



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

**GOOD MORNING: The Van Trump Report 4-6-20**

1 message

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

Mon, Apr 6, 2020 at 5:30 AM

Reply-To: Jordan &lt;reply-febe117272650d74-1180\_HTML-68584704-100003450-11@vantrumpreport-email.com&gt;

To: josh@farmdirection.com



*"A good plan violently executed now is better than a perfect plan executed next week."* - **George S. Patton**

**Monday, April 6, 2020**[Printable Copy](#) or [Audio Version](#)

**Morning Summary:** U.S. officials have warned Americans that the week ahead could be very difficult as we see an escalation in coronavirus deaths and the overall number of new cases. At the same time however, bulls point to the fact perhaps we will see peak daily deaths this week in places like Italy, Spain and even New York. The hope is this could provide some light at the end of the tunnel for healthcare workers who are massively overwhelmed both physically and psychologically. The investment world is trying to forecast out much further and wondering just how long it takes the U.S. consumer to come back in full capacity? How long before we can again reach a level of employment that we hadn't seen in 50-years? How long before consumer confidence is back at levels recently recorded pre-corona? Bulls want to argue that we will have an almost instantaneous rebound on the heels of massive pent up demand. I'm not buying that argument. I think people are going to come out of lockdown somewhat timid

and uncertain. I reference air travel following 9/11, when it took the U.S. consumer three years to get back to booking the same number of flights. Let's also not forget, an estimated 75% of U.S. families live paycheck-to-paycheck. Currently, one in three Americans says a household member has been laid off or had their pay cut, meaning there will certainly be some cutbacks in spending and financial hardships in the weeks and months ahead. On Friday, the Labor Department showed the U.S. economy lost a net -701,000 jobs in March, bringing a record 10-year streak of employment gains to a halt as the coronavirus pandemic continues to hammer the workforce and shatter economic growth. Keep in mind that these numbers do not reflect the +10 million workers that are believed to have filed unemployment claims the last two weeks of the month. Oxford Economics projects that by May, the U.S. will have lost -27.9 million jobs and have a 16% unemployment rate, erasing the last decade of job gains. Federal Reserve members have warned of the possibility of unemployment eventually hitting 30% or more. The highest monthly unemployment rate on record, going back to 1948, is 10.8%, set in late 1982. There is literally no comparison for the current economic devastation. Oil markets will be in the spotlight again this week with OPEC members "likely" to meet with Russia and other oil producers on Thursday to discuss potential production cuts. The meeting was originally scheduled for today but was postponed over the weekend due to "mounting tensions" between Saudi Arabia and Russia. Keep in mind, oil prices began moving up late last week on hopes that this meeting would help backstop the dive in oil prices, meaning oil prices could see another move down this week if investors start to doubt the two sides can resolve their differences. The U.S. Federal Reserve will release "minutes" from its recent meeting on Wednesday. If you recall, the Fed dropped its main policy rate on March 3rd, then again on March 15th, so the trade is curious about what they deem to be most concerning. Let's also not forget, the big U.S. banks will soon kick off earnings season. It will be interesting to see how stock market participants respond to earnings and forward guidance. I continue to keep my short S&P 500 hedges in place while looking to add to a handful of long-term favorites on deeper setbacks. I'm thinking the market could trade in an extreme manner the next couple of weeks as it continues to debate both sides of the economic argument. Meaning we could see some huge up days and some huge down days but in the end, we probably don't move much. Once we get past this extreme chopping around, I think we post another leg lower. I'm staying very patient! Don't forget, the U.S. markets are closed Friday 4/10 for the "Good Friday" holiday.

**Global Economy Worse than the 2008 Financial Crisis?** *World Bank Group president David Malpass said the rapidly spreading pandemic was expected to cause a "major global recession" that would likely hit the poorest and most vulnerable countries the hardest. He echoed comments by the IMF's managing director, Kristalina Georgieva, who called on advanced economies to step up their efforts to help emerging markets and developing*

*countries survive the economic and health impacts. "This is a crisis like no other," she said. "We have witnessed the world economy coming to a standstill. We are now in recession. It is way worse than the global financial crisis" of 2008.*

**More Concerns to Consider:** *Heard from a livestock producer over the weekend they were going to deliver to a Tyson plant this week but were told to hold off because of a major labor shortage at the processing facility. Heard from a cattle client that had taken several head to the feedlot that he had had to bring the cattle all back home. When arriving at the feedlot they told him they had a major complication, and they were all full and backed up because the meat packing and processing operation they were contract with had a major setback in labor. They would no longer be buying the cattle at the previous price and would only offer a major discount, hence the cattle came back home. Hearing this more and more...*

**Jumbo Mortgage Market Dries Up, Expensive Properties Could Tumble:** *The jumbo loan market is shrinking aggressively as some mortgage lenders are facing a liquidity crunch. We are hearing Wells Fargo will now only refinance jumbo mortgages for customers who keep +\$250K of liquid assets with the bank and has stopped buying all jumbo mortgages originated by any 3rd parties. Jumbo loans, known as non-conforming loans, range from over \$510,400 to \$765,600 in more expensive metro areas such as New York, California and Washington. These loans are riskier because they are not guaranteed by Fannie and Freddie, so if a homeowner is unable to pay, the lender faces a greater loss. The decline in jumbo loans being available will certainly impact homebuyers seeking 30-year mortgages on the more expensive properties. Bottom-line, it will be much tougher to sell the high-end properties in this environment. Buyers can obviously find ways around this by taking a first and a second but it will certainly slow the movement and liquidity at the higher-end.*

**Just a Big WOW!** *The federal government has been collecting data on how many people apply for unemployment benefits since at least 1967. Prior to this month, the worst week in the history of this data came on September 18, 1982, when 680,000 people claimed unemployment. The week ending March 28, 2009 came close to topping that record, with 665,000 new claims. The week ending March 21, 2020 shattered these records, posting a number five times higher than any in the history of the data: 3,283,000 new claims. That's nearly 3.3 million new people out of work. Then, a week later, that number was doubled again: 6.648 million new claims for the week ending March 28. We're far, far outside any previous experience.*

## **Coronavirus Updates**

- *Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards on Sunday said his state could run out of ventilators by the end of the week. Louisiana has comparatively high death totals relative to the number of people who have been treated for Covid-19 at hospitals. The state's deaths-per-hospitalization rate stood Friday at 22%, said Tulane University health economist Engy Ziedan, compared with 15% in New York City, 13% in Florida and 16% in Georgia.*
- *Delaware and South Dakota become the 46th and 47th disaster*

*declarations approved by the President in response to the coronavirus pandemic, including 42 states, the US Virgin islands, the Northern Mariana Islands, the District of Columbia, Guam and Puerto Rico.*

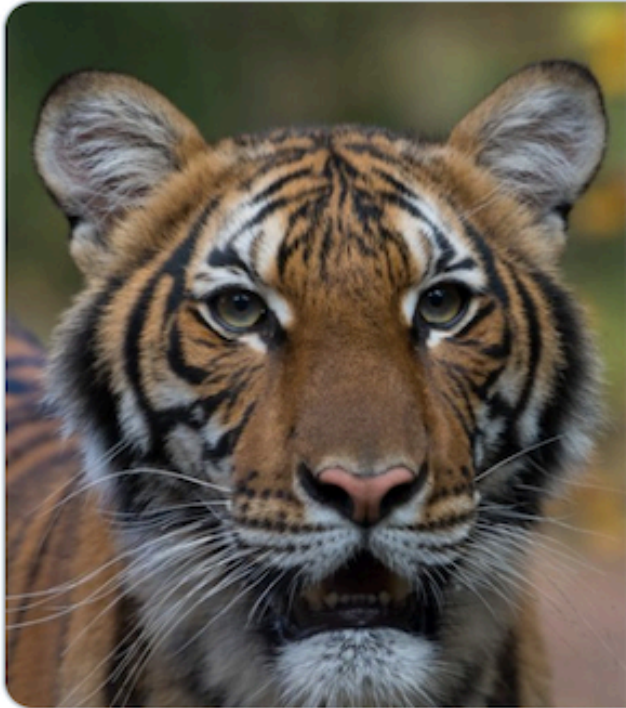
- Warner Thomas, Ochsner's president and chief executive, said the pandemic is taxing intensive-care-unit capacity, as many patients stay in ICU beds for 14 days or longer, compared with the usual three to five days. About 85% of Covid-19 ICU patients are on ventilators, he said, whereas about a third of ICU patients typically need the breathing devices.*
- U.S. Northern Command, which oversees US military operations in North America, said it was deploying a combined total of 1,000 Air Force and Navy medical providers to the New York City area in next 3 days.*
- The Supreme Court on Friday said it would postpone oral arguments scheduled for its April session.*
- Hobby Lobby is closing all stores and, as of Friday, April 3, ending emergency leave pay and suspending use of company provided paid time off benefits and vacation. The company says nearly all employees will be furloughed without pay.*
- Denmark may announce a loosening of restrictive measures aimed at curbing the outbreak as soon as Monday, local media reported.*
- Imperial College London Professor Neil Ferguson, who advises the government on its response to the pandemic, told the BBC he sees the outbreak in the U.K. peaking in the next 7-10 days.*





**Clayton Sandell** ✓  
@Clayton\_Sandell

A 4-year-old female tiger at [@BronxZoo](#) named Nadia has tested positive for COVID-19, according to the [@TheWCS](#).



Nadia, a 4-year-old female Malayan tiger, has tested positive for COVID-19. She, her sister Azul, two Amur leopards, and a dry cough and all are expected to recover.

This positive COVID-19 test for the tiger was confirmed by the Services Laboratory, based in Ames, Iowa.

We tested the cat out of an abundance of caution. About COVID-19 will contribute to the work on coronavirus.

Though they have experienced some decrease in appetite, otherwise doing well under veterinary care and keepers. It is not known how this disease will react differently to novel infections, but we anticipate full recoveries.

