



Rendering Circles

A Quarterly newsletter produced by the Australian Renderers' Association
for customers and members

No. 11 – March, 2001

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From the President

Who would want to be a renderer these days? The industry continues to be put under pressure by uncertain markets and irrational decisions by regulators. On the tallow side, prices are being held down by the abundance of palm products. Markets, particularly for feed grade tallow, are diminishing. Meat meal prices are falling and demand is inconsistent. In some regions of Australia producers are having difficulty selling product. The outlook for meat meal and other animal protein meals remains unclear as governments and feed millers try to decide what role animal protein meals should play in rations.

But the biggest blow delivered to the rendering industry in the last three months came from ARMCANZ. At its March meeting, ARMCANZ decided that ruminant feed bans should be extended to include poultry meals and fish meals. This decision was contrary to recommendations from the SAFEMEAT Working Group. The ARA was represented on the SAFEMEAT Working Group and was involved in the Group's decision not to recommend a ban on poultry and fish meals in ruminant rations. This decision was made on the basis that there is no scientific evidence that such a ban could

be justified and that a ban does not affect the enforcement of other feed ban regulations. It is particularly galling that the ARA learned of the ARMCANZ decision from Neville Chandler, the NRA's representative in London!

The ARA has written to all ARMCANZ Ministers and has objected to the decision to ban fish and poultry meals in ruminant feeds. The letter has been sent to members of the ARA and members are encouraged to write to their federal and state members of parliament to echo the objections of the ARA. At first sight it may seem that a ban on poultry and fish meal in ruminant rations may not have much effect on the Australian rendering industry. However if other countries follow the lead there is potential for further disruption of meat meal markets. A more sinister consequence is that if poultry and fish meals are not available for use in drought rations, there is an increased risk of illegal use of meat meal. If desperate farmers use mammalian meat meal in drought rations there could be severe consequences including loss of the EU assessment of Australia as geographical BSE risk level 1.

Although the industry is facing difficulties, it is not all bad news. While it is far too soon to predict the end of the BSE crisis, the disease is disappearing from UK cattle herds. In 2000 there were 1,076 cases in Great Britain cases compared with over 36,000 at the peak of 1992. If the number of cases continues to decline at the current rate, BSE could be eliminated from UK herds in the next few years. But to be realistic, it is likely that a small number of cases will crop up for several years to come. It is true that other countries in Europe are seeing increases in BSE cases and it will be a few years before we can predict the elimination of BSE. Similarly annual cases of vCJD continue to increase although in 2000 there were less cases of vCJD than sporadic CJD in the UK. Again, it will be some time before the extent of vCJD is understood.

Some members of the ARA are not daunted by the current climate and continue to invest in the industry. Southern Meats have installed a new Flo-Dry blood dryer and are planning to install additional cookers. Baybrick are also increasing capacity with an additional Flo-Dry dryer.



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To answer my original question, of course I am proud to be a renderer these days. The rendering industry is not about to disappear although as always the successful operators will be those that adapt best to the changing circumstances. The industry is united as never before both at the local level with increasing membership of the ARA and internationally through the WRO. There are good prospects for tallow in the longer term if biodiesel takes off around the world and if efforts to limit the Malaysian palm crop are successful. We should also be optimistic that in time BSE in Europe will die out and also, for the sake of the community cases of vCJD do not reach the proportions predicted by some alarmist commentators. 🍷

Ron Lyon Award

The second Ron Lyon Memorial Award will be presented at the ARA Symposium in July. Applications for the award should be made before the end of June. Applicants should contact Graeme Banks for information on the conditions of the award and how to apply.

The ARA has established this award in memory of Ron Lyon. The award is intended to support young achievers in the rendering industry to develop their careers through travel and investigation of rendering issues. The award is a grant of \$5000. The grant may be used for travel or to pay expenses associated with a project. For example, the award could be used to undertake domestic or overseas travel in order to study a specific aspect of the rendering industry. It could include investigations on site at the successful candidate's rendering plant.

Workshop on Hygienic Rendering

The ARA held the twelfth workshop on hygienic rendering at the University of Western Sydney in February. Thirty-one people attended the workshop. The total number of people accredited at the workshop now stands at 332. The ARA has conducted these workshops since 1991 and the demand is as strong as ever. Another workshop will be conducted February 2002.

