



"Incredible change happens in your life when you decide to take control of what you do have power over instead of craving control over what you don't." - Steve Maraboli

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 2017

Morning Summary: Stock markets remain stuck in their "low volatility" pattern despite more shakeups and headlines out of Washington. One of the most widely watched measures of stock market volatility and anxiety, the CBOE Volatility Index, or what many refer to as the "VIX," has recently traded to its lowest level since 1993. The Wall Street Journal explains the VIX as being designed to measure investor expectations for market turbulence one month in the future, and used by professionals to hedge against bullish wagers on stocks. Since the financial crisis, during which the VIX reached a record 80.86 in November 2008, it has become one of the most widely watched and used financial tools on Wall Street. The past few days it has traded as low as 9.67. Here's another way to think of it: a single-digit VIX reading has happened in less than 0.2% of all trading days since 1990. Regardless of the number, it's how you interpret the data that seems to be of the most importance. Many insiders believe super-easy monetary policy by global central bankers has created artificially low volatility and has driven money into trades and investments that are now mispriced as a result. So the question becomes does "low volatility" signal more smooth sailing ahead or extremely rough waters on the horizon? U.S. corporate earnings continue to impress with S&P 500 companies on track to post their highest proportion of top and bottom-line beats in 13 years, according to Bank of America Merrill Lynch. Notable earnings releases scheduled for today include Enbridge Energy, Intrexon, Mazda, Mylan, Snap, Spectra Energy, Symantec, Toyota, Twenty-First Century Fox, Wendy's and Whole Foods. U.S. economic data for today includes Import-Export Prices and Atlanta Fed Business Inflation Expectations. Yesterday's JOLTS report showed the total number of "job openings" moved up again in March to 5.743 million, which was well ahead of hirings for the month, indicating employers are still struggling to find qualified applicants. The report is consistent with tight conditions in the labor market and hints at the risk, at least for skilled workers, that wage inflation may be right around the next corner. A separate monthly survey released Tuesday by the National Federation of Independent Business found that about a third of small companies had trouble filling jobs in April, the highest level in nearly 17 years. Many of those companies also report they intend to raise wages in an effort to recruit more skilled workers and hang on to the valuable employees they already have. Two Fed officials are scheduled to speak today - Boston Fed President Eric Rosengren and Minneapolis Fed President Neel Kashkari. It's not likely they will have comments on recent data and how it might influence the central bank's June policy meeting as neither is slated to speak about the general U.S. economy. However, Dallas Fed President Robert Kaplan did weigh in briefly yesterday, saying his "baseline" view continues to be for three U.S. interest rate hikes this year, including the increase in March.

President Trump Fires FBI director James Comey: *The White House said President Trump "terminated" Mr Comey with immediate effect following advice from Jeff Sessions, the attorney-general, and his deputy Rod Rosenstein. Trump informed Comey in a letter delivered by a White House aide, writing: "While I greatly appreciate you informing me, on three separate occasions, that I am not under investigation, I nevertheless concur with [their] judgment... that you are not able to effectively lead the bureau."* Read the entire firing letter [HERE](#)

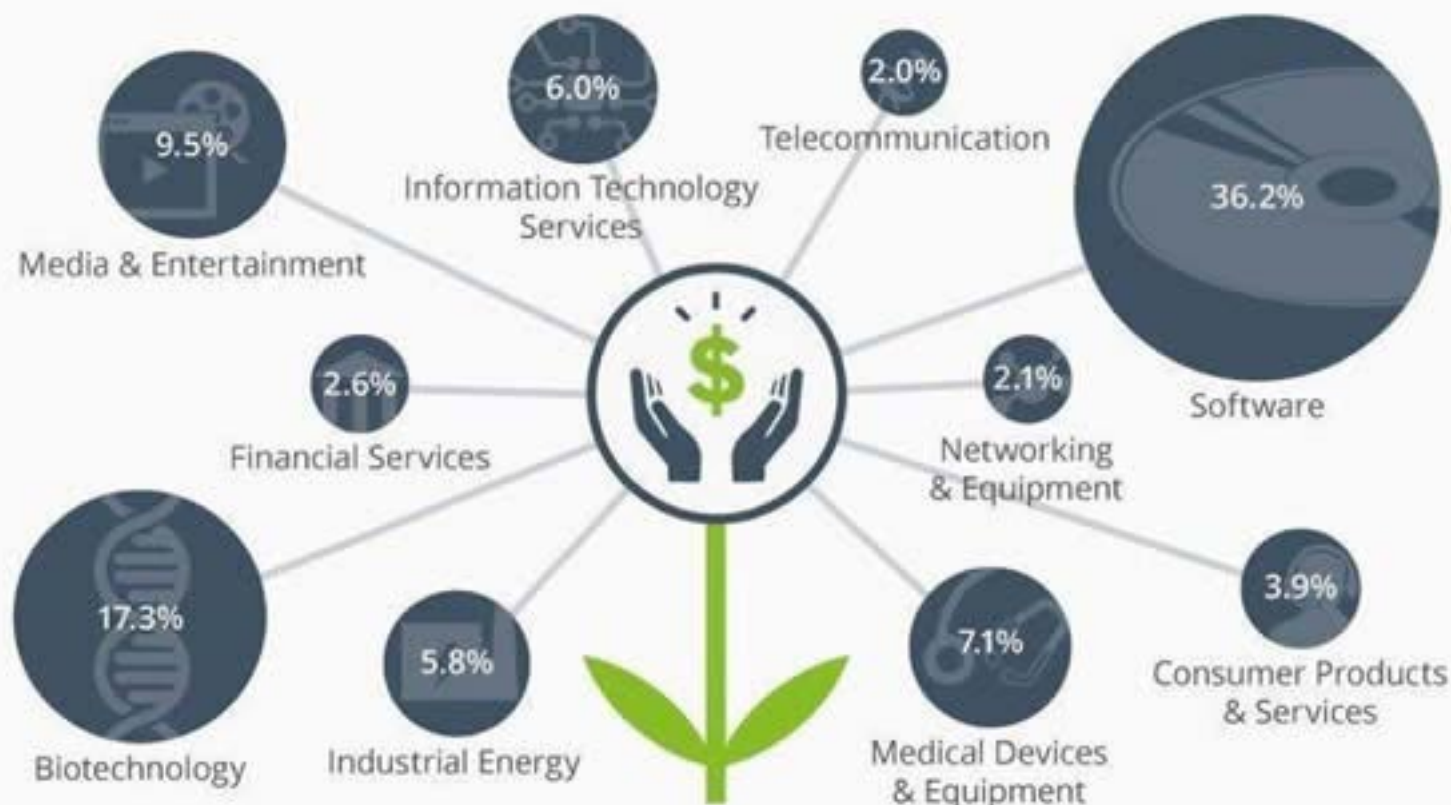
Why I'm Long Snapchat (SNAP) - *Today marks the first quarterly report by Snapchat since going public. For disclosure purposes I currently own Snapchat (SNAP) stock and believe myself to be a longer-term player, looking to accumulate additional shares on further break in price below recent lows in the \$19 to \$20 range. I realize SNAP has a huge cash burn and future profitability is a complete unknown. I also realize if you're looking for a guarantee or stability within your investment portfolio owning SNAP is probably not your first stock of choice. In regard to negative operating income reported in its S-1, we have to remember that Snap tripled its employee count during 2016 and is now only nine quarters into its monetization strategy. In other words this is an extremely young company, in fact just five-years old. Facebook offered the owners \$3 billion for the company back in 2015 and it's now valued at roughly \$30 billion. Snapchat is ran by its founder Evan Spiegel, who along with two other students created the Snapchat concept for a class project at Stanford University back in 2011. Spiegel was raised in California by both a mother and father who are said to be extremely sharp lawyers. As a student Spiegel took design classes at the Otis College of Art and Design while still in high school and at the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena the summer before entering Stanford. He also had an internship in sales at Red Bull and worked as a paid intern for a biomedical company, as a careers instructor in Cape Town, South Africa, and at Intuit on the TxtWeb project. While studying product design at Stanford he proposed Snapchat as a class project and recruited a couple of friends to do the coding. The company now has somewhere between 150 and 180 million daily active users. Snapchat's users are mostly in the 18-34 age range and spend an average of 25 to 30 minutes on the app, visiting it more than 18 times a day, according to the company, making it more visited than any other social media platform. I could site many reason why I like the company, but probably why I own the stock is because of it's ability to "innovate". Why many investors believe since it's primarily only used by young people the company will have a hard time monetizing its business. I see it a bit differently. I believe by appealing to the youth it gives Snapchat the freedom to introduce radical design changes and try new innovations. While someone like Facebook who has older demographics may find it more difficult to make changes quickly as technology rapidly evolves. It seems that Snapchat clients, while being younger, also makes them much more savvy smart phone and internet users. Meaning they will be much quicker and accepting to change with technological advancements. Hence advertisers might be more enticed with the potential possibilities for increased user engagement as the changes rollout. Taking nothing away from Facebook or the other current social media giants, I just feel like the underlying landscape gives Sanpchat an opportunity to be an extremely visionary company, something many traditional financial analyst will have a tough time valuing, but one big-money likes to chase. This makes investing in SNAP extremely risky, but a company I like longer-term, so I'm willing to take the chance... Make sure you do your homework before dipping a toe in the water!*

