

## GOOD MORNING: 08/03/17 Farm Direction - VanTrump Report

1 message

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Thu, Aug 3, 2017 at 7:22 AM



"And so I tell you, keep on asking, and you will receive. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened. For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened." - Jesus Christ (Luke 11:9-10)

THURSDAY AUGUST 3, 2017  
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**Morning Summary:** Investors push the Dow to its sixth consecutive record close, clearing it's fourth 1,000 point hurdle since the election of President Trump, and rising above the 22,000 mark for the first time ever. Most analyst argue that "corporate earnings" have also been a major catalyst behind the market's upward momentum. Earnings highlights for today include Adidas, Atena, Allergan, Clorox, Dish Network, Duke Energy, Enbridge, Kraft Heinz, Kubota, Noble Energy, Siemens, Toyota, and Viacom. Economic data scheduled for today includes Factory Orders and ISM Non-Manufacturing. ADP yesterday released their monthly Employment Report, showing +178,000 jobs were added in July. The official U.S. Government Employment Report is due out Friday and is expected to show a gain of +180,000 jobs with the unemployment rate possibly ticking down to just 4.3%. Boston Fed President Eric Rosengren yesterday commented on the U.S. jobs sector, saying the increasingly tight labor market should keep the central bank on track to gradually increase rates. He also voiced his concern that there is "some reasonable risk" that the unemployment rate drops below 4%, which he believes would not be sustainable. On the political front, Senators are signaling they may wrap up their work this week, meaning they might leave Washington a week earlier than planned for their August recess. It does not appear that they will be coming to any type of resolution on healthcare, at least not this month. Keep in mind that Congress also must deal with the debt ceiling and a spending package when they return to Capitol Hill. The President yesterday signed the Russian sanctions bill and also announced support for a plan to curb immigration to the U.S. The latter is definitely ruffling some feathers. Trump is supporting the immigration bill that was introduced by Senators David Perdue and Tom Cotton, saying, it's as a way to protect American workers by reducing "unskilled" immigration and creating a merit-based system that can help grade immigrants based on their level of education and ability to work in the U.S. I certainly don't know all of the specifics of the proposed bill, but if we can find a way to trim the number of new people going on government welfare, I don't see it as a bad thing.

**Billion Dollar Day For Buffett:** Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway reportedly owns about 135 million shares of Apple, and Wednesday's gain of +\$7.67 a share meant the position gained \$1,035,319,579. Not bad! (Source: BusinessInsider)

**Venezuelans Taking To The Streets Again:** A new wave of protests is set to get underway in Venezuela as voters protest the election of a new government body that is expected to give President Nicolas Maduro vast new powers. The body has the power to rewrite the constitution and remove checks that remain on Maduro's authority. Opposition leader Freddy Guevara has urged people to take to the streets today. Widespread protests have been ongoing since April and officials estimate more than 120 people have been killed as a result. One big question that is starting to be raised is whether the military will remain loyal to Maduro. Venezuelan soldiers are increasingly wary of the backlash they are experiencing due to their role in protest crackdowns. Things may get even more heated in the days ahead, following a report that the results of this past weekend's election had been manipulated by at least 1 million votes. Smartmatic, a company which has worked with Venezuela since 2004 on its voting system, made the claim

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worked with Venezuela since 2004 on its voting system, made the claim yesterday. The president of Venezuela's opposition-controlled National Assembly says the legislature will call for an investigation into the claim. However, the National Assembly has mostly been stripped of its power while the judicial branch has been stacked with judges that are loyal to Maduro. The country also faces severe shortages of food and other essential goods. The instability and political unrest have compelled many Venezuelans to flee their country, which is creating a South American refugee crisis. The U.S. earlier this week hit Maduro with sanctions and there has been talk in Congress about placing sanctions on Venezuela's oil sector, which is the country's only substantial source of export dollars and needed to keep the government afloat. Interestingly, Venezuela's economy is now reported to be 35% smaller than it was in 2013.

