



Jordan Van Trump &lt;jordan@farmdirection.com&gt;

**GOOD MORNING: The Van Trump Report 4-22-20**

1 message

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

Wed, Apr 22, 2020 at 5:30 AM

Reply-To: Jordan &lt;reply-fec211737c61017f-1180\_HTML-40325470-100003450-10@vantrumpreport-email.com&gt;

To: jordan@farmdirection.com



*"The difference between excellence and mediocrity is commitment and passion...end of story." - Nolan Ryan*

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

**Morning Summary:** Craziness in the oil market and the once again surging VIX is enough to tell me many stock participants are still very uncertain about the future. Personally, back in early-March, I got short some S&P 500 contracts in my futures account as a hedge against my open stock positions. That worked very well and I banked some profits down near the lows. Unfortunately, I left a few positions on and proceeded to add to the short hedges as the market rebounded and rallied aggressively higher. The good news, I grabbed some stocks I had been targeting down near the bottom, the bad news I've taken some heat on my short hedges as we've rallied back. I've been thinking long and hard about blowing out of the short hedges as the market is trying its best to convince me we are going to snap back with a "V-shaped" recovery in a short period of time. Consumers all across the country seem to be itching to get out and about. Spring weather is clearly in the air and many are mentally tapped on the stay-at-home orders. I'm more and more of the opinion that there is no way the government is going to be able to keep people locked down. Those who are at higher-risk or worried or concerned about the virus, like myself, will have to keep hunkering down, as more and more cities and states are going to let the other dogs run. I don't see any other solution, I think the powers-that-be are just going to be pressured to let people manage their own risks and decisions in

regard to the virus. What does this mean for the stock market? I honestly don't have a clue... There is no playbook or historical reference for something like this, especially one with such quick action and large government bailouts being rolled into action. I know this might sound nuts, but I'm going to stick with my short hedges and stay under-invested in the stock market at least for a few more weeks. I just wonder if the market is sucking in all the bullish hopefuls on the hype and rumors of the reopen and will then aggressively sell the fact? Bottom line, there's just way too much craziness in the air with crude oil and corona, so I'm going to continue to "call" bullish bets and stick around a while longer in order to see a few more cards. As for today, earnings will again be in the spotlight with releases from AT&T, Baker Hughes, Biogen, CSX, Delta Airlines, Discover, Kimberly-Clark, Kinder Morgan, Las Vegas Sands, Nextera Energy, O'Reilly Automotive, Paypal, and TD Ameritrade among others. The only economic data on the calendar is the FHFA House Price Index for February, which doesn't hold much relevance at this point.

**U.S. Government Provides More Financial Firepower:** *Washington announced a \$484 billion coronavirus aid deal could be signed into law this week. Passed by the Senate yesterday, it includes \$310 billion in additional funding for the Paycheck Protection Program, which ran dry last week. \$60 billion of those funds will be set aside specifically for smaller financial institutions. Unfortunately, lenders are already warning that the new funding could be exhausted in only a few days and customers still may not be able to secure loans. Banking industry representatives say the program has a burn rate of \$50 billion per day and needs closer to \$1 trillion to meet demand, with hundreds of thousands of applications pending. The bill also provides \$75 billion for hospitals, \$25 billion for testing and \$60 billion for emergency disaster loans and grants. The bill also expands eligibility for the Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program (EIDL) to include agricultural enterprises with less than 500 employees. President Trump has already started talking about the next coronavirus stimulus measure, saying he wants it to provide relief for state and local governments, along with other measures that would "increase economic growth."*

**Oil Drama Continues:** *Since the expiring May contract fell into deeply negative territory earlier this week, traders are concerned the June contract could do the same as available oil storage space continues to shrink. The industry has warned that storage at Cushing, Oklahoma, the interior delivery point for WTI, could run out within weeks. At the same time, insiders are saying nearly 40 million Saudi Arabian barrels are on their way to U.S. shores, adding to the tens of millions already in storage here. The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) releases its Petroleum Status Report today, which covers the week through April 17 and is expected to show storage capacity at over 75%. The agency will also report the week's inventory build, which analysts expect to rise by about +16 million barrels. President Trump has instructed his administration to look into ways to make funds available to the American oil and gas producers while the U.S. Energy Department is already trying to find extra storage.*

**Here's When All 50 States Plan to Reopen:** *Governors are beginning to announce timelines for relaxing strict measures taken to mitigate the coronavirus. Many states are now starting to drop stay-at-home orders and many others will be dropping off the beginning May 1, yet many other states have not yet announced an end to restrictions. The Hill has compiled the reopening timelines announced so far by all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Click [HERE](#).*

**March Home Sales Fall -8.5% but Still Up From Last Year:** *Sales of existing homes fell a more-than-expected -8.5% in March compared with February to an annualized pace of 5.27 million units, according to the National Association of Realtors' seasonally adjusted index. March represented a major reversal from the month prior, which featured the strongest sales figure for the month of February since 2007. Despite the slowdown on a monthly basis, existing-home sales still occurred at a*

+0.8% faster pace than a year ago. These sales figures are based on closings that represent contracts signed mostly in late January and February, before the coronavirus shut down so much of the economy. Home prices held up well, with a median price of \$280,600, up +8% over 2019. Lawrence Yun, chief economist at the NAR, says "More temporary interruptions to home sales should be expected in the next couple of months, though home prices will still likely rise." However, price growth will be slow, and in some of the harder-hit markets, where hospitality and leisure drive the local economies, prices could fall. (Sources: NAR, MarketWatch)

**Rob Gronkowski "Gronk" Making a Comeback?:** Yesterday afternoon, retired Patriots TE Rob Gronkowski told New England that he was interested in playing football again but the only way he would want to come back is if he was traded to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers to reunite with his fellow teammate Tom Brady. Later in the day, the New England Patriots agreed to trade Rob Gronkowski along with a seventh-round draft pick to the Buccaneers for a fourth-round draft pick in this year's NFL draft. Keep in mind, Gronkowski turns 31 next month and has one year and \$9 million remaining on his current deal with the Patriots. As many of you may know, Brady played a large role going after arguably the best tight end in NFL history. I always loved Gronk and it will definitely be exciting to see him back on the field with Tom Brady again this season!

**Central Bank Balance Sheets Hit New Record:** G-7 central banks bought \$1.4 trillion of securities in March, almost five times the previous monthly record set in April 2009, Bloomberg Economics said. Morgan Stanley estimates the U.S. Federal Reserve, European Central Bank, Bank of Japan, and Bank of England will in the end swell balance sheets by a cumulative \$6.8 trillion. The Federal Reserve has led the charge thus far, offering to buy unlimited amounts of U.S. government bonds and mortgage-backed securities and lend trillions more to corporations and municipalities through temporary purchases of their obligations. In the week through April 15, the Fed cache rose about \$41 billion per day. "The amounts being purchased are enormous, and it just tells you how much support is needed when the economy is closed down," said Torsten Slok, Deutsche Bank's chief economist. Read more from [Bloomberg](#).

**HBO Max will launch May 27 for \$15 a month** with HBO's programs and movies, licensed hits like *Friends* and exclusive originals. Subscribers will also gain access to WarnerMedia's sprawling catalog of hit shows and movies, plus a big-budget slate of exclusive originals packed with big-name stars. These will include the full sets of *The Hobbit*, *The Lord of the Rings* and *The Matrix* trilogies. The *Lego* movies. DC films like *Joker*, *Wonder Woman*, *Suicide Squad*, *Shazam*, *Aquaman* and every *Batman* and *Superman* movie of the last 40 years. Classic movies like *The Wizard of Oz*, *Casablanca*, *Citizen Kane*, *The Shining*, *Singin' in the Rain*, *2001: A Space Odyssey*, *The Goonies* and many others. As well as Warner's newer hits like *Crazy Rich Asians* and *A Star Is Born*. Some people who already have an HBO subscription will get Max included for free -- anyone who already pays for HBO through AT&T (HBO's parent company), the AT&T satellite service DirecTV, or Charter and its Spectrum services. I also heard HBO Max will add a tier with advertising that's cheaper, or even possibly free, sometime in the service's first year.

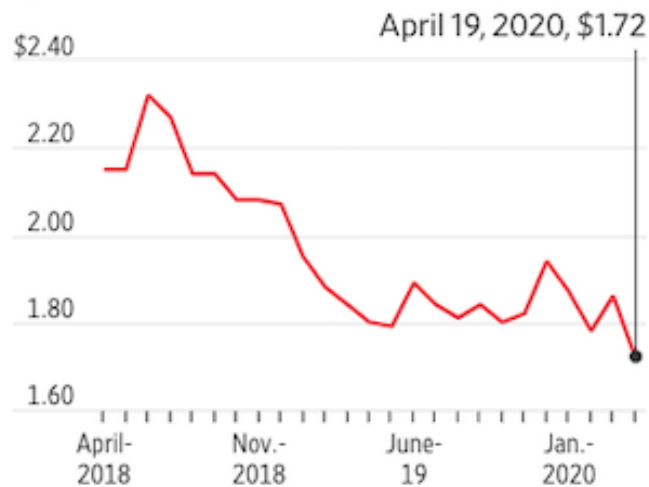
**For America's Small Truckers, Demand is "Falling Off a Cliff":** Thousands of small trucking companies move the vast majority of the goods in U.S. freight markets. With light cash flow, limited reserves and uncertain access to credit, many of those carriers now are struggling under an upheaval in shipping markets. Analysts say small truckers' slimmer margins may leave many on the edge in

2020. Although demand for food, household goods and essential medical supplies has soared, experts say the rush for that business is nowhere close to making up for the lost shipping from the shutdowns of factories and retail stores. Many small trucking companies rely heavily on the spot market, where retailers and manufacturers book last-minute transportation, and which has also been drying up. Demand measured by the ratio of loads to trucks fell -68% for the week ending April 19 from the week of March 29. The Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association, which represents independent truckers, is lobbying for more assistance, warning if these businesses are allowed to fail, it will increase delays and costs across the economy once the country begins trying to reopen. (Source: [The Wall Street Journal](#))

### Freight Slump

Truck rates are falling as coronavirus shutdowns tank transport demand.

