



# Agricultural Growth, Research, and Innovation (AGRI) Program

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<https://www.mda.state.mn.us/grants/agri>

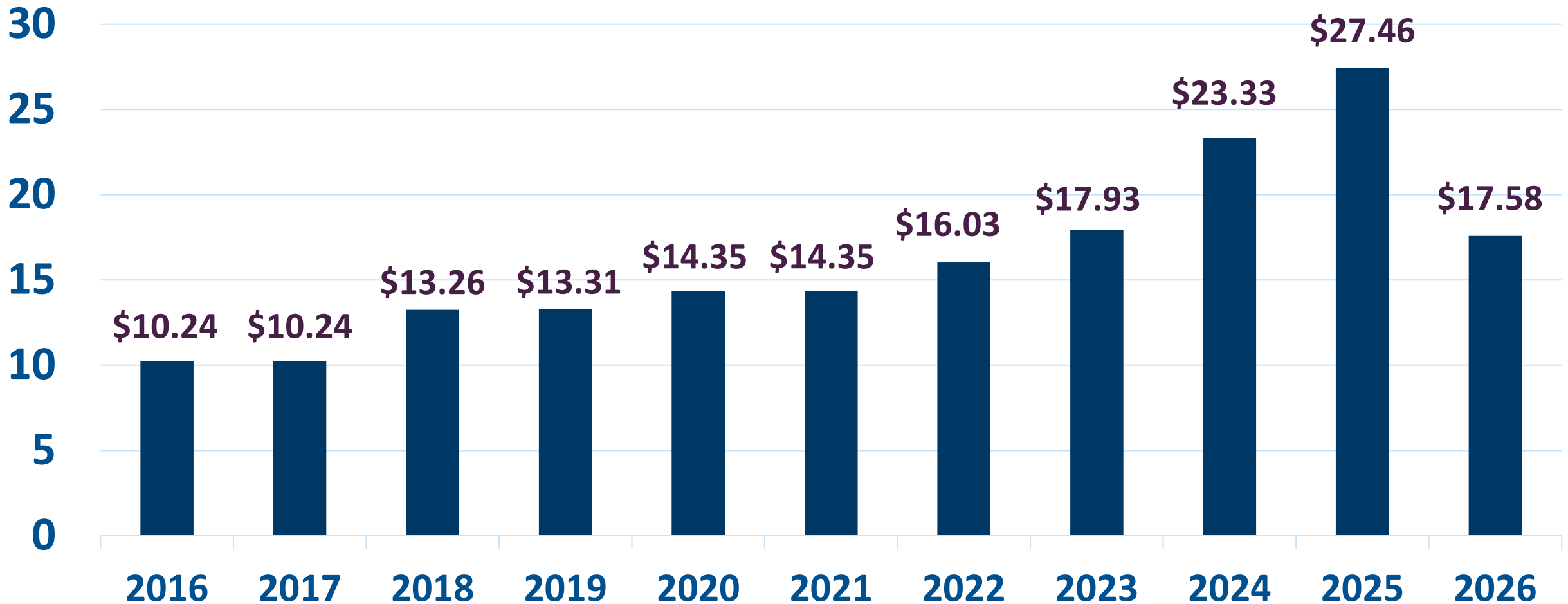
# AGRI Purpose and History



- Established in 2009 to promote the advancement of the state's agricultural and renewable energy industries, but first funded in FY2013
- Funds for this program were made available after the state fulfilled its commitment to support the ethanol industry through producer payments

# AGRI Appropriations by Fiscal Year

## Appropriation (in millions)



# AGRI Programs FY24

- Livestock Investment Grants
- Meat, Poultry, Egg, and Milk Grants
- Value-Added Grants
- Crop Research Grants
- Make it Minnesota
- Sustainable Ag Demonstration Grants
- Farm to School Grants
- Protecting Livestock Grants
- Bioincentive Payments
- GAP/GHP Cost-Share
- Farm Business Management Scholarships
- Urban Agriculture Grants
- Biofuels Infrastructure Grants
- Good Food Access Program Grants
- County Fair Grants
- Preparing for Extreme Weather Grants

# FY 2025 Earmarked Allocations

Program	FY 2025
Meat, Poultry, Egg, and Milk Processing	\$1,250,000
Bioincentive Payments	\$5,750,000
County Fairs	\$1,000,000
Biofuels Infrastructure	\$3,375,000
Farm to School	\$1,275,000
Good Food Access Program	\$1,000,000
Urban Agriculture/Youth Education	\$2,000,000
Protecting Livestock	\$225,000
DAIRI	\$4,000,000
Administration	Up to 6.5%



