



Jordan Van Trump <jordan@farmdirection.com>

GOOD MORNING: The Van Trump Report 4-30-20

1 message

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

Thu, Apr 30, 2020 at 5:30 AM

Reply-To: Jordan <reply-fec911747360047e-1180_HTML-40325470-100003450-10@vantrumpreport-email.com>

To: jordan@farmdirection.com



"The chief cause of failure and unhappiness is trading what you want most for what you want right now." - Zig Ziglar

Thursday, April 30, 2020[Printable Copy](#) or [Audio Version](#)

Morning Summary: Stock bulls are happy to hear more open stimulus commentary from the Fed and more optimistic talk of corona treatments and perhaps a vaccine sooner than anticipated. The latest remdesivir study came from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) and apparently showed the drug helped speed recoveries in patients by several days. At the same time, President Trump announced a new project called "Operation Warp Speed" that aims to speed the development of a vaccine and subsequently manufacturing 100 hundred million doses by January. The plan involves several different federal agencies and pharmaceutical companies and could help fast track vaccine development. At least 70 different coronavirus vaccines are currently in development around the globe right now. Bulls also got a boost from comments

made by Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell following the central bank's latest policy meeting. "It may well be the case that the economy will need more support from all of us if the recovery is to be a robust one," Powell said, which traders take to mean the central bank and Washington will continue to take extreme measures to support the economy. The Federal Reserve left rates unchanged and pledged to use "its full range of tools to support the U.S. economy," in its official statement. Most inside the trade still see no signs of the Fed raising interest rates until at least 2022. Today brings weekly Jobless Claims which are expected to show another 3.5 million people filed for unemployment. Remember, roughly 26 million Americans have filed for unemployment over the previous five weeks. Economists expect the number of unemployed to continue climbing but most believe the number of new claims will continue to decline each week. Personal Income & Outlays and Chicago PMI are also due out today. It's also another extremely busy earnings day with probably the most highly anticipated being none other than remdesivir maker Gilead. Investors are anxious to learn more information about the remdesivir trials and what FDA approval could mean for the company's bottom line. Also high on the watch list is Amazon, which has had a central role in keeping essential goods flowing around the globe as the world has gone into lockdown mode. The amount of changes and adjustments the company has had to undertake have been immense and investors want details on how those are impacting profits. Obviously, the Apple earnings release will also be of huge importance to the market. Other earnings results today include Altria, American Airlines, Amgen, Cabot Oil & Gas, Cigna, Comcast, ConocoPhillips, Dow, Dunkin Brands, Kellogg, Kraft Heinz, McDonald's, MGM Resorts, Molson Coors, Moody's Corp., Nintendo, Nokia, Royal Dutch Shell, Stryker, Twitter, United Airlines, and Visa

A Look at How Starbucks Will Reopen: *Starbucks executives say they plan to have over +90% of its locations open with adjusted operations by June 1st. The company is strongly suggesting mobile orders, which will be picked up by drive-thru or the new "entryway hand-off" which will be established at most locations. With the entryway hand-off, workers will set up areas in stores' entries where customers can pick up drinks without ever entering the store. Only select stores will reopen their interior to the public and allow customers to place orders with a cashier. In these stores, Starbucks will remove seating and add social-distancing markers. Starbucks employees will now have their temperatures taken when they start their shift, as well as receive new training on updated cleaning and safety policies. (Source: BusinessInsider)*

Chesapeake Energy Possibly Preparing for Bankruptcy: *Chesapeake Energy Corp., the oil and gas exploration and production company that was at the forefront of the past decade's U.S. shale boom, is preparing a potential bankruptcy filing as it grapples with an unprecedented rout in energy prices, people familiar with the matter said on Wednesday. The Oklahoma City-based company, cofounded by late wildcatter and outspoken natural gas proponent Aubrey McClendon, has held discussions with creditors about a possible loan that would aid operations while it navigates bankruptcy*

proceedings, the sources said. The loan could total roughly \$1 billion, though its size remains in flux, one of the sources added. Chesapeake was trying to pivot from gas to a greater emphasis on oil production when a Saudi-Russian energy price war earlier this year upended its plans and the wider crude market. It was dealt another blow by the coronavirus outbreak. Chesapeake, which employed about 2,300 people as of the end of last year, faces significant payments due this year on portions of its nearly \$9 billion debt pile. Maturities and interest expenses combined total more than \$1 billion, according to a regulatory filing. Chesapeake is considering skipping a payment of \$192 million due in August, adding urgency to the discussions with creditors, one of the sources said. Chesapeake also faces a \$136 million obligation on July 1. Read more from [Reuters](#).

Costco Customers Will Be Required to Wear Masks: *In a bold move, Costco is implementing a new policy that requires all customers to wear a face mask or coverings while in the store. The new policy begins on May 4th and will not serve as a substitute for social distancing. I suspect Costco executives are worried that we could see an uptick in the number of infected individuals as the economies across the country reopen and want to be proactive in helping to protect their workers and others.*

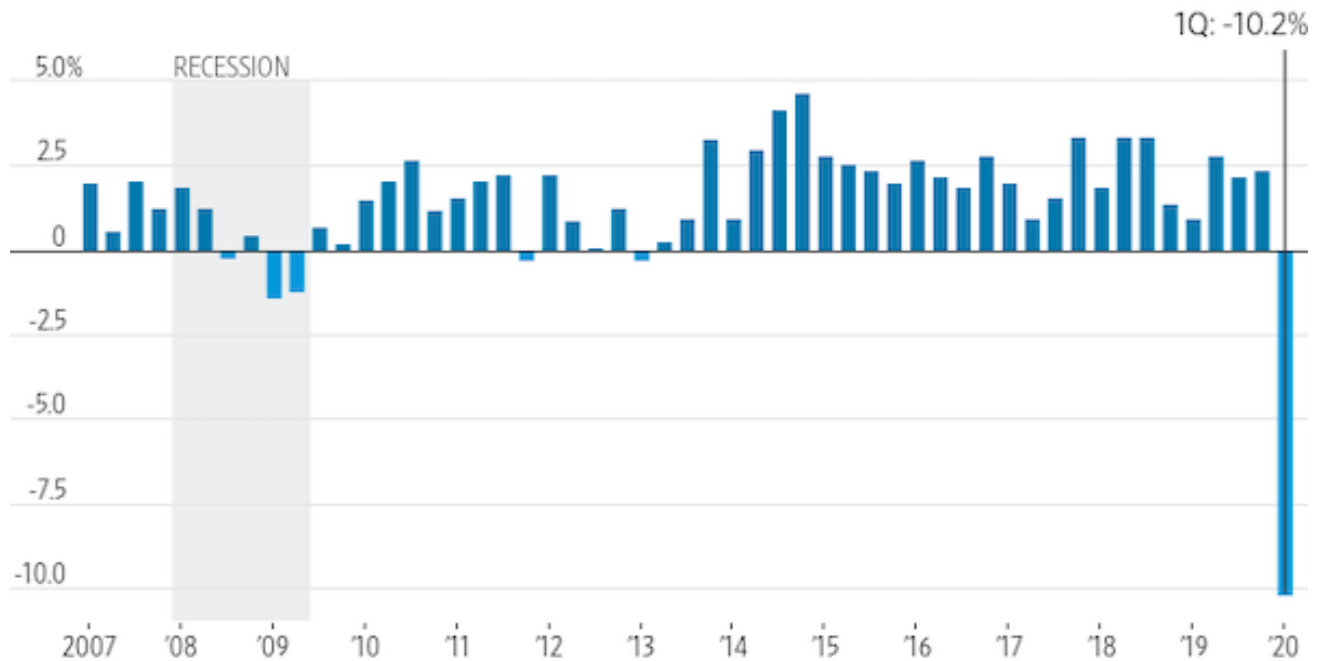
Record Cuts to Dividends: *More companies have suspended or canceled their dividends so far this year than in the previous 10 years combined, with companies scrambling to preserve cash as the coronavirus pandemic saps revenue. Through Tuesday, 83 U.S. companies and public investment funds have suspended or canceled their dividends, the highest number in data going back to 2001, according to S&P Global Market Intelligence.*

TikTok Continues to Surge: *TikTok, the widely popular video-sharing app developed by one of the world's most valued startups (ByteDance), continues to grow rapidly despite suspicion from the U.S. as more people look for ways to keep themselves entertained amid the coronavirus pandemic. The global app and its Chinese version, called Douyin, have amassed over +2 billion downloads on Google Play Store and Apple's App Store, mobile insight firm Sensor Tower said Wednesday. TikTok is the first app after Facebook's marquee app, WhatsApp, Instagram and Messenger to break past the +2 billion downloads figure since January 1 of 2014, a Sensor Tower official told TechCrunch. In the quarter that ended on March 31, TikTok was downloaded 315 million times — the highest number of downloads for any app in a quarter and — surpassing its previous best of 205.7 million downloads in Q4 2018. As the app gains popularity, it is also clocking more revenue. Users have spent about \$456.7 million on TikTok to date, up from \$175 million just five months ago. From a platform's standpoint, 75.5% of all of TikTok's downloads have occurred through Google Play Store. But the vast majority of spending has come from users on Apple's ecosystem. (Source: TechCrunch)*

