



# RENDERING CIRCLES

September 1997 Issue No 2

A newsletter produced by the Australian Renderers Association  
as a service to customers and members

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## ARA RE-JIGS STRATEGIC PLAN

**D**IRECTORS of the ARA met in Brisbane recently to update the 1995 ARA Strategic Plan. Since the original plan was written the ARA has become fully recognised as the voice of the rendering industry and has been praised for its achievements such as the Code of Practice.

One of the most significant changes is the increasing focus on food safety brought about by the European BSE dilemma. This has strengthened the need for adoption of the ARA Code of Practice by all renderers and will be a feature of ARA plans for the near future.

As the needs of domestic and international regulators change so too will the Code of Practice, to reflect community standards and expectations. At the same time Australia's freedom from TSE diseases is seen as a potential marketing strength.

It is important for all Australian renderers to continue to emphasise the requirements to prove TSE freedom - including the government's testing program and the ruminant feeding ban!

The updated strategic plan will be circulated to members in due course.

**NRA 64th Annual Convention, Loews Ventana Canyon Resort - Tucson, AZ,  
November 4-8, 1997. Register through Marty Covert, (703) 533 1196**

## CODE OF PRACTICE - HEAT TREATMENT STANDARDS

**T**HE non-specific reference to heat treatment in our Code of Practice was raised at the Brisbane General Meeting and followed by considerable discussion.

It was generally agreed that more specifics may be logical bearing in mind the focus on Rendering heat treatments world-wide.

This topic will be high on the agenda for the next general meeting to allow members time to consider their position.

## ARA LEADERSHIP CHANGES

**A**T THE recent Annual General Meeting, outgoing National President, Kerry O'Connor indicated that he was not available to continue in 1997/8.

Subsequently Andy Bennett was elected as President, John Aird as Vice-President and Philip Cuff, Bob de Lange, Kerry O'Connor and Hans Hol as Directors representing the portfolios of Membership/Funding, Environment, Technical/R & D and Marketing/PR respectively.

Comment was made as to the need for members to contribute to each committee as appropriate so our representation is based on the widest possible views of all members.

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## THE VICTORIA ANTHRAX OUTBREAK

**T**HE outbreak in the Stanhope, Tatura area was the first in this area since recording of Victorian anthrax cases in 1914. The initial outbreak was on a dairy farm on Sunday 26 January 1997. The epidemic case returned to the base line on 26 February with only one new infected property being recorded after that date ( on 13 March 1997).

Post-vaccination deaths from anthrax within the quarantine zone indicated that there are still anthrax spores in the environment and that the vaccine has been very effective in preventing additional cases. The 8 deaths in vaccinated animals represent either animals which did not develop an adequate immunity following vaccination or those in which the normal immune response was lowered.

Over 100,000 animals were vaccinated (including introductions), and given only 8 cattle died at more than 14 days post vaccination, the breakdown rate was very small. This is not a major cause for concern and poses no consequences for international trade. DPIE and trading partners have been kept informed of these events.

The Department is negotiating with cattle owners, industry and local veterinary practitioners on a package of assistance to ensure the success of mandatory vaccination over the next few years. Vaccination is required to suppress any major outbreak of anthrax in the affected areas in 1998.

## AQIS PAPER TO EMIAC MEETING

**T**HE European Commission has recently passed a Commission Decision which attempts to exclude a number of tissues (brain, eyes and spinal cords from sheep, cattle and goats over one year of age and spleens from sheep and goats over six months) from human and animal feed.

Unlike previous draft versions, this Decision does not contain a clause allowing third countries to be granted a derogation. The commencement date will be 1 Jan 98. However the EU has advised they can grant derogation even if this clause is not activated.

The ARA is most concerned at these developments in Europe. Historically Australia abattoirs do not remove specified risk material. There are also implications for further processed products such as pet food, tallow and meat meal which, in theory, require all specified risk material to be excluded from the raw material.

AQIS has taken up the issue of specified risk material with the European Commission seeking relief from the imposition of these measures on Australia and intend progressing it on a number of fronts: during the forthcoming Australia-EU Ministerial Consultations and the Agricultural Trade and Marketing Experts Group;

## CALL FOR CODEX ON ANIMAL FEEDS

**A**N International Conference on Meat and Bone Meal in early July, hosted by the European Agriculture Commissioner, has backed calls for action to establish, on WHO/FAO level a feed material CODEX. Participants agreed BSE was not just a UK or Europe problem but that it had global impact and should be tackled a such.

With requirements to regulate the impact of BSE's already in place in many countries the Conference agreed on the need to develop a scientific basis for improved animal feeding practices worldwide.

The consultation recognised that there are risks from foodborne hazards which enter the food chain via feeds, but that risk was low on balance compared with foodborne hazards from other sources.

The risk from BSE should be assessed and managed in exactly the same way as other foodborne hazards which may necessitate exclusion of certain material from feed.

The consultation report recommended its draft code of practice for animal feeding be adopted by the CODEX Alimentarius Commission and that known and potential risks to food safety should be re-evaluated by CODEX as new information becomes available.



in the context of the Veterinary Agreement discussions; directly with the Commission and Member States; working closely with similar minded countries such as the US, Canada and New Zealand; and providing appropriate comment when the European Commission notifies this Decision to the World Trade Organisation.

Australia's existing submission to the EU for recognition for freedom from TSEs is particularly relevant, not only in regard to this matter but also related legislation such as 97/1/EC (the Cosmetics Directive) which also do not have a derogation clause. Our position has been strengthened by recent confirmation that Australia now meets the O.I.E guidelines for claiming TSE freedom.

Recent statements from the European Commission in regard to claims for TSE freedom have indicated that surveillance systems have to have been in place for at least seven years prior to recognition being granted. We are in the process of advising the Commission that this is not in accordance with the new OIE Chapter on BSE.

