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## GOOD MORNING: The Van Trump Report 12-5-19

1 message

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

Thu, Dec 5, 2019 at 5:30 AM

Reply-To: Jordan &lt;reply-fec8107271600575-1142\_HTML-68584704-100003450-8@vantrumpreport-email.com&gt;

To: josh@farmdirection.com



"Knowledge is being aware of what you can do. Wisdom is knowing when not to do it." - **Sir Richard Branson**

**Thursday, December 5, 2019**[Printable Copy](#) or [Audio Version](#)

**Morning Summary:** Stocks investors are eager to see tomorrow's Monthly Jobs Report. Yesterday's ADP Employment Report was disappointing as it showed just +67,000 jobs added in November, compared to a gain of +125,000 in October and expectations for a gain closer to +140,000. ADP's research team noted that manufactures still struggled, whereas service providers remained in positive territory driven by healthcare and professional services. The government's November Employment Report will be released Friday with most insiders looking for around +180,000 new jobs added. Keep in mind, most traders understand the U.S. economy is being held up by the strong strength coming from consumer spending and consumer confidence. As long as the labor market continues to show strength consumers should remain happy. The fear is what happens when corporate America starts to feel cashflow pain and is forced to start cutting expenses? How will the stock market react if employment starts to show just minor signs of weakening? I think we all know the answer to that question. Let's

hope U.S. employment and wage growth continue to stay positive. The concerns about job growth could also draw extra attention to today's Weekly Unemployment Claims, which analysts expect to tick up slightly to 215,000 from 213,000 the week before. Today's economic data will include International Trade and Factory Orders. Also scheduled today is a speech from Federal Reserve Vice Chairman Randal Quarles. There are a handful of earnings also due out, including Dollar General, Kroger, Zoom Video, and Tiffany & Co. Investors are also looking ahead to two important dates. The first is December 15 when the U.S. plans to implement the 15% tariffs on another \$160 billion worth of Chinese goods. If those tariffs are allowed to go in play, many traders fear it could lead to a market selloff. The next important date is December 20, the deadline for lawmakers to finalize spending bills and prevent a government shutdown. There's widespread uncertainty about whether President Trump will approve final appropriations without a deal on the U.S.-Mexico border wall. About this same time last year, a similar battle led to the longest partial government shutdown in U.S. history. The crisis ended after 35 days when the President declared a national emergency and diverted funds from the Pentagon to help fund the wall project. Impeachment presents another potential roadblock due to the fact that the ongoing inquiry has created even more animosity between Republicans and Democrats. The "bad blood" could make both sides more unwilling than usual to seek a compromise. Stay nimble up at these levels...

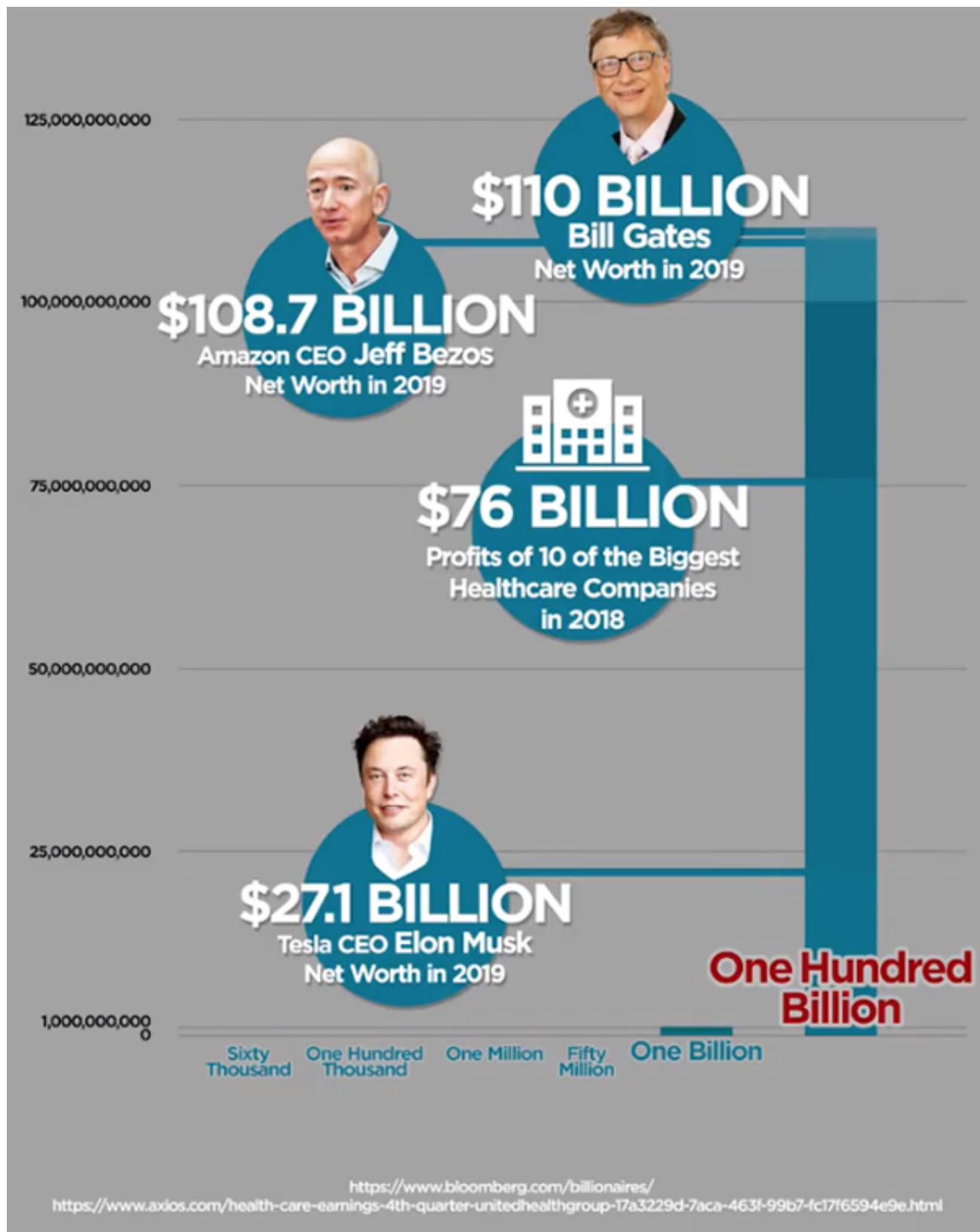
**Are We Now A Net Crude Exporter?** *Not only did the United States reach a record-breaking 12.8 million barrels per day (bpd) of oil production in November – a new high watermark for the industry – the country achieved something yet more impressive: in the month of September, the United States exported more petroleum products than it imported. If verified in survey-collected monthly data, it would be the first time (in a month-long period) that the United States sold more petroleum than it purchased abroad since EIA records began in 1949. Keep in mind, America consumes just over 20% of the globe's 99 million bpd of daily crude production, with China holding the number 2 spot at 13% and India in a distant 3rd at 5%. (Source: [Forbes](#))*

