



# NATIONAL RENDERERS ASSOCIATION

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## Issue Briefs

2016

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# 10 Facts About Rendering

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- 1. Rendering is Recycling** - Rendering is the cooking and drying of animal coproducts that remain after removing the meat people eat.
- 2. Often Unknown but True** - People use rendered products every day in soaps, paints, varnishes, cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, shaving cream, deodorant, crayons, leather (handbags, car seats, furniture), lubricants, caulking compounds, candles, cleaners, paints, perfumes, polishes, rubber products, plastics, fertilizers and even explosives. Many people just don't realize it.
- 3. Good for Animal Health** - Rendering produces valuable fats and proteins that improve the nutrition in foods used by consumers and farmers to feed their pets as well as livestock, poultry and fish.
- 4. Recycling From Restaurants** - Renderers pick up the nation's used restaurant cooking grease/oil, and clean and recycle it into ingredients for animal feed, biodiesel and renewable diesel for cars, trucks, airplanes and other equipment.
- 5. Rendering is Sustainable** – Recycling of animal coproducts sequesters at least five times as much greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) as it emits. Rendering produces far fewer emissions than landfilling or composting. Rendered products help animal agriculture and other customers reduce their environmental footprints and become more sustainable. If all renderable products were landfilled, the entire available space would be full in four years and pose a serious public health threat.
- 6. Clean and Safe** – High cooking temperatures used in rendering assure animal food and consumer safety to protect against bacteria, viruses and other safety hazards. Meeting customer needs for quality and safety is a high priority.
- 7. Consumers Can Have Confidence** - Renderers comply with all required federal, state and local regulations and laws. They conduct hazard analyses, control food safety hazards, and use good manufacturing practices in their Rendering Code of Practice stewardship program. This Code of Practice fully complies with new FDA rules under the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA).
- 8. Volume In, Quality Out** - Rendering is a high-volume, high-tech industry. North American renderers collect 60 billion pounds of raw materials a year. Renderers recycle raw materials by cooking and drying these products into 11 billion pounds of fats/oils and 10 billion pounds of protein each year.
- 9. Skilled Workforce** - Rendering plants require highly trained workers who use high-tech controls to operate high-temperature cookers, centrifuges and presses. Renderers have a high labor retention rate.
- 10. Lots of Trucks** – The rendering industry transports 44 billion pounds of products, mostly by truck. Renderers own and control some of the largest private trucking fleets in the country.



## Rendering and Sustainability

The rendering industry plays an important role in the sustainability of animal agriculture and the food system. Some 56 billion pounds of meat coproducts and used cooking grease/oil were rendered in the U.S. last year, and 6 billion pounds were rendered in Canada.

Instead of these animal coproducts ending up in landfills or as soil amendments, renderers efficiently convert them into ingredients for a host of new products, from high value animal feed to bioenergy to personal care and industrial products. All U.S. landfills would be full in four years without rendering, posing serious public health and environmental problems.

While providing these essential services, rendering plants boost sustainability by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, conserving fuel and other natural resources, recycling processing heat, and, importantly, by contributing to their local economies and communities.

### The Four Main Principles of Rendering Sustainability are:

1. Produce safe animal food
2. Practice environmental stewardship and operate efficiently
3. Care for local communities and employees
4. Help feed a hungry world by providing nutritious feed ingredients for animal production by recycling responsibly

NRA works to promote understanding of the rendering industry's role in sustainability and to enhance the ability of renderers to operate. The industry does not support government policies that direct raw materials (now rendered) to less sustainable treatment options such as composting, anaerobic digestion, or landfilling. EPA's Food Recovery Hierarchy lists products from rendering as having higher recycling value than these other treatment options.

### Principle 1: Rendering Produces Safe Animal Food

- All rendered products in the U.S. and Canada meet regulatory animal food safety standards. More than 90% of rendered products in the U.S. and Canada exceed these government requirements. The industry also has its own longstanding rigorous Rendering Code of Practice.

