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Greetings, Galloway Enthusiasts!

What an exciting time to be in the cattle business. Breeding cow inventories in the US were down 3% this spring and are forecasted to be down 6%-8% by fall. Commercial cattle prices are up and look to continue to climb throughout 2023 and beyond.

Most producers are continuing to look for ways to cut costs. Feed costs continue to be one of the main drivers of potential profits in the beef industry. Galloway can help producers realize up to a 25% reduction in the cost of production.

Producers are also starting to realize that high-input cows who fall out of the herd early are putting a strain on the bottom line of their operation. Galloway can help with that, as many females of the mainstream breeds struggle to stay productive past 3 or 4 calves. (Before they have paid for themselves)

Regenerative Ag/Grazing practices have been utilized in the Grass Fed industry for years and are becoming increasingly accepted in the mainstream beef industry. Cattle that perform on forages and are bred to be non-selective grazers are in demand. Cattle that will graze cover crops in harsh winter

> conditions are becoming more and more attractive. Galloway can help with that, as it is just one of the areas they shine.

The phrase "Maternal" has become a hot topic within the beef industry. Thus, the demand for Galloway females continues to be strong and is building. The issues our fellow beef producers tolerate with other non-maternal breeds are mind-boggling when you hear the stories. Our biggest hurdle is we typically don't have the desired quantities or the type available to fill the order. This has spilled over into the bull/semen market as commercial producers breed their existing females Galloway and plan to keep the daughters to build a better cowherd.

Galloway beef continues to be very easy to sell as consumers thoroughly enjoy the eating qualities of Galloway beef. There has been much chatter that the AAA is moving forward with allowing gene-modified animals to be registered. We personally have already seen seedstock sales because of it. If you direct market Galloway beef, well, you already know what many consumers think of GMOs in their food. More and more people want to know where their food comes from.

I touched on these items because Galloway cattle have the proven genetics and abilities to be valuable tools as the beef industry continues to change. The Galloway breed has withstood many challenges and industry fads over the centuries. We need to "toot our own horn" and take advantage of the commercially viable breed characteristics we breeders (and those before us) have fought so hard to maintain.

Jarley Blogen

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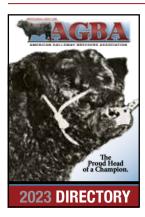
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About Cover:

Grand Champion bull at the National Western Black Gold Show and High dollar seller at the Black Gold Sale, January 1968 -Abbott Beauty's Director, breeder - J. Elmo Abbot, Athol, Idaho

The Proud Head of a Champion!

Champion Bull at Denver's Black Gold Show, Abbott Beauty's Director by Amador D of HE is now owned in partnership with Indian Trail Ranch, Randlett, Utah.

Director, a tremendously typy individual, beautifully balanced with thickness and depth, caused more comment and created more interest in Denver than any animal in some time.

He will head our show string this summer, and we think he will be hard to beat!

Originally published in the Galloway Times Newspaper, March/April 1968

Tattoo Letters • 2023 - L • 2024 - M • 2025 - N

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American Galloway Breeders Association

c/c Terry Marcotte 1798 Marble Rd • Belleville, KS 66935 tleerancher@yahoo.com • ph# 785-614-2271

Herd Book

The American Galloway Breeders Association Herd Book

is available online at www.americangalloway.com or by contacting your area Director. Latest Herd Book dated June 9, 2020

AGBA Registration/Transfer application forms can be downloaded from website.

Mail completed forms with check to:
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Focusing on Maternal Efficiencies



ON THE OTHER HAND

Cattle Selection Decisions Based on Objectives, Resources, and Environment.

By PJ Budler

Genetics are the point of the arrow when it comes to the livestock industry. Although genetics are of equal importance to disciplines such as herd management, nutrition, animal health, marketing, forages, record keeping, and Human Resources, genetics remain the prime mover.

As the last link in the value chain, the consumer being the first link, genetics determine how the rest of the value chain flourishes or fails.

It is the duty of the seedstock producer to act as a scientist, with their ranch or farm being their laboratory. By adapting their genetics to the particular environment, resources, and objectives they're dealing with, the seedstock producer experiments, invents, and proves or disproves genetics.