The U.S. Is a Services Economy and It Shows: *The Covid-19 pandemic has inflicted dramatically more damage on the U.S. economy than previous pandemics. One reason is that historically the economy was dominated by agriculture and industry, which required little close personal contact. No Pilates instructors, MRI technicians or baristas were forced to stay home in*

1918. Personal consumption of services was less than 30% of GDP in 1957 and 1968. It now dominates our economy, contributing 47% of GDP last year, and has borne the brunt of social distancing. Services consumption, from travel to restaurants to doctors' visits, tumbled -10.2%, annualized, in the first quarter, accounting for roughly all the net decline in quarterly output. Unlike goods, services can't be stored in inventory and are seldom imported, so almost every dollar not spent on services comes straight out of Americans' incomes. (Source: Real Time Economics)

U.S. personal consumption expenditures on services, change from prior quarter



Note: Inflation and seasonally adjusted annual rate

Source: Commerce Department

FARM TANK

Tweets of the Day





John Gramlich
@johngramlich



Gov't debt-to-GDP ratios *before* coronavirus downturn

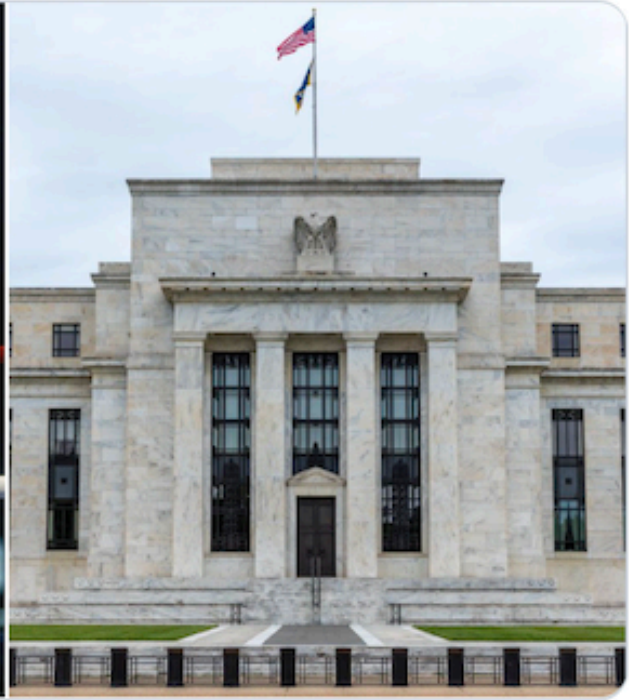
	Japan: 235%
	Greece: 185%
	Italy: 132%
	Portugal: 120%
	US: 104%
	Belgium: 102%
	France: 98%
	Spain: 97%
	Canada: 90%
	Brazil: 88%
	UK: 87%
	Argentina: 86%



Eddy Elfenbein ✓
@EddyElfenbein



Things Not to Fight



neiagod'scountry
@fifLIZ



#FarmOn 65th and 47th crop. Northeast Iowa.
Appropriate social distance.. Dad will be 90 in May!





Trent's Diversified Shitshow
@TrentMichels

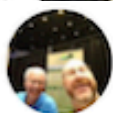


Now I can pretend to be like those crazy people who buy new equipment and never take the plastic off the seat...





Northwest MN



Matt Braun
@FastGrassGuy

When a local farmers son passes away who loved tractor's and the community we all come out and support him [#ripcarter](#)







Skeetah
@LilBreuxSkee



If you don't click these bad boys a couple times before you use them, I can't trust you!!





ActionComplete
@ActionComplete

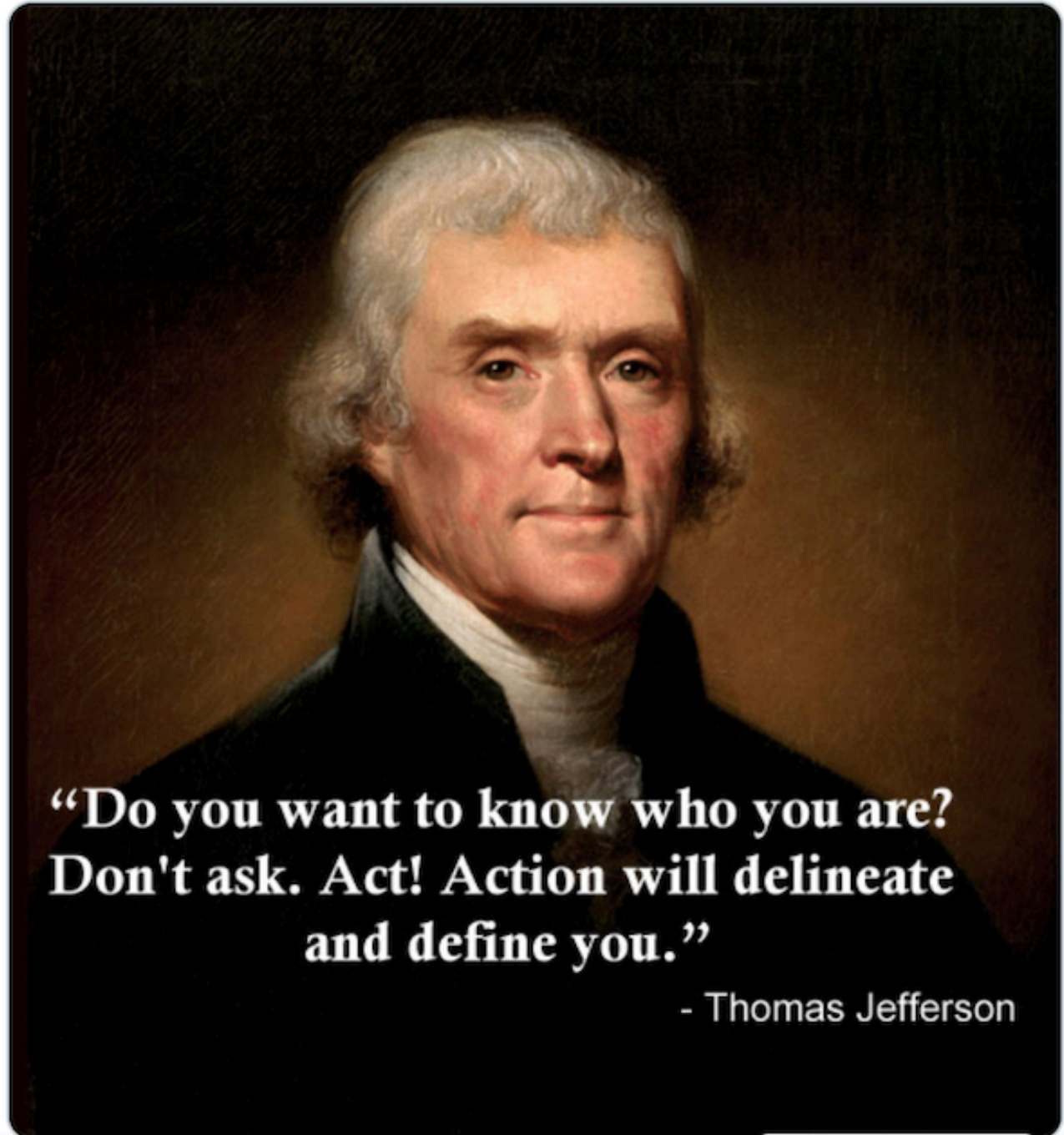


Do you want to know who you are? Don't ask. Act!

