

FEATURED

DISCOVER OUR #TEACHERTUESDAY!

CATCH UP WITH OUR 2017-18 REGION I STATE VICE PRESIDENT.

HEAR WHAT CHAPTERS ARE UP TO RIGHT NOW IN "CHAPTER CHATTER"!

MEET A PAST STATE OFFICER AND LEARN HOW HER FFA PAST IS INFLUENCING HER LIFE TODAY.

MICHIGAN FFA ASSOCIATION

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SPRING 2018



GET AN INSIDE LOOK AT HOW THE EATON RAPIDS FFA CHAPTER IS USING A HANDS-ON APPROACH TO LEARN ABOUT WATER QUALITY,





Cultivate Change: USING OUR GIFTS TO BETTER OTHERS

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UPCOMING events

MARCH 7-9. 90th Michigan FFA State Convention

MARCH 25. State FFA/ 4-H Horse Judging Contest

APRIL 20. State FFA Career Development Events (Ag Skills)

MAY 9. Rabbit Contest at Munsell's Processing

MAY 15. The following items are due to the State FFA Office: American Degree Applications, Proficiency State Winner's Applications, and National Chapter Applications



a letter FROM OUR REGION I STATE VP

Each day we are given the gift of opportunity, the capability to decide how we spend every one of the minutes that fill our day. How do we decide what to do with this immaculate gift? Let's start by taking a look at how we currently spend our time. For instance, let's look at our lives and compare the time we spend on unimportant things to the time we spend having real, genuine conversations with family, friends, or even complete strangers. Unfortunately, more often than not, this ratio is far out of proportion. It is easy to spend our time doing unimportant things, such as scrolling through social media or binge watching Netflix, while conversations and living in the moment take far more effort. Yet, we have the ability to cultivate change in the way we live our lives, to truly live in the moment.

We can choose to pour our time into the things that really matter, to live our lives with a purpose. Perhaps, we intentionally use our time to build relationships with others through simple, authentic conversations, or, maybe, we choose to set aside the distractions that fill our lives in order to embrace the world around us. For each of us this change will be different, for some it may mean putting our phones away on our morning commute to school so we can catch up with our parents, while for others it may mean sitting by a new person at lunch to learn about them and potentially make a new friend.

"Cultivating Change" in the way we live our lives will not be easy or comfortable, but that's okay, because when we choose to truly live in the moment, we are "Cultivating Change" that will not only impact our own lives, but better the lives of others.

By: Kelsie Letts Region I State Vice President





WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

MICHIGAN

SEE WHAT THE 2001-02 MICHIGAN FFA STATE SENTINEL, MALLORY KORPALSKI, IS UP TO TODAY.



FFA was, and continues to be, an important part of life and I use the lessons and skills I learned on a daily basis. The organization helped me grow as an individual and taught me about an industry I now work with as a professional.

I'm currently a corporate lawyer and partner at the international law firm of Faegre Baker Daniels, where I've spent my entire career representing clients (including those in the



food and agribusiness industries) in mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, and other complex transactions. I have even represented the National FFA Organization in various contract negotiations.

My FFA career started when my dad gave me no choice! His rule was to try it for freshman year and then make our own choices on whether or not to continue. It took me less than a semester to be hooked. I served as chapter Sentinel,



Secretary and President, as the Region III Vice President and as the 2001-02 Michigan FFA State Sentinel. I enjoyed competing in leadership and agricultural skills contests and was the Farm Bureau Discussion Meet State winner in 2000. I have great memories of traveling to leadership contests and conferences. State and National Conventions, WLC and around the state to chapters and regional events as a state officer. However, two of my favorite FFA memories were when my younger sister (Erin

Koglin Allen) introduced me for my retiring address at State Convention and when I was able to return the favor for her retiring address as State Sentinel four years later.

I earned my B.S. in Agribusiness Management, with a specialization in Food Industry Management, from Michigan State University in 2005, graduating with high honors and receiving the Board of Trustees award. I met my husband at MSU, and we were married just before I started law school at the University of Michigan, where I graduated magna cum laude and Order of the Coif in 2008. I still remain involved with the FFA and have judged state and national leadership contests and served for a number of years on the Local Organizing Committee for the National FFA Convention and Expo in Indianapolis.



