



# National Renderers Association

2017

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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 byproducts and recaptured cooking oil from restaurants into valuable products for the livestock and poultry feed, pet food, chemical, personal care and biofuel 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/processor renderers (those rendering only their own animal byproducts).

The U.S. rendering industry creates a wide 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 meals, chemicals, fatty acids, tallow, used cooking oil and hides. These high-quality fats and proteins improve the nutrition of farm animals, poultry, fish 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, soap, 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 they 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 foreign buying teams 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 a 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.

To promote rendered product exports, NRA operates 45 projects in 57 countries, maintains regional offices in Hong Kong and Mexico City, and has international consultants in aquaculture, poultry, pet food and EU policy who focus on developing and maintaining markets for rendered products.

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

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

NRA promotes animal food safety and manages a voluntary education and monitoring program for *Salmonella* and other bacteria. The Association also operates a 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. The *Rendering Code of Practice* includes all the regulatory requirements of the Food Safety Modernization Act to promote industry compliance with this important new law.

The North American rendering industry is committed to responsible stewardship of its products from start to finish. Safety, quality and reliability are industry values that help ensure customers receive the best product possible in today's highly competitive market.