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GOOD MORNING: The Van Trump Report 3-30-20

1 message

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

Mon, Mar 30, 2020 at 5:30 AM

Reply-To: Jordan <reply-fecb11727562017f-1180_HTML-68584704-100003450-10@vantrumpreport-email.com>

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"Almost every successful person begins with two beliefs: the future can be better than the present, and I have the power to make it so." - David Brooks

Monday, March 30, 2020

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Morning Summary: Investors may choose to do more social distancing from stocks this week as headlines from the Fed and the "bailout" lose a little luster. I'm worried that as the coronavirus cases escalate here in the U.S. and the death toll rises, the media will inadvertently help fuel the bearish fire. Last week the stock market rallied +11% on fresh monetary and fiscal policy changes by both the Fed and our leaders in Washington. The historically unprecedented moves by the Federal Reserve to help backstop the U.S. economy were huge! While there may be need for more stimulus measures down the road, Washington is likely going to hit pause for some amount of time in order to gauge how far this first round goes and where they need to fill the gaps. Meaning it may be premature to expect better days in the near future without new headlines to feed the bulls. Unfortunately, the market will now be forced to focus its attention on the virus itself and the associated fallout and carnage left in its path. The U.S. will soon top

+150,000 confirmed coronavirus cases with more than 17 areas considered "hot-spots" with more than +1,000 cases. Sadly, I'm hearing talk that rural communities could soon be under heavy fire as the virus spreads and takes hold. The sheer lack of hospitals, healthcare workers and emergency facilities in rural America could quickly exasperate the current set of corona complications. Over the weekend, I had many conversations and most suspect the daily number of U.S. cases will not peak for another four to six weeks, perhaps early to mid-May. Keep in mind, we reported +18,000 new coronavirus cases last week here in the U.S.. Globally, the numbers from those infected with the virus seem to be breaking down as follows: about 81% will have mild to no symptoms; around 14% of those who get the virus are getting severely ill; just under 5% are getting critically ill. The death rate is varying from country to country but early data here in the U.S. has the mortality rate below 1%, which is good news compared to fears we were hearing a few weeks back. There was also some good news in the fact China reopened domestic flights in Hubei, where the world's first cases were reported in December of last year, though they remain suspended in the capital Wuhan. Unfortunately, there's bad news, I've heard more talk that perhaps +5% of Wuhan residents that have recovered from the virus are again testing positive. I've heard this from multiple sources and am still unclear if it's true or not true. I'm hoping it's just a mix-up in the data or the originally testing wasn't all that good. I assure you, bulls in the market are not prepared or in position to handle a second-wave of reinfections. This is something I will be closely monitoring in the days ahead.

Looking to this week's headlines, there's little scheduled from the central banks and leaders in Washington are mostly all on leave, the House left last week with no return date scheduled and the Senate left Friday after passing the bailout package with a scheduled return date pushed back until April 20th. From my perspective, this means the focus will fall on the media and more than likely the negative impact of the virus. Tomorrow, investors will be digesting China's PMI readings for March. Remember, it was China's PMI data which was one of the first economic indicators to reveal how badly the coronavirus outbreak had hit the world's second-largest economy back in February. The trade will be wanting to know if and how well the Chinese have rebounded? Tomorrow we will also be digesting Hong Kong's February retail sales which are expected to fall by about -40% year-on-year due to Covid-19 complications. On Thursday, the trade will be bracing for another wave of U.S. weekly unemployment numbers. Last week it was reported that more than +3 million Americans filed for unemployment, this week the number should be even larger. Then on Friday, the government's monthly March Jobs Report is scheduled for release. Talk on the street is that the number won't be nearly as bad as many think. Yes, it will snap a record 113-month stretch of U.S. job creation and start to pull the unemployment rate higher from a 50-year low, but it's more likely to be the April and May numbers that show the massive fallout. From what I understand, the March report, like nearly all such Labor Department employment reports, is based on surveys asking about the week or

pay period that includes the 12th day of the month. If respondents were paid for a single hour of work that week—even if they were subsequently laid off—they are counted as employed. If the shutdowns continue for a few more weeks, the April jobs report, scheduled for release May 8, could show the greatest one-month deterioration of the labor market on record. Most of the respected experts I know, think U.S. unemployment rates will eventually hit 10% to 20% and the economy will shed +20 to +30 million jobs. Some inside the trade are saying unemployment could top +30% and more than +50 million Americans will lose their job. Regardless of the opinion, none of it sounds good. Keep in mind, there was a massive -39% drop in the number of hourly employees going to work in the U.S. just between Monday, March 9th and Friday, March 20th. I have to imagine this past week included even more job losses. I hate to sound like a broken record, but the longer the lockdowns continue in the U.S. and around the globe, the more bleak the outlook for the economy grows. I'm staying extremely conservative and sticking with my belief that there is still more downside. I see no need to be in a hurry...there will be plenty of opportunity.

This is Why We Worry... Cellphone heatmaps are showing how much people are still traveling and how many people are still not practicing social distancing. It is also kind of scary to see real data that shows just how many Spring Breakers and college students who may have had exposure to coronavirus are returning to suburbs and towns around rural America. Whether you like the idea of social distancing or oppose it during the coronavirus pandemic, there is a good chance someone is tracking your traveling habits -- especially if you own a smartphone. Click [HERE](#) to view this short twitter clip.



Mikael Thalen ✓
@MikaelThalen



This shows the location data of phones that were on a Florida beach during Spring Break. It then shows where those phones traveled.

First thing you should note is the importance of social distancing. The second is how much data your phone gives off.



PLEASE VIEW THIS... Another company we source data from to help analyze the markets and consumer behavior is called Unacast. Their team created this interactive Scoreboard, updated daily, to empower organizations to measure and understand the efficacy of social distancing. My home state of Missouri received a 'D' grade as our movement has changed all that much or as much as needed. You can even zoom down to your county, where mine received an 'F' grade. **Click [HERE](#)** then click your state and start exploring the data.



Social Distancing Scoreboard

According to the World Health Organization and the CDC, social distancing is currently the most effective way to slow the spread of COVID-19. We created this interactive Scoreboard, updated daily, to empower organizations to measure and understand the efficacy of social distancing initiatives at the local level. **Please scroll down and explore the data — the more we all understand, the more lives we can save together.**



Prices at the Pump Plummeting: Gas stations in Kentucky and Oklahoma became the first cities this week to see pump prices fall below \$1 a gallon. Ohio and Wisconsin might fall sub-\$1 next. Forecasters predict that many regions of the country will eventually see sub-\$1 per gallon gasoline. Gasoline futures in New York slid Monday to 41 cents a gallon, the lowest level since 1999, and traded at 48.73 cents on Tuesday at 11:09 a.m. In the Chicago wholesale market, prices were 15 cents on Monday, the lowest in data compiled by Bloomberg going back to 1992. The pick below was sent to us over the weekend from a reader in Oklahoma, gasoline sub-\$1.00 per gallon!





Country Music Star Joe Diffe Dead at 61 from Coronavirus: Singer of hits like “John Deere Green” and “[If the Devil Danced \(In Empty Pockets\)](#)” tested positive for COVID-19 last week and passed away Sunday. Joseph Logan Diffe was born in Tulsa and raised in the tiny community of Velma, Oklahoma. His father, who held jobs as a teacher, rancher, truck driver, and welder, had musical tastes that ran more toward traditional country, but Diffe learned about harmony singing by working in gospel and bluegrass groups. Diffe also played bars, VFW halls, and honky-tonks as a solo act in Duncan, Oklahoma, where he lived with his wife and children while working in a local foundry. Diffe relocated to Nashville in 1986, implementing a five-year plan to make it in the music business. There, he took a job with the Gibson guitar company and also began singing on countless demos and writing songs. Diffe released his debut LP, *A Thousand Winding Roads*, in 1990. In 1993, Diffe released the platinum-selling LP *Honky-Tonk Attitude*, followed by 1994’s *Third Rock*

From the Sun, which was also certified platinum. In all, Diffie charted 18 Top Ten singles, with the majority reaching the Top Five, including the 1993 radio staples "Prop Me Up Beside the Jukebox (If I Die)" and "John Deere Green." A couple of my other Diffie favorites are "Ships that Don't Come In" and "Pickup Man".



Coronavirus Updates:

- *Global cases closing in on +800,000: U.S. leading with +150,000 cases detected; Italy and Spain now following. Top U.S. states with +5,000 cases include: New York, New Jersey, California, Michigan Massachusetts, Florida, Illinois, and Washington.*
- *CDC has urged millions of residents in three states – New York, New Jersey and Connecticut – to avoid non-essential travel, citing extensive spread of coronavirus among the population.*
- *Italy's deputy health minister Pierpaolo Sileri has said he expects the country, which is globally the worst affected by Covid-19 and has now recorded more than 10,000 deaths, to hit its infection peak in no more than 10 days.*
- *Mandatory quarantine in South Korea. All travellers entering South Korea will be subjected to two weeks of mandatory quarantine starting midnight on Wednesday, prime minister Chung Sye-kyun announced on Sunday.*
- *Australia's prime minister Scott Morrison has announced further restrictions for the population, including limiting public gatherings to just two people. People should only leave their homes for essential reasons, and those over the age of 70 should stay home, he said.*

- *Spanish authorities said on Sunday 838 people had died from Covid-19 in the past 24 hours, bringing the country's death toll to 6,528, with 78,797 confirmed cases. Spain and Italy account for more than half of the world's death toll from Covid-19 and are each still seeing hundreds of deaths a day.*
- *Egypt shut its beaches as cases in the Middle East surpassed 50,000.*
- *Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin says Americans can expect stimulus checks to be direct deposited within three weeks from Sunday. He told reporters at the White House that for people who did not provide the government their direct deposit information, there will be a web-based application to get their money.*
- *Scooter rental startup Bird laid off 30% of its workforce.*
- *Andreessen Horowitz backed Wonderschool laid off 75% of staff on a Zoom call, telling employees the coronavirus could dry up any more funding for two years.*
- *Airbnb-backed Zeus Living laid off 30% of staff as the coronavirus upends travel and hospitality startups.*
- *The 2020 Detroit Auto Show has been canceled - the venue in downtown Detroit will be used as a field hospital for the Federal Emergency Management Administration.*
- *The Census Bureau said it would extend its suspension of Census 2020 field work until April 15, two weeks longer than originally planned.*
- *UK Cabinet minister Michael Gove warned the public to prepare for a "significant period" where lockdown measures are in place to curb the spread of the coronavirus. Brits are already banned from leaving their homes apart from for a few limited reasons.*
- *Sophie Gregoire Trudeau, the wife of Canada's Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, announced Saturday evening on Instagram that she has fully recovered from Covid-19.*

Jefferies Group CFO Dies From Coronavirus Complications: *Jefferies Financial Group Inc. said Peg Broadbent, the longtime chief financial officer of its main subsidiary, has died from complications tied to coronavirus, marking one of the first deaths among senior Wall Street executives from the pandemic. He was 56.*

Keeping an Eye on Sweden: *In a highly debatable move Sweden has thus far resisted the call for stringent physical distancing, restaurants are open, and so are their schools. Most all data shows that the Swedes are sticking with their daily routines. Many investors and traders are keeping a close eye to see how things play out...*