## **Principle 2: Rendering Practices Environmental Stewardship**

- Greenhouse gas (such as carbon dioxide) sequestered from the environment via rendering is five times more than emitted by rendering operations.
- Rendering's contribution to carbon emission reduction in the U.S. and Canada is equivalent to removing more than 12 million cars annually from the road.
- Rendering evaporates water from animal coproducts during cooking. This large quantity of water meets federal, state and local standards when returned to rivers and streams.

## **Principle 3: Renderers Care for Their Community and Employees**

- Renderers in the U.S. and Canada invest more than \$500,000 annually in research by the Fats and Proteins Research Foundation to seek solutions to challenges such as odor control.
- Rendering companies and their employees are longstanding members of their communities, improving the quality of life by volunteering and supporting local charities, providing jobs and offering essential recycling services for farmers, restaurants and food service.
- Without renderer pickup of used cooking grease/oil, municipal sewer and wastewater systems can become clogged, resulting in millions of dollars in damage and repairs while compromising water quality.

## **Principle 4: Rendering Helps Feed a Hungry World by Recycling Responsibly**

- Rendered fats and oils account for 30 percent of the feedstock used in biodiesel and renewable diesel production in the U.S.
- Rendered fats and proteins used for animal feed ingredients replace corn and soybeans from *6.3 million acres* of average quality U.S. crop land.
- The rendering industry recycles 2.4 billion pounds of used cooking oils from foodservice operations, much of which is used for biodiesel production, representing *4.7 million acres* of U.S. average quality soybean land from which soy oil is produced.
- Recycled cooking oil is also used for animal food ingredients equivalent to the production of corn on *619,000 acres* of U.S. average quality corn land.
- The rendering industry recycles 2.3 billion pounds of meat and poultry from retail food waste which is used for animal food ingredients equivalent to the production of soybeans on *400,000 acres* of U.S. average quality soybean land.



# Biofuel: Tax Credits & the Renewable Fuel Standard

2016

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## NRA Position

- **Biofuel Tax Credits**

- **NRA opposes “The Stop Animal Fat Tax Credits Act,” H.R. 5004**, introduced by Rep. Randy Weber (R-TX), to eliminate tax credits for biofuels produced with animal fats. Rendering supplies 30% of biodiesel feedstock. This bill would:
  - Create a competitive disadvantage for rendered fat and oil used to produce biofuel while continuing tax incentives for other feedstocks. Renderers support a *level playing field* among biodiesel feedstock suppliers.
  - Harm the young biodiesel industry and the jobs it creates.
  - Put downward pressure on farm income since livestock and poultry producers grow the animals that are rendered.
- **NRA supports extending three federal tax credits** that expire December 31 and recommends making them permanent in tax law:
  - \$1-per-gallon tax credit for biodiesel
  - \$1-per-gallon tax credit for renewable diesel
  - 50-cent-per-gallon alternative fuel mixture tax credit (AFMTC)

- **Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS)**

- **NRA encourages expansion of the RFS based on total production capacity of eligible biofuels, including biomass-based diesel and renewable diesel.** EPA’s proposal on May 18 to increase the RFS in 2017 and 2018 is a step in the right direction. However, NRA believes higher levels are warranted.

## The Issue

### Biofuel Tax Credits

Current law provides federal tax credits and the RFS as incentives to develop and commercialize alternative energy products, including biofuels.

The \$1-per-gallon tax credits are paid to the blender for mixing biodiesel with petroleum-based fuel at a 10% rate. The AFMTC is used by renderers and others who burn their own coproducts as boiler and heating fuel. These tax credits have been extended on an ad hoc annual basis which creates great uncertainty and challenge for the young biofuels industry to operate.

## Renewable Fuel Standard

Biofuels are mandated to be blended with petroleum distillates at set percentages and total gallons annually under the federal RFS. The RFS was modified in 2009 to include “advanced biofuels,” such as biodiesel/renewable diesel and non-corn ethanol.

On May 18, EPA proposed an RFS for advanced biofuel of 4 billion gallons in 2017 and an RFS for biomass-based diesel of 2.1 billion gallons in 2018. NRA supports higher RFS levels. For example, the biodiesel industry has the annual capacity to produce over 2.5 billion gallons.

