

State of Iowa  
1930

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Report of the  
Department of Agriculture  
For the Period Ending June 30, 1930

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M. G. THORNBURG  
Secretary of Agriculture

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#### LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

*To His Excellency, John Hammill, Governor of Iowa.*

SIR: I herewith submit the annual report of the Department of Agriculture for the biennial period ending June 30, 1930.

Respectfully yours,

M. G. THORNBURG,  
*Secretary of Agriculture.*

November 1, 1930.

## REPORT OF THE IOWA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FOR THE PERIOD ENDING JUNE 30, 1930

M. G. THORNBURG, Secretary of Agriculture

The Iowa Department of Agriculture has made more progress along fundamental lines during the year of 1929 than during any other like period since its formation in 1923. Part of this progress has been due to the opportunities for service during the year and part has been due to the better organization of the department.

The improvement in the quality of poultry and eggs marketed, the improvement in the marketing of dairy products, the co-operation with farm and co-operative marketing organizations in their efforts to take advantage of the opportunities offered by the Federal Farm Board are only a few of the lines of effort that have shown results in the marketing phases of the work.

In poultry marketing, the department, in co-operation with specialists from Iowa State College, held a series of meetings throughout the state to which both producers and dealers were invited, in order to encourage the production and marketing of higher quality poultry. This was the second year that such meetings were held and they have proven very helpful in getting a larger percentage of dealers to buy on grade, as well as to encourage the production of higher quality poultry. These meetings have backed up the regulatory work of our inspectors.

The Iowa State Brand Creameries, Incorporated, has made a substantial growth during the year. This is a centralized marketing agency of co-operative creameries which have united in order to market their product. Their plan has proved to be workable and no doubt will encourage further developments along this line.

Live stock and grain organizations of the state have been busy during the past year in reorganizing along lines so that they could co-operate with the Federal Farm Board in the marketing of live stock and grain. The final form of these organizations is still somewhat doubtful, but there is no question that a substantial growth will be recorded.

In all of these different types of co-operative organizations, it has been the policy of Iowa co-operatives to retain the merit and strength of local individual organizations, increasing their efficiency through standardization, securing the best possible outlet



for their products, and securing efficient management. In addition they have been endeavoring to co-operate with the Farm Board in securing a centralized marketing power of producers, together with better financing and orderly marketing.

Farm organizations have proven to be a very valuable source of aid in the development of Iowa agriculture. All of their organizations have been of help to the department and the department likewise has tried to aid the farm groups in furthering their work.

The department appreciates this co-operation which we have received, not only from farm organizations but the numerous organizations with which we have come in contact.

The state-wide area law for the eradication of bovine tuberculosis has made it possible to make great progress in the eradication of tuberculosis. At the end of the year there were 54 counties that were accredited, 31 counties that were working for accreditation, leaving only 14 counties that were not working on the area plan. All of these 14 counties had made levies for the work, and will start the testing for eradication of tuberculosis at a comparatively early date. A total of 1,018,455 tuberculin tests were applied during the year, locating 15,187 reactors, thus materially reducing the spread of the disease to healthy live stock and at the same time protecting human life from that source of infection.

#### THE AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

There was no great change in the total amount of agricultural wealth produced in 1929 as compared to 1928. The total number of hogs marketed was slightly less than in 1928, but the price was slightly higher, thereby increasing the returns somewhat as compared to the previous year. The total receipts from cattle were also slightly greater than in 1928. There was no material change in the total returns from sheep, though more sheep were marketed, as the price was slightly lower.

In live stock products there was a slight gain particularly in the total receipts from the sale of dairy products. For the first time in the history of the state, Iowa creameries produced over 200,000,000 pounds of creamery butter. The average price of butter was approximately  $2\frac{3}{4}$  cents per pound lower than the previous year, but the increase of 8 per cent in total pounds manufactured, increased the total returns for dairy products above that of the previous year. The sale of poultry increased approximately 10,000,000 pounds during the year but the price declined approximately 3 cents per pound, so that the total returns from poultry showed little change. The average price received for eggs during

the year was 26 cents a dozen as compared to 25 cents the previous year, and coupled with a slightly larger production this made a net increase in value. Wool prices showed some decline, but an increased clip made the total returns practically comparable with the previous year.

