

The Georgia Museum of Agriculture at ABAC

# Destination Ag

## 2016 - 2017 Annual Report



Committed to  
“Planting Knowledge and  
Cultivating the Future”



**ABRAHAM BALDWIN**  
AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE





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# LETTER OF THANKS

The Harley Langdale, Jr. Foundation has allowed the Georgia Museum of Agriculture to showcase the past and present of agriculture and natural resources through Destination Ag. With this support, we have provided experiential learning opportunities for the next generation of agriculture and natural resource leaders. During the 2016-2017 academic year, more than 5,000 students' were impacted by participating in Destination Ag. In the following pages, you will discover the impact of this program reaches beyond children to include teachers, parents, and ABAC students. We appreciate your interest and support as we continue "planting knowledge and cultivating the future."



Garrett Boone  
GMA Director



Sara Spinks Hand  
GMA Assistant Director



Brittney Turner  
Destination Ag  
Supervisor



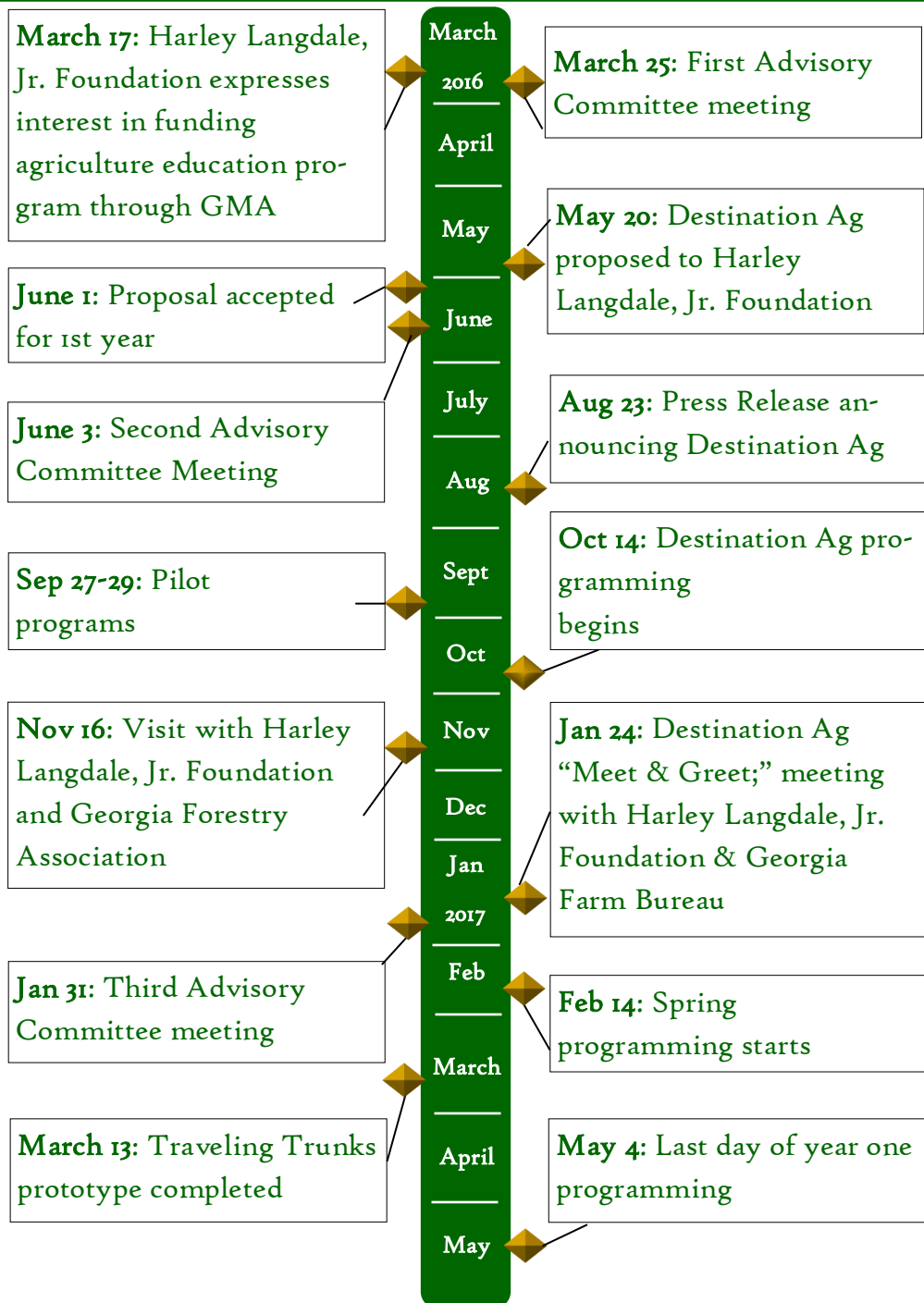
Hillery Reeves  
Destination Ag  
Program Specialist