Be Nice to Your Instacart Delivery Person: *Workers want hazard pay of an additional \$5 per order, safety equipment like hand sanitizer and wipes and an expansion of paid sick leave to employees with pre-existing conditions. On Friday, Instacart said in a Medium blog post that it would extend by a month a previously announced policy of paying sick pay for anyone diagnosed with Covid-19. It also introduced bonuses for people working "during this busy time" as well as other health and safety measures. Instacart announced last week it would hire an additional +300,000 workers to meet increased demand.*

General Motors Ordered to Make Ventilators Under Defense Production Act: *President Trump directed his administration to order General Motors to start making ventilators amid a dispute between his administration and the auto maker over a contract to build the machines. The*

president on Friday invoked the Defense Production Act, or DPA—which allows his administration to mobilize certain industries—saying that GM was “wasting time” in negotiations with the federal government. GM last week said it was working with Ventec Life Systems to boost the production of ventilators. White House officials said the two sides had been discussing a contract worth about \$1 billion, but the talks broke down over the timeline for when the machines could be provided. President Trump’s move came after he criticized GM and its leadership earlier Friday, saying in a series of Twitter posts that the company had initially said it could supply 40,000 ventilators, but then later said it could only make 6,000 available by late April. (Source: The Wall Street Journal)

Abbott Launches 5-Minute Virus Test for Use Almost Anywhere:

Abbott Laboratories is unveiling a coronavirus test that can tell if someone is infected in as little as five minutes, and is so small and portable it can be used in almost any health-care setting. The medical-device maker plans to supply 50,000 tests a day starting April 1, said John Frels, vice president of research and development. Abbott has received emergency use authorization from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. The equipment can be set up almost anywhere, but the company is working with its customers and the Trump administration to ensure the first cartridges used to perform the tests are sent to where they are most needed. They are targeting hospital emergency rooms, urgent-care clinics and doctors’ offices. Last week, Abbott’s m2000 RealTime system got FDA approval for use in hospitals and molecular laboratories, which can churn through more tests on a daily basis, up to 1 million a week, but it takes longer to get the results. Abbott plans to provide at least 5 million tests a month between the two systems. (Source: Bloomberg)

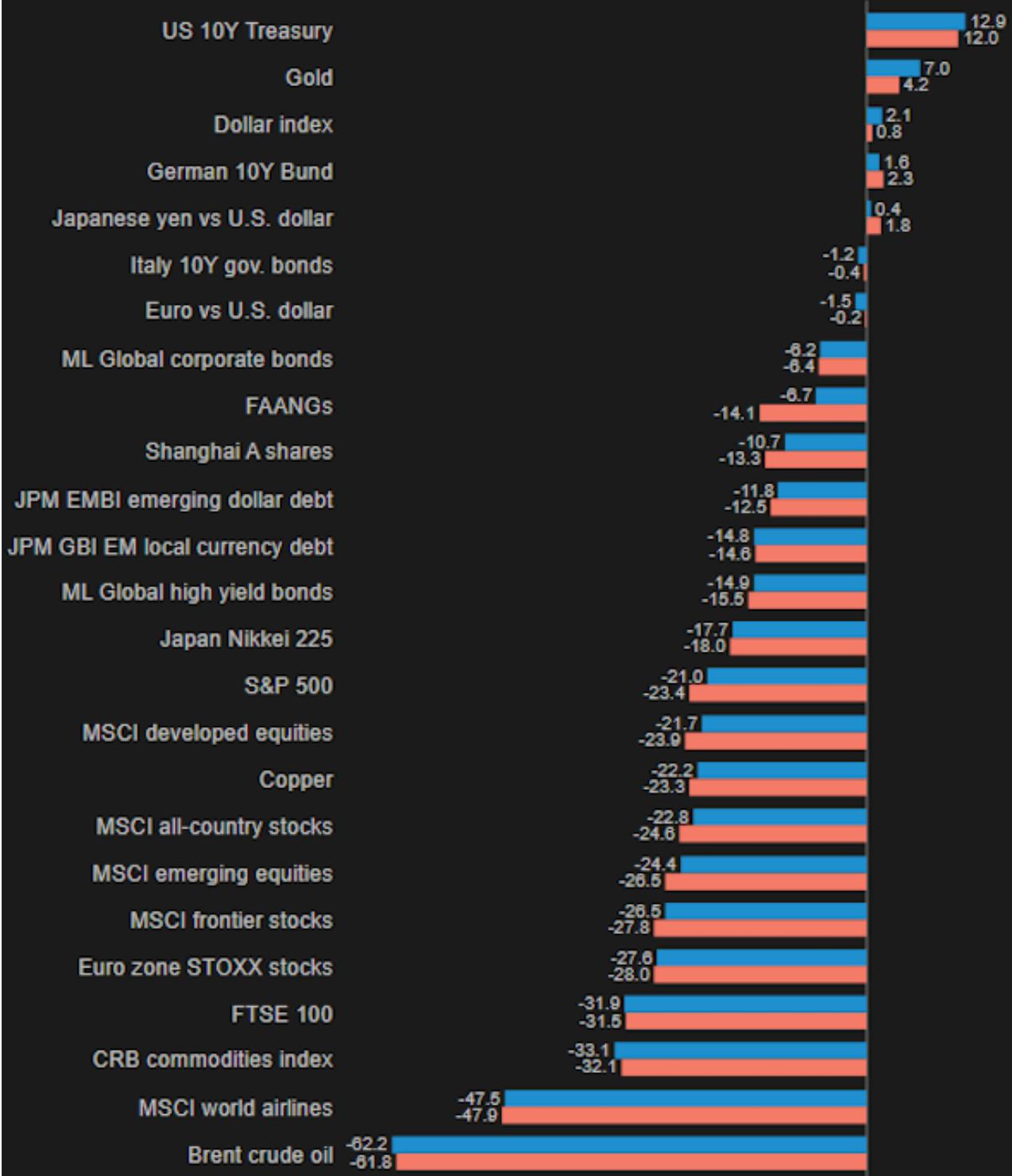
How Coronavirus and the Oil Collapse Have Impacted Financial Markets:

The sell-off this year due to the coronavirus and the oil price collapse has been one of the most destructive since the Great Depression. The numbers have been staggering. -\$15 trillion has been wiped of world stock markets. Oil has slumped -60% as Saudi Arabia and Russia have started a price war, and emerging markets like Brazil, Mexico and South Africa have seen their currencies plummet more than -20%. That carnage has seen -22% and -24% slumps for the Dow Jones and S&P 500, almost -25% for MSCI 49-country world index, and -27% for London’s internationally exposed FTSE. For reference, the record quarterly drop for Wall Street was 40% in 1932 in the midst of the Great Depression. Will April bring much relief? JPMorgan reckons the coronavirus will have pushed the world economy into a 12% contraction in Q1 and with pandemic still spreading rapidly and keeping large parts of the global economy shuttered it is unlikely to get much easier in Q2. More details and several other charts are

available from [Reuters](#).

Coronavirus crashes financial markets

Percentage change (\$): ■ Year-to-date ■ Since coronavirus worries escalated on Jan 20

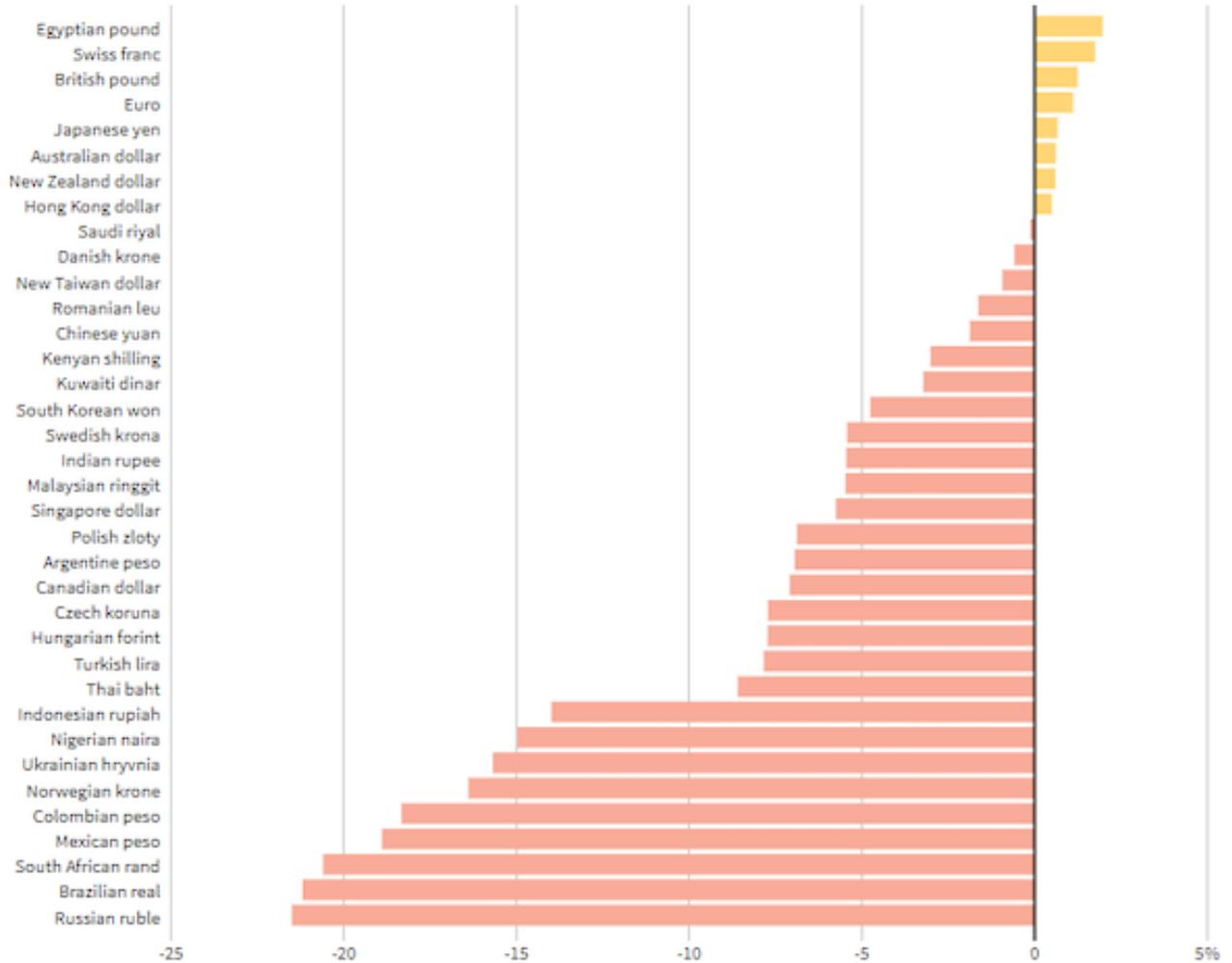


Source: Refinitiv Datastream, data to 27/03/2020

@ReutersGraphics @marojonesrtrs

Global foreign exchange rates

Currencies against the US dollar, year-to-date change



Source: Thomson Reuters Datastream
By Michael Ovaska | REUTERS GRAPHICS



Looking For Insight?

Kevin Van Trump is now offering:

Webinars & Conference Calls

Select Times Available Next Week.

Contact: jordan@farmdirection.com



ASSISTANCE (We will keep this pinned here until further notice): For assistance with food and bills, as well as other free or reduced cost programs that help people affected by the **COVID-19 pandemic** [Click HERE](#).

