

## GOOD MORNING: 11/22/17 Farm Direction - VanTrump Report

1 message

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

Wed, Nov 22, 2017 at 7:08 AM



*"In normal life we hardly realize how much more we receive than we give, and life cannot be rich without such gratitude. It is so easy to overestimate the importance of our own achievements compared with what we owe to the help of others." — Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2017

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**Holiday Schedule:** Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, the Van Trump Report will not be published on Thursday, November 23, or Friday, November 24. The Quick Look will be published as usual on Saturday, November 25, and the Van Trump Report will resume its regular daily schedule on Monday, November 27. Wishing you and your families a safe and happy Thanksgiving!

**Morning Summary:** U.S. investors remain optimistic as we approach the Thanksgiving holiday. The S&P 500 traded above 2,600 for the first time in its intra-day history and again closed at another record high yesterday. The Nasdaq and Dow Jones also finished at all-time highs. Remember, markets are closed tomorrow and many have shortened hours on Friday. The New York Stock Exchange and the Nasdaq will close at 12 p.m. CST on Friday, while bond markets have a 1 p.m. CST close. Most other international markets will be open. Currency markets that trade 24-hours will be open, though volumes are expected to be much lower both on Thursday and Friday. Economic data is very light today, with just Durable Goods Orders and Consumer Sentiment on the calendar. Investors yesterday were pleased to see Existing Home Sales rose as expected in October, jumping to a seasonally adjusted annual pace of 5.48 million, up +2% from last month and the best monthly rate since June. The main focus today will be on the "minutes" from the Federal Reserve's November 1 policy meeting. Central Bank releases always draw a lot of attention, though this is expected to mostly be a non-event. Most Fed officials have made it very clear that they are very comfortable with raising interest rates at their next policy meeting December 12-13, and it's not likely the minutes contain any information that would put that move in doubt. Friday will be quiet overall with Washington D.C. pretty much vacated and no significant economic data scheduled. The week back from what will be a four-day holiday weekend for many is packed, so rest up while you can! There is a slew of new U.S. economic data coming out, including New Home Sales, GDP, Vehicle Sales, and ISM Manufacturing. There are also eight Fed officials delivering speeches next week, with the highlight being Fed Chair Janet Yellen on Wednesday. She is testifying before the Congressional Joint Economic Committee about the U.S. economic outlook. Jerome Powell, President Trump's pick to succeed Yellen as Fed Chair, has his confirmation hearing just the day before on Tuesday. Investors are also highly anticipating the OPEC meeting on Thursday, November 30, where a decision on extending the production cut agreement beyond March 2018 is expected to be reached. In Washington, lawmakers are back at work next week and insiders are speculating the Senate could hold a vote on their tax reform proposal as early as Friday. Crude oil prices are again trading higher on continued tensions in the Middle East and a major shutdown in oil coming into the U.S. from Canada. Remember, the Keystone pipeline, which carries 590,000 barrels per day of crude from Alberta's oil sands to markets here in the US, was shutdown last week after a 5,000-barrel spill in South Dakota. This amounts to about an 85% cut in the amount of oil TransCanada Corp will deliver to the U.S.

**Uber Concealed A Massive Cyberattack That Exposed Data Of 57 Million Customers:** Hackers stole the personal data of 57 million customers and drivers from Uber Technologies Inc., a massive breach that the company concealed for more than a year. This week, the ride-hailing company ousted Joe Sullivan, chief security officer, and one of his deputies for their roles in keeping the hack under wraps. Compromised data from the October 2016 attack included names, email addresses and phone numbers of 50 million Uber riders around the world, the



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company told Bloomberg on Tuesday. The personal information of about 7 million drivers were accessed as well, including some 600,000 U.S. driver's license numbers. No Social Security numbers, credit card details, trip location info or other data were taken, Uber said. Uber now says it had a legal obligation to report the hack to regulators and to drivers whose license numbers were taken. Instead, the company paid hackers \$100,000 to delete the data and keep the breach quiet. Uber said it believes the information was never used but declined to disclose the identities of the attackers. Kalanick, Uber's co-founder and former CEO, learned of the hack in November 2016, a month after it took place, the company said. The new CEO said his goal is to change Uber's ways. Uber said it informed New York's attorney general and the FTC about the October 2016 hack for the first time on Tuesday. (Source: Bloomberg)

**Chinese Firms Hit In New U.S. Sanctions Against North Korean:** The U.S. has imposed more sanctions on North Korea as well as Chinese firms that trade with the regime, as part of its campaign to convince Pyongyang to abandon its missile and nuclear weapons programs. The Treasury on Tuesday unveiled sanctions on one Chinese individual, 13 entities that included four Chinese trading companies, and 20 shipping vessels that it says are helping North Korea evade U.N. sanctions. China criticized the move, which came less than two weeks after President Trump met Chinese president Xi Jinping in Beijing. "China firmly opposes unilateral sanctions out of the UN Security Council framework, especially the imposition of the so-called 'long-arm jurisdiction' by other countries in accordance with their domestic laws," said a spokesperson for the Chinese embassy in Washington. (Source: Financial Times)

**Another Week, Another Record-High For Bitcoin:** Another cryptocurrency-related hack wasn't enough to keep bitcoin down Tuesday, as it rebounded from early weakness to trade above \$8,300 and notch the latest in a string of all-time highs before retreating again. The digital currency wobbled after the company behind Tether, a dollar-pegged cryptocurrency, said nearly \$31 million worth of funds were "improperly removed from the Tether treasury wallet through malicious action by an external attacker." Tether said it would not redeem any of the stolen tokens and was in the process of attempting to recover them and prevent their entry into "the broader ecosystem." Bitcoin soon bounced back, however, trading as high as \$8,362.30 before turning back into negative territory on the day. In recent action, a single bitcoin fetched \$8,113.85, a loss of 1.5% on the day. Bitcoin is up more than 750% since the end of last year. The currency broke the \$8,000 barrier for the first time over the weekend. Recent support has been attributed to plans by CME Group to introduce bitcoin futures later this year. (Source: MarketWatch)

Here are a few of this year's early sponsors





# Bitcoin's path to \$8,000

## In one chart

The No. 1 cryptocurrency by market cap has skyrocketed 700% this year -- from just under \$1,000 at the outset of 2017 to top \$8,000 in November.



**Weather** forecasts continue to call for a slow harvest pace in the eastern Midwest due to wet fields from recent rain, along with periods of light precipitation during the balance of this week. Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana and Ohio have the greatest delays. Western Midwest harvest will finish for many producers because of drier conditions. Dry and warm conditions in the southern Plains continue, with some effect showing in winter wheat conditions. Good to excellent ratings show notable declines compared with a week ago, especially in Oklahoma and Texas. Further drying is in store this week, as temperatures may soar to 30 degrees F above normal. In the South, rain showers are overspreading the Gulf Coast region. Some of the heaviest rain is falling in parts of southern Florida. Elsewhere, dry weather is promoting fieldwork, including cotton and soybean harvesting. Looking ahead, a period of windy weather and snow showers will affect parts of the Midwest and Northeast. Thanksgiving Day, November 23, should feature above normal temperatures from the Pacific Coast to the Plains and upper Midwest, while cool conditions will prevail from the Gulf Coast into the Northeast. Thanksgiving Day precipitation will be confined to the Northwest and the lower Southeast.

