

# WRO's Global Engagements

*Insights from the Sustainable Livestock Conference, the WOAHC Commission meeting and other important events.*

After the World Renderers Organization's interim meeting at the 90th annual convention of the North American Renderers Association, WRO had a very intense agenda of activities. Here are some highlights of the organization's work to promote renderers' interests on the international level.

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## Global Conference on Sustainable Livestock Transformation

In September, Dana Johnson, NARA's senior vice president for international programs, and I participated in the first Global Conference on Sustainable Livestock Transformation held in Rome, Sept. 25-27 — an event organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Various global leaders from diverse aspects of livestock farming attended this event, representing everything from ancestral activities of nomadic shepherds to entities governing the modern animal feed industry, as well as governmental bodies concerned with improving the quality of life for their citizens.

It was a highly immersive and enlightening experience, providing insights into the daily activities of millions of livestock farmers, their suppliers and consumers. The event showcased efforts to consolidate technological innovations that have significantly reduced the global impact of livestock farming on both the environment and the nutrition of about 8 billion inhabitants of planet Earth. Animal products play a crucial role in supplying vitamins, minerals and essential amino acids for human development in quality quantities.



This event underscored the essential role of livestock in sustaining a myriad of by-products from the human food industry. Every year, billions of tons of by-products from plant production, including grains, legumes, fruits and vegetables, would go to waste without livestock. As renderers, we know that animal production — generating products such as eggs, milk or meat — also generates by-products that are recycled within the animal production chain. It is estimated that 60% of globally used animal feed is made from valuable by-products from the human food chain, representing a powerful and needed symbiotic relationship.

Presentations from this event can be accessed at: [www.fao.org/webcast/home/en/item/6262/icode/](http://www.fao.org/webcast/home/en/item/6262/icode/)

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## FAO Global Forum for Animal Feed and Feed Regulators

Organized by the FAO, this forum held at its headquarters Nov. 14-15 brought together key stakeholders including national and regional feed regulatory authorities, FAO members, the private sector, researchers, development agencies, financial institutions and civil society. The primary goal was to facilitate collaborative discussions addressing challenges within the animal feed sector.

As part of the forum's agenda, I had the honor of representing WRO as a panelist in Section 2, "Animal Feed Impact on Public Health, and Animal Health and Welfare." The discussion focused on innovative strategies for producing high-quality, safe and accessible animal feed while mitigating environmental footprints.

The forum provided a unique opportunity to network with experts, regulatory authorities and industry leaders, fostering meaningful connections and collaborations.

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## 17th IFIF/FAO Annual Meeting

Jointly organized by the FAO and the International Feed Industry Federation, this meeting was held Nov. 16-17 in Rome and continued the organizations' longstanding collaborative relationship dating back to April 2005. The FAO/IFIF annual meeting serves as a crucial platform to review work plans and strengthen collaboration on critical issues, all aimed at ensuring the production of safe, nutritious and sustainable feed and food. The gathering allowed for productive discussions, networking opportunities and knowledge sharing among representatives from diverse sectors.

In my role as a WRO delegate, I aimed to facilitate a closer dialogue between the private and public sectors on critical issues impacting renderers. During the meeting, I had the distinct honor of contributing as a speaker, representing WRO and presenting the sustainability contributions that renderers have provided to the livestock production chain for over a century.

## Virtual Meeting with WOAHO Code Commission

Responding to the World Organization for Animal Health's call, WRO held a virtual meeting Nov. 24 with representatives from the Code Commission of WOAHO. Representatives from WOAHO included Dr. Francisco D'Alessio, Dr. Akinobu Kawamura and Dr. Su Youn Park. From WRO, Martin Alm, Joaquín Delgadillo, Charles Starkey and I were present.

During this meeting, we had the opportunity not just to strengthen our relationship with WOAHO, but also to understand in detail how the mechanism for developing manuals and codes at WOAHO works. We discussed how WRO's technical body can contribute more effectively to WOAHO, enabling us to play a more decisive role in establishing rules for international trade in animal meals and fats based on scientifically appropriate principles, ensuring greater stability in the global transit of rendered products.

## WRO Contributions to September 2023 WOAHO Report

As traditionally done by WOAHO, the September report of the Code Commission was released online. WRO's Scientific Advisory Panel evaluated the report and provided several contributions to the changes that will be addressed in the general section of WOAHO in Paris this year.

Like the work done in 2023 during the review of the bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) chapter, this year we are working on other important chapters, including those that will govern general rules for international trade related to diseases like foot and mouth disease (FMD) and African swine fever (ASF), among others in the future.

The WRO shared a letter with its members, reiterating our call to action for each WRO member to contact their National Veterinary Service and request support for WRO's recommendations. We are available for further clarification via email at [td@worldrenderers.net](mailto:td@worldrenderers.net).

This is the first stage of reviewing the text that will be presented for voting in May, when WOAHO will release the report of the February 2024 terrestrial code meeting, which will be the text presented for voting. WRO will continue to monitor the ongoing evolution of WOAHO's codes and manuals. **R**



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