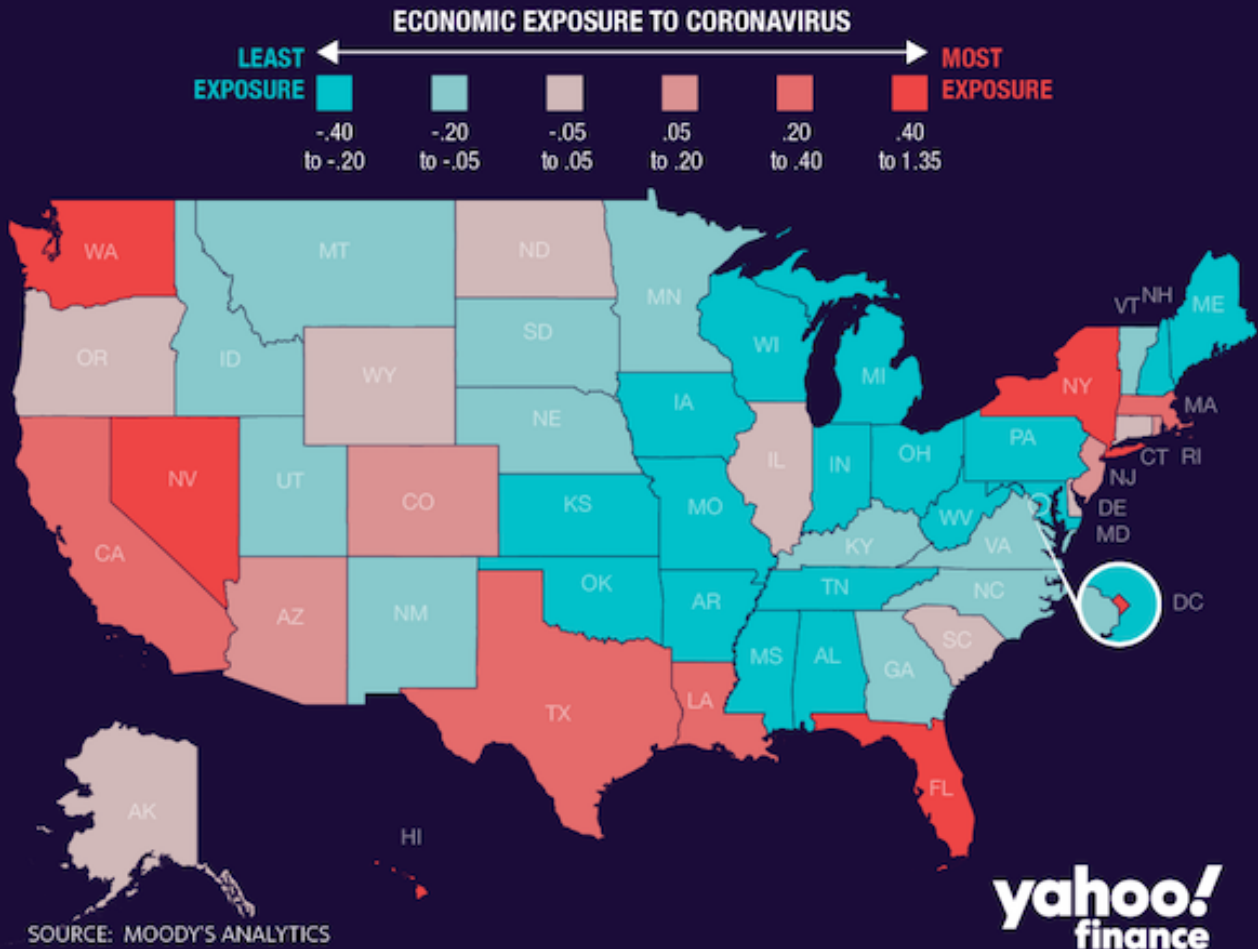
**Gilead to Donate Experimental Coronavirus Drug Remdesivir:** *Gilead Sciences Inc. said it's donating 1.5 million doses of its experimental anti-coronavirus drug remdesivir, which could treat 140,000 patients. The drug will be offered for compassionate use, expanded access and clinical trials, and will treat patients with severe symptoms, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Daniel O'Day said in an open letter. The company is also boosting its supply of remdesivir to more than 500,000 treatment courses by October, and to more than 1 million by the end the year. Production time has also been accelerated to six months from one year, he said. A World Health Organization panel said in January that remdesivir was considered to be the most promising therapeutic candidate based on its broad antiviral spectrum, and existing data based on human and animal studies. The medication was developed initially for Ebola and studied in patients in Eastern Congo. (Source: Bloomberg)*

**Gold Dealers Report Shortages of Bars and Coins:** *When people are worried about the future they turn to gold to protect their savings. That's rarely been more true than today. Surging demand and disruptions from the*

*coronavirus pandemic have created a shortage of the small gold bars most popular with consumers. Those who do manage to get their hands on metal have to pay up. Some dealers are desperately contacting clients to see if anyone is willing to sell their gold bars and coins, and offering a rare premium over spot prices. Others have given up trying to trade altogether. Size is the key reason for the crunch. While there's plenty of gold in big trading hubs like London, banks and other institutional investors there typically use large bars of 400 ounces that run more than \$600,000 for a single bar. What's in short supply is the kilobars (about 32 ounces) that retail investors prefer. It's not just soaring demand that's causing the shortage. Some refineries and mints have stopped operating or capped production because of local lockdowns. Certain products also command more of a premium than others. Kilobars manufactured by Argor-Heraeus SA, one of the big Swiss refiners whose plant has been closed since last week due to the health crisis, were selling for over +6% above spot. Read more from [The Wall Street Journal](#).*

**Coronavirus Likely to Hit These States Hardest Financially:** *Nevada is likely to be hit the hardest financially by the coronavirus outbreak, according to research compiled by Moody's Analytics. "If you're getting hit hard now and businesses are failing, and there's bankruptcy and people are taking on debt or starting to default on debt, it's going to be harder for those economies to recover," Moody's Analytics Chief Economist Mark Zandi told Yahoo Finance. "So the No. 1 criteria for determining who recovers more gracefully will be who gets hit least hard during this period." The data, compiled on March 30, comes with a caveat: The virus is constantly evolving and spreading, making it difficult to pin down concrete numbers. Nevada and Hawaii were likely to face more pain because of the massive hit to their tourism industries. The state of Washington, the site of the first outbreak within the U.S., was No. 3 on Moody's list. New York — which has the most confirmed cases of any state — was the No. 5 most exposed. On the other end of the spectrum, states like West Virginia and Missouri were the least exposed amid the COVID-19 outbreak so far, setting them up for an easier recovery in the future. Zandi noted that data on consumer loans since the national emergency began and other information won't be available for the next few weeks at least and stressed that the picture may change. (Source: [Yahoo Finance](#))*

**State economies most reliant on tourism are likely to be the hardest hit by the coronavirus, followed by states with the highest number of coronavirus infections, according to a report by Moody's Analytics.**





# Looking For Insight?

Kevin Van Trump is now offering:  
Conference Calls: For Executive Teams  
& Webinars: For Your Entire Organization

**SOLD OUT THIS WEEK!  
SELECT TIMES AVAILABLE  
NEXT WEEK.**

Contact: [jordan@farmdirection.com](mailto: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](#).

**How to Not Miss Out on the Stimulus Payments:** *If you filed a tax return in either 2018 or 2019 and signed up to receive your refund via direct deposit, the bank account the IRS has on record is the account your stimulus payment will land in. You don't have to take any action or request that payment specifically. Americans who did file a tax return in either 2018 or 2019 but didn't include their bank account details - say, they received a refund check in the mail - will need to provide bank account information in order to receive a stimulus payment fairly quickly. The government plans to set up a website where filers can input that information, but as of this writing, it doesn't exist. As such, if your tax or bank account information is not already on file with the IRS, you*

*may see your stimulus payment much later than April. So what can you do to ensure that you don't miss out on a stimulus payment? If you haven't filed taxes yet for last year, submit your 2019 return today and include your bank account details. The IRS, in fact, is urging even those who normally don't have to file to submit a simple tax return as quickly as possible. Seniors on Social Security who typically don't file taxes don't have to take this added step, though - their eligibility to receive a stimulus payment will be based on their annual Social Security benefits statements and payments will be made same way their Social Security payments are normally received.*

**Zoom Security Problems and Solutions:** *As video conference app Zoom surges in popularity due to increased usage amid the coronavirus pandemic, federal officials are now warning of a new potential privacy and security concern called "Zoombombing." The term refers to a form of cyber harassment reported by some app users, who have reported that some of their calls have been hijacked by unidentified individuals and trolls who spew hateful language or share graphic images. Read more about that [HERE](#). To learn how to keep your Zoom chats private and secure, check out this guide from [Wired](#).*

**If You Literally Never Cook, Start Here:** *For those stuck at home with no idea what to do with that stove thing, Eater has a guide to get you started, from frying eggs and saucing pasta to roasting chickens and making soup. Check it out [HERE](#).*

**Amazon Extends Return Window:** *Amazon has temporarily extended its returns window for US and Canada customers to May 31 to give people more time to ship back their items during the coronavirus pandemic. Their return policy is typically 30 days.*

**ESPN to Re-Broadcast 2006 Saints vs Falcons "Rebirth" Game:** *New Orleans Saints fans will get to relive the most memorable regular-season game in team history tonight, April 6, when ESPN re-broadcasts the Sept. 25, 2006, game that symbolized the rebirth of the city of New Orleans. Click [HERE](#).*

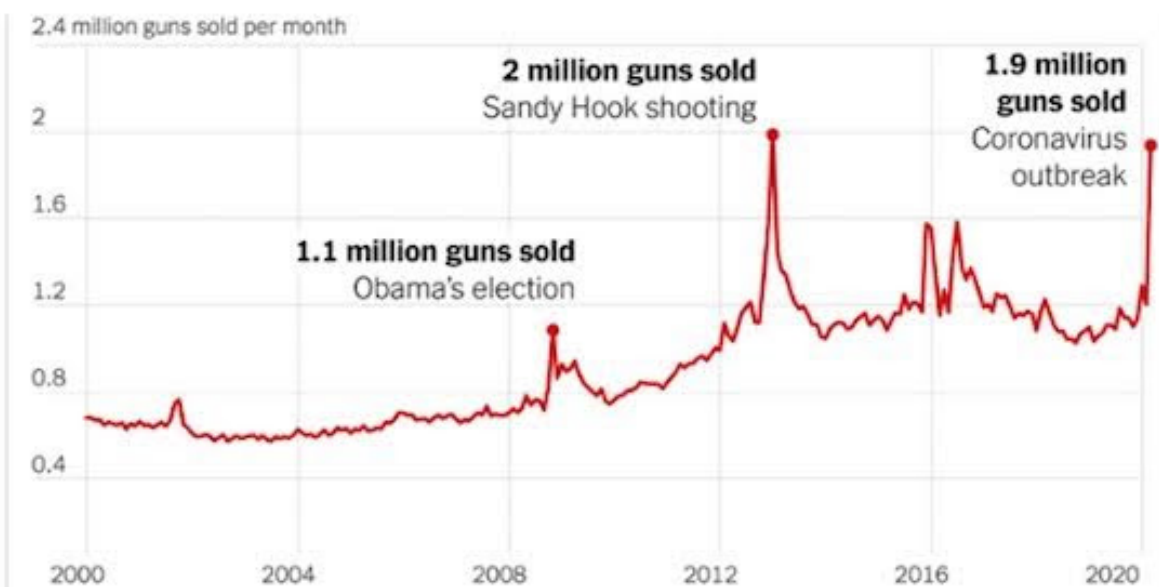
# FARM TANK

## Tweets of the Day



The New York Times   
@nytimes

March was the 2nd-busiest month ever for gun sales in the U.S.: Americans bought about 2 million guns as the coronavirus spread, according to a New York Times analysis of federal data.



