



Josh Knight &lt;josh@farmdirection.com&gt;

**GOOD MORNING: The Van Trump Report 1-22-20**

1 message

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

Wed, Jan 22, 2020 at 5:30 AM

Reply-To: Jordan &lt;reply-fec010757c63017c-1142\_HTML-68584704-100003450-8@vantrumpreport-email.com&gt;

To: josh@farmdirection.com



"Religion is a culture of faith; science is a culture of doubt." **-Richard Feynman**

**Wednesday, January 22, 2020**[Printable Copy](#) or [Audio Version](#)

**Morning Summary:** Investors take a few steps back as the first case of a new coronavirus originating from China is found in the U.S., bringing back memories of the 2003 SARS outbreak that killed nearly 800 people and infected some 8,000. The new virus, which is in the same family as SARS, was first reported in Wuhan, China, last month. Over the weekend, the number of confirmed cases in China nearly doubled to around 300 with six people now dead from the infection. The World Health Organization (WHO) will decide today whether to declare the new virus an international public health emergency, a designation used for complex epidemics that can cross borders. Investors are closely watching because the WHO emergency declaration could include recommendations to restrict travel or trade in order to help quarantine or stop the outbreak from further spread which could obviously have a negative economic impact. In 2003, when SARS began to infect thousands across the Asia Pacific region, the S&P 500 dropped as much as -4.6%

from June to August, only to finish the year with a gain of +26%. Needless to say, investors are approaching this with a good deal of caution. Stocks have had a stellar run so far this year, so it makes sense that that investors may be booking some profits as they wait to see how this new "uncertainty" plays out. A huge concern on the economic front is how the outbreak might impact China's growth. China is in the middle of its biggest travel season as the country prepares to celebrate the Lunar New Year, with hundreds of millions of Chinese traveling both domestically and internationally. Not only is the holiday season vital to the transportation and tourism industries, but also retail and restaurant businesses. For the SARS outbreak, the Asian Development Bank estimates that the region's worst-affected economies - mainland China, Hong Kong, Singapore and Taiwan - experienced economic losses totaling \$13 billion, shaving between half and a whole percentage point off the region's gross domestic product. Keep in mind that China just reported its lowest economic growth in 29 years so this virus outbreak poses a worrisome obstacle for a rebound in 2020. In other news, fourth quarter earnings season remains in focus with a slew of bellwethers scheduled to report results this week. Today's highlights include Abbot Labs, Citrix Systems, Johnson & Johnson, Kinder Morgan, and Texas Instruments. Investors are also anxious to get a look at fresh housing data with the FHFA House Price Index and Existing Home Sales today. Sales are expected to come in at an annual rate of 5.43 million for last month, up from 5.35 million in November. Traders are also closely watching the headlines coming out of Davos at the World Economic Forum which continues through Friday this week. Some of today's key speakers include Alphabet CEO Sundar Pichai, President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen, and Chief Executive of Hong Kong Carrie Lam.

**"Sharp and Short-Lived": The Impact of Health Scares on Markets:** As stocks wobbled around the world after reports of the new respiratory virus spreading from China to the U.S., traders looked back at past outbreaks, from Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) 17 years ago to the Ebola scare in 2014. Those cases hint that even when the human toll risks becoming grim, financial markets have shown resilience. A 2006 study conducted by Fidelity International on the effects of epidemics in stock markets found that investors typically do react, although it's hard to strip out the health scare's effect. And while past episodes may have added to volatility, they did little to change the upward course. "We cannot draw any fixed conclusions about the effects of pandemics upon stock-market performance," the Fidelity analysts wrote. "Equity markets react unpredictably to the unknown; nevertheless, such events should not be examined in isolation, but viewed in common with other prevailing market conditions." For example, the avian flu epidemic that spread in 1997 coincided with the Asian financial crisis and came just before Russian debt default and collapse of Long-Term Capital Management. Still, the S&P 500 gained 31% in 1997, and posted double-digit gains in the two years that

*followed. (Source: Bloomberg)*

**Netflix's Big Decade... How Much Did You Make In The Stock?** *Investors who owned stocks in the 2010s generally experienced some big gains. But one of the top performers of the decade was streaming video giant Netflix Inc (NASDAQ: NFLX). As of mid-2019, Netflix had 158.8 million over-the-top streaming video viewers, much more than leading competitors such as Amazon.com, Inc. Prime Video (96.5 million) and Hulu (75.8 million). If the 2000s were defined by Netflix's shift from a DVD-by-mail model to a streaming model, the 2010s were defined by Netflix's shift to original content and its international expansion. Incredibly, Netflix shares started the 2010s trading at around \$7.64, near its low point for the decade. After surging as high as \$43.54 by mid-2011, Netflix shares tanked on concerns about the company's heavy investments and lack of profitability. Netflix once again tested its decade lows in 2012, dropping as low as \$7.54. From that point forward, it was a slow and steady climb for the next seven years with few interruptions. Netflix issued a seven-to-one stock split back in 2015. Netflix later reached its decade high of \$423.20 in mid-2018. Despite cooling down a bit since then, the popular stock was without a doubt one of the best investments of the decade. In fact, \$10,000 worth of Netflix stock in 2010 would be worth more than \$423,000 today! (Source: MarketWatch)*

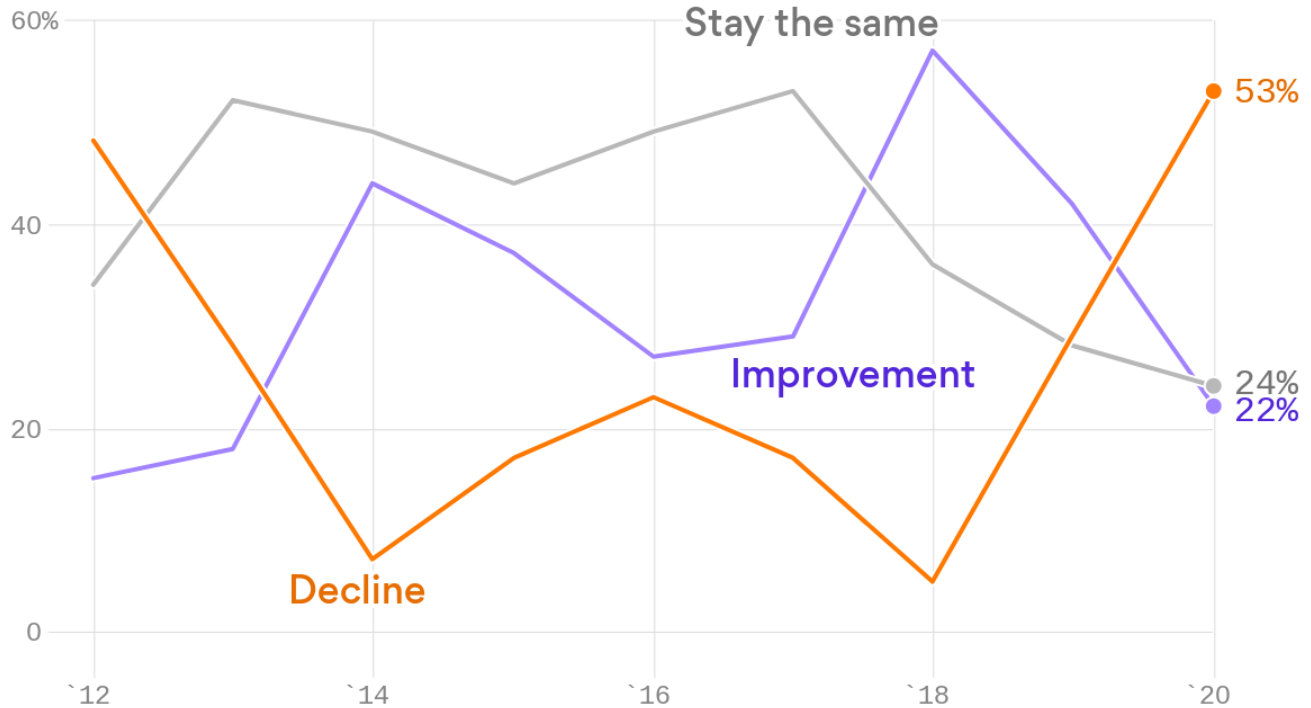
**Despite the Vaping Health Concerns...** *Juul use doubled among young adults in one year. A new study suggests that young people's use of Juul vaping devices rose dramatically between 2018 and 2019, with the most prominent rise being a tripling among those aged 21 to 24, followed by a doubling among those between the ages of 18 and 20. (Reuters)*

**What's Worrying the Davos Crowd in 2020:** *PricewaterhouseCooper's annual Global CEO survey — 1,581 CEOs across 83 territories — was conducted in September and October of 2019 and released at the World Economic Forum. It provides some interesting insights but one thing to keep in mind, the survey was conducted before the U.S. and China announced the "Phase One" trade deal in December, so it's highly possible some of these sentiments have shifted. In PwC's survey, 53% of CEOs expect global economic growth to decline in 2020, up from 29% in 2019 and just 5% in 2018. Their views of their own companies' prospects were the bleakest since 2009. CEOs in the Asia-Pacific view trade conflicts as the top threat to their organizations' bottom lines, while geopolitical uncertainty is the top concern in the Middle East, populism ranks first in Latin America, policy uncertainty in Africa and cyber threats in North America. Over-regulation is the biggest concern among CEOs in Europe, and also finishes top in the global average. Trade conflicts didn't even register as a top 10 concern until last year, but are now top-of-mind, particularly in China. Among "extremely concerned" U.S. CEOs, 50% are adjusting supply chains but just 23% are moving production, while 34% aren't making any changes at all. Also worth noting, Chinese CEOs now list Australia, not the U.S., as the most important country for their growth prospects. As for what CEOs see on the horizon, many are looking at massive changes for big tech. By 2022, most anticipate more regulations (71%), including on social media, the break-up of dominant firms*

(63%), and compensation of individual users for their data (51%). (Source: [Axios](#))

