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By: Scott Barrie

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Lan Turner's Hierarchy of Trades: Part 2 of 6

By: Lan H. Turner

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Trading With Stop-Loss

By: Michael Michaud

Do you use stops on all your trades? Trading without stops is the ego wanting to never be held accountable to admit that a position was a mistake if a certain level is breached or if a certain set of circumstances play out in an unexpected manner. Let the market take you out. This takes your ego out of the decision - this decision...

The October Market Myth

By: KImberly Lyon

The only sure thing in the markets is that prices will change. This is an old adage that is often used in jest, with a smile and a wink. Though said jokingly or with sarcasm, it is, nevertheless, very true. Many facts about the marketplace may not be able to be stated with as much certainty as "prices will change," but they are surely...

The Trend is Your Friend Until it Bends Or Ends: Examining Wednesday Trading Patterns In The Pound Sterling Vs Dollar

By: Scott Barrie

Any trader who has been around long enough to have suffered the proverbial "slings and arrows" of the marketplace knows that markets move in trends, yet they also understand that a correction for one person...

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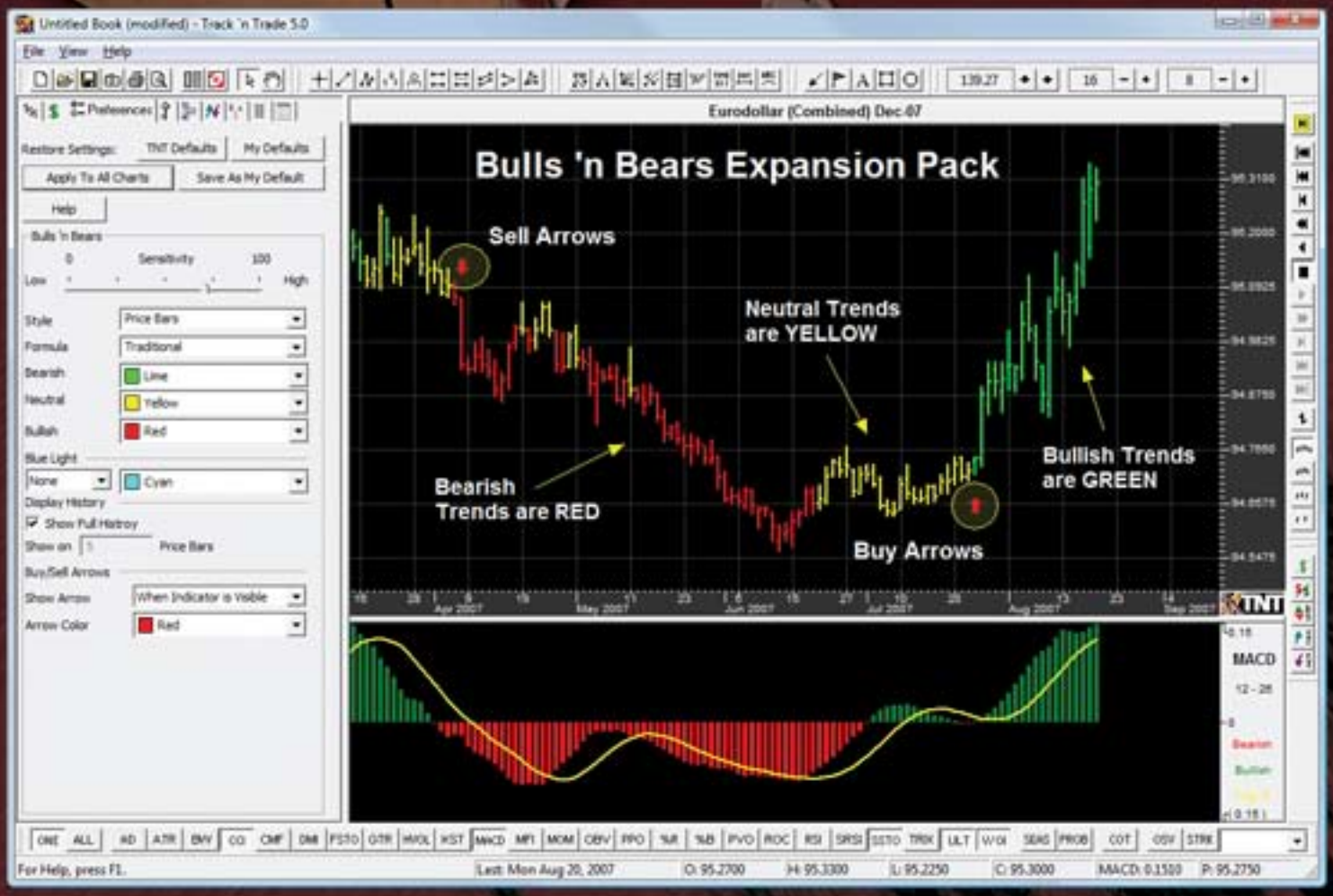

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Editor's Note

An old proverb states, "Change is the only constant."

This is true of many things in life. Currently, seasons are changing, technology is changing… and on a personal note, within a few months, my name will be changing (I got engaged to be married last weekend, so it's an exciting time for me). Of course, the markets are ever-changing too, constantly keeping us traders on our metaphorical toes. PitNews.com Magazine takes a special look at change this month.

The Trend is Your Friend Until it Bends or Ends: Examining Wednesday Trading Patterns in the Pound Sterling Vs Dollar explains why it's not so bad to be a small speculator, especially when change happens suddenly. Author **Scott Barrie** provides ideas for trading the Pound in this article, as well as for the Petroleum markets in the *October 2007 Commodity Trader's Almanac*.

The second installment of **Lan Turner's** *Hierarchy of Trades* takes a look at fundamentals and seasonality – two things that should never change, according to Turner, as the base of your trading pyramid.

This issue may even change the way you think about *Trading with Stop-Loss* (by **Michael Michaud**) and *The October Market Myth*.

Change is good. And so is reading the October issue of PitNews.com Magazine. Enjoy, and happy trading!

Kimberly

Kimberly Lyon
Managing Editor
PitNews.com Magazine

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OFF THE WALL

By: Lan H. Turner
Editor in Chief
PitNews.com Magazine

The Wall *is PitNews.com's trading forum, found on the web at: http://thewall.pitnews.com or from the tab link on the front page of PitNews.com. Each month, we highlight a chart submitted by one of our users.*

Andrews Pitchfork and Fibonacci are popular trading methods used by many traders who frequent the PitNews Wall Forum. Jack-7 has once again exampled his trades with us by posting his thoughts on The Wall:

Price danced around blue ML, 76.4 fib, black dash dot reaction line through the gaps center line, modified FSTO indicator gave sell signal, candles indicated confusion.

Place stop to enter under low of last 6 days.

Moved stop loss to 1/2 of today's range, to lock up some profit, will trail stop loss over highest of last 3 days from here on.

I do not open up cocoa charts or comments, until this trade is over. That being said, my grand-father always said,"a spread will give you 2 ways to be wrong along with 2 commissions to pay."

Keep your fork!

Get into the action! Start posting charts on The Wall, and maybe you'll see your chart highlighted here in our next PitNews.com Magazine issue.

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October 2007

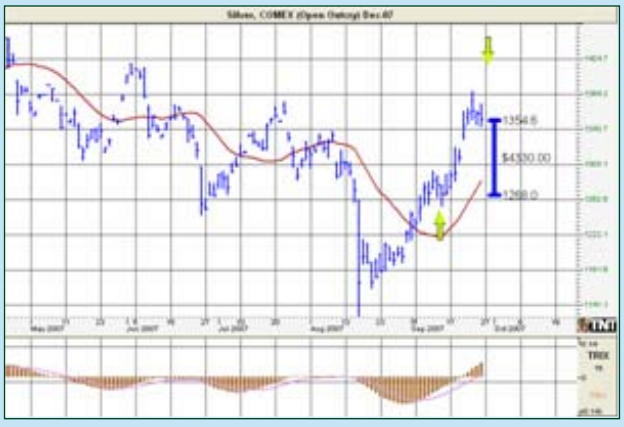
COMMODITY TRADER'S ALMANAC View And Review

By: Scott Barrie

Last month in this article we highlighted the metals markets. The article discussed how Gold and Silver tend to rise on the back of demand ahead of the Christmas shopping season. This demand pull tends to be manifested in higher prices, as the six week Holiday shopping season accounts for roughly 40% of all jewelry sales in a typical year.

