

The Commonwealth Grows

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Spring 2006

Governor Ernie Fletcher Presented Awards to Agriculture Leaders

The 2006 Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund Annual Meeting was held February 10, 2006 at the Louisville Marriot East. This was an opportunity for County Council members, Program Administrators, Extension Agents, and anyone involved in the agriculture industry to discover entrepreneurship in agriculture, experience Kentucky Proud products, share ideas with others from across the Commonwealth, as well as learn of new Board policies and programs.



Photo by: Creative Services
(Shuckman's Fish Co.)

Keynote speaker, Jay Poole (former director of Government & Community Relations for Aria), challenged the audience to lead transforming change in Kentucky. He also challenged the audience to "look for those solutions no one else is considering. Be willing to think outside the box...because this is the time and place to think about the old things in a new way."

Governor Ernie Fletcher was the special guest speaker at the Awards Luncheon, discussing how a Manufacturer's Assessment Fee will benefit the agriculture community. "I have kept my commitment to the farm community, providing in each of my budgets 50 percent of the Master Settlement Agreement funds," said Governor Fletcher. "But the MSA payments are declining and uncertain, potentially threatening our efforts to diversify agriculture. A Manufacturer's Assessment Fee will add a greater level of certainty to the revenue stream."



Photo by: Creative Services
(Commonwealth Agri-Energy)

After his speech Governor Fletcher, along with Commissioner Richie Farmer, presented the Innovations in Agriculture Awards, Outstanding Administrator of the Year, Extension Agent of the Year, and 2005 County Council Members of the Year.

Two awards were presented for *Innovations in Agriculture*, which recognizes projects that take an entrepreneurial approach to agricultural diversification and increasing net farm income in the Commonwealth. The two projects selected to receive this award were Commonwealth Agri-Energy and Shuckman's Fish Co. & Smokery.

Inside this issue:

Letter from Executive Director	2
Annual Meeting Awards	3
Model Program Corner	4
Regional Administrative Workshops	5
KAFC Update	6
KADB Visits Alltech Inc.	7
Knotwood Ground-breaking	8
What's New at GOAP	9
AD Fund Update	10

See more of
the 2006
Annual
Meeting Award
Winners on
Page 3.





The 2006 session of the General Assembly is over and Kentucky has a new budget for the next two years. I would like to thank all of you that made the time to contact your legislators and the Governor in support of the Agricultural Development Fund (ADF) and this historic program. Those contacts did make a difference. Every budget process I have been a part of has had its ups and downs and this one was no different for the ADF. All in all, the fund is in good shape if you view it under the circumstances our leaders in Frankfort faced.

The county portion of the ADF continues at the 35 % level established in House Bill 611. These funds are the backbone of Kentucky's agricultural diversification efforts. The majority of county funds are used to provide model programs at the county level. These funds have made a major difference in production agriculture on our farms across the Commonwealth.

Since the beginning of House Bill 611 these funds have been available to counties through a formula based on tobacco dependence. All but two, of Kentucky's 120 counties, receive allotments that range from a few hundred dollars to several thousands of dollars each year. The County Councils are in charge of setting priorities in a county for the use of these funds. These county leaders along with Extension Agents and County Model Program Administrators provide countless hours, much of which are volunteer hours, assisting farmers in accessing these cost-share dollars.

Over \$111 million in county funds have been invested since the spring of 2001. With producer match these funds have been leveraged to over \$222 million that have been invested on Kentucky farms in just five short years.

In the new budget, the state ADF portion appropriations for fiscal years 2007 and 2008 are the lowest since the beginning of the program. Nevertheless, the funds carried forward are mostly made up of the \$27 million that was returned to the ADF from the successful legal battle in the Phase II case in North Carolina. These funds remain available to the Agricultural Development Board for state level projects. The Agricultural Development Board will be some what limited in its ability to fund state projects over the next two years, but I promise you we will do our best to make the most of the funding we have.

I want to thank Governor Fletcher and the General Assembly for the leadership they have provided in continuing this program. Especially, the members of the General Assembly who carried the fight for funding throughout the conference committee. We can be proud of our successes with this program and the new economy we are building in Kentucky agriculture.

