



YOUTH IMPACT REPORT

2022



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Throughout the many changes over the years that AgScape has been working in the overlapping space between agriculture and education, one fact has remained consistent: educators are heroes. We work in schools all across Ontario – schools with thousands of students and schools with a handful of classrooms, schools in urban centres and schools in the most remote parts of the province. We work with educators in every grade and every subject level, finding the best ways for our programming to help them achieve their goals. The incredible impacts that you will see in this report are because of our work hand-in-hand with both educators and our generous supporters who make it all possible.

One of AgScape's main goals is to not add to the workload of educators, who have more and more put on their shoulders every year. Rather, our programs are designed to help teachers find a new way to reach their students within their mandated curriculum objectives. We are very aware that each of these impacts represents its own story; a story of a student who is having their eyes opened for the first time to the positive effects that farming has on biodiversity, or a student who realizes that they can translate their lifelong interest in bugs into critical research on safe pest-control products in agriculture. While our time with the students is short and powerful, funds from our extraordinary supporters allow us to equip educators with resources to ensure that this learning continues throughout the school years and beyond.

Thank you to our partners: students, educators, and supporters. None of us could do it without you.

With gratitude,



Mira Lyonblum
Executive Director



Special thanks to Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs and Beef Farmers of Ontario for partial support of our 2022 Youth Impact Report.



ABOUT AGSCAPE

Created in 1991, AgScope is a charitable organization providing objective, evidence-based, curriculum-linked programs and resources about agriculture and food literacy to educators and students in Ontario.

AgScope is a proud member of Agriculture in the Classroom-Canada (AITC-C). Responsible for bringing agriculture and food education to Ontario classrooms, AgScope is one of ten provincial members, who works alongside our national AITC-C partner to ensure every youth in Canada has an agriculture and food education experience.



OUR VISION

Leading a movement to bring agriculture and food education into all Ontario classrooms. Inspiring youth to see their role within the food system that's a vehicle for social, economic, and environmental impact.

OUR MISSION

Through free experiential and science-based programs, events, and resources, we empower Ontario youth and educators to understand their relationship to the agriculture and food system and ignite interest in related careers.

OUR VALUES



Integrity – We are committed to transparency, science, and accurate information.



Passion – We are passionate about helping others connect the role of agriculture and food to our economic, environmental, and social wellness.



Excellence – We inspire food literacy through best practices in student learning.



Impact – We are driven to make an impact at an individual and community level.



Leadership – We foster a culture of partnership through collaboration.



Inclusivity – We ensure diversity, equity and inclusion in all that we do.

