



Jordan Van Trump <jordan@farmdirection.com>

GOOD MORNING: The Van Trump Report 4-15-20

1 message

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

Wed, Apr 15, 2020 at 5:30 AM

Reply-To: Jordan <reply-fec41173766c037c-1180_HTML-40325470-100003450-11@vantrumpreport-email.com>

To: jordan@farmdirection.com



"We have three types of friends in life: friends for a reason, friends for a season, and friends for a lifetime."- **Unknown**

Wednesday, April 15, 2020[Printable Copy](#) or [Audio Version](#)

Morning Summary: Opening Day for Major League Baseball is indefinitely postponed but opening day for the U.S. economy looks to be right around the next corner... but is that really bullish? The S&P 500 is up +27% from the low set back on March 23rd on talk that the economy will soon be reopening and optimism surrounding pent-up consumer demand. I'm clearly not on the same page, believing the market is buying the "hype" and the rumors. I worry that when the U.S. economy actually opens back up real results will be a disappointment to many who've been calling for a major snapback and V-shaped recovery. Sorry, I just don't see it! Yes, I understand that the Fed is in buying everything and many individual investors are sticking with the "buy-the-dip" philosophy. Unfortunately, I see the world battling its worst health crisis in some 100-years. I'm seeing global bank and corporate debt exploding higher, I see unemployment jumping at its fastest pace on record, and real estate at a complete standstill. In other words,

tough for me to be a bull up at this altitude considering the massive shift in our underlying landscape. The Wall Street Journal reported yesterday that a second wave of job losses is hitting those who thought they were safe. Businesses that set up employees to work from home are laying them off as sales plummet. Corporate lawyers are seeing jobs dry up. Government workers are being furloughed as state and city budgets are squeezed. And health-care practices not involved in fighting the pandemic are suffering massive losses of revenue. Wall Street banks like JPMorgan and Wells Fargo kicked off Q1 earnings season with results that also point to some severe economic pain ahead. JPMorgan, the largest U.S. bank, said Q1 profits tumbled -69% to the lowest in more than six years as credit costs surged, giving investors a first glimpse at the extent of the damage Covid-19 is wreaking on banks and more broadly the U.S. economy. Interestingly, JPMorgan set aside a whopping \$8.29 billion for bad loans, the biggest provision in at least a decade and more than double what most analysts expected. JPMorgan's CEO Jamie Dimon said his bank, which is the biggest in the U.S., was bracing itself for "the likelihood of a fairly severe recession." The bank's CFO warned credit reserves could climb "meaningfully higher" in subsequent quarters since the bank now has more severe forecasts for unemployment and economic growth than when it made its assessment on first-quarter loan losses. Wells Fargo, the fourth-largest U.S. bank, reported an -89% drop in Q1 profits. Wells said it added an "unprecedented" \$3.1 billion of loan loss reserves and also warned it may need to set aside even more to offset anticipated defaults. Between just those two banks, that's \$10 billion set aside to cover loan losses and they are already acknowledging it may not be enough. Analysts think this could be particularly true when it comes to corporate borrowers. In fact, JPMorgan and Wells both singled out the oil and gas industry as a main driver behind their higher loss provisioning, although the energy sector was in trouble even without the pandemic. Bank of America, Citigroup, Goldman Sachs, and Morgan Stanley continue the big bank earnings today. Other earnings of interest today include Delta, Las Vegas Sands, PNC Financial, The Progressive, and United Health Care. Today's key economic report will be March Retail Sales, which analysts are forecasting fell around -8%. The New York Fed also reports Empire State Manufacturing which is seen plummeting to near record lows set during the Financial Crisis.

Princess Cruises is Canceling All Voyages through June 30, 2020.

President Trump Halts WHO Funding: *The US president said funding would be on hold for 60 to 90 days pending a review of the WHO's warnings about the coronavirus and China. He accused the global body of "severely mismanaging and covering up" the threat. The US president said funding would be on hold for 60 to 90 days pending a review of the WHO's warnings about the coronavirus and China. He accused the global body of "severely mismanaging and covering up" the threat*

April 15th... But Taxes Are NOT Due Today! *Good news, as I'm sure you know, April 15 is not the income tax filing deadline this year. Due to the many disruption brought about by the coronavirus pandemic, the deadline has been extended three months to July 15 for both filing and paying 2019 income taxes. If you owe taxes for the year, your balance won't begin accruing interest until July 16. You also don't have to be personally affected by COVID-19 to take advantage of the extension — it automatically applies to all taxpayers. July 15 is also the deadline for most state taxes, although some don't collect income tax, and others have extended their due dates to May or June. Find a full list [HERE](#).*

Treasury and Major Airlines Reach Tentative \$25 Billion Bailout Deal:

U.S. airlines reached an agreement in principle with the Treasury Department to access billions of dollars in aid. The Treasury Department said that Alaska Airlines, Allegiant Air, American Airlines, Delta Air Lines, Frontier Airlines, Hawaiian Airlines, JetBlue Airways, United Airlines, SkyWest Airlines, and Southwest Airlines will be participating in the payroll support program, which was created as part of the economic stabilization package that Congress passed last month. The funds are intended to be used to pay employees, and the airlines that take them are prohibited from major staffing or pay cuts through September. Airlines for America, an industry lobbying group, said that as of April 9, American airline carriers had idled 2,200 aircraft and that passenger volume was down -95% from a year ago. The industry expects global passenger revenues to fall by -\$252 billion this year. (Source: The New York Times)

Texas Oil Regulator Weighs -20% Production Cuts: *Texas energy regulators began debating yesterday whether the state should impose -20% crude oil output cuts on producers to help stabilize prices amid the global coronavirus pandemic. The issue is under consideration after OPEC+ agreed to cut production by nearly -10 million b/d (barrels per day), although that's still far short of at least -20 million b/d of expected global demand destruction. With Texas producing close to 5 million b/d of crude, a 20% reduction would remove roughly 1 million b/d, but opponents said the state should let the free markets work to trigger organic reductions. Permian Basin producers Pioneer Natural Resources and Parsley Energy led the argument in favor of requiring cutbacks during a marathon Texas Railroad Commission hearing. Pioneer CEO Scott Sheffield said Texas intervention could push WTI prices closer to \$30/barrel, crippling the industry temporarily but allowing it to survive. Inaction keeping crude closer to \$20/b may push 80% of the shale companies into bankruptcy. He said Texas stepping up would push other U.S. states and G20 nations to take more direct action as well. Read more from [Platts](#).*

IMF Warns Global Economy to Suffer Worst Blow Since the Great Depression: *The International Monetary Fund yesterday forecast that 2020 would see the worst global economic contraction since the Great Depression of the 1930s, noting that the world outlook had "changed dramatically" since January with output losses that would "dwarf" the global financial crisis 12 years ago. The bank expects the global economy will shrink by -3.0% this year, with advanced economies shrinking by -6.1%. That includes a -5.9% contraction in the U.S. In comparison, the euro zone is expected to shrink by 7.5%, but China is seen growing by 1.2% in 2020. The IMF expects a "partial recovery" in 2021, provided that the pandemic eases throughout this year but warned that the crisis will leave lasting scars on the global economy and most countries should expect their economies to be -5% smaller than planned even after a sharp recovery in 2021. The IMF, which dubbed the current crisis "the Great Lockdown," said "this is a crisis like no other." Speaking at a press conference, Tuesday, IMF's chief economist Gita Gopinath explained "the magnitude and speed of collapse in activity that has followed (the lockdown) is unlike anything we've experienced in our lifetimes." The IMF also said it had received "an unprecedented number of calls for emergency funding." Out of its 189 members, more than 90 of them have asked for financial support. More details are available [HERE](#).*



FARM TANK

Tweets of the Day





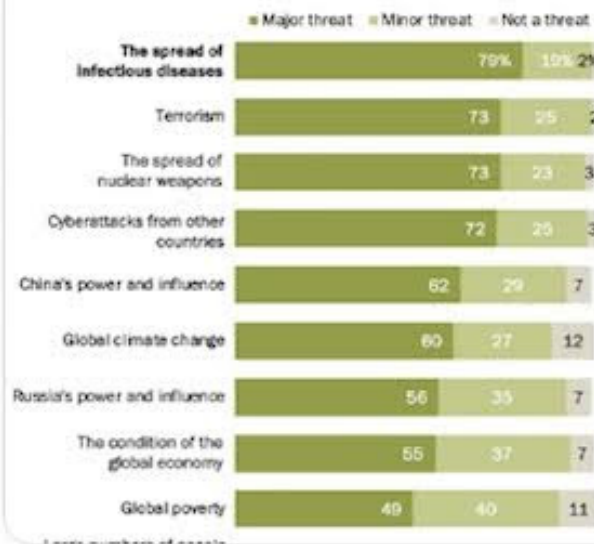
Pew Research Fact Tank ✓
@FactTank

% of Americans who see these as major threats to the U.S.:

- Spread of infectious diseases 79%
- Terrorism 73%
- Spread of nuclear weapons 73%
- Cyberattacks from other countries 72%
- China's power and influence 62%
- Climate change 60% pewrsr.ch/2Vs5vKq

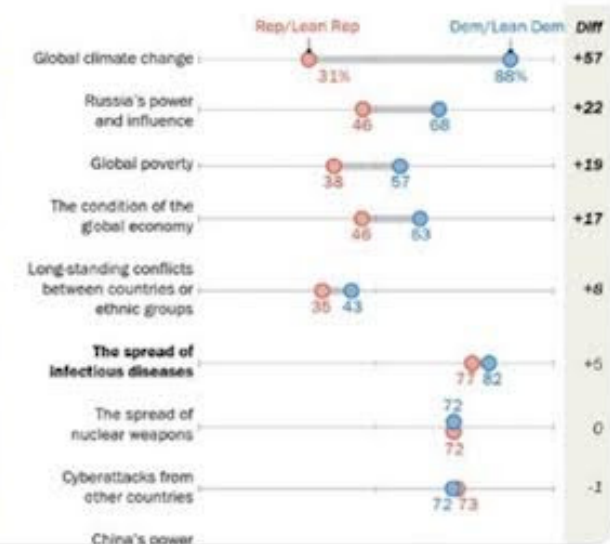
Americans see many threats, but fears about the spread of infectious diseases top the list

% who say ___ is a major threat, minor threat or not a threat to the United States



Democrats and Republicans similarly concerned about spread of diseases, but Democrats show more worry on climate and Russia, Republicans on migration

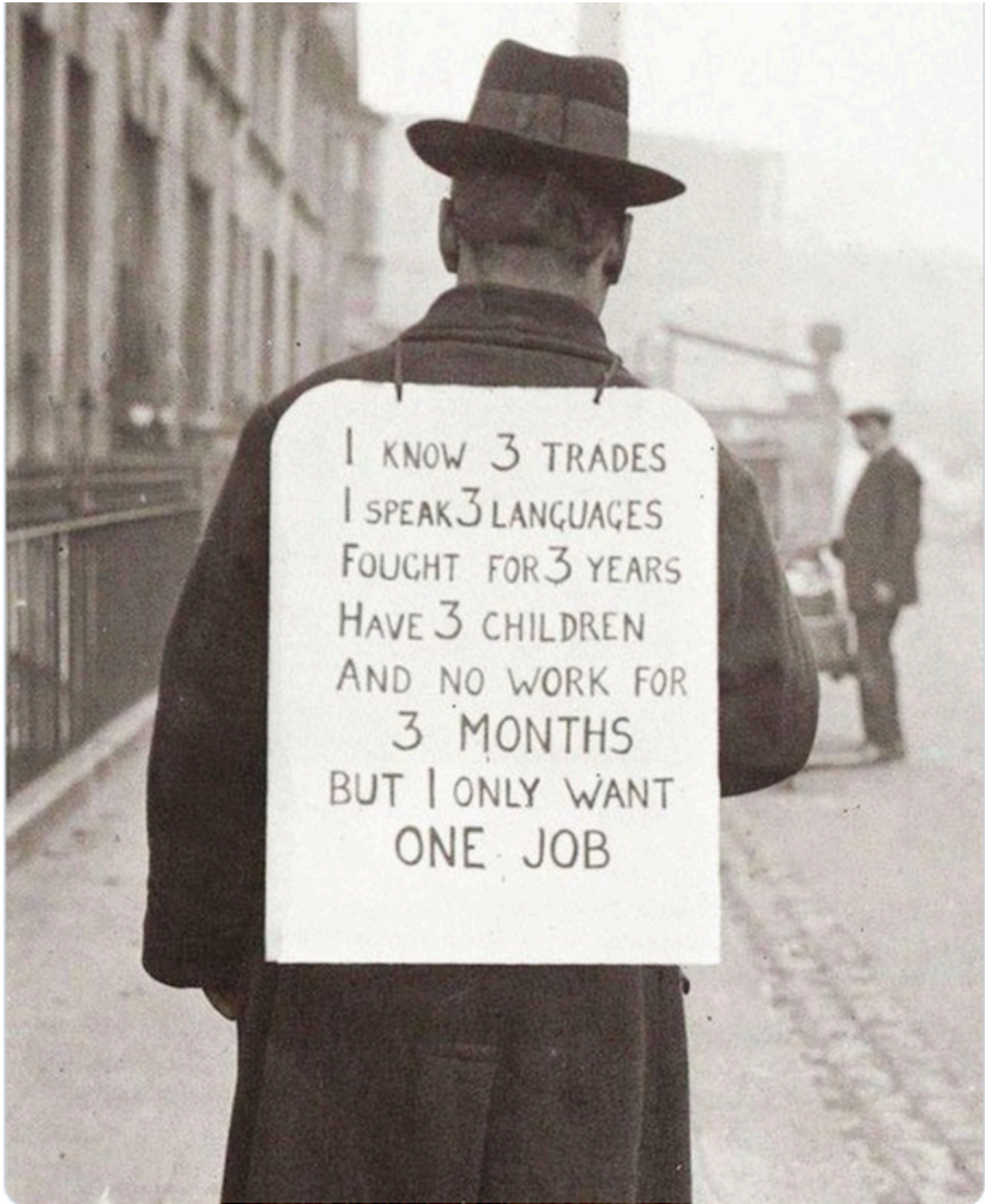
% who say ___ is a major threat to the United States



History Lovers Club
@historylvrsclub

1930s Linkedin profile.





Avinash Bochalya
@AvinashJat01



The most beautiful [#corn](#) on this planet. It's a Native American variety called 'Glass Gem Corn' and yes it

really does grow like that. @CIMMYT





Jenny Burgess
@BurgessHillFarm



Watching the storms build. [#kswx](#) [#countryliving](#)
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Super 70s Sports
@Super70sSports



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





Tim Fargo ✓
@tim_fargo



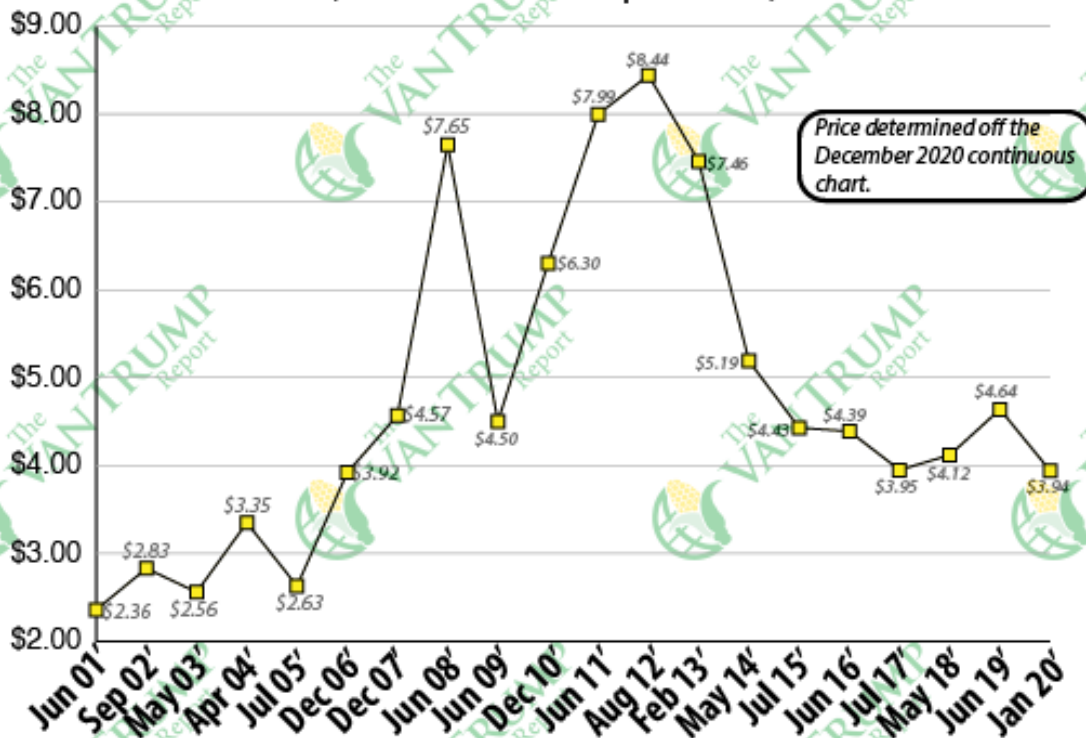
Life begins when a person first realizes how soon it will end. - Marcelene Cox #quote
#WeekendWisdom



