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Spaghetti and Meatballs Anyone?

More than one member of Congress has lost reelection for failing to listen to constituents. The November elections are coming down to a single issue and a subset, namely the economy generally and energy costs specifically. The problem is neither party has a comprehensive energy plan, but rather they’re engaged in what we in Washington call the “spaghetti approach” to legislation: They’re tossing everything and anything against the wall to see which perceived “solution” sticks.

The GOP has seized energy as its signature issue, pointing to various polls and surveys that show nearly half of Americans want to expand U.S. energy exploration and development. At the same time, the GOP revels in blaming the Democrat majority in Congress for the doubling of gas prices in the last two years. Meanwhile, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) wants the president to start emptying the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to drop gas prices. Others want the import tariff on ethanol eliminated and others call for billions to be spent on wind and solar.

Senator John McCain (R-AZ), the presumptive GOP presidential candidate, supports a moratorium on the federal gas tax, along with a plethora of energy initiatives on biofuels, and has embraced the exploration issue as his own. The Democrat’s presumptive nominee, Senator Barack Obama (D-IL) agrees with much of McCain’s stand, but distancing himself from exploration while talking windfall profit taxes on big oil. Food and agriculture are split over efforts to waive 50 percent of the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS), based on a petition filed with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency by Texas Governor Rick Perry, with feed companies, grain processors, and food processors lined up in support of the Texas petition, and farmers opposing the effort.

Then there’s the market manipulation crowd, a growing gaggle of legislators who are convinced if drastic measures are taken to curb or outright end speculation in energy and agriculture commodity futures markets, the problem of high oil/high corn prices will be solved. Pelosi is fond of telling the media that if energy market speculation were curtailed, the price of a barrel of oil would drop 30 percent overnight. Senator Joe Lieberman (I-CT) stunned markets by saying he would introduce legislation to move institutional speculators to the sidelines of energy markets, but backed off his threat when Wall Street mounted a massive lobbying campaign alleging the only victims of such action would be small investors and pensioners.

The Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC), once a quiet backwater charged with regulating futures markets, is now squarely in the spotlight as members hope the commission can come up with a silver bullet to bring down energy prices. Fully 40 bills have been introduced in Congress, throwing money and manpower at the CFTC – long considered the red-headed stepchild in federal markets oversight when compared to the its big brother, the Securities and Exchange Commission – or giving the CFTC new authority to whack speculators and bring under U.S. rules those overseas exchanges offering linked contracts to U.S. futures markets. Pelosi wanted to bring a bill to the floor by the end of July that will merge all House legislation into a single CFTC package, and incorporate the findings of three days of hearings on CFTC authority and actions over time held in mid-July by the House Agriculture Committee.

Meanwhile, the congressional battle to pass legislation to extend for another year a package of alternative energy tax breaks, including extension of biodiesel tax credits, continues. The ethanol boys were smart enough to put the extension of their 51 cent a gallon tax credit into the 2008 Farm Bill, though they had to agree to carve that credit back to 46 cents a gallon once the RFS hits 7.5 billion gallons. And while the House passed its extenders package handily – including equalizing all biodiesel tax credits at $1 per gallon no matter the feedstock, the Senate has struggled to overcome a very partisan divide pegged to whether extending existing tax credits needs to be offset, i.e., paid for by cutting other programs.

Senator John Ensign (R-NV) in April attached the Senate’s list of tax credit extenders to the housing/mortgage relief bill, and while that amendment was approved on an 88-8 vote, Senate Democrats pulled it from the bill because it wasn’t “paid for” through offsets. In reaction, Ensign blocked Senate consideration of the housing bill, but has offered a compromise – trim federal spending across the board, except for veterans, and the $8 billion package of energy cuts will be “paid for.” Ensign says his action will create 116,000 jobs and result in $20 billion in economic investment. What Ensign and others choose to ignore – or simply don’t know – is that much of the biofuels being produced in the United States are going for export, with one Chicago Board of Trade firm estimating upwards of 75 percent of biodiesel from all sources is sold overseas.

Perhaps there’s some hope. A bipartisan posse of 10 Senators, led by Senator John Thune (R-SD), sent Senate leaders a letter in early July pleading with them to convene a one-day “energy summit” before August to
bring in “unbiased experts” to inform the Senators as to what can be done practically to create a comprehensive energy program in the United States. Thune said his goal is to take the politics out of the policy debate. As I type this, there’s been no reaction from either Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) or Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY).

Energy policy must begin with the fundamentals. The United States relies on oil and gas, and has alternatives enjoying nice niche markets but unable to fulfill national needs. This argues for a serious look at a mature approach to exploration, both within U.S. borders and offshore. The United States has refining issues. This country hasn’t built a refinery in 30-plus years. The current ones are reportedly in need of serious infrastructure improvement. Incentives and mandates to increase refining capacity, targeted to areas of the country current deficient in storage – as in both coasts – are likely targets.

Let’s move on to alternatives. Biofuels hold great promise, but we aren’t there yet and may not be for several years. And even if the United States was in a position to produce sufficient biofuels to make a dent in national energy use, there isn’t the infrastructure to move ethanol and biodiesel to deficit areas of the country, so investment must be made. There are such things as nuclear energy, liquid-to-coal technologies and coal gasification, and wind and solar – all have commercial applications.

There is also the “green” factor, as in how do we increase energy production and still not run up greenhouse gas levels and water/land pollution? Judging by the number of industries advertising on television about their “green” products, we’re already there. But a healthy dose of reality must be taken. If you’re a greenie, then be a realistic greenie. Understand that the United States cannot be turned on a dime to become a self-sufficient energy and environmentally friendly machine that can, at the same time, maintain manufacturing capacity, exports, and its food production, at least not without significant cost to individuals and companies.

Perhaps we “lead” Congress by example, or perhaps we elect a Congress that gets it. R
Wastewater Discharges Kill Fish, FDA Answers Questions to New Feed Rule

In early June, Smithfield Foods, Inc., had another wastewater discharge into the Skippack Creek from its Souderton, PA, facility – its sixth in two years – resulting in a fish kill, according to the company’s annual report filed June 26, 2008, with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) spokesman Dennis Harney reported 5,000 fish were killed.

An initial investigation by Smithfield revealed the discharge into the creek that runs behind the facility was condenser water from its MOPAC rendering plant that had bypassed the wastewater treatment facility. Notice of the release was given the same day to state environmental authorities and a written report was prepared to the Pennsylvania DEP and Fish and Boat Commission. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has begun its investigation into the discharge.

The June discharge is the fourth at the Souderton facility since August 10, 2007, when another wastewater release reached Skippack Creek. DEP reports over 10,000 fish were killed. Four months later, on December 5, 2007, the facility experienced what the annual reports call an “operational upset” in a part of the chlorinated system of its wastewater treatment plant. DEP reports the incident as a chlorine discharge into Skippack Creek that resulted in 1,000 fish being killed. Smithfield notified the state’s DEP and Fish and Boat Commission of the discharge, stating the chlorination system had already been reconfigured to prevent a recurrence and that the facility intended to replace the existing chlorination system pending approval of plans that had been submitted to the state prior to the upset. Although not mentioned in Smithfield’s annual report, Harney said there was another discharge into the creek on December 21, 2007, this time a small amount of solid material; however, no fish were killed. All four incidents are still under investigation by federal and state authorities and Smithfield states it is fully cooperating with the investigations.

The annual report acknowledges Smithfield had another wastewater discharge into the Souderton facility in 2006, both of which were resolved by a consent order and agreement with the state of Pennsylvania. Civil penalties and damages totaled $77,888 and Smithfield had to establish an enforceable schedule for the completion of a planned $5 million upgrade to the facility’s existing wastewater treatment system.

FDA Answers Questions to New Feed Rule

Since the April 25, 2008, publication of the Food and Drug Administration’s (FDA’s) final feed rule, Substances Prohibited from Use in Animal Food or Feed, the agency has received numerous questions pertaining to the implementation of the rule. FDA’s Center for Veterinary Medicine has posted answers to 66 of the most frequently asked questions concerning the feed ban at www.fda.gov/cvm/bse_QA.htm.

Livestock Traceability Comments Sought

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is seeking comments on its proposed amendment to require approved livestock facilities and listed slaughtering and rendering establishments to maintain certain records for five years. The notice was published in the July 7, 2008, Federal Register.

APHIS is proposing to amend Section 71.20, Subchapter C of Chapter I, Title 9, of the Code of Federal Regulations, to extend the records retention period from two to five years. Due to increased globalization, the threat of an animal disease introduction has increased during the past few years. In the case of chronic livestock diseases like bovine tuberculosis, signs and symptoms of the disease may not appear for years and apparently healthy animals may be found to be infected only at slaughter. In these cases, being able to trace the animals’ movements as far in the past as possible is important to identify any other potentially exposed or infected animals. Requiring the retention of certain records for five years would allow APHIS to trace the prior movements of diseased livestock further into the past than is currently possible, thus providing the opportunity to locate potentially infected or exposed livestock that might otherwise remain unidentified.

Currently there are no record retention provisions that apply to listed slaughtering and rendering establishments. APHIS believes it is necessary to amend the regulations to require that these establishments retain certain records for five years. APHIS is also proposing to require the operators of slaughtering and rendering establishments to sign listing agreements to document their agreement to comply with the requirements of the regulations for listed slaughtering and rendering establishments. Such agreements are currently required for approved livestock facilities, but not for slaughtering and rendering facilities. The proposed change would eliminate that inconsistency.

Documents to be retained include weight tickets, sales slips, and records of origin, identification, and destination that relate to livestock that are in, or that have been in, an approved facility.

Comments are due by September 5, 2008. For more information, contact Dr. Debra C. Cox, senior staff veterinarian, Surveillance and Identification Program, National Center for Animal
Tyson Sells Canadian Beef Operations, Enters Joint Venture in India

In late June, Tyson Foods, Inc., signed a letter of intent to sell the packing, feed yard, and fertilizer assets of Lakeside Farm Industries, Ltd., and its subsidiary Lakeside Packers, to XL Foods, Inc., a Canadian-owned beef processing business. The $107 million (Canadian) transaction includes $57 million to be paid at closing with the remaining $50 million plus interest to be paid over a five-year period following closing. Tyson would retain the finished product inventory, accounts receivables, and accounts payables of the Lakeside operation as of the closing date. The transaction is subject to government approvals, and customary financing and agreements by the parties.

Based in Brooks, AB, Canada, Lakeside Farm Industries has operated successfully for many years, said Richard L. Bond, president and chief executive officer of Tyson Foods, but no longer fits the long-term strategy of Tyson as its international focus is primarily in Asia, Mexico, and South America. Lakeside currently employs 2,300 team members and has the capacity to slaughter and process 4,700 cattle per day. The commodity boxed beef produced by the plant is primarily sold to customers in Canada and the United States.

XL Foods plans to continue operating the Lakeside facility after the sale is complete. XL is part of the Nilsson Bros. Group, a Canadian cattle feeding and marketing company. Nilsson entered into the meatpacking business in the late 1990s with the purchase of Edmonton Meat Packing and XL Foods. The business currently includes packing plants in Edmonton and Calgary, AB; Moose Jaw, SK; Omaha, NE; and Nampa, ID.

In a separate announcement, Tyson Foods has acquired 51 percent ownership of Godrej Foods, Ltd., a leading poultry processing business based in Mumbai, India. Godrej Foods is a subsidiary of Godrej Agrovet, Ltd., one of India’s leading agribusinesses. The joint venture will be called Godrej Tyson Foods, with annual sales initially expected to be in the range of $50 million and are anticipated to grow as operations are expanded.

The venture includes one chicken processing facility in Mumbai, in western India, and another in Bangalore, in the southern part of the country. The two plants have a combined production capacity of 60,000 birds per day and have approximately 1,000 contract production workers. The Godrej processing operations are supplied by six contracted hatcheries and a network of contracted broiler operations.