# FY 2025 Non-designated Programs

**\$27.457 million**

**- \$21.66 million in designated spending**

**\$5.797 million for undesignated programs**

- Livestock Investment Grants
- FBM Scholarships
- Crop Research Grants
- GAP/GHP Cost-Share
- Preparing for Extreme Weather Grants
- Value-Added Grants
- Make it Minnesota Programs
- Sustainable Ag Demonstration Grants

- Fund the highest priority, best projects
- Respond to emerging needs
  - Protect grants
  - Prepare grants
- Access federal funding opportunities
  - Minnesota Biofuels Infrastructure Program
  - Local Foods for Schools Cooperative Agreement

## Exceed Office of Grants Management (OGM) guidelines

- We reconcile every payment request
  - OGM only requires that agencies review one payment request on a grant of more than \$50,000
- For payment requests for more than \$25,000, we have two staff members review and sign off on the payment
  - This is not required by OGM
- We make site visits on every grant over \$25,000. OGM only requires site visits on grants over \$50,000



# Office of the Legislative Auditor (OLA) Audit

- AMDD's Bioincentive Program and Biofuels Infrastructure Grant Program (BIP) were reviewed by the OLA
- They reviewed roughly \$14.5 million in expenditures between the two programs.
  - Of that amount, only \$18,894, roughly 1/10th of 1%, was recommended to be reclaimed
- We processed more than \$12.1 million in Bioincentive Program payments without a single finding
- *"We were happy to release a report with such positive results."*

-Judy Randall, Legislative Auditor during LAC hearing

# Applying for Grants

- Farmers are not generally grant writers
- We pride ourselves on making what can be a challenging system as easy as possible for farmers and entrepreneurs to navigate
- Many of our grants are multi-year grants
- We have a significant number of relatively small grants
- 90% of AGRI participants who responded to a 3<sup>rd</sup> party survey reported that the application process was “very easy” or “fairly easy”

# AGRI Protecting Livestock Grant

- Helps farmers and ranchers purchase and install equipment and supplies to protect their livestock from disease outbreaks
- FY 2024: requests totaled \$921,000 from 127 applicants
- Funded 54 projects for a total of \$368,000



# Preparing for Extreme Weather Grant

- Helps livestock and specialty crop farmers buy and install supplies and equipment to become more resilient to severe weather events like drought, flooding, and hail
- FY 2024: 162 applications requesting \$1.15 million
- Awarded 71 grants for \$461,750

# AGRI Value-Added Grant and Meat, Poultry, Egg, and Milk Processing Grants

- Help value-added and livestock processing businesses invest in equipment and related physical improvements to increase sales of products produced with Minnesota grown ingredients
- FY 2024 MPEM: Received 66 applications requesting \$3.9 million  
Awarded \$1.3 million to 32 grantees.
- FY 2024 VA: Received 38 applications requesting \$2 million  
Funded 17 projects totaling \$835,413

# Value-Added Grantee Spotlight

Peatland Reds, located in Trail, received an AGRI Value-Added Grant to purchase an innovative potato grading system to make processing their locally grown red potatoes more efficient. Modernizing their processing equipment will reduce potato bruising and skinning damage and increase both the volume of potatoes processed and the number of potatoes their family farm is able to grow.



