

Diverse Organic Community

Montana Organic Association's 9th Annual Conference

Mansfield Center, St. Vincent's Hospital Billings MT December 9-10, 2011

Welcome!

Thank you for joining us here in Billings for the Great Organic Roundup.

This Ninth Annual Conference is another opportunity to bring together this diverse and passionate group of people who base their livelihood on organic principles. It is a time to learn and share, make connections and see old friends in a relaxed and welcoming environment.

The organic movement has developed a strong core in Montana and now has a solid base of knowledge and experience. Our goal for this Conference is to draw on that expertise and put together a mix of important and interesting discussions to address the challenges that face the organic community.

Our hope is that you have a great time, learn a lot and feel a stronger commitment to our organic community.

The future of organics depends on each of us coming together with one voice.

MOA Conference Planning Committee: Lou Ann Crowley - Chair Daryl Lassila Jim Lindquist Jody Manuel Judy Owsowitz



Advocating and Promoting **Organic Agriculture** for the Highest Good of the People, the Environment and the State's Economy.



MONTANA ORGANIC ASSOCIATION

Advocating and Promoting Organic Agriculture for the Highest Good of the People, the Environment and the State's Economy. <u>www.montanaorganicassociation.org</u> <u>mtorganic@hotmail.com</u> (406) 538-3607

Conference Highlights

In keeping with our theme this year, we are highlighting the accumulated knowledge of our growers, producers, processors, retailers, researchers, consumers, certifiers and policy makers. We decided to take advantage of the expertise carried by these groups and use roundtable discussions whenever possible to create an exchange of information. With such a wide range of subjects to consider in organic production and distribution, we shaped the Conference around some of the perennial issues we face, some of the challenges and a look to the future to see how Montana organics is evolving.

With that in mind, you'll see a discussion on weed and pest management, panels on GMO's and MSU research, a presentation on the Department of Agriculture's Drift Mapping Program and how to address chemical trespass, the creation of a Montana Seed Coop and how to create a self-sustaining farm through the use of an oil seed press. We are also fortunate to have the Natural Resources Conservation Service, our National Organic Standards Board Representative and members of the new Organic Advisory and Educational Council at the Conference.

Besides some terrific door prizes, we'll also have two great raffles going on during the Conference. One is a Theme Basket Raffle including Fly Fishing, Wine Tasting and Gardening, and the other is our popular Winter Table Raffle that features all the ingredients for great winter meals. Please be sure to support these raffles.

We want to thank all the individuals who have helped make this Conference possible, including our very generous sponsors (see page 15), the folks at the Mansfield Center, our dedicated and patient graphics designer and everyone who worked diligently behind the scenes.

Agenda <u>Friday, December 9, 2011</u>

9:00-10:00 Registration and Vendor Setup

10:00 Welcome from Daryl Lassila, MOA Board Chairman

10:05-12:00 Improving Access to Conservation Support for Organic Farmers

Learn about the programs of the Natural Resources Conservation Services' Voluntary Working Lands Conservation Programs and how you may be eligible. Speakers: Tim Quellette, NRCS; Doug Crabtree and Anna Jones-Crabtree, farmers; Clay McAlpine, producer; Jeff Schahczenski, Agricultural Economist with the National Center for Appropriate Technology

12:00-1:00 Lunch – Sandwich Bar with a presentation on the Montana Ag Safety Program by Gene Surber, Program Coordinator

1:00-1:20 Montana's Organic Community with Bob Quinn of Kamut International

1:20-2:00 Growing Seed Potatoes in Montana: Where Does Organics Fit?

