

Progress, Representation and the Road Ahead

ork of the World Renderers Organization during March and April was marked by strategic developments and international engagement, reinforcing the organization's commitment to a science-based, safe and sustainable global rendering industry.

One of the highlights was WRO's participation in the consultation process for the Food and Agriculture Organization's upcoming manual, Feed Safety Risk Assessment: A Practical Manual. The document aims to operationalize Codex guidelines on feed risk assessment. WRO contributed targeted technical input to ensure the document properly reflects the characteristics of the rendering sector — especially regarding biological hazards and bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE). These contributions underscore the organization's ongoing role in aligning international standards with the proven safety of rendering processes.

In March, I had the opportunity to represent WRO at the fifth National Congress on Proteins, Tallow and Animal Fats in

Latin America. My presentation focused on WRO's partnership with the World Organisation for Animal Health since 2019 and the progress made in recognizing rendered proteins and fats as "safe trade commodities" under WOAH's terrestrial code. During my talk, I emphasized the importance of risk-based sanitary measures and the collaborative role of the private sector in shaping science-based international standards.

Also in March, WRO was invited by FAO to the International Workshop on Feed Risk Assessment Chemical Safety held in Utrecht, the Netherlands. The event brought together global experts to discuss the evaluation of chemical hazards in feed and its implications for animal and human health. I was able to participate using the opportunity to formalize, together with FAO, the launch of a historic joint initiative — the development of the first code of practice for the rendering sector.

This extensive, multistakeholder effort will involve technical leaders Jess Bloomfield of Australia, Martin Alm of Germany, Joaquín Delgadillo of Mexico, Charles Starkey of the U.S., Adrian

38 June 2025 **Render** www.rendermagazine.com

Kesterson from the U.K. and Mohamed Ben Arous of Tunisia. Completion is anticipated for early 2027. The code will be a milestone in defining global best practices for the industry.

By the time this issue is mailed, Delgadillo and I will have represented WRO at the 92nd WOAH General Session in Paris May 25-29. Several key chapters will have been submitted for vote, proposing the inclusion of rendered proteins and rendered fats as safe commodities in the context of specific animal diseases:

- Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia.
- · African horse sickness.
- Dourine.

This continued technical advocacy strengthens global understanding of the rendering industry's robust safety systems and supports harmonized trade frameworks grounded in science.

Another important moment for the organization that will happen by press time is the WRO General Assembly, scheduled June 5 during the European Fat Processors and Renderers Association's Congress in Riga, Latvia. Open to all registered participants, the assembly will mark a leadership transition. After six years of remarkable service, Doyle Leefers will step down as WRO president. As provided in the organization's statutes, Peter Milzewski will assume the presidency, and Lars Krause-Kjær will become first vice-president. Elections will be held for the position of second vice president.

WRO's active global agenda will continue with confirmed participation in three key events. In September, the organization will also participate in the Rendering America Conference 2025 (renderingamerica.com) to deliver a presentation focused on the role of rendering in the circular bioeconomy. The session will highlight how the sector contributes to sustainable resource management, waste reduction and low-emission livestock systems. Also in September, the ASAGA World Congress 2025 in Argentina (asagaworldcongress2025.com) and the FAO Global Conference on Sustainable Livestock Transformation (fao.org/events/detail/fao-global-conference-on-sustainable-livestock-transformation/en) are taking place.

At the FAO event, WRO will closely monitor the expected launch of the Livestock Environmental Assessment and Performance partnership's Circular Bioeconomy Manual. WRO has worked tirelessly throughout the development of this manual, providing technical input on several occasions to ensure the rendering sector is accurately represented. The manual will feature a dedicated chapter highlighting the vital role of rendering in advancing sustainable livestock systems. It will outline how rendering supports the circular bioeconomy by recovering and safely reintegrating animal by-products into the production chain — enhancing resource efficiency, reducing waste and contributing to climate goals. This recognition represents a significant milestone in global policy for the rendering industry.

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