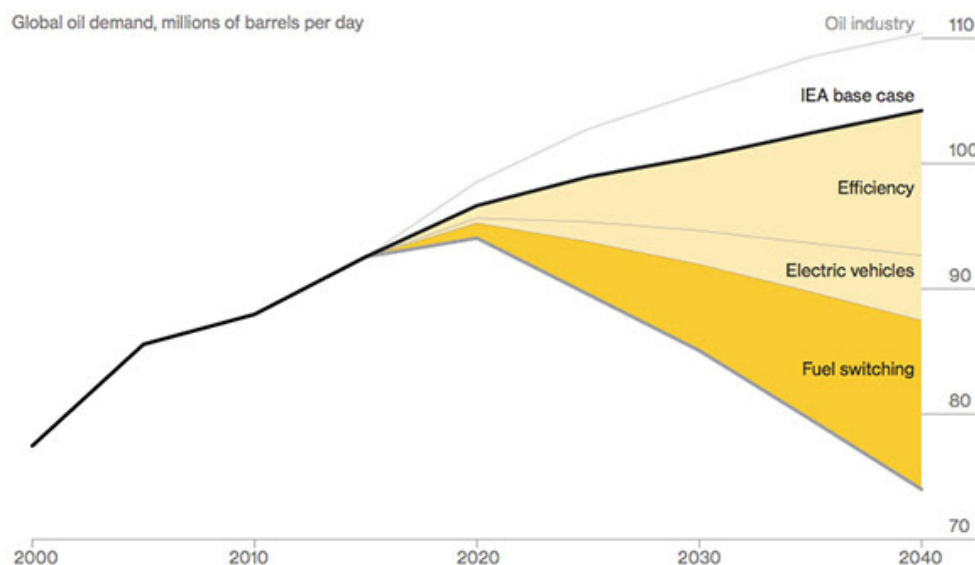
### Housing Demand Remains Healthy But Prices Are Starting To Get Scary:

According to Redfin, a real estate brokerage which surveyed 15 major metropolitan housing markets, there is still plenty of demand for housing. Potential buyers, both young and old are trolling listings online and packing into crowded open houses. But they are not rushing to write offers. The culprit may be sticker shock. Nela Richardson, chief economist at Redfin, says home buyers still have to move fast in this market, but high prices and low inventory are starting to slow down even the most earnest of house hunters. Faced with a low supply of homes for sale and extremely competitive conditions, many home buyers are struggling to make it to the offer stage." The supply situation is only getting worse. Redfin found listings down 12 percent in June compared with a year ago in the markets it covers, but a wider survey from the U.S. Census shows the supply of existing homes, on a per capita basis, nationwide in the second quarter of this year was at the lowest level since 1982, when the government began tracking this data. The number of vacant homes is at a 17-year low. All this due to the sharp decline in home construction after the last housing crash and soaring demand from first-time buyers who were sidelined during the recession. The supply of homes for sale in July was down 11 percent annually, and homes were selling on average four days faster. Normally the housing market slows in summer and prices drop slightly, but that has not been the case this year. Home prices also remain stubbornly high, failing to show hints of the usual seasonal cooldown. Low and moderately priced homes are being snatched up especially quickly, keeping many would-be buyers from being able to get into the market. (Source: CNBC)

**This Is What the Demise Of Oil Looks Like:** From giant companies like Exxon Mobil Corp. to OPEC members such as Saudi Arabia, oil producers say their industry will enjoy decades of growth as they feed the energy needs of the world's expanding middle classes. But what if they're wrong? There's a host of reasons to think they might be. Here's what happens when you test their central assumptions. Read more by Jessica Shankleman and Hayley Warren here at [Bloomberg](#). Worth the Read.

### A Radically Different Future

Global oil demand, millions of barrels per day



Source: IEA

**Weather** in the Corn Belt is mostly dry, accompanied by near to below normal temperatures. The Midwest remains an odd checkerboard of wet and dry conditions, with the most significant moisture covering northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin. Drought is not a consistent threat across the Corn Belt, but the dry conditions in the Corn Belt

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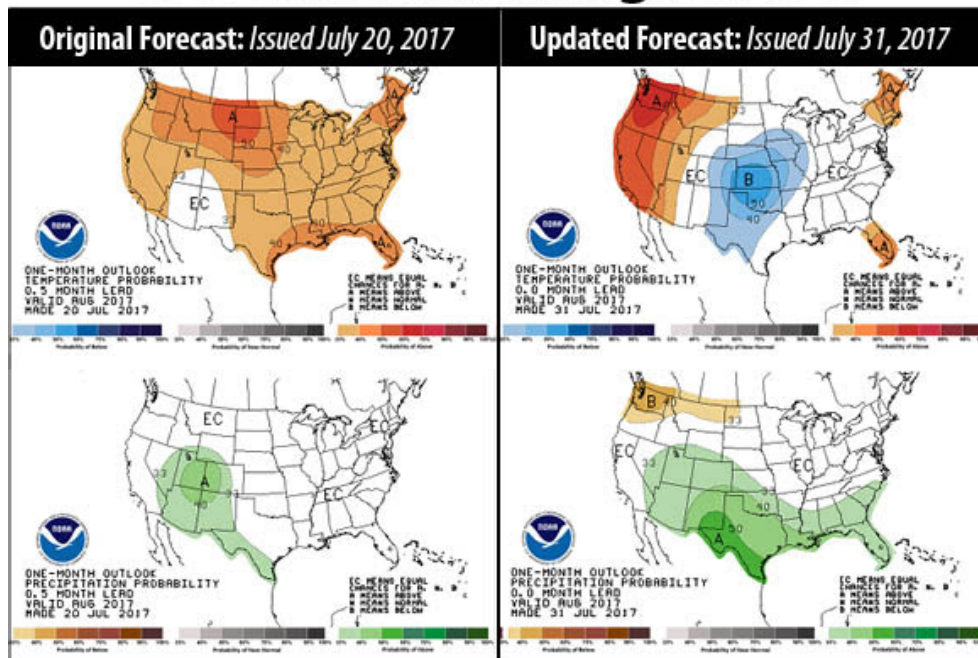
**GAVILON**



