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Ah, summer, the time for vacations, beaches, and county and state fairs. While the media seem fixated on the various fried foods one could devour at a fair, it wasn’t long ago that these seasonal events primarily showcased the bounty local farmers produced, from livestock animals to fruits and vegetables to grandma’s special jam. But that was then. Today, consumers think food comes from a supermarket.

Reaching out to educate the public about food and food animal production is more critical now than ever before. And our hat is off to two families who have recently done just that.

The first is father and son Nigel and Patrick Joice of Uphouse Farm in Norfolk, United Kingdom. They decided to open their gates to showcase their farm and dispel some of the myths that surround indoor poultry farming. The farm has 800,000 chickens housed across 16 barns, each the size of two tennis courts. Viewing platforms for two of the houses were built just for the event so visitors could get a prime view of the chickens.

Patrick Joice said the reality of farming is very different than the public’s perception, which is why they decided to open their doors.

“My father and I – and our team here – are all really proud of the way we rear chickens,” he told a local news agency. “It is a 24-7 job and we are all really passionate about it. I was really pleased by the turnout we had and the fantastic feedback received on the day about what we do and what we are trying to achieve.” Besides viewing the chickens, visitors got to handle day-old chicks, ask plenty of questions from a variety of experts who joined the family for the special event, and get a farmer’s-eye view from the cab of a John Deere combine.

“This was a very big step for us to take,” Patrick Joice admitted. “Opening up your farm is a nerve-wracking experience and for us as poultry farmers, it was a first. But we had a great day and we thoroughly enjoyed talking to the visitors.”

Across the “pond” in the United States, three brothers who are Kansas...
If there’s anything resembling certainty in the waning days of the 112th Congress, it’s the fact the 800 pound gorilla roaming the halls is the political minefield that is the state of the nation’s economy, including debt, the fact the United States (US) has less annual income today than at any time since the Korean War, and the screaming need for federal tax reform. The second part of this axiom is there’s no way Congress will act to drag the economy and the federal tax system into the twenty-first century before the November 6, 2012, election.

Why? There is no political courage or will to tackle the tough actions necessary to fix a system so irretrievably broken, even as we careen toward the much-feared fiscal cliff, which is that point at which Congress must fish or cut bait, fiscally speaking. At the end of 2012, elected officials can allow their previous work to kick in on New Year’s Day, namely across-the-board budget cuts — “sequestration” — as called for in last fall’s deficit reduction law, and, if no action is taken to extend the Bush-era tax cuts, the advent of what Republicans like to call “the biggest tax increase in US history.” Or Congress can cancel or modify the spending reductions, dodge the tax increase battle, add to the deficit, and put more pressure on the economic “recovery” the country is now enjoying. Sounds European, doesn’t it?

Most understand the stuttering US economy is the cumulative result of several factors, including slow domestic hiring/jobs growth, sluggish real estate markets, overseas uncertainty, particularly in Europe, domestic regulatory uncertainty, and both a Congress and an administration sufficiently worried about their personal employment future to avoid the core issues that should be the center of both Washington debate and campaign rhetoric.

If you read the recommendations of the bipartisan public/private National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform (the so-called Simpson-Bowles report), you can quibble about regressive versus progressive approaches, argue over recommendations, promote it as the best thing since sliced bread, or turn your nose up at the whole thing. Yet you can’t argue with the fundamental logic of the plan, i.e., the United States cannot cut spending enough to have the needed impact on national deficit or debt, nor can it raise taxes enough to offset rampant spending and still pay down the debt. What must happen, says Simpson-Bowles, is a full-on embrace of a formula to increase revenue, cut spending, produce program efficiencies and reinvention, and, basic to this formula, comprehensive federal tax reform.

Reports like Simpson-Bowles say out loud what President Barack Obama and most of Congress wish would remain unspoken, at least until after the November election. They include recommendations that don’t touch — and would likely be cheered by — the majority of Americans, as in cutting the federal workforce, reducing government procurement, cutting farm subsidies, etc. But once past reinventions, the next step — and arguably the most important step — is a needed change

The list of “must-pass” legislation continues to contract and includes only those bills necessary to keep existing programs operational.

in how Congress approaches the heretofore sacred cows in government spending. The programs no politician will go near for fear of a return to the days of tar and feathering are Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, and defense spending. I’d also add tax deductions.

I’m fascinated by Simpson-Bowles because there’s something in its list of economic fixes to offend everyone. Want to know why no politician has run into the streets proclaiming the genius of the plan? It’s because the boys and girls on the Simpson-Bowles bandwagon favor:

- a $200 billion reduction in annual discretionary spending;
- a 15 percent reduction in military procurement, closing one-third of overseas military bases, and cutting the federal workforce by 10 percent;
- continuing Medicare cost controls under the Affordable Care Act;
- a new 15 cent per gallon federal gas tax;
- capping home mortgage interest deductions along with employer-provided health benefits;
- cutting farm program benefits, civilian and military pensions, and student loan subsidies; and
- changing the Social Security program to increase payroll taxes along with an increase in the retirement age.

At the very least this report puts all the options on the table. The Simpson-Bowles folks are daring Congress to at least put legislation together as a starting point. So far, no one’s taken the dare.

When this issue of Render hits your desk, the 112th Congress will have fewer than 12 working days until adjournment during which to get the nation’s business completed. The list of “must-pass” legislation continues to contract and includes only those bills necessary to keep existing programs operational. Serious broad economic reform and stimulus — in any form — isn’t part of the mix; the bills are mainly election-year window dressing.

Depending on the outcome of the fall elections, the expected lame duck session will likely bring some form of tax action. The Senate Finance Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee have similar legislation ready to go, but as far as anyone can tell, these bills will only address the extension of about 1,200 expired federal tax breaks and tinkering with the federal tax code.

Other stop-gap measures expected before January 1,

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Taking Grease Theft One Step Further

Like it or not, theft always has been, and always will be, part of a grease recycler’s equation. Or will it?

Restaurant grease inherently has value and in recent years that value has increased to a level that only the foolish would not make some effort to protect it from theft. In today’s environment it is commonplace to look down an alley and see grease containers and tanks using multiple locks along with warning and reward signs offering money for information on theft. Nevertheless, there is a growing trend in the industry to go a step further. Today companies are doing more than simply locking up their product. They are on the offensive, going after the thieves themselves.

Midwest-based Mahoney Environmental is one of those companies increasing its efforts beyond the simple lock and key.

“We make an effort to lock all of our bins,” commented John Setchell, general manager, Mendota Ag Products, a division of Mahoney Environmental. “We use a finer mesh screen and have even installed steel lids in the high-theft areas. There has also been a push to install our inside tank systems when it makes sense; having just a pump fitting on the wall helps deter most thieves.”

However, an ever-increasing number of renderers feel more needs to be done than simply locking up the grease. They feel an effort needs to be made to get thieves off the streets, and that is just what some companies have been doing.

Like many other renderers, Mahoney Environmental recently made the decision to hire a private investigator. Dan Gilbert came on-board in December 2011 and has been working in the field ever since.

Gilbert has a unique perspective on the situation. He spent 26 years in law enforcement, with the last eight years employed concurrently in the rendering industry, working his way up from driver to national account sales manager. Being employed in both professions has given Gilbert the perfect set of tools to fight grease theft head-on.

“One of the biggest hurdles that recyclers face is the education of the public and local law enforcement,” Gilbert replied when asked his opinion of the primary problem with fighting theft. “Most don’t understand the value of the product and therefore don’t see the need of spending valuable resources. They are also unaware of the value that the rendering industry brings to the public as a whole.”

With this in mind, Gilbert put together a presentation showing the value of the product along with the issues that companies have keeping grease secure. Also included in the presentation is an overview of the environmental value the rendering industry brings to the public. With his knowledge of the inner workings of law enforcement, Gilbert started contacting local authorities in problem areas and was able to convince them that it was an issue worth the time and money to address.

In addition to educating law enforcement, getting the public and restaurant owners involved also has great potential.

“The customer is at the location all day, so along with explaining the theft situation to them, we have instituted a $1,000 reward for information leading to the arrest of thieves and another $1,000 when that information leads to a conviction,” Setchell explained. “It gets more people paying attention to what’s going on behind their stores.”

Yet education alone doesn’t catch thieves. With literally hundreds of containers in any one city, it takes a group effort between law enforcement, the public, and investigators to make an arrest. Even then, catching a grease thief red-handed doesn’t net much more than a slap on the wrist.

Although Gilbert has been involved in over 25 arrests in a recent four-month period, with more pending nationwide, the consequences tend to be light for first offenses. In speaking to other renderers around the country, many could not comment directly on cases due to their involvement in the ongoing investigations, but the one thing most would say is that they felt the thieves were getting off too easy and then going right back to stealing again.

One of the reasons for the light sentences is that the value of product from a single container doesn’t normally equate to more than a misdemeanor charge. In order to get tougher consequences, something needs to be done about how and what thieves are charged with.

Historically, most grease thieves were single person operations stealing grease for personal use or for resale to disreputable companies. Nowadays, the high value of grease is making organized theft a bigger problem.

“We are running into more situations where the thieves are seven to eight hours from their home base, driving vehicles with stolen plates,” Gilbert commented. “They have someone scouting that is looking for full bins and a pump truck following via direction from a two-way radio. They normally aren’t at a stop more than five minutes tops. They simply go into an area and clean it out. There is no question about it, this is organized crime.” This organization nets the thieves more product and money but also leaves them open to more serious charges.

Brenda Taylor, assistant prosecutor of Washtenaw County in Ann Arbor, MI, has been working on a case that involves multiple renderers and multiple thefts.

“With the cooperation of the affected companies and their respective investigators, we were able to pinpoint the amount of grease stolen from each bin and the current value on the day it was stolen,” she stated. “With this combined information from multiple incidents, and proof that the stolen product was being held by the defendant, we were able to build a much more substantial case with more considerable charges.”