Today Kyle and I have two daughters and we live in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Even though I spent eight years in Indianapolis after law school, I'm still obsessed with all things MSU and we just finished our 17th season as football season ticket holders. Some of



our favorite MSU road trips have been to the Rose Bowl, football games at Oregon and Notre Dame, multiple Big Ten championship games for football and basketball and multiple regional championships and Final Fours for basketball. We also love hosting tailgates outside Agricultural Hall in the fall. To this day many of my closest friends are tied to the FFA in some way!

Through FFA, I learned invaluable skills that I use every day as an attorney. The organization trained me to be a strong public speaker and taught me the value of teamwork, ethics, community service and mentoring.

By: Mallory Korpalski Past State Officer

Doing to Learn: EATON EATON RAPIDS FFA

EVENTS AND HOW THEY INCORPORATE WATER TESTING INTO THEIR NATURAL RESOURCE EDUCATION.





Every year since she has started teaching, Jennifer Grivins has incorporated water testing into her curriculum. After she became the advisor at the Eaton Rapids FFA Chapter, she has done the same. Every spring, chapter members go out on the Grand River to test the water, which combines natural resource education with their traditional agriscience class. When talking about the successful lessons learned during past water testing on the Grand River, Grivins says, "In Eaton Rapids, the Grand River is traditionally thought of as an urban river. It has a clay bottom so it's not crystal clear. Students often think it's dirty, and they don't think it's a good place for things to live. Once they do water testing, they see insects and they find the

water quality is actually really good."

This fall, they are taking this activity even further with a threeday trip to the Grand Traverse Bay to conduct water testing on a tall ship on Lake Michigan, working with The Inland Seas Education Association in Traverse City. During the trip, members are also being given a unique experience to take part in a ranger-led nature hike through Sleeping Bear Dunes along with visiting King Orchards to learn more about cherry juice concentrate. Over half of Eaton Rapids FFA members are taking part in this trip, with 30 attendees. This activity gives members a chance to explore agriscience outside the classroom and learn about factors that affect water quality by measuring components of water samples. While the water testing on the Grand River has yielded a great learning experience in the past, the trip to the Grand Traverse Bay will add an exciting and fun aspect to the project. The trip also gives students a chance to compare different watersheds, adding more insight to the study of their local watershed in Eaton Rapids. Once the trip is over, the student's learning and investigations do not stop. Comparing the Grand River to

Lake Michigan will happen in the classroom, and the curriculum will continue to encompass water testing. To members, Advisor Grivins says this activity always poses the question, "What can we do to improve the watershed?"

"When students actually go out on the water and see the life that lives in our water systems, there is a greater buy-in," adds Grivins, "Students see that what happens on the sides of the river and realize how we interact with our environment really does have an impact. Students see that our watershed is something we should preserve and habitat restoration is important."





MARCUM TERPENING STATE TREASURER

Theme Song: "Sideways"

Favorite T.V. Show: White Collar Favorite Candy:

Baby Ruth

State Officer FEATURE

SEE WHAT THE STATE OFFICERS HAVE IN COMMON WITH YOU!

Marcum Terpening, a sophomore at Baker College of Owosso, is currently serving as the 2017-18 State Treasurer. Throughout his year of service, Marcum's goal is to take away something from each and every day and learn something new about agriculture or FFA. Marcum feels like the main goal of a state officer is to inspire. Marcum says, "As a state officer, I feel it is my duty to inspire not only young members but every member I encounter, and to show them by example that anyone can be a leader and do great things, not only through the FFA but in their everyday lives."





KRISTIN KLAGER REGION II STATE VICE PRESIDENT

Theme Song: "You Can't Take Me"

Personal Hobby: Painting Favorite Musician: Garth Brooks

Region II State Vice President Kristin Klager is a third-generation FFA member who joined FFA in 2013 with a push from her father. In high school, Kristin was very active in FFA, holding offices such as chapter president and competing in a large range of contests from creed speaking to discussion meet. Outside of FFA, Kristin was part of the Saline Varsity Lacrosse Team, Saline Feeder Calf Club, Saline Police Cadet Program, and Country Expressions 4-H Club. Kristin has two SAEs including beef production, where she raises beef steers for the county fair, and poultry, where she raises layer hens and ducks to sell eggs.