Apple Releases COVID-19 Screening App: *Apple on Friday released a COVID-19 website and app with a screening tool and other information about the coronavirus outbreak. Apple said the app and site are meant to "make it easy for people across the country to get trusted information and guidance at a time when the U.S. is feeling the heavy burden of COVID-19." The tools developed in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the White House coronavirus task force, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Learn more [HERE](#).*

Explaining Coronavirus to Kids: *Tumble, the science podcast for kids and*

families, is answering kids' questions about COVID-19, in simple language they can understand. Listen [HERE](#).

Hast Thou Heard Patrick Stewart Reading Sonnets? *Star Trek star Patrick Stewart, who cut his teeth as an actor with Britain's Royal Shakespeare Company, has been posting videos of himself reading Shakespearean sonnets. "How about, 'A sonnet a day keeps the doctor away?'" Stewart tweeted. Find him on [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).*

Astronaut Scott Kelly's Tips on Isolation: *NASA astronaut Scott Kelly knows a thing or two about isolation - He spent almost a year on the International Space Station. He shares some of the lessons he's learned from space and how they can be applied to our circumstances today. Click [HERE](#).*

FARM TANK

Tweets of the Day





Downtown Josh Brown ✓
@ReformedBroker

In 1918, a global pandemic killed 5% of the world's population.

18 months later, the Roaring 20's began.

It seems inconceivable now but that's actually what happened.

awealthofcommonsense.com/2020/03/how-di...
[@awealthofcs](#)

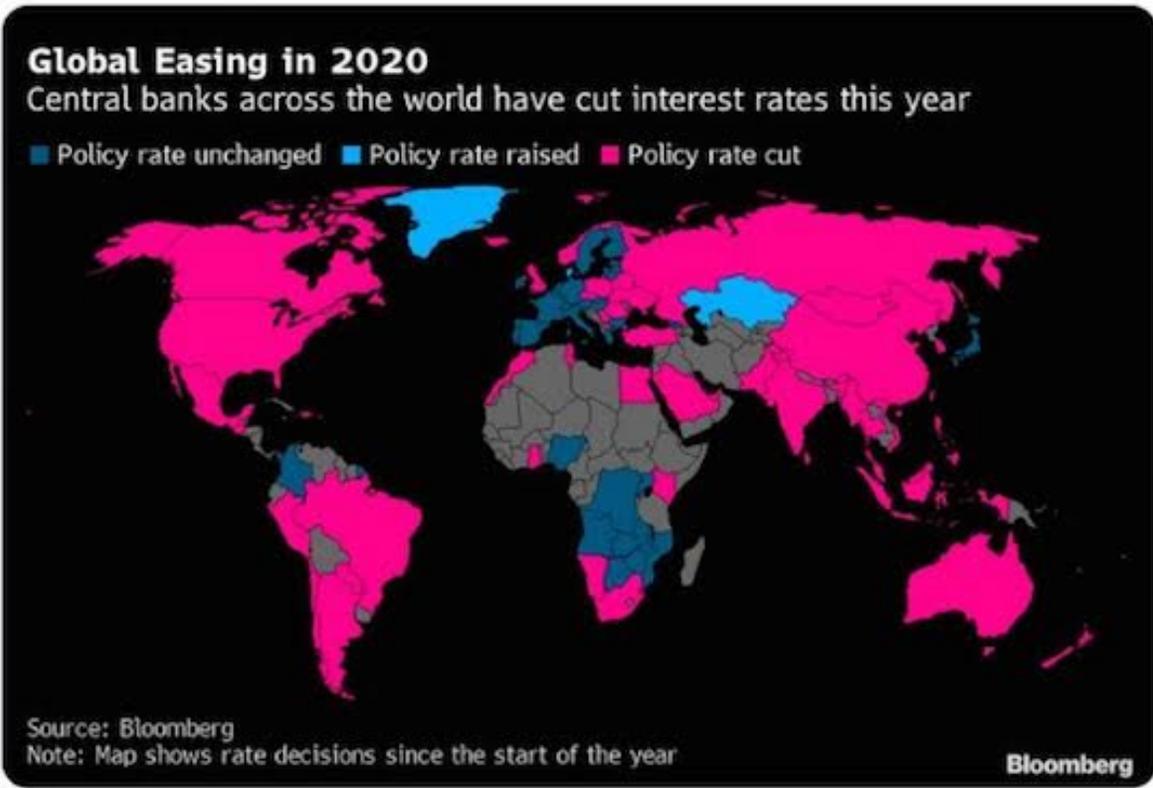




Bloomberg Economics ✓
@economics



India becomes the latest central bank to cut interest rates in an emergency move trib.al/YkasrBt





Jerod T. McDaniel
@jerodmcdaniel



Picking up and moving stock tanks from stalk pastures...

Guess who's homeschool just got a pool!!!! 🌊

I'm sure @JulieMac08 is going to be very excited 😘





Jon Kauffman
@molinegreen



With Maui plans on hold for the time being we took advantage of bring your kids to work day(weeks, months) and found our own microclimate by the dryer. Not too shabby with 190 degrees coming off of the neighbours wheat.... sadly still haven't found any Canadian palm trees though





Patrick Swindoll
@DeltaRiceFarmer

We are having metal fabrication class today.





Old Fat Guy
@DiscoDavid9



What goes around comes around!



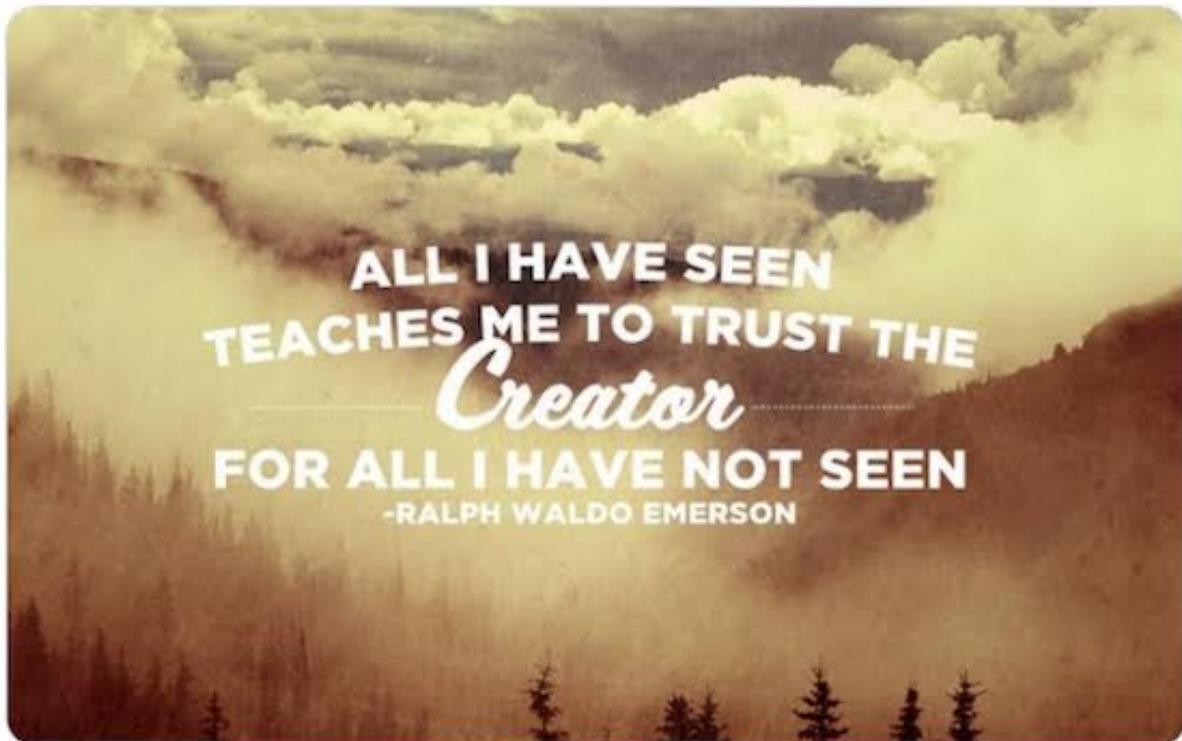


ActionComplete
@ActionComplete

All I have seen teaches me to trust the Creator for all I have not seen.

~Ralph Waldo Emerson

#quotes #inspiration

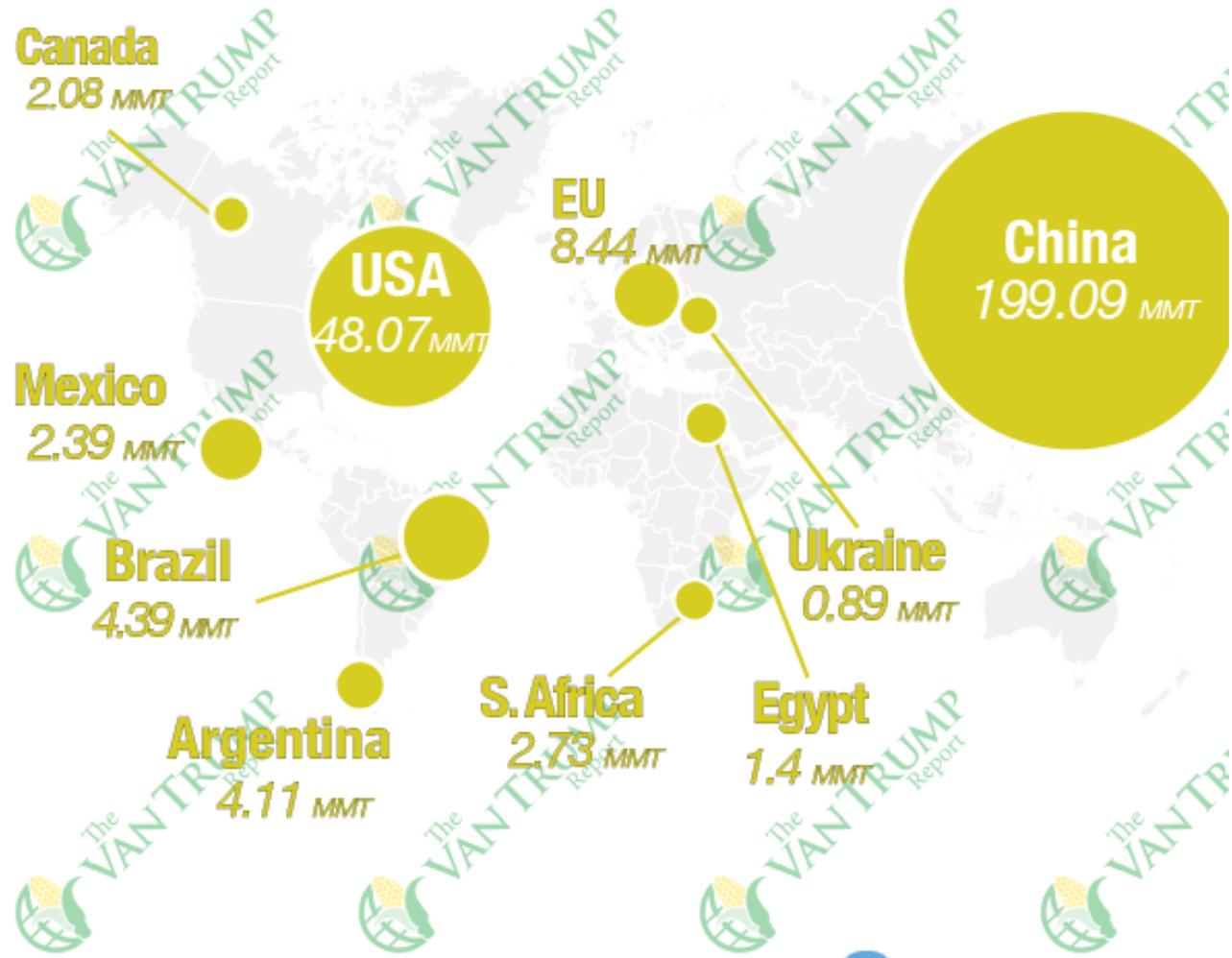


CORN bulls will continue to try and battle the fallout in ethanol. As the industry is being gutted overall corn demand is being heavily questioned. How much nearby demand will need to be slashed by ethanol? Will the Chinese be back in the U.S. market anytime soon? Will feed demand from the livestock sector help despite consumer demand pulling back? At the same time, bears are pointing to mostly cooperative weather in Brazil and what could easily be a record crop. The weather here in the U.S. at this point is being considered as mostly a non-event. I could argue that some areas are way too wet and some areas are too dry but as a whole the trade seems little concerned. All eyes are on ethanol and coronavirus headlines. How low will crude oil prices tumble? has the U.S. dollar peaked? How will corona ultimately impact the U.S. and global consumers? If we are about to enter a full-blown global recession the fund traders will not be overly optimistic about commodities. Will other exporting nations struggle to provide delivery as

