



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

**GOOD MORNING: The Van Trump Report 6-5-20**

1 message

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

Fri, Jun 5, 2020 at 5:30 AM

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*"The past is a place of reference, not a place of residence; the past is a place of learning, not a place of living."* — **Roy T. Bennett**

**Friday, June 05, 2020**[Printable Copy](#) or [Audio Version](#)

**Morning Summary:** Stock bulls are happy to see the U.S. economy reopening and consumers responding. American Airlines stock was up a whopping +41% yesterday as the company announced plans to ramp up flights in the coming months due to a rebound in travel demand. American now plans to use 55% of its domestic schedule in July, up from 20% in May. Shares of United and Delta both posted double-digit percentage gains as well. Casinos in Vegas also reopened Thursday to fairly large crowds. Interestingly, Winnebago (WGO) is now up +18% year-to-date people are wanting to travel. Investors are anxious to see this morning's May Employment Report. Insiders are expecting job losses of -8.25 million with unemployment at nearly 20%. That would compare to April's job losses of -20.5 million and an unemployment rate of 14.7%. Better than expected ADP data earlier this week have made traders optimistic that today's official report will perhaps deliver some perceived good news. New unemployment claims released yesterday were a bit higher than expected but lower than the previous week. Some are highlighting the fact that new weekly claims still seem high at 1.877 million with all states now in the midst of reopening. But that could be

due to states still processing a backlog of new claims. Bears still question the stability of the labor market longer-term as layoffs, bankruptcies, and more negative company outlooks continue to be released. AMC Theaters this week became the latest to warn about its future, saying there were substantial doubts about their ability to continue, which may not bode well for movie theaters in general - AMC is the largest U.S. theater chain, as many suspected, movie theatres may soon be a thing of the past. The fallout in retail is also almost certain to continue and is already impacting commercial real estate. New data circulating inside the trade indicate less than 60% of commercial retail rents were paid in May. That's a slight increase from April but more companies are already saying they won't be able to make future payments or are asking for concessions or forbearance. The chain reaction from that impacts everything from commercial property values to landlords to jobs at property management and cleaning companies. That's not to mention the hit lenders could take, as well as the tax dollars that states and local governments stand to lose. The word on the street is Simon Property, the biggest U.S. mall owner, is now suing apparel retailer Gap over nearly \$66 million in unpaid rent. Bulls believe the downturn is just accelerating the demise of many companies, particularly in the retail space, who were barely hanging on before the pandemic. On the flip side of all the economic data, bulls still see cheap and easy money, low energy cost, and large available labor as a pathway to explosive growth. Next week brings the Federal Reserve's two-day policy meeting, which will be followed by an announced on Wednesday. Analysts don't expect any changes but there are some expectations that the Fed may announce intentions to ramp up bond purchases. Consumer Sentiment is scheduled to be released next Friday. Also worth noting - May Small Business Optimism Index will be released on Tuesday; May Consumer Prices on Wednesday; and May Producer Prices on Thursday.

**Top Paid CEO now Female:** *CEO of Advanced Micro Devices Lisa Su was the highest-paid CEO of an S&P 500 company last year at nearly \$59 million, earning more than then-Disney CEO Bob Iger, JPMorgan's Jamie Dimon, and Netflix's Reed Hastings. Su now becomes the first woman to top the annual CEO pay study. The full study can be found [HERE](#)*

**Couple of Cool Auctions this Weekend at Heritage:** *I'm a history enthusiast so I might bid on a few items at Heritage Auctions this weekend. On Saturday they have a historic flag auction. There's a couple of American flags that were actually on the beach at Normandy in WWII. There are also some much older American flags that I find interesting. You can see the flag auction [HERE](#). Then on Sunday, they have an Arms & Armor, Civil War & Militaria Signature Auction that has some very interesting historical items. You can see all the lots for the Sunday auction [HERE](#).*

## FEATURED ITEMS



Winchester Model 1866,  
4th Model Lever Action  
Rifle



J.H. Dance & Bros.  
Confederate Percussion  
Single Action Revolver  
with History of Use by  
Horace G. Young, 5th  
Texas Cavalry



Scarce Remington-Keene  
Magazine Bolt Action  
Rifle



Civil War Era Naval Coat  
& Vest Set Belonging To  
2nd Assistant Engineer  
Theodore Deklyne



An Early Silver Mounted  
Spanish Miquelet Belt  
Pistol, Circa 1775



Complete Suit of Armor,  
16-17th Century



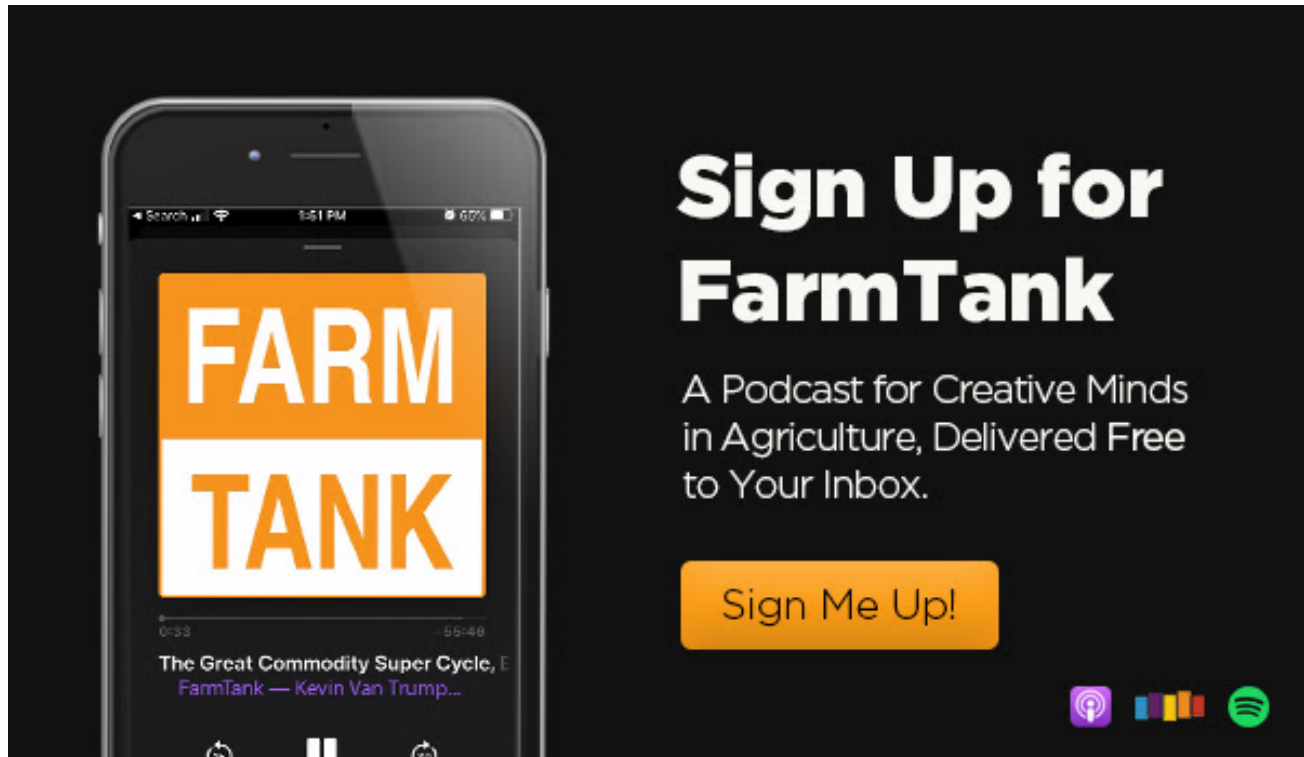
Custom Linerlock  
Folder by Emerson



Colt Single Action Army  
Revolver with History on  
Train Robbery



McMillan Bros. TUBB  
2000 Semi-Automatic  
Rifle with Accessories



**Germany Joins France with Radical Electric Vehicle Plan:** *Germany has become the second major European economy to use a multi-billion-euro recovery plan to spur clean driving, with incentives for electric cars that should boost Volkswagen and Tesla, while polluting SUVs face higher taxes. Berlin's 130 billion euros (\$147.41 billion) coronavirus stimulus plan follows French President Emmanuel Macron's pledge to make France the top producer of clean vehicles in Europe. Germany doubled electric car subsidies, lowered value added tax (VAT) to 16% from 19%, and rejected an auto industry request to incentivize vehicles with internal combustion engines in favor of a plan to increase charging infrastructure. Electric cars, which made up only 1.8% of new passenger car registrations in Germany last year, will be boosted by a 6,000 euro incentive. This brings consumer incentives for electric cars in Germany to 9,000 euros once a 3,000 euro manufacturer stipend is included. Read more [HERE](#).*

**Vacation Rentals Pivot to Residential:** *Zillow has seen significant increases in listings for furnished rentals and rentals of six-months or less, a sign that hosts of Airbnb and other vacation properties have pivoted to the residential rental market as the coronavirus pandemic has dramatically curtailed travel. Zillow's listing for furnished rentals increased +42.8% from March 1 to May 21, the company said on Thursday. Total furnished listings were up +44% compared to the same time frame in 2019. Meanwhile, listings for rentals of six months or less rose +23%. The U.S. travel economy has lost more than \$195 billion since the start of March as a result of Covid-*

*19, according to a May 28 report from the U.S. Travel Association. There are indications the move to residential rentals won't last, though, as more states end shelter-in-place orders. Airbnb occupancy over the last 30 days has rebounded +23.2%. (Source: CNBC)*

**Los Angeles, New York Led U.S. in Lost Earnings:** *Job losses and pay cuts roiled all of America since Covid-19 struck last winter, but the depth of the pain depended a lot of where employees lived, their income level and if they had kids. Almost two-thirds of households in the greater Los Angeles area experienced earnings declines over the past two months compared with 43% in Washington, D.C., where federal-government jobs have been largely protected, according to a new report by the U.S. Census Bureau. In New York City, more than half of residents suffered a drop in income. The pandemic has affected people with lower incomes to a much greater degree than top earners. Hispanic households experienced the largest income drops in seven of the largest 10 metros, followed by African Americans who saw earnings declines of more than 60% in half of the 10 largest metros. Most people with at least a college degree were able to maintain their salaries in all 10 metros. In all 10 metros, households with kids fared worse in maintaining income levels compared with childless homes. More info is available [HERE](#).*