As the charts on the next page show, the idea of wholesale demand pushing prices up ahead of retail demand certainly worked out well (too bad the Copper Trading idea didn't play out as well). The key concept presented and applied to the precious metals markets was that prices tend to move ahead of demand, as wholesale demand from fabricators and manufacturers drive prices up well ahead of retail demand. A very similar dynamic tends to be at work in the Petroleum Markets in the 4th quarter of the year.

September Almanac View And Review Gold And Silver Trades



Typical Petroleum Cycles

The energy industry aggressively builds inventory during September in preparation for heating season. This tends to cause demand to accelerate into October - but then decelerate in the later half of the month and into early November. This often results in panic and a seasonal peak in Petroleum prices.

The Northeast is the world's largest regional consumer of heating oil. Typically, Heating Oil distributors – sometimes

HYPOTHETICAL PERFORMANCE RESULTS
December Crude Oil Futures Dollars/Barrel Changes
Enter Approximately October 15th / Exit Roughly November 5th

Entry Date	Entry Price	Exit Date	Exit Price	Closed P&L (pts)	Closed P&L ($)	High Price	High Date	Low Price	Low Date
10/16/2006	61.57	11/3/2006	59.14	2.43	$2,430.00	62.23	10/17/2006	57.05	10/31/2006
10/17/2005	63.61	11/3/2005	61.78	1.83	$1,830.00	63.65	10/18/2005	58.75	11/2/2005
10/15/2004	53.97	11/3/2004	50.88	3.09	$3,090.00	55.65	10/27/2004	48.65	11/3/2004
10/15/2003	31.86	11/5/2003	30.30	1.56	$1,560.00	32.15	10/29/2003	28.26	10/30/2003
10/15/2002	29.76	11/5/2002	26.14	3.62	$3,620.00	30.15	10/29/2002	26.08	11/5/2002
10/15/2001	22.58	11/5/2001	20.02	2.56	$2,560.00	23.08	10/29/2001	19.69	11/2/2001
10/16/2000	32.39	11/3/2000	32.71	-0.32	($320.00)	34.09	10/27/2000	31.80	10/19/2000
10/15/1999	22.82	11/3/1999	22.56	0.26	$260.00	23.77	10/25/1999	21.55	10/29/1999
10/15/1998	14.24	11/4/1998	14.14	0.10	$100.00	14.74	11/2/1998	13.28	10/20/1998
10/15/1997	20.70	11/5/1997	20.31	0.39	$390.00	21.57	10/22/1997	20.15	10/28/1997
10/15/1996	25.02	11/5/1996	22.64	2.38	$2,380.00	25.80	10/22/1996	22.60	11/5/1996
10/16/1995	17.37	11/3/1995	17.94	-0.57	($570.00)	18.02	11/2/1995	16.86	10/23/1995
10/17/1994	17.22	11/3/1994	18.90	-1.68	($1,680.00)	19.01	11/3/1994	17.03	10/21/1994
10/15/1993	18.38	11/3/1993	17.49	0.89	$890.00	18.64	11/3/1993	16.76	11/3/1993
10/15/1992	22.25	11/4/1992	20.33	1.92	$1,920.00	22.37	10/16/1992	20.17	11/4/1992

			In points	In $'s		In points	In $'s
# Trades	15	Total P&L	18.46	$ 18,460.00	Max Draw	-1.79	
# Win	12	Avg. P&L	1.23	$ 1,230.67	Avg. Draw	-0.75	($745.33)
# Loss	3	Avg. Win	1.75	$ 1,752.50	Worst Draw on Win		
% Win	80%	Avg. Loss	-0.86	$ (856.67)		-1.68	($1,680.00)

Past performance is not necessarily indicative of future results – see disclaimer. Data compliments of Gecko Software, Inc.

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known as "jobbers" – accumulate inventory ahead of the retail demand, much the same way Jewelry fabricators buy bullion ahead of increased sales jewelry. Jobbers tend to buy or contract for Heating Oil well ahead of the cooling weather, so they have plenty of inventory on hand to meet retail demand. As such, during the 3rd quarter of the year, the Petroleum Industry is busy building inventories to meet the upcoming supply.

The energy industry aggressively builds inventory during September in preparation for heating season.

However, by mid-October the petroleum industry is running at capacity and futures prices have tended to achieve their seasonal peak. December Crude Oil futures have tended to decline in the later half of the month, as does December Heating Oil.

Current Petroleum Situation

The normal pattern for Crude Oil from an inventory perspective (known as "stocks") is for a build-up in inventories into mid year, then a gradual decrease into year-end. The combination of strong demand for gasoline during the "driving season" as well as increasing Heating Oil demand from a wholesale perspective tends to drive this normal pattern.

Currently, U.S. Crude Oil stocks are estimated at 320.6 million barrels, slightly below last year's level of 324.8 million barrels for the same week. However, demand or estimated Crude Oil usage has fallen compared to last year, as high prices and the trend towards more efficiencies from consumers - hybrid and fuel efficient cars, alternative fuels, etc. This can be seen in the ratio of stocks to estimated usage, which is currently projected at 20.7 days currently, as opposed to 20.4 last year, clearly showing that the supply to usage situation as currently being estimated has not substantially changed.

Petroleum Technical Situation

Currently, the Petroleum markets appear to be in a strong uptrend

HYPOTHETICAL PERFORMANCE RESULTS
December Heating Oil Futures Cents/Gallon Changes
Enter Approximately October 15th / Exit Roughly November 2nd

Entry Date	Entry Price	Exit Date	Exit Price	Closed P&L (pts)	Closed P&L ($)	High Price	High Date	Low Price	Low Date
10/16/2006	179.76	11/2/2006	163.97	15.79	$6,631.80	182.20	10/17/2006	162.40	11/2/2006
10/17/2005	202.36	11/2/2005	178.29	24.07	$10,109.40	204.50	10/18/2005	175.00	11/2/2005
10/15/2004	154.97	11/2/2004	139.22	15.75	$6,615.00	161.00	10/22/2004	138.80	11/2/2004
10/15/2003	87.78	11/4/2003	77.86	9.92	$4,166.40	88.50	10/24/2003	77.50	10/30/2003
10/15/2002	80.58	11/4/2002	73.33	7.25	$3,045.00	81.80	10/24/2002	72.20	10/29/2002
10/15/2001	63.97	11/2/2001	58.26	5.71	$2,398.20	65.40	10/24/2001	57.65	11/2/2001
10/16/2000	97.29	11/2/2000	93.18	4.11	$1,726.20	101.65	10/24/2000	92.25	10/31/2000
10/15/1999	60.17	11/2/1999	59.41	0.76	$319.20	62.05	10/25/1999	57.60	10/29/1999
10/15/1998	39.53	11/3/1998	39.37	0.16	$67.20	41.00	10/27/1998	38.30	10/20/1998
10/15/1997	57.96	11/4/1997	58.11	-0.15	($63.00)	60.10	10/22/1997	56.80	10/28/1997
10/15/1996	72.73	11/4/1996	65.95	6.78	$2,847.60	74.00	10/21/1996	65.80	11/4/1996
10/16/1995	49.42	11/2/1995	52.04	-2.62	($1,100.40)	52.10	11/2/1995	48.45	10/19/1995
10/17/1994	47.95	11/2/1994	51.20	-3.25	($1,365.00)	51.50	10/21/1994	47.60	10/19/1994
10/15/1993	55.38	11/2/1993	52.37	3.01	$1,264.20	56.50	10/21/1993	51.30	10/29/1993
10/15/1992	66.30	11/3/1992	59.43	6.87	$2,885.40	66.60	10/16/1992	59.30	11/3/1992

			In points	In $'s		In points	In $'s
# Trades	15	Total P&L	94.16	$ 36,547.20	Max Draw	-6.03	($2,532.60)
# Win	12	Avg. P&L	6.28	$ 2,636.48	Avg. Draw	-2.18	($917.00)
# Loss	3	Avg. Win	8.35	$ 3,506.30	Min. Draw on Win		
% Win	80%	Avg. Loss	-2.01	$ (842.80)		-6.03	($2,532.60)