they work to quarantine corona? As a spec, I still worry that nearby prices could chop sideways to lower as the market searches for answers. As a producer, I'm clearly aware of the negative balance sheet and the negative fundamentals, but I believe there will be a weather-related headline or demand-driven event deeper in the marketing year that provides a better window-of-opportunity to price cash bushels. I am extremely blessed and happy that we elected to lock in the strong basis back when provided the opportunity. I'm hearing in many parts of the country the basis is falling apart, especially in areas in proximity to ethanol plant closures. Don't forget, the USDA will be out tomorrow at 11am CST with updated quarterly balance sheet numbers and its updated planted acreage estimate. I am keeping current hedges in place and may look to lift a few more if we post another leg lower after digesting tomorrow's USDA data. I feel like there could be longer-term value if prices on the front-end trade-in or around the \$3.20 range.

2019/20 Corn Ending Stocks

Global Ending Stocks: 297.3 Million Metric Tons



Source: USDA, PS&D, March, 2020

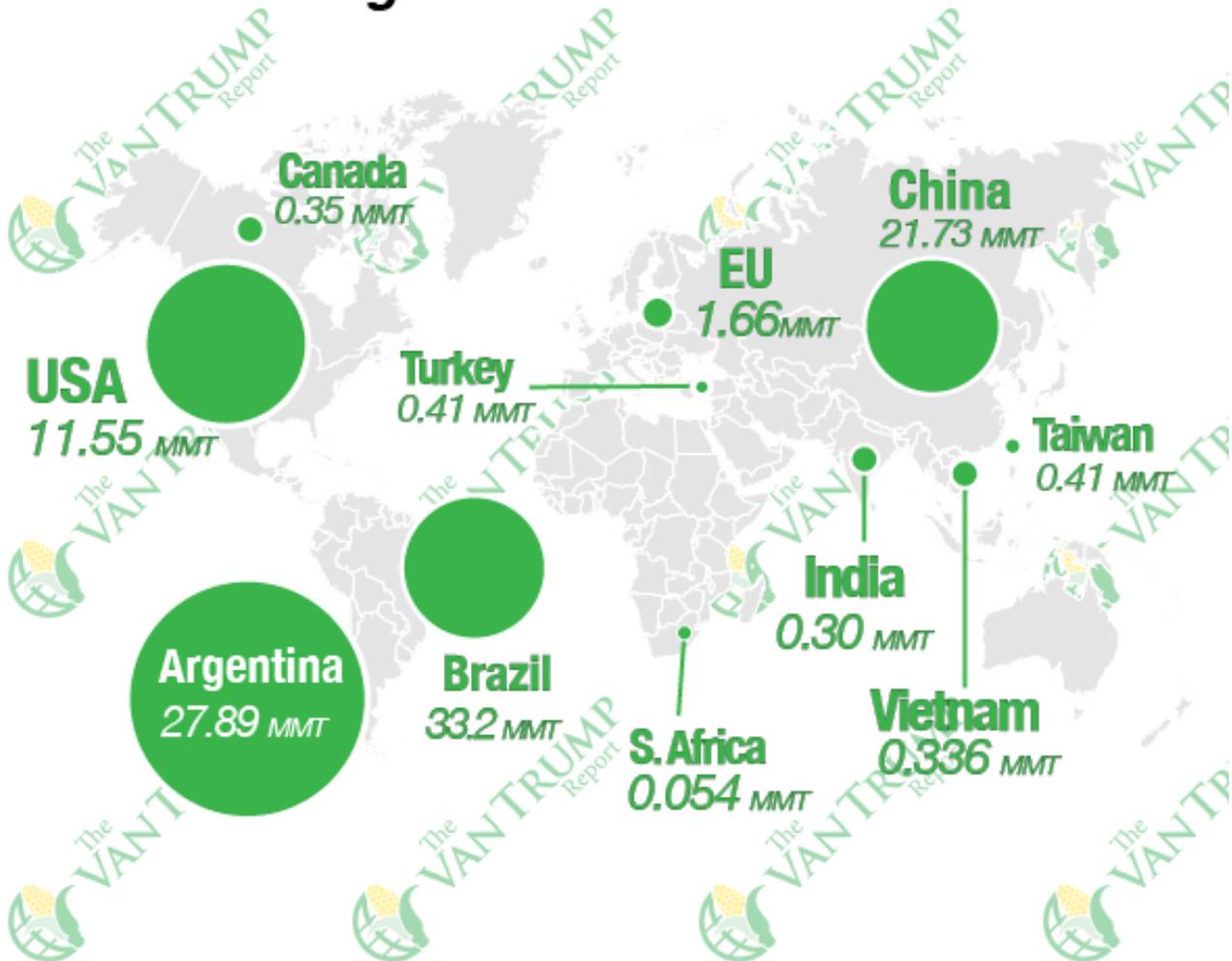
 @KevinVanTrump

An advertisement for Holganix. On the left, a white box with a black border contains the text: "Wondering What To Do With Your Worst Ground?" followed by a horizontal line, "Learn More About Holganix Today!" and the phone number "816-322-5300". On the right, a photograph shows a vast agricultural field under a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. The field is flooded with water, and rows of young soybean plants are visible, some partially submerged. In the background, there are green trees and a few white farm buildings.

SOYBEAN bulls are pointing to more logistical concerns for South American suppliers. There's talk that Argentine crush facilities are having a tough time sourcing beans around the Rosario area as transportation starts to be more heavily locked-down. I've also been hearing talk that trucking, transportation and labor complications in Brazil are pushing basis levels higher. Bulls like myself are hoping these types of headlines ultimately mean China might start to come to the U.S. for more supply. Stay tuned? At the same time, we might get some bullish news from the USDA tomorrow when the update Quarterly Stocks. Unfortunately, bears are pointing to U.S. producers who continue to talk about planting more soybean acres and the economist who continue to fear the fallout of a global recession as the world battle the coronavirus. This should be a very interesting week. As a spec, I remain a bull. I lightened my position late last week and would like to build a bit more length on a leg lower. As a producer, I want to remain extremely patient!

2019/20 Soybean Ending Stocks

Global Ending Stocks: 102.4 Million Metric Tons



Source: USDA, PS&D, March, 2020

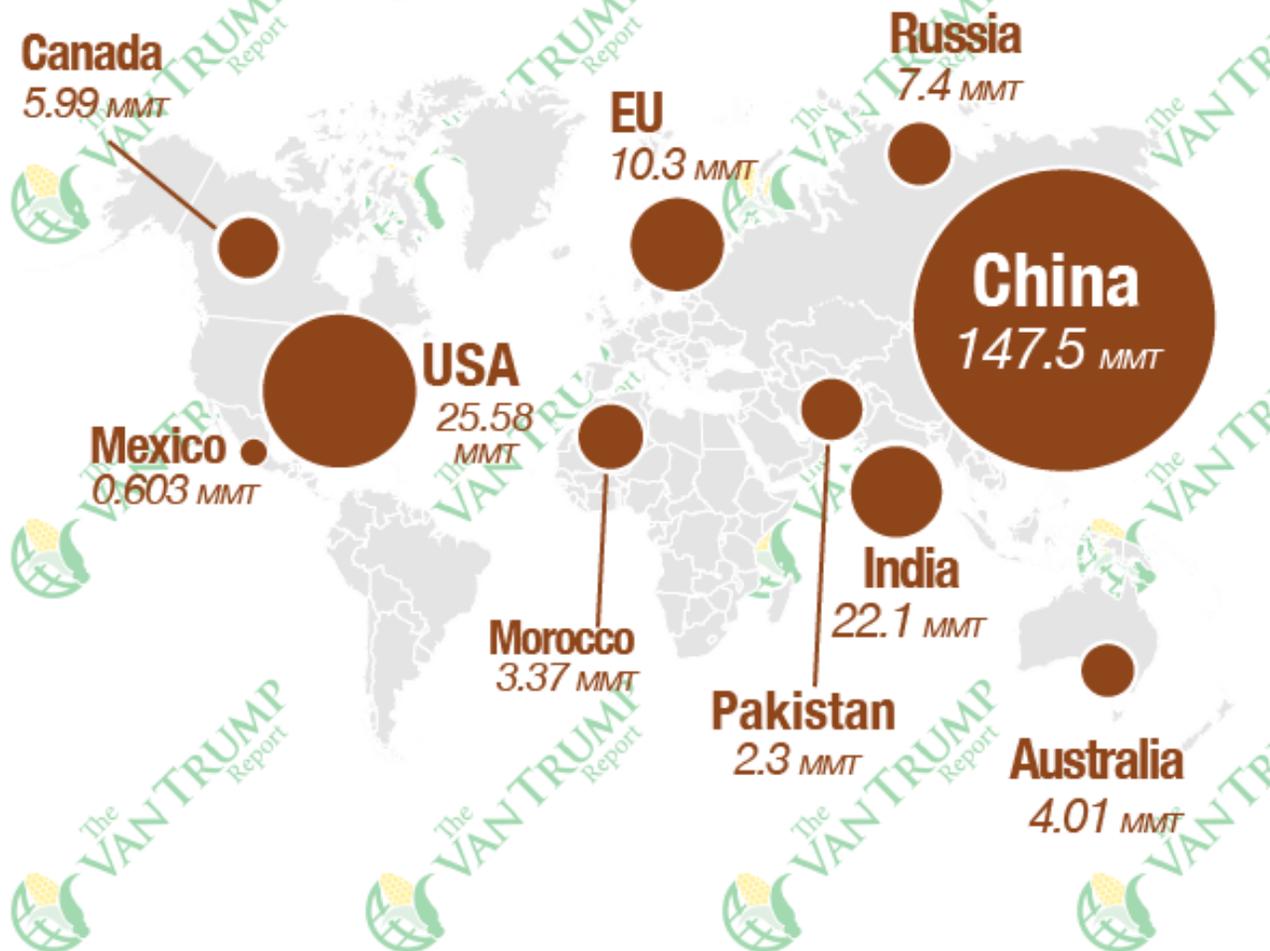
@KevinVanTrump

WHEAT bulls will be trying to duplicate last week's big performance up +30 cents. There are ongoing worries and concerns that some global exports might not be able to deliver. At the same time, several importing nations are increasing their purchases so as not to get caught shorthanded. There are a ton of moving parts at the moment and I remain a conservative bull. I reduced some of my long exposure late last week because of margin requirements and decided to bank the profits. perhaps that will prove to be a nearby blessing. I would like to reestablish more length if we were to see an unexpected setback... anything is possible in these markets as massive money continues to slosh around. As a producer, despite bullish optimism, I pulled the trigger on a few more new-crop cash bushels to help reduce longer-term exposure and risk. Now that we are just 90-days from July I like to start paying a lot more attention to the game clock. I will continue to feather in new-crop cash sales if prices keep working higher. Keeping a close eye

on U.S. weather and logistical complications in Europe and parts of the Balck Sea region.

