
Advocating for Western Water In a Disconnected World

Dan Keppen, Executive Director
Family Farm Alliance





Overview of Today's Presentation

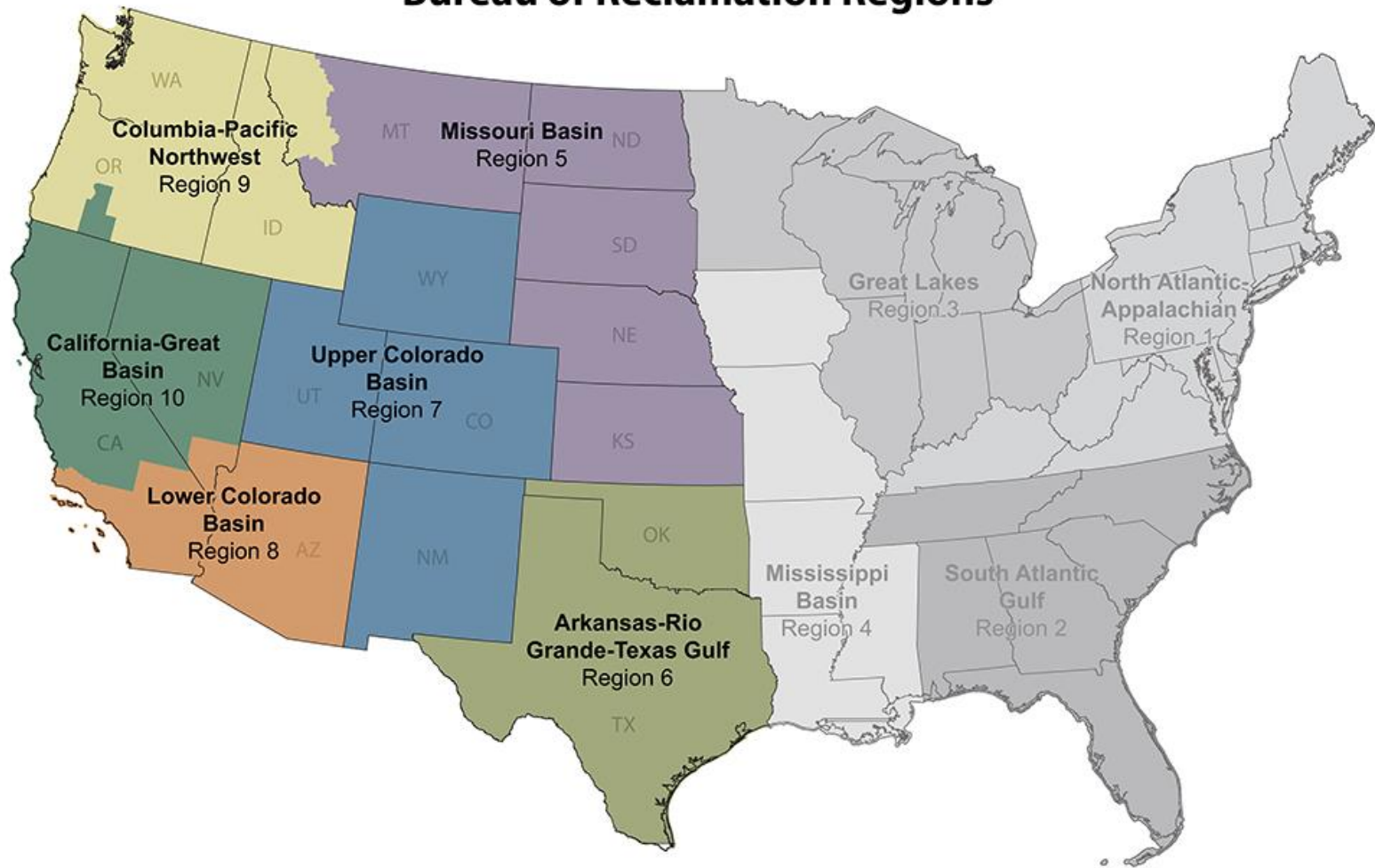
- ▷ Alliance Background
- ▷ Western Irrigated Agriculture's Contribution to Food Security
- ▷ Challenges Facing Western Water Users
- ▷ A Perfect Storm: There has never been a more important time to protect Western ag
- ▷ The Work Ahead



