



Jordan Van Trump <jordan@farmdirection.com>

GOOD MORNING: The Van Trump Report 5-18-20

1 message

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

Mon, May 18, 2020 at 5:30 AM

Reply-To: Jordan <reply-fecc11767467057e-1180_HTML-40325470-100003450-9@vantrumpreport-email.com>

To: jordan@farmdirection.com



"Life isn't about finding yourself. Life is about creating yourself." — **George Bernard Shaw**

Monday, May 18, 2020[Printable Copy](#) or [Audio Version](#)

Morning Summary: Investors are closely monitoring the reopening progress across the country. Bulls are optimistic as 48 U.S. states will be partially reopened with millions of people called back to work, including auto workers at General Motors, Ford, and Fiat Chrysler plants. There's also talk that all beaches in NJ, CT, and DE will be open this upcoming Memorial Day weekend. Bears, however, are keeping close tabs on a handful of countries that have seen new outbreaks of coronavirus after relaxing restrictions, including South Korea, which was early-on regarded as a success story in containing the virus. In fact, Germany, China, Iran, South Korea, and Saudi Arabia have now reinstated partial stay-at-home orders over new local outbreaks. Many health experts think that the U.S. reopening could see a similar pattern of new outbreaks in concentrated areas but it will be up to

state and local governments whether such occurrences will lead to reinstating any restrictions. That starting and stopping could become a very expensive road to navigate for businesses as they are simultaneously trying to resume operations under a host of new health rules and guidelines. Of more than 100 vaccines in development globally, at least eight have started testing in humans, including candidates from Moderna and Pfizer. At the same time, every major drug company is building out capacity to ramp up production of whichever vaccine is ready first, even if it's a competitor's formulation. Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell yesterday on "60 Minutes" reiterated his faith in the U.S. economic recovery but did warn that a full return to pre-pandemic activity may have to wait for the arrival of a "vaccine". Don't forget, Powell and Mnuchin will both testify before the Senate Banking Committee tomorrow, then the Federal Reserve's latest FOMC "minutes" are scheduled to be released on Wednesday. This week will also bring updates on the state of the U.S. housing market starting with the Housing Market Index numbers out today. While first-quarter earnings season is mostly wrapped up, major U.S. retailers will be delivering their figures this week, including Walmart, Home Depot, and Kohl's Tuesday; Target and Lowe's on Wednesday; and TJ Max and Best Buy on Thursday. Nvidia and Alibaba will also be reporting this week. Technically, it feels like the S&P 500 might now be comfortable orbiting around the 2800 level, perhaps 200 points higher or lower, depending on headlines. It just feels like there is a lot of money waiting to buy a bigger break and a lot of money waiting to sell the next rally, meaning perhaps we have reached an inflection point and might be volleyed back-and-forth between the bulls and bears until more of the fog is lifted.

Perhaps the Most Simple Yet Interesting Thing I've Read in Weeks: My son Jordan forwarded it my direction this weekend. Michael Batnick is the Director of Research at [Ritholtz Wealth Management](#) and has his own blog called "[The Irrelevant Investor](#)". I greatly appreciate their group's work and fresh perspective. I encourage everyone to read in full detail [HERE](#). The post from this weekend was titled, "Young Bulls and Old Bears". I've included a little summary below... perhaps it really is this simple?

The world has always been populated by young bulls and old bears.

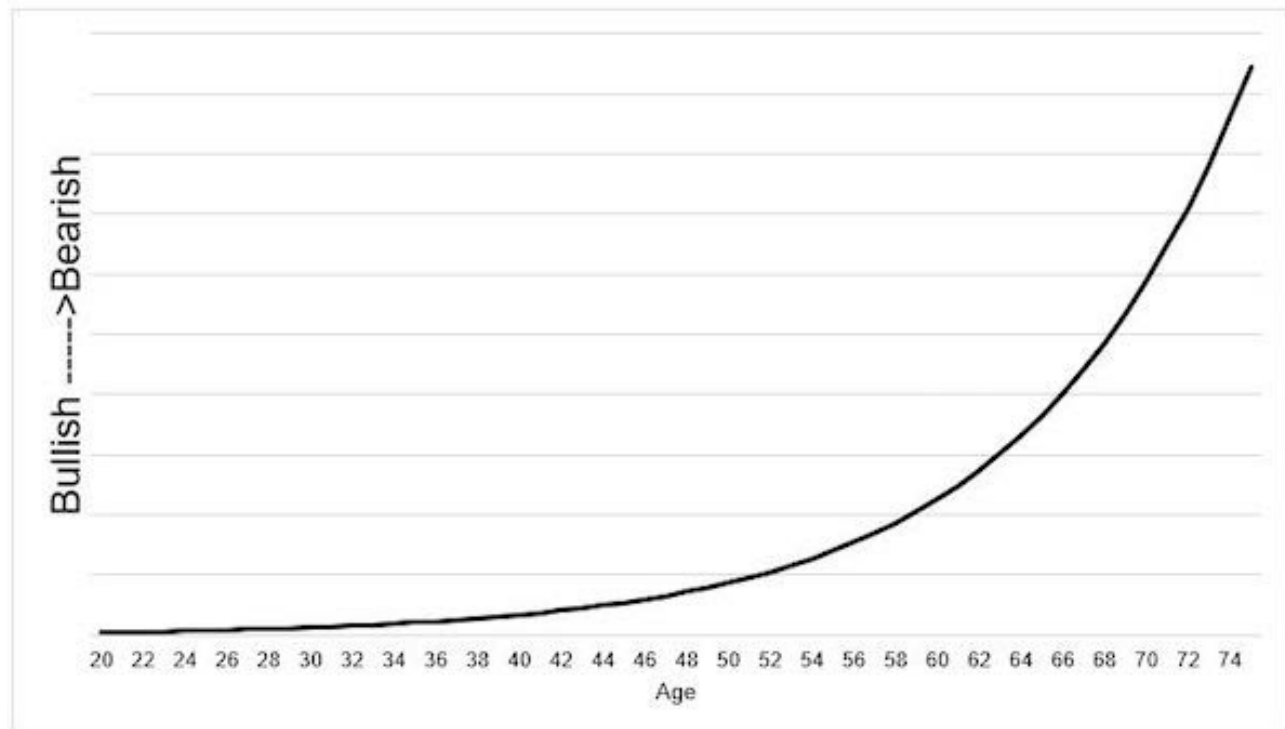
What do Bill Gross, Sam Zell, Jeremy Grantham and Carl Icahn have in common? They're all old, they've all had brilliant careers, and they're all bearish on the stock market. (From April 2016)

Whether it be in music or in sports or in markets, the prior generation never thinks "kids" will ever measure up. Even Benjamin Graham- the man who basically invented value investing- fell victim to the "get off my lawn syndrome."

Young bulls and old bears is as old as the hills. In Ten Years In Wall Street- which was published in 1870- William Worthington Fowler wrote: "Wall Street operators commence their career as bulls, and finish it as bears."

This was written 150 years ago and it's still true today. Why? Because it's easy to be optimistic when

you're young and you have your whole life ahead of you. And it's normal for people that are several decades past their prime not to understand the world around them and therefore be less optimistic.





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Make sure to check out our official release of Van Trump Ag Solutions in the "From My Perspective" section at the bottom of the report today, which is all about bring NEW innovation and low-cost solutions to the family farm!

First Official Concert in U.S. - Travis McCready, a blues-rock musician, aims to play a show for a couple of hundred people in Fort Smith, Arkansas — a feat that his tour promoter says “represents hope”, and perhaps a path forward, for the battered music industry. Arkansas is one of the earlier US states to loosen the lockdown restrictions, with some theaters and arenas allowed to reopen on May 18. Mr McCready remains in talks for final approval to take the stage, after a series of tussles with local government that culminated in a cease-and-desist order last week. If the show does go on, it will look vastly different from concerts of the past. From what I understand, the venue will limit guests to a few hundred (20% of max capacity) and will be disinfected with 'fog sprayers' before the gig. Guests will wear masks and have their temperature taken upon arrival. The audience will be divided into the

groups they came with and kept six feet apart in the crowd. Beer will be pre-packaged. (Source: The Financial Times)

New Rentals in Manhattan Down -71%: *New leases for Manhattan apartments plunged by 71% in April, and vacancies soared to their highest levels in 14 years as the rental market froze amid the coronavirus pandemic and more residents left the city, according to a new report from Douglas Elliman and Miller Samuel. Yet the report also showed a big increase in median rental prices due to a fluke in the data. The median rental price increased by +4.9% in April to \$3,650. Rental prices per square foot — at \$74.20, reached a record. Real estate appraiser Jonathan Miller explains the data doesn't reflect rent reductions made by landlords to existing tenants. He said price cuts are more likely to show up in future reports as the lower prices feed through to new rentals. Brokers say landlords have already started making concessions in hopes of keeping tenants. (Source: CNBC)*

Cars are Staging a Comeback: *As lockdowns ease and parts of the world reopen for business, driving has emerged as the socially distant transportation mode of choice and is offering some near-term relief to the oil market fresh off its worst crash in history and reeling from an unprecedented collapse in energy demand. It's too soon to say whether this change is permanent. In some parts of Asia that reopened earlier than the rest of the world, people are venturing back onto trains but on the streets of Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou, morning traffic is now higher than 2019 averages while subway use is as much as fifty percent less than pre-virus levels. Apple Maps data for 27 world cities shows that driving directions are recovering more quickly than directions for mass transit. In the U.S., gasoline consumption is clawing back from record lows, rising by 400,000 barrels a day during the week ended May 1. Cities in Florida, one of the first American states to re-open, has seen fuel sales rebound to 30% below normal levels, from 50% weeks ago, according to the Florida Petroleum Marketers Association. Read more [HERE](#).*

What Colleges Will Switch to Online Only This Fall?: *The coronavirus pandemic has left higher-education leaders facing difficult decisions about when to reopen campuses and how to go about it. As of right now, about 65% of colleges plan to reopen with in-person classes this fall. some are still waiting to decide, some are going to an online format to be safe, and some are going with a hybrid version meaning perhaps the larger gen-ed classroom settings will go to online and smaller specialty classes in person with social distancing in play. You can follow along as decisions are made by college deans, directors, and boards by clicking [HERE](#).*