According to Rick Greubel, group vice president and international president for Tyson Foods, poultry production and consumption is growing in India. The country has a population of more than 1.1 billion people, and while per capita chicken consumption there is currently less than five pounds per year, its annual growth rate of more than 10 percent is among the highest in the world. Tyson and Godrej plan to immediately initiate efforts to expand the capacity of the poultry plants already in operation and build new processing plants in other parts of India, which will likely begin within the next several years.
Crude Glycerin for Monogastric Feeds

By Brian J. Kerr and William A. Dozier III
U.S. Department of Agriculture/Agricultural Research Service

In 2004, the United States consumed 140 billion gallons of gasoline and 40 billion gallons of diesel for on-road transportation (Annual Energy Outlook 2007). In an effort to reduce dependence on petroleum-based fuel products and reduce their negative impact on the environment, production of biofuels from renewable energy sources has experienced explosive growth. Like the rapid expansion of ethanol, biodiesel production has also grown quickly, albeit a smaller volume, to its 2007 level of 450 million gallons.

Biodiesel can be produced by a variety of esterification technologies using vegetable oils, animal fats, and recycled cooking oils as feedstocks. In general, oils and fats are filtered and preprocessed to remove water and contaminants, followed by mixing with an alcohol (usually methanol) and a catalyst (sodium or potassium methylate). Along with heat and mixing, the oil molecules (triglycerides) are broken apart into methyl esters and glycerin, which are then separated from each other and purified. Biodiesel is the name given to these methyl esters with crude glycerin the remaining co-product.

There are presently 171 companies with a combined annual capacity of 2.24 billion gallons that account for the 450 million gallons of biodiesel produced last year. In addition, 63 companies report plants under construction or expanding, which, if realized, would result in an additional 1.23 billion gallons of biodiesel production. With 0.07 gallons of crude glycerin generated for every gallon of biodiesel produced, one could expect approximately 158 million, 32 million, or 89 million gallons of crude glycerin generated from biodiesel capacity, 2007 volume, or production expansion estimates, respectively.

Glycerin has thousands of uses, with new uses continuing to emerge as new technologies are adapted. Refined glycerin is used to moisten, sweeten, and preserve foods; is widely used in drugs and pharmaceuticals; is used as a moisturizing agent or emollient for cosmetics and toiletries; keeps tobacco moist and soft to prevent breaking and crumbling during processing; is used to soften and reduce shrinkage during paper manufacturing; is used to size and soften yarn and fabric; and can be used to produce a renewable propylene glycol. With the expansion in biodiesel production, the U.S. crude glycerin market could be inundated with an ample supply that may become a new energy feedstuff for use in livestock diets.

Metabolism of Glycerol

Intestinal absorption of glycerol has been shown to range from 70 percent to more than 97 percent, likely due to its small molecular weight and it being passively absorbed rather than absorbed through a micelle as noted for medium and long chain fatty acids. Once absorbed, glycerol can be converted to glucose via gluconeogenesis or oxidized for energy production via glycolysis and the citric acid cycle, which under basal conditions can account for 60 percent of the metabolic fate of glycerol.

Caloric Value of Crude Glycerin in Poultry and Swine

Several scientists have reported that glycerin is an acceptable feed ingredient for poultry and swine, and when supplemented into the diet, it generally had no effect on animal performance, carcass composition, or meat quality. Although data assumed the metabolizable energy content of glycerin for monogastrics was 95 percent of its gross energy, data empirically determining the metabolizable energy content in crude glycerin is lacking. As a consequence, several studies were conducted by scientists in the U.S. Department of Agriculture/Agricultural Research Service and Iowa State University to ascertain the metabolizable energy content of crude glycerin in broilers, laying hens, and swine.

In three initial studies, a single source of crude glycerin (containing 86.95 percent glycerin, 0.028 percent methanol, 9.22 percent moisture, and 3.12 percent sodium chloride) was obtained from AGP, Inc., Sergeant Bluff, IA, from a biodiesel production facility using soy oil as its feedstock. Using standard...
animal experimental methods to determine the metabolizable energy value of a test ingredient, data obtained indicated a metabolizable energy value of this crude glycerin to be 3,434, 3,805, and 3,207 kilocalorie per kilogram (kg) for broilers, laying hens, and swine, respectively. Within each species, these values indicate that crude glycerin has similar energy content as corn and soybean meal, but only 40 to 45 percent the energy noted in animal fats or vegetable oils. This lower caloric value relative to animal fats or oils was expected given the fact that the fatty acid component of the triglyceride has been removed (i.e., methyl ester) during the biodiesel process.

Because biodiesel can be produced from a variety of feedstocks (soy, canola, corn, and waste cooking oils, and animal fats), the composition of crude glycerin can vary, but usually ranges from 78 to 85 percent glycerin, eight to 15 percent water, two to 10 percent sodium chloride, 0.5 percent free fatty acids (although non-acidulated products may be up to 25 percent free fatty acids), and approximately 0.5 percent methanol. It would be expected that a compositional difference in crude glycerin will affect its metabolizable energy value, but it is unknown whether the feedstock source will also affect the metabolizable energy value. Consequently, another series of experiments have been conducted determining the metabolizable energy value of crude glycerin obtained from biodiesel production facilities using soybean oil (six samples), tallow (one sample), yellow grease (one sample acidulated and one sample non-acidulated), and poultry fat (one sample) as their feedstock. In biodiesel processing, the products are being compared to a refined U.S. Pharmacopeia (USP) grade glycerin, while in swine these products are additionally being compared to soybean oil and lard. At this time the poultry and swine trials are complete and show a wide variation due to the sample source. Although not statistically analyzed, on average, samples from soybean oil have a similar energy as previously determined and noted above. As the level of residual fat (or fatty acids) increased in some of the crude glycerin samples tested, the metabolizable energy increased, as expected. Lastly, in the swine trial, all of these samples had a lower metabolizable energy level than that determined for soybean oil or lard. In order to delineate whether these metabolizable energy value differences are due to the feedstock source or the composition of the crude glycerin, the crude glycerin samples are being analyzed for glycerin, moisture, sodium chloride, and residual fatty acids.

Crude Glycerin in Swine Diets

An additional sample of crude glycerin was obtained from AGP (84.51 percent glycerin, 0.32 percent methanol, 11.95 percent moisture, and 2.91 percent sodium chloride) for a performance study in swine from eight to 133 kg. Overall, pig performance, carcass composition, or meat quality was not affected by crude glycerin supplementation of five or 10 percent. Because the level of methanol in the sample was above the recommended level, the frequency of lesions associated with methanol toxicity was also evaluated. In this study there were no notable differences in lesion scores due to the level of crude glycerin supplementation, suggesting that levels of methanol in crude glycerin, slightly above that suggested to be safe, did not have a detrimental effect on pig productivity or health.

**Mealthanol**

Methanol levels in crude glycerin warrant special consideration because it is a potentially toxic compound and is not completely recovered from the crude glycerol co-product. Metabolism of methanol results in accumulation of formate, which is the metabolite principally responsible for the toxic effects of methanol. Consequences of methanol poisoning are central nervous system depression, vomiting, severe metabolic acidosis, blindness, and Parkinsonian-like motor disease.

In the United States, no specification for crude glycerin use in animal feed has been published. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) addresses pure glycerin under Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) 582.1320 as a substance that is generally recognized as safe (GRAS) for general purpose use in animal feed when used in accordance with good manufacturing or feeding practices. With no GRAS regulation or American Association of Feed Control Officials definition listing specifications for crude glycerin use in animal feeds, specifications for pure glycerin defined under USP and Food and Chemical Codex (FCC) specifications are used for guidance.

Methanol levels, however, are not specifically listed in the USP or FCC specifications, such that the FDA has decided to address free methanol levels under CFR 573.640, requiring that levels of methanol in methyl esters of higher fatty acids should not exceed 150 parts per million (0.015 percent) or a level shown to be safe for use in animal diets. Specific toxicological studies on methanol in swine are lacking, but the previous study cited above suggests that levels of methanol slightly above that cited by the FDA have no impact on pig productivity or lesion scores in key methanol metabolizing tissues.

**Conclusions**

With a metabolizable energy value of crude glycerin being similar to corn and soybean meal, crude glycerin can be used as an excellent source of calories in monogastrics. Although crude glycerin may “look” somewhat similar to vegetable oils, it appears to have only 40 to 45 percent the caloric content as vegetable oils or animal fats. In addition, crude glycerin is a viscous liquid that may present handling, diet mixing, and feed flowability characteristics that are different than other liquid feed ingredients. Additions of crude glycerin up to 10 percent appear to have little impact on animal performance, carcass composition, or meat quality. Lastly, levels of other compounds in crude glycerin (i.e., methanol, sodium chloride, and free fatty acids) should be monitored for potential impacts on feed manufacturing considerations, metabolizable energy value to the animal, and animal performance responses. R

References for this review or additional information on this subject is available from the authors: Brian Kerr, (515) 294-0224, brian.kerr@ars.usda.gov, or William Dozier, (662) 320-7505, bill.dozier@ars.usda.gov.
D

despite some stormy weather, renderers throughout the Midwest traveled to Wisconsin Dells, WI, in early June to hear presenters talk about energy, going green, biodiesel, and livestock at the National Renderers Association (NRA) Central Region Convention.

The day-long agenda began with Paul Duke, BP Canada Marketing, discussing oil, natural gas, and power. He explained that North America is a “have not” when it comes to oil reserves, coming in second to last globally with 59.9 billion barrels of oil in reserves (the Asia Pacific region has the least oil reserves at 40.5 billion barrels). It was no surprise that the Middle East holds the top spot in reserves at 742.7 billion barrels. World oil production currently stands at over 80 million barrels per day, with the Middle East growing in recent years to become the biggest producer, while Europe/Eurasia (former Soviet Union/Russia) and North America have held steady at second and third, respectively, in production. Oil consumption on the other hand is seeing a rapid growth in the Asia Pacific region, with all other regions maintaining their consumption levels.

As for natural gas, Duke remarked that production in North America has flattened out over the last five to six years. Eighty percent of natural gas supplied to the United States is produced in the country, with about 15 percent imported from Canada. Usage is equally divided between industrial, commercial, residential, and for electrical power, although increased usage for electric generation has averaged about 7.5 percent per year with growth likely to continue.

“That’s a substantial hit on availability of supply,” Duke commented. He added that currently, the United States is running a deficit on natural gas storage compared to last year so prices this year could go up with the key drivers being weather (i.e., summer heat and hurricane season), lower Canadian imports, demand for power generation, and liquefied natural gas imports.

Tom Pahl, ChemTreat, Inc., discussed what it means to be “green”: protect the environment, conserve water and energy, reduce greenhouse gases, reduce solid waste, and increase recycling. He detailed how to implement a green project in three steps:

1. Identify all areas of the plant and how they could potentially affect each other.
2. Identify potential improvement projects.
3. Prioritize projects based on individual plant sustainability goals, return on investment, and ease of implementation.

Pahl revealed one case study where over an eight- to nine-month period the company was able to shift $1.8 million in water surcharges to a nearly $1.5 million profit. He said not only did the company see a significant cost savings, but more importantly, 6.88 million gallons of sludge was no longer land applied. Pahl informed attendees that grants are available that could help pay for an anaerobic digestion feasibility study.

Guy Tourginy, Natural Resources Canada, CANMET Energy Technology Center-Ottawa (CETC-O), highlighted various projects the center is working on to create diesel fuel from waste triglycerides. The challenge is converting animal fats and trap grease because of contaminants and high free fatty acids. One product, trademarked AVRO for animal vegetable recycle oil, is a three-step process that begins with thermal cracking of waste grease, then acid esterification of the raw product, and, finally, base treatment, which results in AVRO diesel that could meet diesel specifications. CETC-O is working on other projects, including an advanced biofuels catalytically deoxygenated process, production of high cetane diesel fuels from low-quality triglyceride feedstocks, and converting glycerol to a gasoline additive and hydrogen.

Larry Schafer, National Biodiesel Board, compared the various fuels Americans used in 2007: gasoline, 145 billion gallons; diesel, 60 billion gallons (on and off-road); 85 percent ethanol, 100 million gallons; ethanol as a 10 percent additive, 7 billion gallons; and biodiesel, 450 million gallons, displacing nearly 20 million barrels of petroleum. Currently there is over two billion gallons of biodiesel capacity with only 450 million gallons produced last year. The biodiesel industry’s goal is to displace five percent of on-road diesel by 2015 with a variety of blends (from two percent to five percent biodiesel), which equates to 1.85 billion gallons of biodiesel per year.