As we begin to implement the new budget, I cannot help but think about where this effort will be in two years when the budget process begins again. With the concern of declining MSA payments and the current challenge by some of the tobacco companies over this April's payment we cannot sit by and just hope everything is okay in two years. Agriculture needs to begin to plan now for the next budget cycle so that we can be in a strong position to influence agricultural interests come January of 2008.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Keith L. Rogers". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light-colored background.

Keith L. Rogers
Executive Director / CEO

KADF Annual Meeting Awards



District 1, Dennis Perry, Rowan Co.



District 2, Jim Lacey, Wolfe Co.



District 3, Rob McClanahan Pendleton Co.



District 4, Stewart Hughes, Scott Co.

The Innovations in Agriculture award was just one of the awards presented by Governor Ernie Fletcher at this year's Kentucky Agriculture Development Fund Annual Meeting. The foundation of the cultural change in Kentucky's agriculture community has been the grassroots effort of the County Agricultural Development Councils. Nominations for these awards were solicited from council members and extension agents from across the Commonwealth. One Council Member from each of the seven Extension Districts was chosen as Council Member of the Year. (See Photos)

County extension agents have taken on the challenge of leading the County Councils and becoming the liaison between the Council and the state Agricultural Development Board. Bill Peterson ANR Extension Agent for Mason County, was chosen as Extension Agent of the Year. Mr. Peterson has been an adviser to the Mason County Agriculture Development Council, since the inception. He has been a supporter of the Buffalo Trace Hay and Produce Auction, as well as the "Computer's for Farmers" training available through Maysville Community College. (Picture to the right)

The success of the county model programs depends on local organizations volunteering their time and skills administering these programs. The Hart County Cattlemen's Association was selected as the Outstanding Model Program Administrator. The Association maintains consistent, timely, and accurate reporting through their bookkeeper. Lawrence Avery accepted the award on the Association's behalf.



District 5, Mike Shull, Grayson Co.

District 6, Royce Vincent, Edmonson Co. (Not Pictured)



District 7, Daryl Templeman, Todd Co.



Bill Peterson, Extension Agent of the Year, Mason Co.



Lawrence Avery, Outstanding Model Program Administrator, Hart County Cattlemen's Association

DEADLINES

Are you planning to submit an application or amendment to the Agricultural Development Board? If so here are a few deadlines to keep in mind.



Model Program Applications

The first Friday of each month is the deadline for model program applications. If your model program is received in our office by the first Friday of the month then it will go before the Board at that month's meeting.

Non-Model Applications

The second Friday of each month is the deadline for all non-model project applications. If your application is received in our office by the second Friday of the month it will be referred at the Board meeting that month for consideration at the meeting the following month.

Model and Non-model Amendments

The first Friday of each month is the deadline for all model and non-model project amendments. If your amendment is received in our office by the first Friday of the month then it will go before the Board at that month's meeting.



Model Program Corner

Agricultural Development Board Suspends Requirement for Cattle Genetics Improvement Model Program

At the Agricultural Development Board's March meeting, the Board suspended the requirement that "producer applications must be submitted prior to the purchase of a bull" from section C (2) of the model genetics program from January 1, 2006 until June 30, 2006. This suspension is only **temporary** and the policy will resume for applications on July 1, 2006.

This requirement was added to the Cattle Genetics Improvement Model Program on December 16, 2005, and it significantly impacts the effectiveness of the program and drastically changes the way the program is operated. Historically, the Board has not made model program guideline revisions during the year, but the suspension for this requirement is needed due to the following reasons:

1. Retroactivity was allowed in all model programs, including the Cattle Genetics Model Program, until this change was made, and thus many Program Administrators and farmers were not anticipating such a drastic change;

2. Notice can be given to farmers that the requirements have changed for the 2007 cycle, since many farmers did not know the change was made already purchased a bull for the spring breeding season; and,

3. County funds are not received until April, at the very conclusion of the bull purchasing season, thus it was impossible for the ADB to approve the Cattle Genetics Improvement Programs before bull purchasing season began, so that farmers could submit applications prior to the purchase of a bull. With this suspension Program Administrators and farmers will have ample notice of the change for the last half of 2006, as the requirement will resume July 1, 2006.