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## Today In History



**1718, Blackbeard** - Edward Teach, also known as Blackbeard, is killed off North Carolina's Outer Banks during a bloody battle with a British

naval force sent from Virginia. Believed to be a native of England, Edward Teach likely began his pirating career in 1713, when he became a crewman aboard a Caribbean sloop commanded by pirate Benjamin Hornigold. In 1717, after Hornigold accepted an offer of general amnesty by the British crown and retired as a pirate, Teach took over a captured 26-gun French merchantman, increased its armament to 40 guns, and renamed it the Queen Anne's Revenge. During the next six months, the Queen Anne's Revenge served as the flagship of a pirate fleet featuring up to four vessels and more than 200 men. Teach became the most infamous pirate of his day, winning the popular name of Blackbeard for his long, dark beard, which he was said to light on fire during battles to intimidate his enemies. Blackbeard's pirate forces terrorized the Caribbean and the southern coast of North America and were notorious for their cruelty. In May 1718, the Queen Anne's Revenge and another vessel were shipwrecked, forcing Blackbeard to desert a third ship and most of his men because of a lack of supplies. With the single remaining ship, Blackbeard sailed to Bath in North Carolina and met with Governor Charles Eden. Eden agreed to pardon Blackbeard in exchange for a share of his sizable booty. At the request of North Carolina planters, Governor Alexander Spotswood of Virginia dispatched a British naval force under Lieutenant Robert Maynard to North Carolina to deal with Blackbeard. On November 22, Blackbeard's forces were defeated and he was killed in a bloody battle of Ocracoke Island. Legend has it that Blackbeard, who captured more than 30 ships in his brief pirating career, received five musket-ball wounds and 20 sword lacerations before dying.



**1783, John Hanson** - The first president of the Continental Congress under the Articles of Confederation, John Hanson, dies in his home state of Maryland. Hanson is sometimes called



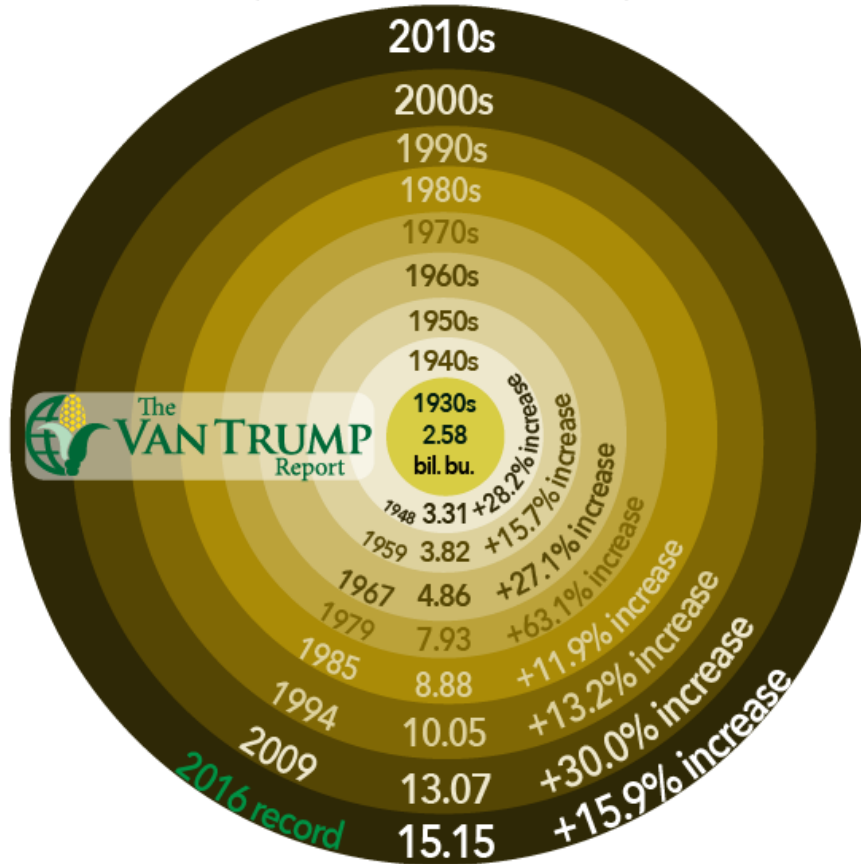
**Corn** traders have little fresh or new to discuss. The front-end of this market has traded in a 4 cent range this week ahead of the holiday, between \$3.53 and \$3.57 per bushel. The funds have been covering a small number of their record short positions and gradually pushing the market higher ahead of the holiday. On a longer-term basis, we've traded sideways to lower, between \$3.48 and \$3.78 per bushel for the past three-months. The bulls yesterday started talking about the Chinese dropping their import tax on DDGS, but the bears aren't thinking it will make a huge difference nearby. Brazilian ethanol prices continue to creep higher, which might ultimately U.S. imports more attractive. There's just very little fresh or new to report. Remember, the markets won't be open tomorrow and will then trade in an abbreviated holiday session on Friday from 9:30am to 1:15pm. I still see rallies to the upend of the recent trading range worth taking advantage, especially for those producers who need to make nearby cash sales. From a longer-term perspective, or those who already have over 50% of your bushels priced, I like being more patient. As a spec, I still like the thought of being a longer-term bull, but don't like the idea of buying into the recent strength. I still think there could be lowers-lows coming in the next few weeks, so no need to get in a hurry...

the first president of the United States, but this is a misnomer, since the presidency did not exist as an executive position separate from Congress until the federal Constitution created the role upon its ratification in 1789. Hanson was the self-educated son of Charles County, Maryland, farmers. His family had lived in Maryland for three generations beginning with the emigration from England of his grandfather, for whom he was named. Hanson's political career began in 1757 with his election to the Maryland Colonial Assembly. He returned to represent Charles County again from 1758-1763, 1765, 1766 and 1768-1769. As colonial-British relations frayed, Hanson took a seat in the revolutionary Annapolis Convention, which took control of the colony from the British in 1774 and renamed itself the Assembly of Freemen in 1776. An outspoken supporter of the Patriot cause, Hanson was instrumental in Maryland's decision to back the rebels laying siege to British-controlled Boston in the aftermath of the battles of Lexington and Concord. Named a delegate to the Continental Congress in 1779, Hanson served in that body from 1780 to 1782, including a term as the president of Congress (a position similar to that of prime minister in the British Parliament) from 1781 to 1782, during which time the Articles of Confederation were finally ratified and General George Washington defeated the British army at Yorktown, Virginia. Upon the ratification of the Articles on March 1, 1781, the Continental Congress became the "Congress of the Confederation" or the "United States in Congress Assembled." Hanson was the first president of that body, but not of the United States.