Dryness is most prominent across parts of Iowa and the western parts of the Corn Belt. On the Plains, highly beneficial showers are developing across portions of Montana, Nebraska, and the Dakotas. The rain is aiding rangeland and pastures but is occurring largely too late for spring-sown small grains, which are maturing or being harvested. Elsewhere, much cooler weather prevails across the southern Plains, while rain showers linger across parts of Texas. In the South, showers are on the increase from the Mississippi Delta westward. Scorching, record breaking heat will persist into next week across much of northern California and the PNW. All-time temperature records could be threatened in some Northwestern locations. In contrast, monsoon related rainfall could total 1 to 3 inches during the next 5 days in the Great Basin and the Four Corners States. Farther east, a series of cold fronts will continually reinforce a turn toward cooler than normal conditions across much of the central and eastern U.S. The cold front will also help to focus thunderstorm activity, which could be severe. Five day rainfall totals of 1 to 3 inches should occur in numerous locations from the Plains eastward.

**Big Change in the August Forecast:** As you can see below, the Climate Protection Center or CPC has issued a change to their August outlook that is quite different from their original forecast. Expectations are for cool-to-normal temperatures throughout the Midwest. Precipitation is also increased in the South, though the forecast for the Midwest looks to be a bit unsure. Interesting when you consider these adjustments to the outlook were made only 11 days apart.

## CPC Outlook for August 2017



**Corn** bulls continue to backpedal on an improved weather forecast. Traders on both sides are also closely watching the clock tick. Bulls are worried that the recent cooling trend and perhaps more widespread rainfall might be enough to get the crop through the end of the growing season, which could limit downside yield drag. Producers three weeks ago were singing a much different tune, not wanting to make any sales and talking about wildly higher prices on extreme heat and limited moisture. Fast forward to today and these same producers are now left scratching their head, wondering if they will get another shot at prices north of \$4.00 per bushel prior to harvest? That's a tough question to answer, and exactly why I made sales on the rally, not wanting to put myself in a position to worry or debate. I've followed my plan, made my sales, and in turn added a great deal of time back on to the clock. Those who find themselves in a less friendly predicament are going to face some tough decisions in the next few weeks, especially those who have "zero" new-crop priced or hedged at profitable levels. It's hard enough to play from behind, but when the clock seems to be winding down more quickly and the crop is enjoining better weather, it makes it extremely difficult. Lets also keep in mind there's still many U.S. producers who have old-crop bushels that need to be moved as well. Perhaps one saving grace could be the fact the outside macro markets continue to turn more friendly towards commodities. The U.S. dollar has dramatically pulled back in 2017 and crude oil has recently set a multi month high. Meaning despite the improved weather conditions, the larger macro bulls may keep the downside somewhat limited. As a producer and a spec, I'm staying extremely patient and I looking to make a play off of next weeks highly anticipated USDA report. As an end user I would have to be taking a much closer look at locking in some purchases on the deeper pullback in price. It's worth noting. Informa recently lowered their new-crop