These are the industries attracting the most venture capital: *In terms of global*

venture capital investment, some of the latest data shows the United States is leading the way-with nearly \$60 billion invested across the country. Below are the industries that seem to be still attracting the most attention. (Source: Statista)

Which Industries Attract The Most Venture Capital?

Top 10 U.S. industry sectors by share of venture capital investment*



* Based on an analysis of 4,164 VC investments in the United States
Source: Martin Prosperity Institute

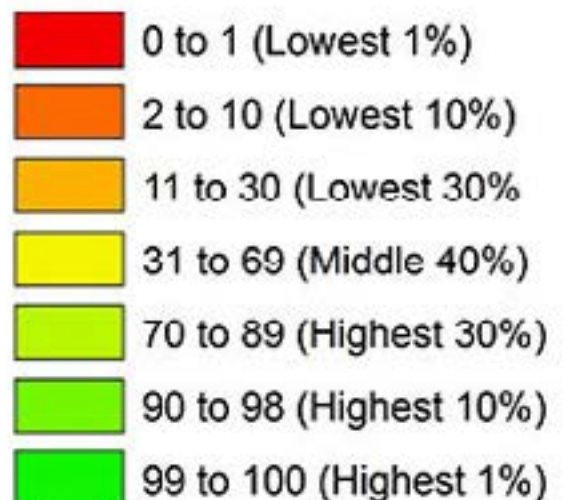
statista

Weather continues to see divergence in Midwest planting conditions as forecasts call for drier and warmer conditions in the northwest and wet and cool conditions in the east and south. Rain in the southern Corn Belt will continue to slow planting progress. In the mid-South, runoff from late-April and early-May downpours continues to drain from tributaries toward larger rivers. The Mississippi River crest is approaching New Madrid, Missouri, where water levels have been higher as recently as January 2016; April-May 2011; and March-April 2008. In the southern Plains, showers and warm weather continue in the forecast. This pattern will favor development of winter wheat in the region during this week. Wet weather may continue to slow planting progress in Kansas. In the South, drier and warmer conditions favor seasonal fieldwork. Favorable soil moisture for crop development is well-established. In the northern Plains, good weather for fieldwork and planting is expected to continue through the week. North Dakota spring wheat plantings more than doubled the rate of the previous week, and at 45% planted, is just 4% behind average.

Very Wet Across the Midwest: *The U.S. as a whole is in the wettest percentile possible on the Palmer Drought Index. Furthermore, the central and eastern Corn Belt is*

equally as wet. And let's not forget, there's another round of rain coming Wednesday through Friday, which could drop another 1 - 2 inches across Illinois, Indiana and Ohio.

Palmer Drought Severity Index Percentiles Weekly Value for Period Ending May 06, 2017