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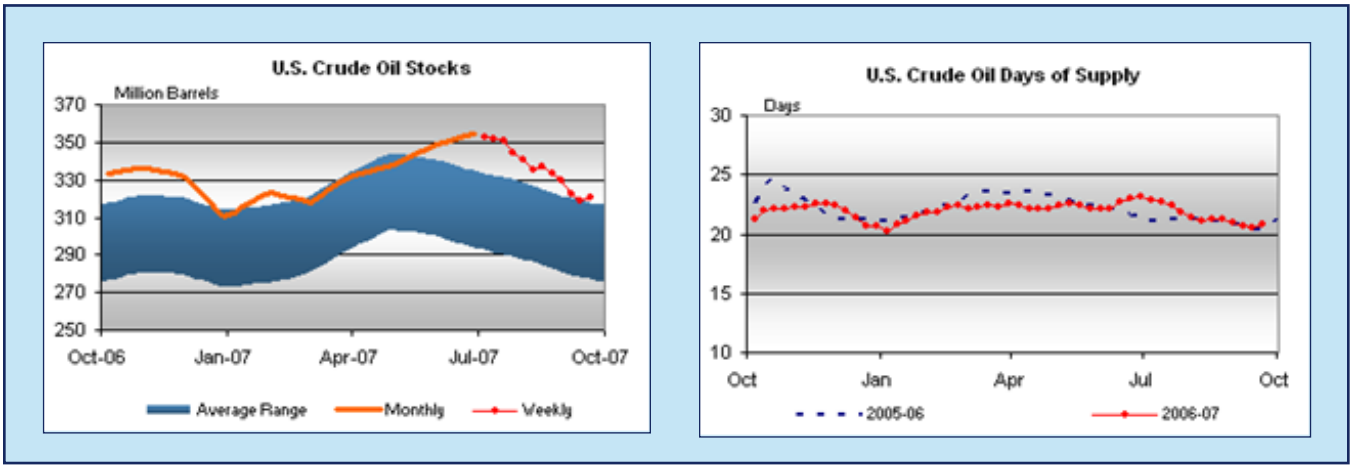

during all time frames (Daily, Weekly, and Monthly) – which should not be surprising to anyone watching these markets as they are at all time highs. However, several factors are pointing to a possible reversal – or at least a correction – in the coming weeks, which would play in perfectly to the normal historical situation for the Petroleum Markets.

First, these markets look extremely "OVER BOUGHT." Indicators such as Slow Stochastics (SSTO), and Relative Strength Index (RSI) are flashing over bought signals. On a strictly price basis, prices appear over bought, as well, as they have move to the upper end of the Bollinger Bands (an indicator which measures the distance from average prices based on standard deviations).

Second, the lack of follow through after breaking to new all time highs may be indicative of "price rejection." Price Rejection is the term for an unsustainable price of a commodity, which is usually shown by the fact that new highs are quickly rejected and a substantial break typically follows. The recent potential

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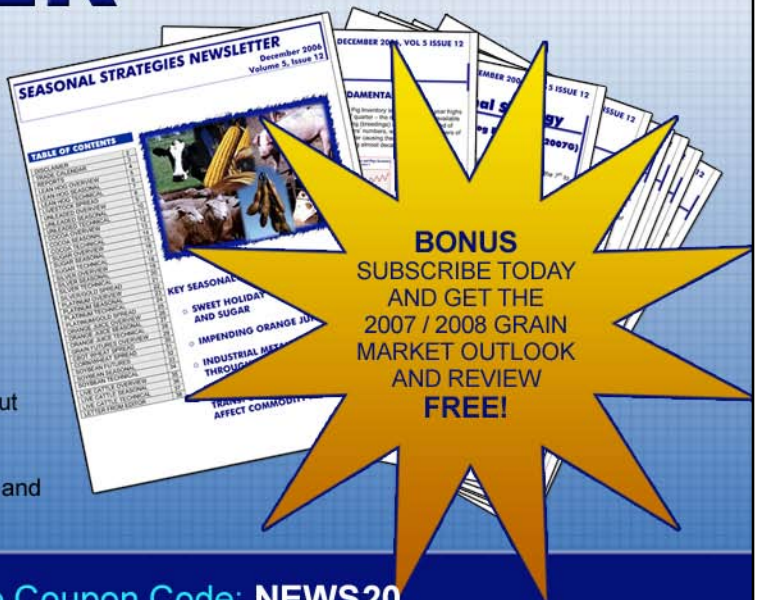

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"Key Reversal" bar on the weekly December Crude Oil chart is adding credence to the potential for this market experiencing price rejection at these new all time highs.

Lastly, from a sentiment side, the Petroleum Markets look due for a break. The Commercial Traders – large Hedgers who have off-setting physical positions – are net short, but at a decreasing rate. Large Speculators – usually referred to as "Funds" – are net long, but also at a decreasing rate. This lack of conviction on either side may be indicative of a change of trend, as it is not uncommon to see the large players in the market place take smaller positions near critical turning points.

This lack of conviction on either side may be indicative of a change of trend, as it is not uncommon to see the large players in the market place take smaller positions near critical turning points.

Though ideally one would like to see the technical picture in the petroleum markets more overtly bearish than they are, the current situation is not clearly as bullish as the new highs in recent weeks would have one think. As such, traders should pay attention to the charts in coming weeks, for violations of crucial support levels and holding resistance levels may be a good guide towards a correction in Petroleum futures.

Conclusion

It is always dangerous to buck an existing long-term trend, such as the upward/bullish one in Petroleum prices. However, as futures traders, we are not as interested in the long-term as we are in the mid- to short-term trends, or specifically the next several weeks, or even sessions. A correction in prices within a trend of 5 to 10% for a long-term investor is just noise, but such a move when magnified by margin to a futures trader is a serious move.

Historically, petroleum prices tend to break this time of the year as demand from the wholesale sector tends to weaken as they concentrate on selling to the retail sector and are hesitant to build inventories due to tax reasons. Currently it appears that the stocks of Crude Oil as well as Distillate Fuels seem high when compared to projected and estimated usage, the normal pattern of price breaks in the 4th quarter – specifically in the later half of October, especially – appears on track.

Of course, it is impossible to know with certainty if the current situation will end up unfolding as it has in the past – as past performance is not necessarily indicative of future results – but the combination of "Over Bought" readings from technical indicators, a general lack of serious commitment from major market participants, combined with a history prices typically breaking this time of the year should have speculators in the futures markets looking to ply their trade – with only genuine risk capital – on the short side; looking for their favorite bearish patterns, as the current supply/demand, seasonal, and crowd sentiment appear to be pointing towards lower prices… but you really can't tell till you bet.

Scott Barrie is a former Chicago Exchange Member and Private Hedge Fund Operator. He is also a well respected speaker, author, editor of Pitnews Magazine, and major contributing author. His firm, Commodity Futures and Equity Analytics (CFEA) offers newsletters, as well as consulting services for Individuals, Funds, and Brokerages involved in both Speculation as well as Hedging. For current research and products available from Scott Barrie and CFEA visit www.CommodityAlmanac.com