## Smaller Paychecks

Los Angeles leads America's 10 largest metro areas on lost income

■ Households with an income loss



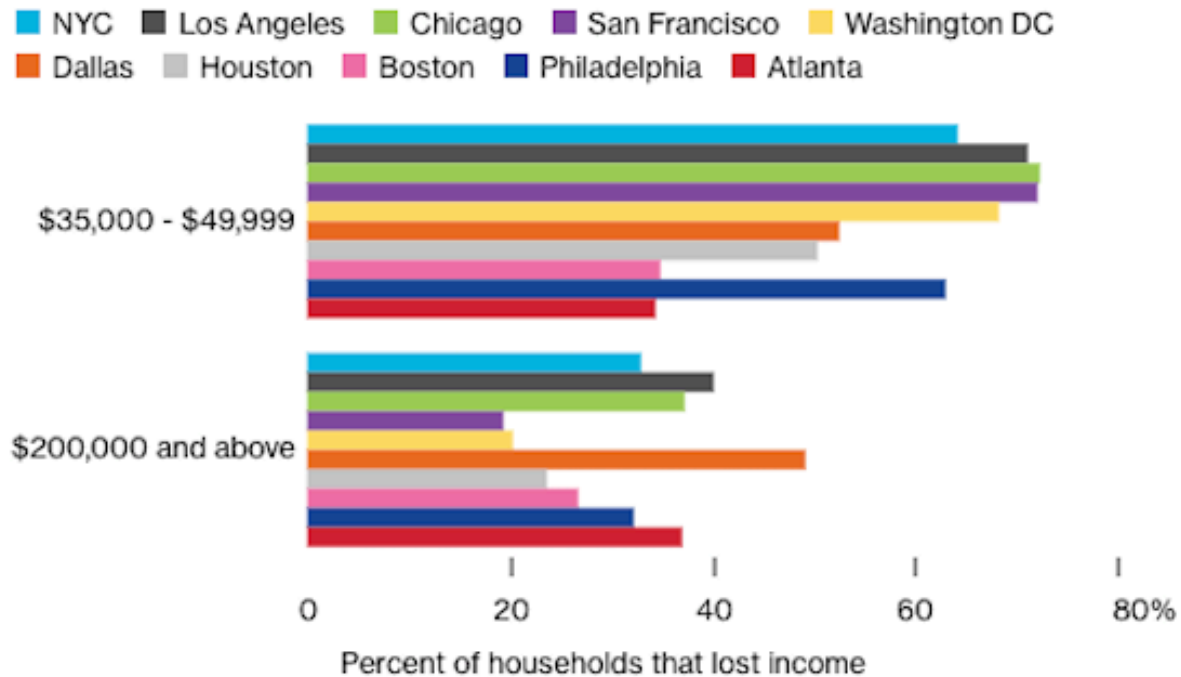
Source: U.S. Census

Note: Experienced loss of employment income between March 13, 2020 to May 26, 2020 (for self or household member)



## Higher Income Resiliency

With the exception of Dallas, higher-income households proved to be more resilient. Plunging oil prices likely affected those in the Dallas area.



Source: U.S. Census

Note: Experienced loss of employment income since March 13, 2020 to May 26, 2020 (for self or household member)

# FARM TANK

## Tweets of the Day

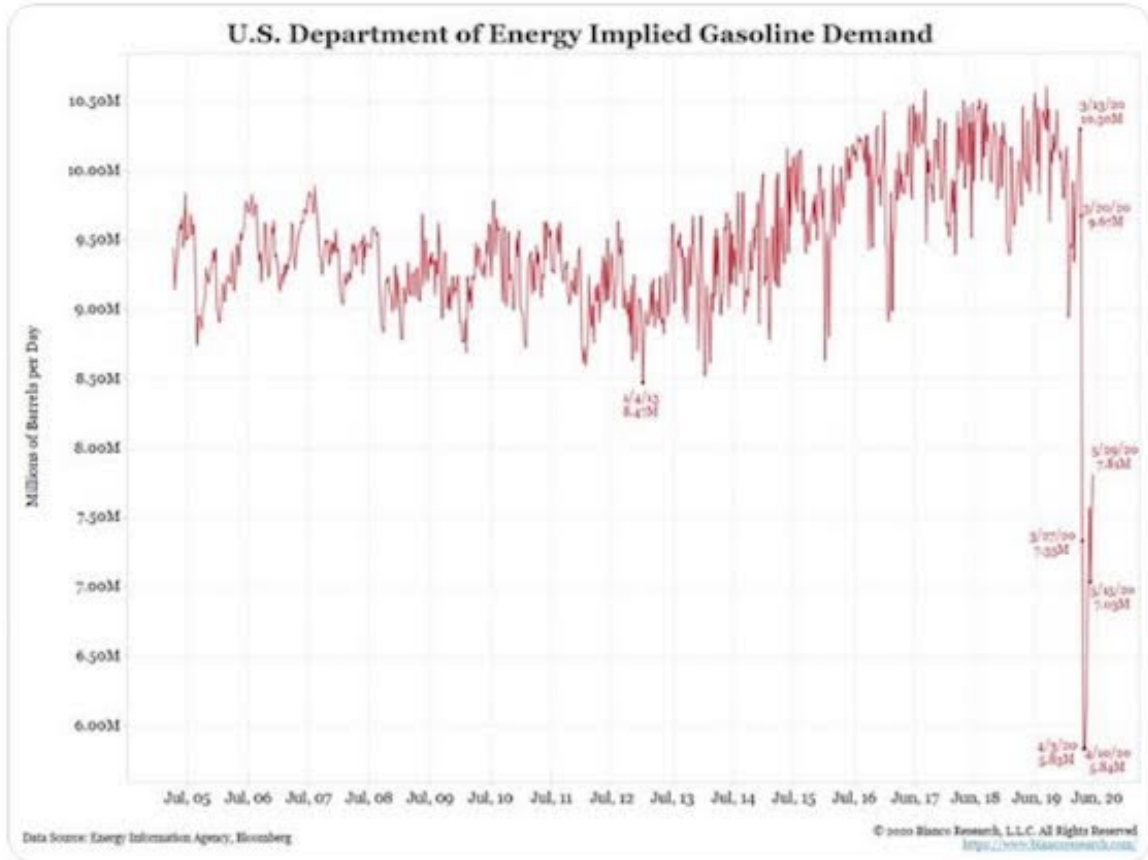




**Jim Bianco**  
@biancoresearch

How much are we driving? As of last week, about 75% of normal.

When will we get all the way back?







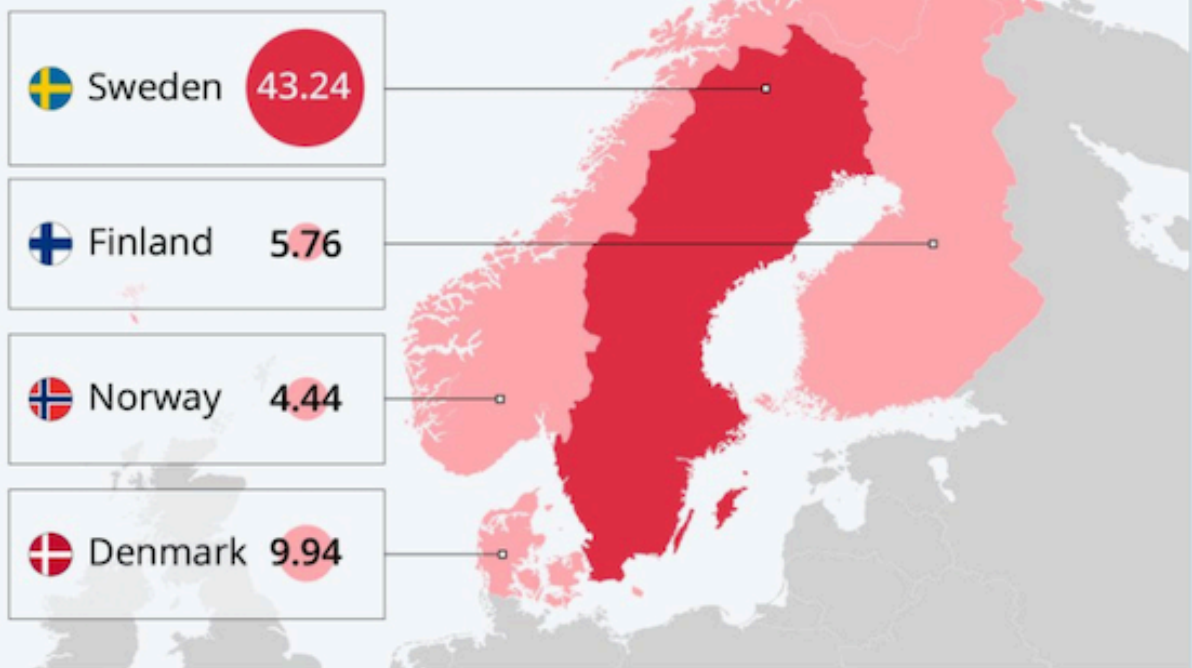
**Statista**  
@StatistaCharts



**#Sweden** gained worldwide praise for their off-hands approach to the **#coronavirus** pandemic, but has seen their country jump to the top of the list in per capita deaths with 43 per 100k. Full story by [@uisceglas](#) - [statista.com/chart/21891/co...](https://statista.com/chart/21891/co...)

## Has Sweden's COVID-19 Strategy Backfired?

COVID-19 deaths per 100,000 of the population (June 1, 2020)



Source: Johns Hopkins University



**CoBo**  
@cobo\_82



The weather is not any nicer than when we moved the tractor in March but Grandpa has finally started working on it. At 91 yo he can remember when that tractor would've been new.



Central Indiana





**Andy Meyer** ©  
@andymeyer\_3



Dad chopping rye. Last 15 acres. Chopped almost 115 total with alfalfa. 2 days. I am on top of our 80' silo.





