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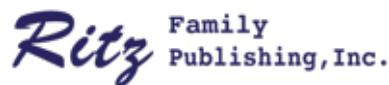
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Stukenholtz Laboratory provides 1 to 2 day service, including picking up and delivery time, across Southern Idaho from St. Anthony and Grace to Parma and Homedale. Results can be delivered, mailed, faxed, or pulled from the Laboratory's webpage: www.stukenholtz.com. To improve their service, Joyce and Dale Stukenholtz expanded the laboratory 23 years ago, installed the latest in computerized instrumentation and quality control, and made it the most modern and well equipped agricultural laboratory in their market area.

Critical to the success of Idaho's most efficient laboratory and largest field consulting firm has been its personnel. Dr. Stukenholtz has had a PhD in Soil Fertility and Plant Nutrition since 1964 and his son and Laboratory Manager Paul has nearly completed his own. Consulting agronomists include

J.P. Kruckeberg of American Falls, a 41 year veteran of field consulting and the most successful single agronomist in the state, and Bart Kunz. The Laboratory and office staff are equally good.



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Stukenholtz Laboratory continues with research and improvement. In conjunction with the Idaho Crop Production Association and University of Idaho CFEP research project, Stukenholtz Laboratory has helped to ensure that fertilizer recommendations in Idaho are the most cost efficient possible and produce the maximum economic yield while protecting the environment. Stukenholtz Laboratory personnel have conducted field research on over 40 different products and continue to be the experts at "cutting edge" agricultural technology. As we end our first 49 years of business and begin our next, we would like to thank our current and former employees for their dedicated work and our customers and clients for their years of support.

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Avoiding Disaster With Industrial Hemp: Managing Plant Stress Is The Key

Noel Garcia, CCA
Joe Pedroza
Larry Zibilske, PhD

Hemp growers have one goal in mind: Produce crops with high yields and quality. However, of all crops, hemp alone has the unique statutory constraint that THC, one of the naturally-produced cannabinoid oils, must not exceed 0.3%. Most growers are now painfully aware that a potency test showing a THC level higher than the federal limit will mean the total loss of their crops and in the worst case, be classified as negligent growers. For oil crops, it can be a real balancing act to achieve the highest content of CBD while limiting THC to acceptable levels. However, as fatal as a high THC result is, growers are learning that other factors can lead to a failed crop.

Plant stress is a condition that can be challenging to understand for many growers. Marijuana growers discovered that if they stress their plants in the last few weeks before harvest, they can induce higher production of THC. But stress in industrial hemp can lead to disaster.

What happens if the plant is stressed early in the vegetative state and how does that affect overall yield? Potential growers have asked, "Isn't hemp basically a weed and shouldn't it grow well unattended?". The answer is yes, but not as a commercial crop. Between heat, drought and low humidity, Texas and other arid states can provide plant stress challenges to producing a harvestable crop. So let's review the experiences two Texas growers had this year:

(Background: Texas growers started under a handicap: Licenses didn't start being issued until the middle of April – then already more than a month late for planting and they weren't issued immediately upon application. Accordingly, growers were in a panic to get their crops going.)

- It's late June and the weather is hot and humid - typical conditions for the Lower Rio Grande Valley region of Texas for the time of year. A new greenhouse grower, excited to invest in a new and promising crop, sets out to start his grow. He starts with topsoil purchased from a local supplier; it's a sandy loam which he blends with coconut coir and perlite.

The seeds germinate and for the next several weeks, the plants are growing well. One morning as he walks through the rows of potted plants, he notices many of the young plants are beginning to flower. The plants are only five weeks old and six to eight inches tall. They are not an autoflowering variety. What's going on?

- Another grower in Texas is preparing to plant his first crop. He has seven acres but decides that it would be wise to start with one. It's a new operation and he hasn't fully established the drip irrigation system, which he decided to self-install. It's getting late in the season, so he direct-seeds before it gets any

later. The seeds germinate and everything looks great.