With Dr. Nina Zidack, Director, Seed Potato Certification Program, MSU

2:00-3:15 Panel Discussion: Montana State University Department of Agriculture Programs

Get the latest on current research and information on new projects with Jeff Jacobsen, Dean, Department of Agriculture; Clain Jones, Extension Soil Fertility Specialist; Perry Miller, Sustainable Cropping Systems Professor; Bruce Maxwell, Land Resource and Environmental Sciences

Friday continued

Department; Fabian Menalled, Cropland Weed Specialist; and Pat Hatfield, Professor of Animal and Range Sciences

3:15 – 3:30 Break

3:30-4:30 Drift Mapping Program/Legal

Rights Presentation on new program to protect producers against chemical trespass and the legal steps to take when it occurs. With presenters Lynn Jones, Department of Ag Drift Watch Steward, and Attorney Mark Mackin

4:30-5:00 Food Trade Sustainability and

Leadership Association Learn how one Montana company is working to explore greening activities in the supply chain of organics. Hear from members of the MSU Sustainable Food and Bioenergy Systems senior class as they explain their capstone project - a comprehensive sustainability investigation (CSI), with associate professor Alison Harmon and students Hamilton Lynn and Antonette Lininger

5:00 -5:15 Introduction of the New 501c3, Organic Advisory & Educational Council

Ole Norgaard of North Frontier Farms and Sam Schmidt of Montana Milling will discuss the creation of the Council

5:15 Reception

Join us at the no-host bar for organic beer, wine and delicious hors d'oeuvres

6:15 Dinner

7:00 MOA Awards Presentation

2011 Lifetime of Service and Leadership in Organics Awards will be presented by MOA

8:00 Evening's Entertainment

Saturday, December 10, 2011

8:30-10:15 Growers' Roundtable

Listen to members of four family farms as they talk about their experiences on the farm and how it may help you. Open discussion follows. Facilitated by Perry McNeese, Good Earth Market, with: Patricia Espenscheid, Wholesome Foods in Bridger; Jack and Bonnie Martinell , Bridger; Mary and Barbara, Danly Farms; Laurel, Jacob Cowgill and Courtney Cowgill, Conrad

10:15 Break

10:30-10:45 National Organic Standards Board

(NOSB) Update Learn what new rules are being set at the national level and how they can affect you, with presenter Barry Flamm, Environmental representative from Montana

10:45-11:15 Organic: The Label and Its Future

Panel and open discussion of terms and how to avoid consumer confusion

11:15-12:00 GMO Discussion – The Risk of Contamination: Montana's Response, with discussion led by Becky Weed, Thirteen Mile Farm and David Oien, Timeless Seeds

12:00-12:45 Lunch with Special Speaker, Ron de Yong, Director, MT Department of Agriculture

12:45 – 1:15 Member Meeting / Board Elections

1:15-2:00 Organic Seed Roundtable

Karl Sutton from Lake County Community Development Corporation will lead the discussion

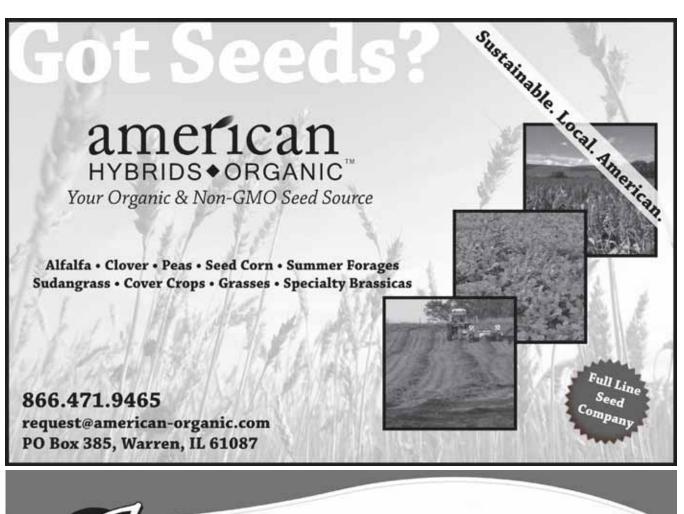
2:00-2:45 A Thorn in Your Side: How to Deal with Thistles and Other Nuisance Weeds and Pests

Discussion led by Helen Atthowe, former county Extension Agent, long-time vegetable farmer and no till organic production researcher

2:45-3:30 The Oil Barn, A Sustainable Oil Project

Benefits and opportunities of an on-farm oil seed press will be discussed, with Bob Quinn, Kamut International, and Andrew Long, Oil Barn

3:30 Closing





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Sampling of Presenters

Jacob Cowgill is originally from Sand Coulee, southeast of Great Falls. He is a graduate of the University of Montana, where he earned a Master's Degree in science with a focus on food and agriculture. Jacob was appointed by Senator Jon Tester as State Agriculture Liaison and served as a point of contact for Montana farmers and ranchers, often traveling the state to visit with and hear from them on Tester's behalf. Cowgill Jacob and his wife Courtney raise wheat, lentils, vegetables and heritage turkeys on a farm near Conrad.