As usual Camilleri Stockfeeds and A.J. Bush were generous contributors to the workshop and hosted visits to their plants at Maroota and Rouse Hill. Kemin Australia, Ecolab and Tecra Diagnostics also gave good support and provided speakers to discuss aspects of hygienic rendering at the workshop. Paul Stenzel of Gardner Smith provided relief from the discussion of microbes and meat meal when he explained some of the mysteries of tallow trading and tallow quality. Reg Evans of Colyer Fehr is another long-term contributor to the workshop and he sponsored a barbecue for the delegates to the workshop at the Hawkesbury campus of the University of Western Sydney.

Greg Farr of Fletcher International, Albany was the top student at the workshop. Greg achieved one of the highest exam marks in the history of the workshop. 🍷



Dennis Caverly welcomes workshop delegates to A.J. Bush



Julie Markham of UWS Hawkesbury explains microbiological mysteries to Joe Rossignuolo of Peerless Holdings



Charlie Camilleri dispenses Camilleri hospitality to Doug Graham of Warrnambool Stockfeeds

Australian Standard for Rendering

ARA Directors Andy Bennett and Tim Juzefowicz met with Brain Casey of the Victorian Meat Authority to discuss progress with implementation of the Australian Standard for Rendering. Mr Casey explained that although the Standard had been approved by ARMCANZ in March 2000, it has not been published. It is expected that Standards Australia will publish the Standard but differences in opinion between Standards Australia and the Meat Standards Committee over copyright and the procedures for developing the Standard have delayed publication.

Mr Casey raised the issue of the Standard at the last Meat Standards Committee meeting. He pointed out the urgency of implementing the Standard and demonstrating that Australian authorities exercise an appropriate level of control over rendering practices. As a result, Dr George Davey of Safefood Production NSW and a member of the Meat Standards Committee will hold discussions with Standards Australia to expedite publication of the Australian Standard for rendering. Mr Casey told the ARA that if there were further delays in having the Standard published by Standards Australia, an alternative would be to publish the document as an ARMANZ standard. Dr Davey told Rendering Circles that he is hopeful that Standards Australia will agree to publish the standard and that it will not be necessary to go outside the Standards Australia system to get the rendering standard published.

Mr Casey said that when the Standard is published it would be fully implemented in Victoria. The VMA will allow a 12 month implementation period so that renderers will have time to comply with the Standard. He also said that he had heard complaints from the industry about difficulties in meeting some of the construction standards of the Standard but no specific examples had been put forward. Because of concerns about how the construction standards will be applied, the VMA intends to do initial audits of rendering plants to approve standards of constructions. The construction requirements of the standard will be interpreted in terms of the required outcome which is that "construction facilitates safe and hygienic processing and prevents contamination of product". After the VMA has approved the construction at rendering plants, subsequent audits will be conducted by VMA approved auditors. The VMA will also introduce a scheme for reporting and reviewing corrective action in case where microbiological standards are exceeded. 

BSE Inquiry Report

(This article is from the bulletin 'Food Safety and Hygiene' and is reproduced in full with permission of Food Science Australia)

An inquiry was established by the UK Government in January 1998 to review the history of the emergence and identification of BSE and new variant CJD in the United Kingdom. The Inquiry Committee was also asked to review action taken in response to this emergency up to 20 March 1996 and to reach conclusions on the adequacy of that response taking into account the state of knowledge at the time.

The Inquiry Committee under the chairmanship of Lord Phillips handed down its report in October 2000. The 4,000 page, 16 volume report is available in full on the web site: <http://www.bseinquiry.gov.uk>

The Committee emphasises in its findings that it has confined itself strictly to the lessons to be learned from the BSE experience up to 20 March 1996 and says, 'If some of these lessons have already been learned, others may bear repeating.'

In view of renewed public and media interest in Australia in BSE some important findings and conclusions of the Report are outlined below. Thirteen key conclusions are listed in the Report together with a large number of lessons to be learned.

Many of these lessons refer to how Governments, departmental officers and advisory committees should be prepared for and conduct themselves in a crisis such as the emergency of BSE. However the Committee concluded that in the years up to March 1996, most of those responsible for responding to the challenge posed by BSE emerge with credit. However, there were a number of shortcomings in the way things were done and recommendations are made to prevent these shortcomings from recurring.

