

GOOD MORNING: 09/19/17 Farm Direction - VanTrump Report

1 message

Kevin Van Trump <info@farmdirection.com>
To: Kevin Van Trump <info@farmdirection.com>

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"The difference between ordinary and extraordinary is that little 'extra'." - Jimmy Johnson

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2017

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Morning Summary: Stocks continue to trade near new record highs as investors await tomorrow's latest policy decision from the U.S. Federal Reserve. Consensus seems to be thinking the central bank will leave interest rates "unchanged", more than likely waiting until December to implement the next hike, but even that seems like somewhat of a coin-toss at the moment. Also on the calendar for today is August Housing Starts, which many think have been surprisingly weak as of late. I suspect like most, it's been the slowdown in multi-family starts that has caused most of the nearby weakness. Washington headlines may be light this week. The House is out until September 25 and the Senate will only be in session through Wednesday. Insiders are saying the Senate will make one last-ditch effort to repeal Obamacare, possibly bringing the latest measure to a vote this week if Republicans can get 50 supporters. Even if it does pass the Senate, the House may prove more challenging as they passed a bill earlier this Spring that is dramatically different than the one being offered up by Senate Republicans. Another issue that Congress is trying to tackle is the National Flood Insurance Program, which was given a short-term extension through December 8. It's estimated that the program insures \$70 billion worth of property in hard-hit Harris County, Texas. There is over \$400 billion worth covered in Florida. The program is already in debt to the Treasury for \$25 billion and has a borrowing cap of \$30 billion. Even with the extension, it seems improbable the program is going to be able to satisfy all the claims generated by Hurricanes Harvey and Irma with just \$5 billion left in borrowing power. Keep in mind, there are now three storms again brewing in the Atlantic. Maria has blown up from a tropical storm into a major Category 5 hurricane in barely more than a day, bearing down on Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands with catastrophic sustained winds in excess of 160 mph. Some analysts are saying Maria is shaping up to be worse than hurricane Irma and could deliver a blow to U.S. territories that could leave them uninhabitable for months. Kenneth Mapp, governor of the U.S. Virgin Islands, suspended all Irma recovery efforts to shift the focus to preparing for Maria, while President Donald Trump declared states of emergency in both territories on Monday. The Coast Guard said it was moving personnel, cutters and aircraft in the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico to protect them from Maria and to position them for quick search-and-rescue missions. The British government, meanwhile, advised against all travel to the British Virgin Islands, saying it was extending the deployment of more than 1,300 military personnel to the islands. The last year two Category 5 hurricanes hit land in the Atlantic basin was 2007. It's too early to predict whether or how strongly the U.S. mainland could be affected because of shifting winds and changing patterns that will develop as it moves over the islands landfall.

The Wild Ride In Bitcoin Continues: The cryptocurrency briefly dipped below \$3,000 Friday morning, only to show huge resiliency by trading back above \$4,100 on Monday. For those fans scoring at home, Bitcoin is up about +325% this year alone!

Uber Grounded its Fleet of Self-Driving Cars in Pittsburgh for a few hours yesterday as the company investigated a fender bender involving one of its vehicles. UBER, which last week celebrated the one-year anniversary of its autonomous car pilot program in the city, has reported more than 1M self-driving miles and more than 30K rides to customers in Pittsburgh, Tempe and San Francisco. (Source: SeekingAlpha)

Student Debt Is Delaying New-Home Ownership By Seven Years: Historically, Americans have bought a home by their early 30s, but

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today's millennials are playing a waiting game because they're saddled with so much student loan debt. Millennials who don't already own homes are delaying purchasing one for a median of seven years, according to a new joint study on millennial student debt from the National Association of Realtors and education financing nonprofit American Student Assistance. Overall, 83% of non-home owners said they believe that student loan debt has delayed them from buying a home — and that figure is higher among older millennials (those born between 1980 and 1989) and people who have more than \$70,000 in student loan debt. Most commonly, student debt is affecting people's ability to save. Some 85% of respondents said they have not been able to save for a down payment because of their student loans. Additionally, nearly three-quarters of people said they're putting off buying because their student debt makes them feel too financially insecure. More than half (52%) of respondents also said that they can't qualify for a mortgage because of their debt-to-income ratio. (Source: MarketWatch)

U.S. Shale Growth Seen Slowing In October: Surging production from U.S. shale fields is set to moderate next month, the Department of Energy's information arm forecast on Monday. The U.S. Energy Information Administration projected crude oil output from several shale oil and gas producing regions will grow by +79,000 barrels a day in October. That marked the first time in seven months EIA's growth forecast came in below 100,000 barrels a day. Total production for October is set to reach 6.08 million barrels a day, according to EIA. Production from the Eagle Ford, a prolific oil-producing region located in Texas, was revised down due in part to impacts from Hurricane Harvey. The storm forced some drillers to idle rigs last month as the devastating storm approached southeastern Texas. The EIA revised down its outlook for U.S. shale oil production in September by -145,000 barrels a day to just over 6 million barrels a day. It previously estimated this month's production would be 6.15 million barrels a day. Shale drillers in the Permian basin, the epicenter of the production rebound, are poised to grow output by 55,000 barrels a day, EIA said. Oil market watchers have been bracing for a slowdown in the U.S. oil patch because a weekly count of rigs has been falling recently. Baker Hughes reported on Friday that its U.S. rig count fell by seven rigs to the lowest level since June. WTI Crude prices have managed to get back near the \$50 level, but that is seen as a result of high demand and outages in both the U.S. and Libya. CNBC notes that over the past three years, whenever WTI rose above \$50 per barrel, a ton of pressure quickly derailed the upward trend. Their research showed that over the past three years, whenever WTI jumped above \$50 per barrel, three out of four times the price dropped a week later.

Boise State Team Dog Retrieves The Kicking Tee: I was getting tired of the same old economic data and graphics, so when a friend sent me this short video clip of a dog on the Boise State sideline, I had to pass it along! Click [HERE](#)