About 2 Million Guns Were Sold in the U.S. as Virus Fears Spread

A New York Times analysis shows that March was the second-busiest month ever for gun sales, fueled by worries over the coronavirus.

[nytimes.com](https://www.nytimes.com)





**Frank Zorrilla**  
@ZorTrades



Trenton NJ pawn shop.







**The OG Devil's Advocate**  
@MGigger



OMG. Whoever these guys are, they're recreating scenes from Tiger King with a cow 😂

[facebook.com/10000620271263...](https://www.facebook.com/10000620271263...)







**Ben Butler**  
@BenLButler



We are dumping milk in South Florida because there is no home for it. We still have to feed and care for our cows, and our farmers are still milking cows, in hopes that we can sell that milk in the future... [#stillfarming](#)





Jennifer Campbell  
@plowwife

Social distancing & sunshine never felt so good!



Mark Rohrich  
@sunflowerfarmer









**Cheri Armstrong**  
@Charms77



Replying to @RexChapman

Beautiful!

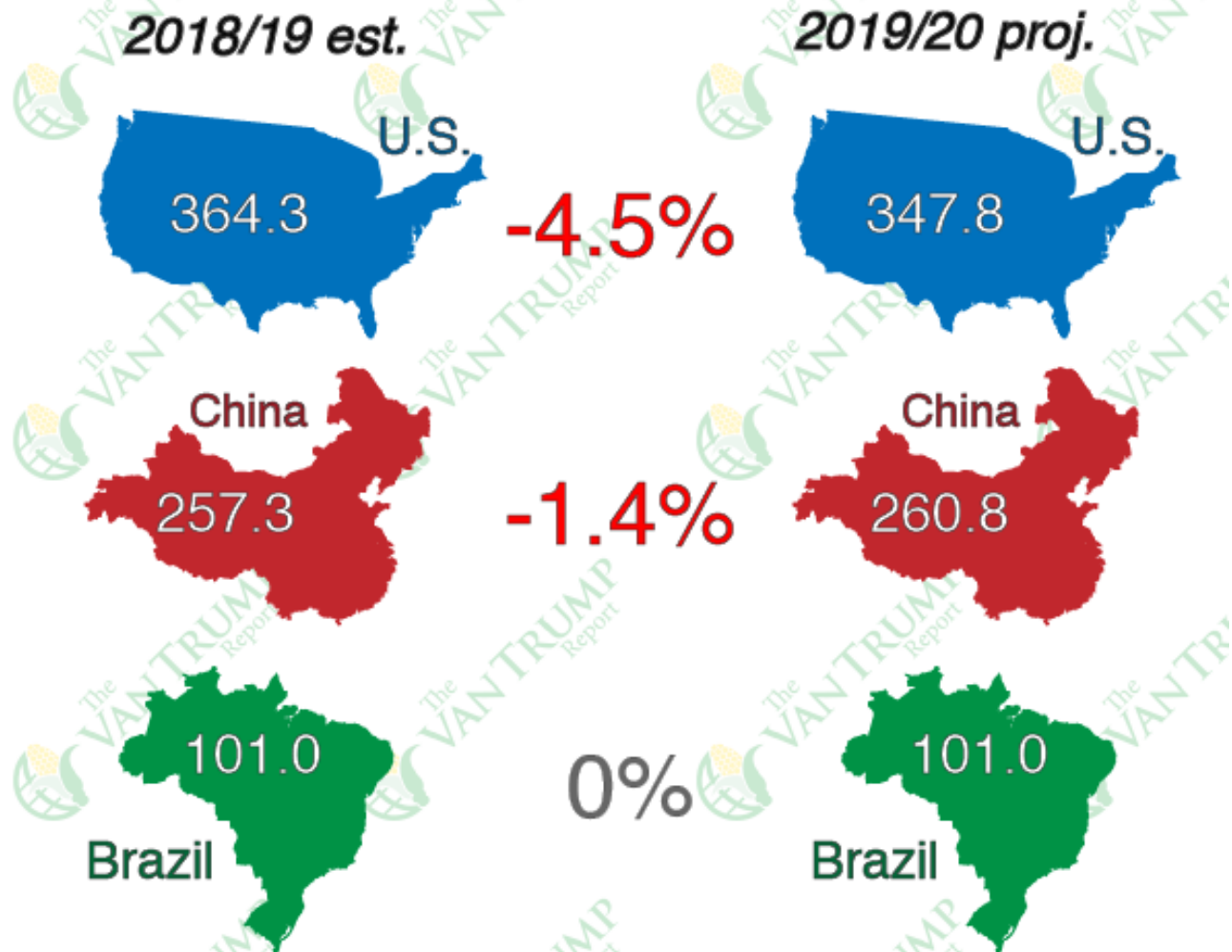


**CORN** bulls will be trying to pull the market off fresh contract lows as fears about coronavirus continue to circulate. The corn market lost another -15 cents last week, and since late-January, it has lost about -70 cents. Unfortunately, at the same time, many producers have also seen a massive drop in the basis as the ethanol industry battles massive headwinds. Bulls are pointing to improved export

demand as China purchased another round of U.S. corn late last week. There's also good demand coming from the livestock sector. The ongoing weakness in crude oil and much fewer miles being driven by the U.S. consumer continues to plague ethanol demand. I continue to hear talk and guesstimates that between -200 to -600 million bushels of corn demand could ultimately be trimmed. I'm personally leaning to the lower and more conservative estimates believing the industry will ultimately stabilize and find more solid footing. I'm worried that corn doesn't bottom-out until we see some type of bottom in crude oil and get over the hump in regards to corona. Perhaps the big oil meeting later this week involving the Russians and the Saudi's will bring some light to the end of the crude oil tunnel? However, peak corona negativity still seems like a "wild-card." As a spec, I'll probably be dipping a toe in the water very soon. I've been saying my initial entry was sub-\$3.30 for several weeks now here we are. As a producer, I've lifted a few hedges and will be lifting a few more. Even though there's still a ton of negativity in the mix, we have an entire U.S. weather season ahead of us and I have to imagine a lot of the current negative headlines have been cooked into price. Yes, the funds could continue to push prices lower and beyond what we fundamentally deem "fair-value", but I still like this as a starting point for build a longer-term bullish position. End-users should think about getting a bit more aggressive. Don't forget, the USDA is out with its monthly supply and demand report on Thursday and the markets are closed on Friday. I will also be looking at the USDA's U.S. planting data this afternoon after the close.

# Top 3 Corn Producers

(in million metric tons)



