Our Mission & Impact

Through quality educational programs, Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County (CCEDC) builds strong, healthy youth, adults, families and communities while enhancing the economic, social, agricultural and natural resources of Dutchess County. CCEDC links the research, knowledge and technology of the land grant system to the needs of individuals, families, businesses and communities throughout the County.

We provide practical education for stakeholders to use in dealing with critical issues affecting the County's future and we enhance the quality of life by promoting individual growth, strengthening families, improving the economic well-being of businesses, enhancing the environment, and building stronger communities.

CCEDC’s network of county-based educators and professional employees provide different programs in four broad areas, and they tackled a number of issues in 2018:

**Family and Consumer Education (FCE)** programs are designed to address the ever-changing needs of Dutchess County households and empower residents with education and information. In 2018, FCE received a grant to replicate its successful Relatives as Parents Program (RAPP) in Beacon to serve more families throughout the County.

**Environment & Energy (E&E)** programming continues to provide education on green infrastructure, climate resiliency planning, and Greenway concepts. In 2018, E&E launched a regional Community Energy Engagement Program to educate low to moderate income residents on energy conservation measures.

**4-H Youth Development (4-H)** reaches more than 500 Dutchess County youth every year, delivering agricultural education, youth vocational training and STEM skills. 4-H received funding for a new Veterinary Sciences program in 2018, in partnership with BOCES, to broaden opportunities for youth in agriculture-related employment.

**Agriculture & Horticulture** programs continue to serve Dutchess County with cutting edge education and resources to combat invasive species and offer agricultural economic development opportunities. CCEDC serves as the Mid-Hudson Region’s Grown & Certified grant program administrator and will be distributing funding to area producers to develop capacity and become NYS Grown & Certified.

We look forward to 2019 and beyond as CCEDC continues to provide education that makes a meaningful impact in Dutchess County communities.

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**Ruth Moore, Executive Director**

Andrea Parent-Tibbetts, Board President and 4-H Leader
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Susan Paykin  Mark Price  Deb Scannell, Chair  Karmen Smallwood
Joyce Sokolowski
In an effort to help realtors and new home buyers (or farmers), CCEDC staff delivered an updated program in 2018 on agricultural properties, agricultural districts, assessments, the importance of soil mapping, and disclosure information. As a result, Dutchess County real estate agents are better equipped to help their clients when purchasing agricultural properties or getting started in agriculture and now have the resources and tools necessary to do so.

A local Christmas tree farmer is participating in an important pest management trial at his farm. Dr. Rich Cowles of the Connecticut Experiment and Cornell IPM Specialist Brian Eshenaur are conducting trials to test the efficacy of several NYS labeled materials for the control of elongate hemlock scale (*Fiorina externa* Ferris), an invasive scale insect believed to have originated in Japan and brought to the US in the early 1900’s. Elongate hemlock scale is one of the most serious pests of Christmas trees in Dutchess County. It is hoped that these trials will yield good management options from available NYS labeled products.

CCEDC has become a Partner with Hudson Valley Farmlink. This network serves 13 counties and connects farmers with landowners. The program offers links such as “Find a Farm” and “Find a Farmer” and CCEDC will help potential farmers and landowners to create profiles that link farmers and landowners to ensure Hudson Valley farms remain viable and continue in farming.

2018 ISA Certified Arborist Training hosted 24 participants with fifteen enrollees taking the full training to prepare them for the ISA Professional Certification exam, and nine enrollees attended to receive CEUs to maintain their certification.

**AGRICULTURAL NAVIGATOR**

Through the Ag Navigator program, nearly 1200 farmers, municipal officials and towns people were impacted through outreach, meetings, social media, and phone consultations, contributing to the overall impact of an improved understanding of how agriculture impacts each town and village. CCEDC completed an agricultural inventory of resources, a comprehensive database for agricultural information is available on line.

In fall of 2018, as an initiative with the Dutchess County Agricultural Advisory Committee, the Ag Navigator presented at a program for planners addressing making their towns more “farm friendly.” Over 60 planners were in attendance. Communications with our municipal officials is helping to create a better understanding of the importance of agriculture in the County.

