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GOOD MORNING: The Van Trump Report 12-4-19

1 message

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

Wed, Dec 4, 2019 at 5:30 AM

Reply-To: Jordan <reply-fec1107276600c74-1142_HTML-68584704-100003450-8@vantrumpreport-email.com>

To: josh@farmdirection.com



"Always remember... Men tend to stumble over pebbles, never over mountains." -
Marilyn French

Wednesday, December 4, 2019[Printable Copy](#) or [Audio Version](#)

Morning Summary: Stock bulls are hoping they can stop the recent bleeding as they try to best navigate the latest headlines surrounding U.S. and China trade negotiations. The December 15th tariffs seem to be the line drawn in the sand. With only eight trading days remaining ahead of this major headline, many bulls are thinking the safer play might be simply banking some profits ahead of the uncertainty. Bottom-line, trade negotiations remain a major wild-card. Keep in mind, on the year Apple stock is up +64%; Facebook up +51%; Microsoft up +47%; Google up +29%; Amazon up +17%. There are certainly some profits to be banked! Turning to more traditional economic data, today's ADP Employment Report will give investors a preview of what Friday's November Employment Report might deliver. The consensus is calling for +156,000 in new jobs created, up from +125,000 for ADP's estimate in October and +131,000 from the government's October data. Another solid month of employment will go a long way toward easing lingering concerns about the U.S. economy and consumer spending.

Also due out today is the ISM Non-Manufacturing Index which is expected to fall slightly. Earnings of note today include the Royal Bank of Canada, Campbell Soup, and Slack. On the international front, the oil markets are signaling that the global economy may be getting back on track, with U.S. crude and Brent prices holding steady within a \$10 range over the last six months. Even as stocks tanked yesterday, U.S. oil futures climbed a little higher. Bulls view the steady prices as a sign that global consumption has stabilized, in turn signaling the global economic picture has also stabilized. Keep in mind, OPEC begins its highly anticipated meeting on Thursday with the broader coalition of oil producers known as OPEC+ meeting on Friday. It's expected that Saudi Arabia, the group's largest oil producer, and de facto leader, will try to extend the oil group's production cuts. In fact, there have been some rumors that the Saudis are going to try and increase the production cuts from -1.2 to -1.5 million barrels per day. Don't forget, Saudi Aramco (ARMCO) has brought in roughly \$44.3 billion in bids for its IPO this week. The company is on track for a valuation between \$1.6 and \$1.7 trillion. I'm also keeping an eye on the "Power of Siberia" pipeline that just opened and now allows Russia to pipe natural gas directly over to China. Insiders fear the massive 2,000-mile pipeline could easily disrupt coal production and Liquified Natural Gas (LNG) imports into China. Do your homework on the subject and pay close attention. Remember, don't focus on what these two nations are saying but rather pay very close attention to what they are doing. There's a lot of balls in the air right now... I'm happy that I banked profits on some of my smaller holdings and am content waiting for deeper breaks to add to my handful of favorites.

Losing Oil Jobs? *There have been some rumors and reports circulating that the pace of oil development down in the Permian has slowed and the area has shed about -400 jobs during the first 10 months of 2019. Keep in mind, during 2018, this region added about +16,700 jobs. Interesting twist...*

Google Co-Founders Larry Page and Sergey Brin Step Down: *Larry Page and Sergey Brin, the Stanford students who founded Google as a research project 21 years ago, are stepping back from their day-to-day roles at tech holding company Alphabet, bringing the curtain down on one of the most successful management double-acts in history. The two men will remain employees of Alphabet and retain their seats on the board, but they will no longer oversee the company's sprawling, almost trillion-dollar empire. Current Google CEO Sundar Pichai will be the CEO of both Google and parent company Alphabet. The news, while a shocking development for the course of Google's future, is not surprising to those who have followed Page and Brin's careers since 2015. The duo have rarely made public appearances, spoken on investor calls, or shown their faces at product launches or the company's annual I/O developer conference. But Page and Brin are also handing the CEO title to Pichai at a time of increasing scrutiny of Big Tech, and Google and its YouTube subsidiary have faced a severe series of*

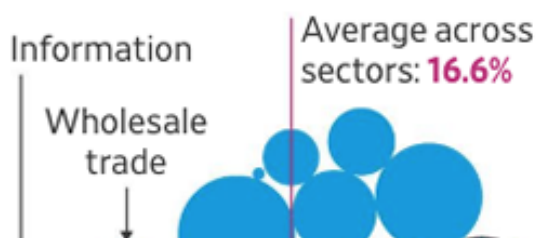
controversies since the company's co-founders stepped back. Read more from [The Verge](#).

Shoppers Spent +16% More Over the Holiday Weekend: *The final tally for holiday weekend sales shows a record number of U.S. consumers spent more online and in stores for everything from clothing to toys, according to the National Retail Federation. NRF's survey found nearly 190 million people made purchases over the five-day holiday shopping period from Thanksgiving Day through Cyber Monday, an increase of roughly +14% from 165 million a year ago. It cited a healthy economy and a condensed holiday shopping season. Shoppers spent \$361.90 on average over the five-day period, up +16% from \$313.29 during the same period last year. NRF said 124 million people shopped in stores, while roughly 142 million shopped on retailers' websites. For the first time, Black Friday topped Cyber Monday as the busiest day for online shopping, it added. Craig Johnson, president of retail consultancy Consumer Growth Partners, projected that over the four-day Black Friday weekend, store sales grew by +3%, whereas online sales rose +14% from last year. He said sales were led by the "Big Four" mega-retailers — Walmart, Amazon, Costco, and Target, and both Black Friday and the full weekend reached record levels. Research released on Monday by Adobe Digital Insights, which tracks transactions at 80 of the top 100 U.S. retailers, showed total sales for the weekend to be roughly \$29 billion. (Source: Reuters)*

U.S. Business Sectors with the Highest Survival Rate: *An analysis of Bureau of Labor Statistics data on the 569,419 businesses launched in March 1994 found that just 435,134 made it to the end of 1995, 257,488 lasted until 2000 and by the time it got to 2019, just 94,391 of the businesses were still kicking. That's a 25-year survival rate of just 16.6 percent. Some business types are more durable — 35.2 percent of the management companies founded back then are still around, as are 28.4 percent of utilities and 19.9 percent of health care companies — while others are considerably riskier, such as wholesale trade (14 percent), transportation (12.9 percent) and information (11.5 percent). (Source: Numlock, Wall Street Journal)*