Kelly Scott  
Destination Ag  
Program Specialist



# 2016-2017 TIMELINE





# ADVISORY COMMITTEE

To ensure we create and maintain a viable and relevant program, we have partnered with local educators to assist in the development of Destination Ag. The Advisory Committee has held three meetings since the program's establishment. At each meeting, committee members provided feedback and insight on the development of Destination Ag. Highlighted discussion points included: proposal introduction, linking field trips to curriculum standards, professional development opportunities for teachers, an art and writing contest, and program updates. The Advisory Committee plays a crucial role to the program by offering advice, guidance, and support.

Dr. Jerry Baker	Dean, School of Agriculture and Natural Resources, ABAC
Barbara Boler	The Langdale Company & PLT Facilitator/Trainer
Garrett Boone	Director, GMA, ABAC
Robert Bullington	Teacher, Len Lastinger Primary School, Tift County
Trish Dubose	STEM Director, Colquitt County
Richard Fisher	Principal, Len Lastinger Primary School, Tift County
Dr. Frank Flanders	Associate Professor of Agriculture Education, ABAC
Dr. Sandra Giles	Professor of English, ABAC
Sara Spinks Hand	EIO Manager & Assistant Director, GMA, ABAC
Tracy Ingram	Teacher, Len Lastinger Primary School, Tift County
Dr. Marcus Johnson	Assistant Professor of Education, ABAC
Dr. Marni Kirkland	Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Learning, Colquitt County
Dr. Deidre Martin	Director of Advancement, ABAC
Dr. Darby Sewell	Assistant Vice President for Engaged Learning, ABAC
Dr. Jeff Shealey	Superintendent, Cook County
Becca Turner	Associate Professor of Communication, ABAC
Brittney Turner	Agriculture & Natural Resource Supervisor, GMA, ABAC
Dr. Joi Williams	Pre-K Director & Primary School Assistant Principal, Cook County
Jan Wise	Pre-K - 5 Curriculum Director, Tift County



# PROGRAM DETAILS

## Sample Teacher Itinerary

The following itinerary represents a sample schedule which teachers receive two weeks prior to their field trip. The number of teaching groups is dependent upon the number of classrooms attending. One Destination Ag teaching group represents one school classroom with a maximum of 30 students per group. Eight teaching groups (shown) represents the total number of groups Destination Ag can currently support in one day for a total of 240 students per day.

	Trees	Bees	Peaches	Sheep	Mules	Peanuts	Cows	Cotton
9:00-9:35	Arrival/Orientation							
9:45-10:15	Plant	Animal	Career	Free Time	Plant	Animal	Career	Free Time
10:25-10:55	Animal	Career	Free Time	Plant	Animal	Career	Free Time	Plant
11:05-11:35	Lunch at Opry Shelter							
11:45-12:15	Career	Free Time	Plant	Animal	Career	Free Time	Plant	Animal
12:25-12:55	Free Time	Plant	Animal	Career	Free Time	Plant	Animal	Career
1:05-1:20	Evaluations/Closing Session							
1:20-1:30	Restrooms/Board buses							
1:30	Depart							

“This program was an excellent learning experience for my students.” - Visiting Pre-K Teacher



# PROGRAM DETAILS

## Meeting Georgia Education Standards

Destination Ag created educational classes that correlate with Georgia Early Learning and Development Standards (GELDS, age 0-60 months), Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE, kindergarten – fifth grade) and the College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI, kindergarten – fifth grade).