**1963, JFK** - John Fitzgerald Kennedy, the 35th president of the United States, is assassinated while traveling through Dallas, Texas, in an open-top convertible. First lady Jacqueline Kennedy rarely accompanied her husband on political outings, but she was beside him, along with Texas Governor John Connally and his wife, for a 10-mile motorcade through the streets of downtown Dallas on November 22. Sitting in a Lincoln convertible, the Kennedys and Connallys waved at the large and enthusiastic crowds gathered along the parade route. As their vehicle passed the Texas School Book Depository Building at 12:30 p.m., Lee Harvey Oswald allegedly fired three shots from the sixth floor, fatally wounding President Kennedy and seriously injuring Governor Connally. Kennedy was pronounced dead 30 minutes later at Dallas' Parkland Hospital. He was 46. Vice President Lyndon Johnson, who was three cars behind President Kennedy in the motorcade, was sworn in as the 36th president of the United States at 2:39 p.m. He took the presidential oath of office aboard Air Force One as it sat on the runway at Dallas Love Field airport. Lee Harvey Oswald, born in New Orleans in 1939, joined the U.S. Marines in 1956. He was

# U.S. Decade High Corn Production (in billion bushels)



Source: USDA, Crop Production Historical Track Records

**Soybean** bulls are talking about La Niña, higher crude oil prices, a stronger global economy and China being back in the U.S. market. Bears continue to point to ample global supply, slightly improved weather forecasts and overall improved conditions in South America. It's still early, but weather in South America will obviously be ever evolving during the coming weeks. I'm not getting myself overly excited in either direction of talks involving too wet or too dry. There's also the continued talk of heavy import tariffs being placed on palm oil coming into India. Remember, India is the world's largest importer, so there is certainly reason for concern and interest. Technically the market still feels like it is rangebound, but with the funds still acting as if they want to take a bullish position. Unfortunately, they just haven't been able to string together the headlines that have enough horsepower to overcome the current burdensome fundamentals. Technically, the JAN18 contract has nearby resistance at the \$10.00 level, with heavier resistance up between \$10.15 and \$10.25 per bushel. The new-crop NOV18 contract is also looking at stiff resistance in the \$10.15 to \$10.25 range. As both a producer and a spec, I'm staying extremely patient and waiting to make my next move on a breakout.

discharged in 1959 and nine days later left for the Soviet Union, where he tried unsuccessfully to become a citizen. He worked in Minsk and married a Soviet woman and in 1962 was allowed to return to the United States with his wife and infant daughter. In early 1963, he bought a .38 revolver and rifle with a telescopic sight by mail order, and on April 10 in Dallas he allegedly shot at and missed former U.S. Army general Edwin Walker, a figure known for his extreme right-wing views. Later that month, Oswald went to New Orleans and founded a branch of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee, a pro-Castro organization. In September 1963, he went to Mexico City, where investigators allege that he attempted to secure a visa to travel to Cuba or return to the USSR. In October, he returned to Dallas and took a job at the Texas School Book Depository Building. Less than an hour after Kennedy was shot, Oswald killed a policeman who questioned him on the street near his rooming house in Dallas. Thirty minutes later, Oswald was arrested in a movie theater by police responding to reports of a suspect. He was formally arraigned on November 23 for the murders of President Kennedy and Officer J.D. Tippit. On November 24, Oswald was brought to the basement of the Dallas police headquarters on his way to a more secure county jail. A crowd of police and press with live television cameras rolling gathered to witness his departure. As Oswald came into the room, Jack Ruby emerged from the crowd and fatally wounded him with a single shot from a concealed .38 revolver. Ruby, who was immediately detained, claimed that rage at Kennedy's murder was the motive for his action. Some called him a hero, but he was nonetheless charged with first-degree murder.