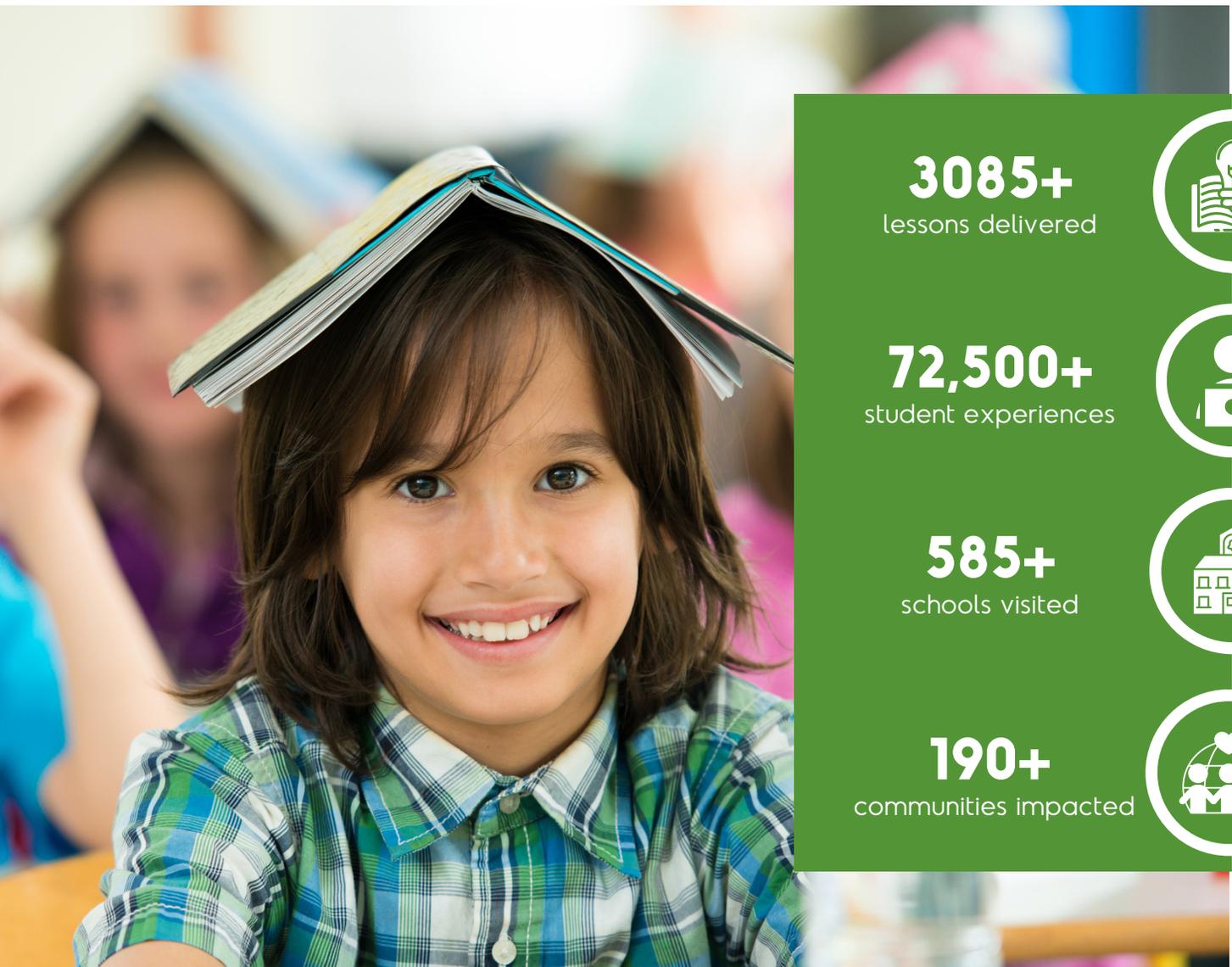


Safety – We prioritize youth, volunteer and staff safety above all.

CELEBRATING A MILESTONE

10 Years of Teacher Ambassador Program Providing Agriculture and Food Experiences to Ontario Students

The 2021-2022 school marked an important anniversary for AgScope – the 10th anniversary of the Teacher Ambassador Program (TAP). AgScope’s flagship program and unique in Canada, TAP places education professionals directly into Grade 4 to 12 classrooms to teach about agriculture and food in Ontario, in both English and French. Through energetic discussions and hands-on exercises, students learn about various aspects of our food system, each including a career component, to help them understand the range of interesting opportunities available to build a rewarding career while making a difference.



3085+

lessons delivered



72,500+

student experiences



585+

schools visited



190+

communities impacted



2022 IN REVIEW

In 2022, TAP provided over 15,000+ experiences to Ontario students, allowing them to learn essential food literacy skills and competencies as well as potential career pathways in the agriculture, food and food processing sectors.

