Trey Morris - [Husk Trading](#)



> **Brazil Implements Tariff-Free Wheat Import Quota:** *Brazil has put into*

*effect a tariff-free import quota for 750,000 metric tons of wheat per year that is open to any country with which it does not have a free-trade agreement, the Agriculture Ministry said in a note on its website on Wednesday. The zero-tariff wheat quota was announced in March when President Jair Bolsonaro visited the White House, much to the concern of traditional suppliers in Argentina, Brazil's partner in the South American common market Mercosur. Industry group Abitrigo has said the measure should benefit producers in the United States, Canada and Russia. (Source: Reuters)*

**> China's COFCO Agrees to Buy \$100 Million Worth of Pork Products from Danish Crown:** *China's state-owned agriculture conglomerate COFCO said it has agreed to buy \$100 million worth of pork from top European pork producer Danish Crown by 2020, to help plug a domestic pork shortage following a widespread pig disease. The two companies signed a preliminary purchase agreement on the sidelines of the China International Import Expo in Shanghai. Lars Albertsen, sales director at Danish Crown, said no volumes had been agreed yet, but he said the sale was "one of the biggest deals we've done out here in a long, long time". He also says the deal could be expanded, given the huge needs from China. Europe's top pork exporter, Danish Crown has done several deals with COFCO this year, turning it into a preferred supplier, said Albertsen. The Danish Crown deal follows yesterday's news that China had reopened the market to pork and beef imports from Canada. (Source: Reuters)*

**> Ethanol Sector Looks South of the Border for Sales Boost:** Corn growers and ethanol producers have grown increasingly frustrated that Trump's blending waivers for oil refiners are deflating the domestic biofuel market. While they continue pleading with the White House for a solution, the industry is hoping foreign buyers can help make up for the sales they're losing back home. Trade groups including the U.S. Grains Council and American Coalition for Ethanol have been working with Mexican officials to promote the use of a 10 percent ethanol blend. They're hosting workshops and targeting Mexican gas station owners, petroleum equipment retailers and the nation's ag and energy officials. U.S. ethanol exports to Mexico have largely been used for producing other goods, rather than as transportation fuel. But retailers in border cities are increasingly buying pre-blended E10 at U.S. terminals and reselling it at Mexican stations. Mexico currently allows E10 nationwide except in its three major cities: Guadalajara, Mexico City and Monterrey. But Ryan LeGrand, CEO of the Grains Council, said he expects Mexican energy regulators to present a proposal to allow E10 in those cities by the end of 2019. "Once the entire country is open, there's a potential 1.2 billion gallons of ethanol exports to Mexico," LeGrand said. Beyond Mexico, biofuel producers are aiming to grow sales in South Asia. And corn growers are hoping that China could make a significant purchase of U.S. ethanol as part of the limited trade deal that officials are expected to finalize this month. (Source: Politico)



**> Brazil Farmers Push Traders to End Amazon Soy Moratorium:** *Brazilian farmers plan to start a campaign next week to end a ban by trading firms on buying soybeans from parts of the Amazon rainforest cleared after 2008, leaders from a major farmer group told Reuters, citing support from President Jair Bolsonaro. Rising deforestation in the Amazon and the sight of fires raging there this year have gripped the world's attention, but the world's biggest grains traders cited their moratorium as evidence that the destruction was not driven by demand for soy. Some have even suggested the model of a voluntary soy ban could be expanded to the adjacent Cerrado biome, where the pace of deforestation has outstripped the Amazon in recent years. Bartolomeu Braz Pereira, president of Brazilian soy producer association Aprosoja Brasil said in an interview that Bolsonaro and his chief of staff had agreed at an Aug. 29 meeting that the soy moratorium unfairly hurt Brazilian farmers complying with domestic laws and that the government would soon come out against it. Soy crushing group Abiove, which represents global grains traders in Brazil, warned that such a move could hurt farmers, creating backlash against Brazilian goods in European markets, where consumers demand more environmentally sustainable farming. Farmers represented by Aprosoja are demanding that traders also buy soy from the 20% of their land in the Amazon that they are allowed to deforest by law. (Source: Reuters)*