The total returns from live stock and live stock products for the year was \$559,737,000 as compared to \$515,028,419 for 1928, thus showing a substantial increase in the value of live stock and live stock products. The returns from crops sold partially offset this increase. The average price of corn was approximately 10 cents lower per bushel than the previous year, while some decline in oats, with practically the same returns from miscellaneous crops, made the total value of crops sold \$103,253,000 as compared to \$135,631,000 in 1928.

The inventory of live stock, which is the other factor which must be taken into consideration in computing the agricultural wealth, increased slightly in value. This increase was mainly in cattle, while the horses, mules and sheep showed some decline. The total gain in inventory shows an increase of \$6,262,000 in 1929 as compared to a gain of \$35,000,000 in 1928. This small amount of gain in the inventory value of live stock on farms was responsible for lowering the gross wealth produced in the state in 1929 as compared to 1928. The total gross wealth for 1929 was \$669,052,000 as compared to \$686,111,000 in 1928.

#### DAIRY AND FOOD DIVISION

There are over 20 laws under the administration of the Dairy and Food Division of the Iowa Department of Agriculture which relate to the handling of food and food products. In addition there are now other laws to be enforced. These laws are put on the statute books for a purpose; not to incriminate or annoy those in business, or the public, as some are inclined to think at times, but to help the honest merchant or food producer by protecting him from unscrupulous and dishonest competition, as well as safeguarding the public by giving them some assurance that their purchase is all that is claimed for it, both in quality and quantity of food products purchased.

Prior to the time when the Agricultural Department was formed, the inspection service was conducted by three distinct divisions, namely, Dairy and Food, Hotel, and Oil. During recent years, all of these lines of inspection have been conducted by the one group of inspectors. Their territories have also been definitely outlined so that it has been possible to do the work more efficiently

and economically than before. There are now approximately 35,000 establishments which these different inspectors must visit in handling the routine work of their inspections.

There are 33 men in the Dairy and Food Division who do inspection work. In addition, we have a laboratory which co-operates with the field force in making laboratory examination of different products which must be checked up in various ways. During the past year, approximately 170,000 separate inspections were made on different places of business, such inspections covering sanitation, weights and measures, labeling and various other phases of the work. In addition to the regular line of inspection work our inspectors must aid in making many surveys and conducting special investigations along various lines. One of the important lines of special work during 1929 was conducting 104 meetings of poultry producers and dealers, with a total attendance of 4,251 persons. The afternoon meetings were held for producers and the evening meetings were for poultry buyers. This is the second year that such meetings have been held and we believe that they are doing a great deal to improve the quality of Iowa's poultry.

During the past year we have had an additional chemist in the laboratory. His entire time has been spent in analyzing commercial feeds. Approximately 1,000 samples of feeds from all parts of the state have been analyzed during this period. These analyses, and the inspection of the labeling of the feeds by our inspectors not only protect the consumer of feeds but also protect the manufacturer against dishonest and unfair competition. The majority of feeds have been correctly labelled and the guarantees have been within the law, thus showing that the majority of manufacturers have been trying to do a reliable business.

Last year 2,187 samples of seed were tested in the laboratory. One thousand eight hundred and eighty-four of these samples were collected by our inspectors and 403 were submitted by farmers in order that they might check upon the quality of the seeds, which they were expecting to plant. Out of this group of samples, it was necessary to remove from sale, only 51 lots of seed due to having an excess of noxious weeds. Twenty-four of these 51 lots were sold by Iowa dealers, the other 27 having been imported into the state from outside sources. Farmers should generally guard against the purchase of seed direct from dealers out of the state, as such seed does not need to comply with the Iowa law as it is an interstate movement. If such seeds are purchased they should be tested for purity and germination.

During the past year Iowa creameries manufactured 214,561,518 pounds of butter which is an 8 2/3% increase over 1928 and is the largest make of butter which has ever been manufactured by Iowa creameries. This increased manufacture of creamery butter has come about through the increased volume in the present creameries as there was only one additional creamery in Iowa in 1929, as compared to 1928. In point of numbers, 58% of our creameries are co-operative, 29% are individually owned, and 13% are centralizers. In production the difference between the centralizer and the co-operative output is slight. For several years, the centralizers have led the co-operatives by a few million pounds but this year the co-operatives have increased their volume until it slightly exceeds the amount made by the centralizers. During the past year, there has been a considerable increase in the amount of butter sold to patrons. This reflects the efforts made by creameries in pushing the local sales, and also partially reflects the lower prices received for the product.