The "improved" cattle, in general, have become remarkably good at very few traits. Often, these traits are antagonistic to fundamental functional efficiency and have made the "improved" cattle less profitable for most people in most places. The "unimproved" cattle haven't been molested and adulterated in the same way and, in many cases, have maintained the fundamental profit traits of adaptability, functional efficiency, fertility, and longevity. There are "improved (adulterated)" and "unimproved (unadulterated)" cattle in every breed. The Galloway breed, for the most part, has remained true to its strengths. In the article below, it will become selfevident how this breed of cattle is truly adaptable to harsh temperate and marginal environments. Galloways, on the whole, have high inherent body condition and hormonal balance (these two traits together equal fertility). They are functionally efficient and have longevity built into them.

There is an abundance of selection tools available to cattle breeders. These tools vary from traditional to cutting-edge and are all used to different degrees within the beef and dairy industries.

The selection tools I'll discuss in this article include phenotype, pedigree, in-herd indexes, Production Based Culling, EBVs/EPDs, and Genomics/Genomic enhanced EPDs. These tools can be useful when making breeding decisions, provided that they are used in context and with a non-biased and balanced approach.

The first objective to be considered is whether the animal you want to breed is destined to be utilized in a maternal breeding program or as a terminal animal for beef. The selection criteria for these two options are vastly different, and I'll go into more detail in paragraphs to come. It is important to remember that Galloway cattle are a maternal breed first.

A premise to consider is that a maternal breeding program has two types of traits --Profit Traits, which include adaptability, functional efficiency, fertility, and longevity, and Turnover Traits, which include growth, muscle, milk, and marbling. Turnover Traits are important but meaningless if Profit Traits are not used to lay the initial foundation.

Every breeding decision must be made according to objectives, resources, and environment. Without matching these decisions to these three factors, there's a good chance of missing your target. Environment is key. Galloways flourish anywhere that is not hot and humid and has minimal fly, mosquito, and tick worry.

The animal's Pedigree is extremely valuable when making selections. Understanding or remembering pedigrees is fast becoming a lost art in the age of genomics. However, pedigree is the motherlode from whence all these technologies have sprung. Traits such as mothering ability, libido, temperament/aggression, wellbeing, and hardiness are immeasurable in any accurate form by any technology. The knowledge of the ability of certain bloodlines and cow families to work together is where the art of breeding comes to fruition. Many selection criteria are too nuanced for scientific method.

Phenotype is extremely useful and, I'd say, essential when making breeding decisions. A lot of what data or EBVs/EPDs tell you can be seen in the animal itself. The analogy I like to use is that when you are told it is raining outside, you can simply open the curtains and look instead of checking the weather application on your smartphone. Growth, Fat, Muscle, Milk, Calving Ease, and a host of other traits are as easily observed with the human eye as they are read off of a chart. When doing phenotypic selections, one must first consider whether the animals are maternal or terminal.

In maternal animals, cattle need to be able to eat. walk, and reproduce. Focusing on the Profit Traits (adaptability, functional efficiency, fertility, and longevity) is first and foremost. Balance is essential. This includes physiological and endocrinological balance, carcass balance (muscle/fat ratio), skeletal balance, and hormonal balance. High inherent body condition (easy fleshing ability/do-ability/constitution) plus hormonal balance equals fertility.

In terminal animals, the fundamental traits remain vital. In animals bred for a high-yielding carcass, a high growth rate and large rib-eye area are factors to focus on. Dimension is essential, too, as three-dimensional animals produce heavy carcasses. Carcass balance is essential still as fat cover is needed for good grading and fleshing ability, while muscle is required for yield. Structural soundness is essential in terminal animals, too. Structurally unsound animals tend to founder and go lame when in the feedlot. These animals lose their appetite and don't gain appropriately. Also, steers have sisters and mothers out grazing on pasture their entire lives, so ignoring structure in terminally bred cattle is dangerous.