**> USDA to Pay Tyson Foods \$1 Million Settlement Over Federal Inspector's False Reports:** *The settlement is linked to a lawsuit in which the meat processor said a federal meat inspector lied about inspecting hogs at its Storm Lake, Iowa, plant, forcing the company to destroy 8,000 carcasses and resulting in \$2.4 million in losses and expenses. Tyson Foods filed suit against the government agency in May after an inspector signed inspection cards for 4,622 hogs at the Storm Lake facility. The antemortem inspections were never actually conducted by the agency in person as the report stated. The meat giant was able to show the courts the inspector never left her car but signed the cards without seeing the hogs. Tyson Foods said it incurred losses of \$2.48 million from the false reports. By the time it learned of the alleged actions, the negligently inspected hogs had been intermingled into a larger group of some 8,000 hog carcasses and therefore could no longer be positively identified and the entire group had to be destroyed. (Source: KATV)*

**> An Energy Breakthrough Could Store Solar Power for Decades:** *For decades, scientists have sought an affordable and effective way of capturing, storing, and releasing solar energy. Researchers in Sweden say they have a solution. Scientists at Chalmers University of Technology in Gothenburg have figured out how to harness the energy and keep it in reserve so it can be released on demand in the form of heat—even decades after it was captured. The innovations include an energy-trapping molecule, a storage system that promises*

to outperform traditional batteries, at least when it comes to heating, and an energy-storing laminate coating that can be applied to windows and textiles. The breakthroughs, from a team led by researcher Kasper Moth-Poulsen, have garnered praise within the scientific community. Now comes the real test: whether Moth-Poulsen can get investors to back his technology and take it to market. Read more about the groundbreaking system from [Businessweek](#).

**> Sales of New Classic Cars and SUVs Stalled in Regulatory Limbo:** A change to U.S. law could open the door to a flood of companies building new versions of classic vehicles like the '65 Ford Mustang, first-generation Ford Bronco, '63 Chevy Corvette Stingray and '60s-80s Toyota FJ Land Cruisers. But first, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration must issue a regulation required by the law, which has been on the books for nearly four years. Businesspeople involved say that's the only thing keeping a new industry from growing. Nationwide, the law could create \$120 million-\$150 million a year in U.S. sales and several times that much from exports, according to the Specialty Equipment Market Association (SEMA), which represents parts and vehicle makers for classic and modified cars, trucks and motorcycles. SEMA is suing NHTSA to allow manufacturers to start making replica cars immediately. Bringing a classic car into rough compliance with modern standards isn't easy, but you can argue the EPA's half of the process was simpler than NHTSA's. Emissions standards are a measurable goal. Safety is a fuzzier concept. SEMA argues the cars must meet standards for features like lights and brakes. "Modern" advances like antilock brakes, shoulder belts — or in the case of classics like the '32 Ford, any seat belt at all — should be left to the maker's discretion. Read more [HERE](#).

**> A Beginners Guide to "Ranked-Choice" Voting:** New York City has become the latest — and most populous — city to adopt ranked-choice voting, a major milestone for voting reform efforts. New York City joins 20 other cities around the country, as well as multiple states, that have already started using this method in various elections. Maine, notably, implemented ranked-choice voting for the first time in a federal election in 2018. Ranked-choice voting works much like its name suggests. Instead of picking just one candidate on the ballot, voters rank their top five in order of preference. Supporters of ranked-choice voting, also known as "preferential" voting, claim the method results in elections being won by candidates who represent the views of the electorate more closely. Advocates of the system also say that it eliminates the potential for an election to be decided by a "spoiler" candidate, a concern often aimed at third-party candidates in U.S. presidential elections. Opponents dispute the idea that it is a more democratic method of electing a candidate and often argue that it is too confusing. With New York adopting it, it's obviously an idea that's catching on so it's not a bad idea to understand how it works! Check out BallotPedia's ranked-choice voting explainer [HERE](#).