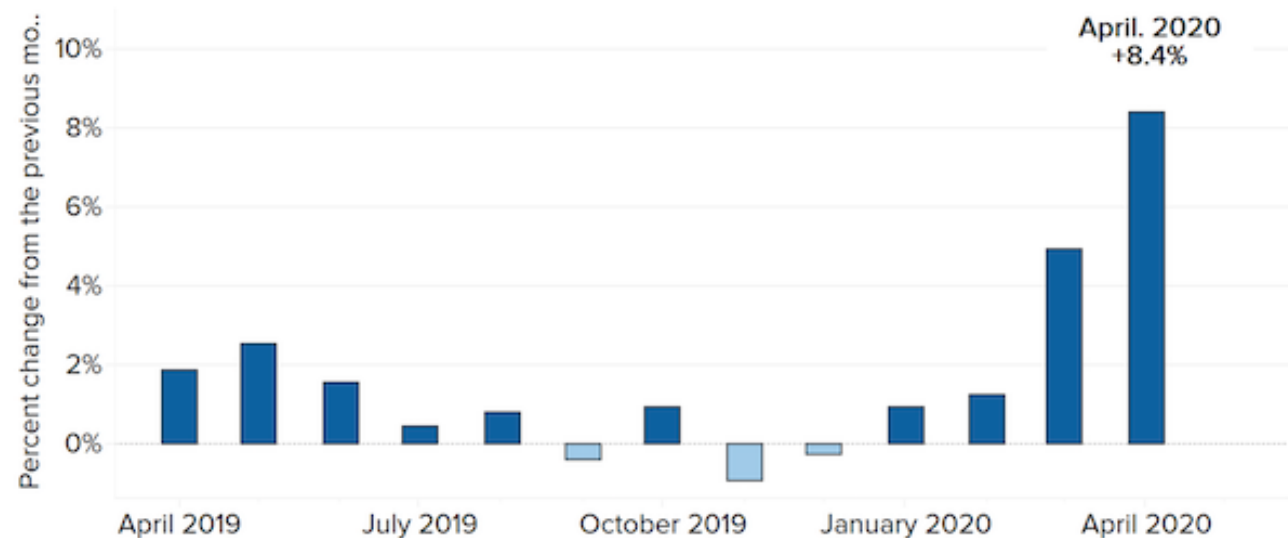
118 Year Old Department Store Officially Files for Bankruptcy: *Weighed down by a heavy debt load of more than \$4 billion and hit hard by the coronavirus pandemic, Penney filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection Friday evening. The company, which still operates roughly 850 locations at*

malls across the country and employees roughly 85,000, will be making some massive changes. Remember, since the start of 2011, JCPenney has closed more than 20% of its stores while cutting more than 40% of its staff. From what I am hearing, they are going to break out their real estate holdings and form a REIT. At the same time, there is talk they could quickly close 200 stores and reorganize into a new leaner retailer called "JCP". Then the REIT will be collecting rent checks from the new retail business. Keep in mind, on May 4, clothing retailer J.Crew filed for bankruptcy, followed by a filing at Neiman Marcus on May 7. Now JCPenney... the dominoes of debt are certainly starting to tumble. (Source: CNBC, The Wall Street Journal)

Coronavirus Accelerates Retail Shifts: A significant drop in April retail sales has long been expected, though the -16.4% drop reported on Friday was greater than most had projected. Sales at nonstore retailers, or online, rose +8.4% in April but brick and mortar stores took big hits, except for big box retailers, which appeared to be down less than others. All major categories were lower, including a -13.1% drop in food and beverage stores, which economists had expected to see gain. General merchandise, which includes department stores and big box stores, fell -20.8% but within that number, department store sales fell -28.9%. Data for specific big box stores wasn't available. The biggest declines were in clothing and accessories, down -78.8% and electronics and appliances, down -60.6%. At the same time, building materials and garden equipment fell just -3.5%. Citigroup recently said it expects retailers such as big box stores to do better in the reopening because they tend to be stand-alone, bigger structures with wider aisles. Retailers Overstock and Bed Bath & Beyond have recently reported big boosts in outdoor furniture, as well as other outdoor accessories like cooking, outdoor lighting and gardening items. (Source: Wall Street Journal, CNBC)

Nonstore retail sales surge

The category includes online shopping. (Month over month percent change, seasonally adjusted.)

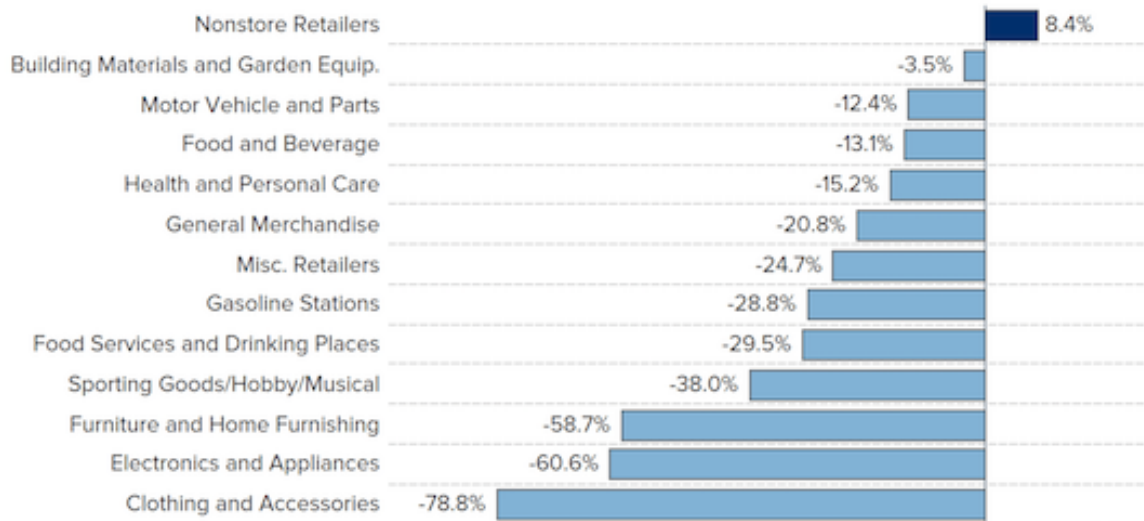


SOURCE: Commerce Dept.



Retail store sales by category

Percent change from March to April 2020. Total retail sales dropped by 16.4 percent.



SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau



FARM TANK

Tweets of the Day



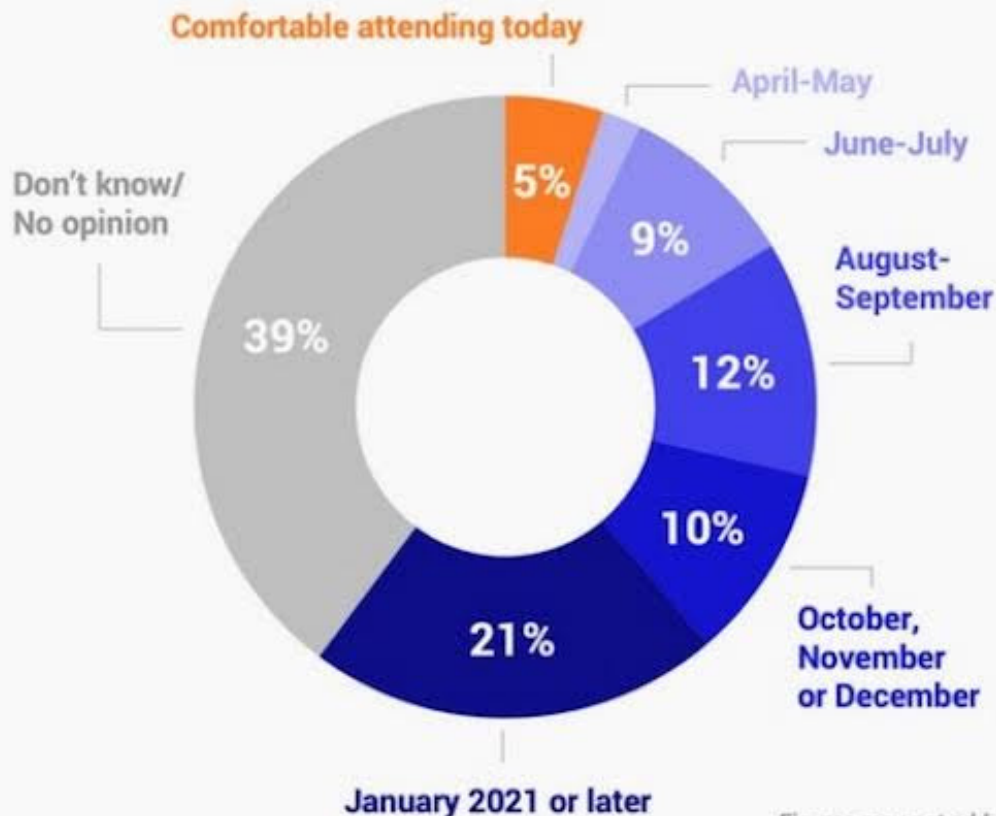


Liz Ann Sonders ✓
@LizAnnSonders

Most adults either unsure of their return or will wait until January 2021 (or later) to go to a sporting event this year, as per an April 25-29 survey from [@MorningConsult](#) [@SoberLook](#)

2 in 5 Think They'll Feel Comfortable Going to a Sporting Event This Year

U.S. adults were asked when they expect to feel comfortable attending live sporting events with other fans based on their knowledge of the coronavirus





Jon Erlichman ✓
@JonErlichman



Most downloaded app in the world:

Apr 2020 Zoom
Mar 2020 TikTok
Feb 2020 TikTok
Jan 2020 TikTok
Dec 2019 WhatsApp
Nov 2019 WhatsApp
Oct 2019 WhatsApp
Sep 2019 WhatsApp
Aug 2019 TikTok
Jul 2019 FaceApp
Jun 2019 Messenger
May 2019 WhatsApp
Apr 2019 WhatsApp



Jon Deal
@silagechopper



And because I'm a dipshit I get to buy another \$5000 well controller. DONT FORGET TO PLUG THE SUMP PUMP BACK IN!!!







