



NATIONAL RENDERERS ASSOCIATION

Policy Priorities – Issue Briefs

2018

	<u>Page</u>
10 Facts About Rendering	1
Rendering Sustainability	2
The Farm Bill: Exports and Food Waste	4
Biodiesel: Tax Credits & the Renewable Fuel Standard	6
NAFTA 2.0 & the European Challenge	8
The Rendering Industry	10
About the National Renderers Association	12



10 Facts About Rendering

2018

- 1. Rendering is Recycling** – Rendering is the cooking and drying of meat and/or animal by-products, not typically used for human consumption, in order to recover fats and proteins.
- 2. The U.S. rendering industry accounts for \$10 billion in annual economic activity** across the country.
- 3. The Surprise Contributions of Rendering** - 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.
- 4. Good for Animal Health** - Rendering produces valuable fats and proteins that improve nutrition in foods used by consumers and farmers to feed their pets, as well as livestock, poultry and fish.
- 5. Recycling From Restaurants** - Renderers pick up the nation's used restaurant cooking oils to clean and recycle them into ingredients for animal feed, biodiesel and renewable diesel for cars, trucks, airplanes and other equipment.
- 6. Rendering is Sustainable** – Recycling of animal by-products sequesters at least five times as many greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions as it emits. Rendering yields far fewer emissions than landfilling or composting alternatives. Rendered products help animal agriculture and other customers reduce their environmental footprints and become more sustainable. All U.S. landfills would be full in four years without rendering, posing a serious public health threat.
- 7. Clean and Safe** – High cooking temperatures used in rendering assure animal food and consumer protections against bacteria, viruses and other safety hazards. Meeting customer needs for quality and safety is a high priority.
- 8. Consumers Have Confidence** - Renderers comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations. 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 FDA's animal food safety rules under the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA).
- 9. Volume In, Quality Out** - Rendering is a high-volume, high-tech industry. U.S. renderers collect 56 billion pounds of raw materials a year. Renderers recycle raw materials by cooking and drying these products into 11 billion pounds each of fats/oils and proteins each year.
- 10. Skilled Workforce** - Rendering plants have extensively trained workers who use high-tech controls to operate ultra-hot temperature cookers, centrifuges and presses. Renderers have a high labor retention rate.



Rendering and Sustainability

The rendering industry plays an important role in the sustainability of animal agriculture and the food system. Approximately 56 billion pounds of animal leftovers and recaptured cooking oil were rendered in the U.S. last year.



Instead of these by-products filling up landfills or used as soil amendments, renderers efficiently convert them into ingredients for a host of products ranging from high value animal feed to biofuel to personal care and industrial products. Without rendering, the many various products made with rendered ingredients would have to be made with other less sustainable, costlier inputs.

All U.S. landfills would be full in *four years* without rendering, posing serious public health and environmental problems.

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

The Four Main Principles of Rendering Sustainability:

1. Produce safe animal food and ingredients for consumer/industrial products
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 renderable raw materials to less sustainable treatment options, such as composting, anaerobic digestion or landfilling. EPA's Food Recovery Hierarchy lists rendered products as having higher recycling value than these other treatment options.

Principle 1: Rendering Produces Safe Animal Food and Product Ingredients

- All rendered products in the U.S. meet federal, state and local animal food safety standards. The industry also has its own rigorous Rendering Code of Practice.

Principle 2: Rendering Practices Environmental Stewardship

- Rendering sequesters *5 times* more greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the environment (such as carbon dioxide) than it emits.
- Rendering's contribution to carbon emission reduction in the U.S. and Canada is equivalent to removing more than 12 million cars from the road each year.
- Rendering evaporates *4 billion gallons of water* a year from animal by-products during cooking. This huge volume of water meets federal, state and local standards for quality and safety when returned to rivers and streams.

