

Ohio Farm to School Newsletter

National, Regional and State Updates

June | 2014



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Farm to School in Ohio

Ohio Farm to School has held three successful Farm to School Regional Workshops since April 2014! The workshops have been held in three different regions—Northwest Ohio, Southwest Ohio and Southeast Ohio—with a total of 166 attendees altogether! The workshops have served as an opportunity to learn what is going on with Farm to School in different areas of the state, strengthening the Ohio Farm to School network and efforts.

To view the agendas and presentations from the workshops please visit: farmtoschool.osu.edu/events/regional-workshops/

State, Regional and National

2014 Ohio Farm to School Regional Workshops Announced!

There will be six regional Farm to School workshops through 2014 in Ohio. Regions covered include: Northwest, Southwest, Southeast, Northeast, Central and Cleveland-Cuyahoga area.

Goal

Increase capacity of local communities to provide locally produced foods in schools.

Objectives

Through discussion and written materials, participants will:

- Develop an awareness of current practices in Farm to School—the benefits and opportunities for Farm to School programs & the processes and procedures of implementing a Farm to School program.
- Identify purchasing and marketing processes and other procurement methods that apply directly to Farm to School.
- Identify the three C's of Farm to School —Classroom, Cafeteria, Community—and ways producers and schools can increase involvement in each area.
- Recognize how Farm to School functions regionally and unique ways to connect with the local food system.
- Gain resources and strategies for connecting local producers with local school food service.
- Identify and use direct marketing tools to develop networks for procuring and supplying local foods.
- Identify food safety practices and guidelines that apply to using local foods in school food service and minimal standards producers need to meet regarding food safety.

Workshop Sessions

What's happening with Farm to School?

Purchasing Local Foods for Schools

Food Safety

Making Connections with Local Producers

The Education Connection

Workshop Locations and Information:

Region	Date	Location	Venue
Northeast	09/26/14	Canton	Walsh University
Central	10/24/14	Columbus	Ohio 4-H Center

For more information please visit the [Ohio Farm to School website](#).

News & Resources

State, Regional and National

Updated Farm to Preschool Resources from the National Farm to School Network

Fact Sheets:

- o **Getting started with F2P:** <http://www.farmtoschool.org/resources-main/getting-started-with-farm-to-preschool>
- o **Local Procurement for Child Care Centers:** <http://www.farmtoschool.org/resources-main/local-procurement-for-child-care-centers>
- o **Local Procurement for Family Child Care Providers:** <http://www.farmtoschool.org/resources-main/local-procurement-for-family-child-care-providers>
 - Peer-Leader Trainings:
- o **Experiential Education in Farm to Preschool:** <http://www.farmtoschool.org/resources-main/training-template-experiential-education-in-farm-to-preschool>
- o **Farm to Preschool and Family Engagement:** <http://www.farmtoschool.org/resources-main/training-template-farm-to-preschool-and-family-engagement>

In addition, all presentations and materials from the "**Farm to Preschool**" workshop track at the **7th National Farm to Cafeteria Conference** can be downloaded here: <http://www.farmtoschool.org/resources-main/farm-to-cafeteria-conference-resources-workshop-track-10>

“Raise Your Hand” and Sign Up for the Ohio School Breakfast Challenge!

It's not too early to begin planning for next school year's breakfast program. In fact, summer is a great time to enlist the help of key school players and set up a game plan to tackle breakfast! [Sign up](#) now for the SY 2014-15 **Ohio School Breakfast Challenge** and [get implementation resources, ideas and tips](#). Schools that use proven strategies to increase their breakfast participation will be recognized as a *“Breakfast Rising Star”* or *“Breakfast All-Star.”* Don't miss out on this fantastic chance for your school to be recognized! Follow #OHSBC on twitter for the all the latest info about the challenge.

Give 'em breakfast. Give 'em a boost.

American Dairy Association Mideast, Children's Hunger Alliance, Ohio Action for Healthy Kids and the Ohio School Nutrition Association are proud sponsors of the Ohio School Breakfast Challenge.

Breakfast Grants --Available for OH Schools

There are still breakfast grants available in Ohio from AFHK!! Don't miss out on the opportunity for additional funding to help your school meet the challenge. [Visit the grant website](#) for more info and to apply. Email [Kristen O'Connor, OH State Coordinator](#), at with any questions.