Source: USDA, WASDE, March, 2020

 @KevinVanTrump



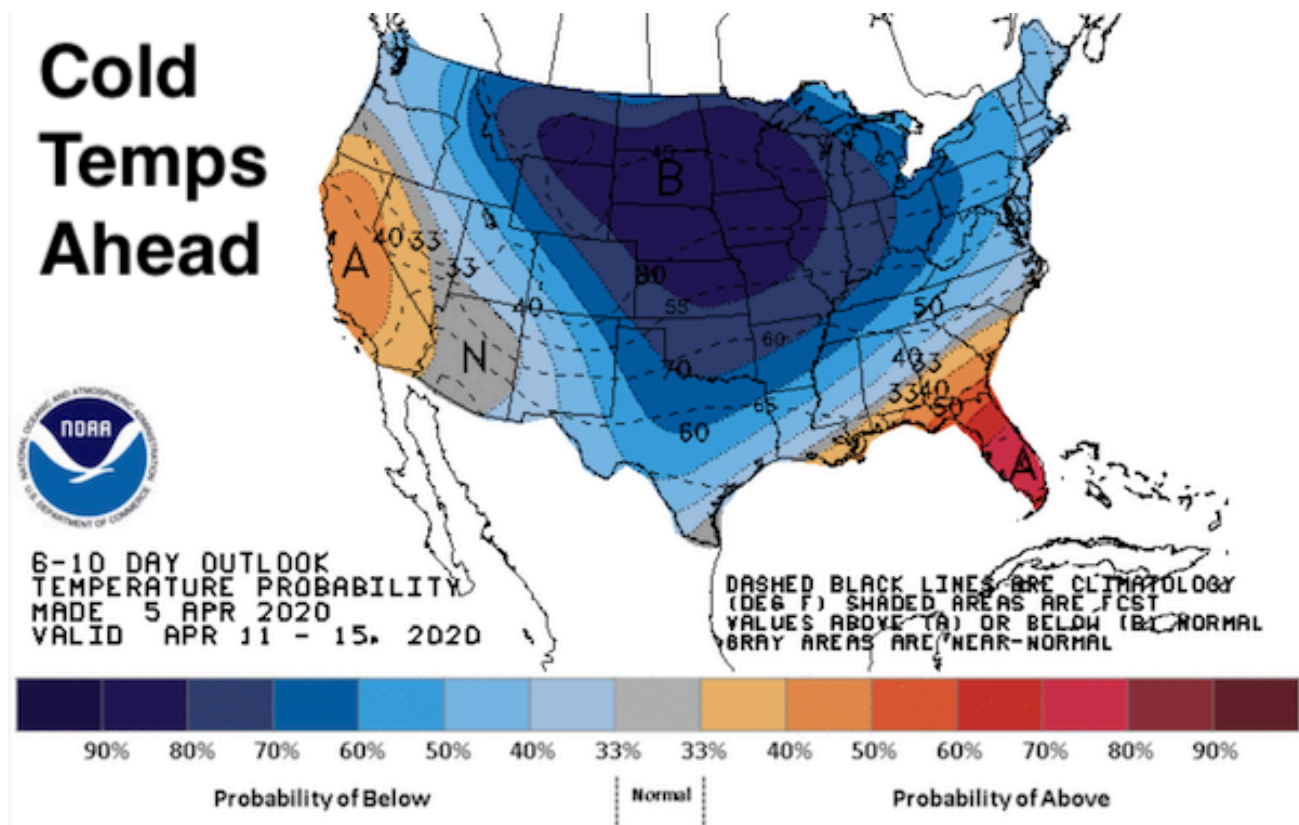


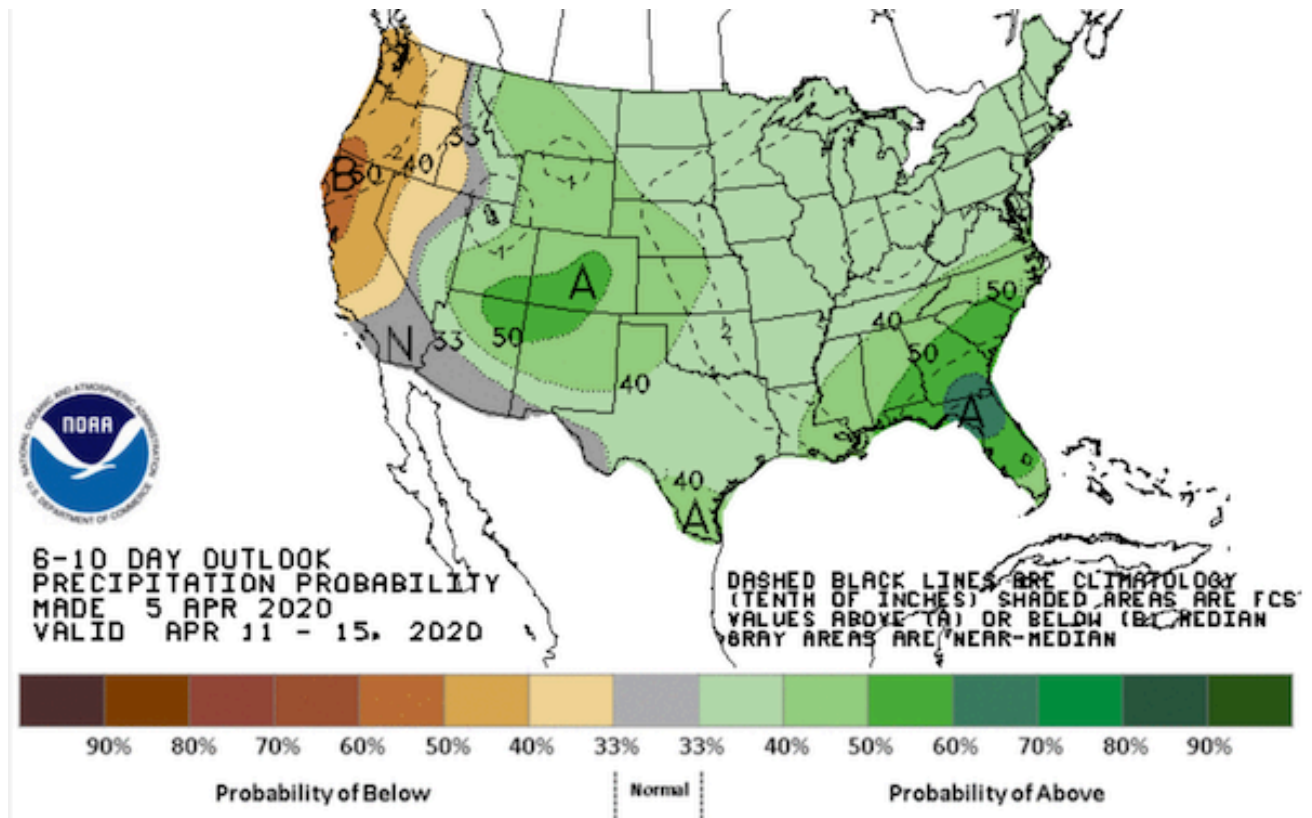
# Have Your Fields Recently Been Under Water?

Learn How Holganix Can  
Improve Your Yield Today!

---

## 816-322-5300



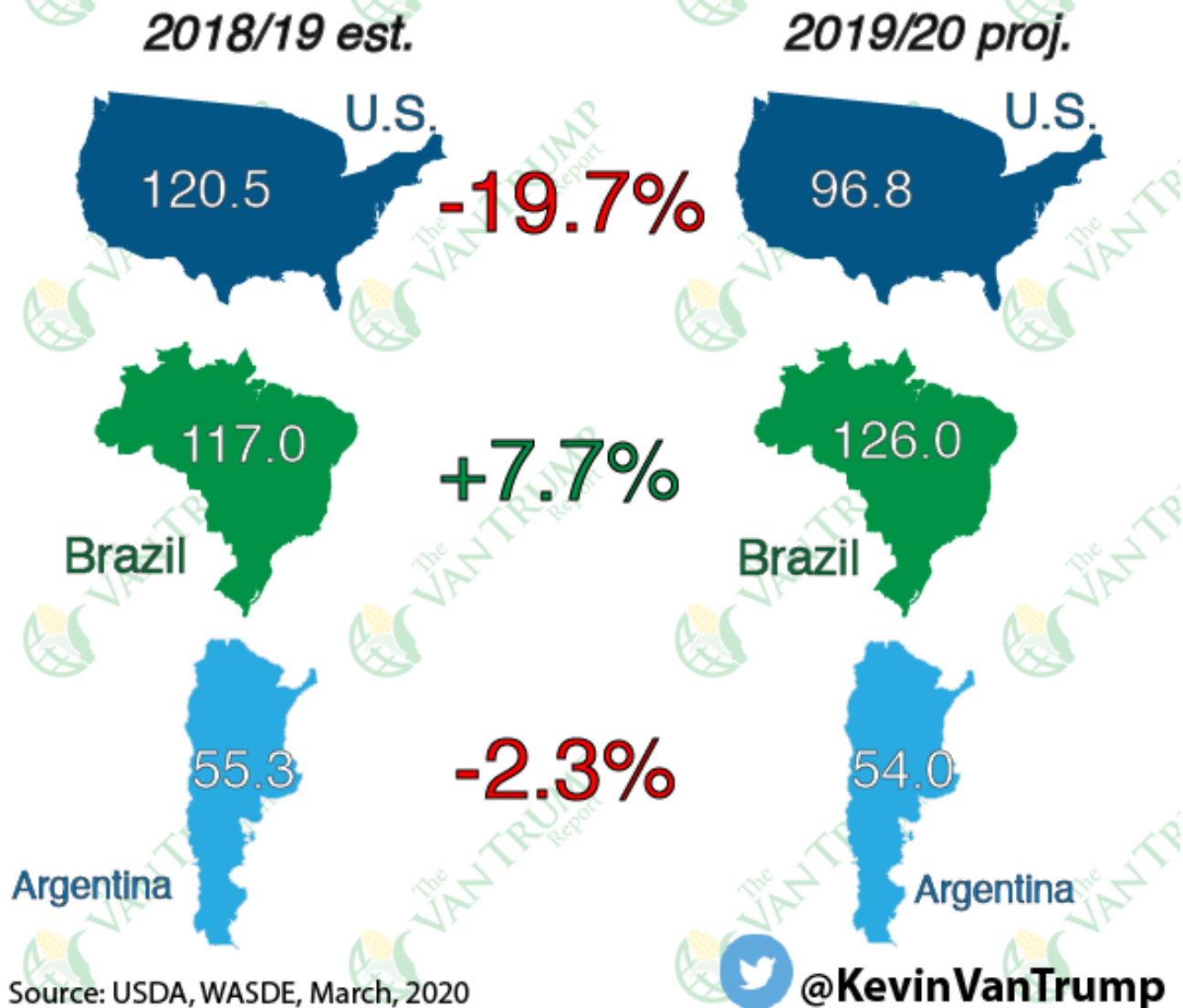


**SOYBEAN** prices hit their highwater mark in 2020 on the first trading day of the year and have since tumbled by -\$1.20 per bushel. The MAY20 contract is again trading around the \$8.50 level and many technical traders argue we are stuck in a range between \$8.20 and \$9.20 per bushel. Perhaps bulls rally prices to the high end of the range if South America stumbles with exports or Chinese buyers start more aggressively purchasing U.S. supply. Bears could pressure prices lower if U.S. acres creep higher like many now anticipate and or the coronavirus headlines stay negative and keep global growth fears in the mix and the funds leaning bearish the macros. I wish I had something more enlightening to say, but money is clearly sloshing around with more questions than answers at the moment. As a spec, I will be looking to re-establish a bullish position if price drop another -20 to -30 cents. As a producer, similar to corn, I like lifting a few hedges and banking a few profits. I will remain patient in regard to pricing more new-crop cash bushels. End-users now have to be taking bigger bites on the breaks. Closely monitoring South American logistics, Chinese demand, and U.S. weather. Don't forget the USDA report on Thursday.