During this year, AgScope also enhanced the program by:



Development

- Developing and releasing 3 lesson offerings for grades 4-6
- Reviewing original 12 Grade 7-12 lessons, with 12 lessons being developed for Grades 7-9 and 12 for Grades 10-12, to ensure age-appropriateness and better alignment with curriculum



Design

- Surveys were revised and designed to obtain a better understanding of student participation
- Creating a new design to help improve delivery of content



Delivery

- Offering TAP in English and French
- Delivering in-person or virtually
- Inclusivity, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility (IDEA) was and will continue to be at the forefront for content revisions and delivery





TEACHER AMBASSADOR PROGRAM LESSON TOPIC BY GRADE

4-6

- Eating Well with Canada's Food Guide
- From This to That: Food Processing in Canada
- Agriculture: Past, Present & Future

7-9

- Local Food
- Food Security
- Food Safety: From Earth to Fork
- Role of Social Media
- Climate Change
- Environmental Initiatives
- Agriculture in Canada
- Conventional & Organic Agriculture Animal Care at the Cellular Level
- Introduction to Biotechnology
- Exploring Technology & Innovations
- Careers in Agriculture & Food: Part 1

10-12

- Local & Global Food Systems
- Food Waste
- Food Safety: Challenges & Solutions
- Marketing & Design
- Climate Change: Going Global
- Environmental Stewardship
- Sustainability in Agriculture
- Tourism in Food, Beverage & Farming
- Animal Anatomy & Housing
- Biotechnology & Food Production
- Role of Technology in the Food System
- Careers in Agriculture & Food: Part 2

“

First of all, I really appreciated how well the slides were set up. It was very concise and to the point and it was really easy to follow along. There were many interactive components to the presentation which made it all more engaging. There were many informational videos included which were a really nice addition to the presentation. Overall, I feel that I learned so much from this presentation, and I feel that there are many things I can begin to implement in my own life to work towards lowering my food wastage.

”

Grade 11 student from Harold M. Brathwaite (Food Waste)

WHY WE COLLECT

Surveys are an important tool to gauge the effectiveness of a person's experiences and views. AgScape values the usage of surveys as well as the feedback that comes with them. All surveys used by AgScape are done so in a secure and confidential manner to ensure the safety of Ontario's youth and participants. AgScape provides optional surveys to youth and participants for numerous reasons. We have explained below why we survey and collect data in further detail.



Program Development

AgScape wants to continue to develop, refine, and provide programs and events that meet the needs of Ontario youth. Understanding activities that youth enjoy, do not enjoy, and want to see more of, helps us to build programs and events that are meaningful.



Marketing and Communication

Ontario youth and participant voices carry meaning. Hearing what those voices have to say and sharing it with others showcases the quality of programs and events, leading to more youth and participants becoming food-literate citizens.



Fundraising and Support

AgScape is a charitable organization dependent on the funding of members, grant providers and supporters in order to offer our programming and events for free. Due to our responsibilities to our funders, we need to capture information on youth and/or participant attitudinal changes as well as capture testimonials, so that we are able to report back and receive future funding.

Please refer to our Youth Safety Policy for more information: <https://agscape.ca/policies>.

INCLUSION, DIVERSITY, EQUITY & ACCESSIBILITY (IDEA)

As an education organization, AgScape prioritizes Inclusivity, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility (IDEA) in its education programs, resources, and events. Strategies that AgScape has implemented to help support the diverse students participating in TAP include:

Organization

Continual training is offered to staff and program facilitators.

Commitment to working with classroom educators who book the program to adjust TAP lessons as required to best suit the needs of their students.

Offering TAP for free to remove any potential financial barriers to booking the program.

Offering TAP virtually to remove any geographic barriers to delivering the program in remote areas or areas without a program facilitator.

Content

Ensuring representation in content, images, and videos in our TAP lessons.

Closed Captioning software that can be enabled through our virtual offerings of TAP.

Facilitators

Program facilitators use differentiated instruction and pedagogical methodologies to support the diversity of students who participate in a TAP lesson.

Program facilitators are experienced in working with youth and are diverse in their backgrounds, skills, and experiences.



