

Turtle trading notes

Facets of a complete trading system:

1. Markets

- Trending & liquid
- Not too few
- If don't trade one market, don't trade it AT ALL

2. Position sizing

- Impacts diversification & money management
- Most important aspect of trading
- Normalise dollar vol of position by adjusting size vs. dollar vol of market
 - This allows different contracts in different markets to have same chance for dollar movement, increasing effectiveness of diversification
- Use Average True Range (ATR) as measure of volatility
 - **TR** = **max**[(**high** - **low**), **abs**(**high** - **close_{prev}**), **abs**(**low** - **close_{prev}**)]
 - Then take exponential moving average
 - Richard Dennis: 20 day
 - J Welles Wilder: 14 day
 - ATR at time t:

$$ATR_t = \frac{ATR_{t-1} \times (n - 1) + TR_t}{n}$$
 - Initial ATR value is the arithmetic mean:

$$ATR = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n TR_i$$
- Calculate dollar volatility:
 - Dollar vol = ATR x dollars per point
- Volatility-adjusted position units
 - 1 unit = 1% of account equity
 - ∴ Unit size per market = 1% of account / market dollar volatility

3. Entries

⋮ ◦

4. Stops

- Must be predefined

5. Exits

⋮ ⋮

6. Tactics

- Enforced discipline

Markets traded by turtles:

- 10y US T
- 30y US T
- Coffee
- Cocoa
- Sugar
- Cotton
- CHF
- GBP
- JPY
- CAD
- SP500
- Eurodollar
- 90d US T
- Gold
- Silver
- Copper
- Crude oil
- Heating oil

- Unleaded petrol