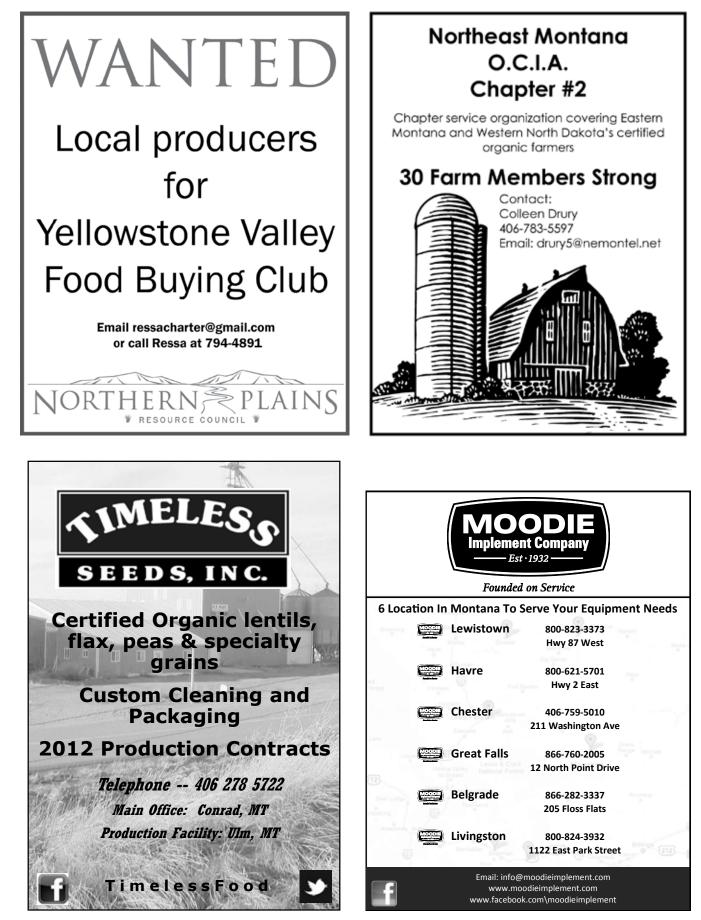
Doug Crabtree currently serves as organic certification program manager for the Montana Department of Agriculture. Crabtree and his wife, Anna, own and operate a diverse organic dryland crop farm north of Havre. His affiliations include IOIA, the National Association of State Organic Programs (NASOP), the Alternative Energy Resources Organization (AERO) and the Northern Plains Sustainable Agriculture Society (NPSAS). Since joining the department in 2001, Crabtree has worked to develop and implement the certification program. He previously worked as an organic inspector, educator, researcher, farm manager, and farmer. Crabtree is a strong advocate for organic agriculture, which he sees as a viable social, economic and environmentally responsible system for producers and consumers.

Ron de Yong was appointed the Director of the Department of Agriculture in 2007. A member of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture, de Yong serves as vice chair of the Rural Development and Financial Security Committee, which advises federal officials and Congress on farm program and policy issues. He also serves as the President of the Western Association of State Departments of Agriculture from September 2009 through September 2010. de Yong owns and operates a 320-acre family farm near Kalispell that produces wheat, barley, pepper-

mint, peas, lentils and alfalfa. For seven years prior to becoming director, he was a lecturer at Cal Poly State University, teaching agricultural policy and economics. de Yong earned a master's degree in economics at the University of Montana and undergraduate degrees from Montana State University in agricultural science and philosophy. He has participated in national and international policy discussions as a Montana state committeeman for the USDA Farm Service Agency; state director, lobbyist and national economist for the National Farmers Union; and a member of Senator Max Baucus's delegation to the 1999 World Trade Organization ministerial meeting in Seattle. In his capacity as director, de Yong serves on the Rail Service Competition Council, Noxious Weed Summit Advisory Committee, Montana Wheat & Barley Committee, Montana Agriculture Development Council and various other committees. He and his wife Dee have three children and three grandchildren.