2019/20 Wheat Ending Stocks

Global Ending Stocks: 287.1 Million Metric Tons



Source: USDA, PS&D, March, 2020

 @KevinVanTrump

U.S. Planted Acres

	March #’s	Avg. Trade Estimate	Range of Estimates	2019 Acres	USDA 2020 Outlook
Corn	???	94.328	92.50 - 96.40	89.70	94.00
Soybeans	???	84.865	82.70 - 87.10	76.10	85.00
All Wheat	???	44.982	44.35 - 46.00	45.16	45.00
Winter Wheat	???	30.90	30.21 - 31.70	31.159	30.804
Other Spring	???	12.631	12.20 - 13.20	12.66	N/A
Durum	???	1.512	1.10 - 2.35	1.339	N/A
Cotton	???	12.70	11.70 - 13.60	13.738	12.50
Sorghum	???	5.823	5.35 - 6.50	5.265	N/A
Barley	???	2.686	2.50 - 2.80	2.721	N/A
Oats	???	2.761	2.65 - 2.90	2.81	N/A
Rice	???	2.954	2.60 - 3.28	2.54	3.10

U.S. Grain Ending Stocks as of March 1

	March #’s	Avg. Trade Estimate	Range of Estimates	March 1, 2019	December 1, 2019
Corn	???	8.125	7.825 - 8.492	8.613	11.389
Soybeans	???	2.241	2.075 - 2.701	2.727	3.252
Wheat	???	1.432	1.385 - 1.572	1.593	1.843

A photograph of a professional podcast recording setup, featuring a large condenser microphone on a boom arm and a smaller dynamic microphone on a stand, set against a warm, orange-toned background.

FARM TANK

A Podcast That Gets **Inside** The Greatest Minds In **Agriculture**

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A close-up photograph of a goat's head, looking directly at the camera. The goat is wearing a red and black striped life preserver around its neck. The background is a clear blue sky.

AgSwag 

WHATEVER FLOATS YOUR GOAT

A Section for Creative Minds

> **Supply of Soy to Argentine Feed Factories Down by Half and Falling:** *The supply of soybeans to Argentine crushing plants is down by half and falling, the*

Rosario grains exchange said on Friday, as municipalities citing health concerns defied a government order that they allow cargo trucks to reach the plants. Mayors of dozens of towns near the Rosario grains export hub have blocked ground transport as Argentina locks down against the coronavirus pandemic. The federal government has told municipal governments to unblock their roads, but many have defied the order, saying health must come before trade. "Some municipalities are closing themselves off to grains trucks while others are opening. The situation is changing day by day but the effect on the supply of soybeans to the crushing plants that are affected has clearly been negative," said Emilce Terre, chief economist at the Rosario grains exchange. In the first week of March, 28,033 trucks hauling soy, corn and other agricultural commodities arrived at Rosario ports and meal factories, according to data compiled by the exchange. That number plummeted to 13,267 in the first five days of last week. Read more [HERE](#).

> French Agriculture Minister *Didier Guillaume said last week that the country's farms need 45,000 workers in March, 80,000 on top of that in April, and another 80,000 in May, as foreign seasonal workers can't come this year. (Source: The Wall Street Journal)*

> Russia Proposes Grain Export Quota: *Russia's Agriculture Ministry has proposed to limit grain exports for three months, it said on Friday. The proposal to limit grain exports to 7 million metric tons for April-June was a response to the Russian government's request last week to consider whether exports of any food should be limited because of the coronavirus pandemic. The size of the limit doesn't have much bite, traders said, because 7 million metric tons is more or less the general expectation for Russia's export volumes until the end of the 2019/20 season on June 30. But the move has raised expectations that further steps might follow, given Russia's history of limiting grain exports in tough times. In fellow Black Sea exporter Ukraine, the economy ministry on Friday said it was monitoring wheat exports daily and would take measures if needed. Bakers and millers in the country had earlier asked for grain exports to be limited to prevent a surge in bread prices if the spread of the coronavirus accelerates. (Source: Reuters)*

> FDA Eases Nutrition Labeling Rules for Restaurants Clearing Inventory: *To facilitate the distribution of food during the coronavirus pandemic, restaurants and food manufacturers will be temporarily allowed to sell packages of food that lack the Nutrition Facts label normally required for retail sale, said the FDA on Thursday. The food could be sold directly to consumers or to other businesses for sale to the public. In a statement, the FDA said it "does not intend to object if the packaged food lacks a Nutrition Facts label, provided that the food does not have any nutrition claims and contains other required information on the label." The FDA also said it will work with food manufacturers for the rest of the year on use of the recently updated Nutrition Facts and Supplement Facts labels and will not focus on enforcement. The labels took effect on Jan. 1, but the FDA previously said*

it would allow a six-month grace period for compliance. The FDA "guidance" on nutrition labeling is available [HERE](#). (Source: [Ag Insider](#))

> Biomanufacturing Will Bring Rural America to the Fore in U.S. Response to COVID-19: *From former Ag Secretary Tom Vilsak and California Representative Ro Khanna, a think-piece on how production of biobased goods in the United States can be an engine of job growth and development as the country recovers from the COVID-19 crisis. Check it out [HERE](#).*

> Amazon Workers at Staten Island Warehouse Plan Strike: *Amazon warehouse workers at a fulfillment center in Staten Island, known as JFK8, are planning to walk out today to call attention to the lack of protections for employees who continue to come to work amid the coronavirus outbreak. Associates say they've grown increasingly concerned about coming into work after an employee tested positive for the virus there last week. The workers want the strike to put pressure on Amazon to close the facility for cleaning and offer employees paid time off while it's shut down. Amazon recently implemented daily temperature screenings at its Staten Island facility as an additional preventative measure, the spokesperson said. Read more [HERE](#).*

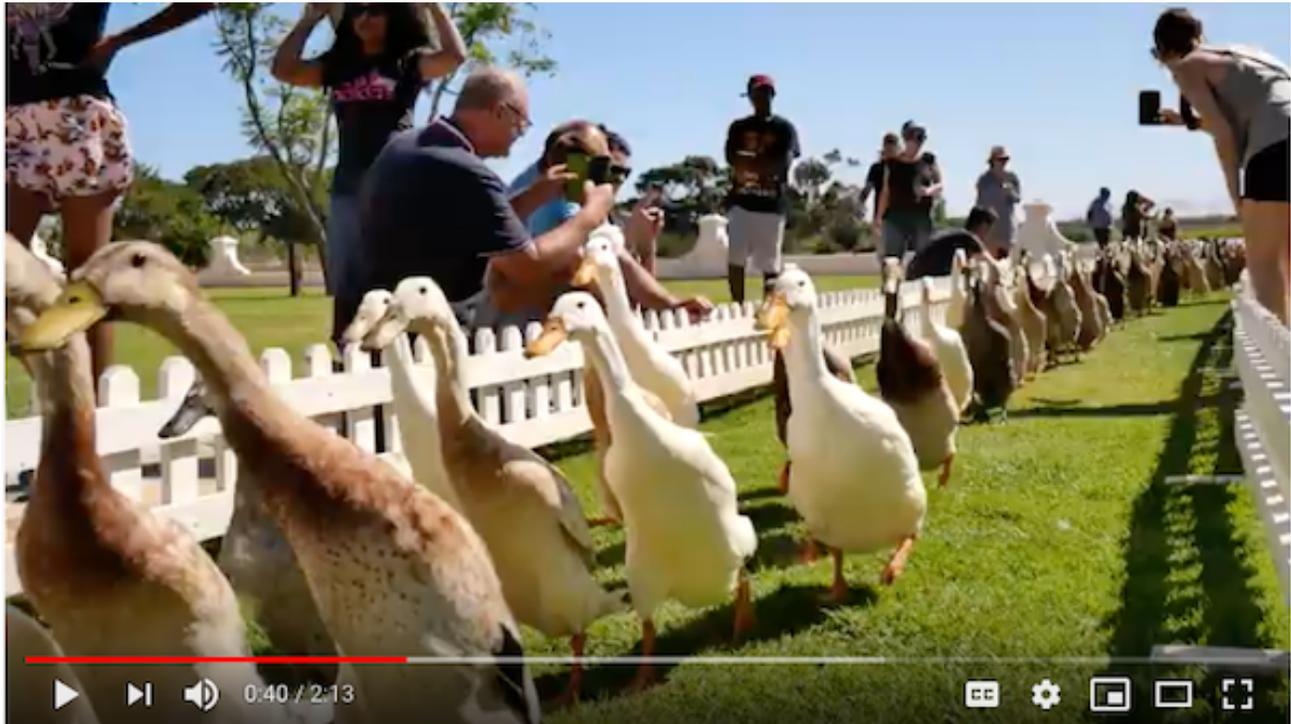
> Tesla to Slash On-Site Staff at Nevada Factory by 75%: *U.S. electric carmaker Tesla plans to slash on-site staff at its Nevada battery plant by around 75% due to the coronavirus pandemic, the local county manager said. The move comes after its Japanese battery partner Panasonic said it would scale down operations at the Nevada factory this week before closing it for 14 days. The factory produces electric motors and battery packs for Tesla's popular Model 3 sedans. The Reno Gazette Journal, which earlier reported the planned suspension, said Panasonic has about 3,500 employees at the Nevada plant. Tesla said last week it would temporarily suspend production at its vehicle factory in San Francisco Bay Area from end of March 23, as well as at its New York solar roof tile factory. However, Tesla CEO Elon Musk said the company will reopen the New York plant "as soon as humanly possible" to manufacture ventilators for coronavirus patients. (Source: Reuters)*

> This is What the Coronavirus Pandemic Looks Like From Space: *Images taken by Earth-orbiting satellites have revealed the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on Earth, with a third of the world's population now under lockdown. Once populated areas are now deserted as people remain indoors, from previously bustling city centers to places of worship. Roads that had been full of cars are now empty, while beaches are devoid of pretty much all human activity. The amazing images were taken by California-based company Planet Labs and Colorado-based Maxar Technologies, both of which have fleets of Earth-imaging satellites in orbit. And by comparing the latest views to archival images, stark changes around the world can be seen in impressive detail. Check them out [HERE](#).*