CORN bulls continue to struggle as "demand" remains heavily debated. Many inside the trade are now thinking the fallout in ethanol could reduce corn demand by -500 million bushels from the previous estimate. On top of all the recent bearish ethanol headlines, Valero filed a report earlier this week with the SEC saying it has idling eight of its ethanol plants and reducing production at its six other plants. There's also talk that improved weather forecasts could allow for more U.S. new-crop planted acres. Weather in Brazil has also arguably improved with some dry areas getting a few drinks. Obviously, remaining weather could still impact Brazil's second-crop corn so this number is still being heavily debated. Technically, the JUL20 contract might be trapped in a nearby range between \$3.20 and \$3.50 per bushel. As a spec, I'm currently long, having initiated a small bullish position on last week's lows. I'm prepared to add additional length on the next leg lower. More than likely adding an additional unit every -10 cents lower until I puke! I'm hoping the market doesn't test my nerves on a move to \$2.80 like many bears are forecasting. As a producer, I have heard cash prices are starting to firm in some areas as the basis strengthens a bit.

When Do Corn Prices Peak?

(Measured in dollars per bushel)



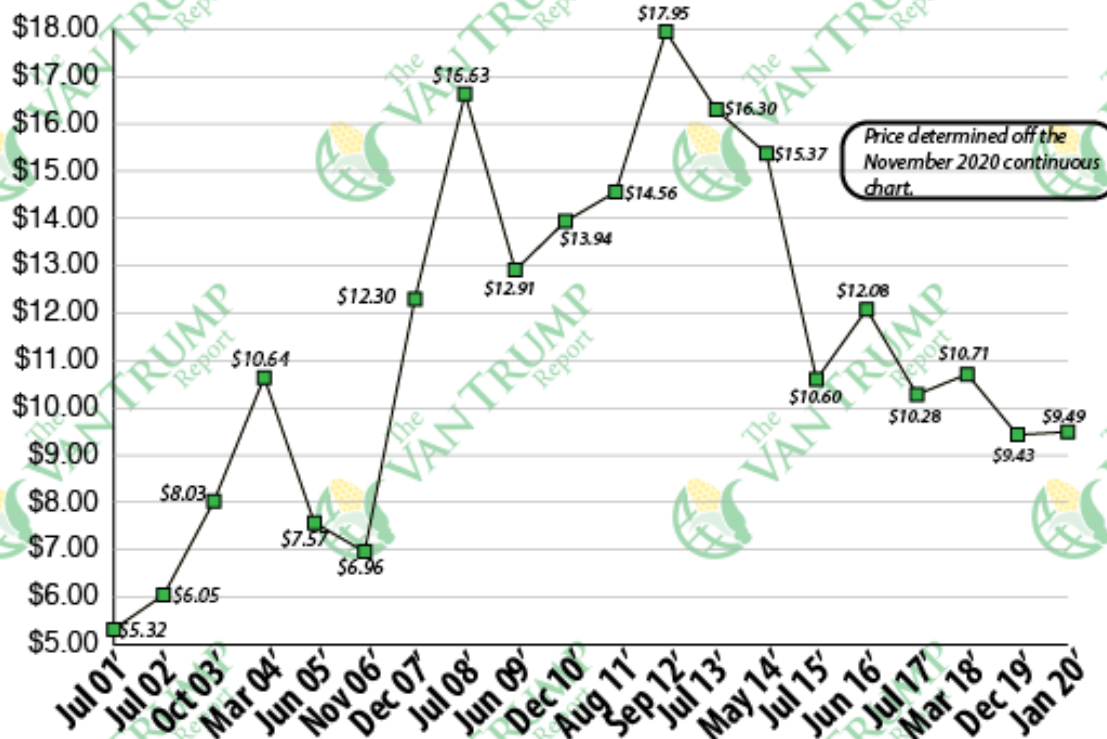
Source: Barchart, CBOT, April, 2020

@KevinVanTrump

SOYBEAN meal will be trying to bounce off fresh contract lows. The problem is meal is still flowing out of Argentina, and Chinese demand continues to waiver, with import data showing multi-year lows for March Chinese soybean imports. At the same time, global meat demand has been getting rocked. There was talk circulating inside the trade that meat demand here at home is down over -30% in the past 30-days as restaurants are closed and family budgets have tightened. I have also heard talk in the hog market that some are cutting their meal rations in an effort to keep the hogs that are backing up in the pipeline from gaining too much weight. There's also the continued talk from the bears of increasing U.S. soybean acres. Despite the recent rounds of bearish headlines, as a spec, I would still like to eventually start building a small bullish position. I've been thinking for a while that the MAY20 contract could retest the low end of the range somewhere between \$8.20 and \$8.30. I suspect if that happens I will look to throw a small stake in the ground and start to build a position. I think eventually, we are going to see a significant surge in U.S. demand and perhaps even a wide-spread weather story to some extent. Yes, I'm being optimistic, but if we trade down near \$8.20 it feels like upside potential is much greater than downside risk. Staying optimistic longer-term...

When Do Soybean Prices Peak?

(Measured in dollars per bushel)



