



FROM THE PRESIDENT — Taylor Haynes
Connecting The Dots
Climate

It is well documented centuries old knowledge that the Sun is the prime driver of earth's climate. This is despite the Man caused climate change cult.

Solar cycles have been monitored for centuries. In recent years, the sun's activity has increased determined by the number of "sunspots" and their magnitude. It is said to be approaching a "Grand Maximum" by 2025. Historically a Grand Maximum is followed by a "Grand Minimum" at which time, the amount of solar energy reaching the earth will be reduced.

The most famous Grand Minimum may have produced the Little Ice Age. This occurred roughly from 1300 to 1850 AD. The planet was cooled sufficiently so rivers like the Thames in London froze in winter. The ice was strong enough to allow fairs and winter festivals to be held. The Little Ice Age was preceded by the medieval warming period from about 900-1300 AD and followed by a warming period from the 1850's to the present.

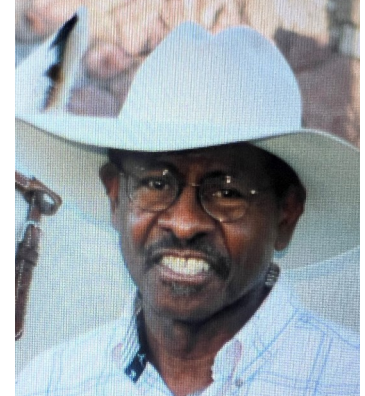
Do not confuse The Little Ice Age with the Classic Ice age where the Earth was covered with miles deep sheets of Ice with perhaps slush at the equator. The earth cooled enough to freeze rivers and shorten growing seasons, thereby decreasing food production, and causing famines in northern and central Europe. Alpine glaciers advanced far below their previous (and present) limits, obliterating farms, churches and villages in Switzerland, France, and elsewhere. The north Atlantic cod fisheries collapsed as ocean temperatures fell in the 17th century.

During the 15th century, as pack ice and storms increased in the north Atlantic, Norse colonies in Greenland were cut off from the rest of Norse civilization. The western colony of Greenland collapsed through starvation, and the eastern colony was abandoned. Iceland became increasingly isolated from Scandinavia when the southern limit of sea ice expanded to encapsulate the Island and lock it in for longer and longer periods during the year. Sea Ice grew from zero average before the year 1200 AD to eight weeks in the 13th century and forty weeks in the 19th century.

In North America between 1250 and 1500 AD, the American Indian cultures of the upper Mississippi valley, and the western prairies, began a general decline as drier conditions set in accompanied by a transition from agriculture to hunting. Over the same period in Japan, glaciers advanced, the mean winter temperature dropped 3.5 degrees centigrade (6.3 degrees Fahrenheit), and summers were marked by excessive rains and bad harvests. (John P. Rafferty)

Because of the varied effects around the globe there is debate as to the exact cause of the little Ice Age. Volcanic eruptions occurred in the far northern hemisphere like the one presently threatening Iceland. The reversal of the North Atlantic Oscillation can certainly contribute to significant cooling in Europe. The North Atlantic Oscillation is a large scale atmospheric circulation pattern over the North Atlantic and adjacent areas. During its "positive" phase, characterized by a strong subtropical high-pressure cell over the Azores and a low-pressure cell over Iceland, the track of North Atlantic storms is roughly centered

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over the British Isles and northern Europe. During its “negative” phase, characterized by a weak high-pressure cell over the Azores and a low-pressure cell over Iceland moisture is funneled toward the Mediterranean, and cold Arctic air from Russia moves over northern Europe. (Stephen T. Jackson & John P. Rafferty)

The National Institute of Health (NIH) website predicted a cooling period from 2020 through 2053. NASA and NOAA have changed the information on their website to slight disagreement. Other non-government scientists agree with the NIH prediction. Clearly, we simply must wait and see.

As an agriculturist and surgeon, the point of this article is we should hope for the best but prepare for the worst. Therefore, we should learn about cool season table crops, greenhouse, and heat pump technology. These will be critical if prolonged cooling happens.

February Brings Major Success at 3rd Farm Bill Summit in Washington, D.C.