Principle 3: Renderers Care for Their Community and Employees

- Renderers in the U.S. invest more than \$500,000 annually in research through the Fats and Proteins Research Foundation to improve rendering processes, products, and efficiencies.
- 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 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% of the feedstock used in biodiesel and renewable diesel refining in the U.S.
- It would take *6.3 million acres* a year of additional average quality U.S. crop land to replace rendered fats and proteins used for animal feed.
- The rendering industry recycles *2.4 billion pounds* a year of used cooking oil/grease from foodservice operations, much of which is used for biomass-based diesel production, representing *4.7 million acres* a year 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 a year.
- The rendering industry recycles 2.3 billion pounds of meat and poultry from retail food waste a year that is used for animal food ingredients equivalent to the production of soybeans on *400,000 acres* of U.S. average quality soybean land.
- Rendered proteins are used for fertilizer when not suitable for animal food.

What Does Rendering Sustainability Mean to Me?

The average American eats 220 pounds of meat and poultry products per year. For every pound of meat and poultry eaten, another pound of by-products from the animal is not consumed. This means 220 pounds of by-products per person per year from those food animals is recycled by rendering. Each of the 328 million Americans would need 2,025 square feet (the size of an average house) of new crop land to grow ingredients that would replace rendered products. Unlike crops which require added water to grow, rendering returns 16 gallons (121 half liter bottles) of clean water per person a year to the environment.



The Farm Bill: Exports and Food Waste

2018

NRA Position

Exports: Since exports are vital to the rendering industry, NRA supports authorization and strong funding for USDA's following programs:

- Market Access Program (MAP)
- Foreign Market Development Program (FMD)

Food Waste: Government policy should not disrupt existing markets and instead ensure a *level competitive playing field* among recyclers to prevent unfair market advantage.

Federal incentives should not divert leftover meat, bones, other animal by-products and used restaurant cooking oil from traditional renderers to other recyclers.

NRA urges Congress to take the following action:

- **House Farm Bill, H.R. 2**
 - **MAP and FMD:** Support the new International Market Development Program to reauthorize MAP at \$200 million and FMD at \$34.5 million a year.
 - **Food Waste:** Concur with establishing a new Food Loss and Waste Reduction Liaison at USDA to coordinate federal programs to measure and reduce food waste. Federal programs should comply with EPA's Food Recovery Pyramid prioritizing food waste reduction methods based upon highest value return.
- **Senate Farm Bill**
 - **MAP and FMD:** Support reauthorization and funding for MAP at \$200 million and FMD at \$34.5 million a year as included in the Farm Bill approved by the Senate.
 - **Food Waste:** Oppose government incentives for pilot projects in the Urban Agriculture provision of Title XII, as approved by the Senate, that would divert animal by-products and restaurant used cooking oil from rendering to other recyclers. Food waste should be recovered and put to its "highest use," as recommended by EPA's Food Recovery Hierarchy. Rendered animal protein, fats and oils have higher value than fertilizer and soil amendments from other recyclers (composting/anaerobic digestion).



Market Access Program & Foreign Market Development Program

The MAP and FMD foreign market development programs are important to expand overseas sales of U.S. rendered products. Exports are essential since they strengthen U.S. prices and support year-round jobs. More than 20% of rendered animal proteins and 13% of rendered fats are sold overseas. Top export markets are Mexico, China, Indonesia, Chile, Singapore, the European Union and Canada.

NRA receives approximately \$1.7 million annually from the MAP and FMD programs to develop, open and maintain foreign markets. NRA cost-shares with USDA to operate 45 projects in 57 countries with offices in Hong Kong and Mexico City.

Return on Investment. From 1977-2014, MAP and FMD generated a remarkable *28-to-1 return investment*, with \$28.30 in export gains for every \$1 spent on foreign market development. The programs are responsible for 15% of export revenue since 1997, equal to \$309 billion. These programs also created 239,800 new jobs between 2002-2014. (2016 study by Informa Economics IEG working with Texas A & M University and Oregon State University economists).

Rendering and Food Waste

Some food disposal companies consider as food waste the animal by-products and used restaurant cooking oil traditionally collected and processed by renderers in order to benefit from possible federal incentives encouraging food waste reduction. These feedstocks are not “waste.” Instead, they are rendered – recycled - into valuable ingredients used to produce hundreds of new products ranging from animal food and biofuel to crayons, shaving cream, deodorant, perfumes, cleaners, grease, paints, candles, polishes, lubricants, rubber products and pharmaceuticals.