## Upcoming Events

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

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

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

**Tues. 12/12** - USDA Supply and Demand

**Mon. 12/25** - Christmas - Markets Closed

**Mon. 1/1** - New Year's Day - Markets Closed

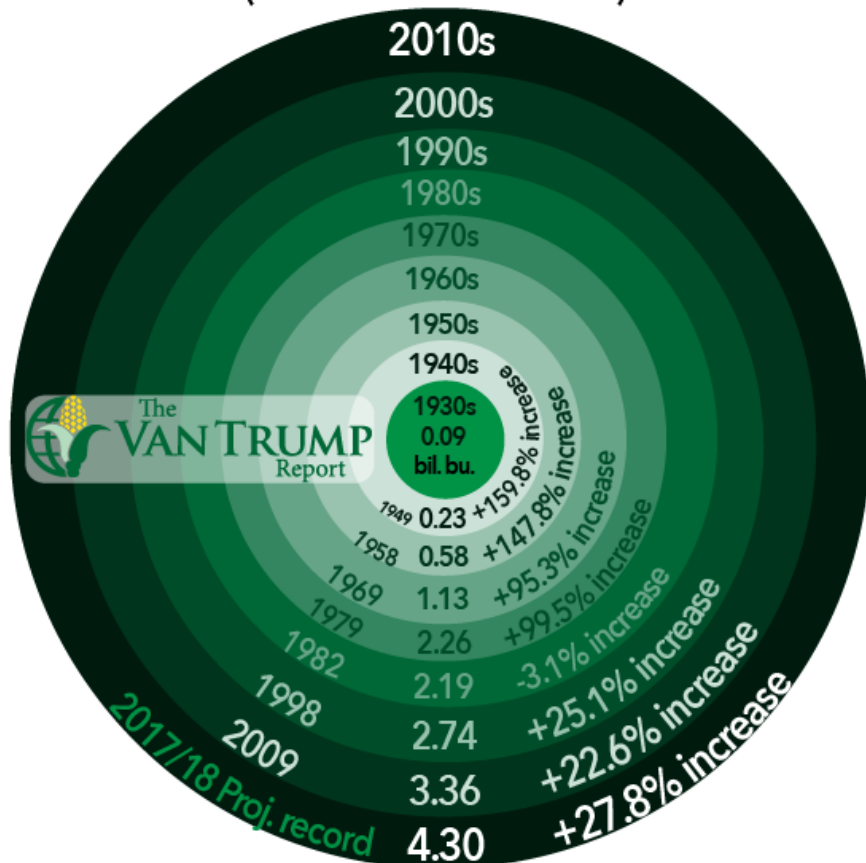
**Fri. 1/12** - USDA Supply and Demand

**Thurs. 2/8** - USDA Supply and Demand

## Kevin's Song of the Week



# U.S. Decade High Soybean Production (in billion bushels)



## WHAT I'M LISTENING TO:



## About the Report



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

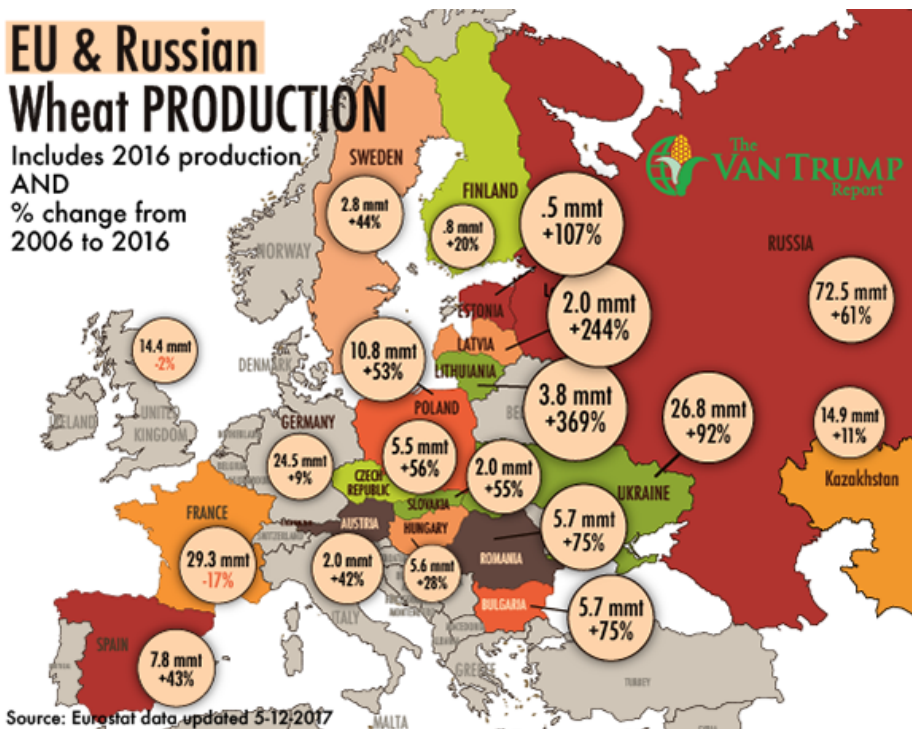
"I am a recent subscriber to Kevin's newsletter, but I'm a long-time reader of many other high-profile marketing services. I am particularly impressed with the thorough manner in which Kevin evaluates every economic aspect, both nationally and internationally, that

**Wheat** bulls are talking about a few interesting geopolitical developments. Russian headlines reported that a meteorological service measured radioactive isotopes at nearly 1,000 times their normal levels out towards the Ural Mountains. As you can imagine, there are rumors circulating about a nuclear accident and what if anything it could potential mean for Russian wheat exports. At the same time, the Russian government announced yesterday they were banning Brazilian pork and beef imports from Dec. 1, saying testing had found the muscle growth stimulant "ractopamine," which is prohibited in Russia. Brazil is denying the claims and there are now rumors circulating that Brazilian imports, which may reach 300,000 metric tons, are starting to more heavily compete with Russia's National Pig Farmers Union, and in turn has upset the entire apple cart. This obviously has the Brazilian government stewing and I suspect could be countered by Brazil denying any Russian wheat into their country. In turn this could prove more bullish for U.S. wheat exports. Wheat bulls are also talking about continued complications and weather uncertainties here with the newly planted U.S. crop. Some important areas in the Plains may not receive much rainfall during the next couple of weeks, making dry conditions more of a concern.

**Massive Wheat Production Gains By Low-Cost Providers:** I wanted to again include this graphic to better show the production gains we've seen from Europe and Russia the past few years.

## EU & Russian Wheat PRODUCTION

Includes 2016 production  
AND  
% change from  
2006 to 2016



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 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



### 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.

> **JPMorgan Sees Some Hope For Ag Commodities:** Overall commodity returns have been lackluster this year, and face more poor performance in 2018, according to JPMorgan Chase & Co. To make money, traders will need to pick assets, such as agriculture, and play short-term trends to take advantage of price swings, rather than buying and holding a broad basket of commodities, wrote analyst in the bank's outlook for 2018. The bank is fairly bullish agriculture, which it says could do well in 2018. JPMorgan says to go long on Kansas wheat and sugar. Markets that are most likely to tighten include cotton on strong consumption and Chinese imports, and corn because it's most susceptible to production problems related to La Nina. (Source: Bloomberg)

> **Russia Bans Brazil Meat Imports On Ractopamine Use Allegations:** The Russian government has barred Brazilian pork and beef imports from Dec. 1, saying testing had found the muscle growth stimulant ractopamine, which is prohibited in Russia. A Brazilian lobby for the industry said the feed additive isn't used in production of the exported meat, which adheres to Russian rules. The ban on pork comes at a time that imports from the Latin American country, the biggest foreign supplier of the meat, have been rising and as the Kremlin has sought to encourage its own farm industry. (Source: Bloomberg)

> **China Exempts DDGS Imports From Value-Added Tax From December 20:** China will remove the value-added tax on imports of distillers' dried grain from Dec. 20, the finance ministry says in a statement. Anti-dumping and anti-subsidy duties on U.S. DDGS imports remain in place, however. The decision was announced earlier in November following talks in Beijing between President Xi Jinping and President Donald Trump. (Sources: Bloomberg, Reuters)

> **Argo Redirects Ethanol Trucks Amid High Midwest Stocks:** Kinder Morgan this week reportedly began redirecting ethanol delivery trucks away from its Argo, Illinois, terminal to the company's nearby Stony Island liquids terminal. The company has redirected deliveries in the past when storage inventory levels have climbed and incoming product, such as an already-booked rail delivery, could make for a tight squeeze in the tanks. This is the third time in 2017 that Kinder Morgan has turned trucks away from Argo. The first was in February, the second in May, both when inventory levels in the Midwest were high. Midwest storage inventories fell 281,000 barrels in the week that ended November 10, according to the most recent US Energy Information Administration data. But, even with that decline, stocks remained 1.391 million barrels higher than in the same week last year. (Source: Platts)

**> Australia Weather Bureau Forecasts Weak, Short La Nina Event:** Australia moved one step closer to declaring La Nina, issuing an alert for the event as the Pacific Ocean continues to cool. Sea temperatures in the tropical Pacific are just shy of La Nina thresholds and show a clear progression toward the pattern, the Bureau of Meteorology said on its website. Atmospheric indicators have shown signs of shifting into a La Nina-like state, it said. The bureau issued an alert, meaning an approximately 70 percent chance of the event occurring. Australia's weather bureau said all international climate models reach La Nina thresholds in December, with most maintaining values until at least February. Any event is likely to be weak and short-lived, it said. (Source: Bloomberg)