For more information contact:
Jennifer Fimbel
Phone: 845-867-3075
E-mail: AgNavigator@dutchessny.gov

![Legislators Deirdre Houston and Nick Page visit Plan B Farm Brewery](image)

![Cole, one of the Flying Fimbels, at the 2018 Dutchess County Fair](image)
EASTERN NY COMMERCIAL HORTICULTURE EDUCATION PROGRAM

Cornell Cooperative Extension Eastern New York Commercial Horticultural Program (CCE-ENYCHP) E-Alert email messages keep growers informed about new technologies, regulatory requirements, and pest development in a timely manner throughout the growing season. E-Alerts are designed to format well on mobile devices such as smartphones and tablets. Green, yellow, and red color-coding of subject titles are used so that growers can scan content quickly, selecting priority (yellow) or timing-critical (red) subjects if they are pressed for time.

A NOFA-NY Infrastructure and Irrigation Field Day was held at the Poughkeepsie Farm Project: Irrigation management principles and a hands on demonstration illustrated water pH monitoring tools, a discussion of alkalinity, and an overview of food safety considerations for agricultural water. Initial findings of a Northeast SARE partnership grant-funded research project looking at nitrogen management in heated high tunnels for winter production was presented. A professional film crew was on hand to capture the content to be used in future educational videos. ENYCHP Vegetable Crops specialist Ethan Grundberg presented on Food Safety, Agricultural Water Quality and Irrigation.

TASTE NY at TODD HILL

The Taste NY Market at Todd Hill continued to provide a welcoming environment in 2018 with more than one hundred and fifty-six thousand visitors passing through the door! The store’s sale of New York products edged up over the previous year by more than $36,000, and the outdoor Farmers’ Market sales (direct farms-to-customers) were just shy of $72,000 — a banner year. The Taste NY Market staff expanded in summer months to accommodate the volume of store traffic and products, employing eighteen full or part-time, helpful and dedicated clerks. In August, the store acquired its license to sell locally produced beer and hard cider, further supporting New York State farmers, brewers, and distillers to increase agritourism. In the late fall, the store obtained two Blue Spruce trees from Abel’s Tree Farm, also a NYS Grown and Certified grower, and provided Dutchess County tourists with directions to U-pick apple orchards and pumpkin patches during the height of leaf peeping season.
COMMUNITY HORTICULTURE

The Community Horticulture staff and Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) continue to lead successful educational programs throughout Dutchess County and participate with other CCE MGVs in Lower Hudson Region activities. Master Gardeners delivered programming on a variety of topics to over 1,100 attendees through our Speakers’ Bureau program at local libraries and garden clubs. A partnership with Arlington Adult Education reached nearly 225 adults with classes on vegetable gardening and composting. Participation at community events, including the Dutchess County Fair, reached nearly 2,500 people with MGVs answering questions about ornamental plants, vegetables, pests and diseases, composting and ticks. The Diagnostic Hot Line and staff responded to over 550 diagnostic requests from the community and our newsletter Dutchess Dirt reached over 2,000 readers each month.

A major fundraiser for the Community Horticulture Program is the annual Plant Sale where thousands of vegetable, herb and annuals plants are grown from seed and plugs. Traditionally, perennials plants were dug from MGV gardens and donated to the sale, but the recent discovery of an invasive pest called Jumping Worms (*Amanythas*) in the County required that CCEDC purchase pest-free perennial plugs and grow them in a temporary hoop house. However, it also provided the opportunity to educate the public about this pest. The sale was a huge success and shoppers were grateful to learn about the pest and how they can avoid its spread. MGVs gathered data about the Jumping Worms locations by mapping it in the NYSDEC iMapInvasives database used by scientists for research. Continued education activities in Dutchess County, the Lower Hudson region and across the state are helping raise awareness of this pest.