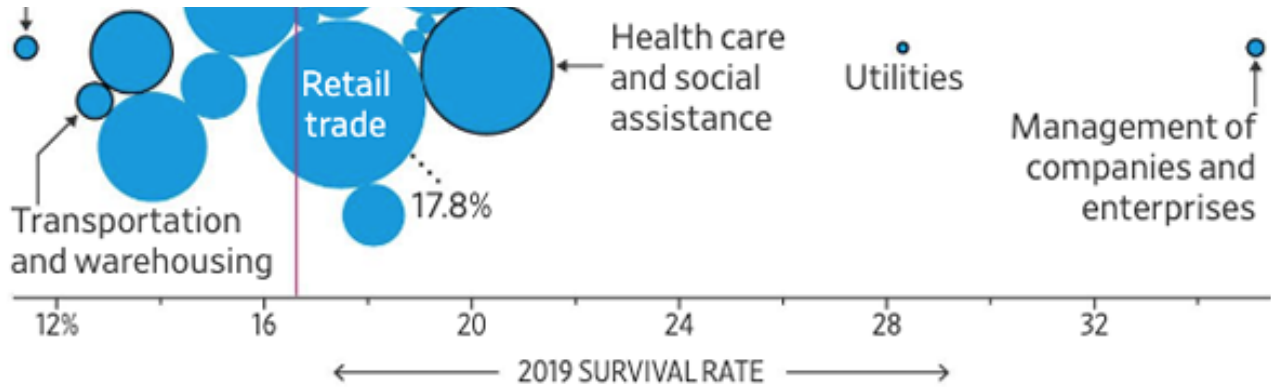
The Endurance Test

Survival rate of businesses by sector



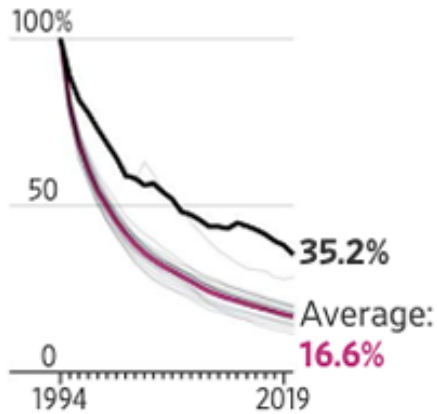
Number of surviving businesses, March 1994-March 2019



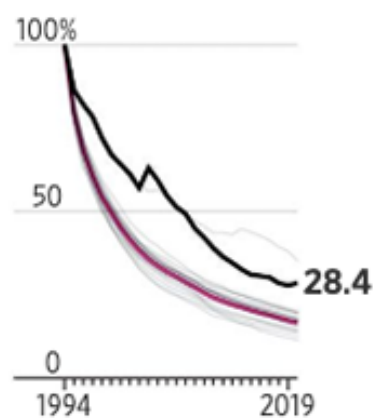


Sectors with highest and lowest annual survival rate, compared to all sectors

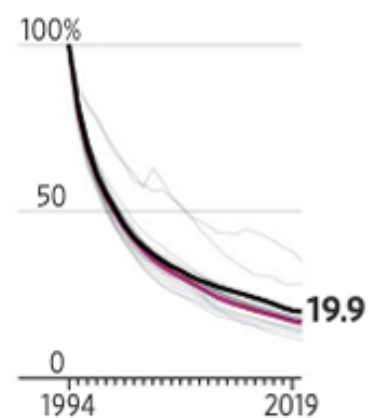
Management of companies and enterprises



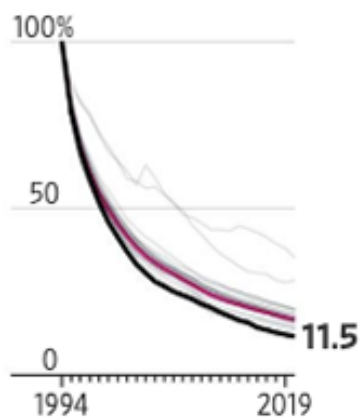
Utilities



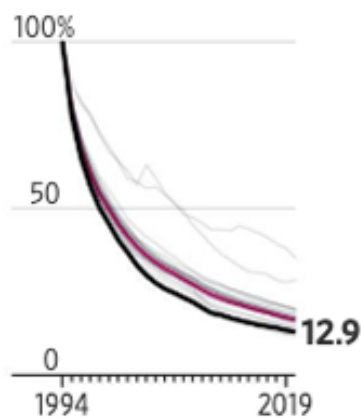
Health care and social assistance



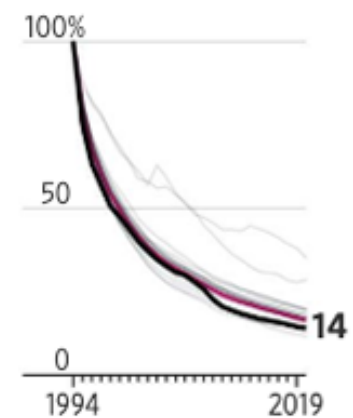
Information



Transportation and warehousing



Wholesale trade



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Business Employment Dynamics data



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Tweets of the Day





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Visualizing the Scale of Plastic Bottle Waste Against Major Landmarks

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Dafydd Jones
@dafs9



Harvest 2019 at Yupiri done and dusted on Sunday afternoon. Thanks to everyone involved in my first harvest here. Pumped for 2020 now [#harvest2019](#) [#livingthedream](#) [#esperanceaustralia](#)





Warren Shelton
@Sod_Buster77



Game misconduct!!
[#harvest19](#)





Farmobile
@FarmobileLLC



Work hard. Stay humble. #WednesdayWisdom
#FarmLife #harvest19





Melissa Gerner
@MelRaeG



My little farmers 🇺🇸 🌽 Blessed to have them enjoy this time of year as much as I do. #Farmher #familyfarm #harvest19





Steve Burns
@SJosephBurns

Remember this when you encounter internet trolls:

[#WednesdayMotivation](#) [#WednesdayWisdom](#)

"Winners focus on winning, losers focus on winners"