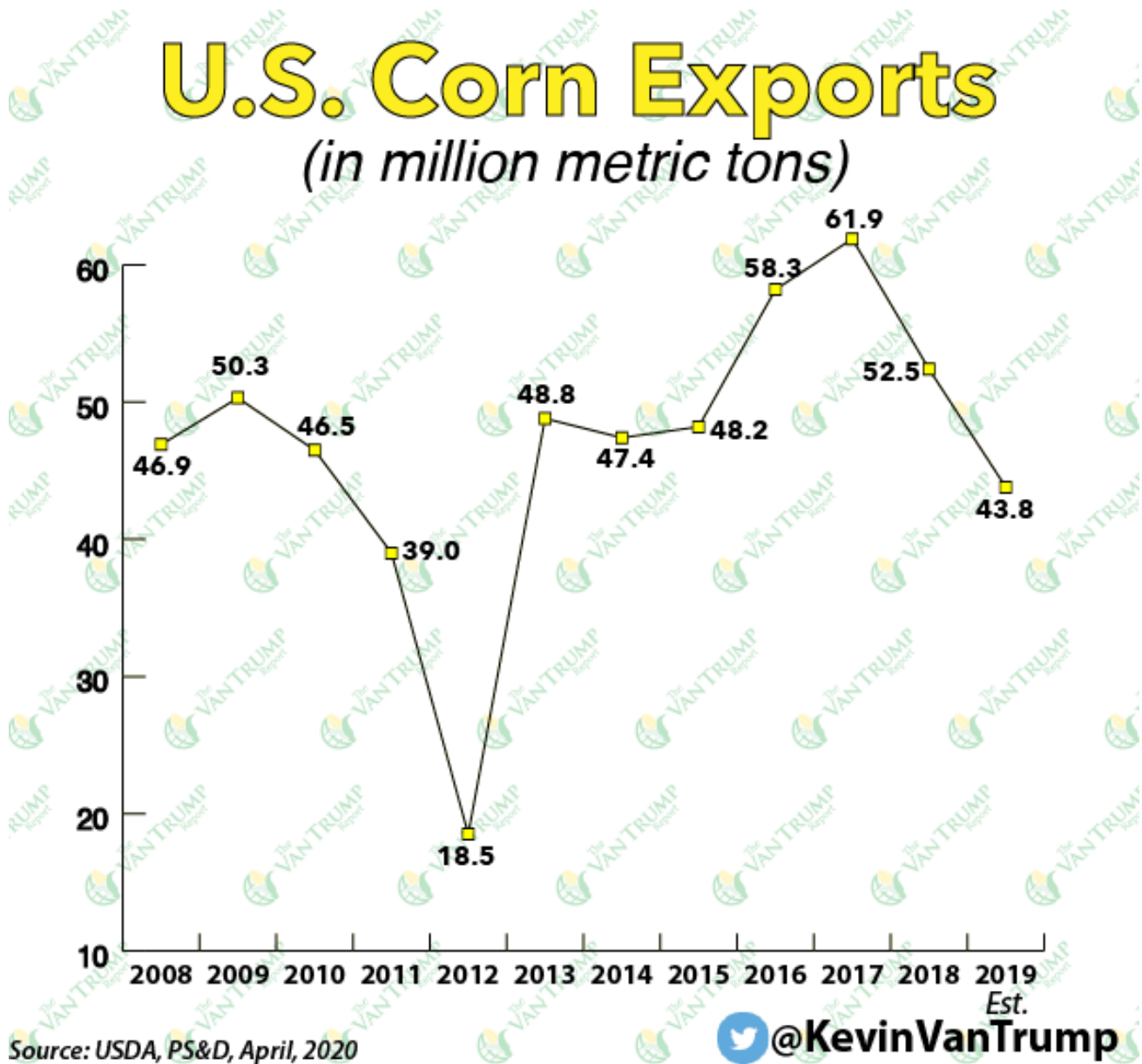
#Action will delineate...

~Thomas Jefferson

#motivation #quotes

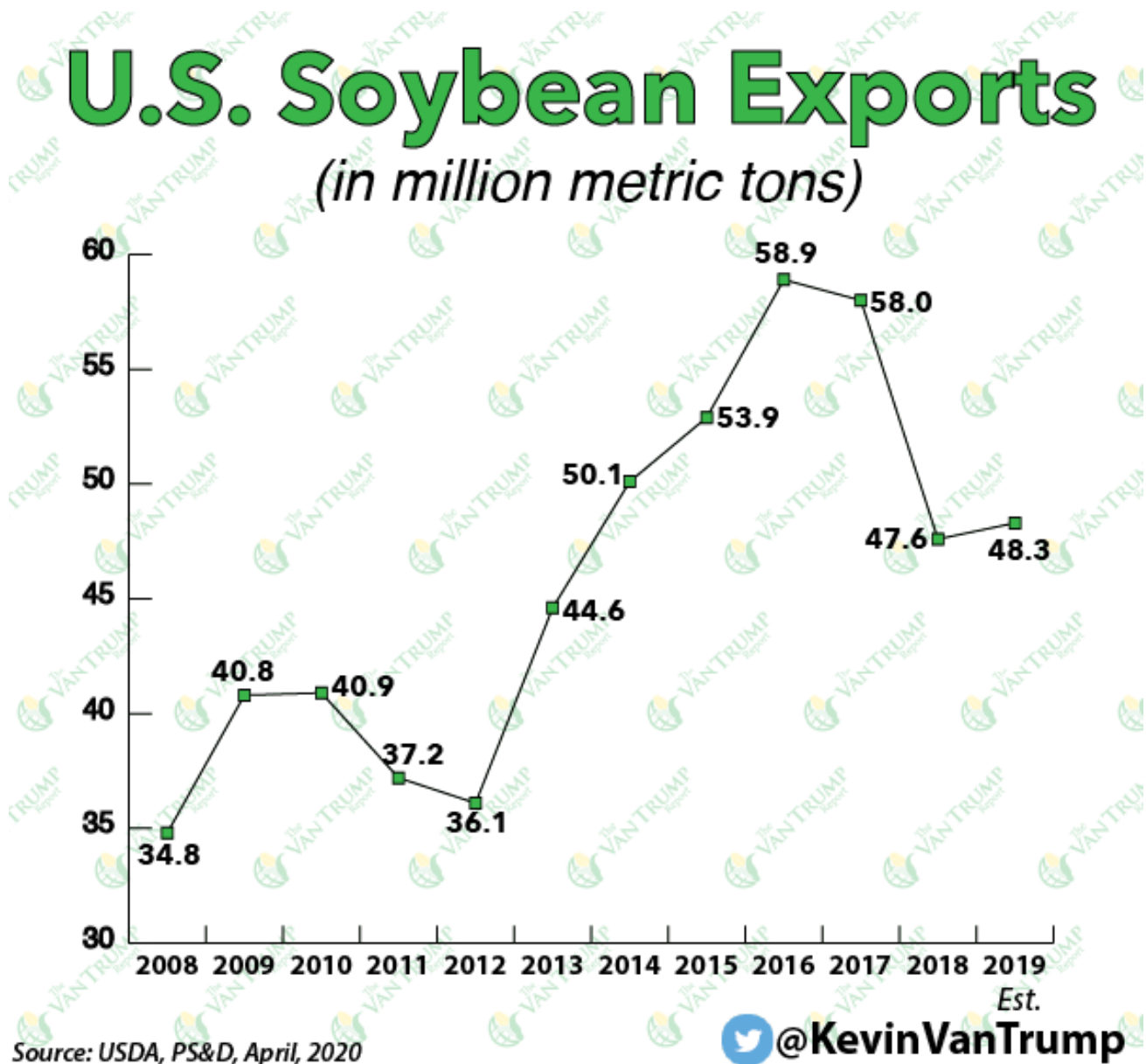


CORN bulls are happy to see a slight bit of stabilization in crude oil and a small downtick in ethanol stocks. Keep in mind, this was the first drop we've seen in ethanol stocks in over a month. As more of the U.S. economy starts to come back online we should begin to see gasoline demand moving higher on increased driving miles. This should obviously help chew through some of the extra ethanol surplus and perhaps work towards slowing down the bleeding. Unfortunately, many inside the trade believe the USDA will still need to cut another -250 to -500 million bushels of corn demand used for ethanol production. Exports aren't horrible but could certainly be better with the bulls hoping to see stronger Chinese buying in the weeks or months ahead. Technically, there's some talk of a double-bottom, and as both a spec and producer, I would like to believe the low is in place, but I still feel like the bears want to take a run at prices sub-\$3.00. As a producer, I feel like I have little choice but to remain patient and use rallies to reduce nearby risk. Weather at the moment seems to be mostly a non-event.



SOYBEAN bulls continue to debate tighter supply against nearby bearish demand uncertainty. South

American weather has been mostly cooperative allowing for a strong soybean harvest. Weather here in the U.S. is allowing producers to get off to a fairly quick start to planting the 2020 crop. At the same time, there is continued talk of producers switching to a few more soybean acres. Bottom-line, there's not much bullish news nearby on the supply side of the balance sheet. Bulls are pointing to the fact we do have an entire U.S. weather season ahead so perhaps there could be some twists and turns. On the demand side of the equation, strength in the U.S. dollar vs. South American currencies have kept U.S. exports limited. At the same time, restaurants closing and meat processing plants battling corona related hiccups have created some definite nearby questions regarding demand. Let's not forget, there have also been some extremely strong macro headwinds in play with slowing global growth and the major fallout in crude oil. As a spec, I have a small bullish position, thinking perhaps most of the nearby bearish cards have been flipped over and the market is due for a little bounce. As a producer, I remain extremely patient, targeting the later summer months as a better window for pricing opportunities.