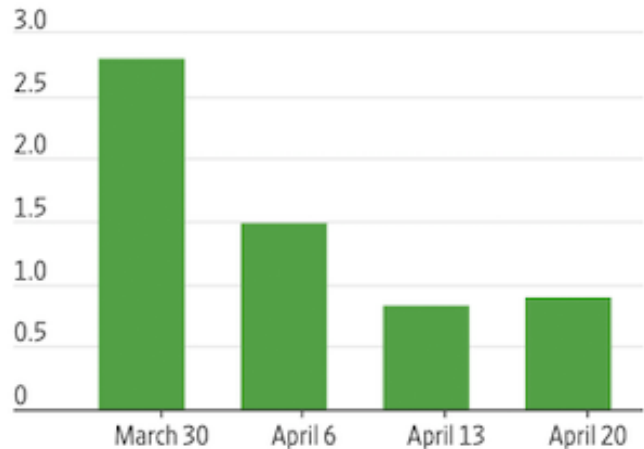
#### Average cost per mile to book a big rig on the spot market



### Trucking Downshift

Shipping demand in the U.S. slid in recent weeks as coronavirus lockdowns stall economic activity.

#### Demand measured by the ratio of average weekly loads to available trucks

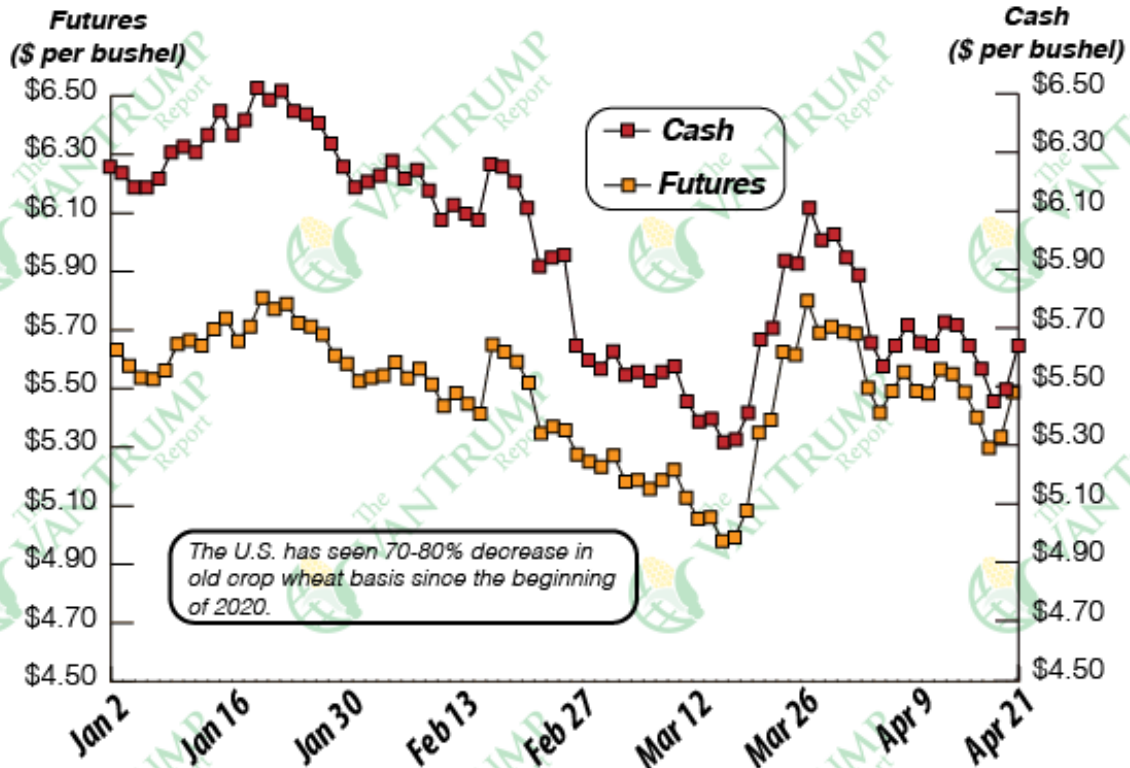


# FARM TANK

Tweets of the Day



# 2020 Wheat Futures vs. Cash Price



Source: CBOT, April 2020

@KevinVanTrump



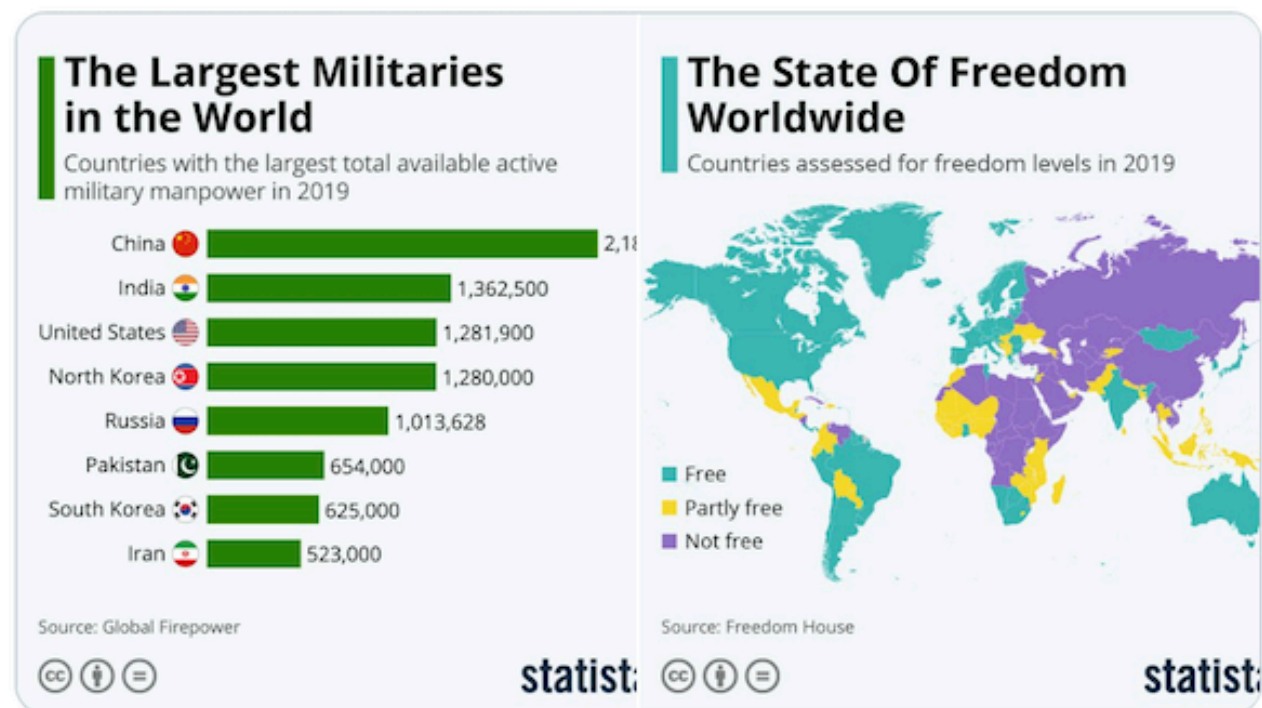


Statista  
@StatistaCharts



[#KimJongUn](#), leader of [#NorthKorea](#) and the 4th largest military in the world, is reportedly gravely ill following surgery. The secretive nation has yet to comment, but his absence on his grandfather's bday on April 15th raised speculation.

[statista.com/chart/20403/la...](https://www.statista.com/chart/20403/la...)





**Jon Erlichman** ✓  
@JonErlichman



In 2000, Blockbuster declined to buy Netflix for \$50 million.

2000:

Blockbuster: 7,700 stores

Netflix: 420,000 subscribers

2020:

Blockbuster: 1 store

Netflix: 172 million subscribers



**Mike**  
@BerdoMike



Some of the first feed made without ddgs in 15 years



Washington, Iowa





**Pickrell Farms**  
@PickrellFarms



There's 74 acres left in this field, we have a full tank of diesel, it's 34 degrees, it's dark , and we're planting beans.