**CBS and Viacom Officially Merge, Will Battle Netflix and Disney:** CBS and Viacom, which parted ways more than a decade ago, announced Wednesday that their merger is official, creating a new company that will be called ViacomCBS. The new company will represent 22% of American television viewers. And at a time when streaming services like Netflix and Amazon are pouring millions into award winning programming, ViacomCBS says that it will be able to streamline costs and "sustain significant investment in programming and innovation." The merger will bring Paramount Pictures, the CBS broadcast network, and pay TV channels like Showtime, MTV and Comedy Central under one roof. CBS and Viacom said in

August that they had reached a deal to become one, in an all-stock merger that would create a company with more than \$28 billion in revenue. But the new company will still pale in size to giants like Disney, which has a market value approaching \$245 billion, and Netflix, valued at \$136 billion. (Source: USA Today)

**The World's Biggest-Ever New Stock Listing:** Saudi Aramco is expected to price its shares for an initial public offering today. The long-awaited IPO of the world's largest and most profitable company will list locally on the Tadawul, Saudi Arabia's stock exchange. Saudi Arabia is selling a 1.5% stake in the state oil producer through the offering, with 0.5% available to individual retail buyers and 1% for institutional investors. Its price range put the oil giant's value at between \$1.6 trillion to \$1.7 trillion, set to beat the record \$25 billion raised by China's e-commerce firm Alibaba when it debuted in New York in 2014. There are some critics that say the shares in the oil company are grossly overvalued and peg its valuation closer to \$1.26 trillion. Still, an intensive marketing campaign in Saudi Arabia has driven strong demand for the shares among Saudis and in the wider Gulf region. Institutional and individual investors have so far bid more than \$44 billion, applying for 1.7 times the number of Aramco shares on offer, lead manager Samba Capital said Friday. Only around 10% of the money bid by institutions so far has come from non-Saudi investors, according to news reports. Saudi Aramco's valuation is also closely tied to oil prices. The Wall Street Journal, quoting Persian Gulf officials, reported Sunday that Saudi Arabia will push for an extension of oil production cuts through mid-2020 at OPEC summit that begins today in an effort to prop up oil prices, and, in turn, Saudi Aramco's IPO share price. (Sources: CNBC, Fortune, Wall Street Journal)

**This 1-Minute Animation Puts \$110 Billion of Wealth in Perspective:** Bill Gates and Jeff Bezos have been playing musical chairs with "the world's richest person" title, but as of the end of November, Gates was in the lead at \$110 billion, followed by Bezos at \$108.7 billion. These are staggering numbers that are hard to comprehend, though. Luckily for us, Twitter user @betty\_\_cam put together a short animation that simplifies things. The below image is a still of the one minute animation starts with the median household wealth in the United States of \$61,937, working its way up to the Bill Gates fortune of \$110 billion. Along the way, the animation points out comparable dollar amounts to put things in perspective. This includes the amount that people should save for retirement (\$1.33 million), Katy Perry's mansion in Beverly Hills (\$19 million), settlements paid by the NYPD in a year (\$230 million), and even the wealth of Elon Musk (\$27.1 billion). Check out the full animation and more details over at [Visual Capitalist](#).





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# FARM TANK

Tweets of the Day



**Jon Erlichman**

@JonErlichman

On this day in 1985: Cray releases the world's fastest supercomputer.

It cost \$15 million (without disks).

Today's smartphones have more power.





James Venning  
@venningj



Macdon FD1 owners. Wasn't going to post this but another fire started yesterday by an FD1 at 150hrs. Same cause as our fire. Bearing opposite hyd motor on centre belt. It's time [@MacDon](#) addressed the problem rather than suggesting our local dealer is the only one with problem.

### Bute, South Australia





Dan Petker  
@PetkerFarm



Final pass of an excruciatingly long [#Harvest19](#) and my dad says: "Who can we help tonight?" [#OntAg](#) [#72AndWillWorkAllOfUsUnderTheTable](#)

## Norfolk County, NE





**Soules Family Farms**  
@FarmsSoules

We are still waiting on the sidelines today. Waiting for the ground to freeze or dry up.

- 
- 
- 

#sidelined #soulesfamilyfarms #soules #harvest2019  
#harvesting #harvesters #longestharvestever  
#johndeere #johndeerepower #johndeeregreen  
#cornrows #cornmaze #cornharvest

Lamont, Iowa



**Will Bergmann**  
@will\_bergmann

If you don't post about your last pass, did it ever

actually happen? #harvest2019 #goodriddance





**Super 70s Sports**  
@Super70sSports

I think we can all agree the wedding reception hasn't really begun until Elvis pulls out a rifle.



