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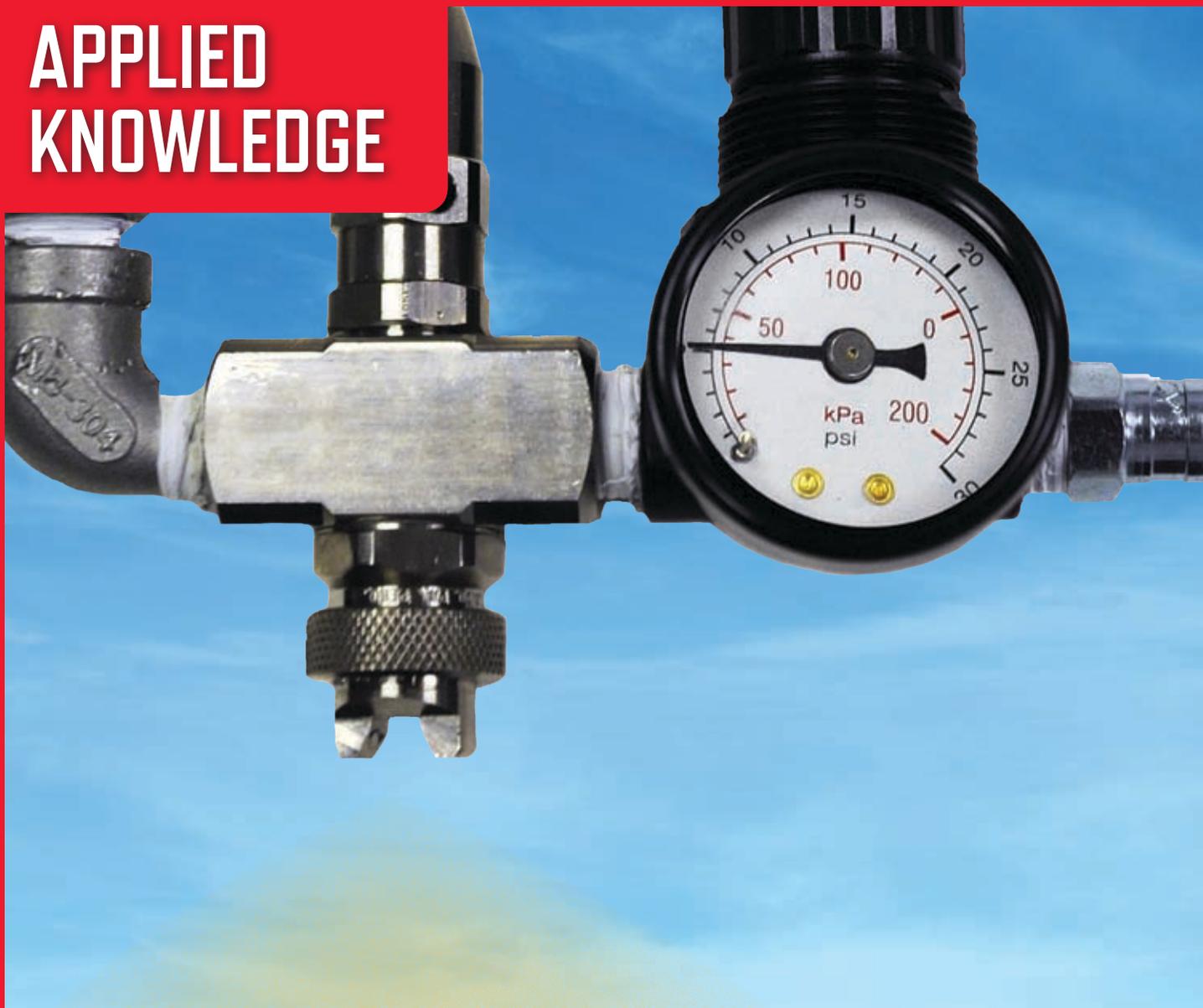
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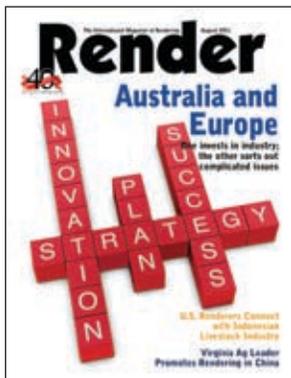
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Renderers in Australia focus on investing in their industry while those in Europe sort out complicated issues.

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Vernon is fighting back!

No, not against defective products as David Horowitz would have it, but against a legislative power struggle by California Speaker of the Assembly John A. Pérez. The purpose of his Assembly Bill (AB) 46 is the disincorporation of cities with fewer than 150 residents, but is specifically targeting the Los Angeles County city of Vernon, which has about 100 residents and over 1,800 businesses that employ around 50,000 workers. Baker Commodities, Cargill Meat Solutions, Farmer John-Clougherty Packing, and West Coast Rendering are just a few of the many agriculture and industrial companies located in the 5.2 square mile city of Vernon, which was founded in 1905 and has a \$4.5 billion private employer payroll.

Pérez's reason for attacking Vernon is corruption. Since 2006, three city officials have pled guilty to public corruption charges, ranging from voter fraud and misappropriation of public funds to conflict-of-interest for hiring a spouse as a city contractor. While Pérez's concerns are valid and should not be dismissed, why hasn't he targeted the California city of Bell, also in Los Angeles County, where city officials were awarding themselves outlandish salaries?

In 2010, when the *Los Angeles Times* broke the news, Bell's city manager was earning an annual salary of nearly \$800,000, double that of the president of the United States, and its police chief was paid \$457,000, more than the Los Angeles police chief made in a city of 3.8 million people. And city council members earned \$100,000 a year for part-time work. Also at issue is that residents in this small working-class city of roughly 36,000, of which most are Hispanic, pay the second highest property tax rates in Los Angeles County. Last year, the city manager, mayor, assistant city manager, and five city council members were arrested and charged with misappropriation of public funds. The California Attorney General's office has filed a lawsuit against eight former and current employees. The investigation is still on-going.

But Pérez's bill isn't about the city

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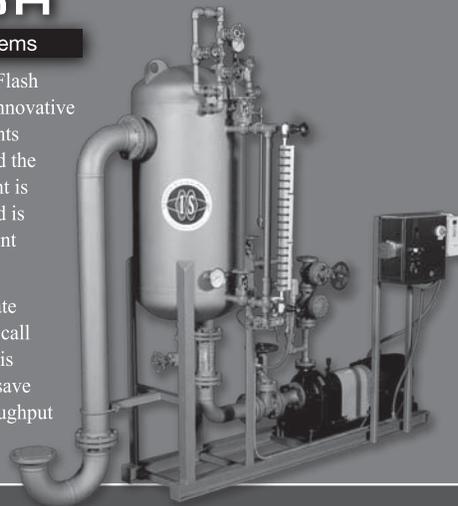
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Chicken Battle Takes Groundbreaking Twist

It appears chances are fat, pigs are flying, and it's snowing in hell. If these are the classic requirements for long-shot outcomes, then the United Egg Producers (UEP) and the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) hit the trifecta with the announcement in mid-July they have come to an "agreement" on how "enriched" the environment must be for laying hens to be truly happy. But not content with the group hug over layer cages, the two groups also signed a formal agreement to jointly seek federal legislation to enshrine their "Pax Ova," superseding the law in all 50 states, and that's where this situation leaps from merely stunning to incredible.

Various media outlets call the UEP-HSUS agreement "historic." It is, indeed, groundbreaking. Not to put too fine a point on it, but it is the first time a national producer organization has actively sought federal regulation of its on-farm production practices, and in doing so has enlisted the aid of arguably the world's largest animal rights group.

From listening to UEP's public and private explanations, there are several logical, and from a totally economic perspective, understandable motivations for this action; there are an equal number of unanswered questions.

UEP has, over the last decade or so, fought several very expensive battles against HSUS over state referenda on the use of conventional cage housing for egg laying hens, the most infamous being the 2008 loss of California's Proposition 2. The state has yet to even propose regulations since the wording of the referendum language was so vague, and HSUS has challenged any California producer that tries to figure it out on its own.

Colorado and Michigan aggies rolled over for HSUS and agreed to phase out egg cages out of fear they too would be on the hook for a multi-million dollar statewide referendum battle. And adding insult to injury, states like Maine and Washington legislatively dealt UEP body blows. HSUS was on the way to gathering signatures to get similar referenda on the Oregon and Washington ballots come November 2012.

Several major retailers, by UEP's admission, have been pushing the egg cooperative to make the cage issue go away. Not only is it an aggravating public relations nightmare, it's an issue that has caused marketing and labeling hassles as well. Consider trying to distribute product nationally, but needing to ensure product moving into half a dozen states is produced in accordance with parochial state regulations. And then there's the vague, who-knows-what-it-means California language from Proposition 2, further complicated as only California could by restricting, starting in 2015, the sale of any eggs within the state if the birds that laid the eggs weren't housed in the same manner as California chickens.

HSUS was one of several groups that challenged at the Federal Trade Commission UEP labeling trumpeting the humaneness of its in-house certification program. HSUS won. Further complicating UEP's life is an on-going antitrust action brought by HSUS that petitions the Department of Justice to

bring criminal and civil charges against UEP.

This is and will be the HSUS strategy. On the federal level, HSUS and its ilk have been stopped cold; no legislation designed to put Uncle Sam on the farm to ensure happy cows, pigs, and poultry has been enacted by Congress. Realistically, however, the more successful industry is in Washington, DC, the more the battles have shifted to the states. The HSUS goal has less to do with the well-being of chickens and pigs in various states; it's all about creating disarray among production standards, complications for interstate commerce – which drives processors and retailers nuts – and ultimately, costs the industry dearly. This is the real world implementation of the animal rights philosophy: "If you can't legislate them out of business and you can't regulate them out of business, then cost them out of business."

However, the mind-numbing reality is that UEP was not coerced or forced by HSUS to agree to federal legislation; UEP came up with the idea on its own and voluntarily and with forethought approached HSUS and asked it if it wanted to play in the UEP sandbox.

I cannot fathom why federal legislation was deemed to be the best answer to UEP's organizational and member woes. UEP has a solid certification program, albeit one based upon the use of conventional cages. From UEP's explanation of its ultimate move, it appears there's now general consensus among scientists and producers that a system called "enriched colony" cages – essentially larger, multi-bird enclosures with perches, dust bathing, and nesting options – is the wave of the future, and, in fact, is highly appealing to retailers.

So why didn't UEP simply put on its progressive beanie and approach HSUS with an offer to partner with the egg folks in modifying the existing certification program to reflect endorsement of enriched colony housing? The two groups would then go back to those states with oddball production regs and jointly ask them to allow for a voluntary transition to the enriched colony cages.

My guess is UEP feared HSUS would not bite on that bait. To keep HSUS at the table and talking, UEP had to offer the most tempting incentive: a federal law regulating on-farm chicken production. Keep in mind, such consistency among state laws would solve UEP's internal problems as well. HSUS insisted not only housing be covered by the deal, but elimination of forced molting, new egg labeling requirements, new standards of spent hen euthanasia, and – I kid you not – standards for bird exposure to ammonia in laying houses. HSUS President Wayne Pacelle must honestly believe he's won the lottery.

For 30 years, collective animal agriculture has successfully beaten back attempts to regulate on-farm production practices. Why? Because, quite simply, there is no national problem in need of such heavy-handed a solution. There is progressive science-based husbandry going on out there, not systemic abuse or neglect among U.S. farmers. Nothing warrants allowing the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

to order farmers and ranchers to raise, house, handle, and transport their animals in certain ways, along with the inspection, recordkeeping, etc., under such a Draconian notion.

For UEP to offer Pacelle and HSUS the keys to the castle is monumental and scary. UEP swears its legislation – no one has yet seen a draft – will be wholly specific to the egg industry, and that HSUS agrees both groups will oppose any attempt to broaden it to cover other species and other practices. So eager is HSUS to make this deal happen, it has agreed not to pursue referenda in Washington and Oregon, will stop its call for cage-free systems, and will bring to heel the other animal rights groups that have demanded all laying chickens run free. Note this: Pacelle has already begun “reaching out” to the chief executive officers of other national livestock and poultry organizations, no doubt offering them the same deal if only they’ll be as enlightened as UEP. Good luck with that, Wayne.

The rest of animal agriculture ain’t happy. At this writing, the National Pork Producers Council, the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association, the California Farm Bureau, and the Animal Agriculture Alliance have all denounced the notion of federal legislation. Even the American Humane Association (AHA), which shows itself to be the only true animal welfare organization working to enhance production practices based on science, pragmatics, and cooperation – many say it’s AHA that actually refined and made workable the enriched colony system – has congratulated the embracing of enriched housing, but is withholding judgment of the overall pact until it sees what devils reside in the details thereof.