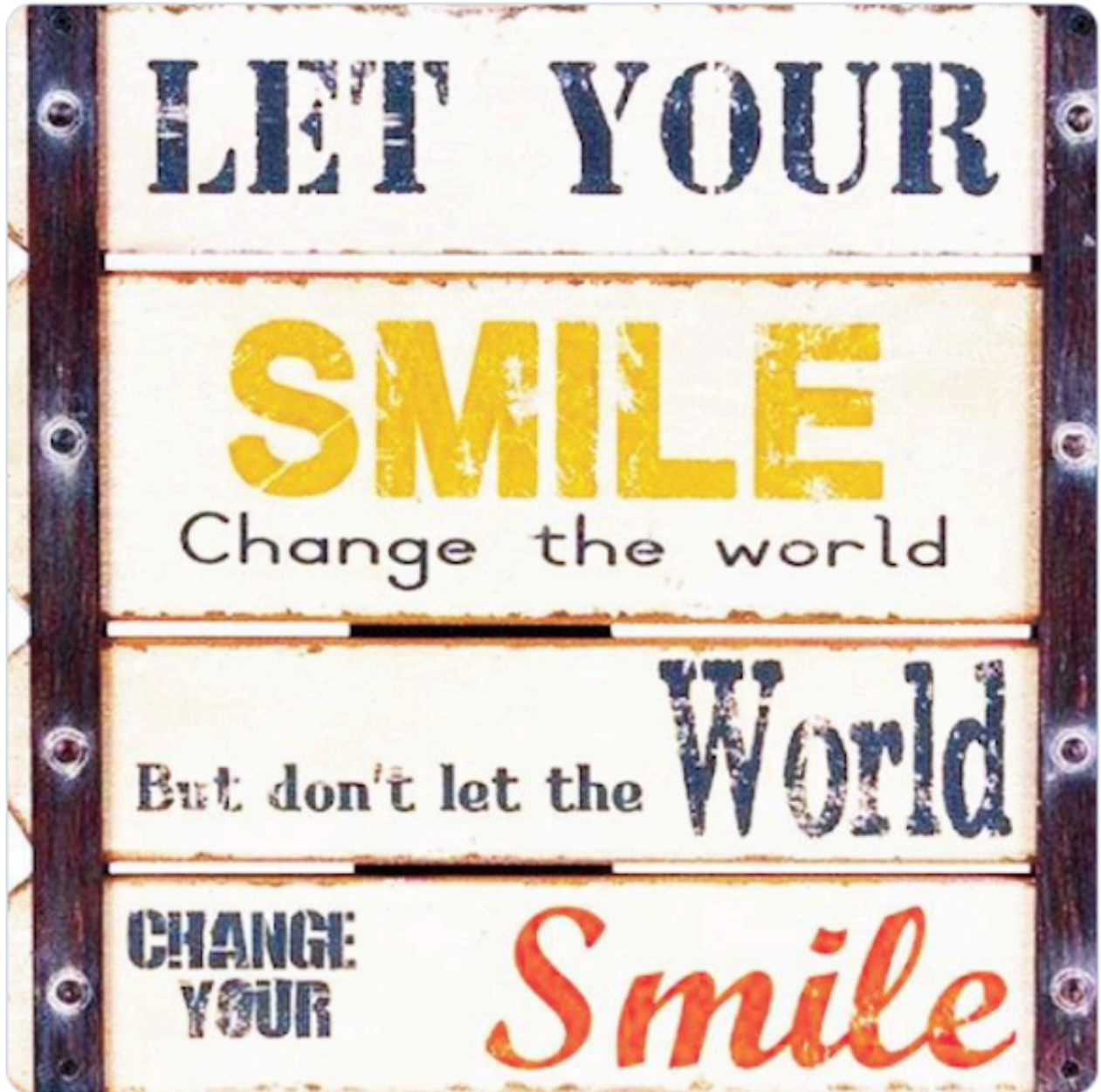




Motivational Quotes
@DavidRoads



This is my new favorite quote.



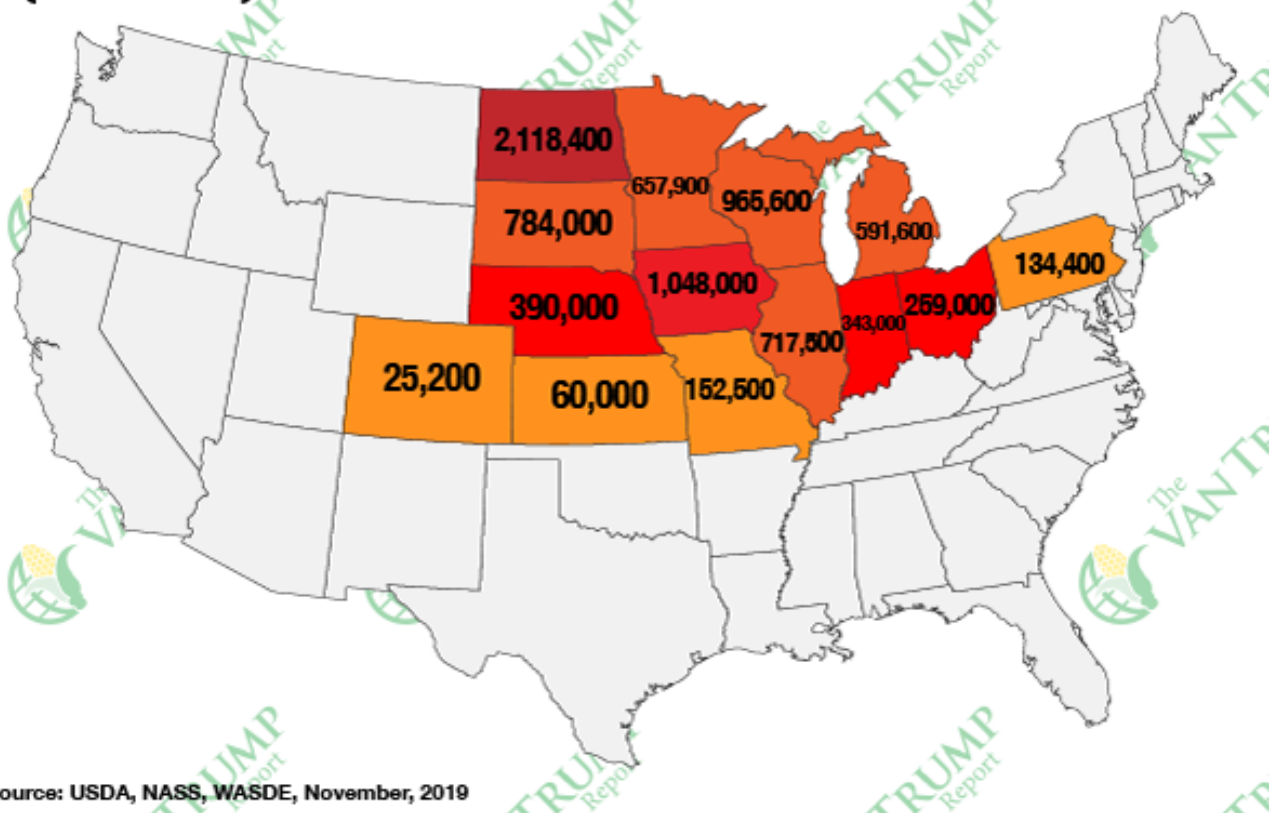


Corn bulls continue to point towards nine million U.S. corn acres that are still thought to be unharvested. Most eyes remain on the acres in North Dakota, Michigan, and Wisconsin. But there are also still many unharvested acres in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, and Ohio. Unfortunately, we still have to wait until January 10th before we get an updated USDA production estimate. Which means we need another supply-side catalyst to help entice new bullish money. I could argue that the weather in Argentina might pique a little more bullish interest but I'm doubting it will be strong enough nearby to do much heavy lifting. Keep in mind, the USDA is currently forecasting a 50 MMT Argentine crop vs. 51 MMTs last year vs. just 32 MMTs the year before. The USDA is currently forecasting a Brazilian crop of 101 MMTs with many private sources thinking it's working higher vs. 101 MMTs last year vs. just 82 MMTs the year before. Bottom-line, Brazil looks like it could produce a bit more than last year, while Argentina could produce a bit less. This certainly isn't enough to excite or entice new bullish money-flow. Of course, a Chinese trade deal that involved the purchase of U.S. corn would provide a significant tailwind, but who knows if or when that card gets flipped over. On the demand front, I could argue that both ethanol and export demand is going to somewhat improve, but again, those headlines don't appear as if they will be strong enough nearby to perform extended heavy lifting. In other words, I suspect rallies might be somewhat limited. Technically, the MAR20 contract seems content trading between \$3.70 and \$3.95 nearby or perhaps a bit more extended range of

between \$3.50 and \$4.20 per bushel. As a spec, I remain a longer-term bull into 2020 and continue to hold a very small bullish position. I still like the thought of buying bigger breaks sub-\$3.65 should they occur. As a producer, I have to remain patient.