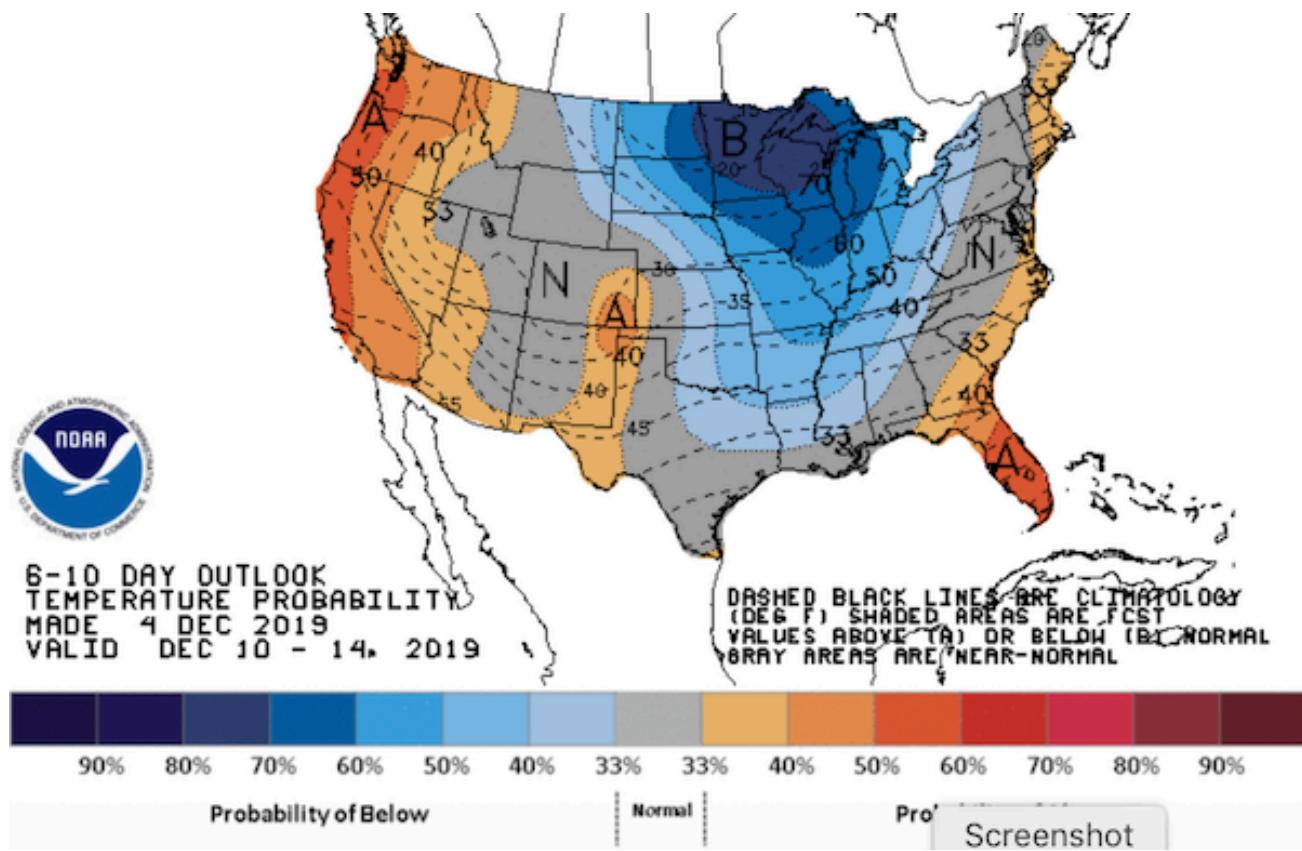
**Dawn**

@dawnlovesdavid2

Today's inspirational quote.

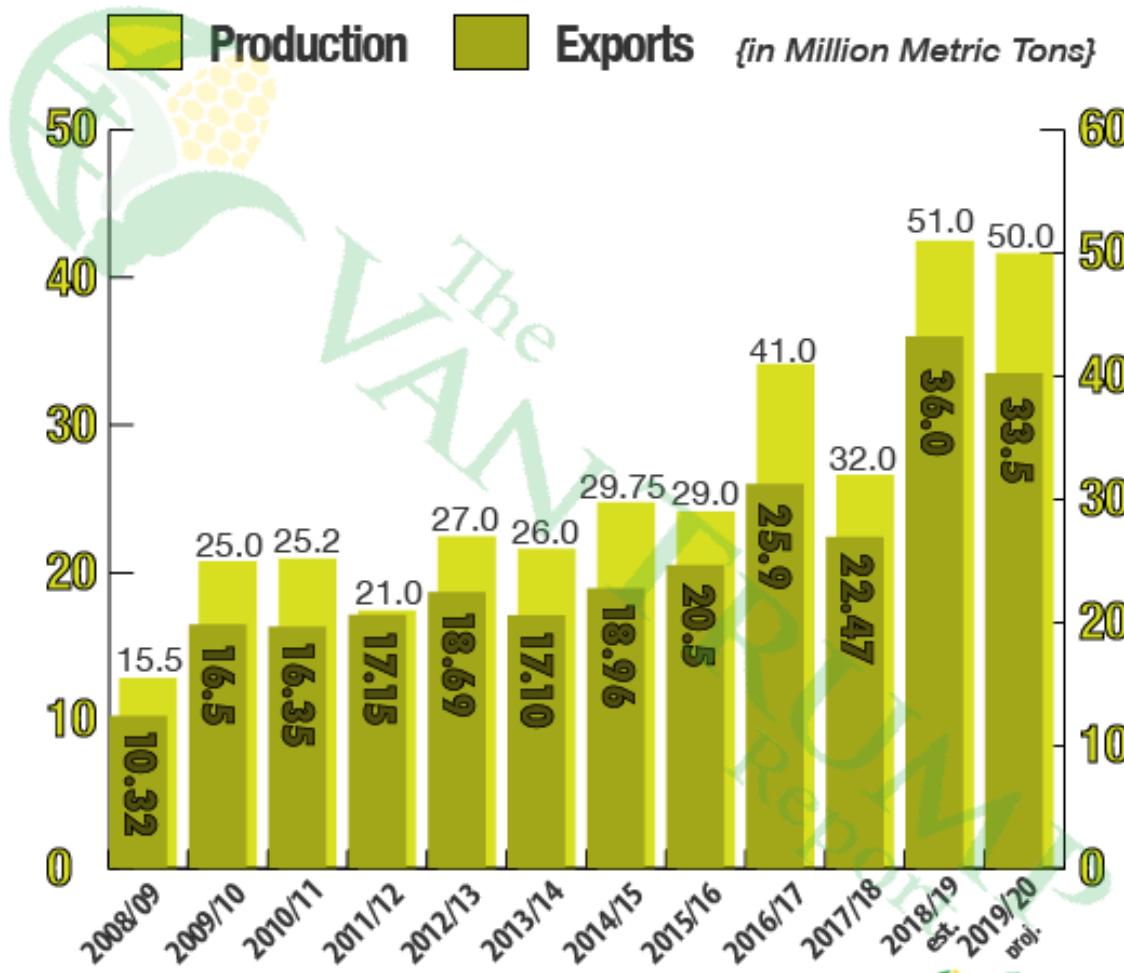
keep away from  
people who try  
to belittle your ambitions.  
small people always do that,  
but the really great  
make you feel that you,  
too, can become great.  
—mark twain

KEEPINSPIRING.ME



**Corn** continues to chop around trading between \$3.73 and \$3.93 in the MAR19 contract the past twenty trading sessions. Bulls continue to talk about concerns in Argentina. IEG Vantage tossed out an Argentine estimate of 46 MMTs which is well below the current USDA estimate of 50 MMTs. There's just not a lot of rainfall in the forecast for many parts of Argentina during the next couple of weeks and some areas need a serious drink. It's still early in Argentian but this is certainly worth keeping a close eye on. Bears, however, are quick to point out that most estimates for the Brazilian crop are starting to work themselves higher. In other words, the setbacks in Argentina might simply be offset by gains in Brazil. Technically, the bears continue to eyeball the MAR19 low down at \$3.65 per bushel. As a spec, I still like the thought of adding some longer-term length if we pressure and break that low. As a producer, I'm content on waiting for 2020 to make additional cash sales. The basis has eased by about -7 cents on average across the U.S. this past week but is still a shade above the MAR19 futures prices. I suspect the basis could continue to weaken a bit into yearend then perhaps gain a bit of strength during the first half of 2020. Stay tuned...