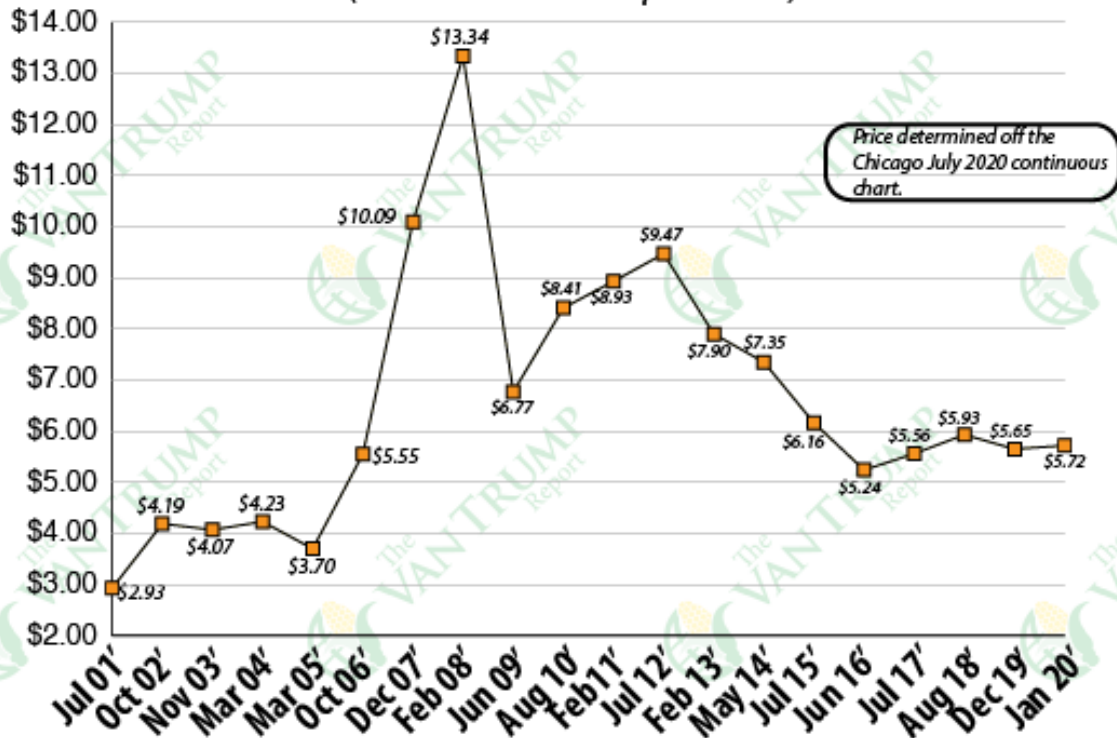
Source: Barchart, CBOT, April, 2020

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WHEAT bears are pointing to better rains in the forecast for some of the more dry areas of southern Russia and strong exports out of the European Union. I should note, Ukraine export estimates were also recently raised higher. Some inside the trade are now thinking Ukraine may eventually hit the export cap of 20.2 MMT recently put in place by the government to ensure ample domestic supply. Bottom-line, global headlines of improved weather in Russia, Australia, etc., along with strong exports from low-cost producers, and major world economic uncertainty could work to keep a lid on most nearby rallies. Here at home, traders are debating the extent of damage associated with the recent round of extremely cold temps, which doesn't appear to be massively widespread. The bears, however, continue pointing to a fairly strong U.S. crop as the USDA recently rates it 62% "Good-to-Excellent". Meaning at this point it appears to be a fairly strong U.S. crop and looks as if it can sustain a few weather extremes. As a spec, I'm on the sideline waiting to be a buyer on a big break. As a producer, I pulled the trigger yesterday on some new-crop July 2021 sales with SRW prices on the board still up in the \$5.50 to \$5.60 range.

When Do Wheat Prices Peak?

(Measured in dollars per bushel)



Source: Barchart, CBOT, April, 2020

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WHATEVER FLOATS YOUR GOAT

A Section for Creative Minds

> NPPC Calls on Washington to Buy Pork as it Warns of Industry Crisis:
U.S. pork producers are under immense financial pressure and the Covid-19 pandemic has compounded the situation, the National Pork Producers Council (NPPC) explained in a letter to Congress on Tuesday. "The financial situation of

U.S. hog farmers is perilous, and their livelihoods are at stake...If the problems in the sector are left unchecked, without rapid government intervention, the situation will spiral out of control," NPPC explained. Dr. Dermot Hayes, an economist with Iowa State University, and Dr. Steve Meyer, a pork industry economist with Kerns & Associates, estimate that hog farmers will lose nearly \$37 per hog, or almost \$5 billion collectively, for each hog marketed for the rest of the year. NPPC is calling on the USDA to purchase over \$1 billion in pork products to supplement agency food bank programs. Additionally, NPPC asks for "equitable direct payments to producers without eligibility restrictions." You can read the full letter [HERE](#).

> 25 Senators Urge USDA To Take Immediate Action to Support Dairy Farmers: *Senator Patrick Leahy (D-Vt), the most senior member of the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, and Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich), the Committee's Ranking Member, led 23 other senators in sending a letter to Ag Secretary Sonny Perdue to urge immediate action to support the nation's dairy farmers and stabilize dairy markets, which have been severely disrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic. The impact has left dairy farmers with excess product that was originally intended for the food service industry and no channel to get their milk, butter, cheese, and yogurt into the hands of consumers. The senators are asking Secretary Perdue to use the agriculture assistance provisions in the CARES Act to provide stability for the dairy industry and prevent a collapse in farm milk prices. Read more [HERE](#).*

> Foodworkers Union Says Thousands Have Been Infected: *The United Food and Commercial Workers said nearly 3,000 workers at UFCW-organized grocery stores might be infected with the coronavirus. The figure, which includes workers with confirmed cases and those forced to stay home because of exposure, is double the union's estimates from one week earlier. UFCW has asked the CDC to direct grocery shoppers to wear masks and to require employers to limit the number of customers allowed in stores at a time. The union also sent a letter to Vice President Mike Pence asking the administration to provide protective equipment for grocery workers. (Source: Politico)*

> Value of China's Farm Imports from U.S. Up +110% in First Quarter: *China brought in 35.56 billion yuan (\$5.05 billion) worth of farm goods from the United States in the first three months of 2020, up +110% from last year, according to customs data. China brought in 7.81 million metric tons of soybeans from the U.S. in the first quarter of 2020, worth 21.88 billion yuan, up +210% from last year, according to data from the General Administration of Customs. Shipments of U.S. pork to China during the first quarter were 168,000 metric tons, up +640% from the previous year. The value of the cargoes increased by 17 times to 3.04 billion yuan. Imports of U.S. cotton were at 124,000 metric tons, up +43.5% from last year. The fiber shipments were worth 1.59 billion yuan, up +17%. (Source: Reuters)*

> New Tool Discovered to Fight Fusarium Head Blight in Wheat: *The Agricultural Research Service (ARS) of the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) has discovered a gene that can be used to develop varieties of wheat that will be more resistant to Fusarium head blight (FHB). FHB, also known as scab, is caused by a fungal pathogen, Fusarium graminearum, and results in wheat loss in the United States, China, Canada, Europe, and many other countries. It also attacks barley and oats. According to the ARS, when the pathogen grows unchecked in infected grains, it releases mycotoxins that can induce vomiting in humans, as well as weight loss in livestock when they refuse to eat the grains. The researchers found that the Fhb7 gene effectively reduces FHB by detoxifying the mycotoxins secreted by the pathogen. The gene also confers resistance to crown rot, a wheat disease caused by a related pathogen. Learn more [HERE](#).*

> Calling All AgTech Entrepreneurs: *USB and the YLI Announce Soy Innovation Challenge: With the goal of making price setters rather than price takers out of U.S. soybean farmers, the United Soybean Board (USB) has partnered with the Yield Lab Institute (YLI) to create the Soy Innovation Challenge. This competition calls upon agtech startups to disrupt the current soybean value chain and create value for U.S. farmers through innovation and technology. USB says this Soy Innovation Challenge is a chance to ensure that the voice of the farmer is loud and clear in deciding which disruptive technologies will transform the global food system. Agtech startups, project teams and groups who have an innovative product, service, or technology that provides value directly back to the U.S. soybean farmers are invited to complete the online application by May 1, 2020. Learn more [HERE](#).*

> Bob Iger Back in the Saddle at Disney: *In case you missed it, a story in The New York Times Monday said that Bob Iger, who just resigned from Disney on February 25, has had to jump back in full steam to help the company he ran for 15 years through one of its toughest struggles in history. NYT's Media Columnist Ben Smith says Mr. Iger is now intensely focused on remaking a company that will emerge, he believes, deeply changed by the crisis. The sketch he has drawn for associates offers a glimpse at the post-pandemic future: It's a Disney with fewer employees, leading the new and uncertain business of how to gather people safely for entertainment. Read the full article [HERE](#).*

> PayPal, Square, and Intuit Begin Offering Virus Relief Loans to Small Businesses: *Fintech companies have been lobbying for weeks to be able to participate in the U.S. government's emergency lending program for small businesses. Now those efforts have paid off, as PayPal, Intuit and Square have all been approved to participate in the U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA) Paycheck Protection Program, which provides aid in the form of forgivable loans for small businesses that keep all employees on their payroll for at least eight weeks.*

The \$350 billion small business loan program is a part of Congress's \$2 trillion coronavirus stimulus package, and is aimed at those businesses with fewer than 500 employees. Read more from [TechCrunch](#).