About the Alliance



Bureau of Reclamation Regions



Alliance Federal Engagement



- ▷ Interaction with the Executive Branch
- ▷ Engagement with Congress
- ▷ Recent Priorities



Western Irrigated Agriculture's Contribution to Food Security

- ▷ Examples from the West
- ▷ Columbia Basin Project



Western Alfalfa Production

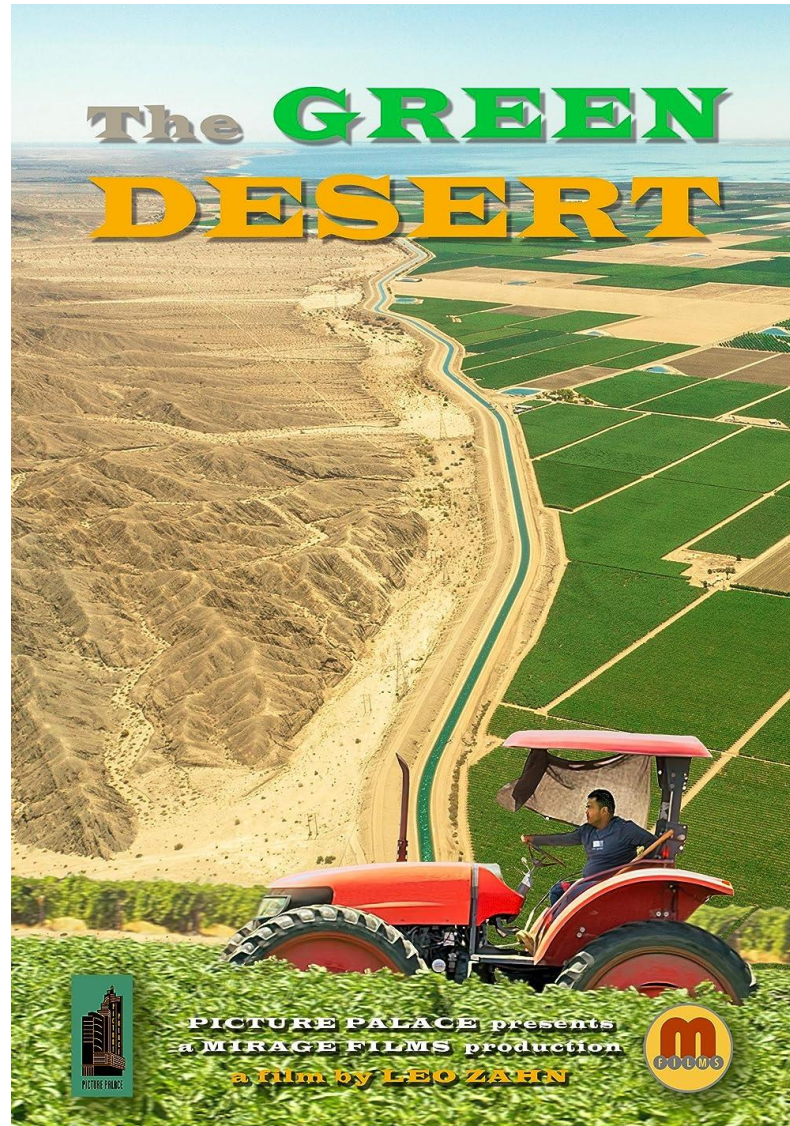


Western Alfalfa Production

- ▷ Alfalfa is a foundational crop and is the basis for the West's beef and dairy production.
- ▷ 7 Western states account for 46.3% of U.S. alfalfa production
- ▷ CA is: #3 in the country, #1 dairy state.



Coachella, Imperial & Yuma Valleys



California's Central Valley



**CALIFORNIA GROWS MORE
THAN 400 COMMODITIES**

**Many of Which Are Not Grown
Anywhere Else in the Nation**

SOURCE | CA DEPT OF FOOD & AG



California's Central Valley

In California, there is a “100-mile circle” of farmland that produces a wide variety of food products in significant amounts due to unique climate, soil and other factors.