# Argentina Corn Production & Exports



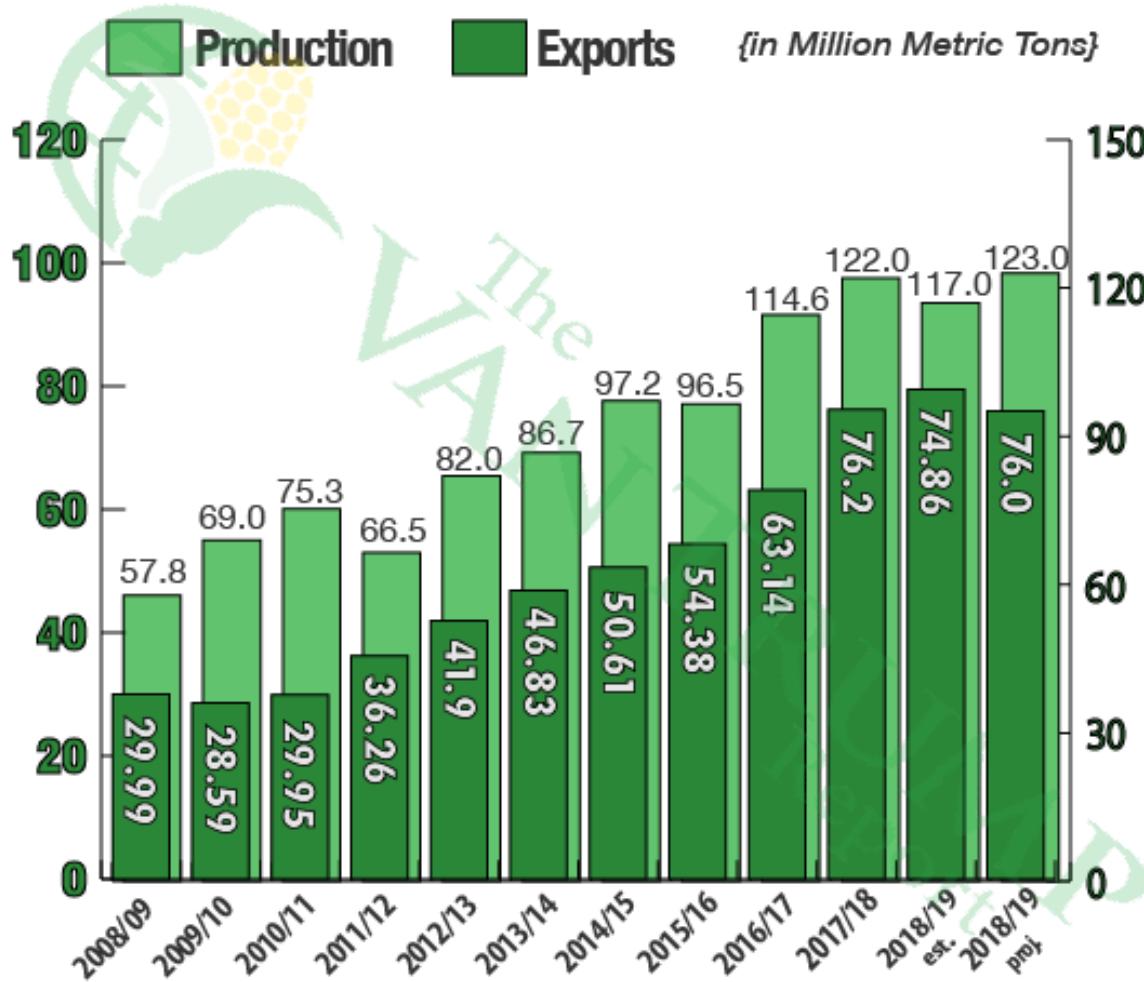
Source: USDA, PS&D, November, 2019



**Soybean** bears are pointing to more rumors and whispers that China is booking cargoes of Brazilian soybeans for December-January shipment. Obviously, this hurts the bull demand story and brings about ongoing uncertainty regarding U.S. and Chinese trade negotiations. Technically, the JAN20 soybean contract seems comfortable trading between \$8.60 and \$9.00 per bushel. It seems like we will need a positive trade deal with the Chinese or more dire weather in South America if we are going to make a move back above +\$9.00 per bushel. I can argue that Argentine weather is an issue but more cooperative conditions in Brazil are currently working to offset those headlines. As a spec, I continue to like the thought of being a longer-term bull on the deeper breaks in price. I have dipped a small toe in the water and will patiently wait to take more small bites should breakout to the downside. With the U.S. balance sheet showing ending stocks sub-500million bushels, I like the upside potential vs. the downside risk. Obviously, big-ticket items like trade negotiations, politics in South America, weather, and

African Swine Fever can all have wild effects. I'm not really thrilled about this headline, but they are now reporting ASF is in western Poland, where authorities have killed 21 wild boars near the border of Germany. Remember, earlier this year over +250,000 wild boars were killed in eastern Poland to try and stop the spread. I'm hoping "Phase 1" of this trade deal gets finalized before December 15th and the market looks in another direction besides the ASF headlines. I know wishful thinking...