## **Rendered Products and Biofuels**

Rendered fats and oils account for 30 percent of the feedstock used in biodiesel production. NRA’s member companies are actively engaged in the biofuel industry, either as refiners or as suppliers of large amounts of feedstocks. These fats and oils replace petroleum distillates, both on and off road, and include fuel for cars, trucks, jets and industrial furnaces.

Animal-based biodiesel and renewable diesel – both refined by using non-edible animal coproducts (such as lard and tallow) and recaptured restaurant oil and grease – are truly recycled and renewable alternative fuels. These fuels are highly sustainable because they use coproducts as a feedstock instead of relying on virgin materials. Supplies of biodiesel can be renewed indefinitely because rendered feedstocks and oil/grease are domestic coproducts of the growing and globally competitive U.S. animal agriculture sector.

NRA supports a federal energy policy that rewards efficiency, encourages development of alternative fuels and ensures a level competitive playing field as the U.S. strives to diversify its energy sources and reduce carbon emissions. Federal alternative fuel programs should be biofuel and feedstock neutral, and ensure *all biofuels, including biodiesel and renewable diesel, are treated equitably.*

NRA focuses on biofuel feedstocks from animal coproducts and grease/oil collection, and takes no policy position on other biofuels, such as ethanol.

Biodiesel and renewable diesel contribute significantly to meeting the goals of the RFS program, including a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), technological innovation, enhanced energy security and economic development. Biodiesel reduces lifecycle GHG emissions by 57-86 percent more than petroleum diesel, according to EPA. The rendering industry provides a significant reduction in carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e) GHG emissions by sequestering five times more CO<sub>2</sub>e as it emits.

By encouraging continued development of new technology and infrastructure, the RFS reduces cost, improves efficiency and provides jobs in the relatively young biofuels industry. This enables biodiesel and renewable diesel to continue their important contribution to diversifying the nation’s fuel supply, and reducing our dependence on global fossil fuel markets.



### NRA Position

- **The rendering industry supports reducing food waste** to feed people and keep food out of landfills where it emits methane and other greenhouse gases (GHG's), and can harm water quality.
- **Rendering is EPA's "more preferred" use** for animal coproducts and restaurant used cooking oil/grease than composting and anaerobic digestion, according to the agency's Food Recovery Hierarchy.\*
  - Rendered ingredients for animal nutrition, including pet food, biofuel and oleochemical uses have *higher value* than compost, fertilizer and soil amendments produced by composting and anaerobic digestion.
- **Rendering is the most eco-friendly use** of leftover animal coproducts and used cooking oil/grease.
  - Rendering produces fewer carbon emissions and other GHG's than other recycling methods, such as anaerobic digestion and composting.
- **Government incentives should ensure a *level playing field* among recyclers** to prevent unfair market advantage that causes diversion of leftover meat, bones and used cooking oil from traditional renderers to other recyclers.

### The Issue

Some estimate 40 percent of the food in the United States is wasted each year. State initiatives and recent federal legislation have been introduced to address the problem from farm production to end use.

Each method of reducing wasted food has an appropriate role.