MICAH CUEVAS REGION V STATE VICE PRESIDENT

Theme Song: "Fight Song"

Homemade Meal: Mac n' Cheese

Favorite TV Show: "The Walking Dead"

Micah Cuevas, the Michigan FFA Region V State Vice President, is currently a freshman at Michigan State University studying livestock industries. Micah's SAE, swine production, began when she started working at Dykhuis Farms as an animal caretaker. Her roles on the farms have evolved over the course of her SAE and her love for pigs is what led her to attend the agricultural technology livestock industries program. When looking for guidance and advice, Micah looks to God, her grandparents, and her advisor, all of which play a large role in her life.

In the Industry Today: CROP ADVISING

ABBY BOERMAN, A CROP ADVISOR WITH HELENA CHEMICAL COMPANY, TALKS ABOUT HER CAREER, WHAT IT ENTAILS, AND THE BACKGROUND AND EXPERIENCE SHE HAS THAT HAS LED HER TO DO SOEMTHING SHE LOVES EVERYDAY.

If you would have asked adolescent me, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" I can guarantee freckled-nosed, squeakyvoiced Abby wouldn't have answered, "A crop advisor of course!" Back in those days, I had my heart set on becoming a veterinarian or any career for that matter that would allow me to pet fluffy creatures for the majority of my day. Years down the road I would come to the realization that I was not cut out for the medical field.



During one of our highly anticipated ag field trips, we had the opportunity to watch our local veterinarian neuter a young male cat. After five minutes staring at the patient I could feel the room begin to spin as I quickly made a beeline for the door. That day, as the edges of the room became fuzzy and I gulped back lunch I quickly came to the realization that my passion for agriculture would have to take me down another career path.

After graduating from Michigan State University with a major in Agriculture Education and a minor in Agronomy, I immediately began my job as a Crop Advisor at Helena Chemical Company in Shelby, MI. Prior to my job acceptance, I had worked as a Helena Sales Intern for two summers and had grown to love the uniqueness of our particular retail branch. Shelby is located in the heart of Michigan's thriving specialty crop industry. Working at our Helena branch has given me a unique hands-on



education with 11 different specialty crops, including everything from asparagus to apples. As a crop advisor, I provide a variety of different services to farmers' including: selling ag inputs (fertilizer, pesticides, etc.), scouting crops for pest problems, giving recommendations on farming practices, discussing new regulations and legislation on farming, and chatting about the weather A LOT. Being a crop advisor is similar to being a specialized business consultant. You are the farmers go-to-person in evaluating crop production problems, developing a solution to aid in fixing inefficiency, and then helping them execute the solution with the best products and/or practices. Every advisor's goal should be to help the grower reach maximum crop yields through the most cost-efficient manner possible. When you have the customer's best interest in mind it creates a resilient relationship built on trust and communication.



I credit the Fremont FFA and my ag teacher, Mr. Smith, for educating me on how to be an effective communicator. From leadership conferences (SLCCO, WLC, etc.), to leadership contests (Prepared Public Speaking, Parliamentary Procedures, etc.) I learned how to listen intently, evaluate situations, and respond to questions and concerns in a charismatic way. I greatly encourage ag students to use the resources that the FFA and your ag teachers provide to grow your strengths and to work on your weaknesses. You never know how these skills will help you in your future career.



The agriculture industry has many diversified careers on and off the farm. You may not have any interest in being a farmer, but there are thousands of jobs that stem from farming that don't involve you actually sowing the crops or milking the cows. Whether you enjoy flying drones over fields, analyzing plant research in a lab, petting fluffy creatures, or talking about the weather with a farmer, there are many different jobs in the ag industry that may fit your interests. Take advantage of your time as an ag student and explore these career options while you can.

By: Abby Boerman Past State Officer



AGRICULTURE, FOOD & NATURAL RESOURCES CAREERS CONFERENCE 2017 RECAP



230 STUDENTS Nearly 230 students participated in this year's Agriculture. Food and Natural Resources Careers Conference held in Lansing.