News & Resources

State, Regional and National

Get Involved! AFHK's Get in the Action Center

The *Get in the Action Center* gives people an opportunity to get involved in their own communities, creating the kinds of healthy changes in schools that make it possible for kids to be physically active and to eat nutritious food every day. [Sign up to be a volunteer](#), and we can match you with events and activities that are suitable to your interests!

Additionally, if your school or organization has events that need volunteers, AFHK can register your event and assist your volunteer recruitment efforts. Examples of events are summer feeding programs, health fairs, school meal volunteers, 5k or fitness days, etc. [Contact Kristen](#) if you have an event that needs volunteers!

Consider "Time for 10" for the 2014-15 School Year

Ohio First Lady Karen Kasich and Nationwide Children's Hospital teamed up to develop a program designed to increase physical activity in the classroom. The program consists of 5, 10 minute videos that guide K-5 classrooms through different activities performed right at the students' desks. The videos can be played through a DVD (free of charge) or accessed online. For more information about this program, to request a DVD, or to watch the videos [click here](#). More info coming in our "Back to School" newsletter.

New National Association of School Board Resource on Working with Schools

NASBE's newly updated *How Schools Work and How to Work with Schools* is intended to assist anyone who would like to work more closely with various facets of the education system to improve the health, safety, and well-being of children and youth in schools. It aims to help persons from different backgrounds, occupations, and training to better navigate the complex web of the education system.

[DOWNLOAD your copy of *How Schools Work and How to Work with Schools* today!](#)

New Michigan State University Resource on Local Food Movement

The Michigan State University Center for Regional Food Systems has recently released *The Local Food Movement: Setting the State for Good Food*, now [available on the CRFS website](#). This publication provides history on the local food movement in the United States and its link to "good food" – food that is healthy, affordable, fair, and green – within the contexts of food access and health, food justice and sovereignty, the environment, and racial equity. The publication also contains a stand-alone timeline highlighting a sampling of events, policies, and statistics over the past 70 years that chronicle the growth of local food in the U.S. through the lens of the four elements of good food.

The publication and timeline are available at <http://foodsystems.msu.edu/resources/local-food-movement-setting-the-stage>.

Funding Opportunities

CDC Grant Opportunities

CDC is announcing the availability of new Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOAs) to advance the nation's chronic disease prevention and health promotion efforts.

· **(DP14-1417) Partnership to Improve Community Health**

Partnerships to Improve Community Health (PICH) will fund and support a new 3-year, \$50 million/year initiative to improve health and reduce the burden of chronic diseases through evidence- and practice-based strategies to create or strengthen healthy environments that make it easier for people to make healthy choices and take charge of their health.

· **DP14-1418) National Implementation and Dissemination for Chronic Disease Prevention**

This 3-year, \$10 million/year initiative will support four to eight national organizations and their chapters/affiliates in building and strengthening community infrastructure to implement population-based strategies to improve the health of communities

· **(DP14-1419PPHF14) Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH)**

Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health, or REACH, focuses on racial and ethnic communities experiencing health disparities. This 3-year, \$35 million/year project will support policy, system, and environmental improvements in those communities to improve health and reduce health disparities

· **(DP14-1422) State and Local Public Health Actions to Prevent Obesity, Diabetes and Heart Disease**

State and Local Public Health Actions a new 4-year, \$70 million/year program that builds on efforts initiated in 2013, intensifies work in 18 to 22 state and large city health departments to prevent obesity, diabetes, heart disease, and stroke and reduce health disparities among adults through a combination of community and health system intervention

· **(DP14-1421PPHF14): A Comprehensive Approach to Good Health and Wellness in Indian Country**

This 5-year, \$14 million/year initiative aims to prevent heart disease, diabetes, stroke, and associated risk factors in American Indian tribes and Alaskan Native villages through a holistic approach to population health and wellness.

Department of Health and Human Service: Healthy Food Financing Initiative

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) for fiscal year (FY) 2014 for Community Development Corporations (CDCs) under the Healthy Food Financing Initiative (HFFI). For organizations who aren't CDCs, partnering with one could make these funds accessible.