# Top 3 Soybean Producers

(in million metric tons)



**WHEAT** bulls will be trying to recover last week's losses. The spring wheat contract held up the best only falling single-digits, while SRW and HRW wheat contracts both fell by double-digits last week. We should learn more about the U.S. crop this afternoon when we digest the first winter wheat crop ratings. I'm not looking for anything too out of the norm with the condition report but we do need to pay close attention with U.S. acreage at lows not seen in the past 100 years. The coronavirus headlines obviously bring in a ton of unknowns and questions about both global shipping and global buying. I banked profits on my spec positions and made some sales as a producer on the rally a couple of weeks back, thinking the bulls might breathe and pause for a moment as the funds focus more

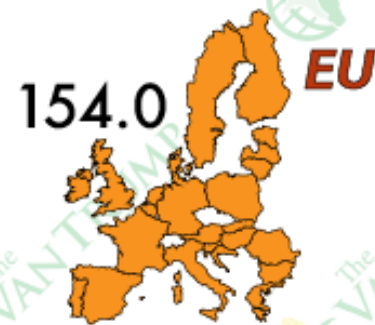
heavily on slowing global growth and negative macro headwinds. I would like to again get bullish this market but worry we could have more downside pressure nearby before finding more stable footing. I worry that the negative global growth story is real and could cause the funds to hold an overall bearish tone nearby. Bottom-line, I believe it's going to take a more serious and wide-spread weather story or logistical worry to overcome the negative economic growth concerns. Closely watching parts of Russia, Ukraine, Europe, and U.S. for more bullish headlines.

## Top 3 Wheat Producers

(in million metric tons)

2018/19 est.

2019/20 proj.



+12.5%



+1.7%



+3.7%

Source: USDA, WASDE, March, 2020



@KevinVanTrump



# FARM TANK

## THE BEST PODCAST IN AG!

CLICK HERE TO SUBSCRIBE

  /FARMTANK

FARMTANK.COM



AgSwag 

# WHATEVER FLOATS YOUR GOAT

## A Section for Creative Minds

**> Countries with Coronavirus-Related Trade Restrictions on Food Exports:**  
*Reuters compiled a list of countries that have applied or are considering trade restrictions on food or agricultural products due to the spread of the novel coronavirus around the world [HERE](#).*



**> USDA Announces Updated CCC Lending Rates for April 2020:** *The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation Friday announced the borrowing rate-based charge for April is 0.625 percent, down from 1.500 percent in March. The rate is effective April 1-April 30, 2020.*

**> Sanderson Farms Reduces Chicken Production in Georgia Over Coronavirus Precautions:** *U.S. poultry company Sanderson Farms Inc on Thursday said it is reducing chicken processing to 1 million birds a week from 1.3 million over the next four weeks in Moultrie, Georgia, after ordering more than 400 slaughterhouse workers who seem healthy to stay home as a precaution against infection by the novel coronavirus. The move could eat into margins at the company and is an early sign of strain in the U.S. food supply chain at a time of surging consumer demand at grocery stores. Chief Executive Joe Sanderson said on a conference call said the workers live in Dougherty County, a "hotbed" of coronavirus cases, although there are no indications they are not healthy, he said. The county has more than 500 known cases of the illness and the most deaths of any county in Georgia, the top U.S. chicken-producing state. The United States is the world's largest producer and second largest exporter of poultry meat. The country produced 9 billion chickens for meat in 2018, and 15% came from Georgia. Read more from [Reuters](#).*

**> Kraft Heinz Halts Production at Three Plants Due to Demand Drop:** *Kraft Heinz has moved to halt production at three different plants because of a decline in demand stemming from the new coronavirus outbreak, its Chief Executive Miguel Patricio on Friday. Patricio said all the factories, two in the United States and one in the United Kingdom, are in the food service segment and saw demand drop due to the pandemic, mainly in Europe. (Source: Reuters)*

**> DHS Suspends Increase in Guest Worker Visas:** *DHS is reversing plans to offer an additional H-2B guest worker visas due to the economic fallout from the coronavirus. The department on Thursday announced it was suspending the planned release of 20,000 H-2B visas, which allow foreign workers to come temporarily into the U.S. and work in numerous non-agricultural industries, such as service and landscaping jobs. Congress set the annual cap on H-2B visas at 66,000, giving temporary legal status to non-agricultural workers. At the same time, lawmakers gave DHS the authority to raise this cap by as much as 64,000 a year. In early March, right before COVID-19 grabbed the nation, DHS chief raised the cap by 35,000. However, the 20,000 H-2B visas to be released in April is no longer a go — at least for now. (Source: Politico)*

**> Lawmakers Ask SBA to Guarantee Farmers and Agribusinesses Qualify for Loans:** *A bipartisan group of 80 House lawmakers on Thursday asked the Small Business Administration to ensure that farmers and agribusinesses qualify*

for the SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loan program. The lawmakers, led by Reps. Josh Harder (D-Calif.), Antonio Delgado (D-N.Y.) and Anthony Brindisi (D-N.Y.), said the stimulus expanded the SBA's program so farmers could access emergency finance. However, the agency has since issued guidance that doesn't grant them eligibility. The agency did make farmers eligible for a program that helps small businesses keep their employees paid, known as Paycheck Protection Program, which is open to those with 500 or less workers. One limiting factor is that payroll expenses can't include salaries for foreign workers or independent contractors, according to the American Farm Bureau Federation . About 50 percent of farmworkers are not U.S. citizens or permanent residents, potentially leaving many fruit, vegetable and dairy operations ineligible for the aid. Recall that Congress allocated \$9.5 billion for USDA's coronavirus response fund , and farmers and ranchers will also qualify for any relief program the department deploys using its \$30 billion borrowing authority from the Commodity Credit Corporation (the same financial institution that funded trade relief payments). USDA's Farm Service Agency has relaxed the terms of its direct and guaranteed loans during the pandemic, as well. (Source: Politico)

**> Farm Bureau Tells USDA U.S. Farmers Need Help Immediately:** In a letter sent on Friday, the American Farm Bureau Federation urged the USDA to make special direct payments to dairy and cotton producers, livestock farmers and cattle ranchers, among others. The trade group also asked for emergency funding for ethanol plants, as well as the corn growers who can no longer sell their crops to them and the livestock producers who no longer have access to the facilities' byproducts for feed. The Farm Bureau asked that all sectors of U.S. agriculture benefit from the coronavirus stimulus bill passed in March, which added \$14 billion to the USDA's Commodity Credit Corp's spending authority and authorized an additional \$9.5 billion to help livestock producers, dairy farmers, specialty crop farmers and local agricultural groups. Read more from [Reuters](#).

**> Coronavirus Spurs a Chocolate and Frozen Pizza Sales Boom in America:** Nestle USA Chairman and CEO Steve Presley says Nestle's data shows a "real surge" in people baking right now, likely as they are unable to go out to eat (or go much of anywhere). The hard data supports the upbeat claims. Total U.S. food and beverage sales surged 50.8% year-over-year for the week ended March 22, according to data from IRI. The three categories that drove the biggest early sales increases in March include packaged foods (up 32% year-over-year), frozen foods (up 27%) and dairy (up 26%). Conagra Brands CEO Sean Connolly said on an earnings call last week that the company is poised to outperform its prior guidance as a result of stock-up buying by consumers. (Source: Yahoo Finance)

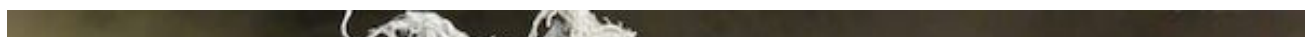
**> Peeps Maker Temporarily Suspends Manufacturing Operations:** Just Born Quality Confections, maker of candy brands including Peeps, Mike and Ike, and Hot Tamales, has temporarily suspended production at its facilities in response to

*the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. The company's factories in Bethlehem, PA, and Philadelphia, along with its Peeps & Co. store in Center Valley, PA, will remain closed until at least April 7. The closings will not impact supply of Peeps for the upcoming Easter holiday, Just Born said. The marshmallow and sugar treats already have been shipped to retailers for the season. While it currently has sufficient inventory of Mike and Ike, Hot Tamales and Goldenberg's Peanut Chews for the short term, the company said it "may experience out of stocks on several individual items." All employees will be paid while operations are closed. (Source: Food Business News)*

**> HQ Trivia Returns Thanks to Anonymous Investor:** *The mobile quiz app HQ Trivia returned Sunday night thanks to an anonymous investor who provided the funding it needed to resume operations, the show's host said during a live program. First launched in 2017, HQ Trivia briefly became one of the most popular daily, live interactive quiz apps that found its player base through the promise of cash prizes. HQ Trivia faced a series of incidents that led to turmoil inside the company, according to CNN, including the death of co-founder Colin Kroll in December 2018. Technical glitches and challenges in raising funds to cover the game's prize pools eroded its popularity over time. With the show's return Sunday night, HQ Trivia offered players a \$1,000 prize pool. (Source: The Verge)*

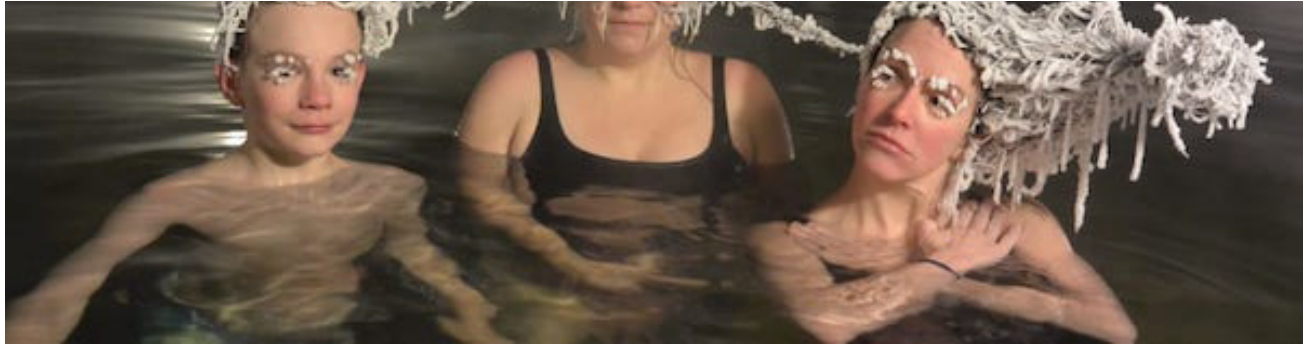
**> Walmart Limiting Customers:** *Walmart, which has been at the forefront of implementing safety/health policy changes to protect customers and employees while also facilitating commerce, announced further store adjustments – Walmart will now explicitly limit the amount of customers permitted in a store at any one time (no more than 5 customers per 1K square feet) while instituting one-way movement through the aisles (Walmart). WMT experienced a surge in sales over the last 4 weeks, w/20% gains from its US physical stores and 30% online.*