Here are a few of this year's early sponsors



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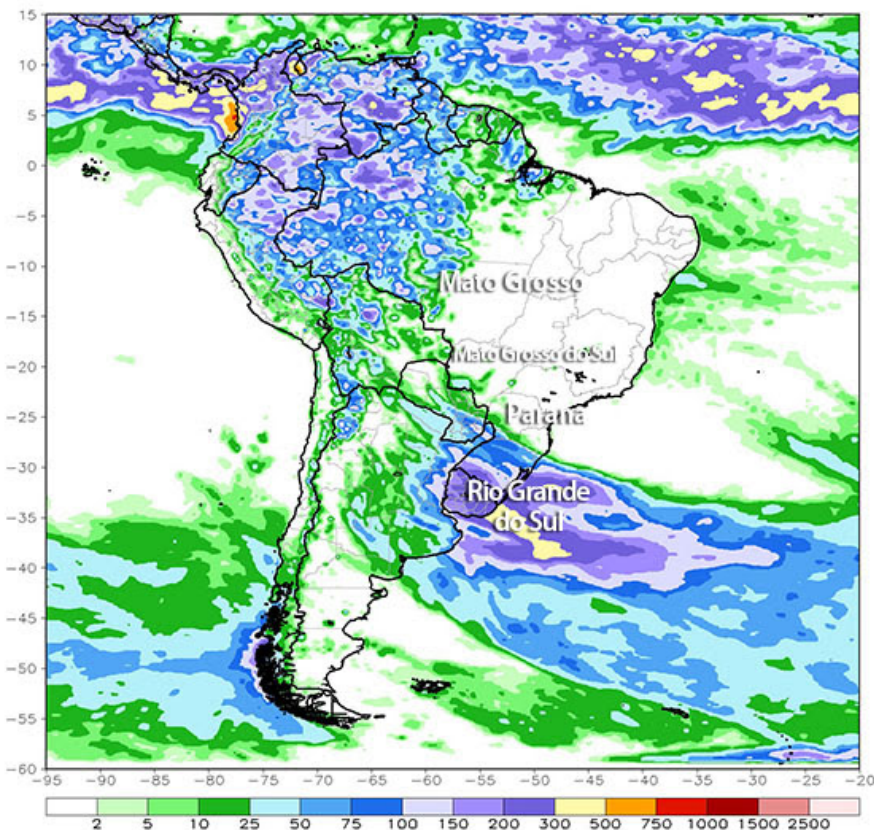
Weather in the Corn Belt, mild weather accompanies widely scattered showers. In the last month, large sections of the Midwest have received below normal rainfall; the rain that has fallen over the last few days is helping to improve topsoil moisture in advance of winter wheat planting but is largely too late to benefit summer crops. In the eastern Midwest, favorable harvest weather is seen. No damaging cold weather is expected during the next seven days. On the Plains, mostly dry weather has returned to Montana and the Dakotas, following weekend drought relief. Currently, showers across the heart of the Plains are helping to ease short-term dryness. In the Northern Plains, conditions are favorable for filling and maturing corn and soybeans at this time. Rainfall disrupts the early harvest but recharges soil moisture. Some frost and light freeze conditions are possible early next week. We'll keep our eye on this. We are looking at two more hurricane's -- Jose -- which is currently centered less than 300 miles east of North

Carolina's Outer Banks, should continue to lose tropical characteristics while drifting northward. Nevertheless, winds to tropical storm force and heavy rain could reach the northern Atlantic Coast around the mid-week. Meanwhile, Hurricane Maria poses a significant, mid-week threat to Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, portions of which sustained major damage from Hurricane Irma on September 6. On the U.S. mainland, cool air will make an eastward push, encompassing the northern Plains and the West by week's end. Unsettled, showery weather will prevail in the Northwest; 5 day totals could reach 1 to 3 inches in the northern Rockies and 2 to 6 inches from the Cascades westward. Periodic showers and thunderstorms will spread as far east as the Midwest, where 1 to 2 inch totals may occur.

Dryness Taking Hold in Brazil: Below is a map showing rainfall totals from the last 30 days. As you can see, little precipitation fell in important crop growing regions in the country. Rain will be needed to initiate soybean planting in Mato Grosso. Dry weather is expected during the next seven days.

CMORPH 1-Month Total Rainfall (mm)

Period: 01Sep2017 - 16Sep2017



Corn crop conditions were left "unchanged" at 61% rated "Good-To-Excellent". If you look inside the number however, you can see some big production states took a step backwards: Illinois conditions dropped by -4% and are now rated just 52% GD/EX; South Dakota conditions fell by -3% and now stand at 40% rated GD/EX; Nebraska conditions fell by -2% to 62% rated GD/EX; Iowa fell by -1% to 59% rated GD/EX; Minnesota conditions also deteriorated by -1%. In other words, even though conditions in the perihelia states showed some improvement and kept overall conditions "unchanged", total production more than likely took a hit. Cron "dented" was reported at 86%, which is a little behind our traditional pace. Corn harvested is reported at 7% compared to our 5-year historical average of 11%. Bulls are arguing that weather in the western corn belt might work to delay the harvest a bit further. As far as crop "maturity", several states are still well behind: South Dakota - 24%; Minnesota -22%; Illinois -20%; Wisconsin -18%; Iowa and North Dakota -15%; Colorado -11%; Michigan and Missouri -9%; Indiana -7%; Nebraska and Pennsylvania -6%; Ohio -4%; North Carolina and Texas -3%; Kentucky -1%; Kansas "on pace"; Tennessee +3%.

Corn Harvest Current vs Historical Average (Green = Ahead; Red = Behind)

North Carolina 68% vs. 65%

Texas 67% vs. 62%

Tennessee 46% vs. 45%

Kentucky 29% vs. 34%



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Today In History



1957, Operation Plumbbob - the United States detonates a 1.7 kiloton nuclear weapon in an underground tunnel at the Nevada Test Site (NTS), a 1,375 square mile research center located 65 miles north of Las Vegas. The test, known as Rainier, was the first fully contained underground detonation and produced no radioactive fallout. A modified W-25 warhead weighing 218 pounds and measuring 25.7 inches in diameter and 17.4 inches in length was used for the test. Rainier was part of a series of 29 nuclear weapons and nuclear weapons safety tests known as Operation Plumbbob that were conducted at the NTS between May 28, 1957, and October 7, 1957. In December 1941, the U.S. government committed to building the world's first nuclear weapon when President Franklin Roosevelt authorized \$2 billion in funding for what came to be known as the Manhattan Project. The first nuclear weapon test took place on July 16, 1945, at the Trinity site near Alamogordo, New Mexico. A few weeks later, on August 6, 1945, with the U.S. at war against Japan, President Harry Truman authorized the dropping of an atomic bomb named Little Boy over Hiroshima, Japan. Three days later, on August 9, a nuclear bomb called Fat Man was dropped over Nagasaki. Two hundred thousand people, according to some estimates, were killed in the attacks on the two cities and on August 15, 1945, Japan surrendered to the Allied Powers. 1957's Operation Plumbbob took place at a time when the U.S. was engaged in a Cold War and nuclear arms race with the Soviet Union. In 1963, the U.S. signed the Limited Test Ban Treaty, which banned nuclear weapons testing in the atmosphere, underwater and outer space. A total of 928 tests took place at the Nevada Test Site between 1951 and 1992, when the U.S. conducted its last underground nuclear test. In 1996, the U.S. signed the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, which prohibits nuclear detonations in all environments.