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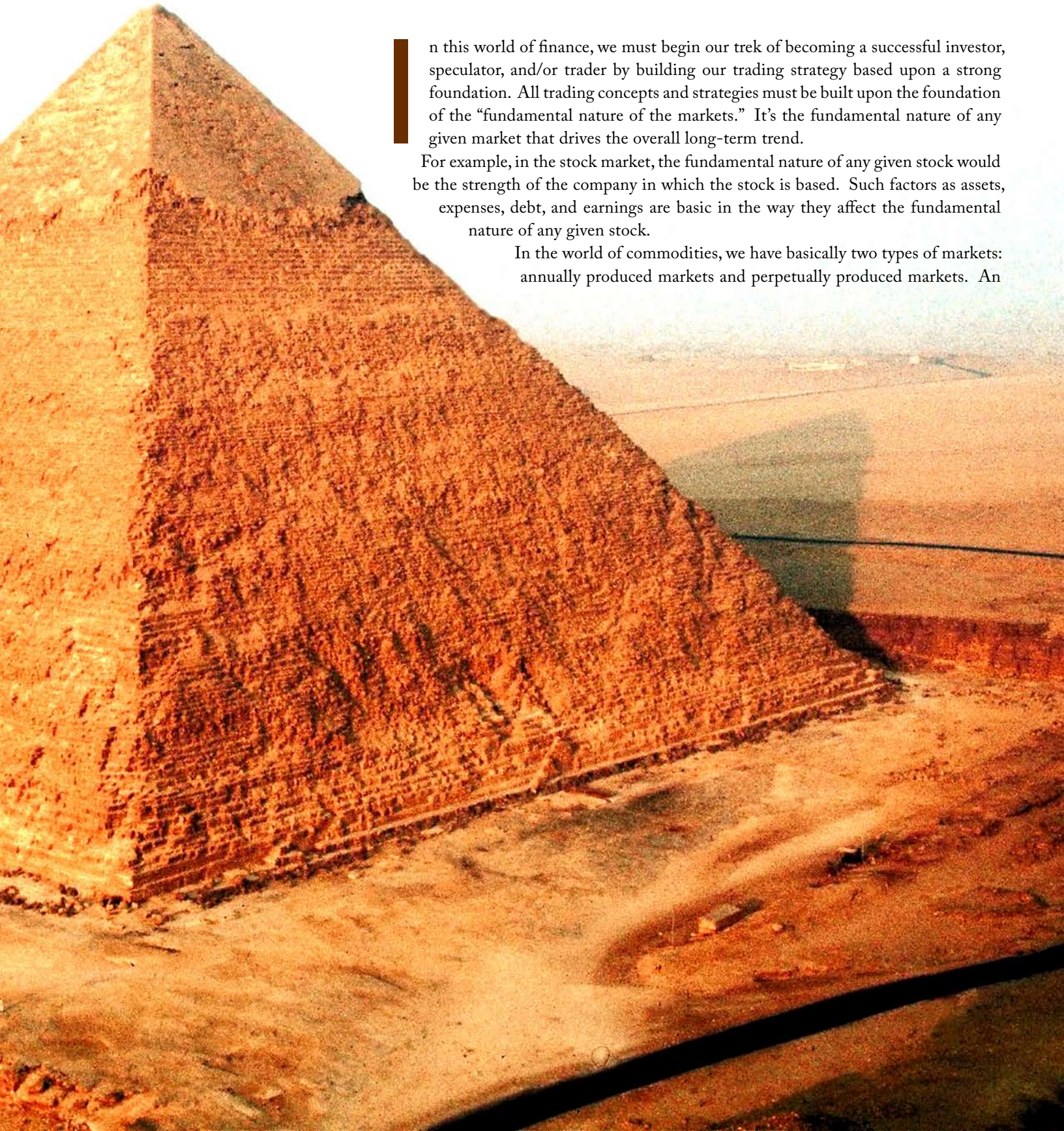
Lan Turner's

Hierarchy of Trades

Part 2 of 6

"Count, Measure, Setup, Trigger, and Follow Through



In this world of finance, we must begin our trek of becoming a successful investor, speculator, and/or trader by building our trading strategy based upon a strong foundation. All trading concepts and strategies must be built upon the foundation of the "fundamental nature of the markets." It's the fundamental nature of any given market that drives the overall long-term trend.

For example, in the stock market, the fundamental nature of any given stock would be the strength of the company in which the stock is based. Such factors as assets, expenses, debt, and earnings are basic in the way they affect the fundamental nature of any given stock.

In the world of commodities, we have basically two types of markets: annually produced markets and perpetually produced markets. An

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Name	INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MACHS
Ticker	IBM
Exchange	NEW YORK
SIC Code	3571
Division	Manufacturing
Sector	Industrial Machinery and Equipment
Group	Computer And Office Equipment
Industry	Electronic Computers
Market Open	9:30
Market Close	16:15
Shares Outstanding	1,360,407,000
Shares In Float	1,359,298,000
Average Daily Volume	6,875,000
Short Interest	18,691,137
Lot Size	0
Record Type	0
CUSIP	45920010
Industry Group	CMPTRS
Primary Market Code	4
Start Date	1/5/1970
Accounting Date	9/28/2007 1:02:00 PM
Cash	0.00
Holdings	0.00
Margin	0.00

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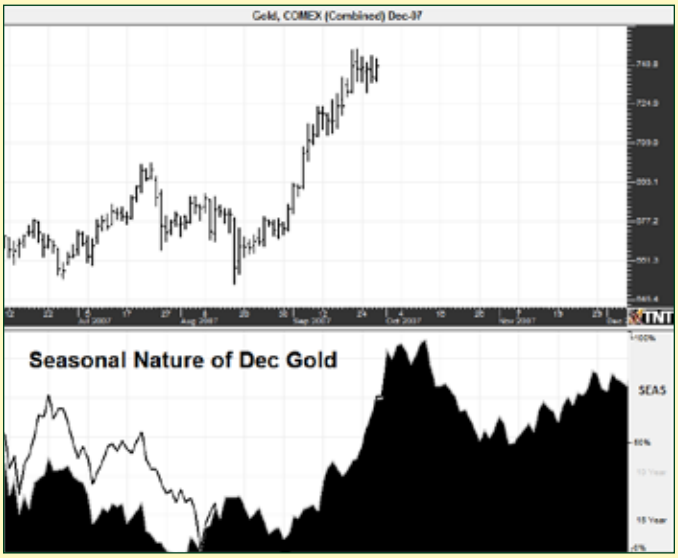
annually produced commodity, such as corn, soybeans, or wheat, has supply available at one time each year, yet demand is spread throughout the year. Perpetually produced commodities such as gold and silver have supply available throughout the year, yet demand tends to peak at particular times.

The fundamental nature of any given stock would be the strength of the company in which the stock is base. Such factors as assets, expenses, debt, and earnings are basic in the way they affect the fundamental nature of any given stock.

The "seasonal" nature of any given commodity is its fundamental driving force. Take corn, soybeans, or wheat for example, they are planted at the same time every year, they are harvested at the same time every year, they are susceptible to damage, storage fees, transportation costs, all at the same time each and every year. These "seasonally" recurring events drive the overall long term trend of any given commodity. Ask a farmer

Gold and Silver Both Have Strong Seasonal Increases in October



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when the price of his crop is selling at its lowest price for the year, and he'll tell you it's always at harvest time, right when he wants to sell, and when everyone else wants to sell as well. This factor makes it possible for us as speculators to gauge the fluctuation of price through the study of historical data and the simple concept of supply and demand.

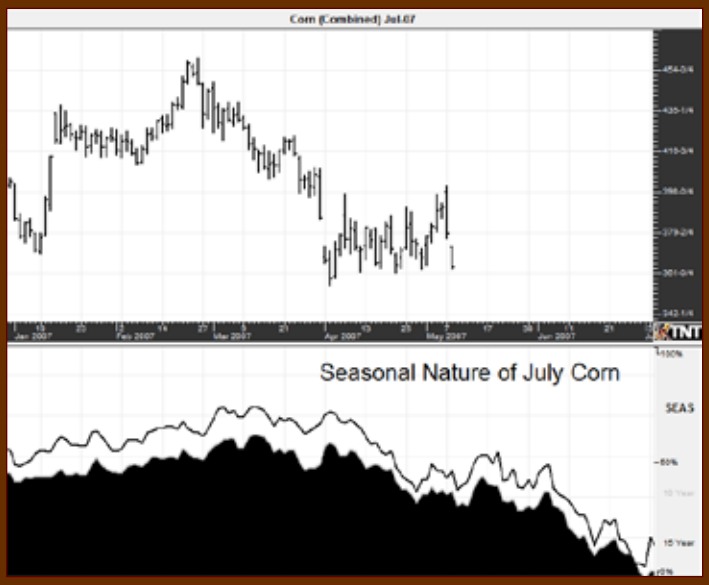
Perpetually produced commodities such as gold and silver have supply available throughout the year, yet demand tends to peak at particular times.

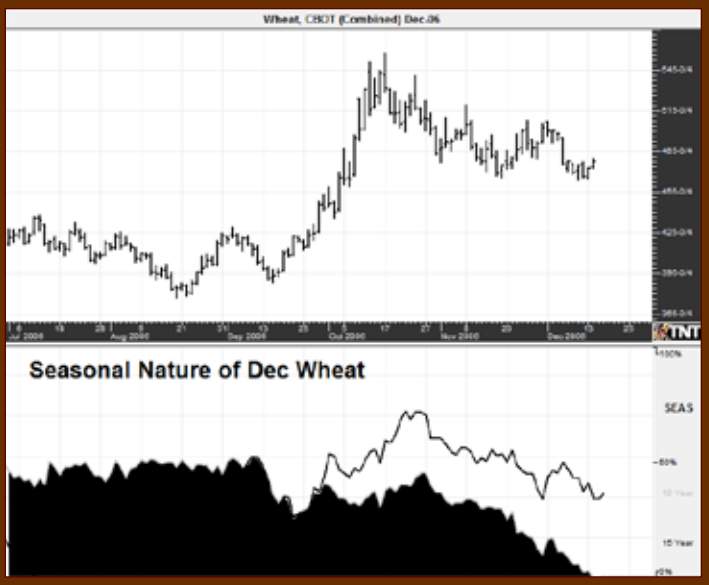
In the world of Forex, or foreign exchange, the fundamental nature of these markets is driven primarily by the world economy, by how well individual countries compete in the world markets. Financial debt and trade deficits or surpluses drive the price of currencies over the long run. When a country, such as the United States, goes to war, has a huge trade imbalance, or has a large national debt, these fundamental events directly affect the US dollar. As the US dollar weakens, this affects every single American and foreign citizen who purchases or trades products derived from America.