**> Hair Freezing Contest Offers Some Much-Needed Laughs:** *These creative, chilly souls are some of the entries in this year's Hair Freezing Contest, which ran this winter between December and March at the Takhini Hot Pools in Canada's Yukon Territory. Creating such elaborate icy 'dos takes more than a cool head: First, dip your head in the hot springs and wet your hair completely. Then, let the cold air slowly freeze it all, taking care to wet your ears and other vulnerable parts with hot water (because an ear freezing contest would be much less fun). The mineral-rich natural Takhini Hot Pools, in operation for more than 100 years, offer relaxing dips in temps between 36° and 42° Celsius. Umbrich says they're currently building a new hot springs facility that they expect to be complete by the end of this year. Normally open year-round - though currently closed due to the global coronavirus pandemic - it's located 18 miles from downtown Whitehorse, Yukon's capital. This year's contest received 288 entries. Check out more pics [HERE](#).*









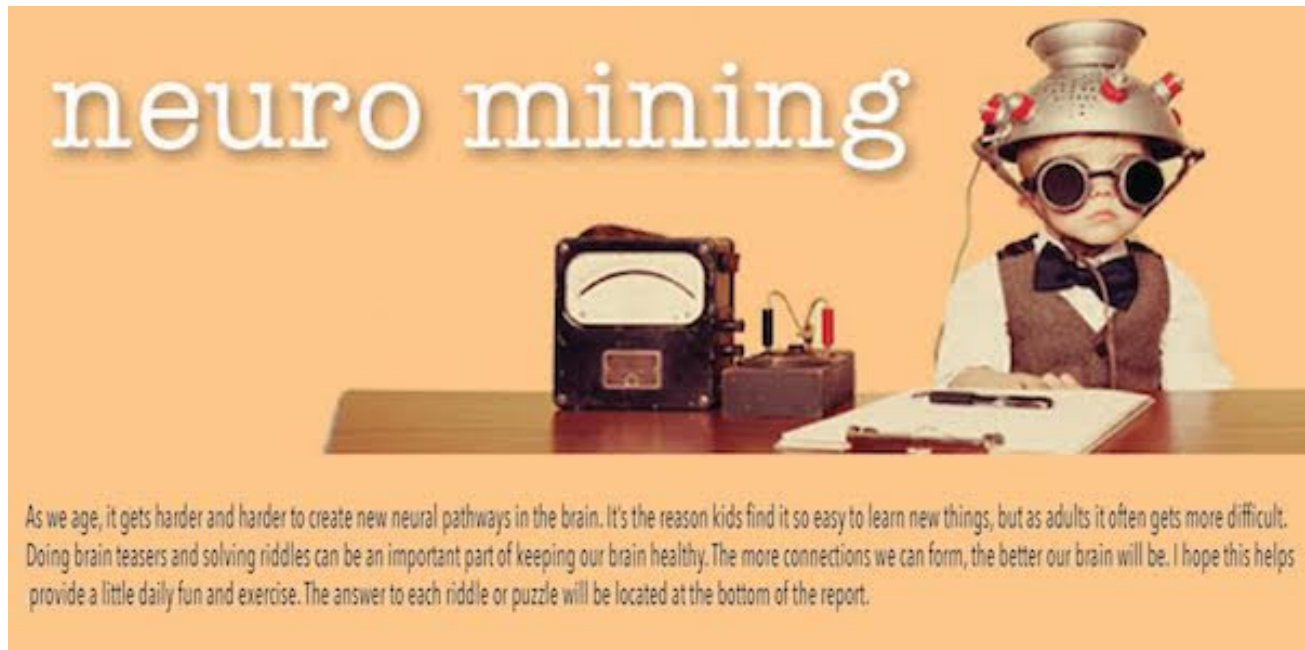
**East Central Iowa** - *With all the fieldwork done, we decided to put some corn in the ground yesterday under decent conditions. Now we just need winter to go away. I have been told by some old-timers that it wasn't uncommon to see snow fill in the ridges at one time around here. Some might remember the 2015 cold snap that came through the 23rd or 24th of April, where it dipped below 30 for a day. There were some guys who kept planting and grew a really good crop. Since it's been a little dry around here this year, and from talking with a few guys who supposedly have the best weather apps, the one that is most accurate is calling for a little less sun this year, and possible less yields. The ground just feels droughty.*

**Northeast Indiana** - *About four weeks ago rain was coming and I didn't want to leave tracks in my wheat fields. I went ahead and put the 28 on but it started raining before I got the last 20 acres done. About a week and a half later I got the rest done. I was looking at it yesterday and there is a huge difference in the color of the wheat. The early stuff is bright green and the later has a more yellow color. It's going to be interesting to see if there is a yield difference. Maybe I should put it on when the ground still has a little frost in it. I guess timing makes a bigger difference than I thought.*

**Southeast South Dakota** - *The rain last year seems to be lingering in the fields and as we get more rain it seems to saturate quicker than normal. It might be the 50 inches of rain we got hit with last year. Most of the river bottom ground in our area have either standing water or there's sever saturation that you can still visually see. It looks like the weather is going to be good over the next week and hopefully, the water will start to back off or dry out. In order to get a few of our fields planted, I'm thinking we will need a completely dry or very few rains this*



*spring. The water almost seems to be coming up from below.*



**TODAY'S RIDDLE:** I am pronounced as one letter, written with three. I come in blue, black, brown, or grey. Reverse me and I read the same either way. What am I?



### **NEW Diesel Design Could Help Add Demand to Ethanol Industry**

Diesel engines are critical to the global economy, as data shows more than 99% of all semi-trucks are powered by diesel. At the same time, diesel engines are also nearly universal in heavy-duty equipment for agriculture, construction, and many other applications. Unfortunately, diesel fuel is considered a substantial contributor to the emissions of NOx and CO2 in our environment. Couple that with the fact agriculture is looking hard for alternative uses for corn as ethanol is facing stiff headwinds, might just provide a window of opportunity for an ethanol-powered diesel engine.

ClearFlame Engines, a three-year-old company co-founded by B.J. Johnson and Julie Blumreiter have developed a diesel engine that they say can burn straight

ethanol. Johnson, the CEO, received a very warm thank you after sharing this news with the attendees at the recent National Ethanol Conference in Houston, where I'm told he also shared his confidence that even a 20% penetration into the over \$230 billion heavy-duty diesel market would easily create 15 billion gallons of demand per year for ethanol.

Performance and the sheer simplicity of the diesel engine are what's kept alternative cleaner solutions from emerging, but unfortunately, those two items also tie into the dirty emissions issue surrounding diesel engines. Up until now, cleaner alternatives like spark ignition were not able to maintain the performance levels required in many of the heavy-duty operations, meaning the fix to the emission problem wasn't worth what had to be sacrificed in power.

Clear Flame may have jumped that hurdle as they have been able to burn ethanol in their drop-in diesel-engine-replacement technology, which basically takes the diesel engine design and turns it into a high-temperature combustion system. According to Johnson, they are not fundamentally changing the design, and can now not only reduce fuel costs but eliminate the need for DEF as well as getting ahead of the curve on emission standards. If you don't think there are real consequences coming, Johnson pointed to the case of truck and engine manufacturer Navistar, who had 77% control of the diesel-engine market until 2009, but when they failed to meet 2010 emissions regulations from the state of California, market share plummeted by 96%.

Johnson admits one of the biggest hurdles in gaining market access is educating the public about how ethanol can be used in ClearFlame's technology, which is currently working with Cummins Inc. and Argonne National Laboratory to further develop the technology. Hopes are to roll out a diesel fleet that would have the potential to achieve a 40% reduction in carbon emissions and a \$45,000 cost savings. Keep in mind, complicated emissions from diesel require after-treatment systems just to be compliant, and the sector drops an additional \$3.3 billion in after-treatment each year. If successful, using ethanol in a diesel engine could save the sector \$2.5 billion in after-treatment costs.

Many industry insiders are forecasting a significant drop in annual ethanol demand and at least three dozen ethanol plants could be idled and 40 others operate at reduced rates. This all adds up to the corn industry needing to make some big demand adjustments quickly. I should mention, Clear Flames is actively seeking investors. You can click [HERE](#) for more information and to be taken to their website. As with any investment, make certain you fully understand the risk. This space has been extremely volatile as of late so pay close attention. Interesting concept... (Source: TomKat, Stanford, DTN, Clearflame, Herald-Review)



**ClearFlame Engines**  
@ClearFlameEng



Keep your Diesel engine design and performance. Run on straight ethanol. 🌱 Thank you so much @toddnneeleyDTN for the fantastic write up!!!!

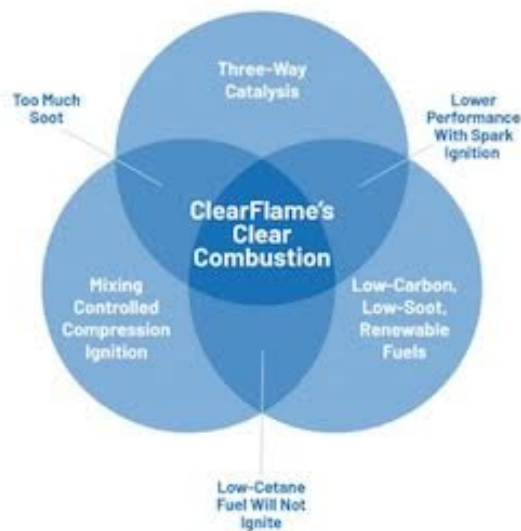
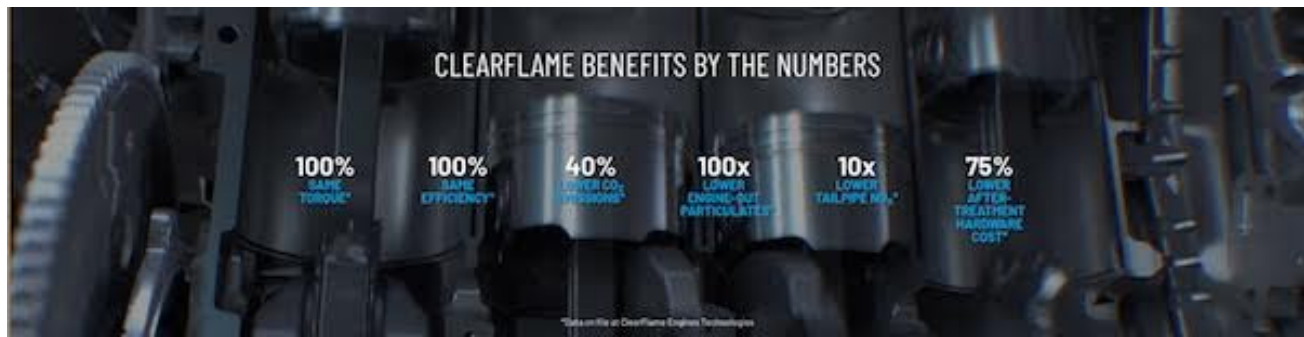


**ClearFlame Engines Can Cut Diesel Emissions Burning Straight Ethanol**  
Developers say a new diesel-engine technology has the potential to boost ethanol demand 15 billion gallons per year or more.