“We have the feedstocks available to get to the two billion gallon mark,” Schafer stated. Currently, five states have biodiesel mandates in place with other states looking into that option. Schafer reported that 40 percent of feedstocks used to produce biodiesel in 2007 were a combination of animal fats/used restaurant oil/other oils, while 60 percent of the feedstocks were soy oil. He said that what is leading the biodiesel industry’s growth is the renewable fuel standard, sustained high diesel and oil prices, state biodiesel and ethanol programs/mandates, and biodiesel’s environmentally-friendly profile.

On the legislative platform, House of Representatives (H.R.) Bill 6049 is a $50 billion tax bill that includes a $450 million portion related to biodiesel. In the bill are an extension of the current tax incentives to December 31, 2009, and a leveling of the playing field regarding feedstocks. Currently, “first use” oils such as soy oil and animal fats receive a $1.00 per gallon tax credit while “second use” oils such as recycled cooking oil receive a 50 cents per gallon credit. In H.R. 6049, all oils will receive the $1.00 per gallon credit, allowing producers to use multiple feedstocks at the same time to produce biodiesel.

Renewable diesel is also included in the bill and will
receive the same credit as other oils; however, “co-processed” renewable diesel, that which is processed at a petroleum plant, will still receive the 50 cents per gallon credit. The bill also eliminates the so-called “splash and dash” provision that has been taken advantage of by biodiesel producers in other countries. Schafer predicted the Senate Finance Committee would address the bill before July 4, 2008.

Schafer emphasized that fuel quality is still very important to the biodiesel industry and explained that the renewable identification number program is a way to keep track of biodiesel.

John Lawrence made a return visit to the convention with a recap of the livestock industry. He pointed out that this quarter will be the peak in meat production for the year, which will then start to decline, and that through early June, red meat and poultry production is up over the same period in 2007. Lawrence noted that ethanol is not driving meat prices and that higher feed costs have not limited supply yet, although there are signs that the pork and poultry industries are starting to pull back.

In Canada, producers have been reducing their sow herds over the last two years; the animals are not allowed into the food supply but instead must be rendered.

Sustainable waste management was the topic of the last discussion of the day by Henry Probst, ProCorp Enterprises, who explained that from the 1970s to 1980s, waste management was regulatory driven; from the 1990s to 2000s, it was market driven; and in 2008 and beyond it will be financially driven, meaning costs must be reduced. On the plus side, he said there are plenty of incentives to drive renewable energy projects, especially in wastewater.

“Green has to make cents,” Probst proclaimed. He highlighted the various types of digesters available, including upflow anaerobic sludge blanket, mobilized film technology, plug flow, hybrids, and complete mix, which is preferred by Probst because it provides several benefits such as buffering capacity, is mechanically simple, and maximizes gas production.

Later that evening, convention attendees mingled and networked with industry suppliers at the tabletop exhibit, gathering information on the latest products and services that could benefit their businesses.

The central region held their business meeting the following morning, beginning with NRA President Tom Cook discussing the Food and Drug Administration’s finalized feed rule and the rendering industry’s efforts to get equal tax credit for rendered products in biodiesel production.

The central region then voted to donate $4,000 to the Fats and Proteins Research Foundation and adjourned until June 2009 when they will meet in Lake Geneva, WI. 

Daryl Brever, Central Bi-Products, left, explains his equipment needs to Brian Stanley and Dan Stewart, Scaffidi, at the tabletop exhibit.

John Setchell, Mendota Agri-Products, left, and Tom Pahl, ChemTreat, share a lighter moment.

Clay Pelfrey, Dupps, left, tells a story to Dan Hildebrandt and Daryl Brever, Central Bi-Products, and Jim Robertson, SCP Controls.
In two separate actions, the U.S. government took further steps toward prevention and control of animal diseases.

First, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) continued its commitment to avian influenza research by renewing the Avian Influenza Coordinated Agricultural Project (AICAP) with another $5 million for three years to the University of Maryland-College Park.

The USDA’s Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service originally awarded the AICAP in 2005 to the University of Maryland to establish a research and education project to help prevent and control avian influenza. The project was composed of a multidisciplinary team of researchers and extension specialists representing 17 states.

AICAP goals include epidemiology, basic research, diagnostics, vaccines, and education. Since 2005, project researchers and educators have:

• assembled the first continent-wide network to study the ecological and biological characteristics of avian influenza viruses isolated from wild birds;
• integrated research and education into a unique program available to a range of poultry producers;
• shown that quail can change and expand the host range of avian influenza viruses, and found that quail respiratory and intestinal tracts have human-like sialic acid receptors that could partially explain the emergence of avian influenza strains with the capacity to infect humans;
• developed a comprehensive program that has been delivered in 33 states and in Canada and Brazil to train producers and veterinarians on the depopulation and composting of flocks with avian influenza;
• developed a testing component for rapid diagnosis of avian influenza in birds; and
• developed promising vaccines for mass immunization of birds.

The institutions and researchers participating in AICAP are Virginia Tech, Auburn University, University of California-Davis, University of Delaware, University of Georgia, USDA’s Agricultural Research Service-Southeast Poultry Research Laboratory, Ohio State University, Oregon State University, Texas A&M University, Western University Health Sciences, and University of Maryland-College Park.

Secondly, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Science and Technology Directorate issued the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF) Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for public review and comment. The proposed NBAF is a joint effort with USDA that would establish a state-of-the-art, high-security laboratory facility to study both foreign animal and zoonotic diseases.

The NBAF would be designed to replace the existing facilities at the Plum Island Animal Disease Center in New York, currently the only facility in the United States that studies the live virus that causes foot and mouth disease. The Plum Island facility is too small to meet new research needs and has an outdated physical structure that makes it unsuitable for zoonotic disease research that must be conducted at the highest level of biosafety, called BSL-4. There is no laboratory facility in the United States for BSL-4 research for livestock.

No decision has been made yet on where, or even if, the facility would be built. The Science and Technology Directorate is undergoing an extensive review process to thoroughly evaluate each option, with the feedback of all interested parties, before any decision is made.

The Draft EIS analyzes the proposal to design, construct, and operate the NBAF, including risk assessments, for each of the six proposed locations: Athens, GA; Manhattan, KS; Madison County, MS; Granville County, NC; San Antonio, TX; and Plum Island, NY. The draft also analyzes a no-action alternative, in which a new facility is not built.

The DHS will host public meetings in the vicinity of each proposed site this summer. The Draft EIS, as well as information on submitting comments during the 60-day comment period that ends August 25, 2008, are available at www.dhs.gov/nbaf. The NBAF Final EIS is expected in late fall 2008 and a decision on if, and where, the NBAF would be constructed will be published in the Federal Register no less than 30 days after completion of the Final EIS.

Very Few Poultry Farms Left in Bangladesh

Out of the 23,000 poultry farms shut down during the avian influenza outbreak in Bangladesh in 2007, only 4,210 have managed to resume production in the past few months, according to World Poultry. Approximately five million people have lost their jobs in the country due to the farms’ closures.

Due to high interest rates at banks in the region, many poultry farmers have been unable to obtain loans from commercial banks. This, added to the increasing cost of feed, has made it impossible for many to sustain a business. World Poultry reports that many poultry farm owners have rented out their farms and unit space to factories, pesticide companies, and training institutes as they receive a better income than running a poultry facility.

To add to the situation, it is reported that many poultry farm owners have yet to be compensated for culling birds at their farms during the avian influenza outbreak that began in February 2007 and continued into 2008. R

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Won’t Let You Down
In 2005, the National Renderers Association (NRA) staff escorted two scientists from the Central Laboratory for Food and Feed in Egypt to the United States to examine the production of poultry by-product meal and feather meal. This activity was aimed at resolving concerns Egyptian officials had about bovine spongiform encephalopathy. Upon their return to Egypt they produced a favorable report on the U.S. manufacturing practices of poultry protein meals.

Shortly after this trip, avian influenza appeared in the Egyptian poultry flock and Egypt decided to ban the import of poultry by-products from any country, irrelevant of the avian influenza status of that country. A decree by the Egyptian government on November 7, 2005, formalized the ban on importing all poultry by-products.

Uruguay and Argentina benefited from the ban on U.S. product by exporting 97,000 metric tons and 107,000 metric tons of meat and bone meal to Egypt in 2004 and 2005, respectively. In 2006, Egypt only imported approximately 66,000 metric tons of meat and bone meal from Uruguay and Argentina. Also, Paraguay began exporting to Egypt in 2006 as shown in the table of global exports of animal protein meals into Egypt.

In an effort to reopen this market to U.S. poultry proteins, a proposal was given to the Egyptian government in 2005 by the U.S. Department of Agriculture/Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA/APHIS) reiterating import requirements suggested by APHIS and asking for market access. USDA’s Foreign Agricultural Service staff in Cairo, Egypt, followed-up several times with no response. Then in 2007, after the Egyptians indicated an interest in visiting the United States to view poultry protein meal rendering facilities, the USDA invited key government decision makers for plant tours and a meeting with USDA/APHIS representatives. After numerous attempts, the Egyptian delegation finally arrived in the United States in mid-June 2008. The NRA’s overall goal of the trip was for the delegation to return to Egypt and issue a favorable report in regards to reopening the Egyptian market to U.S. poultry protein meals. Upon returning to Egypt the delegation will issue a report to a technical committee, who will then issue its recommendation on the possibility of re-opening the market to U.S. poultry proteins.

The delegation visited an integrated rendering operation, Mountain View Rendering in Virginia, and an independent renderer, Valley Proteins in Fayetteville, NC. The staff at these plants gave very thorough tours and handled all the questions from the Egyptian officials. Following these visits the Egyptians met with APHIS to discuss import requirements.

Below are some observations from the plant visits.

- The delegation was interested in the amount of animal proteins the United States produces and how much is used domestically.
- Egypt will want a pork-free statement on the export certificate.
- The delegation was worried about dead in-transit birds going into the poultry meal, with the biggest concern regarding feathers. It was pointed out that the amount of feathers would be extremely miniscule.
- The delegation was also concerned about the shelf life of poultry proteins due to a regulation in Egypt that imports must have at least 50 percent of their shelf life remaining when imported.

All in all, the team was very positive and assuring that they would issue a favorable report.

### Global Exports of Animal Protein Meals to Egypt (metric tons)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
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<td>62,299</td>
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<td>Uruguay</td>
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<td>34,942</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<td>0</td>
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</table>

Source: Global Trade Atlas

### Possible Relaxing of Feed Rule in Europe

The European Commission (EC) is proposing to revise existing regulations of animal by-products to introduce clearer rules and set the general framework for more risk-proportionate requirements for these products. The new rules will also clarify when and how environmental legislation applies, and make it easier to use materials of animal origin for technical applications.

Thousands of slaughterhouses, farms, and dairy plants across the European Union (EU) produce more than 15 million metric tons of animal by-products per year. Currently, EC Regulation No. 1774/2002 regulates animal by-products and introduced a number of safeguards to prevent risk to public...
A Step Toward Reopening Egypt Markets

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Even numbered years divisible by four usually cast a spell over the nation’s capitol. This is when we, the American people, decide who we want to serve as president of the United States for the next four years.

This year is no exception. From now until early 2009, not much will get done either legislatively or through new regulations. There will be a lot of speeches and posturing but not much else. That’s just the way it happens. And, frankly, it is not all bad. Unless it affects the U.S. national security, there isn’t much that needs to be addressed.

There is a distinct difference between campaigning and governing. Some of the promises being made by the major candidates need some vetting and time to digest. They simply do not reflect good policy. If you added up all the costs of the promised actions and programs of either candidate there wouldn’t be nearly enough money to pay for them.

Presidential candidates of both parties tend to campaign to the extremes of their party to get the nomination. Once they accomplish this, they quickly move to the center. That is being witnessed again this year.

It is certain there will be a new resident at the White House. President George W. Bush, who is completing his second term, is only the fourth of the last 11 presidents to serve a full two terms in the White House. This is significant because whether the victor is Senator John McCain (R-AZ) or Senator Barrack Obama (D-IL), there will be a complete overhaul of appointed personnel in the executive branch of the U.S. government. The number of appointees is huge including all cabinet, sub-cabinet, and the many agency heads that will be replaced. By the time you throw in all the support people, the new political appointees will run into the thousands.

The National Renderers Association (NRA) held its eighth annual Washington fly-in earlier this summer. The fly-ins began during the first year of the Bush administration. Each fly-in has kicked off with a briefing from U.S. Department of Agriculture officials, usually the same officials. Next year we will have to get acquainted with a whole new cast of players.