U.S. Corn Acres Unharvested

December 1, 2019
{Week 48}



Source: USDA, NASS, WASDE, November, 2019

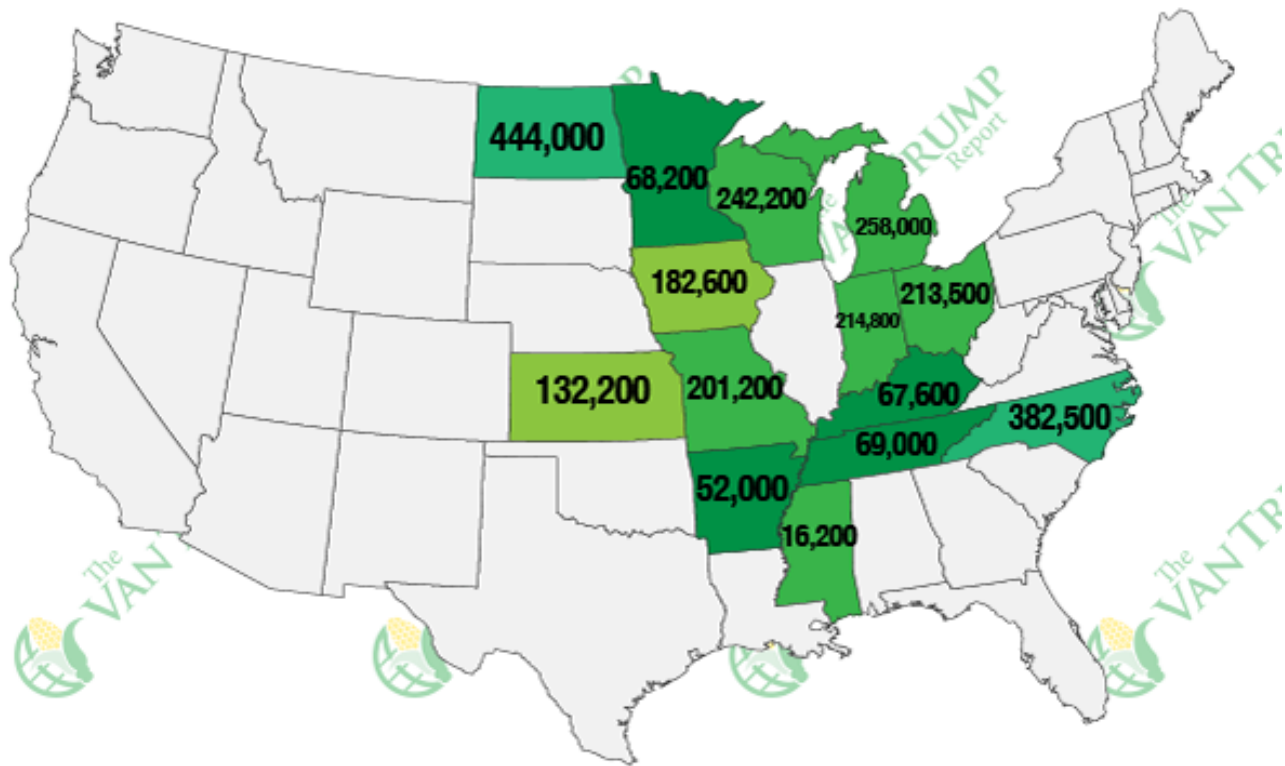
Corn Acres & Bushels Unharvested				
State	USDA Harvested Acres	12/1 Unharvested Acres	USDA Yield	12/1 Unharvested Bushels
Colorado	1,260,000	25,200	140	3,528,000
Illinois	10,250,000	717,500	179	128,432,500
Indiana	4,900,000	343,000	165	56,595,000
Iowa	13,100,000	1,048,000	192	201,216,000
Kansas	6,000,000	60,000	133	7,980,000
Michigan	1,740,000	591,600	151	89,331,600
Minnesota	7,310,000	657,900	170	111,843,000
Missouri	3,050,000	152,500	155	23,637,500
Nebraska	9,750,000	390,000	182	70,980,000
North Dakota	3,310,000	2,118,400	142	300,812,800
Ohio	2,590,000	259,000	163	42,217,000
Pennsylvania	960,000	134,400	160	21,504,000
South Dakota	3,920,000	784,000	151	118,384,000
Wisconsin	2,840,000	965,600	163	157,392,800
Total	70,980,000	7,807,800	167	1,303,902,600

Soybean traders continue to debate Chinese negotiations. There's obviously a large amount of political jockeying taking place and it's next to impossible to

differentiate fact from fiction. As time comes off the clock the market seems more concerned that U.S. exporters are losing their window-of-opportunity as early-planted South American soybeans will soon start being harvested and eventually available in the export space. Keep in mind, Brazil harvested about 117 MMTs of soybeans last year and the USDA is thinking more like 123 MMTs this year, with some private estimates being pushed higher. Bulls point to the fact Argentine production should be down a bit compared to last year and the new government throwing in a few additional curveballs. Net-net, headlines out of Brazil can be considered somewhat bearish, while headlines out of Argentina is perhaps slightly bullish. Technically, the trade is still very eager to see if the JAN20 contract can hold major support at \$8.65 per bushel. I've heard some technical traders worry that a close below this level could open the door to the \$8.30 to \$8.40 range. As a spec, I like the thought of taking small bullish bites on the bigger breaks in price. As a producer, I'm hunkering down and mentally preparing for a longer wait. It's once again all about Washington and the weather in South America! I feel like I read a very similar book last year...

U.S. Soybean Acres Unharvested

December 1, 2019
{Week 48}



Source: USDA, NASS, WASDE, November, 2019

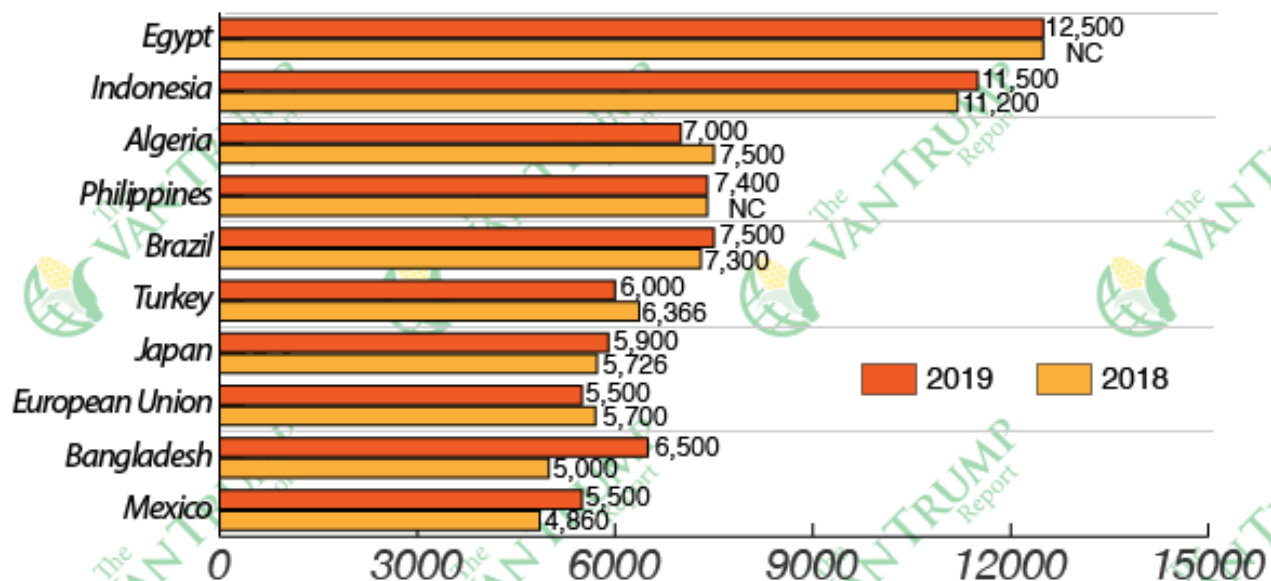
Soybeans Acres & Bushels Unharvested				
State	USDA Harvested Acres	12/1 Unharvested Acres	USDA Yield	12/1 Unharvested Bushels
Arkansas	2,600,000	52,000	50	2,600,000
Indiana	5,370,000	214,800	49	10,525,200
Iowa	9,130,000	182,600	53	9,677,800
Kansas	4,540,000	136,200	44	5,992,800
Kentucky	1,690,000	67,600	50	3,380,000
Michigan	1,720,000	258,000	42	10,836,000
Minnesota	6,820,000	68,200	45	3,069,000
Mississippi	1,620,000	16,200	50	810,000
Missouri	5,030,000	201,200	46	9,255,200
North Carolina	1,530,000	382,500	36	13,770,000
North Dakota	5,550,000	444,000	33	14,652,000
Ohio	4,270,000	213,500	48	10,248,000
Tennessee	1,380,000	69,000	47	3,243,000
Wisconsin	1,730,000	242,200	46	11,141,200
Total	52,980,000	2,119,200	46.9	99,390,480