1973, Gram Parsons - On this day in 1973, 26-year-old musician Gram Parsons dies of "multiple drug use" (morphine and tequila) in a California motel room. His death inspired one of the more bizarre automobile-related crimes on record: Two of his friends stashed his body in a borrowed hearse and drove it into the middle of the Joshua Tree National Park, where they doused it with gasoline and set it on fire. Parsons' music

Missouri 21% vs. 28%

Kansas 19% vs. 24%

Illinois 5% vs. 13%

Indiana 5% vs. 7%

Pennsylvania 4% vs. 7%

Michigan 3% vs. 2%

Colorado 2% vs. 2%

Nebraska 2% vs. 7%

Iowa 1% vs. 6%

Ohio 1% vs. 2%

Minnesota 0% vs. 3%

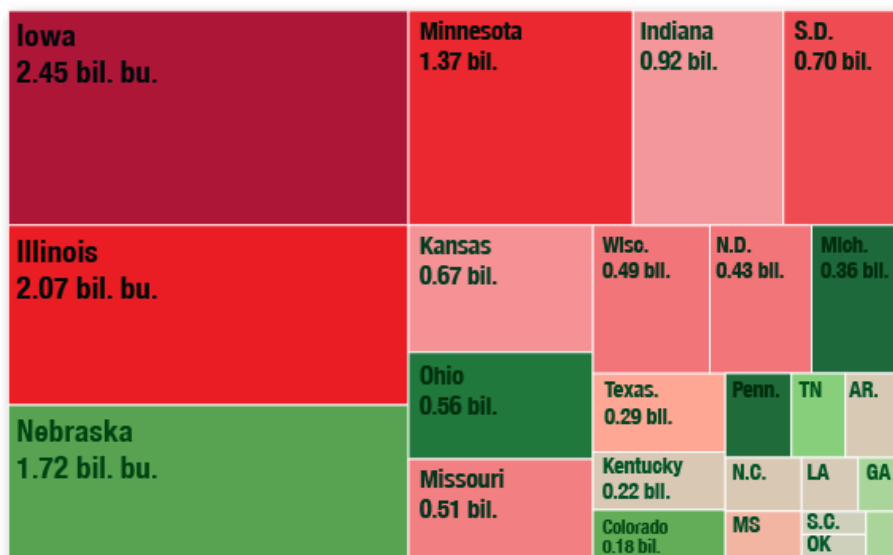
North Dakota 0% vs. 3%

South Dakota 0% vs. 5%

Wisconsin 0% vs. 1%

U.S. Corn Production, 2017

Color denotes Year-over-Year change from 2016



Worse than Last Year

Greater than Last Year

Total Production - 2016 = 15.148 bil. bushels, 2017 = 14.184 bil. bushels

Soybean bulls are talking about conditions being too dry in parts of Brazil and too wet in parts of Argentina. Bulls are also talking about deteriorating crop conditions here in the U.S., especially in some of the larger production areas. The USDA weekly crop-condition report showed overall conditions falling from 60% down to 59% rated "Good-to-Excellent", more importantly however are the setbacks in the bigger producing states: Conditions in Illinois, Kansas and South Dakota fell by -4% this week; Iowa, Nebraska and Mississippi fell by -3%; Michigan and Wisconsin fell by -1%. Soybeans "dropping leaves" were reported at 41% vs. the 5-year historical average of 43%. The USDA reported the U.S. soybean harvest at 4% vs. our historical 5-year average of 5%. It feels like the U.S. crop is now in a race against the clock. The harvest should start advancing at a more rapid pace, meaning more risk-premium will be allowed to come out of the market as a larger percentage of the crop comes out of the fields. As both a producer and a spec, I still feel like the market is somewhat rangebound nearby within

helped define the country-rock sound, and his records have influenced everyone from the Rolling Stones to Wilco. But like many musicians of his generation, Parsons struggled with drugs and alcohol. At a friend's funeral a few months before he died, Parsons made a drunken pact with his road manager Phil Kaufman: If anything should happen to one of them, the other would take his body to Joshua Tree and cremate it. And so, after Parsons' overdose, Kaufman and a roadie named Michael Martin met his coffin at the Los Angeles airport (for complicated reasons involving a disputed inheritance, his stepfather had arranged for it to be flown to Louisiana for a private funeral) in a borrowed hearse with broken windows and no license plates. They convinced the airport staff that the Parsons family had changed its mind about the flight, loaded the coffin into the car, and drove 200 miles to the Mojave Desert, stopping along the way to fill a five-gallon tin can with gasoline. They drove into Joshua Tree and dragged the coffin to the foot of the majestic Cap Rock, where they doused it with the gas and tossed on a match. Kaufman and Martin were arrested, but since stealing bodies was not actually a crime in California, they were fined \$300 each, plus \$750 for the ruined coffin. They raised the money to pay their fines by holding a "Kaper Konzert" starring Bobby Pickett & the Cryptkeepers, who played their hit "Monster Mash" over and over.



1988, Greg Louganis - Just one day after sustaining a head injury in a frightening accident, American diver Greg Louganis wins gold in the springboard

competition at the Summer Olympics, in Seoul, South Korea. It was his second consecutive Olympic gold in the event. Four years earlier, at the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles, Louganis had been unstoppable, winning gold decisively in both the springboard and platform competitions. By the time the 1988 Olympics rolled around, however, many in the diving world believed Louganis was past his prime. As if to prove his doubters wrong, Louganis got off to a strong start in Seoul, and led in the preliminaries of the springboard competition going into the ninth round on September 18. For his ninth dive, Louganis attempted a reverse 2 1/2 somersault pike but failed to clear the board, and hit the back of his head on it as he fell into the water, his dive incomplete. To the delight and relief of fans, Louganis returned to make his final two dives after a quick trip to the trainer for five stitches to close the gash in his head, and secured his place in the final. Later, he said of the accident, "I didn't realize I was that close to the board. When I hit it, it was kind of a shock. But I think my pride was hurt more than anything else." The next morning, Louganis fought through his nerves to nail all 11 of his dives, proving that he was still the best diver in the world. Louganis also won repeat gold in the men's platform competition, becoming the first

a \$1.00 trading range of between \$9.10 and \$10.10 per bushel. Bulls argue that the current USDA yield needs to be lowered, while the bears talk about more acres being added to the equation and an already burdensome supply picture. In other words, it seems you can argue either side. You can chose tot talk about the bad yields coming out of fields in parts of Illinois or some of the record harvests being recorded to the South. As a producer, I would love to see the bulls push this market to the upper end of the trading range so I can reduce a bit more longer-term risk. As a spec, I would prefer seeing a major move to the downside, so I can start looking to build a longer-term bullish position.

