



I-CASH | Iowa's Center for  
**Agricultural Safety and Health**

I-CASH ANNUAL REPORT  
2018

**Leading statewide  
partnerships that make  
farming safer**



## Lately, I've been thinking about I-CASH's legacy in Iowa and beyond.

Founded by an act of the state legislature in 1990, many of I-CASH's earliest programs have become independent organizations, such as the AgriSafe Network and Farm Safety For Just Kids, which was active for several decades. Other programs have inspired initiatives elsewhere, such as a "Farm Safety Walkabout" in Canada that is attributed to I-CASH, as well as the University of Iowa's Agricultural Safety and Health Core Course, now federally funded and being offered in numerous states and abroad. I-CASH's mandate to coordinate agricultural injury prevention programs has seeded so many additional endeavors that farmers around the world can thank the Iowa Legislature for its commitment to agricultural safety and health in 1990.

In this year's report, you'll read about our current initiatives. Our Seasonal Campaigns have reached every county multiple times and have generated requests for materials from other Iowans, as well as from out of state. The Safety Watch columns that we write for *Iowa Farmer Today* are often picked up by other media, so that their message is shared widely. We continue to invest in Iowa youth, who work to improve safety culture in their local communities. I wonder where these programs will go—who will adapt them in the US or abroad to prevent needless agricultural injuries and illnesses?

Unfortunately, due to current funding concerns, I-CASH's legacy is in jeopardy. Reductions in state support have caused the University to ask us to significantly reduce our reliance on the General Education Fund, which supports the vast majority of our budget, over the next two years. Iowa is one of the most productive agricultural states, but unfortunately, it is not the safest. Although farmers make up only about 5% of Iowa's workforce, they suffer more than 30% of the occupational injuries and fatalities. Reducing support for I-CASH, the only active agricultural safety and health organization dedicated solely to Iowa's farmers, will make an uphill battle even steeper.

Iowa farmers are a critical resource for the state; every agriculturally-related fatality has a devastating impact on a family, a local community, and the industry overall. If we are truly committed to the safety and health of Iowa's farmers, we must designate resources for prevention programs. Failing to prioritize agricultural safety and health undermines the sustainability and productivity of Iowa's most important industry.

**BRANDI JANSSEN, PHD**  
**I-CASH DIRECTOR**

Health and safety is rarely a one and done thing, it has to be presented over and over to get someone to change how they live their life.

**KATHY LEINENKUGEL,**  
**OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH**  
**& SAFETY SURVEILLANCE**  
**PROGRAM MANAGER, IOWA**  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH**



The Mission of I-CASH is to enhance the health and safety of Iowa's agricultural community by establishing and coordinating prevention and education programs.

# Rooted in Relationships

I-CASH is a collaborative effort between four core institutions: The University of Iowa, Iowa State University, the Iowa Department of Public Health, and the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship. Through the unique structure of I-CASH, these four institutions, along with other stakeholders, accomplish what none of them could manage alone. I-CASH is a critical resource for ensuring consistent, statewide attention to the health and safety of Iowa's farmers.



## IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

The link between UI and ISU is really important, and the partnership is critical to covering what would otherwise be a patchwork. Our partnership allows us to better reach our target audience — both institutions benefit from us working together.

GRETCHEN MOSHER, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, AGRICULTURAL AND BIOSYSTEMS ENGINEERING, IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Being part of I-CASH helps me provide better programming for my applicators.

KRISTINE SCHAEFER, PESTICIDE SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAM MANAGER, IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION AND OUTREACH

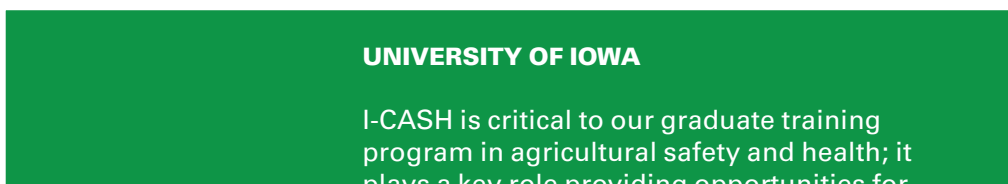
## IOWA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND LAND STEWARDSHIP

I-CASH allows us to be involved in farm safety through partnerships and relying on the expertise of the universities. The health and safety of Iowa farmers and those involved in agriculture is critically important to all of us, and I-CASH works to bring us together.