## What do you expect from global economic growth in the next year?

PwC's Annual Global CEO Survey, 1,581 respondents in 2020



# FARM TANK

Tweets of the Day



**Pew Research Fact Tank**   
@FactTank

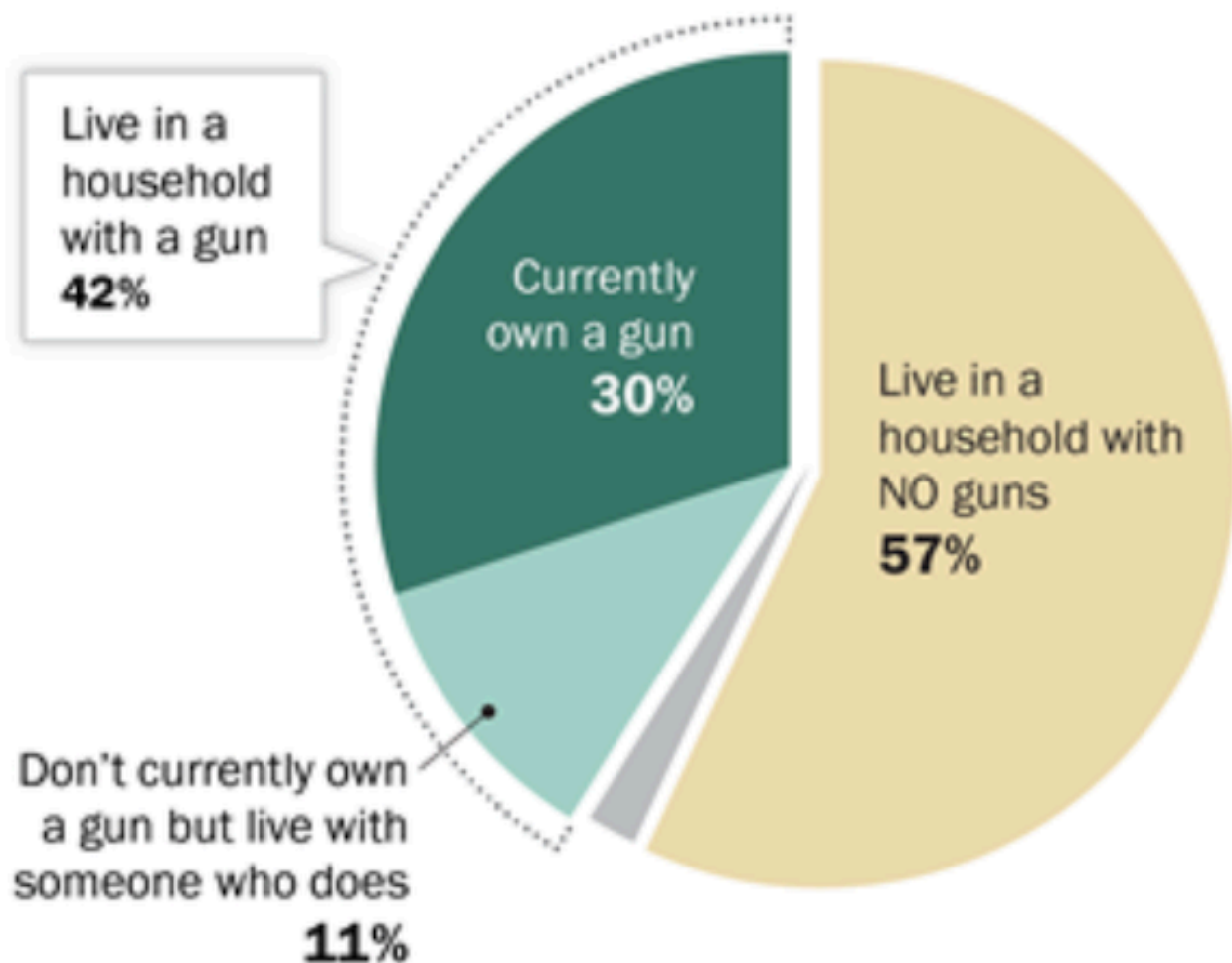


30% of Americans say they personally own a gun, and an additional 11% say they live with someone who does.

...and that they say they are that someone who does.  
Among Americans who own a gun, nearly two-thirds (66%) say they own more than one, including 29% who own five or more. [pewrsr.ch/33YtTGx](https://www.pewresearch.org/gun-ownership/)

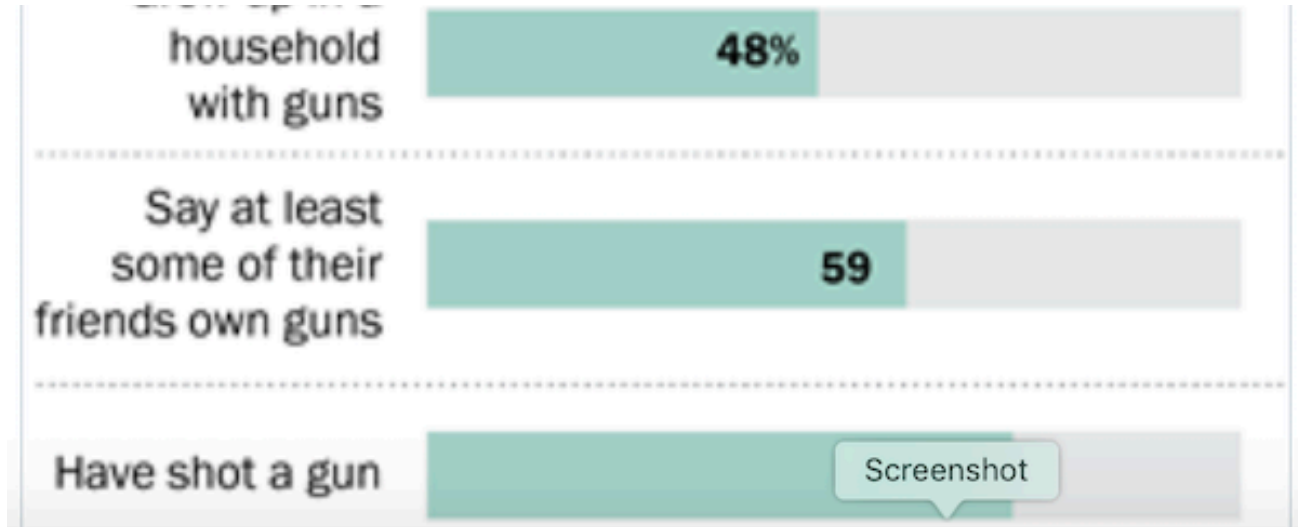
## About four-in-ten U.S. adults say they live in a gun-owning household

*% of all adults saying they ...*



*% who ...*

Grew up in a



**Charlie Bilello** ✓  
@charliebilello

The Palladium ETF is up 18 days in a row. Total Returns over last 3 years...

Palladium **\$PALL**: +223%

S&P 500 **\$SPY**: +55%

Commodity Index **\$DBC**: +2%







**Medical Marijuana Program Connection**  
@MMPconnection



[#cannabiscommunity](#) [#cannabis](#) [#marijuana](#)  
[-mmpconnect.com/lights-from-ma...](#)

SNOWFLAKE, Ariz. (CBS Local) — Lights from a medical marijuana farm filled the sky over Snowflake, Arizona, with a bright purple glow on a recent foggy morning. Cara Smith was on her way to work at C ...





**Joann C**  
@joanncreek\_



I little Friday fun to share. My sister's farm animals seem to be having identity issues. What would you call the offspring? 🤔 😊 #HappyFriday