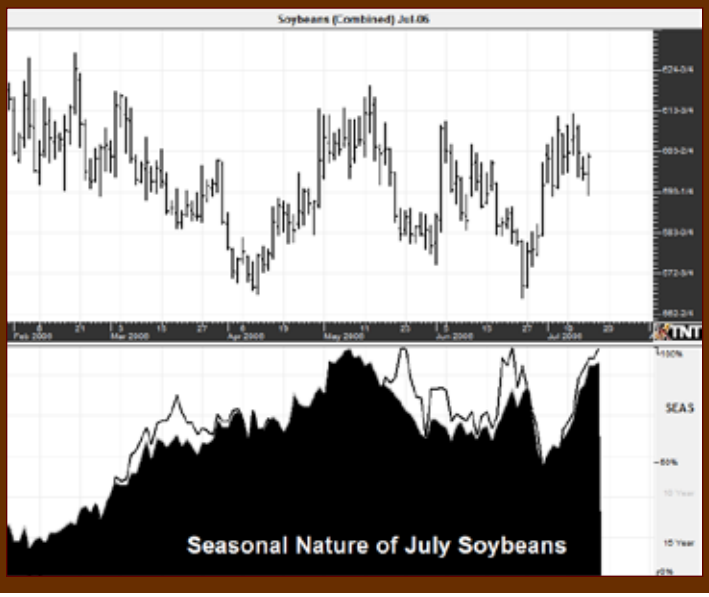
Ask a farmer when the price of his crop is selling at its lowest price for the year, and he'll tell you it's always at harvest time, right when he wants to sell, and when everyone else wants to sell as well.

Using the seasonal nature of the market is key to our success as traders; we use these tools as a roadmap for the future. In Track 'n Trade, we have the ability to chart these seasonal tendencies out into the future, out beyond the current price and time of the current contract. Often times we see these markets follow the seasonal trend like a train on rails. Sometimes we see it go exactly opposite. When that happens, we call it a "counter seasonal trend." A failure to follow the seasonal

Seasonal Examples of the True Nature of the Grain Markets







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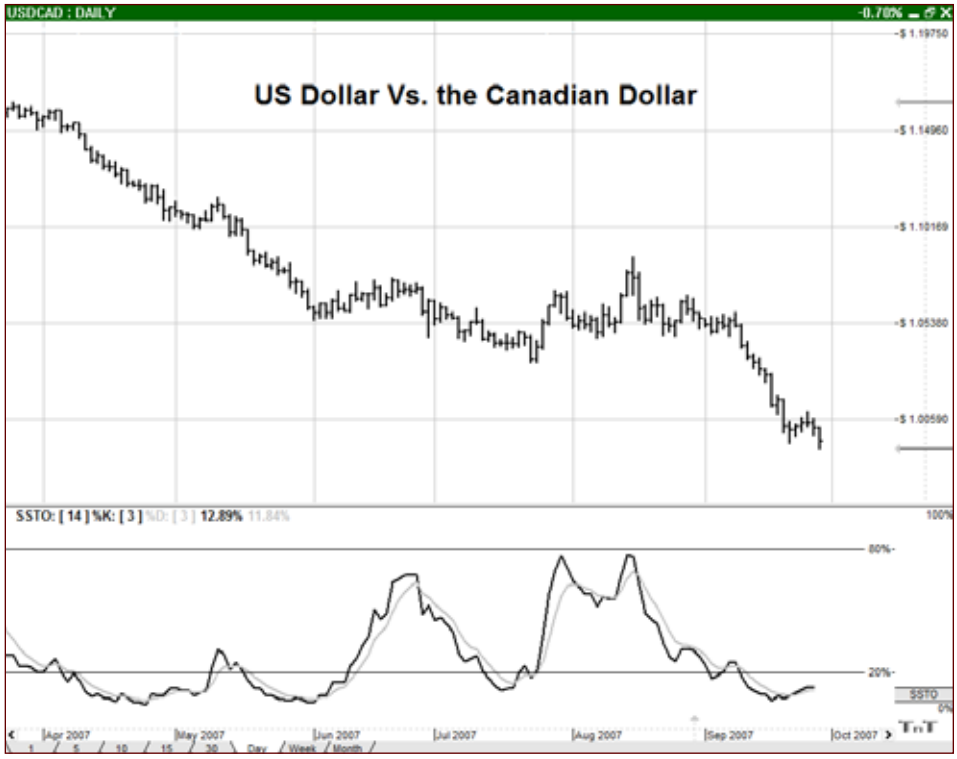
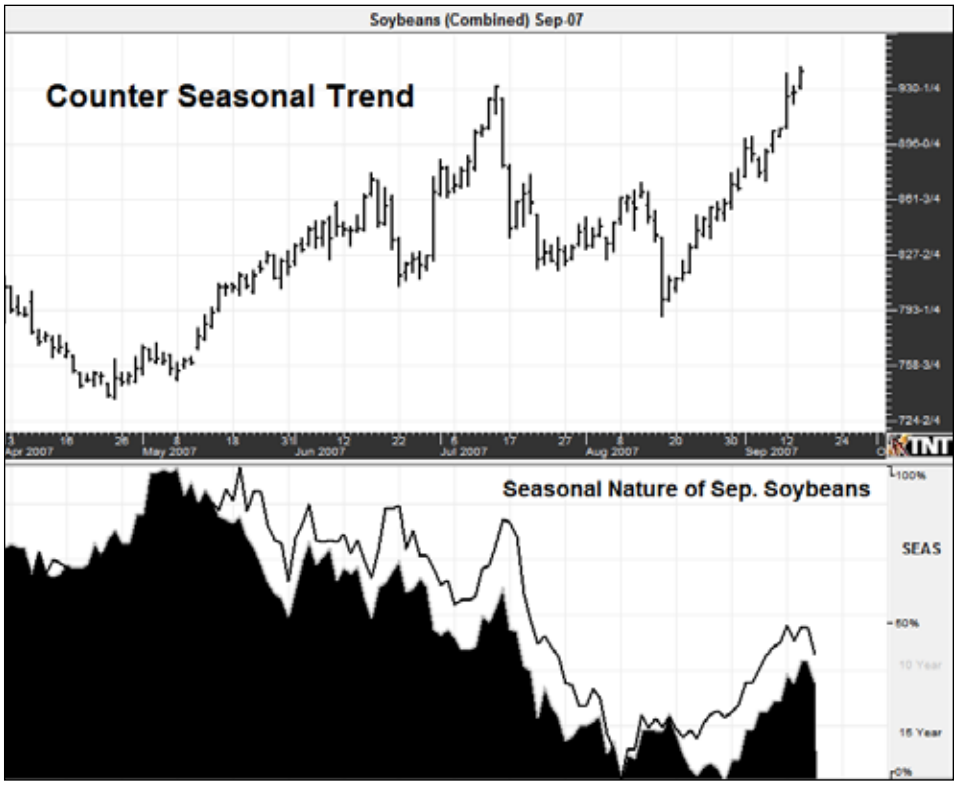
trend can be as powerful of a tool as it is to see a market that's following the trend like a train. It is often times noted, that when a market fails to follow the seasonal trend, it generally goes completely opposite of the seasonal trend, once again, giving us a great indicator of future price levels.

In the world of Forex, or foreign exchange, the fundamental nature of these markets is driven primarily by the world economy, by how well individual countries compete in the world markets.

Interestingly enough, in the chart above, notice that this year's prices deviated from the seasonal norm starting in May 2007, and continued in a counter seasonal trend until August 20th, at which time it once again started following the seasonal tendency like a train on rails.





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Lan Turner is the president of Gecko Software, Inc.– creators of Track 'n Trade Stocks, Futures, and Forex. He is also the Editor-in-Chief of PitNews Magazine and an author, trainer, public speaker, columnist, and publisher of numerous educational videos, books and multimedia CD-ROM's that teach traders how to navigate the financial markets. Visit www.TracknTrade.com to learn more!