## Brazil Soybean Production & Exports



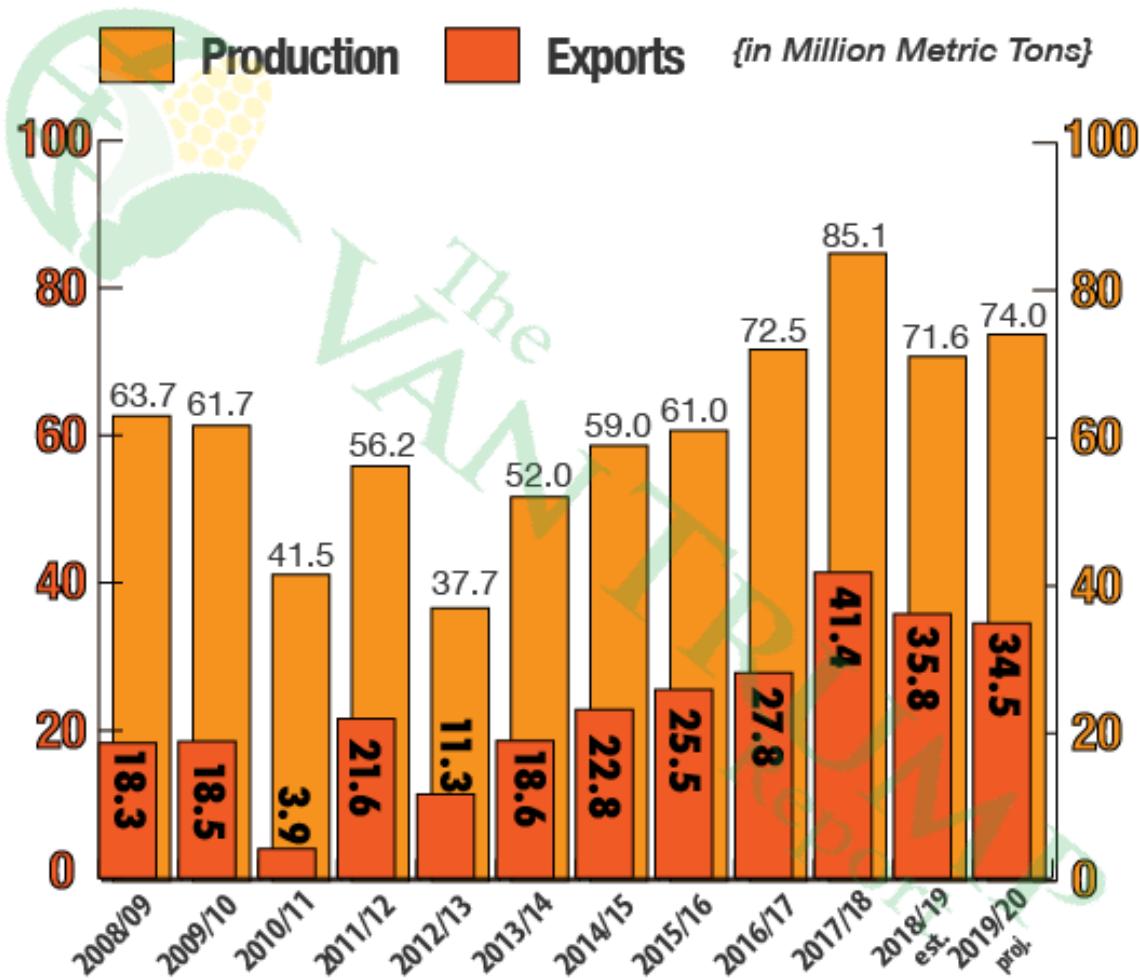
Source: USDA, PS&D, November, 2019



**Wheat** bulls continue to talk about production problems in Australia, overly wet conditions in parts of western Europe, and dry pockets in parts of the Black Sea region. There's also some extremely cold weather forecast for here in the U.S. late next week, where some areas won't have the snow cover to protect the crop. Traders this morning will be eager to see the last weekly export sales data. Strong export sales could go a long way towards helping to support prices. As a spec, I

continue to hold a small bullish position in Minneapolis spring wheat. As a producer, I'm dug in and playing the waiting game. In absolutely no hurry at this stage.

## Russian Wheat Production & Exports



Source: USDA, PS&D, November, 2019



## WHATEVER FLOATS YOUR GOAT A Section for Creative Minds

> **Trump to Sign U.S.-Japan Trade Deal Next Week:** U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer on Wednesday applauded Japan's legislative approval of limited U.S. trade deals and said that President Donald Trump was expected to sign an implementing proclamation next week. The deal, which improves access to Japan for U.S. farm products such as beef and pork while reducing some U.S. tariffs on Japanese industrial products, does not require approval by the U.S. Congress. The trade representative said the two countries were preparing for the U.S.-Japan Trade Agreement and the U.S.-Japan Digital Trade Agreement to go into effect on Jan. 1, 2020. (Source: Reuters)

> **Expect the Unexpected on Prevent Plant Acres:** Agronomist Mike Schultz, who covers Minnesota and South Dakota for NK Seed, says he anticipates some unique challenges for farmers who took prevented planting this year. "There will be a lot of things that we might not have seen before in all our years working in agriculture, just how crops react differently to some of these environments." He tells Brownfield Ag News one potentially glaring issue will be weed control. "We can do a fairly good job controlling weeds in corn right now, but going to soybeans on prevent plant is going to be a tougher beast if weeds weren't managed properly this season. So growers are going to have a very tough decision when it comes to what trait package to select and (what) soybean varieties." Schultz says growers will also need to be cognizant of pests that might be residing in cover crops used on prevent plant acres. Listen to the full interview [HERE](#).

**> Russia Restricts Beef Imports from 7 Plants in Argentina and Paraguay:**

Russia's agriculture safety watchdog will impose restrictions on beef supplies to Russia from five plants in Argentina and two plants in Paraguay starting Dec. 18, it said on Wednesday, warning that it could widen these restrictions. Rosselkhoznadzor said in a statement it found ractopamine in some shipments, a feed additive that is banned in Russia. Its officials will hold talks with their counterparts from Argentina and Paraguay on Dec. 6. "The service also does not rule out that a decision may be made to impose restrictions on imports of beef and cattle meat products from all enterprises of these countries," Russia said in the statement. The value of Paraguayan beef exports to Russia was \$264.6 million from January through November, according to Paraguay's health service. Official Argentine data show the country sent \$46.9 million worth of beef to Russia from January through October. (Source: Reuters)

**> Hemp Growers Can Finally Take Their Money to the Bank:** Federal and state regulators have issued guidance clarifying that financial institutions no longer need to report their customers for growing or cultivating hemp. Banks that served hemp growers were previously required to file "suspicious activity reports," which alert authorities about transactions that could be related to fraud, money laundering, terrorist financing or other crimes. But Congress legalized industrial hemp under the 2018 farm bill, and the Agriculture Department in October released its long-awaited regulations for nationwide production. Now that the plant is off the "Schedule I" list of the most highly restricted substances, financial service providers no longer need to file such reports solely because a customer is in the hemp business, per the new guidance from the Federal Reserve, FDIC and other regulators. (Source: Politico)**> Cattlemen's Group Asks for Federal Review of Marfrig's Purchase of National Beef Shares:** The U.S. Cattlemen's Association is asking the U.S. treasury secretary to conduct a review of Brazil's Marfrig Global Foods increasing its stake in Kansas City, Missouri-based National Beef Packing. Marfrig announced in mid-November the company would buy the remaining 31% of National Beef, the fourth-largest meatpacker in the U.S. The shares in National Beef had been owned by the investment firm Jefferies Financial Group. Marfrig had already purchased 51% of National Beef from Jefferies and other shareholders in June 2018. Marfrig announced the purchase of that 31% of shares from Jefferies is already final. USCA wrote Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin on Wednesday asking him to review the sale. In its letter, USCA cited work from the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, highlighting that Brazilian meatpackers have benefitted from subsidized loans and other resources from the Brazilian National Development Bank. Marfrig had also settled an agreement with Brazilian prosecutors, paying \$28.73 million to cover damages from an earlier bribery investigation. Read more [HERE](#).

**> Ex-Morgan Stanley Developers Launch High-Speed Crypto Derivatives Exchange:**

A group of former software developers from Morgan Stanley announced on Wednesday the launch of a cryptocurrency derivatives exchange called Phemex that aims to execute trades in less than a millisecond for both retail and institutional investors. Jack Tao, an 11-year executive with Morgan Stanley where he was the global development leader of the investment bank's Electronic Trading (MSET) Benchmark Execution Strategies (BXS), co-founded the company. Tao has assembled a team of more than 30 senior developers, including 8 other former Morgan Stanley executives. The platform has been in the beta testing phase for several weeks and commenced trading on Nov. 25, Tao said. The exchange can manage 300,000 transactions per second, and can deliver an order entry and response time of less than 1 millisecond. Phemex offers up to 100 times leverage to both retail and institutional investors in bitcoin, ethereum and XRP contracts. Contracts will soon be able to be backed by not only crypto assets, but also by traditional financial products, such as stock indexes, interest rates, foreign exchange, agricultural commodities, metals and energy, for users to trade easily and with trust. Read more from [Reuters](#).