G0dtom
@G0dtom1



#funny GodAlselmo



Only three men in the history
have walked on the water:
Jesus, Peter, and Anselmo.
Only Anselmo has the picture.



Ryan Wagner
@wagner_farms



#nailedit you know you have hooked and unhooked too many times when you can do this without having to get out of the tractor





Peter Ballerstedt
@GrassBased



Eye test

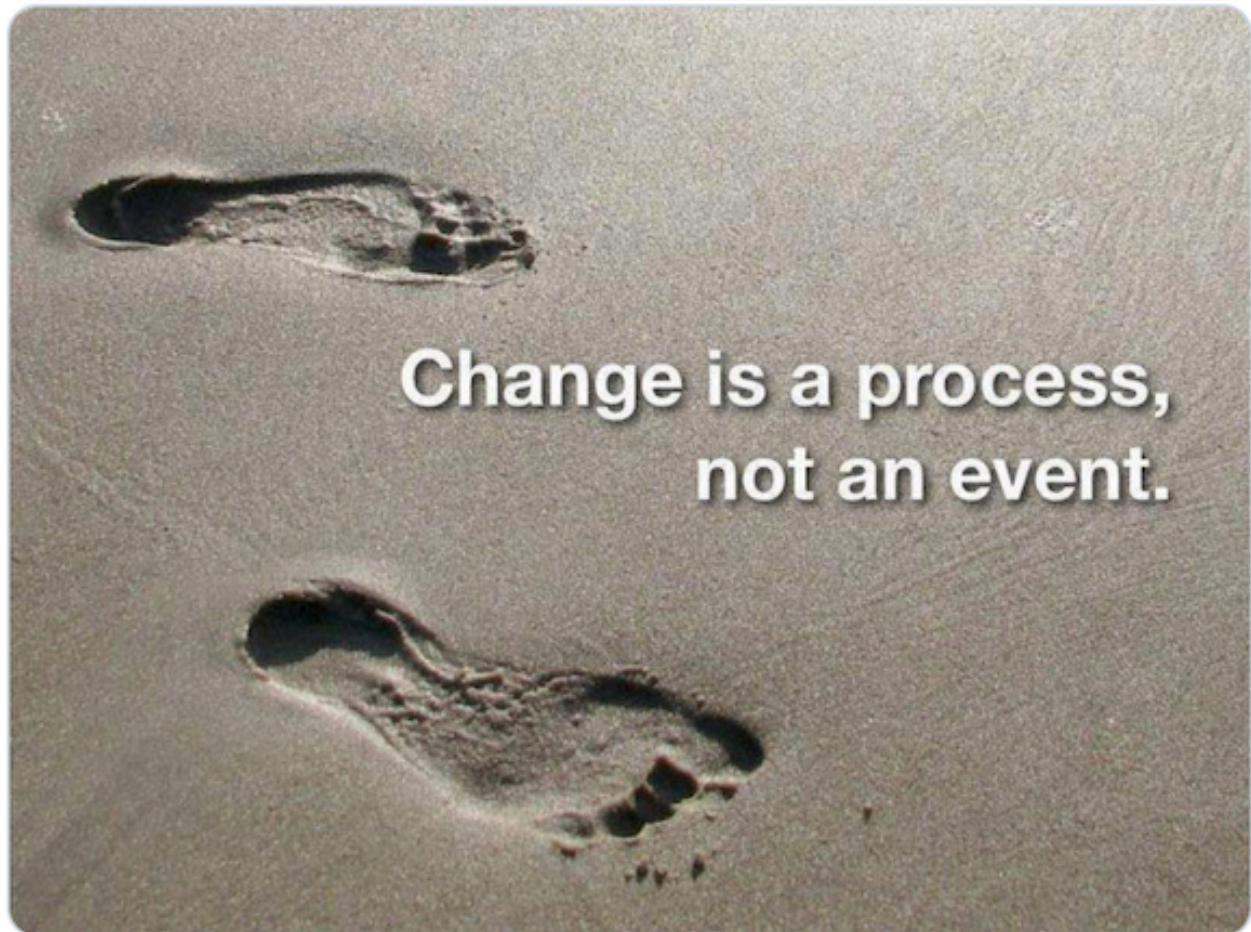
I thought he was wearing a mask





#Change is a process, not an event.

#inspiration #quotes

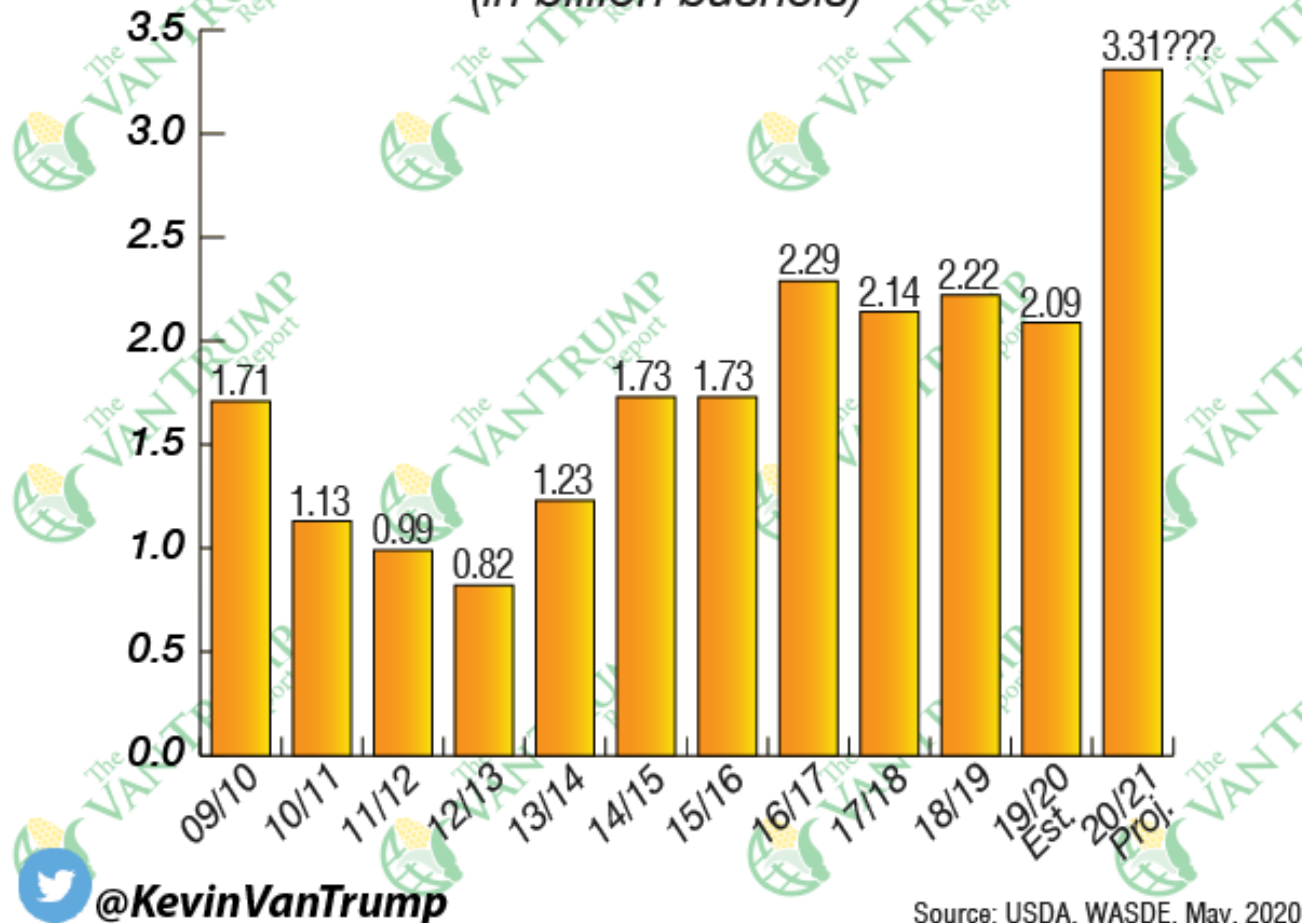


CORN bulls are pointing to flooded fields and cold temperatures in some key production areas here in the U.S.. There are also dry weather concerns continuing for parts of southern Brazil's second-crop corn. Bears are saying there's plenty of time here in the U.S. to replant if need and suspect to see the USDA report the crop now over +80% planted and running well ahead of schedule vs. sub-45% planted this time last year. Bears are also pointing to warmer weather in the U.S. forecast which could prove to be perfect timing for early planted corn development. Outside of weather, the biggest wild-cards are obviously exports, ethanol, and feed demand. Will the Chinese eventually step in as larger buyers? How long will it take for gasoline demand to fully rebound, will it ever, and what does that mean for ethanol? Are we out of the woods and over-the-hump

regarding coronavirus related hiccups in the livestock space? How quickly will meat processing plants and total feed demand bounce back? The funds are thought to be short somewhere between 200,000 and 250,000 contracts. Currently, I don't see anything in the headlines that would prompt the funds to immediately liquidate or quickly turn bullish. I suspect further confirmation of bigger buying of U.S. agriculture by the Chinese would create a rising tide that would eventually lift all boats, but that doesn't appear to be in the mix nearby. The coronavirus complications moving behind us and the funds having a more positive view of global economic growth would also help shift money-flow. Of course, weather worries that create major production uncertainties would also warrant a change of positioning by the funds. Unfortunately, we don't have any of those headlines impacting the trade right now so I have to imagine rallies will be somewhat limited as the bears remain in control. As a producer, I want to remain patient in regard to pricing any additional new-crop bushels. Yes, I worry that we could see lower prices nearby, but further out on the horizon I suspect to see better pricing opportunities. End-users should be nibbling more aggressively on the breaks.