After the election, I will be able to better speculate what to expect with the new administration. One thing that will likely occur with either candidate is that there will be more “green” initiatives. This will be important to renderers. We should be in a position to tell our positive story and take advantage of it.

Green and sustainability are two terms used liberally in recent months. At the NRA spring meeting in Montreal, Canada, a taskforce on sustainability to extol the virtues of rendered fats and oils in biofuels was appointed. Next January the NRA will be co-sponsoring an environmental agriculture sustainability summit in Atlanta, GA, in conjunction with the International Poultry Expo. At the NRA convention this fall, we will be addressing sustainability and carbon credits. There will be much to do on these issues in the coming year.

A Retirement Looms

A chapter of the NRA is closing at the end of this month. Dr. Yu Yu, who has served as the regional director for Asia for the past 12 years, is retiring August 31, 2008. During this time, he has worked tirelessly for the rendering industry to open markets throughout Asia. He has escorted numerous trade teams to the United States; hosted many renderers during their visits to Asian countries; attended countless trade shows and seminars; and met with an untold number of government officials seeking access for U.S. products to their countries. He has been extremely loyal to the NRA and its member exporters.

We will always remember Yu’s enlightening, entertaining, and informative presentations at every NRA convention. He and his wife, Grace, are moving to Los Angeles, CA, where their two daughters now live. We wish him well in his future endeavors and thank him for his service to the NRA.

75th Convention Approaching

I hope you have made plans to attend the 75th NRA Annual Convention October 20-24, 2008, in Laguna Niguel, CA. Plans are being made for a memorable convention as we honor the past and look to the future. Renderers, active and retired, can be proud of the past 75 years of the NRA and are encouraged to join us as we celebrate this milestone. More about the convention including an agenda, registration, and hotel information are available by going to www.nationalrenderers.org.
For 75 years, the members of the National Renderers Association have come together to help the industry prosper and grow. Our 75th Annual Convention will celebrate those wonderful years of industry interaction with a myriad of special events and speakers:

- Charles R. Schwab - “Talk to Chuck”
- Randy Blach, Cattle-Fax
- Dr. Bernadette Dunham, director of FDA's Center for Veterinary Medicine

Don’t miss this wonderful celebration as we commemorate 75 years!

For full convention information, agenda, and registration:
www.nationalrenderers.org
Marty Covert (703) 533-8571
e-mail co@martycovert.com
ASTM Approves New Biodiesel Blend Specifications

After five years of extensive research and subsequent balloting by ASTM International, the biodiesel industry finally has three key sets of biodiesel specifications that should significantly bolster automaker support and consumer demand for the alternative fuel.

The biggest change to the existing B100 biodiesel blend stock specification, ASTM D6751, is to include a requirement for a cold soak filtration test as a means to assure buyers that biodiesel won’t contain precipitates that can cause filter-plugging issues in cold weather. Initially there were concerns with the test within the biodiesel industry, including among renderers who produce biodiesel. Last winter, the rendering industry voiced their opposition to the test requirement at the ASTM subcommittee level because animal fats can sometimes test poorly under the procedure even though they are problem-free in cold weather. However, there were not enough votes to sway the subcommittee.

“We based the standards on physical and chemical properties necessary to run well in an engine, not on the specific process used or not on the feedstock that’s used,” said Steve Howell, president of MARC-IV Consulting and chair of the D02 biodiesel task group that developed the specifications. “The spec contains a verbal definition for biodiesel as well as all of its properties.”

The ASTM International D02 Main Committee also approved adding requirements for up to five percent biodiesel to existing ASTM D975, Specification for Diesel Fuel Oils, and a new specification for blends of six percent biodiesel (B6) to 20 percent biodiesel (B20) for on- and off-road diesel.

A c c o r d i n g  t o  t h e  N a t i o n a l Biodiesel Board, the approval of ASTM specifications for inclusion of up to five percent biodiesel (B5) in regular diesel means that biodiesel could soon become more readily available at retail fueling stations nationwide.

The ASTM International D02 Main Committee also approved a fourth set of specifications for adding up to five percent biodiesel in heating oil (ASTM D396), which is gaining popularity in home heating oil, particularly in the Northeast United States.

A c c e p t a n c e  o f  B20 use in their diesel vehicles. Chrysler, LLC, has worked with the ASTM task force toward B20 specification development and approval and has supported fleet use of B20 in its Dodge Ram diesel pickups since January 2006.

“This action by the ASTM committee is a milestone in our nation’s effort to expand the role of renewable fuels, including biodiesel, in addressing our energy, environmental, and economic challenges,” stated Chrysler Safety and Regulatory spokesman Max Gates. “Chrysler is committed to working with our partners in the transportation industry to build on this action and make biodiesel an alternative available to all of our customers.”

G e n e r a l  M o t o r s  ( G M )  i s just as pleased with the new blend specification.

“The new ASTM spec for B6 to B20 is a major building block in GM’s efforts to elevate biodiesel as part of our overall energy diversity strategy,” said John Gaydash, director of marketing for GM’s Fleet and Commercial Operations. Currently, GM accepts the use of B5 in all of its diesel vehicles, and offers B20 use as a special equipment option available to government fleets on specific configurations of certain vehicles and trucks.

The biggest change to the existing demand for the alternative fuel.

A c c e p t a n c e  o f  B20 use as a special equipment option for GM’s equipment. In 2006, the company approved the use of five percent biodiesel blends for its equipment.

Biodiesel fuels approved for use must comply with ASTM D6751. Case recommends purchasing biodiesel from BQ 9000 accredited suppliers to maintain the quality and consistency of the fuel.

C a n a d a  P a s s e s B i o f u e l s Bill

Canada’s Senate and House of Commons passed the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, Bill C-33, which gives the Canadian government authority to develop regulations for renewable fuels mandating a five percent renewable content in gasoline by 2010 and a two percent renewable content in diesel fuel and heating oil by 2012.

According to Natural Resources Canada’s GHGenius lifecycle model, the renewable fuels standard will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by approximately four megatons per year, which is the equivalent of taking about one million cars off the road, or a solid line of cars stretching from Montreal, QB, to Vancouver, BC, Canada. Since announcing its renewable fuels requirements in 2006, the Canadian government has committed $2.2 billion over nine years to support a strong domestic renewable fuels sector in Canada.

C a s e  A p p r o v e s  B20 for Construction Equipment

Case Construction Equipment has approved the use of 20 percent biodiesel blends for more than 85 percent of its construction equipment. In 2006, the company approved the use of five percent biodiesel blends for its equipment.

Biodiesel fuels approved for use must comply with ASTM D6751. Case recommends purchasing biodiesel from BQ 9000 accredited suppliers to maintain the quality and consistency of the fuel.

E C  t o  I n v e s t i g a t e U.S. Biodiesel Imports

Anti-subsidy and anti-dumping complaints lodged in late April 2008 by the European Biodiesel Board (EBB) have been heard by the European Commission (EC), which has decided there is sufficient evidence that subsidies...
to the U.S. biodiesel industry have had an adverse effect on the European biodiesel industry (see “Biofuels Bulletin” in the June 2008 Render). A detailed investigation by the commission will determine whether measures are justified under European Union (EU) trade rules. The EC said it will make its provisional findings by March 13, 2009, at the latest, which it will then present to the EU member states.

The National Biodiesel Board (NBB), which represents the U.S. biodiesel industry, said the allegations are baseless and unfounded.

“The European biodiesel industry is not being harmed by U.S. competition,” said Manning Feraci, NBB’s vice president of Federal Affairs. “High feedstock costs, changes to EU member policies, and, in some cases, poor business practices are the true issues facing European biodiesel producers. It is unfortunate that the EBB has found it politically expedient to blame the U.S. biodiesel industry instead of focusing on efforts on the true challenges facing its membership.

“The NBB will not only vigorously defend the interests of the U.S. biodiesel industry, but will employ every tool available to challenge existing EU trade barriers that provide preferential treatment to European biodiesel producers,” Feraci added.

Shortly after the EC’s announcement, EBB released annual biodiesel production statistics for Europe, which showed a much lower growth rate in 2007 compared to previous years. Biodiesel production increased from 4.9 million metric tons (1.3 billion gallons) in 2006 to 5.7 million metric tons (1.5 billion gallons) in 2007, representing a yearly growth of only 16.8 percent compared to 54 percent in 2006 and 65 percent in 2005. Installed plant capacity increased by 55 percent in 2007 to 16 million metric tons (4.3 billion gallons) from the 214 biodiesel plants reported as of July 2008.

Last year, biodiesel accounted for 76 percent of the biofuels consumed in the European Union. Europe remains the world’s largest producer and consumer of biodiesel, according to EBB, producing 68 percent of biodiesel manufactured worldwide in 2007.

Continued on page 22
Biofuels Continued from page 21

Grant Awarded to San Francisco for Grease-to-Biodiesel Facility

The California Energy Commission has awarded the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) a $1 million grant to build the city’s first pilot grease-to-biodiesel production facility.

The facility will be sited at the SFPUC’s Oceanside sewage treatment plant and will attempt to create three grades of biodiesel from some of the 2.5 million gallons of brown grease generated by the city’s restaurants. In November 2007, San Francisco launched a program to collect waste cooking oil from local restaurants that is then sold to biodiesel producers who convert it to biodiesel to fuel the city’s fleet. SFPUC also manages that program. Construction of the brown grease biodiesel facility is expected to be complete by December 2008.

Although more challenging than waste cooking oil, brown grease can be refined and produced into three grades of biodiesel:
- high-grade ASTM certified biodiesel for vehicles;
- lower grade biofuel source for running sewage treatment plant diesel turbines and pumps; and
- rich energy for cogeneration – the process of capturing methane gas at the sewage plant and converting that to heating/electrical needs.

Mississippi State Receives Research Funds

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) awarded $200,000 to Mississippi State University (MSU) for research to transform wastewater treatment plant sludge into biodiesel. Funds from the grant will build upon the research that MSU is conducting in the field of renewable, sustainable fuels.

The research will be conducted as part of EPA’s Office of Research and Development’s Regionally Applied Research Effort program. A team led by Dr. Rafael Hernandez and Dr. Todd French will conduct research into microorganisms to extract lipids, which are the fatty substances, from the sludge. It will then be converted into biodiesel. The research team will also evaluate the life cycle energy costs to determine the process’ net energy and environmental effectiveness.

NBB Welcomes Two Board Members

The National Biodiesel Board (NBB) has elected two new members to its 15-member governing board to replace several departing biodiesel producers.

Greg Hopkins, of U.S. Biofuels, and Scott Johnson, of GEN-X Energy Group, will replace outgoing board members Graham Noyes, Imperium Renewables, and Jake Stewart, Organic Fuels. Since Noyes was serving as secretary, the board elected member Jim Conway, Griffin Industries, as secretary.

Nova Plants Running Strong

In late June, Nova Biosource Fuels, Inc., completed commissioning the third and final 20 million gallon per year production train at its biodiesel facility in Seneca, IL, having run the train at or above capacity using feedstocks with free fatty acid (FFA) levels in excess of 10 percent. As of July 1, 2008, the plant has produced nearly five million gallons of ASTM D6751 biodiesel. Operations are now underway to procure additional feedstock to bring online all three trains simultaneously in preparation for a test run.

Nova has also said the repairs at the Scott biodiesel facility in Greenville, MS, were completed on schedule in mid-June with the plant up and running at near capacity using animal fat with FFA levels of between two and five percent. The plant previously was damaged after a mechanical pump failure.

Pennsylvania Mandates Biodiesel Use

Pennsylvania Governor Edward G. Rendell signed two pieces of legislation in July that will require fuels in the state to contain a percentage of biodiesel and ethanol, and provide the state’s biodiesel producers a financial incentive on the fuel they make.

The biofuel percentage requirements established under House Bill 1202 will go into effect once in-state production reaches certain levels, adding as much as one billion gallons of biofuels to the state’s fuel supply. The law established that all diesel fuel sold at retail must contain:
- two percent biodiesel, once in-state production reaches 40 million gallons;
- five percent biodiesel, once in-state production reaches 100 million gallons;
- 10 percent biodiesel, once in-state production reaches 200 million gallons; and
- 20 percent biodiesel, once in-state production reaches 400 million gallons.