He has close to 2,000 plants in neat rows, stretching out in the hot Texas sun. Things are going smoothly, but it's August now, and the temperatures are starting to tick higher and higher. For two weeks, temperatures went over 100° and the plants begin to show signs of stress. Insects soon moved in and made the situation worse. As the grower walks his field, he notices his plants, now five weeks old, are starting to flower but they are not an autoflowering variety. What's going on?

First, let us understand the mechanisms that trigger a plant to switch to its reproductive (flowering) stage. Flowering is initiated either autonomously or by environmental factors. Photoperiodic flowering is controlled by the amount of light and dark hours. With photoperiod strains of Cannabis, plants switch from the vegetative to the flowering phase when they get longer than 12 hours of dark. By contrast, auto-flowering strains are not dependant on light or dark hours and are genetically programmed to begin flowering when they're 4-5 weeks old.

Other crops show similar characteristics. Olives, for example, are controlled by vernalization: they must have a minimum number of cold hours to initiate flowering. So is that what happened to our Texas hemp growers? Was it so late in the year that the plants got enough hours of darkness to initiate flowering? In these cases, the answer was no. Let's look at each situation separately and analyze what went wrong:

- In the first grower's case, the lab analyzed the media and the well water he used to irrigate. A comprehensive analysis showed that the media-mix the grower purchased was mostly inert and devoid of nutrients (and life). The pH was high at 8.3 and highly calcareous with 1,200 ppm of calcium as carbonate.

Additionally, even though coconut coir was added, it did not contribute to the active organic matter as it had not been composed. So, active organic matter measured only 0.52%. The well water tested high in dissolved solids at 1,155 mg/L - mostly sodium and chloride. Notable too, was an elevated boron level of 1.8 mg/L, which can occur naturally in wells deeper than 100 ft. After talking with the grower and discovering how he was fertilizing and irrigating his plants, we understood how stresses had built-up.

He explained that he did not feed for the first 3-4 weeks of growth and had only been watering the plants using a backpack sprayer. He wanted to avoid root rot from overwatering, so he only watered every two or three days. The media in the pots, composed mostly of sandy soil, would become hard and

compacted when it dried. The minerals from the water began to build-up in the media, to the point where it had become white and crusty.

The outcome was the plants had experienced chronic stress from underwatering, lack of nutrients and accumulated sodium and boron that was reaching toxic levels as evidenced by a plant sap test that indicated 230 ppm of boron. The response from the plant was one of survival and to reproduce. As Dr. Ian Malcom said in his famous Jurassic Park line, “life finds a way.” The instinct for survival and reproduction is what drives all life on earth. In the case of our young Cannabis plants, the response was to flower.

- When we reviewed the conditions of the second grower, we found a different pattern of problems. Our soil analysis showed that nutrient levels were mostly adequate except nitrogen, which was excessively high at 290 lbs/ac. As the plants grew, the excessive nitrogen stimulated rapid growth, leading to a weakened cell structure, making the plants susceptible to insect attacks.

The grower, not being experienced in designing irrigation systems, built-in watering issues - so many of the plants were exposed to drought conditions during a heat wave that affected the region. The slope of the field led to overwatering at the bottom and underwatering at the top. He did not consider that static water pressure increases with every foot of elevation by 0.433 psi – so he started off with a considerable static pressure differential along the vertical length of the lines: highest at the bottom - lowest at the top.

Under the stresses of heat, unbalanced nutrition, insect pressures and uneven water distribution, the young plants’ instinct for survival triggered a flowering/reproductive response in the less than 100 surviving plants.

So what should these growers have done differently to avoid such losses?

No matter the crop, planning and preparation are essential to success. Industrial hemp, in particular, requires very much advance research and planning. There is no better protection against the variables that Mother Nature inflicts on test growers than to have a detailed plan and prepare for your crop’s success – and avoid potential problems.

It can seem like a daunting task with so many factors at play, especially since many think it is beyond their control. And rightfully so, as we frequently hear about storms that hit with little warning and destroy large areas of farmland, and heat waves and droughts that cripple parts of the farming community.

How can we prepare for these challenges?

The answer is hidden beneath our feet. Understanding Soil Health is the cornerstone of every successful grower. The foundation of your plan should be the rebuilding of your soil and its life, and management of its nutrients and structure.