**> GrainCorp Posts Bumper Profit But Follows With Cloudy Outlook:** Australia's biggest grain handler GrainCorp Ltd said on Tuesday its annual underlying profit nearly tripled on the back of a record wheat crop but warned of a shrinking harvest and volatile energy costs ahead. Discussing GrainCorp's bumper full-year results for fiscal 2017, including an underlying net profit that nearly tripled to \$142 million, managing director Mark Palmquist said this year's harvest would be "tremendously smaller", and in response the company would run a leaner harvest operation, with some sites to stay closed because of the lower volumes. (Source: Sydney Morning Herald)

**> John Deere Seeks \$2.9 Million In Tax Credits:** Deere & Co. has proposed building a \$32.6 million building in Urbandale, Illinois, to house its intelligent solutions group. The company is asking the Iowa Economic Development Authority Board to provide \$2.9 million in tax credits for the project. Now, the Moline, Ill.-based farm and construction equipment manufacturer rents space in Urbandale to house the group. It currently employs 343 workers. (Source: Des Moines Registry)

**> Wildfire Funding Fix Proposed:** The Senate Appropriations Committee, in a move aimed at ending the practice of fire borrowing, has proposed a \$507 million increase to the Forest Service's wildfire suppression budget for 2018. Forest Service and Interior have substantially exceeded their allotted budgets this year, spending close to \$2.9 billion fighting wildfires. (Source: Politico)

**> Protect Yourself From Cybercriminals This Holiday Season:** The holiday shopping season is a busy time of year for all -- from those looking for the best deals to those simply eager to find the perfect gift and complete their lists. Unfortunately, this includes identity thieves, who oftentimes target Black Friday and Cyber Monday enthusiasts alike. On the bright side, there are a variety of ways savvy shoppers can protect their identities along the way. This infographic highlights 10 specific tips to keep in mind whether you are navigating through the crowds of shoppers in-stores or clicking away from the comfort of your home. In addition to the 10 tips, the full-sized version of this infographic provides some important identity theft statistics that shed light on how protected consumers actually are. Click the graphic to see all the details. (Source: IdentityHawk)

*Farm Direction*  
RECIPES  
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-SENT IN BY OUR READERS-



**Pan-Seared Venison Steaks  
w/Bacon Pan Sauce**

**CLICK TO SEE RECIPE**



# Shop Safe on Black Friday and Cyber Monday

## 10 Tips To Protect Yourself While Shopping This Holiday Season

1

### Avoid untrusted websites

Try to do your holiday shopping with websites you have used safely in the past or that you know have a reputation for secure shopping

2

### Recognize these important signals that a website has proper security and encryption

<https://>  
The <https://> indicates a secure website  
The closed padlock icon on your browser means your personal data is encrypted

3

### Monitor your account statements and credit reports

4

### Pay attention to warning messages from your computer software

5

### Install protection software (anti-virus, spyware protection, firewall) and make sure all your software is up to date

6

### Avoid phishing attempts

Phishing emails are often disguised as legitimate looking requests for information from a trusted company

7

### Properly dispose of any paper documents that contain personal information

8

### Only give out necessary information when shopping

9

### Consider identity theft insurance to protect yourself in case of an identity theft incident

10

### Be ready to react if you learn of a potential threat



# FROM THE FIELD

**Southwest Minnesota** - We are trying to get the last of our corn out of the ground. There is about 100 acres left to harvest before we can call it a wrap on 2017. We had a dry spell earlier in the season followed by later rains in the fall. The irrigated acres were ok and yielded decent numbers, hitting over 200bpa. Our dryland crops were not as fortunate and had variable yields across the fields. We also have struggled with moisture levels and have left some out there while it dried down from the upper 20's. We got talking about how winters have changed over the years when we used to get so much snow as well as how that has seemingly changed the calendar a month each way. Our first frosts used to be near Labor Day, now don't seem to occur until October.

**Southeast North Dakota** - Our area never got to dry like some around here. We were actually wet early and then in June we lost 10% to drowning after 4" of rain. Both our corn and beans yielded above averages. We had good beans sales this summer during the rally but didn't pull the trigger on enough corn sales and have plenty left for sale. Most guys around here will be in good shape for another season of low prices. Most up here are able to produce enough to keep things going for a better day. Unfortunately, it looks like this is my last year farming as my siblings wanted to sale the property.

**Westcentral Minnesota** - The harvest still seems to be lingering along this year. We finished up our bean harvest around a week ago. Everything has taken longer this year. The beans still had green stems but the pods were saying it was time to cut. The bean yields were off from last year due to some white mold issues and weather in August that set them back a little. The corn has been slow going also. We are having a problem with all the corn drying down, still seeing some moisture levels up in the 28% to 30%. Most of that corn is on dryland acres, that were extremely wet throughout the year. We may leave the corn in the field to dry down and then pick it once the ground freezes up. The irrigated acres are making 200+bpa and the moisture levels have been much better than the dryland acres. We have heavier soils on our farms, so increased rains can be more difficult to dry out, so we don't get much done in the field.



## CROSSING WIRES

A place to share intelligent thoughts...

**Study: Honeybee Colonies Not Adversely Affected When Neonics Used Correctly:** The three most widely used neonicotinoid pesticides for flowering crops pose no risk to honeybee colonies when used correctly as seed treatments, according to new studies. Amid mounting controversy over the use of neonicotinoids ("neonics") and declining bee populations, a new analysis by University of Guelph scientists of previously unpublished studies and reports commissioned by agro-chemical companies Bayer and Syngenta — as well as published papers from the scientific literature — shows no significant ill effects on honeybee colonies from three common insecticides made by the companies. Read more [HERE](#).

**AI can determine forged art simply by examining its brush strokes:** A new system can break a work down into individual brush or pencil lines and figure out the artist behind it. In a new paper, researchers from Rutgers University and the Atelier for Restoration & Research of Paintings in the Netherlands document how their system broke down almost 300 line drawings by Picasso, Matisse, Modigliani, and other famous artists into 80,000 individual strokes. Then a deep recurrent neural network (RNN) learned what features in the strokes were important to identify the artist. Read more at [MIT Technology Review](#)

**'Wine Legs' Provided Scientists Inspiration For Minibot Solutions:** Miniature robots hold great promise — tiny bots could help with tasks such as environmental cleanups in the future. But finding a way to power these tiny robotic helpers is a challenge because clean, lightweight and compact fuel sources are hard to develop. The chemistry-based minimotor works because of a phenomenon called the Marangoni effect, which describes what happens when two liquids with strong surface tensions interact. The most famous example of the Marangoni effect is the so-called "legs" that run down the side of a glass of wine after the liquid is swirled. Read more [HERE](#).