**From “A 100-Mile Circle Fighting to
Preserve America's Food
Independence”**

Spring 2021



Washington Ag Production in 2022

- ▷ \$12.7 B: All-time high
- ▷ Most valuable crop: apples (16% of ag production)
- ▷ Milk, wheat, cattle and calves, potatoes all set records for value



Columbia Basin Project

- ▷ Major hub for domestic food production
- ▷ \$3.3 B annual crop / animal production = food purchases of 8.9 M Americans

Economic Contribution of Irrigated Agriculture Supported by the Columbia Basin Project



May 2022

Prepared For:

South Columbia Basin Irrigation District

East Columbia Basin Irrigation District

Quincy Columbia Basin Irrigation District

Prepared by:



Highland Economic, LLC
2425 NE 59th Ave, Suite 13103
Portland, OR 97213
(503) 894-9474



Columbia Basin Project

- ▷ Potential to add another 300,000 acres
- ▷ Authorized by Congress
- ▷ **CBP importance likely to grow as drought, severe weather events and government policies threaten ag production in other regions**



Importance of Western Irrigated Ag

- ▷ The CBP region stands as a striking example of how just one area can make an extraordinary economic difference.
- ▷ This pattern is re-created in other parts of the West.
- ▷ **Viewed from a whole, it produces the lion's share of our food supply.**



Federal Policies Limit Water Supplies for Growing Food

- ▷ Central Oregon
- ▷ Klamath Project
- ▷ CVP



Environmental Values Trump the Need to Grow Food



Removal of Lower Snake River Dams?



Ag in the Crosshairs: Colorado River



- ▷ **Speculation:**
1 million acres of farmland fallowed
to meet 2-4 MAF of cuts



Demonization of Irrigated Agriculture

The 20 Farming Families Who Use More Water From the Colorado River Than Some Western States



November 9, 2023



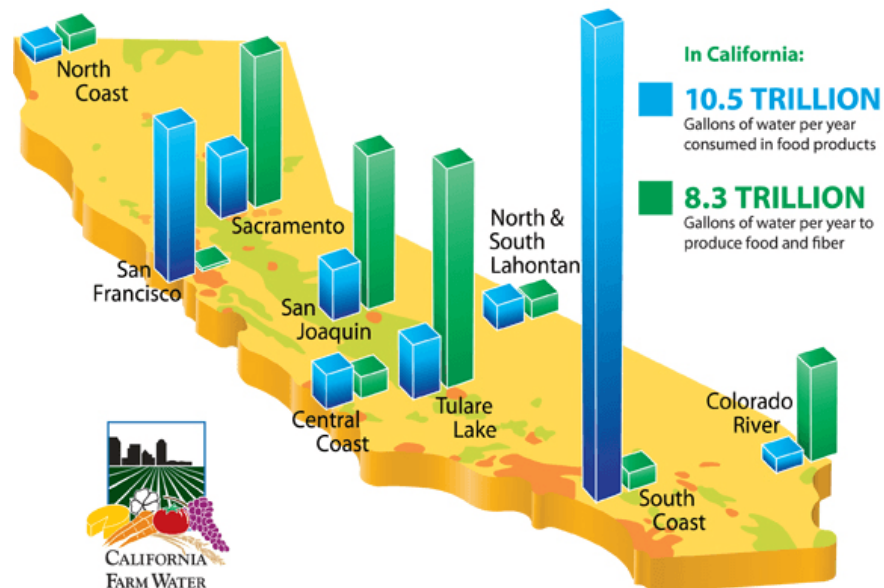
The Rest of the Story.....

WHERE does farm water go?

**Water that grows farm
products doesn't stay on
the farm**

It becomes part of the food we eat and clothing we wear.

The green bars below represent the amount of water used to irrigate California's 9.6 million acres of farmland. The blue bars represent the water consumed as food by the people in each region.