DUSTIN VANDE HOEF, COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR, IOWA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND LAND STEWARDSHIP

I-CASH is a helpful resource; we will refer constituents and legislators to I-CASH when they have questions about injuries on farms or other prevention related resources.

JACOB SWANSON, LEGISLATIVE LIAISON & SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY, IOWA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND LAND STEWARDSHIP



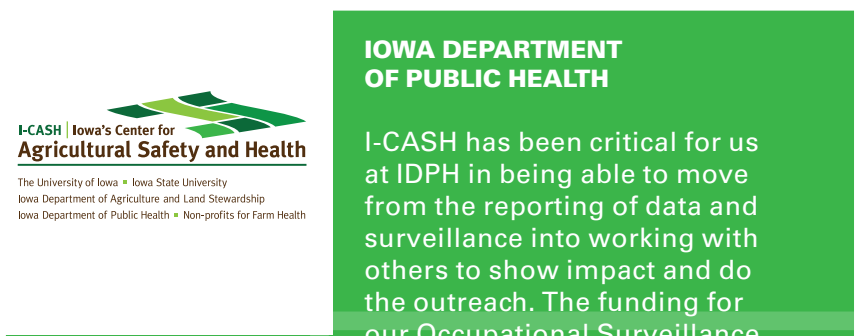
## UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

I-CASH is critical to our graduate training program in agricultural safety and health; it plays a key role providing opportunities for students to work in the field, gain valuable experience, and network.

DIANE ROHLMAN, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF OCCUPATIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

I-CASH spans the university, which is valuable, especially by helping students with community engagement and professional experience. Making contacts with communities is really important for students.

RACHEL YOUNG, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM AND MASS COMMUNICATION, UNIVERSITY OF IOWA



## I-CASH | Iowa's Center for Agricultural Safety and Health

The University of Iowa • Iowa State University  
Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship  
Iowa Department of Public Health • Non-profits for Farm Health

## IOWA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

I-CASH has been critical for us at IDPH in being able to move from the reporting of data and surveillance into working with others to show impact and do the outreach. The funding for our Occupational Surveillance Program is very small, there's no

way that we could do those parts of what we are funded to do without partnering with I-CASH.

KATHY LEINENKUGEL, OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM MANAGER, IOWA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

The relationships that I've developed with other members helps with other groups I work with, especially when talking about shortage areas and where to get people services. I wouldn't have known about some of those programs that are helping rural Iowans without I-CASH.

MEGAN HARTWIG, STATE OFFICE OF RURAL HEALTH COORDINATOR, IOWA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



# Growing a Culture of Safety and Health

## Agricultural Youth Injury Prevention Grants

Since 1998, I-CASH has invested in Iowa communities by funding youth groups to conduct farm safety-related projects. Each year, I-CASH awards an Outstanding Youth Grant Award and the winners are invited to present their project at the annual Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety and Health Conference. This year ten youth grants were funded.

The value is having an organization that is constantly focused on an issue that is important. I-CASH is unique in that way, and is a strong voice for agriculture safety.

DUSTIN VANDE HOEF,  
COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR, IOWA  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND  
LAND STEWARDSHIP



### CENTRAL CITY FFA

Central City FFA held a Career and Technical Education Safety Day. The purpose was to encourage interest in agriculture and industrial technology. Middle school students learned about ATV, machinery, grain bin, livestock, and work site safety.

### DES MOINES COUNTY 4-H TEEN COUNCIL

The Des Moines County 4-H Teen Council hosted an educational safety day camp for grades K-5. Youth participated in hands-on activities and assembled their own first aid kits.