Iowa continues to be second in the production of creamery butter, with Minnesota ranking first and Wisconsin third. New York still leads in receipts of creamery butter from Iowa, with 44% of the butter which is sold out of the state, while Chicago received 25%; Philadelphia, 6.3% and Boston, 2.4%; the remaining 22.3% going to other markets.

#### ANIMAL INDUSTRY DIVISION

Disease control work is of vital importance, not only to the live stock industry of the state, but to all of its citizens, as the major portion of our agricultural income is derived through the marketing of live stock. In addition to the commercial aspects of disease control work, some types are of particular interest from a public health standpoint, therefore making the question of live stock disease control a problem which cannot be separated from public health problems.

Sanitary supervision covering the movement of live stock and the distribution of milk, meat and poultry products, are logical problems for consideration from the standpoint of sanitary officials. The work of preventing and controlling diseases of live stock, which is of equal importance, comes under the general supervision of the Animal Industry Division.

Tuberculosis eradication is one of the important phases of disease control work. During the past year we have made greater progress in the eradication of this disease than during any like period since the department has been organized. When this work



started in the state, our tests indicated over 5% infection. Our records during the past year show that this infection has been materially reduced and is now less than 1½%. As soon as it is possible to complete the area test in all of the counties, the amount of bovine tuberculosis found will be reduced to a comparatively negligible quantity as compared to the infection which was present when the work started on a county area basis.

Under the state-wide area law which was adopted by the 43rd General Assembly, it is possible to make more rapid progress than before. The state-wide area law is as much in advance of the county area law as the county area law was in advance of the individual herd testing, which was the method used prior to the adoption of the county area law. One of the problems in tuberculosis eradication is to prevent reinfection of clean herds. Whenever the entire state has been tested, there will be less reinfection of clean herds and clean counties, thereby largely eliminating the most important costs in testing, namely, the loss to both the state and the owner from reactor cattle. The working out of the state-wide law will also allow a freer movement of live stock from one herd or one county to another, thereby aiding in the live stock development of the entire state.

The recent decision of the Supreme Court declaring the state wide bovine tuberculosis eradication law constitutional settles all legal questions. It is now only a matter of time and finances until Iowa will be a modified accredited area.

The control of contagious abortion is an important question that is confronting Iowa cattle men. The 43rd General Assembly decided that the first step in combating the further spread of this disease was to require the agglutination test for contagious abortion of all dairy and breeding cattle imported into the state. The working out of this law has been quite generally satisfactory and it is likely that this test has been partially responsible for the increased interest of individual owners in testing their own cattle, thereby aiding in the development of abortion-free herds.

Our policy in the administration of all matters relating to live stock diseases will be to continue to work with farmers and local veterinarians in a practical manner in order that live stock diseases may be reduced to a minimum. Iowa is particularly fortunate in having a large group of well-trained veterinarians who look upon their work from the standpoint of high professional ethics, and have been particularly successful in eliminating any losses that would have otherwise occurred. These men have not

only been helpful in the testing of cattle for tuberculosis, but their co-operation in hog cholera control, in combatting contagious abortion, anthrax and many other diseases, deserve special mention. In each county we have appointed one veterinarian to act as assistant state veterinarian and to have charge of emergency work in the control of live stock diseases. These men work on a per diem basis when an emergency arises. This has proven to be a practical means of checking up, not only on importations of live stock, but upon emergency calls in live stock disease work.

#### IOWA WEATHER AND CROP BUREAU

The Iowa Weather and Crop Bureau is now located in the new U. S. Court House. The adequate space which they now have, together with better working conditions, will mean that they can continue to render an increased volume of service to Iowa farmers. This division of the department is operated jointly in co-operation with the U. S. Weather Bureau, thereby giving the employees space in the federal building.