> **Genius 14-Year-Old Solves Car Blind Spots:** *Using some relatively inexpensive and readily available technology you can find at any well-stocked electronics store, Alaina Gassler, a 14-year-old inventor from West Grove, Pennsylvania, came up with a clever way to eliminate the blind spot created by the thick pillars on the side of a car's windshield. Her solution involves installing an outward-facing webcam on the outside of a vehicle's windshield pillar, and then projecting a live feed from that camera onto the inside of that pillar. Custom 3D-printed parts allowed her to perfectly align the projected image so that it seamlessly blends with what a driver sees through the passenger window and the windshield, essentially making the pillar invisible. Her invention was part of a project called "Improving Automobile Safety by Removing Blind Spots," which Gassler presented at this year's Society for Science and the Public's Broadcom MASTERS (Math, Applied Science, Technology, and Engineering for Rising Stars) science and engineering competition. (It's basically a next-level science fair minus the cheesy papier-mâché volcanoes.) Her ingenuity was enough to earn her the competition's top honor, the Samueli Foundation Prize, which also netted Gassler \$25,000. More details and a video of Gassler's genius invention in action are available [HERE](#).*



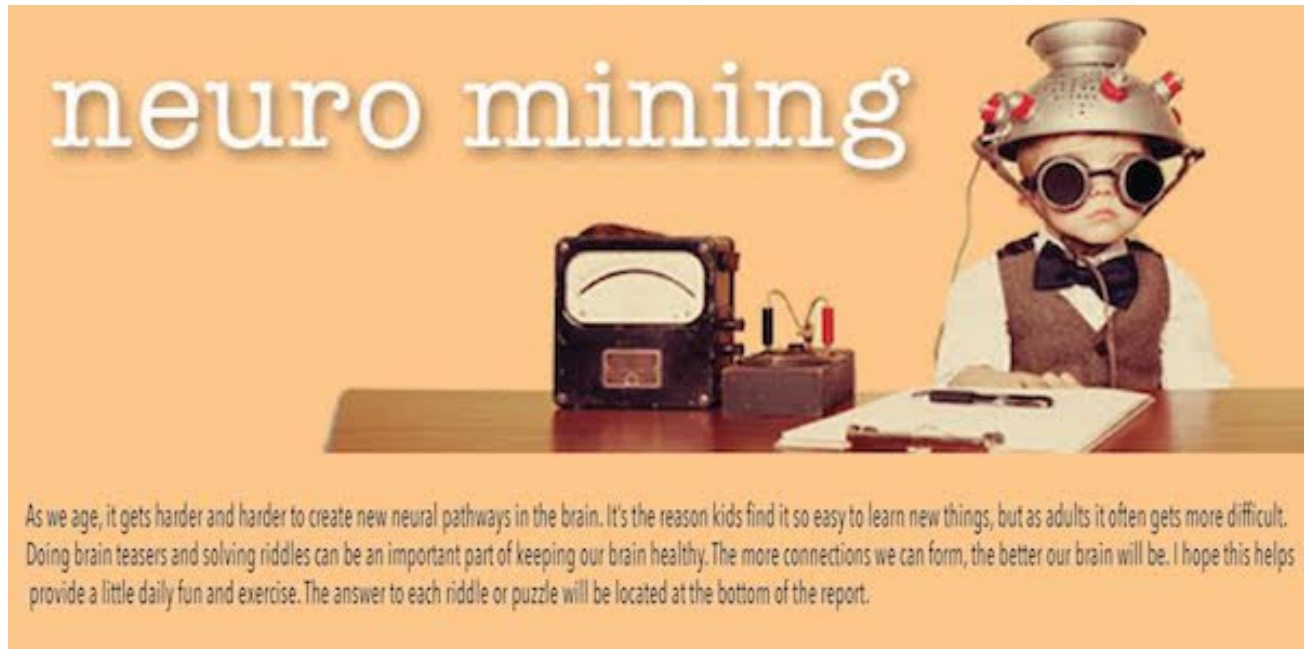


**Western Missouri** - *Like most people in this area we are done with corn. It made about 8 bushels better than my APH but about 10 bushels worse than I would have liked to see. Right now, we are in the midst of the soybean harvest. The problem we are running into is wet soybeans. They are roughly testing 17-20% moisture so we are holding off until they dry down a little further. The soybeans are yielding in that 45-bushel area but like corn, the later soybeans are likely to get worse. We are hopeful they don't but I guess time will tell.*

**Northeast North Dakota** - *We are getting into corn now and the yields are pretty good as a whole. With that being said we do have spots that are a little light because of all the excessive rain we saw late in the season. Like I was reading yesterday, many of the farmers up here are really disappointed with the test weight. We are seeing a lot - if not all - our corn coming in around 50 pounds. The yields are good enough around here, and test weight is bad enough, that we are starting to see elevators widen their bids. We are glad we got what we wanted locked in early.*