Soil health is an idea that involves optimizing the relationships between soil physical, chemical and biological factors. Achieving and maintaining good soil health is essential for producing good crop yields and quality. Fertilizers are only part of soil fertility. Soil microbes live on and around plant roots and interact with roots in several important ways. Among the most important interactions are ensuring plant

roots are protected from pathogenic microbes and assisting the uptake of nutrients into the plants. But healthy soil also includes beneficial nematodes, insects, earthworms and fungi – all interacting with each other and the microbes in concert.

Maintaining balanced nutrition and vigorous soil life at every stage of your plants’ life cycles will ensure that no matter what challenge Mother Nature sends, your crops will have the best chance of making you money.

Soil or growing media testing is one of the best investments a grower can make, especially when planning a new season. As we saw with our Texas growers, soil lacking in nutrients or having excess nutrients, devoid of life, or being extremely acid or alkaline, all lead to plant nutrient uptake problems – which invariably results in stress.

Irrigation water analysis is also paramount when installing your farm’s infrastructure. Poor quality water can neutralize the efficacy of nutrients and treatments, affect distribution by plugging emitters when using drip irrigation and change the soil’s native chemistry.

These tools will help you understand where you need to focus your energy and resources. The goal is to provide the best possible environment for your plants to grow. When we correct our soil’s nutritional imbalances, we facilitate maintaining adequate levels of nutrients in our plants as they develop.

As the plant grows, its nutritional needs change and meeting those needs will greatly reduce the harmful stresses that prevent the plant from reaching its maximum genetic potential – and limit the production of THC. Simultaneously, we reduce the need for insecticides and other harsh treatments that reduce overall profit. In the case of conventional growers, we also reduce the exposure to strong chemicals and toxic treatments.

Additionally, it is essential to learn from those who have experience in growing crops – and industrial hemp, in particular. We are still learning about the stresses that affect hemp and the differences between geographical/climatic regions. Add to that the regulatory standards and market requirements that must be met to harvest a profitable crop and one quickly realizes that industrial hemp is one of the most challenging crops to produce.

We encourage you to reach out to experienced Industrial Hemp (not Marijuana) growers and consultants willing to counsel you about your plans and goals. Plan and prepare for a successful crop by learning what your soil needs to be healthy and what you need to restore that health.

Include soil microbes and organic matter in your plan and you will ensure vital relationships are maintained in the plant root environment for the entire season...and beyond.

All crops, aside from hemp, benefit from healthy, living soil. It is the greatest asset we have. It is our obligation to be the stewards who restore the rich farmlands that once were the pride of our forefathers.

Noel Garcia is a Certified Crop Advisor and is Chief Operating Officer and Senior Technical Consultant at TPS Lab
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Dr. Larry Zibilske is Vice-President of Research at TPS Lab

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Let's walk around the 5250 and see what fantastic upgrades have been made. At first glance you can immediately notice the wider front stance and wide flotation rear tires which keep the 5250 firmly planted. You will also see that the body work has been completely remodeled and looks fantastic! The ladder has been conveniently attached on a generous angle allowing for safer climbing to the knoter. Upon opening the knoter cover the relocated and re-engineered knoter miss-tie sensors cannot be missed; the new sensor location is a sure-fire way to detect actual knoter miss-ties. Another upgrade to the already extremely reliable low maintenance Rasspe knoter is the 4-lobe knoter sprocket which reduces the knoter cycle time by 25%! After the easy climb down the angled ladder you will notice the massive twine boxes, which swing out to allow full exposure to the compression chamber and hydraulic lines for inspection and maintenance purposes. While walking around the 5250 one can easily notice that there are no grease nipples on all pivot points; this is achieved by using nitride treated pins paired with composite bushings. This design has been proven and adopted from the 6240 self-propelled Bale Baron. A serious feature that has not been mentioned is the ISOBUS compatible PLC. What does that mean? It means that if your tractor has ISOBUS the 5250 can be fully controlled and monitored right from the seat in your tractor! Ahh, no, my tractor doesn't have ISOBUS?... No worries,

there are ISOBUS screens available from Marcrest! And for those who aren't into the latest and greatest technology, the 5250 can easily be operated by our ever-proven standard cab control box.