**Simscott**  
@lathemfarms



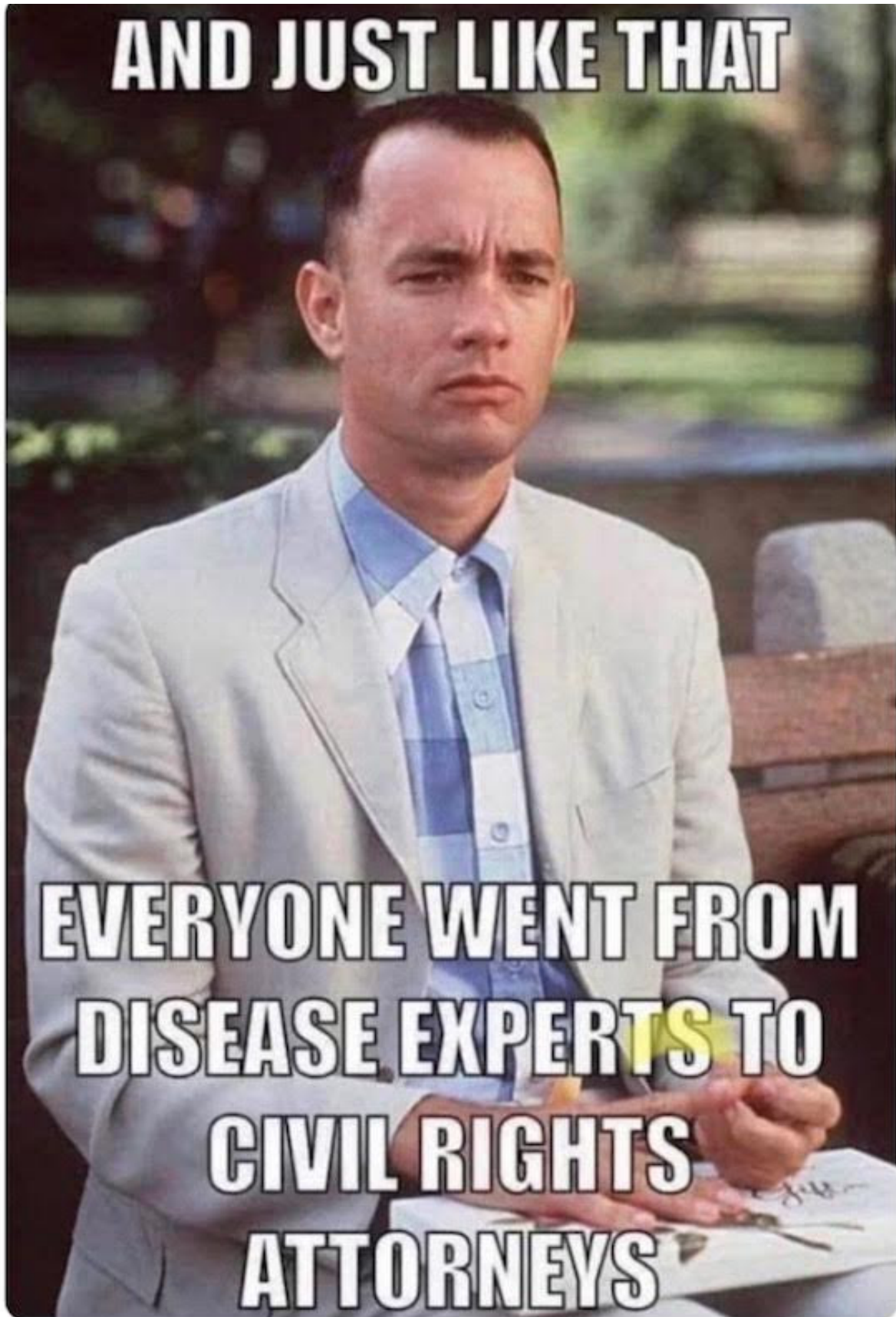
Irrigation well starting pumping crude oil. We're rich!!  
💰💰💰 Only in #Texas



**Karl Armstrong**  
@farmboy8400









Motivational Quotes  
@lifemanifesto



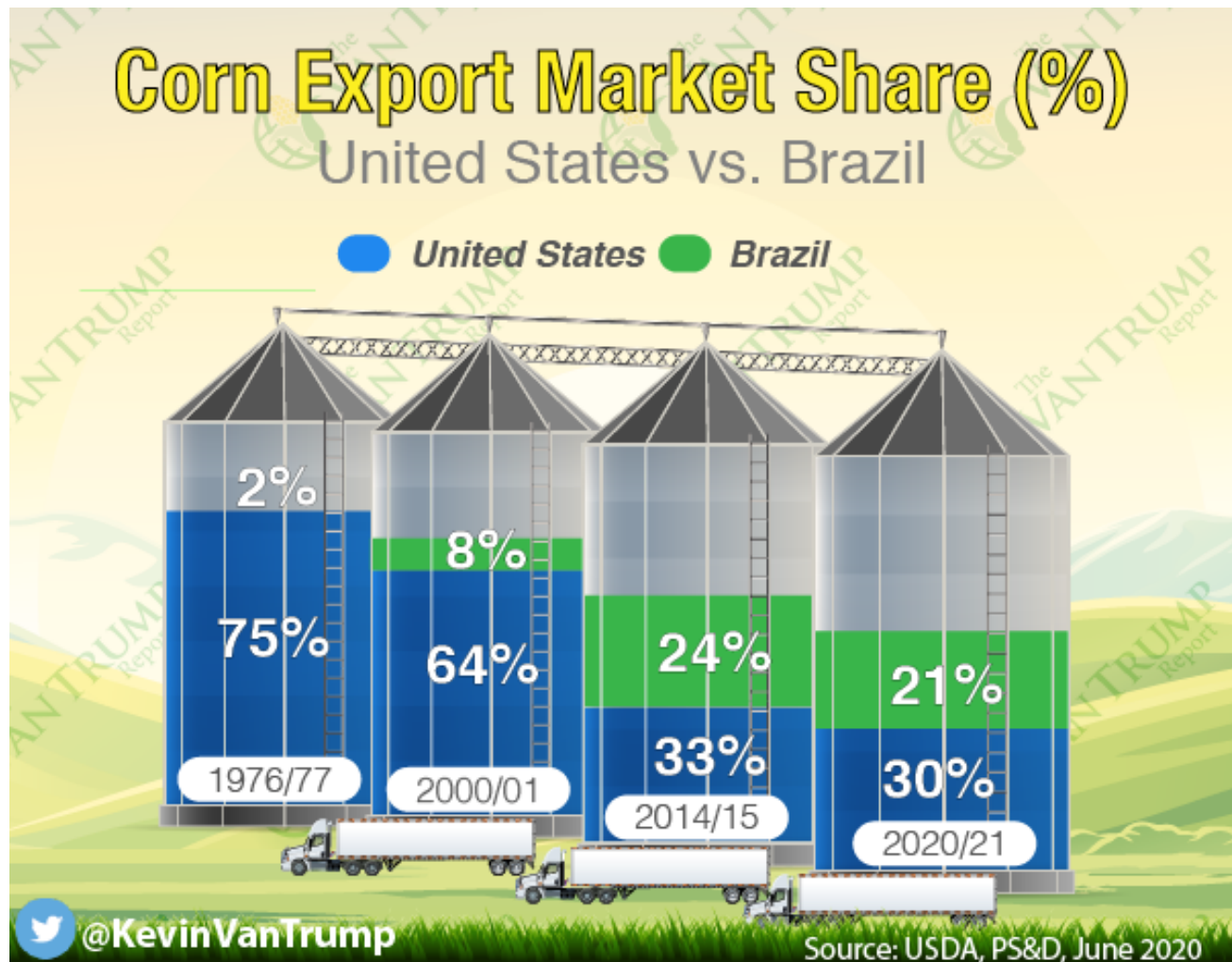
#doitnow



**CORN** traders still see a market that's trapped in a fairly narrow range. Many believe for the old-crop JUL20 contract to breakout above the \$3.40 level we will need to see more serious weather concerns here in the U.S. or perhaps a healthy drop in acres by the USDA, i.e. something to put a dent in production. We will also need a more bullish demand story. Ethanol has rebound and supply is being pulled lower but we are still well below last year's production levels and corn used for ethanol will more than likely need to be reduced again. Weekly export inspections were a disappointment. But there's talk from the bulls that China has a lack of



"quality" corn and may choose to come to the U.S. for supply. Bulls are also keeping an eye on dry-conditions in parts of the U.S. It's not just areas in the Plains but some pockets of hotter and drier conditions in parts of Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. As I've mentioned, technical resistance between \$3.30 and \$3.40 in the JUL20 contract is going to be bit more difficult to move beyond. Producers, who need to price against the JUL20 contract need to be paying close attention as we move towards the higher end of the recent range. If the USDA delivers a bullish surprise next Thursday and makes a sizeable cut to acres that could be the opportunity to move old-crop bushels or if prices simply rally heading into the report as some bears move to the sideline. Keep in mind, there are only 22 days left until expiration on the JUL20 options and it feels like the clock is starting to tick much more quickly. Remember, we also have the USDA's end of month Quarterly Stocks report ahead of us, so a lot happening in the next few weeks for old-crop.



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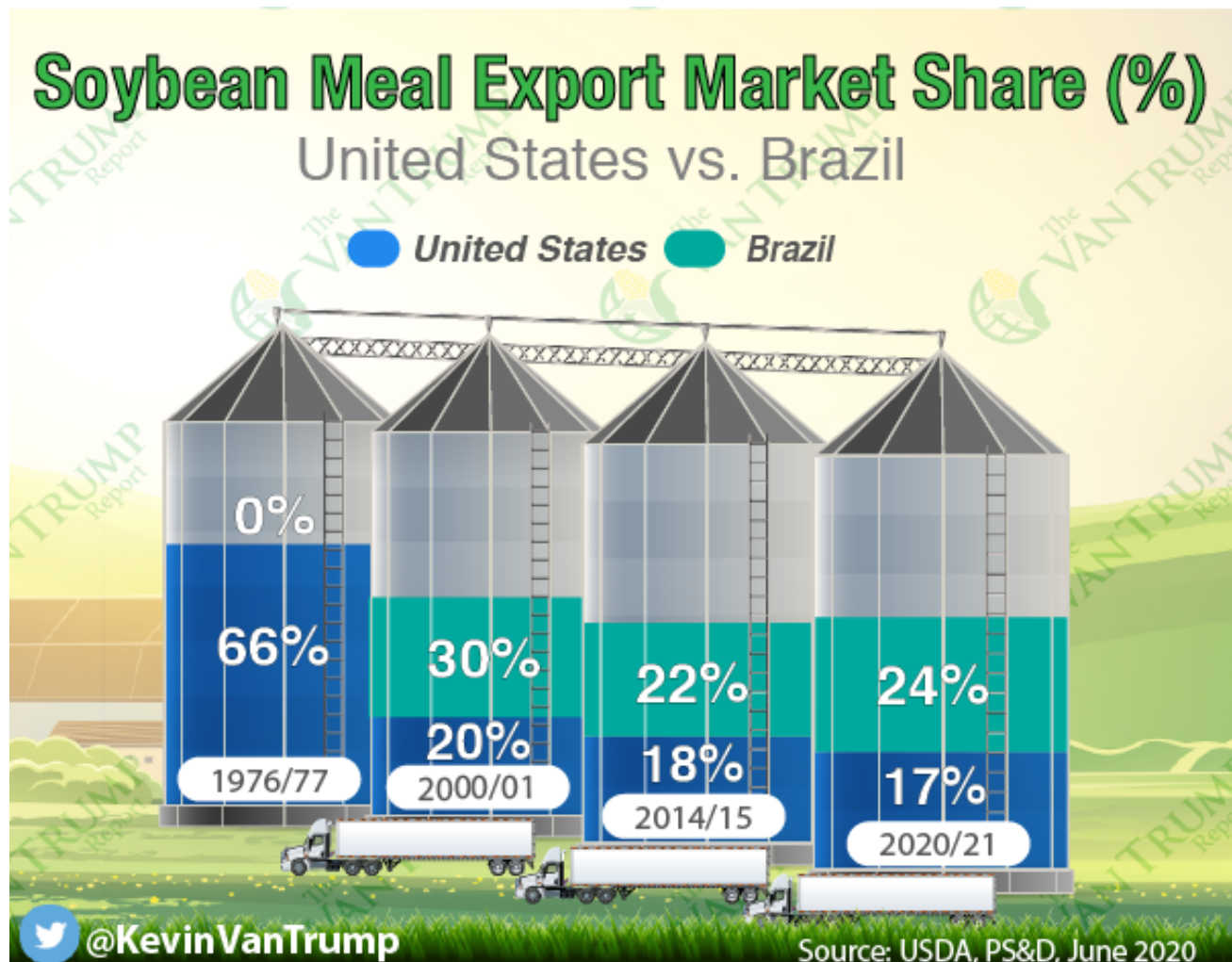
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**SOYBEAN** producers are making some old-crop sales with the JUL20 contract +50 cents off the recent low set back on April 24th. The cash basis bids are strong in many locations. The river bids have been good in many parts and recently the rail bids have started pushing. There seems to be some stiffer flat-price technical resistance on the charts up between \$8.75 and \$9.00 that has some a bit concerned, especially with the USDA scheduled to release its June supply and demand report next Thursday. The fear is that U.S. production could work higher on increased acreage with probably not much change to demand. Bulls need the Chinese to keep buying, which has been the case as of late. From what I'm hearing, recent weakness in the U.S. dollar and rebound in the Brazilian currency has helped U.S. soybeans out of the Gulf become -15 to -20 cents