The new law also requires all gasoline sold at retail to contain 10 percent ethanol, once in-state cellulosic ethanol production reaches 350 million gallons. Currently, Pennsylvania has seven biodiesel facilities with a total capacity of 80 million gallons per year. However, current production is only about seven million gallons per year, but is estimated to increase to 50 million gallons per year once the subsidy goes into effect. Estimates also put construction of new or expanded facilities at up to 200 million gallons per year with the new mandate. The state’s first large-scale ethanol plant – a 100 million gallon per year operation – is under construction in Clearfield County.

To help spur in-state production, Special Session Senate Bill 22 allows Pennsylvania to invest $5.3 million in its biodiesel producers annually through June 30, 2011, in the form of a 75 cent per gallon subsidy that will be capped at $1.9 million per year per producer.

Rotterdam to be Site of Renewable Diesel Plant

Neste Oil will build an 800,000 metric ton (217 million gallons) per year plant to produce its NExBTL renewable diesel in Rotterdam in the Netherlands. Construction has begun with completion scheduled in 2011. Total cost of the project is $670 million Euro. Neste Oil announced in November 2007 a similar-sized plant to be built in Singapore.

NExBTL renewable diesel is based on Neste Oil’s proprietary technology and can use a range of feedstocks. At its plant in Finland, a mix of palm oil, rapeseed oil, and animal fat is used to produce renewable diesel. The fuel can be used in all diesel engines.
Speedboat Record Shattered on Second Try

On June 27, 2008, Earthrace smashed the world speed record for a powerboat to circumnavigate the globe, completing the journey in 60 days, 23 hours, and 49 minutes, knocking almost 14 days off the previous record. The boat travelled 24,000 nautical miles fueled by biodiesel to demonstrate and draw global attention to the potential for alternative fuel sources.

Earthrace is a 24 meter tri-hull wavepiercer built in New Zealand. She set off from Spain on April 27, 2008, in a second attempt to challenge the world record that has remained unbroken since 1998 when it was set by the British boat, Cable and Wireless Adventurer. Earthrace’s previous attempt last year was met with disasters and obstacles that could not be overcome.

This attempt had its own challenges and obstacles, the most of which were the replacement of the boat’s drive shaft and propeller after hitting sea debris in Palau, encountering monsoon conditions in the Indian Ocean, and bypassing a massive backlog of ships waiting to transit the Panama Canal.

Skipper Pete Bethune, a former oil worker, has dedicated the past six years of his life towards reaching his goal of smashing the record in his boat using biodiesel.

“We’re completely stoked to have achieved something so incredible,” said Bethune. “Earthrace’s success has proved that any form of transport, including marine, can be non-damaging to the environment as well as being high performance.”

Taiwan Requires Biodiesel in Fuel

According to The China Post, the Bureau of Energy under the Ministry of Economic Affairs in Taiwan will require all diesel fuel to be mixed with one percent of biodiesel derived from waste cooking oil beginning July 15, 2008. The move is part of a campaign launched by the new administration led by President Ma Ying-jeou to conserve energy and cut carbon dioxide emissions.

It is estimated that adding one percent biodiesel will reduce the consumption of diesel in the country by 38.5 million liters (10 million gallons) each year. Any extra costs of the requirement will be absorbed by the energy enterprises, namely the state-run Chinese Petroleum Corp., Taiwan, and the private sector’s Formosa Petrochemical Corp.

The Energy Bureau previously launched a test project using biodiesel in buses and government vehicles in several areas. The pilot project has been using diesel containing two to five percent biodiesel in more than 500 buses in Kaohsiung City and Chiayi County in southern Taiwan since January 2007 that has proven extremely successful.

Biodiesel in Taiwan is generated from waste cooking oil. The country’s Environmental Protection Administration already requires households and restaurants to recycle their waste cooking oil so that it can be processed into biodiesel.

Tyson Updates Biofuels Progress

At an investment conference in early June, Jeff Webster, senior vice president of Tyson Foods’ Renewable Products Division, provided an update on the company’s strategic alliance with ConocoPhillips to convert fat into renewable diesel. The two companies experienced a successful start-up in December 2007 and are now producing 300 to 500 barrels of renewable diesel per day.

“The progress we’ve made in producing renewable diesel helps animal agriculture and does not directly impact the food chain,” Webster stated. “We hope future decisions by Congress regarding investment incentives do not impede our company’s ability to make

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Biofuels Continued from page 23

these contributions.”  

Webster also updated Tyson’s participation in Dynamic Fuels, a joint venture with Synthroleum Corporation, to convert low grade, inedible fats and greases into renewable synthetic diesel, jet, and military fuel. Dynamic Fuels has secured preliminary approval for $100 million in tax exempt Gulf Opportunity (GO) Zone Bonds to fund the building of the company’s first renewable synthetic fuels facility in Geismar, LA.

Equipment requiring a long lead time has been ordered, process engineering for the project is complete, and final approval for plans were given in mid-July.

The project’s $138 million budget was also approved, which includes the $100 million in GO Zone Bonds. The $38 million balance will be funded through equity contributions in the form of a $19 million per owner cash commitment, of which a total of $13.25 million was delivered on July 11, 2008.

Construction is expected to begin in October 2008 with mechanical completion of the plant expected by year end 2009. Once in operation, the plant will produce about 75 million gallons of renewable synthetic fuel annually.

Waste Oil Producers Recycle for Own Use

Enterprises that generate a significant amount of waste cooking oil are turning what they traditionally dispose of into a fuel being pumped back into company vehicles.

Ukrop’s Super Markets, Inc., in Richmond, VA, has begun recycling the oil from its chicken-frying operation by processing it into biodiesel for its 15 trucks and 45 refrigerated trailers that serve 28 local stores in the area. Ukrop’s expects to produce 50,000 to 65,000 gallons of biodiesel per year in a partnership with RECO Biodiesel, Inc., who will collect the used oil from participating Ukrop’s and process it into the alternative fuel. It will then be blended with petroleum diesel to be pumped into Ukrop’s fleet.

Libby Hill, a Greensboro, NC-based, seafood restaurant, has entered into a partnership with Patriot Biodiesel to refine the waste cooking oil from its 11 area restaurants into biodiesel. Libby Hill estimates the company uses 800,000 to one million pounds of vegetable oil a year, with roughly 10 percent of the oil remaining after cooking. The exchange with Patriot Biodiesel will provide about a third of the needed fuel for Libby Hill’s fleet of five diesel-powered trucks.

Alberta Changes BSE Surveillance Program

Over the past four years, cattle producers in Alberta, Canada, have worked closely with the federal and provincial governments to meet international requirements for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) surveillance. Now, with the help of a new pilot program developed by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD), producers will be able to focus their efforts on the animals the World Organization for Animal Health, or OIE, identifies as being most at risk.

Effective July 1, 2008, the Canada-Alberta BSE Surveillance Program (CABSESP) will shift the surveillance focus to testing younger high-risk cattle for which critical disease history and diagnoses are available.

“CABSESP has done a tremendous job of gathering information on BSE levels in older Alberta cattle,” explained Dr. Gerald Ollis, chief provincial veterinarian. “A move toward more targeted, precise sampling further strengthens Alberta’s vitally important cattle industry and provides a possible model for the rest of the country.” To date CABSESP has tested more than 100,000 high-risk cattle — representing more than 40 percent of the cattle tested in Canada.

The new pilot program is in keeping with OIE surveillance standards, which use a point system to assess the value of member country’s BSE surveillance. Because most cases of BSE show up in cattle between four and seven years of age, the OIE point system assigns a higher value for high-risk cattle in that age range.

Knowing that, we determined that cattle over 107 months will no longer qualify for BSE testing unless they have neurological signs indicating they may have BSE,” said Ollis.

Other program changes include:
• Only licensed veterinarians certified by ARD can participate in CABSESP.
• Veterinarians must verify the age of the animal sampled. Dentition can be used for animals up to five years of age and farm records are required for animals between 60 and 107 months of age.
• Veterinarians must provide a comprehensive description of the herd and operation, not just the animal.
• In the case of a dead animal, veterinarians will be required to conduct a post-mortem and record the cause of death.
• Producers must be in possession of the animal for at least 30 days in order to provide an adequate clinical history.

The new age limits will reduce the number of animals eligible for testing.

Canada Finds Thirteenth BSE Case

On June 23, 2008, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) confirmed bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in a five-year-old Holstein cow from British Columbia. This is the country’s thirteenth native case since May 2003. Canada’s stringent BSE safeguards prevented any part of the animal’s carcass from entering the human food chain or any potentially infective parts from entering the feed chain.

The animal was detected through Canada’s national BSE surveillance program and its age is consistent with previous cases, which range from four to 16 years. CFIA has launched an investigation to determine the animal’s background, including tracing the cow’s herd mates at birth.
and animal health from food- and feed-borne diseases and toxins such as bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), dioxins, foot and mouth disease, and swine fever. Animal by-products from animals not fit for human consumption must be disposed of by incineration in approved plants under official control.

Under the proposal, experts will examine the feasibility and risk of relaxing existing rules so that tallow can be used as a fuel and some animal proteins may be used in animal feed. In 2007, EU scientists concluded that the BSE-related public health risks of using certain animal proteins in animal feed, particularly swine protein being fed to poultry and vice-versa, would be negligible. The EU already took a first step towards easing its overall BSE restrictions when in April, EU experts agreed to lift a seven-year ban on using fish meal in animal feed and allow it to be used as a milk replacement for calves and lambs. Provided the European Parliament agrees, the new fish meal provision could come into force later this year.

The Commission’s proposal now goes to the European Parliament and Council for consideration. Once adopted, the regulation would enter into force 20 days after its publication, with a transitional period of 15 months before new rules would take effect. Whatever the outcome, rendering industry experts state that the EU will never lift the ban on feeding animal proteins to ruminants. The EU banned the use of meat and bone meal in cattle feed in 1994 after scientists concluded that BSE was spread by feed containing contaminated ruminant protein.

Dear Editor,

I continue to receive and read Render. I find interesting and useful information in the magazine partially, one might say, because it presents information from the “other side of the fence.” The rendering business is an important component of the livestock industry that has to deal with as much government regulation as any component of the industry.

Dr. David Meeker’s article in the June issue is very informative (“FDA Unleashes New Feed Rule”). The new feed rule puts the industry in an increasingly smaller box and adds more overhead to the entire industry, which I feel is unnecessary.

In 1996, when the original rule was proposed, I went public saying the rule was “ill-advised” (Beef 32(10) p. 25) and “would not address the real hazard” (Feedsuffs 68(18) p. 8). I was criticized for not wanting to apply the “precautionary principle” instead of relying on the facts and science at the time.

As far as I can see, the science and facts have not changed so I still think the rules are “ill-advised.” I realize, of course, that the rendering industry has no choice but to abide by the rules.

R.L. Preston, PhD
Emeritus Professor
Department of Animal Science
Texas Tech University
Lubbock, TX

Dear Editor,

Thank you for your magazine. We are interested in trends in uses of rendered products, especially biodiesel (and other biofuels). Where America is going and what Americans are thinking is important for the rest of the world.

Owen Bleaken
Flinders Cook (TS), Ltd.
Auckland, New Zealand

Render welcomes your opinions. Send to 2820 Birch Avenue, Camino, CA 95709, e-mail to editors@rendermagazine.com, or fax to (530) 644-8429.

United States, China Outline Progress on Food/Feed Safety Agreement

In mid-June 2008, a progress report was issued on steps taken by the United States and China in implementing the 2007 Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on food and feed safety signed in December 2007 by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection, and Quarantine (AQSIQ) of the People’s Republic of China. The joint progress report statement was signed by Secretary Mike Leavitt and the Honorable Li Changjiang, minister of AQSIQ, during the fourth session under the United States-China Strategic Economic Dialogue.

The MOA established bilateral mechanism to provide greater information and other assurances to enhance the safety of food and feed products traded between the two countries. Since its signing, HHS’ Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and AQSIQ have planned a joint implementation work strategy and have begun the initial steps called for under the agreement.

The June statement describes progress in several important areas:

• Establishment of a mechanism for cooperation on significant events related to food and feed safety, including designated points of contact, emergency contacts, and thresholds for notifications; enhancing the exchange of information on the safety of food and feed safety; and developing a better understanding by both sides of each others’ respective regulatory systems.