CCEDC was funded by the Towards Sustainability Foundation through Cornell University to do research and create educational materials on sustainability and climate change resiliency in all aspects of home gardening. MGVs were enthusiastic about improving their gardening knowledge and practices and then teaching others in the community to do the same, but needed to understand where knowledge gaps exist. A Cornell Qualtrics web survey was created for key topics: water management; soil health; gardening best practices; reliance on resources generated by gardens, especially food; biodiversity conservation and protection; and equipment use and re-use. The survey was distributed to New York’s MGV network. Over 500 responses were received, representing 38 counties. The results will be used to target future education creation.
NO CHILD LEFT INSIDE (NCLI)

This past year the No Child Left Inside (NCLI) youth educators worked hard learning about the environment and sharing that knowledge with youth in their community. The youth educators increased their environmental knowledge and awareness by attending local environmental lectures, assisting with farm chores at Sprout Creek Farm, hiking, backpacking, canoeing, and electrofishing, among many other activities. In addition, they continued to help local DEC researchers monitor glass eel populations through the American Eel Project, as well assist research at the Cary Institute by monitoring local mosquito populations to check for harmful invasive species. As in previous years, the students also participated in the annual DEC sponsored event “Day in the Life of the Hudson River” where they taught fifth grade students from Krieger Elementary about the ecology of the Hudson River.

In the spring, the NCLI youth educators focused their community project on the issue of trash in Poughkeepsie. They met with local organizations working on the same theme, received educational tours and presentations from the Poughkeepsie Waste-to-Energy facility, helped host 3 successful trash clean ups in Poughkeepsie, and led 2 trash and recycling themed after school lessons at Krieger Elementary. The fall brought a new and energized group of NCLI youth educators who chose to focus their community project on helping improve air quality by promoting a bike share in Poughkeepsie. So far, the students have met with several community organizations as well as city and county staff to help shape and carry out their project, which will wrap up in the spring of 2019.

GIS & MAPPING

CCEDC’s GIS Lab stayed busy again in 2018 assisting with a number of the association’s ongoing projects as well as several independent fee-for-service mapping projects. The GIS Lab assisted a number of county and regional partners with mapping and GIS-related tasks this year, including providing analysis and mapping for the Town of Red Hook for their street light and storm drain inventory, finalizing maps for the City of Beacon’s Natural Resources Inventory (NRI), updating maps for the Town of Fishkill Police Department, contributing GIS-analysis and mapping to assist our Community Energy Engagement Program (CEEP) team, and providing some parcel-specific mapping for of other non-profit partners and residents in the towns of Washington, Pine Plains, and Amenia.
HUDSON ESTUARY WATERSHED RESILIENCY PROJECT

In 2018, CCEDC staff worked collaboratively with Extensions in Columbia, Greene and Ulster Counties on the Hudson Estuary Watershed Resiliency Project (HEWRP) in partnership with the NYS Water Resources Institute at Cornell and the NYS DEC Hudson River Estuary Program. As part of this initiative, CCEDC staff provide tools and resources to assist municipalities in reducing vulnerability to flooding and to promote climate change preparedness through resiliency planning. In 2018, CCEDC staff worked closely with Dutchess County municipalities on Climate Smart Communities (CSC) program initiatives, including completing the Climate Smart Resiliency Planning tool, an action item of the CSC Program that helps identify gaps, strengths and opportunities for municipalities.

CCEDC staff also completed a Certification Assessment for the Town of Red Hook to guide the Town towards achieving CSC Program Certification. Additionally, staff worked with the Town of Rhinebeck to develop a culvert and bridge inventory, prioritization and management plan that highlights crossings which may be at highest risk for failing during a storm event and/or which might pose as barriers to aquatic organisms. Lastly, CCEDC staff completed a Municipal Flood Guide for the City of Beacon, which highlights locale-specific emergency response information and details tips and strategies for dealing with flooding before, during, and after a storm event. The Flood Guide will be distributed to Beacon residents and posted on the City’s website.

DUTCHESS COUNTY GREENWAY

Through funds provided by Dutchess County, the Environment & Energy team offered a number of learning options, primarily for municipal officials and the general public. Highlights for 2018 include the annual roundtable forum for Dutchess County Conservation Advisory Committee and Environmental Management Council representatives in February; a green infrastructure forum for municipal officials on utilizing street trees for storm-water management, a GIS training on Using Maps for Conservation Planning and Communication; and a forum on energy efficiency and smart growth community design. Staff also created a technical memo for Dutchess County planning boards on the importance of protecting biodiversity. The GIS lab offered assistance to municipalities and residents to address specific questions and needs.
**WAPPINGER CREEK NINE-ELEMENT WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN**

CCEDC staff continued work in 2018 assisting the Village of Wappingers Falls and the Wappinger Creek Intermunicipal Council (WIC) with developing an updated watershed management plan for the Wappinger Creek. Throughout the year, staff helped to organize the first of three public outreach meetings for the project, coordinate the project’s steering committee and the WIC’s quarterly meetings, develop a watershed vision and watershed goals, and review draft documents such as the quality assurance project plan and watershed characterization report. For 2019, the project will continue with further public outreach, development of the final watershed management plan, and the transition into an implementation project phase of the project.