### Today In History

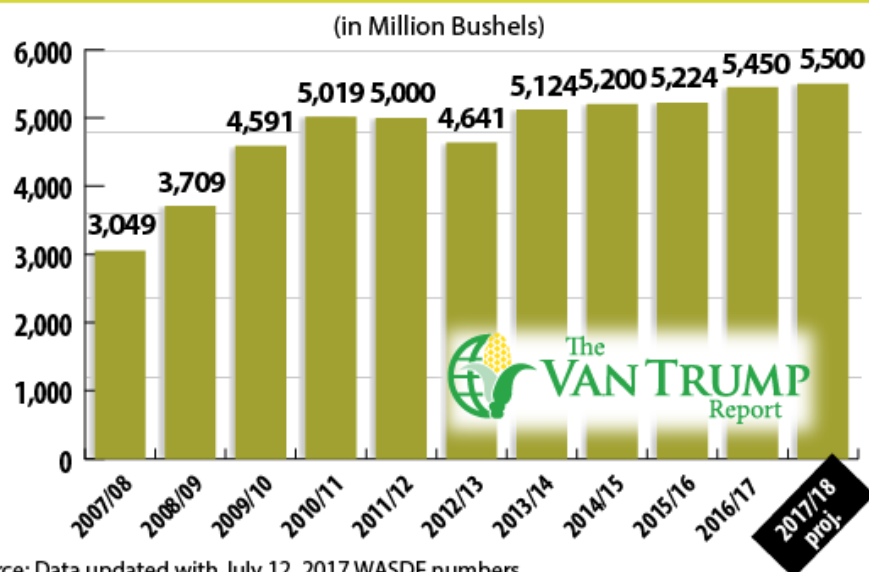


#### 1861, Great Expectations --

The last entry of the serialized novel Great Expectations is published on this day in 1861. The book had been serialized in Dickens' literary circular, All the Year Round. The novel tells the story of young Pip, a poor orphan who comes to believe he will inherit a fortune. Dickens had become one of the most popular writers in England nearly three decades earlier with the publication of his first novel, The Pickwick Papers. The short sketches, which Dickens published under the pseudonym "Boz," were originally commissioned as captions for humorous drawings. Dickens was born in 1812 and attended school in Portsmouth. His father, a clerk in the navy pay office, was thrown in debtors' prison in 1824, and 12-year-old Charles was sent to work in a factory. The miserable treatment of children and the institution of the debtors' jail became topics of several of Dickens' novels. In his late teens, Dickens became a reporter and started publishing humorous short stories when he was 21. In 1836, a collection of his stories, Sketches by Boz, was published. The same year, he married Catherine Hogarth, with whom he would have nine children. In 1838, Dickens published Oliver Twist, followed by Nicholas Nickleby (1839). In 1841, Dickens published two more novels, then spent five months in the U.S., where he was hailed as a literary hero. Dickens churned out major novels every year or two, usually serialized in his own circular. Among his most important works are

the deeper pullback in price. It's worth noting, though, that the USDA recently lowered their new crop U.S. corn yields estimate from 166.2 down to 162.8 bushels per acre. I think that number sounds very realistic and would like to see the USDA take a similar step backwards from their current 170.7 yields estimate. I should also note, there's starting to be more talk about some extremely low temps coming up in parts of the Dakota's and Nebraska the next couple of days. Lets hope it can create some fresh new weather headlines.

## U.S. Corn Used for Ethanol



Source: Data updated with July 12, 2017 WASDE numbers

**Soybean** bears continue to talk about the benefits of a cooler forecast and perhaps more widespread rain in the days ahead, especially improved weather in some key growing regions. The bulls on the other hand continue to believe yield is overstated and areas experiencing "early weather extremes" will eventually weigh on total production estimates. The bulls also believe the USDA will soon be reducing their ending stock estimate by -25 to -50 million bushels in next weeks highly anticipated report. From a technical perspective, I still see heavy psychological support down around \$9.50 per bushel, and a market that looks as if it wants to test those levels. As both a producer and a spec, I want to remain extremely patient, looking for an opportunity to dip a toe in the water on the bullish side of the fence, thinking perhaps harvested acres and the yield could surprise a bit to the downside later in the game. Keep in mind however, I already have 70% of my estimated new-crop production priced. As I mentioned in the corn section above, those producer who have "zero" sold or priced, will clearly have a different perspective and game plan. As an end users, taking a bite on the recent pullback in price makes a lot of sense ahead of next weeks USDA report. I wish I had something more enlightening to say, but the trade is clearly uncertain about U.S. weather and U.S. production, as the weather winds blow and change direction, so does the market. Meaning it's extremely difficult to "forecast price" during this time of the year, that's why we are better served staying focused on "managing risk".

David Copperfield (1850), Great Expectations (1861), and A Tale of Two Cities (1859).



**1958, Nautilus** - The U.S. nuclear submarine Nautilus accomplishes the first undersea voyage to the geographic North Pole. The world's first nuclear