Now let's take a quick look at the 4250. It has maintained the same body work and stance as the 4240/4245. However, it shares some of the fantastic upgrades mentioned on the 5250 such as the greaseless pivot points thanks to the

nitride treated pins and composite bushings. It also has the new 4 lobe knoter sprocket on the low maintenance Rasspe knoter for faster tie cycles. And like its big cousin the 4250 also has the new ISOBUS compatible PLC which means ISOBUS connectivity is ready and available for the 4250 when you are.

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Making the Switch

Why and How You Should Update to Bi-Fold Doors

By Jason Myrvik, General Manager, Midland Door Solutions

Repairs and replacement are part of life. When equipment reaches a certain age, we replace it. When building structures become outdated or unsafe, we replace them. Doors are no exception. This holds true for standard walk-through doors, but also for overhead, oversized doors. Doors are one of the first things people see on buildings; therefore, they need to not only look good, but they need to operate safely and efficiently.

While the options may seem endless, for many openings a bi-fold door offers the best fit. Traditional sectional doors work in some cases, but most only accommodate an opening up to 40 feet wide. For larger openings – such as those to accommodate agricultural equipment – 40 feet is simply too narrow. Bi-fold doors provide a better fit and a variety of benefits while also offering simple and efficient replacement.

Why update to bi-fold doors?

There are two key differences between bi-fold and sectional doors: size capabilities and how they open. Rather than retracting into the interior space like sectional doors, bi-fold doors mount on the exterior of the building and fold up and in half to provide full use of the opening, from the floor to the bottom of the building rafters. Bi-folds have a unique truss system that allows them to be used in openings as wide as 90 feet, making them an ideal solution for large buildings meant to house agriculture equipment or aircraft. This allows farmers to use the full height and width of the doorway when entering or exiting — ideal for retrofitting an old building to accommodate today's large machinery.

Bi-fold doors, whether 16 or 90 feet wide, can also be custom designed to fit nearly any shop, Quonset, barn or other large building. The materials and paint can be customized to meet any aesthetic requirements, making them a natural fit on an existing building.

While sectional doors can be built to accommodate openings as wide as 40 feet, bi-folds often offer a more effective solution with less maintenance and problems. Sectional door designs operate with rollers and hinges, which aren't optimized to handle both the static and dynamic load of a door that large. Over time, these larger sectional doors will require more maintenance than bi-folds, which have fewer moving parts and are designed specifically to handle the large loads.

How to update to bi-fold doors

The first step in replacing a traditional door with a bi-fold door is choosing a manufacturer. A

dependable manufacturer understands the structural building requirements and communicates those to their customers early on. Work with a manufacturer that is familiar with bi-fold doors. Bi-fold doors have different load requirements than sectional doors, and often will require a more robust structural framework, such as a larger header, so engineers and contractors must know what will be needed to accommodate the door.

Other structural factors must be considered as well, including whether the building is new or existing, and if it's made of

steel or wood. This is why working with a manufacturer that considers all these details during the initial quoting process is important. They will take the time to ensure that the door they spec and the structural requirements needed to support that door are accurate from day one. Find a company that will take charge of the entire process, from design to manufacturing to installation and finish work. This ensures the door is done right the first time.



Bi-fold doors, whether 16 or 90 feet wide, can also be custom designed to fit nearly any shop, Quonset, barn or other large building.