[dtnpf.com](https://dtnpf.com)







## THE CLEAR ADVANTAGE

ClearFlame is the **only heavy-duty engine technology developer to successfully combine three proven processes** to deliver an unparalleled combination of improved performance and reduced emissions.

## How to Safely Handle Groceries During Our Lockdown

As we all adjust to our new stay-at-home lifestyles, one chore we won't be able to escape is grocery shopping and cooking. Some of us are making trips to the store while others are able to rely on delivery. But should we be taking any extra precautions with our food once it's in our homes? Most health professionals are all saying yes! Below might be some helpful information and perhaps a few things you haven't thought about:

**REMINDER...** A new report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) indicates that traces of the coronavirus were found on cruise ship surfaces after more than two weeks. The study, [published on the CDC's website](#), found that COVID-19 RNA traces were found on surfaces throughout the Diamond Princess cruise ship as long as 17 days after passengers and crew had disembarked from the voyage.

**Wipe Down Packaging:** The FDA says there's no current evidence to

support the transmission of the virus from food packaging... But who really knows! If someone with the virus is stocking the shelves or boxing or unboxing the package in the stockroom we could certainly be putting ourselves at risk. So wipe down those containers with disinfectant wipes once you get the groceries home.

**Wash Counters and Other Surfaces:** As referenced in the cruise ship study, the virus can live much longer than you think on surfaces. Wipe down countertops, refrigerator and pantry door handles, and any other surfaces you touched after you've put away the groceries or touched them and taken them out. Experts say it is not necessary to use a disinfectant unless you're sharing a space with someone who is exhibiting signs of respiratory illness or has been exposed to the virus. Soap and water will suffice but a disinfectant isn't going to hurt anything if it makes you feel better.

**Wash Your Hands After All Touches:** Most experts say that avoiding coronavirus all comes down to hand hygiene. Wash your hands well after putting away all packaging, including paper boxes and bags. It also doesn't hurt to wash your hands if you're opening a container that was just recently purchased.

**What About the Food Itself?** There's no data to show that COVID-19 is spread by consuming food, according to the CDC, the Food and Drug Administration, the Department of Agriculture, and the World Health Organization. The information available from outbreaks of SARS and MERS, caused by coronaviruses similar to the one that causes COVID-19, shows that those illnesses were not transmitted by food. Even so, good food safety habits would protect you against most foodborne illnesses, according to James E. Rogers, Ph.D., Consumer Reports' director of food safety research and testing. In fact, such steps are perhaps more important these days. "Now is not the time you want to get a foodborne illness and need to seek medical help from doctors who are overtaxed managing COVID-19 patients," Rogers says.

### **Safe-Handling Basics:**

- *Wash your hands before and after preparing food—and during if you are handling raw meat, poultry, seafood, or eggs—as well as before you eat.*
- *Wash fruits and vegetables.*
- *Don't eat raw dough or batter (E. coli is sometimes found in flour).*
- *Prevent cross-contamination by keeping raw meat separate from other foods, using separate cutting boards for meat and vegetables, and using a food thermometer to ensure safe cooking temperatures.*
- *Refrigerate perishable foods and leftovers promptly.*

**Does Food Need to be Cooked?** The virus is probably susceptible to normal cooking temperatures, according to the WHO. That's why you don't need to cook food any differently from what you'd typically do for food safety, according to Benjamin Chapman, Ph.D., a professor and food safety expert at North Carolina State University. There is no evidence that meat and other animal products carry the virus, but safe cooking temps that kill pathogens should be followed, as always.

**Are Raw Foods Safe?** It's theoretically possible that if someone who's infected sneezes directly on an apple, you pick up that apple and then touch your face, you could get infected. You're more likely to get infected standing next to someone in the produce section, though. And again, there is no evidence that the coronavirus is transmissible through food. But, if you're concerned, cook your produce. General safety rules advise washing fruits and vegetables in water, using a vegetable brush if you like on hard produce like apples and potatoes. Vinegar won't kill the virus, and there's no evidence that vegetable washes do, either. However, do not wash your produce with soap or bleach, even if it's diluted. You're better off just cooking the produce if you're that concerned.





## Food Safety Tips During COVID-19

### Grocery Shopping

- Use disinfectant to wipe down cart or basket
- Examine produce with your eyes, not hands. Wash before eating
- Wipe down reusable shopping bags before and after use



### Takeout & Delivery

- Ask for no-contact delivery: pay ahead of time and have order left at the door
- Wash hands after removing food from packaging and after throwing packaging away



### Meal Delivery Kits

- Wash hands before opening boxes and after emptying them
- Practice normal safe food handling procedures, like separating meat and poultry from other foods



**verywell**

## 4 STEPS TO FOOD SAFETY



  
**CLEAN**



  
**SEPARATE**



  
**COOK**



  
**CHILL**

### History Lesson - "U.S. Enters World War I" - Why We Should Pay Close Attention

President Woodrow Wilson's request to formally declare war on Germany was officially authorized by Congress on this day in 1917. The Senate first voted to

support the measure, then two days later on April 6, the House followed.

Wilson was motivated to enter the fray when Germany resumed submarine attacks on passenger and merchant ships in the North Atlantic and the Mediterranean Sea. Germany had agreed in May of 1916 to refrain from attacking civilian ships and allow the crews of enemy merchant vessels to step off prior to any attack.

Known as the "Sussex pledge", President Wilson felt that Germany's violation of the accord left the U.S. little choice but to join allies Britain, France and Russia in the Great War, also dubbed the "War to End All Wars".

The military battle officially broke out in July of 1914 as disagreements in Europe over territory and boundaries had been brewing for some time. It came to a head with the assassination of the Archduke Ferdinand of Austria by a Serbian zealot on June 28, 1914. Exactly one month later, war broke out!

Ferdinand's assassination set off a complicated chain of international alliances that had been formed in the decades preceding the crisis. The Allies were formed by Russia, France, and Britain, which stood opposed to the Central Powers of Germany and Austria-Hungary. Eventually, both alliances expanded as more countries entered the war.

The U.S. had made great efforts to remain neutral, which was widely supported by the American people, at least in the beginning. In early 1917, German Navy leaders convinced Kaiser Wilhelm II that a resumption of unrestricted submarine warfare could help defeat Great Britain within just a few months. As this move would violate the "Sussex pledge", military officials knew full well that it would most likely lead to war with the U.S.

At about this same time, it became public knowledge that Germany had been trying to sway Mexico into an alliance with the Central Powers, pledging to help Mexico regain territories lost in the Mexican-American War in the mid-1800s. Known as the Zimmermann Telegram, the British handed the intelligence over to Wilson in late February and the press had the story within days.

Still, the President was unsure the public would support entering the war. He waited until late-March before convening a Cabinet meeting to broach the matter—almost a month after he had first seen the telegram. The precise reasons for Wilson's decision to choose war remain the subject of debate among historians, especially in light of his initial efforts to avoid it. But by 1917, U.S. public opinion had turned in support of the war against Germany.

Furthermore, the U.S. had begun to place military personnel on civilian ships to protect them from German attacks - according to international law, that move



already constituted an act of war against Germany. Wilson asked Congress for "a war to end all wars" that would "make the world safe for democracy", and Congress voted to declare war on Germany on April 6, 1917.

On December 7, 1917, the U.S. declared war on Austria-Hungary. WWI would continue through November 1918. More than 70 million global military personnel were mobilized in one of the largest wars in history.

Sadly over +9,000,000 soldiers and over +7,000,000 civilians died as a result of the war, including the victims of a number of genocides.

There are now some rumblings and fear that the global environment is ripe for conflict. The European Union seems to be weakening in the wake of "Brexit" and more massive debt building to battle the coronavirus. We also have Russia making a play in energy and many nations now taking a deeper and more negative look at China. As nations are forced to isolate and close more borders and populism brews the possibility of a fire starting and spreading is dramatically increased. While everyone is distracted and trying to battle coronavirus some may see this as a moment of opportunity. Let's hope not... I think we have to closely watch how things unfold in Europe and global sentiment towards Russia and China. (Source: Office of the Historian, Wikipedia)

On **April 6**, 1917, the United States formally **declared war against Germany** and entered the conflict in Europe. Fighting since the summer of 1914, Britain, France, and Russia welcomed news that American troops and supplies would be directed toward the Allied war effort. Under the command of Major General **John J. Pershing**, over two million U.S. troops served **in France** during the war.



Company "I", 102 Inf., 2b Div., A.E.F. El Juan Studio: Juan Casablanca, photographer, c1919. Panoramic Photographs. Prints & Photographs Division

THOMPSON'S  
DRUG STORE  
"Sundries"  
Papers - Amusements  
Prescriptions Dispensed

# THE ALBANY-DECATUR DAILY

"DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS AND OPPORTUNITIES OF ALBANY, ALABAMA AND ORIENTAL ALABAMA"

ALBANY, ALABAMA (NEW DECATUR, ALA. POSTOFFICE) FRIDAY, APRIL 6, 1917.