**Ancient Castle Found Below Turkish Lake:** *Mythology scored a victory over modern archaeology when divers discovered ancient ruins around 3,000 years old at the bottom of a lake in eastern Turkey. Lake Van sits near Turkey's border with Iran. It is the world's largest saltwater lake and one of the world's largest endorheic bodies of water, meaning it has no outlet to the ocean. The Uratu kingdom ruled the area for hundreds of years, from 860–590 BC, and legends held that Uratu ruins lay beneath the waters. Read more [HERE](#).*

**"Reverse" Bucket List Helps Focus On Gratitude, Making You Feel Better:** *The reverse bucket list is pretty straightforward: Rather than writing down all of the things you hope to one day achieve, you instead write down a list of all the things you've already accomplished, things that make you feel proud. Researchers haven't specifically looked into the benefits of a reverse bucket list, but the exercise taps into a couple of well-studied topics, including gratitude. Gratitude is typically thought of as appreciating all that you have in a given moment, but it can also include appreciating all you have done and the experiences you've had in the past. Read more [HERE](#).*

**Fun Facts About Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade:** *This Thursday, Macy's will send its 91st Thanksgiving Day Parade down the streets of Manhattan—a spectacle more than 50 million people tune in to watch from the comfort of their homes. Here are a few things you might not have known about the iconic holiday event. Read more [HERE](#).*

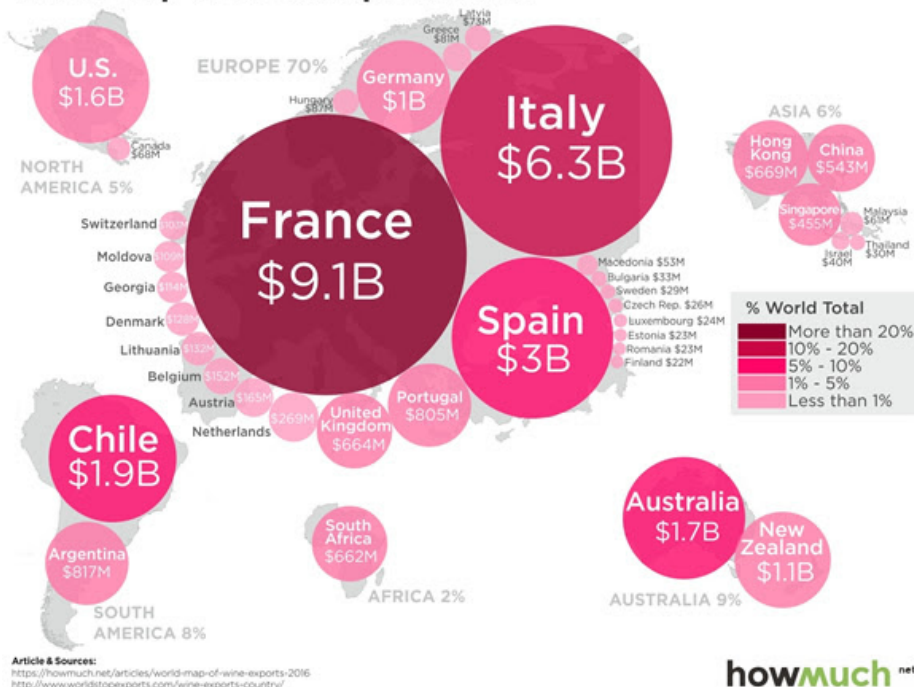
**How to Shop Smart on Black Friday (and Cyber Monday):** *Long before your Thanksgiving dinner has settled, retailers start to lure you in on Black Friday and Cyber Monday with doorbuster sales and in-store discounts. Online stores have already begun "leaking" their big — and now weeklong — Cyber Monday sales. Whether you plan to get in line or shop from home, The New York Times has compiled some tips on how to beat the marketing madness and be a smart shopper. Check them out [HERE](#).*

**Russia Confirms Spike In Radioactivity:** *Russian authorities on Tuesday confirmed reports of a spike in radioactivity in the air over the Ural Mountains while the suspected culprit, a nuclear fuel processing plant, denied it was the source of contamination. The Russian Meteorological Service said in a statement Tuesday that it recorded the release of Ruthenium-106 in the southern Urals in late September and classified it as "extremely high contamination." The Russian Natural Resources Ministry which oversees the meteorological office in a statement later on Tuesday sought to reassure the public, claiming that the radiation levels there still were lower than those deemed to be dangerous. Mayak, where it's believed the radiation is coming from, has been responsible for at least two of Russia's biggest radioactive accidents. Read more [HERE](#).*

**Which Countries Produce The Most Wine Around The World:** *In case you haven't heard, the wine industry is having a bad year thanks to the weather. European production numbers are going to be significantly down, which suggests that the worldwide export market might be headed for a shakeup. What might that look like? HowMuch created a new viz to demonstrate the current state of the market. The viz adjusts the size of each continent according to the relative proportion of its wine export market. That's why North America appears so much smaller than Europe—it produces a mere 5% of the world's wine exports compared to Europe's 70%. To make this visualization a bit easier, they also added bubbles corresponding to the size of the market for each country. See a larger graphic and read more details [HERE](#)*



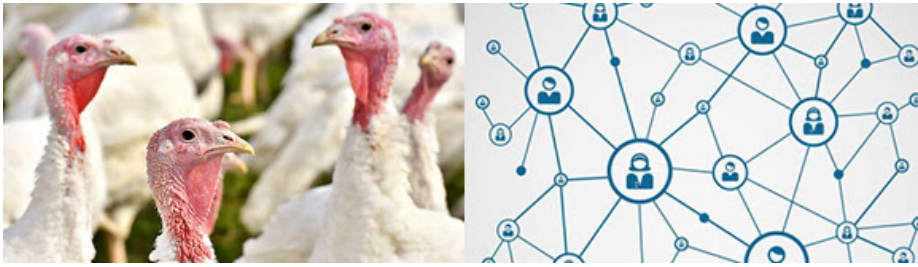
## World Map of Wine Exports 2016



### Turkey On Blockchain

Cargill announced a few weeks back that they were testing a blockchain platform to track their Honeysuckle White brand turkey. From what I understand, farms within Cargill's network will use a blockchain-based system that lets consumers find information about the turkeys, including photos of them where they were raised as well as comments from the farmers themselves, number of generations in the business, etc. When a customer purchases a turkey, a label on the packaging will include a six-digit code, which the customer can then enter on the Honeysuckle White website to find all of the specifics. Also uploaded: Information about the turkey flock, including what it ate, how long it was on the farm and where it was processed for sale. Reports show about 60,000 birds are on their homegrown blockchain. Cargill clearly sees consumers looking beyond farm-to-table marketing promises to better understand where their food comes from and how it is produced. I believe their Honeysuckle White brand is the first and only major turkey brand to pilot a blockchain-based solution for traceable turkey. I should note that Cargill is not the first food supplier to use a "blockchain" system to track its products. China-based ZhongAn Technology announced a similar system in June to track chickens in the world's most populous nation. Unlike Cargill, the company said it was tracking chickens on an individual level using sensors attached to the birds themselves. I also heard a couple of months back, IBM, Dole, Walmart and Tyson Foods were developing extensive blockchain tracking systems. Bottom-line, food transparency is clearly coming our direction. Cargill seems to be taking big steps in being a leader...