Students had the opportunity to choose one of the following tour destinations: Greenstone, Michigan Potato Industry Commission, Michigan CAT, Michigan Milk Producers Association and Michigan Farm Bureau Family of Companies



I GAME OF LIFE Students played a modified twist of the popular Game of Life. The game spanned educational opportunities, career options, budgeting, family and personal expenses, housing, food, transportation and health care.

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AGRICULTURE

CHAPTER Chatter

CHECK OUT SOME OF THE THINGS FFA CHAPTERS AND THEIR MEMBERS ACROSS THE STATE HAVE BEEN UP TO IN THE PAST COUPLE OF MONTHS!

REGION 1 CALHOUN FFA

For the Calhoun FFA Chapter, many cool activities have been happening. Last winter, the Family, Farm and Home in their area had asked if they would like to participate in gift wrapping at their store for 2 days, the 16th-17th of December. FFH provided \$100 worth of wrapping supplies, and the Calhoun FFA Chapter provided the labor and asked for donations in return. Wrapping was available for both gifts bought in store and brought from outside. Students advertised and worked in shifts to gift wrap across the 2 days.



REGION 2 ROOSEVELT FFA

From their Junior Master Gardener Program to their school flower shop remodel and spring plant sale, members of the Roosevelt FFA Chapter are busy year-round. One of their main projects is the Gardens of Hope. For this project, a group of botany students pair up with The Lincoln Center (TLC) students each Tuesday to go to Gardens of Hope. The Lincoln Center was established in 2000 and services students with Autism Spectrum Disorder and Cognitive Impairment/ Emotional Impairment from 17 downriver districts. At the hoop houses, pairs of students do various aspects of gardening, from planting to harvesting to helping maintain the houses. This gives members experience with mentoring and gardening while also allowing TLC students to feel like a part of the high school crowd.



REGION 3 BAD AXE FFA

Each year during National FFA Week, the Bad Axe FFA holds a penny war. The Bad Axe FFA officer team selects a charity to donate their proceeds to and conducts the penny war between each agriscience class. The winning class is then rewarded with a classroom social with the officers and all of the proceeds are donated to that year's charity. In the past, the Bad Axe FFA has donated money to the Red Cross for the Flint Water Crisis and to the Ronald McDonald House. This year, they will be raising money for the Huron County Safe Place.



REGION 4 FOWLERVILLE FFA

The Fowlerville FFA Chapter started the school year with a successful honey harvest and a field trip to Michigan's largest honey facility— TM Klein & Sons. With their newly acquired aquaculture equipment, the Fowlerville FFA is now a successful tilapia producer. Their indoor garden is flourishing with over 250 plants, and the assembly of their hoop house is almost completed. All the while, members have gained knowledge, skills, and experience working in the classroom, learning-lab, outdoors, and at home with SAEs and Ag Science Fair experiments.



REGION 5 CALEDONIA FFA

Every year the Caledonia FFA Chapter holds a chapter cheese sale fundraiser. The chapter works with local Amish cheese producers so the products they sell are high quality. This year, the chapter sold over 1,350 units and worked hard to get all of the cheese delivered to customers. The Caledonia FFA was very busy last holiday season with members also working with the local retirement center to make pies and Christmas decorations with the residents.



REGION 6 ALANSON FFA

The Alanson FFA Chapter members decided this year that they really wanted to gain certifications through their agriscience class. Members worked with their advisor, Ms. Magill, to ensure every member was certified in either floriculture or landscape design. In addition to the certifications, the chapter puts together flower arrangements for different events, like the wreaths they had decorated for the holidays.



#TEACHERTUESDAY Mrs. Katie Eisenberger

Mrs. Katie Eisenberger is the FFA advisor for the Breckenridge FFA Chapter. Mrs. Eisenberger has been teaching here for 3 years. In the chapter, there are 146 combined members ranging from seventh to twelfth grade. In high school, Mrs. Eisenberger was an active member in her home FFA chapter, St. Louis. During her FFA career, she served as the St. Louis FFA President and also as the Region III Vice-President. After high school, Mrs. Eisenberger moved on to became the 1999-2000 Michigan FFA Secretary.