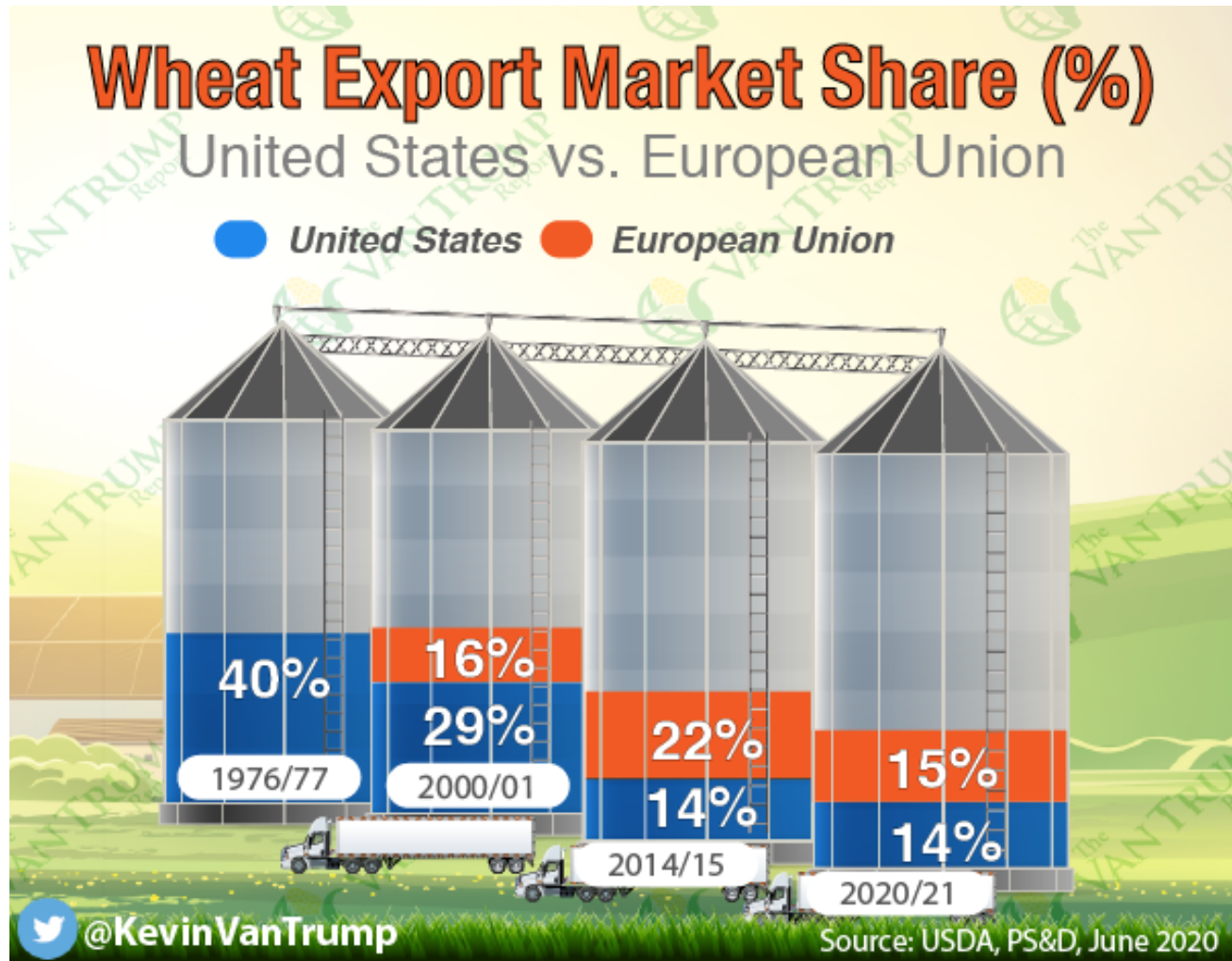
cheaper than out of Brazil. As a spec, it looks like I once again banked profits too early. I'm now standing on the sidelines scratching my head wondering if I should this market higher? I think I'm going to sit patient with dry-powder into next week's USDA report then perhaps make a play. I'm worried that acres work higher and that President Trump, at least in the headlines, is going to have to get a bit tougher with China. Remember, China committed to raising farm imports from the U.S. by a whopping +\$32 billion over two years. On average, China buys more than +55% of the soybeans exported from the U.S. each year along with +80% of sorghum, 16% of cotton, and around 5% of pork, according to Chinese trade data. If it looks like tensions are escalating between the world's top two economies the funds will certainly look to build some type of bearish cross-hedges in these markets.



**WHEAT** bulls are pointing to dry and hot weather concerns here in parts of the U.S. and southern and eastern Russia. The recent weakness in the U.S. dollar and data confirming Russian wheat exports in May were the lowest in several years is causing some bears to the move to the sideline. Bears say recent rains in Europe should work to help the crop but many bulls say its too little too late. As a spec,



I'm a little upset that I excited my bullish positions early, but that happens. As a producer, I'm staying patient for the moment. For those who have still made no new-crop 2021 sales take a look at JUL21 SRW wheat which traded +\$5.50 per bushel. The JULY21 HRW wheat contract traded +\$5.15 per bushel. I just worry that we could see more acres in the U.S. next year so locking in a small bit of early-profit doesn't feel too bad. The DEC20 spring wheat contract traded +\$5.50. Keep in mind this is a plus six-week high in spring wheat.





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**WHATEVER FLOATS YOUR GOAT**

**A Section for Creative Minds**

**> Dicamba Legal Update:** *A federal appeals court ruling on dicamba herbicides issued Wednesday has thrown the agricultural industry into confusion. A panel of*

*judges for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit ruled that EPA's approval of the use of XtendiMax, Engenia and FeXapan on an estimated 60 million acres of Xtend soybeans and cotton is vacated -- or ended -- effective immediately. DTN has an ongoing brief on what's happening and how it will affect farmers, applicators and dicamba registrants in the weeks to come. Click [HERE](#).*

**> Farmland Market Faces Opposing Factors:** *A Nebraska farmland realtor says opposing factors will be pushing and pulling land values in the coming months to decide what's next for the land market. Before COVID-19, the market for good quality cropland was strong due to low interest rates, a compromise in trade negotiations and high demand, says Randy Dickhut, senior vice president of real estate operations for Farmers National Company. But after COVID-19 struck, a host of disruptions affected agriculture. Various factors that can impact land values are pulling in opposite directions. Positive influences include the continued low supply of good land for sale and historically low interest rates. Challenges that could put pressure on land values include the overriding potential for depressed farm incomes and the further decline of working capital for producers. Read more from [Successful Farming](#).*

**> Chinese Firms Likely to Still Need Beans:** *China's commercial soybean importers are likely to keep buying from the U.S. to cover a shortage later in the year despite rising bilateral tensions, according to Shanghai JC Intelligence Co. Crushing plants haven't yet purchased enough supplies considering that hog breeding is expected to recover and demand for soybean meal in animal feed is set to grow, they told Bloomberg. Crushers need more beans for the fourth quarter and the first two months of next year. Also, dwindling supplies in Brazil have increased the premiums demanded on those cargoes, boosting the appeal of the new American crop, said Monica Tu, an analyst with Shanghai JC Intelligence. "Crushers will need to buy at least 20 million tons to cover their needs until then, regardless of purchases by state reserves," said Tu. Read more from [Bloomberg](#).*

**> PRIME Act Gains Support:** *Closures at meatpacking plants due to outbreaks of Covid-19 have sent shockwaves through the livestock industry and led to a backlog of animals awaiting slaughter. One proposal to help ease the bottleneck is the Processing Revival and Intrastate Meat Exemption (PRIME) Act, which has been kicking around Congress in several iterations since 2015 but has recently seen a surge of new attention among lawmakers. If enacted, it would lift a federal ban on the sale of meat butchered at small, custom slaughterhouses and create a much-needed alternative to factory-sized plants for farmers with meat that is ready for market. Read more from [Ag Insider](#).*

**> World Food Price Index Hits 17-Month Low:** *World food prices fell for a fourth consecutive month in May, hit by the economic fallout of the coronavirus pandemic which has stymied demand, the United Nations food agency said on*



