

WRO Moves Forward on LEAP 4 Participation

Before I update *Render* readers on activities of the World Renderers Association, I would like to pay tribute to the Doug Ward, who recently passed away, on behalf of the WRO. He was one of the cornerstones of WRO and our second president from 2001 to 2003. With passion and hard work, he seeded the principles and will of the organization, and we thank him for that leadership. But, as he taught us, we are here for serving “to the best of our abilities,” and I am proud to fill readers in regarding the job done by WRO in the last months of 2022.

LEAP

www.fao.org/partnerships/leap/en/

WRO’s participation in the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Livestock and Environmental Assessment and Performance Partnership (LEAP 4) has moved forward. With three virtual assemblies, WRO delegates voted to keep our membership in LEAP 4, having been part of the steering committee for the 2022-2025 period. Also, WRO is making a new financial contribution to FAO in support of the new LEAP guidelines. WRO has nominated Dr. Stewart Ledgard from New Zealand to be part of the technical advisory group (TAG) on the LEAP 4 circular bioeconomy guideline.

On behalf of all WRO members, I send our regards to New Zealand for your efforts to make his participation financially viable; he is by all indications a highly skilled researcher. We expect to know the outcome of his nomination by the end of January. I also appreciate all the members that bravely participated of our intense virtual agenda. If approved, this will be the very first time WRO will have an expert in the TAG, properly representing our industry for the most important LEAP guidance for renderers — the circular bioeconomy.

World Organization for Animal Health

www.woah.org/en/home/

By the end of October, the Terrestrial Animal Health Standard Commission released the September 2022 report. The complete report can be downloaded at this link: www.woah.org/en/document/terrestrial-animal-health-standards-commission_report_sept_2022-2/

Regarding renderers’ products and international trading, WRO proudly reports the following progress on bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE). The BSE ad hoc group recognized that, under the existing scientific knowledge, the atypical BSE prions pose no amplification risk from improper feeding practices. By doing so, the proposed text for adoption regarding the BSE chapter of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code fulfills all WRO’s requests to the TAHSC over the past three years. The international trade of bovine protein meals will keep working under scientifically proven rules, as it stands.

But that is not all — in the BSE chapter, the ad hoc group accepted an argument of WRO and is proposing for adoption an important change in the Article 11.4.17. This article sets the procedures approved for reduction of BSE infectivity in bovine protein meal.

The proposed chapter amplifies the existing pressure cooking (maximum particles size of 50 millimeters, 133 degrees Celsius, 20 minutes, 3 absolute bar) allowing the use of an “alternative procedure that has been demonstrated to achieve at least an equivalent level of reduction in BSE infectivity.” This little change allows the use of new technologies in countries where the classical BSE prion infectivity reduction is needed.

Another key issue on which WRO has worked diligently to address is foot and mouth disease (FMD). Finally, the FMD reviewed chapter will be voted on at the 2023 general assembly. In this “final” version, all animal protein meals will be classified as safe commodities regardless of a country’s risk status on FMD. This very important advance is critical for the stability of international trade for cloven-hooved (e.g., bovine, swine, ovine, camelid species) protein meals.

The final TAHSC report, with the approved version to be voted on at the WOA meeting in late May, is expected to be released by March. WRO will continue to follow closely all WOA reports.

WRO Next Activities

Closing this report, on behalf of our Argentinian member, the Livestock By-Products Chamber of the Buenos Aires Commerce Exchange, I invite you to its 4th National Congress that will take place at Costa Galana Hotel, in Mar del Plata, March 1-3. More information can be found at www.subproductosganaderos.org/en/webinar-registration. **R**