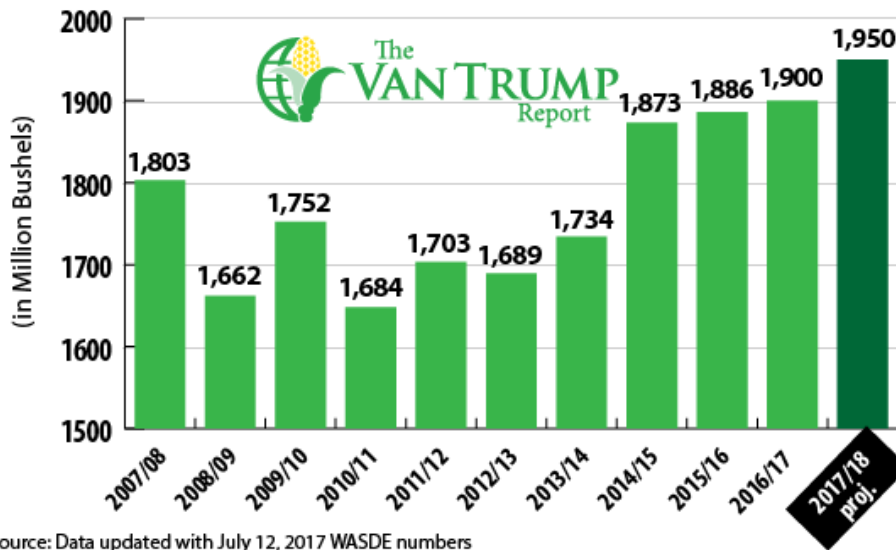
submarine, the Nautilus dived at Point Barrow, Alaska, and traveled nearly 1,000 miles under the Arctic ice cap to reach the top of the world. It then steamed on to Iceland, pioneering a new and shorter route from the Pacific to the Atlantic and Europe. The USS Nautilus was constructed under the direction of U.S. Navy Captain Hyman G. Rickover, a brilliant Russian-born engineer who joined the U.S. atomic program in 1946. Regarded as a fanatic by his detractors, Rickover succeeded in developing and delivering the world's first nuclear submarine years ahead of schedule. Commissioned on September 30, 1954, it first ran under nuclear power on the morning of January 17, 1955. Much larger than the diesel-electric submarines that preceded it, the Nautilus stretched 319 feet and displaced 3,180 tons. It could remain submerged for almost unlimited periods because its atomic engine needed no air and only a very small quantity of nuclear fuel. The uranium-powered nuclear reactor produced steam that drove propulsion turbines, allowing the Nautilus to travel underwater at speeds in excess of 20 knots. In its early years of service, the USS Nautilus broke numerous submarine travel records and on July 23, 1958, departed Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on "Operation Northwest Passage"—the first crossing of the North Pole by submarine. The Nautilus steamed north through the Bering Strait and did not surface until it reached Point Barrow, Alaska, in the Beaufort Sea. On August 1, the submarine left the north coast of Alaska and dove under the Arctic ice cap. The submarine traveled at a depth of about 500 feet, and the ice cap above varied in thickness from 10 to 50 feet, with the midnight sun of the Arctic shining in varying degrees through the blue ice. At 11:15 p.m. EDT on August 3, 1958, Commander Anderson announced to his crew: "For the world, our country, and the Navy—the North Pole." The Nautilus passed under the geographic North Pole without pausing. The submarine next surfaced in the Greenland Sea between Spitzbergen and Greenland on August 5.



**1996, The Macarena** - A song called "Macarena (Bayside Boys Mix)," starts its record-setting run at #1. The group that gets credit for the song that spent

more time on the Billboard Hot 100 (60 weeks) than any other in history was Los Del Rio, but their smash-hit record received some critical assistance on its way to the top of the charts. Los Del Rio was the name under which two middle

# U.S. Soybean Crush



**Wheat** bulls have simply run out of fresh new headlines. We chewed through the last batch so fast, there's been very little with the size and power to replace our appetite. In other words, there were a lot of bullish cards turned over very quickly. Since most of the news has been let out of the bag the bulls have become somewhat bored and perhaps disappointed. I continue to see fairly strong technical support down around \$4.50 per bushel and believe there is still a longer-term bullish story brewing. How long will it take to develop, that I'm not sure of, but I have no interest in trying to navigate a bearish position. The traditional fundamentals are easy to understand, it's the outside macros that make me nervous, specifically how the larger money managers could use the market as a cross-hedge, that makes navigating the short side extremely difficult. Remember, we don't get awarded "style" or "degree of difficulty" points, so I see no reason in trying to get cute or believe that I am outsmarting someone from a fundamental perspective. Those days are gone. We are clearly playing a different game. Staying patient!



**> Brazil A Bigger Threat To U.S. Corn, Rather Than Soy:** Brazil represents a bigger threat to the US in corn rather than soybeans in export markets, for now, the head of Archer Daniels Midland said - while forecasting a boost in oilseeds from wheat dynamics too. Juan Luciano, the ADM chief executive, flagged the threat to U.S. crop trading "because we're going to get all these potential exports from South America" during the July-to-September quarter, following strong corn and soybean harvests in the likes of Argentina and Brazil. It is the country's bumper corn harvest which looks like providing particular competition to U.S. trade, thanks in part to continued knock-on effects of Brazilian growers reluctance to sell soybeans in particular at prices dented by strengthening the real as well as by softer international values. "Talking about Brazil, if you think about soy, the farmers probably have sold about two-thirds of it, and it would compare to about over 80% a year ago," Luciano told investors. For corn, however, sales of 2016-17 crop, at about half of production compare with "maybe 55% a year ago". Luciano projects that Brazilian producers will be exporting more corn and holding a little bit more of their soybeans. (Source: Agrimony)