**> Low-Cost Batteries Are About To Transform Multiple Industries:**

Lithium-ion battery prices have seen a dramatic decline in manufacturing costs over the past decade. BNEF forecasts that the industry will see \$100/kWh by 2023. However, one industry insider tells Forbes that he's already seeing costs near that point. If so, that price level may prove to be an inflection point for several major industries. The obvious first such industry is transportation. In a McKinsey & Co. report from March of this year, the researchers suggested that a \$100/kWh cost for battery packs (along with some other cost-reduction areas) would lead to electric vehicle manufacturing cost parity versus comparable internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles. The rapid decline in battery prices, if it leads to faster-than-expected adoption of EVs, could mean that the next decade sees a lot of value creation and destruction in the automotive industry. But it could also mean the same for the electric utility industry, as cheap energy storage could radically change the value proposition for grid-tied consumers thinking about installing solar and batteries. Read more from [Forbes](#).

**> Cord-Cutting Pushed to 'Tipping Point' as Video Streaming Grows:**

The media ecosystem is undergoing a massive change as streaming video looks to extend its recent dominance over traditional distribution, according to research firm MoffettNathanson, which wrote that a large minority of cable consumers could cut their subscriptions in coming years. Consumers have been abandoning traditional media bundles for years, instead looking to services like Netflix Inc. or Walt Disney Co.'s recently launched Disney+ service. MoffettNathanson called sports viewers "the most entrenched" among those who continue to pay for traditional TV subscriptions. Citing work with analytics firm Altman Vilandrie & Co., he estimated that regular sports viewers made up 60% of current TV subscribers.

*But as they point out, "that leaves 40% of today's Pay TV universe at risk." Among the biggest beneficiaries of the trend in 2019 has been Roku Inc., which acts as a service-agnostic platform for streaming content. The stock has more than quadrupled thus far this year, rising amid the "exuberance over all things streaming," according to Morgan Stanley. (Source: Bloomberg)*

**> 2020 Presidential Campaign Fundraising (and Spending) on Track to Smash Records:** *The 2020 presidential election season has been a hot one for fundraising and may be headed for a record, according to a Fortune analysis of Federal Election Commission data. By the end of the 2012 election, money raised by all candidates came close to \$1.4 billion. But by December 2011, the total was only \$280.9 million—a far cry from the \$653.8 million that 2020 candidates have already raised by September 2019, three months earlier in the current cycle and before the the deep-pocketed Michael Bloomberg had joined the race. (Reporting is released two months in arrears and publicly available 2019 figures only go through September.) Spending is also on a tear. Through December 2011, the 2012 campaigns had spent \$168.9 million. This time around, candidates have already shelled out \$445.2 million by the end of September. The Trump campaign's \$165.3 million leads the donations race. All other Republican candidates pulled in a combined total of \$12.3 million. However, Democrats together have far outstripped him with \$475.6 million raised. Read more [HERE](#).*

**> How a Circus Performer and his Beloved Chihuauha Became the NBA's "Premier" Halftime Act:** *Christian Stoinev was born and raised to entertain crowds: The fifth-generation circus performer grew up with the Big Apple Circus in New York City and began mastering his hand balancing act before he was a teenager. But when the 27-year-old basketball obsessive heads to center court to wow NBA crowds with his halftime act, its his Chihuahua Percy that really steals the show. While Stoinev works through his complex moves like a gymnast on a pommel horse, the tiny dog, who performs under the name "Scooby," mugs for the crowd by waving his front paws. Inevitably, Scooby draws the biggest cheers with his grand finale: jumping from one basketball to another without losing his balance. TNT's Charles Barkley and Kenny Smith have praised the act on "Inside the NBA," and 2018 MVP James Harden once came over to greet the dog after a game. You can read the full story from [The Washington Post](#). Check out a video of their recent halftime performance for the Atlanta Hawks [HERE](#).*



**Central North Dakota** - We don't farm in the red river valley. We are very close to the center of the state. We did get the 2 feet of snow that most guys got in October which laid a lot of beans flat on the ground. The 300 acres we harvested before the snow made 50 bushels and everything after the snow made 41 bushels. It's not uncommon to lose 10 bushels from that much snow on your beans. We have about 10% of our corn harvested right now. We will probably be waiting 2 weeks for the snow to melt off the stock and then we will try and harvest as much as possible. We are hoping to have half done by the end of the month. In this area March, April or May can bring some really wet miserable conditions so getting the corn off sooner rather than later is the best option.

**Southeast South Dakota** - The late-planted corn that was wet for months and months looks terrible. The only reason guys are even harvesting it is because of insurance, in my opinion. Most of the better corn is making between 130 bushels per acre and 180 bushels per acre. Right now that corn has snow right up to the ear. Hopefully, we can go soon but it's not looking overly promising. A lot of acres are still standing out there.

**Northern Minnesota** - I feel lucky we snuck everything in before this nasty weather kicked in. Around here you run every second you can because the winter can come on really fast and never let up until April or even May during some years. The corn made decent yields but like most, we had lower test weight. None of it 50 or less, most of ours was 52-53 pounds. The soybeans were some of the better we have seen in a number of years, which was surprising because we were awfully wet late. The entire farm-made 46 bushels per acre. We are usually happy with 35 bushels.



**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:** I make up all literature, but I'm often sealed. What am I?



### **NEW Approved Edible Cotton Could Be Your Next Favorite Snack Food**

The U.S. just approved a new genetically modified cotton for human consumption, a plant that historically has not been used as a human food source. Before you get too fixated on the fascinating image of popping cotton poofs into your mouth like, well, cotton candy, that's not exactly what edible cotton will look like. It's the cotton seeds that would be edible; currently, cottonseed is mostly used as feed for

cattle or is pressed to make cottonseed oil. The seeds are the consumable part of the new plant developed by Texas A&M University scientists, which reportedly taste like chickpeas. The scientists behind the cotton say it could help tackle global malnutrition thanks to the seeds' high protein levels.

Cotton is prized for its fiber properties that give us the super-soft sheets and t-shirts we love. A lesser-known byproduct - at least to those outside agriculture - is the seeds that primarily go into feed for some animals, such as cattle and sheep that have multiple stomach chambers. For most other animals and humans, the seeds are toxic due to their high levels of gossypol. Gossypol is great for cotton plants as it helps them naturally repel insects and other pests, but it can make people and non-ruminant animals very, very ill and even lead to death. Typically, the seeds are crushed and turned into a meal while the resulting oil is purified to remove the gossypol, making cottonseed oil safe for humans.