> Studios Look to Offload Movies to Streaming Services: *A wide array of film studios in recent weeks have tried to sell some of the movies they haven't been able to show in theaters to streaming services such as Netflix, Amazon Prime Video and Hulu, according to multiple media executives. Hulu has received over 50 pitches, while Netflix has gotten nearly double that number, executives said, although several more offers are coming in daily. The closure of movie theaters has prompted both big and small film studios to try to sell some of the movies they haven't been able to release to streaming services such as Netflix and Amazon. It's a sign of how the pandemic has prompted Hollywood to rethink its longstanding methods of releasing movies. (Source: The Information)*

> Architects Develop Covid-19 Screening Booth for No-Touch Testing: *Testing for COVID-19 remains one of the biggest challenges in the United States. The architects at SITU, a New York firm that has worked on everything from urban solar panels to human rights violations, are developing a way to make getting tested safer: outdoor screening centers that let you get a COVID-19 test, without having to come into direct contact with anyone else. Based on models used in South Korea, these patient screening centers resemble phone booths, and they allow people to get professional medical counsel, along with a COVID-19 swab test, contact-free. They are housed under medical tents, usually found just outside of emergency rooms, and can be manufactured quickly, then deployed to hospitals in need. Read more [HERE](#).*

> The 49ers Losing the Super Bowl May Have Saved Lives: *On the first Sunday in February when the Kansas City Chiefs beat the San Francisco 49ers in the Super Bowl, it might have been the best thing that could have happened to 49ers fans. Had they won, there could have been hundreds of thousands of fans on the streets of San Francisco at a Super Bowl parade a few days later, just as doctors had confirmed the cities first two coronavirus patients. "It may go down in the annals as being a brutal sports loss," said Dr. Bob Wachter, the chair of UCSF's department of medicine, "but one that may have saved lives." San Francisco has been widely praised for its response to the virus. But experts also say the Bay Area benefited from events beyond the local government's control—including the outcome of a football game thousands of miles away. Read more [HERE](#).*

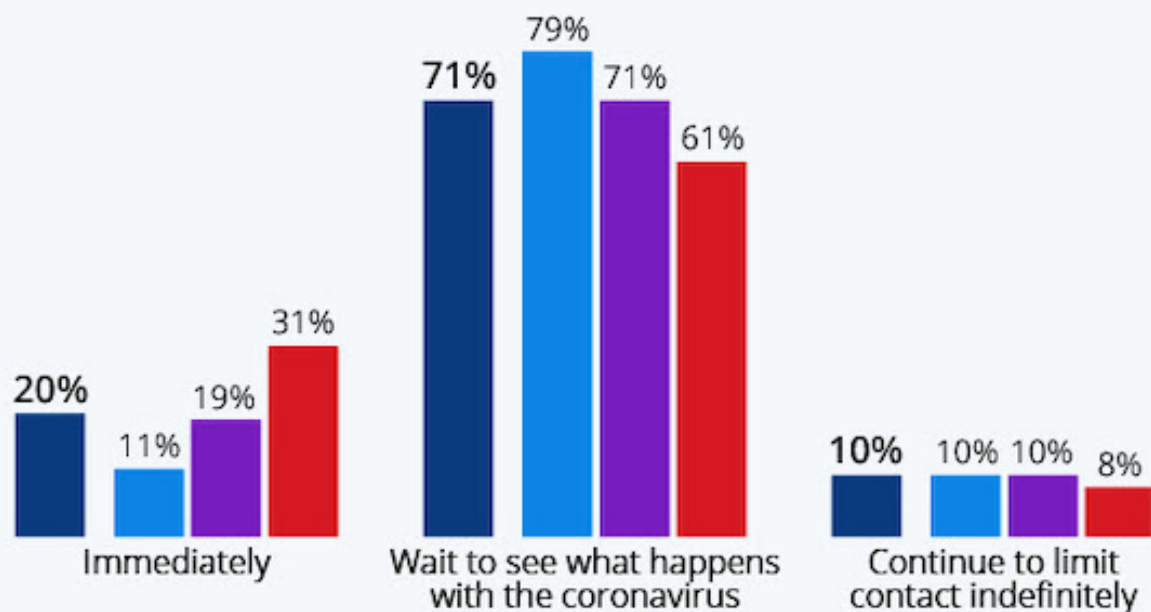
> Americans are Hesitant About Returning to Normal: *Americans remain hesitant about resuming their normal daily activities amid the COVID-19 outbreak according to a Gallup question first asked in late March and repeated in early April. When asked how quickly they will return to their normal activities once the government lifts restrictions and businesses and schools start to reopen, the vast*

majority of Americans say they would wait and see what happens with the spread of the virus (71%) and another 10% would wait indefinitely. Just 20% say they would return to their normal activities immediately. These views are essentially unchanged from late March. There are a few notable differences by subgroup in those willing to get right back to normalcy. Republicans (31%), residents of small towns/rural areas (23%) and men (22%) are more likely to forecast that they'll resume their normal activities immediately. There is no clear pattern by age with both the youngest adults (25% of those 18-29) as well as those of older middle-age (24% of those 50-64) expressing the most comfort with returning to normal immediately once government lifts restrictions. Adults aged 30 to 49 and seniors are more cautious. Read the full poll results [HERE](#).

Americans Hesitant to Return to Normal

Americans's readiness to return to normal activities, by party affiliation

■ All U.S. adults ■ Democrat ■ Independent ■ Republican



Based on a survey conducted April 3-5, 2020

Source: Gallup



statista




Northeast North Dakota - *It got down to 4 degrees last night and snow is still hanging around from the foot we received last week. Can't imagine we will be back in the fields by May 9 like last season. We were fortunate to get all of our crops harvested but we did not get any field work done, so when it does warm up we will have a few days of that. We are going to try some sunflower and barley for dog food ingredients this year on top of our corn and beans. It's just getting harder to find a way to make a living and I'm hearing talk that some folks may take whatever PP acres qualify. Guys growing edible beans are doing as well as anyone in my opinion. There has been a good amount of tiling done up here on the flat grounds to hopefully increase yields. Everyone is safe from the virus and most all the stores are closed up here, just need to get the kids in the mood for morning online classes!*

Northwest Kansas - *We have had two significantly cold nights where the temperatures drop into the high teens and low 20's. I have a bad feeling that this cold snap did just enough damage to take the top side out of the wheat and not enough to burn it down and plant another crop. I'm hoping to collect insurance and replant it to either dryland corn or milo. I'm weighing my options on the basis right now. Currently, the elevator is paying slightly better for old crop milo but there's not much of a difference. I think we might see a little drier year so I'm leaning heavier toward Milo if we are able to burn it down and replant another crop. Outside of just guessing it will be drier, I really have no idea how to decide which to plant.*

Northeast Iowa - *It's 1 o'clock in the afternoon and we have had flurries off and on for the past 3 hours. The temperature gauge says 28 degrees but it feels much colder with the northwest winds. There are gusting up to 34 mph and making it feel like February while we do cattle chores. Got me thinking about the old saying "when you can pull your pants down and sit your bare butt on the dirt, it's time to plant" - I think I would freeze before I ever hit the dirt right now. We have a few more days of cold weather and we should warm into next week.*

neuro mining



As we age, it gets harder and harder to create new neural pathways in the brain. It's the reason kids find it so easy to learn new things, but as adults it often gets more difficult. Doing brain teasers and solving riddles can be an important part of keeping our brain healthy. The more connections we can form, the better our brain will be. I hope this helps provide a little daily fun and exercise. The answer to each riddle or puzzle will be located at the bottom of the report.

TODAY'S RIDDLE: I sit on a bridge. Some people will look through me while others wonder what I hide. What am I?

FROM MY PERSPECTIVE



Kevin Van Trump

Unraveling the Potential of the Newborn Gut Microbiome

Agrifood Conversations with Dr. Bruce German, Evolve BioSystems

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During 2020, iSelect, The VanTrump Report and The Yield Lab Institute are sponsoring a series of weekly webinars featuring the best in agriculture innovation. Agrifood Conversations is all about driving innovation and each month will highlight a specific theme, from biologicals to vertical farms, featuring emerging topics such as soil health, biologics, plant genetics, vertical farming, precision agriculture, herd health and management, and aquaculture, to name a few. Once a quarter, we'll open up the conversation with a panel of experts on that month's topic. Learn about new trends in ag, connect with industry leaders and discover new solutions.

Join us each Thursday at 3pm CT for [Agrifood Conversations](#).

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Giving Newborns a Healthier Start

Research shows that the newborn gut microbiome or the trillions of bacteria that live within the intestinal tract of newborn babies plays a critical role in proper immune and metabolic development as well as meeting the newborn's nutritional needs. Disruption of this microbiome can cause both acute and chronic health consequences, and that's why "Evolve BioSystems" has pioneered a microbiome-based approach to solving newborn gut dysbiosis, based on the unique partnership between mammalian milk and *B. infantis*.

Scientists have identified *B. infantis* as a key beneficial bacteria that has been clinically proven to reduce the abundance of gut pathogens such as *Clostridium*

and E. coli. Both are associated with the common autoimmune conditions of asthma, allergies, eczema and type-1 diabetes. Interestingly, science has found that B. infantis was historically present in the infant's gut until important modern medical practices such as antibiotics, formula feeding, and C-sections prevented the natural transfer of the beneficial bacteria from mothers to babies at the time of birth. Incredibly, recent studies have shown that nearly nine out of 10 babies born in the U.S. were missing B. infantis in their gut microbiome early in life.