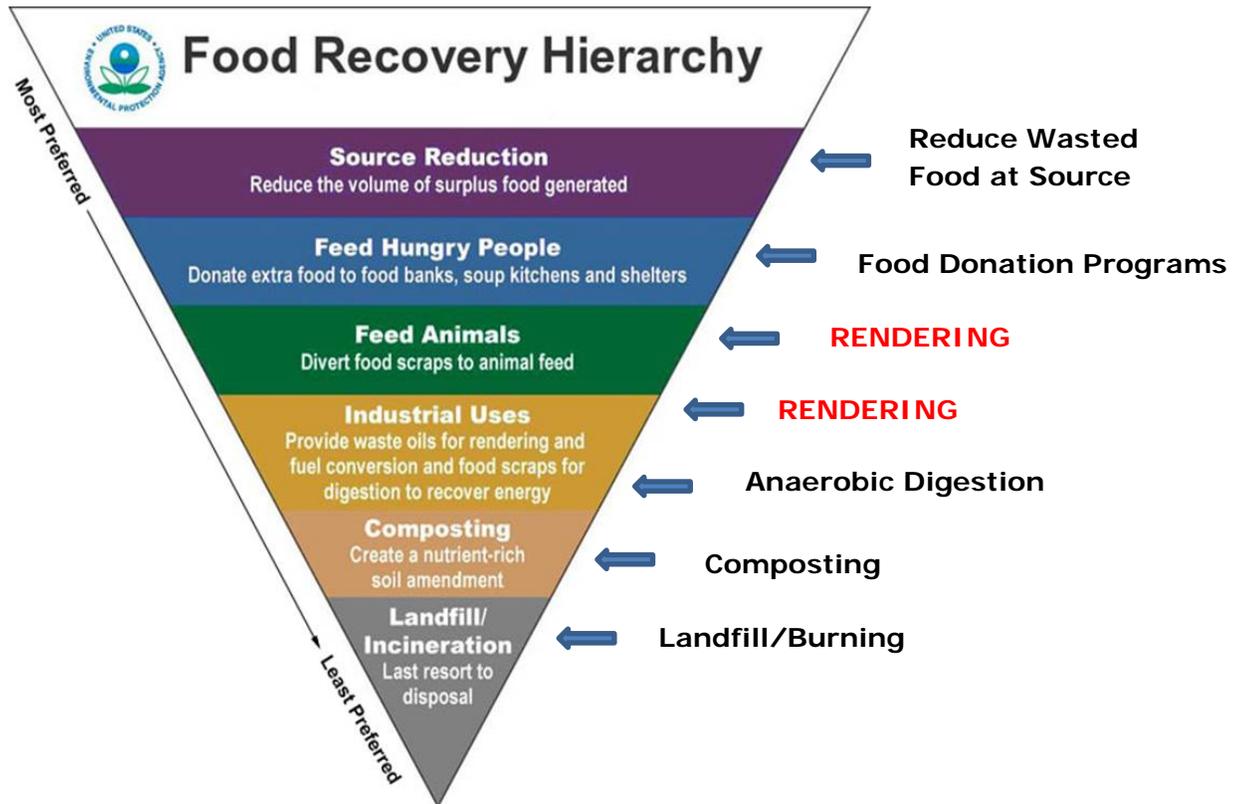
- **"The Food Recovery Act of 2015," H.R. 4184**, introduced by Rep. Chellie Pingree (D-ME), would provide new government loans and grants to encourage large-scale composting and food waste-to-energy anaerobic digestion projects. With these financial incentives, renderers are concerned these recyclers would be encouraged to divert animal coproducts and used cooking oil/grease from rendering to a "less green" use. Renderers do not receive direct financial support to operate from the government, but instead compete directly in the marketplace.

- H.R. 4184 also includes programs to reduce wasted food on farms and by grocery stores, restaurants, consumers, schools, the federal government and the military. The bill would also reduce food waste going to landfills and encourage additional research.

**EPA’s Food Recovery Hierarchy ranks rendering above anaerobic digestion and composting.**

When evaluating sustainability, the most valuable and “green” uses for animal coproducts should be considered. Rendered products fall within the categories of Feed Animals and Industrial Uses on the EPA pyramid below, which the agency considers higher uses than composting, anaerobic digestion and landfill.

The EPA pyramid ranks the most preferred food recovery methods. Priorities are first people, then animals, biofuels and other industrial uses, compost and lastly, landfill.



**Background**

When animal coproducts and recaptured restaurant oil/grease are rendered, the process makes valuable fats, refined oils and protein meals for agriculture, biofuel, and consumer and industrial products. Materials recycled by renderers are prevented from entering landfills, and municipal sewer and wastewater systems, where they would decay and create GHGs that pollute and harm the environment.

Composting, for example, may get rid of some recyclable materials and produce soil amendments, but it also produces large amounts of carbon dioxide and methane that are not captured and reused. Composting produces a greater volume of GHG's than rendering, adding more GHGs in the atmosphere that may contribute to climate change.

### **Sustainable Advantage of Rendering**

When materials such as meat trimmings and used cooking oil/grease are rendered, renderers recycle the organic material and carbons back into the lifecycle of the planet. Rendering allows for sequestration or recycling of carbon as a beneficial method to improve the health of the public and the environment.