The tabulation of agricultural figures which are collected by assessors forms the basis of the work done by this department. This work has been systematized to such an extent that the plan which is in effect in Iowa has now been adopted by other states. In addition to the assessors, there are approximately 2,000 volunteer crop correspondents who are constantly answering questions on various phases of crop and live stock production problems, thereby allowing the Weather and Crop Bureau to put out a large amount of reliable data which proves to be valuable to Iowa farmers.

There are two important sources of information that are available through this division in addition to special information that is released through the daily and weekly press. One of these bulletins is the Iowa Monthly Crop Report. This tabulates all of the assessors' figures, information on live stock production, and other similar data. It is available to anyone who writes to the department and requests it. The other source of information is a weekly bulletin issued primarily for the press, radio stations, and other similar institutions, giving up-to-date information regarding crop and live stock conditions, rainfall in different sections, etc.

The Weather and Crop Bureau also acts as a statistical division for the department. A large amount of valuable data has been compiled for use of the Executive Council, Board of Assessment and Review, farm organizations relating to land valuation,

live stock valuations, and similar problems. This data has been valuable in securing reductions in land and live stock valuations for taxation purposes, as well as in railroad rate cases. In the great majority of cases, the information that has been compiled by this division has been the basis of the claims presented, thereby helping to secure some relief from both excessive taxes and railroad rates.

#### STATE ENTOMOLOGIST

This division of the department, like the Weather and Crop Bureau, is operated jointly with another institution, thereby increasing the efficiency of the work and decreasing the necessary cost. In the case of the State Entomologist, the office is run cooperatively with the Iowa Experiment Station and the Iowa State College. Under the provision of the Iowa Crop Pest Law, the entomologist of the Iowa Experiment Station is the state entomologist in charge of regulatory work. This gives the regulatory work, which comes under the state entomologist an experienced man as director, while at the same time it brings the entomologist of the Experiment Station in close contact with the crop pests of the state.

The work of inspecting Iowa nurseries is one of the chief duties of the assistant state entomologist. This inspection is necessary on account of state and federal regulations controlling the interstate shipment of nursery plants. In addition, this inspection protects Iowa people against possible infection of insect fungus diseases and they are assured that they are purchasing nursery stock that is entirely free from the insect or fungus pests. This inspection work has an important economical influence on the growth of the nursery business in our state, since Iowa is one of the leading states in the union in the sale of nursery stock.

The European Corn Borer and the danger of infestation from that source, in Iowa, was one of the important reasons for consolidating the State Entomologist's office with this department. During the past year the European Corn Borer has made some advance towards Iowa and is now in Indiana and Michigan, spreading by natural sources from 25 to 40 miles per year. Adequate provisions which have been enforced by the federal government have been responsible for holding down any large outbreaks of the corn borer due to insects being carried by tourists or shipments of products which harbor the corn borer. However, the insect has been gradually spreading towards Iowa and from all appearances, it will eventually be a crop pest that will have

to be combatted in this state. In the meantime we are in constant danger of an outbreak of the pest in Iowa; therefore, we are doing adequate scout work in all parts of the state to be on constant guard against this pest.

Some progress has been made in controlling the corn borer in sections of the country where it is well established. As yet no satisfactory method has been determined for its complete eradication. However, the methods that are being followed showed that it is possible to keep the corn borer under sufficient control so that the commercial damage from the insect is comparatively light. Constant fighting of the corn borer, however, increases the cost of producing crops and is therefore a serious menace to Iowa agriculture, and we must be ever on the guard in order to try and keep the pest from becoming established within the state.

#### OTHER LINES OF WORK

One of the new duties which was given to the Secretary of Agriculture by the 43rd General Assembly was the general supervision of the Noxious Weed Law. This law is an amendment of the former Noxious Weed Law and was changed with the primary idea of fixing greater responsibility, thereby getting a greater degree of law enforcement than was formerly the case. The new law as outlined, authorizes a weed commissioner in each township or incorporated city. This commissioner has supervision of the eradication of noxious weeds in his particular territory. We have suggested that in starting the enforcement of this new law, the weed commissioners hold the legal phases of the law in the background, using them for emergency cases and to stimulate the community towards the proper eradication of noxious weeds. We believe that in the enforcement of any law its success is due to public sentiment and that if the majority of people properly understand the Noxious Weed Law, we will secure this type of co-operation from the great majority of people who are involved.