This larger scope netted the accused a sentence of one year in jail for receiving stolen property. The defendant, who is scheduled to be remanded on that sentence later this summer, was arrested for more than a single act of theft.
It was the combined property stolen that made it possible for the charges to be brought by the Washtenaw County assistant prosecutor. It seems apparent that cooperation between all involved parties is required if any substantial consequences are to be seen. If companies want to get thieves off the streets, they will need to come together and look past the petty theft of each container and instead look closer at who is making it profitable for those thieves.

At the end of the day, there is no one way to stop grease theft. It takes a multi-level approach through upgraded equipment, education of both law enforcement and the public, along with a considerable amount of cooperation between all those affected to make a difference. With the continued demand for biofuel feedstock and what seems to be a solid future for grease prices, the temptation for theft is no doubt here to stay. However, with combined efforts between companies like Mahoney Environmental and others like them, perhaps theft will soon be on the decline. Only time will tell.

Rendertorial Continued from page 5

farmers took their education in a different direction — a video on YouTube that quickly went viral, boasts over 5.6 million views, and has received national media attention. Greg, Nathan, and Kendal Peterson, ages 21, 18, and 15, star in the video “I’m Farming and I Grow It,” using lyrics Greg wrote and set to the music of LMFAO’s popular rap song, “I’m Sexy and I Know It.” Little sister Laura, age 11, did most of the camera work and mom and dad even have a cameo appearance.

“This is how I roll...I feed the cattle ‘til their stomachs are full,” chimes one of the brothers as a rising sun crests over the pasture where he feeds the farm’s cattle. “True to right that’s my belief. What’s for dinner? I say beef,” he continues as he lifts a juicy piece of steak to take a big bite. “Gotta feed everybody,” the three brothers then rap in chorus as they stand in front of a sign that reads “1 Kansas Farmer Feeds More than 128 People + You!”

Oldest brother Greg, an ag-journalism major at Kansas State University and an advocate for his state’s agriculture, was sitting in a diner with friends one evening when the “I’m Sexy and I Know It” song came on the radio. He groaned at first but then became inspired as he started to switch the words with ones about farming. The rest is now history and a catchy little tune, “I’m Farming and I Grow It.”

All the attention has “definitely been a dream,” said Greg, but so has farming with his brothers.

“When we were little kids, we’d all play with our toy tractors,” he continued. “We’d farm together with our tractors on the carpet. The dream was we’d all farm together with Dad.”

Whether it’s opening the gates of a ranch for a hands-on approach or reaching out to a generation of music lovers with a clever parody of a popular song, the goal is the same: teach those who consume our food products about the importance of the people and technologies that produce them. And about the passion they put into what they do to feed the world.

P.S. - A link to the brothers’ video is available on Render’s Facebook page.
After nearly 10 years of doing business under a complex array of animal by-products regulations in Europe that banned all rendered proteins and fats in animal feed, renderers in the region are hopeful for the future as European Union (EU) regulators move closer to relaxing the feed ban.

The mood at the European Fat Processors and Renderers Association (EFPRA) Congress in Dubrovnik, Croatia, in early June was more upbeat than in recent years as news that the European Commission’s Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health would be voting in mid-July on allowing animal proteins to be used in fish feed in Europe. EFPRA Directorate General Dirk Dobbelraere thinks the vote will be positive, “otherwise it would not have been put forth to the standing committee.” If the vote is favorable, the proposal has a three-month review process, at which time it will be published as a new regulation and go into effect six months later, around spring 2013.

Providing his experience and point of view on the history of the animal by-products regulations was Christophe Keppens, Belgian Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain, who admitted the first regulation, 1774/2002, had a turbulent origin, no natural growth, and used a “waste” product mentality. While both industry and regulatory authorities went through growing pains over the past, he said the current regulation, 1069/2009, is better, yet still very large and complex, with the focus now shifted to a “product” approach.

Keppens discussed the contentious items in the current regulation, such as the various processing methods (i.e., method 1 must be used for mammalian proteins that will be used as fertilizers or fertilizer ingredient) and required registration for transporters, traders, and farmers using organic fertilizers and soil improvers, which creates difficulties for member states due to the large size of this sector. He acknowledged that the focus moving forward needs to be on much simpler rules and clearer interpretation of the regulation.

Ladislav Miko, deputy director general, Directorate General Health and Consumers of the European Commission, emphasized that consumer protection is the main goal when considering any changes to the animal by-products regulation. He noted that authorities recognize transmission of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) from non-ruminants to non-ruminants is negligible, and that a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test to detect ruminant protein in feed at a 0.1 percent level has been verified and will be available later this year. A similar test for swine and poultry protein has not yet been established but should be available in 2013. Miko agreed with the industry’s ideas that the EU government should be moving forward to relaxing the feed ban to allow non-ruminant proteins in fish feed by use of the PCR test.

According to Patrick Vanden Avenne, the European Feed Manufacturers Federation is in favor of relaxing the feed ban to allow the use of animal proteins in fish feed because all but one (in Finland) fish feed mills in Europe are dedicated plants, minimizing the possibility of cross-contamination. However, he said the challenge will be to convince certain markets, especially supermarkets, to accept fish fed animal proteins. Currently, aquaculture feed manufacturers are increasingly turning to plant feed ingredients. With regard to compound feed manufacturers, Avenne said there is no guarantee of zero tolerance and that the foundation’s experience has shown cross-contamination is unavoidable.

Also rallying in support of relaxing the feed ban to allow animal proteins and fats in aquaculture feed was Dr. Rune Waagbo, National Institute of Nutrition and Seafood Research.
Lifting Feed Ban for Fish

in Norway, who shared results of his feeding trial using animal proteins and fats that will be published later this year. He stressed that the fish feed industry needs more ingredients, especially sustainable ingredients. Since 1995, there has been a drop in the use of wild fish in fish feed for salmon, an industry growing at the rate of about eight percent per year. Facing challenges with plant proteins for fish meal replacement, Waagbo noted that animal by-products have frequently been used in fish feed in the past as they are a well-suited feed ingredient. He urged the rendering industry to properly handle and control non-ruminant animal by-products to prevent transmissible spongiform encephalopathies in fish.

“Renderers produce good products that are quite consistent,” Waagbo stated, adding that renderers also need to ensure there are no medical residues in their products.

Switching from fish nutrition to human nutrition just prior to lunch were Dr. Frits Muskiet, University Medical Center Groningen in the Netherlands, and Dr. Peter Zock, Unilever Research and Development, and TI Food and Nutrition, both also in the Netherlands. Muskiet discussed how diet is about balance, thus saturated fat is not a foe and neither is linoleic acid a friend. He commented that milk has lots of saturated fat and replacing saturated fat with sugar, with the average consumption being about 200 grams per day, is not a good choice. Muskiet pointed out that food animals are fed many carbohydrates that are not all processed by the animal, so the remaining carbohydrates turn into fat.

Zock provided the positive attributes of fat, including it provides energy and essential fatty acids, is a carrier of fat-soluble vitamins like A and D, contributes to feeling of satiety, and adds taste and flavor to foods. During a highly participated discussion with attendees, the speakers agreed that sedentary lifestyles and fast food availability are keys to the epidemic of overweight children in developed countries, and that genetics does not play a role in obesity.

EFPRA President Niels Nielsen presented some results of an EU consumer survey in which eight out of 10 respondents said a product’s environmental impact was an important element when deciding what to buy. Almost nine in 10 of those surveyed replied that Europe could be more efficient in its use of natural resources, and four in 10 stated they themselves were producing too much waste. However, when it came to food safety, Nielsen reported that just over half said they weren’t confident they could avoid the risk of transmission of animal infections or diseases to humans.

“On this topic, it’s clear that more work needs to be done to get consumer perception of risk in line with reality,” he commented.

Croatia’s Minister of Agriculture Tihomir Jakovina reaffirmed the safety of food in his country by stating there was no significant food incidence during the four years of war in the region in the early 1990s, showing the system works well. He noted there is no indication of BSE in Croatia, and great strides have been made over the past 15 years in animal by-products collection. He credited Agroproteinka, a rendering company based just outside of Zagreb, for increasing collection by 300 percent. The Croatian government provided funding for transportation and other infrastructure to establish by-product collection, with Agroproteinka and Croatia currently in the process of establishing three more collection systems to protect the country’s natural resources.

Ruzica Gelo, director of the Center for the EU and adviser to the president of the Croatian Chamber of Economy, revealed

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A Snapshot of Croatia’s Rendering Industry

While the rendering industry in the European country of Croatia may not be very large, it is nonetheless well-established and prevalent.

The only independent renderer is Agroproteinka that, as part of the former meat processor Pik Sljeme, has been processing animal by-products for more than 50 years and as a stand-alone facility since 1984 in Sesvete, on the eastern edge of the capital city of Zagreb. The company has two rendering plants, one dedicated to category 1 and 2 material and the second to category 3 material, which are by-products from animals fit for slaughter for human consumption. Agroproteinka collects and processes animal by-products from all over Croatia, an area of 21,600 square miles, slightly smaller than West Virginia in the United States, with a population of 4.4 million. Over the years, the Croatian government has provided some funding for transportation and processing costs as support to the meat and slaughter industry, as well for removal costs for carcasses from farms.

There are several other rendering plants affiliated with slaughterhouses primarily as part of poultry operations. One company is Koka in the city of Varazdin, near Zagreb.

Agroproteinka processes animal by-products from the meat and milk industry, slaughterhouses, fish processing industry, and retail chains. In the past few years, the company has processed slightly less than 90,000 metric tons of raw material annually, resulting in over 20,000 metric tons of animal proteins and more than 10,000 metric tons of technical fat. The processed animal proteins are primarily used as a component in fish feed in the Far East and in the pet food industry in Europe, while the technical fat is used in biodiesel production and as an energy component in pet food.

World Renderers Group Meets

The World Renderers Organization (WRO) held its annual meeting in early June in Dubrovnik, Croatia, during the European Fat Processors and Renderers Association (EFPRA) congress. Among the discussion was the challenge of obtaining global rendering statistics.

