

2023 WRO General Assembly and Other Collaborations

Starting with a personal update, as reported in the last issue of *Render*, I have stepped down from the position of president with the World Renderers Organization after serving two years. However, I am honored to announce during the 2023 WRO General Assembly this past June, I was appointed the new technical director for WRO. I am grateful for the trust placed in me and committed to fulfilling these new responsibilities to the best of my abilities.

WRO 2023 General Assembly

During the congress of the European Fat Processors and Renderers Association, also held in Naples, Italy, WRO conducted elections for the board June 8. The election results include Doyle Leefers, U.S., president; Damian Evans, Australia, first vice president; and Lars Krause-Kjaer, Denmark, second vice president.

In addition to WRO's scientific advisory panel consisting of Martin Alm of Germany, Shane Leath of New Zealand, and me (Lucas Cypriano of Brazil), a new member was added — Tim Juzefowicz of Australia.

During their congress, I presented a comprehensive overview of all WRO's activities and collaborations with the World Organization for Animal Health, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the FAO's Livestock Environmental Assessment and Performance partnership, the International Feed Industry Federation and the Global Alliance of Pet Food Associations during the 2021-2023 term.

The 90th WOAHA Section

In May, representatives from WRO, including me and NARA's Dr. Charles Starkey, attended the 90th WOAHA General Session in Paris. We had a positive experience, establishing valuable contacts. There were three significant events for renderers:

1. Meeting with the Terrestrial Animal Health Code Commission: WRO had a positive meeting with TAHSC representatives Francisco D'Alessio and Yukitake Okamura, where we expressed gratitude for accepting WRO's request for a virtual meeting in December 2022. We also offered the WRO's expertise and resources at WOAHA's disposal. We received a request from WOAHA to conduct a technical review on minimum rendering standards — focusing on eliminating potential pathogens present in raw materials for production of safe rendered products. The review will primarily address processing conditions and, if accepted, it could become a global scientific basis for WOAHA. The creation of an expert working group was accepted at the WRO General Assembly, and all WRO members will be invited to nominate their representative.
2. Approval of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) chapters: After four years of work and several reports, WOAHA approved Chapters 11.4 and 1.8, addressing BSE. Notable advancements include changes regarding atypical BSE, reporting requirements and the epidemiological

importance of bovine animals. The new rules simplify risk classification and reduce the cost of recognition processes. The revised rules for bovine protein meal trade are more feasible than the 2022 proposal, preserving the international market while ensuring safety.

3. Postponement of the foot and mouth disease (FMD) chapter: Voting on the FMD chapter was suspended and will be reconsidered in the 2024 general session due to discussions and a request from EU member states. This postpones the classification of animal protein meal as a safe commodity for international trade. The reasons for suspension were unrelated to the proposed classification.

In conclusion, the technical review of minimum rendering standard procedures is a top priority for all members. WRO must monitor all WOAHA activities, including the revision of other codes. A continuous technical relationship is crucial for stable international trade, considering the low risk of transboundary diseases associated with rendered commodities.

Meetings with FAO

WRO had several productive meetings with FAO to discuss rendering sustainability. In 2022, a personal meeting was held in Rome with Dr. Aimable Uwizeye, the FAO-LEAP manager. Subsequently, Xiangyu Song was nominated as the LEAP manager, leading to two virtual meetings involving Xiangyu and Aimable. During the virtual meetings, WRO requested an official presentation on rendering sustainability to FAO-LEAP, which was accepted. Notably, the director of the animal production and health division of FAO was also engaged in the discussions. Both sides delivered insightful presentations.

In June, the first official meeting between FAO and WRO took place at the FAO headquarters in Rome. Represented by Starkey, Dennis King and me, WRO delivered a presentation emphasizing the significance of the animal rendering industry, highlighting its sustainability and role in livestock production and health.

Continued on page 26



From left, the new WRO president Doyle Leefers of the U.S. with the outgoing president Lucas Cypriano of Brazil

The FAO team, including Thanawat Tiensin, Xiangyu, Aimable and Dominik Wisser, presented FAO strategies to foster sustainable livestock production and informed the WRO about the upcoming First FAO Global Conference on Sustainable Livestock Transformation scheduled Sept. 22-25. They also invited WRO to submit a case presentation on rendering sustainability for FAO’s evaluation. Furthermore, WRO received an invitation to the First Sustainable Livestock Feeding event, which is planned for October.

These meetings provided valuable insights, fostered collaboration and created opportunities for WRO to contribute to FAO initiatives on sustainable livestock practices. The exchange of knowledge and engagement with FAO will enable us to make meaningful contributions towards sustainable livestock transformation and promote the importance of rendering sustainability in the industry.

GAPFA Technical Meeting

Also in June, GAPFA held a technical meeting in Brussels. This meeting was of great significance as it provided an opportunity to engage with one of the most important markets for renderers — the pet food industry. As a WRO representative, I had the opportunity to give a speech. The main message conveyed was that rendered products are sustainable, natural and safe, and they will keep supporting pet food sustainability.

I also explained the various types of fats, emphasizing

renderers supply several markets. In order for the rendering industry to remain healthy, it is crucial to have access to all potential markets, including pet food, feed, biofuels, oleochemicals, hygiene and cleaning, and food.

A positive outcome arose from a shared idea between IFIF and WRO, suggesting that GAPFA, IFIF, and WRO should collaborate and engage in dialogue. These industries are closely interconnected and should all work together as partners, rather than working alone. A follow-up meeting is planned for October at the IFIF-FAO annual meeting in Rome, where we will have another opportunity to convene. **R**



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Protein
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