• Development of concrete steps that will lead to a system whereby AQSIQ will electronically certify to FDA that specific products sent for export to the United States meet FDA standards for safety and manufacturing quality.

• Focus efforts on inspections and supervision and laboratory testing standards to ensure food and feed safety. The United States agreed to conduct training for Chinese officials on U.S. regulatory standards and requirements.

• Establishment of a cooperative mechanism to notify each other of significant risks to public health related to product safety or the gross deception of consumers, and to share information to facilitate each other’s investigation.

For more information, go to http://globalhealth.gov/news/agreements/ia121107b.html.
European Renderers Determine World Appears Similar, but Outlooks Differ

In early June, over 200 delegates attended the European Fat Processors and Renderers Association (EFPRA) Congress in Aalborg, Denmark. Two main business sessions were held as well as official EFPRA and World Renderers Organization (WRO) meetings. As is tradition, the equipment supplier exhibitions and social events ensured that business was mixed with a little pleasure.

On day one, the EFPRA Technical Symposium brought together technical and business people with the objective of conveying technical messages in an easy to understand manner. Speakers from five countries covered a range of topics relevant to EFPRA members and their customers. Stephen Woodgate of the United Kingdom, technical director of EFPRA, introduced the session with a short review of the activities of the EFPRA standing technical committee during the previous year. He also highlighted the areas of main focus for the next 12 months, one of which is the adoption of a new animal by-products regulation to update, simplify, and provide more certainty in key areas than the existing regulation. Specifically, clarity is expected on the matter of determination that tallow is a fuel and not a waste. Amendments to environmental legislation and a new directive for renewable energy and biofuels will also be tracked and EFPRA will be actively involved in the consultation process. A new regulation requiring that glycerol triheptanoate be added to Category 1 and 2 animal by-products was described and the practical implementation steps necessary were illustrated. Finally, and most relevant in today’s environment of high cost of animal feeds, a proposal to authorize the use of non-ruminant animal proteins from Category 3 material for use in aquaculture feeds will be progressed at both the technical and political levels.

Rob Margry of the Netherlands gave an overview of the species identification methods available to identify species-specific processed animal proteins. The review included an assessment of the pros and cons of various testing methods, such as lateral flow (dipstick) systems, polymerase chain reaction, and microscopy. The relevance of each test system to the current and future legislation on animal feeds was described.

Gerald “J.J.” Smith of the United States, and a member of the National Renderers Association (NRA) board of directors and future chairman of the Fats and Proteins Research Foundation (FPRF), gave an overview of FPRF activities. As a “non-scientist,” Smith was perfectly placed to give his views in his usual straight talking way. He emphasised the financial inputs required to obtain high-quality research and called for funding to be found to unearth the opportunities that may yet to be discovered. The possibility of co-funding specific research projects between FPRF and EFPRA was proposed as a potential way to increase research efficiency between the European Union (EU) and the United States.

Jussi Suomi from the Finnish company Neste Oil made a very clear presentation on the aspects of European renewable energy proposals that impact the rendering industry. The characterization of biomass was described with Suomi concluding that rendered products meet the definition. It seems that if tallow meets the criteria laid down it will probably mean that value as a fuel could exceed its value as a feed ingredient. Of course, the specific EU animal by-products legislation requirements for three categories means that only Category 3 tallow can enter the food chain (via animal feed), leaving Category 1 and 2 tallow to be used as a feedstock for chemical splitting or as a fuel. This, in reality, makes it difficult to suggest that there is a competition for food or fuel but rather that the rendering industry can provide both food and fuel.

Niels Alsted of Denmark comes from the commercial aquaculture world as chief executive officer (CEO) of one of the European “big three,” Biomar. Alsted gave an excellent presentation that was both technical and commercial. It was clearly stated that the EU aquaculture feed industry has a high demand for rendered animal proteins, yet there is resistance from both legislators and retailers. He concluded that the EFPRA technical approach to the regulator was the most appropriate way forward, but he also mentioned several possible approaches regarding retailer acceptance. From this retailer’s viewpoint, EFPRA was urged to engage with the food producer, one step before the retailer. Here, a realistic and non-emotional relationship can be developed, and thereafter the food producer may also assist with educating the retailer to take animal by-products seriously as a feed ingredient.

On the EFPRA business front, the annual general assembly endorsed the re-election of Niels Leth Nielsen as president for an additional two-year term, along with two vice presidents for the same period: Sjors Beerendonk and Alberto Grosso.

On day two, the congress was split into two sessions. First, a general overview session featuring Patrick Coelenbier updated the European statistics in terms of animal numbers, meat production, and animal by-products. In regard to the latter, Coelenbier showed that rendered products were utilized, as before, by six main sectors. These outlet opportunities include energy, animal feed, pet food, oleochemicals and soap, fertilizers, and foods. Overall, Coelenbier showed that there is an evolution towards segregation of processing lines by animal by-product categories, particularly when...
higher value products may be produced for specific markets.

Hikka Summa from DG-Agri presented the views of the Directorate-General of Agriculture and Rural Development on renewable biomass. Here it was seen that the views of DG-Agri appeared to be in tune with those of EFPR. It is hoped that the main directive on renewable energy is not sidetracked by other aspects being considered in tandem, such as fuel quality and sustainability. In principle, EPRA members consider that they should be able to meet all the criteria laid down, but in amongst the technical discussions is mixed a considerable amount of political rhetoric…sometimes not very helpful.

Tim Gumbel from DG-Sanco gave some indications of what to expect from the new animal by-products regulation, although he was not able to go into detail as the proposal was not formally adopted until a week later. He also outlined the European Commission’s desire to reduce the burden on business and minimize trivial issues of red tape whilst at the same time ensuring high standards of animal and public health.

Kjeld Johannsen, CEO of Danish Crown, illustrated the scope of the company’s commercial activities. He urged the audience to “think global” and showed by way of example some of the challenges faced over the last few years and ahead into the future. Certainly, changes in the European Union showing reduced numbers of animals slaughtered for food production was a cause for some concern. However, Johannsen proposed that in his opinion, application of sound business principles could still deliver growth in this vitally important food sector.

The second session, a round table discussion based on the theme “food versus fuel,” featured speakers from four different countries and was chaired by the president of EFPR and WRO, Niels Leth Nielsen. Kent Swisher from the NRA gave an overview of activities in the United States during 2007 and updated the audience on a recent U.S. regulation regarding some aspects of feed controls relating to transmissible spongiform encephalopathy risk materials. Overall though, 2007 was considered to be a good year for U.S. rendered products, mainly driven by high prices of all food, feed, and fuel commodities.

Andre Couture, from Montreal, Canada, described the evolution of Sanimax from a small French Canadian company owned by his grandfather. The range of products produced by Sanimax in both the United States and Canada illustrated that all of the animal by-products are being valorized in one way or another. Even the introduction of a ban on specified risk materials in feed introduced in Canada in July 2007 has not caused major problems, even though some reorganization of processing lines has been necessary.

The overall message at the congress seemed to be one of “the world appears to be similar… but in reality there are major differences in outlook.” However, just to show that the WRO can achieve a degree of consensus, it was agreed at the informal meeting in Aalborg that some actions would be taken. These include a proposal to contact the World Organization for Animal Health, or OIE, regarding the interpretation problems seen with the OIE declaration on “protein free tallow,” and an agreement to propose a revision to the international tariff codes for trade in rendered products in order to achieve some discrimination between ruminant and non-ruminant products. It was also agreed to make a silver level contribution towards the Global Aquaculture Alliance conference in China at the end of October 2008.

Finally, the activities of the upcoming Codex meeting will be monitored to determine if a new ad-hoc animal feed committee is formed, and if one is established, then WRO will ensure that it has a voice.

Next year the EFPR meeting will be in Cannes, France, June 10-13, 2009. Meeting details will be available later this year at www.efpra.eu.
One Man’s Passion to Educate on Animal Agriculture

Extension Livestock Specialist Dr. Harold Hupp, a member of the Clemson University Animal Co-Products Research and Education Center (ACREC) team, works to educate the next generation of agribusiness managers, scientists, lawyers, politicians, and decision makers on the animal industry and rendered animal co-products. A native of Ohio, Hupp earned degrees from Wilmington College, the University of Kentucky, and Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. As a member of the Cooperative Extension Service—a joint venture of federal, state, and local agencies—Hupp is part of a vast network of educators throughout the entire United States and its territories. He teaches scientific principles to lay audiences via one-on-one instruction, live audience presentations, and distance education technologies such as educational television and the Internet.

The importance of animal agricultural education was recognized early in the development of the United States. Many of the first colleges and universities founded in this country were heavily oriented towards agricultural research and education. In 1862, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Morrill Act into law that set forth the formation of land grant colleges in each state. Each land grant college/university was charged with providing agricultural education in exchange for federal support. In 1887, the Hatch Experiment Station Act provided funding and created a working relationship between land grant college/university researchers and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), which had been previously established in 1862. In 1914, Georgia Senator Hoke Smith and South Carolina Representative Asbury Francis “Frank” Lever sponsored the Smith-Lever Act.

Lever was a lifetime member of the board of trustees of Clemson College, later to be known as Clemson University. He recognized that agricultural colleges/universities and the USDA held a wealth of vital information but that information was not being relayed to the farmer. Lever realized that a mechanism for taking this information to the agricultural communities would cause “a complete and absolute revolution in the social, economic, and financial condition of our rural population.” (Parsons, Sam. 2004. *Clemson World* Online vol. 57, no. 2.)

Lever was further quoted as stating, “The agent in the field of the Department [of Agriculture] and the college is to be the mouthpiece through which this information will reach the people—the man and woman and the boy and girl on the farm. You cannot make the farmer change the methods which have been sufficient to earn a livelihood for himself and his family for many years unless you show him, under his own vine and fig tree as it were, that you have a system better than the system which he himself has been following.” (Parsons)

Therefore, passage of the Smith-Lever Act established the Cooperative Extension Service, a network of educators located in convenient, readily accessible locations across the entire United States via the land grant colleges/universities. These extension educators provide practical, accurate agriculturally related information to the American public. They are responsible for collecting and collating cutting edge scientific information from the research arm of land grant universities and presenting that information to the lay public in a manner that is factual and easily understood. In addition, the Cooperative Extension Service works with youth to introduce the next generation of agricultural leaders to various aspects of agribusiness.

Hupp has been an active participant in ACREC since its inception. Although he has not requested funding from the center, Hupp conducts numerous adult and youth extension programs in which he provides information concerning the rendering industry and its importance to animal agriculture. As advisor to several Clemson University student clubs, he also is integrally involved with animal science undergraduate and graduate students. Hupp is passionate about education and animal agriculture. He specializes in beef cattle livestock production but coordinates and collaborates with other...
extension agents across all species of livestock and poultry production.

Hupp has developed a number of workshops in conjunction with extension specialists, extension agents, and industry leaders. Each workshop attendee receives a detailed information notebook, handouts, and PowerPoint presentations. Cow College 1 – The Basics, a series of eight two-hour modules, was originally presented via educational television to numerous county extension offices. The audience for this basic course has ranged from novice to seasoned cattle producers. Hupp continues the knowledge transfer with his Cow College II – Stockering, which teaches best management practices for a stockering operation in five two-hour modules. Again, this is presented via educational television and in group presentations. Another program Hupp presents is the South Carolina Beef Quality Assurance Program, which is taught in three two-hour modules and includes information on best management practices on beef quality and herd health. He is currently converting all workshop materials to compact disc and Internet format for asynchronous distance educational opportunities.

In the Junior Cattlemen’s Contest, which is held at the annual Junior Beef Round-Up, youth and adults are challenged via contests on knowledge of beef animal production and management. The contest has five subject areas and five age groups. Participants range from “novice,” at under 10 years of age, to “ma and pa,” those participants over the age of 21. In preparation for this fun contest, Hupp and other extension agents teach a variety of information on animal agriculture. Hupp also conducts a school on artificial insemination of cattle to teach both classroom and hands-on experience to college students and regional cattlemen.