WHEAT bears are pointing to improved global weather forecasts and continued

stiff competition for U.S. exporters in the wake of a strong U.S. dollar. There's very little fresh or new to discuss. Better rainfall estimates have backed down the weather bulls. While continued global growth headwinds and a strong dollar keep the macro bulls on the sideline. Technically, bears have been up to bat the past few weeks, and prices have been trending lower. Unfortunately, I don't see that changing until we get a set of headlines powerful enough to knock the bears out of rhythm. Like most, I'm looking for weather to be the biggest impact on supply and perhaps China could be the biggest influence on demand. As a spec, I'm glad I banked my bullish positions when I did and have been disciplined enough not to reenter. I probably can't take all the credit, I think there were a couple of times I thought about getting back in the market but didn't have the available excess margin money in my account and didn't want to liquidate other positions. As a producer, I made a few sales on the rally back in March and now content on sitting and waiting.

U.S. Wheat Exports

(in million metric tons)



Source: USDA, PS&D, April, 2020

@KevinVanTrump



FARM TANK

THE BEST PODCAST IN AG!

CLICK HERE TO SUBSCRIBE

  /FARMTANK

FARMTANK.COM



AgSwag 

WHATEVER FLOATS YOUR GOAT

A Section for Creative Minds

> Lawmakers Call For Investigation Into Packer Concentration: *Two U.S. Senators, Josh Hawley of Missouri and Tammy Baldwin of Wisconsin, are calling on*

the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to investigate meat packing industry concentration and any anti-trust violations. They say the concentration of meatpacking in the hands of only a few companies is hurting plant workers, with the spread of COVID-19, and farmers and ranchers who are taking the brunt of the financial pain. Even before the pandemic, Hawley and Baldwin say the packer concentration was hurting farmers, ranchers and consumers. In their letter, the senators say the FTC should ask probing questions about "major meatpacking firms' conduct, pricing, and contracting, and how their commitments to overseas interests impact the U.S. market and national security." (Source: Brownfield Ag)

> Brazil Orders BRF Processing Plant Closed Over Water Supply Issue: *The Brazilian agriculture ministry has closed a poultry and pork processing plant operated by BRF SA, the company said in a statement sent to Reuters on Wednesday, citing problems with the plant's water supply system. The plant in Rio Verde, in the center-western state of Goiás, is one of the company's largest. BRF said it is taking all measures and carrying out revisions of its water supply protocols with the expectation of safely resuming activities at the plant "as soon as possible." (Source: Reuters)*

> Brazil Continues to Export Soybeans at a Record Pace: *Michael Cordonnier of Soybean & Corn Advisor says the 2019/20 Brazilian soybean harvest should be complete in a few days and Brazil continues to set records for soybean exports. Thus far in 2020, Brazil has exported 31.4 million tons of soybeans compared to 24 million during the same period in 2019. Brazil's soybean exports are going full force thanks to the Brazilian currency that is setting record weakness compared to the U.S. dollar. At one point last week, the Brazilian currency was trading at more than 5.7 reals per dollar. That compares to about 4.3 reals per dollar at the start of February. The average export pace last week was 826,000 tons of soybeans per day. If the pace continues for the last few days of April, it will set another monthly record of more than 14.5 million tons for the month. Read more [HERE](#).*

> Virus Fallout Clouds Outlook for World's Largest Crop Traders: *The coronavirus pandemic is clouding the outlook for some of the world's largest agricultural commodities trader thanks to domino effect fallout hitting everything from corn to soybeans. All of that is hurting earnings prospects for the likes of Archer-Daniels-Midland Co., which reports results Wednesday, and Bunge Ltd., scheduled for next week. Still, results may be shielded by an improved margin environment in Brazil, where a record-low currency has helped farmer selling, with the Chinese taking advantage to pick up cargoes there. Cargill said this week that its operations in the South American nation had benefited. Read more from [Bloomberg](#).*

> Amazon Strikes Exclusive Deal To Stream NFL Game Next Season: *The National Football League is renewing its streaming deal with Amazon, the league*

announced Wednesday. The deal is a three-year agreement that keeps Amazon as an exclusive partner for live digital streaming of the NFL's Thursday Night Football package. Terms of the renewal were not disclosed, but the package is worth more than its previous \$65 million annual valuation, according to a person familiar with the matter. As part of the new agreement, not only will Amazon air Fox's Thursday broadcast, the company will also stream an exclusive national regular-season game on the company's Prime Video and Twitch platforms. This year's game will be a late-season Saturday contest, the NFL said. Read more from [CNBC](#).

> You Tube Rolls Out Fact Checking Feature: *YouTube is rolling out information panels for search results aimed at providing fact checks for its users in the U.S. The fact check feature, already available in Brazil and India, includes independent information meant to offer additional context on a topic. When a YouTube user performs a search, they may see a panel at the top of their results with third-party information connected to the query. An example featured by YouTube showcases a search for "covid and ibuprofen," with a fact check disputing concerns about taking the pain medication and offer users to see more resources on Google's search engine. "We're now using these panels to help address an additional challenge: Misinformation that comes up quickly as part of a fast-moving news cycle, where unfounded claims and uncertainty about facts are common," said YouTube in a statement. (Source: USA Today)*

> Class-Action Lawsuit Argues that Business-Interruption Insurance Should Cover Coronavirus-Related Losses for Restaurants: *Most small business owners purchase business-interruption insurance to cover the loss of income as a result of catastrophic events. But as many restaurant owners have discovered, loss of income as a result of COVID-19 is not one of those events – at least according to insurance companies. Many policies contain virus-exclusion clauses which specifically dismiss losses as a result of pandemics. But even carriers who sold insurance policies that do not explicitly contain virus-exclusion clauses are denying these business-interruption claims out of hand. As an insurance litigation attorney who also happens to operate restaurants, Robert Rutter felt that he was uniquely situated to help his fellow hospitality colleagues. His firm, Rutter & Russin, filed a class-action lawsuit in Ohio state court against insurance companies refusing to pay out such claims. His suit is one of a handful now making the rounds in state and federal court. If you find yourself in a similar spot, Rutter urges you to contact an attorney, because if you do not and class-action outcomes prove advantageous to policy holders, you could be left out. Read more [HERE](#).*

> What a Colorado Mountain Community Learned from the 1918 Flu Pandemic: *In March, as spring-break travel and the coronavirus outbreak were simultaneously ramping up across the United States, thousands of visitors flocked to mountain towns across the West. As a result, some rural areas soon became*