In terminal animals bred for high-quality eating experiences, like the Japanese and South Korean breeds, the logic remains similar in terms of structural integrity. Carcass balance leans further towards marbling traits, with muscle being necessary but not pinnacle. Waxy horns, a sharp poll (or a fine ridge between the horns), oily skin, silky hair coat, flat and fine bone with small joints, and a flatter muscle shape all augur well for highmarbling carcasses.

Production Based Culling is a term I use when replacement females and breeding bulls are selected based on the fact that their dams, grand-dams, and greatgrand-dams have simply jumped over every hurdle the breeder has placed in front of them regarding criteria to remain in the herd. These include reasonable nutritional supplementation, age at first calving, inter-calvingperiod, short breeding seasons, cow/calf ratio at weaning, minimum weaning weights, unassisted births, etc. This is a fast way to build a profitable, consistent, adapted, and uniform herd.

In-herd indexes were the primary arithmetic used for cattle selection before EBVs and EPDs arrived. These in-herd indexes remain a vital tool when customers purchase animals from a reliable seed-stock breeder or when the seed-stock breeder is presenting their product to the market. They give context to how animals have

performed in their given environment and herd. It is important to remember that not all herds are the same. A 100 index in a progressive herd is superior to a 100 index in a less progressive herd. However, if one is familiar with and utilizes a registered herd for their seedstock needs, using in-herd indexes for selection purposes is very valuable.

EBVs/EPDs/Breed Population Indexes are widely used worldwide by animal producers. These numbers are based on the in-herd ratios of the animal itself as well as the in-herd-indexes of its ancestors, siblings, relatives, and offspring. EBVs (Expected Breeding Values)/EPDs (Expected Progeny Differences) can be extremely useful if used in context and with matching them to objectives, resources, and environment. As a breeder, one must decide whether one trusts these numbers published by their specific breed society/association. If the breeder believes that they are relevant and that most breeders are measuring everything, all the time, accurately, honestly, in large numbers, and in the same environment, then it is important to remember that the number being produced is an objective one. Therefore, no EPD/EBV can be good or bad. It depends on one's objectives, resources, and environment.

In maternal breeding programs, it is essential to remember that the sex hormones only start when the growth hormones stop. Therefore, if one selects for high growth numbers, one is directly selecting against fertility. Selecting for fertility starts with high inherent body condition and hormonal balance. On an EBV/EPD chart, that would mean higher BACK/RUMP FAT numbers and higher SCROTAL CIRCUMFERENCE at a year of age. Selecting for Top 5% Weaning and Yearling Weight continuously will create higher birth weights, leaner, later maturing, and less fertile cattle with higher energy requirements. Selecting for high inherent body condition and early sexual maturity will produce cattle with high relative (reaching mature size early) growth rates, low energy requirements, and high fertility. If one feels that the average animal in one's breed is big enough, it makes no sense to require anything more than breed average EPD/EBV Yearling Weight or Mature Cow Size. Similar logic works with all traits.

You'll notice that herds that have focused heavily on growth and carcass traits for some time will have a lack of sexual dimorphism in their cattle. There won't be much difference in size and shape between the bulls and females. This sexual monomorphism is an expression of hormonal imbalance and subfertility. The bulls tend to be less masculine, and the females less feminine. Sexual dimorphism occurs when selection for high inherent body condition and hormonal balance is practiced. These animals are earlier maturing and are more fertile. The bulls are significantly larger and shaped and colored differently from the females.

Publishing trait leaders is counter-intuitive, in my opinion. For example, why is less fat better than more fat when publishing a FAT trait leaders list? Doesn't it depend on the breeding program's objectives, resources, and environment? Big, lean, late-maturing cattle are great for feedlots and processors but devastatingly expensive to keep for cow-calf operators. What good is giving the tools of a Top 1% for a trait like Milk to marketing companies to run with? Top 1% for milk doesn't even make a profitable dairy cow, never mind how destructive it proves to be for beef cow operators.

In terminal breeding programs, traits such as Weaning Weight, Yearling Weight, Ribeye Area, and Intramuscular Fat becomes important. Managing birth weight to where it's functional is important.

