

### Farm & Ranch Monthly Magazine

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September 2019

Pictured: Kernza heads (Photo submitted by Clair Keene, WREC Extension Specialist).

**Inside This Edition:** 

Kernze to be introduced at Field Day

See Page 4

# Western McKenzie County Residents Thankful For Continued Community Support After Spring Floods

### By Michele Seadeek

Kim and Casey Schlothauer are one of many rural farm families residing east of Fairview, ND affected by the flooding of the Yellowstone River earlier this spring. On their 780 acre farm the couple is raising a young family while supporting the production of wheat and beet crops for the year. "Wheat crop harvest is delayed but only due to recent rains," Kim states. "The farm ground in our area dried quickly after the flood waters receded in the spring not causing much delay in planting for us." Kim recalls the day her family had to evacuate their home due to the rapid rise of the flood waters. Like so many other families during that time, the Schlothauers rushed to save as much as they could, to move what they could from the lower sections of their house, to move their horses, donkeys and chickens and save enough supplies. "We had been tossing things into the truck as fast as possible, trying to save what we could. Within a short time we had to switch gears and toss our son into the truck and get to higher ground as the water became as swift as the river and we were afraid we'd lose him and be stuck."

When the water finally subsided, Kim and her family were shocked at the true devastation on their home and property. The water had risen much further than anticipated inside the house. Their hundred-year-old home, lovingly remodeled over the years, was so inundated with thick mud that not much could be saved. To Kim's great sadness her home had to be torn down and burned. The three surrounding buildings were damaged but savable and according to emergency coordinator information, all of the electrical needed to be replaced for safety on any remaining structures. Kim and her family were in for a lot of hard and costly work to rebuild their lives. "We were just in shock, thinking where do we start?" Kim stated, "but I knew that our community would be here for us and everyone who needed it, they always are."

It didn't take long for community members and local agencies to prove her right with the outpouring of support, supplies, temporary houses and funding for any affected families. There were several fundraisers held in the upcoming weeks. Karolin Jappe of the McKenzie County Emergency Manager stated, "There was over \$143,000 quickly donated to the McKenzie County Flood Relief Fund and with support from the Ministerial Association much more was added over the





The aftermath of the flood on the Schlothauer farm. (Photos submitted)



(Continued on page 8)

Dirt work being done for Schlothauer's new home. Home now to be set late this fall.

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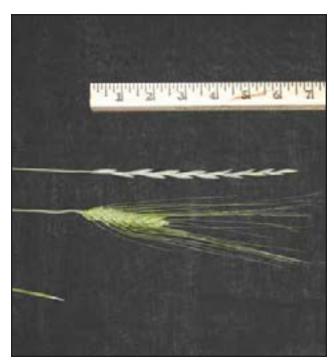
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### TIRE

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### WREC Perennial Field Day to be Held September 26th



Above: Kernza head next to a wheat head. (Photo submitted).

Middle: Kernza head up close. (Photo submitted)

Right: Clair Keene, NDSU Extension cropping systems specialist at the Williston Research Extension Center, checks Kernza variety trial plots. (NDSU photo)





### By Anna Dragseth

On Thursday, September 26th, the NDSU Williston Research Extension Center (WREC) will be hosting its first-ever Perennial Field Day. The event will start at 9:00 a.m. central time and conclude with a provided lunch at 12:00 p.m.

Topics that will be discussed at the event include: Kernza Management and Research, Developing the Kernza Supply Chain with Chris Wiegert of Healthy Food Ingredients, Saline Seep Formation and Management with Jane Holzer of the Montana Salinity Control Association, Groundwater and Soil Monitoring in Saline Seep with Jim Staricka of WREC, and Salt-tolerant Alfalfa Variety Performance at the WREC.

Clair Keene, an Extension Specialist in Cropping Systems at the WREC, is the organizer for this event. She said, "I wanted to highlight the work I am doing with a new perennial grain crop called Kernza that was funded by a North Dakota Agricultural Products Utilization Committee (APUC) grant and the work that I along with Jim Staricka and Kyle Dragseth have been doing on a saline seep reclamation project and salt-tolerant alfalfa variety trial assessment."