EXPERIMENTAL CPC PRODUCT

CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER (CPC), NOAA
NATIONAL CLIMATIC DATA CENTER (NCDC), NOAA

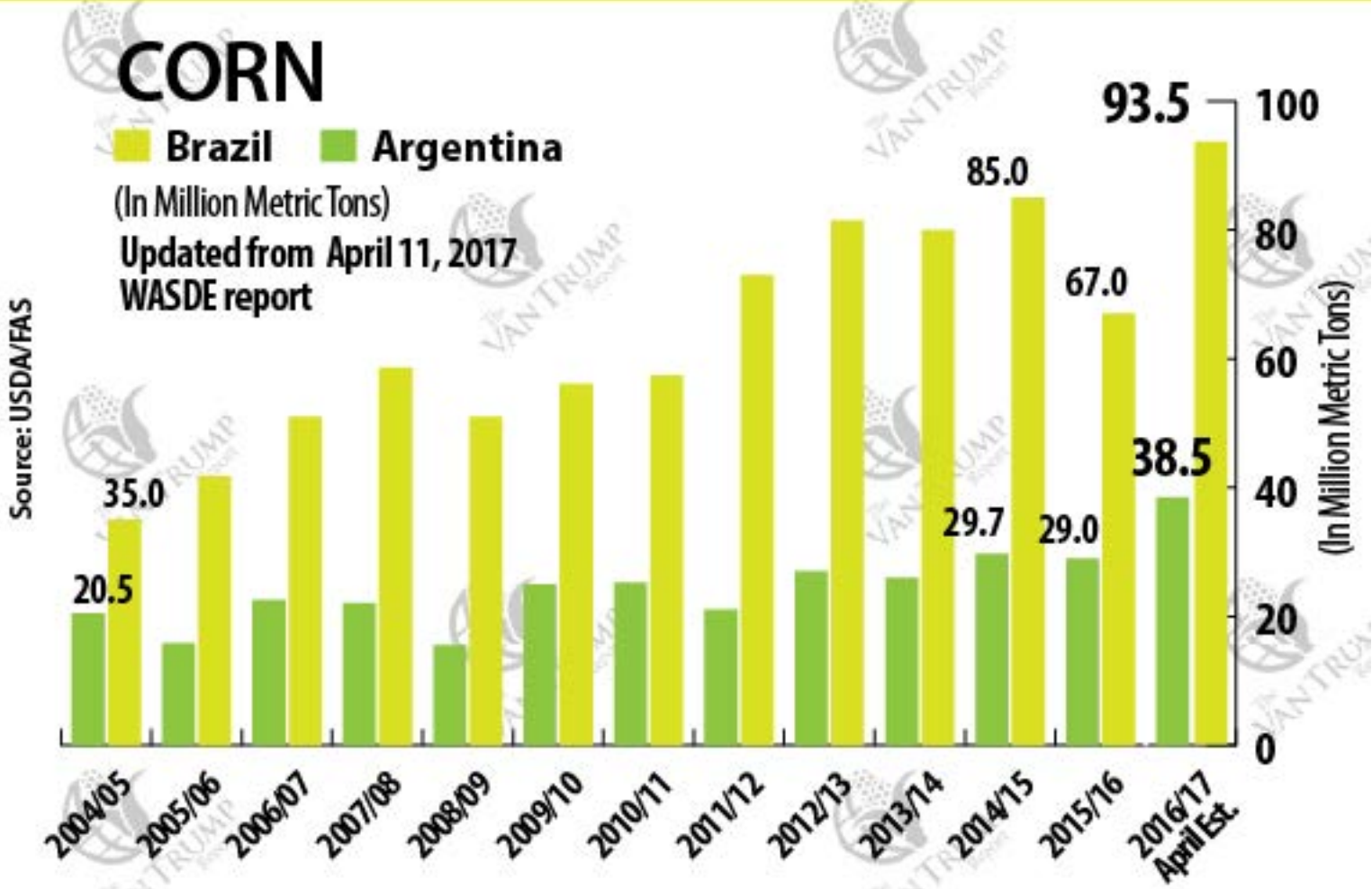
Based on preliminary data generated by the CPC, Comparative, final historic PDSI data generated by the NCDC. This chart depicts the percentile of the specific parameter, as measured during the month indicated, with respect to all other such months since 1895.



Author: tazzy, Climate Prediction Center, NOAA

Corn bulls are wanting to see the USDA make a -10 to -15 MMT reduction to their longer-term global ending stock estimate. There's also a bullish belief that the USDA will throw out a 2.1 billion bushel ending stock estimate for new-crop, or a number -200 to -250 million bushels below their old-crop estimate. Traders are also debating how much higher the USDA will raise their new-crop corn used for ethanol estimate and if corn for feed usage will be lowered to offset any of the gains in demand. As for exports, nobody seems to really be looking for much change. Despite not being far behind our average U.S. planting pace, there's still some planting delays and concerns in several key locations. Meaning despite the burdensome fundamentals the downside may be somewhat limited nearby as the trade might be unwilling to pull out any of the existing "weather premium" until more certainty is known in regard to the extended forecast. Some areas that have been hit with heavy rains look as if they may be getting a few more rounds during the next couple of weeks. This would obviously bring into question "preventive plant" acres and the ultimate upside potential of the U.S. crop? As for South America, the Argentine corn harvest is thought to be close to +30% complete, while Brazil's second-crop corn seems to be getting fairly cooperative weather. The USDA will be updating their latest South American production estimates today, but as you can see from the graphic I've included below, their production has massively rebounded in comparison to last year and is poised to blow away all previous records. I suspect the market makes a knee-jerk reaction to today's USDA data, then all eyes will quickly shift back towards U.S. weather, specially acres in the eastern and southern areas.

South American CORN Production



Soybean bulls are talking about a better technical pattern on the charts and more extreme U.S. weather in the extended forecast, perhaps more rain for already flooded fields in parts of Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana and Missouri. There are also rumors circulating that the U.S. government is closer to taking steps to enforce a tariff on Argentine and Indonesia oil and biodiesel imports. The bulls are also hoping to see the USDA this afternoon raise old-crop exports enough to prompt a slight overall reduction in ending stocks. Unfortunately the bears are looking for the USDA to lower their U.S. domestic crush estimate to offset a portion of the gains in export demand. The bears are also talking about the longer-term outlook for U.S. ending stocks perhaps being much more burdensome, eventually north of +600 million bushels, especially if record planted acres are able to catch somewhat cooperative weather. Let's also keep in mind the USDA will be updating their South American production estimates today. As you can see from the graphic I included below we are again going to digest record production out of Brazil. Heavy rains have created some complications inside Argentina and continue to weigh on the harvest and the availability of beans getting to some crushers. Interestingly however Argentine exports have started to pick up some momentum in the past couple of weeks. Something else the trade is contemplating is how many acres will remain in soybeans next year for both Argentina and Brazil?