By Marty Irby, OCM Director & Board Secretary

This month the Organization for Competitive Markets (OCM) and Competitive Markets Action (CMA), saw great success in Washington, D.C., at our 3rd Farm Bill Summit and Fly-In held February 4-8 with around 30 attendees who discussed our issues in 90 Congressional meetings on Capitol Hill. Our meetings covered OCM’s opposition to the terrible EATS Act, H.R. 4417/S. 2019; and our support for the enactment of the Opportunities for Fairness in Farming (OFF) Act led by Reps. Nancy Mace, R-SC, Dina Titus, D-NV, and Sens. Mike Lee, R-UT, Rand Paul, R-KY, Cory Booker, D-NY, and Elizabeth Warren, D-MA, to reform USDA’s scandal-ridden checkoff programs you’re all forced to pay into.

Every single meeting we had went great and it was most certainly the best fly-in we’ve had to date. Despite the constant attacks from Berman Co., and the co-called National Cattlemen’s Beef Association (NCBA), that represents less than 5% of all beef producers, we were warmly received by many staff and the actual Members of Congress. I’m beginning to see that the more these demonic forces at NCBA and Berman attack us, the more God protects us and gives us a greater platform and resources to continue our work.

We had the good fortune to bring a slew of new members and attendees to Capitol Hill this trip from Niman Ranch, Heritage Foods, and the President and Founder of Latino Farmers and Ranchers International as well as folks from Alabama, Mississippi, West Virginia, Kentucky, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, California, Missouri, Iowa, Maryland, Oklahoma, and even the U.S. Territory of Guam.

OCM and CMA jointly announced and presented our first annual Congressional Competitive Markets Awards during the fly-in at the Capitol Hill Club during our two receptions and dinners. We announced 11 Leadership Award recipients and our Legislator of the Year Award recipient, U.S. Rep. Alex Mooney, R-WV.

We measured recognition by three actions in the U.S. House: Leaders of a letter to the House Agriculture Committee Chairman and Ranking Member with staunch opposition to EATS, led by Rep. Ashley Hinson, R-IA, and Sen. Roger Marshall, R-KS, that would nullify more than a thousand state and local laws that provide certainty and security in the marketplace for independent family farmers and ranchers. Those who received the Leadership Award on this issue include Reps. Andrew Garbarino, R-NY, David Valadao, R-CA, Nancy Mace, R-SC, and Michael Waltz, R-FL.

We also presented Leadership Awards to our champions of the Opportunities for Fairness in Farming (OFF) Act, H.R. 1249/S. 557, that would reform the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture’s scandal-ridden commodity checkoff programs that have been plagued by unethical and illegal activities for decades. Recipients include Reps. Nancy Mace, R-SC, and Dina Titus, D-NV, in the House, and Sens. Mike Lee, R-UT, Rand Paul, R-KY, Cory Booker, D-NJ, and Elizabeth Warren, D-MA, in the Senate.

The third metric and category we presented Leadership Awards was to those who led a House Appropriations Amendment in September of 2023 that would temporarily halt

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the corruption within USDA's Commodity Checkoff Programs by cutting off funding until a USDA OIG Audit on the programs is completed: Reps. Victoria Spartz, R-IN, and Thomas Massie, R-KY, who are both cosponsors of the OFF Act, received the award in this category.

Rep. Alex Mooney, R-WV, was selected as the Competitive Markets overall Legislator of the Year for 2023. Mooney was the only Member of Congress who supported each of the three legislative initiatives as a signor of the House letter against EATS, and a cosponsor of the OFF Act who voted in support of the Spartz-Massie checkoff amendment last year. While not a metric for the award, as the action occurred last month, Mooney also [led a House letter to Agriculture](#)

[Committee leaders](#) against increasing crop reference prices in the upcoming Farm Bill in which he was joined by Reps. Andy Ogles, R-TN, Brian Mast, R-FL, Carol Miller, R-WV, Nancy Mace, R-SC, and Andy Biggs, R-AZ as well.

Here's some encouraging quotes from Members of Congress and our Officers at OCM:

"I'm honored to be named the Competitive Markets Legislator of the Year in Congress. I am committed to keeping West Virginia family farms in the hands of our hard-working American producers," said Rep. Alex X. Mooney, R-WV, who was named Legislator of the Year for 2023. "Keeping our food supply safe from a Communist Chinese takeover is one of the most critical issues facing our country."