Capitol Hill is skeptical at best. Word is leadership on both agriculture committees is taking a strong “hands-off” approach to the UEP proposal. The only member of Congress to participate in the July 7, 2011, press conference announcing the UEP-HSUS agreement was Representative Earl Blumenauer (D-OR), a true darling of the animal rights movement and someone better known for taking to the House floor to extol the virtues of bicycle commuting than demonstrating any understanding of

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Mixed Bag of Info for Central Region Renderers

The National Renderers Association (NRA) Central Region held their annual meeting in early June in Elkhart Lake, WI. George Kaluzny, Kaluzny Bros., opened the meeting with recognition of the service of all Armed Forces members, and the atmosphere of family embodied in the rendering industry, the original recyclers.

Nicholas Velianoff, the Nalco Company, presented some compelling information on managing boiler water and treatments that can result in significant energy savings. He covered why appropriate water treatment is important and described industry best practices. Velianoff explained that reducing scale in boilers saves energy costs and higher temperatures and higher pH increase scaling. A spreadsheet is available on the U.S. Department of Energy Web site showing typical boiler operations and how adjusting important variables can save money.

Mark Lies, noted occupational and employment lawyer from Seyfarth Shaw, LLP, gave an update on enforcement activities of the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). As Lies has described in his *Render* column, OSHA is emphasizing combustible dust, ergonomics, record keeping, live electrical work, personal protective equipment, workplace violence, chemical use on-site, heat exposure, confined spaces, and lockout/tagout procedures. He outlined the importance of doing an employee hazard analysis in each operation, using software to track employee training, internal compliance reviews, and fixing problems found. Lies described in his storytelling manner how to reduce the risk of OSHA citations.

Fred Broda, Horton Group, gave a summary of how the new federal health care reform will affect employees and firms. The system has many moving parts with some advantages and disadvantages. Since the political landscape is focusing on the new law, there are likely many more changes in the future.

Steve Mannos, also of the Horton Group, discussed workers' compensation laws and gave tips on compliance. He described audit traps and provided advice on how to avoid "hiring" claims through appropriate screening and background checking. Mannos said overpaying on insurance is common, and explained how to prepare for an insurance premium audit to ensure premiums are correct.

David Johnson, Separators, Inc., delivered an interesting talk on centrifuge management, including separators and clarifiers. He said these machines can be very dangerous with bowls moving at speeds of 450 miles per hour generating 10,000 g-forces. He emphasized the importance of carefully understanding and following operator's manuals for these machines and proper lubrication, cleaning, and maintenance.

ChemTreat's Jeff Schmidt, Rich Cardile, and Thomas Pahl presented some insightful information on wastewater treatment. Schmidt described the company and highlighted its business activities, while Cardile gave an overview of rendering

wastes: high strength organic wastes with biochemical oxygen demand levels of 5,000 to 10,000 parts per million.

Wastewater from rendering typically is high in ammonia with total kjeldahl nitrogen from 500 to 1,000 parts per million, high in total suspended solids, high in phosphorus, and high concentrations of oil and grease. Various ways of dealing with these include the use of gravity separation, dissolved air flotation, and screening to remove solids, oil, and grease. Cardile described generally recognized as safe coagulants appropriate to use if the solids are cycled back into animal feed. He also explained biological treatments such as ponds with bacteria, aeration, and activated sludge. Appropriate chemicals can be used to enhance the process.

Pahl outlined a systems approach to wastewater treatment to reduce operational costs. He displayed a diagram of a generic rendering facility that included trailer storage and portions of the plant sometimes not considered as part of the operation. He encouraged renderers to make vendors part of the team, that the expertise available could have many benefits and increase profits.

At the group's business meeting, NRA's David Meeker gave a report on the activities of the national association, briefly describing the upcoming NRA fly-in where about 30 members will coordinate Capitol Hill visits to educate lawmakers on issues important to renderers. He also described the many recent and pending regulations from the Environmental Protection Agency, and the NRA Environmental Committee's efforts in both commenting to the agency on impact of regulations and informing members of what's necessary to comply. Meeker updated the group on activities of the various NRA committees, beginning with a communication task force that is working on a communications plan to include the production of an industry video, strategic visits with allies, a member tool kit, and participation with related efforts in other sectors of agriculture. A letter was sent to all NRA members to raise funds for these projects.

Meeker then described work by the grease theft task force that is looking at legal, technology, and food safety oriented solutions to this widespread problem. He reported on the NRA dues task force and their efforts to come up with a new approach to calculating membership dues that will be fair to small and large operations alike; and the census that NRA will soon conduct to learn the number of rendering units in the association in order to test new models.

Meeker also briefed the group on activities of the NRA's International Market Development Committee (IMDC) and the Fats and Proteins Research Foundation (FPRF). Projects conducted by these organizations benefit all renderers and should be supported. IMDC efforts have greatly expanded the global markets for rendered products and FPRF successes include the rendering carbon footprint model available on the foundation's Web site, cooker validation work at Clemson University, and multiple nutrition studies that led to favorable

descriptions of rendered products in the new National Research Council (NRC) *Nutrient Requirements of Fish and Shrimp (2011)*, the latest in a series of NRC reports on the nutritional needs of fish (see page 33).

Meeker then reported on the activities of the Animal Protein Producers Industry (APPI) Committee of NRA charged with enhancing the production and manufacture of safe animal by-products by improving the microbiological and chemical quality of feed fat and animal proteins. He described the North American Rendering Industry Code of Practice, disclosed that nearly 100 plants are certified, and told attendees about the upcoming training seminar on the code of practice for members planned for St. Louis, MO. He explained the new Food and Drug Administration Food Safety Modernization Act, and how it will soon require some of the things renderers now do voluntarily in the code of practice. Meeker reviewed the purpose of testing proteins, emphasizing it is done to verify cooking and sanitation processes and not done to guarantee any particular load of meal. Setting up a system in the correct way can improve safety and quality across the board and this hazard analysis and critical control point type approach is proven superior to endpoint testing. He described the first six months of data on Enterobacteriaceae, or EBAC, testing that is being developed as an indicator of working processes, and a more informative test than the traditional *Salmonella* test. He discussed the egg recall of last summer in which rendering was unfairly implicated, and the research and communications NRA and APPI did to repair the reputation of rendered products.

In the business meeting, the Central Region decided to make a \$2,500 contribution to the IMDC and a \$2,500 contribution to FPRF. There was discussion of future meeting locations, and the advantages and disadvantages of certain venues. The meeting next year will be in Brainerd, MN, June 6-8, 2012. The group then elected the following officers for the next two years: Dan Hildabrandt, Central Bi-Products, president; Mike Owens, Kruger Commodities, vice president; and Ed Frakes, Darling International, secretary/treasurer. **R**

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Australian Renderers Invest in Their Industry

By Tina Caparella

Investing in any business is always an ongoing process. So is devoting resources to an entire industry. This philosophy was the focus at the Australian Renderers Association (ARA) 11th International Symposium held in late July in Sydney, Australia. Whether it was the city's appeal or the topic of discussion, a record 235 delegates, including many from faraway lands such as Europe, South America, and the United States, were drawn to the two day meeting.

Dorab Mistry, Godrej International, got the symposium underway with an outlook for vegetable oil and tallow markets. Although tallow has been banned in India for the last 30 years, that has recently changed with the increasing interest in biodiesel. Tallow has received preferential treatment because of its greenhouse gas benefits. Biodiesel produced from tallow has lower emissions than that made from other oils and fats.

As for world vegetable oil markets, palm trees are producing at "great velocity" this year and with an expansion in acreage over the past few years, Mistry is predicting a sizeable palm oil market. In Malaysia, crude palm oil is expected to exceed 19 million metric tons in 2011, two million more than last year. In Indonesia, palm oil production will surpass 25.5 million metric tons, three million more than in 2010. Mistry estimated world palm oil production will be at least six million metric tons more this year than last.

"I won't be surprised, though, if I have to raise my figure by my next speech in September to 6.5 million," he stated. Figures for other world vegetable oils shouldn't be as dramatic, but all should still be up, including soybeans, which Mistry forecasts the crush to be up 12 million metric tons in 2011 over 2010 resulting in oil production to be up two million metric tons.

Mistry explained the "repercussions" of the U.S. renewable fuel standard is increasing biodiesel production. What is surprising, though, is that soybean oil use is staying "stubbornly" at 51 to 52 percent of all feedstocks, meaning producers are turning to other oils, especially tallow and used cooking oil. This demand is driving up animal fat prices and keeping soybean prices steady. Another world event that could drive animal fat prices even higher is the European Union's (EU's) conclusion on indirect land use change (ILUC). Although recently postponed, a decision is expected by the end of the year and "all eyes are watching," Mistry warned. ILUC was determined by researchers and non-government organizations to be when a virgin or degraded forest has been converted to harvested land and causes a change in the land's use it is now creating a carbon footprint instead of a carbon sync. Mistry said this is a dry but important topic that should be closely watched by renderers.

Current soybean prices will hold because of biodiesel demand in Brazil, and tallow and grease prices will be at a premium to palm oil because of biodiesel use. However, Mistry stipulated that if the EU's ILUC ruling is detrimental to palm oil, "all bets will be off for tallow prices." He said renderers should be thankful for biodiesel.

Jo de Roover, Oleon, presented the outlook for tallow from an EU perspective, especially for oleochemicals, which are the first victims when tallow prices increase. Currently, EU oleochemical producers cannot source tallow from the United States or Canada due to the bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) situation that arose in those countries in 2003/2004 so 95 percent of tallow comes from EU countries. Australian tallow cannot be sourced because it has been deemed to not follow European rules.

Other threats to EU oleochemical producers are that EU tallow prices exploded after subsidies for biodiesel were put in place and the availability of tallow in the EU is not growing, but is in fact decreasing because of stable meat production, slaughter, and consumption rates. Switching from tallow to palm oil is not an option for oleochemicals because of the chemical make-up of palm oil.

Frank Ji, Gardner Smith, gave an overview of China's demand for rendered products. As for vegetable oils, the country's total oil crop output in 2010 was 32 million metric tons, up three percent, with 2011 predictions remaining flat. As for imports, China brought in 55 million metric tons of soybeans in 2010, up nearly 29 percent, while soy oil imports dropped 44 percent to 1.3 million metric tons. There is an upward trend this year with the country already importing over 351,000 metric tons of soy oil through the first five months of this year, an 82 percent increase.

China's total meat production in 2010 was reported at 79 million metric tons, up 3.6 percent from 2009, of which pork accounted for 50.7 million metric tons, up 3.7 percent, and beef at 6.5 million metric tons, up 2.7 percent. Total aquaculture production was 53.6 million metric tons in 2010, up 4.9 percent. The price of live hogs, meat, and feedstuffs has increased in the first half of 2011 and the feed industry is showing strong demand for corn, barley, and oilseed protein meals.

On the rendered products side of business, in the last eight years, China has imported an average of 327,000 metric tons of tallow per year; however, the forecast for 2011 is 285,000 metric tons, mainly from Australia and New Zealand, due to more availability of locally produced tallow. Soap production accounts for 76 percent of tallow use with oleochemicals taking 13 percent because the industry relies more on palm stearine. China's soap output in 2010 was 970,000 million metric tons, up from 703,000 million metric tons in 2003.

Ji stated that China introduced a food safety law in June 2009 resulting in more tallow from the country's food sector going into industrial uses and more dealers collecting local fats and oils and setting up plants near end users. In addition, local tallow prices are more competitive than Australian and New Zealand prices because they are not subject to import duties of 17 percent, and delivery time is much shorter, usually two weeks for local tallow versus up to two months for importation. Also benefiting local tallow producers is the easier communication between buyer and seller. Ji estimated China's tallow production capacity at 200,000 metric tons and believes it will only go higher.

China could begin importing tallow from Canada, banned since 2003 due to BSE, as early as this August, while U.S. authorities are still working on finalizing import requirements. Ji said China has never lifted its ban on EU tallow and except for a small volume from Uruguay, does not import tallow from Argentina or Brazil.

Ji highlighted the country's meat and bone meal imports, showing 130,000 metric tons was brought in during 2010, up from 85,000 metric tons in 2009. He reported Australian imports at 70,000 metric tons, Uruguay at about 50,000 metric tons, and U.S. product at around 10,000 metric tons. Ji predicted imports will increase due to demand by the poultry industry.

Guilherme Melo, Rabobank Brazil, addressed the cattle and rendering markets in South America, which account for 26 percent of world beef production. Brazil produces 62 percent of South America's beef, Argentina 21 percent, Uruguay five percent, and other countries make up the balance of 14 percent. The cattle herd in Argentina has been affected by drought the last few years, resulting in a sharp drop in beef production, but herd rebuilding seems to be underway with 47.7 million heads of cattle reported in 2010.

As for Brazil, its cattle herd has grown steadily over the past 30 years to 176 million heads of cattle in 2010. The growth



Cam Wilkinson, second from right, is retiring after more than 34 years at Australian renderer A.J. Bush and Sons. From left is David Kassulke, general manager of the Queensland plant, Margaret Wilkinson, Cam's partner, and the new general manager of the New South Wales plant, Dean Aaron.

is due to expansion into new areas of the country and a rise in population and income leading to more beef consumption and higher prices. Technology has also helped to enhance productivity in Brazil, causing the cattle herd to nearly double since 1970 on basically the same pasture land. But as with Argentina, the country recently saw a herd liquidation and is also now showing signs of rebuilding.