It is believed that the introduction of antibiotics in the 1940s -60s', baby formulas in the 50's and an increase in C-sections, are related to the changing composition in a baby's intestine. Researchers are still determining if those changes are what's causing many of the diseases in newborns. Interestingly, in sub-Saharan Africa, as well as southeast Asia, where traditional births and breastfeeding abound, infants there have far more good bacteria in their intestines than do infants in the U.S.

Evolve BioSystems is a spin-out from the Foods for Health Institute at the U of California, Davis and continues to build on more than ten years of research and understanding of the unique partnership between the infant gut microbiome and breast milk components in order to solve newborn gut dybiosis.

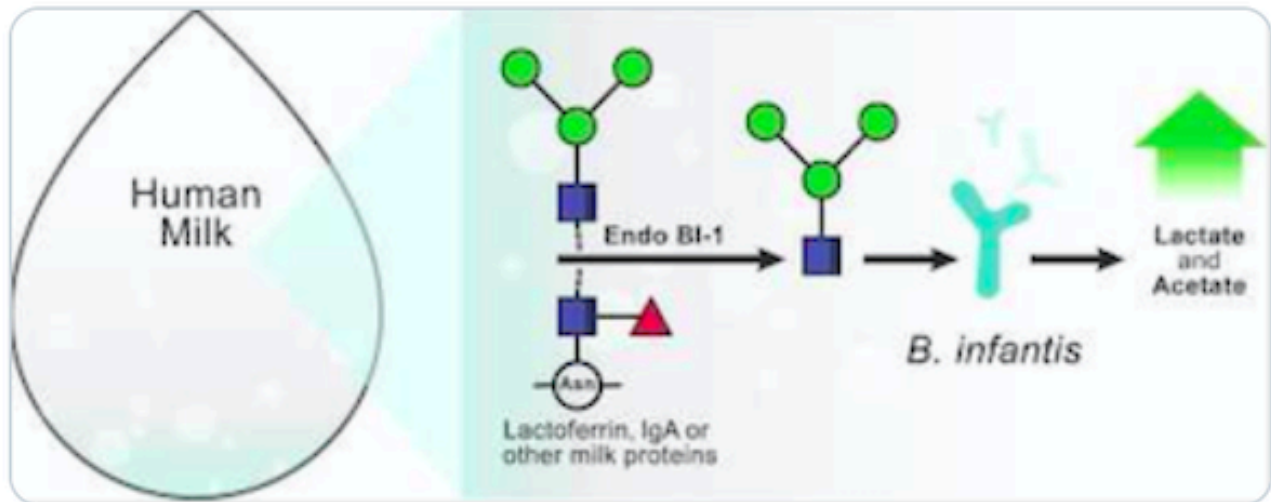
Learn more about Evolve BioSystems technology at "Unraveling the Potential of the Newborn Gut Microbiome," a webinar to be held at 3pm CT on Thursday, April 16, featuring Dr. Bruce German, co-founder of Evolve BioSystems and the Director of the Foods for Health Institute at University of California, Davis.



Evolve BioSystems
@EvolveBio



Another paper from our team in [@ELsfoodscience](#) showing improved metabolism of protein-bound glycans from human milk in babies fed *B. infantis*. The more we understand the role of this symbiont in the infant gut the better we can address gut dysbiosis. bit.ly/2Z8vdbK



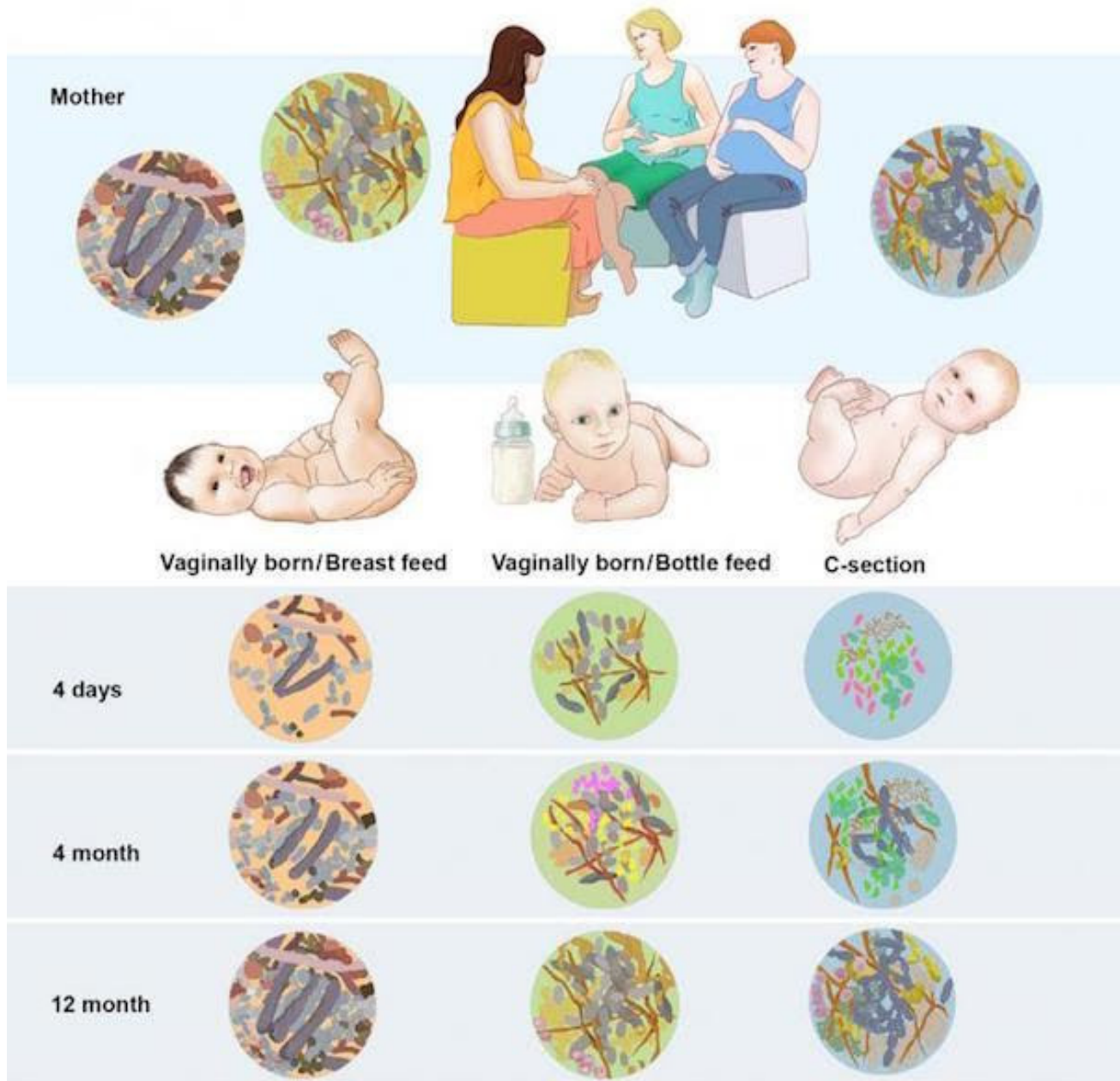


Evolve BioSystems
@EvolveBio



The Evolve BioSystems and **#RB** partnership is in full force this weekend at Cool Topics in Neonatology! Stop by the **#Evivo** and Mead Johnson Nutrition booths to hear the latest about our infant gut microbiome research. **#gutmicrobiome #infant**







The Evivo team is at the Mednax NEO conference this week. Stop by to hear the latest research on B. infantis EVC001 and the Infant Gut Microbiome. [#microbiome](#) [#infanthealth](#)



As if We Didn't Have Enough to Worry About ... It's Tornado Season!

At least 33 people were killed as a tornado outbreak slashed across the South on Sunday and Monday, destroying hundreds of homes and businesses and leaving numerous towns with widespread, severe damage.