After FFA, Eisenberger held onto her passion for agriculture and wanted to remain in the industry. Driven by this fact, she graduated from Michigan State University and started working for the Michigan State University Extension office where she was a 4-H educator for seven years. After those seven years, she then began working for Michigan Farm Bureau. Around this time, Eisenberger was approached by the Breckenridge High School principal, who asked her if she was a certified Agriscience Educator. Mrs. Eisenberger stated, "I'm not, but if there's any way to become an ag teacher, I'd be interested in the process." Shortly after, she became annually authorized to teach agriscience and has been teaching ever since. Her first year teaching, Mrs. Eisenberger was able to team teach with her past ag teacher and FFA advisor, Mr. Beattie. She still thanks him for instilling in her a love for agriculture during her first year as an agriscience education teacher.

Mrs. Eisenberger absolutely loves when her students earn the opportunity to compete in regional and state contests and when they receive awards, but what she loves even more is building relationships with her students. The long car ride conversations with her students to and from regional camp or state convention are her favorite because she gets to talk to students about life. It is more than just

FFA to Mrs. Eisenbergerit is what her students are passionate about and where she finds her enjoyment. She enjoys seeing the personal growth of students through hands-on learning experiences, like when they do not think there is any way they could process a deer but in the end every



one of them ends up cutting meat and helping clean up in class.

Outside of her job as an FFA advisor, Mrs. Eisenberger stays busy with her three young children and husband. When she is not busy with school, her children, or her husband, she can be found running or writing, both of which are things she also enjoys. When reflecting on her



past, Mrs. Eisenberger remembers all the relationships she has made through FFA and how that, no matter what, the relationships made in FFA will always make her feel at home.

By: David Lindsay State Reporter

#STUDENTSATURDAY Halle Matthews



This edition of Student Saturday takes us up to Region VI, talking with Halle Matthews, a fourth-year member of the Whittemore-Prescott FFA chapter. Being a dedicated member has allowed Halle to get the most out of her FFA experience. Within FFA, Matthews has done a multitude of things, including competing in the Parliamentary Procedure contest, Ag Issues contest and many others. Matthews joined FFA due to her involvement early in her life, such as during her middle school years when Halle was always at the chapter's chicken BBQs. Another reason Halle joined the Whittemore-Prescott FFA chapter is because of the huge influence her brother had on her. Her brother was always encouraging her to join, be an active member, and always to do her best.

Halle is not only a dedicated FFA member but also dedicated 4-H member. Through FFA she has been able to raise her own 4-H lambs within her SAE project. With agriculture playing such a crucial role in Halle's life, it isn't a surprise at all how much Halle talks about her horses. Along with market lambs, Matthews also shows her horses through 4-H. With these animals, Halle is an exhibitor at both the Iosco and Ogemaw County Fair. Throughout her showing career, she has earned multiple titles and ribbons. Outside of 4-H and FFA, Halle is also an active member of her other school clubs like the Whittemore-Prescott Equestrian team. On the team, Halle shows in the Western and English Pleasure classes, both Western and English Equitation classes, showmanship, halter, and speed event classes. This year her team made it to the regional competition and competed.

In her free time for the past ten years, Halle has also been ice skating and riding horses. Out of everything Matthews has done in her high school career, she says that attending the National FFA Convention and Expo has without a doubt been her best FFA memory thus far.

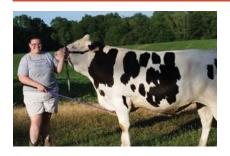
If you ever ask any of Halle's close friends, what exactly they think of her, they will say she is dedicated, outgoing, and kind. Halle is always the first to help other members in times of need or just to be there when they need someone to talk to.



This being Halle's last year as an FFA member, she plans to do as many things as she can in the FFA before life really starts to get crazy. Next year, Halle plans on attending Saginaw Valley State University to take her basic classes, then transfer to Michigan State University to study psychology.

By: David Lindsay State Reporter

Inside the life of an ANMAL SCIENCE STUDENT



My name is Amanda Wiel and I am currently a junior at Michigan State University studying animal science. I grew up in rural Onondaga, Michigan, and attended Springport Public School, where I was also very active in the school's FFA chapter. In my FFA chapter, I tried to be as involved as I could and served as the treasurer my junior year and vice president my senior year. While in FFA, I also participated in many animal science career development events, my favorite being the veterinary science contest. Besides being fun, this contest also was extremely beneficial to me now as a college student as I plan on going to vet school at Michigan State University after graduation. Along with CDEs, I also participated in the Arthur Berkey Agriscience Fair. My project focused on hoof rot in sheep and I did very well, receiving state runner-up with a silver.