*Thursday. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) food price index, which measures monthly changes for a basket of cereals, oilseeds, dairy products, meat, and sugar, averaged 162.5 points last month, down -1.9% from April. It was the lowest monthly reading since December 2018. The dairy index dropped -7.3%, led by sharp falls in both butter and cheese, partly because of lower import demand. The cereal price index slipped -1% as coarse grain prices continued their decline, with U.S. corn prices some -16% down on the year, and wheat export prices falling amid expectations of ample global supplies. International rice prices edged higher. Vegetable oil prices fell -2.8% to a 10-month low, while the meat index slipped -0.8%. Poultry and pig meat quotations continued to fall, reflecting high export availabilities and despite an increase in import demand in East Asia. Bucking the general downward trend, the sugar price index jumped +7.4%. FAO also posted its first forecast for the 2020 cereal season, foreseeing global output of 2.780 billion metric tons — a +2.6% increase on 2019's record harvest. Global corn production is forecast at 1.207 billion metric tons, an increase of +64.5 million from last year thanks to anticipated record harvests in the United States, Canada and Ukraine, and near-record harvests in Brazil and Argentina. Rice production was seen reaching an all-time high of 508.7 million metric tons in 2020, up +1.6% on 2019. By contrast, global production of wheat in 2020 was forecast to drop, largely on the back of likely falls in the European Union, Ukraine, and the United States, which would offset expected increases in Russian and Australia, FAO said. (Source: Reuters)*

**> Analysis Shows Coronavirus Impact on Food Insecurity:** *Improvements in food insecurity in the US during the past decade will likely be wiped out because of the coronavirus pandemic, according to a new study by Feeding America. Food insecurity levels for most communities across the country reached their lowest levels in 2018. About 37 million Americans were food insecure in 2018 and an estimated 54 million people may experience food insecurity in 2020 because of the pandemic. The Map the Meal Gap analysis finds that one-third of people who are food insecure may not qualify for federal food assistance. Almost all counties (97%) are home to people who are food insecure and the counties with the highest rates of food insecurity are rural. Feeding America CEO Claire Babineaux-Fontenot says most people had no idea there were 37 million people facing hunger before the pandemic. She says if there is any "silver lining to the dark cloud of the pandemic," it is that Americans are better informed about the food crisis. (Source: Brownfield Ag News)*

**> American Airlines Bets on Florida in July:** *American Airlines said Thursday that it sees strong summer travel demand and will boost its July schedule, with the increase focused on flights to Florida and other leisure destinations from its hubs in Charlotte and Dallas. Starting on July 7th, the carrier intends to provide about 55% of its July 2019 domestic capacity. The numbers of departures from Charlotte and Dallas are both scheduled to increase to about 70% of the 2019 level. Moving*

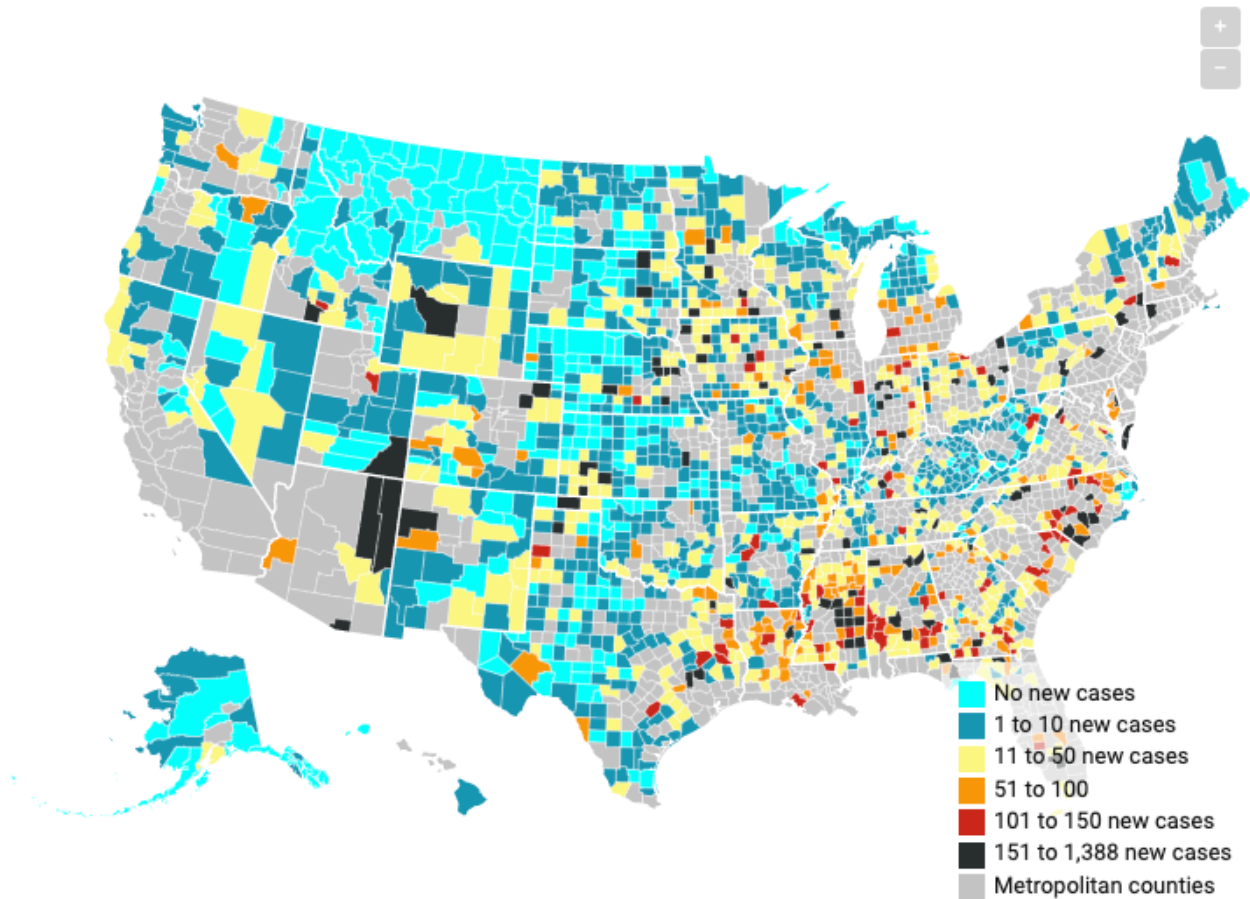
to its June schedule this week, American has already added flights from Charlotte to Panama Beach, Fort Walton Beach and Pensacola. Its July schedule will include increase frequencies to those and similar destinations. The carrier said passengers are booking - or at least looking - at online flights to major cities in Florida as well as to Gulf Coast destinations in Florida and other states and to mountain destinations in Montana, Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming. Read more from [Forbes](#).

**> Federal Agencies Given Power to Fast-Track Infrastructure Projects:** President Donald Trump on Thursday was expected to sign an executive order that would give federal agencies emergency powers to fast-track major energy and other infrastructure projects by overriding environmental permitting requirements. The President said in the order that the economic lockdown and accompanying massive unemployment required the action. Separately Thursday, the Environmental Protection Agency formally proposed overhauling how the agency evaluates future new rules on air pollutants. Read more from [MarketWatch](#).

**> NBA Approves 22-Team Plan to Continue Season:** The NBA board of governors voted Thursday to approve a 22-team format to restart the 2019-20 season in Orlando, Florida, the league announced. Under the plan, 13 Western Conference teams and nine Eastern Conference teams will play eight regular-season "seeding" games, a possible play-in tournament for the eighth seed and playoffs at the Walt Disney World Resort. The top 16 teams in the Eastern and Western conferences will be joined by teams currently within six games of eighth place in the two conferences. ESPN has the details [HERE](#).

**> Rural Counties Best and Worst for Covid-19 Infections in May:** Rural counties are among the safest from the threat of Covid-19. They are also among the riskiest. The Daily Yonder looked at new cases of Covid-19 for the month of May and found rural America at both ends of the pandemic spectrum in the United States. On one hand, 352 rural counties reported no cases of Covid-19 infections in May. That number includes 171 rural counties that have never had a case of Covid-19, plus another 181 counties that reported no new cases in May but had cases previously. Another 500 rural counties reported five or fewer new cases of Covid-19 in May. The rural counties that have experienced relatively little direct impact from the coronavirus tend to cluster in the center of the nation in the Great Plains and the intermountain West. The trouble-spots in rural America are dispersed. They show up as specks of black scattered across all the nation's rural regions, with the exception of the far West. Like the regions they represent, the circumstances of these rural hotspots are also diverse. Of the 100 counties nationally with the highest infection rates for May, three quarters were rural. Learn more from [Daily Yonder](#).

## New Cases in May in Nonmetro Counties



Map: Daily Yonder • Source: [USA Facts](#) / [#MadewithUSAFacts](#) • Embed • Created with [Datawrapper](#)

[Full-page version of the interactive map.](#)

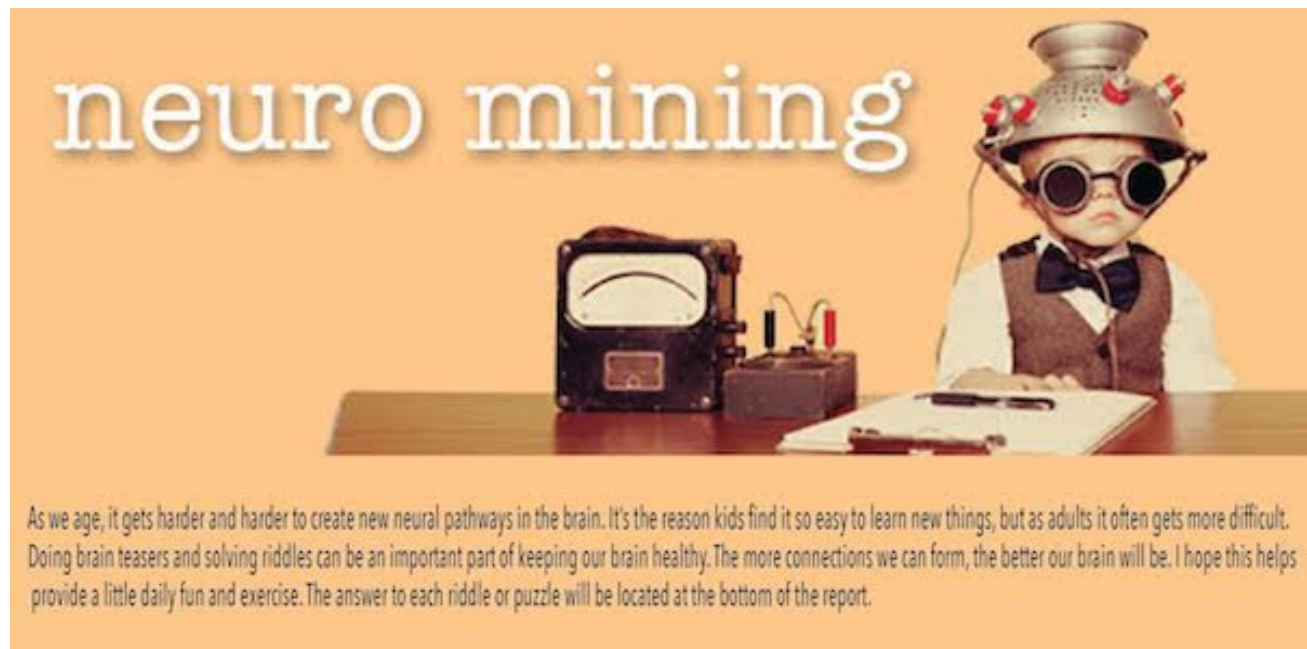


**Northwest Wisconsin** - *I'm semi-retired and renting out most of our acres now, while still running some cattle and only a few crop acres. We have had an excess of rain up until recently, and things are going well as its dried up. We are definitely well ahead of last year after getting all the remaining corn out of the ground from 2019. Funny thing is, the deer probably did more damage to the crop over the winter than the weather did. We are starting to get some solar plays in our area,*