Wheat bulls continue to point towards production concerns for parts of the U.S.,

western Europe, Australia, Argentina, Russia, and the Balck Sea region. Bears point to the fact U.S. export competition remains stiff and global supplies are ample. Russia, Ukraine, Romania, and France remain the real competition and continue to play the role of "low-cost-provider". The next major dataset scheduled for release in the wheat market doesn't happen until January 10 when the trade will be digesting the USDA Winter Wheat Seeding Report. Bulls are obviously hoping to see fewer acres. As a spec, I continue to hold a small bullish position in spring wheat. I'm still apprehensive to spread "Minneapolis Spring vs. Chicago SRW" even though it looks very enticing. As a producer, I feathered in a few small SRW sales but am in no hurry to make any new HRW or spring wheat sales. Technically, it feels like the MAR20 SRW contract is now comfortable sloshing around in this \$5.00 to \$5.50 range until it finds its next catalyst. HRW seems stuck between \$4.25 and \$4.50 per bushel. While I'm hoping the spring wheat contract has the ability to jump back to the \$5.50 to \$5.60 range.

Top Wheat Importers

2019 vs. 2018
(thousand metric tons)



Source: PS&D, November, 2019



> USDA Announces Details of the 2020 Agricultural Outlook Forum: *The USDA will hold its 96th annual Agricultural Outlook Forum on February 20-21, 2020, in Arlington, Virginia under the theme "The Innovation Imperative: Shaping the Future of Agriculture." The Forum's plenary panel and several breakout sessions will focus on the central role science and innovation play in driving future growth and addressing challenges facing farmers. Speakers will highlight some of the cutting edge technologies and emerging trends and their implications for the future of agriculture. Topics include scientific advances in corporate food safety strategies, and farming practices for extreme weather uncertainties. The Forum's program will begin with a presentation by USDA Chief Economist Robert Johansson on the Department's outlook for U.S. commodity markets and trade for 2020 and the U.S. farm income situation. The USDA offers a pre-forum field trip for early arrivals. This year's trip will include a visit to an urban commercial rooftop farming enterprise, and a trip to USDA's Agricultural Research Center in Beltsville, Maryland, to share USDA research on food genetics and pollinator health. More details, including the forum's full program and registration instructions, are available [HERE](#).*

> Australia Cuts Wheat Production Forecast by Nearly -20%: *Australia cut its wheat production forecast by nearly -20% for the year through June 2020, as an unrelenting drought across the country's east coast will likely see output fall to an 11-year low. As Australian farmers were harvesting crops, the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES) pegged*

production of the country's largest rural export at 15.85 million metric tons, down almost -18% from its previous estimate in September of 19.2 million metric tons. By comparison, last year Canada produced almost 32 million metric tons of wheat. The forecast is nearly -35% below the 10-year average, and means a third consecutive year of lower-than-average production, as output falls to the lowest level since 2008. ABARES said the dwindling production was driven by hot, dry weather across major producing regions, which has left many farmers struggling to produce any crops at all. (Source: Reuters)

> China Buys First Cotton for Reserves in Five Years as Prices Dip: *China's state reserves bought 2,000 metric tons of cotton on Monday, its first purchase in five years, said the China Cotton Association on its website on Tuesday. The cotton, all grown in major producing region Xinjiang, was sold at an average price of 13,259 yuan (\$1,883.70) per metric ton. (Source: Reuters)*

> Italian Pasta Increasingly Made of Wheat from U.S. and Canada: *Italian pasta-makers have increasingly used U.S. and Canadian wheat for their spaghetti and macaroni. The trend is likely to continue after European growers planted less wheat and bad weather on the continent further weighed on production, foiling Italy's efforts to protect its own farmers. Italian importers took advantage of U.S. and Canadian durum of "excellent quality" at "historically cheap values," Niccolo d'Andria, vice president of the Rome-based grains group Associazione Nazionale Cerealisti, or Anacer, said in an email. A second round of imports may loom in April, he said. Exports of Canadian durum to Italy in the two months ended Sept. 30 almost tripled to 156,500 tons from a year earlier, according to the Canadian Grain Commission. Shipments from the U.S. in the nine months ended September more than doubled to 210,000 tons, the most since 2015, U.S. Department of Agriculture data show. (Source: Bloomberg)*

> Washington's Cosmic Crisp Apple Finally Arrives: *It's rare that a piece of fruit inspires release buzz worthy of a Marvel movie. But the Cosmic Crisp — a new type of apple developed from 20 years of research at Washington State University — arrived this week at local supermarkets and retailers across the US, backed by a \$10.5 million marketing budget, including a dramatic commercial that said "This is the apple the world has been waiting for ... IMAGINE THE POSSIBILITIES." More info and a list of stores that are selling them is available [HERE](#).*

> France Ready to Fight Back Over U.S. Tariff Threat: *France and the European Union said on Tuesday they were ready to retaliate if U.S. President Donald Trump acted on a threat to impose duties of up to 100% on imports of champagne, handbags and other French products worth \$2.4 billion. The threat of punitive tariffs followed a U.S. government investigation that found a new digital services tax in France would harm U.S. technology companies, and will intensify a*

festering trade dispute between Europe and the United States. The French finance minister called the tariff threat unacceptable and said the EU was primed to respond if the United States imposed the new tariffs. The European Commission said the 28-nation EU would act as one and that the best place to settle disputes was at the World Trade Organization. France is not alone in targeting big digital companies; a growing number of other countries are preparing their own taxes. Governments, including Washington, are frustrated that big digital companies can book earnings in low-tax countries such as Ireland regardless of where the end client is. France says it will drop its digital tax as soon as an agreement is found at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development to overhaul decades-old international tax rules. French products will not face tariffs immediately as the U.S. Trade Representative still intends to gather public comments and hold a public hearing in January. (Source: Reuters)