TENNESSEE



**wesley jensen**

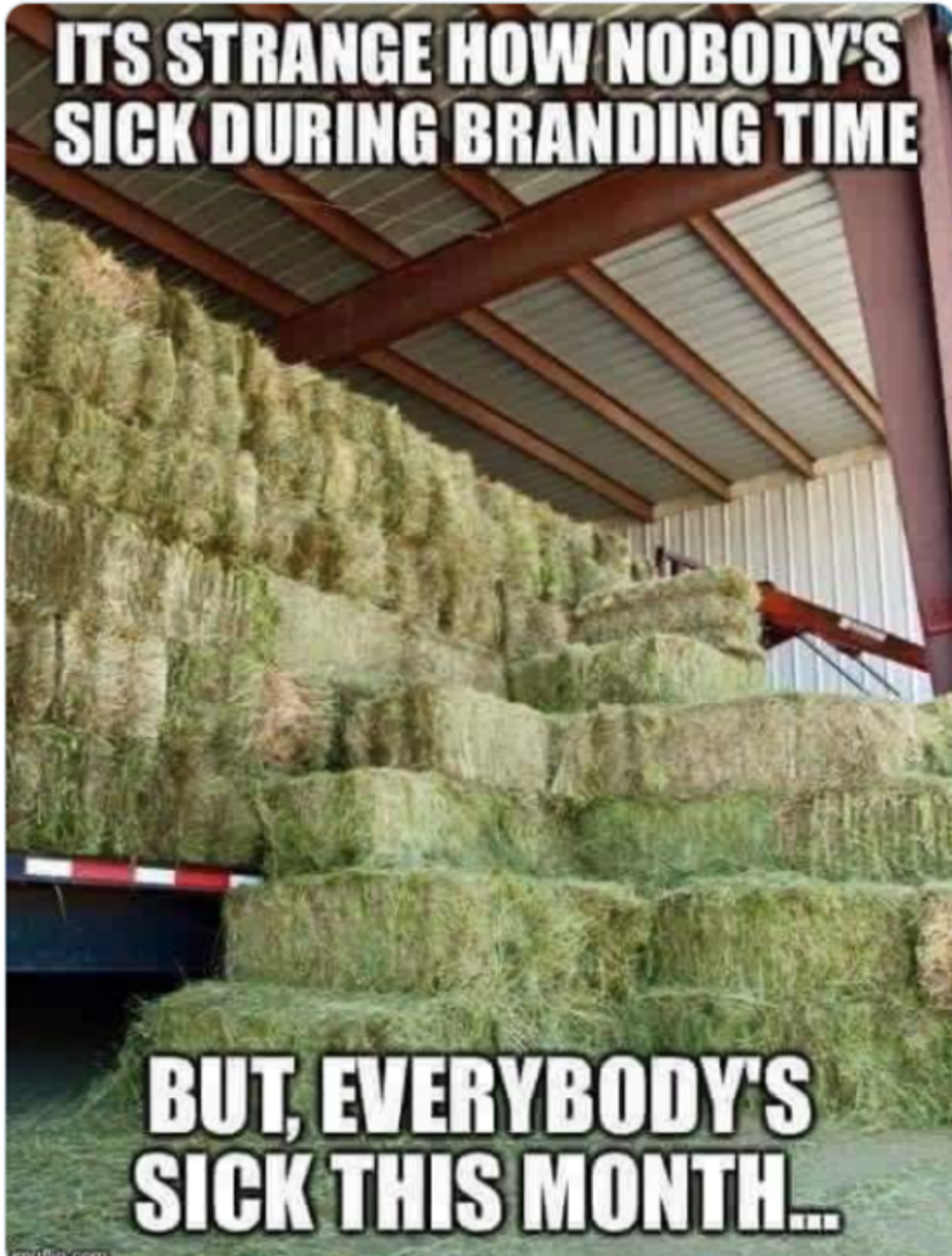






@wesley1411

Strange thing is I was fine then and now I feel like I have a touch of the flu. 🤒





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Pallet Furniture [fixitcletus.com/?p=24179&utm\\_s...](https://fixitcletus.com/?p=24179&utm_s...)  
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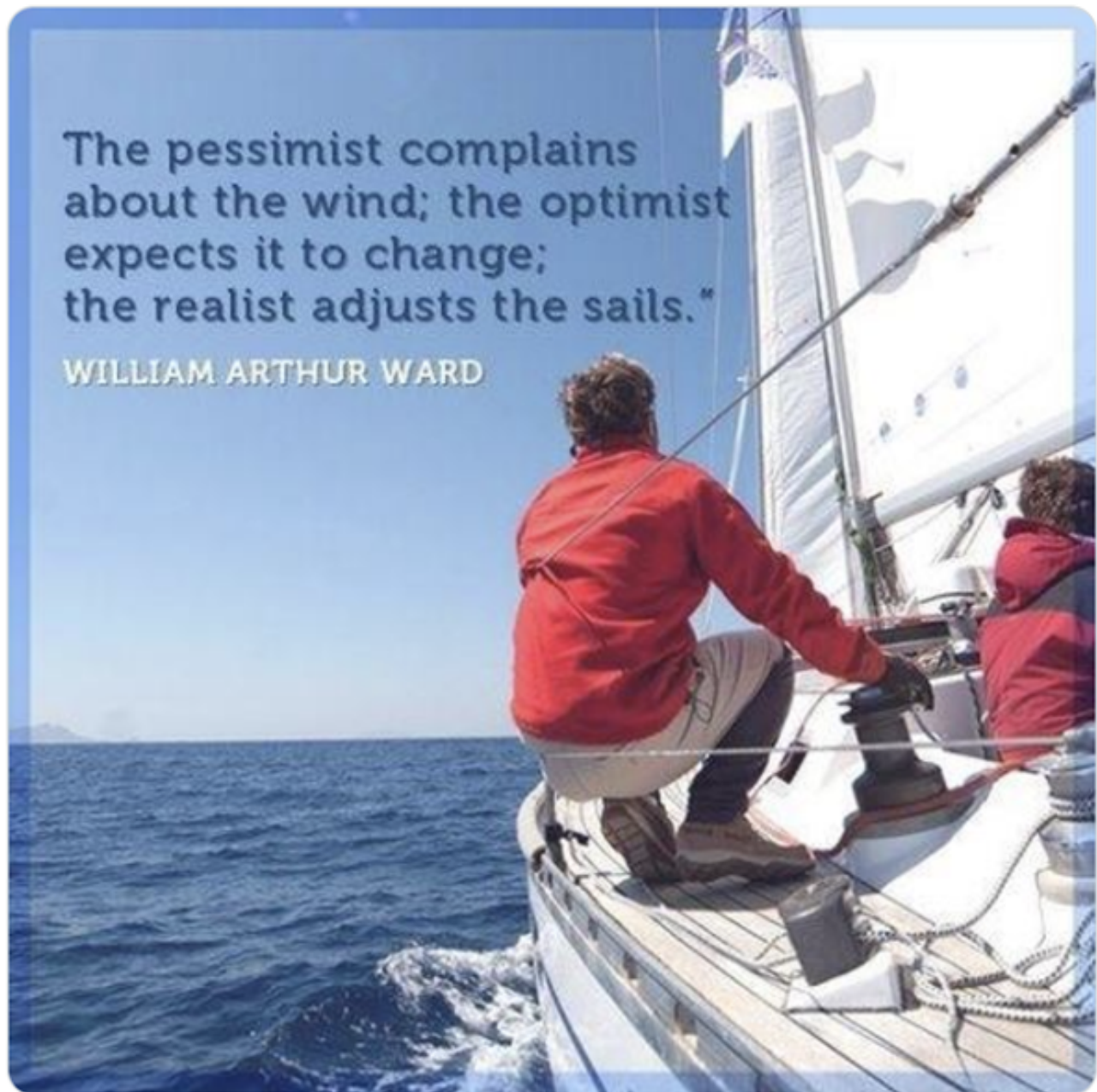
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The pessimist complains about the wind; the optimist expects...

~William A. Ward

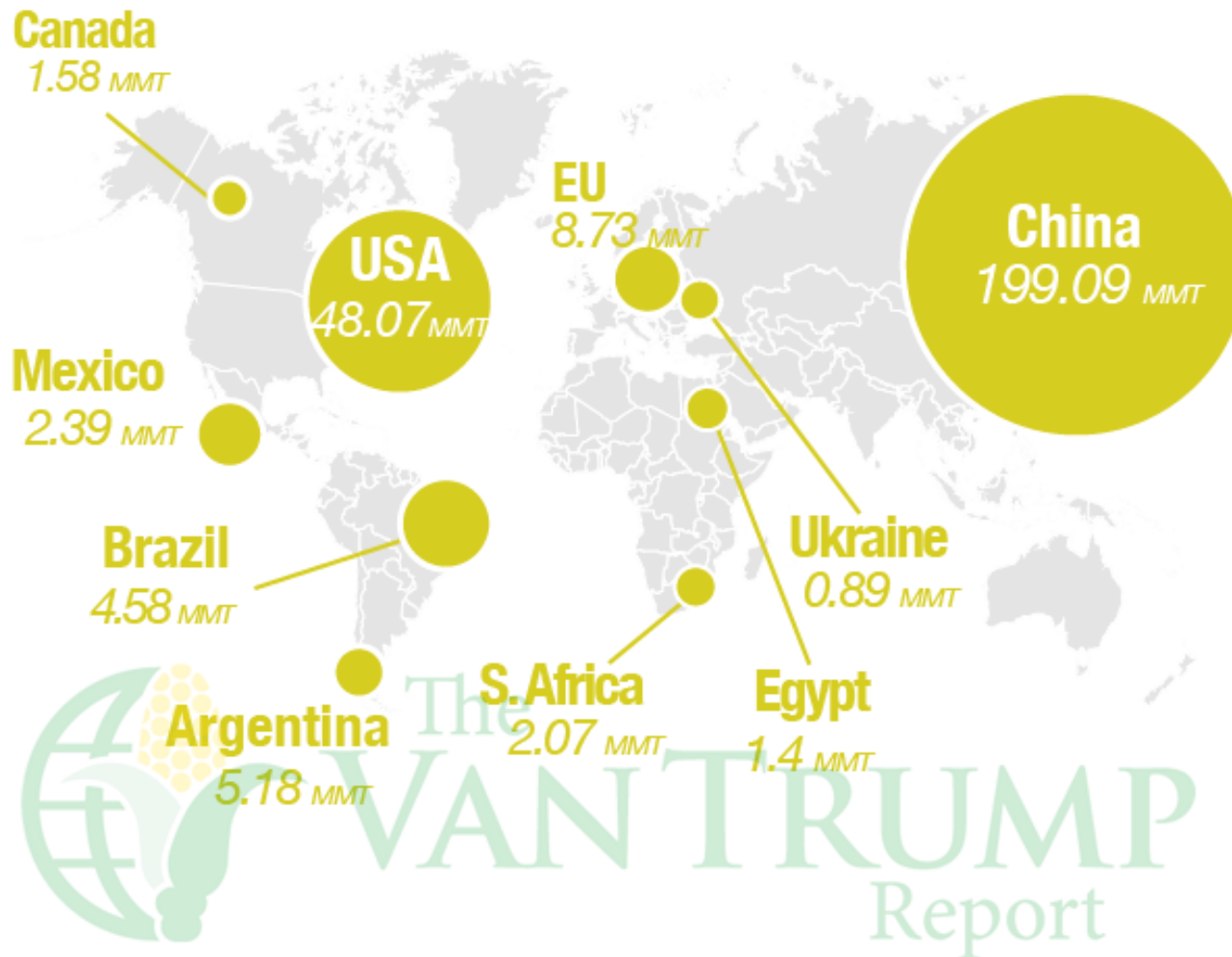
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**Corn** bulls continue to wait for confirmation of Chinese importers buying U.S. corn. There have been rumors and talk as of late that make it reasonable to believe Chinese buyers are in the market for U.S. corn. With U.S. corn one of the most competitive in the global market, the move would make a lot of sense. If the rumors are true the obvious question becomes how much and when will it ship? Bulls are hoping the recent strength in the wheat market and just the thought of the Chinese buying U.S. corn is enough to keep the market somewhat supported. From a technical perspective, the market continues to orbit around the 100-Day Moving Average. Many inside the trade believe the MAR20 contract is rangebound between \$3.75 and \$3.95. To breakout to the upside the trade will need to see confirmation of buying by the Chinese and more widespread weather problems in South America. Weather gurus are thinking parts northern Brazil could actually get too wet making second-crop corn planting extremely difficult, while parts of southern Argentina could become even drier and create more yield drag. As a spec, I'm still on the sideline thinking prices might be pressured a bit further nearby. The recent CDC virus headlines could also spark a little risk-off trading. I want to be a longer-term bull, I'm just in no hurry to jump in the waters. As a producer, I remain patient and continue to keep small hedges in place.