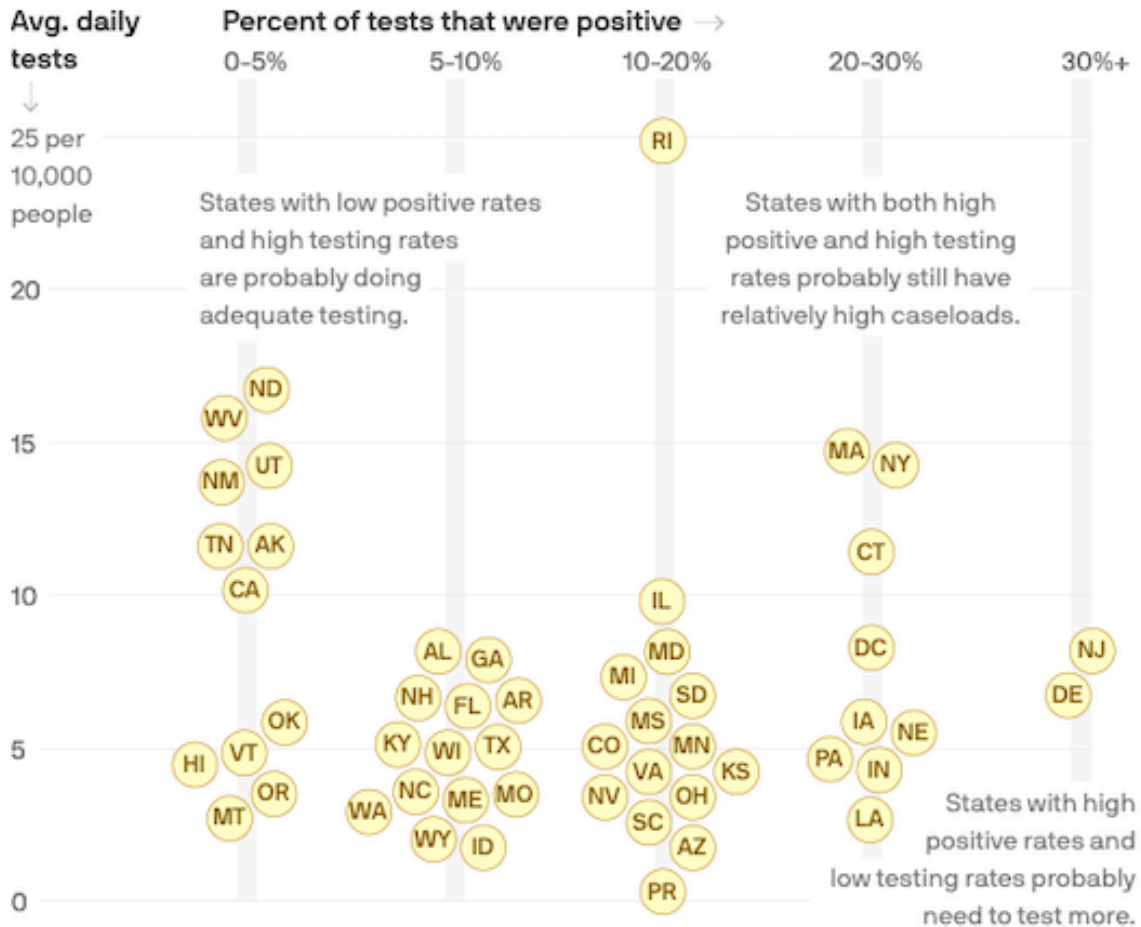
early COVID-19 hot spots. By the end of that month, 17,000-person Gunnison County, home to Crested Butte Mountain Resort, had the highest coronavirus infection rate per capita in the state and the sixth highest in the nation. But unlike many early rural hot spots that shakily weighed difficult decisions between a few positive coronavirus cases and spring-break income, residents in Gunnison Valley—a string of small communities nestled between the Elk, West Elk, and Sawatch Ranges in west-central Colorado—knew exactly what to do. Despite a lack of guidance from state and federal governments, county officials swiftly imposed some of the strictest public-health measures in the nation. Many locals attribute the fast action to the community's collective memory of another deadly pandemic, the 1918 Spanish Flu. Read more of Gunnison Valley's story [HERE](#).

> The Armored Vehicle For People Who Think the Tesla Cybertruck Isn't Intense Enough: It's really difficult to imagine what definite post-apocalyptic scenario the ARMORTRUCK concept was designed for because truth be told, it looks like the kind of vehicle that could survive any sort of problem you throw at it. Designed by concept artist Milen Ivanov, who's body of work involves clients like Rimac, Vilner, Dreamworks, and even the Fast and Furious franchise, the Armortruck looks like the lovechild of a Cybertruck and the Batmobile from Nolan's Batman, on steroids. Check it out [HERE](#).

> Not All States Are Behind on Coronavirus Testing: Although the U.S. as a whole still falls far short of where it needs to be on testing, several individual states are testing enough people to put their positive rate at or below 10% of the total number of people tested — an important indicator of whether the state can successfully identify new outbreaks. That indicates that a large enough testing net is being cast to catch all of the infections in the community, which is key to then stopping the spread of the virus. "If you have a very high positive rate, it means that there are probably a good number of people out there who have the disease who you haven't tested," Ashish Jha, director of the Harvard Global Health Institute, recently told the New York Times. Outbreaks are not static, and states that are testing a small portion of their population, yet have a low positive rate, could be overwhelmed by cases down the road. Testing shortages have led to tests generally being reserved for health care workers and the sickest patients, meaning that a lot of mildly symptomatic or asymptomatic people aren't being tested at all. As states begin to lift social distancing measures, those who do so while their positive rate is still high may be particularly vulnerable to new outbreaks. (Source: Axios)

COVID-19 positive test rate and average daily tests conducted in the past week

Each dot represents a state, Puerto Rico, or D.C., April 22-28, 2020



Data: [The COVID Tracking Project](#), U.S. Census Bureau; Chart: Andrew Witherspoon/Axios



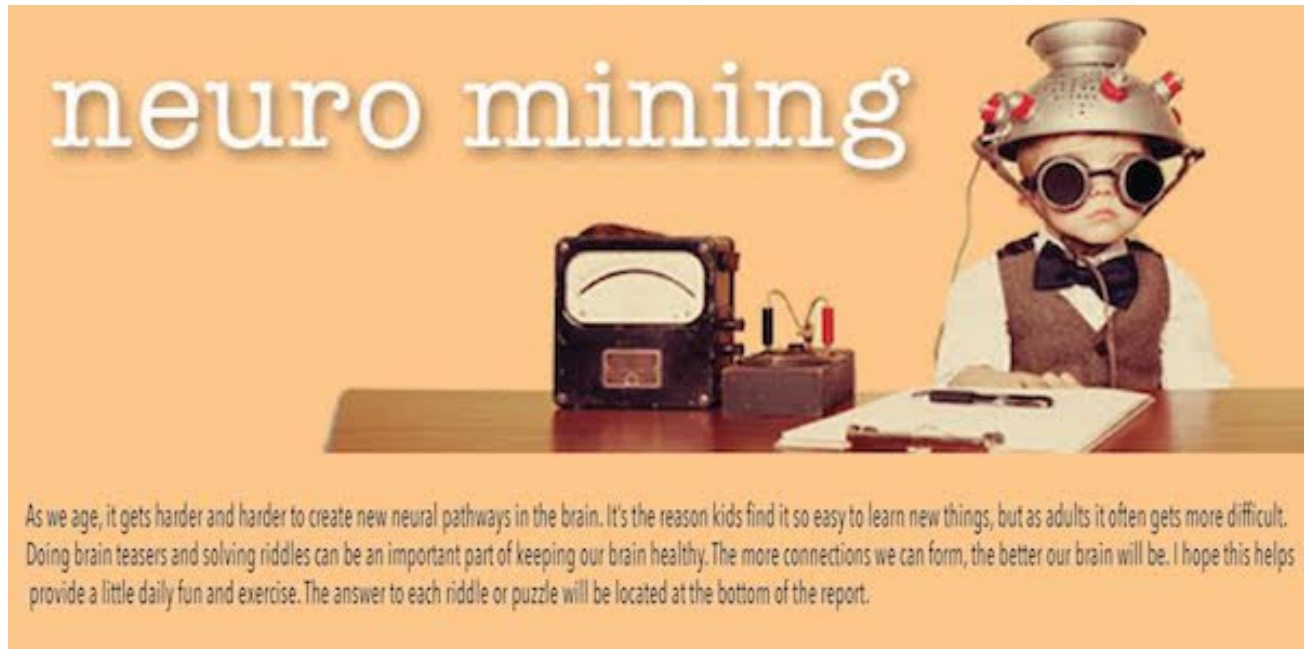
East central Michigan - We just got started planting when rain kicked us out and

it could be a few days before we get back to it if the forecast holds. We are no-till up here and the weather was great the last few weeks for the burning down of the stubble. There are a lot of depressed farmers up here as they look at putting corn in the ground below the cost of production. We debated, but the only real acres that weren't committed to by the time we received all our inputs is too small to matter. Interestingly for me is that there was only a \$15 difference in the bottom line between corn and beans after taking yields into consideration, so we did think about it. Fortunately, the last few years were good from a marketing perspective but now I'm still sitting with bushels in the bin and nothing priced for new crop. We send most of the corn to the ethanol plant but we know what that looks like now. Last year was great because test weights were low in the area and there was a premium being paid for which my corn qualified. I haven't heard for sure the status of our ethanol plant at the moment. I have to keep reminding myself as I've watched the price of fuel crash that locking mine down in January was a smart business decision. The only other options that seem viable to me are dried beans and sugar beets, but at my age, I'm not real keen on adding labor issues to the operation. There have been some solar conversations up here and one company is touting they'll pay \$1,600 an acre per year for a lease, that remains to be seen.

Central Missouri - *I'm sure this isn't new information to most other farmers but we can get our corn planted in about 5 days of good weather. About 10 days ago we didn't have any corn planted but the weather turned warm and we got 1,500 acres planted within 5 days and that included spending a day messing around with the planter to get it calibrated correctly. I have the feeling the crops are going to go in surprisingly easy this year as most guys have last year stuck in their minds.*

Southwest Kansas - *I thought I would share a picture of corn with Holganix applied to the field. The corn that didn't get the product applied still has not emerged. My customer is happy to see the corn coming up faster after applying it and I will keep you posted on when the other corn comes up and how they compare when they are both emerged. It should be interesting to see the soil test and yield results at the end of the season.*





TODAY'S RIDDLE: Two sisters we are, one is dark and one is fair; In twin towers dwelling we're quite the pair; One from land and one from sea.; Tell us truly, who are we?