"I'm honored that the Honeysuckle White brand asked me to be one of the first farmers to make it possible for families to trace their turkey back to my family's farm," said family farmer Darrell Glaser of Milam County, Texas. "Everyone deserves to know more about the food they're eating, and I like feeling more connected to the people I'm raising these turkeys for. It's important for me that consumers understand the care my family puts in every day to provide quality turkeys for families across the country. For more information about Honeysuckle White brand turkeys visit [www.HoneysuckleWhite.com](http://www.HoneysuckleWhite.com) (Source: Cargill, Coinbase, Wall Street Journal)



### **Toys That Will Make You This Year's Christmas Hero**

With holiday shopping about to move into high-gear, I thought would pass along the "hot" new toys that are quickly moving to the top of kid's wish list. There could be some heavy competition to snag a few of these as consumer spending has ramped up and U.S. toy sales are projected to grow +4.5 percent this year, according to the NPD Group, a market research company that compiles a list of what's expected to be the most popular toys every holiday season. In my opinion some of the most in-demand toys for 2017 fall more into the "collectibles" category, with a lot of them fueled by entertainment franchises like Star Wars. Classic toys like the Barbie Dream House and Hot Wheels Singles will still be popular this year, but their newest releases may be a bit tougher to find. Below are some of the toys that kids and parents alike say they are going to be hoping to find this holiday season: (Sources: AdAge, CNBC, i4u)

**Fingerlings:** *WowWee has a massive hit on their hands with these little interactive collectibles. Launched in August, the baby monkeys immediately started flying off the shelves and the hype surrounding them just perpetuated their popularity. Some retailers have had special versions of the toy exclusive to them. WowWee has also introduced some holiday exclusives, including a unicorn and a sloth, that sell at a slightly higher price than the monkeys. The average retail price is \$14.99 but single Fingerlings are selling for as much as \$70 or more on eBay. In the week ended November 1, eBay said that one Fingerling was being sold every minute.*

**Hatchimals Surprise & Colleggtibles:** *Hatchimals were all the rage last year and their popularity continues into the 2017 holiday season with two new additions to their collectible line. This spring, the company launched Colleggtibles, a smaller and more affordable alternative. Later, Hatchimals Surprise, a larger egg with not one, but two Hatchimals inside followed. Colleggtibles are about a tenth the size of the traditional Hatchimal toy and require kids to rub a heat sensitive purple heart on the shell of the toy until it turns pink. When it's time to "hatch", they press into the plastic egg and it cracks open, revealing a colorful little critter. They retail for about 3 bucks. The Hatchimals Surprise "twins" sell for around \$70. There are six new types of Hatchimals to collect and some retailers have exclusive selling rights to specific "species."*

**DropMix:** *From Harmonix, the maker of hit video game Rock Band, DropMix is part card-game, part-video game and part music-making gadget. For \$99, you get a deck of 60 cards, which feature pieces of songs from various musical genres, and a battery-powered deck. Players place the cards down on the deck, which lights up when a card is played, to create music mixes. The deck connects via Bluetooth to mobile and smart devices when the free DropMix app is downloaded. There are two different game modes, plus a freestyle setting that allows users to just experiment making their own music mixes.*

**'Star Wars' Black Series 6-Inch Figures:** *The latest in the Star Wars series hits the big screen in December. This year also marks the 40th anniversary of the original Star Wars movie, which came out in 1977. Hasbro's 6-inch Black Series figures are a particular standout as they are more detailed than the standard 3 3/4 inch figures. Big sellers this year will include characters from "The Last Jedi" and 40th-anniversary figures, which recreate the iconic artwork and style of the original Kenner brand.*

**'Star Wars' Porg:** *One of the newest creatures introduced into the Star Wars universe are called porgs. They were inspired by real-life puffins. Disney anticipated that porgs would be popular. There is already a Star Wars licensed porg plush toy available that makes sounds like the porg in The Last Jedi movie. The porg toy also flaps, waves, waddles, and moves. It's available on Amazon for around \$40. Funko has several collectible figures, too, upwards from \$9 depending on how limited they are.*

**Roarin' Tyler and Ivy:** *Last year, kids fell in love with Torch, My Blazin' Dragon from Hasbro's FurReal Friends line. This year, it'll be Roarin' Tyler and Ivy that will be getting all the hugs. Roarin' Tyler is an orange fluffy, plush tiger that responds to touch and reacts realistically to outside*

stimulus. Ivy is sold separately and is a white tiger. So if you roar at Tyler or Ivy, they'll roar right back. The toys feature more than 100 motions and sounds. When you wave a little squeaker toy near their mouths, they will play tug of war. They retail for about \$130.

**Barbie Dream Horse:** Barbie's next big thing is a battery-operated horse that is large enough for Barbie to ride and can walk and even dance on its own. The toy makes realistic horse sounds, responds to touch and can be voice-activated. The white stallion has long blonde hair that can be brushed and will respond to a set of plastic carrots with a chomping sound. Suggested retail is \$99. Animatronic horses, in general, are expected to be big hits this year. Spin Master's Zoomer line is releasing a robotic horse toy, as is Mattel's rival, Hasbro, which is slated to debut a battery-operated My Little Pony Magic Twilight Sparkle toy.

**Slow-Rising Squishy Toys:** One of the hottest collectibles this year is slow-rise squeeze toys. These items, reminiscent of stress balls, are shaped like food and are made from a squishy foam. Soft 'N Slo Squishes and Smooshy Mushy are two of the predominant brands associated with these toys. These collectibles come in individual, identified packages and blind packs where you don't know what you'll get. Blind packs have long been a popular purchase for parents because they are low in cost and add an element of surprise when kids open them. From June 2016 to June 2017, sales of blind packs grew 48 percent, according to NPD Group. They go from \$4 and up.

**L.O.L. Surprise:** L.O.L. Surprise! dolls are one of the hottest collectible toys of 2017. The toy, a plastic sphere that holds individually wrapped dolls and accessories, was the fastest-selling toy in September, according to NPD Group, and shows no signs of slowing down. Half the fun of buying an L.O.L. Surprise is opening it. The dome-shaped case is filled with a doll and several accessories that are each hidden under a layer of plastic. Each time you peel back a layer, you get another surprise. Coming into the holiday season, the company has released the L.O.L. Big Surprise filled with 50 surprises including four dolls and dozens of accessories. While a regular L.O.L. Surprise will cost you about \$9, the Big Surprise is a whopping \$70.

**Frozen Sleigh:** Exclusive to Wal-Mart, the 12-volt battery powered blue sleigh from Disney's "Frozen is expected to be a tough one to get ahold of this year, in spite of its nearly \$300 price tag. The sleigh goes up to five miles per hour, has flashing lights and plays a magical tune on command.