Genomic Enhanced EBVs/EPDs are based on the same premise as EBVs/EPDs. However, the actual genetics of the animal are taken into consideration, and not just the average EBVs/EPDs of sire and dam at birth are considered. GE-EPDs/GE-EBVs increase the accuracy of an EPD/EBV for an animal with no offspring to have the same accuracy of that same animal if it had had up to a dozen offspring. If the premise of EPDs and EBVs makes sense to the breeder, then GE-EPDs/GE-EBVs will work for them.

However, if a breeder does not agree that the data being used to create GE-EPDs/GE-EBVs is measured entirely, honestly, accurately, in large numbers, all the time, eliminating environmental influence by most breeders then it is probably better to revert to the other tools in the selection toolbox. These being Phenotype, Pedigree, In-herd Indexes, and Production-Based Culling.

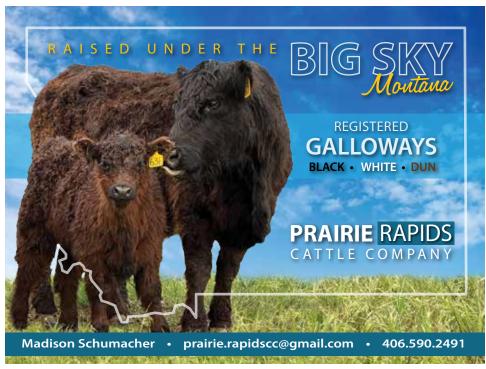
Cattle breeding is as much an art as it is a science. Artists and scientists alike are passionate and obsessive about their work. Context and nuance are key.



PJ Budler was raised on a 5th-generation cattle operation in South Africa. At age 15, he founded BonHaven Beef Cattle. Between 1996 and 2012, he grew BonHaven to five locations in three Southern African countries. The Hereford, Angus, Red Angus, Braford, and Brahman herds achieved much success, winning numerous National Shows and setting auction records on the continent.

In 2012, PJ relocated to Texas, USA, as the International Business Manager for Trans Ova Genetics. This position and running the annual "Champion of the World" Competition, judging shows, speaking at events, and doing cattle consulting have taken him to 48 US states and 106 different countries. He has judged 85 different cattle breeds in 43 countries. In 2017 PJ became the first-ever cattle judge to judge a National Show on all six continents.

To learn more, go to https://pjbudler.com/



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2023 NATIONAL WESTERN STOCK SHOW

GALLOWAY SHOW January 16, 2023

Judge | Doug Satree • Montague, TX Show Superintendent | Michell Blegen • Roundup, MT

Denver has been the backdrop for the National Western Stock Show since 1906. The NWSS is called the Super Bowl of livestock shows, with more than 12,000 head of livestock moving in and out of the gates each year. This year, we had Galloway breeders from Minnesota, Kansas, and Montana exhibit cattle in the beautifully renovated stockyards. Warm and cold water at the wash racks, easily accessible water at both the exhibit and night pens, and power in the exhibitor's pens. The new Stockyard Event Center is home to the show ring –a fantastic venue offering room to stage cattle, good seating, and heated restrooms!

If you have never experienced the NWSS, add it to your bucket list. Better yet, consider exhibiting your Galloway cattle. You will be embraced by like-minded breeders who truly understand the value and relevance of the Galloway Breed. And there is always someone willing to lend a hand to make your show a great experience.

Michelle Blegen, Roundup, Mont., has been the NWSS Galloway Show Superintendent for many years. The position's duties are numerous and often go unseen by most exhibitors. Michelle ran a tight ship, and we thank her for her many years serving the Galloway Breed at the NWSS. Terry Marcotte, Belleville, Kan., will take the reins as Show Superintendent in 2024. The breeders and exhibitors look forward to assisting Terry in a smooth transition.

The Les Boulter Award

(awarded at the NWSS)

In 1979, Les Boulter won the NWSS Carcass contest with his Galloway Cattle. The contest consisted of entering a group of cattle (6-8 head). After arriving at the NWSS, the cattle were taken immediately to Mondford Packing/JBS Swift for processing. The carcasses were then evaluated on the rail. This was not just a Galloway carcass evaluation; this was an all-cattle carcass evaluation, and Les's Galloways won.