PRICE FIVE CENTS

WEATHER  
Forecast for To-day  
Fair tonight and  
Saturday; warmer

# WAR IS DECLARED!

## THE PRESIDENT CALLS FOR VOLUNTEERS

## UNITED STATES JOINS ALLIES AGAINST GERMANY!

UNITED STATES NOW  
NEEDS MEN; GERMAN  
FLEET IS HELD;  
BIG ARMY PLANNED

Preparations For Entering The War Of Nations  
Hurried In Every Quarter

INTERNED GERMAN LINERS ARE SEIZED  
HOUSE, BY VOTE OF 373 TO 50, AFTER  
ALL NIGHT SESSION, BACKS PRESIDENT







World War I (1914-1918)		Casualties (ALLIES)		
Country	Dead	Wounded	Total	Casualty %
Belgium	13,716	44,686	93,061	34.9%
France	1,357,800	4,266,000	6,160,800	73.3%
Greece	5,000	21,000	17,000	11.7%
Italy	650,000	947,000	2,197,000	39.1%
Japan	300	907	1,210	0.2%
Montenegro	3,000	10,000	20,000	40.0%
Portugal	7,222	13,751	33,291	33.3%
Russia	1,700,000	4,950,000	9,150,000	76.3%
Romania	335,706	120,000	535,706	71.4%
Serbia	45,000	133,148	331,106	46.8%
United Kingdom	908,371	2,090,212	3,190,235	35.8%
United States	53,402	204,002	320,518	6.8%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,494,517</b>	<b>12,800,706</b>	<b>22,049,927</b>	<b>39.4%</b>

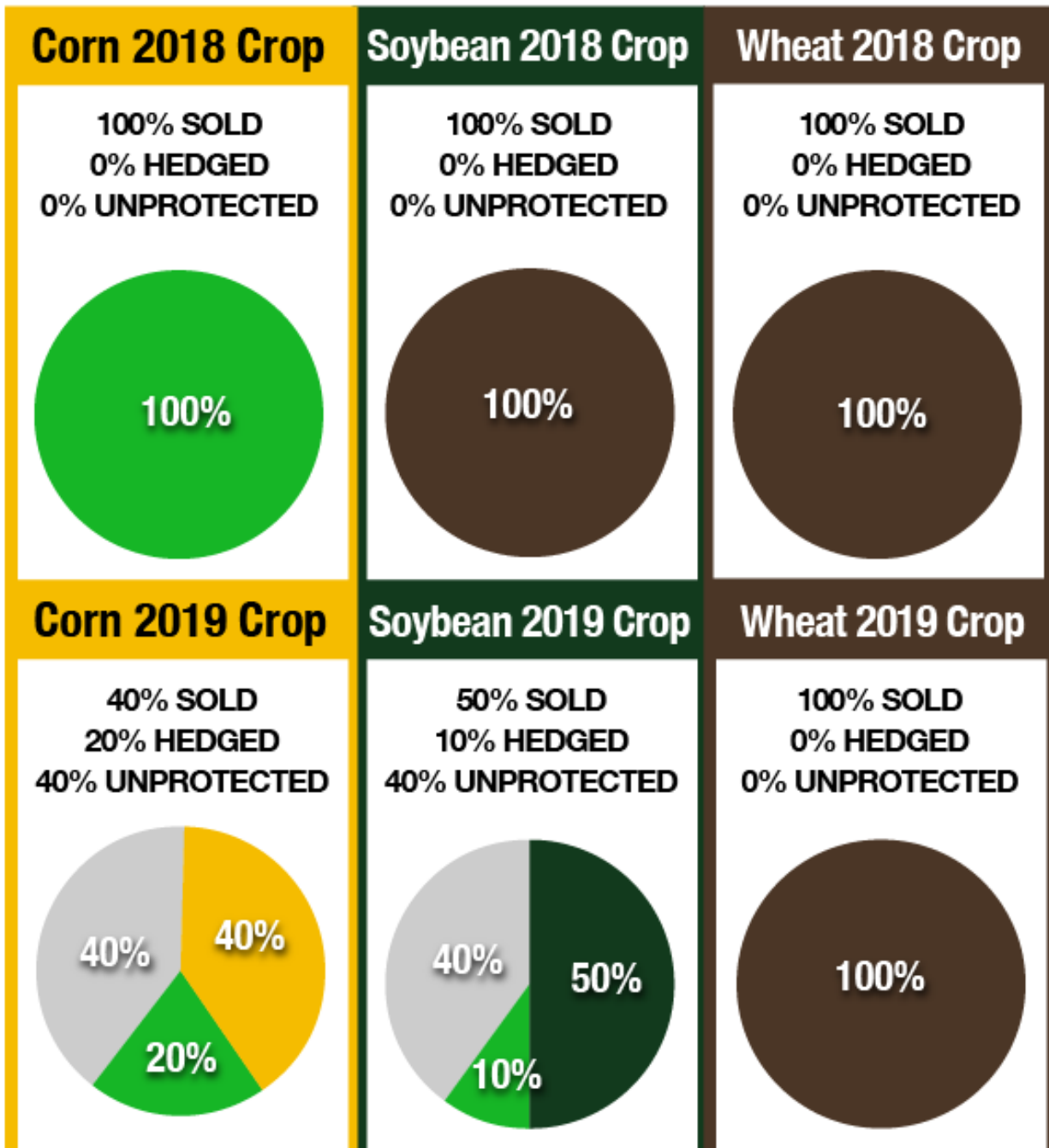
© 2011 Dr. Hartnell's Education Revolution

**ANSWER to riddle:** Eye.

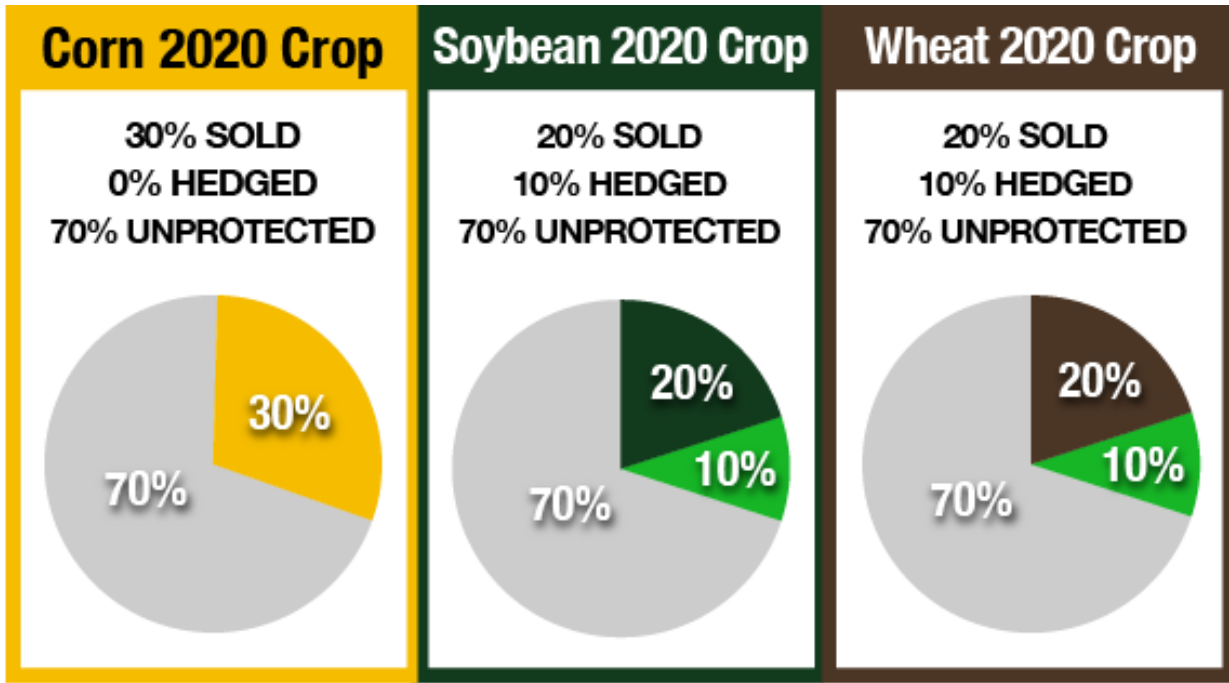
**CASH SALES & HEDGING TOTALS**



**PLEASE READ** The Van Trump Report is a publication intended to give analytical research to the Agricultural community. The Van Trump Report is not rendering investment or hedging advice based on individual portfolios or individual business operations. Kevin Van Trump is NOT registered as a stock or commodity advisor in any jurisdiction. You need to consult with your own registered advisor for specific strategies and ideas that are appropriate to your specific portfolio or business entity. Information included in this report is derived from many sources believed to be reliable but no representation is made that it is accurate or complete. This report is not intended, and shall not constitute, or be construed as an offer or recommendation to "buy", "sell" or "invest" in any securities or commodities referred to in this report. Rather, this research is intended to identify issues and macro situations that those invested in the agricultural industry should be aware of to help better assess and improve their own risk management skills. Please read the entire [DISCLAIMER PAGE](#) for full risk-disclosure and copyright laws.







# AgSwag



**Bold. Fast. Fun**

Sponsored by **AgSwag**

Tired of battling poor customer service, poor quality and lack of premium selection in the swag space?

AgSwag now offers our members the latest fashions and trends from brands such as: Branded Bills, Carhartt, Champion, Cutter & Buck, Drake, Fairway and Greene, Filson, Ice Shaker, Marmot, New Era, Nike, North Face, Pacific Headwear, Under Armour, Yeti... and more

Swag should NOT be considered a "cost" or an expense for business owners. When used properly in a well thought out campaign "corporate swag" can dramatically reduce the cost of new customer acquisition, client churn and retention, expedited development of brand ambassadors, etc. The Van Trump family believes their AgSwag business can deliver on those promises.

AgSwag is not trying to be the lowest cost supplier. We are trying to partner with "best-of-practice" and like-minded businesses to bring a better "return-on-

investment” by designing and helping to implement a well thought out corporate swag strategy and campaign. There are hundreds of online companies that offer quick ways to throw a corporate logo on a cheap hat or t-shirt. AgSwag offers the best in selection, design, implementation, and service! Click [HERE](#) to learn more!

Call to order your AgSwag today @ 816-221-SWAG!



Can't see the images? [View As Webpage](#)

This email was sent by: Farm Direction  
1020 Pennsylvania Ave, Kansas City, MO, 64105 US

**Privacy Policy**

**Update Profile**

**Manage Subscriptions**