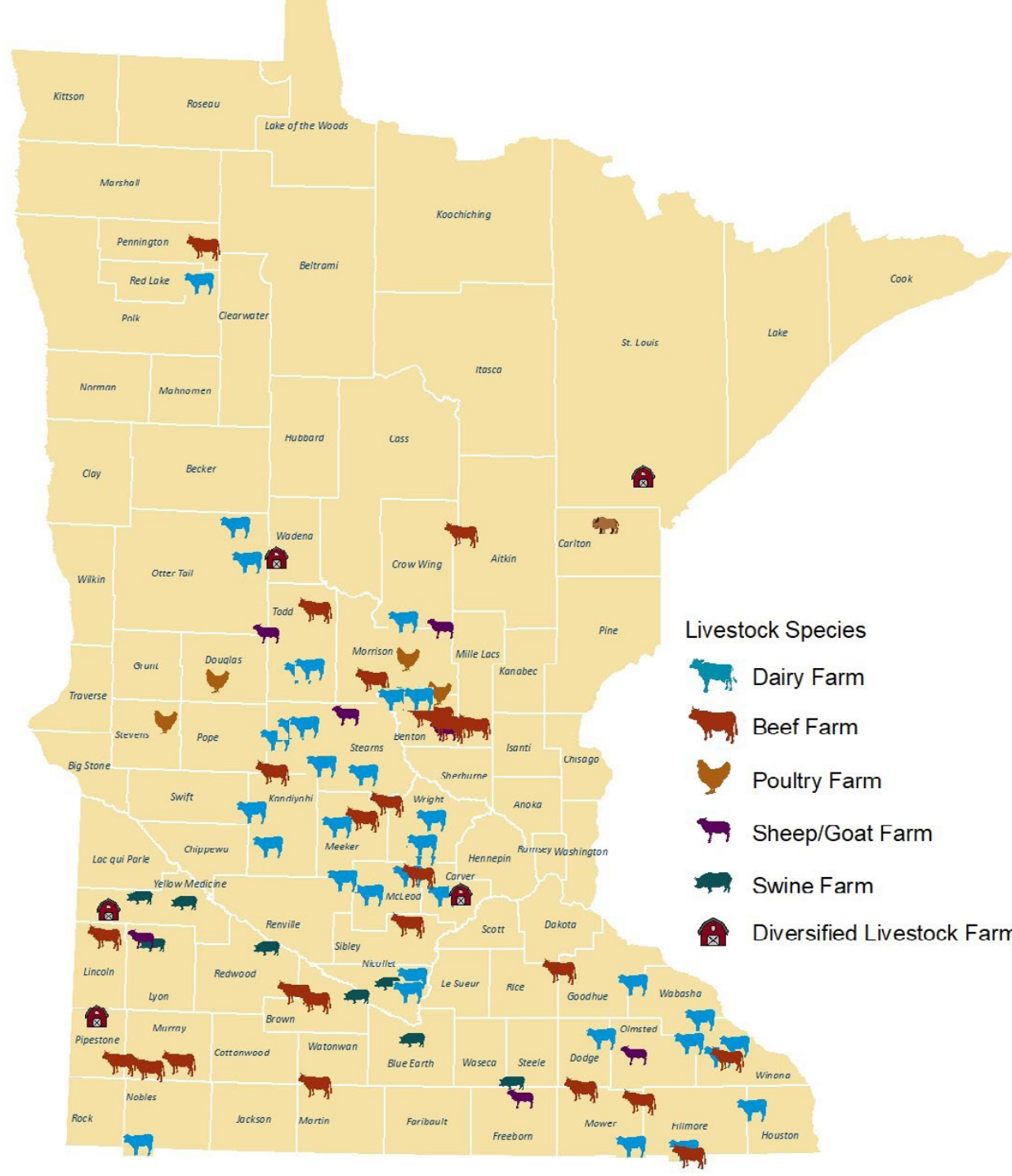


Legislative District	County	Name	Species
01A	Pennington	Jennifer Arveson	Beef
01B	Polk	Jeremy Bergerson	Beef
01B	Polk	Nick Geray	Beef
02B	Becker	Jason Chilton	Beef
03A	Cook	Karen Brodeen	Beef
05B	Stearns	Jason Felling, Felling Dairy, LLP	Dairy
05B	Todd	Elizabeth Vetsch, Vetsch Farms, LLC	Dairy
05B	Todd	Amber Rasinski, R&R Ranch	Beef
05B	Todd	Kyle Klein, Klein Dairy	Dairy
09A	Traverse	Brent Pederson	Swine
09B	Otter Tail	Troy Becker	Beef
09B	Wadena	Stephanie Goeller, Style-Heaven Holsteins	Dairy
10B	Benton	Brandon Marshik	Dairy
10B	Benton	Jocelyn Schlichting, Schlichting Farms, Inc.	Swine
10B	Benton	Patrick Scapanski, Scapanski Dairy, LLP	Dairy
10B	Morrison	Harvey Schoon	Dairy
11B	Pine	Dale Heidelberg, Heidelberg Farm Equipment, LLC	Diversified Livestock
12A	Pope	Todd Carlson	Beef
12A	Stearns	Alise Sjostrom, Jer-Lindy Farms, LLC	Dairy
12A	Stearns	Ken Kerfeld, Kerfeld Dairy	Dairy
12A	Stearns	Tom Herkenhoff, Herkenhoff Central Dairy, Inc.	Beef
12A	Stevens	Eric Zeltwanger	Beef
12B	Pope	Dean Reichmann, Homestead Farms	Beef
12B	Pope	Jeremy Walker	Dairy
12B	Pope	Paul Fiedler, Fiedler Finishing	Swine
13A	Renville	Tyler Magedanz	Dairy
13A	Stearns	Joe Merdan, Merdan Dairy, Inc.	Dairy
13A	Stearns	Scott Wittkop, Scott Wittkop Farm	Beef
13A	Stearns	Vanessa Gillman, Windhaven Farm	Beef
13B	Stearns	Jacob Posch, Posch's Poultry, LLC	Poultry
15B	Brown	Brandon Anderson	Beef