Keene hopes to introduce farmers to Kernza and help them understand how to manage saline seeps to prevent profit loss. "Kernza is under development and has huge potential for protecting soil against erosion, reducing production costs, and improving soil health. Kernza is intermediate wheatgrass (Thinopyrum intermedium) that has been bred intensively for increased seed size and yield for the past 15 years by plant breeders at The Land Institute in Salina, Kansas and the University of Minnesota. I think we may be able to use it as a dual-purpose crop here, meaning we could get a cutting of forage off of it and still harvest grain in the same year. I'm excited to talk about Kernza because I think it has a lot of potential for this area. I'm doing a variety trial with it here and plan to do some more trials this fall and next year. On the topic of saline seeps, I want farmers to learn that salinity problems are due to inefficient water use and to address them, they need to manage the water table with continuous cropping and perennial crops," explained Keene.

Area growers will benefit from attending this event by learning about how Kernza could potentially help them spread risk over both forage and a grain crop. They will also learn how to manage saline seeps better. "Better managing saline seeps is important because farmers can lose a lot of money on saline soils when they try to farm them the same as productive parts of their fields: spending money on fertilizer, seeds, and herbicides that don't give you anything back in yield is a bad management strategy, and I want them to learn about more profitable options like salt-tolerant forages," added Keene. For more information on this event, you can contact the WREC at 701-774-4315.

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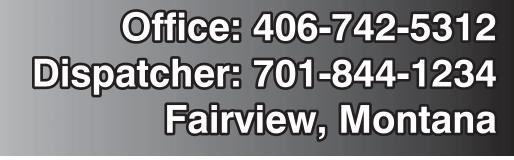
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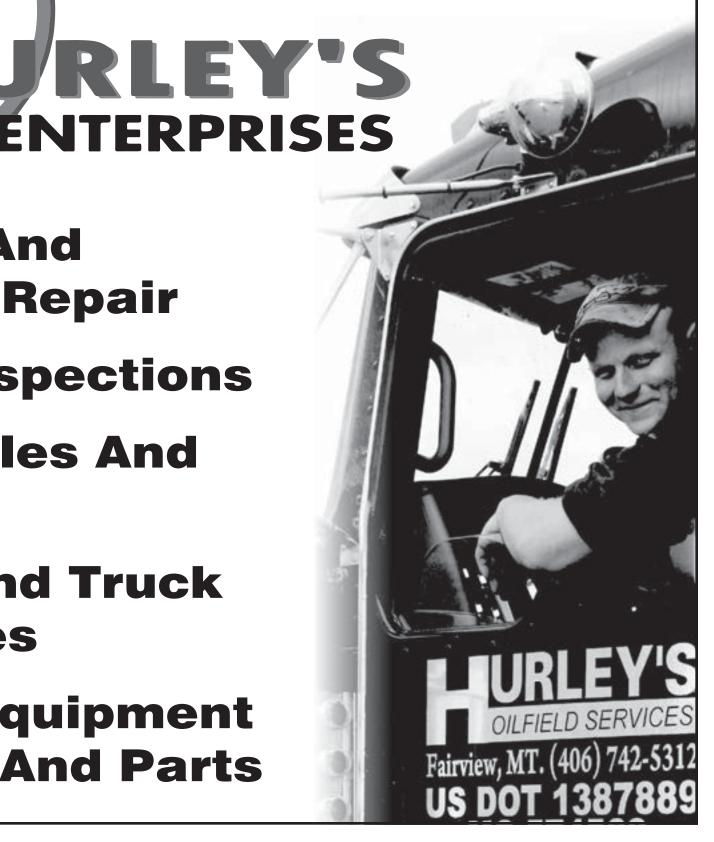
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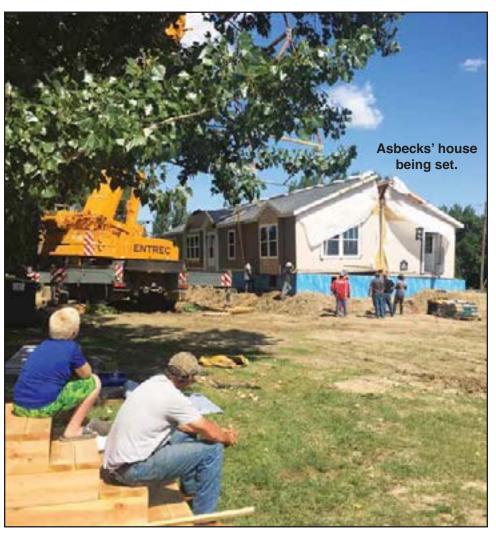
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### Western McKenzie County Residents Thankful...