The Committee notes that the Government was preoccupied with preventing an alarmist over-reaction to BSE because it believed the risk (to human health) was remote. It is now clear concludes the Committee that this campaign of reassurance was a mistake. The UK Government has now (February 2001) issued an interim response to the report which agrees with most of the report's findings.

Conclusions with regard to the cause of BSE and the risk posed by BSE to humans include:

- BSE developed into an epidemic as a consequence of an intensive farming practice – the recycling of animal protein in ruminant feed. This practice, unchallenged over decades, proved a recipe for disaster.
- BSE probably originated from a novel source early in the 1970s, possibly a cow or other animal that developed disease as a consequence of a gene mutation. The origin of the disease will probably never be certainly known.
- The theory that BSE resulted from changes in rendering methods has no validity. Rendering methods have never been capable of completely inactivating TSEs.
- The theory that BSE is caused by the application to cattle of organophosphorus pesticides is not viable, although there is a possibility that these can increase the susceptibility of cattle to BSE.
- The cases of BSE initially identified between 1986 and 1988 were not index or first generation cases. Nor were they the result of scrapie, a TSE usually associated with sheep. They were consequences of recycling of cattle infected with BSE itself. The BSE agent was spread in meat and bone meal.
- The Government was anxious to act in the best interests of human and animal health. To this end it sought and followed the advice of independent scientific experts – sometimes when decisions could have been reached more swiftly and satisfactorily within government.

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1997 - Bio-Filter

Wallace Corporation Ltd
1997 - Wastewater Treatment Plant

INDIA

Frigorifico Allana
1999 - Meat & Bone LTR Rendering

Frigorifico Allana
2000 - Meat & Bone LTR Rendering

AUSTRALIA

Hazeldene Chicken Farms Ltd - VIC
2000 - Feather and Blood Dryer

Sydney Water Corporation - NSW
2000 - Bio-Filter

Rockdale Beef Pty Ltd - NSW
1999 - Stickwater Evaporator

Sunland Meats Pty Ltd - QLD
1999 - Bio-Filter

Belandra Pty Ltd - VIC
1999 - Wastewater Treatment Plant

Rockdale Beef Pty Ltd - NSW
1998 - Gelbone Separation

Belandra Pty Ltd - VIC
1998 - Gelbone Separation

Oakey Abattoir Pty Ltd - QLD
1998 - Meat & bone LTR Rendering c/w
Blood, Gelbone Separation

Monbeef Pty Ltd - NSW
1997 - Meat & Bone LTR Rendering

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- The Government introduced measures (from 1989) to guard against the risk that BSE might be a matter of life and death not merely for cattle but also for humans. However the possibility of a risk to humans was not communicated to the public and those whose job it was to implement and enforce the precautionary measures.
- One of the most significant features of BSE and other TSEs is the fact that they are diseases with a very long incubation period. The question of whether BSE was transmissible to humans was unlikely to be answered with any certainty for many years.
- Cases of a new variant of CJD (vCJD) were identified by the CJD Surveillance Unit and the conclusion that they were probably linked to BSE was reached as early as was reasonably possible. The link between BSE and vCJD is now clearly established though not the means of infection.

One perhaps unexpected finding of the inquiry is that BSE was not introduced into cattle from the remains of scrapie-infected sheep included in ruminant feed till July 1988. A second is that the BSE outbreak was not caused by a change in the way meat and bone meal was treated in rendering plants.

A recent review published jointly by experts from the USA and the UK disagrees with these two findings of the Phillips Inquiry. (*Emerging Infectious Diseases* 2001, 7.1)

The authors of this review note that even though rendering procedures in other countries underwent changes similar to those in the UK during the 1970s, BSE has apparently emerged solely within the UK. This may or may not be true as the origin of cases in other countries has yet to be fully determined. However these workers believe that the most plausible explanation of this is that the proportion of sheep in the mix of rendered animal carcasses and the proportion of scrapie infections in such sheep were probably higher in the UK than elsewhere. It is postulated that these proportions were apparently sufficient to bring very low levels of the infectious agent in batches of rendered carcasses over the threshold of transmission.