## TECHNICAL PAPERS OF RELEVANCE TO THE RENDERING INDUSTRY

**T**HE extracts below are from a range of technical information received over recent weeks which may be relevant to members. Copies of this material and references to its source are available through Graeme Banks.

**Fisheries R&D Corporation:** Replacement of Fishmeal in Aquaculture Diets Sub-Program - Final Reports to Meat Research Corporation

- Evaluation of meatmeal in aquaculture diets for the giant tiger prawn
- Potential of meatmeal to replace fishmeal in commercial diets for barramundi
- Potential of meatmeal to replace fishmeal in commercial diets for silver perch

The collaborative research involving private industry and government research organisations has produced some exciting results with direct relevance to meatmeal producers, feed manufacturers and aquaculturists.

A non-technical newsletter will be produced shortly and will summarise results and progress with the Fisheries R&D Corporation's Aquaculture Diet Development Sub-Program.

**Biofilters... The bugs win again!** Understanding your biofilter. Proper management of the biofilter bed is essential if its performance is to be

maintained. Operators should therefore know how they work and that process is explained in some detail in this paper.

**Biogenic Amines:** Two projects recently completed by FPRF demonstrate that the presence of Biogenic Amines do not appear to affect the performance of broilers or pigs. Summaries of these papers are available.

**Functional Foods:** Irish research workers point to the functional properties in human diets of products derived from animal fats. Further exploration is required into dietary and management practices which may positively influence the levels of this anticarcinogenic component in animal and milk fat.

Copies of the following FPRF papers have recently been received.

- **Benefits of Supplemental Fat for Pigs** - *Cromwell*
- **No 287: Rendered By-products as Soybean Meal Replacement in Turkey Rations** - *Firman*
- **No 288: Metabolizable Energy of Meat and Bone Meal** - *Dale*
- **No 289: Swine Nutrition Today and in the Next Century** - *Cromwell*

## NORTH AMERICAN RENDERING INDUSTRY POSITION ON SRM REMOVAL

**F**OLLOWING Decision 97/534 taken by the European Commission on 30 July, the Association's TSE Committee has met and agreed on the following action:

The North American Rendering Industry (NARI) does not agree to comply with the EU Decision 97/534, requiring the removal of SRMs for the manufacture of tallow and meals prior to being exported to the European Union.

The reason why NARI has decided upon this course of action is outlined below:

1. BSE does not exist in North America. The USA has never had a single case of BSE. Canada had one case of BSE in an animal imported from the UK and that animal as subsequently destroyed.
2. The US has a surveillance system in place to detect the incidence of BSE. The system has histologically examined 6000 brains from neurologically suspect animals with negative results for BSE infectivity.
3. The number of brains examined more than meets the criteria laid down by the International Office of Epizootics (OIE) for the number of tests required to give a reasonable chance of detecting BSE in a cattle population of the size in North America.

4. Tallow has never been shown to carry the BSE infective agent. Infectivity tests conducted with tallow, derived solely from brain tissue which was either BSE or scrapie infected, proved negative for BSE infection.
5. The EU Directive, 96/449, which specified the only acceptable rendering process to deactivate BSE infectivity was pressure cooking at 1330/20/3 (temp/time/pressure) specifically exempted rendering fats from that process. This exemption implies that tallow is not considered, by the Scientific Committee Advising the Commission, to be a carrier of the BSE infective agent.
6. The Scientific Committee on Cosmetology adopted an opinion at its plenary session on 24/6/97 that tallow derivatives manufactured by defined criteria as used in industry are safe.
7. The NARI does not believe the EU ban in relation to third countries will withstand a challenge in World Trade Organisation proceedings.

NARI does not believe that the science backs up the action taken by the EU in relation to non EU countries.

## ARA ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEY - SUMMARY OF FINAL RESULTS

**T**HE ARA strategic plan called for a survey on environmental issues to determine the rendering industry's present position and future requirements.

A questionnaire was sent to all ARA members and received a 50% response rate, divided evenly between urban and rural plants.

**Environmental licenses:** The largest plants have environmental licenses and most accepting the fairness of the legislation effecting them. The main criticism was in noise and odour where most felt required levels were too high. Longer term, 60% felt the viability of their plant would be threatened by environmental regulations. Over half had received complaints about odour and other pollution in the past, but only one third had complaints about them at present.

**Technology:** Most felt that technology was now available to solve most environmental problems.

**Waste Water disposal:** is most commonly via irrigation with 90% using set disposal programs and 60% including waste water storage. 60% also use waste water for growing crops. Only 50% considered waste water an economic resource

**Nutrient removal:** Anerobic systems are the most common (60%) with the remainder split between 3 or 4 different systems. About 60% of those with anerobic/aerobic systems felt these adequately reduced the loadings. Due to the high cost, very few render plants use local government treatment plants to process their waste water. Most (over 80%) own their own plants.

**Odour treatment:** is being carried out by about 50% of plants. Methods are: biofilters (18%); after burners (35%); chemical scrubbers (13%); dispersion stacks (27%)

Since biofilters are relatively new to this industry it seems use of this process is likely to increase.

**Longer term:** 60% of respondents offered no comment on future directions for the rendering industry. Those who did said a) research is important; b) a number of plants will have to relocate; and c) the industry will face increasing community and environmental pressures.



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*The Australian Renderers Association wishes to sincerely thank the following companies for their generous support for the Association's 4th International Symposium on Animal Nutrition, Protein, Fats and the Environment*

**Australian Meat Research Corporation  
Colyer Fehr Tallow  
Spirac  
Kerry Australia  
Atlas Stord; Kernin Aust.; Keith Engineering  
Gardner Smith; Brisbane Export Corporation  
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