Barry R. Flamm was one of the founders of MOA, served as Vice Chair and Board Member and is a Life Member. He served on the Governor's Council to help develop the Montana's DOA organic certification program and owned and operated the first certified organic sweet cherry orchard in Montana. Barry received a BS in forest management from Colorado A&M (now CSU), MPA in public administration/ policy from the American U. and Ph.D. from George Mason U with research on the silvicultural effects on biodiversity in the George Washington National Forest. In 2008, he was appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture to a 5 year term on the National Organics Standard Board in an environmental position. Barry is chair of the NOSB Policy Development Committee and serves on the Executive, Crops and Compliance / Accreditation / Certification Committees.

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Montana Organic Association

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Alison Harmon, PhD RD, is an associate professor in the Department of Health and Human Development at Montana State University. Her courses emphasize the ecological, political, and economic aspects of food choices, and she strives to teach undergraduate food and nutrition students to think more broadly about foods, their origins, and the consequences of food behaviors.

Pat Hatfield has been a professor at MSU since 1996. Prior to that, he worked at the U.S. Sheep Experiment Station in Dubois, Idaho for eight years. Pat has a Ph.D. from the University of Nebraska, an M.S. from New Mexico State University, and a B.S. from MSU in Range Science.

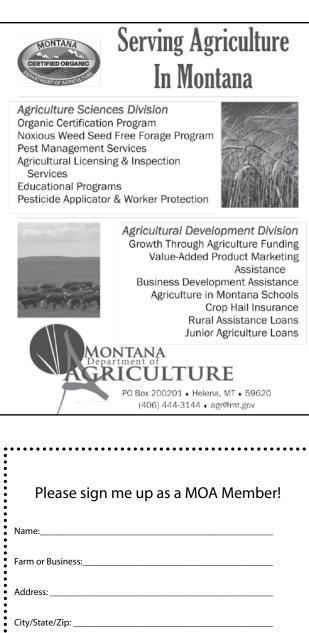
Jeffrey S. Jacobsen, Dean and Director, MSU's College of Agriculture and Agricultural Experiment Station; Ph.D. 1985, Oklahoma State University; M.S. 1982, Colorado State University; B.S. 1979, California Polytechnic State University. Friend of Farm Bureau (2005, 2007). Fellow, Soil Science Society of America (2005). Fellow, American Society of Agronomy (2000).

Clain Jones is the Extension Soil Fertility Specialist for the state of Montana, and has been at MSU since 1993. His work on organic systems has included evaluating soil fertility changes following transition to organic in

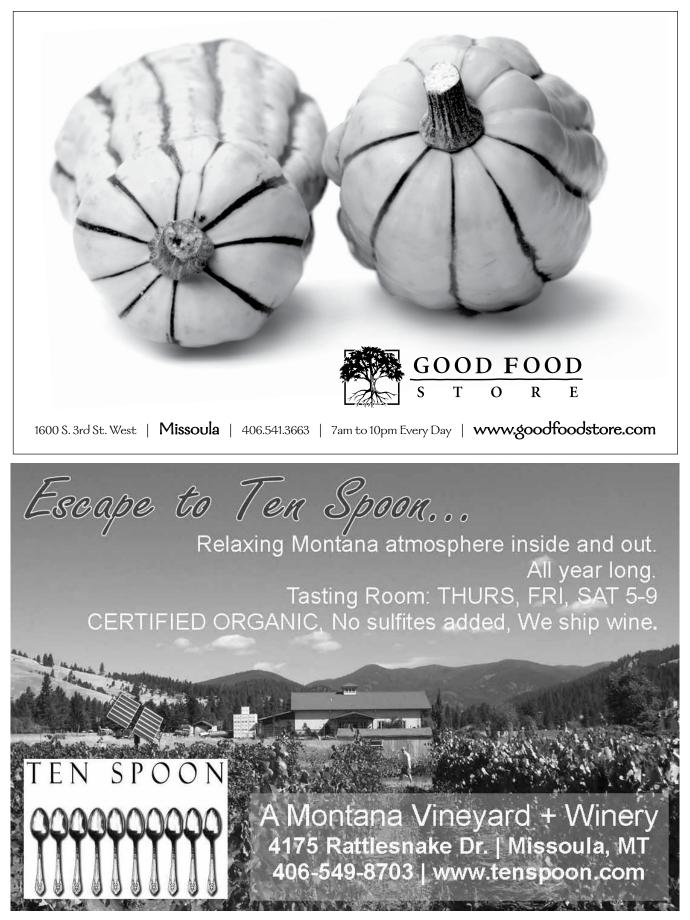
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Presenters continued from p. 7