**Tyler Hedge**  
@summitfarm\_llc



Beanin'





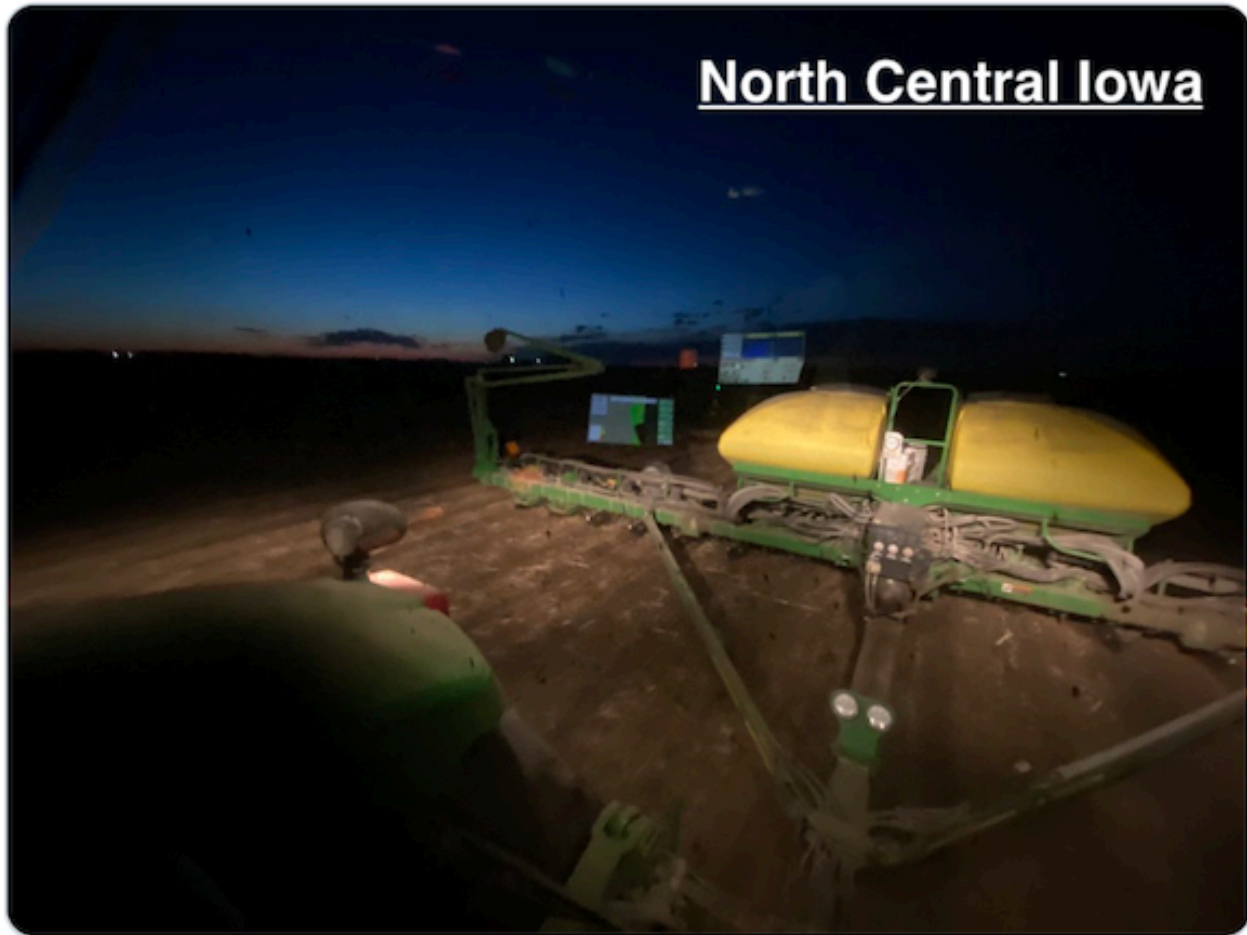




**Doug Adams**  
@farmerdoug93



Awesome ending to a great first day of [#plant20](#) planting corn into freshened fall anhydrous strips. [@IowaNRCS](#) [@radiomurley](#)



**Corn Junkie**  
@SchwabMatt



Today's seed delivery to my oldest customer at 82 years old. Put 80 bags (2 3/4 ton) in his 1970 1/2 ton International truck.

Will miss this guy when he's gone, has many a good

visits with him over the years.



**NE Michigan**





**Wachtel Farms Inc**  
@wachtelfarms



Always a little more special planting the home farm knowing that 4 previous generations of my family cared for these same acres. [#plant20](#)







**Tim Fargo** 🗨️ ✓  
@tim\_fargo

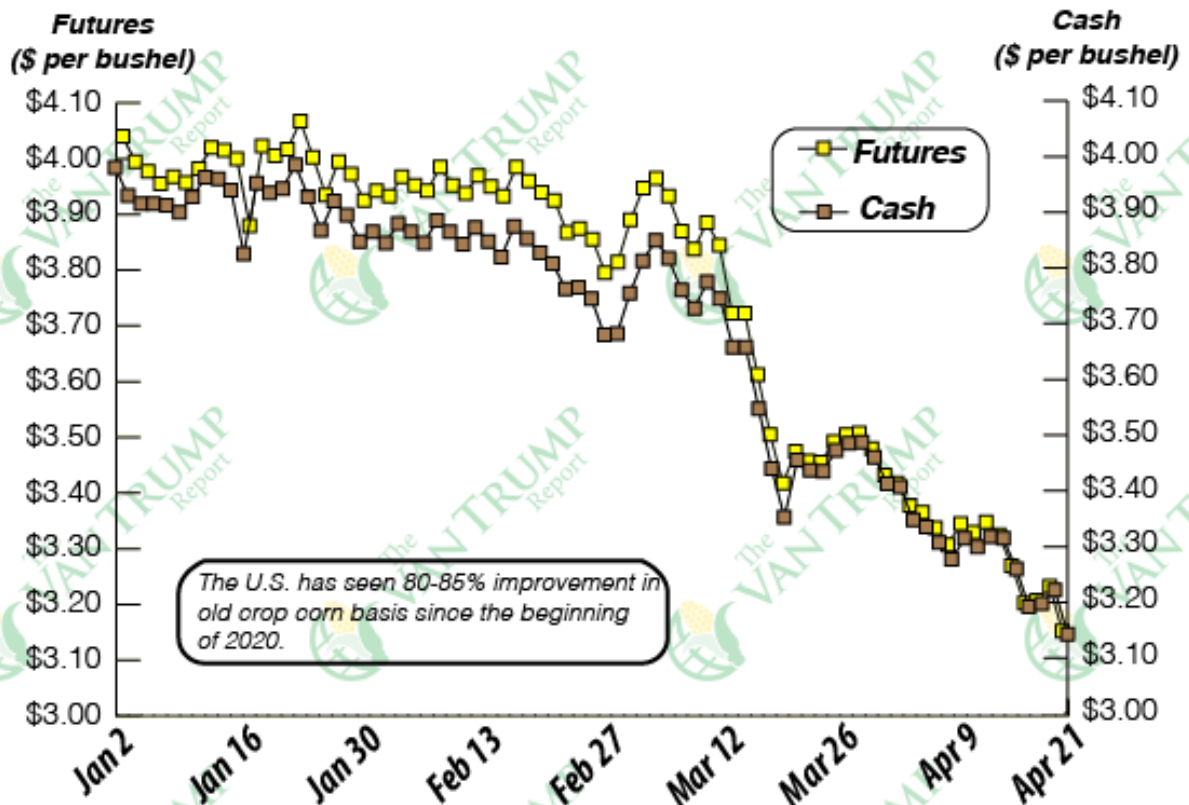


Don't look for the ideas that will confirm your thinking.  
Look for trends that will disrupt your thoughts.



**CORN** offers up very little in the way of fresh news or headlines. Bears are looking for another round of dismal ethanol numbers in the wake of the crude oil collapse. Most inside the trade suspect to see 50% of the industry's capacity offline by next week. The trade is also still digesting the negative headlines associated with temporary meat packing plant closures and the backing up of livestock, meaning perhaps less nearby feed demand for corn. At the same time, mostly cooperative U.S. weather keeps talk of +94 million corn acres in play. In Brazil, second-crop corn continues to be closely monitored as some areas are thought to be a bit too dry. Bulls are thinking the Chinese might be positioning import policy to start buying more U.S. corn. As both a spec and a producer, I am cheering for higher prices but still fear the bears have the power to push prices down below \$3.00 per bushel. There's just too many bulls currently on the sidelines licking their wounds...