# 2019/20 Corn Ending Stocks

**Global Ending Stocks: 297.8 Million Metric Tons**



Source: USDA, PS&D, January, 2020

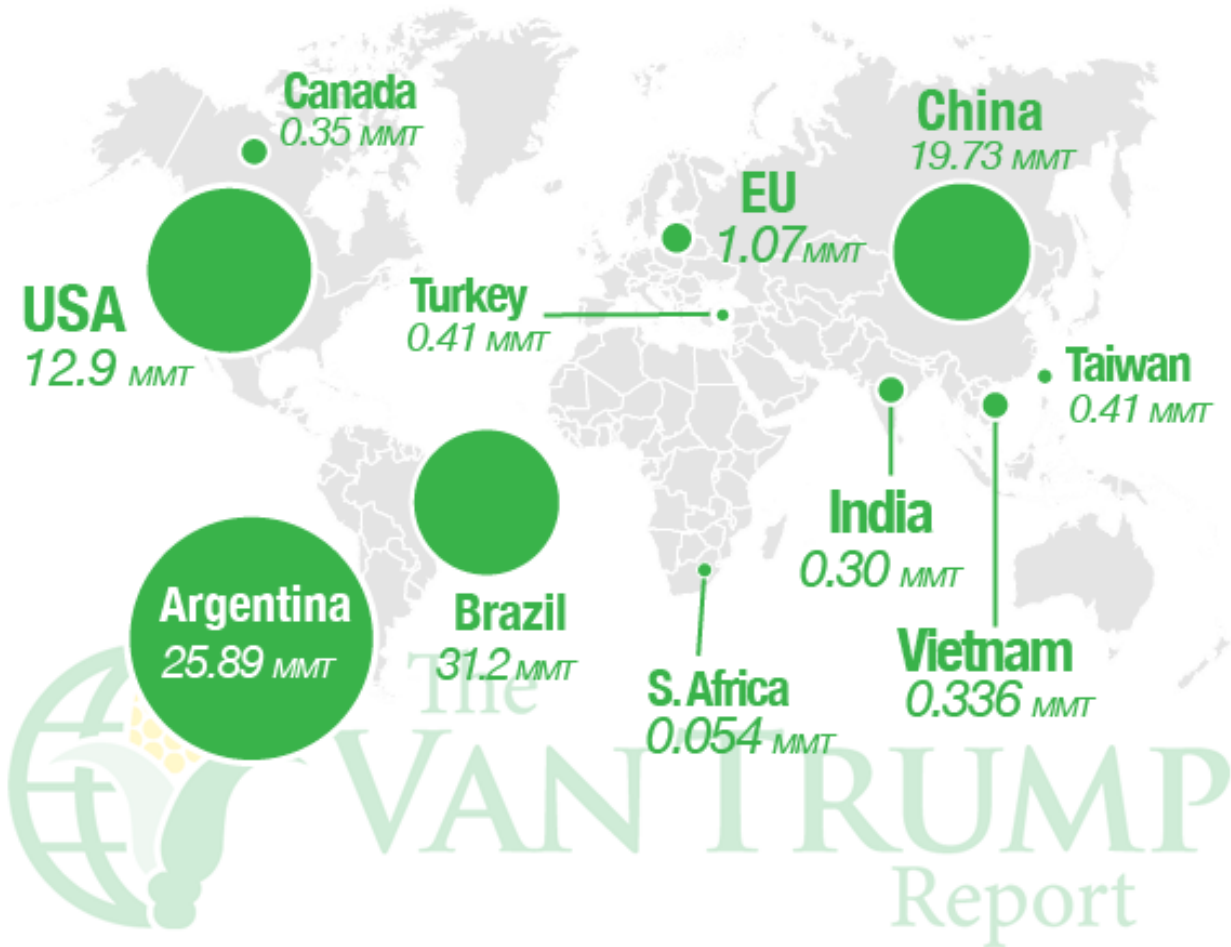
**Soybean** bears have pushed the market down to multi-week lows as bulls patiently wait on Chinese buying. As I've mentioned on several occasions, China could be a big buyer of U.S. soybeans but it might not happen until U.S. prices become more competitive, which just happens to be closer to the upcoming 2020 U.S. Presidential election. Meaning it could be a win-win for all of those involved... China would get a more competitive U.S. soybean shipment, which traditionally happens once South American new crop supplies are more heavily depleted. This could also help President Trump supporters closer to the election and provide a bit more tailwind. I'm not saying anyone is waiting or manipulating the process, I'm just saying it could play out and be most beneficial to both the Chinese and current U.S. administration if the bigger China buying happens during the time-period that U.S. soybeans traditionally become more competitive than South American supplies. I'm thinking right now U.S. soybeans are about +25 to +35



cents more than soybeans out of Brazil. Just something to consider and think about as we move forward... Also, keep in mind, Chinese buyers have a week-long new year holiday coming up and buying headlines could remain absent. Another headline that has me a bit nervous is the talk and media surrounding the coronavirus which is now thought to become transferable from person to person contact. Isolated cases also have been reported in Vietnam, South Korea, Japan, and now the U.S. All of this adds to concerns that the virus could become a pandemic and impact global trade. Keep in mind, China's Henan Province has reportedly closed open-air markets and suspended live poultry trade fearing the coronavirus. Bulls are hoping the virus headlines subside and are also keeping an eye on overly wet conditions in Northern Brazil and dry conditions building in Argentina. As a spec, I've been patiently waiting on the sideline to dip a toe in the market as a longer-term bull. I've told myself that the bears could pressure price the next couple of months more than many have anticipated and prices could easily dip to sub-\$9.00. Similar to corn, I'm just in no real hurry to be a big buyer, at least not at the moment. Don't forget, Brazil's soybean crop will soon start to be harvest at a much more aggressive pace during the next few weeks. A few sources are already talking about Brazil's soybean crop being larger than the current USDA estimate, so if the weather continues to cooperate it could create more bearish headwinds.

# 2019/20 Soybean Ending Stocks

**Global Ending Stocks: 96.7 Million Metric Tons**

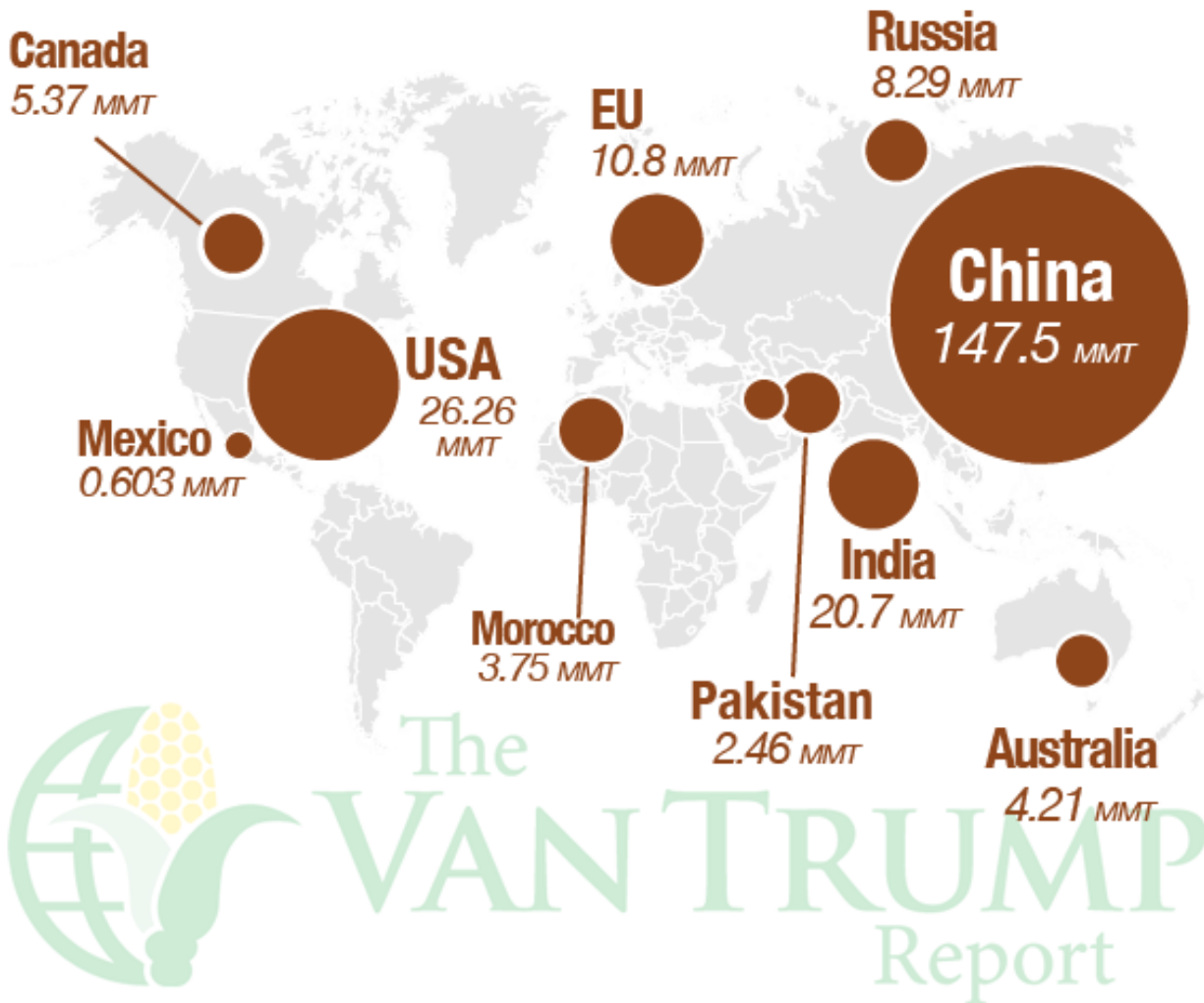


Source: USDA, PS&D, January, 2020

**Wheat** bulls are pointing to a tight cash market here at home and global prices remaining strong on uncertainties with the European Union and talk of Russia limiting exports down the road ahead. Wheat prices in Paris have moved to a multi-month high, while Russian wheat prices have pushed to a new marketing season high. Headlines talking about a transportation strike in France along with fewer planted acres have helped keep the bulls engaged. I really haven't seen any fresh or new headlines that I deem marketing changing. Looking back out of the rearview mirror I obviously exited my bullish positions too early. I am not that "committed" to ongoing higher prices, perhaps just "interested", and that's not enough to pull me back into the market, at least not at this juncture based on the current set of headlines and "what if's". I just worry that a bullish boat could become extremely hard to navigate if the currents shift. Chinese buying and the longer-term direction of the U.S. dollar continue to keep my interest.