A total of \$9.5 million is available, with a maximum award amount of \$800,000. No match is required for this grant program. Examples of OCS HFFI-funded projects include financing the construction of grocery stores, providing direct assistance to farmers, supporting urban and rural farmers markets and retail markets, expanding existing food distribution businesses, and supporting food business entrepreneurs. **The deadline to apply is July 21, 2014.**

Captain Planet Foundation Offers Grants for Hands-On Environmental Education Activities

DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 30, 2014

Grants of up \$2,500 will be awarded to support high-quality educational programs that enable children and youth to understand and appreciate our world through hands-on learning projects that improve the environment in their schools and communities....

MORE »

Funding Opportunities

Apply for the Baxter equipment for education grant

The School Nutrition Foundation is now accepting applications for the Baxter Equipment for Education Grant! Through a competitive grant process, Baxter Manufacturing will award one (1) OV310 Mini Rotating Rack Convection Oven (electric or gas) to a school district in need of improving its school meal kitchen facilities. The award will also include: a stand base, a 2-year parts & labor warranty, delivery and installation by Hobart Service, and training/demonstration with sales representative. [Learn more.](#)

NEW FUNDS AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

On Tuesday, May 20th, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced in the Federal Register a [Notice of Funding Available \(NOFA\)](#) totaling approximately \$25.5 million for the Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program (RMAP) for fiscal year 2014. Of this amount, USDA expects to make approximately \$1.5 million available for microlender technical assistance grants and \$24 million available for loans. The anticipated award announcement date is September 1, 2014. According to the NOFA, MDOs may borrow a minimum of \$50,000 and a maximum of \$500,000.

USDA Local Food Promotion Program (LFPP)

Application due date: June 20

LFPP offers grant funds with a 25% match to support the development and expansion of local and regional food business enterprises to increase domestic consumption of, and access to, locally and regionally produced agricultural products, and to develop new market opportunities for farm and ranch operations serving local markets. Two types of project applications are accepted under LFPP—planning grants and implementation grants. Applicants can apply for either but will receive only one type of grant in the same grant cycle. Check out the RFA and more information on [the program website](#), and listen to the informational [webinar](#).

The Aetna Foundation Regional Grants Program – GoLocal: Cultivating Healthy

Communities – funds community wellness initiatives aligned with our Healthy Eating and Active Living focus area in our designated funding locations. Grants will support local initiatives that promote eating fresh fruits and vegetables and being physically active, which can help to prevent obesity and many chronic health conditions. Grants will target underserved, low-income and minority communities where healthy food can be difficult to buy, and where social and environmental factors may limit people’s ability to be physically active.

Grant Application Dates

Cycle 2: June 16 to July 30, 2014, 5:00 pm EDT

How to Apply

- Learn more about our [Regional Grants Proposal Guidelines and Review Process](#)
- Review the Foundation's [General Funding Guidelines](#)
- If you meet our guidelines, review these [step-by-step instructions](#) (PDF)
- Follow this link to [Apply for a Grant](#) using the online grant application portal

Funding Opportunities

Fruit Tree Planting Foundation - Orchard Donations

The Fruit Tree Planting Foundation (FTPF) is dedicated to planting fruitful trees and plants to alleviate world hunger, combat global warming, strengthen communities, and improve the surrounding air, soil, and water. FTPF programs donate orchards where the harvest will best serve communities for generations, at places such as community gardens, public schools, city/state parks, low-income neighborhoods, Native American reservations, international hunger relief sites, and animal sanctuaries. Recipients must be nonprofits, public schools, or government entities. In addition, the "Fruit Tree 101" program creates outdoor edible orchard classrooms at public schools of all levels, across the country, to provide generations of students with environmental education opportunities and a source of organic fruit for improved school lunch nutrition.

