



NATIONAL RENDERERS ASSOCIATION

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Surprising Results from Age-Old Practice of Rendering

Alexandria, VA – Environmental benefits and sustainable consumer and industrial products come from modern rendering in surprising ways given its 2,000 year history as a relatively little known, but essential, part of agriculture.

“The industry-produced video, *Rendering: The Sustainable Solution*, tells the eye-opening story of an industry that touches everyday lives, even though most consumers aren’t aware it exists,” said Nancy Foster, president of the National Renderers Association (NRA). “Renderers recycle animal byproducts not consumed by the public, purify and convert them into essential ingredients in myriad products such as crayons, floor wax, paint, personal care item (soaps, cosmetics, and lotions), biofuels and industrial lubricants. Renderers also produce high-protein feed ingredients for livestock, poultry and aquaculture.”

Rendering, with its French meaning to “give back,” is a new dimension of “recycling.” Rendering provides the most environmentally positive way to convert leftover animal materials into items people use every day. Rendering creates value for these raw materials and eliminates the negative and costly environmental impact of disposal.

By making new products from leftover agricultural commodities, rendering removes large amounts of greenhouse gases (carbon, methane and nitrogen) from the environment. Rendering’s carbon footprint is seven times smaller than its output, making it a net carbon reducer. (For each ton of CO₂ produced, 7.19 tons of CO₂ are removed from the environment.) If not rendered, animal products would be left in landfills, buried or otherwise disposed of, and released into the environment, producing greenhouse gases that end up in air and waterways as they decompose.

Rendering: The Sustainable Solution, its infographics and brochure, reveal:

- Rendering is highly sustainable because its many end products are processed from leftovers of the North American animal agriculture sector.
- Americans eat about 50-65 percent of each cow, pig, chicken and fish raised in the U.S.
- Renderers collect and recycle the rest – almost 60 billion pounds a year – into a wide variety of products, ranging from consumer products to biodiesel to high protein feed ingredients.

- Rendering's reduction in greenhouse gas emissions is equivalent to removing 1.3 million cars from the road.
- Biodiesel and renewable diesel made from rendered fats and used restaurant cooking oil improves vehicle emissions and air quality, reduces petroleum dependence, and are renewable indefinitely since they are domestic byproducts of local agriculture.
- 12 million more acres of grains and other crops – equal to the size of New Jersey, Connecticut, Delaware and Rhode Island - would be needed to raise livestock, poultry and fish if we didn't have rendering to provide feed ingredients.
- Renderers improve food safety and public health by using heat at sufficiently high temperature to kill bacteria and viruses in rendered products and ingredients.

"Renderers are proud of their contribution to environmental protection, sustainability, public health and American agriculture," according to Jessica Meisinger, NRA director of communication and education. "Our new video, *Rendering: The Sustainable Solution*, along with our brochure and infographic, demonstrate the critical contribution of today's rendering industry."

The video, infographics and brochure are on NRA's website at <http://www.nationalrenderers.org/>, and the NRA blog at <http://renderingisrecycling.com/>. The video is also posted to YouTube in English and Spanish at <https://www.youtube.com/user/NatlRenderersAssoc>. In addition, the infographics and brochure are on Pinterest <http://www.pinterest.com/renderers/rendering-infographics/>.

About the National Renderers Association

The National Renderers Association (NRA) represents the interests of the North American rendering industry to regulatory and other governmental agencies, promotes the greater use of animal byproducts, and fosters the opening and expansion of trade between foreign buyers and North American exporters. In addition to its U.S.-based headquarters, the association maintains offices in Mexico and Hong Kong, and has market consultants in Brussels, China, Thailand, Vietnam, and Chile. NRA publishes a bi-monthly trade magazine, *Render*.

More information on the National Renderers Association is available at www.nationalrenderers.org.