Melo stated that Brazil has led the growth in South America's rendering industry, which in total produces four million metric tons of animal proteins and two million metric tons of fats and greases. Brazil's market share is worth \$1.9 billion (U.S.) with fats and greases accounting for the majority of that at \$1.2 billion primarily used in biodiesel and hygiene products. Animal meals account for \$700,000 and are mostly used in non-ruminant animal nutrition.

Rendering companies are similar to those in Australia and the United States, with a mixture of integrated renderers with slaughter facilities and independent renderers.

Delving further into Brazil's rendering industry was Alexandre Ferreira, ProFat Brazil, who reported the country has 512 federally inspected rendering plants – 169 independent processors and 343 integrated to slaughter operations, 80 percent of which are not continuous or automated plants. Those facilities produced 3.3 million metric tons of rendered products, with less than two percent exported showing a very strong local market. Of that total, 1.3 million metric tons was meat and bone meal, 836,000 metric tons was tallow, 450,000 metric tons was feather meal, 419,000 metric tons was poultry meal, 252,000 metric tons was poultry fat, 22,000 metric tons was fish meal, and 12,500 metric tons was fish oil.

In 2004, Brazil adopted new sanitary guidelines (IN-15 and IN-34) based on EU standards and a Biodiesel National Program was developed in 2005 creating increasing mandates beginning in 2008 with a two percent biodiesel blend, moving to a four percent in 2009, and a five percent in 2010. Forty percent of Brazil's tallow goes to biodiesel production, although tallow only accounts for about 15 percent of biodiesel feedstocks;



Winifred Perkins, ProAnd Associates in Australia, asks a question about energy savings in rendering plants.

Continued on page 12

soy oil makes up 80 percent of the feedstocks used.

With the rising costs of production, renderers in Brazil are turning to more efficient technology, but small independent renderers are “terrified,” as Ferreira put it, of the current wave of consolidation by slaughter companies that are then proceeding to build integrated rendering facilities.

Sharing one renderer’s success with investment for growth was Erika Weltzein of Rothsay in Canada. She highlighted the challenges facing a mature rendering industry as being a flat to declining raw material volume due to drop in meat consumption; rising competition for raw materials by waste companies, composters, and biofuels producers; and growing environmental and food safety regulations. Rothsay uses a combination of approaches for sustainable growth, including continuous improvement in processes and finding new and novel uses and markets for rendered products. Weltzein highlighted the renderer’s emergence into biodiesel in 2001 as a new market for the tallow it produces after Canada introduced its feed ban in 1997. Quality has been key in the company’s success in biodiesel, which exceeds all international standards and is so clear it can’t be distinguished from a glass of water. Finding markets for the biodiesel “heavies,” a by-product of biodiesel distillation, over the past year has been another new innovative growth for the Canadian renderer.

Weltzein noted that customers want waste disposal solutions and renderers are well-suited to provide additional services, including collecting organics such as supermarket produce, food production and restaurant food waste, and wastewater sludge. She encouraged renderers to extract maximum value from waste to compete with landfills and composters and highlighted various waste-to-energy technologies, one of which, anaerobic digestion, is ideal for wet materials. Other growth opportunities include add-on services to existing business lines such as servicing and installing grease collection systems, grease trap servicing, and fresh oil delivery.

“Be an environmental solutions provider,” Weltzein said. “Become a waste management partner with the customer.”

Cam Wilkinson, A.J. Bush and Sons of Australia, followed with his strategies for controlling costs. He suggested abattoirs,

or slaughter facilities, treat rendering plants as a separate entity and profit center and believes there is potential in making improvements to systems, which then need to be measured, recorded, and monitored. Over the years, A.J. Bush has made several major investments to control costs, such as converting its boilers from coal to natural gas, improving its odor control, and covering its anaerobic ponds to collect biogas. Process efficiency is another investment to help control costs and should involve waste heat evaporators to recover water soluble proteins and reduce wastewater loads, and high temperature finishing to provide a valuable and stable product. Wilkinson emphasized staff training as another cost savings investment as well as quality assurance, occupational health and safety, dewatering equipment, planned maintenance, and having spare parts and equipment on hand to minimize downtime from breakdowns.

Focusing on Australia’s biodiesel industry was Heather Brodie, Biofuels Association of Australia. She said that alternative fuels are not just about climate change, but also fuel security, including interruptions and threats to the global fuel supply, and air quality where vehicle emissions affect human health. Brodie then announced that Australia’s draft carbon tax legislation was released that morning, which includes a questionable modeling by the country’s treasury that anticipates biodiesel will replace more than 75 percent of the country’s fuel. She also revealed that the Australian government just implemented a 10 year excise tax waiver for biodiesel and ethanol.

Day two of the symposium focused on innovation and customer and environmental issues. Bill Trollope, Keith Engineering, began the session with a look at preventing fires in hammer mills, which suffer from a build-up of dust that could lead to a fire with just the right spark. He discussed a new kelly bag/sock that collects dust and is fire resistant, and examined installing a plenum chamber under the hammer mill and metal detection to remove spark potential.

Gwyn Askham, Kemin Australia, addressed measuring meal flow so that liquid antioxidants can be applied properly. He stated that current methods are not accurate but sensors mounted on a “buffer” bin can help control the meal flow by stopping and starting the in-feed and out-feed conveyors dependent on the level of the meal.

World Renderers Elect Officers

The World Renderers Organization (WRO) held their annual meeting in late July in Sydney, Australia, just prior to the Australian Renderers Association 11th International Symposium. One piece of business the group took care of was election of new officers for the next two years. Serving as WRO president will be David Kaluzny II, the United States; first vice president is Stephen Woodgate, the United Kingdom; and chosen as second vice president was Tim Juzefowicz, Australia. (Photo available on page 40.)

Other tasks at hand included continuing the effort to finalize a best practices guideline. Alan von Tunzelman, outgoing WRO president, stated that one document isn’t necessarily going to be what every country needs, but it could be a starting point especially for those countries whose rendering industries are just emerging. Bill Spooncer, Kurrajong Meat Technology in Australia, presented a draft guideline that uses hygiene methods as a starting point. Because of varying procedures for integrated and independent renderers, different equipment like batch versus continuous, and distinct regulations in each country, a sample hazard analysis and critical control point plan will be added.

Kent Swisher, National Renderers Association, and Sergio Nates, Fats and Proteins Research Foundation, informed the organization that they are working with the rendering industries in Chile and Argentina in an effort to assemble their respective country’s association so they can eventually join the world organization. **R**

David Kassulke, A.J. Bush and Sons, focused on optimal energy consumption in rendering. He said that although some processing methods remain unchanged from 30 years ago, newer procedures and methods achieve more production with higher capacity using less labor, steam, and electric consumption while consistently producing better quality products. Kassulke shared A.J. Bush's steps in producing more material with less energy, including installing disk dryers and cookers, a twin screw press to mechanically dewater the hydrolyzed materials, and a waste heat evaporator.

Shifting gears to focus on the customer was Mike Rodey, AFB International, who concentrated on the ever-changing pet food industry. He said the current requirements are quality, quality, and quality.

"It's that simple," Rodey declared. Renderers need to ensure their proteins and fats are fresh, stable from rancidity, and nutritious. Pet food manufacturers are altering their requests from the

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Marketing Funds Grow Mexican DDGS Market



Over the past five years, Mexico's imports of U.S. distiller's dried grains with solubles (DDGS) have grown from 360,000 metric tons in 2006 to just over 1.6 million metric tons in 2010. With the support of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Market Access Program (MAP) and Foreign Market Development (FMD) funding, the U.S. Grains Council (USGC) encouraged this upward trend by forming relationships with local end users in Mexico. This approach to building bridges and growing markets can be seen in the USGC's activities in the Jalisco area of Mexico, where the council engaged potential end users to spread information on the benefits of DDGS utilization.

In the past, one of the main obstacles facing U.S. DDGS use in Mexico has been widespread misunderstandings of the product. In an effort to address these misunderstandings and to make appropriate recommendations to end users, the council made in-person visits to Mexican producers to discuss their concerns and evaluate how to address these uncertainties.

After these discussions, the council developed a series of recommendations to minimize apprehensions and help industry stakeholders increase their usage of DDGS. The group conducted a series of educational seminars with commercial feed mill representatives to demonstrate how to incorporate DDGS in the feed types of different livestock breeds, and emphasized the controls that U.S. ethanol plants practice to ensure high DDGS quality.

As a result of the council's efforts, Jalisco feed mill industry representatives became more confident in the product, leading to more than quadrupling DDGS inclusion rates in the region. DDGS usage in the area grew from a low of 9.2 metric tons in February 2009 to a high of 41.3 metric tons per month in May 2010. The success of DDGS in Jalisco mirrors that of Mexico as a whole: with 644,000 metric tons sold to Mexico through April 2011, this year promises to be another period of record sales. **R**

Washington Continued from page 7

on-farm production. The USDA has been unexpectedly quiet about the deal, lest it unleash the ire of all other animal ag groups.

The deck is stacked against UEP and HSUS in its self-imposed deadline of having their legislative package enacted by June 30, 2012. First, Congress is loath to preempt state laws and lawmaking authority unless it's a truly national issue with far-reaching economic and social implications. Second – and I speak from personal experience having worked on two federal preemption issues – it takes at least two congresses to move a preemption bill to the president's desk because, given the breadth of HSUS demands in this deal, I can envision referral of the legislation to at least two, if not three, committees in each chamber. Third, and perhaps most significant, is that right now, UEP and HSUS have no material support outside of each other.

Dr. Simon Shane, a consulting poultry veterinarian, in a mid-July editorial penned for *Egg-CITE*, an independent egg industry newsletter, said, "It is noted that the 'UEP' is not synonymous with the U.S. egg production industry. There are companies which do not belong to the organization and others who do not approve of the most recent action, including both shell and liquid producers in specific regions of the country."

Within the animal rights movement, there's cautious optimism but no popping of champagne corks. Every veteran activist knows exactly what the UEP-HSUS deal means to the overall goal of the movement to end "animal exploitation." Still, some "leaders" in the movement, including some within HSUS itself, have been quoted saying that if the effort fails, "all bets are off and we're back to state referenda, regulations, and other tactics." Also, a hallmark of the animal activist is impatience.

Carve away all of the rationalizing and hyperbole, and what you're left with is this: If the UEP strategy, in the egg guys' perfect world, is successful, it sets up all of animal agriculture for similar if less "friendly" attacks. The rationale will be simple: If it's a good thing to regulate the egg producer to ensure proper housing, why shouldn't the federal government set standards and regulate beef, dairy, broiler, swine, veal, and sheep, not to mention the various exotic species out there?

All of this argues for obvious actions. Producers must have the resolve to move with the times and embrace the science of progressive husbandry, including zero tolerance for bad actors. Producers need to ally with processors to ensure the processor understands, and there is mutual support and protection forthcoming when the inevitable assaults begin. Producers and processors must then redevelop an intimacy with the retail sector not seen since the 1950s so retailers feel confident the pressure brought to bear will be deflected by an aggressive partnership of producer – and their input industries – processors, and retailers. Then, the three cooperate to consistently talk to and at the consumer with the simple message: "This food is brought to you by farmers, processors, and retailers who care about doing the best and right thing in a truly ethical manner."

An old hand in the animal rights movement once said to me: "Steve, I won't take steak off the dinner table in a year or two, but give me a decade." He said that in 2006. **R**

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European Issues

Deemed Complicated

By Tina Caparella

They do things differently in Europe...and it can get quite complicated.

So was the opinion of those attending and presenting at the European Fat Processors and Renderers Association (EFPRA) Congress in early June. Renderers from around the globe traveled to the Irish city of Dublin to hear how the industry is addressing the complex matters being faced.

Martin Alm, EFPRA's technical director, opened the congress by insisting the European rendering industry have a code of practice. On that note, Peter Brattinga, European Feed Ingredients Safety Certification (EFISC), followed with a glimpse into the voluntary European code to good practice for the industrial manufacturing of safe food materials. He said feed and food safety is important but producers must be able to facilitate trade. For the past five to six years, EFISC has been developing a European Feed Ingredients Platform certification that utilizes third-party audits to demonstrate that companies are in compliance with the relevant European Union (EU) feed hygiene regulation. Three community guides have been developed by industry members, assessed by the European Commission (EC), recognized by the Global Feed Safety Initiative, and are available in all 27 EU languages.

EFISC is working hard on promoting the scheme to competent authorities, European and national sector

organizations, the compound industry, and others downstream of the feed ingredient process. At the moment, 47 sites have registered for review and certification. Brattinga highlighted the following valuable points of EFISC:

- uniformed, harmonized feed material safety certification in the EU-27 countries;
- implementing EFISC code assures compliance with EU legislation;
- removal of trade barriers caused by different standards;
- appreciated by official control authorities; and
- increased transparency and customer confidence.