Soybean Harvest Current vs Historical Average (Green = Ahead; Red = Behind)

Louisiana 63% vs. 50%

Mississippi 38% vs. 34%

Arkansas 24% vs. 20%

Kentucky 5% vs. 4%

Nebraska 3% vs. 2%

Tennessee 3% vs. 4%

Indiana 2% vs. 3%

Minnesota 2% vs. 6%

North Dakota 2% vs. 8%

Illinois 1% vs. 1%

Iowa 1% vs. 2%

Kansas 1% vs. 1%

Missouri 1% vs. 1%

North Carolina 1% vs. 1%

Ohio 1% vs. 2%

Michigan 0% vs. 0%

South Dakota 0% vs. 5%

Wisconsin 0% vs. 1%

man ever to win consecutive golds in both events.

Upcoming Events

Tues.-Wed. 9/19-20 - FOMC Meeting

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

Wed. 10/11 - Minutes From 9/20 FOMC Meeting Released

Fri. 10/20 - Cattle on Feed

Mon. 10/23 - Cold Storage

Tues.-Wed. 10/31-11/1 - FOMC Meeting

Mon. 11/5 - Daylight Saving Time Ends

Thurs. 11/9 - USDA Supply and Demand

Wed. 11/22 - Minutes From 11/1 FOMC Meeting Released

Thurs. 11/23 - Thanksgiving - Markets Closed

Tues.-Wed. 12/12-12/13 - FOMC Meeting

Kevln's Song of the Week



About the Report

U.S. Soybean Production, 2017

Color denotes Year-over-Year change from 2016



Illinois 599.7 mil. bu.	Indiana 329.8 mil. bu.	N.D. 250.3 mil.	S.D. 241.2 mil.	KS 202.1 mil.
	Nebraska 316.4 mil. bu.			
Iowa 567.2 mil. bu.		Arkansas 178.5 mil.	Wisc. 102.7 mil.	KY 98.3 mil.
	Missouri 299.1 mil. bu.			
Minnesota 383.1 mil. bu.		MS 115.4 mil.	TN 82.6 mil.	LS 65.5 mil.
	Ohio 269.5 mil. bu.	MI 109.9 mil.		N.C. 63.5 mil.
			PA OK	AL S.C. TX GA

Worse than Last Year

Greater than Last Year

Total Production - 2016 = 4.307 bil. bushels, 2017 = 4.431 bil. bushels

Wheat seems to remain a bit of a follower with very little fresh or new in the headlines. Prices have moved very little in the past several sessions as a glut of global supply continues to limit most all rallies. The bulls continue to talk about growing weather complications inside Australia and a crop that looks as if it will continue to deteriorate. There are also similar thoughts in the market regarding Canadian and U.S. production, both production estimates will probably moving lower in the coming weeks. In other global news, headlines surrounding Egyptian inspections and what they will accept and what they will not accept remains a mystery. There is also more talk of Russian wheat prices moving a bit higher and becoming less competitive in the global marketplace. Here at home, the USDA reported winter wheat is now 13% planted vs. our 5-year historical average of 15%. As you can see from the graphic below, states lagging their historical average planting pace are primarily Nebraska, Montana and Colorado.

Winter Wheat Planting Current vs Historical (Green = Ahead; Red = Behind)

Washington 43% vs. 50%

South Dakota 30% vs. 24%

Colorado 23% vs. 29%

Nebraska 23% vs. 34%

Idaho 22% vs. 19%

Montana 16% vs. 26%

Texas 14% vs. 14%

Oklahoma 11% vs. 12%

Oregon 8% vs. 10%

Kansas 7% vs. 8%

California 5% vs. 1%

Indiana 2% vs. 2%

Michigan 2% vs. 5%

Arkansas 1% vs. 0%

Missouri 1% vs. 1%

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 several months of engaging in your "Farm Direction" services to be the best perception and analysis of what is really

North Carolina 1% vs. 0%

Ohio 1% vs. 1%

Illinois 0% vs. 1%

Top Exporters of Wheat 2017/18



Russia	1,157 million bushels	Ukraine	588 million bushels
EU	1,084 million bushels	Argentina	423 million bushels
United States	975 million bushels	Kazakhstan	276 million bushels
Canada	753 million bushels	Turkey	228 million bushels
Australia	698 million bushels	Mexico	51.4 million bushels

Source: USDA, FAS, PS&D, Updated: 08/30/17

Connecting the Dots

happening in today's world. Not only here in the United States, but across the globe as well. US farmers need this type of help and information to assist them in their daily efforts. I commend you for a job well done. Please let me know if I can ever be of any help or assistance to you in the future..."

**L.T., Assistant Deputy Administrator
for Farm Programs USDA**

[More Testimonials](#)

My Own Personal Truisms

"Not To Trade, is often considered a good trading decision..."

"First Rule of HOLES: When you are in one stop digging..."

"Every looser in Vegas, always walks away from the table thinking he could have done better, the winners on the other hand leave while on top..."

"Bulls make money, Bears make money, but pigs get slaughtered..."

"The markets ability to remain irrational can often times last much longer than your ability to remain solvent..."

I'm more of a long-term player, therefore you will not see me give many short-term suggestions or trade ideas. One of my most important rules is that I always follow my long-term direction. Therefore, as long as I am "bullish" a market I will only play that particular market in one of three ways.

- Option #1 - Conservatively long.
- Option #2 - Aggressively long.
- Option #3 - Sitting on the sideline.

I never initiate a "short" position in a market that I am "bullish" longer-term, nor do I initiate a "long" position in a market I am "bearish" longer-term.

> U.S. Could Struggle To Meet Biodiesel Blending Mandate: The U.S. could have trouble meeting its biodiesel blending mandate as imports from Argentina and Indonesia have been cut off by duties, sources have said. "Without Argentina this year or early next year there's going to be a shortage in the market," said one source. Imports from Argentina and Indonesia accounted for a large chunk of the biodiesel market in the first half of 2017. But the National Biodiesel Board, the largest biodiesel industry group in the US, pushed the US Department of Commerce to levy anti-dumping duties on the imports, saying the countries unfairly subsidized their product and hurt US producers. Commerce in August said importers will be required to pay cash deposits in the range of 50.29%-64.17% for biodiesel from Argentina and 41.06%-68.28% for biodiesel from Indonesia. US plants had to step away from production while foreign product moved into the market as they couldn't compete with the cheaper biodiesel. (Source: Platts)

> Australia's Drought Cuts Hopes For Crops: Australia slashed more than -2.7 million metric tons from its wheat export forecast, making deep cuts to expectations for canola and coarse grain shipments too, as it counted the cost of drought damage to its crops. Abares, the official Australian crop bureau, lowered to 18.15m tonnes, from 20.89 million metric tons, its forecast for the country's wheat exports in 2017-18. The downgraded figure, below an 18.5 million estimate from the US Department of Agriculture, would take shipments nearly 4 million metric tons below last season's result. And it reflected in part what Abares termed "severe moisture stress" for crops in the likes of Queensland and northern and central New South Wales, thanks to