While tornadoes can and have occurred in every month in the United States, the most active months are typically April and May, with an average of 11.6 and 23.2, respectively, since records began in 1950. April tends to average about 170 tornadoes and has often been the most dangerous month. May typically averages

about 270 tornadoes, making it the most active month of the year. The top 10 states for tornadoes are as follows, in order from high to low: Texas, Kansas, Oklahoma, Florida, Nebraska, Illinois, Colorado, Iowa, Alabama, Missouri, and Mississippi. Below are some more interesting facts:

How Does a Tornado Form: *Tornadoes form where warm moist air is trapped underneath a layer of cold, dry air. This instability is upset when the warm bottom layer gets pushed up — either by heating near the ground, or by an influx of cold air. As the moist air rises, it cools, forming clouds and thunderstorms. If the conditions are right, the rapidly rising air will spin around a central funnel, at speeds sometimes exceeding 250 mph.*

Wind Speed Matters: *The original Fujita scale is named after Dr. Ted Fujita, a University of Chicago severe storms research scientist who came up with the scale in 1971. Dr. Fujita's scale, which ranges from F0 (the least violent) to F5 (the most violent), is based upon the type and severity of damage the tornado produced. F4 and above, account for less than 1 percent of all tornadoes but account for 70 percent of tornado-related deaths. The Enhanced Fujita (EF) Scale was devised by a panel of meteorologists and engineers convened by the Wind Science and Engineering Research Center at Texas Tech University. The Weather Channel's severe weather expert Dr. Greg Forbes was on the team of experts who determined the revised wind speed ranges. Since 2007, the EF Scale has been used to rate tornadoes.*

EF-0 - estimated wind speeds: 65 to 85 mph. Light damage. Peels surface off some roofs; some damage to gutters or siding; branches broken off trees; shallow-rooted trees pushed over.

EF-1 - estimated wind speeds: 86 to 110 mph. Moderate damage. Roofs severely stripped; mobile homes overturned or badly damaged; loss of exterior doors; windows and other glass broken.

EF-2 - estimated wind speeds: 111 to 135 mph. Considerable damage. Roofs torn off well-constructed houses; foundations of frame homes shifted; mobile homes completely destroyed; large trees snapped or uprooted; light-object missiles generated; cars lifted off ground.

EF-3 - estimated wind speeds: 136 to 165 mph. - Severe damage. Entire stories of well-constructed houses destroyed; severe damage to large buildings such as shopping malls; trains overturned; trees debarked; heavy cars lifted off the ground and thrown; structures with weak foundations blown away some distance.

EF-4 - estimated wind speeds: 166 to 200 mph. Devastating damage. Whole frame houses Well-constructed houses and whole frame houses completely leveled; cars thrown and small missiles generated.

EF-5 - estimated wind speeds: Over 200 mph. Incredible damage. Strong frame houses leveled off foundations and swept away; automobile-sized missiles fly through the air in excess of 100 m (109 yd); high-rise buildings have significant structural deformation; incredible phenomena will occur.

States with the Moist E5 Tornadoes: *The states with the highest number of F5 and EF5 rated tornadoes since data was available in 1950 are Alabama and Oklahoma, each with seven tornadoes. Iowa, Kansas, and Texas each are tied for second-most with six. The state with the highest number of F5 and EF5 tornadoes per square mile, however, was Iowa.*

Deadliest Tornadoes: *March 18, 1925 Tri-State Tornado, Missouri, Illinois, and Indiana killed 695 people; Worst Modern-Day May 22, 2011 Joplin, Missouri killed 158 people. The deadliest outbreak came on April 3, 1974, when a two-day "Super Outbreak" of 147 tornadoes killed 308 people in 13 states.*

What Time of Day? *For some strange reason, tornadoes are most likely to occur between 3 pm and 9 pm, but can occur at any time.*

What is the heaviest thing a tornado has ever picked up? *The Pampa, Texas, tornado moved machinery that weighted more than 50,000 pounds.*

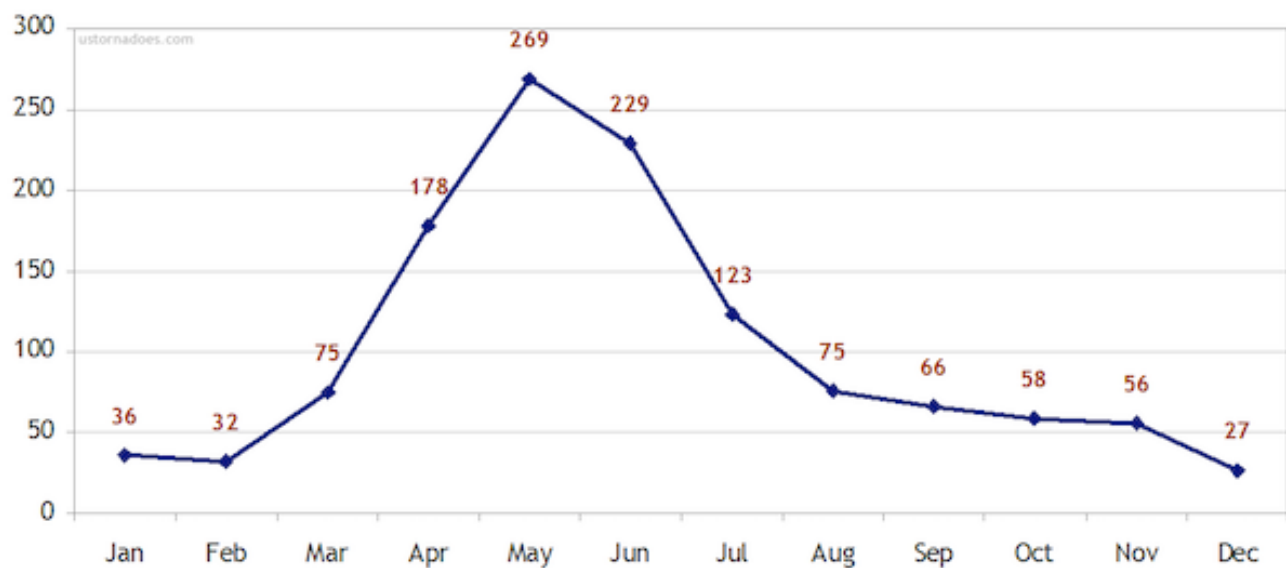
Directional Changes: *Most twisters or cyclones travel from southwest to northeast and can move in the opposite direction for short periods of time. A tornado can even backtrack if it is hit by winds from the eye of the thunderstorm.*

Sky Changes Color: *The sky typically turns to a characteristic greenish color when a tornado is on the rise.*

How the Tornado Ends: *Like anything else on this planet, everything that takes birth, must die, even the tornadoes have a definite lifecycle. They last up to 1-2 hours. The down pouring rainfall drags a rapidly descending region of air which is known as the rear flank downdraft (RFD). It drags the super cell's Meso cyclone (area of organized rotation) to the ground with it. This RFD, when becomes cool, chokes the tornado, stopping its power source of warm air and finally dissipates the vortex.*



Tornado Average by Month in the Contiguous United States 1991-2015



One Day This Won't Be Your Life Anymore

What a crazy ending for lots of young athletes... With many schools closed and lots of spring and summer leagues canceled, many kids and their families have had to make big adjustments.

Michelle and I remember those days like yesterday, coaching and chasing the kids from one sport to another. Wow, it seemed crazy at the time but what we wouldn't give to be sitting out at the local little league ballpark this weekend.

Having been lucky enough to play college sports myself and having worked with

many professional athletes, we are all forced to recognize that one day it all must end. One thing I always told the kids, in hopes of keeping things in perspective and not putting too much pressure on them, "regardless of how good you are or how hard you compete at a particular sport, eventually it is all going to come to an end." Meaning competitive sports always ends! It's simply a matter of when not if? It might end for some kids in junior high, for others in high school or college, or for the select few who play professionally it will end in their 20s, 30s or 40s. Bottom-line...it ends!

I know for many the season being canceled can feel devastating, especially for those who will never play competitively again. It has to be extremely difficult to digest, especially if you never saw it coming. The post below was published on the [emkayedwards blog](#) and penned by a young softball player who was ending her high school career. It's certainly sad to see it all end but some amazing life lessons are learned along the journey that make it all worth it. Remind your young ones to always go out and play each game like it could be their last... I included a couple pics of my two growing-up during football season. Great times!

One Day This Won't Be Your Life Anymore

I spent nine years chasing the game I loved. I played every weekend, holiday and summer until I was 18 years old. I collected memories and trophies and battle scars. And then, in one of the most difficult decisions I've ever made, I walked away. I felt sure that it was best for me and most days, I believe I was right. I was watching my dad's team play this weekend (he coaches high school softball) and a parent asked me "What would you tell these girls if you knew they'd listen?" And this is what I would say:

One day you will walk off the field for the last time. One day you will untie your cleats forever. One day you will put your glove in your bag and there it will stay for months at a time. One day your tan lines will fade. You'll forget the feeling of seams beneath your fingers. You'll struggle to remember the way it felt to hit the perfect pitch. You'll see your teammates once or twice a year instead of every single day. You won't slide into second. You won't round first. One day you'll be on the other side the fence.