**MID-HUSON COMMUNITY ENERGY ENGAGEMENT PROJECT**

In 2018, Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) Dutchess County—working collaboratively with CCE Sullivan County—launched a new program to help residents and businesses in the Mid-Hudson region reduce their energy consumption. Through the [Mid-Hudson Community Energy Engagement Program](https://example.com) (CEEP), CCE Dutchess and Sullivan provide education to individuals, families and small businesses on resources and funding available for energy projects in the seven-county Mid-Hudson Valley region: Sullivan, Ulster, Orange, Rockland, Dutchess, Putnam and Westchester Counties. The program is now in full swing. As of December 2018, the Mid-Hudson County Energy Advisors (CEA) helped enable 222 homeowners and renters to make informed energy decisions through individualized consultation; connected residents and businesses to financing options for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects; guided 19 people through the process of completing a clean energy project; and provided hundreds more with information about available NYS energy efficiency and clean energy programs.
Communities of Dutchess County continue to face unique challenges and CCEDC’s Family and Consumer Education program strives to ensure that families in Dutchess County find the resources and education they need to improve their lives. We connect residents with the latest evidence-based research and relevant community contacts to accomplish this goal. We continue to educate and partner with other community agencies and providers of services. Through community facilitation and dialogue, we work toward positive changes in organizational practice and policies.

Our Relatives As Parents Program (RAPP) Support Groups are funded by grants from the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (NYSOCFS) and the Dutchess County Office for the Aging (DCOFA). Due to the increase in opioid drug addiction as well as other factors, many grandparents and other non-parent caregivers have taken on the role of primary caregiver for a child. There are approximately 2,000 kinship families in Dutchess County raising children in the absence of biological parents. The RAPP program assists these families with support groups, parenting education and financial literacy, while also providing referrals to other organizations that can help them with their needs.

In 2018, CCEDC received a grant from the New York State Kinship Navigator Program to expand vital RAPP services into Beacon. With this funding, we will be incorporating a peer-to-peer support group setting where members who have worked with us for years will have the ability to assist new RAPP families with questions, concerns and referrals.

Some highlights of the RAPP program in 2018 included our intergenerational field trip to Sprout Creek Farm in LaGrange. Families were treated to a tour of the farm, got to get up close with goats, cows, pigs and donkeys and made cheese from fresh milk that was collected that day. For the second year in a row we were able to end the year on a high note by providing gift cards to all of our families through a grant from the United Way Helping Hands program. Eleven families received these gift cards to help them make their holiday a bit more special.
RAPP youth groups provide youth a positive and empowering environment. Our youth participate in activities such as slime making, emotion regulation using art and exercise, poetry, and goal setting to enrich positive peer skills development. We also do activities with other CCEDC programs such as Healthy Heart snacks and exercise with Eat Smart NY; Recycle Relay Race and Recycled Nature Art with the No Child Left Inside youth program; the Environment and Energy program’s energy bike, which we used to make smoothies; and our healthy relationships educational programs which allow the youth to be active participants in making life choices.

For the adults in our RAPP group, we had speakers from programs throughout Dutchess County that are relevant to the lives of our participants, including the Dutchess County Department of Behavioral and Community Health to speak about mental health milestones in their children. We also provided trainings on mindfulness and relaxation techniques to help adults cope with everyday stressors. Finally, we brought in a colleague from the Community Energy Engagement Program to help our families lower their energy bills and keep their homes safe and efficient.

FCE was able to provide financial literacy education to 180 youth over the summer through the Workforce Investment Board (WIB) summer youth employment program. We worked with eleven youth oriented organizations throughout Dutchess County. The lessons focused on the psychology of money, making a spending plan, checking and savings, credit cards, and interest and credit reporting. We concluded with a Financial Literacy Jeopardy review game at the Poughkeepsie Grand as part of the WIB’s Summer Youth Closing Ceremonies.