# 2020 Corn Futures vs. Cash Price



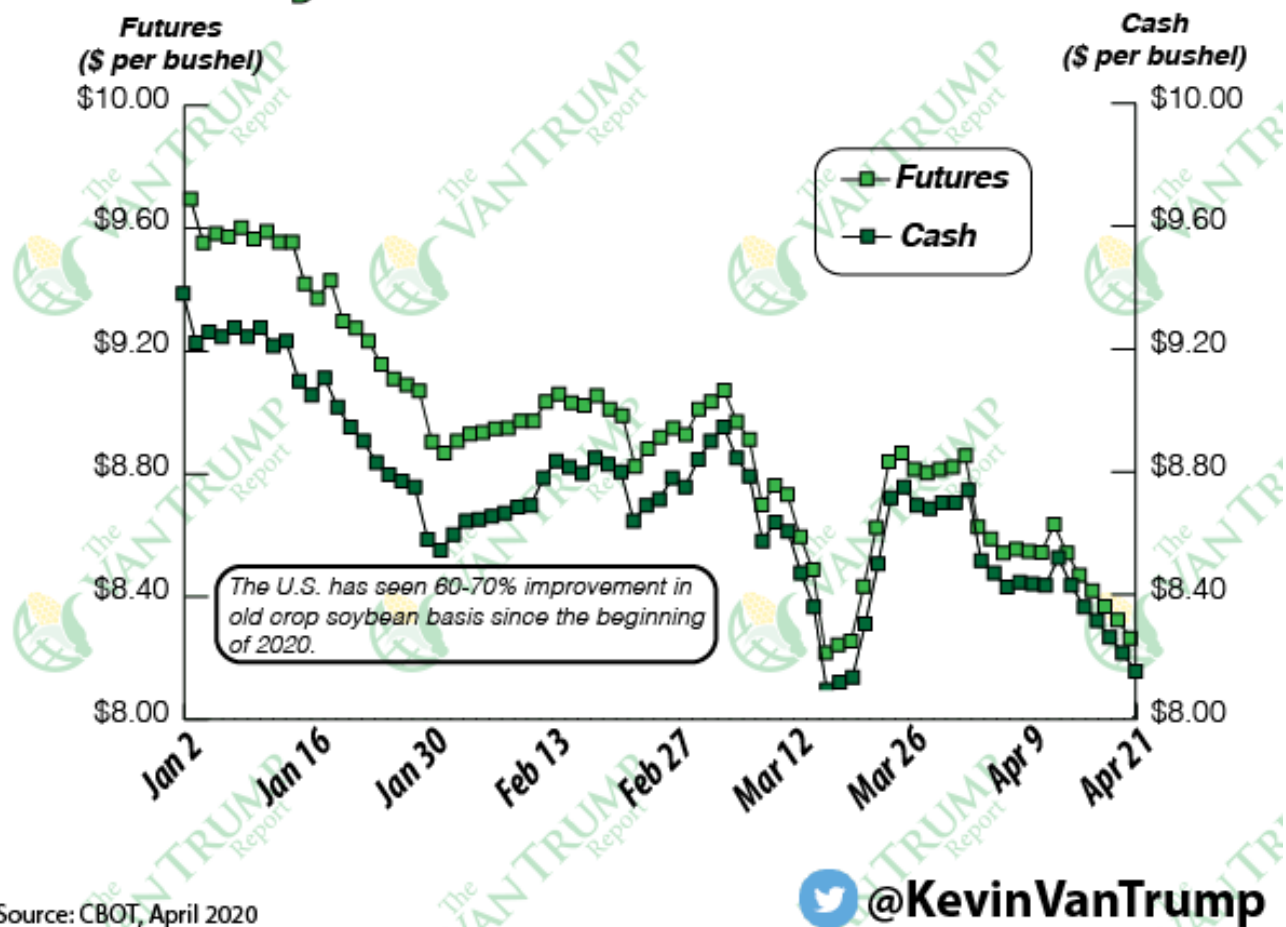
Source: CBOT, April 2020

 @KevinVanTrump

**SOYBEAN** bulls are hoping to find new demand as the market bounce off fresh contract lows. As a spec, I have once again dipped a small bullish toe in the water when the market broke through contract lows. I'm betting on the fact meal supply seems tight enough and perhaps we will soon see more sizeable Chinese buying? I've been very patient in initiating this first phase of this position, I doubt I have picked any type of bottom and am fully prepared to cost-average in on additional price pressure. Soybean prices sub-\$8.00 simply sounds ridiculous to me but then again so does negative crude oil prices. Bottom line, these markets could do anything at this moment, I'm trading extremely small and just closing my eyes and holding my breath when I enter some of these positions. As a producer, I still have a few small old-crop hedges in place but have been lifting on the way down. In other, words I'm about out of bullets and will be facing penny-for-penny losses if cash prices continue to deteriorate sub-\$8.00. I simply wasn't positioned or perhaps didn't want to believe prices could fall under such aggressive pressure. I've paid for this lesson many times and always say I won't let it happen again. Well, here we are and I'm left talking to myself... still needing to price the remaining 40% of my old-crop corn and soybeans. I have to tip my hat to my fellow

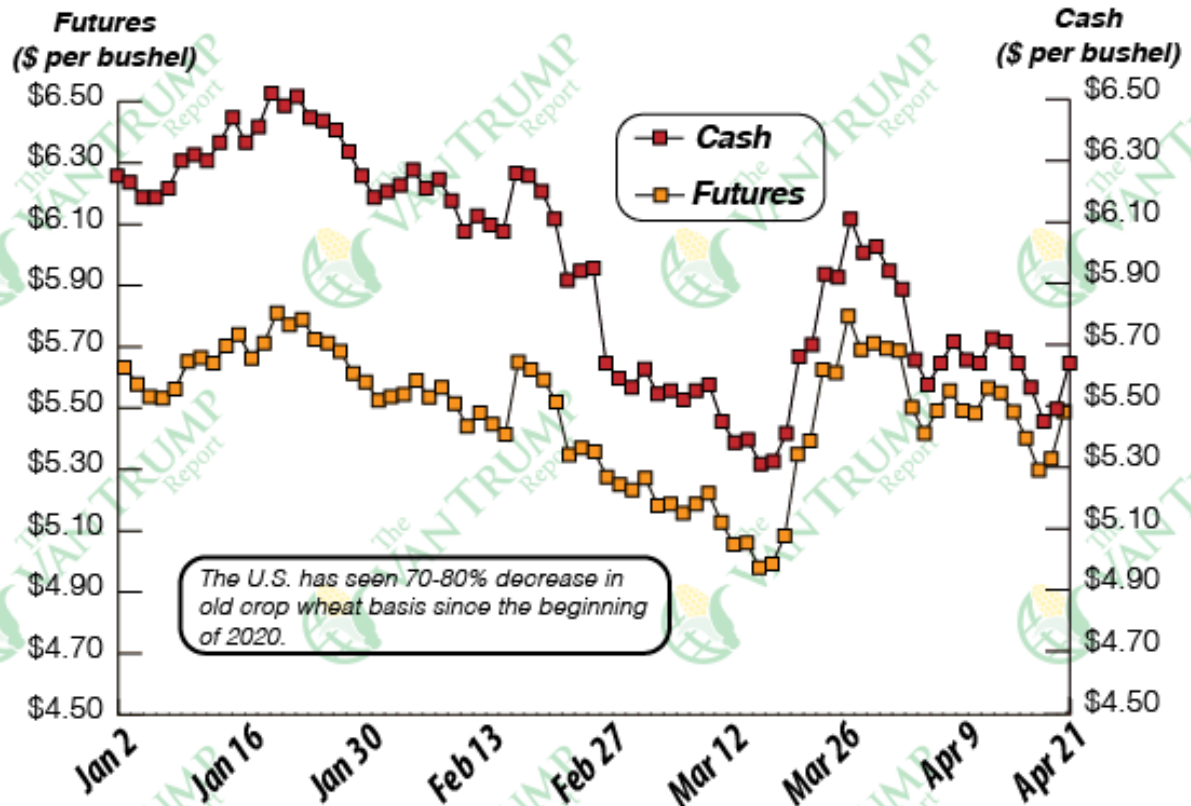
competitors who had the foresight and psychological balls to sell it all at much higher prices. I felt like I went into the new year exactly where I wanted to be with 60% priced, Chinese demand appeared to be coming on with the "Phase 1" agreement shaping up, and an entire U.S. weather season was ahead. I certainly didn't think we would be down at these levels with most all of the 2020 seed still in the bag. Crazy...

## 2020 Soybean Futures vs. Cash Price



**WHEAT** bulls continue to keep a close eye on weather in parts of Russia, Ukraine and northern Europe. Several of these areas are battling dry conditions and the forecasting models seem to be in disagreement and continually changing and shifting. Bulls are also pointing to weather and crop uncertainty here at home and some logistical complications and export restraints brewing in low-cost producing nations. Bears continue to point towards ample global surplus, a strong U.S. dollar, and major macro economic uncertainty.

# 2020 Wheat Futures vs. Cash Price



Source: CBOT, April 2020

 @KevinVanTrump





# FARM TANK

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# WHATEVER FLOATS YOUR GOAT

## A Section for Creative Minds

**> China Detects AFS in Another Pig Transport:** *China's agriculture ministry said on Tuesday it had detected the deadly African swine fever virus in pigs transported to the southwestern province of Sichuan, the latest in a dozen such cases in the last two months. In the latest incident the virus was found in pigs on*



*a truck stopped for inspection in Nanjiang county near Bazhong city. The truck carried more than 100 pigs and two had died, the ministry said. Cases reported by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs had dwindled to just a couple per month by the end of last year, but 13 have been posted on the ministry's website since March. All of the cases, apart from one found in wild boar, were in pigs being transported between provinces. Vice agriculture minister Yu Kangzhen said on Monday that the risk of African swine fever had increased significantly recently as farmers rush to rebuild their herds and move young pigs into new farms. (Source: Reuters)*

**> EPA Finalizes Water Rule:** *The EPA published the final Navigable Waters Protection Rule in the Federal Register yesterday and is expected become law effective on June 22, 2020. Groups around the country are expected to begin filing an onslaught of lawsuits, meaning regulatory certainty isn't here just yet. The Chesapeake Bay Foundation and ShoreRivers yesterday announced plans to sue and are likely to be joined by numerous other environmental groups as well as some states. Learn more from [DTN](#).*