(Continued from page 2)

next few months. A total of 17 checks were given out to those in need including nine families who had to demolish their homes." Karolin encourages people to continue to check with affected families who still need help as the restoration of lives after a flood takes a long time.

For Kim, Casey and their children, getting back to normal means living back on their property. Still waiting on their new home to be built they appreciate the help community members have given. Currently back on their property in a rig shack on loan from Hurley's Oilfield Service, Kim is grateful that she and her family can stay on the property now while they continue to rebuild. "Vess and his team have helped with so much of our cleanup here. We are fortunate to have so much help from so many individuals like that, but I think everyone affected has had people in the community who have given support, equipment and time to get restored as best as possible," Kim stated.

Harvey and Julie Asbeck's property is half a mile down from the Schlothauers and they were also affected by the spring floods. Julie agrees with Kim. "Our community is so good especially when there is a disaster." On August 15, the Asbecks' new home was set where the old one was torn down after the spring floods damaged it beyond repair.

The Schlothauers will patiently wait for their home to be delivered later this fall. In the meantime the family continues to slowly tackle the repair projects around their farm while working harvest and raising their family. "Those who have carpentry, electrical and basic construction skills are needed. I'm ready and willing to do the work needed but having someone from those trades to advise and or volunteer some time to help us do the repairs correctly would be a huge benefit," says Kim.

Anyone interested in making monetary contributions or if you have a skill you would donate, equipment or supplies, please contact Roberta Pierce of Zion Lutheran Church and/or Kelly Sloan of Fairview Alliance Church, representing the Fairview Ministerial Association. Any donations directly benefit area flood relief victims.

### Fall Weed Forum in Watford City Sept. 11

McKenzie County Extension will be having an educational and informative in-crop weed forum. We will be working in conjunction with the Williston Research Extension Center as well as many reputable guest speakers. We will cover topics such as biology of a few select weeds affecting producers, non-chemical control and regulation of infestations, identification of upcoming or new weeds; maintenance of a weed problem and control of an infestation. This is a free event with free lunch provided by the McKenzie County Crop Seed Improvement Association.

The forum will take place 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. central time on Wednesday, September 11 at the Yellowstone Meeting Room in McKenzie County Courthouse located at 201 5th St NW, Watford City.

There is no cost to attend, free lunch provided.





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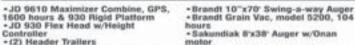
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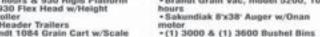
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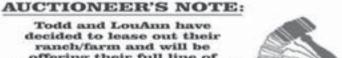
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auction. We hope to see you September 14th!

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# Canning, Pickling, Preserving OH MY!

### By Carrie Krug, MSU/Richland County FCS Extension Agent

As the summer draws to a close and harvesting season is upon us; canning, pickling, and preserving season is here too. The number one priority when preserving your harvest is the safety of the finished product by destroying any bacteria, and molds that might cause foodborne illnesses, one of them being botulism, caused by a toxin in bacteria. The bacteria can grow, especially in improperly processed home-canned foods.