Lastly, with collaboration from our neighboring Cornell Cooperative Extensions in Orange, Ulster and Columbia and Green Counties, our Hudson River Fish Advisory Program continues to provide our community with useful education to help them make healthier choices when eating fish from the Hudson River. We reached more than 400 people, who have taken action to improve their healthy eating, active living, food security and food safety behaviors.

FCE continues to work toward providing targeted programs to those living in underserved areas and we will continue to identify and support the needs of the ever-changing communities of Dutchess County.
In 2018, ESNYHV continued to expand its mission in all corners of Dutchess County with evidence-based nutrition education, policy, systems, and environmental (PSE) change strategies, as well as social marketing tactics. ESNYHV team members partnered with a variety of local agencies to reach a total of 2,109 individuals through indirect educational opportunities, 678 through direct education workshops, and 1,045 youth.

Our relationships with the Amenia, Webutuck, Hyde Park, Dover, Poughkeepsie and Beacon school districts continue to strengthen, with ESNY playing a role in a variety of health and wellness related areas. Some of these areas include wellness committee facilitation, backpack programs support, Smarter Lunchroom assessments, and staff professional development. However, our work is not limited to the school year. As hunger is also prevalent during the summer months, we once again hosted 2 successful annual summer meal kickoff events in Beacon and Poughkeepsie. These outreach events are designed to increase access to the summer feeding programs by bringing awareness to the location of feeding sites, and attracted many families who would otherwise struggle when

This year, our team was honored to host Congressman John Faso at the Dover Elementary School summer meal site. After a brief discussion with representatives from local agencies, Congressman Faso spent some time observing the programming we offer at feeding sites and connected with families who utilize the program and with the local school district officials who work hard to make it available to children in the North East section of the county. We were also honored to be chosen to educate participants of Congressman Maloney’s roundtable on the work that we do in nutrition education and improving access to fresh local food in Dutchess County.

With NYS Governor Cuomo making college campus food insecurity a priority in 2018/2019, ESNY also started working with higher education institutions in 2018. We were pleased to work closely with Dutchess Community College on highlighting healthy choices in its pantry and making those healthy choices the easy choice for all students. We also assisted with outreach to the campus community by hosting nutrition education workshops at the pantry, the dormitories and even in DCC’s child care center.

In 2018, ESNY was a main partner in the Dutchess County worksite wellness initiative. Along with Health Link NY, we provided education and guidance to agencies who are looking to increase productivity by improving the overall health and wellness of their staff. The workshop attracted numerous agencies, including the Dutchess County Department of Behavioral and Community Health, and brought in agencies such as Hudson River Health Care to share some best practices to improve the health and wellbeing of their staff.

ESNY continues to be the facilitator of the Dutchess County Nutrition Advisory Committee. This has allowed us to maintain and strengthen our relationships with agencies such as Dutchess Outreach, the Poughkeepsie Farm Project, Catholic Charities, Hudson Valley Community Services, and many more. This coalition informs the work that we do around the County and helps us in reaching many in our county in need of nutrition services.
In 1902, a gentleman named A. B. Graham started a youth program in Clark County, Ohio, which is considered the birth of 4-H in the United States. Jessie Field Shambaugh developed the clover pin with an H on each leaf in 1910, and by 1912 they were called 4-H clubs. For a century, the name ‘4-H’ was synonymous with the traditional approach of establishing volunteer-led clubs in areas where five or more like-minded youth wanted to learn through hands-on activities. Originally 100% rooted in agriculture, club focus has gradually expanded to include topics such as health, fitness, arts, crafts, science and technology. The 4-H club model has proven over time to be a highly successful positive youth development program, and while clubs remain hugely important in providing opportunities for our youth, other equally successful 4-H programs have emerged to meet the needs of today’s society.

**Positive Youth Development programs for all youth in Dutchess County aged 5 through 19**

**Traditional 4-H Club Program**
Youth learn life and leadership skills through year-round participation in club activities throughout the County, including public speaking, financial literacy, keeping record books and hands-on vocational skills.