"unfavorably dry conditions". For canola, Abares cut its forecast for exports from Australia, the second-ranked shipper of the oilseed after Canada, by 510,000 metric tons to 2.04 million metric tons for 2017-18. The revision - which took to 43% the forecast decline in exports year on year - again followed a crop downgrade, with the bureau flagging in particular the dent to production prospects from "well-below-average rainfall in autumn and early winter" in top growing state Western Australia. (Source: Agrimoney)

> Brazil To Boost Biodiesel Mix To 10% Next Year: Brazil plans to increase the volume of biodiesel blended with diesel sold at the pump to 10% from March 1, 2018, about a year ahead of originally expected, as the government works to lift the country's biofuels output, reduce oil-product imports and meet requirements under the Paris Accords. "The decision to increase the biodiesel mixture has already been taken, but it hasn't yet been formalized," Marcio Felix, the oil and natural gas secretary at Brazil's Mines and Energy Ministry, told reporters on the sidelines of an industry event. Brazil's National Energy Policy Council will also have to approve the increase. The CNPE's approval will likely happen at its regularly scheduled meeting in December, Felix said, although a special meeting could be held before then if needed. Brazil expects to announce the early increase to the biodiesel-diesel blend in coming weeks along with details about RenovaBio, a government package of incentives and regulatory measures aimed at opening Brazil's biofuels segment to greater competition, attracting investments and increasing output and consumption of biofuels such as biodiesel and sugarcane-based ethanol. (Source: Platts)

> Local Lawmakers Vow To Oppose Tyson Plant After Hearing: Three Kansas state representatives who co-hosted a public hearing on a proposed \$320-million chicken complex planned by Tyson Foods told attendees they would work to block the plan, according to a local news report. State Sen. Tom Holland, Rep. Willie Dove and Rep. Kim Karleskint heard comments from a crowd estimated at between 2,000 and 3,000 residents. The attendees expressed concerns about the environmental and other impacts the facility could have on the Tonganoxie, Kansas, community. Tyson and Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback announced plans for the processing plant, hatchery and feed mill on Sept. 5, an event that drew protesters who also questioned how the agreement was reached. As many as 1,600 new residents also could strain the existing infrastructure and stress the local school district, protesters said. (Source: MeetingPlace)

> Cargill To Expand Grain Marketing Contract Options In Canada: Cargill is launching ProPricing for canola, a marketing contract for Canada's largest crop. The canola contract is one of the newest additions to Cargill's ProPricing portfolio of contracts, which allow growers to put a portion of their marketing in the hands of Cargill's professional traders. Across western Canada, Cargill also is offering ProPricing in soybeans, and an expansion of the existing spring wheat ProPricing contract. In these contracts, Cargill's professional traders establish the futures price for contracted grain during active trading in direct reflection of Cargill's market bias. (Source: World Grain)

> U.S. Considers Closing Cuba Embassy Over Sonic Attacks: The Trump administration is considering closing down the recently reopened U.S. Embassy in Havana following a string of unexplained incidents harming the health of American diplomats in Cuba, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson says. Tillerson's comments were the strongest indication to date that the United States might mount a major diplomatic response, potentially jeopardizing the historic restart of relations between the U.S. and Cuba. The two former foes reopened embassies in Washington and Havana in 2015 after a half-century of estrangement. Of the 21 medically confirmed U.S. individuals affected - diplomats and their families - some have permanent hearing loss or concussions, while others suffered nausea, headaches and ear-ringing. Some are struggling with concentration or common word recall. Some victims felt vibrations or heard loud sounds mysteriously audible in only parts of rooms, leading investigators to consider a potential "sonic attack." Others heard nothing but later developed symptoms. Tillerson once called the events "health attacks," but the State Department has since used the term "incidents" while emphasizing the U.S. still doesn't know what has occurred. Cuba has denied any involvement or responsibility but stressed that it's eager to help the U.S. resolve the matter. (Source: ABC)

> Equifax Stock Sales Are Focus Of U.S. Criminal Probe: The U.S. Justice Department has opened a criminal investigation into whether top officials at Equifax Inc. violated insider trading laws when they sold stock before the company disclosed that it had been hacked, according to people familiar with the investigation. Prosecutors are looking at the stock sales by Equifax Chief Financial Officer John Gamble; President of U.S. Information Solutions Joseph Loughran; and President of Workforce Solutions Rodolfo Ploder, according to Bloomberg sources. Equifax disclosed earlier this month that it discovered a security breach on July 29. The three executives sold shares worth almost \$1.8 million in early August. The company has said the managers didn't know of the breach at the time they sold the shares. (Source: Bloomberg)

> Gas Prices Trending Lower, Even In Florida: As South and Southeast states recover from Hurricanes Harvey and Irma, motorists in 45 U.S. states are paying less for a gallon of gas on the week. At \$2.62, yesterday's national gas price average is the

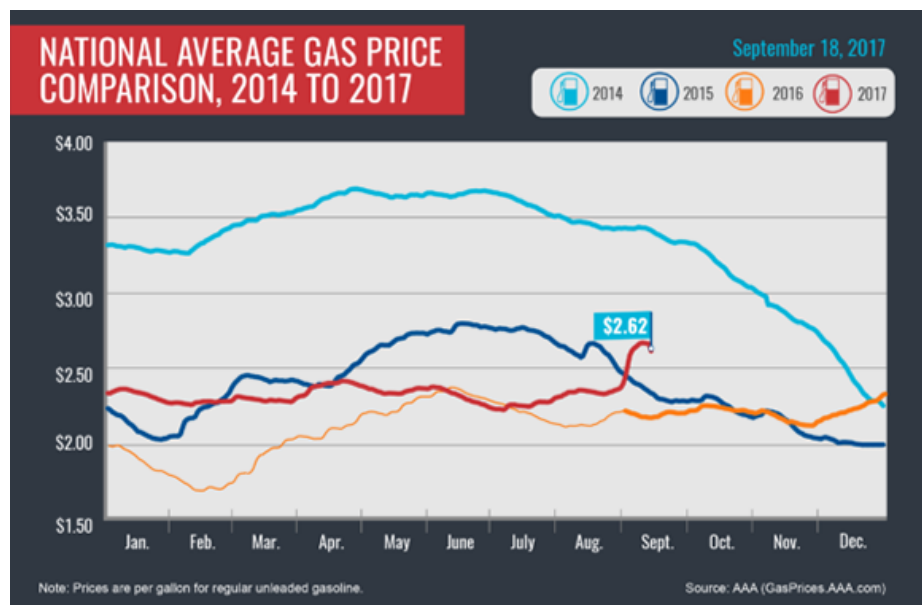
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cheapest in 14 days and five cents less than last week. Midwest motorists are benefiting the most with a few states – Indiana, Michigan and Ohio – seeing gas prices plummet by the double-digits inside of seven days. Meanwhile, some states in the West Coast and Rockies are seeing gas prices increase. As gas prices drop for the majority of the country, so does the nation's gasoline inventory. The latest Energy Information Administration (EIA) report identifies the latest draw of 8.4 million bbl as the highest on record, much of which can be attributed to motorist fueling up in the droves in anticipation of Hurricane Irma. Next week's EIA report may bring another record-demand level as a continued result of Irma, but demand is expected to sharply decline across the country by the end of September. It will likely be a few more weeks before the regions affected by Irma and Harvey are back to normal operations. According to the Department of Energy, a total of six Gulf Coast refineries are operating at reduced rates, which is one more refinery than last week. These six facilities make-up 13 percent of refining capacity in the U.S. Five refineries continue to operate at reduced rates and three remain shut down, which represents a total of 10 percent of U.S. refining capacity. (Source: AAA)