### **From My Family To Yours Happy Thanksgiving!... And A Bit On "Gratitude"**

My family and I, like many of you, will count our blessings this holiday weekend. When I hear the word Thanksgiving, at first I start to think about my Mom and Gram cooking some amazing food. But then when I dig a bit deeper things take on a different light. Don't get me wrong, the food is always amazing, but when I look back to my most vivid and treasured memories not one is of the sense of "taste." Rather it was those Thanksgiving mornings with my Mom helping her prepare side-dishes while she talked to me about every float in the Macy Thanksgiving Day Parade. At the time, I dreaded watching that entire parade with her, now I would give the world to have one more Thanksgiving morning by her side. It's going in the door at my grandparents small house and always giving Gram a kiss while she was performing her magic in the kitchen. Of course I always had to steal a few samples and get my hand smacked before the food ever hit the table. What I wouldn't give to come through that door one more time and give her a big hug. Its heading out with my Dad, Pops and my Uncle George to play a highly competitive and heated round of golf after our first meal (the girls always had a second meal ready and waiting when we returned home). Once again, what I wouldn't give for just one more round with my favorite foursome. My point is, even though we've been trained and conditioned to think a certain way when we hear the word "Thanksgiving", if you dig a little deeper I'll bet you find it's not necessarily the amazing food that you've come to crave, but rather the smiling faces, the warm hugs and the sense of family this holiday brings. As for our family, the kids are doing terrific and everyone is healthy (knock on wood). Michelle and I celebrated

our 25th wedding anniversary, traveled around a bit and opened a new art gallery. From a business perspective it has been a fantastic year! I was able to hire a couple of longtime family friends who have brought some great energy and tools to our team. I have tried to do my absolute best to provide our readers with my daily insight and thoughts regarding the direction of the agricultural markets. Some times good, some times not so good, but always my best effort and honest opinion. I am truly grateful for the support that my family and friends have provided in regard to these efforts. To say I have benefited greatly from the comments and email support that I receive daily from our readers, friends, current and former traders, etc... would be a gross understatement. The contributions everyone provides truly encourage and inspire. Bottom-line, I couldn't do it without all of the pieces coming together each and every day. Yes my family and I are truly blessed to have your support. Trust me when I say not a day goes by that we are not grateful for all of the wonderful people we have met along the way and those who have come into our life do to this report. What I really wanted to say is thanks again to all of those who have allowed my family to become a part of yours! I hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Through the years I've had the opportunity to read a few articles about the power of "gratitude" and how it can single handedly help change someones life. I've read how it has helped thousands overcome deep depression and constant sorrow. In fact a scientific study recently released showed that higher levels of "gratitude" showed a healthier heart. From what I understand researchers rated the people's levels of gratitude and spiritual well-being. They found that higher gratitude scores were linked to having a better mood, higher quality sleep and less inflammation—which can worsen the symptoms of heart failure. Rather than list all of the things I am thankful for each and everyday, God, family, friends, etc... I thought I would pass along a few interesting insights about gratitude and how it can positively impact our lives. I've noticed a few more friends and cohorts as of late battling depression, I hope this offers up some hints and clues about ways to improve the battle.

[True Secret to Success \(It's Not What You Think\)](#) by Geoffrey James

*I'm utterly convinced that the key to lifelong success is the regular exercise of a single emotional muscle: Gratitude!*

*People who approach life with a sense of gratitude are constantly aware of what's wonderful in their life. Because they enjoy the fruits of their successes, they seek out more success. And when things don't go as planned, people who are grateful can put failure into perspective.*

*By contrast, people who lack gratitude are never truly happy. If they succeed at a task, they don't enjoy it. For them, a string of successes is like trying to fill a bucket with a huge leak in the bottom. And failure invariably makes them bitter, angry, and discouraged.*

*Therefore, if you want to be successful, you need to feel more gratitude. Fortunately, gratitude, like most emotions, is like a muscle: The more you use it, the stronger and more resilient it becomes.*

### **Practice Nightly!**

*The best time to exercise gratitude is just before bed. Take out your tablet (electronic or otherwise) and record the events of the day that created positive emotions, either in you or in those around you.*

*Did you help somebody solve a problem? Write it down. Did you connect with a colleague or friend? Write it down. Did you make somebody smile? Write it down.*

*What you're doing is "programming your brain" to view your day more positively. You're throwing mental focus on what worked well, and shrugging off what didn't. As a result, you'll sleep better, and you'll wake up more refreshed.*

### **Reprogramming Your Brain ~**

*More important, you're also programming your brain to notice even more reasons to feel gratitude. You'll quickly discover that even a "bad day" is full of moments that are worthy of gratitude. Success becomes sweeter; failure, less sour.*

*The more regularly you practice this exercise, the stronger its effects.*

*Over time, your "gratitude muscle" will become so strong that you'll attract more success into your life, not to mention greater numbers of successful (i.e., grateful) people. You'll also find yourself thanking people more often. That's good for you and for them, too.*

*This method works. If you don't believe me, try it for at least a week. You'll be amazed at what a huge difference it makes.*



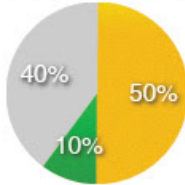




# CASH SALES & HEDGING TOTALS

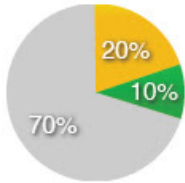
## CORN 2017 CROP

50% SOLD  
10% HEDGED  
40% UNPROTECTED



## CORN 2018 CROP

20% SOLD  
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70% UNPROTECTED



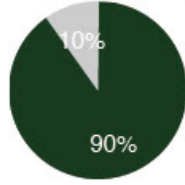
## CORN 2019 CROP

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100% UNPROTECTED



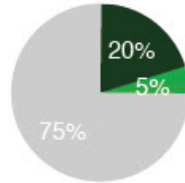
## SOYBEANS 2017 CROP

90% SOLD  
0% HEDGED  
10% UNPROTECTED



## SOYBEANS 2018 CROP

20% SOLD  
5% HEDGED  
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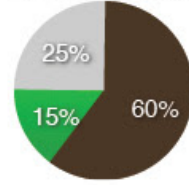
## SOYBEANS 2019 CROP

0% SOLD  
0% HEDGED  
100% UNPROTECTED



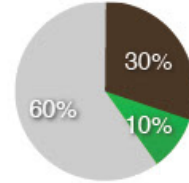
## WHEAT 2017 CROP

60% SOLD  
15% HEDGED  
25% UNPROTECTED



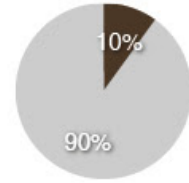
## WHEAT 2018 CROP

30% SOLD  
10% HEDGED  
60% UNPROTECTED



## WHEAT 2019 CROP

10% SOLD  
0% HEDGED  
90% UNPROTECTED



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