All classes cover Destination Ag's overarching theme of "Connecting agriculture and natural resources to student's daily lives." The following tables include a description of each class by grade.



## Pre-K

Class	Description	Standard
<b>Career</b>	Students explore different careers in agriculture (ag mechanic, poultry farmer, soil scientist).	CCRPI*
<b>Plant Needs</b>	Students learn the basic needs for plants and begin to understand what makes 'good' soil.	CD-SCI.4a; CD-SC3.4a;
<b>Mommy and Me</b>	While learning the survival needs of animals, students practice matching animal young with their adult counterparts and explore cattle products.	CD-SC3.4a;



# PROGRAM DETAILS

## Kindergarten

Class	Description	Standard
Career	Students explore different careers in agriculture (ag mechanic, poultry farmer, soil scientist).	CCRPI*
Ecosystem Builders	Students understand the difference between living and non-living components and how they make up an ecosystem.	SKL <sub>1</sub>
Fur or Feathers	Students discover the difference and similarities between birds and mammals while visiting the Museum's chickens and mule.	SKL <sub>2</sub>

“Great field trip! Very informative and correlated with Kindergarten standards!”-Visiting Kindergarten Teacher



Kindergarten students building an ecosystem during their plant class.



“Junebug is a mammal. She has a backbone that helps her stand up.”

-Kindergarten Student



# PROGRAM DETAILS

## First Grade

Class	Description	Standard
Career	Students explore different careers in agriculture (ag mechanic, poultry farmer, soil scientist).	CCRPI*
All About	Students learn the basic needs of plants and plant parts while exploring corn products.	SiLi
Meet the Sheep	Students understand the basic needs of animals while learning about a common product from sheep, wool.	SiLi

“The best part was being in an outside classroom!”  
-Visiting First Grade Teacher



First grade students enjoy meeting Mr. Tommy, the sheep, as they learn about the basic needs of animals.



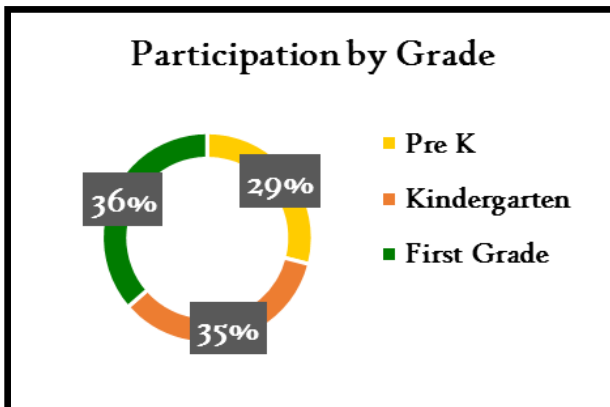
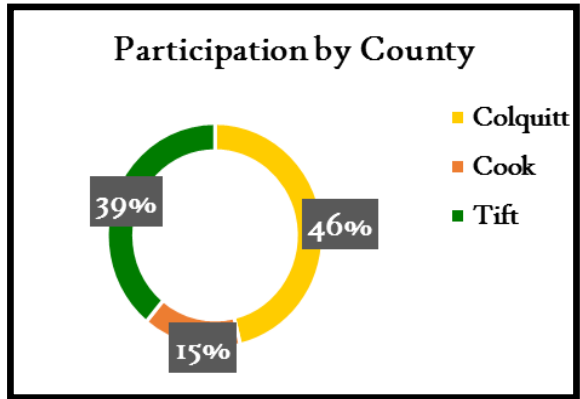
# IMPACT

## Participation

In year one, Destination Ag served over 5,000 children! A total of 4,149 students were served on site at the GMA, and an additional 870 were impacted through outreach events

including Claxton Elementary School's "Feed My School" event on May 8 and Norman Park Elementary School's STEAM Day on May 16. Staff and student instructors

have reached further children and families by participating in "A Day in the Woods" at Gaskins Forestry Education Center (April 22). More students will be reached throughout May, as piloting starts for second grade curriculum and the first "Traveling Trunk."