### HOWARD COUNTY EXTENSION

Howard County Extension held a farm safety day for all 4th grade students in the county to increase awareness of issues and hazards related to agricultural settings. Topics covered included electrical, driving, and animal safety.

### IDA COUNTY FARM BUREAU

A farm safety day was conducted by the Ida County Farm Bureau. Students learned to be aware of their surroundings on the farm, especially during planting and harvest seasons. Nine safety stations included fire, chemical, and outdoor safety information.

### JONES COUNTY 4-H TEEN COUNCIL

The Jones County 4-H Teen Council created safety posters for the county fair with a scavenger hunt to encourage viewing the posters; the prize for visiting each poster was a farm safety kit. In addition, farm safety facts were displayed on grandstand monitors throughout the fair.

### MITCHELL COUNTY EXTENSION

An educational day camp for fourth graders was hosted by Mitchell County Extension. The purpose was to help students understand how quickly incidents can happen, and their impact. Hazards associated with machinery, animals, ATVs, and lawn equipment were covered.

### NORTH MAHASKA FFA

A resource distribution program was developed by the North Mahaska FFA. Sunscreen, safety glasses, ear plugs, and cotton gloves were distributed to farmers at the county fair, along with a short safety presentation.

### SHELBY COUNTY 4-H

Shelby County 4-H provided an educational program for youth ages 8-12 on prevention and treatment of animal bites and insect stings. The presentation also included distribution of first aid kits.

### WASHINGTON COUNTY 4-H

Washington County 4-H conducted the "Stay Safe, Take a Break" program. Youth selected, purchased, collected, and delivered bags of items that can help promote safety to farmers. Bags were delivered to farmers in the field while they were working, allowing them to take a break and talk to youth.

### WRIGHT COUNTY FARM BUREAU

Wright County Farm Bureau provided education to youth through a safety day camp for county third graders. First aid, machinery, and chemical safety were incorporated into the day camp through hands-on activities.



Photos courtesy of Central City FFA, Wright County Farm Bureau, and Jones County 4-H Teen Council.

### Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety and Health Conference

The 16th Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety and Health (MRASH) Conference, Best Practices for New Horizons, was held in Pella, Iowa on November 14-15, 2017. It was a great opportunity for networking, learning the latest research results, and exploring program opportunities.

The opening panel addressed how to create a culture of safety by integrating safety and health into best business practices. Leadership styles, risk and business management aspects, work-place decision making and behavior, as well as emergency preparedness, were discussed. The second day of the conference focused on effective messaging and a presentation on immigrant farm worker health issues by Mark Grey and Michele Devlin from the University of Northern Iowa. This issue continues to become more complex and they spoke of the increasing “micro-diversity” of the Midwest, special concerns of immigrants with territory status, how cultural traditions impact health, and cross-cultural health strategies. At the awards luncheon on November 15th, Roger and Sally Stutsman were presented with the I-CASH Hall of Fame Award, and the 2017 Outstanding Youth Grant was awarded to Washington County 4-H for their Stay Safe, Take a Break safety campaign.

AgrAbility was a featured topic throughout the conference, and attendees had the opportunity to learn about resources available to help farmers with disabilities continue to farm successfully. Another thread through the conference was responding to farm emergencies. A panel of fire, law enforcement, and EMT personnel from the Pella area described what can be done by farm families, and what emergency responders need to know, to respond more effectively. In-depth workshops on both AgrAbility and basic strategies for farm related emergencies were held following the conference. In addition, graduate students, Central College students, and agricultural safety and health professionals joined in a career luncheon providing students with an opportunity to discover safety and health related careers available in both the public and private sectors.