"American farmers and their families demand leaders with the courage to boldly defy the status quo. We stand resolute, unwavering in our refusal to be swayed by the immense power wielded by industrial agribusiness and corporate giants," said Rep. Nancy Mace, R-SC. "The time for unwavering conviction and decisive action is now."

"I'm proud to receive the Competitive Markets Leadership Award for my work to improve federal oversight of the agriculture industry," said Rep. Dina Titus, D-NV. "I am committed to promoting antitrust provisions in the Farm Bill that deter anti-competitive practices by Big Ag and keep independent producers in business. My legislation, the Opportunities for Fairness in Farming (OFF) Act, would rein in the corruption we've seen consistently in checkoff programs. Although it has been an uphill battle since introducing the bill in 2017, we've never been closer to the finish line. I strongly urge House Agriculture Committee leadership to include my legislation in the upcoming Farm Bill to protect the interests of independent farmers, ranchers, and producers around the country."



"I am grateful for this recognition by the Organization for Competitive Markets and Competitive Markets Action and am committed to ensuring American family farmers have a voice in Washington, D.C. that understands how the USDA's Commodity Checkoff Programs have coopted producers and used their own money against them," said Rep. Thomas Massie, R-KY. "The number of independent farmers and ranchers that feed our nation is swiftly dwindling due to lobbying activities the checkoff programs and multinational conglomerates engage in and we must bring reform in order to keep our food supply safe from a complete takeover by Chinese and Brazilian industrial agriculture interests."

"I'm honored to be recognized by such a wide array of American family farmers who keep our country fed," said Rep. Andrew Garbarino, R-NY. "The EATS Act would directly harm producers who practice more humane, sustainable, and regenerative agriculture and to the safety and security of our food supply. House Agriculture Committee leadership should deliver a bipartisan Farm Bill that helps keep family farmers in business instead of shutting them down."

"It's an honor to receive the Competitive Markets Leadership Award from Competitive Markets Action for promoting transparency around commodity checkoff programs," said Rep. Victoria Spartz, R-IN. "As a farmer myself, I understand the challenges small farmers and ranchers face, and I am committed to advancing competition in agriculture."

"We applaud each of these Members of Congress for their tireless work, tremendous leadership, and intestinal fortitude in standing up to Chinese interests and multinational conglomerates who continue to further consolidate American agriculture," said Taylor Haynes, President of OCM. "If Agriculture Committee leaders want to get a Farm Bill done in 2024 they'd be wise to jettison any language that nullifies state and local agriculture laws and include a provision to reform USDA's swampy checkoff slush funds."

(Irby Continued Page 8)

SAVE THE DATE—MARK YOUR CALENDAR

May 1-2, 2024

26th Annual Food and Agriculture Conference and Membership Meeting

Golden Nugget Biloxi Hotel and Casino, Biloxi, Mississippi

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE by Fred Stokes

As a part of its 26th Annual Membership Meeting in Biloxi, Mississippi at the Golden Nugget Hotel and Casino, May 1-2; OCM will hold its first in a planned series of conferences on “**Expanding Regional Agricultural Infrastructure**”. This two-day conference will explore the potential challenges and rewards associated with expanding cattle feeding and meat packing in the Southeast Region of the country.

That region is deficient in feeding and processing facilities. It currently ships large numbers of the calves produced there out West and forfeits more than two-thirds of their ultimate value in the process. For example, calves produced in Okeechobee, Florida are routinely shipped to Texas and Nebraska for feeding, a distance of some 1800 miles. Then, a major portion of the resulting beef is shipped back to Winn Dixie, Publix and other grocery chains in the South. This would seem to be a poor business model; especially in a time of high fuel prices and hyper concern over weather change!

OCM has put together a distinguished cast of presenters and panelists to lead discussions on how this situation might be changed for the better. A large gathering of folks will assemble and contemplate a “farm-gate-to-grocery-buggy-system”. Included will be cow/calf producers, truckers, feeders and feed producers, veterinarians, lenders, processors, grocers, and a number of others. We will have colored ribbons stapled to nametags to identify the various players and are planning opportunities for these folks to get with each other and make a deal.