While the United States has released an annual market report for years, the data is no longer collected by government sources, forcing the industry to come up with another solution to gathering and compiling the information. EFPRA’s yearly statistics are voluntarily reported by the various member countries and can vary from year to year based on which countries choose to report. In the Southern Hemisphere, the New Zealand government collects data, sends it to the meat association, which is then forwarded to the rendering group. Meanwhile, neighboring Australia’s rendering association is working on assembling up-to-date data. There are currently no statistics available for other countries around the globe.

It was announced at the meeting that a Latin American renderers association, La Asociación Latino Americana de Plantas de Rendimiento (ALAPRE), has been formed, with Sergio Nates, previously with the Fats and Proteins Research Foundation in the United States, being named president.

The group currently has nine country members that will individually join WRO with ALAPRE providing support to WRO. Stephen Woodgate, WRO first vice president, noted that there is another newly formed renderers group in South Africa that is interested in joining the WRO, which currently has 27 country members.

Members then discussed which industry meetings a WRO representative should participate. President David Kaluzny II recently attended the World Meat Congress in Paris, France, giving a presentation during a session that featured rendering, hides and skins, and pet food. There were 800 in attendance, providing a large audience for rendering education.

Other meetings WRO members decided to have representation at are the Global Aquaculture Alliance in Bangkok, Thailand, in late October; the International Feed Industry Federation/Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome, Italy, also in October; and the Global Feed and Food (GFF) IV in Sun City, South Africa, in April 2013. As a gold sponsor of the GFF IV, WRO will be given a booth and up to five speaker slots during a half-day session at the conference, which will be similar to a successful program WRO held in Cancun, Mexico, in 2010.
The European Fat Processors and Renderers Association (EFPRA) recently released its annual review of Europe’s animal by-products industry. The statistics included 20 European Union (EU) members and were presented by Patrick Coelenbier, SARIA Industries, at EFPRA’s congress held in Dubrovnik, Croatia.

Within the EU meat market in 2011, hog slaughter was 23 million metric tons (MMT), down 1.2 percent from 2010, while poultry slaughter was at 13 MMT, up half a percent from the previous year. Beef slaughter dropped three percent in 2011 to seven MMT, a trend that is forecasted to continue due to environmental pressures on the beef industry.

“There is a shortage of bovine meat in the EU, which is growing,” Coelenbier stated, although the region’s swine industry is doing quite well both in production (stable) and exports to countries outside the EU (another increase in 2011). Worldwide hog consumption is forecasted to increase 25 percent in the next 10 years, with China playing an essential part in that growth, 50 percent, and the EU consuming 20 percent of global hog meat production. Worldwide poultry consumption is slated to increase by 30 percent during the same time, with the concentration being in the United States, Brazil, and the EU.

Total reported animal by-products processed shows a 1.6 percent decrease in 2011 over 2010, at 16 MMT, yet EFPRA estimates overall products processed to be closer to 16.4 MMT from 22 EU members (two countries did not officially report). Category 3 material, which is meat fit for human consumption, was about 10.7 MMT, up from 10.3 MMT in 2010, with all other material accounting for 5.3 MMT, down from six MMT the previous year.

Slovakia saw a 100 percent increase in animal by-products processed, with Romania and Lithuania also seeing dramatic growth. On the other side of the coin, Portugal saw a 12 percent drop in animal by-products processed, with Denmark and the United Kingdom also seeing declines.

**EU Product Markets**

The pet food sector continued to increase its market share of animal fats and proteins in 2011, taking 1.9 MMT, or 29 percent of the nearly 6.5 MMT of EU total finished product (down from 6.7 MMT in 2010). That share is up from 27 percent in 2010. The energy market remained the largest customer, taking 2.1 MMT of total animal fats and proteins, or 33 percent, a slight drop from 34 percent the previous year. Rounding out the markets was the feed sector at 827,000 MT, or 13 percent, up from 12 percent in 2010; fertilizers at 805,000 MT, or 12 percent, down from 13 percent; soap and oleochemicals at 547,000 MT, a steady nine percent; and food was at 167,000 MT, or three percent, up from two percent the previous year.

Of the 3.8 MMT of animal proteins produced in 2011, down slightly from 3.9 MMT in 2010, the pet food industry took 1.6 MMT, a whopping 42 percent of total production, a five percent increase from the previous year.

“The needs of the pet food sector for animal proteins are more and more important,” Coelenbier proclaimed. The second largest market for animal proteins is energy, which consumed 32 percent of total production, a drop from 34 percent in 2010. Nearly 1.1 MMT of meat and bone meal from specified risk material and dead stock was incinerated in 2011, down substantially from earlier years. Germany, the United Kingdom, and France are the largest incinerators of animal proteins. Other markets for animal proteins include fertilizers, which took 21 percent, down from 23 percent; and feed and food, each taking two percent, both up one percent over the previous year.

Consolidation in the EU energy sector saw a slight shift in usage of the 2.6 MMT of animal fats produced in 2011, down from 2.7 MMT in 2010. The feed industry increased its share two points last year to 28 percent of total fat (742,000 MT), while energy dropped slightly to 33 percent (508,000 MT) from 34 percent the previous year.

“The demand for animal fats for biodiesel remained strong in 2011, particularly for category 1 and 2 fats,” Coelenbier stated. About 280,000 MT of fat from category 1 and 2 material was used in biodiesel production last year, up from 218,000 in 2010. Other markets include soap and oleochemicals at a steady 22 percent (547,000 MT) of total fat; pet food at 11 percent (302,000 MT), down from 13 percent in 2010; and food at four percent (103,000 MT), up from three percent in 2010, with a usage increase of 25 percent since 2009.
Australia’s export statistics for 2011 show a change in the pattern of the country’s tallow exports. China remained the major market for tallow, but Singapore went from taking about 35 metric tons of tallow in 2010 to almost 100,000 metric tons in 2011. Volumes to other markets, including China, Pakistan, and South Africa, were all lower in 2011 to accommodate the expansion of sales to Singapore. The total volume of Australian tallow exported in 2011 was 364,000 metric tons.

Exports to Singapore were entirely due to the operations of Neste Oil’s biodiesel plant, reputed to be the world’s largest. The demand from Neste Oil contributed to upward pressure on prices in 2011, particularly in the first two quarters. Price controls within China dampened Chinese demand from mid-March to mid-August 2011. The resulting price dip in July and August was followed by a price rally from September through December due to the re-emergence of Chinese demand, which was stimulated by the relaxation of price controls resulting in tallow prices out-performing palm stearine. Concerns about tallow shortages combined with the Chinese New Year culminated in tallow prices peaking in December 2011 at levels close to $1,000 per metric ton. However, as 2012 rolled in, the restocking phase of Chinese demand had run its course and was accompanied by increased New Zealand seasonal production, logistical problems, and a cluttered bulk shipping timetable.

At the end of 2011, demand for Australian tallow from Neste Oil was very weak due to several variables. In Germany, tallow was removed from the list of waste materials that could be double counted as a renewable fuel resulting in reduced demand for tallow-based biodiesel. Neste Oil also sourced North American and South American tallow to round out supply and quality issues.

The issues in the Chinese and Neste Oil markets caused a sharp fall in Australian tallow prices in the first quarter of 2012. However, with continuing drought in South America leading to diminishing yields for summer oilseed crops, soybean prices have risen to support the situation that has carried through to strengthen palm oil prices. For example, palm stearine was hovering around $1,000 per metric ton early in 2012, increasing to about $1,140 in April. Chinese buyers who returned to the market for April forward shipment have, in turn, been faced with the elevated price structure.

Australian tallow stocks were not carried forward into 2012 in any substantial volume during the Chinese slow-demand months as the aggregated demand of Taiwan, Korea, Japan, Singapore, and Pakistan was able to absorb production at relatively well-priced levels. In addition, the widespread rain and flooding in southern Australia in early March 2012 disrupted production. Demand from Neste Oil remains an evolving factor, but currently China is the major destination for Australian tallow.

In June, tallow prices in Australia fell sharply following trends in other commodity prices, particularly crude oil and palm stearine. Palm stearine fell by about $150 per metric ton in May and was down another $40 per metric ton in June. Crude oil dropped to less than $90 per barrel in May, further falling to less than $80 per barrel in June. The falling price of crude oil affected the value of tallow for use in renewable fuels, and financial problems in Europe have weakened demand for commodities in general.

At the same time, export demand from China is slow and there has been a loss of sales of premium grades of tallow to China. However, prices are expected to stabilize since there is firm domestic demand for tallow in Australia’s southern states for use in oleochemicals and biodiesel. Production levels in Australia are low and expected to remain so over the winter. New Zealand production will be very slow as well.

Protein Meals

Indonesia was the main export market for Australian meat and bone meal in 2011 after being temporarily replaced by China in 2010. Exports to China fell by almost half in 2011 compared to 2010 due to cheaper fish meal, reducing China’s need for meat and bone meal. Taiwan remained a strong market and demand for ovine meal in the United States (US) and Canada picked up after a slower 2010.

Meat and bone meal prices were relatively constant in 2011 moving in the range of $500 to $600 per metric ton depending on whether sales were domestic or export. At the start of 2012, the price of meat and bone meal dropped close to $400 per metric ton even though January prices are usually stable due to short supplies. However, this year, the domestic market was well covered for supplies of vegetable protein, including soy and canola meal, and demand for meat and bone meal was weak. At the same time, export demand was affected by competition from cheaper US product in Indonesia and European Union product in other destinations.

Soybean meal prices have since increased due to dry conditions in South America and prospects of weaker supplies. In the United States, cattle kills are lower than expected and domestic demand for meat and bone meal has increased, pushing up prices by about $100 per metric ton in March 2012. As a result of higher prices and reduced availability from the United States, demand for Australian meat and bone meal in Indonesia has firmed. Domestic demand in Australia has also returned since feed mills have worked through supplies of cheaper soy and canola meals. Domestic users are competing with the export market to secure supplies.

Australian meat and bone meal prices have increased steadily from April to June 2012 after soybean meal prices shot up from about $350 per metric ton in January to $480 per metric ton at the end of June. Meat and bone meal has
followed suit in export and domestic markets with demand for Australian product being particularly strong in Indonesia because meal from the United States has been banned since the announcement of a case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy in that country in April.