While at Michigan State University, I have joined Block and Bridle and Sigma Alpha. Block and Bridle is a club that focuses on agriculture, especially the livestock industry. We plan many events, not only to get people involved, but also to teach people about the agriculture



industry. With having these events, we are also able to network with various people within the industry. In Block and Bridle, I am currently serving as the membership coordinator. I really enjoy Block and Bridle because it reminds me a lot of FFA in the

"MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY HAS... SO MANY OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE AND NO MATTER WHAT MAJOR YOU ARE IN, YOU CAN ALWAYS FIND A HOME."

way that members have become one of my families here on campus. Sigma Alpha is a professional agricultural sorority and another one which I consider to be my family. With being a professional sorority, we are constantly reaching out in the agricultural industry and making connections with people and businesses. Many students who have graduated from Michigan State University are working with people and businesses they have met through their clubs and other organizations.



In the MSU College of Agriculture and Natural Resources the professors are extremely nice and they truly want to see you succeed. When I go to my animal science classes, I feel like I am home. Michigan State University has their own research farms, so through them we receive various opportunities to get hands-on experience. With my wanting to be a large animal vet, all the MSU research farms are also extremely valuable. My favorite class I am taking this semester is Draft Horse Basics. We are outside working with draft horses and learning how to drive them, which is something I never thought I would get the opportunity to do! One of the great things Michigan State University has to offer is that there are so many opportunities available and no matter what major you are in, you can always find a home.

By: Amanda Wiel Past FFA Member & Animal Science Student



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Living to Serve: THE LIFE OF A STATE OFFICER

From the sandy shores of Lake Huron at the Harbor Beach chapter to the tallest flagpole in Michigan at Anchor Bay, the highlight of many state officers' year has been traveling and meeting members from all around the state. Starting in September all the way through December, traveling pairs have been working to help FFA members discover their own talents and how they can be utilized in their personal lives, communities, and the organization itself. One of the most enjoyable parts of the year has been making connections with members and seeing how different chapters operate.

Another highlight for many state officers has been The National FFA Convention that took place in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 25-28. While there, six team members served as delegates to work through issues and create proposals for the national level organization. Those who did not serve as delegates also had a busy week that



included meetings with our Secretary of Agriculture and Secretary of Education, setting up the hall of states exhibit and participating in the Day of Service. Besides all of this, they also had team members, Kelsie Letts competing

in the Dairy Handling CDE and Adrian Schunk competing in the Prepared Public Speaking leadership contest. Although the week involved many late nights and early mornings, seeing 65,000 members from all over the United States cover the streets of Indy made it a week for the books!

November 1st-3rd were three days jammed-packed with fun and learning for many FFA members and advisors. The Michigan FFA Broiler Contest was held in Fowlerville, Michigan, at Munsell's Poultry Processing, where students across the state traveled to compete and learn more about the processing aspect of meat birds. Over 500 teams or individual



members competed in this contest, and the state officer team would like to congratulate each member who participated.

Most recently, the team enjoyed a couple days at the Crowne Plaza in Lansing with teachers and members who attended Fall PDI and the 212/360 Conference. After a day spent participating and growing through workshops, members were able to wind down with a euchre tournament and dance. From busting a move during the cupid shuffle, to learning some swing dance techniques, the night was a blast. The next morning, members were divided into teams to participate in "The Game of Life" put on by Michigan Farm Bureau to inform students about many different aspects of life. After that, students went on tours that included Greenstone Farm Credit, Michigan Potato, Michigan CAT, Michigan Farm Bureau, and Michigan Milk Producers Association.

As we go throughout the rest of our year, we would like to challenge you to cultivate change in yourself, your community, and your chapters. Whether that means stepping outside of your comfort zone to try something new or being a leader in your chapter, we all have the opportunity and ability to cultivate a positive change.

By: Sidney Linck State Secretary





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