One day this won't be your life anymore. And when it's not, you won't remember the things that you'd think. You'll have no idea how many times you struck out. You won't know how many errors you made. You won't be impressed with how many home runs you hit. You won't care about your batting average or ERA. For the most part, you won't remember wins and losses at all.

After your last inning has come and gone, you're going to remember the times when you wanted to quit— but didn't. You're going to remember the

teammates (and families) you loved along the way. You're going to remember playing in the freezing cold, driving rain, and unbearable heat. You're going to remember the hotel bonding and the eight hour road trips. You're going to remember the early practices and late games. You're going to remember the coaches that never gave up on you. But most of all, you're going to remember the sheer happiness that came only from being between two chalk lines. You're going to remember the moments you did more than you ever believed you could. You're going to remember the times you used every bit of talent God gave you.

One day this won't be your life anymore. So for today, run as fast as your feet will take you. Whether it's a pop up to the pitcher or it bounces off the fence in left field. For today, swing as hard as you can. Commit to every pitch and give it everything you have. For today, make every play like it's the last chance you'll ever get. For today, play because you want to. Play because you need to. Play because the little girl you used to be fell in love with this game all those years ago.

For today, don't stop until the last pitch is thrown. Play with every piece of your heart and leave it all on the field. One day, this won't be your life anymore. When that day comes, make sure you wouldn't change a thing.

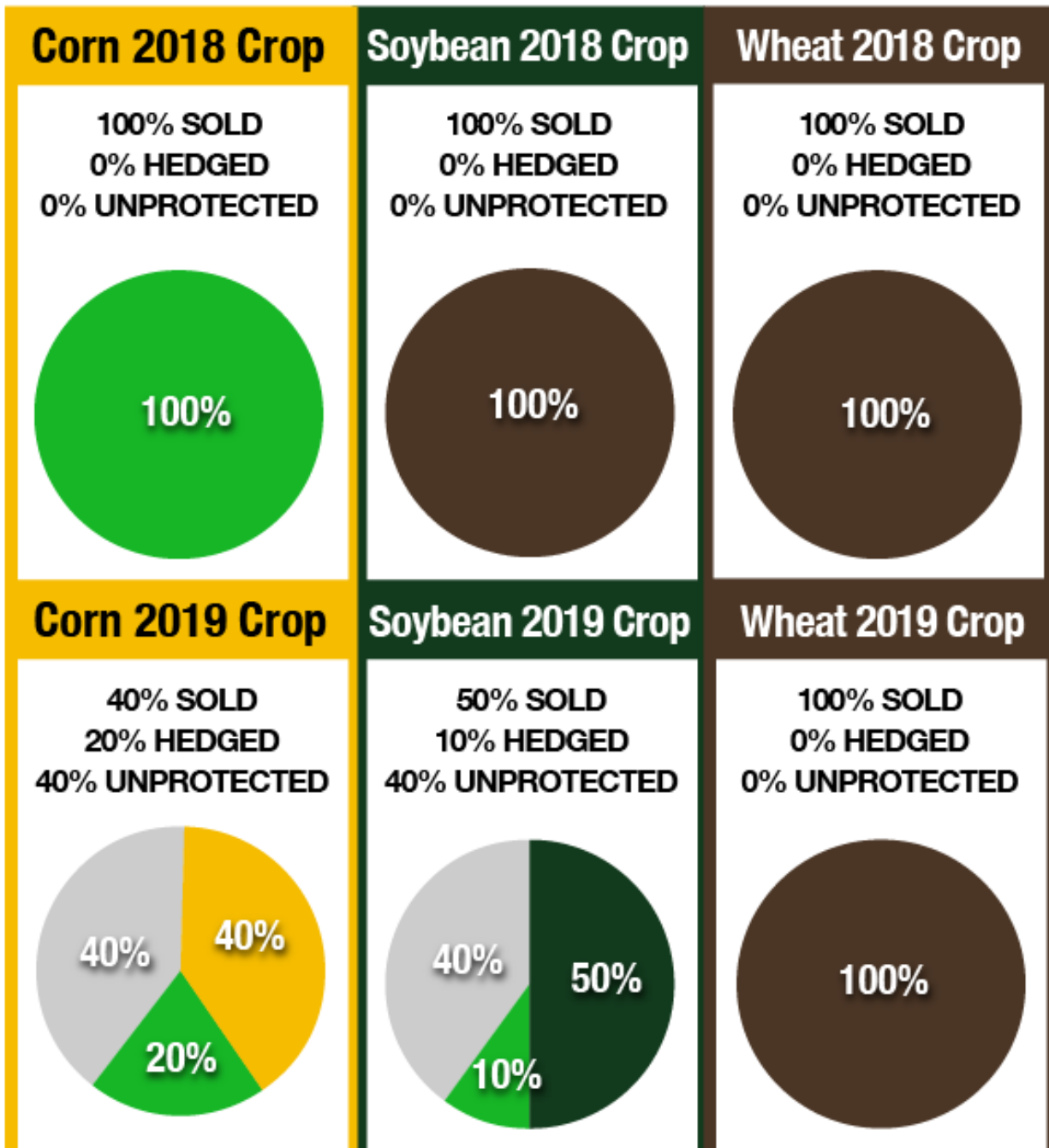


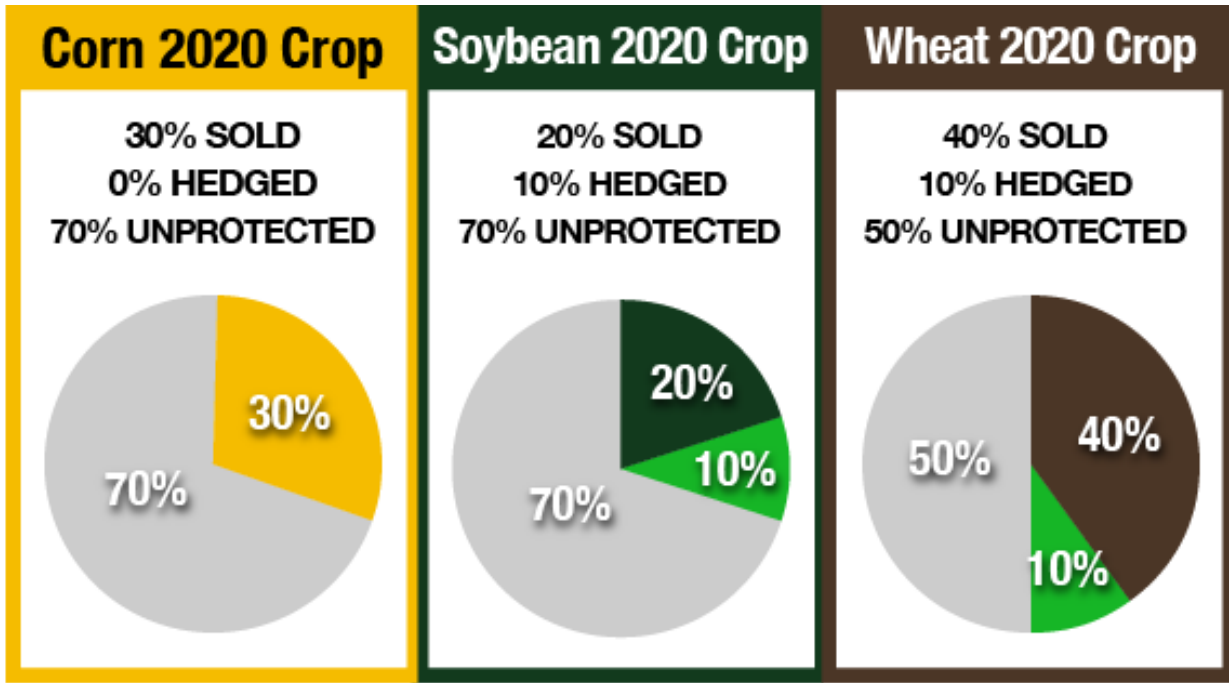


ANSWER to riddle: Sunglasses.

CASH SALES & HEDGING TOTALS

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