**> U.S. Likely To Keep Biofuels Mandates Stable:** Political moves in the US biofuels industry were on the minds of participants at the Australian Grains Industry Conference in Melbourne on Wednesday, as prominent vegoil analyst Thomas Mielke, executive director of OilWorld, gave his forecast on the world vegoil markets. "I'm optimistic that the US government won't touch the issue [of biofuels mandates], since there were a lot of corn farmers [who were voters] in the US electorate, and biofuels blending mandates

was the name under which two middle-aged Spaniards named Antonia Romero and Rafael Ruiz had been performing together since 1962. In 1992, while attending a private party of political and cultural heavyweights in Caracas, Venezuela, Romero was inspired to add lib a spoken verse in honor of a flamenco dancer named Diana Patricia following a spectacular live performance. Addressing her by the name "Magdalena"—a reference to Mary Magdalene that connotes sultriness—Romero said "'Dale a tu cuerpo alegría, Ma'dalena, que tu cuerpo e' pa' darle alegría y cosa' buena." When they later recorded a song based on this line, Los Del Rio changed the name Magdalena to "Macarena," the name of a neighborhood in their native Seville, but the chorus otherwise remained unchanged: "Give joy to your body, Macarena, for your body is for giving joy and good things." The original Los Del Rio recording of "Macarena" was a hit in Latin America and gained some measure of popularity in pockets of North America, but when a DJ named Jammin' John Caride at Miami's Power 96-FM asked to add the song to his rotation, station managers told him that their policy was not to play songs sung exclusively in Spanish. Enter producers Carols De Yarza and Mike Triay, who wrote and recorded English-language verses for the female voice of Macarena and remixed the tune to make it more dance club-friendly. Within days, their version of the single, now called "Macarena (Bayside Boys Mix)" was a local smash. Thirty-three weeks later, helped along by New York radio station WKTU as well as by a popular music video and a dance so easy that anyone could do it, "Macarena (Bayside Boys Mix)" reached the #1 spot on the Billboard pop chart on August 3, 1996.

## Upcoming Events

- Fri. 8/10** - USDA Supply and Demand
- Thurs. 8/10** - FSA Crop Acreage Data
- Wed. 8/16** - Minutes From 7/26 FOMC Meeting
- Tues. 8/22** - Cold Storage
- Fri. 8/25** - Cattle on Feed
- Mon. 9/4** - Labor Day - Markets Closed
- Tues. 9/12** - USDA Supply and Demand
- Fri. 9/22** - Cattle on Feed
- Fri. 9/22** - Cold Storage
- Thurs. 9/28** - Quarterly Hogs and Pigs
- Fri. 9/29** - Quarterly Stocks
- Thurs. 10/2** - USDA Supply and Demand



should continue as usual," said Mielke in response to a question on the subject. The blender's credit in the US would probably also be changed to a producer's credit, he added. But Argentina may be shut out of the US market soon since anti-dumping investigations have been initiated in the US against Argentine and Indonesian imported biodiesel, he said. Meanwhile, Argentina looked likely to find a renewed export destination in Europe, especially Spain and Italy, as the EU will have to comply with the WTO decision on anti-dumping duties in favor of Argentina, Mielke said. (Source: Platts)

**> Ethanol Producers Look Toward Beverage Market To Fight Sagging Margins:**

A U.S. glut of fuel-grade ethanol has major producers, including Green Plains Inc and industry pioneer Archer Daniels Midland Co, pursuing other markets and idling excess capacity in an effort to rebuild sagging margins. ADM and Green Plains both said this week that they are converting fuel-ethanol capacity into beverage and industrial alcohol production, as well as idling some mills. The announcements follow Pacific Ethanol's decision in June to buy a beverage-grade facility in Illinois, a diversification away from fuel ethanol. (Source: Reuters)

**> Indian Crops Threatened By Erratic Monsoon Rains:** India's monsoon has delivered 1 percent more rain than normal so far this year, but erratic distribution has flooded some areas and left others in drought, clouding the outlook for key summer-sown crops more than midway through the season. The uneven rains could lead to lower food grain output despite bigger planting areas, forcing India to increase imports. One example of the uneven rainfall is the Marathwada region in central India which has received 21 percent lower rainfall than normal this monsoon. In contrast, areas like western Rajasthan got as much as 126 percent more rain than normal, leading to floods that killed more than 300 people and displaced millions. This year, 58 percent of the country received normal rainfall, and the remainder got excess or deficient rains, according to India's Meteorological Department. (Source: Reuters)

**> Bunge Cites Tough Market Conditions, Brazil Setbacks For Earnings Slide:**

Bunge reported a sharp drop in second quarter earnings as it battled tough market conditions. The world's largest oilseed processor and a leading merchant of corn, soybeans and wheat, reported adjusted earnings per share of \$0.17 cents in the three months to June, down from \$0.79 cents in the same period a year ago. Net income attributable to Bunge shareholders fell -33% to \$81 million. "Weak global margins and slower than expected farmer selling in South America led to a challenging second quarter in agribusiness", said Bunge chief executive Soren Schroder in a statement. The company also slashed its earnings forecast for the full year to \$500-650 million, down from a previous forecast of \$800-925 million.