# 2019/20 Wheat Ending Stocks

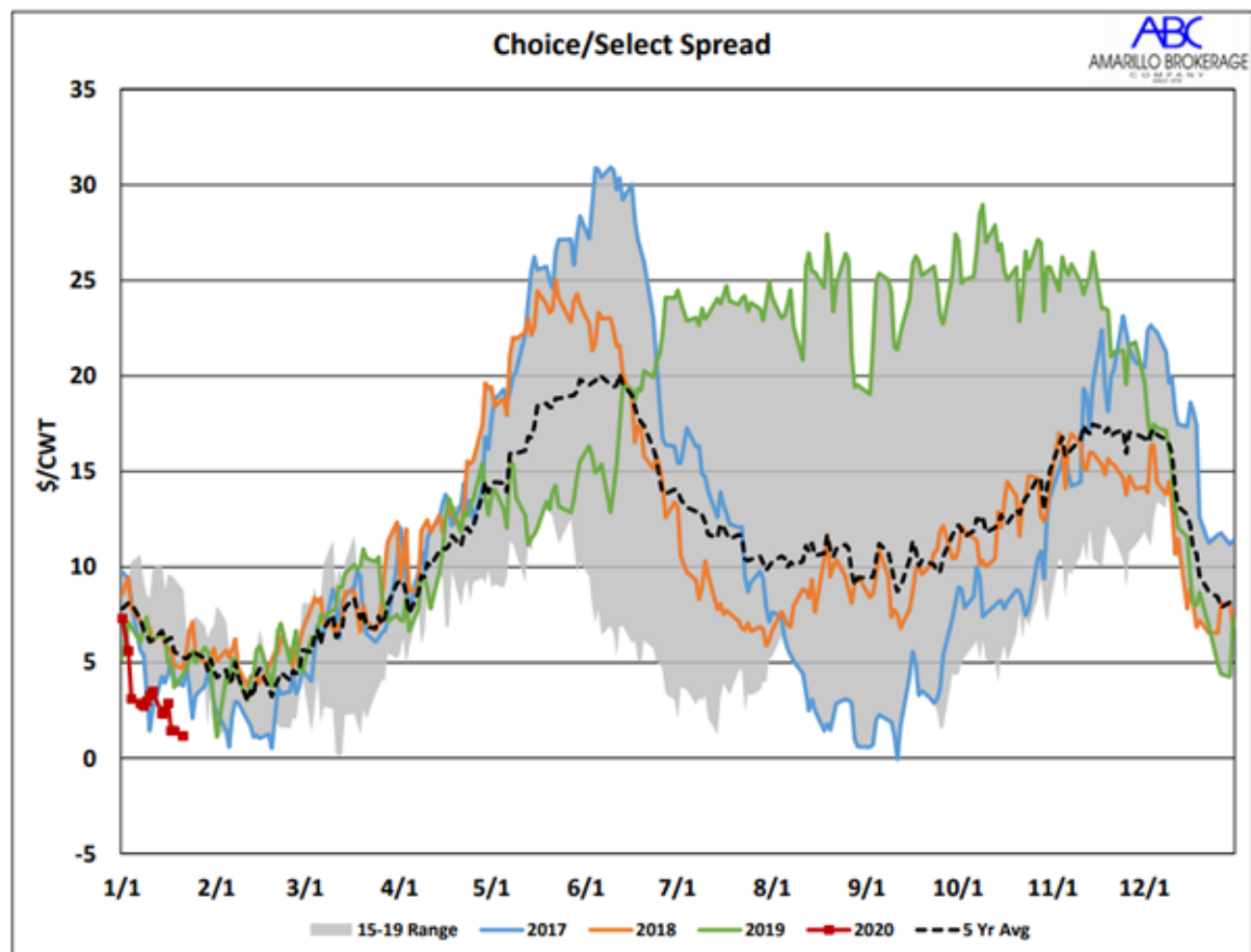
**Global Ending Stocks: 270.5 Million Metric Tons**



Source: USDA, PS&D, January, 2020

**Cattle** markets were choppy last week as traders tried to digest all sorts of news surrounding trade but ended up finishing the week on a softer tone. Cash trade developed earlier in the week and ended up trading heavier volume at slightly lower levels. As mentioned last week, the cash market seems to be stalling out here and the question as to whether cash highs are in is certainly being kicked around. Although there are many, one of the larger bull stories being mulled is the global protein play. Many believe that late 2020 begins to realize the impacts on protein supplies from things such as African Swine Fever, Australian livestock losses, and more favorable export markets. The near-term bear case remains large supplies, added days on feed and lost leverage. Additionally, the fear of lost or lessened beef demand as a result of historically high beef prices and extremely wide Choice-Select spread in the 4th quarter is evident and could have damaged

some out-front business. Futures closed last week slightly lower than the previous week. The mid-week sell-off seemed to surround disappointment with the phase 1 trade deal and the lack of clarity around how it may or may not impact beef markets. Futures continue to trade a tight range and show little willingness to break out. The markets are near seasonal high prices at this time and the technical risk is mounting. Bears are seemingly worn out and likely seeing some throw in the towel with every rally. Those looking for additional upside are watching weather systems and how they may drop weights through the winter. Bulls are also friendly the deferred futures because of the aforementioned protein squeeze. Looking into this week it would seem cash likely has a softer tone and beef markets are potentially steady to firm. Kills will pick back up after the holiday week and show lists are expected to print smaller. Trey Warnock - [Amarillo Brokerage Company](#)





**> China Issues Biosafety Certificates for Domestic GM Corn, Soybean Traits:** *China's agriculture ministry issued biosafety certificates on Tuesday for domestically grown, genetically modified (GM) corn and soybean traits, moving closer to commercialisation of GM grain production in the world's top market. The ministry had already announced late last month that it planned to issue the certificates, pending public comment. Granting of the certificates is one of the last steps required before GMO products can be sold to farmers for planting. China granted biosafety certificates to its first GM corn varieties and two domestic rice varieties in 2009, but never allowed them to reach the market in part because of widespread public opposition to the technology. The newly approved corn traits, both resistant to pests and herbicide, could boost farmers' productivity by deterring insects common in the country, including the recently arrived fall armyworm, experts said. Read more from [Reuters](#).*

**> Starbucks Taking Aim at Milk Is Latest Blow to Beaten-up Dairy:** *The latest blow to the downtrodden dairy industry was delivered by none other than Starbucks with the coffee giant looking to condition customers to use milk alternatives in a bid to reduce its carbon footprint. While Starbucks accounts for just 0.3% of U.S. milk production, the decision to formally declare an emphasis on non-dairy options may encourage other food-service outlets to follow suit. That could add momentum to the shift toward oat, nut, soy and other alternative beverages. (Source: Reuters)*



**> Sysco Offers Meatless Burger to Foodservice Industry:** *The global foodservice distributor Sysco Company is releasing a plant-based burger for most of its U.S. market. The Sysco Simply burger is a vegan, gluten-free, non-GMO soy patty with 18 grams of protein. Globally, Sysco distributes to more than 650,000 customers at foodservice, hospitality, institutional facilities and more. Other national suppliers Nestle and U.S. Foods are also launching their own alternative meat products this year. (Source: Brownfield Ag News)*

**> Chinese Beef Importers Seek to Renegotiate Prices for Brazilian Shipments:** *Chinese beef importers are seeking to renegotiate prices previously agreed when they closed deals to buy dozens of shipments from Brazil because values are too high, according to a report in the online edition of a local newspaper. The website of Folha de S.Paulo reported that some Chinese importers are refusing to pay for shipments that already arrived in China, seeking a discount from Brazilian exporters. The newspaper said some of those new companies recently cleared to sell are facing financial difficulties due to the renegotiation requests from China, because they invested in new infrastructure to be able to export and are not being paid. Some Brazilian beef exporters are trying to divert cargoes that have not yet reached China to other potential destinations, such as Iran. (Source: Reuters)*

**> Asia Set for Record Volume of Argentine Wheat Imports:** *Argentine wheat shipments to Asia are poised to climb to a record high over the next two months as a drought curbs Australian production and Black Sea inventories tighten, two trade sources said. Indonesia, Asia's biggest importer, along with Vietnam, Thailand and the Philippines are expected to receive close to 1.2 million tonnes of wheat from the South American country, said the traders, who have access to shipping data. Argentina's Buenos Aires grains exchange bumped up its wheat harvest forecast for the 2019/20 season to a bumper 18.8 million metric tons from an earlier estimate of 18.5 million metric tons. That leaves the country with a surplus of around 12 million metric tons for export in 2019/20, trade sources said. Read more [HERE](#).*