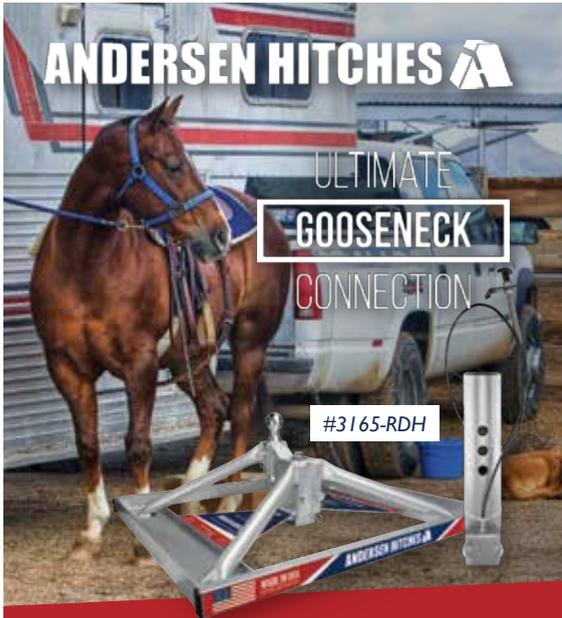
When it comes to choosing the door itself, there are few key things to look for. Consider a door that comes standard with just one latch for locking it closed. A single-latch system ultimately saves time from having to go to each doorjamb to lock and unlock the door, which is required with a double-latch system. In addition, look for doors with a safety switch, which eliminates the risk of damage that can be caused when a user forgets to release the latch. An automatic latch is an even more convenient option. It allows operators to open the door with the push of a button — even from the comfort of a vehicle.

Look for an all-steel door with solid welded construction. A heavy-gauge steel tubing and robust truss system provide optimal strength and durability even in strong winds and other harsh weather. Solid welded doors offer a strong frame design with minimal chance of parts loosening over time, resulting in virtually no maintenance.

Upgrading to bi-fold doors

It's always a good idea to replace an outdated, aged and potentially unsafe door. Upgrading to a bi-fold door means easier access to equipment, and the potential to store even larger pieces of machinery. Working with a trusted manufacturer from concept to installation means you'll have a successful experience making the switch during your next door update.

For more information: Midland Door Solutions, 1021 7th St. N.E., West Fargo, N.D., 58078, 800-921-7008, info@midlanddoorsolutions.com, www.midlanddoorsolutions.com. 



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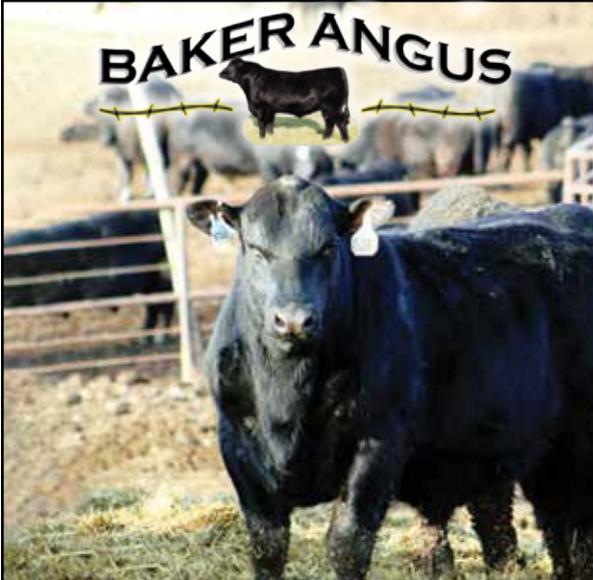
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Making A Cowman's Best Time Of The Year EVEN BETTER!

The favorite time of the year for cow-calf producers has long been established as being the calving season. That is when the anticipated results of the previous year's breeding program decisions are realized. Jeff Creamer, Lazy JB Angus, a calf catcher owner, refers to his calving season as "Christmas Time." Whether the new calves hitting the ground are from AI, ET or the valued herd sire battery, there is no time of the year that a cowman looks forward to more.

Accompanying that 'special time' are dangers, extra stress and increased labor responsibilities that are often referred to as 'a necessary part' of the business. Over the years, many people have been injured, or worse, by the instinctive mother cow during the newborn processing period. Things can go wrong fast when tagging, vaccinating, banding and weighing new calves — and the results can be devastating. Bud Williamson of West Virginia says, "My calf catcher was a virtual life saver!"



Safety Is a Priority

"We are all about safety and making calf processing easier," states Dan Leo, a long-time Nebraska rancher and owner of the Safety Zone Calf Catcher business. With the average age of cattlemen getting older, help being difficult, if not impossible to find, their calf catchers are filling a real need. Most cattle operations daily use ATV and UTVs, and now they have an important option to ensure that every calving season is safe and uneventful. Laurel Gilbertson, 74-year-old Nebraska rancher refers to his catcher as "The best piece of equipment I've owned."