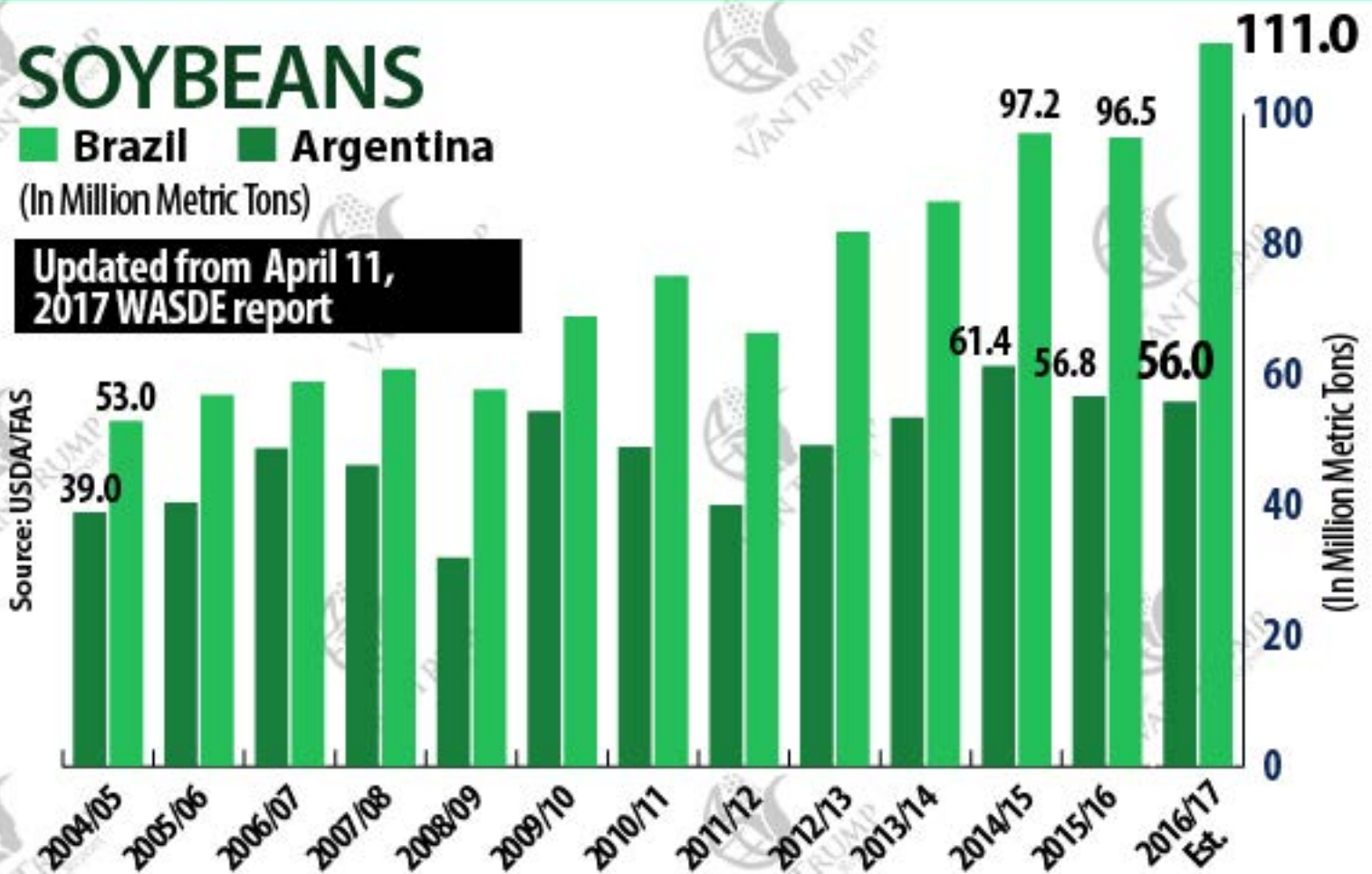
South American SOYBEAN Production

SOYBEANS

■ Brazil ■ Argentina

(In Million Metric Tons)

Updated from April 11,
2017 WASDE report



Wheat traders continue to heavily debate U.S. production. There seems to be little question that the USDA will be lowering their all wheat and other wheat estimates compared to last year, the question is by how much. The trade seem to be thinking the new-crop all wheat estimate could drop by -450 to -550 million bushels, with the HRW wheat crop production estimate being lowered by -175 to -350 million bushels. In other words the guesses are lower but seem to be extremely large in variance. Bulls here at home continue to talk about weather extremes causing complications that the trade has not yet accounted for. The bulls are also hoping they will see the USDA lower their global ending stocks estimate by -5 to -10 MMTs. There's also a lot of talk that the USDA's new-crop U.S. ending stock estimate will be sub-1.0 billion bushels or perhaps -150 to -200 million bushels below the old-crop estimate. The bears continue to talk about burdensome supplies and the fact there is no real weather concerns outside of the U.S.. We are also seeing a slightly higher U.S. dollar and no real bullish change in sentiment or renewed outside macro interest in commodities. I continue to remain conservatively bullish despite the technical patterns now looking as if we could soon make another run towards the recent lows.

U.S. Ending Stocks 2016/17

	May #	Avg. Trade Est.	Trade Range	April 2017
Corn	???	2.326	2.269 - 2.500	2.320
Soybean	???	0.438	0.417 - 0.466	0.445
Wheat	???	1.162	1.145 - 1.200	1.159

U.S. Ending Stocks 2017/18

	May #	Avg. Trade Est.	Trade Range
Corn	???	2.120	1.835 - 2.400
Soybean	???	0.555	0.420 - 0.759
Wheat	???	0.933	0.842 - 1.000

Global Ending Stocks 2016/17

	May #	Avg. Trade Est.	Trade Range	April 2017
Corn	???	223.3	221.5 - 228.8	223.0
Soybean	???	87.5	86.1 - 89.0	87.4
Wheat	???	252.2	250.7 - 253.2	252.3

Global Ending Stocks 2017/18

	May #	Avg. Trade Est.	Trade Range
Corn	???	209.7	190.7 - 225.0
Soybean	???	86.6	80.5 - 94.0
Wheat	???	246.1	238.0 - 257.0

U.S. Wheat Production 2017

	May #	Avg. Trade Est.	Trade Range	April 2017
All Wheat	???	1.859	1.776 - 1.984	2.310
Winter	???	1.293	1.200 - 1.474	1.672
Hard Red Winter	???	0.769	0.686 - 0.915	1.082
Soft Red Winter	???	0.305	0.260 - 0.355	0.345
White	???	0.217	0.180 - 0.263	0.286

South American Production 2016/17

	May #	Avg. Trade Est.	Trade Range	April 2017
Argentina Corn	???	38.5	37.0 - 39.0	38.5
Argentina Soybean	???	56.2	55.0 - 58.5	56.0
Brazil Corn	???	94.2	93.0 - 96.2	93.5
Brazil Soybean	???	111.3	110.5 - 113.0	111.0



> French Corn Sowings To Hit 25-Year Low: France's agriculture ministry, in its first forecast for domestic corn seedings this year, pegged them at 3.58 million acres – a drop of -2.4% year on year, and the weakest on data going back to 1993-94. The drop in the figure comes as a dry spring in France is raising alarm bells among growers. "Some farmers may be reluctant to plant corn because of the lack of soil moisture. Irrigation may be restricted in some areas," the ministry said. The ministry highlighted that dryness is an issue for autumn-seeded cereals too, noting that "spring weather conditions are not favorable to winter crops. The lack of water slows down the development of plants," it said, adding that frosts and volatile temperatures "could reduce the yield potential of some [winter] crops. However, overall sowings with major crops will hold steady at 23.475 million acres. Furthermore, it saw higher sowings of a number of spring crops, including spring barley and soybeans. (Source: Agrimoney)

> India Lifts Record Grain Outlook: India increased its already record forecast for grain production, while lowering its forecasts for sugar and oilseeds. Grain production may total 273.38 million metric tons in 2016-17, up from a previous forecast for 272 million tons, the Farm Ministry said in a statement on Tuesday. Wheat output is forecast at a record 97.44 million tons, from 96.6 million tons predicted in February, it said. India's agriculture production depends on the monsoon, which affects both summer and winter crop sowing and waters more than half of all farmland. India is set for a normal monsoon for a second year, with rainfall of 96 percent of the long-term average, according to gov-

ernment forecasters.