*with a couple of companies calling us to rent some acres. I have to admit, the prices I've seen quoted to others from what I've read is significantly more than our offers, so I'm doing some due diligence. At this stage of my life, I don't want to saddle someone with a crappy 25-year lease. The counties in the area could use some new revenue streams as it appears the frack sand industry won't be carrying on much longer. For the last 8 years, this area has been chaotic with all the trucks and new rail lines to move the sand, but now it's just a lot of bankruptcies.*

**Southwest Ohio** - *Even with all the rain 2 years ago, the crops did end up pretty good. So last year, new spring, the weather sucked, corn did great, soybeans, not. Now this year starts great, all bean ground gets sprayed in April and finally looking like back to normal. Cold early, but not too wet and very hard to get the soil to dry. The beans planted in early May look very good but corn planted 3 weeks ago is junk. It will need most to all replanted. It finally dried up and we started to plant first crop corn Tuesday, drove through standing water in several places. Got a good inch on most of what I just planted last night but just to the south of me, we heard they got upwards of 5".*

**Southern Wisconsin** - *I really need to stay out of the fields...it's too depressing. After a dry spell, the corn was planted late April through early May, beans right afterward. After finishing up May 15th. we got 2.3" of rain 2 days later. It dried off enough to spray beans before cracking but then another 2.8" followed. Last year I mudded beans in on June 8-10th. They came up great. This year the seeds have low germination to nothing on miscellaneous patches. The clay seems the worst. Past years the seed treatment really helped, this year it did not.*



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 is full of holes but can still hold water?



### **What the Heck is the "Milpa Movement"**

Farmers have always helped their neighbors when needed and now some are putting acres towards helping out their communities after seeing long lines outside local food pantries and empty shelves at the stores as a result of the pandemic.

There is a small but growing movement including several large row croppers who are not only bridging the huge gap between themselves and consumers but also trying to do some extra good by donating produce that is harvested from their "Milpa acres".

*Definition of Milpa Acres: A milpa is a field in which farmers plant a dozen crops at once including corn, avocados, multiple varieties of squash and bean, melon, tomatoes, chilis, sweet potato, etc. Milpa crops are nutritionally and environmentally complementary. Corn lacks the amino acids, lysine, and tryptophan which the body needs to make proteins and niacin, but the beans have both lysine and tryptophan. The Squashes, for their part, provide an array of vitamins; avocados, fats, etc. The milpa, in the estimation of H. Garrison Wilkes, a corn researcher at the University of Massachusetts in Boston, "is one of the most successful human inventions ever created."*

Tom Cannon, who operates 10,000 acres of crops and cattle near Blackwell, Oklahoma, was already getting hit hard from the trade war battles, then the effects of COVID-19 on the food supply chain led him to make the move to Milpa and help out those needing a meal. I found one of his comments interesting, where he mentioned that even farmers are dependent on our fragile food system and a lot of them are only four days away from hunger, not something we often think about. As a result, Cannon decided to start growing a variety of fruits and vegetables for local consumption. It's the perfect way for a commodity farmer to grow produce without changing farming practices. I'm told you can just load the drill with 50 plus species and don't ever have to go back until it is time to harvest, which most times you don't even do yourself.

From what I understand, most of these Milpa plots not only put food on the grower's plates but most of the 4,000 plus pounds of produce each acre delivers get donated to local community groups like food banks, youth groups, and

churches. All they have to do is agree to do the harvesting. When that's finished, the rest serves as green manure for the field. Keep in mind, so far most of the growers who are stepping up are also committed regenerative farmers who are already on board with the benefits beyond the ease of planting which include crowding out weeds, encouraging beneficial insects, and increasing soil moisture retention.

We read an article the other day in [Successful Farming](#) that told about Sedgwick, Kansas, farmer Ryan Speer and his wife, Jennifer, who have planted a Milpa Gardens for three years. The Speers have harvested tons of produce, giving it not only to the Food and Farm Council, but to the Salvation Army, women's shelters, and employees of the Newton, Kansas, hospital where Jennifer works. They pick three times a week, two hours per night harvesting, putting the food in laundry baskets, filling five to six laundry baskets full of vegetables every few days. The Speers grow a few rows of sweet corn separately in a cornfield, and add those ears to the baskets, while Jennifer provides recipes on how to fix meals with these vegetables. Read their full story [HERE](#).

Some growers may not like a field that doesn't have straight rows but for the locals, it adds a new experience to acquiring your food as it's more of a scavenger hunt, where you have to navigate through the cover, never exactly knowing when you're going to run across that watermelon you crave. Cannon says one of the greatest joys he receives is the sounds of delight that come from his fields, as children and adults finally happen upon what they are looking for. It seems like harvesting a Milpa unleashes the inner forager in everyone.

Over the past three years, Milpa mix has been slowly gaining popularity and according to Keith Berns, co-owner of Green Cover Seed in Bladen, Nebraska, who helped formulate the first seed mixes, the number of orders suddenly doubled this spring. Berns who currently is donating a free acre of seed to anyone who commits to donating the harvest, is also thinking much bigger. With 200 million acres planted with corn, soy, and wheat in the U.S., Berns says if every producer just dedicated a fractional percentage of their land to a Milpa garden, it could result in a massive increase in national vegetable production. Keep in mind, farming regions across the U.S. may be growing plenty of crops, but rural communities have long had limited access to nutrient-rich fresh food, and this could be a great win-win. Something to think about and consider if you are looking for ways to help your community. (Source: CivilEats, KansasRuralCenter; SuccessfulFarming)



# MILPA

- WHEN THE FIRST SETTLERS ARRIVED IN THE UNITED STATES AND ENCOUNTERED THE "MILPA" AGRICULTURE TYPE, THEY HAD TO LEARN HOW TO FARM THAT WAY
- THE EUROPEAN TYPE OF FARMING, WHICH INCLUDED THE GROWING OF PLOTS IN REGIMENTAL LINES, PROVED IMPRACTICAL FOR BOTH THE INDIAN CROPS AND THE OLD WORLD CROPS TRANSPLANTED TO AMERICA

# Donate Food











### **Ronald Reagan and a Bit Of History You Might Not Know**

It was on this day back in 2004 that Ronald Reagan died of pneumonia, complicated by Alzheimer's disease at his home in Bel Air, California. Ten years earlier he informed the nation through a handwritten letter about his battle with Alzheimer's, writing in part:

*"I have recently been told that I am one of the millions of Americans who will be afflicted with Alzheimer's Disease... At the moment I feel just fine. I intend to live the remainder of the year's God gives me on this earth doing the things I have always done... I now begin the journey that will lead me into the sunset of my life. I know that for America there will always be a bright dawn ahead. Thank you, my friends. May God always bless you."*

If we go back further in time to March 30th, 1981, our nation came extremely close to losing President Ronald Reagan before his leadership reshaped not only America but also the face of communism. If you recall it was on that afternoon outside the Washington Hilton Hotel in Washington, DC. that John Hinckley Jr. attempted to assassinate President Reagan. The attempted assassination occurred just 69 days into Reagan's first term as the 40th President of the United States. While leaving a speaking engagement, President Reagan and three others were shot and wounded by Hinckley. The President was shot in the chest and in the lower right arm.

I included a very interesting video that details the assassination attempt **HERE** as it was caught on video by numerous major television network camera crews. There are several things included in this video that I had never heard before.

Keep in mind President Reagan became the first serving US President to survive being shot in an assassination attempt. Theodore Roosevelt survived an assassination attempt and even dismissed medical attention in order to give a 90-minute speech while bleeding through his shirt. However, this was after his presidency. Sadly, there have been more than 20 attempts to kill sitting and former presidents that are publicly known. I can only imagine how many plots or attempts have been foiled or stopped by the Secret Service and other protective agencies in recent years. I included below a list of publicly acknowledged attempted assassinations... I had no idea there were this many, it's crazy to think about how many they stop early. (Source: History, L.A. Times, Wiki)

**Andrew Jackson, Jan 30, 1835** - *Richard Lawrence's two bullets aimed at President Jackson misfired in Washington on Jan. 30, 1835. Lawrence was apprehended and later deemed insane and institutionalized.*

**Abraham Lincoln, April 14, 1865** - *President Lincoln was shot by John Wilkes Booth while attending an evening performance at Ford's Theatre in Washington with his wife, Mary Todd Lincoln. He died the next day.*

**James Garfield, July 2, 1881** - *President Garfield was only four months into his term when lawyer Charles J. Guiteau shot him. Garfield died on Sept. 19, 1881. Guiteau was tried and found guilty. He was hanged on June 30, 1882.*

**William McKinley, Sept 6, 1901** - *The 25th president, William McKinley, was visiting the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo, N.Y., when he was shot twice by anarchist Leon Czolgosz. McKinley died on Sept. 14, 1901. Czolgosz was sentenced to death and electrocuted on Oct. 29, 1901. After McKinley's death, the Secret Service officially took responsibility for protecting U.S. presidents.*

**Theodore Roosevelt, Oct 13, 1912** - *President Roosevelt was shot at while about to give a speech in Milwaukee. During his speech, Roosevelt said, "It takes more than that to kill a Bull Moose." He survived the attack, and the bullet remained in his body until his death in 1919. The shooter, John F. Schrank, was found insane.*

**Franklin D. Roosevelt, Feb 15, 1933** - *Though he had not been sworn into office yet, Roosevelt was shot at five times while at a speaking engagement in Miami. Bricklayer Giuseppe Zangara fired the shots wildly, wounding four*



*and killing Chicago Mayor Anton Cermak. Zangara was found guilty of murder and executed on March 20, 1933.*

**Harry S. Truman, Nov 1, 1950** - Two supporters of Puerto Rican independence, Oscar Collazo and Griselio Torresola, targeted President Truman when he was staying at a house in Washington while the White House was undergoing renovation. The violent attempt resulted in the death of a White House police officer and Torresola. Collazo was sentenced to life in prison. Truman was unharmed.