"Loose Nukes"... Why the World is Concerned About North Korea's Leader

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un hasn't been seen in public for weeks, which has led to rumors that he may have died. There has been at least one report that he suffered fatal complications following heart surgery, as well as several media stories suggesting Kim had contracted a deadly illness. The country is notoriously secretive about what's happening within its borders so no one truly knows what's become of him, but it's important on many different levels that world leaders learn the truth sooner rather than later.

Kim was last seen over two weeks ago and has since been absent from several high-profile events, including the public ceremonies on the birth anniversary of his grandfather and founder of the country, Kim Il Sung. As one longtime North Korean observer explained, Kim not being at the celebrations is "a little like the Pope not showing up for Christmas."

President Trump made some interesting comments to the press the other day, but it only added to the curiosity and rumors, stating first, "I've had a very good relationship with him. I can only say this, I wish him well," and later adding, "I do know how he's doing, relatively speaking. ... You will probably be hearing in the not-too-distant future."

Reuters reported several days ago that China had dispatched a team to North Korea, including medical experts to advise on Kim Jong Un, which some believe indicates Kim is ill. Still others, including U.S. officials and some South Korean authorities, think Kim may just be in isolation trying to avoid catching the coronavirus.

The Kim family appears to be operating pretty much as normal but there are worries an internal power struggle could erupt if Kim has in fact fallen fatally ill. There are especially grave concerns about who might control North Korea's nuclear arsenal in such a situation. It's not clear what the succession plan is for the regime as Kim doesn't appear to have picked an heir. He is believed to have three children but they are all under the age of 10.

What we do know from defectors and leaked information over the years is that North Korea's leadership is not a "united front." In fact, there are numerous and opposing factions inside the country's leadership as well as the Kim family. With no clear heir, a power struggle could very well turn into a civil war. Leaders in Asia worry such a situation could even lead to an unprecedented nuclear crisis in the region, depending on who ends up with the codes.

State propaganda has made it clear that Kim alone controls these levers of military power. A power struggle in North Korea as a result of Kim's death or incapacity could lead officials to jockey for control of the regime's nuclear weapons, either to use them or sell them for cash. Such a development might invite U.S., Chinese and South Korean military intervention, setting the stage for confrontation and miscalculation that could spiral into a larger conflict.

Another concern is that China could see a leadership vacuum as the ideal time to try and flex its muscle in North Korea. What that would look like could be anything from China hand-picking a new leader and essentially taking control of the country, to China simply using its outsized economic influence to reshape the country to suit its own agenda. China gaining any major power in North Korea would upset the geopolitical power balance, including leaving Japan isolated and sapping a majority of the influence the U.S. has in the region.

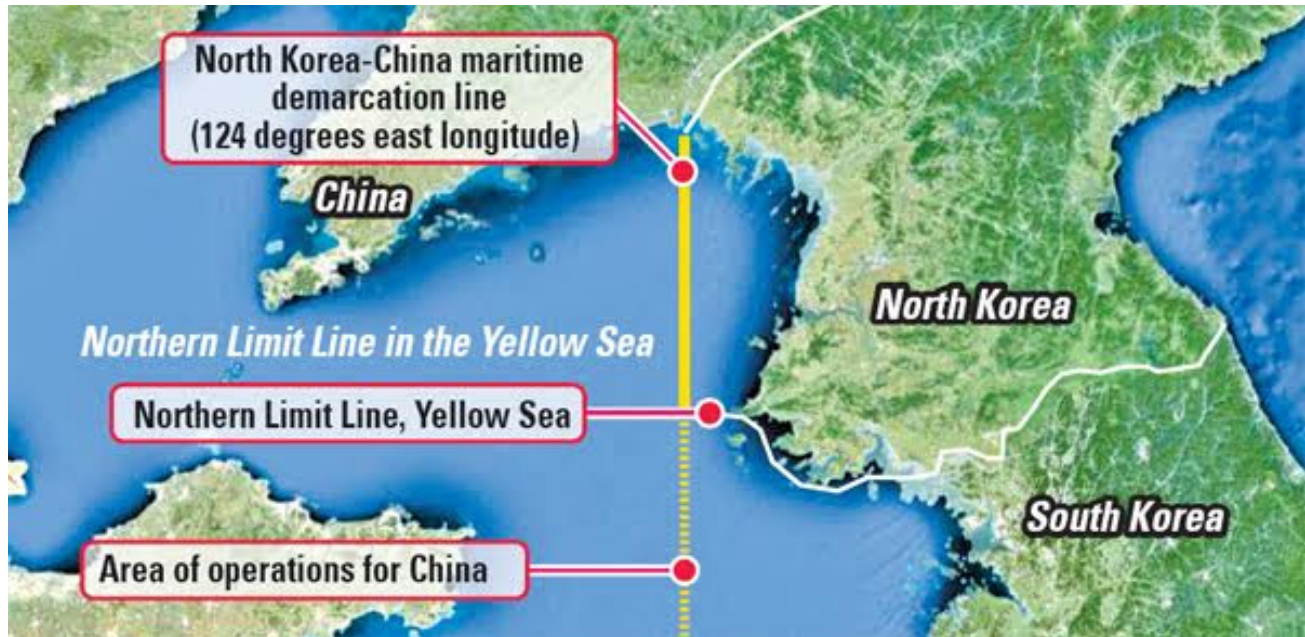
Keep in mind, South Korean President Moon Jae-in has been deepening his country's ties to China and the anti-American sentiment in general has been

increasing among the South Korean public. If South Korea were to jump on the China-train, it could lead to an escalation in a conflict over the Liancourt Rocks in the Sea of Japan, which are claimed by both South Korea and the Japanese. The area is a rich fishing ground and is believed to contain large deposits of natural gas. China could easily help South Korea enforce its claim using its military might, which would also give China unrestricted access to the Korea Strait, one of the most strategically important in Asia as it connects the Sea of Japan, Yellow Sea, and East China Sea.

It's not uncommon for one of North Korea's dictators to disappear from the public eye for periods of time, but it always leaves the world speculating wildly as to whether that leader is still alive or not. Kim is only 36 but is not in top health - being both overweight and a heavy smoker. It's entirely possible that he is ill and incapacitated, perhaps on a ventilator suffering from COVID-19. He could also be perfectly well, socially isolating in a remote North Korean village and doesn't want anyone to know his whereabouts. Perhaps Dennis Rodman knows? I guess we'll eventually find out but it doesn't hurt to brace for a bombshell. If the truth does indeed reveal Kim's death, that is definitely news that could create extreme volatility in the markets, as "loose nukes" are never a good thing. Stay tuned... From what I'm hearing, I like the odds of his younger sister "Kim Yo Jong" gaining control. There's some talk that an exiled uncle named Kim Pyong Il also has some big followers. (Sources: Foreign Policy, BBC, Reuters)







Bitcoin Bouncing... What You Need to Know About the "Halving"

As most of you know, I still own some Bitcoin and Bitcoin Cash off the original split. From what I understand, the next "Bitcoin Halving" is about two weeks away. Industry experts aren't certain of the exact date but many believe it will happen on or around May 12th. Google searches have been creeping aggressively higher and crypto investors around the globe are patiently waiting on the edge of their seats to see how things play out.

At the time of this writing (8/29/20), Bitcoin is trading just under \$8,900, and the extreme volatility in the cryptocurrency has continued. In mid-February prices rallied to nearly \$11,000, but by mid-March, prices were again sub-\$4,300. To say this speculative investment has been a wild ride is a huge understatement.

Let me explain the "halving"... since Bitcoin was founded in 2009, the halving is an event that takes place roughly every four years. During the halving, block rewards are cut in half, which in turn, limits the supply of bitcoins. This May will be the third Halving in Bitcoin's history, which means the cryptocurrencies block subsidy will drop from 12.5 BTC to 6.25 BTC per block. Keep in mind, every time this Halving occurs it reduces miner income significantly, which also drives up Bitcoin's "stock-to-flow" ratio because there will be fewer "new" Bitcoins created relative to the existing supply.

Bulls are hoping the more difficult it becomes to mine the Bitcoin the tighter supply will become. Remember, many Bitcoins have fallen into the strong hands of long term cult-like investors. Meaning they are regularly investing small amounts but accumulating supply

Historically, there's also a reason for Bitcoin bulls to be excited, and that is how the investment has performed following previous "halvings". On November 28th, 2012, the first Bitcoin halving occurred. The price of Bitcoin at the time was trading around \$11, one year later the price had increased to around \$1,000. During July 2016, the second halving took place and the price of Bitcoin was trading around \$700, in 2017 the price skyrocketed to almost \$20,000. So who knows, perhaps there could be some longer-term tailwind created by the halving? A few bulls actually believe we could see prices run up higher into the halving, perhaps pushing prices back north of \$10,000 in the next couple of weeks.