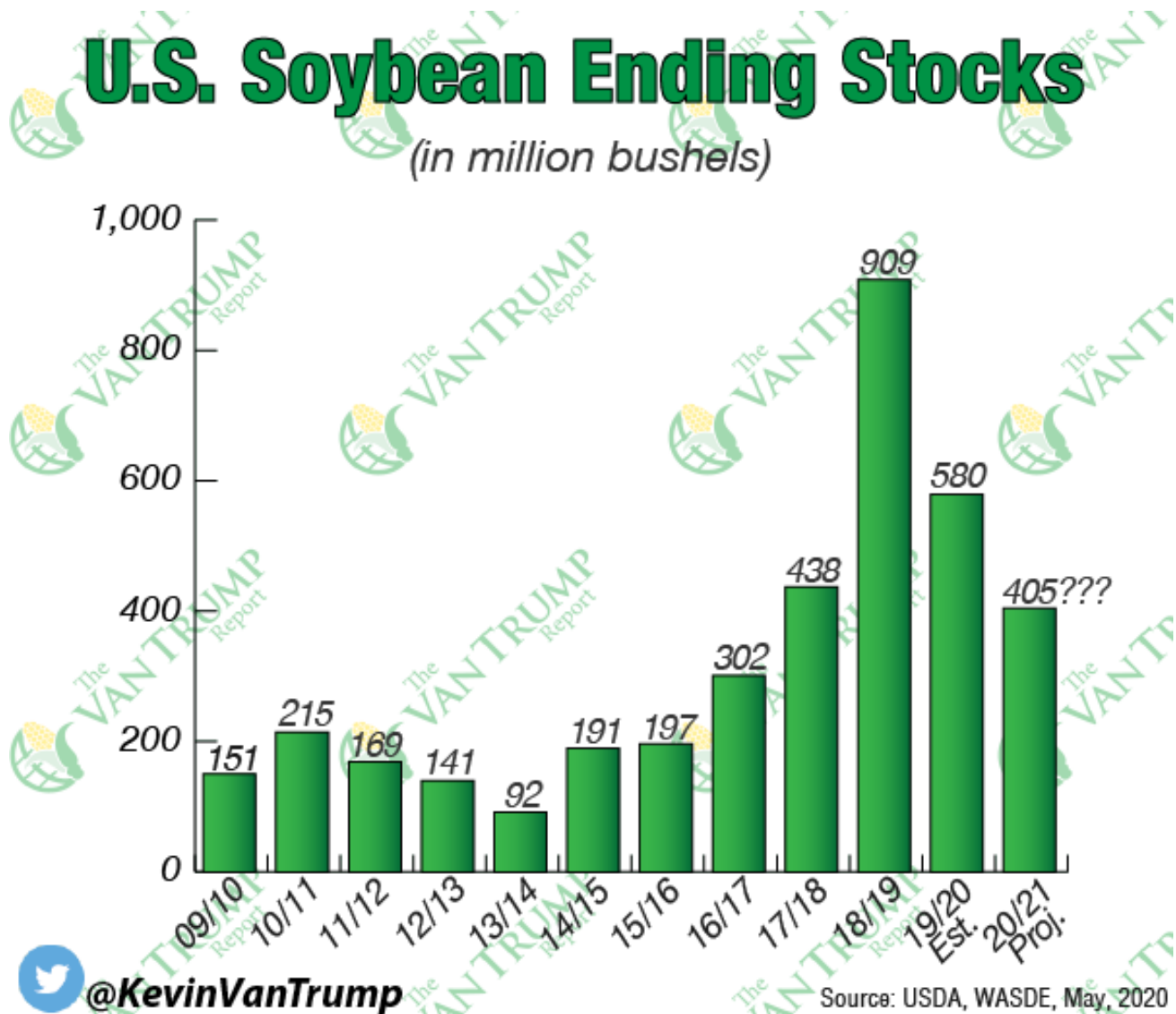
U.S. Corn Ending Stocks

(in billion bushels)



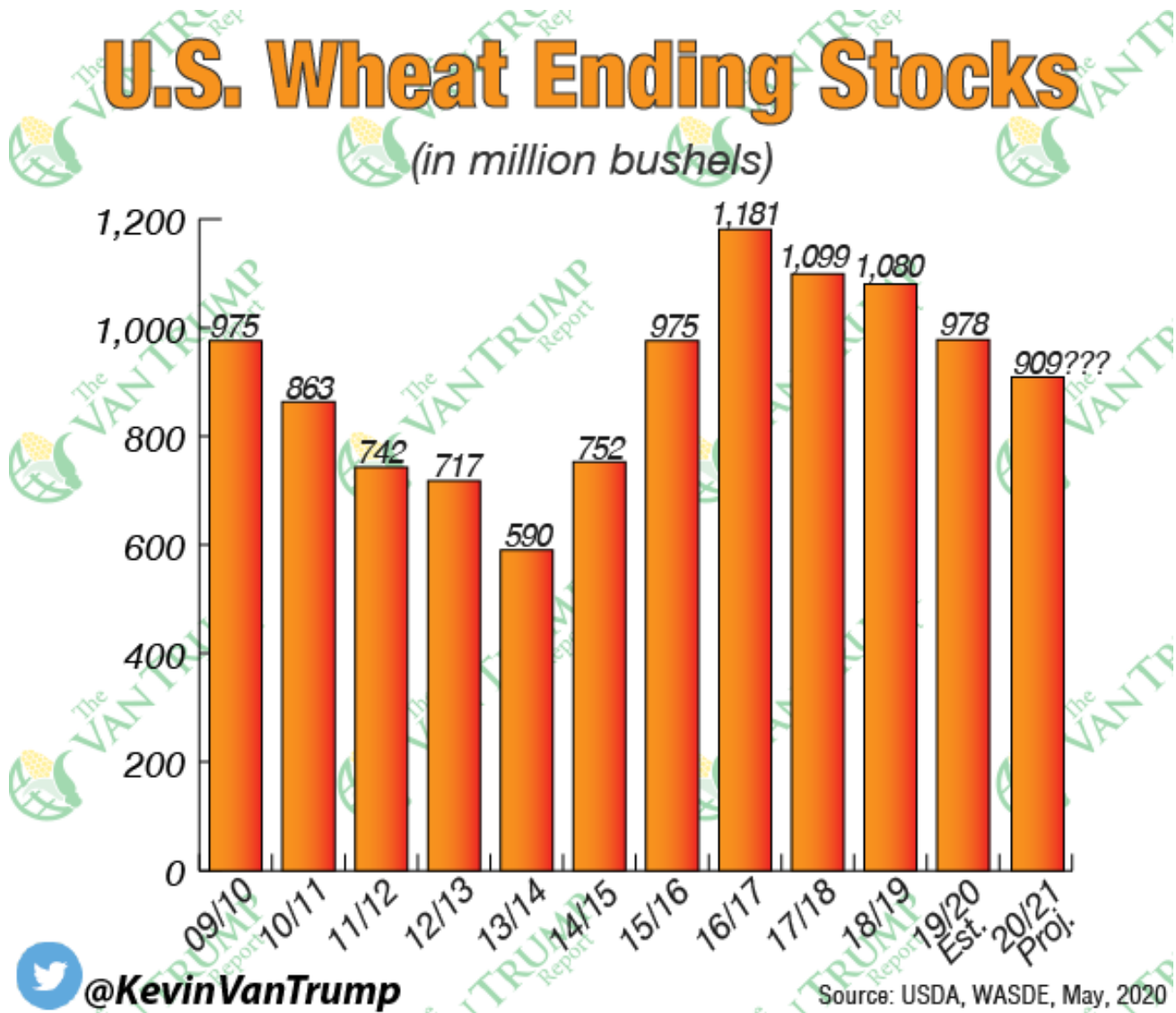
SOYBEAN prices have tumbled aggressively during the first quarter of 2020. The JUL20 contract has fallen from a high of \$9.84² on the first trading day of the new year to around \$8.40 per bushel this morning. The South American weather has mostly cooperated and the Chinese have yet to be aggressive U.S. buyers. The USDA was forced to raise the U.S. balance sheet to more burdensome levels at 580 million bushels. And the fund trading world is now massively uncertain about global growth and overall political relations between the world's top two economic powerhouses. The upcoming U.S. presidential election in November and the conspiracies surrounding the Chinese and the coronavirus are adding an interesting plot twist to an already confusing puzzle of politics. From what I heard this weekend, U.S. and Chinese trade negotiators have nothing officially scheduled until mid-August. There has been talk floating around inside the trade that leaders would be getting together much sooner. I guess that was just hope and rumors. Here at home, the latest NOPA crush numbers were slightly better than expected, and there's hope that exports will improve as Brazil and Argentina logistically battle complications from corona. Again, this is probably wishful thinking, as I

continue to hold small bullish spec position. As I mentioned last week, I want to somehow be bullish U.S. agriculture, and it seems the two commodities I am the least bearish about seem to be soybeans and rice, so I own them both in my personal trading account. I also own a little July natural gas. As a producer, I have some out-of-the-money puts purchased on all remaining unpriced bushels. I view this as simply a cheap safety-net in case things really blow up between the U.S. and Chinese leaders. I don't see that being the case, but I never imagined in a million years I would see our U.S. economy shut down and crude oil prices sub-\$0. As I've learned on many occasions in life, never say never. Bottom line, I'm a very nervous bull...



WHEAT bulls will be trying to recover from another week of lower prices. Keep in mind, the JUL20 SRW wheat contract has lost roughly -80 cents from its late-March highs and has recently been flirting with closing sub-\$5.00, something that has happened only once since last-September. At the same time, the HRW wheat contract is again trading below its 200-Day Moving Average and the bears argue

could make a run towards the recent lows down near \$4.27 if some key areas here at home get rain the next couple of weeks. Bulls continue to pay close attention to dry weather in parts of the Black Sea region and the European Union. Bears point towards major macro uncertainty on fears of slowing global growth, a strong U.S. dollar, and record global stocks. All of which are three very hard-hitting headlines that work in the bear's favor. As a spec, I remain on the sideline. As a producer, I worry that price will further deteriorate if "weather" doesn't start creating more widespread worry.