**John F. Kennedy, Nov 22, 1963** - President Kennedy was fatally shot on Nov. 22, 1963, while riding in a motorcade in Dallas. Lee Harvey Oswald was arrested shortly after at the Texas Theater. On Nov. 24, Oswald was shot and killed before live television cameras in the basement of Dallas police headquarters by Dallas nightclub operator Jack Ruby.

**Richard Nixon, April 13, 1972: Arthur Bremer carried a firearm to an event intending to shoot Nixon, but was put off by strong security. A few weeks later, he instead shot and seriously injured the Governor of Alabama, George Wallace, who was paralyzed until his death in 1998. Three other people were unintentionally wounded. Bremer served 35 years in prison for the shooting of Governor Wallace.**

Feb 22, 1974 - Samuel Byck, an unemployed former tire salesman, tried to hijack a plane out of Baltimore-Washington International Airport to crash it into the White House, but his plans were foiled. He shot the pilot and co-pilot and eventually shot himself. Sean Penn starred in a dramatization of the events in the 2004 film "The Assassination of Richard Nixon."

**Gerald Ford, Sep 5, 1975** - President Ford survived two assassination attempts in the same month. On Sept. 5, 1975, Lynette Fromme, a follower of Charles Manson, fired a pistol at the president in a crowd in Sacramento, but Ford was unharmed. On Sept. 22, Sara Jane Moore pulled a revolver on Ford in San Francisco. Both were sentenced to life in prison.

**September 22, 1975: In San Francisco, California, only 17 days after Fromme's attempt, Sara Jane Moore fired a revolver at Ford from 40 feet (12 m) away.[78] A bystander, Oliver Sipple, grabbed Moore's arm and the shot missed Ford, striking a building wall and slightly injuring taxi driver John Ludwig.[79] Moore was tried and convicted in federal court, and sentenced to prison for life. She was paroled from a federal prison on December 31, 2007 after serving more than 30 years, one year and five days after Ford's natural death.**

**Jimmy Carter, May 5, 1979** - President Carter was about to give a speech in Los Angeles when Secret Service agents detained Raymond Lee Harvey, who authorities said had a starter pistol with blank rounds in his pockets.

**George H.W. Bush, Apr 13, 1993** - President George H.W. Bush was not in office when 16 men plotted to kill him with a car bomb while he was at a speaking engagement at Kuwait University. Kuwaiti officials found the bomb and arrested the would-be assassins.

**Bill Clinton, January 21, 1994: Ronald Gene Barbour, a retired military officer and freelance writer, plotted to kill Clinton while the president was jogging. Barbour returned to Florida a week later without having fired the shots at the president, who was on a state visit to Russia.[93] Barbour was sentenced to five years in prison and was released in 1998.**

**September 12, 1994: Frank Eugene Corder flew a stolen single-engine Cessna 150 onto the White House lawn and crashed into a tree. Corder, a truck driver from Maryland who reportedly had alcohol problems, allegedly tried to hit the White House. He was killed in the crash. The president and first family were not home at the time.**

**October 29, 1994: Francisco Martin Duran fired at least 29 shots with a 7.62×39mm Type 56 semi-automatic rifle at the White House from a fence overlooking the North Lawn, thinking that Clinton was among the men in dark suits standing there (Clinton was inside). Three tourists, Harry Rakosky, Ken Davis and Robert Haines, tackled Duran before he could injure anyone. Found to have a suicide note in his pocket, Duran was sentenced to 40 years in prison.**

**Nov 1996** - President Clinton escaped a bombing attempt in November 1996 while visiting the Philippines for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum. The Secret Service was able to divert his motorcade. It was later revealed that terrorist Osama bin Laden was behind the plot.

**October 2018: A package containing a pipe bomb addressed to wife Hillary Clinton and sent to their home in Chappaqua, New York was intercepted by Secret Service. It was one of several mailed to other Democratic leaders in the same week, including former president Barack Obama.[97] Bill Clinton was at the Chappaqua home when the package was intercepted, while Hillary was in Florida campaigning for Democrats.[98] Fingerprint DNA revealed that the package was sent by Florida resident Cesar Sayoc, who was captured two days after the package was intercepted.[99] Prosecutors sought a life**

***sentence for Sayoc, but due to the bombs being intentionally made not to go off the judge instead sentenced him to 20 years in prison.***

***George W. Bush, Feb 7, 2001 - Robert Pickett, an accountant from Evanston, Ind., shot at the White House when the president was inside. President Bush was unharmed. A Secret Service officer shot Pickett, who was later sentenced to three years in prison.***

***May 10, 2005: While President Bush was giving a speech in the Freedom Square in Tbilisi, Georgia, Vladimir Arutyunian threw a live Soviet-made RGD-5 hand grenade toward the podium. The grenade had its pin pulled, but did not explode because a red tartan handkerchief was wrapped tightly around it, preventing the safety lever from detaching.[101] After escaping that day, Arutyunian was arrested in July 2005. During his arrest, he killed an Interior Ministry agent. He was convicted in January 2006 and given a life sentence.***

***Barack Obama, Nov 11, 2011 - Oscar Ramiro Ortega-Hernandez was arrested and charged with the attempted assassination of President Obama near the National Mall. Obama was not at the White House at the time. The Idaho man, still detained, said he believed Obama was "the devil" and had to be "taken care of."***

***April 2013: Another attempt was made when a letter laced with ricin, a deadly poison, was sent to President Obama.***

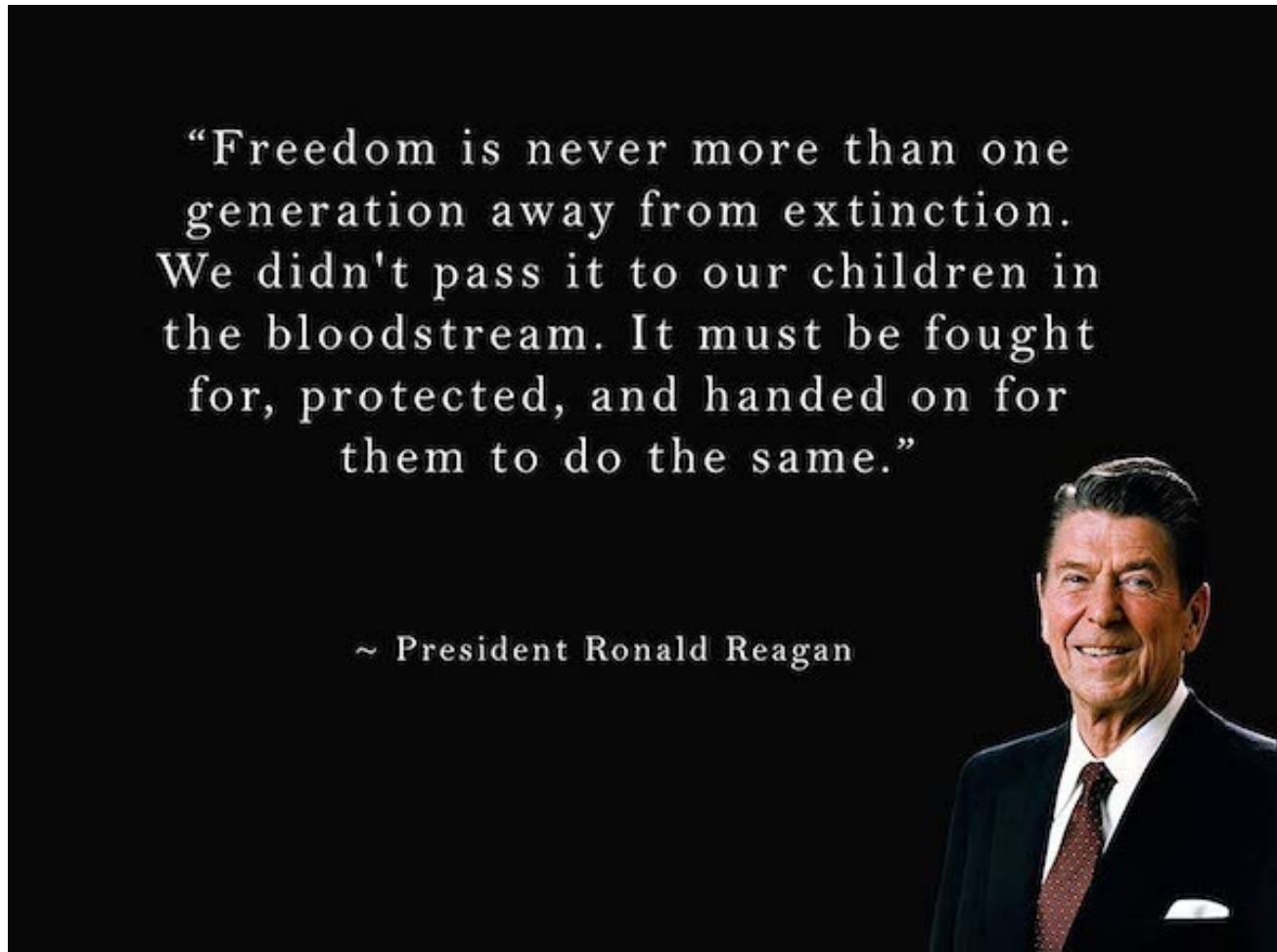
***October 2018: A package that contained a fabricated pipe bomb was sent to former president Obama at his home in Washington, D.C. The package was intercepted by Secret Service.***

***Donald Trump, June 2016: Michael Steven Sandford, a British national with a history of mental illness, tried to seize a Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department officer's pistol at a Trump rally in Las Vegas, Nevada, in an attempt to assassinate Trump (then the presumptive Republican nominee). Sandford had reportedly been planning such action for over a year. The pistol caught in the holster and Sandford was immediately arrested, and eventually deported to the United Kingdom. The incident received less coverage in the United States than in Britain, where it led to a debate over the Mental Capacity Act 2005 and was the subject of a BBC documentary.***

***November 2017: A man affiliated with the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant was arrested by the Philippine National Police in Rizal Park for reportedly planning to assassinate President Trump during***

***the ASEAN Summit.***

***October 2018: William Clyde Allen III, a U.S. Navy veteran, sent a letter containing crushed castor beans to President Trump. The letter did not reach the White House as it was seized by the Secret Service. He sent similar letters to Secretary of Defense James Mattis and Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John Richardson. Allen was arrested on October 3, 2018 in Utah.***

**Pastor Jeremiah Steeppek**

I ran this story years ago but it was again sent my direction and it made it stop and ponder and think about the times we currently find ourselves in... Be safe this weekend!