**FOOD GROWS
WHERE WATER
FLOWS**

farmwater.org
916-391-5030

DATA SOURCES:

Agricultural water numbers are based on depletion, or the amount of water used that is no longer available for other uses. Population figures based on California Water Plan Regional Reports. Water use is 10 year average (2001-2010). <http://www.waterplan.water.ca.gov>

Per capita water demands for food supply is from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations http://www.fao.org/nr/water/docs/WRM_FP5_waterfood.pdf



Demonization of Irrigated Agriculture



“....a nonprofit newsroom that investigates abuses of power.”

IS GROWING FOOD NOW
CONSIDERED TO BE
“AN ABUSE OF POWER”?



There has never been a more important time than now to have Western farms producing at capacity



Inflation in 2022:

Highest Grocery Store Price Boosts since 1980

Putin's invasion of Ukraine has decreased and destabilized worldwide ag commodity production and availability.

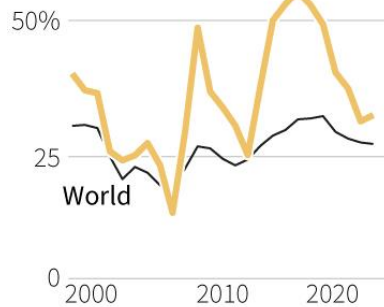
Rising input costs

Energy and supply chain crises

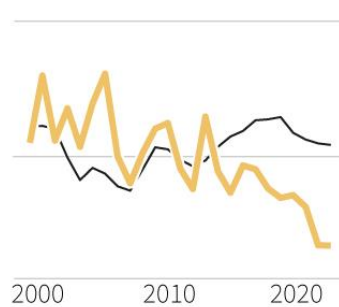


Top Wheat Exporters Suffer Depleting Supplies Due to Drought

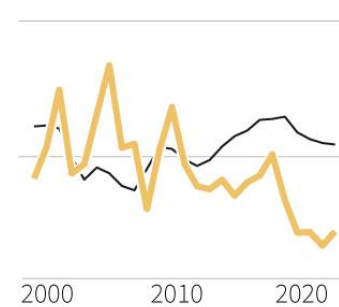
United States



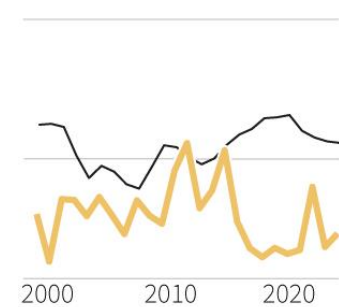
Canada



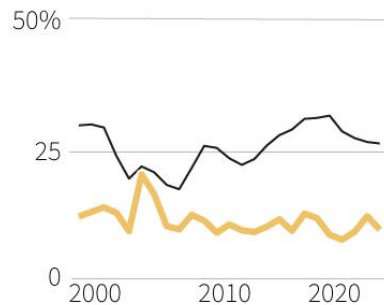
Australia



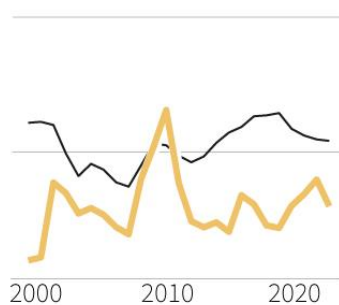
Ukraine



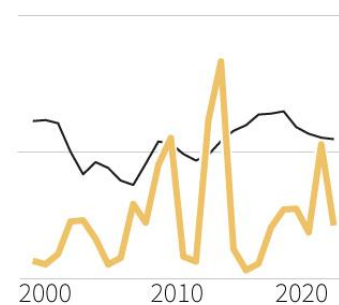
European Union



Russia

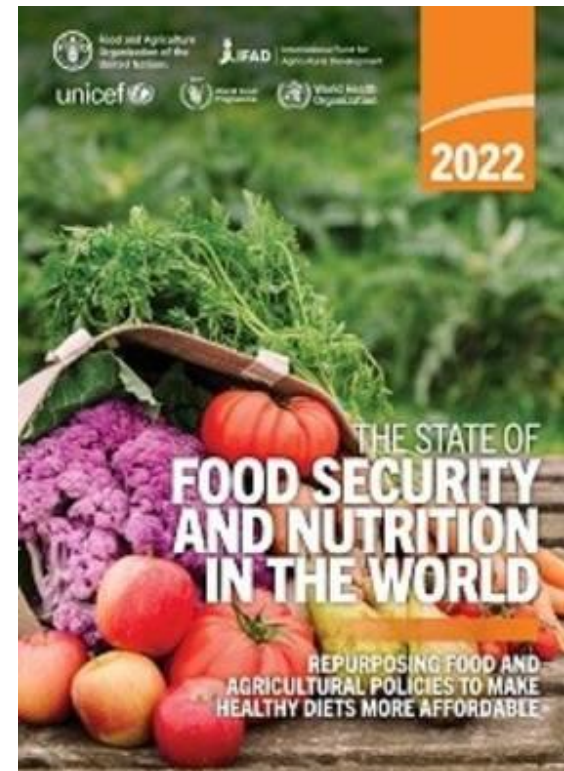


Argentina

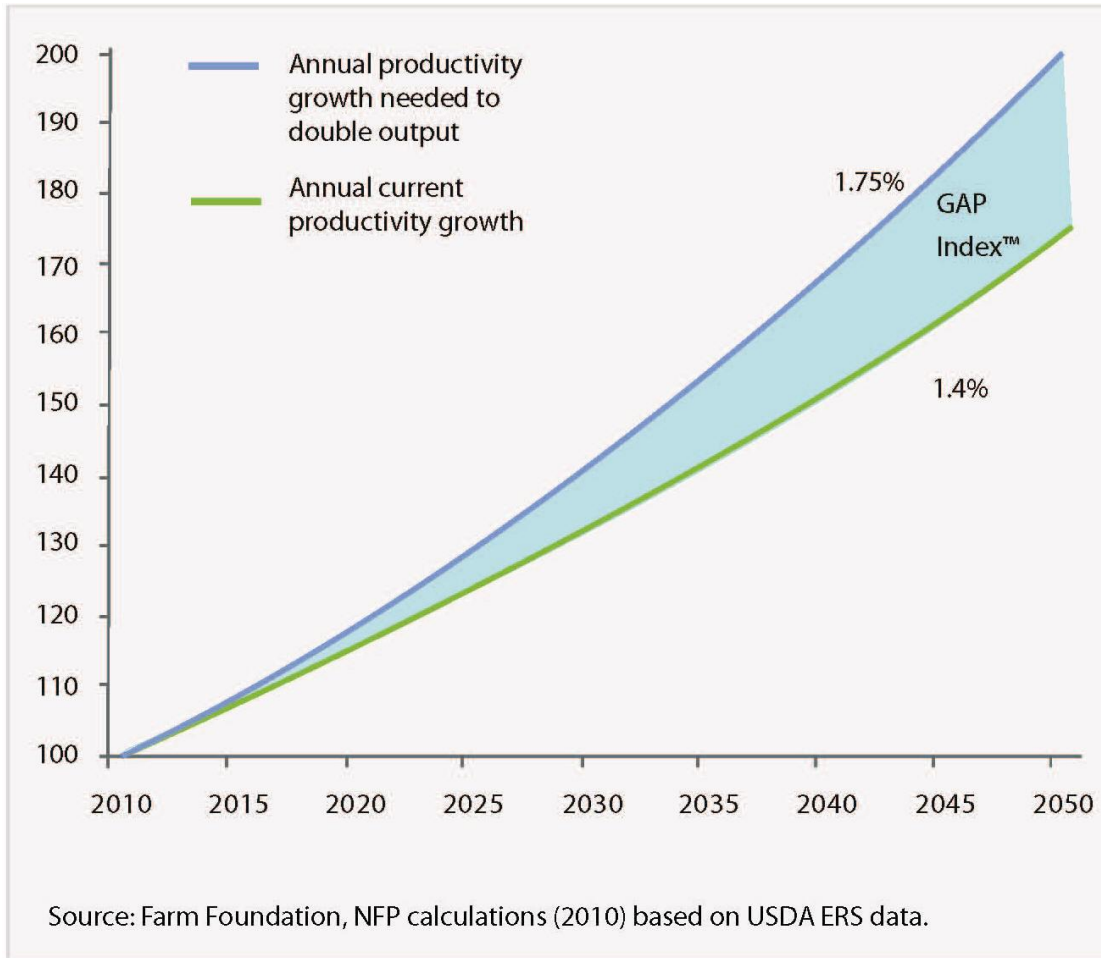


State of Food and Nutrition In the World 2023

- ▷ 735 million people went hungry in 2022
- ▷ A leap of 122 million people since the start of the pandemic