For more information on this model program or any other program please contact the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy at (502) 564-4627 or visit our website at <http://agpolicy.ky.gov>.

Regional Administrative Workshops

During the months of February, March, and April the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy (GOAP) has been hosting a series of Regional Workshops across the Commonwealth. These meetings have included I Model Program Administrators, Extension Agents, and County Council Members. These workshops provided administrators the opportunity to meet with other Model Program Administrators in an interactive learning session.



Shelby County Workshop

GOAP hosted these Regional Workshops to highlight the changes made to the model programs and walk step by step through the new reporting requirements. They were also so administrators could get any questions they might have answered.

The five top questions asked are as follows:

1. What are the requirements for Signature Authorization?

A simple motion such as, "Roger is authorized to sign legal agreements with the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy," included in meeting minutes.

2. How is tobacco dependency defined?

Must have received a Phase II check during the life of the program or have an executed buyout contract.

3. How can we tell when someone has reached their maximum within a model program?

Each producer should fill out a Producer Certification Form, which certifies how much that a producer has received over the life of the program. The program administrator should also be able to compile this information from their records.

4. Where do you get information for the close-out report?

This information is supplied by the producer before cost-share funds are received on the "Producer Report," form.

5. How do Extension Agents go about reappointing county council members?

Extension Agents do not appoint/reappoint County Council. Each organization represented on the Council (Extension District, Farm Service Agency, Conservation District) appoints or reappoints two people to represent them. Those 6 members choose the two young farmers.

Model Program Totals

2001-2006

Agricultural Diversification

Est. September 2001

\$10,962,999 / 92 Counties

Cattle Genetics

Est. February 2001

\$11,996,642 / 105 Counties

Cattle Handling

Est. June 2001

\$18,168,355 / 101 Counties

Dairy Diversification

Est. January 2005

\$1,044,526 / 23 Counties

Fencing Improvement

Est. March 2003

\$8,473,465 / 65 Counties

Forage Improvement

Est. March 2001

\$20,765,515 / 101 Counties

Goat Diversification

Est. August 2001

\$3,613,432 / 91 Counties

Hay, Straw & Commodity

Est. November 2002

\$16,152,959 / 93 Counties

On-Farm Water

Est. March 2003

\$1,230,786 / 19 Counties

Shared-Use

Est. January 2005

\$745,393 / 36 Counties

Swine

Est. January 2005

\$57,015 / 5 Counties

Technology Program

Est. January 2005

\$466,295 / 17 Counties

Timber

Est. January 2005

\$119,055 / 5 Counties

Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corporation's Beginning Farmer Loan Program

On March 17, 2006 the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board (KADB) approved \$2,000,000 in funds for the Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corporation (KAFC) to implement a Beginning Farmer Loan program.

This is after the KADB, at their November planning meeting, decided that the Board would seek programs to enhance the viability of young farmers and part-time farmers in agriculture. This program has been designed to assist applicants in formulating a business plan, securing needed expertise, and receiving the capital to prepare their farming operation for a successful future.

These funds will be made available to producers meeting eligibility criteria, as developed by KAFC. There must be a commitment by a "lead lender" to work with the borrower to implement the five year business plan and to provide additional financing, as the borrower becomes eligible. Also, identification of a mentor who is willing to advise the borrower on record keeping and business analysis, during the term of the loan, will be required. Other requirements are as follows:

1. A beginning Farmer or Rancher should be defined as:
 - A person who has not operated a farm or ranch for more than 10 years.
 - A person who has substantially participated in the business operation of a farm or ranch for at least three years.
 - A person who does not own a farm or ranch greater than 30% of the average farm or ranch size in the county where his or her operation is located.
2. The applicant and spouse, if applicable, must have a net worth of less than \$250,000;
3. The applicants personal off-farm income must be less than \$50,000 annually, and the total household income must be less than \$75,000 annually.
4. An Interest Rate, which is substantially below current market rates, will be offered and the rate will be fixed for the term of the loan.
5. Maximum loan term will not exceed 10 years and there will be no penalty for early prepayment.
6. All loans will be secured with both fixed assets and the personal guaranty of the borrower.
7. The applicant must provide a 5-year business plan showing a reasonable return and an ability to retire the KAFC debt.