Animal by-products and used cooking oil recaptured from restaurants come from both urban and rural areas. Grocery stores and butcher shops in cities and towns produce leftover meat and bone scraps. Meat lockers, meat packing and poultry processing, as well as groceries and butchers, are often in rural regions.

NRA opposes government incentives that provide a competitive advantage to other disposal treatments, such as composting and anaerobic digestion, for the purchase of animal by-products and used cooking oil. Subsidies would allow other recyclers to undercut renderers in the marketplace while the rendering industry does not receive direct financial support to operate from the government.

Rendering has higher recycling value than other disposal options and is EPA’s “more preferred” use for animal by-products and recaptured cooking oil (see EPA’s Food Recovery Hierarchy). Rendered ingredients for animal nutrition (including pet food), biofuel, industrial uses and consumer care products have *higher value* than fertilizer and soil amendments from composting and anaerobic digestion.

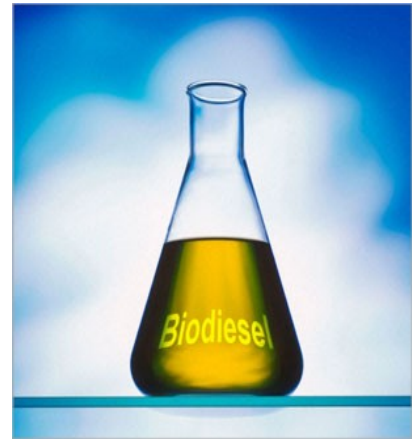
Rendering is the most eco-friendly use of animal by-products and used cooking oil. Rendering produces fewer carbon emissions and other greenhouse gases than other disposal methods, such as anaerobic digestion and composting.



NRA Position

The continued growth of biofuel production is important to the rendering industry. Rendered fats and oils supply 30% of the feedstock for production of biodiesel and renewable diesel.

Renderers generate \$10 billion in annual economic activity across the country. The biodiesel industry supports roughly 64,000 jobs, \$11.42 billion in economic impact and \$2.54 billion in wages paid across the country, particularly in rural America.



NRA urges Congress to take the following action:

- **Biofuel Tax Credits**

- Support permanent federal tax incentives for biofuel:
 - \$1 per gallon tax credit for biodiesel
 - \$1 per gallon tax credit for renewable diesel
 - 50¢ per gallon alternative fuel mixture tax credit (AFMTC)
- Promote certainty and predictability to encourage continued growth in the relatively young biofuels industry, not annual “stop and start” tax treatment as part of a tax extenders package.

- **Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS)**

- NRA supports strong RFS volumes for biodiesel and renewable diesel based on total production capacity.
- The RFS should be administered by EPA in a predictable manner to encourage growth of the biodiesel industry as Congress intended. NRA does not support a phase-out or phase-down of the RFS for biodiesel.

Background - Biofuel Tax Credits

Federal law provides tax credits and the RFS as tools intended to help develop and commercialize biofuels, including biodiesel and renewable diesel.

Tax incentives support the use of renewable energy and fuel derived from agricultural feedstocks, including animal fats. These renewable energy sources help diversify our fuel supply, establish new markets and add value to farm products, create jobs, and boost economic development, particularly in rural America.

Biodiesel tax credits have been extended ad hoc for years and were most recently continued through December 31, 2017. The \$1 per gallon biodiesel credit is paid to the blender for mixing biodiesel with petroleum-based fuel as mandated by the RFS. Renewable diesel receives a \$1 per gallon credit without blending. The AFMTC is used by renderers and others who burn the fats and oils they produce as boiler and heating fuel.

Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS)

Biofuels are legally 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.

The RFS is meant to operate predictably and transparently to increase biodiesel production. Long term stability is important for planning and to attract investment. However, RFS levels have been uncertain year to year and announced late by EPA. A predictable RFS can more fully achieve its goals of growing biodiesel output, strengthening U.S. energy security and increasing refining capacity to prevent bottlenecks that can cause price spikes.