Coen Blomsma, FEDIOL – the federation representing the European vegetable oil and protein meal industry, reviewed one of the myriad of EU regulations, guides, and catalogues. Regulation (EC) No. 767/2009 amends a rule from 2003 and repeals various commission directives as they pertain to placing on the market and use of feed. A new voluntary feed materials catalogue was included in the regulation, and FEDIOL is suggesting the EU rename fatty acids in the regulation as a measure in the aftermath of the dioxin incident in Germany (see "Germany Finds Dioxin Contamination in Feed," February 2011 *Render*). EFPRA was able to provide input prior to the finalization of the regulation, of which processed animal proteins only comprises nearly two pages out of 80 pages.



Patrick Coelenbier, SIFCO, questions a speaker about the new animal by-products regulation.



European Parliament Member Mairead McGuinness encouraged renderers to educate politicians with science.

The carbon footprint of animal by-products was addressed by Hans Blonk, Blonk Environmental Consultants. The carbon footprint aims to systematically study the greenhouse gas impact of a system, product, or service. He provided the complex formulation being used that includes raw materials, transportation, product processing, and product uses. Based on studies presented, the carbon footprint of animal fats used as fuel is quite favorable, and protein meals used as fuel is comparable to wood pellets. In preliminary comparisons with vegetable oils as feed, animal fats and protein meals from category 3 material score better. Blonk's conclusion: the carbon footprint of animal fats and proteins are often, in most cases, favorable to their vegetable alternatives.

The most anticipated speaker was Matjaz Klemencic, the EC's directorate general for Health and Consumer Affairs, or DG Sanco, who spoke on the new animal by-products regulation (ABPR) approved last year that recently went into effect. Commission Regulation (EU) No. 142/2011 implements Regulation (EC) No. 1069/2009 of the European Parliament (EP) and of the council laying down health rules as regards to animal by-products not intended for human consumption. While Klemencic presented quite a bit of information, many questions still remain as the EC tries to sort out the details and find answers brought about by the new regulation.

Animal by-products categorization is similar to the previous ABPR regulation (No. 1774/2002) except blood of ruminants fit for human consumption following ante-mortem inspection now fall under category 3 as does adipose tissue of animals fit for human consumption following ante-mortem inspection. Klemencic advised renderers to pay particular attention to article 7 of Regulation No. 1069/2009 as it addresses this new categorization.

Article 19 of the new regulation spells out new disposal options, which allows burning or burial on-site in remote areas or in cases of natural disaster, outbreak of a notifiable disease, or widespread outbreak of a zoonotic disease.

The new regulation also spells out requirements for operators until the "end point," a new concept introduced in this regulation. Among the obligations are traceability, registration or approval, and hazard analysis and critical control point-type checks. Operators are also required to mark certain derived products except in the case of immediate incineration or co-incineration and immediate use of alternative methods for category 1 and 2 materials.

Klemencic clarified that traders should also register for tracing purposes, even though they don't take physical control of the material. He went on to explain that the key principals of the new regulation are to maintain the general principals of 1774/2002, clarification of the scope and responsibility, and the reduction of administrative burdens due to a more risk-based approach. Klemencic clarified that the new 250-page regulation combines 1774/2002 with eight other regulations and three EC decisions.

Business Matters

EFPPRA took time to hold its business meeting where President Niels Nielson thanked the Federation of Irish Renderers for hosting the congress and reported that his first EU renderers meeting was in 1977 in Dublin, Ireland, so he has come "full circle."

Alm then reported that he will continue discussions with DG Sanco on the animal by-products regulation over the next few months and that a stakeholders meeting on the dioxin issue in Germany was recently held. He said the EC is under pressure to do something and they will, perhaps insisting on random tests on fat at a cost of 500 euros per test. EFPPRA has submitted the industry's concerns and recommendations to the commission, such as fats from category 3 materials, which are deemed fit for human consumption, are already considered safe so should be exempt from testing.

"The outcome was very clear that they [EC] seemed to understand what we wanted," Alm commented. EFPPRA is also suggesting the monitoring only be done for a maximum of five years and is requesting copies of the testing reports to collect data. Alm believes a regulation on dioxin won't come into effect until this fall.

On a positive note, the association recently received version two of the proposed regulation to lift the feed ban. To the pleasant surprise of EFPPRA, the commission is recommending allowing porcine and poultry processed animal proteins be fed to the opposite species and to fish. The EC must now discuss the proposal with EU member states and issued the following timetable: a vote possible in

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Matjaz Klemencic, DG Sanco, left, listens as Martin Alm, EFPPRA, explains the industry's concerns over the ABPR.



Frank Dupps, The Dupps Company, right, discusses U.S. issues with Vincent Vermeulen, Mavitec, the Netherlands.

the second half of 2011 followed by a three-month review by the EP, which is in favor of a relaxation of the feed ban. The commission sees perhaps a regulation going into force in mid-2012. Nielsen said member states are the key to getting the legislation passed so EFPPRA members need to lobby their respective governments.

“This proposal is a very, very crucial role in our industry,” said Nielsen. “We will fight further on with this very important issue.” Some member states are concerned going forward with this proposal because of control issues, with some suggesting introducing proteins in fish feed only.

The Irish Way

Nielsen opened day two of the congress with the unveiling of EFPPRA’s new logo and identity, “Driving food chain security and sustainability in Europe.” He also announced the processed animal proteins informational Web site at www.papinfo.eu is now live and an educational video has been posted on YouTube (search for “EFPPRA – Big Fish”).

Tom Moran, secretary general of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food in Ireland, began by noting that very seldom does a feed ingredient become a costly disposal problem overnight (Moran worked with renderers when the feed ban was first put in place in the EU).

He quickly switched gears and began discussing food production, which he said is going to have to increase by 70 percent by 2050 to feed the world’s population that will primarily live in cities. In Ireland, 29 percent of greenhouse gas emissions come from agriculture; the average in Europe is nine percent. The country’s agriculture sector produces about 150,000 jobs with an annual output of over 24 billion euros; exports account for eight billion euros. There are around 128,000 farms in Ireland, primarily family farms, with 60 percent of livestock produced in the country being beef and dairy. According to Moran, Ireland is the fourth largest beef exporter in the world, with 90 percent of the beef produced exported, primarily to the EU; 80 percent of dairy



Coen Blomsma, FEDIOL, suggests the EU rename fatty acids in a regulation introduced following the recent dioxin incident in Germany.

produced is exported worldwide.

Moran said food safety is absolutely key and regards bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) as a historical issue with only single digit cases currently discovered annually in Europe. He added that the only way Ireland dealt with BSE was by being transparent. Irish beef was never banned from any market in the EU because of the country’s traceability.

“It was a horrific assault on a biosector,” Moran stated. “We need to be clear and transparent and deal with a problem head on.” The Irish government invested a lot of money in reassuring the public the country’s beef was safe.

Moran briefly highlighted Ireland’s Food Harvest 2020, an industry-driven strategy put under government control. The three structural challenges the industry has vowed to meet to ensure its sustainability are “smart, green, and growth.” Moran concluded by saying Ireland is open to debate regarding the reintroduction of processed animal proteins based on the context of sustainability.

Mairead McGuinness, Irish member of the 692 member EP and member of the EP Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development, reaffirmed Moran’s statement that currently, politically, food safety is a high priority, especially after the *E. coli* outbreak in Europe in May and early June that killed at least 31 people, mostly in Germany. She declared that food security issues shouldn’t be “nationalized” but should be a solidarity EU problem with EU solutions, and that the EU has stringent microbial rules in place for meat but the rules are not as strict for vegetables.

“We need scientifically backed information available to politicians so we can make informed decisions,” declared McGuinness, who is a member of the committee on reintroducing processed animal proteins in feed. One reason the EC is examining this possibility is Europe is too heavily reliant on protein imports. She insisted that the public



Alberto Grosso, Lipiatilia 2000 S.P.A., asks about calculations for the carbon footprint of animal by-products.

needs to understand the logic behind processed animal proteins and advised the industry to begin the debate now with the public before it becomes a hot topic in the media.

"We have come a long way from the horrible dark days when BSE grabbed us," McGuinness stated. "But it shows when people sit down and come up with a plan, no matter how costly, we can recover. People are eating beef again." She also encouraged the industry to have discussions with parliament now while things are calm.

"Find champions amongst your own politicians and give them the necessary information so they can rally on your behalf," McGuinness concluded.

Dr. Michael Scannell, director of the EC's Food and Veterinary Office, discussed the experience gained by the organization on compliance with the animal by-products regulations in the EU. He said measures put in place after BSE were first and foremost for public safety, not for the sake of the industry. Scannell declared that those measures worked, restoring confidence albeit at a very high cost, then acknowledged that flaws and mistakes were made in the original animal by-products regulations (1774/2002), but that the government didn't have the "luxury of time" and had to respond quickly and decisively. He pointed out that in the wake of that early regulation, the industry is now seeing better practices and processors and credits 1774/2002 for squeezing out the bad operators.

As for the future of the Food and Veterinary Office, which became operational in 2000 because of the BSE and dioxin issues, regulators will continue to look at compliance within organic fertilizer and examine new issues of concern such as gelatin and collagen and the raw materials used in this industry, particularly those materials imported.

Rounding out the array of presenters was Patrick Coelenbier, president of SIFCO, EFPRAs French member association, who gave a statistical overview of Europe's animal fats and proteins industry. Twenty-one countries reported in 2010, providing better data each year. There is a huge degree of uncertainty in the meat

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U.S. Renderers Connect with Indonesian Livestock Industry

Indonesia continues to be a large market for North American processed animal proteins of both poultry and ruminant origin. Table 1 shows the increase in exports to this market over the past five years, which has been a dramatic 209 percent growth. Nearly every major feed mill is expanding and building new production facilities. In addition to growth in the poultry and aquaculture sectors, there is an active swine industry focused on exporting pork to Singapore. However, feed mills have concerns over Indonesia's director general of Livestock Services now requiring inspection of individual facilities manufacturing processed poultry proteins.

In an effort to further promote North American processed animal proteins, a U.S. rendering industry delegation traveled to Indonesia in mid-June to attend the Indo Livestock 2011 Show, which is heavily attended by major customers and where the National Renderers Association (NRA) had a booth. The delegation demonstrated various processed animal proteins at the show, gave presentations in various symposium sessions, and provided technical services to promote the use of U.S. animal proteins in poultry and aquaculture feeds.

Prior to the show, Consul General Kristen Bauer hosted a reception in her residence to welcome the U.S. rendering delegation and create an opportunity to meet Indonesian livestock industry professionals and provincial government

officials. Led by Kent Swisher, vice president of NRA International Programs, and Dennis Voboril, U.S. agriculture counselor in Indonesia, the delegation consisted of Brian Shultz, director of export, Darling International; Jacqueline Oh, Asia regional sales manager, Valley Proteins; Doyle Nauman, Southeast Asia sales manager, Griffin Industries; Jeffrey Firman, professor of poultry science, University of Missouri; Kenneth Webb, research fellow, Northern Fisheries Center of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; Peng Li, Asia regional director, NRA; and Elizabeth Wina, NRA Indonesian representative.

Officials from East Java Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Provincial Government of East Java Industry and Trade Office, and East Java Quarantine Service, and representatives from the Indonesian Fisheries Product Processing and Marketing Association and Importers Association of Indonesia were invited by the U.S. consulate. In addition, board directors of leading livestock and feed companies in East Java, including Wonokoyo Group, Matahari Sakti, PPM Farm, CV Bumi Ayu, Sigit Prasetyo, UD Bumi Indah, and TPK, attended the reception. Feed companies headquartered in Jakarta, such as Charoen Pokphand, Japfa Comfeed, Sierad Produce, Sinta Prima, Cargill, and Kakson Niagatama, also sent representatives to meet the delegation and share information regarding technical concerns,

development of industries, and markets. Welcome speeches were given by Bauer, Swisher, Shultz, Oh, and Voboril, and gratitude for continuously growing export was extended to trading partners and government regulators.

The Indonesian government opened the market for U.S. ruminant meat and bone meal in 2006 and is undoubtedly the most important overseas market for U.S. animal protein meals. The NRA and member companies are committed to continuing to provide excellent processed animal proteins and better customer service to assist expansion of the Indonesian livestock and feed industry with close communications on nutrition, feed development technologies, and ingredient supply through technical seminars, feed formulation training courses, and customer delegation visits to the United States to observe rendering practices and quality assurance systems. **R**

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Animal protein meals, metric tons	108,895	172,821	203,680	280,783	338,465



Photo courtesy of U.S. Consulate General Surabaya.

Indonesia feed, poultry, and aquaculture representatives along with NRA consultants and staff and U.S. rendering company members meet with Consul General Kristen Bauer, center, in red dress. From left are Dennis Voboril, Jeffrey Firman, Samuel Tangendjaja, Frengky Ang, Kent Swisher, Kenneth Webb, Jacqueline Oh, Doyle Nauman, Bauer, Brian Shultz, Ali Basry, Peng Li, Chairul Syamad, Budi Tangendjaja, and Elizabeth Wina.