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A Section for Creative Minds

> **Virtual HRW Wheat Tour Kicks off this Week:** *Unfortunately, with the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic, the annual Wheat Quality Council tour of*

the U.S. hard red winter wheat crop was canceled for the 2020 crop year. However, others in the industry are making plans to host a virtual wheat tour during the week of May 18. While it will be based loosely on the previous tours, there will be no caravans of cars traveling across wheat country. WQC will also be working with certified crop advisors, extension agents, elevators, farmers and others in the field to make observations of the crop during the week. The virtual tour will open this afternoon, May 18, at 4:00 p.m. CST, with an orientation and comments from industry representatives. More details are available [HERE](#).

> Grassley-Tester Bill Important First Step For Cattle Markets: *The CEO of R-CALF USA says he worked closely with U.S. Senators Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) and Jon Tester (D-Montana) on their recently introduced bill to increase transparency in cattle pricing. Bill Bullard tells Brownfield Ag News, "One of the first things we need to do is restore the integrity of our price discovery market and that's what this bill does by requiring the packers to purchase at least 50% of their procurement needs in the competitive cash market." Bullard calls the cash market the holy grail for the cattle industry because it helps formulate the base price of all livestock regardless of weight, "So this is a very important piece of legislation. It's the first step towards restoring competition in a broken marketplace." Bullard says the second step is to reinstate the tool producers need to compete in the marketplace - mandatory Country of Origin Labeling. Listen to the full interview [HERE](#).*

> Ethanol Industry Shows Signs of Recovery: *The U.S. ethanol industry is showing some signs of recovery. As restrictions ease and gasoline demand inches higher, about 140 facilities are idled or running at reduced rates, Renewable Fuels Association President Geoff Cooper said on Friday. "It seems the worst may be behind us," Cooper said in a call with reporters. "But make no mistake, we still have a very long way to go to climb out of the hole that COVID-19 put us in." U.S. production of ethanol has increased since the start of May but is still down more than -40% from year-ago levels. (Source: Reuters)*

> China Urges Supply Boost Amid South America Concerns: *Both state-run and private grain traders as well as food producers were urged to procure higher volumes of soybeans, soyoil and corn during calls with China's Ministry of Commerce in recent days, three trade sources told Reuters. "There is a possibility of a breakdown in supply pipelines due to the coronavirus infections. For example, a port of origin or destination might shut down," said a senior trader at one of China's leading food processors, which was on a call last week with authorities to discuss purchases. "They have advised us to increase stocks, keep supplies higher than we usually have. Things are not looking good in Brazil," he added. Brazilian shipments of soybeans were delayed in March and April leading to a plunge in Chinese soy inventories to record lows. Though Brazilian arrivals have since rebounded, authorities remain wary of fresh disruptions. (Source: Reuters)*

> SBA Offers New Guidance on PPP Loans: *The Small Business Administration and Treasury Department on Friday released the application for business owners to fill out in order to have their Paycheck Protection Program loans forgiven. The borrower is expected to complete the application and submit it to their lender, who will ultimately be responsible for assessing forgiveness. Notably, the form asks whether borrowers received a loan in excess of \$2 million and indicates its plans to audit all loans over \$2 million. Businesses borrowing less than \$2 million are considered to have made the certification in good faith, meaning they won't be subject to additional scrutiny. While people who knowingly make false statements to get Paycheck Protection Program loans face up to 30 years in prison and a \$1 million fine, lawyers advising corporate boards said that the certification companies had to make for PPP loans is so vague and open-ended that most legitimate businesses qualify for the program. The latest guidance from the Small Business Administration effectively backed off from its earlier threats: Even in cases when an audit reveals that a borrower shouldn't have taken the loan, the SBA will simply ask for repayment of the money. Read more [HERE](#). (Sources: Fox, CNBC)*

> Facebook Will Integrate New Acquisition Giphy with Instagram: *Facebook announced Friday it is acquiring the animated-picture platform Giphy, a deal said to be valued at roughly \$400 million. Facebook says it plans to further integrate Giphy into the Instagram app "so that people can find just the right way to express themselves." Giphy is a library of GIFs that can integrate with other apps. Companies like Slack and Twitter have built Giphy into their apps. Apple also uses some Giphy images for its GIF feature in iMessage. Facebook first attempted to acquire Giphy in 2015, two years after it was founded. Giphy at the time reportedly declined the offer in order to pursue partnering with various social media companies and soon after raised \$17 million in Series B funding. (Source: CNBC)*

> Tobacco-Based Coronavirus Vaccine Poised for Human Tests: *An experimental Covid-19 vaccine developed by cigarette maker British American Tobacco Plc is poised to begin testing in humans. Pre-clinical tests of the vaccine showed a positive immune response, the London-based maker of Lucky Strike cigarettes said Friday in a statement. The first phase of human trials could begin as soon as late June if authorized by drug regulators, BAT said. BAT subsidiary Kentucky BioProcessing uses tobacco plants in making the experimental vaccine. According to BAT, the method generates the vaccine faster than conventional approaches, reducing the time required from several months to about six weeks. Read more [HERE](#).*

> Coronavirus Accelerates the Retail Reckoning: *Amazon hurt many retailers. Coronavirus will finish some of them off. Roughly 100,000 stores are expected to*

close over the next five years—more than triple the number that shut during the previous recession—as e-commerce jumps to a quarter of U.S. retail sales from 15% last year, UBS estimates. The turbocharged shift to e-commerce is expected to further depress profit margins and accelerate a shakeout in a country that already had too much bricks-and-mortar space for an increasingly digital world. This month alone has seen large retailers that collectively operated roughly 2,500 stores last year and employed nearly 120,000 people file for bankruptcy or are teetering toward it. Read more from [The Wall Street Journal](#).

> Berkeley Will Close Full Streets for Outdoor Dining: *While California's guidelines for restaurant reopening don't specify a specific slash in capacity, they do require social distancing measures between patrons and workers, which means that to make enough money to remain afloat, restaurants need way more space to serve diners. In response, officials across the Bay Area have discussed taking over street space for restaurant use and Berkeley is the first to put it into action. They introduced legislation last week to fully close many of the city's streets, repurposing them as seating areas for the city's vibrant restaurant scene. It's an innovative idea...read more [HERE](#).*

> Overhead Shot of Raiders New "Roomba" Stadium: *The Raiders have officially made the move from Oakland to Las Vegas this offseason and they're all set to play in the brand-new Allegiant Stadium this fall. An overhead shot of the stadium was shared on social media this week. It's looking close to game-day ready. It's also got everyone thinking of the same thing, though: robot vacuums. Vacuum-looking or not, the stadium has Raiders fans pumped for the 2020 season. Las Vegas has the hottest ticket in the NFL heading into the fall. "We have seen incredibly strong demand for Raiders tickets with their move to Las Vegas," said Chris Leyden, SeatGeek spokesman. "Interestingly, while the demand is strong from the local market, it is already becoming apparent that this will be a destination city and venue, as we have seen people looking at tickets from all 50 states." (Source: The Spun)*





Cha-Ching!
@Bitter1one

Hey congratulations raiders! You built the worlds largest
Roomba!



♡ 274 11:20 AM - May 12, 2020



 See **Cha-Ching!**'s other Tweets

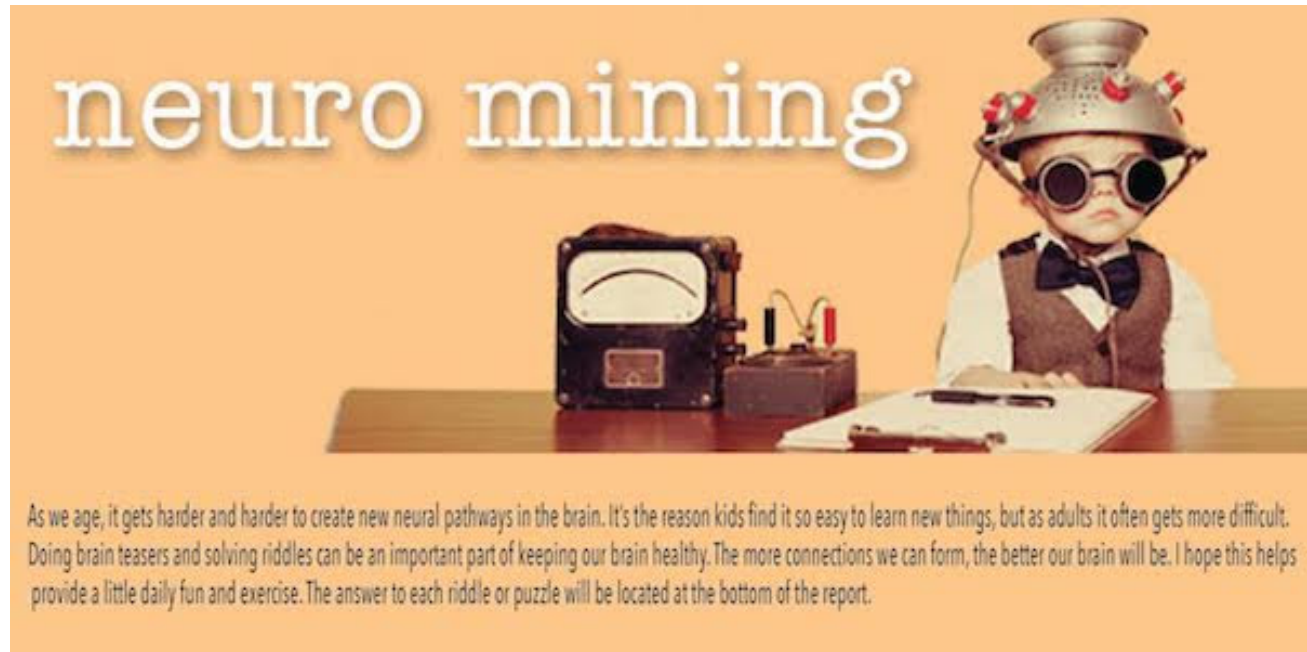




Southern Illinois - We received 1.75 of rain so far on Sunday and it looks as if more is on the way. This is on top of what were already wet conditions. Then we have additional rain forecast starting next weekend for the rest of the month of May. We still have 20% of corn to plant and all soybeans. The corn needs sprayed that was planted a month ago. The local forecast is calling for an extremely wet June. What corn is up looks like crap but it will have to do because we can't replant at this point, especially with the weather looking so wet. It's looking like another shaky start to 2020, not good.