Lenders interested in offering this program and producers who are interested in applying are encouraged to contact Tim Hughes with KAFC at (502) 564-4627 for more information.



Agricultural Development Board Visits Alltech

The Agricultural Development Board held their monthly Board meeting at Alltech, Inc. on March 17, 2006. The Board was able to tour Alltech's facility while they were there.



The ADB, GOAP Staff, Alltech Staff, and others prepare to tour Alltech's facility in Nicholasville.

Alltech is a multinational biotechnology company, providing natural solutions to the feed and food industries. Founded in 1980 by Dr. Pearse Lyons, the company now has a presence in 85 countries and growing. Alltech is headquartered in Lexington, Kentucky with a strong regional presence in North America, Europe, Middle East, Latin America and Asia Pacific. 1,700 professionals work every day to provide innovative solutions for a rapidly changing global marketplace.

For over 25 years, Alltech has re-invested resources in research and development, to bring to life a diversity of natural products and solutions key to the advancement of the feed and food industries. This tremendous growth stems

from Alltech's founding technology in yeast fermentation.

Alltech is recognized as one of the leading research-based animal health companies in the world. By focusing on providing natural solutions to real problems they are responding to the needs of industry and enhancing their customers' profitability. Because of the commitment to research and development, they have success with Marketing through Education and the pioneering **ACE** program, which ensures all products are safe for the **A**nimal, the **C**onsumer and the **E**nvironment.



Alltech's International Headquarters, Lexington, KY

After the tour of Alltech, Dr. Lyons made a presentation to the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board. He discussed advanced agriculture in Kentucky, the potential for bio refineries, the expansion of the dairy industry, aquaculture research taking place at Alltech facilities and nutrigenomics. The Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy and the Agricultural Development Board would like to thank Alltech for hosting us!



Knotwood Craftsman Investments Corporation Breaks Ground in Jackson County

On March 20, 2006, Knotwood Craftsmen Investments Corporation broke ground on construction of a highly efficient woodworking facility including air-drying sheds and lumber dry kilns. The Agricultural Development Board approved Knotwood Craftsmen Investments Corporation for \$25,000 in Jackson County, \$10,000 in Clay County, and \$597,000 in state funds to assist in the construction of this facility. The goal of this area project is to use timber (our most abundant raw material) from tobacco farms to increase farm income through several avenues.



Wood mizer saw mill

“This project would have never been possible without the Agricultural Development Board providing a forgivable loan to Knotwood Craftsman Investments Corporation, due to the competitiveness of the timber industry,” said Felix Taylor, President. Knotwood Craftsmen Investments Corporation will be traveling to area farms where they will saw logs with a portable band saw mill, transport the logs back to the facility to be kiln dried and processed into high-value products such

as moldings, furniture, office accessories and plaques. Sawing and drying services will also be offered to farmers for their own building needs.



Supporters of Knotwood Craftsmen Investments Corporation

As the result of Agricultural Development Funds a School of Woodworking will be established and housed in the woodworking facility where Mr. Taylor will offer classes on producing finely crafted wood products from local wood. Mr. Taylor is currently teaching vocational classes in woodworking at the high school.

The classes offered at the new facility will teach wood crafting beyond the high school level and provide training for students to start their own farm wood based business.

For more information on Knotwood Craftsmen Investments contact Felix Taylor, President at (606) 364-7872.

For more information on the Timber Model Program contact the Governor’s Office of Agricultural Policy at (502) 564-4627 or visit <http://agpolicy.ky.gov>.

What's New at GOAP?

For the 2006 calendar year the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy has challenged each Project Analyst (PA) to attend at least one county council meeting in each of their assigned counties.

To achieve this goal the Project Analyst will have to communicate with their County Agriculture Extension Agents on a regular basis. Agents and County Council members must remember that there are 120 counties in the state and only four Project Analysts in the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy.

Therefore, the PA's are working diligently to attend meetings that

they are notified of and their schedules allow.

While attending the council meetings the Project Analyst will be able to update County Councils on the Model Program Guidelines for 2006, current county balances, current statewide events, and answer any questions that the members of the council may have.

Please remember that each Project Analyst is dedicated to helping their counties in whatever capacity necessary.