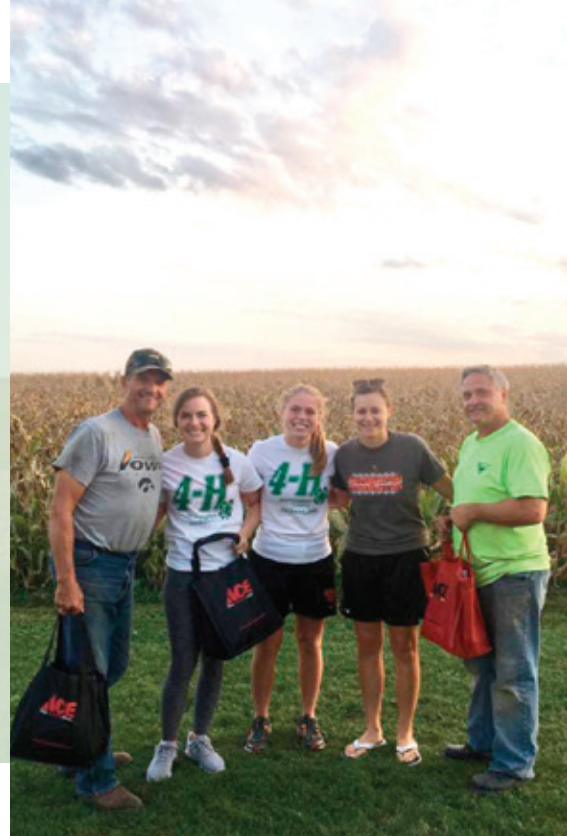


RIGHT: Washington County 4-H received the 2017 I-CASH Outstanding Youth Grant Award at the MRASH Conference.

The annual conference is really beneficial because the whole Midwest is involved, and we get to see what other universities and groups are doing. The exposure to groups of people and relationships helps my institution.

KRISTINE SCHAEFER, PESTICIDE SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAM MANAGER, IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION AND OUTREACH





**IOWA STATE EXTENSION AND FSA PERSONNEL COMMENTS ABOUT I-CASH SEASONAL CAMPAIGNS:**

The Campaigns serve as a reminder of the common things that may be forgotten by farmers who are dealing with safety every day.

We appreciate all you do. We are happy to display and provide the things you give out to our ag population. We have used these items at meetings and given a plug on the topic. Very much appreciated.

**FALL 2017: STAY SAFE, TAKE A BREAK (HARVEST SAFETY)**

I-CASH partnered with the Washington County 4-H club to expand their annual project, "Stay Safe, Take a Break." Statewide, FFA and 4-H groups were invited to take part in this activity, in which teams of students visit farmers in the field at harvest time to deliver a bag of safety materials and healthy snacks. The students remind the farmers to take regular breaks during the long harvest days and to use best safety practices while in the field. Twenty Iowa groups distributed nearly 1,300 bags of safety materials during the campaign. Collaborating with the Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health (GPCAH), and ISUEO, I-CASH provided resources on rural roadway safety, crisis/mental health referral, whole body vibration, hearing protection, and general harvest safety. I-CASH also provided earplugs, mini first aid kits, magnets reminding farmers to check in routinely with family members when working alone, and an N95 particulate filtering disposable respirator with information on respirator use.

**WINTER 2017-18: PLANNING FOR FARM SAFETY ALL YEAR LONG**

The Winter 2017-18 campaign encouraged farmers to develop a farm safety plan. Calendars were distributed to all FSA and ISUEO offices in the state, Iowa legislators, Board of Regents members, and were provided at farm shows and events. In addition, online and printable resources for developing a farm safety plan were made available on the I-CASH website.



# Seasonal Campaigns

I-CASH distributed over **21,000** safety resources to Iowans through Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Iowa State University Extension and Outreach (ISUEO) offices as part of our seasonal campaigns.

Each campaign is accompanied by a SafetyWatch article in *Iowa Farmer Today*.



**SPRING 2018: SPRING TRAINING AND TUNE-UP**

Spring brings increased physical activity, which can result in sore or strained muscles and fatigue. Lower-back pain is a common ailment for many, including farmers. The spring campaign reminded farmers to ease into the busy season with some spring training. I-CASH distributed AgrAbility's Farmer Daily Stretching Program brochures to all ISUEO and FSA offices and provided wrench key chains to remind farmers not to wrench their backs this spring.