> What the MLB Deal with Players Means for the 2020 Season and Beyond: *Following round-the-clock negotiations since the coronavirus outbreak postponed the beginning of the season, Major League Baseball and the MLB Players Association struck a deal Friday that outlined how the sport would proceed in the coming months. The players gained certainty that even in a lost season they would be granted full service time. The league received significant financial hedges and control over how baseball would resume play. It was a significant agreement with enormous implications that go beyond 2020. ESPN unpacks the full breadth of its consequences [HERE](#).*

> U.S. Hand-Sanitizer Sales *were just below \$200 million in 2019, a 4.5% decline from the previous year, according to Nielsen. The most recent data available shows U.S. hand-sanitizer sales were up more than 470% for the week ended March 7, compared with the year-earlier period."*

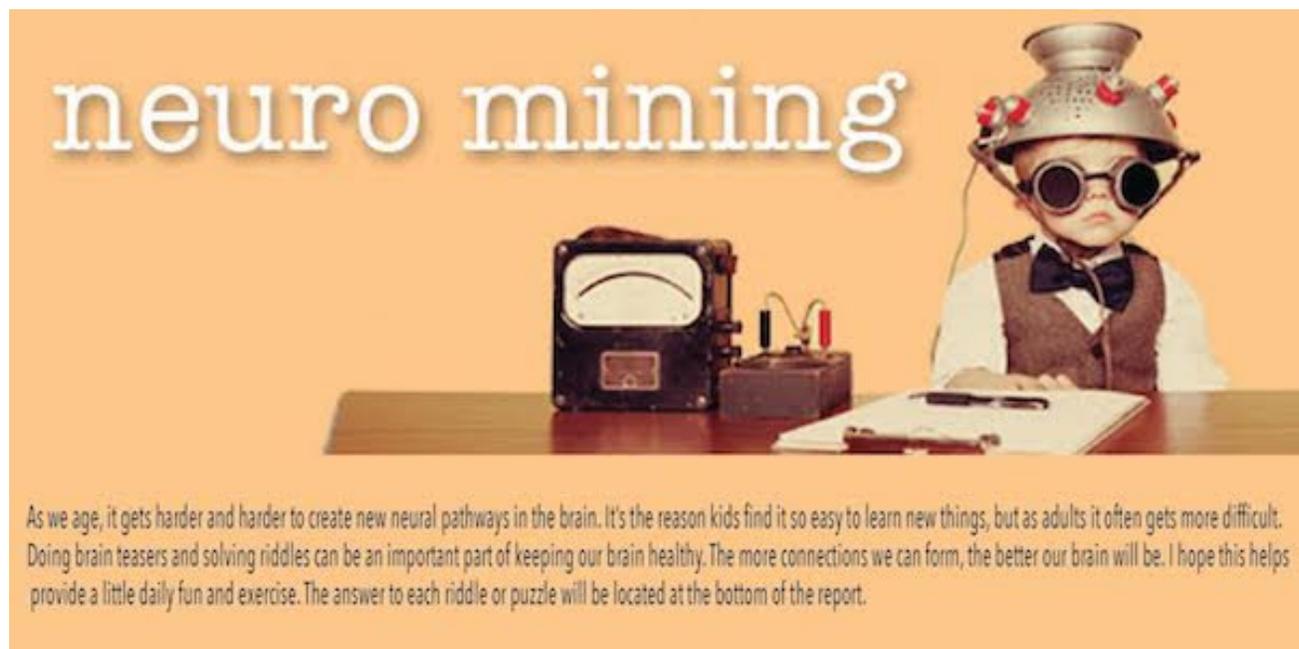
> A Parade of 2,000 Ducks Keeps a South African Vineyard Running: *On the Vergenoegd Löw Wine Estate, just outside Cape Town in South Africa, the daily commute of the workforce is slightly different than in New York or London. Here, the workers quack all along the way. Ten-plus sub-species of Indian Runner Ducks, to be precise. Gavin Moyes, the estate's tasting room manager and enthusiastic colleague to the nearly 2,000 ducks, explains that they serve as "natural pest control." Moyes explains that they started off with chickens but says "they proved not to be so efficient." But the ducks are beneficial in multiple ways. "The ducks...love eating snails and mosquito larvae, and when they defecate on the field, their dung helps our vines grow," says Moyes. "It helps us on our way to being 100 percent pesticide and fertilizer-free." At Vergenoegd, the estate holds a daily duck parade. When the gate between the estate and the duck residences is opened, the birds march along a fenced path, all the way to the fields. And thousands of visitors from around the world, with absolutely no interest in wine, line up to watch them waddle back and forth to work. There is a two-minute video of hundreds of them waddling down their path that the kids would probably love [HERE](#). Read more about the vineyard and how they utilize their duck army [HERE](#).*



Central Maine - *We planted a few acres of sweet corn yesterday. It's not the earliest ever but close. If all goes as planned, we will be covered with poly by the end of the weekend. There's snow coming Sunday night but we have always found snow soon after laying poly gives us greater success in sealing poly to the soil. We are shooting for July 4th weekend for the first crop. We have ever only failed at early poly covered corn once but that was planted a tad earlier. We plan on being very busy at the farmer's market this season as many summer residents are here 2 months early and they like to spend on fresh produce.*

Northwest Oklahoma - *The wheat is coming along nicely. The wheat that was grazed over the winter is a little behind but still looks okay. The cattle that grazed will be going to market soon and they all gained pretty well. I would say we have a good chance at making 60 plus bushels if we get a rain or two in April. This is as good as we have seen the early wheat look, at least in our area. In the last few years, a lot of guys have been running soybeans behind wheat if there are any rains predicted for our area in June. If we can get 25-30 bushels beans and a nice wheat crop then the year isn't half bad.*

Central Illinois - *We are expecting another round of storms that will set us back farther from planting. There hasn't been much field work done yet and lots of guys are still waiting on their seeds to be delivered as all logistics are taking care of essential items in the area. It could be really interesting how this spring plays out with the weather and the effects of the virus. I know most guys who went ahead and put things in the ground didn't do as well as those who took PP acres. I suspect if labor and logistics stay tight this spring, we could see a lot more PP acres. At the moment 2 of the 3 retail operations in our area are not even open, so I'm not sure that everyone who wants field work done and needs spraying will be able to schedule it.*



TODAY'S RIDDLE: What can you hold in your right hand but not in your left hand?



READ: The Pandemic Impact to Rural America
Uncertainties are everywhere... but there are more talks and debates circulating

about rural America and how it will be impacted by the spread of the virus. More than half of counties in America have no hospital ICU beds... I'm worried! Everyone is talking about the big cities but we have some big hurdles to clear as well. With fewer hospitals and fewer medical workers, there's certainly some worry and unique challenges rural residents and doctors will be facing. According to a 2018 GAO report, 64 rural hospitals closed between 2013 and 2017, which is more than twice the number of closures in the preceding five-year period. Since 2005, 162 rural hospitals have shuttered! Most hospitals closed because of financial problems, and 38% of rural hospitals are unprofitable. In February, The Chartis Group released a study showing that more than 450 rural hospitals are vulnerable to closure

It's estimated that about 15% of the American population lives in rural areas. Generally speaking, rural Americans are older and many argue their health is a bit more fragile. Smoking, diabetes, high blood pressure and being overweight are all more prevalent in rural areas. Keep in mind, being older as well as having underlying health conditions have increased mortality rates, meaning the older and higher-risk populations are at greater risk.

Another variable that adds to the rural complication is exposure to large amounts of dust, chemicals, and outside irritants. It's hard to remember a spring that someone in the family wasn't battling a sinus infection or some other type of respiratory complication associated with mowing, planting, or working in heavy dust, pollen, ragweed, etc... This will obviously have many of us freaking out. As soon as someone in the house starts coughing and hacking we will more than likely begin jumping to conclusions and forecasting out the what-ifs.

Large farming operations comprised mostly of Hispanic workers add to the mix as many lack comprehensive health care benefits. According to the Department of Labor's most recent agricultural workers survey, just 47% report having health coverage, compared to 91.5% of the general population. Meaning, with little to no paid sick leave, farmworkers are heavily disincentivized from seeing a doctor or taking time off in the case of illness.

Why have many hospitals closed? Rural areas have fewer commercial payers than more urban markets, which means these hospitals have a higher volume of state-funded healthcare with lower reimbursement rates. As the U.S. population ages and struggles with chronic conditions, these issues are more extreme in rural areas. Remote locations have a harder time recruiting full-time physicians, especially in specialties such as orthopedics or neurology. While rural patients still need these services, rural hospitals are often only able to offer them once a week or once a month with alternating coverage for subspecialties. It leads to a lack of access to care for patients, burned-out physicians and loss of revenue for organizations. Keep in mind, the typical rural hospital employs about 300 people,

serves a community of about 60,000. So, when the only hospital in a county closes, it creates a potentially big problem, especially in a situation like we are facing now with coronavirus. This is sad, but over the last 15 years, the difference in mortality between rural and urban areas has tripled.

Look inside the numbers from Alaska... Alaska has reported almost 100 cases and its first Covid-19-related death. Experts from the CDC estimate 40 to 70 percent of the state's 737,500 people may eventually contract Covid-19, meaning at least 295,000 Alaskans could get sick. Based on initial reports, 20 percent, or 59,000 people, will need hospital care. Alaska only has 1,500 general hospital beds. And even if as few as five percent of Covid-19 patients become critically ill (a conservative estimate), that's a minimum of 14,750 people needing ICU beds. And Theobald estimates that Alaska only has around 200. If that many people get sick over the next one to three months, only one in 25 people who need intensive care will be able to get it. Even if you halved the number of Alaskans infected with Covid-19 to 20 percent, the system will still be over capacity — by thousands of people.

Keeping transmission rates low in rural America might also be challenging as many doubt the seriousness of the issue and what they are seeing in the media. Another problem for some in rural America is getting their hands on accurate and trustworthy information. I know it's hard to believe, but many rural Americans still do not have good access to broadband services. Interestingly, this is leading to a ton of misinformation in many isolated areas. Meaning telehealth and other web-based healthcare is probably not an option. They will have to travel and see the doc's in person and go to the pharmacy in person as delivery is not an option. In addition, many in rural America will need to work to keep our nation's food system flowing. Talk about "hazard pay" the farmer and those in agriculture that are sacrificing to keep our food supply running should be given some "hazard pay".