Domestic demand for meat and bone meal remains steady and with slower production over the winter, prices are expected to stay firm.

The high price of meat and bone meal could reduce usage in least-cost formulations and prices may have reached a ceiling in export markets. But if vegetable protein prices continue to increase, meat and bone meal prices should remain stable. However, the United States is expecting to resume access to Indonesia and if this happens, prices could weaken.

Australian blood meal prices have been falling in 2012 due to the availability of vegetable proteins in the domestic market. However, the low price of blood meal has stimulated export sales and the price of blood meal has started to improve in line with increases in the price of animal protein meals in export markets.

Feather and poultry meal prices followed the same trend as meat and bone meal in the first quarter of 2012. Prices were hit harder than the meat and bone meal price because of avian influenza being identified at two duck farms in Victoria, Australia, leading to the closure of some export markets. Market access for rendered poultry product is now available in Indonesia and the Philippines, but Vietnam remains closed.

The price of Australian feather meal dropped to $400 per metric ton and poultry meal was as low as $650 per metric ton after the avian influenza cases. Prices have since recovered $100 per metric ton. Poultry meal has moved to about $775 per metric ton in response to increased fish meal prices.

**Washington Continued from page 6**

2013, include action on the mandatory across-the-board budget cuts. Some favor a simple can-kicking exercise, delaying the required spending cuts until March or April. Some demand Congress build a wall around the Department of Defense to ensure spending cuts don’t leave the nation vulnerable. When this initially focused approach is unveiled, you can expect any number of bills and amendments to protect other federal departments and programs to be added to that list. In the end, a big chunk of the expected savings from mandatory sequestration will have disappeared.

Can we expect a fiscal miracle during lame duck? Will there be wholesale reform soon? Likely not. Will whatever lame duck action expected set the stage for serious action in the 113th Congress next year? I wish I was more confident.

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**MOVING??**

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The European Fat Processors and Renderers Association (EFPRA) held its 12th Annual General Assembly and Congress in historic Dubrovnik, Croatia, in early June. With more than 300 participants, this congress set a new attendance record.

Besides a technical symposium featuring fantastic speakers, which is covered in an article on page 10 in this issue of Render, European Union (EU) legislative issues were also addressed, beginning with the animal by-products regulation (ABPR).

The original ABPR, European Commission (EC) No. 1774/2002, has been very complex. Over the years a long series of amendments have been approved, which made the regulation even more complex. Further, the legislation had a “waste” product mentality.

The basic focus of 1774/2002 was the categorization of animal by-products into three categories: category 1 being high risk with regard to transmissible spongiform encephalopathy; category 2 being some risk with regard to other animal diseases; and category 3 being animal by-products from animals fit for slaughter for human consumption.

After a long period of extensive work, a new ABPR, EC No. 1069/2009, was adopted, a simpler but still quite comprehensive legislation with more of a “product” approach. Later, the implementing regulation, EC No. 142/2011, was approved, yet some issues still had to be clarified, mainly to avoid misunderstandings and different interpretation by various EU member states. These amendments were negotiated for the time being, with EFPRA putting forward a long series of proposals for changes to the regulation, which were covered by yet another piece of legislation, EC No. 7188/2011.

EFPRA Technical Director Dr. Martin Alm was pleased to inform members at the general assembly meeting that the Directorate General for Health and Consumers, or DG SANCO, accepted most of the points brought up by EFPRA in the latest revision of 7188/2011. The most important change is that the text will be reworded in a way that all doubts about processed animal proteins to be used as fertilizer are resolved. In the future, method 7 (i.e., a free-chosen process that fulfils some specified microbiological parameters) will be sufficient. Some member states already interpret the current legislation in that way while others stick to method 1 (pressure sterilization).

Another important step in the ABPR is the inclusion of a definition for used cooking oil, which was then deleted for the moment. The now postponed clarification would have guaranteed full traceability along the feed chain and its correct usage. Alm reminded members about the dioxin crisis in Germany in 2011 that was caused by an improper use of fatty acids derived from used cooking oil. This incident harmed the entire feed sector and led to another strict legislation with mandatory dioxin testing schemes. In the discussion on this dioxin testing scheme, Alm repeated that the text clearly indicated that only fats for feed have to be monitored (one test per 2,000 metric tons). Tests are not required for non-feed uses and do not have to be 100 percent tested before release of that batch, referred to as “100 percent release” in the EU. The commission was expected to vote on 7188/2011 in July.

Another piece of EU legislation is the Renewable Energy Directive, which is now implemented in most member states but with a patchwork of interpretation, especially on the issue of “double counting,” a directive promotion scheme to count biofuels from waste and residues twice. A short survey of EU member states showed that category 1 and 2 fats are mostly acknowledged for double counting while category 3 fat is seen as a product. Used cooking oil, even if it is acknowledged as being category 3, also counts twice. Nevertheless, the survey showed some countries have strange interpretations: Germany excludes all animal fats except used cooking oil; Italy and France have a cap on double-counted biofuels; and the United Kingdom excludes category 2 for market reasons, although no market exists.

Regarding the partial lifting of the feed ban, the testing method based on polymerase chain reaction (PCR) is now adopted by the EU Reference Laboratory (EURL) in Gembloux, Belgium. However, Dutch renderers, together with the Dutch National Reference Laboratory at the University of Wageningen, have organized an international ring test that is easier to handle than the PCR technique. EURL is involved but is currently awaiting the outcome of this test before reassessing its position. The lab’s concern is getting different test results from the same sample, thus EURL might consider the PCR as the last and final test while others could be accepted as screening tests.

Besides legislative matters, EFPRA also took time to elect a new member to its executive board as Patrick Coelenbier of Saria in France, and the president of the French organization SIFCO, retired July 1. Unanimously elected to the board as a replacement was Jean Louis Hurel, also of Saria and the new president of SIFCO. The EFPRA Executive Board for the next two years (2012-2014) consists of: N.C. Leth Nielsen, Denmark, president; Sjors Beerendonk, The Netherlands, vice president; Alberto Grosso, Italy, vice president; Dirk Dobbelbaere, secretary general; and Martin Alm, technical director. Besides Hurel, other board members are Almudena Ortiz, Spain; Harald Niemann, Germany; and Stephen Woodgate, United Kingdom.

EFPRA’s next congress will take place in Prague, Czech Republic, June 12-15, 2013.
Mark Your Calendar

September
Aqua 2012 – Global Aquaculture, Securing Our Future
Organized by the European Aquaculture Society and World Aquaculture Society
September 1-5, Prague, Czech Republic
www.easonline.org or www.was.org

GOAL 2012 – Global Aquaculture Alliance Meeting
October 30-November 2, Bangkok, Thailand • www.gaalliance.org

October
Poultry Protein and Fat Seminar
October 4-5, Nashville, TN
www.uspoultry.org

2012 Feed and Pet Food Joint Conference
October 9-12, St. Louis, MO
www.petfoodinstitute.org

American Fats and Oils Association Annual Meeting
October 10-11, New York City, NY
www.americanfatsandoilsassociation.com

U.S. Animal Health Association
116th Annual Meeting
October 17-24, Greensboro, NC
www.usaha.org

Fats and Proteins Research Foundation Annual Meeting
October 22-23, Dana Point, CA
www.fprf.org

National Renderers Association 79th Annual Convention
October 23-26, Dana Point, CA • http://nationalrenderers.org

December
9th Annual Canadian Renewable Fuels Summit
December 3-5, Ottawa, ON, Canada • www.crfs2012.com

January 2013
International Production and Processing Expo
Formerly the International Poultry Expo
January 29-31, Atlanta, GA • www.ipe13.org

February
National Biodiesel Conference and Expo
February 4-7, Las Vegas, NV • www.biodieselconference.org

Cattle Industry Convention and National Cattlemen’s Beef Association Trade Show
February 6-9, Tampa, FL • www.beefusa.org

MeatExpo’13
February 10-13, Las Vegas, NV • http://meatexpo.org

Aquaculture 2013
Organized by the World Aquaculture Society
February 21-25, Nashville, TN • www.was.org

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It’s hot! In early July, the Washington, DC, area experienced its hottest period in recent history. In fact, records were set for the most consecutive days over 95 degrees and most consecutive days over 100 degrees. Add this to an area suffering without electricity ranging anywhere from 24 hours to one week. I don’t expect much sympathy because most of the United States (US), except perhaps the West Coast, was suffering from record high temperatures as well.

However, a large section of the country did experience something extraordinary called a “derecho,” which is Spanish for straight. It was an unusual weather phenomenon of a straight wind force that travelled the 600 miles from Indiana to Maryland in just 10 hours; that’s an unbelievable speed of 60 miles per hour. The storm packed hurricane force winds accompanied by torrential rain. It covered a broad area with the greater Washington, DC, vicinity taking the brunt.

This derecho hit my Virginia neighborhood about 11:00 pm on a Friday with very little warning. Unlike hurricanes, thunderstorms, or tornadoes, no one saw it coming. I first learned about it on the 10:00 pm news, and by the time I could tell my family and our houseguests what to expect, the electricity was already out.

There are a lot of large old trees in the older residential areas hit by the storm. Many were torn out at the roots and fell on houses and cars, causing some fatalities. The storm also created havoc with the entire electrical system, causing over 1.2 million people to lose electricity. We survived and were lucky as our electricity was back on within 24 hours. It was brutal for many who waited up to a week to get power restored, especially with temperatures over 100 degrees every day. Even the public and community swimming pools had to be closed if there was no electricity. Most conversations started with “Do you have power?” If you did and they didn’t you were hesitant to answer or felt guilty in doing so.

The experience reminded us that we often take much for granted and forget to be grateful for what we have. How fortunate we are with our many conveniences. We were grateful to be among the lucky ones who had electricity restored before having to throw away spoiled food from freezers and refrigerators.

The derecho added some commotion to what has been a pretty quiet summer in Washington as it relates to the business of Congress. However, the National Renderers Association (NRA) had a successful Washington fly-in in mid-June when over 30 members visited at least 100 congressional offices. The group was also briefed by the director of the Food and Drug Administration’s Center for Veterinary Medicine and senior staff from the Senate Committee on Agriculture.