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Trading With Stop-Loss

By: Michael Michaud

Do you use stops on all your trades? Trading without stops is the ego wanting to never be held accountable to admit that a position was a mistake if a certain level is breached or if a certain set of circumstances play out in an unexpected manner.

Let the market take you out. This takes your ego out of the decision - this decision on what stop level to exit should be calculated before entering the trade. Again, you want to prevent your mind playing tricks by rationalizing a new reason to hold on to a poor performer. I review my trading journal each day in order to remind myself of the #1 Entry Driver for the positions and key stop levels - if any of these are broken, I have lost the edge projected and should exit such busted trades immediately.

Most traders think of stops relating to their exit of a position, but I'm finding these days that one of my most preferred entry techniques also involves a stop. A stop order to buy (or "buy stop") becomes a market order when the price trades or is bid at or above the stop price. A stop order to sell (or "sell stop") becomes a market order when the price trades or is offered at or below the stop price.

Most traders think of stops relating to their exit of a position, but these days one of my most preferred entry techniques also involves a stop.

The objective here is to only buy when the price takes out a significant prior high, or sell when the price breaks to a meaningful new low point. In this way I make the trade prove to me that it wants to make the anticipated move. If it doesn't, I

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don't get into the trade.

I've found this method far superior to the limit order technique of trying to buy below the current market price or sell above the current market price. What I generally have found is that limit orders hoping for a better price are merely another ego behavior to believe that we can tell the market what we want it to do. In turn, when I missed out on getting filled due to a tight limit order, I was often left watching from the sidelines as the price mounted a continued trend. The stop entry has triggered me into some trends that I would have otherwise missed.

...limit orders hoping for a better price are merely another ego behavior to believe that we can tell the market what we want it to do.

You should define an initial stop point for your trade, before you enter the trade. This determines the risk you are willing to take. The whole purpose of a stop in my opinion is to define the point at which the trend is invalidated. The potential reward should preferably be three or more times the risk you are willing to take. Next, you need to determine if a position is working for you: how will you protect your profits? This is known as a trailing stop. In a good uptrend, I prefer to use a close under the 10-day exponential moving average as my trailing stop, unless I am using another method as my driver in the trade.

At this point, let me explain my preferred stop method. I tend to use "closing stops," meaning I don't want to place my stop order intraday to be gunned by the floor or taken out by day-trader noise. Many battles are fought during the trading day, but the war is won at the close. We want to wait to see who wins the war at the end of each session. If XYZ stock is going to close against my closing stop level, then I place a market order to close the position in the final minutes of trading (if you miss this exit as subscriber for any reason, you can still place a market order to exit on the next morning's opening price). If the stock happens to be within a few cents of this level and it is unclear, I will wait for the close, and if my level breaks, I will make sure to sell it at the market on the next trading day's opening price. This has kept me from getting whipped out of a number of good swing trades during the day, while still giving me the ability to exit when the stock has proved me wrong by day's end. Some worry that a stock may move too far against them by the close compared to an intraday stop, and occasionally a stock will be filled well against our closing stop by the end of the day. But that risk is small compared to the bigger risk of getting whipped out of a position intraday, only to have it post a strong reversal in our favor and be off to the races. I call these "Bend But Don't Break" points. You want to wait for the end of that bar's close. If the chart is a weekly chart, wait until the end of the week's close to stay with the true trend while others will tend to get faked out.

The final exit issue I'll deal with here is how to take profits. Should we use a fixed target, or should we only use trailing stops on winning positions until the trend breaks? The answer depends on your risk tolerance, as well as the market environment. For conservative traders, I recommend sticking with price targets compared to defined risk levels, as you can lock in profits more safely that way. In addition, in more choppy markets, the target profit approach is advisable, as noise can work to your advantage in taking profits at targets. But in trending markets, we want to be able to keep at least a partial position on, and then use a trailing stop like the 10-day exponential moving average to stay with the best trending situations.

Michael Michaud has been an investor and trader since 1989. He writes daily for his blog on a variety of investing trading subjects. Contributor to SeekingAlpha.com and other investing and trading blogs. Review our sites for professional investing trading education, training, and much more. Free investor trader information, articles, blog, software, and signal comparison trials for stocks, options, futures, and forex at: www.invest2success.com.

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The October Market Myth

by: Kimberly Lyon
Managing Editor
PitNews.com Magazine

The only sure thing in the markets is that prices will change. This is an old adage that is often used in jest, with a smile and a wink. Though said jokingly or with sarcasm, it is, nevertheless, very true. Many facts about the marketplace may not be able to be stated with as much certainty as "prices will change," but they are surely more useful to a trader.

One such concept is the "investment calendar" which reflects annual, semiannual, and quarterly operations by institutions. Using the stock market as a venue for statistical analysis, StockAnnual attempts to use past performance – which may not necessarily be indicative of future results – to dispel market myths, as well as help investors and speculators find the best time periods and environments in which to trade.

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subscribers. This month we will examine the "myth" of October being the worst month on record for the stock market, and show traders where the real danger lies.

This month we will examine October's reputation of being the worst month for the stock market, and pinpoint where the *real* danger lies.

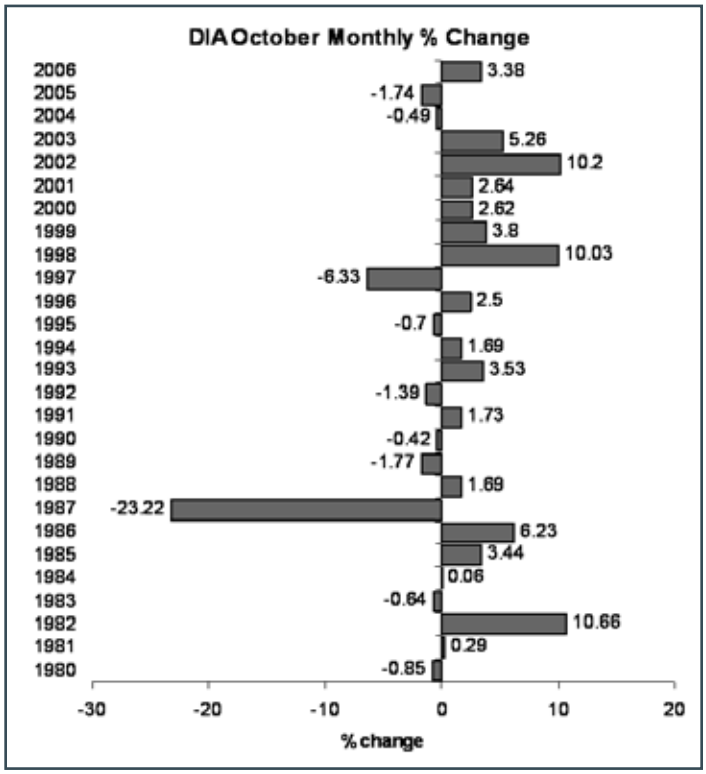
October Performance

Like TV's "Myth Busters", traders need to examine commonly held market beliefs to see if they are still, or ever were, valid. Is October the worst month for the stock market?

For practical purposes, the DIAMONDS ETF (symbol: DIA) will be used to gauge performance of the Dow Jones Industrial Average.

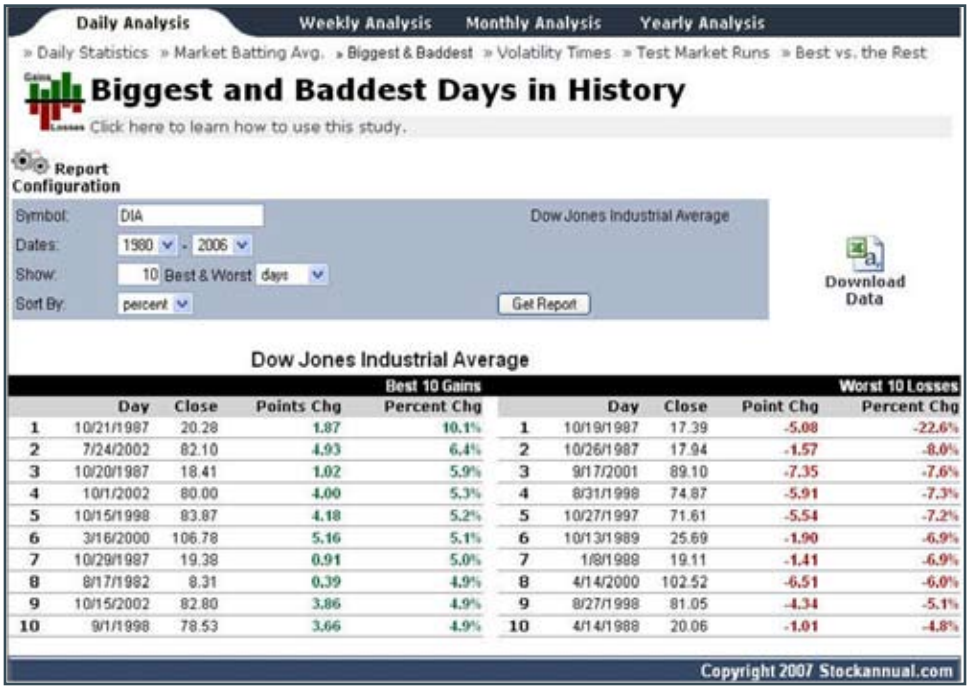
The American Stock Exchange defines the DIAMONDS as: "a unit investment trust established to accumulate and hold a portfolio of the equity securities that comprise the Dow Jones Industrial Average. DIAMONDS seek investment results that, before expenses, generally correspond to the price and yield performance of the DJIA."