For reasons they do not give, these reviewers do not accept that the rendering process as it was applied prior to the 1980s was also not capable of inactivating moderate levels of the BSE agent. This is despite compelling experimental evidence to the contrary. (*Journal of Food Safety* 1998.18.265) 

Publications from MLA

The Processing and Product Innovation Group of Meat and Livestock Australia have put together a list of MLA publications that are relevant to the rendering industry. The publications can be obtained from:

Matt Bishop
Meat and Livestock Australia
Locked Bag 991
NORTH SYDNEY NSW 2059
Tel: +61 2 9463 9233
Fax: +61 2 9463 9182
Email: mbishop@mla.com.au

The cost of the publications is not charged to organisations that are members of MLA or AMPC.

PPI – Information Kits

Publication Prices

Title	Cost
1. Best Practice Wastewater Treatment (1998)	\$100
2. Biofilter Guidelines (1996) M.887	\$20
3. Biogenic Amines in Meat Meal US.021	\$50
4. Customer Requirements for Meat and Bone Meal (1997) COPR.004	\$20
5. Draft Codes of Practice for the Rendering Industry (1995) M.746	\$30
6. High Ash Fraction Meat Meal and its Potential Role as a Fertiliser in the Organic Industry (1997) COPR.006	\$50
7. Meat Meal and Tallow Industry and its Markets (Strategic planning update) (1993) M.258	\$40
8. Meat Meal and Tallow Industry and its Markets (Strategic planning update) (1996) M.829	\$50
9. Odorous Components in Waste Gas Emissions from Rendering Plants (1998) RPDA.303	\$60
10. Odour Management – Biofilters (1992)	\$20
11. Odour Minimisation for the Meat Processing Industry (1997)	\$100
12. Potential of Meat Meal Replace Fishmeal in Commercial Diets for Barramundi M.783	\$20
13. Potential of Meat Meal Replace Fishmeal in Commercial Diets for Silver Perch M.783	\$30
14. Preliminary Evaluation of Meat Meal in Aquaculture Diets for Silver Perch M.561	\$30
15. Processing of Meat Meal for Utilisation in Aquaculture Diets (1995) M.744	\$30
16. Prospects for Marketing Meat Meal for Inclusion in Indonesian Aquaculture Diets (1998) COPR.013	\$30

17. Sampling and Testing	\$70
18. Separation of Meat Meal into Components (1996) M.745	\$50
19. Utilisation of the Ash Component of Meat Meal (1996) M.743	\$50
20. Wastewater and Odour Management (1992)	\$30
21. Wastewater Management – ‘Identification of Nutrient Sources, Reduction Opportunities and Treatment Options’ (1995)	\$50
22. Water and Waste Minimisation Manual (1995)	\$50
23. The Treatment of odours by biofiltration	\$50

Welcome to new members

New members who joined the ARA at the March meeting are:

ADM Nutrition. ADM is a UK based company that has expertise in supply of ingredients and formulation of petfoods. ADM Nutrition have opened an office in Queensland and are sourcing high quality Australian and New Zealand animal protein meals for use in petfood.

Valley Feeds. Valley feeds operates a feed mill and rendering plant at Kurri Kurri in NSW. It processes poultry material in a batch cooker operation.

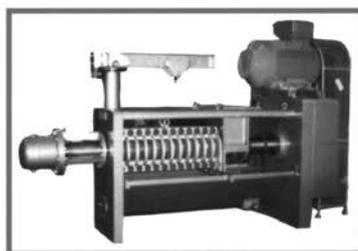
Australian Dehydration Technologies. ADT have developed a novel rendering technology and Managing Director Phil Kemp has built and operated several rendering plants of his own design. ADT is now concentrating on further development and supply of rendering systems to the international rendering community.



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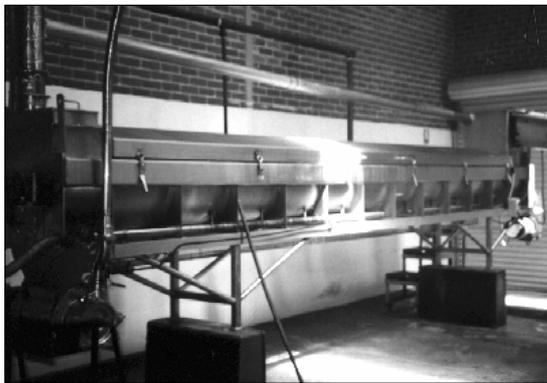
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Australian Tallow Producers

Australian Tallow Producers is the latest plant to be accredited by the ARA. The company has operated for many years in Preston but this site specialised in production of edible tallow and meat fractions. The ARA Code of Practice was not designed for production of fractions and General Manager Craig Palmer told Rendering Circles that accreditation was not applicable at the Preston site. Australian Tallow Producers have now moved their rendering operations to the old J.D. Ralph abattoir in Brooklyn. The plant still produces high quality edible tallow but also dries the solids to produce meat meal.