The new cotton, dubbed TAM66274, was modified using RNA interference (RNAi) technology to virtually eliminate gossypol from the seeds while leaving the chemical at normal levels in the rest of the plant. A&M researcher, Keerti Rathore, has been working to perfect the plant for over two decades. Rathore wanted to expand the usefulness of cotton, which is grown in 80 countries around the world.

Rathore grew up in India and knows first-hand the perils of malnutrition that people in some countries face. He believes that many cotton-producing countries with populations struggling with malnutrition, particularly in Asia and Africa, could successfully combat the problem with his new plant. China and India are the world's two top cotton-growing countries.

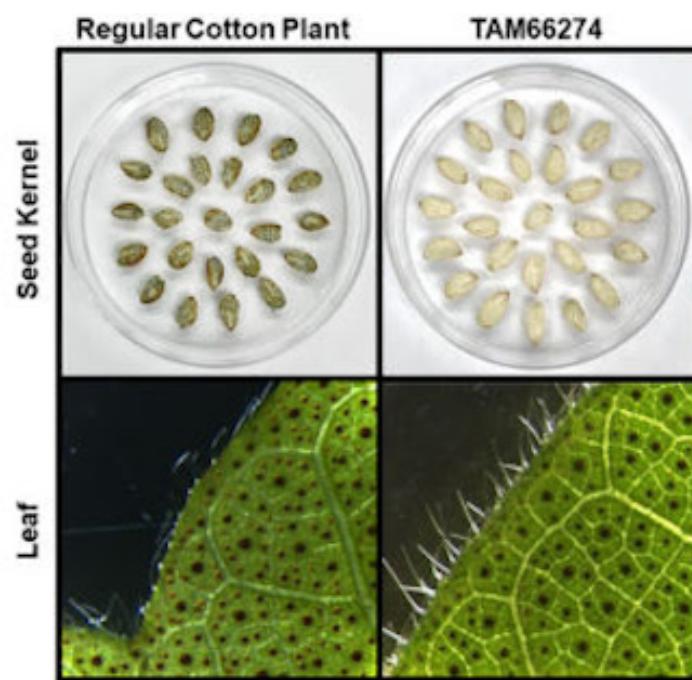
"Cottonseed can be consumed in many ways. We will continue to crush it to extract oil. However, now the leftover meal with its high protein content can be used as a protein supplement in tortilla, bread and baked goods. The seed kernels can be roasted and eaten as a snack or as a peanut butter type of spread or in protein bars," Rathore said. As he explains, there are approximately 10.8 trillion grams of protein locked up in the annual global output of cottonseed, enough to meet the basic protein requirements of over 500 million people at a rate of 50 grams of protein a day.

Rathore's new cotton doesn't require any new inputs or special efforts on the part of farmers to grow, either. But it could dramatically boost the percentage of the plant that is marketable. For every one pound of cotton fiber produced by a cotton plant, it produces roughly 1.6 pounds of seeds. Ideally, a crop from the new cotton can be sold as fiber, feed, and human food. And since the seeds are gossypol-free, it significantly widens the market for feed use.

The plant was approved by the USDA last year, so the FDA approval is a huge step

forward. Rathore says he's well aware of the resistance to GMOs in some countries, but he's hopeful that countries desperate to feed their people will be more accepting of the new cotton. Rathore and his colleagues are already in talks with seed companies that could breed the new genetic trait into cotton varieties that they sell to farmers in the U.S. and abroad. (Sources: Reuters, NPR)





**“ There are a lot of poor countries that grow cotton as a cash crop, and their people also suffer from mal-nutrition. Imagine the goodwill this could generate from people around the world. ”**

—Keerti Rathore,  
Texas A&M University



### Student Invents CPR Device After Losing Both Parents to Heart Attacks

A Utah high school student's own personal tragedy inspired her idea for a new CPR device that she hopes can help save thousands of lives. The novel idea has also landed her a nomination to receive a prestigious scholarship.

Kennedy Hall's parents both died from a lack of oxygen to their brains following heart attacks. Her CPR-assistance device fits over a person's nose and mouth and performs "artificial breaths." It would also give instructions for how to perform CPR. As Hall explains, "Many people have the basic idea of CPR, but don't know what they are doing."

Hall envisions an automated CPR-assistance device being standard in every home, much like fire extinguishers. She believes such a device would have helped save her parents.

"If a device like this had been made at the time, I am wondering how much of a difference it would have made for them, if they would still be here, or how much of a bigger chance that they would have had," Hall said in an interview.

Hall's mother died just last year. When a heart attack left her into distress, she received CPR until first responders arrived. Sadly, a lack of oxygen caused brain damage and she later died. Her father was also revived after a heart attack but died later from the same type of brain damage resulting from oxygen

deprivation.

Hall is a senior at Cedar Valley High School in Eagle Mountain. She was chosen as the school's nominee for the Career and Technical Education Presidential Scholarship Award. She hopes to one day be able to make the CPR-assistance device a reality.

The medical field is sort of a family tradition. Her mother was a CNA, and both her brothers are EMTs. She hopes to get certified as an EMT as well, then eventually become a trauma surgeon.

Hall's story has received a lot of attention nationally and it's not surprising. As one of her teachers said, she has turned her personal tragedy around and tried to turn it into something positive so that someone else might be spared the pain she's gone through. (Source: The Daily Herald, ABC)





## **SOLD! Most Expensive Home Ever in Florida...**

Hedge fund billionaire Steven Schonfeld and his wife purchased the +75,000 sq. ft. house in Palm Beach for a whopping \$111 Million! From what I understand, the home has 11 bedrooms, 22 bathrooms, a bowling alley, salon, spa, tennis courts, ice cream stand, and a candy parlor. It was originally priced at \$200 million, so perhaps Schonfeld got a real bargain:)

Interestingly, Schonfeld and his family plan to stay in New York and just use the property as a vacation home. The family also has a \$90 million estate in Old Westbury, New York, as well as an apartment on Manhattan's Park Avenue and a penthouse in Palm Beach's Bellaria luxury condo building. Not bad for a kid that started out delivering pizzas and newspapers in Long Island.

The hedge fund giant is now considered somewhat of a 62-year-old Wall Street bad boy that mostly wears a hoodie and white sneakers, plays a lot of golf and is a great gin rummy player. Schonfeld has obviously done something right as his "Schonfeld Strategic Advisors" have returned +20% to investors during each of the past 6-years.

Schonfeld founded a proprietary trading firm on New York's Long Island back in 1988. He fronted cash to small teams of traders that rapidly traded stocks and futures. By 2001 Steve Schonfeld employed 1,100 traders. The hedge fund giant

was quick to adapt to the sea change that many stock-picking hedge-fund managers are still struggling with: the move to quantitative, computer-driven, algo-trading strategies.