We have been told for years; “you can’t feed cattle down here”. However, we will have François Léger, the owner and CEO of FPL Food, LLC, as our luncheon speaker and his manager, Colin Matthews as the presenter on cattle feeding in the South. FPL Food is located in Augusta, Ga. and is the 12th largest beef business in the U.S. They feed thousands of cattle and are a 20+ year, thriving success story. They are a potential model for us **and proof-positive that it can be done!**

Rather than power-point lectures on “how to”, the conference focus will be on “deal making”. The presenters will explain the rewards and benefits of keeping more of the calves here in the South for the full process of feeding and processing. They will also underscore the considerable, currently available support for expanding processing and feeding. Keeping them down here would provide new jobs and additional revenue in these rural economies. In turn that revenue would multiply as it worked its way through the economy and keep other people in business. There are a host of potential niche partnerships and businesses to explore; grass-fed, Wagyu, organic, regenerative and others.



It is going to be very difficult to predict the turnout for the event, so we have arranged to have the 9,000 square foot main ballroom available. It will be partitioned (with portable partitions) to fit the crowd that shows up.

The Mississippi Commissioner of Agriculture, Andy Gipson, is highly enthusiastic concerning the potential for this undertaking and will be the keynote speaker at the Banquet the evening of May 1st. We plan to have an array of gourmet fare on the buffet and at the end of the line, a carving station with a Steamship Round! So come join us; meet some good folks and enjoy some good food! See **REGISTRATION FORM**—Page 5.

REGISTRATION FORM
OCM 26th Annual Food and Agriculture Conference
And Membership Meeting
“Expanding Regional Agricultural Infrastructure”
May 1 and 2, 2024

Golden Nugget Biloxi, 151 Beach Boulevard, Biloxi, MS
 Call for Reservations - 800-777-7568, Group Code S240335 – OCM Block (Rate \$80-\$100++)
Special rate held until April 9, 2024
 or make your reservation on the OCM website: competitivemarkets.com

NAME (S): _____

Circle one that applies to you
 for your Name Badge: Feeder, Investor, Market, Processor, Producer, Other

COMPANY: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

EMAIL: _____

EARLY REGISTRATION DISCOUNT: \$75.00 Registration fee prior to April 1st.

REGISTRATION

_____ Number attending OCM Conference @ \$100.00 = \$ _____
 Wednesday May 1-2, REGISTRATION - 7:30 AM
 Meeting starts at 8:00 AM

_____ Number attending 2024 LUNCH @ \$25.00 \$ _____
 Wednesday, May 1 – 12:00 Noon (Buffet)

_____ Number attending 2024 RECEPTION/BANQUET @ \$55.00 = \$ _____
 Wednesday May 1, Reception 5:00 PM, Banquet 6:00 (Buffet)
 Banquet Speaker 7:00 PM

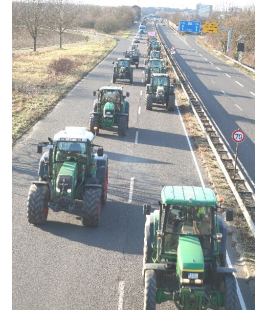
TOTAL Registration & Meals = \$ _____

_____ Attending Membership Meeting, Thursday, May 2 – 1:30 PM

Make check payable to OCM,
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Tractors Roll in Europe, India for a New Economic System! Dump the Agriculture (Military) Financial Complex!

by Robert L. Baker



Feb. 20—The mega Week of Action Jan. 8-15 in Germany, with a 100,000 tractors, trucks, farmers, and allies, holding convoys, rallies and other protests in all 16 states, was a world-significant event. The “drop that made the barrel not just overflow, but burst”—as one rally leader said, was the Federal government plan to up the price of farm-use diesel, tax farm machinery, and impose other hits on farmers, they can’t take.

Since then, the protests have spread across Europe, broadening to all sectors in the failing economy—truckers, railway men, fishermen, skilled craftsmen, health workers, and many others. In Germany 90% of the population supports the farmers.