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Congressional Woes and Industry Successes

All of the talk in Congress as I write this is about extending the debt limit. The so-called deadline is August 2, 2011, or all heck breaks loose. The political rhetoric on both sides is getting pretty exaggerated. The Republicans, Democrats, and President Barack Obama have all painted themselves into a corner and it is hard to imagine what the outcome might be. The president continues to advocate raising taxes on the millionaires and billionaires while willing to consider cutting Social Security and Medicare benefits. Both Democrats and Republicans are against him.

The differences between the two parties are pretty simple. The Republicans want to cut spending, period, and they are adamantly opposed to raising taxes of any kind. At this stage, for the Republicans to agree to a tax increase of any kind would be political suicide in the 2012 elections. On the other hand, the Democrats see the solution as raising taxes and any cuts to entitlement programs would be detrimental to the party. So, who is going to blink first? Stay tuned.

There continues to be encouragement that the three free trade agreements (FTAs) are proceeding through the approval process in Congress. The FTAs with Korea, Colombia, and Panama were negotiated by the previous presidential administration. The Obama administration has been tinkering with the agreements to tailor them more to their liking. With the current state of the economy, many people feel these FTAs will provide a boost. But the process is time-consuming. Don't expect any final action on the agreements until sometime in 2012.

Industry Involvement

The National Renderers Association (NRA) had another successful Washington fly-in in mid-June. There were 30 NRA members who visited over 100 congressional offices taking the opportunity to tell the renderer's story to a very willing and appreciative audience. This year was particularly important because of all the new members in Congress. But the fly-in does not mean the end to the effort. Renderers who did not participate can still get involved by writing letters and making calls to each representative's office in either Washington or his/her district. Meet them at

local meetings. Visit them or their staff at their district offices. Let them know who you are and what you do. It is important to establish an ongoing dialogue with congressional representatives so when you possibly need something from them, they already know who you are.

The World Renderers Organization (WRO) was chartered in 1999 at an NRA meeting. The early members were from Europe, Australia, Canada, and the United States. Since that modest beginning, the WRO has grown to include additional members from Central and South America, Asia, India, and New Zealand, now totaling 25 member countries represented.

It became clear in the beginning that all the members would not form a consensus on certain issues. However, with this in mind, the members identified areas where there was consensus and built upon that. The WRO acknowledged the importance of being at the table at certain international meetings and is now recognized by the World Health Organization and the International Feed Industry Federation. The WRO is currently seeking an agreement of cooperation with the World Organization for Animal Health, or OIE.

The WRO collectively has been represented at other meetings where it was important for renderers to have a presence, including the annual meeting of the Global Aquaculture Alliance. These are the kinds of activities where the WRO can represent renderers worldwide. Just being there is important.

Alan von Tunzelman from New Zealand has served as WRO president the past two years. He has attended numerous meetings throughout the world, tirelessly spreading the word for all renderers. His efforts have been much appreciated. Tunzelman's term as president ended in late July at the WRO annual meeting in Australia and we thank Alan for his diligent efforts.

The 78th NRA Annual Convention is October 18-21, 2011, in Tucson, AZ. Registration information is now online at www.nationalrenderers.org. **R**



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Virginia Ag Leader Promotes Rendering in China

In mid-May, Todd Haymore, secretary of Agriculture and Forestry of the Commonwealth of Virginia, visited Shanghai, China, with the Virginia Trade and Investment Mission led by Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell to promote agricultural product exports to southern China. Invited by Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Chinese customers of the Virginia rendering industry, including Yunan Huijia Trading Co., Shenyang Harvest Trading Co., and Dalian Chengcheng Trading Co., came to Shanghai to attend dinner with McDonnell and Haymore. Haymore met representatives from each company and extended gratitude for their support in development of the Chinese market for processed animal proteins produced by Virginia renderers. He also discussed political issues on current trading and opportunities to further expand exports.

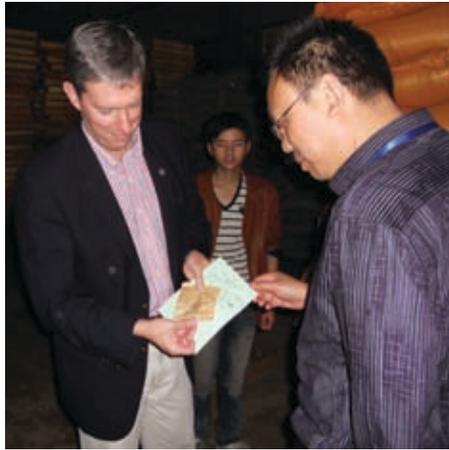


Photo courtesy of Virginia Department of Agriculture and Forestry.

At the Haid Group's Wujiang plant, Todd Haymore, left, examines the specifications of pet food grade poultry by-product meal and asks the plant manager about typical inclusion rates in feeds of various species of aquaculture.

Haymore then visited aquaculture feed plant Haid Group in Wujiang City of Jiangsu Province, Suzhou Aquaculture Farms in Jiangsu Province, and Nori Petfood Corporation in Shanghai. He was accompanied by Charles Green, director of Division of Marketing and Development, Virginia Department of Agriculture; David Wong, director of Asia Pacific market, Virginia Department of Agriculture; Tinglong Cao, vice president of Yunan Huijia Trading Co.; and Peng Li, Asia regional director, National Renderers Association. Yingzhao Xu, senior vice president of Haid Group, flew from the company's headquarters in Guangzhou to welcome Haymore and reviewed the history and development of the company.

Haid Group is the second largest aquaculture feed producer in China by volume. The company's 35 plants produced approximately 2.5 million metric tons of feed in 2010, of which aquaculture feed accounted for 40 percent. Of the one million metric tons of aquaculture feeds, shrimp feed was close to 25 percent. Haid Group also produced 300,000 metric

tons of swine feed, 600,000 metric tons of chicken feed, and 400,000 metric tons of duck feed in 2010.

Haid Group is one of the largest end users of U.S. poultry meal in China. The company has been actively contacting various government agencies to petition the industrial demands of U.S. ruminant meat and bone meal, and feels pessimistic about the potential market opening in the near future. Haid Group explored the possibilities of Haymore communicating with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to prompt negotiations with counterparts in China to allow U.S. ruminant meat and bone meal exports and abandon polymerase chain reaction, or PCR, testing for ruminant DNA in non-ruminant protein meal exports.

Xu asked Haymore to forward his appreciation to Valley Proteins for always assuring quality and safety of poultry by-product meal, as well as his interests in signing a long-term contract with Valley Proteins to secure supply and save costs of formulation modification due to changes in suppliers and analyses. After meeting with Xu, Haymore examined pet food grade poultry by-product meal stored in a warehouse and observed the processing lines.

"It is very hard for me to imagine that Virginia's secretary of agriculture traveled such a long way to our plant in rural area of Jiangsu simply to listen to our needs and concerns, and seek advice for better business and customer service," said Xu.

Haymore visited Suzhou Aquaculture Farms and Nori Petfood and discussed use of processed animal proteins in aquaculture feeds and pet food with the local professionals. The feedback from all customers visited was very positive. Haymore is the first and so far the only secretary of agriculture of all the U.S. states that has visited production facilities of Asian customers of the U.S. rendering industry. **R**

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Rendered Fats Play Key Role in Aviation Fuel

Biodiesel has been used in various blends in on- and off-road vehicles for a number of years now. Although a few glitches have appeared at times, the alternative fuel has performed very well. When the aviation industry began evaluating the use of biodiesel and biofuels in jet fuel, understandably more precautions and testing had to take place. A glitch caused by biofuels in an airplane at 30,000 feet going 500 miles per hour could be catastrophic. Well it appears patience has paid off.

In mid-July, Lufthansa launched a six-month biofuel trial on four daily flights between Hamburg and Frankfurt, Germany. The Airbus A321 will run one of its engines on a 50/50 mix of regular jet fuel and biosynthetic kerosene produced by Neste Oil, a Finnish oil company, and derived from pure biomass consisting of animal fats, jatropha, and camelina. Approved by ASTM International, biokerosene has similar properties to those of conventional kerosene so it can be used for all aircraft types without any need for modifications to the aircraft or its engines. During the test period, the use of biofuel will reduce carbon dioxide emissions by up to 1,500 metric tons. Lufthansa suppliers must provide proof of the sustainability of their processes and meet the criteria stipulated by the European Parliament and European Council in the Renewable Energy Directive.

Lufthansa puts the total costs of conducting the biofuel project at about 6.6 million euros. The German Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology has awarded 2.5 million euros in funding for the project, which is part of a larger project known as FAIR, or Future Aircraft Research, set up to examine other issues besides the compatibility of biofuels, including new propulsion and aircraft concepts and other fuels such as liquefied natural gas.

In September, KLM Royal Dutch Airlines will launch more than 200 flights between Amsterdam, the Netherlands, and Paris, France, that will also operate on a mixture of conventional jet fuel and biokerosene. The company first began testing the renewable fuel made from camelina in November 2009, but KLM has stated they are open to using different raw materials for the end product, as long as it meets a range of sustainability criteria, including substantial reductions in carbon dioxide emissions and minimum negative impact on biodiversity and food supply. All biofuels used by KLM also have to meet precisely the same technical specifications as kerosene and must not require any adjustments to aircraft engines or infrastructure.

The alternative fuel KLM will be using in their planes is produced by U.S.-based Dynamic Fuels, a joint venture between Syntroleum Corporation and Tyson Foods, Inc., using



used cooking oil and animal fats as a feedstock. In June, KLM used a 50/50 blend of conventional jet fuel and renewable jet fuel in both engines of a Boeing 737-800 aircraft that carried 171 passengers from Amsterdam to Paris as a preview of the upcoming flights.

The fuel will be supplied by SkyNRG, a consortium launched by KLM and North Sea Group and Spring Associations in 2009. SkyNRG

is actively developing a sustainable production chain for aviation biofuels and does not commit to one single feedstock or technology. To make the best alternative fuel selection, SkyNRG is advised by an independent sustainability board.

SkyNRG is also supplying its sustainable jet fuel to Thomson Airways. The United Kingdom (UK)-based airline will operate one of its weekly flights from Birmingham Airport to Palma on the biofuel beginning in September, and is calling on the British government to consider incentives to using and investing in sustainable aviation fuels.

"We urge UK and EU [European Union] governments to use this opportunity to review the legislation and remove barriers around sustainable biofuels so that other airlines can follow our lead," said Chris Browne, Thomson Airways' managing director.

Paving the way for using biofuels as an alternative jet fuel is a new ASTM International aviation fuel standard that now specifies bioderived components. Through the new provisions included in ASTM D7566-11, Specification for Aviation Turbine Fuel Containing Synthesized Hydrocarbons, approved July 1, 2011, up to 50 percent bioderived synthetic blending components can be added to conventional jet fuel. These renewable fuel components, called hydroprocessed esters and fatty acids (HEFA), are identical to hydrocarbons found in jet fuel but come from vegetable oil-containing feedstocks such as algae, camelina, or jatropha, or from animal fats. The standard already has criteria for fuel produced from coal, natural gas, or biomass using Fischer-Tropsch synthesis.

The subcommittee on Aviation Fuels in ASTM International Committee D02 on Petroleum Products and Lubricants, which consists of more than 2,000 members representing 66 countries, revised the D7566 standard. Mark Rumizen, who helped lead the work to revise the specification, heads the certification-qualification group for the Commercial Aviation Alternative Fuels Initiative (CAAIFI), a coalition that seeks to enhance sustainability for aviation by promoting the use of alternative jet fuels.

"The revision of D7566 reflects an industry cooperative effort to accomplish this task," said Rumizen. "Because of the great emphasis on safety when you're dealing with aviation fuel, the passage of this ballot required a collaborative and

cooperative effort between the members of the aviation fuels community.” Representatives from companies across the fuel supply chain plus HEFA fuel producers, aircraft and engine manufacturers, and regulatory agencies were involved in the specification development and revision.

Rob Midgley, technology manager, aviation fuels, for Shell Aviation, Cheshire, Great Britain, and a D02 member, noted, “The approval of HEFA as a blending component in jet fuel builds on the great efforts expended by ASTM on approving Fischer-Tropsch components in 2009 and shows that, as a consensus group, ASTM can make great strides whilst maintaining the safety levels demanded by the aviation sector.”

Aviation fuel producers, distributors, airport fuel farms, and airlines in the global aviation community will use the standard to verify fuel quality and performance by testing to the D7566 specification requirements. With this new edition, D7566 includes new, specific requirements for the bioderived synthetic fuel component such as thermal stability, distillation control, and trace material amounts.

After blending with conventional jet fuel, new lubricity, distillation, and composition requirements in D7566 must also be met. As a result, the blended jet fuel used in the airplane is essentially identical to conventional jet fuel and does not differ in performance or operability, noted Rumizen.