FROM THE FIELD

Western Minnesota - We should see more beans being harvested next week and then things should really get going the week of the 25th. I would say right now 50% to 70% of the leaves have dropped. The weather up here the past week has been very hot for us. We have been above the 90-degree mark which we needed to dry things down. The weather has been like mid-July making the nights stay very warm. We have seen some silage cut with pretty high tonnage. I think that we will see above average yields for the corn. The beans should be good but not great. We have seen some white mold and some guys that have flown their fields think that you could see as much as a 20% hit where it's the worst. There has not been any grain moving up here. The basis has been very wide all summer and nobody wants to sell at these prices.

Northcentral Illinois - We have not seen any wet corn come to town. I think that we could be a week out before things pick up. The soybeans are just starting to turn, with most fields being mixed with green and yellow. We will be down from last year which was close to a record but should see yields above our APH. This crop has hung in here pretty good even as we have gotten very dry. At one point, on some of our poorer ground, we had cracks in the ground big enough to stick an ear of corn in. The ear counts though have been pretty good. I think with the cooler weather we have seen better kernel size. Our beans have suffered this year. The dryness was later in the year, where the corn was pretty much made but the beans were trying to fill pods being short moisture. We can grow good beans but this year they are off may be 10bpa to 20bpa. We will normally make bean yields in the 60bpa to 70bpa but this year we will be closer to the mid-50bpa area.

Eastcentral Iowa - I was thinking about hitting the fields early next week and cut a little corn. I am seeing others who have crops farther along than mine, but not cutting

yet. We are drier than a bone up here as it has only rained one inch here since the middle of July. We always hope to hit the 200+bpa level here and we believe we will make it happen this year despite the challenging conditions. Our beans are another story as the dryness will have a significant drag on this year's yields. Normally we could guess 50bpa and be close enough. This season it is looking more like 20bpa to be safe. We aren't exactly where we want to be with our marketing and will look to remove some more risk soon.



Demand For High-Oleic Soybeans Slowly Building: Demand for high-oleic soybeans is slowly building as acreage sprawls further west. Minnesota became the 12th state to grow the trans-fat free variety after CHS Processing and Food Ingredients agreed to offer production contracts for Pioneer brand Plenish high-oleic soybeans in 2017. CHS director of refined oils and proteins David Mack says nearly 30,000 acres of Plenish beans are being grown near their Fairmont processing plant in south-central Minnesota. "There is a lot of interest in high-oleic, but the market has been very slow to adopt. It's primarily about supply." He tells Brownfield those interested in high-oleic soybeans, like the food manufacturing and food service industries, are looking for assurances of an adequate supply. Mack says price is another obstacle standing in the way of greater market-share. Listen to the full interview [HERE](#).

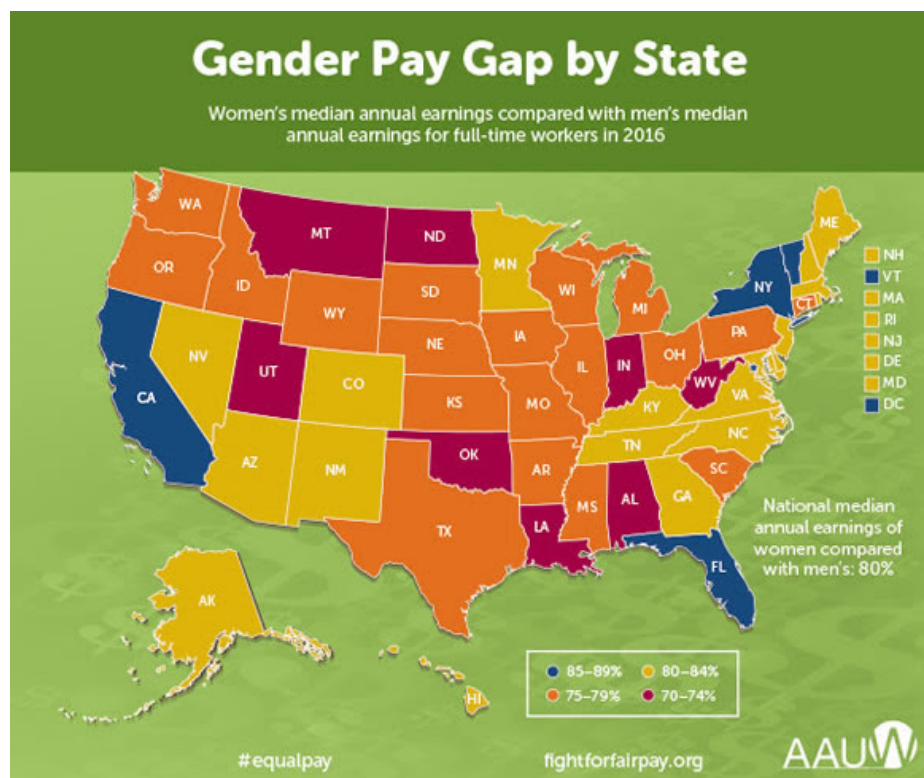
The Father Of Mobile Computing Is Not Impressed: Alan Kay is one of the forefathers of personal computing; he's what you can safely call a living legend. He directed a research team at the legendary Xerox PARC, where he led the development of the influential programming language SmallTalk, which foreshadowed the first graphical user interfaces, and the Xerox Alto, a forerunner of the personal computer that predated 1984's Apple Macintosh by 11 years (only 2,000 of the \$70,000 devices were produced). Kay was one of the earliest advocates, back in the days of hulking gray mainframes, for using the computer as a dynamic instrument of learning and creativity. It took imagination like his to drive the computer into the public's hands. Kay believes nothing has yet been produced that fulfills the original specs for his original concept, the Dynabook, including the iPhone and the iPad. In fact, mobile computers, he says, have turned out to be mind-numbing consumption devices—sophisticated televisions—rather than the wheels for the mind that Steve Jobs envisioned. Read more [HERE](#).

