



## Closing Remarks

**A**fter two years of leading the World Renderers Organization, this is my last article for *Render* magazine. I have enjoyed these years of interactions, learning and advocating for renderers. In June, I will step down as president of WRO, but before that happens I will be participating in two important events for the organization.

The first event will be an opportunity to participate in the 90th General Session of the World Organization for Animal Health where the following will be voted on:

- The proposal for the new chapter for foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), in which cattle meals will likely be classified as free trade commodities that do not pose a sanitary international trade risk for this disease, regardless of the country's status for FMD.
- The proposal for the new chapter for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE). A proposal presented for voting in 2023 is conceptually very different from the 2022 proposal. Now, the atypical BSE prions will continue to be understood as absent zoonotic risk. WOA will keep the existing understanding that atypical BSE prions do not present a risk of amplification after being "recycled" in the animal chain due to the production of meals that eventually contain positive animals for this pathology. WRO associates were unanimous on this change and several other adjustments in the new proposed BSE chapter that all member countries will be able to comply with the rules for international trade of cattle meals and tallow intended for animal feed. With this, WRO will be able to maintain the international trade of these products.

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The second event will take place June 2. Accompanied by Charles Starkey, Dennis King and Martin Alm, I will be representing WRO at the first meeting between our organization and the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization, represented by Thanawat Tiensin, director of the animal production and health division (NSA) and the board of directors of the Livestock Environmental Access Partnership.

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The following week, June 7-10, at the 2023 European Fat Processors and Renderers Association Congress, I will step down as WRO president, with Doyle Leefers assuming the role. I wish Doyle a lot of energy ahead for the 2023-2025 period. So, with that I say goodbye to this column, which, for the past two years has given me the honor of writing about the relevant work done by WRO.

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