The revised specification references numerous other ASTM standards, including tests that measure various properties of fuel. D7566 fuels also meet the requirements of ASTM D1655, Specification for Aviation Turbine Fuels, which has been used

by the aviation community for decades for the quality control and distribution of conventional aviation turbine fuel. This allows these new D7566 fuels to be seamlessly integrated into the distribution infrastructure and onto certificated aircraft as D1655 fuels.

Canada Moves Forward with Biodiesel Mandate

Canadian diesel fuel and heating oil must now contain a two percent renewable content as the government moved forward with its July 1, 2011, start date. The effective date was announced earlier this year as part of Canada’s Renewable Fuels Strategy following a five percent renewal content requirement in gasoline that took effect December 15, 2010. (See “Biofuels Bulletin,” April 2011 *Render*.)

The government carefully considered all comments received and is balancing possible competitiveness impacts on eastern refiners with the need to minimize delays to support the Canadian biodiesel industry in moving forward. A permanent exemption is being provided for renewable content in diesel fuel and heating distillate oil sold in Newfoundland and Labrador to address the logistical challenges of blending biodiesel in this region. Temporary exemptions for Quebec and all Atlantic provinces are being provided until December 31, 2012, to allow eastern refiners time to install biodiesel blending infrastructure.

Continued on page 26



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The Canadian Renewable Fuels Association lauded the final release of the national two percent biodiesel mandate as good news for consumers, farmers, and energy diversity in Canada. On the flip side, the Canadian Trucking Alliance, a federation of the provincial trucking associations in Canada that represents over 4,500 trucking companies, has been critical of the proposed mandate saying it provides no consumer protection from higher fuel costs or damage to engines and offers virtually no environmental benefit.

Dubai McDonald's, Fuel Producer Partner Up

Dubai FDI, the foreign investment promotion arm of the Department of Economic Development, Government of Dubai, has brought together Dubai-based newly established Neutral Fuels, LLC, and McDonald's UAE, in a partnership to produce biodiesel from used vegetable oil.

Under a long-term contract with Neutral Fuels, used vegetable oil will be collected from McDonald's outlets across the United Arab Emirates, and then converted into biodiesel for use in McDonald's logistics fleet. According to the company, Neutral Fuels, founded in 2006, is the first commercial producer of biodiesel in the Middle East.

Operating in the country since 1994, McDonald's UAE has 90 restaurants in the country.

EPA Proposes Renewable Fuel Volumes for Next Two Years

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has proposed the 2012 percentage standards for four fuel categories that are part of the agency's Renewable Fuel Standard program.

The Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA) of 2007 established the annual renewable fuel volume targets, which steadily increase to an overall level of 36 billion gallons in 2022. To achieve these volumes, EPA calculates a percentage-based standard for the following year. Based on the standard, each refiner, importer, and non-oxygenate blender of gasoline or diesel determines the minimum volume of renewable fuel that it must ensure is used in its transportation fuel.

The proposed 2012 overall volume for biomass-based diesel, which biodiesel makes up nearly all production, is one billion gallons, up from 800 million gallons in 2011. For advanced biofuels, EPA is proposing a 2012 volume of two billion gallons, and cellulosic biofuels' proposed volume for next year is 3.45 to 12.9 million gallons. EPA is also proposing a total renewable fuels volume of 15.2 billion gallons for 2012. Because biodiesel also qualifies as an advanced biofuel, it is also eligible to exceed the biomass-based diesel targets and help meet advanced biofuels requirements under the program.

In addition, EPA is proposing a volume requirement of 1.28 billion gallons for biomass-based diesel for 2013. EISA specifies a one billion gallon minimum volume requirement for that category for 2013 and beyond, but enables EPA to increase

the volume requirement after consideration of a variety of environmental, market, and energy-related factors.

Comments are due to EPA by August 11, 2011.

Rhode Island Requires Recycling of Waste Cooking Oil

Legislation has been passed by Rhode Island's General Assembly that will require all waste cooking oil generated by commercial operations, such as restaurants, to be recycled beginning January 2012.

Signed into law in mid-July by Governor Lincoln Chafee are companion bills H5203 and S0185 establishing the Used Cooking Oil Recycling Act that requires used cooking oil generators to maintain receptacles for the collection of the used oil that, beginning next year, cannot be disposed of in any other way than recycling.

A group of middle school students in Westerly, RI, are credited for encouraging legislators to sponsor the bills. Last year, the students convinced municipal officials to install a collection drum at the town transfer station to collect used cooking oil. With the help of two local companies, the oil was converted to biodiesel. With 90 restaurants participating in the program, the students were able to donate 6,600 gallons of biofuel for home heating, the equivalent of \$16,500, to a number of local charities.

The bill was originally written to require the waste cooking oil be recycled into biodiesel. The language was modified after Baker Commodities informed legislators its Warwick, RI, facility collects used cooking oil and sends it to a processing facility in Billerica, MA, for other uses such as an additive for livestock feed, as a lubricant, and for biodiesel.

Isuzu Trucks Support Blend

Isuzu Commercial Trucks of America, Inc., has confirmed that all of its new 2011 and forward model year diesel engines, including its four popular N-Series truck models as well as the new Isuzu Reach commercial van, are compatible with use of up to 20 percent biodiesel (B20) blends. Isuzu Commercial Truck is the first Asian manufacturer to approve B20 for U.S. market spec engines.

According to company Retail Marketing Manager Brian Tabel, Isuzu's support is the result of three key factors: growing consumer demand for the fuel, an extensive and cooperative research project on B20 blends by Isuzu engineers in the United States and Japan, and improved biodiesel fuel quality and industry support under various specifications.

Iowa Passes Biodiesel Bill

Iowa Governor Terry Brandstad signed Senate File 531 in late May requiring that biodiesel blends of at least six percent but not higher than 20 percent conform to ASTM International specification D7467. The bill also extends the state's biodiesel retailer credit at two cents per gallon for two percent biodiesel next year and 4.5 cents per gallon for five percent biodiesel from 2012 through 2017.

Through the end of 2011, retailers whose diesel sales consist of at least 50 percent biodiesel blends containing a

minimum two percent biodiesel are eligible for a three cent per gallon tax credit on each gallon of biodiesel sold.

The legislation adds a biodiesel producer incentive of three cents per gallon in 2012, 2.5 cents per gallon in 2013, and two cents per gallon in 2014 for the first 25 million gallons per facility.

As part of the new law, the state will provide \$3 million per year to the Renewable Fuels Infrastructure Board, which will also afford the Iowa Biodiesel Board representation on the Renewable Fuels Infrastructure Board.

REG Purchases SoyMor Plant

Renewable Energy Group (REG) has purchased all the Albert Lea, MN, assets of SoyMor Biodiesel, LLC, including its 30 million gallon per year biodiesel plant idle since 2008, and the soy lecithin facility assets of SoyMor Corporation in exchange for common stock and the assumption of certain liabilities. The purchase brings REG's owned/operated production capacity to more than 210 million gallons, making the company the largest biodiesel producer in the United States.

REG has already begun the hiring process to fill more than 20 full-time jobs including administrative positions, biodiesel plant operators, and load-out staff.

Vermont Heating Oil to Contain Biodiesel

In late May, Vermont Governor Peter Shumlin signed the Vermont Energy Act of 2011, which furthers the state's efforts to promote a green economy and energy independence. The broad-based energy legislation establishes low sulfur and biodiesel requirements for all heating oil sold in Vermont, timed to match implementation of similar legislation in surrounding states.

According to the National Biodiesel Board, the legislation requires all heating oil sold in the state to contain a three percent biodiesel blend beginning July 2012, increasing to seven percent by 2016. Vermont is the ninth state in the country to pass a statewide biodiesel requirement. R

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WRO Meets on the Emerald Isle

On June 9, 2011, delegates from around the globe gathered at the European Fat Processors and Renderers Association (EFPRA) Congress in Dublin, Ireland, for an interim meeting of the World Renderers Organization (WRO). Forty-one renderers from 18 countries attended the gathering, an extremely good turnout for a meeting of an interim nature. The annual meeting of the WRO was held at the end of July at the Australian Renderers Association Symposium in Sydney, Australia.

WRO President Alan von Tunzelman from New Zealand presided at the interim meeting along with myself, from the United States, and Second Vice President Stephen Woodgate from the United Kingdom. A review of the organization's financial condition for the period October 2010 through May 2011 was completed showing adequate resources to conduct the group's routine business as well as to address new projects aimed at industry promotion worldwide and development of rendering best practices to use around the world, especially in countries just now developing a rendering industry.

Bruce Ross, National Renderers Association (NRA) consultant headquartered in Brussels, Belgium, presented to the assembled delegates the progress he and Kent Swisher, NRA vice president of International Marketing, have made on their initiative to promote the rendering industry worldwide. The draft presented was based on four essential components:

1. Further establish and cement the WRO's relationship with such global institutions as the World Organization for Animal Health, or OIE, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Feed Industry Federation (IFIF), World Trade Organization, and the like.
2. Develop a consistent message on the industry and its products.
3. Identify key public relations opportunities beyond those already being utilized by the organization.
4. Identify opinion influencers around the world and make contacts with them on an ongoing basis.

Plans are to have the three-page draft flushed out into a formal program based upon input received at the Dublin meeting and be ready for more formal scrutiny at the annual WRO meeting in Sydney.

Meanwhile, Bill Spooncer from Australia made a presentation on the development of the WRO Best Practices Guidelines. Noting that the guidelines were just that, "guidelines," they are not intended to replace regulations in any country but rather are designed to aid countries with undeveloped or limited rendering regulations as they move forward. The guidelines will include everything from hazard analysis and critical control point and quality assurance to facilities and heat treatment recommendations. Spooncer presented his formal draft at the WRO annual meeting in Sydney as well.

WRO members decided at the Dublin meeting to seek a

Today the WRO lists 25 individual country members and all 27 European Union countries.

seat on the IFIF Board of Directors. Having been solicited to do so, the group determined it was in their best interest to continue a close collaboration with the foundation. Over the past few years, the WRO has been a major sponsor of the IFIF Global Feed and Food Congress. This sponsorship has also included providing numerous speakers for the congress.

The IFIF has as its purpose to be a unified voice in the support of global animal and aquaculture feed industries as well as to be a forum for the feed and allied feed industries. They do this by sharing realistic science-based strategies for efficient and economical production of animal feed and food that is nutritious and safe. It was decided to nominate Woodgate for the board of director position.

In further support of the organization's efforts to establish better relations with other world bodies, it was determined to again request a memorandum of understanding with the OIE. In its relative infancy the WRO attempted such a relationship. However, at that time the OIE considered the WRO to be less than representative of the entire world's rendering industry. They were also looking for more representation within the organization from developing nations.

Today the WRO lists 25 individual country members and all 27 European Union countries. More developing countries have joined the WRO as raw material for rendering becomes available in those countries. (Note that many developing countries still consume most, if not all, of the animal and therefore there is no material to be rendered. No rendering material, no rendering industry.)

The memorandum outlines that the two organizations will keep each other informed of those activities that may be of interest and invite each other to participate as observers in meetings of mutual interest. They would also exchange their catalogues of available publications and share free copies of documents and publications of mutual interest. In addition, the two organizations will endeavor to cooperate further through formal and informal consultations on issues of common interest and in particular as follows:

- Cooperation in the development and revision of international animal health and zoonoses standards relevant to international trade of rendered products.
- Exchange of views on the approach by intergovernmental bodies such as the World Health Organization and FAO and their subsidiary bodies (Codex Alimentarius Commission) to animal disease and zoonoses surveillance and control strategies that may impact the production and trade of rendered products.

- Exchange of views and participation at meetings on relevant aspects of animal health and zoonoses, food, and feed safety.

- Keep the other party informed of its activities that may be of interest.

- Arrangement, with due respect to the procedures of both parties, for experts of each organization to participate in meetings of commissions and working groups of interest to the other organization relevant items on the agenda of these meetings are addressed.

Before the WRO meeting adjourned, Tunzelman formally recognized *Render* for its outstanding international related coverage. In addition to the WRO articles, there has been a greater inclusion of global material, hence the new by-line on the magazine, "The International Magazine of Rendering."

Future WRO meetings are:

- October 21, 2011, interim meeting at the NRA Annual Convention in Tucson, AZ (<http://nationalrenderers.org>); and

- June 7, 2012, annual meeting at EFPRA Congress in Dubrovnik, Croatia (<http://efpradubrovnik2012.com>). **R**



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Researcher Seeks Improved Polymer Bin Liners

Polymer plastics have long caused difficulties in rendering systems. Polyethylene readily melts in the fat in rendering cookers, but upon cooling re-solidifies causing product downgrading. In butcher shops and grocery stores, a variety of bins and containers are used to collect animal by-products. In order to keep these containers clean and presentable as well as to reduce collection labor, renderable polymer liners would be beneficial to the industry. Dr. R. Andrew Hurley, a member of the Clemson University Animal Co-Products Research and Education Center (ACREC) team, is studying new polymers that can be used in these animal by-product bins.