Deadline: Rolling

Home Depot's Retool Your School Campus Improvement Grant

Home Depot's Retool Your School program provides grants through a two-tier structure for campus and facility improvements at historically black colleges and universities. The program awards Tier I and Tier II grants based on a combination of consumer voting and advisory board panel selections. The college with the highest score will receive a \$50,000 Tier I grant; thirteen other applicants will receive Tier II grants of \$10,000 each. An additional three Campus Pride grants of \$25,000 each will be awarded to the schools with the most votes and social media activity, as determined by Home Depot. Grant funds will go toward an improvement project at each school that is likely to have impact on the lives of students, faculty, and alumni for generations to come. **Deadline: Rolling**

Awesome Food \$1000 Project Grants

Each month, Awesome Food will give one applicant \$1,000 to help pull off an awesome idea involving food. The ideas must relate to food in some form, and the definition will be more inclusive than exclusive. Examples could include educating the public about DIY-farming, creating an ad-hoc eatery in a subway car, or recording videos of immigrants' recipes. Anyone is eligible to apply: for profit, nonprofit, individuals, companies, schools, adults and children. Applications are reviewed as they are received. One grant is awarded each month.

Deadline: Rolling

The Pollination Project is a nonprofit organization that provides \$1,000 seed grants to individual change makers. The Project has granted numerous awards to various small agriculture related operations who want to bring change into a community. The Project has received repeated media reports on how the organization is impacting small agricultural practices. New grants are awarded daily and there is no deadline for when to apply. Please [click here](#) to navigate through the organizations website for detailed information. We hope to have someone from the Project speak at a future meeting. **No deadline.**

Simply Organic 1%

The Simply Organic 1% fund supports and promotes the growth of organic and sustainable agriculture, including research, education and efficient/quality improvement projects.

Deadline: Rolling

Teacher Workshop - Feeding the World: Science, Energy and Agriculture

A workshop for teachers where questions are answered: How do we feed 9 billion people? How does production agriculture affect water quality? What is the value of corn production? Why biofuels? How can ag biotechnology contribute to food security? Soil and Sustainability: what is the link?

Taking place **Aug. 6-7 at Greene County Career Center**, participants will see demonstration plots, talk to experts and practice a variety of labs related to water, soil and plant science. Each participant will receive over \$300 worth of classroom science materials. Ashland graduate credit is available with on-site registration.

All expenses are paid including materials, food, one-night shared hotel room. More information can be found [here](#).

How to Measure School Lunchroom Successes

June 18th 2014 from 1-1:30 pm EST.

What does success look like in school food? Now a-days community pressure and the public eye are demanding that school food prove it's worth...but how? Success can take different forms and this webinar will cover a few of the most effective ways to publicize your great work! [Kathryn Hoy, RD, CD](#), manager of the Cornell Center for Behavioral Economics in Child Nutrition Programs, will address these topics through this webinar. By the end of the webinar attendees will:

- Identify at least one internal and one external method of measuring success
- Identify at least one method for sharing success with the public
- Create an action plan for involving the community in your school food program

To attend : <https://connect.extension.iastate.edu/healthyschools>

For more information please visit

<https://learn.extension.org/events/1649#.U48b1PldXuQ>

Summer Meals Matter

Engaging Teens and Parents

Tuesday, July 1, 2014 at 1:00 PM eastern

Summer meals are a great way to engage the entire family- join us as sponsors from all over the country share how they build relationships with parents and teens. Whether it's through enrichment programs designed for different age groups, offering parent meals, or building relationships with community partners, advocates and sponsors will share their best practices for engaging the whole family in local summer meal programs.

Afterschool Meals Matter

Applying for the CACFP Afterschool Meal Program and Managing Paperwork

Wednesday, July 16, 2014 at 2:00 PM eastern

Join FRAC to hear how advocates, sponsors, and sites are managing the application process and paperwork required for the CACFP Afterschool Meal Program. Once the initial application is complete and an effective system of administering the program is in place, sponsors can find the implementation of their afterschool meals program to be beneficial both for their organizations and the community they serve.

Events & Webinars

Healthy Food + Healthy Ecosystems = Healthy Neighborhoods: A summer garden program for middle school youth

June 16, 4 - 5 p.m. EDT
Hosted by EdWeb

Middle schoolers can get a lot out of the school garden experience, from growing food to learning about the science underlying the natural world. At CitySprouts summer youth program in Cambridge, MA, 100 young people ages 11-13 go through a month-long summer internship program at various schoolyard garden locations.

