



For Immediate Release

International Production & Processing Expo

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International Rendering Symposium Highlighted the Latest Developments in Rendering

TUCKER, Ga. – Feb. 2, 2021 – “The rendering industry is responsible for recycling nearly 50% of the animal. Without rendering, this significant amount of material would go to waste,” commented Nancy Foster, president and CEO of the North American Renderers Association (NARA) and Fats and Proteins Research Foundation, during her presentation at the virtual International Rendering Symposium, held online in conjunction with the 2021 International Production & Processing Expo (IPPE) Marketplace Week. The program was sponsored by NARA and the U.S. Poultry & Egg Association and included speakers presenting via videoconferencing software and participating in live Q&A sessions with attendees.

Foster opened the symposium by providing an overview of the rendering industry, as well as a summary of the ongoing research projects sponsored by the Fats and Proteins Research Foundation. She also touched on NARA’s focus for the coming year, which prioritizes increasing consumer awareness about the sustainability of the rendering industry.

Dr. Michele M. Sayles, executive director of food safety and quality for Diamond Pet Foods, discussed both past and current research initiatives for the Pet Food Alliance (PFA), an organization focused on research collaboration between the rendering and pet food industries. Sayles emphasized the benefits of collaborative research and innovation, highlighting the overlap in challenges and interests between the two industries, as well as providing an update on various research projects.

Anna Wilkinson, director of communications for NARA, presented on the central role rendering has played as sustainability has become more of a priority throughout the 20th century. Wilkinson stressed the importance of communicating these efforts to consumers. “When you talk to people about rendering, how are you explaining its sustainability benefits? Are you talking to people about rendering at all? This is an important conversation to have,” said Wilkinson. “Rendering, at its core, is defined by its sustainability, so it deserves a seat at the table. Most people do not realize that rendering produces a reduction in greenhouse gases that is the equivalent of taking 18.5 million cars off the road every year. That is huge, and people need to know.”

Tim Law, corporate quality manager of Darling Ingredients, echoed Wilkinson's focus on sustainability as he discussed the basics of the rendering process and opportunities available for the industry. "Rendering is recycling," remarked Law. "If the rendering industry were to come to a halt, all available landfills would fill up within four years. This is a significant impact on environmental sustainability. Through rendering, we're able to bring animal protein closer to being a zero-waste industry."

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ABOUT IPPE

The International Production & Processing Expo (IPPE) is a collaboration of three shows - International Feed Expo, International Meat Expo and the International Poultry Expo - representing the entire chain of protein production and processing. The event is sponsored by the American Feed Industry Association (AFIA), North American Meat Institute (NAMI) and U.S. Poultry & Egg Association (USPOULTRY).

ABOUT AFIA

Founded in 1909, the American Feed Industry Association (AFIA), based in Arlington, Va., is the world's largest organization devoted exclusively to representing the business, legislative and regulatory interests of the U.S. animal food industry and its suppliers. The organization's membership is comprised of nearly 700 domestic and international companies that represent the total feed industry—manufacturers of commercial and integrated feed and pet food, ingredient suppliers, pharmaceutical companies, industry support and equipment manufacturers. AFIA's members manufacture more than 75% of the feed and 70% of the non-whole grain ingredients used in the country. AFIA is also recognized as the leader on international industry developments and holds membership in the International Feed Industry Federation (IFIF).

ABOUT NAMI

The North American Meat Institute (NAMI) is the leading voice for the meat and poultry industry. Formed from the 2015 merger of the American Meat Institute (AMI) and North American Meat Association (NAMA), the Institute has a rich, century-long history and provides essential member services including legislative, regulatory, scientific, international and public affairs representation. NAMI's mission is to shape a public policy environment in which the meat and poultry industry can produce wholesome products safely, efficiently and profitably. Together, the Institute's members produce the vast majority of U.S. beef, pork, lamb and poultry and the equipment, ingredients and services needed for the highest quality products.

ABOUT NARA

The North American Renderers Association (NARA) 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 strategic locations around the world. NARA publishes a bi-monthly trade magazine, *Render*. For more information visit www.NARA.org

ABOUT USPOULTRY

U.S. Poultry & Egg Association (USPOULTRY) is the All Feather Association progressively serving its poultry and egg members through research, education, communications and technical services. Founded in 1947, USPOULTRY is based in Tucker, Georgia.