During the month of October, the DIA has posted a gain in 17 of the last 27 years, or 62.9% of the time. Of course, 2 of these years have seen phenomenal drops, such as 1987's -23.22% decline and 1997's -6.33% decline. But, as whole, the market has gained a total of 32.21% during the month of October since 1980 – with an average monthly gain of +1.24% – actually making it the 6th strongest month on record.



With the exception of 1987 and 1997, price behavior in October has not been particularly adverse to investors.

Daily performance, however, paints a slightly disparate picture. Since 1980, 4 of the top 10 largest daily percentage declines have occurred in October. At the same time, 5 of the top 10 largest daily percentage advances have also occurred in October,



...as whole, the market has gained a total of 32.21% during the month of October since 1980 – with an average monthly gain of +1.24% – actually making it the 6th strongest month on record.

as StockAnnual's "Biggest and Baddest" study shows. October clearly can be shown to be a volatile month, but not necessarily a "bad" month.

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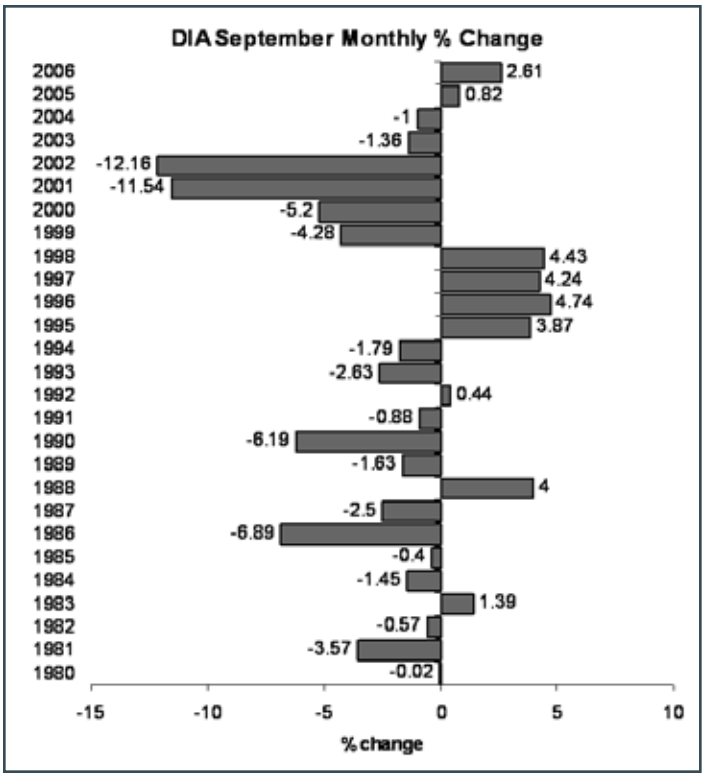

Beware of September...

The worst month on record for the stock market, despite October's "bad rap," is actually September. Since 1980, the Dow has broken twice as often as it has rallied, that is, 9 "up" and 18 "down" or 66.7%.

Falling by a total of -35.5% (with an average of -1.44%), September is the only month in the last 27 years to actually post a significant decline. August is at a very distant second, but its paltry total decline of -1.2%, or -.04% on average, hardly merits a comparison.

The 27-year period from 1980 through 2006 was marked by 20 years of increase and only 7 of decrease, yet September still managed to be the standout worst month on record. If one only examines the last 8 years (1999-2006), the yearly batting average is evenly distributed with 4 rallies and 4 breaks. Again, September is still statistically the worst month on record.

"It is always darkest before the dawn." With September behind us, along with the most of recent financial worries, the stock market may be setting up for a rally coming into 2008. Only on Wall Street can the world be coming to an end in the near term when the long term looks bright; 2008 is an election year, the Federal Reserve may be gearing up to again lower interest rates, and both of these factors which tend to support higher stock prices.

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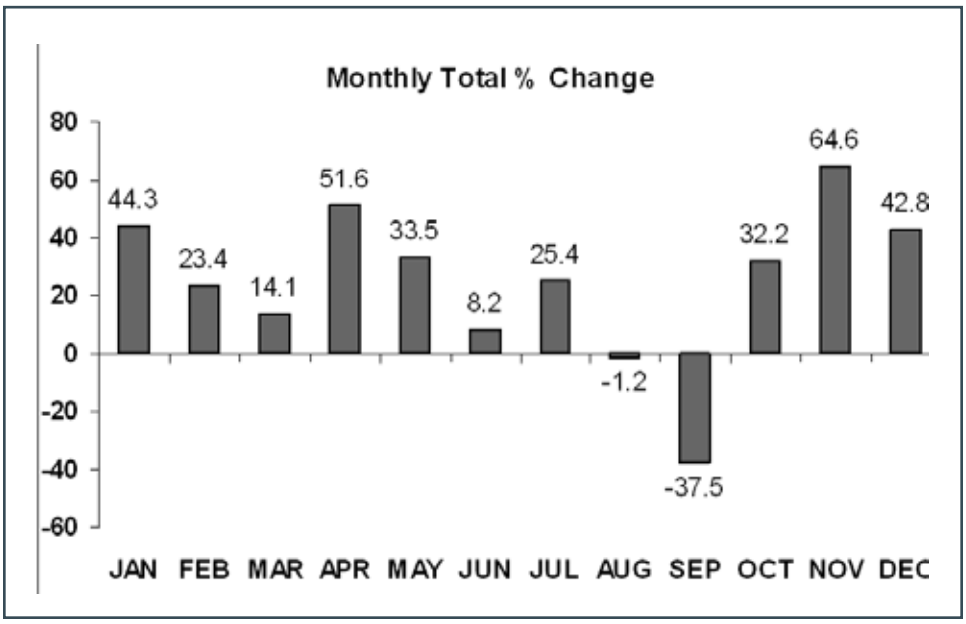

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The Trend is Your Friend Until it Bends or Ends

Examining Wednesday Trading Patterns in the Pound Sterling Vs Dollar

By: Scott Barrie

Any trader who has been around long enough to have suffered the proverbial "slings and arrows" of the marketplace knows that markets move in trends, yet they also understand that a correction for one person is financial disaster for another. For example, a 10% correction for a long-term "value investor" in the stock market may appear to be nothing but noise, but such a move in the currency markets for speculator dealing with potentially 400% margin can make a career or send one to the proverbial poor house… without passing go, without collecting $200, and without a leg to stand on to make their next trade unless they can compensate the other side of the trade for their losses, which under such circumstances may well be above and beyond the capitalization of the initial account, as the great leverage provided by the derivative markets (Forex, Futures, Options) is both a curse and a blessing.

Long-term trends may be great for the billionaires who own baseball teams, or the pinstriped suits on the corner of Wall and Broad (or even La Salle and Jackson), but for the individual speculator trying to ply his/her wits against the markets without the benefit of an aggressive sales force which can raise mind boggling amounts of funds from people who are unwilling to take control of their own financial destiny, there may be hope.

Any trader who has been around long enough to have suffered the proverbial "slings and arrows" of the marketplace knows that markets move in trends...

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The "Bid" is the highest price displayed that the market will accept to purchase or buy. The "Offer" or "Ask" is the lowest price that the market will sell, or part with, a product at.

Think of the market as a store – or any other mercantile endeavor – which buys something with the express interest of reselling it at a profit. Merchandise coming in is purchased, with the seller being paid, and hopefully resold quickly to someone else at a profit for the merchant.