*\*Graphs represent participation for on-site experiences only.*



# IMPACT

## Teacher Development

The GMA will host three educator workshops in June 2017 utilizing three national curriculums: Project Learning Tree, Project WET, and Project Wild. These environmental education curriculums are designed for teachers and other educators working with youth, from preschool through twelfth grade. The workshops provide active, hands-on opportunities to experience the curriculum first hand. Participants will receive curriculum guides, which include activities correlated with national and state educational standards. Teachers, informal educators, education students, or anyone working with youth groups are welcome to participate.

Curriculum	Date	Estimated Attendance
Project WILD	June 20, 2017	20
Project WET	June 22, 2017	20
Project Learning Tree	June 27, 2017	20



In January 2017, seven members of the Destination Ag team became certified PLT educators. The GMA hosted this event and had 14 participants in attendance.



# IMPACT

## Student Instructors—The Face of Destination Ag



Spring 2017 Student Instructors: First row – Megan Parker, Sara Prokosch, Billie Ann Birchall, and Allie Randall, Second row - Kearsten Sandars, Sadie Hobbs, Chelsey Daughtry, and Justin Martin

During the 2016-2017 academic year, 18 ABAC students served as instructors for Destination Ag. The students came from a variety of majors including Agriculture Education, Agriculture Communication, and Diversified Agriculture. Student instructors have profited from this program educationally and experientially as they have had the opportunity to mentor, educate, and advocate for the agricultural and natural resources industries.

Engaging college students with pre-k through fifth grade students opens the door for unique relationships both in the learning experience and in sharing with the younger students the possibilities of a college education.



# IMPACT

**Megan Parker** - "Destination Ag has shown me the gap between the farm and the classroom. The program has allowed me to advocate for agriculture and natural resources."

**Sara Prokosch** - "Through Destination Ag, I have had the chance to grow professionally and be inspired to change my major to agricultural education."

**Billie Ann Birchall** - "Destination Ag has opened my eyes to the need of agricultural education in the younger grades. I have found my passion of teaching through this amazing program and this has been a stepping stone in my agricultural education career."

**Allie Randall** - "Working with Destination Ag, my eyes have been opened to the fact that there are many people who grow up not knowing how much of their daily life is affected by agriculture. My passion for this program stems from the fact that we are helping make that connection early on, which will lead to a generation that better understands the need for agriculture and natural resources."

**Kearstan Sandars** - "Destination Ag has been an amazing experience. It has helped me break out of my comfort zone."

**Sadie Hobbs** - "Destination Ag has shown me just how little agriculture is prioritized in the schools and the extreme need for it. When a child thinks that eggs just come from the store and do not know where they come from before that, it is evident that something needs to change. Destination Ag is our way of making an impact on the future generations."

**Chelsey Daughtry** - "Destination Ag has given me the opportunity to express who I am through creativity, leadership, and advocacy. This program ultimately has elementary age students as the target audience but through teaching these children, the student instructors have learned just as much in return."

**Justin Martin** - "It is amazing to know that you are having an impact on the future of agriculture by teaching these students."



# IMPACT

## Instructional Hours

Destination Ag has provided real-world experience for all that have engaged with the program. Over the course of the first year, **1,530 instructional hours** were accumulated. ABAC students serving as student instructors assumed 1,349 instructional hours. Additional impacts include over 87 volunteer hours from ABAC students and 94 instructional hours assumed by the Destination Ag administrative staff.

“Destination Ag is a phenomenal program to volunteer with. Here, I have been able to serve as a teacher, an ag advocate, and mentor.”

-Laura Lee Williams, Destination Ag Volunteer



## Volunteers

In Destination Ag's first year, 11 ABAC students volunteered their time with the program. These students assisted with instruction, as well as, communication efforts for Destination Ag. Overall, the program recorded **87 volunteer hours!**



# IMPACT

## Practicum Students

The Introduction to Rural Studies class, offered through the Rural Studies program at ABAC, requires students to complete a 20-hour practicum experience throughout the course of one semester. A practicum is designed to help students draw connections between in-class learning and professional experience. Students negotiate learning goals with the practicum supervisor related to their course of study and career interests. This academic year, Destination Ag hosted two Agricultural Communication students to complete their practicum experience. In fall 2016, Ginger Orton assisted in developing a promotional video for Destination Ag. During the spring 2017, Aubrey Rife created news articles for the program which enhanced her professional writing.