Leo added, "The traditional way to tag and process calves can be dangerous and often takes more than one individual to

accomplish. Now, just one person, who can operate an ATV or UTV, can safely work calves." Allen Lippert, a Kentucky cattlemen, says his catcher is "Great for one-man operations. No more waiting for help!"

Construction and Design

The calf catcher is a durably constructed, welded steel cage that is built to last generations. Bill Helms, a Texas retired mechanical engineer and 71-year-old cattlemen applauds the design and fabrication quality adding "It is simple to use, and it works." Mounting with ball-coupler hitches permits it to perform well in all types of terrains and conditions. The quick and easy mount and dismount process takes only a couple of minutes.

Ease Of Operation

With the front gate locked open, the driver approaches the calf and captures it in the cage by shutting the spring-loaded gate. Aiding the process, the catcher is designed for quiet operation, thus does not threaten the cowherd. Typically used on newborn to week-old youngsters, but calves up to 300 lbs. can be caught for treatment of pinkeye, foot rot and pneumonia conditions.



The producer enters the cage by stepping through the near side opening, and then moves the calf to the rear holding area where it can be easily processed while being protected from the mother cow. At all times, the operator is inside the cage, and never threatened by the instinctive mother. Daryl Bernard, an Iowa cattlemen states, "I like how the calf holder restrains the calf and eliminates having to wrestle the calves on the ground."

Mother Cow's Behavior

By design, nearly 100% of the mothers remain at the back of the catcher where the rear calf holder is located. The most protective of cows are much calmer when they can see and smell their calf in a less threatening situation, as compared to wrestling the calf away from the mother.

"The unit works particularly well for pairing out as the cow will follow the calf virtually anywhere! Whether moving pairs to another pasture or during inclement weather, it is a valuable tool." states Leo. When finished processing, the operator releases the calf out the back to its mother, again accomplished from inside the cage to maintain full-time safety. Montana rancher, Andy Dorn says this about his Safety Zone catcher, "It is the best investment we ever made. Easy on the calves and great for the cows too!"

Making a Better Way

"Traditionally, producers have to get to the calves early after birth otherwise it can be difficult to catch and even hang on to them, and then it can often require two or more people depending on the protective behavior of the mother cow while the processing takes place," Leo notes. His goal is to make the best time of the year, safer, easier and with the labor requirement of only one person.

Catcher user, Wanda Thompson from Missouri comments, "To all you out there still dodging mad momma cows, wrestling big calves, and maybe not getting some of your calves done, the calf catcher is definitely a better way."

Other options developed by Leo's business include a digital,

waterproof scale — especially useful to seedstock producers — and a rear tow hitch to accommodate long-distance travel.

Safety Zone Calf Catchers LLC, internationally trademarked and registered, sells directly to cattlemen and through a growing dealer network. Current sales extend throughout the continental U.S. and into Canada, Australia, France and the UK. Leo states, "Our best salesmen are the users as they cannot keep from telling their neighbors of the catcher's benefits — and the word is traveling fast!"



Interested parties are encouraged to watch the informative action video at www.SafetyZoneCalfCatchers.com or to call (877) 505-0914 for more information or to place orders. 📺

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Craig Oceanak, WY - "Our catcher is AWESOME! We have lots of wild range cattle, and calve on rough ground. It is very valuable for a one-person outfit, and it is a tool that I would not be without."

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A growing number of dairy and beef producers and their veterinarians are utilizing blood-based pregnancy testing

in unique ways to complement traditional pregnancy detection methods and because BioPRYN is a proven, convenient, accurate and cost-effective way to check your animals for pregnancy that eliminates subjectivity. Some progressive producers that are using embryo transfer or synchronization protocols with artificial insemination will use BioPRYN as an early "open check" at 28 days post breeding to identify if the animal needs to be reintroduced to the synchronization program. Other producers and their veterinarians will use a BioPRYN check to supplement monthly or biweekly herd health checks to identify those open cows as early as possible and to avoid the entire herd being locked up for extended

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