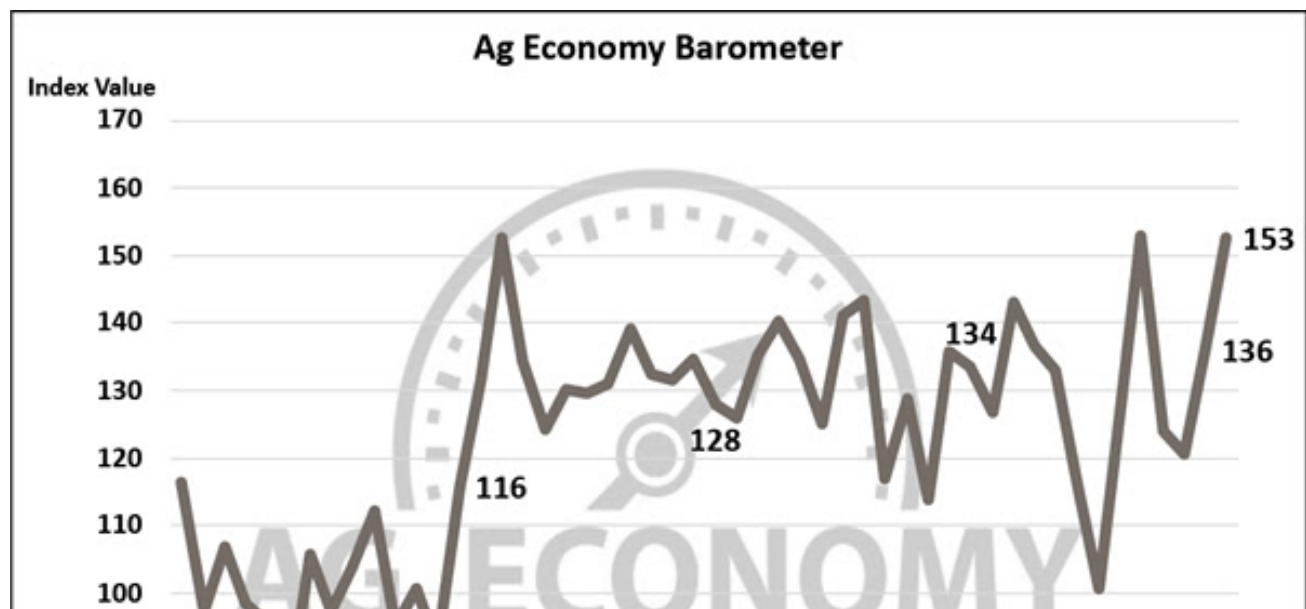
> U.S. Oil Output Continues to Climb Despite Lower Prices: *U.S. crude production rose again in September, confounding skeptics who have long been predicting that output is poised to begin declining because of lower oil prices. Crude output increased by 66,000 barrels per day (bpd) to a record 12.46 million bpd, U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) data showed on Friday. Production has risen by more than 950,000 bpd since the same point last year, though the year-on-year growth rate has been decelerating gently. Output increased by million bpd in 2018 and the EIA predicts it will rise by another 1.3 million bpd in 2019 and 1 million bpd in 2020. However, U.S. producers have attacked the credibility of these forecasts, arguing that they exaggerate the production outlook, depressing prices and harming the industry. Industry insiders and analysts have been arguing for months that such rapid growth is impossible given the slump in prices and sharp slowdown in drilling activity. Industry insiders say that output cannot be sustained, let alone increase, while well-head prices languish below \$60 a barrel. With oil consumption still on the rise, prices need to be closer to \$70 to persuade producers to raise output to the level needed to meet that demand, they say. Read more [HERE](#).*

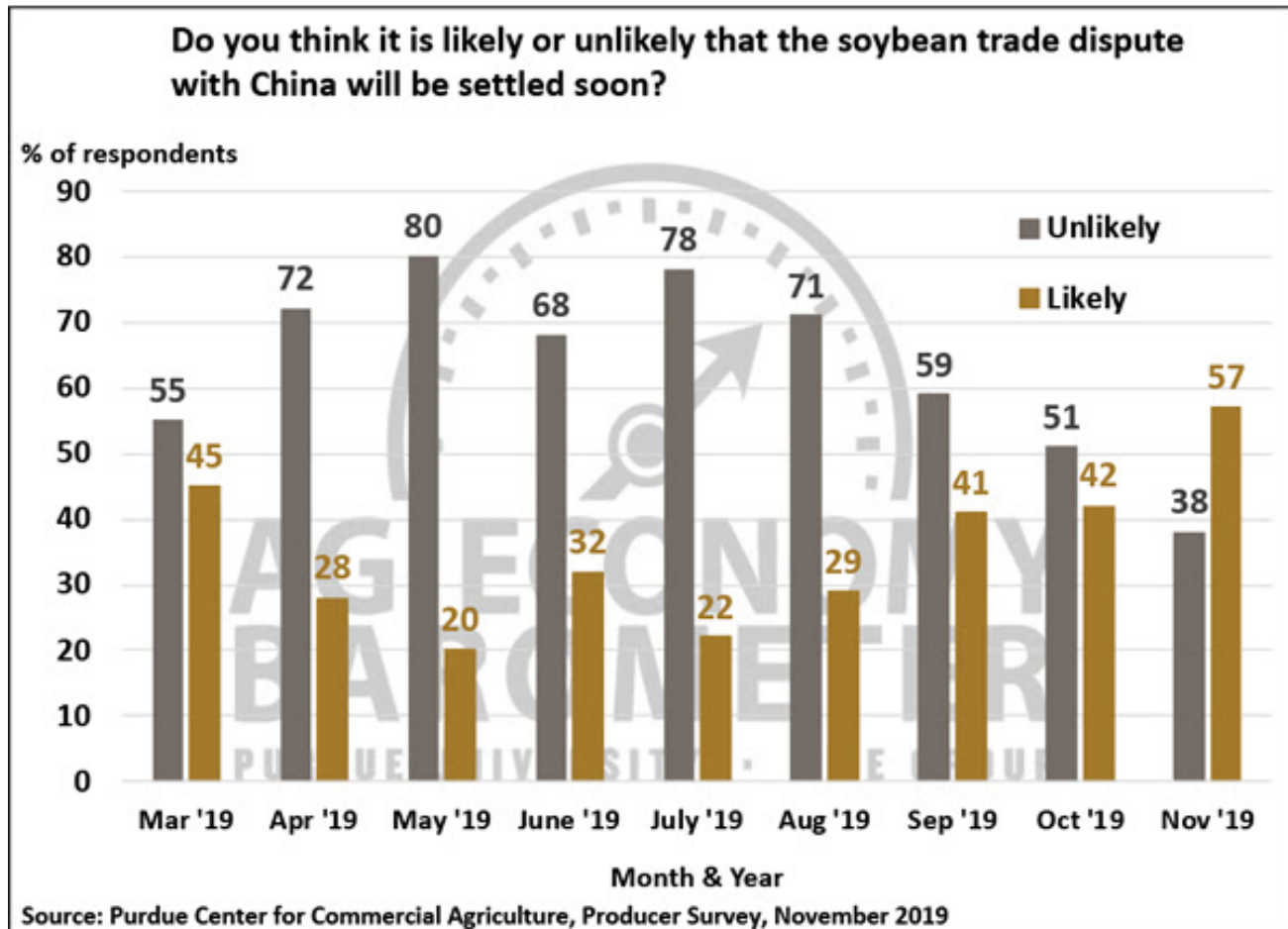
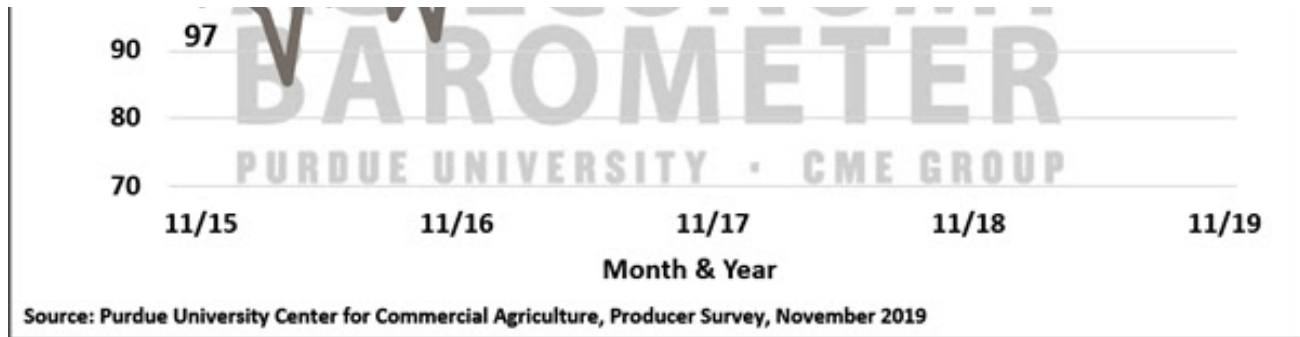
> Why Billionaire Jerry Jones Once Made His Son Interview at Wendy's: *Self-made billionaire Jerry Jones, who made his fortune in the oil business, bought the Dallas Cowboys in 1989 for \$150 million. Today, his team is worth an estimated \$5 billion. Jones, who has collected three Super Bowl titles as an owner and was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2017, got to where he is today in part thanks to hard work — and that's a value he made sure to instill in his three kids. To get the point across, one summer Jones made his oldest son Stephen get a job working in fast food, because he thought Stephen wasn't being sufficiently serious about working hard to achieve his goals. Check out the full story from [CNBC](#).*