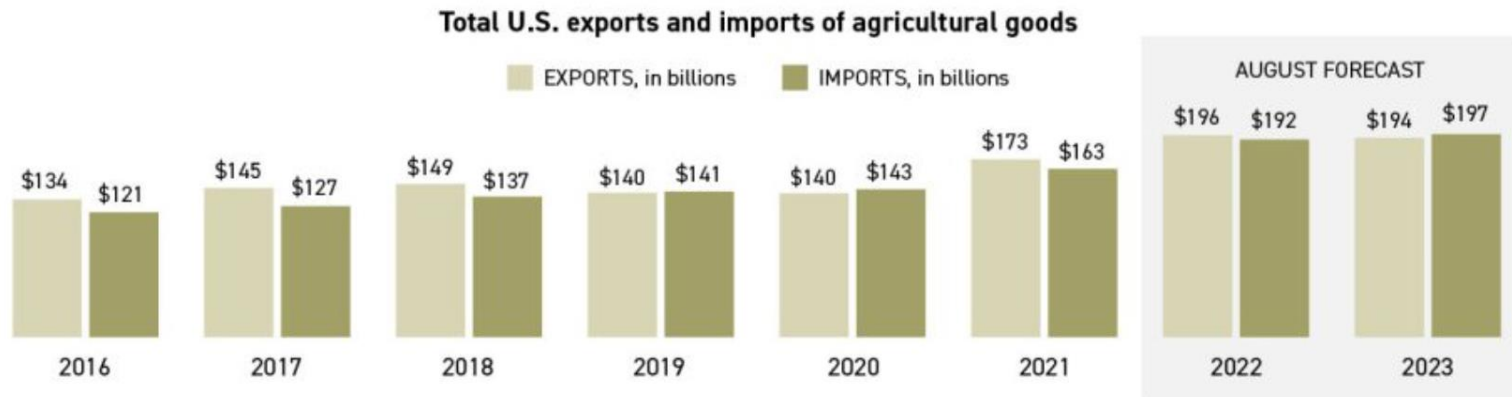


The World Food Supply “GAP”



Feeding the World?

We're Not Even Feeding Ourselves



- ▷ In 2019, for the first time in 50 years, the U.S. ag system ran a trade deficit.
- ▷ \$9.7 billion ag trade surplus with the rest of the world
- ▷ \$11 billion ag trade deficit with Mexico



The Work Ahead for CBDL, the Alliance and Other Ag Interests

▷ Push Federal Agencies to Properly and Efficiently Employ BIL & IRA Dollars

- * *\$8.3 Billion BIL for BOR*
- * *\$4.0 Billion IRA for BOR*
- * *\$20 Billion for NRCS “Climate Smart Ag”*



The Work Ahead for CBDL, the Alliance and Other Ag Interests

▷ Collaborate for a 2023 Farm Bill That is
“Western Friendly”

- * *Revamped and Beefed-up PL-566*

- * *Streamlined RCPP*



The Work Ahead for CBDL, the Alliance and Other Ag Interests

- ▷ Educate the Public, Policy Makers and the Media on the Importance of Western Irrigated Agriculture



Key Messages

- ▷ In the face of food shortages and high prices, we need Western farms producing at capacity.
- ▷ Western agriculture cannot simply be moved elsewhere
- ▷ Holding back available water from farms harms families, habitat, local jobs, community security and the food production Americans depend on



Final Thoughts

“You've got to . . . keep listening to the farmers, because ultimately, you don't want to get to the point of creating a food crisis to solve a water crisis.”

Enrique Martinez
Former General Manager
Imperial Irrigation District
Palm Springs Desert Sun
August 4, 2022



Conclusion

Any questions?

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