

A New Era

Nostradamus, the Millennium Bug, Comet Elenin, the Mayan Calendar: all end-of-the-world theories that failed at forecasting it, and none of them forecasted the “new era” for mankind starting in 2022, which will hopefully be the end of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In this new era, a more conscientious society hopefully will arise, searching further and further for a more sustainable way of living. Contrary to the current trend, cows and beef cattle may be considered the “environmentally friendly” livestock.

These ruminant animals are fed with low nutritional value food byproducts (relative to human and others nonruminant animal needs), which prevents loss of these nutrients through composting operations or landfills. And not just that, ruminants do not compete with humans for grains or arable land.

It seems the methane issue raised by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nation’s report “Livestock’s Long Shadow” is going to be reassessed by the Livestock Environmental Assessment and Performance partnership.

The World Renderers Organization hopes the carbon dioxide equivalent emission metric advances, properly addressing the real burden for every meaningful source of carbon dioxide equivalent. Just with an adequate approach, effective and needed control measures could be implemented.

In the very same way, renderers should have their job recognized by FAO. That’s why WRO is considering whether to support LEAP in the fourth phase in the 2022-2024 period. LEAP’s No. 1 aim is to address residues and byproducts used in animal nutrition, including how much carbon dioxide equivalent emissions are saved by using such unintentionally produced “products.”

This is maybe the first step for proper international recognition of the invaluable benefits of rendering, which is not just carbon sequestration. Rendering is part of saving land, recovering nonrenewable mineral sources and provides better use of energy and nutrients than any other technology.

So, turning these benefits into financial environmental credits, such as carbon credits for example, should be considered. It’s a long way to go, but the only way to get there is walking the path.

Last, but not least, WRO will keep following the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)’s ad hoc group’s new reports, mainly on the Terrestrial Animal Health Code. The new proposed chapters are for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) and foot-and-mouth disease (FMD).

WRO, with the strong support of its country-members and scientific advisory panel, will keep defending the renderers’ interests for science-based, sound international OIE trade rules for our products. The official deadline is Dec. 27.

For more information: see LEAP: www.fao.org/partnerships/leap/en/ and OIE Reports: www.oie.int/en/what-we-do/standards/standards-setting-process/

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