Thank you for your help in this effort and we look forward to seeing you in 2006.

We have a new PA!

Todd Harp will be joining GOAP on May 1, 2006 as the new Project Analyst. He graduated from Eastern Kentucky University with an A.S. in Livestock Production and a B.S. in Animal Science, and an M.A. in Educational Leadership. For the past three years Todd has taught Agricultural Education at Harrison County High School. He currently lives in Bourbon County on a small farm where he raises dairy goats and paint horses. Todd said, "I am looking forward to working with GOAP. I understand the struggles of farmers and think that the GOAP is playing an instrumental part in helping them."

Did you know...

That Kentucky Open Records law allows any individual to request a copy of records relating to model programs.

Anyone, for any reason, may be given copies of the following:

- All applications
- A list of producers who received funds through the model programs
- The amount of each grant

Program Administrators should black out the SSN, TIN and FSN on any application. The Program Administrator may require open records request to be submitted in writing and MUST respond within in three (3) business days.

Looking for a Speaker to Discuss Agricultural Issues?

The Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy is available to speak at your next event.

Available Topics:

- General Agriculture Issues
- Model Programs
- The State of Kentucky Agriculture
- Entrepreneurship in your Community
- Specific Agriculture Issues Requested
- Kentucky's Successful Diversification Efforts

Contact Angela Blank, Communications Officer, for the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy at (502) 564-4627 or email at angelag.blank@ky.gov.

In the past three months \$3,755,358 in Agricultural Development Funds have been invested in Kentucky's agricultural diversification effort.

The Kentucky Legislature continues to make great strides towards lessening Kentucky's dependence on tobacco production while revitalizing the farm economy by investing 50% of Kentucky's Master Settlement Agreement into the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund. To date Kentucky has invested over \$196 million to an array of county, regional, and state projects designed to increase net farm income and create sustainable new farm-based business enterprises.

The following are projects, receiving Agricultural Development Funds for December 2005, January 2006, and February 2006. These projects represent 25 of the 2,323 projects that have been approved since the program's inception (2001).

December 2005 Investments

Allen County Extension District Board

The Allen County Extension District Board was approved for \$74,500 in Allen County Agricultural Development Funds to construct a certified test kitchen as part of the Allen County Agricultural Marketing Edu-

"The test kitchen will help local farmers better market their products. I commend the Fletcher Administration for encouraging Allen County's economic development." -Senator Richie Sanders (R-9)

Agricultural Development Fund Investments

Appalachian Alternative Agriculture of Jackson County, Inc.

The Appalachian Alternative Agriculture of Jackson County, Inc. (3AJC) was approved for \$125,000 in Jackson County funds to administer a menu of model programs.

Clinton/Cumberland Cattlemen's Association, Inc.

The Clinton/Cumberland Cattlemen's Association was approved for \$60,000 in Cumberland County funds to administer a menu of model programs.

Fire on The Ridge Farm, LLC

Fire on the Ridge Farm was approved for \$19,120 in Bracken County funds to construct a facility to produce Hot Pepper Sauce.

Gallatin County Livestock Association, Inc.

The Gallatin County Livestock Association was approved for \$103,000 in Gallatin County Funds to administer a menu approach which will offer five model programs.

Jackson County Cattlemen's Association, Inc.

The Jackson County Cattlemen's Association was approved for \$150,000 in Jackson County funds to administer a menu of model programs.

Kentucky Horticulture Council, Inc.

The Kentucky Horticulture Council was approved for \$1,227,100 in state funds for the continuing support of education and training for the growth of Kentucky's horticulture industry.

Lawrence County Extension District Board

The Lawrence County Extension District Board was approved for \$18,000 in Lawrence County funds to construct a farmers' market shed.

Purple Toed Winery

Purple Toed Winery was approved for \$50,000 in state funds as a part of the Agri-tourism Competitive Awards Program to construct a processing facility.

Russell County Cattlemen's Association

The Russell County Cattlemen's Association was approved for \$200,000 in Russell County funds to administer a menu of model programs.

Southeast Vintners, LLC

Southeast Vintners, LLC., was approved for \$50,000 in state funds as part of the Competitive Agri-tourism Award program.