DATA & YOUTH IMPACT

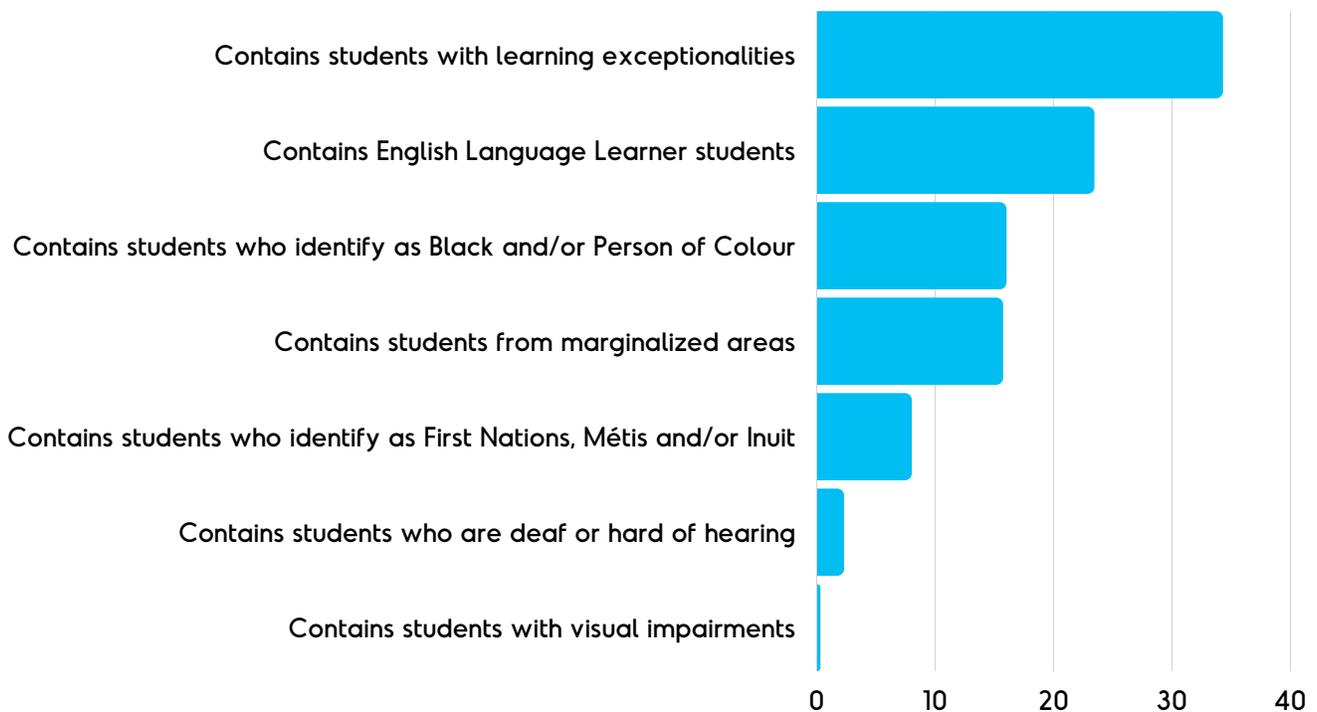
Overview

Across the Teacher Ambassador Program, there are 6 core categories - *Technology & Innovation, Environmental Impacts & Stewardship, People & Culture, Health & Wellbeing, Food Production, and Career Exploration* - to help provide Ontario students with a diversity of experiences that broaden their knowledge on the breadth of the agriculture, food, and food processing sectors. Our 25+ TAP lessons are each designed and connected to more than one core category to help Ontario students make a holistic analysis of our local and global agriculture and food communities.

In the following data, we will explore who participates in our program, key impacts and student takeaways, and how TAP has impacted Ontario students across the core categories. The survey data is representative of our student participants, as only a portion of the students and teachers who receive the program participate in the voluntary surveys.

Class Composition

To understand how we can adjust TAP to better suit the needs of Ontario students, AgScope included inclusive demographic questions in its surveys and program registration form.



Student Voices & Impacts

The success of the program's design and delivery model is emphasized through the shared voices and responses of Ontario students. Ontario students shared that after participating in TAP, the top thoughts that come to mind when thinking about agriculture and food were:



Safe &
Healthy



Environmentally
Sensitive



Innovative/
Creative



Trustworthy

“

Today's lesson taught me a lot of information about agriculture today, and was WAY different compared to what I thought it was all about. It was fun to learn about how technology and new innovations continue to improve the agriculture sector!