> 12 Most Anticipated New Cars and Trucks of 2020: *Next year is shaping up*

to be electric for the auto industry. General Motors, Ford, Tesla, Porsche and Volkswagen are among the automakers poised to roll out new electric vehicles as competition heats up in a segment that still represents fewer than 1 in 50 new-car sales. "On paper this could be big," said Jeremy Acevedo, manager of industry analysis for car-research site Edmunds. "But now the proof's in the pudding with EVs. We've seen a lot come out with lackluster sales." To be sure, perhaps the most anticipated vehicle of the year is the furthest thing from electric - the Chevrolet Corvette Stingray. For the eighth generation of the Corvette, General Motors made a big change. The automaker's engineers moved the Vette's engine from the front of the vehicle to the midsection. While some Corvette purists might grumble about it, most critics and fans seem to be pumped up. The mid-engine Vette isn't even out yet, and it was already named MotorTrend Car of the Year. Check out the full list, with pics, over at [USA Today](#).

> Farmer Sentiment Jumps in November as Harvest Winds Down: Purdue's Ag Economy Barometer rose in November for the second month in a row, climbing to 153, +17 points higher than in October when the index stood at 136. This month's rise in the ag economy sentiment index left the barometer tied with July for the highest reading of 2019. Once again, the rise was driven by improvements in farmers' perceptions of both current economic conditions and their belief that conditions will improve in the future, with the biggest boost coming from improved perceptions of current conditions. This month's Index of Current Conditions rose from 115 in October to 153 in November while the Index of Futures Expectations climbed just +7 points to reach a reading of 153. The Ag Economy Barometer and related indices are all based upon results from a nationwide telephone survey conducted from November 11-15, 2019. As a result, most survey responses were received before USDA's announcement on November 15th that the second round of 2019 Market Facilitation Program (MFP) payments would be made to farmers in November. The full results are available [HERE](#).






Southern North Dakota - *I feel sorry for the boys still trying to get this corn out. It was a slow go before the 10 inches of snow. Luckily it's melting pretty quickly. The ground will need to dry up but we are in the time of year when the weather*

doesn't like to cooperate. I'm guessing there will be a ton of corn even down into South Dakota that will go unharvested. I can say one thing, I'm glad I didn't plant corn this year but I'm still a little worried that we are going to have trouble getting our spring crops planted if we even have a normal winter. We need a dry winter to get everything back to normal...IMO.

Central Wisconsin - *We are in our first 150 acres of corn and it's averaging right around 200. This is definitely not the best this ground has performed but it's not terrible either. I think as we keep getting deeper into this field the yield will pull back a little and be closer to 190 bushels over the 370 acres. Right now we are seeing test weight around 57 pounds. Our neighbor is in his earlier planted corn and the test weight is between 48-52 pounds. The best load they have seen is 54 pounds. That's all on his early planted corn so the later corn is likely to get worse. We are hopeful that the test weight doesn't get much worse as we get into the late May planted corn.*

Northern North Dakota - *It's official, we are done picking corn for the year. You might be thinking you must be the only farmer in the state done... nope, we just aren't going to pick anymore low test weight, wet corn. It's costing too much to dry and the damage is too great. We are going to let 2,500 acres sit until March with the hope test weights come up a point or two and moisture drops to 15 or less. We can afford to lose 27.83 bushels due to winter damage and still be in the same boat we are in right now... so why bother.*



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: Draw, fire, or fill me; I'm still empty. What am I?



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

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From Seed to Closet... Transforming the Fashion Industry

According to the World Bank, the textile industry now contributes up to 20% of industrial water pollution, and the textile washing, dyeing and finishing process has an immense environmental footprint, releasing toxic chemicals into waterways, polluting as much as 200 tons of water for every ton of fabric.

100 years ago, in order to scale production, synthetic dyes started replacing natural dyes. Now a company called "Stony Creek Colors" is using plant-based dyes to spark a large-scale transition away from synthetics. Taking what's great about synthetic dyes, consistency, vibrancy, and scalability, Stony Creek is innovating natural dyes that are full of integrity and contribute to both a profitable and healthy operation for farmers.

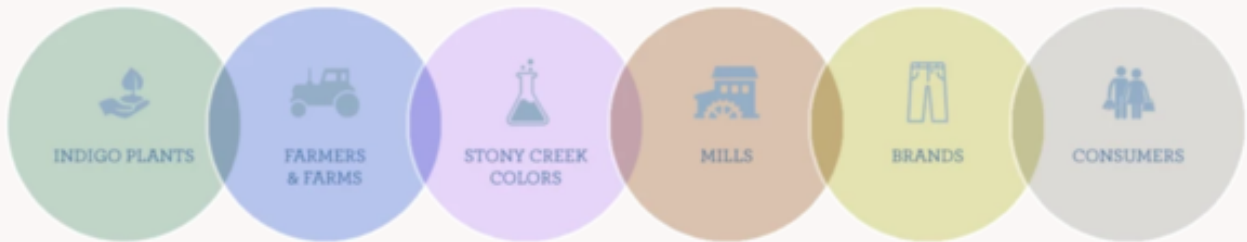
What I like most about Stony Creek founder Sarah Bellos is how she responded after she and her sister started out building a company that offered naturally dyed clothing. Instead of quitting when she realized there wasn't a scalable source for natural dyes, as well as no "silver bullet" answer as to what to do, she rolled up her sleeve and began the challenging task of creating a market! Her perspective from years in the ag space as well as being involved in sustainable businesses offered her a unique vantage point. She saw the current process was broken at best and non-existent at worse, and wanted to change it.

At the heart of Stony Creek is farmers, and Sarah believes that when innovation happens at the farm level amazing things start to happen. With a very realistic view of the world, Sarah knows the supply chain of the future will most likely look different than today.

Learn more about how Stony Creek Colors is working to diversify its operations and help bring additional sustainability to an entirely new industry. A webinar will be held at 3pm CT on December 5th featuring Founder and CEO Sarah Bellos.



From Seed to Closet: Our Whole Systems Approach



**Tesla's Cybertruck Inspiration was a Million Dollar Storage Unit Find**

The inspiration behind Elon Musk's new Cybertruck was a long-forgotten vehicle that made its owners millionaires. A 1976 Lotus Esprit car used in the James Bond film "The Spy Who Loved Me" was found by a New York couple in a storage unit and later purchased by Musk for nearly \$1 million.

According to the couple, who have remained anonymous, they acquired the car in a blind auction for an unclaimed storage unit which they paid \$100 for. Having

never seen a James Bond film, the couple had no idea that the bizarre car they found buried under some old blankets had such a famous pedigree. The car dives off a pier and transforms into a submarine in the Bond movie, but in real life, the car has no wheels so it's not actually drivable.