**> Economist Expects Mother of All Political Battles Over RFS:** *Scott Irwin, an ag economist with the University of Illinois, expects Washington lawmakers will be revisiting the Renewable Fuel Standard. "I think we're going to see the mother of all political battles over the RFS upcoming." Irwin tells Brownfield the crude oil refining industry has been shaken to its core with what's going on, and in parallel, ag and the ethanol sector have been shaken to its core as well. "(What) we now have, the gauntlet has been laid down by the crude oil states or the big oils states if you like, putting forth a formal request to waive a part of the RFS mandates for 2020." Irwin expects the political battle between oil and agriculture states will be a "battle royal." Irwin says, "Both sides are dug in. Both have their backs up against the wall financially, and it is going to be a real donnybrook in D.C. to see where the RFS comes out after this battle is over." Listen to the full interview over at [Brownfield Ag](#).*

**> Farmers' Shift to Soybeans Won't Avert Grain Glut:** *Low market prices will deter farmers from planting as much corn as they planned a month ago, but a record corn crop is still on the horizon, according to two Purdue University economists. The mammoth crop would create the largest corn stockpile since the late 1980s while the already-large soybean stockpiles grow bigger still. "We think planted corn acreage could easily fall 1 million acres below" the estimated 97 million acres in USDA's Prospective Plantings report," said economist James Mintert. "It might even be more than that...In our balance sheets, we simply move that million acres over to soybeans." With normal weather and yields, the corn harvest could total 15.6 billion bushels, the largest ever, even if plantings drop to 96 million acres. If soybean plantings rise to 84.5 million as Mintert suggested, the crop would total 4.1 billion bushels, the fourth-largest on record. Read more from*

[Ag Insider.](#)

**> Wind is Now the Largest Source of Electricity in Iowa and Kansas:** *The American Wind Energy Association says wind is now the largest single source of electricity in Iowa and Kansas. Both states now get more than 40% of their electricity from wind. In both states, wind has surpassed coal. Texas and Iowa led the US in wind power additions, and South Dakota had the largest percentage growth in 2019, "increasing its installed wind capacity by over 50 percent after installing 506 MW." The Des Moines Register points out that "projects in Iowa added the second-most wind power capacity of any state in 2019, behind only Texas." The report also says Iowa is second in the nation in total wind industry jobs, with more than 9,000. The state's total economic investment in wind energy grew by \$3 billion to reach \$19 billion — also second in the nation. Texas leads both categories. (Source: Electrek)*

**> Lawmakers Put Pressure on China to Re-Examine Export Rule:** *A bipartisan group of House members is asking the Chinese government to work with the State Department and other U.S. agencies to find a more targeted approach for its new quality assurance requirements that are delaying exports of badly needed medical supplies. The lawmakers want China to exempt from the requirements any products that can already be lawfully distributed in the United States, automatically give those products the necessary certifications and expedite the review process for those products. China tightened restrictions on exports of masks and other personal protective equipment (PPE) on April 10, calling for shipments of the items to be subjected to a mandatory customs inspection. China says it is designed to balance the global demand for PPE while ensuring that manufacturers and sellers do not flood the market with uncertified or shoddy products. A bipartisan group of Senators is pushing to have tariffs removed on all medical equipment and supplies. (Source: Politico)*

**> Coca-Cola Sales Hurt by Pandemic:** *Coca-Cola said Tuesday the closure of movie theaters, restaurants and stadiums from the coronavirus is hurting its business, with a significant impact expected on its second quarter results. The beverage company said its global volumes have plunged -25% this month but says the ultimate impact over the second quarter and full year 2020 is unknown and will depend heavily on how long social distancing and stay-at-home mandates remain in place. Coke executives said that Chinese sales have begun to recover as the country gradually reopens and transitions into a new normal. Coke reported fiscal first-quarter net income of \$2.78 billion, or 64 cents per share, up from \$1.68 billion, or 39 cents per share, a year earlier. Excluding asset impairment charges and other items, Coke earned 51 cents per share. Net sales dropped -1% to \$8.60 billion. Wall Street anticipated earnings per share of 44 cents on revenue of \$8.28 billion. (Source: CNBC)*

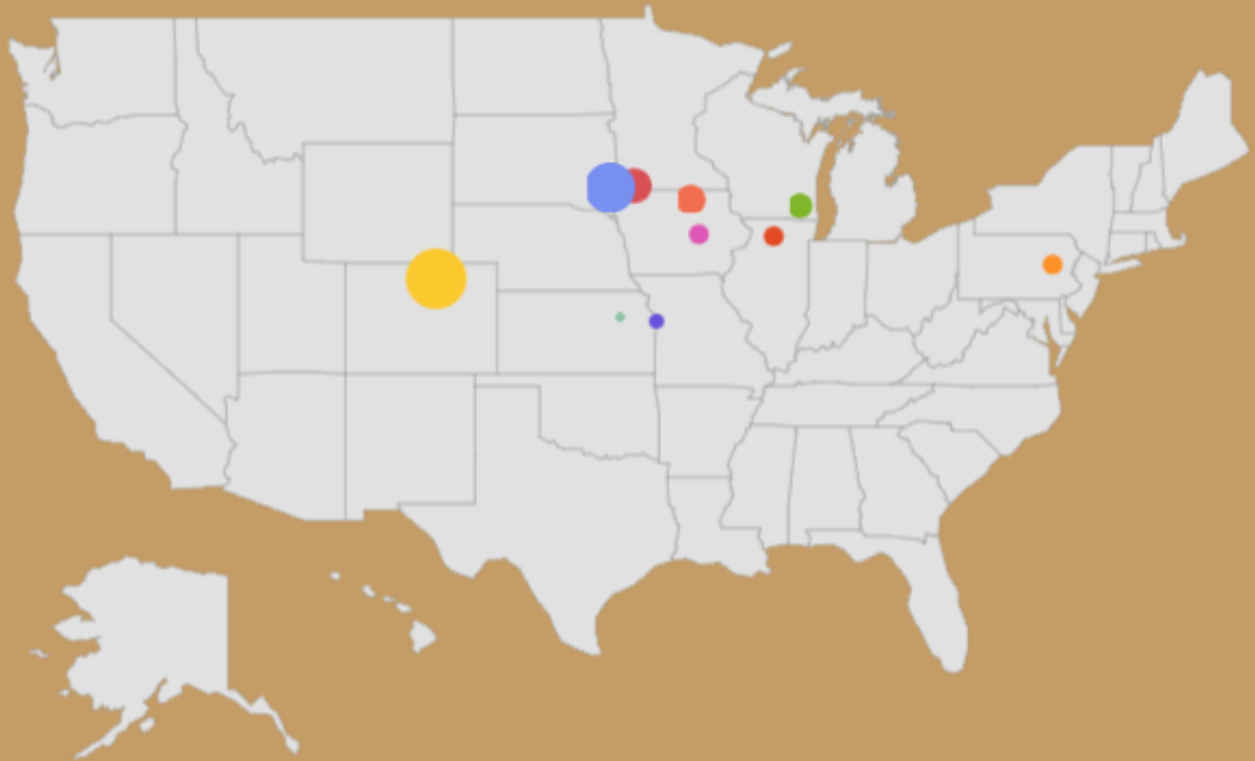
**> Retail Investors are Biggest Losers in Oil ETF Collapse:** *The gyrations that have gripped financial markets for the past several weeks just caught up with the oil sector, taking many investors along for an unexpected ride. The United States Oil Fund (USO) is the largest oil ETF but many investors mistakenly believe this is a proxy for investing in the "spot" (cash) price for oil. But it isn't, and never has been. The purpose of the fund was to track as closely as possible the front-month oil futures contract, not the spot price. The ETF has seen huge inflows in recent weeks and professionals believe many of those recent entrants were retail investors. Unfortunately, the scope of this week's rout was likely a rude awakening. In theory, USO works in a very simple manner. Every month, about two weeks before the "front month" contract expired, USO and similar funds began buying the next futures contract. Investors, in these circumstances, are guaranteed to lose money. A lot of it, especially if it is repeated for several months. This information has been known — and disseminated — for years. But recent developments have brought in a whole new group of retail "tourists" who may not be as well informed. Read more [HERE](#).*

**> The Internet Speed You Should Aim For, Based on How You Use It:** *The world of internet speeds can be tremendously confusing. Internet speed is typically measured in megabits per second (Mbps). There's no such thing as one perfect internet speed, but in general, the higher your Mbps, the better off you are. The speed you want will depend on what you use the internet for, and how many devices will be using the internet at once. For example, checking your email takes up much less internet bandwidth (in other words, needs less speed) than downloading files or streaming a video. You might also need higher internet speeds if you video conference or upload files often. To help you figure out what speeds you'll need, Business Insider created a handy guide that can be found [HERE](#).*

**> Mapping COVID-19-Related Slaughterhouse Closures:** *Over the last few weeks, Covid-19 has begun to make its way across rural America, slowly forcing the closure of slaughterhouses where, in some cases, hundreds of workers have confirmed cases of the disease caused by the coronavirus. But as is true of the pandemic itself, related impacts change quickly; some of the meatpacking plants that announced temporary closures have already reopened. The Counter is tracking the closures and re-openings. The site uses an interactive version of the graphic below that users can hover over for more information. Check it out [HERE](#) (scroll to the bottom of the article).*

# These are the meatpacking plants shuttered by Covid-19

Shut-down U.S. meat plants by size, closure date, and product focus



- Cargill - Hazleton, PA ● Hormel - Alma, KS ● Hormel - Rochelle, IL ● JBS - Greeley, CO  
● JBS - Worthington, MN ● National Beef - Tama, IA (reopened 4/20/20) ● Smithfield - Sioux Falls, SD  
● Smithfield Foods - Cudahy, WI ● Smithfield Foods - Martin City, MO  
● Tyson - Columbus Junction, IA (reopened 04/21/20)

Note: Employee counts represent facility size, not number sickened. Dates are approximate—many plants announce closures a few days before operations fully wind down.



