

Forging Ahead: WRO’s Work for Rendering in 2024

Greetings to the readers of *Render* and World Renderers Organization members. It seems we are about to face a very challenging period. On one hand, prices and demand for rendered meals have been very unstable for several months, as oilseed crush is expected to scale up quite fast. On the other hand, rendered fats are experiencing heightened demand and stability.

In my previous column, I addressed WRO’s 2023 activities, which concluded with contributions from our Scientific Advisory Panel — officially filed Dec. 28 with the Terrestrial Code Commission of the World Organization for Animal Health. There is no news so far, but we expect to get access to the WOAHA February meeting report by the end of March.

So far in 2024, WRO has already seen plenty of action as well.

International Feed Regulators Meeting

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, in collaboration with the International Feed Industry Federation, held the 17th International Feed Regulators Meeting before the International Production & Processing Expo in Atlanta, Georgia, in January.

I had the opportunity to represent WRO at this event, participating in discussions about regulation of the animal feed industry. I want to highlight a group activity called the “World Café” on the safe use of circular feed sources, in which I chaired a session called “Use of Former Food Products/Food Waste,” where the question, “In which way can food and feed producers work together to reduce risks of the use of former food products for feed?” was asked.

This experience was extremely valuable. It acknowledged the realities of various countries and how they approach the topics of reusing materials previously classified as suitable for human consumption, and their regulation regarding reintroduction into the animal feed chain.

Of particular interest to us in the animal rendering industry is the clarity about one of the main decisive factors mentioned by some countries — especially those with stricter bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) regulations — which is the possibility of the presence of animal meats in feed and how this “risk” limits more sustainable decisions on the use of former food/food waste in animal feeding.

I won’t present a thesis here, just as I didn’t during the event, but as a technician and advocate for science-based regulations

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About WRO

Founded in 1999, due to the BSE crisis in Europe

Represents the international rendering community at international forums with one voice – WOAHA, FAO, LEAP, IFIF, GAPFA

WRO members are the national renderers associations or local renderers

The strategies of WRO are decided at the Annual Assembly, and the Officers are responsible to make the strategies operational



About WRO



www.worldrenderers.net

*WRO estimative according to member's reports



and risk mitigation rather than the “precautionary principle,” I’d like to share my thoughts. If we can feed a ruminant with bovine tallow up to 0.15% solids, and if only approved bovine meat with negligible risk for BSE reaches our feed rations, it’s highly unlikely that the small amount of meat recycled in this activity contains enough prions to trigger cases of classical BSE in a bovine.

If it’s deemed necessary to further mitigate the risk, rather than preventing the reuse of this valuable nutrient source in the animal chain, wouldn’t it be more sustainable to limit its use only for monogastrics? What would be the risk, for example, of pigs being fed with this valuable nutrient source again, as they were for decades?

We must stay aware of any overwhelming regulatory framework that some countries have adopted and keep our eyes open to avoid negative impact on our business.

International Rendering Symposium

At the invitation of the North American Renderers Association, I was one of the speakers at the International Rendering Symposium during the last two days of the IPPE. I recommend that everyone watch the excellent presentations given there, available online at nara.org.

At this event, I had the opportunity to present global figures on the use of animal fats in the production of biofuels (biodiesel, renewable diesel and sustainable aviation fuel) as well as in several other markets supplied by our members including livestock feed, petfood, oleochemical, etc.

I take this opportunity to thank all WRO members and the European Fat Processors and Renderers Association for sharing very comprehensive data on their production and destination of fats manufactured in their countries or regions.

LEAP

In the last week of February, we received a first draft from the expert working group of the Livestock Environmental Assessment Partnership dealing with guidelines on circular bioeconomy. What we can say now is that the manual is on the right track and we hope after its publication the importance of our sector’s industries will be officially recognized by LEAP — and therefore by FAO.

This document has the potential to become perhaps our main vindication to engage national environmental authorities about our role and the importance of renderers to increase the sustainable food production for over 9 billion people.

WRO’s Scientific Advisory Panel is following and will continue to contribute to the development of the document, and we will share the final result as soon as it is published by LEAP/FAO. **R**



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