[Register here.](#)

An Introduction to the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act (PACA)

Thursday, June 26, 2014
2:00 – 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time
Join us for a live and interactive webinar session, “An Introduction to the [Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act \(PACA\)](#).”

PACA was enacted at the request of the fruit and vegetable industry to promote fair trade in the industry. PACA protects businesses dealing in fresh and frozen fruits and vegetables by establishing and enforcing a code of fair business practices and helping companies resolve business disputes.

USDA Summer Meals Webcasts

We have concluded our 2014 Summer Meals webcasts and you can access the full playlist [here!](#)

The webcasts covered information, tips, best practices, and lessons learned that will help make your Summer Program a total success! The series included:

- [Exploring the New USDA Summer Meals Toolkit & Website](#)
- [Be a Summer Meals Champion](#)
- [Can Elected Officials Help Feed Hungry Kids This Summer?](#)
- [Food That’s In When School Is Out – The Summer Food Service Program and Afterschool Meals](#)
- [Utilizing Grants & Unique Partnerships to Serve More Summer Meals](#)
- [How Can You Solve Your Summer Meals Transportation Problems?](#)
- [Finding Ways to Keep Schools Involved in Summer Meals](#)
- [Make Your Summer Meals Site the Talk of the Town](#)

The Soil that Feeds Us – Cultivating healthier food and a healthier environment on the farm

Thursday, June 26, 12 p.m. ET/9 a.m. PT

What insights can farmers bring to the public health crisis of antibiotic resistance and the obesity epidemic? On this webinar, we bring together emerging perspectives from farming, soil science and public health from presenters Christine McCullum-Gomez, PhD, a registered dietitian and a nationally recognized expert on food, nutrition and environmental health; Healthy Food Action’s **David Wallinga**, MD; and the Izaak Walton League’s Agriculture Program Director **Bill Wenzel**. They’ll talk about steps farmers take to improve soil health and resiliency, and the ways in which healthier soil produces healthier food, including links between bacterial flora in the human gut and bacteria in animals, soil and the broader environment. The presenters will also discuss how a broad constituency from farming, public health and the food movement can influence federal conservation programs for conventional and non-conventional growers.

REGISTER: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6085491554063313921>

Events & Webinars

Please join us for the following Health Equity Webinars

Presented by the Transform Wisconsin Health Equity Team & The Prevention Institute

Webinar 1: Embedding Equity into Chronic Disease Prevention Initiatives
Tuesday, July 8th 1:00 pm-2:30 pm

To join:

<http://wisc.adobeconnect.com/embeddingequity/>

Webinar 2: The Role of Community Culture in Efforts to Create Healthier, Safer, and More Equitable Places
Friday, August 8th 1:00 pm-2:30 pm

To join:

<http://wisc.adobeconnect.com/roleofcommunityculture/>

Webinar 3: Communicating Health Equity and Prevention
Early September, more details to come

To join:

<http://wisc.adobeconnect.com/he3/>

Please contact Paula at ptran@wisc.edu with questions.

OPGMA-Ohio Produce Growers & Marketers Association
Announce: Summer Tour & Field Day!

Date: June 25, 2014

Locations: Canfield, OH & Columbiana, OH

Meet the Farms

OPGMA has scheduled two amazing locations for their Summer Tour and Field Day. Between the two farms, attendees will experience agri-tourism at its best, as well as what it takes to be successful as both a wholesaler and retailer.

Tour Visits

White House Fruit Farm - Canfield, OH

"Little did the family's ancestors realize when they first settled in the area in the 1800s that the beautiful rolling hills would become some of the most productive farmland in the state. Today, this 200-acre produce farm features apples, peaches, strawberries, blueberries, and vegetables. White House Fruit Farm (WHFF) markets all their crops through their own farm market. David and Phyllis Hull, and their children David and Debbie, have diversified the business into a year-round agritourism experience. They offer at least one on-farm agritourism event every month from May-October. The tour will include orchard and small fruit production locales and the farm market."