West Central Illinois - We are getting close to 5" total rain here. We had heavy downpours and flash flooding just north of us over the weekend. I heard of several cars flooded out and even the dive team being called out to help. There is a company redoing a bridge on HWY 267 just north of here that crosses a creek that is very prone to flooding. I'm guessing they may be surprised when they show up for work this week. My wife showed me some pictures of their equipment on Facebook and apparently it doesn't look like they got it all moved to high enough ground before they left for the weekend. Looks like there will be more late May/June corn around the area again this year. And, I'm guessing quite a bit of replanting as well.

Southeast Nebraska - We received some much-needed rain last week and more is expected over the next few days that I sure hope materializes. We are a few inches behind so far this year but fortunately, the moisture content underneath is fine. What's interesting is that last year at this time we were watching floodwaters running right past the house and yet ended the year over -5" behind still. We are truly grateful for the rains as I have buddies less than 60 miles in a couple of directions that have received nothing for a while now. The recent cold weather may have set some of our corn behind a bit and that's another reason the warm rain was good. From past experience, I would expect to possibly lose anywhere from 5% all the way to over 15% if things go badly. Fortunately, temps are heading up and we'll hope it pulls it all through.



TODAY'S RIDDLE: Until I am measured, I am not known. Yet how you miss me, When I have flown. What am I?



PLEASE READ... Bringing NEW Innovation and Low-Cost Solutions to American Farm Families

Technological advancements are coming in huge waves and creating massive changes in agriculture. American farm families are being increasingly disrupted every day. I believe I have some insight and solutions that will not only make your farm more competitive today, but at the same time, help you build a better bridge to the future for your children and many generations to come after theirs.

As I've gotten older I've come to realize the reason most of us work so hard is so our children can have it a little bit better than we did. We get joy out of seeing them succeed and hope we can help them move the ball a little bit further than we have.

Unfortunately, life's not easy and often commands tough decisions. Our fathers and grandfathers that came before us had to make many. The tough decision to

head West and leave everything behind in order to start a farming family was once made by someone in our family tree. Imagine how scared and uncertain they must have been. But they made that tough decision for their family, for their children, and for their grandchildren they envisioned in the future.

Well, here we are... the tough decisions of our forefathers and generations of hard work has gotten us to yet another fork in the road and moment in time where another difficult decision must be made. Yes, we can simply choose to keep our blinders on, put our head down, and keep working hard, ignoring the storm we see brewing out on the horizon because we are scared of the change. And we can leave those extremely tough and difficult decisions for your kids and their kids. Or we can put a stake in the ground today and start taking small steps towards what we know in your heart is the right direction.

The choice, and perhaps more importantly, the responsibility, is each of ours to own. What we elect to do is extremely important because we are exchanging our choices and actions today for the future direction of our children and grandchildren. We want these choices and actions to be for good and for future gains, not losses, not struggles, and not for hardships.

The road is not going to be easy, the path towards change never is. The decisions on the farm will be tough, but they will be right and what's best for future generations that will watch their children grow up in your footsteps. If we don't make the tough calls and tough decisions now we will just be leaving more difficult problems for our children. This is our time, this is our responsibility to make the right choices not the easy choices.

I was always told to keep my head down, keep doing what we've been doing and just out work everyone else. For many of us, that's been great advice for the past two or three generations. But "change" has now shown up on our doorstep and is starting to knock. Do we hide or do we answer the door and tackle it head-on? I choose to tackle it head-on!

I hope if you chose to tackle change you will allow our family to be a small part of your team. I hope in some way we can help bring a more competitive advantage to your farm. Like you, I've come to believe it's mostly all about what we leave for our kids. Most of all, I hope we can help provide some light and guidance for building that bridge to the future!

Feel free to call our office @ 816-322-5300 if you're interested in trying some of our NEW products and lower-cost solutions on your farm today or want your business to be featured on our platform towards the future!

Your friends in the battle,

The Van Trump Family

**** I've included below a podcast where I tell listeners about our newest venture called "Van Trump Ag Solutions" and how we are looking for business partners and farm families to get involved. I have tried to provide valuable insight and perspective in the podcast. I hate listening to an advertisement, so I promise this is not. Instead I hope to challenge farm owners, business owners and listeners.*



- Click [HERE](#) to listen!

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- Randy Mooney



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without the family"**





"I want my boys to have the same opportunity that my dad gave me. The opportunity to farm on the same ground their father farmed. That's why I farm"

-Mike Carpenter, Wayne, OH

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Make Certain You Are Paying Attention... NEW COVID-19 Related Illness in Kids - Thank Goodness "Almost all Cases are Treatable"

A new disease that appears to somehow be related to COVID-19 has been diagnosed in at least 100 children in New York, unfortunately, three of which have tragically died because it might have been diagnosed too late. Now the illness has shown up in at least 15 other states and 5 European countries and is being called "pediatric multisystem inflammatory syndrome," or PMIS. It is primarily showing up in kids between 5 and 14 but there have been patients up to 21 years old.

Good news is the fact PMIS is highly treatable and most kids make a full recovery, especially if diagnosed early. Doctors have warned that some children get sick

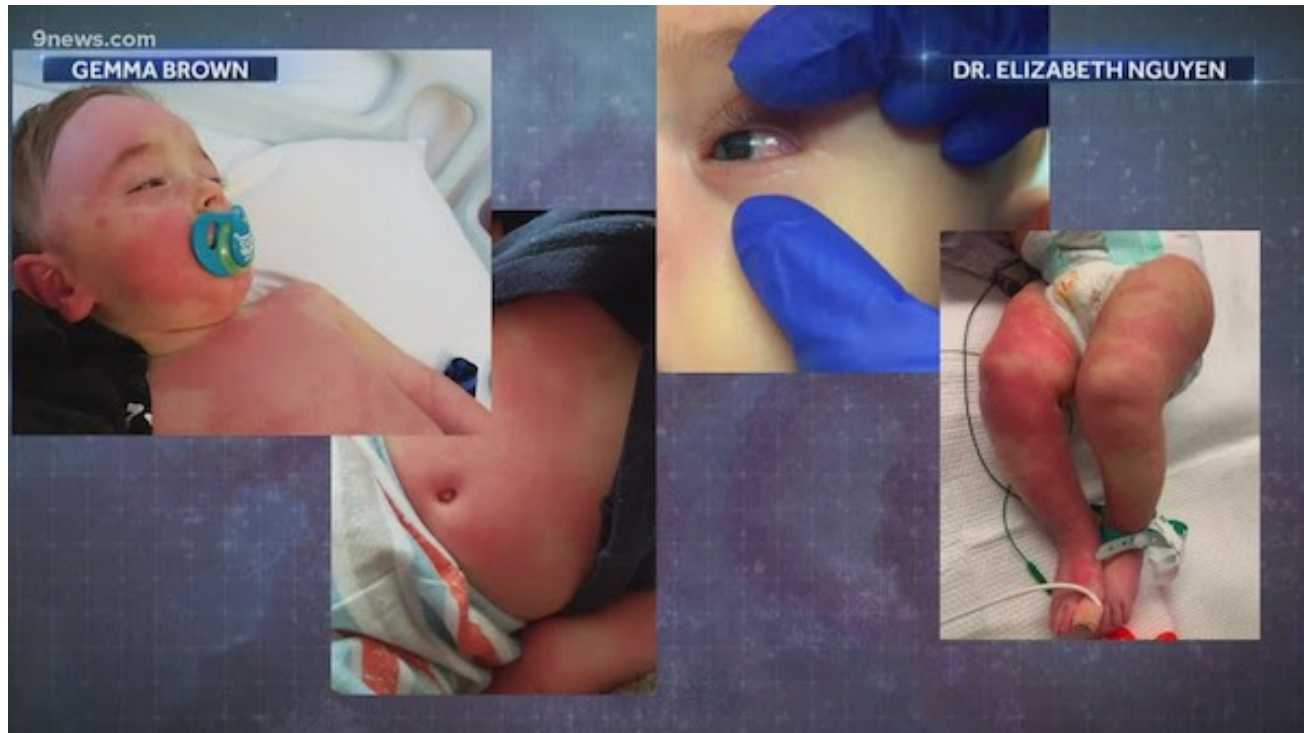
more rapidly, and if left untreated can lead to organ failure. Doctors say symptoms can vary greatly from child to child but the most common include fever, stomach pain and rashes, prolonged fever, a rash, conjunctivitis, swelling of the palms or soles of the feet, sometimes peeling of the skin in those areas, red eyes, loss of appetite, and lethargy.

Treatment involves intravenous immunoglobulin and sometimes steroids, followed by aspirin. Hospital stays for patients may last two to four days. Parents are advised to check with their physicians or take their child to an emergency room if their fever persists for more than two to three days, especially if some of the other symptoms appear, including a rapid heartbeat.

Dr. Charles Schleien, chair of pediatrics at Northwell Health in New York, told USA Today that his hospital has seen about 40 cases since mid-April and the majority showed antibodies similar to the coronavirus, meaning they had been infected but had no symptoms of COVID-19. Several others tested positive for the virus and didn't have symptoms either. Though a causal connection between the virus and the new illness has yet to be proven, "The relationship seems pretty strong," Schleien said. He and other health experts believe PMIS is some sort of post-COVID-19 infection disease. Another theory is that PMIS is a "delayed manifestation" of COVID-19 in children.

Health officials have noted that in consideration of the apparent link, parents in coronavirus hotspots should be especially vigilant. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said it's studying the rare disease but does not yet have statistics about its incidence. The CDC and World Health Organization both issued alerts last week warning doctors to be on the lookout for PMIS.