Rendering does not bury the useful organics our society needs - it keeps these organics available for life.

Rendering does not release GHGs into the atmosphere from animal coproducts. These rendered products stay in the biocycle as fats and protein meals that become part of an animal or a plant via the feed or fertilizer made from rendered materials. These animals and vegetables, in turn, contribute to the human food chain by giving us salads, grapes, eggs, milk, cheese or even the meat we buy and eat from our local grocery store.

Rendered products are also important ingredients in pet food and help ensure sustainable, nutritious and affordable options for dogs and cats.

\* Source: [http://www.epa.gov/foodrecoverychallenge/track\\_It.htm](http://www.epa.gov/foodrecoverychallenge/track_It.htm)



# Growing Markets: Market Access & Foreign Market Development

2016

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## NRA Position

- **NRA strongly supports federal annual appropriations of \$200 million for USDA's Market Access Program (MAP) and \$34.5 million for the Foreign Market Development (FMD) program as authorized in the 2014 Farm Bill.**
- **Strong funding is also needed for USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service to implement these programs and provide export assistance.**

## The Issue

Exports of rendered products are vital to the U.S. rendering industry. Overall, 18 percent of total production is exported. More than 18 percent of rendered animal proteins and 17 percent of rendered fat are sold overseas. Top markets are Mexico, China, Indonesia, Chile, the European Union (EU) and Canada.

NRA receives approximately \$1.8 million annually from MAP and FMD programs to develop, maintain and open foreign markets. NRA cost-shares with USDA to operate 45 projects in 57 countries, two overseas offices (Hong Kong and Mexico City), and nine consultants in aquaculture, poultry, pet food and EU policy. These programs enable the rendering industry to have a unified effort to grow its exports.

## Return on Investment

According to a 2011 study by IHS Global Insight commissioned by USDA, for every additional \$1 spent by government and industry on foreign market development, U.S. food and agricultural exports increased by \$35 ... *a 35-to-1 return on investment.*

## 2014 Farm Bill

The Agricultural Act of 2014 (the "Farm Bill") authorized funding for the MAP and FMD programs for the next five years. MAP is authorized at \$200 million per year and FMD at \$34.5 million per year through September 30, 2018.

## FY 2017 Appropriations

Even though funding for MAP and FMD is authorized in the Farm Bill, monies must be appropriated by Congress on a yearly basis. Full funding at Farm Bill levels is included in the FY 2017 Agriculture Appropriations bill approved by both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees.



# International Trade Agreements & Rendered Product Exports

2016

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## NRA Position

- **Exports are vital to the American rendering industry.** Eighteen percent of total U.S. rendered product production is exported. Over 18 percent of rendered animal proteins and 17 percent of rendered fat is sold overseas. Exports provide U.S. jobs and support domestic prices.
- **NRA supports the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP)** free trade agreement to open up a \$500 million overseas market for U. S. rendered fats. Current exports face non-tariff technical trade barriers.
- **TTIP must include a science-based agreement to allow U.S. exports of tallow for biodiesel and oleochemical uses to the EU.** TTIP should be consistent with internationally recognized market access standards for tallow of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE).

## The Issue

TTIP is a trade agreement being negotiated between the U.S. and the European Union (EU). The U. S. goal is to provide greater compatibility and transparency in trade and investment regulation, while maintaining high levels of health, safety and environmental protection. TTIP offers an opportunity to expand trade between important strategic and economic partners.

Renderers face a significant trade barrier for tallow into the European market that must be resolved. This non-tariff barrier is preventing *\$500 million annually* in new exports. The EU prohibits imports of U.S. tallow for non-feed uses such as biodiesel, renewable fuel and industrial products. This nontariff trade barrier is politically driven and unsupported by science.

NRA appreciates continuing efforts by USTR and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), USDA, to negotiate full consistency with science-based OIE standards regarding trade in tallow with the EU. USTR and USDA agree U.S. exports of tallow (with less than 0.15% impurities) and its derivatives should not be restricted by the EU.

As long as the EU continues to regulate imports of U.S. tallow in an unscientific manner and contrary to OIE standards, trade cannot occur.