**> Amazon Just Filed a Bunch of International Trademarks for "Amazon Pharmacy":** *Amazon has filed to trademark 'Amazon Pharmacy' in Canada, the U.K. and Australia, signaling a potential move into selling prescription drugs outside of the U.S. According to the Canadian Intellectual Property Office website, Amazon filed for the patent on Jan. 9, 2020. The status is listed as pre-formalized. The trademark also lists other areas that Amazon Pharmacy could move into including surgical, medical dental instruments and pharmaceutical as well as medical and veterinary preparations. Similar trademark filings from Jan. 9 also appear on the website for IP Australia and the U.K.'s intellectual property office. Amazon began its move into the drug space in 2017, when it started exploring whether to build out a team. The following year, the company acquired PillPack, a*

*start-up that specializes in delivering medications to the home. Read more [HERE](#).*

**> Science Reveals the Tipping Point Between Success and Failure:** *Almost every winner starts a loser. J.K. Rowling, Henry Ford, and Thomas Edison all failed, at least initially, often disastrously. But each found their way to outsized, world-changing success. As did many others. But what about the countless others across fields who toiled for decades only to sink into the vast ocean of "never-were?" New research indicates that learning from just a few more failures may lead one past the tipping point, entering the regime of progression and success. Here, aspirants use feedback to engage in "intelligent improvement" yielding incrementally better attempts and, ultimately, victory. Those who eventually succeed fail much faster—and increasingly fast with every attempt—reusing previous components efficiently, rather than discarding the baby with the bathwater as their stagnant peers do. Read more from [Fast Company](#).*

**> Tokyo 2020 Looks Like the Toughest Olympic Ticket Ever:** *The 2020 Games, which officially open July 24, already may be the toughest Olympics ticket in decades, and possibly ever, ticket sellers say. U.S.-market tickets for the opening and closing ceremonies, swimming, gymnastics, and track and field sold out within about three hours of their release in June, July and October, said Michael Clyne, spokesman for CoSport, the official ticketer for the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee. A new batch of tickets will become available at 3 p.m. ET Thursday on CoSport's website and is expected to see similarly high demand. As of last Wednesday, Tokyo 2020 had sold 4.48 million Olympic tickets to residents of Japan. That's more than half of the 7.8 million total that the organizing committee estimates it will have available to sell. Sometime this spring, overseas residents will be able to buy tickets directly via the Tokyo 2020 website, a spokesman said, but it's not clear how many tickets might actually be left. Read more from [The Wall Street Journal](#).*

**> Chiefs QB Pat Mahomes Topples Tom Brady as Top Seller of NFL Merchandise:** *Patrick Mahomes hasn't just supplanted Tom Brady as AFC champion quarterback, he's toppled him as the NFL's top salesman. Mahomes, in his third season, has moved into the No. 1 position on the NFL Players Association's list of top selling players, the union said. Brady, a 20-year veteran with a record six Super Bowl championships, has finished the past two seasons atop the list. He's currently No. 2. More broadly, this season's Super Bowl merchandise is more popular than ever. The Chiefs and 49ers combined to set a sales record on conference championship Sunday, according to Fanatics founder Michael Rubin. He said the teams sold more than 2 1/2 times the merchandise of last year's teams -- the Patriots and Los Angeles Rams -- and topped the record set by the Patriots and Eagles two years ago. (Source: Bloomberg)*

**> WWII Marine Corp Vet Wants to be Your Valentine:** *Retired Maj. Bill White,*

*a 104-year-old US Marine Corps veteran and Purple Heart recipient from California, has had a lifetime of unforgettable experiences. White earned his Purple Heart for surviving the Battle of Iwo Jima in 1945. The bloody battle between the US Marines and Imperial Army of Japan lasted five weeks, killing nearly 7,000 US Marines and more than 20,000 Japanese fighters. "The fact that I even survived is something. There weren't too many of us." The veteran, who spent 30 years on active duty, was taken off the battlefield as a result of his injuries. He keeps himself occupied now with his love of scrapbooking, collecting objects and filling scrapbooks to remind him of special memories and keeps them on a bookshelf organized by year. Now, he has a very specific wish: He wants the public to send him Valentine's Day cards so he can make even more memories. "I'll save every one of them like I've been saving little things that have come up until right now and they'll be a personal part of my history," he says. Watch a video about his special request [HERE](#). And if you'd like to send White a Valentine's Day card, you can mail it to:*

*Operation Valentine*

*ATTN: Hold for Maj Bill White, USMC (Ret)*

*The Oaks at Inglewood*

*[6725 Inglewood Ave.](#)*

*Stockton, CA 95207*



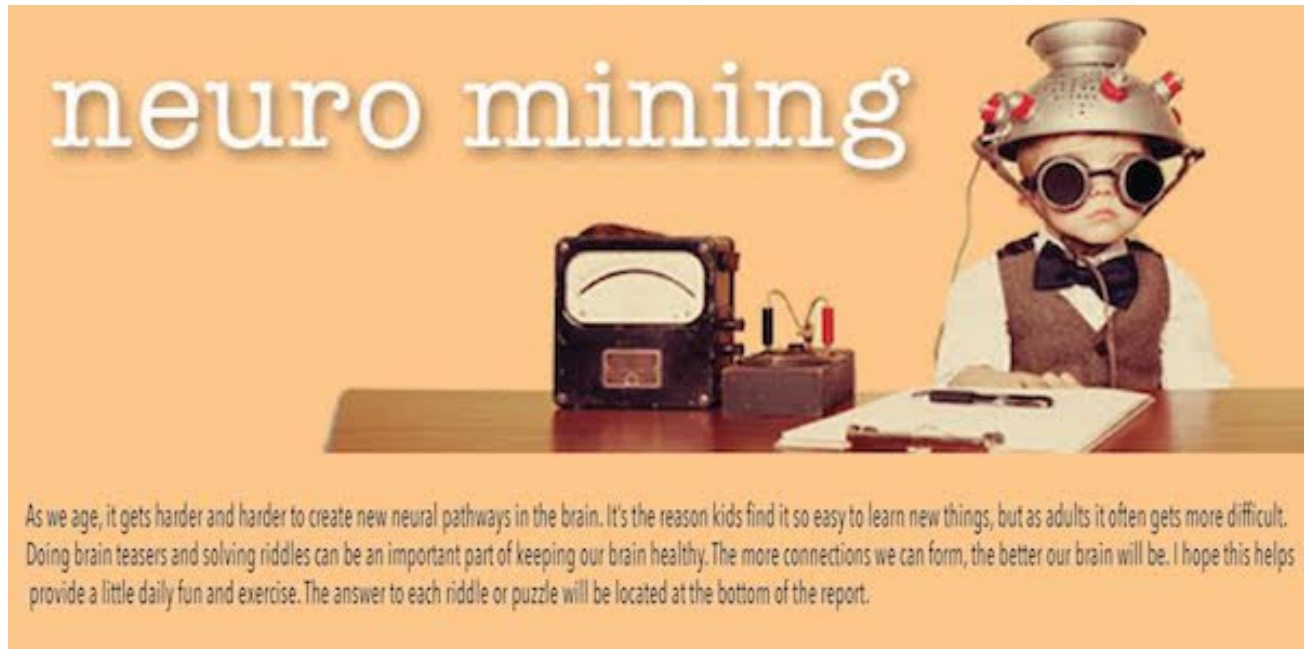


**North central South Dakota** - *There are still a lot of standing acres in this area. We don't have as many acres as our neighbors up north. We are well into the mid-30s for inches of snow this year, which feels above normal. I'm not really sure what normal looks like anymore. You would think as cold as we have been guys would be able to get out there and roll right over the frozen ground. The problem we are facing is the snow is deep enough it's acting as insulation and keeping the ground soft. Several guys are just putting their combines away and saying forget about it until April or May. The problem is that the same ground will need to be planted during the same time frame. Guys are worried they may not be able to plant and harvest at the same time which will create another log jam with PP.*

**Northern Minnesota** - *The snowfall has been plentiful this year, to say the least. What's crazy is most guys are keeping their eyes on this corn still standing via snowmobiles. We don't have a ton of acres left but enough to keep a guy on their toes. Several neighbors are telling me that the moisture of the corn is exactly the same as when we quit harvesting in early December. I would have thought the cold air temps would have brought us down a point or two. The test weight is still the same as well. I'm going to run a sample up to the elevator to have them check it. It's looking like March or April before we get back out there.*

**Central Illinois** - *Yields were way off for us this year as the corn ranged between 140-190 bpa. Our April plantings were the worst with June being our best. Beans did better overall with most of June's beans in the 60s and a few in the 70s. We had a good fall, getting anhydrous on as well as tillage finished. Like most, we are still grinding on drainage tile. We have lots of ditches that need work and are putting in plenty of risers. Drain tile work, as well as excavating are great side jobs now as there is a ton of work as most guys are getting tile down on all their acres. This year we are seeking to cut back on N as well as dry fertilizer. We are going to put down Holganix again this year and will also try some chicken manure. One goal we set this year is to get on board with a marketing team to make sure we pull the trigger when the numbers work and not just when we think we should...we'll see how that goes!*





**TODAY'S RIDDLE:** What always goes to bed with its shoes on?



### Scientists Say They Can Create Protein "From Thin Air"

Finnish scientists say they've produced a protein "from thin air" that they believe will be able to compete with soybean-derived products on price within the next decade. Solar Foods makes Solein by extracting CO<sub>2</sub> from air using carbon-capture technology and then combines it with water, nutrients and vitamins to promote a fermentation process similar to the one for wine or beer production.

The protein is made using a proprietary bacteria that is fed a diet of CO<sub>2</sub>, hydrogen, and other nutrients. This process, known as "carbon fermentation" or "precision fermentation," takes place in huge vats and produces a liquid that is removed and dried to yield the final product — a yellow flour-like powder with multiple food uses. According to those that have tried it, the protein powder has no flavor at all, just as the scientists intended.