Researchers in the UK, where a few dozen cases have been identified, recently shared some interesting observations. For one, very few children that have displayed COVID-19 symptoms have developed PMIS. On the other hand, children that remained asymptomatic despite being in a household with multiple infected and sick members did develop PMIS a week or two later. All I can say is stay alert and on top of any symptoms should they arise. (Sources: The Wall Street Journal, USA Today, New York Times)



COVID-Related Illness in Children

While we believe this illness to be rare, seek care immediately if your child has:

Predominant Symptoms:

- Prolonged fever (more than 5 days)
- Severe abdominal pain, diarrhea, or vomiting
- Bloodshot eyes
- Skin rash

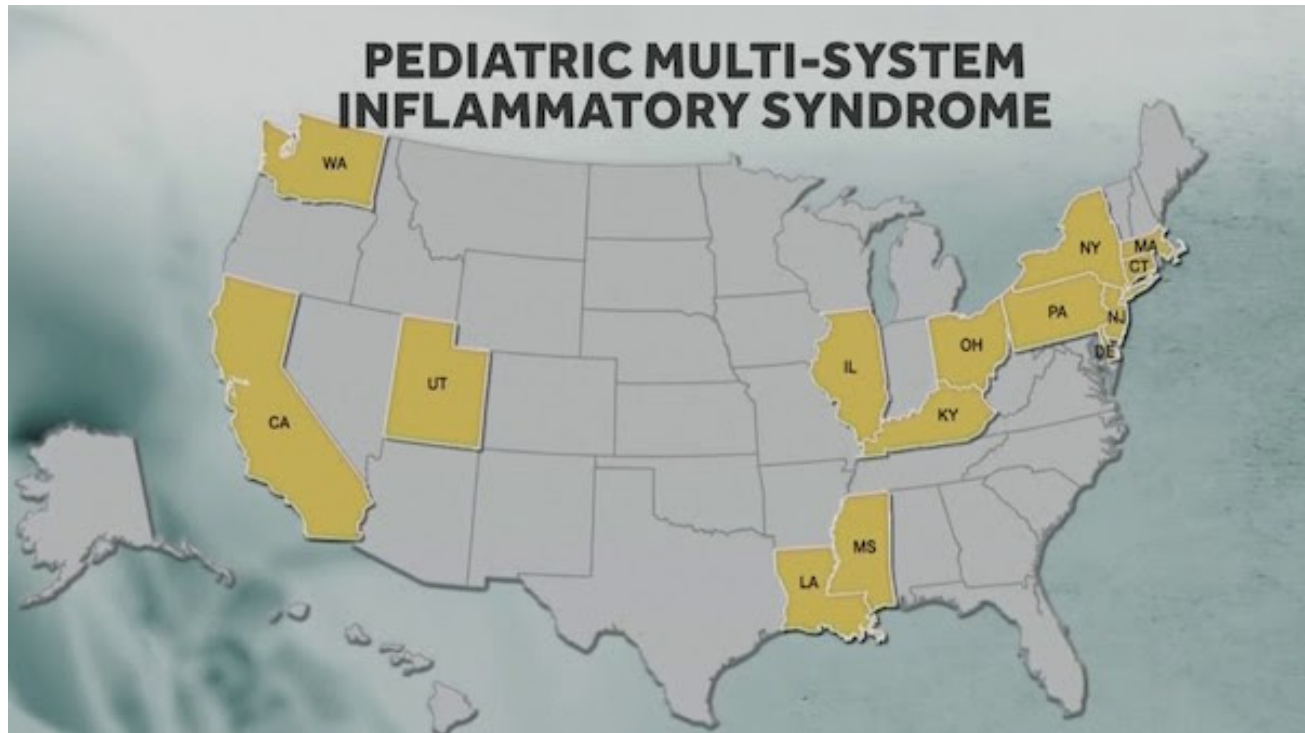
Other Symptoms:

- Change in skin color - becoming pale, patchy, and/or blue
- Difficulty feeding (infants) or is too sick to drink fluids
- Trouble breathing or is breathing very quickly
- Racing heart or chest pain
- Lethargy, irritability, or confusion

STAY HOME.

STOP THE SPREAD.

SAVE LIVES.



Welcoming Danger and Uncertainty...

It was in mid-May of 1804, shortly after the U.S. doubled its territory with the Louisiana Purchase, that U.S. Army Captain Meriwether Lewis and his chosen second in command William Clark set out on an incredible journey to explore the Northwest from the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean. President Jefferson chose Lewis to lead the expedition rather than a "qualified scientist" because he was a heralded frontiersman, well adapted to the woods and extremely familiar with the Indian mannerisms and character. Below are some cool facts about the journey that you may have never heard. It simply amazes me how many of our ancestors welcomed uncertainty with open arms: (Source: History; Wiki; SoftSchool)

Goal of the Journey: *Their goals were to explore the vast territory acquired by the Louisiana Purchase and to establish trade and U.S. sovereignty over the native peoples along the Missouri River. Jefferson also wanted to establish a U.S. claim of "Discovery" to the Pacific Northwest and Oregon territory by documenting an American presence there before Europeans could claim the land. According to some historians, Jefferson understood he would have a better claim of ownership to the Pacific Northwest if the team gathered scientific data on animals and plants. However, his main objectives were centered around finding an all-water route to the Pacific coast and commerce. Before their departure, Jefferson's instructions to them stated: "The object of your mission is to explore the Missouri River, & such principle stream of it, as, by its course and communication with the waters of the Pacific ocean, whether the Columbia, Oregon, Colorado or any other river*

may offer the most direct & practicable water communication across this continent for the purpose of commerce."

How Lewis & Clark Met: *While serving as a frontier army officer in 1795, a young Meriwether Lewis was court-martialed for allegedly challenging a lieutenant to a duel during a drunken dispute. The 21-year-old was found not guilty of the charges, but his superiors decided to transfer him to a different rifle company to avoid any future incidents. His new commander turned out to be William Clark—the man who would later join him on his journey to the West.*

Intense Training and Learning: *President Jefferson knew it was going to be a grueling and difficult journey so he started an intense training program a year before their mission. In 1803, Jefferson sent Lewis to Philadelphia to study medicinal cures under Benjamin Rush, a physician and humanitarian. Jefferson also arranged for Lewis to be further educated by Andrew Ellicott, an astronomer who instructed him in the use of the sextant and other navigational instruments. Jefferson also possessed the largest library in the world on the subject of the geography of the North American continent, and Lewis had full access to that library. Lewis spent hundreds of hours consulting maps and books and conferring with Jefferson at Jefferson's library in Monticello.*

Distance Of The Trip & How Many Went On The Expedition: *The entire journey to the west coast and back was approximately 7,000 miles. Lewis and Clark 'discovered' wildlife that they had never heard of, specifically 178 previously unknown species of plants and 122 new animals including coyotes, mountain beavers, grizzly bears, and prairie dogs. Other animals that Lewis and Clark described on their return included bighorn sheep, magpies, and pronghorn antelope.*

Firepower & Supplies: *The expedition was armed with advanced weapons to display their military firepower. Among these was an Austrian-made .46 caliber Girandoni air rifle, a repeating rifle with a 20-round tubular magazine that was powerful enough to kill a deer. The expedition was also loaded with 200 pounds of gunpowder and over 400 pounds of lead for their flintlock firearms, knives, blacksmithing supplies, and cartography equipment. They also carried flags, gift bundles, medicine, and other items they would need for their journey. Much time went into ensuring a sufficient supply of these items.*

The Biggest Miscalculation: *The route of Lewis and Clark's expedition took them up the Missouri River to its headwaters, then on to the Pacific Ocean via the Columbia River, and may have been influenced by the purported*

transcontinental journey of Moncacht-Apé by the same route about a century before. Jefferson had a copy of Le Page's book detailing Moncacht-Apé's itinerary in his library, and Lewis carried a copy with him during the expedition. Le Page's description of Moncacht-Apé's route across the continent, which neglects to mention the need to cross the Rocky Mountains, maybe the source of Lewis and Clark's mistaken belief that they could easily carry boats from the Missouri's headwaters to the westward-flowing Columbia.

Help From The Indians: *The Lewis and Clark Expedition established relations with two dozen Indian nations, without whose help the expedition would have risked starvation during the harsh winters and/or become hopelessly lost in the vast ranges of the Rocky Mountains*

The Only Death: *The expedition followed the Missouri through what is now Kansas City, Missouri, and Omaha, Nebraska. On August 20, 1804, Sergeant Charles Floyd died, apparently from acute appendicitis. He had been among the first to sign up with the Corps of Discovery and was the only member to die during the expedition. He was buried at a bluff by the river, now named after him, in what is now Sioux City, Iowa. His burial site was marked with a cedar post on which was inscribed his name and day of death.*


Dog That Made The Journey: *"Seaman" as he was called was a Newfoundland. He was thought to have been purchased by Meriwether Lewis for \$20 (big price tag for the time) while he was in Pittsburgh waiting for the completion of the boats that would be taken on the journey. There is no record as to why Lewis selected a Newfoundland—whether it was simply a dog that caught his attention or whether he selected Seaman because the breed is known for being smart and strong with good swimming ability. Lewis writes that Seaman was skilled at catching and killing squirrels, which Lewis found excellent to eat once "fried." Once on the journey, Seaman attracted positive attention from the Shawnees who offered three beaver skins for the dog, but Lewis said no. On May 19, Lewis notes that Seaman was seriously hurt. One of the men had shot and wounded a beaver, and when Seaman went out to retrieve it, the animal bit him through the hind leg, cutting an artery. Both Lewis and Clark took extraordinary medical measures to save Seaman, and fortunately, the dog pulled through. And only ten days later, Seaman was credited by the men with saving the expedition. During the night a buffalo bull charged through the camp. Another member of the party, Sergeant Ordway, documented in his journal that the great beast passed "between 4 fires & within a few inches of Several men; it was Supposed if he had trod on a man it would have killed him dead. The dog flew at him which turned him from running against the lodge [in] which the officers layed, [and] he passed without doing more damage*