**SUMMER 2018: OFF-ROAD VEHICLE SAFETY**

Off-road vehicles (ORV), which include all-terrain vehicles (ATV), utility task vehicles (UTV), and recreational off-highway vehicles (ROV), are important tools in agriculture. However, these vehicles are also associated with high rates of injuries and fatalities in both work and recreational use. In Iowa, ORVs are prohibited on most roadways; however, there are legal exceptions for occupational use, including use in agriculture. In summer 2018, I-CASH worked with researchers at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics to develop a resource that showed the guidelines for occupational use on Iowa roadways. Off-road vehicle safety cards were distributed to all FSA and ISUEO offices in the state.

## GROWING A CULTURE OF SAFETY AND HEALTH

### I-CASH Updates from the Field

Since 2003, Iowa's Center for Agricultural Safety and Health has maintained a free listserv. Originally named *Farm Families Alive & Well Updates*, the listserv was primarily a continuing education tool. Now renamed as *I-CASH Updates from the Field*, this free monthly listserv is available to anyone. It has become an efficient way for a variety of healthcare professionals to receive monthly abstracts from recent research publications on rural and agricultural health and safety issues. Upon request, subscribers will be sent the full-text articles. Recent topics have included ATV safety, telemedicine, rural roadway safety, importance of physical activity, ergonomics and musculoskeletal disorders, farm safety planning, and chemical safety.

Thank you for sending these timely updates. A large part of my work in public health involves vehicle-related injury prevention. I downloaded the full-text articles and will share the info with my colleagues at our coalition meeting next week.

TEXAS PUBLIC HEALTH & PREVENTION SPECIALIST

### Developing New Resources

I-CASH partnered with the Iowa Department of Public Health to create multi-media and bilingual resource materials including: Handle Chemicals with Care (English and Spanish), Prevent Slips and Trips (English and Spanish), Statewide Crisis/Referral Numbers (English only). Safety videos were created on slips/trips and safe chemical handling. These resources were made available to Iowa's rural health clinics to improve the quality of care to agricultural workers.



### Workshops and Seminars

I-CASH staff members provide seminars and workshops to diverse rural audiences on a variety of agricultural safety and health topics. Workshop topics have included Grain Equipment Safety, Household Chemical Storage and Safety, Workshop for Agricultural Media, Safety Policies and Procedures on the Farm, and Protecting Farm Youth.

### Hall of Fame Award



The I-CASH Hall of Fame Award recognizes individuals or organizations in the public or private sector who have made substantial contributions to the health and safety of Iowa's agricultural community. This year's award was presented to Roger and Sally Stutsman at the Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety and Health (MRASH) Conference in Pella, IA on November 15, 2017.

Roger and Sally farm in Hills, Iowa and have been married for 48 years. Roger is also a partner in Eldon Stutsman, Inc., his family's farm service, supply, and equipment company. Sally served on the Johnson County Board of Supervisors and was later elected to the Iowa House of Representatives, serving two terms. She was well known for being willing to tackle difficult issues and find solutions, particularly for rural farm families.

Roger and Sally had one child, Michael, who grew up on the farm. Mike moved away to attend college and then worked for the state of Washington's Conservation Corps in fish and wildlife conservation. In the mid 2000's, Mike moved back to the Hills area to join the family farming operation. He and his wife Jessica started a local food production farm called "Dirty Face Creek Farm" and had a daughter, Sophie. Mike also helped with the family commodity operation. In late November of 2008, Mike was killed in a farm harvesting injury event. Kelley Donham, one of those who nominated Roger and Sally, noted "in too many instances like this, the grieving of surviving relatives can be overbearing. But Roger decided that he was going to do what he could to make sure no other family experienced this kind of tragedy." Roger co-founded the Rural Health and Safety Clinic of Eastern Iowa (RHC). He has served as president of this organization and has given effective talks to various groups on the subject of farm safety. He has assembled an impressive and committed board to guide the RHC, and has raised funds to support its activities. He has been a member of the National Certified Safe Farm Coalition and serves on the advisory board of I-CASH.