The inventors see it acting as a neutral additive for all sorts of foods, such as a substitute for palm oil, which is used as a binder in baked goods. It could also



work as an ingredient in plant-based meat alternatives, serving as a substitute for ingredients like pea and soy protein. The inventors say it can also be used as a medium for growing cultured meat or fish. They also see potential in bringing protein production to areas whose climate or ground conditions make conventional agriculture impossible. What's more, it can be 3D-printed to give it more texture.

The hydrogen used is derived by splitting it from water using electricity. If the electricity used for production stems from solar or wind power, the researchers say the new "food" can be grown with near-zero greenhouse gas emissions. Another key ingredient, CO<sub>2</sub>, is obviously all around us and considered a major driver of climate change.

It also requires far less water than traditional agriculture. Solar Foods says just 2.6 gallons of water is needed for every 2.2 pounds of Solein. To produce the same amount of soy requires 550 gallons of water, a figure that rises to more than 3,300 gallons for 2 pounds of beef.

The technology is still in the early stages but Solar Foods is aiming to have a demonstrator plant opened by 2022. Once the demonstrator is up and running, a limited amount of the protein could be launched to the market, said CEO Pasi Vainikka. The final development stage would be to build a full-scale factory, which could be completed by 2025 if all goes to plan. According to Solar Foods, they've attracted around 5.5 million euros (USD\$6.12 million) in investment so far and expect their costs to roughly match those for soybean production by the end of the decade.

Some are touting the technology as a "game-changer" or calling it a "planet saver." Vainikka has outright said that one of his goals is to completely disconnect food production from agriculture. Research by the think tank RethinkX, which forecasts the implications of technology-driven disruption of many kinds, suggests that proteins derived using precision fermentation will be around 10 times cheaper than animal protein by 2035. It forecasts the result will be the near-complete collapse of the livestock industry.

Vainikka is obviously positive but says "one needs to be a realist," noting it's impossible to predict when or if Solein may become a key part of our food system. There's also the fact that people like eating real meat and it seems hard to fathom that everyone on the planet is going to give up beef for protein powder printed in the form of steak. It does seem like a natural fit for things like protein shakes and yogurt and I can also see it denting demand for palm oil if it is adopted by the food industry. Just remember, everyone discounted faux-meat when it first started generating headlines and it's now the fastest-growing sector in the food industry.

One area where you can readily see Solein's potential as a real "game-changer" is

space travel. The idea for Solein actually began at NASA during the 1960s and 1970s when researchers were exploring ways to feed astronauts over long journeys. Scientists discovered particular single-cell organisms that, when fed carbon dioxide, oxygen, and nitrogen from the air, would output protein. Solar Foods is actually working with the European Space Agency to develop foods for off-planet production and consumption.

Solar Foods has a couple of other competitors, too. Probably the most direct rival is California-based Kiverdi, as they're the only other company using gas fermentation to make protein meant to go into marketable foods. They are also hoping to have a commercial-ready product within the next five years. But Solar Foods seems to be slightly further ahead in certain ways - it has already started pre-engineering on its factory, and has applied for a novel food license in order to legally sell its ingredients in Europe. Learn more from their website [HERE](#). (Sources: BBC, Big Think, Food Navigator)





**Finnish scientists have created  
a new protein food using  
just hydrogen and bacteria**

**Footage: Solar Foods**





## Travel Destinations You May Want to Reconsider in 2020

Fodor's recently released its list of places that travelers should reconsider visiting

in the year ahead. The annual "No List" highlights issues—ethical, environmental, safety, sometimes even political—that *Forbes*'s editors believe globe-trotters should be aware of before choosing to travel to the destinations on their list. The full rundown is available [HERE](#). Below are some of the highlights.

### **The Places That Don't Want You (or Want You in Smaller and Better Doses)**

**Barcelona, Spain:** *Barcelona's overtourism issue isn't just about inconvenience—there's literally no room for the numbers who just keep coming. According to *Forbes*, "No number of pavement expansions and bus rerouting can solve the fundamental issue that tourism is the number one problem for the city." Airbnb has made matters worse for locals by flooding the market with short-term rentals, which has had the negative effect of skyrocketing rents for locals.*

**Angkor Wat, Cambodia:** *The temple complex of Angkor Wat, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and Cambodia's most visited attraction, is suffering under its own popularity. The literal wear and tear brought on to the 900-year-old temples is having damaging effects on its foundations and structural integrity. Concerned about damage to the temple, the agency charged with overseeing it is limiting the number of visitors to 300 at any time who are allowed at the top of Phnom Bakheng hill, a popular spot for sunsets. A less obvious impact on the area is the water shortage brought on by this year's drought and exacerbated by hotels in the Siem Reap area, which continue to draw heavily from the province's water table.*

**Bali, Indonesia:** *The most-visited island in Indonesia, Bali has suffered the effects of overtourism in the last few years to the point that the government is weighing a tourist tax. In 2017 a "garbage emergency" was declared over the amount of plastic on beaches and in waters. The government claims that the islands produce 3,800 tons of waste every day. Water scarcity, brought on the development of luxury villas and golf courses, has impacted the profits of local farmers. Authorities are now working to enact guidelines mandating respectful behavior from tourists who are visiting religious sites in bathing suits, climbing over sacred sites, and generally disrespecting customs and cultural norms.*

**Big Sur in California and Hanoi Train Street in Vietnam** *have also struggled with the influx in tourists in recent years which has negatively affected the destination, making their way onto the list of places to avoid.*

### **The Place That Could Kill You**



**Matterhorn, Alps:** *Not unlike with Mount Everest, which has been on a slow but steady murder spree (and made the No List in 2018), it's time to stop trying to conquer the Matterhorn. Seven climbers of the infamous Swiss peak lost their lives in 2019 by falling to their deaths. In 2018, the Matterhorn took 11 lives. Guides say the mountain has become too unstable to be climbed by loads of people everyday. Warm conditions and thawing permafrost at high altitudes are blamed for an uptick in rock slides and avalanches. While officials have no plans to close the Matterhorn to the public and insist that authorities are only responsible for ensuring awareness of climbing risks, the question changes from whether or not you can to whether or not you should attempt these sorts of adventures, especially when local guides are asking officials to close the mountain on the public's behalf.*

### **Places Considering Charging Large Tourist Taxes**

**Galapagos National Park:** *Currently, international tourists visiting the Galapagos National Park pay a \$100 fee per visit and mainland Ecuadorians pay \$6 - the fees haven't increased in 20 years. At the same time, everything from cheap flights to the proliferation of cruise ships and Airbnb have made the islands more accessible than ever. Since the uptick in visits, officials have concerns about the fragility of the environment and have proposed an increase in visitation fees—a one-time \$200 fee for those visiting the islands who also spend at least three nights visiting mainland Ecuador, and a \$400 fee to visit the Galapagos with only one or two nights on the mainland. The exact tax will be decided by December 31, 2019.*

**Komodo Island:** *Home to the famous Komodo dragons, authorities in Indonesia had originally planned to close Komodo Island for one year from January 2020 but canceled the initiative after determining the dragons living there were not under threat from tourist interference. Even without a ban, the government is weighing new options, including capping the number of visitors and adding a tourist tax or membership fee—which could come with a price tag of upwards of \$1,000.*

### **Places to be Cautious About Drinking**

**Costa Rica:** *In Costa Rica in 2019, 25 people have died and 59 have been hospitalized from methanol poisoning. Methanol, a chemical found in low amounts in beer and spirits, is not harmful until it reaches higher concentrations—usually occurring when someone adds it to drinks or bottles. Adding methanol not only increases the volume of the liquid, but also increases the potency. Costa Rican health officials have confiscated over 55,000 bottles of alcohol suspected to be poisoned, and closed 10 supermarkets and vendors selling the tainted alcohol.*

**Mexico:** *In Mexico, the cases have been building since 2017. The State Department's Bureau of Consular Affairs provided a list of 15 complaints that it has received since 2017 related to the consumption of unregulated alcohol by Americans in the heavily-touristed Mexican state of Quintana Roo. The investigation also saw 30 bars, restaurants and hotels inspected, two of which were shut down for not complying with health and safety rules.*