The project objectives include development of an economical package material that will allow safe transport of animal by-products to the rendering facility and then allow complete disposal through the rendering cooker. Hurley will begin by reviewing commercially available polymer resin characteristics such as melt temperature, rendering cooker compatibility, and safety. In selecting the polymer resins, he will look at industrial applicability, economics, as well as compatibility with the cooker.

Upon selection of potential polymer resins, Hurley will obtain the resins and extrude these into films of various calipers (thicknesses). Each caliper film will be formed into bags using a forming machine and then made in sizes needed for the three most popular sized bins used by renderers. Once the bags have been created in various thicknesses, Hurley will study the tensile strength, seal integrity, break point, and burst point of the liner bags. This data will be used to determine the optimum liner design for use in the collection bin.

Using a lab-scale rendering cooker developed at Clemson University and available in the ACREC laboratories, Hurley will test samples of the resin materials in animal by-products under typical cooker conditions to ensure the safe and effective degradation of the liner material during rendering. The goal is to ensure that the polymer will not contaminate the animal fat or protein materials.

Upon completion of the studies to determine the best polymer(s) for use in the industry, Hurley will conduct an International Safe Transit Association/ASTM International test. This test will ensure the liners meet standards and assure that the appropriate film caliper was selected. This test will be conducted to confirm the polymer liners will withstand the rigors of use in the butcher shop, grocery store, or other rendering collection point, and will fulfill the needs of transport to the cooker.

For the final part of the study, Hurley will develop full specification sheets and send these to at least three U.S.-based polymer suppliers to get full pricing and ordering information for renderers to purchase liners for their own use. Hurley will also develop a matrix that will allow ACREC members quick reference to determine: (1) the best liner design and material for each bin; (2) full specification sheets and manufacturing



Dr. Andrew Hurley, right, and graduate student Carson Snipes work in the Clemson University Packaging Science laboratory.

information; (3) three suppliers for bids; and (4) detailed cost analysis for each design.

Hurley is a lecturer in the Department of Food, Human Nutrition, and Packaging Science. He is being assisted on the project by Dr. Lauren Mitchell, research assistant from the Department of Architecture.

Hurley is a member of the Walmart Sustainable Value Network board and through this he has direct contact with suppliers of the latest state-of-the-art sustainable materials and biopolymers. Hurley also has knowledge and access to the Walmart scorecard information, which details specific product attributes such as melt temperatures, specific sustainable values, and a wide variety of marketing information that Walmart uses to approve products for use and labeling as sustainable in the company's supply chain. This information will be of great benefit in developing polymers for the rendering industry.

Clemson University's Packaging Science department has extensive equipment available for use in this project, including cast and blow-film extrusion lines, a full in-line bag former and sealer, and a film laminator. Full testing equipment such as an Instron tensile strength tester, gas permeability measurement equipment, seal integrity tester, vibration table, incline/impact tester, drop tester, and compression tester are available in the Clemson University Packaging Science laboratories.

The timeline for the project is proposed to be one year. The director of the Clemson University Sonoco Institute of Packaging Design and Graphics has volunteered to match funding in terms of machine time in various fabrication

laboratories for this project. The director has graciously agreed to donate up to \$15,000, or 100 hours of machine time for this project.

The projected benefits from this study will be improved cleanliness of collection bins, improved customer satisfaction, and ease of product collection by rendering personnel. Upon roll-out of the liners, marketing information can be included by the rendering companies to ensure the industry will be viewed favorably by customers for providing a state-of-the-

art, sustainable polymer that provides them with clean collection bins.

The project can be emphasized to customers as pro-sustainable, which is especially important to many large corporations such as Walmart and will be of benefit to promoting the rendering industry's image to these large companies. And, perhaps most importantly, this ACREC project will allow renderers a method of collecting materials without the difficulties currently encountered from "poly" in the product. **R**



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Kerr Honored with Award

Dr. Brian J. Kerr, a leading animal scientist for the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), has been recognized for his professional achievements by the American Society of Animal Science (ASAS). The ASAS Nonruminant Nutrition Research Award was presented to Kerr during the society's annual meeting in mid-July and is sponsored by the American Feed Industry Association.



Dr. Brian Kerr, left, is presented the award by Dr. Randy Walker.

Kerr is the research leader of the Agroecosystems Management Research Unit of ARS, the principal intramural scientific research agency of USDA, where he has conducted his studies since 2001. His research for the USDA's Enhanced Animal Production Systems to Increase Natural Resource Utilization and Reduce Environmental Impact Research Unit is conducted at the ARS National Soil Tilth Laboratory in Ames, IA. Prior to ARS, Kerr was the manager of swine service and formulations for Supersweet Feeds, and the research director for Nutri-Quest.

Kerr has authored several scientific publications, served as a reviewer for several peer-reviewed journals, and served as associate editor of the *Journal of Animal Science*. He is also a member of the National Research Council committee revising the *Nutrient Requirements of Swine*, which will be the 11th edition of the industry standard publication. He received his bachelor's, master's, and doctorate degrees from the University of Illinois. **R**

Conflict Created Over Safety Inspection Reports

Editor's Note – Mark A. Lies II is a partner with the Chicago, IL, law firm of Seyfarth Shaw, LLP. He specializes in occupational safety and health and related personal injury and employment law litigation.

Elizabeth Leifel Ash is an associate with Seyfarth Shaw, focusing on regulatory compliance and litigation, including occupational safety and health and environmental matters. Legal topics provide general information, not specific legal advice. Individual circumstances may limit or modify this information.

In July 2010, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) began an inspection of Haasbach, LLC, following the death of two teenage workers at a Mt. Carroll, IL, grain elevator. The employees became entrapped in corn more than 30 feet deep in the elevator and suffocated. During the OSHA investigation, the agency issued a document subpoena to Haasbach's workers' compensation insurer, Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Co., seeking inspection reports and other documents related to Haasbach. Grinnell objected to the subpoena, arguing in part that loss control inspection reports created by an insurer are privileged documents that may end up in the hands of plaintiffs' lawyers or other outside parties if turned over to OSHA.

On May 2, 2011, the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois rejected Grinnell's arguments and upheld OSHA's subpoena, requiring Grinnell to provide the requested documents (*Hilda L. Solis v. Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Co.*). This article discusses the potential effects of this decision on insurers and the documents prepared in the course of the insurer/insured relationship.

The Relationship Between Workers' Compensation and OSHA

Generally speaking, workers' compensation systems are creations of state law and are entirely separate from occupational safety and health standards. In some situations, however, the two systems overlap. For example, some states require workers' compensation insurers to provide consultation services to insureds whose employee injury rate (also referred to as an experience modification rate) exceeds a certain level. These consultations are designed to assist employers in improving their workplace health and safety programs with an eye toward reducing employee injuries. Often, workers' compensation insurers will provide these consultations even where not required by state law.

Thus, in some cases, workers' compensation insurers' loss control efforts align with OSHA's overall goal of improving employee safety. However, the insurer has a fiduciary duty to act in the best interest of its insured. While these interests may align, conceptually, the insurer is in a tight spot when OSHA begins investigating an insured. Loss control reports from insurers, for example, may be used by OSHA to prove

that the insured had prior knowledge of a particular condition or practice that OSHA believes is violative of one of its regulations. In that case, the insurer's report is used against the insured, to whom the insurer owes a fiduciary obligation. The blurring of these interests creates concern over OSHA's ability to access and use insurers' reports during the course of an investigation.

OSHA's Subpoena Power

Under the Occupational Safety and Health Act, 29 U.S. Code Section 657(b), OSHA is empowered "to require the attendance and testimony of witnesses and the production of evidence under oath." Where the recipient of a subpoena under Section 657(b) objects to the subpoena, the federal courts are authorized to order the subpoena recipient to comply.

In the *Grinnell* case, OSHA issued a subpoena to the employer's workers' compensation insurer to obtain site safety inspections, applications for insurance coverage, and correspondence with the insured. Over Grinnell's objection, the court held that the subpoena was proper in that all of the requested documents "reasonably relate to the investigation of the incident and the question of OSHA jurisdiction."

The court also rejected Grinnell's arguments that the reports were privileged and would result in "chilling effect" on employers' willingness to allow their insurers to conduct safety inspections to determine the risk of loss. The court avoided resolving the "chilling effect" argument by calling it a policy decision "to be made somewhere other than in the federal courts." The court also held that insurers' reports are not necessarily privileged. The court acknowledged, however, that such reports may be privileged if they are conducted at the direction of an attorney.

Recommendations

The *Grinnell* decision has the potential to drive a wedge between workers' compensation insurers and their insureds when it comes to loss control activities. Therefore, it is recommended that insureds who consent to safety inspections by their insurers take the following steps to ensure that those inspections do not create liability under the OSHA act.

- Unless compelled by state law, authorize an insurer's inspection only after consulting with legal counsel.
- Request an opportunity to review a draft report from the insurer and review the draft carefully to identify potential factual errors or editorializing.
- Ensure that any report issued by the insurer is addressed to the insured's legal counsel and that the report is marked as privileged and confidential. The report should not be distributed beyond the insured's decision-makers with regard to employee health and safety.
- If the report identifies hazards to employees or areas of non-compliance with occupational safety and health

regulations, correct the condition immediately and document all efforts to correct the conditions or respond to the insurer's recommendations. Taking corrective measures is not an admission that the condition violated any statute or regulation, but will help avoid "high-gravity" OSHA citations.

- Ask your insurer to notify you, before responding, of any subpoena received by OSHA or other third party, and ask for a copy of any documents provided.

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Fish and Shrimp Nutrient Book Released

Aquaculture now supplies half of the seafood and fisheries products consumed worldwide and is gaining international significance as a source of food and income. Future demands for seafood and fisheries products can only be met by expanded aquaculture production that will likely become more intensive and depend increasingly aquaculture feeds containing ingredients from sustainable sources.



To meet this challenge, *Nutrient Requirements of Fish and Shrimp*, published earlier this year by the National Research Council (NRC), provides a comprehensive summary of current knowledge about nutrient requirements of fish and shrimp and supporting nutritional science. The 2011 edition incorporates new material and significant updates to information in the 1993 edition, and includes the practical aspects of feeding fish and shrimp.

The publication is expanded considerably from the 1993 report and contains several new chapters and sections. The topic of finding alternatives to fish meal and fish oil derived from marine resources in aquatic feed is introduced, and five chapters constituting more than 40 percent of the publication cover proteins and amino acids, lipids, carbohydrates and fiber, minerals, and vitamins. Another chapter identifies critical research needs for defining nutrient requirements with the hope that this will aid researchers, administrators, and others as future research agendas are developed.

The project was sponsored by the Agricultural Research Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the United Soybean Board, and the NRC. To ensure international representation, the committee responsible for assembling the material was composed of scientists from the United States, Canada, France, Norway, Taiwan, and the United Kingdom. On the committee was Dominique P. Bureau, University of Guelph, who is a well-respected researcher for rendered products in aquaculture feed. Albert Tacon, aquaculture consultant for the rendering industry, was one of many reviewers of the report.

R

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Swift Beef to Pay for Violations

Swift Beef Company, a subsidiary of JBS S.A., has agreed to pay \$1.3 million in federal and state penalties to settle alleged violations of the U.S. Clean Water Act and Nebraska state law at its Grand Island, NE, beef processing plant. The plant slaughters, fabricates, and packages approximately 5,800 head of beef per day. The facility also conducts drying, rendering, and hide pickling, and employs about 2,700 people.



The Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) issued Swift a permit under the Clean Water Act that allowed Swift to discharge wastewater containing limited amounts of pollutants directly to the Wood River and to the city of Grand Island's publicly owned treatment works (POTW). The permit prohibited Swift from discharging pollutants that would interfere with the POTW's treatment process and also required Swift to monitor and report its discharges.

According to the complaint, in which NDEQ joined as a co-plaintiff with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Swift violated its permit on numerous occasions between 2006 and 2011 by discharging pollutants in excess of the permitted limits and that caused interference with the Grand Island's POTW's treatment process. Some of these violations resulted in a 2008 fish kill in a 16 mile stretch of the Wood River and a 7.5 mile length of the Platte River. An estimated 10,000 fish were killed. The complaint alleges that Swift also violated its permit's reporting requirements as well as effluent limitations in an emergency order issued by the state of Nebraska in April 2008.

After the fish kill in 2008, Swift undertook voluntary improvements to its treatment system to prevent future upsets at Grand Island's POTW and to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses, such as fishing, swimming, and boating in the Wood and Platte Rivers. The expansion of Swift's anaerobic treatment system and installation of centrifuges will result in annual pollutant reductions of 1.2 million pounds of carbonaceous biological oxygen demand, 579,438 pounds of total suspended solids, and 340,195 pounds of oil and grease.

Since the incidents noted in the consent decree, JBS, which acquired Swift Beef Company and the Grand Island facility in 2007, has invested more than \$45 million in capital improvements to the facility and added approximately 270 jobs to the community. Of the \$45 million in capital improvements, more than \$1 million has been invested in processes and technologies to improve wastewater quality. As a result, the Grand Island facility is now in full compliance with its wastewater discharge requirements. In addition, the facility is constructing an upgrade to its wastewater treatment system in order to meet more stringent wastewater discharge limits that go into effect in November 2011. Construction is on schedule, and the company expects to be in full compliance with the new limits when they go into effect.