**Central Illinois** - *I am getting tired of seeing guys compare this crop to last year, especially in our area. The growing conditions have not been anywhere nearly as good as last year. The corn is obviously worse than last year in nearly every field. But with that said it's not nearly as bad as what guys thought it would be 60 days ago. We are coming in just a little north of 200 bushels which is 25 bushels off our APH. All in all, I really can't complain too much about how everything is shaking out especially with early expectations. A lot of guys would have sworn up and down they wouldn't clear 150 bushels in the middle of July.*





**TODAY'S RIDDLE:** A trail, a union, together tied. Come across me and you will find, you cannot change the course I'm on, without me you cannot travel on. What am I?



### Should We Expect Bigger Disruption from Indoor Farming?

Characteristics that made industrial agriculture so successful - economies of scale, fertilizers, pesticides, and innovation in seed genetics - are now leading to consumer backlash and a strong interest in what indoor farming has to offer. Even though these efficiencies and an ability to grow food inexpensively have reduced the share of disposable personal income spent on food by over 40% during the past 55 years, many of today's consumers are looking for fresher, healthier, tastier and more sustainable foods and management practices, and are willing to pay a premium to get it.

Leaders in the indoor vertical farming space, Plenty, who launched their San Francisco Bay area farm this summer, also announced it's expanding its reach with

a new facility in Los Angeles. You may recall that in July of 2017, Plenty made history when it raised a record-setting \$200 million in a Series B-round, which was led by SoftBank's Vision Fund. From what I understand, construction begins later this year on the soccer field-sized farm, which is expected to have fresh produce out to customers by late 2020.

Vertical indoor farms optimize production through the use of data analytics and machine learning, something much easier to do in a controlled environment than in a field, and even with LED lighting not proving profitable yet, many see the opportunities, like seed companies who are continuing to improve their genetic developments. It's worth mentioning, the strong consumer interest in indoor farming has been matched by large quantities of venture capital investment across the globe and now it's starting to find a home in the U.S. Keep in mind, an increasing amount of the non-processed tomatoes and specialty peppers sold in the U.S. are grown in Canadian greenhouses, where electricity is cheaper, and in Mexican greenhouses, where labor and other production costs are lower, meaning it isn't surprising, therefore, that indoor farming companies have raised over \$1 billion in equity during the past five years.

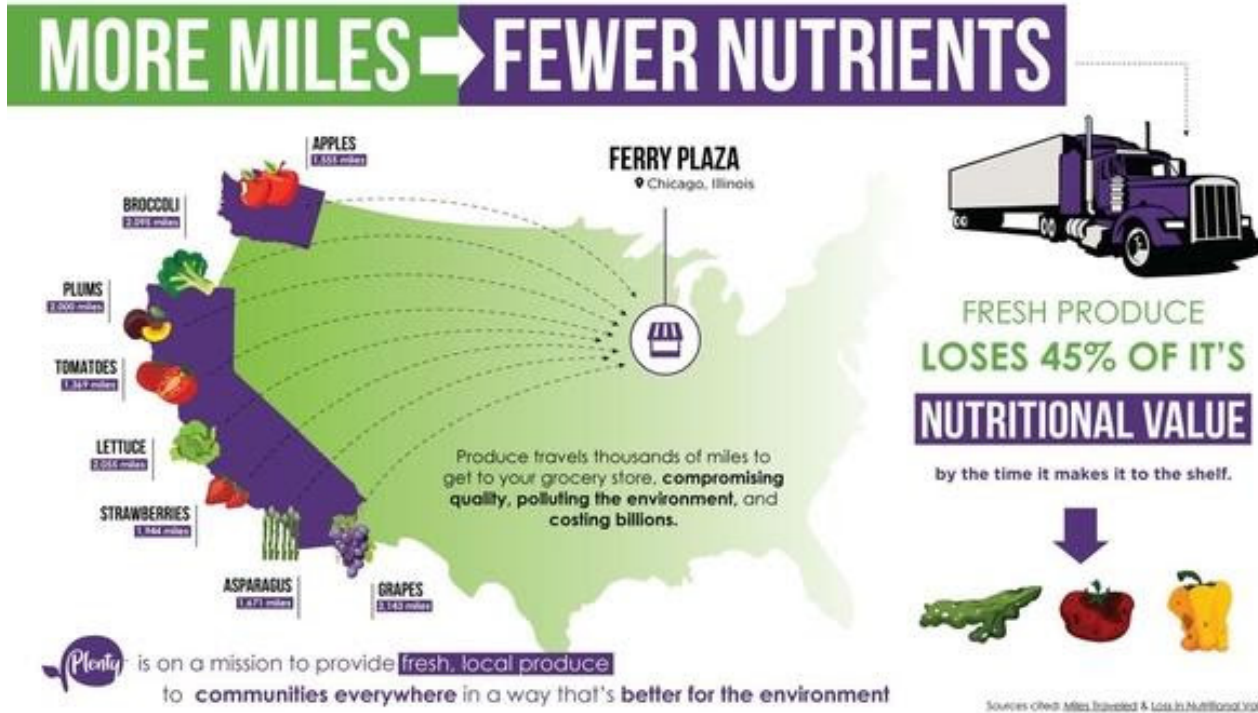
Adam Bergman, Wells Fargo Head of AgTech and FoodTech Investment Banking Practice, has been evaluating indoor vertical farming for the last three years and believes that though a range of challenges exists for the young industry, he does see the indoor farming sector poised to create significant disruption in a number of high-margin specialty crop segments. Interestingly, he believes that taste will be a differentiating factor and one that gives vertical farming a competitive advantage as production costs continue to decrease. With locally grown foods, there comes the ability to ship within a day, and from Bergman's perspective, there is no greater evidence of logistics winning over taste than iceberg lettuce.