Now, we can evaluate the carcass with the use of an ultrasound. Like many of the breeds at the NWSS, the Galloway exhibitors participated in the ultrasound carcass technology to determine the desirable traits of the carcass.



NWSS Grand Champion Bull Berry's King 6k • Berry Ranch • Mora, Minnesota



NWSS Grand Champion Female HB Kiss Me 2642 · Blegen Galloways · Roundup, MT



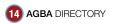
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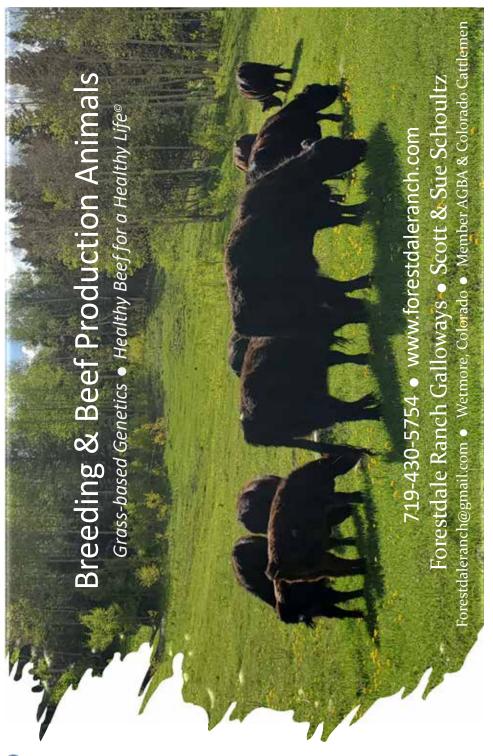
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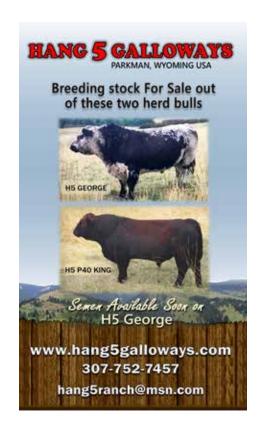
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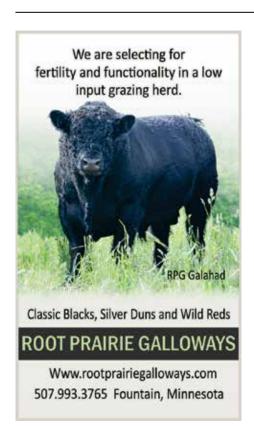
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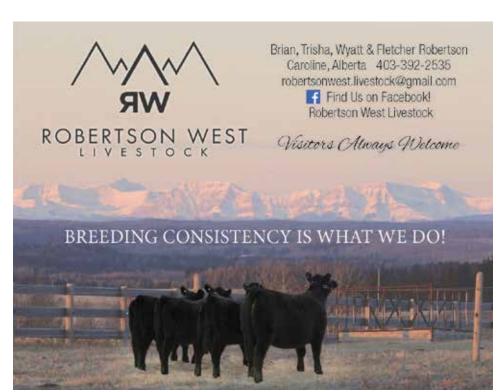
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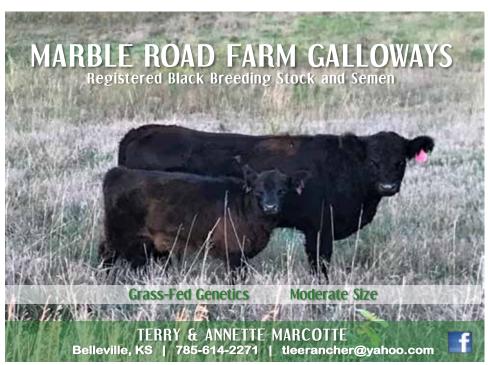
RFLTD Xenon Reg.#236457-B

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Meet Taylor Harriman from Parker, South Dakota

Taylor has been in the show barn her entire life and started showing cattle at the age of 8.