”

Grade 7 student from William Berczy Public School (Exploring Technology & Innovations)

Fostering a growth mindset plays an equally important role in the success of the program. Our TAP lessons are designed and delivered to encourage Ontario students to be interested in learning more about agriculture and food.

68%

Of students expressed a medium to high level of curiosity in learning more about agriculture and food.



TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION

Students agree biotechnology and genetically modified organisms play an important role in ensuring an abundance of food supply.

59%

Of students agreed pre-lesson



100%

Of students agreed post-lesson

Genetically modified organisms are safe and healthy for humans to consume.

38%

Of students agreed pre-lesson



78%

Of students agreed post-lesson

Canadian farmers and the food industry use a variety of advanced technologies to make food production more efficient, profitable, and environmentally friendly.

56%

Of students agreed pre-lesson



75%

Of students agreed post-lesson

Top Values



Technology and innovations continue to work towards reducing impact on the environment.



Technology and innovations have been tested for safety of humans, animals and plants.



Technology and innovations allow farmers to produce more food for people to eat.



Advancements in agriculture and food technology.

“

I think this lesson and AgScope session was extremely informative and allowed a deeper dive into the agriculture life and how technology significantly helped farmers and consumers. This lesson explores a lot of things such as a very cool and informative 360 degrees youtube video that can show a lot about a farmers life. This lesson is really vital for young minds that would like to be in the agriculture world.

”

Grade 8 student from William Berczy Public School (Exploring Technology & Innovations)

PEOPLE & CULTURE



Of youth agreed that a variety of people of different backgrounds, cultures, and skills work in agriculture and food.

Food processing plays an important role in our food system.

64%

Of students agreed pre-lesson



81%

Of students agreed post-lesson

Farming plays an important role in our food system.

56%

Of students agreed pre-lesson



94%

Of students agreed post-lesson

The beverage industry plays an important role in our food system.

63%

Of students agreed pre-lesson



82%

Of students agreed post-lesson

Top Values



Recruiting passionate, young, and innovative people to work in the agriculture and food industry to help bring about change.



Food that is affordable to buy.



Building knowledge about food and how to handle it correctly.

“

I learned plenty of things. There were so many factors that went into agriculture that I didn't even know about. Agriculture is one of the most important parts of our lives. All the people who contribute to farming and growing food are important people. They farm for the future.

”

Grade 11 student from Lisgar Collegiate Institute (Climate Change)

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS & STEWARDSHIP

Canadian farmers have a positive effect on the environment and can help biodiversity.

50%

Of students agreed pre-lesson



64%

Of students agreed post-lesson

The agriculture and food industries continually work to reduce their effects on climate change.

26%

Of students agreed pre-lesson



53%

Of students agreed post-lesson

Globally, it is important that everyone (from farmer to consumer) plays a role in reducing the effects of climate change, as climate change may not affect all countries equally.

63%

Of students agreed pre-lesson



82%

Of students agreed post-lesson

Top Values



Recruiting passionate young people to work in the agriculture and food industry to help bring about change.



When we produce food, we also work to preserve the environment for future use.



Technology and innovations continue to work towards reducing impact on the environment.



Setting environmental footprint goals for industries, businesses, and people.

“

I thought it was very insightful to learn and see how even the littlest contribution to food waste can really affect the entire industry on a large scale. I'm willing to learn more what I can do to participate in the over arching resolution to food waste and appreciation of people who work in the food industry.

”

Grade 11 student from Harold M. Brathwaite (Food Waste)

HEALTH & WELLBEING



Of youth agreed that having food literacy skills is important for their health and wellbeing.

Canada has one of the safest food systems in the world.

46%

Of students agreed pre-lesson



56%

Of students agreed post-lesson

Acquiring accurate, balanced, and current information about agriculture and food can play an important role in working towards food security.