**Northeast South Dakota** - *Planting is getting close up here as we put the final touches on our equipment. We should be in the field next week if weather doesn't get in the way. I'm a fifth-generation farmer on this land that I'm proud to say fully supports three of them. Both the acres and the equipment are owned and I am thankful on a daily basis for the way my grandparents and parents ran the farm. 2019 was a decent year, we had no issues with harvest, but we still have 40% unpriced from last year. We do store so we can wait out a solution for a bit, but those are looking fewer and farther apart. Then again, we didn't see this situation either. We still have a bit of ethanol being produced near us so it's not all gloom. Currently, we only grow corn and beans. The last time we planted wheat was a while back but it certainly is worth taking a look at with forward pricing as it is.*

**Central Iowa** - *We manage some farms in the area and there is still lots of water leftover from 2019. Most of our guys are rolling but some are having issues getting H2A labor. We have generally seen our best help come from South Africa, as the guys have run equipment and we do avoid the language barrier. We bought all our supplies in the fall and have not experienced any shortages to this point. It certainly looks like the inland supply routes are fine right now in my opinion. Fortunately, most all of our growers are doing fine and in solid financial positions but there is a ton of concern moving forward as demand seems like it could remain an issue for a bit. We will wait and see!*

**North Central Kansas** - *We don't farm too far off from the center of the state, about 10-20 miles off the Nebraska border. The cold weather really did a number on the wheat this year. Nobody has seen anything quite like this around here. It's worse than anything we have seen or at least remember seeing in the past. We are waiting on the crop insurance guy to make an adjustment at this point. The roots were sitting in dry soil when several days of 20-degree overnights last week hit. We didn't have a chance being this dry.*



# 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:** What turns everything around but does not move?

## FROM MY PERSPECTIVE

*Kevin Van Trump*



## The Healing Power of Clinical Nutrition and Medical Foods

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

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### **Better Health and Healing From Natural Compounds**

"MEND", a life sciences and biotech startup, is helping people heal and live their healthiest by treating and preventing both acute and chronic medical conditions through the use of natural compounds. Over time, humans have discovered and identified foods that are not only tasty but also healthy, along with having medicinal qualities.

Currently working with leading hospitals and universities, MEND is developing evidence-based clinical nutrition products to enhance patient outcomes. Whether it's injury, illness, surgery or better aging and human performance, science has learned the critical role of nutrition and natural compounds in positively impacting outcomes. MEND is incorporating this science into its line of clinical nutrition products.

BioLabs@NYULangone, a membership-based network of shared lab facilities is the largest life sciences accelerator in the US, and recently added MEND Nutrition Inc. to its roster. According to Robert J. Schneider, Ph.D., associate dean for biomedical innovation and commercialization at NYU Langone Health, who co-led the development of BioLabs@NYULangone shared that they only select prospects through a competitive committee review process specifically designed to identify early-stage startups with the highest potential for growth and success, which MEND certainly appears to be.

Mend is a little further along in the maturity curve versus other startups in the lab in that they are already commercializing solutions and have received endorsements from the medical, sports, and military sectors.

One of its top offerings is their MEND Orthopedic, designed to support healing and recovery from orthopedic surgery, injury or the repetitive tissue stress and chronic inflammation from sports and training. It has been clearly proven that with proper nutrition, the whole process of wound and tissue healing after surgery or injury can be positively impacted for better outcomes and a speedier return to your regular lifestyle. Until recently, most people and medical professionals for that matter haven't paid a ton of attention to diet during recovery and how it plays a crucial role in tissue healing, how strong the tissue becomes, the duration of the recovery period, and how well the body fights off infection.

Leading hospitals have already begun to integrate MEND into their patient protocols and are seeing a ton of great results, which you can learn more about [HERE](#). Tomorrow you can learn how MEND is applying science to better understand how natural compounds can treat and prevent both acute and chronic medical conditions at "The Healing Power of Clinical Nutrition and Medical Foods," a webinar to be held at 3 pm CDT on Thursday, April 23, Featuring Eziah Syed, Founder and CEO of [MEND](#). Register today!

**MEND**

@mendnutrition



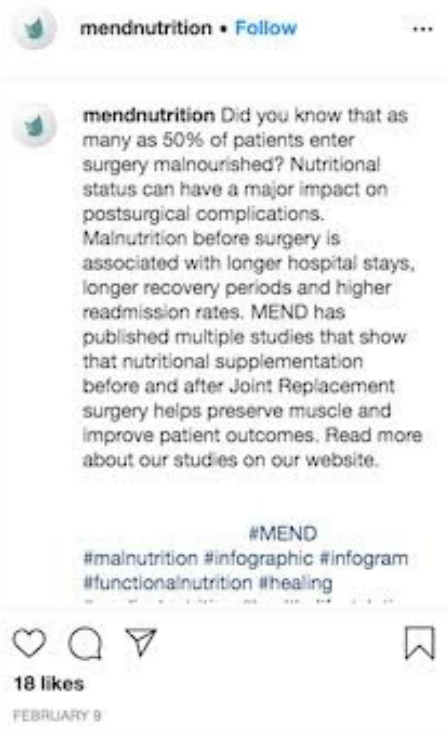
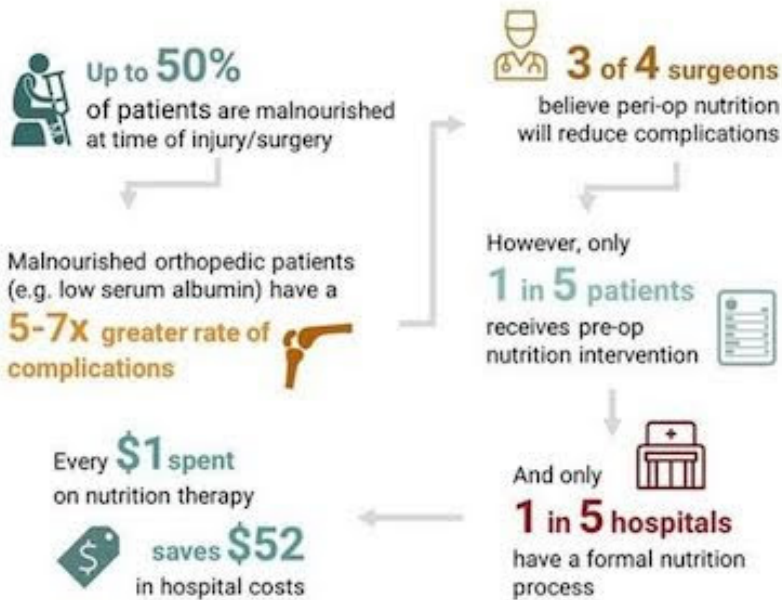
## Professional Investors & Leading Surgeons Invest in Life Sciences Startup MEND



Professional Investors & Leading Surgeons Invest in Life Sciences Startup ME...  
Company secures funding to accelerate growth and to fund research and development for medical foods and clinical nutrition New York, NY — MEND ...

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## MALNUTRITION & SURGICAL COMPLICATIONS





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**CIRCULATION COMPLEX**  
Antioxidant-rich complex supports circulation, muscle and bone health while reducing inflammation and oxidative stress.

**AMINOGEN**  
Helps break down and absorb protein and increases levels of amino acids for the repair of damaged cells, muscle tissue and organs.

**HMB**  
Enhances muscle recovery, prevents breakdown and increases muscle building.

**BCAA COMPLEX**  
Promotes maximum muscle regeneration, protein synthesis and increased muscle mass immune function.

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Supports digestion and promotes beneficial intestinal flora.

**ENZYME BLEND**  
Aids in the absorption of nutrients, reduces inflammation and helps to heal muscular skeletal trauma.

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Designed to support overall health and tailored to be gentle on the digestive system.

**PROTEIN COMPLEX**  
A blend of whey and casein proteins to help improve muscle protein synthesis and recovery.

**CREATINE**  
Enhances muscle mass, strength, endurance and performance.

**CoQ10**  
Improves muscle metabolism of carbohydrates and lipids.

**MCT**  
Derived from coconut oil, it improves metabolism, increases fat burning and prevents muscle loss.

mend.me

## Earth Day Celebrates 50 Years

Today is the 50th anniversary of "Earth Day", a global event coordinated in over 190 countries. The annual celebration, which began as a "national teach-in on the environment", is now focused on demonstrating support for environmental

protection. The Earth Day Network said its goal this year is to "flood the world with messages of hope, optimism, and above all, action."

The history of Earth Day really goes back to the 1960s, when Americans were becoming more aware of some of the negative effects of pollution on both humans and the environment. Denis Hayes, one of the original Earth Day organizers, says a number of issues came to a head by the end of the decade, including an oil spill in the elite community of Santa Barbara, California, then a fire on the Cuyahoga River that generated a ton of press coverage. Hayes says the "juxtaposition with water, which puts out fire, made a splash" in a terribly visual way that really brought it home to people. It was during this time that interstates were being rapidly expanded, too, leading to dangerous air pollution that was poisoned from leaded gasoline.