A variety of other 4-HYD programs are run by the staff including Ag Literacy Week for 2nd graders and veterinary science programming for teens.

**Green Teen Community Gardening Program**
Youth learn life and leadership skills through seasonal employment in community gardens in Beacon, including education on career development, the food system and nutrition, and hands-on vocational skills.

A variety of other 4-HYD programs are run by the staff including honey bee education for 4th graders and ag-based field trips for school kids.

**Year Round, Hands-On Activities**
In 2018, 32 clubs led by 94 volunteers served 420 youth, by mentoring them and providing expert tutelage in vocational skills ranging from rearing, caring for and training animals to sewing, cooking and science. The positive learning environment is proven to build confidence, competence, and character, supporting youth to become caring adults with as strong connection to their world.

**Work, Earn and Learn**
A workforce development program employing youth to work, earn and learn, the Green Teen Community Gardening program demonstrates impressive results! 84% percent of youth reported that Green Teen helped them to make better decisions in their lives. In 2018, 90 youth submitted applications to join Green Teen; 48 were interviewed and 23 youth aged between 14-19 years were hired; 100% of these young employees showed improved knowledge and skills from their pre to post evaluations. $33,000 in youth wages went back into the community.
4-H Youth Development

Green Teen had another amazing year in 2018! The youth worked with three local farms to learn about farming and the food system; partners include Spout Creek Farm, Common Ground Farm and the Poughkeepsie Farm Project. Over 1,200 pounds of produce was harvested from the three Green Teen gardens and sold at the mobile market and contributed to the market’s income of $3,001.50 in sales. About 45% of the sales or $1,358 was through some form of assistance Green Teen offers to help low-income individuals and families. The Green Teens learned to cook and gave cooking lessons to younger kids at the Beacon Recreation Center during the summer. They also took time to learn other new skills and 28 youth participated in yoga, a fun way to get fitter and reduce stress. For most of them, this was their first yoga experience.

Green Teens learning how to cook and teach younger kids kitchen skills

Visiting the farm and making new friends

Green Teen not only teaches youth in the summer, but the program also taught 4th graders in the spring about bees and the food system, and encouraged elementary school kids to swap Halloween candy for healthy smoothies. The Green Teen staff worked with 94 youth in total through programs in the schools, after school and during the summer.

Trading candy in for a smoothie!
2018 was another big year in the 4-H Club program with 68 volunteers engaged in roles such as public presentations where they provide feedback to help youth become more effective at public speaking. In 2018, 4-H’ers completed over 400 hours of community service, such as supporting kids with special needs at Kid Venture in Poughkeepsie and at the ThinkDifferently picnic at FDR National Historic Site. Seven 4-H Teen Ambassadors took part in a trip to Austria where they were exposed to a different culture, met new people, and learned about farming practices from a new perspective.

Youth volunteer time at the Kid Venture family event in Poughkeepsie

In partnership with the Grace Episcopal Church Latino Outreach program, 4-H staff provided an intensive week-long career development experience for 13 youth from Northeast Dutchess County. The youth learned about job opportunities in Dutchess County and gained insight into the skills and qualifications needed to enter each profession. Trips included going to Coon Brothers Dairy Farm, the DC Supreme Court, Adams Fairacre Farms, Cricket Valley Energy, and the FDR National Historic Site. Funding from the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation made the program possible.

The EPIC program youth visit FDR’s home and Presidential Library

Over 2,300 children in 103 classrooms across Dutchess County were engaged in learning about agriculture and the food system during Ag Literacy Week in March 2018. Readings and hands-on lessons were conducted by staff, volunteers, and 4-H youth using Ag Literacy and Ag in the Classroom programming. The program is generously supported by the Dutchess County Dairy Committee and Dutchess Putnam Westchester Farm Bureau.

Before We Eat: From Farm to Table by Pat Brisson and Illustrated by May Azarian was the 2018 Ag Literacy Week book
**Financial Support**

**TOTAL 2018 FUNDING**  $4,031,944.61

**INDIRECT COMMUNITY SUPPORT**

*Value of Volunteer Time:* $249,516.12

*Sales Tax Revenue from Taste New York:* $56,893.92
# Donors

Thank you to all who support Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County with your donations and volunteer time throughout the year!

**Associate Donors ($100+):**

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