Texas Raw Milk Contamination Hits 7 States: Although it is against federal law to sell unpasteurized milk across state lines, the CDC and state health departments are investigating illnesses in at least seven states in relation to Brucella bacteria found in raw milk from a Texas dairy. One woman in Texas has been in the hospital for weeks with a lab-confirmed case of brucellosis. A sample from her matches antibiotic-resistant Brucella bacteria found in raw milk from K-Bar dairy in Paradise, TX, according to Texas officials and the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The CDC and the Texas State Department of State Health Services had received reports about people who drank K-Bar milk or have symptoms consistent with brucellosis caused by Brucella RB51 in Alabama, Arkansas, California, Ohio, North Dakota, Tennessee and Texas, according to a news release from the CDC. The Texas department has been warning people about the Brucella bacteria found in the K-Bar milk for more than a month. In an Aug. 14 public alert the state urged consumers who drank the milk and their doctors to consider post-exposure antibiotic treatment. Of the more than 800 households known to have purchased K-Bar raw milk during the exposure period, CDC is attempting to contact 672 and Texas is trying to reach 170. Generally households are considered to consist of an average of four people, meaning thousands of people are at risk of Brucella infection. This is a SERIOUS infection that can result in chronic and long-term health issues. Read more [HERE](#).

How Will Planes Look In Ten Years?: There are a number of exciting future technologies on the horizon in aviation, from self-flying airliners to VTOL flying taxis. These concepts are still years off, however, as they are just entering early research and testing phases. What significant changes can we expect in commercial aviation in the near future? A new video from Wendover Productions attempts to answer this question and takes a look at the practical yet significant changes that airlines could make in the next few years. See more [HERE](#).

Women's Wages Are Catching Up To Those Of Men In Some States: On average, women earned about 80% of what men earned in 2016, though in New York and California, it's closer to 90%, and in Utah and Louisiana, closer to 70%, according to the American Association of University Women, a women's advocacy group based in Washington, D.C. That 80% average means it would take women about 44 days of extra work a year to earn what men do, according to the Pew Research Center. The

gender pay gap has closed just 0.9 cents between 2015 and 2016 since 2014, said Kate Nielson, the state policy analyst at AAUW. States with the smallest gaps were New York, California and Florida, while states with more work to do included Louisiana, Utah and West Virginia. Read more [HERE](#).







Featured Ag-Tech Startups

iSelect Webinar Series

The Van Trump Report has partnered with iSelect to help bring ag-tech to the farmer in the field. My good friend Carter Williams, CEO of iSelect, is making a difference in agriculture and I wanted to share some of his insight. Carter was the former director and founder of Boeing Ventures where he led Boeing's technology planning process. Carter is also the past president and founder of the MIT Corporate Venturing Consortium and Co-founder of the MIT Entrepreneurship Society. Today Carter is using his team's talents and abilities to help some of the most innovative in agriculture. Through this process he has the opportunity to see some of the latest innovations and technological shifts that are heading our direction, many times before they ever hit the mainstream market. Each week I will be featuring one of the NEW ag-tech companies and passing along an invitation for readers to join a webinar that will further explain the start-up. Keep in mind the webinars are geared towards investors who are thinking about providing start-up capital and seed funding. I personally find it interesting to hear about the technology and innovation that is being discussed. Some of the technology may be of interest to you, while some may not. I feel it's important to pass along what Carter and his team are seeing happen in the ag space. Remember, we don't have to be in agreement with every thought or idea but we do need to understand and be aware of the changes that are happening.

Presentation Title: "From Agriculture Waste to Healthy, Affordable Sugars,"
Date & Time: Thursday, September 21st at 3pm CST

Raw starch is one of the most abundant substances in the agriculture value chain, produced largely as a waste product in the processing of corn, potato, rice and other commodities. On its own, it is nearly worthless. But, when converted into what are known as "healthy" sugars -- low-glycemic, low-calorie and non-cariogenic sweeteners that, unlike sucrose and high fructose corn syrup, actually provide positive health benefits -- it becomes a valuable, useful resource. Bonumose is taking materials that are left over after corn and potato processing and, leveraging the natural power of enzymes, developing them into naturally-occurring ingredients in commercial-scale quantities. From traditional grain crops, the company is developing healthy ingredients for foods and beverages, beneficial additives for animal feeds, soil inputs for plant health, pharmaceuticals and more. Even if you can't make the live broadcast, registered users will be able to view a recording on [our website](#) after the fact. Click [HERE](#) to register and learn more.



Buyer Beware Of Flood Damaged Cars & Equipment

In the aftermath of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma, experts are warning that flood damaged cars and equipment may soon be swamping the marketplace. It's estimated that between 500,000 and 1 million vehicles were flooded in the Houston area alone. "Those cars are going to end up being sold in online sales and at unscrupulous dealers," said Jerry Allen, a special agent with the National Insurance Crime Bureau. "In most cases, they're not going to tell [buyers] the truth on a flooded car." If the seller never reports the flood damage to their insurance company, a vehicle history report won't have the damage listed either. Flood damaged cars should be sold for parts only. The Bureau advises buyers to "be particularly careful in the coming weeks and months as thousands of damaged vehicles may reappear for sale in their areas" across the nation, a problem that also occurred in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in 2005. That disaster led the bureau to create the free VINCheck database, which lets vehicle shoppers check a vehicle identification number to see if the car or truck was deemed "salvage" by an insurance company because of flood or accident or if it was reported stolen. Uninsured vehicles, however, would escape the insurance industry's scrutiny. The Bureau recommends that buyers have a used car checked by a mechanic before shelling out any cash. There are things that buyers themselves can look for as well. (Sources: AAA, Consumer Reports, Weather.com)

Inspect The Car Interior: *A musty, mildew odor is a dead giveaway that a car has been compromised by floodwater, according to Carfax. "Be alert for damp and musty odors," Mariam Ali, a spokesperson for the American Automobile Association said. "There will be dirt build-up in unusual places like underneath the dashboard." The AAA also suggests pulling back car carpeting for signs of staining. Potential buyers should also check inside the glove compartment or in-between the seats for the appearance of residual sludge or debris. Sellers will sometimes try to conceal flood-damage by making aesthetic upgrades such as a brand new interior fabric or masking scents with excessive car deodorizer or shampooed carpeting. These should raise red flags!*

Check Out The Headlights: *Consumer Reports notes that a "visible water line may still show on the lens or reflector." Moisture beads and fog can*

build up in light fixtures from flooding and is hard to remove by those attempting to resell.

Investigate Wiring: The National Automobile Dealers Association advises consumers to check "electrical wiring for rusted components, water residue or suspicious corrosion."