All of these groups were brought together by the Earth Day organizers and woven together under one umbrella. Hayes explains that back then, the folks involved with those various causes didn't think of themselves as having anything in common with one another. Overall, Hayes's details about organizing that first Earth Day really highlight how its success was very much a product of good old fashioned research and marketing, along with some youthful scrappiness and a little dumb luck.

U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson from Wisconsin had reached out to Hayes in 1969 and asked him to build a staff and organize the first Earth Day. Nelson, a Democrat from Wisconsin, had struggled for years to convince his colleagues that the planet was under threat. Nelson thought something similar to anti-Vietnam War "teach-ins" could start a grassroots environmental movement. He specifically wanted that first Earth Day to be a large-scale demonstration "to shake up the political establishment and force this issue onto the national agenda."

Interestingly, Hayes has said that one of the secrets to pulling the whole thing off in such a short time and with their shoestring budget was that Walter Philip Reuther, the head of the United Automobile Workers (UAW), gave them a budget for an 800 number so they could communicate directly with organizers. Apparently, Reuther was very progressive for his day and was deeply concerned about car pollution and supported legislation like the Clean Air Act. Hayes says the ability to make free phone calls made it all possible.

Hayes initially wanted to hire top organizers from the anti-war, Hispanic, and civil rights movements but there wasn't any interest in environmental issues. "So I looked back at the mail to the Senator's office, and it was overwhelmingly from relatively young women, mostly college educated, with one or two kids in a single-wage-earner family, with time on their hands, who had gotten frustrated by not being involved in the social tumult of the era and who were deeply affected by

environmental threats to their children." Focusing on that core demographic, they quickly proved environmental activism could be a vehicle for change and the college kids jumped on board soon afterwards.

They next key ingredient was marketing and Hayes didn't feel a "teach-in" was really going to gain any traction. One day, Hayes said an advertising guy came by their office asking if he could do anything to help. So Hayes suggested he come up with some different ways to brand it and a few weeks later he came back with some ideas and ad mock-ups. Earth Day was the one that sounded right, and which Hayes says, "fortuitously turned out to be something that translated beautifully in every language."

The first Earth Day was effective at raising awareness about environmental issues and transforming public attitudes. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, "Public opinion polls indicate that a permanent change in national priorities followed Earth Day 1970. When polled in May 1971, 25% of the U.S. public declared protecting the environment to be an important goal, a +2,500% increase over 1969." In 1990, Earth Day went global, with 200 million people in over 140 nations participating, according to the Earth Day Network (EDN).

This year, EDN had planned to celebrate Earth Day with The Great Global Cleanup, a day dedicated to removing trash in what they hoped would go down the largest volunteer event in history. Instead, thanks to the coronavirus pandemic, EDN is now asking people to join them for 24 hours of "digital action". More information is available [HERE](#). (Sources: Time, History, EDN)

# The New York Times

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NEW YORK, THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 1970

## Millions Join Earth Day Observances Across the Nation







### **With Kids All at Home, Here's a Little Something for Parents to Debate**

As you know I have argued for many years that building a false sense of high self-esteem in our children was a very slippery slope. Finally, more psychologists are getting on the same page and starting to change their tune. The Wall Street



Journal ran an article that showed how in the past many parents, educators, and medical practitioners believed that high self-esteem was a predictor of happiness and success. Meaning if parents and educators could help build self-esteem the odds of success in our children would be much greater.

Unfortunately, most looked at the data wrong and elected to dole out "I-tried-trophies" and add constant praise so nobody had their feeling hurt. What researchers are now finding is what I have been saying for years, "self-esteem does NOT predict positive outcomes, but rather high self-esteem is the result or byproduct of good performance, rather than the cause."

It is being argued that many children are now facing much tougher times when they grow up. I would like to see the numbers on "depression" or "anxiety" related problems of those who were educated or raised by parents who are guilty of building false self-esteem vs. those children who have actually had to struggle and work hard to gain self-confidence.

I've pointed out so many times, as parents, we often want to help our children and make things easier on them, but I quickly reference the story of the caterpillar turning into a butterfly. It is the fight and struggle of breaking out of the cocoon that helps it turn into a beautiful butterfly. If we go over and help bust it out early because we see it struggling the butterfly will never fully develop.

I am certainly not saying that our children should not feel valued, accepted and loved. But what I am saying is children need honesty and a serious dose of reality to prepare them for the tough journey ahead. In other words you "earn" and create high self-esteem by working hard and achieving positive results, you don't simply receive or are entitled to high self-esteem!. Self-confidence is earned NOT given! Below is an expert:

*Exaggerated praise can do harm, according to a study of children ages 8 to 13 published this month in the Journal of Experimental Psychology. Parents who noticed that their children felt bad about themselves tended to pump up the praise when working with them, saying things like, "You're so smart," or, "You're such a good artist," researchers found.*

*But those children felt ashamed when they were defeated later in a simulated computer game; other children who received more realistic praise that focused on their effort or behavior didn't feel any shame, according to the study led by researchers at Utrecht University in the Netherlands. Well-meaning adults "may foster in children with low self-esteem the very emotional vulnerability they are trying to prevent," the study says.*

*When researchers tried to lift the grades of struggling college students by raising their self-esteem, the students' grades got worse, according to a study of students published in the Journal of Social and Clinical Psychology. Showering them with messages aimed at making them feel good about themselves may have instilled "a cavalier, defensive attitude," causing them to study less, the study*

says.

*Children who have a realistic understanding of how they are seen by others tend to be more resilient. In a study, preteens played an online version of "Survivor," posting personal profiles and receiving peer ratings on their likability. All the kids who received low ratings experienced a drop in self-esteem, gauged via scores on a scale including such items as, "I feel good about who I am right now." But those who started the game with grandiose views of themselves and inflated feelings of superiority suffered the biggest declines in self-esteem, says the study in Child Development.*

As many are forced to do more educating at home, I thought this would be something interesting to debate and throw in the mix. As if any of us need more to argue and debate about:)



### **The Struggle is Needed**

*One day as a small opening appeared on a cocoon, a man sat for several hours watching the butterfly struggle to force its body through that little hole. Then it seemed to stop making any progress.*

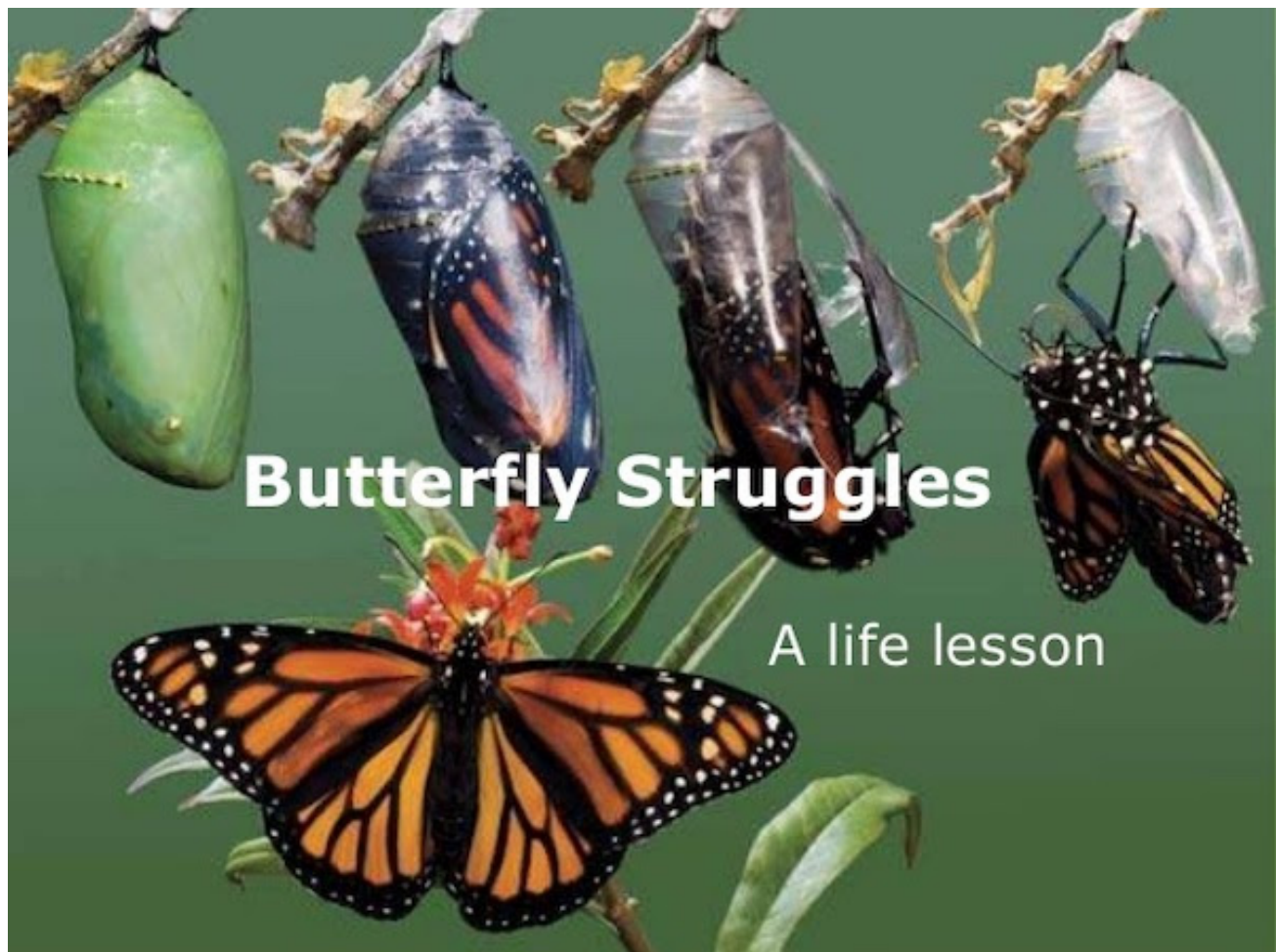
*It appeared as if it had got as far as could and it could go no farther. So the man decided to help the butterfly.*