Under the new weed law, the board of supervisors also have greater responsibility and they must give general supervision to the work in their respective counties, appointing weed commissioners if the trustees or town councils fail to do so. In addition, they must publish notice each spring giving the time and manner when different noxious weeds are to be cut or otherwise destroyed. The board of supervisors shall also decide on all major problems, secure reports from weed commissioners, and make a tabulation of such reports to this office.

It is the duty of this office, under the new law, to co-operate



with the board of supervisors in the enforcement of the act, publish copies of the weed law and other educational material for distribution, and to aid in any other way that may be practical.

The Stallion Registration Division reports increased interest in the breeding of horses, but the reports indicate a falling off in the number of licensed stallions which are being used for public service. The increased breeding operations and the decrease in the number of stallions mean that each individual stallion is breeding more mares than was the case during previous years. The decreased number of stallions also indicates that Iowa will continue to be a market for good pure bred stallions and that the purchasers of these stallions should secure more favorable returns in the near future than has been true during the past five or ten years.

The Iowa Farm Warehouse Act has continued to serve a useful purpose in some communities of the state, but its general use has been somewhat lessened in recent years because of loans being taken care of, to a larger extent, through local banks. This act has been adopted by Illinois and North Dakota, and will probably be most successful in states like North Dakota where wheat is the principal grain which is warehoused, while in Iowa the corn that is warehoused is principally fed to live stock. We can probably expect a continued decline in the use of the Warehouse Act in Iowa as long as banks or their local institutions are able to take care of the necessary loans in the storing of such grain for feeding purposes.

#### STATE AID ORGANIZATIONS

Farmers' Institutes, Short Courses and Poultry Shows which are furnished aid through the state, still hold an important place in helping to promote agricultural meetings and shows in local communities. One of the important reasons for the success of such local organizations is that they receive the support of local farmers and business men in a financial way, as well as being entirely supervised by the local people. The following quotation from the report of the federal office on Farmers' Institutes is typical of the continued progress that is being made with these organizations:

"As indicative of the desire of farmers in several states to have farmers' institutes in addition to the newer methods of extension or county agent work, attention is called to the fact that in Iowa the state appropriation for farmers' institutes amounting to \$4,323.96 was supplemented by farmers and other local

people in the neighborhood of the institute contributing to the extent of \$17,714.49 which is over four times the state aid. In Georgia the state appropriation used for farmers' institutes was augmented by twice its amount from private donations, while in Indiana private contributions of \$19,650.70 amounted to nearly one and a half times as much as the state funds spent for farmers' institute work. In Ohio, state farmers' institute funds were almost met by private donations amounting to \$16,185.85.

"No changes have occurred either in the conduct or in the management of farmers' institutes during the year. In Illinois, Iowa, and Maine, the only states holding farmers' institutes that are conducted and managed by agencies other than the extension service at the colleges of agriculture, the institutes are so completely lined up with the county agent and other extension forces that they simply supplement, reinforce and support the organized extension program just as is being done in those states where farmers' institutes are conducted and managed by the extension service at the college of agriculture. The state colleges of agriculture are therefore now supreme and in sole command of the agricultural extension program, progress, and trend in their respective states."

The number of short courses has increased from one short course in 1926 to 14 in 1929. In the majority of cases this type of aid has been used to help put on an achievement show program in counties that do not have a county fair. The rapid growth in the use of short course aid makes it necessary to ask for an increased appropriation to take care of this development. We would also suggest that the law covering aid to such short courses or achievement shows be changed in order to further encourage such exhibitions in counties that do not receive state aid for county fairs. This would be more economical than to make more liberal requirements for county fair aid, although the same result could be obtained if the latter policy was adopted. There are now 23 counties that do not receive state aid for county fairs and these counties deserve some state aid in sponsoring the junior club work and other agricultural activities.

#### AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS

There are several different agricultural organizations which receive state aid for the promotion of a definite type of work. These organizations are:

Iowa State Dairy Association  
 Iowa Beef Producers' Association  
 Iowa Corn and Small Grain Growers' Association  
 Iowa Horticultural Society  
 Horticultural Exposition  
 Iowa Horse and Mule Breeders' Association.