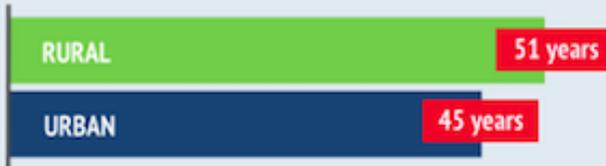
Stay safe and understand some of the additional risk factors we are facing in rural America. We have fewer healthcare facilities, fewer healthcare workers, we are older with more underlying conditions, we have less access to delivery services and a host of other work-related risks that might add to the mix. I'm not wanting to add to the fears but I do want my friends and readers to be smart and think clearly about our family's future. We will get past this! (Source: [HealthLeader](#); [The Counter](#), [Forbes](#), Vox)



Rural America Has An Older, Sicker and Poorer Population

OLDER

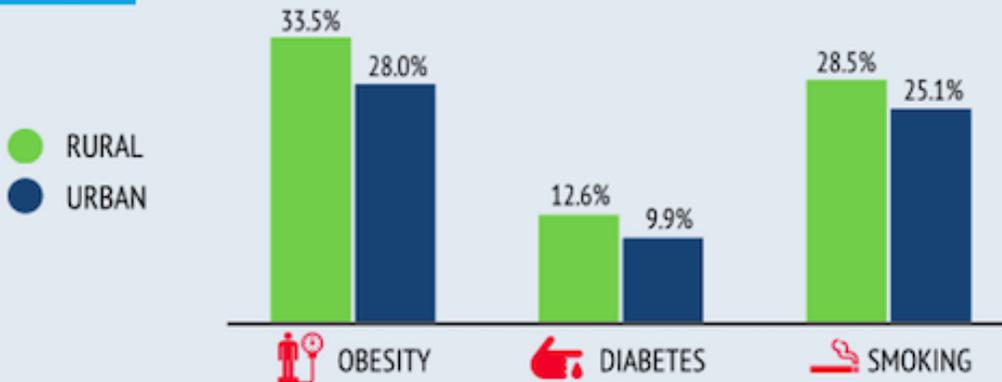
The median age of adults living in rural areas is greater than those living in urban areas.



18.4% of rural Americans are age 65+ versus **14.5%** of urban Americans.

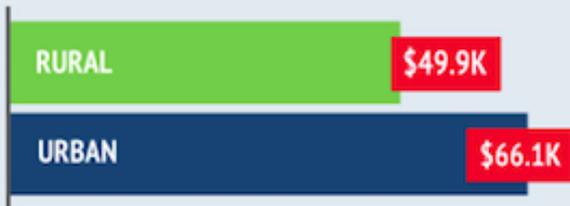
SICKER:

Rural areas have higher rates of several health risk factors and conditions.



POORER:

Nationally, rural households had lower median household income.



Below the Line

14.7% of the rural population is below the poverty line, compared to **11.3%** of the urban population.

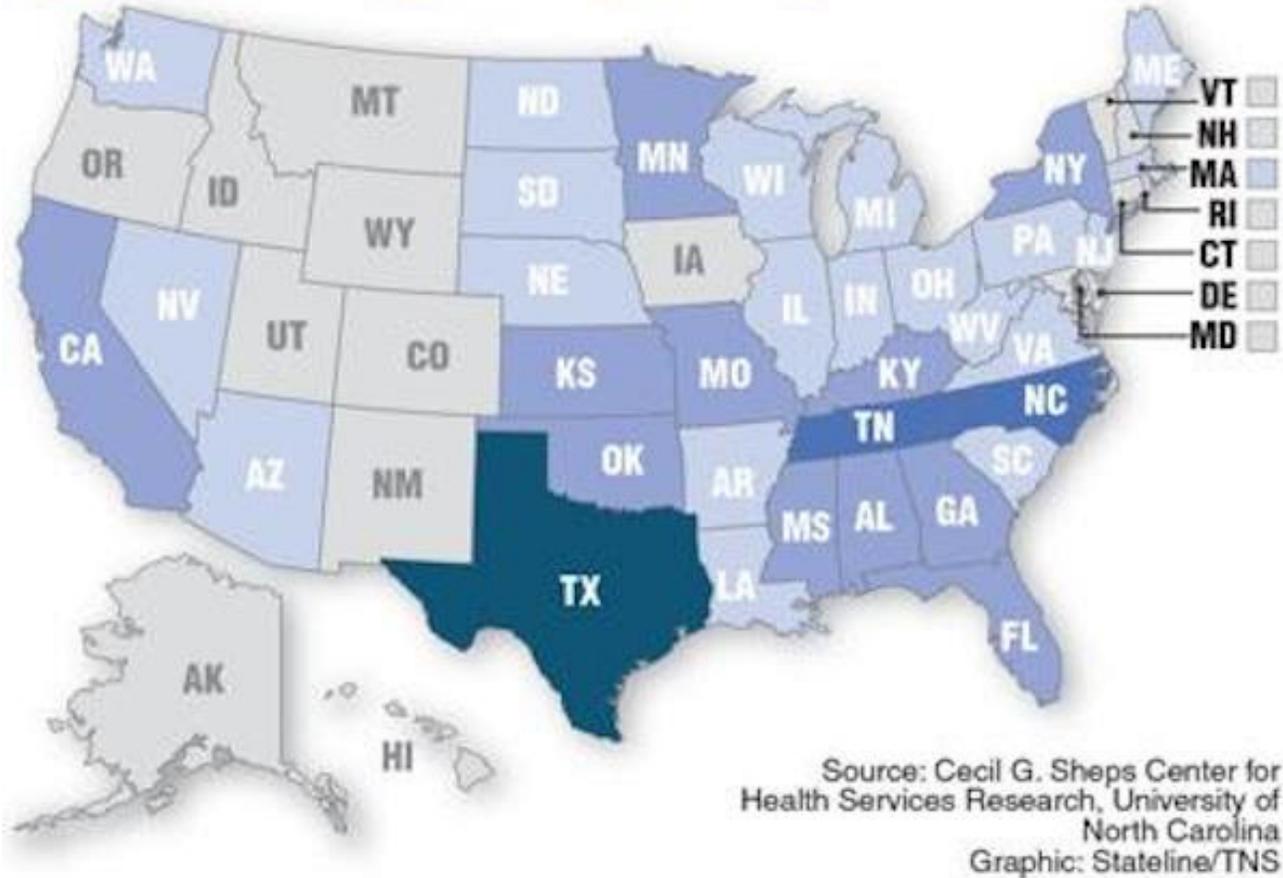




Rural hospital closures

Of the 163 rural hospitals that have closed since 2005, more than 60% shut their doors since 2012.

More than 20 10-19 5-9 Fewer than 5

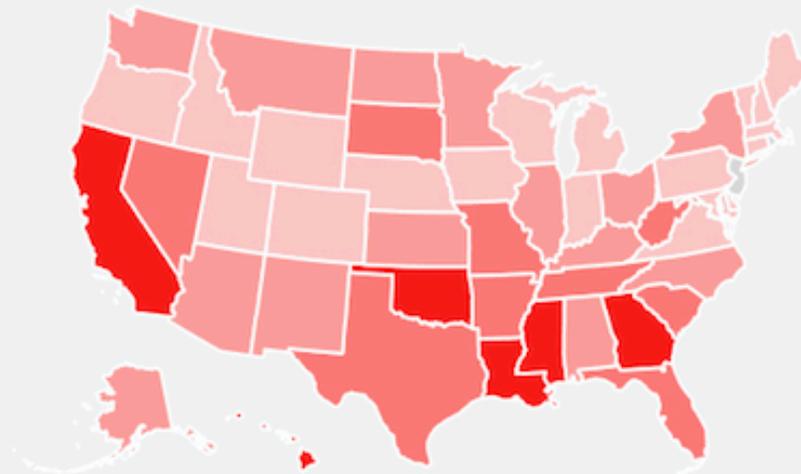




Percent of rural hospitals vulnerable to closure

There are 673 rural hospitals at risk of closing, according to the Chartis Center for Rural Health. The map below shows the percentage of rural hospitals in each state that face possible closure.

- 0% - 11%
- 13% - 25%
- 29% - 44%
- 48% - 79%
- No data



The Chartis Group, which includes partner iVantage, is a health care analytics firm that measures various aspects of health and hospital performance.





15% OF ALL AMERICANS LIVE IN RURAL AREAS

Rural Americans are at **greater risk of death** from 5 leading causes than urban Americans

- Heart Disease
- Cancer
- Unintentional Injury
- Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease
- Stroke

PROTECT YOURSELF

Be physically active | Eat right | Don't smoke
Wear your seat belt | See your doctor regularly

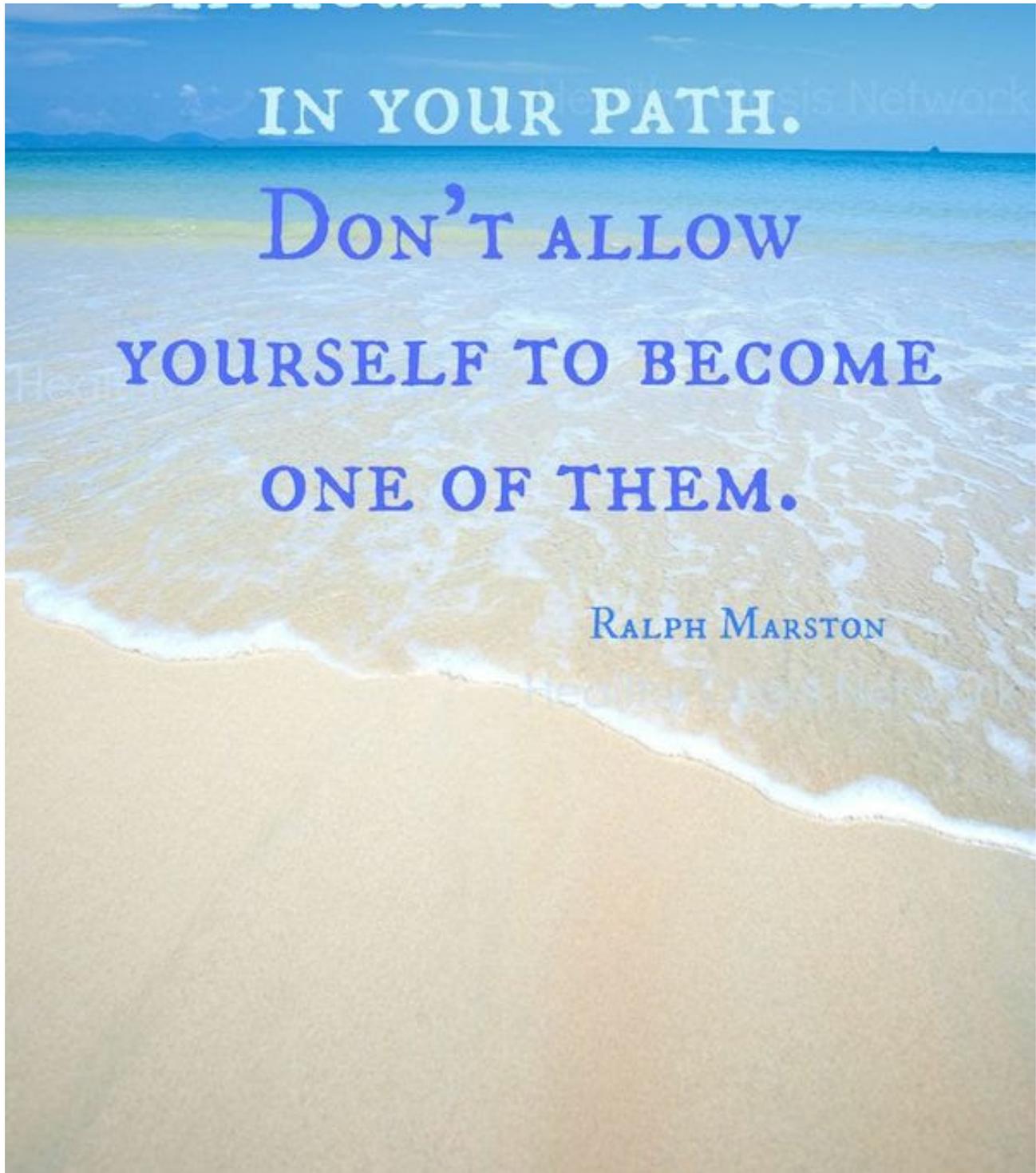


CS273411-A



Healthy Oasis Network

THERE ARE PLENTY OF DIFFICULT OBSTACLES



Yes, You Can Freeze Eggs

Eggs are an increasingly hard to find food staple, a problem that's arising just ahead of peak Easter egg buying season. According to Nielsen data, sales of eggs in shells went up +44% for the week ending March 14 compared with a year ago, with retailers ordering six times their normal volume. American egg producers are good at keeping a steady supply flowing under normal circumstances but if these shopping habits continue, American egg producers will have to increase their

flocks to meet demand. But that requires time - it takes about 22 weeks for a chick to become a laying hen.