Rendered Products and Biodiesel

Rendered fats and oils account for 30% of the feedstock used in biodiesel production. Renderers are actively engaged in the biodiesel industry as biodiesel producers or feedstock suppliers. 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 by-products (such as choice white grease or tallow) and recaptured restaurant cooking oil, are truly recycled and renewable alternative fuels. These fuels are highly sustainable because they use by-products as a feedstock instead of relying on virgin materials. Supplies of biodiesel can be renewed indefinitely because rendered animal fats and used cooking oil are domestic by-products of the growing and globally competitive U.S. animal agriculture sector.

NRA supports a national energy policy that rewards efficiency, encourages development of alternative fuels and ensures a level competitive playing field. Federal biodiesel programs should be feedstock neutral so all feedstocks are *treated equitably*.

Biodiesel and renewable diesel contribute significantly to meeting the goals of the RFS program, including a reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, technological innovation, enhanced energy security and economic development. Biodiesel reduces lifecycle GHG emissions by 57-86% more than petroleum diesel, according to EPA. Renderers provide a significant reduction in carbon dioxide equivalent GHG emissions by sequestering five times more than they emit.

By encouraging continued development of new technology and infrastructure, the RFS reduces cost, improves efficiency and provides full-time U.S. jobs that cannot be exported. 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

NAFTA 2.0

- **The U.S. rendering industry supports modernizing the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) to improve industry trade with Mexico and Canada.**
- **U.S. renderers seek market access for sale of ruminant meat and bone meal (MBM) to Mexico.** Access to the Mexican market would restore lost trade worth approximately \$30 million.
- **The U.S. needs access to mixed animal fat containing tallow as well as used cooking oil (UCO) from Canada.** Renderers urge the Administration to finalize USDA's proposed "Small Ruminant Rule" to gain access to Canadian tallow and UCO.
- **Renderers fully expect all rendered products will continue to have zero tariffs into Canada and Mexico as under the current NAFTA.**



European Union (EU) Challenge

- **NRA supports trade negotiations between the U.S. and the EU to open up the \$200-million EU market for U. S. rendered fat.** Current U.S. exports face non-tariff technical trade barriers.
- **The U.S. should promote a science-based agreement so U.S. exports of tallow can enter the EU for biodiesel and oleochemical use.**
 - Trade should be consistent with internationally recognized market access standards for tallow of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE). It is not today.

The Issues

Exports are vital to the American rendering industry.

- 16% of total U.S. rendered production is exported.
- Over 20% of rendered animal proteins and 13% of rendered fat is sold overseas.
- Exports generate U.S. jobs and support domestic prices.

Top markets are Mexico, China, Indonesia, Chile, Singapore, the European Union (EU), and Canada.

NAFTA Benefits for U.S. Rendered Product Exports

Trade in the North American market is extremely important to the U.S. rendering industry. The U.S. rendering industry has greatly benefitted from the elimination of tariffs due to NAFTA.

U.S. exports of rendered products to Mexico in 1990 (pre-NAFTA) were \$102 million dollars. In 2017, exports to Mexico reached \$269 million (a 164% increase). Over the same period, U.S. exports of rendered products to Canada grew from \$20 million to \$107 million (a 435% increase).

Remaining trade barriers must be eliminated to allow exports of U.S. ruminant MBM to Mexico and permit Canadian mixed animal fat and used cooking oil into the U.S.

Due to unjustified sanitary trade barriers, the U.S. cannot sell ruminant MBM into Mexico even though both countries are classified as “negligible risk,” when it comes to bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), according to the internationally-recognized World Organization for Animal Health (OIE). The OIE recommends only “controlled risk” and “unknown risk” countries NOT export ruminant MBM. Adopting consistent standards for animal health certification following OIE standards among NAFTA countries would eliminate this trade barrier and allow trade of ruminant MBM between the U.S. and Mexico.