What About Sacagawea? *Reliable historical information about Sacagawea is very limited. In 1800, when she was approximately 12 years old, she and several other girls were kidnapped by a group of Hidatsa in a battle that resulted in the deaths of several Shoshone. She was kept captive at a Hidatsa village near present-day Washburn, North Dakota. At approximately age 13, Sacagawea was sold into a nonconsensual "marriage" to a French trapper Toussaint Charbonneau, a Quebecois trapper living in the village. He had also bought another young Shoshone, known as Otter Woman, as his "wife." Charbonneau was reported to have purchased both girls to be his "wives" from the Hidatsa, or to have won Sacagawea while gambling. Lewis & Clark agreed to hire Charbonneau as an interpreter because they discovered his wives spoke Shoshone, and they knew they would need the help of Shoshone tribes at the headwaters of the Missouri. Charbonneau selected Sacagawea and the two moved into the expedition's fort a week later. Clark nicknamed her "Janey." On May 14, 1805, Sacagawea rescued items that had jumped out of a capsized boat, including the journals and records of Lewis and Clark. The corps commanders, who praised her quick action, named the Sacagawea River in her honor on May 20, 1805. By August 1805, the corps had located a Shoshone tribe and was attempting to trade for horses to cross the Rocky Mountains. They used Sacagawea to interpret and discovered that the tribe's chief, Cameahwait, was her brother. Because of the relationship the Shoshone agreed to barter horses to the group, and to provide guides to lead them over the cold and barren Rocky Mountains. The trip was so hard that they were reduced to eating tallow candles to survive. When they descended into the more temperate regions on the other side, Sacagawea helped to find and cook camas roots to help them regain their strength. Many believe if it were not for randomly picking up Sacagawea the group would have never made it to the finish line. As the expedition approached the mouth of the Columbia River on the Pacific Coast, Sacagawea gave up her beaded belt to enable the captains to trade for a fur robe they wished to give to President Thomas Jefferson. On the return trip, they approached the Rocky Mountains in July 1806. On July 6, Clark recorded "The Indian woman informed me that she had been in this plain frequently and knew it well... She said we would discover a gap in the mountains in our direction..." (which is now Gibbons Pass). A week later, on July 13, Sacagawea advised Clark to cross into the Yellowstone River basin at what is now known as Bozeman Pass. Later, this was chosen as the optimal route for the Northern Pacific Railway to cross the continental divide. Sacagawea is believed to have passed away in 1812 at the age of 25. Interestingly, her and Charbonneau had given formal custody of her son to William Clark in hopes of a or a boarding school education and a better life.*





William Clark



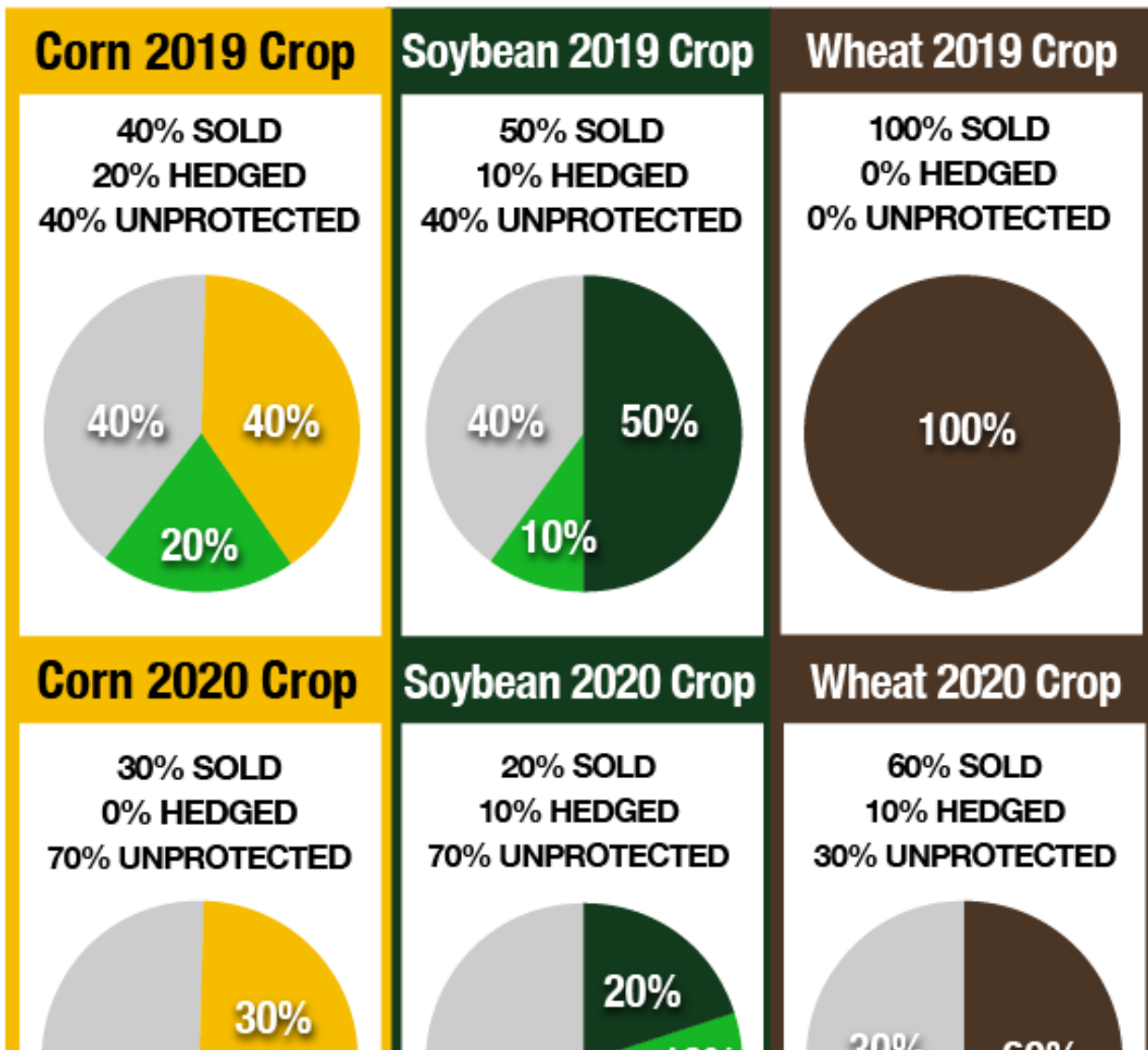
Boys, be ambitious. Be ambitious not for money, not for selfish aggrandizement, not for the evanescent thing which men call fame. Be ambitious for the attainment of all that a man can be.

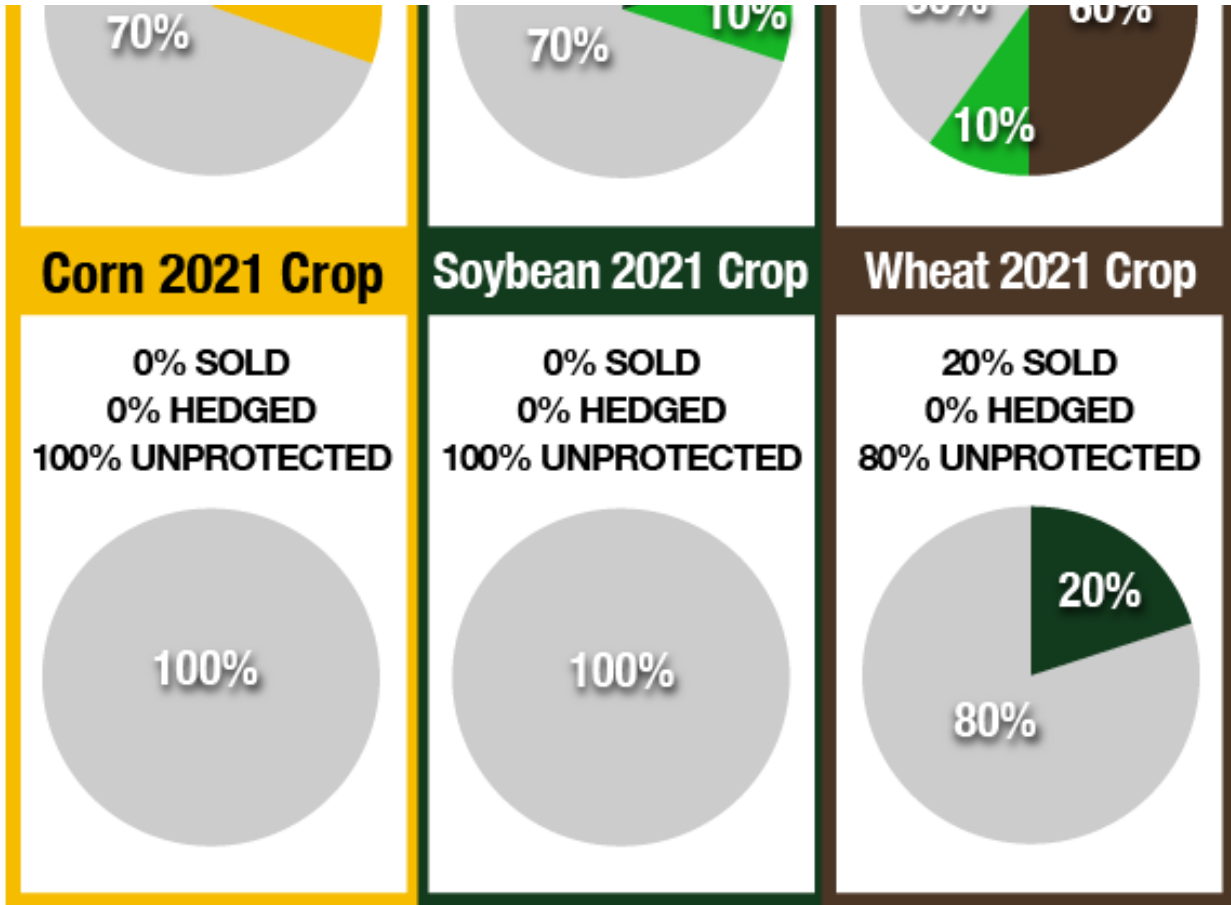
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ANSWER to riddle: Time.

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