Stores and all other retail sales outfits operate this way, simply buying at wholesale and remarketing the product at retail pricing. The company in question makes whatever the difference between these prices is… which is how Forex Brokers stay in business. Forex Brokers – at least of the market making kind who do not charge a commission – post a price to buy (bid) and a price to sell (offer). Ideally, they are able to buy currency at their price (bid) and instantly sell it at their price as well (offer/ask) – or sell a currency at their price (offer/ask) and buy it back at the bid - effectively making the difference between the bid and offer, and turning a profit in the process, which is how and why they stay in business.

The difference between bid prices and offer prices can vary greatly between firms, just like it can in our own personal consumption. Some firms rely on heavy volume and a small mark-up, but they require larger transactions and capital – making a small profit on every transaction, but counting on a lot of transactions – while other firms deal with smaller transactions and volume, but charge a larger mark-up for the connivance. In other words, just like the retail business, Forex runs the gamut from retail Wholesaler (like Costco and Sam's Club which charge fees, but offer very little mark-up) to 7-11 and other small stores which offer small transaction sizes at a larger mark-up.

Funds, Institutions, and extremely large speculators must concentrate on the longer term picture, simply because the amount of money they move at any one time is sufficient to move almost any market – Forex included, despite the billion dollar transaction volume in this market.

On the other end of the spectrum are the "Market Makers," which may include many readers' own Forex Broker. These market players make their money due to the bid/ask spread, meaning they are able to pull a few "PIPS" from every transaction, as many Forex Brokers act as "market makers" for their clients – always taking the other side of a transaction through the bid/offer process.

Mid Week Movements In October

Large funds cannot move capital on a day to day basis – even in the multi-trillion dollar Forex market. As such, it creates an opportunity for small traders – as can be seen by the trend of the Pound/Dollar (GBPUSD) on Wednesdays and Thursdays in October.

Large funds cannot move capital on a day to day basis – even in the multi-trillion dollar Forex market. As such, it creates an opportunity for small traders...

Since 2000, we have had 31 Wednesdays in October. These 31 Wednesdays are randomly distributed with 18 increases and 13 decreases. However, when Wednesdays' trend is positive, showing that the large market participants are building positions, they tend to continue on Thursdays.

Following the last 18 occurrences of Wednesday strength in October since 2000, the Pound has continued higher on Thursdays 13 times (72.2%), gaining an average of +$0.0045 (or +45 pips). The average Thursday Rally following these circumstances is $0.0085 (or +85 pips) versus an average Thursday Break of only -$0.0036 (or -36 pips), clearly demonstrating the strength of Thursdays following strong Wednesdays as large players begin building positions in the 4th quarter mid week.

Conclusion

The individual trader may appear to be at a disadvantage from many perspectives, but from other perspectives the individual trader may have an advantage just like crows versus California Condors – which one is on the endangered species list?

Small speculators are able to move in and out, grabbing a meal or a profit, whenever the opportunity presents itself...

The large traders – the funds, the institutions, et all – measure money in millions or even billions! Moving this type of money across a system is similar to a large predator, it may appear to be at the top of food chain but a small change in the ecosystem can extinct these large predators – as well as speculators.

Small speculators can participate in the market ecosystem just as a crow can. Small speculators are able to move in and

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out, grabbing a meal or a profit, whenever the opportunity presents itself without affecting the entire eco-system (or market) like the large predators or participants.

The ability to do this is a choice of time frames. If a small trader operates on an extremely short-term basis, then they are competing against the market makers (or banks and brokerage firms), while if they operate on a long term basis they are competing against the large speculators. However, between these two bases is a niche for the small speculator – the beast which is adaptable to change, as well as nimble enough to actually make and take advantage of such opportunities.

Scott Barrie is the author of the Commodity Almanac's Seasonal Strategies Newsletter as well as the 2007 Commodity Trader's Almanac. He is also the Editor of Pitnews Magazine.

Scott's background is diverse within the industry, having not only traded/worked on the floors of the major Chicago Futures/ Options Exchanges but also having managed a private fund as well as done risk management and compliance for several large banks, brokerages and clearing firms.

Currently, Scott is working on a new Forex website and Annual Service, providing traders a statistical view of the FOREX Market – both spot and futures based. Readers can preview this service at www.FXAnnual.com.

GBP/USD Daily Price Changes

EOD Date	Wed Close	Wed Change	Thurs Change	Thurs Rally	Thurs Break
10/04/00	1.4584	-0.0006	-0.0145	0.0016	-0.0147
10/11/00	1.4611	0.0061	0.0103	0.0142	-0.0020
10/18/00	1.4443	-0.0063	0.0020	0.0042	-0.0043
10/25/00	1.4320	-0.0180	0.0046	0.0065	-0.0121
10/03/01	1.4779	0.0086	-0.0019	0.0012	-0.0076
10/10/01	1.4517	-0.0067	-0.0067	0.0013	-0.0111
10/17/01	1.4468	-0.0022	-0.0024	0.0035	-0.0047
10/24/01	1.4289	0.0029	-0.0018	0.0042	-0.0054
10/31/01	1.4549	0.0031	0.0089	0.0134	-0.0020
10/02/02	1.5694	0.0041	0.0010	0.0036	-0.0025
10/09/02	1.5640	0.0108	-0.0002	0.0043	-0.0031
10/16/02	1.5538	0.0017	-0.0038	0.0040	-0.0048
10/23/02	1.5484	0.0028	0.0055	0.0063	-0.0038
10/30/02	1.5575	-0.0002	0.0065	0.0078	-0.0018
10/01/03	1.6683	0.0067	0.0020	0.0066	-0.0047
10/08/03	1.6623	0.0003	0.0031	0.0069	-0.0062
10/15/03	1.6670	-0.0043	0.0056	0.0145	-0.0014
10/22/03	1.6911	0.0164	0.0037	0.0056	-0.0021
10/29/03	1.6975	0.0010	-0.0024	0.0096	-0.0029
10/06/04	1.7793	-0.0028	0.0031	0.0052	-0.0029
10/13/04	1.7942	0.0024	0.0028	0.0101	-0.0017
10/20/04	1.8186	0.0149	0.0089	0.0122	-0.0030
10/27/04	1.8282	-0.0061	0.0017	0.0070	-0.0087
10/05/05	1.7623	0.0033	0.0166	0.0191	-0.0003
10/12/05	1.7516	0.0052	0.0052	0.0059	-0.0071
10/19/05	1.7653	0.0141	0.0092	0.0099	-0.0058
10/26/05	1.7747	-0.0098	0.0086	0.0158	-0.0010
10/04/06	1.8862	-0.0016	-0.0067	0.0010	-0.0109
10/11/06	1.8536	-0.0007	0.0055	0.0078	-0.0003
10/18/06	1.8680	-0.0027	0.0098	0.0123	-0.0015
10/25/06	1.8774	0.0046	0.0132	0.0153	-0.0005
# Up		18	22	31	0
# Down		13	9	0	31
Average		0.0015	0.0031	0.0078	-0.0045

NOTES: Data compliments of Track 'n Trade, past performance is not necessarily indicative of future results. Thursday Rally is defined as the Thursday High – Wednesday Close, Thursday Break is defined as the Thursday Low – Wednesday Close

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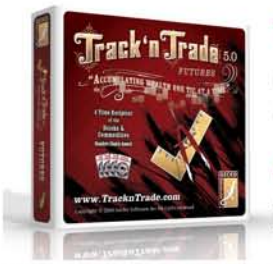

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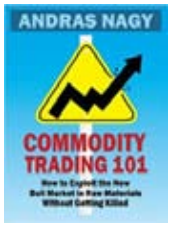

by: Andras Nagy
A Commodity Trading Primer in the new age of oil and gold bull market, explaining Options and Futures Spreads from a former Chicago Board of Trade floor trader.

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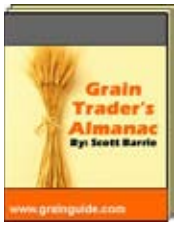
PDF: $31.25

Grain Trader's Guide



by: Scott Barrie, CFEA
The Grain Trader's Almanac is a practical trading reference for producers, purchasers, and speculators in the grain futures markets. Don't trade the grains without this valuable information!

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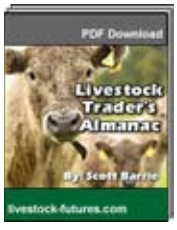

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