Who knows what the vertical farm landscape will look like in 10, 20 or even 50 years, but as a business owner in the food space, you have to acknowledge the industry is steadfastly going after consumers who have clearly made their desires known. At the moment, we are seeing the emergence of two different types of vertical farms: one built in large warehouses to maximize economies of scale, and the other having a smaller footprint, like shipping containers, that can be placed at hotels, supermarkets, and universities, enabling produce to be harvested and eaten the same day. I definitely think the shipping container play could be something an early adopter could create as an alternative revenue stream by setting up contracts with larger institutions in your area. Bottom line, before science entered the space the first time, we all thought more horses were the answer. Now new ideas and technologies have to be utilized to secure your future in agriculture's changing landscape. If the answers were obvious, everyone would already be doing it, so make sure you are engaged in learning and staying ahead of the trends. (Source: globalaginvesting, thespoon, Forbes)













### **Elderly Woman Becomes Multi-Millionaire with Lost Painting**

A medieval painting by the early Italian master Cimabue that hung unnoticed for years in a house in France just recently sold at auction for a record \$26.8 million. The sale price makes it the most expensive pre-1500 Old Master to be sold at auction. Experts say it's one of the most important Old Master discoveries in the past 15 years.

The small panel work of "The Mocking of Christ" was found this summer hanging above the kitchen stove in a house belonging to an elderly French woman. From what I understand she was selling her house and gave the auction company a week to clear things out before its sale.

The painting turned out to be the missing counterpart to an altarpiece depicting

eight scenes from the Passion of Christ. Two other sections, painted around 1280, are displayed at the Frick Collection in New York and the National Gallery in London. There are only around ten fully accepted Cimabue works on panel known to have survived down the centuries, the best known of which is the "Crucifixion" in Santa Croce church in Florence. That painting was severely damaged during the terrible flood of 1966, however.

Experts say that the painting generated interest from all the most prominent museums worldwide. It also generated a lot of interest from contemporary art collectors.

The painting has supposedly been with the family for as long as anyone can remember. They think it was simply passed down through the generations with someone years ago perhaps buying it cheap at a sale or having it given to them. This is a cool story! I love it when someone has millions just sitting in front of them their entire life but have never seen it from that perspective... I call it an honest innocence. Or in this case, a true love for a simple painting. (Source: Forbes)







**Motor City Madman Drops a Squirrel at 150 Yards!**

In 1974 an avid outdoorsman named Theodore Anthony Nugent won a National Squirrel-shooting contest after picking off a squirrel at 150 yards. You may better know him as outspoken conservative rock legend Ted Nugent. He was born in 1948 the third of four siblings in Redford, Michigan, and raised in metropolitan Detroit. As a teenager, Nugent attended St. Viator High School in Arlington Heights, Illinois, and for a short time, William Fremd High School in Palatine, Illinois. Nugent grew up in a military family; his father was a career army sergeant.