> U.S. Farmers Shipping Wheat To Egypt Again: *American farmers are back in the wheat game with Egypt, the world's biggest buyer, as exporters send their first shipment in almost four months. The U.S. inspected 51,603 tons of wheat for export to Egypt in the week ended May 4, U.S. Department of Agriculture data showed on Monday. The last shipment to the country was in mid- January. The cargo is an indication of the competitiveness of U.S. wheat and also comes amid some crop production concerns in North America and other growing regions. Egypt hasn't been a major purchaser of U.S. wheat in recent years, as supplies from countries including Russia, Ukraine and Romania proved more attractive. Since June 1, the U.S. has exported 60,270 tons to Egypt through April 27. That's down from 74,798 in the same period in 2016, USDA data show. (Source: Bloomberg)*

> China Cancels 3 Palm Oil Cargoes: *Buyers canceled 3 palm oil cargoes due to low domestic prices, China National Grain and Oils Information Center says in emailed report. 2 cargoes for Aug. loading were canceled last week, while 1 for July loading was canceled this week.*

> Mexican Trade Official To Hold Sugar Talks In U.S. Next Week: *Mexican Economy Minister Ildefonso Guajardo will travel to Washington next week for talks about sugar exports in an attempt to break an impasse that threatens to trigger tit-for-tat duties on sweeteners. The U.S. sugar industry pressed the Commerce Department late last year to withdraw from a 2014 trade agreement that sets prices and quota for U.S. imports of Mexican sugar unless the deal could be renegotiated. Mexico and the United States last week extended a deadline to June 5 to reach an agreement on how much Mexican refined and crude sugar can enter the United States. Speaking at an event in Mexico City, Agriculture Minister Jose Calzada said Mexico was willing to react in-kind to any U.S. duties imposed on its sugar. (Source: Reuters)*

> Top U.S. Vet Ready To Lead "Final Push" Against Bovine TB: *U.S. Chief Veterinary Officer Jack Shere prefers the word "blip," rather than "spike," to describe the recent surge of bovine tuberculosis that's hit farms in at least five states since the beginning of the year. He said the disease, which is easily detected during slaughter and eliminated from milk during the pasteurization process has been on the decline in the U.S. and could be stamped out with one big effort. He's planning a "TB modernization summit for the end of July or the first part of August." Indiana, Michigan, New Mexico, South Dakota and Texas have all documented cases of the disease in recent months, Shere said. Canada also had its issues with the disease. The country has 40 premises in quarantine and has destroyed 10,500 animals. USDA's program to fight bovine TB has been in place since 1917, Shere notes. "We are looking at reevaluating the program and we're bringing in industry and other regulators to talk about new steps, how to modernize the TB program so we can make the final push to eradicate TB from the United States." (Source: Politico)*

> Senators Call For Probe Into Icahn's Biofuel Credit Dealings: *Eight Democratic Senators on Tuesday asked U.S. regulators to launch an investigation into billionaire Carl Icahn's activities in the U.S. biofuels blending credit market, saying the activist investor may have violated securities trading laws since becoming an adviser to President Donald Trump. "We are writing to request that your agencies investigate whether Carl Icahn violated insider trading laws, anti-market manipulation laws, or any other relevant laws based on his recent actions in the market for renewable fuel credits," the senators said in*

a letter to the heads of the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, and the Environmental Protection Agency. Icahn became an unpaid adviser to Trump on regulation shortly after November's presidential election. In February Icahn proposed a change to the U.S. biofuels program that would ease the regulatory burden on oil refining companies - including CVR Energy, in which he owns a majority stake. The company would have been in a strong position to profit if RIN prices fell, according to a Reuters review of securities filings last month. RIN prices dropped sharply after Icahn's proposal on the biofuels regulation was reported, the senators pointed out in their letter. (Source: Reuters)

> EIA Boosts U.S. Oil Production Outlook, Trims Oil Price Forecast: *The U.S. Energy Information Administration raised its forecast on 2017 U.S. crude-oil production and lowered its price outlook, according to the agency's monthly Short-term Energy Outlook report released Tuesday. The EIA forecast U.S. crude production at an average 9.31 million barrels per day in 2017, up +1% from the previous forecast. It sees 2018 output at 9.96 million barrels a day, up +0.6% from the previous forecast. "Increased drilling rig activity is expected to boost to U.S. crude oil production this year and next," said Howard Gruenspecht, EIA acting administrator, in a statement. The EIA cut its 2017 crude-price forecast by -3%, with West Texas Intermediate crude seen at an average \$50.68 a barrel, and Brent crude at \$52.60. The EIA now estimates U.S. commercial crude oil inventories declined by 7.4 million barrels during April, compared with an average increase of 7.4 million barrels over the past five years. The decline in U.S. crude oil inventories is likely due to the increase in gross inputs to refineries in April. Refinery inputs reached 17.2 million b/d in April, the highest on record for any month. The EIA is forecasting an U.S. pump price for 2017 of \$2.39 per gallon of regular gasoline, down -7 cents from the previous forecast. The 2016 summer average was \$2.23 per gallon. (Sources: 24/7 WallSt., MarketWatch, EIA)*

> Goldman Says Rate Hikes, Commodity Gains Could Come Hand-in-Hand: *Commodities investors needn't fear the Federal Reserve. Raw materials perform best when the U.S. central bank is hiking rates, according to Goldman Sachs Group Inc., which used the findings of a study to buttress its overweight call on the asset class while acknowledging risks to its view. During periods of rising interest rates, raw materials top returns from equities and bonds, analysts including Jeffrey Currie said in a May 8 report that crunched data going back to 1988 and covered four hiking cycles. The same finding came after a look a tightening cycles in China, they said. "This makes intuitive sense because the reason why the Fed raises interest rates is that the economy displays signs of overheating," the analysts wrote. "Strong aggregate demand and rising wage and price inflation are precisely the time when commodities perform the best." In a phase of rising U.S. interest rates, it's base metals that tend to do best, outperforming energy commodities, precious metals, livestock and agricultural raw materials, Goldman said. Still, Goldman did see a trio of risks, including a potential shift in the energy market. U.S. shale may have fundamentally changed how oil supply responds to demand, it said. A second risk is the tailwind from China over the past decades is unlikely to repeat itself, and third, the economic condition of the current hiking cycle may be different from previous ones, it added. (Source: Goldman Sachs)*

> Putting California's Massive Economy Into Perspective: *Every country with an economy bigger than California is shown in red. Aside from the U.S., there are only 4 - China, Japan, Germany and the United Kingdom.*



Northcentral Indiana - *We are out of the field for about a week as the rains keep coming and the clouds are sticking around after the storms keeping things from drying out quickly. In another 2 weeks some guys up here may switch to more beans. We had good yields last year at 60+bpa in beans and the corn was just average. We have switched some acres to beans on some rented ground that had been corn on corn for three years. We used to have Some operations are tight this year but we have been fortunate not to have to borrow and are keeping things simple.*

Northcentral Alabama - *We were washed out today with decent showers. I suspect it will be two days before we get back to work. Corn is boot high and we have around 1000 acres of beans left to plant. We also plant cotton and peanuts. The cotton market is looking better this season as the acres across America are up to a record 12 million this year as I hear it. Things hopefully will be an improvement from last years yields. We went 78 days without rain last year and had horrible yields. The corn came out between 50 and 100bpa and the beans were equally as bad coming out from anywhere between 7 and 40bpa. We only have 10% irrigated fields here as you just can't drill down and find water.*

Southeast Kentucky - We have gotten back in the field to get some of the spraying done. We had 7" of rain in the last 10 days and we were already pretty good on the moisture side of things. We did get the corn planting finished up right before the rains came, so I am hoping that all those acres are good and that we will not have any replant. We are spraying over the top of our winter wheat. The wheat was looking very good early then we had a pretty hard freeze about 30 days ago and I think there is damage and probably knocked some off of the yields. I think that we will see 40% to 50% of the wheat effected but I just don't know to what extent. We will start planting beans tomorrow unless the weather rains on us again. It looks like if this next rain misses us we will have a five to seven-day window to get all the beans planted.