plot studies and at Bob Quinn's. He has also helped lead a project determining methods to increase phosphorus availability on organic farms through a mix of green manures and certified organic fertilizers.

Antonette Lininger is a senior at MSU pursuing a degree in Sustainable Foods and Bioenergy Systems (SFBS).

Hamilton Lynn is currently a senior in the Sustainable Food and Bioenergy Systems major at Montana State University.

Bruce Maxwell is the interim department head for the Land Resource and Environmental Sciences Department in the College of Agriculture. His work includes agroecology and weed biology research on the design and development of nonchemical weed management strategies for annual and perennial weeds in cereals, row crops and forage cropping systems. His past and current research includes crop-weed competition, economic thresholds of weeds, weed population dynamics and identifying measures of ecosystem integrity.

Fabian Menalled is a Cropland Weed Specialist. His research and extension programs are focused in developing and delivering information on the integrated management of agricultural weeds. He is interested in understanding the mechanisms conditioning the abundance and distribution of annual and perennial weeds in agricultural systems. Current research includes weed population and community dynamics, crop-weed competition, herbicide resistance, and weed management in conventional and alternative cropping systems.

Perry Miller is a Professor in the Department of Land Resources and Environmental Sciences at Montana State University – conducting cropping systems research since 1998. His research focuses on systems-level water and nitrogen-use-efficiency in diversified wheatbased farming systems. Research emphases include no-till and organic cropping systems, pulse crop agronomy and ecology, winter broadleaf crops, crop energy budgets, and best management practices for greenhouse gas mitigation.

Ole Norgaard is the owner and manager of North Frontier Farms, Inc., currently leasing a 650-acre organic farm 13 miles west of Lewistown, Montana. The crops are wheat, peas, barley, triticale, sanfoin seed, hay and a special black/purple Indian corn. Norgaard has nearly 30 years of experience in conventional/ organic agriculture, a Bachelor Degree in Agricultural Science and a Specialized Degree in Agricultural Economy and Management.

Bob Quinn, Montana organic farmer, recent winner of the Organic Trade Associations' Organic Leadership Award. Quinn, a fourth-generation Montana farmer, converted the family farm to organic production in 1988, and now the 2,400 acre farm produces 100% organic crops, including wheat, alfalfa hay, peas, lentils, buckwheat, and Kamut[®]. Bob has been recognized by Montana Organic Association and the USDA-SARE program for his work in sustainable agriculture and soil conservation.