The farm bill has passed the Senate and is now being debated in the House of Representatives. NRA’s efforts to reauthorize the export promotion programs – the Foreign Market Development and Market Access Program – have been successful so far. There is broad support for these programs as shown in the votes taken. Yet, with the political election campaigns in full swing, don’t expect much more legislative business to get done this year.

NRA has spent a lot of time and effort, along with the hard work of many of its members, in trying to reopen the export market to Indonesia for US meat and bone meal. It should not have closed in the first place, but because of the politics in that country and the publicized case of atypical bovine spongiform encephalopathy in April, a flurry of activity shut the market down. Recently, there have been signs that give the industry real hope the market will reopen soon.

NRA also continues its efforts to open the Chinese market for US tallow following the success of the Canadian government in reaching an agreement with China. NRA’s Canadian members are anxious to see that trade begin, but it is taking more time than expected due to some internal hurdles that must be met by importing companies.

The 79th Annual NRA Convention is October 23-26, 2012, in Dana Point, CA. There is already a lot of interest based on early registration so don’t delay if you plan on attending. Learn more at http://nationalrenderers.org.

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Mexico Battles Flu Outbreak in Chickens

As of July 19, 2012, officials in Jalisco, Mexico, had culled about 3.8 million chickens to contain an H7N3 avian flu outbreak, with another 9.3 million birds under observation.

According to Mexico’s food safety agency, SENASICA, 253 poultry farms have been inspected, with 83 declared to be free of the virus, 33 confirmed to have the virus, and the remaining 138 facilities still to be diagnosed. Jalisco accounts for 55 percent of the country’s egg output.

The Ministry of Agriculture noted the culling measures are intended to protect poultry production; the H7N3 virus does not pose a health risk for human consumption. Authorities are requiring vaccinations for healthy chickens to stop the spread of the virus, and private labs in Mexico were working diligently to produce 80 million doses to meet the demand.
First RIN Fraud Case Prosecuted

A Maryland man has been found guilty in the first ever criminal prosecution associated with fraudulently generating renewable identification numbers (RINs) under the United States (US) Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA’s) Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS). On June 25, 2012, a jury in the US District Court quickly convicted Rodney Hailey, owner of Clean Green Fuels, LLC of 42 criminal counts stemming from the sale of more than 32 million fraudulent RINs worth $9.1 million. Specifically, he was found guilty of wire fraud, money laundering, and violating the Clean Air Act. Sentencing is scheduled for mid-October. According to the US Attorney’s Office, Hailey faces up to 20 years in prison for each of eight wire fraud counts, 10 years each for 32 counts of money laundering, and two years each for two Clean Air Act counts.

Hailey’s acts first became public in October 2011 when EPA filed charges against him for selling biodiesel RINs and registering Clean Green Fuel as a producer of biodiesel, despite never actually producing any of the alternative fuel. The issue gained further attention when EPA issued notices of violation against gasoline and diesel refiners, blenders, and importers who used the fraudulent RINs generated by Hailey in order to comply with their obligations under the RFS.

The 32 million RINs generated by Hailey were only a portion of the fraudulent RINs EPA asserts have been generated to date. In total, since October 2011, EPA has invalidated more than 140 million biodiesel RINs generated under the RFS at a cost of more than $100 million to gasoline and diesel refiners, blenders, and importers. At this time, the federal government has not pressed criminal charges against the other alleged fraudulent RIN generators.

However, this case and two other pending cases nationwide have unveiled problems with the program and led to calls in Congress for a review by lawmakers. EPA has stated they are reviewing the program to make changes that will reduce the potential for future fraud.

BDI Building Waste Oils Biodiesel Plant in France

BDI – BioEnergy International AG has been commissioned to build a multi-feedstock biodiesel plant in the port of Le Havre, France. The order amounts to 16.4 million euro and involves the entire biodiesel process as well as the assembly and installation of the plant. What will eventually be the biggest multi-feedstock biodiesel plant in France will produce high-quality biodiesel exclusively from locally collected animal fats that are not approved for human consumption and used cooking oil instead of from rapeseed oil, which has been the primary raw material used in France. The plant will have a capacity of 75,000 metric tons (20 million gallons) of biodiesel per year.

The plant will be operated by EcoMotion France, a subsidiary of Saria and of Intermarché, one of the largest supermarket chains in France. The biodiesel produced will be marketed via the fuel station network of Intermarché.

BDI has built biodiesel and biogas plants for Saria Group companies in the past and also constructed biodiesel plants for EcoMotion Germany in Lünen and Malchin. EcoMotion France will enjoy an additional benefit with this new facility because biodiesel made from waste materials counts double in calculating achievement of the national targets for renewable energies in France, like in many other European Union countries.

Biodiesel Technician Training Program Accredited

Biodiesel took a leap forward in becoming fully integrated into the education that diesel mechanics receive when the National Automotive Technician Education Foundation (NATEF) officially awarded the Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) accreditation to the National Biodiesel Board’s (NBB’s) Biodiesel for Diesel Technicians curriculum. NATEF is the body responsible for accrediting schools and curriculum nationwide.

“We are delighted to have the National Biodiesel Board as an accredited training organization – it is important to have good technical information to educate the next generation of diesel technicians in advanced biofuels,” said Dave Milne, president of the Automotive Training Managers Council, a division of ASE.

NBB’s Biodiesel for Diesel Technicians curriculum is intended to provide technically sound information to mechanics and overcome misconceptions.

“Educating diesel technicians early is critical to its mission of increasing public acceptance of biodiesel, a relatively new fuel,” said Rachel Burton, a diesel technician who leads the NBB program. “Knowledge is power.”

The NBB program has had a partnership with Universal Technical Institute (UTI), a leading provider of entry-level technicians, since 2009. Burton has led over 300 instructors through the biodiesel curriculum at UTI’s 10 campuses nationwide. Now, schools like UTI, Lincoln College of Technology, and Ivy Tech can officially use this biodiesel program as core curriculum for diesel technicians and offer a biodiesel class that counts for credits towards a degree or for continuing education units (CEUs). Many established technicians request CEUs for certified professional development or ASE certification, which many employers require.

The Iowa Biodiesel Board was an early partner with NBB, implementing the Biodiesel for Diesel Technicians curriculum with more than 1,000 students at community colleges in Iowa since 2009. Before taking a course in biodiesel led by instructors trained under the program, just 33 percent of
students felt “fairly knowledgeable” or “very knowledgeable” about biodiesel. After the course, 74 percent classed themselves in those categories.

California Dishes Out Millions for Green Projects

In two separate actions, the California Energy Commission recently approved $58 million in funding to projects that will accelerate the development of green fuels and technology in the state. The awards were made through the Energy Commission’s Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Program, which provides approximately $100 million annually to encourage the development and use of new vehicle technologies and alternative fuels to help the state fulfill its climate change policies. Twenty-five projects were chosen, with the largest award, $14.5 million, going to demonstrate medium- and heavy-duty vehicles using advanced technology and alternative fuels. Another $10 million was given as a share of cost to install 101 new ethanol fueling facilities at existing gas fueling stations statewide.

Three biodiesel projects were awarded, including $758,200 to Springboard Biodiesel, LLC, which will develop and build a pilot biodiesel production facility in Chico, CA, where the company is based. The facility is expected to provide low-cost biodiesel in rural Northern California, where such fuel options are not widely available. Used cooking oil and other waste oils will be used to produce up to 1,000 gallons of biodiesel a day to be used locally. The project is expected to create 12 permanent jobs.

North Star Biofuels, LLC was awarded $500,000 to develop a commercial-scale blending facility at a biodiesel production plant in Watsonville, CA, that uses waste oils, including used cooking oil, as a feedstock. The blending technology will create a fuel of more consistent quality than fuel produced using older processes. The blended fuel at this facility will have a carbon intensity that is 75 to 85 percent less than that of conventional diesel.

Whole Energy Pacifica, LLC will receive $125,274 to design, build, and install a fuel-blending system at an existing biodiesel terminal in Richmond, CA. The new system will provide accurate, uniform blending of diesel and biodiesel. The biodiesel at this facility is predominantly made from used cooking oils.

Under the Energy Commission’s Public Interest Energy Research program, Biodiesel Industries of Ventura, CA, was awarded a $1.8 million grant to pioneer new technologies for the production of advanced biofuels at the company’s 10 million gallon facility at the National Environment Technology Demonstration Site at Naval Base Ventura County in Port Hueneme, CA. Biodiesel Industries, a subsidiary of Biodico, will operate the new plant, which is expected to be online by Spring 2013. The facility will use waste cooking oil, algae oil, castor oil, and brassica oil as the primary feedstocks, depending on season and location.
Biodiesels Continued from page 21

Canadian Airline Makes First Biofuel Flight

Air Canada successfully operated its first flight with biofuel in mid-June to highlight the airline’s commitment to the environment. The flight was a normal revenue flight operated with an Airbus A319 aircraft using a 50/50 mix of regular jet fuel and biofuel derived from recycled cooking oil. This blend produced by SkyNRG has been recertified to normal jet fuel standards and can be safely used without modifying the aircraft’s systems.

The flight from Toronto, ON, Canada, to Mexico City, Mexico, generated at least 40 percent fewer emissions by using jet fuel derived from recycled cooking oil and other fuel-saving measures, making it the most environmentally-friendly flight ever flown by Air Canada. The flight was supported by Airbus and was part of an environmental demonstration by the International Civil Aviation Organization to coincide with the Rio +20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.

Enterprise Increases Biodiesel Use at Airports

Enterprise Holdings, owner and operator of the Enterprise Rent-A-Car, National Car Rental, and Alamo Rent A Car brands, is converting even more of its airport shuttle buses to 20 percent biodiesel (B20) and exploring other clean fuel options for its buses. The company has converted its fleet of buses to biodiesel in more than 50 North American markets.

The company converted all of its shuttle buses to biodiesel at airport locations within five miles of a biodiesel fueling station. Overall, more than 70 percent of its buses now run on biodiesel, with approximately 50 percent using five percent biodiesel, and more than 20 percent using B20. By the end of the year, the company’s older buses will be replaced with new B20-compatible models and more than 80 percent of its total shuttle bus fleet will run on biodiesel.