**> COFCO Eyes Bid For Brazilian Sugar Mill:** Chinese commodities trader COFCO has asked to participate in an auction in Brazil where a sugar mill owned by India's Shree Renuka Sugars Ltd will be sold as part of an in-court debt restructuring, according to court documents seen by Reuters. COFCO already owns four sugar and ethanol plants in Brazil capable of processing a combined 15 million metric tons of cane per year. Renuka, which is under bankruptcy protection, will sell its Revati mill in the municipality of Brejo Alegre in Sao Paulo state. The plant, which is near COFCO's Sao Paulo operations, has the capacity to process 4 million metric tons of cane per year. The auction is scheduled for Sept. 4. (Source: Reuters)

**> Cyber Attacks Are Hitting Earnings:** Costly cyber attacks are having a bigger impact on corporate earnings and are becoming a fact of life for companies as Oreo cookie maker Mondelez, drug maker Merck and others said that a destructive "worm" attack in the last week of the second quarter disrupted operations. Mondelez International Inc, the world's second-largest confectionary company, reported a 5 percent drop in quarterly sales on Wednesday, blaming shipping and invoicing delays caused by the June 27 attack of the worm, known as NotPetya. Other NotPetya victims include Merck & Co, which last week warned that NotPetya had halted production of some drugs, saying it has yet to understand the full costs associated with the attack. The attack also slowed deliveries at FedEx, disrupted port operations of shipping company A.P. Moller-Maersk and halted production lines at British consumer goods maker Reckitt Benckiser PLC, according to accounts by those companies. Investors should get used to hearing about cyber attacks during earnings calls, said Ian Winer, equity co-head at Wedbush Securities, adding that the trend is accelerating as hackers get more sophisticated. (Source: Reuters)

**> Senate Democrats Move To Defy Trump On Cuba:** A group of senior Democratic senators this week have moved to defy President Trump on Cuba by introducing legislation to lift the economic embargo on the island nation. In mid-June Trump rolled back former President Barack Obama's historic opening to the island. The measure, submitted by Sen. Ron Wyden and known as The U.S.-Cuba Trade Act of 2017, would establish normal trade relations with the island nation, in addition to lifting the economic sanctions that go back to the White House days of Dwight Eisenhower and John F. Kennedy. The International Trade Commission has estimated easing U.S.