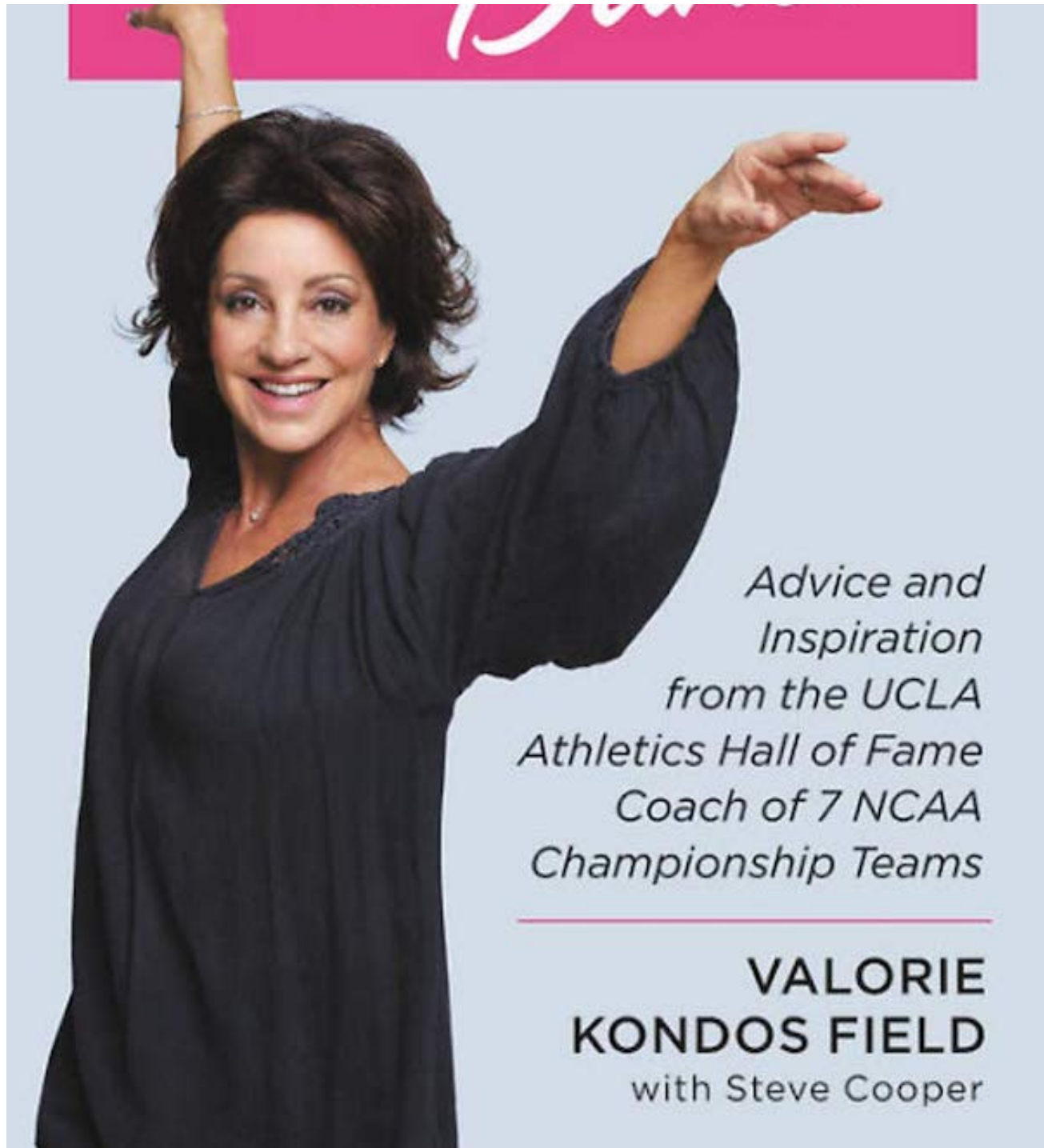


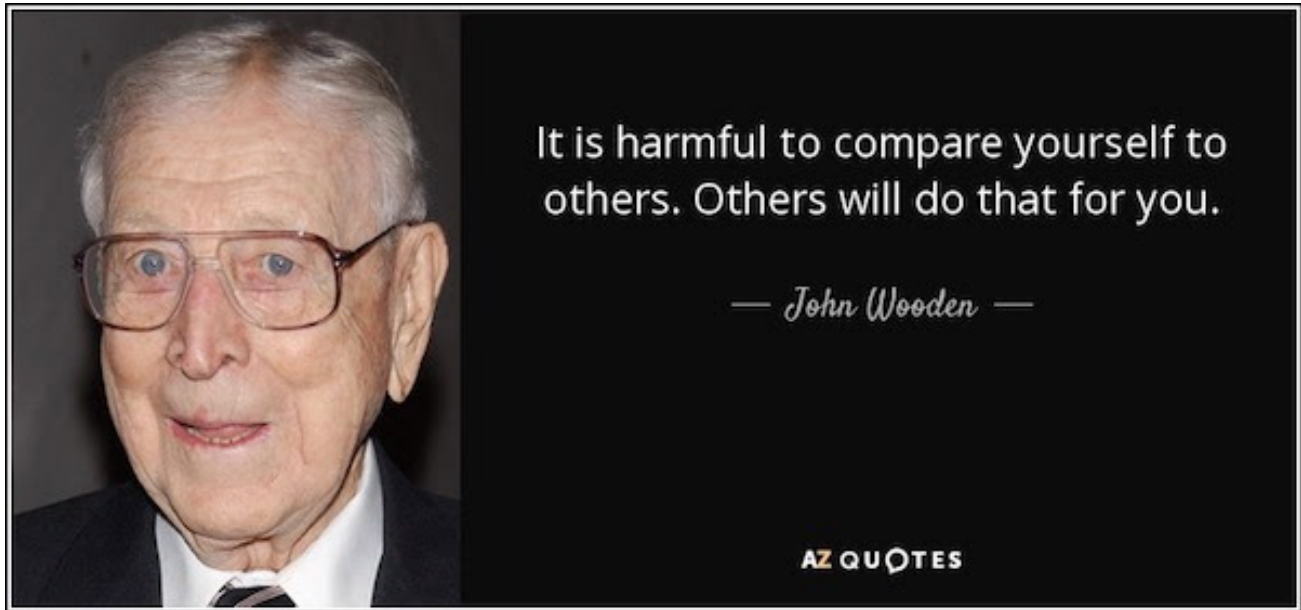
### Great Words of Wisdom From World Champion Coach

Valorie Kondos Field became the UCLA Gymnastic coach in 1983 with absolutely no previous gymnastics experience. She went on to become an 8x National Champion and was named Pac-12 Coach of the Century. In this short video, she explains some enlightening advice she received from the great basketball coach John Wooden. It's worth listening to and passing along. In October 2018 Field released her first book, "Life is Short, Don't Wait to Dance". In the book, Field shares insights on how to use uniqueness and authenticity to achieve success. I think it's amazing that she has never even tumbled, flipped, or ever played any type of organized sports and yet was able to craft a legendary coaching career through creativity, attention to detail, and being a great leader. For Valorie Kondos Field it's not about the Xs and Os, it's about pushing yourself and creating your best life and owning the choices you make... Valorie is married to retired UCLA Associate Athletic Director and former football coach, Bobby Field. Click [HERE](#).









**ANSWER to riddle:** A horse.

## CASH SALES & HEDGING TOTALS

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### Corn 2018 Crop

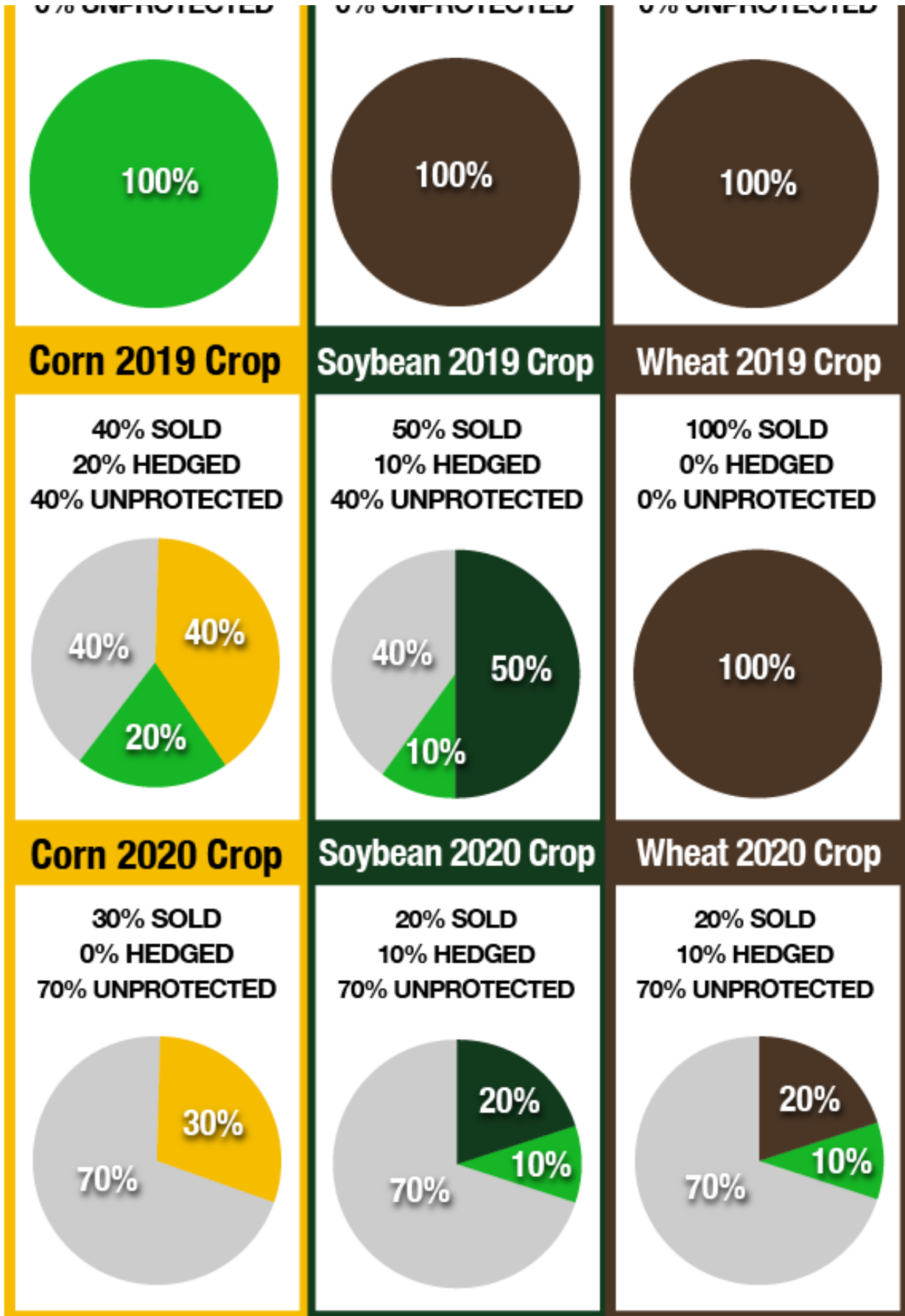
**100% SOLD**  
**0% HEDGED**  
**0% UNPROTECTED**

### Soybean 2018 Crop

**100% SOLD**  
**0% HEDGED**  
**0% UNPROTECTED**

### Wheat 2018 Crop

**100% SOLD**  
**0% HEDGED**  
**0% UNPROTECTED**



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**AgSwag**

AgSwag logo featuring a cartoon goat.

AgSwag logo on a black quilted vest.

AgSwag logo on a white polo shirt.



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