StoneBrook Winery LLC

StoneBrook Winery LLC was approved for \$9,000 as a part of the Agri-tourism Competitive Awards Program to renovate an 1890



Farm for their agri-tourism business.

Tim's Cattle Hoof Trimming

Tim's Cattle Hoof Trimming was approved for \$2,500 of Boyle County funds to purchase equipment to start a mobile hoof trimming service for dairy and beef cattle.

Warren County Conservation District

The Warren County Conservation District was approved for \$80,000 in Warren County Agricultural Development Funds to administer the Warren County On-Farm Drainage Enhancement Program as a cost share program to install subsurface drainage systems.

Whitley County Cattlemen's Association, Inc.

The Whitley County Cattlemen's Association was approved for \$12,000 in Whitley County funds to administer a Heifer Replacement Program.

January 2006 Investments

Breathitt County Conservation District

The Breathitt County Conservation District was approved for \$15,750 in Breathitt County funds to administer a Heifer Replace-

"Helping our small family farmers is more important than ever these days. I'm proud to have played a role in getting this grant." - Representative Ted Edmonds (D-91)

Gallatin County Agricultural Diversification Association, Inc.

The Gallatin County Agricultural Diversification Association was approved for \$57,000 in Gallatin County funds to administer a menu approach, which will offer four model programs.

Harrison County Extension District Education Fund

The Harrison County Extension District was approved for \$10,988 in Harrison County funds to construct shared-use equipment storage for previously funded shared-use equipment.

Maysville Community and Technical College

The Maysville Community and Technical College was approved for \$124,800 in state funds to address the lack of technical skills among farmers in the areas of welding and diesel maintenance.

Owensboro Grain Company

The Owensboro Grain Company was approved for \$1,000,000 in state funds, as a forgivable loan, and \$108,000 in County Agricultural Development Funds to finance the purchase of equipment and construct a biodiesel operation that will produce as much as, 45 million gallon of bio diesel annually utilizing Kentucky grown soybeans.

Sharpe Farm

The Sharpe Farm was approved for \$1,500 in Whitley County funds for the establishment of a meat goat demonstration and research farm in Whitley County.

The Shepherd's Rug

The Shepherd's Rug was approved for \$1,100 in Montgomery County funds to develop, publish, and promote an instructional book which outlines a method of producing superior floor coverings using Kentucky grown wool.

"The agricultural community of Montgomery County is fortunate to have the Agricultural Development Funding available to them. The Shepherd's Rug will be a tremendous asset to the diversification of Montgomery County." - Senator R.J. Palmer II (D-28)

February 2006 Investments

Jessamine County FFA Alumni Association

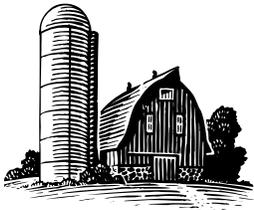
The Jessamine County FFA Alumni Association was approved for \$6,000 in Jessamine County funds to cost-share with youth for 4H/FFA projects.

Jackson County Cattlemen's Association

The Jackson County Cattlemen's Association, Inc. was approved for \$150,000 in Jackson County funds to offer two model programs in a menu approach.

Lexington Lion's Club

The Lexington Lion's Club was approved for \$100,000 in Fayette County funds to assist in the construction of a livestock education and show facility for agricultural organizations in the county.



Low Interest Financing Available

Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corporation

**Agricultural Infrastructure Loan Program
funds available for structures such as:**

- Livestock facilities
- Large fencing projects
- Grain storage
- Greenhouses
- Tobacco barns
- Vegetable facilities

(Livestock, real estate, machinery and refinancing or
existing debt not eligible)

Contact: Tim Hughes
Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy
(502) 564-4627 or visit <http://kafc.ky.gov>



The **Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy** (GOAP) provides a direct link between the Governor and one of the Commonwealth's most important industries. GOAP administers the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board (Phase I), the Kentucky Tobacco Settlement Trust Corporation (Phase II), and the Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corporation (KAFC), as well as other Boards and Commissions.

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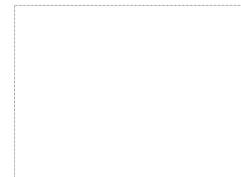
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