A young Ted would start performing at around the age of 10 in Detroit, Michigan. He played in a group called The Royal High Boys from 1960 to 1962 and later in a group named The Lourds. Nugent played with The Lourds until his family moved to Illinois, where at the age of 16 he founded another band called The Amboy Dukes, who started playing at The Cellar, in the Chicago suburb of Arlington Heights.

After settling down on a ranch in Michigan in 1973, Nugent signed a record deal with Frank Zappa's DiscReet Records label and recorded the album called "Call of the Wild". By 1975 Nugent had stopped playing with the Amboy Dukes band and signed his own solo deal with Epic Records.

Nugent went on to have a successful solo career in the 1970s and 80s, generating massive hits such as "Cat Scratch Fever", "Free for All", and my favorite "Stranglehold".

Since the 2000s, Nugent (although continuing his rock career) has been a prominent activist, both for hunting and for conservative politics. Nugent has hosted a number one morning radio show in Detroit; has run his own hunting camp and issues instructional videotapes (as well as the Ted Nugent Spirit of the Wild PBS video series); owns his own hunting supply store; has been appointed to the board of directors of the National Rifle Association; writes columns regularly for a number of different magazines; and even sells his very own beef jerky called Gonzo Meat Biltong!

Since the 1970s Nugent has promoted anti-drug and anti-alcohol stances. He has been cited as a key influence on the straight edge movement, a punk rock-associated lifestyle that developed in the early 1980s and discourages drug and alcohol use. Henry Rollins, vocalist for Black Flag, reports that he and friend Ian MacKaye were inspired by Nugent during their high school years in the 1970s when he was the only major rock star to publicly eschew drug use: "[We] would read about the Nuge and the thing that really rubbed off on us was the fact that he didn't drink or smoke or do drugs ... [Nugent's performance] was the craziest thing we'd ever seen on stage and here's this guy saying, 'I don't get high.' We



thought that was so impressive." Nugent is a national spokesman for the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program. In 2015, however, Nugent declared his support for the legalization of marijuana for medical use. And in 2018 he admitted that he finally started drinking "a little wine".

Regardless of your political views, Ted Nugent has clearly been able to do it his own way and at the same time able to become a huge success in both music and business. Click [HERE](#) to listen to one of my favorite songs and a little tribute to the U.S. Marines. Believe it or not, I actually remember them playing this song on Friday nights when I was playing football in high school, it would get us all jacked on the opening kickoff!













**ANSWER to riddle:** Railroad tracks.



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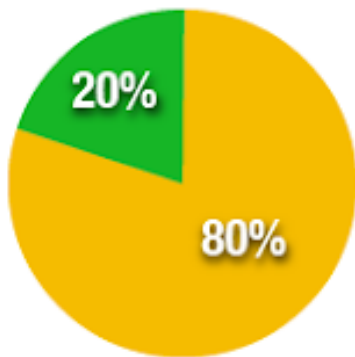
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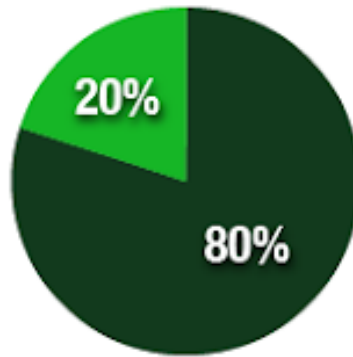
### Corn 2018 Crop