**Fri. 10/20** - Cattle on Feed

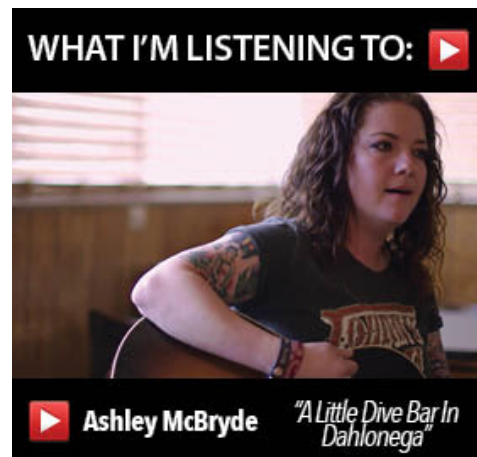
**Mon. 10/23** - Cold Storage

**Mon. 11/5** - Daylight Saving Time Ends

**Thurs. 11/9** - USDA Supply and Demand

**Thurs. 11/23** - Thanksgiving - Markets Closed

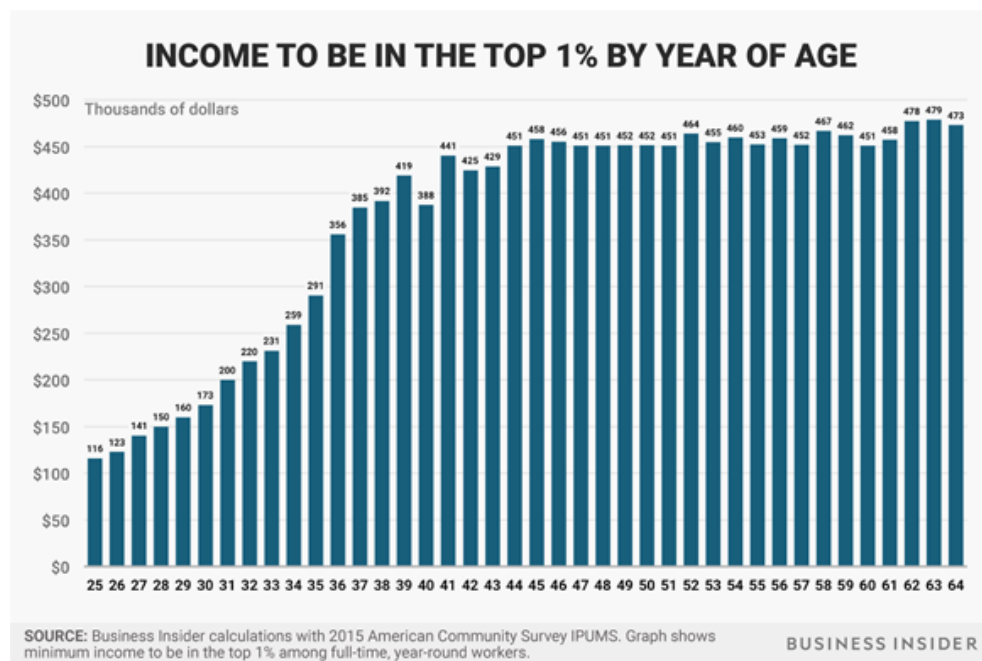
**Kevin's Song of the Week**



**About the Report**

restrictions on trade and business with Cuba could increase U.S. exports by \$1.4 billion annually in the next five years, with even bigger gains possible. Nonetheless, the bill faces long odds of becoming law because of Republican party resistance. (Source: Politico)

> **How Much You Need To Earn To Be In The Top 1% At Every Age:** Income and wealth inequality in the US have gotten steadily worse over the past decade. As the country's richest get even richer and the share of people below the poverty line grows, America's middle class has been gradually disappearing. A recent analysis from the University of Chicago's Booth School of Business found the bottom 50% of Americans saw zero income growth over the last 35 years. One way to understand that change is to analyze what annual salary people currently need to make in order to be in the top 1% of earners in their age group. Business Insider used recent US Census data to determine that breakdown. At age 25, you'd have to be earning \$116,000 a year to be in the top 1% of earners. By age 65, that number rises to \$473,000. Being in the top 1% of incomes also doesn't necessarily mean someone is in the top 1% of total wealth, since wealth takes into account a variety of sources. Still, the large sample size of the ACS gives us a fairly good idea of what it takes to reach the top 1% of earners — and shows just how rich "rich" really is. Click the graph for a larger view. (Source: Business Insider)



## NEXT level THINKING



My goal at "The Van Trump Report" is to help readers better identify the moving parts and dynamics associated with the financial markets, geopolitical events, economics, media and culture that is currently influencing and shaping the direction of the agricultural markets. I like to believe I "Challenge the Traditional" and encourage our readers to think outside the box.

I use story telling techniques that are written in an easy to read format to help convey my current thoughts about business, markets, technology, weather, sports and life. I also like to include links, filter the noise, and pass along in-depth research and information that I believe could challenge your current thought process and help you make more informed decisions. In addition I include valuable lessons I have learned from other traders, executives and investors, along with an occasional inspirational piece about life, family and faith.

What I do not do in "The Van Trump Report" is give specific financial advice or tell individuals how to invest or how to specifically hedge. Remember, this information is being read by hedge fund managers, bankers, CEO's, and Ag leaders around the globe, therefore it's NOT tailored to fit your specific individual needs. For specific investment or hedging advice please seek the help of a licensed representative that can better understand your particular situation, individual needs and overall risk tolerance. This information should ONLY be used for educational and entertainment purposes.

My family and I would like to thank you again for your support!

Kevin Van Trump

### What Others Are Saying

"I am a recent subscriber to Kevin's newsletter, but I'm a long-time reader of many other high-profile marketing services. I am particularly impressed with the thorough manner in which Kevin evaluates every economic aspect, both nationally and internationally, that influences commodity prices. His analysis and conclusions are highly thought out and conveyed in layman's terms so that the reader can comprehend the numerous and often complex interrelationships that impact the markets. Kevin is a real attribute to the agricultural sector."

A.M., FDIC

"As a national federal farm policy administrator and commodity producer, I find it critical to keep updated with what is going on in the real world of agriculture and with the domestic and global markets. Of all the services I've have been privy to or have subscribed to over the past 20 years I've found in the past



## FROM THE FIELD

**Eastern Illinois** - Things are looking pretty good for most of the guys around here. We have been extremely wet over the past 8 weeks but missed a few of the more recent rains. I have talked to some agronomists doing field checks on corn and they were impressed. They thought the majority of fields they have been through look better than last year. We have a mix of dryland and irrigated so depending on that will determine yields but both should have above trend line yields. The dryland fields definitely are showing more variability from planting delays, moisture issues and lower than expected populations. The weather forecast is predicting cooler temperatures, with a couple chances of rain over the next ten days, which should be favorable for finishing the corn crop. The beans have a long way to go. There is no doubt the beans look very different from last year but a shorter bean plant sometimes add more pods and fill better if the weather cooperates.

**Eastern Mississippi** - We did just get another shot of moisture this morning. It is always good to get a little more rain but we were planning to start picking corn today. We are irrigated but with all the rains this spring after planting, we did not have to do much watering. It didn't rain much this morning so I am thinking we will be in the fields after lunch. There are a few guys a little north of us that have started this week with

