The Brooklyn plant is based on an Alfa-Laval Centribone system. Edible fat and bones are crushed in a prebreaker and further broken in a grinder through a 12 mm plate. The material is rendered continuously by direct steam injection in an Alfa-Laval screw-type cooker. The rendered solids and liquid phase are separated by decanter and the solids are dried in a Harris Steam disk drier.

Craig told Rendering Circles that the Brooklyn plant processes about 100 tonnes of raw material per day. 



Alfa Laval rendering by steam injection at Australian Tallow Producers



Meal handling at Australian Tallow Producers

Market outlook

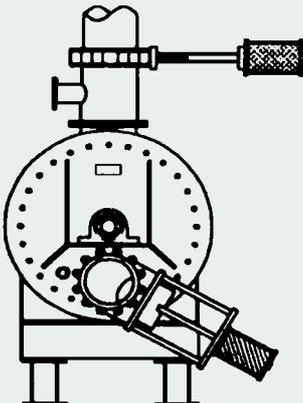
There is still a huge oversupply of fats and oils on the world market and the price of tallow in US\$ terms is not expected to change in the next twelve. Australian renderers may see some movement in tallow prices due to fluctuations in the exchange rate. Better grades of tallow have probably hit the bottom but have found a stable level against other fats and oils. Lower grades of tallow are in worse trouble and there is very little demand for tallow with greater than 4% free fatty acid. Customers that might have bought lower grade tallow for soap manufacture find that they can now afford the better grades. Also, a major use of lower grade tallows was in feed lot rations and this market has almost dried up.

Both meat meal and tallow prices are under attack on international markets but Aussie prices have been buoyed by the record low value of the A\$. Export demand for meat meal is quiet with Japan using very little imported meal. Japanese importers are waiting to see if the MAFF make a decision about meat meal being delivered to designated usage points. The Japanese government may require that ruminant feeds are only produced in designated production lines and buyers are hesitant to use imported meat meal until it is clear in what lines and feed mills meat meal can be used. In the meantime Japanese feed mills have a preference for domestic meat meal.

There is also less demand for meat meal in Indonesia although threats of bans on the use of meat meal in Indonesia have subsided. There is still doubt about whether meat meal will be excluded from feeds in the Philippines. Both official and unofficial reports from the Philippines indicate that any restrictions on the use of meat meal would be temporary. Other emerging markets in South East Asia might restrict the use of meat meal but traders do not expect that these markets will implement long-term restrictions.

Some traders suggest that reduced demand for meat meal in S.E Asia may simply be a correction following heavy buying in December, January and February. The price at the end of January was about A\$500 per tonne FOB but prices for April/May shipment are around A\$350 per tonne FOB.

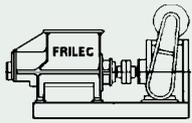
Domestic demand for meat meal remains steady and some traders report that domestic sales are leading exports. However, domestic prices around the country are inconsistent. Traders report that there is no suggestion that domestic feed mills are cutting back on meat



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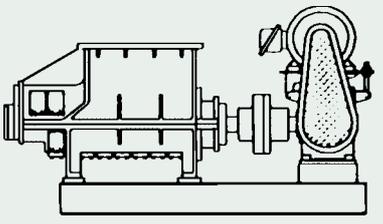


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meal usage although feed millers are moving to push the price below \$400 per tonne delivered.

There are reports that U.S. domestic use of meat meal could fall by 15 to 20%. This would create a surplus of about 400,000 to 450,000 tonnes of meat meal which U.S. renderers would seek to export. Coincidentally this amount of product is about equivalent to the total Australian production.

Blood meal prices are unchanged in April as prices of synthetic lysine, threonine and methionine remain high. 