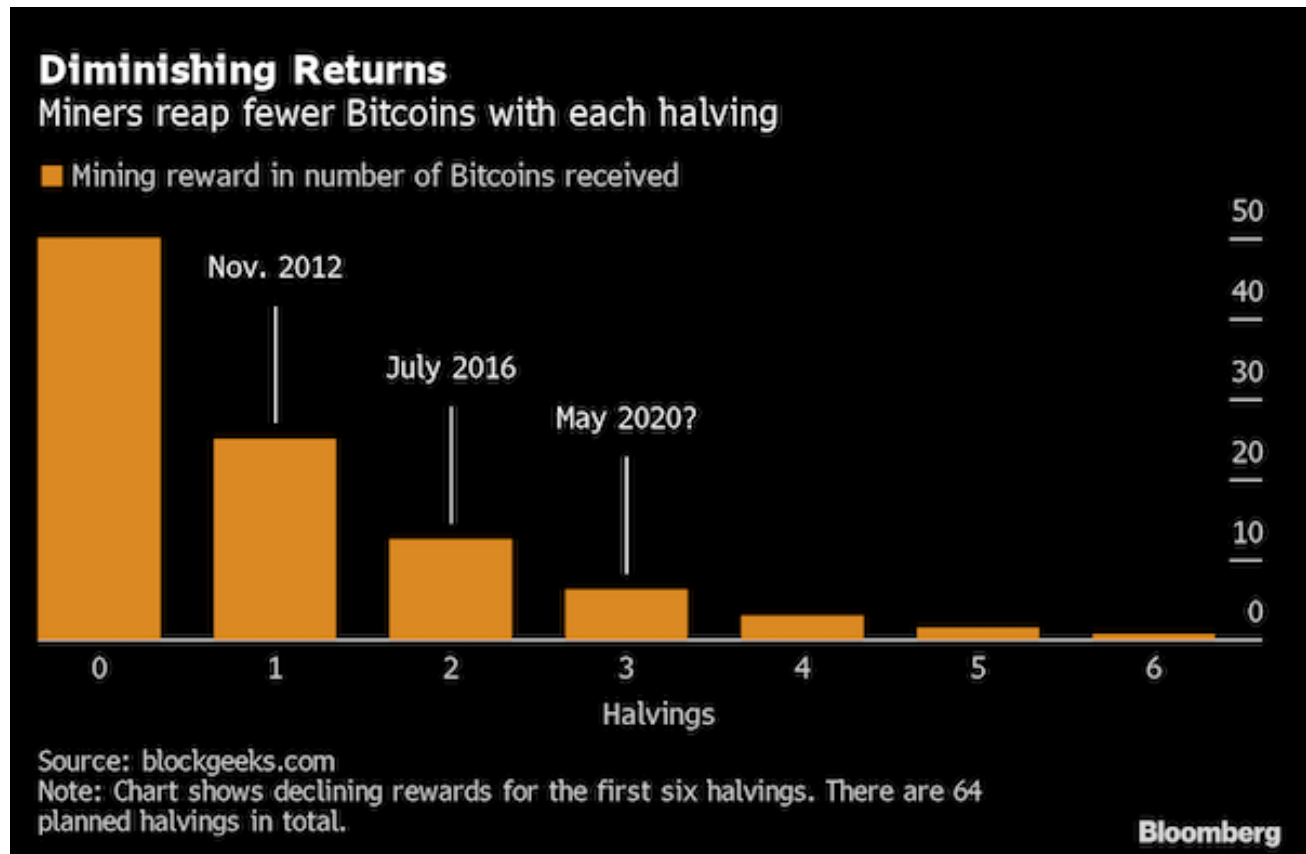
During the past several years of being invested in Bitcoin, I've heard all kinds of wild price projections and forecasts. I heard billionaire bitcoin bull Tim Draper say the price of one bitcoin could rise to \$250,000. I've also heard former Goldman Sachs hedge fund manager, Raoul Pal, say that the price of bitcoin could hit \$1,000,000. In addition, other Bitcoin investors continue to argue the recent stimulus checks sent out by the government could cause a serious bullish scenario in the crypto world. Several large investors believe there could be some pressure put on the U.S. dollar causing deflation followed shortly after by hyperinflation, which could cause Bitcoin prices to jump aggressively higher. Other bulls are arguing this is a longer-term play and we won't see any type of massive spike for several more years.

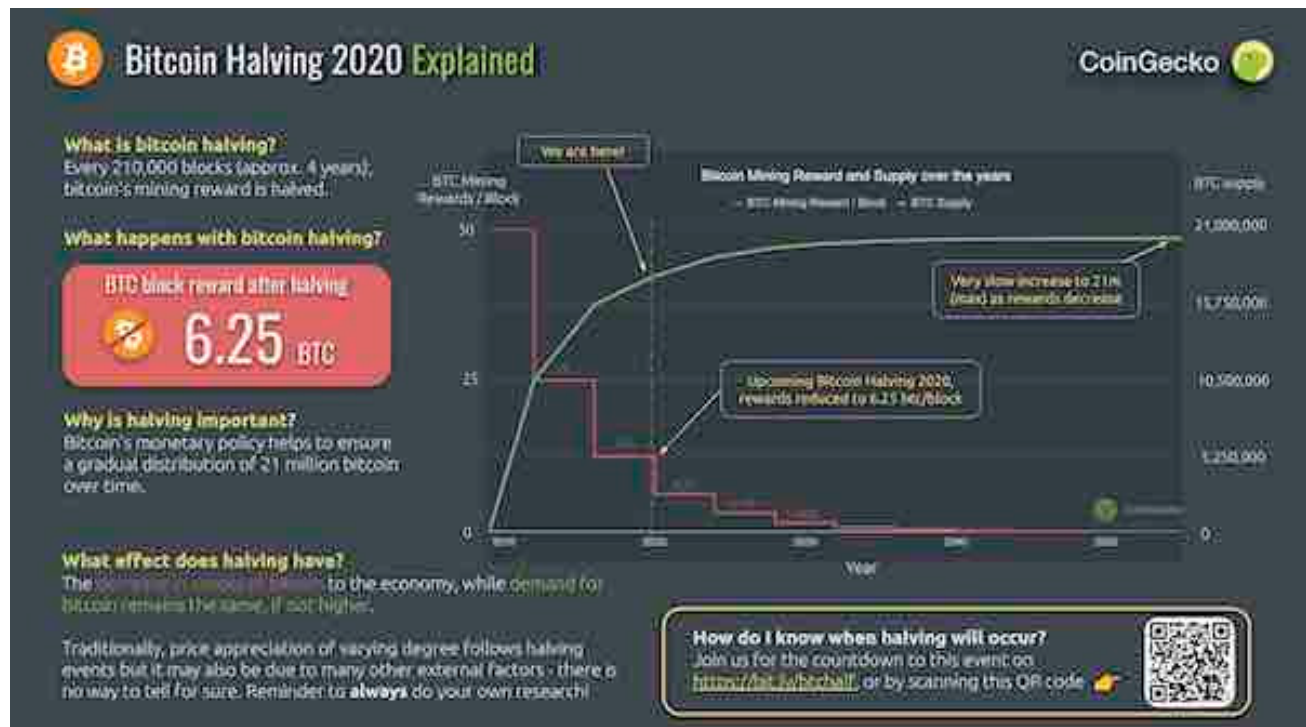
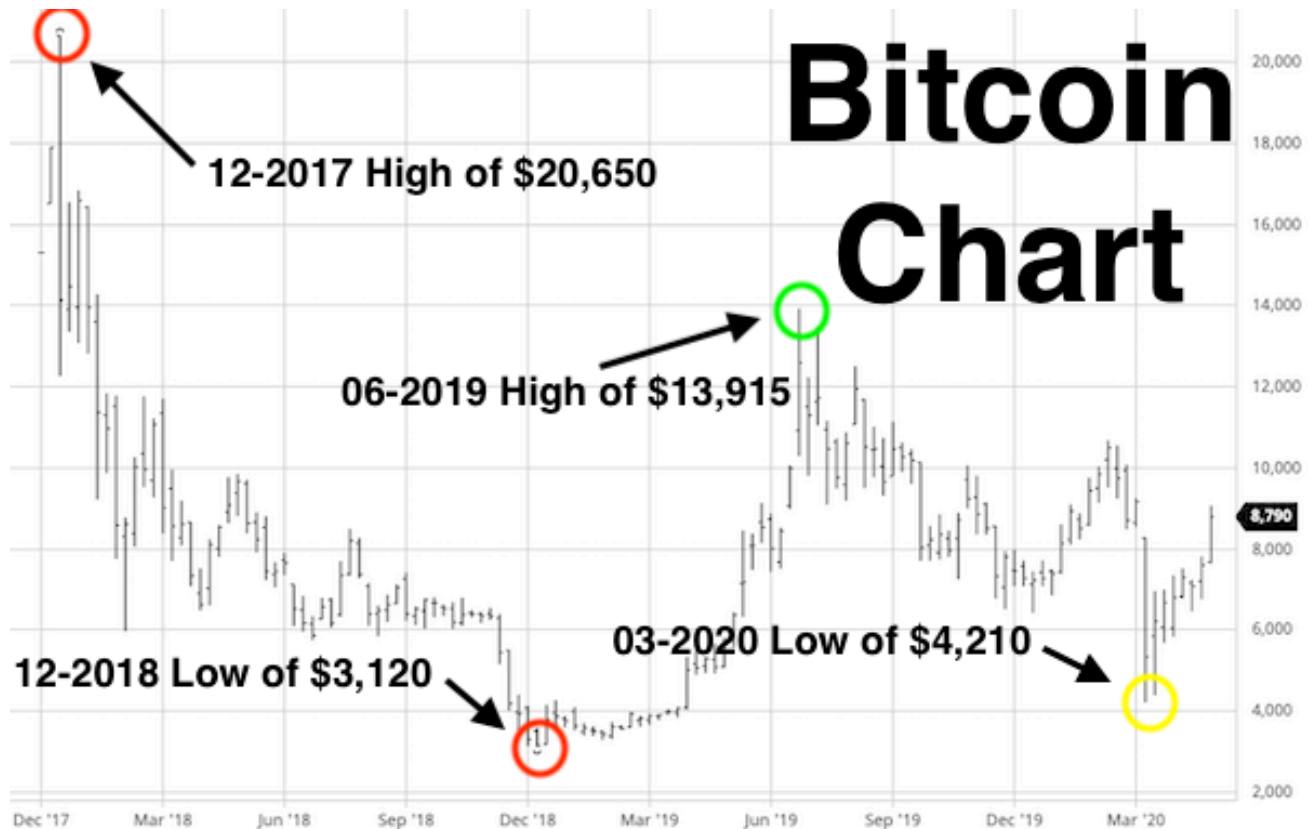
Bears argue that the upcoming "halving" has already been priced in as Bitcoin prices have increased over +30% in the past 30-days. Bears are also pointing to stiffer competition during corona from more traditional investments like gold, which is up +15% on the year. I've also heard many bears argue that there could be a massive sell-off in Bitcoin if North Korea officially confirms Kim Jong Un's death. The United Nations estimates that North Korea has collected around \$670 million in crypto assets, while many inside the trade say the actual number is as high as \$2.5 billion due to illegal wallets.