# Yielding Results

I-CASH strives to improve safety and health knowledge throughout the agricultural industry. A recent survey about the Seasonal Campaigns was sent to ISUEO and FSA employees:

83%

agreed that health and safety issues in agriculture do not get enough attention

75%

stated that the campaigns are an effective way to get health and safety information to farmers

61%

reported that they had learned more about agricultural hazards thanks to the campaigns

49%

have used campaign materials in their work with farmers

I-CASH provided prevention materials to ISU Extension and Farm Service Agency offices in every county throughout the year. This year I-CASH:

Reached 3,639 Iowa farmers, farmworkers and youth, and distributed more than 21,000 prevention resources statewide

Awarded 10 grants to Iowa youth groups who reached 429 farmers and 1069 rural youth with agricultural safety information

Exhibited at 9 conferences and field days

Hosted 90 participants from 8 US states and Canada at the 2017 Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety and Health Conference

Provided 19 public presentations on topics including safety with chemical handling, livestock handling, ATVs, and community engagement in farm safety outreach

Contributed to print and radio stories for *The Des Moines Register*, *John Deere Magazine*, *Farm Bureau Spokesman*, *Omaha World Herald*, *River to River* (Iowa Public Radio), and *Iowa Farmer Today*

Authored 6 Safety Watch Columns in *Iowa Farmer Today*, reaching nearly 150,000 households in print

Reached over 3,000 households each quarter with the *Alive and Well* Newsletter

## STAFF

**Brandi Janssen, PHD**, I-CASH Director  
**Ralph Altmaier, MS**, Administrative Services Coordinator  
**Kyle Godwin**, Program Assistant  
**Kay Mohling, MA**, Program Coordinator  
**Matthew Nonnenmann, PHD**, Associate Professor  
**Gayle Olson, MS, CHES**, Assistant to the Director  
**DeAnn Scott-Harp, MS**, Program Assistant

## ADVISORY BOARD

The I-CASH Advisory Board, a diverse group of agricultural stakeholders and health and safety professionals, provides the organization with deep expertise and statewide engagement. Advisory Board members bring experience with agriculture, youth safety, migrant farm worker issues, academic research, rural health, health care, and outreach. Advisory Board members not only bring their expertise to I-CASH, they participate in the development and execution of I-CASH initiatives.

**Kelley Donham** – Rural Health and Safety Clinic of Eastern Iowa  
**Bill Furlong** – Producer  
**Rich Gassman** – Feed Energy Company  
**Charlotte Halverson** – AgriSafe Network  
**Megan Hartwig** – Iowa Department of Public Health  
**Charles Jennissen** – University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics  
**Tim Kapucian** – State Senator, District 38  
**Rawlin Kinney** – Syngenta  
**Kathy Leinenkugel** – Iowa Department of Public Health  
**Norlin Mommsen** – State Representative, District 97  
**Gretchen Mosher** – Iowa State University  
**Dan Neenan** – National Education Center for Agricultural Safety  
**Chris Petersen** – Producer  
**Sonia Reyes-Snyder** – Iowa Department of Human Rights  
**Diane Rohlman** – University of Iowa  
**Kristine Schaefer** – Iowa State University  
**Carolyn Sheridan** – Ag Health and Safety Alliance  
**Roger Stutsman** – Producer  
**Jacob Swanson** – Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship  
**Patrick Taggart** – Proteus, Inc.  
**Cheryl Tevis** – Iowa Women in Agriculture  
**Dustin Vande Hoef** – Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship  
**Rachel Young** – University of Iowa

It is hard to measure impact because you can't say "this many people didn't die," but if there's one person whose actions were made safer and didn't have a bad result, then that's a great impact.

KRISTINE SCHAEFER, PESTICIDE SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAM MANAGER, IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION AND OUTREACH





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The University of Iowa ■ Iowa State University  
Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship  
Iowa Department of Public Health ■ Non-profits for Farm Health

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