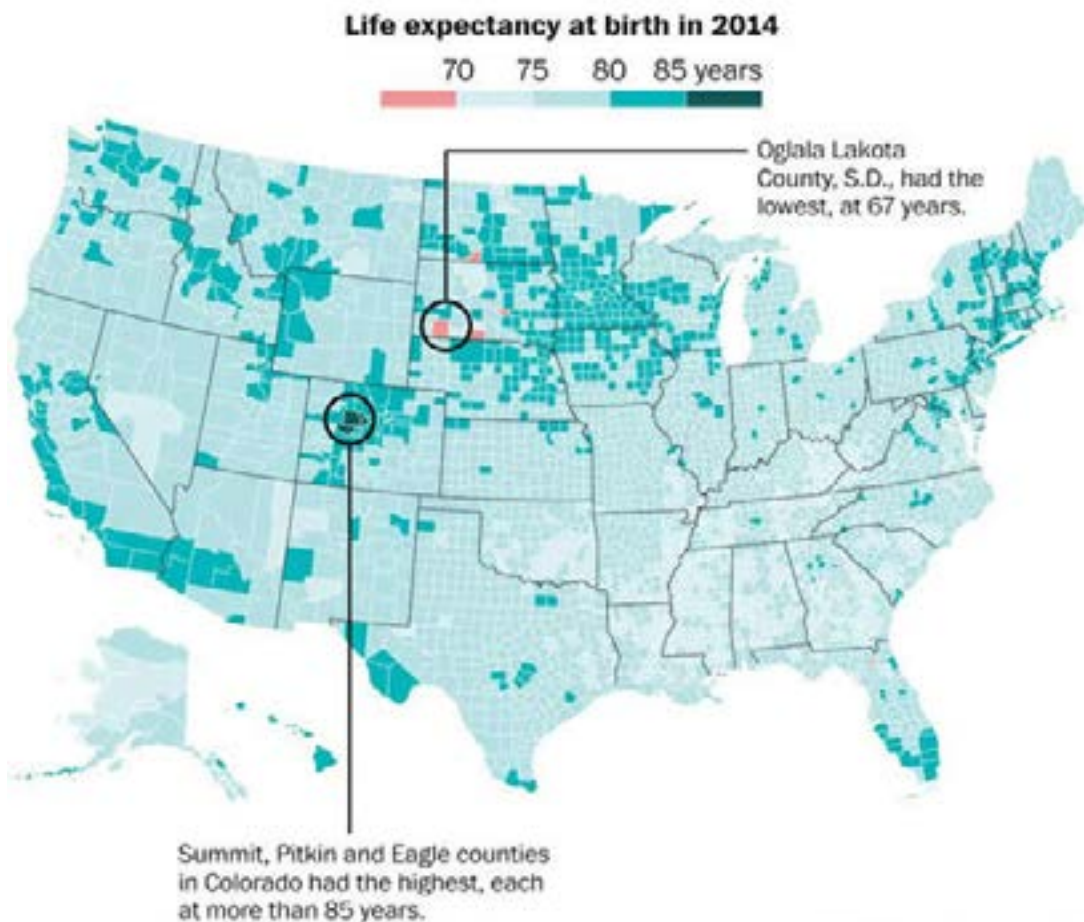
Rain Makes Grain: A grain market analyst says despite flooding in parts of the Corn Belt, the moisture situation is more bearish than bullish. Elaine Kub describes the wet patterns this spring as patchy. "There are certainly delays for individual farmers and individual fields, but if you look at the drought monitor you see this incredible improvement over the past several weeks. I hate this phrase, but I'm going to say it: 'Rain makes grain.' And frankly, I think that's what the futures markets are seeing here." She tells Brownfield any yield drag on corn should be minimal if planted within the next week. "If this wet weather does not let up; if there's no relief, particularly for the Eastern Corn Belt, past the 15th of May. Then I think you start to turn this into a bullish story." Listen to the full interview from [Brownfield Ag.](#)

Why a ZIKA Outbreak Worries U.S. Public Health Officials: Even a relatively mild Zika outbreak in the continental United States could cost more than \$183 million in medical bills and productivity losses, and a worse epidemic could come with a price tag of \$1.2 billion or even more. Experts estimated the potential impact of epidemics of various sizes in five Southeastern states and Texas, the U.S. locations most populated by *Aedes aegypti*, the mosquito most likely to carry the Zika virus "This is a threat that has not gone away. Zika is still spreading silently and we are just now approaching mosquito season in the United States, which has the potential of significantly increasing the spread," says study leader Bruce Y. Lee, an associate professor of international health at Johns Hopkins University's Bloomberg School of Public Health. See the effects an outbreak could have in the U.S. [HERE](#).

Mt. Everest Climbers Reach Record Number After High Death Tolls: The Nepalese Tourism Department issued a record 371 permits this year to people to scale the 8,850-meter (29,035-foot) mountain. An equal number or more Nepalese Sherpa guides will accompany them. Last year, the government issued permits to 289 climbers. Some mountaineers blamed crowding and poor planning for bottlenecks that delayed climbers at high altitudes and possibly contributed to several deaths. Click [HERE](#) to see when the climbs should begin and the latest details.