The U.S. cannot import animal fat and UCO from Canada mixed with fats from small ruminants, such as lamb or goat due to archaic BSE regulations. This blocks a large portion of tallow and UCO from entering the U.S. from Canada.

EU Trade Barriers

Renderers face a significant trade barrier for tallow into the European market that must be resolved. This non-tariff barrier is preventing *\$200 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 the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) and USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to negotiate full consistency with science-based OIE standards regarding tallow trade 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 block imports of U.S. tallow without a scientific basis and contrary to OIE standards, the U.S. is shut out of this important market.



Nothing Wasted

For over 180 years, the U.S. rendering industry has enabled 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 – animal bones, fat or hides – into usable, valuable products for consumers.

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

28 Million Tons Recycled

U.S. renderers annually recycle more than 56 billion pounds of by-products 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 technology-intensive controls running very high temperature cookers, centrifuges and presses, renderers turn this leftover 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 (including pet food), agricultural fertilizers, biodiesel and even explosives. Rendered animal fats and oils, and recaptured restaurant cooking oil, provide 30% of the feedstock for biodiesel and renewable diesel production.

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 animal feed and pet food industries. Renderers produce sustainable high-energy fats and protein ingredients to supplement animal diets as directed by government regulations. These ingredients lead to more efficient production of beef, veal, pork, dairy, poultry, fish, eggs and fish, and contribute to healthy consumer nutrition.

\$10 Billion Rendering Industry: Vital to Agriculture & Communities

The economic impact of manufacture and trade in rendered products is critical to U.S. agriculture and exports. Overseas sales represent 16% of total rendered production. More than 20% of rendered animal proteins are exported and about

13% of rendered fat is sold overseas. Important export markets are Mexico, China, Indonesia, Chile, Singapore, the European Union (EU) and Canada.

For communities, recycling of perishable animal by-products 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

More than 170 rendering plants operate in the U.S. Approximately one-third are part of animal slaughtering facilities (poultry processing and meatpacking) and process only that facility's by-products. The rest are companies gathering raw material from other processors, supermarkets, butcher shops and restaurants.

Rendering plants are high-tech systems using a largely computerized process to release fat by dehydrating raw material in a cooker. This cooking and drying process yields fat of varying grades and protein meals for livestock, poultry, aquaculture and pet food.

Product Safety and Quality

Rendered product quality relies on a combination of plant operations and monitoring using both voluntary and government standards. Incoming raw materials must be heated quickly to prevent enzymes and bacteria from degrading the fat and protein. Raw product is chopped into small pieces to cook uniformly. This also helps increase production rates and lower energy costs.

Product safety controls are used throughout the industry. Hazard analysis, preventive controls and good manufacturing have been used for years and are now part of FDA's new animal food regulations under the Food Safety Modernization Act. Cooking destroys all bacteria and other pathogens, and resulting meals are stored, handled and distributed under carefully controlled conditions to prevent post-process recontamination. Adherence to the industry's voluntary *Rendering Code of Practice* provides food safety and quality assurance to customers.

The Industry's Future

With 95% of the world's population outside the U.S., growth for the rendering industry will mainly be in overseas markets. Some nations lack the agricultural infrastructure to produce consistent quality products competitive with imports. Others are established markets that find U.S. products cost-effective to buy.

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 sustainability, quality control and efficiency. 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 biological hazards throughout their processing and delivery to customers.



NRA & the Rendering Industry

The National Renderers Association (NRA) is the international trade association for the industry which safely and efficiently recycles animal by-products and recaptured cooking oil from restaurants into valuable products for the animal food, chemical, personal care and biofuel industries.

NRA represents its members' interests to Congress, the White House 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 33 member companies operate over 170 rendering plants in the U.S. and Canada. Members represent more than 95% 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 by-products).

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 meet 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 products, including lubricants, plastics, printing inks and explosives. They also produce ingredients needed to make common items that consumers rely on such as cosmetics, shaving cream, deodorant, perfumes, soap, polishes, cleaners, paints, candles and caulking.

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 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 (www.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 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.