“We are steadily converting our shuttle fleet as biodiesel becomes accessible to more and more of our airport locations,” said Lee Broughton, head of corporate sustainability, Enterprise Holdings. “We made this commitment to biodiesel with the understanding that it must make economic and environmental sense in each airport market where we operate. We’re encouraged by the increasing access to this cleaner burning fuel, and look forward to additional conversion when it’s readily available in even more markets.”

Enterprise also supports renewable fuels research. Since 2006, Enterprise’s owners, the Taylor family, have given $35 million to the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center and its Enterprise Rent-A-Car Institute for Renewable Fuels. At the Enterprise Institute, scientists are researching and developing new and sustainable methods of creating next-generation biofuels from nonfood crops such as camelina, switchgrass, and algae.

EPA Awards Grant for Trap Grease Project

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has awarded an $87,000 People, Prosperity, and the Planet (P3) grant to a team of faculty, students, and staff from the University of Cincinnati (UC) and the Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati (MSD) to turn sewer grease into biodiesel.

The team competed against 300 college and university innovators from across the country in the 8th Annual National Sustainable Design Expo at the National Mall in Washington, DC, in early June. The EPA’s P3 award competition was held at the expo.

MSD’s Ting Lu, PhD, an environmental engineer, has been working with faculty and students from UC and Bluegrass Biodiesel of Falmouth, KY, to clean and treat waste cooking oil from UC’s campus eateries to make biodiesel and create energy to power several residence halls.

The P3 grant money will allow the team to develop a community-scale biodiesel production system that would convert trap grease collected from the Greater Cincinnati area into biodiesel. Trap grease is grease restaurants trap before it goes into the sewer. The project, slated to begin in September, will also include pilot demonstrations and a 100-gallon pilot treatment facility.

REG Awarded Again to Provide Biodiesel to Hawaiian Electric

Hawaiian Electric Company received approval in May from the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission for an additional three-year biodiesel contract with Renewable Energy Group (REG), the largest biodiesel producer in the United States.

This is REG’s third awarded contract for biodiesel for Hawaii Electric’s 100-megawatt combustion turbine generator at Campbell Industrial Park Generating Station. The new contract took effect in July 2012 when the previous contract ended and states that REG must conform to environmental guidelines for sustainable production and use of biofuels that were developed by Hawaiian Electric in partnership with the Natural Resources Defense Council.

Under the new contract, REG will continue supplying three to seven million gallons of high-quality biodiesel processed from used cooking oil and animal fats annually for the generating station. The plant is the country’s first utility-scale combustion turbine run on 100 percent biodiesel.

Hawaii Welcomes New Facility

In early July, Pacific Biodiesel Technologies unveiled its newest project and the first biofuel refinery to be built in Hawaii since 2000, Big Island Biodiesel, LLC located near Keaau, on the Big Island. The grand opening celebration featured speeches from United States (US) Senator Daniel Inouye, Hawaii Governor Neil Abercrombie, and others representing various government divisions such as the US Department of
FDA Puts Jatropha on Notice

The United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced in July that oils, glycerin, and proteins derived from the Jatropha plant that are commonly used in the production of human and animal food, medical products, cosmetics, and other FDA-regulated products may contain toxins.

“When vegetable oils and animal fats are used in biodiesel fuel production, the co-products include oils, glycerin, and protein,” FDA stated in a notification. “Recently, the Jatropha plant has become an attractive source material for biodiesel fuel because of the high oil content of its seed, availability of the plant in certain parts of the world, and relatively low cost. However, unlike other benign materials used to produce biodiesel fuel, Jatropha plants may contain toxic compounds, including phorbol esters. These compounds exhibit potential toxicity, both acute and chronic, to exposed humans and animals.”

According to FDA, oil extracted from the Jatropha plant contains a portion of the toxic compounds; however, toxic compounds are retained completely in the extracted glycerin and protein co-products. Consequently, the oils, glycerin, and protein derived from Jatropha seeds may contain toxic compounds.

“Even though crude Jatropha extracts have protein levels comparable to soybeans and, therefore, could be an attractive protein source for humans and animals, Jatropha-derived protein may contain these toxic ingredients,” FDA cites in its notice. “Conventional impurity test methods may not detect the presence of these toxins.” At this time, FDA is unaware of any intentional substitution or contamination in FDA-regulated finished products or components derived from the Jatropha plant. However, given the significant overlap among the supply chains of FDA-regulated products, the agency is advising affected industries to be aware of the potential for substitution or use of oils, glycerin, and proteins derived from the Jatropha plant.

Saskatchewan Mandate Kicks In

Saskatchewan’s renewable diesel mandate went into effect July 1, 2012, establishing an average of two percent renewable content in diesel fuel sold in the Canadian province.

Renewable diesel is a diesel fuel substitute made from renewable materials that include vegetable oil, waste cooking oil, animal fats and fish oil, or feedstock from agricultural or forest biomass. The use of renewable diesel in Saskatchewan has the potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to taking 5,000 cars off the road annually.

“The new mandate was developed in consultation with the industry,” Economy Minister Bill Boyd said. “To support the mandate, our government introduced the renewable diesel program in the 2011-2012 budget that provides incentive for the production of renewable diesel in the province.” He added the mandate ensures participation and counts toward compliance under...
Report Looks at Risk of Biodiesel on Human Health

The Canadian Minister of Health has published the final report, *Human Health Risk Assessment for Biodiesel Production, Distribution, and Use in Canada*. This has been a lengthy and extensive project conducted by the Fuels Assessment Section of the Water, Air, and Climate Change Bureau in the Health Environments and Consumer Safety Branch of Health Canada. The focus has been on human health aspects with emphasis on environmental effects that may provide human health risks associated with the use of biodiesel as an alternative combustible fuel.

The document consists of 224 pages of text; 21 pages listing tables, acronyms, and abbreviations; and the reference section. The Fats and Proteins Research Foundation and Clemson University collaborated with Nigel Edwards, Fuels Assessment Section, in addressing the section relating to the use of tallow as a feedstock source for biodiesel production. A previous 141-page report was published in June 2006 that was commissioned in 2004 to study any animal or public health risks and environmental exposure issues that might result from using animal fats for biodiesel fuel, particularly those materials specified as higher risk for transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE).

The earlier report concluded, “Biodiesel produced from animals infected with TSE poses a negligible risk to human and animal health. This conclusion extends even to the use of specified risk material (SRM) as a source of tallow, based on experimental evidence showing that rendered tallow from BSE- [bovine spongiform encephalopathy] and scrapie-infected tissues do not transmit disease to inoculated healthy animals.” The report also concluded that an absolute zero-risk assessment could not be made and would be impossible to prove at that time.

The new report (Chapter 7, pages 163-167, “Tallow and Biodiesel Production”) summarizes the 2006 analysis in respect to sources of animal tissues, tallow production, purification of biodiesel, and combustion of tallowate, but addresses current scientific reports. The new report, along with the 2006 study and all previous drafts, was reviewed by Dr. Annel Greene, Steve Woodgate, and myself after consulting with representative renderers. The conclusions were quite specific for tallow that was below the 0.15 percent insoluble impurity content as based on the World Organization for Animal Health, or OIE, standard. The risk of a human contacting variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD) following exposure to airborne BSE resulting from the combustion of SRM-derived tallow was calculated to range from $10^{-1} \text{ to } 10^{-2}$, lower than the spontaneous rate of vCJD occurrence in humans at $10^{-6}$. Thus, 0.15 percent or less insoluble impurity tallow was considered as a negligible risk feedstock source for biodiesel production.

However, a second scenario conclusion was formed for tallow in which the insoluble content of the SRM-derived tallow exceeds 0.15 percent and contains BSE agents. It was stated that there is a lack of empirical information and data to establish a negligible risk of infection given the uncertainty that exists. The uncertainty is whether the temperature of compression ignition engines is high enough for a sufficient length of time to render BSE agents inactive. Though no reference to further research was made, the uncertainty will probably result in attempts to acquire extremely expensive, long-term research grants.

As reviewers, it was encouraged to reference the controls, regulations, and the compliance records that exist for regulating SRM material and the insoluble impurity components. The level of compliance associated with all BSE regulations has exceeded that of nearly all regulations ever developed. The rendering industry is to be applauded for its record and attention to compliance. The numerous programs employed by the global rendering industry, to include the code of practice, hazard analysis and critical control point, Safe Feed/Safe Food, restricted use animal protein, and others, are actively employed at nearly all rendering facilities. But all renderers know this! Isn’t it frustrating that the need to train and retrain the doubters is a never-ending process.

The report is available at [http://healthcanada.gc.ca](http://healthcanada.gc.ca). For more information or to obtain additional copies, contact Publications, Health Canada, Ottawa, ON, Canada K1A 0K9, (613) 954-5995, e-mail info@hc-sc.gc.ca. Reference:


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Biofuels Continued from page 23

Canada’s national directive.

The mandate is an average-based system with a compliance period that extends until December 31, 2014. The mandate does not apply to diesel marketed in Northern Saskatchewan or to aviation fuel.

Weber Appointed to Biomass Committee

Alan Weber, who has served as a consultant on new resources for biodiesel for the National Biodiesel Board (NBB) and vice president of Missouri-based MARC-IV Consulting, has been appointed to serve on the United States Department of Agriculture’s (USDA’s) and Department of Energy’s (DOE’s) Biomass Research and Development Technical Advisory Committee. The all-volunteer committee helps USDA and DOE in meeting important goals of a healthier rural economy and improved national energy security. Weber will advise the agencies on overcoming technical challenges through research and development that will lead to a greatly expanded bio-based industry.

Weber has been involved with biodiesel for more than 20 years, helping establish NBB’s Washington, DC, office. He’s a master’s graduate of the Agricultural Economics program at the University of Missouri, where he served as a program director for industrial uses from renewable resources.

Website Touts Effects of RFS

A new website was launched in late June to raise awareness about the economic, environmental, hunger, and engine performance implications of the current biofuels policy in the United States.