Great Ideas Are Discovered, Not Planned: *The tech landscape is lush with entrepreneurs whose success blossomed only after the founders had modified or even abandoned their original vision. Facebook became something quite different from the Harvard-specific social connection site created by Mark Zuckerberg. Airbnb? That short-term housing rental juggernaut started as a way for people to find roommates. What eventually became the ride-sharing app Lyft originally offered carpooling software for large companies. "It's almost always the case that the greatest firms are discovered and not planned," says William P. Barnett, a professor of business leadership, strategy, and organizations at Stanford's Graduate School of Business. "We know from studies of human behavior that, as social beings, we want to resolve uncertainty," Barnett says. "We do that not by doing objective research but by looking at each other." That has clear implications for business leaders, he says. "They need to ask if the people who report to them are being quiet about their non-consensus ideas. If the answer is yes, then a leader has to wonder what that says about their leadership if people are afraid to suggest counterintuitive strategies." Barnett also says that many of the tech world's most historic success stories can be traced back to entrepreneurs who pursued a vision that ran counter to accepted wisdom. "If you want to find a unicorn," he says, "listen for the buzz and run the other way." Read More at ["The Risk of an Unwavering Vision"](#)*

U.S. Life Expectancy Varies by More Than 20 Years From County-to-County: *Life expectancy is rising overall in the United States, but in some areas, death rates are going conspicuously in the other direction. These geographical disparities are widening, according to a report published Monday in [JAMA Internal Medicine](#). Life expectancy is greatest in the high country of central Colorado, but in many pockets of the United States, life expectancy is more than 20 years lower, according to the report from the University of Washington's Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation. Read more at [The Washington Post](#)*





Cyclone Devastate's 80% of the World's Vanilla Crops, Ice Cream Prices Could Double....

If you love naturally flavored vanilla ice cream, it might be a bit more difficult to get a hold of come this summer. From what I understand the cost of producing vanilla ice cream is shooting up all across the U.S. after a recent cyclone in Madagascar destroyed vanilla bean crops. Cyclone Enawo hit Africa's east coast last month displacing 500,000 people and chewing through 80% of the world's vanilla crops. That means ice cream vendors are faced with the conundrum of raising prices on their product's most basic flavor or eating a huge increase in costs. Reports are saying some vendors will have to double the cost of vanilla ice cream to actually make any profit. And it's not likely that consumers are going to be willing to swallow that, especially on a product as unglamorous as vanilla ice cream. After all isn't vanilla already considered a euphemism for "plain". I just can't imagine people paying extra when they order it. However, dropping vanilla from the menu isn't a good idea either. Vanilla is used in many other ice cream flavors such as chocolate to balance and blend the other ingredients. Some stores have reduced the amount of vanilla extract they use; others are trying to find alternatives. Did you know, the second most expensive spice in the world, right behind saffron, is vanilla. This is because vanilla is a much harder crop to grow than many other spices. Vanilla beans only grow if the vanilla flower is pollinated, and those flowers only bloom once a year. To make things more complicated, the only natural pollinators for the plant live in Mexico, so vanilla growers in Madagascar and elsewhere must pollinate the plants by hand. Furthermore, each flower must be pollinated within 12 hours of its opening, otherwise it wilts and dies. Even after the beans are grown and harvested they must be sun-dried to develop their flavor. Poor weather or an early or late harvest can affect the quality of the crops. And these crops can take as many as four years to mature, so it's nearly impossible to quickly scale up production to meet demand. Understand, most of the world's vanilla products, like those found in cakes and confectionary will likely escape price hikes because their flavors are synthetically produced, often from petroleum. But that's little comfort for ice cream manufacturers and companies that only use natural flavorings. If you're a fan of "vanilla" bare yourself for a price hike! (Source: [Boston Globe](#))



Facts About Rainbows That You Can Tell Your Grandkids

With all of the recent rains, we've certainly seen a lot of rainbow pics posted on social media. In fact I never knew there could be so many different styles and or types of rainbows. We've all been taught and understand it's the refraction and reflection of sunlight in the water droplets that creates the rainbow, but what I didn't realize is that conditions have to be extremely perfect in order for one to form. First, the raindrops refracting the light actually have to be floating in the air. That's right, the prism effect that the water creates when the light passes through it is not being reflected up into the sky, it's actually occurring in the sky. A common rainbow looks like it is rising up from the ground, but they aren't on the ground at all. Rainbows are full circles "floating" in the sky, which can really only be seen if you are in the sky - for example in an airplane. Where as viewers from the ground can only see the light reflected above the horizon, which looks like just half of a circle. In addition the sun has to be at the proper angle - no higher than about 42 degrees of altitude - or the rainbow will be below the horizon and you most likely won't see it. If everything is in place, you still have to have the sunlight at your back in order to see the rainbow. You probably know that sunlight appears to the human eye as "white", but it's actually made up of many different colors. From the way I understand it, as the "white" light passes into a water droplet, the light starts to bend or refract, essentially because the light starts to travel slower in water than in air. Then the light bounces off the back of the water droplet and goes back the way it came, bending again as it speeds up when it exits the water droplet. Because color wavelengths bend at different angles, all of the wavelengths become visible when



the beam of light exits the water. These colors always appear in the same order, something many of us probably learned in grade school - "ROY G BIV," or red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet. Red has the longest wavelength and violet the shortest. Below are a few additional "rainbow" type phenomenon that occur under various weather conditions. I hope this helps you give the kids a better explanation about what they are seeing in the sky. (Sources: Weather Channel, NatGeo, Wikipedia)

Sorry No Pots of Gold Have Been Found: *Since a rainbow is a circle, unfortunately you'll never reach the end or the bottom. Rainbows seem to move when you do, because the light that forms the bow is always at a specific distance and angle from you. Remember rainbows are basically optical illusions formed by being and refracting light, that's why you'll never find your pot of gold.*

Why You'll Never See The Same Rainbow As Someone Else: *One of the more fascinating facts about rainbows is that no two people can see the exact same rainbow. You may think you're seeing the same thing; you might even describe the rainbow you're seeing to the friend next to you, who will agree that what she's seeing looks just like the one you described. But you're truly not seeing the same thing. When you're looking at a rainbow, you're looking at light that's reflected by raindrops sitting above the horizon. But your horizon is always different - albeit, sometimes only slightly different - from everyone else's, and vice versa. To put it a little differently, the center of the rainbow arc you're seeing sits on an imaginary line stretching from your eye to the sun. Since your eyes and those of someone else's, even someone next to you, can't be in the same place in space simultaneously, the two of you can never see the same rainbow.*

Double Rainbows: *This optical phenomenon appears as a rainbow inside a rainbow. The rainbow we normally see is visible when light is reflected once off the back of a raindrop. A secondary and usually dimmer rainbow is spotted when light is reflected twice in a more complicated pattern. The colors of the second rainbow are inverted, with blue on the outside and red moved to the inside. The second bow appears dimmer or cloudier because much more light is released from two reflections, and both bows cover a larger portion of the sky. More internal reflections cause more bows, which can result in triple, quadruple or even bows. It is challenging to see these higher-order bows with the human eye, but up to a fourth-order rainbow has been photographed.*

Twinned Rainbows: *This is literally two rainbows. Unlike a double rainbow, the colors of both are in the same order. They are caused by the combination of different sizes of water drops falling from the sky. Due to air resistance, rain-*



drops flatten as they fall, and flattening is more prominent in larger water drops. When two rain showers with different-sized raindrops combine, they each produce slightly different rainbows which may combine and form a twinned rainbow.