Have no fear, home-canning foods is still a great way to preserve your harvest. It is recommended to use recipes that have been tested and are from reputable sources. The National Center for Home Food Preservation, USDA Complete Guide to Home Canning, 2015, So Easy to Preserve, 6th edition, along with the Ball Blue Book Guide to Preserving, 37th ed., 2014, are all great places to start on your canning/preserving journey. Another note is any earlier editions of these books are not recommended because science is always changing, and recipes are updated along with the new science. If you're looking for reliable resources online, add EXTENSION to your google search looking for .edu websites to help you find those reliable resources.

Adjusting your processing time based on the altitude of where you live will ensure your food is preserved safely. If you live in Sidney, Savage, or Fairview the altitude is under 2,000 feet, where if you live in Lambert the altitude is over 2,000 feet. The altitude of where you live can change the processing times, or if you're using a pressure canner the lbs. of pressure you will need to process your product. These adjustments are made to ensure heat is distributed evenly and for long enough to produce a safe product.

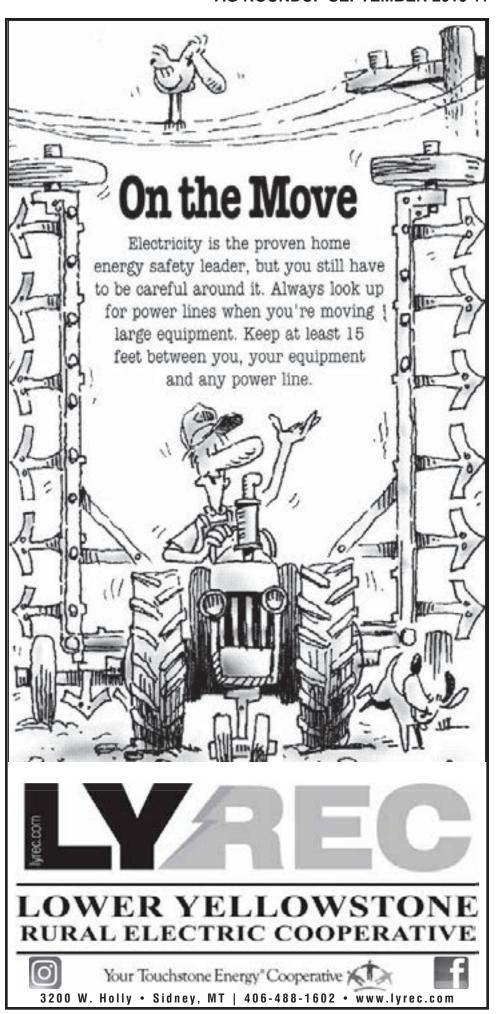
The acid level of what you're planning on processing will also affect the method used to preserve them safely. Low-acid foods such as vegetables (except most tomatoes), meats, fish, and poultry, need to be processed at a higher temperature, which is only reached by using a pressure canner. Where high-acid foods such as fruits (with naturally high acidity), tomatoes with the added acid, and pickled products can be canned in either a boiling water canner or a pressure canner. Tomatoes grown today have a lower natural acidity (pH) level and will need to be acidified before canning to help prevent botulism.

Using a pressure canner (dial or weighted gauge) and a boiling water canner are two recommended methods of preserving your harvest using the canning process. Using a convection oven, dishwasher, pressure cooker/saucepans, and open kettles are not recommended methods for preserving because they don't prevent the growth of bacterias such as botulism.

Did you know if you use a dial gauge canner that you should get it checked yearly for accuracy? Have no fear; this is a free service offered at your local MSU Extension office. In addition to getting your dial gauge checked, MSU Extension offers a variety of resources on canning safety. From walking you through safe canning practices to helping you determine what went wrong, reliable, research-based information is available.

Contact the Richland County Extension office at 406-433-1206, or stop in at 1499 N Central Ave, Sidney for more information.

Information referenced from MontGuide Home-canning Using Boiling Water Canners and Pressure Canners and Utah State University: Avoiding Common (Major and Minor) Canning Mistakes.



### **USDA** Releases Details on Market **Facilitation Program**

This year payments are in dollars per acre and not based on the current year's crop production.