Without livestock and poultry, there would be no rendering. And without rendering, the slaughter industry would be inundated with millions of pounds of residual tissues that would in turn negatively impact the animal producer. Hupp teaches the mutual importance of these affiliated industries to new faces young and old with new extension education programs. Through other programs such as Knowledge College, Hupp and the other extension agents have an opportunity to spread information to an eager audience. Youth educational programs such as 4-H and Future Farmers of America (FFA) allow educational opportunities for teaching America’s youth. As the United States becomes more urban, these traditionally rural programs are beginning to reach new audiences through 4-H and FFA programs integrated into schools. With the interconnection of the Cooperative Extension Service throughout the nationwide land grant university system, educational materials developed in South Carolina can be utilized throughout the country by other extension agents.

Hupp has been a leader in reaching all age groups, from all walks of life, with sound, fact-based information concerning animal agriculture.

Newer communication technologies have revolutionized the work of extension educators and allowed for even further dissemination of information. However, the information era of the Internet has also provided readily significant sources of misinformation and distortion to the lay public. For nearly 100 years, the Cooperative Extension Service has been an effective tool for providing reliable and trustworthy information. News agencies are familiar with the work of the Cooperative Extension Service system and often seek verification of facts from extension educators. Hupp has been at the forefront of developing educational programs using new communication technologies. Through these media, he finds new ways to rapidly transmit new information to consumers. He is very eager to prepare further information related to animal co-products for dissemination to the general public. Sometimes described as the “silent industry,” rendering is often misunderstood due to inaccurate information. Hupp and the nationwide network of extension agents are powerful tools for distributing accurate information on the benefits of rendering for the environment, the economy, and as the gatekeeper of animal health.

Hupp is an active member of the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association, the South Carolina Cattlemen’s Beef Association, Pickens County Cattlemen’s Association, and Epsilon Sigma Phi, which is the professional society of extension associates. Hupp has served on the Clemson University Extension Senate and is the 2008 Extension Senate President. He has received numerous educator awards and was presented a Faculty Award of Excellence from the Clemson University Board of Trustees.

The Clemson University ACREC is very proud to have Hupp working to educate the public on animal agriculture and the rendering industry. He is one of the conduits by which knowledge developed in ACREC can be conveyed to the lay public not just in South Carolina, but across the entire nation.
Responding to an OSHA Inspection – Employee Interviews

Editor’s Note – Mark A. Lies II is a labor and employment lawyer and partner with the Chicago, IL, law firm of Seyfarth Shaw LLP. Legal topics provide general information, not specific legal advice. Individual circumstances may limit or modify this information.

This is part two in a series on OSHA inspections.

In part one of “Responding to an OSHA Inspection” in the June 2008 issue of Render, the focus was determining whether the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) had the right to conduct the inspection and, if so, the proper scope. As anyone who has ever experienced an OSHA inspection is well aware, a key element is the agency’s interviews of employees by the compliance officers from OSHA. Unfortunately, a lot of confusion has occurred over the respective rights of OSHA, the employer, and the employees. Part two will discuss these important, respective rights during an interview.

Inspection Conduct

During any inspection, the compliance officer will request employee interviews (of both management and non-management employees) in order to gather facts as to whether there may have been violations of the agency’s regulations. Many employers fail to advise their employees of their rights during such interviews and these rights are never exercised. If the employee gives inaccurate, incomplete, or confusing responses, their statements can be the basis for civil citations with monetary penalties or, worse, criminal liability. The general rights of the various parties are as follows.

The Employee

• The employee has a right to a private one-on-one interview with the compliance officer that is confidential and considered “protected activity.” The employee cannot suffer any “adverse action” from the employer for exercising this right. The compliance officer cannot disclose the contents of the interview.

• The employee has a right to refuse to be interviewed by the compliance officer. Many employees are reluctant to speak to compliance officers because they have been emotionally impacted by an accident in which a co-employee has been injured or because they are fearful of speaking to a governmental representative. Some employees feel that they may be intimidated or manipulated during the interview to expose them to liability. In this regard, an employee cannot be forced to have a private one-on-one interview. These interviews are totally voluntary. If the employee declines to be interviewed (and the employee need not give any reason for the decision) the agency will have to decide whether to obtain a subpoena to require the interview. If the agency obtains a subpoena, the employee has the full scope of rights to respond, including the right to counsel.

• The employee has a right to refuse to have a one-on-one private interview, has the right to have a person of their choice attend the interview, and if the compliance officer refuses to allow this person to attend, has a right to decline to be interviewed. Some employees feel comfortable being interviewed if they have another person present during the interview. Again, if the compliance officer refuses to allow this other person to attend, the employee can decline the interview for no reason.

• The employee has a right to end the interview at any time for any reason. Since the interview is completely voluntary (unless OSHA has obtained a subpoena, in which case the employee has additional rights and should consult legal counsel), the employee can end the interview at any time and can leave without any explanation.

• The employee has a right to refuse to sign a statement, or be tape recorded or photographed. Again, since the interview is voluntary, the employee cannot be required to sign a statement. Under most state eavesdropping laws, any individual can refuse to be tape recorded and no reason be given. In a number of states, it is a criminal offense to tape record a conversation without the permission of all persons to the conversation. Finally, any person can refuse to have their photograph taken.

OSHA

• The compliance officer has the right to interview the employee in private, if the employee consents.

• OSHA has a right to have truthful responses to their questions.

The Employer

• The employer has the right to inform its employees of their rights during the inspection, including an employee interview.

• The employer has the right to participate in non-private employee interviews and, if the compliance officer refuses, require that the interviews occur on non-paid work time.

• The employer has the right to end the interviews if they become disruptive, that is, unreasonably interfere with ongoing work, or become confrontational, in which case the employer should consult legal counsel regarding the termination of the inspection.

Employee Right to Legal Counsel

Since every employee has the right to decline a private interview unless the employee is allowed to have a person of their choice attend the interview, it is obvious that the employee has the right to have legal counsel present as that person. A more fundamental right of every employer (and citizen) is to
have representation by counsel in any administrative or judicial proceeding. In addition, in most jurisdictions, the employer has an obligation to defend its employees when they are faced with liability for their acts that occurred within the scope and course of their employment. Thus, the right to have legal counsel if the employee so elects is unquestionable.

**Employee Potential Criminal Liability**

Another significant issue that may arise in an OSHA inspection after a serious accident involving a fatality or multiple injuries is potential criminal liability for the employer and individual employees. A basic right under the United States and state constitutions is against self-incrimination (under the Fifth Amendment).

Unfortunately, when the inspection occurs, it is impossible to determine whether criminal charges may result months or years later, by which time an employee may have incriminated himself/herself in the OSHA interviews and exposed themselves to criminal liability. For this reason, it is even more important that legal counsel be considered for the OSHA interviews.

**No Criminal Miranda Warnings**

Another potential problem that warrants legal counsel is the fact that the OSHA compliance officer is not required to give the employee the Miranda warnings that inform the employee that in the interview:

- the employee has a right to remain silent;
- the employee’s statements can and will be used against them;
- the employee has a right to have an attorney;
- the state must provide the employee with an attorney if the employee cannot afford an attorney.

Thus, an employee may unknowingly expose himself/herself to criminal liability during the interview and no warnings have been given by the compliance officer during the interview because they are not required to be given since the compliance officer is not a police officer and the employee has not been placed under arrest.

**OSHA Objections to Legal Counsel**

Unfortunately, in many inspections, OSHA objects to the employee having another person present, including legal counsel. In those instances where OSHA agrees to allow the employee to have legal counsel, the agency objects to allowing the employee to utilize the employer’s attorney who has been provided at no cost to the employee. OSHA claims that such attorney may have a conflict-of-interest representing the employer and also representing the employee in the interview. It should be noted that it is not OSHA’s right to object to any potential conflict-of-interest. Rather, that is solely the right of the employee who is free to accept the attorney so long as the attorney has discharged his/her legal obligation to discuss potential conflicts-of-interest with the employee and any potential conflict can be knowingly waived.

OSHA also objects to the employer’s legal counsel provided at no cost because the employee may be exposed to retaliation by the employer for what is said in the interview. This argument is likewise without foundation because the employee is protected from retaliation under Section 11(c) of the Occupational Safety and Health Act for participating in the interview or inspection with OSHA.

Thus, it is patently inappropriate and unfair for the agency to object to the presence of legal counsel provided at no expense by the employer in an interview where an employee could face potential criminal liability and which will force the employee to retain other legal counsel at the employee’s expense if the employee wishes to exercise these rights. In most cases, the employee cannot afford to retain counsel and thus is effectively denied legal counsel.

**Language Barrier Issues**

Because of the diverse nature of many workplaces, an issue arises concerning language barriers between the employee being interviewed and the compliance officer. It is critical that a competent interpreter be made available by the employer to ensure that the employee being interviewed can understand the questions and respond accurately and truthfully. The employer frequently will make available a co-employee who is bilingual to perform this role. OSHA may attempt to discourage this other employee from participating in the interview.

As we have seen above, the employee who is being interviewed has the right to refuse to be interviewed if the employee is denied the interpreter. In addition, the employer should be cautious about accepting an interpreter offered by OSHA since there is the potential for this interpreter to pose the questions to the employee in a technical manner that the employee may find confusing. In addition, there have been instances where the OSHA interpreter does not speak the particular dialect of the language of the interviewed employee, in which case there is further opportunity for confusion. Unfortunately, when an employee gives responses that are confused or incomplete because the employee cannot understand the questions, this provides an opportunity for citations to be issued to the employer on the grounds that employees are not properly trained and do not understand the employer’s safety and health programs.

It is important that employees be advised of their rights prior to and during the OSHA inspection. If employees are not so informed, they may waive significant legal rights and expose themselves and the employer to potential legal liability.
AOCS Elects President
Casimir C. Akoh, distinguished research professor at the University of Georgia, has been elected as the 2008-2009 American Oil Chemists’ Society (AOCS) president.

A member of AOCS since 1985, Akoh has been an active board member since 2001. He has won several awards including the AOCS Stephen S. Chang Award, which recognizes a scientist or technologist who has made decisive accomplishments in research for the improvement or development of products related to lipids. Akoh’s vision for the second century of AOCS is focused on membership and retention, quality of the organization’s publications, growing future leaders for the society, and maintaining fiscal responsibility. He also emphasized that “AOCS must be the global and trusted authority on issues related to fats and oils and co-products.”

Other governing board members elected include Ian Purtle, Cargill, Inc., vice president; Steven Hill, Kraft Foods, secretary, and Timothy Kemper, DeSmet Ballestra North America, treasurer.

Carcass Disposal Paper Available
In animal agriculture, a certain number of animals will die on the farm before being marketed. These deaths, also referred to as mortalities, may be classified broadly as either routine or catastrophic and may impact producers, industry, state and federal health and environmental agencies, and the public.

To address the possible implications of swine mortalities, the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST) has released a new issue paper, Swine Carcass Disposal Options for Routine and Catastrophic Mortality. The paper is available electronically without charge on CAST’s Web site at www.cast-science.org, and includes a prominent section on rendering. Dr. David Meeker, vice president, Scientific Services, National Renderers Association, was one of five authors of the paper. A hard copy is available for a shipping/handling fee.

This CAST publication, the first in a three-part review of swine, poultry, and cattle carcass disposal options, assesses potential strengths and limitations of existing procedures. Besides rendering, other topics addressed in the paper include burial, incineration, and composting; alternative and nontraditional technologies; and biosecurity and disease control with traditional methods.

ConAgra Sells Trading Operations
ConAgra Foods, Inc., has sold its commodity trading and merchandising operations conducted by ConAgra Trade Group to an investor group led by Ospraie Special Opportunities Fund, which also includes global growth investor General Atlantic, LLC, and a private investment fund managed by Soros Fund Management, LLC. ConAgra Trade Group was sold for $2.8 billion, higher than originally estimated due to increases in the group’s book value.

The Ospraie Special Opportunities Fund is an affiliate of Ospraie Management, a leading investment management firm focused exclusively on commodities and basic industries with approximately $9 billion under management. The sold businesses will now operate as The Gavilon Group, LLC. Greg Heckman, formerly president of ConAgra Foods’ commercial businesses, is now chief executive officer of The Gavilon Group, which will remain in its current offices in Omaha, NE. The Gavilon Group will conduct grain and by-products merchandising and fertilizer distribution, as well as agriculture, energy, and other commodity trading activities, and risk management services.

Rob Sharpe has been named president, Commercial Foods, ConAgra, and will assume responsibility for leading the remaining commercial businesses, operated as the company’s food and ingredients reporting segment.