Production Is the “Issue”

The common fight is to end the reign of the incompetent, immoral national governments, and that of the European Union (EU). In recent years, they have downsized energy, shut nuclear plants, jacked up fuel costs, caused industry to shut or leave, failed to keep up or expand infrastructure, gutted health care, and imposed measures intended to reduce agriculture, done in the name of the Green Deal Farm-to-Fork (issued May 2020 by the EU), to “save the planet.” The EU orders farmers how to farm, what inputs to use or not, while costs of production soar. Families on 15 generation farms are faced with ruin.

German Farm Leader - Anthony Lee

<https://x.com/EvaVlaar/sttus/1744326475669451120?t=5u-59YSOrs4WWLj5BBH79w&s=0>

On top of this has come economic re-militarization demanded by London, the USA, and Global NATO. The national budget lines for military and green spending are up, while the axe is out against the physical economy and public good. The banners and signs on the tractors, trucks and grandstands show the public disgust. “They Don’t Sow, They Don’t Harvest, But They Think They Know Better.” And “Without Blood, One Turns White; Without Air, One Turns Blue; Without a Brain, One Turns Green.” People have signs in their front windows, “No Farmers, No Food, No Future.”

Farm groups are cooperating, despite differences, e.g. the long-standing German Farmers Association (DBV, bauernverband.de/English) works with the newer Countryside Makes Connections (lsvdeutschland.de)

The logistics and peacefulness of the protests are unprecedented, as seen in the last six weeks in Berlin, Barcelona, Rome, Paris, and many other sites. Today is a mass rally in Athens. On Feb. 1 were tractorcades at the EU Summit in Brussels. Ports are being periodically blocked, protesting import-dumping.

U.S. Farmer Support for Europeans: Let the Tractors Roll!

A message of support signed by U.S. farm leaders was distributed in Germany beginning Jan. 8 and received with cheers when read out at the Stuttgart rally that day, and many other places. “Let the Tractors Roll,” it stated, “We U.S. farmers and ranchers send our support and admiration to German farmers and co-demonstrators... You have the guts and courage to defend the right to produce food, and demand a productive economy for all citizens...” (Click:) <https://schillerinstitute.com/blog/2024/01/10/gigantic-demonstrations-of-farmers-u-s-farm-leaders-send-full-support-let-the-tractors-roll-restore-the-economy/>

The Real Face of the Agro-Financial Complex (Click:)

[BlackRock and State Street Corporation: The Real Face of the Military-Industrial-Financial Complex \(larouche.com\)](https://larouche.com/blackrock-and-state-street-corporation-the-real-face-of-the-military-industrial-financial-complex/)

The common enemy is what is best called the agro-financial complex, with the controlling powers in it being the very same as those of the military financial complex. If you look at which firms are the major shareholders in the top agriculture and food multinationals (seeds, chemicals, fertilizer, food processing, retail) you see BlackRock, Vanguard, State Street, Goldman Sachs, and a few others, from ADM to WH Holdings/Smithfield. These are the very same as the top shareholders in the military industrial complex of RTX, General Dynamics, Northrup Grumman, and the rest.

Greed, which is bad enough, is not the worst of this network. These companies are part of the core London-Wall Street banking circle, with its satellites, e.g. Chicago and Amsterdam, the IMF and all, whose practices loot and impoverish economies. This crowd is dominating the governments in London, Washington, Brussels and Global NATO. The “Third World” was never allowed to develop. The “developed” world is in breakdown, after deregulated speculation, mega-bank bailouts, green financial rip-off bubbles and worse.

(Baker Continues Page 7)

New International Security and Development Architecture (Click:)

https://larouchepub.com/eiw/public/2023/eirv50n49-20231215/eirv50n49-20231215_008-keynote_to_dec_910_conference_th-hzl.pdf

The Global Majority Alternative

The alternative is seen in the rise of the “Global Majority.” This refers to nations of the “Global South” and especially the leadership formations such as the “BRICS”—Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa—which as of Jan. 1 became the BRICS-9, adding in Egypt, U.A.E., Iran and Ethiopia. These nations are on the move for mutual-benefit trade in non-dollar currencies (as against speculative, sanctions-prone U.S. and EU financial relations), for credit for infrastructure projects, and collaboration in building up all nations’ agriculture and industry.