"I highly suggest to other students to come be a part of a life changing program called Destination Ag!"

- Aubrey Rife

## Internships

The Destination Ag staff believes that developing young professionals is a key component of the program's success. To extend our impact, Destination Ag plans to host four interns from May 15 – July 22, 2017.

These internships will provide ABAC students the opportunity to write lesson plans, develop assessment materials, and create marketing collateral for Destination Ag.

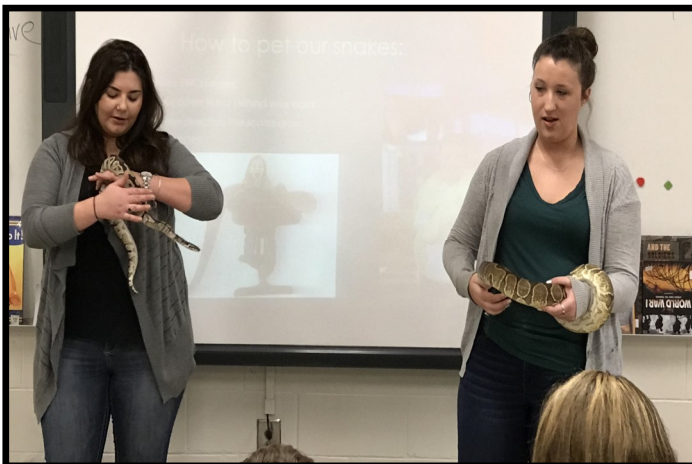


# IMPACT

## Senior Project

During the spring 2017 semester, two ABAC Natural Resources students, Carlene Hoover and Maryssa Davis, developed a senior project which incorporated environmental education. This senior project is a mandatory requirement to complete a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Natural Resources. Students develop their own research project and provide a final report and presentation. Kelly Scott, Destination Ag Program Specialist, served as their project mentor.

Their research compared the effectiveness of children's attitudes on snakes by teaching general snake information between a one-session program and a four-session program. The objectives of their research were to promote wildlife conservation, provide children with general knowledge and awareness of snakes' role in the ecosystem, reduce the negative connotations towards snakes, and increase wildlife education among youth.





# ASSESSMENT

## Art and Writing Contest

The purpose of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Art and Writing Contest is to allow students to communicate what they learned about agriculture and natural resources during their visit with Destination Ag. All participating teachers are invited to submit one student entry from their classroom. A panel of judges composed of the Destination Ag student instructors selected the winners for 2016-2017.

One student and accompanying teacher are awarded for each grade in each county. Student winners receive \$100 each and their teachers receive \$500 each. This year, over 30 entries were submitted for the contest.

The first place winners for the 2016-2017 Destination Ag Art and Writing Contest are:

**Cassie Webb**, Pre-K, Tift County

Beth Thomposon - Teacher

**Emma Grace Thompson**, Kindergarten, Tift County

Nancy Garner - Teacher

**Kherrington Heinold**, First Grade, Tift County

Sara Askew - Teacher

**Tinsley Spradley**, Kindergarten, Cook County

Linda Griffin - Teacher

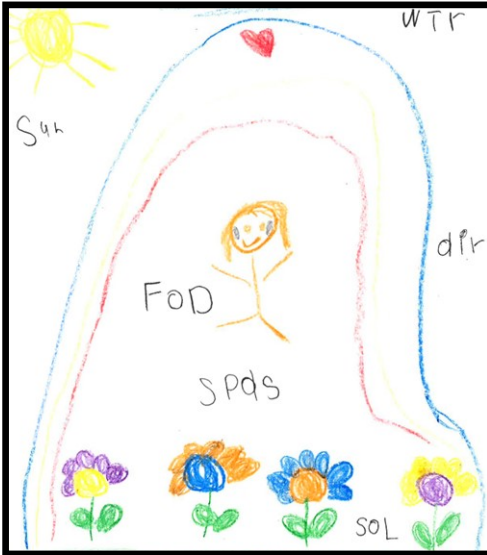
**Lucie Cone**, First Grade, Cook County

Angela Harry - Teacher



# ASSESSMENT

## Art and Writing Contest



Cassie Webb drew a picture of the plant class that she attended and the five things plants need to survive.