80% SOLD  
20% HEDGED  
0% UNPROTECTED



### Soybean 2018 Crop

80% SOLD  
20% HEDGED  
0% UNPROTECTED



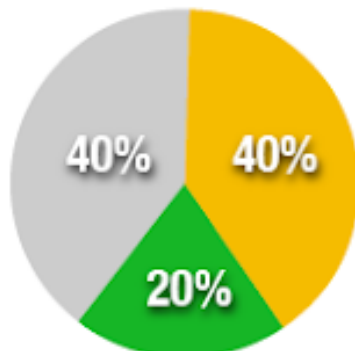
### Wheat 2018 Crop

100% SOLD  
0% HEDGED  
0% UNPROTECTED



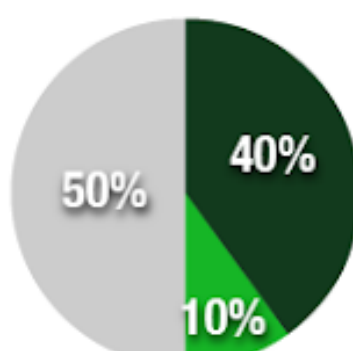
### Corn 2019 Crop

40% SOLD  
20% HEDGED  
40% UNPROTECTED



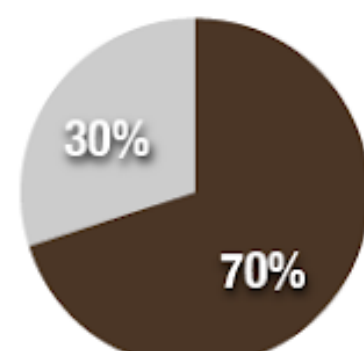
### Soybean 2019 Crop

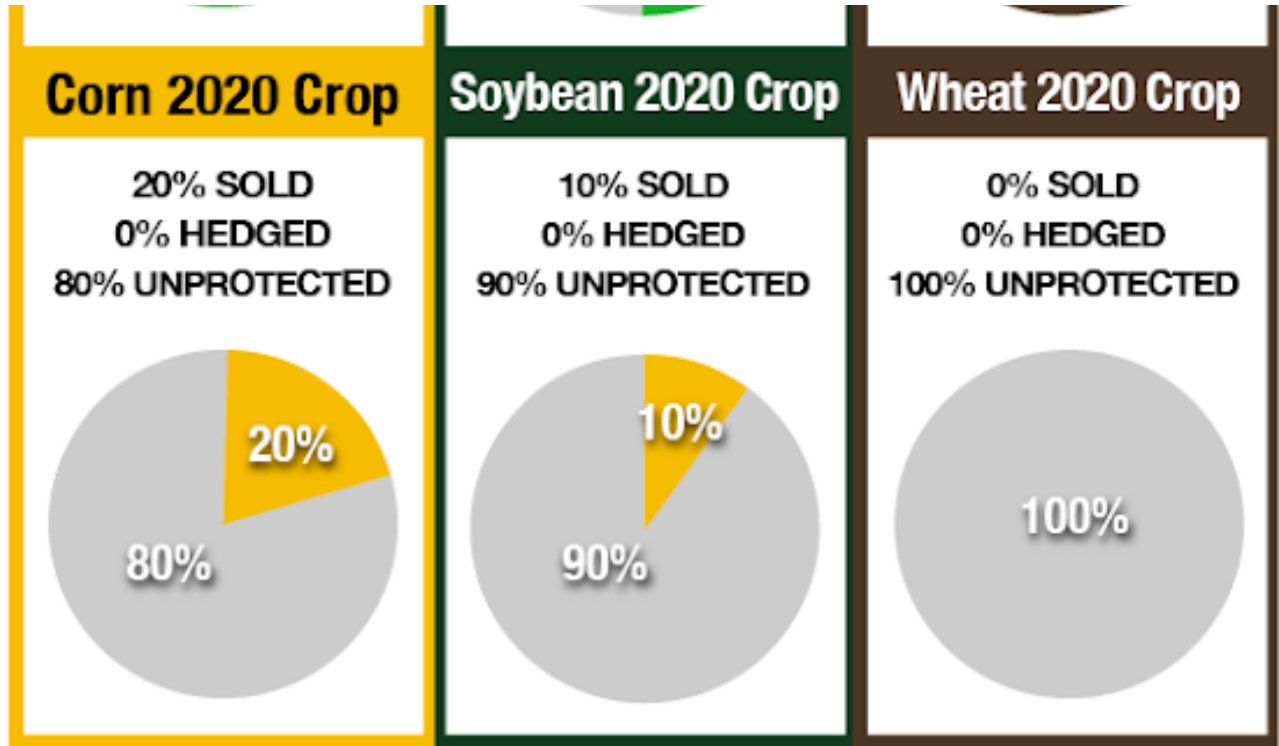
40% SOLD  
10% HEDGED  
50% UNPROTECTED



### Wheat 2019 Crop

100% SOLD  
0% HEDGED  
0% UNPROTECTED





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