### By NDSU Agriculture Communication

The sign-up period for the 2019 Market Facilitation Program is now open, says Bryon Parman, North Dakota State University Extension agricultural finance specialist. The program provides aid to farmers growing specified crops in the form of a county-wide payment rate as determined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

The county payment rates were released at the end of July and varied from a minimum of \$15 per acre to a maximum of \$150 per acre. Many North Dakota counties in the southwestern part of the state will receive the minimum of \$15 per acre while the eastern part of the state will have payment rates of up to \$60 per acre (Lamoure



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County). Most of the southeastern counties will receive more than \$50 per acre with the average payment rate across North Dakota being \$31 per acre.

"This year's program payments are considerably

different than last year in both the weights given to each crop and how payment rates for farmers are calculated," says Parman.

Last year, the rate was applied to actual 2018 production where a rate was chosen and multiplied by the number of head, bushels, tons or hundred weights produced and verified after harvest. It was weighted heavily towards soybeans, with soybeans getting \$1.65 per bushel.

According to a report by Farm Futures, Cass County received the most money of any county in the U.S. in 2018, having \$34.4 million paid out, while Richland and Stutsman counties were both in the top 10 in 2018.

This year payments are in dollars per acre and not based on the current year's crop production. Additionally, the rates have changed, and other crops are included that were not previously.

The USDA performs four calculation steps to determine the payment rate. The steps include looking at the typical number of acres in a county of the 2019 specified crops, the yield history at the county level, and the 2019 payment rates per commodity. These calculations are then averaged across the county such that each acre of the specified crops receive the same payment rate.

"These county rates may differ dramatically, even for neighboring counties, i.e. Stutsman County receiving \$51 per acre, while Kidder County will receive \$29 per acre due the ratio of crop acres receiving a high payment like soybeans, to crops assigned a lower payment rate such as corn (as well as the typical yield for the specified crops)," says Parman. "A county may have more total soybean acres than the neighboring county, however, if the neighboring county has more soybean acres relative to other crops with lower payment rates, then their rate per acre could be higher."

Additionally, crop acres with no payment rate still receive a payment, however, they lower the county average by having a \$0 value attached to them.

2019 payments are set to go out in three portions with 50% of the rate being paid out in the first payment. However, counties receiving less than \$30 per acre will receive at least \$15 during the first round of payments.

For more information or to sign-up for the market facilitation program, visit https:// www.farmers.gov/manage/mfp.

# MDA to Hold Waste Pesticide Disposal Events In September

### Annual events have collected over 638,000 lbs. of waste pesticides

Helena, MT - The Montana Department of Agriculture's annual Pesticide Disposal Events will be held in several locations across Montana during September. The collection events will be held September 17 in Wolf Point; September 18 in Sidney; September 19 in Miles City; and September 20 in Billings. The annual events have collected more than 638,000 pounds of waste pesticides since it began in 1994.

The program was designed to help individuals dispose of any pesticides that are unusable as originally intended and cannot be used for any other purpose. This allows participants to dispose of waste pesticides in an environmentally responsible way and helps protect Montana's ecosystems and groundwater, as well as families, pets, livestock and drinking water.

The department asks that participants pre-register online by September 9, 2019, before the collection events, so products can be managed safely and efficiently. Those interested in having their waste pesticides recycled should visit the website at: https://agr.mt.gov/Pesticide-Waste-Disposal.

There is no charge for the first 200 pounds of material. Amounts over 200 pounds are assessed at \$1 per pound. A higher fee may apply to pesticides with dioxins or dioxin precursors.

The Montana Department of Agriculture's mission is to protect producers and consumers, and to enhance and develop agriculture and allied industries. For more information on the Montana Department of Agriculture, visit agr.mt.gov.