McMaster Farms - Columbiana, OH

"McMaster Farms is a third-generation 1,800-acre farm. 350 acres are devoted to sweet corn; 75 acres to pumpkins; the remainder to grain crops. McMaster has a one-of-a-kind sweet corn counter that counts the corn that goes into the bag being filled for the customer. They also pack into crates and RPCs for different customers. The hydro-cooler keeps sweet corn as fresh as first picked. The wholesale side of the business ships as far away as South Carolina. McMaster recently launched Tico Irrigation, which repairs and customizes aluminum irrigation pipe and fittings. You will see this operation while on the tour."

To find more information and to register...

Please visit www.opgma.org/Tour

USDA Updates

USDA Webinar Series

“Beginning January 2014 through June 2014, the USDA Farm to School Program will host two webinars each month to showcase the variety of ways school districts can purchase local foods. **The webinars will be held at 2:00 p.m. Eastern Time on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month.** Topics will include everything from procurement basics to using geographic preference, to finding local producers, to buying local through DoD Fresh. See the schedule for more information.”

Webinar Schedule:

- Using DoD Fresh to Purchase Local – June 12
- Tying It All Together and Digging In – June 26

To register for one or several of the sessions, please click [here](#).

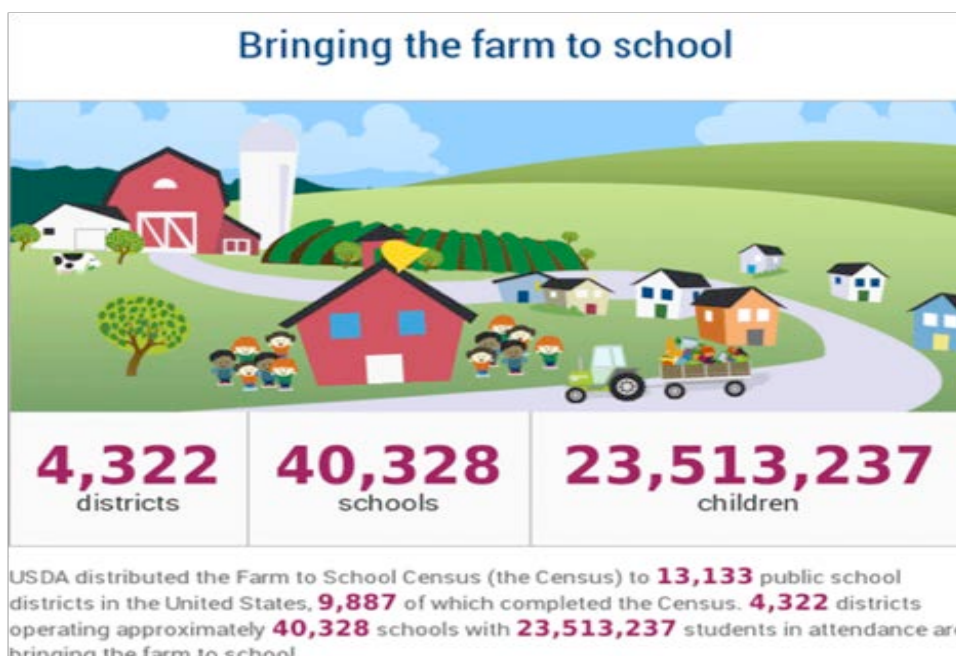
Farm to School Census Website Relunched with Final Results and New Features

Final results of the [USDA Farm to School Census](#) are now available! USDA and the Secretary of Agriculture will be highlighting this milestone on Monday, June 9, during the White House Rural Council meeting focused on local and regional food systems. For more information on how to virtually tune in to the White House Rural Council meeting, visit www.usda.gov. Until then, here are a few new features to explore: **The new data includes more than 1,500 new and updated responses.** 9,896 school districts completed the Census, increasing the response rate to 75%. The total dollars invested in local communities during the 2011-2012 school year increased to \$385 million! [Click here to check out the national overview >](#)

Census data is now searchable and publicly available. Users can conduct customized searches and download information at the national, state, and school district level in a visually rich and easy to navigate format. [Click here to check out the data explorer >](#)

Census infographics featuring both state and national data are available for download. The relaunched site features several new graphics that depict results, and the images are available as high resolution JPGs. [Click here to check out the media kit >](#)

Questions about the Census? Email us at farmtoschool@fns.usda.gov.



Thank you to all of our partners and supporters!



Ohio Farm to School Newsletter

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