SmarterFuelFuture.org is supported by a number of organizations, including the National Chicken Council and American Meat Institute, which have and will continue to voice concern about the negative effects of the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) and other biofuel policies. The groups are calling on lawmakers to revisit the RFS and enact policies that take into account their collective concerns.

SmarterFuelFuture.org’s mission statement states that Americans deserve a policy framework where:

• goals and outcomes are informed by markets, not mandates;
• natural resources are used strategically and efficiently;
• America’s crops and cropland are dedicated to providing food and feed, not fuel;
• consumers’ right to safety and value come first;
• the success of policies and programs are evaluated on real-world performance, and are not vulnerable to fraud and manipulation.

Other organizations involved in the project are the National Turkey Federation, National Council of Chain Restaurants, American Fuel and Petrochemical Manufacturers, Boat Owners Association of the United States, National Marine Manufacturers Association, Competitive Enterprises Institute, and the National Taxpayers Union.
Development of New Odor Control Methods

Odor control is one of the rendering industry’s greatest challenges. Research in the early 1970s indicated that untreated rendering plant emissions could be detected up to 20 miles away from rendering plants (Bethea et al. 1973). In-plant control operations for treating high intensity odors using chemical scrubbers, thermal destruction, condensers, and biofilters have advanced odor remediation significantly in the past few decades (Sindt 2006). However, each has drawbacks including energy use and venting of greenhouse gases, storage and use of strong chemical oxidants, and disposal of spent chemical and biological packed bed scrubbers effluent. Also, as urban areas encroach on rendering operations with stringent odor emission regulations, the need for advanced odor protection continues to grow. A number of odor sources other than rendering cookers, such as trucks, could even cause complaints from neighbors.

Clemson University researchers Dr. Daniel Whitehead and Dr. Frank Alexis are collaborating to develop a new, high-tech method of reducing odor emissions. Their cutting edge work involves development of new engineered biodegradable nanoparticles that will destroy malodorous volatile organic odor compounds. These biodegradable nanoparticles are non-toxic to both humans and the environment. This next generation fusion of chemistry and bioengineering is a fresh new approach to the odor remediation problem and offers mechanisms of capturing and destroying odor compounds that have never been explored previously.

Van Langenhove et al. (1982) reported that 110 volatile compounds can be identified in rendering odors, but of those, only 26 contribute most notably to malodorous rendering plant emissions. Those 26 offensive agents include 10 different aldehydes, eight different carboxylic acids, five different sulfur-containing compounds, as well as one alcohol and one amine compound. The majority of these organic compounds are generated from the breakdown of proteins and fats during thermal processing. Other odor compounds of concern from rendering operations include hydrogen sulfide and ammonia. Because of the wide variety of chemical compounds contributing to rendering plant odors, the different chemical structures of these most malodorous agents, and the variability of concentration of these compounds, current strategies for odor control rely on an approach of destroying all emitted volatile compounds. However, it is recognized that the most offensive odor compounds may not be the most prevalent in a mixture of volatiles. Reduction of these compounds could greatly improve malodor problems from rendering facilities. The sensitivity of the human nose can detect and discern chemical odorants at levels as low as 0.1 parts per billion (Van Langenhove et al. 1982, Fazzalari 1973).

Unfortunately, the many valuable contributions the rendering industry makes to society by recycling animal proteins and fats can be quickly dismissed by the public when foul odor releases occur. The rendering industry, therefore, places a high priority on odor control and invests significant resources to combating this on-going problem. Whitehead and Alexis are working in an entirely new direction for odor remediation issues. The work is exploratory and, at this stage, is oriented toward a proof of concept. However, if successful, in the future, a wide variety of odor-capturing nanoparticles could be created and tailored to meet each rendering application need. The goal is to have a nanoparticle spray to distribute in odor problem areas. After the nanoparticles complete their action by destroying the odor compounds, they could be washed down into the wastewater treatment system where they would readily biodegrade.

The term nanotechnology refers to materials that are extremely tiny – on the scale of one to 100 nanometers. A nanometer is one-billionth of a meter. As described on www.nano.gov, a sheet of paper is approximately 100,000 nanometers thick. A strand of human DNA is approximately 2.5 nanometers in diameter. Researchers have learned that nanoparticles on this scale have very unique chemical, physical, and biological properties partly due to their surface to volume ratio. These unique properties allow scientists the ability to use nanoparticles to work on a sub-cellular level. The field of nanotechnology has opened a new realm of research applications in biological and chemical sciences.

Whitehead and Alexis’ work is based on nanoparticle technology that was first developed for medical applications of drug delivery. Therefore, these nanoparticles were developed with rapid biodegradability and toxicological safety considerations in mind (Alexis 2005). In fact, these nanoparticles can be “tuned” to degrade according to a specific pre-determined schedule depending on application and needs. This tunable degradation and non-toxicity make these nanoparticles an excellent environmentally friendly backbone for rendering odor emission remediation.

Whitehead’s laboratory focuses on various aspects of
synthetic organic chemistry, including developing new organic reaction methodology, the synthesis of bioactive small molecules, and developing new means of chemical catalysis. By applying fundamental principles of chemical reactivity, nanoparticles will be engineered and fabricated to target the destruction of the most offensive malodorants that cause difficulties in the rendering industry. Their collaborative work is innovative and combines the most recent advancements in synthetic organic chemistry with nanotechnology. Once prepared, the completed nanoparticles will be tested for ability to destroy small odor compounds.

A native of Lexington, SC, Whitehead obtained his bachelor of science and master of science degrees in chemistry from Furman University and his PhD in chemistry from Michigan State University. He was a post-doctoral fellow at North Carolina State University and became an assistant professor at Clemson University in fall 2011.

Alexis obtained his bachelor of science in chemistry, his master of science in materials and interfaces from the Technological University of Montpellier in France, and his PhD in material sciences from Nanyang Technological University in Singapore. Alexis was a post-doctoral fellow of drug and gene delivery at the Institute of Bioengineering and Nanotechnology in Singapore. In 2009, he became assistant professor in the Bioengineering Department at Clemson University.

Alexis began the Clemson University Nanomedicine Laboratory in 2009 where his group works on a variety of nanotechnology applications for drug delivery and tissue engineering. His laboratory team has a multi-prong research thrust including synthesis of new biomaterials and advanced biodegradable polymers. The laboratory is studying the interactions between nanoparticles and biological systems, especially in relation to human and environmental health. Alexis’ team is also developing nanoparticle technologies for in vivo imaging and drug delivery, including targeted cancer therapies.

The rendering odor project will be a proof-of-concept study to demonstrate the reactivity between the engineered nanoparticles and odor compounds. Once the study is completed, the data will help researchers determine whether to conduct further investigations applying the nanoparticles in a rendering plant environment and quantitatively/qualitatively assessing odor reduction. In this preliminary study, the overall goal is to demonstrate an ability to engineer nanoparticles capable of destroying rendering malodor emissions.

The technology proposed in the project represents a new field of study that could open a huge range of applications. For instance, in other future projects to be funded elsewhere, the research team will propose studying use of similar nanoparticle technology for military or environmental applications. In the rendering industry, this technology could augment or possibly even replace existing odor control technologies in the future. The technology could yield cost savings for the rendering industry through reduced energy consumption and reduced emissions of greenhouse gases. Further, this new nanotechnology could feasibly be used not only in the

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Court Overturns Numerous Willful OSHA Citations

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

Craig B. Simonsen is a senior paralegal with Seyfarth Shaw specializing in occupational safety and health as well as environmental law. Legal topics provide general information, not specific legal advice. Individual circumstances may limit or modify this information.

One of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration’s (OSHA’s) most potent enforcement weapons is the willful citation that can carry a monetary penalty up to $70,000 per violation. If OSHA can prove that the willful violation resulted in a fatality, there is potential criminal liability. A willful violation can also impact third party liability litigation if it arose out of an accident involving personal injury, as well as the employer’s business reputation and liability insurance premiums. As a result, no employer would ever wait to receive a willful citation.

Recently, the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia (DC) Circuit issued a decision that will significantly affect OSHA’s ability to issue and to prove a willful violation (Dayton Tire v. Secretary of Labor, No. 10-1362, DC Cir. March 6, 2012). The court reaffirmed that OSHA has a high evidentiary burden to establish a willful violation. In the process, the court was also very critical of the timeliness and the manner in which OSHA prosecuted the case.

Initial Citations

In 1993, a Dayton employee died from injuries sustained when a machine activated unexpectedly. The incident prompted OSHA to send an inspector to the plant to assess Dayton’s lockout/tagout (LOTO) compliance. Based on that inspection, OSHA cited Dayton alleging 107 willful LOTO violations and proposing a penalty of about $7.5 million. Of the 107 cited violations, 98 were for failing to train individual employees to the “authorized” level. The remaining nine violations were for failing to develop adequate safety procedures for particular machines, failing to utilize LOTO procedures, failing to provide necessary locks and tags to authorized employees, and failing to conduct periodic inspections.

After a hearing before an Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission (OSHRC) administrative law judge, which included testimony from 90 witnesses over 31 days of trial, the judge issued a decision in 1997 that affirmed each violation that had not been withdrawn by OSHA. Additionally, even though the judge found that Dayton’s “actions were consistent with a good faith belief and effort to comply with the LOTO standard throughout the Oklahoma City plant,” he characterized 37 of the violations as willful because “Dayton knew its corporate parent, Bridgestone, had previously been cited under the LOTO standard for similar violations.” The judge assessed a total penalty of $518,000.

From 1997 until 2010, the case sat fully briefed before the OSHRC. Then in 2010, two members of the OSHRC not only upheld the citations, but overturned the judge and held that all of the violations were willful, with a penalty of $1.975 million. The company filed an appeal.