## NRA Position

- **NRA supports legislation to require EPA's new rules regulating the "waters of the U.S." (WOTUS) and ozone air quality ground-level standards be withdrawn and repropoed to ensure opportunity for robust economic activity with meaningful stakeholder input.**
  - House appropriations bills would require EPA to withdraw its WOTUS and ozone rules and issue new proposed regulations only after broad stakeholder consultation and an economic impact analysis. (Included in the FY 2017 appropriations bills for Energy and Water, and VA, HUD and Independent Agencies.)
  - NRA urges the Senate to adopt this language in its appropriations legislation.
- **The House Energy and Commerce Committee approved "The Ozone Standards Implementation Act of 2016," H.R. 4775, on May 18 to provide states the flexibility and time needed to implement new ozone standards and address other practical implementation challenges (such as technical feasibility) under the National Ambient Air Quality Standards Program (NAAQS).**

## WOTUS: The Issue

EPA's WOTUS regulation, finalized last year, immensely extends the agency's jurisdiction under the Clean Water Act (CWA). Implementation of the CWA (which as passed by Congress was limited to "navigable waters") is expanded to cover many areas not currently regulated by the Act, such as ephemeral drains, ditches and wetlands that only contain water when it rains. Man-made ponds, floodplains, riparian areas, dry streambeds and seasonally wet areas are also included. In effect, almost any low spot where rainwater collects is now regulated by the CWA.

Regardless of whether these lands are wet or dry on a given day, under the rule renderers would need a federal permit to improve, expand or change their operations and land use on or near these lands. Even fighting erosion could conceivably need a permit. Permits could take years, or might never be issued.

The WOTUS rule is under a nationwide stay as a result of numerous lawsuits filed against EPA. Farmers, ranchers, homebuilders and small business are leading the opposition. They fear another barrier to economic development and investment,

and new layers of reviews and permitting, both of which give federal officials more control over how landowners use their property.

Regulation must be balanced to responsibly protect the environment and recognize the rights of states, businesses and individuals without costly expansion of the federal government's role or unreasonable regulation.

### **Ozone Air Quality Standards: The Issue**

Under the Clean Air Act's (CAA) NAAQS program, EPA must routinely set national air quality standards for a number of pollutants, including ground-level ozone, considered harmful to public health and the environment. EPA initially established ozone standards in 1971, and subsequently revised them in 1979, 1997 and 2008. However, implementing regulations for the 2008 standards weren't published until March 2015 and states are beginning to implement them. EPA again revised its ozone standards in October 2015, giving states the prospect of simultaneously implementing two ozone standards.

Rendering plants use fuel to generate steam for recycling (cooking) of animal coproducts in boilers. Fuel emissions include ozone precursors that are affected by EPA's recent rule lowering the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for ozone from 75 to 70 parts per billion (ppb). Even with this fuel use, rendering sequesters five times as much CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent as would be released if the raw material were disposed of by composting, landfilling, burial or being left in fields.

Since a permit is required under the CAA to run boilers, the operation, expansion and modernization of rendering plants will be hindered or impossible if they are in new ozone non-attainment areas. EPA acknowledges its new NAAQS rule cannot be met in many areas with use of current emission control technology.

Large sections of the country across many states were in non-attainment under the agency's previous ozone rule from 2008. These counties now face new, more stringent standards under the new rule. Reducing the NAAQS to 70 ppb will force additional large areas of the country into non-attainment. Ozone levels have dropped significantly in recent years and may continue to drop as counties attempt to come into compliance with multiple new standards simultaneously. Additional time to for them implement the rules is warranted.



## **Nothing Wasted**

For over 180 years, the North American rendering industry has empowered society to follow this wise advice: “Nothing wasted.” The industry is a major force in ensuring a clean and healthy environment, recycling the things we don’t want to or can’t eat – bones, grease or hides – into usable, valuable products for consumers.

From its roots in creating tallow for soaps and candles and hides for leather, the North American rendering industry has responded to changes in society about what we eat, how we clean ourselves and our homes, what we feed our pets and how we preserve and beautify our environments.