These different organizations are for the service of some particular type of live stock, grain and horticulture. They are sponsored by different groups of producers within the state. The voluntary work which is done by members of these organizations is undoubtedly responsible for the effectiveness of the work, as compared to the small amount of state aid which is provided. Completed reports of each of these organizations are found in their respective parts of the Iowa Yearbook of Agriculture and demonstrate that the state aid which they have been receiving in the past has been effectively used in aiding Iowa agriculture. The work of these organizations should be continued along the lines which are already established.

## FINANCES

During the past year the fees received by the department have totaled \$226,928.06. These have been deposited with the state treasurer. The total expenditures of the Department, excepting the special appropriation for tuberculosis eradication, amounted to \$214,356.82. In other words, the department was more than self-supporting, the total income being \$12,571.24 greater than the expenditures.

The following financial statement for the period from July 1, 1929 to June 30, 1930, shows first the appropriation which was made for different purposes. The second column shows the amount of the appropriation which was expended. The third column shows the balance. You will note that in every case we have lived within our income. The largest balance is in the special corn borer appropriation as there was no outbreak of the corn borer in Iowa. During the ensuing year the total expenditures for expense of the department will be slightly greater than during the past year on account of the replacement of the cars operated by the department. However, we will continue to live within our income.

We are also including in the report a statement showing the amount of state money expended for tuberculosis eradication and including a statement of the amount of county and federal funds expended.

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT

July 1, 1929, to June 30, 1930

Department	Appropriation	Disbursements	Balance
Agri. Dept. Salaries .....	\$128,600.00	\$127,615.00	\$ 984.34
Agri. Dept. Expenses .....	42,000.00	31,887.20	11,290.60
	1,177.80	refunds	
Iowa Beef Producers.....	6,250.00	5,879.18	370.82
Corn and Small Grain Growers..	4,250.00	4,250.00	
Dairy Association .....	6,250.00	6,250.00	
Hort. Exposition .....	3,500.00	3,500.00	
Hort. Society .....	6,250.00	6,250.00	
Farmers Institutes, Short Courses and Poultry Shows .....	11,000.00	11,000.00	
Board of Vet. Examiners.....	400.00	140.78	259.22
Horse Breeders Ass'n .....	6,250.00	6,079.78	541.14
	370.92	refunds	
Weather and Crop Bureau.....	8,600.00	8,564.56	35.44
Entomologist .....	9,000.00	6,424.66	2,606.54
	31.20	refunds	
Corn Borer .....	100,000.00		100,000.00
Totals .....	\$333,929.92	\$217,841.82	\$116,088.10
Fees received by Agricultural Department, year ending 6-30-30.			\$226,928.06
Total disbursements .....			217,841.82
Balance .....			\$ 9,086.24
Amount transferred to different departments which is included in the above disbursements .....			3,485.00
Actual balance .....			\$ 12,571.24

## TUBERCULOSIS ERADICATION FUND

July 1, 1929, to July 1, 1930

State Funds		
Indemnity .....	\$178,226.98	
Salaries and operating expenses..	71,773.02	
		\$250,000.00
County Funds		
Indemnity .....	\$202,298.81	
Salaries and operating expenses..	202,347.64	
		404,646.45
Federal Funds		
Indemnity .....	\$367,273.83	
Salaries and operating expenses..	51,893.13	
		419,166.96
		\$1,073,813.41



## RECOMMENDATIONS

We would suggest the following legislation which would involve changes affecting the agricultural department:

First—Inspection fee on oleomargarine.

Second—State aid to the Iowa Sheep and Wool Growers Association.

Third—State aid to the Iowa Swine Producers' Association.

Fourth—Gasoline standard law.

Fifth—Changes in the fertilizer law.

Sixth—Changes in the law in regard to state aid to county poultry associations.

Seventh—An increase in the appropriation for farmers' institutes, short courses and poultry associations and such changes that are necessary to allow farm achievement shows to qualify for short course aid.

State of Iowa

1929

Forty-third Annual Report  
Dairy and Food Division

OF THE

Iowa Department of Agriculture

For the Year Ending December 31, 1929

Reprinted from the  
Thirtieth Annual Year Book  
of Agriculture

Issued by the  
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