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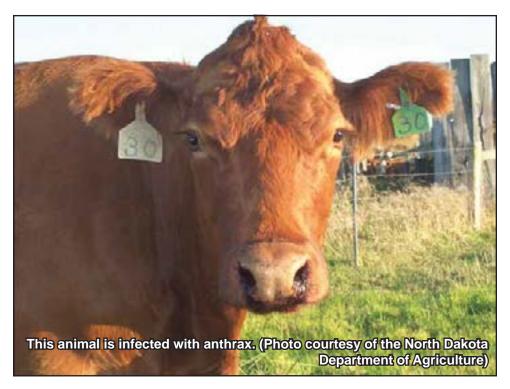




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# Be on the Lookout for Anthrax

Anthrax spores can survive for years under the right conditions.

### By NDSU Agriculture Communication

Anthrax continues to be a concern for cattle producers in North Dakota. "Recently, a case of anthrax was positively identified in a southwestern North Dakota county," says Gerald Stokka, North Dakota State University Extension veterinarian. "This is a reminder to our cattle producers that the threat of anthrax is still present. It appears that during times of high rainfall and/or very dry conditions, the spores are uncovered and cattle are at risk of infection."

Anthrax is a disease in cattle caused by a bacteria known as Bacillus anthracis. This bacteria has a special survival mechanism called spore formation. This characteristic allows the bacteria to produce very hardy spores with a high survival rate.

The spores can survive for years under the right conditions. When these spores come into contact with susceptible cattle, they can "hatch" and infect the animals, resulting in disease and death.

Often the only initial signs of anthrax infection are finding dead cattle. Cattle can die without signs of illness for a number of reasons, including lightning strikes, clostridial infections and toxicities, but anthrax always should be considered, according to Stokka.

"If the diagnosis of anthrax is suspected and confirmed by your veterinarian, then vaccination needs to be implemented as quickly as possible," he says.

The commercial vaccine available is a live attenuated (nondisease-causing) spore vaccine. The dose is 1 cc administered subcutaneously in the neck region.

All adult cattle and calves should be administered the vaccine, and treatment with antibiotics should be withheld because it may interfere with the immune response. However, when faced with an outbreak situation, administering an antibiotic and a vaccine concurrently has been effective, Stokka says. Consult your local veterinarian for a recommendation.

"Consider removing all cattle from the pasture where anthrax deaths are suspected because spores present can infect the remaining animals," Stokka advises.

Also, anthrax carries a risk to humans, so take care to not disturb the carcass. The recommended method of disposal is to burn the carcass and soil on which the carcass was found after placing them in a trench dug in the immediate area of the death.

For more information, visit the NDSU Extension publication "Anthrax" at https://www.aq.ndsu.edu/publications/livestock/anthrax.



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STATEWIDE AUCTION (1990)

# Planting Unlabeled Cover Crop Seed Could be Costly

Illegal sales of a protected variety can result in fines up to \$10,000 per occurrence.



### By NDSU Agriculture Communication

Planting cover crops is increasing in popularity each year, and this is not surprising considering the benefits. However, those potential benefits will be quickly negated by the use of untested or unlabeled seed says Jason Goltz, North Dakota State Seed Department regulatory programs manager.

North Dakota seed law requires that all agricultural seed offered for sale, or sold for planting purposes, must be labeled. Proper labeling requires seed testing and without proof of testing, there is the potential for planting seed that will not germinate or planting seed contaminated with weed seed that may take years to control or eradicate.

"If you are buying seed that has no available label or the label is promised in the mail, it is not a legal sale," says Goltz.

Another concern when purchasing seed for cover crop use is to ensure the seed meets all intellectual property rights protections, warns the ND State Seed Department.

For example, most rye in North Dakota can be sold "variety not stated". The exception, is ND Dylan. A North Dakota State University developed variety, ND Dylan is protected under the Plant Variety Protection Act and Title V of the Federal Seed Act. This means ND Dylan must be sold by variety name as a class of certified seed. Illegal sales of a protected variety can result in fines up to \$10,000 per occurrence.

Goltz concludes, "Taking full advantage of the benefits of cover crops depends on the quality of the seed. Be sure to purchase legal seed that has been properly tested and labeled."

Visit https://www.nd.gov/seed for more information on North Dakota's seed laws.





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