I like to watch and monitor the number of new crypto wallets created, which helps me better understand the number of investors and nearby interest in Bitcoin. Most recently, the number of Bitcoin addresses or wallets holding at least 0.1 Bitcoin (BTC) has surpassed three million for the first time ever. In addition, there have been two noticeable spikes in Bitcoin history. The first one occurred between late November 2017 and the end of January 2018 when the number of wallets jumped by +2.5 million. The second started more recently with over +2 million new users being registered since the beginning of March 2020. Overall, it's fully believed that the 2020 halving will impact the Bitcoin community's future in some shape or form. I suspect anyone even slightly connected with Bitcoin should be prepared for May as it may be a wild one filled with many surprises.

Personally, I consider myself a longer-term player in Bitcoin, simply holding the

coins I currently own and going to sleep. I've told the kids if it hits a home run like some forecast it could be a bonus windfall for our family. Check back in 20-years and I'll let you know. On the flip side, it wouldn't surprise me to see prices fall back to sub-\$2,000, where I will probably buy another couple of handfuls. I'm a gambling man, that's what I do...





Super Dad Steve Gleason... NFL Star Story You Need to Hear

Perhaps our biggest problems are our biggest opportunities. There's no need for me to write anything to screw up this message. [Click HERE and be grateful!](#) Damn,

this was a tough one for me to watch...



ANSWER to riddle: Salt and Pepper.

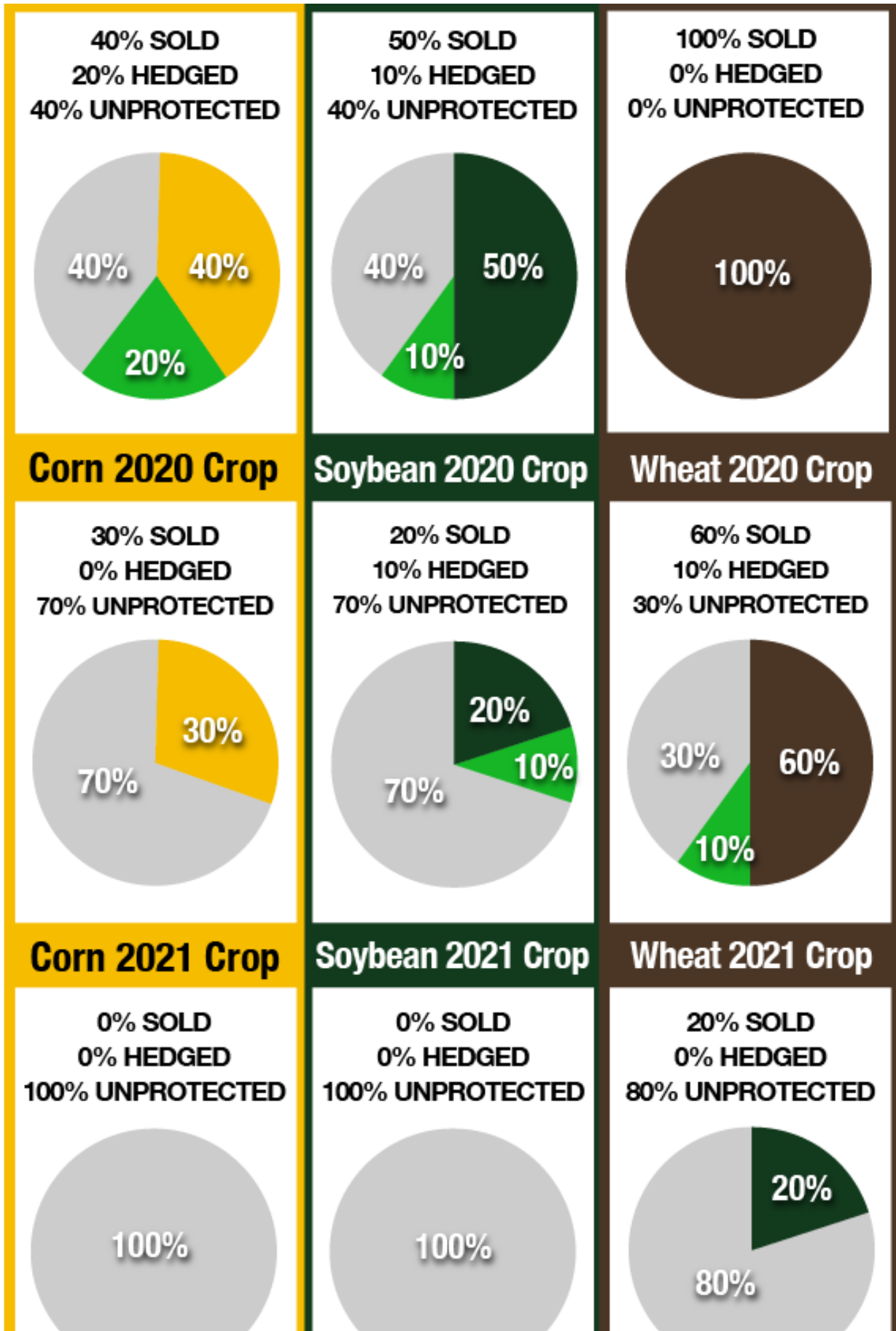
CASH SALES & HEDGING TOTALS

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

Corn 2019 Crop

Soybean 2019 Crop

Wheat 2019 Crop





AgSwag



Bold. Fast. Fun

Sponsored by **AgSwag**

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

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

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

AgSwag is not trying to be the lowest cost supplier. We are trying to partner with "best-of-practice" and like-minded businesses to bring a better "return-on-investment" by designing and helping to implement a well thought out corporate swag strategy and campaign. There are hundreds of online companies that offer quick ways to throw a corporate logo on a cheap hat or t-shirt. AgSwag offers the best in selection, design, implementation, and service! Click [HERE](#) to learn more!

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



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

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

Privacy Policy

Update Profile

Manage Subscriptions