Fogbows: *Just as the name implies, these are a result of water droplets in fog. They are almost white with a faint redish hue on the outside and blues on the inside. The colors are dim because the the bow in each color is very broad and the colors overlap. This is due to the fact that the water droplets in fog are much smaller than rain.*

Moonbows: *That's right, rainbows can actually occur at night, they are called "moonbows" and are created when light reflected by the moon hits water droplets in the air. Before you think a moonbow can't be a rainbow if it's made from water and moonlight (not sunlight), remember that moonlight is actually reflected sunlight; the moon doesn't give off any light. For a moonbow to form there needs to be a full or nearly full moon. And, as we said earlier, some water in the air. Because tropical areas such as the Caribbean and Hawaii tend to have showers lasting well into the evening, moonbows most frequently appear in these locales*

Monochrome Rainbows: *Also called red rainbows because this is the only color that gets reflected. They occur when the sun is on the horizon and the shorter green and blue wavelengths are so scattered that they are basically "missing" from the spectrum. Red light travels more directly thus the only color your eyes will pick up is red. This is the same process that makes sunsets and sunrises look red.*

Circumhorizontal and Circumzenithal Arcs: *These rainbows are a result of light refracting through plate-shaped ice crystals that are suspended in the atmosphere. Circumhorizontal arcs, informally called "fire rainbows", appear as "stripes" across the sky, looking much like wispy, rainbow colored clouds. A circumzenithal arc appears as a quarter-circle, upside down rainbow and occur high above the Sun. Technically, these arcs aren't rainbows at all because they aren't created by water. Optical phenomenon created by ice crystals are called "halos."*



Circumzenithal Arc



Moonbow



Monochrome Rainbow



Fogbow



Double Rainbow

The Stones...

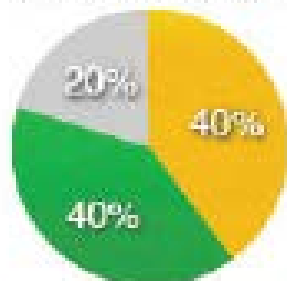
Believe it or not, 52 years ago today Mick Jagger and The Rolling Stones recorded their first version of "(I Can't Get No) Satisfaction" at Chess Studios in Chicago. This mega hit song was written by Mick Jagger and Keith Richards. Interestingly Richards simple three-note guitar riff has become iconic in the world of rock-n-roll. Years later, Newsweek magazine called the opening riff "five notes that shook the world". Rumor is the guitar portion that opens and drives the song was originally supposed to be replaced by horns. Something else I heard is that Richards was only able to create the unique sounds after playing around with a new "fuzzbox" and Gibson guitar he had purchased just a few days before. Many music aficionados say Keith Richards was actually one of the first big-name guitarists to tote a Gibson Sunburst Les Paul. His most fabled was an original 1959 Les Paul Standard. The guitar was supposedly bought new in 1961 from Farmers Music Store in the U.K. by a guitarist named John Bowen, who played with aspiring English popsters Mike Dean & The Kinsmen. Rumor is Bowen traded it for another guitar a few years later. Soon after, a young Keith Richards, playing guitar in a little-known band called The Rolling Stones, walked in to Selmer's and bought it. Richards used the 'Burst extensively in the Stones' early days as it was seen regularly from 1964 to 1966. Supposedly he was playing around in his hotel room in Florida with the new guitar and the new "fuzzbox," which was really the first time he could easily distort sounds, and it all happened in the blink of an eye... the riff, the lyrics, etc. In return The Rolling Stones had their first U.S. #1 single and the song "Satisfaction" went on to sell millions of copies. In the decades since its release, "Satisfaction" has repeatedly been acclaimed as one of the most iconic songs in the music industry. VH1 actually listed "Satisfaction" as first amongst its Top 100 Greatest Rock Songs. The song has become a staple at Rolling Stones shows. In fact they have performed it on nearly every tour since its release. It's also worth noting that the "fuzzbox" Richards used to distort his guitar sounds sold out across the nation within weeks of the song's release and a new sound of rock-n-roll started to pop up around the world. Below is one of the more recent versions at the Glastonbury Festival, June 29th 2013.... Just in case you are wondering, both Keith Richards and Mick Jagger will be turning 74 years old this year...and can still rock it! Click [HERE](#) (Source: Wiki; Gibson)



CASH SALES & HEDGING TOTALS

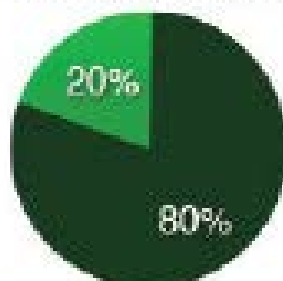
CORN 2016 CROP

40% SOLD
40% HEDGED
20% UNPROTECTED



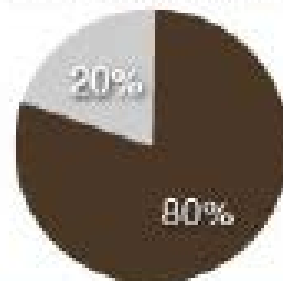
SOYBEANS 2016 CROP

80% SOLD
20% HEDGED
0% UNPROTECTED



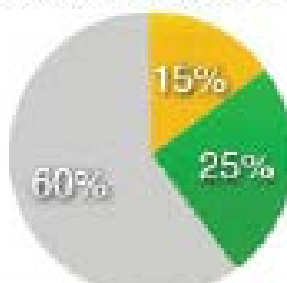
WHEAT 2016 CROP

80% SOLD
0% HEDGED
20% UNPROTECTED



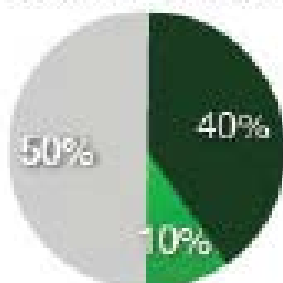
CORN 2017 CROP

15% SOLD
25% HEDGED
60% UNPROTECTED



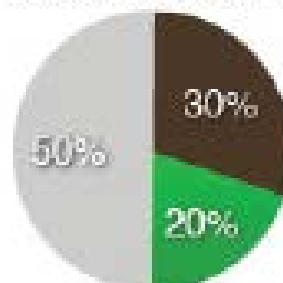
SOYBEANS 2017 CROP

40% SOLD
10% HEDGED
50% UNPROTECTED



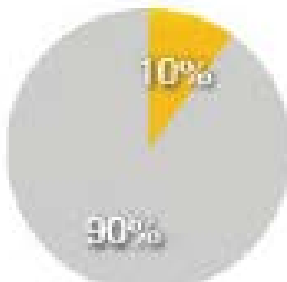
WHEAT 2017 CROP

30% SOLD
20% HEDGED
50% UNPROTECTED



CORN 2018 CROP

10% SOLD
0% HEDGED
90% UNPROTECTED



SOYBEANS 2018 CROP

0% SOLD
0% HEDGED
100% UNPROTECTED



WHEAT 2018 CROP

0% SOLD
20% HEDGED
80% UNPROTECTED