Schonfeld pivoted into quant trading as it was taking off in 2006. He saw that the faster computer-driven strategies were getting in the way of his traders and figured only the best of them would succeed over the long run. Andrew Fishman, the firm's president since 2000, called Schonfeld "one of the great natural statisticians" and said that helped him be more flexible with his approach and open to change. Bottom-line, he knew his numbers and this allowed him to pivot and adjust more easily.

Schonfeld credits his good run to old-school values of being patient and a good mentor to his staff -- many of the same qualities he says work well in competitive gin. I thought it was interesting to hear Schonfeld explain that he has beaten many better gin players and partners with a few simple techniques. The biggest mistake he sees made is when his competitors scold their partners for making bad plays. He says, "I don't second guess my people". They can make the worst play and I say, 'I would have done the same thing.' Because of that, they play infinitely better on my team."

As I've aged, I've personally learned that "second-guessing" is almost always perceived as criticism. Most dictionaries initially define criticism as an expression of disapproval. Synonyms are attack, censure, condemnation, and disapproval.

Criticism in itself then becomes a massive problem if you are trying to operate or build a business by moving quickly. In other words, "second-guessing", which comes across as criticism simply slows everyone down and starts to create hesitation. Like criticism of any kind, second-guessing is definitely a type of feedback and needs to be thought about. Great leaders work to avoid the perception that they are "second-guessing" by making sure their input is at the right time, for the right reason, and presented in a way that it can be received as a positive piece of feedback. Lots to think about... (Source: [Bloomberg](#), Business Insiders, Wiki)





**“The World is Moving so Fast These Days that  
The Man Who Says it Can’t Be Done is Generally  
Interrupted by Someone Doing It.”**

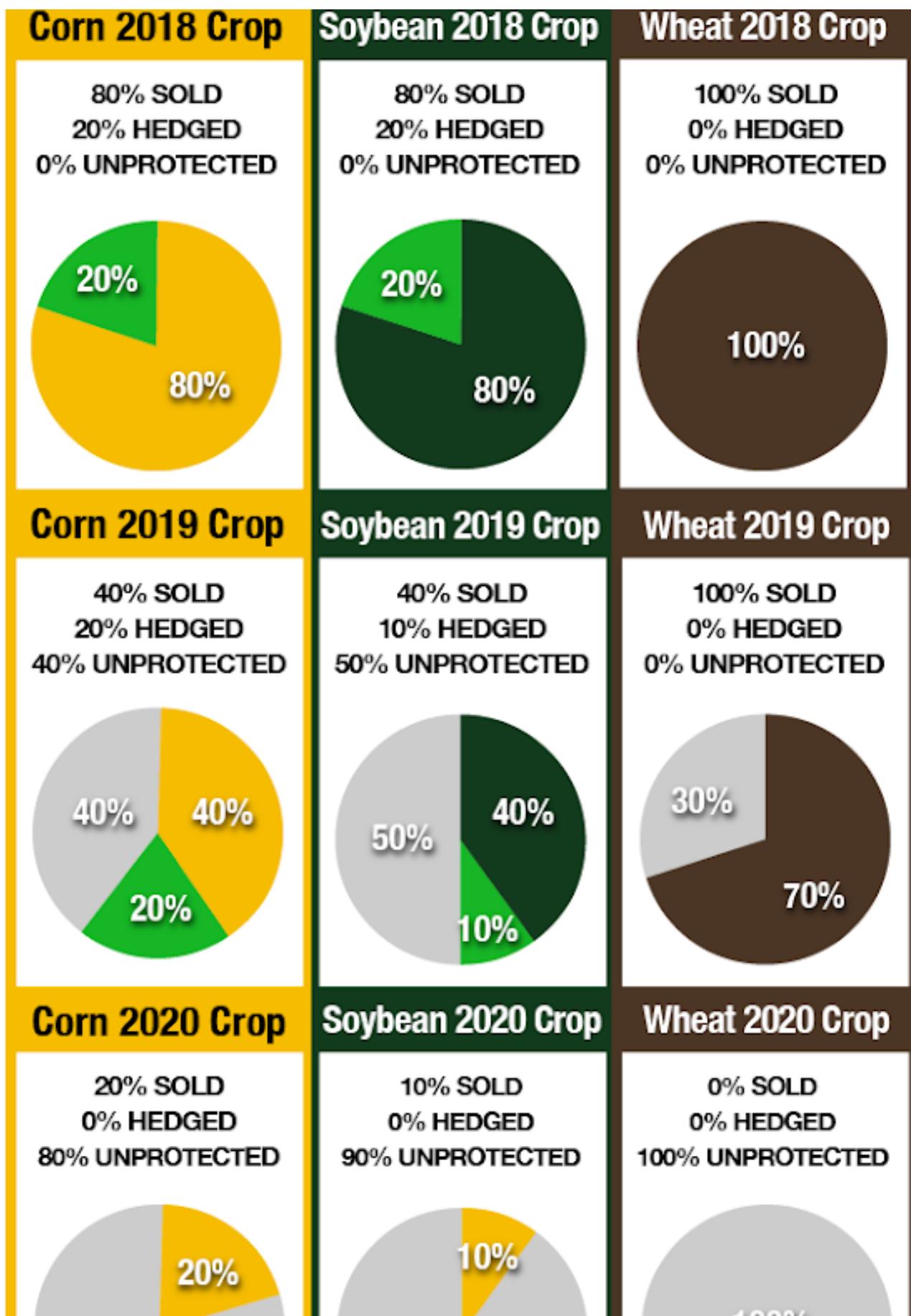
**ANSWER to riddle:** Letters.

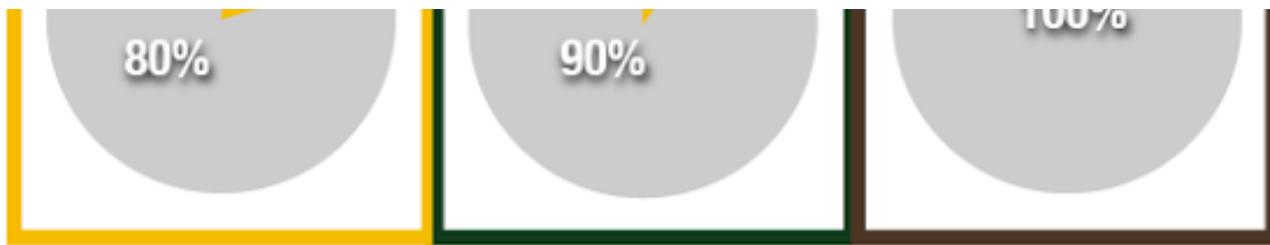
The image features a man with a beard and long hair, wearing a red and black plaid shirt and blue jeans. He is carrying a large green backpack and a black duffel bag. He is holding a cardboard sign that reads "FARMCON" at the top, followed by "Conference for Creative Minds in Agriculture" in smaller text, and "OR BUST" in large, bold letters below. The background shows a vast, open field under a cloudy sky. To the left, there is large text that reads "SEE YOU IN KANSAS CITY".

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