Oddly enough, they found out it was a James Bond car while the husband was hauling it to their house on the back of a truck. Some truckers made contact with him on a CB radio and told him a little about the car's history which prompted the husband to finally watch his first Bond film!

The Lotus they found was one of six used to film the movie and it really does function as a submarine. A marine engineering firm converted it for use in underwater scenes, giving it a bank of four propellers in the back that lets it move underwater. The fictional history of the car in the film was that it was developed by Q-Branch, and its blueprints were stolen by KGB agent Anya Amasova. During filming, it was operated by a retired U.S. Navy SEAL in full scuba gear, including an oxygen tank, because the interior of the car was nowhere close to being water-tight.

Once shooting wrapped, the car went on a brief promotional tour before being placed in a Long Island storage unit and basically forgotten. The storage lease was paid for 10 years but at the end of the lease, no one claimed the contents. That's when the New York couple scooped it up.

Doug Redenius, co-founder of the Ian Fleming Foundation, heard about the car and tracked down the owners many years after they began displaying it. After authenticating the vehicle, nicknamed "Wet Nellie" on the movie set, he put them in touch with RM Sotheby's, telling them that if the auction was successful, "that money will give you an opportunity to live very comfortably for the rest of your life." The car sold for \$997,000 in 2013 to an anonymous buyer, which was later revealed to be Elon Musk.

The Tesla founder said he was disappointed when he learned the Lotus Esprit doesn't actually transform as it does in the movie. Shortly after buying it, he told auto blog Jalopnik that he planned to upgrade it with a Tesla electric powertrain and try to convert it into a real amphibious car. Musk has never revealed a working version but to this day still talks about creating a car-submarine mashup.

Right before he unveiled the Tesla Cybertruck, he posted a clip from "The Spy Who Loved Me" that featured the car, saying the new truck's design was partially influenced by the amphibious Lotus. And you can definitely see it, especially in the front end. The car can currently be found on display in Tesla's design studio. (Sources: CNBC, Wikipedia, The Vintage News)





The Impossible Row!

Adventurer Colin O' Brady and his crew are attempting the world's first completely human-powered ocean row across "The Drake Passage" - a treacherous body of water connects the southwestern part of the Atlantic Ocean (Scotia Sea) with the southeastern part of the Pacific Ocean and extends into the Southern Ocean. Essentially, O'Brady and crew are attempting to cross one of the most dangerous and iciest waters on Earth by rowboat.

At over 600 miles wide, the Drake Passage can be one of the most dangerous routes for even the most experienced sailors and sound ships. There is no significant land anywhere around the world at the latitudes of Drake Passage, which is important to the unimpeded flow of the Antarctic Circumpolar Current which carries a huge volume of water (about 600 times the flow of the Amazon River) through the Passage and around Antarctica. This expedition will be a battle against the coldest, roughest waters, plus freezing temperatures and swells that can tower up to 50-feet high. With no motors or sails, the crew must work 24-hours-a-day, rotating around the clock with little-to-no-sleep. This mind over matter mission will require courage, grit, and teamwork with seven world records on the line.

Colin O'Brady is no stranger to incredible feats of endurance and is regarded as a top explorer having broken four world records. Last year O'Brady became the first person to cross Antarctica solo, unsupported and unaided. Additionally, he holds speed records for the Explorers Grand Slam and the Seven Summits; reaching the highest point in all fifty states in just twenty-one days. Also on the adventure with

Colin is Fiann Paul, an Icelandic athlete, artist, and explorer, known for being the fastest and the most record-breaking ocean rower to date. The crew is rounded out by Andrew Towne, Cameron Bellamy, John Peterson, Jamie Douglas-Hamilton.

The journey will be documented by Discovery Channel in an all-new multi-platform series titles, "The Impossible Row". You can Learn More [HERE!](#)







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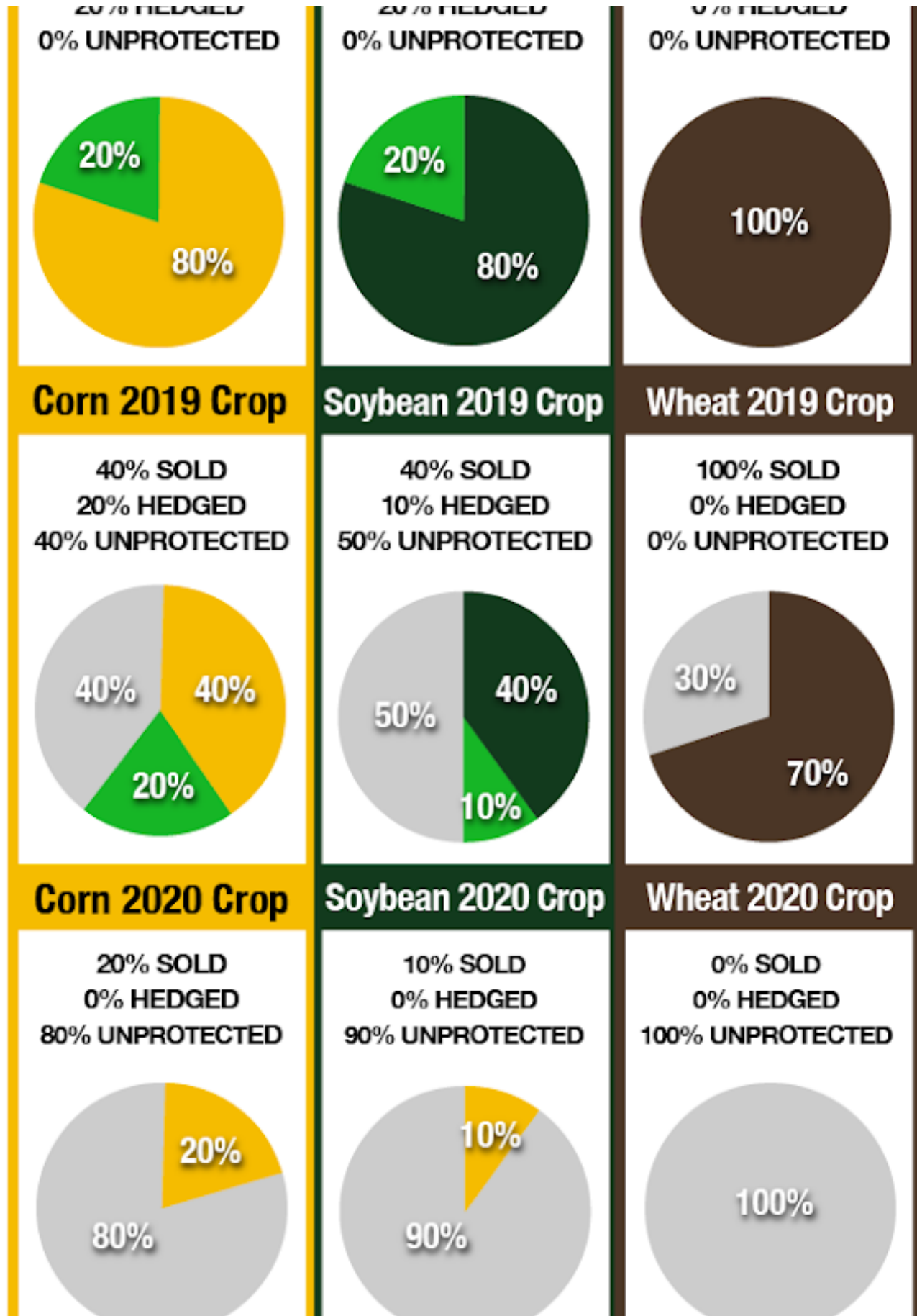
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