74%

Of students agreed pre-lesson



80%

Of students agreed post-lesson

Food safety is dependent on every part of the food system value chain.

74%

Of students agreed pre-lesson



79%

Of students agreed post-lesson

Top Values



There is a wide variety of food options that meet nutritional needs.



Reducing food and product waste at every stage of the food system.



Safe transportation of food.



Knowledge and skills in proper washing, prepping, and storing of food.



I learned a lot about food safety, what I can do to be more safe, to help others be more safe and what is done to ensure my safety when it comes to harmful bacteria.



Grade 12 student from Fellowes High School (Food Safety: Challenges & Solutions)

FOOD PRODUCTION

The agriculture industry uses best practices/strategies to maintain the health and welfare of their animals.

33%

Of students agreed pre-lesson



66%

Of students agreed post-lesson

Organic and conventional (non-organic) agriculture and food products are equally safe, healthy, and nutritious for human consumption.

45%

Of students agreed pre-lesson



67%

Of students agreed post-lesson

Farmers use many strategies to manage pests that can harm their plants.

45%

Of students agreed pre-lesson



66%

Of students agreed post-lesson

Top Values



Understanding the use of steroids in animals.



Building knowledge of the relationship between animal agriculture and the environment.



Transparency from the agriculture and food industry in how and why crops or animals are genetically modified.



Reducing food and product waste at every stage of the food system.

“

Brought more awareness to farmers and farming in general. Definitely made me more invested in the topic of farming, agriculture, and new technology to improve and further lengthen our time here on earth.

”

Grade 11 student from Lisgar Collegiate Institute (Climate Change)

CAREER EXPLORATION

20% Of youth agreed they plan to go to a post-secondary institution to pursue higher education related to agriculture and food.

58% Of youth agreed or strongly agreed there is a wide variety of career opportunities for them in areas such as science, technology, engineering, art, and math (STEAM) in food and farming.

Top Values



You can make a difference.



You get to be a part of a strong and close community.



There is financial security.

“

I thought it was very insightful to learn and see how even the littlest contribution to food waste can really affect the entire industry on a large scale. I liked getting to know the benefits of buying local! I also enjoyed the activities involved and how it made my whole class discuss the answers together. Our TA was very kind and I loved the personal slide about the Oreo cows. All in all, it was a great lesson!

Grade 9 Student from Sir Winston Churchill Public School (Local Food)

”





CONCLUSION

AgScape's pre and post-lesson data emphasizes the success of delivering agriculture and food education in the classroom. In each of the core areas, there are positive attitudinal changes on hot topic issues as well as increased knowledge overall on the food system. This also demonstrates the gaps that AgScape is helping to fill by providing dynamic, interactive, and engaging education.

As a result of our programs, we are able to:



Create a growth mindset that helps Ontario students know, understand, and question.



Provide Ontario students with tools and knowledge to make food decisions that enable them to be healthy.



Provide Ontario students with the skills to solve problems and innovate to work out challenges in the food system.



Empower Ontario students to work towards making positive local and global change.



THANKFUL FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Being able to grow and empower Ontario youth to become agriculture and food-literate citizens is only made possible because of the contributions of our supporters. To help continue to grow the impact of our programs and help the over 2 million Ontario students learn about our food system, we encourage you to take action by:



Donating to AgScape! For your donation, you are helping more Ontario students understand the Canadian food system and how they can feel empowered to make a difference.



Volunteering with AgScape! Help make a difference in students' lives by volunteering and sharing your passion and love for agriculture and food with them.



Sharing information about our programs in your school community! Helping more teachers to know about and use our programs will help more Ontario students become agriculture and food literate.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

AgScape | Youth Impact Report 2022

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WHY SUPPORT US

For over 30 years, AgScape has been the voice of agriculture in the classroom, providing balanced, evidence-based, curriculum-linked food literacy programs and resources to Ontario's educators and students.

Help us bring free agriculture and food education to every student and educator in Ontario!

Become a member or donate today.



SCAN ME

Stay informed by subscribing to our newsletter.



SCAN ME



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