Circuit Court Decision

In its recent decision, the federal circuit court found that while it took the commission more than 12 years to rule on the case, Dayton was not entitled to dismissal based on the OSHRC’s failure to adjudicate the case. “Although we are empowered to set aside the commission’s order on the basis of delay, we decline to do so here,” the court stated. “Yes, in the words of the secretary herself, the commission’s twelve-year delay was ‘excessive and deplorable.’ But as Dayton admits – and its cited cases demonstrate – delay alone is not enough; it is the ‘consequence[s] of the Commission’s delay’ that dictate whether corrective action is needed. And in this instance, the consequences of the commission’s delay do not justify setting aside its chosen penalty.” The court noted that, “While the deterrent effect of a single penalty is difficult to assess with much precision, we are confident that enforcement of this penalty will have some effect on Bridgestone and employers in general.”

The court concluded, though, that, “Our willingness to enforce the commission’s penalty should not be mistaken for approval of its ‘deplorable’ conduct.”

The OSHRC in its 2010 decision found sufficient evidence to conclude that Dayton had willfully violated the Occupational Safety and Health Administration Act as a matter of corporate policy. The linchpin of the OSHRC willfulness determination was its finding that Dayton’s safety manager either knew Dayton was non-compliant or was unwilling to investigate for fear of uncovering Dayton’s non-compliance. The circuit court found that this position was based more on speculation than evidence. Accordingly, the OSHRC’s willfulness characterization did not withstand review. The court found the evidence in the record proved “negligence at most.” Specifically, the court noted that each time an issue was raised about Dayton’s compliance with the LOTO standard, the safety manager took some action. While the safety manager’s effort and analysis may not have been as thorough as the court would have hoped, the court stated that it was “not nothing.” The court explained that establishing the plain indifference necessary to support a willful violation is a high burden. The court likens the test to a lack of good faith and in rejecting the OSHRC’s decision, the court stated: “Indeed, what the [judge] acknowledged and the commission dismissed was the possibility of good faith.” The safety manager “made some effort to ensure Dayton’s LOTO compliance, and under these circumstances, some
effort is enough to save Dayton from a willfulness determination.”

The court concluded that the OSHRC “lacked substantial supporting evidence for its finding that Dayton’s violations were willful. Accordingly, we vacate that portion of the commission’s order and remand for the commission to reassess the nature of Dayton’s violations and recalculate the appropriate penalty.”

Recommendations

In order to avoid potential liability for willful violations, an employer should be prepared to establish that it acted in good faith – the antithesis of willful conduct. This can be done by:

• undertaking a thorough hazard assessment of the workplace;
• developing compliance programs to address such hazards;
• conducting and documenting training of employees regarding such programs; and
• enforcing compliance with documented discipline up to and including termination for violations.

References:


Darling International Acquires Grease Collection Business, Names New CFO

Darling International, Inc. has acquired all assets of RVO BioPur, LLC, which is based in Waterbury, CT, and provides used cooking oil collection and grease trap services to restaurants and food service establishments in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Northern New York City.

“We are pleased to add BioPur to our portfolio,” said Darling International Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Randall Stuewe. “BioPur strengthens our existing East coast operations and expands our reach into the New England area.”

In other news, on September 1, 2012, Colin Stevenson becomes Darling International’s executive vice president-chief financial officer, and John O. Muse, the company’s current executive vice president of Finance and Administration, moves into the position of executive vice president-chief administrative officer. Stevenson will report to Muse, who has indicated his intent to retire from Darling at the end of 2014.

Stevenson has been with PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), LLP since 1999, where he became a partner in 2002 and most recently served as leader of its Dallas, TX, Financial Services Tax Group. During his career at PwC, he served a diversified group of publicly-traded and private companies in a wide variety of industries including manufacturing, real estate, private equity, technology, and services. Prior to PwC, Stevenson spent approximately eight years holding a variety of positions including chief financial officer and division president for privately held construction and land development entities, as well as regional vice president of financial operations for the Ryland Group, a publicly-traded company on the New York Stock Exchange.

French Renderers Elect New President

Jean-Louis Hurel, chief executive officer (CEO) of Saria Industries SAS France, a subsidiary of Saria Bio-Industries International in Germany, has been elected president of the French rendering association Syndicat des Industries Francaises des Coproduits Animaux, or SIFCO. Hurel takes the helm from Patrick Coelenbier who retired at the end of June after serving six years as SIFCO president and 38 years in the rendering industry.

Hurel became CEO of Saria France in 2001 after four years as the company’s chief financial officer. He previously held CEO positions for Bidim Geosynthetics SA and Transport Mahe International.

SIFCO represents 11 rendering and associate companies in France.

Restaurant Association Unveils New Branding Initiative, Logo

The National Restaurant Association (NRA) has revealed a new branding architecture and visual identity, which will be applied to all the organization’s programs, advocacy, services, and products.

The new visual identity will help build cohesiveness in NRA’s brand structure, and is a step in its multi-year strategic plan to strengthen the connection and messaging to core constituents. The logo is designed to reflect the richness and diversity of the $632 billion restaurant industry and its nearly 13 million employees.

“Creating this new visual identity has been a wonderful experience, as we have taken the many beloved aspects of the industry and translated them into imagery,” said Dawn Sweeney, NRA president and CEO. “We also incorporated our organization’s history into the new brand, bringing in elements from our logo from the 1920s, as well as elements from our well-established ProStart and ServSafe brands.” A complete history of the association’s logo is available at http://restaurant.org/brand/timeline.

The NRA sought input from industry professionals, state restaurant associations, and policymakers to create a logo concept that resonates with a wide audience and that illustrates the restaurant and foodservice industry in multiple ways. Founded in 1919, NRA is the leading business association for the restaurant industry, which comprises 970,000 restaurant and foodservice outlets and a workforce of nearly 13 million employees.

Kansas State Adds Pet Food Program

Kansas State University is expanding its Feed Science and Management program to include pet food production. Dr. Greg Aldrich has been appointed as research associate professor and Pet Food Program coordinator.

Aldrich will be responsible for establishing a first of its kind interdisciplinary pet food research program. He will provide guidance on course development and work with university and allied industry stakeholders to assimilate support for broader program growth. Aldrich is a graduate of Kansas State and an industry consultant from Topeka, KS, with extensive pet food production experience.

The United States pet food industry is a $19 billion per year industry producing more than eight million metric tons annually to feed more than 375 million dogs, cats, and other companion animals living in two out of three homes.
Poland Gets New Rendering Plant

According to The Warsaw Voice, a state-of-the-art facility for processing animal by-products from the meat industry is being built in Pszczonów near Skierniewice, Łódź province in central Poland.

The facility is being constructed on a five-hectare site by a Polish-Canadian enterprise called Polish Rendering Company. The plant will be launched this year and have a capacity of 50,000 metric tons of by-products and 25,000 tons of expired food. It will also treat up to 30,000 tons of blood, most of which will be exported as an additive to compound animal feed.

The facility will employ 120 people.

Daka and Saria Form Alliance

The Saria Group and Daka Group have joined forces to boost activities in the processing of animal by-products. The European Union Commission has approved and members of Daka a.m.b.a. have voted in favor of the takeover of all business activities by the newly founded Daka Denmark A/S, of which Saria holds a 51 percent ownership. The remaining 49 percent shares will be held by a number of members from the former Danish cooperative. The cooperative Daka a.m.b.a. has ceased operations. When signing the agreement, both management teams highlighted the benefits of the alliance.

“This alliance reflects the trend towards consolidation within the agriculture and meat industries and ongoing globalization in the processing of animal by-products, and is therefore an exciting step into the future,” said Kurt Stoffel, chairman of Saria’s Management Board. Chairman of the Daka Board of Directors Hans Klejsgaard Hansen and Managing Director Lars Krause-Kjaer also underlined the importance of the alliance from Daka’s perspective.

“By teaming with Saria, Daka will achieve significant synergies – the two groups ideally complement each other. We also believe that Daka can benefit from the Saria Group’s expertise with regard to processing organic waste, allowing us to develop new business activities for Daka in Denmark and Sweden. Together with Saria, we are glad to see that the cooperation can start now.”

Headquartered in Selm, Germany, Saria Bio-Industries is an international manufacturer of products for human consumption, animal nutrition, agriculture, aquaculture, and industrial applications. The company is also active in the renewable energy sector (biodiesel and biogas) and employs about 5,000 people in 10 European countries.

Based in Løsning, Denmark, Daka operates in a similar market segment to Saria, with activities principally in Denmark and Sweden. In addition to processing animal by-products for the pet food, animal feed, and fertilizer industry, Daka produces blood plasma products for a variety of human consumption and animal nutrition applications. The company also produces biodiesel from animal waste and employs some 300 people in Denmark and Sweden.

Latin American Group Formed

With an aim to promote the rendering industry in Latin America, the Asociacion Latinoamericana de Plantas de Rendimiento, or ALAPRE, was launched in May during the International Fair of Graxarias – SINCOBESP in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Members from eight countries, including Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Chile, Mexico, Paraguay, and Venezuela, have initially joined the association. ALAPRE officers include representatives from several of the rendering companies and local associations across Latin America. They are Dr. Sergio Nates, president; Alex Ferreira, SINCOBESP – Brazil, vice president; and Fernando Mendizabal, Rengra – Mexico, treasurer.

The formation of ALAPRE comes at a critical point, with the association being devoted to serving the industry in specific areas such as biosecurity, legislation, and sustainability. A committee will also monitor a research program to be supported by the association.

“We need to promote the production and feeding of animal co-products, create new sales channels, and promote an active education program by the participating countries,” said Nates. “We will work to ensure that animal co-products are well accepted in the Latin American region and worldwide. We welcome an open and candid conversation with all aspects of the rendering industry, but especially with the World Renderers Organization, and other associations dedicated to support the rendering industry.” For more information, visit www.alapr.org.
Sponsorship Opportunities Abound for the 79th NRA Annual Convention...

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Considered the industry's premier event, the National Renderers Association’s Annual Convention offers a consistently informative and educational business agenda coupled with incomparable social events. This year, we’re offering a host of exciting sponsorship opportunities designed to recognize your company in unique and creative ways. Don’t delay! Secure your sponsorship today by visiting us on the web at www.convention.nationalrenderers.org, or contact Marty Covert, NRA Convention Coordinator, at 703. 533. 8571 or co@martycovert.com.

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