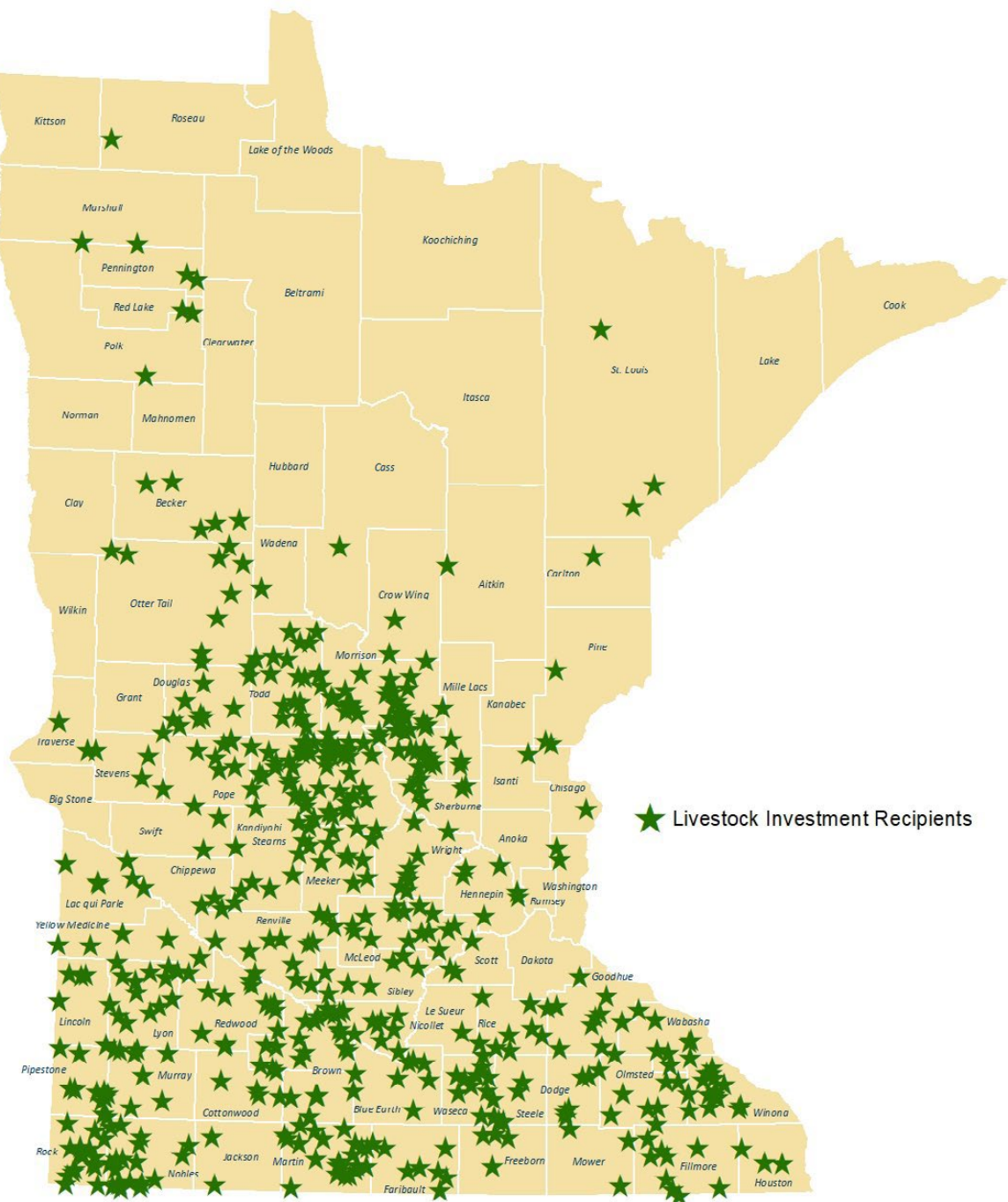
Livestock Investment Grants

Name, County, Legislative District

## Livestock Investment Grants FY24 only



## Livestock Investment Grants FY17 through FY24



# Thank you!

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