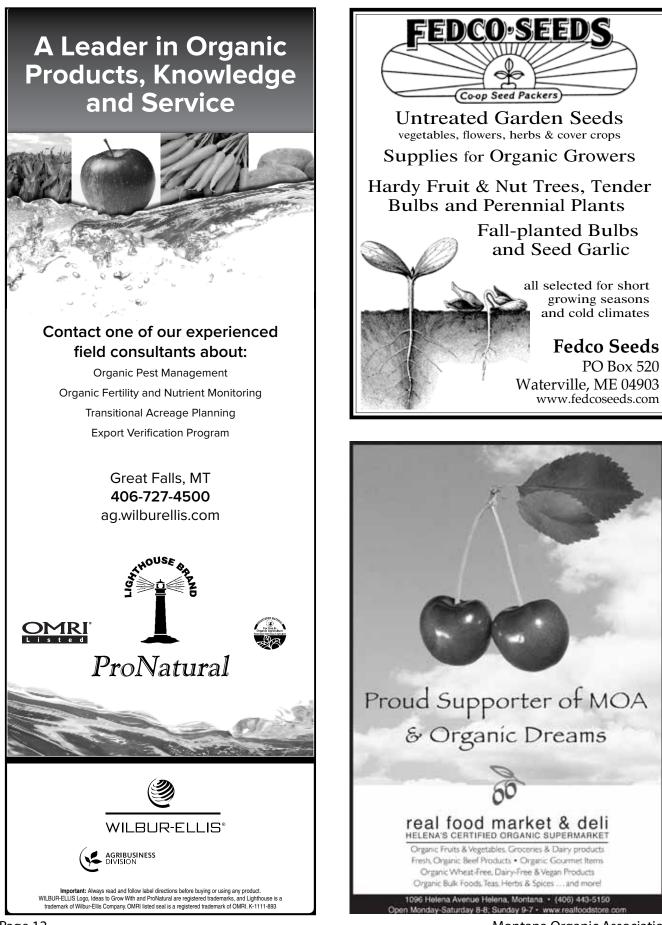
Jeff Schahczenski is an agricultural and natural resource economist with the National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT). His recent work includes publication of studies on the role of agriculture in climate change, biochar and soil carbon sequestration and the economics of biodiesel production in Montana. At NCAT, his work includes organic and sustainable agriculture marketing and economics, conservation policy, transgenics in agriculture, organic horticulture, cooperative development, sustainable building, intercultural communications and beekeeping. He was past Executive Director of the Big Hole River Foundation and Western Sustainable









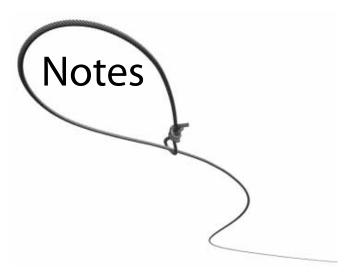


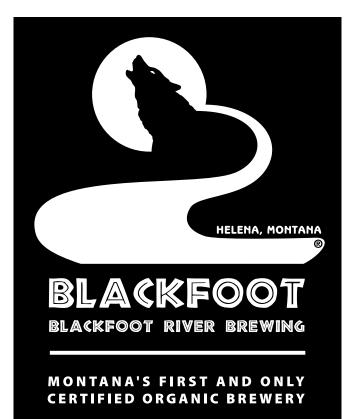
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Agriculture Working Group. Jeff has worked with the Alternative Energy Resources Organization (AERO) on regional sustainable agriculture projects and has been adjunct instructor for University of Montana, Western Montana College, and Montana Tech. Jeff has built his own straw bale house and greenhouse. Before moving to Montana in 1991, Jeff worked for Rutgers University, started one of the first Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farms in New Jersey, received graduate degrees in agricultural economics and political science, served in the Peace Corps in Belize, Central America, and worked many summers on his grandfather's dairy farm in Wisconsin.

Becky Weed operates Thirteen Mile Farm with her husband, Dave Tyler, in Belgrade, Montana, producing certified organic lamb and wool. Becky operates an on-farm wool mill, processing its own wool, along with diverse fibers produced inside and outside Montana. She serves on the Board of the Wild Farm Alliance and Lava Lake Land & Livestock, and has been following the debates over genetically engineered crops since legislative activity in Montana on GE issues began more than ten years ago. In part because of recent developments related to the deregulation of genetically engineered alfalfa, Weed is exploring more active involvement in farmer evaluation of genetically engineered crops.

Nina Zidack earned a B.S. in Horticulture from Montana State University in 1987, and a Ph.D. in Plant Pathology from Auburn University in 1993. She has served as an Assistant Research Professor in the Department of Plant Science and Plant Pathology at MSU since 1994, and is currently Director of Montana Seed Potato Certification. Her responsibilities include the supervision of all aspects of the certification process for seed potatoes, and serving as a liaison between MSU and the Montana Potato Improvement Association.







Seasonal high tunnel installation is one example of assistance available through EQIP.

The 2008 Farm Bill allows NRCS to help organic producers of all commodities meet conservation goals and become environmentally sustainable. Ask about the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Organic Special Initiative and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) at your local NRCS field office or go to:

nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/organic/ or nrcs.usda.gov/programs/new_csp/



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