If you're worried about maintaining a stockpile for everyday cooking needs (or stress baking), there are a couple of freezing methods that will help extend the life of your fresh eggs. These are the recommended handling instructions from the American Egg Board:

FREEZING EGGS

If you have more eggs than you can use within a few weeks of buying them, you can break them out of their shells and freeze them. Freeze only clean, fresh eggs. For faster thawing and easier measuring, try freezing liquid egg in a standard ice cube tray first.

WHITES

Break and separate the eggs, one at a time, making sure that no yolk gets in the whites. Pour the whites into freezer containers, seal tightly, label with the number of egg whites and the date, and freeze. Then transfer to a freezer container.

YOLKS

The gelation property of egg yolk causes it to thicken or gel when frozen, so you need to give yolks special treatment. If you freeze them as they are, egg yolks will eventually become so gelatinous that they will be almost impossible to use in a recipe. To help retard this gelation, beat in either 1/8 teaspoon salt or 1 1/2 teaspoons sugar or corn syrup per 1/4 cup of egg yolks (about 4 yolks). Label the container with the number of yolks, the date, and whether you've added salt (for main dishes) or sweetener (for baking or desserts). Freeze.

WHOLE EGGS

Beat just until blended, pour into freezer containers, seal tightly, label with the number of eggs and the date, and freeze.

HARD-BOILED EGGS

You can freeze hard-boiled egg yolks to use later for toppings or garnishes. Carefully place the raw yolks in a single layer in a saucepan and add enough water to come at least 1 inch above the yolks. Cover and quickly bring just to boiling. Remove the pan from the heat and let the yolks stand, covered, in the hot water about 12 minutes. Remove the yolks with a slotted spoon, drain them well and package them for freezing. It's best not to freeze hard-boiled whole eggs and hard-boiled whites because they become tough and watery when frozen.

HOW TO USE FROZEN EGGS

In a home freezer, you can freeze eggs for up to one year. When you're ready to use frozen eggs, thaw them overnight in the refrigerator or under running cold

water. Use egg yolks or whole eggs as soon as they're thawed. Thawed egg whites will beat to better volume if you allow them to sit at room temperature for about 30 minutes. Use thawed frozen eggs only in dishes that are thoroughly cooked.

2 Tablespoons thawed egg white = 1 large fresh egg white.

1 Tablespoon thawed egg yolk = 1 large fresh egg yolk.

3 Tablespoons thawed whole egg = 1 large fresh egg.







A Couple of Big Bright Spots...

101-Year-Old Spanish Flu and WWII Survivor has Now Beat COVID-19: The old man, only identified as "Mr. P.," was admitted last week to a Rimini hospital in northeast Italy, after he was tested positive for the pandemic. the mayor said, this was "truly extraordinary" and that such a recovery from a man, more than a hundred years old, would give "hope for the future."

An 87-year-old coronavirus patient recovered after his family was told to "prepare for the worst". Percy Ewart Lockton, 87, was diagnosed with coronavirus after he returned from a cruise around the Caribbean with his wife Phyllis last month. His condition deteriorated and he was soon fighting for his life. "There were a few days when we really were very worried about him and we were told to prepare for the worst," his granddaughter, Sophie Edwards told reporters. With the help of some antibiotics to help treat another chest infection triggered by the Covid-19, the tide began to turn for Ewart. Eventually, as his health improved, he was given the all-clear to go home. Great news!



Sophie Edwards is with Ewart Lockton.

March 25 at 10:12 AM · 🌐



We all need to hear some positive stories...

This is my 87 year old Grandpa saying goodbye to staff at North Manchester Hospital where he's been for 2 weeks with Covid Positive Pneumonia. He's now finishing his recovery where he belongs, at home with my Grandma!

Thank you to everyone for all their kindness and support through a difficult time 🙏 and most of all.....thanks to the NHS!! ... [See More](#)

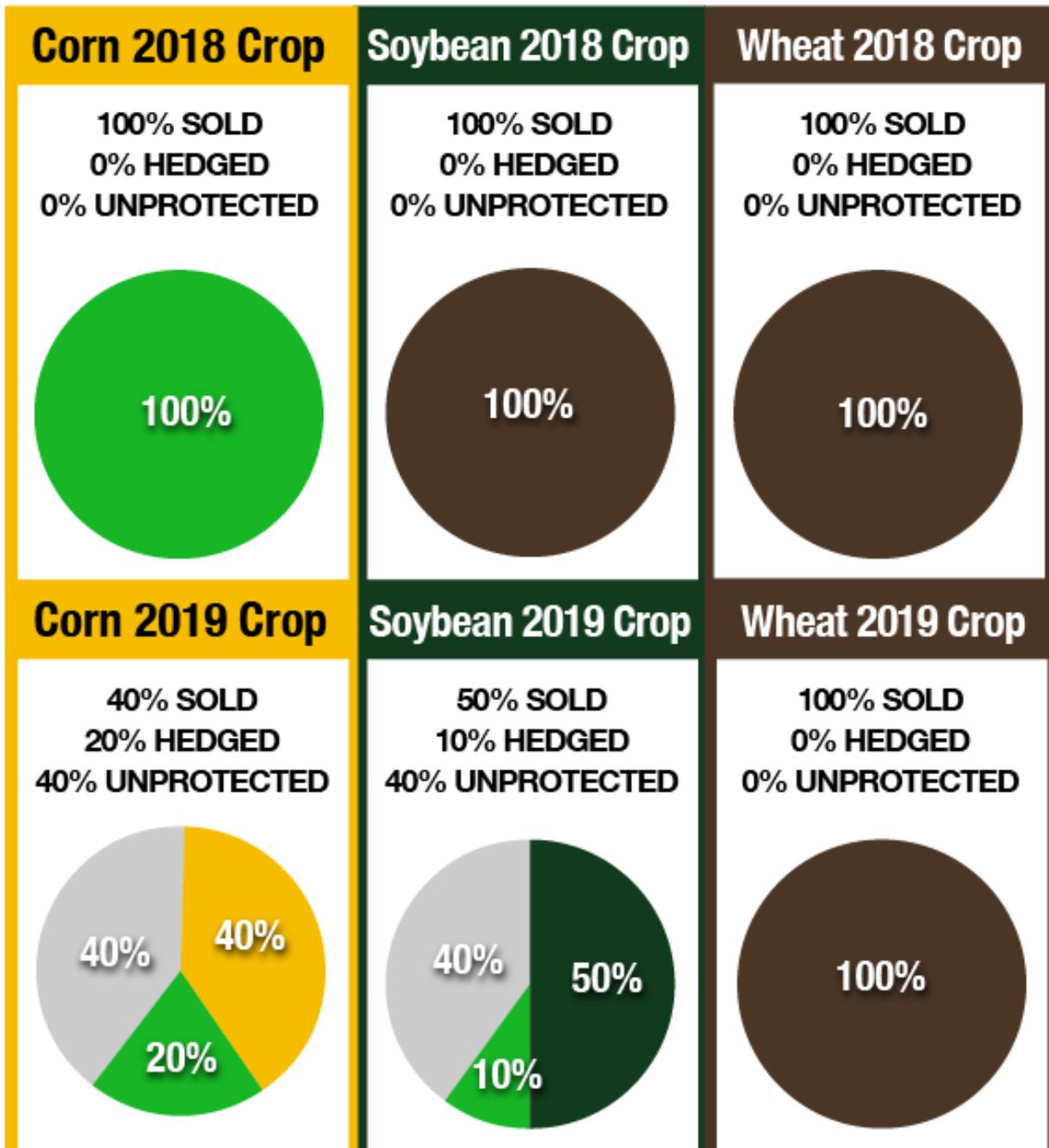


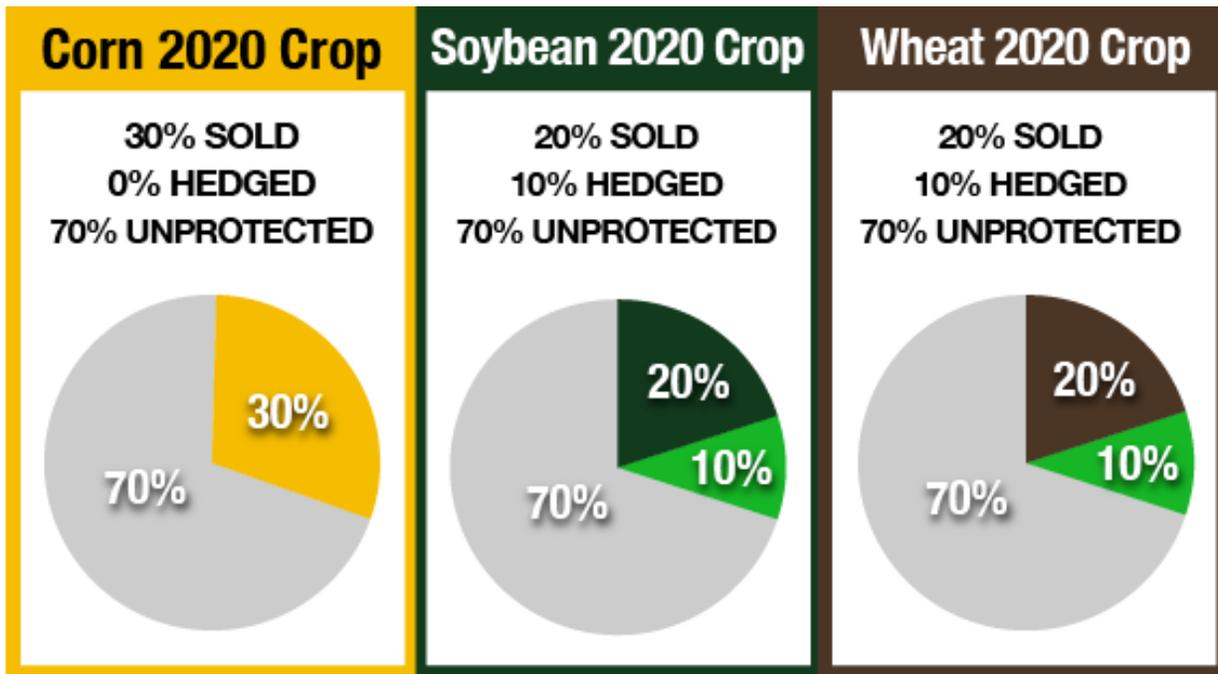
Trust that God
will put the right
people in your
life at right
time and for the
right reasons.

ANSWER to riddle: Your left hand.

CASH SALES & HEDGING TOTALS

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