In particular, these nations and dozens more, are voting in the U.N. and pushing for a ceasefire in Gaza and Ukraine. South Africa on Jan. 11 presented an air-tight case at the World Court in The Hague, that Israel is violating the 1948 Convention on Genocide, by carrying out genocide in Gaza. It’s way past time to get the negotiations going to stop the Ukraine conflict and override the London/Global NATO demands for indefinite war. If not stopped, this means nuclear annihilation for civilization.

Let’s Confer: The New System

What will guarantee a safe and good future? There are solutions if we act in the common interest with the Global Majority and the people of the U.S. and Europe, not the rotten financial axis. We can take heart from the European farmers hitting the streets, and South Africa standing up for all humanity. Right now, farmers in India are on the streets fighting the globalist cartels

Let’s confer on what the new system must be, respecting differences from nation to nation, but dumping neo-colonialist London/Wall Street. Parity pricing. Anti-trust against the multi-nationals, from farm inputs to retail. Re-regulate banking, on the Glass-Steagall principle. Back young farmers’ starting up. A million new family farms!

Hold onto your hat! It’s going to be a hard ride in 2024, but we can make it!

Limit to Tyrant’s Power

Click:) https://larouchepub.com/eiw/public/2024/eirv51n03-20240119/eirv51n03-20240119_003-no_there_is_a_limit_to_the_tyran-hzl.pdf

Robert L. Baker, Agricultural Research, Executive Intelligence Review, Thank You, Call or Text Bob at 703-554-5397 bb888k@gmail.com

MAKING A DIFFERENCE?

2024 MEMBERSHIPS ARE DUE -- Renew/Join/Donate TODAY!

OCM provides a platform for individuals and organizations to join their voices in demanding fairness and justice within the marketplace. Working together we can ensure everyone receives their fair share of America’s prosperity they build. By becoming a member, you will have access to the information and tools you need to join the fight.

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OCM MISSION STATEMENT

Keeping the spirit of Teddy Roosevelt, the original monopoly buster, OCM strives to foster and recreate food production locally, providing consumers truly transparent “Farm to Table” food systems in communities across America. OCM’s actions will stimulate local commerce while making food availability and food safety more certain.

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(Irby Continued from Page 3)

“As a proud American and lifelong producer, I proudly applaud these legislators that are committed to defeating Big Ag’s Chinese and Brazilian backers that threaten our food supply,” said Jonathan Buttram, Treasurer at OCM. “The industrial agriculture mafia is petrified of our work because they see the writing on the wall and we hope they soon meet the same fate as New York’s infamous ‘Five Families.’”

“Since the inception of the checkoff programs, illegal relationships between checkoff boards and lobbying organizations have continued and I’d bet they are illegally using our money to lobby for the enactment of EATS, the greatest threat we’ve seen in a decade,” said Mike Schultz, Vice-President at OCM. “Independent farmers in Kansas applaud these Congressional heroes and hope to see our U.S. Sen. Roger Marshall shift toward helping his constituents instead of pandering to China and the industrial ag interests that line his campaign coffers.”



OCM and CMA have now conducted nearly 400 meetings in person on Capitol Hill since last July and have also secured Conaway-Graves Group, led by former House Agriculture Committee Chairman Mike Conaway, R-TX, to join us in our lobbying efforts against the EATS Act through June of this year thanks to some grant funding we received. During the fly-in we also had more than an hour of time with Sen. Tommy Tuberville, R-AL, thanks to our friends and supporters at the Alabama Contract Poultry Growers Association who brought 7 attendees from the Yellowhammer State to our latest events.

Right now, we are sitting in the best position we’ve been in during the 7 years I’ve been a member of OCM and I am personally grateful to each of you and to those who took the time to come join us in Washington. We have been granted the funding and plan to hold our 4th and final Farm Bill Summit and Fly-In in the early part of the Summer in Washington, D.C., within about 6 weeks of our Annual Meeting in Biloxi, MS, in early May, and hope you’ll join us.

Marty Irby is a board director and secretary at the Organization for Competitive Markets and president of Competitive Markets Action who resides in Washington, D.C., and was named one of The Hill’s Top Lobbyists for 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2023.

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