The consent decree requires Swift to pay more than \$1.3 million in civil penalties and damages to natural resources, including a \$1.2 million civil penalty for its Clean Water Act violations that will be split evenly between the United States and Nebraska. In addition, Swift will pay Nebraska \$100,000 for violations of a state 2008 administrative order and pay the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission \$4,705 for resource damages to restock waters with fish and clams.

"JBS/Swift strives to be a responsible corporate citizen in everything we do, and it's our constant commitment to meet all environmental regulations and requirements as well as to contribute positively to the communities in which we operate," the company stated in a press release. "We regret any oversights that led to these events, and we'll continue to cooperate fully with the EPA, the NDEQ, and all other authorities to ensure that our impact in Grand Island is positive."

Sealed Air to Acquire Diversey

Sealed Air Corporation and Diversey Holdings, Inc., have entered into a definitive agreement under which Sealed Air will acquire Diversey, a leading solutions provider to the global cleaning and sanitization market, in a transaction valued at \$4.3 billion and expected to be completed in 2011.

Under the terms of the agreement, Diversey shareholders will receive \$2.1 billion in cash and an aggregate of 31.7 million shares of Sealed Air common stock valued at \$25.68 per share, for a total equity consideration of \$2.9 billion. Diversey is a privately-owned company, controlled by members of the Johnson family and Clayton, Dubilier, and Rice, LLC. Upon closing of the transaction, Diversey shareholders are expected to own approximately 15 percent of Sealed Air common stock.

Diversey provides cleaning, sanitization, and hygiene solutions to industrial and retail customers in the food and beverage, food service, health care, and lodging sectors, as well as to building service contractors worldwide. Diversey also developed its ReNew wet air scrubber that is designed to improve rendering plant odors (see "Newsline," June 2011 *Render*). The company generated net sales of \$3.1 billion in 2010, employs more than 10,000 people worldwide, and operates in more than 60 countries.

Sealed Air is a leading provider of food and industrial system solutions that help ensure that food retains its freshness, products arrive undamaged, and transit efficiencies are maximized to reduce energy and waste. The company operates in 52 countries, employs more than 16,000 people, and generated net sales of \$4.5 billion in 2010.



Cargill Launches Feed Facility in Russia

Cargill has opened a new animal feed facility in Efremov, Russia, with the capacity to produce 50,000 metric tons of swine and poultry feed products annually. The plant will focus on the production of prestarter and starter feed for chickens and baby pigs, and protein-vitamin-mineral concentrates.



The new facility forms part of Cargill's unique cluster of operations at Efremov, which include corn and wheat sweeteners plants, a vegetable oil refinery and bottling facility, a malt plant, and an animal feed mill. A poultry processing plant is currently under construction.

FPRF Launches New Web Site

The Fats and Proteins Research Foundation (FPRF), Inc., has launched its new redesigned Web site at www.fprf.org.



Over the past 49 years, FPRF has evolved into a global research organization with members in 20 countries. The new Web site is designed as a way to educate a variety of audiences, including animal nutritionists, science professionals, agriculture students, veterinarians, and the general public that seek to better understand the rendering industry.

FPRF membership is encouraged and welcome for any individual, corporation, or company involved in rendering as a means to assist the research organization find new utilizations and improved uses for rendered animal by-products.

Based on an extensive research portfolio, the Web site offers several technical and informational publications, including FPRF Technical Services Bulletins, newsletters, a rendering carbon footprint calculator, and nutritional database.

Canadian Company Gets Funding for Dead Stock Disposal

Atwood Pet Food Supplies has received over \$3.6 million (Canadian) from Ontario's Rural Economic Development Program to design, purchase, and install an advanced gasification system to render and recycle dead stock. Currently, the company sends meat and bone meal to a dump site in Ottawa, Canada, that is not sustainable.

According to reports, the gasification project is expected to generate enough energy to offset natural gas costs, create five full-time jobs, and increase processing capacity from 60 metric tons to 100 metric tons per day. Atwood Pet Food Supplies President David Smith was quoted in a news report that the company "services almost every abattoir in Ontario and the majority of livestock farms in the entire region, so the project is very important."

Cargill Buys Animal Feed Business in Italy

Cargill has acquired the Italian animal nutrition company Raggio di Sole Mangimi S.p.A., a significant animal feed company with four production facilities across Italy.

The purchase represents an extension of Cargill's animal nutrition business in Italy, as it will build on an existing market focus in the dairy segment and create opportunities in other areas. Cargill has been active in Italy since 1962.

"I am delighted for our company to be in such good hands in the future," said Luisa Bonati, president, Raggio di Sole. "We have worked hard to build Raggio di Sole into the company it is today, and I am confident that together with Cargill, our dedicated, professional team will continue their commitment to quality and excellence. I am also convinced that our customers will benefit from Cargill's commitment to grow the business." Raggio di Sole has been a leader in the Italian animal feed market since 1942 and has 150 employees.

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National Chicken Council 57th Annual Conference

October 4-5, Washington, DC • www.nationalchickencouncil.com/events

U.S. Hide, Skin and Leather Association 32nd Annual Meeting and Convention

October 6-7, Chicago, IL • www.ushsa.org

U.S. Poultry and Egg Association Poultry Protein and Fat Seminar

October 6-7, Nashville, TN • www.poultryegginstitute.org

American Fats and Oils Association Annual Meeting

October 12-13, New York, NY • www.americanfatsandoilsassociation.com

Fats and Proteins Research Foundation Annual Meeting

October 17-18, Tucson, AZ • www.fprf.org

National Renderers Association 78th Annual Convention

October 18-21, Tucson, AZ • <http://convention.nationalrenderers.org>

Aquaculture Europe 2011

October 18-21, Rhodes, Greece • www.easonline.org

➤ For a complete up-to-date listing of upcoming meetings and conferences, visit www.rendermagazine.com.

Renderitorial *Continued from page 5*

of Bell, but a city that could bring much needed revenue to a county struggling to balance its immense budget deficit. Vernon has its own power company, fire and police departments, and other public services. If AB 46 were to pass and Vernon was to be disincorporated, costs to companies in Vernon are predicted to rise 20 to 40 percent in increased electric and insurance rates and other costs of doing business. One renderer alone expects a \$5 million per year cost increase! It is also estimated that 11,000 to 12,000 jobs would be lost, in a state with an unemployment rate of nearly 12 percent!

Note: Pérez represents California's 46th Assembly District, comprising the cities of Vernon, Maywood, Huntington Park as well as the communities of Boyle Heights, downtown Los Angeles, unincorporated East Los Angeles, and parts of South Los Angeles.

When Pérez first introduced AB 46 back in April, he had quite a bit of support. The bill has already passed the Assembly but is now finding some opposition in the state Senate. Over the past few months, the Vernon Chamber of Commerce and city businesses have been proactive at educating state legislators and the general public about the city and its jobs that benefit the surrounding communities. Vernon's city council is also enacting reforms, such as imposing term limits, creating a housing commission, and docking council salaries by nearly two-thirds. But the battle is far from over.

Just before leaving for summer break in mid-July, companion bill AB 781 that details what will happen if Vernon is disincorporated was introduced. AB 781 must still go through appropriations and other hearings when the Senate reconvenes August 15, and both bills must pass in order for AB 46 to take effect. But the extra month will give a coalition of business owners and labor representatives more time to lobby against the bill. However, due to Pérez's position, legislators face possible ramifications if they don't support his bill. Talk about corruption!

AB 46 and 781 bills are just two more examples of the ever-increasing difficult business climate for renderers in California. **R**



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market due to the economic outlook; however, white meat consumption is on the rise with the EU becoming a net importer of poultry meat. Beef and veal meat consumption has been dropping since 2007 along with production, with sheep and goat meat production declining further. Overall, meat production is recovering, but exports are deteriorating, said Coelenbier.

There wasn't much change in the total amount of animal by-products processed from 2009 to 2010, with 16.7 million metric tons processed in Europe last year. The top 10 producing countries were Germany, France, the United Kingdom, Spain, Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium, Ireland, Denmark, and Austria. Since 2000, the total tonnage of processed animal proteins has only increased 1.4 percent.

On the fats side, energy used dropped to 19 percent of total production in 2010 from 24 percent in 2009, but use in biodiesel grew from eight percent in 2009 to 15 percent in 2010, with 410,000 metric tons of animal fats going into biodiesel. Combined, energy accounted for 34 percent (2.2 million metric tons) of the animal fats and proteins (6.7 million metric tons) outlets in 19 EU countries in 2010, followed by pet food at 27 percent (1.8 million metric tons), fertilizers at 13 percent (898,000 metric tons), feed at 12 percent (792,000 metric tons), and the oleochemical and soap industries at nine percent (604,000 metric tons).

Not all Business

The Europeans mixed in plenty of socializing with the business meetings, including an Irish celebration one evening at the Old Jameson Distillery complete with Irish music and dancers. The last night of the meeting was reserved for a black tie gala dinner at the stately Royal Hospital Kilmainham, which was established and built between 1680 and 1684 as a retirement home for soldiers. Delegates who remained after the congress were also treated to a tour of the stunning Dublin coastline and famous Irish National Stud where one fetching stallion was worth an estimated 60 million euros.

EFPPRA will hold its next congress June 6-9, 2012, in Dubrovnik, Croatia. **R**

Quaiattini Departs CRFA

After nine years, the last four at the helm of the Canadian Renewable Fuels Association (CRFA), Gordon Quaiattini has stepped down as president to pursue new public policy challenges. During his tenure, he oversaw the introduction of Canada's milestone renewable fuels mandates for both ethanol and biodiesel. On an interim basis, Tim Haig, vice chair of the CRFA, will serve as acting president.

"Gordon has been a leader within the renewable fuels industry in Canada," Haig commented. "He played an instrumental role in developing the policy, regulatory, and program framework across federal and provincial governments that has resulted in the significant build-out of Canada's ethanol and biodiesel sectors. We thank Gordon for his service and dedication to the renewable fuels sector in Canada." **R**



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basic range of meals and oils, such as meat, poultry, and fish, to more specific species like beef, lamb, veal, chicken, turkey, tuna, salmon, and sardine. There is also an increased focus on security from a contamination point, and Rodey reiterated that quality and safety remain the challenge for renderers.

Mark Caddigan, Bakels Edible Oils New Zealand, said pricing pressure on tallow is becoming a concern for users who are beginning to turn to alternatives. While he is not a fan of biodiesel for a number of reasons, he understands it's good for renderers as they are seeing increased prices. However, he questioned whether shipping Australian/New Zealand tallow to Asia for conversion to biofuels then shipping it to the United States or Europe is really good for the planet. Caddigan wants to keep pushing tallow as an edible food product for frying fats because it is stable and economic, as a pastry and cake fat, and as a specialty fat such as a butter substitute.

Highlighting the changing dynamics of protein markets was George Schinard, Gavilon Australia, who recapped the changing global regulation climate over the past 10 years, mostly due to BSE. Although Australia is classified as BSE-free, Japan, Australia's second largest importer of meat and bone meal in 2000, still remains closed to all meat and bone meal. However, two other major markets – China and Indonesia – have now become Australia's top two importers, but renderers down under are facing increased competition as these countries begin opening their borders to proteins from other parts of the world. Going forward, Schinard sees a number of challenges regarding market regulations, but encouraged renderers to approach them as opportunities.

Environmental issues wrapped up the symposium, starting with heat recovery applications presented by Graeme Don, Rendertech. He clarified that rendering is an energy intensive process and focused on recapturing waste energy, such as steam, as an option to improve energy efficiency. Newton Samarakoon, Energy Action, shared his experience with anaerobic digesters as a way to transform organic waste into a combustible gas. **R**

Renderers Donate to Earthquake Relief

During the Australian Renderers Association (ARA) symposium, Noel Dew, Gardner Smith, presented the ARA with a commemorative stone in honor of the association's \$5,000 donation to the New Zealand Red Cross following the February 22, 2011, 6.3 magnitude earthquake that struck Christchurch, killing 182 people. Among those who perished was an employee of the demolished Gardner Smith office in Christchurch. The ARA held their annual meeting in the devastated New Zealand city in November 2010.

"There is a new normal in Christchurch," said Dew. "But we will rebuild and be a safer city." The stone was just one small piece of the eight million tons of rubble created as a result of the earthquake. G-Tech Separation, Ltd., headquartered in Christchurch, created the stainless steel stand supporting the stone. **R**

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Ta-da!

Introducing the World Renderers Organization leadership for the next two years. From left is David Kaluzny II, United States, president; Stephen Woodgate, United Kingdom, first vice president; and Tim Juzefowicz, Australia, second vice president.



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For complete details, be sure to visit www.convention.nationalrenderers.org. For additional questions, contact Marty Covert, NRA Convention Coordinator, at 703/533-8571 or co@martycovert.com.



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