## **28 Million Tons Recycled**

North American renderers annually recycle more than 60 billion pounds of coproducts from livestock and poultry farming, meat processing, supermarkets and restaurants. Without renderers, consider how this material would be disposed and at what cost to public health, the environment and taxpayers. Using high-tech controls that run very hot temperature cookers, centrifuges and presses, renderers turn this waste material into valuable ingredients — high quality fats and proteins.

Other industries rely on these ingredients for products people use every day, including soaps, paints, varnishes, cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, crayons, leather, textiles, lubricants, rubber products, plastics, animal food ingredients, agricultural fertilizers and explosives. Farmers rely on rendered feed ingredients for meat, poultry and fish production. In fact, the rendering industry returns the majority of its finished products to the feed and pet food industry. Renderers produce high-energy fats and high-quality protein ingredients that supplement animal diets as guided by government regulations. These ingredients lead to more efficient production of beef, veal, pork, poultry, fish, eggs, fish and milk.

## **\$6 Billion Industry is Vital Link in Agriculture Chain, Helps Communities**

The economic impact of manufacture and trade in rendered products is critical to North America’s agricultural economy and exports. Overseas sales represent 18 percent of total rendered production. More than 18 percent of rendered animal proteins are exported and over 17 percent of rendered fat is sold overseas. Important export markets are Mexico, China, Indonesia, and Canada.

For communities, this recycling of perishable animal coproducts significantly reduces solid waste disposal and the cost to manage it. Rendering plants also offer much-needed employment opportunities in rural areas.

## **Rendering Plants Are High-Tech**

Over 200 rendering plants operate in North America. Approximately one-third of these are associated with an animal slaughtering facility (packer/renderers) and process only that facility's coproducts. The rest are companies that gather raw material from other processors, supermarkets, butcher shops and restaurants.

The modern rendering plant is a high-tech system far advanced from the early days when workers were more exposed to raw material and used simple boiling and separation, or what was called "wet rendering." Today plants use dry rendering, a largely computerized process operated by skilled employees that releases fat by dehydrating raw material in a cooker. This cooking and drying process yields fat of varying grades and protein meals for animal, poultry and aquaculture feeds. It eliminates direct contact of raw material with added water and live steam, thus avoiding the possibility of contaminated wastewater from processing.

## **Product Safety and Quality**

Rendered product quality relies on a combination of plant efficiency and monitoring using both voluntary and government standards. Raw product must be heated as quickly as possible to prevent enzymes and bacteria from degrading the fat and protein. So that it will cook uniformly, raw product is chopped into small pieces, which also helps to increase the production rate and decrease energy costs.

Various product safety controls are used voluntarily throughout the industry, e.g. Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) monitoring and good manufacturing practices (GMPs). These procedures ensure rendered materials are produced in a sanitary manner. Cooking destroys all bacteria and other pathogens, but resulting meals must be stored, handled and distributed under carefully controlled conditions to prevent post-process recontamination. Renderers follow certain standards to eliminate this possibility. They perform microbiological tests to verify processes and hygiene as recommended by NRA's Animal Protein Producers Industry (APPI) Committee. Use of APPI stewardship standards in the Rendering Code of Practice provides food safety and quality assurance to customers. Renderers are also complying with the new Food Safety Modernization Act.

## **The Industry's Future**

With 95 percent of the world's population outside North America, growth for the rendering industry will mainly be in overseas markets lacking the agricultural infrastructure to produce consistent quality products competitive with imports, or in established markets that find North American products cost-effective.

Industry analysts suggest the rendering industry will continue to consolidate through mergers and acquisitions, similar to other industries. Renderers will further upgrade existing plants to improve efficiency, sustainability and quality control. They will also pursue improvements to develop new value-added products, such as nutritionally enhanced animal meals and novel industrial uses. Importantly, the rendering industry will continue to focus on biosecurity, with progressive programs to eliminate the possibility of biological hazards throughout their processing and delivery to customers.



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## **NRA & the Rendering Industry**

The National Renderers Association (NRA) is the international trade association for the industry that safely and efficiently recycles animal coproducts and recaptured restaurant oil/grease into valuable products for the livestock and poultry feed, pet food, chemical, cosmetic and energy industries.