Taylor admits not knowing much about the Galloway breed as her family focused on showing Simmental and Charolais cattle. She purchased her first Galloway, a heifer named HB Kiss Me, from Blegen Galloways. Many hours went into getting HB Kiss Me ready for her show schedule. Taylor quickly adapted to HB Kiss Me's style of learning, and the pair was clicking in no time. "HB loves the show stick and Kellogg's Frosted Mini-Wheats," Taylor joked.

Taylor started the 2023 show season strong and captured Grand Champion AOB with HB

Kiss Me in all but one show. "In the ring, I am HB Kiss Me's safety net, and when I say 'Ho,' HB knows it is time to set up," Taylor says.

Taylor has enjoyed introducing Galloways to her friends and competitors. Judges have even commented that they were honored to be in the ring with a true Galloway! Taylor is looking forward to what the rest of the show season will bring.

As a Junior member, Taylor hopes there will be more interest from other Juniors to join and show Galloways in hopes of one day soon having a Junior National American Galloway Show.

Good Luck, Taylor, and Welcome to the Galloway Family!

Farma, WA Wilder

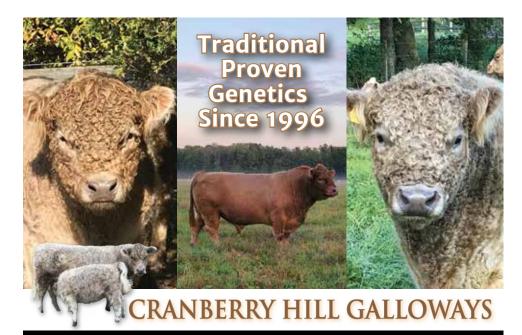
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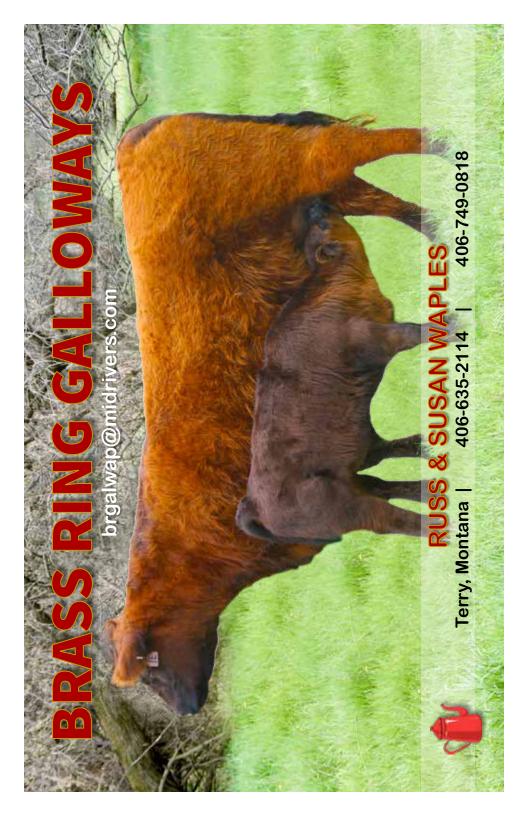


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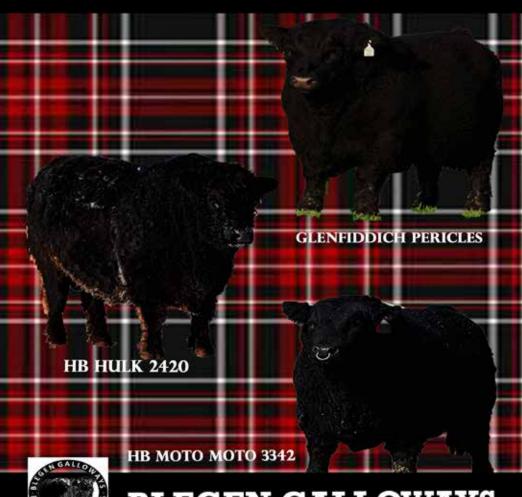
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