FPRF News

Rendering Circles has previously reported that the FPRF and NRA have made a concerted effort make US regulators appreciate that financial support for biodiesel made for soybean oil should be available to biodiesel from tallow. The USDA has now announced a \$300 million bioenergy program that includes support for biodiesel produced from soy oil and corn oil. Inexplicably the program does not include support for biodiesel made from animal fats and oils. However the USDA has said that a further rule on adding animal fats to the bioenergy program will be issued for comment.

In the meantime, the FPRF has turned its attention to direct use of tallow as a boiler fuel. At the October meeting of the FPRF, members agreed that an information bulletin about burning tallow in boilers should be prepared. This has been done and Gary Pearl has circulated a Directors Digest on Animal Fats and Recycled Cooking Oils as Alternative Boiler Fuels. This information is available from Graeme Banks. The FPRF publication concentrates on the environmental impact of burning tallow in boilers. From the limited information about burning tallow and yellow grease, it appears that these products are less polluting than fuel oil. The FPRF also gives cost comparisons for burning tallow and yellow grease. The cost comparison is:

	Cost per million BTU (US\$)	Cost relative to natural gas
Natural gas	7.65	100.00
#2 fuel oil	7.36	96.17
#6 Fuel oil	6.99	91.32
Edible lard	7.77	101.63
Edible tallow	8.05	105.26
Bleachable fancy tallow	6.11	79.85
Choice white grease	6.25	81.66
Yellow grease	5.41	70.78

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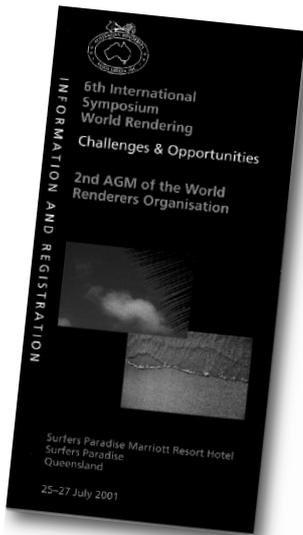
Symposium

The brochure and registration form for the ARA's sixth international symposium has been circulated. Members who need registration forms and have not received one should contact Graeme Banks.

The symposium committee is now finalising arrangements with speakers and is signing up sponsors and exhibitors. Sponsors who have already agreed to support the symposium as event sponsors or booth holders are: Keith Engineering, Kemin Australia, Symex, Flo-Dry Engineering, Gardner Smith, Brisbane Export Corporation, Renderteck, MLA, Spirac Engineering, Alfa-Laval, Atlas-

Stord, Westfalia Separators, Flottweg, G-Tech Separation, Australian Dehydration Technologies and Abattoir Engineering

There are twenty-three speakers on the program. Nine of the speakers are from overseas. While biosecurity and BSE will be discussed, the program is not bogged down by the angst created by BSE. There are many positive topics on the program including Marketing Strategies, Biodiesel Production, Construction of Rendering Plants for Flexible Operation, Meat Meal in Aquaculture, Use of Stickwater and Filtration of Tallow. 



In Short

- ARA Director David Satchell is reviewing the ARA's web site with the designers Renard Marketing. One of the points of review is members' listings on the web site. All members should check that their listings are correct and that the entries include all the information that members would like displayed. Any amendments to member's listing on the web site should be sent to David Satchell. David's email address is <stachell@arrow.com.au>.
- Meat and Livestock Australia have agreed to sponsor a promotional brochure about rendered products. John Aird will prepare the brochure with input from ARA. John has provided Graeme Banks with an outline of topics for inclusion in the brochure. Members who would like to be involved with the brochure on rendered products should contact Graeme Banks.
- At the March meeting of the ARA the members endorsed the Code of Practice for Collection, Processing and Distribution of recycled Fats and Oils. The Code will now be published and circulated. The ARA will accredit companies that recycle used cooking oil and comply with the Code of Practice. Tim Juzefowicz is planning a workshop to discuss the intent and implications of the Code with interested parties. The workshop will be held in Melbourne before the next ARA meeting.
- Rendering issues are in the news and the ARA is tracking media stories. Tim Juzefowicz has the job of identifying and collecting media cuttings that relate to rendering. Tim needs some help with this task and if members see items in the media that relate to rendering they should notify him. Tim's email address is <tjuzefowicz@peerless-holding.com.au>. 

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