Crusader for Renderers in Asia Retires
It was with mixed feelings that the National Renderers Association (NRA) accepted the retirement announcement of Dr. Yu Yu, who has represented the group’s interests in the Asian market for 12 years. His final day with NRA will be August 31, 2008.

Under Yu’s watch, U.S. rendered product exports to Asia, especially China, grew dramatically up until bovine spongiform encephalopathy was discovered in the United States in December 2003. He was also responsible for applying more focus on using rendered products as partial replacement to fish meal.

“Yu’s aggressiveness in the Asian market has benefited the rendering industry over the past 12 years,” said Kent Swisher, vice president, NRA International Programs. “He will be greatly missed within the industry.”

Yu and his wife will be relocating to California from Hong Kong.

Feed Association Names Chairman
The American Feed Industry Association (AFIA) recently elected Donald E. Orr Jr., president of JBS United, as chairman of the board until May 2009. Brian Rittgers, sales manager, Dairy Business Unit at Elanco Animal Health, has been chosen chair-elect.

Orr has been president of JBS United since 1997. JBS United is a nutrition technology-based company involved in premix/base mix feed production and marketing, enzyme and probiotic marketing, swine production, and grain storage and marketing. In addition, Orr leads the company’s Nutrition Division and previously headed their research and development program.

Active in the feed industry, Orr has been a board member of the American Society of Animal Science and is a member of the American Registry of Professional Animal Scientists. He has served on the National Pork
Producers Council Research Project Selection Committee, Swine Modeling Committee, and Feed Purchasing Manual Committee. He has been a guest speaker around the world and in 18 states at swine meetings. Orr holds a bachelor of science degree in animal science from Purdue University, a master of science in animal industry from Penn State, and a PhD in animal husbandry from Michigan State University.

Rittgers has held his current position at Elanco since 2004. He joined the Agriculture Chemical Division of Elanco Products Company in 1979 as a sales representative. In 1983, he was named market research analyst responsible for new products. His positions have included marketing associate and market research analyst for cattle products in the Elanco Animal Health Division and later, marketing associate for swine products. In 2000, he was a recipient of the Eli Lilly and Company’s Chairman’s Ovation Award for his commitment and accomplishments in people development and recruiting. Rittgers holds a bachelor’s degree in agricultural economics from Iowa State University and has served on the Meat Export Federation Board.

**Fish Lab Opens with a Splash**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Agricultural Research Service (ARS) dedicated its new National Cold Water Marine Aquaculture Center in Franklin, ME, in late May. Research at the new center is focused on developing technologies to enhance the sustainability and profitability of cold water marine aquaculture and ensure safe, abundant seafood for U.S. consumers. Research at the new center will be conducted in collaboration with ongoing projects at the University of Maine’s Aquaculture Research Center in Orono, ME, and the university’s Center for Cooperative Aquaculture Research (CCAR) in Franklin.

The new ARS laboratory also will support national and international research programs and initiatives in aquaculture. When all components of the aquaculture center are complete and the center is fully staffed, there will be 14 full-time scientists and approximately 45 support personnel. Construction of the $22.7 million facility – which provides more than 44,000 square feet of laboratory, office, and tank space – was completed in June 2007 on a site adjacent to the University of Maine’s CCAR.

**Haarslev Acquires Spanish Company**

In May 2008, Haarslev A/S acquired the Spanish company Tremesa S.A., and is in the process of merging the two companies. Tremesa is a manufacturer of rendering and oil seed equipment.

The product portfolios and working procedures of Haarslev and Tremesa complement each other in a way that allows them to share expertise in different fields, and to develop and provide products of the highest quality together. Further, the combined sales offices and agent network will give global coverage for the two companies within the meat and rendering industry.

The group has production facilities in Denmark, Spain, Brazil, and Peru with approximately 650 employees worldwide. In the United States, Haarslev has a sales and service facility in Kansas City, MO, which is in the process of expanding.

In a separate announcement, Haarslev has hired Bill Welborn as parts and service manager for the Kansas City facility. Welborn was previously with Tyson Foods and has more than 19 years of experience in the rendering industry.

**Marketing Director Named at Valley Proteins**

Valley Proteins, Inc., has named Kevin Baker as director of Sales and Marketing for its companies, which includes Carolina By-Products.

Baker holds a bachelor of science degree in agricultural economics from Purdue University. His background includes 23 years experience with Tate and Lyle in the corn wet milling business. He has managed and operated multiple locations and was most recently director of Industrial Ingredient Marketing.

Baker and his family will be relocating from central Illinois to the Winchester, VA, area where he will work out of Valley Proteins’ corporate office. He will have overall responsibility for the marketing, sale, distribution, and quality control of all products produced and distributed by Valley Proteins and Carolina By-Products.

**Pet Food Seized at Distribution Center**

On June 19, 2008, at the request of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), U.S. marshals seized various animal food products stored under unsanitary conditions at the PETCO Animal Supplies Distribution Center

Continued on page 35
August

National Meat Association (NMA) Summer Conference, August 21-23, Telluride, CO. Log on to www.nmaonline.org, or call NMA at (510) 763-1533.

September

11th Annual Aboveground Storage Tank Conference and Trade Show, September 10-12, Orlando, FL. Log on to www.nistm.com, or call the National Institute for Storage Tank Management at (800) 827-3515.

3rd Annual Texas Biofuels Conference and Expo, September 17-18, Austin, TX. Log on to www.iemshows.com/biofuels, call Lauren Pauls at (512) 358-1000, or e-mail lauren.pauls@iemshows.com.

October

U.S. Hide Skin and Leather Association 29th Annual Convention, October 2-3, Chicago, IL. Log on to www.ushsla.org, or contact Susan Hogan at (202) 587-4250.

Biodiesel Technology Workshop, October 5-6, Iowa State University, Ames, IA. Log on to www3.me.iastate.edu/biodiesel, call (208) 885-7891, or e-mail jonvg@uidaho.edu.

U.S. Poultry Protein and Fat Seminar, October 9-10, Nashville, TN. Log on to www.poultryegg.org, or call (770) 493-9401.


Fats and Proteins Research Foundation Annual Meeting, October 20-21, Laguna Niguel, CA. Log on to www.nationalrenderers.org, call (703) 683-0155, or e-mail renderers@nationalrenderers.com.

National Renderers Association (NRA) 75th Annual Convention, October 20-24, Laguna Niguel, CA. Log on to www.nationalrenderers.org, call NRA at (703) 683-0155, or e-mail renderers@nationalrenderers.com.

November


December

5th Annual Canadian Renewable Fuels Summit, December 1-3, National Capital Region, QB, Canada. Log on to www.greenfuels.org.

January 2009

International Poultry Expo, January 28-30, Atlanta, GA. For the first time, a rendering section will be included in the show. Log on to www.ipe09.org.

February

located in Joliet, IL, pursuant to a warrant issued by the U.S. District Court in Chicago, IL.

Seized was all FDA-regulated animal food susceptible to rodent and pest contamination. The seized products violate the federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act because it was alleged in a case filed by the U.S. Attorney that they were being held under unsanitary conditions. The distribution center in Joliet provides pet food products and supplies to PETCO retail stores in 16 states, including Alabama, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, and Wisconsin.

During an FDA inspection of the PETCO distribution center in April 2008, widespread and active rodent and bird infestation was found. The FDA reinspected the facility in May and found continuing and widespread infestation. FDA has had no reports of pet illness or death associated with consumption of animal food distributed by PETCO, and does not have evidence that the food is unsafe for animals. However, the seized products were in permeable packages and held under conditions that could affect the food’s integrity and quality.

According to a letter from PETCO Chief Executive Officer Jim Myers posted on the company’s Web site the week of the seizure, since the May inspection the company has acted aggressively to address concerns raised by the FDA.

Sanderson Farms Delays Construction

Just two months after announcing plans to construct a poultry complex in Kinston, NC, Sanderson Farms, Inc., has decided to delay the construction and start-up of the $126.5 million feed mill, poultry processing plant, and hatchery (see “People, Places &…” in the June 2008 Render). Joe F. Sanderson Jr., chairman and chief executive officer of Sanderson Farms, blamed escalating prices for corn and soybean meal, the company’s primary feed ingredients, and recent flooding in the Midwest for uncertain future input costs and supplies.

“While our balance sheet remains strong, we believe it is prudent to be conservative with our working capital and our balance sheet at this time,” Sanderson stated. The company remains committed to the Kinston complex and says it will pursue the expansion project at a more appropriate time.

Terminal Association Changes Name

On June 1, 2008, the Independent Liquid Terminals Association changed its name to the International Liquid Terminals Association (ILTA). The group’s logo, which is a registered trademark, will remain the same. The ILTA is based in Washington, DC.

Removing the word “Independent” and replacing it with “International” does a much better job of describing the association’s terminal members and conveys the global scope of its membership. As a practical matter, ILTA has been an international association for many years and plans to expand its international operations and increase the number of terminal members from other countries. Currently, 19 terminal members are based outside the United States. Eleven of those operate exclusively in their home countries while the remaining eight operate terminals in the United States and are owned mostly by companies headquartered in the European Union. Three additional terminal members are based in the United States and operate facilities in both the United States and other countries.

Veterinary Group Enters into Partnership

Fort Dodge Animal Health, Hill’s Pet Nutrition, and Merial have together pledged a total of $4.5 million in support of American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) programs and services over the next four years.

The unprecedented commitments are part of the association’s new Platinum Partner Program, or P3, which is intended to provide members with new and improved initiatives and opportunities to enhance membership benefits. Each P3 participant has made a $380,000 annual commitment to the AVMA for four years for a total of $1.5 million. In return, each company receives a broad range of benefits from the association such as opportunities to interact with AVMA members, leaders, and staff; be recognized as “elite partners” with the AVMA through various promotional efforts; and receive space in the AVMA’s journal for advertising and spotlight advertorials highlighting the companies’ contributions to veterinary medicine.

One benefit of being a P3 member for Fort Dodge Animal Health will be increased visibility within the veterinary profession. The company wants to highlight key products along with its support for National Pet Wellness Month and other educational campaigns.

Hill’s Pet Nutrition will use the P3 commitment as a continued demonstration to its support for the veterinary community and to educate practitioners about the impact of nutrition on health and disease management.

Merial described the company’s stepped-up support of AVMA’s programs and services as a long-term investment in veterinary medicine.

Washington Veteran to Represent Cattlemen

The National Cattlemen’s Beef Association (NCBA) has hired J. Burton Eller to manage the group’s legislative and regulatory office in Washington, DC, a return for the senior executive of the former National Cattlemen’s Association (NCA). Burton will report to Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Terry Stokes, who served an additional role as interim head of the Washington office during the search for a new senior vice president of government affairs.

Eller served as senior vice president of government affairs for NCA from 1981 to 1991 before leading NCA as executive vice president from 1991 to 1996. He was also a member of the initial industry-wide long range plan task force and the subsequent oversight committee that facilitated the formation of NCBA.

Since leaving NCA in 1996, Eller has built on his “inside the beltway” experience as the president and CEO of an international trade association and, most recently, serving as deputy under secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Prior to his appointment as under secretary, Eller spent three years directing the Office of External Affairs for USDA’s Farm Service Agency. R
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POSITION AVAILABLE
Regional Director for Asia

The National Renderers Association is seeking a candidate well grounded in agribusiness, animal nutrition, and/or aquaculture to develop and direct the Association’s market development activities throughout Asia. The position plans, implements, and evaluates market development activities promoting the use of U.S. animal protein meals and fats in animal feeds, aquaculture feeds, pet food, food, and industrial uses.

The ideal candidate will have a university degree in animal nutrition, agriculture business, in an aquaculture related field, or applicable background, and a minimum of 10 years experience. The candidate should possess strong writing and management skills. Fluency in English is required and a working knowledge of local languages would be an asset. The candidate must be able to travel extensively in the region and to the United States.

Salary is commensurate with experience. Currently the regional office is in Hong Kong but location is flexible. Qualified candidates should send a cover letter, résumé, and salary requirements by September 15, 2008, to:

National Renderers Association, Inc.
Attn: Kent Swisher, Vice President International Programs
801 North Fairfax Street, Suite 205, Alexandria, VA 22314
kswisher@nationalrenderers.com • http://nationalrenderers.org

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