Look For Rust: Taking a look underneath the vehicle and spotting any kind of rust is also a good way to tell if the vehicle has been damaged by floodwater. "Corrosion is uncommon in new vehicles and those that are owned and operated in warmer climate areas," the AAA said in a statement to the press.

Inspect The Drain Plugs: Consumer Reports also recommends checking the rubber drain plugs — located under vehicles and under doors — and if they appear as if they've been recently removed that should raise suspicions that they were fiddled with to drain floodwater.







Forbes Updated List of Football Franchises Shows Huge Growth In Value

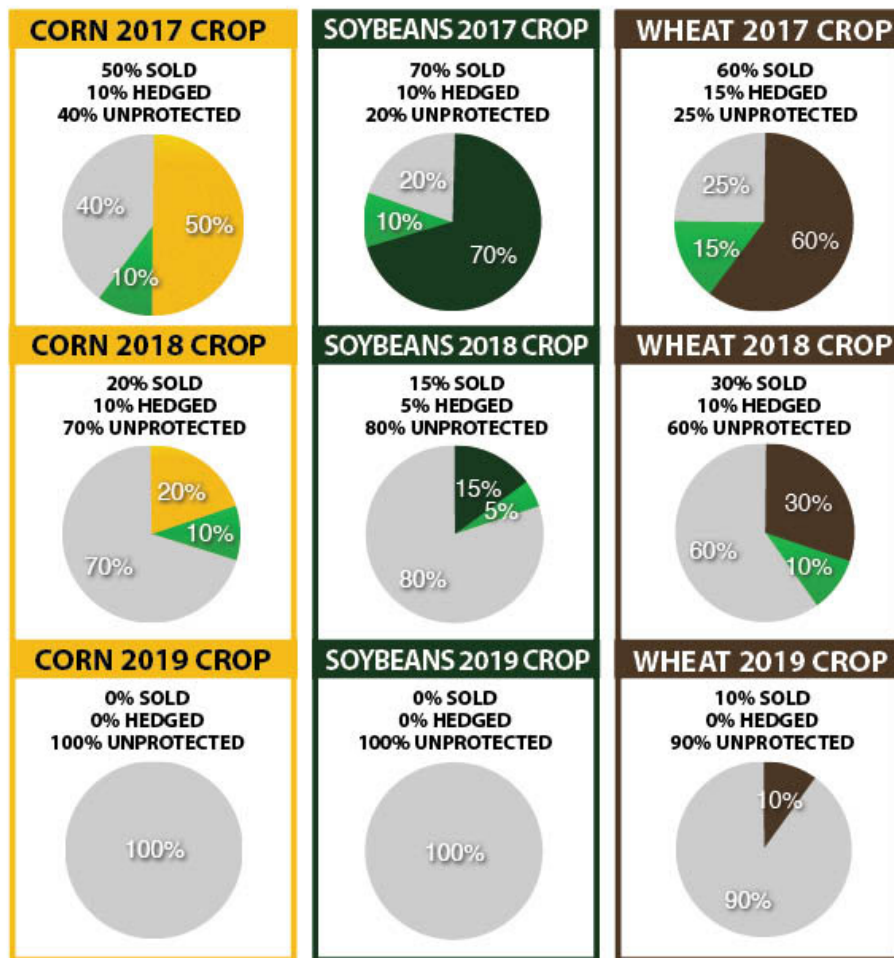
There really weren't many surprises in this years list. The Dallas Cowboys, for the 11th consecutive year, are the NFL's most valuable franchise. Say what you will about Jerry Jones, but the man has built an amazing business and franchise dynasty. The latest estimates value the Cowboys worth at nearly \$5 billion, not bad for a team that Jones paid about \$150 million for back in 1989. It's also not bad considering the team hasn't been to a Super Bowl in more than 20-years. According to Forbes, the Cowboys had \$190 million in player expenses, but brought in +\$700 million in revenue during 2016. In an interview on ESPN's Adam Schefter's podcast, Jones detailed the risk he took on when he first purchased the Cowboys. Jones noted the Cowboys were losing -\$100,000 a day which added up to about -\$1 million a month. He was also paying 11% interest on a loan he took out to help purchase the team. He also stated, "I actually bought 13% of the Dallas Cowboys from the federal government [that] had been foreclosed on. And there was another 40% headed to the courthouse to be foreclosed on when I bought the team. While it was a challenge, it certainly was an opportunity. But time was of the essence. I really had to get in, get on my horse and get it rolling." I would say Mr. Jones certainly got things rolling, for the third consecutive year the Cowboys are now considered the worlds most valuable sports franchise. According to Forbes, the five most valuable franchises in the world are the Cowboys (\$4.8 billion), the Patriots (\$3.7 billion), the New York Yankees (\$3.7 billion) along with soccer clubs Manchester United (\$3.69 billion) and FC Barcelona (\$3.64 billion). Interestingly, despite all of the recent negative press about low ratings and upset fans, NFL team valuations have exploded since 2013. In fact, four years ago, there was only one team worth over \$2 billion, it was the Cowboys. This year, 27 of the league's 32 teams are worth over \$2 billion, and three of the teams that aren't -- the Browns, Bengals and Buccaneers -- will likely hit that number in the very near future. Below is the full list of teams and their estimated value by [Forbes](#).

- #1 Dallas Cowboys \$4.8 B
- #2 New England Pats \$3.7 B
- #3 New York Giants \$3.3 B
- #4 Wash Redskins \$3.1 B
- #5 San Fran 49ers \$3.05 B
- #6 Los Angeles Rams \$3 B 3%
- #7 Chicago Bears \$2.85 B
- #8 Houston Texans \$2.8 B
- #9 NY Jets \$2.75 B
- #10 Philly Eagles \$2.65 B
- #11 Denver Broncos \$2.6 B
- #12 Miami Dolphins \$2.575 B
- #13 Green Bay Packers \$2.55 B

- #14 Baltimore Ravens \$2.5 B
- #15 Atlanta Falcons \$2.475 B
- #16 Pittsburgh Steelers \$2.45 B
- #17 Seattle Seahawks \$2.425 B
- #18 Minnesota Vikings \$2.4 B
- #19 Oakland Raiders \$2.38 B
- #20 Indianapolis Colts \$2.375 B
- #21 Carolina Panthers \$2.3 B
- #22 LA Chargers \$2.275 B
- #23 Arizona Cardinals \$2.15 B
- #24 Kansas City Chiefs \$2.1 B
- #25 Jacksonville Jas \$2.075 B
- #26 Tennessee Titans \$2.05 B
- #27 NewOrleans Saints \$2.0 B
- #28 Tampa Bay Bucs \$1.975 B
- #29 Cleveland Browns \$1.95 B
- #30 Cincinnati Bengals \$1.8 B
- #31 Detroit Lions \$1.7 B
- #32 Buffalo Bills \$1.6 B



CASH SALES & HEDGING TOTALS



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