NRA represents its members' interests to Congress and federal regulatory agencies, promotes greater use of rendered products, and fosters the opening and expansion of trade between North American exporters and foreign buyers.

NRA's 34 member companies operate 178 rendering plants in the U.S. and Canada. Members represent over 95 percent of North American production by independent renderers (many of which are multi-generation family-owned companies) and integrated packer/renderers (those processing only their own animal coproducts).

The North American rendering industry creates a variety of products critical to other industries. Companies are also developing new products, such as fuels and enzymes, to match changing demands worldwide.

Rendered products include fats, animal protein meal, chemicals, fatty acids, tallow, grease and hides. Their high-quality fats and proteins improve the nutrition of farm animals, poultry and pets.

Renderers also contribute essential ingredients for industrial and consumer products, such as lubricants, plastics, printing inks and explosives, and many items that consumers count on — including cosmetics, shaving cream, deodorant, perfumes, polishes, cleaners, paints, candles and caulking compounds.

## **NRA Programs and Activities**

NRA addresses current industry issues, promotes domestic and international marketing, encourages research, and provides education and information for the industry, government and the public.

NRA's government and regulatory affairs activities advocate for and safeguard the interests of the rendering industry. NRA emphasizes a spirit of cooperation and scientific support with federal agencies and legislators so that they will better understand the rendering industry, its products and the overall industry's economic and environmental contributions. For government research and policy consideration, NRA may suggest new protocols in food and feed safety, and illustrate these ideas with members' voluntary efforts in such areas as the Stewardship Rendering Code of Practice and microbiological monitoring.

NRA's international programs develop markets for rendered products all over the world. The Association conducts technical seminars and feed trials, participates in trade shows, brings study groups to the U.S., provides subject matter experts and delivers other general trade services to U.S. suppliers and foreign buyers.

Improving foreign market access by working to eliminate artificial and nontariff trade barriers is priority for NRA. The association also monitors new and existing export opportunities and emerging trade patterns. NRA participates in USDA's Market Access Program (MAP) and Foreign Market Development (FMD) Program to expand overseas sales of rendered products.

NRA operates regional offices in Hong Kong and Mexico. NRA also works with consultants in the European Union, Turkey, Russia, Brazil and China who focus on developing and maintaining markets for rendered products in more than 57 countries.

NRA also serves its members by providing important technical findings and support, an industry website ([nationalrenderers.org](http://nationalrenderers.org)), blog and twitter accounts, and informational graphics and brochures. NRA publishes an award-winning trade magazine, *Render*.

### **Historical Highlights, Cooperating Associations**

NRA was created in 1933 by a small group of renderers to address the common concerns of their diverse companies. One of their first goals was to reverse the U.S. position as an importer of animal and plant fats and oils that competed with U.S.-made products.

Several other historical highlights offer a snapshot of NRA's work for the industry. After World War II, NRA began work with USDA to conduct research on new uses for rendered products. In the 1950's, NRA's efforts helped to stimulate the use of fats and protein in animal feed, and to raise export levels to nearly 50 percent of the American rendering industry's production. By the early 1960's, the Association expanded to an international level, opening offices in Europe and Asia.

In 1962, NRA established an independent organization, the *Fats and Proteins Research Foundation* (FPRF), to expand the industry's research efforts. Through FPRF in the early 1970's, NRA initiated research on measuring odors so the government could set practical standards for odor tolerance. NRA also focused on improving worker safety and preventing plant fires. FPRF has funded up to 600 research projects and is now focused on feed safety, plant optimization and new uses. FPRF is managed by the NRA.

### **Responsible Stewardship: Safety and Quality**

The North American rendering industry is committed to stewarding its products from start to finish. Safety, quality and responsibility are essential in today's highly competitive market.

The Animal Protein Producers Industry organization (APPI) was established in the 1980's to promote animal feed safety and develop a voluntary *Salmonella* education and monitoring program. APPI merged with NRA in 2006. Its programs have evolved to include the stewardship Rendering Code of Practice which trains industry personnel to continually evaluate and improve practices to enhance consumer confidence and facilitate domestic and global trade.