Emma Grace Thompson showed us why agriculture is important to her. She learned that agriculture gives us clothes, wood, and animals.

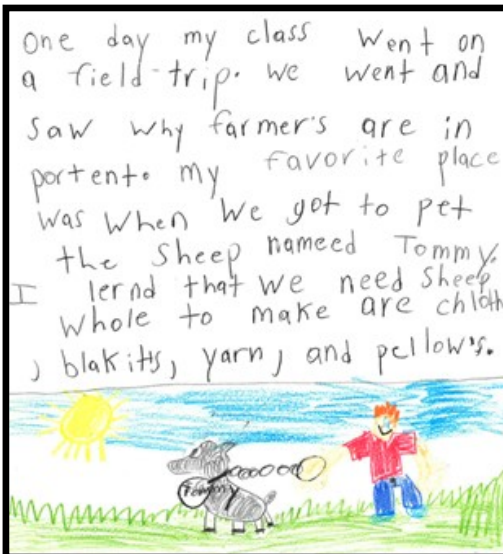




# ASSESSMENT

## Art and Writing Contest

**Tinsley Spradley** drew a picture of her exciting day at Destination Ag as she learned about tractors and the difference between mammals and birds.



**Kherrington Heinold** enjoyed meeting Tommy the sheep when he visited Destination Ag.



# ASSESSMENT

## Art and Writing Contest

- **Lucie Cone** drew a picture of her visit to Destination Ag as she learned about corn, sheep, and observed the cows eating grass.





# ASSESSMENT

## Teacher Evaluation Survey

To ensure we provide the best educational program to students, Destination Ag surveyed participating teachers. Teacher surveys were used throughout the fall and spring field trips. Overall, 220 teacher surveys were completed in year one. Below are the results from teacher surveys:

- 95.9% teachers felt that the animal class met correlating educational standards
- 99.1% teachers felt that the plant class met correlating educational standards
- 97.3% teachers felt that the career class met correlating educational standards
- 95.9% of teachers felt that Destination Ag increased children's connections with agriculture and natural resources
- 95% of teachers would recommend the field trip to others

## Parent Evaluation Survey

A parent survey was implemented in spring 2017 to gather additional feedback. All first grade visits to Destination Ag were completed in the fall and thus, there were no parents surveyed for this grade in year one. Below are the results from parent surveys:

- 95.5% of parents felt Destination Ag increased connections to agriculture and natural resources
- 99.9% of parents would recommend Destination Ag to others



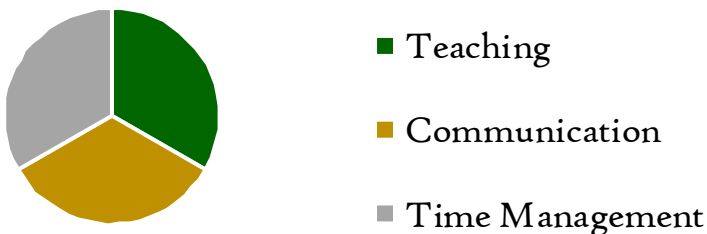
# ASSESSMENT

## Student Instructor Evaluation Survey

To ensure that our student instructors profited from this program educationally and experientially, they completed a survey at the end of spring 2017 programming. Through these surveys, we will utilize the gathered data to ensure our program continues to have a positive effect on our student instructors. Below are the results from student instructor surveys:

- 85.71% of instructors felt the work was a valuable experience in relation to their academic studies.
- 83.33% of instructors felt their academic program adequately prepared them for the job.
- 85.71% of instructors felt their experience with Destination Ag had a positive impact on their learning.
- 85.71% of instructors felt their experience with Destination Ag helped prepare them for their future career.

### Key skills gained as a student instructor





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