Pastor Jeremiah Steeppek transformed himself into a homeless person and went to the 10,000 member church that he was to be introduced to as the head pastor at that morning. He walked around his soon to be church for 30 minutes while it was filling with people for service....only 3 people out of the hundreds said hello to him. He asked people for change to buy food....NO ONE in the church gave him



change. He went into the sanctuary to sit down in the front of the church and was asked by the ushers if he would please sit in the back. He greeted people, only to be greeted back with stares and dirty looks, with people looking down on him and judging him.

As he sat in the back of the church, he listened to the church announcements and such. When all that was done, the elders went up and were excited to introduce the new pastor of the church to the congregation....."We would like to introduce to you Pastor Jeremiah Steepok". The congregation looked around clapping with joy and anticipation. The homeless man sitting in the back stood up and started walking down the aisle, the clapping stopped with ALL eyes on him, he walked up to the altar and took the microphone from the elders (who were in on this) and paused for a moment, then he recited:

*"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'"*

After he recited this, he looked towards the congregation and told them all what he had experienced that morning, many began to cry and many heads were bowed in shame, he then said, today I see a gathering of people, not a church of Jesus Christ. The world has enough people, but not enough disciples, when will YOU decide to become disciples? He then dismissed service until next week. Being a Christian is more than something you claim. It's something you live by and share with others.

**I've had some friends over the years write and tell me this story is not real, while others have told me it's actually based on a true story of Tennessee pastor Willie Lyle of Sango United Methodist Church who lived as a homeless person for a week in the small town and then preached a sermon based on his experience, or some say it could be based on the famous book called "In His Steps", by Charles Sheldon. Nonetheless, I choose to believe it speaks volumes about how we Christians can often lose our vision and way in life. I constantly have to remind myself to take a look at my own actions way before pointing any fingers or quickly judging others and their actions. I have a ton to work on right here with myself and my own family regarding compassion, understanding, forgiveness, patience, etc... Good reminder as we head into the weekend!**

## Church Members Mistreat Homeless Man in Church Unaware It Is Their Pastor in Disguise:



### Church Members Mistreat Homeless Man in Church Unaware It Is Their Pastor in Disguise

Pastor Jeremiah Steeppek transformed himself into a homeless person and went to the 10,000 member church that he was to be introduced as the head pastor...

The happiest people  
I know are evaluating and  
improving themselves.  
The unhappy people are  
usually evaluating and  
judging others.

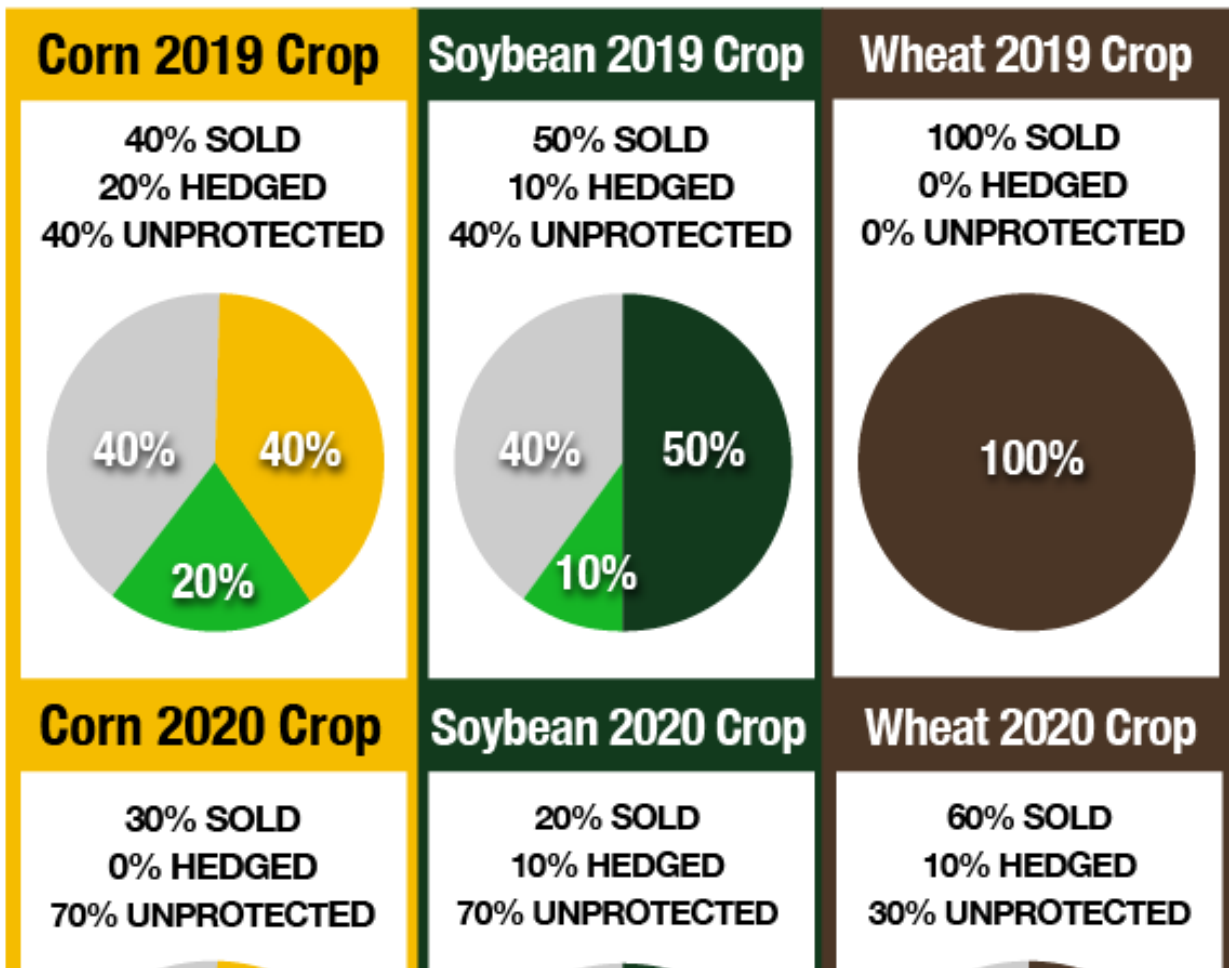




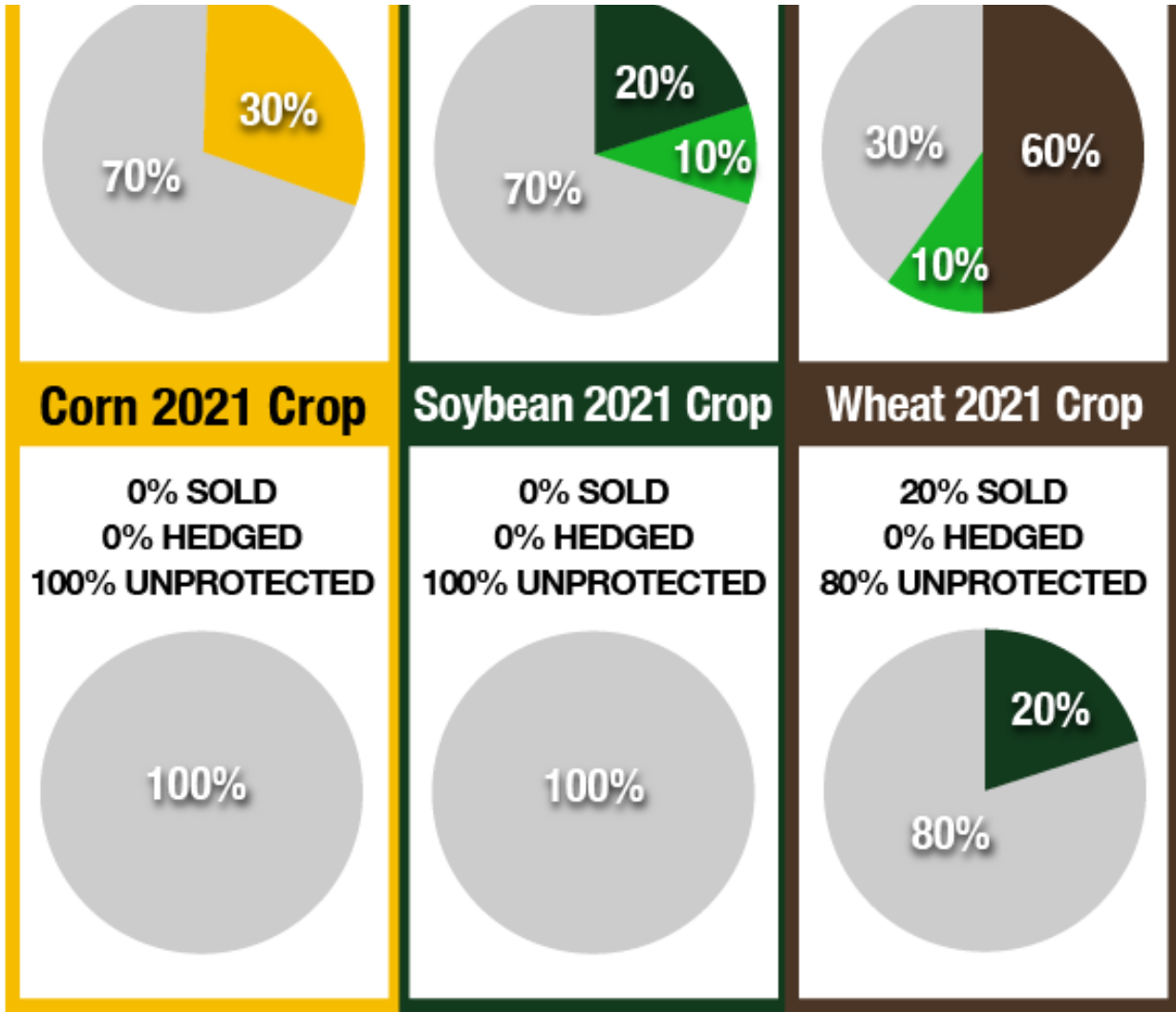
**ANSWER to riddle:** A sponge.

## CASH SALES & HEDGING TOTALS

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