*He took a pair of scissors and snipped off the remaining bit of the cocoon. The butterfly then emerged easily, but it had a swollen body and small, shriveled wings.*

*He thought that the wings would enlarge and expand to be able to support the body, which would contract in time. Neither happened in fact; the butterfly spent the rest of its life crawling around with a swollen body and shriveled wing. It never was able to fly.*

*What the man, in his kindness and haste, did not understand was that the restricted cocoon and the struggle required by the butterfly to get through the tiny opening were nature's way of forcing fluid from the body of the butterfly into its wings. Then the butterfly would be ready for flight once it achieved its freedom from the cocoon.*

*Sometimes struggles are exactly what we need in our life. If we were allowed to go through our life without any obstacles, it would cripple us. We would not be as strong as what we could be. We could never fly.*

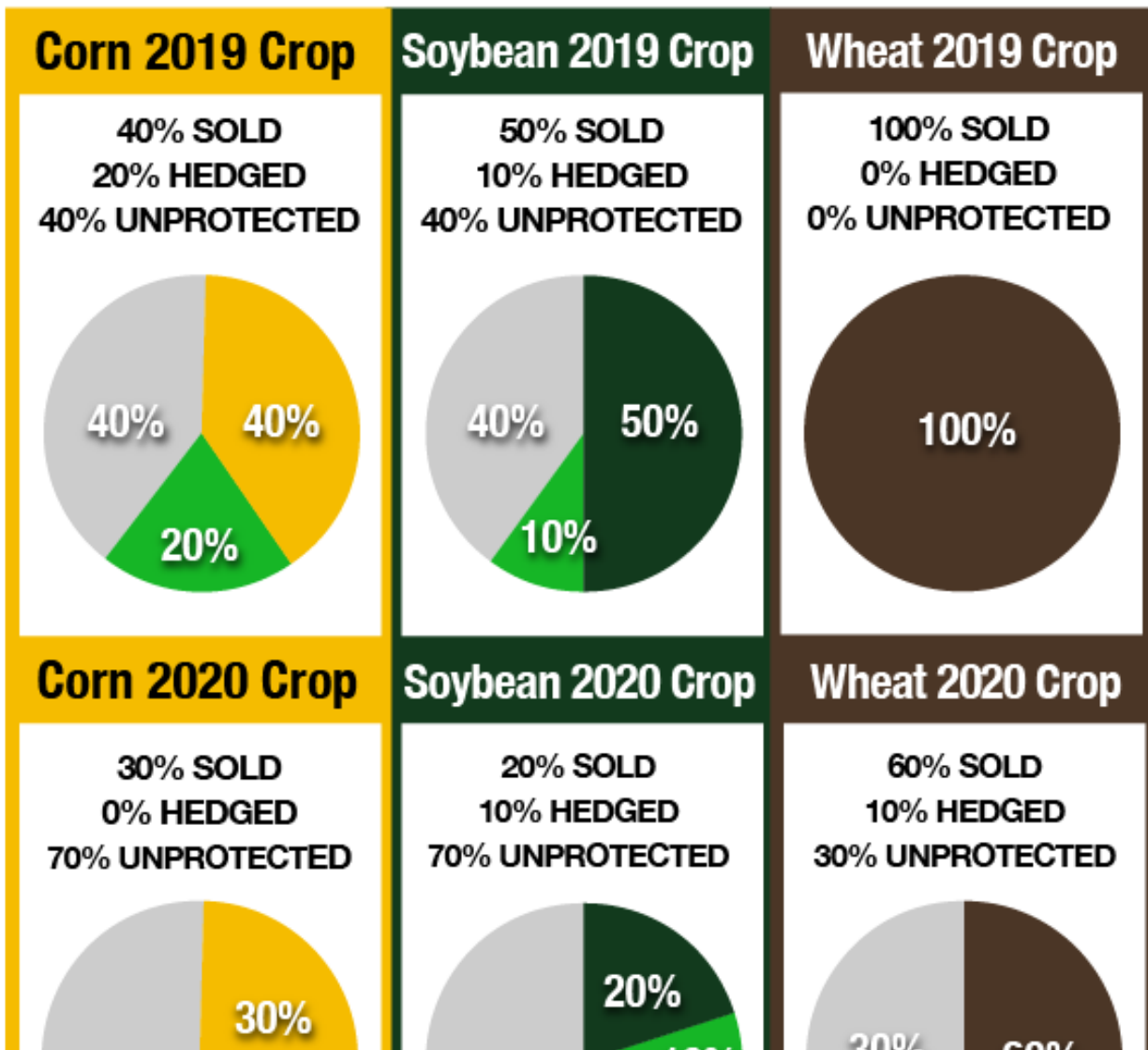


**ANSWER to riddle:** A mirror.

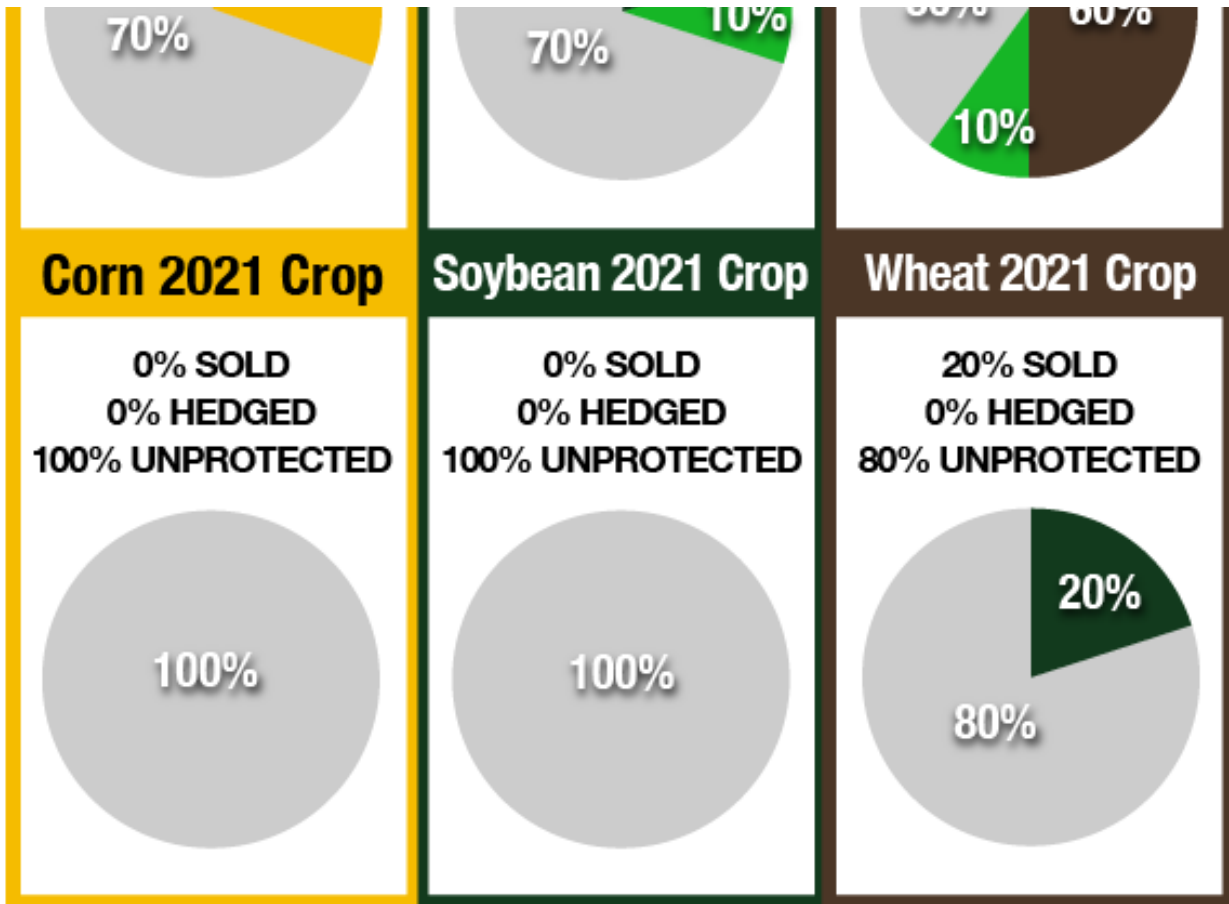


## CASH SALES & HEDGING TOTALS

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